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A

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

It has been found impossible to complete the list of the prize awards in connection with the recent Truth Show in time to publish it this week. The task of selecting the prize-winners has been more complicated and difficult than usual, but every effort will be made to print the list of their names in the next number of Truth. Meanwhile, the whole of the dolls and toys have been distributed, but I am sorry to have to add that the state of the Toy Fund continues to be most unsatisfactory. Last year, as I have several times observed, was a Record one, but I sincerely hope it is not going to be associated with a "Record" deficit in the Truth Fund. At present, however, the debit balance is some four times larger than it has ever been before. I cannot think that the readers of Truth intend to allow this state of things to continue unaltered.

I am pleased to correct two errors—one of omission and one of commission—which occurred in the account of the Truth Show published last week. The name of the lady who dressed a large doll so tastefully as "A Kentish Harvest" was Miss N. Dan; whilst the "Music" doll, described in the article, was dressed by Miss Sybil Holland, a young lady who has on several previous occasions been a most successful contributor to the Truth Show. I have also to acknowledge the arrival of a doll sent to the Show from King William's Town by Miss Mollie Irvine, aged ten; and of seven capital scrap-books, contributed by Lady Combe's children. I have also received a large box of assorted needles from J. James & Sons, of Redditch.

The following amounts have been received towards the Toy Fund:—

Collected at Albert Hall, including £5 from four little Argentines, £34. 5s. 1d.; Elmfield, 5s.; H. B., 5s.; A. T. W., £1; Hugo and Isabel, £2; Sympathy, £5; M. W. C., £1; Alfred Morel, £2. 2s.; K. Q., £5; B. E., £1; L. P., £1; P. H., £1; Surplus Sixpences, £9. 13s. 6d.; A. M. Chalmers, £2; Mrs. Jefferson, £1; X. Y. Z 1s. 6d.; Sixpences returned from St. Olave's Union, 8s. 6d.; A. M. C., £1; M. F., £1. 1s.; O. G., £1; J. G. Morley, £2. 2s.; W. and A. Halsey, £1. 1s.; A. O., £3. 3s.; C. A. R. Hoare, £3; M.D, Edinburgh, £1. 1s.; Mrs. Julia F. Solly, £1; Collection in Holme Hale Church on the afternoon of Christmas Day, per Rev. E. F. Williams, 15s. 2d.; Dorothy Jefferson, 2s.: Lois Jefferson, 1s.; Miss Hill, for Afridi doll, £5.

A. and C.—Your donation of 7s. was duly received, and acknowledged in Truth, of December 23.

The Queen goes to Cimiez in the spring, and a large part of the new Excelsior Regina Hotel has been engaged conditionally for her Majesty's use during the months of March and April. The Queen is to arrive at Cimiez about March 10, and her Majesty will spend six weeks on the Riviera. Princess Beatrice intends to visit Genoa, Milan, Verona, and Venice during her Majesty's stay at Cimiez.

The Duke of Coburg, who has been very much out of health for nearly a year past, is going to Egypt for three months, and he will take a course of baths at Helouan, near Ghizeh, before going on a voyage up the Nile. The Duke has been dreadfully worried about the matrimonial troubles of his daughter, the Grand Duchess of Hesse, and the delicate health of his only son, the Hereditary Prince Alfred, is a constant source of anxiety to him. The Duchess of Coburg is to pay a visit to the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Roumania at Nice, where they are residing at the Château de Fabron, the villa of the Dowager Duchess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.

The Grand Duke of Hesse, Prince and Princess Louis of Battenberg, and the Countess von Erbach-Schönberg, are to arrive at Osborne early in the week after next from Darmstadt on a visit to the Queen.

Lord and Lady Cadogan spent Christmas at the Viceregal Lodge in the usual Viceregal way. The family party included — besides Lord and Lady Cadogan's younger sons — Lord and Lady Chelsea, and Miss Farquharson. Neither Lady Lurgan nor Lady Sophie Scott was able to go to Ireland for Christmas. During the week several large dinner parties were given, at which the leading dignitaries and officials in Dublin were entertained, including the Protestant Archbishop of Dublin and Mrs. Peacocke, the Chancellor and Lady Ashbourne, Lord and Lady Roberts, Lord Justice FitzGibbon, and others. Mr. J. Morley, who is spending the Christmas holiday time in Ireland, was also amongst Lord Cadogan's guests.

Mr. Gerald and Lady Betty Balfour have never taken up the leading social position in Dublin which the official occupants of the Chief Secretary's Lodge used to hold. The Christmas festivities have been discontinued, Mr. Gerald Balfour and his family not spending the holiday season in the Phœnix Park. Of late years the Chief Secretary's Lodge has ceased to be a social centre. The glories are long past of the days when Lady Waldegrave's splendour and hospitality rivalled that of the Viceregal Lodge. She had many brilliant successors, too. Mr. A. Balfour, during his tenure of office, conformed to custom to the extent of giving one ball—in Dublin Castle, however, and not at his own official residence. It is now many years since a ball has been given in the Chief Secretary's Lodge, where dance music is as mute as that of Tara's harp.

Last week Lord Justice FitzGibbon's Christmas party took place at his villa on the Hill of Howth, which, from the number of distinguished men who have assembled for so many years under its hospitable roof, is worthy to rank amongst the villas of history. The guests of the week included Lords Ashbourne, Roberts, Morris, Mr. John Morley, the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, Lords Justices Walker and Holmes, Sir George Morris, and many others. Lord Rathmore was unable to join the party as usual, as he had gone abroad, to Egypt.

Mr. Dunbar Plunket Barton's appointment to the Irish Solicitor-Generalship was inevitable, not because he was specially suitable to the place from a legal point of view, but on account of his family influence, to which may be added some personal popularity, and the fact that for some time he filled the post of Secretary to Lord Ashbourne. The Plunket family—Mr. Barton is the grandson of a Lord Plunket—is amongst the families who do well for themselves in the matter of holding places. The Gibson family is coming on very well in the same line, under Lord Ashbourne. Lord Morris holds his own, too, amongst the makers of families. Mr. George Morris, who was the only Irishman included in the New Year's honours—being made a civil K.C.B.—is the brother of Lord Morris. Before becoming a Law Lord, Lord Morris had been created a baronet. His eldest son on succeeding to the baronetcy will, through the late privileges granted to the children of life peers, precede all other baronets, however ancient their creation.

The power of poetry, even in an age of prose, is shown in the proposed centenary celebrations of '98 in Ireland. The stirring ballad, "Who fears to speak of '98?" has been their indirect, if not direct, inspiration. Strange to say, its author is Dr. Ingram, a Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, and a member of the Irish Protestant Church. It was written and published in the old "Young Ireland" days. Rudyard Kipling, in all his glory, does not approach its martial and lofty national ring. The belief is popularly held in Ireland that "Who fears to speak of '98?" also exercised a powerful influence on its author's life, who, but for the national outburst of his youth, would some years ago have been made Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, a post he was in every way qualified to fill.

In the old days Ireland was said to be ruled by "Larcom and the police." Sir Andrew Reed, the head of the Irish Constabulary, evidently thinks the old days have come again, to the extent of allowing him to issue orders in direct opposition to the existing law. The curious spectacle has lately been offered in Ireland of Sir Andrew Reed assuming dictatorial authority over the public footpaths in Ireland, and issuing a circular, in his own name only, permitting bicycles to ride on them. The high-handed proceeding is racy of Dublin Castle under a cycling Lord Lieutenant. Last week a poor cripple, walking on the footpath at Cabinteely, in the county of Dublin, was knocked down by a cyclist. The cyclist referred the injured man to Sir A. Reed's circular and rode on; the cripple, whose leg was broken in two places, was taken to the neighbouring workhouse infirmary. And these are the people who wonder why the ways and the rule of Dublin Castle are not popular with the mere Irish!

The death of Mr. Alfred Morrison had been for some time expected, as he was suffering from a painful and incurable malady. His loss will be deeply and long lamented in the neighbourhood of Fonthill, his place in Wiltshire, for he was a most liberal and considerate landlord, a generous supporter of all local charities, and a very great favourite among all classes. Mr. Morrison never took any part in public affairs, but devoted himself to the management of his large estates in England, Scotland, and Wales, and to the collection of probably the largest and finest cabinets of autographs and engravings in the world. The interest and importance of Mr. Morrison's collection of autograph letters and documents could not be exaggerated, for nearly every great name of the last three centuries in history, literature, science, and art is well represented in it. Mr. Morrison was a man of rare good taste and fine judgment, and he could always command the best advice. He did not buy pictures, but, after the autographs and engravings, which were his first interest, he collected general *objets d'art*, Oriental porcelain (his Chinese ware of the eighteenth century is superb), and Greek antiquities.

Mr. Morrison will be gratefully remembered for his munificent and discriminating liberality towards skilled workmen, and for many years he did everything possible to encourage the finest forms of handicraft, both at home and abroad. That his character was many-sided is proved by the fact that whereas in London he was known as a man of high cultivation and an accomplished Mæcenas, in Wiltshire he was spoken of as a model squire and a perfect country gentleman.

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 51 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 48.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 49.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 57.

The representatives of a Manchester Radical, who died some four years ago, have asked my opinion respecting an invitation addressed to the deceased to become a member of the Junior Conservative Club "prior to the entrance fee being introduced." The invitation, needless to say, is one of the usual lithographed forms issued by Commissary-General Hamley, the honorary secretary of the club. My opinion about it is what I have always held, namely: (1) that to invite people to become members of this club under a suggestion that an entrance fee is shortly to be imposed is uncommonly sharp practice; (2) that a club recruited by such means must be a very queer institution. I can understand the anxiety of the Committee to leaven it with a few respectable provincial Radicals, but I cannot possibly recommend any Radical to accept the invitation.

HOW TO MAKE A TITLE SURE.

WRITTEN AFTER READING THE NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST.

The Fount of Honour's played again; we've heard its tuneful tinkle,
And some of those who've waited long have felt its grateful sprinkle.
True, but a few have been picked out of those most patient brothers,
But never mind! their luck at least will serve to cheer the others.
"Take heart!" we'd to those others say,
"Your turn may come anon;
Courage and patience still display—
Hope on! good friends, hope on!"

"But, as you doubtless will have seen, Hope is not all-sufficient;
'Tis gold, in cases such as yours, that's proved to be omniscient.
Worth only will not serve your turn; but you will find it funny
To note how worth gets recognised when backed by ready money.
So get your cheque-book out if you
Would honours gain anon;
And, if needs be, your drafts renew—
Give on! good friends, give on!

"A cheque for some great charity may get you what you're seeking
(N.B.—Choose one for which a Prince is public aid bespeaking);
Or give large sums to Party funds—their need is always pressing—
If you would still more quickly grasp what you would be possessing.
Yes, keep your cheque-book out if you
Would honours gain anon;
You can't your drafts too oft renew—
Give on! good friends, give on!

"The Jubilee is past and gone—the New Year's List is finished,
Still, you can draw your cheques, and hope with ardour undiminished;
With baronets and knights you may in six short months be chumming.
Take heart—we say to you again—the "Birthday" list is coming!
But always keep your cheque book out,
If you would score anon;
And always, whilst you are in doubt,
Give on! good friends, give on!"

My opinion as to the value of titles and honours is so well known that it is scarcely necessary to comment on the recently published list. Once more it is clearly demonstrated that these empty distinctions are easily obtainable at a price, and I once more suggest that they should be regularly employed as a source of revenue. In France, at the present moment, they are earnestly considering the advisability of creating a titled class, since it is well known that both Monarchy and Empire derived large funds from the traffic in titles, and I am rather anxious to see if the Republic will have the strength of mind to adopt my idea and publish a regular tariff, so as to enable people, in these matter-of-fact days, to calculate how many rungs of the social ladder they can afford to achieve by the aid of their cheque books.

The question of dress-coats for golfers, on which I had some remarks last week, must be a burning one, judging by the amount of correspondence I have had on the subject. Among the rest, the President of the Leicestershire Golf Club, Mr. C. J. Billson, has written to defend the attitude of his club. He is not responsible, he says, for what certain members may do at a private invitation dance; but with regard to the club dinner referred to in TRUTH, he says that "it is quite in accordance with precedent for the officers of golf clubs to appear at their club dinners in red coats . . . for the golfer has a traditional colour of some two hundred years' standing, as well as the hunting man." "Indeed," he adds, "it was often made a reproach to our club in former years, that while guests from other clubs turned up at our dinners in orthodox golfing red, we sat down *disguised in the ordinary attire of sombre gentlemen.*" I confess I cannot see the force of this reproach. For a golfer to disguise himself as a gentleman—even a sombre one—seems an innocent, in fact rather laudable, form of masquerade. Unless any one was deceived by the disguise—which does not appear to have been the case—he would have no right to complain.

However, Mr. Billson seems to be right, up to a point, in claiming antiquity for the scarlet evening coat. Important evidence on this point is contributed by an ex-captain of the Royal Blackheath Golf Club, Mr. R. Whyte, who states that this particular garb has been worn in his club, both in the field and at dinner, for a century past, and that the club—which he alleges is the oldest in existence—possesses portraits of one gentleman who was captain in 1778, and another who was captain in 1790, both wearing scarlet dress coats. Two of the old coats are still preserved in the club-house.

On the other hand, there seems to be a wide-spread prejudice against golfers getting themselves up in this style, and the prejudice is not confined to hunting-men, or non-golfers. I myself happen to know a good many golfers—one can hardly help it in the present day—and I

A BEAUTIFUL HOTEL AT BOURNEMOUTH.—The "ROYAL BATH." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Sea frontage, 1,000 ft.; grounds, 5 acres. Due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.* Moderate fixed tariff.

find that for the most part they speak very contemptuously of the craving of some of their brethren for scarlet evening dress. What I gather from them is, that while this attire is no doubt ancient, it was till recently the distinguishing mark of captains and ex-captains; and this seems rather borne out by what both Mr. Billson and Mr. Whyte say in their letters. Until quite recently it has never been the custom, according to my authorities, for any individual who has once succeeded in driving a ball off a tee to forthwith array himself in "pink" of an evening; and one sturdy Scotchman of my acquaintance deplores this custom as one of the signs of the degradation of golf by Southrons, Cockneys, and pot-hunters. My St. Andrews friend suggests that if English golfers must have a distinctive evening dress, every man should wear a badge on his arm denoting his qualifications as a player. This seems a very good idea, and might dispose of the whole difficulty.

I believe the present muzzling order to be uncalled for, useless, and cruel; but if it is to be enforced at all, it seems to me that it had much better be applied uniformly to the whole country than limited as it now is to this or that locality. It is absurd to suppose that the muzzling of dogs is necessary on one side of a certain geographical line and not necessary on the other; and to all dog owners living near the line of demarcation the present state of things is peculiarly irritating. A correspondent, writing from Yorkshire, tells me that while his dogs have to be muzzled, the dogs on the other side of a neighbouring stream are free, and consequently the dogs on the one side are liable to be unmercifully worried by the dogs on the other. In some cases the line is drawn in the most absurd and incomprehensible way; for instance, the muzzling order is in force in the whole district around Barnsley but not in the town itself. What on earth is the meaning of this?

With reference to the story told in TRUTH the other day about the difficulty of addressing a letter to the friends of a patient in St. Thomas's Hospital, the Steward of the Hospital writes me that my friend must have misunderstood the facts, or else that the porter misunderstood his inquiry. He says:—

> The books the porter referred to are simply a collection of forms in duplicate on which he collects all necessary information from patients prior to admission. One of these forms is sent with the patient to the ward, the other to the Steward's office. Both the ward register and the Steward's office register are compiled from these forms, and the porter's duty is confined to the keeping of an index book, showing in which ward a patient is or was, with the dates of admission and discharge. The ward register is, of course, accessible at all hours; the Steward's office register only during office hours.

This is all very well, but my friend was a gentleman not given to making mistakes, and he certainly heard the nurse on this occasion come down and apply to the porter for the address of the patient's friends. This may have been done to save trouble, or what not, but the reason for it seems worth inquiring into.

Mr. Stead has been good enough to send me a copy of "Letters from Julia." What surpasses my understanding is how a man of his intelligence should for one single moment have believed in the existence, astral or otherwise, of the lady. He takes up a pen and places a piece of paper before him, then his hand traces words although it was not under the control of his conscious mind. To account for this no Julia is needed. It is simply sub-consciousness—a mere waking dream with the hand mechanically obeying the brain, much as a dog barks when he dreams that he is running after a rabbit.

But strange is the power of imagination, when a man once gives himself up to it. One of the proofs that Julia's letters are by Julia and not by Stead is that "they are," he insists, "very much superior to my own." They are to Mr. Stead, awake and clothed in his right mind, what the maunderings of a person who has no grip on his subject are to the "copy" of a bright, clever journalist. Julia has amazingly little to tell, but she takes an amazing time to tell it. Were one of Mr. Stead's contributors to send him such padded copy, he would strike out nine-tenths of it in proof before publishing it. The most important thing that a human being can aspire to know is what happens after death. Julia does know. She has experienced it all. Yet her information is of the scrappiest. Instead of giving us a clear and definite account of the country in which she is sojourning, she presents us with the haziest notion of it, and ekes this out with line upon line of preaching. If the young lady exists, I wish she would kindly manifest herself to me, and allow me to question her for half an hour. I would engage to get more information out of her than Mr. Stead has done in countless hours.

Concerning all these mystic revelations, I am an absolute sceptic. I have a perfectly open mind. I am ready to be convinced if one spook will condescend to convince me. I should prefer a conversation with one visitant from beyond the grave to any amount of conversation with the wisest and the best of living mortals. But I must have some evidence that I am not being made a fool of. If a voice said to me, "I have just come from the North Pole, where a people exist who neither eat nor drink, and who have wings," I should look narrowly into the credentials of my visitor. Julia, professing to come straight from Heaven in a disembodied form to call on me, could hardly be offended at such a precaution.

I see that a volume of Dickens's "fugitive pieces" is to be published, and that it will contain several of his contributions to *Household Words*. It would be interesting to learn how the editor of this volume proposes to identify the papers contributed by Dickens to his own periodical, inasmuch as not a single article in that publication was ever signed by the writer. Many articles which were really written by Wilkie Collins, Edmund Yates, Sala, and James Payn were generally attributed at the time to Dickens. Many years ago a similar collection of "fugitive pieces" was published in America which contained a number of articles which Dickens had merely revised as editor of *Household Words*, but the ingenuous compiler of the volume attributed all of them to him.

"WHO FEARS TO SPEAK OF '98?"

A NEW YEAR'S MEDITATION.

"Who fears to speak of '98?"
The poet asks in boastful tone:
Well, *we* to speak about that date
Are much afraid, we're bound to own.
Nay, when we inspiration seek,
Things are in such a parlous state,
We do not only fear to *speak*—
We fear to *think* of '98!

The Jingo spirit rages so,
The lust for Empire's grown so strong,
There's such an eagerness to go
To any lengths, however wrong;
The nation, having lost its head,
Seems so resolved to tempt its fate,
That, in all candour be it said,
We fear to speak of '98!

Aggression 's in the very air,
And braggarts, hungry for renown,
With such a heedless clack and blare
Discretion's good advice howl down;
The feather-brained and leather-lunged
Are so alarmingly elate,
Dire Rumour is so many-tongued—
We fear to speak of '98!

Rulers, who in their despot hands
The destiny of millions weigh,
Before high Heaven and wond'ring lands
Such shameless tricks and antics play;
Kings are so ready to coerce,
And Parliaments to abdicate,
Bad may so quickly change to worse—
We fear to speak of '98.

North, South, East, West—look where we will,
Men's passions are so fiercely fed;
The cry "To battle!" is so shrill;
The sky is such a lurid red;
Fools rush with such unthinking zest
To open Janus' Temple-gate,
That those who love their country best
Must fear to speak of '98.

But even now good common-sense
May once again itself assert;
Prudence may oust mere vain pretence;
Caution, catastrophe avert.
Yes, Wisdom's voice may even now
Be heard, although ignored of late;
And even yet we may avow
Our confidence in '98.

The filibusterer may pause,
The Jingo, even, may grow just,
The follies that excite applause
May rouse, instead, extreme disgust.
England, to her own self more true,
May venture to be truly great—
Then we'll the poet's cry renew,
Nor fear to speak of '98!

Chance made me acquainted the other day with a National Schoolmistress, whose position seems anything but creditable to the Church of England, in whose service she has been so long. After having spent the best part of her life in teaching, and having been a highly successful headmistress of two schools—one in London and one in a Northern town—she is now in her third school on a salary which has lately been *raised to £80 a year* (with no house). She has 140 girls in the school, and only has two pupil teachers to assist her. In this school, as in the others, she has been, on the evidence of the Inspectors' Reports and the Government grants, extremely successful; yet there is apparently no prospect before her of obtaining either an easier berth or better pay, for the simple reason that she is turned fifty years of age. She tells me that she has applied for schools where there is a proper staff of teachers, and has been refused on the ground of her age.

There must be something utterly wrong here. There are few headmasters of public schools under fifty years of age; there have been few who have not considered themselves, and been considered by others, fit to retain their posts up to sixty-five or seventy. As a rule, a man is probably better qualified for a post of this kind after fifty years of age than before it. Why should there be any different rule for women? The position of a headmaster or headmistress is not that of an assistant, or a private tutor, or governess, who needs to be primed with all the latest educational ideas. It is a position rather of superintendence, and the first qualifications for it are experience of the world and knowledge of men and women. Besides, in the case described above, the teacher is shown to be fully competent to conduct—practically single-handed—a school of 140 children. *A fortiori*, she must be fit to direct a larger school with an efficient staff under her.

I should uncommonly like to know whether H.M. Inspectors set their faces against elderly head-masters and mistresses in National or Board Schools; for if they do, it is a policy which ought to be corrected. It is wrong educationally, and it is cruelly hard on the teachers, who at this rate must be cast adrift when too old to find a new means of livelihood, and too young to have made a provision for their old age.

The early death of Professor Arthur Palmer has caused profound regret, and he will be a great and irreparable loss to Trinity College, Dublin, where he had for many years filled most efficiently the Chair of Latin. He was a man of great ability and decided originality, and he was certainly one of the foremost critical scholars in Europe. Professor Palmer was a thorough master of Greek and Latin literature, and his published works (too few in number) are in every respect most admirable. He was a most genial, hospitable, and charitable man, and a charming companion. He by no means confined his reading to the classics, for he was profoundly versed in all branches of English literature, and particularly delighted in the works of Scott, Dickens, Thackeray, and Lever.

Archdeacon Fitzgerald, who died last week, was a genial, humorous, charitable, scholarly, and thoroughly practical man. He was moderate and sensible in his Church views, and distinguished for his strong, shrewd common-sense; and this quality (so rare among ecclesiastics) particularly recommended him to the favour of Lord Auckland, who held the see of Bath and Wells for fifteen years. Archdeacon Fitzgerald, who was ordained by Bishop Law in 1836, was beneficed in Somersetshire for

ST. ERMIN'S, Victoria-st., Westminster, this high-class residential Hotel, especially suitable for families coming to London to enjoy the Xmas festivities. Handy for Theatres & Army & Navy Stores.

forty-four years, and in 1863 he succeeded the late Dean Law in the Archdeaconry of Wells, an office which gave him the patronage of the living of South Brent, to which he presented himself when it became vacant a few years later, on the death of Mr. Ditcher, the pertinacious antagonist of Archdeacon Denison. Archdeacon Fitzgerald was an excellent preacher, and he delivered many admirable charges to his clergy.

The Archdeacon was the last of the aged triumvirate for which the diocese of Bath and Wells was remarkable, and they have all died within the last two years. Denison, who was appointed by Bishop Bagot, held office for forty-five years, while Browne and Fitzgerald (nominees of Lord Auckland) were archdeacons for thirty-six years and thirty-four years respectively. Lord Arthur Hervey held the see for twenty-five years without ever having the appointment of an archdeacon in his hands, but his successor, Bishop Kennion, will have filled up all three archdeaconries in less than three years. The Archdeaconry of Wells, which is worth £200 a year, is the largest in Somersetshire, and comprises 262 parishes. This office was held by the celebrated scholar Polydore Virgil early in the sixteenth century.

Canon Gordon, who is the senior member of the Chapter of Salisbury, having received his stall in 1860, during the episcopate of Bishop Hamilton, will resign this preferment at the end of June, in consequence of his failing eyesight. Canon Gordon, who is a son of Lord Aberdeen the Minister, and an uncle of the Governor-General of Canada, held successively the livings of Great Stanmore and Northolt between 1848 and 1880, and he has been for more than forty years a Chaplain-in-Ordinary to the Queen.

Bishop King has made an excellent appointment to the Chancellorship of Lincoln, which office became vacant by the promotion of Sir Walter Phillimore to the bench. Mr. G. J. Talbot, who is a son of Mr. Talbot, M.P., and a nephew of the Bishop of Rochester, is a very learned ecclesiastical lawyer, and he has written an able book on modern ritual decisions, as well as an admirable manual on the licensing laws. The Chancellorship of Lincoln is worth about £250 a year.

Canon Wilberforce is the Canon-in-Residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at Westminster Abbey this month, and Canon Scott-Holland is similarly on duty at St. Paul's Cathedral.

The Bishop of St. Asaph's violent harangue at Wrexham has done him no good in the diocese, although it was warmly applauded by a packed meeting. The memorialists to Bishop Edwards, with reference to his dispensation of patronage, have sent a most uncompromising letter to him, in which they state that "they resent and deeply regret the bitter and unconciliatory tone assumed, and the unfortunate personalities indulged in by your Lordship on that occasion." The Rev. Stephen Gladstone, Rector of Hawarden, has sent a letter expressing his sympathy with the memorialists, and Archdeacon Thomas has addressed a forcible and dignified protest against the Bishop's speech at Wrexham to one of the Liverpool papers.

A curate at Aberystwith, the Rev. Mr. Lloyd, of St. Mary's Welsh Church, has been indulging in some remarkably bold reflections from the pulpit upon the veracity of his fellow-countrymen. He could not disguise from himself the knowledge, he said, that they often acted in courts of justice and elsewhere as if they were quite oblivious of any obligation to speak the truth, and he appealed to his hearers to make individual effort to "codi yr hen wlad yn ei hol"—whatever that may be. I would not for a moment suggest that the sweeping charge which this reverend gentleman prefers against his compatriots is well-founded. I know nothing about Welsh courts, but I do know something about English courts, and what Mr. Lloyd says about the former can certainly be applied with perfect accuracy to the latter. There is indeed a consensus of opinion among all engaged in the administration of the law as to the alarming prevalence of perjury nowadays.

Apropos of a letter in the *Times*, from Mr. Loch, of the Charity Organisation Society, I promised the other day to give at an early opportunity some particulars concerning the Rev. A. McLaglen, Missionary Bishop of Cape Colony, and the sect which he adorns. Owing to the Christmas holidays, and pressure of more important affairs, that opportunity has not yet arrived. Mr., or Bishop, or Dr. McLaglen (I am not quite sure which is the correct designation) has since been good enough to write a letter, informing me that he shall not object to see the promised particulars, if they are facts, and that if they are not facts, he shall hold me responsible for them. I can assure his reverence (or his lordship) that I am always prepared to be held responsible for anything that appears in TRUTH. In the meantime, my lively contemporary the *Star* has been publishing a few particulars on its own account, and the Bishop is engaged in answering them. I do not think it would be fair to the Bishop or polite to the *Star* for me to intervene at this juncture, so I will wait till the *Star* has quite done with the Bishop before I take my turn at him.

I am glad to hear that the doll-dressing competition organised this year by the *Manchester Evening Chronicle*, more or less on the lines of the TRUTH Doll Show, was a great success. The exhibition of the dolls was well patronised by the public, and over one thousand dolls and toys were distributed on Christmas morning to the various local hospitals and charitable institutions. I trust that the movement may grow in the same gratifying way that the TRUTH Toy Show has done.

A MOST WONDERFUL PACKAGE of Crockery. Send your name and address to the Pearson Pottery Co., Hanley, Staffs., and we will forward one of our catalogues of cheap Crockery. One Hundred Pieces of Crockery for £1. 1s., including complete Dinner and Tea Services, and other pieces. Even an imitation of this advertisement impossible. Drop a post card for particulars.

THE LONDON HOSPITAL, E., APPEALS FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS. This Hospital for Men, Women, and Children, is the great General Hospital for the toiling poor of East London, & help is sorely needed

Some of the most severe criticism that has ever appeared in the Press under similar circumstances has been passed during the last few weeks upon the conduct of the Staff in the operations on the North-West Frontier. There is a strong feeling in certain military circles in India that the shortcomings of the Staff are the immediate result of the present system of Staff appointments. It was admitted, I believe, by Lord George Hamilton in the course of last Session that about 80 per cent. of Staff appointments in India were at the time he spoke held by officers who had not passed the Staff College. This is on the face of it an extraordinary state of things, and, considering what the Staff College costs the country every year, the public may well ask whether the money is worth spending, if Staff College officers are not considered the proper men to fill Staff appointments. Are we to take it that, in the opinion of the present Commander-in-Chief in India, the Staff College is a useless institution?

When questioned upon this subject, Lord George Hamilton asserted that the English and the Indian regulations with reference to Staff appointments were practically the same; but in point of fact there is a very considerable difference between them. By the Queen's Regulations no officer can be appointed to the Staff who has not passed the final examination of the Staff College; under the Indian Army Regulations, the qualification is to have passed the higher standard in Hindustani, and the final examination of the Staff College, *or* the examination for promotion to the rank of Major. That is to say, every officer who has passed the ordinary examination for promotion is in India eligible for the Staff; and that is how it comes to pass that so large a proportion of Indian Staff Officers have never passed the Staff College examination. It would be a good thing if some further questions on this subject were asked when Parliament reassembles. As an officer, writing to me on the subject, puts it, "the extraordinary incapacity shown by some Staff Officers during the Frontier campaign makes it extremely doubtful whether the fact of having an aunt or a cousin at headquarters is, under the conditions of modern warfare, a sufficiently high standard of excellence to expect of a Staff Officer."

In Afridiland, the soldiers are considered to have distinguished themselves a good deal more than their officers. The latter have been exceedingly plucky, but they have, it is thought, understood very little of the exigencies and necessities of guerrilla fighting in mountains.

The following extract from a private letter which has been sent to me may be of interest. The incident is one which I do not remember to have seen described in the papers. I hear that Mr. Pennall, the gallant subaltern referred to, has been recommended for the V.C. by his General, and he seems to have earned it:—

When Capt. Smith, of the Derbyshire Regiment, fell gallantly leading his company at the storming of the Dargai Pass, two or three Gurkha officers who had crossed the deadly zone, and were waiting under cover, saw Smith's subaltern, young Pennall, stop amidst a perfect hail of bullets and drag Smith out of the way towards some cover. He then sat down to rest a few moments, still under heavy fire. The Gurkhas, who saw Smith was dead, shouted to Pennall to go under cover. He dragged Smith's body a bit further, and then, apparently recognising he was dead, laid him down and put his helmet cover over the poor fellow's face before he left him.

All this was done while fully exposed to the enemy's fire.

In the report of the half-yearly inspection of the Woolwich cadets by the Commander-in-Chief there is again no mention of the award of the Pollock Medal, although there is mention of a sword awarded for exemplary conduct. It does not, of course, follow from this that the medal was not awarded; but assuming that it was, it is a strange thing that what was for so long the principal honour of the year at Woolwich should have been suddenly relegated to a position of obscurity. What is the meaning of it, and is there any foundation for the belief which is held in many quarters that it is due to the personal predilections of the present Commander-in-Chief?

During last year only seven commissions have been granted to non-commissioned officers in the Army, as against fourteen in 1896, twenty in 1895, and twenty-five in 1894. It is well known that Lord Wolseley strongly disapproves of promotion from the ranks, and the very considerable reduction in the number of these commissions is, of course, due to his influence. Nevertheless, some of the best officers in the Service have been obtained by such promotion.

Reference has more than once been made in TRUTH to the fact of the new hospital in the Marlborough Lines at Aldershot having been built in immediate proximity to the North Camp sewage farm. Some further light was thrown upon this scandal in a recent issue of the *United Service Gazette*, where it is stated that at the time the site of the hospital was selected it was expected that the sewage farm would have been abolished and a different method of disposing of the sewage adopted. This reform never having been carried out, the hospital has remained untenanted, and is apparently likely to remain so for an indefinite period; and all the money that has been expended on it may, for the present at any rate, be regarded as absolutely wasted. A more striking instance could not be found of the utter incompetence of the present Army sanitary authorities, and of the necessity for placing everything relating to sanitary administration in different hands.

The Army Sanitary Committee at present consists of the Quartermaster-General (President), Colonel Locock, Sir Douglas Galton, Surgeon-General Marston, Sir C. A. Cameron, Brigade-Surgeon Hooper, Colonel Hill, Surgeon-Colonel Richardson, and Surgeon-Major Macpherson, with a War Office clerk as secretary. A mere glance at the names of this Committee is sufficient to show that its members can have little or no personal knowledge of such administrative questions as may come before them. More than one of the members is far advanced in years, and precluded by physical infirmity from travelling frequently about the country; others are fully occupied

The Maximum of Effect at the Minimum of Cost.—An Object Lesson in Decorating and Furnishing can be obtained by inspecting Messrs. WARING'S Suites of furnished rooms at 175-181, Oxford-st. W

with other official duties. The Quartermaster-General cannot be expected to do any work away from the War Office. Sir C. Cameron has other important duties. Brigade-Surgeon Hooper is president of the Indian Invaliding Board, and Surgeon-Major Macpherson is statistical officer at the Medical Division, War Office—both of them posts which keep the holders in London. Surgeon-Colonel Richardson has been ordered to India on work in connection with the plague. The result is that the important inspections which the Committee ought to undertake in different parts of the Kingdom are usually carried out by an old gentleman 68 years of age, accompanied by the civilian secretary. It is not surprising, under these circumstances, that the Committee should muddle and blunder, or that officers personally concerned with sanitary matters in barracks and camps should look upon it as an utterly useless, and even mischievous body.

With reference to the late fire at Dover Castle, an Army correspondent sends me a newspaper report of the chimney-sweeping order just issued by Sir William Butler, remarking upon it "Palmam qui meruit ferat." My correspondent is connected with the Royal Engineers, and the duty of sweeping barrack chimneys devolves upon the Army Service Corps. Sir William Butler is strongly of opinion that this duty has not been carried out, and I suppose the suggestion is that the A.S.C. therefore, and not the Royal Engineers, ought to "bear the palm" of responsibility for the fire. It seems to me to be a case of "honours divided." The Army Service Corps, by having neglected their duties as the chimney sweeps of the service, may be answerable for the fire; but some other corps, through the deficient water supply, is responsible for the failure to put it out, and if that corps is not the Royal Engineers, I don't know where the other palm-bearer is to be found.

The Egyptian Army in the Soudan occupies a line perilously long, and military experts are of opinion that it is exceedingly doubtful whether the Egyptian regiments would stand, were a desperate onslaught on the line made by a considerable Dervish force. The difficulty that the Dervishes have to contend against in an advance is one of food. Supplies cannot be obtained from the country around Khartoum, and those which formerly reached there from the north are now cut off. They are, therefore, drawn from Darfur, at a distance of six or seven hundred miles. There is an idea that possibly the Khalifa and his Dervishes will thus be starved out and withdraw to Darfur. Should this not take place, it is thought that it will be necessary to stiffen the Egyptian Army with seven or eight British battalions before an advance is made on Khartoum.

At a recent sitting of the board which has been inquiring into the question of civil employment for soldiers, a certain exalted official, who, so far as could be ascertained, had not heard a word of the evidence, suddenly astonished his colleagues by exclaiming: "I tell you it's three shillings a day!" The remark was delivered in the tone of one who would brook no contradiction; but, luckily, no occasion for disputing it arose, as the statement had not the remotest bearing on anything that had passed. The same functionary was lately sitting on the board which presides over the destinies of officers, when the name came up of a certain officer who was said to be deaf, which disqualified him for promotion. "What is he?" asked the distinguished official. "Deaf," was the answer shouted back. "Dead, poor fellow, is he? Ah, then it is useless to go further into his case."

The following should serve as a warning to soldiers against sending for samples of goods in answer to newspaper advertisements. A man in the Hampshire Regiment at Aldershot, in consequence of an advertisement which he had seen in the *Queen*, sent a postcard to Mr. W. J. Roche, of 5, Donegall-square, South Belfast, for samples of ladies' pocket-handkerchiefs. No invoice or memorandum of any kind was sent with the samples. The man returned them in due course, with an order for one dozen, and postal order in payment. Mr. Roche then wrote pointing out that a number of samples, total value £1. 1s. 2½d., had not been returned, and asking whether he was to invoice them. The soldier insisted that he had returned all the handkerchiefs, and Mr. Roche, on his side, insisted that they had not been returned, and demanded payment. Not receiving it, he wrote a further letter, protesting that "no such fraud should be committed on him," and that if he did not receive a satisfactory reply by return, he should lay the whole matter before the Commanding Officer, which, in due course, he did. Shortly afterwards the man wished to register his name for transfer to the Army Pay Corps, and this the Commanding Officer declined to assent to, until he had paid the Belfast merchant for his pocket handkerchiefs.

With all respect to the tradesman concerned, it seems to me that his proceedings in this matter are entirely unjustifiable. If he considered that he had a legal claim for payment for the goods, his proper course was to have taken legal action. As a matter of fact, it is extremely doubtful whether he could have recovered in a court of law, the evidence on one side being as good as on the other, and the tradesman being distinctly at fault in not having sent an invoice or memorandum with his goods. To attempt under these circumstances to obtain payment by getting the man into trouble with his Commanding Officer is a questionable way of doing business, and I confess I am surprised that any Commanding Officer should allow his authority to be made use of for such purposes in a case where the law of the case was at best doubtful.

I gave the other day the views of a certain officer on mess-waiters' grievances. It may be interesting to hear a mess-waiter's reply. The writer of the following is one of those whose case has already been referred to in TRUTH:—

As to the officer's statements about extra pay, and collections supposed to have been made on our behalf, I have been in my mess a number of years, and have mixed freely with other waiters, and I am in a position to know as much as any officer

about this. I entirely concur with his statement that it is the gambling element which keeps the waiters up late. Never, however, have I had the pleasure of taking one penny from them in any shape, neither have they tried to obtain an extra hour's rest for me in the morning, and in all the messes I have come in contact with I have not heard of any such thing being done. Gamblers may be proverbially generous, as your correspondent says, but their generosity does not come in the way of waiters, according to my experience.

The gentleman says that we could get everything put right by a word to the Mess Secretary. I should like to know who is meant by this. Is it the Mess President, the officer in charge, who usually leaves all, or nearly all, the mess business to the steward? Or does he refer to the steward? Things reported to the last do not usually go much further; and the first, when appealed to, generally remarks that he does not know what we have to do, but he will see to it, and drops the subject. As to the remark that there are always plenty of others to fill the places, that is just what I have been told myself for my satisfaction when complaining, and the answer to it is what you have already given in your paper.

In conclusion, when the gentleman says that soldiers are proverbially grumblers, I should like to ask whether he includes officers, because if he does, I quite agree. Having heard a great deal of officers' conversation, I can truthfully say that there is none in the ranks that grumbles like them.

An eye-witness sends me an account of the arrangements for landing certain invalid Naval Officers on arrival at Plymouth last week, which reflects great discredit either upon the Admiralty or the port authorities. Here is the substance of his statements:—

The P. and O. steamship *India* anchored in Plymouth Sound at 6. 30 a.m. on December 31, having on board the usual complement of passengers, several time-expired men from the Mediterranean Fleet, and three Naval Officers invalided home from Malta—all three exceedingly ill, and two of them in a most dangerous condition.

When the tender came alongside the ship, an individual in uniform came on board. I understand that he holds the rank of master-at-arms, and is a member of the Ships Police. He stated that he had come for the sick. The next thing was to move the sick on board the tender, and the ship's doctor was applied to. On being asked by the doctor, "Where are your cots?" the master-at-arms replied that only one had been brought. He was asked whether he had brought a doctor, and sick-bay attendant, and men to carry the cots, and replied that none of these had been provided. . . .

The worst of the three cases was accordingly placed in the cot; the other two invalid officers had to get up and walk. The cot was carried by the ship's stewards, a task which ought only to have been undertaken by sailors, as the crossing to the rolling tender was most dangerous. The gangway was so narrow that the men could not walk abreast, and the cot had to be placed on the rails and slid down—a most hazardous proceeding, and by no means likely to improve the condition of a patient whose nerves have all gone to pieces through fever. . . .

On the tender arriving at the pier, the same dangerous performance would have been gone through again, had not a gentleman in plain clothes, who was probably a naval officer, happened to be present, and ordered a broad luggage-gangway to be fixed so that the patient could be carried ashore. . . .

Once ashore, what conveyance was provided for the unfortunate sufferers? One hand ambulance! Into this machine the cot and patient were crammed, and with a cheer from the crowd, one loafer pulling in front and another pushing behind, and the master-at-arms walking by the side, the ambulance, with its iron-tyred wheels, went bumping off over the cobbles. The other two patients, who ought to have been in their beds, were placed in a cab, and driven up to the hospital. Such is the way in which men are treated who have lost their health in the service of their country. Who is to blame for such negligence, I cannot tell. I am told, however, on the best authority, that this was no isolated case, which might have occurred by accident, but that the same thing, or worse, has happened over and over again.

In spite of the very strong feeling which exists on the subject in Edinburgh, Mr. W. W. Robertson, Surveyor to the Office of Works in Scotland, still continues in the undisturbed enjoyment of his large private practice. Attention has just been called to this fact again by the publication of the prospectus of an hotel company in Edinburgh, in which is given Mr. Robertson's valuation of the property. I hear that Mr. Robertson has carried on his extensive business in the valuing line without possessing a valuator's licence, and that the Inland Revenue authorities have had the matter before them, but found that they had no power to require a Government surveyor to take out such a licence. This seems a little incomprehensible; but if it is true, it is difficult to see how the Inland Revenue can insist upon any private valuator taking out a licence in future—at any rate, a great injustice would be created if this were done. It is high time that some definite rule was laid down prohibiting private practice by Government officials in all departments and in all parts of the kingdom.

From latest reports it would appear that the Revenue returns for the past year are—up to now—eminently satisfactory; thanks largely, no doubt, to the hawk-eyed vigilance of the Excise executive. Of this, a recent case at Eastbourne furnishes a good example. At the seaside resort in question the attendant at the pier penny-shooting gallery had the temerity to solicit the patronage of a gentleman connected with the Inland Revenue, with the result that he was promptly invited to appear before the Bench to explain why he did not possess a licence, and why he should not be mulcted in a penalty of £10 for having used a gun without such guarantee. The Bench were undoubtedly much shocked at the heinousness of the offence, but on the whole they declined to convict, although they characterised the point as a "nice" one. The pier attendant probably differed from this latter opinion, inasmuch as he was refused his costs.

The Post Office finished up the year with an exhibition of puzzle-headed stupidity fully worthy of its high reputation in this respect. It seems that the *News*, a Church penny paper, published a Christmas number which weighed just over 4 oz. Some jack-in-office refused to pass this number through the post with a half-penny stamp; and three halfpence had to be paid on each copy. At the same time the Christmas number of one of the ladies' journals, which weighed no less than 2¼ lb., was allowed to go for the usual halfpenny, and so also were scores of other publications far heavier than the *News*. The explanation of the Secretary of the G.P.O. was that the *News* did not contain sufficient "news" to satisfy the regulation requiring that "the publication shall consist wholly, or in great part, of political or other news, or of articles relating thereto, or to other current topics."

This is a most ridiculous regulation, and it is enforced in the most idiotic manner. In the present instance the genius who settled the question refused to count as "news" two leaders on Christmas—Christmas, I suppose, did not come up to his idea of a current topic—a present-day biographical sketch, and articles about Christmas cards, new books, and chess. As a matter of fact, the 4 oz. paper upon which the extra charge was levied gave, in proportion to its size, far more "news"

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than the 2¼ lb. publication which went through the post unchallenged; and it is quite certain that if the contents of all newspapers were measured up according to the rule applied to the former, scores would be deprived of the advantage of the halfpenny post. But St. Martin's-le-Grand is nothing if not capricious in the enforcement of its regulations.

This huge City of London is celebrated the wide-world through for many things which are non-existent in other capitals. Where, for instance, abroad could such a sight be seen as the condition of our streets during the past week or two? Reeking with liquid mud, churned up by the ceaseless traffic, a journey from one end of a street at the West End to the other has only been accomplished under a heavy fire of hurtling mud-splashes and through pools of oozy filth, both on road and pavement. And with that marvellous tolerance peculiar to the English race, this state of things is passed over—with a little grumbling—as perfectly unavoidable. A few decrepit-looking men and a few mud-carts, the latter constructed on a principle which enables them to scatter impartially the filth already collected, is the extent of the efforts put forward by the London Vestries for cleansing the thoroughfares of the largest city in the world, and this in face of the fact that the able-bodied unemployed are always amongst us in thousands. There are those who believe that this sort of thing will be entirely changed when our Vestrymen are arrayed in robes and chains, and called Aldermen and Town Councillors; but I do not share this simple faith.

I thought it was the custom nowadays for all railway companies to supply foot-warmers as a matter of course during cold weather. This, however, seems to be an error, judging by a communication I have had from a lady, who tells me that during the frost immediately before Christmas she found it impossible to obtain foot-warmers during a journey on the Great Western Railway, and consequently travelled a long distance, in company with many others, in great misery. The foot-warmer is at the best a clumsy and unsatisfactory contrivance, and it is high time that English railway companies adopted the improved plans of heating their trains which are in use in other countries. This is a conspicuous illustration of what I have been saying lately about the backwardness of English railways in adopting obvious improvements; but, as is pointed out in the article which I am publishing to-day, it is idle to expect that this state of things will be improved by mere casual expressions of opinion, either by the public or the Press. We must adopt effectual means for making our railway companies do their duty.

A correspondent at Exmouth asks me to refrain from further comment upon the sanitary affairs of that place until a report has been received from the engineer appointed to deal with the drainage question. He seems to think that the publicity given to the matter has been damaging to the town. In the long run, however, it would have been far more damaging to Exmouth to have kept silence, for the inevitable result would have been a relapse of the District Council into their old pernicious state of apathy and negligence. My correspondent says that matters are by no means so black as I have painted them; but I have certainly not painted them blacker than they have been painted by the medical officer and other competent observers on the spot. However, the sanitary shortcomings of Exmouth can now be allowed to rest until the promised report is produced, provided it is not unduly delayed, and provided that the District Council do not again make such fools of themselves as they did in the attack upon the medical officer to which I alluded a fortnight ago.

If Lord Rowton can do it, why not Municipalities? If he can build a huge people's club-house at Newington Butts, with bedrooms and every convenience on the premises, and by charging 6d. per night obtain a return of 6 per cent. on outlay, why are not such people's clubs to be found all over London? When I went over Rowton Hall, I came to the conclusion that I could live there very comfortably for 1s. 6d. per diem. I should have a small bedroom, but airy, with a comfortable-looking bed. I should have a hot bath in the morning for 1d. I should have an excellent reading-room with a free library, and an equally excellent smoking-room My dining-room would be large and the perfection of cleanliness. My provisions I could buy at cost price on the premises, either cooked, or I might cook them myself. The bill of fare seemed to be an ample one, and I found that for 10d. I could have a capital breakfast lunch, and dinner. There would, therefore, be a margin of 1d. per diem. The society that I should meet would be varied, and I have no doubt infinitely more amusing than the generality of people that one meets at a London crush. Warming and lighting would cost me nothing. What I admired in the building most were the practical arrangements in connection with space and everything else. The corridors were wide; there was no skimping of air. I remember in Glasgow being taken to see the Municipal Doss House (or whatever it may be called) there. I admired it, but I am bound to say that it cannot hold a candle to Rowton Hall. I should like the London County Council to provide Lord Rowton with the means to build for them a few dozens of such people's clubs, and then to beg him to instruct them how to manage them.

Middlesbrough appears to have some nice, amiable, intelligent, public-spirited individuals on its Town Council. At a meeting a few days since they had under consideration a circular from the War Office asking that the influence of the Council should be used in procuring employment for soldiers leaving the Army with good characters. Such a proposal might have been expected to command general

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approval, but all it elicited from these Middlesbrough muddle-heads was a series of stupid and ungenerous gibes and sneers at Tommy Atkins, one worthy, named Bulmer, showing his appreciation of the Army by remarking that "all the time these men were any use to any one they were flinging their time away learning to do nothing." The brave Bulmer added that "in case of an invasion the whole of the members of the Corporation would volunteer for the front." It was not until another member unkindly retorted that he feared many of them would be shot in the back, that the meeting laughed at the idea of the Middlesbrough Corporation going forth to battle in defence of their country.

At the last meeting of the Camberwell Guardians before Christmas, the Clerk reported the arrival of the usual consignment of TRUTH toys for the children in the Camberwell Workhouse and Infirmary, whereupon a worthy member of the Board named Hurst made some reference to the recent criticism in TRUTH on the sanitary arrangements of the Infirmary, and proposed that the Guardians should mark their appreciation of this criticism by subscribing themselves for a distribution of toys, and sending the proprietor of TRUTH "a letter telling him to hang his toys round his neck." Possibly, had he confined himself to the latter part of this motion, it might have been carried; but the proposal to raise a toy fund themselves evidently did not appeal to the sentiments of the Guardians at large, and the proposal was not adopted. I am sorry that the aggrieved Hurst has been deprived of the intense pleasure which he would doubtless have derived from writing me a letter telling me to hang the toys round my neck; but it may be some comfort to him to know that the toys were not sent by me, but by the public who subscribe to the Toy Fund, and that the toys were intended for the children in the Workhouse, and not for their so-called Guardians. The worthy Hurst and his colleagues are therefore under no obligation whatever to me in the matter. It is evident that these gentlemen think a good deal more about their private feelings than their public duties, and it is high time that the Local Government Board compelled them to set their house in order.

The utter impossibility of arriving at the truth in any matter relating to Ireland is again illustrated by what has lately been said about the overstaffing of the Irish Bench. I referred the other day to some statements of the *Law Times* on this subject, and supplemented them by a letter from a Dublin correspondent of my own, who stated that the Dublin Courts were only working half time, and that practically half the judges were unemployed. Compare with this the following statement sent to me by a member of the Irish Bar Council. Both cannot be true; but which is false, Heaven forbid that I should attempt to say. I should rather like, however, to hear what the correspondent who wrote to me a fortnight ago has to say to these statements:—

The Lord Chancellor only sits on Saturdays, while if the Court of Appeal was in your correspondent's mind, they had a full list every day last sittings. Mr. Justice Ross was only able to cope with the business in his court by sitting frequently until five or six. The Vice-Chancellor's list was as full as that of the Master of the Rolls. Mr. Justice Boyd, owing to his being obliged to sit in the Queen's Bench Division, confined his bankruptcy sittings to one day a week, with the result that the inconvenience became so great that, at the urgent request of all the practitioners in bankruptcy, he consented to revert to his former practice. Mr. Justice Andrews being at the Winter Assize, the probate and matrimonial business over which he has control could not be transacted, to the great inconvenience of litigants. Three judges were occupied at Nisi Prius, and owing to the impossibility of getting together a quorum of judges to form a court, the number of new trial motions and law arguments appearing in the list on the first day of last term, and which could not and have not yet been heard, is unprecedented in recent years and amounts to a public scandal. As your correspondent should be aware, the judges during the sittings drew attention to the fact of their being short-handed, and constant complaint was made by suitors and practitioners of the delay in filling up the vacancy in the Queen's Bench.

Two or three correspondents have drawn my attention to a strange remark which is attributed to a medical witness in the report in the *York Evening Press* of an inquest held on the body of a child at York last week. The witness in question, Mr. H. N. Oglesby, said the mother took the deceased to him about a month before its death. "It was not in his Poor Law district," the report continues, "but as *he believed the mother wanted it to get better* he paid more attention to the child than usual. He was not paid for attending it." There must clearly be some mistake here. Either Mr. Oglesby did not say exactly what he meant, or else he has been the victim of a reporter's clumsiness. No doubt he will put the matter right when he hears of the notice it has attracted.

A disgusted creditor—the representative of a very large class—sends me the trustee's statement in the bankruptcy of a Mr. W. E. Farnham, in the County Court of Northampton. The notable feature in it is, that the trustee's remuneration was fixed by the committee of inspection at 70 per cent. on the debts collected, in addition to 10 per cent. on the assets divided. The debts collected were £385, so that out of this amount £269. 10s. went to the trustee. It certainly seems rather a handsome commission. The trustee is, of course, not to blame for taking anything that the committee of inspection allowed him, but is there no limit to the discretion of a committee of inspection in matters of this kind?

The Dumfries Sheriff has now delivered judgment in the case arising out of the infamous system of proscribing and persecuting poachers on the estate of the Duke of Buccleuch, which I described on December 16. It will be recollected that Mr. French, a tenant farmer on the estate, engaged a young labourer named Henry for a period of twelve months, but dismissed him after a few days in accordance with a peremptory order from the Duke's gamekeeper. The evidence showed that some three years previously Henry had been convicted of an offence against the Game Laws, and that since that time he had been hounded from situation after situation by the gamekeeper, the Duke of Buccleuch arrogating to himself the right to prevent the employment on his domain of any person convicted of poaching, and inserting a condition to that effect in his agreements with his tenants. The Sheriff has awarded Henry the year's wages for which he sued Mr. French, but notice

of appeal has been given, so that the case will have to be fought out again in the Court of Session. This is very satisfactory, for it means that there will be a further and wider exposure of a most audacious and outrageous piece of tyranny and injustice.

Mr. Synan M'Auliffe, of Knock, county Clare, has written to me in reference to the remarks in TRUTH of December 16, concerning the action of the Lord-Lieutenant in remitting certain penalties which had been imposed upon him for breaches of the fishery laws. The gist of Mr. M'Auliffe's letter is that he has been the victim of a shameful persecution at the hands of the Limerick Fishery Board. He says it is a notorious fact that other weir-owners do not erect their weirs in accordance with their certificates, but that, fortunately for themselves, they have more supporters and influence than he possesses, and they are not prosecuted, while he is singled out as a kind of scapegoat. Mr. M'Auliffe further states that during the period referred to at the meeting of the Fishery Board—where it was alleged that he had been nine times convicted in four years—he was "only prosecuted once for illegal fishing in the strict sense of the word;" and that with regard to "technical mistakes" in the erection of his weirs, there was "no secrecy or concealment" in what he did. All this, if correct, goes to show that the Fishery Board should have prosecuted other offenders as well as Mr. M'Auliffe, rather than that they should have left that gentleman alone. It certainly does not justify the very singular conduct of the Lord Lieutenant in remitting the penalties inflicted upon Mr. M'Auliffe, despite the strong opinion which was expressed by Judge Kelly upon the defendant's appeal at the Quarter Sessions, and without first hearing, in accordance with custom, what the Fishery Board had to say upon the subject.

The Rector of Morecambe recently forwarded to the Home Secretary a petition bearing many influential signatures in favour of a mitigation of the monstrous sentence of seven years' penal servitude, to be followed by five years' police supervision, which was passed upon one Shaw at the last Lancaster Quarter Sessions for the theft of a sovereign and a shirt front. In reply the Home Secretary says he is unable to discover any sufficient ground to justify his interference with the sentence. Let me recommend him, then, to obtain some competent judicial opinion upon the case. The prisoner Shaw was an old offender, but as I said when the case occurred, none of her Majesty's judges—not even the insignificant minority among them who still stick to the inequitable and irrational system of cumulative sentences—would have ventured to inflict punishment of such appalling severity as that to which the man was condemned by Mr. E. B. Dawson, J.P., and his fellow Dracos at Lancaster Sessions. Not only ought the sentence to be greatly reduced, but this Mr. Dawson ought to be deprived of a power over the liberty of his fellow-men which he is evidently quite incapable of exercising in reason and justice.

The most notable feature of my Legal Pillory this week is, I think it will be agreed, contributed by Bailie Tait, of Kirkcaldy. It is in dealing with wife beaters that this worthy has so distinguished himself. For throwing a woman down and jumping upon her one husband is charged the modest sum of five shillings, while for pulling his wife about by her hair, burning her neck with a red-hot poker and kicking her, another defendant only has to pay seven shillings and sixpence. This is quite the cheapest brutality recorded in the list, but, nevertheless, there are several other instructive examples of magisterial leniency in cases of violence and cruelty—leniency which stands out in striking contrast to the severity of the sentences on the other side for poaching, vagrancy, and petty larceny. The penalty imposed upon an old woman at Atherstone for being found with a rabbit net in her possession is an exceptionally shameful exhibition of Justices' justice:—

Middlewich Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Leigh and other magistrates. Henrietta Kirk, charged with cruelty to her illegitimate child, aged five weeks. The child was found in a very dangerous condition, the result of neglect and starvation. Fourteen days.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Tait. Henry Burke, charged with assaulting his wife by compressing her throat, throwing her on the floor, and jumping upon her. Fined 5s.

The same court. Francis Fraser, charged with assaulting his wife. He burned her neck with a red-hot poker, pulled a quantity of hair from her head, dragged her to the door, and kicked her. Fined 7s. 6d.

Derby Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. W. H. Marsden, R. Jefferson, W. G. Norman, and A. F. Longdon. Albert Wm. Perfect, charged with cruelty to a horse by working it in an unfit state. The animal was in a wretched condition, being described as nothing but a case of bones held together by the skin. Its body was covered with bruises, which had been rubbed over with black grease. Fined 40s. and costs.

Houghton-le-Spring Police-court. Dominic McSheen, pony driver at a colliery, charged with cruelty to a pony. He hacked the shoulders of the animal with a weapon known as a "deputy's tomahawk," inflicting shocking injuries. Fined £2 and costs.

Blackburn Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Hoyle and T. A. Watson. Henry Singleton, convicted of assaulting his wife by striking her in the mouth and on the eye, and kicking her in the back. He also turned her out of the house. As he had thrashed and kicked her many times previously, a separation order was granted, and for the present assault defendant was fined 40s. and costs.

Middlewich Petty Sessions. Before the same Bench. John Simpson, convicted of stealing fowls value 12s. Fourteen days.

Grays Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. S. W. Squier, A. Sturgeon, C. Seabrooke, E. R. Parker, and Captain Whitmore. Samuel Atkinson Newton and Mark Swan, charged with poaching. Newton, three months; Swan, two months.

Enniskillen Petty Sessions. Two youths named Gillen and O'Brien, charged with stealing thirty lemonade bottles. Three months each.

Newmarket (Suffolk) Petty Sessions. John Cutts, Walter Webb, and Henry Thorogood, young labourers, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found on the highway in possession of rabbit nets, ferret lines, and a gun. Fined £2. 11s. 6d. each; in default one month.

Larne Police-court. Before Mr. A. Williams and Colonel M'Neill. John Maguire, charged with wandering abroad, lodging in an outhouse, and not having any visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Wrexham Borough Police-court. Alice Jones, charged with stealing a blanket, and Mary Anne James with receiving it. Jones one month; James fourteen days.

Atherstone Petty Sessions. Before Mr. S. B. H. Chamberlayne and other Justices. Emma Wood, an old woman, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of a rabbit net. Fined £2. 10s. and costs, and time to pay refused; in default of payment, fourteen days.

Subscriptions greatly needed by THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.—6,929 convictions this year; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Knighton Police-court. Before Messrs. H. M. Evans and E. Oldbury. William Bufton, convicted of assaulting John Simons. The complainant was badly knocked about, and the defendant bit off the end of one of his fingers. The Bench said it was a very violent and cowardly assault, and fined defendant £2 and costs; also ordering him to pay complainant's doctor's bill.

Needham Market Petty Sessions. Before General Martin and other magistrates. Wm. Watling, butcher's assistant, charged with cruelty to a dog. Defendant beat the animal on the head with a shovel and dropped it, still alive and struggling, into a hole which he had dug. While he was burying it with earth the animal got away, and it was ultimately killed with a hammer. The Chairman said it was difficult to imagine how defendant, knowing how to kill animals without causing undue suffering, could bring himself to commit such fearful cruelty. Fined £2 and costs.

Aston Police-court. Before Dr. Griffiths, Messrs. Dean, Barnsley, and Bosworth. Wm. Nock, charged with cruelty to a cat. While sitting in the house he suddenly picked up a poker and struck the cat a terrific blow, breaking its back. It was stated that he invariably terminated domestic rows by attacking the cat, and that he had previously killed six in this way. Fined 10s. 6d. or fourteen days.

Abergavenny Petty Sessions. Before Lieut.-Col. W. H. Wheeley, Mr. J. O. Marsh, Colonel Mansell, and Mr. J. Merton Jones. Mary Turner, charged with stealing six scrubbing-brushes from outside a shop. The prosecutor did not wish to press the charge. Seven days

Marlborough-street Police-court. Before Mr. Hannay. George Parkman, charged with stealing a diamond brooch at St. James's Hall. The owner of the brooch missed it after a visit to the hall, and prisoner said he found it outside the building. Prisoner had been employed at the Hall for many years, and the manager gave him an excellent character, stating that he believed that if the prisoner had found the brooch inside the building he would have given it up, as he had done other articles. One month.

Woodbridge Petty Sessions. Before Mr. W. Lowther, Col. J. Whitbread, and Mr. J. Loder. David Hudson, charged with taking a rabbit. Fined £2.

Southampton Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Geo. Richmond, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

A rather belated letter has reached me from the Rev. Alfred Bond, of Powick, concerning a charge of cruelty to a dog at Worcester, which was noticed in TRUTH on December 2. As I mentioned in the following week, I received an unsigned document setting forth various statements in favour of Mr. Bond, who was the defendant in the case; but in accordance with my rule I declined to discuss an anonymous communication. It now appears that —as I had supposed—that Mr. Bond was the writer of this communication. He thinks I ought to state that "the defendant gave an unqualified denial to anything of a cruel nature—in fact, to most of the evidence—and that his twenty-five years' character for humanity stood high enough for his version to be accepted by the magistrates and all that know him." This I cheerfully do. At the same time I must point out that against Mr. Bond's denial there was the evidence of three witnesses as to his treatment of the dog, that the prosecution was prepared, if necessary, to call other witnesses, and that the magistrates, in dismissing the summons, stated that they thought the defendant's punishment of the dog "more severe than was necessary," though they did not think it came "within the definition of cruelty."

Here is a little instance of the way in which the law is stretched and pressed by rural magistrates against everybody accused of an offence against the cult of the sacred birds. Two lads named Saunders and Cuttle were working in a field at Titchfield, near Fareham, when the former saw a dead cock-pheasant and picked it up. This nefarious act was witnessed by a gamekeeper employed by a syndicate who rent the shooting over the land in question, and the two lads being summoned before Messrs. F. S. Brotherton and H. Gibbings, J.P.s, were fined 14s. each. Apart from the harshness of the decision, it seems open to doubt whether, in view of the case of Tanton *v.* Jervis, cited in "Stone's Justices' Manual," the mere taking up of a dead pheasant can justify a conviction for trespass in pursuit of game—game for the purpose of the Act meaning live game.

Much adverse comment has been excited in Hunts by the action of the Chief Constable in forbidding the presentation of a testimonial to Superintendent Rayner, of St. Ives. The testimonial was spontaneously promoted by firms at Cambridge and elsewhere outside the county in recognition of the services the superintendent had rendered in bringing to justice a gang of swindlers. It is easy to understand that it would be an undesirable and even mischievous state of things if police officers were allowed, as a rule, to receive such rewards for doing their duty; but this case appears to have been of an exceptional character, and in the circumstances the veto upon the presentation was a very unnecessary and ill-advised proceeding. The course taken is rendered all the more incomprehensible by the fact that Superintendent Copping, who stopped this presentation on the authority of the Chief Constable, was himself not long since the recipient of a presentation at St. Neots.

As a private citizen, Mr. E. P. Price, Q.C., is entitled, like anybody else, to express his views—for whatever they may be worth—upon the dispute in the engineering trade and the question of trade unionism. Mr. Price is not entitled, however, to take advantage of his position as Recorder of York to deliver from the Bench such a harangue as he addressed to the Grand Jury at the City Sessions last week. Whichever side he had espoused, his conduct would have been equally impertinent and indecent; but I may mention that as a matter of fact he assumed all through that the employers were in the right, urged the men to capitulate, and denounced trade unions as exercising "a tyranny worse than any despot ever swayed over any part of the world." Such an exhibition of partisanship by a person occupying a judicial office, and speaking in a judicial capacity, is a gross scandal, and calls for a sharp reprimand from the Lord Chancellor. Supposing a case arising out of a strike occurs at York, how can the workmen of the city be expected after this to feel any confidence in the impartiality of the Recorder?

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An attempt to enforce the Food and Drugs Act at Askeaton (Limerick) Petty Sessions must be a rather hopeless proceeding judging from what happened in a case a few days ago. The Inspector under the Act produced a certificate from the public analyst showing that milk sold by the defendant was adulterated with 10 per cent. of added water, whereupon the Chairman of the Bench, Mr. J. B. Hewson, said he did not think that the document could be taken as evidence, and furthermore that "he did not see how the analyst could tell whether the milk was adulterated or not." He also asked whether this was the defendant's "first offence," and, being told that it was, dismissed the summons, and refused to grant the costs of the prosecution, which will accordingly fall upon the cess-payers of the county of Limerick. This exhibition of magisterial intelligence will, doubtless, be highly appreciated by the milk-vendors of the district, but their customers will probably take a different view of the matter.

Another prosecution under the same Act at Mullingar Petty Sessions deserves the attention of the Irish Lord Chancellor. Mrs. Kelly, a shopkeeper, was fined £10 and costs for selling margarine as butter. Her defence was that she bought the stuff as butter from Mr. Fitzherbert Delamere. He denied this, but at the same time he admitted that he had for several months supplied Mrs. Kelly with margarine in boxes, which were not marked in accordance with the requirements of the Margarine Act, and for this Mr. Delamere was fined £20 and costs. His excuse was that "he did not know that he was doing any harm." Seeing that Mr. Delamere is himself a magistrate, this is a remarkable confession, and it is for the Lord Chancellor to consider whether a person so ignorant of the law affecting his own business ought to be any longer allowed to remain in the Commission of the Peace.

In a recent reference to Leigh Sampson, alias Henry Travers, in Truth, it was mentioned that he had been employing "a South London solicitor" to frighten people who decline to take the trouble to pack up and return his pictures. The solicitor in question sends me an explanation of his relations with "Travers," or Sampson, which is highly interesting. He states in the first instance that he received in November instructions from "Travers" at Boulogne to act for him, stating that he had acted for him some years ago, and, in the ordinary course, he complied with his instructions. Letters that he subsequently received aroused his suspicions, and he obtained information which enabled him to identify "Travers" with the Leigh Sampson for whom he had acted previously. On that occasion Sampson sent a picture "as security" for the solicitor's charge of two guineas, accompanied by his "faithful promise" to pay before the ensuing Christmas, which, of course, he did not keep. On this, the solicitor wrote declining to act further for "Travers," and mentioning that his charges for what he had done were £4. 2s. 6d. He continues:—

On the morning of Monday, the 13th, I had a charming letter from him informing me that I was a "bully," a "liar," that my charges were "swindling charges," and that he had a right to use another name—it was not illegal, and that he had done nothing for which the law could punish him, &c. I at once sent him my bill giving details. Three or four days afterwards I received a post-card saying he had refused my letter as the postage was "undercharged," and it was on its way back to "its honest author at —— " threatening to communicate with the clergy of all denominations, my bankers, and the principal inhabitants in my neighbourhood—"*and on post-cards, too*"—and winding up, "For your health's sake (the word health underscored twice) be honest and accept the drawing of Boulogne Harbour for your letters, and send me the others back."

My letter of the 13th, and my bill, came back three or four days afterwards. I at once returned them with a note saying, "I should certainly not entertain your suggestion of retaining one picture for my charges unless you fully apologise for your last letter and post-card, and undertake not to write any more such documents."

I did not expect any apology—but I did expect to hear from some of my neighbours that they had received the threatened post-cards, and so waited developments.

But a change came. Christmas morning brought the usual cards and letters conveying Christmas greetings, and amongst them was one from "H. Travers," as follows:—

"You say you will accept my suggestion to return me the pictures (saving one to be kept for your costs) if I fully apologise for my last letter and post-card, and undertake not to write any more such documents. I fully apologise for my last letter and post-card, and hereby undertake not to write any more such documents. The pictures must be tied together in one parcel, and sent here by South-Eastern Railway."

Enclosed in this letter was a label, addressed to himself, to be affixed to the parcel, on the back of which were written the words, "Contents—Water-colour Drawings, value £5." For one of these pictures Sampson had asked first £7. 7s., and then £4. 4s. He now values the whole three at £5.

You will observe that he did not quote my words correctly, but as I felt perfectly sure I should never see a sixpence for my trouble, and to get quit of the man I have kept the picture, Boulogne Harbour, and sent him the other three. Its commercial value, perhaps, is half a sovereign, but its great value will be as a memento of the most remarkable man of the present age—the man who was born in ten different towns in England!—Yours, &c. A South London Lawyer.

December 30.

The impression I derive from the foregoing narrative, and from some further letters of Leigh Sampson's that have reached me during the past week, is that the man is, from some cause or other, a little "off his head," and can hardly be held responsible for everything he writes. At the same time there is a remarkable amount of method in his madness; in fact he seems to be combining the methods of an abusive bully with those of an ordinary swindling adventurer. If at the same time he is a little touched in his head, it only makes it the more necessary that the police of Boulogne should take some steps to restrain his proceedings.

The following extraordinary letter from Sir Theodore Martin is at present being circulated—it is scarcely necessary to say by whom. It is accompanied by an appeal for a cash remittance, to save society at large from its impending dissolution:—

31, Onslow-square, December 20, 1897.

Sir,—I am simply horror-struck by what your long and interesting letter tells me of the base incentives to the indulgence of the animal instincts in men and women by the apostles of Socialism. That such a creed, if widely adopted, must lead to the destruction of all domestic life, and to the

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ultimate dissolution of society, is so obvious, that I am surprised that any person, man or woman, with a rag of common sense, not to say self-respect, could be got to show him or herself in a meeting where such doctrines are ventilated. One would like to see the liberty of free speech of such a kind put down by the State. It is not liberty, but licence, and so noxious that the strong hand of the law should have power to crush it. But who dare propound any plan that had this for its end?

I can only wish you all success in your crusade against these abominations. Living out of the world as I do, I have no opportunity to lift up my voice against this moral pestilence. The few people that I see know nothing of it, and it is not a topic for general conversation. What you say of Mr. Stead surprises me. He of all men I should have thought would have been eager to lead an onslaught on a teaching which would turn Society into groups of harlots and whoremongers.

I am glad to hear that rich men, like my friend Lord Egerton and Sir Humphrey de Trafford, are backing you. They cannot spend some of their wealth better. I can only send you the enclosed small cheque amid the ever-increasing claims of urgent necessity upon my purse.—Yours truly,

(Signed) THEODORE MARTIN.

Rev. George Brooks.

In sending out type-written copies of this deliverance, Brooks speaks of Sir Theodore Martin as "one of the wisest and best of men; friend and adviser of the Queen." Sir Theodore's virtues no one will question, but if this is a specimen of his wisdom, it must be a matter for national congratulation that her Majesty has other friends and advisers. Sir Theodore must indeed, as he says, "live out of the world." It would only be a kindness if some of his friends, a little better acquainted with current events, would inform him that the man to whom he writes the above letter has three times been before a judge and jury to defend himself against charges, made in the Press, of being an unscrupulous impostor, and that he has on each occasion been ignominiously put out of court. The knowledge of this might possibly relieve the good gentleman of the panic into which he has fallen, and lead him to bestow his cheques on some more deserving object.

After having been bombarded by the English agents of the Viavi Company with testimonials, certifying their perfect satisfaction with the business, I have been receiving during the last fortnight further huge consignments of documents to the same effect from American and Canadian agents. I mention this fact for what it is worth, but the Viavi Company, as men of business, must surely see that it is not worth very much. All these documents that have been sent to me are obviously written to order, and a comparison of them suggests that the very terms of the letters have been suggested to the writers. I can only repeat what I said before, that while the agents appear to be satisfied with their position, the terms offered by the company are certainly not what I should recommend any inexperienced person to accept. I really think that my readers have now heard enough about the Viavi Company, and I am sure I have.

I would advise Dr. Court, the Unionist candidate for North-east Derbyshire, to coach himself up in his subjects before he next delivers a political speech. At a recent meeting he remarked that "the Radical programme was now one of Home Rule all round, for England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, *and they might as well have it for the Isle of Man.*" This was intended to be sarcastic, and the audience dutifully laughed, being, like the orator, ignorant of the well-known fact that the Isle of Man has, and always has had, Home Rule.

The following letter deserves the attention of our legislators. The writers are a firm dealing largely in articles which I have reason to believe form an important item of the feminine toilet, but which innate delicacy forbids me to particularise. The firm have factories on the Continent and in Ireland. Their case is, therefore, an excellent example of the operation of the Merchandise Marks Act—probably the most short-sighted and mischievous measure that ever was placed on the statute book. In view of the recent inquiry into the working of the Act, I suppose we shall see some legislation on the subject next Session, and the sooner it comes the better it will be for British trade:—

12, London Wall, London, E.C.,
December 20th, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—We have been in communication with the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs as to whether or not we should be meeting with the requirements of the Trade Marks Act if we stamped all our goods, bearing our trade mark, that were made abroad, with the words underneath the trade mark "Made Abroad."

We should have thought that this would have met the full requirements of the Trade Marks Act, but we are given to understand by the Custom House authorities that such indication is not sufficient, and that, therefore, the goods must be stamped Made in Spain, Germany, France, or otherwise, wherever they come from.

As manufacturers of articles which we have to have made in several different countries, it seems absurd that we are compelled to stamp on one article "Made in Germany," and the next one "Made in France," and so on.

From what we hear, we feel assured that hundreds of traders are suffering from this vexatious Trade Marks Act in the same way, and do think it is time that some action should be taken in Parliament by which traders would be meeting the requirements of the Trade Marks Act if they stamped their goods "Foreign Manufacture" or "Made Abroad."

Unless, when Parliament meets, some action is taken in this matter, it will be just as well if English traders showed their foreign rivals their invoices, and the prices they paid for goods, as with this additional information, and the help and information the Government supplies according to the Trade Marks Act, they will have no further difficulty in taking the bread out of the Englishmen's mouths.—Apologising for troubling you at this length, we remain, yours respectfully,

H. SHERWOOD & CO.

Glancing at a fac-simile of the first number of the *Aberdeen Journal*, dated January 5, 1748—which is being issued in celebration of the completion to-day of the 150th year of the continuous existence of the paper—I came across the following interesting paragraph. It will be seen that recent events in Germany have practically supplied another instance of history repeating itself:—

Franckf. Dec. 23.—His Prussian Majesty, it is said is firmly resolved, that his Subjects shall become great Traders, and that himself and his Successors, shall for the future be consider'd in Europe as a Maritime Power. In order to this he is actually taking Abundance of foreign Seamen into his Service, and has sent to all his Ministers, at foreign Courts, a Rescript, conceived in very strong Terms, in Reference to the Respect that he insists will be paid for the future to the Prussian Flag, where and whensoever it appear.

No one supposes that Mr. Selous would himself be guilty of cruelty. But his reply to the allegations of Mr. Blake does not disprove them. Mr. Blake has said that one of the patrols from Bulawayo fired into a number of natives, killing women and children. Mr. Selous admits that the patrol which he commanded did fire at natives, and that he, noticing that there were women amongst them,

at once ordered the firing to stop. Had he not been gifted with exceptionally sharp sight, he would have not perceived these women, and the firing would have gone on; as it was, indeed, one woman was slightly wounded by a bullet. The experience of Mr. Selous rather, as it seems to me, tends to confirm the statement of Mr. Blake than controvert it, except that the occurrence that he mentions is more likely to have occurred further away from Bulawayo than in its vicinity. It must not be forgotten that, when a force was required by the Chartered Company to conquer Matabeleland, it was obtained by offering prospective "loot lands" to all the riff-raff on the outskirts of civilisation. Openly and avowedly this force was got together by promises of loot, and that such men would have been squeamish in their military operations is contrary to all probability. I read during the Matabele war of kraals being shelled and then burnt down. Are we to believe that all this took place without women and children losing their lives?

Then about the ravishing of Matabele women. Mr. Selous meets this by saying that no Matabele woman has a notion of virtue. The statement is sweeping, but in the main it may be correct. The men, however, he admits may have objected to their wives and their daughters being the spoils of war. No doubt they did. But Mr. Selous does not deny that the women were the spoils of war.

Mr. Selous does not contest that the Matabele were forced to labour for their masters. After the report of Sir Richard Martin, he could hardly do so. A chief was ordered to send on a certain number of men. These were partitioned amongst the settlers, each being expected to pay the men a certain wage. If they ran away they were brought back and punished for running away. What was this but slavery? And there never yet was slavery without cruelty on the part of many of the slave masters. A hut tax was levied on the Matabele with the avowed object of obliging them to work for the whites in order to be able to pay it. Mr. Rhodes, in a speech, deprecated the natives being placed in reserves, because they might grow so comparatively wealthy on them that they would not consent to work for the whites. At that time the country was overrun by company promoters, who hoped to acquire wealth by converting many claims into mining companies. The only possible way to work these mines was by making the natives labour in them. To this the natives objected, and therefore they were forced to labour. Precisely the same system prevailed in Cuba, Mexico, and Peru, when the Spaniards laid hands on these countries, with precisely the same result.

I have no doubt that Mr. Selous, being with his wife in Matabeland, exercised a controlling influence over the cruelty and the rapacity of the settlers in his immediate neighbourhood. His mistake seems to be to generalise from his own personal experiences, and to assume that what came under his immediate notice was the rule everywhere. This is much as though the Lady Bountiful in some village were to deny that there was no sweating in the East End of the Metropolis, because she knew of no case of sweating in her village.

A correspondent sends me these verses apropos of the storm now raging in the (China) teacup:—

STEALING A MARCH ON JOHN BULL.

What is the gist of the situation
  Now existing out China way?
What is the cause of the jubilation
  England's rivals just now display?
Why does Germany shout so loudly?
  Why does Russia insult us thus?
Why does France stand aloof so proudly?
  This is the cause, as it seems to us:—

All our rivals—and who can wonder?—
  Seeing our hands just now are full,
Think it is time—with an eye to plunder—
  To steal a march upon poor John Bull.
"See!" they cry, in their hearts' recesses,
  "John in worries is up to his eyes;
John is in half-a-dozen messes,
  Now is our time for enterprise!

"Poor old John!" they exclaim, with pleasure,
  "See, what troubles are on his hands;
See, how he wastes his strength and treasure,
  Ploughing, poor fool, the desert sands!
Fighting for swamps that reek with fever,
  Seeking for markets where trade is not,
Slaying the pagan unbeliever
  For lands worth nothing when they are got!

"Thrusting his head, like a silly noodle,
  In an Afridi hornets' nest;
Crowing his noisy 'Cock-a-doodle!'
  Over a mountain's barren crest.
Running of hazards and risks the gravest
  Just to oblige a Jingo horde;
Losing the lives of his best and bravest,
  With nought to show for the blood outpoured.

"Come!" they cry, "whilst his strength he fritters
  On half a dozen exploits inane,
We can seize on the prize that glitters
  Far away o'er the Eastern main!
Come! if we show no hesitation,
  Ten to one there will not be war;
And, at worst, 'twill be consolation
  To know *our* prize is worth fighting for."

* * * * *

And who shall say that they have not reason,
  Those of our rivals who argue thus?
Who shall say that they do not seize on
  A fitting moment to harass us?
Aye, who shall say that, whilst we are tilling
  Fields that never a crop have known,
They're not rushing, with zest too willing,
  To reap a harvest that we have sown?

To fight at all may be most immoral,
  But those to fighting most disinclined
May give this hint to the folks who quarrel,
  Which they'd do wisely to keep in mind:
Yes, seeing how war if waged with vigour
  Their country's treasure and life-blood drains,
They should keep henceforth to this rule with rigour,
  And only fight for what's worth the pains!

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SCRUTATOR.

KING GEORGE AND RUSSIA.

I NOW publish a communication that I have received from my diplomatic friend, or, to be strictly accurate, an English version of his communication in somewhat abridged form. Perhaps I may be allowed to add that I have received confirmation of the accuracy of his statements from other quarters :—

I have read the article from the *Daily Chronicle* that you have sent me, and which contests certain statements made by you in TRUTH as to matters relating to the late Turko-Greek war, which were told to you by me, and which I again affirm are absolutely correct.

The entire pith and substance of your statements are that the war was the result of King George's desire that a marriage should be effected between his daughter and the Grand Duke George Michaelovitch. The somewhat dark aspect of the circumstances of this match is only confirmed by the avowal that "those who know most shrink most" from dwelling upon it. But an inaccuracy is noticed. No doubt, the Queen of Greece was at first more anxious for the marriage than the King; but the latter, although apparently lukewarm at first, was soon as heartily for it as the Queen. Now let me recount the affair chronologically. King George went to Copenhagen with the Queen and with Princess Marie in the autumn of 1895. They there met the Grand Duke. The Czar was not personally averse to the marriage, but he declined to use his influence with the Grand Duke to bring it about, notwithstanding that the King begged this of him. In the following November the King returned to Athens. He was aware that Russia was strongly opposed to any alliance between Servia and Greece; indeed, on two previous occasions a treaty of alliance had been actually drawn up between the two countries, and on both occasions Greece did not sign it, owing to pressure exercised on the King by Russia. The fact is well known to all those who are acquainted with Eastern affairs; and it will thus be seen that the *pourparlers* of 1897 for the co-operation of Bulgaria in the late war, to which the *Chronicle* refers, have nothing to do with the present matter. To force on the Russian marriage, King George indirectly conveyed to the King of Servia that an overture for the hand of Princess Marie would be favourably considered. The Russian Court heard of this, and, fearing that this marriage might take place, sent the Grand Duke to Athens in April, 1896, when he was affianced to the Princess; at the same time, the King of Servia had visited Athens; but when he found himself, as he considered, tricked, he left in such displeasure that the question of the withdrawal of the Servian Chargé d'Affaires was brought under consideration. The Grand Duke left Greece shortly afterwards, and it was then announced in the Athens papers that the marriage would take place in the following June at St. Petersburg. In the *Times* of July 7 it was announced for the following August. In the usually well-informed *Pall Mall Gazette* of October 6, 1896, the marriage was "reported on good foundation to have been broken off," after having already been put off twice.

At this time the King was away from Greece on his annual peregrinations; and after considerable persuasion the Grand Duke was induced to pay a visit to his fiancée at Athens. But the marriage again did not come off. Then followed the King's secret journey to Paris, when he once again vainly urged the Czar to use his influence with the Grand Duke to carry out his promise. King George reached Athens in November, and he at once ordered, without any consultation with his constitutional advisers, a camp to be formed, on the northern frontier. The Cretan troubles were assuming a threatening aspect. Russia, which had no wish for disturbances in the east of Europe, again soothed the King, and notices appeared in various newspapers stating that the wedding would take place in the coming winter. On this, the order for the formation of the camp became a dead letter, and the King betook himself to Corfu, as a guarantee that he would not encourage such disturbances. Vainly his Ministers urged him to return to Athens in view of the critical state of affairs in Crete. When, however, comparative calm had been restored in the island last winter, he found that Russia had played with him once more, and that the marriage was as far off as ever. On this, he put himself openly at the head of the War Party. Prince George was sent to Crete in command of the Fleet, and Colonel Vassos was sent to the island with troops to take possession of the island in the name of the King, who had ordered both these expeditions on his own initiative. The Greeks of the kingdom were urged to enlist, and all available troops, either of the regular army or of the volunteers, were pushed forward to the northern frontier. There is no doubt that the King never meant war, but hoped that he would bluff Russia, and that, in any case, some other Power would step in and save him from extreme measures. Things, however, had gone too far, and the war-feeling of the people had risen to such a pitch that the King lost control of it. Turkey, on the other hand, was secretly encouraged by Russia and Germany to fall upon Greece and crush her. When all was thus prepared, the Czar informed the King that a war could only end fatally to Greece; that the Turkish troops would advance to Athens, and that in all probability he would lose his Crown. The arrangement, as stated by you in your article, was then entered into between the Czar and the King. The latter engaged that, on war breaking out, the fleet would remain inactive, and that there would be no serious attempt to invade Turkey, and thus forcibly stir up the Slavs. On these conditions the Czar promised, so soon as the Turks had occupied Thessaly, to use his influence with the Sultan to stop any further advance.

Of the above facts, I speak with absolute knowledge. But they are fully confirmed by what took place during the war. The fleet was inactive. The *Daily Chronicle* admits this, but suggests that it was due to the discovery that the torpedoes were unloaded. But Prince George, who commanded the fleet, has himself testified that the discovery was only made after the war. Besides this, the unloaded torpedoes would only have affected the action of the torpedo flotilla, and not that of the war ships in occupying the islands, as there were no Turkish war vessels to sink. The Army of Epirus drove the Turks helter-skelter to within less than fifteen miles of Janina. Had it followed up this success there is not a military man who doubts that Janina would have fallen. What occurred? Colonel Manos, whose wife is one of the Court ladies and who is a favourite of the King, was in command. The advance was stopped. The Greek army was so mishandled by its own commander that the discomfited Turks were able to drive it back over the frontier, which it reached a mob rather than an army. The Greek army on the Thessalian frontier occupied very strong positions. It was commanded by the Crown Prince. He ordered the retreat, which became a rout. Later on, after abandoning Velestino also, he entrenched himself in the formidable position of Domoko, and issued an order of the day declaring that he would defend it to the last drop of his blood. But he took the earliest opportunity of again running away. Then the Czar, as he had promised, used his influence with the Sultan, and hostilities were suspended preparatory to the peace negotiations. Thus on both sides the pre-arranged understanding was carried out. In an article contributed to *Scribner's Magazine* of October last, Mr. Norman sums up the war in the following words :—

"A demonstration of the Greek fleet before Salonica or Smyrna would have compelled the European Powers to intervene instantly to prevent the whole Eastern Question blazing forth. In spite of the total collapse of Greece, there is no doubt that this scheme did not fall far short of realisation. The attack on Previsa mysteriously failed, but Janina was at the mercy of the Greek army, the Turkish troops having fled pell-mell into it before them, when the mysterious Greek retreat on Arta astonished everybody. The Turks were held pluckily for a time at the Melouna Pass, and could certainly have been made to purchase Larissa with great loss of time, and at a fearful cost of blood, but for the mysterious evacuation of that city before one of the guns in position had been fired. Finally, the railway line from Constantinople to Salonica, along which troops and supplies were moving day and night, runs at many places within a few hundred yards of the sea, and is totally unprotected. There was not a single Turkish man-of-war at sea, and one Greek cruiser could have destroyed this vital line of communication. But the mysterious inactivity of the Greek fleet left this hope also unrealised. Thus, from every point of view, the failure of the Greek plans contains a large element of the mysterious, and I can make no attempt to clear it up."

It is this mystery—inscrutable in appearance, but quite intelligible to the initiated and unprejudiced mind—that I sought to clear up when you asked me to explain it to you. The King appointed his own and the Crown Prince's aides-de-camp in command of the land and sea forces, and, after Colonel Vassos had been sent with troops to aid the Cretan insurgents, he appointed a nominee of his own at the head of the War Office. No one disputes the fact that all the land and sea operations were absolutely under his immediate control. He, therefore, is directly responsible for all that occurred. Why was the fleet inactive? Why did not the Greeks take Janina? Why were they ordered to evacuate position after position in Thessaly, and thus become so demoralised that there was no fight left in them? Because the King, after playing fast and loose in his efforts to secure the Russian marriage, found himself unable to prevent war. Having embarked on a grave political adventure and staked the future of Greece on a purely family issue, he did not give proof of the faintest moral courage or kingly self-abnegation. He risked nothing. He never so much as visited the camp of his wretched soldiers. But he became a prey to that feeling of funk which alternates in him with unreasoning stub-

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bornness. And, believing that the Turks must be the victors, he came to an agreement with the Czar to interfere in his behalf after the Greek Army had abandoned Thessaly. It may, perhaps, be said that King George, by entering into this arrangement, did the best he could for Greece in the circumstances which he had himself created. But then he ought to accept the responsibility for it, and not by his silence lead the world to suppose that his subjects were imbecile cowards. That they were not cowards, that they fought bravely whenever moderately well led, that they gave proof of true patriotism and abnegation, that the facts I have related are such as here set forth, that the King's family projects were at the bottom of this tragedy, that he imposed inaction on the fleet and ordered the disastrous retreats in Epirus and Thessaly are facts admitted by all those war correspondents who, in visiting Greece, did not hanker after Court favour or dream of establishing princely connections. The articles published by Mr. Bennet Burleigh in the July *Fortnightly*, by Mr. Dillon in the July *Contemporary*, by Mr. Allen Upward (who, moreover, fought as a volunteer) in *To-day*, of May 15, the correspondents of the *Observer* and the *Pall Mall Gazette* with the army of Epirus. Mr. R. Harding Davis (an American gentleman who acted as *Times'* correspondent) in an article in *Harper's Magazine* for November, all say the same story and prove it to the hilt. Deserted by the Western Powers in their hour of need, the Greeks will now accept the inevitable They cannot resist Turkey with Russia behind her. Like Turkey, and like the Slav States in the Balkan Peninsula, they must seek safety within the sphere of Russian influence. The Russian marriage is once more on the tapis. It may at last take place. Whenever it does, it will be a sign that Greece has had to make, as the price of its conclusion, further and perhaps unavowed concessions to the demands of Russia, and has been compelled to definitely cast in her lot with Russia.

SQUIRE *VERSUS* PARSON.

A few weeks back a friend of mine, who had been spending his holidays in Wiltshire, came home with some strange tales of an extraordinary state of affairs prevailing at a village in the neighbourhood of Salisbury. The facts seem worth reproducing as a proof of the unchecked despotism still wielded here and there in rural England by the lords of the soil, and they may perhaps be found specially appropriate to this season, the key-note of which is "peace and goodwill."

The village in question is a place called Compton-Chamberlayne. The Squire of the place is Mr. C. Penruddocke, of Compton Park. He is not only the principal landowner, but the lay-rector, the patron, the people's churchwarden, and the parish clerk. The combination of all these offices in his person, coupled with the fact that the parish church lies within the walls of his park, seems to have conferred upon Mr. Penruddocke the character rather of a spiritual than a temporal dignitary, and his position in relation to the ecclesiastical affairs of the parish is more that of a lay-bishop than a lay-rector. The vicarage is a very poor living—worth about £90 a year and the house. When the present Vicar, the Rev. Dudley Digges, was appointed, the patron promised to augment the stipend by £10 a year, and apparently did so for some time. For one reason or another, however, a coolness has grown up between the Vicar and his Patron, and the extra £10 a year has perished and been forgotten.

During the last year, relations between the Squire and the Parson have become considerably strained, and various incidents that have occurred point to a condition little short of open war. There were passages of arms at the annual parish meeting—held, it may interest the authors of the Parish Councils Act to hear, at Mr. Penruddocke's house, with Mr. Penruddocke in the chair. There were further passages at subsequent vestry meetings. There had been serious friction for some time past, in consequence of the action of Mr. Penruddocke in placing a lock on the gate leading to the church, and insisting on keeping the gate locked, and the key in his own custody as parish clerk. Finally, the Squire played his masterstroke by evicting the parson from the stables and coach-house attached to the vicarage, together with certain other outbuildings and about twelve rods of garden and other land. It seems that these premises have usually been held with the vicarage, but the present Vicar was induced about the time of his induction to sign an agreement under which he held them of Mr. Penruddocke at a nominal rent, with power to the Squire to determine the tenancy at a short notice, which power has now been exercised. The proceeding appears, therefore, to be perfectly regular and lawful. But the effect of it is to leave the vicarage standing in ground which does not belong to it, with little more than a right of way from the road to the house, while the Vicar's wife is deprived of the facilities she has hitherto enjoyed for keeping poultry, by which means she has added substantially to her husband's exiguous income. A more cruel and unjustifiable assertion of a legal right it would be difficult to conceive.

Now is this not a beautiful picture of village life on the eve of the twentieth century? And does it not set forth in an alluring light the position of our "national" Church and its clergy under the present dispensation? The so-called "parish church" of Compton-Chamberlayne lies inside the park wall of the village autocrat. There is but one entrance to it from the public road, and that the same autocrat claims the right to keep locked. A notice has been exhibited at the gate that the key is at a certain house hard by, but it has not always been found there when wanted. Stories have appeared in the local Press of the Vicar's warden having been both locked in and locked out. What facilities of access to their supposed common place of worship the humbler parishioners have under these circumstances may be easily imagined. The position of the parish priest is not less ignominious than that of the parish church. Publicly flouted and snubbed at every opportunity in the face of his flock, thwarted at every turn by the rival ecclesiastical boss of the parish, he is finally stripped of every bit of land that can be taken from him, his beggarly income further cut down by the confiscation of his poultry-run, and his stables taken away—possibly lest he should think of making a few shillings a week by letting them. And, as the crowning irony, by whom is all this done? By the man who actually holds the bulk of the parochial revenues originally granted for the maintenance of the Church and the service of religion! The whole case furnishes a pretty object-lesson for the Church Reformer and the Disestablisher.

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THE RAILWAYS—HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM.

In my last week's and preceding articles on railway management, we have arrived at the following conclusions: (1) that in numerous particulars the railway companies fail to satisfy the legitimate requirements of the public; (2) that the main cause of all the shortcomings of the railway service is the desire to increase dividends and raise the market price of the companies' stocks; (3) that nearly all the companies are at present dividing profits far in excess of the normal market rate of interest upon railway investments; (4) that the public have an absolute right to be considered before the shareholders. The ultimate question for solution is, therefore, this: How is the public to assert and enforce its right to have the excessive profits at present earned and distributed, applied to the improvement of the railway service?

There is one way, and one only, by which this can be done, namely, by tightening up the very slight and lax control at present exercised by the State over the railway companies. This control is now vested in the Railway Commission for some purposes and the Board of Trade for others. It already includes such matters as the regulation (within certain very narrow limits) of passenger fares and goods rates, the running of workmen's trains at special fares, the provision of reasonable traffic facilities, and the compliance with various structural and mechanical requirements officially prescribed for the safety of the public. In the proposal, therefore, that public authority should be empowered to require of railway companies this or that improvement, this or that expenditure out of their profits, there is nothing novel, still less revolutionary. It is a mere development of the principle which was recognised when the Legislature first laid down the minimum requirements of the public in the shape of "Parliamentary trains," and which has run through the whole railway legislation of the last sixty years. All that is required is that the existing State control should be enlarged in certain particulars, that the principles on which it rests should be more clearly defined, and that a competent and efficient authority should be created to exercise it.

Looking at the magnitude of the interests involved, I should myself be in favour of creating for this purpose a Minister of Railways, with a properly equipped office and staff. But that is little more than a question of names; and the same end might be arrived at by re-organising and expanding the present railway department of the Board of Trade. Having created an efficient department, either *de novo* or by utilising existing machinery, we should vest in it all powers at present exercised by the Board of Trade and the Railway Commission. We should, further, give it a general jurisdiction over all railway administration, and empower it to order any improvements to be carried out which in its discretion it considered necessary or desirable in the public interest. The new authority should be armed with full powers to deal with every one of the defects in railway management that were noticed in my first and second articles. In regard to unpunctuality, it should investigate all complaints from the public under this head and make suggestions for the acceleration of the traffic. In order to enforce attention to its suggestions, it might very well have power, as was suggested by a correspondent of the *Times* a few days ago, to fine the company in a substantial sum where the delay was shown to be excessive or chronic. Where mere punishment of this kind failed to produce the desired result, as it would wherever the unpunctuality was due to the line or the stations being insufficient to carry the traffic, the Board would have power to order such works as might be necessary to enable the traffic to be carried with reasonable despatch and punctuality. Similarly, it should have power to fine in cases of systematic overcrowding, and if the evil continued, to make specific orders for the running of longer and more frequent trains to meet the exigencies of the traffic; and this last power should extend to all cases where the existing service of trains does not meet the reasonable requirements of the public in the neighbourhood. It should have power to condemn both stations and rolling stock which are structurally defective and not up to modern requirements. It should have full authority to deal with complaints of the insufficient lighting and warming of carriages, and to grapple with such a notorious public scandal as the ventilation of the Metropolitan Railway. It might well have power to make and amend by-laws, and thus to secure reasonable arrangements for the conveyance of passengers' luggage (including bicycles), and for the convenience of the public in many other minor matters. Above all, it should have a clearly defined power, wherever a company is paying a dividend sufficient to raise its ordinary stock above par, to order a certain portion of the current profits to be expended in any kind of improvements that may seem most desirable in the public interest, whether in increasing the number of trains or the staff of porters, or in improving carriages or stations, or introducing any minor improvement which will enhance the comfort of travellers.

There is another interest which would also have to be safeguarded at the same time, namely, that of the staffs. Although the recent agitation among railway servants was ill-timed and ill-conceived, there can be no question that, in many cases, the men have real grievances. In spite of some improvement of late years, outrageously long hours are still worked in many cases, notably by drivers of goods engines, by guards, and signalmen; and the public has quite as direct and vital an interest as the men themselves in putting down such overwork, for it is fraught with dire danger to every traveller. Much of the work of railway servants, again, is carried on under needless risk. The annual bill of mortality, more particularly that among shunters and platelayers, is disgracefully high—disgracefully, because it might be greatly reduced, did not considerations of £ s. d. stand in the way. Nor must the indoor servants of the companies be forgotten. In the recent articles in TRUTH on the grievances of clerks, incidental reference was made to the clerks in the service of railway

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companies. They are undoubtedly among the worst-sweated of any of their class. Even booking clerks, considering their responsibilities, are, as a rule, miserably paid; while the men employed in the general offices of the companies may pass the best part of their lives in the service without arriving at the income of an engine driver. It is not to be supposed, in these democratic days, that if we empower a public authority to regulate in some measure the expenditure of railway companies, with a view to restricting the profits of the monopoly, the claims of labour to participate in the benefits can be disregarded.

I realise, of course, that these proposals will not commend themselves to railway shareholders as a class—although I am a railway shareholder myself. Some of them may possibly say that it is virtually a proposal to enable a public official to cut down their dividends and lower the price of their stock to any degree he may think fit. Now that I should not propose, and, in order to guard against it, I would give the railway companies a right of appeal to some independent tribunal against any orders of the Railway Department involving the expenditure of money. The present Railway Commission, which is essentially a judicial body, might well be preserved for the purpose of exercising an appellate jurisdiction of this nature. Railway shareholders are entitled to the current market rate of interest upon their capital, and their rights to this extent should be scrupulously protected. But, for the reasons set out in my last article, they have no right to more than this. They could not, indeed, possibly divide for any length of time a higher rate of profit than this, were it not for the fact that they are monopolists; for, by the eternal laws of political economy, as soon as their profits rose above the normal rate, competitors would be attracted to the field, and the profit would have to be divided. The State, which protects them against such competition, has an indefeasible right to limit the amount of profit which shall be made out of the monopoly that it has created; and not only a right, but an absolute duty for the protection of the community generally. A monopoly unfettered by restrictions on its profits is practically a power of taxing the community at will; and as a simple matter of political economy every penny of profit at present paid to railway shareholders beyond the current market rate of interest on capital invested in railway stock is a tax upon travellers and traders for the benefit of the railway monopoly. Such a tax is indefensible in principle and mischievous in practice. The trading and agricultural interests have long kicked vigorously against it, and with special reason, for in their case the burden of the tax has been aggravated by the special exemptions granted to their foreign competitors. But the ordinary passenger, whether he uses the railways for business or pleasure, has an equal right to protest, and he will realise it more fully when he learns what has been done of late years to cheapen and facilitate railway travelling by the action of the State in countries like Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland, and Hungary. As soon as he does realise this, there will be an irresistible demand for a radical modification of the relations between the railways and the State. Railway shareholders must, therefore, make up their minds to the fact that dividends will have to be reduced, and the sooner they realise this, and their directors and managers with them, the better it will be in the end for their pockets.

I have said on previous occasions that I am personally in favour of the nationalisation of railways. I am so still. But for the present, nationalisation is in England rather a pious opinion than a matter of practical politics, and it must remain so until the British public generally arrives at sounder ideas on the question of all the great monopolies. In the meantime, the establishment of such a modicum of public control as that suggested above is a half-measure which will be acceptable to many who would not listen to a project of nationalisation, which will effectually remove all the worst public grievances against the companies, and will at the same time immensely facilitate the work of nationalising the railways whenever the time comes—as come it must—for the State to take them over. In fact, I would recommend the most aggressive nationaliser, as a matter of policy, to go for a measure of this kind first, in preference to striving to take the whole cherry at one bite. As regards the public generally, let me impress on them, one and all, that it is the only remedy for the abuses of which they complain. It is idle to suppose that railway management can be reformed, as it requires to be reformed, by writing to the companies, or by letters to the Press, or by articles in the magazines. The vast pecuniary interests operating in the other direction are not to be influenced by means like these. The public have got to show that they are stronger than the strongest railway manager or board of directors, and this they can only do by political action. It need not be made a Party question—better not, I should say—but it is a question which Parliament will have to take up; and Parliament only takes up questions in response to pressure from outside.

THE PANTOMIMES.

Was there ever such a goodly feast provided in the world before? Such wonders in dreamland? Such fairies in fairyland? Arthur Collins has not allowed the grass to grow under his feet; he has steadily refused to do things by halves, and, to use a vulgar phrase, has insisted on going "the whole hog or none." Old Drury Lane stage positively beams with delight at the dense masses of loveliness it is its proud privilege to bear, and I doubt if "Jimmy" Glover has ever before entered into the spirit of the pantomime with such a will and a go. His music is delightfully arranged. One of the cleverest numbers, sung by Alice Barnett, is a distinctly happy amalgamation of "The Amorous Goldfinch" from the "Geisha" and Letty Lind's famous "Gay Tom Tit" song. But it is rather maddening, though, to be humming "With a frock all glit-glit-glitter" and find that it suddenly breaks off into "For love of the gay Tom-tit-tit-tit"!

Every one knows the story of "The Babes in the

Wood" by heart, but there never were two funnier "Babes" in pantomime history than Herbert Campbell as "Chrissie" and little Dan Leno as "Reggie." These infant prodigies are simply immense, and are much helped by the brightness and wittiness of Arthur Sturgess and Arthur Collins, who have written the book. There has been much talk both large and small over the wonderful ballet in Orchid Land, which is in truth a gorgeous and magnificent spectacle to behold. There never was a more glorious triumph for the clever designer and costumier. Each orchid is represented true to the very life, and as every fresh "trail of flowers" appears upon the scene the applause and enthusiasm which greet it are unanimous. What a clever fellow Mr. John A. Warden is! Where has this shining light been hiding his modest head all this while? There is plenty of room for such as he, and he is welcome, indeed. Verily time stands still with some people, and Ada Blanche is one of nature's lucky ones. Looking younger, slimmer, and sprightlier than ever, she sings and dances with all the ardour and freshness of a girl of seventeen. It is a treat to watch her. To my mind the coronation scene quite equals the Orchid ballet in beauty of colouring and magnificence. And won't all the ladies envy the lovely reversible fans used in this entrancing tableau? Some are made of huge white ostrich feathers lined pink, some are black edged with rose, whilst dozens are of dark green spangled with gold and pure white starred with silver, and the glinting, scintillating effect of these novel creations being wafted about by the dancing girls is indescribable. Miss Violet Robinson is, comparatively speaking, a new-comer. She hails from the Gaiety, is a sweet singer, divinely tall, and unquestionably fair. Another welcome friend is the graceful Grigolati troupe, which has added considerably to its number since last I had the pleasure of seeing it. It was a positive inspiration to clad these aërial figures in the azure and dark blue plumage of the pretty humming bird, and to send them flying hither and thither, darting here, there, and everywhere amidst the mystic and beautiful garden of orchid land. The dresses are all gorgeous and harmonious in the extreme, thanks to the cleverness of such well-known artists as M. Comelli and M. Alias. Half the battle of a pantomime now is the luxury and lavishness of the costumes. It is not a question of tinfoil nowadays, but "tin" pure and unadulterated, and a more costly, more magnificent show it is impossible to conceive than this year's pantomime at Old Drury Lane.

If I were asked to describe the effect of Mr. Oscar Barrett's pantomimes, I should reply in the words of a well-known advertisement, "they are grateful and comforting." They never jar, or get on your nerves. He makes you smile, but never laugh; he brings a tear to your eye, but it never falls. He is very intense in all he does. He dislikes gaudiness and glitter, and turns his attention to the sere and yellow leaf tones. He is absorbed in nebulous greys and high art greens. He revels in faded browns and cloudy blues. He swathes himself in mysterious duns, and draperies of saddened violet. This Christmas his production of "Cinderella" is quite up to his usual mark, and equals the charming production he gave us four years ago at the Lyceum theatre, when some gentleman, so it is said, went to buy a ticket at the box-office and asked what part Irving was playing in the pantomime. The only difference I see in the whole performance—barring, of course, the change of cast—is the fact that Mr. Geoffry Thorn has written a new book of Cinderella; and in a letter printed in one of the leading newspapers the other day, cavilling at its critic's remarks anent his work, he says, "I should not object to his conclusion that my 'book' contains 'nothing new or striking,' if he is really dealing with my book, and not an obviously compressed version issued by the management; but I object to his totally erroneous assumption that 'nearly all the boisterous merriment, which from time to time arrests the action of the piece,' is evolved from the brains of the comedians." Now, as I evidently am possessed of an "obviously compressed version" of the book—for which, by the way, the sum of one shilling is charged—the less I say about it the better.

With Harry Nicholls and John Le Hay as the two wicked sisters, Kate Phillips as the step-mamma, looking "for all the world over," as they say, young and pretty enough to play Cinderella herself, and the inimitable Fred Kaye as Pedro, the pantomime starts off as merrily as marriage bells. Mr. Barrett does not swerve much from stage tradition. He does not intersperse his story with "extra turns" or side shows; he goes steadily on with the romance, thinking evidently, and rightly, too, of the baby minds of the little ones in front. Cinderella's carriage is a perfect dream of beauty, and the children will go into raptures over it. So they will over the ball-room scene, where Cicely Richards, as the good fairy, changes Grace Dudley's gown of shimmering satin literally encrusted with diamonds back again to the old Cinderella frock all shreds and patches, and off she flies as the clock strikes twelve, far away from the embraces of Miss Helen Bertram, who, as the gay young Prince, sings and acts delightfully. Mr. Barrett's pantomime at the Garrick takes one back to the days of happy childhood, when everything was *couleur de rose*, and tender memories creep around, whispering of the far-off loves of long ago, and once again we see the dim outline of those sweet and gentle faces now lost to us, alas! in Shadowland. It is all very simple, very innocent, and unutterably soothing!

"PETER THE GREAT."

If you have watched as closely as I have the brilliantly successful career of Sir Henry Irving at the Lyceum Theatre, you will have noticed that he never shirks a difficulty. Apart from being a most admirable and versatile actor, he has an intense love for the picturesque, combined with a passion for the natural. When he gave us "Charles I." we had pictures of Hampton Court as it must have been in the sunny and idle days of that poor unfortunate monarch. "Eugene Aram," again, presented to us an ideal Knaresborough, beautiful to a fault, but scarcely over-realistic. "Faust" gave us a scene of mediæval Nuremberg never to be forgotten; but a play which is hardly ever recalled, and which has been far too

readily put on one side, is Vanderdecken, the "Flying Dutchman," wherein Henry Irving literally revelled in the uncanny and the picturesque. So long as he can get a new period to attack he is bound to be happy. In "Much Ado about Nothing," with its superb cathedral borrowed from one in Messina or Sicily, he gave us a Shakespearian production unheard of in the annals of Macready and Charles Kean. Now he approaches us as a figure almost unknown to the English stage—as Peter the Great, shipwright and Czar, and by his side Miss Ellen Terry as Catherine, the peasant and ex-washer-woman, so history relates, Empress of All the Russias.

Of course, there have been plays, dramas, melodramas, and operas, in which Peter the Shipwright has flourished. The last memorable occasion was when John Hollingshead engaged Charles Santley to sing at the Gaiety, and, in addition to his singing, he turned out a remarkably good actor, as every one knows who has heard and seen his Valentine in "Faust." Now, young Laurence Irving, the author of the new play at the Lyceum Theatre, has founded his story mainly on the result of an unhappy marriage into which Peter was drawn before he had arrived at that age when a man is supposed to know his own mind. This result, in the shape of a poor, weak, and sickly son, is the pivot round which Mr. Irving winds and unwinds his tale of cruelty, of desperate deeds, and of butchery. A man of violent purpose, fierce mien, and iron will was Peter the First. The one great passion of his life, the one all-absorbing love that nothing ever destroyed, was for his country, his adored Russia! He was a mechanic as well as a bookworm, this Emperor, this extraordinary combination of heart and hate; a scientist as well as a shipwright. Is it to be wondered at, then, that such a creature as this puny, insignificant nincompoop, this shallow-brained, uninutellectual son of his, should grate on his nerves, should jar against every fibre in his body, and drive him to a state of mind bordering on frenzy? In vain does Peter try to arouse some sort of enthusiasm in his son. Alexis refuses to work, he won't read, he won't draw, he won't study. He makes love to an impudent minx of a peasant girl named Euphrosine, an impertinent little hussy charmingly played by Miss Ethel Barrymore, the pretty and accomplished daughter of our old friend, Maurice Barrymore, and his wife, who was known in stageland as "Georgie Drew," and who was sister of the American actor, John Drew. The gods must have loved her well, for, alas! poor soul, she died young!

At times young Irving becomes wildly alliterative in his speeches, and Peter is forced to tell one of his drunken swashbucklers that he is "slothful, sottish, sluggish, seditious!" The really fine act of the play is the one which takes place in the Senate Hall, in which you are terribly reminded of those ghastly torture scenes from the "Tosca," and Wilson Barrett's "Sign of the Cross." Here Sir Henry Irving is at his very best, and his soliloquy at the end of the act is a superb *tour de force*. It is a magnificent piece of declamation. The actor stands there in his gorgeous robes of cardinal red and gold, a splendid, imperious figure in the great empty Senate Hall; he is every inch an Emperor, dignified, eminent, supreme! He argues with his soul and wrestles with his conscience for dear life's sake, and finally falls a crushed and broken thing, a shattered wreck, upon the ground of the deserted chamber. It was a grand moment for the author, and a glorious triumph for the actor.

For a long time I puzzled my brains as to where I had seen Alexis before, his figure was so familiar to me; and then suddenly it dawned upon me that he must be a demented relative who had strayed from the House of the Hamlets. If he had been dressed in mourning and worn feathers in his hat, I should have recognised my man sooner. But, there is no use denying it, admirably as Mr. Taber—a young and exceptionally clever American actor—played this difficult character, no sooner did he appear on the stage than up came the Prince of Denmark, too. I wanted more—ever so much more — of the good-natured, merry, happy-go-lucky Catherine, the one being with a heart—the one touch of tenderness and humanity in that den of torture and slaughter. There was one exquisite moment in the play when Ellen Terry, kneeling at the feet of Miss Rockman, the divorced wife whose place she has usurped, swears to protect the wretched mother's defenceless boy. Here once again I listened to Ellen Terry's lovely voice, with that tender throb in it, that wonderful deep note of hers, that thrills every nerve in the body and brings tears to the eyes of the most hardened. But pleading is useless, Alexis is condemned to death, Peter's tyranny demands that he shall die; and the last picture in the play is of this great monarch in a prison cell, with the dead body of the luckless Alexis lying in the arms of his two gaolers, and the father kneeling before a holy shrine imploring forgiveness, and babbling prayers for having so cruelly robbed his son of life.

Never before has Sir Henry Irving devoted so much attention to the stage decorations, the lights, the colouring, the gorgeous dresses, and the scenery. Luxury and harmony invariably prevail at the Lyceum Theatre, and on this present occasion Sir Henry was determined that nothing should be left undone in this respect. He has worked hard and loyally, not only for his own success, but for the success of one who is very near and dear to him. Yes, young Laurence, who, apart from being a dramatic author of undoubted promise, must consider himself lucky indeed to find ready at his side, and waiting to help him over the stile to fame, such an actor, such a scholar, such a student, and such an artist as his father!

THE PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

"How London Lives" is a melodrama of the good old-fashioned order of things, and Mr. Albert Gilmer is to be commended for having chosen so wisely and so well. But I sincerely hope London does not live in the way Messrs. Shirley and Martyn Field want to make out. Fancy meeting such a termagant of a stepmother, such a viper of a woman as Lady Ferrers! I quite pitied Miss Geraldine Oliffe in the character. And what a silly, foolish, little heroine to go and attempt to drown herself in a nasty, dirty, cold

river! Kate Tyndall is, however, happily rescued by the ever-green Charles Warner, who would wake the dullest, dreariest play into life and action by his tremendous power and nervous force. Who can ever forget the way in which he held his audience when he played Coupeau in the English version of "L'Assommoir?" Why he absolutely swayed and did as he pleased with the people. This clever actor commands attention the instant he steps upon the stage. Watch him, how carefully he feels his way into the very heart of his public, and once he reaches it never loses his hold, but grips on firmly as a rock until the end. There is one screamingly funny pawnshop scene in this melodrama, in which a love-sick impecunious youth sacrifices his gold chronometer in order to buy gifts to lay at the feet of his adored one. The heartless minx accepts the jewels and promptly takes them to the self-same "mont de piété" to raise a little "on her own." As ill-luck will have it, just as this treacherous female is in the act of interviewing "uncle," in comes the enamoured young man to pledge more heirlooms for "her dear sake." Tableau—"There's a picture for you," as Mr. R. G. Knowles sings. The play is certain to attract, for the hero is such a splendid fellow, the villain such a scoundrel, the heroine so sweet, the comic element so funny, and every character so admirably acted.

"THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH!"

Greatest show, indeed! Why, there are teams of shows. One circus, forsooth! Why, there are perfect regiments of them. There never was such a scene of wild excitement, intoxicating whirl, and mad bewilderment. Conceive the colossal arena at Olympia literally swarming with masses of different "turns." In one corner is a fair equestrian riding a bare-backed horse, in another some wonderful performing dogs, two of which are such champion boxers that I rather fancy Slavin and Jackson must have had something to do with their training. "Just look at that mysterious ball, Cyril," says mamma to her son; "there's a real live man inside, and he's rolling himself up that spiral incline." "I can't," replies dutiful Cyril. "I'm watching that man hanging by his heels up there near the ceiling." "Is that a woman or what? That thing over there, doubling itself up in that extraordinary fashion," I began asking myself; but I had not a moment to find out, for my eyes were only just in time to see a bare-footed Japanese man come gliding with startling rapidity down a rope from the roof to the ground. Daring performers on the trapeze, champion acrobats, ladies flying through silver hoops, seals ringing bells, snake charmers, a dog football player who "throws off" in a fashion that must delight every lover of this splendid pastime, are only a few of the thousand and one sights to be seen at this vast Show. Then, one, two, three, and away! go horse races, chariot races, dog races, hurdle races, and races of all sorts and descriptions round and round this magnificent amphitheatre, and you strain your eyes until they are fairly dazzled; and then sit absolutely dizzy and exhausted with the maze and terrific pulsation of this phenomenal entertainment provided for us by our American cousins—Messrs. Barnum and Bailey. But the shows do not end here. A huge placard at the end of a turning reads thus: "This way to the freaks," and off you go willy-nilly, to discover what they are. First of all, I was introduced to a man "sans arms." He was eating his dinner, and as Nature had omitted to provide him with hands, he used his feet in place of them. Then a lady weighing some twenty or thirty stone stepped on to the elevated platform, made it shiver, to the apparent terror of her neighbours, and sat herself comfortably down. A man with the head and face of a dog was a decided novelty, and so was the gentleman who wiled his leisure moments away by eating needles. By the time I had seen the legless man, the bearded lady, and the elastic gentleman, I arrived at the conclusion that I had gathered to its very utmost the meaning of that ominous announcement, "This way to the freaks." After a glance round at the elephants, the horses, the monkeys, the bears, the snakes, and the whole bag of tricks, I wended my way to the splendid restaurant, which is one of the chief attractions in this enormous building. Here, thanks to the excellent catering of Messrs. Lyons & Co., I was able to restore my shattered nerves, and I returned home, not a sadder, but a merrier and a much wiser man.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE New Year has not begun well; the weather, which had been in Christmas week clear, cold, and bracing, grew suddenly wet and gloomy. Cabmen had reason to rejoice; but the Boulevard Fair suffered greatly from the continuous, icy drizzle. It was the sort of weather one has at Edinburgh when the wind blows from the north-east. There were all sorts of reasons for a melancholy New Year's Levee at the Elysée. Baron de Mohrenheim at that function made his exit from diplomacy. Sir Edmund Monson could not attend; he was in mourning for a sister. The Government was smarting under the acquittal of the seven Deputies, towards whom it behaved so badly. MM. Faure and Méline had had a narrow escape in the Place de la Concorde. The carriage in which they drove to return the visit of the other Presidents rolled over and was a good deal damaged. The cause was a broken linch-pin. But the telegram from St. Petersburg was more than enough to compensate for every *mésaventure.* Emperor and Empress united in wishing the compliments of the season to M. Félix Faure and the friend-nation. This message is the last that Baron Mohrenheim carries. The friend-nation will be more valued than ever at St. Petersburg now that the German Emperor sets his brother down under Russia's nose at Kiao-chau. Russia in principle had agreed to the Germans doing something in China; but as she could never agree when details were gone into, the Emperor William takes time by the forelock, and despatches the brother-in-law of the Empress to the Yellow Sea. He will be there before the thaw in the Gulf of Pechili sets in. The Empress of Russia is a

potent personage in the eyes of the *tchinn*, and the military and naval services. They will think twice before attempting to trip up Prince Henry. There is no State in the world in which the Sovereign's wife and mother are invested with so much prestige as in Russia. The will of the Empress is always law, when it does not conflict with that of the Empress Dowager.

The death of Alphonse Daudet is so recent that on New Year's Day the flowers on his grave were still fresh. The funeral of Léon Carvalho, that always brilliant and constantly unsuccessful manager of opéra comique, closed the old year. He led an interesting life, full of ups and downs, of sharp turns, sudden successes, and charming friendships, He was daring in his ventures, and often came to grief. But he was always ready to begin again. He and his wife—a delightful woman—were united against ill-fortune. She seemed, when it overtook them, to find pleasure in fighting it. Her elasticity was never at fault. She was the most artistic woman of her day—or, perhaps, of any day—and off the stage did not set up to be anything. But she talked and sang like an angel. Her sensibilities were singularly keen, but she escaped being morbid. The woman's unfailing pluck braced her and all her family. She was very much alive to Carvalho's failings, but she was afraid they endeared him to her. Why take an interest in a man who always went straight and was sure never to make a blunder? Did such a perfect being need a guardian angel or a good Providence? Carvalho's worship of *le dieu hasard* drew him into some scrapes. He had an easy, gentle, and seemingly indolent disposition that made him pleasant to live with. But singers he employed found that he was not to be got round and wheedled. He listened to all they had to say, and was parsimonious of words in answering, but more good-humoured or humorous than dry. His manners were those of a diplomat. He had a striking resemblance to old Baron James de Rothschild, and the kind of long whiskers about which I dealt in a recent set of "Notes." Carvalho never surfeited the public with his wife's voice. It was a voice backed with so much sensibility, directed with such sure instinct, and capable of so much easy expression, as to render her peerless in Gounod's semi-religious music. Gounod was to music what Renan was to religious literature. He never had such an exponent as Mme. Miolan-Carvalho. She "burned the Seine" as Marguerite.

It was not Carvalho's fault if the Opéra Comique was burned down under his management. He was always warning the Government that a great fire there was certain. A fortnight before the fire, M. Steenackers, put on by him, called the attention of the Chamber of Deputies to the dangerous state of that theatre. Combustible scenery was packed into it, and so close to jets of gas that a sudden draught might turn them on it. The wonder was that it was not burned down long before.

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Who was Carvalho? Nobody exactly knew. He kept his origin and his age a secret. His son never saw his birth certificate until he was dead. But every one knew that his real name was Carvacille, and that he was a West Indian. No trace of negro blood was shown, however. He brought forward a number of American cantatrices, among them Van Zandt and Sybil Sanderson. He often wondered that Cubans, and other West Indian girls touched with the tar brush, did not come to Europe to study singing; for he felt sure they would be the most joyous, melodious, bird-like singers. The negroes are born musicians, and there are no sweeter singers than mulatto girls. They have a *timbre* and a richness of note rare in Europe, and rarer still on the American Continent, unless "down South" in the darkies country. Fine contralto voices are common enough in the Cuban *haciendas*.

Carvalho is buried with his wife at Père Lachaise. But his name will not appear on the beautiful monument above her tomb. It was unveiled on the last Jour des Morts. She is represented as she appeared in the final scene of "Faust," looking up as if to angels, and with a broken lyre wreathed with flowers.

A number of *disparus* have come forward to claim the managership of the Opéra Comique, which has all but risen from its ashes. On the list I find the name of Capoul. What an age it seems since he was the arch lady-killer! As he is a Toulousain, he has a good chance. Senator Hebraid, editor of *Le Temps*, also from Toulouse, has local patriotism, as shown in pushing compatriots, and he "knows the ropes" so well here. Capoul was on the wane when he still charmed as Paul, warbling love-ditties to Mlle. Heilbronn, singing as Virginie. He was very near being M. Grévy's son-in-law. But it was finally thought *infra dig.* for a great barrister to give his daughter in marriage to a singer. Had he been accepted, there would have been no Wilson row, and therefore no abrupt end to the Grévy Presidency. Carnot would, in all probability, be still alive, and have never risen above a Ministry. Félix Faure would have remained a shrewd, second-rate political "utility." Probably there would be now no Russian alliance, no rousing telegram this morning from the Czar and Czarina, and no despatching of a big box of French toys to their little Highnesses Olga and Tatiana.

The name of Wilson has just cropped up. How unjust we were to the son-in-law who bore it! We objected to him for using the Elysée stamp for his private letters and for spending at the rate of 25,000 francs to make 1,000 francs! How the *camelots* used to howl through the streets, "Le Malheur d'Avoir un Gendre!" Nobody suspected that Wilson was the victim of a Panamist conspiracy. The set was made against him and Grévy to bring personal friends of Arton into the councils of the Government—Barbe and Baïhaut among the number. How Blaine's eyes one evening at Dr. Evans's puckered up with laughter at Wilson's use of the Elysée stamp! He

thought it quite too killing. The French, he said, wanted cause to cry. They deserved a whipping, and would get it. I often thought of Blaine in reading of Madagascar horrors.

The Emperor and Empress of Russia will receive their friends at the 1900 Exhibition in a pavilion of their own. The plan has been submitted to them, and the estimated cost of the building is £90,000. But I expect that this sum will bear the relation to the cost of furniture that the price of a lunch does at a Russian hotel to the waiters' tips. It is said that commissions of £8,000 were charged on the furniture hired for the use of their Imperial Majesties during the week they spent in Paris. But I have no idea whose bread was buttered on the occasion.

Efforts are being made to secure the attendance of the Queen of the Netherlands at the coming World-Show. She would be an interesting star fresh from her coronation honours. Her most recent photos represent her as well grown and older-looking than her age. She is not pretty, but pleasing, and must be very like the late King when he was Prince of Orange.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

LAST week, dear Lady Betty, I gave you a short account of an interview which I had had with an eminent actress. A few hours after my letter to you was published I received the following communication :—

"95, Grosvenor-square, W.

"SIR,—Will you kindly call here to-morrow morning at eleven exact, as my husband and myself are anxious to be interviewed by you for the next issue of TRUTH?

"Faithfully yours,

"ELIZABETH BOUNDERBY."

It may be well that I should give here the outlines of the past histories of Mr. and Mrs. Bounderby. The lady began life in a very humble condition Being pretty, she attracted the attention of Bounderby, a small local manufacturer. They married. In the course of time, his business increased enormously; he became a millionaire; the Bounderbys removed to London, set up an establishment in Grosvenor-square, and, being welcomed with enthusiasm as only rich people are welcomed in the West End, they were soon regarded as entertainers of the first magnitude.

And of such is the kingdom of Mayfair—now.

. . . . .

At eleven precisely I presented myself at 95, Grosvenor-square, and I was at once received by Mrs. Bounderby.

The lady did not rise, but without turning her head—she was writing—said :—

"Good morning. Sit down. Please forgive me for continuing my work, as I am terribly busy, but I shall answer any questions you may consider it necessary to ask."

(*Here she rang a bell, and a footman entered.*)

MRS. B. : "James, just take this list to the florist and have a wreath sent with my compliments to each of those addresses. There will be seven this morning."

MYSELF : "Do you mean to say that you have lost seven friends during the last twenty-four hours ?"

MRS. B. : "They were not *friends*. I scarcely knew any of them, but the names of those who send wreaths will be published, and . . . ."

MYSELF : "Oh ! Of course ! I quite understand."

(*The lady rang again, and another servant appeared.*)

MRS. B. : "Cotter, please call at the jewellers and order four wedding presents at the usual prices, and have them forwarded to the following addresses with my best compliments."

MYSELF : "They are for friends of yours who are going to be married ?"

MRS. B. : "Not *friends*, but people who are socially prominent. . . . ."

(*Here Mr. Bounderby entered the room, holding a bundle of cheques in his hand.*)

MR. B. : "Sorry to interrupt you. . . . . Here are several cheques for charitable institutions. In sending them be careful to request that they are publicly acknowledged in the newspapers."

MYSELF : "How very good of you ! That is true philanthropy."

MR. B. : "Ah ! but if it becomes known that you are charitably disposed, hundreds of swindlers endeavour to impose upon you. Only this morning a man called and begged to be assisted as he and his wife were starving. I naturally asked him to mention the names of any distinguished patrons who were interested in his case but the man had not even a Law Lord or a Colonial Office Knight to recommend him ! I have written to Scotland-yard to have the scoundrel watched."

MYSELF : "It is monstrous ! Does he suppose that virtue is its own reward in these enlightened days ?"

MYSELF (*addressing Mrs. B.*) : "I hope you have had a cheerful family gathering for Christmas ?"

MRS. B. : "We are far too busy looking after other people's relations to be able to waste time over our own. Besides, Mr. Bounderby and myself have but one object in life, which is, to know those who do not wish to know us."

MYSELF : "A most laudable object, and one which is very generally pursued in London now."

MRS. B. : "You have seen the man feed the sparrows in Hyde Park ? Day after day he goes to the same place and scatters crumbs, until the birds become so accustomed to him that they perch upon his fingers and peck at the bread on his palm. We are like that man. We feed Society in a variety of ways until it becomes accustomed to us."

MYSELF : "But what service is Society to render you in return for this ?"

MRS. B. : "Our success will annoy our relations and humble friends. Is that not enough ?"

MYSELF : "Surely. Indeed, there could not be anything more desirable . . . . . especially at this season of peace and goodwill."

MRS. B. : "Well, good-bye. If you can manage to publish all this in TRUTH next week, my husband and myself will be most obliged to you; but of course you quite understand that we cannot possibly invite you to our entertainments . . . ."

MYSELF : "Quite. And I thank you very much. Good-bye."

* * * * *

The hurry-scurry of this singular modern attempt to play at Society may best be described by a quotation from "Alice in Wonderland." The Red Queen having taken Alice by the hand, commenced to run at a furious rate. At length they stopped.

"Alice looked round in great surprise. 'Why, I do believe we have been under this tree all the time! Everything is just as it was.'

"'Of course it is,' said the Queen. 'What would you have it ?'

"'Well, in *our* country,' said Alice, still panting a little, 'you generally get to somewhere else—if you run very fast for a long time, as we have been doing'

"'A slow sort of country!' said the Queen. 'Now, *here* you see it takes all the running *you* can do to keep in the same place.'"

So is it in Mayfair, now, with a Society which is made up of adventurers, rich and otherwise, who have no fixed position. They must always be to the front, and "it takes them all the running they can do to keep in the same place." The vast majority of them fall out in the end.

* * * * *

One effect of sacrificing agriculture to trade has been that the majority of those who had lived generation after generation on the same property have been ruined. Their stately old homes have been sold, the art treasures which had been accumulating for centuries have been scattered, and the families themselves have rapidly sunk into insignificance. As they were formerly the mainstay of the Monarchical Party, it has been the policy of the present reign to create an Alphabetical Aristocracy to take their place. Orders which had declined in importance were revived, and numerous new Orders have been instituted. The result of this policy is, that, though there never was a period yet when so few men were conspicuously great, as at the present, there never was one when so many men have received these alphabetical distinctions. The Victorian "Thousand and One Knights"—they are really ten thousand and one—will be a source of continual amusement to posterity. There is scarcely a Brixton lodging-house keeper who is not connected with some "distinguished" alphabetical aristocrat, and nearly every obituary announcement in the newspapers will shortly be worded somewhat like the following:—

"On ———, at ———, Miss Lavinia Jakins, daughter of Algernon Jakins, of Camberwell Green, and second cousin of the late Sir Flasherty Flopp, K.C.M.G., &c."

Lord Salisbury has added considerably to the number of these alphabetical aristocrats during his present tenure of office, and it is generally imagined that, should he retain power sufficiently long, every British subject who has a vote will also have some letters of the alphabet tacked on to his name. Then, indeed, shall Great Britain be glorious.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

A GREAT deal of expansive balderdash has been appearing in some of the papers about the vast amount of money which is now "given" to races. If the people who circulate this rubbish would only take the trouble to investigate the conditions of those great stakes which appear to have so excited their ignorant enthusiasm, they would find that nearly the whole of the money really comes out of the pockets of the owners who subscribe to them. Last year not one farthing was given by the Jockey Club to either the Princess of Wales's Stakes of £10,000, the Jockey Club Stakes of £10,000, or the Middle Park Plate. There was a surplus of £82 on the first of these events, of £482 on the second, and of £50 on the third of them. The owners who entered horses for the Princess of Wales's and the Jockey Club Stakes were themselves, therefore, so generous as to subscribe about £20,500 for the benefit of Lord Rosebery and Mr. Bass. Oddly enough, the Eclipse Stakes, the oldest and the most popular of these so-called "mammoth" events, resulted in a loss, as the fund had to contribute £1,701 in order to make up the advertised value of the race.

I cannot understand why the Jockey Club do not start a couple of big Produce Stakes (value at least £5,000 each) to run as two-year-olds. The Newmarket programmes manifestly require strengthening in this department, and these races are a great attraction at Kempton Park, and at Sandown Park, and they are so popular with owners that they seldom result in a loss to the fund. Last season the £5,000 stake at Sandown Park (the richest two-year-old race of the season) resulted in a surplus of £573. The Kempton Park events of this class were also successful, for the one ended with a surplus of £260, and the other was £360 to the good.

The whole of the Spring Handicaps are now converted into subscription races. Last year the Chester Cup of £2,550 involved a loss to the fund of £1,810, while there was a deficiency of £1,055 over the Lincolnshire Handicap of £2,000, and the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap of £3,000 cost the fund £750. From the pecuniary point of view, the City and Suburban of £2,000 was the most successful of these events, as only £805 had to be added.

It is most discreditable to the Stewards of the Jockey Club that they do not insist upon the managers at Epsom giving an adequate sum to the races, for it is the richest meeting in England, excepting only Ascot, and the programmes are beggarly to a degree. Last year the munificent sum of £270 was added to the Derby of £6,000, while the fund contributed nothing to the Oaks, there being a surplus of £45 over the advertised value of the race! The Woodcote Stakes of £1,000, which is the principal two-year-old event in the Epsom programmes, cost the fund just £210! The added money to the Westminster Plate of £200 amounted to £72, and the Hyde Park Plate of £500 involved a loss to the fund of £136!

Of the Prince of Wales's mares at Sandringham the famous Laodamia is in foal to Isinglass; Merrie Lassie (dam of Grig), to St. Simon; Thais, to Isinglass; Meadow Chat, to St. Frusquin; Leveret, to Sir Hugo; and Unrefined, to Ladas. Perdita II. (dam of Persimmon) has slipped her foal by St. Simon. The Prince of Wales's sale of Shire horses, from the Royal farm at Wolferton, is to take place at Sandringham on Friday, February 11.

Mr. Baird has a most racing-like two-year-old at Newmarket in the bay filly Musa, by Martagon out of Palmflower. Musa will probably make her *début* at Ascot, and at Goodwood she was engaged, when a foal, in both the Rous Memorial Stakes and the Prince of Wales's Post Sweepstakes, which latter race will be worth £2,600 this year.

Mr. de Rothschild's Vatel, who was a very smart colt during the early part of last season, but who unluckily fell lame, thereby missing all his summer and autumn engagements, is now going on remarkably well at Newmarket. Vatel appears to be quite sound, and he has been much benefited in all ways by his long rest. He should be noted as a colt that is likely to win a good race at either Lincoln, Liverpool, or Northampton. He is engaged at Liverpool in the Union Jack Stakes of £950, and this is very likely the event that he will go for. The entry includes Bittern, Jeddah, Sugar Loaf, Royal Sport, and Cowl (by Galopin out of L'Abbesse de Jouarre), who will probably turn out a very smart filly next season.

That nineteen high-priced yearlings out of every twenty are complete and ignominious failures is a fact which nobody can attempt to deny who takes the trouble to peruse the melancholy but instructive records of the Racing Calendar, and how even the most infatuated and unsophisticated of simpletons can for a moment believe that buying such animals is "good business" it is utterly impossible to understand. During the season of 1896 thirty-three yearlings were sold for 1,000 gs. and upwards, and many of the sporting papers extolled these animals to the skies, and exhausted eulogy in their enthusiastic paroxysms of praise about the "enterprise," the "spirit," and so forth, of the crack-brained purchasers. Will it be credited that only three of these creatures have won any races whatever? Florio Rubattino (1,800 gs.) carried off the New Stakes at Ascot, but was afterwards beaten several times, and he is not likely to distinguish himself in the future. La Veine (3,100 gs.) won a trumpery race of £200, and she, too, has probably seen her best day on the Turf. Disraeli

(1,000 gs.) won a single race, value £1,005, at Derby. The highest-priced yearling of 1896 was a filly by St. Simon out of Dart, for whom the insane price of 5,100 gs. was paid. This animal started once last season, and was badly beaten. It may be asserted that this general collapse is a quite exceptional state of matters, but the results of previous seasons do not bear out this consolatory theory. In 1894 there were twenty-two high-priced yearlings, which together sold for nearly 35,000 gs., but their winnings are perfectly contemptible in amount, and the only one of them which did any good as a four-year-old is Knight of the Thistle, who originally cost 2,000 gs., and who in three seasons has earned about his price and training expenses, which would be a direful result of purchasing such an animal if the owner were a poor man. Canterbury Pilgrim, winner of the Oaks in 1896, was bought as a yearling in 1894 by Lord Derby, but she was not sold out of one of the public studs, but came to the hammer in consequence of the break-up of the Sefton stud. In 1895, when purchasers were more than usually puzzle-pated and reckless, twenty-two yearlings realised about £48,000. This lot won three races (value nearly £1,100 !) as two-year-olds, and only one stake (£100) last season.

The *St. James's Gazette* printed on Friday, in large type, a dissertation entitled "Betting by Jockeys. Important Notice by the Jockey Club Stewards." The editor of the *St. James's* is, presumably, unaware of the fact that this "important notice" has appeared in the "Racing Calendar" regularly every season for the last nine or ten years.

The Newmarket authorities are possessed with a limpet-like pertinacity, and it has been decided to persevere with the crazy attempt to make the Princess of Wales's Stakes of £10,000 a race for four-year-olds and upwards in 1901. This event is to close next Tuesday, but I shall be vastly surprised if it fills, considering that 200 entries of yearlings and upwards are required. The conditions of the race are absolutely idiotic, and the person who drew them up must be either grossly ignorant or scandalously careless. The race closes on January 11, and yet it is described as being an event for "foals and upwards of 1897," and animals entered as foals are to pay less than those entered as yearlings and upwards. How on earth can "foals of 1897" be described as "foals in 1898," when, as a matter of fact, they are yearlings? The Newmarket Stakes of 1901, which has also been reopened, is also incorrectly advertised as an event for "foals of 1897," whereas it is simply open to yearlings. The Princess of Wales's Stakes is pretty well cut up, the deductions for second and third horses amounting to £2,500, while the nominators of first and second horses are to get £600, which is a tempting bait for the public breeders.

A book entitled "Kings of the Turf," by a writer who calls himself "Thormanby," has been reviewed in highly eulogistic terms in a number of papers, but it is simply a skimble-skamble hash-up of anecdotes and episodes which have been already related many hundreds of times and very few indeed of which were worth telling twice. There is a dreary list of venerable, tiresome, and thoroughly familiar tales, which are regularly reproduced in some quarter or other every winter. "Thormanby's" knowledge of racing affairs, judged by his comments, can be only defined as 0 0 0. It would be impossible to imagine anything more utterly absurd and idiotic than his account of Admiral Rous watching the Newmarket horses at work to see if there was any "shirking," with a view to the trainer throwing dust into the eyes of the handicapper. The merest tiro would regard with just scorn the idea of any handicapper seriously taking notice of the doings of horses at their ordinary morning exercise. We have the usual rhapsodies about Lord George Bentinck, and it would really be well if future writers on the racing career of this personage would take the trouble to peruse Mr. Charles Greville's account of his cousin in the sixth volume of his journal. The fact is that in Lord George Bentinck's day it was only by manœuvres of the most equivocal character, and every species of trickery, that a man could race with success if he betted heavily. *Il faut hurler avec les loups* was the doctrine of Lord George and his friends, and it is a pity that sporting writers should make him ridiculous by invariably attributing fine qualities to him in which he was undoubtedly and conspicuously lacking. Lord George resorted to every kind of trick and stratagem in order to bamboozle the public and puzzle the bookmakers, and at various times he was the guiding hand in all sorts of schemes and plots of the most discreditable kind. If the details in Mr. Greville's journal of Lord George's racing transactions which Mr. Reeve suppressed could be published we should hear no more trash about the high-minded rectitude of his turf policy. "Thormanby's" compilation swarms with blunders, which he would have avoided if he had taken the trouble to verify his statements, by looking into a few books of reference. For example, the ownership of Seabreeze is attributed to the late Lord Falmouth, who was no more connected with this mare than with Newminster. Seabreeze was not foaled until after Lord Falmouth had sold his stud, and she was bred by the Dowager Duchess of Montrose, who sold her as a yearling to Lord Calthorpe, who owned her throughout her racing career, and after his death she was bought by Lord Rosebery, to whom she now belongs. Curzon, who was a shifty brute and a mere plater, is fatuously described as "a gallant opponent" to Sir Visto in the Derby of 1895. Some of the writer's statements in connection with the sale of Doncaster to the Duke of Westminster, are preposterously incorrect.

Sir Blundell Maple ought to go near winning the principal fillies' races of next season with Nun Nicer and Royal Footstep, which are a couple of the most improved three-year-olds in training. It is probable that Nun Nicer will turn out to be the better of the pair, and she should be a most dangerous candidate for the One Thousand and Oaks. Both fillies are engaged in those races, and also in the Coronation Stakes at Ascot, and in the Nassau Stakes at Goodwood.

Red Heart made a wretched exhibition at Hurst Park last week, when he was started for a Maiden Hurdle Race; but he was not fancied, judging from his price in the betting. Red Heart is a pretty sort of beast for any sane man to have been gulled into paying 5,100 gs. for! That was his price when Colonel North's horses were sold eighteen months ago, and he has since won three small races, value £850.

A welcome addition to annual books of reference for sportsmen is "Baily's Foxhunting Directory," published by Vinton & Co., 9, New Bridge-street, E.C., which has just made its first appearance. Besides full particulars concerning the foxhound packs of the United Kingdom, and a mass of information likely to be of use and interest to hunting men, the volume contains articles on kennel management, hunting equipment, and other subjects by well-known authorities.

SCHOOLS AND SPORTS.

The question of the position of athletics at schools has again been brought before the public owing to the debate at the recent headmasters' conference. These educational authorities, unwilling to damn a system they themselves had fostered, deprecated the tendency to give athletics a too prominent position in the school curriculum. Now, before condemning the present system, and crying with indignation at the prostitution of brain to brute force, it is just as well to gauge, if possible, some of the causes that have led to the enormous athletic developments of recent years, not merely in schools, but amongst the public at large. If one can indicate the causes of the present popularity of sports throughout the kingdom, it is pretty certain that some of them will be found to act on school life. Schools are not monasteries; they are not shut off from the world. First, then, there is the national love of sport, which has spread from the racecourse and left the prize-ring and cock-fights for cricket and football, rowing and athletics. The growth of population has led to an increase in the number of people who either take an interest in sport or take part

in it. A common knowledge of the conditions and progress of sports, and more especially of cricket and football, has been created and fostered by a cheap press. Frequent opportunities of seeing matches and of playing in them are afforded by a network of railway communication. These are among the chief causes of the development of sport. Sports, again, form a subject wider than the weather for purposes of conversation, and not less intellectual. Lord Bowen's ordinarily reasonable man had far more intelligence than the average individual. The average man that one meets is not well read, his powers of reasoning are infinitesimally small, apart from his business his conversational powers are extremely limited His acquaintances are probably of the same political opinions as himself. The mutual admiration of two heaven-born politicians soon becomes wearisome. A discussion with a political opponent is only an acrimonious wrangle. But each can mutually appreciate and discuss the question of amateurism and professionalism, the strength of Stoddart's team or the probable winners of the Association Cup It is not an intellectual conversation. It requires no mental effort. There are mutual points of agreement and difference. Each talker highly appreciates the conversational powers of the other. The recognition of the value of this common bond is important if one wishes to realise the reason for the popularity of sport. It helps to explain the crowds at our football and cricket matches, and the amount of sporting shop one listens to.

Turning to school life, one finds precisely the same causes at work. The boy who is on the classical side cannot appreciate the workings of the boy's mind who is reading for a mathematical scholarship. To the senior classic conic sections are unintelligible, and the senior wrangler utterly fails to appreciate the beauty of a set of iambics. Even Porson could not tackle elementary mathematics, and he never took his degree. But the intelligence of the classical scholar and the pollman can unite in descanting on the pleasures of a hit to square leg or a long drive from the golfing tee. The schoolboy looks upon the Balliol scholar as a being who aids in getting a half-holiday. But boys of all ages and in all forms can realise the use of the school's slow bowler or the good half-back. No doubt when they leave their school their thoughts turn back to the prowess of their football team, or some one's fine batting, or the brilliant stroking of another in the Ladies' Plate at Henley. These are memories of events on which old boys, whom many years divide, can talk in after years. Would "Tom Brown's Schooldays" have been popular had there been no football match, no cricket, no steeplechase? Who would have read it if it had been merely the history of the smug who could not tell the difference between slip and long-off, who simply lived in his books, and became a scholar of his college, a fellow, and a dean? For the same reason sports promote *esprit de corps* in a school more than scholarship. In the football field or on the cricket ground the strength of the school can be realised, as it is pitted against the opposing team. There is never a healthy tone in a school where sports are not properly organised and fostered. Any old public schoolboy well knows how much more healthy is the moral code of our big schools since sports of all kinds have been properly looked after by the head-masters. Their value has been appreciated not only in the schools, but in the Army, as is shown by the institution of the army football cup, and the champion athletic and boxing competitions. At the Universities, too, the beneficial effects are unbounded; and Andrew Lang refers to rowing men as being the salt of the college.

Like everything else, sports may be overdone. In the majority of public schools I do not believe this is the case. The Head-master of Eton recently refused three days for the match with Harrow on the ground that sports take up quite enough time already. The same reason would no doubt apply to any suggestions for a public schools' athletic championship. But, while head-masters are sternly setting their faces against any further licence in sports, there is no one to stop them in the steady increase in the length of holidays. It is all very well to clamour for a more efficient system of education, and to throw the blame for the general ignorance of British youth on sports. But compare the length of holidays in England with those given abroad, and it will be found that there would be ample time for sports if the terms were not being so steadily curtailed as they are at present. Of course, a good deal of capital is made out of the advertisements in which private schools offer cheap education to promising cricketers. No parents need apply. But if the schoolmaster finds such advertisements pay, then that is his affair. He has to live. Such notices merely exemplify the extremes to which people will go. Then, too, fond parents regret that the boys' letters are more full of sports than work. The boy who filled his letter with his exploits in his form would scarcely be a schoolboy; he might be a prig or a genius, and if a father cannot write letters which will get a boy to talk of something else than cricket he has only himself to blame. It is also said some boys ruin their prospects by giving up too much time to sports at school and college. No doubt this is the case. But only in a small number of instances. Some men drink, while others work to excess. Both courses become equally bad for a man's life. It is only reasonable to expect that sports will be similarly abused. If a man has been a good athlete, and having a head on his shoulders, knows when to put sports aside and take to the serious work of life, he will find the friends he has made in his earlier days invaluable; and if he is as good as others, the popularity of his name will naturally help him. If, however, he has been a good athlete without being a good sportsman, his powers will avail him but little. It is, perhaps, easier to trace a man's career at the Bar than in other spheres. There are old Blues on the Bench, there are others who will one day be there, and there is not one at the Bar who has not felt the advantage of having represented his University. But no Blue ever got work who was a fool.

Now the cry goes up that the good athlete gets the preference in applying for a schoolmastership. Other things being equal, why should he not do so? For the very same reason that I have given for boys appreciating sports, they will naturally look up to a master who is a good cricketer. Naturally, the young man who has toiled diligently and daily walked his Grantchester grind will stand very little chance with another man who has done just as well and played in his college team. Nor need the private schoolmaster be afraid of coaching good cricketers if he keeps their work going as well. The advantages of proper exercise in schools are no new thing. But, surely, one would rather know that a school had a good eleven than a giant stride. And yet in an advertisment in the *Times* reprint of the Coronation issue the giant stride is a feature in a private school advertisement. But as sports are on their trial, it would be interesting to get University statistics for any recent year and see how the men who have got their college colours or Blues for everything but chess have come out. While the highest places may not be theirs it will be found that they quite hold their own. Just as it is easy to talk of sports in a superficial way, so it is easy to say they take up too much time. It is so much less difficult to destroy than to create. The development of school sports cannot fail to have a beneficial influence on the nation as a whole. Too much importance may be attached to them. But as a rule it will be found that this is not the case. The cry against sport is to a

CHINA AND GLASS. — Messrs. GOODE, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

SAHARA (TURKISH) CIGARETTES. Manufactured by W. D. & H. O. SAHARA (TURKISH) CIGARETTES. WILLS, Ltd., from a special blend SAHARA (TURKISH) CIGARETTES. of the choicest Turkish Tobacco.

great extent an echo of an evil that is imaginary. The dangers that are apprehended are, for the most, mere phantoms.

At last Dawson and Roberts have come to terms, and more quickly than was expected. I do not propose to argue as to whether or not the push stroke, as played by the champion, is foul As to the level match, which is to be played first, Roberts has, at all events, very little doubt as to his ability to win, judging by the points he is willing to concede in the other games. Of course, a man must grow old. Youngsters will come on, but Roberts is just a bit better than the best of them. He has had to put up with some nasty knocks from a certain section of the sporting Press, but these attacks make excellent advertisements, and he, no doubt, appreciates them at their full value.

MAMMON.

FROM MOSES MOSS *TO* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—The remarkable activity and increasing strength which have characterised dealings in the stock markets during the last few days of the old year are of good augury as regards the course of business in the year upon which we have now entered. It is true that frequently rallies have been engineered at the fag end of a year in anticipation of an advance early in the new year, when large funds are generally released by dividend payments, and the public are, therefore, expected to take over from the professional operators at enchanced values the stocks which the latter have acquired when investors were not yet on the buying tack. In a good many cases, however, such an advance has proved but fleeting, and during the last few years, at all events, the public have disappointed the hopes which had been entertained of their entering the markets with the turn of the year. I venture to express the opinion, however, that, barring accidents, the improvement will be better sustained in 1898.

A GOOD START FOR 1898.

The only political trouble which can at all be said to threaten the stock markets is the game of grab which is being played in the Far East by Russia and Germany. So far, however, this country, conscious of its strength, has held back, and there will be time enough to occupy portions of the Celestial Empire when once its dismemberment is decided upon. Matters have not, however, reached that stage yet, and there has been altogether too much nervousness as regards possible complications. While it is not unlikely that some day the Chinese question will assume large proportions, I do not think that it will for the present interfere with the Stock Exchanges and Bourses. Were proof of this wanted, it would be supplied by the great strength of Consols, and the absence of all nervousness in inter-Bourse securities, which generally are first affected by any ominous cloud on the political horizon. There remains the uncertainty with regard to the future value of money. The Bank of England has kept full control of the Money Market up to the end of the year, but when the numerous large dividend payments are made, rates will undoubtedly slip away, as upwards of fiteen millions sterling will shortly be so released. While it would be rash to expect much lower rates, there is at least every probability of the 3 per cent. Bank rate sufficing for some time to come, and the investment of large surplus funds should steady the markets, and promote a higher level of prices in many directions. The feature of the last week has been the further important rise in South African shares. It is true that it is distinctly traceable to the support given by leading South African houses, but the buying has been very determined, and so sound a basis is provided for the upward movement that there is every probability of its making further progress. A similar upward movement was engineered at the commencement of 1897, which, however, fizzled out again; but the position of the South African department is altogether different now from what it was a year ago. West Australian mines have also been in favour, and bid fair to attract much attention in the near future. The movements have been somewhat irregular, and while low-grade and low-priced mines have been more or less neglected, the demand has turned chiefly upon the proved properties. It is to be remarked, too, that quotations have been well supported, notwithstanding the fact that the Colonial Stock Exchanges are closed. As these, and more especially Adelaide, are an important factor in the West Australian section, it is but fair to anticipate increased activity when business reopens there. The American market has shown a waiting tendency. Should money become easier in New York in the near future, we may, however, anticipate a revival of speculation, and those most in touch with Wall-street are predicting a considerable further improvement, which may, however, be preceded by a temporary reaction. Home Rails have displayed a firmer tone, notwithstanding the protraction of the engineering trouble. The fact is that stock is very scarce, and the approach of the dividend period is acting as a lever. While neither in American nor Home Rails so important an advance can be looked for in 1898 as has occurred in the past year, a considerable upward movement in both is quite on the cards. The favourable view which I expressed with regard to Argentines has already been confirmed by a further rise in values, and I maintain my opinion that the South American section generally will show increased animation during the present year. Industrial stocks, too, are likely to attract much attention, although disappointment in connection with many over-capitalised concerns is inevitable.

HOME RAILS BRACING UP.

The year ends with large traffic increases of all the leading Home Railway Companies. The increase for the week ended December 26, amounted to £97,135, which brings up the total increase for the half-year to £1,391,000—truly a magnificent showing, made during a period in a portion of which the disastrous engineering strike has been in progress. A further increase will probably have to be added to these figures, as the last days of the year were undoubtedly very active, and include the Bank Holiday, which in the previous year had been included in the previous week. So far, however, we have already such large increases of leading lines as the following:—Great Western, £205,760; North Western, £172,580; North Eastern, £120,345; Midland, £105,589. The Great Eastern showed a gain of £98,820; the South Eastern, one of £60,409; and the Brighton, one of £59,171. The South Western has £99,074 to the good; the North British, £41,138; and the Caledonian, £19,923. I have already given my dividend estimates, and have nothing to add to the same. Possibly, the respective Boards will act in a conservative manner as regards the distributions at a time when labour troubles are always with us, and increased working costs have to be faced. But upon the whole dividends should be favourable, and their declaration should act as a support to the market. Next week, the first announcements will already be due, and I give herewith my usual table containing the dates and particulars of the dividend announcements made a year ago, to which I will add from time to

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time the actual declarations for the second half-year of 1897 as they are made :—

—	Date of Declaration of Dividend for second half of 1896.	Dividend at the rate of per cent per annum.	Amount carried forward.	Dividend for second of 1897.	Amount carried forward.
	1897.				
London and Brighton	Jan. 13	8	£22,280	—	—
Great Central	,, 13	1¼	2,400	—	—
Metropolitan	,, 20	3⅜	14,130	—	—
Do. Sur. Stock		12⅜	—	—	—
South Eastern	,, 11	6⅝	5,520	—	—
Great Eastern	,, 14	4¾	50,918	—	—
London and Chatham First Prefs.	,, 22	4½	64,543	—	—
Lan. & Yorkshire	,, 25	5⅝	29,140	—	—
North Eastern	,, 28	7¼	31,602	—	—
London and South Western	,, 21	8¼	24,805	—	—
Metropolitan District Prefs.	,, 26	2¼	403	—	—
Midland	Feb. 5	7	40,036	—	—
Great Northern	Jan. 29	5¼	8,096	—	—
London and North Western	Feb. 5	8	99,779	—	—
Great Western	,, 4	7¼	42,884	—	—
Caledonian	Mar. 2	5	17,418	—	—
North British	,, 11	3	1,484	—	—

While the stocks of the Heavy Division have, during the past week, maintained their quotations, South-Western stocks have again advanced a few points, and Great Eastern have hardened on favourable dividend estimates, the market going for a dividend at the rate of 5¼ per cent. for the second half of 1897. On the basis of this distribution, however, the yield will not be more than 3 per cent. at the present level; while, should Dover "A" get the expected 3⅞ per cent. for the same period, they will yield £3. 8s. per cent. The general estimate for Brighton "A" is 7 per cent., and as the return on the present price would, on this basis, be 4 per cent., "Berthas" are practically the highest-yielding stock in the active list. There has, of course, to be considered the prospect of increased capital to be expended, and this will also take the gilt off the gingerbread of Great Northern Deferred stocks, which, on the mere showing of the figures, yield considerably more than 4 per cent. Special attention has been paid to Great Central stocks during the past week, and a strong recovery has taken place in the new Ordinary stock to 42. I have all along maintained that this stock was unduly neglected, and that, considering the possibilities of the extension to London, it was an excellent lock up. I therefore read with much interest the communication signed "Railway Investigator," which was published in the *Financial News* last Friday, and which the writer also addressed to me. At least one of my daily contemporaries adopted the statements made therein as its own, and I fully agree with the arguments of the writer. As he remarks, "the public hardly realise what the extension of the Great Central to London really means. It will become one of the great trunk lines of this country, spreading its arms to the east as far as Hull and East Grimsby, and to the west as far as Manchester and Liverpool, covering the centre at Sheffield, Nottingham, Leicester, and Rugby." The writer very opportunely reminds us of the pessimistic croakings which were employed thirty-five years ago in the case of the Midland, which, in those days, had an Ordinary share capital of about eleven millions, and to-day has one of over thirty-four millions sterling, while the revenue has grown in proportion until it has reached the magnificant total of about ten millions per annum. The Great Central has at present a prospective Ordinary share capital of £11,250,000, divided into £2,750,000 preferred Ordinary stock, £2,750,000 Deferred Ordinary, £2,700,000 1894 Ordinary stock, and £3,000,000 Extension scrip. This comparatively small amount of about £11,000,000 will become entitled to the whole profits, which will be divisible after the debenture and preference stock charges have been paid." I fully agree with "Railway Investigator," that the increases must come eventually, and that a gain of £20,000 per week may be expected at no distant date, which would give the Company a net increase of at least £400,000 revenue. It is, therefore, obvious that the Ordinary 1894 stock, which carries 30s. dividend, payable at the end of January, and the guarantee of interest at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum until April, 1898, when the line will be open, is well worth the attention of investors. By the way, the new Ordinary stock at 42, is certainly much cheaper in proportion than the Deferred stock at 23⅛. The Great Northern and Midland Companies must of course lose by the competition of the Great Central, and this circumstance should be borne in mind when looking at the otherwise moderate quotations of these stocks. The Scotch section has been firmer, and Glasgow has again turned a buyer; but the chief rise in Caledonian Deferred Ordinary and North British Deferred will doubtless come when the engineering trouble is settled. The Metropolitan will doubtless benefit by the Great Central extension to London, and both this line and the District should reap considerable benefit from the Barnum and Bailey Show at Olympia. There is, moreover, the coming introduction of electric power on the Inner Circle to be considered, and there are indications that a substantial improvement in Districts is being prepared for.

THE YANKEE MARKET—A WAITING ATTITUDE.

Wall-street is, Micawber-like, waiting for something to turn up. The "Bull" operators have been resting on their oars, and the holidays have had their usual effect of reducing the volume of business. Money was somewhat stiffer in New York towards the end of the year, and our Yankee cousins have also taken an exaggerated view of the gravity of the crisis in the Far East. The "Bears" on the other side actually set afloat a report that this country was calling out her naval reserves, and other similar tales. When they realise that there is nothing in the Chinese bugbear, and that England will hold her own without resorting to extreme measures, they will no doubt take a more reasonable view. At all events, English holders of American Railroad stocks have so largely got rid of their Yankee investments, that even serious trouble over the Chinese question would probably have little effect as far as stocks held here are concerned. Perhaps the chief factor, however, is the state of the Money Market, and when in the next few weeks large sums in dividend and interest payments will have been released in the United States, these will doubtless seek a fresh outlet in the American Railroad department. The wheat corner in Chicago is another danger which is trotted out by the ursine party, and the collapse of the Leiter wheat syndicate, with a panic in its train is being predicted by them. Again, there has been some nervousness with reference to the possible resignation of Mr. Gage, Secretary of the United States Treasury, owing to the opposition which his currency proposals are encountering. But this story has also been contradicted, and all the various "Bear" points may be considered as of little importance, and likely to pass away whenever the leaders of the market choose to engineer another rise in Wall-street. The two stocks, with reference to which the most important advance is being predicted by men closely connected with the other side, are Milwaukee and new Northern Pacific Prefs. Both roads are doing well, and the stocks of both are being controlled by strong groups. A marked improvement can therefore take place any day, provided always that no fresh accident occurs. The funding scheme of the Louisville and Nashville is to be published this week, and this may give fresh support to this stock. Union Pacifics, too, may be relied upon to execute a sharp upward movement at no distant date. The time is approaching when the road will be taken over and the new securities will be issued. The Kansas Pacific difficulty is, after all, a secondary and temporary matter, and will not prevent the road from being energetically worked. That in any general improvement in the Yankee department Denver stocks. Missouri, Kansas and Texas, Norfolk

Prefs., Erie Prefs., Reading Prefs., and Central Pacifics, will not stop behind, may be assumed; and, while a good deal will depend upon the out turn of the next grain crops in the United States, the position generally is one of undoubted promise. I have received some further inquiries with reference to American Railroad bonds, but as I gave complete lists of the same in last week's issue, I must refer my correspondents to these. Prospects of Canadian Railways are exceedingly favourable, and in view of the prosperous state of affairs in the Dominion, and of the progress already made by the lines, I anticipate a fresh advance both in Canadian Pacifics and in Grand Trunks. Canadian Pacifics, more especially, should now be bought upon the certainty of a good dividend. The published figures show earnings of at least 6 per cent., and the distribution of a dividend of 5 per cent. for the year, with a large carry forward, is therefore looked for. This means that in addition to the 1½ per cent. already paid, a further 3½ per cent. would be distributed. The "Bulls" of Canadian Pacifics maintain that as a 5 per cent. dividend-earner this stock ought to stand at 90, and I certainly anticipate a further appreciation on the present figure of 84⅝. Grand Trunks have been strong in anticipation of a favourable November statement, and this has duly come to hand. There is a gross increase of £47,798 in the receipts, while a decrease of £272 in the working expenses is shown, so that the net gain amounts to £48,070.

FOREIGNERS AND SOUTH AMERICANS.

Apart from an advance in Turks and in Ottoman Banks, there has been little movement in inter-Bourse securities. I suppose that Turkey will now be relieved by a fresh loan, to be obtained from the Ottoman Bank, and that the latter will earn a good commission on this transaction. Spanish have displayed steadiness, but while prospects appear more favourable, the financial difficulty remains. Italians have been put up on the transfer of Kassala to Egypt, which furnishes actual proof that Italy has definitely abandoned a policy of colonial adventure. There is, however, very little room for improvement in the various European Government stocks, and those investors who look for progressive securities will have to enter the South American section. Even investment in Chinese and Japanese bonds is now shown to be fraught with considerable risk, as Japan may sooner or later come into collision with some of the European States which are taking a hand in land-grabbing in China, while China herself is still very much on the borrowing tack. It is a relief to turn from the somewhat involved position in the Far East to the brighter outlook in South and Central America. I gave last week a table of South American securities, from which the yield of the various stocks may be gathered. A further rise has since been established in Argentines, the 1886 Loan having advanced to 92¾ x.d., the Funding Loan to 89¾ x.d. Cedulas have also of late been picked up, and there has been an improved demand for Argentine provincial stocks, Santa Fé notably improving on the view that now that the province of Buenos Ayres has settled with its foreign creditors by an issue of Argentine National bonds, the turn of many of the others and notably of Santa Fé is coming. The 1883-4 Loan has risen to 33, and the 1888 Loan to 43. I suppose that eventually even the dishonest province of Cordova will have to come to a settlement with its creditors, and that Entre Rios will again have to put its hands into its pockets. Argentine Railway stocks have also come into demand again, not so much on present good traffics, but in anticipation of an improvement when the crops commence to move. Buenos Ayres Great Southern Ordinary are quoted 149½, Buenos Ayres and Rosario 75½, Central Argentine 81, Cordoba Central First Prefs. 91, ditto (Central Northern Section) Income Debenture stock 58½. The latter, however, still shows traffic decreases, that for the last week amounting to 13,860 dols. Uruguay bonds have experienced an important recovery, the New Loan being quoted 53 x.d., the Old Loan 42¼. I have already explained that everything depends upon a solution of the political difficulties, but according to latest advices the prospects of Señor Cuestas, the Acting-President, being re-elected as President in a few months' time, have greatly improved. The result of the third half-yearly amortisation of the New Bonds, for which tenders for £18,000 at £50. 9s. 6d. were accepted, has acted as a support of this market, and while there is still a good deal of pessimistic writing on the position of Uruguay, it should not be forgotten that the grain crops are turning out much better than had been anticipated. Brazilians continue in a depressed condition on the unpromising outlook in Rio de Janeiro, while Chilians have hardly moved. Guatemala, however, have improved to 34 x.d., and Peruvian Corporation stocks have displayed a firm front. Mexican Sixes have risen to 95¾ x.d. for the Old Loan, and to 93¼ for the New Loan, this country enjoying a wise Government and considerable industrial progress. Mexican Rails have been dull in the absence of any further developments with regard to the proposal to raise freights, but inter-Oceanic of Mexico stocks are firmer, and I notice that the "B" Debenture stock—for which I had a good word to say the other day when quoted at 21—has now risen to 25.

THE KAFFIR CIRCUS.—ANOTHER ADVANCE.

On looking back over events of the past year in the South African department, one cannot help being struck with the numerous disappointments which have fallen to the lot of the holder of South African mining and finance shares, notwithstanding the steady progress which has taken place in the output and in the percentage of profits of the leading Witwatersrand mines. At the commencement of the year we also had a moderate rally, which subsequently was lost again, and the prices of many of the leading shares are even now but little better than a year ago, while some are lower, and only such shares as have enjoyed the special favour of operators owing to their connection with Deep Levels show an appreciable improvement. Yet the output of the Witwatersrand mines has risen from 209,832 oz. in January to 297,124 oz. in November, and for December it will probably considerably exceed 300,000 oz., so that the year 1897 will show a total yield of well above 3,000,000 oz., against 2,280,884 oz. in 1896, 2,277,635 oz. in 1895, 2,024,159 oz. in 1894, 1,478,473 oz. in 1893, and 1,210,867 oz. in 1892. Nor is this all! Great efforts have been made to reduce working costs, as is illustrated by the reduction in the Robinson rate of 26s. 2d. to 24s. 6d. per ton, while in the case of the New Heriot the cost has been reduced from 28s. 2d. to 22s. 4d. per ton, other mines having obtained similar reductions. Many of the outcrop Companies are showing increases in their output, and a number of others—together with Deep Levels—have entered the list of contributors. How important the results of the Deep Level Companies are becoming may be gathered from the fact that the Crown Deep, Rose Deep, Geldenhuis Deep, and Bonanza together yielded nearly 37,000 oz. of gold in November. The dividends of Witwatersrand mines, so far declared, amount to £2,357,000, against £1,426,000 in 1896, but it is expected that the total will be further increased to about £2,700,000. This would be about double the amount distributed for 1896. It is surprising, indeed, that in view of these favourable developments the Kaffir Circus should not have shown a firmer front, and that prices should be, in many instances, still at the same level as a year ago This is, no doubt, partly due to the refusal of the Transvaal Government to grant the recommendations of the gold industry commission. Sooner or later, however, some concessions will have to be made, and, in the meantime, the position is promising enough to justify an improvement in values. The greatest attention has of late been devoted to the undertakings connected with the Deep Level propositions. Thus, Rand Mines have risen to 34¾, and look like going considerably higher. Consolidated Goldfields have moved up to 5 7/16, and East Rands have been strong at 5 7/8. Deep Level shares have been in strong demand, and a

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further almost general advance has been established under the lead of Goldfields Deep, which have risen to $10\frac{3}{16}$. Amongst other Deep Level shares, Crown Deep are quoted $14\frac{1}{4}$, Nourse Deep $7\frac{1}{4}$, Rose Deep $6\frac{15}{16}$, Durban-Roodepoort Deep 4, Jumpers Deep $5\frac{7}{8}$, Knights Deep $2\frac{3}{16}$. The report of the Goldfields Deep, which will be in the hands of the shareholders shortly, shows that the directors have pursued a conservative policy during the past year, keeping their assets intact without embarking in fresh speculation. The profit and loss account shows a debit of £3,000, due to the cost of maintenance being in excess of revenue derived from dividends and interest, but the cash balance of £76,000 is amply sufficient to provide for all contingencies. The rise in the price of the shares, which I first recommended at £7, is, however, amply justified by the greatly enhanced values of the shares of companies in which the Goldfields Deep is largely interested, such as the Robinson Deep, the Rose Deep, the Simmer East, and others, and when more Deep Level companies are crushing, we can confidently expect a further rise in values. The Rose Deep is already in full swing, the Robinson Deep and Glen Deep will start in March or April, and later on the Simmer East and Knights Deep will contribute to the output. Shareholders in the Goldfields Deep, therefore, have every reason to be satisfied with the position and prospects of the Company. The sharp rise in Simmer East shares is fully justified by the success which has attended the debenture-issue of £500,000 bearing $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest. This issue was very largely over-subscribed without calling upon a shareholder at all, and the only consideration over and above the very reasonable rate of interest is that the debenture-holders have the right to exchange their debentures within two years for Simmer East shares at £4 each. This issue amply provides for all the requirements of the mine, including surface works, machinery, and development, and it is estimated that there should be a fair balance in hand when the Company starts crushing, which would be within about eighteen months from date or less. It is expected to cut the reef in one of the western shafts at any time now, and at a depth of under 2,000 ft. Reports from the Robinson Deep continue excellent. Surface works are practically completed, assays are most satisfactory, and crushing with 60 stamps should start in March. Simmer and Jack have advanced to $4\frac{1}{32}$, and in view of the position of the Company a further improvement should come. The Simmer has now reduced its debenture debt, by purchases of debentures in the market, for the latter cannot be redeemed by drawings until 1900, to £300,000. It has no liabilities of any description, a cash balance of £150,000 or thereabouts, and substantial parcels of shares in subsidiary Companies still unsold. The facts are bound to tell in the long run. Among the lower-priced Deep Level shares I may draw special attention to Simmer West and Jupiter, as the prospect of these Companies, in view of recent events, must be looked upon as decidedly favourable. The Simmer West owns 249 claims on the dip of the Geldenhuis Deep. Its capital is £400,000, of which 300,000 shares are issued, and 100,000 held in reserve. Two shafts were started, but sinking was temporarily suspended about ten months ago, the shafts having then attained a depth of 891 ft. and 461 ft. respectively; work has now been resumed, and the reef should be cut under 2,500 ft. The money in hand, about £90,000, is of course inadequate to fully equip the mine, but it is quite enough to sink the shafts and prove the reefs. Should the result be satisfactory, and judging by the Geldenhuis Deep there is every reason to hope that this will be the case, no difficulty should be experienced in raising further capital by an issue of debentures or otherwise. The Jupiter Company owns 510 claims on the dip of the Jumpers Deep, which starts crushing next month, and is looked upon as one of the most promising of the Rand Mines groups of Deep Levels. The capital of the Jupiter is £600,000, of which 460,000 shares have been issued and 140,000 are held in reserve. Its position is in many ways similar to that of the Simmer West, for sinking was suspended early this year when two shafts were down 906 ft. and 330 ft. respectively; work is now being resumed, and the Company has about £100,000 in hand, which is amply sufficient to prove the reefs. I think that the shares in both these Companies are well worth buying at $1\frac{1}{4}$, or thereabouts; but with the view of a lock up, rather than a short gamble. By the way, I see that the *African Review* mentions a report from Johannesburg concerning a gigantic scheme for the formation of a Deep Level Company on the dip of the present holdings, in which the Consolidated Goldfields, Messrs. Eckstein, and Mr. A. Bailey are said to be interested. Amongst the Barnato stocks New Primrose are now quoted $4\frac{9}{16}$, Glencairn $2\frac{1}{2}$, and a rise has taken place in Barnato Consols to $2\frac{1}{4}$. In this group the last-mentioned shares undoubtedly offer the biggest margin for an early advance. In the Robinson group a favourable circumstance has been the declaration of a dividend of 10 per cent. by the Porges Randfontein, so that this mine has now joined the list of dividend-payers. I mentioned some time ago that the legal proceedings instituted by the Waterfall Estate board had terminated in favour of the Company. Of this there is now official confirmation, as the Directors state that the Homestead Block has been handed over to the Company, which has succeeded in its proceedings with reference to the mynpacht. A scheme of working is now to be formulated by the board, who will communicate it to the shareholders, and some important developments may be looked for. In the meantime, an interim dividend of 5 per cent. has been declared. At the meeting of the African Estates Company, held in Johannesburg, the shareholders adopted the proposal of liquidation and reconstruction, the new undertaking to be called the African Mines and Finance Corporation, with a domicile in London. The interview which Mr. H. M. Stanley had, as representative of *South Africa*, with Oom Paul, is interesting, but I do not agree with the conclusions arrived at by Mr. Stanley, neither do I consider the solution suggested by him of passive resistance and refusal to pay taxes at all judicious. There is no doubt that the burghers have been greatly enlightened of late with regard to the methods of their Government, and the addresses of President Kruger's rival candidates, Mr. Schalk Burger and General Joubert are continuing the process of instruction, so that, in due course, no doubt, the Transvaal Government will be forced to introduce reasonable concessions and reforms. Diamond shares have been steady, De Beers being quoted $28\frac{13}{16}$, New Jagersfontein $8\frac{1}{4}$. The De Beers dividend for the six months has been announced as 20 per cent. (20s. per share).

GOLDEN WEST AUSTRALIA.

The last settlement of the old year has proved a very satisfactory one for holders of West Australian gold mining and finance shares, and it has correspondingly been unpleasant for the "Bears," who, at the commencement of the account, had taken great liberties with the market. The strongest "Bear" attacks were made on London and Globe Finance shares, on Golden Horseshoes, and on Associated Gold Mines, and the experience of the ursine speculators in this trio has proved exceedingly disagreeable. London and Globe were carried over at the mid-December settlement at $2\frac{1}{4}$, and made up last account at $2\frac{23}{32}$, while Golden Horseshoes rose from $6\frac{7}{16}$ to $8\frac{13}{16}$, and Associated Gold Mines made up at $4\frac{11}{32}$, against $3\frac{15}{16}$ at the previous settlement. It is to be hoped that the lesson will not be thrown away upon operators of ursine propensities, and it must, moreover, be considered that the West Australian department has developed its strength entirely unsupported by the Colonial Exchanges, which have been closed for some time and will not reopen until next week. Adelaide, more particularly, is a strong factor in the "Kangaroo" market, and when it once again makes its influence felt, further improvements in various directions are probable. In the meantime, the news from the Westralian goldfields is exceedingly satisfactory, and

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further crushings, partly of mines entering the producing list for the first time, are announced. I herewith give the list:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Ounces of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per Ton.
Westralia and East Extension	1,611	1,339	64 grs.
Bayley's United... ...	772	872	—
Burbank's Birthday Gift	266	468	—
Princess Royal	405	295	—
White Feather Reward	516	225½	—
Emerald (Geraldton) ...	230	218	—
St. Agnes Gold Reefs ...	200	163	5 dwt.
Arrow Brownhill ...	162	134	—
Lindsay's Consolidated	195	79¾	—
Weld Hercules	50	88	7 dwt.
Light of Asia	75	80	—
Menzies Mining and Exploration	75	85	—
Great Boulder Proprietary	1,183	3,038	—
Queensland Menzies ...	330	953	—
Mount Yagahong ...	196	243	—
Gullewa	75	126	—

As regards future market movements, I anticipate a further rise in London and Globe Finance shares, now quoted 2 9/16-11/16. This Company has just declared a ten per cent. dividend, and is known to have made huge profits in recent deals. Lake View Consols have been steady at 11⅛. These shares will probably go ahead again when, through crushing with the full capacity of its machinery, and working with the whole of its cyanide process, the output is further increased. Ivanhoe shares have rallied to 6⅜. Most of the weak holders have evidently sold out and I should not be surprised to see the quotation further go ahead. At the meeting of shareholders of the old Company, held last week, an opportunity was given of placing the substantial position of the mine before the public. The special settlement in the new shares will probably be granted for some day in January. The amalgamation scheme of the various sub-Companies of the London and Globe is expected to make its appearance very shortly. In the Associated and Joint Stock Trust group a firm tone has prevailed. Associated Gold Mines are quoted 4½, W. A. Market Trust 1 3/16, and an advance in W. A. Joint Stock Trusts Founders to 1 is a feature. It is no longer a secret that the Golden Horseshoe property has, on the recommendation of Mr. Kaufman, been taken up by the Associated group. The news from the Great Boulder Proprietary continues satisfactory, but the new shares do not rise above 25s. Kalgurli are firmer, and Brookman Bros. Gold shares have hardened. Golden Links have been put up on the mistaken rumour that these were next to be taken up by the Associated group. A strong demand has been experienced for London and Western Australian Exploration shares, which have moved up to 1 3/16, on the very favourable statements made at the Hannan's Brownhill meeting, and on the imminent flotation of the Sons of Gwalia Mine. With this group I am dealing specially to-day as offering for the moment exceptional interest. A strong demand has sprang up for West Australian Goldfields, which have advanced to 2⅜, and a rise to 1⅜ in Hampton Plains has also to be reported. I have received a great many inquiries with reference to the somewhat mysterious announcements which have been made that some very favourable news is shortly to be published concerning the West Australian Goldfields. I have reason to believe that this news refers to several important deals that have been completed during the last few weeks, amongst which there is, I understand, a large participation in the flotation of the Sons of Gwalia Mine, which is now being brought out by the London and West Australian Exploration Company. If the latter report is correct, it should prove a remunerative transaction for "Wags," but I really think it is time that the mystery should now be solved, and that an official announcement of the various deals in which the West Australian Goldfields is interested be made. The Sons of Gwalia flotation alone should yield a big profit, and thus justify a higher price for "Wags." The last two weeks of the year have been distinguished by the enormous number of Companies' meetings which have been held, and which figure up to something like 180, while on one day as many as thirty-six such meetings took place. It is needless to say that amongst the Companies whose meetings were thus rushed through at the last moment there were a good many doubtful concerns, the Directors of which were apparently afraid of the criticisms of the Press and of their own shareholders. Westralian mining Companies were the worst offenders in this respect, and I herewith protest against such meetings being held at the fag-end of the year. The accounts of most of these undertakings were closed on June 30, and there was, therefore, ample time to have presented them, together with the Directors' reports, earlier to the shareholders. I strongly urge upon shareholders to see that this scandal is not repeated. Reconstructions are still the order of the day, and a number of Companies which have been provided with insufficient working capitals are now trying to obtain further subscriptions from their shareholders. The lesson taught by this result is that it is most important not to go into Companies which merely own mining prospects. For a long time I have warned my readers against this danger, and I have insisted that prospectuses of proved mines only, and of such as are ready for crushing should be placed before the public. An instance of the happy result obtained when these conditions are fulfilled is furnished by the Peak Hill Goldfields, which, from the experts' reports and the statements with regard to the machinery, was practically acquired as a going concern. The subsequent results have been exceedingly favourable, and the price of the shares has, in a comparatively short time, advanced to 2 15/16. The Lady Shenton Gold Mine, Limited, announces a dividend of 1s. per share, payable on January 19, making 20 per cent. for the year. There is every prospect of the dividend for 1898 being much larger, owing to the richer ore which will shortly be treated, and the shares at from 2 to 2⅛ are one of the best purchases in the West Australian market.

LEADING WEST AUSTRALIAN MINING GROUPS:

1. THE LONDON AND WESTERN AUSTRALIAN EXPLORATION GROUP.

In the New Year I propose to discuss with my readers the history and merits of the various leading West Australian mining groups, both as regards the financial position of the parent companies, and the results yielded by the various sub-Companies formed for the purpose chiefly of carrying on gold-mining operations in that colony. My readers are, of course, aware that many disappointments have been experienced, especially in connection with the earlier promotions of such undertakings. Not only were the experts employed in many cases of doubtful attainments, but some even did not possess the necessary qualification of common honesty, and thus a proportion of the mines turned out "duffers." It can, however, be said with regard to the stronger and respectable groups, in which substantial men are interested, that efforts have been made in the case of such disappointments to substitute other properties for those which have proved worthless, and thus in many instances the Companies which were at one time in a very unpromising position are retrieving their fortunes. A group which has of late been much more in evidence is that headed by the London and West Australian Exploration Company. This group has also had its trials and difficulties. Some of the mines have, however, now established a high reputation as regards capable management and richness of the ore deposits, while others have gradually made their way into a dividend-paying position, and others again soon after reconstruction have entered a more promising phase. The gem of this group is the Hannan's Brownhill Gold Mining Company. This Company has declared dividends of 50 per cent. in 1896, but has, according to the state-

ments made at Tuesday's meeting of shareholders, now reached a point when much larger earnings and dividends will be obtained. As Mr. Algernon C. Moreing, whose prognostications have been so fully borne out by recent developments of the mine, stated, the property has been proved at depth. They cut the lode at the 270 ft. level, and the next place will be at the 400 ft. level, which has just been reached. Mr. Moreing also stated that the 100,000 tons of 4 oz. quartz, which the engineers had reported, as in sight are still in the mine, less the 3,000 to 4,000 tons, which had enabled the Board to pay a 50 per cent. dividend. They would shortly be able to treat 200 tons of ore per day. Should these crushings yield similar results as those already obtained in Adelaide, the shares now quoted $6\frac{15}{16}$ would be worth a great deal more. I give herewith particulars of the leading Companies connected with this group :—

London and Western Australian Exploration Company, Limited.—This is a reconstruction of the old Company of the same name, and was registered on November 29, 1895. The authorised capital is £300,000, in 300,000 shares of £1 each, of which 270,000 are issued and are fully paid. The reconstruction scheme was decided upon solely in order to extinguish the Deferred shares in the old undertaking, this Company taking over all the assets. Amongst the latter was acquired the celebrated mine known as the Hannan's Brownhill, for the purpose of taking over which the Hannan's Brownhill Gold Mining Company was formed. Other undertakings with the promotion of which the London and West Australian Exploration was connected, and in which it is still interested, are the London and Western Australian Investment Company, Limited (a sister Company with which it co-operates), the East Murchison United, the Consolidated Murchison, the Great Fingall Reefs, and the Melville Park Estate. The Company also holds interests in a number of other properties, including the Wheel of Fortune and the Long Reef at Mount Magnet, Mertzy's Leases at Mount Sir Samuel, the British King at Lake Darlot, four leases on Block 48 Hampton Plains, Hannan's Water-rights, &c. It has also recently acquired the well-known Sons of Gwalia Mine. An interim dividend of 20 per cent. was paid by the old Company on the Ordinary shares on December 5, 1894, making, with the cash distribution on reconstruction, 120 per cent. in all. The shares, which have been as high as $2\frac{3}{8}$ and as low as $\frac{5}{16}$, now stand at $1\frac{3}{16}$.

London and Western Australian Investment Company, Limited.—This Company was registered on February 9, 1895, to acquire, for investment or re-sale, land, house, mining, and other property in Western Australia. In connection with the sister Company, the London and Western Australian Exploration Company, Limited, it has formed several undertakings, and now it holds various estate and town properities, large interests in several gold mining concerns, and four water-rights at Hannan's. The authorised capital is £100,000, in 98,500 Ordinary shares of £1 each and 1,500 Deferred shares of £1 each, all of which have been issued or were allotted, and are fully paid. The Ordinary shares received a total dividend of 25 per cent. for the year ending February, 1896, while a distribution of £3. 5s. 8d. was received by the holders of each Deferred share. At the end of the last financial year the total assets amounted to £129,138, less liabilities £8,404, which left a balance of £120,734. A dividend of 1s. per share was paid in August, 1896. The shares have touched $3\frac{1}{8}$, and after being as low as $\frac{5}{8}$, are now quoted at $\frac{3}{4}$.

Hannan's Brownhill Gold Mining Company, Limited.—This Company was formed in October, 1895, to acquire two leases at Hannan's Find, comprising 21 acres. The nominal capital is £110,000, in 110,000 shares of £1 each, of which 85,000 are issued and have been fully paid. Complete crushing mills have been erected, but most of the ore up to the present has been sent to Adelaide for treatment, pending the completion of the Company's own mills. The smelting returns to date are 28,597 oz. of gold from 4,830 tons of ore. According to the last report and accounts made up to June 30, 1897, the balance to the credit of profit and loss account was £43,645, out of which an interim dividend of 5s. per share was paid in June, 1897, and the Directors have recommended a further dividend of 5s. per share to be distributed on January 1. The report states that the management of the mine has lately been placed in the hands of Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, & Co., who have engaged as mine manager an American gentleman of great experience and ability. The £1 shares stand at $6\frac{15}{16}$.

East Murchison United, Limited. — This Company was registered on December 13, 1895, for the purpose of acquiring 117 acres at Lawlers, in the East Murchison district. The authorised capital is £150,000 in 150,000 shares of £1 each, of which 130,000 have been issued and are fully paid. Twenty heads of stamps are now at work, and the total crushings to date are 10,543 tons of ore for 17,709 oz. of gold. According to the report covering the period from the incorporation of the Company to August 31, 1897, a great deal of development work has already been done on the property; but, with the view of securing the utmost economy, the Directors have arranged with Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, & Co. to undertake the future management of the Company's affairs at the mine. Out of the gross profit of £11,260, there has been written off the sum of £392. 10s. for preliminary expenses, and £3,099 (or 20 per cent.) off mine development, the balance being carried forward. Since the accounts were made up, however, the position of the Company has improved. The amount of cash in hand is now £12,000, and the Directors have declared an interim dividend of 1s. per share. At the meeting of shareholders, held on December 22, the Chairman stated, in the course of his remarks, that the property had been opened up to close upon 3.000 ft., and it was understood that there are 9,000 tons of tailings, estimated at not less than 9 dwt. of gold per ton, ready for treatment, and which would be realised without delay. Latest price of the shares is $1\frac{1}{16}$.

The Northam Milling and Mining Company, Limited.—This Company is a reconstruction of the Water Trust, Mining, and Public Crushing Company of Western Australia, Limited, which was formed in August, 1895, for the purpose of acquiring water-rights and mining leases in Western Australia. The nominal capital is £250,000, in 250,000 shares of £1 each, of which 200,000 are issued and 18s. per share paid up. In its new departure the Company will devote itself almost exclusively to public crushing, and there is a great demand for facilities for crushing in Western Australia.

Great Fingall Reefs, Limited—This Company was formed in January, 1895, for the purpose of acquiring a property at Ejudina. The capital is £175,000, in 175,000 shares of £1 each, all of which have been issued and are fully paid. An interim dividend of 1s. per share was paid on January 17, 1896. The Company's property proved on development in depth to be of no value, and was abandoned. The London and Western Australian Exploration Company, however, agreed to use their best endeavours to provide the Company with a new property. Various efforts have been made in this direction, and I understand that the parent company has agreed to give the Great Fingall Reefs a large interest in the Sons of Gwalia, Limited.

Consolidated Murchison Gold Mines.—This Company, which was originally formed in March, 1896, was reconstructed in May, 1897, when the capital was written down from £250,000 to £113,000, in 226,000 shares of 10s. each, all of which have been issued and are paid up. The Company owns about 112 acres, situated in the Murchison district, and thirty heads of stamps are now running. The total crushings to date are 33,000 tons of ore for 22,097 oz. of gold. Development work is being carried on satisfactorily in the lower levels of the Day Dawn and Day Dawn West Mines of the Company and, taking as a basis the results hitherto achieved by the 20-stamp mill, the monthly yield of gold with 30 stamps should be 1,500 oz. The manager's figures in fact show that the net profit should be about £3,600 per month, which should pay exceedingly well, and if this forecast is borne out by results good dividends are in sight. The 10s. shares fully paid now stand at 5s. and are therefore very cheap.

Melville Water Park Estate, Limited.—This Company was formed in January, 1896, with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares, and owns 4,546 acres of land on the left bank of the Swan River, facing the city of Perth, the capital of Western Australia. The purchase price of the property was £50,000 in cash, leaving £50,000 available for working capital. This land is magnificently situated, and is being made available for residential settlement as a rural suburb of Perth, the property being cut up into suitable areas and sold for building purposes. Steamship communication has been established, and thirty-five acres have been sold at an average price of £300 per acre, thus realising over £10,500. Sales are now proceeding, and will largely increase in 1898.

Some attention has recently been directed to the latest acquisition of the London and Western Australian Exploration Company, viz., the Sons of Gwalia Mine. Concerning this property, I am enabled to give some further particulars herewith :—

A Company has now been formed to acquire the property under the title of "The Sons of Gwalia, Limited." The capital is £300,000 in £1 shares, which is moderate, as this is a rich mine, concerning which the engineers' estimate that, with a 50-stamp battery, the known ore bodies in the mine will yield a monthly profit of £20,000. The Company will be provided with a working capital of £50,000. It is not expected that a public issue will be made, as there is already a strong demand for the shares in influential quarters, and they will no doubt at once be quoted at a considerable premium.

Shareholders in the Great Fingall Reefs have to congratulate themselves upon the decision of the parent Company to give them a very considerable interest in the Sons of Gwalia Mine. This is to take the shape of the Great Fingall Reefs Company receiving an interest amounting to one-fifth of the deal, their Company (the Fingall Reefs) agreeing to provide £20,000 towards the working capital of £50,000. As the Sons of Gwalia is a

proved mine, which is likely to vie in richness with some of the best Hannan's properties, its position, as far as can be ascertained, promises large dividends and appreciation in capital value, which should go a long way towards indemnifying the Great Fingall Reefs shareholders for their past disappointment.

INDIAN, AUSTRALASIAN, AND BRITISH COLUMBIAN MINES.

There has not been much activity in the Indian section, although quotations have been well maintained, and Champion Reefs and Mysore Gold mark a fresh advance. Ooregum Prefs., however, are lower. I see that the *Mining World* makes the charge that dealing in Indian shares by employés on the field goes on to a very large extent, and produces effects upon market values that on this side are sometimes unaccountable. My contemporary does not know how this mischief can be stopped, as in most cases these transactions take place in the names of sisters, cousins, or aunts. I have for a long time had my strong suspicions on this point, but now that my contemporary confirms these, I must put it to the Directors that it is their duty to stop this mischief. If they were to set themselves to discover the offenders, they would soon be able to lay hands on one or the other, and by making an example put a stop to such deplorable practices. In Australian mines, other than West Australian, there has been very little change. Aladdin's Lamp are quoted $1\frac{13}{16}$ x.d., Mount Morgan $4\frac{1}{8}$, Mount Lyell $14\frac{3}{8}$. In New Zealand shares hardly any business has been transacted, with the exception of Royal Oak (Hauraki), which have been picked up by the knowing brigade. On the other hand, L. and N. Z. Exploration, Thames Hauraki, Woodstock, and Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand are all lower. In the general foreign section Tolima "A" and "B" and Linares have declined; but St. John del Rey have hardened. Rio Tinto Deferred have been a strong market at $25\frac{3}{16}$, and Anaconda have been fairly steady at $5\frac{1}{16}$; but Tharsis are lower. In British Columbian shares Hall Mines have declined. Owing to temporary selling by "stags" or other holders who had received larger holdings than they expected, British America Corporation shares at first were dull, but they have since risen to $\frac{1}{8}$ premium buyers, and I should not be surprised to see an important jump in these shares any day. Some time ago I briefly referred to the prospectus of the Klondike Gold Mining and Trading Company, Limited, and advised my readers to have nothing whatever to do with this concern. I now see from a communication which appears in the *Financial Times* that Mr. Frank E. Hodgins, of the Grand Hotel, Charing Cross, states that he represents Mr. E. Strachan Cox, of Toronto, who is mentioned in the prospectus as local secretary; and also Lieutenant-Colonel Tisdale, M.P., Joseph E. Seagram, James Carruthers, W. B. McMurrich, Q.C., John Foy, Auguste Bolté, William J. Clarke, H. A. Ward, and C. Kloepfer, whose names are given in this prospectus as forming the local Board, and he further adds that he is instructed to say that their names were used wholly without authority, and that they know nothing of the Company, its prospectus, or affairs. This is a very serious charge, and I would recommend the London Directors to at once meet it. In the meantime, I have received some correspondence on this concern, which causes me to further inquire of the Directors as to who holds the cash subscribed, what is being done with it, whether the land in Dawson City has actually been purchased, and whether proper deeds of conveyance have been executed? In Mexican mining shares a fair amount of business has been transacted. Grand Central are quoted $1\frac{9}{16}$, and an improved demand made itself felt for Consolidated Goldfields in connection with the statements made at the meeting of shareholders held last Tuesday. The chairman, basing his remarks on the manager's report, put the average value of the 84,000 tons of ore so far in sight at 14 dols. per ton, or a total of 1,173,953 dols. The value of 14 dols. is exactly in accordance with the November clean-up, and it is expected that with the treatment of 3,000 tons a month the net profits will be £45,000 per annum. The Company also owns the surface rights over an immense area of land, amounting to 27,000 acres, contiguous to the Santa Elena Mine which is now being worked. This will, doubtless, prove a very considerable source of wealth. The shares have come into strong demand at $1\frac{1}{4}$.

THE "MOSES MOSS" TOY FUND.

In addition to the sum of £134. 0s. 6d., which I have already acknowledged as having been received towards the "TRUTH Toy Fund," I have received the following further amounts:—

E. A. G. V., £1; Eden, 10s.; J. G., 5s. 2d.

MY LETTER BOX.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

GOVERNMENT, &c., BONDS.

R. S. C.—As you will have seen, the rise in Uruguay bonds has already commenced, and unless political troubles should again ensue, a further substantial improvement is looked for. *O. V. E.*—1. You are welcome to your favourable opinion of Portuguese, in which you expect a rise of four points! I don't. 2. You want a stock named at a price not exceeding 25, for a rise of four or five points. The nearest I can find is Uruguay Three and a Half per Cent. bonds at 42. 3. No. 4. Considerable possibilities, but no immediate rise in view.

BANKS, TRUSTS, AND FINANCIAL.

Oxenford.—There seems to be every prospect of all British interests, including those of the Eastern bank in question, being safeguarded in China; but should trouble arise, this will naturally not help this institution. *Wakefield.*—Why do you not adopt a nom-de-plume? I strongly advise you not to part with any money to these people, and not to deal through any outside concern, but only with members of the Stock Exchange. *M. A. S.*—I should think that if you were to make a selection from the lists of American Railroad bonds, which I published in last week's issue, and add to the same some of the South American bonds—including Uruguays—a table of which was also given in that number, you will be able to obtain a very substantial yield with reasonable safety. *M.K.*—I have not a favourable opinion of this fourth-rate bank, and should advise you to realise. *Major.*—An outside concern; I advise you to deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. *Heinrich.*—I can tell you nothing about this outside concern, and advise you to deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. *Dartmoor.*—See reply to "Major." *Law.*—What you require has been forwarded in your envelope. The name of the owner of this firm is well known, and there will be no trouble about taking proceedings. *Mac.*—One of the better class Australian banks, but I do not advise this kind of deposit, and you will do better to invest in gilt-edged American Railroad bonds, of which I gave two lists in last week's issue. I have forwarded you a copy of this issue of TRUTH.

HOME RAILS.

Rupert.—Yes, there seems to be every prospect of Great Central New Ordinary improving further. This stock has hitherto been comparatively neglected. *F. E.*—Coras (Caledonian Deferred Ordinary) are a good purchase at present.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN RAILS.

Leith.—1. There is no reason why you should not buy this Argentine Railway Debenture stock. 2. Uruguay bonds are on the up grade, and may rise to a considerably higher level. Do not on any account go short of these.

MINING SHARES.

Crouch. I am still of opinion that you should hold your South Africans for an important advance, which has, in fact, already commenced. *E. W. D.*—No option but to join the reconstruction, in such cases it being easier to sell afterwards. As regards the other Company's shares on which the last call is made, I suppose that you must pay the same. Thanks for your kind wishes, which I heartily reciprocate. *G. J. M.*—The rumours which you mention concerning the Lady Shenton Mine are obviously lies. The Company has just declared another dividend of 1s. per share. *J. McI.*—The special settlement of New Ivanhoe shares should take place in the course of January. I cannot, obviously, tell you what price these shares will reach. *J. P.*—There were obviously a number of stags. These have now cleared out and the price is advancing again. You should do well with your shares. *T. O. A.*—Yes, there is every prospect of these West Australian shares recovering. Hold! *P. Y. M.*—Yes, it meant 1898. *C. C. W.*—I do not consider your selection a good one. You will do well to choose from the

shares mentioned under Golden West Australia. *A. J. W.*—1. I am glad to learn that you applied for Peak Hill Goldfields on my advice. They have risen from 1 to 2¾, and you are therefore able to take a splendid profit. 2. The other West Australian share is not so promising. *H. S.*—The Secretary is right, he need not state the number of shares applied for; but the Chairman should give the information at the statutory meeting. One of the points which ought to be settled by the next Companies Act amendment is the fixing of a minimum application, without which the Directors ought not to go to allotment. You may be sure that in the case of this Klondyke Company the allotment was a poor one. *Constant Reader, Birmingham.*—I do not hold a favourable opinion of this mine. *Broach*—1. No catch. 2. A fair speculation of the kind. 3. Hannan's Proprietary, now under good management, are promising, also Consolidated Murchison (4), and East Murchison United (5). The deep level mine No. 6 is not one of the best of the Deeps. *G. J. M.*—Yes, West Australian Goldfields are a good purchase, and some favourable news is expected very shortly. *Albion.*—Mail advices, which should throw full light upon the position, are shortly expected, and you should certainly hold, as better news is promised. The amalgamation scheme should put right Nos. 1-3. All your other mining shares, Nos. 4-10, should be held, although I do not think much of No. 8. I do not like No. 11. *Alpha.*—1. Hold, but do not buy any more until further news comes to hand from the mine. 2. Likely to improve, but I never advise on these shares. *B. H. W.*—Thanks for your wishes, which I heartily reciprocate. There is a good deal in what you say, but the stags and weak holders have now sold out, and it is my opinion that the shares will double their prices this year. *E. C. Y.*—There is every probability of the shares reaching your price again by the time mentioned. *Lluney.*—The prospects of this reconstruction appear to be doubtful. *Ajax.*—Amongst the South African shares mentioned by you I should prefer Barnato Consols. *Marmaduke.*—I am glad you bought Rose Deep on my advice. You have already a good profit, and I do not expect the Far Eastern Question to interfere with the South African market. *Dublin.*—I cannot give the information about the W.A. Goldfields until it is stated officially by the Board. A further purchase seems advisable. *J. McI.*—No option but to hold White Feather Reward. *W. M.*—1. Peak Hill have now risen to 2¾, and seem to be high enough just now. Why did you not buy them when I recommended them at 1 and upwards? 2. Yes. 3. Ferreira are likely to further advance. 4. Not yet, but they are on the up-grade. 5. Yes, Barnato Consols are good to buy. 6. No catch. *Constant Reader, Constantinople.*—Bellevue Proprietary are righting themselves, and should be held and averaged. *Not Greedy.* No option but to hold these shares. The Company is pulling itself together under better management. *Pyrgo.*—I cannot reply by letter. You have acted most judiciously with your investment in Nos. 1-6—Globes, Lady Shenton, Hampton Plains, London and West Australian Exploration, West Australian Goldfields, and Hannan's Props. I do not think there is much chance of any good coming of No. 7, while No. 8 is very promising. I would strongly advise you to put the rest of your money into gilt-edged investment stocks such as high-class American Railroad bonds, Home Industrial debentures, &c., and to be satisfied with 4 per cent. 9. Lake View Consols will no doubt eventually go better. *W. C. M., Reading.*—It is quite correct that the property and undertaking of the Metropolitan Gold Mining Company was acquired in October, 1895, by the George Goch Amalgamated Company, against 132,000 fully-paid shares. Your holding ought, of course, to be exchanged for your proportion; but you have allowed the matter to go too long. You ought to apply to the liquidator of the Metropolitan Company in Johannesburg.

Industrial Shares.

Boat Hook.—A fair investment, but no catch. *M. M. M.*—A speculative industrial share, which may improve to some extent, but a big rise is hardly to be expected. *Monkey.*—1. I expressed an adverse view of Youde's Bill Posting Company when the prospectus was issued. Why do you not read my letter more carefully? 2 and 3. No catch. 4. A fair investment of the kind at present price. *Clementina.*—You should await an improvement to get out. *R. A. T.* Having all along warned my readers not to have anything to do with the Great Horseless Carriage Company, I am not in a position to "find you some consolation," as you put it. *H. R., Kidderminster.*—If the case is as you state, viz., that the property has not been acquired by the Company, the Directors are bound to return the money. See remarks under "Various Investments." *Ignoramus.*—These shares would appear to be a fair speculative purchase, but you must make sure that the offer is a bonâ fide one, and that the brokers are respectable. You must not look for a dividend for some time. I cannot reply by letter. *Setab.*—1. Not yet. 2. A fair speculative industrial investment. 3. No catch. 4. A fair investment, but speculative. The Company is not doing so well as it did. *Mistaken.*—I really cannot help you with the Great Horseless Carriage Company. I have warned my readers from the outset and again and again not to have anything to do with this concern.

Mixed Investments.

Eden.—Thanks for the contributions to the "Toy Fund." 1. Hampton Plains have already recovered sharply to 1⅜, and there is every prospect of your seeing a considerable profit during the new year, if you hold the shares. 2. You can find suitable industrial Debentures in the list which I gave in Truth dated December 9. *T.*—You will have noticed that quotations of South African mining shares have already gone ahead considerably since you wrote your letter, and you should take quite a different view of the outlook. There is but little doubt that we shall see an important improvement presently, and temporary fluctuations must naturally be disregarded. Surely the rise in London and Globes to 2⅝-¾ ought to satisfy even you! I do not, therefore, in any way endorse the remarks which you make. *Novice.*—1. The course of prices of Japanese Five per Cent. Gold Bonds must necessarily depend upon political developments in the Far East. 2. I do not fancy that the Automatic Cycle Rack Company will prove successful. 3. That depends upon the time when the special settlement is granted. *G., Bath.*—1. A dividend of 1s. per share was declared on Lady Shenton shares on December 28, payable January 19, making 20 per cent. dividend for the year. 2. This Trust stock will improve if the year 1898 proves favourable for Colonial investments, and if we get no international complications. *Australasian.*—With the exception of the Mining shares, Nos. 6 8, I do not like your stocks, and should advise you to get out of them, when opportunity offers. *X. Y. Z.*—No reason to sell any of your stocks, Nos. 1-3, at present. *Emeritus.*—1. No reason to sell Consol Goldfields Debentures. 2 and 3. Fair investments of the kind. 4. The dividend may not prove so good as last year, but the business is a good one. 5. A fair speculative industrial investment. I do not like No. 6 much, but it may work into success in time. *Cavendish.*—The Brewery shares No. 1 and the Railway stock No. 4 are good investments. No. 2 is not tip-top, and the Debentures No. 3 are the reverse of gilt-edged, although perhaps reasonably secured. No reason to sell Nos. 5 and 6 now. 7. Yes; Great Central New Ordinary is a promising purchase. 8. Of course, there is an element of risk in Japanese in view of the strained position in the Far East. *Two Pence.*—1. No option but to join the reconstruction; I have no favourable opinion of the First Find. 2. Yes, North British Deferred are bound for higher prices, especially if the engineering difficulty is settled. *Kent.*—1. Yes, British America Corporation shares are very promising. 2. No reason to sell Hudson's Bay.

Various Investments.

The money squeeze at the end of the year did not prove nearly so formidable as the money bags had wished, and as various pessimistic writers had led us to believe. Now rates are falling away, and we shall, for a time at least, have an easy market. Gilt-edged securities have been strong, and a fresh advance is marked in Consols to 113¼ for the February account. It would not be at all surprising to see a further improvement in our premier security, as purchases for the Sinking Fund will have to be made in the near future. Silver has hardened to 26 9/16d., and Rupee Paper has recovered to 62⅜, although the result of the tenders for the last batch of India Council bills was unsatisfactory. Cycle shares have been dull, and as yet there is no indication of any substantial recovery. Dunlop Deferred are quoted 12s., French Dunlops, 5s. 9d. Humber Ordinary remain at 17s., the Extensions at ½. Cycle Components have improved to 2¾, but Amalgamated Tyres are still dull at 7s. 3d. Swifts stand at ¾, Singers at ¾ xd. A steady business has been transacted in Bovrils, the Deferred being quoted ⅞, the Ordinary 1⅛. Apollinaris and Johannis have been easier at 12½, and Schweppe have given rise to some business at 1⅛ for the Ordinary, and at ⅝ for the Deferred. The English Sewing Cotton allotment has not yet taken place, and people are beginning to wonder when they will get the letters of allotment and regret. These shares stand at ⅞ premium. Coats rallied at one time to 62¾, but have declined again to 61. Welsbach Incandescent Ordinary stock has dropped to 95-100, while the Preferred and Deferred keep fairly steady. I see that from next Saturday Mr. A. J. Wilson's *Investors' Review*, hitherto a monthly, will become a weekly paper. This ably-written journal should gain considerably in interest through its more frequent appearance. Herbert Cranston, financier and stock and share dealer, of 1, Cullum-street, London, E.C., is apparently trying his hand at syndicate touting. He sent circulars in December inviting participation in a special "Christmas deal," in which he boasted that his Christmas deals have always terminated profitably, as those who have operated in them could prove, and "owing to the Christmas railway traffics he is able to make substantial profits by judicious dealings in those of the home railways that are most affected by holiday trippers." I wonder how many clients Herbert

Cranston's circulars attracted? One of my readers asked him for a reference, upon which he received a letter on Herbert Cranston's note-paper signed "George Cooper," in which the statement was made that "he would be happy to refer my correspondent to two or three of his Taunton clients, but he must first obtain their permission." This permission was not apparently granted, as my correspondent heard no more from Herbert Cranston. The following P.S. to Cranston's circulars is distinctly precious:—

I shall be pleased to hear from any persons who have been duped by any of the circularising touts, with a view to obtaining restitution, which I have succeeded in doing in many cases.

By the way, with reference to my remarks on the syndicate touts, Charles Bennett & Co., of 43, New Broad-street, E.C., Mr. Charles Bennett, stock and share broker, of 2, Capel-court, London, E.C., wishes me to draw attention to the fact that he is not and never has been in any way connected with that firm of advertising brokers. I never imagined for one moment that Mr. Charles Bennett, of Capel Court, who is a member of the Stock Exchange, had any connection with the advertising touts, Charles Bennett & Co. Mr. Richard Banner Oakley is again to the front, this time with a circular in which he offers an underwriting commission of 7½ per cent. in a new flotation called "Semple, Gourley, and Robinson, Limited," with a capital of £40,000, which is to take over some 15 retail provision and grocery shops in Liverpool. The experiences with amalgamations of such concerns in London have turned out the reverse of satisfactory, and I cannot possibly see how an amalgamation of a few small shops in Liverpool can meet with a better fate. There is another great objection, and that is, no statement of previous profits of these undertakings is vouchsafed, the accountant's certificate merely making an insufficient statement with regard to three of the businesses. Under all the circumstances I should advise my readers to steer clear of Mr. Richard Banner Oakley's latest bantling.—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

LADY LINSTOCK'S LETTERS.

JIM DALTON, known to "Burke" as the Honourable James Spencer Dalton, eldest son of the Earl of Glenroy, but to his intimate friends by the title we have given him, sat down to breakfast in a distinctly bad temper. A little dinner the night before, followed by unlimited brandies and sodas to an early hour of the morning, had left him this forenoon with what is commonly known as a "head." Coupled with this was the recollection that he had dropped something over two hundred at poker; and the two facts combined did not incline him to take a particularly roseate view of things in general.

He felt no great desire for food, which, under the circumstances, was not remarkable, and in a few minutes pushed his plate from him in disgust, and, throwing himself into an armchair, told his servant to give him a brandy and soda. Somewhat fortified by this "hair of the dog that bit him," he proceeded to investigate his morning's correspondence, which lay in a little heap on the table. As he ran rapidly through the pile he came to a dainty envelope, addressed in a no less dainty feminine hand, and bearing on its flap a monogram surmounted by a coronet. But it was with a very discontented face that the Hon. James Dalton surveyed it, and as he turned it over in his hand he muttered to himself, "Now, what the devil does she want to write to me about?"

The "she" in question had been the heroine of a little episode in Jim's past life, which, as it has considerable bearing on the present subject, it will be well for a moment to recall.

Some two years ago, soon after Jim Dalton had returned from the voyage round the world which his father had seen fit for him to undertake on coming of age, and had received his commission in the Guards, scandal began to be very busy with his name and that of Lady Linstock, who at twenty-three had become the second wife of Sir Joseph Linstock, a wealthy City magnate. Lady Linstock was considerably Jim's senior at the time, but possessing as she still did no small attractions both of person and manner, she had very soon completely enslaved the young Guardsman. Of course, Sir Joseph, at the age of sixty, could not expect much affectionate devotion from his young wife, but the lady's unblushing readiness to console herself with her more youthful admirer had provoked the disapproval even of the circle in which she moved, little prone as that circle is to condemn laxity of morals in those whom it admits within its sacred pale.

The old Earl of Glenroy, a peer with a reputation for the sternest morality, had taken his son severely to task.

"My boy," said he, "people are talking a great deal too much about you, and it must stop. There are some things that we don't do, and that I cannot allow, and this is one of them. Of course, Sir Joseph suspects nothing as yet, for the poor fool of a husband is always the last to see what is going on; but when he does, there will be the devil of a row. He is not a bit the sort of man to take it quietly, and a public scandal I can't have. You must drop it, Jim. Other people's wives are much too expensive luxuries!"

Expensive they are, as Jim had already found, though not quite in the way his father meant. Despite his very liberal allowance, he was frequently very hard put to it to satisfy Lady Linstock's rapacious demands, and he was not long in learning that a fashionable lady's little gambling debts, occasional sops to her modiste, and so forth are apt to be considerable. And so he bowed the more readily to his father's ukase, and now for some time past had successfully preserved a comparatively distant acquaintance with his former innamorata.

But the indiscretions of one's past are liable to bear fruit at awkward moments, as Jim Dalton was destined to find; and as he tore open the afore-mentioned missive, he had a presentiment of coming trouble, which was not altogether without justification. The first words brought a cynical smile to his lips, which soon, however, disappeared as he proceeded. When he came to the end, he crumpled the letter in his hand with a muttered oath, and fell to thinking over this latest development of his affairs. For the letter ran thus:—

DEAR MR. DALTON (or may I still say Dear Jim?)—I am in such terrible trouble. Four letters of yours, which I had kept instead of destroying with the others, have mysteriously disappeared from my cabinet. I must have accidentally left the drawer unlocked, I suppose, for they were there this morning, but had gone in the evening. Do come and see me as soon as possible. I do not know what to do, and I am very nervous. Of course, I was foolish to keep the letters at all, but we are all foolish sometimes, are we not? At any rate, do come and tell me what can be done.—Ever yours, MINNIE.

"Confound the woman!" said Jim. "What on earth possessed her to keep those letters? And what on earth possessed me to write them? Oh, Lord, what a fool I was! Of course, they are the most compromising of the lot, or she wouldn't have hoarded them up."

And he fell to swearing volubly as he tramped up and down the room, wondering in what new mess he might find himself landed now. But bad language is never of very much use at a pinch, and Jim's supply at last running out, he sat down exhausted, but no whit improved in temper.

"I suppose I must go to her," he reflected. "Somehow or other we must find out who has got those letters, and get them back if possible. If they get into Sir Joseph's hands, the D.C. and 'cut off with a shilling' will be my fate, as sure as a gun. Deuce take the women! They have always brought trouble with them since the world started."

With this sage reflection Jim proceeded to make his usual careful toilet, and to prepare himself for the contemplated interview.

His face wore little of its accustomed cheerfulness as he

got into a hansom at the door of his chambers and bade the cabby drive to Lady Linstock's address. Nor was his mind occupied with very pleasant reflections during the journey, and he smiled grimly as he thought with how different feelings he had been wont to travel the same path in former days. The very servant who announced him seemed to wear a carefully-concealed smile of recognition, and Jim could not quite repress a feeling of disgust at the thought of his old infatuation as he entered the well-remembered boudoir.

"Oh, Jim!" cried Lady Linstock as she rose to greet him, "I am so glad to see you; I am in such terrible distress!"

"I don't doubt it," replied Jim. "The situation is not calculated to afford either of us much gratification."

"But what had we better do, do you think? I am sure you will be able to think of something."

"Well, in the first place, are you quite sure that the letters have gone? Is there absolutely no possibility that you have mislaid them?"

"Not the least, I am afraid. I am positive they were in the drawer of the little cabinet in my room in the morning; and when I opened it just before dinner, they were gone."

Jim shrugged his shoulders resignedly and went on.

"Then have you any idea who has got them?"

"That I can't think! I should imagine it must be one of the servants, but I can't in the least tell who. I don't think it is my maid—she is far too devoted to me to do any such thing—though it might be any one of the others."

Jim pondered a moment, and then, with a short laugh, said:—

"In that case we can only wait and see what turns up. If the thief goes straight to Sir Joseph with his capture, the fat is in the fire. If, on the other hand, he comes to one of us to try to dispose of his wares to the best advantage, which I expect will be the case, we must decide what had better be done."

Lady Linstock clasped her hands, and, with a pleading look at Jim, wailed piteously:—

"Oh, Jim, don't let there be any scandal, will you? If they come to me, I can't possibly give them anything. I have outrun my allowance as it is, and if Sir Joseph finds out about the—the—about the—letters, I shall be ruined. Oh, Jim!"

And her voice broke into a most pathetic sob.

"So I am to redeem the letters to save your reputation?"

"And your own, Jim. Think of what your father would say if there were a fuss."

Jim swore a little under his breath.

"Yes, I think it's the only way. If they come to you, send them on to me. I'll get the letters by hook or by crook. I can't imagine why you kept them at all, by the way."

"Can't you, Jim? I think you might if you tried. A woman likes to look back on the past sometimes, and to keep some memorial of it. But it was foolish, I own, and——"

"Oh, well, I suppose one can't eat one's cake without paying for it somehow. So I'll get them back if I can, and when we have safely burnt them, we'll close the chapter for good, I think."

And with somewhat brutal haste Jim made his adieux, and went home. Signs of incipient sentiment in Lady Linstock warned him not to delay, and he was not in the mood at the time for sentiment, particularly such *réchauffé* stuff as he was then threatened with.

Jim Dalton re-entered his chambers rather more despondent than when he left them. And the worst of it was that he could see no gleam of light in prospect.

"So blackmail is the best I can hope for," he murmured to his favourite pipe; "and I must submit to blackmail to save Lady Linstock's character. And to save my own, too, by Gad! She had me there! She knows very well that I can't afford, for my own sake, to have any noise made. Well, the only question now is, how much is it going to cost me? Not much, I trust. It strikes me that I shall be broke very soon at this rate. Jenkins!"

"Yes, sir?"

"I'm going out. If anybody calls to see me, tell them to come to-morrow morning. I shan't be back until to-night."

It was a cheerless day for Jim. He spent most of it at his club, but his dinner was spoilt by visions of the Divorce Court, irate parents, and infuriated husbands, which intruded themselves with maddening persistency. Cards in the evening brought no distraction, and he returned to his rooms, and retired to bed at an unusually early hour.

The next morning found him, after a more or less sleepless night, in a still gloomier mood than before. He felt capable of anything—robbery with violence, manslaughter, anything to obtain possession of those fatal letters. Breakfast over, Jim lit a pipe and resumed the melancholy train of thought which twenty-four hours had made so familiar to him. But the pipe was hardly in full blast before Jenkins, his servant, entered the room.

"A lady to see you, sir. Important business, she says."

Jim started, and said to himself, "I'll be bound these are the letters! Well, I suppose I must go through with it, and do the best I can."

"What sort of a lady? Did she give her name?" he asked his servant.

"Wouldn't give her name, sir. Shortish lady with a black veil, sir. Couldn't see her face, sir, but she seems a foreigner by her voice."

"All right, Jenkins. Show her in!" And as the servant left the room, Jim laid down his pipe, took up a commanding position on the hearthrug, and muttered, "Now for the tug of war. Pray heaven she be reasonable in her demands!"

The door was opened, and Jenkins ushered in the visitor.

"Good morning, madam. May I ask to what I owe this honour?"

"Bon jour, m'sieu. I ask pardon for ze intrusion, but I have come to do you a good service. I have some lettair which I wish to give back to you."

"Indeed, and what letters are they?"

"Zey are ze lettair which you did write to Miladi Linstock. Is it not so?"

"That, of course, I can't say without seeing them. But in any case, how did they come into your possession?"

"Oh, zat is not ze question, m'sieu. It is enough zat I have zem now, and zat I am ready to give zem to you. You would like to have zem?"

"If they are the letters you say, I should certainly like to have them. And you, I presume, wish to sell them to me for a price."

"Ah no—you are too—what you call it—too coarse. I wish to give zem to monsieur, and monsieur will, of course, give to me some mark of his gratitude. N'est-ce pas?"

"Yes, of course, that is a very pretty way of putting it. But apart from all niceties, what do you want for those letters?"

"Ah, you are so brusque! Monsieur will not tink one tousand pound too much?"

"Monsieur certainly will," replied Jim, curtly. "A thousand is out of the question. I simply haven't got it."

"You say so? Ah well! I will go to miladi's husband, or to M. le Comte, votre père—ah! you do not like zat?"

"Look here," interrupted Jim in desperation, "I will give you five hundred for the letters, here in notes."

"Five 'undred pound! Ah no! It is not enough."

"Very well. Then you can do what you like! I can't give you any more."

The other was silent for a few moments, apparently considering the offer. Then she exclaimed,—

"Mais oui! Monsieur shall have zem. You will give me ze money now?"

"You shall have it in ten minutes. Jenkins! Take this cheque round to the bank at once and bring me notes for it. Look sharp!"

And, after hastily scribbling a cheque for the amount, Jim leant back in his chair, and awaited in silence the return of the messenger.

Meanwhile he curiously examined his companion from under his half-closed eyelids. As he did so, the conviction dawned upon him that he had seen her before somewhere, but, try as he would, he could not for the life of him tell when or where.

His meditations were interrupted by the return of his servant with the money, and in a very few minutes the famous letters were safely in his possession. A rapid glance assured him that they were the genuine articles, and, with a sigh of relief, Jim turned to his visitor and bade her "Good morning." Suddenly, as she was in the act of opening the door, light flashed upon him.

"By the way," he said, "aren't you Lady Linstock's maid?"

With a little laugh the lady turned round.

"Monsieur has sharp eyes," she said. "But he is not quite correct. I was miladi's maid—yes, but I am zat no longer. I shall be now what you call independent."

"So," murmured Jim, reflectively, "you are the maid whom Lady Linstock thought so devoted to her. Your devotion has a queer way of showing itself."

"Devotion!" exclaimed the lady. "Ah no! Zere is no devotion. For a long time I serve miladi well and do for her all zat she ask of me. But she is a tyrant—a bully. She will never consider ze feelings of ze maid, and I will no more endure it. So I leave her now, and I also revenge myself by taking zis money."

"But, my good woman," interrupted Jim, "how on earth do you punish Lady Linstock by blackmailing me of five hundred pounds?"

His companion laughed merrily.

"Monsieur does not understand. Ze money was for miladi. She give me ze lettair to give to monsieur, and tell me to bring her ze money zat monsieur pay for zem. Monsieur will know zat my mistress is very poor. She has parted wiz her diamond necklace to get money, and now she must get it back. Sir Joseph tell her zat she must wear it at ze big dinner on Friday night, and miladi is in despair. So she t'ink to get money from monsieur, and she tell Annette to do ze business for her. But Annette is too clever for miladi. I keep ze money and go away. I regret to take it from monsieur, but," with a shrug of the shoulders, "it is ze fortune of war, and perhaps monsieur will buy wisdom wiz ze money. Adieu, m'sieu? Mille remercîements."

And with a saucy laugh of triumph the fair Annette whisked out of the door, and was gone before Jim had recovered from his stupor of amazement.

"Whew!" he whistled; "what a revelation! It was a deucedly clever plan all the same; but, by Jove! the maid was too much for the mistress this time."

And the humour of the situation forcibly occurring to him, he threw himself back in his chair and laughed long and loud.

"Upon my word, I really think it's worth the five hundred, expensive week as it has been for me. And I don't envy Lady Linstock her feelings when she finds out how she has been tricked. And she will have to settle with Sir Joseph about those diamonds, too."

And again Jim laughed as he contemplated the fate in store for the ill-starred lady.

That evening Lady Linstock received two letters. One was from her late maid, announcing her immediate marriage and thanking miladi for her generous present. The other was from her late admirer, congratulating her on the ingenuity of her plan for raising money, and condoling with her on its failure.

And, as she angrily crushed both letters in her hand, the force of the old saying, "diamond cut diamond," was brought home to her by Sir Joseph's voice:

"You won't forget to wear your necklace, as I asked you, will you, my dear?"

KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY.—"The Cream of Old Irish Whiskies." Kinahan's LL Whisky. Gold Medal Paris Exhibition, 1878. Kinahan's Glenisle Whisky. The Finest Scotch Whisky sold.

ART NOTES.

THE MILLAIS EXHIBITION AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

THERE are to be seen just now on the walls of six of the galleries of Burlington House 186 of Millais' oil paintings—virtually his life work. These pictures have all been lent for exhibition, and it is possible, therefore, to ascertain in whose hands the most important works of one who was undoubtedly the foremost English painter of the century are to be found. One fact comes out very clearly after examining the catalogue. It is that "the foremost English painter of the century" enjoyed in only an infinitesimal degree the patronage of the Court and the English nobility. Out of his 186 works now on view, only eight belong to Royal or noble owners, and of the eight no less than five are portraits. As patrons of English art, therefore, the members of our British peerage do not come out very strongly, if this may be taken as a fair example of how they buy English pictures of the highest merit. This, however, is merely by the way, and fortunately affects in no wise the keen enjoyment which a careful study of Millais' pictures cannot fail to induce.

It has not been found possible to hang the paintings in the chronological order of their production; but, by the exercise of a little trouble, visitors will be able to trace for themselves the development of what at its prime was so masterful a personality and so many-sided a talent. First of all, then, let a visit be paid to the Black and White room, where will be found a selection of drawings done by the painter when only seven years of age (No. 218). In the next room will be found his first oil painting, painted at the age of twelve (No. 68). It is then necessary to make a jump of seven years and take a look at the "Cymon and Iphigenia" in the first room (No. 3). In this it will be noticed that young Millais is still feeling his way; he has not yet asserted the individuality of his talent, for the picture is suggestive of the classical nudities of Etty. The nymphs are uninterestingly plump and academic, and the Cymon has a simper worthy of the "simple" hero of the nursery rhyme. Mark the difference when the room is crossed and "Lorenzo and Isabella" (No. 23) is examined. Here the influence of the pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood which young Millais had joined is strikingly manifest. It is a wonderful picture for a youth of twenty to have produced. The "Ferdinand Lured by Ariel" (No. 58) belongs to the same year—1849. Study the marvellously elaborate landscape in this painting. I doubt if Millais ever did anything more beautiful even in the "Chill October" period of his art.

The next landmark in his artistic development is "Christ in the House of his Parents," perhaps better known as "The Carpenter's Shop" (No. 57). Of all Millais' pictures this is the most daringly original, the most strenuously real. Look at it, and remember as you look that it was painted when the artist was not yet twenty-one. We have heard much of late years of the daring realism with which Bastien Lepage and Fritz von Uhde treat sacred subjects, but in this wonderful picture of his young Millais had anticipated them both. Then follow a series of masterpieces. During the next seven or eight years he painted "Ophelia," "The Huguenot," "The Proscribed Royalist," "The Rescue," "Autumn Leaves," "Sir Isumbras at the Ford," and the "Vale of Rest," all of which are now to be seen at the Royal Academy. With "The Vale of Rest," Millais, it seems to me, reached the artistic climax of his fame. He painted many great pictures afterwards—admirable landscapes and splendid portraits (such as those of Mr. Gladstone and Lord Tennyson, Nos. 128 and 130), but his strenuous energy, his abnormal enthusiasm, his resolute downrightness never afterwards found so high an expression as they did in that wonderful decade, 1849-1858.

Amongst other items of special interest in the exhibition let me mention the "Design for a Gothic Window in

water colour" (No. 222). This remarkable *tour de force* was carried out by Millais, whilst still a young man, at the suggestion of his friend and critic Mr. Ruskin. Special interest, apart from its artistic merit, also attaches itself to the "Portrait of Mr. Ruskin" (No. 55), the well-known small full-length, in which that eminent art critic is painted bareheaded and frock-coated, posed on the rocks beside the Waterfall of Glenfinlas in the Highlands. I cannot close this short notice without again emphasising the memorable nature of the exhibition. It should be missed by no one who is interested in the development of British art. Whatever else he was, Millais was pre-eminently a thorough and sturdy Englishman. He stood, like that "Tower of Strength" he painted in one of his later landscapes (No. 183), "four-square to all the winds that blew," and I do not see how his countrymen can fail to be very proud of him.

MUSIC.

THE WOES OF ORGANISTS.

SINCE I wrote last week concerning the tribulations of organists, more especially in regard to the recent appointment at York Minster, I have received several communications, both oral and written, from members of this, perhaps one of the most hard-working, highly-trained, and ill-paid of all the professions. There seems to be a general concensus of opinion that the two propositions I laid down are correct, namely: first, that there ought to be some system by which organists who are old and incapacitated can be retired on pension; and, secondly, that the whole matter is one to be dealt with by the Royal College of Organists, the Incorporated Society of Musicians, or some other musical trade-union, most of whom at present seem to confine their efforts on behalf of their profession to dining, examining, junketing, and self-advertisement by the reading of non-practical essays. In details, however, I have received much valuable and interesting information, upon which I shall have to make a few remarks.

It is gratifying to find that the Cathedral organists generally throughout the country are of opinion that some means should exist for enforcing the retirement of those who, owing to old age or other reasons, are no longer fit to adequately perform their duties. Here, in all probability, lies a difficulty if the organist's appointment is made a freehold. Turle's case was one in point, although Mr. C. E. Turle writes to tell me that Turle retained his residence in the cloisters after his retirement under a special Act of Parliament and not by the generosity of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Still, Turle, despite the state to which, at over seventy years of age, he had reduced the Abbey services, was an "irremovable," and he retained his office for seven years after Sir F. Bridge, under the obvious disguise of "permanent deputy," had practically superseded him. In many cathedrals the lay vicars, or singing men, are likewise on the foundation, and their appointments are practically freehold. The special object lesson is that of Mr. Charles Lockey, who was bereft of his singing voice many years ago, so that his duties at St. Paul's Cathedral for nearly half a century have been performed by deputy. This no doubt constitutes a scandal, although I agree it would only have been fair if Mr. Lockey could have been retired upon an adequate pension when his vocal powers failed. It is, however, for the benefit neither of religion nor of art that a man's position should be of such a freehold character that he is able to take the emoluments and to hold the office long after he is avowedly incapable of fulfilling the duties. The remedy just now most in favour in ecclesiastical circles seems to be to hire their musical men on three months' notice. I should like to see the same measure meted out to Deans. There is no reason, moral, social, or financial, so far as I am aware, which should give the higher officials of the Established Church a monopoly of paid senility. The human mind almost reels at the thought of an Archbishop on quarterly notice like his own organist or footman. And yet, as I have already pointed out, while first-rate musicians can be found to compete for cathedral berths under such conditions, it would be absurd to blame the clergy who impose them. If the organists are too supine to effectively organise, or if their existing associations neglect obvious duties, that, surely, is their affair.

The Society of Musicians, at their "Annual Conference" in London this week, are, for example, devoting doubtless precious time to, among other things, a more or less profitable discussion on "The tonic basis of all music." The best tonic I should imagine those worthy musicians could swallow would follow the promulgation and energetic carrying out of a scheme to ameliorate their lot and to protect their just rights and interests. As to the Royal College of Organists, it appears to confine itself to the organising of an annual dinner, taking the guineas of its members, and examining a certain number of candidates for certificates and diplomas. I believe that, until the grievances of the cathedral organists were forced upon them by Sir Frederick Bridge, the Royal College Council had, as a body, no knowledge whatever that any dissatisfaction existed, despite the fact that three cathedral organists within the past year or two had been appointed upon the three months' notice principle. Even now they appear likely to be content with the appointment of a committee, who will probably report to the college at the Greek Kalends. In any other trade-union this would, I think, have been an impossibility. I can imagine the outcry in the Inns of Court if a proposal were promulgated to appoint County Court Judges at three months' notice. Again, if the interests of solicitors had been similarly threatened, the Law Society would most certainly have taken very vigorous action without waiting for a newspaper discussion to stir up its courage. No one, of course, suggests that the Royal College of Organists should call out the cathedral organists on "strike." But as the representative body of a large profession they certainly have the power to defend the interests of their order, either by appeal to the Bishop as visitor of any particular cathedral, or, failing that, to Parliament itself. The recent proceedings at York, Lincoln, and other cathedrals, by which the organist has been appointed under the three months' notice, has, it seems, also alarmed the ordinary church organist who has always been very much under the heel of his Vicar or perhaps of a musical curate. One of them pathetically writes:—

> As the law stands, a Vicar may dismiss his organist at his pleasure and thus may ruin the career of a good man. Who cares? He is only a poor devil of a parish church organist at a salary of, say, £40.

And the writer enviously adds, "The postman who delivers this letter to you, Mr. Editor, earns more."

It seems that the movement for the deposition of the cathedral organist from the comparatively secure position which he formerly occupied dates back to the time of the Cathedral Commission, which last reported to the Queen about ten years ago. Inquiries were then made in every cathedral concerning the status of all the officials, from the Dean down to the bell-ringer. So far as the organist was concerned, in almost all cases he held a position on what is called the "Foundation," or, in other words, he could only be removed from his post for gross misbehaviour. Otherwise, in most instances, he was under the orders of the Precentor or the Succentor. The Commissioners, in almost every case, with a unanimity which was almost suspicious, recommended a series of Supplementary Statutes, one of which—I quote those suggested for the diocese of Lincoln, although it is practically the same as in other dioceses—coolly provided that the organist was henceforward to "hold his office during pleasure." These Supplementary Statutes have, however, never been passed by Parliament, or whoever

THE GREATEST OF ALL PIANOFORTES.—THE STEINWAY PIANOFORTES. New York and London.

may be the proper body to legalise them; and accordingly the cathedral authorities are still working under their old Statutes, namely, rules which have been promulgated from time to time from the fourteenth and fifteenth century downwards. In nearly every instance under the old Statutes the organist and the lay vicars are on the Foundation, receiving small salaries and residences as a matter of right, though the "Foundation" salaries are, of course, heavily supplemented. For example, I believe, in Westminster Abbey the Foundation salary of a Vicar Choral is only £10 a year, whereas most of the singers receive between £100 and £140. Still, the £10 is all that the man is legally entitled to, and this he cannot be deprived of during good behaviour, even though his voice entirely fails him. As a matter of practice, when a man becomes incapacitated from his duties from no fault of his own, he receives a pension very much larger than his Foundation salary, which, with his freehold rights, he forthwith relinquishes. The matter, therefore, works out equitably enough. It would be even more equitable if Deans and Canons were appointed under similar conditions. But from the age limit, which applies impartially to the Army and the Civil Service, the postmen and the police, the higher clergy are exempt. And the result is that the average age of Deans is almost as high as that of the ladies of the Italian operatic chorus.

The cathedral organists, of course, strenuously oppose the present tendency of Deans and Chapters to deprive them of their status on the foundation. In four cathedrals recently the Chapter (it is asserted entirely without legal authority) appointed organists only on condition that their services can be dispensed with at three months' notice on either side. In the ordinary course, no doubt, this arrangement would work out fairly well, and a young musician such as Mr. Tertius Noble, of York, would be far more likely to throw up his post for a better berth, than the Minster authorities would be to try to get rid of him. But organists are painfully aware of the hardships inflicted by intolerant members of the clerical, or in other words, perhaps, the most intolerant of all professions. There was a special instance in point at St. Saviour's Collegiate Church, Southwark, less than a year ago. Dr. Abernethy had, during the chrysalid period of this church, performed the duties to the satisfaction of everybody; yet, when the institution was reconstructed, and practically became a cathedral, his services were dispensed with, despite the protest of the church wardens, and almost without a "thank you," in order that some new cleric might job into the berth another doubtless excellent organist with whom he had worked in a previous benefice. Accordingly, although they admit that in most cases they are very well treated, yet cathedral organists complain that, under the new conditions, they are liable to dismissal at three months' notice on the appointment of a new Dean, who, perhaps, may wish to job into the berth a political friend or relative. It is true the organist may have some sort of right of appeal to the Bishop as visitor, but this right is practically worth nothing at all, for the Bishop in such cases almost invariably refuses to intervene. Also they fear that, under the three months' notice, they would be a good deal too much under the thumb of clerical subordinates. The precentor, for example, namely, the Canon next in authority to the Dean, although technically in charge of the musical services at cathedrals, is occasionally a personage whose knowledge of the art is either superficial or non-existent. Accordingly he delegates his duties to a subordinate priest who receives the title of succentor, and who practically does the work of the precentor; in most instances not only having the oversight of the musical services of the cathedral, but also technically the direction of the organist, the lay vicars, and the choristers in their separate posts and duties. Under the three months' notice the organist would be absolutely at the succentor's mercy, and this the hardworking members of an ill-paid profession very naturally wish to avoid.

What a cathedral organist has to do and the amount of pay he receives for doing it are admirably put by the late Mr. Young, organist of Lincoln Cathedral, in a letter to the Commissioners dated January, 1880:—

> In the first place his duties are from ten to eleven in the morning, and from four to five in the afternoon, these hours falling so awkwardly in each half of the working day that it is almost impossible for the organist to undertake any other duties than teaching. The cathedral organist has necessarily undergone many years of training and hard study before he is qualified to undertake the duties of such a post, for in addition to what a pianist has to learn he also has to learn the organ, to play from a figured bass, also from vocal and instrumental score; and to thoroughly understand harmony, counterpoint and composition, besides the art of developing the voice and accompanying the choir.

Moreover, the organist is required to attend the cathedral services twice a day including Sundays, and as the Dean and Chapter do not provide a deputy his only chance of an occasional half-holiday is by training a pupil to take his place. His salary at Lincoln is £130 a year as organist, and £80 a year and residence as Master of the Choristers; and he has no right to any pension. Owing to the smallness of the salary Mr. Young declared he found himself obliged to devote a portion of his time to teaching secular music in order to enable him to bring up his family respectably. "This," he rightly says, "is a terrible drawback to self improvement, for the time spent in this way, so far as I am concerned, is time thrown away." Moreover, in a place like Lincoln there is perhaps not very much opening for teaching, and whatever scanty earnings can be gained in this direction, cannot greatly supplement the organist's miserable stipend of £210 a year. If in addition the man is liable at the sweet will of Deans and Chapters to dismissal at three months' notice, his position, already a wretched one, would become practically intolerable. It seems imperative, or at any rate only just, that some scheme of superannuation or pension should be devised to meet such cases as this. In the report of the Cathedral Commissioners there is, indeed, a scale of pensions laid down for Priest-Vicars, who seem to be a species of "under-study" to the Prebendaries, and who receive about the same salary as a cathedral organist, namely, from £200 to a maximum of £250 a year. It is provided that the Priest-Vicar on attaining the age of 55 years shall retire on a pension varying from £30 a year after a service of less than ten years to £160 a year after a service of twenty years. Some such scheme should be devised in the case of a cathedral organist. In any event the organist cannot be blamed for protesting vigorously against the modern tendency of cathedral Chapters to deprive him of his lawful rights which have been handed down from the days when (there then being no organs) the organist was non-existent, and the master of the choristers was a monk. It seems, indeed, by what I learn from the communications which have reached me, that it is not only the money question which is involved in this matter, but also a question of status, the organist at three months' notice believing that he would not be able to exercise the necessary moral and musical authority over his vicars choral and his choristers so as to secure adequate performances.

If, however, the position of the cathedral organist is a poor one, what can be said for that of the ordinary church musician? The church organist has to put up with all the disabilities of his brother of the cathedral and a good deal more. His average pay is about £50 a year, less, perhaps, than that of the beadle. Yet his position, poor as it is, is absolutely insecure. As a rule, at any rate in London, he is annually elected from year to year, but if the three months' notice system is adopted in his case he will be liable to dismissal every quarter. It is practically impossible for him to secure a new berth at such short notice. The church organist, it is true, has less work to do than the cathedral musician; but his duties invariably consist of at least two services on Sunday with a service or rehearsal in the week. For this he is paid frequently

MORTLOCK'S (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "MORTLOCK'S" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

at the rate of £25 or £30, and rarely more than £80 per annum. Parents who bring up their children to so starvation a profession must be bereft of sense.

The musical season has again started, although concerts are not likely to be very numerous until the end of the month. One of the best performances given during the past week, was that of the "Contes Mystiques," by Madame Blanche Marchesi. These proved to be a selection of a dozen religious poems, descriptive of the child-life of Christ, each poem being set by an eminent or other, French musician. Some of these songs are extremely melodious, although there is a strong family likeness between them, so that before the end, they become monotonous. They were successful in Paris, where oratorio is, of course, unknown; but in England, the scenic and other superfluous theatrical surroundings of St. George's Hall, were against them. On Saturday, the usual New Year's performance took place of "Elijah," at Queen's Hall and also of "Messiah," which, thanks to a splendid cast, drew an enormous audience to the Albert Hall. On Monday, the Popular Concerts were resumed, Lady Hallé leading the quartet; but the programme was a more or less conventional one.

Sir George Grove is to be congratulated upon his access of fortune, he being a considerable beneficiary under the will of his brother, the well-known fishmonger of Charing-cross, who has recently died worth £150,000 besides freehold property. Sir George, it appears, now inherits his brother's Buckinghamshire estates for life, besides £3,000 cash, and one-seventh of the residue; while his children are also provided for. No one will perhaps be better pleased with this slice of good luck than the authorities of the Royal College of Music, for it should relieve them of at least a large portion of the very heavy pension of £700 a year which they granted Sir George on his retirement. This annuity has been a severe tax upon the College finances, but it was ungrudgingly given to the practical founder of the Institution when he needed it. Now that his circumstances are far more flourishing, it is hoped and supposed that there will be a readjustment. £700 a year would mean a large accession of scholarships, for which the Royal College of Music was primarily established.

A week or two ago, on a letter from a correspondent, I directed attention to the case of Mrs. Best, widow of the distinguished organist of Liverpool, for whom a Civil List pension was being sought. I have now received a letter from an Alderman of Liverpool, from which I learn that the Corporation have behaved far more liberally to this lady than was generally supposed. The Alderman writes:—

"The facts are that Mr. Best received a salary of £100 a year for the moderate demand made upon his time by our organ recitals. When overtaken by ill-health he had prolonged leave of absence on full pay, and although not a contributor to the superannuation fund an annuity of £200 a year was granted to him on his retirement from the service. At his death a grant of £160 was made to the widow. The Corporation is administered under Acts of Parliament which do not permit of widows of officials dying in active service receiving pensions. Much less should such grants be made to widows of superannuated officers."

So far as the Corporation of Liverpool are concerned, no blame, therefore, attaches to them, and the matter is at an end. Nevertheless, the widows of other eminent organists and musicians, in a far better position than Mrs. Best, have received Civil List pensions; and as this lady has a daughter and an invalid son dependent upon her, I am glad to learn that Mr. Arthur Balfour has the matter of a Civil List pension to her under consideration. Personally, I have a respect for the memory of Mr. Best, if only because he was the only British musician I know who ever refused a knighthood. Musical honours are now becoming so common that it will soon be almost impossible to throw a stone in St James's Hall without hitting a musical knight.

The pitch question is not, it seems, at an end even in Birmingham. The Corporation authorities there recently went to a good deal of expense in altering the pitch of the organ, lowering it to the diapason normal. Yet I read that at the recent performance of "St. Paul" there by the Festival Choral Society, Mr. Perkins, the Festival organist, was congratulated on his skill in transposing the whole music a semi-tone higher. The exact utility of lowering the organ about a semi-tone for the purpose of transposing the music a semi-tone higher, is not very clear. Meanwhile, the confusion of pitches is more or less delectable to the listener with acute ears.

Unauthorised rumours that the Bristol Musical Festival was to be abandoned have been set at rest by the announcement that the Festival will be held as usual in the Colston Hall in October next year. Mr. George Riseley will again be conductor, and Mr. Rootham, formerly choir-master of the Festival under the Halle regime, will be deputy conductor. The Welsh Festivals, however, will, I believe, be abandoned. Musical Festivals are, indeed, not required in Wales, where the Eisteddfodau, or mingled festivals and competitions, abound and flourish.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—We have secured seats for the Grand Concert which the Duchess of Sutherland is giving at Stafford House next Tuesday, the 11th inst. It is in aid of a cause which is after the Duchess's own heart, the "Maternity, Charity, and District Nurses' Home" at Plaistow. It supplies nurses to the very poor in that poverty-stricken district, and these good women look after invalids and more especially maternity cases in the homes of the patients, where there is no one to do the work of the house or look after the young children, and where often the barest necessaries of life are lacking. I have often thought that these nurses of the poor must be the noblest women living: they have so many disagreeables in the shape of dirt and malodorous surroundings to face, and the history of one day's work in such a life, which I read some time ago in a North-country paper, is sufficient to show of what splendid stuff they are made. Such a day would be a martyrdom to the butterfly women of fashion, but to what insignificant proportions she dwindles when compared with a beneficent, hard-working, self-denying home nurse who devotes her life to the services of the very poor! The Home at Plaistow trains women for maternity and district nurses in all parts of the country. The concert is to be a charming one, and among the numerous artistes who have promised their assistance are: Miss Clara Butt, Mme. Blanche Marchesi, Miss Esther Palliser, Miss Marie Tempest, Miss Letty Lind, Mlle. Ivone de St. André, Miss Cissie Loftus (imitations), Mr. Andrew Black, Mr. William Nichols, Mr. Dwight Edwards, Mr. Maurice Farkoa, Mr. Phil May (lightning sketches), and Mr. Mercer Adam (musical sketches). There is a good demand for the seats at Stafford House, and I fancy that the audience will be a remarkably smart one. Society may be frivolous and feeble-minded, but at least it recognises goodness when it sees it, and, like the Lacedaemonians long ago, applauds the right thing, even if it has no desire to do it.

Hilda, whose wedding takes place next Tuesday, has had a delightful little afternoon fire-tray given her among her wedding presents. It is electro-plate, and measures about a foot in length, being of oblong form; the surface is perforated, and a drawer which fits inside is furnished with a heater, which, being made red-hot in the fire and consigned to a partition of this drawer, keeps the fire-tray at a uniform heat for seven or eight hours. The rest of the sliding tray is lined with enamel, and serves to keep muffins, scones, or teacakes hot while the kettle and teapot, standing on the top, are provided with the necessary caloric. We were so delighted with this that

FURTHER REDUCTIONS.—REDFERN'S SALE now proceeding. All their past Season's Model Gowns, Coats, Mantles, Millinery, &c., including some excellent bargains from their Paris house, are now being offered for sale.—27, New Bond-street, W.

we immediately invested in one ourselves. Ours is copper, and we are very much pleased with it. It is a boon at breakfast when some members of our party are unpunctual.

And oh! how difficult it is to be punctual on these bleak, cold, grey, and uninviting January mornings. How is it that our slumbers become doubly cream-laid and gilt-edged just at the very moment when we are called? Can anything be more ineffably precious than these few moments that we manage to steal after the horrid summons to arise and jump out and face the chill and dispiriting early morning hours? Richard likes his breakfast early; and oh! how I wish he did not.

We went to Olympia and saw the Biggest Show on Earth on the opening afternoon. I have never been in such a crowd in my life as there was at the Addison-road entrance. Thousands of people who could not get in remained there, I believe, until the doors opened for the evening performance. It was a good-humoured and a patient crowd, but getting through it was a work of some difficulty. A man with a lighted cigar in his mouth was pushed against Bee, and actually set her hair on fire, but fortunately Richard saw it in time. Getting up the steps was a dreadful experience, but at last we were landed safely inside and proceeded to make our tour of the wild beast show. We admired a magnificent tiger and a splendid lion, besides a leopard which seemed to us to be finer than any we had ever seen at the Zoo. The elephants appeared to expect illimitable bun, and held out their trunks at us in a manner which ran counter to all laws of etiquette. Joanna was surrounded by such a thick crowd that we could only see her performance at a distance, and I fear lost some of the gentle subtleties of her amusing doings. She is not beautiful, but then brains and beauty seldom go together. We lost our hearts to a graceful antelope and a dear little donkey, which we thought we afterwards recognised in the arena. A long array of negroes, apparently from different parts of the world, was ranged down one side of the great hall. The freaks were at the other end, but we did not visit them.

The great performance in the arena simply defies description. The mere programme is three or four yards long, and anybody who has a sufficient number of eyes and adequate brain power to follow the whole of it would probably be gifted with the requisite faculty of giving expression to his impressions. The great spectacular entry made a splendid opening, and we were much amused at hearing a Roman charioteer whose horse began bucking swear in nervous English. The elephants are probably the most highly educated in the world. The twentieth-century girls in bloomers and the lady clown seemed to interest the enormous audience, the very sight of which is in itself a wonderful experience. There are moments when a sort of quiver passes over the massed figures and faces, as at the interval, when a universal movement takes place.

The trapeze was also very interesting to the multitude, but I am never happy when wingless human beings are careering about in mid-air; are you? Mr. John O'Brien and his seventy horses in one ring pleased us immensely; the dear things obeyed every word that he said, and we liked the quiet and gentle voice in which he addressed them. Most men speak to horses in the roughest and rudest manner possible, appearing to reserve for these gentle animals the brutal tone which we feel that we can never sufficiently resent. We loved the dear dog that played football so cleverly, and greatly admired the other dog which skirt-danced in the most approved fashion, keeping up for an incredibly long time and waving his skirts about him in a most graceful way. We were also much amused by the squeaking barks of a small white scrap of dog flesh which sat beside a lady who drove a buggy round the arena. The same lady afterwards rode a racer over high leaps, and we all admired her equestrianism extremely; she had a splendid seat on her horse, and a beautiful figure. All the sympathies of the throng were with the man in his race against a running horse, and great excitement was evoked by the whippet racing. The double four-horse tandem hurdle race, in which one thoroughbred is ridden and three others run, all being driven at breakneck speed and leaping high hurdles as they go, made our hearts stand still for a moment as they flew past. In another event a horse named Oxford jumped splendidly, especially when called on by name by some one to whom he is probably attached.

The great spectacular military drama "The Mahdi" is simply a wonderful sight, the glow and glitter of the East being skilfully rendered by the scene-painter and the arrangement of light. There is also plenty of action in the foreground with galloping horses, praying, flying, and shrieking Soudanese, and the touching incident of decoration with the Victoria Cross. Though, contrary to all military etiquette, it is an effective episode, especially as the band plays "Home, Sweet Home" just at the moment. The Highlanders got a splendid reception from the audience, but the poor dear Blue-jackets seemed scarcely to be noticed. We thought the living statuary quite lovely and extremely cleverly managed. At first some of us could not be brought to believe that they were human figures.

Have you made any good resolutions for the New Year? I have made one or two, but am not going to tell them. Don't you fancy that they have a better chance of being kept if one is silent about them?

There was a smart Private View at the New Gallery on Friday and some good gowns were to be seen. The one I liked best was blue of a glorious shade, like the water of the Bay of Naples. It was relieved with white satin and sable and jet. How deliciously becoming sable is! It makes a pretty woman look charming and a plain one almost pretty.

We have done one or two cheap sales, Redfern's, of course, where we have furnished ourselves with dress materials for a twelvemonth at least, to say nothing of blouses, boleros, fur necklets, waistcoats, and a costume each. We also spent some absorbing hours at Redmayne's and invested in some of their marvellously cheap satins and brocades for evening frocks to be made up in the season. Nor did we ignore such useful items as gloves and hosiery, knowing by experience what good value we get there at "popular" prices. It would really pay you to come up for two or three days to buy the last additions to your almost-completed trousseau. They have such sweet collarettes and fichus in lawn and lace set off with ribbons; such knowing little "fronts" for smartening up a street toilette, and other devices of the kind.

We were allowed to look at the gold key made by the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company for presentation to the Duchess of Fife on her opening the new Technical Schools at Brighton on Friday of this week. The form of the handle is a trefoil surmounted by the Duchess's coronet, and in a space on the upper part her Royal Highness's arms are given in their proper heraldic colours, the motto being inscribed on an enamelled ribbon at the sides. Below there is a fancy shield with the arms of Brighton enamelled upon it. Between the two sets of arms are various emblems relating to art and industry. The head of the key is connected with the stem by an acanthus leaf ornament. The ward is formed of the letter F, the initial of the Duchess's title. Inside the case containing the key is a suitable inscription.

Richard went in search of a new experience on Wednesday night — to a large dinner party in the East End, where he was not a guest but an onlooker. It was a dinner in Shoreditch Town Hall, given to

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some 500 poor women and children of the district by Messrs. Tom Smith & Co., the well-known manufacturers of Christmas crackers, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the firm. Richard says it was better than having a good dinner oneself to witness the enjoyment of the poor people at this entertainment, and I am sure Tom Smith & Co. could not have hit upon a happier method of celebrating their Jubilee.

As you desired, I am sending you half-a-dozen of the little albums for the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund stamps, which Sir Henry Burdett referred to in his letter to the *Times* the other day—although I may tell you that you could have got them just as easily through your bookseller. You will see inside the cover the address of the photographers who will take a midget photograph of the owner of the album free of charge, so that it can be inserted in the book as a means of identification. Several people that we know have given these albums to their children, with one stamp inserted as the first year's subscription, and I think that in most cases the children will fill up the remaining spaces for themselves from year to year. It is an admirable plan for encouraging in them an interest in the hospitals and a habit of giving regularly. And I hear, too, that a great many people of humble means, who would never think of putting their names down as ordinary subscribers, are taking these stamp albums and starting a regular annual subscription by means of them. It is an excellent thing to interest the poor in this way in the institutions on which they depend so much. Do you not think so?

Just one recipe. You will find this "Pouding à la Figaro" delicious:—

Beat 4 oz. of butter with 4 oz. of fine sugar until creamy, add 2 oz. of chocolate Menier, grated, and two eggs, beating them in separately. Mix in lightly 4 oz. of sifted flour, and bake in a plain round mould. Meanwhile, for the sauce, boil 4 oz. of sugar with three parts of a gill of water until it is a syrup, whisk it while boiling to the yolks of two eggs, and continue whisking till it is cold, then add three table spoonfuls of whipped cream and a tea spoonful of Maraschino. When the pudding is done, turn it on to a dish and soak it thoroughly with 4 oz. of sugar boiled to a syrup and mixed with a tea spoonful of Maraschino. Pour the sauce round the pudding.

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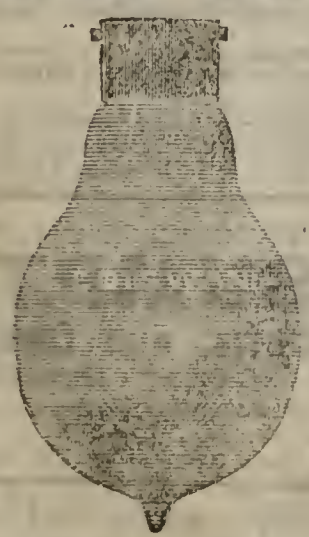

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We are glad to hear that a reference to the Liberator Fund made in this column last month seems to have given a decided impetus to it, and that, according to the latest returns, the Hon. Secretary had received 160,000 shillings out of the 700,000 he set himself to raise as a final effort to complete the good work.

It is terribly uphill work to keep up anything like a constant inflow to a big fund like that which the great Balfour smash necessitated. Even the most benevolent of people, of course, get sick of the subject, but that, as the Secretary says, with pathetic truth, "doesn't lift the burden from weary hearts." And there are very weary hearts still pouring in their troubles to the Committee, and entreating for help. "The Lord knows what I have to bear," moans one poor seamstress, sixty-three years of age, with bad sight, a painful internal disease, and quite unable to earn anything. "I often feel to want more nourishment than I can get." It is weary work, but it must soon be all over with her for one, and really charity ought not to fail till the end comes.

Williton, in Somersetshire, has distinguished itself by a house-to-house canvass for the Liberator Fund, and by a result which, if every village in the country could be induced to imitate it, would go a long way towards finally settling the business. There are, it seems, about 250 houses in the village, and two or three hamlets around, and no less than 199 gave sums ranging from a penny to half-a-crown; 89 houses gave a penny each; 39 gave twopence, 23 threepence, 1 gave fourpence, 1 fivepence, 28 sixpence, 1 sevenpence, 14 a shilling, 2 two shillings, and 1 half-a-crown. Altogether it amounted to £2 15s. 6d. Any one wishing to know how the thing was worked may learn all about it by a post-card to the Rev. Stockwell Watts, 16, Farringdon-street, London, E.C.

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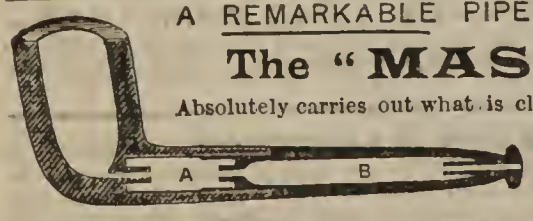

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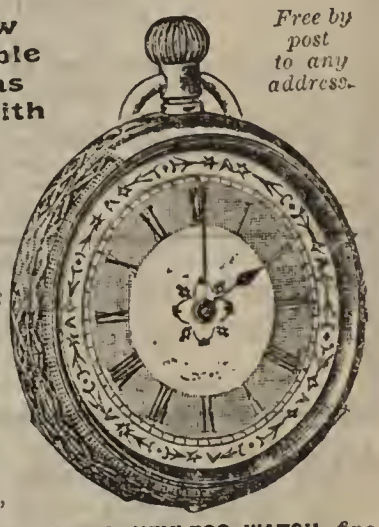

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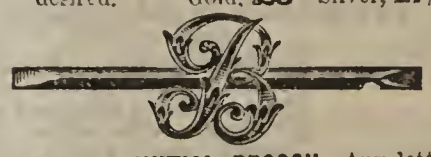

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This well-known Hotel, occupying a sheltered position close to the sea, adjacent to the Boulogne Steamboat and Promenade Piers and the beautiful Undercliffe private road, is celebrated for its home-like comforts, cuisine, and wines, and is lighted throughout by electricity. Spacious Winter Garden, affording a delightful lounge amidst subtropical and other plants. Extensive tennis lawns. Own private dairy, farm, and gardens, insuring a fresh supply of milk, butter, eggs, vegetables, &c. Private laundry. Hotel omnibus meets all principal trains at Folkestone Central.
PAVILION HOTEL FOLKESTONE
FOLKESTONE HARBOUR STATION.

LIQUEURS OF THE GRANDE CHARTREUSE.
These delicious Liqueurs, which have come so much into public favour on account of their wonderful properties of aiding Digestion and preventing Dyspepsia, can now be had of all the principal Wine and Spirit Merchants, and all good Hotels and Restaurants throughout the Kingdom.
Sole Consignee: W. DOYLE, 35, Crutched Friars, London, E.C.

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Great Reductions.

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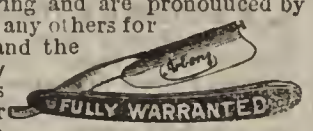
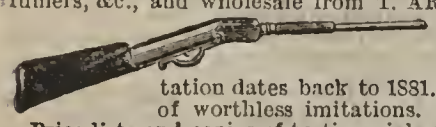
UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS! ARBENZ'S MANDARIN RAZORS, with interchangeable blades, have no equal for easy shaving and are pronouuced by thousands of English Gentlemen to be superior to any others for their great durability, their keenness of edge, and the comfort they give in shaving. They are *fully warranted* and stamped with bonâ-fide maker's name and address. Satisfaction guaranteed or money returned. Prices: 5s. each; with one spare blade, 6s.; with three spare blades in handsome case, 9s. From Cutlers, Perfumers, &c., and wholesale from T. ARBENZ, 33, Ludgate-hill, Birmingham, who still supplies the celebrated GENUINE and only perfect GEM AIR GUNS, for which his universal reputation dates back to 1881. Ask for ARBENZ'S GEMS and beware of worthless imitations.





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Of the Manufacturers,

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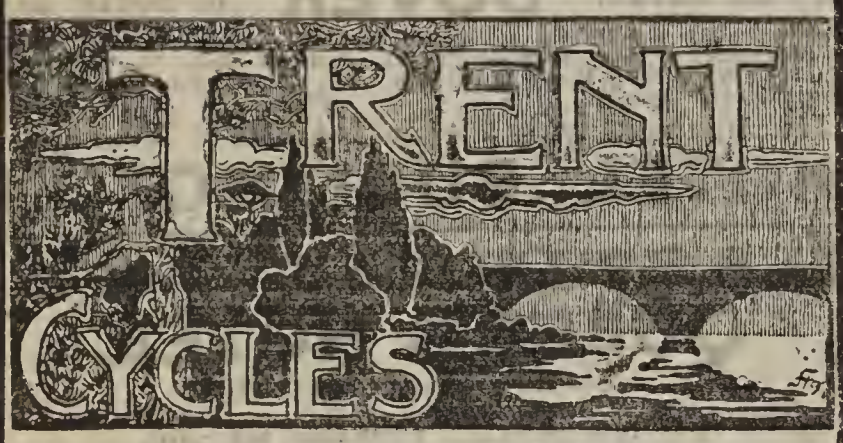
Or at Head Depot-174, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

Price List on Application



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25 Years Success in the United Kingdom.

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"HUNYADI JÁNOS has established itself in favour with leading physicians and therapeutists of every country, whose testimonies bear witness to its action as a speedy, sure, and gentle Aperient for ordinary use; it is remarkably and exceptionally uniform in its composition, and free from defects incidental to many other Hungarian Bitter Waters." —*British Medical Journal*, Aug 30th 1884.

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CAUTION.—Every Bottle bears the Signature of the Proprietor, ANDREAS SAXLEHNER.

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DISTRIBUTES HEALTH.

No loaf genuine unless stamped **HOVIS.**

All good class Bakers make and sell Hovis.

Hovis Flour and Biscuits can be obtained from all leading Bakers and Grocers, or 6d. and 1s. samples will be sent on receipt of stamps by—

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"A POCKET TREASURE."

MADE IN 3 SIZES AT

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4d PREMIER VINOLIA SOAP
(For Family Use)

For Delicate, Sensitive, Irritable Skins.

The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST reports:
"An ideal soap, delightfully perfumed."

1/- per box of 3 Tablets.

6d FLORAL VINOLIA SOAP
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Keeps the Skin as soft as Velvet.

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"Beautifully emollient and softening to the skin.'

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Scented with Choice Otto of Rose Perfume.

Beautifies the Complexion.

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Keeps the Complexion clear.

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"Unscented Vinolia Soap cleanses the skin thoroughly and pleasantly, and at the same time leaves it soft, cool, and smooth."

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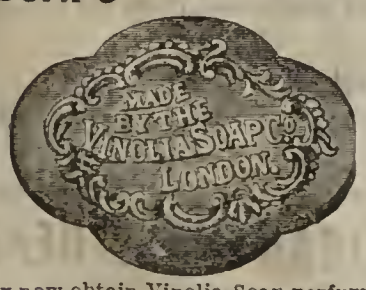

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For Itching. Face Spots. Chaps, Chilblains

The LANCET reports:
"An emollient cream for the skin in eczema, rash, eruptions, &c."

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For Redness, Roughness, Toilet Nursery, &c.

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Causes no Blotches.
STICKS: Premier 6d., Toilet 1/-, 1/6, 2/6. Vestal, 2/-.
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Vinolia Shaving Cream,
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A Coralline Emollient for Dry, Rough, Cracked, or Pallid Lips.
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Natural and Very Lasting.

Contains the finest Essential Oils, Concentrated, therefore the Most Economical.

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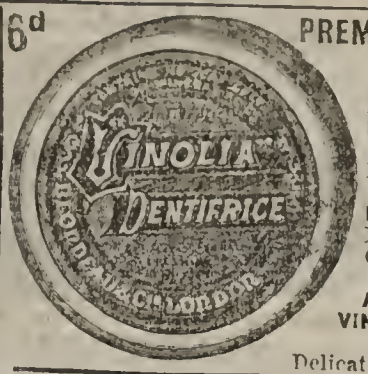
2d BLONDEAU TOILET SOAPS.
(BRITANNIA BRAND).

Guaranteed Neutral and Pure.

1/- per Box of 6 Tablets
(Assorted Colours and Perfumes).

6d PREMIER VINOLIA DENTIFRICE



Aromatic, Tonic, Refreshing, Preservative.
Keeps the Teeth Ivory White.
Premier, in Round Box and Glass Bottle, 6d.
English—2/6.
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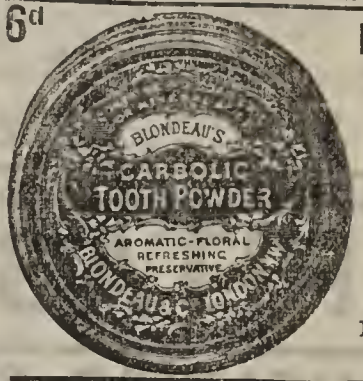
VINOLIA TOOTH PASTE.
Delicately Perfumed 6d.

6d BLONDEAU CARBOLIC TOOTH POWDER.



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6d BLONDEAU PERFUMES

Concentrated, Delicate, Pure

*Vinolia Bouquet, *Marequil, *Jequilla, *Losaria, Wood Violet, White Heliotrope, Ess. Bouquet, Frangipanni, Jockey Club, Maréchal Niel, Millefleur, White Rose, Jasmin, Musk Rose, Honeysuckle, New Mown Hay, Lily of the Valley, Rondeletia, Hyacinth, Ylang Ylang, Stephanotis, Opoponax, Patchouli, Musk, Ambergris, Amaryllis, White Lilac, Narcissus, Chypre, Violette de Parme, Mignonette, Clematis, Wallflower, Violet, *Rhine Violets, Peau d'Espagne.

6d., 1/-, 2/-, 3/-, and 5/- per bottle.
* These perfumes are not supplied in the 6d. quality.

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Freshens and Revivifies the Hair.
In two kinds, Dry and Moist, 1/- per bottle.
In 3 odours: Portugal, Rose, and Violet.

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Fragrant. Refreshing.
As fine as can possibly be made.

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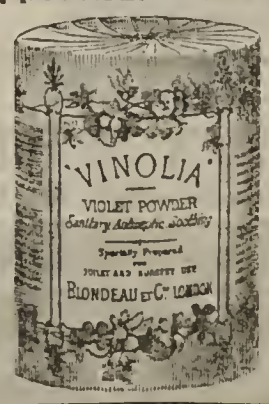
3d per 2oz. Packet VINOLIA VIOLET POWDER.



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Specially prepared for Toilet and Nursery use.

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WATER ABSOLUTELY FREE FROM DISEASE GERMS, BY USING THE

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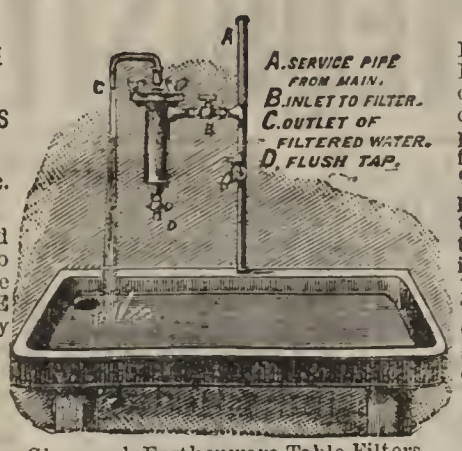
FOR THE PRIVATE HOUSE OFFICE, FACTORY, HOTELS RESTAURANTS, CLUBS, &c. &c.

Can be Easily and Cheaply Fixed to the Service-Pipe of any HOUSE having ordinary pressure.

Supplied to H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES, DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, K.G., and others too numerous to mention; THE HOUSE OF LORDS, and THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.



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In use in all the Principal Hotels. Simple in Construction. Most easily cleaned.
PRICE FOR FILTER AS ABOVE, 42s.
SMALLER SIZE, 25s.
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Offices and Show-Rooms:
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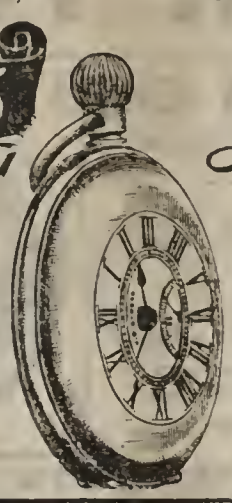
Silver Cases, £5 — 18-ct. Gold Cases, £10



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OVER FIVE THOUSAND

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I trust there will be no delay, as he takes no other nourishment, and has been sustained and gained strength by "Wincarnis" for twelve weeks.

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DUNCAN FLETCHER, L.R.C.P.

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Sample Bottle may be had, free of charge, on receipt of full postal address.

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Exquisite Models. Perfect Fit. Guaranteed Wear.

THE Y & N PATENT DIAGONAL SEAM CORSET

Will not split in the Seams nor tear in the Fabric. Made in all the fashionable colours and White, Black, and Shades in Italian Cloth, Satin, and Coutil, 4/11, 5/11, 6/11, 7/11 per pair and upwards.

CAUTION.—Every genuine Y & N Corset is stamped.

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FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH

Is the BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE in the WORLD.

PREVENTS THE DECAY OF THE TEETH.

Renders the Teeth Pearly White.

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Of all Wine Merchants and Grocers.
See that every cork bears the brand "Max Greger." Without it the wine is not genuine.

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BEST & SAFEST DENTIFRICE
SOLD BY ALL CHEMISTS AND PERFUMERS IN ELEGANT CRYSTAL TOILET CASKET
PRICE 2/6.
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PRESERVE YOUR TEETH
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Established 20 years

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Beautifully Cool, Sweet Smoking.

The Original and the Best.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT TOBACCO is sold only in 1-oz Packets, and 2, 4, and 8-oz. and 1-lb. Tins, which keep the Tobacco in Fine Smoking Condition. Ask for "PLAYER'S" at all Tobacco Sellers, Stores, &c., and don't be put off with any other. The genuine bears the Trade Mark, "NOTTINGHAM CASTLE," on every Packet and Tin.

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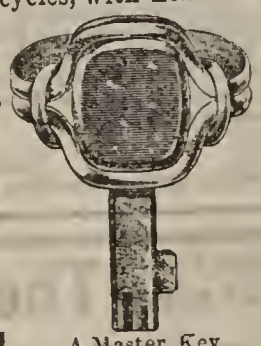

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OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW.—SPECIAL NOTICE.

It has been found impossible to complete the Prize List in all its details in time to publish it in this number of TRUTH. The reports of the ladies who kindly acted as judges have rendered certain correspondence necessary; but the Full List of Awards will be printed next week.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 984.

The Prize in this Competition has been awarded to TABLEAU for the following anecdote:—

Scene: a country lane. Eldest Daughter (who has accidentally run against the cook arrayed in one of her garments): "Black, is that my cloak you have got on?" Black: "Well, Miss, I am not sure whether 'tis yours or the Missis's.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 985.

In this Competition the Prize has been taken by ALMAVIVA, whose lines on the Underground Railway as a Sanatorium were published in TRUTH for December 30.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 989.

It has been suggested—and the suggestion is an excellent one—that the current "Specimens" may be turned to account in providing the competition for this week. Competitors are asked, therefore, to select from the "Specimens" printed on this and the following page the Epitaph which they may consider to be best out of those suggested for a Prime Minister, then the one which they consider best out of those suggested for a 'Bus Conductor, and so on in the case of each of the five classes of Epitaphs asked for. The selections received will be collated by me, and a List formed of those five Epitaphs which may be mentioned most frequently in the said selections. The usual Prize of Two Guineas will be awarded to

THAT COMPETITOR WHOSE LIST MOST CLOSELY AGREES WITH THAT FORMED IN THE MANNER DESCRIBED ABOVE.

No competitor must select more than one "Epitaph" under each of the categories—*a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, and *e*; and to each selection the name of the competitor from whose list it is taken must be appended. All answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, January 17, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of CABBAGE, winner of Prize No. 983, is John Laird, Esq., The Cottage, Oxton.

*** Mr. Laird has kindly requested me to hand over a guinea of his Prize to the TRUTH Toy Fund.

*** Mr. Gibson, winner of Prize No. 982, has desired me to place five shillings out of his Prize to the credit of the TRUTH Toy Fund.

IVY LEAVES.—Many thanks for your very kind communication.

SOL.—Your suggestion is not at all a bad one, but I do not at present see my way to carry it out in a practical way.

ESPERANZA.—Thank you very much.

J. MCGRIGOR ALLAN.—I so much like the idea you suggest that I should be much obliged if you will, at your leisure, let me have the lines to which you refer.

BEL DEMONIO.—Many thanks for your seasonable wishes.

E. S.—Your verses contain so much good sense that I regret that I am unable to find space to print them.

RENELL.—Your lines reached me a day too late for publication.

QUILP.—It has given me much pleasure to act upon your excellent suggestion.

R. MARTIN.—I hardly think the word "Bowdlerism" applies. It was, rather, a question of taste. Many thanks for your kind wishes.

VERAX.—The addition will not in any way invalidate your chance.

SIMONIDES.—I hope your services in the direction you suggest will not be required just yet.

TREEVE.—Your lines were duly received, and were actually set up for publication, but were crowded out at the last moment.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 986.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ONE-LINE EPITAPHS ON (a) A PRIME MINISTER, (b) A 'BUS CONDUCTOR, (c) A LOW COMEDIAN, (d) A RAILWAY GUARD, (e) A STOCKBROKER.

(a) A prey to dissolution. (b) Higher up! (c) He played to the pit. (d) In the van on the up-line. (e) Waiting for a rise.—Mac.

(a) Summoned by Black Rod to the Upper House. (b) 'Igher up. (c) A time to laugh . . and a time to die (Eccles. iii.). (d) Shunted at the terminus. (e) John Smith,* Limited. Below par. Preference guaranteed. Will rise again.—Cogerach.

* As the case may be.

(a) With the majority; no longer a Unionist. (b) Gone to render his account. (c) Taking his part in Hades. (d) Waiting for the signal. (e) Anticipating "Arise."—Sinona.

(a) His last closure. (b) His last bus. (c) Gone to the second stage. (d) May no signals be "against" him. May he keep away from "the stoker"! (e) Awaits the "settling day." May he "bear" it! —Xnihps.

(a) He has joined the majority. (b) He has gone to the bank. (c) He has played his last part. (d) He was ever in the van. (e) He is ready for the last call.—Welsh Harp.

(a) Dissolution at last! (b) Always behind, he is now gone before. (c) He is keeping the pit in a roar. (d) The "late" John Smith. (e) He will come up for the account.—Melrose.

(a) He who worked by majorities has now joined the majority. (b) He was a man of fare (fair) dealings. (c) He brought down the house, till he was himself brought low. (d) He started many trains, then he himself started to an unknown bourne. (e) He got below par and broke.—Wild Thyme.

(a) His place is safe with the "majority." (b) Changed into an "angel." (c) "The gods" propitious, need he fear "the pit"? (d) On the "up" train. (e) Lying low, waiting for a "rise."—Ludwig B.

(a) I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever Ps. xxiii. 6). (b) Thy word runneth very swiftly (Ps. cxlvii. 15). (c) Let not the pit shut her mouth upon me (Ps. lxix. 15). (d) The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places (Ps xvi. 6). (e) What shall a man give in exchange for his soul (Matt. xvi. 26).—Aston Villa.

(a) He whom majorities followed now follows the majority. (b) He has gone higher up. (c) Exit clown (Shakespeare). (d) We must all change. (e) He is waiting for the rise.—Mercutio.

(a) Forgive! and forget. (b) Last home journey. (c) Curtain. (d) "Right away"—for ever. (e) Settling-day.—Tan Tun.

(a) For now he hath obtained more excellent "ministry." (b) Mors "omnibus" communis. (c) Set up on high those that be "low." (d) The "Guard" dies, but never surrenders. (e) Worshipped "stocks" and stones.—C. F. Reid.

(a) Majorities once gave me power; the majority I've now joined does not. (b) Mors mihi omnibusque finis. (c) I've left the stage, and now occupy the pit. (d) Released from care; life's terminus attained. (e) Gone to his final settlement and account.—Apemantus.

(a) Here rests a great leader, awaiting a coming session. (b) In his last journey, he fared well. (c) He played his light part, then the curtain fell. (d) We must all travel in his train. (e) He's gone to meet his last account.—Elk.

(a) He has gone to take his seat in the Upper House. (b) He has gone "all the way," and has no night work. (c) He has taken a long engagement as either angel or demon. (d) He has gone on his longest journey, and will not return. (e) He has carried his account over to the other side.—Espèrance.

(a) Here lie I; between mine and the other party lies the truth. (b) Peace evermore; he lies inside who stood outside before. (c) From gay to grave. (d) Now I shall pay for my whistle. (e) The final call; a rise at last.—Triumph.

(a) Gone to another place. (b) He fares where there is room inside. (c) By a quick change he joined the stars, where ghosts walk. (d) Having reached life's terminus, he was returned empty by the "underground." (e) Awaiting settlement of account after a deal in futures—with no option.—Caer Glowe.

(a) He has been sent for. (b) He has gone on his long journey. (c) He has made his final exit. (d) In many a progressive movement he was in the van. (e) He awaits the great settling day.—Wig and Gown.

(a) Joined the majority, no more fear of joining the minority. (b) No more fares, let us hope he fares better. (c) From gay to grave. (d) All change here. (e) Gone to his last settlement.—Rustic.

(a) Of his calling and election sure. (b) He had to travel by underground at last. (c) He shall not be judged by his acts alone. (d) Now in the train of the saints. (e) In life bearing many things, he awaits a joyful settling-day.—Gallio.

(a) He is sure of finding himself with the majority. (b) He is gone to the yard. (c) He has passed from gay to grave. (d) He rests after a long journey. (e) Broke by a fall; waiting for a rise.—Almaviva.

(a) O, fading honours of the dead! O, high ambition, lowly laid! (Scott). (b) After many short stages he takes his last long journey. (c) He passes from the comic to the grave. (d) A train of mourners attest his devotion to his work. (e) Low he lies after many ups and downs.—Excelsior.

(a) All his talents and ambition "shrunk to this little measure." (b) Thou hast taken thy last fare —fare thee well! (c) He has played many a humourous rôle, now comes the grave. (d) After watches often, he may rest securely in God's acre. (e) He has speculated much, now he knows; or, Sometimes he has gambled on the turf, now under the turf.—Esperanza.

(a) I now defy opposition. (b) All the way. (c) Birth, mirth, earth. (d) Terminus. (e) Waiting for a rise.—Frivola.

(a) He has gone where there are no opposition and divisions. (b) Knocked off his perch by Death, his ups and downs are ended. (c) The gallery favourite awaits, in the pit, the final scene. (d) He made it "all right" for others and himself. (e) His time-bargains are recorded for eternity.*—J. McGrigor Allan.

* The judgment was set and the books were opened (Daniel, vii., 10.)

(a) A plague o' both the houses! I am sped. (b) Right behind! (c) I hope I don't intrude! (d) Full inside! (e) An absolute gentleman, full of most excellent differences!—Yellow Leaf.

(a) He has made his last treaty with a higher Power. (b) Mates, he has moved "higher up." (c) He'll tread the boards no more; but, we hope, the golden floor. (d) Another hand has put the break on for him. (e) His account is closed for the last settling day.—Chittabob.

(a) "I have rest; the Commonwealth repose" (Daniel). (b) Mors omnibus communis. (c) The last act crowns the play (Dr. Quarlès). (d) A man can earn his Victoria Cross in charge of railway trains ("Lays of a Londoner," Clement Scott) (e) He deserved hanging; but he died in his bed ("Obiter Dicta.")—Ivy Leaves.

(a) Out of reach of minority, he has joined the majority. (b) All the way for nothing. (c) Exit (L. c.) (d) All change here. (e) He shares with all this great exchange, a fall for a rise.—Moonstone.

(a) A certain convocation of politic worms are e'en at him. (b) He touched the bell, and took his last fare well! (c) The great Author's "gag" has stopped his. He is played out. (d) He has reached the terminus; we must all follow in his train. (e) "Hammered" at last, no more to range through the ringing grooves of 'Change.—Baritone.

(a) Gone out with the flowing tide. (b) He has taken his last fare well. (e) One whom the "Gods" loved. (d) Tipped off the track. (e) Waiting for the settling day.—Roughty.

(a) Returned to (higher) power with an overwhelming majority. (b) He has left the road-car for the "underground." (c) A higher rôle he plays now—drawn from life. (d) He has changed for the up express—next stop, heaven. (e) In-vestment dull, earth holds him for a "rise."—Treddust.

(a) Out of office, but with the majority. Resurgat. (b) Having punched his last ticket below, has gone to gather treasure above. (c) The Gods loved him, and he died (dyed). (d) This punctual soul has reached his last station in time. (e) In this corner he confidently awaits a rise at the final settlement. —Kappa.

(a) Resigned to fate, not fated to resign. (b) He left his traces upon earth (c) Again he has chosen the better part. (d) He was ever in the van. (e) All fate gave him to bear he did cheerfully.—Quatrebras.

(a) No fleeting "majority" here. (b) Gone by the "board." (c) If there be humour here, 'tis dry as dust. (d) Hard lines, long hours, endless sleepers: sleep on. (e) Waiting for "settling day."—Envoy.

(a) He is numbered with the majority. (b) He has taken his "fare"-well of the world. (c) He has gone a stage higher. (d) He is lying with the heavy sleepers. (e) 'Change in life, change in death.—[illegible]

(a) He has been elevated to the "Upper House." (b) He has taken his last "fare"-well. (c) The curtain has dropped upon the "scene." (d) Here he has reached the terminus of life. (e) He has gone to settle his account.—Granite.

(a) His ambition has found its last vault. (b) He left the road for these vaults. (c) My bill's advanced a stage. (d) He is still with a long train. (e) His account is closed.—Speedwell.

(a) From the steps of a throne to a crown of his own. (b) From short and crowded journeys to a long and solitary rest. (c) He couldn't out-grin death. (d) A terminus and a turn-in. (e) He hopes not to be "hammered" on settling-day.—Robert Martin.

(a) The King has sent for Mr. ——. (b) He aspired to the box, and got it when Death hailed him. (c) Death took him off, who took off everybody. (d) Waiting for the up-express. (e) Holding on till Gabriel trumps "arise!"—Cochran Field.

(a) Gone to the Upper House. (b) On thy last journey fare thee well. (c) Resting. (d) Among the sleepers still. (e) Carried over for the great account. —Mandeville.

(a) Gone to the country during dissolution. (b) He has gone behind the curtain. (c) Never a friend of electricity, he is now a non-conductor. (d) Shunted to up line; awaiting signals. (e) Hic Jacet, J. Bull, semper eadem.—Scissors.

(a) Dissolution has placed him in a great majority. (b) His is the blessed assurance of escape from eternal woe (woa!). (c) He considers Death's "gag" uncalled for and ill-timed. (d) He sleeps without a break. (e) He died because he had no option.—Quilp.

(a) Dissolution came, and he very soon after found himself with a vast majority (*i.e.*, gone over to the majority). (Inscriptive motto, "No further seek his merits to disclose, nor draw his frailties from their dark abode."—Gray.) (b) Taking his last "fare" well; in response to the call "Higher up!" up he went! (*i.e.*, "Higher up" shouted by conductors on stopping at usual places). (Inscriptive motto, "Mors venit omnibus.") (c) The last scene in life's drama reached, when comedy becomes tragedy—curtain! (Inscriptive motto, "All the world's a stage."—Shakespeare. (d) "Right away"! Terminus reached—brake it gently. (Inscriptive motto, "Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?") (e) Gone to his last account—that distant settlement where there is no backwardation. (Inscription motto, "Bear and forbear.")—Verax.

(a) He still holds his place by the majority. (b) His last drive was to the Angel. (c) He could raise the spirits even of the grave. (d) He rests among the sleepers. (e) He has gone to his account, which is a good deal.—Sceptic.

(a) In recess here he calmly faces a grave situation. (b) He has taken his last "Fare"-well! (c) From gay to grave, the last was his first tragic exit. (d) Once alert, but now a sleeper in a permanent way. (e) Still the head of "a quiet little corner" . . . in marble.—Ooloo.

(a) After dissolution he retired from public life. (b) Formerly he went behind, now he's gone before. (c) From gay to grave. (d) He changed here for Heaven. (e) Affairs wound up, health run down; now he's in process of liquidation.—Simonides.

(a) He no longer needs council from his Cabinet. (b) He is full inside, and cannot get out even to oblige a lady. (e) He has played his last part; the curtain has fallen. (d) His journey is over; he has reached the terminus. (e) His stock remains at par, waiting the Settling Day.—Neko.

(a) Farewell, a long farewell to all my greatness (King Henry VIII., act iii., sc. 2). (b) Just slipped off for change.* (c) He is now "made up" for a new part. (d) Gone to report himself at headquarters. (e) His last "deal" was an "odd" lot.—Tweet.

* "Change" oft denotes coins of small value.

(a) He wrote his last despatch; then was despatched himself. (b) Who stood so long outside now lies at rest within. (c) Thy jokes are ended in the solemn grave. (d) By express training for his last long journey quite prepared. (e) Though "dropped" awhile, we hope he'll "rise" again.—Haldon.

(a) The evil men do—lives; the good is oft interred with them (apologies to Shakespeare). (b) Alive, he cried "There's room above," dead, he goes to prove it. (c) He laughed, may be you cried; he played—then poor Tom died. (d) His journey done, his terminus won, he reaches home at last. (e) Life is a fluctuating game, here lies one who played it well.—Violet.

(a) His end was peace with honour, or at any price. (b) Fare thee well. (c) His last quick change from dusty boards to dust itself (d) He has gone up by the last through train. (e) He need "Bear" no more.—Crock.

(a) The light of his time, but often going out (b) His knell was the bell of tickets pierced. (c) Playing his own life, no lower could he fall, nor higher rise. (d) Points caught his well-trained eye, and fell in the van. (e) Not of old stock himself, but dealing in it.—The Hen.

(a) Removed to the Upper House. (b) The Angel and World's End this journey only. (c) He has gagged his last, and is now resting. (d) Right ahead, there! His signal's down! (e) 'Tis settling day.—Snaresbrook.

(a) Gone over to the majority. (b) Closed thoroughfare. (c) Resting. (d) Arrived at the terminus. (e) Hiding from the "Bull."—Pigtail.

(a) "Lieder (leader) ohne wörter." (b) He has received the buss (kiss) of peace. (c) What he never was in life—a good digester (die jester). (d) A signal example of good training, now beyond reach of all raillery. (e) Gone to his last account; life's ups and downs are o'er.—Bredon.

(a) "Ayes" and "Noes" turned up his toes. (b) Though he liked a short fare better, he took a long fare-well. (c) A chappie of infinite jest—quite chap-fallen. (d) "Down" till the Resurrection morn, then "up" guard. (e) Victim to a "Bear" in "Mysore," he went to his account.—G. R. M.

(a) He is where he always wished to be—with the great majority. (b) He has given up the buses and gone underground. (c) Impersonator of the droll, how has the grave become thy rôle? (d) He is travelling "up," in his narrow last compartment. (e) Don't disturb me! I am getting ready for the account.—Great Gun.

(a) He has been raised to a higher house. (c) He is in a new piece (peace). (d) Checked off the wheels of life. (e) Bear, and forbear.—Phyllis.

(a) He has joined the majority. (b) He has taken farewell. (c) He has made exit and joined another company (d) He has reached the terminus. (e) His final "settling days" appear: life's "limited share" did he well "bear."—Viper.

(a) Alas! Tho' diplomatic lies he often uttered, he now lies still. (b) Hic est finis omnium et (cum) omnibus. (c) The calling low we trust is called on high. (d) His travelling days are o'er. (e) Engrossed in "puts," the "call" has come.—Enigma.

(a) He is transferred to another state. (b) His conduct was scrupulously fair. Aweel! (c) Exit to mirth sublime. (d) He has gone on a journey without a break. (e) He has gone a deal further.—A. E. L.

(a) Resigned under pressure. (b) If his sweetheart wishes a last buss, conduct her here. (c) Gone from gay to grave, (d) Death took the wheel, and put on the brake. (e) He lies quiet, and waits a rise.—Toria.

(a) Prime here amid his fellows, now he swells a crowd. (b) The late conductor is conducted by his late conduct. (c) Laughter turned into heaviness when he died. (d) God guard him in death who was our guard in life. (e) He suffers change, who once exchanged on 'Change.—C. M. P.

(a) A Unionist—he has found salvation. (b) Going all the way. (c) Promoted to tragedy. (d) For years he followed in the van, now he leads the way. (e) On earth a bull, a stag, a bear, yet human bones lie sleeping here.—Wearside.

(a) Once the people's elect, now God's. (b) "O mighty-mouthed inventor of harmonies."—Tennyson. (c) He has left a gay life for a grave. (d) God has seen him through his journey to life's terminus. (e) Tired of this life of change, he rests here.—Tonks.

(a) All is not gold that glitters. (b) Most haste, worse speed. (c) Failure of the "heart's" action. (d) Sound the loud cymbal. (e) The misfortunes of the many make the fortunes of the few.—Ali Baba.

(a) Death stalked around and chose his victim—the Prime Minister. (b) The whilom conductor now is led—a most unwilling captive. (c) A low comedian had his fling, but he, in time, is flung. (d) Removed from turmoil and from strife, he sleeps a peaceful sleep. (e) Speculators have their day, but Death always claims his pay.—M. E. B.

(a) A Prime Minister: The cabinet-maker has gone to kneel before the carpenter. (b) A 'bus conductor: 'Igher up there, and hon to the Hangel. (c) A low comedian: His first appearance where there is no pit. (d) A railway guard: Transferred from the local to the up train on the main line. A stockbroker: Settlement come, he has carried over and sent in his cheques.—Mac Straube.

(a) In hope of lasting honours from the King of kings. (b) "Conduct him forth in peace."—1 Cor. xvi., 2. (c) The curtain shall rise again on a far more glorious scene. (d) On the route from earth to heaven. (e) In the enjoyment of the safe investment purchased for him.—Notnag.

(a) He has now entered the house of the Lord(s). (b) Who could not survive the last stringent check put upon him. (c) Who, losing his wit, fell into the pit. (d) Gone off by the last express. (e) He is now freed of his bonds.

Epitaphs have been also received from: Speedwell, F. Golders, Lancastrian, Allspice, Etac, Enoch, Irma Lee, Edgcome, Hugo, Coloniensis; Zetus, Mackude, M. M. D., Polly Hopkins, C. W. S., Innocentia, Dottie, W. R. S., Toodles.

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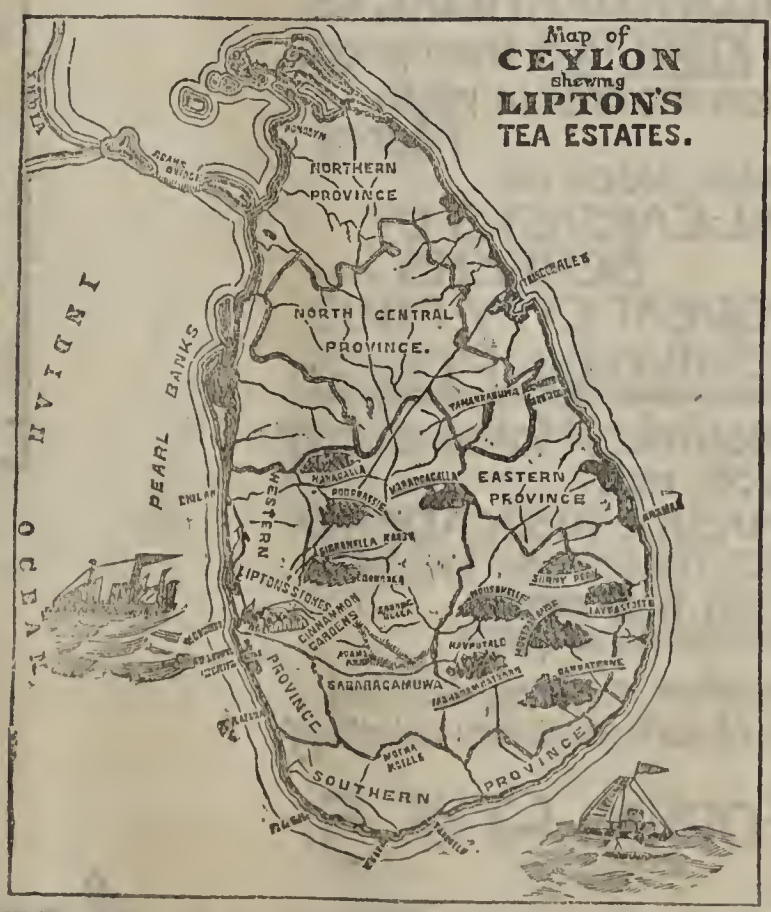

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

On pages 98-100 of this issue will be found the List of Prizes awarded in connection with the Truth Toy and Doll Show, lately held at the Albert Hall. It will be remembered that about three weeks ago Major Glubb wrote to me to say that his wife was willing to offer a valuable dog for sale for the benefit of the Truth Toy Fund. Several bids were subsequently made for the animal in question, a small black French poodle (bitch), three years old, of unexceptionable pedigree, and I am pleased to be able to announce that Lieut. Walter E. Elliot, of H.M.S. *Mars*, has now become its possessor for the sum of £10. This amount will, in accordance with Mrs. Glubb's kind wish, be carried to the credit of the Truth Toy Fund.

A formal acknowledgment was made last week of the sum of £5 which had been received for the Afridi Doll sent to me from the Indian frontier by Lieut. C. E. Macquoid, 1st Lancers H.C. I may say that the Doll was purchased by Miss Hill, a lady who, in giving such a sum for an article of which the intrinsic value was at the most but a few pence, must evidently have been desirous of making a generous contribution to the Truth Toy Fund. Undoubtedly, however, as a relic of the war still in progress on the North-Western Frontier of India, the Afridi Doll possesses an almost unique interest, seeing that its genuineness is above suspicion. Other sums received by me for the Truth Toy Fund since last week are as follows:—

A. Z., £9; White Violet, £1. 1s.; H. O. D., £1. 1s.; P. D. P., £1; W. H. R., £1; Lieut. Walter E. Elliot (for Black Poodle), £10.

It is possible that the Queen may return to England at the end of April through Germany, in order that her Majesty may be present at the wedding of her eldest great-grandchild, Princess Feodore of Saxe-Meiningen, and Prince Henry XXX. of Reuss. This marriage was to have taken place at Potsdam, but if the Queen attends the ceremony, it will be celebrated at Kronberg, and her Majesty is to be the guest of the Empress Frederick at Friedrichshof, her château on the Taunus Hills.

The Prince of Wales will hold a Levee at St. James's Palace a few days after the meeting of Parliament, and there is to be a second Levee before Easter, which will probably be held by the Duke of Connaught or the Duke of York.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to represent the Queen at the Coronation of the Queen of the Netherlands, which will take place at the Hague early in September, directly after the celebration of her Majesty's eighteenth birthday, when she comes of age officially.

Some of the daily papers have been "doing" the Royal visit to Chatsworth in wonderful style. For example, it was decidedly funny to read of the Duke of Devonshire's "extensive moors" having been "carefully reserved" for the Prince of Wales, inasmuch as people do not usually shoot grouse in January. As a matter of fact, the annual grouse shooting at Chatsworth—which is not of much account—takes place in November, as the Duke is always at Bolton Priory in August. Then we were told of the "crack of the rifles" in the park, as if it was likely that any such weapon would be used for shooting pheasants. Some descriptive writers appear to be under the impression that pheasants are found on moors, and that partridges are sought in the woods.

Princess Louise is next week to be the guest of the Duke and Duchess of Westminster at Eaton Hall, and H.R.H. will fulfil public engagements at Shrewsbury, Birkenhead, and Liverpool during her visit to Cheshire.

Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark, who have been residing for two months at Appleton House, their place near Sandringham, have returned to Copenhagen. They will stay in Denmark until after Whitsuntide, and are then coming back to England to spend the London season at Marlborough House, with the Prince and Princess of Wales. The King of Denmark has placed one of the smaller Royal palaces in Copenhagen at the disposal of Prince and Princess Charles, who resided last winter in a flat in the palace of the King of the Hellenes.

The *St. James's Gazette* contrives to make an astonishing number of blunders in its account of last year's changes in the Household. It states that "the Lordship-in-Waiting held by Lord Kintore has been given to Lord Denbigh." As a matter of fact, Lord Denbigh replaced Lord Ranfurly, and Lord Kintore is still a Lord-in-Waiting. It is quite untrue that "a new office of Assistant Keeper and Assistant Private Secretary has been made," no such post having been established. Colonel Carington and Lieutenant Ponsonby, who are two of the Equerries-in-Ordinary, assist Sir Arthur Bigge in his duties as Private Secretary to the Queen whenever there is a pressure of work, but there is no new office. Then the *St. James's* states that Sir Fleetwood Edwards "has been obliged to relinquish the duties of an extra Groom-in-Waiting." There are no duties of any sort or kind annexed to this post, which is merely a complimentary sinecure. An "extra" official in any department of the Household has neither pay nor work.

Lord Harris and Mr. Alexander Yorke will next Tuesday replace Lord Clarendon and Captain Walter Campbell as the Lord and Groom-in-Waiting on the Queen. Sir Arthur Bigge and Lieutenant Ponsonby are the Equerries on duty at Osborne this month.

Lord Lathom's health has much improved during the last fortnight, and he has given up his intention of resigning the office of Lord Chamberlain. He will be represented by Lord Pembroke at the Court functions before Easter, and Sir Spencer Ponsonby Fane is to act as his *locum tenens* in the administrative business of the department. Lord Lathom and his daughters are going to Madeira for a month.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* is entirely wrong in stating that Lieutenant-General Godfrey Clark, who has succeeded Sir Lynedoch Gardiner as Groom-in-Waiting to the Queen, "has been for many years Equerry to Princess Beatrice, and was from the time of the landing of the Prince, Equerry to the late Prince Henry of Battenberg." This is a farrago of fictions. General Godfrey Clark has never held any Court post whatever. It is Colonel John Clark who is Comptroller and Equerry to Princess Beatrice, and he was Equerry to the late Prince Henry. It is understood that Colonel Clark will presently replace Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane at the Lord Chamberlain's office.

If Sir Edward Bond was regarded as worthy of the distinction of being created a K.C.B., it is a great pity that he was not promoted when he left the British Museum, instead of the Government recognition of his services being postponed for nearly ten years, and coming to him, in fact, only the day before he died. *Bis dat qui cito dat* is certainly the right principle for Ministers who have honours to dispense to aged officials. Sir Edward Bond served in the Museum for fifty years, and he was Keeper of the MSS. for twelve years before he succeeded Mr. Winter Jones as principal librarian, an office which was not offered to him until after it had been refused by Sir Charles Newton. Sir Edward Bond introduced many important and valuable reforms at the Museum, and he will be gratefully remembered by thousands of readers and students as having established the electric light in the library. Sir Edward entirely reorganised the MSS. department of the Museum.

Commander Jones, who died last week in his ninety ninth year, could clearly remember seeing Nelson's funeral procession, and he was well acquainted with many officers who had taken a prominent part in the great war. Commander Jones entered the Navy in 1812, and he was engaged in the hostilities with the French off Toulon. He served for long in the Mediterranean, in South America, and in the East Indies, and was known as an excellent and gallant officer; but those were the worst days of favouritism, and he was not backed by any powerful interest, so that he was most unlucky in his promotion.

Mr. Munro-Ferguson is going to manage a wood of 2,000 acres on his Raith estate in Fifeshire on the system which has been successfully adopted in the German and French State Forests. It was Sir Walter Scott who put the idea of extensive planting into the heads of Scotch proprietors, and towards the close of his life he expressed the opinion that zeal for planting was all very well, but he would like to see a little more care in the management of the woods.

English travellers in Italy, especially in the south, are always painfully struck by the absolute indifference which the Italian of the "lower orders" evinces to the feelings of animals. Letters on the subject are continually reaching TRUTH office, but foreign criticism is rarely effectual in cases of this kind, and often does more harm than good. Can anything be done? I have just had a letter, which seems to answer this question, from an Englishman at Naples. He points out that the blame for the prevailing state of things really rests upon the priests, who are not only utterly callous in regard to the sufferings of animals, but expressly teach that "animals are not Christians," and have no claim on Christian sympathy or charity. It is owing to this religious teaching that all attempts to check cruelty to animals in Southern Italy have been so futile, and my correspondent contends that the law, however stringent it might be, must be absolutely powerless to protect animals until the attitude of the priests is changed. It is therefore suggested that those who feel strongly on this subject should approach the Pope himself, who by a single word, or a single stroke of the pen, could probably do more than any other agency is likely to accomplish in the course of years and by the

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For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 110 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 109.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 111.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 121.

unlimited expenditure of money. As there are many, Italians as well as English, who feel keenly on the subject, and among them, doubtless, many good Catholics, this suggestion may be worth noting.

Here is another case furnished to me in illustration of the flimsy ground on which the muzzling order is introduced into particular localities. A woman occupying a cottage in a Devonshire village had a dog, and on her going to call her lodger early one morning, the dog went in with her and attacked the man, and, as he asserted, bit him. A cry of "mad dog" was raised, a gun obtained, and the dog shot. A local "vet." declared that the dog was not mad, but on the strength of this case the muzzling order was imposed in the district. A lady whose name, if I were permitted to give it, would be a guarantee for a thorough knowledge of everything relating to the animal world, tells me that, although she has lived in the country for forty years, she has never heard of a case of rabies during that period. My own impression is that the present regulation muzzle is of little efficacy in checking the spread of rabies, and calculated to do quite as much harm as good. But, quite apart from this, it has undoubtedly been imposed in many parts of the country on the most insufficient and defective information, and without the slighest real cause.

The *Spectator* continues to furnish its readers with the most astounding stories of the sagacity of animals. In the latest case to hand a fox is described as having hypnotised a pheasant, while it was sitting on a tree, by walking rapidly round the tree until the hapless bird became dazed, and fell into the jaws of the intelligent quadruped. It would seem from this that our old friend the fox has been studying in the school of Professor Charcot. There is an old story, which doubtless some of my readers have heard, of a method of capturing owls by walking round them in the same way. The owl fixes his eyes on the hunter, and as the latter marches round the tree the bird turns his head to follow him, until it eventually wrings his own neck. That a man should have the intelligence to capture his prey in this manner is not surprising, but when it comes to a fox, it does seem rather a large order on one's credulity.

The following suggestive communication was received the other day by a nurse who was, at the time, engaged upon a somewhat critical case. The writer is a pushful undertaker at the West End, whose name some of my readers may remember. One has heard before now of doctors of a certain class taking commissions from undertakers. If nurses are working in the same way, a new terror is added to existence. It might be as well, at any rate, for parties engaging nurses to inquire if they know Halford Mills, and to act accordingly:—

From Halford L. Mills, London.

To NURSE ——,

Please send me a note at your convenience, and let me know how things have been with you since last I heard from you or met you. I hope you are still nursing, finding plenty of work, and that you will remember that I am always ready for business and at your service.

Having had some considerable experience of journalism, I am extremely reluctant to ventilate in TRUTH complaints of disappointed competitors in puzzle competitions in other newspapers. One recent case, however, in regard to which I have been favoured with a vast amount of correspondence really seems to call for a word of notice. It relates to a competition advertised for some months in the latter part of last year by my contemporary *Answers*. The problem was to solve the names of various British authors pictorially represented, and the prizes offered were:—(1) A fifty guinea piano, by John Brimsmead & Sons; (2) a "highest grade" bicycle by another firm; (3) a typewriter of the latest pattern; (4) a £10 note; and beyond this thirty prizes of 10s. It was further expressly notified, and this is the strongest point in the case, that if more than one correct list were sent in, the prizes, or their value, would be divided. Notwithstanding this notification, it was announced on December 4 that, as 933 correct results had been received, and a division of the money would result in each one receiving about 2s., the editor had "decided to select the neatest lists." On this basis the awards of all the prizes were published. A hope was expressed that the course taken would "give general satisfaction;" but I am in a position to say that this hope has certainly not been realised, for I have received about fifty letters from successful competitors who strongly resent the course taken, and even go so far as to suggest that they have been defrauded.

What else could be expected, I really do not see. It having been expressly announced that in the event of a "tie" the money value would be divided, every competitor who sent in the right answer was entitled to two shillings. A person who is entitled to receive two shillings is not likely to be satisfied with less than that amount. No stipulation was made for "neatness," and the editor has no more right to award a prize on that basis than to give it to a competitor who used a particular coloured ink. In order not to do any injustice, I sent to Mr. Harmsworth to hear what justification he could offer of such an arbitrary proceeding, but the Mr. Harmsworth whom my representative has had the pleasure of seeing, so far from being able to justify what had been done, seemed rather to share my representative's views, that it was not altogether fair. Under these circumstances, I think I must agree with those competitors who have complained on the subject, that they have been somewhat unfairly treated.

I am sorry to say this, because nobody who knows the proprietor of *Answers* would doubt that he desires to deal fairly and honourably with the readers of his paper. Such unscrupulous and wholesale frauds, however, are perpetrated on the public in the form of prize competitions, that it seems extremely desirable that those run in respectable newspapers should be conducted in a manner above criticism. Another singular fact in

"THE DINNER TABLE."—A large pattern book sent (postage 3d.), containing samples of the newest & most exquisite designs in Table Damasks.—IMPERIAL LINEN CO., 42, Wilson-st. Finsbury, London.

connection with this case is that the published address of the winner of the "first-class typewriter" is a mere accommodation address in the Caledonian-road, and the prize-winner is not to be found there. I understand from Mr. Harmsworth that the prize, for which an order has been sent to the address of the winner, has never yet been claimed, but that does not make the matter less mysterious.

In a six-column article devoted, in last month's *Bookman*, to the family of Harmsworth and its publications, the remark is attributed to Mr. Alfred Harmsworth that he rarely engages anybody over twenty-one years of age. Nothing succeeds like success, and possibly the prosperous condition of the Harmsworth enterprises may be due to the extreme youth of the staff employed. Looking at the above case, however, it has occurred to me that possibly if some one who has reached years of discretion were entrusted with the delicate business of awarding competition prizes, the prosperity of the Harmsworth journals might be even yet enhanced.

The *Daily Chronicle* has taken the field with its usual energy in support of the movement for the acquisition of the Crystal Palace by the State. The *Chronicle* finds that nearly all the representative Londoners whom it has consulted are in the abstract in favour of this scheme, when it is put as the alternative to the prospect of the Palace being pulled down and its site covered with suburban villas. In the abstract, I suppose there are few who would not take the same side. When, however, we come to concrete details, strong differences of opinion are likely to arise. While I should be sorry to see the Palace disappear, I should be sorry to see the British taxpayer relieving the shareholders of a white elephant at the price of the ordinary-coloured and more serviceable animal.

The *Chronicle* hints that the Directors are prepared to sell at about half the nominal capital value of the concern. What, however, we have to fear is that as soon as a purchaser with a long purse appears in the field Crystal Palace stock will go up, and the views of the Directors will expand in proportion. If there is any immediate probability of the Palace being closed and the site sold on building leases, it is clear that no public authority ought to give much more for it than the site value, plus the value of the buildings as old iron and glass. Is there any prospect of a deal on these terms? From what I can make out as to the position of the Company, I should think that a good way of going to work would be for the Government to buy up the debentures, and foreclose at the first opportunity.

The United States will shortly be flooded with cheap reprints of Motley's "Rise of the Dutch Republic," as the copyright in that work has just expired. Motley's brilliant book originally appeared in 1855, and American law only protects a work for forty-two years from the period of its publication. It is satisfactory to find that a book of this character is still so popular, for the demand for it is so brisk and so steady that a number of editions are already advertised, besides an abridgment, in which Motley's three volumes are condensed into one.

I seem to have hurt the feelings of an Irish doctor very much by remarking, about a month ago, that actors are so far as I knew, the only profession who ever give their time and work in the cause of charity; and after nursing his wrath for three weeks, the aggrieved medico has written to tell me that the remark is "grossly unfair and thoughtless." Many doctors, he points out, are working every day for "the relief of suffering humanity in the large hospitals of great cities." By all means let the doctors have all possible credit for this devotion. It is often no doubt genuinely philanthropic; but I must say that a great deal of hospital work is also done for purposes of professional advancement, or for the benefit of the experience it affords. So true is this, that many hospitals have been founded largely for the advantage of medical men, and I am familiar (and so are most of my readers) with a notorious case where a so-called "medical charity" was founded and run for years by a London doctor, obviously for advertising purposes.

However, I have no objection to qualify my remarks about the actors, for what I had in my mind when writing the obnoxious paragraph was, not so much the general philanthropy of actors, as their never-failing readiness to come to the assistance of distressed members of their own profession and their dependants. The paragraph was written with special reference to a performance for a professional charity. Another case in point may now be seen in the forthcoming benefit performance for Miss Nellie Farren. In this respect I still think the actors are unique.

We seem to be progressing in educational matters, as far as the qualifications required of assistant masters are concerned, if one may judge by the printed particulars of an appointment at a school in Derbyshire. The candidate must be "a Christian and a gentleman," of punctual and business-like habits, sound physique, good health, and free from weakness of eyes, ears, voice, &c., a graduate of a recognised teaching institution, "intending to follow Teaching as his Life Work," "prepared to devote his whole time to the educational work of the School," and

"HÔTEL BURLINGTON," AT SUNNY BOSCOMBE. (200 rooms). Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

CHILDREN OF ALL AGES who enjoy innocent mirth and harmless laughter, and at the same time desire to forward a good work among sick and miserable Waif Children, should be sure to attend the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday afternoon next, the 15th inst., at 3 o'clock, when the Young Helpers' League are going to let loose in the arena the recalcitrant "Cow that Jumped over the Moon," Ha! Ha!! Ha!!! Prices of Admission from 1s. to 7s. 6d. per seat.

a non-smoker and teetotaller for choice. He *must* be able to teach (1) French ("thorough command of the spoken and written language"), French geography, history, and literature ("with practical knowledge of France itself"); (2) Mathematics, including practical and theoretical geometry, mensuration and engineering, physics and dynamics, practical surveying, and elementary drawing. It is "desirable" that he should be able to teach elementary Latin, and English geography, history, and language; while singing, good cricket, and shorthand would be "useful." While this points to progressive ideas in one direction, it would hardly seem that we are getting on so well in the remuneration of teachers, for the paragon who obtains the post is to receive not less than £100 a year, if untrained, or £140 if a trained man, and is to be engaged only from term to term, with no obligation on the other side to give more than a day's notice before the end of term if he is not to be re-engaged. Considering the capital expenditure required in order to enter it, it is open to question whether it is not a better investment to bring up a boy as an omnibus driver than to a profession where the conditions of employment are such as the above. But, of course, teaching is more genteel, and one cannot be genteel without paying for it.

In reference to what was said in last week's TRUTH respecting the exclusion of a headmistress from employment in elementary schools after fifty years of age, I am told that in the case of high schools, endowed secondary schools, and others of the same class, it is most difficult for a headmistress to obtain a fresh post after thirty-five years of age, no matter how successful she may have been, or how good her credentials. My informant states that thirty-five is often fixed as the maximum age in advertisements, or in inquiring after candidates, and is tacitly understood in the educational world as the limit for admitting a headmistress to a new post. I must say that it seems to me that such a limitation is absolutely idiotic At thirty-five any person, male or female, unless in very exceptional cases, has arrived at the full maturity of intellectual power, and for a post like that of director of an educational institution, where tact and experience are the first qualifications, a master or mistress over thirty-five years of age would be, to my mind, infinitely preferable to one under. This view is certainly acted on in the case of men, and why should there be a different rule in that of women?

After all the elaborate fuss that was raised about the Lambeth Conference, and the enthusiastic hysterics of the Church papers, it really seems to have been a complete and ignominious failure, for all practical purposes. The American and Australian prelates have been expressing themselves with remarkable candour on the question of the Archbishop of Canterbury's proposed supremacy, and they all appear to be most decided in their opposition. There is a good deal of flummery about a "willing and loyal recognition" of the Primacy of the Archbishop, but these Bishops are emphatic in repudiating his Grace's supremacy, and anything else is mere fiddle-faddle. If a prelate who was a wide-minded statesman (such as Tait or Magee) had presided over the Conference, the result would probably have been more satisfactory.

Canon Fleming is to preach at the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, on Sunday next, and Canon Teignmouth Shore will occupy the pulpit on the 23rd. The next vacancy among the Queen's Chaplains-in-Ordinary will be filled by Prebendary Turner. The Queen now has three special chaplains, who are never called upon for any duty—Dean Liddell (who is the sole survivor of Prince Albert's ecclesiastical household), the Provost of Eton (Dr. Hornby), and the Headmaster of Eton (Dr. Warre). Dean Farrar, who has replaced the Rev. W. Rowe Jolley as Deputy Clerk of the Closet-in-Waiting, will be nominally on duty until April 1, when Canon Dalton (who succeeded Dean Vaughan) comes into attendance (merely on paper) for four months.

Archdeacon Fitzgerald is to be succeeded, both as Archdeacon of Wells and as Vicar of South Brent, by Prebendary Salmon, who has been one of the best known, most popular, most useful, and most influential clergymen in the diocese of Bath and Wells for the last quarter of a century. Bishop Kennion has made an excellent appointment, and it is one which will please both the clergy and the laity of the diocese. It is satisfactory to find a prelate thus recognising hard and valuable work in a practical way. Prebendary Salmon is not only an excellent parish clergyman, but also an admirable preacher and a first-rate man of business. Ten years ago he was removed by Lord Arthur Hervey from Martock (where he had been vicar for twenty-one years) to Weston-super-Mare, where he replaced Canon Buckle.

The Archbishop of York, in his New Year Pastoral insists strongly upon the necessity of personal contact between the clergy and individual members of their flocks, and deplores the "tendency to growing neglect of pastoral visitation" Possibly his Grace had in his mind when penning these words the notorious case of the Vicar of Scarborough, who, with one of the largest parishes in the diocese, is only present among his flock for brief intervals during the year. By a curious coincidence the number of the *Yorkshire Post* which contains the Archbishop's Pastoral also contains the announcement

BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—The Mentone of England.—THE SACKVILLE HOTEL, an ideal winter and spring residence. Special inclusive terms till Easter. For tariff, &c., apply to Manager.

ST. ERMIN'S, Victoria-st., Westminster, this high-class residential Hotel, especially suitable for families coming to London to enjoy the Xmas festivities. Handy for Theatres & Army & Navy Stores.

that "the Bishop of Hull will deliver a course of lectures in the Ladye Chapel of York Minster during Lent."

The Vicar of a parish near Chelmsford inserts a notice in his parish almanack that marriages cannot be celebrated either on Sundays or Christmas-day. Unless I am mistaken, a refusal to marry on these days is absolutely illegal, and the Vicar ought to be aware of this. A resident in the neighbourhood, calling my attention to this fact, remarks that if the Vicar had merely published an expression of his wish that his parishioners would not ask him to celebrate marriages either on Sundays or Christmas-day, it would probably have had the desired effect, whereas the publication of a notice which is contrary to the law is extremely likely to provoke opposition. There seems to be some fatality which always compels the clergy, where there is a right and a wrong way of doing a thing, to choose the latter in preference to the former. This is, of course, largely due to the fact that too many of them, especially in the country, regard themselves as the autocrats of their parishes in all matters ecclesiastical.

Talking of the eccentricities of parsons, here are some strange utterances of a suburban vicar in a letter to his parishioners. His reverence begins by asking permission, "with his garrulous pen," to say a few words about a recent Mission. After thanking the Bishop "for the shove-off he gave the boat at the outset," he pays the following mysterious compliments to the Missioners :—

> A more genial and loveable set of men I never met. They put up so patiently with our dismal shortcomings, domestic and other. . . . . Perhaps they ought to have been severer with me about some things, but there could not have been a more energetic firm of exchangers to whom an idle servant might entrust his one talent for more lucrative use in the great Bank of the Church. . . . .

After much more in a similar style, the good man concludes with an exhortation to "make the best and most of what we have, without gummidging." The gentleman to whom I am indebted for a glimpse of this document says that it is the first hint of any interest in his soul's welfare that he has received from the vicar during six years' residence in the parish. I can only recommend him to make the most of it, without gummidging.

There is a further interesting incident which may be added to the account given in last week's TRUTH of the relations between the squire and parson of Compton-Chamberlayne. In his capacity of patron, Mr. Penruddocke has suddenly invoked the authority of the Bishop for the purpose of compelling the incumbent to carry out certain repairs at the vicarage. The Bishop, if he had the will, has probably not the power to refuse, but he has kindly given the Vicar the opportunity of saving the expense of a surveyor's inspection by carrying out the desired repairs *at once*. A pleasant little Christmas-box this for a poor man struggling to keep up the position of a parish priest on something under £2 a a week! One can only suppose from the action of the village autocrat that his desire is to drive the Vicar into resigning his living, and probably this desire would have been realised long ago, if the Vicar had seen any prospect before him but that of stepping out of the frying-pan into the fire. There must be many patrons of livings in England who are sometimes at a loss for a suitable man on whom to bestow their patronage. It would be a kindness, indeed, if any one in that position would rescue the Vicar of Compton-Chamberlayne from his embarrassing position. Why does not the Bishop of Salisbury, with this scandal right under his nose, adopt this kindly and sensible means of terminating it?

Here is another example of the "intolerable strain" which Queen's Anne's Bounty imposes upon the country clergy under present circumstances. A rector who has held two different livings in Northamptonshire, the first of which was under £100 in annual value, had to pay on entering into possession £10. 10s. for first-fruits, followed by a subsequent annual payment of £1. 5s. as tenths. For the privilege of holding his present living, which amounts to barely £150 a year, he has had to pay to Queen Anne's Bounty in the first year £20. 9s. 8d. for first-fruits and tenths, which is to be followed by an annual charge of nearly £2 as tenths. All this, of course, is in addition to the exorbitant fees charged by episcopal officials on institution, about which the public has already heard a great deal. It really does seem a monstrous thing that a fund like Queen Anne's Bounty, ostensibly intended for quasi-charitable purposes, should be converted into an instrument of remorseless oppression, and the discredit for this state of things rests largely upon the higher ecclesiastics who figure on the governing board of the fund. Those reverend dignitaries are like the Scribes and Pharisees of the Bible. They lay on the shoulders of their humbler brethren burdens grievous to to be borne, but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

It is almost superfluous to explain that the following advertisement is taken from a religious journal. Only in a religious journal would anybody have the assurance to offer a "handy man" who is to be a clerk-cook, carpenter, porter, phonographer, and photographer all rolled into one, for the munificent wage of 8s. a week and his board :—

> WANTED, a HANDY MAN, single, between 20 and 30, in a house as an extra. Willing to turn his hand to anything, or willing to learn. Any one who knows anything of one or more of the following accomplishments may apply:—Typewriting, shorthand, carpentering, cooking, porter's work, waiting at table, book-keeping, keeping of accounts, letter-writing, photography. The knowledge of shorthand and good accountant essential. 8s. a week, board, lodging, and washing offered. Any one accustomed to Evangelistic work, a Christian, and an abstainer appreciated. Must be energetic and clever. An ex-soldier preferred. . . . .

THE LONDON HOSPITAL, E., APPEALS FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS. This Hospital for Men, Women, and Children, is the great General Hospital for the toiling poor of East London, & help is sorely needed.

The Maximum of Effect at the Minimum of Cost.—An Object Lesson in Decorating and Furnishing can be obtained by inspecting Messrs. WARING'S Suites of furnished rooms at 175-181, Oxford-st. W

The new regulations with regard to the extension of Service and the rejoining of Reserve men in the Guards are not only good in themselves, but promise well for the changes which we may expect to see shortly in the corresponding regulations throughout the Army, or, at any rate, the infantry regiments. A bounty of £2 is offered to men extending their service from three to seven or seven to twelve years; and a limited number of Reservists are to be permitted to rejoin without refunding deferred pay or gratuities, with free kits allowed, and the right to resume good conduct badges and (with the C.O.'s permission) former rank.

Now I should like to know why a similar system of service to this cannot be extended to the whole Army. Why cannot all men be (1) enlisted for three years' service at home with the colours, and a further period in the Reserve or Militia (their age being proved, not taken for granted); (2) allowed to re-engage for a further term of five years abroad, with gratuity or increase of pay (whichever is found the more efficacious); (3) and then either be sent to the Reserve or Militia (the latter for choice because it is trained annually), or allowed to complete twenty-one years, with a pension at the end of it, and the right to return to the Home battalion after a specified number of years' service? If an arrangement of this kind were combined with the abolition of deferred pay, and full liberty to either three or eight years' men to rejoin the colours within a certain time after discharge to the Reserve or Militia, we should get over the difficulty of combining long and short service, and we should considerably raise the average age of our soldiers whether at home or abroad.

I trust that the Government scheme of Army re-organisation, whatever else it may or may not contain, will do something to remedy the deplorable condition of the Army Medical Staff. This is a matter on which the welfare of the whole Army depends, and unless energetic measures are taken, it would become a matter of the gravest importance in the event of a real war. Somebody connected with the Department has just issued a statement which, though it has a sensational ring about it, embodies, I believe, nothing but authentic facts. Here are a few of them:—

The Department is one hundred officers under strength; the Home roster is two years. Foreign service indefinite; leave impossible, and study leave a farce. . . . . In other branches as a man becomes senior, his administrative abilities may be utilised and his work and experience varied. A Medical Officer with Field rank is detailed to perform the same duties as a last-joined subaltern. . . . .

The Army Medical Staff are charged with ignorance. . . . . At present there is no allowance for language leave, study leave, or ordinary leave, as to other Officers, and with the large amount of banishment on Foreign and Field service, how can a Medical Officer keep himself *au courant* with modern knowledge? . . . .

It is, at least, remarkable that no Medical Officer has ever been so foolish as to put a son into the Army Medical Staff. . . . .

To further render the life of the Medical Officer in the Army intolerable, besides social and official snubs, he has frequent silly changes of uniform which are costly and senseless; his tours of foreign service are onerous in the extreme (at least fifteen out of twenty years), endless moves of station, which ruin him in pocket and do not add to efficiency in work. He is not considered an officer at all until it suits the Military Authorities to quote his honorary rank on a question of discipline; and lastly, his professional career may be ruined in an adverse "confidential" report by a so-called combatant officer, against which he has no redress, as Section 42 of the Army Act, 1881, is useless. . . . .

A correspondent of the *British Medical Journal* calls attention to a recent order of the P.M.O., India, in which the Medical Staff are again singled out for exceptional and unfavourable treatment. The order in question requires that every Medical Officer sent back to India on account of ill-health shall be brought before a Medical Board and the proceedings forwarded to the P.M.O.'s office. As no such requirement is imposed on combatant officers under the same circumstances, the implication would seem to be either that the P.M.O. considers the Medical Staff at the front are malingering, or that the supply is so short that, notwithstanding failing health, the men at the front must be frightened if possible from coming back. Neither of these readings of the order is likely to improve the present feeling of the Medical Staff, or to encourage the supply of recruits.

I publish the following extract which has been sent to me from an officer's letter from the North-West Frontier, in view of the bearing which the concluding paragraph seems to have upon the remark of a previous correspondent on the way staff appointments are obtained in India:—

As you see, we are still in this place, but, with any luck, ought to know in a few days what they are going to do.

They have made a mess of this business, as I dare say you have seen from the papers, and, as far as killed and wounded go, the enemy have given us as much as we have given them. Of course we have burnt their villages, &c., but when there is plenty of wood and labour cheap, this does not do them much harm. However, we have the satisfaction of knowing that they are being frozen now, and that their food is getting pretty short. [Highly satisfactory!—ED. TRUTH.]

They ought to weed out some of these useless old Generals, who have only reached their present position by having pretty wives with amusing parlour tricks.

My attention has been called to another case of fraud and robbery in the Royal Engineers, which came to light last month, but had escaped my notice. In this instance a corporal was court-martialled for embezzlement and forgery at Milldam Barracks, and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment and reduction to the ranks. Cases of this character seem to occur with the regularity of clockwork. For my own part, I do not believe that the N.C.O.s in the Royal Engineers are worse specimens of human nature than are to be found in other ranks of life. The reason for these repeated scandals must rather be looked for in the rottenness of the system under which the men do their work, and the absence of effectual supervision. It is this alone which makes the difference between the conduct of employees in responsible positions in the Royal Engineers and those in similar positions in business houses.

A good instance of the slights put upon the Marines when they are at sea comes from the Mediterranean. Two or three weeks back a party of seven N.C.O.s (five sergeants) on board the *Royal Sovereign* were being regularly put through "physical drill" under a second-

THE FAMED "ADELPHI" TURTLE forwarded from the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, to all parts of the country. Per quart jar, 18s. per pint jar, 9s. 6d., carriage paid.

class petty officer. The men are said to have known this drill well, and it is highly improbable that any five sergeants in the Royal Marines would not do so. But even if there had been any necessity for putting them through the drill, that is no excuse for putting a second-class petty officer in command of them, and humiliating them before the whole ship's company.

Here is the other side of the case with regard to the requirement of first-class education certificates for the promotion of clerks in the Army Service Corps :—

Any clerk should be able to obtain a first-class certificate. It requires a good deal of study, but a good many clerks, sooner than give up a few hours pleasure, will not go to school, and in consequence see themselves passed over. First-class certificates of education are by no means uncommon in the Supply Branch, A.S.C., and in my opinion a clerk who cannot pass the examination, or will not take the trouble, is unfit to be an N.C.O. in the administrative branch of the Service.

I may add that I have five years' service, am in possession of the first-class certificate, and am fully qualified as a clerk, but am still waiting for the lance stripe, and mine is by no means an isolated case. This altogether contradicts the statement that mere recruits with first-class certificates jump over old soldiers with second-class certificates only.

A few weeks back an artilleryman in a company stationed at Allahabad was brought before his C.O. for a minor offence. Before he came up, the sergeant-major added a second count to the indictment. This irritated the prisoner, who, when he came before the C.O., protested that "they would not give him a fair chance to soldier." On this the C.O. enlarged the indictment by adding the further crime of "impertinence," and awarded his man fourteen days' C.B. and the loss of a good conduct badge. Feeling more aggrieved than ever, the soldier then appealed, was remanded for a district court-martial, and eventually got sixty-eight days' imprisonment. I narrate this history primarily as a warning to soldiers that it is better to bear the ills they have, than fly to others that they know not of. At the same time, it is not altogether consonant with justice that a prisoner should have an increased punishment because, in a fit of temper, he makes a disparaging remark about his prosecutor, and there seems no justice at all in awarding a man sixty-eight days' imprisonment for an offence which his Commanding Officer had previously thought sufficiently punished by fourteen days' C.B. It is quite clear that this long term of imprisonment was awarded as a punishment to the man for appealing, and to discourage others from taking the same course. This is absolutely wrong.

By the way, in the above case, the prisoner's sectional officer, who was called as a witness in the case, was a member of the Court. Surely, this is not in accordance with the regulations. If it is, it is only another instance in which military procedure is totally at variance with civil ideas of justice.

During the last year or two, I have noticed that complaints have become more and more frequent from battalions in India on the subject of young N.C.O.s coming out from home and blocking the promotion of men senior to themselves. For instance, in one battalion it would seem that for some years past men have served, on the average, eighteen months to two years as unpaid lance-corporals, and two and a half to three years more as paid lance-corporals; that is to say, four or five years in the lance rank before becoming full blown corporals; while several full corporals have come out with drafts who have not had more than a couple of years' service altogether.

This, I suppose, is an incidental result of the juvenility of the Home battalions, about which we have heard so much lately. While that state of things prevails, that is to say, while a corporal in the Home battalion has not on an average more than a quarter or one-third of the service that a corporal has in the foreign battalion, it is obviously unfair that the second battalion should have these youngsters foisted upon it. The corporals should be kept at home until they have matured. Indeed, the only fair way all round would be to keep them at home permanently; and if it is necessary to put some one in authority during the voyage out, let the rank be given temporarily. Perhaps, when Lord Lansdowne is re-adjusting the linked battalions, he may see some way of getting over this difficulty.

I have got into hot water with the Warrant Officers of the machinist electricians, R.E., in consequence of a paragraph referring to them in TRUTH of December 30. In view of particulars which have been given me of the service of the six men concerned, I cheerfully admit that they have some cause for complaint. With one exception, they all seem to have done a very respectable share of foreign service, and looking at the length of their entire service—again with one possible exception—a junior must certainly be very impatient who wants to get rid of them in order to expedite his own promotion. I would advise the aggrieved juniors to wait until their turn for warrant rank, when their views as to the length of time which a warrant officer should be allowed to serve, and the amount of foreign service he ought to put in, will probably undergo modification.

In my desire to do justice to the Royal Engineers, I last week apportioned, to the best of my ability, the blame for the recent fire at Dover Castle between them and the Army Service Corps. I am now told, however, that I have been far too tender to the Royal Engineers. The fire was undoubtedly caused by a defective flue, for which the Army Service Corps are not responsible. On the contrary, both the construction of the chimneys and their quarterly inspection is a duty resting with the Royal Engineers. I am also told that the Army Service Corps have no special responsibility in connection with the sweeping of chimneys, and this also seems to be correct. The matter is dealt with in sec. xv., par. 66 of the Queen's Regulations, where the Army Service Corps is not mentioned in any way. I take it that the duty of chimney-sweeping rests upon the corps occupying the barracks, and that all that the Army Service Corps can have to do with it is to make the contracts and pass

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the accounts on the certificate of the quartermaster, or his representative. And now, as my R.E. correspondent said last week, "Palmam qui meruit ferat."

Colchester being one of our principal garrison towns, the following advertisement, which appeared in the *East Anglian Daily Times*, has naturally caused a good deal of annoyance in the locality :—

WANTED, good sober Stableman and Strapper in job yard; no ex-soldiers.—Rayner & Son, Colchester.

Messrs. Rayner & Son are evidently unmoved by the special appeals that have lately been made to employers of labour to find work for discharged soldiers. It might be worth the while of the military authorities who have been looking into the question of civil employment for soldiers to inquire the reason for the objection thus advertised. Employers, presumably, do not refuse to engage "ex-soldiers" without reason, and it is to the interest of all parties that the nature of the reason should be ascertained.

A recent letter from Malta raises a question of some importance in the domestic economy of the Army. It seems that at that station the married women who "take in" Tommy's washing have to deal with a number of articles in addition to the usual regulation kit, including such heavy work as suits of khaki clothing, no extra allowance being made for the additional articles. The ordinary local charge for washing a suit of khaki is 3d. or 4d.; the entire allowance for a soldier's washing is ½d. per day, or 3½d. per week. It is scarcely necessary for me to say that I am not in favour of imposing any additional charges on soldiers, whether for washing or for other purposes, but we must not rob Peter, or even Mrs. Peter, for the purpose of paying Paul; and there certainly ought to be some fixed limit to the amount of washing which soldiers' wives are expected to do at fixed inclusive prices. That limit should, I think, be the ordinary regulation kit, and if at particular stations other articles, such as khaki suits, are worn, the washing of them should be provided for from some other source than the pockets of either Tommy or his washerwoman.

The following order has just been issued from the Army Clothing Department :—

The pantaloons forwarded with this delivery have the buttons attached by a new process. The pantaloons should be issued in the usual way to men doing the ordinary duties of a soldier, so that the buttoning may be subjected to a thorough trial.

After the pantaloons have been in constant wear for six months, a report will be furnished stating whether the new method of fastening the buttons is in every respect satisfactory, and whether it is considered to be as good or an improvement or otherwise upon the present method of sewing them on with thread.

Doubtless it will be a very good thing for Mr. Atkins if an improved method of attaching the buttons to his pantaloons can be devised by the intelligence of the higher military authorities. But suppose for a moment that the new machinery fails to keep the buttons on the inexpressibles, what a painful predicament poor Tommy will be in during the period of six months' probation!

MAJOR HOWE & Co.—Fashionable BOOTS and SHOES.—16, Coventry-st., W. (also 60, Strand), and City, London.

Below I pillory a further instalment of "Tommy's" grievances, all of which seem to call for attention :—

4th Battalion Connaught Rangers, Galway.—Reference was made in TRUTH a fortnight ago to the employment of the colour-sergeants of this battalion on such duties as regimental guards, canteen duty, orderly sergeant, and orderly corporal, while the depot colour-sergeants are entirely exempted. The following particulars as to the way in which the depot N.C.O.'s are employed decidedly accentuate the grievance. Four of them, besides the orderly-room sergeant, are in the orderly room—surely a very extravagant staff for such a station; one sergeant is acting schoolmaster, one corporal assistant schoolmaster, and one corporal drill instructor (a duty on which the 4th Battalion colour-sergeants ought to have the first claim), the latter corporal also acting as the sergeant-major's gardener. The assistant schoolmaster, who is the son of the depot quarter-master-sergeant, has not done any duty since he arrived at the depot, and during the school holidays he has been favoured with employment in the quartermaster's stores. When, at the same time, the colour-sergeants of the Permanent Staff are doing such work as orderly corporal, it is clear that a redistribution of duties all round is called for at this depot.

2nd Northamptonshire Regiment, Aldershot.—Complaint is made from this quarter that the caterer of the sergeants' mess has to live out of barracks, and at a distance of at least half a mile from his work, while a set of quarters bearing the inscription "Mess Sergeant," and presumably intended for the accommodation of the caterer, are occupied by a colour-sergeant of the battalion. This arrangement is not merely inconvenient to the caterer, who has to leave his duty three or four times a day for his meals, but also interferes with the proper discharge of his work, which affects the mess generally. What is the reason for it?

2nd Battalion Somersetshire Light Infantry, Aldershot.—A company of this battalion, which by a recent order ought to be paid on Tuesdays, received no pay on the 4th inst., and the men have been told that they would have to wait till Tuesday the 11th. By that time they would have been eleven days without pay. It is not right that soldiers should be kept waiting for their modest stipend so long as this, and steps ought to be taken to make such delay impossible, for it seems to be of frequent occurrence.

Fort Carlisle, Cork Harbour.—On the 22nd ult. four men of the Hampshire regiment here reported sick, but the doctor not turning up on that day, the matter was referred to the Captain in command, who ordered the men to do fatigue duty during the day, and to report themselves sick on the day following. On the following day the men professed that they were better, and had no occasion to see the doctor, but they, of course, had to do so, and three of them were marked by that gentleman as free from ailment, while the fourth was marked "dyspepsia" and "medicine and duty." In consequence of this report the three men discharged by the doctor were punished by three hours' marching in marching order. This seems decidedly irregular. The doctor did not see the men on the day when they professed they were ill, and because he agreed with them on the second day when they declared they were all right, they are punished for malingering. Is an officer justified in ordering men to report themselves sick when they have no wish to do so? Again, how comes it that the doctor was not present on the first day? Was he sick, too? And if so, why has he no substitute to perform his duties? This is not the first occasion on which complaints have been made with regard to the irregularity of the medical attendance at Fort Carlisle, and it seems unfair that the men in the garrison should suffer because the doctor is, from one circumstance or another, unable to discharge his duties regularly.

At the same station a few days ago some person unknown broke into the coffee room and robbed the till. In consequence, the sergeant in charge and the man employed in the coffee room were dismissed. It appears that there were four days' takings in the till at the time of the robbery, although the rule is that the till shall be cleared every day, and a book with entries for the daily takings is provided for the purpose. As it is highly probable that the accumulation of money in the till was an incentive to the robbery, it would seem that the officer who had neglected to have the till cleared was quite as much to blame for the robbery as the sergeant or the private. Is he to be dismissed also?

1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, Edinburgh.—A waiter was last week wanted for the grocery bar—a good billet, carrying extra pay at the rate of 1s. 6d. a day. In the order notifying the vacancy it was laid down that only Englishmen would be eligible for the appointment. It is, on the face of it, so utterly incomprehensible that, in a well-known Scotch regiment, Scotchmen should be told that they need not apply for any paid employment, that in fairness to the authorities one must assume that there was some special reason for it in this case. It might remove a good deal of dissatisfaction if the nature of this reason were explained.

While we are hearing so much about the duty of the War Office and the Government to old soldiers, the following case is of peculiar public interest. George

Egan, after having served for twenty-five years in the Army, was, on his discharge, appointed as a barrack labourer at Charles Fort, Kinsale. He filled this post with perfect credit from March, 1885, to December 31, 1897, when he was suddenly discharged, without complaint made or reason given, on the order of the General Officer Commanding the Cork District. The only possible reason that can be suggested for Egan's discharge is that his daughter, a girl of fourteen, was recently charged at Petty Sessions, in company with another young girl, with stealing a shawl, value 2s. 6d., from the shop door of a local draper. After stealing the shawl, the children pawned it for 1s., and bought sweets with the proceeds. The justices, taking a very right and proper view of the childish nature of this offence, dealt with it under the First Offences Act. Now was this circumstance, or was it not, the reason for Egan's discharge? If it was, it comes to this, that the military authorities, not satisfied with the action of the magistrates in dealing with the girl, have thought it incumbent upon them, although they have no earthly business to interfere in the matter, to visit the sin of the child upon the father and upon the rest of the family (which is a very large one) by throwing the man out of work, and exposing the whole household to the risk of destitution and starvation. This would be such a gross abuse of authority that it is to be hoped some other explanation of Egan's discharge will be forthcoming.

A Parliamentary paper recently issued gives returns of the number of courts-martial held on seamen in the Navy during 1896. There were 158 courts-martial, at which 160 persons were tried, out of whom seventy-nine were charged with striking or attempting to strike a superior officer. Only four trials resulted in an acquittal. Five men were sent to penal servitude, and sixty-eight were sentenced to terms of imprisonment with hard labour. Two hundred and twenty courts-martial were held on Marines ashore for the trial of 331 offences, and no fewer than 2,542 minor punishments were inflicted. Only two of the Marines tried by court-martial were acquitted, and 178 were imprisoned.

Some few weeks back an extraordinary story was told by a correspondent of the *Standard* illustrating the operation of the law of naturalisation at Gibraltar. By a local Aliens Order no wife of an alien can reside in Gibraltar without an official permit. An Englishwoman married a Spaniard named Garzon, and, by permission, resided with him on the Rock; but he died, and his widow, together with a child born after the husband's death, were thereupon expelled from Gibraltar. This is a hard enough case, but from a discussion that has been going on in the local Press it seems that others as hard or harder have occurred, and that even worse evils lie behind. The nature of these may be readily guessed. For instance, had the lady in the above case followed the example of "the woman who did," she would have escaped the penalty which now falls upon her because she preferred the legal status of a wife. Another effect of the aliens regulations is a most repulsive abuse of the marriage ceremony by foreign women desirous of obtaining the right to reside on the Rock, who are able to gain that end whenever they can induce some degraded British subject to confer his name upon them before a Registrar. There is ample ground here to justify the emphatic condemnation of the regulations by the local Press as cruel and immoral. It is, doubtless, necessary to exercise some control over the number of aliens admitted to the very limited space on the Rock; but it should be possible to prevent overcrowding without creating worse evils.

A very unpleasant impression has been made upon the public at Port of Spain, Trinidad, by some exceedingly strong criticism of the way in which the local harbour improvement scheme, which is estimated to cost £132,000, is being carried out. The critic is a civil engineer, and in his communications to the *Port of Spain Gazette* he enters into a detailed examination of the work for the purpose of showing what he alleges to be the incompetence, dilatoriness, and wastefulness of the methods pursued. How far these charges are true must be, to a great extent, a question for experts; but, seeing that it is public money that is being spent (or squandered), such an attack certainly calls for a reply from the responsible authorities, and they are very ill-advised in ignoring it. The natural result of this silence is to convince the taxpayers that the attack is not answered because it is unanswerable.

I drew attention at some length a few months back to the utterly indefensible action of the Inland Revenue authorities in forbidding black and white reproductions of postage stamps, including even those of foreign countries, for the purpose of illustrating stamp albums. It is satisfactory to be able to state that the protests that have been made against this action have had the desired result. The Board of Inland Revenue have now communicated to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, that, having regard to the fact that these illustrations are part and parcel of a large and legitimate industry, the Board and the Postmaster-General are willing in future to abstain from interfering with the illustrations of stamp albums, provided (1) that the illustrations are not in colour, (2) that the Board of Inland Revenue are consulted before the illustrations are made, and are satisfied as to the proper custody of the dies, blocks, plates, &c. The concession is also limited to certain specified classes of publications. It will be remembered that in their interference with these reproductions the Post Office and Inland Revenue authorities were apparently acting at the behest of the American or some other foreign Government, with the result that, as other Governments had not taken similar action, the printing of illustrations for stamp albums and philatelic publications was simply being sent from this country to the Continent. I congratulate the authorities concerned on having taken a more rational view of their duty, but I confess I do not quite understand how they ever came fall into such a monstrous blunder.

The other day a resident not far from Exeter, who keeps a horse and trap, was surprised by a visit from a stranger, who wanted to know if he could have the vehicle on hire. The explanation of this impertinence was subsequently forthcoming in the fact that the party who had made the application was the local Excise officer. Presumably this individual was using the "trap" for the purpose of catching its owner in a breach of the Inland Revenue regulations. It is a most outrageous thing, as I have frequently pointed out, that public officials should thus act as *agents provocateurs*. Is it the desire of the Inland Revenue authorities that their local representatives should adopt this rôle? If not, as the abuse is frequent, special instructions should be issued on the subject, and steps taken to see that they are observed.

For reasons best known to the authorities at St. Martin's-le-Grand, registered letters for the evening Irish mail must be posted in London before 5.30 p.m., although with a late fee they can be posted for a short period after that hour. The Irish mail does not leave Euston till 8.45, and it seems a monstrous thing that the public should be compelled to post registered letters three hours and a quarter before that time. Unless I am mistaken, the time of posting was fixed years ago, when the Irish mail left Euston considerably earlier.

The truth of the matter is that the hours for posting foreign mails are fixed to a great extent for the purpose of extorting fees from the public on late posting, as may be seen in the case of the Irish mail, where you can pay fees up to the amount of 1s. for posting up to the last minute. This, of course, serves the double object of saving the Post Office from employing the larger staff which would be required if the mails were made up later, and extorting more money for the services of the existing staff. How long will it be before we get a Postmaster-General who will make a root-and-branch reform of all these tricks, and conduct the Post Office on the principle of giving the public the greatest convenience and the best possible value for their money?

I thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer had long since arranged that the Post Office would deliver letters at any house in the United Kingdom to which they may be addressed. That was the impression which he conveyed in his last Budget speech, and he has had all the credit of carrying out a reform which has been demanded for years. How comes it, then, that a lady living within two miles of Waterford is still unable to get her letters delivered? The Post Office drops them at a cottage five minutes' walk from her house, and from that point she has to fetch them, no matter at what inconvenience. As remonstrances to the Waterford postmaster have proved fruitless, it would seem that either Sir Michael Hicks Beach was imposing on the House when he promised a universal letter delivery, or that the Duke of Norfolk has failed to carry out his instructions. Unless, of course, Ireland has been excluded from the concession made to the rest of the Kingdom.

Reference has frequently been made in TRUTH to the excellent example which the Americans set us in repressing the misuse of the postal service. A further illustration of this may be seen in the following extract from a recent issue of the *Scientific American*:—

> A fraud order has just been issued by the Post Office Department against John Wedderburn, John Wedderburn & Company, and the *National Recorder*. An order of this kind deprives the parties against whom it is directed of all use of the United States mails. Hence, all mails received for the parties mentioned at the Washington Post Office will be marked, indicating that the business of these attorneys is fraudulent, and will be returned to the senders. Money orders sent to the firm or the paper will be similarly dealt with.

The order referred to above is issued under the United States statute which forbids the use of the mails for any "schemes devised for the purpose of obtaining money or property under false pretences;" and the order is issued by the Postmaster-General, on his own sole authority, after satisfactory evidence of the fraudulent designs of the parties has been laid before him. A similar power in this country would effectually squelch a whole legion of rascals preying upon the public by one trick or another. Why is the thing practicable in the United States and not here?

With reference to the Peer-like signature of the Town Clerk of London, to which one or two references have been made in TRUTH lately, Sir Reginald Hanson sends me an interesting letter, in which he states that, without professing to have made an exhaustive search, he has found a similar mode of signature in use as far back as 1485. This, I think, is good enough to settle that Sir John Monckton's official signature is in accordance with official precedent. But whether as good cause can be shown for the use of a similar signature by any provincial clerk, whether to a municipality or to Justices of the Peace, is, I should think, highly doubtful.

Now that questions of sanitary administration are so much to the front, the following story is interesting. The owners of some houses in a suburban district near London desired to improve the connection of the houses with the main sewers. For this purpose application was made to the surveyor to the District Council for the plan of one of the sewers. The surveyor could not find his plan, nor could he explain how it had been lost, but he asserted very positively that he distinctly remembered that the sewer in question had been laid a few years back. On this assurance the work was put in hand and completed up to the proposed point of connection with the main sewer. Then a difficulty arose. The sewer could not be found, and for the best of reasons. It did not exist, and never had existed except in the imaginative brain of the official who said that it did!

The Lewisham Guardians have just taken the singular course of stopping the Roman Catholic services in the workhouse on the ground that "other people" anxious to hold services there have been debarred from doing so. Who the "other people" are I do not know; but it is quite conceivable that a difficulty would be experienced in arranging for services to suit all the diverse religious (or irreligious) views of the paupers. The creed register

shows, I am told, that, apart from members or those who profess to be members of the Church of England, there are in the house thirty Catholics, six "Nonconformists," three Wesleyans, two Congregationalists, one "Protestant," one Jew, and one Agnostic. The law provides, at the cost of the ratepayers, for the spiritual needs of the paupers belonging to the Established Church, and for many years past services have been held by voluntary efforts for the thirty Roman Catholics. To abolish these services because half-a-dozen different services cannot also be arranged for the remaining dozen or so inmates, is unreasonable and illogical in the extreme.

The Bumbles of the Knaresborough Union are still harping upon the Queen's Jubilee. Some months ago, as I casually mentioned at the time, these worthies resolved to commemorate the event by adorning the Board room at the workhouse with their photographs. This might have been thought a sufficiently complete, imposing, and enduring memorial of the record reign; but it has somehow failed to entirely satisfy the aspirations of the Guardians, and they have now, after a protracted, and, at times, heated debate, resolved to place the photographs of two relieving officers with those already on the wall. It was jocularly suggested that the Board might as well order a picture of the paupers; and really that would give the most appropriate finish to this curious memorial of the Jubilee.

The Japanese Constitution contains a provision for the independence of the judiciary, but some information sent to me from Kobe shows that those in power are quite prepared to set the principle aside, if it suits their purpose to do so. It appears that, after the war with China, the Japanese Government established a judiciary in the Island of Formosa, and Mr. Tokano was appointed Chief Justice of the High Court. He held this office until a short time back, when certain charges of corruption were preferred against officials in the island. Men in the highest circles were involved in these charges, and as soon as it was seen that the Chief Justice was determined to investigate the case without fear or favour, he received an order from the Premier to repair to Tokio, and he was there informed that the Cabinet had resolved to place him upon the retired list. This decision was arbitrarily carried out in direct contravention of an article of the Constitution, and by way of protest against Mr. Tokano's treatment, four other Judges in Formosa resigned their posts. The affair derives a special interest from the fact that the new treaties will bring foreigners in Japan under the laws of the country and the jurisdiction of the Judges, who have received this practical illustration of their subservience to the Ministry.

A recent appointment to a second grade judgeship by the Government of the Punjab affords a striking illustration of the unsatisfactory manner in which the ranks of the judiciary in India are recruited. Mr. A. Kensington, the gentleman selected for the post, is doubtless an able member of the Civil Service, but for the last ten years he has been engaged in the performance of non-judicial duties, and since 1891 he has been employed in the Finance Department. A sound practical legal training should be a *sine quâ non* for a Judge, but under the preposterous system of reserving these berths for members of the Indian Civil Service, that is about the last qualification that is thought of.

I am afraid I cannot adopt the suggestion of a correspondent that a niche in my Legal Pillory should be devoted to the decisions of County Court Judges in regard to the committal of debtors. It would be somewhat difficult to do this, though I have no doubt that there is great diversity of practice in making such committals. My correspondent, speaking from a painful personal experience, draws a contrast between the procedure at Leeds and at Bradford respectively. The point of it is that Judge Greenhough, at Leeds, commits more readily, and for longer periods, than Judge Bompas at Bradford. In Armley Gaol recently there were several debtors from Leeds, who had been committed for terms of from fourteen to thirty days on judgment summonses for very small amounts, such as twenty shillings; whereas there was no debtor from Bradford whose debt was under £5, nor was there any case where the sentence exceeded fourteen days. For impecunious persons who can manage to keep their liabilities within a modest limit, Bradford would seem, therefore, to be a more comfortable place of abode than Leeds.

How widely some of the County Court Judges differ on this question of imprisonment for debt has often been pointed out. In form, of course, imprisonment for debt has long been abolished, but, in fact, it remains under the guise of a commitment for contempt in failing to comply with an order of the Court for the payment of a debt when the Judge is satisfied that the debtor has the means to pay. Everything depends upon the view of the individual Judge as to what constitutes proof of ability to pay. In some Courts the power to commit is freely exercised on almost any evidence, in others it is only used as a last resort after the most complete proof that the debtor is actually in a position to comply with the order that has been made upon him. This lack of uniformity is very similar to what prevails in the punishment of criminals, and, though it may be diminished, it is difficult to see how it is to be wholly avoided.

The brutal harshness with which fishing apprentices are treated by the Grimsby Bench was strikingly illustrated last week. An apprentice named Gaskin was charged with neglecting to go to sea in his employer's steamer, and committed for fourteen days' hard labour; at the same time, three fishermen, charged with the same offence, were dealt with by the infliction of fines of a guinea each. The disparity between the sentences in these cases effectively knocks the bottom out of the argument that the imprisonment of a fishing apprentice for neglecting to go to sea is justified on account of the loss and inconvenience his absence entails upon the smack owner. The failure of adult members of the crew

to sail must cause a still more serious loss and inconvenience; yet they are invariably let off with a moderate pecuniary penalty, while the youthful apprentices are invariably sent to gaol. The truth is, of course, that these lads, recruited almost exclusively from the workhouses of the country, are looked upon during their apprenticeship as little better than slaves, and punished for acts of disobedience with a vindictive severity which would not be tolerated for a single day in any other town or any other industry. It is to the lasting shame of the Board of Trade and the Local Government Board that the iniquitous system has been tolerated so long at Grimsby.

A letter in the *Yorkshire Post*, dated from a place called Seacroft, states that on several recent occasions the police have been seen returning in the morning from night duty in looking out for poachers; and it is further stated that while the police have been thus engaged, there have been two robberies in the district from which they have been withdrawn. It is high time that some legislative restriction were placed upon the employment of the police as gamekeepers. The practice is really a fraud on the ratepayers, for it enables the game-preserving magnates who govern the country police to provide themselves with gamekeepers at the public expense, while at the same time the public are deprived of the services of those whom they pay for guarding their lives and property. Remonstrances against this abuse have been loud and frequent for many years past, and as they are entirely disregarded by the game-preserving interest, Parliament ought to take the matter in hand.

The complainant in a recent case of assault at the Winslow (Bucks) Petty Sessions found himself saddled with the costs, in spite of the fact that the two defendants were both convicted and sent to gaol. In reply to a protest the magistrate's clerk stated that "it was the established rule for the complainant to pay the costs on the committal of the defendants," but he omitted to explain on what authority this rule was based. The advice of the Home Office was then sought, and the complainant was informed that the question had never been definitely settled. If this be so, it is surely high time a definite settlement was obtained, for the point crops up almost every day, and the enforcement of the rule referred to is frequently—as in the case I cited a few weeks since from Linton—the cause of most grievous hardship and injustice. It is, indeed, a flagrant injustice to mulct the complainant in costs in any case of assault in which the defendant is convicted and sent to gaol. The sentence of imprisonment is passed because the offence is too serious to be dealt with by a fine. To make the complainant pay the costs means, therefore, that he is actually penalised on account of the severity of the injury he has suffered; for when the defendant is let off with a fine he has also, nine times out of ten, to pay the costs in addition. If a definite settlement of the question cannot be obtained in any other way, it is to be hoped some complainant will have the courage to refuse to pay costs in such circumstances. The result would be interesting, and if it really turned out that the magistrates had power to send the complainant, in default of payment, to join the defendant in prison, the law would speedily have to be amended.

In reference to the recent edict of Sir A. Reed, the head of the Royal Irish Constabulary, giving his august sanction to the riding of bicycles on the public footpaths, an Irish J.P. points out that the order in question is in direct opposition to the law, as it is expounded by Sir A. Reed himself in his book, "The Irish Constable's Guide." In that book, under the heading of "bicycle," he explains that a person riding a bicycle on a footpath along the side of a public road commits a breach of the law, even if there is no actual obstruction to the free passage of any foot-passenger. But though he knows that this is the law of the land, Sir A. Reed evidently thinks himself quite competent to render it null and void at his pleasure.

Lord Ludlow presided at the trial of nine cases at Wilts Quarter Sessions last week, and in six out of the nine the brief for the prosecution was held by his son, the Hon. H. L. Lopes. Far be it from me to suggest that the position Lord Ludlow occupies as Chairman of the Court is in any way accountable for the great demand for the services of Mr. H. L. Lopes at these Sessions. It is quite unnecessary to suggest anything of the kind in order to see how undesirable it is that a son should practise in a Court over which his father presides. The objections to such a state of affairs have been pointed out over and over again, and in the case of County Court Judges and their sons it has been abolished by order of the Lord Chancellor. It seems high time a similar order was applied to Quarter Sessions.

More in sorrow than in anger, a magisterial friend of mine mentions that I have on several occasions placed him in my Legal Pillory for sentences of which he disapproved as much as I did. "It certainly seems a little hard to be pilloried indiscriminately," he says, "when one has exhausted one's influence with one's colleagues in the very direction suggested." This is true; but, as he is reasonable enough to admit, it is a little difficult to see how this hardship is to be avoided. The sentence is given as the sentence of the Bench, and I cannot assume that the Bench was otherwise than unanimous, unless it is so stated. If, as sometimes happens, a magistrate likes to write to tell me that he was not responsible for a sentence that has been pilloried, I am always willing to publish his disclaimer. In the Court of Appeal, judges express their dissent from each other's decisions every day; but I am afraid that among the Great Unpaid such a custom would be in danger of provoking undignified squabbles, and I should be sorry to counsel its adoption. Those who are pilloried, like my correspondent, in cases in which they have disagreed with the sentence, must console themselves with the reflection that this discipline, though unnecessary for them, is wholesome for their erring colleagues.

ONE HUNDRED PIECES FOR £1. 1s.—Send a postcard to the Pearson Pottery Co., Hanley, Staffs., for particulars of the most wonderful package of crockery the world has ever seen. Sold all the world over.

In my Legal Pillory this week the Coventry J.P.s supply an effective object-lesson in the comparative value of previous convictions as factors in the apportionment of sentences. If magistrates will persist in the system of making a man's past misdeeds, rather than his present offence, the measure of the punishment to be inflicted upon him, they ought, at any rate, to have the decency to be consistent and apply the principle to all offenders alike. What they do, however, is to limit it almost exclusively to charges of petty larceny, poaching, and vagrancy. At Coventry, for example, there were two defendants with very similar records. One had been guilty of a trumpery theft, and he was sent to gaol for a month; the other had committed a serious assault, and he was let off with a small fine, his previous appearances at the Court being wholly ignored. Another instance of the same practice comes from Cirencester, where a farmer convicted for the seventh time of cruelty—to say nothing of a score of previous convictions for other offences—escapes with a penalty of £3. On the other hand, the Chorley Bench pass sentence of a month's imprisonment on a girl of seventeen for a theft which was her first offence:—

Coventry City Police-court. Before Messrs. G. E. Banks, J. Bill, T. H. Harris, and T. Burbidge. Thomas Shenstone, convicted of assaulting David Woodfield. Without any provocation defendant struck complainant many blows on the head, knocking him to the ground, and so injuring him that he had to attend for several days at the hospital. The Bench considered it a serious assault, and defendant had been before the court several times previously. Fined 10s. and costs.

Cirencester Police-court. Samuel L. Wheeler, convicted of cruelty to a mare by working her while in an unfit state. It was a very bad case, and defendant had been cautioned not to work the mare. There were twenty-six previous convictions against him, including six—the last in November—for cruelty to animals. Fined £3 and costs.

Mundford Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. H. M. Upcher, — Pillack, H. Burrell, and Rev. J. D. Gedge. Alfred Bugg, charged with assaulting his wife. He struck her, pushing her on to the floor, and kicked her whilst she was down. Fined 5s., and 12s. 6d. costs.

Scarborough Police-court. Henry Ward Drake summoned for cruelly ill-treating Annie Foster, aged 13. The child was employed in defendant's house as a servant. On different occasions he had seized her by the throat and shaken her violently; struck her on the mouth, knocking out two of her teeth; and given her a heavy blow on the head, making her dizzy, and reducing her to a state of nervous prostration and terror. Fined £2 and costs; or one month.

Coventry City Police-court. Before the same magistrates. Edward Saunders, charged with stealing three sticks of celery and two haddocks from a shop. He had been before the Court several times previously. Twenty-eight days.

Tamworth Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor and other Magistrates. Jane Wynn, charged with stealing a decanter of port wine from a public house. She was under the influence of drink at the time. One month.

Chorley Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. R. L. Crosse and J. Kirkman and Dr. Harris. Esther Collins, a girl of 17, charged with stealing a shawl, a handkerchief, and a pair of boots belonging to her mother, and a shawl belonging to a neighbour. The girl left home, taking these articles with her. Her mother said she had had no trouble with her before. One month.

Peterborough Police-court. Before Lieut.-Colonel C. J. Strong, Rev. W. Hopkinson, Messrs. J. Hunting, J. T. Miller, W. Cliffe, and J. H. Beeby. Robert Coulson, charged with stealing growing turnips, value 1s. Fourteen days.

Louth (Lindsey) Police-court. Before Major Allott and other Magistrates. Frank Harrison charged with trespassing in search of game. Fined £2. 18s. 6d.

Welshpool Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. D. P. Owen, W. Rogers, D. Wall, and M. Jehu. Alfred Owen and Thomas Gardner charged with stealing two fowls. Three months each.

Spilsby Petty Sessions. Before the Rev. W. Cracroft, Rev. G. H. Hales, Messrs. W. D. Gainsford, J. W. Walker, H. Walker, and W. H. Ward. Charles Jacklin charged with assaulting a child, aged two years. He struck the child several times on the head, causing its mouth to bleed and bruising both cheeks, and then threw it violently on the bed, swearing that he would kill it. Fined 30s. and 10s. costs.

Heanor Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. W. Smith and T. Mayfield. Herbert Moore and Thomas Booth, charged with assaulting Wm. Richards. Complainant was knocked down, and Booth then held him whilst Moore kicked him. Moore fined 10s. and Booth 5s. and costs.

Torquay Police-court. Before Messrs. R. Andus Clark, W. B. Hamlyn, and Dr. Last Smith. Frederick W. Norcutt, charged with cruelty to a pony. The animal, which was being worked, was described as nothing but a bag of bones, and apparently starving. It was very old and covered with bad sores, the harness being saturated with blood. There was a previous conviction. Fined £4 and costs.

Ilkeston Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. F. Sudbury, and W. Tatham. Jesse Elliott, convicted of assaulting Joseph Richards. As complainant was going home he was attacked, without any provocation, by the defendant, who struck him a heavy blow under the jaw, rendering him insensible. Fined £1 and costs.

Glamorganshire Quarter Sessions. Before Judge Gwilym Williams. Thomas Lewis pleaded guilty to stealing a shawl. Six months.

Spalding Police-court. Ashby Fovargue, labourer, charged with sleeping out in the open air and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Stowmarket Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. H A. Oakes, A. C. Pretyman, B. B. Booth, and W. Wade. John Gray, charged with stealing dead stakes value 6d., the property of some person or persons unknown. One month.

Chipping Sodbury Police-court. Frederick Alpass, summoned for trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2, and in default of payment committed for one month.

Watton Petty Sessions. Before Rev. A. T. Crisford, Messrs. A. N. Hemsworth, and J. E. Alexander. Bertie Carter, charged with stealing 1 cwt. of coal. Two months.

Carnarvon Police-court. Hugh Lovell and Edward Jones, charged with poaching. Committed for fourteen days and seven days respectively, in default of paying fines.

Gloucestershire Quarter Sessions. Ellen Goldsmith, aged 22, charged with stealing 2s. and a basket. Four months.

The appeal in the case of Hendry *v.* French in the Dumfries Sheriff Court was not, as I supposed, when writing last week, an appeal from the Sheriff to the Court of Session, but from the Sheriff Substitute to the Sheriff Principal. The latter has since given his decision, refusing the appeal and affirming the judgment of the Sheriff Substitute in favour of the farm servant, Hendry, who sued Mr. French, a tenant on the estate of the Duke of Buccleuch, for board and wages for his wrongful dismissal. The dismissal was brought about at the instance of the Duke's gamekeeper, in accordance with a condition in the leases of tenants on the estate prohibiting the employment of any person who has ever been convicted of poaching. I am amused to note that a Dumfries journal defends the Duke's tyrannical system of boycotting and compelling his tenants to boycott poachers as a "just and lawful method of managing his own lands." No doubt the local scribe knows on which side his bread is buttered. He could hardly be expected to condemn a powerful landowner and game preserver. But the system in force on this estate certainly is not just, and I question very much whether the persistent persecution and repeated injury to which Hendry has been subjected since his conviction three years ago is lawful.

There is plainly an extraordinary difference of opinion between the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Lancaster Quarter Sessions respecting the punishment of

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Subscriptions greatly needed by THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.—6,929 convictions this year; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

old offenders. At the October Sessions a man named Shaw, against whom there were numerous previous convictions, was sentenced by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. E. B. Dawson, to seven years' penal servitude, to be followed by five years' police supervision, for the theft of a sovereign and a shirt front. Last week another old offender named Stafford, whose career was almost identical with that of Shaw, pleaded guilty before the Chairman, Mr. J. Fell, to a charge of stealing a waistcoat, and also to three charges of obtaining goods by false pretences. The sentence passed upon him by Mr. Fell was twelve months' imprisonment. It would seem, therefore, to be a mere chance whether a prisoner at Lancaster Quarter Sessions gets one year's imprisonment or seven years' penal servitude—the former if Mr. Fell is in the chair, the latter if the presiding magistrate is Mr. Dawson. A certain amount of chance there must always be about the length of a sentence, but it ought not to be so wide as this, and the Lancaster J.P.'s would do well to replace their present vice-chairman by some one of a less draconic temper.

Congratulations to the Home Secretary, condolences to Mr. Justice Grantham, on the release of Frank Wallace Spriggs. This young fellow appears to have been a victim of judicial cynicism. He was charged with assaulting and robbing a lady cyclist in the neighbourhood of Rhyl. The prosecutrix first identified him by means of a photograph shown to her by the police, and five other witnesses, who were called to speak to his movements in the neighbourhood on the day of the crime, also identified him mainly through the production of this photograph. The fact was that Spriggs had been in trouble at Rhyl some time before, and the intelligent police jumped to the conclusion that he must be the guilty person. For the defence, on the other hand, no fewer than twelve perfectly respectable and credible witnesses swore that on the day and at the time when Spriggs was alleged to have committed this robbery and assault at Rhyl he was at his home here in London, more than 200 miles away.

Some judges might have doubted after this whether it was not a case of mistaken identity. Not so Mr. Justice Grantham. He incredulously brushed the alibi aside as "too artistic," summed up strongly against the prisoner, and on a verdict of guilty being returned sentenced him to five years' penal servitude, with the genial remark that though "no one's friends could have done more to get him off than his friends had done" he had been most properly convicted. If his lordship had been right, what these friends had done was to commit most barefaced and deliberate perjury. Fortunately, the Home Secretary was prevailed upon to have the case thoroughly investigated by officers from Scotland Yard. The result has been to show that the "too artistic" alibi at which the judge scoffed was, in fact, absolutely true, and the prisoner has now been liberated. The Home Office has done very well in this case, but it is, nevertheless, another argument for the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal. The redress of such miscarriages of justice ought not to be left to the chance of action being taken by the Home Office.

It is also satisfactory to see that the Home Secretary has reduced by half the sentence of two months' imprisonment which was lately passed on a man named Young, at North London Police-court, for neglecting his child. I had several communications respecting this case at the time it occurred, but I refrained from commenting upon it in consequence of a usually trustworthy daily paper expressing the opinion, after making special inquiries, that sympathy with Young would be misplaced. It now seems that my contemporary was misinformed as to Young's character and conduct—indeed, judging from what has since come to light, the month's imprisonment he has suffered was a month too much.

There was a disgraceful abuse of the right of cross-examination in a case of assault at Southport Police-court last week. The complainants were Miss Millar and Dr. E. P. P. Macloghlin, who, it appears, have demonstrated in a practical way their disagreement with orthodox views on the marriage question. Their opinions, whatever may be thought of them, were not connected in the remotest degree with the assaults which were committed upon them whilst they were cycling, and for which two defendants named Lund were fined. Nevertheless, Mr. F. A. Jones, the defendants' solicitor, subjected both the complainants to a most vexatious, irrelevant, and insolent cross-examination in reference to their domestic relationship. Mr. Jones doubtless conceived, through some strange professional aberration, that it was his duty to do this. He is not so much to be blamed as the Solons on the Bench who made no attempt whatever to check a series of questions which had nothing whatever to do with the case, and which were, in every respect, indecent and improper.

The R.S.P.C.A., and the public by whom its humane work is supported, have good reason to complain of a decision given by Sir John Bridge at the South Western Police Court last week. The driver and the owner of a horse were summoned for cruelty by working the animal when it was in an unfit state. No defence was offered, and after a personal inspection of the animal, Sir John Bridge said he found that it was totally unfit for work, that it was very lame, and that it ought to be destroyed. He was willing, however, to discharge the accused on condition that they had the horse put out of its misery, and to this they agreed. The officer of the Society thereupon asked that the defendants should be ordered to pay the costs, which amounted to £1. 17s. 6d. "Certainly not," was the magistrate's answer; "the Society is supported by the public, and therefore I will not allow any costs." Coming from such a source, this *non sequitur* is indeed surprising. Why should costs be refused because the prosecution happened to

have been undertaken by a Society supported by the public? The course taken by the magistrate showed that, in his opinion, the defendants had been guilty of a gross act of cruelty. Yet he practically fines the R.S.P.C.A. for bringing the perpetrators of this cruelty to justice, while the guilty parties are merely called upon to do what they ought to have done before the offence was committed. Cruel owners and drivers might reasonably conclude from the result of this case that they are quite entitled to work wretched, worn-out horses, fit only for the knacker, until they are caught; and, furthermore, that, when they are caught, the penalty for the cruelty will fall, not upon them, but upon the Society.

Thanks to the gullibility—not to mention the greed—of mankind, the venerable fraud of the Spanish prisoner is still being successfully practised. One can scarcely refrain from admiring the really wonderful activity of the gangs who work the swindle from Valencia and Barcelona. Almost every part of the world is laid under tribute to their ingenuity. Lately they have been paying a good deal of attention to people in India and Australia, and one infatuated noodle at Glen Innes, New South Wales, admits that he has parted with a draft for £200. For every victim who becomes known there are probably another dozen who bear their loss in silence rather than expose their folly. Although it is now several years since the trick was first tried in Australia, the *Melbourne Leader* is still in such a state of innocence as to refer to it as an "alleged" and "suspected" attempt at fraud! But, after all, this is not so very surprising. It is a much older swindle in this country; it has been much more frequently exposed in the Press, and yet it is still in operation here, and we still have among us credulous simpletons who cannot see through the trick until their money is gone.

Isaac Gordon, otherwise James W. Ryland, of 6, Livery Street, Birmingham, and other aliases and addresses too numerous to mention, excels himself as a polite letter-writer in the latest product of his genius in this line that has come under my notice. The victim of the bloodsucker on this occasion was a widow at Derby—a poor, bedridden old lady of over seventy. She borrowed £20 from Gordon, and at the end of five months had repaid £23. She then wrote to ask him how much she owed, adding, "It cannot be very much, as I only borrowed £20 and have repaid £23, and only had the money five months." This simple remark filled Gordon with wrath, and in his reply, after stating that the amount still due was £9. 10s.—the interest he charged being £12. 10s. on £20 for six months—he went on:—

Your professed ignorant and innocent way that you do not know how much you owe, &c., may do very well elsewhere, but not for me, as I am pretty well used to people of your sort, and to their professed simplicity, and I know well how to treat them. A summons has already been issued against you for the same yesterday, and the bailiffs will be slipped in nice and quietly, and you will be sold up stick and stock at the very earliest opportunity, as I consider you have treated me awfully shabby, and no treatment can be too bad and shabby for people of your type. Your way of putting your creditors off with your extreme innocent and simple ways may do very well elsewhere, but not for me. You will have to pay me forthwith or bailiffs will go in possession before many more days are over. No more of your tricks and dodges for me, as I am up to any trick and dodge you can think or dream of, being quite an old hand at the game. Please do not write me any more unless accompanied by the full amount of summons and costs, as I have something else to do than to keep a correspondence up with you to no purpose, and for which I do not get one penny.

A more impudent, remorseless, and unscrupulous scoundrel than this Gordon has never adorned the profession of usury.

The following letter has just been sent to a gentleman on paper bearing the Royal Arms and the words "Scarborough County Court." What is the meaning of the use (or abuse) of the stationery of the Court by a professional debt collector? On the face of it this is a gross irregularity, which the Registrar of the County Court ought to explain:—

3, Moorhouse-yard, Auboro'-street,
Mr.—— Scarborough, January 6th, 1898.

Sir,—I am requested by Mr. G. W. Bowman, Glass and China Merchant, Hope-st. Filey, to apply to you for the *immediate* payment of 7s. 4d. owing by you to him. I respectfully ask you to forward *to me* this small amount *forthwith* and so spare any further costs. You must send the money *to me* direct as this is entirely out of Mr. Bowman's hands. Awaiting your reply,—Yours truly, J. H. ALLANSON, Accountant.

For a couple of years past—as many readers of TRUTH will remember—there has been knocking about the world a "snowball" or "chain" letter, started by some person in Australia, and exemplifying in an aggravated form all the absurdities of this method of raising money. In the process of reduplication the letter has become so altered that it is quite impossible to discover the name of the person who is at the bottom of it, the address from which it was originally started, or the name of the charity which it is supposed to benefit. The story which it tells is on the face of it an absurdity, namely that, if a million used postage-stamps can be collected, a philanthropist has undertaken to buy them at a price which will pay for the erection of a children's wing in a cottage hospital, at some unrecognisable place in New South Wales. That number would have been reached by the time the letter had been repeated a dozen times; yet the misguided idiots to whom the thing is sent are told to go on repeating it up to sixty, seventy, eighty, and in the last instance, *one hundred and eleven* times, by which time, of course, countless billions of stamps—more, probably, than have ever been struck in the whole world—would have been forwarded to the unknown address in New South Wales. The truth, of course, is that children and fools, of both sexes, who assist in carrying the thing on, alter at their own sweet wills the maximum number which is supposed to limit the repetition, just as they alter the names and addresses; and so you arrive at the result that the thing goes rolling on its insane course for an indefinite period, and no earthly power can stop it.

All this has been said so often in TRUTH and other papers, that it may be asked, why repeat it now? I repeat it, because, incredible though it may appear, a Dundee paper, the other day, got hold of this precious

EVERY SAHARA (TURKISH) CIGARETTE bears the name and trade-mark of the sole manufacturers, W. D. & H. O. WILLS, Limited, as a guarantee of the exceptional quality of the Tobacco.

"snowball," and published some remarks about it, which are certainly not calculated to enlighten the infatuated dolts who engage in this form of folly, but must rather tend to encourage others to adopt the same means of raising money. It is really deplorable that influential local newspapers cannot serve their readers better. The last copy of this Australian snowball letter that I have before me is numbered "78." Allowing as you please for breaks in the chain, that must mean that thousands and ten thousands of letters must have been written in connection with it, that hundreds of pounds must have been spent in postage, and probably hundreds of thousands of old postage stamps sent —where? Heaven only knows. I published a few months back a list of about twenty different variations of the address appearing in these letters. In the last week I have seen three new letters each with a fresh address. In one of them the lady who is to receive the proceeds of the appeal, and who has hitherto generally borne some name resembling "Griffen" or "Suffen," has become "Mrs. Dudley Gibbons," and is to be looked for at "Montague Mills, New South Wales;" while in another she is once more Miss Griffen, but has removed to "Hartville, U.S.A." The Post Office authorities of Australia and the United States ought to be able to tell some startling stories about this snowball.

The following advertisement seems to indicate that agricultural depression is not universally prevalent. When a landlord can pick and choose his tenants in this way, and treat himself to the luxury of boycotting all who do not share his political and religious opinions, it is clear that land is not exactly a drug in the market. It is an agreeable reflection that we have just been voting a couple of millions of public money to relieve the landed interest of its burdens, and thereby facilitated boycotting of this character by "distressed" landlords:—

TO LET, Unfurnished, on the famous Chiltern Hills, six miles from Henley-on-Thames, an Old Fashioned Farm House and fifty-one acres of Splendid Pasture Land. Beautiful situation, 600 ft. above sea-level. Suitable for a Gentleman's Dairy Farm. Tenants must be *Church people* and *Conservatives*. Rent, £140 per annum.—"J. P. D. L.," &c.

In my last reference to the treatment of bank clerks I published a letter from which it appeared that in the establishments of the Yorkshire Banking Company the juniors start at £20, and that a manager of an important branch, with immense responsibility resting upon him, has been receiving under £4 a week. One would have thought this was the *ne plus ultra* of bank sweating, but such does not appear to be the case. I have since heard from a man in the service of the Mercantile Bank of Lancashire that the juniors in the service of that company start at £10 a year, with an annual increment of £5 for five years, after which a further advance is problematical. It is stated that many thoroughly competent clerks from twenty-two to twenty-five years of age, who have been several years in the service of the bank, are receiving less than 30s. a week. As for managers, my informant remarks that most of them would be only too happy to see a chance of £200 a year, £130 being the present payment in some cases. On the other hand, the directors are well paid, and the dividends are on the increase—as they ought to be under such circumstances.

The gentleman who sends me the foregoing information is of opinion that the only hope for the bank clerk is for the public to refuse their custom to banks where the staff are not properly paid. He thinks this a more efficacious remedy than combination among bank clerks. If you could get the public to do it, I have no doubt it would be highly efficacious; but no movement in that direction has ever had any success yet, and I doubt if it ever will have. Besides, we must not forget that so eminent a light as Dean Hole has publicly taught that a Christian has no business to trouble his head about the conditions under which the labour is performed of which he gets the benefit. Under these circumstances, I stick to my former advice to bank clerks to put their trust in the principle of "collective bargaining."

Anent a paragraph in TRUTH of the 30th ult. respecting the circulars of the Newspaper Development Syndicate, Ltd., the secretary asks me to mention, in justice to his Company, one or two facts not there stated. (1) The promise of further substantial advantages not specified in the circular was only a postscript affixed to the later circular. (2) These advantages include, as since announced, a free copy of a new trade journal which the Syndicate are issuing. (3) The combined contents bills are issued for weekly as well as monthly publications. (4) The form of contract has now been altered so that the newsagent merely promises to exhibit the bills or to advise the Syndicate to stop sending them. The second and last points seem to meet the mild criticism passed on the original circular in TRUTH, but I really hardly think there is any necessity to discuss the subject further.

The subjoined letter from Mr. Billson does not seem to me to carry the burning question of red dinner coats for golfers much further. I publish it, however, first because Mr. Billson seems so very anxious that I should; secondly, because I hope it may relieve me of the necessity of discussing this absorbing topic any further:—

Leicester, January 9, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—You were quite right in gathering from my former letter that—in common, I am sure, with the general body of golfers—I cordially agree with what appears to be the outcome of the discussion in your columns about the golfer's evening dress coat, namely, that, although the garment in question is not in itself Pickwickian—and that was the immediate point of my first letter—no golfer should wear it unless he is a captain or other chief officer authorised to do so by his club, and then *only at private club meetings*. If these conditions were imposed by all clubs (as I think they already are by some), and were strictly observed, I do not see why the dress should not be retained as a picturesque survival without giving offence to any one. For my own part, I confess it seems to me of very little consequence whether it is retained or not, but the way of dealing with the difficulty suggested above may be the most practicable.

As the short extract given in this week's TRUTH from my last letter—although very hastily written it certainly offered a very neatly taken opportunity of verbal "scoring"—did not fully express my views. I trust to your sense of fairness to publish these lines in full.—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

CHARLES J. BILLSON,
(President, Leicestershire Golf Club.)

Here is a grain of comfort for those who suppose that every article sold in England is made in Germany. I hear that Prince Bismarck—the recent reports about whose health, by the way, appear to be entirely unfounded—has just ordered an invalid chair in London, the recipient of the order being Mr. John Carter, of New Cavendish-street. So that some articles for the German market are actually made in England.

Imagine what a terrible outcry would have arisen from the Tory Press if the Nationalists had packed the register of voters for the St. Stephen's Green Division, Dublin, with bogus votes, as the Unionists are shown to have done! Yet, so far as I have seen, the Tory Press has been studiously silent concerning the amazing revelations which have appeared in the *Daily Nation* during the past week. That paper gave a list of the lodger voters for the division, which showed on the face of it that many names must have been inserted by means of fictitious qualifications. Apart from the fact that some of these lodger voters were minors, and therefore not eligible for the franchise, it was impossible to suppose that the Attorney-General for Ireland, several of the Judges, and other well-known and wealthy or well-to-do residents in the division, actually took in lodgers, and charged their own sons or other persons from five shillings to ten shillings a week for the use of a bedroom. The scandal was rendered all the more serious by the belief, for which there seems to have been ample foundation, that the pending election in the St. Stephen's Green Division was deliberately delayed until the register of voters for the present year came into force.

Still worse is the aspect the affair assumes in view of the disclosures that have been published from several of the voters and fathers of voters on the list. The Attorney-General states that the name of one of his sons was placed on the register without the authority or consent of either of them. Neither this son nor two other sons of the Attorney-General signed, or authorised anybody else to sign, the claims which were put forward in their name at the Revision Court, and which, in two cases out of the three, were rejected. Similar denials have been forthcoming from Mr. W. Gibson, son of Mr. Justice Gibson; Mr. E. H. Kenny, son of Mr. Justice Kenny; Mr. A. Holmes son of Mr. Justice Holmes; and the sons of Mr. Baillie Gage, Solicitor to the General Post Office; all of whom figure on the register. It is clear that in these cases—as in all probability in many others—a most audacious fraud has been committed. Every claim to a vote must bear the signature of the claimant, which must be duly witnessed by a second person. Some person or persons have, therefore, been guilty of forging these claims in the interests of the Unionist party in the division; and it is clearly the duty of the Government to leave no stone unturned in order to discover the culprits and bring them to justice. It will be interesting to see what course the authorities at Dublin Castle take in the matter. What they would do, and do promptly, if Nationalists were concerned, everybody can guess.

THE "MAILED FIST" MADE MANIFEST.

Kiao-chau has been leased to Germany for fifty years. The draft agreement was signed on Thursday last.—*Daily Paper.*

The fist that was mailed, as we all recollect,
  Was to quite an assortment of things do;
'Twas to revel in all those phenomenal feats
  Which the fists of excitable Kings do;
'Twas to spread the new Gospel of Wilhelm the Great;
  'Twas round Heinrich's forehead to twine a
Redoubtable chaplet of bays; 'twas to aid
  In the smashing to atoms of China;

'Twas to take German trade, so to speak, by the hand,
  And to newly-made markets to lead it;
'Twas to carry the flag of St Michael afar,
  And to crush all who dared to impede it:
But this same mailéd fist which the Kaiser described—
  (Whatsoever his brother and *he* meant)—
Has only been used, after all, just to sign
  A sort of house-agent's agreement.

The smashing of China was loudly proclaimed,
  And the Kaiser was mad for a piece of it;
But, lo and behold! he is now quite content
  To take a mere fifty years' lease of it:
And in spite of the way that its pinions were flapped
  By the painfully wild German Eagle,
It now would appear that this truculent fowl
  Is nothing at all, if not legal.

So be it! say we. We the omen accept.
  In future, let *all* hostile ventures
Give place to a system of neatly-drawn deeds,
  With their easements, and stamps, and indentures.
In future let's hope that *all* despots who once
  Were so ready to fling down a war-gage,
Will obtain what they want of their neighbours instead
  By judicious advances on mortgage!

For then mailéd fists will no longer induce
  Any feeling of dread or of awe here,
When we know that the weapon they wield is the pen
  Of a not over-scrupulous lawyer;
And when the fierce fights, now so ruthlessly fought
  'Midst the woes of a bloody "campaignery,"
Are replaced by the practice, undoubtedly sharp,
  Of two rival adepts in chicanery!

A letter which the *Times* published last Thursday from its correspondent at Kassala contains an exceedingly instructive comparison between the methods adopted by the Italians in recruiting and maintaining the native soldiery serving under their flag in Erythrea and the Soudan, and those adopted with the soldiery serving the Egyptian Government under British control. It is a comparison which will not be to the liking of some of our perfervid patriots, who are never tired of expatiating on the inestimable superiority of our aims and methods over those of all foreigners in dealing with native races. The correspondent of the *Times* states that though the Italian military authorities have done their utmost to persuade the men belonging to the garrison of Kassala and those of the neighbourhood to remain in the country and take service under the

If you want to entirely Furnish your House or select any article of Furniture or Carpet, &c., send for HEWETSONS' Illustrated Priced Catalogue.—HEWETSONS, Tottenham Court-road, London.

PREVENTION OF ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—Have the drainage and water supply of your residences certificated by CARTER BROS., 65, Victoria-st., S.W., Consulting Sanitary Engineers to Hotel Cecil.

Egyptian flag, all their efforts have met with failure. The Soudanese and Abyssinian soldiers have to a man refused to enlist under the new comers. This, the correspondent says, was only what was to be expected, and he thus explains the reasons:—

In Egypt there is conscription for the fellahin, and there, too, every able-bodied Soudanese black is impressed for military service, not for a term of years, but to remain with the colours until old age overtakes him, when he is discharged as useless. Moreover, the parsimony with which the military operations in the Egyptian Soudan have been conducted for the last few years has not rendered service on that dreary frontier any the lighter. In Erythrea and the Italian Soudan, on the other hand, the native troops are all volunteers. They enlist for only one year; desertion is unknown, and, as a rule, the time-expired men renew their engagements. Their pay is high; the private soldier receives forty-five liras a month, and after five years' service two-and-a-half liras a day. The people here are somewhat distrustful of Egyptian rule, even if it be under British control. It must be remembered that in no European possession in Africa are the natives more kindly treated, or are they more happy and contented under an alien rule than within the Italian territory. If we would retain the native soldiery and a civil population with which to cultivate the rich plains round Kassala we must promptly and definitely reassure these people, who are already preparing to abandon the country The methods which have been found possible in the Egyptian Soudan will not succeed here, and we must be prepared to treat the volunteers we enlist at Kassala with generosity, as we do our native troops in India and the Colonies.

SCRUTATOR.

HOW CHARTERED SHARES WERE SOLD BEFORE THE RAID.

WHEN the South Africa Parliamentary Committee was sitting, I wished to examine its Directors as to their financial relations with the Chartered Company in the matter of shares. Objection was taken to this, and it was decided that I could only ask each Director what his dealings had been in shares within six months of the Raid. I declined to put this limited question, and it was put by the Chairman. I now publish exact particulars of what was done in the way of selling shares by several of the Directors, and by some of the leading spirits of the Company. In regard to the Raid, my conclusion is this: Most of those who were acquainted with the condition of things in Rhodesia, and who were personally interested in the Company, were aware that the prospect of finding gold in paying quantities was nearly hopeless. They were also interested in many schemes in the Transvaal. They, therefore, determined to risk the funds of the Company in promoting a revolution in the Transvaal, and in sending the Company's forces to aid and abet in that revolution, with a view to the financial benefit of the Transvaal companies with which they were financially connected. These companies were good, bad, and indifferent. A good many which have been launched would probably pay under no conditions. But if the revolution had been successful, and if a large reduction in taxation had been announced, it is probable that there would have been a "boom," which would have enabled the promoters to get rid of their shares in these latter companies at a high premium.

The Chartered Company started with a capital of one million in £1 shares. This million was in the main subscribed in cash by its promoters. Its assets were a lease from the Concessions Company of the Concession granted by Lobengula, the terms being that one half of all profits should belong to the Chartered Company, the other half being retained by the Concessions Company. After the Matabele War, the Chartered Company extinguished the Concessions Company by purchasing it and its one-half of prospective profits for one million of Chartered shares, and these were distributed *pro ratâ* amongst the holders of Concessions Company's shares. This million of shares was, therefore, obtained without any cash payment, beyond the few thousand pounds which had been expended in getting the Concession. In the summer of 1895, an issue of 500,000 shares was made at £3. 10s.—*i.e.*, at a premium of 250 per cent. These were distributed *pro ratâ* amongst the then shareholders of the Chartered Company. When the Chartered Company was constituted, there was no public issue of shares. The shares were, however, at once dealt in at a high premium. When the one million of shares was paid to the Concessions Company the Chartered shares were at a high premium. After the new shares were allotted at £3. 10s. to the shareholders of the Chartered Company in the summer of 1895, they were quoted in the autumn of that year at well over £8. The profits, therefore, accruing to the gentlemen who were original shareholders, who received shares as shareholders of the Concessions Company, and who received allotments of shares in the summer of 1895, must have been enormous, and every farthing of this profit has come, not out of Rhodesia, but out of the British public, who were induced to buy the shares of the Chartered Company by puffs of Rhodesia as an El Dorado.

In respect to the following return, I believe that one of the syndicates or joint holdings consisted of shares held in trust for the De Beers Company, but which of them this was I do not know. The holding of the Goldfields Company is included, because this Company was under the joint management of Messrs. Rhodes and Rudd, and they had been its promoters. The price of the shares of the Chartered Company varied largely between 1890, when the Company came into existence, and 1896. At one time they were saleable at £9 per share; but I hardly think that the public would have been so desirous as they were to buy them at a high premium, had they been aware that those best likely to know the truth about the future prospects of the Company were selling their holdings in the wholesale fashion that the return shows them to have been doing. The holdings of these intelligent gentlemen on March 31, 1896, are taken from the register of the Company, as made up on that day, but the selling, with the exception of a very few shares, would have taken place before the Raid of the previous December. Here are the details:—

DUKE OF ABERCORN.

Holding as original shareholder	...	9,000 shares.
Allotment of shares, July, 1895	...	1,354 ,,
Holding March 31, 1896	... ...	6,773 ,,

Therefore he had sold 3,581 shares.

BRIGHTON.—NORFOLK HOTEL.—Old-established County and Family Hotel. The best situation. Replete with comfort, style, and luxury. Moderate charges.—JULES A. CREIGHTON, Manager.

DUKE OF FIFE.

Held as original shareholder ... 8,000 shares.
Allotment on holding, July, 1895 ... 900 ,,
Holding March 31, 1896 ... ... 5,223 ,,
Therefore sold 3,677 shares.

EARL GREY.

Held as original shareholder ... 9,000 shares.
Allotment on holding, July, 1895 ... 1,271 ,,
Holding March 31, 1896 ... ... 3,368 ,,
Therefore sold 6,903 shares.

LORD GIFFORD.

Held as original shareholder ... 10,300 shares.
Acquired as Concessions Company shareholder, 1894 ... ... 32 ,,
Allotment on holding, July, 1895 ... 278 ,,
Holding March 31, 1896 ... ... 1,013 ,,
Therefore sold 9,597 shares.

SIR HORACE FARQUHAR.

Held as original shareholder ... 8,000 shares.
Acquired as shareholder of Concessions Company, 1894 ... ... 8,000 ,,
Allotment on holding, July, 1895 ... 1,589 ,,
Holding March 31, 1896 ... ... 2,357 ,,
Therefore sold 15,232 shares.

MR. RHODES.

Held as original shareholder ... 45,112 shares.
Acquired as shareholder of Concessions Company, 1894 ... ... 108,000 ,,
Allotment on holding, July, 1895 ... 12,945 ,,
Holding March 31, 1896 ... ... 29,463 ,,
Therefore sold 136,594 shares.

MR. A. BEIT.

Held as original shareholder ... 16,000 shares.
Acquired as shareholder of Concessions Company, 1894 ... ... 100,000 ,,
Allotment on holding, July, 1895 ... 6,376 ,,
Holding March 31, 1896 ... ... 7,496 ,,
Therefore sold 114,880 shares.

MR. ROCHFORD MAGUIRE.

Held as original shareholder ... 18,695 shares.
Acquired as shareholder of Concessions Company, 1894 ... ... 40,000 ,,
Allotment on holding, July, 1895 ... 338 ,,
Holding March 31, 1896 ... ... 1,818 ,,
Therefore sold 57,215 shares.

GOLDFIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Held as original shareholders ... 97,595 shares.
Acquired as shareholders in Concessions Company, 1894 ... ... 11,000 ,,
Allotment on holding, 1895... ... 10,772 ,,
Holding March 31, 1896 ... ... None ,,
Therefore sold 119,277 shares.

THOS. RUDD.

Held as original shareholder ... 935 shares.
Acquired as shareholder in Concessions Company, 1894 ... ... 2,000 ,,
Allotment on holding of July, 1895 75 ,,
Holding March 31, 1896 ... ... 26 ,,
Therefore sold 2,984 shares.

C. D. RUDD.

Held as original shareholder ... 17,897 shares.
Holding March 31, 1896 ... ... 1 ,,
Therefore sold 17,896 shares.

F. R. THOMPSON.

Held in 1893 ... ... 12,161 shares.
Acquired as shareholder in Concessions Company, 1894 (about) ... 17,000 ,,
Holding March 31, 1896 ... ... None.
Therefore sold about 29,161 shares.

LORD ROTHSCHILD.

Held as original shareholder ... 10,000 shares.
Acquired as shareholder of Concessions Company, 1894 (about) ... 30,000 ,,
Allotment on holding, July, 1895... 2,309 ,,
Holding March 31, 1896 ... ... 1,410 ,,
Therefore sold 41,899 shares.

GEORGE CAUSTON.

Held in July, 1895 ... ... 6,957 shares.
Allotment on holding of July, 1895 1,739 ,,
Holding March 31, 1896 ... ... 2,000 ,,
Therefore sold 6,696 shares.

BEIT SYNDICATE.

Held as original shareholders ... 32,500 shares.
Holding March, 1896... ... ... None ,,
Therefore sold 32,500 shares.

BEIT AND RHODES.

Held as original shareholders ... 210,000 shares.
Holding March 31, 1896 ... ... 509 ,,
Therefore sold 209,491 shares.

BEIT AND CAUSTON.

Held as original shareholders ... 6,475 shares.
Holding March, 1896 ... ... None.
Therefore sold 6,475 shares.

RHODES AND BEIT.

Held as original shareholders ... 11,300 shares.
Allotment on holding July, 1895 ... 100 ,,
Holding March, 1896 .. .. None.
Therefore sold 11,400 shares.

RHODES, RUDD, BEIT.

Acquired as shareholders of Concession Company, 1894 ... ... 17,000 shares.
Holding March, 1896... ... ... None ,,
Therefore sold 17,000 shares.

RUDD AND BOYLE.

Acquired as shareholders of Concessions Company, 1894 ... ... 270,000 shares.

But how these shares were allotted in Chartered Company does not appear.

ECKSTEIN, WERNHER, WAGNER.

(Partners in Wernher, Beit, & Company.)

Held largely in their individual names. But difficult to trace their holdings at any particular period, as they were constantly "in and out."
Holding March, 1896 ... ... None.

GEO. HUISH, AUG. REIS.

This was an ordinary broker's account until 1894, when it rapidly became one of the largest on the list.
Holding March 31, 1896 ... ... None.

I have already said that I believe that one of the syndicate holdings was for the De Beers Company. But, taking the figures as they stand, the gentlemen mentioned must have sold, between 1890 and the commencement of 1896, close upon one million shares. It is, of course, exceedingly difficult to find out whether shares were sold speculatively for the account. But it is only reasonable to suppose that some of the "patriots" who were unloading their holdings in this wholesale fashion on the public, did also pick up additional money by "Bear" sales. Had the Chartered Company been an ordinary one, it might fairly have been said that they only did what promoters have done a thousand times—*i.e.*, get rid of their shares so soon as they could find fools to buy them. But it was not an ordinary Company. The fact of its having a Royal Charter led people to suppose that, in some sort of indirect way, the Government was mixed up with it. It traded on this, and on the idea which was carefully inculcated, that it was a sort of Association of Patriots desirous of extending the area of the Empire, to whom monetary gain for themselves was a matter of indifference.

I have only stated what the transactions of these "patriots" were in regard to the shares of the Chartered Company, but this must have formed a very small amount of the gains of those connected with Rhodesia, for numberless sub-companies for mining, developing the country, and so forth, were brought out, the shares of which were sold to the public at high premiums, and the value of which is entirely dependent upon Rhodesia being an El Dorado. This it has not proved to be, and I do not believe in the country being converted into a paying concern by mere agriculture. There may be in the north part of Mashonaland plateaus suited for European

settlement. On these, farmers may possibly make two ends meet in a rude fashion. But even on these plateaus it will be the old story. Wherever there is a black subject race, there Europeans eschew manual labour, and consequently they do not attract the hardy self-reliant pioneer who can extend the borders of civilisation. Towns may be run up and peopled by men who hope in some sort of speculative way to become rich. Railways may be built to connect them with the outer world. But as soon as it is discovered that the country itself will not yield a return for industry, commensurate with the objections to residence, then the whole thing collapses like a house of cards. We have had numerous examples of this in history. Enterprises such as Rhodesia, have before now been puffed and financed. Not one of them has ever proved remunerative, except to those who traded upon the credulity of the public, and the credulous have had eventually to pay for their sanguine anticipations. Possibly in Klondike there is money to be made, but only because there really is gold. If there were rich goldfields in Rhodesia, there would have been money to be made there. But, according to all reasonable probabilities, there are no such goldfields, and that any one should imagine that he will make money by what is to be got out of a few farmers, perched on the high plateaus, and seeking, with the aid of black labour, to force out of the soil a bare subsistence, must—if he will allow me to say so—be exceedingly foolish.

However, I am not concerned just now with what will occur in Rhodesia in the distant future. My allegation has been that the promoters of the Chartered Company made enormous sums for themselves by creating shares and getting them off their hands at huge premiums—all the while posturing as unselfish patriots, engaged rather in a patriotic mission than in a financing business. This allegation, it seems to me, the figures given above amply prove. The Chartered ring have made money, the investors who bought their shares have lost money. Whatever has been spent in Rhodesia has come from capital obtained in this fashion; not one farthing has accrued to Great Britain from Rhodesia, nor—unless I am very much mistaken—ever will accrue. The shareholders must find their reward in having converted the Beits and the others connected with the Company into millionaires, and with having been privileged at that cost to enlarge the area of the Empire by adding to it a vast tract of country in the centre of Africa, which nature never intended to be the habitation of Europeans.

EXTINGUISHING THE WAR CORRESPONDENT.

Two questions of great importance to the public have just been raised with reference to the relations between the Military authorities and the Press. At the dinner of the Institute of Journalists, Mr. J. M. Maclean, M.P. —who speaks on this subject with some authority—asserted that the English Press has failed to convey to the public the whole truth about the Indian Frontier Campaign. He did not go so far as to say that there had been deliberate suppression of the truth, and he expressly disclaimed any intention of impugning the rectitude of the newspaper correspondents on the spot. But he asserted in so many words that silence had been maintained about awkward facts, and that the public had not heard all that it had a right to know in regard to the management of the campaign by the Generals, or the conduct of the troops engaged. It is natural that a speaker at a public dinner of journalists should desire to avoid giving offence to any one connected with the Press, but if these allegations are well founded it is difficult to see, in spite of Mr. Maclean's polite disclaimer, how they differ from a charge of deliberate suppression of the truth on the part of some of those whose business it is to make the truth known. That the allegations are well-founded I have not the smallest doubt. As Mr. Maclean himself pointed out, the Anglo-Indian Press has done something to make the truth known, and innumerable private letters written home from the scene of war have confirmed the statements and criticisms of the Indian papers. The information that I have myself had from the frontier comes, I need not say, from private, not "special" correspondents, and it has pointed in the same direction, as readers of TRUTH are aware. But there is no need to go into details. The whole campaign up to the present moment has been a disastrous failure. It is self-evident that the original conception was faulty—quite apart from the wrong headedness of the policy on which the campaign was undertaken—and it is equally evident from the way in which bodies of our troops have been again and again caught at a disadvantage, that the practical conduct of the operations has been marked by repeated blundering. How comes it that these blunders both in the plan and management of the campaign have passed unnoticed in all the great London papers which have representatives on the spot? Does the war correspondent of the present day consider himself limited to the functions of a descriptive reporter? Or have other considerations led the Press representatives at the front to refrain from recording facts unpalatable to the military authorities? The latter seems the more probable explanation. If I remember rightly certain statements published at the commencement of the campaign, several papers have been represented by officers actually engaged in the operations In that case there is no need to look further for an explanation of the "conspiracy of silence" which has undoubtedly prevailed.

The other point which calls for public attention is the official announcement that no representative of the Press, except Reuter's Agency, will be permitted to accompany the coming advance on the Nile. Against this the *Daily Telegraph* has protested in the most forcible terms, and its protest ought to be endorsed by every newspaper in England. The official reason for the exclusion of the representatives of individual journals is the "great difficulty of transport" beyond the rail head; but the great London newspapers, which are prepared to send correspondents into the Soudan, are also prepared, it may be taken for granted, to grapple themselves with any

SPA WINTER SEASON.—Mild climate and only 12 hours from London. Casino open as usual with Concerts, &c. Excellent sport. For particulars address JULES CREHAY, Sec., Casino, Spa, Belgium.

difficulty in transporting their representatives to their destination. The transport difficulty is clearly only a convenient pretext for excluding the war correspondents. Is there any other good reason? There is, of course, that good old bogey, the danger of communicating information to the enemy; but although the Khalifa is said to keep himself wonderfully well posted up in the latest European intelligence, it would be absurd to suppose that he would be dependent for information as to the movements of the Sirdar's army upon news reaching him viâ London, or that news could possibly reach him by that route in time to be of the slightest value. Besides, every General in command of an army has the power to stop the transmission by telegraph of information which he does not wish divulged, and there has never been any hesitation about making use of this power. What, then, is the meaning of the exclusion of special correspondents from the advance up the Nile?

The truth seems to be that a crisis has arrived in the relations of the war correspondent with the military authorities. In India he has been—by what means one can only conjecture—effectually muzzled; and it looks uncommonly as if the ease and success with which this operation has been effected, had encouraged the War Office to try whether it cannot get rid of him altogether. Now, I am interested in this matter, not as a journalist but as one of the public. TRUTH does not deal in war correspondence, and nothing is further from my intention than to send a representative to the Soudan. But speaking as one of the public, I maintain that the presence of independent Press representatives with every British force that takes the field is a matter of vital consequence to every member of that force and to the whole nation at home. The War Office would doubtless be glad enough to get rid of the war correspondent; but the public cannot do without him. We want him, not for his sensational stories of the valour of our troops, nor his sanguinary pictures of the horrors of war, but as the representative of the British public on the line of march and on the field of battle, as the one independent and authoritative witness of the way the campaign is planned and directed, the way our troops are treated and led, the way all ranks acquit themselves of their duties. He is the one unofficial critic of the operations, the one check upon the otherwise uncontrolled autocracy of the War Office and the General in command. The more keenly the military authorities dislike his presence, the more anxious they are to get rid of him, the more certain is the value of his services to the Army and the nation. For these reasons, I trust that the Press will agitate and agitate, and that the public will loyally back it up, until the order excluding war correspondents from the Soudan has been cancelled. It is the thin end of the wedge; and if it be successfully introduced there will never be any certainty henceforth of a war correspondent accompanying a British force in the field. I trust, too, that before many weeks are over one or other of the London newspapers will have the enterprise to send to the seat of war on the North-West Frontier some representative intelligent enough to discover, and bold enough to proclaim upon the house-top, the whole truth about the disastrous and futile operations that have been going on there for the last four or five months. If there is truth in only half the stories that are current as to the blundering of those in authority, and the behaviour of British troops in certain instances, there is an opportunity here of doing the greatest service to the Army and the country that has been done since Sir W. H. Russell went out to represent the *Times* in the Crimea. In these days of newspaper competition it will be strange indeed if such an opportunity is overlooked.

MR. HARE'S RE-APPEARANCE.

It would be difficult to quote any actor of his age and experience on the English—or, I suppose, for the matter of that, on any stage—who has created so many different types of character as John Hare. Some people say, "Oh, Hare is always an old man!" But he is never the same old man. Now, William Blakeley, a gifted comedian who, alas! has just been taken from us, *was* always an old man, I grant you, and invariably the same old man. His manner and individuality overcame the requisite proportion of art. It is not so with John Hare, who, moreover, has played young as well as old men. For instance, I shall never forget his Sam Gerridge in "Caste." Whilst life endures there will never be a better, for he was Gerridge. There was no getting away from it; the very smell of putty came over the footlights. No artist in the world could have sketched a more life-like specimen of the honest working man. Benjamin Goldfinch, in "A Pair of Spectacles," was no doubt a masterpiece; so was his old Eccles, a character he also played recently in "Caste," but I award the prize to Hare's young Sam Gerridge.

Now things are altogether different in the new play at the Globe Theatre, which has just been opened—beautifully redecorated and refurnished throughout—under the skilful management of Mr. John Hare. The odour of the Eccles stale tobacco and the sound of his semi-drunken songs have been replaced by the scent of new-mown hay and the "murmur of innumerable bees." David Holmes, a famous critic, a great scholar, and an acknowledged bookworm has grown into an old man—not by the fatal hand of Time, mark you—but he has dreamed his days away amidst the worn pages of learned books, he has become fossilised with wading through endless manuscripts, outside his study door all interest in life has ceased for him, his one all-absorbing thought is work, work, study, study! What cares he if his clothes are ill-fitting, his hair—turned prematurely grey—is unkempt, and his face lined and seamed with grinding over his beloved tomes? Does it matter to him that beyond those open windows of the room in which he sits there is a world of pleasure, of laughter, of gaiety, and of sunshine? Suddenly a change comes into this gloomy man's existence. The door opens and a sweet wild flower is blown across the threshold of his lonely bachelor chamber. John Hare pauses for a moment. The vision is so beautiful, he has never seen anything quite so fair as this lovely child of nature. Is she of the earth, is she real, he wonders? Now, old Martin Beggs,

the confidential secretary of David Holmes, is not so easily overcome by a pretty face, and he is horrified at the intrusion. He resents the presence of a petticoat in this haven of single blessedness. But the fair Sylvia—so charmingly acted by Miss Nellie Thorne, daughter of Fred Thorne, a true chip of the old block—is not in the least abashed by Gilbert Hare's scowling countenance. She tells her guardian, as Mr. Hare turns out to be, that life with Miss Susie Vaughan, a soured, but well-meaning old maid, is intolerable. This heartless, nagging spinster washes her hands of such a mischievous little baggage, and leaves her to David and fate! She is, oh, so tired, and oh, so hungry! What's to be done?

"She must have food, the last train has just gone, she can't get home before to-morrow," murmurs Holmes, and while he goes off to fetch her his own little frugal supper, she curls herself up on the critic's virtuous sofa and falls fast asleep. So Martin Beggs and David, having carefully wrapped their unbidden guest up cosily with a warm shawl, sally forth into the streets to find lodgings elsewhere, leaving the slumbering Sylvia to the tender mercies of the housekeeper. Dear, dear, what a highly inflammable quantity is the hard-worked journalist! He tumbles down like a ninepin at the first sight of a woman's face, a touch of her hand, a look from her eyes, a smile from her lips. The frou-frou of her skirts is divine music in his ears, the sound of her voice sets his pulses thrilling and tingling with sensations he is powerless to resist. "Omnia vincit amor" must have been the motto in Miss Martha Morton's mind when she sat down to write "A Bachelor's Romance," for in this charming idyllic play it is love and love alone, which conquers all things in the end. Is it not exquisitely human to watch the change coming over the deadened senses of David Holmes, to see the soul of the inner man gradually awakening once more? It is the dawn of a fresh existence for him. Under the warmth and sunlight of Sylvia's presence he becomes rejuvenated, he trims his hair, dons fashionable clothes, and looks a youth again. Now, for the first time in his life he understands what it is to live and to be loved, and he glories in his new-born happiness. Again, is it not love that transforms handsome Miss May Harvey—who is adored by honest Frank Gillmore, another literary man, whose friend, an equally impecunious colleague, shares with him in the grotesque inconveniences of a "joint stock wardrobe" excessively limited—from a fashionable heartless Society coquette into a simple, gentle, tender woman. Is it not also Sir Cupid, who shows clever Fred Kerr the patience, sweetness, and endurance of Miss Mona Oram's simple nature?

For a few moments in the play I was inclined to resent the renunciation of Sylvia. I did not want pretty Nellie Thorne to marry vain Mr. Charles Cherry. But I was a little "too previous," and should have waited calmly, for everything turns out as it ought to, or rather as I wanted it to. I don't think John Hare, one of the best comedians of our time, a loyal, unselfish, and undemonstrative actor, has ever played anything better than this delightful, lovable character of David Holmes—"My Mr. David," as Sylvia calls him. Of course, every one will liken this fascinating comedy to "The Professor's Love Story;" that goes without saying, but it bears a much stronger resemblance to a story written some few years ago by Mrs. Hungerford called "A Little Rebel," which has, I believe, been dramatised since 1892, but never produced. However, that doesn't signify in the least, and to Mr. John Hare unlimited thanks are due for presenting the English public with such a pure, such an ideal, and such a charmingly human play as Miss Martha Morton's "Bachelor's Romance."

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE LATE MRS. AYER.

I GAVE you a few years ago a sketch of Carolus Duran's portrait of the late Mrs. Ayer, at the Champ de Mars Salon. Just before the poor old lady sat to Carolus, Chatrain had exhibited in his studio his portrait of Leo XIII. His Holiness, as you may know, is seated and given full front. Carolus Duran was evidently inspired by Chatrain in painting Mrs. Ayer, then reputed the richest widow in the world. Rather curiously, the two portraits were so hung at the Champ de Mars as to face each other. One was the Father of the Faithful denuded of temporal power. He had just body enough to hold his soul at anchorage. The thin face seemed a translucent medium through which beamed soul, mind, and paternal love. Mrs. Ayer was the Popess of Wealth. Carolus Duran had the art to bring out her original good qualities, for she was a motherly, shrewd American woman who had lived from youth to age in the most unaffected homely way. Until Ayer, a Patent Medicine King, died, and she came laden with gold to Europe, she never suspected she was anybody. The portraitist divined all this in showing her in the situation high Society in Europe gave. He softened the strips of black felt that served as eyebrows, toned down the paint and enamel which her dressers applied so unsparingly on her face, and did not see the parchment that was gummed on the lower parts of the cheeks and throat "to sustain them." But he gave the characteristic collarette of narrow goffered lace—a collarette that hid the lower edge of the parchment, as *poudre de riz* hid the upper. This tiny adornment was applied to a band of tulle, also gummed on the neck, and covered with a dog collar of enormous pearls separated by bars of brilliants. Other pearls of a yet more imposing size covered the bust. Of course, the pale brown hair was youthful, but the painter artfully threw it in the shade by means of other jewels that seemed to light it up. A robe of regal splendour was enriched and lightened with marvellous old *point d'Angleterre*. Then there was a *manteau-de-cour* that was draped round a thickly gilded throne-like chair.

Mrs. Ayer must have been on the shady side of seventy when she was thus paraded as the Popess of Wealth. I constantly met her in Society, where she was the most courted person, and received many invitations to her fêtes, but did not avail myself of them.

She had been proposed for by the most brilliant men of fashion, all able to offer her imposing titles. We heard how Prince M. had persuaded her to say "Yes," but that she changed her mind, and that Prince Joseph von B was almost a suitor. He was asked by a benevolent match-maker to dine in her company at the Pavillon d'Armenonville. One saw her at garden parties seated in some open space, on a sofa, with a circle of aspirants, young, middle-aged, elderly round her. She had a very authentic Duchesse to serve as a "foil" when she drove in the Bois, or went to morning concerts. Fair and illustrious worshippers of the golden calf used to pretend they prostrated themselves before Mrs. Ayer because she bought lots of tickets for their bazaars. She certainly had a free hand in giving, and was, though a Protestant, a good deal under the influence of Father Osmond Cooke. He never in vain appealed to her kindness for members of his flock needing it, and on New Year's Day she wrote to him to celebrate a mass for her, which he did. She was then laid low by illness. But the parasites who fattened on her went on giving dinners and parties at her house. An American lady who knew her well, but who took no part in the wretched *curée*, described the contention among the friends in a strong phrase, which let me whisper into your ear, "They fought over her, like dogs over a bone." When there was no longer room to hope for a line in her will, or further festivity at her expense, there was a general desertion. Her sons and daughters had no esteem or taste for her showy friends, and were living in New York. They were not apprised of her illness, though it lasted five weeks. Father Cooke stood back, from delicate feeling. He only went to her house when invited, or when he wanted her help for some poor and suffering member of his flock. She often invited him to dine quietly with her, and was glad of his friendship. He abstained from proffering her ghostly advice unless she wished for it. The American chaplain, under whom she sat, behaved, I am told, with a like dignified reserve. She was so neglected at the end that, although she died at seven in the morning, this fact was not known until three in the afternoon. An attempt is now made to give out that the poor old lady was in her last moments surrounded by sorrowing friends and domestics.

"The rich man also died and was buried." This text does not yet apply to the late Dr. Evans. Nobody has thought it a duty to celebrate his obsequies. He had only servants and secretaries in his household when he died—of course they were not going to incur expense. The only relatives in Paris were the nephew John Evans, Marquis d'Oyley, and his children, to whom the Doctor did not speak. So the remains were thrust into a vault somewhere pending the opening of the will.

The manner in which the Doctor disposed of his fortune does not surprise me. His virtues were on a small pattern, and vanity made terrible inroads on them. I do not think he ever understood that his international importance was due to the knowledge at the different Courts of Europe of Napoleon III.'s weak character. Evans thought it due to a regard for his own sagacity, and the honest advice he gave the Emperor. He felt himself mentally the Emperor's superior. Since he could not be a Napoleon in politics or rank, he had a passionate desire to figure posthumously as the Napoleon of dentistry and occult diplomacy. He certainly helped to prevent the Emperor acknowledging the belligerent quality of the Southern States soon after the release of Slidell and Mason. (Query, would not Evans drawing the fangs of Secession be a subject for a *bas relief* on his future monument, so amply provided for in his will ?)

The idea of the Evans Museum must have been suggested by the former Musée des Souverains at the Louvre. One saw there the King of Rome's cradle, his coral and rattle, the silver saucepan in which his pap was made, Napoleon's military boots, his grand Egyptian sabre, coronation robes, plain green uniform, grey surtout, three-cornered felt hat, and the handkerchief that wiped the death-sweat from his forehead at St. Helena. The Evans Museum at Philadelphia will abound with memorials of Imperial and Royal gratitude. They may have an indirect historical value though I have reason to think the Doctor's papers do not contain a single document of any value except as mere autographs. There must be endless memorials of Evans's professional skill and success, and models of the insides of august and princely mouths, with which the doctor's notes on their peculiarities ought to figure. The "mouths" of M. Thiers, Moltke, Bismarck, of the Emperor Napoleon, the Empresess Augusta, Eugénie, Frederick, and their children ought to figure in the Evans's collection of wax models. I wonder whether that of Mme. K., a once famous Russian beauty, is in the lot. This lady was famous for the length and sumptuosity of her trains. She was also lavish of her smiles. One evening, at some grand reception, I was gazing at her as Comte Horace de Choiseul led her through a suite of salons. Dr. Evans came up to me. We talked about the sumptuous train. He then asked, "What do you think of her teeth ?" "They light up her face like sunbeams; they eclipse even the pearls of Mme. de Rothschild's necklace." "It was I who provided them," said the doctor; "no, I'm not joking." "But surely they are too transparent to be of composition?" "They are not of artificial stuff. I chose teeth from the mouths of twelve Brittany girls to make the set." "Why from *twelve* ?" "Because the twelve had the proper number of faultless teeth. Besides, Mme. K. is superstitiously orthodox. She wanted her teeth to be a reminder of the Twelve Apostles. To please her I inserted a bit of the True Cross in the gold setting. Is not Russian superstition absurd ?" "Yes, but not a thing to quarrel with, if the relics are duly considered in the bill."

They have no Tammany Hall in Philadelphia. But the provisions in the Doctor's will for the Evans monument ought to tempt town councillors into Tammany tricks. The Doctor's monument is not to cost less than £40,000, nor more than £80,000. Would you be surprised if a cheap-looking thing were erected that cost the latter sum ? No provision has been made for the

Lafayette Home—the doctor's pet enterprise as a philanthropist. It was to have been a nest for young American nightingales who came to Paris to study singing. Gratitude, of course, was looked for; but the harvest was poor. It always is when you expect to reap in abundance. American nightingales did not like to find themselves treated as objects of charity. They looked the gift-horse in the mouth; they admitted that the general charges for board and lodging at the Home were low. But the *necessary* extras were numerous and high. In this way they paid the full value for all they received—*and more.* Some internal arrangements of this institution led to an action for libel. Poor pitiful human nature!

To turn to more pleasing subjects. Mrs. Louis Gould's children's party was *the* fête of Twelfth Day. It was in honour of her little son. There were some lovely little beings at it. I can scarcely rank the beautiful girls and the boy of Lady Alexander Paget among the "infantry." The eldest is a few years on in her teens. She is sweet, sedate, unaffected, and has an easy Olympian port. Do you know the Caryatides in the Erechtheum? Well, her figure is like one of theirs, and the face almost Olympian, but in a childish, winning way. The second girl is not less attractive, but in a different way. A very small child, Baby Drake, has a precociously clever countenance, with the wax-doll prettiness of infancy. She was a wee fairy for a tale of Hans Andersen. But I should never stop were I to describe all the fair children. There seemed as many as at the Grafton Gallery Exhibition. In the grown-up company were Countess Tornielli, the Hon. Mrs. Gosselin, Baronesses Alphonse and Edmond de Rothschild, Princess Isenberg-Birchstein, Lord and Lady Reay, the Marchioness of Anglesey, Baroness Decazes, Mrs. Austin Lee, Mrs. Henry Drake, M. de Bülow, of the German Embassy, Chevalier and Mlle. de Stuers, the Hon. Horace Porter, and Mme. Bolli. The three Monson boys distinguished themselves as dancers. But Sir Edmund and Lady Monson, being in deep mourning, did not accompany them.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

DEAR LADY BETTY,—Were I to indulge my natural inclination, I should write to you this week an exceptionally entertaining and instructive letter. I am, however, not in a position to do this, for shortly before Christmas a raid was made upon my constitution by a filibustering influenza microbe—I call him "Dr. Jim"—and my attention is still entirely directed upon the removal of this foreign insect. Notwithstanding that the attack has been resisted with all the resources of modern science, and that I have soaked myself with champagne and brandy—two liquids which are supposed to be especially offensive to the betotal microbe—Marmaduke and the microbe are still locked in deadly combat. The situation is depressing, but with heroic courage I am resolved never to surrender—until all the champagne is exhausted!

* * * * *

Several writers, when reviewing the literary record of 1897, have deplored that so few reminiscences of the first importance have recently been made public. It appears to have been entirely forgotten by the literary world that the celebrated Lady Palmerston kept a journal, which, at the time of her death, it was generally supposed was destined to be published, when the proper time came. Indeed, Mr. Hayward mentioned the existence of this diary, and hinted at its probable publication, in his masterly obituary notice of the late Lady Palmerston, which he contributed to the *Times* of September 15, 1869. As thirty years have now elapsed since the last entry was made in these diaries, it seems reasonable to inquire whether those who have been entrusted with the care of them have come to a final decision as to their fate. It is unnecessary to add that the records kept by Lady Palmerston, who was behind the scenes at a particularly eventful period, should be especially interesting.

As there are many who are searching for material to work with in the same field of literature, it might be mentioned that no one has yet written a "Life" of the late Lord Lyons, who was for many years British Ambassador at Paris, and the man who did most to establish British *prestige* in France during the past half-century. The late Lord Lyons played a very prominent part in the concluding period of the Second Empire, and also at the time of the Franco-Prussian war. Of course, the one who would be the most fitted to carry out this task would be Mr. Sheffield, who for many years was confidential secretary to the late Lord Lyons.

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It has for long been a favourite theory of mine that a work entitled "The Revolutions of the Wheels" would be, if properly handled, a very interesting contribution. The changes effected by the introduction of railways are obvious, and the later developments of the cycle, which enable those who belong to the poorer class to travel almost as rapidly as the rich do, are destined to produce a revolution as great, if not greater. Seeing that the cycle in its improved form has existed only some ten or fifteen years, it is strange that the name of the inventor, to whose genius these initial improvements are due, is already forgotten. Perhaps some enthusiastic cyclist will make the necessary investigation, and will drag from oblivion a name which future generations may have much reason to honour. It is only a suggestion, but the cycle has come to stop. Nothing, not even motor cars or artificial wings, will ever remove it completely from civilisation.

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It may be remembered that a small and friendly agitation was organised and directed against the Royal Botanic Society some two or three years ago. The object of the movement was to induce the Society to adopt a more liberal attitude towards the public, which until then was practically excluded from the magnificent Gardens in the Regent's Park. The object of the agitation was attained, and the Royal Botanic Society, which had been threatened with insolvency, has been declared to be now, not only solvent, but to have every prospect of flourishing as it deserves. Within a few hundred yards of busy Regent-street there is a large space of exquisitely laid out grounds, from which no London house can be seen, and into which no murmur of London noise penetrates. The public has only to be made acquainted with the existence of so admirable a retreat in its midst, and to be granted reasonable opportunities of visiting it, to flock there in ever-increasing numbers. If the Fellows will only assist in giving effect to these suggestions, the Society may confidently look forward to becoming one of the most prosperous of Metropolitan institutions.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

MORTLOCK'S (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "MORTLOCK'S" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE failure of the Ascot Cup, which is far and away the most richly endowed race in England, to obtain an adequate number of entries, fully justifies the view which has always been taken in TRUTH of the absurdity and fatuity manifested by the managers of that meeting in persisting in throwing away £4,000 on this event. The Gold Cup would have obtained just as many entries if only £2,000 had been given, and it would not get any larger number if the value of the race were raised to £10,000, as has been insanely suggested by some sighing simpletons. In 1874, when there was one of the most interesting races ever known for the Cup, there were twenty-four entries with £500 added. In 1884, with £1,300 added, there were twenty-seven entries. In 1893 the value of the Cup was increased to £3,000, and there were thirty-eight entries and four starters, the race having dwindled down to a match in the previous year. In 1894 there were thirty-four entries and five starters. In 1895 we had twenty-six entries and three starters, odds of 11 to 2 being betted on Isinglass, who won. Last year the added money was increased to £4,000, the result being an entry of thirty-six, with four runners. Now we have only thirty entries, and many of the animals engaged are mere rubbish when seriously considered in connection with a race of this kind. I was enabled to announce, several weeks ago, that Mr. Rose's Cyllene and Sir John Kelk's The Baker would be entered for the Cup, and it may be hoped that they will both "go for" the race, as their meeting with Galtee More would be most interesting, for many good judges are of opinion that they were decidedly the best four-year-olds of last season, and they both looked like training on and developing into stayers. It is only the meeting of Cyllene and The Baker with Galtee More which could make the Cup a good race, as Mr. Gubbins' horse can perfectly well take care of such candidates as Limasol, Count Schomberg, The Rush, Merman, Silver Fox, St. Cloud II., St. Bris, and Labrador; while Love Wisely and Winkfield's Pride are not at all likely to stand a preparation for such a race as this. Lord Rosebery has entered Chelandry, but Galtee More holds her perfectly safe on the St. Leger running. As to the superlative merits of the Australian horse, Newhaven II., about whom there has been so much laudatory jargoning, I shall believe in his giving 4 lb. to Galtee More over this course only when I see it. M. Blanc has three four-year-olds in the race, one of them being Masque II., who won last year's Ascot Stakes, and there was afterwards a great deal of delirious cackling about his then owner's ardent desire to run his steed against Galtee More at even weights, which of course was all moonshine and gasconading. Some of the older horses in the entry have no pretensions whatever to stay a Cup course.

I have also vainly protested against the idiotic folly of throwing away £1,500 on the Alexandra Plate, an event which ought long ago to have disappeared from the programme, for if there is one race in the whole year which has unquestionably been weighed in the balance and found wanting it is this stake. Last year there were twenty-four entries, but only two starters, although there was £100 for the third horse, if anything else in the race had merely been cantered over the course. Now we have twenty-three entries, including Newhaven II., St. Bris (who won last year), Count Schomberg, Masque, Limasol, The Rush, Comfrey and Labrador.

Perhaps the most interesting item among the Ascot events is the entry for next year's Rous Memorial Stakes, which may be studied with profit, and people who go carefully through the list may obtain some valuable hints. There are sixty-seven entries, but actually only two four-year-olds—Lord Derby's Crestfallen and Mr. Lorillard's Sandia. Indeed, there are very few three-year olds, the best of the lot being Brio, Cap Martin, Champ de Mars, Orzil, Palandra, Alt Mark, Dieudonné, St. Ia, The Baker, The Convict, Vatel, and The Reeve.

Mr. Gubbins has entered Galtee More for the March Stakes of £500 at the Newmarket First Spring Meeting. Twenty-three horses have been engaged in the event, including Newhaven II., Berzak, and Knight of the Thistle, who won the same race last year, but he is now unsound and a bad roarer.

I hear that Lord Derby hopes to have a good candidate for the One Thousand and Oaks in Alt Mark, who was well tried last season, and who has come on wonderfully during the winter. Alt Mark was badly amiss when she ran for the Prendergast Stakes at Newmarket in October.

Lord Rosebery may be congratulated upon owning a couple of the very finest and most racing-like two-year-olds at Newmarket. These are Corposant, half sister to Ladas and Chelandry by Sheen, and Apennine, own sister to Velasquez. They are well-grown fillies, with beautiful action, and if they fail to distinguish themselves on the Turf, their numerous admirers will be grievously disappointed. They are both very heavily engaged. I hear that if all goes well with Corposant she will make her début in the £3,000 stake at the Kempton Park July Meeting, and she has summer engagements at Epsom and at Ascot, besides the Prince of Wales Sweepstakes at Goodwood, which will be worth £2,600. Apennine will want more time, and it is probable that her first race will be the £5,000 stake at Sandown Park in July, for which her stable companion Elba ran Cyllene to a head last summer.

Mr. Leopold de Rothschild, who won last year's Brocklesby Stakes at Lincoln with Gay Lothair, may not, himself, have a dangerous candidate for the same race on March 23, but Watson's stable will probably be to the fore with Mr. Raphael's colt by Janissary out of Ladykin, who won a good trial the other day, at Newmarket, over five furlongs, in which he easily defeated Chevron Sable, who is believed to be in capital form just now.

If Mr. Brassey is disappointed with the three-year-old career of Orzil, he may reasonably look for compensation to Boniface, that animal's half brother, by St. Simon, who is a truly magnificent colt, and there is nothing in good looks, with fine action, and the very best of running blood, if he fails to develop into a flyer of the highest class. Boniface was entered for fourteen races when he was a foal, and he is now one of the most heavily engaged two-year-olds in training. He will probably make his début either at the Epsom Summer Meeting or in the Coventry Stakes at Ascot.

The American horse Voter is a great tip for the Lincolnshire Handicap, and it is believed at Newmarket that he is a very smart animal over a mile. Voter has also been entered for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap.

Mr. Leopold de Rothschild at present has fifty-one horses in training at Newmarket, of which twenty-seven are in the stables of Hayhoe, and twenty-three are under the charge of Watson. I expect we have seen the best of Gulistan and Goletta, but Little Bob ought to be able to win a good T.Y.C. handicap early in the season if he goes on all right. Isabenda, the dark three-year-old sister to St. Frusquin, was not trained last season, but she is confidently expected to distinguish herself on the turf, and it must not be forgotten that she is entered for the Derby. Mr. de Rothschild will have to depend mainly on his two-year-olds next season, and among them is St. Gris, half-brother, by Galopin, to St. Frusquin. Another is San Carlo, half-brother, by St. Simon, to Goletta. Guava is a filly by Galopin out of Nellie. There is an own brother to Vatel. There is no relative to Galeazzo. One of the best bred two-year-olds in Hayhoe's stable is M Ephrussi's Ambrosia II. filly by Galopin out of that good mare, Alicante, by Hermit, who won the Cambridgeshire in 1890.

The National Hunt Steeplechase is to be run this year

SAHARA (TURKISH) CIGARETTES.—Messrs. W. D. & H. O WILLS, Ltd, the sole manufacturers, invite the attention of connoisseurs to the excellence and regularity of these high-class Cigarettes.

at Gatwick on March 8, and it will be a race of £1,000, the liability on each entry being only £5 if declared, with an additional £5 if left in. The race closes on February 1, and with such generous pecuniary conditions, there ought to be a large entry.

The Grand Military Meeting at Sandown Park is fixed for March 4 and 5.

In the course of the next nine weeks there are three steeplechase meetings at Kempton Park, three at Manchester, three at Windsor, three at Plumpton, three at Sandown Park, two at Gatwick, two at Lingfield, two at Hurst Park, two at Hamilton Park, and, indeed, every week is fully occupied. Where on earth horses are to come from to fill half the events at half these meetings it is impossible to conjecture, and so apoplectic a plethora in the list of fixtures is likely to result in a paralytic tenuity in the fields. There ought to be a rule that no event of any sort or kind at a steeplechase meeting is to be of less value than £100, and this salutary reform would lead to a considerable reduction in the present utterly preposterous number of fixtures.

Among the entries for the All-Aged Stakes at Ascot are Berzak, Alt Mark, Bridegroom, Melfitana, The Convict, and Vatel. This race was one of the worst of the numerous Ascot failures last season, there being twenty-four entries and two starters only, with odds of 20 to one betted on the winner.

A few weeks ago I predicted that we should soon see Regret winning a hurdle race. Mr. Ward's horse cantered away with the Twickenham Maiden Hurdle Race at Kempton Park last Tuesday. Regret has been abused in every form of invective by some of his former admirers as an arrant rogue. The real fact is that the horse cannot stay, and a great blunder was made at Kingsclere in persisting in training and starting him for races out of his distance. If he had been kept as a three-year-old for T.Y.C. events he would have done very well.

Six subscriptions to Isinglass are advertised, the fee being 300 guineas, which is certainly a most exorbitant demand for an untried horse. Considering that St. Frusquin's fee is only 250 guineas, I do think that it is preposterous that 300 guineas should be demanded for Isinglass, who is not so highly bred; nor was he a better horse on the turf, if, indeed, he was so good. It seems that seven of the mares sent last season to Isinglass proved to be barren, which was a grievous consummation after so heavy an outlay. This horse had nineteen foaled, including colts out of Jenny Howlet, St. Marguerite (dam of Seabreeze), and Novitiate (dam of Marco), and fillies out of Glare, Reprieve, Satchel, and Sweet Sauce (dam of Kirkconnel). There were also three foals which died.

The Shire horse sale season begins this afternoon, when thirty-six mares and fillies from Lord Rothschild's celebrated stud at Tring Park will be offered there, the catalogue including many prize winners. On the 27th fifty mares and fillies (including a number of winners) from the stud of Mr. Muntz, M.P., at Dunsmore, near Rugby, will be sold. On Friday, February 11, the Prince of Wales has a sale at Sandringham, when fifty-five mares, fillies, and stallions from the Royal stud at Wolferton will be offered. During last year 740 Shires were sold, the average price being £84 3s. 2d., which is a remarkably high figure. Four figures were reached only twice during the year. Captain Duncombe sold a stallion for 1,100 gs., to Mr Victor Cavendish, M.P., who also gave 1,000 gs. for a horse at Lord Llangattock's sale. Mr. Cavendish has established a very choice stud of Shires at Holker Hall, Lancashire. As to the various sales, the best average of the year (£195. 17s 5d. for forty-five lots) was obtained by Lord Llangattock, and next came Lord Wantage with £135. 6s. 4d. for forty lots.

In a recent note in these columns I referred in stringent language to the conduct of the Council of the Lawn Tennis Association in dealing with cases of veiled professionalism. The circumstances under which I did so may be briefly summarised. I stated that players had received not only expenses, but also board and lodging, as an inducement to play in tournaments. The officers of the Association courteously informed me that two resolutions were to be proposed at the ensuing meeting; one was to the effect that the Council deprecated such practices, and considered that except in the case of private hospitality players should receive no inducement to play, and the other was framed to inflict a punishment on offenders. The same officials, without further comment, sent me the resolutions which were passed. These were that the Council deprecated such practices, that no assistance except private hospitality should be accepted by players, and, as a rider, that the Council was of opinion that there were few persons who had infringed the tenour of these resolutions. Not a word, so far as I could gather, was said or done with a view to drawing up a code of rules to punish offenders, the resolution on this branch of the subject being apparently dropped. In these circumstances, it seemed to me that the sting was taken out of the proceedings. I described the resolutions which were passed as emasculated, and I further suggested that the Council was afraid to tackle the subject, and that the blessed phrase, private hospitality, would cover the cadging system I had condemned. I knew that one member, at least, of the Council had stated himself to be utterly ignorant of the practices I was denouncing. Since I criticised the Council I have received information which shows that the attack that was made upon it was not justifiable, though for this I am not to blame. Mr. Wilberforce was responsible for the original resolutions. At the Council's meeting it was found, I now learn, that the resolution proposing penalties would, if passed by the Council, have no legal effect, as such a rule would have to be passed by the general meeting of the Association itself. The penalty resolution was thereupon withdrawn, and the proposer gave notice that he intended at the general meeting to propose rules not only penalising such misconduct, but also giving the Council power to act in all matters that might affect the interests of the game. In this way he intends, I suppose, to deal with those meetings that cadge for people to put up players. He certainly is of opinion that this form of entertainment is not private hospitality. It is very satisfactory indeed to find the members of the Council making such efforts to eradicate an evil that is threatening the game. They have themselves admitted the existence of the trouble to which reference has been made. Let them uproot the system, while it is yet young, and before it has time to do further harm. And if they would do so in a really drastic fashion, I again venture to refer Mr. Wilberforce and the rest of the Council to the rules of the Amateur Athletic Association and the Rugby Union regulating the payment of expenses. These rules have stood the test of practical experience, and the reformers will find in them valuable precedents, which will require but few additions and modifications to suit the circumstances of lawn tennis. It is much wiser to have a really strong set of regulations from the first than to add to them from time to time as different cases present themselves. I agree with Mr Wilberforce that it is a pity the Council was attacked. But such an attack would never have been made had Mr Wilberforce sent earlier in the day the valuable communication I have now received.

It was a nasty jar to see the early evening papers, which appeared about 9.30 a.m., last week, placarded with "startling result of the great match." And what a whipping! I know the wicket is blamed. But, then, the Englishmen never seemed to get hold of the Colonial attack. Ranji did not fail, and Storer, as usual, came to the rescue. Mr. Druce was in form, and Briggs was almost at his best. In the Colonial team it was highly gratifying to find new men like MacLeod and Noble distinguishing themselves. But if the Colonials hope to win over here they must play a little faster. It looks as though our men tried the same stick-in-the-mud style of batting. But, as they are not used to it, the game will not pay. The Colonial success will do a lot of good in

Australia, and the match was won without George Giffen. A man may fancy himself worth a high prize, but when one is getting a middle-aged cricketer it is just as well to be modest in these respects.

A correspondent is very much agitated by the possibilities of trade-unionism in Association football. He considers it so subversive of all ideas of sport. A poor idiot he must be to talk in this way of a system of football based on the sale and purchase of men who are little better than slaves. It is nonsense to talk of sport. A gang of men run a football team as a syndicate may a theatrical piece. Their sole object is to get dividends, and so different gangs arrange rules which will prevent any one of them too flagrantly taking an advantage of another's temporary impecuniosity. The animals who bring the profits are not considered in the matter at all, except in one way. The chief object of many of the rules is to prevent poaching. In other words the best player is prevented by a set of rules in the framing of which he has no voice, from getting the best market value for his services during his short football life. No wonder, then, that the players are said to be organising to protect their own interests. The only wonder is that they have not done so before.

The tussle in the League games this year for leadership has been a great one, and public interest has been accentuated by the numerous prizes offered for correct forecasts of results, and also by the fact that the really important matches for the Association Cup will soon be played. For the first time this season Aston Villa and Sheffield United have met. The match was a very fast one from start to finish. At a comparatively early period Sheffield, who had the advantage of playing on their own ground, scored a goal. If the Villa's forwards had shown anything like the form when in front of goal that they did in mid-field they would have at least made a draw of it. Considering the injuries members of their team have received, Derby County did remarkably well in their match with Wolverhampton Wanderers, although at the beginning of the second half they were very much at sea, and looked like being badly beaten. In the second division Woolwich scored a very easy win over Newton Heath; while Luton, who were going to do such marvellous things at the beginning of the season, had a terrible thrashing by Walsall. There was a very fast and close game between the Caledonians and Upper Clapton at Upton, and the home team just won.

In Rugby football, the two fine displays by Blackheath against Cardiff and the Old Fettes-Lorretto Boys, have made it a matter for regret that for a few weeks the Club was in such a poor way. At the present time, the longer the match lasts, the better they are forward. The Harlequins turned out as strongly as they could, but they were simply crushed. The Scottish were ignominiously beaten by the Kensington men. The forwards were well led by Gibson, but the outsides literally threw chance after chance away when on the Kensington goal line. The Lennox team have been showing excellent form this season, but the Northampton team, on their own ground, were just too good for them. Croydon, another team that has certainly gone one better this season, scored a ridiculously easy win over Rosslyn Park. The Nomad forwards, with their University contingent available, simply over-ran the Richmond pack.

A few years ago there was a great agitation for the University Sports to take place in the summer instead of the spring. So much better times would be done. Sports were for the summer and not the winter months. This would be so true were it not for the fact that the chief professional handicaps are at Christmas and New Year's time. The marvellous times that Downer has been doing show the winter season does not militate against pace. He has challenged the world up to a quarter, and it will be interesting to see who takes up the gauntlet.

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MAMMON.

FROM MOSES MOSS *TO* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—At last we have active markets such as had been predicted for the New Year, and many of the movements have had quite a pronounced New Year's flavour about them. It is no longer a question of half-point rises, but the advances have in several instances taken the shape of jumps of from two to four points, and quite an optimistic wave is sweeping over the markets. Readers of TRUTH cannot complain that they have not had timely notice of the coming animation, and it is satisfactory to see that almost in every instance the improvement has taken place precisely in the stocks which I had selected for the purpose.

OPTIMISTIC STOCK MARKETS.

The apprehensions which had been entertained in some quarters that trouble was brewing in the Far East have not been borne out, and the most optimistic views are now being expressed as regards the possible results of British action, should this country see fit to help China to raise a large loan, to be devoted in part to the paying-off of the indemnity to Japan. Negotiations there have no doubt been on this point, but they have probably not proceeded as far as some of the sanguine ones would have us believe. In the meantime, it is a matter for congratulation that the British Government have not allowed themselves to be persuaded to embark upon an adventurous policy as a result of recent Russian and German land-grabbing in China. The Money market has become much easier. In fact, rates have been falling away a little too fast, and the withdrawal of half a million in gold for Buenos Ayres administered a welcome check. Very cheap money we must not look for in 1898, as business promises to become exceptionally active, and the absorption of surplus funds will therefore assume large proportions. But the value of money will probably be moderate for some time to come, and thus speculaton will be stimulated. The important recovery in American Rails, which I foreshadowed, has promptly made its appearance, and the transactions of the past week have again illustrated the well-established view that, when Yankee Rails get very flat, a big improvement is nearly always at hand. The jump in Union Pacifics, by the way, is altogether in accordance with my frequently-expressed opinion. An even more drastic advance has to be recorded in Canadian Pacifics and in Grand Trunks, that in the former reaching 4½ points, and in Grand Trunk First Prefs., 7. Argentine Government bonds have also continued on the up-grade, as I anticipated, and Home Rails are distinctly firmer, especially such stocks as I have for some time singled out for a rise, viz., Great Central, Dover "A," Metropolitan Districts, and the Scotch deferred stocks. The South African department at one time suffered from realisations and inactivity, but a recovery is already in progress, and it is noticeable that continued support is being given by leading South African houses. In West Australians movements have been somewhat irregular, but a satisfactory feature from the point of view of my readers, is that an upward movement has taken place in precisely the shares to which I have of late directed special attention, notably those of the London and West Australian Exploration group, amongst which Hannan's Brownhill have gone ahead from 6$\frac{15}{16}$—at which they were quoted a week ago—to 8¼. There have also been important improvements in the Industrial section, notably in Apollinaris—Johannis, Hudson Bays, and Schweppes.

HOME RAILS—A SHARP IMPROVEMENT.

The hopeful tone which I adopted when discussing the position of Home Rails during the last few weeks has been fully borne out by recent events. The greater ease in the money market was naturally a supporting factor,

and the more favourable view taken of the Chinese question was equally so. Without much basis for so sanguine a view, moreover, the market has come to the conclusion that the end of the engineering trouble is in sight, and since Thursday quotations have been put up on this idea, the Scotch section showing the way on large purchases made by Glasgow operators. Somehow or other, in the North the view that the difficulty is about to be solved is more pronounced than elsewhere. Advances of a point and more have occurred in both Caledonian Deferred Ordinary and North British Deferred, and the actual settlement of the engineering struggle would doubtless produce a further rise. With the dividend question I dealt at length in last week's issue. The first dividend to be announced will probably be the Brighton distribution, which is expected on Wednesday, and the estimate is from 6¾ to 7 per cent. on Brighton "A." On the same day the Metropolitan dividend is expected, which will probably be from 3⅝ to 3¾ per cent., to be followed by the Great Central announcement. The South Eastern declaration is also due this week, and great efforts were made at one time to convey the idea that the distribution on Dover "A" would be unsatisfactory. The estimate is from 3¾ to 4 per cent., but even the lower dividend would not be exactly unfavourable on the basis of the present range of prices. The "Bears," however, elected to commit themselves in he neighbourhood of 114½ to 115, and the division who generally lead the speculative movements in "Doras" encouraged them to the top of their bent. When the ursine operators had done selling, however, insiders turned the tables on them, with the result of an advance to 116¼, and although a relapse to 115½ has followed, I should not be surprised to see Dover "A" considerably higher. Brighton "A" have risen to 182⅝. Their yield on the present market estimate is very satisfactory, and while there is no disposition to enter into large speculative dealings in "Berthas," it would not be surprising if investment purchases were to put them higher. Great Eastern have been flagging, being quoted 123¼, and I have already expressed the view that they are quite high enough when compared with Dover "A," taking the prospective yield as a basis. A further upward movement has taken place in all the various Great Central stocks. I still hold the opinion that the 1894 Ordinary, which has now moved up to 43½, is the best purchase, but the "Omnium" stock, which is convertible, after the opening of the London extension, into 1894 Five per Cent. Preference stock and 1894 Ordinary in equal halves, is also worthy of attention, the quotation being 81. The Six per Cent. Preferred Ordinary has improved to 74, and the "A" stock to 23¼. Great Northern Deferred have received some attention on the part of those who expect that the end of the engineering strike will benefit the line, while, apart from the coming competition of the Great Central, the dividend outlook is satisfactory. Should a favourable distribution be announced, there might, therefore, be an immediate rise, in anticipation of which the quotation has been put up to 60¾. The stocks of the Heavy division have not so far moved up to any extent, although they would no doubt reap the chief benefit of the settlement of the engineering struggle. The underground stocks have been remarkably firm. Metropolitans have advanced to 135. Districts to 30¾. The tap which had been on for some time in Districts has at last dried up, and there seems to be nothing now to stop a further important improvement, which is fully justified by the present promising position.

THE YANKEE MARKET—A GENERAL ADVANCE.

The view which I expressed a week ago that, probably after a temporary reaction, a considerable further improvement would take place in the active list, has been borne out by the events of the last few days. On Tuesday the tendency was still very flat under the influence of a variety of rumours which were put about in Wall-street by the "Bears." The cables were to the effect that serious rate-cutting was in progress amongst the Grangers, and that Mr. Russell Sage was dangerously ill; but on the very next day the Sage of Wall-street walked down to his office hale and hearty. The rumour had no doubt done its duty, and who knows but that Mr. Russell Sage allowed it purposely to depress the market so as to get hold of more cheap stock! Amongst the favourable rumours which have since gained currency are the satisfactory prospects of the winter wheat crop, the denial of rate-cutting, and the announcement that Mr. Pierpont Morgan had purchased a majority of the stock of the Susquehanna and Western in the interest of the Erie. Favourable rumours were also current with reference to the coming Burlington and Quincy dividend, which is now estimated at 1¼ per cent., while increased market estimates of the New York Central dividend helped to assist the improvement, and had notably a favourable effect upon Lake Shore and Illinois Central. The extent of the recovery will be gathered from the following list of quotations, which also contains the comparison with the 1897 prices:—

—	Price, Jan. 2, 1897.	Highest in 1897.	Lowest in 1897.	Jan. 5, 1898.	Jan. 11, 1898.
Atchison	14⅜	17⅛	10	13⅛	12⅜
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	23¾	36¼	17¾	30½	32
Canadian Pacifics	57¾	87⅞	46¾	85	88½
Central Pacific	15½	18½	7½	11⅜xd	12⅝xd
Denver	12⅛	15½	9 7/16	11⅝	12
Do. Pref.	42¾	51⅞	37⅝	46⅞	47¾
Erie	15¼	19 1/16	12	14⅞	15⅜
Do. First Pref.	35	46½	28⅝	38	39¾
Grand Trunk 1st Pref.	—	62¼	30⅛	59½	64¾
Do. Guaranteed	—	73	39⅝	71	73¼
Lake Shore	144	183	156	176 xd	176½xd
Louisville	49¼	65¼	43⅛	56¾	58
Milwaukee	75⅛	105⅛	71⅞	96¼	98¾
Mis., Kan., and Texas	13½	17⅜	10¼	12¼	13¼
Norfolk Adjust. Pref.	—	50	22½	47¾	48¾
Nor. Pacific New Pref.	—	61⅞	34½	60⅛	64⅛
New York Central	96½	118⅛	95⅛	109¼	114¼
Ontario	15⅛	20 9/16	13	16	16⅞
Reading	13¾	15¼	9⅞	11¾	11¾
Southern Ordinary	9⅝	13	7 11/16	9¼	9¾
Do. Pref.	26¾	39	25	30⅞	32⅞
Union Pacific	9¾	35 7/16	19 13/16	27	29¾
Wabash Pref.	15¾	24¾	12⅛	18¼	19

The sudden change which has taken place again shows that the time to buy American Rails is when they are very flat, as then the turn is always near, and, as I have often said, there is no market to which can be more fitly applied the old adage, "The hour is darkest before the dawn." A further rise has been established in Union Pacifics, and the advance since the last carry-over now amounts to 3 dols. It is anticipated that the new stocks will be issued in less than a month's time, and the Prefs. have now improved to 54⅞, the Four per Cent. Mortgage bonds to 93. The fact that the Central Pacific defaulted on the January Government interest was used as a handle to put down Central Pacifics, but the explanation since given in a cablegram received from the New York correspondent of the *Financial News* shows that it had always been expected that when the Government debt became due some arrangement would have to be made, and negotiations are in progress between the United States Government and the Central Pacific, which have so far taken a satisfactory course It is expected that a foreclosure will be arranged by the Government without the necessity of a receivership. After receding to 11½xd. Central Pacifics have rallied to 12⅝xd. Louisville and Nashville as well as Milwaukee still remain the favourites on this side with the few operators who are taking a hand in the Yankee department, and both look promising, the former in view of the refunding scheme, the latter in view of the continued large grain shipments. By the way, the position of the Chicago wheat deal, in which Mr. Phil Armour was the seller and Mr. Leiter was the buyer, is one of considerable interest, and in true American fashion Messrs. Armour have availed themselves of the event for advertising purposes by sending out circulars in which the ability displayed by Mr. Armour in supplying in a

comparatively short time the wheat of which Mr. Leiter demanded delivery, is extolled in glowing terms. The following paragraph extracted from the circular will indicate the high flight of the writer's enthusiasm :—

Mr. Armour found that he had a matter of 6,000,000 bushels to get, and at once all the various activities of the complex mechanism of the superbly organised house of Armour & Co. were set in motion. The wheat wanted was stored in the warehouses of Duluth, Minneapolis, and the North-west. This wheat had to be bought, transported to Chicago, stored and inspected by the first week in January. It was a problem from which most men would shrink. To buy goods is easy if one has money or credit. It was the physical question of carrying such a vast quantity over tremendous stretches of land and water. It was, in a way, a battle not between Armour and Leiter, but between Armour and nature. And Armour won.

The passage about the battle between Armour and nature is truly precious. The question of course arises as to what Mr. Leiter will do with the 6,000,000 millions of bushels of wheat which Mr. Armour has collected by rail and steam for his benefit from all parts of the States and from the North-west. Experience hitherto has been that such corners never succeed in the end. The most important point about the present position of American Railroad stocks is that traffics continue on a large scale. According to the New York *Financial Chronicle*, the earnings of eighty-five railroads in the third week of December amounted to 8,147,946 dols., an increase of 578,142 dols., and the earnings of sixty-two railroads in the fourth week of December were 10,247,835 dols., an increase of 1,239 148 dols. Amongst the traffic returns for the last ten days of December, the following were the principal increases shown :—Missouri Pacific, 154,000 dols. ; Chesapeake and Ohio, 93,646 dols. ; Milwaukee, 68,000 dols. ; Kansas and Texas, 56,607 dols. ; Wabash, 34,296 dols ; Southern, 26,073 dols. ; Texas and Pacific, 21,728 dols ; Louisville. 16,254 dols. Amongst the stocks which have of late been in favour, and which are likely to attract considerable attention, are Northern Pacifics New Prefs. and Norfolk Prefs. The fact that Canadian Railway stocks have so completely borne out my prognostications is a source of gratification to me, as it will be to those of my readers who followed my advice. I expressed the very strong opinion that Canadian Pacifics, in view of dividend prospects, should go considerably higher, and the quotation of 88½, which this stock has now attained, is close to the level of 90, which I mentioned last week as the goal. The traffic return for the last ten days of December was again very satisfactory, showing a gain of 106,000 dols. Equally favourable was the traffic return of the Grand Trunk for the same period, which showed an increase of £22,452. Grand Trunk Guaranteed have risen over three points during the week to 73¼, the First Prefs. over seven points to 64¾, and the Second Prefs. have also joined in the upward movement, having put on 5⅞ at 42¾.

FOREIGNERS AND SOUTH AMERICANS.

While interbourse securities have generally displayed a steady tendency, there has been no disposition to put quotations up. with the exception chiefly of Spanish, which have been supported by reports that the Cubans are advised by their supporters in the United States to come to terms with Spain. Turks are slightly firmer, and Ottoman Banks are the turn higher. Dealings have, however, been chiefly confined to the South American section, in which a further upward movement has to be recorded, more particularly in Argentine Government and Railway stocks. The 1886 Loan has risen to 93½ xd., the Funding Loan to 90¾ xd., Buenos Ayres Water and Drainage bonds to 73½ xd. The shipment of £500,000 in gold from London to Buenos Ayres has served to draw attention to the improved position in which the Argentine Republic finds itself through the very satisfactory wheat crop, which leaves a considerable quantity available for export. It is said that a million and a-half more in gold will have to be shipped for the same destination, but this requires confirmation, and a considerable portion will doubtless be taken from Paris, as France is importing a number of cargoes of wheat from Argentina. The gold premium in Buenos Ayres has now dropped to 168, and looks like falling lower. If General Roca, as is generally anticipated, be elected President next year, it is probable that the unification of the Debt will be carried out, and, barring accidents, I look for a further advance in Argentines, in which Cedulas will doubtless participate, especially the National Series, which benefit directly by the fall in the gold premium. The provincial loans have also been firm, the Santa Fé 1888 Loan having improved to 46. Further purchases are being effected of Argentine Rails, nearly all of which may be considered a good purchase, in view of the very considerable traffic increases which must shortly be announced as the result of the moving of good crops. Buenos Ayres Great Southern now stand at 149½, Buenos Ayres and Rosario at 77, Central Argentine at 83½, Cordoba Central First Prefs. at 94, Cordoba and Rosario Second Debenture stock at 90, and Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debenture stock at 60. In the latter stock a more important rise would doubtless have occurred had it not been for the continued large traffic decreases, and even for the last week which compares with a small traffic last year (59,000 dols.) there is a decrease of 12.500 dols., the return being only 46,500 dols. A sharp advance has taken place in Bahia, Blanca and N.W. Prefs. to 60. I advised the purchase of this stock, on December 9, when quoted 50½. Urugnay bonds have reacted slightly to 41½ for the Old Loan and to 52xd. for the New Loan, but the market is now hardening again, as the reconstruction of the Cabinet is cabled from Monte Video, the new Ministers having a good record. It is now hoped that acting-President Cuestas will take more energetic measures as regards the Chambers, and according to latest cablegrams he has called the National Guard out for the purpose. There is so far no improvement in Brazilians, and Chilians have kept steady. Peruvian Corporation Prefs. and Debentures have been picked up by knowing investors. Mexican Sixes have gone ahead sharply, the Old Loan being quoted 97¾ xd., the New Loan 95¼. Advices from Mexico are still to the effect that the country is prospering. An important advance has been established in Mexican Rails, the First Prefs. being quoted 76¾, and it is still believed that the Mexican Government will look favourably on the proposal to adjust rates according to the price of silver.

THE KAFFIR CIRCUS.—MODERATE FLUCTUATIONS.

It is characteristic of the upward movement in South African shares, which has been in progress during the last few weeks, that every now and then reactions ensue, which are certainly calculated to keep the "Bull" account within narrow limits. Such a reaction has taken place during the last week, and is now being gradually recovered. It cannot be said that the public have so far taken any important part in dealings, and the support has chiefly come from the leading South African houses who have taken the market in hand. It is no doubt the policy of the latter to let prices flag now and again, and when some of the weak speculators have been shaken out, to give renewed support. There are signs that French operators are again entering the market, and some purchases have been made for Paris account, which are distinctly traceable to this source. The electoral campaign in the Transvaal is not conducive to business activity in Johannesburg, but matters should improve when it is over. It would be important that Mr. Schalk Burger, although he has little chance of defeating Oom Paul, should be backed by a large number of votes, as this would indicate that his progressive policy is being supported by a growing number of Boers. In the meantime crushings for December make a somewhat irregular showing, the returns from the Deep Levels being, however, again good. The Rand Mines group has attracted a good deal of attention, and large transactions have taken place not only in the shares of the parent Company, but also in those of the Angelo and Driefontein, the former being now quoted 6, and the latter 4⅛. I may here be permitted to remind my readers that I gave

particulars of the promising position of the Driefontein in TRUTH of September 23, when the price was $3\frac{5}{8}$. The rise which has since been established has fully justified that recommendation. East Rands were at one time $5\frac{1}{2}$ bid, but have reacted to $5\frac{3}{8}$, and in Rand Mines a slight fall to $34\frac{1}{2}$ has to be recorded, but I venture to predict that this will prove only a case of *reculer pour mieux sauter*. Consolidated Goldfields have been more or less neglected at $5\frac{5}{16}$, but Goldfields Deep have been active at $10\frac{3}{8}$ on the issue of the Directors' report, the substance of which I gave already in last week's issue. I may be permitted to add to my last remarks that the Directors state that they have acquired a predominant interest in the Vierfontein Syndicate, thus securing, in conjunction with other leading firms, a means of establishing a water-supply second to none on the fields. The Directors, of course, point with satisfaction to the large crushings of the Rose Deep, in which the Company has a considerable holding. Claim interests, equal to eighteen additional claims, have been purchased during the year, and the total holding of unfloated claims is stated as 528. The mining properties are unchanged, but to the shareholdings in subsidiary and other Companies there have been added shares in the Elandsfontein Estate, Village Main Reef, and Vierfontein Syndicate, while the holdings in the Rose Deep, Glen Deep (reserve shares), and Rand Victoria Mines have been increased.

The following is a list of the shareholdings on September 30, 1897 :—

Name of Company.	No. of Shares.	Total Issued Capital of Company.
City and Suburban Deep, Limited	7,284	£60.000
Elandsfontein Estate Company, Limited	9,143	30,000
Glen Deep, Limited	177,062	550,000
Johannesburg Brick and Potteries Co., Ltd.	22,000	103 000
Jupiter G. M Company, Limited	165,459	460,000
Klipriversburg Estate and G. M. Co., Ltd.	12,168	110,000
Knights Deep, Limited	153,350	443,093
Rand Victoria Mines, Limited	136 084	630,000
Robinson Deep. Limited	3[illegible]0,000	400,000
Rose Deep, Limited	55,200	400,000
Simmer and Jack East, Limited	39,225	600,000
Simmer and Jack West, Limited	21,804	300,000
Turffontein Estate	8,553	40,007
Vierfontein Syndicate	16.800	28,000
Village Main Reef G. M. Company, Limited	5,714	250,000

The capital of the Goldfields Deep is £600,000, which at £10 per share works out to £6,000,000. Taking merely the holdings in seven companies we arrive at a present total value of these of £4,500,000. These seven mines, however, represent only, as pointed out in the *Financial News*, 370 claims, so that the 528 claims not yet dealt with would, doubtless, bring up the total to a much higher amount than the present capitalisation, altogether apart from the other valuable assets. Under all the circumstances, a further rise would be fully justified. As regards the progress made in Deep Level mining, nothing can be more satisfactory than the remarks made by the Chairman of the Goldfields Deep at the recent meeting of that Company in Johannesburg. The great drawback to Deep Levels in the past was the amount of time necessarily consumed in preliminary operations before results could be obtained. But the rate of sinking has been so greatly accelerated that, whereas a year or two ago it was considered satisfactory to sink 60 ft. or 70 ft. per month, nowadays 100 ft. is looked upon as only moderate, and it is quite a common thing to sink a shaft 125 to 135 ft. in a month. This means that formerly a Deep Level Company could not start crushing under about four years, but that to-day the same work can be done in two and a-half years, and at far less cost, for whether a Company sinks 50 ft. in a month or 150 ft. it has to retain exactly the same permanent staff, and the standing charges remain unaltered Since the meeting the Goldfields Deep has liquidated £100,000 of its debentures, which now stand at £400,000 instead of £500,000, and the position of the Company is more promising than ever. The Simmer and Jack directors have been selling some of their "outside assets," with the result that the Company is now entirely free from debt, and has already more than enough money to pay off the remaining debentures, now amounting to £300 000. Moreover, it still holds a large block of shares, which are likely to be readily saleable as progress is made with the second row of Deep Levels. It should not be forgotten that when this Company owed about £900,000 in direct and contingent liabilities the shares stood at a much higher price than they are at present quoted.

Prices of other Deep Level shares have been firm, and are as follows : — Crown Deep 14, Nourse Deep $7\frac{3}{8}$, Rose Deep $7\frac{3}{16}$, Durban - Roodepoort Deep $4\frac{5}{16}$, Jumpers Deep 6, Knights Deep $2\frac{5}{16}$. In the Barnato group a considerable improvement has occurred in Barnato Consols, which have moved up to $2\frac{3}{8}$. There has been also a better tendency for Johnnies Investment, which stand at $2\frac{1}{8}$, for New Primrose at $4\frac{9}{16}$, and for Glencairn at $2\frac{1}{2}$. The Robinson group, on the other hand, has shown dulness, and Randfontein more especially are flagging, and have not raised themselves above $2\frac{1}{8}$. An advance has, however, taken place in Langlaagte Star to $1\frac{3}{8}$. Modderfontein have recovered to $3\frac{1}{2}$, and a rise in Knights to $4\frac{7}{16}$ has been a feature. Chartered shares have followed their usual erratic course, reacting to $2\frac{7}{8}$, and rallying to $3\frac{3}{16}$. Mail advices have now been received from the Woodstock Mine, which throw light on the disappointing nature of the first crushing, and clearly show that this is a case of injudicious management on the spot, and that there are other parts of the mine now being developed which contain payable ore, and should give a satisfactory yield. This view is confirmed by the *Gold Fields News*, according to which the ore at present developed is of too low a grade to yield a profit on the working costs, and the intention has always been to continue the low level to No. 2 block, where a large chute of high grade ore is proved, from which it is a distance of 500 ft, when crushing is expected to recommence profitably. My contemporary adds that the reef near the battery—an entirely new reef—is opening up well, being 3 ft. wide, and showing visible gold freely, and panning well. It is evident, therefore, that the prospects of the mine are still hopeful, and that the shares should be held for a substantial recovery. Diamond shares are firmer, De Beers being quoted $29\frac{3}{8}$, New Jagersfontein $8\frac{1}{8}$.

GOLDEN WEST AUSTRALIA.

Advices from Western Australia are in every respect satisfactory, and, according to the cablegram received by the Agent-General, the revenue of the Colony for 1897 was £2,843,775, against £2,440,390 in 1896, showing an increase of £403,835. The exports of gold in 1897 reached 674,993 oz., of a value of £2,564,976, thus largely exceeding Sir John Forrest's estimate of £2,000,000 given when in this country. This output of 674,993 oz. in 1897 compares with 261,265 oz. in 1896, 231,512 oz in 1895, 207,131 oz. in 1894, and 110,890 oz. in 1893. Truly a splendid record of an increasing gold yield! It would not be surprising if the output for 1898 were to reach 1,000,000 oz. Another piece of satisfactory news is the statement that good rains have fallen all over the Colony, a satisfactory supply of water being one of the first conditions of satisfactory mining. While on the point of West Australian finance, I may as well mention that the Colony is inviting tenders for £1,000,000 of Three per Cent. Inscribed stock (being the first instalment of a loan of £2,500,000) at 95, and that this loan is already quoted 2 premium. The proceeds are to be applied to the scheme for providing a permanent supply of water to the Coolgardie goldfields, to which I have repeatedly referred. The market for Westralian mining shares is already feeling the effect of the re-opening of the Australian Stock Exchanges, notably of Adelaide, and business has been more active during the week, although all the movements have by no means been in the upward direction. It so happens, however, that the London and Western Exploration group, with which I dealt most exhaustively in

last week's issue, has given rise to the most active dealings at a general advance. The shares of the parent Company have risen to 1 $\frac{5}{8}$, London and West Australian Investment shares have improved to $\frac{7}{8}$, and the leading mining shares of the group, viz., Hannan's Brownhill, have gone ahead to 8$\frac{1}{4}$, a gain of 1$\frac{1}{4}$. From the statement which I made in last week's issue with regard to this Company, however, it is evident that this is only the beginning of the rise. East Murchison United have improved to 1$\frac{1}{8}$, ex the dividend of 1s. per share. Consolidated Murchison have moved up to 6s., and Great Fingall Reefs are up at 8s. on the participation of this Company in the Sons of Gwalia deal. Concerning the latter new Company, a pamphlet dealing exhaustively with all the reports on the property has just been issued, and as I have already furnished a good deal of information on this mine, I need but mention that the engineers state that "the known ore-bodies will yield a monthly profit of £20,000, which represents a return of 24 per cent. per annum on a capital of £1,000,000." The capital of the Company has, however, been fixed at £300,000, and the shares are therefore worth a substantial premium. A considerable number of crushings have come to hand, of which the following is the list:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Ounces of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per Ton.
North Boulder	375	426	—
Ivanhoe	1,178	2,273	—
Lady Shenton	215	1,000	—
,, ,, (from plates)	—	355	—
City of London G. M. ...	193	210	—
Cue One	375	423	—
Menzies Crusoe	185	199	12 dwt.
Consolidated Murchison.	292	295	—
Hannan's Oroya... ...	756	275	—
Mount Malcolm Prop. ...	292	362	17 dwt.
Great Boulder Main Reef	530	899	—
Northern Territories ...	—	696	—
Blevin's Find	130	131	—
Great Boulder Perseverance	780	816	—
Great Boulder Perseverance	242	601	—
Agamemnon	285	136	2$\frac{1}{2}$ dwt.
Golconda	370	850	2 dwt.
Menzies Mining and Exploration	75	85	—
Lake View Consols ...	543	705	13 dwt. 13 gr.
,, ,, ,, ...	4,447	4,876	13 dwt. 8 gr.
,, ,, (Cyanide)	2,978	2,634	2 dwt.
,, ,, (Concentrates)	20	400	—
Lindsay's Consolidated...	170	56	—
Belle Vue Proprietary ...	230	461	—
Burbank's Birthday Gift	312	550	—
Norseman	680	412	—
Hannan's Reward ...	452	165	3 dwt.

Amongst the above crushings the most interesting is that of the Lady Shenton, which shows a large increase in the percentage of the yield. The previous return was 1,012 oz. of gold from 400 tons of ore, while in the last return a yield of 1,000 oz. was obtained from 215 tons, altogether apart from the gold obtained from the plates. This confirms the view which I took some time ago, on the authority of those best acquainted with the property, that considerably better returns can be expected as the lower levels of the mine are reached. Calculating roughly, it may be said that 1,000 oz. per fortnight, or 2,000 oz. per month, would mean a total yield of 24,000 oz. per annum, of the value of, say, £91,000. Deducting milling and mining costs on the average of the last return, which would amount to about £10,300, there would be a net profit balance of £80,600. The capital of the Lady Shenton Gold Mine is £160,000, so that dividends of 50 per cent. per annum would appear to be in sight. Why, under these circumstances, the shares do not rise to a much higher level it is difficult to understand, and one can only assume that one of these days they will suddenly take a jump. Great Boulder Proprietary shares have been firm at 24s. 6d., advices from the mine continuing satisfactory. Lake View Consols have been somewhat dull, and after being dealt in below 11, are quoted at about this figure. Some of the rumours which have been current about the Lake View Lode having given out are obviously beyond the mark, as the known quantity of ore in sight in this mine is very large, so that disappointing developments in one part of the mine would not, to any extent, depreciate the value of the property as a whole. Ivanhoes have been firm at 6$\frac{3}{8}$, and London and Globes have displayed a strong front at 2$\frac{5}{8}$, at which they have been mostly buyers. It is understood that the amalgamation of various sub-Companies of the London and Globe Finance Corporation is now being proceeded with, and particulars will shortly be published. Hampton Plains have remained firm at 1$\frac{1}{4}$, West Australian Goldfields at 2$\frac{7}{16}$. I am told that the West Australian Goldfields have acquired a property in Victoria, about 7 000 acres in extent, through which the deep leads are expected to be found. The property has been acquired upon most exceptional terms, and without royalties. Burbank's Birthday Gift have improved to 1$\frac{3}{4}$ on continued satisfactory results, and Belle Vue Proprietary have been firmer at 1$\frac{1}{4}$. Central Boulder have been easier at 1$\frac{1}{8}$. West Boulder at 5s., and Golden Horseshoes have been distinctly lower, the price having reacted to 8$\frac{5}{16}$. The improvement in Golden Links has fizzled out again, and the shares are now quoted 1$\frac{5}{16}$. Hannan's Proprietary have kept pretty firm at 16s. 3d., but the various Kalgurlie issues have been dull. The Associated and Joint Stock Trust group has been well maintained, Associated Gold Mines standing at 4$\frac{1}{4}$. The West Australian Market Trust have issued a circular in which the statement is made that Mr. George Brookman has arrived in Adelaide, and has assumed his duties as local director (in conjunction with Mr. William Finlayson) of the Company, and that all arrangements for the establishment of a colonial register have been completed. The Directors are considering several important projects connected with the Westralian goldfields. The circular winds up with the statement that the Trust continues to earn substantial profits, and that at the end of the present month the Directors will consider the question of declaring an interim dividend. These shares are quoted 1$\frac{3}{16}$. The Hannan's North Gold Mining Company has now also gone in for reconstruction, but I do not consider the prospects at all satisfactory, and the large fees which are being taken by the three Directors are also a drawback. I have received several inquiries with reference to the Menzies Niagara Mine, which, although started in 1895, does not appear to have made any satisfactory progress. It will be of interest to know when crushings will at last really take place? Peak Hill Goldfields have fluctuated somewhat, and after being dealt in at 2$\frac{5}{16}$, are somewhat better at 2$\frac{1}{2}$. The special settlement has just been fixed for January 26. Golden Arrow are higher at 7s. 6d., but Chaffers and Chaffers Extended are easier. By the way, two very useful pamphlets have been issued by the West Australian authorities. One is called "A Land of Promise," and gives an authentic account of the condition and resources of the Colony, by Trant Chambers. In addition to railway and mining information, it furnishes some interesting data on the selection of land, free farms, the conditional purchase of land, and agricultural settlements and prospects. The other pamphlet is entitled "The Land Selector's Guide to the Crown Lands of Western Australia," and contains explanatory notes respecting land selection, under the Land Regulations and the Homestead Acts, with a description of the surveyed agricultural areas and lands open to free selection before survey. The latter has been issued by direction of the Hon. George Throssell, M.L.A., Commissioner of Crown Lands of Western Australia.

GLACIER WINDOW DECORATION.—A pleasant occupation for ladies is the decoration of the windows of the house, and a reliable substitute for Stained Glass, giving warmth and brightness at small cost, should be warmly welcomed. Glacier has now for 15 years stood the test of use in every country in the world. Send rough plan and measurements of any window, and sketch and estimate of cost of decoration with Glacier will be sent free of charge.—M'CAW, STEVENSON, & ORR, Ltd., 29, Cannon-st., London, E.C., & Belfast.

INDIAN, AUSTRALASIAN, AND BRITISH COLUMBIAN MINES.

Indian mining shares have been steady, and advances are marked in Nundydroog and Mysore Gold, but Ooregum Ordinary are easier. In Australian mines, other than West Australian, Aladdin's Lamp are easier at 1¾ x.d. Mount Lyell North are better at 4½, but Mount Lyell are dull at 14½. A rise of ¼ has taken place in Mount Morgan to 4⅝, and in Charters Towers shares Brilliant and St. George United are firmer, while Mill's Day Dawn United and New Queen are easier. The New Zealand section has been steadier, and there has been an advance in United New Zealand Corporation, Hauraki and Waitekauri Extended Woodstock are, however, dull. In copper shares Rio Tinto Deferred have moved up to 26, and an improvement is also marked in Anaconda, Cape Copper, and Copiapo. In British Columbian shares advances have occurred in British Columbia Financial Trust, and New Goldfields of British Columbia; but New Frazer, Hall Mines, and B.C. Development Syndicate are considerably lower. British America Corporation shares have been firm at 3s. premium buyers. It is believed that the first sub-Company of the British America Corporation will shortly be issued, and that the "Le Roi" Mine in British Columbia, which is already a dividend-payer, will be the subject of this flotation. On this point, however, no definite news is available yet, but it is understood that Mr. Whitaker Wright proposes to go to Klondike in March in order to personally superintend the development of the Corporation's interests. Amongst some two dozens of new British Columbian Companies that have been started here, and many more dozens of concerns which have seen the light of day in the United States, the majority are undoubtedly wild-cat enterprises. The public are apparently beginning to realise this fact, and quotations here are becoming more or less nominal, while a collapse of this kind of boom in the United States has also been announced. This is as it should be! A few of the sound undertakings will, of course, survive, and amongst them none is more promising than the British America Corporation. I referred last week to one of the shadiest concerns started here, viz., the Klondyke Gold Mining and Trading Company, and I asked some pointed questions as to what had become of the cash subscribed. The matter has in the meantime assumed a very serious complexion, as certain of the Directors have been under the necessity of informing against their colleagues, amongst whom Augustus Colin Aitken is now charged before the Lord Mayor upon warrants charging him with unlawfully and fraudulently applying to his own use and benefit the sum of £871 and other amounts belonging to the Company, and also for conspiring with Edgar Rodriguez Savigny, to obtain sums of money and valuable securities by false pretences from persons applying for shares in the Company. The matter being now *sub judice* I am unable to make any further comments, but the occurrence should act as a warning to those foolish persons who are so easily induced by any kind of boom to part with their money. In Mexican mining shares Grand Central have hardened to 1¾ on favourable advices from the mine, and Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico have risen to 1⅜ on the favourable statements made by Mr. Frank Nicholson, the general manager of the Company, who is at present on a visit to England. At the complimentary dinner given at the Hotel Cecil on Friday evening to Mr. Nicholson, the latter related how, when much prejudiced against the property, he first made an examination of it, and came to the conclusion that it was a valuable one. In fact, he at present considered the mine not only a good one, but one of the Bonanza properties of Mexico. The plant was now in perfect condition, and consisted of sixty efficient stamps and a cyanide plant capable of treating 100 tons of ore per day, the latter having started on January 1. Mr. Nicholson explained how the ore in the mine comprised two classes, one specially suited for treatment by the cyanide process, and the other by pan amalgamation, together representing a total treatment of 150 tons per day. This combined treatment commenced on January 1, and at the end of the present month results, therefore, should be announced. With regard to the underground operations, Mr. Nicholson stated that when he took charge of the mine there were in sight 30,000 tons of ore. Having driven 1,000 feet away, he encountered an ore body, which could never have been dreamt of by the people who previously held the property. He stated that the amount of ore now in sight was 84,000 tons, every foot of which was getting better, and the deeper they went the richer was the ore. Mr. Nicholsan also referred to the additional land owned by the Company of 25,000 acres, of which 15,000 at least was mineral-bearing, and stated that the result of prospecting had already shown ore going 2 dols. to the ton in a direction parallel to the Santa Elena. He hinted that this would probably enable the Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico to issue a subsidiary Company with extremely favourable prospects before the end of the year.

NEW ENTERPRISES AND ISSUES.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Canning Jarrah Timber Company (Western Australia), Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire as a going concern the business at present carried on by the Canning Jarrah Timber Company, Limited, in Western Australia, and to further develop the same. The business includes a Government concession to fell and remove timber over about 128 square miles of Jarrah Forest; a railway of about thirty miles, connected with Government railways; three large saw mills, and other properties. The share capital is fixed at £250,000 in shares of £1 each, and £75,000 Five per Cent. First Mortgage debentures of £100 each. The sum of £75,000 is to be set aside as working capital.

New South Wales Government Inscribed Stock.—The Governor and Company of the Bank of England are authorised to receive tenders for £1,500,000 New South Wales Three per Cent. Inscribed Stock, at the minimum price of £99 per cent., repayable at par in 1935. This stock will be in addition to, and will rank *pari passu* with, the Three per Cent. Stock, 1935, already existing. The dividends will be payable half-yearly.

Johannesburg Waterworks Estate and Exploration Company, Limited.—Issue of £250,000 Five per Cent. Mortgage Debentures in Bonds of £100 and £50 each. The whole to be redeemed by December 31, 1925, at par, by the operation of a Cumulative Sinking Fund commencing 1901, or by purchases in the market at any time thereafter if the price is below par; and the Compnay further reserves to itself the right of redeeming the whole on and after December 31, 1911, at a premium of 3 per cent. on giving six months' notice to the Debenture Holders.

The Fibrous Petroleum and Oil Fuel Company, Limited.—Capital, £250 000 in £1 shares. The Company has been formed as a parent concern to acquire, work, &c., an invention and patents for the United Kingdom, and the right to apply for the patent rights for the Dominion of Canada, for the production of a concentrated fuel from crude petroleum and other residual mineral oils.

MY LETTER BOX.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

GOVERNMENT, &C., BONDS.

M. J. K.—I see no objection to your putting the sum in question in Victorian, Tasmanian, and Cape of Good Hope Fours, distributing the amount over the three different stocks. *O. N.*—Yes, I expect Argentine Government bonds to rise to a higher level. *F. R. T.*—The future course of Uruguayan bonds depends entirely upon politics. If the political problem is solved there will be an important advance, as the crops are good, and there is every promise of prosperity. *Chapfallen.*—Keep the Leopoldina debentures for the present. In the general re-arrangement which is being made concerning the Greek loans, it is probable that your bonds will appreciate.

BANKS, TRUSTS, AND FINANCIAL.

Arrow.—As regards the first-mentioned insurance corporation, its business has been unsuccessful, and if you are interested in the matter why do you not write to the secretary? With reference to new insurance offices, prospects for an agent of doing business are very doubtful, and this also applies to the one about which you inquire. *H. J. B.*—What you require has been forwarded in your envelope. I have always warned my readers against having any dealings with outside brokers, but I must confess that the firm mentioned has not yet come under my notice. *Hibernicus.*—The list of Industrial Debentures, given

in TRUTH of December 9, should answer your requirements. If you want other securities, you must tell me what kind you require. *Templar.*—I have forwarded the address in question by telegraph as requested, as an exceptional matter. *The Poet.*—I cannot give you any better advice than to divide the sum in question over a number of the American Railroad bonds, of which I gave full lists in the issue of TRUTH, dated December 30, 1897. *Cook.*—In view of the improving prospects of London banks, I do not think there is any reason for selling the shares mentioned at present. *Musket.*—There is no reason why you should not buy these London bank shares but it is quite correct that they are £50 shares, and only £28 paid. You have therefore to run the risk, remote though it be, of the uncalled capital being called up. *Inquirer, Brighton.*—While the rise in Canadian Rails is fully justified, I hardly think that it will have much effect upon the Finance Company mentioned by you. *G. E. G.*—I cannot reply by letter. Cunliffe, Russell, & Co., of Paris, are dealing in foreign lottery bonds, and I have repeatedly stated in TRUTH that in many instances they charge prices far above the actual market values. If you wish to buy these bonds you should do so only through a respectable firm of foreign bankers in London, and if you wish it I will send you the address of such a firm. *Kiston, Kilmarnock.*—As an exceptional matter, your query was replied to by telegram, which, however, was returned, as an insufficient address had been given.

HOME RAILS.

Hereford.—I have all along been in favour of Caledonian Deferred and North British Deferred (1 and 2), and if you had acted on my advice you would have bought these very much cheaper than they are now, and as regards Great Centrals you are sufficiently posted by my repeated remarks, which you have doubtless read. As regards No. 5, as you know, I have never recommended a purchase of these shares. *R. V. C.*—Midland Deferred are a good investment of the kind, and I see no reason why you should not double your holding. *January.*—1. It is expected that the Great Central extension to London will be opened in March or April next. 2. I really do not know what the writer in question may have referred to, but you will have seen that the matter was fully dealt with in last week's issue under "Home Rails." 3. Yes, especially the 1894 Ordinary stock, which I prefer. *Quero.*—I think that Great Northern Deferred are likely to go better on the announcement of what should prove a pretty satisfactory dividend. Then the question will arise as to whether you would like to close in anticipation of the coming competition of the Great Central. I should certainly prefer Great Central New Ordinary as the more progressive of the two.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN RAILS.

Clifton.—You have done quite right in buying Louisville at 58, and you should await a considerable rise. American Rails seem to be on the up-grade now. *Veritas, Piccadilly.*—I cannot tell you when the dividend will be paid, but Ontario are certainly fully worth their present price. *V. B. O.*—Yes, I still hold a favourable opinion of these American Railroad bonds. *S. D., Dulwich.*—1. Yes, these bonds are a good investment. 2. It is probable that some arrangement will be come to with regard to Santa Fé provincial bonds, and I referred to the matter last week, under "Foreigners and South Americans." *Baloo.*—You must really tell me what class of stocks you require for replacing your East Indian Railway Debentures. *Scotus.*—You must be aware that the Baltimore and Ohio Company is in the hands of the receivers. Sooner or later the matter in question will doubtless be adjusted. *Ceres.*—I have not yet heard as to whether the Calgary and Edmonton Company will benefit by the circumstance mentioned by you. *Teacher.*—Do not be frightened by these tales, and hold your Central Pacifics for an advance. You should certainly deposit your shares with Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co. *Leo.*—The price of Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway Ordinary stock is 76 78 xd., according to the Official List, and it is untrue for any one to say that they could not be sold at any price. The position of the guaranteeing company, the Huanchaca Company, has of late deteriorated, inasmuch as its mine is flooded; but after the heavy decline I think it would be unwise to throw away the stock at any price. *Anxious, Sheffield.*—Grand Trunks are on the up-grade, and you might hold for a further important advance.

MINING SHARES.

Jupiter.—I should think that a stockbroker who is well situated in the Kaffir Circus would easily be able to buy the gold-mining shares mentioned. *Linstock.*—These Deep Level shares appear to be promising, but you cannot expect shares to at once jump as soon as you have bought them. *Greenkeed, Glasgow.*—1. Yes, London and West Australian Exploration shares are a good purchase in the light of recent developments. 2. You should at once acquire an interest in The Sons of Gwalia. 3. After the important advance in North Mount Lyall a purchase would be risky. *J. McI.*—I do not hold any favourable view of this mine and its neighbours. *Medico.*—You had better assent to any reasonable arrangement. Nothing will be gained by being obstinate. It was an accident. *C. S.*—There is no option but to hold in the hope that the mine may come right. *Nagpur.*—1. The price of British Westralia shares is 6. 2. You can meet with more favourable opportunities. *Broach.*—None of these Companies have so far achieved success, but they should be held in the hope of its being obtained. *Regent.*—1. Yes, the shares should come right. 2. Probably. 3. Yes. *Dingle.*—Transvaal Exploring shares should be held. *M. J. G.*—The vendors of the Menzies Golden Rhine Company have given the Company a new property free of charge and as long as there is a probability of this property turning out all right, it would be folly to encourage this ill-timed agitation. *Ingledene.*—I am afraid that prospects are by no means satisfactory. This Central Wealth Consolidated Goldfields reconstruction is most unpromising. *Kismet.*—No, you should hold the shares. Portions of the property are producing good ore, and it is hoped that it will come right. *Woodley, Plymouth.*—You should hold Knights; the mine is doing well. *Anxious, South Shields.*—I have a very unfavourable opinion of the much-reconstructed Polar Star Proprietary. Better not throw good money after bad. *H. de C.*—It is hoped by the management that the mine will turn out all right, although the result of the first crushing was disappointing. *G. S., Portman-square.*—At this rubbish price they are cheap, but there might be a reconstruction to face. *Britannicus.* 1. It is certainly most unusual when subscriptions are invited, for a Company like the Great Northern Industrial Gold Company (California) to send out subsequently letters of regret. 2. Possibly the subscriptions were insufficient and the Company did not go to allotment. 3. I do not like this concern. *Reader of TRUTH, Workington.*—1. The George Goch's prospects are few. 2. The other mine may come right, but the first results were disappointing. *Yellowstone.*—Hold all the shares, and average Nos. 3, 8, and 9. *Ajax.*—A fair mining risk. *Mars.*—No, I do not advise purchase of shares in the Anglo-Australian Exploration Company. *C. D.*—Your shares, Nos. 1-3, are all very promising. No. 4 may come right. Nos. 5 and 6 are a good purchase; also Nos. 9 and 11. The others are not promising, and you could do better in other shares mentioned under "Golden West Australia." *Henoptin.* I am glad to hear that you have often been well advised by TRUTH. Amongst the shares mentioned by you I do not think much of Nos. 1 and 2, while No. 7 has not done well of late, but all the others look promising. *Disgusted.*—This is due, no doubt, to the general adverse influences which have prevailed in the Transvaal of late. You should write to the Secretary of the Oceana Company. *Pan.*—The Goldfields of Lydenburg have proved very disappointing. It is quite time that the wealthy firm who were responsible for the flotation should take the matter up. The manner in which the shares were unloaded upon the public was disgraceful. *T. E. F. S., County Waterford.*—The Bon Accord Gold Mining Company was a no prospectus Company, viz., it was floated privately in 1896. It acquired an unproved property, and it is now sought to reconstruct it for want of capital under the name of Beechworth Goldfields, Limited. I should consider this throwing good money after bad. *Albion.*—There are, no doubt, better portions of the mine than that from which the first crushing was taken. There may be a fair chance for New Flag, but this is quite uncertain.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

M. S., Dublin.—I certainly do not advise you to join the new scheme of the Great Horseless Carriage Company. You will find that a movement is on foot to resist this reconstruction, headed by Mr. William J. Hunter, solicitor, 24, Finsbury-circus, London, E.C., and as you have joined this agitation I do not see why you should not go on with it. *Atom.*—*a.* The shares are quite high enough, and there is no reason why you should not take your profit, as any day some rival concern may spring up. *b.* Yes, a fair investment. *c.* My view is still unfavourable. *Lem.*—A fair industrial investment, but speculative. It is difficult to say whether an advance is in sight. *Novice, Sheerness.*—I do not like the concern. You can sell even without the certificate, but only for special settlement, and the latter does not appear to have been fixed yet. *Alpha.*—1. The Colonial meat trade is not in a flourishing condition, and there is little prospect of improvement in Nelson's. 2. I really should not like to express an opinion on this Tyre Company's future. There may be a recovery. *F. T., Douglas.*—The rise in Brush Electrical shares is rather due to the revival in the electrical industry than to the point mentioned by you. *Astonian.*—It is not advisable to sell out now. *Belfast.*—The Fish Oil deal is confined almost completely to Dublin, and there is very little market for the shares here. *Hanover.*—The debentures first mentioned (1) are a fair investment but no catch. In TRUTH of December 9 I gave two complete lists of Industrial and Brewery debentures, with yield, &c., and you should make your selection from this. I do not like Salt Union as an investment. *Anglia.*—No. 4 is a good industrial investment. No. 5 is quite high enough in view of the possibility of competition. The Brewery investments Nos. 1 and 3 are promising; No. 2 fair. *I. D. G.*—1. It certainly appears to be that there has been reckless trading. 2. This is a matter which you will have to decide for yourself.

CHINA AND GLASS. — Messrs. GOODE, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

G. de B. B.—The Tubes should be held, but I do not advise you to buy more. You should keep the Westralian shares, as the amalgamation scheme of the London and Globe Finance, which is about to be promulgated, will comprise them. Oceana should be held for an improvement. *Nouvel An.*—1. I recommended realising profits in Lake View Consols when these rose to 12. There is no doubt that they are worth their present price, but I do not anticipate any important improvement at present. Eventually, however, they should go higher. 2. The Argentine Rails mentioned by you are fairly promising. *Dabbler.*—1. Your South African shares should be held for a rise, also the others mentioned, notably London and Globe and British American Corporation, but I do not like the Component Tubes. Amongst the Westralians mentioned by you, I should prefer Brownhill Consolidated, and Lake View, and Boulder Junction, but you might have a better chance with the Heavy shares, such as Lake View Consols, Ivanhoe, and Hannan's Brownhill. East Murchison United, Consolidated Murchison, and London and West Australian Exploration shares are also promising. *Heather Bell.*—1. The Goldfields Deep Company holds large interests in the Deep Level mines mentioned (2 5). 6. The British-American Corporation shares are, for the moment, to be obtained in London at 3s. 3d. premium. 7. The price of *Financial Times* Ordinary shares is 3, and a dividend has just been announced at the same rate as last time. *B. A.*—1. No, I do not advise purchase of Bank of Persia shares. 2. Not yet. 3. The South African Gold Trust has declared a dividend of 7s. 6d. per share in 1897. 4. A fair industrial investment. 5. I do not recommend the purchase. 6. The London and Globe has declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent., payable on January 17, and it is expected that at least 15 per cent more will be paid for 1897. *Caradoc.*—I cannot tell you the result of this liquidation, but I have all along warned my readers against this concern. Hold your Chatham Ordinary Stock for an improvement. *C A. P. C.*—Both the Foreign Railway stocks Nos. 1 and 2 look now more promising, and should be held. For the investment of your £300 in a speculative concern, Nos. 5 and 7 would be most promising. *Hazel.*—Yes, you might as well sell the Telegraph stock, and reinvest in Standard Bank of South Africa shares. This a very substantial bank, with the prospect of still greater prosperity. *F. C.*—The stocks which you have picked out are very promising. As a matter of choice, you might distribute the money over Canadian Pacifics, Lady Shenton, and Sons of Gwalia. *Boat Hook.*—I. I should not advise you to sell any of your investments, Nos. 1-15. They are all promising of their kind, with the exception, perhaps, of the Turks (7) It looks as if we should have a very general appreciation in values in the present year, with the exception, perhaps, of the very high priced gilt-edged stocks. *F. R. G.*—1. Welsbachs should be held. 2. This Company has not of late been so successful as it used to be. *J. C. W.*—Copper shares such as Nos. 1 and 2 have already risen very considerably. Neither do I consider the Brewery stocks Nos. 2 and 4 as promising. But you might buy Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico and British American Corporation stocks with fair prospect of an important advance. *Douglas.*—1. You might as well clear your profit on them and on No. 2. As regards No. 3 this is a fair industrial investment, but, of course, speculative. *Spero.*—1. Same reply as regards the London and Globe dividends is to "B. A." (see above). 2. The Flagstaff Company does not look as if it could achieve any sustained success. A great many West Australian Companies are far more promising. You had better exchange into some of the shares mentioned under "Golden West Australia." 3. A very poor industrial investment.

VARIOUS INVESTMENTS.

Rates in the Money Market are distinctly lower at $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for short loans, while the rate of discount for three months' bank bills has declined to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The large withdrawal from the Bank of England for Buenos Ayres have, however, created a disposition not to let rates slide away too much. Consols have receded to $112\frac{3}{4}$ for the account. The downward movement was chiefly due to the consideration that should a large Chinese loan be brought out with an English guarantee this might prove a serious rival to our premier security. At present a 3 per cent. loan at an issue price of 110 is being talked of. I daresay this is all premature, but one cannot help making comparisons with other similar issues, such as the Egyptian Government Guaranteed Three per Cent. Loan, which now stands at $108\frac{1}{2}$. It is true that this is redeemable at par, while a Chinese loan would probably be redeemable at the issue price; but I do not see much attraction in Guaranteed Chinese at 110. Silver is unchanged for the week at $26\frac{7}{16}$d., and Rupee Paper is practically unaltered at $62\frac{1}{2}$. The Chinese and Japanese loans, on the other hand, have advanced, the Chinese Six per Cent. Gold Loan having recovered to 106, the Five per Cent. Gold Loan to 101, while Japanese Five per Cent. Bonds are quoted 102. A little more animation has been shown in the cycle section, but prices have moved the wrong way, and there seems little chance of any recovery to former quotations. Dunlop Deferred are dull at 11s. 9d., French Dunlops at 5s. Humber Ordinary are steady at $\frac{13}{16}$, the Extensions at $\frac{1}{2}$. Cycle Components have receded to $2\frac{1}{2}$, Amalgamated Pneumatic Tyres being lower at 7s. Swifts are quoted at $\frac{3}{4}$, Singers at 15s. $7\frac{1}{2}$d. x.d. Dealings have been active in the Industrial section, a feature having been the strength of Schweppes, on favourable dividend rumours, amongst which the Ordinary stand at 24s. 6d., the Deferred 13s. 6d. Bovrils have been in some request, the Ordinary at $1\frac{1}{8}$, the Deferred at $\frac{15}{16}$. Apollinaris-Johannis have been put up in anticipation of the deal with Pears' Soap, and the Ordinary has risen to $13\frac{1}{2}$. The English Sewing Cotton allotments have not yet been completed, and the quotation is easier at $\frac{11}{16}$ premium. Coats Ordinary are somewhat firmer at 62. Welsbach Ordinary stock has recovered to 101-6. In London Bank shares a considerable business has been transacted, and prices have hardened in several instances. London and Midland Banks have more particularly improved, on the very favourable nature of the balance-sheet, and scored an advance of $2\frac{1}{2}$, while National Provincial, London and Westminster, Capital and Counties, City Bank, and London and Provincial Bank shares have risen $\frac{1}{2}$. The accounts of the leading Banks, which are now being issued, are mostly of a satisfactory nature. In the case of the City Bank an improvement of 1 per cent. is shown in the dividend, and in that of the London and Midland and London and South-Western the improvement amounts to 2 per cent., while most of the other dividends have been maintained at the same rate as a year ago. The outlook for the current year is distinctly favourable, as, barring accidents, business will, doubtless, expand very considerably. Allsopp Ordinary have been dull, the quotation being $161\frac{3}{4}$, and business in the Brewery section generally has been curtailed. I have received the eighth annual issue of "Dunsford's Stock Exchange Handbook," which is a very useful compilation for investors and speculators. The Directors of Appleton, French, & Scrafton, Limited, of Thornaby-on-Tees, have had to fulfil a painful duty in informing their shareholders of a very serious loss, which is shown on the approximate balance-sheet at October 31, 1897, amounting to £92,226. This sum is made up chiefly of the following items:—Loss on forward wheat contracts, £45,233; other losses on grain trading, £18,293; loss on milling, &c., £12,030; bad debts, £10,487. It appears to me that the business carried on by this Company was of a highly speculative character, and that any one investing in such a concern will not be able to enjoy a peaceful night's rest. It is now proposed to obtain further capital to the amount of £70,000, but personally I should be very sorry to find any more money for a business which can lose half its capital in this fashion in a period of twelve months. A reader of TRUTH residing in Lancashire sends me a number of touting circulars which have been received in his district from Errington, Williams, & Co., 53, Warwick-street, Regent-street, W.; R. A. Smith & Co., 30, Moorgate-street, E.C.; and Sanford & Co., 48, Finsbury-pavement, E.C. With regard to Errington, Williams, & Co., the people of Lancashire are tempted to take a hand in their "railway deals," against which I have repeatedly warned my readers. I may again say that there is not the slightest chance of "gigantic fortunes" being made in this manner, as these touts promise. With reference to R. A. Smith & Co., these people also speak of "startling profits of £1,000 to be made with a £10 note," and their advice is equally dangerous; while, finally, Sanford & Co., who practise the "safety system of successful stock operations for individual accounts," are also working the hackneyed blind-pool scheme. They adopt as their motto the following:—"Speculation is a venture based on calculation; gambling a venture based on blind chance." I calculate that a transaction with Sanford & Co. would not turn out better than one with either of the two syndicate touts before mentioned. J. Edwards &

Co., Talbot House, Arundel-street, W.C., have begun the new year with a tenting circular, dated January 3, in which they announce the continued success of their "new system," and another profit obtained in Grand Trunk First Preference Stock. I should like to meet with some of the people in the flesh who have actually obtained such profits from J. Edwards & Co. It is surprising that so soon after some of the members of the fraternity have been sentenced to various terms of hard labour or penal servitude, others should display such extraordinary activity in trying to induce the public to take a hand in similar transactions. The Stock Exchange Year Book for 1898 has been compiled with his usual care by Mr. Thomas Skinner, and is quite as bulky as the previous volume. The work of forming joint stock Companies is going on, as Mr. Skinner points out in his preface, at an ever-increasing rate. In 1896 the registered number of new Companies was in excess of the very large total in 1894, and as far as the figures for 1897 are available, the number of concerns formed in that year is in excess of those brought out in any previous year. The total number of Companies actually in existence in April, 1897, was 23,728, with a total amount of paid-up capital of £1,285,042,021; against 21,223 in existence in April, 1896, with a amount of paid-up capital of £1,145,402,993. —Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

P.S.—TUESDAY MORNING.—The raising of the silver spectre, partly by means of stale correspondence in the *Times*, has only temporarily checked the improvement in American Rails, and there is every indication of the same being promptly resumed. The total crushings of the Witwatersrand mines for December are announced as 310,712 oz., being another splendid record, the previous highest total being 297,124 oz. in November, 1897, while for December, 1896, the output was 206,517 oz. M.

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QUEER STORY.

DOROTHEA'S DAY-DREAMS.

I WILL try to present Dorothea to you. And yet it is difficult to present her adequately. Dorothea was so different from other girls. You know what most girls are like; how their existence is made up of little feminine details, and seldom extends to any interest not personal to themselves. In my own experience—which embraces, I make bold to say, most of the known British varieties—I have never conversed with a girl who did not impress me with her narrowness. I have often discovered shrewdness; sometimes real intelligence; and now and then intellect. But never, never yet have I discovered breadth. And I do not say this in detraction. Providence, who knows best, has made girls what they are, and we men love the dear creatures, perhaps, all the more because of their narrowness, as we are naturally prone to feel tenderness for that which is a little feebler than ourselves. Nay, do not exclaim, ladies. This is indeed the case. I remember my own first love affair. I was eight; my sweetheart, six. And why do you think I was first attracted to her? Simply for this reason: I was so sorry for her because she could not "shy" a ball. You see, a man likes his love to be mingled with a little pity and patronage; and a considerate Providence has limited the capacities of woman accordingly.

Dorothea, however, was different. I don't mean to say Dorothea could "shy." I am writing a true tale; and won't give myself away at the start by a self-evident absurdity. But I do mean to say that she alone, of all girls I have ever encountered, had breadth. Her mind really could soar above the petty and personal details of life, into those wider fields wherein the large and comprehensive spirit delights to wander untrammelled. To converse with her and hear her broad and beautiful views on every kind of subject was a treat indeed. They were views redolent of true philosophy, poetry, art, tinged with a nameless feminine grace, that beautified without enfeebling their essential vigour.

And her face was the index of her mind. From a merely physical standpoint, indeed, it was a lovely face. But it was much more than that: it was rapt, spiritual, heavenly. People said it was the face of an angel. I don't think they exaggerated. At least, I have never seen the counterfeit presentment of an angel on canvas (which, after all, is our only means nowadays of judging what angels are like) that, in divine expression, even equalled Dorothea's face.

Average people, among whom must be included her own family, neither understood nor appreciated Dorothea. That was not surprising. Her father, a Somersetshire squire, cared for nothing but sport, and was incapable of any mental effort greater than was required for the misunderstanding of evidence at petty sessions. Her mother's life divided itself between housekeeping, garden-parties, and maternity doles in the village. Her brother was the sworn servant of athletics. Her two sisters recked only of golf and cycling. No wonder, then, that these intellectual earth-worms failed to appreciate the treasure wherewith Providence had associated them. Because her mind was always occupied with higher things, they derided her as an idle dreamer. And when she went off—as was a common habit of hers—into some deep reverie, in which she was for the time lost to all surrounding circumstances, these crass materialists, her family, would perpetrate facetious pleasantries anent her "wool-gathering wits."

Yet what else was to be expected than that she should be driven constantly into a brown study, there to commune with her own soul? How was she, Dorothea, to enter into conversations about partridges and poachers; about brassies and putters, or L-pins, and clincher tires?

It may easily be understood, therefore, that with such associates, this beautiful-minded girl found her daily life the reverse of congenial. In fact, if it hadn't been for one person, she simply couldn't have borne it, but must have run away from home altogether. This one person was Arthur Ellacombe.

Arthur Ellacombe was the young bachelor squire of a neighbouring village, who had just taken up his residence on his ancestral acres, after travelling about the world for several years. He was good-looking and well bred; also intellectual and cultured beyond the average. Add to this the fact that he had a rent-roll of £7,000 a year, and you will see at once that he was a man who could not fail to be made much of in the society of the neighbourhood.

Among those who had been forward to welcome him to the home of his fathers were Dorothea's parents; and, although he lived ten miles away, he constantly rode over to Dorothea's parents' house. Now a man does not ride ten miles to a place about every other day for nothing. So, at least, Dorothea's mother opined. And it was not long before Dorothea's mother's opinion was justified, and Arthur's engagement to Dorothea became an accomplished fact.

The good squiress smiled many placid smiles of satisfaction over this desirable betrothal. It was all the more welcome to her because she had rather despaired of Dorothea. The eligible men of the neighbourhood had never run after that young lady, beautiful as she was. Probably she frightened them, with her dreamy ways and intellectual converse, as such girls often do frighten bucolic blockheads. With her other two daughters, Nettie and Maggie, it was all right. They golfed and biked, and might be trusted to golf or bike themselves into good husbands. While we are on this point, it may be added that both young ladies subsequently did what was expected of them—Maggie at a gymkhana and Nettie on the links. Indeed, the latter young lady secured her man in rather sensational style. For playing with him one day in a foursome, when everything depended on her stroke, she holed a twelve-yard putt on the home green and won the match. Whereat her partner, a golf enthusiast, was so delighted, that he proposed on the spot. Who says that golf is a useless accomplishment for girls?

But to return to Dorothea. For her at last had arrived the ideal mate, cultured, intellectual, able to appreciate her lofty and expansive mind. What a treat to hold converse with him after the material and

phlegmatic bumpkins to whom she had been accustomed! Yea. How thrice sweet the prospect of holding perpetual converse with him through the days of life! And soon the necessary step to ensure that perpetuity was taken. For, after a brief engagement, Arthur led Dorothea, a radiant, dreamy bride, to the altar of her village church, and there the bond was sealed between them which only death—or the Divorce Court—could dissolve.

* * * * *

A few months later, after their return from the honeymoon, Arthur and his bride came over to spend a week or two at the latter's parental home. Dorothea looked very happy and bright; but it was not long before the family noticed a change in her. Not merely did she talk more, and actually stoop to show interest in trivial subjects on which, formerly, she would not have had a word to say, but the old habit, which up to her marriage had seemed to be part of her nature, the habit of constantly relapsing into brown studies, and therein mooning for hours at a time, had almost entirely disappeared.

One evening after dinner, when alone over his wine with Arthur, her father, the Squire, remarked upon this remarkable change in Dorothea.

"Gad, Arthur," he said, as he sipped his claret, "how marriage has improved my girl. I wouldn't have believed that any one could have altered so much in three months! Damme, if she hasn't become quite like other people!"

His son-in-law smiled, but was silent.

"Perhaps you don't consider it an improvement?" said the Squire.

"Oh! yes, I do. The fact is," said Arthur, leaning back in his chair, and stroking his chin complacently. "The fact is, I—I—am rather proud of the change in Dorothea, because I myself have had a good deal to do with it."

"Eh! Pardon my saying so, but I thought you used to like Dorothea's dreamy ways."

"So I did—before our marriage. Afterwards I found them another matter."

"Ah!" murmured the Squire, with a broad grin, as he refilled his glass.

"The truth is," remarked Arthur, gazing up at the ceiling, "that—that—when you're always with a girl, you want her to be a companion, don't you see? And if, five times out of every six that you address a remark to her, you find her too much preoccupied to answer, or even to hear it, it—er—it soon begins to pall on a fellow, you know."

"Hum," chuckled his father-in-law. "I shouldn't wonder!"

"And when," pursued Arthur, "you come in from a day's excursion, devilish hungry, and ready to eat your head, and find that your wife has been day-dreaming to such a tune that she has forgotten to order dinner—well, it's a sort of thing of which once is enough, don't you know."

"More than enough for me," laughed the Squire.

"So we hadn't been honeymooning a fortnight," continued Arthur, whom a good dinner and a better glass of wine had rendered extremely communicative, "before I saw that something would have to be done. The question was—What? Now, a man of less adroitness might probably have committed the insane blunder of openly taking Dorothea to task for her mooning habits—a course which could only have resulted in abject failure. For, like all women, Dorothea is devilish obstinate in the face of opposition. But I myself hit upon a far more excellent way. It cost me two days' thought, but was well worth all the time spent in evolving it. . . . I determined to catch Dorothea's complaint myself."

"Oh!" remarked the Squire, looking rather mystified. Arthur proceeded to explain:

"I began to contract it cautiously, gradually. For I didn't wish to startle the dear girl, or to make it apparent to her that I was simply playing a game. At first, therefore, I only betrayed trifling symptoms of the disorder. When she spoke to me, for instance, I didn't always answer immediately; nor when I did answer, was my reply always strictly relevant. Then I advanced a stage. I went out on purpose to do errands for Dorothea, and came back, in a brown study, having quite forgotten to execute them. I omitted on several occasions to post letters which she entrusted to me. I helped myself to soup at dinner, and forgot to help Dorothea; and on one occasion—a thing which made a great impression—my wife came into the room and found me absently poking the fire with the point of her best sunshade."

"That was an act of great audacity!" said the Squire.

"Yes. It required some nerve. But it was excellent practice, you see, for the still more audacious act which I had in my mind, and which soon afterwards I actually dared to bring off. This was the critical and culminating incident. I must tell you about it. I myself evolved the situation with great pains, and I cannot help feeling proud of it, as a distinct stroke of genius.

"One evening, shortly before dinner, I strolled into the drawing-room, where I knew Dorothea was sitting, though I affected preoccupation, and seemed to be unconscious of her presence. I was in dress clothes, I may add, over which I wore a light covert coat, and I carried in my hand an opera hat.

"'Arthur!' she cried out, in evident surprise, 'Arthur, what are you wearing an overcoat for; and what do you want with a hat? You're not dining out?'

"'Eh? Wha-a-at?' I said, in dreamy, absent tones. 'Not dining out? Oh, yes, my pet. Dining at the Grand.'

"'Why, you never told me! I had ordered dinner here. I must run and smarten myself up a bit. I suppose we shall dine at the table d'hôte?'

"'Yes—at the table d'hôte,' I answered, still with an abstracted, wool-gathering air. 'Jennings and I, you know.'

"'Jennings? Who's Jennings?' she cried, sharply.

"'Who's Jennings! Really, my pet—— Oh, I forgot!'

"And then I seemed to wake up, and to resume, as it were, the possession of my faculties. An appearance of confusion overtook me. I became painfully embarrassed, and profusely apologetic.

"'My sweetest Dorothea,' I cried, 'I am afraid I have done something that you will never forgive.'

"Dorothea stood regarding me, in silence. But the glance of her eye spoke volumes. It invited—nay, commanded—a full and sufficient explanation.

"'My—my—own—dearest!' I stammered. 'D-don't be angry. When I was at Oxford, Tom Jennings was my greatest friend. I—I—hadn't heard of him for years. This afternoon I met him on the Spa. He s-said that he was staying at the Grand, and asked me to dine with him. And—and—here comes in the most absurd part of it. You—you—know I—I—have a most unfortunate habit of—of—wool-gathering, and—and when Tom asked me to dine with him—don't be awfully vexed, my precious pet, it was quite involuntarily—I—I—was so preoccupied, I suppose, with other thoughts, that—that, for the time being I—quite ridiculous it seems, certainly, but it's the gospel truth—I clean forgot I was a married man. Indeed, it wasn't—really it wasn't—until you awoke me from my brown study just now that I—I—remembered you at all, my darling Dorothea!'

"It took every ounce of courage I possessed to say that. But it was worth saying, for it touched the spot exactly, as I meant it should. Dorothea was speechless with insulted rage. I quailed — apparently — before her withering look, and slunk away to dine at the Grand. Not with Jennings, however. Jennings was a myth. But in solitary state. When I returned, my wife would not speak to me. I tried to reason with her. In the face of her stony silence, it was no avail.

"Next morning I renewed my argument. I put it to her this way. It was not only unreasonable, it was cruel, to be angry with what was, after all, a mere physical infirmity. As well might she be wroth with a fellow because he squinted, or had a club-foot. But my infirmity had this advantage over the others. It was curable.

"'And it can—nay it shall—be cured,' I cried, 'if you Dorothea, will be my darling doctor.'

"And how, she asked, beginning to relent, was she to be my darling doctor."

"'By keeping a constant eye on me,' I said, 'and watching for the smallest symptom of my infirmity displaying itself, then recalling me to myself by a look, a word, a touch. I will co-operate as far as any patient can; and, surely, to co-operate with so sweet a physician will be a pleasant, a delightsome, an entrancing task.'

"Then she quite relented. She said she would be my darling doctor. She was. She kept her eye on me persistently. She was always watching for symptoms. And so, you see, by accustoming herself to keep constantly on the alert for my daydreams, she was in reality curing her own. Before the end of our honeymoon, her recovery was complete!"

THE EIGHTEENTH "TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW.

THE PRIZE LIST.

IT will readily be recognised that the better the Show is, the more arduous does the task of awarding the prizes become. Seeing, then, that the Show recently held at the Albert Hall is on all sides admitted to be the very best of the series, it follows that it has been exceptionally difficult to distinguish between the claims of the many competitors who have distinguished themselves. Never before has the number of dolls exhibited been so large. Never before has the average standard of merit amongst the competitors attained to a higher level. Never, let it be repeated, have the ladies who so kindly consent to assist in the capacity of judges found their task more onerous. They have, however, persevered bravely in their adjudication, and the result of the awards made by them will be found tabulated in a subsequent column of this article.

First, however, a few prefatory remarks are necessary. It will be remembered that a Special Competition was instituted for the recent Show In honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, special prizes were offered for Groups of Dolls dressed to illustrate the most striking changes in costume during the six decades of the Queen's reign. For the best of these groups a prize of a Lady's Dressing Bag was most kindly offered by Messrs. Blondeau & Co., the proprietors of Vinolia Soap. For some reason or another, this particular competition did not prove to be a success. Not to mince matters, it was a failure; for, deterred possibly by the difficulty of the task, competitors did not enter for it in sufficient numbers to make a competition of it. In these circumstances, it was found impossible to award the special prize which had been offered, and Messrs. Blondeau & Co. might, had they acted in literal accordance with their original intimation, have withdrawn their contribution altogether. But this, I am glad to say, they did not do. They most liberally sent a cheque for £25, and expressed their wish to leave the matter in the hands of the Editor of TRUTH. It was accordingly decided to devote a portion of their generous gift to the extension of the ordinary Prize List, and to hand over the balance to the much overdrawn TRUTH Toy Fund. Let it be distinctly understood, therefore, that, though the Dressing Bag offered by the proprietors of Vinolia Soap could not be awarded, a cheque for £25, representing its value, has been sent to the Editor of TRUTH, and has been used in the manner detailed above.

It may also be well to add a few lines of explanation as to the large and effective model of the "Third Act of 'The Little Minister,'" specially constructed by various members of the Haymarket Company, and presented to the Show by Mr. Cyril Maude. As to the admirable spectacular effect of this charming reproduction in miniature of one of the most striking scenes in Mr. J. M. Barrie's popular play, there can be no two opinions. The model scene was one of the most attractive features of a very attractive Show, and would undoubtedly have taken the first prize but for the fact that it was not sent in for competition by its kind donor. It was the work of many skilful hands. The scene painter of the theatre, Mr. Walter Hann, himself painted the scene for it. The property-master ably assisted in the production of the proscenium and there was, I think, not a lady in the company, from Miss Winifred Emery downwards, who did not lend a hand in dressing the doll *dramatis personæ*. The Editor of TRUTH hopes, therefore, that, though the model, as a whole, must be considered an uncompetitive one, the ladies who took part in the doll dressing will each be good enough to accept a TRUTH brooch as a small memento of their generous labours on behalf of the TRUTH Show.

It will be noticed that the total number of prizes and brooches is this year considerably over 150; but it has nevertheless been found impossible to acknowledge even thus imperfectly the merits of all the exhibitors who deserve special recognition. As to the ladies who are not mentioned in the following lists, it is surely unnecessary to remind them that they by no means go unrewarded. I only wish it had been possible for all of them to have been present during the past fortnight at the numerous Hospital and Workhouse Fêtes which have been held within the Metropolitan area. For they would then have seen for themselves how intense was the excitement, how genuine the happiness, caused by the distribution of their generous gifts. They would have assisted at scenes of delight which it would be difficult to describe in plain, prosaic language. Numerous letters of acknowledgment have been received from various hospitals and workhouses, all expressing the warmest thanks for the gifts that the readers of TRUTH and their friends have dispensed through the hands of the Editor of this paper. To print them all is impossible, but here are a couple of short notes, sent by the Secretary of the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond-street. They were handed to him, he says, by the Sisters of the Wards in which the little patients who wrote them are lying. Here they are, *verbatim et literatim*:—

The Hospital for Sick Children,
Great Ormond-street, London, W.C.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Just a few lines. I thank you very much for sending such a grand Selection of Toys for Christmas. And I enjoyed the Christmas very much indeed if it were not for you I would not quite of enjoyed it so much. I should like you to thank the other gentlemen and Lady Friends for their help. I must say my Mother was delighted with the Toys. I must bring this short note to a close as I have no more to say to you but to wish you a very Happy New Year indeed.—I conclude, Yours respectfully, ARTHUR COLLINS, aged 11 yrs.

Louise word, Great Ormond-street.

DEAR MIS EIDOR,—just a few lines to tell you that we thank you so much for the toys you sent us and they made the Christmas-tree look so pretty and the childrens are so pleased with them. Wishing you a happy New Year.—Your respectively,
GEORGE NICHOLAS, age 11.

It is hoped that these letters will serve to bring home to all the competitors and contributors who aided the TRUTH Show that the toys and dolls their kindness provides Christmas after Christmas not only induce much delight during the season of Yuletide, but continue to cause happiness for many subsequent months. It would surprise the uninitiated to hear how protracted the average life of a TRUTH Doll is, and for how long a period a TRUTH Toy often continues to amuse and delight. Surely it is the knowledge of such facts as these that will constitute the most satisfactory reward of all those who have taken an active part in helping TRUTH. What, after all, are the mere tangible items of the Prize List compared with the hearty and undoubtedly sincere thanks of the thirty thousand children who have been the recipients of the Christmas bounty it has been TRUTH'S privilege to distribute on behalf of so many generous friends?

And now, in the first place, a list is subjoined of the prizes which have been presented by the Editor of TRUTH and others, in addition to the TRUTH Brooches, of which considerably over a hundred will be distributed. The TRUTH Prizes consist of articles made of, or mounted with, silver, and are arranged below in order of their cash

value, which varies, it may be said, from £5 to 10s. In addition to these there are the Singer's Sewing Machine presented by the Singer Manufacturing Company; the Lady's Gold Watch, presented by the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company, from which firm the various silver prizes were purchased; and the Girl's Bicycle, presented by the Directors of the Tom Tit Cycle Company, Limited. The total number of prizes, it will thus be seen, amounts to forty-four. As in previous years, an attempt has been made in choosing them to select things which are at once useful and durable, as well as, in many cases, ornamental, and it is hoped they will form lasting as well as pleasant reminiscences of the Eighteenth TRUTH Toy and Doll Show. The following, then, is the list of the prizes:—

1. Lady's Gold Watch (presented by the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company, of 112, Regent-street).
2. Diamond Jubilee Sewing Machine (presented by the Singer Manufacturing Company, Limited).
3. Girl's Bicycle (presented by the Tom-Tit Cycle Company, Limited).
4. Fine Gold Curb Chain Bracelet.
5. Chased Sterling Silver Cherub Brush Tray.
6. ,, ,, ,, Manicure Set.
7. ,, ,, ,, Table Mirror.
8. ,, ,, ,, Hairpin Box.
9. ,, ,, ,, Lady's Card-case.
10. ,, ,, ,, Cherub Comb Tray
11. ,, ,, ,, Curling Tongs
12. ,, ,, ,, Sealing-wax Holder.
13. ,, ,, ,, Scent Bottle.
14. ,, ,, ,, Photograph Frame.
15. ,, ,, ,, Scent Bottle.
16. ,, ,, ,, Chased Tray.
17. ,, ,, ,, Puff Box.
18. ,, ,, ,, Mounted Bell.
19. ,, ,, ,, Photograph Frame.
20. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
21. ,, ,, ,, Mounted Calendar Frame.
22. ,, ,, ,, Bonbon Dish.
23. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
24. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
25. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
26. ,, ,, ,, Scent Bottle.
27. ,, ,, ,, Mounted Calendar Frame.
28. ,, ,, ,, Photograph Frame.
29. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
30. ,, ,, ,, Hair Brush.
31. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
32. ,, ,, ,, Button Hook.
33. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
34. ,, ,, ,, Gum Pot.
35. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
36. ,, ,, ,, Scent Bottle.
37. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
38. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
39. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
40. ,, ,, ,, Bonbon Dish.
41. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
42. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
43. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
44. ,, ,, ,, Dictionary Case with Thumb-nail Dictionary.

*** The number of the Prizes detailed above has been considerably augmented, thanks to the kindness of Messrs. Blondeau & Co. (proprietors of Vinolia Soap), the sum of £10 out of their cheque of £25 having been devoted to this purpose.

The above list, both as to the number of articles and their value, will be found to compare very favourably with that of last year. Visitors to the Albert Hall had a chance of seeing most of the above Prizes, together with specimens of the TRUTH Brooches, but it may interest those readers of TRUTH who have not seen the latter, to learn that the design of the Brooch combines in a tasteful and effective way the figures of a TRUTH Doll, a scroll with the word "Christmas" upon it, and the well-known emblems of Faith, Hope, and Charity, viz., a cross, an anchor, and a heart. In accordance with a precedent set two years ago, a Special Prize will be awarded to Mrs. H. P. Truefitt. As on several former occasions explained, Mrs. Truefitt, by reason of her often repeated successes, has been placed, so to speak, *hors concours*. It was felt that this course was rendered necessary seeing on how many occasions in the past she has succeeded in carrying off the first prize. By moving her into a special class the competition has been made a more open one. I may add that the Editor of TRUTH is now considering what form Mrs. Truefitt's "Special Prize" shall take.

With regard to the other Prizes they have been divided into six categories, viz.:—1. Those awarded for the Dressing of a large number of Dolls. 2. For Dressing Groups of Dolls. 3. For Dressing Large Dolls. 4. For Home-made Model Toys, &c. 5. For Home-dressed Dolls other than the TRUTH Dolls. 6. For Home-made Scrap-books. And the following are the competitors who have been successful in these various classes:—

SPECIAL PRIZE.

Mrs. H. P. Truefitt, for large and small dolls and groups.

I.—THE NAMES OF THE WINNERS OF PRIZES FOR DRESSING A LARGE NUMBER OF DOLLS.

First Prize, Mrs. Rawson (Yoko), 400 dolls.
Second Prize, Mrs. Charles Alexander, 300 dolls.
Third Prize, Miss D. Peet, 276 dolls.
Fourth Prize, Miss L. R. Brown, 130 dolls.
Fifth Prize, Mrs. J. Arlosh, 100 dolls.
Sixth Prize, Mrs. D Levitt, 100 dolls.
Seventh Prize, Miss W. Baker, 100 dolls.
Eighth Prize, The Misses Hamp Adams, 100 dolls.
Ninth Prize, Mrs. Sayer, 72 dolls.
Tenth Prize, The Misses Beynon, 60 dolls.
Eleventh Prize, Miss J. Levitt, 76 dolls.

II.—THE NAMES OF THE WINNERS OF PRIZES FOR DRESSING GROUPS OF DOLLS.

First Prize, Miss May Streatfeild, "Alice in Wonderland."
Second Prize, Miss M. R. Collum, "Ice Carnival."
Third Prize, Miss A. Levitt, "Ballet of Jewels and Metals."
Fourth Prize, Miss T. Hadaway, "Visit of Queen of Greece to a Field Hospital."
Fifth Prize, Miss A. Randall, "Sleighing and Tobogganing Scene."

III.—THE NAMES OF THE WINNERS OF PRIZES FOR DRESSING LARGE DOLLS.

First Prize, Mrs. Burrows, "A Bride," and three others.
Second Prize, Lady and Miss Call, "1837" and "1897."
Third Prize, Mrs. Tomlin's Nurse, "Dolly's Bath."
Fourth Prize, C. E. Birch, Esq., "Where are you going, my pretty maid?"
Fifth Prize, Mrs. A. Rathbone, "Princess Victoria."
Sixth Prize, Mrs. Watson, "Doll in apple green and *fraise*."
Seventh Prize, Mrs. Neville Campbell, "Mlle. X. and her Bonne."
Eighth Prize, Miss A. M. George, "Chelsea Pensioner."
Ninth Prize, Miss Pearson, "1870."
Tenth Prize, Miss V. Wrigley, "Baigneur and Baigneuse."
Eleventh Prize, Mrs. M. Sacrè, "Boy and Girl in Seaside Dress."
Twelfth Prize, Miss N. Dan, "A Kentish Harvest."
Thirteenth Prize, Miss L. Crofts, "The Twins."
Fourteenth Prize, Miss M. Powell, "Oberon and Titania."
Fifteenth Prize, Miss S. Sandbrook, "Mercia."
Sixteenth Prize, Miss Ethel M. Bartlett, "Old Mother Hubbard."
Seventeenth Prize, Miss Sybil Holland, "Music."
Eighteenth Prize, Miss F. im Thurn, "Phœbe," in "Yeoman of the Guard."

IV.—THE NAMES OF THE WINNERS OF PRIZES FOR HOME-MADE MODEL TOYS, &C.

First Prize, Miss N. Rogers, "Model Village."
Second Prize, Miss Ethel Rawson-Ince, "Model Cottage."
Third Prize, Mrs. Grimston, "Doll's Library, &c."
Fourth Prize, Miss M. Stokes, "Model Village."
Fifth Prize, Miss Staley, "A Peep into Fairy Land."
Sixth Prize, Mrs. McKane, "Twenty-four Doll's-cribs, &c."
Seventh Prize, Miss Pattison, "A Visit from Father Christmas."
Eighth Prize, Mrs. H. Newman, "Model Stable," &c.

V. NAME OF THE WINNER OF A PRIZE FOR THE BEST HOME-DRESSED DOLL.

Miss Lucy Agnes Kitson.

VI. NAME OF THE WINNER OF A PRIZE FOR HOME-MADE SCRAP-BOOKS.

Miss Rawson, who made and contributed 200 Scrap-Books.

Instead of awarding one of the Prizes specifically to each competitor, it is proposed, as far as possible, to let the Prize Winners choose for themselves in turn from the given list. For this purpose the names found in the above six lists will now be arranged in one list, and in the order there given the Prize Winners will be allowed to make their selection in rotation. Thus, Mrs Rawson will have the first choice, Mrs. Charles Alexander the second, Mrs. Burrows the third, and so on. It will, of course, be well for Prize Winners in writing to mention more than one article, so that there may be still some guide to their wishes in case it is impossible to award them the Prize they may select in the first instance.

LIST OF THE PRIZE WINNERS IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY ARE INVITED TO SELECT THEIR PRIZES:—

1, Mrs. Rawson; 2, Miss Charles Alexander; 3, Mrs. Burrows; 4, Miss N. Rogers; 5, Lady Call; 6, Miss May Streatfeild; 7, Miss M. R. Collum; 8, Miss D. Peet: 9. Miss

L. R. Brown; 10, Mrs. Arlosh; 11, Mrs. Tomlin's Nurse; 12, Mrs. D. Levitt; 13, Miss W. Baker; 14, the Misses Hamp Adams; 15, C. E. Birch, Esq.; 16, Mrs. A. Rathbone; 17, Mrs. Watson; 18, Miss Rawson (Scrap Books); 19, Mrs. Neville Campbell; 20, Mrs. Grimston; 21, Miss Marguerite Stokes; 22, Miss Pearson; 23, Miss Ethel Rawson-Ince; 24, Miss A. M. George; 25, Mrs. Sayer; 26, Miss V. Wrigley; 27, Miss Staley; 28, Mrs. M. Sacrè; 29, Miss A. Levitt; 30, The Misses Beynon; 31, Miss N. Dan; 32, Miss L. Crofts; 33, Miss M. Powell; 34, Mrs. T. Hadaway; 35, Mrs. McKane; 36, Miss S. Sandbrook; 37, Miss J. Levitt; 38, Miss A. Randall; 39, Miss Pattison; 40, Mrs. H. Newman; 41, Miss Lucy Agnes Kitson; 42, Miss Sybil Holland; 43, Miss F. im Thurn; 44, Miss Ethel M. Bartlett.

It is hoped that the ladies and gentleman included in the above lists will be good enough to write at their earliest convenience and make known their wishes; as it will obviously be necessary to receive all the letters of application before the sending out of the Prizes can be commenced.

There is one more list to be published, viz., of the ladies to whom TRUTH Silver Brooches will be sent on receipt of letters from them stating the addresses to which they wish the brooches forwarded. It has again been found necessary to increase the number included in this year's distribution, though even now the available brooches are not sufficient to enable one to be awarded to every lady who has so kindly assisted in dressing dolls. The name of every one who has dressed a large doll, or not fewer than twelve small ones, will, however, be found below. Or should any lady thus eligible find her name omitted, the omission will be corrected on receipt of an intimation to that effect. Very possibly other errors may have crept into the various lists. It is scarcely necessary to add that if this should be the case, attention will at once be paid to any corrections which may be sent to TRUTH office.

LIST OF LADIES TO WHOM "TRUTH" BROOCHES ARE TO BE PRESENTED.

Mrs. Argenti, Mrs L. Alexander, Mrs. E. Alston, Miss M. Arnott, Mrs. A. B. Appleby, Miss M. J. Berjmans, Mrs. G. A. Benson, Miss E. M. Bartlett, Miss E. M. Boden, Miss A. Bangham, Miss G. Brown, Miss G. D. Burrows, Nurse Barnes, Mrs. Baynes, Mrs. F. Cook, Miss L. Clerk, Miss Crowther, Miss L. Cary, Miss K. Creagh, Miss Carruthers, Mrs. C. H. Cooper, Miss Daish, Mrs. J. Dudley, Miss A. J. Dowling, The Hon. Mrs. Durant, Mrs. Dillon, Miss Davies, The Hon. Muriel Erskine, Miss O. Martin Edmunds, Mrs. Eastlake, Miss Winifred Emery and the ladies of the Haymarket Company who dressed dolls for the "Little Minister" model scene (a TRUTH Brooch each), Mrs. S. A. Flindt, Mrs. J. F. Fletcher, Miss E. Gilmour, Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. P. Giere, Miss K. Gibb, Miss Gibb, Miss M. Godson, Miss E. George, Miss A. Greaves, Miss S. Herbert, Miss Henderson, Miss M. E. Jackson, Mrs. Jardine, Miss E. L. Johnson, Lady Kemball, Mrs. J. A. Kennedy, Miss Keats, Miss Kearton, Mlle. Laforge, Miss M. Lomax, Miss L. Lewis, Mrs. Light, Mrs. W. C. T. Leggatt, Mrs. Maris, Miss J. C. Myrth, Miss E. H. Madgwick, Miss M. Marshall, Mrs. Meyricke, Miss Magoris, E. S. Musgrave, Esq., Mrs. Moore, Mrs. W. Mercer, Miss M. Meller, Mrs. E. Nathan, Miss L. Nicholls, Mrs. Nathan, Miss Ida Oppenheim, Miss M. O'Reilly, Miss Pearson, Mrs. A. Poole, Miss Winifred Ardill, Mrs. F. Pritchard, Miss C. Pearson, Mrs. Packham, Mrs. A. Robinson, Miss S. Ravenscroft, Miss A. Robjent, Miss Robinson, Mrs. A. Wynter Roberts, Miss Sansom, W. Seddon's Friends, Mrs. Sunderland, Mrs. J. M. Stenning, Miss Satchell, Miss Saunders, Mrs. W. T. Summers, Mrs. Schloesser, The Singer Manufacturing Company, The Stewardess, Aeton Club, Miss A. E. Smith, Mrs. F. Sandford, Mrs. Walsh, Miss Warren, Miss J. F. Walker, Mrs. F. L. Woods, Miss Westmoreland, Mrs. M. Wakon, Miss C. White, Miss Watts, Miss Woodburn, Miss L. Woodburn, Miss Whitla, Lady Muriel Watkins, Mrs. M. Webber, Miss Young.

ART NOTES.

ROSSETTI AND OTHERS AT THE NEW GALLERY.

IF variety in itself be charming, then is the Winter Exhibition at the New Gallery a most fascinating show. Not often is so diversified a collection of pictures got together. Here one finds canvases from artists as widely separated in date and style as Simone di Martino and George H. Mason, Rubens and Rossetti, Backhuysen and Bonington, Morland and Mabuse. But it is not the eclecticism of the Directors which is the principal attraction of the New Gallery just now. The chief interest undoubtedly centres in the collection of the pictures of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, which are hung in the South Room. Never before, I think, has so large a collection of his works—oils, water-colours, and drawings—been gathered together in one place. Fortunately, too, the selection includes some of his best and most characteristic pictures, the canvases which most fully justify his claim to be considered the truest pre-Raphaelite of all the Brotherhood. It was he alone who clung tenaciously to its principles throughout his artistic life. Millais, as is well known, turned away comparatively soon from the straight path of pre-Raphaelitism. Rossetti trod its narrow way until the very end. He was imbued with the Italian spirit to the last.

Hitherto the public has had but few chances of seeing much of Rossetti's work. What, then, it may be asked, is the result of a visit to a gallery containing nearly four score of his paintings and drawings? For my own part, I am free to confess that on me the effect was a somewhat cloying one. I am quite ready to admit Rossetti's unquestionable qualities, but if ever an artist possessed the "defects of his qualities," it was he. Only a blind man could deny the decorative beauty of much of his work. He was not a great draughtsman, but as a colourist he was pre-eminent and masterful. There is the throb of passion, there is true poetry, though it be of an over-sensuous kind, in many of his pictures. But yet, as I have said, the effect of a prolonged visit to the South Room at the New Gallery is not altogether pleasant. One gets sated with too protracted a feast of opulent colour. One wearies of a prevailing sensuousness, which tends to recall the almost forgotten controversy which raged around the so-called "fleshly" school. One's palate becomes cloyed with passion that is apt to degenerate into morbidity. That, at all events, was my experience after half an hour or so with the thick-lipped, full-blooded, voluptuous-looking Liliths, and Fiammettas, and Lucrezias, whose faces meet one at every turn. The air around seemed to grow heavy and enervating with the scent of sickly pastilles and overpowering perfumes as one looked at Lucrezia Borgia playing a lute, as she sits on a couch with her infamous father, Pope Alexander VI., on one side of her, and her equally abandoned brother, Cæsar, on the other, the latter blowing rose petals from his sister's hair as he beats time to her music with his dagger on a half-filled wine-glass. It would be difficult to overstate the relief which one feels in rushing away from the Rossetti room to the gallery where the works of the masters of the British School are exhibited. It is like hurrying away from a feast where the dishes have been over-spiced and the wine too full-bodied, and where the atmosphere has grown heavy with the odour of exotics and low-burning lights, into the clear, pure, fresh air of the South Downs, with the stars shining clearly overhead, and the eternal sea beating in upon the shore.

But very little space is left me to say how much I enjoyed looking at many of the pictures in the North Room. There are to be seen six of George H. Mason's delightful country idylls, including the never-to-be-forgotten "Evening Hymn," in which we see that well-known group of six English peasant girls in their clean print dresses, advancing along a path in the rich golden glow of the setting sun, and singing "Glory to Thee, Our God, this night!" as they go. There, too, are five of Frederick Walker's most charming pictures and drawings; and a most interesting selection from the works of that never sufficiently appreciated artist, George J. Pinwell. The pictures of these three artists, comparatively new men, are hung amongst those of older and acknowledged masters of the British School. The comparison thus suggested is an ordeal of the severest kind. I can only say that they come out of it exceedingly well.

A MOST WONDERFUL PACKAGE of Crockery. Send your name and address to the Pearson Pottery Co., Hanley, Staffs., and we will forward one of our catalogues of cheap Crockery. One Hundred Pieces of Crockery for £1. 1s., including complete Dinner and Tea Services, and other pieces. Even an imitation of this advertisement impossible. Drop a post card for particulars.

MUSIC.

MUSICIANS AT TALK AND PLAY.

IT would be interesting to know what, in the opinion of the chiefs of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, is the net result of the junketing at the Hotel Cecil last week. The spectacle of a certain number of grave Doctors and Bachelors of Music indulging in a "toy" symphony or a parody of a German band may, no doubt, be an edifying one. But it was, at any rate, harmless fun, and was not wasting time more hopelessly than in the reading of treatises upon such subjects as "The Tonic Basis of all Music," or "The Irish Feis Ceiol." Year by year the members meet, dine, dance, hear speeches, listen to more or less learned treatises, and grumble publicly or privately about the wickedness of the fee-cutting amateur, the hard lot of the organist, and the necessity for teachers' registration. But it all ends in talk, and nothing seems to be done except to collect the subscriptions. As a fighting trade union, for which the musical profession continually do cry, the Incorporated Society is of no more practical value to its members than the Royal College of Organists itself. Even one of the most progressive of the speakers could pluck up courage to do nothing more than suggest that the Council of the Society might possibly become a court of appeal between organists and vicars—always, of course, supposing that the vicars were willing.

Some of the suggestions, intended to be practical, were really amusing. For example, Dr. Swinnerton Heap, of Birmingham, gravely announced as an important addition to our musical knowledge that choral novelties were now rarely performed at the Albert Hall, and with the smile that was childlike and bland, he suggested that inasmuch as free libraries had been taken up by municipalities in certain districts, we should impose a rate to subsidise concerts which otherwise did not pay their way. "If," said this guileless gentleman, "concerts were supported out of the rates, concert managers would then have a free hand and would doubtless show more enterprise in the production of new compositions, and thus give some of our many able composers that recognition which was their just due." Dr. Heap, who that day was chairman of the conference, seems a very fair example of the sort of business man to be found in the ranks of provincial musicians. Imagine the reception by paterfamilias, his pockets full of Christmas bills, and his ears tortured by the holiday pianoforte practising of his daughters, of a "musical novelty" rate at threepence in the pound, for the benefit of the great unacted. Imagine the language of a man who hath not music in his soul on receiving his first musical rate paper! The County Council rightly pay for open-air music in various parts of London during the summer, and it is quite open to Dr. Heap or to any one else to try to induce Mr. Warwick Williams to improve his programmes. But considering that, including church, school, and charity performances, over two thousand concerts are annually given in London alone, and that in the season people will not accept a free ticket for an average concert, even with the cab fare and a supper thrown in, to add to the glut by concerts subsidised out of the rates would be sheer midsummer madness. Mr. Joseph Seymour's treatise upon the Irish "Feis Ceiol" was, perhaps, a little more interesting. The Feis Ceiol, it may be explained, is the Celtic for Irish Musical Festival. One of these festivals was held in Dublin last year, and resulted in the best musical "bull" of the century, for the Irish prize novelty was an Italian cantata, entitled "Deidre," by an Italian musician, Signor Esposito.

Sir John Stainer made one of the best speeches of the gathering. Although he deprecated the introduction of the commercial element into such matters—a self-evident absurdity, for without money even Sir John would starve—he nevertheless protested very strongly and very properly against the incompetent teacher who offered to do inefficient work at a lower rate of pay than the ordinary teacher would charge. Some of these people are very inefficiently trained amateurs, who in the day time are engaged behind the shop counter, or at the desk of the clerk. Sir John, it is true, declared he had no objection to the amateur, if that worthy only knew how to teach, a sentiment which, I should imagine, would scarcely be re-echoed by the hard-worked and under-paid professors of music who were his auditors. Sir John explained the humbug's *modus operandi* as this: In a particular town some known tiro suddenly announces that he has won a certificate from one of the mushroom travelling examination colleges. He takes his admiring friends into his parlour to show them how elegantly it is printed and how beautifully it is framed. Scores of other people, who rightly know how slender his qualifications are, go to him to be coached for the same examination, and the greater number he pulls through the more numerous are his pupils. Sir John Stainer desired to see a Central Examination body under the auspices of the Government, and he seemed to be of opinion that professors who could show no certificate from this examination body should not be allowed to teach music at all. How far such a scheme could be carried out it is not necessary now to discuss. It is, indeed, quite a dream of Utopia. To say that a starving, though incompetent governess, who can get lessons at a shilling each must not be allowed to give them, is the veriest nonsense. Indeed, it is obvious that the bogus diploma is at the root of the evil, for if she could show no real or pretended diploma she would probably get no lessons at any price. There is a far simpler method of dealing with the question, and that I have already pointed out. The dispensation and sale of certificates and diplomas in music should, in fact, be confined by law to Universities and to other institutions having the Royal Charter.

GROANS FROM THE ORGAN-LOFT.

The discussion as to the "Woes of Organists" in the last two numbers of TRUTH has brought me a mass of correspondence. Some of it is not a little amusing. For example, one indignant gentleman sends me a copy of the terms upon which the Church Army desire to engage an organist. It seems a friend of his applied for the post at St. Mary-at-Hill Church, and received a type-written document asking for the name and address of the applicant, and demanding whether he had any deformity, whether he had ever done any Sunday School or other spiritual work, whether he was willing to be a teetotaller, and whether he agreed not to smoke in the rectory. The exact meaning of the last question I do not quite gather. Smoking in a rectory may be a penal act, although some rectors of my acquaintance would, I believe, not think so. Indeed, I fancy I could name a dignitary of the Church who has been known to smoke a short pipe in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey itself.

The fortunate gentleman who gains the post of organist at St. Mary-at-Hill will have duties which are extensive and peculiar. I have before me the official type-written circular of the terms upon which this lucky gentleman will be engaged. There is no nonsense about an eight hours' day. On Sundays business begins early, for there is a Choral celebration at 9, a Sunday school which the organist has to take care of at 11, another Sunday school at 3, a sacred concert at 6, and an entertainment described as "Lantern Choral Evensong" at 7. The organist likewise has the direction of a small orchestra of sixteen, a brass band of twenty, and a small choir. There is an instruction service on week-days besides rehearsals of two orchestral pieces and accompaniments for the lady professionals, while there is a daily organ recital and so forth. This would, I should imagine, be considered tolerably heavy work by the average organist, but at St. Mary-at-Hill they evidently love not drones. It is true that the circular triumphantly declares there are "Three hours a day for giving

THE GREATEST OF ALL PIANOFORTES.—THE STEINWAY PIANOFORTES. New York and London.

lessons, rest or recreation," but it significantly adds, "Other time being filled up by helping the officer in charge of the Samaritan Office, or in the rectory, or finding work for the destitute," I should rather imagine that after a year or two of this sort of thing the organist would have no difficulty in discovering the "destitute" for whom the work is to be found. A convenient looking-glass would certainly disclose the grand secret. For this mixture of labour and lessons, rest and recreation, the organist is to receive the munificent salary of £52 a year, with residence in the rectory, and "board by arrangement." His lodging is free, but "sharing bedroom with an Evangelist."

Another letter from a Cathedral organist, although perhaps a little more hopeful, shows at any rate that a professional musician who devotes his life to the service of the Church of England is not likely at the close of his career to add very largely to the death duties. My correspondent, who is organist and choir master of one of the leading cathedrals, and who is an M.A., a Mus Doc.Oxon., an Associate of the Royal College of Music, and a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, writes as follows:—

> One cannot, perhaps, complain of the miserable pay we receive. I am myself—although as highly qualified by degree as it is possible to be, and after spending pounds on an expensive education—rewarded at a fraction over 3s. 6d. for each service. But the musical profession does want a fighting head badly, and there is something very feminine about the courage of the College of Organists and the Union of Graduates Let them form a programme and fight for it. Let it be recognised that to take money for teaching when one is not qualified to teach is gaining money by false pretences. Why not put "Registration of teachers" in the foreground? I can get very little teaching here because, as one somewhat high up in my profession, I charge the exorbitant fee of three guineas for twelve lessons.

Another prominent musician sends me an advertisement in the *Church Times* as an example of what the luckless organist, particularly in the Church of England, has to put up with. The advertisement runs as follows:—

> Wanted an organist (professional). Must be good executant and choir trainer. Two Sunday services and five choir practices a week. £60 per annum.

Seven practices and performances a week for little over a pound rather beats my friend the Cathedral organist at 3s. 6d. a service. A British working man would, of course, reject such pay with the language it deserved. But the British working man, wisely enough, has formed his trade-union, which efficiently fulfils the duty neglected by the Royal College of Organists and by the Incorporated Society of Musicians.

I have, by the way, also received a letter from Dr. J. G. Bennett, organist of Lincoln Cathedral, in regard to the extracts I made last week from the letters of his predecessor, the late Mr. J. M. W. Young. Mr. Bennett writes:—"Although it is quite true, as you intimate, that on my appointment I was not placed on the Foundation, I am glad to say that the salary I receive as organist and director of the choir is higher than the amount you name as received by Mr. Young." Dr. Bennett likewise states that he now has a deputy, as the Dean and Chapter pay a small salary to one of his pupils who acts as assistant organist. It is, indeed, a comfort to meet with a Cathedral organist who really is satisfied with his lot.

I learn that Herr Bittong and Herr Backur (who was Pollini's business manager) have taken over the Hamburg Opera House, of which they will henceforward be directors. Herr Bittong will be no stranger in London, for in 1882 he was stage manager to Pollini's company, which, under the bâton of Dr. Richter, first produced at Drury Lane "Die Meistersinger" and "Tristan and Isolde." Herr Bittong has also visited us since, and he knows the character of English audiences fairly well. It is, therefore, I think, not unlikely that, eventually, he may again bring over the Hamburg troupe to give us a series of operas in German. At Hamburg the highest price of admission is about five shillings. Even taking into consideration the extra expense of living, and the cost of transport, there ought to be a considerable profit even if the prices of admission to the Hamburg performances in London were fixed at from one shilling to half-a-guinea—namely, double the German rate. Opera, adequately mounted, and performed at theatrical charges, would, beyond much question, pay very well.

Mr. Robert Newman has reduced the prices of admission not only to the Lamoureux performances, but also to his excellent Saturday Afternoon Concerts at Queen's Hall. This, no doubt, is a direct result of the increasing popularity of the cheap Sunday Afternoon Orchestral Concerts. It is perfectly obvious that if a music lover can hear high-class orchestral performances on Sunday afternoons at prices ranging from 3d. to 3s., he is not likely to pay 2s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. for performances by exactly the same orchestra (with a 25 per cent. accession of strength) on Wednesdays or Saturdays. For the Saturday Afternoon Concerts Mr. Newman now offers upwards of 2,000 seats at from 1s. to 3s. each. This practically is a reduction of the charges almost to the scale in vogue in Germany, where down to a recent date concerts were very much cheaper than in this country. No doubt if the movement continues the fees of orchestral players must likewise be reduced, down perhaps to the level of the salaries which, when the Sunday concerts were first started at Queen's Hall, the bandsmen gladly accepted.

The Afternoon Popular Concerts were resumed on Saturday, when Lady Halle gave the only performance this season of Beethoven's Septet. There was a larger audience than usual, for the Septet always has been a favourite work here. Lady Halle will continue as leader of the Popular Concert Quartet during the present month, and afterwards she goes to the United States for her first tour in America. The Ballad Concerts were likewise resumed on Saturday, the best of the new ballads being one entitled "The Young Royalist," from the pen of Mr. Stephen Adams Maybrick.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—The inimitable Mr. Anstey ought to write a "Vice Versâ" for children, wherein the parent, transformed into a five-year old boy or girl, should be subjected to the discipline he imposes upon the nursery. He should be forced to believe all the absurdities, swallow all the inconsistencies, and accept the monstrous doctrine that the principles of poetic justice prevail in our prosaic world. Above all, he should have his tastes dictated to him and be forced to find enjoyable the toys and books grown-ups think he ought to delight in. What a revolution such a lesson universally and severely administered would work in our nursery manners, morals, tastes, toys, and libraries! Certainly in my own experience children seem to like least the toys and books their elders expect them to like most, and vice versâ. It is just possible, therefore, that boys might not delight in "A Villain of Parts" (1) nor girls in "A Houseful of Rebels" (2); but it is hardly probable. A more intensely exciting adventure book than "A Villain of Parts" I have not read for years; and whether boys (for whom, by the way, it is not specially written)

(1) "A Villain of Parts." By Paul Neuman. (London: Harper Brothers. Price 6s.)
(2) "A Houseful of Rebels." Being an Account of Three Naughty Girls and Their Adventures in Fairyland. By Walter Rhoades. Illustrated by Patten Wilson. (Westminster: Archibald Constable & Co. Price 6s.)
(3) "Her Royal Highness's Love Affair." By J. Maclaren Cobban. (London: C. Arthur Pearson, Limited. Price 6s.)
(4) "Whoso Findeth a Wife." By William Le Queux. (London: F. V. White & Co. Price 6s.)
(5) "Sunset." By Beatrice Whitby. (London: Hurst & Blackett, Limited. Price 3s. 6d.)

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will enjoy it or no, it will infallibly pass for you two or three absorbing hours. "A Houseful of Rebels," to my adult thinking, seems the very book for girls, and especially for girls interested in the excellent "Society for the Suppression of Cruelty to Dolls." It is a true history—as true, at least, as most histories—of the Christian revenge for cruel ill-usage taken by dolls on the little girls that owned them. Transported to fairyland, these desperate culprits were taught in the most delightful country and company and mode and manner imaginable to be more exemplary subjects to their governess and sovereigns to their dolls. "Her Royal Highness's Love Affair" (3) has many claims to be classed with fairy tales, it is at once so whimsical, improbable, and interesting. Mr. Maclaren Cobban, more greatly daring even than the author of "Evan Harrington," has made his hero a counter-jumper and his heroine a Princess of the Blood Royal of England! Every scene and incident of the story is in keeping with this audacious love affair, for Mr. Maclaren Cobban never for a moment deviates into probability. The shop-boy bicycles daily in Hyde Park with the Princess, saunters with her upon the pavement of Piccadilly, shows her through shops (other than his own), and treats her to a sumptuous lunch at a restaurant, where, as ill luck would have it, her father and her *fiancé* are also refreshing themselves. To save her Royal Highness from this *fiancé*, Baron Nebulus, a German Jew millionaire, shady as his name, the shop-boy elopes with the Princess, takes her to France, and there secrets her, without her disappearance causing more stir in England than the flight of an autumn swallow! The Prince, her father, and her *fiancé*, the Baron, however, pursue the couple and find them after many days, whereupon the shopman fights a duel with the *fiancé*, but restores the Princess, pure as unfallen snow, to her father. Indeed, he is so good even as to explain to the Prince that it was in his Royal Highness' interest that he eloped with his daughter. "I love our country, sir, and I am prouder of being an Englishman than of anything else in the world, and it seemed to me the last and lowest touch of disgrace and infamy that a Princess of our Royal House should marry the grandson of a German Jewish pawnbroker. Royalty, sir, may survive a good many things, but it cannot survive ridicule!" Therefore, to save Royalty from ridicule, the considerate shopman, by the help of a rope-ladder, hauls her Royal Highness over the palace garden wall, smuggles her to Folkestone by a Parliamentary train, gets her and her *gouvernante* on board the boat (which he contrives to miss himself), and follows them to Pittefaux, where he lives with them humbly but happily till father and *fiancé* stroll leisurely upon the scene preparatory to the fall of the curtain. The oddest thing about this odd story is that it interests you in spite of its numberless conscious and unconscious absurdities. A no less august personage plays a still more preposterous part in a story of thrilling detective interest, Mr. Le Queux's "Whoso Findeth a Wife" (4). Her Imperial Highness the Grand Duchess Elizaveta Nicolayevna, niece of the late Tzar Alexander, more famous throughout Europe for her loveliness even than for her rank, suddenly disappears. She had taken it into her head to come to England, where, in the guise of a young English girl, she loves and is loved by the private secretary of the Secretary of War. In order to obtain the Tzar's consent to her marriage to this young diplomatist, she undertakes, as a spy, to ruin him by the theft of a document, which threatens to involve the world in war. There's a situation for you! A girl commits an act of the foulest treachery towards her lover, which involves him in the suspicion of an act of the foulest treachery, in order to secure her uncle's consent to her marriage—the girl being a Russian Imperial Highness and her uncle the Tzar! The diplomatist, never having had the faintest suspicion that the girl he married was other than the young English middle-class maiden she represented herself to be, is a little astonished upon a casual visit to Paris to find her suddenly blossomed out there as the Queen of European society by virtue of her beauty no less than of her rank. The incredibilities of "Whoso Findeth a Wife" are nothing short of magnificent in their audacity, yet they are accepted because you are hurried along too breathlessly to pause and weigh them. There is nothing improbable in Miss Beatrice Whitby's "Sunset" (5), which is a very clever study of the most probable, the most certain, of all things in life—disillusion. Its heroine begins with ambitious hopes and ends by marrying prosaically a good clergyman she rather likes than loves. The sensationalist incident of the story—the fatal illness of an unfaithful wife on the very day of her elopement—is well told.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, very sincerely yours,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—We went to the first night of the great "Beauty and the Beast" ballet at the Alhambra, and were captivated by the lovely sequences of colour throughout the modern rendering of the good old fairy tale. It is a beautiful ballet. The "Gathering of the Clans," which precedes it, is also a most attractive performance, the different tartans making a most effective display. Young Lochinvar, as we conjectured him to be, danced beautifully, and was a very pretty girl, and the sword dance was well done. The music is very dainty, melodious, and telling. We waited to see the clever performing cats. They would have greatly pleased you. You must not entertain the idea that a music-hall is an impossible place to visit. All that was changed long ago. The audience is now perfectly respectable and well behaved, and the only difference between it and the theatre is the tobacco smoke. The seats are more comfortable than those in most theatres. When you come to town you shall be taken to a nice music-hall, and you will, I know, enjoy yourself very much.

We met a girl so prettily dressed in Regent-street yesterday. She had a skirt and coat of Harris tweed in a beautiful shade of sea blue that I have described to you before, having seen it at the Stafford House sale last year. We felt inclined to invest in a dress length or two on that occasion, but the stuff was sold out immediately. The girl I am telling you about wore a bright tan cloth waistcoat, with small bullion buttons, and her felt hat exactly matched the tint of the waistcoat, and was trimmed with a twist of blue velvet in the shade of the tweed, and some brown and blue feathers. Her gloves were tan as well, and she was a most harmonious girl—a quality that is often equal to prettiness, sometimes superior. There is a sort of wasted prettiness, as you must have occasionally noticed. One discovers with surprise, after a while, that there are well-cut features in a face that one would have described as insignificant, perhaps because the hair is scanty and the complexion poor. Sometimes it is a way of hanging the head that obscures the pretty looks, or an awkward carriage of the chin. It is surprising how much a graceful carriage helps out a pretty face.

And another surprising thing is the way in which belief in one's self and one's attractions impresses others with a similar faith. Lucky are the girls who believe in themselves!

The marriage of the Hon Osbert Cecil, Lord Sefton's brother, with the Hon. Helena Mary Bridgeman, Lord and Lady Newport's third daughter, was rather shorn of its accessories by the advancement of the date. It was to have taken place on Tuesday of this week, but the bride's grandfather, the Earl of Bradford, was so extremely ill, and expressed so earnest a desire that the ceremony should be gone through without delay, that the marriage

HUNTING.—An elegant and graceful up-to-date figure is created by the easy and perfect fit of the ingenious and appropriate Stays built by Mesdames SYKES, JOSEPHINE, & Co., The Celebrated Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-st., Oxford-circus, London, W.

was solemnised on Saturday. The bridal satin was showered with diamonds and richly embroidered in silver. The high Medici collar was in embroidered satin. The church—St. Paul's, Knightsbridge—was beautifully decorated with pure white flowers. Lady Newport wore a very pretty mauve satin trimmed with old point and straps of pansy velvet.

From Paris comes the fiat, "blouses are over at last!" I wonder if it is really true this time. Certain it is that everything is tight-fitting, and "blowsy" blouses are not seen in polite society. But then, have not all our blouses been tight-fitting of late? The line from under the arm to the waist—*such* an important one!—has never been more clearly defined than it is at present. Even a dressing-gown is unsuccessful if it defies this canon of fashionable dressmaking. There is no doubt that bodices contrasting with the skirt in colour will still be worn, and there is, after all, not much difference between one of these and a well-made blouse. Skirts, I hear, are even tighter than ever on the hips, though full and clinging round the hem. Petticoats are on the wane, and will soon be an unknown and forgotten garment. There is no room for them under the tightly-fitted skirts.

Have you seen the new ermine coat? It is cut like a man's morning coat, and fits in to the figure at the back, though the fronts fall straight. Three large white pearl buttons fasten it down one side, and the belt is white doeskin. Not a scrap of colour, you see. And often the toque worn with it is made of ermine, too, with white velvet trimmings and a snowy cock's plume.

Perhaps you think this would be a very trying style? Depends on the complexion, my dear. I saw a pretty woman at a recent wedding in an ermine toque and cape, and she looked like a girl, though she had a tall, grown-up son by her side.

Have you noticed any of the new ties? They are in the shape of men's "sailor's knots," but have the ends finished with ruches of satin in the same colour as the tie. They have rather an incongruous appearance, I think.

I see by a Paris paper that Worth made four gowns in two days for Mme. Duse to wear in "La Dame aux Camélias," at Monte Carlo. The first was white satin with gold appliqués on which flowers were embroidered in relief in white crêpe, silver and strass. The train was gold gauze, veiled with point d'Alençon, which also trimmed the shoulders and formed the sleeves. A drapery of gold gauze passing round the top of the bodice was fringed with scintillating gems.

The second gown was white crêpe-de-chine made over rose silk and opening in front to show an underdress of point de Venise, the lovely lace forming sleeves and chemisette. Three handsome strass buckles fastened the bodice.

The ball dress was in soft white satin, opening over pale green silk muslin and bordered with camellias and marguerites. Over this hung a tulle train draped in Greek fashion. Marguerites and camellias trimmed the lace sleeves. The dying dress was white batiste of the softest description, covered with white silk muslin and exquisitely graceful of outline.

Fancy turning out such gems of art in two days! It would take the ordinary mind as long as that merely to think them out.

On general subjects the papers are just now lively reading. Did you see that case where an unfortunate old caretaker woman was allowed to slip out of this world because sending for a doctor might have given a shock to her employer?

And that is a nice, cheerful story about the wrongful conviction of an unfortunate young man on the charge of assaulting a woman cyclist in Wales, he having been in Essex at the time. Twelve witnesses swore to this, but he was convicted all the same. So much for what the judge described as "the most perfect alibi ever brought into court." The innocent man has hard-laboured in prison since November with the prospect of five years' penal servitude for contemplation in his leisure moments. The woman cyclist who identified him will for the future, I should fancy, hesitate to back her own opinion in the matter of photographic likenesses.

And another inspiriting little circumstance related in the papers was the mixing up of children in the fever hospital. Fancy the dreadful feelings of the poor mother who was sent for to take her four year-old home cured, and found that it was not hers, but that hers had died weeks before!

I have just read "Bijou," by Gyp. It is a wonderfully subtle study of a type not unknown to some of us—the "deep" flirt, all innocence and unconsciousness on the surface. "Bijou" is depicted by a master-hand, and a tiro might skim the book and never detect the hard, narrow, sordid, jealous, sensuous little soul that lies behind the soft, gay manner, candid smile, and youthful brightness and prettiness. She cannot rest until every man she sees is subjugated by her charm. Even her friend's *fiancé* is not spared, and the means she adopts are as clever as they are apparently harmless. The reader gets half way through the book without discovering Bijou to be anything more than the pretty butterfly she appears to those around her. And this is one of the things that make the story so true to life. These outwardly frank but inwardly sly and deceitful natures often impose on the world as cleverly as Bijou does. I am sending you on the book that you may judge of it for yourself.

I saw such a pretty hat on a tall and graceful girl this morning. It was made of sapphire velvet, the crown a-glitter with dark blue beads to match. A long, softly floating green feather waved over the crown. I see that the note for all the newest hats is flatness, both of brim and crown, and including trimming. Rather a change, is it not, from the startlingly high arrangements to which we are only too well accustomed.

I do wish that the storm collar would go out of fashion. It is all wrong, hygienically and æsthetically, even at its best. At its worst, it is an awful thing. When the fur round it begins to look pensive and fretful the wearer has the air of a sick turkey, a bird which can look more melancholy and miserable than any other, to say nothing of its lamentable "peep! peep!" in a doleful minor key.

Christabel writes from Paris:—

There is an ornament rather in vogue among those who do not know what to do for a change, or with their money. I mention it, but cannot say I admire the idea. It is a poor, wee little tortoise about the size of a large beetle; over its carapace or shell is fixed a light frame of platina, on which is the monogram or initials of the fair owner in diamonds, pearls, or any precious stone preferred. Held by a little gold chain, the poor little wretch is allowed to play about, shake its little head from side to side, and amuse itself as best it can. At night it is placed on a bed of damp moss, and they say is very comfortable, but it seems to me a case for the society against cruelty to animals to interfere. It is almost as bad as the Brazilian belles who stick live fire-flies in their hair!

Now for a short description of some pretty costumes seen lately at various functions. I noticed at the Academy, when M. Vaudal was admitted, a salmon-coloured cloth braided on the skirt with the same shade; the bodice had epaulettes bordered with sable, and in front was some rich guipure with two narrow straps of sable going across, and at the throat a cravat of old rose silk and lace. The tulle toque was spangled with silver with a twist of salmon-coloured velvet going round it and a straight feather of old rose. Another was an extremely pretty semi-pleated heliotrope crêpon skirt, with a silk bodice to match

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in colour ornamented with large revers trimmed with lace and high collar at the back. The toque was of heliotrope felt with a fold of the same shade of velvet going round it and a bunch of Parma violets at the side. Mme. Gauthereau had a beautiful long black velvet cloak, with a rich silver belt, wide chinchilla revers, and a large lace cravat at the neck. Her toque was black velvet with grey plumes.

At a wedding the other day I saw a lovely mauve velvet gown, the skirt embroidered with the same shade in silk and bordered round the hem with chinchilla. The blouse bodice had three boleros, each one shorter than the other, all edged with chinchilla. With this was worn a toque of the same fur raised on one side with camellias and a mauve bird-of-paradise plume. A pearl grey cloth looked very stylish cut in princess shape. The bodice had revers of turquoise blue velvet edged with sable, and fastened with black velvet buttons sparkling with diamonds. The turquoise velvet hat had black feathers and a paste buckle. On leaving the church, the wearer of this becoming costume put on a splendid sable stole.

A dance and cotillon were given on Monday from nine till twelve, the chief novelty being that all the gifts and cotillon trifles were arranged on an enormous fir-tree placed in one of the salons (being in the tents of Israel it could not be called a Christmas-tree), but the novelty was that the tree was illuminated with electricity, and the little luminous globes gave a most enchanting effect.

Frances writes from Brighton:—

DEAREST MADGE,—The Fancy Dress Ball at the Brighton Ice Rink on Friday night was smart, amusing, and well attended, above three hundred and fifty being present. Though there were no very striking dresses worn, the costumes were all good, varied, and more numerous than I expected. The Rink was charmingly decorated with hundreds of coloured lights, picking out the arches, and soft pink drapings round the circle enclosing the ice, the Winter Garden of the Club being hung with lanterns, and the lights becomingly shaded. M. Harry Stiegert, in a handsome Austrian skating costume of white satin, embroidered in diamonds, with a red satin sash, gave a very clever exhibition of fancy skating at 11 p.m., which was greatly applauded. The judging for the prizes took place at midnight, when the skaters circled round the judges' table in procession. Lady Call, in a charming green and white seventeenth-century dress, a combination of silk, velvet, and delicately spangled net, distributed the prizes, and Sir William Call, in a handsome red and blue fur-trimmed Russian costume, led those singled out from amongst the skaters to receive their awards, in the shape of valuable prizes and souvenirs. Light refreshments were served in the corridor and suppers in the club rooms after the judging for prizes had taken place.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—Christmas literature is bad enough in its own way, yet what is it compared to that which the end of each year calls forth? If only we could ring out the old, and ring in the new, without ringing the same only changes on the same old bells! How tired we get of statistics and lists, of the stock-taking, as it were, in the great going concern, life, to which so many journalistic columns are devoted. We never escape the enumeration of the Princes, Peers, and Baronets who are occupying cradles at the beginning of the new year, or entering their twenty-first year, or their dotage. As for the knights, those made in the record year were a record in themselves. Even Ireland got a fair share of knightly honours, and especially Dublin. No doubt the list of titled attendants at the Castle festivities of the coming season will be considerably augmented.

The Viceregal establishment will move from the Phœnix Park to Dublin Castle, at the end of the month, the season not beginning until February. Lord and Lady Cadogan will pay some visits in Ireland before the move, and will be amongst the visitors to Mount Stewart during this month, which Lord and Lady Londonderry usually devote to entertaining at their Irish residence in the County of Down. Lord and Lady Cadogan have given a good many Christmas dinner parties at the Viceregal Lodge. Lady Sophie Scott joined the family party last week, together with Lady Fingall and other visitors. During the week Lord Cadogan and a Viceregal party paid the first Viceregal visit to the new Theatre Royal, which opened in Dublin shortly before Christmas. Apropos of this season of statistics, our capital was until now the one with, perhaps, the fewest places of evening amusements in the civilised world.

The city of the high death-rate, the greatest number of doctors and of hospitals—in proportion to its size, of course—had also the least number of theatres and places of public amusement. Is there a connection between these facts? It may possibly be, considering the healthful properties of laughter and cheerfulness. Not indeed that the stage dedicated to modern dramas is always calculated to make us cheerful, unless through showing us others in a succession of miserable situations which we have been—most of us—fortunate enough to escape. But what recreation a good, wholesome, cheery comedy is, or an unmorbid, old-fashioned play, which takes us out of ourselves and away from our personal cares and commonplace surroundings for a few hours! Nothing more truly recreates us for the time.

The Chief Secretary did not spend Christmas amongst us, but Mr. Morley, his predecessor, did, which was curious, and made many indulge in speculation regarding the object of his visit. What penalties attach to being a public character; it is like being a published book. Every one feels himself entitled to read you and to construe your words, actions, and intentions, according to his own views. Was it not the great Condé who said of certain historians, "These cads make us act as they would themselves have acted under the same circumstances"? How often must not those who do business in the great waters of the world sympathise with the feeling expressed by Condé. Besides spending some days with Lord Justice FitzGibbon, Mr. Morley was also Lord Cadogan's guest at the Viceregal Lodge and Lord Ashbourne's at Howth Castle. No doubt he also visited other friends, not so much known to Society, for National, or indeed Radical ways, are not those affected in the leading social places in Ireland. We are dreadfully one-sided still and socially seek to ostracise all but the one old Ascendency way of thinking. Does one not shudder at the monotonousness of the mere idea, that every one should think alike? I dare say you do not think that we Irish are ever likely to suffer from all thinking alike on any political subject. Nevertheless, Society up to this has had an almost unanimous anti-National way.

Lord Cadogan, last week, knighted Mr. Justice Bewley, on his resignation of his seat on the Bench. I fancy Lord Cadogan has made many more knights than any of his predecessors for a long time. In fact, the aides-de-camp must be having a good time, for the A.D.C.-in-Waiting supplies the sword that gives the accolade—or rather with which it is given—and thereby becomes entitled to a fee, not of an excessive nature, however, for Viceroyalty, unlike Royalty, is frugal in such matters. Sir E. Bewley is Lord Ashbourne's brother-in-law, Lady Bewley being the elder sister of Lady Ashbourne. Sir E. Bewley was unfortunately obliged to resign, while in full health and vigour, owing to defective hearing. He is a clever and cultivated man, who worked hard in his time.—Yours ever,

CLARE.

I want you to try the following dishes. This way of dressing "artichoke bottoms" makes a delightful entrée, and is an excellent way of using up cold game:—

Pick the meat from the remains of any cold game, chop the bones and stew them for two or three hours with a little vegetable, herbs, peppercorns, and sufficient stock to cover. After which, strain and reduce the liquor to a gill by boiling it without the lid of the stewpan, thicken the broth with a teaspoonful of flour, kneaded with a piece of butter, and, when it boils, remove it to cool. Pound the game with the sauce and rub it through a wire sieve. Warm the purée in a stewpan, adding a gill of cream, pepper, salt, and the yolks of one or two eggs. Pile the purée in the centre of the artichokes, which must be warmed between two plates in the oven, and garnish the top

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with hard boiled yolk of egg passed through a wire sieve. Place each artichoke on a round piece of fried bread, arrange them on a dish-paper, and garnish them with fried parsley.

Guavas are a delicious Cape fruit, and can be bought tinned, at any good grocer's. A cream made in this way is really excellent :—

Open a tin of guavas and put them on to stew for half-an-hour, add 4 oz. of sugar, and, when it is dissolved, rub the fruit through a hair sieve. When the purée is quite cold, mix it with 1½ gills of stiffly whipped cream, well whisking them together. Now pour the cream into a deep glass dish. Whisk the whites of two fresh eggs to a stiff froth, and press them through a plain pipe on to the cream, making it stand up in little snowy peaks. Dust white sugar over it, and serve it with the following little cakes on a separate plate. Beat together, in a basin, 4 oz. of butter and 4 oz. of pounded sugar, add 1 egg, beating it in till it is light, then mix in 8 oz. of sifted flour. Turn the mixture on to a slab, roll it out until it is ¼ in. thick, cut it in rounds with a cutter about 3 in. in diameter, and bake them a delicate colour in a moderate oven. Remove them from the oven and put them on a pastry rack to cool, when they will become quite crisp.

Calf's tongue and brains make a good entrée :—

Put the tongue into a salt pickle for a couple of days, or, it may be used plain. Then stew it in stock with vegetables, herbs, peppercorns, cloves, a blade of mace, and a bacon bone for two hours. Allow the tongue to partly cool in the liquor, then press it on its side until cold. Cut the tongue into slices, trim them as nearly like cutlets as possible, and warm them in a sauté pan in a little strong stock. Arrange the slices of tongue in a circle, on a border of mashed potato, put the dressed brains in the centre, and pour tomato sauce round it.

To prepare calf's brains :—Remove the skin and soak them in cold water for two hours. Now put them into a stewpan with a pint of boiling stock, a carrot, an onion, a piece of celery, 2 cloves, a blade of mace, and a gill of vinegar, boil them rather quickly for half an hour. When they are done, drain the brains on a cloth, cut them into neat scallops, make them hot in some good tomato sauce, to which a little chopped gherkin may be added.

Ever, dear, your loving cousin,

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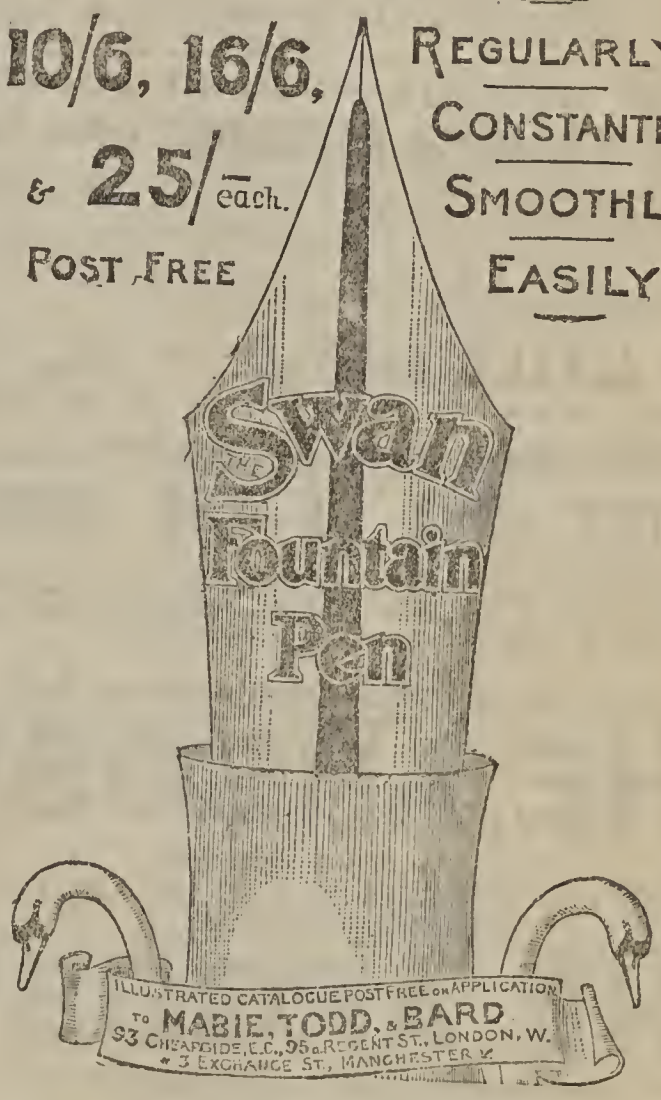

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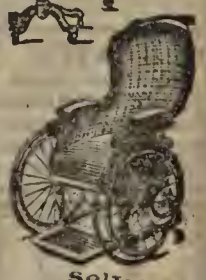

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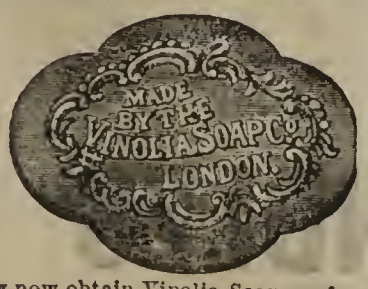

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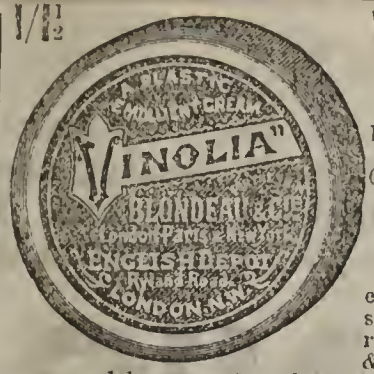
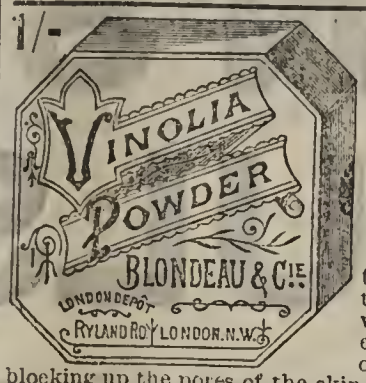


For Itching. Face Spots. Chaps, Chilblains

The LANCET reports: "An emollient cream for the skin in eczema, rash, eruptions, &c."

1/½, 3/6, and 6/- per Box.

1/- VINOLIA POWDER



For Redness, Roughness, Toilet Nursery, &c.

The LADY'S PICTORIAL reports: "Superseding the old-fashioned toilet powders which are apt to cause acne spots on the face by blocking up the pores of the skin."

In White, Pink, and Cream Tints.
1/-, 1/9, 3/6, and 6/- per Box.

6d VINOLIA SHAVING SOAP.

(STICKS AND FLAT CAKES)

Causes no Blotches.

STICKS: Premier 6d., Toilet 1/-, 1/6, 2/6. Vestal, 2/-.

FLAT CAKES: Premier 1/-, Toilet 2/-, Vestal 2/6.

Vinolia Shaving Cream, For using without Brush and Water. 6d.

6d YPSYL.

A Coralline Emollient for Dry, Rough, Cracked, or Pallid Lips.
In Rose-Red and White Tints. 6d. and 1/- a Tube.

1/- VINOLIA LAVENDER WATER.

Natural and Very Lasting.

Contains the finest Essential Oils, Concentrated, therefore the Most Economical.

In 1-oz., 2-oz., 4-oz., & 8-oz. Bottles.
6d., 1/-, 2/-, and 3/6.

2d BLONDEAU TOILET SOAPS.

(BRITANNIA BRAND).

Guaranteed Neutral and Pure.

1/- per Box of 6 Tablets

(Assorted Colours and Perfumes).

6d PREMIER VINOLIA DENTIFRICE

Aromatic, Tonic, Refreshing, Preservative.
Keeps the Teeth Ivory White.
Premier, in Round Box and Glass Bottle, 6d.
English—2/6.
American—1/6.
VINOLIA TOOTH PASTE.
Delicately Perfumed 6d

6d BLONDEAU CARBOLIC TOOTH POWDER.

Contains no Grit or Mineral Acids.

In Round Metal Box, 6d. & 1/-.

6d BLONDEAU PERFUMES

Concentrated, Delicate, Pure

*Vinolia Bouquet, *Marequil, *Jequilla, *Losaria, Wood Violet, White Heliotrope, Ess. Bouquet, Frangipanni, Jockey Club, Maréchal Niel, Millefleur, White Rose, Jasmin, Musk Rose, Honeysuckle, New Mown Hay, Lily of the Valley, Rondeletia, Hyacinth, Ylang Ylang, Stephanotis, Opoponax, Patchouli, Musk, Ambergris, Amaryllis, White Lilac, Narcissus, Chypre, Violette de Parme, Mignonette, Clematis, Wallflower, Violet, *Rhine Violets, Peau d'Espagne.

6d., 1/-, 2/-, 3/-, and 5/- per bottle.

* These perfumes are not supplied in the 6d. quality.

1/- Vinolia Hair Wash

Freshens and Revivifies the Hair.

In two kinds, Dry and Moist, 1/- per bottle.

In 3 odours: Portugal, Rose, and Violet.

1/- VINOLIA EAU DE COLOGNE.

Fragrant. Refreshing.

As fine as can possibly be made.

The "Court Circular" reports: "Vinolia Eau de Cologne we consider is absolutely unequalled for strength, purity, and delicacy of aroma."

6d., 1/-, 2/-, 3/3, and 5/6.

3 per 2oz. Packet VINOLIA VIOLET POWDER.

Sanitary. Antiseptic. Soothing.
Specially prepared for Toilet and Nursery use.

In 2-oz. Packets, 3d. In ¼-lb. Packet or Tin, 6d.

BLONDEAU ET CIE., MALDEN CRESCENT, LONDON, N.W.

Prevention is Better than Cure.

Cure is at all Times Uncertain.

BUT

Prevention lies in a sound, vigorous, and well-nourished frame. With exhaustion and in a wasted condition, the body becomes liable to all diseases, and Cod Liver Oil is the means of prevention, for it is the most valuable nutrient in such cases. The best condition in which this valuable stamina-supplying material can be taken is

MELLIN'S COD LIVER OIL EMULSION

For it is easy of digestion even for the young, rapidly assimilated even by the weakly, and is most palatable for all. This cannot be said of plain Cod Liver Oil.

FOR COUGHS, COLDS, &c., &c.

Sample free on receipt of 2d. for postage from MELLIN'S EMULSION CO., LTD., PECKHAM, LONDON.

The Public Benefactor.

HOVIS BREAD

DISTRIBUTES HEALTH.

No loaf genuine unless stamped **HOVIS.**

All good class Bakers make and sell Hovis.

Hovis Flour and Biscuits can be obtained from all leading Bakers and Grocers, or 6d. and 1s. samples will be sent on receipt of stamps by—

S. FITTON & SON, Hovis Mills, Macclesfield.

FIELD'S OZOKERIT CANDLES

FIVE AWARDS AT BRUSSELS EXHIBITION, 1897.

AN ELASTIC BOOKCASE

TWENTY-TWO AWARDS.
Telephone No. 317 Holborn.

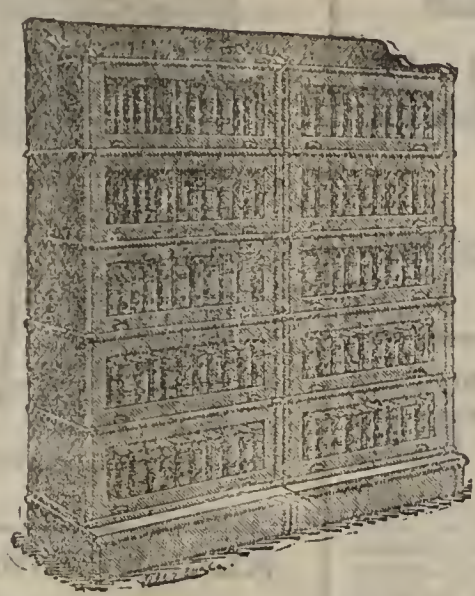
Novel and Useful.

SMALL ENOUGH FOR 10 BOOKS.

LARGE ENOUGH FOR 10,000 BOOKS.

The Wernicke Elastic System combines every feature necessary to a perfect bookcase. It is always complete, but never finished—never too large nor too small, but always just right. It is elegant, practical, and economical.

We guarantee satisfaction. The purchaser incurs no liability unless absolutely satisfied with the goods.



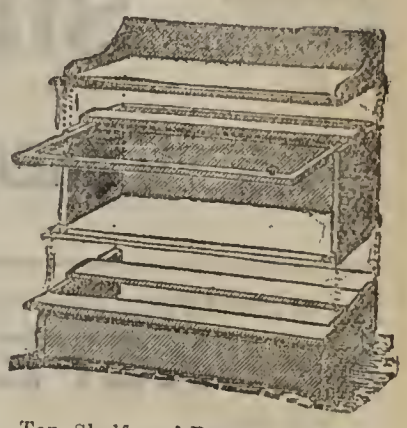
STANDARD STYLE.
2-SECTION, 5-ROW DOOR CASE, WITH FLAT TOPS AND PLAIN BASES.

	With Glass Doors. £ s. d.	Without Glass Doors. £ s. d.
Size D, 10½in. shelves	9 18 0	7 3 0
,, D, 12½in. ,,	10 13 0	7 18 0
,, C, 11in. ,,	9 13 0	6 18 0
,, E, 13½in. ,,	14 5 0	11 10 0

EXPLANATION.

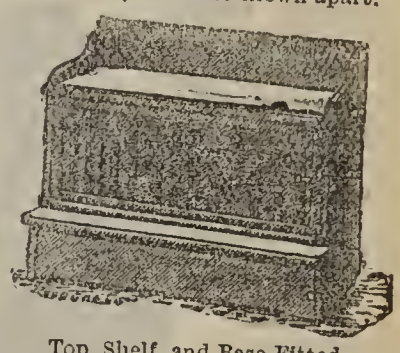
To increase the height, remove top, add another shelf above first one, and replace top on second shelf, and in the same way for any number of shelves. Every part is made to fit exactly and is interchangeable. Each shelf is also fitted with a simple and ingenious locking apparatus so that the bookcases may be extended sideways.

The dust-proof glass door hangs on pivots at its upper corners. It opens by swinging outward and upward, closing instantly when released. The glass door is also removable at will.



Top, Shelf, and Base shown apart.

One shelf with top and base is a complete bookcase as shown.



Top, Shelf, and Base Fitted.

Special Illustrated J Catalogue, fully explaining the above, posted free to all Applicants mentioning "TRUTH." Inspection of Stock Invited.

A Large Variety of Specialities and Novelties in Library and Office Furniture always in Stock.

THOMAS TURNER, (LEICESTER) Ltd. { 44, HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON, E.C. / 7 and 9, NEWARKE STREET, LEICESTER.

ADVANTAGES OVER OTHER FORMS OF LAMPS FOR DECORATIVE LIGHTING.

THEY BURN CANDLES. This is much safer and cleaner than using oil.
THEY FIT IN ANY CANDLESTICK. It is therefore unnecessary to procure special stands or fittings for them.
THEY LOOK LIKE WAX CANDLES, so are unobtrusive and elegant when in use.
THERE IS NO WASTE, every atom of candle being consumed.
THERE IS NO GUTTERING, and they are extinguished without smoke or smell.
THEY ALWAYS REMAIN THE SAME HEIGHT, however long they have been burning, the appearance of a table therefore always remains the same.
The Outer Tubes are made in all colours, and are CHANGEABLE. This greatly assists in artistically decorating a dinner table.

Recommended by all Leading Society Papers.

PRICES (complete with Shade Supports):—

6-inch, size of a 6's Wax Candle, for small Candlesticks, Pianos, &c. ..... Brass Fitting, **4/6** each. ..... Plated Fittings, **5/3** each.
8-inch, ,, 4's ,, ,, tall ,, Candelabra, &c. ... ,, **5/-** ,, ... ,, **5/9** ,, } If by post, 3d. per pair extra.

ARCTIC LIGHTS.—Suitable candles for burning in the Arctic Lamp (highly recommended). { For 6-inch lamps, burning about 4½ hours, 1/4 per box of 12; postage, 4d. / ,, 8-inch ,, ,, 7 ,, 2/- ,, ,, ,,

If a quantity is sent by post, the difference in cost of postage will be refunded.

The Arctic Lamps, &c., can be obtained through any of the leading Silversmiths, Lamp Dealers, and Furnishing Ironmongers in the United Kingdom, or can be seen in use, with a large variety of accessories, at the Showrooms of

THE ARCTIC LIGHT COMPANY, 179, REGENT-STREET, LONDON, W.

Fully Illustrated Catalogue sent on Application. **Wholesale Office—49, HATTON GARDEN, LONDON, E.C.**

HILDITCH'S ANNUAL SILK SALE

Great Reductions.

Patterns forwarded.

NOW ON.

11 & 12, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON.

WATER ABSOLUTELY FREE FROM DISEASE GERMS, BY USING THE

BERKEFELD FILTER

FOR THE PRIVATE HOUSE OFFICE, FACTORY, HOTELS RESTAURANTS, CLUBS, &c. &c.

Can be Easily and Cheaply Fixed to the Service-Pipe of any HOUSE having ordinary pressure.

Supplied to H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES, DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, K.G., and others too numerous to mention; THE HOUSE OF LORDS, and THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Glass and Earthenware Table Filters, price from 8s. 9d. each.

In use in all the Principal Hotels. Simple in Construction. Most easily cleaned.

PRICE FOR FILTER AS ABOVE, 42s.

SMALLER SIZE, 25s.

For other prices see price-lists.

Offices and Show-Rooms:

The BERKEFELD FILTER Co. Ltd.

121 Oxford St. London W.

NOTE.—Joseph Lunt, B.Sc., F.C.S., British Institute of Preventive Medicine, in his report on the Berkefeld Filter, says, "Exhaustive experiments showed that with London tap-water strongly infected artificially WITH THE TYPHOID BACILLUS, not a single typhoid bacillus was detected IN THE FILTERED WATER for a period of 26 days."

No Country House Should Be Without One.

Shall We Send You a Cat

ALOGUE OF GREENHOUSES from 30s.? BLOCK POULTRY AND RUSTIC HOUSES, IRON BUILDINGS, CHICKEN HOUSE RUNS AND COOPS, TIMBER, IRON, GLASS, AND SUNDRIES.

CLEARANCE SALE NOW ON

at extraordinary Low Prices to clear. Send to-day, as when once cleared, cannot be replaced at anything like the price.

W. COOPER,

Horticultural Provider, 755, Old Kent Rd. London, S.E.

The Best CHAINLESS Cycle!

1898 **THE BANTAM** 1898

New Regd. 'Alpha' Frame.

List, Testimonials, and "Notes on the Bantam," free; also particulars of Bantamette, Crypto Safety, Gardner Back-Pedalling Brake, Collier 2-Speed Gear, Crypto Carrier-Cab, &c.

CRYPTO WORKS CO., LTD.,

29, CLERKENWELL ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

Clarke's "Pyramid" & "Fairy" Light Co., Ltd., Cricklewood, London, N.W.

"The Old Favourite."

MAX GREGER'S CARLOWITZ

SAFEST, SOUNDEST

Dinner Wine.

PURE HUNGARIAN BURGUNDY.

From 15/- per doz.

Of all Wine Merchants and Grocers.

See that every cork bears the brand "Max Greger." Without it the wine is not genuine.

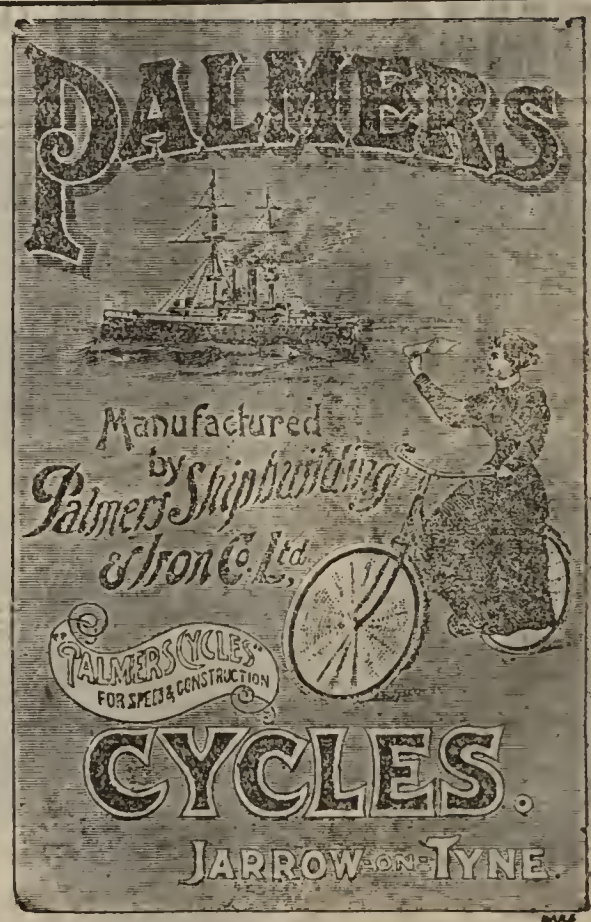
REAL GERMAN HOLLOW GROUND

KROPP RAZOR

Black Handle 5/6 | Pair, Ivory Handles, in Russia Leather Case, 21/- | Kropp's Duplex Strop 7/6
Ivory Handle 7/6 | Kropp's Strop Paste ...&c.

Wholesale: OSBORNE, GARRETT, & CO., LONDON, W.

☞ *Write for Pamphlet, "Shaver's Kit and Outfit," sent post free.*



London Depot:

18, HOLBORN VIADUCT, E.C.

THE LATE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD,
SIR MORELL MACKENZIE,
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,
MISS EMILY FAITHFUL,
THE LATE GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,

and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of

Himrod's Cure for Asthma.

Established over a Quarter of a Century.

Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, LYNCH & CO., J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS, & CO., BUTLER & CRISPE, JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale Houses.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.

THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE

63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.

THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD

SUN INSURED IN 1896 - £388,952,800.

SUN FIRE OFFICE FOUNDED 1710

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £30,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

CENTRAL PACIFIC STOCK.—THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY will, after JANUARY 1st, 1898, against delivery to it, at its Office in New York, of DIVIDEND WARRANTS No. 33, appertaining to Certificates of Stock of the Central Pacific Railroad Company, pay to the persons presenting the same one-half of one per cent. of the par value of the Stock represented by such Certificates respectively. Holders of the London Committee's Certificates in England can obtain the amount referred to above on presentation of their Certificates at Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co., 67, Lombard-street, London, E.C., where they will be stamped as follows:—"Five Dollars ($5), received from the Southern Pacific Company, against delivery of Dividend Warrant No. 33."—The Certificates may be left any day except Saturday, between the hours of Ten and Two.

NEW YORK CENTRAL and HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD COMPANY.—THREE-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. BONDS of 1997.

Interest payable in New York 1st January and 1st July by coupons, or the bonds can be registered in the name of the owner.

Principal and interest payable in gold coin of the United States of the present standard of weight and fineness without deduction for any tax or taxes which the Railroad Company may be required to pay or to retain therefrom under any present or future law of the United States or of any State or County thereof.

To Holders of Bonds and Debt Certificates or Debentures of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company, viz.:—
First Mortgage Seven per Cent. Bonds, due Jan. 1st, 1903.
First Mortgage Six per Cent. Sterling Bonds, due Jan. 1st, 1903.
Extended Four per Cent. Debt Certificates, due May 1st, 1905.
Five per Cent. Debentures, due Sept. 1st, 1904.
Four per Cent. Debentures, due June 1st, 1905.

Having made a contract with the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company for the retirement of its entire bonded debt, as above, at or before maturity, we are now prepared to receive not exceeding $20,000,000 of the above-mentioned bonds, debt certificates, or debentures for exchange into the New Three and One-Half per Cent. Gold Bonds of the said Company. The outstanding bonds and debentures or debt certificates will be received by us at their present value, calculated to maturity on a 3½ per cent. basis, as follows:

Issue.	Due.	Value.	On
		Per cent.	
First Mortgage 7s.	Jan., 1903	115.93	Jan. 1, 1898
First Mortgage Sterling 6s.	Jan., 1903	108.41	Jan. 1, 1898*
Extended Debt Ctfs. 4s.	May, 1905	103.27	Nov. 1, 1897
Debenture 5s.	Sept., 1904	109.24	Sept. 1, 1897
Debenture 4s.	June, 1905	103.27	Dec. 1, 1897

* Figured on basis of $973.33 par for each bond of £200.

Remarks.—Interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. on money value calculated from these dates to time of delivery will be paid in addition. The bonds must bear the current coupon.

The new Three and One-Half per cent. Gold Bonds will be delivered in payment at 103 per cent., and accrued interest to date of delivery. Fractional differences will be adjusted in cash.

The existing bonded debt all matures on or prior to June 1, 1905, and the new mortgage provides that none of it shall be extended beyond that date. Consequently, on its retirement, the new bonds will be a First Mortgage on the railroad property and real estate of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company, including its railroad, terminals of extraordinary value at New York, Buffalo, and other points, all the equipment of the Company, and also its leases and other property, all as is more fully specified in the mortgage.

Copies of the mortgage securing the new bonds may be obtained at our offices.

J. S. MORGAN & CO., 22, Old Broad-street, London.
J. P. MORGAN & CO., 23, Wall-street, New York.

London and New York, 3rd January, 1898.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.

The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.

FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

"TRITICINE"
FOR
PUDDINGS.

The List of Applications will be opened from Thursday morning at 10 a.m. to Friday night at 6 p.m. for Town Subscribers, and Saturday afternoon to 2 p.m. for Country Subscribers.

This issue is made simultaneously in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

JOHANNESBURG WATERWORKS ESTATE AND EXPLORATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Registered as a Limited Liability Company in the South African Republic.)

CAPITAL (Issued and fully paid) £500,000,
In 500,000 ORDINARY SHARES of £1 each.

Present Debenture Capital £42,000 First Mortgage 7 per cent. Debentures, redeemable by Annual Drawings; and the whole to be paid off by 31st December, 1900.

Issue of £250,000 5 per cent. Mortgage Debentures, in Bonds of £100 and £50 each. The whole to be redeemed by the 31st December, 1925, at par, by the operation of a Cumulative Sinking Fund commencing 1901, or by purchases in the market at any time thereafter if the price is below par; and the Company further reserves to itself the right of redeeming the whole on and after the 31st December, 1911, at a premium of 3 per cent. on giving Six months' notice to the Debenture Holders.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE HOLDERS.
The Right Hon. The Earl of Denbigh.
Sir Gerald Fitzgerald, K.C.M.G.

BANKERS.—Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co.

The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, invite applications for the above issue at par, payable as follows:—10 per cent. on Application; 40 per cent. on Allotment; 25 per cent. on 15th February, 1898; 25 per cent. on 31st March, 1898.

The Debentures will bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly in April and November, and the first coupon will be payable on November 1st, 1898.

Interest on payments, calculated from the date of allotment and the dates of the subsequent instalments, will accrue at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum up to the 31st March, and will be paid on the date of exchange of the Provisional Scrip for the Definitive Bonds, which will take place on and after 1st April, and will be duly advertised.

Instalments may be paid up in full in advance either on allotment or on the subsequent instalments under a discount at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum.

Holders of the existing 7 per cent. Debentures can exchange their Debentures at the rate of £100 of the existing Bonds for £100 Provisional Scrip of the New Bonds, and will receive in addition a cash payment of 4 per cent., to cover the difference of interest for the unexpired term, and a bonus of 1 per cent., making in all 5 per cent. The Provisional Scrip for the New Bonds will carry interest at the rate of 5 per cent., from the date of allotment to the 31st March, payable on 1st April, 1898.

The Debentures will be to Bearer with Coupons attached, or they can be registered at the Offices of the Company either in Crosby-chambers, Fox-street, Johannesburg, or of the London Agents, 54, St. Mary Axe, London; but the interest will be payable at the Offices of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, 10 and 11, Austin-friars, London, or Colonnade-buildings, Fox-street, Johannesburg, or at the Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, Cape Town.

In the event of any of the existing 7 per cent. Debentures not being exchanged for the new Debentures, the nominal amount of the Debentures not so exchanged will be set aside and funded in the name of the Trustees, subject to which these Debentures will constitute a first charge on all the Real Estate, Works, Machinery, Properties, and rights of the above Company, including 83,334 Shares of the Zuurbekom Water Company, and will be secured by a Registered Mortgage thereon.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company was formed for the purpose of acquiring and working a Concession granted by the Transvaal Government for supplying the town of Johannesburg with water, and since that time there has been further acquired the sole right of supplying water to the following suburbs of Johannesburg:—Old Doornfontein, New Doornfontein, Fox Reserve, The Berea Estate, Yeoville Estate, Bellevue, Bertrams Township, Lorentzville, Fairview, Jeppes Township, Jeppes Extension, Belgravia, and Houghton Estate.

Johannesburg itself is now an important city, the growth of whose suburbs has been phenomenally remarkable, the present population of both being about 103,000. The Company has now about 85 miles of main and distributing pipes, several large Reservoirs with a capacity in all of 323 million gallons, and extensive pumping and filtering machinery.

The Johannesburg Waterworks Company hold 83,334 £1 Shares of the issued £120,000 £1 Shares of the Zuurbekom Water Company, and has secured the right from the Zuurbekom Water Company to take all the water that may be obtained at Zuurbekom at a price to be agreed upon. The whole of the plant laid down for this scheme, and the works at Zuurbekom, have been paid for and belong to the Johannesburg Waterworks Company. The main works at Johannesburg have been greatly extended and improved, and the whole placed under the charge of the Resident Engineer and Manager, Mr. Thomas Raynes, who was formerly Resident Waterworks Engineer at Birmingham.

This issue is made for the purpose of introducing further improvements in the present machinery and extending the works, so as to be in a position to supply adjacent mines; for paying off the floating debt, amounting to about £50,000; and for the completion of the works, machinery, and laying down of pipes from the Zuurbekom site; also for the redemption of the existing issue of £42,000 First Mortgage 7 per cent. Debentures. The Debenture holders of that issue have the option of exchanging their present Debentures for a like amount of the New Debentures, receiving a cash payment of 5 per cent. But whether such holders do or do not exchange, in view of the funding of the nominal amount of the Debentures not so exchanged the New Debentures of this issue are completely secured.

The profits for the last four years, as certified by the Auditors of the Company, after payment of Debenture Interest, Directors' fees, and all outgoings, are as follow:—

1894	£20,770
1895	£36,078
1896 (after paying £11,663 special services)	£29,585
1897	£46,946

during which period the following dividends have been paid:—

1894	6¼ per cent.
1895	7½ ,,
1896	7½ ,,
1897	7½ ,,

The amount required for the service of this Loan is £12,500 per annum, and for the Sinking Fund to commence in 1901, and within 25 years to pay off £250,000, is £6,856 19s. 5d., or a total of £19,356 19s. 5d.

In the event of the Company going into voluntary liquidation before the 31st December, 1911, the Debentures will be repayable at a premium of 3 per cent.

A copy of the Concession can be seen at the office of the London Agents, 54, St. Mary-axe, and the draft of the Trust Deed securing the Debentures and the Articles of Association of the Company can be seen of the offices of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, 10 and 11, Austin-friars, where prospectuses and forms of application can be obtained.

Application for Debentures should be made on the form enclosed with the prospectus (white), and may be sent to the Company's Bankers, together with cheque for the application money.

Application for the exchange of existing Debentures for those of the New Issue must be made on the form enclosed with the prospectus (pink), at the Offices of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, 10 and 11, Austin-friars, E.C., and immediately after allotment fully paid-up Scrip, together with a cheque for the 5 per cent. bonus, will be forwarded.

Failure to pay any instalment will render previous payments liable to forfeiture. Scrip will be issued against Letters of Allotment and cash receipts, and will be exchanged for Definitive Debentures on and after 1st April, 1898.

Where no allotment is made the application money will be returned in full, and when the number of the Debentures allotted is less than those applied for, the surplus will be credited to the account of future payments. Application will be made to the Stock Exchange for a quotation in their Official List.

January 11th, 1898.

The List of Applications will OPEN on WEDNESDAY, 12th January, 1898, and will CLOSE on or before FRIDAY, 14th January, 1898, for both Town and Country

THE CANNING JARRAH TIMBER CO.

(WESTERN AUSTRALIA) LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts 1862 to 1893.)

FORESTS, SAW MILLS, RAILWAY, AND FREEHOLD LAND.

The larger portion of the Company's Forest Land is situate within 30 miles of Perth and 42 miles of Fremantle, the Chief Port in the Colony, and occupies an unrivalled position for the supply of timber to the West Australian mines.

SHARE CAPITAL £250,000,

divided into 250,000 Shares of £1 each, of which the Vendors take 83,333 fully paid in part payment of the purchase money.

The REMAINING 166,667 SHARES, and £75,000 FIVE PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES of £100 each, are NOW OFFERED for SUBSCRIPTION at PAR.

The above £75,000 Debentures are part of a total authorised issue of £100,000, redeemable in 20 years by annual drawings at £105 per Bond, and will form a first charge upon the whole Concession, Railway, and Freehold Land and Buildings in Perth and elsewhere.

Interest will be payable to the Registered Holders half-yearly in London on 1st June and 1st December (leaving £25,000 Debentures for issue when required for the further extension of the business).

SHARES PAYABLE.—2s. 6d. per Share on Application, 7s. 6d. on Allotment, 5s. one month after Allotment, 5s. two months after Allotment.

DEBENTURES PAYABLE.—£5 per Bond on Application, £45 on Allotment, £25 one month after Allotment, £25 two months after Allotment. The Debentures can be paid up in full at any earlier date and the amount paid will carry interest from the date of payment.

WORKING CAPITAL.

Out of the above issues, £75,000 have been set aside to provide Working Capital, and out of that sum the Vendors are prepared to accept an amount up to £15,000 in Debentures in part payment for the stock of sawn timber, logs, &c., leaving £60,000 for the provision of further Working Capital, and of which amount Subscriptions for £50,000 have been guaranteed, in addition to the whole of the cash portion of the purchase consideration.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE HOLDERS.

William L. T. Foy, Esq., D.L., J.P., 104-5, Bishopsgate-street, E.C.
Carl Derenburg, Esq., 157, Victoria-street, S.W.

DIRECTORS.

Lieut.-General Sir J. Bevan Edwards, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.P., 28, Cadogan-gardens, S.W.
Charles James Morgan, Esq. (Messrs. Foy, Morgan, & Co.), 104-5, Bishopsgate-street, E.C.
Alex. N. Robertson, Esq. (Chairman Great Boulder Proprietary Gold Mines, Limited).
J. H. Smith, Esq. (late Chairman South Australian Government Railway Commissioners).
William Adams, Esq. (late Managing Director of Thomas Adams & Sons, Limited, Birmingham and Gloucester).

ADVISORY BOARD IN AUSTRALIA.

The Hon Septimus Burt, Q.C., M.L.A. (late Attorney-General for Western Australia, Perth).
Edward Noyes, Esq. (of Noyes Bros., Sydney and Melbourne).
Frank Wilson, Esq., M.L.A., Perth, General Manager.
} Directors of the Canning Jarrah Timber Company, Limited, of Melbourne.

BANKERS.

Parr's Bank, Limited Head Office, Bartholomew-lane, E.C.; 77, Lombard-street, E.C.; and Branches.
Royal Bank of Scotland, St. Andrew's-square, Edinburgh; London; and Branches.
The Union Bank of Australia, Limited, 71, Cornhill. E.C., and Perth, Western Australia.

BROKERS.

London—Messrs. Derenburg & Co., 9, Drapers'-gardens, E.C., and Stock Exchange.
Edinburgh—Messrs. H. Gilmour and Shaw, 18, St. Andrew's-square, Edinburgh.
Glasgow—Messrs. Fraser, Kirkpatrick, & Smith, 88, St. Vincent-street, Glasgow.

SOLICITORS.

For the Company—Messrs. Mayo & Co., 10, Drapers'-gardens, London, E.C.
For the Australian Company—Messrs. Bird, Moore, & Strode, 5, Gray's Inn-square, London, W.C.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. Jackson, Gourlay, Taylor, & Macrae, London and Glasgow.
Herbert H. Holman, Perth, Western Australia.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES—H. St. John Hodges, Finsbury House, Blomfield-street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire, as a going concern, the business at present carried on by the Canning Jarrah Timber Company, Limited, in Western Australia, and to further develop the same. The business includes the following:

Government Concession to fell and remove timber over about 128 square miles of Jarrah Forest in one block, situated about 30 miles from Perth and 42 miles from Fremantle.

Railway of about Thirty Miles, connecting the Concession with the Government Railways, together with rolling stock, &c., all in complete working order.

Three Large Saw-Mills in the Forest, manager's house, 75 workmen's dwelling-houses, stores, post-office, shops, &c., situate on about 655 acres of Freehold Land.

Large Timber Yard and Head Offices, covering an area of about 3½ acres Freehold, in the centre of the City of Perth.

Plot of about 14 acres Freehold at Midland Junction, where the Company's Railway joins the Government Line to Perth.

The current contracts and the goodwill of the business.

GOVERNMENT CONCESSION.—The Lease from the Government of this special timber licence is held for an unexpired term of 27½ years from 1st July, 1897, at a nominal yearly rental of £328 up to 1910 and £492 up to 1924. The Concession was granted some years ago, and, accordingly, is on much more favourable terms than can now be obtained. It is estimated that the Forest contains sufficient Jarrah of the finest quality to supply double the present saw-mill capacity, and the great demand for this class of timber for the mines and for export will, it is thought, enable this Company to double the present production.

REPORTS ON PROPERTY.—The Forest has been reported upon by Mr. J. Ednie Brown (Conservator of Forests to the West Australian Government, formerly to the Governments of New South Wales and South Australia), and a copy of his report accompanies the Prospectus.

THE RAILWAY.—This consists of the Upper Darling Range (or Zig-Zag) Railway of about 20 miles, connected with the Government Railways at Midland Junction, with Branches, covering a total length of about 30 miles.

THE FOREST SAW-MILLS, BUILDINGS, PLANT, &c.—These comprise three large saw-mills, fully equipped with all necessary machinery, also large brick-built manager's house, retail store, 75 workmen's dwelling houses, Government school, post-office, church, offices, doctor's quarters, fodder house, butcher's shop, smithy and fitting shops, saddlers', wheelwrights' and carpenters' shops, &c., the whole being situate on about 655 acres of Freehold Land.

The Company propose to immediately erect additional saw-mills, and thereby increase the output capacity to 24,000 loads per annum.

PERTH TIMBER YARD AND HEAD OFFICES.—This portion of the property has been valued and reported upon by Mr. B. C. Wood, City Valuer, and Mr. Alfred Sandover (whose joint report dated 15th September, 1897, accompanies the Prospectus), and is valued by them at £26,724.

FREEHOLD LANDS.—In addition to the Perth Freehold and the Forest Station Freehold of 655 acres, the Company own several blocks covering about 300 acres, including a valuable block of 14 acres at Midland Junction, opposite to the new Government Railway Workshops, and having a frontage of 30 chains to the Company's line. This is intended for a sorting yard for the Goldfields trade, for which it is admirably suited.

THE BUSINESS OF THE CANNING COMPANY.—The business was established in 1891 and the profits have largely increased since its inception, and large contracts have been executed for some of the most important works in Western Australia, such as railways, bridges, &c., and the trade with the mines is a rapidly growing one.

STREET PAVING.—The Vendor Company in Australia have just secured through their Brokers an order for 2,000 loads of their Jarrah wood for street paving.

ADDITIONAL FOREST LAND.—The Company also acquires about 51 square miles of Jarrah Forest held under special Timber Licences granted by the Government of Western Australia.

It is intended to erect steam mills to produce at least 10,000 loads per annum, and from this source a profit of some £12,000 per annum is expected, which will be in addition to the profits of £45,780 per annum estimated by Mr. Holman. The Balance Sheets certified by them have been examined by Messrs. Jackson, Gourlay, Taylor, & Macrae, the Auditors to this Company, and their report is set out in the Prospectus.

Having regard to Mr. Holman's estimates of future profits of the Canning business as mentioned in his report, amounting to £45,780, and to the estimated profit of £12,000 from the Donnybrook property, it will be observed that the total estimated yearly profit from the two properties is £57,780. To pay 5 per cent. on the Debentures will only require £3,750, leaving a large margin for dividends on the Share capital.

MANAGEMENT.—Arrangements have been made to retain for a term of years the services of Mr. Frank Wilson, M.L.A., who has been Managing Director of the Canning business since its inception in 1891, also the staff; thus securing a continuity of the present successful management and working in Western Australia.

PURCHASE PRICE.—The purchase price which has been fixed by the International Trust and Finance Corporation, Limited (who are the Vendors to the Promoters of this Company and resell at a profit), for the Government licences, railway and rolling stock, freehold land, saw-mills, dwellings, plant, live stock, goodwill and contracts, is £250,000, payable as to 110,000 in cash, £83,333 in fully-paid Shares, and the balance in cash or fully-paid Shares at the option of the Company.

CONTRACTS.—See Full Prospectus.

Copies of the Reports of Mr. Ednie Brown and the Accountants, the Valuation herein referred to, and Photographs of portions of the property, and a Map are enclosed with the Prospectus.

A settlement and official quotation on the London Stock Exchange for the Debentures and Shares will be duly applied for.

Applications for Debentures and Shares can be made on the appended forms, and should be forwarded to the Company's Bankers, accompanied by a remittance of the amount of the deposit.

Full Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, or at the Offices of its Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, or Auditors.

London, 10th January, 1898.

THESE FORMS MAY BE USED.

APPLICATION FORM for FIVE PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES.

THE CANNING JARRAH TIMBER COMPANY (WESTERN AUSTRALIA), Limited.

ISSUE of £75,000 in 750 FIVE PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES of £100 each, being part of a total authorised issue of £100,000.

To the Directors of the Canning Jarrah Timber Company (Western Australia), Limited.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to the Company's Bankers the sum of £....., being a deposit of £5 per Debenture due on application for..... First Mortgage Debentures of £100 each, I hereby request you to allot me the same, and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any less number allotted to me, and I agree to pay the instalments thereon as required in the terms of the Prospectus dated 10th January, 1898, and I authorise you to place my name on the Register in respect of such Mortgage Debentures. In the event of my receiving no allotment, the amount to be returned in full.

Signature .....
Name (in full) .....
Description .....
Address .....
Date.....1898.

To be written distinctly.

APPLICATION FORM FOR SHARES.

THE CANNING JARRAH TIMBER COMPANY (WESTERN AUSTRALIA), LIMITED.

SHARE CAPITAL £250,000, in £1 Shares.

ISSUE of 166,667 SHARES of £1 each.

To the Directors of the Canning Jarrah Timber Company (Western Australia), Limited.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to the Company's Bankers, the sum of £..... being the deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share on application for.....Shares, I hereby request you to allot me the same, and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any less amount allotted to me, and I agree to pay the instalments thereon as required in the terms of the Prospectus dated 10th January, 1898, and I authorise you to place my name on the Register in respect of such Shares, and I declare that I waive any fuller compliance with Section 38 of the Companies Acts, 1867, or otherwise than that contained in such Prospectus. In the event of my receiving no allotment, the amount to be returned in full.

Signature .....
Name (in full).....
Description .....
Address .....
Date .....1898.

To be written distinctly.

Applications for the supply of over 200,000 tons already received. Negotiations are proceeding for the formation of subsidiary Companies for Manchester, Barrow-in-Furness, and Hull, on terms very favourable to this Company.

A CHEAP FUEL EQUAL TO THE BEST COAL WITHIN REACH OF THE MASSES.

"OF ESPECIAL VALUE FOR USE IN WAR VESSELS, TORPEDO BOATS, &c." — NORMAN TATE & CO.

The Subscription List will Open on Wednesday, the 12th January, 1898, and Close on or before Saturday, the 15th January, for both town and country.

THE FIBROUS PETROLEUM & OIL FUEL COMPANY, LTD.

(Registered under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1896, whereby the liability of the Shareholders is limited to the amount of their Shares.)

CAPITAL - - - £250,000.

There are now offered for Subscription 168,334 ORDINARY SHARES OF £1 EACH, Payable 2s. 6d. on Application, 7s. 6d. on Allotment, and the Balance one month after Allotment.

81,666 Shares (the largest holding allowed to the Vendor by the rules of the Stock Exchange) will be issued to the Vendor in part payment of the purchase money.

DIRECTORS.

Sir Thomas S. Tancred, Bart., C.E., Member European Executive Committee, Pike's Peak Tunnel Mining Railway.
Charles D. Clayton, Ironmaster and Merchant, Doncaster, Yorks.
Major A. Patton-Bethune, Director, Burma Ruby Mines, Limited.
J. Soares, Director, Richmond Electric Light and Power Company, Limited.
*Capt. H. Samman, Managing Director, Deddington Steamship Company, Limited, Hull, and Director, Victoria Dry Docks, Limited, Swansea.
* Will join the Board after allotment.

BANKERS.

The Commercial Bank of Scotland, Limited, 62, Lombard-street, London, E.C.; Head Office, Edinburgh, and Branches in Scotland.
Brown, Janson, & Co., 32, Abchurch-lane, London, E.C.

BROKERS.

London: George Heavely & Co., 5, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C., and Stock Exchange; Edinburgh: George Denholm, 15, Duke-street, and Stock Exchange, Edinburgh; Glasgow: Douglas Cairney, 45, West Nile-street, and Stock Exchange, Glasgow; Dublin: W. Craig Murray, 51, Dame-street, and Stock Exchange, Dublin; Manchester: Mewburn & Barker, 13, Pall Mall, and Stock Exchange, Manchester; Swansea and South Wales: Stephen P. Wills, 13, Wind-street, Swansea; Bradford: Middleton & Fraser, 206, Swan-arcade, Bradford; Halifax: C. Ramos Appleyard, 3, Harrison-road, Halifax.

AUDITORS.—Davies, Tait, & Co., 168, St. Vincent-street, Glasgow; and 46, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.

SOLICITORS.—Spencer, Cridland & Co., 34, Victoria-street, and 215, Piccadilly, London.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICES.—J. Collinson, 34, Victoria-street, London, S.W.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed as a parent concern to acquire, work, resell, or otherwise deal with the valuable Invention and Patents for the United Kingdom and the right to apply for the Patent rights for the Dominion of Canada for the production of an economic and concentrated Fuel from Crude Petroleum and other residual mineral oils, such as Shale Oil, &c., and to erect the necessary machinery for producing the Fuel at the rate of many thousand tons per week, and thus enable users of steam power and other industries requiring heat to obtain results which the Directors believe have not been hitherto obtainable.

The repeated strikes in the coal trade and the enormous loss to users of steam and consumers of coal of every class render it most important that a substitute for coal should be discovered. It is claimed that this is accomplished by the introduction of this new Fuel.

The process has been legally protected by Letters Patent Nos. 20,156 and 19,677 of 1896, which include important features for the manufacture of the various compounds used in connection with the Solidification of Crude Petroleum or of other mineral oils.

The validity of the Patents has been certified to by Mr. Fletcher Moulton, Q.C., F.R.S., and by Messrs. W. P. Thompson & Co., of London and Liverpool, the well-known Patent Agents. OPINION.

"I have settled the complete Specification and claims to the application for Letters Patent of D'Humy, Nos. 20,156 of 1896 and 19,677 of 1896, and have examined the prior specifications found upon a search in the English and American Patent Offices which relate to the subject. I am of opinion that the Letters Patent in the form which I have settled are good and valid.

(Signed) "J. FLETCHER MOULTON.

REPORT. "Temple."

"We have not discovered any Patent, either British or American, which, in our opinion, could be held to anticipate the inventions comprised in the Letters Patent of D'Humy, Nos. 20,156 of 1896 and 19,677 of 1896. We are therefore of opinion that the Letters Patent granted are valid, and will be supportable at law. (Signed) "W. P. THOMPSON & CO."

The Inventor has spent many years and expended large sums of money in the discovery and development of his invention, and has, it is claimed, now succeeded in producing a fuel possessing very remarkable qualities. This Fuel may be used under any ordinary boiler or with an open fire-grate. It requires but little draught, and burns with a long bright and intensely powerful flame, and is much superior in heating power to the best coal, whilst at the same time it produces no clinkers and leaves only an infinitesimal amount of ash.

Options on large peat properties have been secured, and others are being negotiated for, the produce of which, by the Inventor's simple process (the materials required being obtainable to an unlimited extent), can be converted into first-class fuel for steam or domestic purposes at very small cost.

A remarkable feature of the Fuel is the fact that after final treatment it is rendered perfectly safe for use even when exposed to climatic or similar heat. It is almost without odour and practically smokeless, and is thus specially adapted for use in steamers, more particularly in torpedo boats and men-of-war, where stowage space and a smokeless fuel capable of raising steam quickly is of the highest importance.

The Fuel is produced in small brick-like briquettes of a bright black colour, with clean polished surfaces, absolutely waterproof, and exudes neither pitch nor tar. It should be said that every grade or quality can be made either in powder or briquettes, absolutely dry, and clean in handling.

A careful perusal of the reports of Messrs. A. Norman Tate & Co., the well-known Analytical Chemists of Liverpool, and of Mr. Chas. W. Lancaster, Consulting Engineer and Expert, Manchester, together with opinions and reports referred to herein, will give some idea of the vast field which is open to this invention.

The Fuel is expected to prove of immense value to metallurgical operations where freedom from sulphur is required. The manager of one of the largest steel-making firms in the country has tried a sample of the fuel and finds it suitable for steel works operations. This should result in orders for some hundreds of thousands of tons.

Briefly, the merits claimed for this new Fuel are:—

For Naval, Commercial, and Steam Raising Purposes.

Economy of space in storage and transit. An immense reduction in the number of stokers.

Being non-explosive, is admirably adapted for all uses. Burns with little draught. Produces a very long bright flame.

Much cheaper and greater calorific power than coal. No clinkers. Free from sulphur.

The refuse of large towns converted into fuel superior to coal at little cost, with small plant and no skilled labour.

For Domestic Purposes.

Clean to handle. No smell. Little or no ash.

Requires little or no attention. Cheap. Safe in use.

This being the parent Company, it is proposed to grant licences to various localities for the purpose of forming subsidiary Companies, preference being given to such districts as are far away from the coalfields, thus effecting considerable saving in the cost of carriage, which is a point of great importance, and one which cannot be over-estimated. It is proposed that the subsidiary Companies should pay for the licences partly in cash and partly in fully-paid shares.

Negotiations are proceeding for the formation of subsidiary Companies for Manchester, for Barrow-in-Furness, and Hull, upon terms very favourable to this Company.

Applications have already been received for the supply by the Company of over 200,000 tons of Fuel. Based on Mr. Lancaster's report, and taking the selling price at 10s. 6d. per ton, which price the Directors propose to adopt as the average rate, these orders alone should result in a profit to the Company sufficient to pay a dividend at the rate of at least ten per cent. per annum. Besides the large profits from the sale of Fuel, there will be the additional revenue from the formation of subsidiary Companies.

The price to be paid to the Vendor for the Patents and Invention for the United Kingdom and the Patent Rights for the Dominion of Canada has been fixed at £200,000, payable as to £81,666 in fully-paid Ordinary Shares (the largest number that can be held by the Vendor by the rules of the Stock Exchange), £50,000 in cash, and the balance in cash or Shares, or partly in cash and partly in Shares, at the option of the Directors.

As the plant required for the manufacture of this Fuel is simple and inexpensive, the Directors, from the details furnished to them, are of opinion that the 50,000 Shares reserved for working capital will more than suffice to provide the requisite expenditure.

Samples of the Fuel can be seen at the Company's Offices.

All expenses of the formation of the Company up to allotment will be paid by the Vendor, except registration fee, all brokerage, and stamp duties.

The following contract has been entered into, and is dated the 11th day of January, 1898, and made between John Morris Catton, the Vendor, who is selling at a profit, of the one part, and this Company of the other part, and this is the only contract to which the Company is a party.

This Agreement, together with Counsel's opinion, the Patent Agent's and all other reports, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association, can be inspected by intending subscribers at the Offices of the Solicitors to the Company.

Other agreements and arrangements have been or may be entered into as to the formation of subsidiary companies, the supply of fuel, and other trade matters, and also as to the formation and promotion of the Company and the subscription of its capital, including agreements with persons interested in the purchase money and for payment to them. Applicants for Shares will be deemed to have had notice of all such agreements and arrangements, and to have waived their rights (if any) to any further particulars of the same, whether under Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise.

Application will be made in due course to the London Stock Exchange for a special settlement in and a quotation of the Company's Share Capital.

Application for shares may be made upon the form below, or by letter addressed to the Secretary, stating the number of shares required, and must be accompanied by a remittance of 2s. 6d. per share.

In cases where the number of shares allotted is less than that applied for, the surplus amount paid on deposit will be credited towards the amount payable on allotment. Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full.

The statements relating to the invention made in this Prospectus are based upon the Reports set forth below.

Prospectuses and forms of application for shares may be obtained at the Offices of the Company, and at the Bankers', Brokers', Auditors', and Solicitors'.

January, 1898.

This Form, when filled up, should be forwarded entire, with the amount of the application money, to the Company's Bankers, The Commercial Bank of Scotland, Ltd., 62, Lombard-st., London, E.C., Edinburgh, or any of its Branches in Scotland; or to Messrs. Brown, Janson, & Co., 32, Abchurch-lane, London, E.C.

TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE

FIBROUS PETROLEUM AND OIL FUEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—Having paid to the Company's Bankers the sum of £....., being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share on account of .....Ordinary Shares in the above-named Company, I request you to allot me that number of Shares, upon the terms of the Company's Prospectus, dated January, 1898, and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, and to pay the further instalments per Share in accordance with the said Prospectus, and I authorise you to register me as the holder of the said Shares. And I declare that, as a condition of the Allotment, I hereby waive all right to any further particulars of the contracts referred to in the said Prospectus, whether with reference to Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise, whether as against the Directors or the Company, or other interested persons, and I so agree with you as Trustees for and on behalf of all or any such persons.

Name in full .....
Address .....
Description .....
Date .....
Signature .....

HITCHINGS' BABY STORES.

The Premier Manufacturers of HIGH-GRADE BABY CARRIAGES in the World, have extensive Showrooms at

198, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W. (NEAR PETER ROBINSON'S.)

23, 21, & 19, LUDGATE HILL, LONDON, E.C.

(WORKS: LUDGATE SQUARE.)

28, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, S.W. (ST. GEORGE'S PLACE, NEAR HYDE PARK CORNER.)

HITCHINGS, LIMITED, have recently had the honour of building the Baby Carriage for the Baby Prince Edward of York, having previously executed orders for H.M. the Queen, H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg, H.R.H. the Duchess of Fife, H.R.H. Princess Henry of Prussia, &c. Also the Royal and Imperial families of Russia, Germany, Denmark, Portugal, and Sweden.

Hitchings' Baby Carriages from 2 to 25 Guineas, and **Baby Cars** from 15/6 to 10 Guineas, are not only the **Best**, but also 25 per cent. *cheaper* than those sold by dealers and stores. A carriage should always be purchased from the actual manufacturer. Enquiries receive prompt and courteous attention. Illustrations free. Correspondence solicited. 300 varieties in stock.

Bankers: CAPITAL & COUNTIES BANK AND CITY BANK. *Telegram Address:* "HITCHINGS, LONDON."
LIVERPOOL HOUSE, 74, BOLD STREET. *Boston (U.S.A.) Agency:* 92, WASHINGTON STREET.

HITCHINGS' "PRINCESS MAY" BABY CARRIAGE IS MOST SUITABLE FOR A CHRISTENING PRESENT, BEING RECHERCHE & UNPROCURABLE ELSEWHERE.

Before going elsewhere send for Hitchings' Pictorial Price Book free on mentioning "TRUTH."

THE "TROUVILLE" BABY-CAR.

IS equally adapted for use as a Sleeping Car for a young baby, or a Mail Car for an older child.

1. New registered design.
2. Runs on four silent wheels.
3. Small light front wheels.
4. Very safe, centre of gravity being very low.
5. Hitchings' Patent Cee Springs. Very easy.
6. Occupies small space.
7. Has deep well for legs and feet. No cramping.
8. Hitchings' Patent "Any Position Hood."
9. Half the weight of a wood body. Fine wicker and grass.
10. Cool in summer.
11. Artistically painted.
12. Beautifully upholstered in pale blue or art green.

Price as drawn.
£4. 4s. nett.

LIPTON'S TEAS

DIRECT FROM THE **GARDENS**

NOTE THE PRICES.

FINEST THE WORLD CAN PRODUCE

Per **1/7** lb.

NO HIGHER PRICE.

RICH, PURE, AND FRAGRANT,

Per 1/- and 1/4 Lb.

Millions of people are daily drinking and enjoying these delicious Teas, fresh from the sweet-scented Island of Ceylon. Lipton is sole owner of some of the most famous estates in Ceylon, which cover thousands of acres of the best tea-growing land.

Ceylon Offices and Shipping Warehouses:
Prince Street, and Maddema Mills.
Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo.

Visitors to this beautiful Island are cordially invited to call and see over Lipton's Tea and Coffee Warehouses, Maddema Mills, Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo. Those desirous of going up country are also welcome to visit Lipton's Tea, Coffee, and Cocoa Estates, situate high in the hills, where some of the finest Tea can be seen growing at an altitude of about 7,000 feet above sea level.

BUY FROM THE **GROWER.**

TEA MERCHANT

BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY

THE QUEEN.

THE LARGEST SALE IN THE WORLD.

£50,513 11 5

represents Duty on over 1,300 Tons of Tea, and is the amount of

THE WORLD'S RECORD DUTY CHEQUE

For TEA, Paid to Her Majesty's Customs, London, By LIPTON,

FOR HIS WEEK'S CLEARANCE.

This speaks for itself, and represents considerably more than half the entire quantity of Tea used per week in the whole of Great Britain.

Indian Offices and Shipping Warehouses:
HARE STREET, CALCUTTA.

LIPTON, TEA, COFFEE, AND COCOA PLANTER, CEYLON.
BRANCHES AND AGENCIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
Chief Offices: CITY ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from falling off.
Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.
Being delicately perfumed it leaves no unpleasant odour.
IS NOT a dye, and therefore does not stain the skin or even white linen.
Should be in every house where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.
Ask your Chemist or Hairdresser for

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per large Bottle.

Prepared only by the

ANGLO-AMERICAN DRUG COMPANY, Ltd.,
83, FARRINGDON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.

IS THE BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE IN THE WORLD.

Prevents the Decay of Teeth.
Renders the Teeth Pearly White.
Is perfectly Harmless and Delicious to the Taste.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World
2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER

Put up in Glass Jars, price 1s.

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 984.—ANECDOTES OF MODERN SERVANT-GALDOM.

TABLEAU (real name and address will be published in due course)... ... ... £2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 985.—LINES ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY AS A SANATORIUM.

ALMAVIVA (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

"TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW.—SPECIAL NOTICE.

In another part of this week's number of TRUTH will be found the Prize List in connection with the recent TRUTH Toy and Doll Show at the Royal Albert Hall.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 977.

The chance, for which I have been waiting so long, has at last arrived, and I am now able to publish a further selection of the "Amusing Sayings by Children," which were received in connection with this competition. The Prize-winner's name will be announced next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 986.

As this Puzzle is furnishing material for another TRUTH Competition, the name of the prize winner will not be announced until Competition No. 989 is also decided.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 990.

Many correspondents have asked that another competition involving an extended search through the works of our British poets may be given. It is proposed, therefore, to offer the usual prize this week to the competitor who is able to compile

THE LONGEST LIST OF TOWNS AND CITIES IN ENGLAND AND WALES ACTUALLY MENTIONED IN THE WORKS OF POETS WHO HAVE LIVED AND WRITTEN IN ENGLISH DURING ANY PART OF THE PRESENT CENTURY.

A reference must be given in each case to the poem in which the name of the town or village is found, and a brief quotation furnished including the said name. It should be noticed that the names of towns and cities only will count. It will be useless to quote the names of villages or other smaller communities. Only one quotation dealing with each name sent in is required; it will be useless to multiply quotations naming the same place. All answers must be received by me by the morning of Monday, January 24, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MUGGS.—A similar competition was given three years ago.
W. W.—Please send me the cutting you refer to in your letter.
MEDUSA.—I will look into the matter at once.
BEDJORDIAN.—Your anecdotes came to hand rather too late.
THERSITES.—I am unable to account for the non-arrival of your last letter.
THE HEN.—Thanks for your note. I will make the necessary corrections.
YELLOW LEAF.—I will take care that the transposition of your epitaphs shall not affect your chances in the competition.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 987.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ROUND GAMES FOR CHRISTMAS PARTIES.

POET LAUREATE.

In this game one person leaves the room while the others sit in a row in the room. On re-entering he goes up to the first person in the company and repeats the first line of a well known rhyme, such as "Mary had a little lamb," the person to whom it is repeated should at once (before the questioner counts ten) compose an impromptu line to rhyme; the one next then taking it up and continuing it, and so on till all the company have joined. Whoever fails to respond in the given time is out of the game. The questioner starts a new rhyme each round, and the person who keeps in longest is Poet Laureate. The idea, of course, is jingling rhyme, and the more absurd, the greater the fun.—Prima Donna.

LIVING PICTURES.

Half the company leave the room, the remaining half—who constitute the living pictures—remain seated, except one who takes the part of showman. The pictures represent well-known men or women, politicians, actors, novelists, &c.; each displays a slip of paper with a short inscription, such as "No. 1, novelist, initials C. D."; "No. 2, artist, initials M. A." The company are then recalled, and studying the inscriptions silently try to identify the different characters. When they have guessed the entire number, the names are written in order on a slip of paper and submitted to the showman, who returns the paper with a cross against each name correctly solved. Ten minutes is allowed for the entire solution, those failing to make a correct list in that time pay a forfeit.—Prima Donna.

THE GAME OF POPULAR ADVERTISEMENTS.

A circle being formed, one of the party throws a handkerchief to another, or in some other way singles out an individual from the rest, and names a letter of the alphabet, immediately afterwards slowly counting ten. Before that number is reached the one selected should mention any well-known advertisement (such as Pears' Soap, or Bovril) commencing with the letter named, and then call on another to do the same, keeping up the game with spirit. Those who are not ready with an advertisement in time incur the penalty of a forfeit.—Excelsior.

The following game was suggested by the accidental circumstance of my brother wondering what train of thought had led him to whistle a particular tune. He found it was suggested by the sight of a picture on the wall. We developed the idea as follows:—Divide the company into two camps, of which the leader on each side must have just sufficient knowledge of music to supply names and tunes of a few well-known musical compositions. Select an umpire in case of disputes. Camp No. 2 leaves the room. No. 1 chooses an object to be clearly visible to all, whose name can be suggested by the words or title of a musical air. Enter No. 2. The tune is hummed, or whistled, or played on any musical instrument by No. 1. The first guesser goes "spots" the tune names it aloud, and his party join round till they find the object selected. Whoever first guesses right is counted "out," and joins the spectators. The No. 2 retires again, and the process is repeated till all the side is "out," when No. 1 camp takes the guessing. If no one can name the tune, they may ask it of the umpire. This can be played by persons of all ages. It is not a "romp," yet contains movement, and can be enlivened by use of a jew's-harp, penny whistle, or combs as musical instruments. It allows of ingenious punning, and is "original." The following tunes, with their corresponding objects, illustrate my meaning:—"Rule Britannia," picture of the yacht of that name. "Onward Christian Soldiers," a toy soldier. "The Marseillaise," a French poodle. "God Save the Queen," a coin head upwards. "My Pretty Jane," a lady of that name. "I Know a Bank," a cheque book. "Harmonious Blacksmith," a horse-shoe.—Pat-a-Cake.

A very amusing game, entitled "Historical Characters," to be played by any number of persons within a limited space, is arranged as follows:—The players must all be seated round the room, at a convenient distance from the door, which is to be set wide open. One of the number is chosen to play the part of "He," and takes up his his position near the door, and another selects from a "Book of History" a paragraph containing the names of several illustrious persons, one of which names he proceeds to give (in a whisper) to each player; so he says, but in reality he gives to only three persons an individual character, whilst to all the others one particular name is repeated, which must not appear previously, in the paragraph, to the other names chosen. He then reads aloud from the book, and it is the object of each player, immediately his historical name is mentioned, to run from the room without being caught. Should he escape, he returns to his seat, otherwise he must remain outside. Thus it will happen that, after three of the players have taken their turn, and the fourth name is mentioned, the remaining players, being seated will unanimously try to run from the room. when great excitement ensues before they realise the "catch" in the game, and how much fun those few who know the game are enjoying at their expense.—Pietro.

A perfectly delightful form of "Musical Proverbs" can be played thus, and is, I believe, new to most circles. Two persons are in "the know," one seated at the piano, the other outside the room. The company choose a proverb, which they communicate to the pianist, and the banished one is recalled. Without sign or look she walks away from the piano, and the player strikes a few well-chosen chords. The other pauses a second, and then repeats whatever proverb the company may have chosen. There are always plenty present who are "sure they can do it," and are eager to try, or it could be scarcely called a "round game." The key is—Pianist chooses the most prominent word in the proverb—such as "cat," "stones," "houses," &c., and spells this out by a number of chords. For instance, "cat," three firm chords for "c," small pause, one fine one for "a;" for "t" we should need so many that we divide the alphabet in two at the letter "l," which is given by two sharp chords like a rat-tat, then single chords for each after. So that for "t" we should start with our rat-tat chord and give eight single chords after. It is very easy to pick up, and I have never found it fail to delight. The chords should be as varied as possible. I always start each letter-group in a fresh key, which brings out the most amusing comments, such as "of course, it's quite simple, I see, a mere change of key." Absolute silence is necessary for the guesser, and these lively ones have to be suppressed, but are given "fair play" afterwards. Should the guesser fail at first word, pianist says mysteriously, "Give you another form?" and proceeds to spell out next chief word. I fear my description is not brief, but please, Mr. Editor, excuse it, and let your readers have the chance of trying this pretty game.—Avis.

KLEPTOMANIA DETECTED.

The game is based on the assumption that in these days of general resort to Stores, ignorance of the Store prices of articles, and of the departments in which they are supplied, and in which the relative "paying desks" are situated, convicts the delinquents of kleptomania. A sufficient number of paper spills having been folded, the president, with a Store price-list before him, calls upon each person in succession to quote the price of an article (that, for choice, of which he or she is least likely to have any experience), and the department in which it is to be obtained. Failure to quote the price within 25 per cent. (or a quarter) above or below its value, or to name the department correctly, is punished by the award for each offence of a spill, to be placed between the fingers of the hand, which is then to remain extended. The person whose ten digits first become filled with eight spills is to be reckoned the champion kleptomaniac. The company is then to range itself in two rows, between which the delinquent is penitentially to walk repeating the following lines:—

Not the "paying desk" to know,
Or the price at which things go,
Are signs, I fear, to show,
That with disorder vexed,
I oft have things annexed,
'Gainst th' eighth commandment text.

Robert Martin.

ROUND GAME AT CARDS.

The following game, while including the ever-varying changes of poker, abolishes the objectionable brag and bluff elements. Eight people may play, but five is the best number, and four makes a good game. The stakes may be anything, from sixpence upwards or downwards; each person contributes equally to the pool. Five cards and a miss pack are dealt to each player, one by one. The elder hand may exchange his hand, after seeing it, for the miss pack; should he elect to do so, he throws his hand face upwards on the table; should he decline, the next player may take the miss; and if he declines, it goes on until the dealer is reached, and if he declines, he takes the miss and turns it face upwards. The elder hand may then exchange one card only from his hand, or he may change his whole hand for that on the table, or he may give a

knock on the table, but he cannot take two cards, nor can he decline to take a card; he must knock, which puts a stop to the game. The succeeding players have only one chance of bettering their hands until it comes round to the person who has knocked, when all show their hands, and the best poker hand wins the round. A person cannot take a card and knock at the same time; he can only knock when it comes to his turn to exchange a card. A player must win three separate rounds before he can take the pool. At the club where I saw it played the winner had to treat the players to cigars out of the pool. The value of the hands is the same as at poker:—Straight flush (five cards of a suit in sequence); fours (aces, &c.); full hand (three and a pair); flush (five of same suit); straight (five in sequence, different suits); threes, double pairs (two aces, two kings); single pairs. The ace can run in sequence with the two, three, or with queen, king. The play consists in watching the cards your adversaries are exchanging, and preventing them getting the cards they are after, as much as in making your own hand good. When any player has won two rounds, it is better to sacrifice your own hand to prevent him, and all other players should combine to thwart him, and give the card you think he wants to a player who has only scored one round or not at all. It is good to knock at once if you take up high threes or a sequence. If the changing goes round two or three times, you may be sure that nothing under a full hand is likely to win.—Empregado.

A SPELLING GAME.

Any member can play, and no accessories are required, except, perhaps, a dictionary. One player begins by saying a letter, the others each add one in turn; whoever completes a word loses a life. A good deal of ingenuity can be displayed in avoiding saying a letter which is apparently the only possible ending to the word by making a present participle, &c., such as, hav, which has i put to it instead of the final e. Double words or foreign ones not in common use are not allowed. It is as well to settle beforehand on a dictionary, and to disqualify any word not found therein. Words of less than four letters are not to be considered as completed words. Two minutes are allowed each player in which to think of a letter; if unsuccessful at the end of that time he loses a life. If he adds a letter, which the next player thinks cannot possibly make a real word, he "challenges" him; if he cannot say what word he is thinking of he loses a life, but if he has got a word the challenger loses one. Sometimes a bogus word is spelt out by two or three players before the hoax is discovered, and some innocent and ignorant victim loses a life, as he trusts that the originator knew of such a word. Three lives are allowed each player.—Venatrix.

'TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 977.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

AMUSING SAYINGS OF CHILDREN.

A little boy, aged six years, hearing that a dinner party had been given at Buckingham Palace, from which the Queen was absent, inquired in a puzzled tone, "Then, who carved?"—Josée.

A small boy, walking out with his mother, was attracted by some costly toy, which he begged her to buy for him. Meeting with a refusal, on the grounds that the coveted object was too expensive, the little four-year-old, with a wistful, backward glance, remarked, "Mamma, can't you make dads work a little harder?"—Gags.

A little lad, on one occasion, stealthily entered his father's dining-room when preparations for dinner were completed, and various dishes of fruit were displayed on the table. His mother, seated in a deep recess of the bay-window of the room—unobserved by the boy—watched to see what he wanted. It was soon apparent. Imagining himself alone, he quietly purloined a rosy-cheeked apple from a dish and stole away. The mother, much distressed, determined presently to rate the little fellow soundly. To her astonishment, however, a few minutes afterwards she heard light footsteps again, and saw her little boy once more walk to the table with the apple in his hand. He carefully placed the fruit on the dish from which he had previously abstracted it, ejaculating in gleeful tones at the same time, "Sold again, Satan!"—Parson.

A little boy, who had been severely reproved by his father, showed no sign of penitence. Later on, his mother said: "Darling, are you not sorry you were so naughty to father just now?" Half sobbing, he replied: "I wish I were an orphan!"—Neptune.

A bishop had been asked to lunch at a certain house in the country. Before lunch the host's youngest child, a boy, about six, heard his father telling the servants that the bishop was to be addressed as "my lord." In the middle of lunch the child suddenly turned to his father and said, very solemnly: "Daddy, do you think God would like a potato?" He evidently thought that the name "lord" could only apply to the Deity.—Tracy Tupman.

A nephew of mine, a little boy of five, was standing the other day between his mother and another lady, facing his mother. When reminded by her that he was standing with his back to a lady, he remarked: "Well, I have not got two fronts."—Little Emily.

William, aged eight, was rebuked for taking apples from a forbidden tree. Alfred, aged five, was to be held up as an example of virtue. Materfamilias *loquitur*: "You wouldn't take the apples, would you, Alfie?" Response ingenuous: "No, muvver, 'cos I couldn't yeach 'em!"

A little boy seated on his mother's knee, is being told the story, 'oft told him before, of Abraham's sacrifice. His mother asks, "And what happened when Abraham took up his knife to kill Isaac?" At once comes the answer, "Why, then, mummy, God said it was only fun."—T. F. B.

My little son aged nearly six had been listening to a family discussion touching the earth's motion round the sun. Some hours after he inquired of his mother, "If the earth goes round, as you say, why don't we get out at Africa?"—Metchley.

Paterfamilias to materfamilias. "Brown tells me his baker's account for the month is only £1. 5s. and there are half a dozen of them. I cannot understand it." Little Pitcher, with long ears, aged ten: "Perhaps they live on fancy bread, papa."—Cochran Field.

1. A crowd was hurrying along the beach, in order to obtain a view of a man far out at sea, in imminent peril. A small child, not yet three years of age, whose nurse was also desirous to be one of the curious gazers, and who was being almost dragged off her small legs, plaintively remarked, between her gasps, "Never mind, nurse, it isn't our favor!" 2. "I'se nearly as big as Lionel," remarked three-year old Eric, speaking of his brother, aged six. "Yes," replied mother, "but not as clever, for Lionel can read and write." "Yes, and say my tables?" the elder boy interposed proudly: "Well!" triumphantly retorted Eric, his cherubic countenance beaming with equal satisfaction, "and I can dust my tables!"—Celandine.

My little boy, aged two-and a half years, had observed that when his sister's dolls became disabled the stuffing would invariably come out. On one occasion he was climbing over a chair, as is the wont of small boys, he was being pulled back by the legs, when he immediately exclaimed, "Don't pull too hard, Minnie, or the sawdust will come out."—Hazard.

Cissy, whose brother had recently died, had been naughty, and her mother said, "If you are so naughty, Cissy, you will never go to heaven to see Willie." "I don't want to go to heaven, and if God sent his angels to fetch me, I would hold tight on to the nursery guard, so they couldn't take me." "But that would make no difference; they could take you all the same." "Well, if they did, one day, when God and Willie were gone out for a walk, I would get a ladder and come down again."—Milly.

A little boy of four years old was sent by his mother to take a book to a friend with her love. The child gave the book to the lady, saying, "Mamma sends you this with her love—here is the book, but where is the love?"—Nika.

Scene: Drawing room, Sunday evening. Mother showing little daughter, Dolly (aged five), a picture, book. Dolly gets tired of pictures and stories, and wanders off in search of fresh fun, returning with a pack of cards, and begins to play with them. "Dolly, dear," says mother, "don't play cards to-night. Come and I'll tell you another pretty story. You know, dear, it isn't good to play cards on Sunday." Dolly dolefully puts cards aside. Silence ensues; but in a few minutes mother hears voice from the corner. "God, mayn't I play cards?" Silence again for a minute, when Dolly runs to her mother, cards in her hand, "Mummie, God says I may play cards," and goes on happily with her game. Mother is speechless.—Posk.

"Granny," said a four-year-old, on coming out of church, attended by him for the first time, "Why did the man in pyjamas do all the talking, and make such a noise?" "Why do you call the clergyman 'the man in pyjamas'? asked his grandmother. "Because he had on a nightgown," answered the child, "and Dada says gentlemen's nightgowns are called pyjamas!"—Quilp.

A little boy of three and a-half, refusing to let his baby brother have his toys, his mother urging him to do so, saying, "See how ill baby is; let him have your toys;" when he replied, "Oh! then I wish we lived in the days of Herod the King!—Uel.

1. Mother: "Boy, how you've torn your coat!" Boy (aged three and a-half): "Do mend it, mother." Mother: "Why, dear?" Boy: "'Cos Dr. Barnado takes ragged little boys, and boy doesn't want to go." 2. Boy (aged four): "Aunt Mary, do you remember when you were born?" Aunt Mary: "No, dear, you see it is so long ago." Boy: "Ah, I expect it was when the sea was rolling where the Severn is now! (Result of geology lesson.)—Kar.

Daisy (aged four) with short curly hair, watching her aunt combing out her own luxuriant locks: "Oh, Auntie, I do wish God had given me a long-haired head."—Dagmar.

A little girl of my acquaintance delighted in singing hymns. One of them had a refrain about departed friends having gone "Through the valley—the deep, dark valley; When shall we meet them once again?" "I know what I should do," said the child. "I should take a cab and go across."—Irene.

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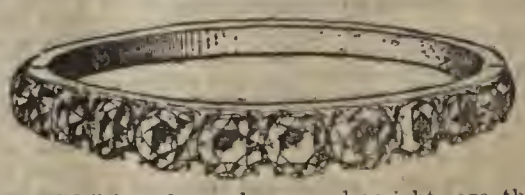

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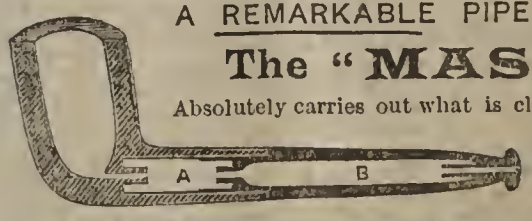

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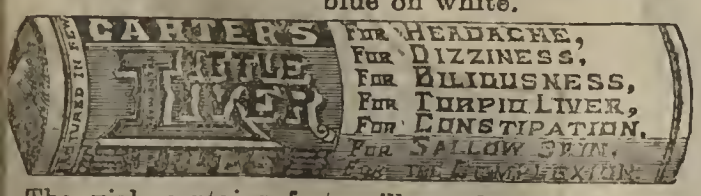

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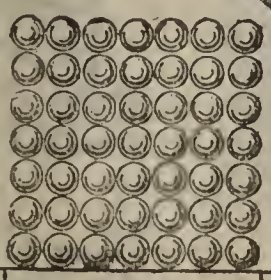

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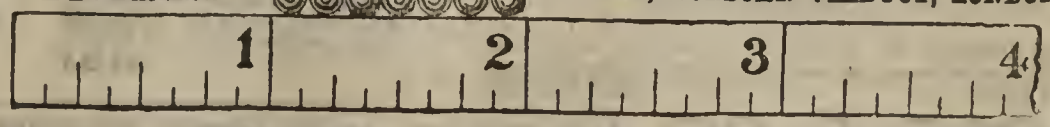

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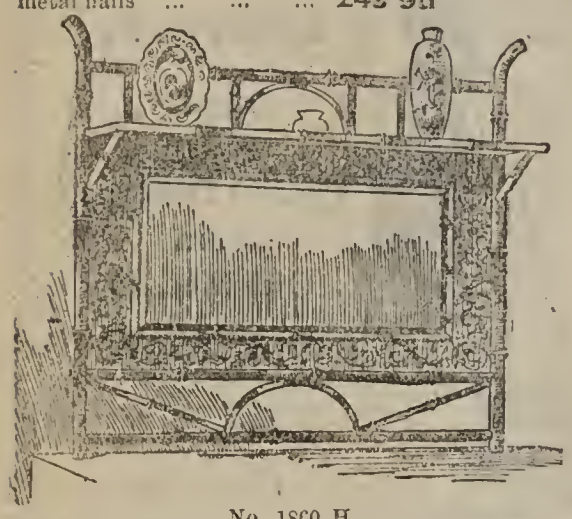

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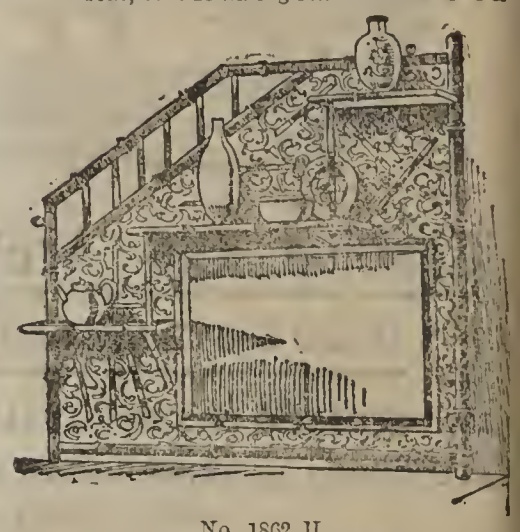

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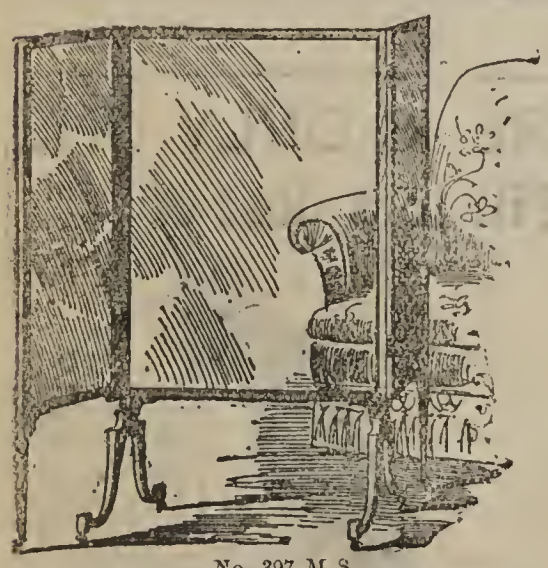

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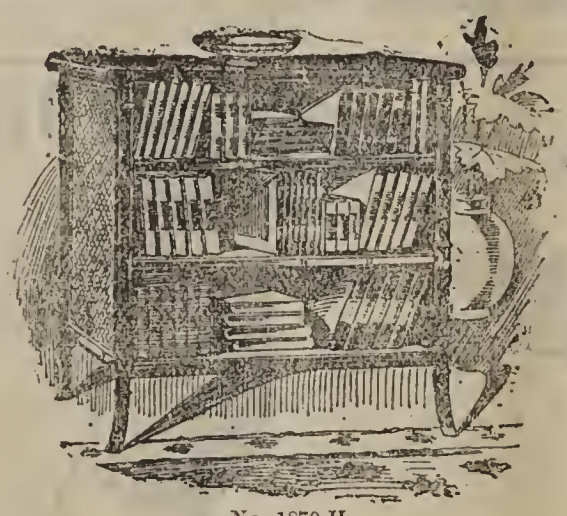
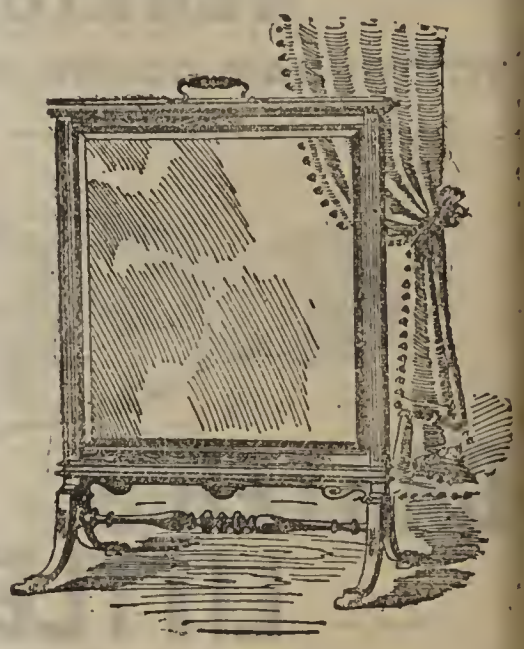


No. 1870 H
The "Oakfield" Bookcase, in bamboo and Japanese leather, 2 ft. 6 in. high by 2 ft. 0 in. wide **14s 6d**

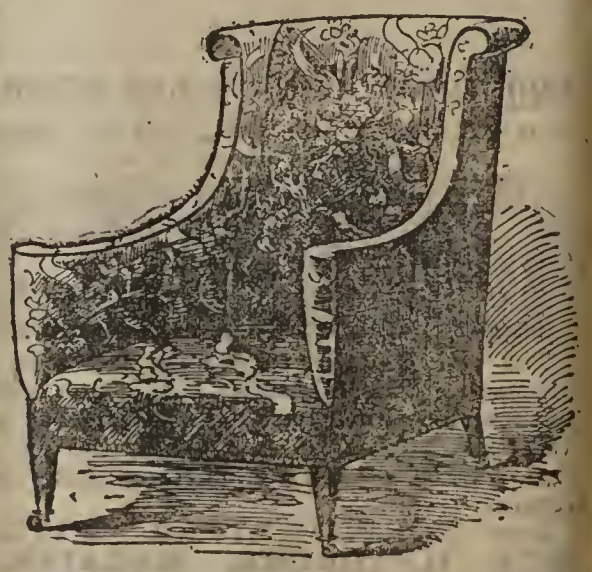
This Bookcase is made in various sizes.



No. 197 M S
Mahogany or Walnut Screen, with bevelled edge plate glass panel and handle at top; 3 ft. 2 in. high and 2 ft. 4 in. wide **£2 18s 6d**

No. 316 H R
The "Quernmore" Bureau, in antique carved oak, fitted with four drawers, cupboard, and writing flap, pigeon-holes and drawers **£4 15s 0d**

No. 1874 H
The "Ermyntrude" Cake Stand, in bamboo, with four superior lacquered trays, extreme height, 3 ft. 2 in. **8s 9d**



The "Lincoln" Chair, a very comfortable and restful shape, well upholstered in durable tapestry, in various artistic colourings ... **48s 6d**

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

BELOW I publish, in accordance with my annual custom, a statement of the receipts and expenditure relating to the Eighteenth Truth Toy and Doll Show, which was held at the Royal Albert Hall on December 21 and 22. The accounts are made up to December 31:—

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE EIGHTEENTH "TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW, HELD ON DECEMBER 21 AND 22, 1897:—

Cr.			
Debit balance of Toy Fund, 1896	£83	16	10½
Cost of 87 large dolls and 3,300 small dolls, including carriage of same to the Ladies who dressed them	114	3	3
Unpaid carriage from dressers	3	8	1
Cost of 26,000 small toys and 89 large ones, together with cost of packing and dispatching the same to recipients	1,029	8	10
Cost of repairing Toy Show boxes	3	17	6
Cost of insurance of Toys and New Sixpences, &c., at the Royal Albert Hall	1	12	0
Cost of distribution of New Sixpences—viz., fares of messengers and postage and registration fees of the coins sent by post	4	3	1½
	£1,240	9	8
Dr.			
Total receipts	906	7	6½
Balance against the Fund	£334	2	1½

Believing that I could safely rely once more upon the hitherto unfailing generosity of my readers, I made the purchases of dolls and toys upon the usual scale, so that none of the thousands of poor children in the workhouses and hospitals of the Metropolis suffered the grievous disappointment which a curtailment of the distribution would have occasioned. It will be seen, however, that up to the end of the year my faith was unjustified to the formidable extent of a debit balance of £334. 2s. 1½d. Contributions to the amount of £32. 3s. 4d., have since been received, so that the balance against the fund now stands at £301. 18s. 9½d. No doubt this very unsatisfactory result is due to the extraordinary demands which were made upon the pockets of the public during the Jubilee year, and which have affected many other charitable and philanthropic undertakings even more seriously than the Truth Toy Fund. But I hope that even now, at the eleventh hour, kind friends will be found able and willing to wipe out the deficit. In every other respect the Show was a record one. It will be a pity, indeed, if the shadow of this depressing balance against the fund is cast over the preparations for the next distribution.

The following amounts have reached me towards the deficit of the Toy Fund:—

Antoinette, 5s.; Nurse Shoesmith, 1s.; L. Gibson, 5s.

M. R. P. A. sends me £1 towards Lady Jeune's Fund.

I have a correction to make. It was to "Mrs. Boyes," and not to "Mrs. Baynes" that a Truth Brooch was awarded in connection with the recent Show. I have also received a letter from Mrs. Boyes, in which she complains, in the most courteous and good-tempered way, let me add, of the manner in which her dolls were exhibited at the Albert Hall. In reply, I can only assure her that any defect in their arrangement was due to the exceptionally difficult conditions under which the Show was got ready. The available time was much shorter than it had ever been before, and the number of dolls to be dealt with was more numerous than ever. It was almost inevitable, therefore, that some mistakes should have been made. I am particularly sorry that Mrs. Boyes' dolls should have been the victims, for they were dressed with very great skill and taste, and well deserved a better position than that which, in the hurry of the moment, was accorded to them.

The relations between the Queen and the Emperor William are now most cordial. Prince Henry of Prussia brought over letters and a variety of messages from the Emperor to her Majesty, and the coldness between the two Courts, which has existed for the last two years, has now entirely disappeared. The Empress Frederick, the King of Saxony, and the Grand Duke of Baden have exerted themselves strenuously in order to restore friendly feelings between the Queen and her grandson; and they have at last succeeded in doing so. It is now quite likely (as I announced last week) that the Queen may return from the Riviera through Germany at the end of April, but, in any case, it is settled that the Emperor William is to come to England at the end of July for the Cowes regatta week, when he will be entertained by her Majesty at Osborne

A daily paper announced on Friday that the Queen's arrival at Cimiez is fixed for March 8, which is blundering nonsense. The day mentioned happens to be a Tuesday, so that the Queen could only arrive there by either starting from Windsor on Sunday, or passing that day on board the Royal yacht. According to present arrangements, the Queen, Princess Beatrice, and Princess Louis of Battenberg are to leave Windsor on the morning of Tuesday, March 8, and they will arrive at Cimiez (travelling by way of Portsmouth and Cherbourg) on the afternoon of Thursday, the 10th. It is possible that Princess Christian may also accompany the Queen to the Riviera.

It was announced last week, with a prodigious amount of trumpeting, that the state-rooms of Kensington Palace are to be opened to the public after the building has been put in order by the Government, and it seems that the Estimates for next year will include a vote for this work. This is all a gross job. Kensington Palace is a great useless barrack, of no architectural merit, and it ought to be pulled down, and the site thrown into the public gardens. The Palace is in a state of direful dilapidation in all respects, and the sanitary arrangements are believed to be very defective. The cost of putting the place into good order will involve the scandalous waste of a huge sum of public money.

The best set of apartments which the Palace contains has been privately granted to Princess Beatrice, who will make this house her town residence after the Queen's demise. Another large "apartment" is occupied by Princess Louise; and, indeed, the rest of the Palace is full of persons who are, or have been, connected with the Court. It is a very nice arrangement for the beneficiaries, Royal and otherwise, to have the Palace done up by the Government regardless of expense, but such a reckless squandering of the public money is not likely to be viewed with approbation by the country.

An evening paper printed last week what purported to be an account of the Royal visit to Chatsworth, "by one who was there." If the writer had contented himself with describing the interior of Chatsworth House, the dresses and jewellery of the ladies, and the results of the shootings, I do not suppose any one would have complained. It is, however, quite unpardonable that the private smoking-room conversation of the Prince of Wales with two Cabinet Ministers on an important public topic should be unscrupulously reported by some indiscreet guest or (more probably) some gabbling domestic, whose long ears had caught snatches of talk which certainly were not meant to be overheard by any outsider. If a "special," whose zeal is not according to knowledge, is to be harboured in country houses visited by Royal personages, I should fancy that Princes and Princesses will prefer to remain at home.

The Prince of Wales and the Duke of York were last week the guests of Prince and Princess Christian at Cumberland Lodge, and they had a day's shooting in Windsor Great Park. Prince Christian has since been staying at Buckhurst, near Reading, with Mr. and Mrs. Murdoch, and he attended the hunt ball at Wokingham. Princess Christian has gone to Osborne on a visit to the Queen.

I hear that the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz has privately purchased a considerable part of the Duchess of Teck's old silver, which formerly belonged to the Duchess of Cambridge. A great deal of it is very fine plate indeed.

The *St. James's Gazette* informs its readers that the King of Würtemberg is the only Knight of the Garter who is also an hotel-keeper King William may be an hotel-keeper, but he is not yet a Knight of the Garter. The Queen has for some time intended to give King William the blue ribbon, and he was to have been invested this month at Stuttgart by the Duke of Coburg. It is understood, however, that the ceremony has been postponed until the spring, as the Duke has been obliged to go to Egypt for the benefit of his health.

Lord and Lady Cadogan, with some members of the Viceregal suite, left the Viceregal Lodge this week to pay visits in Ireland. Besides visiting Lord Londonderry at Mount Stewart, they will stay at Clandeboye, also in the county of Down, with Lord and Lady Dufferin. The usual festivities take place at Mount Stewart—dinners, dances, and the point-to-point races in the neighbourhood, for which most of the country houses in the district are full. After visiting the North, the Viceregal party will visit the South of Ireland, and Lord and Lady Cadogan will be the guests of Sir Charles and Lady Barrington, at Glenstal, one of the most picturesquely situated residences in the county of Limerick. Sir Charles Barrington is a popular and resident landlord; a genial one, too, and not above being an Irishman. Lady Barrington is the sister of the premier Baronet of England, Sir Hickman Bacon.

It is devoutly to be hoped that the Irish Local Government Bill to be brought forward in the coming Parliamentary Session, deals in a drastic manner with Dublin Castle. No institution needs more root and branch alteration. On his arrival in Ireland, Lord Cadogan himself made it known that he favoured the abolition of the Viceroyalty. The delights of Castle rule, however, after two years' experience on the Viceregal Throne, seem to have altered his views. A progressive spirit in the same direction may shortly lead him to a Viceregal application of the doctrine of the "consecrated person," not forgetting its adjunct of the "mailed fist."

The incident of Sir Andrew Reed's late circular—backed by Dublin Castle—is an object lesson in high-handed method. It overrides the law of the land and the decisions of the Irish Judges. This, even for Dublin Castle, may be looked on as "going strong." Can any one in reason maintain that cyclists and pedestrians can, with safety to life and limb, use the same track,

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For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 170 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 165.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 169.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 181.

especially when the width is only that of an ordinary footpath on a country road? With cycles on the footpaths and carriages on the roads, where are people to walk? Sir Andrew Reed does not trouble himself on this matter. Those who can neither afford a carriage nor a bicycle are evidently beneath the consideration of Dublin Castle officialism. The issue of Sir A. Reed's circular only after the "upper circles" had taken to cycling is characteristic.

Mr. Justice Meredith's appointment to succeed Sir Edmund Bewley on the Irish Bench was as sudden and unexpected by the general public as Sir Edmund Bewley's resignation. Mr. Meredith has a high legal reputation at the Irish Bar, and was in large practice. He has most of the qualifications necessary for making a good Judge, nevertheless his appointment is somewhat in the nature of a new departure on the part of the Government, for he has never appeared in the political arena.

On Saturday evening Lord Cadogan and Lord Roberts were entertained at the King's Inns by the Benchers. The traditional dinner hour, six o'clock, was not departed from. The Chancellor and Mr. Justice Meredith were the Benchers of the Day. There was a large attendance of Benchers, together with invited guests.

The nominal abolition of the post of Divisional Commissioner for Ireland has been made the opportunity for a batch of jobs, highly characteristic of Dublin Castle. The officers in question are the successors of the Divisional Magistrates, who were appointed a few years back when the country was disturbed. In the present state of Ireland there is no reason for keeping up these useless appointments, and as two out of the four Commissioners are being superannuated, Mr. Gerald Balfour seems to have come to the conclusion that the other two had better be withdrawn from their local duties.

Under Castle influence, however, this operation has taken the following form. One of the two surviving Commissioners, Mr. Cameron, is brought up to Dublin Castle as Assistant-Inspector-General of the Irish Constabulary and Divisional Commissioner, at £1,000 a year. His colleague, Mr. Head, who is believed never to have sat as a magistrate, is made a Resident Magistrate at £1,000 a year, and thus placed in a better position than any Resident Magistrate in Ireland. At the same time two other Castle officials—Mr. Whelan, of the Constabulary Office, and Mr. Singleton, Commandant of the Constabulary Depot—are made Divisional Commissioners, with their present salaries of £800 a year raised to £1,000. The net result, therefore, is that the removal of the Divisional Commissioners from the provinces has been made the excuse for quartering one of them permanently on the public at his old salary, and for giving an additional £200 a year to Castle officials. The Castle ring have evidently led Mr. Balfour by the nose in this business, and attention ought to be called to it when Parliament meets.

Never before, probably, has an author been mourned at his death by such a host of readers as "Lewis Carroll," for the mourners include not only "grown-ups" of all ages, but the entire rising generation. Even though the quaint and humorous pen had for some time ceased to minister to the general mirth, the huge indebtedness for "Alice in Wonderland" and her fanciful successors still remained as vivid as ever in the minds of countless admirers. Few men, indeed, had such a large circle of unknown friends amongst children of every age as the Rev. Charles L. Dodgson, and not one of them but will say, "Peace to his ashes."

Though so much interest has been aroused by the unique political career of Mr. Villiers, he had virtually retired from the House of Commons before Mr. Gladstone left it, and I question whether he was even known by sight to many members of the present House. Those who knew him regarded him with the interest that attaches to some historical ruin or ancient monument. As a living link with the past—a link stretching from the age of Wellington and Melbourne to that of Chamberlain and Ashmead-Bartlett—no public man, Mr. Gladstone not excepted, has ever held a more wonderful position. He went the way of all the Whigs on Home Rule, but he was one of the few who did not adopt Unionism as a mere synonym for Toryism, and he never totally severed his connection with the Party in which he first distinguished himself.

In an unguarded moment I allowed a paragraph to go into TRUTH the other day, in which the remark was made that Lord Morris's eldest son, on succeeding to the baronetcy which his father held before his elevation to the peerage, would, under the recent edict on the subject, take precedence as a peer's son of "all other baronets," however ancient. I should think that half-a-dozen correspondents have since written to remind me that Lord Morris's successor would not, under such circumstances, take precedence of those baronets who are younger sons of earls. I suppose this would be so. I know nothing whatever about it, except by guess, and care less; but as several worthy people seem much concerned in the subject, let me at once unreservedly withdraw the offending remark.

The following interesting document seems to have been sent to this office recently with a consignment of books intended for review. I regret that by some accident it only turned up on my table a day or two ago, but I hasten to make amends for this delay by now giving it the utmost publicity in my power, for it seems to me of great public

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interest—though not precisely in the manner which the writer imagined. As I do not insert advertisements in this column, I have taken the liberty of suppressing the names, but I may say that they are in no way material to the context.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

Messrs. Blank, Blank, & Co. have in the press for early publication a new novel, which is likely to create considerable interest, especially in theatrical and City circles.

It is entitled "———," and the author is Mr. ——— ———, whose name was so prominently before the public some four or five years ago, as the writer of those very original and startling plays [Here follow names of four plays of which I never heard before.—ED. TRUTH.], which excited at the time of their production a vast amount of criticism from the Press of all English-speaking countries. Mr. ——— ——— is a member of the long-time honoured theatrical family of that name, being the youngest brother of that accomplished actress, ———, and of the late celebrated and beloved ———.

We understand that the forthcoming novel will be the first work of fiction, in book form, from Mr. ———'s pen, although as a boy he contributed a great number of long serial stories anonymously to periodicals of the *Bow Bells* and *London Reader* type Mr. ——— in another capacity, is also well known in the City, where for many years he held the chief appointment in an eminent firm of average adjusters.

The strain of writing plays, in conjunction with his heavy work in the City, proved too much for Mr. ———'s health, and he wisely gave himself a long rest and holiday, and went on a pleasure tour of England and the Continent. For the last year or two Mr. ———, who is now in the enjoyment of faultless health, has been spending a large part of his time on his beautiful estate ———, on the ——— Downs.

Since the days when he was one of the busiest and most be-paragraphed men in London, Mr. ———, with the exception of several poems contributed to the ——— *and* ——— *Observer*, has produced nothing but the work now about to be issued. [Here follows an impressive description of the book.—ED. TRUTH.]

The author himself expects a fair amount of appreciation of the book from ordinary readers of fiction, for it is by no means merely metaphysical, being full of action and adventure, but confesses that there runs between the lines something which he hopes will especially appeal to thinkers.

Nous verrons.

Will the Editor kindly make copy?

The editor would make copy with all the pleasure in life, but he cannot manufacture bricks without straw. All I find in this fulsome and twaddling puff is that the author of the promised novel has written four plays, of which neither I nor anybody of my acquaintance has ever heard, that as a boy he contributed anonymously "to periodicals of the *Bow Bells* and *London Reader* type," that he became something in the City, that for reasons quite undiscoverable he was once one of the "most be-paragraphed men in London," and that he has since contributed to the Poet's Corner of a seaside newspaper. This is the sort of stuff that is sent round to the Press by the enterprising tradesmen who have the novel in hand with the request, "Will the editor kindly make copy?" and this is the impudent way in which the log-rolling business has come to be carried on. For the sake of the author, who is not responsible, I presume, for the tricks of the publishing trade, I heartily wish that the novel may create the sensation which the publishers anticipate. But if it does no better than the four plays which created such a stir in the "Press of all English-speaking countries," I fear that both author and publishers will be disappointed.

Here is another good example of the off-hand way in which some editors seem to think themselves justified in treating competitors for prizes which they have offered. In a weekly paper, called *Anecdotes*, a certain prize was offered on November 6 last. Nothing more was said about the competition until the middle of November, when the correct solution of the puzzle was published, but no names of winners or award of prizes were given. In the meantime, of course, the competitors had been purchasing the paper patiently, week by week, and looking anxiously for the award. On seeing the publication of the correct solution, one or two competitors, who believed they had sent in the right answer, wrote to the editor—one of them twice—for further particulars, but no answer has been received, and no announcement of any kind as to the award of prizes has been issued up to the present time.

As the paper in question appears to be a respectable one, and has been in existence for some time, I sent to inquire of the editor the explanation of this strange behaviour. His explanation is a very singular one. He states that some time ago he was prosecuted by the police and fined £50, on the ground that one of his competitions amounted to a lottery. Before starting the particular competition above mentioned, he invited the authorities to express an opinion as to its legality, which very naturally they declined to do, telling him he must take his own risk. As soon as particulars of the competition had been published, he received a notice from Scotland Yard that the police considered it to be illegal, and would prosecute him if he proceeded further with it. This has prevented him from awarding or distributing prizes. My representative pointed out that it did not prevent him from explaining his position to the competitors. To this he answered that he did not care, after having been once prosecuted, to publish the fact that the police had again stopped one of his competitions. This looks to me a little thin, and I would point out that although he might not care to publish the facts in the paper, there is no earthly reason why he should not have communicated them to the competitors privately. This course would have had the advantage to the competitors (though not to the proprietor) that it would have prevented them going on expending their pennies upon the paper week after week in search of the result of a competition which is apparently never to be announced. As it is, the editor has forced upon me the disagreeable necessity of publishing the whole truth for him.

Nothing in regard to the management of companies ought to cause surprise, but I confess to a mild sensation of astonishment on reading in a contemporary that there had been or would be some opposition to the reinstatement of Mr. Henry Sutton as a director of the Alhambra. It is just four years since Mr. Sutton retired from the chairmanship of the company, owing to bad health. During the previous nine years the dividends had averaged, under his direction, over 24 per cent. per annum. During the last four years they have not averaged much above 10 per cent. These figures are

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certainly suggestive. Mr. Sutton is now restored to health and anxious to return to the board, and it might have been supposed that the shareholders would be only too glad to get him.

The following advertisement which appeared in the *Times* the other day is suggestive as well as amusing. The taste for "le sport" seems to be spreading in all directions upon the Continent. On the other hand, British landlords are getting into lower and lower water, and fox-hunting seems to be the only rural industry the prosperity of which is unchecked. In this state of things, why should not the country gentry act on the hint given below, and lay themselves out to teach Continental would-be sportsmen "chasser renard," and afford them the "avantages de country life":—

JEUNE HOMME FRANÇAIS désire trouver, aux environs de Reading on Thames de préférence, bonne famille gentleman farmer, pour apprendre Anglais chasser renard, jouir des avantages de country life. Répondre de, &c.

I hear on good authority that the entire cost of erecting the platform in front of St. Paul's Cathedral on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service —upwards of £1,000 altogether—has had to be borne by the Chapter funds. The whole of the Chapter property being in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, with the exception of a small portion reserved for maintaining and repairing the fabric of the Cathedral, there is virtually no money available to meet this cost, and the result is to burden the Chapter with a heavy debt. As the Dean and Chapter themselves have not chosen to make this fact public, it must be presumed that they are either content with this state of things, or that they do not anticipate any good result from advertising their grievance. Had they chosen to agitate on the subject, however, I think public opinion would have been entirely on their side. The Cathedral got no advantage out of the Jubilee, and it could not even sell tickets for its own stand; and it certainly seems a scandalous thing that the only result of the Queen's visit and the Thanksgiving Service, so far as the Cathedral is concerned, should be to load it with a debt which there is little chance of paying off, and which looks as if it would operate as a mortgage on the income available for the repair of the Cathedral. The cost of erecting the stand for the Thanksgiving Service ought to have been borne by public funds, and were the Government called upon to find the money, I do not see how they could refuse to do so.

While not a few Jubilee memorial schemes have been dropped or emasculated for want of cash, a more curious and provoking miscarriage of such a proposal has occurred at Much Hadham. It was there decided to provide a new clock with chimes for the parish church, the Rector giving £100 for the purchase of the clock, and the parishioners subscribing £40 for the chimes. A lady whose house is close to the church objected that the chimes would be a nuisance, and depreciate the value of her property; but meanwhile clock and chimes had been purchased, and application was made to the Chancellor of the Diocese for the necessary faculty for carrying out the scheme. The lady, however, persisted in her objection, and as the result of the proceedings the Chancellor has refused to grant the faculty, and, moreover, saddled the Rector and churchwardens with costs which are said to amount to £200. This little bill, and an expenditure of £140 on a clock and chimes which are lying unused at the church, can hardly be described as a satisfactory commemoration of the record reign, and it is only natural, perhaps, that the lady's conduct should have caused a good deal of exasperation in the parish. Those responsible for the promotion of the scheme seem, however, to have been exceedingly precipitate and ill-advised in their method of going to work.

There has been a prodigious clamour against the Bishop of St. Asaph's dispensation of his official patronage, but no episcopal misconduct in this department ought to astonish sensible people, considering the grievous example which is set to other patrons by the present Primate; and it is most discreditable to the Church papers that they have not protested against the flagrant nepotism of Dr. Temple. It is only a few months since the Archbishop pitchforked into the important living of St. Mark's, Kennington, a very young curate, whose only conceivable recommendation to his Grace lay in the fact that he was engaged to a daughter of Dean Farrar, whom he has since married. Now the Archbishop has audaciously ignored the claims of all his own clergy in making an appointment to the valuable living of Brixton, and he has also gone outside of the diocese in which that parish is situated. The fortunate nominee is the Rev. W. Earle, an Irish clergyman, who came over to England about seven years ago, and who is now curate of St. Clement Danes. Mr. Earle is said to be a near relative of the Archbishop's friend the Bishop of Marlborough, but in any case it is scandalous jobbery for the Archbishop thus to put aside all the deserving clergy of Kent and Surrey. The living was originally offered by the Primate to the Bishop of Ballaarat, whose appointment would have been quite as outrageous a job. Dr. Temple is a worthy successor to Dr. Manners Sutton, whose jobbery excited criticism even in the easy-going days of the Regency.

The Bishop of Stepney is to be in residence at St. Paul's Cathedral, for the first time since his appointment to the Canonry vacated by the Bishop of Bristol, during February, and he will preach on Sunday afternoons throughout the month. It is expected that the Bishop's sermons will draw very large congregations.

An appeal is being issued in connection with the proposed restoration of Clonfert "Cathedral," now a parish church, but a building containing many features of great antiquity and interest—notably the famous Romanesque doorway, one of the finest pieces of work of its kind now in existence. Clonfert and its neighbourhood are so poor that this work has a claim upon outsiders much stronger than can generally be urged in support of similar appeals. But it is to be hoped that the job will be limited to judicious repair of what needs repairing, and not extended to the "restoration" of antiquities which can only be destroyed in the process.

Here is a straw which may show how the wind is blowing. At a ruridecanal meeting in the classic county of Northampton last week, it was resolved by a substantial majority "that in the opinion of this meeting Church Reform is the best and wisest means of promoting Church Defence." Although some of the milder members were of opinion that the resolution was too much of a slap in the face for the Bishop, there were others who expressed themselves in terms considerably stronger than the resolution. Some freely advocated Disestablishment as the only possible remedy, and even advised that the clergy should themselves ask for it as a favour, rather than wait to have it forced upon them. "Disestablishment from Within" seems to be moving.

A correspondent of the *Church Times* calls attention to the following passage from the Quarterly Paper of the Assyrian Mission, and suggests that it requires comment or explanation from the editor of the paper. I would go further, and suggest that the S.P.C.A. should send out a mission to enlighten and reform these missionaries. The other day I commented on the attitude of the Italian priesthood towards cruelty to animals; but the Italians are evidently not much behind some Anglicans. The writer of the passage is the Rev. D. Jenks, a cleric on the staff of the Mission at Urmi, and he discourses thus:—

> In the late afternoon we started to go over the Kuflan-Koo Pass on post-horses which the Valiahd had almost worked to death. It was my fate, though I generally had luck in the choice of horses, to get the most distressed beast this time, and when I had worked myself into a state of exhaustive perspiration with whackings, I resigned the animal to his fate. *He died two minutes later.* The pass is very fine. . . . The next morning our trouble continued, and I remember flogging Irving's horse for him into the post-house. Gradually we attained to better horses, &c.

Since when has it been the custom of chartered accountants acting for charitable institutions to write letters for the purpose of appeals for cash in the name of the charity? I ask this in view of a letter from Messrs Beddow & Son, of Gresham Buildings, which is being circulated at present by our old friend John James Jones. The letter is addressed to the Committee of Management of the London Samaritan Society, but is obviously written for the purpose of strengthening the hands of the committee, or the director, in their efforts to raise the wind. It points out, what the committee must be perfectly aware of, that the income for the last year has fallen off, and that various increased expenses are being incurred. The accountants then state their opinion that "it is imperatively necessary either to procure a larger income or curtail the Society's work," with other remarks to a similar effect. It strikes me as in every way undesirable that the accountants of a charity should lend their names to appeals to the public, and the objections to this are specially strong in the case of a charity the management of which has justly incurred very unfavourable criticism.

I am asked to mention that a dramatic performance in aid of St. Luke's House, Osnaburgh-street (a Home for the Dying Poor), will be given at the West Theatre, Albert Hall, on February 1 and 2. Tickets may be had of Miss Don, 87, Cadogan-gardens, S.W.

The General commanding the Soudan Expeditionary Force has withdrawn the interdict placed on Press representatives. In other words, he has climbed down, in response to the protests which the order called forth. Nothing more need, therefore, be said on the subject, unless it is "Don't do it again."

The question is raised by one of my Service readers whether an officer retiring on a gratuity of £1,200 after twelve years' service ought to be charged income tax upon his gratuity. "What would be thought," asks the complainant, "of an ordinary business firm if it made a deduction of this kind on presenting an employee with a gratuity which had been promised to him after a certain period of service? I do not consider that Income Tax should be charged on a 'lump sum' which has never formed part of one's income." The first point is one which has often been discussed in TRUTH, and I confess I cannot see any good reason why the servants of the State, merely because they are servants of the State, should be exempted from taxes which are imposed upon the rest of the community. The other question is a more reasonable one, and I should be glad if I could see any argument in support of the objection to the payment of Income Tax on a lump sum of this kind. But with all respect to my correspondent, it seems to me that the lump sum *is* a part of the officer's income for the year in which he receives it. It is money which he has earned, and is really in the nature of deferred pay for his services extending over the previous twelve years, and under these circumstances it is difficult to see on what ground it should be exempted from Income Tax.

In a company of the Army Service Corps stationed in the Eastern District, the sergeant-major the other day went round, without any warning, to the rooms occupied by his company, while the men were absent at work, searched their kits, and deliberately destroyed all the non-regimental caps that he found there. This proceeding strikes me as a very gross abuse of authority, and one which, in the interests of the Service generally, ought to be further inquired into and punished. Even assuming that the men have no business to be in possession of non-regimental caps, the wearing of such articles for walking out is very common, and is prompted solely by a desire on the part of the men to present a smarter appearance than they obtain in the often ill-fitting caps issued to them from the Army Clothing Department. If it was desired to stop the use of these caps, the men should have had notice to that effect in order to give them an opportunity of disposing of the caps, and getting what they could for them. It is treatment like the above which makes a soldier feel that he has no more rights than a schoolboy or a criminal, and which keeps the more self-respecting young men of the working class out of the Army.

The civilian may well despair of getting at the truth about any details of Army administration. Only last week, on the strength of many facts which have come

before me during the last few months, I referred to the grievance of lance-corporals and corporals in battalions serving abroad in finding men far junior to themselves in point of service, coming out to India as corporals in charge of drafts, and passing permanently over their heads, thereby debarring them from promotion. Having frequently heard of such occurrences, I hazarded the opinion that it is one of the results of having all your young soldiers in one battalion at home, and all your old soldiers in the other battalion abroad, but, on the top of this I get a long complaint from a battalion in the South-Eastern district to precisely the opposite effect. Here the grievance is that young sergeants are returned home from the foreign battalion on account either of their own health or that of their families, and block the promotion of lance-corporals and corporals of longer service than their own in the home battalion.

The battalion to which I have referred only returned from foreign service two years ago, and during that time ten sergeants have been transferred to it from the battalion now abroad, five of them during last year; and, in the meantime, only one sergeant has been transferred to the foreign battalion. Meanwhile, in this same battalion there are three corporals who have been N.C.O.s for something like six years, and in one case, at least, the sergeants who have come home have been junior to these men, both as N.C.O.s and in total length of service. Whether this state of things is of frequent occurrence I am unable to say; my knowledge is confined to the converse process. But what seems to be required is some general rule preventing N.C.O.s being transferred from the one battalion to the other, to the prejudice of other N.C.O.s, senior to themselves, already in the battalion.

During the last week or two I have been favoured with a vast quantity of Press extracts and private correspondence, with reference to the recent court-martial and sentence on Sergeant-Major Sullivan, R.A, at Rangoon. Owing to the bulk of these communications, and pressure of other matters, I regret that I have as yet been unable to deal with the case; but I will take the earliest opportunity of doing so, and as Rangoon is some distance off, I trust that a week more or less will not be of serious consequence.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* forcibly and most justly protests against the omission of all the "neglected and undecorated heroes" of the Crimea and the Indian Mutiny from the periodical honours lists, while "decorations are showered broadcast upon the paladins of our petty wars." I entirely agree in the view that "those who fought under Raglan and Clyde are decidedly more entitled to the title 'Makers of the Empire' than the vanquishers of barbarous African chiefs, or Colonial Secretaries who have used much red tape, and drawn for many years handsome salaries."

A casual remark was made in last week's TRUTH with reference to a new system of attaching the buttons to the pantaloons of our gallant soldiers. Since that I have had an opportunity of inspecting the new machinery, and it certainly looks very promising. The contrivance is simple, and seems strong and durable. They tell me that "Tommy"—poor fellow—is very often a hopeless muff at sewing on buttons, and I must say he ought to be grateful for the amount of care which some of those in authority take to relieve him of little difficulties of this kind. There are civilians, however, as well, who cannot sew on buttons (at least with any confidence in the result), and who—worse luck!—have no friendly female hand to help them in the hour of trouble. They may find comfort and security in the new attachment. I see it is marked "patent," and I only wish I had invented it, for there ought to be money in it.

The *Pioneer*, which has rendered excellent service both by its complete information and its independent criticism during the progress of the Frontier campaign, recently stated that the stores issued for the use of the sick and wounded had been found seriously defective. Special reference was made to "the tinned milk and articles like arrowroot, upon which so much dependence has to be placed for the treatment of patients suffering from fever or dysentery." It was stated that these articles had often been found unfit for consumption, and, in consequence, men who might otherwise have recovered in a day or two had to be invalided to the rear. It is suggested that this state of things may be due to the articles having been several years in store at Peshawur, and if this is true, it is not difficult to understand that the tinned milk must have been a little "off." The statements, however, are equally scandalous, whether the stores have gone bad with age, or whether new stores unfit for use have been delivered, and in either case the matter ought to be investigated, and the responsible parties brought to book.

Will any of my readers be kind enough to send readable newspapers, &c., when they have done with them, to soldiers in the Soudan? The Chaplain to the Expeditionary Force, the Rev. A. W. B. Watson, asks me to state that he will be glad to receive and distribute any papers so sent. They are best sent by post, and not in parcels, which renders them liable to delay; and they should be addressed to the Rev. A. W. B. Watson, Chaplain to the Forces, Soudan Expeditionary Force, Egypt.

Two or three months back a case was noted in TRUTH of an old Army pensioner, who had served through the Sutlej and Punjab campaigns in the 10th Foot, and who is now in Whitehaven Workhouse, although he had earned a pension of ninepence a day at the time of his discharge in 1865. I now hear from Mr. Parker, the pensioner in question, that since he wrote to me he has made an application to the Royal Cambridge Fund. The answer given is that, "in consequence of the numerous cases already noted for future consideration, no further application for assistance can be received for the present."

BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—The Mentone of England.—THE SACKVILLE HOTEL, an ideal winter and spring residence. Special inclusive terms till Easter. For tariff, &c., apply to Manager.

This in itself is a singular proof of the amount of destitution prevailing among old and deserving soldiers. I should uncommonly like to see an authentic return of the number of Army pensioners who, like Mr. Parker, have been compelled to go into the workhouse because they cannot live on their pensions outside, and who have no prospect before them of release from that institution until the time comes for the pauper's funeral and the pauper's grave.

Cases of this class point to the conclusion that our whole system of Army pensions is radically wrong. A pension which will not suffice to keep a man out of the workhouse is obviously of no use to that man; it merely goes into the pockets of the ratepayers. It will be said, of course, that the idea is that the man can supplement his pension by his own efforts. That theory is perfectly sound as long as the man is not too old to obtain employment, but no longer. Either Army pensions ought to be assessed on the deferred principle, or they should be progressive. Possibly the prospect of a deferred pension, say one commencing at sixty years of age, would not be sufficiently attractive for recruiting purposes, although the amount might be greatly increased. If that is so, I would suggest instead a progressive pension. Seeing that a private of twenty-one years' service is not generally over forty years of age at discharge, and should be capable of supporting himself for many years to come, the pension might well be reduced for a certain number of years, and a proportionate increase given later on. The best way of meeting the case, however, is by means of in-pensioner establishments on Chelsea Hospital lines in the principal military districts.

By the way, Lord Wolseley last week told the boys at the Newport Market School and Refuge that the Army is the only occupation within his knowledge in which a young fellow on joining could look forward to earning, before he is forty years of age, "a pension which would be a support to him more or less through life." It would be a kindness to the boys to whom this remark was addressed on such high authority to place before them the case of Mr. Parker, of Whitehaven workhouse, and dozens of other similar cases to be found in other workhouses throughout the country. "More or less" is a very elastic phrase; but looking at these cases I should say that an Army pension is a support less rather than more, and very often no support at all.

A week or two back an Army Reserve man applied for work on the railway at Ipswich station. He had a testimonial from the Army Temperance Society, of which he had been a member for two years, and was otherwise a man of good character. He was told, however, that they did not employ Army Reserve men on the Great Eastern Railway. Is this so? If it is, I think that Parliament should have something to say upon the subject the first time a Great Eastern Railway Bill comes before it. It is bad enough that any employer should indiscriminately boycott discharged soldiers; but when this course is taken by companies which enjoy a valuable monopoly by favour of the State, it is time for the State to intervene in defence of its own servants.

With reference to the question of rewards of one kind or another to the troops who have been serving in Crete, an officer writes from that island as follows:—

> I see you say that we are, perhaps, to get the Jubilee medal. It is the first I have heard of it. If anything is to be given I am sure no officer would wish to have it, if the men are not to get it also. For the same reason allowing Crete to reckon as war service would be of no use or advantage to the rank and file or lower deck.
>
> I think we should all value an international medal, if only as a memento of a most unique and extraordinary experience. As a matter of fact, many of us—notably some of the ships, and particularly all engaged at the relief of Candanos—have been frequently fired at, and there are very few of us who have not at least heard bullets over our heads. As regards loss of life from disease, and the ordinary discomforts of active service, we compare very favourably, if I may use the expression, with the Ashanti Expedition.

It is scarcely necessary to say that I entirely share my correspondent's views that the rank and file should be considered quite as much as the officers. If an international medal will satisfy all parties, an international medal let it be, by all means.

The following case seems to afford a further example of the injustice with which the Marines are often treated when afloat. A few weeks back, in consequence of some little skylarking that had taken place at the mess, some of the Marines on board one of H.M.'s ships at Devonport were brought before the officer of the day and put in charge of the sentry for being drunk. After having been marched up and down the middle deck for a short time—whether or not with the object of testing their ability to walk straight I cannot say—the Lieutenant dismissed all the men to their duty. This would seem to indicate that in his opinion they were all sober. Nevertheless, one man has since been deprived of a good conduct badge. It is clear on the facts that this man is innocent of any offence; why on earth, then, should he lose his badge?

I do not understand why several hundreds a year should be regularly abstracted from the income of Greenwich Hospital in order to maintain the Painted Hall and its pictures. The Painted Hall is a popular resort, and it ought to be kept up by the public, either through a Parliamentary vote or by means of a charge for admission. There are a great number of needy applicants for Greenwich pensions who are sent empty away for lack of funds; and if the annual expenditure on the Painted Hall were to cease, then many additional grants could be made out of the Hospital income.

By an oversight which I much regret, the name of Commander James, who died recently at Brighton, in his ninety-ninth year, was given in last week's TRUTH as "Commander Jones." As the printer has quite enough sins of his own to answer for, I think it only fair to state that the error originated in the hieroglyphic penmanship of an otherwise valued contributor.

THE LONDON HOSPITAL, E., APPEALS FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS. This Hospital for Men, Women, and Children, is the great General Hospital for the toiling poor of East London, & help is sorely needed.

The Maximum of Effect at the Minimum of Cost.—An Object Lesson in Decorating and Furnishing can be obtained by inspecting Messrs. WARING'S Suites of furnished rooms at 175-181, Oxford-st. W.

A gentleman went the other day to Somerset House to obtain a certificate of birth. Having found it, he was told that it would take an hour to make out a copy. As he was unable to wait, or to call again, being only temporarily in London, he asked if it could be sent by post, tendering a stamped and directed envelope for the purpose. The answer was that such a thing could not be done, and that the copy must be called for, either personally or by messenger. There is no other Government Department where the worship of red-tape is carried to such extravagant lengths as at Somerset House. The place is the very temple, or Holy of Holies of red-tape, and the salaried officials installed there may be looked upon as the High Priests of the idol.

The Board of Trade is being strongly criticised in the Teify Fishery district for its action in confirming a by-law passed by the Board of Conservators to extend the season for salmon fishing with rod and line. During the past few years much has been said in official reports as to the deteriorated condition of the fisheries in this district, and in order to bring about their resuscitation and better preservation, the seine and coracle fishermen have been subjected to various restrictions and deprived of privileges they had long enjoyed. In these circumstances it seems extremely inconsistent to increase the facilities for the capture of the fish—at a season, too, when they are out of condition—with rod and line. It may not be altogether surprising that the Conservators should have one code for the poor fishermen and another for wealthy riparian owners and anglers, but it is certainly extraordinary that the Board of Trade should endorse this injustice.

What will the Post Office do next? They exhibit on a certain date a notice to the effect that there may be "considerable delay" in the despatch of telegrams from London to Holland. A telegram is handed in after this notice, and is not transmitted over the wires but forwarded by mail. On discovering this, the sender requests a return of his money, which is refused. The Post Office authorities have given to the Press what they are pleased to call an "explanation" of this proceeding. It is to the effect that at the time the message was accepted it was supposed that one line only was interrupted, and that the telegram could be sent by a circuitous course; but it was subsequently discovered that a recent storm had interrupted all telegraphic communication with Holland. The contention is that the sender, having accepted the risk of "considerable delay," has no right of complaint under these circumstances. On the contrary, the defence only strengthens the complainant's case. When he accepted the risk, he had in his mind precisely what the Post Office people had in their minds, and what they conveyed to him by their notice, namely, that the service was deranged, and that transmission at the ordinary speed could not be relied on. He had no means of knowing that all telegraphic communication was for the time stopped, and that a letter would be delivered as quickly as a telegram. Had he known this, he would of course have sent a letter and not a telegram, and he cannot, therefore, be held to have assented to the course taken. The Post Office have, without his assent (express or implied), taken his money for telegraphing his message, failed altogether to telegraph it, and treated it as a letter. They ought, therefore, by every rule of honest dealing, to refund the difference between the price of a letter and that of a telegram.

Whatever Sir Michael Hicks-Beach may have intended by the promise in his Budget speech of a universal postal delivery in the United Kingdom, it is now perfectly clear that the promise has not yet been fulfilled. A gentleman who has been in the habit of renting a shooting-lodge in Mayo, distant only one mile from a post-office, tells me that he has not yet been able to get his letters delivered. On three days in the week the postman brings the letters as far as the gate (130 yards from the house) and whistles. If the whistle is no theard, the letters are taken back to the post-office. On the other four days even this primitive pretence at a delivery is withheld, and the letters have to be fetched from the office. The same gentleman's keeper has to walk three Irish miles for his letters, if he wants them.

Nor is this another special Irish grievance. I hear of a district in the South of England where a very similar arrangement is in force. The postman brings letters two or three times a week to a certain point, and letters are left there for a house lying further off the round. On the other days the letters must be fetched from the office, if wanted. Inquiry of the postmaster in this instance only produced the response that to deliver letters everywhere would require an enormous increase of the staff, and that the above was the best arrangement that could be made. It would seem from this, that the increase of staff required to give effect to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's promise has not yet been provided, and inquiry ought to be made in Parliament when the time comes as to how the money, which was nominally devoted to providing a universal delivery, has really been expended. I cannot help suspecting that such inquiry will reveal that Sir M. Hicks-Beach has really been fooled by the pig-headed obstructiveness of St. Martin's-le-Grand.

The Indian Post Office is clearly trying to live up to the reputation of St. Martin's-le-Grand for crass stupidity. At the beginning of last September a correspondent of mine posted at Calcutta a parcel addressed to a lady in Austria. The parcel was insured, and a receipt given for it. As it had not reached its destination by the beginning of December, inquiries were made, and the official explanation was that the regulations did not permit of insured parcels being sent to Austria, and that, in consequence, this parcel, after reaching Bombay, had been left lying for three months in the post-office there! It had never occurred to any of the geniuses who run the department to write either to the consignor, or, if his address could not be obtained, to the consignee, pointing out that the parcel could not be forwarded owing to this regulation, which ought, of course, to have been remembered when the parcel was first handed in and insured at

the post-office. So far from taking any step to rectify their own mistake, the authorities apparently intended to keep the parcel for the usual six months, and then sell it as "unclaimed."

The paragraph in last week's TRUTH on the signatures of Town Clerks has brought me the information that two former Town Clerks of Liverpool, the grandfather and great grandfather of a gentleman now living, were accustomed to sign the official documents with their surnames only, in the manner of the Town Clerk of London. Evidently, therefore, the custom is not confined to London; but, as the practice seems a very absurd and affected one, I trust that the knowledge that it has the sanction of antiquity in some places will not lead to its adoption in others, where no such precedent exists.

There must be some rare specimens of the genus Bumble on the Bethnal Green Board of Guardians. Out of about 110 children in the workhouse at Bethnal Green, no fewer than 60 are suffering from ophthalmia, skin diseases, "and other diseases peculiar to children." This amazing percentage of sickness among the little ones is just what might have been expected from the overcrowded and unhealthy conditions under which they are compelled to live. Boys are herded together in what is described as a "cock-loft," where they have to wash themselves in pails, and where there is no sanitary accommodation; ophthalmic patients sleep three in a bed; and in the nursery as many as thirty-four babies are entrusted to the care of one attendant. Now an outbreak of measles has occurred, and the children have to be left together because no means of isolation are available. The defence of the Guardians is virtually an acknowledgment of their incompetence. "We are overcrowded, of course," says their official apologist; "*we get the same sort of thing every winter*, and we do all we can to prevent it." In these circumstances it seems high time the Local Government Board did something. It might have a salutary effect if, as a beginning, these intelligent guardians of the poor could be shut up for a week in the "cock-loft" to which they have consigned the workhouse children.

The Rochdale Guardians had what is described as an "excited debate" last week, concerning a recent paragraph in these columns, and a letter in reference to it which a member of the Board had addressed to a local paper. It was mainly to this letter that exception was taken, my own note on the subject of the scandal at the workhouse being discussed, I am glad to recognise, in the reasonable spirit in which it was written. The reply of the Guardians to the statements made was that they only acquitted the attendant of the charge preferred against him after a searching investigation which failed to produce anything in the shape of corroborative evidence; and in view of the fact that the woman making the charge was a certified lunatic, it is undoubtedly difficult to see how any further steps could have been taken in the matter.

MAJOR HOWE & Co.—Fashionable BOOTS and SHOES.—16, Coventry-st., W. (also 60, Strand), and City, London.

The Kent County Council appears to be one of those bodies which love to do their work by stealth and blush to find it fame. A correspondent complains that the ratepayers are kept almost wholly in the dark as to the proceedings of their representatives. Practically, all the business is conducted in the privacy of committee rooms, and the quarterly meetings of the Council—known as the quarterly gallops—are strictly confined to a hurried and perfunctory adoption of cut-and-dried reports and resolutions. Any attempt to depart from the routine character of the meeting is at once resented and checked. The remedy for this state of things lies, of course, in the hands of the ratepayers. If they want a more free and open ventilation of their affairs they must send to the Council men independent enough and strong enough to break down a system which has been continued from the time when county government was left to a magisterial oligarchy, but which is quite unsuited to the constitution of a popularly-elected body.

It is one of the great aims of poor-law administrators, particularly in rural districts, to diminish the number of vagrants claiming the hospitality of the workhouse casual ward. No doubt a great deal may be said in defence of measures for this purpose, so long as they are not unreasonably rigorous and are at the same time reserved for the professional tramp. As often as not, however, the same treatment is meted out indiscriminately to all comers, and occasionally it is positively inhuman in its brutality towards wretched homeless outcasts. Two bad cases of the kind were lately brought before the Bridge Guardians by the Guardians of the neighbouring city of Canterbury. In one of these cases a woman with four children alleged that she and her little ones, all wet through, reached the Bridge Workhouse at five o'clock in the evening; that they were kept waiting outside in the rain till six o'clock; and that they were then told that they were not wanted there, and were so harshly spoken to that they walked on to Canterbury, three miles distant. The master and the porter at the Bridge Workhouse denied that the woman had been turned away, but they did not deny that she had been refused admission to the casual ward from five till six o'clock, and the master furthermore confessed that he knew this was contrary to the law, but pleaded that he had followed the custom of the district. The Bridge Bumbles expressed themselves satisfied as to the conduct of their officers, which was tantamount to saying that they cared nothing for the hardships inflicted upon this poor woman and her young children, or even for the deliberate violation of the law. Their object is to get rid of vagrants, and any means to accomplish it seem to be considered justifiable.

There is one place at least in the United Kingdom where the rate-collector has ceased from troubling, and the people, assessed though they be, are at rest. It is the Island of St. Kilda, which is nominally, at any rate, within

the district of the Inverness County Council, and the inhabitants of which are, nominally also, liable to the payment of the usual rates. These rates have for some time been written off as irrecoverable, but the auditor of the county accounts objected to this, and the Secretary of Scotland decided that the objection must be upheld, unless it were found "difficult" to collect the money. In an interesting and amusing report the collector has now shown that the recovery of the rates would be an exceedingly difficult and an excessively expensive operation. Even if the islanders were ready to pay up on his visiting St. Kilda for the purpose, the cost of the journey would exceed the amount to be collected. But the St. Kildans are not the sort of people to pay voluntarily, and the cost of an expedition of sheriff's officers to distrain upon the goods of the defaulters and bring them to the mainland for sale—for no purchaser would be found in the island—would be enormously out of proportion to the amount of the assessments. This being the case, it has been prudently resolved that St. Kilda shall continue free from rates. Happy St. Kildans!

A "SWEEPING" REFORM.

[On Wednesday last the following curious advertisement appeared in the *Daily Chronicle*:—

"Crossing Sweeper.—Pitch, with goodwill, in the fashionable West End; held by present owner 14 years; good opening for a respectable man. Address Chas. E. Collins, Rowton House, Vauxhall, S.W."]

In times like these, when younger sons,
  Though bless'd with limitless presumption,
Find it so difficult to use
  Their little cash and still less gumption;
When they have not sufficient nous
  To fill Colonial situations,
And cannot pass, "cramm'd" though they be,
  The Army's stiff examinations;

When, day by day, the City grows
  With keen competitors more flooded,
And fails to furnish berths for youths
  Who, at the most, are but "blue-blooded;"
At times like these, when clubs are filled
  With smart young drones who can't make honey,
Welcome indeed should be this hint
  By which they may earn heaps of money.

Yes, West End idlers, who upon
  An impecunious sea are tossing,
Here clearly is the chance for you—
  Go and secure at once a crossing!
The future income you may earn
  May in amount become transcendent,
And think how sweet 'twould be to feel
  Your broom had made you independent!

Nor need the work be very hard,
  Your "pitch" would yield you lots of leisur.
Whilst its surroundings could not fail
  To be a source of endless pleasure.
For, on your crossing, your address
  Would, so to speak, be quite untainted,
For you'd be near the Clubs and Squares,
  With which you are so well acquainted.

You would remain with your own set,
  And those who toss'd to you donations
Would be your own patrician friends,
  Or, possibly, your rich relations.
Whilst surely your warm heart would glow,
  And swell with rapturous expansion,
To feel that p'raps your industry
  Was watched from many a neighbouring mansion.

Think how much better this would be
  Than loafing round club billiard tables,
Or sponging on some millionaire,
  Rich as the Crœsus of the fables;
Or joining, as in time you would,
  That band of ill-conditioned snarlers,
Who, when they are not plucking jays,
  Are haunting money-lenders' parlours.

See to it, then! for if a "pitch"
  Is worth what now the papers mention,
It most assuredly deserves
  Your instant and your close attention;
And if the present sweepers show
  A disposition to defy you,
Call for the West End landlords' aid,
  And they will certainly stand by you.

For when they learn how well it pays
  To claim a crossing and to sweep it;
They will be eager steps to take
  Which in the family will keep it;
And thus in time will have the chance
  Some favoured younger son of giving
A "pitch" outside the ancestral door,
  Worth more than the ancestral living.

So, West End idlers—we repeat—
  Who on life's sea are vaguely tossing,
Seize on this truly splendid chance,
  Go, and at once secure a crossing!
Obtain a besom, set to work
  On one of Clubland's favoured "pitches,"
Mention your purpose to your friends,
  And sweep your way forthwith to riches!

A strange reason was given by the Faversham Guardians last week for the discontinuance of the visits which a committee formerly paid to the Chartham Asylum. The matter came up in consequence of a letter which had appeared in a local paper, making certain allegations respecting the treatment of a patient in the asylum. It has since transpired that these allegations were not well-founded, but the Guardians decided that in future a committee of four of their number should visit the asylum at intervals, and it was stated that such visits had only been dropped for the last few years owing to the lack of courtesy of the officials of the institution who were annoyed at receiving surprise visits. Why the officials should have disliked surprise visits if they had nothing to conceal is difficult to understand, and the fact that such annoyance was shown ought to have made the Guardians persevere in their duty rather than neglect it.

In reference to the charges against certain members of the medical staff of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children and Women at Bristol, which I mentioned on December 16, I am informed that the committee appointed to look into the matter has recommended that a public inquiry shall be held by some independent tribunal. This recommendation has been agreed to, and the inquiry will, it is expected, shortly take place. Nothing else was likely to fully satisfy the public mind, and, in the interests of the hospital, the Committee have done wisely in arranging for such an inquiry.

Mentone.—Grand Hôtel des Iles Britanniques, Limited. Lighted throughout by electricity. Lift. House heated by steam. Write for Illustrated prospectus.

It is always my custom at the end of the year to glance through the file of TRUTH in search of any little matters that I have taken in hand during the year, but which have not been satisfactorily disposed of. Among other little outstanding accounts of this description which I find on my books for 1897, there is the curious story of the summoning of the Clare Grand Jury last summer, which was referred to at some length in TRUTH of September 30. It will be remembered that I made certain remarks upon the summoning of the jury which elicited contradictions from Mr. Studdert, the gentleman whose election to the office of Secretary was the principal business of the jury, and from the High Sheriff of Clare, on whom the duty of summoning the jury devolves. I gave publicity to the corrections offered, at the same time apologising, at the request of these gentlemen, for having fallen into any error of fact in my statements. But in doing this I published some further and quite undeniable facts respecting the composition of the jury, which afforded an ample justification of the comments I had previously made, and which, as I said and still think, called for some explanation from the High Sheriff of Clare.

Up to that moment the attitude both of Mr. Studdert and of the High Sheriff had been most bellicose. Both had placed themselves in the hands of solicitors, who talked darkly of the consequences impending over me. Strange to say, however, from the date when my article of September 30 appeared, giving the full particulars of the composition of the Grand Jury, not another word has been uttered by, or on behalf of, either of the aggrieved gentlemen. The contrast between this silence and the contentious and threatening tone previously adopted is very extraordinary. In the last letter which I had from Messrs. Bolton & Co., dated September 25, it was stated in explanation of a long delay in the correspondence that "Counsel in whose hands the matter is now placed is out of town." Knowing that legal gentlemen take long holidays, I deferred, after this statement, saying anything about the matter until I had very nearly forgotten all about it. Now, however, that I have looked it up, I venture to ask whether counsel in whose hands the matter is now placed has yet returned to town, and what counsel's opinion on the situation now is. My own humble opinion is that the public in the County ought to have heard long since from the High Sheriff who the party was who actually did the business of summoning the jury, and what explanation can be given of the manner in which the names were picked and chosen. That is the question I asked for on September 30, and I do not think I can be considered premature in repeating the request now.

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

No one can find fault with the verdict of the jury upon the wretched creature Prince. Not only was the murder of Mr. Terriss on the face of it the act of a maniac, but the evidence given at the trial shows clearly that the assassin had been a dangerous lunatic for years, if not all his life. The more clearly this is shown, however, the more certain it is that Prince is a man who ought never to be let loose upon society again. After past experience of the maudlin sentiment which is so easily evoked on behalf of eminent criminals, it would not surprise me if in a few years' time some crack-brained enthusiast were to get up an agitation for Prince's release. In anticipation of that event, I can only say that any Home Secretary who discharges this man from custody will be an accomplice before the fact in any further murder which he may commit, and should be dealt with accordingly.

One of the most appalling features in this case is that this man, who was not only obviously suffering from the most morbid vanity, but had given repeated evidence of his dangerous proclivities, should have been left at large for so many years without his sanity being seriously questioned. Doubtless had the attempt been made, at any time prior to the murder of poor Terriss, to put Prince under restraint, it would have been hotly resisted, and its success might have been doubtful. There are one or two of my respected friends in the Press who would have been the first to cry out against it in the largest type as a fresh abuse of the Lunacy Laws. The story of the Terriss murder ought to remind some of these sentimental gentlemen that side by side with the awful danger of incarcerating a sane person as a lunatic, there is another danger quite as awful, namely that of leaving at large any man who has given evidence of mental delusions, accompanied by a desire to injure his fellow creatures. I suppose it has occurred to the relatives of Prince that they are more responsible than anybody else for the death of Mr. Terriss, and, as that is not a pleasing reflection for them, I should not wish to accentuate the point. It is to be hoped, however, that the case may teach the friends and relatives of other dangerous characters of the Prince type that it is as much their duty to keep a mad relative under control as it would be to keep a mad dog. There are, unfortunately, a good many Princes still at large.

Another point in the case which might furnish a text to a satirist is that Prince was probably left at large because he was a pauper. When a millionaire shows signs of mental aberration, there are always plenty of kind relatives at hand anxious to place him under restraint, and to take the management of his property out of his hands. But when a man owns nothing but the clothes he stands in, it is nobody's interest to look after him, and nobody does.

For *Truth*, and all other Newspapers, Magazines, and Periodicals, send your Subscriptions to WM. DAWSON & SONS, Ltd., Cannon House, Bream's-bldngs., London. (Estab. 1809.) Catalogue gratis.

One month's imprisonment with hard labour for a woman who steals a shirt from a clothes-line; a fine of twenty shillings and costs for the miner who, by a deliberate violation of a colliery rule, endangers the lives of 500 fellow-workmen. This startling contrast in sentences at Barnsley speaks for itself, though it may be noted that in dealing with the miner the Chairman himself emphasised the absurd lenity of the penalty by first stigmatising the case as a bad one, and declaring that "the Bench would impose a heavy sentence." These muttonheads actually seem to regard a fine of a sovereign as "a heavy sentence" for an offence by which hundreds of lives were placed in jeopardy. There is an equally grotesque decision by the Bolton Solons at the end of the following list; while another instance of magisterial self-stultification comes from Knighton, where the Bench "make an example" of a defendant convicted of "a very serious assault," which they tell him might have resulted in a charge of manslaughter, by inflicting a fine of £1 and costs. Compare the penalties in these cases, and other cases of assault and cruelty, with those imposed for vagrancy, poaching, and petty larceny :—

Barnsley West Riding Police-court. Before Major F. J. M. Stuart-Wortley and other Magistrates. George Dewhurst, miner, charged with damaging and breaking down a brattice provided for the ventilation of the mine in which he worked. Because the brattice was in his way he pulled down six yards of it, thereby causing a great accumulation of gas. The Chairman said this was a bad case. Defendant had deliberately set at naught the rules and risked the lives of himself and 500 other men. The Bench would impose a heavy sentence. Fined 20s. and costs.

Birmingham Police-court. Before Aldermen Johnson and Fallows. George Chadwick, charged with assaulting Emma Lloyd, a former sweetheart. He struck her violently in the mouth, smashing her teeth. Fined 20s. and costs.

Liverpool City Police-court. Before the Stipendiary, James Gannon charged with cruelly neglecting three horses and a goat. The animals were found in a miserably dark and filthy stable, all of them in a most emaciated condition. A veterinary surgeon said they were suffering from systematic starvation. Fined £2 and costs.

Blackburn Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. J. Hoyle, J. A. Watson, and E. Rushton. Patrick Stanton, charged with assaulting his wife. He struck her in the face, giving her a black eye, and kicked her several times. Fined 10s. and costs.

Bradford City Police-court. Robert Rose, convicted of cruelty to a horse. He had been fined for cruelty to the same animal within the past month. Fined 15s. and 8s. costs.

Barnsley Police-court. Before Messrs. W. Woodcock, W. Jackson, and J. H. Gration. Elizabeth Hudson, charged with stealing a shirt from a clothes-line. One month.

Bedford Divisional Petty Sessions. Before Major Higgins, Rev. P. Wyatt, Mr. F. A. Wythes, and General Layard. Oliver Ellis, charged with being found in possession of rabbits and nets when searched under the Poaching Prevention Act. Fined £5 and costs, or two months.

Birmingham Police-court. Before Messrs. Colmore, Brame, W. F. Green, Wright, and Dr. Warden. Frederick G. Goldinghay, charged with stealing a bag of coke, valued at 7d. One month.

Penkridge Police-court. Before Lord Hatherton and Mr. E. A. Foden. Harry Wenlock and George Wenlock charged with poaching. Harry two months, George one month, and a further six months each in default of finding sureties.

Chelmsford County Police-court. Before Mr. T. Kemble and other magistrates. Daniel Shipton, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Twenty-one days.

Eckington Petty Sessions. Before Mr. J. F. Swallow and other Magistrates. Sampson Green, charged with stealing two fowls. One month.

Knighton Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. H. M. Evans and E. Oldbury. Joseph Price, charged with assaulting Abraham Wilson. While complainant was looking out of a railway carriage window defendant came along the platform and struck him a double-handed blow with a stick on the forehead, causing blood to stream down his face. The Bench said it was a very serious affair, and defendant might have been standing there charged with manslaughter. They should make an example of him. Fined £1, and £1. 4s. 6d. costs.

Llanboidy Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. B. B. Protheroe, W. Lewis Phillipps, and John Phillips. David Lewis, convicted of assaulting Catherine Jones. According to the evidence of the prosecutrix, defendant entered her house and assaulted her. Fined 10s. and 12s. 6d. costs.

Accrington Police-court. Before the Mayor, Alderman Entwisle, Messrs. W. Ratcliffe, R. Rushton, and Major Nutter. Thomas Bradley, summoned for assaulting his wife. He kicked her to the floor twice, and afterwards kicked her out of the house. Bound over to keep the peace.

Johnstone Police-court. Before Provost Thomson. Thomas Webster, charged with stealing 1 cwt. of coal. Forty days.

Worthing Police-court. Before Dr. H. J. Strong. Wm. Bahot and Albert Freeman, charged with sleeping out in the open air and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days each.

Woodbridge Petty Sessions. Before the Rev. R. C. M. Rose, Colonel Whitbread, Messrs. W. Lowther, W. N. Whitmore, E. P. Yonell, H. Harwood, J. Loder, and C. A. Creasey. Herbert Smy, labourer, charged with killing a pheasant without a licence. Fined £1. 1s. and 11s. costs.

Handsworth Police-court. Before Messrs. Farley, J. W. Williams, and J. H. Stone. Albert E. Dudley, a boy of fifteen, charged with stealing a parcel of clothing belonging to his mother. Fourteen days' imprisonment to be followed by four years in a reformatory.

Bolton Police-court. Two Germans, named Kiel and Wehrman, charged with assaulting and robbing J. Hindle. All three were passengers by a train from Manchester, and whilst passing Entwistle the communication cord was pulled, and prosecutor was found bleeding and robbed of his watch. Defendants pleaded guilty to the charge of assault, and were fined £1 each and costs, the Magistrates saying that the travelling public must be protected.

The recent decision of the Court of Appeal in Dublin in the case of the syndicate seeking to exclude the public from the Giant's Causeway, on the Antrim coast, is much to be regretted. It will be remembered that when the case came before the Vice-Chancellor, he pronounced the syndicate entitled to control over the Causeway, and the lands comprised in the lease held by them. The Court of Appeal has now confirmed this ruling as regards the Causeway, but decided by a majority of three to one that the road leading to the Causeway is to be considered a public road, over which the public have a right of way It follows, therefore, that this wonder of Nature will be enclosed, and that a charge will be made for allowing travellers to inspect what, up to now, has been free to the observation of every one—a step very certainly in the wrong direction.

Some admirable remarks upon the treatment of old offenders have just been made by the Recorder of Blackburn and by the Chairman of the Preston Quarter Sessions. At Blackburn it appeared that a man named Lynch, convicted of a petty theft, had previously received two severe sentences at Preston, one of them being ten years' penal servitude, with seven years' police supervision, for stealing two pairs of boots and a duck. The Recorder (Mr. Mattinson, Q.C.) said he would not dream of allowing these previous offences, for which Lynch had

Subscriptions greatly needed by THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.—6,929 convictions this year; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

If you want to entirely Furnish your House or select any article of Furniture or Carpet, &c., send for HEWETSONS' Illustrated Priced Catalogue.—HEWETSONS, Tottenham Court-road, London.

been most fully punished," to weigh against him now, and believing that the man had honestly endeavoured to retrieve his character, he discharged him, to come up for judgment when called upon. The change that has come over the administration of justice at Preston since that atrocious sentence was passed upon Lynch is shown by the observations of the present Chairman of the Quarter Sessions (Mr. Worsley Taylor, Q.C.), in dealing with a convict on licence named Brindle, who had been found guilty of house breaking. Brindle had a bad record, but, said the Chairman, "the sentences passed upon him in earlier days were such as would never be pronounced now, and, therefore, Society had borne hardly upon him." Instead of giving Brindle another term of penal servitude, the Chairman simply sentenced him to one day's imprisonment, and, as he seemed ready to do his best to turn over a new leaf, offered to support a petition for the remission of part of the unexpired term of 266 days' penal servitude which he is liable to complete under his last sentence.

These remarks are highly encouraging to all of us who have been protesting for years past against the unreasonableness and the inhumanity of the system of cumulative sentences. Mr. Worsley Taylor was wrong, however, in saying that such sentences as used to be passed are never pronounced now. There are still Dracos on the Bench who hold that if a man has had a heavy sentence once he must have a still heavier sentence next time, without regard to the character of the crime for which it is inflicted. For instance, at Sheffield last week the Recorder (Mr. Waddy, Q.C.) condemned one Cusick to the appalling punishment of ten years' penal servitude for stealing a watch from a drunken man. It is true that after a night's reflection Mr. Waddy repented of what he had done and reduced the sentence to eighteen months' imprisonment with hard labour. But in explaining his reasons for taking this course, Mr. Waddy incidentally observed that his sentence of ten years was "only proportionate to the sentences the prisoner had had before;" and he evidently cannot get out of his head the idea that punishment should be proportioned, not to the crime for which it is imposed, but to the punishment the criminal has undergone on previous occasions. If it happens that this previous punishment has been excessive, so much the worse for him—he must have another excessive dose. I should like to commend to Mr. Waddy's notice the views of Mr. Mattinson and Mr. Worsley Taylor, which I have quoted above. Perhaps, if he thinks them over, he may see that Cusick's sentence would stand yet another reduction and even then be quite severe enough.

A legal friend, who has seen something of the Spriggs case, is anxious to make known his opinion that there is no just ground for impugning the conduct of the local police in the matter. He points out that there were twelve (not five) witnesses who swore to the prisoner's identity on behalf of the Crown, and that they were all respectable people fully as deserving of credit as the witnesses for the defence. This undoubtedly makes a strong *primâ-facie* case, and I agree that it is the duty of the police to prosecute in every such case, and that they would have been wanting in their duty had they failed to do so in Spriggs's case. I should like to know, however, whether all the Crown witnesses originally identified Mr. Spriggs from a photograph, or whether they picked him out from among other men in the usual manner, without previous suggestion. The case ought, anyhow, to teach the necessity for the greatest possible care in using identification by means of photographs.

Can any one give me the present address of the Dairy Produce Direct Company, late of 120, Leadenhall-street? A number of farmers and small proprietors in the north and west of Ireland were some months back induced by advertisements to forward produce to this company, but they have been unable to obtain payment of their accounts, and letters forwarded to the company have lately been returned marked "removed" or "not known." The Irish farmer, like his English neighbour, has quite enough to contend against at present without being victimised in this way, and if the "Dairy Produce Direct Company" can be traced, I should be glad to assist in doing it.

The following advertisement is taken from a recent issue of the *Daily Telegraph*:—

PIANOFORTE.—Lady, leaving to join her husband in India, wishes to SELL lovely drawing-room upright iron grand piano, in beautiful burr walnut case, with Chippendale panel front, inlaid marqueterie. Seven octaves, full trichord, check action, rich and brilliant tone, charming touch. Particularly suited for classical music. New in March. Quite perfect. Original price 56 guineas; take 19 guineas. Great bargain. Would willingly send on approbation.—Mrs. G., 35, Erlanger-road, Queen's-road, New Cross.

Finding that this announcement has been appearing in the same and other papers during at least three months past, I sent a representative to see "Mrs. G." and inspect her "great bargain." "Mrs. G." did not happen to be in when my representative called, but a gentleman appeared in her place, and showed the piano, which my representative found to be a very ordinary-looking instrument, of a cheap description, and by an unknown maker. If it really cost fifty-six guineas when new, there can be little doubt from the description I have of it, that "Mrs. G." was taken in over the transaction. I am far from saying that the lady is not leaving to join her husband in India, or that she did not buy the piano for fifty-six guineas last March; but it will probably occur to every reader, with the above facts before him, that, in the hands of an unscrupulous dealer, this would be a very effective means of unloading shoddy pianos upon the public at fancy prices.

BEAUTIFUL TORQUAY.—The Imperial Hotel has the best position, and is the leading hotel in Torquay. Grand climate. Cool in summer, warm in winter, and well known as the "Queen of Watering Places."

ONE HUNDRED PIECES FOR £1. 1s.—Send a postcard to the Pearson Pottery Co., Hanley, Staffs., for particulars of the most wonderful package of crockery the world has ever seen. Sold all the world over.

Two or three weeks back, reference was made in TRUTH to the competitions run by a publication calling itself *Golden Sovereigns*. From the fact of this journal being issued from the office of the "A. T. Hale Company," and other circumstances connected with it, I hazarded the opinion that the whole thing was humbug. Every prize-winner was required to pay 4s. 4d. as a subscription to the paper, and was then to receive a "clock." I now hear from a victim that, after being awarded a prize and paying his "subscription" in the middle of December, he received a small German clock, which he found to be worth 1s. 4d. retail; that he at once returned it and asked for his money back (as promised); and that he only got the money after writing several times and calling personally at the office. I can only say that he may think himself uncommonly lucky to be so well out of it.

The advertisement reprinted below, which appeared last week in a Liverpool paper, is a fresh indication of the good things in store for those young "ladies" who take to governessing in preference to "menial" employment. Doubtless there were plenty of applicants for this valuable appointment. I would suggest to them that if they would only consent to call themselves nurses instead of lady governesses, they could get at least double the pay here offered, *plus* board and lodging all the year round:—

ROCK FERRY.—A young lady as daily nursery governess; hours 10 till 5; three children, ages ten, four, and one year; salary £8.—Address ——

A schoolmaster vouches for the authenticity of the following answer recently given by a small boy to the question, "What do you know about Elymas?"—

Elymas was a saucerer who tried to sauce St. Paul, and he was made blind for this. He betrayed our Lord, and was called Bar-Jesus.

There are very few among those acquainted with the facts who will not endorse the protest of Sir John Edwards-Moss in the *Field* against the threatened new railway line between Marlow and Henley-on-Thames. If constructed, this line will run up to Henley on a viaduct along the Berkshire side of the river, cross the London road by a bridge, and then turn across the river between Henley Bridge and Marsh Lock, and join the present line somewhere about the present station. The line looks utterly unnecessary, and will supply no local want of any kind, while it will greatly disfigure one of the most famous valleys in the world. Moreover, if Sir J. Edwards-Moss is right, the scheme is to be accompanied by the construction of a new Henley Station at the south side of the bridge, and the closing of the present station. What will visitors to Henley Regatta think of being put down at this point, and having to cross the bridge to get to all the chief boat-houses, hotels, and club-lawns, not to mention house-boats? If the Great Western directors are allowed to carry out their egregious scheme, they ought at least to be compelled to rebuild Henley Bridge at the same time, for it will be hopelessly inadequate to accommodate the traffic on regatta days.

The engineers appear to have been at last starved into submission. It now remains to be seen whether or not the employers are sincere in their professions that they have had no desire to "smash" the Union. If they have no such desire, the Conference will be reopened on the basis of the withdrawal of the forty-eight hours demand, and a formal treaty of peace will be concluded between the masters' and men's organisations, more or less on the lines of the irreducible minimum which the employers formulated in the last abortive negotiations. On the other hand, if they have the will, the employers are now in a position to dictate almost any terms they please, to get the men back individually and independently of the Union, and to cripple the Union for an indefinite period. It is most desirable for the future peace of the engineering and every other trade in the country that the former course should be adopted. If the victory is not used wisely, there may be worse labour troubles before long than any that we have seen yet.

At the meeting held last week of the shareholders in the Monte Carlo Casino, the Prince of Monaco succeeded in obtaining in substance the terms sketched out in TRUTH of the 23rd ult., with a good deal more for himself besides. The demand for an expenditure of eight millions of francs on the construction of a new port has been abandoned, in deference to the objections of the French Government, prompted by the people of Nice, whose interests the project threatened. But the company are instead to spend £200,000 in constructing new avenues and streets, £80,000 on the erection of an opera house, and to contribute £1,000 to each production (one report says "performance") at the theatre, in addition to the previous contribution to the maintenance of the Prince and his court, and the religious, charitable, sanitary, social, and other public works of the neighbourhood. At the same time, the Prince himself, instead of the progressive increase in his allowance originally asked for, obtains, for himself or his successors, an immediate cash payment of ten million francs, and a further payment of fifteen million francs in 1913—or one million sterling altogether. Such is the price of the renewal of the Casino concession, which has still fifteen years to run.

Of the foregoing payments, only the £200,000 devoted to new streets and roads, can be regarded as expenditure for the benefit of the public, whether natives of Monaco or visitors. The £80,000 devoted to an opera house can hardly be looked upon in this light, because this opera house is notoriously designed for the sole gratification of the Princess. The transaction, therefore, hardly shows the Prince of Monaco in a very engaging or a very dignified light. Indeed, the most venomous assailant of landlordism has never shown up a more impressive example of what landlord rapacity is capable of in the way of appropriating unearned increment.

H. L. SAVORY & CO.'S CIGARETTES.—By Special Warrants of Appointments, to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe Coburg-Gotha, H.S.H. the Duke of Teck, and the House of Lords and Commons. To be obtained of all the leading Houses in the Trade.—Sole address, 59, Piccadilly, London, W.

In regard to the Casino, I have no moral or sentimental feeling, one way or the other. I am not a shareholder; nor am I an Anti-Gambling Leaguer. The place affords amusement to a great many idle people. It probably serves a useful purpose in divesting many fools of money which they are never likely to make any good use of. As a matter of principle, I see no reason why the profits of the concern should not be handsomely taxed by the State, provided the taxation were applied to some beneficent purpose. But it strikes me as a scandal to all the neighbouring Great Powers that a microscopic potentate should be left in independence, merely to use it for the purpose of licensing an international gambling-house on his premises and blackmailing the licensees; and I hold that either or both of the neighbouring Governments would be justified in interfering for the purpose of putting the management of the concern on a less scandalous footing.

When the question of the permanent occupation of Tirah comes to be decided, it may be hoped that the silly notions of Jingo ignoramuses will not prevail against the opinions of the most trustworthy experts in the world. It is understood that a large majority of the members of the Council of the Secretary of State for India are most strongly opposed to the permanent occupation of Tirah, and that their views on the subject are decidedly shared by the Council of the Viceroy.

The more the lodger vote scandal in the Stephen's Green Division of Dublin is investigated the grosser it appears. Many additional cases have come to light in which—as in the cases of the sons of the Attorney-General for Ireland and of the three Judges to whom I referred last week—persons have been registered as lodger voters without their own knowledge by means of forged and fraudulent claims. In several instances the individuals placed on the list, besides being destitute of any qualification as lodgers, are actually under age, and therefore not entitled in any case to votes. Mr. Gibbon FitzGibbon, nephew of Lord Justice FitzGibbon, has denied that he has ever made any claim to the lodger vote which has been conferred upon him, and similar denials are forthcoming from Judge Webb and the Rev. Chancellor Tisdall on behalf of their sons. The most instructive case, however, is that of Mr. G. de R. Engelbach, a lawyer. He was asked to sign a declaration as a lodger in the house of his mother. As the declaration was false, and he knew that he was not qualified for a vote, he refused to do anything of the kind; but, nevertheless, he figures on the register, so that his name must have been forged. This shows the impudent and deliberate nature of the wholesale frauds which have been perpetrated to pack the list of voters in the interests of the Unionist Party—for all these bogus voters are, or are supposed to be, Unionists. Up to the present, nothing has come of the investigations which the authorities are said to be making, but they must be foolish indeed if they suppose that the matter will be allowed to fall through. Any failure to prosecute the offenders will certainly have to be answered for at the meeting of Parliament, which is not now so very far off.

The elections at Plymouth and York do not give us much cause for crowing. The net result is the loss of a seat to the Liberals, and the only matter for congratulation, so far as I can discover, is that we did not lose two. True, the Liberal poll has increased at both places as compared with recent years. But the Tory poll has increased, too, and the increase is obviously more due to the poll being taken on a brand-new register than to any other cause. Everybody knows that the newer the register the bigger will be the working-class vote, and, in consequence, the Radical poll. At both Plymouth and York our candidates were personally everything that could be desired. Bearing these facts in mind, I cannot find in the figures—glad though I should be to do so—any evidence of an overwhelming desire on the part of the electors to eject their present rulers and replace them by a Cabinet of Liberals.

IN FORMÂ PAUPERIS.

AN APPEAL FROM OUR OLD FRIEND, "AH SIN."

Oh, pity a poor Chinee,
Who mobbed a missionaree,
And made his peace
By granting a lease
To Willie of Germanee!

Aye, pity the poor Chinee!
Ah Sin is in difficultee,
And cannot resist
The "mailéd fist"
That is sailing over the sea.

Do pity the poor Chinee,
For useful he may be,
If you'll please contrive
To keep him alive
With a diet of £. s. d.

He has ports some two or three,
With a trade in silk and tea;
So save him from smash,
And lend him some cash,
And then you'll see, you'll see!

You talk most pleasantlee,
But Ah Sin he knows, does he,
That unless you act,
Your words in fact
May be only fiddle-de-dee!

'Tis your liberalitee
Must prove your sympathee;
So a loan produce,
Or 'twill be no use
To pity the poor Chinee!

It seems high time that a strong warning should be given, not only in England, but at the Cape, to young men who contemplate taking service in the Chartered Company's Police. At the end of November there was not a man in the force at Umtali whose pay was not over two months in arrear, while several had received no payment for periods ranging up to four and six months. The food is described as of the worst possible character,

SAHARA (TURKISH) CIGARETTES are manufactured from the choicest Turkish Tobacco, the excellence and regularity of which is guaranteed by the makers, W. D. & H. O. WILLS, Ltd.

comprising only tinned meat of the lowest grade, and a meagre allowance of bread, rice, tea, sugar, and coffee, all of inferior quality. The health of the men had been bad, and their ailments were of a character pointing to bad food. The Company's contracts to supply clothing had in many cases not been carried out, many of the men having served for twelve months without receiving the full kit promised. Bedsteads had also not been supplied, and many of the men were sleeping on the ground. Finally, an iniquitous system prevails of imposing exorbitant fines for the most trivial offences, a sovereign being almost the lowest fine in vogue. Whether the men who have not received pay for the last five or six months have to pay these fines in cash, or are allowed credit until their pay is forthcoming, my informant does not state. Even, however, if credit is allowed, the deduction of £1 on any trivial pretext from pay only amounting to £6. 5s. per month is a monstrous injustice. It is interesting to compare with this scandalous treatment of the servants of the Company in Rhodesia the piling up of millions sterling by the governing ring at home, at the expense of the British public, in the manner detailed in last week's TRUTH.

SCRUTATOR.

JEREMIAH ON THE WARPATH.

IN the *Review of Reviews* Mr. Stead has propounded what he calls "A New Policy for a New Time." Every time is a new time to those who live in it, but in what way the present time is newer than those which preceded it, Mr. Stead does not show at all conclusively. To his mind the novelty of the present situation would seem to be that we are in greater peril than ever before from the aggressive designs of foreign Powers and the competition of foreign traders. He would have us believe that unless we reform our ways at once, national extinction awaits us; and he sees the end so close at hand that he thinks it time to look about for an epitaph on the British Empire. All this, or much else to the same effect, our fathers said, or heard, in their "New Time," and so did their fathers and grandfathers before them. The "New Time" which Mr. Stead finds himself dates back, in fact, at least as far as the Prophet Jeremiah.

In the "New Policy" for this "New Time" the element of novelty seems also somewhat lacking. If I understand it aright, it is that we should greatly increase our Army, continue to increase our Navy, and drop all domestic reforms at present in the air, in favour of improving education, especially technical and commercial education. The New Policy is defined as "Imperialism, plus Common Sense and the Ten Commandments." In China, India, and elsewhere, John Bull is to adopt the motto, "I have dined," and devote himself for at least the next ten years to digesting what he has already swallowed. The ten years' limit seems to indicate that this policy is dictated by Common Sense rather than the Ten Commandments, for Mr. Stead gives no indication of any moral objection to John Bull, as soon as digestion is completed, grabbing and swallowing any further trifles on which he can lay his hands. Moreover, it will occur to many that, to remain in possession of what does not belong to you, against the will of the owner, is directly at variance with the only one of the Commandments which bears upon the point. Mr. Stead, however, finds it consistent with the Decalogue that we should postpone the evacuation of Egypt "until such time as civilised government has been established in Armenia"—which means either till the Day of Judgment or until the Turkish Empire is divided up. It is a strange development of what is elsewhere called "a Policy of Honesty and Truth," that having first seized other people's territory by force, and retained it in defiance of pledges, we can manage to satisfy the requirements of the Eighth Commandment by announcing that we will give it up upon certain conditions fixed by ourselves, and highly unlikely ever to be fulfilled. Apparently, the Ten Commandments would justify me, if I had the requisite force at my disposal, in marching into Mr. Stead's house, and holding it *vi et armis* until the *Review of Reviews* was edited to my satisfaction.

All this, it appears, is the teaching of "Rational Imperialists," as distinguished from "Little Englanders" on the one hand and "Jingoes" on the other. The distinction between Mr. Stead and the Little Englander is clear enough, but what separates him from the Jingo? Apparently a mere matter of ten years. The Jingo would have John Bull gorge himself without pausing until he bursts or expires in an apoplectic fit; Mr. Stead would have him wait for a decade till he has digested his meal, and, in the meantime, prepare himself by every means he can think of for the renewal of his gluttonous operations. To this end everything else is to be subordinated, and, apparently, little else is deemed worthy of consideration. Party Government, we are told, has come to an end; the House of Commons is unable to do its work; Democracy is played out. The House of Lords must be let alone, Disestablishment and Local Option can wait. The "condition of the people question" is to be dismissed with the comforting reflection that the people have got to work harder in future than they have been doing of late, and that provision must be made to get rid of Labour disputes. Education is to receive attention, but apparently only as a means to maintaining our commercial and industrial supremacy. This is the New Policy for the New Time. It is based on the assumption that wealth and empire are desirable, not as means to advancing the happiness and progress of the people, but as ends in themselves, to which all else is to be sacrificed. Pile up riches and increase your territory is to be the rule, no matter what the cost. Let the people toil and moil for any pittance that will keep them alive. Abandon all efforts to enlighten and elevate them, except as wealth-producing machines. Let your political machinery grow rusty, and your social system rot. All this matters not, provided your trade returns increase and your neighbour's landmark is periodically pushed so many miles further back. If to regard this teaching as economically, politically, and morally wrong is to be a Little Englander, then I thank God I am a Little Englander.

A RECORD IN ARSON.

Sixteen out of twenty-two of the jurymen who have been investigating the Cripplegate fire have concluded that it originated in the firing of Messrs. Waller and Brown's premises by some person or persons unknown. Opinion among those who have followed the evidence probably stands in much the same position as among the jury. The evidence is only circumstantial, and therefore not logically conclusive, but it raises a very strong presumption that the fire was the work of an incendiary, and not an accident.

There are several questions of great public moment arising out of the fire, but the most pressing of them is whether the verdict of the jury and the public is to be the end of the legal proceedings. Unquestionably further steps ought to be taken; for, if they are omitted, not only will a crime, which, for the magnitude of its immediate consequences, will rank among the greatest of its kind in history, go unpunished, but a very grievous wrong may be done to several innocent persons. The verdict of the jury, as it stands, implicates every one who was near the point of origin of the fire during the period immediately preceding the outbreak. The owners of the premises, their employees, and any casual strangers who may have been in the warehouse, are all placed under a suspicion which, while it points to no individual in particular, must render each individual extremely uncomfortable, and may prove damaging to many. As only one or two parties, at the outside, can have been concerned in the crime, all the rest suffer unjustly. All placed in this position have a moral right to ask that they shall be put on their trial, and an opportunity given them of establishing their innocence. Apart from this, for no attempt at prosecution to be made after such a verdict as the coroner's jury have returned would be a monumental failure of justice. From the point of view of the public generally, no crime is more pernicious and dangerous than arson, and never have its dangers been more conclusively demonstrated. In a general way everybody knows that if he sets fire to his house he endangers his next-door neighbours. But the "person or persons unknown" who, for a reason or reasons unknown, proposed to have a modest little housewarming in Well-street destroyed—no doubt much to his, or their, surprise and discomfiture—three acres of houses, and came uncommonly near burning down half the City of London. The guilty parties have, in fact, established a record in arson. For this reason there never was a case in which it was more desirable that an example should be made for the benefit of others who may contemplate firing houses in crowded cities. It behoves the police and the Public Prosecutor to spare neither effort nor money in following up the clues obtained at the inquest, and bringing the suspects to justice; and whatever the prospects of a conviction, I hold that, for the sake of the parties more immediately affected by the verdict of the Coroner's Court, the case ought not to be dropped until some of these parties have been placed on their trial.

There are other parties who have serious duties placed upon them by the Cripplegate calamity. First and foremost come the London County Council and its Fire Brigade Committee. No one questions that the staff and the rank and file of the Brigade are all that could be wished for in point of courage, energy, devotion, and knowledge of their duties. No one questions that at the great City fire the Brigade did everything that could be done with the resources at its disposal. But grave doubt exists whether our appliances are the best that modern skill and science can furnish, whether the strength and organisation of the Brigade, and the arrangements for promptly meeting a sudden demand on a large scale, are all that they might be and ought to be. Critics from America and Germany, after studying the facts of the late fire, have unsparingly condemned the Metropolitan Fire Brigade as defective in organisation and equipment. The coroner's inquiry has revealed not a few shortcomings, which are dealt with in the findings of the jury. What is to be done under these circumstances? Steps should be taken as soon as possible to bring the equipment of the Brigade up to date and to improve its organisation. For this purpose common sense suggests that foreign organisations, especially those of America, should be studied, and public opinion would warmly approve the despatch of a couple of qualified commissioners abroad for this purpose. The London County Council has immensely strengthened and improved the Fire Brigade since the days of the Board of Works, and it has always shown the greatest promptitude and zeal in tackling questions of public importance. Those who believe in it will be greatly disappointed if it does not rise to the present occasion. The present Council, it is true, has little more than a month to live, but it could not wind up its career with a better piece of work or go the electors with a better title to their gratitude than by taking steps before the month expires to set the reform of the Fire Brigade in motion. By the time the next Council meets the question will have been forgotten.

Finally, there is the question of the rebuilding of the area cleared by the fire—another matter dealt with in the verdict. Here we pass into the domain of the Corporation of London. One does not look to that body for striking manifestations of activity and promptitude, but I confess I am astonished that nearly two months should have elapsed since the catastrophe without any definite measures being taken by the Corporation—unless it has been done in the strictest secrecy—either to acquire possession of the site with a view to laying it out on a new plan; or, failing that, to prevent the streets being rebuilt on their former narrow, inconvenient, and dangerous lines. As was long since pointed out in TRUTH and other papers, the acquisition of the site by the Corporation could probably be made a highly remunerative investment. At the same time it would be a great boon to those carrying on business in and around the area, who would have been relieved from a heavy tax in the shape of extra fire premiums; it would have greatly reduced the liability of the City to any repetition of the disaster; and it would have opened the way for one of the greatest public improvements of recent years. Is the opportunity to be taken, or to be lost? If the former, the decision will need to be arrived at within a very few days.

A MORAL FROM THE MARINES.

Some of my friends in the Royal Marines have been picking holes in a very interesting article which the *Daily Graphic* published a week or two back on the Royal Marine Depot at Walmer, and the general organisation of the Marines. I dare say that the article may have given an unduly rosy account of the life of the Marine recruit at Walmer, and it seems to have overstated the truth in one or two particulars, notably in the statement that all the recruits at Walmer make and mend their own clothes, boots, and caps. One or two men who have been through the mill state that they never did such a thing during their recruits' course. It is very natural that a Press representative, shown round the place by the Commanding Officer and his staff, should receive an optimistic impression of what comes before him. It hardly seems necessary, however, to reproduce the little criticisms with which I have been favoured. The purpose of the *Daily Graphic* article was to show how infinitely superior the system of training recruits for the Royal Marines is to that of training soldiers for the Army, and how vastly superior the organisation of the Marines is to that of the Line, whether from the point of view of the attractiveness of the Service to the men, or its efficiency for the special requirements of Imperial defence abroad. These two points were made out very clearly, and they are points which cannot be too strongly impressed upon the public mind while the question of Army reorganisation is in the air.

To reorganise our foreign service army on anything like the lines of the Royal Marines would involve a military revolution which it is idle to look for at the present time. But there are two points suggested by the example of the Royal Marines, the adoption of which is within the range of practical politics. The first is the system of training recruits. Years ago it was pointed out in TRUTH, on the evidence which comes before me from inside the Army, that the regimental depots are rotten at the core, and that the system of training recruits in dribblets for each regiment at a separate regimental depot is radically wrong. That view I have never seen any reason to modify, and it seems to be now confirmed by nearly all the more important critics who have been hammering during the last few weeks at the "Condition of the Army." It probably would not be possible to establish one big training depot for the whole Army, in the same way that Walmer serves the purpose for the whole Marine force. Only from 1,200 to 1,500 recruits are required every year for the Marines on their present establishment, whereas 30,000 or 40,000 are required for the Army. A dozen training depots, however, each accommodating 1,500 recruits, and giving each recruit six months' training, would turn out 36,000 trained recruits in the course of the year. The training of men in such establishments could be done infinitely better, and at much less cost to the country, than it is under the present system; and the substitution of such large training establishments for the present system of training recruits after they have joined their battalions would vastly increase the efficiency and trustworthiness of the Line.

The second point in regard to which the Marines can help us over the question of Army reorganisation is the garrisoning of the coaling stations. In our system of Imperial defence the coaling stations fall naturally under the jurisdiction of the Admiralty, and it would be obviously more desirable that the Admiralty should be entirely responsible for their defence than that the duty should be divided between two different Government Departments. The Admiralty could manage the work more cheaply, the Marines could do the work better, and all the evils of divided jurisdiction would be avoided. If, therefore, an increase of the armed forces of the Crown is to be imposed upon us by our present rulers, as the consequence of our reckless Jingo adventures in all parts of the world, I should prefer the increase to take the form of an addition to the strength of the Royal Marines than to that of the Line.

The *Daily Graphic* writer warns us against jumping to the conclusion that we can get as many additional Marines as we want by merely holding up our fingers, and he estimates that it would be impossible under present conditions to increase the force at the rate of more than 1,000 per annum, unless the moral and physical standard were considerably lowered. But precisely the same thing may be said in regard to the Army. As we are now being reminded on all sides, in order to increase the number of recruits you must either give increased pay and improved terms, or you must lower the standard, and in any case your additional men cannot be regarded as efficient soldiers until they have served for at least a year or two. The *Daily Graphic* man points out several particulars in regard to which service in the Royal Marines possesses more attractions than service with the Line, and if he is right in them, as I have not the slightest doubt he is, it ought to be more easy to increase the supply of recruits to the former branch of the Service than to the latter.

THE RETURN OF *THE* CIRCUS GIRL.

There is no remedy like work to distract a mind heavily laden with a sorrow, and Ellaline Terriss has acted wisely in her resolve to bury her grief, and return to the stage she so gracefully adorns. Who will ever forget pretty Ellaline as Dora Wemyss in "The Circus Girl" at the Gaiety Theatre? The refined face, the well-shaped head, with its crown of waving nut-brown hair, the sweet smile, and, above all, the delightful rendering of such songs as "The Little Bit of String" and the new plantation melody which she expresses with so much intensity to her husband, Mr. Seymour Hicks, called "I love you, yes, I love you, yes, I do." The air is full of the fascinating strains of these "darkie tunes" for the moment; in every pantomime and music-hall I hear one, but there is nobody who can impart such tenderness, such meaning, or interpret them more charmingly than Ellaline Terriss. "The Circus Girl" owes half its success to the freshness, innocence, and brightness of this clever young actress, and it is small wonder that she has become so popular, and is such a universal favourite. The British

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public is ever ready to extend its loving sympathy towards its idols and its pets, and the hearts of the vast audience which crammed every corner of the theatre the other evening when Ellaline Terriss made her re-appearance on the stage after an absence of nearly five months, were throbbing and thrilling with affectionate pity.

Miss Katie Seymour, the nimble footed, and the inimitable Edmund Payne have introduced a new doll song composed by the ever-tuneful and melodious Lionel Monckton, which is screamingly funny, and I don't think George Edwardes has been ill advised in exchanging Miss Ethel Haydon for Miss Maidie Hope, who now plays "La Favorita." "The Circus Girl," always bubbling over with merriment, is brighter than ever it was.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

ZOLA'S "J'ACCUSE."

I DO not think much of the style of Zola's last manifesto. It is mere "copy," and wants nerve. He accuses with broad egotism, in separate paragraphs, the War Minister, the head of the General Staff, and all the officers who sat on the Dreyfus Court-martial. It is easy to say nine times over *J'accuse*. Read Zola's letter to Félix Faure, and then compare it with everything Voltaire wrote on Calas. You will then see how much "copy" there is in the one and how little in the other. Every word that falls from the pen of Voltaire is alive, and full of electricity as a torpedo. He forces, by the mere statement of his case, his own conclusion on the reader. What he writes is full of heat, and yet there is not a hot word.

I am not at all sure of the guilt of Dreyfus. But neither his brother Mathieu, Scheurer-Kestner, nor Zola has afforded any reason for believing in his innocence. Esterhazy is a pickle, but that is foreign to the matter. He is descended from the Esterhazy who was so compromisingly intimate with Marie Antoinette, and who was a great rascal. Curiously enough, he looks Semitic, and Disraeli claimed kindred with his family through Father Abraham. What was really against Dreyfus was his rush, his way of climbing over the wall instead of entering at the door, when advancement or opportunities were to be gained. He was, at the École d'Application, a pupil of Colonel Picquart, who did so much voluntary detective work on his behalf. The other pupils said that he "picked the Professor's teeth." This brought him into bad odour. Picquart conceived for him a passionate friendship, and stood by him through thick and thin. The way the Jews have of never admitting that a Jew can be in the wrong tells against him. I am not a believer in officers' justice, at any rate when looked at in relation to technical rules. The charges against Dreyfus may not have appeared convincing to some of the officers who tried him. But they all thought that if he was not unquestionably a traitor, he was an intriguing, selfish fellow, *qui voulait toute la couverture pour lui*. Some members of the court-martial were certainly hostile to him on race and religious grounds. Major Paty de Clam, who investigated the charges and prepared the case for the prosecution, is an out-and-out clerical. The Dreyfus-Esterhazy issue is being rapidly lost sight of. The question now arising is whether a military Government with an anti-Semitic mission would not best suit the times. General Boisdeffre, the head of the General Staff, is not only clerical, but personally enjoys the esteem of Nicholas II. He was constantly with H.I.M. when he was in France to confer on military subjects. Russia, being anti-Semitic, might be glad to see in France a *Gouvernement du sabre et du goupillon*.

Mme. Jouffroy d'Abbans, now in prison for blackmailing, has a varied career behind her. It was all ups and downs. Her real name is Chadoud. She is still fine looking. The face is that of a resolute woman. Her figure sets off handsome garments, but she does not wear the cestus of Venus, and probably never wore it. She sprung up, nobody exactly knows how, at Lyons. Her Spanish adventures were a good deal spoken of twelve years ago. Mme. Jouffroy d'Abbans might pass for thirty-five, but her birth certificate is dated 1842. She would have been over fifty when she induced Vicomte Jouffroy d'Abbans to marry her. He was, when he did so, twenty-two, and a dashing young lieutenant of good fortune. He soon after went to Haiphong, where he obtained a divorce. The decision in the case deprives her of his name and the title of Vicomtesse. She keeps them, nevertheless. *Ce qui est bon à prendre est bon à garder.* Mme. Jouffroy d'Abbans used, before her marriage, to live in an elegantly furnished *entre-sol* in the Rue Royale. She had many friends at the Cercle over the way—the Cercle where Baron Hirsch was blackballed, though nominated by the Duc de Chartres. The Beau Brummel of the establishment patronised her. She said that her relations with him were of a purely business nature. He used to get up the dinners and soirées on board her yacht *Le Jupiter*, which lay at anchor near the Cours de la Reine. Guests were often introduced by him. He made her, and kept her, fashionable. King Alphonso, the last time he was in Paris, went from the Elysée to see Mme. Jouffroy d'Abbans at her *entre-sol*. She had known him in Madrid, whither she followed him to console him for the rough reception he met with from the Parisians. It is said that he used to write to her, and that after his death Queen Christina bought the letters at the price Mme. Jouffroy d'Abbans thought them worth. This lady cultivated military men of distinction both in Lyons and Paris. It was long thought she must be the veiled lady of Major Esterhazy's romance. The reason for seeing in her that mysterious person was her intimacy with Colonel Picquart. He might almost be her son. But in the French Army they like ripe beauty. I believe they always did. Josephine was considerably older than Napoleon.

Baron Mohrenheim will not take back to Russia his collection of Dutch paintings, rare porcelains, and books. They are to be sold by auction. He will coin money by the sale. The Saxony porcelain mentioned in the catalogue decorated the boudoir of the Empress at the Russian Embassy.

The King of Greece must feel very bitter at Russia having fooled him about Crete. He was led to hope that the Czar might, and probably would, support the candidature of Prince George, if the Greek Navy kept quiet. The excuse made for dropping Prince George is that the Sultan (and, of course, also the German Emperor) is dead against him. How could the Sultan tolerate him once King George *declared* war? It is no use arguing that his Hellenic Majesty did not *make* war: the declaring it was insolent bluff, and should be resented. The explanation given in TRUTH about the effect of the King's family policy in bringing about the war is correct.

Such numbers of marriages in high life are taking place in country chateaux. The matrimonial bond is now such a slip-knot that people do not incur the expense of grand weddings. What would cost thousands of francs in Paris only costs hundreds in the country. Another change—men of any kind of good standing or well-grounded hopes of advancement are only to be caught by great fortunes. A dowry of £4,000 is thought of no account. Humble workers, such as professors, artists who make their way with difficulty, and obscure doctors, still marry girls with small dowries. But they do so because they want housekeepers and helpmates. The merely ornamental girl, with £4,000, or even more, had better take to cycling. There is no better mode of preparation for an emancipated career. What I wonder at is that any girl of wealth now consents to marry. The divorce law has rendered matrimonial negotiations far more treacherous and exacting than when marriage was on the indissoluble footing. Each side tries to secure, by means of a legal trap or pitfall, the lion's share. In case of divorce, Jewish girls pick up the best Christian matches—a fact that may hasten an anti-Semitic explosion. Daughters of Israel are now much better educated than their brothers, who are at business when the others are cultivating their minds. The rising, or just risen, generation of wealthy Jewesses, goes in for intellectual and artistic pursuits. They are less Semitic in feeling than the men of their race, and have no objection to "fusion" with Christians. Indeed, I know of some who complain that the prejudice is on the Christian side, and that a young Jewess has no chance of finding there a desirable husband, unless a large bribe in the shape of a dowry be offered.

A Ladies' Art Exhibition is being held at the galleries of M. Georges Petit. It is a rival of the one held annually under the auspices of Mme. Bertaux. The exhibitors know the grammar of their art. But they are held down by self-consciousness and the imitation mania. Why is it that most feminine artists will imitate masculine painters? I have no patience with them. They should try to see and think and feel for themselves, and to fly with their own wings. Frenchwomen certainly have artistic feeling, and in all classes. One sees this in a thousand things. But set them to paint on canvas, and it becomes at once paralysed. They have an ingrained notion that to paint well they should paint like men, and so merely imitate.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

WE are all children, dear Lady Betty, especially those of us who are grown up; but, whether we be big children or small, we have all equal cause to regret the death of "Lewis Carroll," the creator of "Alice," and the discoverer of the Looking-glass world—Alice, the

> "Child of the pure unclouded brow,
>
> . . . .
>
> The dream-child moving through a land
> Of wonders wild and new,
> In friendly chat with bird and beast."

The rich legacy which the late "Lewis Carroll"—the Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson—has left to literature, will live and will be loved for long; whilst the new worlds which Alice explored in her dreams will for ever be regarded as important additions to imaginative geography. For over a quarter of a century, thousands of men and women when in sorrow or in suffering have fled to Wonderland, and have obtained temporary relief in the company of "Bill the Lizard," of the Contemptuous Caterpillar, of the Cheshire Cat which, disappearing, leaves its grin, of the March Hare, the Hatter and the drowsy Dormouse, of the irascible Queen, of the gentle unsteady Knight, and of the host of other crazed creatures who live in the Wonderland of Alice.

. . . . .

In 1876 "Lewis Carroll" addressed "An Easter Greeting to Every Child who loves 'Alice,'" and, in this, the following passage occurred:—"And if I have written anything to add to those stores of innocent and healthy amusement that are laid up in books for the children I love so well, it is surely something I may hope to look back upon without shame and sorrow when my turn comes to walk through the Valley of Shadows." That time has come, and it is certain that thousands of children of every age to-day look sadly towards the Valley of Shadows which "Lewis Carroll" has passed through.

. . . . .

There is no doubt that the admirable designs by Sir John Tenniel which illustrate "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," and "Through the Looking-glass," greatly helped these books to attain the popularity which they achieved. "Lewis Carroll" wrote nonsense — it was inspired nonsense—but it required an inspired artist to illustrate that nonsense effectively. Sir John Tenniel was equal to the occasion. But why did he draw a likeness of Lord Beaconsfield to represent the "gentleman dressed in white paper"? By the way, the new generation is so intent upon amassing pounds, shillings, and pence, and more pounds, shillings, and pence, that it overlooks many of the treasures which those who came before it so greatly appreciated. Some of the most beautiful sketches which Sir John Tenniel has drawn are to be found amongst the illustrations of the 1861 edition of "Lalla Rookh," published by Messrs. Longman, Green, Longman, & Roberts. A time will come when books illustrated by Sir John will be much more sought after than they are, and then this edition of "Lalla Rookh" will be valuable property.

. . . . .

Many instances of the prophetic genius possessed by the late "Lewis Carroll" have already been mentioned in the newspapers. The following very opportune quotation has, however, escaped the notice of every journalist. In the Jay *v.* Sykes case, Mr. Robert de la Poer Beresford was called upon to give evidence. The main question at issue was whether Sir Tatton Sykes had signed certain documents which purported to bear his signature. In his evidence Mr. Beresford said:—

Witness: "I thought he was suffering from incipient insanity. . . . He would go about in ten coats."

Lord Russell: "Ten coats?"

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Witness: "Seven or eight. I can swear to that distinctly, because there were five covert coats, and one or two silk coats."

In the "Hunting of the Snark" there occurs this passage:—

"The loss of his clothes hardly mattered, because
He had seven coats on when he came,
With three pair of boots—but the worst of it was
He had wholly forgotten his name."

* * * * *

In the Estimates presented to Parliament for the year ending March 31, 1897 (Class I.) the three following items occurred:—

E. Hyde Park.

(15.) Erection of a refreshment kiosk, £1,400.

(16.) Provision of electric light at band stand, £250.

(17.) Provision of electric light on foot-path between Marble Arch and Albert Gate, £900.

Every one of these estimates was passed by the House, which ordered the alterations to be carried out. As the officials are now preparing the estimates for the year ending March 31, 1899, it is necessary to point out that the order of Parliament has been disobeyed. The refreshment kiosk has not been built, and gas has been used to light the Park instead of the electric light. "W. R." addressing the *Times* of Wednesday, the 12th inst., as to the lighting of Hyde Park, writes:—"Gas, if used, would be very injurious to vegetation in saturating the ground with poisons, as any one may see where gas-pipes are being taken up." Before preparing the estimates for 1897 the authorities had considered this matter carefully, and, as a result of their investigations, had expressly asked the House to permit the Park to be lit by electric light. It is to be hoped that in the estimates for 1898-9 the erection of the Hyde Park refreshment kiosk will be again provided for, and that Mr. Akers Douglas will be asked to explain why gas was substituted for electric light.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

EVEN the Panglosses of the sporting papers are compelled, by force of the irresistible logic of figures, to express disappointment at the beggarly entries for the Spring Handicaps, and the aberrations and caprices of owners in engaging their horses are indeed utterly unaccountable, for here we find fifty-one horses nominated for a race of £1,000 at Alexandra Park, while there are only forty for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap of £3,000, which is run over a very much better course. The Lincolnshire Handicap (run March 23) has fifty entries, and the race is likely to be considerably cut up, as six stables are represented by eighteen horses, and four other trainers are doubly represented. The Kingsclere stable is not usually dangerous so early in the season, and it is not probable that Hermiston will be seen out at Lincoln. Mr. Low's colt is likely to have a heavy weight, considering his great reputation, and that he cantered away with the only race for which he started last season. The most notable animals in the entry are Voter (the American horse), Gulistan (who might be dangerous if he could be patched up sufficiently for him to come to the post tolerably fit), Bradwardine, Bay Ronald, Bridegroom, Merman, Chelandry, Merle, and Pedant, besides Melange and Crestfallen, two animals which are quite certain to distinguish themselves next season. There is a marked absence of class in the Lincoln entry, taking it all round.

The City and Suburban (run April 20) has fifty-one entries, as compared with sixty-two last year, but time was when the number exceeded 150. For the gradual decline of this once great handicap the miserable flea-skinning parsimony of the Epsom managers is wholly accountable. With the exception of Ascot, Epsom is by far the richest meeting in England, but the programmes are discreditably notorious for their squalid meanness. If the City and Suburban was a handicap with £2,000 added (as might very well be the case), the sweepstakes also going to the winner, then the number of entries would probably be more than doubled, and it would again become a great betting race. The Egerton House stable has four candidates, including Balsamo (who won last year), Minstrel (who cannot stay the course), and Nunsuch, who would probably have won last year's Cambridgeshire if he had been kept for that race. The class is better than at Lincoln, the entry including Melfitana, Cortegar, Bay Ronald, Limasol, Berzak, Diakka, Sandia, South Australian, Kilcock (who cannot stay this distance), Newhaven II. (the Australian horse), Crestfallen, Voter, Eager, Chelandry, Merman, St. Cloud II., and Ashburn. There are very few three-year-olds, the lot, however, including Hermiston, and, if he should happen to win this event, he would be well backed for the Newmarket Stakes, in which race he may meet Cyllene.

The Chester Cup (run May 4) has fifty entries, which is about the average number of the last few years. The Rush (who won in 1896) and Count Schomberg (the winner last year) have both been entered, and Telescope, Merman, Chelandry, Labrador, St. Bris, Nouveau Riche, Ashburn, Dinna Forget, Carlton Grange, Newhaven II., Nunsuch, Jaquemart, Shaddock, Bradwardine, Limasol, and Piety, are well-known names. The best three-year-old in the race is The Baker, but I fancy Sir John Kelk's horse will be reserved for Ascot, when he may "go for" both the Queen's Vase and the Gold Cup.

The Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap (run May 7) entry of forty is really very disappointing, and it is impossible to account in any rational way for the failure of this race, for which no fewer than seventy-one horses were engaged last year. Why should there be only forty entries for this old-established handicap, when there are thirty-nine for a new venture at Hurst Park, which is worth only £1,000, instead of £3,000 as at Kempton Park? In class, however, the Kempton race maintains its old prestige. Among the older horses are Ashburn, Comfrey, Sandia, Berzak, Diakka, Voter, St. Cloud II., Merman, Bridegroom, Eager, Minstrel, Kilcock, Clwyd (who won last year), Crestfallen, Dinna Forget, and Melange. There is a capital entry of three-year-olds, including Dunlop, Alt Mark, Hermiston, Nota Bene, The Convict, Wildfowler, Sugar Loaf (the half-sister to Galtee More, by Gallinule), and Greenan. I hear, by the way, that Dunlop, who has been backed by some geese for the Derby, is not at all likely to be found a dangerous candidate for any classic stake, as he is tolerably sure to discover himself as a non-stayer.

The Grand National Steeplechase ought not to be included among the Spring Handicaps, and it is absurd for the papers to congratulate themselves upon the fact that the entry for this event, at least, is satisfactory. It belongs to quite another class of race. There are seventy-six entries, which is the largest number for more than twenty years. Five previous winners at Aintree have been entered—Manifesto (who was successful last year), Wild Man from Borneo, The Soarer, Come Away, and Father O'Flynn. Rory O'More, who started such a hot favourite in 1896, when he ran very well, and got over all the fences, is entered, and so is Timon, who made the running so efficiently last year. Filbert and Ford of Fyne, who finished second and third to Manifesto, are engaged, and so are Norton and Cathal. Mr. L. de Rothschild has nominated Bevil, who has been talked about for some time as likely to make a good steeplechaser.

Mr. Bottomley is not likely to have any reason to congratulate himself upon having purchased Hawfinch for the ridiculous price of 5,000 gs. If the horse ever wins back half this sum I shall be vastly surprised, and he would not have been sold out of the Kingsclere stable if he had been the best three-year-old in it. I suspect that both Batt and Hermiston are considerably in front of Hawfinch, who has very few engagements, and not one which he is at all likely to win. Ninus will make a pretty sort of example of Mr. Bottomley's steed whenever the pair meet again, nor is he likely, in any future race, to finish in front of Dieudonné, Orzil, or Royal Footstep.

Sir Richard Waldie Griffith is likely to have a promising outsider for the Derby in King of Thebes, by Amphion out of Thistlefield, dam of Merle, whose name has never yet been mentioned in the betting on the Epsom event. King of Thebes ran only once last season, which was when he cantered away with the Cheveley Stakes at the Newmarket Houghton Meeting, a race for which Elfin and Simylla were most fancied, the winner being the extreme outsider in a field of ten, as he was thought to be too backward to have any chance of taking the prize. I believe that King of Thebes, who is a much-improved colt, is likely to turn out a very smart three-year-old if he goes on all right. He is engaged in the Two Thousand, and if he progresses favourably in his preparation, the colt will very likely start for the Column Stakes in the Newmarket Craven week, in which race his 5 lb. penalty is reduced to 2 lb. by a breeding allowance. He is also engaged in the Hastings Plate of £500, which is run on the day before the Two Thousand. Sir R. Waldie Griffith has a nice filly in St. Ia, who has been much talked of as being likely to win the One Thousand, but I anticipate that she will turn out a non-stayer. She has come on very much during the winter, and ought to win some good races if only she is judiciously placed. Sir R. Waldie Griffith has one of the very finest two-year-olds at Newmarket in the filly by Kendal out of the famous St. Marguerite (dam of Seabreeze), who was purchased at Doncaster for 3,100 gs. by Sir Blundell Maple, who, however, was induced (unluckily for himself, as it will probably turn out) to transfer her, for a small profit, to her present owner. She is a magnificent filly, and highly promising in all ways. There is also in this team a remarkably nice sister to Merle, but she is far inferior to the St. Marguerite filly in appearance.

Lord Dunraven's Cowl, by Galopin out of L'Abbesse de Jouarre, grievously disappointed her friends last season, but I fancy she will do better as a three-year-old. In any case her owner has a grand two-year-old in the colt by St. Simon out of L'Abbesse de Jouarre, and a more racing-like animal is not often seen. Another highly promising two year-old of Lord Dunraven's is the colt (first foal) by Bend Or out of Molly Morgan.

A four-year-old that may be expected to win a good handicap over a short course (six to eight furlongs) is Ardeshir, who would probably have won the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood last July with a clear course and a stronger jockey. Ardeshir seemed to go all to pieces after winning a race at Kempton Park in August, but he has come round again, and is now a very nice horse.

Much surprise has been expressed that there should be so few entries for the Auteuil Steeplechase, which is worth over £5,000, and for the Hurdle Race of over £2,500. The fact is overlooked that these events are confined to entire horses and mares, whereas the great majority of English and Irish steeplechasers are geldings. By the way, when will the somnolent Jockey Club exclude geldings from our own classic stakes, as ought manifestly to have been done long ago?—the Utopian theory that the turf exists for the improvement of the breed of horses is a piece of fiddle-faddle moonshine, which is now only mentioned to be laughed at. Only eleven of our horses have been entered for this great Steeplechase, and a wretched lot they are, excepting Count Schomberg and Soliman, both of whom have distinguished themselves over hurdles; but it remains to be seen how they will like the more formidable obstacles which they will encounter if they are started for this event. There are twenty-one entries for the Hurdle Race, including Soliman, who has already won this rich stake, and he will therefore have to carry 13 lb. extra for his victory last year. It was certainly a sad *bêtise* for Lord Durham to weed Soliman out of his stable and retain Son o' Mine, who, by the way, has been sold to Count Foy, and he goes to the stud in France. Soliman's penalty would probably stop him, but the English may have a good candidate in either Rampion, Regret (both horses being cast offs from the Duke of Westminster's stud), History, Bowline, or Up Guards, who is own brother to Count Schomberg. Red Heart has been entered, but I hear it is doubtful whether this horse will again stand a thorough preparation.

The best three-year-olds in France are M. Blanc's Cazabet and M. de St. Alary's Royal Mint II. They have both wintered well so far, and so also has M. Blanc's Manitou, who will probably be a dangerous candidate for our Derby in such a moderate field as is likely to start at Epsom. Cazabet has no English engagement, but Manitou is in next year's Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park, and in the £10,000 Century Stakes in 1900. Royal Mint II. is in the Prince of Wales's Stakes at Ascot, and he may very likely be sent over for that race, as this year it will be run ten days after the Grand Prix, and not only two days later, as has usually been the arrangement.

The Princess of Wales' Stakes of £10,000 for 1901 has again failed to fill, but it is quite likely that the Stewards of the Jockey Club, who appear to be utterly infatuated about this race on its new lines, will accept the number of entries which has been obtained, and, if so, they will act very foolishly. A race of this class from which three-year-olds are excluded cannot by any possibility be a success from the sporting point of view, for in four years out of every five it would be practically a walk over for the "crack" of the season, and it would certainly cost the Newmarket fund nearly four thousand pounds, as it may be assumed with confidence that there would be a huge clear out of hopeless candidates when the first forfeit was declared.

The Newmarket Stakes for 1900 has closed (after having, in the first instance, failed to fill) with 216 entries, and this race would again have collapsed but for the bait of £600 for the public breeders, who have consequently been generous in their patronage. It is monstrous that the Newmarket authorities should set so scandalously bad an example to other meetings by thus diverting nearly a third of the so-called added money (£2,000) from the owners of the horses engaged. It is a great pity that some influential and independent member of the Jockey Club does not call attention to this new plan of thus cutting up stakes, which is grossly unfair to the owners, and it is a device for obtaining entries which, most assuredly, has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished. It is to be regretted that the Newmarket people did not give up this event altogether, for it is universally admitted that there is no room for a big three-year-old stake in the short interval between the Two Thousand and the Derby, and any chance there might be of making the race something of a success is destroyed by the absurd and asinine folly of having neither penalties nor allowances, the inevitable result being that it is practically a walk over for the winner of the Two Thousand (as was the case last year) if he has won that event easily.

Mr. Gould has been forbidden to play football as a member of clubs belonging to the English Rugby Union. This is the edict of the governing body of the Rugby Union. It will be remembered that last year the Welsh people started a testimonial to the great International three-quarter, which was enthusiastically taken up. The International Board declared Gould and all who subscribed to be professionals in a resolution which was a masterpiece of pig-headed buffoonery. The consequence was that no subsequent International games were played with Wales. At the beginning of this season the officials of the Rugby Union, bowing to the storm of indignation which was gathering, resolved that Mr. Gould could play in teams that met English clubs. Had this not been done English clubs could not have met Welsh teams. In other words, Gould was whitewashed, if that operation can be described as necessary. Any dirt that had been thrown at him had been slung, not by English players at large, but by a small body of men who were so blinded by conceit of their logical powers as to declare Members of Parliament and ex-Cabinet Ministers who subscribed to the testimonial professionals. It was hoped that the manly and straight-

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forward speech of Mr. Rowland Hill at the general meeting of the English Union had once and for all set matters at rest. The English Union practically reversed the decision to which its representatives on the International Board had come. Unfortunately the Gould case has not yet been terminated. He played for Bristol on Boxing day. Mr. Rowland Hill, the hon. sec. of the English Union, wrote and said that he could do so. His opinion was clearly the logical deduction from the resolution that Gould could play against English teams. The news, therefore, that he has been forbidden to play in the way described has come as a thunderbolt to footballers. The deliberations of the gentlemen who issued the edict were secret. Rumour says that the reason for the proclamation was a desire to throw a sop to the Scotchmen. If the Scotch and Irish really object to the action of the English Union at the beginning of the season, let them say so in a straightforward manner. No publicity has been given to any objection up to the present. If they do not object, then for goodness' sake let the English governing body and the legislators of the other two bodies exercise their logical faculties of which they seem to have a superabundance. It will no doubt strike them that if a man's status is good enough to allow him to play against them, it is good enough to permit him to play for them. The edict of the Union is not sportsmanlike; it is not English; it is not logical. It looks as though it were an attempt of a clique to gag the almost unanimous majority that passed the whitewashing resolution last autumn.

The question then arises as to whether a body that can be guilty of such unwise and unstatesmanlike conduct can be capable of working the Rugby Union ship through the storms that are rising up on every side. It is impossible to believe that persons who gratuitously go out of their way to create a disturbance are fit for the task. In the matter of the Northern Union, where men who have not been paid for playing are seeking to rejoin the old Union, these same officials have taken up a most relentless attitude. They will not have these players back at any price. I can well understand that they should refuse to give way until payment for broken time is admitted to be professionalism by those who indulge in it. The seceders did not at the time of their secession allow this to be the case. They must therefore force the executive of the Northern Union to make a declaration on the subject if they wish to return to the fold. It would be utterly impossible to allow men to return to play as members of the Rugby Union so long as they consider that to receive six or ten shillings for playing on a Saturday is not an act of professionalism. It might have been difficult to get rid of these players merely for their opinions. But as they chose to secede for the sake of their views, the Union is well rid of them until they repent.

From the way in which the authorities of the Rugby Union are acting it looks as though their personal bias and violent antipathies were allowed to swamp any considerations of policy. Strange as it may seem, amateurism is not confined to gentlemen. There are working men who play the game for its own sake, as Mr. F. Mitchell admits the Barbarians discovered on their recent tour. The uncompromising hostility of the Union officials to those who are seeking readmission, coupled with their unsportsmanlike attitude in the Gould case, is rapidly alienating all feelings of popular support from those who have hitherto striven to work with them in their efforts to keep the Union free from professionalism. Nor is this all. Both in the North and in the West there are rumours that a new organisation will be started. Perhaps it will own allegiance to Wales. Unless these officials rapidly make up their minds to frame their policy on a broader basis they will soon find their occupation gone.

The Marlborough Nomads have followed up their brilliant victory over Richmond by giving Rosslyn Park a bad beating. This club has had a brilliant past, and I hope that the Old Boys will now rally round it. There is no reason why the club should not with proper support become again one of the leading clubs in the Metropolis. Unfortunately, not only Old Boys' clubs but other Metropolitan clubs as well suffer by the existence of Blackheath and Richmond. These clubs are regarded as stepping stones to International caps. The possibility of this distinction is dangled before the eyes of a promising player, and he succumbs to the temptation. The Selection Committee of the South will have to be materially altered before any improvement can be expected in a system which is grossly abused. Does any one believe that a brilliant half like Wells would have been so often left out in the cold had he not been faithful to the Harlequins? What chance have players in such rising clubs as Croydon, Wickham Park, and Lennox of proper recognition? What player in the Old Merchant Taylors or Old Leysians, when they were at their best, was ever selected? Perhaps a remedy would be found if county matches were played on a Saturday. Then play in these games might be recognised as being of some merit.

In other Rugby matches the Gloucester team were unfortunately without the assistance of the brothers Stout, and so they deem themselves very unlucky to have been beaten by Swansea, who spoiled the Western county's unbeaten record. By way of revenge for the success of the Welsh club, Newport had their colours lowered by Moseley, for whom Cattell and Byrne both played excellent games.

Richmond are still down on their luck. They went up north, and found Liverpool much improved since they beat them earlier in the season, and the Northerners were able to score a narrow win owing to some pretty play by Swallow. The good form of the Blackheath halves enabled them to beat Manchester City rather easily.

In Association football the League match between Aston Villa and Sheffield United excited as much interest as the final for the Association Cup. Beaten the week before by Sheffield by a goal, the Aston men met their opponents on their own ground last Saturday. There were only half a hundred thousand people present, and a great game resulted. Again Aston lost. They should have won, for one of the Sheffield forwards broke his nose. However, after Aston had scored from a penalty, he turned out again. Then Cunningham scored twice for the visitors. The fine form shown by the Queen's Park Rangers in the London Charity Cup, when they drew with a very strong Casuals team, drew a good crowd to see the replayed tie. It was a very hard game from start to finish. The Queen's forwards played a neat passing game, but the Casuals held the upper hand, and won by a goal. I have received an important letter with regard to the management of League teams, to which I will refer next week.

At Cambridge Mr. Fletcher has been busy on the Cam. There is no doubt about the thoroughness with which he is undertaking his task. In fact the candidates for the crew have had more tubbing during the last week than the University crew had all last year. No doubt the Old Blues will soon get put through the mill in the same way. It is not too much to say that in recent years tubbing with the Cambridge crew has been at a discount. The Oxford men have always had plenty of it. It would be useless to speculate on the ultimate names of the crew. Mr. Fletcher would not be taking such pains with so many men if he had definitely decided who was going to row. I hear, on very good authority, that Gold, the examinations having been safely overcome, will again stroke Oxford.

It is about time that Roberts and Dawson settled up the terms of their match. After the champion's public statement that he was ready to play he has only one course open, and that is to arrange matters without delay. Dawson in a published interview has made charges of the most serious kind against Roberts. These can only be met by a genuine match. Perhaps it may be suggested that these attacks are as much part of the game of billiards as the paper bluff that precedes an American prizefight. If this be so, the public will soon tire of the game. Roberts, at all events, ought, having regard to his position in the billiard world, to take up the gauntlet that Dawson has thrown down, and settle the matter once and for all.

It is impossible to conceive anything more idiotic than to lay a paper-chase course or to have a cross-country run across a railway line. Yet this was done in the neighbourhood of Glasgow; and a young fellow was cut to death by a

train. In the Thames Valley Harriers' races, Steadman for the third time came in a winner on a handicap framed from Cottrell, the champion, who was not in form. The Finchley handicap was won by Drury, who could have done with much less start. The two leading clubs, Lea and Thames Hare and Hounds, had an interesting match at Chingford. Lea, for whom the veteran Harold Wade turned out, won rather comfortably.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—I cannot help commencing my letter to-day with a word of caution, which is dictated by the very sharp upward movements which have of late taken place, and by the danger which so often arises in the case of the public of their getting in at the top, and before a reasonable reaction has taken place. I fancy that in several directions the danger signal is hoisted, there having already been premonitory signs of sharp declines the moment inside support is withdrawn. This, of course, applies only to a portion of the Stock Markets, and there are other sections in which, on the contrary, there is every promise of a further advance.

Stock Exchange Prospects—A Timely Caution.

Prospects of the Stock Markets generally are undoubtedly favourable, and have become more so through the fresh decline in the value of money, and the virtual collapse of the engineering strike. Neither are there any indications of political troubles. The Far Eastern question is in abeyance, and it is still hoped that a British guaranteed Chinese loan will provide a solution as far as this country is concerned. In fact, if the *Times*' correspondent at Pekin is correctly informed, the British Government has offered China a loan of £12,000,000 on a 4 per cent. basis at par, one of the conditions being the opening of three more treaty ports. There has been some uneasiness with reference to the situation in Cuba, and the riots in Havana are certainly not calculated to encourage holders of Spanish bonds. They have also enabled the "Bears" in Wall-street to engineer a fresh setback in American Rails, and it is just as well to realise that at any moment this little black cloud on the horizon may burst into a storm. At all events, those who have large profits to take in consequence of the enormous rise in such stocks as Canadian Pacifics, Grand Trunks, &c., might as well realise a portion of these on the next improvement, as a sharp break in the American department might naturally affect Canadian Railway stocks adversely. There seems to be also a danger of Argentine Rails getting somewhat topheavy, and it would be salutary if the upward movement in these were to be checked until actual traffic returns are somewhat more in keeping with present quotations. It is, for instance, somewhat rash to put up Central Argentine Ordinary to nearly 90, when no better dividend than from 1½ to 2 per cent. can be expected. Matters are looking more hopeful in the Home Railway market, and if dividend announcements should be at all similar to those made by the Brighton and South Eastern Companies, we may look for a very active and advancing market, especially as the settlement of the engineering trouble will cause further traffic increases, and remove one of the chief difficulties under which our trade has laboured of late. In the Mining department there has been some taking in of sail, and South African shares, which at one time rose considerably above the last make-up prices, have relapsed again. In this department there is plenty of room for improvement, and with careful selection investors may still acquire holdings upon which they will receive good dividends, in addition to the promise of a considerable increase in capital value. The reaction amongst West Australians was a healthy one, and there are signs that it has run its course. At all events, there is no unfavourable news either concerning the goldfields or from the market point of view. My caution, however, applies to the fullest extent to certain gambling counters in the Industrial department, which are being worked for a great deal more than they are worth. Amalgamations and combinations are still the order of the day. Capitals are being watered chiefly for the benefit of the wary promoter or vendor, and shares are being run up to excessive premiums. The inevitable result will be that the public will have to carry the baby, and that some of those who are carried away by the excitement in the market will get hurt very badly. The gamble in petroleum and fish-oil shares, for instance, is distinctly dangerous, and the fact that our American cousins are anxious to unload some of their concerns upon us should act as a warning. With the speculative collapse in Coats before us, who will say but that one of these days people will get as badly caught in the English Sewing Cotton Company?

Home Rails—A Brighter Outlook.

The market for Home Railway stocks has been affected by opposing influences during the week, but from the outset a firmer tone was imparted to it by the prospect of the disastrous struggle in the engineering trade coming to an end. At one time weakness was caused by the Great Central dividend announcement, which was at the rate of 2 per cent. on the Preferred Ordinary, being equivalent to 1 per cent. on the former undivided stock. This compares with 1½ per cent. on the latter stock for the second half of 1896, and caused much disappointment in certain sanguine quarters. Yet it must have been evident to the careful observer that the Directors would adopt a very conservative policy in the distribution of profits on the eve of the completion of the extension to London. The small distribution made shows that something like £50,000 more has been charged against revenue than in the corresponding half of 1896. Apparently a great deal has been spent on new locomotives, carriages, &c., in anticipation of a large accession of traffic as the result of the extension to London. The announcement had the effect of putting down Great Central 1894 Ordinary to 44½, the Prefs. to 72, the "A" stock to 23¼. But I adhere to my opinion that there is at present in these Great Central stocks, and notably in the 1894 Ordinary, one of the few opportunities for obtaining, with a little patience, a very large profit. The connection with London must eventually result in largely increased earnings for this Company, and any one who locks the stock up now may expect to see it at no distant date at par, although, of course, the enhanced profits cannot be earned immediately on the working of the extension being commenced. It was unreasonable to argue from the Great Central dividend, which was declared under exceptional circumstances, against satisfactory distributions on the other leading stocks; and this argument was, moreover, completely disproved by the Brighton announcement, which was at the rate of 8¼ per cent. on the undivided Ordinary, as against 8 per cent. last year; giving 7 per cent. to Brighton "A," against 6¾ per cent. for the year 1896; £7,000 less was, moreover, brought into the account, and the balance carried forward is larger by £4,000. Brighton "A" have risen on this satisfactory announcement to 185¼, and, as I have repeatedly pointed out, even at this level, deducting the dividend, the yield is a good one, viz., about £3. 17s. 6d. per cent. The South-Eastern dividend has been announced exactly in accordance with my anticipation. The distribution on the Ordinary for the second half-year of 1897 is at the rate of 6⅝ per cent., which giving 3⅞ per cent. to Dover "A" for the year, which compares with 3⅜ per cent. on this stock for the year 1896, being an improvement of ½ per cent. The amount carried forward is only slightly smaller, viz., £4,000 against £5,520. Dover "A" have thereupon been very firm between 116½ and 117, and are not dear at that, as the yield, reckoning the dividend off, is about £3. 8s. 6d.

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per cent., while the progressiveness of the line in view of the works now in progress, which will eventually become very remunerative, has to be considered. The enlargement of Dover Harbour should also prove of great advantage to the development of the South-Eastern system. The Great Eastern dividend will hardly be such as to justify a further advance. In fact, of the two stocks I consider Dover "A" more tempting as a purchase than Great Eastern. It remains to be seen what results the other lines will be able to show, and I herewith give again my list of comparisons with the second half of 1897:—

—	Date of Declaration of Dividend for second half of 1896.	Dividend at the rate of per cent. per annum.	Amount carried forward.	Dividend for second of 1897.	Amount carried forward.
	1897.				
Great Central	Jan. 13	1½	£2,400	1	£2,200
London and Brighton	,, 13	8	22,280	8	26,000
South Eastern	,, 14	6⅜	5,520	6⅝	4,000
Great Eastern	,, 14	4¾	50,918	—	—
Metropolitan	,, 20	3¾	14,130	—	—
Do. Sur. Stock		2⅝	—	—	—
London and South Western	,, 21	8¼	24,805	—	—
London and Chatham First Prefs.	,, 22	4½	64,543	—	—
Lan. & Yorkshire	,, 25	5¾	29,140	—	—
Metropolitan District Prefs.	,, 26	2¼	403	—	—
North Eastern	,, 28	7¼	31,602	—	—
Great Northern	,, 29	5¼	8,096	—	—
Great Western	Feb. 4	7¼	42,884	—	—
London and North Western	,, 5	8	99,779	—	—
Midland	,, 5	7	40,036	—	—
Caledonian	Mar. 2	5	17,418	—	—
North British	,, 11	3	1,484	—	—

The market estimate of the Metropolitan dividend is 3⅝ to 3¾ per cent., and of course with reference to the Chatham the full 4½ per cent. on the First Preferred is again expected. On the Lancashire and Yorkshire the same dividend as last year is looked for. With regard to the Heavy lines a great deal must necessarily depend upon any possible increase in charges, wages, &c., and the following market estimates are hardly likely to be exceeded, while they may possibly be reduced:—North Eastern 7½ per cent, Midland 7 per cent., North Western 8 per cent., Great Western 7½ per cent. In the case of the London and South Western the market goes for as much as 8¾ per cent., and in the case of Metropolitan District Preference for 3 per cent. As regards the Heavy lines the settlement of the engineering trouble is of much greater importance than regarding the Southern and passenger lines generally, and should satisfactory dividends be added to this stimulating feature, a considerable upward movement would be quite on the cards. This also applies to Great Northern Deferred, now quoted 61. In the present price the competition of the Great Central is doubtless pretty well discounted, and the result of a favourable dividend announcement would probably be a smart rise, especially as there is still a remnant of the "Bear" account which was piled up at the time when the large additional capital powers applied for were made public. The Scotch stocks have been very strongly affected by the prospect of the engineering dispute coming to an end, and we have now Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras) at 59¼, North British Deferred at 47⅜. Those of my readers who have followed my advice with regard to the purchase of these stocks have fared well, and they may anticipate a further advance. By the way, I hope that the employers in their hour of victory will deal gently with their workmen, and make their return to work without loss of self-respect as easy as possible. The prospects of the underground lines are undoubtedly favourable. The London extension of the Great Central will bring grist to the mill of both, and so has already the Barnum-Bailey Show. In addition to this there is the prospect of working the Inner Circle by electric traction, while in the case of the District several very valuable extensions are in course of construction.

The *Railway News* contains an interesting return of Continental passenger traffic, from which I extract the following table:—

Years.	Calais.	Boulogne.	Dieppe.	Ostend.
1889	262,671	75,808	90,741	97,490
1890	248,758	55,991	106,202	74,113
1891	258,255	83,481	91,501	104,529
1892	248,315	87,700	86,328	104,454
1893	228,231	96,519	84,911	111,681
1894	234,409	119,410	90,507	133,302
1895	260,311	114,883	100,847	153,320
1896	265,600	118,639	89,115	165,228
1897	267,816	123,991	111,648	164,190

It would appear that the figures for the year 1897 have beaten all previous records, except on the Dover-Ostend route, in respect to which the highest total was reached in the previous year. The Folkestone-Boulogne traffic shows a steady increase, which is due, however, not only to Continental traffic, but also to the large passenger movement to Folkestone itself, and to Boulogne for the day.

THE YANKEE MARKET—AN ADVANCE AND A REACTION.

While the general position in the United States remains undoubtedly satisfactory, and traffics of the railroads show considerable increases, the market position in Wall-street has been somewhat unsteady, the chief disturbing influences having been a Cuban and a silver scare. Both have doubtless been greatly over-rated, but the very fact that riots have occurred in Havana, in which officers of the Spanish Army took a leading part, points to the possibility of a recurrence of such events. Fortunately there is a disposition on the part of our American cousins to let Cuba alone for the present, the Jingoism in the Senate having greatly abated. Should, however, by any chance, any American subject be hurt in some of the riots, this would doubtless cause a great outcry. The dishing-up by the *Times* of ancient correspondence concerning the silver question at one time caused a relapse on this side, but New York received the news with great equanamity, and as long as the financial position in the States is as satisfactory as at present, a silver scare is not likely to cause any serious spasms in Wall-street. The Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, Mr. Gage, moreover, is still hopeful of his ability to engineer currency reform. The New York *Financial Chronicle* makes the earnings during the first week of January of sixty-five railroads 6,099,474 dols. (increase 931,285 dols.), and those of eighty-eight railroads during the fourth week of December 11,650,751 dols. (increase 1,463,481 dols.) For the first week of January the Milwaukee traffic return was satisfactory, showing an increase of 100,000 dols., other increases being as follows:—Missouri Pacific, 94,000 dols.; Wabash, 30,000 dols.; Missouri, Kansas, and Texas, 30,000 dols.; Louisville, 23,000 dols.; Chesapeake and Ohio, 16,000 dols.; Southern Railway, 9,000 dols. According to latest accounts, the "Bears" in Wall-street are again displaying a good deal of activity, and those who wish to take a hand in American Rails should go for short turns, there being no imminent prospect of a very big rise. But even during the past week it would have been possible to realise very good profits by adopting this policy. Milwaukee, for instance, could have been bought at 57½, and have since been as high as 99½. Louisville were at 57⅞, and at one time touched 59⅝. Northern Pacific Prefs. were 62¼ a week ago, and have since risen to 66¼, while Union Pacifics stood at 29⅛ a week ago, and have since touched 33. These are precisely the stocks in which a little operation, carefully conducted, is likely to lead to satisfactory results, but it would be advisable to buy only on distinct reactions, and sell on recoveries. Take the Milwaukee road, for instance, which is earning at the rate of 6 to 7 per cent., and will probably announce another 2½ per cent. dividend in March. Milwaukee should, under these circumstances, be worth about par, but whether any further advance is justified would be quite another question, unless the Directors take a very "Bullish" view, and adopt the same course as that taken last November of declaring

2 per cent., and 1 per cent. extra dividend. The Louisville is doing remarkably well. The working statement for the six months ended December 31, 1897, shows an increase in the gross earnings of 461,820 dols., and while the operating expenses have risen only 231,911 dols. there was a gain of 298,761 dols. in the net income, owing to a net decrease in the total fixed charges and other deductions of 102,040 dols., so that the increase in the surplus for the half-year is brought up to 400,801 dols. over that for the corresponding half year, the total surplus being 1,075,043 dols. against 674,242 dols. In view of this position, and of the coming refunding scheme, the resumption of dividends cannot be far off. As regards the Northern Pacific it is generally anticipated that it will benefit very largely by the coming traffic to Klondike, and the earnings are moreover so large, that the full dividend on the new Prefs. is practically assured for the current year. This stock would, therefore, be a good purchase on any reaction. The position of the Union Pacific is greatly improved by the control of the Oregon Short Line and of the Oregon Navigation Company, which the Union Pacific have lately obtained. The following extract from the *Wall-street Journal* is interesting as bearing upon the position:—

> Representatives of eastern parties are arriving at Portland to make arrangements for entering Alaska early in the spring. Conservative railroad men estimate that not fewer than 50,000 men will leave the Pacific North-West for Alaska during the first half of 1898. It is estimated that three-quarters of the number will return within a year and that every man who goes is worth at least 500 dols. to the transportation companies in fares and indirectly for supplies. There is some fear that competition for this travel will run into a passenger war, resulting in loss of profit.
>
> Oregon Short Line is quite a factor in the situation on account of the desire for its control. Union Pacific has quite a large interest and if it could secure a little more might be able to control the property. Other interests including Oregon Navigation are greatly interested in keeping the Short Line independent. The disposition that is made of Oregon Short Line has an important bearing upon the railway business of the Pacific Northwest in the coming year.

The Union Pacific seems, moreover, to be on the point of concluding very important alliances, and it appears that the through lines established by the Northern Pacific and Southern Pacific make it desirable for the roads which have no outlet with the Pacific Coast to have a close traffic alliance with the Union Pacific. As the *Wall-street Journal* puts it, "that Company, with its practically rebuilt track and equipment, will be in a position to do business to great advantage, and the arrangements which appear to have been made seem to assure to the Company a large traffic from eastern connections." The present temporary setback in Union Pacifics will doubtless make way for a fresh important advance, and I quite expect to see this stock at 40 in the near future. In the meantime, Union Pacific New Prefs. have risen to 57½. It will be remembered that the Ordinary shareholders will receive this Preference stock in lieu of the assessment of 15 dols. already paid, and it is expected that the new securities will be issued next month. Other stocks of undoubted merit, and in which short turns can with advantage be taken, unless it be proposed to lock the stock up for a longer period, disregarding immediate fluctuations, are notably the Preference stock of the reorganised Companies, viz., Atchison, Erie, Norfolk and Western, and Southern. I have to congratulate my readers upon the large profits which they must have made in Canadian Pacifics and in Grand Trunks in case they followed my advise to buy these at the much lower quotations current a few months ago. Canadian Pacifics have now improved to 90$\frac{1}{16}$, and on the principle that no one was ever ruined by taking profits, I should personally clear such handsome profits. It is true that the prospects of the road are very satisfactory, especially in connection with the coming boom in British Columbia; but for the present a higher dividend than 5 per cent. can hardly be looked for. Grand Trunks have further advanced to 75¼ for the Guaranteed, and to 66 for the First Prefs. The rise has been continuous and has reached very large proportions. There seems every prospect of the Guaranteed getting its full 4 per cent. in the current year, and from this point of view a gradual further improvement in this stock is justified, although a sharp reaction may have to be faced at any time, should the Yankee market experience a spasm. The First Prefs. at present price are in any case quite high enough, as there is no possibility of their getting their full dividend in the immediate future, and a bird in the hand is better than two in the bush, especially in this instance, as accidents could happen even in connection with the progress of Canada.

FOREIGNERS AND SOUTH AMERICANS.

Interbourse securities have been moderately active, but there has been no general improvement, and Spanish, which at one time rose to 61, dropped back to 60 on the Cuban riots, recovering again to 60⅜. I should be sorry to hold these in view of the precarious financial outlook. Turks and Greeks are slightly firmer, but there is no temptation to take a hand in these under present circumstances. Argentine Government stocks have again moved up a point or two, the 1886 Loan being quoted 94½, the Funding Loan 92⅜, Buenos Ayres Water and Drainage bonds 76¾. The gold premium in Buenos Ayres has now dropped to 164¼, and more of the precious metal is going to Buenos Ayres to pay for wheat shortly to be shipped to Europe. A feature has been the commencement of dealings in Argentine Railway Four per Cent. Guarantee Rescission bonds, which stand at about 63½, and are issued to the various Railway Companies in settlement of the guarantee. Argentine Railways mark a general advance. Buenos Ayres Great Southern are as much as 7 points higher at 157, while Buenos Ayres and Rosario are quoted 78½, Central Argentine 86½ Buenos Ayres Western 12¼. Amongst these stocks that with the greatest prospect of a further improvement is undoubtedly Buenos Ayres Great Southern. Cordoba Central First Prefs. have risen to 95, the Second Prefs. to 51, while Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debenture stock is quoted 61½. Cordoba and Rosario Six per Cent. Debenture stock is firmer at 91. Purchases are also being effected of Uruguay Railway stocks, and Central Uruguay of Monte Video is quoted 85, North-Western of Uruguay Six per Cent. Debenture stock 75½. No further official news has been received from Monte Video with reference to the political outlook, but private despatches are of a satisfactory nature, and the old Uruguay Loan is firmer at 42. I keep to the opinion that, should acting-President Cuestas be re-elected, we shall see the dawn of great prosperity in that Republic. Brazilians and Chilians have been dull. There is now a rumour that a Belgian syndicate is negotiating for the purchase of the Central Railway of Brazil. Mexican Sixes have been firm, and Mexican Rails have maintained the previous advance, but the tone has been somewhat dull. A sharp rise has taken place in Peruvian Corporation stocks to 43½ for the Debentures, and to 11 for the Prefs., on a cablegram from Lima announcing that the Peruvian Government had appointed a Commission to endeavour to arrange a settlement between it and the Corporation. I had always expected that it would come to this.

THE KAFFIR CIRCUS.—MINOR FLUCTUATIONS.

The buoyant tone which characterised the Kaffir Circus at the commencement of the week, when the carry-over in this market was arranged easily on moderate terms, has made room for dulness and a moderate reaction in all but the Deep Level shares which remain in favour. It is somewhat surprising that the excellent December crushings, which marked another splendid record, should have been disregarded in the market, and the weakness has been attributed in some quarters to the disappointment with reference to the Simmer and Jack crushing, of which such high expectations had been entertained. The explanation of this return, which amounted to 5,391 oz. from 23,380 tons crushed, and 2,529 oz. from 11,700 tons cyanided, is, however, according to a cablegram received by the *African Review*, the circumstance that the 140 new plates—which had been running until the end of December six weeks, and the additional sixty plates which were in operation for fifteen days—are the largest in use on the Rand, and absorb a great per centage of gold, necessitating

two months' use before proper recovery is effected. The management, it is stated, are convinced that the subsequent yields will prove quite satisfactory. A cablegram from the Simmer and Jack East, dated the 14th inst., is to the following effect:—"Hammond Shaft.—A reef has been found at 1,850 ft., exposing body of reef 6 ft. to 8 ft. wide, and giving assays as high as 22 dwt. Sinking has been stopped and cross-cutting commenced." Market movements appear to indicate that the important financial houses, who have every now and then given strong support to their groups, have temporarily withdrawn the same, but the present is, evidently, merely an occasional pause, and, the outlook being very satisfactory, I look for a recovery, especially in Rand Mines, now quoted 34¼, East Rands 5 5/16, Consolidated Goldfields 5 1/16. The latter, of course, having a large holding of Simmer and Jack, have suffered from the misinterpretation put upon the return. In Chartered shares a strong buying movement developed at one time up to 3¼, but these have since relapsed to 3⅛. Great efforts have also been made, with varying success, to galvanise the different Rhodesian ventures into life; but the public are not likely to touch these until actual crushings come to hand, and the managers of such mines will do well to strain every point to this effect. As already stated, the shares in the Deep Level mines have been well supported, the following being the present quotation:—Goldfields Deep 10⅜, Crown Deep 14⅛, Nourse Deep 7, Rose Deep 7 3/16, Durban-Roodepoort Deep 4½, Jumpers Deep 6 1/16, Knight's Deep 2 3/16. Greater strength has been shown by the Robinson group, Randfontein at one time rising to 2¼, and receding to 2⅛, while Langlaate Star have been firmer at 1½ on the satisfactory crushing. Were it not for the uncertainty concerning the supply of native labour in that part of the Rand we should no doubt have had a more active market in these shares. The attack which has been made upon the Barnato group in a contemporary has led to interviews with Mr. Woolf Joel on the eve of his departure for the Cape with representatives of *South Africa* and of the *African Review*. According to the statements made by Mr. Joel, who, by the way, proposes to stay six weeks in Johannesburg, two weeks in Kimberley, and to return in April, the position of the leading mines of this group is distinctly improving. He mentioned specially that working costs were being greatly reduced. Thus, the New Primrose, which in February last was working at 21s. 6d. per ton, has reduced its average cost to 18s. 9d. The Glencairn has come down from 22s. 1d. to 17s. 9d.; the Ginsberg from 27s. 1·66d. to 19s. 5·38d.; the Buffelsdoorn from 38s. 1d. to 19s. 6d.; while the Rietfontein "A" shows a total cost, exclusive of redemption, of 19s. 3d. per ton. With reference to the Langlaagte Royal and the New Crœsus, Mr. Joel said that according to his advices it was possible to restart work at a profit. Concerning the Barnato Consols Mr. Joel stated that the Ferreira Deep was probably the most valuable block of deep level property on the Rand, and of this 42½ per cent. belongs to the Barnato Consols and 57½ per cent. to the Rand Mines, Limited. He had already discussed the question of forming it into a public Company with Messrs. Wernher, Beit, & Co., and when he got to Johannesburg the terms would be settled with the local representatives of that firm. The Company would be floated by the Rand Mines and the Barnato Consolidated jointly, but he could say nothing about the details at present. The statements made by Mr. Joel with reference to the New Primrose and Glencairn were very satisfactory, and he wound up by absolutely denying the gossip about his firm gradually retiring from South African business, declaring that their South African interests were larger to-day than had ever been the case in the firm's history. He also considered that the market conditions were promising, and that, to judge from the share registers of the companies, steady buying was going on both for the account of English and Continental firms. The more favourable advices concerning the Woodstock, Transvaal, referred to last week, have been confirmed by the examination of an independent expert, and the shares have recovered to 10s. buyers. Electioneering news from the Transvaal presents no new features, and although Mr. Schalk Burger may make a good showing in the contest, he has no chance of a majority, which seems to be assured to President Kruger. I trust that, when the latter returns to power, he will use his victory in a moderate and sensible fashion. In an interview with a representative of the *Financial News*, Mr. J. H Van Ryn, who has just returned from South Africa, gave some interesting information with regard to the scheme of amalgamation in which the Van Ryn West and Van Ryn Estates are concerned. He stated that his faith in the properties was as great as ever, and that on the occasion of his recent visit to the Van Ryn Estate he organised a rearrangement of the sorting of the ore, from which a great improvement in results is expected, and he thought that the return ought under the new arrangement to approach a yield per ton of 8 dwts. on the plates, and 4 dwts. in the tailings. Last month they obtained from 11,500 tons of ore gold to the value of £13,750, and this would be improved upon. With reference to the Van Ryn West, he stated that the property was doing well, and would do better. Last month fifty-five stamps crushed 8,500 tons, and they obtained gold to the value of £13,800. Mr. Wenz, the manager, had just located a number of rich leaders, and had proved them up to the boundary of the Van Ryn Estate. The strong presumption was that they continue into that property, and are similarly rich there. The capacity of the Van Ryn West mill was eighty stamps, and the amalgamated Company would have 160 stamps under its control, besides which they had a complete cyanide plant. A number of economies were now being effected on the property, and the local management of the amalgamated Company would henceforth be with the Messrs. Albu, of Johannesburg, whose capabilities in the way of economical and effective management of mines are well known. A considerable demand has been experienced for Diamond shares, De Beers having advanced to 30, while New Jagersfontein are quoted 8 5/16.

Golden West Australia.

It is satisfactory from many points of view that the loan of £1,000,000 Three per Cent. Inscribed stock, offered by the Government of Western Australia has met with so favourable a reception. While the minimum was fixed at 95, the applications amounted to £2,891,250, tenders at £96. 4s. receiving about 49 per cent. of the amount applied for, the average price obtained for the stock being £96. 6s. 4d. For the whilom Cinderella colony of Australasia this is very gratifying, even when comparison is made with the New South Wales Three per Cent. Loan, for which an average price of £100. 8s. 4d. was obtained last week. The feature of the week has been the publication of the Sons of Gwalia prospectus, according to which the capital is £300,000, in £1 shares, the Company having been formed for the purpose of acquiring a valuable property near Mount Leonora, in the North Coolgardie Goldfield, concerning which I had been able to give full information in advance. No subscriptions were invited for this Company, all the shares having already been placed, and so favourable is the view held of the property that the shares are already being largely dealt in at 2⅛ or 1⅛ premium. According to a *British Australasian* cablegram, dated the 14th inst., it is computed as the result of recent developments at the North end of the Sons of Gwalia mine, that the net profit value of the ore blocked out or in sight has been raised from £98,000 to £138,000. This calculation is based on an allowance of 32s. per ton for working expenses. At the new find 5,500 tons of high-grade ore have now been blocked out, and the result of numerous assays shows an average value of 3 oz. 17 dwt. to the ton, the lowest assay giving 1 oz. 23 dwt., and the highest 9 oz. 2 dwt. A crushing is also announced from the property of 840 tons of ore for a return of 1,213 oz. of gold, the tailings assaying 35 dwt. The

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following is my usual list of crushings which have come to hand during the week:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Ounces of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per Ton.
Associated Gold Mines ...	1,750	2,355	—
East Murchison United—			
Great Eastern Lease ...	1,060	1,270	10 dwt.
Donegal Leases ...	890	830	4 dwt.
North Star	352	564	9 dwt.
Mountain Maid and Iron Prince...	19	34	19 dwt.
Iron Prince	4 cwt.	106	—
Diorite King	60	102	—
Champion Reef (Nannine)	730	175	—
Sons of Gwalia	840	1,213	35 dwt.
Hannan's Brownhill ...	227	1,339	—
Robinson (W.A.)... ...	660	610	—
Gullewa	169	247	—

Apart from the Sons of Gwalia crushing, the returns of the Associated Gold Mines and of the East Murchison United call for special mention. The latter shares are firm at $1\frac{1}{8}$ x.d., and would appear to be very cheap at this figure. The most remarkable result is, however, that of the Hannan's Brownhill smelting, which shows 6 oz. to the ton. No wonder that, in spite of the recent "Bear" raid on these shares, a smart recovery has ensued which has put the price up to 8 x.d., the dividend of 5s. per share having just been deducted. If the ursine party were to commit themselves to any extent in such shares as Hannan's Brownhills and Lake View Consols they would probably have to go through a very disagreeable experience. Lake View Consols were at one time knocked down to $10\frac{1}{4}$, but have since rallied to 11; and Ivanhoe shares have been firm at $6\frac{3}{8}$. London and Globe Finance shares have not been quite so firm, the "Bears" having also evidently been active in these, so that the present quotation is easier at $2\frac{3}{8}$; but in view of the large profits recently made by this Corporation we may look for a fresh advance. Lady Shenton shares have during the past week been a strong market at $2\frac{1}{8}$-$\frac{3}{16}$, and the "Bear" attack, which was again attempted on Monday, will doubtless recoil on its originators. As my readers are aware, the dividend of one shilling per share is payable on the 19th inst., and is still included in the price. London and West Australian Exploration shares have been strong at $1\frac{5}{16}$, and a good deal of business has also been transacted in Consolidated Murchison shares at 6s., this Company being also a member of this group. Great Fingall Reefs are steady at 8s. A further improvement has taken place in Burbank's Birthday Gift to $1\frac{7}{8}$, and there are indications that the other Burbank's mines will come into favour. Belle Vue Proprietary have been steady at 1, and Brownhill Central have come into demand on the favourable advices received from the mine, the shares being up to $1\frac{5}{8}$. According to a cablegram just received, high-grade ore has been struck in the property in the winze between the 100 ft. and 200 ft. levels from No. 7 shaft at a depth of about 180 ft. from the surface. A satisfactory crushing has been announced by the Robinson Mine, 660 tons having yielded 610 oz. of gold. This brings the total returns to date up to 7,391 oz. of gold obtained from 5,243 tons of ore crushed. The Venture Corporation reports the receipt of a cablegram from the Crœsus Consols property, situated at Hannan's, according to which the present depth of the Diamond drill hole No. 2 is 475 ft., the lode being wide and carrying much mineral. The Market Trust group has been firm, and Associated Gold Mines have risen to $4\frac{1}{4}$, while W.A. Market Trusts have been largely dealt in at $1\frac{5}{16}$. Northern Territories have hardened to $1\frac{3}{8}$. I notice that at a dinner given to the employees of the Joint Stock Institute, which Mr. Horatio Bottomley is now closing, the statement was made by that gentleman that the work he had started would be continued under the auspices of the West Australian Market Trust. In an interview which a representative of the *Financial News* had with Mr. Bottomley, the latter mentioned that it was just possible that before the year was out he might invite the leading journals and financial groups to let him take their representatives out to the colony, and, in company with Sir William Crooks—the most eminent of all their scientific men on the treatment of auriferous ores—and Mr. Kaufman—by far the best engineer they had had in Western Australia—show them on the spot something of the wealth and resources of the country. This is indeed enterprising. West Australian Gold Fields have been dull at $2\frac{5}{16}$, and Hampton Plains, after reacting, are slightly firmer at $1\frac{3}{16}$.

INDIAN, AUSTRALASIAN, AND BRITISH COLUMBIAN MINES.

In the Indian section a good deal of strength has been developed during the week, and fresh advances are marked, more especially in Mysore West and Wynaad, Ooregum Prefs., Balaghat, and Mysore Reefs. In Australian mines, other than West Australian, Aladdin's Lamp are slightly firmer at $1\frac{3}{4}$. Mount Morgan have improved to $4\frac{9}{16}$ x.d., and Broken Hill Proprietary are the turn firmer at $2\frac{1}{16}$. Mill's Day Dawn United have also hardened, and so have Croydon Consols, now quoted 4s. 6d.; but Mount Lyell have receded to $13\frac{3}{8}$ xd. In the New Zealand section declines have preponderated, notably in Kapanga, Waitekauri Extended, Hauraki, and Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand; but Waitekauri have hardened. British Columbian mines have been a little more active, and slight improvements have occurred in Golden River Quesnelle, which are quoted $1\frac{1}{4}$, while London and British Columbian Goldfields are also better. A great many rumours are again current with reference to the Klondyke goldfield, and the assertion has been made that the "mother lode" has been discovered, but these and many other tales should be taken cum grano. It would also be unreasonable to take altogether a pessimistic view, and as such I must characterise the following communication which has been addressed by a consulting engineer who has been connected with gold and silver mines in nearly every quarter of the globe, and is at present in London. He has given close attention to the possibilities of the Klondyke, but has not, as he says, "Klondomania." I will let him speak for himself:—

> My investigations have led me to the discovery that there is up to date not one perfect title to a gold-mining claim in the Klondyke or Yukon regions. Of course, there are "squatters'" deeds, which are worthless until ratified. This fact commends itself to me as offering a cause for great caution on the part of investors. The truth or falsity of my statement should be verified through proper official channels, and investors should wait before embarking in a ship that may never return. This letter is not written with an object to attempt to injure any particular Klondyke enterprise, and I have no interest in any Company operating in that region. However, my information is derived from a gentleman who is connected with a large Company in America, and who has just returned from Canada. His Company has delayed coming before the public in America for the very reason that the validity of the claims (all claims) is a mooted question.
>
> Should not capitalists be slow to subscribe to Klondyke Companies until a little more is known of the region; until the titles are cleared; until all the fables which we have heard have been verified or refuted, and until competent, conservative, and disinterested engineers have given their opinion? It is true that we have the statement of Mr. Ogilvie, who is a highly-competent gentleman—yet he may be too enthusiastic; again, he reflects the policy of the British Columbian Government which is to colonise its territory, &c.
>
> The lesser fry who have given their opinions were mostly never heard of before. In the Choco district of South America I have known of finds as fabulous as those of Klondyke, yet they were only occasional pockets; while an Indian woman can get rich from the working of these placers, all the Companies that have been formed have been abject failures. Yet the district, which is scarcely inhabited while the gold is only worked by the women, gives 1,000,000 dols. in gold yearly, and has done so from the time of the Spanish Conquest. The discovery in Klondyke of the "mother lode" is a desideratum of great importance.—Yours, &c,
>
> AN ENGINEER.

The point about the security of the title is one of great importance, and I shall be glad if some of my readers who are in the possession of information on this subject will express their views on the same. At the statutory meeting of the British America Corporation, held on Tuesday last, the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, who presided, made a very hopeful speech with reference to the position and prospects of the Company. He stated that under the advice of experts, in whose scientific knowledge and experience they had every confidence, they had become possessors of certain properties from the development of

which they believed very considerable advantage and profit would accrue to their shareholders. With regard to the options secured he was able to state that they had already acquired the cream of the various enterprises referred to. They had also acquired all the long list of mines in the Province of British Columbia as enumerated in the prospectus, and these were acknowledged to be amongst the richest, if not the richest, in that province. The evidence of the richness of the claims acquired in the Klondike district was of such a nature that it was difficult to describe it, but all the contracts with regard to these properties, were subject to the condition that they should have the right to examine and thoroughly test them by their own experts before taking them over. Only one option acquired by the Corporation, and mentioned in the prospectus, that on the Alaska Commercial Company, had not been exercised, owing to the exaction of provisions on the part of the vendors which were not acceptable. Lord Dufferin concluded by reading a very rose-coloured cablegram from the Hon. C. H. Mackintosh, late Lieut.-Governor of the North-West Provinces, which was as follows :—"The British America Corporation has secured and holds the key to a majority of the golden treasure-houses of British Columbia. We shall practically control the mineral resources of this province. I predict a brilliant future for the Corporation, and congratulate the shareholders." It would have been impossible for the ex-Lieut.-Governor to have said more.

THE ANGLO-INDIAN BANKING CORPORATION, LIMITED.

In a recent issue of my Calcutta contemporary, *Capital*, reference is made to a new venture which was formed in this country in April last, under the high-sounding title of the Anglo-Indian Banking Corporation, Limited. The nominal capital was £200,000, divided into 20,000 shares of £10 each, and the vendors, the Alliance Debenture Corporation, financial and commission agents, of Bombay, sold to the Company, under an agreement dated April 8, 1897, whatever they had to sell, for £105,000, of which £5,000 was to be paid in cash and £100,000 by allotment to the vendors of 10,000 fully paid-up shares in the Company. The public do not appear to have taken very kindly to this concern, as up to May 27, 1897, when a return was filed at Somerset House, only 187 shares had been subscribed for. As the vendors are entitled to £5,000 in cash, it is evident that this would altogether swamp the amount of cash furnished by the public. The curious part about the matter is that my contemporary, *Capital*, has been unable to discover the valuable business carried on by the Alliance Debenture Corporation—which has been sold to the Anglo-Indian Banking Corporation for £105,000—in the *Bombay Directory*, the latter having been searched in vain for any such Corporation! *Capital* has, however, obtained the information that the promoter of this Bank with the high-sounding name is a Parsee gentleman, named Pestonjee Hormusji Wadia, and that the establishment at 71, Apollo-street, Bombay, consists of this gentleman and two clerks. That also seems to be the number of the staff of the Bank at the London offices, at 226, Winchester House, Old Broad-street, E.C., unless some of these gentlemen were temporarily absent when my representative had a look round. What I should like to know is what kind of business the Alliance Debenture Corporation has sold to the Anglo-Indian Banking Corporation at the high figure mentioned. Perhaps the London representatives of the Corporation will furnish this information?

NEW ENTERPRISES AND ISSUES.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week :—

Illinois Central Railroad Company.—This is an issue of 10,000,000 dols. of the Louisville Division and Terminal First Mortgage Three and a Half per Cent. Gold bonds repayable in 1953, and for 5,000,000 dols. similar bonds falling due in 1951. The bonds form part of an issue of 20,000,000 dols., and are under the restrictions provided in the mortgage. The issue price is 93⅜ per cent., or equal to £196. 15s. per 1,000 dol. bond. Applications are to be made to the Bank of Montreal, 22, Abchurch-lane, London, E C.

Liverpool Corporation Stock.—The Bank of England are authorised to receive tenders for £1,500,000 of Liverpool Corporation Stock, bearing interest at 2½ per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly. The minimum price of issue is £98 per cent., and the stock is redeemable at par at the option of the Corporation after January 1, 1923. The stock will be secured upon the revenues of the Corporation, and will rank equally with all stock issued by the Corporation under the Liverpool Loan Acts of 1880 and 1894. The proceeds of the present issue are to be applied to tramways, electric lighting, and other purposes.

The American Fisheries Company, Limited.—This Company is formed under the laws of the State of New Jersey, U.S.A., for the purpose of acquiring the principal works and steamers now engaged on the Menhaden fisheries on the Atlantic coast, for the purchase from the Fish Oil and Guano Syndicate, Limited, of the patent rights by the Stanley process for the treatment of fish, fish offal, and fish oils, and for other purposes. The capital is fixed at 10,000,000 dols. in 5 dol. shares, divided into 400,000 Seven per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares, and 1,600,000 Ordinary shares. The present issue is of 200,000 Preference shares, and each subscriber of 100 Preference shares will have the option of subscribing for fifty Ordinary shares at par, viz., £1. 0s. 10d. per share.

This is a Yankee promotion. Our American cousins are not in the habit of selling us the best of their industrial enterprises, and this Fisheries Company is, to say the least of it, a highly speculative venture. It would be as well that the capital should be raised in the States.

Spencer, Santo, & Company, Limited.—With a share capital of £300,000, divided into Preference and Ordinary shares of £1 each, this Company has been formed for the purpose of developing a building estate at Felixstowe and another at Linford, near Tilbury, and to acquire and carry on the building business conducted under the style of Spencer, Santo, & Co.

This is a concern that had far better be left to private enterprise, as it is very speculative. It would have been as well had the returns of the business acquired been given for the past three years, instead of only for thirteen months.

The Sons of Gwalia, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and developing gold mining leases known collectively as the "Sons of Gwalia," situated near Mount Leonora in the Mount Malcolm district of North Coolgardie Goldfield, Western Australia. The capital is fixed at £300,000 in shares of £1 each, of which £50,000 is provided for working capital. As the whole of the capital has been subscribed, the prospectus is advertised for public information only.

The Central Supply Company, Limited.—With a capital of £200,000, divided into 100,000 Six per Cent. Preference shares and 100,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each, this Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and carrying on under one management the businesses of provision and general storekeepers and contractors. Thirty retail establishments in various districts of London have been acquired. The present issue is of 65,000 Preference and 50,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each.

MY LETTER BOX.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents :—

GOVERNMENT, &C., BONDS.

Beaulieu.—1. Buenos Ayres Water and Drainage bonds now pay 4 per cent. interest, but the full 5 per cent. dividends will be resumed this year. The sinking fund was suspended by arrangement until January 12, 1901. *F. D. E.*—The rise in Peruvian Corporation stocks is due to the news of a fresh endeavour on the part of the Peruvian Government to arrange matters with the Corporation.

BANKS, TRUSTS, AND FINANCIAL.

Major, R.A.—What you require has been forwarded in your envelope. *Mrs. J., Leeds.*—You had better apply to the Court of Chancery. I cannot reply by letter. *Moss, Brighton.*—Canadian Pacifics, Northern Pacific Prefs., Uruguay Three and a Half per Cent. bonds, Grand Trunk Guaranteed, and Mexican Sixes should suit you. *Hifa.*—There is no reason why you should not invest in Trust Companies' stocks, if these are well selected. For instance, the Mercantile Investment and General Trust Preferred, which are receiving 5 per cent. interest, are quoted 108-9; the Foreign, American, and General Investment Trust Five per Cent. Preferred stand at 120; and the Four per Cent. Preferred of the Investment Trust Corporation at 102. I suppose this is the kind of yield you require. *Nemo, Southampton.*—I should not like to take the responsibility of advising investment in this kind of undertaking, for which a great deal more is claimed

CHINA AND GLASS. — Messrs. GOODE, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

in the prospectus than it actually merits. *T. L. H.*—In the case of a speculative account it is generally a custom here for brokers to charge commission on the purchase, and also to charge a small commission on the continuation; but not to charge any commission on the shares when sold. *Norman.*—I should advise you to have absolutely nothing to do with any of the outside brokers mentioned by you, but to deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. Many of the firms mentioned are in a very precarious position. *F. W.*—Douglas, Hungerford, and Williams have absconded with all the money, and I understood that the police had taken charge of their offices. If there were any money to get hold of, the Court of Bankruptcy would doubtless have interfered in the matter, but apparently there is nothing to divide. It is a great pity that, in the teeth of my emphatic warnings, you ever had anything to do with these swindlers. *Constant Reader, Barrowdale.*—I strongly advise you to have nothing to do with the syndicate touts who are working under the name of the "New Limited Syndicate." I already referred to this concern last week, and am again doing so in this issue under "Various Investments." *Weekly Investor.*—The address of the *Investor's Review* is Norfolk House, Norfolk-street, Strand, W.C.

HOME RAILS.

R. N. P.—Yes, you should certainly hold Great Central 1894 Ordinary, on which another dividend distribution is to come off. The prospects of the line on the completion of the extension to London are moreover excellent.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN RAILS.

Trust.—There is no objection to your investing in the American Rails, Nos. 1 and 2, mentioned. *C. B. W. B.*—In view of the very promising present position of American Rails, I should advise you to hold the stock mentioned for a further improvement. *Ibis.*—The bonds in question are very doubtful, and I have always warned my readers against them. Prospects of the line are very poor. *J. W.*—1. The fact that the Savannah Company passed its dividend in 1897 has no effect upon Alabama Midland Five per Cent. Gold bonds, as it rather strengthens the guarantee. 2. Certainly hold; the reorganisation of the Baltimore and Ohio can only benefit these bonds. *Tulpa.*—The American gold bonds and other Debentures mentioned by you will yield about the return required, and they are well selected.

MINING SHARES.

P. H.—Brownhill Central should be held for an improvement, advices from the mine being favourable. *Angola.*—1. You should certainly hold Randfontein for a rise. 2. The amalgamation of the Hannan's Golden Treasure, Golden Group, and other mines is expected to be completed within the present month, and you should hold. 3. Yes, certainly. 4. No, I should not buy any of these South Africans now. 5. No. *Constant Reader, Torquay.*—You should not take any notice of this twaddle. The Barnato stocks will no doubt recover in sympathy with the rest of the South African market. *Anxious, Cardiff.*—On British American Corporation shares 10s. per share was payable on application, and the same sum on allotment. They are, therefore, fully paid, and can be purchased at about 3s. 3d. premium. You would not have to pay for them until the special settlement has been fixed, which will probably be in about two months' time. *Leamington.*—I stated the position of the Woodstock (Transvaal) in last week's issue under "The Kaffir Circus." You should hold, and buy more to average. 2. The amalgamation of these Companies is to be effected under the auspices of the London and Globe in the course of the present month. *Sold.*—Hannan's Golden Treasure and Golden Group are not worthless, but are quoted every day on the tape. Moreover, the amalgamation of these with other Companies is to be carried out this month under the auspices of the London and Globe Finance Corporation. *T. S. E. M.*—Yes, Consolidated Murchison are a good purchase for a rise. *Audoenus.*—1. All your South African mining shares should be held for a rise. 2. These South African Land and Finance Companies should also be kept for an improvement, including the various Rhodesian shares in which you are interested. 3. Write to the Secretary, at 19, St. Swithin's-lane, E.C. 4. I think you might average Preece's Point (*d*); but the other shares you should leave alone for the present—at any rate, until more information is available. *R. G.*—I cannot trace anything with regard to the concern you mention. *Ivel.*—1. A settlement of the New Ivanhoe Company is expected in a few weeks' time. 2. Another dividend on Lake View Consols should be payable shortly. *Spec.*—1. Langlaagte Estate shares have not improved, as there is some labour trouble; but as soon as the mine receives its full complement of native labour it is expected to do better again. 3. Langlaagte Star have hardened to 1¾, and the recent returns have been very satisfactory. 4. Langlaagte Block B and Randfontein should be held for a considerable advance. 5. No option but to hold. *R. F.*—No; I should not advise a further purchase of Hannan's Star. You can do better in the other Westralian shares mentioned in my letter. *Dive.*—The mine is in a good position and not far from the Sheba, and it is therefore possible that favourable developments may be reported some time or other; but, of course, speculating in mines is not dealing in Consols. The other Company mentioned is a good industrial undertaking, and should turn the corner. *L. B.*—1. Yes, you had better buy more to average at the present low price. 2. I gave full information in last week's issue under "The Kaffir Circus." 3. Hold; but do not buy more to average yet. *Nevada.*—You will do well to hold all your mining shares, A, B, and C, for an improvement, the position is much better than would appear on the surface. *Castle.*—Hold Goldfields of Lydenburg for an advance. *Eblana.*—I do not think much of the Company in question, and there is very little market for the shares. *A. R. E.*—You cannot resist the call in question, unless you can prove misrepresentation in the prospectus, and are prepared to incur considerable expense in going to law over the matter, the issue of which would still be very doubtful. *New Club.*—For the investment of your £1,000 in good, sound, dividend payers in South Africans and Westralians, I should recommend in addition to the shares Nos. 1 to 7 you now hold, and which you should keep, Langlaagte Estate, New Primrose, Goldfields Deep, Barnato Consols, Lake View Consols, Ivanhoe, Associated Gold Mines, Hannan's Brownhill, and Lady Shentons. *F. S. H.*—You have done quite right in buying Great Boulder, Lady Shenton, Lake View Consols, and Hannan's Brownhill, and I have no doubt that in due time you will see a very considerable profit on your holding. *Cestria.*—I do not care for the Anglo-Australian Exploration Company. *Grand.*—1. Yes, I think it is advisable to average Great Fingall Reefs, in view of their improving prospects through their interest in the Sons of Gwalia mine. 2. Impossible to tell. 3. You are quite right, these shares are rubbish. *Progress.*—I have never held a favourable view of the West Australian Minerals and Finance Company, neither do I like the Lady Montefiore group, and the news about the assays should not be taken as applying to any possible output. The document is returned. *T.*—1. You should disregard this twaddle. 2. These should come along again. 3. See remarks in last week's issue under "The Kaffir Circus." 4. You are quite right; it is curious that Randfontein should hang fire, but you may be quite sure that eventually they will experience an important improvement. *Melampus.*—No; I do not hold a favourable opinion of the shares Nos. 1 to 4. *Grappler.*—The address of the Australian concern is Blomfield House, London Wall, E.C., and the other Mining Company's offices are at 10-11, Austin Friars, E.C.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

R. B.—I do not think much of the first-named Company, neither do I consider Swan and Edgar a very good purchase just now. *Red Rose.*—Yes, this Company is in the hands of the receivers, owing to the non-payment of the interest on the bonds; but I do not consider it advisable to sell now. *E. L. H.*—I do not think that there is any considerable risk in holding the Brewery shares in question, and you should hold. I cannot advise you as to the Hotel du Nord shares. *Swords.*—The trouble about French Dunlops is, that they have fared very badly in the French law courts with their patent litigation, and I do not think anything can be done in the way you suggest. *Novice, Sheerness.*—When a special settlement is granted for a Company, the shares have to be paid for, and the differences adjusted in the dealings which have taken place between the formation of the concern and the settlement. *Carnation.*—It seems to me that there is no option but to hold the shares Nos. 1 and 2 for a recovery, which is possible, although not immediately expected. *G. T. L.*—If you are content to await results, I think your selection of American Breweries would be promising. *E. S. R.*—This Company has not been doing well, and there is no quotation for the shares at present. *A Stair Terrier.*—The Dwellings' Company is a new undertaking which may work into a favourable position, but at present no results have been achieved. The other concern is one of those Powder Companies which have not as yet met with any success.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Investor, Brockley.—1. A good investment. 2. A fair Industrial share. 3. There is nothing against Midland Railway of Canada First Mortgage bonds, which are now quoted 107-9, and there is no reason to sell. 4. A fair investment, but no catch. 5. If you want to buy Grand Trunks, you had better effect a purchase of the Guaranteed and not the Prefs., least of all the junior Prefs. *Rovert.*—Hold all your South African and Westralian shares for an improvement. I anticipate a further rise in Argentine Government stocks, and if you are not in a hurry you might as well hold for a further profit. Turn over these Grand Trunks at a moderate profit. *Princess.*—Instead of buying the shares mentioned, you should make a purchase of the Westralians enumerated in my letter. *R. N. D.*—1. I think your Anglo-American stocks are quite high enough, and you might as well clear your profit. 2. It is still hoped that the reef will be struck. No. 3 should be held, and there is no option but to keep No. 4 in the hope of favourable developments. *Kappa.*—1. North British are on the up grade, and I advise you to await a further improvement. 2. Grand Trunks may further advance, but, apart from the Guaranteed, I should not hold too long. 3. Uruguay bonds should suit you. 4. These are quite high enough. *Y. P. B.*—I am glad to hear that you did so well in London and Globes on my advice. 1. There is no option but to hold these Brewery shares. 2. You will find what you require in my letter under "Golden West Australia." For instance, Consolidated Murchison at 6s. 6d. should suit you. *P. B. M.*—1. No; I should not advise you to average. This is a very disappointing concern, and it would be better to buy something else. 2. A fair industrial investment. *S. S. C.*—1. Chatham Ordinary are a fair purchase at present price. 2. A fair industrial investment, but no catch. 3. Yes. 4. If it is worth the while of these people to make this offer, it should be worth your while to keep them. *Fors.*—1. No reason to sell the Deep Level

shares or Consolidated Goldfields now; but South African Gold Trusts may as well be sold as you have a fair profit on them. 2. Hold Inter Oceanic of Mexico for an improvement, especially as you have still a considerable loss to cut. 3. Hold Cedulas. *O. K.*—1. You might buy British America Corporation shares by preference. 2. Yes. 3. Impossible to tell. 4. I do not think much of these. 5. Dividends can hardly be resumed yet. 6. I have a very bad opinion of Artificial Silks. 7. No; I do not hold any better opinion of this concern. 8. I do not think much of this concern. *G. S. H.*—1. No reason to sell these Debentures. 2. A good American Railroad bond. 3. No reason to sell now. 4. Hold Denver and Rio Grande Fours for a rise. *Randfontein.*—I cannot tell you why Randfontein do not improve, as the position is promising. German Threes are quite high enough. *H. H. H.*—I do not advise a purchase of the Australian debentures (1), but there is nothing against London and County Banks (2). The cycle shares, No. 3, are not promising. No. 4 is a fair investment, and No. 5 should move up again, while No. 6 is a fair industrial undertaking. No. 7 is no catch. *M. W., Bath.*—Grand Trunk Guaranteed are not cumulative, and therefore arrears of interest cannot be paid. They stand each year on separate terms. I cannot tell you yet when the Dunlop Company will pay a dividend this year. *Uncertain.*—1. You should hold Missouri, Kansas and Texas for an advance. 2. Yes. 3. A fair mining proposition. *O. P., Dresden.*—Yes, Great Central 1894 Ordinary is in a promising position, and the present price is 44. There is no reason who you should not buy London and Westminster Bank shares, but you must consider the liability. Canadian Pacifics are a good purchase. *Saint.*—A. An improvement is possible. B. I do not think much of this. C and D. Fair industrial investments. *M., Rugby.*—The two Industrial Companies first mentioned are fair value. As regards Brum Deferred, it is the Deferred stock of the London and North Western Railway, issued by the Stock Conversion Trust, and the present price is a moderate one.

VARIOUS INVESTMENTS.

Notwithstanding recent withdrawals of gold, and rumours of further shipments, the money market has shown further ease, and the floating balances are so large that short money has in several instances been obtainable at 1 per cent., the ordinary rate being about 1½ per cent. Rates of discount are also easier, three months' bank bills being quoted $2\frac{3}{8}$—$\frac{7}{16}$ per cent. I am still of opinion that these low rates are exceptional, and that in view of the greater activity in trade, we must not look for a continuation of these figures, and even less look for a further decline. After dropping to 112¾, the closing quotation of Consols is 113 for the account. As I anticipated, the negotiations about a Guaranteed Chinese Loan are likely to prove protracted, but there seems a fair chance of the Celestials coming to terms. Silver has improved to 26⅝d., and Rupee Paper is firmer at 63⅜. The Chinese and Japanese Loans have further advanced, the Chinese Silver Loan rising 1 to 102, while Japanese Bonds stand at 102½. In the Cycle section business is still in the dumps. Dunlop Deferred are lower at 10s., French Dunlops 4s. x.d. Humber Ordinary are quoted 15s. 9d., ditto Extensions ½, Cycle Components $2\frac{9}{16}$, Singers ¾, Swifts ¾, Amalgamated Tyres 7s. In the Industrial department dealings have been most active in Schweppes and Bovrils, although the tone finally has become weaker. Schweppe Ordinary are quoted 1¼, ditto Deferred 13s. 6d. Bovrils have fluctuated a good deal on various dividend rumours, but at the last the idea seems to be generally accepted that the Board will pursue a conservative policy by declaring a dividend of from 6 to 7 per cent. on the Deferred, and carrying forward a balance of as much as about £25,000. The Ordinary have given way to 1⅛, the Deferred to 16s. 4½d. Apollinaris-Johannis are also somewhat easier at 13¼. The English Sewing Cotton allotments are still partly in the air, and there has been quite an outcry at the inordinate delay. On the part of the Directors the excuse has been made that there are 36,000 allottees, which had made it quite impossible to despatch the allotment letters earlier. This I cannot agree with, as exceptional arrangements could doubtless have been made to expedite matters. The price of the Ordinary shares is but little better for the week at $\frac{23}{32}$ premium. In Coats Ordinary very little business has been transacted, and the quotation is hardly changed at 63. A third thread "combine" is now on the tapis, which, however, seems only to comprise Irish linen-thread manufacturers. I really think we are getting too many of these combinations, and sooner or later there will be a sharp set-back. Welsbachs have been rather quiet, while Allsopp Ordinary are slightly firmer at 163; but in brewery stocks generally very little business has been transacted. The large business which is being done in oil shares calls for some special notice. As regards Fish Oil shares, this gamble commenced in Dublin, and the quotation was at one time run up to 39, and now stands at 37. The latest development is the flotation of the American Fisheries Company. As regards petroleum Companies, we have the shares of two enterprises very actively dealt in. Russian Petroleum have been rigged to 7¼ premium, and Anglo-Russians, which make rather a bad second, are quoted ¾ premium. A valued correspondent complains of the action of those who are carrying out the amalgamation of the Maxim-Nordenfeldt Company with Vickers & Co. with regard to the Five per Cent. Debenture stock. It appears that the liquidator of the Maxim-Nordenfeldt Company had arranged for the principal of the Five per Cent. Debenture stock, with bonus and interest, to be repaid on the 15th inst., the following being the liquidator's notice:—

> I have made the necessary arrangements for the principal of the Company's Five per Cent. Debenture stock with bonus and interest to be paid off on the 15th inst. . . . . The interest on the Debenture stock would, in accordance with the notice you received (dated December 11, 1897), cease on the Company going into liquidation, but arrangements have been made that you shall receive the interest up to January 15, if the certificates are presented by the 12th inst.

This seems rather sharp practice, as the debenture holders should certainly be entitled to six months' notice of redemption, whereas in the present instance the notice given to the debenture holders was only from December 11 to January 7, and obviously to be told that interest to January 16 is given as a favour is really adding insult to injury. The clause which applies to the question is Clause 5, as endorsed on the certificate, and is as follows:—

> Any portion of the stock shall, on and after the first day of August, 1893, be redeemable at the option of the Company upon six months' notice, expiring on the first day of August, 1893, or thereafter on any of the aforesaid half-yearly days, being given by the Company to the stockholders by payment of the same amount in money as the amount of stock to be redeemed, with the addition of a bonus or premium equal to 5 per cent. upon such amount.

It certainly is a most unwelcome experience for the debenture holders to find that the Company can redeem its debentures at once by going into voluntary liquidation, and thus evade the necessity of giving the six months' notice of redemption, and put a stop to the running of the interest. Clause 6, moreover, says that "the stock to be redeemed shall cease to bear interest from the date fixed for the redemption thereof." I fully endorse the strong view my correspondent takes of this matter, and I think that the Directors ought to have looked after the interests of the debenture holders, as the liquidation clause was doubtless chiefly intended in the case of a compulsory liquidation, and not in the case of an amalgamation such as has now been carried out. I wonder with what success R. A. Smith & Co., Star Chambers, 30, Moorgate-street, E.C., will meet with the touting circulars they are issuing under the headings of "The New Limited Syndicate! A Want of the Period! An Up-to-Date Scheme!" Of course, these people have an "only system," which is to obtain subscriptions from the public for an issue of 5,000 £1 fully-paid shares, for the purpose of dealing in securities for the rise or fall. In fact, it is nothing more or less than the old "blind pool" plan practised by these syndicate touts under a new title. My strong advice to my readers is to have absolutely nothing to do with this "only system." Readers of TRUTH will not be surprised to learn that Errington, Williams, & Co., the syndicate touts, of 53, Warwick-street, Regent-street, have now disappeared. The funny part about it is that another firm of syndicate touts, which is issuing exactly the same circular, has now cropped up under the name of Currie, Sons, & Co., at 30, Craven-street, Strand, W.C. It is needless to warn my readers to steer clear of all these syndicate touts.—Your affectionate uncle, MOSES.

SAHARA (TURKISH) CIGARETTES. Manufactured by W. D. & H. O.
SAHARA (TURKISH) CIGARETTES. WILLS, Ltd., from a special blend
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QUEER STORY.

SIR ARCHIE ARMSHILL'S HEIR.

THE following remarkable story reaches me from Scotland; my informant being a friend who lives at Musselburgh. He assures me that every detail can be substantiated, and of his absolute veracity I have no doubt. But it is possible, of course, to believe in the objective facts of a story without necessarily accepting the psychical inferences therefrom desired by the raconteur; and I do not deny that I find myself rather in this position. However, whether these inferences are accepted or not, the facts in themselves are well worth placing on record. I therefore hasten to do so for the benefit of the public. It may be added that my friend is not a literary man, and that the form in which he sent me his story is unsuitable for exact reproduction in print. For this reason, I have found it necessary to re-write and re-arrange it. I have also substituted fictitious names, personal and geographical, for the real ones which my informant sent to me. I can promise, however, that the gist of the story is not thereby affected; and that I have neither added nor suppressed a single material detail. With this slight explanation, let it be presented to the reader thus:—

"Few landowners were better known or more respected in the Lothians than Sir Archie Armshill, of Armshill. He was not a man of great wealth or extensive estates; indeed, his whole domain scarcely extended to 5,000 acres. But he was the head—and worthy head—of one of the best and oldest Lowland families; a family which had been distinguished when many whose chief now disports an Earl's coronet had been insignificant and obscure; a family whereof the then respective heads had fought among the knights at Flodden, and at Pinkie Mains, and whereof a later representative had borne a part—which, save for the powerful intervention of the Buccleuchs, had surely brought him to the block—in the barren victory of Prestonpans.

"In these material and mercenary days, the value of ancient lineage—apart from marketable accessories—is commonly appraised at zero; and it has come to be regarded as a truism (which only a few bigoted idiots will dispute), that a man is to be judged solely by what he is, without any reference to his father—still less to more remote ancestors. But, in point of fact, the verdict is superficial and one-sided. For, surely, it is absurd to press the nothingness of lineage, on the one hand, as it is to press its everythingness (pardon the coinage) on the other. Of course, it is undeniable that many representatives of old families altogether neglect the claims which the distinction of their ancestry imposes on them, and their damnation is thereby increased. It is equally beyond dispute that many others accept and live up to these claims. Sir Archie Armshill was one. The standard of conduct, indeed, which he felt that his pedigree required of him was perhaps an out-of-date standard; but there are many up-to-date standards less satisfactory.

"It required him to do what few mere modern landlords without grandfathers would recognise as incumbent on them. It required him to live on his estate; to spend all his income in the place from which it was derived; to take a fatherly, if somewhat despotic interest in all his tenants and underlings; to keep his honour above reproach; to fight shy of all commercial speculations, and to believe that East Lothian was the finest county in the finest country in the world.

"By this narrow, though honest, standard, he rigidly shaped his life, and all his neighbours respected him accordingly. To be sure, they laughed at his old-fashioned ways, his old-fashioned notions, his old-fashioned clothes. But their laughter was free from malice. And, if they dubbed him a survival, as they often did, they recognised that he was, at least, a very honourable, kindly, dignified, and courteous survival—adjectives by no means always applicable to more up-to-date personages.

Sir Archie was a widower. He had only one child—a son. And with this son the baronet's chiefest trouble in life was associated. The young man, indeed, was not wild, or dissipated, or in any sense of the word vicious. He showed no disposition to squander his father's estate. Nay, he was quite a model of frugality and steadiness. Nor had he any physical infirmity or drawback, such as often comes to curse the heir in whom a family's hope is centred. Both in mind and body he was well above the average. But in one important—an all important—matter, he disappointed the dearest wish of his father's heart. Nothing could induce him to take to himself a wife.

"The reason which kept him single was such as practical folks considered fanciful and absurd. And yet it did a certain credit to the young man's feelings. The facts were these. Some years previously he had formed a romantic attachment for a very sweet and beautiful girl, to whom he became engaged. She was the daughter of a Highland laird, poor, but of as good a family as the Armshills themselves. Both parents approved the match. Sir Archie, in particular, was delighted. This well-bred, penniless Scottish lassie pleased him, as the mother of the future Armshills, fifty times more than the heiress of the richest commercial in the universe would have done. The day for the wedding was fixed, everything was in train; but a terrible calamity intervened. Only a fortnight before she was to have been united to Sir Archie's heir, she contracted a chill, which developed into pleurisy, and caused her death within a few days.

"Her lover bore the blow more calmly than might have been expected, and superficial acquaintances, forming their opinion from his manner, were glad to see how well he was getting over it. Those, however, who understood him, read his calmness in a different light. They knew that he had received a knockdown blow, from which it would take him years to recover; and that, if his outward air was calm and self-restrained, it was simply because of his natural depth of feeling, which ever drew the sorrow inwards, downwards, instead of letting it fly to the surface and there expend itself in froth and turbulence.

"They were right, and more than right. Year after year went by, but the bereaved man showed no signs of regaining the joy he had once felt in life. His mind was as full of his lost sweetheart, as on the day when she had first been taken from him. Sir Archie began to remonstrate with his son, at first gently, afterwards with more insistence. He pointed out that such nursing of an old grief was morbid, and even wrong; that, however much his son's feelings had been lacerated, this did not absolve him from the duties of life; that it now behoved him to face those duties like a man. And no duty, Sir Archie urged, was more imperative on him than that of marriage. He was the last Armshill in the direct line, and, if he left no son, the name and title would become extinct upon his death; and the estates, held by Armshills for four hundred uninterrupted years, would pass into the hands of strangers.

"'Come, Archie,' the baronet would say, 'remember the family, lad; choose out some nice girl, and make her your wife.'

"And his son would answer, sighing—his answer was always the same—

"'By-and-bye, father; by-and-bye; when I can bring myself to think a little less of *her!*'

"So things went on, and the 'by-and-bye' never arrived. Young Armshill was young no longer. He had reached the age of forty; yet the prospect of his marrying seemed not a day nearer. Poor Sir Archie fell into a condition of despondency and despair, which excited the pity of all who knew him.

"Matters were in this state, when, one morning, the baronet received a call from a strange gentleman. The card which he sent in bore the inscription 'The Count del Castel Buono,' and was accompanied by a message from the visitor, that although he had not the honour of Sir Archie's acquaintance, he begged to be allowed to see him on important business. Sir Archie directed the butler to show him in. A minute later this was done. The baronet was at once struck, though not very favourably impressed, by the man's appearance. He was tall, swarthy, with long black hair, glittering, dark eyes, and, as regards attire, decidedly rakish and Bohemian.

However, his voice, when he spoke, was pleasant and agreeable, and his manner was easy and courteous.

"'I owe you many pardons for this intrusion,' he said, with a slightly foreign accent. 'But I am encouraged in calling upon you by the thought—I may say, the conviction—that I have it in my power to do you a great service.'

"'Indeed?' Sir Archie remarked, stiffly.

"'And yet I do not pretend,' the stranger went on, 'that I come to you from simply philanthropic motives. I can only afford to do you this great service on certain terms.'

"'Would it not be better for you to explain at once what this service is that you are willing to do me—on certain terms?' suggested the Baronet, with some coldness.'

"'I will,' said the stranger, fixing his keen eyes full on Sir Archie's face. 'It is a service in connection with—your son.'

"Sir Archie was somewhat taken aback. He had not expected an answer of this description, and he merely said, 'Oh!' because, at the minute, he had nothing else to say.

"The stranger went on, speaking more volubly and vehemently.

"'The cruel disappointment which your son causes you by remaining unmarried may—if you wish—be removed once and for all. He may be—nay, he *will* be—married within the year to a young Scottish lady of a family as old as your own—*if* you accept my terms and avail yourself of my services."

"He spoke with an energy of conviction that impressed the baronet in spite of himself.

"'A most extraordinary offer, sir, upon my word!' he ejaculated. And then he added, in a tone of incredulous irony, 'And who is this young Scottish lady, pray, that you have in your mind's eye, and how do you propose to effect her union with my son?'

"'Ah!' said the stranger, 'you do not believe me, Sir Archie Armshill. You think, I expect, either that I am crazy, or that I am merely making this a stalking-horse for the perpetration of some fraud. Now, how am I to convice you of my sanity and my honesty? What proofs do you require?'

"'I should wish, first of all, to know the name of the young lady.'

"'And I will tell you; for I know you to be a man of honour, Sir Archie, and I can trust you to treat my communication as confidential. Are you acquainted, may I ask, with Guthrie of Tweeddale Haugh?'

"'Not personally; but by name, of course. He is head of one of the best Border families.'

"'*The* best—in his opinion,' said the other, smiling. 'And he has, as perhaps you are aware, an only daughter, aged about twenty-two, whose circumstances bear a strange resemblance to those of your son. She, too, lost her affianced husband by death, within a few weeks of the day fixed for their marriage, and she has now sunk into a state of melancholy which, if not soon arrested, must result in the loss of her reason, perhaps of her life. Her father has consulted all the best doctors and tried every conceivable remedy, without avail. But I have seen him, and have undertaken to cure her—on certain terms—which he has accepted.'

"'And—and is this Miss Guthrie, this girl who is in danger of losing her reason, and perhaps her life, the lady whom you propose to induce my son to marry?'

"'She is. But let me explain. I propose to cure her absolutely before she marries. In fact, the love for your son which I mean shall be aroused in her, is to be actually the means by which her cure shall be affected.'

"'You have a strange confidence in your own powers, sir, I must say. How do you propose to arouse this love for my son in the young lady? And, equally, how do you propose to arouse love for her in my son?'

"'That is my secret. It shall be revealed to you on the day when the wedding takes place.'

"Sir Archie was silent for several minutes. Had this man really the power which he professed to have? Psha! Absurd! Impossible! Yet there was something about him that fascinated and impressed one, even against one's will. And Guthrie had accepted his services. But had Guthrie accepted them? Or was this merely a story—part of some cunning design? That point must first be elucidated.

"'You will pardon my caution,' he said at length. 'But this arrangement which you have entered into with Guthrie, of Tweeddale Haugh—I have only your word for it.'

"'Just so,' was the reply. 'But I have no objection to your corresponding with him, in confidence. He is already aware that I have your son in my mind's eye for his daughter; and I was to write and tell him this evening how you received the proposal.'

"'Umph! . . If the lady's health were all right, the match would be unexceptionable,' said Sir Archie musingly and half to himself.

"'I am glad you think so. Guthrie takes the same view. He has a high opinion of your family. Will you write to him and verify my statement?'

"'Yes,' replied Sir Archie, after some reflection. Then he added, 'You spoke of terms. What are your terms, sir?'

"'Two thousand pounds, to be paid on the wedding day,' answered the stranger, promptly.

"'And if you fail, and there is no wedding day?'

"'Nothing,' was the equally prompt reply. 'But I shall not fail. Be quite sure of that. Then you will write to Guthrie? And shall I call again in two days' time, when you have had his answer? Very well. By the way—one thing more. Have you a photo of the girl to whom your son was engaged?'

"'There are several about the house—in fact, there is one there, upon the mantelpiece," replied Sir Archie, not a little astonished by such a peculiar question.

"'That one, there? Pray allow me to look at it for a minute.'

"He caught up the frame, carried it to the window, and studied the photograph carefully. Indeed, Sir Archie could not help noticing—and he often afterwards recalled the fact—that the man's glittering eyes seemed literally to devour the picture.

"'She must have been very beautiful, if this is a good likeness,' he remarked, at length.

"'She was very beautiful. It is an excellent likeness,' said Sir Archie.

"'Good. The better the likeness, the easier—— However, I will not now detain you longer. You may expect me again the day after to-morrow. Good-day.'

"And having replaced the photo on the mantelpiece, he bowed himself out without further remark.

"Sir Archie wrote to Guthrie that evening. But next day, being in a state of increased perplexity about the extraordinary stranger's extraordinary proposal—which somehow had impressed him far more than he would have cared to admit—he took train to Tweeddale Haugh himself, in order to have a personal interview with the laird of that village.

"Guthrie corroborated the Count del Castel Buono's statements entirely, as far as they concerned himself. He admitted that he had struck a bargain with the fellow—of whom, however, he knew nothing—to cure his daughter of the melancholy which had overtaken her. He admitted also that the Count had promised to do so by creating a mutual love affair between the young lady and Sir Archie's son.

"'I dare say you will think me mad,' he said, 'for thus allowing myself to become implicated with a stranger, who undertook what to the reasonable mind seems absurd and impossible. Yet I was at my wit's end about my poor Lena. No doctor could benefit her, and I said to myself, 'This fellow can but fail to do what he promises.' Besides, I will not deny that the Count—if Count he is—influenced me strangely; seemed to cast a sort of spell over me. I can't say how it is; but he has almost forced me to believe in him.'

"'Very strange. He has affected me in the same way,' said Sir Archie. 'In spite of the absurd impracticability of

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what he undertakes, I am somehow convinced—against my own reason—that he will carry it out.'

"A little later, after further conversation, Guthrie observed to the baronet:—

"'I have the highest opinion of your family, Sir Archie, and nothing would please me better than the proposed alliance.'

"'I fully reciprocate the sentiment,' rejoined the other with a courtly bow.

"Then the two lairds shook hands.

"'People would doubtless vote us two silly old fools for listening to such a man,' said Guthrie. 'Yet if he does offer a chance of happiness to both our families, why not accept it, say I.'

"'Ah! why not?' assented Sir Archie, thoughtfully.

* * * * *

"For lack of space, it is quite impossible to describe the events of the next fortnight. Suffice it to say that by the end of that time, Guthrie and his daughter Lena found themselves Sir Archie's guests at Armshill House. Their visit was one of the conditions which the Count del Castel Buono had laid down as indispensable to the success of his scheme. The Count himself formed one of the party, being described to the young people as an old Italian friend of Armshills, whose acquaintance the baronet had made in Rome many years ago, and whom he now wished to requite for many kind offices then done to him by the Count.

"On the second evening of their visit, Armshill's son—to his father's great surprise; for the younger man had not hitherto been able to endure seeing any one at the piano, where his lost sweetheart had so often sung to him—suggested music, and turning to Miss Guthrie, asked her to favour them.

"Guthrie was astonished to see his daughter smile acquiescence, then rise to comply with the invitation.

"Young Armshill opened the piano, lighted the candle, and stood by her while she sang, asking for song after song. At each request she looked up at him and smiled, and he smiled in response. It was as if these two melancholy creatures had been suddenly transformed.

"The Count sat between the two lairds. He watched the young people at the piano with glittering eyes.

"'Ah!' he said, after a while. 'The spell works. But, for Heaven's sake, notice nothing, gentlemen; and make no remark.'

"Then, by and bye, he added:—

"'If you hear from them, as I think you soon will, something that will strike you as very astonishing, betray no surprise—as you value the success of our project.'

"It was as well that this warning was given. For Lena Guthrie, when she drew her father aside to wish him good-night, flung her arms round his neck, and, with heightened colour and sparkling eyes, whispered in his ear:—

"'Oh, dad, did you ever see such a likeness? Mr. Armshill is the living image of—him.'

"And young Archie Armshill, alone in the smoking-room with his sire, smoked three cigarettes in dead silence. Then, apropos of nothing, he exclaimed suddenly:

"'Father, you could not fail to notice it, could you? She—she—is my own darling come to life again!'

* * * * *

"Let the reader picture to himself the wedding which took place six months later at Tweeddale Haugh. When it has been said that both bride and bridegroom looked radiantly happy, the only material point in that connection has been stated.

"But there is one more important item to chronicle: viz., an interview which took place on the afternoon of the wedding day, in Guthrie's library. The two lairds, and the Count del Castel Buono were the only persons present. The Count, who had just pocketed two cheques, each for £2,000, delivered himself thus:—

"'In accordance with my promise, gentlemen, I will now explain to you how I worked the spell. It has been purely a matter of mental magnetism. You will remember, Mr. Guthrie, that I requested you to show me a likeness of Miss Lena's dead lover; and you, also, will remember, Sir Archie, that I made a similar request of you in respect of your son's deceased fiancée. I carefully studied those photos, and in a few minutes, the likenesses were faithfully impressed upon my mind. . . . . My next step was to exercise upon the young people my extraordinary magnetic influence in the particular way required. It may seem strange to you. It may seem incredible. I myself do not profess to understand the mysterious influence. I only know that I have it. And I know also that over self-centred and morbid natures its power is practically unlimited. To that fact I owe much of my success in the present instance. But I was also assisted by this other circumstance, that the likenesses of their lost sweethearts were still wide awake in the young people's memories. And thus I had not to recreate or revivify these likenesses in them, but simply to will their transference to living objects. How? In what way did the influence work? Ah! I wish I could answer you. I am only conscious of the power. I leave it to wiser men than I to analyse the process.'"

ART NOTES.

MR. DAVID SELLAR is an excessively bold and daring man. He is more temerarious even than the young Shepherd King of Judah, whose front name he bears. The original David, it will be remembered, defied only one giant of Gath. But here we have this modern David defying, not one, but a score of our critical Goliaths, and pelting them, not with pebbles, but with pictures. So far, however, I am bound to say the Goliaths are getting the best of it. They are still maintaining a bold front, and David, in his "helmet of brass" (which, unlike his namesake, he has *not* discarded), is able to make no impression on their hard heads with the assertions he so audaciously slings out of his catalogue. The fact is that on the present occasion there is not even the faintest chance of Mr. Sellar obtaining a victory. He has by publicly exhibiting the pictures which the City of London declined with thanks, virtually appealed to Cæsar, and without doubt judgment has gone against him. His Old Masters will not do at any price, not even at the price which was bid for them when some of them were withdrawn from sale at Christie's. *Old* Masters, forsooth! If they ever painted many of the daubs exhibited in their names they must have been not only old but positively in their artistic dotage at the time they did so. Heaven knows the Old Masters have enough to bear upon their belabourred and overladen backs already. But to have the Sellar collection fastened upon them is rather too much of a last straw.

But for my part I am not inclined to be too hard upon Mr. David Sellar. For one thing it is surely a work of needless excess to break a butterfly upon the wheel. For another, Mr. Sellar has given us what we rarely get in going the interminable round of picture-shows—he has provided us with what is really an exceedingly funny exhibition. His catalogue contains bright flashes of unintentional humour—as, for example, when it states in italics in a note to No. 276, a so-called painting by Watteau "*There is a copy of this picture in the Dulwich Gallery;*"—and the walls of the Grafton Gallery are covered with screaming jokes. Of all the staggerers which strike one in a rapid walk round there is perhaps none more staggering than No. 301 "Robinetta, by Sir Joshua Reynolds." This the catalogue tells us, "is a replica of the picture in the National Gallery." And I notice that in a recent interview Mr. Sellar asserts, with regard to this statement, that he cannot see "that one picture can be called more genuine than the other." Now I have no doubt whatever that Mr. Sellar makes this assertion in all good faith. But unfortunately this allowance of his good faith can only be made at the expense of his judgment. By this one admission of his, that, as far as he can see his "Robinetta" is as genuinely a Sir Joshua as the one in Trafalgar-square, he completely gives himself away as a picture buyer. It is quite easy after that to understand how he got together the extraordinary collection of pictures which he is now

exhibiting with a confidence the *naïveté* of which it is impossible to impair. A man who admits that he does not see any difference between an atrociously bad copy and an indubitable original is but too clearly tempting fate when he goes buying "Old Masters" on his own account. So let us leave Mr. David Sellar with his pictures that are many of them not good enough to hang, and which, but for the sake of their frames, perhaps, it might be advisable to burn. But I may at least add a recommendation to the public to pay a visit to the Grafton Gallery. They will by so doing aid a deserving charity, and can scarcely fail to pass an exceedingly amusing half-hour.

When Munkacsy's "Ecce Homo!" was exhibited in Buda Pesth the effect it produced upon the pious people of that city was such that the gallery became a sort of shrine. In a lesser degree this is what the Dowdeswell Gallery has for a time been turned into now that the above famous painting is on view there. Visitors sit in a subdued light gazing at the picture, and if they venture to talk at all only do so in the faintest whispers. There is an unmistakable feeling in the air of being in church, and the obtrusion of an offertory bag would not, I think, cause the slightest surprise. As a matter of fact, however, "Ecce Homo" is a picture that does not need these adventitious aids to popularity. It is a remarkable work from the brush of a remarkable artist, whose mental collapse immediately after he had completed his great task invests his pathetic subject with a yet deeper pathos. To describe a picture that all London is likely to see is unnecessary. All I need do here is to acknowledge the success with which Munkacsy in dealing with so frequently painted a subject, has steered his way between the fantastic over-sentimentality of the older masters and the crude naturalism with which it is the fashion for many contemporary artists to deal with the more dramatic incidents in the life of Christ. Many will note the curious resemblance between Munkacsy's central figure and the one in Guido's well-known "Ecce Homo" in the Corsini Palace at Rome. But this detracts but little from the general excellence of a picture in which it may fairly be considered that the genius of Michael de Munkacsy reached its high-water mark.

MUSIC.

THE CHEAP CONCERT MOVEMENT.

As was anticipated when the cheap Sunday orchestral and choral performances created a demand for inexpensive concerts, the absurdly high prices charged by London managers are rapidly coming down. No one is quicker to recognise the signs of the times than Mr. Robert Newman, and accordingly, for the series of Queen's Hall Symphony Concerts which started last Saturday, he provided 2,000 seats at charges varying from 1s. to 3s. He had his reward, for he filled every cheap seat, although a considerable number of the higher-priced places were vacant. Some of the other serial concerts must follow suit, unless they can put forward a "star" conductor or other special attraction. Mr. Schulz-Curtius with Mottl (and perhaps also with Richard Strauss and Weingartner, although this, of course, has to be proved by the experience of time), and Mr. Vert with Richter, are doubtless safe enough at the old prices; while the Philharmonic Society manage to keep up the public interest by securing the services, either gratuitously or at a much lower figure than any other concert managers can obtain them, of some star composer or executant at each performance. But the Lamoureux Concerts, like those directed by Mr. Wood, have wisely come down in price, and others must follow, unless, like the Henschel, the Colonne, the Nikisch, and other enterprises, they prefer to disappear altogether. People who can hear Mr. Wood's orchestra of ninety players in a first-rate symphony programme at Queen's Hall on Sunday afternoons at from sixpence to three shillings, cannot be expected to pay more than double those prices to hear the self-same band (increased by thirteen players) also under Mr. Wood, on week days. The bandsmen may regret it, for their fees must inevitably be lowered; although as it was they who began the game by accepting half fees for Sunday performances they have little title to complain. Managers need not regret it, for in compensation for the drop in prices their audiences will be much larger; while, from the public point of view the change is all for the best, as tending further to popularise music and to place its highest examples within the reach of the multitude.

London is the only city in Europe where these nonsensical prices are still attempted. For years managers treated Londoners as fools. The late Sir Charles Halle charged 12s. 6d. for stalls for his London concerts, while his self-same orchestra, with better programmes, gave similar concerts in Manchester for 7s. 6d. M. Lamoureux asked twice the price in London for the concerts with his Parisian band that he charged in Paris itself. Except on rare occasions, 5s. is the highest price asked in Berlin for orchestral concerts, while the best seats for most pianoforte recitals are fixed at 3s. Yet, when the same pianist comes here, he blandly asks half-a-guinea, attributing a half-empty hall to the fact that the British are not a musical nation. Even now, however, with the wisdom of the serpent, some of these recital-givers are willing enough to take lower prices more or less surreptitiously, and to sell for half-a-crown apiece to schoolmistresses tickets which, I fear, often figure in school bills at the full half-guinea. The Crystal Palace was the pioneer of the cheap orchestral concert movement, and if it were not so badly served by the railway companies it might still keep the lead. The best seats at the Crystal Palace Saturday Concerts cost by subscription only about three shillings each; but when the journey involves hanging about draughty railway-stations, and (the distance is, I believe, about six miles as the crow flies) a detention in a railway-carriage for something like forty minutes each way, not even the conducting of Mr. Manns can always charm a full audience from town on a winter's afternoon. The Alexandra Palace is to reopen at Easter, but here, again, will have to be faced the railway difficulty, which in the seventies rendered nugatory the best efforts of Sir Edward Lee, Mr. Alfred Emden, and the late Weist Hill. Town concert managers are, however, better placed, and their retention of prohibitive concert prices is an absurdity.

The high prices are fast driving oratorio altogether out of the West End of London. For this, no doubt, the rapacity of vocalists is partly responsible. In the palmy days of oratorio the average fees of leading vocalists at the Sacred Harmonic Society were eight guineas, and only great stars like Sims Reeves and Sainton Dolby got fifteen, which was the top price. These facts I can personally prove by several of the receipt-books of the society now in my possession. Nowadays we hear of prominent vocalists asking a hundred guineas a night and more. Yet oratorio at fair prices is possible in the country. At Manchester next Saturday, for example, I see the Philharmonic Society announce a performance of Handel's "Samson," with a band and chorus of 300, the chief vocalists being Mme. Ella Russell, Mme. Marian McKenzie, Mr. Lloyd Chandos, and Mr. Santley, and the highest price of the best reserved seats being four shillings. If this be possible in Manchester, the public would like to know how comes it that it is impossible in London.

It is, I believe, a fact that the Pinero-Carr-Sullivan opera is much more, and the Sullivan Leeds cantata much less, forward than most people imagine. Indeed, if I am rightly informed, there is the best of all possible reasons for the secrecy which has hitherto been observed concerning the subject chosen for the Leeds Festival. On the other hand, the Savoy opera must either be produced at or about Easter, in order to give it a fair chance of a run before the hot June causes the inevitable slump in theatrical receipts; or it must be reserved for the autumn, when it, of course, would run through the winter. Meanwhile, I hear "The Grand Duchess" is

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doing very well, the more especially as amply-justified reports of the blameless character of the performance have attracted strait-laced people to whom Offenbach was formerly only a name.

M. Carré of the Vaudeville has been appointed Carvalho's successor as director of the Paris Opéra Comique. On the very day he took possession he found, doubtless to his astonishment, that the prima donna rehearsing Gluck's "Orphée" was an English vocalist, Miss Marie Brema, who, at her début last Monday, was the first of our countrywomen within living memory to sing a chief part at this subsidised house.

Many of his old pupils and friends will be sorry to learn of the death in London last week of Ettore Fiori, for nearly a quarter of a century one of the leading professors of singing at the Royal Academy of Music. Fiori was not of the newer school, who are continually bombarding the newspapers with letters and paragraphs in the hope of seeing their names in print. But in his time he, nevertheless did a great deal of useful, if unostentatious, work.

Among the letters I have received concerning the "Woes of Organists" is a long one from an "F.R.C.O." of wide experience. He declares that, with few exceptions, the only musical position in which a man of any refinement can be happy is that of master on the staff of one of our public schools. Such a man does not, it is true, make money, but he finds himself in congenial surroundings. My correspondent has just lost his berth, his old school being unable any longer to afford the luxury of a special master on this subject. Rather, therefore, than "face the music" as a parish organist, he has accepted a post in the Colonies. He adds:—

> I could give many reasons which ought to make any thoughtful parent hesitate before bringing up his son to meet such a hopeless future: *e.g.*, the patronising manner of the clergy, sometimes scarcely to be distinguished from insolence, their unbusinesslike and crooked ways; the treatment of composers by publishers, who get possession of their works and pay little or nothing for them; the certainty that, unless you push, push, push, run down your competitors, exalt yourself, wear your hair long, and are ready to play any monkey tricks that catch the public of the baser sort, you are not in the running. All these things, and many more, make the organist's life one in which no man of really sensitive character has any chance of happiness, to say nothing of success.

Dr. Monk, of Truro, has, by the way, issued a learned and very interesting account of the present "status" of the cathedral organist and of whence his position was derived. It depends very much whether his cathedral is on the "Old" or the "New" Foundation. It seems that the statutes in force in the Old Foundation cathedrals date back nearly 600 years, and they, of course, have no mention of the organist, for in those days there was no organ to play, and the music, which was mainly vocal, was directed by a monk. Accordingly in the "Old" Foundation the organist really has no status at all. These cathedrals, according to Dr. Monk's learned communication to *Musical News*, are York, St. Paul's, Lichfield, Lincoln, Hereford, Wells, Salisbury, Exeter, Chichester, and the four cathedrals in Wales. All the other cathedrals are on the "New" Foundation, and were thus established by Henry VIII. They were previously either monastic churches, such as Gloucester, Peterborough, &c., or were cathedrals originally served by canons or monks, such as Canterbury. In the days of Henry VIII. the organ was an instrument worthy of respect, and organists were duly provided for on the "New" Foundation. Accordingly, it would seem that, in regard to the "Old" Foundation cathedrals, the Dean and Chapter have practically a free hand; whereas in cathedrals of the "New" Foundation they have no legal right to appoint an organist at three months' notice, or in any other way than on the Foundation. As, however, in several cases, the organist himself recently has consented to a three months' notice (or, in other wise, has sold his birthright), he has placed himself morally, if not legally, out of court.

In reference to my remarks last week concerning the conditions upon which the Church Army seek to engage an organist, Mr. C. Powis Whittaker writes to me as follows:—

> As the retiring organist of St. Mary-at-Hill, I trust you will allow me to state that I do not hold the post on the terms now advertised, and am not the half-clerk, half-organist, half-bedroom sharer, and, may I add, whole slave, that is evidently required.

The Bach Choir this year propose to devote themselves principally to the performance of Requiems. Dr. Stanford's Requiem will be the first put in hand, and will be produced at the concert on March 8. In the following month Brahms' Requiem will be performed by the Bach Choir. There are, however, indications that this rage for "Requiems" is on the wane. The public have never taken to them, and, after all, composers who wish their works to be heard have to reckon with a popular prejudice, that a "Requiem" is not necessarily an exhilarating after-dinner entertainment.

The delightful story which came to the daily papers through various "own correspondents" from Berlin in regard to the discovery of a setting of Goethe's "Erl King" by Beethoven, turns out to be a mare's nest. Sir George Grove points out that the sketch—for the music is but a sketch, and has been finished by Herr Becker—has been known to Beethoven students for at least the past quarter of a century. Indeed, it was reproduced in the first volume of Nottebohm's "Beethoveniana" issued as far back as 1872. Sir George Grove very properly adds that Beethoven's sketches were frequently so much altered by himself that they but imperfectly conveyed what the piece might arrive at before he had done with it. So that, however clever Herr Becker's treatment of the materials may be, it is probably a very different thing from what Beethoven himself would have made it before giving it to the world.

The new Erard Hall is likely to become a favourite place for pianoforte recitals and smaller concerts. Mr. Daniel Mayer has already secured a licence for it on condition that certain alterations rightly insisted upon by the County Council are made. These alterations are now in progress, and they include an entirely new staircase and entrance to the hall. It is supposed that the building will be ready for occupation early in March, or, at any rate, before the new season commences.

Mr. G. B. Allen, whose death at Brisbane has just been announced, had, according to his own account (which perhaps Mr. D'Oyly Carte may not altogether endorse), a good deal to do with the original idea of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. Allen, who had travelled with a light opera company through Australia with his pupil, Miss Alice May, was wont to aver that it was he who placed before Mr. D'Oyly Carte the idea to induce Sullivan and Gilbert to write "The Sorcerer." It is against this theory that Gilbert, Sullivan, and Carte were associated in "Trial by Jury," produced at the Royalty some years previously. However, G. B. Allen was the first conductor of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas in the old opera comique days, and it was he who directed the musical rehearsals and performances of "The Sorcerer," "H.M.S. Pinafore," and the "Pirates of Penzance." In "The Sorcerer" too Miss Alice May was the original Aline. Afterwards, Allen left the country to tour in America and elsewhere, and he then dropped out of the D'Oyly Carte business. He was born in 1822, and was originally a choir boy at Westminster Abbey. When only a lad of twelve, it is said, he was so musically smart that he was able to take the place of Clara Novello; reading at sight at a concert some music which, owing to indisposition, she was unable to undertake. Allen spent some years in Ireland, and he claimed to be the originator of the idea of the building of Ulster Hall, Belfast. He wrote a vast quantity of church and stage music, and about 300 songs. But he will chiefly be recollected from his early connection with Gilbert and Sullivan.

"The Sorcerer," by the way, was originally produced by the Comedy Opera Syndicate, the leading spirits of which were the late Mr. Frank Chappell, of Metzler's, and Mr. E. H. Bayley, formerly a Liberal M.P. Mr. Carte was salaried manager for a year. After the first year he severed

KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY.—"The Cream of Old Irish Whiskies." Kinahan's LL Whisky. Gold Medal Paris Exhibition, 1878. Kinahan's Glenisle Whisky. The Finest Scotch Whisky sold.

his connection with the syndicate, took the lease of the Opera Comique, and went into partnership with Gilbert and Sullivan, each taking a third, and the authors, I fancy, likewise taking certain fees. Each author for some years drew over £20,000 a year from the enterprise. Mr. Bayley temporarily removed "Pinafore" to the Imperial Theatre (the Opera Comique version still running), and on the night of the first performance at the Imperial, Augustus Harris, then a struggling youngster, came into the stage box and, to the immense amusement of every one present, announced he had that day signed the lease of Drury Lane.

Somebody has been going through the statistics from the Musical Directory. He discovers that there are something like 16,000 professors of music in this country, whose names are mentioned in the directory, while, no doubt (as musicians are proverbially careless in such matters), there must be a good many more, whose addresses are unrecorded. We have in London alone something like 5,500 teachers and professors, besides 2,000 orchestral instrumentalists, including 700 violinists and 70 orchestral drum players. We may not be a musical nation. But in the number of our drummers it seems that we lead the world.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—We have had a week's darkness in town, and though we do not grudge brightness to others, it is rather tantalising to hear from friends at Southsea, Brighton, and elsewhere, of the brilliant sunshine they are enjoying. We are great lovers of sunshine, as you know, and we feel almost as if we were being defrauded of our lawful share. Bee and I went to Turnham Green the other morning to inquire after the character of a servant, and it was quite a curious experience to gradually emerge from the fog that enveloped London and find ourselves at last in the prime of a sweet spring morning with birds singing, trees waving, white clouds chasing each other over the blue sky, and green things beginning to sprout in the gardens of the houses we passed. It made us actually long to live in the country, much as we love our interesting and absorbing London.

I had to go out on Wednesday morning and suddenly it became so black that literally I could not see a yard in front of me. I ran up against a woman, and, apologising, was answered by a voice of most doleful misery, "Oh, ain't it dreadful?" There was no fog, only darkness. It was a strange experience.

We went to a wedding on one of the worst days and had to grope for the bride when we arrived at the house to offer our congratulations. Something had happened to the electric light, and the darkness of the prettily decorated rooms was pitiful. The poor bride in her whiteness had a dismal, almost tawdry look, as her friends found her in the gloom and gathered round her. She almost wept, and was probably only restrained from doing so by the reflection that tears are now considered dowdy at a wedding.

By the way, dear, she followed the prevailing fashion and wore as many turquoises as she found herself possessed of during the ceremony. For luck, you know! You must not forget this important matter at your own wedding, the time for which is now drawing so near.

I wish you had been with us at a morning performance of "The Babes in the Wood," at Drury Lane. The sight of the happy children and the sound of their pretty laughter are good specifics against low spirits, and for any one who inclines to take a morbid view of things, I can imagine no better prescription than a visit to the pantomime. The intense appreciation the children showed of Dan Leno's fun almost equalled their joy in the clown. The panorama of the wood in which the babes were lost is a beautiful bit of sylvan illusion, and the youthful audience was much impressed by the giants and the elves and gnomes who dwelt therein. The elders enjoyed the forest scenery more, and the wonderful orchid scene. It was amusing to hear the youngsters' comments in the vestibule as they were rushed through by careful parents, anxious to get them housed and fed. "What a great big girl babe," said one small child. "But wasn't she pretty?" said another, adding, "What a sweet pink frock it wore!" The pronoun fitted Mr. Herbert Campbell so ill that we found it a good joke.

You ask if trains are coming in for walking dresses No! It is unfortunately true that trains of a moderate character are being introduced for house dresses, but it is still the smart thing to have the walking skirts lifted well off the ground. Flounces are to be the great feature of coming fashions, as you may already have heard. Three are to be the orthodox number. For instance, a purple cloth is made with this triple arrangement, the flounces being graduated in width. They are lined with a new and curious shade of blue, which, though not pale in the least, has yet a touch of green in it. The little jacket is tight-fitting, and has revers to match the flounces, also lined with blue. They are bordered with fur, and the collar, you will be pleased to hear, is not extraordinarily high, but yet sufficiently protective. As this is a new Paris model, it almost seems as though the horrid storm collar were approaching its doom. One sees such dreadful burlesques of it on Sarah Jane and 'Arriet as to be convinced of a speedy end to the hideous thing.

The rage for chinchilla is still on the increase, and I am sure you will not regret choosing grey cloth and this sweet fur for your travelling costume. Every third gown one sees in smart assemblies is grey, and the fashion extends to notepaper. A rather dead and unresponsive shade is in great favour for this purpose, particularly for invitation size.

At the Princess's the other night we saw a most delicious and covetable evening cape. It was made of turquoise velvet with a yoke of dark peacock velvet encrusted with jet. The whole thing was lined with white satin and trimmed with sable. A very deep and full collar of old lace filled it in at the neck and flowed in a cascade down the front. There is a special art in arranging this lace. If it is allowed to be at all wild it is far from becoming. The dresses worn by the villainess in the play are lovely. I fancy they are Paquin's, and they enjoy an added grace from the beautiful figure of the wearer, who is very tall, slight, and well proportioned. One is in bright red crêpe-de-chine with waving lines of insertion let in and draped most admirably. It seems to have been cut out in a circle like the umbrella skirts of two or three seasons since, but instead of sticking out like them it falls in natural folds to the feet.

As it might be useful, sometimes, to know the right kind of frock to commit a murder in, it may interest you to hear that the villainess dons a bright green crêpe trimmed with a deep flounce to the knees of cream-tinted lace all a-glitter with jewels. There was quite a fashionable audience to see "How London Lives," and the woes of the heroine drew tears from many bright eyes.

We are going to have a lesson in Indian cookery on the 26th, at Debenham & Freebody's. The dishes to be taught by Mr. Veerasawmy, the Hindoo chef, are mulligatawny, curried prawns with rice à l'Indienne, a vegetable pasty, and three curried entrées. We shall feel so accomplished when we know how to prepare all these good things, that you will probably find us somewhat conceited when you visit us on your way home after your wedding tour.

By the way, dear, you are rather out of the fashion in marrying a man a few years older than yourself. During the last twelve months it has been the vogue for the bridegroom to be several years younger than the bride. It is curious how these things come in cycles. Every one has been noticing it of late.

What strange reasons people have for falling in love with each other! The very latest on record is that of

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Lady Ernestine Bruce, who, being unable to become a master sailor herself, married a young sailor who could. You will have read all about it in the papers. I am nearly certain the Lady Clifford, widow of Sir Spencer Clifford, once Black Rod, managed to get a certificate as master mariner.

I want to tell you about a lovely evening dress I saw a few days ago. It was a small poem in its way. The under-skirt was white satin, over which fell a veil of pleated grey tulle, through which the white gleamed softly. The bodice was made simply enough in folds of grey over white satin, and caught in at the waist by a band of white satin embroidered in silver and steel. Across the front of the low corsage was a band of old Venetian point rising high in the centre, and with the design lightly outlined with silver. The sleeves were short, and consisted of waves of the tulle over satin edged with silver fringe and embroidered with silver and steel. A single row of pearls was worn with this lovely dress.

I hear that white silk dresses trimmed with black lace are to be very much the fashion next season. It would be well to pick up some black lace cheap during the cheap sales to utilise in this way. Three flounces on a white skirt, and the bodice draped with the lace, would be rather nice. Do you not think so? But a heavy pattern is a mistake. It should be chosen sufficiently light to let the silk be seen through it.

Do you love furniture? I do, though intermittently. Sometimes I buy numerous articles in that line, to the great impairment of my allowance, and, after having delighted in my purchases for a few weeks, the glory fades, and they are as nought to me. I even think that I wish I had my money back again, to buy a smart gown, or something charming in hats. Furniture, however, is in the ascendant at the present moment, as Richard and I are making some alterations in the rooms, and throwing two into one to make the drawing-room larger. We visited Hampton's this morning, and all my latent admiration of chairs and tables broke out afresh at the sight of the pretty things they are selling off just now. It is the salvage stock from the great City fire, and there are bargains to be had, as you may guess. Japanese carpets at half price are tempting enough, to say nothing of Indian, Persian, Turkey, and Deccan rugs and carpets. Their salvage stock of screens is a large one, and includes some very fine lacquer, with pearl and ivory hand-carved birds and flowers in relief. These are scarcely damaged. The pottery alone is enough to empty one purse in twenty minutes. Some of it is very rare, and all of it very cheap. Fancy, too, a Sheraton side-board for seven guineas and a half, and beautifully carved Tudor side-tables at a few shillings less. A whole panorama of temptation assails the purchaser in these Galleries, which, by the way, are to be enlarged as soon as the sale is over. There are lacquer cabinets, tables of every kind and description, secretaires, book-cases, grandfathers' clocks, spinning-wheels, dining-room and drawing-room chairs, besides bedroom furniture of the most attractive order, Dutch and Welsh dressers, and all sorts of delightful things for presents. Much of this stock belonged to the Old English Furniture Company, and every article is marked with the original price, as well as the sale price. That is always so very satisfactory, I think, for no matter how firm is one's faith in human nature, confidence in one's own eyesight is greater still. Old Sheffield plate is always a good investment, for its value increases with age, and Hampton & Son have a large collection at prices marked down for the sale. Other tempting things are silks, damasks, and table-linen, all in good condition, and at greatly reduced prices. You should really send for a catalogue.

We have been reading some of the notices of the "Life of Mr. Joseph Arch," and have been much amused by an extract in which he describes his wife: "She was a good, clean wife and a good mother," he says and goes on to remark that she did not share his social aspirations. "With her," he observes, "it was 'as it was in the beginning and is and shall be for ever and ever, Amen.'" Good soul, she evidently did her duty, but for a man with aspirations that is a small thing.

Norah is in a dreadful state of mind because the Giant's Causeway is now declared to be private property and is to be fenced in, the public having henceforward to pay for every step of the way they take to see this grand and unique sight. After all these years, one would have supposed that a right of way would have been established.

What should we do in this dull, bleak, dispiriting weather without our restaurants? It is so pleasant to get into a pretty gown and enjoy the sight of one's fellow-creatures assembled for the sociable purpose of dining together. And some of the people are so interesting too. At the Savoy the other night we were surrounded by Americans. Mrs. Bradley Martin was hostess at one table, among her guests being Lady Sarah Wilson and Mrs. Arthur Paget, while at another table were Lord and Lady Terence Blackwood with Mr. and Mrs. George Keppel and Lord Stavordale. We also saw Lord and Lady Francis Hope, Miss Fleetwood Wilson, and Madame Von André. Miss Van Wart had a party the same evening.

We have had a girl of fifteen staying with us, an old schoolfellow of Clare's. As she has not yet reached years of indiscretion, I feel a delightful immunity from responsibility. How different it is with girls of eighteen or more—romantic, unpractical, dreamy, or else half-tamed tom-boys, turbulently reminiscent of their school-room days, and most superficially demure in company. One is almost afraid to undertake the chaperoning of them.

Cyril went into an Italian restaurant the other day, and in the list of dishes discovered a new word—"pankache." Rather a libellous inversion of the title of the harmless, necessary pancake.

I send you a new entrée served at a grand dinner last week, pretty to look at, and equally good to eat. It was called Croquettes à l'Imperatrice:—

Boil some rice in water with salt and a little butter. When it is soft put it in small oiled moulds about the size of a coffee cup, and let it get cold. Then turn it out of the moulds, brush it well over with yolk of egg, and fry it in oil till it is a bright golden yellow. Scoop out the middle of each, and fill each in with the following mixture, which must be prepared beforehand, and hot and ready: Take the white of a cooked chicken, pound it fine, add salt and pepper, mushrooms chopped very small, lemon juice, a little flour and white stock, warm all well together, and fill the moulds of rice. With it put a slice of tongue cut to shape as cover to each mould, and a little jelly on the top of each. Serve them quickly.

Here is also a new cold dish for a lunch or wedding breakfast; it was immensely appreciated the other day, and the recipe eagerly demanded:—

Take a mould with a large hollow centre, or else a plain mould, and put a round tin box in the middle; oil the mould slightly. Now roll about a dozen thin slices of cooked York ham in funnel shape, put them round the middle of the mould against the centre, the pointed end downwards, and pour round gradually some very good well-flavoured jelly, till it reaches the top of the mould. Place the mould on ice, and when the jelly is well set take out the box in middle, and fill in the hollow with a good salade russe and mayonnaise, coloured green with spinach juice. Keep it on ice till you are ready to serve it, then turn it out with care upon a silver dish. If the jelly is well made and clear, the ham and salad should show through, and look as nice as it is good.

You will like this terrine de foie gras:—

Take a good foie gras and put it to soak in milk for a few hours. Meanwhile prepare a good force-meat made with the white of chicken, or some veal, a little sausage meat, bread-crumbs, seasoning, and some minced truffles. Put in the terrine a layer of force-meat and some slices of truffles, then the foie gras whole, some salt, pepper, and nutmeg, some more slices of truffle, and another layer of force-meat; cover this with a very thin slice of fat bacon, not smoked. Put on the lid or cover of

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the terrine, and cook all in a bain marie. An hour is sufficient for a small terrine.

If a paté is preferred, one only needs to put the same preparation in a raised crust and bake it—but not too long, or it will be dry.

Gibelotte de Lapin (wild rabbit stewed) :—

Here is a change from roast and boiled, and a very nice dish, too: Take a young rabbit and cut it in pieces. Put in the stew-pan some butter and bacon cut in dice. In two or three minutes, take out the bacon and put in the pieces of rabbit, and turn them till they are a good colour, sprinkle them with flower, and add half a pint of hot water or second stock, salt, pepper, a bunch of sweet herbs, 2 or 3 medium-sized onions, and a glass of white wine. Put back the bacon, and let all cook very gently for an hour or an hour and a half, the pan being well covered to prevent the steam escaping, but shake it from time to time to prevent anything sticking to the pan. Just before serving put in the liver for five minutes.

Fricandeau of veal with chestnuts or spinach :—

Take a nice piece of veal about 2 in. thick from the upper part of the leg, and with a fine larding needle lard it closely with strips of bacon. Put in the bottom of a braising-pan some slices of onion and carrot cut in rounds, a bunch of sweet herbs, and a little bacon; place the meat on this, the larded side uppermost, cover the pan, and put it on the stove for a short time; then add pepper, salt, and a little stock, cover it well, and braize it in the oven. When it is nearly cooked take off the cover, so that the top may take a good colour, and baste it constantly with the gravy in the pan. To serve it, put some spinach on the dish, place the fricandeau on it, and strain the gravy over it.

Lastly, here is a recipe for scallops of sweetbreads :—

Blanch and parboil some sweetbreads, cut them into small scallops. Then chop separately and finely ½ a pint of mushrooms, a little parsley, and 4 or 5 shallots, add a little fat bacon rasped, and a piece of fresh butter; season the scallops with pepper, salt, and a little mace; stew it all together over a slow fire; when done drain off the fat, place the scallops in small paper cases, which have been fried in olive oil, cover them with plenty of finely-chopped herbs, and strew over them fried bread crumbs; lay the paper cases for a moment into the oven, and before serving, pour into each a little rich gravy, and a little lemon juice.

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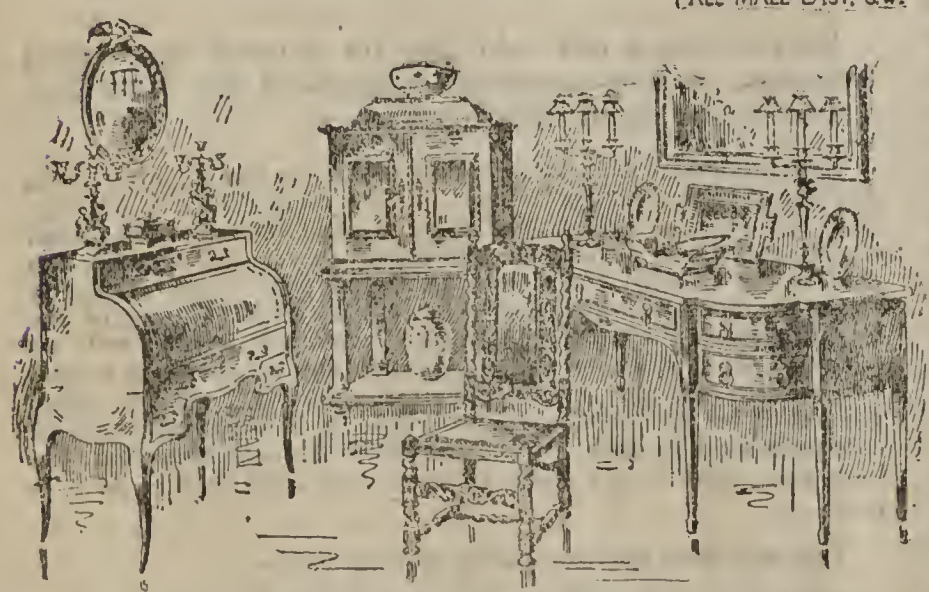

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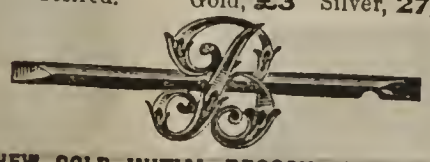

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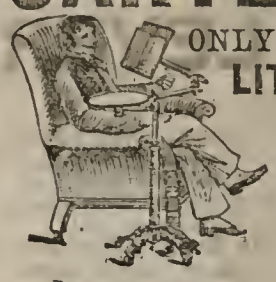

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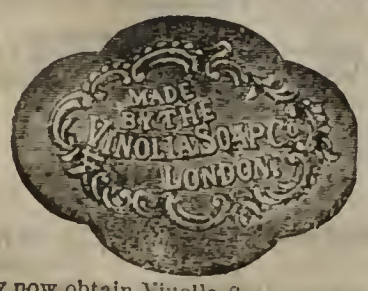

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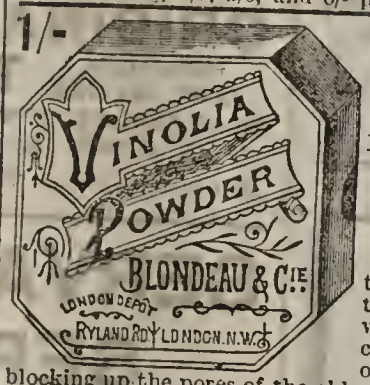

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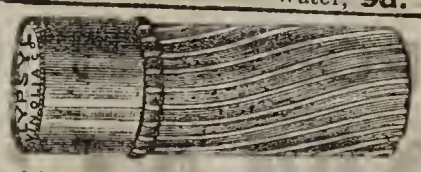

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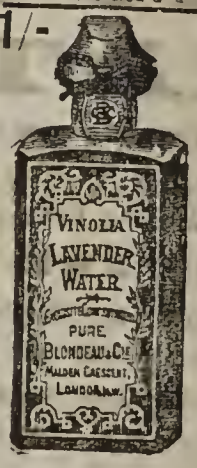

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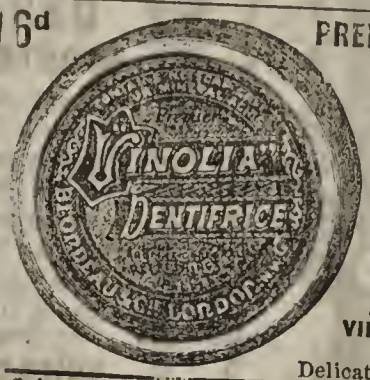

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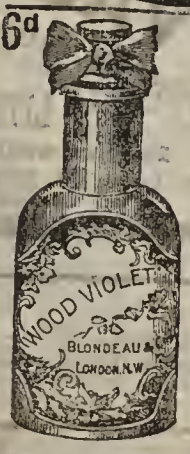

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*Vinolia Bouquet, *Marequil, *Jequilla, *Losaria, Wood Violet, White Heliotrope, Ess. Bouquet, Frangipanni, Jockey Club, Maréchal Niel, Millefleur, White Rose, Jasmin, Musk Rose, Honeysuckle, New Mown Hay, Lily of the Valley, Rondeletia, Hyacinth, Ylang Ylang, Stephanotis, Opoponax, Patchouli, Musk, Ambergris, Amaryllis, White Lilac, Narcissus, Chypre, Violette de Parme, Mignonette, Clematis, Wallflower, Violet, *Rhine Violets, Peau d'Espagne.

6d., 1/-, 2/-, 3/-, and 5/- per bottle.
* These perfumes are not supplied in the 6d. quality.

1/- Vinolia Hair Wash

Freshens and Revivifies the Hair.

In two kinds, Dry and Moist, 1/- per bottle.

In 3 odours: Portugal, Rose, and Violet.

1/- VINOLIA EAU DE COLOGNE.

Fragrant. Refreshing.

As fine as can possibly be made.

The "Court Circular" reports:
"Vinolia Eau de Cologne we consider is absolutely unequalled for strength, purity, and delicacy of aroma."

6d., 1/-, 2/-, 3/3, and 5/6.

3d per 2oz. Packet VINOLIA VIOLET POWDER.

Sanitary. Antiseptic. Soothing.
Specially prepared for Toilet and Nursery use

In 2-oz. Packets, 3d. In ¼-lb. Packet or Tin, 6d.

BLONDEAU ET CIE., MALDEN CRESCENT, LONDON, N.W.

SPIERS & POND's STORES

QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C.

Opposite St. Paul's Station (L. C. & D. Ry.).

CUTLERY DEPARTMENT.

SPORTSMAN'S KNIFE.

Best Sheffield Steel, Platinoid Handle, with Cartridge Extractor, Cigar Cutter, Button Hook, Large Blade with Chain,

Complete 6/9.

Special Illustrated Cutlery and Plate Catalogue, also Price Book No. 50, (1,000 pages), Illustrated, Free on Application.

SPIERS & POND's STORES
QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C.
Opposite St. Paul's Station (L. C. & D. Ry.)

These Cigarettes are the Choicest in the Market, and will be appreciated by connoisseurs. Sample Box of 25, Post Free, 2s.

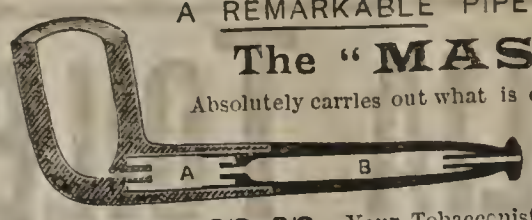
THE VASSO

HIGH-CLASS TURKISH CIGARETTES.

Of the Manufacturers,
LITSICA, MARX & Co.
21, Piccadilly, 84, Strand,
Or at Head Depot-174, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.
Price List on Application

£20 TOBACCONISTS COMMENCING. Illd. guide (259 pgs.), 3d., 'How to open respectably £20 to £2,000." Tobacconists' Outfitting Co., Euston-rd., Ldn. Hairdressers fitted.—H. MYERS.

A REMARKABLE PIPE! Why? Because



The "MASTA" Pipe

Absolutely carries out what is claimed for it—viz., Simplicity of Construction, Perfect Freedom from Nicotine, No Choking, Cool, Dry, Sweet, Clean, & Healthful Smoking.

Prices from 1/6, 2/6, 3/6. Your Tobacconist will supply it. If any delay, write The "Masta" Patent Pipe Co., 153, Fleet-street, London, E.C.

What Smokers say:—The Rev. G. E. LYTHGOE, Vicar of St. Paul's, Tipton, Oct. 14th, 1897, writes—"Of all the pipes in my pipe-rack, I give the *preference, to the 'Masta.' I am more than pleased with it.*"

L. CARNIER.

LIQUEURS OF THE GRANDE CHARTREUSE.

These delicious Liqueurs, which have come so much into public favour on account of their wonderful properties of aiding Digestion and preventing Dyspepsia, can now be had of all the principal Wine and Spirit Merchants, and all good Hotels and Restaurants throughout the Kingdom.
Sole Consignee: W. DOYLE, 35, Crutched Friars, London, E.C.

WOMEN'S LONDON GARDENING ASSOCIATION,
COURT FLORISTS,
62 and 64,
Lower Sloane-st., S.W.

ORIGINAL TABLE DECORATIONS.

Home-made JAMS, JELLIES, FRUIT-PICKLES, CONFECTIONERY, &c.

Bouquets, Sprays, Wreaths, and Floral Decorations of all kinds.

SERVANTS! SERVANTS!! SERVANTS!!!

FOR

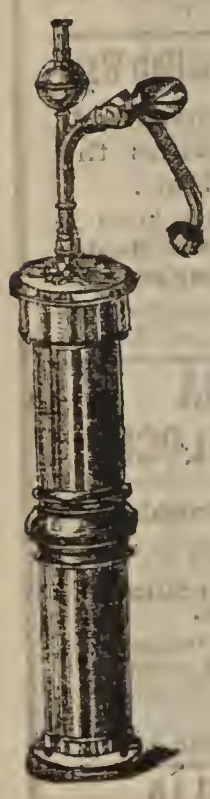
THOROUGHLY RELIABLE SERVANTS

With personal characters for London or country, also foreign servants. Apply to the BELGRAVE LADIES' AGENCY.
SOLE OFFICES,
83, EBURY-STREET.

Also job servants with references taken up before recommendation can be had on the shortest notice.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ARCHITECTS.

AN IMPORTANT INVENTION.



The HOMACOUSTIC APPARATUS (Cutmore's System).

A REVOLUTION IN SPEAKING TUBES.

Patented throughout the World. The Telephone superseded for Short Distances. The Homacoustic System is being universally adopted, and is a Leading Feature in all New Buildings.

THOUSANDS ARE IN USE.

The following are a few of the large establishments where the Homacoustic Speaking Tubes are in use:—

W. & A. GILBEY, Pantheon, Oxford-street.
JAMES WILLING, Junr., 125, Strand.
GAZE & SONS, Tourists' Bureau, Strand.
B. A. MOORE, "Cheshire Cheese," Fleet-st.
"TRUTH" Offices, Westminster.
SPIERS & POND, Limited, Head Offices.
ROBERTS & LEETE, 19 to 25, Bermondsey-street, S.E.
R. WAYGOOD & CO., Falmouth-road, S.E.
E. P. SAUNDERS & SON, 81 to 83, Cannon-street.
ALLIANCE ASSURANCE CO., Bartholomew-lane, E.C.
LONDON ASSURANCE, Royal Exchange.
OETZMANN & CO., 67 to 79, Hampstead-road, N.W.
LLOYD'S BANK, Limited, 189 Fleet-street.
— LITHGOE, Esq., 39a, Wimpole-street Oxford-street
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK, Threadneedle-street, E.C.
STRAITS INSURANCE, Change-alley, Cornhill.
KELLY & CO., London Directory, Holborn.
LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM AND SOUTH WALES BANK, Graeechurch-street, E.C.

TESTIMONIALS.

Atlas Assurance Company, Fire and Life, 92, Cheapside, London, E.C.

Dear Sir,—I have pleasure in stating that I have had one of your Homacoustic Speaking Tube Commutators and Instruments in my room, communicating with seven departments in this office, and that I find the same to work admirably. It is a vast improvement on the old method of a separate mouthpiece for each tube, and it is an invention which I think needs only to be known to command very wide adoption.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

SAML. J. PIPKIN Secretary

The Central London Throat and Ear Hospital,
Gray's Inn-road, W.C.,
December 14, 1897.

I have much pleasure in testifying to the excellence of the principle of the Homacoustic Speaking Tube Instruments, as well as to the perfect workmanship of the tubes fitted at this Hospital.

Quite independently of sanitary reasons it is decidedly more agreeable to have a Speaking Tube by which all blowing and breathing into the face are avoided. There is no difficulty whatever in its employment.

LENNOX BROWNE, F.R.C.S.E.,
Senior Surgeon to the Hospital.

Beware of Fraudulent Imitations. Infringers will be prosecuted. Send for Explanatory Pamphlet and Price List Free by Post.

THE HOMACOUSTIC COMPANY, Head Offices and Showroom, **6, Bruton-street, New Bond-street, W.**

OLLVAAN DIAMONDS

Solid Gold and Silver Brooch, set with 14 Ollvaan Diamonds, with Pearl Centre, 16s. post free.

(Rgd.) are all mounted in **SOLID GOLD and SILVER, but that is not the point.** The point is that these stones are in themselves **the Only Rivals** of real Diamonds, of which they are an exact representation.

Book of Illustrations post free for the asking. Address:

OLLVAAN, Rgd., 227, Regent St.

Shall We Send You a Cat

ALOGUE OF GREENHOUSES from 30s.? BLOCK POULTRY AND RUSTIC HOUSES, IRON BUILDINGS, CHICKEN HOUSE RUNS AND COOPS, TIMBER, IRON, GLASS, AND SUNDRIES.

CLEARANCE SALE NOW ON

at extraordinary Low Prices to clear. Send to-day, as when once cleared, cannot be replaced at anything like the price.

W. COOPER,

Horticultural Provider, 755, Old Kent Rd. London, S.E.

WATER ABSOLUTELY FREE FROM DISEASE GERMS, BY USING THE

BERKEFELD FILTER

FOR THE PRIVATE HOUSE OFFICE, FACTORY, HOTELS RESTAURANTS, CLUBS, &c. &c.

Can be Easily and Cheaply Fixed to the Service-Pipe of any HOUSE having ordinary pressure.

Supplied to H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES, DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, K.G., and others too numerous to mention; THE HOUSE OF LORDS, and THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Glass and Earthenware Table Filters, price from 8s. 9d. each.

In use in all the Principal Hotels. Simple in Construction. Most easily cleaned.

PRICE FOR FILTER AS ABOVE, 42s.

SMALLER SIZE, 25s.

For other prices see price-lists.

Offices and Show-Rooms:

The BERKEFELD FILTER Co. Ltd.

121, Oxford St., London, W.

NOTE.—Joseph Lunt, B.Sc., F.C.S., British Institute of Preventive Medicine, in his report on the Berkefeld Filter, says, "Exhaustive experiments showed that with London tap-water strongly infected artificially WITH THE TYPHOID BACILLUS, not a single typhoid bacillus was detected IN THE FILTERED WATER for a period of 26 days."

No Country House Should Be Without One.

A Lasting Pleasure to All.

The POLYPHON **Musical Box** is the greatest novelty of the age. It plays to perfection airs from the Operas, or renders *most brilliantly* any selections of music which a purchaser may desire.

All Dealers, or write for No. 50 Catalogue, sent gratis and post free.

NICOLE FRÈRES, Ltd.

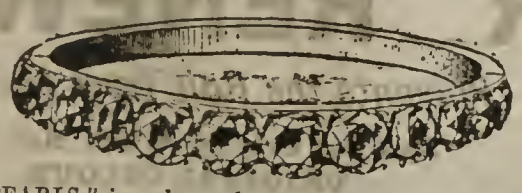
21, Ely-place, London, E.C.

	The Infanta.	The Kleberg.	The Gordon.	The Eugene.
With Six Discs	32/-	51/-	85/-	170/-
Extra Discs	5d.	8d.	1/4	2/6

For higher-priced Instruments see Catalogue.

DIAMONDS. — DIAMONDS from the JURA MOUNTAINS.

THE JURA DIAMONDS are very fine WHITE DIAMONDS of great purity, of all sizes, and undistinguishable from Cape and Brazilian Diamonds of the finest quality. The JURA DIAMONDS can be worn at all times both by day and night. The JURA DIAMONDS are mounted in the best style and in the same manner as the most expensive jewels. The JURA DIAMONDS possess the limpidity and scintillating brilliancy of the true diamond. The PRICE of the JURA DIAMONDS is infinitesimal and within reach of every one. DIAMOND Brooches, Rings, Ear-rings, Pins, Hat Pins, Combs, Diadems, Tiaras, Bracelets.



"ORIENT PEARLS," in colour, shape, and weight, are the same as real pearls. PEARL and DIAMOND ORNAMENTS in gold and other settings. The Designs are beautiful and artistic. Goods sent on approval. Illustrated Catalogues and Price List post free.—CORRÈZE DIAMOND SYNDICATE, LTD., Portland House, Basinghall-street, London, E.C.

HILDITCH'S ANNUAL SILK SALE

Great Reductions.

Patterns forwarded.

NOW ON.

11 & 12, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON.

The Best CHAINLESS Cycle!

1898 **THE BANTAM** 1898

New Regd. 'Alpha' Frame.

List, Testimonials, and "Notes on the Bantam," free; also particulars of Bantamette, Crypto Safety, Gardner Back-Pedalling Brake, Collier 2-Speed Gear, Crypto Carrier-Cab, &c.

CRYPTO WORKS CO., LTD.,

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SOUTHALL'S PATENT BOOTS.

NO SEAMS OR LACES.

with their disadvantages.

PUT ON IN A MOMENT.

FASTEN QUICKLY AND FIRMLY.

STRAP SUPPORTS THE ANKLE.

Comfort and elegance secured, combined with durability and economy in wear.

Made in all qualities, and for all purpose

ONCE TRIED ALWAYS WORN.

HUNDREDS OF TESTIMONIALS.

SEND for Catalogue, with designs, prices, and self-measurement forms, direct to the Makers

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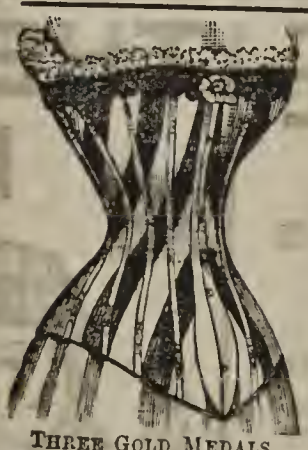
(Please name this paper.)

The TRENT CYCLE COMPANY, Ltd.,

Long Eaton,

Near Nottingham.



THREE GOLD MEDALS.

Exquisite Models. Perfect Fit. Guaranteed Wear

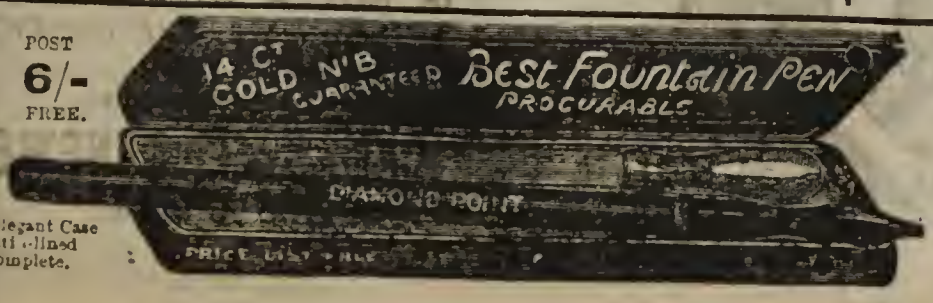
THE Y & N PATENT DIAGONAL SEAM CORSET

Will not split in the Seams nor tear in the Fabric. Made in White, Black, and all the fashionable colours and Shades in Italian Cloth, Satin, and Coutil, 4/11, 5/11, 6/11, 7/11 per pair and upwards.

CAUTION.—Every genuine Y & N Corset is stamped.

Sold by Drapers and Ladies' Outfitters in the United Kingdom and Colonies

POST **6/-** FREE.



a Elegant Case Satin-lined complete.

A PERFECT PEN.

Simple in construction. Lasts a life-time. Cannot get out of order. Quite equal to the Pens usually sold at Half-a-Guinea.

PRICE LISTS FREE.

FINE, MEDIUM, OR BROAD NIB CAN BE SUPPLIED.

ANY INK CAN BE USED.

A. M BONNER MANUFACTURING CO.

(Dept. 19), 8, Long Lane, London, E.C.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.

THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd. Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £30,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

H. HALFORD and COMPANY,
70 and 71, Palmerston Buildings, Old Broad Street, London.
ESTABLISHED 1869.

Business in Stocks and Shares at close prices.
Dealings reported by wire if required.
Prompt Settlements.
Thousands of Testimonials from Clients.
Americans and Canadians a Speciality. Also Westralians and Kaffirs.
Lists of Closing Prices gratis.
Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER FIRM.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

Hunyadi János

BEST AND SAFEST NATURAL APERIENT.

25 Years Success in the United Kingdom.

Recommended and Prescribed by Medical Men Everywhere.

"HUNYADI JÁNOS has established itself in favour with leading physicians and therapeutists of every country, whose testimonies bear witness to its action as a speedy, sure, and gentle Aperient for ordinary use; it is remarkably and exceptionally uniform in its composition, and free from defects incidental to many other Hungarian Bitter Waters."
—*British Medical Journal*, Aug 30th 1884.

PROFESSOR VIRCHOW, the celebrated Berlin Physician, says that "HUNYADI JÁNOS" has always given him prompt and satisfactory results, and he considers it to be "one of the most valuable of the Curative Agents at our disposal."

CAUTION.—Every Bottle bears the Signature of the Proprietor,
ANDREAS SAXLEHNER.

LIVERPOOL CORPORATION STOCK.

Interest at £2 10s. per cent. per annum, payable Half-Yearly at the Bank of England, on 1st January and 1st July.
ISSUE of £1,500,000 £2 10s. per cent. STOCK,
being part of a proposed Issue of £2,500,000.

Minimum price of Issue £98 per cent. The First Dividend, being a full Six Months' Interest, will be payable 1st July, 1898. Trustees are authorised by the Trustee Act, 1893, to invest in this Stock, unless expressly forbidden by the instrument creating the Trust.

The Governor and Company of the Bank of England give notice that by arrangements made with the Corporation of Liverpool, under the provisions of the Liverpool Corporation Loans Act, 1894, as amended by the Liverpool Corporation Loans Act, 1897, and in pursuance of resolutions of the Town Council of Liverpool, they are authorised to receive on Friday, the 21st January, 1898, tenders for £1,500,000 of Liverpool Corporation Stock, bearing interest at £2 10s. per centum per annum, payable half-yearly at the Bank of England, or any of their country Branches.

The Stock will be redeemable at par, at the option of the Corporation, on and after the 1st January, 1923.

The proceeds of the present issue of Stock will be applied as follows:—

Tramways	£650,000
Electric Lighting	450,000
To extinguish the liability of the Corporation with regard to the Corporation Churches	95,000
Grant to Northern Hospital	15,000
Waterworks	125,000
General Sanitary Purposes	90,000
Police Buildings	20,000
Fire Police Purposes	20,000
Parks Purposes	15,000
Baths	20,000

The Stock will be secured upon the whole of the Rates and Revenues of the Corporation, and will rank equally with all Stock issued by the Corporation under the Liverpool Loans Act, 1880, and the Liverpool Corporation Loans Act, 1894, and with all other Securities of the Corporation created after the passing of the said Act of 1894.

The total debt of the Corporation, for all purposes except Water Works, on the 1st January, 1898, was £4,369,265. 1s. 1d., represented by £2,698,253 13s. 5d. Liverpool Corporation [£3½ per cent. Stock, and £1,671,011. 7s. 8d. by Mortgages and Temporary Loans. Of these Mortgages, or Temporary Loans, £400,000 on account of the purchase of the Electric Supply Undertaking and £600,000 for the purchase of the Tramways Undertaking will be paid off out of the proceeds of the issue of the Stock.

For further particulars as to the position of the Corporation, see detailed prospectus, which may be obtained on application at the Bank of England, or any of its Branches; of Messrs. Mullens, Marshall & Co., Stockbrokers, 4, Lombard-street, London, E.C.; or of the City Treasurer, Municipal Buildings, Liverpool.

The Books of the Stock will be kept at the Bank of England in London, but arrangements have been entered into whereby assignments and transfers may be made at the Liverpool Branch of the Bank. Holders of the Stock will have the option of taking out Stock Certificates to bearer, transferable by delivery, with coupons attached, at the same rate of charge as in the case of Government Stock.

Transfers and Stock Certificates to bearer are free of Stamp duty.

Dividends will be paid half-yearly at the Bank of England (Dividend Warrants being transmitted by post if desired) on the 1st January and 1st July.

A full six months' interest, calculated on the nominal amount of Stock, will be payable on the 1st July, 1898.

Tenders, which must be for multiples of £100, may be for the whole or part of the Stock. Each Tender must state what amount of money will be given for every £100 of Stock. The minimum price, below which no Tender will be accepted, has been fixed at £98 for every £100 of Stock. Tenders must be at prices which are multiples of sixpence.

Tenders must be delivered at the Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England, before Two o'clock on Friday, the 21st January, 1898. Tenders at different prices must be on separate forms. The amount of Stock applied for must be written on the outside of the tender.

In the event of the receipt of tenders for a larger amount of Stock than that proposed to be issued, at or above the minimum price, the tenders at the lowest price accepted will be subject to a *pro rata* diminution.

A deposit of £5 per cent. on the amount of Stock tendered for must be paid at the same Office at the time of the delivery of the tender, and the deposit must not be enclosed in the tender. Where no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned; and in case of partial allotment, the balance of the deposit will be applied towards the first instalment.

The dates at which the further payments on account of the Loan will be required are as follows:—

On Friday, the 4th February, 1898, { so much of the amount tendered for each hundred pounds of Stock as, when added to the deposit, will leave Sixty Pounds (Sterling) to be paid;

On Friday, the 11th March, 1898, £30 per cent.;

On Friday, the 29th April, 1898, £30 per cent.;

but the instalments may be paid in full on or after the 4th February, 1898, under discount at the rate of £1 per cent. per annum. In case of default in the payment of any instalment at its proper date, the deposits and instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

Scrip Certificates to Bearer will be issued in exchange for the provisional receipts. The Stock will be inscribed in the Bank's Books on or after the 29th April, 1898, but Scrip paid in full, in anticipation, may be inscribed forthwith.

No tender will be received unless upon the printed form, which can be obtained at the Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England; at the Bank's Branch in Liverpool; of Messrs. Mullens, Marshall, & Co., Stock Brokers, 4, Lombard-street, London, E.C.; or of the City Treasurer, Municipal Buildings, Liverpool.

Bank of England, January 15th, 1898.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.

Is the BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE in the WORLD.

PREVENTS THE DECAY OF THE TEETH.

Renders the Teeth Pearly White.

IS PERFECTLY HARMLESS AND DELICIOUS TO THE TASTE.

Is Partly Composed of Honey, and Extracts from Sweet Herbs and Plants.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World.

2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER,
Only put in Glass Jars, Price 1s.

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from Falling off.

Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.

Being delicately perfumed, it leaves no Unpleasant Odour.

IS NOT A DYE.

Should be in every House where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.

ASK YOUR CHEMIST OR HAIRDRESSER FOR

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per bottle.

THE Sons of Gwalia, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL - - - £300,000,

In 300,000 Shares of £1 each.

DIRECTORS.
Cyril Wanklyn.
Arthur Johnstone-Douglas.
R. C. Ogilvie.
James Dawson.
Another Director will be nominated by the London and Western Australian Exploration Company, Limited.

BANKERS.
Smith, Payne & Smiths.

SOLICITORS.
Carpenter & Thompson.

BROKER.
L. Aarons, Gresham House and Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

AUDITORS.
Monkhouse, Stoneham, & Co.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.
T. W. Wellsted, Broad-street House, New Broad-street, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and developing the Gold Mining Leases known collectively as the "Sons of Gwalia," and situated near Mount Leonora, in the Mount Malcolm district of the North Coolgardie Goldfield, Western Australia.

The properties were discovered by Welsh prospectors in the summer of 1896, since which date a large amount of development has been carried out, and a 10-stamp mill has been erected.

Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, & Co., reporting for the London & Western Australian Exploration Company, Limited, on the 30th November, 1897, conclude their report as follows:—

"RESUMÉ AND CONCLUSIONS.

"The property comprises 168 acres, of which only one lease of 24 acres has been prospected This lease contains two known auriferous deposits.

"The principal of these two deposits may be described as a zone of low grade ore exploited from 6 ft. to 30 ft. in width, and 650 ft. in length. In this zone there are five chutes of high grade ore. The length of two of these chutes is proved, the three others are but partly proved. There are two or three chutes discovered but yet unprospected. There is 11,750 tons of ore blocked out in these chutes, which averages 2 ozs. 16 dwts. per ton.

"Surrounding these high grade chutes are ores of low grade, yet profitable Three chutes have been prospected so as to allow estimates of tonnage. Three are unprospected but of great promise. There can be estimated 3,950 tons of ore averaging 10 dwts. to 15 dwts. per ton.

"There is a parallel vein, in which there is now blocked out 3,200 tons of ore averaging 12 dwts. per ton.

"There has been milled from the Mine 3,161 tons of ore, which has an assay value of 2 ozs. 13 dwts. per ton.

"The average value by milling both high grade and low grade ores together is 2 ozs. 2 dwts. per ton.

"There should be secured an extraction of at least 92 per cent., or 1 oz. 18 dwts. per ton. From 200 to 250 tons of ore can be extracted daily, and from its easily workable nature can be milled by 50 stamps.

"The working costs under the favourable facilities existing should not exceed 32s. per ton, and there is now blocked out and in sight a profit of £98,000.

"Assuming the value and tonnage to continue 100 ft. below the 100 ft. level, as above it, there would be in sight a profit of £230,000 above the 200 ft. level.

"Should the present ore chutes continue their value in depth, from them can be gained a monthly profit of from £30,000 to £40,000. If additional bodies of low grade ores are proved, then the average grade will be lowered, and monthly profits may be reduced to £20,000—£25,000, unless milling capacity be increased to deal with larger quantities of ore.

"The ore has been proved below water level in the main shaft and maintains its value. There is every geologic evidence that it will maintain its value and quantity in depth.

"The general nature of the deposit gives hope of proving great quantities of additional ore, 1st. In further proving the extent of partially-proved ore chutes. 2nd. In chutes discovered and yet unprospected. 3rd. Of finding still other chutes.

"There are great quantities of ore of too low grade to work at present, which will, in the future, become profitable.

"The property possesses great potentialities."

It is intended to proceed with the erection of a new Mill, with 50 heads of stamps and a cyanide plant of the most modern and improved type, as advised by the Engineers.

The Company will be provided with a working capital of £50,000.

The purchase price has been fixed by the Vendors, the London and Western Australian Exploration Company, Limited—who are the promoters of the Company, and are re-selling at a profit—at £250,000, payable in fully-paid Shares.

The following Agreements have been entered into.

An Agreement dated the 17th November, 1897, between the London and Westralian Mines and Finance Agency, Limited, the British Westralian Mines and Share Corporation, Limited, and the Union Financial Syndicate, Limited, of the one part, and the London and Western Australian Exploration Company, Limited, of the other part, for the purchase by the latter Company of the above-mentioned properties.

An Agreement dated the 5th January, 1898, between the London and Western Australian Exploration Company, Limited, of the one part, and Herbert James Russell as Trustee for and on behalf of this Company of the other part, for re-sale to this Company of the above properties at a profit to the London and Western Australian Exploration Company, Limited.

London, January 11th, 1898.

NOTE.—As the whole of the working capital of the Company has been subscribed, and the Vendors are taking the whole of the purchase consideration in shares, this Prospectus is advertised for public information only and not for the purpose of inviting subscriptions.

The Subscription List will open in London on Tuesday, 18th January, 1898, and close on or before Wednesday, 19th January, 1898, at Four o'clock p.m.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY.

ISSUE of $10,000,000 LOUISVILLE DIVISION and TERMINAL First Mortgage 3½ per Cent. Gold Bonds, due 1st July, 1953.

Principal and interest payable in New York in United States Gold Coin of, or equal to, the present standard of weight and fineness.

Interest payable half-yearly on 1st January and 1st July, the next Coupon for Six months' interest being payable on 1st July, 1898.

These Bonds form part of a present authorised issue of $20,000,000, with power to increase, under the restrictions provided in the Mortgage, by $5,000,000 for future acquisitions, &c. (such acquisitions, &c., to become subject to the present Mortgage), and are secured upon the Louisville Division of the Illinois Central Railroad and Terminal property, as more particularly described in the letter from Mr. Stuyvesant Fish, President of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, dated 4th October, 1897, a copy of which accompanies the Prospectus.

The Mortgage or Trust Deed securing the total issue is dated 15th September, 1897, and is between the Illinois Central Railroad Company, the Chicago, St. Louis, and New Orleans Railroad Company, and the United States Trust Co., of New York, as Trustee.

Issue of $5,000,000 St. Louis Division and Terminal First Mortgage 3½ per Cent. Gold Bonds, due 1st July, 1951.

Principal and Interest payable in New York in United States Gold Coin of, or equal to, the present standard of weight and fineness.

Interest payable half-yearly on 1st January and 1st July, the next Coupon for Six months' interest being payable on 1st July, 1898.

These Bonds form part of a total issue of $15,000,000, and are secured upon the St. Louis Division of the Illinois Central Railroad and Terminal property, as more particularly described in the letter from Mr. Stuyvesant Fish, President of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, dated 4th October, 1897, a copy of which accompanies the Prospectus.

The Mortgages or Trust Deeds securing the total Issue are dated January 1st, 1896, and are between the Illinois Central Railroad Company, the St. Louis, Alton, and Terre-Haute Railroad Company, the Belleville and Southern Illinois Railroad Company, and the United States Trust Company, of New York, as Trustee. The Bonds are further secured by a Supplemental Mortgage executed under date of September 15th, 1897, between the Illinois Central Railroad Company, the St. Louis, Alton, & Terre-Haute Railroad Company, and the United States Trust Company, of New York, as Trustee.

The Bank of Montreal is authorised to receive subscriptions for the above-described Bonds of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, bearing interest from 1st January, 1898.

The price of issue in London is 98⅜ per cent., equal to £196. 15s. per Bond of $1,000, payable as follows:

5	per cent., or	£10 per $1,000 Bond	on	application.
20	do.	£40	do.	on allotment.
35	do.	£70	do.	on 18th February, 1898.
38⅜	do.	£76 15s.	do.	on 18th March, 1898.
98⅜	do.	£196 15s.		

Payment in full may be made under discount at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

In default of payment of any instalment, the amount previously paid will be subject to forfeiture. If no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned without deduction, and if a partial allotment is made, the surplus deposit will be applied towards the amount payable on allotment.

Upon the basis of the present value of the Dollar in London, the Subscription price of 98⅜ is equal to 95 per cent. for Sterling Bonds, after deduction of accrued interest, so that, allowing for repayment at par at maturity, the Bonds yield to the Investor £3. 14s. 4d. per cent. per annum; or, not considering the profit of redemption at par, they yield £3. 13s. 8d. per cent. per annum.

The Bonds are in denominations of $1,000 and $500, and are payable "to Bearer," but for the convenience of Investors they may be converted into registered Bonds at the office of the Illinois Central Railroad Company in New York.

The Bonds constitute a direct obligation of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, and are not liable to be drawn or compulsorily redeemed prior to their maturity in 1951 and 1953 respectively.

Under date of January 11th, 1898, the following Statement of Earnings has been furnished by Mr. Stuyvesant Fish, President of the Illinois Central Railroad Company:—

"Compared with the corresponding months of the last fiscal year the net earnings from traffic (after deducting operating expenses and taxes) for the first six months of the present fiscal year (*i.e.*, from July 1st to December 31st 1897), show the following results:—

"Illinois Central Railroad—Increase $1,186,664, being at the rate of 34·70 per cent. against an increase of average number of miles operated of 19·55 per cent.

"St. Louis Division—Increase $49,929, being at the rate of 19·30 per cent.

"Louisville Division—Gross earnings increase $153,954, being at the rate of 11·50 per cent. The net earnings of that Division for the above period were $461,743, but a comparison with those of the last fiscal year is impracticable, for the reasons stated in my letter of October 4th, 1897.

"In the above figures, the earnings for the month of December are estimated."

Further particulars of the financial position of the Illinois Central Railroad Company and other details, including the provisions for retirement of old Bonds and purchase of the Cecilia Branch, will be found in the letter from the President of the Company already referred to, in which it is also stated that the properties composing the St. Louis Division, as well as those composing the Louisville Division, each form a complete system in themselves, controlling an old-established traffic, and that these lines have for many years yielded net returns averaging more than sufficient to pay the interest on the total issues of $15,000,000 St. Louis Division Bonds, and $20,000,000 Louisville Division Bonds.

The Subscription will be opened simultaneously—
in NEW YORK, by Messrs. Kuhn, Loeb, & Co., and Messrs. Vermilye & Co.;
in AMSTERDAM, by the Amsterdamsche Bank, and the Succursale of the Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas;
in GENEVA, } by the Succursales of the Banque de Paris et des Pays-
in BRUSSELS, } Bas;
in BERLIN, by the Direction Der Disconto-Gesellschaft;
in HAMBURG, by Messrs. M. M. Warburg & Co., and the Nord-Deutsche Bank.

The Subscription in London will be opened on Tuesday, the 18th January, 1898, and closed on or before Wednesday, the 19th January, 1898, at 4 o'clock p.m.

Applications must be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus, and lodged with the Bank of Montreal, 22, Abchurch-lane, London, E.C., together with a deposit of £10 per $1,000 Bond.

The allotment of the Loan will be made as early as possible after the Subscription is closed. Allotments will be made as nearly as practicable in the proportion of one-third in St. Louis Division Bonds, and two-thirds in Louisville Division Bonds, unless applications expressly state that a different proportion, or bonds of either kind only, are desired.

Application will be made in due course for a quotation for the Bonds on the New York, London, and Continental Stock Exchanges.

Copies of the Mortgages or Trust Deeds can be inspected by intending Subscribers at the offices of Messrs. Bompas, Bischoff, Dodgson, Coxe, & Bompas, 4, Great Winchester-street, London, E.C.

Prospectuses, including copies of President Fish's letter, and Application Forms, may be obtained at the Bank of Montreal, 22, Abchurch-lane, London, E.C.; or from Messrs. Marks, Bulteel, Mills, & Co., Stock Brokers, 31, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.

London, January 14th, 1898.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary

—THE— CENTRAL SUPPLY CO., LIM.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893, whereby the liability of the Shareholders is strictly limited to the amount of their Shares.)

CAPITAL — — — £200,000.

Divided into 100,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each	**£100,000**
100,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each	**100,000**
	£200,000

The Preference Shares rank in priority to the Ordinary Shares as to both Capital and Dividend. 35,000 Preference and 50,000 Ordinary Shares will be reserved for future issue, for the acquisition of additional businesses, &c.

PRESENT ISSUE—65,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each	**£65,000**
50,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each	**50,000**
	£115,000

Payable 2s. 6d. per Share on Application, 7s. 6d. on Allotment, and the balance of 10s. per Share on the 7th day of February, 1898.

DIRECTORS.

Hamilton A. Hancock, Director of the Ceylon and Oriental Estates Company, Limited, Chairman.
Lieut.-Col. R. P. Hare, Director of the Bodega Company, Limited.
Arthur H. Easten, J.P., Durrant, Sevenoaks, Kent, and Patrington, Yorkshire.
Maurice Ansell, Director of the Belgravia Hotels Company, Limited.
The O'Clery, Director of "Holophane," Limited.
*G. Hildebrandt (Managing Director), Provision Merchant, 39, Seething-lane, E.C. *Will join the Board after Allotment.

BANKERS.—The London and Midland Bank, Ltd., 52, Cornhill, London, E.C., and Branches.

BROKER.—Ernest A. Richardson, 13, Copthall-court, E.C., and Stock Exchange

SOLICITORS.—Hollams, Sons, Coward, & Hawksley, 30, Mincing-lane, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Oscar Berry & Carr, Chartered Accountants, Monument House, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES (PRO TEM.).—Richard W. Bentley, 16, Great Winchester-street, London, E.C.

The Subscription List opened on Monday, January 17th, 1898, and will close on or before Friday, January 21st, for both Town and Country.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring and carrying on under one management from a central depot, the businesses of Provision Merchants, General Storekeepers, and Contractors, and as a commencement, acquiring and working the following Establishments in well-known populous and thriving districts of London:—23 and 25 Lavender Hill, S.W., provisions and poulterers; 43 and 45, Freemason-road, Canning Town, provisions; 24, Freemason-road, Canning Town, butchers; 144, 146, 148, and 150, Long-lane, Southwark, S.E., provisions; 12, Little Earl-street, Shaftesbury-avenue, provisions; 35, Green-street, Upton Park, E., butchers; 5, Green-street, Upton Park, E., butchers; 51 and 53, Watney-street, E., provisions and butchers; 59, Church-street, Portman Market, provisions; 304, Oxford-street, E., provisions; 224, High-road, Leyton, provisions; 223 and 225, North End-road, Fulham, provisions; 192, North End-road, Fulham, provisions; 27, Burdett-road, Mile End, grocers and provisions; 197, Burdett-road, E., grocers and provisions; 132, Myddleton-road, Bowes Park, N., grocers and provisions; 365, Wandsworth-road, S.W., provisions; 181, Green-street, Bethnal Green, butchers; 19, Broadway, London Fields, butchers; 51, Green-street, Upton Park, butchers; 227, Gipsy-lane, Upton Park, butcher; 283, Barking-road, West Ham, butchers; 46, Plough-road, Battersea, provisions; 54, Brunswick-road, Poplar, E., provisions; 330, York-road, Wandsworth, provisions; 294A, York-road, Wandsworth, provisions; 1, Maury-road, Stoke Newington, provisions; 21, Broadway, London Fields, provisions; 290, Roman-road, Old Ford, provisions; 206, High-road, Leyton, provisions.

The Proprietors of these businesses will be bound down not to carry on or assist in carrying on a similiar trade within a radius of two miles of their respective places of business to be taken over by the Company.

The soundness and profitable character of the businesses appear from the following certificates of Messrs. Oscar Berry & Carr, Chartered Accountants, which shows that the average aggregate sales of the whole of the businesses amounted to £251,996 19s. 11d. per annum, producing an annual net profit of £17,105 2s. 8d.

"Monument House,
"Monument-square, London, E.C.
"5th January, 1898.

"To the Directors of the Central Supply Company, Limited.

"Gentlemen,—We have examined the books and accounts produced to us by the Proprietors of the businesses, as per Schedule herewith, proposed to be acquired by your Company, and find therefrom that the average aggregate sales of the whole of the businesses amounted to £251,996. 19s. 11d. per annum, producing an average annual net profit of £17,105. 2s. 8d., which is after providing for bad debts, but before writing off any amount for amortization of leases, interest on capital, and proprietors' drawings. We consider that £1,000 a year should be set aside for repairs and renewals. We have dealt with the accounts ranging from 1894 to the early part of 1897, many for three complete years. We are of opinion that considerable saving should be made in the buying when the businesses are amalgamated, and the profits should be increased accordingly.

"We are, gentlemen, yours faithfully,
"OSCAR BERRY & CARR."

The schedule corresponds with the foregoing list of businesses to be acquired.

The profits above-mentioned (even assuming there is no increase) distributed over the present issue of the Company's Capital give the following results:—

The annual profits as certified		£17,105 2 8
To pay dividend of 6 per cent. on 65,000 Preference Shares will require	£3,900	
To pay dividend of 8 per cent. on 50,000 Ordinary Shares will require	4,000	
		7,900 0 0
Leaving an annual margin of		£9,205 2 8

to pay expenses of management, repairs, amortization of leases, the creation of a reserve fund, and for payment of further dividend on the Ordinary Shares, &c.

The above statement is based upon the certified profits made, and without taking into account the advantages to be derived from carrying on the businesses under one control, and of their being supplied from one central depot.

The Company will have the advantage of being able to purchase their supplies in such quantities as should induce competition from the largest dealers in various trades.

£25,000 will remain out of the proceeds of the present issue for the purchase of the Stock-in-Trade and book-debts, and for providing Working Capital, which will enable the Company to purchase for cash, and thus secure the maximum trade discounts. The Vendors to the Company guarantee that the amount to be paid for book-debts shall not exceed £1,500, and that such debts shall be duly paid.

The properties to be acquired by the Company consist of 30 retail shops, of which 19 are held on leases or agreements for leases having from nine to 32 years unexpired; the remainder have varying unexpired terms of tenancy. It is not anticipated there will be any difficulty in renewing the tenancies.

The above properties and the businesses have been reported upon by Messrs. Edridge & Jackson, Trade Valuers, and the following is a copy of their report:—

"Moscow House, 4, Eastcheap, E.C.
"6th January, 1898.

"To the Directors of the Central Supply Company, Limited.

"Gentlemen,—We have surveyed the premises as set forth in schedule hereto and proposed to be acquired by your Company, in which are carried on the businesses of Provision Dealers, Butchers, Poulterers, and Storekeepers, and we have inspected the fixtures, fittings, machinery, plant, utensils, horses, vans, carts, harness, and other effects belonging thereto. Our valuation thereof as a going concern, including goodwill, but exclusive of stock-in-trade, is £113,757. 11s. 10d. We found the premises in good tenantable repair, and the several retail shops, which are well fitted, occupy very eligible positions for the purposes of the trades conducted therein. The majority of the businesses are known to us as old-established and progressive concerns.

"We are, gentlemen,
"Yours truly,
"EDRIDGE & JACKSON."

The schedule referred to corresponds with the foregoing list of businesses to be acquired.

The services have been retained for a period of five years, as Managing Director, of Mr. G. Hildebrandt, whose knowledge of the wholesale markets and experience in management will be of great value to the Company.

It is believed that arrangements can be made with several of the original proprietors of the businesses to remain in the service of the Company.

Mr. G. Hildebrandt and the City Stores Syndicate, Limited, have contracted to purchase the respective properties and businesses, and have agreed to resell the same to the Company, and have fixed the price to be paid by the Company at £90,000, payable partly in cash and partly in fully paid shares. This price includes trade fixtures, fittings, machinery, horses, carts, and other accessories to the businesses, except stock-in-trade and book-debts, which will be taken over by the Company at a valuation in the usual way, but, as respects book-debts, subject to the above-mentioned guarantee. The Vendors to the Company will pay all expenses of forming and establishing the Company up to allotment, and of and incidental to the investigation of titles and vesting the properties in the Company, and guarantee to the Company subscriptions for Shares to the extent of £25,000 to provide cash for the purchase of the stock-in-trade and book-debts, and for Working Capital as above-mentioned.

Power is reserved to exclude, should it be deemed expedient, one or more of the businesses proposed to be acquired, and thereupon to re-adjust the purchase money to be paid to the Vendors.

For contracts see full Prospectus.

Application will be made in due course for quotation of the Preference and Ordinary Shares on the London Stock Exchange.

The contracts, the Certificate of Messrs. Oscar Berry & Carr, the Valuation of Messrs. Edridge and Jackson, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association, can be inspected at the Offices of the Company's Solicitors.

Applications for Preference and Ordinary Shares should be made on the accompanying forms and forwarded to the Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount of the deposit.

If the whole amount applied for be not allotted, the surplus paid on deposit will be appropriated towards payment of the sum due on allotment. Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full.

Full Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, and from the Bankers and Broker.

London, January 14th, 1898.

This Form of Application may be used for Preference or Ordinary Shares.
Applicants must fill in words Preference or Ordinary.

Form of Application for Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares.

THE CENTRAL SUPPLY COMPANY, LIMITED,

To the Directors of the Central Supply Company, Limited.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your bankers the sum of £....., being a deposit of Two Shillings and Sixpence per Share on Application for ..... Shares of £1 each in the above-named Company, I request you to allot me that number of Shares, and I agree to accept and pay for the same, or any less number, upon the terms and conditions of the Prospectus, dated the 14th day of January, 1898, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I authorise you to place my name on the register of members in respect of the Shares so allotted to me, and I agree to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Shares as required in the terms of the said Prospectus, and I agree with the Company, as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable, to waive any further compliance with Section 38 of the Companies' Act, 1867, than is contained in the said Prospectus.

Name in full .....
Address in full .....
.....
Profession or Occupation .....
Ordinary Signature .....
Date ..... 1898.

DAWSON CITY TRADING.

THE PROPERTIES ALREADY ACQUIRED BY THE COMPANY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The First Ordinary General (Statutory) Meeting of the Members of the Dawson City (Klondyke) and Dominion Trading Corporation, Limited, was held yesterday, at the Westminster Palace Hotel, S.W., Mr. J. M. Catton presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Charles A. Goffin) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: As you are aware, the statutory meeting of every public limited liability company has to be called within four months of registration. We were incorporated on October 23, and your board has called you together in something like two months and a half. One of the reasons for this is that your chairman sails for British Columbia within the next nine days to confer on the spot with Mr. Boscowitz, our energetic and influential managing director on the other side, concerning the important interests you now hold, and will hold, in that country. Although the company has been only two months and a half in existence, your board has, I am sure you will be pleased to learn, done good work. One large placer property in which we are interested is confidently expected, at a very moderate estimate, to realise a very large sum. We hope to get returns from this property in about June next. I am not going to indicate at this early stage the location of this property, I do not think it would be in your interests that I should do so. We have many rivals, and the marked jealousy with which our progress is watched is sufficient evidence to you of the strong position we hold, backed as we are by such a strong advisory board in British Columbia, consisting of such honoured and well-known and popular representatives as the Premier of British Columbia (the Hon. J. H. Turner), the President of the Council (Mr. C. E. Pooley, Q.C.), and Mr. Joseph Boscowitz. The last-named gentleman has for thirty-five years past successfully carried on an immense business in British Columbia, which business he has now handed over to his two sons, in order that he may be able to devote his time and energies to your interests. I think that is a very important fact, because a man is not likely to give up a very lucrative business unless he thinks it will be to his advantage to take over another business. In the hands of Mr. Turner, Mr. Pooley, and Mr. Boscowitz you may rest assured that your interests, which in conjunction with the Klondike and Columbian Goldfields, Limited—with which highly-successful and influential Company we are cordially co-operating—will be of a vast magnitude. You will remember that, according to the prospectus of this Company—and it will also be gathered from the title—that we do not confine our operations to British Columbia, but that we include the whole of the Dominion of Canada. In this respect I should like to tell you that we hold a very important interest in the New Golden Twins, a mining property in the rising district of the Rainy River—a district which experts who have recently returned from that country will tell you is literally teeming with gold. I believe some of you are shareholders in the New Golden Twins, and you are fortunate—although I fear everybody who has shares in twins do not always consider themselves so. (Laughter.) Of this property the managing director (Mr. Harold Wiley) a gentleman who is well known throughout Canada as one of the most successful pioneers of gold mining in Ontario, says it is a most valuable one. It must be so; I will tell you why. All interested in mining ventures have heard of the Alaska Treadwell Mine. Now, the ore from this mine runs from $2.75 to $2.95 per ton, and they are paying very large dividends. When I say that the ore of the New Golden Twins assays over $5 to the ton you will easily realise in what a valuable property your directors have secured an interest. Outsiders have already begun to realise this: for in the daily financial papers you will notice that the shares are now at ⅛ premium.

You have heard what I have had to say myself, and I have also informed you what the managing director of the property thinks of it. I will now give you what an independent expert says about it. He states:—"You have a vein on the property—I know from actual experience, for I have walked over it—that appears almost like a pavement for nearly 1,000 ft., and which is all the way from 5 ft. to 50 ft. wide; so that you have any quantity of ore in sight, and it is only a question of values. Now, the values there from your report to-day have really been demonstrated" (you remember I just now said they were over $5 to the ton), "showing that you have a good paying property, which will pay, as they say in the West, 'from the grass roots.' I may say that this property you control was one of the initial properties taken up in that particular district, and was selected by one of the best explorers—a man of very wide experience, who passed over numbers of others before he finally brought this to the notice of the people who took it up for him. He is a man whose judgment I do not think could be doubted." I do not think you could improve on that. Another company with a much wider scope and operating in the same district in which we are interested to the extent of holding a third of the deferred shares, which take half the profits after 20 per cent. has been paid to the ordinary shareholders, is the Rainy River and Ontario Exploration Company, Limited, which was successfully launched about six weeks ago. The advisory board of that company is a strong and influential one, consisting of the Mayor of Port Arthur (Mr. Marks), Mr. James O'Connor (the President of the Board of Trade at Port Arthur), and Judge Fitzgerald. I think that is a very strong board to have behind us. We expect very great things from this company. It is practically the first pioneer exploration company in this wonderfully rich district of Rainy River and Lake of the Woods. Men who know and whose experience lends weight to their knowledge, say that it will prove one of the richest goldfields yet discovered. Only time will prove this; but we have the satisfaction of being big shareholders in an influential and well-directed Company first in the field. I hope you are still bearing in mind that the actual business accomplished, to which I have briefly referred, has been done in under two months and a half. We have not, I hope you will agree, missed our opportunities. In addition to this, we have, of course, had under consideration multitudinous propositions for trading business, and it is principally on this class of business that your chairman is at once proceeding to British Columbia. The nature of these operations it would not be politic in your interests to disclose at this meeting. That we shall reap large profits from this class of business I have no doubt whatever. I may tell you, however, that it will be principally a ready-money class of business, consisting of both large profits and quick returns.

There is another important matter before I conclude, and that is a personal matter concerning the constitution of this board. You will remember that on the appearance of the prospectus of this company the *Times*, the most influential and most widely-read paper in the world, referred to the company as having objects quite legitimate and to the prospectus as a straightforward document. It is very rare that the *Times* refers to the prospectus of any company in this way. The more important section of the Press also spoke fairly of it. Other journals of minor importance referred to it rather disparagingly. There is a feeling of jealousy, and whether these journals made unpleasant remarks inspired by rival companies, or because they did not get the advertisements, I do not know; but the fact remains that no company operating in the same sphere as ourselves possesses such an influential, high, official, and practical board of directors as the Dawson City (Klondike) and Dominion Trading Corporation, Limited. The Premier of British Columbia (the Hon. J. H. Turner), the President of the Council (Mr. C. E. Pooley, Q.C.), and Mr. Joseph Boscowitz are still with us and working in cordial co-operation; and in this connection, to show you how much and how highly Mr. Turner and Mr. Pooley think of this company, and the successful results we are likely to reap from it, I may say that, in consequence of a certain British Columbian paper following the ill-formed lead of certain journals in this country, they have, I believe preferred a charge of alleged criminal libel against the editor of an important Victorian paper, and this gentleman, I am informed, has consequently been committed for trial. This, I think, will prove a wholesome warning to certain journals in this country whose editors are sometimes apt to let their pens run away with them. I think Mr. Turner and Mr. Pooley are entitled to every praise for having taken the steps which they have. Going one step further, I come to the fact that one of the directors advertised on the prospectus of this Company, and holding a high official position in the House of Lords, was obliged to resign. I refer to General Sir Michael Biddulph, G.C.B., an officer of whom it is impossible to speak too eulogistically. Sir Michael accepted the directorship of this Company on October 22, and on November 2 he formally notified to the board his resignation in the following letter:—"2, Whitehall-court, November 2, 1897. To the Board of Directors of the Dawson City (Klondike) and Dominion Trading Corporation, Limited. Gentlemen, I desire now to notify to you in due form that I have taken the step of withdrawing from the Board of Directors of your Company, and I do so with regret, as I find my position and occupations do not permit me to assist you as I would wish to do. Believe me, yours truly, M. A. Biddulph." General Biddulph also wrote a letter on the same date to his colleagues on the board, and in the course of his remarks he said:—"I have, at Mr. Catton's desire, sent in my formal resignation to the board of directors. I am obliged to you, and to him, for being so good as to welcome me on the board, and sorry if I have given you any trouble. However, I think that my name has not been without advantage to your company, and no harm has been done by my resignation. I wish you all success, and I think there is a good opening." I think these letters settle once and for all the many grossly unfounded statements which appeared at the time of the issue of the prospectus of this Company. These statements were naturally treated with the silent contempt they deserved. We preferred to reserve any explanation that we might see fit to make until this meeting at which you shareholders would be present. I think you are the first who should be taken into our confidence. That concludes all I have to say at this statutory meeting of the Company. (Applause.)

Mr. Chester Haughton proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors.

Mr. H. D. Evans, in seconding the motion, said he considered the Chairman's statement with regard to the two and a half months' working of the company was satisfactory. He thought that with the co-operation of the advisory board on the other side the company ought to do well, more especially as it was a trading company, operating in a new district.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the compliment, and expressed the hope that when the directors met the shareholders at the next meeting they would be able to present a satisfactory report and to declare a satisfactory dividend.

The proceedings then terminated.

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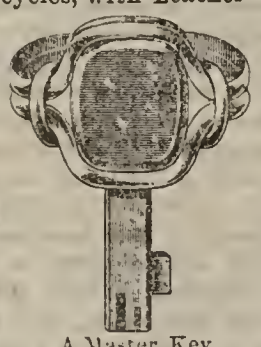

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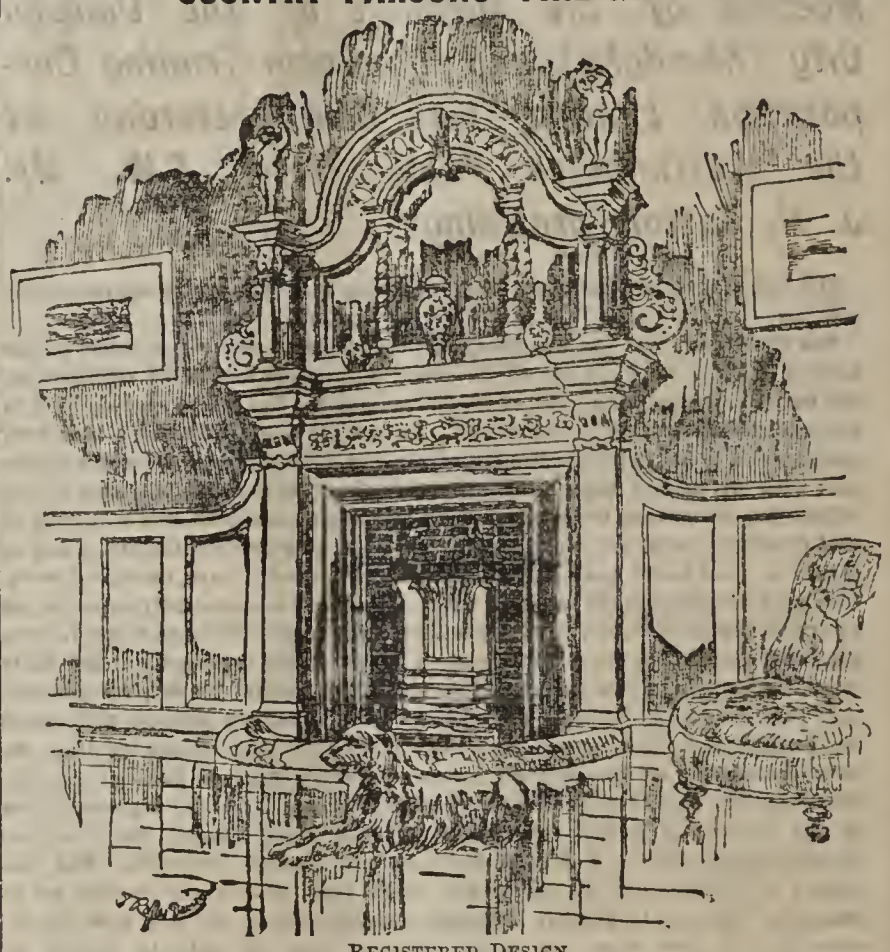

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OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2. 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and, for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THEIR NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S-GATE, S.W.

"TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW.—SPECIAL NOTICE.

Now that the Prize List has been published, it is hoped that those ladies and gentlemen whose names are included in it will make application for their prizes at their earliest convenience. The failure of one or two ladies to do this may tend to delay the allotment of prizes of those coming after them in the List, and the Editor of TRUTH is anxious to complete the distribution of the prizes as soon as possible.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 977.

It has been decided to award the Prize in this competition to PENDARLEY for the following:—

AMUSING SAYING OF A CHILD.

Mother (who has just been telling the story of Balaam to small daughter): "So you see, Tottie, Balaam was a very naughty man, wasn't he?" Tottie (just returned from a month at the seaside): "Yes, mother, I should think Dod would never give him another donkey-ride."

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 986.

The name of the Prize-winner in this competition will be announced when competition No. 989 is decided.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 987.

The Prize in this competition has been divided between PAT-A-CAKE and AVIS for the following suggestions of Round Games suitable for Christmas Parties:—

MUSICAL SUGGESTIONS.

The following game was suggested by the accidental circumstance of my other wondering what train of thought had led him to whistle a particular one. He found it was suggested by the sight of a picture on the wall. We developed the idea as follows:—Divide the company into two camps, of which the leader on each side must have just sufficient knowledge of music to supply names and tunes of a few well-known musical compositions. Select an umpire in case of disputes. Camp No. 2 leaves the room. No. 1 chooses an object to be fairly visible to all, whose name can be suggested by the words or title of a musical air. Enter No. 2. The tune is hummed, or whistled, or played on any musical instrument by No. 1. The first guesser who "spots" the tune names it aloud, and his party roam round till they find the object selected. Whoever first guesses right is counted "out," and joins the spectators. The No. 2 retires again, and the process is repeated till all the side is "out," when No. 1 camp takes the guessing. If no one can name the tune, they may ask it of the umpire. This can be played by persons of all ages. It is not a game," yet contains movement, and can be enlivened by use of a jew's-harp, any whistle, or combs as musical instruments. It allows of ingenious cunning, and is "original." The following tunes, with their corresponding objects, illustrate my meaning:—"Rule Britannia," picture of the yacht of that name. "Onward Christian Soldiers," a toy soldier. "The Marseillaise," a French poodle. "God Save the Queen," a coin head upwards. "My Pretty Jane," a lady of that name. "I Know a Bank," a cheque book. "Harmonious Blacksmith," a horse-shoe.—Pat-a-Cake.

MUSICAL PROVERBS.

A perfectly-delightful form of "Musical Proverbs" can be played thus, and is, I believe, new to most circles. Two persons are in "the know," one seated at the piano, the other outside the room. The company choose a proverb, which they communicate to the pianist, and the banished one is recalled. Without sign or look she walks away from the piano, and the player strikes a few well-chosen chords. The other pauses a second, and then repeats whatever proverb the company may have chosen. There are always plenty present who are "sure they can do it," and are eager to try, or it could be scarcely called a "round game." The key is—Pianist chooses the most prominent word in the proverb—such as "cat," "stones," "houses," &c., and spells this out by a number of chords. For instance, "eat," three firm chords for "c," small pause, one fine one for "a;" for "t" we should need so many that we divide the alphabet in two at the letter "l," which is given by two sharp chords like a rat-tat, then single chords for each after. So that for "t" we should start with our rat-tat chord and give eight single chords after. It is very easy to pick up, and I have never found it fail to delight. The chords should be as varied as possible. I always start each letter-group in a fresh key, which brings out the most amusing comments, such as "of course, it's quite simple, I see, a mere change of key." Absolute silence is necessary for the guesser, and these lively ones have to be suppressed, but are given "fair play" afterwards. Should the guesser fail at first word, pianist says mysteriously, "Give you another form?" and proceeds to spell out next chief word. I fear my description is not brief, but please, Mr. Editor, excuse it, and let your readers have the chance of trying this pretty game.—Avis.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 991.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week to the competitor who is most successful in supplying

A LIST OF CORRECT ANSWERS TO THE FIRST FIFTY OF THE ORIGINAL CONUNDRUMS PRINTED ON THIS AND THE FOLLOWING PAGE.

Marks will be awarded for replies that fairly answer the given riddles even though they may not be the ones sent in by the authors of the conundrums. The senders of conundrums are not debarred from taking part in this competition, but it must be understood that no marks will be allowed them for the answers to their own riddles. All answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, January 31, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of TABLEAU, winner of Prize No. 984, is Miss Pitman, Loddiswell, R.S.O., South Devon.

*** The real name, with the address, of ALMAVIVA, winner of Prize No. 985, is Joseph Harry Fry, Esq., 64, Craven Park, Willesden, N.W.

L. G.—Many thanks for your P.O.O. for five shillings, which has been placed to the credit of the TRUTH Toy Fund.

ALDBARN.—I am much obliged to you for your excellent suggestion.

BLOSSOM.—Many thanks for your letter. I am sorry that you made a mistake about the "Epitaph" competition.

J. MCGRIGOR ALLAN.—I am much obliged to you for the lines you have so kindly sent me.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 988.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ORIGINAL CONUNDRUMS.

Why did Ranjitsinhji, in continuing his celebrated innings after a surgical operation, do no more than might be expected?

Why did Mme. Toussaint, wife of the black Haiti reformer, rejoice in the appropriate surname (Ouverture) adopted by her husband?

What is the difference between a silkworm and a parricide?

Why must a tenor take care of his health in order to preserve his high notes?

Why are Christmas turkeys like pages of Italian?—Ludwig B.

The lovely Letitia, strolling through the park with her cousin Thomas, saw, poised in the air above, one of the few birds of prey left to us here in England. Desirous of calling the young man's attention to it, she pointed her taper finger upward, and exclaimed, "Indian hatchet!" What did the lovely Letitia mean?—Harebell.

7. What is which no one should have, yet no bicyclist should be without?—G. E. W.

8. Why are the Great Powers like a domestic servant?—A. E. B.

9. Why is a man eating a beef-steak in a village like a landed proprietor?—J. McGrigor Allan.

10. What favourite melodrama are the Chinese trying to get up?—Cochran Field.

11. Why do knaves resemble Paris houses?—Atol.

12. Why must Hall Caine be considered vain of his powers?

13. Why should thunder attract little or no attention?

14. Why should silent young ladies be interesting to athletes?—Georgina.

15. Why was the Kaiser and Prince Henry episode quite commonplace?

16. Why are the Guardians who wished to con-

tinue the practice of bathing a dozen "casuals" without change of water like flannel?

17. What sartorial anomaly is witnessed on September 1?—Robert Martin.

18. How can the Englishman at the present time best vindicate his popular title?—A. P.

19. What four letters will give the quality requisite for advancement in the world?—M. E. B.

20. What three letters will prove an obstruction to advancing in life?—M. E. B.

21. When is a journey round the Inner Circle of the Underground like a famous specialist on throat and chest diseases?—M. E. B.

22. Why was there a forecast of disaster in the Kaiser's address to Prince Henry?—Marplot.

23. Why was the attitude of the prosecuting counsel and witnesses in the recent case against the directors of the Junior Army and Navy Stores remarkable?—Marplot.

24. In what way has Sir T. J. Lipton shown himself an enemy to national prosperity?—Marplot.

25. Why is hydrophobia an imaginary complaint?—Marplot.

26. Why should the movement of the Powers in Asia be hated by sailors and welcomed by unemployed potters?

27. Why has Sunderland smaller chance of winning the League Championship than any other club?

28. Why are the French very careful and peaceful in Parliament?

29. Why is the late William Terriss like the holly?

30. Why should a trip southward from Portsmouth cure and delight haughty people?—Felixicus.

31. What is the value of a half share of the prize in this competition?—Aldbarn.

32. On what railway in England can you feel safe to travel?

33. Which of our cathedrals is of universal interest just now?—Felsberg.

34. What is the difference between Heligoland and the engineering trouble?—Mac.

35. Why is Barnum's Show like Heaven?

36. When is a boy like two quadrupeds?—Elk.

37. What's the difference between the Emperor of Germany and pirates in action?

38. When does the act itself of an offender invoke the arm of the law?

39. What is the speediest means of smashing China?—Baritone.

40. Is it true that your friend Mr. Hill objects to his son entering that office in the East End of London?—Coloniensis.

41. Why is Russia to be excused in pushing forward the trans-Siberian railway?

42. Why does the war in the north-west of India remind one of Mr. W. T. Stead?

43. What is the remedy for self-depreciation?—Esperanza.

44. What sort of a man would a competitor in this puzzle like to be?

45. Why does a lover who wishes to gain the affections of a lady resemble her when she repels his suit?

46. Which of the little wars we are now waging is likely to be the most deadly?—Excelsior.

47. Who ought to have been the first balloonist?—Oteris.

48. Why was Pythagoras the first hatter?—Moonshine.

49. What is the difference between a gunsmith and a pinch of snuff?—Moonshine.

50. Why is the bull the real king of beasts?—Touchstone.

51. Why is a man with the gout like a cork?—Pigtail.

52. An old riddle asks what fruits do we know grew in Eden, the answer to which is an apple, a pear (pair), and a medlar (meddler). But what is the fruit we know was not in Eden?

53. Why need no lady be surprised that her figure is so good?

54. Who is the best known weather prophetess?—Singeon.

55. Why is Leigh Sampson heir to the British Throne?—Giglamps.

56. Why are cut flowers like ardent spirits?

57. What is the surest passport to Heaven?—J. Beynon.

58. Why is the German Emperor like a curio hunter?

59. Why would a return to mankind's primitive state resemble the letter S.—Chess Vale.

60. Why is there but little to choose between the behaviour of Russia and of England in the China Seas?—Ooloo.

61. Miss Jennie Macphierson is thirty-seven years of age; why is she like Eve in the Garden of Eden?

62. When is a horse extravagant?

63. When should a donkey go to church?—Svonok.

64. Why is an ambulance like a well-known Latin proverb?

65. Why can a man who is very fond of the national beverage never be said to be really well?

66. What name of a country would a man object to be called?—Irma Lee.

67. I sold a good thing to help a good cause,
But I sinned in so doing, and so did the buyer;
Yet no cause will last unless it stick fast
To this thing that will perish by fire.
J. M.

68. Why is the devil the worst and most dangerous character ever was, or ever will be?—Juno.

69. What is the difference between a well-known dramatic critic and North Britain?—East Anglia.

70. When a maid-of-all-work gets married, why is it a distinct rise in the social scale?

71. On which relative of your hostess is it etiquette to turn your back?—Sissie.

72. Why is the engineers' strike like a box of safety matches?

73. Why does Germany represent British servantgaldom?

74. Why is New Year's Eve like the first number of a famous novel?

75. Why is the P. of W. Hospital Fund like the G.P.O.?

76. Why is the Maidstone epidemic like refugees from the Fatherland?

77. Why is the TRUTH Toy Show like a popular pantomime?—Sol.

78. If a donkey were to wish its mother to address it, what town in Scotland would it name?—Barbato.

79. Why is Chaucer like the modern turf "tipster"?—Xnihps.

80. When does a man become a quadruped?

81. Where can we find men without guile?—Risk.

82. Why is the Eastern Question like a bird with a broken wing?

83. Why should you always repay a single present?

84. When is a ship not a ship?

85. When is a sailor not a sailor?

86. When is a light not a light?

87. When is a tooth not a tooth?—Crock.

88. Why should all unmarried ladies go East?—Comet-Aster.

89. When is the conferring of honours like sleeping in a haunted room?—Phyllis.

90. Why is a verbose orator like a penniless toper?

91. Why is a herring like Napoleon?

92. When is a punster liable to penal servitude?

93. When is it illegal for a woman to marry a clergyman?

94. Why are we in danger of a flood, and how do we increase the danger?—Hireling.

95. What did Io die of?

96. In the question of the Far East, what nation should England favour?

97. In the same question, what nation should she not encourage?

98. Which is, in the present day, the most warlike nation, and why?—Ooloo.

99. If the builders of seats for the Jubilee wanted the best material to ensure safety, where would be the best place to find it?

100. Why is a German gentleman asking his English servant for a garden requisite like a tourist doing Rome without a guide?

101. Why were the experiences of the Generals commanding on the Indian frontier during the fighting like some of the political party in South Africa about the time of the Jameson raid?

102. What is the difference between the Chinese form of worship and the Government's loan to China?—Table Bay.

103. Why is the shout of a policeman stopping a cab like matrimony?

104. Why ought a pew-opener to get rich?

105. When is a Stilton cheese like a dollar?

106. When do ladies' locks become metallic?—Thersites.

107. What is the difference between a salad and a ship?—Azile.

108. What peculiar phenomena opposed to natural science does an artillery regiment in action present?—Verax.

109. What is it that we oft possess,
The more it is given grows less and less;
Yet, on the other hand, it will
When nothing given grow greater still?
Azile.

110. Why are journalists like chickens?

111. How many wives may a man have according to the Prayer Book and the English law?

112. Why should a nobleman in wedlock marry a young heiress named Annie?

113. Why was Balaam's ass like an illiterate local preacher?

114. What was Joan of Arc made of?

115. I'm found in nearly every house,
And daily wants supply;
And though I'm hidden out of sight,
I'm scanned with anxious eye.

Two simple words will give my name,
Yet, strange as it may seem,
I'm multiplied ten thousand times,
When nought is placed between.
Pellea.

116. A verb of eight letters poor debtors abhor.
Behead me, I'm making one great effort more.
Behead me again, most melodious I sound.
Behead me once more, on the railway I'm found.
Behead me again, I fertility give
To lands where, without me, no creature could live.
Once more beheaded, in bonnie Dundee
I'm a word of possession, belonging to me.
Behead me again, it results, my position
Is that of a constantly-used preposition.
At my seventh beheading, the mystery wanes,
For now but a single initial remains,
Once a power in Europe to charm or affright;
A symbol in France of her glory and might.
Harebell.

*** Some of the preceding specimens are not, strictly speaking, Conundrums at all; but as there is sufficient space, I have had them printed notwithstanding.—The P.E.

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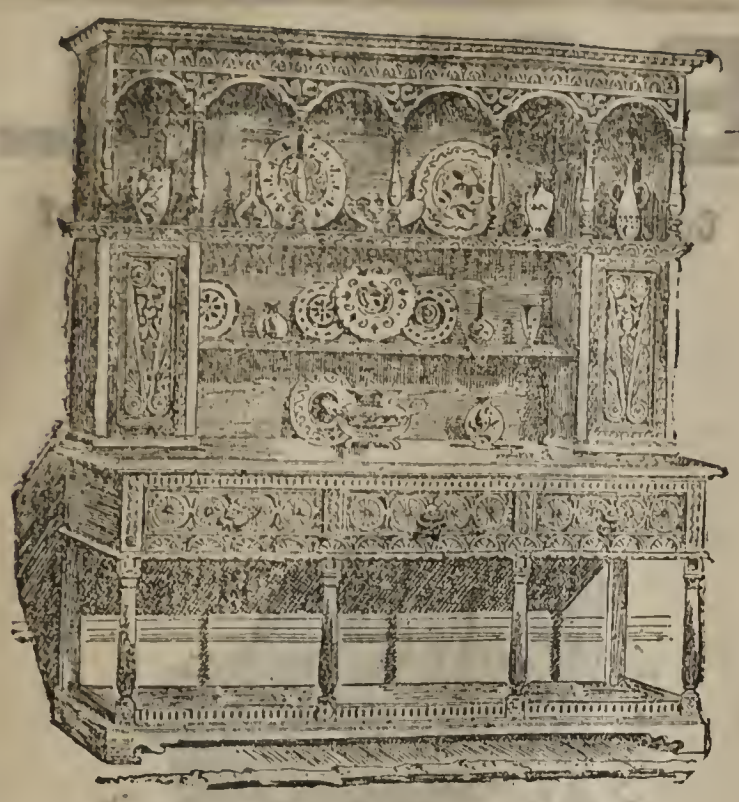

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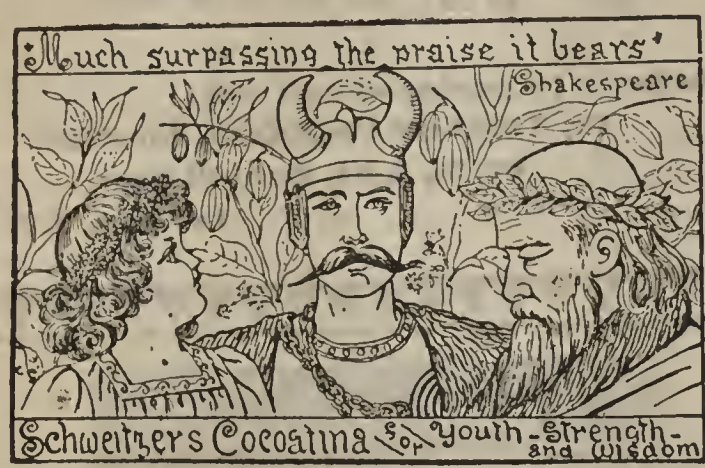

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TRUTH

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

An Index *to the* Forty Second Volume *of* Truth *will be forwarded, post-free, to any address on application to the Publishing Office, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, E.C. The half-yearly Volume can be obtained at the same address, price 25s.*

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

I HAVE one more pleasing announcement to make with respect to the recent Truth Toy and Doll Show. All the printing connected therewith was done by Messrs. Love & Wyman, and I have received a letter from that firm informing me that it is not their intention to make any charge for it. This enables me to carry the sum of £13 7s. 6d., thus remitted by Messrs. Love & Wyman, to the credit of the Truth Toy Fund, and I thank my printers for their very generous gift. I have also received the following sums in aid of the Toy Fund deficit, and, while thanking the donors, I venture to express the hope that I shall yet be favoured with many further contributions towards the extinction of the heavy deficit which the accounts still show:—

J. Laird, £1 1s.; Florence Walcot, £1; A Reader of Truth for Many Years, £2 2s.; L. F. B., £1; Gylippus, £1; Miss Holden, £2 2s.; The Daddy Man, £3 3s.; C. J. Williamson and a Friend, £1; Nurse, 10s.; H. T., £5; surplus new sixpences returned from St. Giles', Camberwell, 5s.

The Queen is to hold the Council for the Speech at Osborne on Saturday, February 5; and on Monday, full-dress Parliamentary dinners will be given by Lord Salisbury, Mr. Balfour, and the Duke of Devonshire, and the Duchess of Devonshire will have a large reception at Devonshire House.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught, who have been staying at Osborne on a visit to the Queen, left Buckingham Palace on Sunday for the Riviera, and they are to remain on the Continent for about five weeks. The Duke and Duchess will go to Germany at Easter to attend a couple of Royal weddings which are then coming off—Princess Feodore of Saxe-Meiningen and Prince Henry XXX. of Reuss, and Princess Dorothea of Saxe Coburg-Gotha and the Duke of Augustenburg.

As I have before suggested, Lord Lathom has withdrawn his resignation of the office of Lord Chamberlain only on condition that he is dispensed from attending any Court functions during the approaching season. A difficult question has arisen at Court as to who is to do the Lord Chamberlain's duty at Levees and Drawing Rooms, particularly in the reading out of the names, and the matter is now being considered by the Queen and the Prince of Wales. It is expected that Lord Pembroke will be requested to undertake this work, and anything which would clash inconveniently with his own duties as Lord Steward will be done by Mr. Fellowes, the Vice-Chamberlain, whose post promises, for one season at least, not to be a sinecure.

During the month of February the Dowager Lady Ampthill, the Duchess of Roxburghe, and Lady Lytton are to be the Ladies of the Bedchamber in waiting on the Queen at Osborne and at Windsor Castle; while Lords Lawrence, Kintore, and Bridport will be the Lords-in-Waiting on duty; Captain Drummond, Colonel Browne, Sir Edmund Commerell the Grooms-in-Waiting; and Sir Henry Byng and Major Legge, V.C., will be the Equerries-in-Waiting. If there is a Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace during the last week of February, Mr. J. S. Egerton and Mr. Ivor J. L. Hay are to be the Pages of Honour on duty in the Throne Room. Colonel Larking, Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, Colonel Eliot, Mr. Raglan Somerset, and Mr. Innes-Ker are to be the Gentlemen Ushers-in-Waiting during February.

The Secretaryship of the Board of Green Cloth, which is the best permanent appointment under the Lord Steward, being worth £1,200 a year, with some perquisites and allowances, will be placed at the Queen's disposal next month by the retirement of Mr. March, after more than sixty years' service in the Household.

The late Lady Russell survived her husband more than twenty years, and since Lord Russell retired from public life in 1866 she had lived at Richmond in complete retirement. Lady Russell, who was a daughter of Lord Minto

and the second wife of "Lord John," was a very clever woman, with a most attractive manner, and she took a keen and intelligent interest in political affairs. Lady Russell, having been a mild Whig during the greater part of her life, had become a decided Radical and a zealous Home Ruler during the last twelve years. She had a great position in Society when Lord John was Prime Minister, and afterwards when he was Foreign Secretary under Lord Palmerston; but she always preferred a quiet life, and was much happier when in the country with her children than when taking a prominent part in Court functions.

Lady Russell had many serious troubles and bereavements during the latter part of her life, and it was well known that when Lord John was a Minister of State he and his wife were in a constant worry about their pecuniary affairs. His elder brother, the Duke of Bedford, was a leviathan of wealth and with no family, but, although very fond and proud of Lord John, he could not bring himself to make an adequate settlement on him. Mr. Greville, who was the intimate friend of both brothers, has given an account of the uncomfortable arrangement which existed when Lord John was in office:—

> He is poor and has a large family. While he is in office he is obliged to incur expenses by giving dinners and parties, and this additional expense is defrayed by the Duke, but in a very unsatisfactory way. Lord John sends him a sort of estimate or account of his extra expenses, and the Duke pays the money. It is not surprising that Lord John dislikes such assistance as this; and although he never complains, he is probably mortified and provoked that his brother does not once for all give him a sum of money or a large annuity.

Pembroke Lodge, Richmond Park, which is one of the most attractive of the suburban Crown residences, reverts to the Queen by the death of Lady Russell. Pembroke Lodge was granted by William IV., in 1831, to his son-in-law Lord Erroll, after whose death in 1847 the Queen gave the place to Lord John Russell, who was then Prime Minister. When Lord Russell died in 1878, her Majesty granted the Lodge to his widow for her life. It is expected that the place will now be given either to Princess Louise or the Dowager Lady Churchill, who recently refused the Queen's offer of the Royal Lodge in Windsor Park, a very pleasant Crown residence, which has just been granted by her Majesty to Lord Bridport.

In addition to the batch of jobs effected in connection with the bogus abolition of Divisional Commissioners in Ireland, the County Inspector of Kerry is to be added to the Dublin Castle establishment at £300 a year extra pay, and with two district inspectors as assistants, each at £150 extra. "Added to the establishment" is the correct phrase, as the step involves the addition of a County Inspector for the vacated county at a cost of £800 a year or more. Agrarian crime is now dormant in Ireland, and a great deal has been heard of Mr. Gerald Balfour's wholesale reduction of the Constabulary in consequence. If, however, reductions on one hand are to be made on the other the pretext for increasing the salaries of Castle officials who are favourites of Sir Andrew Reed, and for creating a huge Crime Department in Dublin Castle when there is no crime to deal with, one more proof is given that even if the Irish were to manage their own affairs as badly as their worst enemies prophesy, they would do far better than their present rulers.

To the astonishment and indignation of everybody interested in amateur dramatic performances in Dublin, the patentees of the three city theatres have issued a notice threatening immediate action under the statute 20 Geo. III. (Ireland), cap. 57, against all persons engaging in illegal theatrical performances. This Act gives the managers of the patent theatres of Dublin a monopoly of the right to hold any kind of dramatic entertainments; but they are displaying extreme foolishness in attempting to enforce such an absurd and musty piece of legislation against amateur players. In London most of the leading managers and actors patronise and encourage amateur dramatic clubs on the ground that they stimulate interest in the professional stage. The Dublin managers would show a wiser regard for their own interests if they followed this example instead of arbitrarily prohibiting all performances outside their theatres. They do not, I presume, wish the public to infer that professional performances in Dublin are not good enough to bear the rivalry of amateur entertainments.

The muzzling order for Devonshire was revoked last week in accordance with the promise which, by a curious coincidence, was given by Mr. Long a few days before the election at Plymouth. A lady tells me that a committee is at work collecting the discarded muzzles and sending them to Mrs. Long's house at Exmouth with a request that they may be forwarded to her son, Mr. W. H. Long. It seems rather a feeble sort of practical joke and hardly shows a fitting appreciation of the favour bestowed on the dogs of Devonshire. There are other counties and districts in which the order is still enforced with just as little cause as it was in Devonshire—indeed, as I have repeatedly pointed out, the management of the whole business by the Board of Agriculture has become a thorough-paced absurdity. The regulation is imposed in some places, and revoked in others, in the most erratic and unreasonable manner, and the best thing Mr. Long can do is to at once abolish it altogether in accordance with the promise he has recently given.

I am told by people who have had experience of Malta that anything that has ever been said in TRUTH or elsewhere respecting the ill-treatment of animals in Italy applies equally to that island; and it is added that in Malta as well as in Southern Italy the fault lies largely with the attitude of the Roman Catholic priesthood. If any Roman Catholic enthusiasts on the subject of cruelty to animals should ever act on my hint, and approach the Pope on this question, it might be as well for them to include Malta in their representations. At the same

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For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 236 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 237.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 235.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 215.

time, Malta is a British possession: we can make more or less what laws we please there, and it is our fault if we do not enforce them. As long, therefore, as we tolerate in public gross cruelty to animals in that island, we are hardly in a position to throw stones at either the natives or the Government of the mainland.

"'TWAS ON THE BEACH AT BRIGHTON."

Mr. Eric Mackay lost recently on the sea-frontage at Brighton a memorandum-book containing portions of manuscript poems—stray notes and jottings and suggestions of lyrics—which he was preparing for publication in the spring.—*Westminster Gazette.*

No wonder the Muses are sighing;
No wonder Apollo is mute;
No wonder Euterpe is trying
All vainly to tootle her flute;
No wonder Parnassus so greatly
And grimly in shadow should lie—
They lament for that note-book lost lately
By Eric Mackay.

No wonder the waves were heard moaning
As soon as that note-book was dropped;
No wonder the Pier began groaning;
No wonder the wind should have chopped;
Aye, no wonder the sea-lion's baby
Gave forth such a terrible cry;
It betokened its sympathy, maybe,
For Eric Mackay.

Just think, if you can, for a minute,
Of the note-book we have to deplore!
Just think of the thoughts jotted in it,
The suggestions for lyrics galore!
Just think of the gold yet unminted,
Which we in the spring were to buy;
Those poems so soon to be printed
By Eric Mackay!

Yet e'en as you think, we adjure you,
Do not too dejectedly mope;
You have no need to mourn, we assure you,
As those do who mourn without hope.
There is not even need to look solemn,
For you upon this may rely,
That the spring still will bring you a "vollum"
By Eric Mackay.

Yes, although he at Brighton has lost it
(The note-book we mentioned before),
Though the waves may have possibly toss'd it,
Ere this, in a pulp on the shore,
Such a *contretemps* will not—we know it!—
The output at all modi-*fy*
Of so gushily gushing a poet
As Eric Mackay!

In a letter which Mr. D. P. Sellar has sent round to the Press about his much-abused "Old Masters" he makes much of the fact that one of the pictures (No. 186), now at the Grafton Galleries, which was "most favourably referred to by the masters of art criticism," was bought by him of Mr. Martin Colnaghi last summer for £14! "The critics," according to Mr. Sellar, agreed in ascribing this "magnificent" work to Velasquez, and he proceeds to ask, with considerable assurance, whether they or Mr. Martin Colnaghi have been at fault in the matter? Now I think I can answer this question for him with the greatest ease. It is the critics—not including my own, let me say—who have been deceived, and not Mr. Martin Colnaghi, for I take it as absolutely certain that this latter "great art authority" would never have sold a "magnificent work of the great Spanish master" Velasquez, for £14.

And this suggests another point: If Mr. Sellar's "magnificent Velasquez" is only valued at the above sum by an admitted expert, what figure would represent the average worth of those of his "Old Masters" for which "the masters of art criticism" have not a good word to say? I should imagine that about fourteen-pence would represent *their* value. Yes, in spite of Mr. Sellar's letter, I am afraid that in purchasing his now notorious collection, he made a very bad bargain. In fact, as a would-be facetious correspondent of mine points out, he was both Sellar and buyer, and, apparently, contrived to get himself hopelessly sold!

An incidental result of the growth of London is that the Metropolis is outgrowing "Kelly's Post Office Directory." For several years past that admirable volume has been growing more and more unwieldy in its size, and it is clear that the point must soon be reached when either the mass of information contained in it must be curtailed or the volume must be divided. In this year's issue, which is completer and fuller than ever, the publishers announce that a large new area is included, and the result is a substantial increase in the bulk, as as well as the usefulness of the volume. It is notified that those who wish can have the book in two parts. The time may come when it will have to be even yet further divided.

It seems, however, a common complaint with books of reference, as it is with the human beings referred to in them, to grow fatter as they get on in years. The "peerages, and "baronetages," though one differs from another in magnitude, all increase in girth and weight every year, and this year the increase is conspicuous. It is no doubt due to the Jubilee. "Whitaker's Titled Persons"—though a mere baby in age—has already got the same complaint, obviously for the same reason, and even "Thom's Official Directory" is growing. It is, of course, not an unhealthy sign, so far as the books are concerned; on the contrary, it shows that the compilers have crammed them with the latest information. But if peers, baronets, knights, and titled persons continue to increase at the present rate, it is clear that the time will come when not only the comprehensive "Burke," but even the handy "Lodge" and the unassuming "Dod" will have to come out in parts. Why my two favourite and most familiar books of reference, "Whitaker's Almanac" and "Hazell's Annual," should also be "swelling wisibly," I do not know; but I attribute it to the advance of knowledge and the unceasing efforts of the compilers to omit nothing in the shape of information that can possibly be useful. By the way, while on the subject of books of reference, Mr. Edmund Routledge has entered this field

"HÔTEL BURLINGTON," AT SUNNY BOSCOMBE. (200 rooms). Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

with a "Book of the Year," containing in a handy form a full chronicle of 1898 day by day, which ought to be found very useful in its own particular line.

The following complaint from a correspondent seems worthy of the attention of the Messrs. Harmsworth :—

In your issue of the 13th instant you refer to the competition in *Answers* which created so much disappointment. But *Answers* is not the only Harmsworth publication which disappoints a confiding public. For instance, *Home Chat* offered a Novels Competition, with an aggregate of £20 in prizes, which concluded last November. After a lapse of some five weeks, an announcement appeared in that paper stating that as 2,160 odd correct answers had been received, and as competitors would only receive 2d., fresh conditions would be imposed. The result is still in the womb of the future, and fresh competitions are in full swing. . . .

Of course, editors offer prizes for the purpose of selling their newspapers, and this is perfectly legitimate up to a point, but it may be easily carried beyond that point. Suppose I offer a prize of £10 to any one who can tell me the first three letters in the alphabet. Ten thousand people hear of the offer and send in their "solutions" to the puzzle. I wait a week or two for the purpose of adjudicating upon the results, and then announce that as all the 10,000 answers received are correct, and a division of the money would give less than a farthing to each prize-winner, it is impossible to distribute the money, and a further competition will be held to determine the winner. I then invite the competitors to name the second three letters in the alphabet, and the same result follows. I then have a third competition, or I announce that I have awarded the prize to the only competitor who wrote with green ink, or give it on any other basis that seems good to me. I may by these means induce about 10,000 people to buy TRUTH every week for a couple of months on the look-out for the result of the competition. But have I earned the money fairly? Far be it from me to dogmatise, but I really think that my *bona fides* would be open to question.

How can proprietors of a respectable journal stoop to this sort of thing? An advertisement headed "A Magnificent Offer," has been appearing in *Pearson's Weekly*, the substance of the offer being contained in the following passages :—

We have made arrangements whereby we are going to do a wonderful thing. We are going to offer exquisitely coloured miniatures (hand-painted) of any family photographs our readers like to send us. . . .

With the enterprise born of repeated success, *Pearson's Weekly* has taken time by the forelock and makes an extraordinary offer to the whole of its readers for a limited time only. We will paint a beautiful little miniature (about 2¼ in. by 1⅞ in.) in exquisite colouring, and completely framed in a dainty gold-plated oval frame. . . .

You will get an unheard-of bargain by availing yourself of this offer. All you have to do is to send your photograph (which will be returned), together with a description of the colour of eyes, hair, complexion, and dress, and the coupon found below, with 7s. 6d. The miniatures may be also had in chased gold ornamental frames, the total cost being 10s. 6d.

Samples of the "hand-painted miniatures" supplied to those who have accepted this magnificent offer have been sent to me. They are not miniatures at all, but photographs, reduced in size from the pattern photograph sent, and slightly tinted. The advertisement clearly leads the reader to expect an ordinary miniature, for, in addition to the express promise to "paint a beautiful little miniature," it speaks of miniatures having come into fashion again, refers to the work of various "renowned miniature painters," and points out that hitherto the price of such pictures has been so excessive that only the rich could afford to indulge in the luxury. The inference obviously is that Mr. Pearson has made arrangements to supply such pictures at 7s. 6d. apiece. Instead of that, he offers an article which is not a miniature, and for which no one who knew what he was about would pay more than two or three shillings. There is only one word for this trick, and it is one which, under the circumstances, I prefer not to use.

I take the following from an interesting letter, sent apropos of recent remarks in TRUTH on the disqualification of schoolmistresses on account of age :—

Secondary education will never be in a satisfactory condition until a proper value is put upon experience and skill in teaching, instead of making, as is at present the case, athletic progress the main feature in obtaining a good mastership at a public school. The headmasters may talk as they please about the importance they attach to "training," but it is absurd to expect any one to believe their statements, having regard to the way appointments are made at public schools. Secondary education is a profession in which the conditions obtaining in other trades and professions are absolutely reversed. A man, on entering it after leaving the University, will probably be able to earn a better income for three or four years than the budding solicitor, doctor, or engineer, &c. He will without much difficulty obtain a post of £100 a year, together with board and residence. Unfortunately, this pay does not increase; on the contrary, after about five years he will find that the experience he has gained is a drawback instead of an advantage, until, by the time he reaches the age of thirty, he is counted old.

From the way in which headmasters treat applications from men of thirty and upwards, it might be imagined that they themselves promptly retire at forty or thereabouts, but one does not find many of them doing so.

A wise man will only take up teaching just for a year or two, while making up his mind what profession he will ultimately adopt.

All this, of course, is perfectly true. In the case of the assistant teacher I suppose it is unavoidable that young men should be at a premium. The reason for it is not merely their athletic superiority, but their fresher acquaintance with the latest ideas and fads of examiners. The man who has just passed an examination is far better qualified to help another man through than the man who passed five or ten years back. As long as competitive examination is the one test of educational attainments, I do not see how this can be helped. And it is the same with women teachers as with men. But in every school there should be room for teachers of mature experience, and head mistresses and masters, whether of elementary or secondary schools, must need that kind of experience which only comes with age.

Lord James of Hereford has at last filled up the vicarage of Methley, Yorkshire, which is one of the most valuable livings in the gift of the Duchy of Lancaster, and in all respects a highly desirable piece of preferment. The net income is over £900 a year, with an excellent residence. Lord James has presented the Rev. H. A Hall, incumbent of the Episcopal Church at Perth, who is a most accomplished scholar, and a very eloquent and impressive preacher. The living of Methley, was held for fifty years by the last vicar, Mr. Philip Savile, a brother of Lord Mexborough. The church at Methley is much visited, as it contains some very old stained glass of great interest, and the splendid family monuments of the Watertons and the Saviles, who have successively been Lords of the Manor for six hundred years.

Dean Stanley felicitously described Dean Liddell as "an upright and downright man." The Dean's scholarship, though often sneered at, is recognised by all educated men, and the famous Greek Lexicon,, which bears his name in conjunction with that of Dean Scott, will be a permanent memorial of these two distinguished ecclesiastics, and will remain a standard work so long as classical learning is cultivated in Europe. Dean Liddell was a divine of Moderate Church principles, and he took no part in the theological tempest which raged at Oxford when he was tutor and Canon of Christ Church. He was then absorbed in his college duties and in work connected with the Lexicon, which originally appeared in 1843.

Dean Liddell was a most popular and successful college tutor, and in 1846 Dean Gaisford induced him to accept the Headmastership of Westminster School, where he doubled the number of pupils in nine years. Liddell did good work on the famous Oxford University Commission of 1854, for he was a decided reformer, both in academic affairs and in politics. He was Dean of Christ Church for thirty-seven years, and his government of "the House" was firm and sagacious, while he carried out several valuable reforms. He was a strict disciplinarian, and the caustic remarks with which he courteously crushed pert or priggish undergraduates would fill a volume. In this department he was decidedly more witty and more effective than Jowett. Dr. Liddell had lived at Ascot in retirement since he resigned the Deanery of Christ Church. He was a handsome, stately man, with great dignity both in appearance and manner. The superlative excellence of Liddell's table talk is well-known. He was a staunch supporter of Mr. Gladstone at Oxford.

During the last twenty years of Liddell's rule at Christ Church the record of "the House" in the Schools was very far from being so brilliant as in former days. There were causes to account for this which reflected no discredit on the Head, but probably there was something also in Mark Pattison's explanation—that Christ Church was peculiarly "corroded by the canker of ecclesiasticism, which excludes all intelligent interests." Christ Church was distinguished for the social rank of most of the students, while the tuition was inefficient, and (except for Dean Liddell, "who belongs to the past age") Pattison maintained that an exceptional intellectual calibre on the part of the authorities was "conspicuously wanting." The Dean will be remembered at Oxford by his admirable restoration of the cathedral, and the great improvement in the services which he brought about.

Dean Liddell was the sole survivor of the Prince Consort's ecclesiastical household. He was a very great favourite with the Prince, who appointed him to be his domestic Chaplain. After the Prince Consort's death the Queen appointed Dean Liddell to be "Chaplain Extraordinary" to her Majesty, as his position at Oxford was too high for him to accept the office of Chaplain-in-Ordinary. Some years ago, Dr. Hornby, Provost of Eton, and Dr. Warre, Headmaster of Eton, were also made Chaplains Extraordinary, there being neither emolument nor duties attached to this office.

I have much pleasure in publishing the following letter, and I am sorry to have given currency to any erroneous suggestion on the point the Bishop refers to:—

St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, E.C.
January 24, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—As I am quite sure, from long experience, that TRUTH does not wish to disseminate falsehood, may I ask you in ordinary fairness to insert this in your next issue? The Rev. W. Earle, the Irish clergyman mentioned in your last as having received preferment from the Archbishop, is not a relation, connection, or acquaintance of the Bishop of Marlborough; nor has he, I am informed, received preferment from the Archbishop.—I am, your obedient servant, ALFRED MARLBOROUGH.

A truly edifying account of the administration of ecclesiastical law as it is carried on in the Court of Arches was given in the *Times* of Monday. The case was originally tried in the Consistory Court at Lichfield, where, owing to the deafness of the judge, counsel had to address their arguments to him through an ear-trumpet. When the matter came up on appeal in the Court of Arches, Lord Penzance evidently thought that the hearing of arguments, even through an ear-trumpet, was entirely unnecessary. He did not attend the Court himself, but was represented by the Rev. Dr. May (Surrogate), who, without giving counsel on either side an opportunity to say a word, produced and read his Lordship's written judgment dismissing the appeal. The appellants' counsel warmly protested against the whole proceedings as a farce and a sham, and nobody with the most elementary notion of justice will consider this language a bit too strong. It is a gross scandal that any judge should continue to hold an office the duties of which he is no longer able to perform.

The *Westminster Gazette* announced on Friday the appointment of the Rev. Edgar Sheppard to "the vacant Canonry at Bristol." There has not been a vacant Canonry at Bristol for several years, and it is a stall at Gloucester to which the Sub-Dean of the Chapel Royal has been appointed by the Lord Chancellor. The *Westminster Gazette* indulges in some idiotic nonsense about Mr. Sheppard being "the idol of Society," and so forth. The Sub-Dean has to a considerable extent lost the favour which he at one time enjoyed at Court, and probably this is the reason that he has accepted a Gloucester Canonry, which is not a valuable piece of preferment. Some years ago Mr. Sheppard was very anxious to obtain some vacant apartments in St. James's Palace, but the Queen decisively refused to let him have them. He was held in high esteem by the late Lord Crewe, who once offered him a rich living in Cheshire, which, as it turns out, he would have done better to accept; but he then probably thought that his office as Sub-Dean would bring him to either Westminster Abbey or St. George's Chapel. Mr. Sheppard is an excellent preacher, and an admirable reader.

In the *Times* last week the Bishop of Stepney published an appeal for funds to restore the parish Church of Bow—or, to put it more accurately, to preserve it from destruction. From this it appears that within a mile or two of the City a parish church, dating back from the

twelfth century, serving at present a population of 7,000 souls, and historically and architecturally a most interesting building, has had to be closed within the last year or two, and is now literally tumbling down. Most people, whatever their religious views, will agree that this is a scandalous state of things. But the most remarkable fact in connection with it is that a mile or two off in the City of London there are dozens of churches, each with only a handful of parishioners attached to it, with a handsome revenue, and a staff of more or less idle officials connected with it. The best way to save Bow Church would be to disestablish and sell up another of the useless City churches.

The following striking series of advertisements appeared the other day in the *Kentish Express*. If it pleases the Rector of Old Romney to spend his superfluous cash in this way for the benefit of the local Press, it might seem ungracious for any editor to find fault with him. As, however, his eccentricities are highly calculated to bring the Church into ridicule and contempt, it may possibly occur to the Archbishop that the Rector himself is the party most in need of a "Warning":—

WARNING.—All Owners of Chickens are hereby warned to keep them from Straying into the Garden or on to any part of the Premises of the Rectory in Old Romney.

WARNING.—Notice is hereby given, that large and powerful Vermin Traps will be set forthwith in the Rectory Grounds at Old Romney, and all owners of dogs, cats, poultry, and other stock are hereby warned to keep it from coming thereon, lest it should be killed or receive permanent injury.—W. ANDERSON, Rector, January 12th.

OLD ROMNEY.

THE Borrowing of Tools, &c., &c., having become a troublesome inconvenience to the Rector, Notice is Hereby Given that no Tool, Saw, Machine, Ladder, or Implement of any kind will under any circumstances be lent by him to any one except to the tenants of his glebe land on their personal application and for their own personal use. And this Notice applies also to the loan of Surgical or Medical Instruments or Appliances, many of which have been returned in a dirty and unusable condition, or broken all to pieces.—W. ANDERSON, Rector.

OLD ROMNEY.

WARNING.—All Persons owning Dogs are Hereby warned to keep them from straying on the Rectory garden or premises. And all Persons passing the Rectory in company of a Dog are hereby warned to keep the dog from going in to the said garden or premises. Visitors are requested not to bring a dog with them. And all tradesmen coming for orders, or executing the same, are forbidden to bring a dog in with them. All Drovers and Lookers bringing or removing Sheep from the Rectory fields are requested to keep their dogs under strict control.—W. ANDERSON, Rector.

Some of the country clergy have not yet reconciled themselves to the change in the law which gave the Parish Councils a voice in the administration of the parochial charities. The Awre Parish Council appointed two trustees to act jointly with the Vicar of Awre and the Vicar of Blakeney in the distribution of certain charities; but these reverend gentlemen wholly ignored their colleagues until the distribution was completed and the time came for signing the cheques. As they had not had anything to do with the disbursement of the charity, the representatives of the Council decided that they would not have anything to do with the signing of the cheques, and, consequently, the two clerics and the tradesmen who served them in the matter have been placed in a somewhat awkward predicament. No doubt this little difficulty about the cheques will teach the parsons a useful lesson, and make them careful in future not to forget the existence of their fellow-trustees.

We now have it on Lord Wolseley's "honour as a gentleman" that two Army Corps, fully equipped, and forming, in all respects, the finest force that ever left our shores, will be ready at a moment's notice and waiting on the quays before the ships could be found to take them abroad. This announcement is calculated to make the heart of every Jingo leap for joy. Not being of the Jingo persuasion, however, I can only hope that the ships never will be found which are to embark this superlative force, for it is perfectly certain that when it has once left our shores we shall not have a single properly equipped and trustworthy battalion left behind to defend us. There is an ugly family likeness between Lord Wolseley's latest utterance and the historical remark of Marshal LeBœuf about the last gaiter-button.

On the other hand, accepting Lord Wolseley's honour as a gentleman, this statement seems to me to take all the wind out of the agitation for an increase of the Army. Why on earth we want to add 15,000 men to the Line, while we have the finest Army that England ever saw, ready to go anywhere and do anything at a moment's notice, is a puzzle which every taxpayer may well desire to see solved before he again puts his hand into his pocket.

The present military difficulty, as defined by Lord Wolseley, is that of filling a quart pot out of a pint pot. What we have to do, however, is not to pour the whole contents of a pint pot into a quart pot, but to supply out of the one vessel the leakage in the other. Provided you continue to fill up the pint pot at the same time, there is no difficulty whatever in this operation. According to Lord Wolseley, the pint pot is full, and both the liquor and the vessel are of the best possible quality. As long as we can maintain this state of things, the quart pot is in no danger of being emptied.

The War Office is perpetually endeavouring to sit on two stools in regard to this question. If the Home Army is in perfect condition, and ready to launch two admirably equipped army corps at the head of any enemy as soon as he shows himself, the mere disparity in numbers between the troops abroad and the troops at home is of no consequence whatever. On the other hand, if the Home Army consists, as the critics of the War Office assert, of skeleton battalions of raw and imperfectly equipped troops, merely increasing the total strength is not a sufficient remedy for the evil. In the latter case the organisation has broken down, and a radical reform of the whole Army system is imperatively called for. What Lord Wolseley and the War Office want is simply to get more men and avoid reform. What the taxpayers want, and what their representatives in Parliament should see that they get, is security against the repetition of the administrative muddle which has brought about the present difficulty.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—The Mentone of England.—THE SACKVILLE HOTEL, an ideal winter and spring residence. Special inclusive terms till Easter. For tariff, &c., apply to Manager.

Are we to take it that Lord Wolseley must always have a quart pot at home to fill the quart pot abroad? If so, every fresh demand for troops abroad must be followed by an increase in the Army at home. A more preposterous doctrine than this I never heard. Under the present conditions of the Empire we necessarily want more troops abroad than at home, and the chances seem to be that the surplus abroad will increase rather than diminish. We have therefore got to find a means of filling the quart pot out of the pint pot, and if Lord Wolseley cannot do it, somebody else must be found who can.

The latest device of the War Office for beating up recruits is a lantern lecture on the "Advantages of the Army," helped out with music. An officer who is at present on tour with a show of this character made some statements at Saltash last week which must have astonished the natives, if they knew anything of the facts. For instance, after pointing out the advantages which a soldier has over a working man in regularity of employment, short hours of labour, and other respects, the lecturer vouched personally for the statement that "there was not the slightest difficulty in getting work for men on leaving the Army." This would seem to be good enough, but before concluding, the gallant officer capped it by informing his audience that during the coming session Parliament intends to increase the pay, and "*give to every man a guarantee of employment at the end of his service either in the Post Office, police, or some other calling.*" If the Public Prosecutor interferes to protect simpletons against bucket-shop keepers, fraudulent company promoters, and other birds of prey, ought he to allow the War Office to go on like this? Is it worse to get money by false pretences than to get men?

There is another little point in this Saltash discourse worth noting. The lecturer, who belongs to the regiment, stated that "out of 1,854 men in the 1st and 2nd Battalions and depot of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, the total number of Cornishmen was only 302; most of the recruits came from London, Birmingham, and Bristol." That, if I remember the facts correctly, is where a large proportion of the Highlanders in the Scotch regiments also come from, except when they come from Manchester and Dublin. Such is the "territorial system," which has done so much for the Army. It is such a wonderful contrivance, that we may well make some sacrifices to keep it up.

At Gibraltar, on New Year's-eve, a number of the rank and file of the Royal Artillery—whose strong religious convictions are well known—were seized with a desire to attend the Watch Night Service at the Cathedral. The Cathedral being two miles distant from the barracks, they found it necessary to put in passes till 3 a.m. The Commanding Officer—evidently a man with but little sympathy for the devout church-goer—granted the passes, but only on the condition than an N.C.O. marched the party to church and back. This indicated such a pitiful distrust of the bona-fides of the British soldier, that, rather than submit to such an insult, every man resolved to stay in barracks and perform his Watch Night devotions in private. It so happened, however, that there was a terrific storm that night, which made it impossible for any one to think of going out of barracks. No opportunity, consequently, arose for the contemplated demonstration against the C. O.; and he is very likely congratulating himself down to the present moment on having done rather a smart thing. I venture to congratulate him, too.

From Lord Lansdowne's reply to the medical deputation which interviewed him last week, it would seem that there really is a prospect of the Army Medical Department being taken in hand in the course of the promised military reforms. Lord Lansdowne himself seems to be in favour of the formation of a Medical Corps, and he professes no love for the existing medical titles. He asked whether, if these points were disposed of satisfactorily, the professional boycott of the Army Medical Service would be withdrawn, and the deputation seems to have thought that it would. I can only say that there is not a doctor in the Service who hopes more devoutly that this may be a prelude to the removal of the medical grievances on these two points than I do myself.

Great difficulty is experienced, I understand, by men who have passed their course for employment as master tailor in finding such employment in India. There are at least five of these men now in India who passed years ago, and remain still unemployed. When they make applications for transfer, in the hope of finding an opening elsewhere, they are usually refused, and one of them—a man who had extended his service for the express purpose of qualifying as a tailor—tells me that a recent application which he made only got him a very severe wigging from his adjutant, and an order not to attempt such a thing again. This is not merely a personal grievance on the part of the men. They have been instructed at the public expense, and the money so spent is wasted.

Again, while qualified soldier-tailors are waiting for employment, in all parts of India natives are to be found doing their work, and in not a few cases it will be found that these natives charge higher prices than Service tailors would do. How comes this? The other day I heard of a case in which a native tailor working for a regiment had a long bill against a certain officer of the same corps. The bill had run for several years, but had never been sent in. In the meantime, the native was taking it out of the men by charging them

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exorbitant prices, and all grumbling and protest failed to procure his removal. It is easy to see for whose benefit the soldiers are being swindled in a case like this.

Very properly, an Army order was recently issued granting an allowance for extra wear and tear of clothing to all men who took part in manœuvres at Aldershot, in the South-Eastern District, and at the Curragh, during last season. But why was not this order extended to the N.C.O.s and men from various battalions in the Cork District who formed the permanent camp party at Kilworth Camp during the same season? These men had very hard work, the weather was thoroughly bad the whole time they were at Kilworth, and I am told that by July all their clothing was done for. Their work was quite as important as sham fighting, and ought to be treated on the same footing.

The supply of "Tommy's" grievances is rather short this week—a matter for satisfaction to all parties. I am pillorying below, however, two little matters which further strengthen the complaints respecting the unequal distribution of duty among the N.C.O.s at some of the Depots, more particularly as between the Permanent Staff men and the "Depot" N.C.O.s. There is so much growling on this point that the matter seems worthy of attention at headquarters:—

Fort Carlisle, Cork Harbour.—An artilleryman stationed here the other day inflicted a nasty cut on his foot by treading on a piece of glass. On going to the surgery he was informed by the orderly that there was neither sticking-plaster nor bandage in the place, and that it could only be obtained in the course of about three hours by wiring to the doctor. The man had accordingly to take a car and drive off in search of a dressing. This seems to be a further illustration of the slip-shod manner in which the medical arrangements at this station are carried out.

Depot Leinster Regiment, Birr.—The distribution of duties among the N.C.O.s here seems open to somewhat the same remark as was recently made in regard to Galway. In the orderly room, in addition to the orderly room sergeant, there are one sergeant and two lance-sergeants; a colour-sergeant is employed as caterer in the officers' mess, and a full corporal as waiter; two lance-corporals are doing duty as officers' servants, and a colour-sergeant has been employed for the past six years as orderly room clerk in the orderly room of the 3rd Battalion, being exempted from his proper duty of paying a company during the annual training. Several of these appointments appear to be quite irregular, and they certainly throw an unfair share of ordinary duty on to the remaining N.C.O.s.

Depot, Manchester Regiment, Ashton-under-Lyne.—Here is another similar grievance on the part of the permanent staff. Out of sixteen colour-sergeants on the permanent staff, eleven are at present available for duty. Of these four are in the Quartermaster's stores on Militia work; two are on canteen duty; two on gate duty; two on guard (one on and one off); and one is Depot orderly sergeant. The two colour-sergeants on gate duty are not wanted there, as there is nothing for them to do which the sentry could not do as well in their absence, and the work of the canteen does not require two colour-sergeants. On the other hand, there are at least thirty more N.C.O.s in the Depot who do no duty of the above kinds.

Recruiting should be vastly stimulated by the inquest held last week on Abraham Russell, an army veteran of the Crimea and the Indian Mutiny, holding decorations for these campaigns. It came out in the course of the proceedings that Russell had lost one eye in the Service, and was discharged with a pension of 5d. a day. It has been pretty conclusively proved by experience that a pension of 5s. a week is insufficient to keep a man out of the workhouse, and the only purpose which such a pension seems to serve is to relieve the ratepayers of the greater part of the cost of maintaining the pensioner. If that is true of 5s., what a mockery it is to discharge a man with a pension of less than 3s.!

Among the doubtful blessings which British rule has conferred upon Cyprus is a Mr. Justice Parker, the President of the District Court of Limasol. This stalwart representative of the majesty of the law recently fined a soldier in the Cameron Highlanders £10, with the alternative of two months' imprisonment, for taking a drop more than was good for him on Christmas Day. While inebriated the man had come into collision with the police, as not unfrequently happens; but there was nothing whatever in the case which warranted the imposition of such a draconic penalty. Luckily, the officer who had watched the case on behalf of the man obtained three days' grace for the payment of the fine, and, in the interval, Sir Walter Sendall, who was just leaving the island, visited the camp and, on a representation being made to him concerning the case, he reduced the fine to 10s.—a very proper penalty. It would be interesting to know whether Mr. Justice Parker is a fanatic on temperance questions, or what it was that prompted such an extraordinary aberration.

In September last the story was told in TRUTH of the gross ill-treatment of a man on board one of H.M.'s ships by a Lieutenant, who, in consequence of the facts coming out—notwithstanding strenuous efforts to hush them up—was subsequently severely reprimanded and dismissed his ship. Last week's *Gazette* notified the appointment of the officer in question to a new ship. His punishment, therefore, over and above his reprimand, only amounted to some four months' unemployment. It was remarked in TRUTH at the time that many a seaman had been flogged, imprisoned, and finally dismissed the Service for a less serious offence. This remark is only accentuated by the subsequent history of the case.

A gentleman tells me that at the Customs House at Charing Cross Station a day or two back he saw a lamp-cleaner, with a piece of black oily waste in his hands, called in to turn over the contents of passengers' boxes, while a Customs officer was looking on and directing him. Some of this luggage belonged to ladies, and, in addition to the contents of their trunks being overhauled by a workman whose hands were black with dirt, many delicate articles were thrown out upon a bench all wet and black with water dripping from the roof. My informant says that he saw one lady with tears in her eyes at the damage thus inflicted upon her belongings. What is the

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explanation of this? Cannot the Customs Board afford a sufficient staff to perform this detestable inquisitorial duty? And is it not the business of a Customs House officer in charge to do this work himself, instead of calling in the assistance of a grimy porter from the platform?

For years and years past—I believe ever since the income tax was first introduced—every demand note requiring a householder to pay the income tax on his landlord's rent has contained a notification that the landlord is bound, under penalty, to allow the amount off the next payment of rent. This notification has now disappeared, at any rate from the demand notes just issued in the London district. Why is this? For the protection of the taxpayer the information was most necessary. There are hundreds of householders, working men, widows, and others, with little business knowledge, who know nothing of the meaning of "Schedule A," and on receiving a demand from the tax-collector under this head, would have not the slightest knowledge that it was not a tax upon them, but upon their landlords. Is this another little trick of the present Tory régime for benefiting the distressed landlord at the expense of the general taxpayer? Whether that or not, the alteration in the form calls for notice and correction.

It may save such fruitless journeys to Somerset House as that described in last week's TRUTH, to mention that a copy certificate of a birth, marriage, or death can be obtained by application in writing to the Superintendent-Registrar of the district in which the event took place, accompanied by a remittance of 3s. 9d. fee, and 1d. postage. I am indebted for this hint to a District Registrar, who remarks that an application for any purpose to Somerset House should not be made by any one who has not at command an unlimited supply of time, patience, and good temper. He is right.

Several City firms having business with Ireland have written in confirmation of the recent remarks in TRUTH upon the early hour at which the registration of letters for the night Irish mail closes in London. It appears that the maximum late fee of one shilling is actually exacted upon letters posted an hour and a quarter before the departure of the mail. Practically the public have gained no advantage whatever from the alteration in recent years in the time of departure of the train from Euston. One of my correspondents contrasts the arrangements between London and Ireland with those between London and Scotland, there being in the latter case a special late registration, without fee, for letters intended for the second delivery the following day. Another injustice to Ireland.

What is the position of the Post Office in regard to the transmission of Irish lottery tickets and circulars through the post? Surely it is time that this question was cleared up. When challenged on the subject of the Hamburg lotteries, the Postmaster-General's representative replied that the Post Office could not investigate the contents of sealed letters. The Roman Catholic Church, however, and the various religious agencies which run the lottery business in Ireland, habitually send their prospectuses and tickets in open envelopes at the halfpenny rate. I have a packet of this description before me now—a book of tickets and a leaflet, sent out by the Sisters of Mercy, Newry, "for the benefit of Our Mother of Mercy's Home." The Post Office must know all about these things. The open envelope is required by the regulations in order that the nature of the contents may be inspected; and the Post Office inspects them systematically enough, as every one will soon know who sends at the halfpenny rate a document not thus transmissible, or receives one so sent. It follows that the Postmaster-General is knowingly engaged in the publication of prospectuses of lotteries, contrary to the statute.

A resident in Brighton complains of the increasing unpunctuality of the first morning letter delivery, which used to take place at 8 a.m. to 8.15 a.m., but has gradually got to 8.30 and from that to 9.0. Another matter of complaint is the delay in the delivery of letters from Scotland, which are occasionally delivered at 1.50, but more frequently drop in at any time between that and 4.30. As letters for Scotland have to be posted in Brighton by 3 p.m., this means that letters from Scotland often arrive too late to be answered the same day. Seeing that any traveller leaving Edinburgh at 9.30 p.m. can be at his home in Brighton by 11.30 the next morning, there cannot be the slightest reason why letters should not be delivered before 2 o'clock.

Here is a little piece of evidence which throws valuable light upon the failure of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's promise of a universal daily postal delivery. In a certain district in the North of England there are about half-a-dozen houses within a mile of the post-office, where letters are not delivered, two of them being under ten minutes' walk from the office. The letters are delivered by a son of the sub-postmaster. Some months back this man was asked whether he would deliver letters to certain of the houses without extra payment. As the present delivery occupies him on the average for two hours daily, for which he receives the handsome remuneration of 7d., he declined to do so. In this he was undoubtedly quite right, seeing that provision had been made in the Budget to meet the extra expense of an extended delivery, and that the Post Office is a Department earning profits measured in millions per annum. Accordingly, the houses in question are still excluded from the delivery of letters; and, in addition to these houses, there are half-a-dozen others, within two or three miles of the same post-office, where letters never have been delivered, and where the Post Office seems to have made no attempt whatever during the last twelve months to furnish a delivery.

From what I have heard during the last two or three weeks it seems highly probable that there are many rural districts in precisely the same position as the above.

And what do these facts show? That, after Parliament has provided the money for the purpose of giving every house in the United Kingdom a daily delivery of letters, the Post Office first endeavours to get the job done for nothing, by throwing the extra work upon its already sweated staff without extra remuneration, and when the staff declines to do the work without extra pay, the matter is simply dropped, and the outlying householders left precisely as they were before. Hitherto the stock excuse for all Post Office shortcomings has been the parsimony of the Treasury. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has played Jorkins to the Postmaster-General's Spenlow. Judging by the above case, it looks as if the position were exactly parallel to that of the two partners in Dickens's book. In this instance, at any rate, Hicks-Beach-Jorkins appears as a mild-mannered and obliging gentleman, while the real obstructive is Norfolk-Spenlow.

A firm of stationers at Hawick are aggrieved at the refusal of the Post Office to make good the damage done to two expensive photographs which were lately despatched by different mails from Scotland to London. Each photograph was carefully packed in millboard, and enclosed, in addition, in a box, so that considerable violence must have been employed to smash the packages in the post. But it is only natural that St. Martin's-le-Grand should decline to pay compensation for such breakages. It is, you see, a time-honoured custom with the postal employees to bring down their mailed fists most heavily on articles which from the packing seem least likely to stand rough handling. Is it reasonable, therefore, to expect the Department to deprive its servants of this cherished privilege by putting itself on a level with ordinary carriers, and making itself liable to compensation for damaging its customers' goods? No; other reforms may be granted, but not this.

Very little has been heard of the pauper alien question since the present Government came into office, though from the Premier downwards they used it for all it was worth as an electioneering cry in 1895. The question is, however, one which really ought to be dealt with, and I hope some of the Tory M.P.'s who were wont to be so keenly interested in it, will give their attention to the following cases, particulars of which have been sent to me from West Hartlepool. The first is that of a Swedish woman, married to a Swedish seaman, who resided for a few years in West Hartlepool. Becoming insane, she was treated for a time in the Durham County Asylum, and when she was discharged the Swedish pastor exerted himself on her behalf, with the result that she was sent home to her friends in Sweden. There she subsequently became a pauper, whereupon the authorities promptly returned her to this country, and she is now once more in the Durham County Asylum. The husband has disappeared, and the woman is apparently destined to remain a permanent charge upon the ratepayers of West Hartlepool. About the time that this case occurred, an Englishwoman who had lived for twenty years in Hamburg became insane. She was given a short period of treatment in a German Asylum, and then shipped to West Hartlepool, the Board of Guardians there being requested, through the Home Office, to "receive her on arrival, and make arrangements for her admission to the proper institution."

Quite recently a Spanish sailor was left at West Hartlepool in a destitute condition and received into the workhouse. The Spanish Consul refused to do anything for the man, as he had no "papers," and it was only at last through the assistance of a local shipowner that he was sent to Middlesbrough and shipped on a Spanish steamer for Bilbao. Without this assistance from the shipowner the man might have remained a charge upon the rates for an indefinite period, for the poor law authorities have no power to incur the expense of removing alien paupers to their own country. Surely, it is high time they were entrusted with so necessary and desirable a power. Why should we burden ourselves with the maintenance of alien paupers or lunatics? Foreign Governments take good care not to do anything so foolish.

The inhabitants of Llysfaen, a parish in the Conway Union, are in the unhappy position of having had to pay rates to the amount of 6s. 4d. in the £, with the certainty of more to come, for a new water supply, in which they have no other share whatever. This is bad enough, but the position is rendered the more tantalising by the fact that the parish is in deadly need of the new supply which it does not get. The only present source of supply is rain water, collected from the roofs of the houses and stored in casks—usually old paraffin barrels—and there has been an annual visitation of zymotic disease to show the danger of this arrangement. Last autumn a virulent epidemic of scarlet fever occurred, and within the last few weeks the disease has re-appeared in the parish. The sanitary officer has attributed these outbreaks to the present system of water supply; but still the Rural District Council do nothing, the excuse being that under the scheme carried out for the rest of the district water cannot be supplied by gravitation to the upper part of Llysfaen. That is no reason why it should not be supplied to the lower portion of the village, or why some other arrangement, if only a safer method of storage, should not be devised for the upper part. Rather than do anything, however, these Councillors appear quite prepared to see Llysfaen wiped out of existence by fever.

The Upton-on-Severn Guardians are to be congratulated upon the promptitude and vigour with which they expressed their opinion upon a recent deplorable poor law scandal. A woman in labour was admitted to the tramp ward at Malvern, and the medical officer, Dr. Baines, was called in to see her. He found that she was in a critical condition, but it was, nevertheless, decided to remove her in a cab, the doctor accompanying her, to the workhouse at Upton, eight miles away; and the result of this idiotic proceeding was that the poor creature gave birth to a child during the journey. The reason given for the removal

was that there was no other place but the general room for the accommodation of the patient at the tramp ward, and that the officers at the local hospital and the police station refused to take her in. It never seems to have occurred to the medical officer or the master of the tramp ward that any arrangement would have been better than the removal of the woman in such a state; and both officers thoroughly deserve the censure which the Guardians passed upon them for conduct truly described as "devoid of common sense, decency, and humanity."

Mistakes will happen in the best managed institutions, but it is a pity so many are allowed to occur in connection with the burial of paupers. There is nothing upon which the relatives and friends of the pauper are so sensitive. A young man complained to Mr. Plowden at Marylebone last week that his grandmother had been buried as a pauper from the St. Pancras Workhouse Infirmary, although he had himself made arrangements for her funeral. This was a mistake on the part of the officials that ought to have been avoided; and the grandson's protest against the pauper funeral in such circumstances is one which will be widely endorsed. But when the young man carried his objection to the length of requesting that the body should be taken up and buried again, so that he could follow it to the grave, the magistrate did well to gently rebuke him. The fact, however, that the applicant had got into his head the extraordinary idea that the disinterment of her remains was necessary to enable him to show his respect for his dead grandmother, proves the intensity of the feeling amongst the poor against a pauper funeral.

A short time back the Farnham Guardians made the mistake of appointing as medical officer of the Frimley district a practitioner who was not a resident there. This caused a good deal of dissatisfaction, and the objections that were raised to the appointment appear to have been justified. It is true that in order to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Board the medical officer has taken a small house at Frimley; but that is not his regular residence, and moreover, he has no dispensary there, the consequence being that patients at Frimley have to send a distance of four, and in some cases six, miles for their medicine. Such a state of things ought not to be permitted. The medical officer should be a resident in the district in fact as well as in form.

There is unquestionably plenty of room for the street improvement scheme in Westminster which a syndicate, including Sir John Lubbock, Messrs. Faithfull Begg, R. J. Price, and W. F. D. Smith, M.P.s, are seeking powers from Parliament to carry out. The area extending from the Victoria Tower Gardens, Great College-street, and Little Smith-street to Lambeth Bridge and Horseferry-road contains much old, hideous, and insanitary house property which would be better swept away. The proposal of the syndicate is to acquire the whole of the property on this area, and to rebuild and rearrange the streets, among other improvements continuing the Victoria Embankment along the river as far as Lambeth Bridge, and making Millbank and Abingdon-streets a fine avenue the width of Regent-street. One of the most important questions which will arise is, of course, the rehousing of the working classes who will be displaced by the scheme; but for this the Bill appears to make due provision.

The Merchant Service Guild draws attention, very rightly, to the case of Mr. Jenkins, chief officer of the s.s. *Aral*, who was committed for trial for manslaughter a few months back by a coroner's jury in Cornwall. The case well deserves public notice. The inquest was held on a man who lost his life through the collision between the *Aral* and the schooner *Pearl*. The jury found that there was some fault on the part of the steamer, which the coroner construed as a verdict of manslaughter against the captain and the first officer, and committed them both for trial. A charge of manslaughter was subsequently preferred before the magistrates, but dismissed. The prisoners, who had been in gaol some days, were then bailed out, to await trial on the coroner's warrant, but in the meantime the captain died, and a *nolle prosequi* was entered by the Attorney-General in regard to Jenkins. Application has since been made to the Treasury for compensation to Jenkins for his imprisonment, and the expense he has been put to, but, of course, without result.

The importance of this case lies in the lesson it offers as to the danger of entrusting an unrestricted power to commit for trial to coroners' courts as at present constituted. The verdict in this case, as construed by the coroner, was obviously in defiance of the facts, and inspired by gross ignorance. Even had there been evidence of negligence, which there was not, as the subsequent decision of the magistrates sufficiently established, it was not denied by anybody that the captain of the *Aral* was on deck, and in command of his ship at the time of the collision. No responsibility, legal or moral, could therefore possibly rest upon the mate. As a sample of the intelligence which the coroner and jury brought to bear upon the inquest at St. Agnes, the Merchant Service Guild gives the following extract from the evidence:—

> The Court: Where did you first see the *Pearl's* red light?
> Mr. Jenkins: Half a point on the starboard bow.
> The Court: Half a point, what is that? I don't understand.
> Mr. Jenkins: Half a point of the compass—Five and a half degrees.
> The Court: We know nothing about degrees; you must give a better explanation.
> Mr. Jenkins: *I* can't explain it better, unless you learn the compass.
> A Juryman: How many *yards* was it, Mister?

That a court and jury of yokels of this calibre should have an unrestricted power to put any innocent man to the expense and anxiety of a prosecution for manslaughter (or worse) is a scandal. There are, doubtless, times where a coroner's inquest serves a useful purpose; but if, as in Jenkins's case, a charge is subsequently preferred in a police-court and dismissed, any coroner's warrant pre-

viously issued ought thereupon to become void—at any rate, until coroners' courts have been reformed, or until both coroners and their jurymen have attained to a higher standard of education and intelligence than prevails in the neighbourhood of St. Agnes.

The town of Bromyard has just furnished another illustration of the skimble-skamble methods of coroners and their juries. The body of a female pauper, who had been missing for several weeks, was discovered in a sewage tank at the workhouse. The girl had been in trouble, and it was at once concluded that it was a case of suicide, the theory being that the deceased had opened the trap-door of the tank, squeezed herself through the small opening (2 ft. 5 in. by 2 ft.), sat down in the sewage with her limbs under her, and then closed the door above. This did not seem a very credible theory, but the coroner accepted it before a word of the evidence had been taken, and strongly recommended it to the consideration of the jury, with the result that, instead of the open verdict which prudence should have suggested, in the absence of any definite evidence as to how the girl's death occurred, a verdict of suicide whilst of unsound mind was returned. Within a few days of this hasty pronouncement, circumstances were discovered which made it more than doubtful whether the girl was not the victim of foul play, and the Guardians have now asked the Home Office to investigate the affair. It undoubtedly requires further investigation.

Apropos of the much-discussed Spriggs case, I have been furnished with an example of the misguided methods of the county constabulary in working up a similar prosecution last summer in Wiltshire. A girl of fourteen was seriously assaulted by a cyclist on a road at Corsham. The girl only spoke of one cyclist; the police, hearing of two who had gone on in company to Torquay, made up their minds that one of these must be the guilty party. Both were arrested and conveyed to Chippenham. Next day one was discharged, and the other, a young fellow of twenty-two, was taken before the magistrates and forthwith committed for trial, bail being refused. Fortunately for the prisoner, he was not penniless and friendless, and an order was obtained from the High Court for his liberation on bail, and Sir Edward Clarke and Mr. C. W. Matthews were retained for his defence at Wilts Assizes. The result of the trial was that the jury stopped the case and returned a verdict of not guilty, without waiting for the completion of the evidence for the defence.

If the trial did not end in the gross miscarriage of justice which would have been involved in the conviction of the accused, this was certainly not for want of zealous efforts on the part of the police to bring about such a consummation. It is not necessary to go into the details of what Mr. Justice Day described as a very scandalous piece of business; but one illustration of the ways of the police may be mentioned. A crucial point was the identification of the prisoner by the prosecutrix. She had said that her assailant was a cyclist. The prisoner and his friend (a youth of markedly different personal appearance), both attired in cycling suits, were placed with eight or ten workmen, in their ordinary clothes, and the girl was asked to pick out her assailant! Even then it was not till after ten minutes' hesitation that she fixed upon the prisoner, the only person among the lot who corresponded in any way to the description she had given. The jury condemned this farcical process of identification, and the judge stigmatised the conduct of the police as reckless, incompetent, and discreditable, and the proceedings against the prisoner as cruel, wanton, and grievous. His Lordship disallowed the costs of the prosecution, and expressed a very strong opinion that the conduct of the police ought to be further investigated. The Wilts Standing Joint Committee, however, declined to hear any evidence against the police. They simply listened to the explanations of the officers concerned, and then passed a resolution stating that they disagreed with Mr. Justice Day.

Not only did the prisoner suffer a cruel, wanton, and grievous wrong, but his father was put to an expense of upwards of £1,000 in establishing his innocence. Although it is undoubtedly a monstrous thing that anybody should be compelled to bear this burden in defending himself from such a prosecution as Mr. Justice Day denounced, it is scarcely necessary to say that no compensation is obtainable. The most shocking thing, however, is to think of what might have happened if the accused had chanced to be a poor man, unable to incur the cost of sifting the evidence for the prosecution, collecting evidence in his own behalf, and securing the services of eminent counsel for his defence. It is quite certain that he would have been shut up in gaol until the trial took place, and it is quite possible, moreover, that he would then have been convicted and condemned to a long term of penal servitude—especially if he had had the misfortune to come before Mr. Justice Grantham.

Attention has just been directed in the Guernsey *Evening Press* to the fact that at the first hearing of criminal charges in the island it is the custom for prisoners to be sent out of the Court whilst the evidence against them is given and recorded. My contemporary denounces this practice and expresses surprise at its existence. I agree with this denunciation, but I do not share his surprise. Nothing could surprise me in connection with the administration of justice in the Channel Islands. The whole system is full of anomalies, and rotten to the core.

Subscriptions greatly needed by THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.—6,929 convictions this year; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL, W.C., entirely dependent on voluntary support, urgently requires help. Liabilities, £11,000. No investments.

My Legal Pillory this week contains some sentences under the Game Laws at Leyland which make one wonder how much longer the country will—to quote Mr. Chamberlain—"tolerate the continuance of this anomalous—I will even say of this barbarous—legislation, which is intended to protect the sports of the well-to-do." I do not know whether Mr. Chamberlain still holds to the opinion he thus expressed in one of the last speeches of his Radical days. Mine is what it has always been. No doubt it will be said that these poachers at Leyland were old offenders. Old offenders or not, however, it is an atrocious state of things that they should be punished with nine and twelve months' imprisonment—to offer the men the alternative of getting off six months of the term by finding sureties is, of course, a mere mockery—upon such a charge. Merciless as these Leyland Shallows are in a case affecting the sacred cause of game-preservation, it will be seen that they can be lenient to the point of absurdity when they come to deal with a brutal wife-beater. The remaining cases in the list afford similar contrasts between the sentences for offences of violence and cruelty on the one hand, and for poaching, larceny, and petty theft on the other:—

Leyland Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. John Whittaker and Norris Bretherton. Thomas Jackson, charged with committing an aggravated assault upon his wife. The assault was of a serious character, complainant receiving an incised wound an inch and a half long upon her face. Defendant had repeatedly ill-used her. The Bench granted a separation order, and fined defendant 20s. and costs.

Leyland Petty Sessions. Before the same magistrates. Francis Mulvey, Edward Clarkson, and Aaron Lee, charged with poaching. There were previous convictions against all the prisoners. Mulvey and Lee, six months each, Clarkson three months, and a further six months each in default of finding sureties for their good behaviour.

Burnley County Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Bacon, J. Kay, J. W. Thompson, and W. Monk. Gibson Greenwood, poultry dealer, convicted of cruelty by starving a dog to death. He had been previously warned respecting the condition of the animal. Fined £1 and costs.

Wolverhampton County Police-court. Before Messrs. A. S. Hill, M.P., C. F. Clark, and G. B. Thornycroft. Thomas Palin, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of poaching implements. Fined £2 and costs.

Halesowen Police-court. Before Messrs. J. G. Reay and W. Somers. Wm. Basterfield, charged with committing an aggravated assault upon his wife by striking her several times on the face and the head. He had assaulted her on many previous occasions, and was fined a few months ago. Fined £1 19s. 6d., including costs.

Lincoln Police-court. Edward Johnson, a child not yet nine years old, charged with stealing 2s. 3d. from a till. It was stated that there were eight convictions against him. Seven days' imprisonment, to be followed by five years in a reformatory.

Clay Cross Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. W. G. Turbutt, J. T. Harrison, and F. Kenning. Wm. J. Cauldwell, charged with assaulting Ernest Leeson. Defendant knocked complainant down and then kicked him about the body, injuring several of his ribs and badly bruising his back. Fined £3, including costs.

Highgate Police-court. Before Messrs. John Glover and C. J. Barfield. Elizabeth Hibbert and Caroline Woody, charged with sleeping out. One month each.

Maidstone Police-court. Charles Burgess, charged with stealing a pot of paint. Fourteen days.

Huddersfield County Police-court. Abraham Armitage and Robert Upton, charged with assaulting George Moseley, and Henry Fitton, charged with assaulting Moseley's wife. The two first-named defendants knocked Moseley down and kicked him, and Fitton knocked down the woman. Upton fined £2, Fitton £1, and Armitage 10s.

Warrington Police-court. Joseph Boyd and Nathan Pye, two youths, charged with sleeping out in the open air. One month each.

Exeter Police-court. Before Sir Dudley Duckworth-King and other magistrates. Herbert Cox, charged with killing a pheasant without a certificate. Fined £4 10s. and costs.

Bolness Police-court. James Duncan, butcher, charged with assaulting his wife by striking her several severe blows on the face with a red-hot poker, inflicting serious injuries. The magistrate commented strongly on the atrocious nature of the assault, and imposed a fine of £1.

Burton Police-court. Before Messrs. T. B. Lowe, A. J. Coxon, C. Harrison, T. Turner, and W. J. Drewry. Arthur Carter, jun., convicted of cruelty by starving a pony. The animal was found dying of starvation. Fined 40s. and costs.

Chorley Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. E. Jackson, R. L. Crosse, and J. Lawrence. Wm. Thompson, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of three rabbits, when searched on a public road. Fined £2 and costs.

Alfreton Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Oakes, J. Roberts, and Rev. E. G. Morris. Mary Parnham, a young girl, charged with stealing a sheet and a night-dress. One month.

Tetbury Petty Sessions. Before Colonel G. Sotheron-Estcourt, Messrs. Erskine Pollock, Q.C., and T. S. Crew. George Busby, labourer, charged with poaching. He was given a good character, and this was his first offence. Fined £3.

In alluding a short time ago to the remarkable proceedings in the bankruptcy of the firm of Steel & Wood, of Stoke-on-Trent, I expressed the opinion that one of the partners, Mr. Leonard B. Wood, had been very hardly used in having his discharge refused for six years and then suspended, last October, for another three years. A similar view of the case has now been adopted by a Divisional Court of the Queen's Bench, which last week, on appeal, overruled the decision of the County Court Judge at Stoke-on-Trent, and made the discharge of the debtor absolute. The suspension of his discharge appears to have been ordered on account of an offence, which, far from having been proved against him, was really disproved. Apart from the treatment of this partner, the history of the bankruptcy is noteworthy, if not unique. The creditors received first an offer of 10s. in the £ in instalments of half-a-crown each, the third and fourth being guaranteed; and, secondly, an offer of £3,750 in cash. Both these offers were rejected, and the estate was administered by a trustee, with the instructive result that it realised only £642, and paid a dividend of only a penny in the £. The offers were rejected because it was hoped to get something better; but in bankruptcy a bird in the hand is generally worth any number of birds in the bush.

Last week an order was made by the County Court Judge at Worthing committing Joseph May, the preliminary fee-swindler, to prison for 40 days for the non payment of the sum of £7 16s., for which one of his victims obtained judgment against him last November. Since the trial of the action May—whose name will be familiar to my readers—has continued to pose as a capitalist on the look-out for an investment, but requiring first of all the payment of £5 or so for the cost of the inquiries he wishes to make before he lends any money. It is to be hoped that any further attempt at fraud by this impudent rascal will be met by a criminal prosecution, which ought, indeed, to have been instituted long ago.

I have had two or three letters nominating the Leominster County Bench for a place in my Legal Pillory on account of a recent case in which two boys, one fourteen and the other eleven years of age, were convicted of cruelty by kicking a cat to death. The father of these young barbarians stated that he had given them a seve

thrashing, which was the most suitable punishment they could receive; and, in consideration of this fact, the Bench let them off with a reprimand and an order to come up for judgment if called upon. Whether my correspondents would have liked to see these lads sent to gaol I do not know; but my own view of the matter is that the magistrates arrived at a very sensible decision.

At Mullingar Quarter Sessions last week a little judicial whitewash was applied, in a somewhat unusual manner, to Mr. Fitzherbert Delamer, the J.P. who, as I lately recorded, was fined £20 and costs for supplying a shop-keeper with margarine in boxes which were not labelled in accordance with the Margarine Act. The shop-keeper, who was also convicted of selling the stuff (which she alleged she bought from Mr. Delamer as butter), appealed to the Quarter Sessions, and her fine was reduced from £10 to £5. Although Mr. Delamer did not exercise his right of appeal, and his case was not before the court, Judge Curran, for some inscrutable reason, went out of his way to comment upon it, expressing the opinion that this J.P. had only acted foolishly, and in ignorance of the law, and adding that he was sorry not to have an opportunity of reducing his fine. This was intended to be a friendly view of Mr. Delamer's case; but I would again suggest to the Lord Chancellor that a gentleman capable of such folly and such ignorance of the law in a matter concerning his own business is scarcely a proper person to entrust with magisterial powers.

A curious incident was mentioned the other day in TRUTH, in the shape of the use of the official notepaper of the Scarborough County Court by a debt collector in writing to ask for payment of an account. On the face of it, this was a serious irregularity, and it is satisfactory to know that the Registrar of the County Court fully appreciates this, and has dealt with it promptly. It seems that the writer of the letter is employed by the bailiff of the Court as a possession man, and, having to go over to Filey in this capacity, he was entrusted by the bailiff with a sheet of the County Court note-paper for the purpose of communicating with the office. The man was paid out at once, and consequently had no occasion to use the paper, which he then subsequently applied to his own purposes in the manner that has been described. On learning what had been done, the Registrar took steps to prevent its recurrence, and no doubt they will have the desired effect. It occurs to me, however, that to allow a man who is employed by the bailiff on the business of the Court to carry on a private practice as a debt collector is a course which much readily lend itself to abuse.

In sending on a circular from the Clerical and Medical Bank, alias Shuckburgh, a correspondent tells me that he tried to induce a local journal to publish a warning against this notorious usurer, but that the editor excused himself from doing so on the ground that, though Shuckburgh might not care to tackle TRUTH, he would quickly be down upon a country paper with an action for libel. Very likely Shuckburgh would bluster and threaten, but I do not think the most timorous journalist need fear any more serious consequences from cautioning his readers against such an unmitigated rascal. If they have not the courage to do this, country editors might, at any rate, have the decency to exclude from their columns the mendacious advertisements of Shuckburgh and other usurers of the same class.

James Frederick Townend is another vampire who runs his usury shops in Leeds, Manchester, Bristol, Liverpool, and London under the sounding title of a "Bank." In Leeds it is the Provincial Credit Bank, in Manchester the City and County Bank, and so on. Last week Townend was sued in the Manchester County Court for damages for wrongfully and fraudulently abusing the processes of the Court, and levying an execution upon the goods of a farmer who had the misfortune to fall into his clutches. Judge Parry gave a verdict for £50 and costs against the usurer, and denounced his conduct towards the unfortunate farmer as "wicked and fraudulent," and "a system of blackmailing and fraud." In other words, this man Townend is not only an extortioner, but a blackmailer and a swindler into the bargain. Now that he has received this judicial certificate of character, newspapers with any respect for their own reputation will surely cease to advertise his so-called "Banks."

In view of the approaching reappointment of the Select Committee on Money-lending—I take it for granted that the parsimonious objections of the Treasury to the cost of collecting evidence will not be allowed to interfere with the completion of this most useful and important inquiry—it may be interesting to call attention to the laws of the United States on the subject of usury. The fact of the very existence, to say nothing of the stringency, of these laws will come as a surprise to a good many people in this country, where for nearly sixty years past a free rein has been given to the most rapacious extortioners. It appears, from particulars with which a correspondent has favoured me, that there are only twelve States of the Union in which usury is not prohibited by statute. In each of the remaining States, districts, and territories, the law places a limit upon the rate of interest that can be charged, and renders any usurer exceeding this limit liable to a penalty.

The limit ranges from six per cent. in some States—among them New York—to ten and twelve per cent. in others, and in one solitary case (Idaho) it is as high as eighteen per cent. There are similar variations in the severity of the penalties. In some States forfeiture of the interest is the only penalty; in others, New York being one, it is forfeiture of principal and interest. The usurer

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

in South Dakota not only forfeits the interest, but may also be indicted for a misdemeanour. In Delaware, if the interest is more than six per cent., the contract is vitiated, and any one may sue the usurer for an amount equal to the sum loaned.

Thankful indeed ought our professional money-lenders—the Jays, the Jacksons, Sanguinettis, Gordons, Kirkwoods, Shuckburghs, and the rest of them—to be for the lucky fate that has cast their lines in this country instead of in the United States. Here they are at liberty to take, and the machinery of the law assists them to take, just as much interest as can be squeezed out of their victims—and that is never, or hardly ever, less than sixty per cent., but often very much more. There—assuming that the law is effective—such blood-suckers would soon be bled to death themselves. It has generally been argued that a legal limitation of the rate of interest tends in the long run to aggravate the evil it is intended to mitigate, and there is not much likelihood that any measure for restraining Shylockism in this country will take that particular form. Still it would be well worth the while of the House of Commons Committee to obtain evidence as to the actual working of the usury laws in the United States.

There is, of course, one class of cases in which the law does come to the assistance of the victim of usury. A case of the kind came before Mr. Justice Mathew last week, when Joel Ford, a money-lender whose name must be well known to my readers, sued Captain R. P. D. S. Chichester, son of Lord and Lady Spencer Chichester, to recover £200 on a promissory note. Ford had lent the defendant £125 on a promissory note for the repayment of £200 in two instalments of £100 each, the first in three months, and the second in six months from the date of the advance, so that the interest worked out at an enormous rate per cent. per annum. The defendant, a young man of twenty-three, claimed relief from this exorbitant interest on the ground that the money-lender knew that he was an expectant heir. This relief was granted, Mr. Justice Mathew holding that the case came within the authorities, and giving the money-lender judgment for the £125 he had advanced, with interest at 5 per cent. only, and without costs. It will appear to most people that the relief extended by the law to this defendant might with equal justice and reason be given to many other deluded borrowers who are not expectant heirs.

I see that Monsieur Emile Solomiac, of Bordeaux, has broken out again, and is once more offering in all directions four cases of "Grand Cru La Générale, année 1888," with the same story about the death of his stepfather and the quarrel with his brother-in-law, which was told in TRUTH a few weeks back. His stationery (still in deep mourning) is now headed with an engraved address, and an imposing picture of a building which I take to be the Château Solomiac. It is to be feared from this that the game is paying, and that a good deal of the "Grand Cru La Générale" must be finding its way into this country. I trust that we shall not see a serious rise in the death rate.

In response to the inquiry in last week's TRUTH for the address of the Dairy Produce Direct Company, late of Leadenhall-street, I have had a communication from a Mr. G. Dixon, who wishes it to be known that he is the company, and that he is to be found at 20, Stavordale-road, Highbury, London, N. Mr. Dixon thinks that I have been misinformed as to any Irish customers having unsatisfied claims against the company, and intimates that if anybody thinks he has, he had better take the usual steps to enforce his claim. I can only say that the information furnished to me certainly shows that sundry parties consider themselves to have claims; as to their validity I can offer no opinion. As it is not likely that any one would write to London for the company's address unless he wanted it, I presume that any question between the company and its alleged creditors will now be speedily settled one way or another. Mr. Dixon also explains at some length that he on his side has claims against Irishmen with whom he has had dealings. Well, he has his remedy too. *Fiat justitia.*

Leaving Mr. Dixon and his company out of the question, it would seem that agricultural producers would do well to ascertain who they are dealing with before consigning goods to London. From another part of Ireland, Kerry this time, a story is sent me of a consignment of butter forwarded, in response to a promising order, to a firm styling itself "The International Produce and Packing Agency." Payment was made by a cheque drawn upon a bank in the South of France, which bank, on the cheque being presented, was found to have no existence. On subsequently calling at the London address of the "Agency," the creditor found the offices at the top of a house, and in charge of a foreigner with a limited knowledge of English, who could give no information beyond the fact that the proprietor was in Paris. The account is still owing.

Latest about Sturman. A tradesman in a small country town, having, as he himself admits, no pretension of any kind to a connection with science, literature, or art, recently wrote to Sturman inquiring on what terms he could become a Fellow of that worthy's precious "Society." Here is the answer, on the "Society's" paper:—

The Incorporated Society of Science, Letters, and Art,
of London, Limited.

160, Holland-road,
Kensington, London, W.
January 11, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—If you will kindly fill in the form enclosed, we will see to your election at the next meeting.—Yours very truly,
E. A. STURMAN, M.A., LL.D.

——, Esq.

All that has to be filled in is the candidate's signature, a

MAJOR HOWE & Co.—Fashionable BOOTS and SHOES.—16, Coventry-st., W. (also 60, Strand), and City, London. "Note Addresses." (Repairs.)

PRINCES' RESTAURANT, PICCADILLY.—The fashionable resort. Finest wines and cuisine only. Table d'hôte luncheon 4s. 6d. Dinners à la carte, Suppers 5s. Mang. Directr., G. FOURAULT, from Benoist.

"declaration" of desire for admission, and willingness to abide by the rules, and the amount of the subscription (five guineas). And those are the terms on which any idiot or nonentity in the country can call himself for life a Fellow of the Society of Science, Letters, and Art, of London.

Numerous readers have lately asked my opinion upon Ernest Goode's latest advertisement. It hardly seems worth while to discuss in print every fresh manifestation of this worthy's impudence, but the latest of them is certainly a phenomenal achievement. It seems that Goode is now offering, at 4s. 6d. the half-dozen, forks made of a mysterious metal which he calls Euro-Silver; and in order to stimulate the demand he offers cheques for unspecified amounts to every purchaser of the forks who succeeds in deciphering certain words spelt backwards. The novelty of the thing is that it is left to every competitor to say what amount he would like to have a cheque for, and Goode will do his best to meet the views so expressed. He does not, indeed, pledge himself to send a cheque for the full amount asked for, but he says he is prepared to spend £5,000, if necessary, and he calls attention to the fact that he has a capital and reserve fund of £97,000. As that is the nominal capital of his company, his suggestion is that he is prepared, if necessary, to sell up the whole concern in order to satisfy the prize winners. Either he has failed to fulfil these expectations, or the prize winners have been extremely moderate in their demands, for all the cheques that have come under my notice up to the present time are drawn for the modest sum of sixpence. In other words, anybody spending 4s. 6d. on Goode's forks may get sixpence returned as a prize.

This is a beautiful idea, for it looks as if anybody who bought enough of Goode's forks could speedily amass a fortune, and I must say that when a man plays up to the public with this audacity one cannot help feeling a little admiration for his powers. The truth of the matter is, of course, that Ernest Goode is a champion cheap-jack. Instead of standing on a tub beside a barrow, he takes commodious premises in the West End. Instead of shouting his patter at a crowd of yokels in the market-place, he addresses the empty-headed in the same style by newspaper advertisements. He is the first instance, so far as I know, of a cheap-jack having brought himself out as a limited company. He finds, I suppose, that there is a class of people who would not look at an article when it is offered to them at 4s., but who will jump at it when offered at 4s. 6d., if they are told they will have sixpence given them in hard cash on each transaction; and really as long as people are fools enough to be gammoned in this way it seems quarrelling with the laws of nature to say no one ought to gammon them.

Mr. Chamberlain laments that the Frontier War in India, in addition to other drawbacks to its popularity, is being waged in territory which is worth nothing from a commercial point of view. For platform purposes, no doubt, that is a painful fact. That the war is unjust, inglorious, and impolitic would matter little if you could tell an audience of Lancashire Tories that it was undertaken for the purpose of stealing something worth having. As even this consolation is denied, Mr. Chamberlain would do well to seek comfort from his favourite hero, Mr. Rhodes. Perhaps the Afridi country, when conquered and annexed, might serve to float a few mining companies. Perhaps coal may some day be found there to work the mining machinery. Perhaps the Afridis may take more kindly than the Matabele to working the mines. Or finally, if all else fails, perhaps you may be able to construct a telegraph wire to somewhere through the country. Mr. Rhodes must have a wire from Cape Town to Cairo at any cost, even at the cost of occupying Rhodesia. Why doesn't Mr. Chamberlain have an opposition wire from Calcutta to Constantinople?

Here is a letter, well worthy of notice, sent to me by a well-known Indian gentleman in London apropos of what has been said as to the suppression of information concerning the frontier operations. The writer's observations are absolutely true, and it is of great importance that the British public should remember what he says, when forming, or endeavouring to form, a judgment upon Indian affairs. On all questions arising in that quarter of the Empire it rarely happens that we have more than one side of the case before us:—

> The real difficulty in our getting at the truth about Indian affairs is that there are two parties in India as elsewhere, but only one of them can make itself heard. Suppose that some of the great questions which so often divide British opinion, were discussed only by one of the two great political parties,—should we ever have learnt the whole truth?
>
> With regard to Indian affairs, the British public hears only one side of the question, and does not get the whole truth. The actors on the stage in India are also the speakers; you never see them as others see them. The Anglo-Indian papers without exception represent the official view. The *Times* and other English papers put forward the official view. The views of the people are unrepresented.
>
> Do you think it possible, under the circumstances, to know the truth about Indian affairs? Did we learn all the blunders of the Poona plague operations from the process of white-washing adopted by Lord George Hamilton in the House of Commons? Shall we even know of the real and unbroken loyalty of the Indian population during the last forty years from the false and scurrilous cry of "sedition" and "disaffection" raised against them by interested Anglo-Indians, or from the law for gagging the Press which Lord Elgin has introduced in Council, and is about to pass? The correspondents of English papers belong to the official Anglo-Indian party, they give you only one version; the other version is never before the British public.
>
> James Mill, the philosopher and historian of India, was not far wrong in saying that residence in India was a disqualification for writing a sober and true history of the country. But Mill's history is not popular. The elegant writer who has for years past painted the excellence of British administration in the *Times* is now about to publish a "History of British India"! The Anglo-Indian Lion will be well painted this time—by himself!

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EVERY SAHARA (TURKISH) CIGARETTE bears the name and trade-mark of the sole manufacturers, W. D. & H. O. WILLS, Limited, as a guarantee of the exceptional quality of the Tobacco.

Assuming, as one is for the present justified in doing, the authenticity of the interview with Mr. Rhodes, published in the *Chronicle* last Thursday, the greater part of everything that I have said in regard to Rhodesia is now verified out of the mouth of Mr. Rhodes himself. The country is, in Mr. Rhodes' opinion, worthless for agricultural purposes, and he is anxious to have it known over there that the Company do not want agricultural emigrants. What, then, is the country good for? Mr. Rhodes insinuates, but does not state with any precision, that there is gold which can be mined. Before these mines can be worked with any profit, however, it is necessary, in his opinion, that coal—good coal—shall be discovered, and that the natives shall be "got" to work in the mines. The latter condition has been frustrated by the inconsiderate proceedings of Sir Richard Martin and the "faddists" in England, that is to say by the opposition of the British public to forced labour and the revival of slavery under the British flag.

What, then, is the outlook for the mines? It is now our years since the overthrow of Lobengula and the ccupation of the country by Mr. Rhodes and his olleagues. No gold has yet been worked in the country, nd no satisfactory evidence has yet been forthcoming hat gold exists in payable quantities. We are now told n the highest authority that no gold can be worked xcept under two conditions, neither of which is at all kely to be fulfilled at present. For other purposes than old mining the country is declared worthless—precisely hat I have been reiterating in TRUTH for three or four ears past. It is amusing to note that, besides coal and ative labour, Rhodesia has, in Mr. Rhodes' view, yet nother want, namely, "men with capital." No doubt. take it that it is the men with capital who are to ovide the gold.

His interviewer very naturally asked Mr. Rhodes if all e money and blood spent on the acquisition of the untry were to be regarded as wasted. The reply was , because if we had not acquired the territory, some her Power would have done so. The obvious retort uld seem to be that, if any other Power was such a l as to waste its resources in acquiring a piece of ritory which is of no earthly value, we should rather ourage it to do so than waste our own resources in estalling the attempt. Never has the more insane se of Jingoism been more frankly expressed.

The following story is sent by a Service correspondent current in military circles at the Cape. Immediately r the conclusion of Mr. Rhodes' famous "Indaba" in Matoppos, an officer of the party ran off to the sig- ing officer and got him to heliograph to Buluwayo a sage to his broker there to wire home and buy artereds." Others of the party subsequently did the e thing, and the signalling officer was pestered for some afterwards for answers to the message. Strange to e, it was later on discovered by these enterprising gentlemen that all private telegrams from Buluwayo had been kept back on this occasion until others from more influential quarters had been got through. This story may belong to the *ben trovato* order, but it is due to the officer who contributes it to state that he actually gives the names of the parties concerned.

During the last two years the Jingo Press of London has been proclaiming war by turns on the Boers, the United States, Germany, France, and the whole world. During the last week it has varied the performance by declaring war on nobody in particular, or anybody you please. Out of curiosity, I purchased, a few evenings since, one of these papers, which was bidding for pennies with such announcements as "Grave Crisis in the East," "War in Sight," "England and Japan United," "The Country Unanimous." I studied my pennyworth carefully, but between whom the war which was in sight was to be declared, against whom Japan and England had united themselves, or about what the country was unanimous—unless it was on the necessity of fighting at once anybody that we could pick a quarrel with—I failed altogether to discover. The Jingo scribes understand this fustian to be what they call "patriotism." It seems to me that in their hands John Bull cuts about as dignified and imposing a figure as Mr. Winkle taking off his coat, and announcing that he was "going to begin."

If the country does not speedily tire of all this sickening folly, I shall despair of the common sense of my countrymen. What in the name of goodness have we got to quarrel about in China? Russia is striving to get an access to the Pacific which will not be ice-bound in winter. It is a reasonable desire, and will not hurt us. Russia is not our commercial rival, and is not likely to be. Germany has obtained a *pied-à-terre* in China. On the part of a great commercial Power this also is not unreasonable. It may not suit us, but it is considerably less than we have got, and we have no right to object. Considering the position which we have so long occupied, and still occupy, in China, this snarling and blustering at the first appearance of a stranger on the scene is more offensive and contemptible than the conduct of the dog in the manger.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach raised a cheer from the Jingo gallery by declaring that we intend to keep the treaty ports open, even at the cost of war. A mighty brave boast, but not very much to the point, unless somebody has proposed to close these ports—of which no evidence has been forthcoming at present. According to the latest information, Germany contemplates making a free and open port of her own new acquisition. Yet on the strength of this clap trap about keeping the ports open our Jingoes have been swaggering, and counting our

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strength, and exulting over the speedy extirpation of all the forces of all other nations, should they venture to provoke our just wrath. Apparently these bellicose penmen imagine that if we declare war on Russia, France, or Germany, or all three combined, they will oblige us by fighting it out in the China seas, and kindly refrain from attacking us except where we are certain of victory. Finally, to show up the idiocy of all this bluster, the *Times* comes out with an apparently inspired notification that "in certain quarters the strong expressions used by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach have been strangely misinterpreted." When that statesman said that we would do this or that "at the cost of war," he did not, it seems, for a moment contemplate that the necessity of doing it was imminent. He only meant, as far as I can make out, that if other people use mailed fists we shall have to use mailed fists too. Having heard a cock crow on a neighbouring dunghill, he thought it necessary that the majestic voice of Britain should be heard also. This is a most satisfactory explanation, and must be highly gratifying to every true patriot.

PAYING FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY WHISTLE.

The chord struck by a Midland Member has found an echo in the heart of many an M.P. Quite a number have joined in a chorus of complaint as to the way in which they are bled by their constituencies.—*Weekly Paper.*

'Tis the voice of those Members, we hear them complain;
"A hundred requests for subscriptions again!
A hundred more letters our temper to vex
With unblushing demands for immediate cheques;
A hundred fresh reasons more cash to disburse
From what is already a much lightened purse;
A hundred new pleas to distribute our gold
'Mongst the poor and the rich and the young and the old.

"All in vain we protest that it's sordid and mean
To make us a sort of subscription machine;
All in vain our Committees we ask to discuss
Why the letters 'M.P.' should spell ruin for us;
All in vain for a little relief we beseech,
We as well might address our remarks to a leech;
Our constituents, 'spite what we've written and said,
Still think that we only exist to be bled!

"And, oh! how they bleed us! Instructed by use,
There is nothing on which they can't found an excuse;
The birth of twin-babies, the death of a cow,
Are equally fitting as pretexts they vow.
If they build a new church or a chapel enlarge,
They persistently do it in part at our charge,
And the Cycle Club dinner and Sunday School tea,
Are mainly provided by our £ s. d.

"If soup should be wanted, or blankets, or coal,
'Tis on us they rely for financing the dole:
If money is needed for Hospital wards
Our names the subscription list always records;
If they dine or they dance, as they frequently do,
Our supporters their pleas for assistance renew:
And they can't knock a ball with a boot or a bat
Unless they first come round to us with the hat.

"We object to be bled in this merciless way;
Too dearly, we find, for our whistles we pay.
These raids on our pockets, increased every week,
Compel us at last very plainly to speak.

Nor can it surprise you we're anxious to end
These attacks which must soon to our bankruptcy tend.
We refuse such extortion to longer allow,
We're resolved to be free—but the question is, How?"

* * * * *

It is not surprising these Members are sore,
But they have little reason their fate to deplore.
They are bled for subscriptions, they plaintively say,
They are dunn'd for donations and gifts every day;
They are treated as money-bags not as M.P.s.,
They're regarded as sponges it's easy to squeeze—
Well, what if they are? 'Tis in vain they object,
For what else can the bulk of them fairly expect?

For why were *they* chosen, of all upon earth?
For their culture? Their brains? Their political worth?
Had they shown any signs of sagacity great,
Or of gifts that might tend to the good of the State?
Had they breeding, or birth, or historical names?
Or *any* well-founded and apposite claims?
Not at all, they the voters availed to bewitch
For one reason alone—they were known to be rich!

So of course they are squeezed, and of course they are bled,
They were chosen *ad hoc*—there's no more to be said.
They've no personal charms and their talents are *nil*,
They possess not a trace of rhetorical skill;
They are strangers, p'rhaps hailing from alien shores,
They, too often, are snobs, and they always are bores;
So of course they are dunned in the place that they stood for,
And what else, in the name of what's just, are they good for?

So far, then, so good! but we're happy to think
That constituents soon from such members will shrink.
We are happy to feel that the time is at hand
When the Money-bag will not for Parliament stand,
Or, if he should do so, will never cajole
Sordid voters enough to succeed at the poll,
But will sink to the bottom, unwept, uncondoled,
Dragged down by the weight of his much-vaunted gold!

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SCRUTATOR.

THE FRONTIER FIASCO.

REFERENCE has been made from time to time in the English Press to the severe criticism of the Frontier operations that has been appearing lately in the Indian papers—notably the *Pioneer*. Attempts have been made by Ministerial organs to pooh-pooh these utterances, but in so doing the writers merely foul their own nest, for almost every Anglo-Indian paper is more or less in the position of a Ministerial organ. An Opposition Press, as we understand it at home, does not exist in India—except, of course, in the vernacular. Not only is hostile criticism of Government action rare, but it has been a well-founded reproach to Anglo-Indian journalists that they often carry their subserviency to the point of sacrificing public and private interests to their desire to stand well with the ruling clique. Severe criticism, therefore, whether of the authorities at Simla, or those in charge of operations in the field, is as significant and impressive as it is rare, and it is of the utmost importance that the public at home, which has been very badly served in this instance by its own Press, should mark and digest what is being publicly said, and repeated without contradiction, all over India.

During the last fortnight I have been receiving by almost every mail clippings and quotations from the Indian papers. To reproduce or summarise them all would be impossible, for they deal with a vast mass of details arising out of the conduct of the operations during several weeks. But I will give a few extracts, which will sufficiently show the general drift of opinion. On December 28 the *Pioneer* printed a four-column letter from its correspondent with the force, describing the march of the 2nd Division (the 3rd and 4th Brigades) from Bagh to Barkai. The story reads throughout like that of the more critical episodes in the passage of the Alps by Hannibal's army, but with this difference, that the British force was virtually retreating in a demoralised condition from a victorious enemy, and that the losses and sufferings of the troops were largely due to a defective plan of campaign and the blunders of those in command. Commenting upon the narrative, the *Pioneer* says :—

Reading the description of the progress of the 3rd Brigade from the morning of the 10th, when the movement down the Bara Valley began, the sentiment we experience is one of mingled astonishment and devout thankfulness—astonishment that such confusion should have been possible, and thankfulness that the enemy were not impelled to make a better use of their opportunities. . . . . It is pleasant to know that the troops fought admirably, as usual, and that on the part of our officers there were, as usual also, conspicuous instances of splendid courage and devotion to duty; but if the muddle of the 10th and 11th is to be regarded as inevitable, then we must assume that in certain circumstances the resources of generalship are exhausted.

The *Times of India*, which had published a similar narrative of the march from its own correspondent, made the following comments upon it :—

Anything more pitiful than the accounts, guarded though they are, of correspondents at the front regarding the return march of the Tirah Force to Bara it would be difficult to imagine Of a truth mountain warfare is not to be learnt in the playing fields of Egypt! The published narratives are daily being supplemented by letters from private individuals, and these one and all condemn in the strongest terms the entire absence of even the rough outline of such arrangements as the troops expect from a General and his Staff. Thus in the first march from Bagh to Dwatoi it took one division three days to cover the distance, which is only seven miles, and this without any opposition from the enemy, from whom Colonel Warburton had happily bought (*sic*) immunity. No order of march was issued, no arrangements whatever made to expedite the passage of the baggage train, and not a single Staff Officer could be seen or found along the route. The same happy-go-lucky methods were pursued on the following days, and it is no exaggeration to say, as the Afridis are now exulting y exclaiming, that the force was hunted into Peshawur with a loss of 166 men by a few hundred determined skirmishers. The behaviour of the troops is, on all hands, allowed to have been admirable, but, undoubtedly, serious inquiry should be made into the causes which have led to so disappointing a climax as has now been reached.

The *Civil and Military Gazette* (Lahore) published the following remarks in its issue of December 29 :—

We hear that in Rawalpindi and other places to which officers of the Tirah Force have come back on leave, the reflections on the incompetence of certain Commanding Officers of brigades or divisions and of Staff Officers is very outspoken. Unfortunately, there is a general belief that Simla will stand by its own, and that not only will no censure be given, but that the forthcoming orders will butter men who do not by any means deserve it, rather the reverse. *The fighting army has lost confidence in Headquarters.* This is sad but true.

On December 30 the *Pioneer* published a lengthy rejoinder to some off hand remarks upon its earlier criticism, which had appeared in the London *Standard*. In that occasion it thus summarised its previous indictment :—

Our statements, put briefly, amounted to this: that the instances in which the troops had been well handled were few and far between, while the occasions on which there had been serious blundering were only too numerous; that proper precautions had not been taken to guard against attacks by superior numbers of the enemy upon convoys and rearguards; that scores of men had been left where hundreds should have stayed, and that companies had been told off to do the work of battalions; and that a few hundred British soldiers and Sepoys had again and again to fight desperately to save their skins, while within two or three miles of them were thousands of their comrades doing absolutely nothing, though the noise of continuous firing was in their ears. Further, we said that General Officers had failed to see that they had an active and enterprising enemy opposed to them. . . . .

In justification of these charges about a column of facts were given. After reference to the action in the Mahmund Valley on September 16, the inexplicable operations at the Dargai Heights (severely criticised by Sir William Lockhart himself in the despatch which has just been made public), and the desperate fight in which the Northamptons were involved on November 9, the writer continues :—

The block of transport on the Chagru Kotal, which was the result of the (Dargai) heights being left open to the enemy, had serious consequences for the time being, as many animals perished, and their attendants suffered terribly. No General Officer or responsible Staff Officer on the spot grasped the position; had they done so, and acted with decision, the transport would have been turned back, the baggage parked at Shenowrie, and the chaotic state of affairs on the road over the kotal would have been avoided. Again, on the concentration of the troops at Korappa, it was not until some thirty-five casualties had occurred on one day from the firing into foraging parties and into camp at night, that orders were issued for the neighbouring heights to be picqueted. When this was done the casualties practically stopped, at least those due to sniping into camp. As regards attacks upon convoys, we need only instance one; that which took place near the Arhanga Pass, owing to some one in authority not having seen that the convoy would most certainly be unable to reach its destination before nightfall. *On this occasion some 12,000 or 13,000 rounds of Lee-Metford ammunition were lost*—a rare windfall for the enemy, who have been flush of cartridges ever since, and have used them with great effect.

Coming now to rearguard actions, the affair of November 16, when the troops were returning from Waran, is a case of a few hundred men fighting desperately while their comrades were only a few miles away. The weak companies of the 15th and 36th Sikhs and a handful of the Dorsetshires, 200 all told, fought like heroes; their officers behaved with the finest gallantry and a relieving force was sent out the next morning. . . . . Could this be said to be a rearguard action in which proper precautions had been taken to guard against attack by superior numbers? . . . .

And so on, and so on.

The *Times* recently discovered a highly convincing answer to all this criticism. It was that the spirit of the Little Englander is manifesting itself in India. Never, indeed, has a better example been given of the utter imbecility of this *ad captandum* phrase. As here used, it implies that any one who attempts to indicate the true cause of reverses to our arms which cannot be denied is a "Little Englander." By its own confession, the *Times* itself, when it despatched Sir W. H. Russell to the Crimea and published his letters, was among the first of the Little England school. It would even seem that Sir William Lockhart himself is the latest recruit of the Little Englanders, for his observations on some of his subordinates in the despatch dealing with the Dargai business entirely coincide with the criticisms of the Indian Press. It is an insult to the intelligence of the reader to put forward such twaddle as this "Little Englander" argument in answer to unpalatable facts and awkward criticism. The Anglo-Indian Press is notoriously Chauvinistic; the editors of papers like the *Pioneer*, the *Times of India*, and the *Civil and Military Gazette*, have as much of the Little Englander about them as the editor of the *Globe*. What is more, the very correspondents who supply the Indian papers with the facts on which they comment are officers serving with the Army in the field; and it will not be doubted by any one who reads the articles on the operations in the *Pioneer* that they are inspired if not written, by competent

military observers. Not only do these last facts dispose of the stupid "Little Englander" theory, but they will suggest to every one who "knows the ropes" that the facts which have appeared in the Indian papers in all probability understate the truth. An officer acting as a war correspondent is known as such to those in authority over him, and it is not to be supposed that he will represent facts in a light too unfavourable to his superiors. The probability, indeed, is quite the reverse of that. The same observations apply to every Army man who is known to be in any way connected with the staff of a newspaper.

The fact is that the Indian Press is in this matter only following the general current of opinion in Anglo-Indian circles, and in military circles most of all. On this point I can speak with some authority, for Army men are in the habit of communicating their views to TRUTH with a gratifying absence of reserve, and many a strong expression of opinion on the management of the frontier campaign have I been favoured with during the last month or two from men who well know what they are talking about. The *Pioneer*, in one of its articles, claims that it is only voicing the general opinion of the force in the field. The *Civil and Military Gazette*, in a passage which I have quoted, professes to give the views expressed by officers returning from the front. To show that these journals are justified in this, let me now quote some of the strongest remarks that I have come across anywhere. They are addressed to TRUTH by an officer who is a mere onlooker, and from his position can have no motive for unfair criticism:—

I have not been on the frontier expeditions, but I am in a position here, where so many officers from the front are so constantly passing through, to hear a good deal of what has happened. All accounts agree in saying that the only one of the generals now employed on the frontier who has shown the least capacity for leadership is General ——. General —— did well, but he has not been employed in the Tirah expedition. General —— and General —— are described as being utterly incompetent, the latter especially so, while it is a well-known fact that General —— completely lost his head in the —— expedition, and that, if it had not been for the good leadership of his subordinate officers, his force would have been cut up. The truth concerning the latter operations has not been told in the published despatches, and the utter incompetence of General —— has been glozed over by the Commander-in-Chief. Nothing is said about the bad behaviour of the troops; how the 35th Sikhs under Captain —— fled in panic, leaving their officers unsupported, or how the West Kent Regiment also ran away, leaving their officer to be cut up and horribly mutilated. The truth in all these expeditions is entirely suppressed. The Generals implicated naturally suppress it, while the newspaper correspondence is largely written by officers who would render themselves liable to the direst penalties if they told what really did happen. All correspondence, too, has to pass a severe censorship, and nothing which would tend to show even a glimmer of light on what is really passing is allowed to be sent.

But the Government of India cannot prevent officers talking when they return from the front, and it is in this way that we are gradually learning much which has been kept from us hitherto. And assuredly never was there unfolded a more pitiful tale of incompetence on every side. The Tirah expedition has been a lamentable failure in every way. It has cost an enormous amount of money, hundreds of lives have been lost, our prestige throughout the East, which it was designed to uphold, has sunk to a lower point on account of it than had ever been reached before, and the enemy is still unsubdued and triumphant. In the words of the *Times of India*, our enormous force of four brigades of troops has been hunted out of Tirah, with a loss of 166 killed and wounded, by a few hundred determined skirmishers. The movement down the Bara Valley was, in fact, more in the nature of a pitiful and disorganised flight than a military march. I enclose some extracts from the *Pioneer* newspaper in support of this assertion. When an officer such as the correspondent of this paper can bring himself to describe things as he has we may be sure that in reality things were a hundred times worse.

What is the cause of this lamentable failure? This is a question which should be faced, and, if a satisfactory reply is not forthcoming, it is to be hoped that questions will be asked about it in Parliament. According to all officers on the spot with whom I have conversed, it was due to the manner in which the whole of the generals and staff selected for the expedition were appointed, not on account of any merit, but solely because they were members of Sir George White's Simla gang. The retiring Commander-in-Chief is finishing up his Indian career in a veritable blaze of jobbery, and never did he display his characteristics more than in his appointments to the Tirah staff. It is well known that when Sir William Lockhart arrived out here and found every command and every staff appointment already appropriated by some of Sir George White's incompetent Simla friends, actors and buffoons for the most part, he was very disgusted indeed, and did not hide the fact. Sir George White, then, is primarily responsible for the whole fiasco. How such an officer can be selected for employment in a highly responsible post at the War Office we out here are at a loss to understand. In Indian opinion he has proved himself . . . . [What follows is so strong that I really have not the courage to reproduce it.—ED. TRUTH.]

Every one here is glad to see that you have taken up the case of the actions of October 18 and 20 before Dargai, and we hope that you will hammer away at it until an official explanation is forthcoming of the extraordinary way in which the business was managed. If you would go into the matters which I have referred to in this letter, I have no doubt that plenty of further letters on the subject would be forthcoming from people better qualified than I to speak with authority. At present I can assure you that the universal feeling throughout all India is utter disgust with the military authorities.

This is strong language. Is it or is it not justified? *Primâ facie* it is. As it stands at the present moment, the campaign has been the most disastrous military undertaking on which we have embarked since the Walcheren Expedition. The Indian Government has mobilized one of the largest armies that have been called out since the Crimean war, and after three or four months' incessant fighting what has that army done? Nothing. During all those months scarcely a week has passed without bringing—controlled though all the means of communication are by the military authorities—the news of some petty but ignominious reverse, or some desperate encounter in which our troops have with difficulty extricated themselves from a position of serious peril. The loss of life has been appalling, especially among the officers, and the troops have been decimated by sickness. For the most part—incidents like those referred to in the letter quoted above may occur in any army fighting a losing battle—regimental officers and men appear to have acquitted themselves admirably; there have been splendid instances of heroism on the part of individuals and corps. What, then, is the fault? It can only be that the campaign was badly planned, and that the troops have been badly handled. For this reason I assert that *primâ facie* the scathing condemnation passed above on the Commander-in-Chief in India, the Staff, and on certain Brigadiers, whom there is no necessity to name at present, is fully justified by the facts.

If so, what next? Three questions of the utmost moment present themselves. First, is the campaign to be renewed in the spring on the old lines, and in the same hands which have failed so signally? To allow this, would seem to be to court worse disaster, for the best of troops will not fight with any heart or spirit when they believe themselves to be badly led; and, well founded or not, that is the belief prevailing throughout the Army on the Frontier now. Secondly, Sir George White, fresh from this deplorable failure, is coming home to take up one of the chief appointments on the Headquarters Staff. After all we have heard of late about the condition of the Army, is this to the interest of the Service or the country? At any rate, is the appointment to take effect without protest, or reconsideration in the light of recent events?

Finally, what conclusion are we to draw from the Frontier fiasco as to the efficiency of our Indian military organisation? In all recent discussion of our military resources, the efficiency of the Indian Army has been taken for granted. Whatever the shortcomings of our Home forces, India has been supposed to possess a magnificent fighting machine. Whatever the incompetence and muddleheadedness of Whitehall, we have been taught that the enlightened bureaucracy which has its seat at Simla was a match in vigorous efficiency for anything to be found at Berlin or St. Petersburg. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. For four months Simla has been doing its best, with an Army of 70,000 men on the Frontier, to subdue a few thousand unorganised hill-men, and the result is—what we all know. Could anything be more disquieting? That none of these questions should yet have been raised in England is, perhaps, the most astonishing feature in the whole business. It is time that the Press and the public awoke to the truth about the campaign on the Frontier, and the lessons that have to be learned from it; and it should be the first business of Parliament, when it meets, to elicit, by whatever means are most effective, full information as to the cause of the fiasco, and the next steps contemplated by those at the head of affairs.

ITALY IN 1898.

The Liberal newspapers in Italy are convinced that Dreyfus is innocent, and they have so worked upon public opinion, that Italian legislators and students are sending messages to Zola informing him that (next to Dreyfus) he is the noblest of the human race. From the perusal of these journals I learn with interest that Dreyfus has been found guilty of treason as a preliminary step to restoring to the Pope his lost territories, for in the French Army two-thirds of the officers are affiliated to the Jesuits. Why the condemnation of this guileless Hebrew should be likely to aid the Pope to recover his temporal throne they do not explain, nor do they adduce any proofs for their belief in the man's innocence. I doubt, indeed, whether any of these scribes have read anything connected with the matter, beyond Zola's letter to the French President. Ample funds have admittedly been expended by the friends of Dreyfus in their campaign, and I should imagine that a good deal of this money has found its way to Italy. Logic is not precisely the strong point of Italians. They regard the Pope as their most dangerous foe, and, consequently, the Italian campaign on behalf of Dreyfus is based upon making out that all who decline to believe in his innocence are the allies of the Pope.

Italian Liberals, instead of dogmatising upon a matter about which they know nothing, and inditing homilies on French injustice to a Frenchman, would do well to keep their breath to cool their own porridge. Italy is in a serious condition. Nowadays, money is the strength of a nation; without it, a country can never be either powerful either politically or commercially. When Italy was unified, she should have developed her internal resources, without meddling with anything outside her frontiers. But she aspired to a voice in the Councils of Europe. Angry with France, because the latter had laid hands on Tunis, she yielded to the insidious advances of Bismarck, joined the Triple Alliance, and as a member of that Alliance has ever since had an Army about one-third in numerical strength above her means or her requirements. France has reciprocated by alterations in her Customs duties, which have almost closed her markets to Italy. Thus, whilst Italy's expenditure has increased, her taxable revenues have decreased. Then came the African folly. As other nations were securing territories in that dark continent, Italy must needs have territories there. This still further taxed her revenues. At present every one, speaking roundly, has to pay about 60 per cent. of his income in taxation, direct and indirect. This absolutely cripples industry. Foreign capital flees the country, and of capital at home there is hardly any. Either the taxation must be reduced, or the goose that lays the golden eggs will become sterile.

Owing to this crushing weight of taxation the Clerical Party in Italy is gaining strength, and so is the Socialist Party. The former takes no part in elections, for the Papal orders forbid all true friends of the Church even to vote. What the strength of this party is cannot be well estimated. It is believed, however, that it numbers rather more than one-third of the population. Amongst the artizans, Socialism is rife, and it has gained considerable ground in the last few years. At elections not one-third of those on the register vote, and it is this apathy that is a more dangerous sign than anything else. To a certain extent these abstentions are due to a want of all political education, but they are also due to the distrust of representative government which is entertained by many. The large majority of Italians are proud of being a united nation. But they are dissatisfied with their Government, without well knowing what they would have in its stead. This, indeed, is not surprising. If a poor man in England had to pay above one half of his wage in taxes he would not be satisfied; still less if he believed that Ministers and Representatives were not so clean-handed in money matters as might be desired. In the Legislative Chamber there are a number of groups. A Ministry can only retain its majority there by satisfying a sufficient number of these groups, between which there is very little difference of principle. As, in the long run, this is difficult, every Ministry is short-lived; and the position of every Ministry is rendered still more difficult by the King insisting upon the maintenance of the Army at its present strength. Personally, without being unpopular, he is not popular; but in the absence of any statesman able to impress the country with his individuality, he, from the mere fact of being King, remains master of the situation.

We are under the impression that the Italians would join us in the event of any European war in which we might be involved. Never was there a greater illusion. In case of any European war the Italians would remain neutral. They would be glad to see France defeated in the Mediterranean, but they would not incur the risk of a French Army advancing into their country by joining in the fray. Italy has to learn that a great country is not built up in a day, and that to build it up progress must be slow and sure. No sooner was Italy unified than

all thought the rest must follow, and they were in a state of wild elation. They have now discovered their mistake and they are depressed. Italians are not wanting in intelligence, but they are without the humbler and more useful attribute of common sense. The only portions of their country where this exists are in Lombardy and in Liguria. There alone are good men of business, as we understand business, to be found. The most hopeful thing in the situation is that both artisans and peasants are hard-working, thrifty, and temperate. The country now, however, is only kept going by the money brought into it by tourists, and by that sent home by emigrants to their relations, or brought home by the emigrants themselves on their return. Italians have not only a good deal to learn, but a good deal to unlearn.

Rome has been spoilt by the endeavour to graft on it improvements of the French boulevard type. Not long ago there was actually a proposal to throw over the Forum an "elegant" iron suspension bridge! The building speculation that caused such ruin a few years ago has resulted in a vast number of huge new houses being built, which, as they cannot find tenants, are already falling into decay. There are not nearly so many foreign families resident there as there used to be, nor do such families remain there, as formerly, a whole winter. Most of those who do this are Americans, who import a daughter with money for the Roman Prince market. Many of the Roman Princesses are now Americans, but as Princes are very plentiful, the market is still an open one. The visitors are mostly tourists on their way to and from Egypt. It is only at Easter that foreigners in any numbers are to be found there, when they come in order to witness the religious ceremonies. Enough has been written on Roman ruins and churches, and monuments. What modern civilisation has done, has been to endow the Eternal City with about the best hotel in Europe, and for this visitors have to thank the proprietors of the London Savoy Hotel. In Naples there are no strangers, and I am told that most of the aristocratic Neapolitan families who can afford it betake themselves to Rome for the winter. In Florence the building craze has raged. Sanitation may have benefited by the new streets that have replaced the old world slums, but this has been at the cost of much that gave to the town its picturesque character. Florence is probably the only town in Italy where there is a large English and American colony. Living is cheap, and this attracts some. Others come to educate their children, others because they like the easy-going, lazy life. An English family might go further and fare worse.

THE RANGOON ARTILLERY SCANDAL.

The following is an outline of the case of Sergeant (late Sergeant-Major) Sullivan, R.A., referred to in last week's TRUTH. In November last Quartermaster-Sergeant Smith, of Sullivan's company, was charged with being drunk in the afternoon at the barracks at Rangoon. Sergeant-Major Sullivan himself placed Smith under arrest, and had his opinion on the prisoner's condition verified by several N.C.O.s. Smith was court-martialled on the charge, and was acquitted, in the face of what seems to have been almost overwhelming evidence. Subsequently Sullivan preferred, in regular form, a complaint against Major Molesworth, the Commanding Officer of the company. The complaint was, in fact, a very serious indictment of the Commanding Officer, imputing to him in so many words that he had tampered with the course of justice in Smith's court-martial, that he was negligent and incompetent in the performance of his duties, and that he relied upon Smith for their proper performance. This "complaint" went to the General Officer Commanding at Rangoon, and upon the strength of it Sullivan was in his turned charged with conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline. He was tried by court-martial, found guilty, and sentenced to be reduced to the ranks. On confirmation, the sentence was altered to reduction to the rank of sergeant.

The civilian Press in Burma has commented very severely on this case, and public opinion on the spot appears to be strongly in Sullivan's favour. He certainly did not mince words in his complaint of the Commanding Officer, and he certainly was not discreet in impeaching Major Molesworth's discharge of his duties. It may be open to question whether the right of making a complaint against a superior officer includes the right to present a general indictment against him in regard to the discharge of his duties, apart altogether from any personal grievance of the party who makes the complaint. But even if Sullivan was indiscreet in the terms he used, or technically wrong in using the right of complaint in the way he did, there remains the much more important question for the public, as the employer both of Major Molesworth and the sergeant-major, whether Sullivan's allegations were well founded. At the trial, Sullivan, as we should say in civilian procedure, pleaded a justification. He brought forward a great deal of evidence to show that his allegations against the C.O. were true in substance and in fact, these allegations referring not only to the trial of Smith, but to the general management of the affairs of the company. It can hardly be said that this evidence was satisfactorily rebutted; and the line taken by the prosecution, and by the Court, seems rather to have been that it was immaterial, and that whether the C.O. had or had not done what was imputed to him, Sullivan was equally guilty of insubordinate conduct. But what I should like to know, and what the public will want to know, is whether any steps are to be taken to try Sullivan's charges on their merits. He may have been wrong to make them, but they are not disposed of by merely punishing him for a technical irregularity.

It may be added that this view of the matter is fortified by the lenient view which the General seems to have taken of the gravity of the case after the finding of the Court. If Sullivan's allegations against the C.O. were unfounded, he was guilty of making the most grossly false charges against a superior officer, presumably from malicious or interested motives, and in that case he is manifestly unfit to occupy any position of authority. Such was clearly not the General's view of the case, or he would not have restored the offender to the rank of sergeant after he had been reduced to the ranks by the sentence of the Court. Mere reduction to the rank of sergeant is not an adequate punishment for the offence of which the Court found the man

guilty, and could only be prompted by the opinion that there were extenuating circumstances in the case. What were these extenuating circumstances? As far as Sullivan is concerned the question may not be of much consequence. He has over twenty years' service, and will be taking his discharge in a few weeks, and though he may suffer in pension, it is too much to hope that any further steps that may be taken will improve his position. But apart altogether from the equity of the proceedings against him, the interests of the company and of the Service generally, not to mention the interest of the public, require that when such charges have been made and publicly brought before a court of justice, and commented upon freely in the Press, the military authorities should take note of them. There ought to be a further and full inquiry into all the facts and allegations that have been brought forward in the course of Sullivan's trial.

MORE HINTS TO RAILWAY MANAGERS.

As my recent articles on railway management were written after inviting correspondence on the subject, and after a very liberal response on the part of the public to that invitation, I cannot undertake to follow them up by dealing with a further batch of letters on the same question. This must be my answer to various readers who have written to me during the last two or three weeks. There are one or two grievances, however, either overlooked or very briefly noticed in the articles, which seem to deserve fuller attention, and two of them are dealt with in the following letter, which I select for that reason :—

Apropos of your criticism on railway management, let me give the following experience of a journey from Bournemouth a week or two ago. I travelled up by the last train on a Sunday night, having with me a companion in somewhat delicate health. On arrival at Bournemouth East I inquired if I could have a foot-warmer, and was told that they would be placed in the carriages at Bournemouth West, whence the train started. On the train coming up I found all the carriages occupied, and naturally the first-comers had taken possession of the foot-warmers, and we were compelled to do without, although the night was foggy and chilly.

On arrival at Waterloo about 10.15 p.m., the passengers nearest the door obtained the services of the only porter who presented himself, and I had to remove my hand luggage from the carriage myself. By the time I had got my things out, the only two four-wheeled cabs in the station were engaged, and after walking with my luggage to the bottom of the tunnel by which the cabs approach the platform, I found that there were no more cabs to be had in that direction. Returning to the platform I endeavoured to find a porter to remove my heavy luggage from the van, but the few men available were busily occupied, and passengers were already in the luggage van removing their luggage themselves. I followed their example, unearthed my boxes, and assisted a fellow-passenger to lift his trunk out of the van on condition that he would do the same for me, which he did. By this time every cab had driven off, and numerous passengers and luggage were left helpless on the platform. Being unable to obtain assistance, I walked down into York-road, and then up and down the Waterloo-road The few cabs which passed were secured before I could engage them by porters who were also skirmishing up and down the road in search of them, and I walked about in the mud and fog for fully twenty minutes before I succeeded in finding a c[illegible] Having returned with it to the station, I had to assist the cabman in placing my luggage upon the vehicle, and we ultimately drove away at five minutes to eleven—forty minutes after the arrival of the train. I may add that, from inquiries of one of the station policemen in the course of my wanderings, I learnt that a cab famine on Sunday nights was no unusual occurrence.

I think you will agree that these facts reflect great discredit upon the station authorities, for it cannot be an unusual thing for the last train from Bournemouth, Southampton, Winchester, and other stations to come in on a Sunday night with a considerable load of passengers and luggage, especially during the week or two after Christmas.

This is certainly a matter which the South-Western management ought to look into. Of course, Sunday travellers must occasionally expect some little inconvenience. But there ought always to be a sufficient staff of porters on duty at the main London termini to unload trains when they arrive, and to place the luggage on cabs. The insufficiency of porters at such stations was noticed in my recent articles, and it is a grievance not confined to Sundays, or to any particular station. Considering that the porters are, at any rate at the London termini, to a great extent in the direct pay of the public, it really seems an unreasonable thing that the Company should not engage a sufficient staff for the work.

The cab difficulty is a new one to me, but since receiving the above letter I have heard of other cases where it has been impossible to obtain cabs at London stations late in the evening. As things are, of course, the Companies are not directly responsible for this. The cab service is conducted on a voluntary basis, and it is not to be expected that cabmen will pay to enter a railway station immediately before closing time on the mere chance of picking up a fare by the last train. The Companies might, however, do something to encourage the attendance of cabmen late in the evening by admitting them free after a certain hour. Have any of them, I wonder, ever considered the question of starting a cab service of their own? If it is worth while to provide omnibuses, why not cabs, or, to bring the suggestion up to date, why not motor cars? The latter have the advantage that the motor is not "eating its head off" when idle; and if the Company always kept two or three in the stable at times when cabs are scarce, and taught a few of the station staff to drive them on an emergency, no traveller need in future be in any difficulty about finding a vehicle when he reaches London. Meanwhile, there is room, as has often been pointed out, for much improvement in the present arrangements for forwarding passengers' luggage to its destination independently of the owners.

Then there is the question of foot-warmers, which becomes more or less acute every winter in proportion to the state of the thermometer. In the whole sphere of railway management there is not a more striking example than this of the hide-bound conservatism which governs British ideas whenever the stimulus of £. s. d. is absent. To warm a railway train from the engine furnace is as simple and obvious a process as ever mechanician undertook. In one way or another the thing has been done for years upon years past in America and upon the Continent. Just five years ago experiments were made upon the North British and Caledonian Railways with a system (Dr. Bell's) which combines both a ventilating and a warming apparatus, fresh air being taken in by the motion of the train, and warmed by a steam-pipe from the engine, and then diffused under the feet of the passengers. The experiments were perfectly successful, and the system is not only admirable from a hygienic point of view, but has the great merit that it raises no additional danger in the case of accident to the train. But merely because cold weather in England rarely lasts long enough to create a strong demand for improved methods, and because the

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Companies cannot increase their dividends by reforming their arrangements, we in this country have had to put up for sixty years with a system of warming carriages which dates from the era of stage coaches, and is as primitive as the hot brick with which country people warm their beds.

Besides being clumsy, ineffective, and unwholesome, the railway foot-warmer, under present conditions, is open to the further objection that it can only be obtained here and there, and is then made, with the approval or connivance of the Company, an instrument for blackmailing the passenger. A week or two back I published the complaint of a traveller on the Great Western line, who could get no foot-warmer. The letter printed above shows the results on one of our best-managed lines in a case where the foot-warmers are (in theory) supplied gratis at the starting point of the train. I have another letter before me illustrating the grievance from the point of view of a Brighton passenger. He remarks that the rule on the southern lines appears to be that foot-warmers (one or more), are supplied voluntarily in the first-class, that they can be had by insisting upon it in the second-class, but that they can only be had by paying in the third. This statement of the case is unduly favourable to the railways, as many first and second class passengers would probably testify. Nor is the grievance in any way confined to the southern lines. A later correspondent gives me an edifying experience which he had lately on the North-Eastern at Newcastle. The day being cold he asked the guard for a foot-warmer. But he was a third-class passenger, and desired to smoke, and the guard's answer was that no foot-warmers were placed in third-class smoking-carriages. On his ejaculating, "Why?" the guard replied that the Company considered that the pipes and cigars of the smokers warm the carriages sufficiently. The explanation, whether offered seriously or not, is quite as good as any other that could be given, for on removing to a non-smoking carriage my correspondent was supplied with a foot-warmer, though not without delay and grumbling. Why first and second class smokers should not be served with the same sauce as third-class does not appear; but, apparently, the North-Eastern directors consider that third-class tobacco possesses more heating properties than the article consumed in the higher classes. The whole system ought to be reformed. It is as much the duty of the Companies to warm their carriages in winter as it is to light them at night. They have no business to levy extra fees for doing it, and they ought to do it, not by means of clumsy, antiquated, and ineffectual appliances, but by the best means which modern invention has provided for the purpose.

A word on another point. It was remarked in my last article that the staffs of the Companies have a claim to consideration as well as the public before the distribution of the present high railway dividends, and special reference was made to the clerks both at passenger stations and goods depots. I have since heard, through a gentleman at Cambridge, that for three or four months past the clerks in the goods office at Wisbech have been working incessantly, twelve and thirteen hours a day (less an hour for dinner and a few minutes for tea) for six days in the week, and eight hours on Sundays—that is to say, over seventy hours per week. Until a week or two back no extra pay was given for the Sunday work; then, in deference to a strong remonstrance from the men, they received one day's pay for eleven hours' Sunday work. This is a disgrace to the Great Eastern directors, and, unless they wash their hands of it by an energetic protest, to the shareholders also, who are receiving increased dividends from the labour thus wrung from their wretched employees. My informant, who is in no way connected with the Company, suggests that possibly the directors and managers in London are ignorant of the facts. But that excuse will not serve after to-day. Moreover, inquiry would probably show that the detestable system prevails of offering inducements to local managers and heads of establishments to reduce expenses in the departments under them, and wherever this is the case, those at the head of affairs must be held responsible for all the sweating and slave-driving which that system naturally creates. The Great Eastern directors, I see, are trying the experiment of a continuous service of trains by night and day. It will be a boon to a large section of the public, and has naturally been received with acclamation In view of the evidence from Wisbech, however, it will be interesting to know how far the staff of the line are to pay for this extra accommodation to the public. Of late years the Great Eastern management has improved by leaps and bounds, and the line is in many respects a pattern to its contemporaries. It is to be hoped that the management is sufficiently enlightened to refuse to join in the mischievous competition of railway managers to increase dividends and raise the price of their stock. An ample harvest has already been reaped by the Great Eastern shareholders from the development of the line in recent years. Within a couple of years or so the Company's stock has risen forty per cent., and stands now at a high premium; that is to say, profits are being earned and divided largely in excess of the return which purchasers of the stock in the open market are content with. The time has therefore arrived when the additional profits should go to the staff and the public, and not to the shareholders.

THE THEATRES.

"JULIUS CÆSAR."

The reason why "Julius Cæsar" has been so neglected by managers of late years is obvious. To begin with, there are too many good parts, which demand actors well trained and experienced. Next, the female interest is so weak that it can hardly be said to exist at all; and, lastly, there is a prejudice on the stage against plays of such a distinctly classical period. The Roman warrior has never been able to assert himself much on the English boards. He has been graciously accepted every now and again, that is all. Of course "Julius Cæsar" was played at Sadler's Wells, under the management of good old Samuel Phelps, but Charles Kean fought shy of it, and so up till now has Sir Henry Irving. The most remarkable performance of the tragedy in recent years was that of the Saxe-Meiningen troupe, headed by that splendid actor and orator Herr Barnay, to whom Lewis Waller as Brutus bears such a striking resemblance. This Saxe-Meiningen company

created a great deal of sensation, and will be always remembered, not so much, perhaps, for the individual acting, as for the perfection of the stage management, the acting, of the crowds, and the staccato shouts. The Haymarket crowd was lively enough; it erred, if anything, by the excess of its liveliness. It is all very well to groan, and murmur, and show signs of joy or discontent, but it is overdoing the thing to shout, "No, 'e ain't a good man, Brutus is a bad lot, 'e went and murdered Cæsar, 'e did! Come on, let's go and kill 'im now!"—exclamations which were reported to have been heard from the stage on Saturday night. With the Meiningen crowd, things were altogether different from this. But in other accessories, Mr. Beerbohm Tree has risen above criticism. Thanks largely to the assistance of Mr. Alma Tadema, R.A., scenery and stage costumes are as nearly as possible perfect. From the grouping of the crowds in the streets; the wonderful picture in the senate-house of the suppliants in their crimson and white draperies kneeling at the feet of Julius Cæsar—so excellently played by Mr. Charles Fulton; from the imposing and picturesque figure of Mr. Beerbohm Tree as Mark Antony—(it is hardly fair to criticise this great actor, suffering as he was from severe cold and loss of voice)—standing on the broken effigy of Cæsar, bending and swaying the mighty multitude at his will, down to the beautiful vision of Mrs. Beerbohm Tree as the pretty, bare-legged page-boy Lucius, lying half buried in soft skins of white and black fur, singing a plaintive love song to Brutus in the ghostly light of the pale blue dawn, the play presented an unbroken series of faultless tableaux. Miss Evelyn Millard's fragile style is scarcely equal to the passionate pleading of Portia, and Mr. Tadema has draped her slender figure all in virgin white, as a contrast to the more voluptuous beauty of Miss Lily Hanbury. As in the case of the Meiningen Company, so doubtless it will be at Her Majesty's Theatre, the public will not go so much to see the play of "Julius Cæsar," or the clever acting it contains, as the stage management of the enormous masses of people. The scene between Cassius and Brutus in the last act is superbly played by Lewis Waller and Franklin McLeay. They are both good declamatory actors, and know their own strength. But, as I said before, irrespective of the fine acting of Mr. Charles Fulton—and I have never heard the words, "Et tu, Brute," spoken with more meaning or greater expression—and the impressive figure of Mr. Beerbohm Tree, there will be found an enormous attraction in Mr. Tadema's work, which, as regards the dresses, scenery, and artistic surrounding, is complete in every detail.

"TRELAWNY OF THE 'WELLS.'"

I candidly admit that "Trelawny of the 'Wells'" pleases me not. And why—oh, why?—has Mr. Pinero elected to clothe his intensely modern—I had almost said fashionable—and up-to-date story in the hideous costumes, crinolines, peg-top trousers, side-spring boots, pork-pie hats, and chenille nets of the early-sixties period? Why does he resort to this fantastic and bizarre attire? To my mind it lends no attraction to the play—quite the contrary. Miss Irene Vanbrugh, the Trelawny of the "Wells," has the most difficult task to perform of all concerned; and wonderfully well she comes through the trying ordeal. Fancy playing a sentimental, enthusiastic, love-sick girl in an enormous crinoline, which sways from side to side and handicaps the actress at every twist and turn! Surely the incident from which Mr. Pinero takes his plot of the young aristocrat falling in love with the "leading lady" of a theatrical company, becoming engaged to her, and trotting her around to his strait-laced and severe relations, must recall several similar events in real life of recent years, some of which found their way into the columns of the newspapers. Well, no matter. Irene loves freedom and Bohemia better than fine feathers and bondage, and she resents being fettered and cooped up in Vice-Chancellor Sir Dion Boucicault's house, where she is not even allowed to sneeze comfortably. The sight is, therefore, naturally too much for her when she discovers Pattie Browne, one of her theatrical comrades, who simply revels in the eccentricities of Avonia Bunn of the Bagnigge Wells theatre; Mr. Paul Arthur, one of the most delightful, charming, and artistic comedians I have seen for a long time, who furthermore possesses a beautiful penetrating voice, and a perfect elocutionary method; little E. M. Robson, and young Gerald du Maurier, a would-be Romeo, and inspired Orlando, who, alas! has to descend to the three-line part of a demon king in a pantomime—all huddled together for shelter from a thunderstorm in the dignified doorway of Sir William Gowers' house. The wild blood rushes madly through the gipsy veins of the lively Trelawny; she cannot control her emotions, and without further ado she wheedles the footman into admitting the whole party. A quarrel ensues, a salad is made of the furniture, the room is turned into a veritable pandemonium, when enter Sir William Gower in nightshirt very décolleté the wrong end, and Isabel Bateman in "chemise de nuit" and curl papers. This is too much for Irene, she can stand it no longer, the "nostalgie de la boue" overwhelms her, and amid sobs and general topsy-turviness, she bids adieu to her Arthur for ever, and returns to her attic, impecunious, heartbroken, but still wearing that detestable crinoline. The whole idea of the play is a desperately lame and exaggerated attempt to connect a period of atrociously ugly English dress with the early days of Tom Robertson.

"CHARLOTTE CORDAY."

Have you ever noticed how seldom a play with an historical basis, and having for its central figure a character, world-famous for all time, holds the stage for any considerable period? The characters of imagination are more beloved by the majority of playgoers than the heroines of history and truth. What are Joan of Arc, Marie Stuart, or Charlotte Corday compared with Juliet and Imogen? No life has more dramatic scenes in it than that of Joan of Arc, no story is more picturesque and heroic, and yet it has been dead to the English stage since—well, I think it has not been heard of since Mrs. Rousby was roasted every

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evening at the old Queen's Theatre in Long-acre. In fact, the people seem to prefer to take their history from books and their fiction from the stage. If it had not been so, Charlotte Corday would not have remained hidden behind the scenes so long. But she will turn up again and again whenever a pretty and interesting woman comes along to interpret her, and, as a rule, the interpretation is little more than dressing up for Charlotte as you would at a fancy dress ball. Be that as it may, the Charlotte Corday of Mrs. Brown Potter is a fine study of the character of the inspired murderess, the woman who —well, "who did." She may not absolutely realise all our ideas of Judith; she may, possibly, not convey that strength and firmness of will that possesses her to do the "bloody deed." But Mrs. Potter's performance is full of charm, of tenderness, and gentle womanliness. She murders Marat in an ecstasy of religious mania; it is the hand of God urging her to do this thing, and she goes as a saint and martyr to meet the punishment of her crime. The ludicrous side of this story must, however, always crop up, and notwithstanding the splendid acting of Mr. Kyrle Bellew as the villainous Marat, his demoniacal craze for butchery, the frenzy he works himself into at the picture of the Paris streets "running red" with his victims' blood, there is no getting away from the fact that this semi-drunken and soddened wretch has to receive his *coup de grâce* in a bath, and a very funny looking bath, too. There is only one way to get out of the difficulty, and that is for the murder to be done "off." I doubt, however, if the gods would stand this. As a matter of curiosity, every one will go and see the lovely Charlotte Corday at the Adelphi Theatre and the transformation of handsome Kyrle Bellew into the dirty, grimy, shuffling, brute Marat. The whole play is beautifully mounted, and the acting far above the average.

"SPORTING LIFE."

Now that poor William Terriss has been taken from us, the youngest actor of experience and energy—and it is a long experience with conspicuous energy—is unquestionably Leonard Boyne. Age has dealt very kindly and tenderly towards him. Some of us can scarcely believe that when we see the well knit figure, the cheery countenance, and the desperate activity that Leonard Boyne is almost the senior melodramatic actor on the stage. He has had a wandering life, and on the whole the provinces have claimed more from him than London. But he was by the side of Ada Cavendish in her greatest triumphs, and the Wilson Barrett series of Princess's plays would never have been so popular in the country as they were, had it not been for Leonard Boyne, whose Claudian was a performance never to be forgotten. But each man, be he an actor or not, has his hobby, which invariably comes out in his art. Leonard Boyne must have been a sportsman from his cradle. He was Irish born and Irish bred, and could probably ride a pony soon after he was able to walk. There *are* some such Irishmen, and Leonard Boyne is one of them. Thus the so-called sporting drama owes a good deal to his influence and authority. In these days the public is very critical, but Leonard Boyne never allows his attitude in dress or demeanour to be called into question. He is in front of the footlights a perfect specimen of the English or Irish sportsman, and people like accuracy.

The present drama, recently produced in the suburbs, is a showy and effective one, well constructed, and full of telling situations. Had it by good luck been presented at a West End theatre, it would have been probably raved about as a masterpiece. But there is no doubt that it is a vastly better drama than any of those produced in London —not, of course, including "White Heather"—for a considerable time. Some had the courage to say so. The public thought so from the outset. No better acting of its kind than that of Leonard Boyne and Mrs. Cecil Raleigh is to be seen in popular plays of this pattern. At some theatres it is wiser not to be too realistic. I for one prefer imagination and picturesqueness.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

"LA VILLE MORTE."

GABRIEL ANNUNZIO'S "Dead City" ("La Ville Morte") is worthy of its name. It has literary qualities, and of no mean order. The author wears well a *faux nez* of the antique Greek poet whose chief theme was fatality. But it is only a *faux nez*. How could it be otherwise? Then the play wants cutting. It might with advantage be shortened by two acts. This modern decantation of an ancient spirit is not by any means an exhilarant. It may be an intoxicant, however. One is reminded, in listening to the players, of Tolstoy's last saying about modern art, "The art of expanding the infamous sensations one has had oneself."

Annunzio is a descriptive writer, or has been so thus far. His talent is no more dramatic than that of Byron. But he has not Byron's strength of wing, or astounding power of passing on his own impressions—infamous or innocent—to his readers.

The action—begging Byron's pardon for the comparison —is as slow as that of "Manfred." Certainly there are literary qualities of a high order, and some good points; but they do not keep the house from yawning. Nor is there much to amuse the eyes in the way of dresses. As to pageantry, there is none whatever. The plot is of the simplest, and Byronic, in the sense that a brother and sister fall in love with each other. An attempt is made, with good effect, to bring in the ancient Greek idea of fatality. There is a sprinkling of religious sentiment, but of the latitude of Naples—though I do not believe Annunzio to be a Neapolitan. Fatalism is in its place in the Dead City of the Atrides, and among the sepulchres of Agamemnon, Clytemnestra, and Cassandra. The play is rendered interesting chiefly by the details and general novelty of the situation. We have but five personages—not enough to fill five acts, and vary their interest. They are Anna (Sarah Bernhardt), the blind wife of a poet; Alexander, the poet himself (Bremont); the young archæologist, Leonardo (Duval); his sister Blanche Marie (Blanche Dufrene); and the nurse (Andrée Conti), as in a tragedy of Racine. Leonardo

treads in the steps of Schliemann. He and the other personages live in a villa near the Dead City of Mycenæ. The gentlemen dress like cyclists; the ladies have no occasion to wear elegant clothes. Their garments have a savour of antiquity to bring them into harmony with the rest. Features of the play are the corpses of the Atrides, and those gold masks and breast-plates found by Schliemann that one sees in the Museum of Athens. The digging of their graves seems to have unloosed the evil spirit that had play in the family of the Atrides All the characters, who are more or less fever-stricken, feel this, and nobody more than the Nurse. One would not wonder at hearing of such amours as the "Metamorphoses" of Ovid deal with. But the author does not go further than haunting, incestuous passion, culminating in a murder for a noble motive. We have semi-confession of this passion, as in "Phédre."

Truly the Dead City is an evil habitation for the living. It kills them all. The author wants to convey the idea that body-snatching, even when the bodies are little more than dust and ashes, is sacreligious. The Erinnyes, who hunted down the Atrides, seem to protect their tombs. Their means of chastisement is to inspire wicked thoughts, as in the antique palace of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra. Every one shakes with ague. The poet and the archæologist burn with unholy passion for Blanche Marie, who cannot help falling in love with Leonardo. Anna, the blind wife of Alexander, rises above the uncanny influence of the place, and is generous and noble, and pathetically tragical. The eyes of her body are sightless, but her mind's eyes are *clairvoyants*. Or rather her heart is all eyes. She divines Alexander's love for Blanche Marie, and does not ask better than to die and leave them free to marry. But she counts without the Erinnyes, and her self-devotion cannot prevent the catastrophe. Leonardo makes a semi-confession to Alexander. Alexander betrays, in listening to it, his own feelings. The Schliemann junior cannot bear the idea of the pure, beauteous Blanche Marie being the object of an adulterous passion, to say nothing of his own state of feeling. To prevent her ever yielding to either, he drowns her in the fountain of Persea. Without offence to Heaven, the two rivals may henceforth adore her memory. United in the same cult, they bury her under myrtles. But the eyes of Anna's heart penetrate the secret, and she cries as the curtain drops, "I see; I see."

Annunzio wrote "The Dead City" for Sarah Bernhardt. She does what she can by points and by-play to entertain the audience. She gropes her way about as the blind do, and sees with the help of her fingers as well as with her heart. There is an effective scene in which she handles the shoulders of Marie Blanche, and unlooses her coils of classically-arranged auburn hair. "What a beauty you now must be!" she sighs.

The Princess Lieven has been disinterred by the publication in the *Temps* of some jottings of the Duchesse Decazes, *née* St. Aulaire. There can be no longer any doubt as to the nature of her liaison with the austere Guizot. That statesman finally gave up for her the Comtesse di Meulan, a relative of his second wife. It was not Guizot's fault if the Princess remained his *amie*. She had the example of the Lady Cecilia Underwood and the Duke of Sussex—an example accepted by the whole Bench of Bishops and the aristocracy of England. Guizot wanted Mme. de Lieven to marry him. But as he had a bourgeois name, she refused, unless he consented to her retaining her Russian title. As he thought it would be *infra dig.* to be the husband of "the Princess Lieven," he preferred to remain *son ami*. Marie Amélie, who in many respects was hypocritical, shut her eyes to the nature of the liaison. The Princess was nicknamed *Réjouissance* by a son of Louis Philippe—Aumale, I think. *Réjouissance* is the word for the bones the butcher throws in with the meat to make his side of the scale tilt over. She was thin enough to serve for anatomical studies without any previous preparation. But Guizot did not mind her being elderly or bony. His first wife was fourteen years his senior. He married her to get into Society. I dare say his vanity made him enjoy a liaison with a lady who was the Russian Ambassadress for years at the Court of Louis Philippe. Her vanity was not less great than his. She had a childish—or barbarous—passion for titles. But her ideas on the subject were those, say, of an English brewer's wife, or of an American heiress coming from Detroit or Yellowstone. She esteemed a Duc de Montebello or de Rivoli higher than a Comte de Jarnac. Untitled Frenchmen were only good to serve a turn. She was going once to Wiesbaden. Some Minister of Louis Philippe, of considerable talent, but with a *roturier* name, sent his son to escort her. The young man was more serviceable than a courier, and it is not certain that he failed on the journey to render her oblivious of Guizot. At the journey's end she said to him: "With the name you bear it would be impossible to give you currency among my friends here. I thank you for all your kindness and have the honour to salute you." Guizot's name took lustre from his being Prime Minister. He feared that if he did not stick to office the Princess Lieven would desert him. This is why the Guizot Ministry lasted eight years and needed a revolution to overthrow it. This was the secret of his servility to Louis Philippe. He lived in terror of the King calling in Thiers and of—as a consequence—the loss of his *réjouissance*.

He and the Princess, happen what might, saw each other twice a day when they were in Paris. Everything was arranged so that their *tête-à-tête* should not be interrupted. No other visitor would dare to remain with the Princess after Guizot entered. She had autocratic ideas of government, and inoculated him with them, to the great pleasure of Louis Philippe. The Revolution of 1848 was a severe shock to the *ami* and *amie*. In the stormy days of February she feared she might share Guizot's unpopularity, and went to hide at the Austrian Embassy—but only when she knew her *ami* was safe in England. She was more faithful than he could have hoped, and went to join him at Brighton, where they lived like a pair of turtle-doves a few doors from the old Prince and Princess Metternich, also exiles. As Mme. de Lieven wanted to return to Paris and play a part, she endeavoured to convert Guizot to Napoleonism, and succeeded. But the *coup d'état* obliged him to revert to

the D'Orléans. He went with her to Schlangenbad, the waters of which made her hard skin velvety. There was no longer there the shadow of secrecy as to the close union of their lives. They went back together to Paris. Her heart, though she was sixty-eight, was as young as when she was eighteen, at any rate so far as Guizot was concerned. The Queen's visit to Napoleon and Eugénie at St. Cloud made her thoroughly Bonapartist. But Guizot had become too necessary to be cast off. And by whom could she replace him? The last letter she wrote, on her deathbed, was to him. It was short and sweet. "Thanks for twenty years of affection and happiness! Adieu! Adieu!" *E finita la commedia.*

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

STUDY carefully, dear Lady Betty, the following short sketch, for it will show you why Belgravia has become bankrupt, and how criminals are manufactured in Mayfair. The career of A, with very little variation, has been the career of many a West End man.

A, a younger son of well-born parents, was placed in the City. His allowance was probably between two and three hundred a year. The first conclusion which he arrived at in the City was that to succeed he must affect the appearance of success. A, therefore, commenced to live at the rate of several thousands a year. He dressed extravagantly; he seldom walked, but generally drove; he was continually to be seen dining at the most expensive restaurants; all his companions were rich men, and he lived the life which they did. In a short time his friends, impressed by the display, told each other that A was doing very well indeed; that he was a peculiarly clever young man, and they all strove to please him. He increased in popularity by leaps and bounds. Meanwhile, A had only his two or three hundred a year, and a trifle more which he earned as commission money on the few transactions which he introduced to his firm. His friends, however, imagining that he was much more successful than he was, and believing him, therefore, to be especially clever, allowed him to advise them as to their speculations. Acting upon the information which he gave them, they risked many hundreds, even thousands, and A received from his firm small commissions on these transactions. But his outlay in keeping up the appearance of prosperity was much larger than his income, and, after a year or two of this kind of life, A found himself face to face with a financial crisis. At about the same period his friends began to perceive that the advice which he had given them had caused them to suffer heavy losses, and his popularity diminished. To ward off the threatened exposure of his affairs, he obtained money by means which were not altogether correct, and to cover these illegal proceedings, at a later period he had recourse to even more discreditable methods. He collapsed. The world then perceived that which it should have perceived from the first—to wit, that an impecunious, inexperienced West End young man seldom, if ever, makes a fortune in the City in a year or two—that City in which those who have been bred by money-makers for the purpose of money-making plod a whole lifetime before they amass even moderate wealth. The friends of A, who had been victimised, now turned and abused him ten times more loudly than they had praised him before. They called him a fool, a swindler, and a scoundrel. And he was all three of these, undoubtedly—but they were fools to have been deceived by his extravagant style of living, and they were little less than swindlers and scoundrels themselves, because they imagined that he was giving them confidential information concerning the manipulation of the market, so that they should be enabled to buy at the lowest price, sell at the highest, and be free of the stock when the company collapsed, while thousands of obscure people would be ruined. This sketch of the inglorious career of A is not a sketch of the career of any one man; during the past twenty years there have been hundreds who have acted as A did—and there are hundreds now who are accurately repeating the same performance. It is inexperienced, unintelligent, unscrupulous men of the type of A who have practically ruined the West End, have necessitated historical properties changing hands, have caused memorable collections to be dispersed, and have disgraced names about which clustered magnificent traditions.

To place a young man like A in the City now, with no capital, a meagre allowance, and no suitable training, is more reckless than it would be to say to him, "I shall allow you three hundred a year; go to your club, gamble there, and make your fortune." At least, at the club the majority of his companions will not be immeasurably more experienced gamblers than he would be in a month or two himself. As it is, the only capital which such a man as A takes to the City is his friends'—and the City "operators" only employ him in order that they may transfer the money which those friends have to their own pockets.

* * * * *

Some ten or twelve years ago, Fred Danvers, who was then a general favourite in the West End, became so involved in debt that he was unable to escape bankruptcy. He left London, and commenced life again in Australia. Having made a small fortune, he recently returned to England, and we met last week at the club. After expressing the pleasure it gave him to meet me again, Fred Danvers said:—

"Let us sit down, and tell me about my old friends. Where is FitzFoodle? Fitz was a capital fellow."

MYSELF: "Yes. . . . A very good fellow. . . . He cheated at cards and now lives in concealment on the Continent."

DANVERS: "Dear me! How very distressing! . . . . Well, what has become of Roland Chivers? (*Heartily*) I *did* like him."

MYSELF: "Poor Roland; he got into debt, his friends avoided him, and, being then nothing in the West End, he became 'something in the City,' where he was mixed up in a peculiarly scandalous fraud, was convicted, and is, I believe, still in gaol."

DANVERS: "Roland Chivers in gaol? . . . . You must be romancing. How terrible! . . . . Is little Fridoline Frisk married yet?"

MYSELF: "Yes, and divorced, also deserted. She lives, they tell me, unconventionally in Paris."

DANVERS: "That is astounding! . . . . What has become of Floriston who was so devoted to her?"

MYSELF: "Lord Floriston forged the name of a rich financier, and no one knows where he is now."

DANVERS: "Floriston a forger! . . . . This is altogether amazing! At least that highly-respectable old lady his mother has done nothing discreditable?"

MYSELF: "The Duchess, after the death of her husband, stole the family jewels and sold them for next to nothing to a dealer. There was some talk of prosecuting her, but, to avoid causing a scandal, the theft was overlooked."

DANVERS (*evidently bewildered by the combination of misfortunes*): "Tell me, old man . . . Pray pardon me for asking so brutal a question . . . but . . . Are there any of my old friends who are not criminals?"

MYSELF: "No. I do not think there are. They used to describe this as 'a hollow world.' It is now 'a Holloway world.' Most of the old people of Mayfair have gone to Holloway Gaol, and most of the new ones have come from it. Good-bye."

DANVERS: "Good-bye. I shall return to Australia at once. Sheep are better company than swindlers, and the Bush appears to me to be more respectable than Belgravia."

Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THERE are a great many cackling simpletons just now running about who are always "complaining to the moon" of the miserably small number of high-class four-year-olds and five-year-olds which of late seasons have been seen racing. These drivelling individuals appear to think that the specific for the lack of old horses on the turf is to establish valuable races which are to be open only to four-year-olds and upwards, an absurdity which reminds one of Milton's country gentleman who raised his park wall in order to keep the crows out of his demesne. The only result of throwing money away on rich stakes for four-year-olds and upwards will be that such events will become a practical walk-over for some animal. Persimmon would have swept the board last season, and there would certainly be nothing in training with a chance of beating Galtee More this year. The only method of keeping our horses longer on the turf would be to restrict two-year-old racing, and the moon will fall before there is any genuine movement in that direction. Any one might just as well attempt to square the circle as to try and keep the best horses on the turf as four-year-olds and five-year-olds unless there are root and branch reforms in the whole system. But the fact is that, except a few sighing visionaries and some addleheads who think it appears clever to sing this venerable song, there is nobody who cares a groat about the matter. The paramount and absorbing object of nine-tenths of the present owners is to get the largest possible amount of work out of their race-horses in the shortest possible time, and every season animals, which, if judiciously managed, might develop into performers of the very highest class, are ruthlessly run off their legs by their rapacious or feather-brained owners.

There are sixty-six entries for the Manchester Steeple-chase of £2,000, which is run in Easter week, and this event unquestionably benefits from the sensible arrange-ment which postpones the publication of the weights until after the race for the Grand National. Last year Mani-festo, the winner at Aintree, was well beaten at Man-chester, when Knight of Rhodes won after a splendid finish with Prince Albert. These three horses are again entered, and the list also includes Wild Man from Borneo (who appears to have gone hopelessly to the bad), The Soarer, Ford of Fyne, Sweet Charlotte, Rory O'Moore, Chair of Kildare, Greenhill, Biscuit, March Hare, and Barcalwhey. There are sixty entries for the Jubilee Hurdle Race of £1,000, including Amphidamas and Posterity (who finished fourth and second for this race last year), Rampion, Irish Wake, Keelson, Regret, Stop, Harold, Montauk, Court Ball, Lord Key, Wreath Or, Bowline, and Constantine. Sir B. Maple's horse ought to win a good hurdle race during the spring.

Some of the papers have been pointing out that in 1890 Porter sold that year's Derby winner out of the Kingsclere stable only a few weeks before the race was run, and they therefore appear to be of the opinion that, as a mistake was then made, it is quite on the cards that it may turn out that a similar blunder has been committed in disposing of Hawfinch to Mr. Bottomley. The fact is that Sainfoin was sold because there was a vastly superior horse in the stable in Rightaway (the sire of Hermiston), but he unluckily went lame. If Rightaway had kept well he would have won the Derby easily. They were a very bad lot of horses in 1890, and there has never been a worse Derby winner than Sainfoin, who was indebted for his victory to the fatuity of the Duke of Portland in having withdrawn St. Serf from the great race, in order that he might be kept fresh for the Epsom Grand Prize on the following day. If St. Serf had started for the Derby, he would certainly have won, and the Duke would then have carried off that race three years in succession. Surefoot was all the rage for that Derby, and the race was justifiably regarded as a certainty for him after the easy style in which he had won the Two Thousand, but he could not stay, and he had a most execrable temper. Hawfinch will be a troublesome horse to train if the ground gets hard, for, although fine topped enough, he has very doubtful legs. I have no doubt whatever but that both Batt and Hermiston are considerably superior to Hawfinch over any distance, and three months ago I mentioned the Duke of Westminster's fine colt as being a very likely animal to win the Derby. I believe that Batt has stamina, which is more than can be said for most of the other animals which are engaged at Epsom. So far as one can judge, next season's three-year-olds will be a very moderate lot, but, of course, there may be something good in the background, and there is certainly a great opening for any smart dark colt.

Mr. Daniel Cooper, who was said to have entirely retired from the turf, has nominated four yearlings for the Newmarket Stakes of 1900, and they are a grandly-bred lot, including a colt by Orme out of Float (who was such a good two-year-old, but who went all to pieces afterwards), and a filly by Isinglass out of Glare. Many people must remember the desperate race which Glare ran with Bul-lingdon at Goodwood in 1893, for the rich Prince of Wales' Sweepstakes, when the Duke of Westminster's colt won by a neck. Bullingdon was certainly the best three-year-old of 1894, and if he had been all right at Epsom, Ladas would never have won the Derby.

The Australian horse, Daimio, about whom there was so much laudatory jargoning a year ago, is a tip of "the sharps" for the Grand National. Daimio was then eulogised as the finest steeplechaser which the world had ever seen; but he has yet to justify the extravagant praises of his admirers. The gasconading about this horse was so prodi-gious that he was among the top weights in the handicap for the Grand National; but he will get into that race on very much easier terms this year. Daimio performed wretchedly at Windsor the other day, but he did manage to get the course.

The majority of owners certainly "move in mysterious ways." There are only twenty-six entries for the Doveridge Handicap of £1,000 at Derby, whereas forty-five horses have been engaged in the Chaddesden Handicap of £250, the forfeit being of the same amount. It is probably un-precedented to find thirteen different stables represented in a handicap with only twenty-six entries. The fact is that all these minor handicaps would do much better if they closed a month later, after the weights for the big events have been published.

No horse at Newmarket is progressing more favourably than Disraeli, who has grown into a very fine colt, and his action is perfect. He will be specially prepared for the Two Thousand, and the Derby is his next important engagement. Of course, we have yet to learn whether he can stay, but he certainly appears more likely to discover stamina than most of the other three-year-olds now in training at Newmarket. There has been some talk about Disraeli's stable companion, the dark Angus, a colt by St. Serf out of Scotch Agnes, but he is a lumbering sort of animal and very high on the leg, and he is not likely to be found dangerous for the classic stakes. Angus is more likely to win some race in which he will have the advantage of a maiden allowance if he stands a thorough preparation.

There is a wonderfully good entry for the Buckenham Post Stakes of £300 each, to run at Newmarket in October, 1900. There are seven subscribers, who have named a splendid lot of mares. The Prince of Wales has Merrie Lassie (dam of Grig), covered by St. Simon, Laodamia by Isinglass, and Meadow Chat by St. Frusquin. Lord Derby's lot includes Canterbury Pilgrim, covered by St. Serf, and Broad Corrie by Isinglass. The Duke of Devonshire has Applause II. (dam of Marvel), covered by Ladas, Snood by St. Frusquin, and Poem (dam of Minstrel) by St. Simon. Mr. A. James's lot includes Charm, covered by Isinglass, and the The Smew by Carbine. The Smew is the mare that was sold by the Duke of Portland as a two-year-old, and a few months later she electrified the beholders of the race for the Oaks by running La Flèche to a head, but the winner was then suffering from the effects of her race for the Derby two days previously. The Duke of Portland has the famous Memoir served by Carbine, Semolina by Kendal, and Mowerina (dam of Donovan) by St. Simon. The Duke of Westminster has

Ruth (dam of Tarporley) and Quetta (dam of Grey Leg), both served by Orme, and Ornament (dam of Labrador) by Sheen.

Piety, who has not been seen out since he ran for the Northumberland Plate at Newcastle last June, is again in good work at Newmarket, and he appears to be now quite sound and well. Last year he finished second in the Chester Cup to Count Schomberg, who was giving him 20 lb. more than weight-for-age, and a few weeks later he just beat Keenan for the Manchester Cup, and was thought very lucky to have won. I expect that Piety will again "go for" the Chester Cup, and he is one of the exceedingly few horses in training that can be trusted to stay the course.

Mr. Leopold de Rothschild is not likely to be dangerous in the One Thousand or the Oaks unless Isabinda, the dark sister to St. Frusquin, turns out to be smart. A very high opinion was entertained of this filly last autumn, but she has lately been stopped in her work for some reason or other, and it is feared that she will prove a difficult animal to train. Ayah is a beautiful filly, but she will be more distinguished for speed than for stamina, and she is believed to be touched in her wind, as also is her stable companion Dony, about whose merits there was a deal of trumpeting after his clever victory in the Fulbourne Stakes at Newmarket last July, when he defeated St. Ia. One of the beaten lot in that race was Airosa, who has grown into a very fine filly, and if she can stay she is quite likely to prove a dangerous candidate for the One Thousand and Oaks. If she does well during the spring she will probably be started for the Craven Stakes, and she has a 5 lb. maiden allowance in that race.

The best looking two-year-old in Hayhoe's stable is M. Ephrussi's Ambrosia II., by Galopin out of Alicante, by Hermit, and she will probably make her début in the Coventry Stakes at Ascot. Ambrosia II. is a great slashing racing-like filly with fine action. Mr. de Rothschild's St. Gris, half-brother to St. Frusquin, by Donovan, is a remarkably nice colt, and if he trains on all right he ought to do well on the turf, but I should fancy that he will not be seen out until the latter part of the season.

One of the Duke of Westminster's entries for the Newmarket Stakes of 1900 is a colt named Missel Thrush, by Orme out of Throstle, winner of the St. Leger in 1894, when she defeated Ladas. Throstle is half-sister, by Petrarch, to Common and Goldfinch. It will be interesting to see how this colt turns out, for he ought to prove a veritable flyer if there is anything in the very best "running" blood.

The Australian horse, Carbine, about which there was such a terrific trumpeting, had eight mares barren, while the much-puffed-up Carnage had no fewer than eleven! Carbine, whose fee was 200 gs., had twenty-two foals, including colts out of Amiable and Distant Shore, and fillies out of Memoir, Semolina, The Smew, Donna Fortuna, and Charm.

The Prince of Wales's dark colt, Ormathwaite, has been backed for the Derby by some infatuated mooncalf at the perfectly ridiculous price of 100 to 6. It really seems inconceivable that any one suffered to go at large can be so utterly anserous as to accept such odds about an animal which has never run, and which has never been tried in any sort of way whatever, so that no human being can know anything as to his capacity for racing. I suspect that Ormathwaite will prove a difficult animal to train, and if he does win a race next season it will probably be some stake in which there are penalties and allowances, so that he will have a considerable advantage in the weights. If a horse like Ormathawaite had been backed at this period of the winter for the Derby twenty-five or thirty years ago, the price would have been 50 to 1 at the very least.

I understand that Mr. Rose intends to have Cyllene got ready for the Newmarket Stakes, which bids fair to be the most interesting three-year-old race of the season, the entry including Ninus, Hermiston, Dieudonné, Disraeli, Batt, Longtown, Jeddah, Galashiels, and King of Thebes. Cyllene will then undergo a special preparation for the Gold Cup at Ascot. It is, of course, impossible at the present time for any one to discuss his chance of winning the Ascot race, as we have yet to learn whether he has sufficient stamina to enable him to stay that very severe course, but he has grown into a really splendid colt, and he is perfectly sound and appears likely to stand any amount of work, for his legs are like iron. Cyllene's meeting in the Jockey Club Stakes with Velasquez at the First October Meeting will be one of the most exciting events of the year if they both do well in their summer engagements. Mr. Rose has two very promising three-year-olds in Loretto and The Convict, both having made a great improvement since the autumn, and they ought to win some good handicaps in the course of the season. Cortegar has wintered very well, and she is quite likely to prove a dangerous candidate for the City and Suburban.

Mr. Rucker is said to own a smart two-year-old in Little Champion, by Prince Hampton out of Honey Cup, who has done well in a gallop at Newmarket. She is very likely to win a race at Lincoln or at Liverpool, if she goes on all right during the next few weeks.

Mr. Rose's horse Chair of Kildare, who is engaged in the Grand National, has discovered himself to be a very fine jumper, and if he can stay the Aintree course he will be hard to beat if he is fairly handicapped. In any case he may be expected to win a good steeplechase in the course of the next three months.

A correspondent considers that I have been too sweeping in my criticisms on the management of professional Association football clubs. Let me point out at once that I have frequently said that there is no reason that because a man is a professional he should not be a thoroughly decent fellow and a good sportsman, although there is a belief amongst a certain class of people to the contrary. What I have also frequently said is that the servant is often better than his master. Now, in Association football the conduct of the authorities over the scratch team question, and their attitude to Mr. Jackson, to the Corinthians, and to amateurs generally, makes it a matter for extreme regret that those who conduct professional clubs should also rule the Association roost. My correspondent describes the management of the Derby County Football Club, and I will anticipate what he has to say by expressing a pious wish that all League clubs were conducted in the same manner. There would be less poaching, more cultivation of local talent, and, above all, the Football Association would be controlled in a very different way if the authorities were of the same class of men as those who manage the club referred to. My correspondent has been connected with the management since the club was started fourteen years ago. Two of the leading lights on the committee of management are old public school and University men who have been members of the M.C.C. for thirty years. The rest are leading townsmen. These spend time and money to carry on a game which does infinite good in providing recreation for the working classes, and the pleasure they give to others is their only reward. I can only say, *O si sic omnes!* That is the true way in which to look at professional football and the proper spirit in which it should be conducted. Gentlemen who conduct a game in this way would not regard amateurs as being necessarily incompetent nor would their players practically refuse to give any amateur who played with them a chance. The fact that the affairs of the Football Association are conducted in anything but that spirit forces one to believe that the writer is wrong in saying that most other clubs are managed by the same class of men, and in the same way. He says that their object is always to play Derbyshire men, and they have had as many as eight or nine in the League team. As for the men, they are mostly well-behaved, quiet, gentlemanly fellows, who are a credit alike to their town and country. An excellent testimonial, to which I may add that a well-known Corinthian has said that he preferred to meet

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them to any other professional team, because they gave a good honest game without any tricks, and were a really decent set of fellows. This was said a year or so ago. In conclusion, it only remains to congratulate the club on its victory over Aston Villa, and to wish it every success in the Cup ties.

One cannot look to the future of the amateur Association game with any degree of confidence. At the Universities, and more especially at Cambridge, its condition may best be described as rotten. There is no genuine interest taken in the College games as soon as the Cup tie is decided. There may be one or two good players, but those who are trying for their Blues realise that their Captain holds the University card in such light esteem that he and other Blues, if good enough, think nothing of rushing off to town to play for the Corinthians or some other team. The *Granta*, in a good article, comments on this state of affairs, and suggests a system of League matches. Well, if the game is worth a full Blue it is worth playing well. In cricket, in athletics, in Rugby football, and, above all, in rowing, the Universities can hold their own. But in Association they are practically no class. They would take a poor position in such a comparatively minor institution as the Southern League. Amateur clubs go in for a certain number of cups; why should the leading Metropolitan clubs not run a small league on their own account which the Universities could join? This seems a fearful suggestion to reduce the University match to the level of a League game. But Association footballers seem unable to play even for their Blues without a Cup or a League game. As a further instance of the decline of the Association game amongst amateurs, one need only refer to the beating by eight goals that the Clapton men gave the Old Etonians in the London Senior Cup, and it seems but yesterday that the Old Boys were in the final of the Association Cup itself. The Old Carthusians and Old Westminsters were successful, but Ealing, who earlier in the week had met Cambridge, were beaten by the Crouch End Vampires. This shows the strength of the teams that the University plays.

Turning to Rugby Union rules, it is satisfactory to find that Devonport Albion have come successfully out of the ordeal which they underwent in having to submit to a searching inquiry by the Rugby Union authorities. Their defence on their trial was much stronger than in the match with Cardiff, who crossed their line seven times.

The chief event in London was the match between Richmond and Blackheath, who were very unlucky, for Robinson could not play three-quarters, and Hicks was not quite good enough for the match. Then Livesay, the half, got damaged early in the game, and had to retire at half time. At the start Richmond pressed, but after a quarter of an hour Pilkington scored by a brilliant run for the Heathens. He had nothing to do in the University match, although he is one of the most dangerous three-quarters in the south. Richmond again attacked, but the Blackheath outsides, especially Royds, kept them well in check. After the interval the Surrey team again had the best of the game, and soon afterwards Crump scored. Subsequently there was plenty of forward work, and if the play was not brilliant, a very exciting display followed, but neither side could score, and the game ended in a draw. The Harlequins had the help of Wells against the Old Merchant Taylors, whom they beat after a close and interesting game. Lennox and Catford Bridge played a pointless draw. With decent halves the former might have won. But in this club, as in others which are not in the first flight, the half-back game seems little understood. The halves have no notion when to kick, and they either sling the ball away in an artless fashion or put down their heads and bolt into the opposing halves' arms under the impression that they are making an opening for themselves. In teams of lesser importance the knowledge of the game becomes more vague, and there is worse play seen under the four three-quarter system than when only three were played. The funny thing is that the players are quite satisfied with themselves. They make no effort to learn the game or to improve. They never seem to realise that they are beaten by superior play. It is always bad luck. Such teams, and there are many in the suburbs, will do well to watch England play Ireland.

Try they never so hardly Cambridge rowing men seem doomed to meet with disappointment and misfortune. Dudley Ward, the President, is forbidden to row by the doctors. A man may foil an examiner: he cannot pass a medical man. Verily the doctor is more powerful than the Don. Gold retires from Oxford for a bit, returns and passes his examination and strokes the crew. Dudley Ward stays up and his health forbids him to row. Well, it is better so now than half way through training. At the same time, everybody will sympathise with him and with Cambridge. It looks as though no old Blues will be rowing, but a friend says there is already a marked improvement in the men's work. They will, I believe, stay at Bourne End for a portion of their training. This will be a pleasant change for the men, and will benefit their rowing. It is hopeless to expect to get a crew together when the boat has to be turned at right angles every few yards. By the way, I hear that Paley is to be ousted from the Little-Go. Lehmann on "Rowing" (in the Isthmian Library) might be substituted with advantage. There is more to be made out of rowing than agriculture — a lost art that a financially-depressed University fosters. Some graduates might study the book with advantage.

It is only decent to draw a veil over the second beating of the English cricket team in Australia. We shall hope to see Howell, Noble, and McLeod bowling on English wickets soon. The Australian climate must have marvellous recuperative powers. Hirst is so injured that he stops bowling, and retires. Then he makes the top score. Ranji gets all diseases he decently can, and runs up big scores while he is having chunks chopped out of his throat. Gregory, Iredale, and Darling are one day delirious with sunstroke, and the next they are scoring merrily. There is no doubt but that the telegraph wire is the finest inventor of the age. As a composer of realistic fiction it beats Zola, and simply smothers Hall Caine. Still, MacLaren's account of Ranji's play shows how plucky he was.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—The little word of warning that I addressed to you last week with reference to the somewhat inflated condition of certain stocks, in which a continuous advance has taken place for some time, has very promptly been followed by a relapse in these securities, which occurred the moment that the Stock Markets were affected by political alarms. A partial recovery has since ensued, but the occurrence is of some importance as enforcing the lesson which I sought to teach, that it is necessary under present conditions to go slowly, and to be satisfied with good profits when they are to be secured without expecting extremely high prices.

Politics and Markets.

During the last few days the Stock Markets have given signs of considerable nervousness in connection with the position in the Far East. The cablegrams from Pekin and elsewhere bearing on the matter are brief, and do not supply much material for judging of the seriousness of the Chinese question, but it is evident that Russia, supported by France, is intriguing in Pekin with a view to preventing the Chinese Government from availing itself of the proposed British loan, as some of the conditions made by this country, although in the interests of China, are repugnant to the Northern Colossus. It may, however, be hoped that, if this country shows continued firmness, the question may be amicably settled, perhaps by mutual concessions, and I certainly consider the alarmist rumours as regards the possibility of war as grossly exaggerated. This was also the view taken on the Stock Exchange, until Friday's cables announced the impending depar-

ture of the Japanese fleet for Chinese waters. But even the latter event does not by any means imply that Japan is bent upon a breach of peace, and the very fact that Consols still stand in the neighbourhood of 113, and that no downward movement has commenced in Russian bonds, is a guarantee that we cannot possibly be on the brink of war. A good deal of selling, consisting of realisations and of the opening of "Bear" commitments has, however, been indulged in; and should events in the Far East shape themselves more favourably, we may look for a smart rally. Home Rails have passed through several fluctuations, and have finally eased off, although the further dividend announcements and the Directors' reports issued have so far been encouraging. While the engineering lock out has not actually been put an end to, it is evident that the men will, now that the leaders advise it, return to work next week, and already a considerable impulse is being given to trade, especially in the North. In the American department reactions have been caused by false rumours concerning the state of affairs in Cuba, and by the Teller resolution in the U.S. Senate in favour of free coinage. According to latest advices, the insurgents in Cuba are coming to terms, and the importance of the Teller agitation has been exaggerated. The strength of the various Pacific stocks in the midst of "Bear" attacks has been the feature. The stocks of the Canadian roads suffered a sharp relapse at one time, from which they are slowly recovering, the various "Bull" cliques making strong efforts to prevent a break in quotations. The South American section has been dull, and realisations have caused a considerable set-back in Argentine Rails, a result which I foreshadowed a week ago. South African gold mining shares have declined under the lead of Rand Mines, in which large options fall due this settlement. As soon as these have been liquidated we may look for a rebound. In the meantime, the progress of the election for the Presidency of the Transvaal is exercising a weakening influence, but there is little doubt of a substantial recovery coming about eventually. Westralians have shown dulness, although the shares of the leading Companies have been well supported. The Industrial Market displays signs of coming liquidation, and I fully maintain the view which I expressed a week ago as regards the danger of the gamble which is in progress in that section.

HOME RAILS—MORE DIVIDENDS.

Had it not been for the political scare the Home Railway department would have probably shown considerable strength during the past week, as, apart from the Great Eastern dividend which disappointed the over-sanguine ones, the distributions announced were distinctly favourable, while there was nothing in the various Directors' reports which have been published to create uneasiness. On the other hand, it is now only a question of days as to when the engineering shops will be re-opened, and the bulk of the men be at work again, while there is also every prospect of a cessation of labour troubles for a long time to come. Already new orders are being accepted, and there is no doubt that quite a strong impulse will be given to trade by the resumption of work. Although many orders have been lost to this country through foreign competition, it may be hoped that by exceptional activity much of the lost ground will be recovered, and in this way traffic returns should be stimulated to a considerable extent, to commence, say, in February. In the meantime it is satisfactory to find that in the new year increases continue to be shown. Thus for the week ending January 16 the increase was £32,631, bringing up the gain for the fortnight to £73,303. Amongst these returns the Caledonian and North British show remarkably well, business in Scotland already reviving in anticipation of the coming end of the lock-out, but the North-Western is also well to the front with an increase of £5,912 for the week. The following is my usual comparison of dividends with the second half of 1897 :—

—	Date of Declaration of Dividend for second half of 1897.	Dividend at the rate of per cent per annum.	Amount carried forward.	Dividend for second half of 1897.	Amount carried forward.
	1897.		£.		£.
Great Central	Jan. 13	1½	2,400	1	2,200
London and Brighton	,, 13	8	22,280	8	26,000
South Eastern	,, 14	6¾	5,520	6⅝	4,000
Great Eastern	,, 14	4¾	50,918	5	51,000
Metropolitan	,, 20	3⅝	14,130	3¾	17,000
Do. Sur. Lands Stock	,, 20	2⅝	--	2¾	—
London and South Western	,, 21	8¼	24,805	—	—
London and Chatham First Prefs.	,, 22	4½	64,543	4½	72,295
Lan. & Yorkshire	,, 25	5¾	29,140	5¼	21,000
Metropolitan District Prefs.	,, 26	2¼	403	—	—
North Eastern	,, 28	7½	31,602	—	—
Great Northern	,, 29	5¼	8,096	—	—
Great Western	Feb. 4	7¼	42,884	—	—
London and North Western	,, 5	8	99,779	—	—
Midland	,, 5	7	40,036	—	—
Caledonian	Mar. 2	5	17,418	—	—
North British	,, 11	3	1,484	—	—

The Great Eastern dividend was at the rate of 5 per cent. against 4¾ per cent. last year, and as sanguine operators had looked for 5½ per cent., the announcement caused a set-back in the stock, the quotation now being 122¼. This is, in my opinion, quite high enough, as the yield on this basis is only £2 16s. 6d. per cent., while Dover "A," for instance, yield on the distribution for the year 1897 £3 8s. 6d. per cent. When the dividend of 3⅞ per cent. comes off, this stock should look cheap, the South-Eastern being quite as progressive as the Great Eastern. The South-Eastern Directors' report furnishes a complete explanation of the increase in working expenses. It appears that the facilities offered by the Company for trips to Boulogne, and the improvement in the Continental service generally, are largely responsible for the greater expenditure. Of course, the higher scale of wages has also something to do with the increase in expenses, while the traffic in the summer months was worked at an abnormal cost in consequence of the insufficiency of the existing lines, and the rate of expenditure will naturally be reduced on the completion of the works now in progress. By the way, I quoted last week an interesting comparison of Continental passenger traffic from the *Railway News*. My contemporary, however, now publishes a revised return, as, owing to a printer's error, some of the figures were given under the wrong heads. The following is the corrected table :—

Years.	Calais.	Ostend.	Boulogne.	Dieppe.
1888	248,758	55,991	106,202	75,513
1890	262,671	75,868	90,541	97,490
1891	258,255	83,481	91,501	104,529
1892	248,315	87,700	86,328	104,454
1893	228,231	96,519	84,911	111,681
1894	234,409	119,410	90,507	133,302
1895	260,311	114,883	100,847	153,320
1896	265,600	118,639	89,415	165,228
1897	267,816	123,991	111,648	164,190

The Great Central report also calls for special notice. It is true that there has been a loss in the carriage of coal and material through the protracted engineers' dispute, but the line should all the more be benefited now by the resumption of work. With reference to the progress of the extension to London, the report states that before the close of the half-year now current this extension will be sufficiently advanced to enable goods and mineral traffic to be conveyed over the whole system. Interest continues to centre in the new 1894 Ordinary stock, which is very firm at 44½, and which may be looked upon as an exceedingly promising lock-up, with the prospect of a large increase in capital value. The increase in the Great Eastern earnings ha

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been offset by a large addition to the expenditure; but the Directors take a hopeful view of the continued growth of the suburban traffic, and of the better conditions of the agricultural interest. The Metropolitan dividend was fully up to expectations, being at the rate of 3¾ per cent., against 3¾ per cent. last year, and the stock is firm at 135½. The Chatham and Dover distribution is the same as for the second half of 1896, but the carry forward is considerably larger. The stocks of the Heavy lines have been steady, although the improvement which was established has not been fully maintained. The following remarks from a valued correspondent are of special interest as regards the North-Western. As my correspondent puts it, the position of the Ordinary stocks of some of the leading English railways is well worthy of attention, from the point of view of intrinsic security, and on strict comparison it will be found that some of the lines are much more solid than others. For example, out of every £100 distributed as dividends by the London and North-Western Railway, 49 per cent. goes to Preference charges, and 51 per cent. to the Ordinary shareholders, but the Great Western pays 67 per cent. for Preference charges, and only 33 per cent. to Ordinary shareholders. The Great Eastern figures are remarkable, 81 per cent. goes to the Preference, and only 19 per cent. to the Ordinary shareholders. My correspondent further thinks that there can be no question that the London and North-Western Railway stands far ahead of any of the other Heavy lines, and the security being greater it ought to command a relatively higher price than the others, which, at present, it does not. Again, that the splitting (or duplicating) of stocks adds materially to their market value cannot now be disputed, and when a stock has attained the price of £205 for each £100 stock (which means a stamp duty alone of 1 per cent. on transfer, besides heavy brokers' commission), surely it is time that such a stock should be rearranged, which would benefit everybody and hurt no one. The London and North-Western Railway being in such a strong position as to dividends, presents a most favourable opportunity for such an operation. The following is the table showing the comparison of the Preference and Ordinary capitalisation.

Every £100 *(net)* earned is divided thus:—

	To Preference Claims (Debs. and Prefs.)	To Ordinary Shareholders.
London & North-Western	49 per cent.	51 per cent.
Great Western	67 ,,	33 ,,
Great Northern	63 ,,	37 ,,
Great Eastern	81 ,,	19 ,,
Midland	54 ,,	46 ,,
North-Eastern	49 ,,	51 ,,

I fully agree with the view expressed by my correspondent that the directors of the London and North-Western Railway Company might with great advantage follow the lead of the Midland in splitting the stock, and it is quite time that they relinquished their ultra-conservative attitude. That an important improvement in quotations would be the result is undoubted, and there is moreover something in the contention that the railway servants seeing the price marked at £205 for each £100 stock, may nurse a grievance, to which, if it were changed to £100 Preferred Ordinary and £100 Deferred Ordinary, they would in time get used, and it would not, in a sense, provoke them. Great Northern Deferred has been put down to 60¼ on adverse dividend rumours, but even if the unfavourable estimates were to be borne out by the announcement, the yield of this stock at present price would probably be close upon 4 per cent. per annum, and the only disturbing feature is the coming competition of the Great Central. The Scotch stocks, after showing strength, have eased off again, but there is every prospect of a smart recovery as soon as the political atmosphere clears. Metropolitan Districts were at one time very strong at 31. There is very little floating stock, and an advance of a point or two would not be at all surprising.

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THE YANKEE MARKET—KLONDIKE STOCKS TO THE FRONT.

American Railroad stocks have fluctuated with the varying news concerning the Cuban question and the silver agitation in the United States, and only during the last few days does the situation in the Far East appear to have affected Wall-street. It is now, however, quite clear that the United States Congress will not interfere in Cuba, and the position is all the less disturbing as recent advices report a severe defeat of the insurgents and the surrender of some of their leaders. There remains the silver agitation, but although the resolution of Senator Teller was a mischievous one, there is every reason to anticipate that Congress will not, as a whole, agree to commit suicide financially, while there is even less chance of President McKinley endorsing it, he having given the strongest possible guarantees to uphold sound money. Further developments of affairs in the Far East must, of course, affect all the markets, but our American cousins are for once on the side of this country in the stand which it has taken in favour of the freedom of trade for all nations wishing to have dealings with China. Business has run very much in one groove in the American market in the past week, special attention being devoted to the Pacific roads and to all the systems which may benefit by the passenger movement to Klondike. Wall-street has, in fact, dubbed these the "Klondike group," and whatever may be the real merit of the sanguine anticipations entertained, there is no doubt that these will materially support this group of stocks during the next few months. Northern Pacific Prefs. at one time rose to 67, and the Common stock reached 28½. Although a moderate reaction has since occurred, it would not be surprising to see a renewed upward movement. Union Pacifics have also been generally strong, touching at one time 33¼. There has since been a slight relapse, which may at any time be recovered, and I have heard insiders say that we may expect this stock to advance to 40, ex. the new Prefs., which this stock will receive early in February in lieu of the assessment of $15. These Prefs. at one time during the week touched 59½, receding to 57¼, but it will be seen that the Pref. allotment works out to nearly $9. A strong demand has been experienced for Central Pacifics, which have been run up to 13¾, and look like going better. Another feature, has been the rise in Ontario to 17¼, on the announcement that Mr. Chauncey Depew has joined the directorate. Business in Milwaukee and Louisville has been comparatively restricted, but as the traffics continue satisfactory, the prospects are promising, especially as a considerable short interest is stated to have been accumulating in these stocks. Denvers were at one time also in strong demand, and it seems that the various stocks are being taken in hand consecutively. It would only require an absence of adverse rumours, and the settlement of the Chinese question, to galvanise the American market into strong activity, and in any improvement the above-mentioned stocks, together with the Preference stocks of the reorganised roads, will doubtless be well to the front. Canadian Pacifics at one time rose as high as 92¾, when a sharp setback knocked them down to 91. Similarly, Grand Trunks suffered an important decline, the First Prefs. dropping to 66¾, the Guaranteed to 77. There has since been a rally to 68 in the First Prefs. The clique who are interested in these stocks have undoubtedly made a great deal of money, and they will do their best to maintain quotations, or even to engineer a fresh advance; but I adhere to my opinion that the rise has been so rapid that a pause is due, and that on any further advance profits should be taken.

FOREIGNERS AND SOUTH AMERICANS.

Interbourse securities have been fairly steady, and as yet the Chinese question has not sent a spasm through the foreign Bourses, which is so far encouraging. On the more favourable news from Cuba, Spanish advanced, and would probably have marked a further recovery had it not been for the political anxieties. Turks were firmer at one time, but are again easing off, and notwithstanding the contradiction of the rumour that M. Lang had resigned

his directorship of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, the heavy fall in these shares has not been recovered. A relapse of from one to two points is shown in Argentine Government bonds, the 1886 Loan being quoted 92¾, the Funding Loan 91¼, Buenos Ayres Water and Drainage bonds 75½. On the other hand, the Four per Cent. Argentine Railway Guarantee Rescission bonds are but slightly easier at 63¼. The Buenos Ayres gold premium has, however, dropped to 163¼, and after some further realisations it would not be surprising to see Argentines rally again. The setback in Argentine Rails, which I foreshadowed, promptly made its appearance the moment political fears developed, and even Buenos Ayres Great Southern are 2 points lower at 155, while Buenos Ayres and Rosario at 76 mark a decline of 2½ points, Central Argentine at 84½ being 2½ below the best. Cordoba Central First Prefs. have fallen 4 to 91, the Second Prefs. 2 to 49, and Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debenture stock is 2½ lower at 59. I mentioned a week ago that in my opinion there was considerable risk of Argentine Rails getting top heavy, and that it would be salutary if the upward movement were checked until traffic returns were more in keeping with quotations. Recent traffics have somewhat disappointed operators, as the increases were not so important as had been hoped. But, after all, this may be due to some delay in the moving of the crops, and eventually we shall doubtless see a strong improvement. Uruguay bonds have been firm, and appear ready to respond to any general upward movement which may occur. Brazilians, however, have been dull, and although the circumstance that Brazil has sold three ironclads which were being built for her is being pointed to as liberating a considerable sum, one must also say that it has come to a pretty pass if a country has to countermand the purchase of ships owing to its financial necessities. Chilians have also been dull, but Mexican Sixes have been strong. Mexican Rails, on the other hand, have not, so far, continued on the upward tack, and Peruvian Corporation stocks have reacted.

THE KAFFIR CIRCUS—A FURTHER REACTION.

There has been an absence of support on the part of insiders in the Kaffir Circus during the last few days, and a further setback has just occurred, as, notably, in Rand Mines some important options expire this account, against which the dealers have been selling. The price dropped to 33⅛, recovering to 33¼, and it is anticipated that as soon as these transactions have been liquidated, the leading firm interested in these shares will give them a fresh twist-up. In the meantime the speculative shares have been adversely affected by this movement, Consolidated Goldfields being down to 4⅞, East Rands to 5$\frac{3}{16}$. Preoccupation with the Presidential election in the Transvaal also militates against an improvement in South African shares at present, but there never was any hope of Mr. Schalk Burger carrying the day, and the re-election of President Kruger will not, therefore, be a matter of surprise. There is an impression in usually well-informed quarters that when Oom Paul has been re-elected he will assume a more accommodating and sensible attitude towards the mining industry, and there is but little doubt that the state of the Transvaal finances will necessitate the launching of a loan for a considerable sum. That such a loan cannot be obtained in Europe, except on the condition that reasonable concessions are made to the mining industry, is a well-known fact, and thus the hopes of an improvement in the position in the Transvaal need not yet be abandoned. In the meantime, the mines are doing well, and every effort is being made to increase production and reduce expenditure —which is as it should be. It is difficult to exactly understand what effect the reductions in railway freights recently cabled from the Cape will have, but it would almost appear as if they would work out to about £350,000 per annum, which would, of course, be of very considerable importance to the mining industry in the Transvaal. The stock of the Barnato group have reacted with the leaders of the speculative section, and there has also been a relapse in the Robinson group, with the prominent exception of Langlaagte Star, which have hardened to 1¾ on favourable advices from the mine. Deep Level shares have been fairly well maintained, and the decline in Rand Mines is, from this point of view, unjustified. By the way, what has become of the proposal to split the latter shares? According to the circular recently issued by debenture-holders of the Simmer and Jack, the debentures can be redeemed at par plus accrued interest, as the Company has plenty of money in hand for this purpose and for all other purposes. If the debenture-holders do not agree to the terms, offered, the Company can pay off the debentures by giving six months' notice in 1900. Of the original issue of £500,000 nearly £200,000 have already been purchased in the open market, so that the amount outstanding is somewhat over £300,000. The position of the Company is therefore exceptionally favourable, and my original forecast of its prospects has been more than fulfilled. For it is now entirely free from debt, owns 600 mining claims, a 280-head mill, with all requisite machinery and buildings, and, by way of reserve, an interest in the Rand Victoria Mines equal to 190 claims, which is certain to become very valuable in a year or two. The latest reports from that somewhat despised property, the Nigel Deep, are distinctly encouraging, for the assays in the two shafts, where development is now progressing, show a marked improvement. In D Shaft the average of a number of assays taken east and west along the drives comes out at a trifle under 5 oz. over seven inches of reef, and in C Shaft at 3½ oz. over six inches. The Nigel reef is, of course, a narrow one, but if these results can be maintained the mine should pay well enough. Diamond shares have been dealt in to a limited extent only, and De Beers are quoted 29$\frac{11}{16}$, New Jagersfontein 8⅜.

GOLDEN WEST AUSTRALIA.

The feature of the West Australian market has been the continued strength of high-class and dividend-paying shares, as compared with non-dividend payers and doubtful concerns. Adelaide, moreover, has not been on the buying tack, and thus the favourites of that market have been under a cloud. I have repeatedly stated that Adelaide purchases are not to be relied upon as a permanent factor, and this is now conclusively shown. The news from the goldfields is, however, very satisfactory, and a number of encouraging crushings are again to hand, of which I give herewith the list :—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Ounces of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per Ton.
Great Boulder Proprietary	1,340	3,233	—
Ivanhoe	790	1,426	—
Hannan's Brownhill ...	736	946	—
North Burgess	50	316	—
Consolidated Murchison	309	314	—
North Boulder	645	377	—
Princess Royal	140	105	—
Consolidated G. M.— Yellow Aster	69	112	—
Lake View South ...	1,500	331	31 grs.
W. A. Gold Concessions	28	36	—
Polar Star...	50	48¾	—
Belle Vue Proprietary ...	140	300	—
Premier	378	253	—
Lindsay's Consolidated ...	260	64	—
Westralia and East Extension	1306	856	4 dwt.
Menzies Consolidated ...	455	601	—

Lake View Consols at one time rose to 11, but have since receded to 10⅛. Some encouraging statements have, however, been made by Mr. Charles Kaufman to a representative of the *British Australasian*, which clearly show that the recent "Bear" rumours should be disregarded. Ivanhoe have been dull at 6$\frac{3}{16}$. The secretary announces that the share certificates of this Company are now ready in exchange for the allotment letters and bankers' receipts. London and Globe Finance shares have fallen to 2$\frac{5}{16}$, although this Company is now distributing a dividend of 10 per cent., and very large profits have been earned by it in addition to this dividend. I am also informed that a meeting of all the Directors of the subsidiary Companies of the London and Globe was held last week, when the

decision was come to that the amalgamation scheme which had been formulated by Mr. Whitaker Wright should be accepted. An exploration Company is to be formed immediately, the prospectus of which is to be issued within a fortnight, while the Board of Directors will be both influential and experienced. The Companies affected are, of course, the Mainland Consols, Wealth of Nations, Golden Crown, Paddington Consols, Hannan's Golden Treasure, Hannan's Golden Group, and Wealth of Nations Extended. It is understood that the new undertaking will have a large working capital assured. Hannan's Brownhill have been a strong market, and the shares are quoted $7\frac{3}{4}$ x.d. The shares of the London and West Australian Exploration Company are temporarily lower at $1\frac{1}{8}$, but will no doubt recover again. In the meantime Sons of Gwalia shares remain steady at $2\frac{1}{16}$, and very satisfactory cablegrams have been received by the *British Australasian* concerning both the Hannan's Brownhill and the Sons of Gwalia. The average width of the lode at the latter mine is over 4 ft., and the value of the ore is estimated at $3\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per ton, the ore in sight being computed at 40,000 tons, while a rich shoot has been cut at a depth of 145 ft. assaying 10 oz. to the ton. The whole plant of the Hannan's Brownhill is to be completed in March, when the crushing capacity will be equal to 350 tons, and then it is expected that the output will exceed 15,000 oz. per month. Advices from the East Murchison United and the Consolidated Murchison are favourable. The latter has struck very rich ore, and expects it to continue on the No. 3 level Day Dawn West. From the Hannan's Proprietary Development Company a cablegram is to hand stating that they are cross-cutting the 500 ft. lode on the Pheasant Lease, and that this is opening up well, the average assay of ore being 2 oz. 7 dwts. per ton from the north face. In the West Australian Goldfields group very little change has to be reported. The shares in the parent Company are dull at $2\frac{1}{8}$, while Hampton Plains are quoted $1\frac{1}{16}$. The Market Trust group has been quiet, and the shares of the Trust Company are quoted $1\frac{1}{4}$, while Associated Gold Mines have declined to $3\frac{15}{16}$. By the way, it is interesting to learn that Mr. Horatio Bottomley, who presides over this group, has arranged with regard to the donation of £250,000 to the Hansard Union shareholders, to pay a round sum of £5,000 to the Income-tax Commissioners in discharge of their claim against him. This is rather a heavy tax on his generous action. Golden Horseshoes have been a very fidgety market, at one time rising to 9, and reacting to $8\frac{1}{2}$. Lake View South are easier at $1\frac{3}{8}$, and the various Kalgurli issues have been dull and lower. Belle Vue Proprietary have been a steady market at $\frac{7}{8}$, and the further small crushing which has come to hand is satisfactory as regards the yield, but the amount of ore crushed has not been so large owing to there not being any increase in the supply of water. Lady Shentons have been firm at $2\frac{1}{8}$, and the news from the mine continues to be of the most satisfactory character. Peak Hill Goldfields have been firmer at 3, and the special settlement appears to be proceeding satisfactorily. Brownhill Central have again been firm at $1\frac{1}{2}$. It cannot be said that Scottish Westralia is scoring with the Companies which it has floated. Few of these have any good results to show, and it now appears from the meeting of shareholders of the Hope's Hill Gold Mines —another of its offspring—that according to the report of a reliable expert the value of the reef is, where at present worked (contrary to former reports), worth only from 5 dwt. to 7 dwt. per ton, even the tailings going merely something like $2\frac{1}{2}$ dwt. to $2\frac{3}{4}$ dwt. to the ton. The occurrence again points the lesson that investors should put their money into proved West Australian mines only. The Emperor is another disappointing mine, although in this instance a considerable amount of gold, viz., 2,656 oz., was produced, while the Company was stated to have originally had a working capital of £25,000; but, curiously enough, the Directors now propose to liquidate the Company, practically abandoning the property. It is just as well that the shareholders should have appointed a committee of investigation, as this matter should be thoroughly sifted.

INDIAN, AUSTRALASIAN, AND BRITISH COLUMBIAN MINES.

It cannot be said that the Indian section has given rise to much business, but prices have upon the whole been well maintained. Mysore Gold, Ooregum Prefs., and Coromandel have improved; but some of the low-priced shares are easier, notably Mysore West and Mysore Wynaad. In Australian mines other than West Australian, Aladdin's Lamp have hardened to $1\frac{13}{16}$, but Mount Morgan are unaltered at $4\frac{5}{8}$, and Broken Hill Proprietary have risen to $2\frac{1}{8}$. Mount Lyell are lower at $13\frac{3}{4}$ xd., but some of the other Mount Lyell issues are better. Amongst New Zealand mines declines have preponderated. Waihi, Woodstock, Taitapu, Komata Reefs, and Kapanga are all lower, but Achilles have firmed up. Efforts are being made to galvanise the British Columbian department into life, and London and British Columbian Goldfields, Hall Mines, and Galena are nominally higher. Augustus Colin Aitken, a Director of the unfortunate Klondike Gold Mining and Trading Company, Limited, was again brought up at the Mansion House on the charge of applying to his own use and benefit certain sums, the property of the Company, and also with conspiring with Edgar Rodriguez Savigny, by false pretences, to obtain money from the public. According to the statement made by Mr. Bodkin, who prosecuted on behalf of the Public Prosecutor, about £7,600 was subscribed by the public, but the pass-book, showing £7,000, was false, for not only was there a worthless cheque for £3,300, but there was an entry of a cheque for £3,000 as being paid to Savigny, and the balance of the Company's money at Parr's Bank was only £720. Prisoner stated that the money had disappeared by reason of cheques drawn at the instance of Savigny. The case has again been remanded. British America Corporation shares, after receding to 2s. 9d. premium, are up again at 3s. premium. In Mexican mines Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico are quoted $1\frac{3}{8}$, Grand Central $1\frac{7}{8}$. In the general foreign section Fortuna, Frontino and Bolivia, and Linares are better, but St. John del Rey have declined.

THE SOUTH LONDON ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION, LIMITED.

The complaint set forth by a shareholder in the South London Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, in a circular which he has addressed to his brother shareholders, seems at the first blush to constitute a real grievance. When subscribing for shares in this Company this shareholder noticed that the prospectus stated specially that shareholders would have a preference on any further issue of capital, and as only 43,341 shares were subscribed for and allotted out of the 65,000 shares constituting the whole capital of the Company, he was not unnaturally surprised when application was made to the Stock Exchange for a special settlement of a further issue of 12,500 shares, that such should not have been offered to the shareholders, the more so as the shares had in the meantime risen to a substantial premium. In answer to his inquiry the Directors informed him that these shares were allotted to one man, who was a very large shareholder, under an agreement dated back as far as July, wherein he was given an option not only over the 12,500 shares, but also over the whole unissued capital of 21,659 in consideration of his having taken at par 1,270 shares at a time, when they were quoted at a considerable discount, to enable the directors to get a Stock Exchange quotation. According to this circular he was further informed verbally, by one of the directors, that the premium referred to was due to an inflated market, and was not a true test of their market value, a somewhat curious statement. The contention of the Directors seems also to be that these shares were not "a further issue," but a portion of the first issue. As the shares have risen to a considerable premium, the allottee of the 21,659 shares has evidently, with very small risk, made a large profit, and it remains to be seen whether the directors acted *ultra vires*, whether they should not, in the first instance, have obtained the consent of the shareholders, or whether in accordance with the promise held out in the prospectus, they should

have offered the shares in the first instance to them. The Directors will do well to fully reply to this circular, setting forth whatever explanation they may have to give.

NEW ENTERPRISES AND ISSUES

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week :—

The Mount Lyell Proprietary Mines, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and working on an extended scale the copper properties lately owned by the Great Southern Mount Lyell Mining Syndicate (of Melbourne) in the Colony of Tasmania, covering an area of about 567 acres. The capital is fixed at £500,000, in shares of £1 each. The present issue is of 400,000 shares at par, of which £100,000 in shares or cash is for working capital, leaving 100,000 shares in reserve for additional working capital.

British Guiana Government Three per Cent. Stock.—The Crown Agents for the Colonies, on behalf of the Government of British Guiana, invite subscriptions to an issue of £150,000 Three per Cent. Inscribed stock, repayable in 1945. The interest is payable half yearly. The minimum price is fixed at £96. 10s. per £100.

MY LETTER BOX.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents :—

GOVERNMENT, &C., BONDS.

Rita.—I think it is quite worth your while to keep Brazilian bonds of 1889, which cost you par, for an improvement. *B. A.*—Although a good deal depends, with reference to Uruguay bonds, upon political events during the next month or two, a purchase of the Three and a Half per Cent. Loan looks very promising, as, if events shape themselves rightly, there will be a marked advance.

BANKS, TRUSTS, AND FINANCIAL.

Aveberry.—I should think that your best course would be, under this trust deed, to distribute the money over Colonial Government bonds, Bank of England stock, and Indian Railway stocks. *M. R. P. A., Portman-square.*—You cannot obtain absolute safety and a yield of 5 per cent., but you might make your selection of gilt-edged American Railway bonds from the tables published in TRUTH of December 30 to return 4 per cent. and upwards. Thanks for your contribution to Lady Jeune's Fund. *Hougham, Grantham.*—What you require has been forwarded in your envelope. *Devonia.*—A good deal of latitude is given to Companies to register their list of shareholders at Somerset House, where the first list is usually obtainable. To shareholders, however, who can establish their status, the Companies are compelled to give a copy of the list of shareholders at a reasonable charge. *F. C. H.*—If the man is worth powder and shot you should be able to recover the money, and what you require has been forwarded in your envelope. *Kew Gardens.*—The London and Midland Bank (1) is doing a progressive and prosperous business, and there is no reason to sell the shares. 2. Probably. 3. As you are an holder of Grand Trunk Guaranteed at higher prices, I think you would be justified in holding for a further rise, although you will have to face temporary reactions. 4. I am glad you have done well in buying Brighton "A" as an investment on my recommendation. *S. H., Stafford.*—I cannot reply by letter. Outside brokers only deal on the cover system, and as most of them have come to grief, this kind of business has petered out. You must be aware that such men as Gregory have not paid their creditors. With members of the Stock Exchange you can only deal on ordinary terms, and if you choose your operations well, and are successful, you would at least get your money, which would not be the case in dealing with outside stockbrokers. *Leontodon.*—I never had a favourable opinion of the prospects of the Cheque Bank, Limited.

HOME RAILS.

R. A. F.—If I were to make a selection of Home Rails as an investment I should recommend the following list: North-Western, Dover "A," Brighton "A," Great Northern Deferred, Great Central 1894 Ordinary, and Caledonian Deferred Ordinary. *Demos.*—You should hold your Great Northern Deferred at present, and you should certainly keep Great Central 1894 Ordinary, which you bought at 43¼, for an important advance. *Glen B.*—I quite agree with you that the Metropolitan District is doing exceedingly well, and that the present rise to 31 does not at all represent the real merits of this stock. You should hold for an important advance.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN RAILS.

Nemo, Highgate.—It is quite correct that the Leopoldina Railway is being reconstructed into an English Company, and you should hold for an improvement. *C. C. N. B.*—I have already expressed my view as regards Canadian-Pacifics in last week's issue, and I should think that you would do well in Dover "A" and in Union Pacifics. *A. K.*—I almost think that you would do well to sell your Grand Trunk Ordinary, as you would now get out without a loss, and on any set-back in Grand Trunks to buy the Guaranteed. What is the good of holding a wild-cat stock which never pays any dividend? *Amicus.*—I cannot tell you when Reading First Prefs. will pay a dividend, but I have no doubt that the market will improve. *Inquirer, Evesham.*—You should certainly hold your Atchisons, there being every prospect of a further important advance. *H. D., Bradford.*—I accept no fees for replying to inquiries, neither can I answer by post. There is every prospect of the Argentine Railway stocks mentioned going higher during the present revival in Argentines. Argentine North Eastern Prefs. are now quoted 12½, the Debentures 35. *Industrious, Market Harborough.*—In the matter of American Railroad bonds I gave a full list in TRUTH of December 30. To get about 4 per cent. you should buy, say, Illinois Central Four per Cent. Gold bonds of 1953 at 105, and Pittsburgh, Cinn., Chicago, and St. Louis Four per Cent. Mortgage bonds of 1945 (Guaranteed by the Pennsylvania Company) at 105. *Clarendon.*—I certainly advise you to hold the bonds in question, but rather than buy more of these you should invest in some other Argentines of greater promise. You have done quite right in buying Great Central 1894 Ordinary. *C. A. M.*—It is quite impossible to foretell when the Grand Trunk Guaranteed stock will resume dividends; but I have no doubt that this will occur in the present year. *London.*—1. You have done quite right to hold your Union Pacifics, and having paid your assessments, you will have to receive $15 of Preference stock, valued now at about $9 per Ordinary share, but likely to appreciate much more. 2. You would be entitled to the same amount of new Preference stock as you hold of the Ordinary. The new securities will not be issued until February, and not only will I inform my readers when the distribution is made, but you will also receive due notice from the Company.

MINING SHARES.

Lex.—No; I hold an unfavourable opinion of the British Empire Finance Corporation, Limited, which was started in August. Not only is its scope far too wide for any ordinary board to control, but I do not like some of the names connected with it. *Northern.*—No option but to hold your mining shares Nos. 1 to 11 for an improvement. Yes, I hold a favourable opinion of British America Corporation shares (A and B). From the point of view of a further investment you might put more money into Lake View Consols (1), London and Globe (6), Lady Shenton (7), and British America Corporation (11). *Spinks.*—The old London and Globe Finance Deferred shares have been converted into new Ordinary shares. *Air.*—Yes, British American Corporation would be a good purchase, and you might make up a small trust of these, London and West Australian Exploration, Sons of Gwalia, Ivanhoe, Lady Shenton, and Hannan's Brownhill. *W. A. R.*—1. Hold, but do not yet buy more to average. 2. A fair mining proposition, but dependent upon the water supply. 3. Prospects, according to recent reports, appear to be good. *Gymnast.*—You ought to insist upon obtaining the scrip. *Neophyte.*—No option but to hold. They will recover. *Regular Reader, Edinburgh.*—The prospects of the two concerns are doubtful. Amongst the list mentioned by you, Barnato Consols (2), Randfontein (5), British America (4), London and Globe (5), East Murchison United (10), and Lady Shenton (11), look most promising. *G. Bath.*—1. Advices from the Lady Shenton mine continue favourable both as to the amount and quality of ore. 2. The mine crushes with the full power of its present battery, which is, however, being increased. *F. H.*—Yes, Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa might be bought on a decline. *Consols.*—1. Yes, you should join the reconstruction. 2. The amalgamation of the Paddington Consols and Wealth of Nations is now about to be carried out. See remarks under "Golden West Australia." 3. I have no information of a favourable kind concerning the Pilbarra United. 4. No option but to hold. Sell on an improvement. *J. W., Yeovil.*—You should hold these shares; it is a Land Company with a great future. *Scrutator.*—X. This is not stated yet. Y. You could sell these now, but you must, of course, stipulate that you will only deliver when the shares are issued. Z. A fair deep level risk. *W. B.*—You should certainly hold London and Globe Finance shares for a rise. The Company is doing exceedingly well. *Eliza.*—1. I am not exactly an admirer of the Exploration Company (New), which has not done well of late. All your Mining shares, Nos. 2-9 should be held for an improvement. *Student.*—I cannot, as a matter of principle, recommend individual stockbrokers. I do not consider Hannan's Treasure Trove and Hannan's Reward a good purchase. *A. Q. W.*—Sons of Gwalia appear to be good value for the money. *Callema.*—1. Yes, you should join the reconstruction. 2. Prospects of this Cycle Company do not look very rosy just now, as the cycle boom is over. *Glencairn.*—British America (1) would be preferable to the Klondike N.W. Terr. Exploration Company (2), which I should not recommend. 3. Hold, the amalgamation is about to be carried out. *Aaron.*—Hold Woodstock Transvaal (1) and see remarks under "The Kaffir Circus" last week. Hold also the other mining shares, Nos. 2-4. I suppose there is no option but to join the reconstruction of No. 5, and to sell after. No. 6 should recover. *Nemoy.*—1. There should be a prospect of an improvement in the Murchison concern. I have no recent information respecting the New Zealand mine, but see shares how you can get out of the payment of the calls. *G. A. now.*—Yes, you should hold, more especially the two first-named. *A. W. Winter.*—I am glad you have done so well in London and Globe on my advice. Amongst the shares named, I should prefer No. 3 (Associated Gold Mines). *Mysore.*—1. Langlaagte Estate should be held for a recovery. 2. Langlaagte Star are improving. Hold. 3. Hold. The amalgamation scheme is about to be carried out. 4. Yes, take

your handsome profit. *Brooch.*—Yes, hold Randfontein and Glencairn. *Malaxa.*—1. Yes, Hampton Plains are promising. There seems to be no option but to hold the South African shares Nos. 2-4 for the present. Fair security. *Edgirdla.*—1. I have not heard of late what has become of this concern. The other shares should be held. You should in future number your inquiries, for obvious reasons. *Vectis.*—1. Prospects are not over bright. 2. Certainly join the reconstruction. As regards the other shares mentioned, they are not particularly promising, and you had better make your selection from my letter. *Border Boy.*—This is not the time to sell mining shares. You should hold all. The best prospects are those of Nos. 7, 15, and 16. *Ignorant.*—1-2. I should advise you to leave Cuddingwarra alone. 3. No option but to wait. *K. C.*—A fair mining risk at present price, but no catch.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

D. W. E.—The shares of the Trust in question (1) are a fair investment, but no catch. No. 2 looks promising. As regards the Preference shares of the Newspaper Company (3), they are obviously speculative. *C. McL.*—I really cannot give you names of individual stockbrokers. You had better apply to your bankers. I cannot reply by letter. *E. L. P.*—So far this American Industrial Company has not improved, but this should come about in time. *M. M. M.*—1. I should think that there is every prospect of this Preference stock improving again. 2. There has been a further decline in this Deferred stock, but you should not throw it away. 3. This is one of the best Nitrate Companies, and if you hold long enough you will see a portion of your loss recovered again. *Gas, Chesterfield.*—1. It is really impossible to say whether this Gas Company will maintain its dividend, as it can pretty well do what it likes. 2. I should almost feel inclined to hold. 3. Impossible to tell. 4. Ditto. *Mantle.*—The Welsbach Incandescent Company has a well-established business, and I should say that the new competition in question would not hurt it much. *Motor, Derby.*—It is a great pity that you went into the Great Horseless Carriage Company against my advice, but it is also a pity to throw good money after bad. *F. W. H. P.*—I see no objection to your list of investments Nos. 1 to 5, although you must always run the risks that attend industrial enterprises.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Trustee.—Hold the Uruguay debentures, but do not buy more to average until the political situation in Uruguay is assured. It is not at all improbable that the East London will eventually benefit. Chatham Ordinary are a fair investment at the present level. *Mac.*—1. Do not buy until fuller information is received from that mine. 2. I do not recommend purchase of the Cycle shares. *G. S. H.*—1. Not yet. 2. Nothing is known yet as regards the return of Colonel North's money. 3. Probably. 4. I cannot tell you. 5. Under present circumstances, I should certainly hold Nos. 1 to 7 for an improvement. 6. No; I cannot give you any information about this Company, and should be sorry to recommend investment in the same. *A. C.*—Nos. 1-4 are fair investments of the kind. As regards No. 5, no information is available in London. *Telegraph.*—The address of the West Coast of America Telegraph Company is Winchester House, Old Broad-street, E.C. 2. I do not advise on these shares, and if you are a regular reader of TRUTH you must know this. 3. A fair mining risk. *Jonah.*—1. I know nothing of this concern. No option but to hold Nos. 2-5 for the present. *N. M. T.*—1. A new English Company is being formed. You must hold. 2. The position of the Lady Shenton mine is, according to all accounts, good. 3. You might as well clear out of these Indian shares. 4. A fair risk. *Ernest.*—1. Hold Atchison Prefs. 2. No option but to hold. 3. A good bond. 4. I only recommended these from the investment point of view. 5. Fairly promising. *Sutton.*—1. A fair investment, but quite high enough. 2. Yes, a good investment. *Royal Corrie.*—1. Doubtful. 2. No. 3. I have not heard of this Syndicate (Kalgoorlie Timber). 4. No. *Goldi.*—I cannot recommend individual stockbrokers, and I must refer you to my letter as regards the rest. *W. Y.*—Some day, not far off, these Brewery shares Nos. 1-4 should come to the front again. 6. A fair mine, but much depends upon the water supply. *The Seasons.*—1. No fresh news. 2. Yes. *E. C. I.*—1. Possibly. 2. Copper shares generally are flourishing. 3. Perhaps, but there has been a big rise. 4. Certainly not, after the fall keep Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa. 5. British America Corporation. *S. W. Co.*—1. Yes, London and Globe Finance shares are expected to rise further. 2. Another dividend for 1897 is to be declared when the accounts are presented. 3. As regards the Manchester concern I do not hold a favourable view. *Novicius.*—1. If you are content with 4 per cent. you might place the money into gilt-edged American Railroad bonds. 2. I have already explained the position fully. 3. Yes, promising, but, of course, speculative. *Stuart.*—1. Anglo "A" are high enough. 2. Yes, these bonds are well secured. *Investor, Cork.*—Yes, there is no reason why you should not invest in the American bonds No. 1, or in Apollinaris and Schweppe Debentures (2 and 3). No. 4 is also a fair investment, but No. 5 is more speculative. *Primrose.*—Hold New York Central (1). These Cycle shares (2) may improve again. The Company No. 3 is doing well, and at present prices the Deferred seem cheap. There is, of course, always the risk of fresh competition.

VARIOUS INVESTMENTS.

There is every indication of my view that the Money Market will not for any length of time remain in the present easy condition proving correct. Short loans are harder at $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and rates for three months' bank bills, although still quoted at $2\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., are tending upwards. The surplus funds in the open market are now decreasing, and there is still a considerable demand for gold on Continental account. Consols have suffered a slight decline, being quoted $112\frac{11}{16}$ for the account. The demand for other gilt-edged securities has slackened, partly, perhaps, in view of fears of complications in the Far East, and the non-success of the last Liverpool Corporation issue is significant. It shows, too, the mistake to fix the minimum too high, that of 98 for a Two and a Half per Cent. loan being distinctly excessive in the case of that Corporation. I suppose, however, that Liverpool will gradually be able to obtain the balance of about one million sterling, which it still requires. Silver has fallen to $26\frac{3}{8}$d., and Rupee Paper is slightly easier at $63\frac{3}{16}$. The rumours with reference to coming trouble in the Far East are responsible for a decline in Japanese bonds to 101; but the Chinese stocks do not show much change. Dealings in the cycle section have been quite restricted, although buying on Dublin account has put up Dunlop Deferred to 13s. 3d. French Dunlops, however, remain weak at 4s. x.d. There is a rumour that these two Companies are to be amalgamated—for what reason I cannot possibly conceive. Humber Ordinary are slightly easier at 15s. 3d., but the Extensions are firmer at 11s. 3d. Cycle Components have declined to $2\frac{1}{2}$, while Singers at 14s., Swifts at $\frac{3}{4}$, Amalgamated Tyres at 7s. 3d. show little change. The Bovril dividend has been declared at the rate of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the Prefs., 7 per cent. on the Ordinary, and 5 per cent. on the Deferred. The latter distribution was considered disappointing, especially as the profits made by the Company during 1897 are given as £160,000, against £88,789 in 1896, £57,605 in 1895, and £21,183 in 1894. The Deferred at one time dropped to 15s., from which there has been a recovery to 15s. Schweppes have been steady, the Deferred at 13s., the Ordinary at $1\frac{3}{16}$. There are still rumours of a coming amalgamation between the Apollinaris and Johannis and Pears' Soap, but the union would be such an unnatural one that I cannot bring myself to believe that it will come off. Coats Ordinary are stagnant at $62\frac{1}{4}$, and English Sewing Cottons (Threads) are quoted $\frac{7}{8}$ premium. There is still a general outcry at the slowness of the allotment. Allsopp Ordinary advanced sharply to $167\frac{1}{2}$ at one time, reacting to 166, on dividend rumours. Harrod's Stores have hardened on the announcement of a dividend of 15 per cent., for the six months ended December 31, 1897, making, with the interim dividend of 5 per cent. already paid, 20 per cent. for the year. The founders' shares will receive a distribution of 20 per cent. from their Company, and the quotation of Harrod's Stores Ordinary is steady at 5, ditto Founders' at $4\frac{3}{4}$. The shares of the Burma Railway have been put up several points on the report that amongst the conditions made by the British Government for granting a loan to China it has been stipulated that permission should be given for the line to be prolonged into Yunnan; but the line is even now only partially constructed, and it remains to be seen whether the negotiations with China will lead to a satisfactory conclusion. The Thames Ordnance and Engineering Company, Limited, is the name of an important new undertaking which will shortly be issued with a capital of £550,000, divided in equal proportions in Cumulative Preference and Ordinary shares, while there will, in addition, be an issue of £250,000 Four and a Half per Cent. Debentures. The Company proposes to manufacture and sell guns, ammunition, and other war material, and to acquire a concession granted by the well-known firm of Messrs. Schneider & Co., of Creusot and Havre, the celebrated manufacturers of guns and war material, by which the concessionaires will have the sole right to manufacture the

A MOST WONDERFUL PACKAGE of Crockery. Send your name and address to the Pearson Pottery Co., Hanley, Staffs., and we will forward one of our catalogues of cheap Crockery. One Hundred Pieces of Crockery for £1. 1s., including complete Dinner and Tea Services, and other pieces. Even an imitation of this advertisement impossible. Drop a post card for particulars.

Schneider-Canet artillery, for use in the United Kingdom, the British Colonies, and other countries, with the exception of France, Germany, Austria, and Italy. The Schneider-Canet artillery is used almost exclusively in the French Army and Navy, and is also being supplied to a number of other Governments. The business of Messrs. Easton, Anderson, & Goolden, Limited, engineers, of London and Erith, is to be absorbed by the new Company in order to avoid the delay inseparable from the establishment of new ordnance works. I have been favoured by Messrs. R. A. Smith & Co., of Star Chambers, 30, Moorgate-street, London, E.C., with a communication prompted by my remarks on the touting circulars which they have been issuing under the headings, "The New Limited Syndicate! A want of the Period! An Up-to-Date Scheme!" the system extolled in these circulars being one for speculating in stocks and shares. R. A. Smith & Co. proposed to obtain subscriptions from the public for an issue of 5,000 £1 fully-paid shares, for the purpose of dealing in securities for the rise or fall. They now inform me that, although the majority of their clients, before whom they placed the suggestion, received it favourably, for reasons of their own they have withdrawn the prospectus and returned all subscriptions in full. They, however, state their belief that "conducted honestly, it is a system especially calculated for those who will speculate and who reside at a distance, and are consequently unable to avail themselves fully of the fluctuations of the market." Probably the system would have been "calculated" for country people, but I should have been greatly surprised if in the end they had made any money by the system, and I congratulate Messrs. R. A. Smith & Co. upon having withdrawn their circular. By the way, I gather from a report of the meeting of creditors of F. S. Grosvenor, stock and share dealer, who traded as Grosvenor & Co., at 47, Moorgate-street, E.C., that this outside broker's accounts disclosed total liabilities of £14,465, of which £13,059 are unsecured, and assets £2,792. Of course the estate will be wound up in bankruptcy, and I expect that the creditors will obtain very little. It was explained at the meeting that the failure was caused "through the bankruptcy of George Gregory & Co., when a great distrust arose amongst the public, resulting in a general closing of accounts and withdrawal of deposits." I dare say the concern would have come to grief without the failure of George Gregory & Co., but the history of both these bankruptcies fully bears out my warning to have absolutely nothing to do with outside brokers of any kind, but to deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. On January 13 I commented on the balance-sheet of Appleton, French, & Scrafton, Limited, of Thornaby-on-Tees, which showed a loss of £92,226, chiefly due to speculations in wheat and to other losses on grain trading. I then expressed my strong opinion that no further capital ought to be found for a concern which could lose half its original capital within a period of twelve months. I see that Mr. Justice North has just appointed a receiver and manager of the business on behalf of the debenture-holders, and that it is proposed to carry on the business with the view to its sale as a going concern. It was also understood that the Company would this week pass a resolution for voluntary winding up, which is doubtless the only proper course to take. On applying to an advertisement which recently appeared in the *Standard* concerning "a safe, regular, and reliable income, and the promise of a monthly profit of 30s. on a capital of £30, and larger amounts at the same ratio; no gambling in stocks or shares or racing, but an investment in a genuine commercial enterprise; capital fully secured and returnable on application," a reader of TRUTH received a prospectus of the London Cab Co-operative Company, of 4, Bloomsbury-street, W.C. This concern, it appears, is prepared to receive sums of £15 and upwards from the investing public, each £120 thus received being expended in the purchase of a hansom cab, two horses, set of cab harness, and licenses. The Co-operative Company promises that the working of these cabs will yield on each £30 invested £1 2s. 6d. per month, or 7s. 6d. per week. A great deal is said with regard to the large profits made by other cab Companies, but it is needless to say that these have not always been successful. I fail to see that the capital invested in the London Cab Co-operative Company would be "fully secured," as stated in the circulars, or that the investment would be in any way a promising one.—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

P.S.—TUESDAY MORNING.—To judge from the suddenness of the announcement of the despatch of an American man-of-war to Havana, and the time chosen, one would almost think that the statesmen in Washington were "Bears" of American rails, and were playing upon the carry-over in London. According to the explanations given by the Secretary of the U.S. Navy, however, no importance is to be attached to this matter, and it is not likely that ursine operators will benefit to any extent. The failure of an old established firm of brokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, who formerly did a large business, yesterday caused a number of forced sales of South African and West Australian mining shares, chiefly of the latter. South Africans are already rallying, and doubtless Westralians will follow suit. M.

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QUEER STORY.

THE WINNING OF MABEL.

WHAT does the name Mabel suggest to you, reader? I wonder whether the Mabel of your imagination is the same as she who was always the creature of mine. I say "was" advisedly, because—however, I shall come to that in a few minutes. To me Mabel was a maiden, small, graceful, dainty, with sylph-like figure and fairy elegance of movement; her skin was white as porcelain, she had lustrous brown eyes, fringed with long, thick lashes, and a wealth of the deepest chestnut curls; her nose was a model of minute shapeliness, and her mouth was, as it were, the choicest specimen of Nature's button-holing. Her age was eighteen, and never varied; her voice was soft and silvery; her manner sweet, retiring, coy. Such was the Mabel I had always pictured to my fancy.

Not so very long ago, however, I was brought into contact with a real Mabel. She came to live where I live—at Bigham, in Surrey; and she was the very antithesis of the Mabel whom my fancy had depicted. She was tall and stalwart; not, indeed, ungraceful, but the reverse of sylph-like. Her complexion was an olive-brown, slightly weather-beaten; her nose was Roman, and bespoke self-will and self-confidence. So did her bright, black eyes, which met you fearlessly. So did her firm, compressed lips, and her square, withal shapely chin. Her voice, without being in the least discordant, was loud and resolute. Altogether, she gave you the impression of being a self-reliant young lady, accustomed to look after herself, and eminently capable of holding her own in any conjuncture. This was the real Mabel.

She came to live at Bigham, and brought her mother with her—she had a mother who was Mabel's obedient servant—for two cogent reasons; to wit, the excellence of the Bigham roads for cycling, and the excellence of the Bigham Links for golf. Mabel was an adept at both pastimes, and the whole devotion of her nature was given to them—especially to golf. It was on the links that I saw her for the first time in the act of driving from the tee. The finished and workmanlike ease of her swing at once struck me. I had never seen a girl swing so before.

You know how most girls swing; how, even in the best of them, their style is cramped and jerky; how seldom they achieve so much as an idea of the follow through. Mabel, however, had achieved the thing itself. She swung like a professor. From seeing her drive that one ball, I felt immediately that here was a girl worth knowing.

It was not many days ere this privilege was accorded me. I was introduced to her in the drawing-room of a mutual friend. The common bond of golf at once drew us together. We spent an agreeable half-hour talking unqualified shop. I really enjoyed it; so, I think, did she.

I haven't much small talk in a general way, and, therefore, I am usually rather at a discount with girls. But give me one who, like Mabel, takes an intelligent, nay, an absorbing, interest in the jargon of the greens, and I can hold my own against any man.

That was the beginning of our acquaintance. It soon ripened into a friendship—a golf friendship. I played many exciting matches with Mabel over the Bigham Links. I found that I could just give her a half, and on those terms she downed me quite as often as I downed her. Of course, when you play very level with a person, you like playing with that person better than with any one else. For this reason, I liked playing with Mabel better than with any one else.

But it was not to be supposed that I could always have Mabel to myself. She had other gentlemen friends—golf friends; and, in particular, Sandy Robson. Sandy Robson was a Scotchman—I beg the fellow's pardon, a Scotsman—and a conceited ass to boot. Because he had learned golf north of the Tweed, he considered himself in a different class from any of us southern players; and he used to talk very big of the feats he had achieved among the Royal and Ancients, and the Honourable Edinburghs. I am not denying he played a strong game. But I flattered myself that I was just as good as he was. I challenged him one day to a big match, for a fiver. We brought it off. He won, two up, and mighty cock-a-hoop he was. But I had had all the worst of the luck, and I wasn't satisfied. In fact, I made up my mind to take him on again at an early date, and see if I couldn't turn the tables.

That defeat, however, rankled less than the fact that he was always cutting in with Mabel in front of me, and securing her for his opponent in a match when I wanted to secure her for mine. Mabel, with a half, gave me such a much better game than anybody else did that it was really deuced annoying. Besides, I didn't like the idea of her being out alone so often with that Scotch cad. Of course, Mabel was well qualified to take care of herself; no girl better. Still, Robson was a good-looking fellow of his style—that red-haired, pink-faced, freckle-nosed Scotch style, which I have always detested—and he was popularly (though quite erroneously, I should imagine) supposed to be a dangerous fellow with the ladies.

That was just the mischief of it. Robson's reputation (however ill-deserved) would set people talking so confoundedly. Mabel, indeed, could take care of herself, as I have said; and she might be safely trusted to keep Robson in his place. But then she couldn't keep the tongues of the gossips in their places. And the people of Bigham were about the most awful collection of gossips in all suburban London. I made up my mind that I should have to do something to save Mabel from becoming the victim of a Bigham scandal.

Now, of course, it was easy enough to make up my mind I should have to do something. But it was extremely difficult to settle what that something should be. You see, the matter was delicate. I couldn't talk to Mabel about it, and to attempt to expostulate with a caddish-minded fellow like Robson would have been worse than useless. He was incapable of comprehending any but the lowest motives; and I know that he would have taken it into his carroty head that I was simply doing it from jealousy, or something absurd of the kind. While I was still puzzling over the matter, a certain line of action was unexpectedly forced upon me by Robson himself.

He happened to come into the club one evening and to find me the sole occupant of the smoking-room. I knew that he had just been playing a match with Mabel, and the fact annoyed me. I acknowledged the Scotchman's—hang him, the Scotsman's—presence with the most chilling of chilling nods. But he was evidently disposed to be chatty, and my coldness didn't put him off. Drawing up his chair close to mine, he lit his pipe and began to talk.

"I've just had sech a gran' match wi' Miss Mabel," he said. He could talk English well enough, but he liked to air his confounded kailyard—especially when he was disposed to be annoying.

"You seem to have a great many gran' matches wi' Miss Mabel," I replied, with cutting sarcasm.

Sandy laughed.

"True, mon," he admitted. "And so, for the matter o' thot, do you yoursel."

"Perhaps," I said, frigidly.

He puffed his pipe violently for several minutes, then he exclaimed, with some suddenness:

"Look here, mon; dinna ye think it's time that you an' I should come to some understannin'?"

"Some understannin'," I said. "About what, pray? I don't follow you. Be good enough to explain."

"Tut, tut, mon! Ye ken weel enough. About Miss Mabel, forshure."

"And what sort of understanding do you propose to arrive at in reference to that young lady?" I inquired, with dignity.

"Jest this, mon. Which of us twa is to hae the preevilege?"

"What preevilege?" I demanded.

"Hoots, mon, dinna ye ken? The preevilege of getting engaged to Miss Mabel. It must be ain or ither of us. It canna be baith."

"What reason have you for supposing that the young lady wishes it to be either of us?" I inquired. "Isn't the assumption, to say the least of it, premature?"

"Tut, mon, dinna gae pretennin'! You ken, as weel as I do, it's jest this way. Miss Mabel's greatly attached to us baith. But she canna mak up her mind between us. When I'm wi' her, it's me; and when you're wi' her, it's you. And sae lang as we're baith constantly wi' her she'll go on sheelly-shallyin, sheelly-shallyin, and won't jest say 'aye' to neither of us. And then, maybe, in the end, she'll tak up wi' some third fellow and marry him, if ainly to save hersel the trooble o' choosin' between us. Nae! There's but ane thing to be done. Either you or I mun withdraw in favour of the ither."

"And do you propose, may I ask, that I shall be the one to withdraw?" I queried, with an ironical laugh.

"Nae, mon, nothing o' the kind. I propose that we settle it fairly and honourably. Look here, mon, I've a suggestion to mak to you. You'll be rememberin' that you played me a match not long ago for five pun', and that you had a' the worst o' the loock, and were na' satisfied wi' the twa oop beatin' I giv' ye? And you said you'd tak me on again, you'll be recollectin', and turn the tables? Varra weel. The noo 's your chance. Play me a retur-r-r-n match to-morrow. And let the stakes be—Miss Mabel."

"Play you for Mabel?" I ejaculated, fairly staggered by this astounding proposal. "The suggestion is preposterous. It is an insult to the lady."

"Not at a', mon; not at a'. I dinna mean, of course, that we'll treat the lassie as tho' she were jest a few goff balls or a bank-note, to change hands, so to speak, wi'out her consent. And forshure, 'twadna be much use gin we did; for Miss Mabel has mighty strong opeenions of her own. But I'd pit it to ye this way. We'd play for a clear field wi' the lassie—the loser to withdraw for, say, twa month, and to leave the winner in undisputed possession. That 'nd give either the ain or the ither of us a fair chance to improve his poseetion. And gin he didna do it wi'in the time named, there wouldna then be ony hindrance to his rival re-enterin' the lists. What say ye to thot, mon?"

"I—I—still say it's a most extraordinary proposal. I—I—must think about it."

"Hoots, mon," said Sandy, provokingly. "Ye dinna seem varra eager to play me. You're afraid, I'm thinking."

Now no man likes to be told that he's afraid, least of all by a carroty cad of a Caledonian. And you may be sure I was up in my stirrups at once.

"If I was afraid of you, Sandy Robson," I said, "I'd be ashamed ever to look at my face in the glass again."

"Then you'll play me, and for the stakes named?" retorted the Scot, eagerly.

"I will."

I spoke unhesitatingly, in the heat and impulse of the moment.

"Done wi' you," cried Sandy, in a tone of ill-suppressed exultation. "Shak' hands on 't, mon!"

We shook hands solemnly, and the bargain was sealed. I saw from Robson's expression that he thought he had entrapped me into an ordeal in which he was certain of the advantage. Perhaps I had done foolishly in letting myself be thus entrapped. But it was now too late to back out. I set my teeth, and vowed in my soul that I would down this canny Scot, or die in the attempt.

Our match was fixed to begin at 6.30 next evening, when we should both be back from business. As it was mid-June at the time, there would be plenty of daylight for the eighteen holes. We came down by the same train from London Bridge, but, as luck would have it, on that momentous day the train was late. Consequently, it was close on seven o'clock before we drove off from the first tee.

That was a tremendous match. We both played as if our lives hung upon the issue. The first three holes were halved; Robson took the fourth; we halved the fifth and sixth; at the seventh, my antagonist mercifully found the pond with his approach, thus losing his ball and the hole; the eighth was halved; the ninth Robson secured by a flukey putt, leaving himself one up at the turn; I took the tenth, Robson getting into the bunker, and we were square again; the eleventh was halved; at the twelfth I unfortunately sliced my drive into the vulcanite manufactory—an accident which, of course, cost me the hole; we halved the thirteenth and fourteenth, Robson thus retaining his lead of one; but at the gravel pits—No 15—he providentially topped his drive, and got into a ditch, which it took him two to play out of. I was down in four—a fine performance—and we were square once again.

On the tee of the sixteenth, whom should we come across—by the strangest coincidence—but Mabel herself. She had been out, she told us, for a few holes' solitary practice; but she had by that time had enough of it, and the light, too, was beginning to fail, so she was just going off home. She was in no hurry, however, and if we would allow her, she should like to stroll on with us and see us finish our match.

"You two ought to play pretty level," she said. "How do you stand now?"

"I told her we were all even."

"'Umph,' she remarked, lightly. "Very exciting." Ah, Mabel! Thou little knewest how exciting, or how closely thine own fortunes were bound up with the issue of those three last holes! My heart was beating fast; my throat was dry; but in me burned a fierce determination—rendered all the fiercer by Mabel's inspiring presence—to wrest victory from the red-headed Scot at any cost. I looked at him; our eyes met. I saw that he, too, was full of desperate resolve. Then we addressed ourselves again to the mortal struggle.

At that sixteenth I had cruel luck. My ball struck a flint, which some idiot had thrown upon the green, and swerved off into the rushes on the right. Robson, who made no mistake, took the hole. But at the seventeenth I was avenged, holing a mashie approach in marvellous style, and thus getting down in front of Robson, whose ball was dead. His pink face turned white with rage when my ball trickled in. But he said nothing. Probably he could not trust himself to speak to the point, in a lady's hearing.

The state of the match was now positively syncopating—all evens and one to play. . . . We halved that last hole and the match! Mabel clapped her hands.

"What a splendid finish!" she cried. "What shall you do? Shall you play it off?"

I looked at Sandy; Sandy looked at me. Then he said, in a voice of fierce resolve:

"The leeght's gettin' varra indifferent. But I'm ready to gae on till the ain or the ither of us wins a hole!"

"So am I," I said, setting my teeth. And we marched to the first tee.

The nineteenth and twentieth holes of the match were halved. We came to the twenty-first—the third on the course, and the longest and deadliest in Surrey. The light was now so indifferent that there was scarcely any of it left, and the stars were beginning to twinkle against the faint blue of the summer sky. When we neared the green—having had the greatest difficulty in following our balls—Mabel ran forward and marked the hole to us. At forty yards we could just see her dark figure, and we aimed for it with mashie shots. Then we hurried on to the green ourselves, eager to see where our balls were, for they were lying like, and everything would depend upon their respective positions for the putt. One ball was dead, the other thirty yards away, on the edge of the scrub. Now, I was playing with a Silvertown, and Sandy with an Eclipse. I stooped in fearful anxiety to examine the dead ball. Joy of joys! Ineffable, unmeasurable bliss! It was the Silvertown.

Sandy made a desperate effort to hole that long putt. He failed. I put my ball down, and won the match, and Mabel! . . .

I escorted my prize home that night. My heart was beating fast and furiously; I was wondering whether I could summon up courage to tell her the truth—for what stakes Robson and I had been playing—when she said, with some suddenness:

"I have two confessions to make to you. One is this. I—I—happened to be coming from the professional's shop last evening, where I had been to leave a brassie, and the windows of the smoking room were open, and you were talking very loud, and—and—I overheard your conversation."

"Then—then—you know what Robson and I were playing for?" I gasped in astonishment. "And—and—are you satisfied with the result?" I ventured to ask, with eager anxiety.

"You had better first hear my other confession. Mr. Robson would have won the match; only—only—on that last green, when—when—it was too dark for me to be seen, I kicked his ball away into the scrub, and stopped yours with my foot on the edge of the hole."

MUSIC.

THE COMING OPERA SEASON.

I HAVE, from time to time during the past few months, given the principal details as to the new works under consideration and the engagements (as they have been settled) for the coming opera season at Covent Garden. The management, however, have now issued their preliminary prospectus to the subscribers, of whom, by the way, there is a strong journalistic contingent, responsible for four (and I think five) private boxes, besides some stalls. Although, therefore, most of the facts will be familiar to readers of TRUTH, it will now be convenient to give a *précis*. The season which Mr. Grau will direct, Mr. Neil Forsyth again resuming the duties of acting-manager, which he discharges so courteously and efficiently, will open on May 9, and will extend into July. There will this year, of course, be no "command" night, although Royalty will be frequently in evidence at the opera. Many of the old artists will return, a fact which, to a certain extent, is a source of weakness, for the average prima donna is a firm believer in the axiom that the voice, like wine, becomes more valuable with age. Also although the name of Mme. Melba is mentioned, I believe that her contract has not yet definitely been signed. But Mme. Calvé will return and will give that which the Americans have irreverently referred to as her "vaudeville" impersonation of Marguerite, likewise also singing Ophelia and in Massenet's "Sapho." Mr. Schulz-Curtius has arranged for the re-appearance of Mme. Ella Russell, and among the other artists of past seasons engaged are Mmes. Eames, Engle, Brema, De Lussan, Meisslinger, and Ternina, together, possibly, with Mme. Nordica, although that contract also has not definitely been concluded. The new comers are mostly connected with the proposed Wagnerian Cycle, and no effort seems to have been made to secure the new light

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soprano, whom, like the tenor who was to succeed Giuglini and Mario, it was once the constant aim of the impresario to discover. Among the debutantes will, however, be Frau Gadsky, the German-American Wagnerian singer; Mme. Von Artner, and Mme. Héglon, of the Paris Grand Opéra, the last being specially engaged to play Anna Bolena in Dr. Saint-Saëns' first opera "Henry VIII," a part created by Mme. Richard, at the original performance of the work in Paris, on March 5, 1883. The tenors will be MM. Jean de Reszke, who will play Siegfried in "Götterdämmerung" (as well, possibly, as in "Siegfried" itself), Dippel, Lieban, Bonnard, and Van Dyck, together with M. Sazela, of the Paris Opéra, and one or two others. Among the baritones and basses will be MM. Edouard de Reszke, Bispham, Renaud, Albers, Dufranc, Meux, Gillebert, Plançon, Journet, and Pringle, with, as new comers, Herr Von Rooy, the famous Wotan of Bayreuth, Herr Feinhals, of Mayence, and Herr Wittekopf, of Hamburg. At present the only novelties actually fixed are Massenet's "Sapho," and Dr. Saint-Saëns' "Henry VIII.;" but Mancinelli's "Hero and Leander" will again be placed upon the list, although the cast is still unsettled. Also we may possibly hear Spinelli's "A Basso Porto," unless the very lurid libretto prove too much for Covent Garden susceptibilities. So far as the Italian operatic productions of last year are concerned, there is not one worth transplanting here. Nor among the chief artists of the entire troupe is there a solitary Italian-born vocalist, unless, as is very probable, the Italo-American baritone, Campanari, be added to the company. The pernicious tremolo seems entirely to have dethroned the "land of song" from its once high vocal position.

One of the principal events of the coming season, at any rate from the point of view of Wagner enthusiasts, will be the two Cycles of "Der Ring des Nibelungen," to be performed under something like Bayreuth conditions. This year there is no Bayreuth festival, and, accordingly, it is thought possible that many of the wealthy Americans and others who spend their money so freely at the Bavarian mountain theatre will prefer to come to London, the more especially as the performances arranged for by Mr. Schulz Curtius, will be under the direct sanction of Frau Cosima Wagner, and in association with many of the Bayreuth people. Of course, the performances will be given in German, and this time they will be without "cuts," so that the music will be heard in all the severity of its relentless length. At Bayreuth there is an hour's break between each act, when the German audiences, who have dined in the middle of the day, refresh themselves with lager beer and other beverages until the trumpet sounds some of the Nibelungen themes to recall them back to the theatre, the performances closing before supper time. The audiences of the Royal Opera, however, can hardly be expected to wander about the purlieus of Covent Garden Market on a June night, waiting for the vocalists to recover their voices. Accordingly, there will be only one long break, namely, between half-past six and eight, when people will have an opportunity of dining. The Strand restaurants ought, therefore, to subsidise the German performances pretty largely. It is apparently hoped by the projectors of this scheme that the aristocracy will be willing to sacrifice the summer afternoon's sunshine in order to assemble in the Covent Garden Opera House at five o'clock to indulge in a gorge of Wagner until eleven. I, however, venture to predict that a considerable portion, at any rate of the lady subscribers to the Royal Opera, will take the liberty of coming in after the first act, namely, at eight o'clock. The new arrangement will, for one reason, be appreciated by the gallery folk, as the performances will be over about eleven, so that they will be able to catch their last omnibuses and trains. So far as the subscribers of the Royal Opera are concerned, they would probably prefer that the performances should run on till one o'clock in the morning. Or, in the alternative, we may this season see invitations issued for "five o'clock" tea in an opera box.

There will be no other opera season this summer. The Italian papers, it is true, state that agents are engaging artists in Milan for a rival opera season. But this rumour is a hardy annual, and a self-evident absurdity. Without the support of the subscribers, Covent Garden itself could not remain open a month. While the present generous conditions are observed at Covent Garden, no rival subscription list is possible. Moreover, no theatre is available. Even the English operatic scheme projected at Drury Lane at Easter has been postponed, as a revival of "White Heather" is rightly thought likely to be more profitable. The new Her Majesty's has been found unsuitable for opera, and if a complete company comprising a rejuvenated Titiens, Nilsson, Jenny Lind, Alboni, Mario, Tamburini, and Lablache were available to-morrow morning, the richest city in the world could not provide them with a suitable opera house, at any rate until the Opera Syndicate have become tired of Covent Garden. A rival opera scheme is, therefore, sheer nonsense. An autumn season is, however, quite on the cards.

It is reported in the papers that the Bishop of Newcastle, N.S.W., and the Bishop of North Queensland, recently took part in a service at the Church Army's City Church, St. Mary-at-Hill, and that afterwards the Bishops were present "at the usual supper to fifty starving men." I wonder whether those fifty starving men were candidates for the post of organist at this place of worship. It will be recollected that three weeks ago I published the list of requirements for an organist at St. Mary-at Hill, the fortunate incumbent of the post being required to take part on Sundays at choral celebration at 9 a.m., Sunday school 11 and 3, sacred concert 6, lantern choral even-song at 7, and instruction service 8 to 9, besides daily organ recitals, practices and performances of a small orchestra, a choir, and a brass band. It was frankly stated that only "three hours a day" were free "for giving lessons, rest, or recreation," the remaining time of the organist, lest doubtless Satan might find mischief still for idle hands to do, being filled up in "helping the officer in charge of the City Samaritan Office and finding work for the destitute." For these multifarious duties the munificent salary was offered of £52 a year, with lodging free, but bedroom to be "shared with an evangelist."

The Rev. W. Carlile, Rector of St. Mary-at-Hill, has now issued an explanation of this delightful circular. In my opinion, it makes matters no better. The reverend gentleman explains that the hours of "our Samaritan" office are "only from nine to five," while "three hours are allowed out of this for pupils, and one hour for dinner, making a working day of four hours for five days a week." He adds: "Sunday duty amounts to six hours, making, with two hours for practice, twenty-eight hours for twenty shillings, or 8½d. per hour." Mr. Carlile manifestly thinks this a royal wage, to say nothing of the privilege of abstaining from alcohol and tobacco and sharing a bedroom with an "evangelist." I regret I do not agree with him. Even the best of charities should, I think, be innocent of sweating. Indeed, nothing, I should imagine, could better exemplify the need of an Organists' Trade-Union, a duty which the Royal College of Organists or the Incorporated Society of Musicians might usefully have taken up. Many a British artisan would turn up his nose at "8½d. per hour," particularly as a great portion of this is Sunday labour. What, then, can be thought of such a fee for a highly and expensively trained musician? The Rev. Mr. Carlile, however, seems to be personally aggrieved at the criticisms which have been passed upon the adequacy of the salary. He declares:—

> I maintain that, though the pay is small, it is fair and sufficient for a young beginner, while the accusation of sweating is altogether unfair, and particularly so while I have had numerous applications to do most of the work for less than half of what I offered.

All I need add is that if the reverend gentleman's facts are correct, there is all the more need of an Organists' Trades-Union. The plea that others are ready to do the work,

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after a fashion (a "young beginner's" fashion) at a lower price is a favourite argument of the "sweater." It is inadmissible at St. Mary-at-Hill, which is a celebrated musical church, and it is certainly not the place for a young beginner. Its services are rightly attractive, and they are frequently attended by 800 or 1,000 people. If it be a fact that the Rector has received numerous offers to do the work at fourpence farthing per hour, it only furnishes an additional reason why parents should avoid music or, at any rate, organ music, as a profession for the young. Barrel-organ music would pay a good deal better.

Two or three weeks ago I guilelessly printed a paragraph concerning the petition which was being signed in the hope of securing a Civil List pension for the widow of the distinguished organist, Mr. W. T. Best, of Liverpool. Something was said about the Corporation of Liverpool, who merely gave Mrs. Best £160, the balance of her husband's salary for the rest of the year. In reply, I had a letter from an Alderman of Liverpool, who—as it seemed to me very pertinently—pointed out that the Corporation had no power under their Act of Parliament to grant pensions to widows of persons in their employ. Upon this I have now received from Mr. J. C. Sotherland, of Liverpool, a species of volume of ten folio sheets, each 13 in. by 16 in. and weighing an ounce or so short of half a pound avoirdupois. He modestly suggests that if the document is too long (which it most certainly is) it should be cut in half and published in two detachments. As, however, this would imply my devoting to the communication something like three pages of TRUTH, I may perhaps—I hope without discourtesy—be excused from accepting the suggestion. I can assure my readers, however, that they miss much owing to this gentleman's redundancy. I will merely quote the following commendably brief sentence (it all runs on without break) as an example of the vigor and thoroughness of his style:—

> No one can possibly feel aggrieved with you for printing grossly incorrect statements when you, as in this instance, received your information direct from a source usually spoken of as the Fountain Head, the misfortune being that in this case the Fountain Head was a singularly muddled one, so muddled that one feels justified, perfectly justified, in expressing a sense of not only keen annoyance but downright indignation that an individual so muddled, confused, and ignorant, should have the rashness, the impudence, to send you misleading, grossly incorrect, and preposterous rubbish, which he has caused you to circulate through the medium of your world widely-read columns; and I again repeat, that the concocter of this trash owes you, and not only you, sir, but your readers, and particularly your musical readers, an apology, and an ample one, for the misleading and grossly incorrect statements which, through his presumptuous ignorance, have appeared in your columns.

I, however, take the liberty of summarising Mr. Sotherland's letter. Mr. Best's salary, he says, was £375, and not £400 a year, the balance being contributed to the superannuation fund. Consequently, on his retirement, not £200 but £240 5s. per annum was paid him as pension for the rest of his life as an absolute right. The £160 granted to Mrs. Best was the balance of her husband's pension for the rest of the year. Mr. Sotherland admits that the Corporation have no power to give Mrs. Best a pension, but he seems to indicate that the citizens of Liverpool would condone any little arrangement with the auditors.

Mr. Sotherland, however, is able to put forward very cogent reasons, which most of us will cordially endorse, for a favourable consideration on the part of Mr. Balfour of the petition for a Civil List pension to Mrs. Best. Best left a little money, which would amply keep the widow herself. But, unfortunately, not only has she an unmarried daughter, but also a son, who, when in a merchant's office in South America, was stricken with an almost fatal attack of typhoid fever, which left him with a mind unhinged and permanently disordered, necessitating his detention in a private asylum. Best's Civil List pension of £100 a year was devoted by him to the keep of this young fellow in an asylum. Now, however, for economy's sake, young Mr. Best has been removed to Dr. Stanley Gill's institution at the reduced cost of £70 or £80 a year, which comes out of the widow's slenderly-lined pocket. As Mrs. Best is now seventy, it is not likely that she will long enjoy any pension that Mr. Balfour may see right to award her. But the case, I venture to think, is at least as deserving as those of widows of other musicians (two of them certainly with near relations in very comfortable circumstances) who within the past few years have received Civil List pensions, although by no means in the same pecuniary straits. This is the gist of Mr. Sotherland's communication—a weighty affair in more sense of the term than one.

We are, it seems, this summer again to have an imported foreign band at the Imperial Institute. According to Ricordi's paper, the *Gazzetta Musicale* of Milan, an Italian orchestra, conducted by Signor Leandro Campanari, has been engaged, thanks to the influence of Signor Randegger, conductor of the Norwich Festivals. Whether we are also indebted to Signor Randegger for the replacement of British novelties at the Norwich Festivals by the masterpieces of Mancinelli and Bottesini, I am unaware. But Signor Randegger has been for many years past in the well-earned enjoyment of a large income from British purses, so that, if the *Gazzetta Musicale* is right, he should, I think, in common gratitude, have reserved his efforts at the Imperial Institute for British orchestras. As to the conduct of the authorities of the Imperial Institute, which was founded out of British and not by Italian money, something more may be said hereafter.

I beg to extend my condoleences to Mme. Patti, who last week became a widow. The death of M. Nicolini was, of course, by no means unexpected. He had, indeed, during the past few months absolutely wasted away, according to some doctors, of a malignant growth; according to others, of a liver complaint. At any rate, his state was hopeless, and, after a sojourn at a Welsh seaside resort, he went to Pau, where last week he died, and was interred in the pretty cemetery there. Mme. Patti meanwhile had refused nearly all professional engagements, and, indeed, the only date at present fixed for her is, I believe, that in June, at which she will sing on the Handel Orchestra of the Crystal Palace. She will not yet return to Craig-y-Nos, which I should not be surprised to hear is open to be disposed of to a suitable purchaser.

The Crystal Palace directors have issued for their new season of Saturday concerts a prospectus which contains barely a single novelty. Indeed, as the performances will be given between March and May, a time of the year when concerts are taking place in London proper at the rate of forty or fifty a week, novelties at Sydenham would probably pass more or less without notice. Accordingly the directors propose to devote themselves to certain favourite and, in some cases, hackneyed works of the ordinary repertory mainly, no doubt, in order to attract the amateurs of the locality. They will, of course, also rely upon the drawing powers of several eminent artists, amongst others, Dr. Joachim, Mr. Santley, Mr. Borwick, Mr. Lamond, Mme. Russell, Lady Halle, and M. Gabrilowitsch. Whether ordinary programmes of favourite works, but without novelties, will attract the residents of Sydenham is an experiment which well deserves to be tried.

The music of the week has been of comparatively little importance. English music, as exemplified by Mr. Cowen's "Scandinavian" symphony, drew, as usual, only a small audience to the Queen's Hall Orchestral Concert on Saturday, when M. Rivarde made his reappearance, and played Mendelssohn's violin concerto. At the Popular Concert on Saturday, Lady Halle led a fine interpretation of Schubert's Quintet in C, while, on Monday, the programme was devoted exclusively to Beethoven. M. de Greef, a Belgian pianist who is better in lighter pieces than in Beethoven, has given another recital; while Herr Stradal, in association with Mr. Armbruster, gave us on Monday a hearing for pianoforte duets of Liszt's "Dante" and "Faust" symphonies.

MORTLOCK'S (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "MORTLOCK'S" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Mr. Crowest's interesting life of "Verdi" (1) is another illustration of the vanity of contemporary criticism of a genius, and of the fallibility of the only Pope left to us—the journalist's "we." It is nothing short of ludicrous to read the savage and silly criticisms of the *Times* and of the *Athenæum* upon operas of Verdi's which are allowed to-day by all men and journals to be masterpieces. The truth is the rays of a fixed star, which shines by its own light and for ever, take years to reach us, because of its being so far above and beyond our system; whereas a meteor, being within our system and our range, challenges every eye for a moment; but it is a brief moment:—

> Brief as the lightning in the collied night,
> That ere a man hath power to say, "Behold!"
> The jaws of darkness do devour it up.

It was fortunate for Verdi that he had not to indemnify for their sufferings all the critics of these early days who pronounced his music atrocious, as he had to indemnify the audacious Aristarchus of the following delightful story:—

> When the "Aida" was produced at Milan in 1872, a certain person named Bertoni went from a neighbouring village to hear it—his outing, including supper, cost him fifteen francs ninety centimes. He happened not to like the opera. However, the next day, on finding it praised on all sides, he resolved to give it another trial. Accordingly, when it was again performed he went for a second time to hear it, spent twenty francs, and was more dissatisfied than ever. Full of anger, he wrote to Verdi, telling him that the opera was a failure, doomed to early oblivion, and asking for the return of thirty-five francs ninety centimes, which sum he alleged he had wasted on going to hear it! Verdi was not offended. He sided with the aggrieved one. Taking a pen in hand, he authorised his publisher to send Signor Bertoni thirty-one francs fifty centimes, adding, "It is not quite as much as the gentleman demands, but I think he could have had his supper at home!"

Apropos of Verdi and Press criticisms of his work, it is at once interesting and instructive to contrast our own views of contemporary English dramatists with those of so competent and sympathetic a foreigner as M. Augustin Filon. His "English Stage" (2), translated from the French by Mr. Frederick White, and introduced to us by Mr. Henry Arthur Jones in an able but acrid preface, gives probably an approximate estimate of the place dramatists of our day will hold with "Prince Posterity." Of that one of them who is most likely to survive and attract the notice of his Highness—Tennyson—M. Augustin Filon has a far higher opinion as a dramatist than the poet's own countrymen have conceded to him. Of "Becket," indeed, and of "The Falcon" and "The Cup," M. Filon does not think as highly as their success upon the London stage seemed to place them in English judgment, but to "Queen Mary" and to "Harold" he gives almost Shakesperian rank. By the way, it is odd to find M. Filon discovering in "The Falcon" a likeness to a tale told by Boccaccio. "It is like a tale by Boccaccio, but by a Boccaccio who is ingenuous and pure." In the first place, a large number of Boccaccio's tales are ingenuous and pure, and, in the second place, "The Falcon" *is* a tale told by Boccaccio—Fifth Day: Novel IX.—which Tennyson simply dramatised. Another translation from the French may appropriately be mentioned while on the subject of the English stage, M. Waliszewski's most interesting biography of "Peter the Great" (3) which has just appeared in a second—one volume—edition. "Jonathan Wild The Great," was a mild, moral, and magnanimous humanitarian compared with M. Waliszewski's ruffianly hero, who was simply a wild beast with brains. It is true that his biographer in one place professes to disbelieve that his hero was a were-wolf, but he thereby contradicts not only his biography generally but himself specifically:—

> I can discover nothing in Peter's case which would point to the authentic mark of a real wild beast—the greedy delight in inflicting suffering, the downright taste for blood. He shows no sign of anything of this kind; there is not even an habitual condition of sanguinary fury.

When, however, you come to Peter's murder of his son Alexis—which was in perfect keeping with his other ferocious crimes—M. Waliszewski tells you that "his inquisitorial tastes, his instincts as a despot and a merciless judge, were all excited. He thirsted for blood." It is interesting to compare the most probable account of Alexis' murder with that Mr. Irving has adopted:—

> "On the day of the Prince's death, the Tsar, accompanied by Tolstoï, went to the fortress and into one of the vaulted dungeons, furnished with gallows and all other necessary preparations for applying the knout. The unhappy wretch was brought in, and having been fastened up, he was given numerous blows with the knout, and—though I am not sure of this," says Lefort, who was in the Tsar's service—"I have been assured that his father struck the first blows. The same thing was done at ten o'clock in the morning, and towards four o'clock he was so ill-treated that he died under the lash."

Count Rabutin, the Emperor's Resident, is more definite in his assertions:—

> Peter struck his son, and, as he did not know how to use the knout, he struck so hard that the poor wretch fell swooning to the ground, and the ministers thought he was dead.

But Alexis had only fainted, and when he had recovered Peter said angrily, as he moved away, "The devil will not take him yet!" In fact, the "journal" of the St. Petersburg garrison leaves little doubt that the wretched Alexis was knouted to death in the presence, if not by the hands, of his own father:—

> On June 14 a special torture-chamber was arranged in the Troubetzkoï bastion, in a casemate close to the dungeon in which, on that same day, the Tsarevitch had been shut up. On the 19th two visits were paid to this chamber, the first from noon to one o'clock, and the second from six to nine o'clock in the evening. The following day a third visit was paid, from eight to eleven, and on the 24th, two more, one from ten o'clock in the morning till noon, and the other from six till ten o'clock at night. On the 26th there was yet another visit, in the Tsar's presence, from eight o'clock in the morning till eleven; and that same day, at six o'clock in the evening, the Tsarevitch died.

To call Peter a wild beast is grossly unfair—to wild beasts. "There is no wild beast in the world," says Julian the Apostate, "so much to be feared by man as man." Apropos of the murder of Princes and of the diabolical cruelty of man, you will find in a truly delightful book of travel, Mrs. Bishop's (Miss Bird) "Korea and Her Neighbours" (4), a revolting account of the murder of the Queen of Korea—a singularly able and winning woman—by the Japanese in 1895. After she was stabbed, but probably before she was dead, kerosene was poured over her body, and fired!—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

(1) "Verdi. Man and Musician." His Biography, with Especial Reference to his English Experiences. By Frederick J. Crowest. (London: John Milne. Price 7s. 6d.)

(2) "The English Stage." Being an Account of the Victorian Drama. By Augustin Filon. Translated from the French by Frederick White. With an Introduction by Henry Arthur Jones. (London: John Milne. Price 7s. 6d.)

(3) "Peter the Great." By K. Waliszewski. Translated from the French by Lady Mary Loyd. With a Portrait. (London: William Heinemann. Price 6s.)

(4) "Korea and Her Neighbours." A Narrative of Travel, with an Account of the Recent Vicissitudes and Present Position of the Country. By Mrs. Bishop (Isabella L. Bird). With a Preface by Sir Walter C. Hillier, K.C.M.G. With Maps and Illustrations. Two vols. (London: John Murray. Price 24s.)

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Miss Lily Chetwynd had a very wet day for her wedding, but, after all, the weather really makes very little difference. Brides have not time to think of such trifles. She was the gentlest, sweetest, quietest bride I have ever seen. There was absolutely not one scrap of self-consciousness about her as she quietly moved up the aisle, in her lovely lace gown and her jewels, which seemed to have walked straight out of an "Arabian Nights" story. Emeralds and diamonds! Emeralds and diamonds! Emeralds and diamonds! Even the sound is pretty, is it not? And it is said that the gifts of jewellery given her by her bridegroom have been valued at £100,000. His presents numbered fifty-seven, so you may imagine how devoted he is. "Lily, from Ux," occurred again and again, and again and again among the cards denoting the givers of the magnificent wedding presents. Those she wore on her wedding day were a pearl dog-collar round

her slight waist, fastened with a diamond and emerald clasp, a long chain of diamonds passed two or three times round her neck, supporting a magnificent emerald and diamond pendant, and a pearl necklace with crossing ends.

But it was her delicious dress that fairly captivated me. Instead of the usual stiff and trying white satin, she wore the softest and most exquisite Brussels lace, arranged in flounces, all softly falling, under the long Court train, which was embroidered in diamonds, and hemmed with orange blossoms. Her veil was of similar filmy lace, disposed over a tiara made of orange blossoms, and she carried in her hand a few sprays of Annunciation lilies. I hope she has been photographed, for she made a most delicious picture.

Her train was held by two pretty boys in white satin Georgian suits. After these came two tiny bridesmaids all in white and turquoise blue, and these were followed by ten grown-up bridesmaids. Their dresses were very pretty, white satin, girdled with turquoise blue, and with folds to match round the neck. The ceremony, including an address delivered in the most pedagogic voice I ever heard, occupied exactly eight minutes. It must have been about the shortest on record. There was no music, the Pope not approving of the marriage, as the bridegroom is a Protestant.

The congregation was one of the most brilliant ever assembled on similar occasions. The bride's mother wore a princess dress of palest mauve cloth, almost lavender, the cut of which showed off her lovely little figure to perfection. A band of soft rose-pink about the neck brought it into harmony with the toque of pale mauve and bright pink, which exactly suited the wearer's inimitable colouring.

The dress, in fact, was far the smartest we have seen for ever so long. There were capes that we *had* to covet, unwilling as we were to yield to anything so naughty. One was sable of the darkest and deepest, with chinchilla let into it in deep points and continued up the collar, which was lined with sable. Another was sable, with a deep frill of the same fur, and a third consisted of russet velvet, with rows of grey fur placed horizontally upon it. A sable toque was another delicious item, being turned up with brown and white feathers, and raised, though very slightly, at one side with Russian violets. Mrs. Arthur Paget's emerald green coat was a fine bit of colour, and was worn by probably the only woman in the church who could have ventured upon it with impunity. Good complexions are common enough, but perfect ones are not so usual. Most of the gowns were turned back with soft whiteness in the form of chiffon or lace, fastened with multitudinous diamond ornaments. Several of the toques were all a mass of bright steel at one side, some of them on both sides. Too much glitter, Amy, too much glitter! Grey was, however, the prevailing colour, as it has been now for a considerable time, as I think I remarked last week.

The dresses in "Trelawny of the 'Wells'" at the Court Theatre are quite too fearfully awful. Can it be possible that Englishwomen ever wore such huge and hideous crinolines? I admired the perfect unconsciousness of the actresses of anything unusual in their garments as they whisked their immense hoops about. Even the servant girl had a crinoline and a chignon, the former allowing the audience distinctly to perceive the dilapidated condition of her shoes and stockings. But even at their best, white stockings looked frightful, and as to the boots with elastic sides, they seemed a remarkably hideous style of footgear. The only tolerable dress was the rose-coloured silk worn by Miss Irene Vanbrugh in the third act, when she is sampling domestic life in Cavendish-square. The arrangement of the wall papers and the pictures on the walls all breathed of a period when art was asleep, and the colours of the dresses were eloquent on the same theme. Miss Pattie Browne wore a most excruciating blue in the first act, and Miss Eva Williams a bright arsenic green in the third. The trimmings of the latter were beyond expression senseless and irrelevant, just as trimmings were wont to be in the Sixties, as depicted by John Leech.

Oh, Amy! If you could only see the chignons at the Court! Huge mounds of hair are gathered into nets of the most excruciating colours—bright green, aniline blue, and a sort of russet, which, though perfectly abominable, was the least offensive of them all. Miss Hilda Spong, who managed to look very pretty in spite of everything, wears a most wonderful bonnet in the last act—a huge coal-scuttle, with a peak that rises high in the air. Her green gloves were atrocious, and some one else wore bright blue gloves, and some one else lilac. There was really so much to notice that I could go on enumerating the eccentricities of costume, but how thankful we ought to be that we do not live in such a barbarous sartorial period! It is very amusing to see it reproduced in accurate detail before our eyes on graceful and pretty women. The pit roared when the wearers of crinoline moved about in their apparently unmanageable rotundities, and every time a fresh specimen of 1860 dress entered, not a word could be heard for the laughter of the gods and pittites.

We went on the second night, when Society mustered strongly, partly to see the play and partly to see the Earl of Rosslyn, who plays a small part in it. By the way, dear, he wore a new sort of coat in the last act, when he comes in just after a journey. It was grey, edged all round with black braid, and the pockets were also bound with similar braid. I wonder if this is a new fashion, or if it, too, is a reminiscence of the Sixties?

Our own fashions will, doubtless, look ridiculous a few years hence, but they cannot possibly compete with crinolines and chignons in the direction of the ludicrous. It was almost refreshing to visit the Globe and see the very latest fashions of the present day as worn by the actresses in the pretty play, "A Bachelor's Romance." Miss May Harvey wears gowns that breathe of Paris. One of these is a dinner-gown in yellow brocade, with long sprays of apricot roses in relief, with their green leaves, all running downwards from the slender waist. On the front of the bodice and on either hip a large true-lover's knot is embroidered in diamonds, the long, wavy ends straying to the edge of the skirt. The front of the bodice is arranged in the very newest way, with the line of the gown rising high on the centre of the chest, and drooping low at the sides. A trimming in the shape of two pointed leaves, all covered with lines of diamonds, finishes it in the middle. The necklace worn with this dress was one of the new ones with crossing ends, so becoming! Another evening dress worn in this act was black, with the skirt set into a yoke, thickly jetted, and the whole of the front was alight with sparkling jet. From it issued frills of black net, rising towards the back, each standing out in absolute freshness, nothing of flatness marring the effect. The bodice was all frills, and the sleeves were a network of black and white, and long enough to cover the hands. The heroine's gown in this scene is a very graceful one in white satin with a Watteau from the centre of the shoulders flowing out in a long train. The bodice was swathed about with a deep, folded belt, also in white satin, the upper line of which was bordered with half-open roses, so pretty in connection with a young girl's first dance. In the idyllic country scene the ladies wear Arcadian frocks, which in themselves almost bring the scent of the hayfields across the footlights, being greatly assisted in this matter by the marvellous improvement wrought in Mr. Fred Kerr's complexion by haymaking, early hours, and a diet of raw apples and sweet milk. The buttercups and daisies on Miss Mona K. Oram's hat seem to have jumped there straight out of the meadows, and the sweet corn-coloured gown and red poppies of Miss May Harvey are in themselves an epic of rural joys in the prime of the year. If your *fiancé* were not a cleric he might be interested to hear that Mr. Hare wears a double stripe down his evening trousers, a fact I only mention in order to impartially share the sartorial information with both the sexes.

The children of the "Salon," that meritorious and very

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successful institution which has already endowed at least two cots in London hospitals and largely contributed to the fund for supplying poor School Board children with breakfasts and dinners, were entertained by "Levana," their fairy godmother, on Saturday at the Grafton Galleries. They mustered in great force, and the beautiful rooms were soon filled with happy groups. Mr. Sellar's much-discussed pictures covered the walls, and the Ladies' Mandolin and Guitar Band supplied sweet music, entertainments going on in the large room at intervals. Mrs. Wordsworth's pupils skirt danced to perfection, and gave examples of the half-forgotten old-world minuet. Little Miss Lina Verdi recited "A Little Bit of String," and lightly whirled in a mazy dance afterwards. A small boy played extremely well on the piano, and a tiny girl very cleverly recited. Miss Aida Jenoure sang "The Owl and The Pussy" with much animation, and the nursery songs given by Mr. Isham were a much appreciated novelty. There was conjuring, too, and tea downstairs in the beautiful banqueting hall was by no means the least pleasing item in a capital programme.

The Green Park Club has issued a list of dates of its forthcoming entertainments for Friday afternoons; February 4 is the next, and they recur every fortnight. We looked in at last Friday's, and found a smart crowd assembled, the members of which were congratulating themselves on the fogs having gone away. There have been several additions to the Club, including a new drawing-room in Moorish style, as well as a new writing room, both of which are reserved for the exclusive use of ladies. On the other hand, gentlemen are now permitted to be in the large French drawing-room as well as the dining-room on the first floor.

The next Carnival at Niagara is fixed for Friday, February 4, and there is to be a fancy ball at the Brighton Rink on February 18. How well these entertainments have caught on with the public. People seem never to tire of the pleasure of dressing up. It *is* interesting to see how one would look if Providence had arranged for one to be a gipsy, an early English Queen, a mediæval lady, or an Alsatian peasant. And I am sure a man of the ordinary, likable kind, who is not too good for human nature's daily food, is just as anxious to see how he would work out as a Chaucerian knight, a Sir Galahad, a Pope of Rome, a Greek warrior, a crusader, a roi fainéant, or a troubadour.

You will remember my telling you about the excellent Red Spider Association and the good work it is doing for poor ladies who could otherwise find no market for their work. Well, dear, a matinée musicale is to be held early in February for its benefit, at 53, Rutland-gate, by its very kind friend, Mrs. Hugh Bonham Carter. I hope it will be largely patronised, for one of its many good points is that the workers for it receive the entire value of the articles vended, less only the fraction needed to cover postage and other minute expenses. It is not always so with these benevolent undertakings, I assure you! I see that the Irish Industries Sale is to be held this year at Lansdowne House. This splendid mansion is so little known that the prospect of seeing it will prove a great draw, to the high benefit of the Sale. There is plenty going on, you see, in town, and I am fondly hoping that we are not going to have any winter. It would be too lovely. But, then the doctors say that the warm weather at this season favours influenza, which is now so rife. Our doctor advises us to take a dose of ammoniated quinine every time we go out as a preventive, and never to leave the house when hungry. This latter part of the prescription is pleasanter to follow than the former, for the ammoniated quinine is anything but agreeable to the palate. It is better than the "'Flu," though!

Christabel writes from Paris:—

I must begin with a word of warning. Pray don't be carried away with the reports in English papers that the so-called dress-improvers (?) are coming in again. They are certainly not worn here; quite the contrary, the skirts are made tighter and plainer than ever at the top—no fulness, gathers, or pleats at the back even—but they are so gored and cut so as to fall in fulness towards the base. This is the result of my inquiries at some of the first-rate houses, also of private information and observation.

This week Comtesse de Kessler gave a matinée, and entertained her friends with some charming theatricals. The pretty drawing-room stage was admirably arranged, and the pieces were well acted.

Here are a few of the pretty toilettes worn by the guests, comprising the élite of the American and English colonies, with a good sprinkling of Parisians. A very elegant costume was of pale grey velvet, made with a plain tight skirt, the bodice spangled with steel, plain sleeves with puff at the top, and toque of the same velvet, with grey feathers. A very stylish woman was in plain black velvet, the bodice pointed in front, with black satin ribbon round the waist forming the point, a little lace at the throat and small cuffs of the same; the toque-capote had a gold crown set with emeralds, from which rose three black ostrich feathers, forming a diadem in front. A muff of sable, lace, and sable tails completed this handsome costume. One lady wore black lace over white satin, with a capote to match. A very effective bodice was of black silk crêpon, with collar and revers of black satin, on which was laid some very handsome steel passementerie; the bonnet was black velvet and feathers, with steel ornament.

There was a rather pretty wedding at St. Philippe du Roule two days ago. The bride was in the orthodox white satin, with rich veil of Brussels lace and orange flowers. The bridegroom's mother wore black velvet spangled with steel, made quite plain, and bonnet to match. Her married daughter was in sapphire velvet, bordered with sable, and very splendid white lace on the bodice. Her small toque was velvet, sable, and lace. A very elegant dress was of silver-grey velvet, the skirt bordered with chinchilla The bodice had a narrow front of cerise velvet, over which fell a jabot of lace; the collar and waistband were also of cerise velvet, the sleeves tight with epaulettes bordered with chinchilla. The chinchilla toque had the crown draped with velvet, with white camellias at the side and an aigrette of mistletoe. The muff was chinchilla, lined with ermine, and a bow of cerise velvet at the side. It was rather a new shape, being smaller at the top, like a drawn bag.

Red and cerise will be much worn. In proof of which here are two blouse bodices just made by a large firm. The material of the first is red foulard, with a white pattern all over it. There is a yoke of lawn and guipure insertion, and red braid going across. The bodice below this is in small pleats to the waist, instead of the usual gathers; the sleeves have also small pleats at the top, and the fulness formed by these is drawn in again at the wrists in pleats in the form of cuffs.

The other is white taffetas, with red squares or checks. It is open V shape in front, with small black satin revers; there are folds of black satin round the neck, with a bow in front, and the V is filled in with a frilling of white chiffon. The blouse sleeves have small, pointed revers of black satin. Foulard seems rather cold at this season, but these things are prepared beforehand, and I send you them as a forecast.

Do you prefer home-made marmalade? This is a simple, but trustworthy, original recipe:—

Take as many Seville oranges as you wish (about a dozen), cut them through, then slice them as thinly as possible. Weigh the fruit, and to every pound put 3 pints of cold water; allow them to stand for 24 hours, then boil it quite slowly in a preserving pan until the chips are tender. Turn the mass into an earthen pan and allow it to stand again until next day. Now to every pound of the boiled fruit add 1 lb. of loaf-sugar. Boil it quickly for half an hour, when the chips should be quite transparent and the marmalade done. It will require frequent stirring during the last boiling.

Parmesan rings with anchovy cream make a charming savoury:—

To make the rings:—Rub 4 oz. of butter into 4 oz. of flour and 4 oz. of grated Parmesan cheese, season it with salt and a pinch of cayenne pepper, roll it out, cut it into rounds about 2 in. in diameter, and stamp out the centre with a much smaller cutter. Bake the rings a nice colour in a slow oven. Put the juice of half a lemon, a pinch of salt and pepper, and a dessert spoonful of

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essence of anchovy, into a gill of thick cream, and whip it until it is stiff. Now pile the cream in the centre of a silver dish, arrange the rings round the base, and sprinkle the top with coralline pepper.

These rice croquettes with tomato sauce form an admirable little entrée:—

Shower 2 oz of Carolina rice into half a pint of boiling stock, and allow it to simmer until the rice has absorbed all the moisture, and is quite soft. Season it with salt, pepper, a dessert spoonful of grated Parmesan cheese, and a teaspoonful of chopped parsley. Mix in the yolks of 2 eggs, and put it aside to cool Then form the mixture into barrel-shaped croquettes, roll them in bread crumbs, then in beaten egg, and again in bread crumbs. Fry them a nice colour in hot lard, drain them on paper, arrange them in a pyramid on a thin border of mashed potato, and pour good tomato sauce round it.

A nursery novelty:—

Pare six large apples, take out the cores, and put them into a stewpan, add ¼ lb. of sugar, a little cinnamon, and 2 tablespoonfuls of water. Cook them over a slow fire, stirring constantly. When thick, or like a marmalade, remove them, and allow them to stand until cold. Beat well the yolks of 4 eggs, then stir in a tablespoonful of breadcrumbs and 2 oz. of liquid butter. Mix it with the apple pulp, place all in a well-greased and ornamental mould. Set it in a slow oven. When cooked place it upon a dish. Whip the whites of the eggs to a froth, adding about a teaspoonful of rose water. With this decorate the pudding, and throw over it tiny comfits of many colours.

Haricot beans are excellent dressed in this way. They can be served as an entrée or for second course. Before cooking it is necessary to rub off the fine skin and soak them in cold water over night:—

Put half a pint of beans in a stewpan with 1 oz. of butter and sufficient cold water to cover them, stew the beans until tender, and strain in a colander. Make half a pint of white sauce, and cook five or six white mushrooms in salted water, to which must be added a small piece of butter and the juice of half a small lemon. Now make the beans hot in the sauce, add the minced mushrooms, a little cream, the yolk of an egg, and salt and pepper to taste. Serve the beans in a dish that is stuck with a border of fried croûtons, place poached eggs on the top, sprinkle each with coralline pepper, and serve at once.

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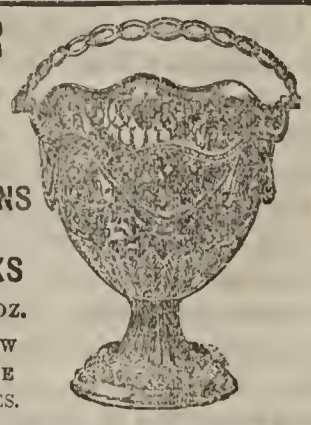

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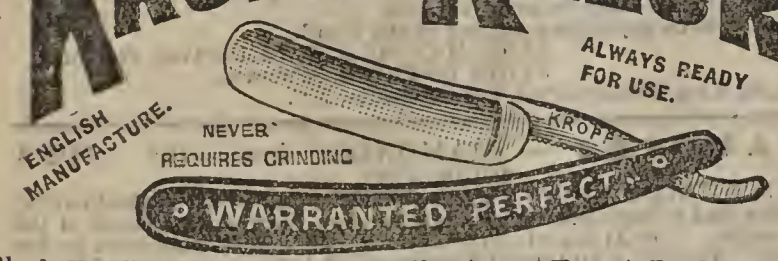

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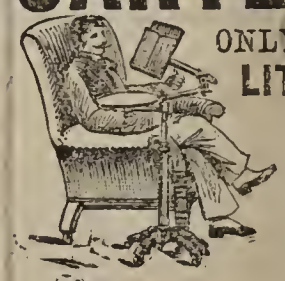

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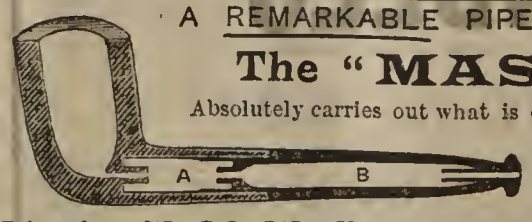

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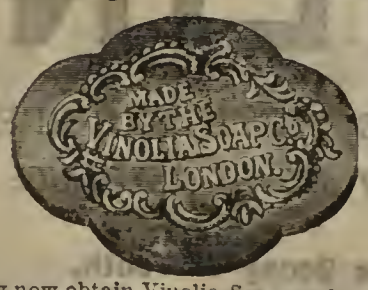

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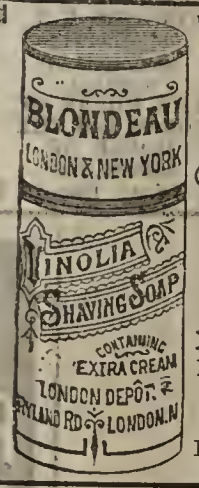

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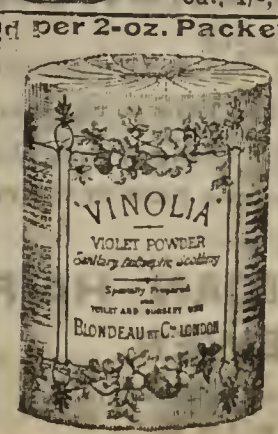

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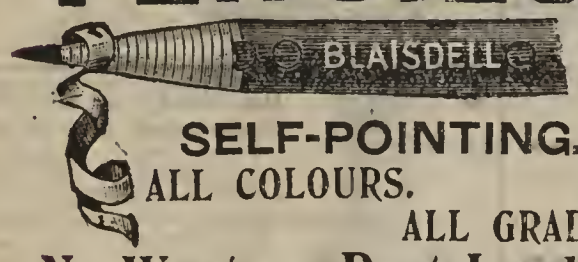

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Orders exceeding £25 delivered Carriage Free.

All are thoroughly good plants in every way, and are grown from seeds collected in the celebrated Forests of Strathspey. They can therefore be relied upon as the best procurable, and are sure to do well, when planted out into cold and bleak situations.

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WISEMAN,
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Telegrams; "Wiseman, Elgin."

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WATER ABSOLUTELY FREE FROM DISEASE GERMS, BY USING THE

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FOR THE PRIVATE HOUSE OFFICE, FACTORY, HOTELS RESTAURANTS, CLUBS, &c. &c.

Can be Easily and Cheaply Fixed to the Service-Pipe of any HOUSE having ordinary pressure.

Supplied to H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES, DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, K.G., and others too numerous to mention; THE HOUSE OF LORDS, and THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Glass and Earthenware Table Filters, price from 8s. 9d. each.
In use in all the Principal Hotels. Simple in Construction. Most easily cleaned.
PRICE FOR FILTER AS ABOVE, 42s.
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Offices and Show-Rooms:
The BERKEFELD FILTER Co. Ltd.
121 Oxford St. London W.

NOTE.—Joseph Lunt, B.Sc., F.C.S., British Institute of Preventive Medicine, in his report on the Berkefeld Filter, says, "Exhaustive experiments showed that with London tap-water strongly infected artificially WITH THE TYPHOID BACILLUS, not a single typhoid bacillus was detected IN THE FILTERED WATER for a period of 26 days."

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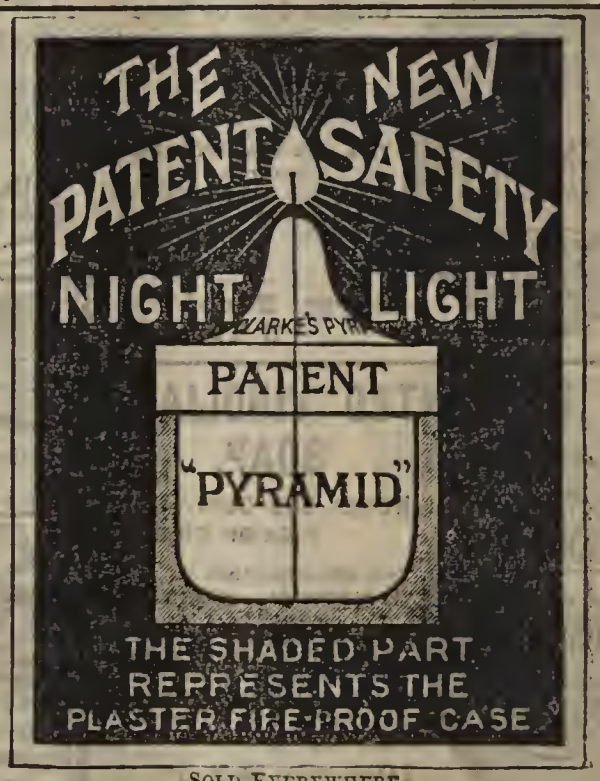

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Prevents the Hair from falling off.
Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.
Being delicately perfumed it leaves no unpleasant odour.
IS NOT a dye, and therefore does not stain the skin or even white linen.
Should be in every house where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.
Ask your Chemist or Hairdresser for

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per large Bottle.

Prepared only by the

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FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.

IS THE BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE IN THE WORLD.

Prevents the Decay of Teeth.
Renders the Teeth Pearly White.
Is perfectly Harmless and Delicious to the Taste.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World **2s. 6d.** per Bottle.

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Put up in Glass Jars, price 1s.

WOMEN'S LONDON GARDENING ASSOCIATION,
COURT FLORISTS,
62 and 64,
Lower Sloane-st., S.W.

ORIGINAL TABLE DECORATIONS.

Home-made JAMS, JELLIES, FRUIT-PICKLES, CONFECTIONERY, &c.

Bouquets, Sprays, Wreaths, and Floral Decorations of all kinds.

The Best CHAINLESS Cycle!

1898 THE BANTAM 1898

New Regd. 'Alpha' Frame.

List, Testimonials, and "Notes on the Bantam," free; also particulars of Bantamette, Crypto Safety, Gardner Back-Pedalling Brake, Collier 2-Speed Gear, Crypto Carrier-Cab, &c.

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For HAY FEVER, NEURALGIC PAINS, & COLDS in the HEAD, &c.?
If not, send 13½d. for a Box to
REECE & CO., Medical Hall, Piccadilly, London.
EFFECT SIMPLY MIRACULOUS.

Shall We Send You a Cat

ALOGUE OF GREENHOUSES from 30s.? BLOCK POULTRY AND RUSTIC HOUSES, IRON BUILDINGS, CHICKEN HOUSE RUNS AND COOPS, TIMBER, IRON, GLASS, AND SUNDRIES.
CLEARANCE SALE NOW ON
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MANUFACTURED BY
PALMERS' SHIPBUILDING AND IRON CO., LTD.
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SPEAKING-TUBE
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Showrooms: 6 Bruton-street, New Bond-street, W.

Best is Cheapest. Fixed prices.

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PURE WOOL
Underwear, Hose, Pyjamas, Rugs, Blankets, Cashmere Sheets, Dressing Gowns, Shawls, Corsets, Cycling Outfits, Boots & Shoes, Hats and Caps, &c., &c.

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3 and 4, PRINCES-STREET, CAVENDISH-SQUARE (near Regent-circus).
126, REGENT-STREET (near the Quadrant).
30, SLOANE-STREET (adjoining McPherson's Gymnasium).
456, STRAND (near Trafalgar-square).
85 and 86, CHEAPSIDE (near King-street).
TAILORING (only):—
42, CONDUIT-STREET, NEW BOND-STREET, W.

Goddard's Plate Powder
SIX GOLD MEDALS.

Non-Mercurial.
THE BEST and SAFEST article for CLEANING SILVER and ELECTRO PLATE. Sold in Boxes, 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. each, by Grocers, Oilmen, Chemists, &c., everywhere.

HUNDREDS OF TONS
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OF
HAIR ARE USED EVERY YEAR
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These Mattresses are made and finished in the most perfect manner, affording that measure of elasticity which is delightfully restful without being enervating.

Comfortable Hair Mattresses for Single Beds can be supplied for 27s. 6d., or for Double Beds at 42s.

SPECIAL PRICE LISTS of BEDDING POST FREE.

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LONDON AND PARIS

The SUBSCRIPTION LISTS will be open on TUESDAY, JANUARY 25th, and CLOSE for TOWN and COUNTRY on or before FRIDAY, JANUARY 28th, 1898, at FOUR p.m.

THE MOUNT LYELL PROPRIETARY MINES, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL - - £500,000,

In Shares of £1 each.

ISSUE OF 400,000 SHARES AT PAR.

Payable: 5s. on Application, 5s. on Allotment, 5s. February 25th next, and 5s. March 25th next, or the whole amount can be paid up in full on Allotment.

Of this issue, £100,000 in Cash or Shares is for Working Capital, leaving 100,000 Shares in reserve for additional Working Capital.

DIRECTORS.

SINCLAIR MACLEAY (Director the Ivanhoe Gold Corporation, Limited), 157, Winchester House, E.C.
D. E. CARDINALL (Director and Trustee for the Debenture Holders of the Manchester Brewery Company, Limited), 18, Cromwell-road, Brighton.
EDMOND KASTOR, 7, Rue Meyerbeer, Paris.
GERARD WELMAN, late Government Secretary, Selangor, Straits Settlements.
ALBERT T. WRIGHT (Messrs. Wright, Becket, & Co.), Water-street, Liverpool.
The Vendors have the right to nominate another Director after allotment.

Tasmanian Advisory Board.

The Hon. NICHOLAS J. BROWN, Member House Assembly, Member Executive Council, and late Minister of Mines and Public Works for the Colony of Tasmania, Hobart.
The Hon. N. E. LEWIS, Member Executive Council, and late Attorney-General for the Colony of Tasmania, Hobart.
A. G. D. BERNACCHI, J.P., Hobart.

Consulting Engineer.

MACNAMARA RUSSELL, Member Institute of Civil Engineers, 57A, Park-street, Grosvenor-square, W.

Bankers.

THE LONDON AND MIDLAND BANK, Limited, 52, Cornhill, E.C., and Branches. In Australia—Bank of Australasia.

Brokers.

G. H. and A. M. JAY, 17, Old Broad-street, and Stock Exchange, London; PIXTON & COPPOCK, 12, Half Moon-street, Manchester. JAMES KIRKWOOD & SON, 62, Buchanan-street, Glasgow; R. G. LAWS, 12, Mount Stuart-square, Cardiff.

Solicitors to the Company.—ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP & CO., 17, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C.

Solicitors to the Vendors.—BLYTH, DUTTON, HARTLEY, & BLYTH, 112, Gresham House, Old Broad-street, E.C.

Auditors.—CRAIG, GARDNER, & CO., 41, Moorgate-street, E.C., and at Dublin and Belfast.

Secretary *(pro tem.)* and Offices.—E. A. HORNE, 8, Princes-street, Bank, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This company is formed for the purpose of acquiring and working on an extended scale the remarkable copper properties lately owned by the Great Southern Mount Lyell Mining Syndicate (of Melbourne) (no liability), in the colony of Tasmania, and covering an area of 567 acres or thereabouts. The properties to be acquired by this company comprise the following mineral leases formerly held upon the usual conditions by the following local companies for terms of 21 years, renewable: (1) The Lyell Minerals Company, Limited; (2) Mount Lyell Tinto Company; (3) Lyell Junction Company; and (4) the original Great Southern Mount Lyell Syndicate. In addition to the above there are also included several adjoining leases originally granted to private individuals.

These properties are all situated in the immediate vicinity of the justly famous property owned by the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company, and consist of two blocks of 40 and 527 acres respectively. The boundary of the former block is about 66ft. east from the renowned "Crotty's Iron Blow," where the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company's principal workings are situated; it also adjoins on the North the King Lyell Mine. The block of 527 acres is separted from the smaller block of 40 acres by a narrow strip of land (to the south-east) belonging to the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company. The 40-acres block was selected and pegged out in August, 1891, by Mr. Macnamara Russell, M.I.C.E., and by Mr. A. Kelly. Its great value may be judged by its close proximity to Crotty's Iron Blow, the most wonderful copper deposit which probably the world has ever known. The properties are coloured blue on the map which accompanies the Prospectus.

THE 40-ACRE BLOCK.

Mr. G. Thureau, F.G.S., late Government Geologist and Chief Inspector of Mines, Tasmania, has made an exhaustive report on this block, which, as already stated, immediately adjoins the parent mine.

THE 527 ACRES.

Mr. George D. Gibson, M.A., Institute M.E., has made exhaustive reports upon the Company's territory comprised in the above-mentioned 527 acres, and which is almost the immediate extension south-easterly from the Great Mount Lyell Mine.

Having regard to the large area to be acquired by this Company, the Directors contemplate eventually the formation of subsidiary companies, to take over and work portions of the property.

The Mount Lyell Mining Company's railway line is now in operation, and by its statute that Company is under obligation to carry for the public. The North Mount Lyell Company have also recently obtained an Act, enabling them to construct another line to the coast, and this railway when completed will also be available for public traffic.

Application will be made for a Stock Exchange settlement and quotation of the Shares in due course.

Applications may be made for Shares on the forms accompanying the Prospectus.

Copies of the memorandum and articles of association of the Company, together with the above-mentioned reports and contracts, can be inspected at the Offices of the Company's solicitors.

Prospectuses and forms of application for Shares may be obtained from the Company's bankers, solicitors, brokers, or secretary, from whom all information can be obtained.

London, 21st January, 1898.

For the Weary, Wakeful, & Sick!

The

GORHAM BEDSTEAD

Doctors recommend.
Nurses delighted.
Press unanimous.

Buy or Hire it.

RELIEVES PAIN.

The *British Medical Journal* says:—"By means of a Gorham Bedstead any invalid may be placed in a reclining or sitting position, turned on the side, lifted and swung in an easy hammock, or placed sitting at table for eating, reading, or writing, by simply turning a wheel."

Fracture Patient using foot and seat rest for meals.

Now in use in the Principal Families & Hospitals

Write to-day for Illustrated Price List, Post Free from the

GORHAM PATENT BEDSTEAD Co. Ld,
3 to 6, South Place, Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

The Public Benefactor.

HOVIS BREAD

DISTRIBUTES HEALTH.

No loaf genuine unless stamped **HOVIS.**

All good class Bakers make and sell Hovis.

Hovis Flour and Biscuits can be obtained from all leading Bakers and Grocers, or 6d. and 1s. samples will be sent on receipt of stamps by—

S. FITTON & SON, Hovis Mills, Macclesfield.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £30,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.

THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd. Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE

63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.

THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD

SUN FIRE OFFICE FOUNDED 1710.

SUM INSURED IN 1896 - £388,952,800.

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The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY 5 PER CENT. GOLD BONDS, due 1925.

The undersigned are prepared to purchase on and after February 1st next, the coupons maturing on that date at their face value on Bonds of the above issue, which have been deposited with them, and will pay the amount thereof at the rate of 49 5-16d. per $, being £5 2s. 9d. per coupon, less English Income Tax, to the Holders of Trust Receipts issued under the Agreement of April 10th, 1896.

The Trust Receipts must be lodged for that purpose at the Offices of the undersigned, 7, Lothbury, London, E.C., and left three days in order that such purchase may be stamped thereon.

The suit of the Union Trust Company mentioned in the advertisement of August 3rd, 1897, is still pending.

London, January 24th, 1898. SPEYER BROTHERS.

"TRITICINE" FOR INVALIDS.

Toilet "Lanoline" For Delicate and Sensitive Skins. 6d. AND 1s.

"LANOLINE" Toilet Preparations "LANOLINE"

Dartring Brand. from all Chemists.

Wholesale Depôt:—67 HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON.

"Lanoline" Toilet Soap For Health and Beauty of the Skin. 6d. PER TABLET. 3 IN A BOX 1s. 6d.

THE LATE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD,
SIR MORELL MACKENZIE,
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,
MISS EMILY FAITHFUL,
THE LATE GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,

and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of

Himrod's Cure for Asthma.

Established over a Quarter of a Century.

Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt: 46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, LYNCH & CO., J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS, & CO., BUTLER & CRISPE, JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale Houses.

The PARISIAN DIAMOND CO.

"ORIENT" PEARL and DIAMOND CROWN.
A very exquisitely executed piece of Diamond work. Price £80 0 0.

THE
"Orient" Pearls.
THE COMPANY'S GREAT SPÉCIALITÉ.

143, Regent St., W,
THE COMPANY'S NEW BRANCH
(Opposite Liberty's, Chesham House).

GOLD MEDAL, PARIS, 1889.

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE POST FREE.

DIAMOND TIARA.
New Design. Set *à jour* in Real Diamond Mounts.
Price £27 0 0.

143, Regent St., W.
43, Burlington Arcade, W.

85, New Bond St., W.
And in Paris.

OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2. 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.
2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.
3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and, for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.
4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.
5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.
6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.
7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.
8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.
9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THEIR NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.
10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.
11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S-GATE, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 977.—AMUSING SAYING OF A CHILD.

PENDARLEY (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 987.—SUGGESTION FOR A ROUND GAME.

PAT-A-CAKE (real name and address will be published in due course) £1 1 0
AVIS (real name and address will be published in due course) £1 1 0

"TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW.—SPECIAL NOTICE.

Several prize-winners at the recent TRUTH Show have as yet failed to write for the prizes. May I ask them to make their selection at once, so that the prize distribution can be completed without delay.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. C.—The Rules of the Puzzle Competition forbid such a concession as you ask.

MUMPS.—I fail to see the analogy.

W. GIBSON.—The suggestion is a good one, and I thank you for it. As a fact, however, a similar competition was given in TRUTH about two years ago.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLES, Nos. 986 AND 988.

The result of these two competitions will be announced when Competitions Nos. 989 and 991 are decided.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 992.

The usual prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

THE BEST UP-TO-DATE PARODY OF BRET HARTE'S WELL-KNOWN VERSES "THE HEATHEN CHINEE."

The number of lines in the original must not be exceeded, and I need scarcely say that the rhythm and rhymes of the original should be adhered to as far as possible. All answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, February 7, at the latest.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 989.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

SELECTIONS OF THE BEST EPITAPHS ON (A) A PRIME MINISTER, (B) A 'BUS CONDUCTOR, (C) A LOW COMEDIAN, (D) A RAILWAY GUARD, (E) A STOCKBROKER.

A. Resigned to fate, not fated to resign. Quatre-
ras. B. Though he liked a short fare better, he
ook a long fare-well. G. R. M. C. Set up on high
hose that be low. C. F. Reid. D. We must all
ravel in his train. Elk. E. Anticipating "Arise."
inona.—Violette.

A. For now he hath obtained more excellent
ministry." C. F. Reid. B. He has taken his last
ire well. Roughty, Granite, and Ooloo. C. Rest-
ig. Mandeville, Pigtail. D. All change here.
ustic. E. Anticipating "Arise." Sinona. —
eorgina.

A. A prey to dissolution. Mac. B. Always
ehind—he is now gone before. Melrose. C. One
hom the "gods" loved. Roughty. D. He sleeps
ithout a break. Quilp. E. On earth a bull, a
ag, a bear, but human bones lie sleeping here.
'earside.—Bredon.

A. Dissolution has placed him in a great majority.
uilp. B. Mates, he has moved "higher up."
hittabob. C. He passes from the comic to the
ave. Excelsior. D. Now in the train of the
ints. Gallio. E. He died because he had no
ption. Quilp.—Gallio.

A. Returned to (higher) power with an over-
helming majority, Treddust. B. He had to travel
underground at last. Gallio. C. He has played
any a humorous rôle, now comes the grave.
perenza. D. He was ever in the van. Welsh
arp, Quatrebras. E. Awaiting settlement of
count after a deal in futures—with no option.
er Glowe.—A. D. P.

A. He has been sent for. Wig and Gown. B.
ways behind, he is now gone before. Melrose. C.
rtain. Tan Tun. D Among the sleepers still.
andeville. E. He got below par and broke. Wild
yme.—Wild Thyme.

A. Dissolution at last. Melrose. B. Always
hind, he is now gone before. Melrose. C. From
y to grave. The last was his first tragic exit.
loo. D. He was ever in the van. Welsh Harp.
Waiting for a rise. Mac.—Neptune.

A. A prey to dissolution. Mac. B. He has taken
last fare well. Roughty. C. From gay to
ve. Triumph. D. We must all change. Mer-
cutio. E. He died because he had no option. Quilp.
—Scotus Viator.

A. (Prime Minister). Here rests a great leader awaiting a coming session. Elk. B. (Bus Conductor.) Peace evermore, he lies inside who stood outside before. Triumph. C. (Low Comedian.) A higher rôle he plays now—drawn from life. Treddust. D. (Railway Guard.) He sleeps without a break. Quilp. E. (Stockbroker.) Life is a fluctuating game, here lies one who played it well. Violet. —Scotia.

A. For now he hath obtained more excellent ministry. C. F. Reid. B. Mors mihi omnibusque finis. Apemantus. C. Let not the pit shut her mouth upon me. Eston Villa. D. We must all change. Mercutio. E In this corner he confidently awaits a rise at the final settlement. Kappa. —Comma.

A. His place his safe with the majority. Ludwig B. B. Always behind, he is now gone before. Melrose. C. I've left the stage, and now occupy the pit. Apemantus. D. Among the sleepers still. Mandeville. E. Lying low, waiting for a rise. Ludwig B.—Ginger.

A. A prey to dissolution. Mac. B. Last home journey. Tan Tun. C. He has made his final exit. Wig and Gown. D. Waiting for the signal. Sinona. E. He has carried his account to the other side. Espèrance.—Nurse.

A. A prey to dissolution. Mac. B. He aspired to the box, and got it when death hailed him. Cochran Field. C. From gay to grave. Triumph. D. God guard him in death who was our guard in life. C. M. P. E. Waiting for a rise. Mac.—Viresco.

A. Resigned to fate, not fated to resign. Quatrebras. B. All the way. Frivola. C. From gay to grave. Rustic. D. All change here. Rustic. E. Ready for the last call. Welsh Harp.—Moonstone.

A. He has gone where there are no oppositions or divisions. J. M'Grigor Allan. B. He has given up the 'buses, and gone Underground. Great Gun. C. He'll tread the boards no more, but we hope the golden floor. Chittabob. D. May no signals be against him, may he keep away from the "stoker." Xnihps. E. His stock remains at par, waiting for a rise. Neko.—Blanche.

A. He has gone to take his seat in the Upper House. B. Mors omnibus communis. C. One whom the "gods" loved. D. We must all travel in his train. E. Gone to meet his last account.—Ivy Leaves.

A. He whom majorities followed now follows the majority. Mercutio. B. He has taken his last fare well. Roughty. C. From gay to grave. Triumph. D. His travelling days are o'er. Enigma. E. He awaits the great settling day. Wig and Gown.—N. C. N.

A. I have rest, the Commonwealth repose. Daniel. B. Mors omnibus communis. C. The last act crowns the play. D. A man can earn his Victoria Cross in charge of railway trains. E. He deserved hanging, but he died in his bed.—Paddy.

A. Resigned to fate, not fated to resign. Quatrebras. B. Formerly he went behind, now he's gone before. Simonides. C. From gay to grave. Simonides. D. All change here. Rustic. E. Waiting for a rise. Mac.—Seton.

A. Of his calling and election sure. Gallio. B. Gone to render his account. Sinona. C. He has passed from gay to grave. Almaviva. D. He rests after a long journey. Almaviva. E. Gone to his final settlement and account. Apemantus.—Geneva.

A. Summoned by Black Rod to the Upper House. Cogerach. B. He has taken his last fare well. Roughty. C. One whom the "gods" loved Roughty. D. He slips without a break. Quilp. E He has gone a deal further. A. E. L.—Yalgogrin.

A. From the steps of a throne a crown of his own. Robert Martin. B. On thy last journey fare thee well. Mandeville. C. From gay to grave. Simonides. Triumph. D. His journey done, his terminus won, he reaches home at last. Violet. E. Gone to his last account; life's ups and downs are o'er. Bredon. —Coloniensis.

A. For now he hath obtained more excellent ministry. C. F. Reid. B. Thou hast taken thy last fare—fare thee well. Esperanza. C. He has passed from gay to grave. Almaviva. D. His travelling

days are o'er. Enigma. E. He awaits the great settling day.—Generolf.

A. In recess here he calmly faces a grave situation. Ooloo. B. Who stood so long outside now lies at rest within. Haldon. C. If there be humour here, 'tis dry as dust. Envoy. D. We must all travel in his train. Elk. E. He has speculated much; now he knows. Esperanza (1).—Scissors.

A. O, fading honours of the dead! O, high ambition, lowly laid! Excelsior. B. Who stood so long outside now lies at rest within. Haldon. C. One whom the "gods" loved. Roughty. D. His journey done, his terminus won, he reaches home at last. Violet. E. Tired of this life of change, he rests here. Tonks.—Pickwick.

A. He has gone to take his seat in the Upper House. Esperance. B. Alive, he cried, "there's room above"; dead, he goes to prove it. Violet. C. One whom the "gods" loved. Roughty. D. For years he followed in the van, now he leads the way. Wearside. E. He died because he had no option. Quilp.—Molly Bawn.

A. Dissolution has placed him in a great majority. Quilp. B. His is the blessed assurance of escape from eternal woe (woa!) Quilp. C. A higher rôle he plays now—drawn from life. Treddust. D. He sleeps without a break. Quilp. E. He died because he had no option. Quilp.—Imara.

A. Dissolution at last. Melrose. B. He had to travel by underground at last. Gallio. C. Impersonator of the droll, How has the grave become thy rôle? Great Gun. D. Shunted to up line; awaiting signals. Scissors. E. On earth a bull, a stag, a bear, Yet human bones lie sleeping here. Wearside.—Ne Quid Nimis.

A. He whom majorities followed now follows the majority. Mercutio. B. His last drive was to the Angel. Sceptic. C. Who, losing his wit, fell into the pit. No Nom-de-plume put, but the last in the list. D. God guard him in death, who was our guard in life. C. M. P. E. What shall a man give in exchange for his soul. Aston Villa.—Bluebell.

A. For now he hath obtained a more excellent "ministry." C. F. Reid. B. Last home journey. Tan Tun. C. One whom the "gods" loved. Roughty. D. Waiting for the signal. Sinona. E. He is ready for the last call. Welsh Harp.—Pop.

A. Dissolution at last. Melrose. B. He has taken his last fare well. Roughty (and others). C. From gay to grave. Triumph (and others). D. Waiting for the signal. Sinona. E. He died because he had no option. Quilp.—Bertha.

A. After dissolution he retired from public life. Simonides. B. Changed into an angel. Ludwig B. C. He has played many a humorous rôle, now comes the grave. Esperanza. D. All change here. Rustic. E. Waiting for a rise. Mac.—Leaf Rule.

A. Gone out with the flowing tide. Roughty. B. Peace evermore; he lies inside who stood outside before. Triumph. C. "The gods" propitious, need he fear the "pit." Ludwig B. D. His journey done, his terminus won, he reaches home at last. Violet. E. In-vestment dull, earth holds him for a rise. Treddust.—Profond.

A. A prey to dissolution. Mac. B. He has taken his last "fare"-well. Granite. C. He has passed from gay to grave. Sceptre. D. In many a progressive movement he was in the van. Wig and gown. E. Gone to his final settlement and account. Apemantus.—Nodding Violet.

A. A prey to dissolution. Mac. B. He has taken his last "fare"-well. Granite. C. He has passed from gay to grave. Almaviva. D. He rests among the sleepers. Sceptre. E. He is ready for the last call. Welsh Harp.—Whig.

A. Of his calling and election sure. Gallio. B. Formerly he went behind, now he's gone before. Simonides. C. Let not the pit shut her mouth upon me. Aston Villa. D. Shunted to up line; awaiting signals. Scissors. E. He died because he had no option. Quilp.—Footer.

A. He has been sent for. Wig and Gown. B. Mors omnibus communis. C. F. Reid, Ivy Leaves. C. From gay to grave. Rustic, Triumph. D. Waiting for the signal. Sinona. E. Waiting for a rise. Mac, Frivola.—Cam.

A. He has been sent for. Wig and Gown. B. Higher up. Mac. C. Again he has chosen the better part. Quatrebras. D. Shunted at the terminus. Cogerach. E. Broke by a fall. Waiting for a rise. Wig and Gown.—Zoe.

A. Gone to the country during dissolution. Scissors. B. He has taken his last "fare" well. Granite. C. The "gods" propitious, need he fear the "pit?" Ludwig B. D. Once alert, but now a sleeper in a permanent way. Ooloo. E. Waiting for a rise. Mac.—Ooloo.

A. Dissolution has placed him in a great majority. Quilp. B. Changed into an "Angel." Ludwig B. C. He is keeping the pit in a roar. Melrose. D. We must all travel in his train. Elk. E. Waiting for a rise. Mac and Frivola.—Mercutio.

A. He has been sent for. Wig and Gown. B. He has given up the 'buses, and gone underground. Great Gun. C. One whom the "gods" loved. Roughty. D. He has gone on a journey without a break. A. E. L. E. He died because he had no option. Quilp.—Quilp.

A. Farewell, a long farewell to all my greatness. Tweet. B. Last home journey. Tan tun. C. He is now made up for a new part. Tweet. D. Right away for ever. Tan tun. E. Waiting for a rise. Mac.—Tweet.

A. I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. Aston Villa. B. Peace evermore; he lies inside who stood outside before. Triumph. C. Impersonator of the drole, how has the grave become thy rôle? Great Gun. D. We must all travel in his train. Elk. E. Though "dropped" awhile, we hope he'll "rise" again. Haldon.—Pelican.

A. For now he hath obtained more excellent ministry. C. F. Reid. B. Though he liked a short fare better, he took a long fare well. G. R. M. C. He played many a humorous rôle, now comes the grave. Esperanza. D. We must all change. Mercutis. E. He died because he had no option. Quilp.—Sinona.

A. Resigned to fate, not fated to resign. Quatrebras. B. Who stood so long outside now lies at rest within. Spaldon. C. Death took him off, who took off everybody. Cochran Field. D. Shunted at the terminus. Cogerach. E. On earth a bull, a stag, a bear, yet human bone lie sleeping here. Wearside.—Me.

A. He has been sent for. Wig and Gown. B. Last home journey. Tan Tun. C. He played his light part and the curtain fell. Elk. D. We must all travel in his train. Elk. E. Broke by a fall, waiting for a rise. Almaviva.—Ting.

A. From the steps of a throne to a crown of his own. Robert Martin. B. He has left the road-car for the underground. Treddust. C. From gay to grave, the last was his first tragic exit. Ooloo. D. God guard him in death, who was our guard in life. C. M. P. E. In-vestment dull, earth holds him for a rise. Treddust.—Lyudene.

A. He has been elevated to the Upper House. B. He has taken his last fare well. C. The curtain has dropped upon the scene. D. Here he has reached the terminus of life. E. He has gone to settle his account. Granite.—Harebell.

A. A prey to dissolution. Mac. B. He's gone higher up. Mercutio. C. From gay to grave. Triumph. D. He has reached the terminus, we must all follow in his train. Baritone. E. Waiting for a rise. Frivola.—Ali Baba.

A. A prey to dissolution. Mac. B. Mors omnibus communis. C. F. Reid and Ivy Leaves. C. From gay to grave. Triumph and Rustic. D. We must all change. Mercutio. E. Waiting for a rise. Mac and Frivola.—Woodlands.

A. Once the people's elect, now God's. Tonks. B. Mors omnibus communis. C. F. Reid and Ivy Leaves. C. He could raise the spirits, even of the grave.—Sceptic. D. God guard him in death who was our guard in life. C. M. P. E. What shall a man give in exchange for his soul.—Matt. xvi., 26.—Briony.

A. Dissolution has placed him in a great majority. Quilp. B. He was a man of fare (fair) dealings. Wild Thyme. C. Set up on high those that be low. C. F. Reid. D. For years he followed in the van, now he leads the way. Wearside. E. Anticipating a rise.—Sinona.—Susy.

A. Gone to another place. Caer Glowe. B. Last home journey. Tan Tun. C. From gay to grave. Triumph, Almaviva, Rustic, Simonides. D. Waiting for the signal. Sinona. E. He is ready for the last call. Welshharp.—Alicujus.

A. Here rests a great leader, awaiting a coming session. Elk. B. Thou hast taken thy last fare—fare thee well! Esperanza. C. From gay to grave. Rustic. D. All change here. Rustic. E. Gone to his final settlement and account. Apemantis.—Oceauia.

A. A prey to dissolution. Mac. B. Last home journey. Tan Tun. C. From gay to grave. Triumph. D. Gone off by the last express. No. 986, last specimen unsigned. E. Waiting for a rise. Mac.—Pentland.

A. A prey to dissolution. Mac. B. The angel and the world's end this journey only. Snaresbrook. C. He is in a new piece (peace). Phyllis. D. Gone off by the last express. No name. E. Settlement come, he has carried over and sent in his cheques. Max Straube.—Irma Lee.

A. For now he hath obtained more excellent "ministry." C. F. Reid. B. Higher up. Mac. C. If there be humour here, 'tis dry as dust. D. In the van on the up-line. Mac. E. He suffers change who once exchanged on 'Change. C. M. P.—Penea.

A. He has been sent for. Wig and Gown. B. Higher up. Mac. C. He played his light part and the curtain fell. Elk. D. We must all travel in his train. Elk. E. Broke by a fall, waiting for a rise. Almaviva.—Ten Nails.

A. Gone over to the majority. Pigtail. B. He has taken his last farewell. Granite. C. From gay to grave. Triumph. D. He has reached the terminus; we must all follow in his train. Baritone. E. Gone to his last account; life's ups and downs are o'er. Bredon.—Nescioquis.

A. A prey to dissolution. Mac. B. He has taken his last farewell. Granite, Roughty, &c. C. "The gods" propitious, need we fear "the pit?" Ludwig B. D. He was ever in the van. Quatrebras. E. On earth a bull, a stage, a bear, yet human bones lie sleeping here. Wearside.—McRabbit.

A. Here lie I; between mine and the other party lies the truth. Triumph's List. B. He has left the road-car for the "underground." Treddust's List. C. He brought down the house till he was himself brought low. Wild Thyme's List. D. Death took the wheel and put on the brake. Toria's List. E. He's gone to meet his last account. Elk's List.—Percina.

Answers have been received from Nettie, Kappa, Cogeragla, Audrey, Jelsberg, Osmond, Vicar, Lyons, Maria, Mosquito, Fanny Squeers, Twenty-five, Gonora, Taringa, Violette, Œdipus, Carima, Knight's Pawn, T. Helps, Hugo, Muff, Tom, Miss Rogers, Myra, Queensholme, Pilu Golal, Metchley, Melrose, Opera, Crock, Wyalony, Sissie, Sophrosyne, Waben, Quero, Nin Nin, Echo, Duky Pue, Thug Thug, Schanidge, Yoko, Esperanza, Cecilia, Percina, Ten Nails, Ludwig B, Nescroquis, Done Again, C. M. P., Irma Lee, Oceania, C. F. Reid, Alicujus, Fritz, Susy, Sceptic, Woodlands, Ali Baba, Harebell, Lyndene, Almaviva, M. E., Sinona, Pelican, Tweet, A. E. L., Mercutio, Ooloo, Quatrebras, Imperieuse, Cane, Footer, Whig. Nodding Violet, Baritone, Profound, Leaf Rule, Courage, Bertha, Crow, Squiny, Llwslly, Esmeralda, Pop, Peepysnoozle, Percentage, Blue Bells, Avis, Aldburn, Vinolia, The Quidnunc, W. G. B., Ismara, Wild Thyme, Rich Man, A. H., S. T. S., Molly Bawn, Pickwick, Scissors, Eenerolf, Andee, Hireling, Colonnusis, A. S., Dumnorix, Senex, Yulyogrin, Phiz, Geneva, Set On, Paddy, N. C. N., Ivy Leaves, Blanche, Moonstone, Viresco, Nurse, Ginger, Common Beginner, Scotia, Scotus Viator, Neptune, Wild Thyme, A. D. P., Georgina, Gallio, Bredon, Blossom, Hibernia, Miss Newall, Blossom, Viking, St. Anne, A. R. F., R. Martin, Dobby, G. Newall, The Hen, Subaltern, Golfer, Cygne, Crock, Trebor, LL. D., Cromwell, Boss, Laddie, and Charlwood.

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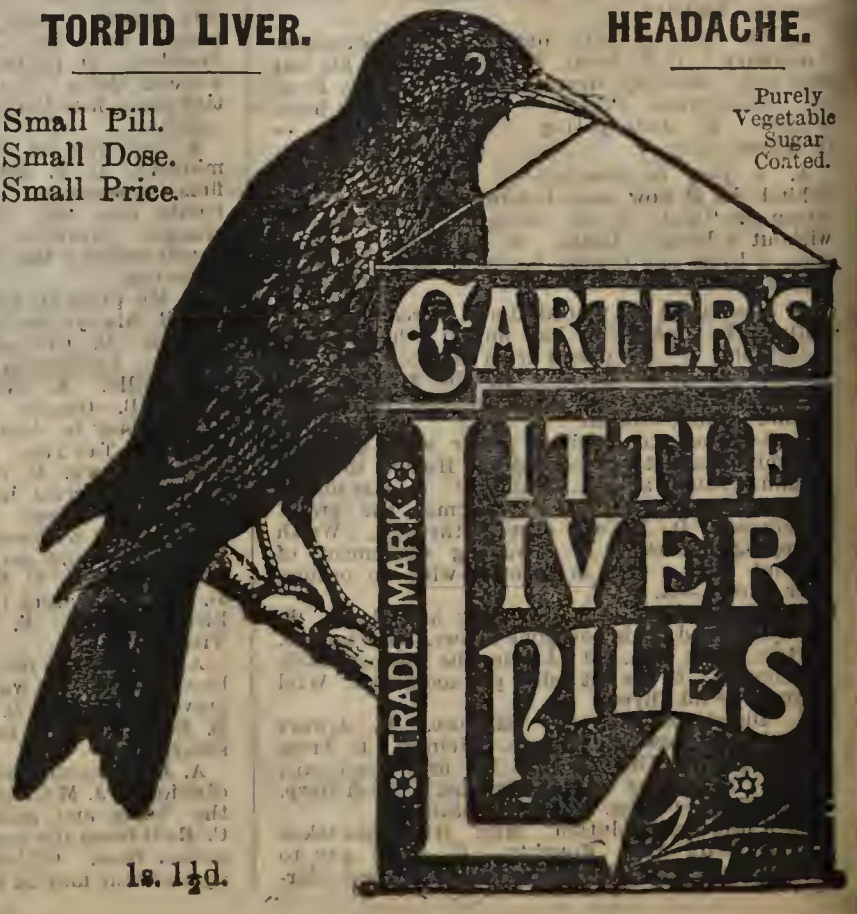

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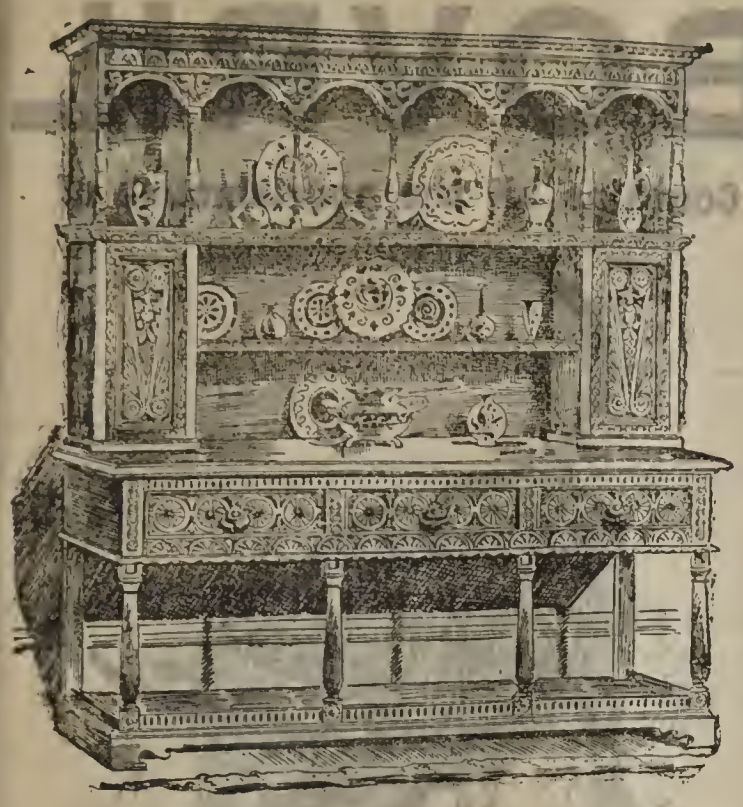

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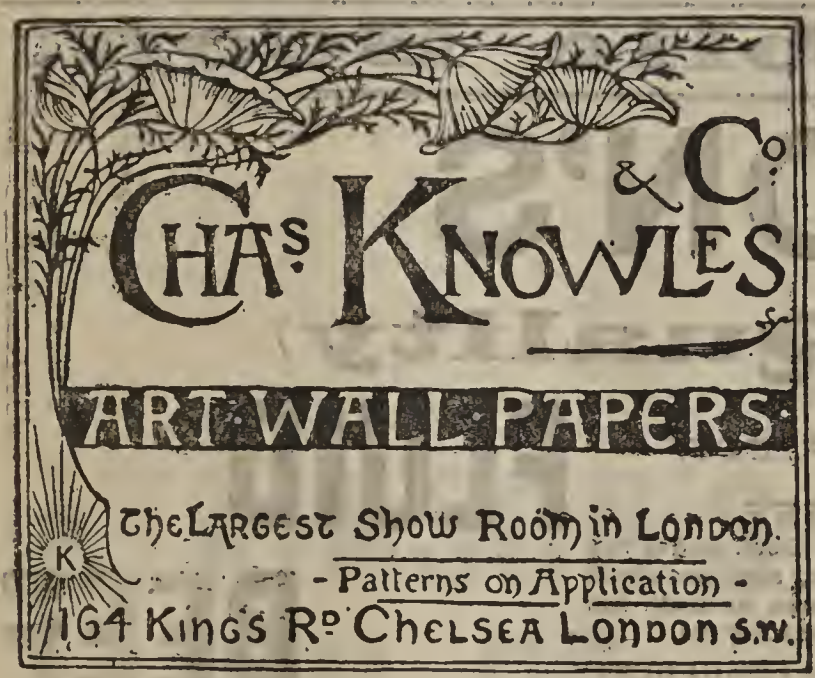

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NOTICE.

An Index *to the* Forty Second Volume *of* Truth *will be forwarded, post-free, to any address on application to the Publishing Office, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, E.C. The half-yearly Volume can be obtained at the same address, price 25s.*

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE first Drawing Room of the season is to be held at Buckingham Palace on Friday, the 25th, by the Princess of Wales for the Queen. There will be a second Drawing Room next month, which is to be held by Princess Christian, as the Princess of Wales will then be at Copenhagen. The third and fourth Drawing Rooms are to be held early in May, and the Queen herself will attend one of these, in order that she may receive the Corps Diplomatique. There are to be only four Drawing Rooms this year, and as the number of presentations will be limited to two hundred at each function, prudent people will not postpone sending in their names until after Easter, or they will very likely lose the chance of going to Court this season.

As I have before stated, there are to be two Levees at St. James's Palace before Easter, the one held by the Prince of Wales, on Monday, the 21st, when H.R.H. will receive the Corps Diplomatique, and the second early in March, held by the Duke of York. There will be two Levees between Easter and Whitsuntide, and one in June.

I hear that the Court officials have been much inconvenienced by the appearance in several papers of a statement that the Thatched Lodge, a Crown residence in Richmond Park, had reverted to the Queen by the death of Sir Henry Lynedoch Gardiner, the result being that vast shoals of applications for the place have been received. When the Queen granted the Thatched Lodge to General Lynedoch Gardiner, there was a clause in the warrant, giving the place to his wife for her life in case of her surviving him.

A great deal of nonsense is being printed by some of the papers about the Queen's approaching trip to the Continent. The *Pall Mall Gazette* announced last Tuesday that on Saturday "a large party of her Majesty's household will leave England" for Cimiez. It is difficult to imagine what members of the Household would find to do at Cimiez more than five weeks before the arrival of the Queen. As a matter of fact, the Queen's servants will not leave Windsor for Cimiez until Monday, March 7, when the horses, carriages, and heavy luggage are also to be despatched to the Riviera. The suite will this year be limited to one lady-in-waiting, one maid of honour, one equerry, Sir Arthur Bigge (private secretary), Sir James Reid (medical attendant), and the inevitable Munshi Abdul Karim, and the Oriental domestics, who give ten times more trouble than all the rest of the Royal party put together.

The Queen is sure to be overwhelmed with applications for the office of Keeper of the Regalia, which is worth £300 a year, with a very good furnished house in the Tower of London. The place, which is nominally held under the Lord Chamberlain, is in the gift of the Queen herself. The late Sir Frederick Middleton had held the post for less than two years, having been appointed to it when Sir Michael Biddulph was made Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod. Sir Frederick Middleton, who distinguished himself during the Indian Mutiny, was for ten years Commandant of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and he afterwards did good service in Canada in 1885.

The Duke of Connaught, who is now on the Riviera, will resume his duties at Aldershot on the 15th. The Duke is to be in command of the forces during this year's Autumn manœuvres, which are to take place on Salisbury Plain.

Empress Frederick, who has been residing at Berlin for nearly two months, is expected to arrive at Osborne next week on a visit to the Queen, and she will stay in England until the middle of March. The Empress is to be conveyed from Flushing to East Cowes in the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert.*

The Irish Viceregal establishment moved from the Viceregal Lodge, Phœnix Park, to Dublin Castle, from which it is only a little over two miles distant, this week. Lord

Cadogan gave an object-lesson in the impossible dual parts an Irish Lord Lieutenant is expected to play by hurrying over to take part in the Cabinet Council as a member of the Conservative Government, immediately before holding a Levee at Dublin Castle as representative of the Queen. No other country but Ireland offers the spectacle of a quick-change artist ruling its destinies from a Viceregal throne. The Irish do not require to go back to memories of another '98 to justify dissatisfaction with the way in which they are ruled; the present Government offers absurdities and injustices enough for any reasonable people to reasonably revolt against.

The Castle season which has just begun will be a short one of just six weeks. During this time the first week of Lent will, according to custom, cause an interval in the programme of festivities. As usual, two Levees and two Drawing Rooms will be held, and many dinners and dances and three or four big balls will be given. The Drawing Room this week will be followed by dinners and dances on Thursday and Friday nights. The Dublin season, of which the Castle season is only a part, is expected to be unusually gay. A number of houses have been taken in the capital, and the hotels are well filled. Lord and Lady Roberts will entertain at the Royal Hospital, and Lord and Lady Ashbourne will give a ball or two at their residence in Merrion-square.

The Kildare Hunt Ball took place last week at Naas, and was largely attended, all the houses in the county being filled for the occasion.

Even the intricacies of the Land Act, with its fortieth section in especial, which have been, of late, engaging the attention of most of the Bench and Bar in Ireland, have not killed the perennial flow of wit at the Four Courts. Mr. George Morris, the brother of Lord—formerly Sir Michael—Morris, has lately been made a K.C.B., so the *Gazette* says. At the Four Courts he has been more pointedly gazetted a Knight of Michael and George.

Lady Salisbury's illness will prevent her from attending any of the Drawing Rooms, so the Diplomatic presentations are to be undertaken by either the Duchess of Devonshire or Lady Lansdowne.

Lady Susan Brown, who died last week, was the elder daughter of the Marquis of Dalhousie, the famous Governor-General of India, and he left her the large estate of Coalstoun, near Haddington, which he had inherited from his mother, who was the heiress of the Browns, an ancient East Lothian family. Lady Susan was twice married, first to Lord Connemara, and secondly to Dr. Briggs, who assumed the name of Brown.

Lady Susan Brown had possession of the whole of Lord Dalhousie's papers, which are preserved at Coalstoun in an immense iron safe, and they include his correspondence, and also a copious diary, which he kept carefully during his political career in England, and also when in India. Lord Dalhousie's papers, which are of exceeding interest in connection with the secret history of India during the important eight years of his rule (between Lord Hardinge in 1847 and Lord Canning in 1855), are not to be published until 1910, for Lord Dalhousie added a codicil to his will forbidding the publication of any of his papers until fifty years after his death, which took place in 1860. Lord Dalhousie was only thirty-five when he went out to Calcutta, being the youngest man who ever ruled over India. The office was first offered to Lord John Russell, and Sir James Graham, who refused it, after consultation with Sir Robert Peel.

Some years back, when there was a great outcry over the condition of the London Board Schools, I thought it necessary to criticise somewhat severely Major-General Moberly's position in relation to the scandal in his capacity of Chairman of the Works Committee. Whatever may be thought now about that matter, there can be no question that during his long tenure of that post General Moberly showed himself on the whole a most able administrator and a good friend to the children. I do not suppose, and never did suppose, that he was personally responsible for the blundering negligence which at one time reduced the schools to such an unsatisfactory condition, and when once the facts became known, he undoubtedly did his very best to remedy all that was amiss. During his long connection with the School Board the late General showed himself a most conscientious and able administrator, and he was personally most popular with all parties on the Board, as well as in private life.

The local authorities along the Riviera will be extremely ill-advised if they ultimately allow the completion of the proposed electric tramway from Mentone to Cannes. There is a universal feeling against the project among all visitors, as well as among the leading residents, and this feeling is well founded. The proposed line will utterly ruin the lower Corniche as a carriage drive, and in places it may create serious danger to the general traffic. It is not wanted, for there is already an excellent service of trains, and the generally accepted explanation of the undertaking is that it is chiefly designed for the benefit of the croupiers and hangers-on of Monte Carlo, who will thus be enabled to reside at a greater distance from their daily work. In view of his recent dealings with the Casino authorities, it would be interesting to know what part the Prince of Monaco plays in connection with the tramway undertaking.

Talking of the Riviera, it will interest visitors to that part to know that another new English hotel of the first class is soon to be opened at Beaulieu under the auspices of the syndicate which owns the Coburg Hotel in Grosvenor-square. Beaulieu is a place which has increased

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For the Truth Hotel List, see page 296 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 298.
For Amusements, see page 297.
For Our Puzzles, see page 305.

very rapidly of late, and it has the reputation of being one of the healthiest spots on the coast. The new hotel is to be called the Bristol, and is to be fitted up by Messrs. Maple & Co.

I hear that there is a chance of the marine drive at Bournemouth, which has been so long talked about, being constructed at last by a syndicate or company formed for the purpose. I have always contended that this is an improvement urgently needed in the interest of the town, and if it is worth while for a private company to undertake the work on a commercial basis, *a fortiori* would it have been a profitable investment for the municipality. By the way, a friend staying there, tells me that during the whole of the present winter (so-called) the lowest temperature registered at Bournemouth, either by day or night, has been 45 deg.—an extraordinary record. It is not surprising to hear that the hotels are full and the town very lively.

A recent visitor to a large hydropathic establishment in Scotland relates that when the "Sawbath" arrived the whole of the novels, books, newspapers, &c., were removed from the tables with the exception of the Bible and a copy of TRUTH. I have no sympathy with Sabbatarianism, but I am glad to learn that there is method in this form of madness.

Another visitor, to one of the Brighton hotels, had an unpleasant experience. He found in the morning that his boots, which he had put outside his bedroom door over-night, had disappeared for good, and the hotel servants repudiated all knowledge of them. Fortunately the traveller had a pair of evening pumps with him, and was able to make his escape from his bedroom, when, after agitating vigorously, he succeeded in discovering that the boots had been misnumbered and taken to a wrong room. The experience seems worth relating, as a warning to people to have a spare pair of boots when staying at an hotel. The wonder is, not that such mistakes happen, but that they do not happen more frequently, especially in view of the great temptation which boots placed outside doors at hotels offer to practical jokers.

Having last week offered some remarks upon the new editions of sundry books of reference, I find a whole host of these annual publications pressing their claims upon the notice of TRUTH. To do justice to them all is out of the question, but there are one or two whose merits I feel bound to acknowledge. Foremost among them is *Hart's Army List*, for it is rarely that a number of TRUTH goes to press without some assistance from that invaluable publication, and I have never yet had cause to regret any reliance on its accuracy. The *Financial Reform Almanac* is another. Every Radical possesses it as a matter of course, but I wish I could persuade some of my Conservative readers to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest a few of the suggestive facts about our national finances to be found in its columns. There is another valuable book of reference which has come to the front in recent years—Sell's *Directory of Telegraphic Addresses*. Its modest title gives a very imperfect indication of the immense amount of useful information—especially for commercial purposes—which the book contains. By the way, seeing the enormous number of telegraphic addresses now registered, is it not about time that the Post Office reduced the registration fee?

An interesting item of news has been telegraphed by the *Times* correspondent at Singapore. It is to the effect that an agitation has begun among the Chinese with a view to dispensing with pigtails, educating women, and other reforms. A sidelight has been thrown on this piece of information by a communication which I have received, purporting to come from a certain Wun-Hi. I have decided to print it as I have received it, as, in spite of his many orthographical peculiarities, the meaning of my correspondent is, I think, tolerably clear:—

THE HEATHEN CHINEE UP TO DATE.

"We dat belongey China side, we no dam foolee—no!
We see as well as Inglissman de way de windee blow;
You foleign debils clowdee roun an wantee loan to make:
You tink dat we don't want him, eh? You make one glate mistake.

"We wantee all de cash you have—go bling it, neva stop!
We bollow all. It's velly nice! It's numpe one first chop!
Our countly he need ploppin' up, and you sall plop him—see?
And, if you likee, Chinaman mole civilized will be.

"We cuttee pigtails off! Oh, yes, if dat sall make you glad.
We wearee tip-top hats, and cally gamps when weatha bad;
We say 'dam-dam' and dlink paylayl and tly your Ingliss meat;
And, lookee, if you like, our wifes sall glow glate Ingliss feet!

"But if we do all dis, of coss, our leason you will guess,
We sall explect you in return to makee intlest less:
We dless like foleign debils when we walkee through the town;
We cut our first-chop pigtails up—*you* cuttee intlest down!

"You want to chargee six per cent. because you say 'Oh, oh!
Ah Sin he is a foolee man, and he no betta know;'
But when our wifes wear glate big boots and we've no pigtails—see?
You'll have to make leduction, den, and only chargee tlee!"

Some important changes have taken place at the Bodleian Library during the Christmas vacation. For many years the floor of the building which is known as the Camera has been filled with tables and open cases of the books which were most in demand by readers. This was a very convenient arrangement, but of late many books have been mysteriously lost from the open cases, so that they have been removed. The alteration will inevitably be unpopular with readers, but the reason for it is cogent. There is, however, a great complaint among serious students at the Bodleian that changes in the rules of the Library are inconveniently frequent.

A BEAUTIFUL HOTEL AT BOURNEMOUTH.—The "ROYAL BATH." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Sea frontage, 1,000 ft.; grounds, 5 acres. Due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.* Moderate fixed tariff.

The Canterbury Convocation is to meet at Westminster next week, and the Northern Convocation will meet at York on the 16th. The Primate is to reside at Lambeth Palace until April 1, when he will go to Canterbury for a stay of between three and four weeks.

Archdeacon Furse has replaced Canon Eyton as the Canon-in-residence at Westminster Abbey, and he will preach on Sunday afternoons during this month.

The rectory of Southwick, near Sunderland, which is now the richest living in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Durham (net value nearly £800 a year, with residence), has become vacant by the death of the Rev. Charles E. S. Collingwood, who has held it for nearly thirty-five years, and the presentation will be awaited with much anxiety by the clergy of the diocese. Mr. Collingwood was a very distinguished member of the Durham University and a most accomplished scholar and antiquary. He has left several books of real and permanent value, notably his excellent biography of Bernard Gilpin and his Life of St. Columba.

A correspondent writes :—

The Bishop of Marlborough tells you that he is informed that the Rev. W. Earle did not receive preferment from the Archbishop of Canterbury. Either he has been misinformed or there was a curious error in the announcements of Mr. Earle's appointment to the living of Brixton. The Archbishop is the patron of the living, and it is a curious incident if the patron did not present the new incumbent.

The affairs of Compton-Chamberlayne parish are again under discussion in the Salisbury Press, a gentleman who signs himself "One who Knows" having set the ball rolling by a letter in reply to the Truth article of January 6. Mr. "One who Knows" sent me a letter very similar to that which he addressed to the *Salisbury Times*; but as it seemed to me that he was rather one who may have known once than one who knows now, I did not consider that his reply called for publication. Before dealing with the question, I had specially sent all the way to Compton-Chamberlayne to verify my facts, and I myself can, therefore, claim to be "one who knows."

Practically, all that the other one who knows (or pretends to know) has to say is (1) that the lord of the manor is authorised to keep the churchyard door locked by a resolution of the last Easter Vestry, confirming another thirty-four years older; and (2) that any one lawfully desirous of entering the church can obtain the key by applying to the custodian. What difference does this make? Who, outside the village, would attach any importance to resolutions passed by a village vestry-meeting for the benefit of the lord and master of the whole parish? How do the arrangements for the custody of the key lessen the indecency of a parish church being in the private grounds of a gentleman who insists on keeping the door locked? I can discover no question of fact in this case worth disputing about. The only difference there can possibly be is one of opinion about the facts. Mr. Penruddocke is doubtless of opinion that he has some grievance against the Vicar, and that he has done nothing inconsistent with the maintenance of his dignity, rights, and privileges. His friends, toadies, and dependants may share, or pretend to share, this opinion. My opinion, on the other hand, is that Mr. Penruddocke thinks a great deal too much about his own dignity and rights; that the position of the Vicar is one of intolerable humiliation; and that the relations between the Squire and the Church amount to an ecclesiastical scandal. I give my opinion for what it is worth, but I shall be surprised if nine out of ten people, who know the facts, do not agree with it.

At Webster City, Iowa, a public dance was recently held, of which the more austere Christians among the inhabitants strongly disapproved. On the following Sunday the minister of the principal Presbyterian Church warmly denounced the dance, and animadverted in scathing terms upon the conduct of those who had attended it. The sermon, indeed, was too strong for some members of the congregation, and while the concluding prayer and hymn were going on two young women hastily left the church, and proceeded home, where they obtained a couple of whips. They then returned to the church, and, having waited for the minister until he left the vestry, they proceeded to thrash him with such vigour that he was conveyed home in a fainting state, and was so prostrated that he was obliged to obtain a substitute for his evening service.

In noticing the other day the appeal for the restoration fund of Clonfert Cathedral, I expressed a hope that the restoration would be conducted on judicious lines. Since that I have had a letter from the architect in charge of the work, who wishes to make known that "the utmost care, caution, and reverence are being bestowed upon the work by both Canon MacLarney and myself." After giving some details of the work contemplated, this gentleman writes :—

In conclusion, I would say that if the question of professional fees had ever entered into my calculations I should never have associated myself with the work. This I mention not as a bit of self-laudation, but to convey to any of your readers who may be inclined to contribute an assurance that my first consideration is the fabric; and I hope that some at least of those readers may be induced to send the Canon a few pounds. His address is Benaghet. Not many men would have persevered as he has done, and he deserves to succeed.

By the kindness of one of my readers at the Cape I am able to offer to philatelists a great opportunity of increasing their collections and benefiting the Truth Toy Fund at one stroke. I have for sale an unused British Bechuanaland postage and revenue stamp for 2s. The issue is, I understand, obsolete, British Bechuanaland now using the same stamps as Cape Colony. In the catalogue of one of the leading dealers I find this identical stamp valued at 25s. In view of the deficit in the Toy Fund, I should hardly like to accept less than that amount for it, but I am open to receive as much more as any generous-minded stamp collector is disposed to offer.

I have received the following amounts towards the deficit of the Toy Fund :—

Pluto, £1 1s.; Walter and Mary Bird, £1; A. C. D., £2 2s.; Little Fay, £1 1s.; H. T. W., £10.

Every one must sympathise with the Bishop of Southwark when he takes up the cudgels on behalf of his brother, the late General Yeatman-Biggs; but, however honourable the motive, it is out of the question to suppose that the friends of the deceased officer can seriously refute such criticism as Sir William Lockhart passed upon the Dargai operations in his recent despatch, and it would be a much wiser thing not to make any such attempt. Sir William Lockhart is an officer of high and well-deserved reputation, and in no quarter, so far as I know, has any blame been imputed to him for the disastrous failure of the late operations on the frontier. He is not the man to criticise a subordinate without cause, and if he has erred at all in apportioning the blame in his recent despatch, he probably erred on the side of indulgence to the officer referred to. This is the opinion of every military man with whom I have discussed the question.

A cadet of excellent physique, who recently passed out of Woolwich, and was examined at 18, Victoria-street, although passed as perfectly sound in constitution, was rejected as being "defective in green," although his eyesight was otherwise excellent. The victim of this absurdity was a tall and well-developed lad, to all appearance admirably qualified for an officer. If he had been passing an engine-driver's examination, I could understand his being objected to as defective in green, but why on earth this should be a disqualification for an artillery officer, I fail altogether to understand.

I publish the following letter, not so much for the novelty of the views expressed in it—which, indeed, have been expounded dozens of times—as for the sake of the striking simile at the end of it. It is not in the least my desire to be mistaken for a Bishop—*nolo episcopari*—and if a declaration to this effect should cause the Army Medical Staff to renounce its craving for combatant titles, I shall feel that I have at last done some good in the world:—

Liverpool.

Dear Truth,—I consider that all the difficulties of the Army Medical Department lie with the doctors themselves.

Why do they want titles likely to be mistaken for those of combatant officers, which, I think, is a direct insult to one of the noblest professions?

Can you conceive any one with the power of bringing health and hope to many a weary man "watching late in pain" wishing to be mistaken for anything but what he is? This snobbishness of the A.M.D., of which I have had a great deal of experience, makes me loathe the name of an Army doctor; and the combatant officers and men do so for the same reason. Would you wish to be mistaken for a Bishop because you tell the Truth?—Yours faithfully,

One who Loves his Calling and Never Suffered from "Disrespect."

When you come to think of it, it is certainly a strange thing that any doctor should wish it to be supposed that his ambition is to kill rather than to save life. No doubt there are many doctors who have killed more men than the most valiant warrior in the service of the Queen; but they would resent any suggestion to that effect. Let us hope that Lord Lansdowne will speedily form his Medical Corps, and that the titles will be arranged in such a way as to relieve the members of all suspicions of a desire to shed blood—except for the benefit of their patients.

An advertisement was recently quoted in Truth from a Colchester paper in which a firm who wanted a stableman notified that no soldier need apply. I suggested that the reason for this limitation might be worth inquiring into, and the suggestion seems to have been well-founded, for I have had a very interesting explanation of the objections which civilian employers in many cases have to engaging ex-soldiers. The writer is a Service man himself, and his main contention is that military training tends to destroy all individuality, intelligence, and initiative in the man subjected to it, and thereby disqualifies him hopelessly for any subsequent employment where these qualities are required. This contention might be applied in many ways, but, as an illustration of what is meant, it is sufficient to look at it in relation to the particular case of the Colchester advertisement.

My correspondent, speaking of what he must know thoroughly well, remarks that the routine of barrack work in stables is altogether insufficient to qualify a cavalry or artillery soldier for a subsequent position as a groom or stableman. The man has to do certain work in grooming his horse and cleaning the stables. He does it in a certain mechanical way day after day, but does nothing beyond it, and of the why and wherefore of what he does he knows nothing, and gets no chance of learning. If the management of the horse requires anything more than comes within the range of the duty which he is expected to perform, that work devolves upon somebody else. The result is that, as my correspondent contends, nine out of ten men serving in mounted corps in the Army at the present time know nothing of any of the following points:—

1. How to put a bandage on a horse's leg properly.
2. How to treat the most simple wound or sprain.
3. How to detect the seat of lameness should a horse go lame.
4. How to administer a draught or ball of any description.
5. How to feed a horse on scientific principles.
6. The elementary principles of shoeing.
7. The diagnosis or symptoms of any single disease or ailment beyond the bald fact that the animal is "off his feed."
8. The ventilation and general management of stables.

One need not look further than this for an explanation of the unwillingness of the civilian employer to entrust his stables to an ex-Army man. Over and above all this, of course, soldiers are notoriously incapable of thinking or acting for themselves, and are not unfrequently slack when they have no one to look after them. My correspondent says that he knows a Volunteer officer, who is thoroughly devoted to soldiers, and has three times engaged a soldier as groom; but although each man was well behaved, clean, willing, and anxious to please, he had to part with them all for the simple reason that if he omitted every morning to give them the whole of their orders and instructions for the day, he found on his return that nothing whatever had been done, and that the man was sitting still, waiting for orders.

H. L. Savory & Co.'s Cigarettes.—By Special Warrants of Appointments, to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe Coburg-Gotha, H.S.H. the Duke of Teck, and the House of Lords and Commons. To be obtained of all the leading Houses in the Trade.—Sole address, 59, Piccadilly, London, W.

Major Howe & Co.—Fashionable Boots and Shoes.—16, Coventry-st., W. (also 60, Strand), and City, London. "Note Addresses." (Repairs.)

These points are worthy of consideration when efforts are being made to improve the lot of the ex-soldier. They apply specially, of course, to stable work, because soldiers from mounted corps are *primâ facie* fitted for employment of this kind in civil life; but *mutatis mutandis* the same kind of thing might be said of soldiers employed in any capacity. It is not easy to see how the evil is to be got over, for half the purpose of military training is to convert a man into a machine. But where, as in the case of a mounted corps, you have soldiers engaged on a particular kind of work outside the purely military drill, at least the effort might be made to instruct them in it thoroughly and develop their intelligence. This is desirable, one would think, in the interests of the Service and for the sake of efficiency, quite as much as for that of the soldier himself when he leaves the ranks. Taking the above estimate of a cavalry soldier's veterinary knowledge, a large percentage of our cavalry would soon be *hors de combat* in a long and arduous campaign, from pure ignorance on the part of the men of the proper treatment of their horses under the conditions of active service.

The following appeared in the battalion orders of the 1st Northamptonshire Regiment at Peshawar on January 3. There seems to be something wrong in the casting, but I give the figures as they appear in the original:—

Charges on Account of Bedding and Clothing Lost on November 21, 1897.

A Company	78 men at Rs. 2-6-0	...	Rs. 185	4	0
B ,,	13 ,,	,,	...	Rs. 30	14	0
C ,,	5 ,,	,,	...	Rs. 11	14	0
D ,,	5 ,,	,,	...	Rs. 11	14	0
F ,,	77 ,,	,,	...	Rs. 182	14	0
G ,,	76 ,,	,,	...	Rs. 180	8	0
I ,,	5 ,,	,,	...	Rs. 11	14	0
K ,,	59 ,,	,,	...	Rs. 04	12	0
Officers	17 ,,	,,	...	Rs. 40	10	0
				Rs. 795	14	0

I understand that nearly all the articles above mentioned were lost on field service, and practically through the insufficiency of the transport. Surely it is not right that the men should be called upon to replace things so lost, more especially seeing that a large part of the charge is for blankets and warm clothing, which will be appropriated by the Commissariat at the beginning of the hot season.

Another item of news from the same battalion is of much more than local interest. I hear that a short time back a number of men were called upon to provide out of their own pockets new barrels for their rifles, the old barrels having been worn out by the cordite ammunition. I suppose that if cordite destroys the barrels of rifles in one battalion it will in another, but the extra wear and tear ought certainly not to come out of Tommy Atkins' pocket. The British taxpayer must bear that burden, and grin, if he can, while he bears it; but by rights it strikes me that the cost ought to be borne by the parties who have such an affection for the new ammunition, and are currently understood to have made such a good thing (for themselves) out of it.

Talking of the Northampton Regiment, in which I feel a peculiar personal interest, reference was made in Truth of October 21 to the extortionate prices charged in the regimental coffee-shop when the 1st Battalion was at Rawalpindi. Subsequent accounts show that matters were very much worse when the battalion moved up to the front. Some rise in prices under these circumstances might be unavoidable, but the circumstances certainly do not justify such famine rates as seem to have prevailed in the 1st Northampton. As previously mentioned, these extortionate prices are charged by a native who runs the coffee-shop, and they are said to be sanctioned by the Commanding Officer. The native in question seems to have a good friend in the C.O. I hear that on one occasion when water was short, orders were given that the coffee-shop was to be supplied first, with the result that the privileged native was selling tea at four annas a quart when the men could not get water to cook their rations.

Here is a little matter relating to Naval canteen management at Esquimault which calls for the immediate notice of the Naval authorities. The brewers who had for some time supplied the Naval canteen at Esquimault to the complete satisfaction of the customers, recently found themselves confronted, on a change in the management of the canteen, with a demand to pay 3d. per gallon to the petty officer of a ship on the station, who had just been put in charge. The brewers declined to be bled, and the contract was thereupon given to a rival firm. This was not their first experience of the same kind. A year or two earlier, the manager of another canteen at the same station, an N.C.O. in the Royal Marines, refused to allow the same brewers to supply the canteen, or to see an officer for the purpose of negotiations, unless they would promise to allow him 3d. per gallon on the beer ordered. This also was refused, and the negotiations got no further. Every one knows that blackmailing of this kind is widely prevalent, both in the Army and the Navy, and that the men are the ultimate sufferers by it. It, therefore, behoves the authorities, whenever an offence of this kind can be brought home to any individual, to take the matter up energetically. The above facts are given to me by the brewers at Esquimault who were concerned in these two cases, and it may be mentioned that they are the only firm of English brewers in the place, their competitors being Germans. I have only to add that the statement in my possession is at the service of the Admiralty, if they should wish to use it.

An old naval man sends me a suggestion with regard to recruiting for the Navy which seems worthy of attention just now. It is, that regular efforts should be made to recruit in the Colonies and abroad. The writer makes various suggestions as to the way in which the training of the men could be carried on; but these are details which the authorities could easily work out for themselves if the principle of recruiting abroad were once adopted. How much ground there is for the jeremiads we have been hearing about the decay of the British seaman I do not know; but it is quite certain that in the event of a naval war the supply of men for the Navy would soon fall short of the demand, and it is only common sense to increase

For Mosquito Bites nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia, and it is an immediate remedy for Wasp or Bee Stings.

the sources of supply by every means at our disposal. It has been announced that the Government are going this year to ask for an additional 7,500 men for the Fleet, a very necessary measure, apparently, for we have gone on building ships out of all proportion to the provision for manning them. The increase now contemplated seems to offer a very good opportunity for some extension of the basis of recruiting.

In that sound democratic journal, *Reynolds's Newspaper*, there have been one or two interesting letters on lower-deck life in the Navy, with special reference to recent displays of insubordination on certain ships. For obvious reasons the public hear a great deal less of the grievances of sailors than of those of soldiers. "Jack" has not the same opportunities as "Tommy" of making his voice heard. But for this very reason I suspect a great deal occurs on board ship which the public would not stand for a moment if they knew of it. From time to time I get suggestive hints to this effect myself. One of the latest of them is an incident on board H.M.S. *Redbreast* on the East Indies station. In the course of gun drill the Captain found some fault, and put a question to one of the men. The man, according to his own account, supported by the evidence of those about him, only answered "Yes, Sir;" but, whether from a misunderstanding or what not, the man was subsequently charged with the serious offence of answering a question which had not been put to him, and was sentenced to seven days' cells and reduction to second class for conduct, which means a serious loss of pay and leave. The seven days' cells was subsequently altered to fourteen days "10 A," but even at the mildest the punishment seems to have been entirely uncalled for. Though these things may not get into the newspapers, they get talked about in the seaport towns; and if the Admiralty want to get more men for the Fleet, they will do well to keep a sharp eye on abuses of authority, whether on the part of captains or subordinate officers.

Apropos of what has been said in Truth during the last fortnight about Somerset House, a correspondent complains of having been refused permission to make a few notes of a will, which he went to inspect on behalf of a lady in very humble circumstances. Let us, however, be reasonable in our criticism. I cannot see much point in this complaint. There is a certain charge for merely inspecting a will, and an increased charge for copying it. If a person who merely pays for inspection is allowed to take notes of the contents, the demand for copies would very soon cease. The Somerset House officials cannot possibly be expected to discriminate between making "notes" and making extracts, or copying all the material parts of a will.

By a misprint, the cost of a certificate of birth, marriage, or death, when obtained from a District Registrar, was given in last week's Truth as 3s. 9d., exclusive of postage. It should have been 3s. 7d. inclusive of postage—3s. 6d. fee and 1d. the stamp.

As the Post Office comes in for a good deal of unfavourable criticism in Truth, it is only fair to that Department, to give publicity to the following experience: A week or two back a gentleman posted at Liverpool to various addresses abroad a batch of packets prepaid at the book rate, but inadvertently closed up, so that they would only be transmissible at the letter rate. At the letter rate the deficient postage on each packet would have amounted to 3s. 11d., that is to say, each recipient of one of the packets would have had to pay 7s. 10d. on delivery. The mistake was noticed in the Liverpool Post Office, the packets were detained, and a notification of the state of things was conveyed to the sender, with the result that he was able to put the matter right. Perhaps the publication of this story may encourage the postal authorities generally to show in other instances an equal amount of vigilance, courtesy, and attention to the public interest.

I am beginning to think that the promise of a universal postal delivery must have become absolutely a dead letter, for complaints from people who are no better off in this respect than they were before the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement are pouring in upon me from all parts of the kingdom. One of the most remarkable of them is the case of a resident near a loch in Argyleshire, who has his letters left in a box on the opposite side of the loch, which is about a mile broad, and if he wants them he has to row across and fetch them. During stormy weather he is cut off from postal communication, unless he chooses to send a man four miles to meet the post at the foot of the loch. It might be well for those people in the country who are still waiting for the promised delivery to try the effect of a remonstrance direct to St. Martin's-le-Grand. I hear of one case in the West of England where this has been done with good effect. Failing that, I would recommend the aggrieved parties to lay their cases before the Chancellor of the Exchequer as early as possible through their Parliamentary representatives.

Distinct signs are perceptible that St. Martin's-le-Grand is developing something in the nature of a conscience. Let us congratulate St. Martin's, and ourselves. A fortnight ago attention was called to the fact that the Post Office, after taking a gentleman's money (to the amount of over one pound) for telegrams to Holland, had forwarded the telegrams by post, like letters, and declined to refund the money paid, on the ground that the possibility of delay had been notified when the message was handed in. As I expressed a somewhat strong opinion on this proceeding, I am glad to be able to add that St. Martin's-le-Grand has thought better of it. Although Official A peremptorily declined to disgorge, Official B has now written a long letter, in which, after proving to his own satisfaction that the first decision was entirely right, he winds up by admitting that the case is excep-

The Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo, the most fashionable hotel & restaurant on the Riviera. Perfect English sanitation. Now under English management.—Managing Directors, Messrs. Noel & Pattard.

tional, and notifying that the money will be returned. The conclusion being so satisfactory, it is hardly worth while to quarrel with the logic. The great thing is to note that the Postmaster-General has for once bowed to public opinion.

In the recent discussion in TRUTH of the treatment of clerks in the joint stock banks, special reference was made to the Capital and Counties Bank. In view of what was said, it is only fair to the Directors of the bank to say now that they seem to have taken the question up very promptly and energetically, and I hear that very considerable additions are being made to their staff. In particular, several men at the provincial branches have been brought up to London; and I see from an Aberdeen paper that two gentlemen from the head office of the North of Scotland Bank have received appointments in the Capital and Counties.

It is very gratifying to know that the discussion of this subject has had some practical result, and I would strongly impress upon some of the other joint stock banks the desirability of following the excellent example which the Capital and Counties is setting. The banking dividends for last half-year are now being declared, and in several instances increased profits are recorded. The City Bank, another referred to unfavourably in my recent articles, has increased its dividend. Before pocketing increased profits, it is the duty of the shareholders to look into the manner in which they are earned. I doubt if there is a single joint stock bank in which the staff have not a just and unanswerable claim to better remuneration; and, so far from increasing dividends, the claims of the staff ought to be satisfied, even at the cost of a reduction.

In contrast to the action of the Capital and Counties Bank, let me invite the attention of the shareholders and the public to the recent action of the Mercantile Bank of Lancashire, Limited. Three weeks ago I published some facts concerning the remuneration of the staff, including not only juniors but even managers of this bank, which eclipse anything in the way of sweating that has yet come to light. On the day following the appearance of this paragraph in TRUTH, the general manager called the staff one by one into his office, and questioned them as to whether they had communicated with me. One gentleman acknowledged that he had done so. He was thereupon suspended until a Board meeting on the following Wednesday. He went to the bank on that day, but the Board declined to see him, and he was informed that he was dismissed with one month's salary in lieu of notice, which was paid to him. The Directors of this bank have offered no contradiction of the statements which appeared in TRUTH, and they dare not do so. They have not charged their dismissed servant with any misrepresentation of the facts. But simply because this gentleman has dared to make known to the public the abominable way in which the Directors treat those in their employment, he is summarily ejected from the establishment. I do not ask any pity for him, for the loss of the wretched pittance with which he was remunerated is a matter of no consequence, and he can probably do better elsewhere. What the Directors have done, therefore, may be looked upon simply as a manifestation of their impotent rage at being shown up to the public in their proper colours.

Prior to the incident above mentioned, I had received from other quarters corroborative evidence of the facts alleged against the management of the Mercantile Bank of Lancashire. In one case a gentleman, after seventeen years in their service, became manager of their second largest branch at a salary of £180 a year, with no house or allowance of any kind. At another of their branches this bank now have, or had recently, a manager receiving a salary of £120 annually. This man is over thirty-five years of age, and entered the service of the bank after large business experience elsewhere. Well may the Board gnash their teeth with rage when facts like this are made known. It is a disgrace to any institution that men occupying positions of the greatest possible responsibility, standing in a highly confidential relation to the customers, and having daily hundreds, and possibly thousands, of pounds passing through their hands, should be employed at less than the wages of a skilled mechanic or the master of a National School; the knowledge that a business is so conducted is hardly calculated to attract customers. That, I take it, explains the vindictive treatment by the Board of the gentleman referred to above.

The inquest held last week on a recent fire at the Church Extension Association premises in Paternoster-row tends to confirm one of the objections that have been urged against the cubicles in use in the dormitories of the Kilburn Sisters' institutions. A Superintendent of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade gave the following evidence:—

> As regards the Church Extension Association rooms, they were very dangerously constructed with woodwork, and the Sisters slept in cubicles which were in themselves a source of danger.

This was one of the points which I discussed with the Sisters when visiting the Kilburn Orphanage two years ago. About fifty or sixty small children were—and, I suppose, still are—caged every night in such cubicles in one dormitory, the doors being locked, and one handle opening the whole of the doors in each row. Although the Sisters contended that this arrangement would be an advantage rather than the reverse in the event of fire, I could not accept that view; and now we have an expert expressly condemning the cubicles. What

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applies to a small room in Paternoster-row must apply with ten times more force to the large dormitories at Kilburn.

It would be interesting to know how many persons sleep in these cubicles at Paternoster-row, and who they are. A sister described as "Madame Pettywood"—a curious designation for an English lady who is, I presume, unmarried—stated at the inquest that she and "seven other females" slept on the premises. Unless the organisation of the establishment has been changed quite recently, these seven "females" would be girls from the orphanages, and in that case they probably all sleep in the patent Kilburn cubicles. The sister was quite confident that the fire did not originate in her premises, but in those of a tenant on the first floor. But, as on previous occasions, the Kilburn statements did not stand investigation, the evidence making it clear that the fire originated with Sister Pettywood's cooking-stove, and the jury found accordingly. I believe that I can carry the evidence a little further, for there was a fire on the same premises in 1893, and there is reason to believe that the cooking-stove was the source of the mischief then.

Since commenting last week on the disappearance from the tax-collector's demand notes of the notice that the landlord is required to allow his tenant the amount paid under Schedule A, I have paid my own taxes; and I find that the notification appears on the receipt. This is all very well, but it does not supply the place of the notification on the demand note. Most taxpayers study the latter document carefully, and master the whole of its contents to the best of their ability. But it is otherwise with the receipt, which few people ever look at, beyond noting that the amount is correctly entered. A writer in the *Birmingham Post* states that the notice disappeared from the demand note at least as far back as 1894. I should still like to know why, and I am strongly of opinion that steps should be taken to get it restored.

One of my readers, writing apropos of this point, comments on the injustice of compelling a man to pay his landlord's tax with no possibility of getting it back for nearly three months. "If I am compelled to advance money," he argues, "to pay my landlord's debts, under penalty of distraint on my goods if I fail to do so, I ought at least to be allowed a liberal interest for the accommodation." I agree. At the same time, as the demand note is presented with the regularity of clockwork on January 1, unless a man has paid his Christmas rent with uncommon punctuality, he can deduct the landlord's Property Tax from that quarter. A good many people, to my knowledge, do this. Is there any legal reason why they should not?

The regulation of the Local Government Board requiring Poor Law medical officers to reside in the districts for which they act is a very useful one, but it needs the exercise of a little common-sense in its interpretation. Last week I referred to the dissatisfaction that has been caused in a district of the Farnham Union by the appointment of a doctor who is not a permanent resident in the district, but who is permitted by the Local Government Board to fulfil the residential qualification by sleeping occasionally in a cottage which he rents for the purpose. By way of contrast to their decision in this case the Board has now objected to the present medical officer of the Bawtry district in the Doncaster Union holding the post, because his house happens to be ten yards over the boundary of the district. Every medical officer of the district for the last half-century has lived in this same house, but neither this fact nor the further circumstance that no doctor actually in the district is willing to take the appointment has had the slightest weight with the authorities at Whitehall. They swallow the Farnham camel, but strain at the Bawtry gnat.

For charities with a total revenue of £5,212 16s. 6d. to have no less than £2,500 6s. 2d. absorbed by the cost of administration is certainly, on the face of the facts, a state of things demanding some explanation. A member of the Gloucester City Council last week asserted that this is what happens in connection with the Lysons and other local charities, but the Mayor replied that it was unfair, unjust, and ungentlemanly to make any reflection upon the trustees, who had honestly done their duty; and nothing further was said. It would be difficult to devise a more inconclusive and unsatisfactory method of meeting such a serious statement. There may be plenty of reasons for the expenditure of nearly half the income of the charities in its "administration," much depending upon the nature of the outgoings that are included under this head. But the matter ought to have been explained, and it is childish nonsense to talk of a reference to the figures as unfair, unjust, and ungentlemanly. The Council elected a new trustee, and the best thing he can do is to begin his duties by enlightening the public upon the point which the Mayor so foolishly burked.

Concerning the mysterious affair at Bromyard Workhouse to which I referred last week, a local magistrate informs me that he has had an assurance from the Home Office that the case is receiving due consideration. It now appears exceedingly improbable, if not impossible, that the woman Bird could have committed suicide, and, seeing the time that has already elapsed, the Home Office should make the further inquiries that are required without any delay. The Bromyard Workhouse has been mentioned, I notice, in connection with the case of the unfortunate woman who, whilst in labour, was sent by the Poor Law officers from Malvern to Upton-on-Severn, with the result that she was confined in the cab during the journey. The woman alleged that she had been discharged from the Bromyard Workhouse on the morning of the same day, the authorities there

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refusing to allow her to remain, though she was in considerable pain. To this the Bromyard Bumbles reply that she was not turned out, but left of her own accord. It does not seem to have occurred to them that, considering the state the poor creature was in, charity required that she should be induced to stay there instead of starting off for a long day's walk. There was apparently not even a suggestion that she might remain if she preferred to do so.

The most elementary duty of a sanitary authority appears to sit lightly upon the Urban District Council at Uckfield. Recently a gentleman removed to this place from a town where—as in every well-regulated town—the municipal dustmen took away his house refuse once a week. At Uckfield he found that the collection of house refuse is made only once in two months in winter and once a month in summer; and in reply to a suggestion that this necessary service should be performed at least once a month all the year round the Council have just stated that they see no necessity to depart from the existing arrangement. Nothing less than an epidemic of disease will make any impression upon some of these benighted local authorities, and Uckfield will probably learn such a lesson in due course—in fact, it has lately had more than one serious outbreak of diphtheria.

The Carmarthen Corporation seems to be waiting for a similar disaster to wake them up, judging from the account one of the sufferers sends me of the state of things at Johnstown, in that borough. It appears that the residents in this district are subjected to a most intolerable nuisance and danger to health owing to the pollution of certain open watercourses with sewage from the neighbouring lunatic asylum. There have been complaints for years, and isolated cases of diphtheria have recently occurred, but the woodenheaded municipal authorities take no really effective steps to deal with the matter, nor does it seem likely that they will do so until the inevitable epidemic occurs.

A firm in the City have been taken aback by a printed letter from the Borough Engineer of Colchester, bearing all the appearance of an official document, and intimating that he would be glad to acknowledge the receipt of any sum they may send as a contribution towards the expenses of the Colchester Corporation Employees' Annual Dinner. Whether the firm in question have any business relations with the Corporation I cannot say, but it is a reasonable presumption that they have. In that case it seems a most objectionable thing for an officer of the Corporation to tout for subscriptions in this way. People who give on such terms give, as a rule, not out of benevolence, but for fear that a refusal may lead to loss of business. It is bad enough for private firms to dun their customers for tips or presents to their employees. On the part of a Municipal Corporation the thing is utterly unjustifiable.

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There is a curious story in the *Aldershot News* of the negotiations between the Aldershot District Council and the parish authorities for the purchase of some land which the former body wishes to acquire as a site for public offices. The land in question, about nine acres in extent, is vested in the churchwardens, overseers, and vicar for the benefit of the parish clerk; and it cannot be built upon or sold except for public purposes. The Council first made an offer of £2,500, but the parish authorities required £3,750. It was at last agreed to give this price, but the trustees then changed their minds and refused to sell. After allowing the question to rest for a considerable time, the Council have recently made a fresh offer of £4,000, but it is now announced that by some mysterious process —for the overseers have not been consulted—the price has been put up to £5,000. The way in which the business has been managed for the parish authorities seems anything but creditable, and, considering the terms upon which the land is held, they can hardly be acting in the interests of the parish clerk in refusing the offer of £4,000, which would give that functionary an income three times as large as that he at present derives from the property.

Mr. Francis seems to have been a long way from distinguishing himself as a Solomon in the case at the South-Western Police-court last week, in which a man named Everest claimed the custody of his two children. Everest's wife had been granted a separation order with the custody of the children on account of his desertion; but he now alleged, as the ground for his application, that she was addicted to drink and neglected the little ones, and some evidence of this was adduced. On the other hand, the mother asserted that her husband had ill-treated not only her but the children as well, and one of them on being questioned by the magistrate said she was afraid of her father because he beat her. Mr. Francis decided to grant the man's application, and the parting of the mother and children, who appeared devoted to one another, produced what the report describes as a really heartrending scene. In the face of the evidence, it is difficult to see the justice or humanity of this decision. If the mother neglected the children she ought to have been dealt with for it; but surely it was aggravating the cruelty of their lot to hand them over to the father who had ill-treated and deserted them, and of whom they stood in so much dread.

My attention has been directed to the fact that in a case before the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House last week his Lordship's son was the junior counsel instructed by the Public Prosecutor. I am sure that nobody who knows the Lord Mayor will for a moment imagine that his judgment would be influenced in the slightest degree by the fact in question; nor would anybody, I hope, like to see Mr. H. Gordon Davies suffering in his practice, because his father happens to be the Chief Magistrate of the City. At the same time, there are very strong objections (as the Lord Chancellor has recognised in the case of County Court Judges) to a son appearing as an advocate in a Court over which his father is presiding,

and as the Mansion House is not the only Court in London, the Public Prosecutor, without any injustice to Mr. Gordon Davies, could easily avoid briefing him in cases which come before the Lord Mayor. This should be borne in mind in future, as what has happened at the Mansion House sets a very bad example to country magistrates with sons in the legal profession.

A load has been taken off my mind by the result of the action of Sharpe *v.* Feeney and others. In the course of an extensive and peculiar experience I have become pretty well acquainted with the vagaries of the law of libel and the flimsiness of the pretexts upon which a newspaper may be sued for damages. But this case opened up an entirely fresh field for such litigation. The plaintiff—a solicitor who does not belie his name, though he now knows to his cost that it is possible to be too sharp—wanted damages from the *Birmingham Daily Post* and the *Birmingham Daily Mail* not only for a sin of commission, but for sins of omission as well. He complained first that the defendants had conspired to keep his name out of their papers on many occasions in reports of cases in which he was engaged; secondly, that on one occasion they had erroneously inserted his name instead of that of another solicitor as the defendant in a case. It was the first part of this claim which bore so distinctly the charm of novelty. If it had succeeded, a new terror would have been added to the lives of editors. It would have brought out on the war-path all the pushful nonentities who think they are entitled to more publicity than they get, and as I myself inflict many disappointments upon the practitioners of the gentle art of free advertising, I should have expected writs to fall in Carteret-street thick as autumnal leaves in Vallombrosa.

Fortunately, the action did not succeed. The first part of the claim was at once demolished by Mr. Justice Hawkins, with some caustic comments upon its inherent absurdity. The two defendants had ceased to mention Mr. Sharpe's name in cases in which he acted in consequence of his conduct in connection with a previous threat to take proceedings against them; and, as Sir R. Reid suggested, it is only natural that newspapers should resort to such a boycott against solicitors who subject them to shabby and unworthy treatment. Mr. Justice Hawkins held that in excluding the plaintiff's name from the reports the defendants were perfectly within their rights, so that there was no cause of action. As to the second part of Mr. Sharpe's claim, it was shown that there had simply been a clerical mistake, which did him no injury, and which was promptly corrected; and without waiting for the evidence for the defence, the jury returned a verdict upon which judgment was given for the defendants with costs.

The result of this case before Mr. Justice Hawkins, coupled with the results of several that have lately come before the Lord Chief Justice, should give courage to the most timid newspaper proprietors to resist impudent and baseless claims for libel. At the same time it is not altogether surprising that in the existing state of the law many proprietors, especially of the smaller country papers, prefer to settle such claims—in other words, to submit to a species of blackmail—rather than fight the matter out with the certainty that nine times out of ten, even if they win, they will be heavily mulcted in costs. What is required, if we are to have a truly free Press, is some amendment of the law which will render it less easy for frivolous and vexatious actions to be brought. The Bill proposed by the Newspaper Society would, among other amendments of the law, allow a defendant to pay money into Court with a denial of liability, give increased facilities for the consolidation of actions in respect of the same libel appearing in several newspapers, and — most important of all — enable the defendant to demand security for costs in certain circumstances. I see the Bill is to be reintroduced in the coming session, and I hope it will fare better than it has hitherto done.

It is a decided gain to the cause of law and order in Ireland to find that an Act of Parliament cannot, after all, be rendered null and void—as Sir Andrew Reed seemed to think it could be—by an edict from Dublin Castle. About thirty cyclists discovered this to their cost last week when they were summoned at Cabinteely Petty Sessions for riding their machines on the footpath. The defendants pleaded that they were only acting in accordance with the order published by the Inspector-General of Constabulary, but the excuse was of no avail, for every one of them was fined. I do not know whether Sir Andrew will be sufficiently conscience-stricken to refund the penalties which have been thus incurred in reliance upon his authority; but he should, at any rate, see that the time has arrived for the withdrawal of his ill-advised order, which distinctly encourages contraventions of the law of the land.

Nobody who watches the proceedings of criminal courts can fail to be struck with the marked difference that is made in the treatment of prisoners of questionable sanity. Society would be rightly horrified at the execution of a murderer whose mental condition was of doubtful soundness. Accordingly, when any suspicion of insanity arises in the case of a man charged with murder, or any really serious crime, his state of mind is subjected to the closest scrutiny; and if any good reason is found for supposing that he is not responsible for his actions, he is consigned—as the assassin of Mr. Terriss was the other day—to a criminal lunatic asylum. But nothing like the same vigilance is displayed in dealing with petty offenders of weak or deranged intellect—unless, of course, they happen to have money or friends—and scores are committed to gaol when they ought to be sent to an asylum.

A case in point is furnished by the committal of one Lynch for trial at the Preston Quarter Sessions on a charge of theft. The account that is given of his conduct

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in a brief report of his committal by the Kirkham Justices in itself suggests that he is *non compos*. A local correspondent, who knows Lynch, and is acquainted with his history, tells me that as a matter of fact this poor fellow is as mad as a March hare. He was always half-witted, but magistrates in their wisdom have persisted in treating him as a rational being, with the result that after innumerable terms of imprisonment — he has been convicted, I understand, some seventy or eighty times—he is now, and has been for years past, hopelessly insane. It has invariably been for minor offences that he has been cast into gaol, where his crackbrained breaches of the rules have brought upon him increased—even corporal—punishment. If the so-called criminal career of this unhappy wretch had taken a more dangerous turn, or if he had not had the misfortune to be poor and friendless, it is quite certain that he would have long since been an inmate of a lunatic asylum. Such a case—and it is typical of scores that occur—is a pretty commentary upon the boasted humanity and civilisation of English law and justice.

There are, of course, exceptions to the rule that persons accused of the graver forms of crime are dealt with as insane if there is any evidence of their insanity. Mr. Justice Grantham was responsible for such an exception at Norfolk Assizes last week, when a young man named Cross was indicted for feloniously wounding two women with intent to kill them. Every witness who was examined, not only for the defence, but for the prosecution as well, expressed the opinion that the prisoner was not of sound intellect, and three medical men were quite emphatic upon this point. It was admitted that Cross might be able to judge the difference between right and wrong, but the medical superintendent of the local asylum pointed out that neither this fact nor the existence of a motive for the crimes was in any way inconsistent with the theory that the man was insane. "Most lunatics," said this witness, "know the difference between right and wrong." With the remark that if everybody "a little below the average of intellect" was to be excused for crime, it would be a bad job for the rest of the world, Mr. Justice Grantham contemptuously brushed aside all this evidence and, under his direction, the jury found Cross guilty, though they "strongly recommended him to mercy on account of his weak intellect."

Mr. Justice Grantham thereupon sentenced Cross to twelve months' hard labour, and so pleased was he with his handling of the case, that next day, in condemning another man to the Draconic punishment of three years' penal servitude for stealing 4s. 6d. from a till, he took the opportunity of observing that no doubt if medical evidence were called the doctor would say that this prisoner also was not responsible for his actions. What the evidence would have been in the latter case I cannot say, but it is clear that in the former case the prisoner should have been dealt with as a criminal lunatic; and though the idea naturally did not present itself to the mind of this sapient judge, it would be a much better thing for the rest of the world if the man were sent to Broadmoor, where he would be permanently kept under control, instead of being allowed at large again after a year's imprisonment has completely broken down a mind already unhinged.

It is uncontradictably true that what is everybody's business is nobody's business, so year after year the Statute-book of this country, with its obsolete but unrepealed Acts, panders to the mischievous inclinations of the faddist, and enables him to make himself generally obnoxious, and to take up the time of the Courts at one and the same moment. The most recent illustration of this has just occurred at Caversham Petty Sessions, where some young men were prosecuted for playing football on a Sunday. The prosecution was founded upon an Act of Charles I. obtained for the suppression of "bloodshed and great disorder" engendered by "disorderly and improper sports on Sunday." The Caversham Bench appear, however, to have been equal to the occasion, for they eventually stopped the case and dismissed the defendants, refusing leave to appeal, amidst the loud applause of a well-filled court.

The remarks of Mr. Justice Wills, in passing sentence in the Sheridan libel case, were certainly called for, and might have been stronger without incurring the reproach of being unfair. The defendants were committed on a charge of blackmailing, and the evidence given was clear and definite. As the Judge pointed out, there must have been perjury on one side or the other, and it might have been expected that in such a state of things one party, at least, would have insisted on the issue being tried out. The prosecution, however, withdrew the blackmailing charge, and the defence offered no objection. I gather from another remark which fell from the Bench, that had not the application for the withdrawal of the charge been made by a Queen's Counsel (Mr. Carson having gone to Manchester for this occasion) it probably would not have been granted. From this we arrive at the paradoxical conclusion that it may be sometimes rather an advantage than otherwise to have an eminent Q.C. to prosecute you.

The Justices of the Peace responsible for the sentences for sleeping out at Highgate Police-court, noticed in my Legal Pillory last week, were not Messrs. Glover and Barfield, but Messrs. A. J. Reynolds and Fraser Black, who, I now learn, heard the case in a second court. Mr. Reynolds further informs me that the prisoners were two middle-aged women of bad character, who were truly described in the evidence as pests to the neighbourhood, and who, upon the last occasion when they were before the Court, were discharged upon promising to leave the district. From these and further particulars which Mr. Reynolds gives, I have no doubt that the women fully deserved a month's imprisonment; but I do not think the sentence should have been passed upon a charge of sleeping out. It would, apparently, have been easy enough to proceed against them in another way.

Below I give my Legal Pillory for the week, which exhibits as usual a series of effective object-lessons in Justice's justice—the purblind and muddle-headed justice which treats the grossest offences of violence and cruelty as venial in comparison with the simplest acts of vagrancy, poaching, and petty larceny. Look, for instance, at the strange aberration of judgment of the Worcester County Bench, who think a fine of half a sovereign sufficient punishment for a brutal assault, while at the same time they inflict seven days' hard labour upon a hungry tramp for the nefarious crime of begging a crust of bread; or at the equally instructive performance of the Bristol J.P.s, who let off two animal torturers with pecuniary penalties, but send a poor wretch to gaol for the sin of sleeping out without visible means of subsistence. Concerning the case at Nottingham, I would point out that if the defendant was not given the option of a fine—and the report in the *Nottingham Daily Guardian* makes no mention of a fine—the sentence was not only harsh, but illegal. The man was not charged with night poaching; the magistrates have no power to commit to prison without the alternative of a fine for any other offence under the Game Laws. The sentence upon a poacher at East Grinstead is also interesting as an example of magisterial ignorance upon the one subject which magistrates might be expected to understand:—

Worcester County Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. F. J. A. Wood, P. S. Williams, F. Ames, and Colonel A. Winsmore Hooper. James Bishop, charged with assaulting James Aston. Complainant said defendant knocked him down and treated him in a very brutal manner. A witness said he found complainant on the ground insensible and smeared with blood. Defendant denied the assault, but the Bench were convinced of his guilt and fined him 10s. and costs.

Worcester County Petty Sessions. Before the same magistrates. Thomas Fraser, charged with begging at Ombersley. On reaching this village, after walking all day, the prisoner ventured to ask for a piece of bread. Seven days.

Southampton Borough Police-court. Before Mr. G. P. Perkins and other magistrates. Wm. Prince, charged with sleeping out. Seven days

Bristol Police-court. Before Messrs. J. H. Woodward and W. Dove Willcox. Joseph Wheeler and George Bush, charged with cruelty by working a horse whilst it was in an unfit state. The horse was in a wretched condition, having sores upon its back and appearing to have been starved. Both defendants had been previously summoned in respect of the same animal. Bush fined 40s., and Wheeler 10s. and costs.

Bristol Police-court. Before the same magistrates. Robert Erwin, charged with vagrancy by wandering abroad and having no visible means of subsistence. He had taken up his quarters in a railway carriage, where he was found asleep. It was said he had been in custody at Gloucester for begging. Ten days.

Newcastle (Staffs) Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. T. P. Heath, R. B. Mellard, and J. Lovatt. Thomas Garraghty, convicted of assaulting his wife, who said he threw her down and kicked her, knocking three of her teeth out. Fined 20s. and costs.

Nottingham Police-court. Before Messrs. Thomas Hill and W. F. Fox. George Smith, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with having been in pursuit of game, and with having in his possession three rabbits and a net. Committed for one month.

Arundel County Police-court. Before Captain Kemp and other Justices. Wm. Millam, butcher, charged with cruelty by starving two goats. A veterinary surgeon deposed that one animal had died of starvation, having probably been kept without food for ten days or a fortnight. The other was in a very emaciated condition. Fined £1 and costs.

Grimsby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. W. Jackson, C. Morton, E. de Lacy Read, and T. C. Palmer. Elizabeth Collins, married woman, charged with stealing a rabbit from a shop front. One month.

Blaenavon Petty Sessions. Before Mr. W. L. Pratt and other magistrates. John Smith, charged with ill-treating his son, aged nine years, and with assaulting his wife. Defendant had more than once brutally beaten the boy, a delicate little child, with the buckle end of his belt, inflicting a number of cuts and bruises. The mother was kicked. Fined 40s. for the first offence, and 20s. for the second.

Doncaster West Riding Police-court. Andrew Gordon, charged with committing an aggravated assault upon his wife, a schoolmistress, who had previously separated from him, owing to his conduct. He struck her two violent blows, in consequence of which she had partially lost her hearing. Ordered to pay 28s. 6d. costs, and bound over to keep the peace.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Tait. Hugh Kelly, sen., convicted of a cowardly assault upon his wife by kicking her several times on the body. The magistrate said it was a most unwarranted attack. Fined 5s., or two days in gaol.

Watford Petty Sessions. Before Mr. F. Sumner Knyvett and other magistrates. Joseph Francis Smedley, pauper, charged with absconding from the workhouse. The prisoner, an old man of over seventy-five years of age, had given notice that he would take his discharge, but absconded a day before the notice expired. Ten days.

Sherburn Police-court. John Dovaston, miner, charged with poaching, in company with other men who had already been convicted. He said he was out of work, and his wife and children were "pining" in the house, and so he was tempted to go with the poachers. One month.

Hastings Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. W. Carless, G. Osborn, and Alderman Weston. Victoria Gannon, charged with sleeping in the open air and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

East Grinstead Petty Sessions. Before the Rev. C. W. Payne Crawfurd, Messrs. A. Brand, T. E. Ravenshaw, C. W. Bell, J. M'Andrew, J. H. Luscombe, and C. H. Everard. Sidney Packham, charged with poaching. One month's hard labour, and ordered to find sureties not to offend again, or in default, a further seven days' imprisonment. This was the sentence passed, but, as a matter of fact, the magistrates have no power to fix the imprisonment in default of finding sureties at seven days. The Act fixes it at six months, nothing more or less, and Packham will have to remain in gaol for that period if he fails to get sureties.

It is a common enough complaint that magistrates deal too lightly with police brutality. The numskulls who make the law an ass and justice a mockery at Rathdrum Petty Sessions go a step further than this, and deliberately encourage the ill-treatment of prisoners. Recently one Keogh was arrested by a sergeant of police for being drunk and disorderly. Keogh resisted, and Constable Bond went to the sergeant's assistance. On the way to the police station Bond struck the prisoner several blows in the face, and at the police station, while the man was being held by the sergeant, he renewed the assault. The sergeant remonstrated with Bond, but the fellow merely replied that "he wished to God he had given Keogh more of it." It is now clear that he might have done so with perfect safety, for when the district inspector, greatly to his credit, summoned the constable for assaulting a prisoner under arrest, the Rathdrum Bench dismissed the case, and Mr. A. Meldon, R.M., added that "the police were not supposed to handle men of Keogh's class with kid gloves, and there should be roughness on the part of the police in dealing with a man that was acting roughly." A more outrageous and mischievous utterance from the Bench could hardly be conceived, and it is a pity this pretty specimen of an Irish R.M. cannot be proceeded against for inciting the constabulary to break the law.

Mr. Lane was called upon last week to do justice between a public enemy, who kept a barking dog at the end of his garden, and a suffering neighbour, who threw "missiles" and even discharged a gun at the brute, but, alas! without quieting him. The magistrate acquitted

Subscriptions greatly needed by The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—6,929 convictions this year; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

himself in a highly judicial fashion, by informing the victim that he must not, whatever his sufferings, discharge guns or throw missiles, and recommending the dog-owner to have more regard for his neighbours' peace of mind. Had I been on the bench, I should have recommended the complainant to go and take lessons at a shooting gallery, or else to put a little dynamite into his missiles. Failing that, he might do worse than put the S.P.C.A. on to the dog-owner. The man who keeps a barking dog is generally guilty of cruelty to the dog as well as to his neighbours. The animal does not bark without a cause, and in nine cases out of ten it is a cause for which the owner is to blame.

"Screwing" a lunatic, in the parlance of asylum attendants, is to get the patient's arm behind his back and twist it round by the wrist. It is a disciplinary measure for refractory madmen which is, of course, strictly prohibited by the authorities, but attendants sometimes resort to it on the sly; and in a case at Garlands Asylum the other day a patient was "screwed" with such cruelty and persistence that his arm was fractured. There are asylums in which every effort is made to hush up any incident of this kind, to say nothing of graver occurrences; but the medical superintendent at Garlands has the good sense not to follow this pernicious policy, and at his instigation the two guilty attendants were summoned before the Carlisle magistrates, who fined them three pounds each and costs The penalty did not err on the side of severity, but it is at any rate satisfactory to know that the culprits have met with some punishment, and still more satisfactory to see the management of the asylum dealing with such an affair in this open way instead of trying to hush it up.

A novel question was raised at an inquest at Batley last week as to the right of a medical man to make a post-mortem examination of his patient's remains without first receiving instructions from the coroner. The inquest related to the death of a young man who was at first supposed to have been poisoned by some tinned salmon which he had eaten. The doctor was not satisfied that this was the case, and with the sanction of the young man's father — the matter not being at that time in the hands of the coroner—he made a post-mortem examination, the result being to show that death was, in fact, due to another cause. At the inquest the coroner expressed himself very strongly as to "the impropriety" of the doctor's conduct; and, by way of punishing him, took evidence as to the result of the examination on hearsay, the consequence being, he said, that the doctor would "get nothing" for what he had done. Whether this medical gentleman acted regularly or not in making the examination before the death had been reported to the coroner, the latter would certainly appear to have acted irregularly in accepting evidence on hearsay.

An Irish J.P. lately received one of the usual communications from our old friend the Spanish prisoner. In the innocence of his heart this worthy magistrate, "believing at first that it might possibly be a genuine case of misfortune," offered to assist the unhappy victim of Spanish tyranny by arranging for his daughter and her governess to be supplied through a tourist agency with tickets for their contemplated journey to Ireland. It is almost superfluous to say that this generous proposal was not accepted. The prisoner wrote again asking that the sum of £35 should be remitted to him in English bank-notes, and the J.P. has now sent the letters to me, with the delightfully ingenuous remark that "he has reason to believe the writer is a swindler." Reason to believe, forsooth! It is quite evident, my dear sir, that you do not study your Truth with the diligence which befits every good citizen, and which is especially beneficial and wholesome for J.P.s. Had you done so, I should not now have to explain that this fraud is one of the oldest going, that it is systematically carried on by several gangs at Valencia and Barcelona, and that it has been constantly exposed in these columns for something like twenty years past.

By the way, it may be interesting to mention as another proof of the world-wide extent of the Spanish prisoner's operations, that I have just received a letter that he had addressed to a reader of mine at Port Blair, Andaman Islands. It is one of those variants of his old, familiar story, in which the swindler claims a distant relationship with his intended dupe.

It might be going too far to say that the usurer Shuckburgh, alias the Clerical and Medical Bank, has surpassed himself in the following case of unscrupulous trickery and extortion; but at any rate he has worthily maintained his high reputation in that line of business. Attracted by an advertisement of the so-called bank, a farmer in temporary need of cash (though in a position to offer good security to the amount of two or three thousand pounds) applied for a loan to A. B. J. Stone, Shuckburgh's agent, at 46, Queen-street, Exeter. He received an advance of £100, and signed a document, which he believed to be simply an undertaking to repay that amount with interest at 5 per cent. per annum. A month afterwards Shuckburgh sent two bailiffs to take possession of the farmer's goods and stock. The deluded borrower then discovered for the first time that what he had signed was a bill of sale for £220, with £5 per month interest. The interest was payable monthly, and the moment the first payment became overdue Shuckburgh, without the slightest preliminary notice or warning to his unsuspecting victim, put in the bailiffs.

Including a levy fee of £11, costs of possession and other items, the total amount the blood-sucker demanded, in return for the £100 he had lent a month previously, was about £250. A land agent at Exeter went with the

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farmer to Shuckburgh's head office at Bristol, pointed out that the bill of sale had been signed under an entire misapprehension—an exceedingly mild way of describing an undoubted swindle—and offered £100 in settlement of the claim. This offer was subsequently increased to £130 and then to £150, and while it was being discussed the usurer's representative became greatly excited, grossly insulted the farmer's friend, and finally struck him in the face. After this exhibition of blackguardism the services of a Bristol solicitor were invoked, and eventually Shuckburgh agreed to accept the £150.

I fancy that if the victim of this barefaced robbery and the gentleman who advised him had known as much as I know about the shark Shuckburgh and the sharper Stone, an attempt would have been made to get the bill of sale set aside. It would apparently have been a question between the evidence of Stone and the evidence of the borrower as to whether the former explained and the latter understood that it was a bill of sale he was signing, and that it embodied the preposterous terms mentioned above. Now Mr. Algernon Benson Joseph Stone has had the misfortune to have his sworn testimony more than once rejected as unworthy of credence. Before he was relegated some months ago to the branch at Exeter, Stone was the manager of Shuckburgh's head usury shop at Bristol. In that capacity he was time after time accused of obtaining signatures to documents by deliberate misrepresentations as to the contents; and I recollect at least three cases in which County Court Judges declined to believe the evidence he gave on oath in support of such transactions, and so morally, if not legally, convicted him of perjury. It is a pity, therefore, that his latest performance of his old dodge was not challenged in a Court of Law, as the bill of sale would in all probability have been set aside.

I see that in his very latest prospectus the above-mentioned Shuckburgh states that his precious "Bank" grants advances to beneficed clergymen at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. I hardly need say that the beneficed clergyman who expects to get a loan at 10 per cent. from this rascal will be wofully deceived. Notwithstanding the repeated exposures of his rapacity, however, I have no doubt he still finds plenty of fresh prey in country vicarages. It would be interesting to know how many parsons, to say nothing of doctors and farmers, he has fleeced and ruined during the past few years.

Should the Junior Army and Navy Stores ever get into trouble again under the Merchandise Marks Act, I recommend the Directors to observe a discreet silence respecting the unpleasant incident. A more feeble *apologia* than the document they have just issued in reference to the recent ham prosecution has seldom been penned. The directors do not venture to assert that the evidence given at the police-court was untrue; but they have held a private inquiry, which has satisfied them that the evidence gives "a most exaggerated notion" of such irregularities as existed, and they plead that these irregularities were "in direct conflict with the instructions laid down by the management." They have, however, made a complete change in the management of their provision department, and taken other steps to avoid a repetition of the irregularities. In short, they are not guilty, but they will take very good care not to do it again.

An anxious reader writes to me to inquire why, if he can prosecute a man who sells him margarine for butter, or American hams for Irish, he cannot prosecute his butcher who has been selling him American beef as British for years past, and has practically swindled him of 5d. on the price of every pound of beef sold during that period. He wants to know if he has any remedy. I fear not. On principle there is no reason, I suppose, why the same law which applies to margarine, hams, and a few other goods, should not apply to meat. At the same time, I would point out to the gentleman above mentioned, and others, that they can make a remedy for themselves by obtaining a warranty from the butcher that the meat he sells is home-bred, or by inspecting the meat at the time of delivery and rejecting it if it is not what they have ordered. In ordinary matters of business precautions of this kind are always taken, and the law answers all the purposes required of it. But in domestic affairs people leave all these things in the hands of their servants, who possibly do not know, and probably do not care, whether their master gets the article he pays for; and the butcher, not to mention other tradesmen, has a free hand in consequence.

The half-yearly meetings of the Cambridge Waterworks Company and the Cambridge Gas Company have thrown further light upon the frauds of Mr. William Peed, the highly-respectable and much-trusted solicitor, whose disappearance, leaving behind him liabilities to the amount of £115,000, was noticed in TRUTH some time ago. Peed was secretary to both these concerns, and he swindled them impartially, the Waterworks Company to the extent of £5,511 10s., and the Gas Company to the extent of £4,611 10s. 6d. The marvel is that he showed such moderation, for he might have taken twice these amounts with just as much ease. Nothing could be simpler than his *modus operandi*. It is true he deigned to pick up a few unconsidered hundreds by the ordinary processes of embezzlement; but, for the most part, when he wanted money from these companies he contented himself with selling bogus shares. With the seal of each company and every other necessary material in his hand, the work of forging the certificates was childishly easy, and with no sort of precautions against such frauds the sale of the fraudulent stock was not at all difficult. The Gas Company declines to accept any sort of liability for these forged shares until it is forced to do so by a court of law; but the Waterworks Company has met the difficulty by paying to the holders the face value of the bogus certificates. In view of what has happened, it is amusing to read now that the case has been taken up by

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the Public Prosecutor. Much good the Public Prosecutor is likely to do three or four months after the criminal has absconded.

There are probably scores of other companies which might profit by the lesson these two concerns at Cambridge have received. It is not difficult to devise checks against the issue of bogus stock by the officials of a company, but these Cambridge directors did not think it necessary to do anything of the kind, Peed being, of course, a man in whom they had the most implicit confidence. Now that the steed has been stolen they are proceeding to lock the stable door. Other companies in which similar laxity prevails should take the hint, and lock the door before the theft.

Will the Editor of *Tit-Bits* kindly inform the public what is the position of Messrs. Hubback and Overton in first-class cricket? During last summer, prizes to the value of £150 were offered in *Tit-Bits* to those who could decipher the names of fifty "first-class cricketers" represented pictorially. When the prize was ultimately awarded, it appeared that the names of the two players above mentioned appeared among the fifty first-class men. Having recently called attention to one or two eccentricities in the puzzle competitions of similar papers, I have received communications from several readers of *Tit-Bits* who are highly dissatisfied with the result of this particular competition. Not trusting to my own knowledge, I have inquired of various experts as to who Hubback and Overton may be, and they quite scout the idea of those two gentlemen—though doubtless worthy men in their way—being ranked as first-class cricketers.

Here is another of those *multum in parvo* conundrums to which an editor is supposed to have an answer at his fingers' ends:—

To the Editor of the TRUTH.—Will you please inform me the cost of a *divorce*, and oblige a constant reader.—Yours, &c.,

The answer depends on a variety of data, which are not supplied. For instance, if you are a lady (petitioner or respondent), it need not cost you anything. If you are a petitioning husband, you may actually make something out of the transaction, provided the jury take a severe view of the facts. If you are a respondent husband, you are bound to be a few hundred pounds out of pocket, whatever the verdict. If you are a co-respondent it may cost you anything up to £10,000. I trust, therefore, constant reader, that you are a constant wife, for in that case you can do it cheap; but to name a figure is a task for your solicitor, not for your humble servant, the present writer.

As a humble journalist I am gratified to note that on two points some, at least, of our railway managers seem to agree with the conclusions arrived at in my recent articles on the shortcomings of the railways. In the first place, I see that the South Eastern Company have appointed M. Achille Adam, who has long represented them at Boulogne, to be a resident director of the company at that place. This is an admission of the soundness of the principle of localising members of the Board in different districts of the line; and I hope that it will be followed by the appointment of resident directors on this side of the Channel.

The South-Eastern management, again, admit the necessity of improving the approaches to London by deciding to widen their main line as far as Orpington—that is to say, throughout the whole suburban district. The widening between Charing Cross and London Bridge is approaching completion, and when it is extended to the other side of Chiselhurst the public may look for a real improvement in the punctuality of the South-Eastern service. A still more significant announcement is that of the proposed widening of the Great Western line between Westbourne Park and Paddington, and the enormous extension of Paddington Station and the adjoining depots, which, if I understand the plans aright, are to be extended nearly up to St. Mary's Hospital. It is little more than twenty years since the Great Western Company doubled its line all the way to Taplow. Now it finds again that the approach to London is insufficient for the traffic. Yet the Great Western at present ranks among the most punctual and best served lines in the kingdom. Can any one doubt, in the face of this, that the allegations as to the inadequacy of the approach to Euston are well-founded; or that the main cause of the unpunctuality on the West End service of the Brighton line is the bottle-neck approach to Victoria station?

At the same time, I feel bound to acknowledge that since the TRUTH articles the up service between Brighton and Victoria—at any rate in the morning—has greatly improved. On Monday morning last the unprecedented feat was accomplished of landing us at Victoria *one minute before* the appointed time. I congratulate every one concerned upon this result. The record of the last month, as compared with that of the previous year or two, shows what can be done even under the present conditions, if only the requisite effort be made. That being so, I venture to suggest that a similar effort should now be made with the down traffic to Brighton in the evening. What I should like to see is a resident director who had to go home every night by the 5.40 train from Victoria.

Let us journalists all thank our stars that the offence of "Majestäts-Beleidigung" is unknown to the criminal law of this land. Were it otherwise, there is hardly a journal in England whose editor would not by this time have incurred worse penalties than Herr Trojan of the *Kladderadatsch*. My friend, Mr. F. C. Burnand, would ere this have done many a term in the pillory; many an esteemed contemporary would probably be now walking about minus his ears; and the head of the Editor of TRUTH would have been long ago served up at Court on a charger. The Kaiser, whose sacred person is supposed to have been irreverently treated by the Berlin *Punch*, is credited with a special knowledge of and affection for things English. I recommend him to study again the history of our Stuart kings, for assuredly he is walking

BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—The Mentone of England.—THE SACKVILLE HOTEL, an ideal winter and spring residence. Special inclusive terms till Easter. For tariff, &c., apply to Manager.

in their footsteps. The Germans are a patient, long-suffering race, but there are more explosive elements in Germany to-day than there were in England in the seventeenth century.

A "MAILED FIST" FOR EDITORS.

The Editor of the *Kladderdatsch*, the German *Punch*, was sentenced last week to two months' confinement in a fortress for *lèse-majesté*. He had merely published in his journal a cartoon in which one of the Kaiser's recent extraordinary utterances was mildly satirised.—*Daily Paper.*

Two months for *that?* No wonder then,
  Though we our fears dissembled,
That, as we seized our stylograph,
  Instinctively we trembled;
For if, thought we, the German law
  Thus punishment disburses,
Years of confinement we may risk
  By these outspoken verses.

But reassurance quickly came
  (Grateful as dew on Hermon)—
This country, we recalled with joy,
  Is luckily not German.
So when on ill-considered acts
  Mistaken monarchs venture,
Here we can fearlessly proceed
  To satirise or censure.

Lèse-majesté, forsooth, with us,
  Is never set in motion;
We have a Gracious Queen who scorns
  So retrograde a notion;
And should our Princes take a course
  That seems to be misguided,
They never make absurd complaint
  If they are chaffed or chided.

But Kaiser Wilhelm seems resolved
  To justify the rumour
That he most certainly has not
  The faintest sense of humour.
As eaten up with self-conceit,
  His words have oft disclosed him;
But, come, he's more ridiculous
  Than even we supposed him!

For years he's made preposterous claims
  In language wildly flighty;
For years declared he is a sort
  Of German God Almighty;
For years he has been shouting out,
  In phrases well-nigh stunning,
That he and Providence combined
  A joint concern are running.

And now he has a climax reached,
  And made it his endeavour
To be addressed as "King and Lord,
  For ever and for ever!"
Now that his speeches at reviews,
  And his behaviour after,
Make the astonished Continent
  To ring with hearty laughter;

'Tis now, when he no limit puts
  On his inflated bragging—
'Tis now he thinks the time most meet
  His subjects to be gagging;
And with an antiquated law,
  And spite which never varies,
Comes down on those who even dare
  To smile at his vagaries.

Well, Germans, you are meek indeed
  (Our words might be much stronger)
If you submit to so absurd
  A tyranny much longer.

To have to suffer Wilhelm's whims
  Should be extremely wearing;
But not to be allowed to laugh—
  That must be quite past bearing.

You are not fools, and you must know
  That when such rant he utters,
That when his latest whirling speech
  Each Bourse of Europe flutters,
That every time, in short, he makes
  So painful a sensation,
'Tis *he* commits *lèse-majesté*
  Against a sovereign nation.

Then why not tell him—saving thus
  Much sorrow and confusion—
That 'tis high time his antic tricks
  Were brought to a conclusion?
For if you meekly suffer them,
  No matter what your plea is,
You cannot fail to make yourselves
  As ludicrous as *he* is!

SCRUTATOR.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S "LITTLE GAME."

EUROPE is becoming every day more of a manufacturing centre to the world. Each separate country has perceived that in this way alone can it hold its own. But it is one thing to manufacture goods, and another thing to sell them. The struggle, therefore, between the European nations is an endeavour of each to secure markets for its manufactured goods. We have of late sought to find new markets in Africa. But the African cares little for civilized goods, because he is uncivilized. Moreover, he is lazy. In no part of Africa does he work beyond what labour is needed to secure each day his food. If he does do more, it is to obtain spirituous liquor in order to get drunk, or a gun to shoot his neighbour, or a few gewgaws to decorate his person. To annex any part of uncivilized Africa as a commercial speculation is a mistake. It is paying thirteen-pence for a shilling. The cost and the responsibility outweigh all prospective profit. In Asia the case is different. The Asiatics are civilized after their manner. For untold centuries they have exchanged their native products for European manufactured goods. In China there are 400 millions of human beings. Why they do not—with their cheap labour, their love of work, and their intelligence—manufacture much that they import from Europe, is strange. But so it is. For long they threw impediments in the way of international trade. We insisted that this commercial isolation should cease, and we secured certain treaty ports, as they are called. At these ports goods of all kinds, and of all origin, can enter the country on payment of a comparatively small duty. So far all European nations are on an equal footing. But we are in a better position than other nations, from the fact that we forced China to cede to us Hong Kong, which is an English commercial emporium, and an English military harbour. By treaty, foreigners may travel in all parts of the Chinese Empire, but in many parts of it they cannot safely do so. Moreover, each Province claims to

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levy dues on merchandise passing through it, and these internal dues are a great impediment to European manufactured goods circulating freely throughout the Empire.

For a considerable time after China was thus thrown open to the commercial enterprise of the world, English goods had practically almost a monopoly of its markets. This was mainly due to England being the only great manufacturing country. We had skill, and enterprise, and capital, and we could undersell other Powers. But there has been a great commercial awakening amongst the Continental Powers. We have no longer to fear alone competition from America, but from Germany, France, and other States. And to these Japan—a most formidable competitor—is now to be added.

Japan recently engaged in war with China, and vanquished her. We held aloof. France, Russia, and Germany stepped in to protect her, and obliged Japan to moderate her demands. Their object was clear. It was the *do ut des*. Russia is building a railway across Siberia to connect her Empire dominions with the far East by a land route. But, on the Pacific, her coast line is closed to navigation by ice during several months of the year. Her primary aim, therefore, is to get hold of an open port which would serve as the terminus to her railway. This was to be obtained either in Manchuria—a northern and somewhat uncivilised Province of China, or in Corea, which is an independent State, but over which China has always claimed suzerainty. It is evident, moreover, that Russia wishes to bring both Manchuria and Corea directly within her sphere of influence. These aims are on the way of attainment, for, I think, we may take it that the temporary occupation of Port Arthur by Russia, with China's consent, will be permanent. Germany also wanted a naval and commercial station, which would be to her what Hong Kong is to us. France, probably, will lay claim also to some naval station on the north-western shores of China. As it is, she has established herself on the south-eastern frontier, and is seeking to push her trade in the adjacent Chinese Provinces. Japan, too, distrustful of Russia, and bitten with the mania of annexation, has designs on China.

By the treaty between that country and China, which was concluded after the late Chino-Japanese war, China bound herself to pay a large monetary indemnity. Chinese credit is bad, and Russia kindly offered to provide the requisite money for her by guaranteeing a loan. We have, it would seem, met this by ourselves offering to guarantee a loan on still better terms. This appears to me to be a mistake. It is all very well for us to say that we are doing this in the interests of Europe. We are doing it in our own interests. By the English Government becoming the creditor of China, we should occupy in that country an exceptional position. The objections that we entertain to Russia guaranteeing a loan, Russia may reasonably entertain to our guaranteeing one. Mr. Balfour has truly stated that our interests in China are commercial, and not territorial. If we become Chinese mortgagees, our interests will soon become the latter, just as the mortgagee of an estate in England has a territorial interest in that estate. I see no reason why Russia should not have her port; indeed, it seems only reasonable that Manchuria and Corea should be brought within the sphere of her influence. Nor can we fairly object to Germany or France having each of them their Hong Kong. What we have to look to is that the treaties that we have with China shall remain in force, and that, in regard to the importation of goods, there shall be a fair field to all and no favour to any. When these treaties are attacked, it will be time for us to interfere. As it is, the less that we do the better it will be.

It is pretty clear that there are two conflicting Parties in the present Cabinet. Lord Salisbury, although in home politics a blinded Tory of the old and bad school, is an able Foreign Secretary, so long as he acts on his own initiative. Mr. Chamberlain is at his old game. It is impossible for him to be a member of a Cabinet without intriguing against its head, and seeking to supplant him. He is only doing now what he did when in Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet. As a Member of a Tory Government, this ex-Radical is in a difficult position. The Tories do not trust him in anything connected with home policy. He is desirous, therefore, to find favour in their eyes by dragging the country into a policy of foreign adventure, in which he can pose as the great patriot, bidding defiance to the world. With this object in view, he never makes a speech without indulging in bluster, offensive to other nations, and which must be regarded with positive loathing by a sensible and able Foreign Minister like Lord Salisbury. At one moment, he is lauding to the skies Mr. Rhodes as an honourable man, for having acted basely to the Governor of the Colony of which he was the Prime Minister, and having joined in a piratic raid against a State with which we were at peace. At another moment, he is using his position as Colonial Secretary to drag us into a quarrel with France about some barbarous States on the Congo River, that he wishes to annex. At another moment, he is announcing that he will lend out money to any impecunious Crown Colony. At another, he is vapouring about our absolute right to the Upper Valley of the Nile. What does all this mean? That he sees no chance of supplanting Lord Salisbury so long as domestic reforms are to the front, and that, therefore, he is engaged in a desperate effort to do so by seeking to show that he is more of a Jingo than his chief.

I do not ignore Mr. Chamberlain's abilities. He is an excellent speaker, and he is pushful and energetic, but I regard him as a dangerous man to the well-being of the Empire. So greedy is he of power, so self-seeking, so anxious to force his way to the front, that he is capable of ruining us, in order that he may fish up a Premiership in the troubled waters. I should be glad if the Unionists were routed hip and thigh. My objection to Lord Salisbury as Foreign Secretary is, that he allows himself to be used for all sorts of foolish purposes against his own judgment. But the Unionists are in office, and they seem likely to remain in it for the next three years. Owing to the faults, the quarrels, and the absence of all decision amongst their opponents, the country declared at the last General Election that it had more confidence in

them than in the Radicals. In the present Parliament a Radical can hope for no Radical advance in home politics. In foreign politics he must do his best to render the Tory rule as little baneful as possible. To do this with any effect, he must show Lord Salisbury that, if only he will assert himself, he will aid him to control the wild reckless policy of adventure advocated by Mr. Chamberlain for his own personal ends, for if our choice is only between two evils, it is the part of wisdom to prefer the less. In this, we ought to be able to hope for the support of many Tories. Many of them are honestly desirous for the welfare of the Empire. Not being fools, their eyes must be open to Mr. Chamberlain's "little game," and it can hardly be supposed that they will further it, for whilst they have been ready to accept his services as a condottiere to fight their Parliamentary battles, they have as little confidence in him as we have, and are by no means inclined to aid him in his efforts to become their leader and master. Boldness in domestic reforms, caution in all foreign entanglements, is our rule. At least, those Tories who prefer country to party should be with us in the latter.

This country is a comparatively small island, with a comparatively small population. Already we have hundreds of millions of human beings subject to us. Our resources, great as they are, are limited. Our aim should be to consolidate and to defend what we have. Expansion pushed too far is weakness rather than strength. Those who call attention to the folly of imagining that the law of our being is ever to increase our responsibilities, and ever to bring fresh subject races under our rule, are told that they are wanting in the true instincts of patriotism, and are narrow minded, parochial, and contemptible. So, I make no doubt, was it whispered amongst the Roman Jingoes when the wisest of their Emperors voluntarily withdrew from the province beyond the Danube which had been brought under the sway of Rome, and laid down the doctrine of no further territorial expansion. Yet to this policy Gibbon ascribes it that the Roman Empire continued to exist for many centuries. So talked the French when they egged on Napoleon to his dream of universal conquest. That a man should be sneeringly termed a Little Englander because he is satisfied with being the citizen of the greatest Empire that the world has ever seen, and would maintain it powerful and inviolate, is assuredly a strange misnomer.

THE FRONTIER FIASCO.

Though I am daily in communication, personally or by correspondence, with military men of all ranks, I have found no sign of any difference of opinion among them respecting the article in last week's TRUTH on the failure of the Frontier Campaign. On the contrary, I hear from all sides that the opinions reflected in that article are those universally held in military circles, that I have rendered a public service in placing the truth before the public, and that I shall do well to persevere until Parliament and the country manifest a clearer appreciation of the present situation. That is certainly my intention, and in this intention I am fortified by many communications received from India during the past week.

Let me call attention at once to one of the most significant of these. Last week I gave the views of an officer who had taken no part in the operations, but was in a position to speak authoritatively respecting the opinions of brother officers returning from the front. Here is a letter from an officer of still higher rank, who has had even better opportunities of knowing the truth. For the sake of brevity, I have omitted many passages which deal with points already discussed, but the passages omitted are of precisely the same tenor as the rest:—

"The first phase of the Afridi Campaign, the Tirah Expedition, is at an end, and the troops—all that remains of them—are standing at ease around Peshawar waiting for the next chapter in the fiasco. A more cruel and senseless fight we have never been engaged in, and the laurels gathered are scarcely fit to wear. The arrangements were bad from the start. The first mistake made was that we began operations at least two months too late, after the crops had been harvested, obliging us to draw all our supplies from Rawal Pindi (next to nothing is to be had locally in Kohat), and exposing our soldiers and our miserably-clothed camp followers to the rigours of a terribly cold winter in the snow-covered hills. But why did we begin too late? Simply because we had no transport train organised to start at a week's or even a month's notice. The whole of the Civil Staff of Upper India was put on to ransack the villages for camels and mules and ponies. The Government orders to the district magistrates were to seize these by force from their owners, if they could not be procured otherwise. They were either purchased or hired; in either case at a figure far below what would have been paid had the deal been a perfectly open one. But transport had to be furnished, and as the Commissariat supply was insufficient, we fell back upon the good old system of helping ourselves. I only hope the owners are blessing her Majesty, who in her Jubilee year (a most disastrous one for India, steeped in famine, plague, and war) may be excused for making an extra call upon her loyal subjects when the integrity of her Empire is at stake.

"Well, transport was got together, by fair means or foul, mainly foul; and camp followers were, in many cases, similarly impressed, and started off to the front, and the campaign began gaily, though, as I have already said, two months too late. General Lockhart arrived post-haste from Switzerland to find his plan of operations drawn out for him, and his troops marshalled in brigades, under Brigadiers in whose selection he had had no voice. His Staff was also presented to him ready-made, a Staff far in excess of his requirements. But so also were the fifty odd thousand soldiers. Half the men, half the Staff, and half the Generals would have done the work better, and half the transport difficulties would thus have been avoided, to say nothing of half the cost. Cost, however, is the last consideration with the Indian Government when a Frontier Expedition has to be undertaken. . . .

"General Lockhart unfortunately fell into bad health almost from the start, and the campaign was practically run by others whose gifts of tact and temper failed to shine out brightly when "the band began to play." The method of conveying orders to the numerous Generals was not particularly happy. Consequently a cloud of sulkiness spread over the higher ranks of the Force almost before we had crossed the border, and dwelt over them until after the closing skedaddle late in December down the Bara Pass into the Peshawar Valley. But let me record once and for all that the tone of every regimental officer and man in the Force was magnificent throughout. Not a symptom of grumbling or cavilling at orders, even when these were obviously foolish. No expressed discontent when detachments were left exposed all night upon freezing hill tops, without blankets and

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without food, and when marches and counter-marches were made with no object which intelligent man could fathom. No growling when small bodies were left to be cut off by an ever-sleepless enemy, watching eagerly for every blunder we made; and these were many. . . .

"Shortly, the force was too large and unwieldy for rapid movement along the series of goat-paths over mountain precipices towards the various objective points. The long lines of starving transport animals, always overladen with reference to the task required of them, presented a tempting bait to the watchful Afridis, who found no difficulty in helping themselves throughout to as much ammunition as they required. Then we failed all through, even up to the last melancholy *sauve qui peut* into Bara, to appreciate the splendid tactics of the enemy, and to take measures against them. Had the Afridis been commanded by a Napoleon or a Wellington, they could not have devised a better defensive programme. They fixed upon their plan of campaign at the outset, and they adhered to it with immense success to the very last day of our visit to their country. They understood that without guns and without military leaders they were no match for us on the plain. So they threw out scouts, who brought them early news of our movements, posted their best marksmen (armed with rifles and ammunition stolen or captured from the invaders) under perfect cover at the most advantageous points for offence along our path; swooped down upon our unmanageable chain of transport animals wherever they found the escort weakest, cut off stragglers, and finally made our camps at night a hell upon earth by pouring in bullets with such deadly effect as to make our poor weary soldiers often long that it were day. When history has time to record the last few days' fight—or, shall we say, flight?—down to Bara, criticism will not find much to say in favour of those who, after all their previous experience of the methods of the Afridis, allowed our transport animals to stampede in the mire, flinging off their loads (in many instances of ammunition) for the benefit of the closely-pressing enemy, and who cast upon a tired-out, weakly brigade the duty, day after day and night after night, of protecting the rear of the column from the constant onslaught of an enemy emboldened by our want of success all through and by the undignified haste of our retirement.

"Returns have been prepared and published from day to day of the numbers of our officers and men killed and wounded in this unsatisfactory campaign. But dare any official say, if he knows it (which I doubt), what the tale is of our unfortunate camp followers slaughtered? Soldiers volunteer for service, they long for fighting, and they receive the reward which contents them in the form of a medal. Camp followers are *forced* to the front. They get poor food, poor clothing, plenty of kicks, very few halfpence, and when they are killed no record is kept, because they are camp followers. They are merely reported as 'missing' when the superior officer comes round at the end of the month to check the muster roll. . . .

"And what will be the verdict of the British nation upon the outcome of the war? I may guess it in London to be: That our Highlanders did splendidly (which is true; but why ignore other regiments, black and white, that did quite as well?); that we have gone one step further in securing our scientific border; and that it only needs a few more equally successful campaigns to bring peace in the land up to the snow-line of the Sufed Koh. Well, out here we respectfully beg to differ. We are nearer the paling, and have seen more of the game. It is the same old game that has been played in these north-western mountains over and over again, ever since the military element secured the upper hand in the Simla Councils. The soldiers want blood-letting, the officers want medals, the staff want brevets, the Generals want decorations. All want excitement. Damn the expense; let the country do without railways and canals, and let us wake war! This is how an expedition is started.

"What damage have we done the Afridis? We have ruined many of their homesteads. These they will build up again in six weeks. We have in most barbarous fashion ringed and destroyed their fruit and shade trees. For this they will curse us to the end of the chapter. We have caused many of their women and infant children, driven out of their homes, to die in the snows. This will be remembered against us when Russia invites them, some fine day, to join her in the sack of Delhi and Lucknow. We have killed a few, a very few, of their fighting men. But, man for man, have we not lost many more? Ask any officer who was in Afridi-land throughout the campaign.

"And what damage have we done to ourselves? Well, the whole of India knows that we took up 50,000 soldiers to fight the Afridis and failed to bring them to terms. Regiments that started from their cantonments 800 strong have crawled back barely 300. Bullets and sickness account for the remainder. General and Staff officers, in whom the public (mainly on their office form) had confidence, have returned with shattered reputations and broken constitutions. Mules and camels and ponies by the thousand are mingling their ashes with cans of bully beef, commissariat flour and ammunition boxes (abandoned unopened), spread around in the confusion of our retirement, for the benefit of the wild highland race we tried in vain to conquer. No, there cannot be the least doubt about it. Our *prestige* has not gained, and our powers of organisation have not shown up well in this our latest effort against the wily Pathan. The operations have cost us three and a half millions sterling. No one would have grudged that, had we, for once only, been able to say that the thing for which we went in had been effected. But history will repeat itself. Forgetting the lessons of the present campaign we shall, a year or two hence, again gaily enter into warlike operations on the Frontier; and nothing you, dear Truth, or I can urge will stop the soldierly element in the Simla Government from having another shot at the cocoanut. Let us hope they will hit it soon, and have done."

The latest intelligence does not furnish much ground for such hope. No disaster that has happened throughout the campaign is more shocking than that of Saturday last, with its perfect holocaust of officers, and the ugly record of seventeen British soldiers *missing*—a return which tells its own tale to those who can read between the lines. Nor does anything that has yet happened point more obviously to negligence or blundering. Listen to the official explanation:—"The leading troops reached Shin Kamar Kotal at 10.30. No opposition was offered to their advance. Colonel Haughton, with the Sikhs, proceeded about a mile to search the caves. On the arrival of the main body at the Kotal it was discovered that a company of Sikhs had somehow been withdrawn from a high ridge on the west, which was the key to the position. The enemy had at once occupied this ridge, and its recapture involved heavy loss." A company had been "*somehow*" withdrawn from a high ridge which was the key to the position. Was there ever such a confession? And this after all the lessons of the last four months. Well may the *Standard* begin to awake at last to the fact that things are not going quite as well as might be desired, and to suspect that some inquiry will be necessary into the management of the campaign and the condition of the Indian Army!

Before saying more on this point, let us look at another matter which has not yet been touched upon in the Press. I have received a lengthy letter from a Medical Officer, whose services entitle him in every way to public respect, on the hospital organisation, both at the base and in the field, during the late campaign. It points to precisely

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the same lack of preparation, forethought, and organising ability as does the story of the operations in the field. The writer begins by a reference to the state of chaos which prevailed at the Palace Hospital at Ismailia in 1882, and then draws a comparison with the condition of things at Rawalpindi in 1897, very much to the disadvantage of the Indian arrangements, although, of course, a dozen excuses could be offered for the breakdown at Ismailia which have no application to Rawalpindi. Here are the chief facts commented upon :—

No. 1 British General Hospital should have been opened on October 9, but, from some unforeseen circumstances, it was not ready until a much later date. In the meantime, convoy after convoy of sick kept arriving from the front. These convoys, sometimes as many as fifty in number, being detrained at Pindi about midnight, in the bitter cold of October, hoped to find at last rest and comfort.

What was the state of this hospital?

The medical officer who had been in charge was removed and sent to a Field Hospital at the front, and a Surgeon-Major, who had been detailed from Bombay for this Field Hospital, was placed in charge about a week before the sick streamed down from the front. This swapping horses while crossing a stream does not usually succeed. To make matters worse only three medical officers were available to attend 397 or more sick, and some of these had other duties to perform. If there had been a sufficient number of assistant surgeons and trained men of the A.H.C. to assist, matters might have jogged along in some way, but, to complete the Field Hospital at the front every man who could be found was sent forward. Owing partly to this, and partly to overwork on the part of the medical staff, sick men were for days without medicine or attendance except when the fagged-out, sick, and over-worked medical officer in charge himself struggled round these wards. Many were sleeping on the floors and in the hospital library. Some were in tents. The difficulty of obtaining sufficient tentage was extraordinary, considering that the whole resources of India were behind and in connection by rail. This appeared still more extraordinary when, on its being intimated that Sir George Wolseley, the Lieutenant-General Punjab, was soon to arrive, acres of canvas suddenly appeared, pitched in Oriental magnificence and gorgeous array.

Will it be believed that with many serious cases, several men wearing themselves out owing to abscess of the liver, only one feeding-cup could be found in this large hospital?

Such was its state when handed over to what may be called the Journeyman Surgeon-Major. Loud and specific complaints are also made of the cleanliness of this hospital, and the state of the bedding and other equipment. What can the Medical Officer have been like who left his hospital in such a state on departure for the front, and who was the P.M.O. who permitted such a state of affairs? Doubtless they will be specially promoted, and originate another grievance amongst the thousand-and-one in our A.M.S. The unfortunate Surgeon-Major who took over charge, or, more properly speaking, at whose head this vast hospital was pitched, worked night and day in order to overcome difficulties which were almost insurmountable. Work as he may, it was in vain. He was soon struck down with enteric fever, and barely escaping with his life, is now invalided.

Whilst this was going on in the European hospital, the condition of the native general hospital at the base was a hundred times worse. It was under-officered (four where ten should be), badly equipped, and without food supplies. Native troops in hospital provide their own rations, but these poor unfortunate soldiers who fought so bravely for the "White Queen" came down from the front in a condition little short of starving, consequent on their having no money to buy food by the road.

At the front the cry arose, "Evacuate the Field Hospitals," and evacuated they were with a vengeance! Men were passed down from Field Hospital to Field Hospital with little or nothing the matter with them, to arrive at the base, hamper the staff, and overcrowd this hospital, only to be discharged in a day or so. All this entailed immense labour on the already overworked medical staff, and what army could maintain the fighting strength at the front under such conditions? If the Field Hospitals had been advancing daily there would have been some excuse, but they were in some instances stationary for ten to thirteen days at a time. No army could keep the field for any time with such a system of leakage as this.

The unwieldy and overloaded Field Hospitals were a veritable nuisance and a curse to the Brigade, many a man losing his life on baggage guard whilst protecting their cumbrous and utterly unsuitable stores and equipment. . . .

I remarked last week that one of the most disquieting features in the disastrous record of this campaign is the light it lets in upon our boasted Indian military organisation. This is the point which comes out most strongly in the two letters published above. Not only was the campaign badly planned and the troops badly handled, but the account of the way in which the transport was got together reveals an utter lack of preparedness in one of the most important departments for an emergency of this kind; while another department is equally condemned by this evidence as to the condition of the hospital arrangements. The public at home have to face not merely a disastrous failure in the field, but a failure manifestly due to lack of intelligence and skill at the head of affairs and to radical defects of organisation. The ablest commanders and the most perfect army cannot command success, but at least they can deserve it. The Indian military authorities seem to have deserved nothing but failure. The campaign was opened out of season; the force was too unwieldy for the task it had to perform; the General was a stranger to his staff; the staff were incompetent; the transport was ill-equipped, and unsuited to the circumstances of the campaign; the medical staff was overmanned at the front and undermanned at the base; the hospital organisation was chaotic. Wherever one looks, one sees the evidence of incompetence at headquarters and disorganisation in the lower departments—the failure of individuals and the breakdown of a system.

Parliament meets next week. It should be the first business of every one in the House who values the safety of the Empire to insist upon a searching inquiry into the causes of this deplorable fiasco. If we are told that this is unpatriotic, so much the worse for patriotism, as understood by its professional exponents. If we are told that to condemn the policy and the conduct of this inglorious and disastrous war is the part of "Little Englanders," so much the better for those who are called Little Englanders. At a time when almost every day brings forth some new crisis in our foreign relations, and when our fire-eating politicians and pressmen are ready to beard any foreign Power at the first pretext for a quarrel, we find the Indian Government, which is nothing if not an efficient military administration, checkmated, humiliated, paralysed in an attempt to "teach a lesson" to a few thousand undrilled savages. At a time when India is stricken by plague and famine, when its Government is but one degree removed from bankruptcy, we see money being squandered in millions on a policy which is of doubtful expediency and condemned by many of those most competent to judge its merits. It behoves every man who is concerned for the credit of England or the welfare of India to call on the rulers of the Empire for an explanation of the past failure, and a satisfactory declaration as to what is intended in the future, and to resist further expenditure of blood and money until both are forthcoming.

THE HIGH SHERIFF AND "TRUTH."

Some unknown friend has sent me a curious little pamphlet, entitled "Copy of Correspondence between W. W. A. FitzGerald, High Sheriff of County Clare, Ireland, and Truth. With Extracts from an Article in Truth." The pamphlet is printed by Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co. It contains certain letters which passed between myself and Messrs. Bolton & Co., of Temple Gardens, in August and September last, an extract from a letter

which I wrote to Mr. J. B. Molony, solicitor, of Ennis, and a few sentences from an article entitled "The Clare Grand Jury Case," which appeared in TRUTH of September 30. These are the whole contents of the pamphlet, and no indication is given as to the parties at whose instance it has been printed, or the object of its publication. From the manner in which it has been compiled, however, it seems a legitimate inference that it is intended to put right the High Sheriff of Clare with those who were unfavourably impressed by the manner in which the Grand Jury was summoned last summer, and the Secretary to the jury appointed. The pamphlet gives a most imperfect and misleading impression of what passed between myself and the representatives of the High Sheriff and the successful candidate at the election. It selects from the correspondence and the article certain passages in which I withdrew statements which had been corrected, while suppressing all those remarks which were not corrected, and studiously ignoring the failure of the High Sheriff to answer the most serious and pertinent questions arising in the case. Whoever is responsible for this proceeding has acted with great disingenuousness, and did well to refrain from disclosing his identity upon the pamphlet.

I do not know how long this publication has been in existence, nor to what extent it has been circulated, but it appears to call for some reply on my part. For that reason let me briefly recapitulate what passed between myself and the representatives of the High Sheriff and the Messrs. Studdert in August and September last. In the first instance, a paragraph appeared in TRUTH of August 12 explaining that the appointment of Secretary to the Grand Jury of Clare at the last Summer Assizes rested between one gentleman, who was a landlord and nephew of the Lord Lieutenant, and another, who was the son of the High Sheriff's land-agent; and that, although the former was a very popular gentleman in the county, and generally considered a most likely candidate, the High Sheriff's agent's son was elected. It was asserted that many who had habitually received summonses as Grand Jurors did not do so on this occasion, and that prior to the summoning a canvass had been made of the county, and the names of those who were favourable to each candidate ascertained. Finally, I said that there had been a departure from the usual practice of summoning the jury, and that the matter required sifting. Upon this paragraph I received a letter from Messrs. Bolton & Company, of Temple Gardens, acting on behalf of the High Sheriff, who denied that there had been any departure from the usual practice, and asserted that all the gentlemen summoned had been for some time past on the panel. This was on the face of it a very limited and guarded traverse of the allegations which I had made, and entirely failed to deal with the chief point—namely, that certain gentlemen who had been habitually summoned were left out on this occasion; but as the solicitors had called upon me to withdraw and retract charges, I published the letter, with an explanation that I made no imputation upon the High Sheriff's character, adding that I should be glad to go further if Messrs. Bolton would deny categorically (1) that persons who had been habitually summoned had been left out on this occasion, and (2) that the work of issuing the summonses had been practically left in the hands of the High Sheriff's agent, or his son, the successful candidate. In order that the High Sheriff might fully appreciate the reasons for asking these questions, I subsequently furnished his solicitors with particulars showing that eleven out of twenty-three jurymen were connected with the Studderts by blood, marriage, business, or other ties; and also with the names of several gentlemen who, having been summoned several times in succession, had been omitted on this occasion. To this I received no answer for three weeks.

In the meantime, Mr. Molony, of Ennis, acting on behalf of the Messrs. Studdert, had written to inform me that he had received instructions to commence proceedings against me, and to demand the name of my informant, or of my solicitors in the event of my refusing to disclose the source of my information. I gave in reply the names of my solicitors, but at the same time explained that I should be perfectly happy to correct any mistake in my statements, and apologise for it, if Mr. Molony would explain what it was. I then received from Mr. Molony a categorical denial of the statement that the summoning of the Grand Jury was left in the hands of the Messrs. Studdert—a statement which, even if true, hardly seems to furnish the Messrs. Studdert with a cause of action, or to justify the peremptory letter which their solicitor addressed to me. Mr. Molony further stated that it was the practice to omit from every Grand Jury a certain number of those summoned to the previous jury, so that nothing unusual had taken place on the present occasion. Later on I received a letter from Messrs. Bolton, putting forward some attorney's pretext for not answering the questions which I had put to them respecting the composition of the jury, and intimating that, unless an apology was published for the erroneous statements made in the original paragraph, I must take the consequences in the shape of proceedings for libel. Quite independently of the threat thus conveyed, it would be entirely contrary to my practice to refuse reparation for any erroneous statement made in TRUTH. Although the main allegations made in the original paragraph of August 12 had never been contradicted, either by the High Sheriff or by the Messrs. Studdert, this gentleman had asserted that I was in error in two particulars. I accordingly stated in the article of September 30 that I desired to correct these two statements, and to apologise for having made any mistake. The statements thus corrected were simply that the High Sheriff had left the summoning of the jury in the hands of one or other of the Messrs. Studdert, and that the jury was not summoned in accordance with the usual practice. No other part of the original allegations had been traversed; and when making the desired correction, I pointed out emphatically that a correction and apology for two incidental inaccuracies in no way affected the substance of the original allegations, and

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that the facts which remained undisputed by the High Sheriff amply justified my original comment that the composition of the jury called for explanation. I concluded my article by repeating what the undisputed facts were, and I put it to the High Sheriff plainly that it was his duty to clear the whole matter up. Neither the High Sheriff nor the Messrs. Studdert thought fit to say another word after this point. The obvious inference is that the serious part of the charge cannot be answered; and this inference is certainly not weakened by the course taken in putting forth a garbled and disingenuous compilation from the correspondence and the TRUTH articles for the purpose of conveying the impression that my criticism has been satisfactorily rebutted.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE LAST PARIS PRODUCTION.

MONTALEMBERT, the son of a French father and Scotch mother, could neither do with or without Roman Catholicism. He loved free thought, and he had a passion for submitting his mind to authority. Likewise Lavedan, who hates aristocracy, can neither do with nor without it. He gives us, however, a less number of gilded and other aristocrats in "Catherine" than in most of his plays. The heroine is in rather humble bourgeois life. He calls the comedy (in four acts) after her. Now, Catherine (Mlle. Lara) is anything but a ladylike name. The young person bearing it is the daughter of a poor organist (M. Vallon), and one of four children who live in a garret. The heroine graduated with a first prize for the piano at the Conservatoire, and is the music mistress of Madeleine de Coutras, sister of the young Duc de Coutras, and only daughter of a sweet and yet stately dowager Duchesse. This character Mme. Pierson personates delightfully, and with all her old, suave Crecle grace. The Duc falls in love with Catherine as she teaches his sister. But he has no chance of declaring himself until Madeleine is one day called to attend to her invalided old nurse. The piano serves, as the book did to Francesca da Rimini and her stepson, but Catherine does not forget to play, as the Italian lovers forgot to read. However, things are becoming warm when Hélène de Grisolles enters. Mlle. Brandès personates this naughty personage. Hélène is a cousin of the Duc, has been married to a too fast nobleman, and is trying to have her marriage annulled at Rome, as a step for proceedings in the Divorce Court. She is a person of warm feelings, and, when Catherine retires, confesses in a way her passion for De Coutras. The confession takes the form of an appeal to him for advice. She is in love, and endeavours to say with whom. But he manages not to let her and parries until his mother comes in.

De Coutras in the next act declares to the dowager his passion for Catherine. She, being an indulgent mother, and esteeming the music-mistress, consents to the marriage. The Duc is her darling and a spoiled pet. In French fashion, she goes herself to Catherine's father to make the proposal, and to state, the girl having no dowry, what she proposes to settle on her. She climbs six flights of stairs to the abode of honest petty-bourgeois poverty. The prizes won at school by the four children of M. Vallon ornament the wall. Artificial orange-blossoms are kept under glass. Children's hoops are preserved as cherished *souvenirs*. Catherine works at a sewing-machine. Blanche, her anæmic sister—anæmic from want—makes shades for lamps. There are two boys, who have just come in from school, and are otherwise busy. All this is new to the Duchesse. She rather shrinks from the notion of choosing a daughter-in-law in such a place. But the organist—a shabby old man—enters. She states the cause of her visit. He feels in honour bound to tell her of his poverty and of some debts. She waives all objections. But when he consents, Catherine refuses. Her troth is pledged to an old friend of the family, Mautel, who proposes for her as a way to rescue her from black poverty. He might almost be her father. Being a just man, however, he releases her from her engagement. The music mistress becomes Duchesse de Coutras.

Six months come and go. The Duc is not so much tired of his wife as of her family; their ways are not the ways of his *monde*. Her brothers make themselves too much at home at his country house. The cowed, humble air of old Vallon makes him wince. Why will he sit on the edge of his chair in company, and cut his bread instead of breaking it? Catherine herself gets on his nerves. She is lovely; dressed to perfection by a skilled *femme de chambre*. But she often betrays her former calling of music mistress. Still he could put up with this, were it not for the family.

As he chafes Hélène reappears. She is a perverse creature, and fonder of him since his marriage. Her apparent object is to say good-bye, but her real one to entice him to go with her to Rome. She is called there to look after her suit. The Duc might yield to the temptress, but for the intervention of Catherine. She has overheard the conversation. Her honest heart revolts, and she tells Hélène to be gone, and take with her the man she (Catherine) has ceased to love. The dignity of the injured wife wins back the husband. He falls on his knees to implore forgiveness. But Catherine is like stone. She writes to her old admirer Mautel for leave to place herself under the protection of his friendship. He has greater eloquence than any one could have suspected. It is shown in remonstrating with the Duc. Mautel reveals his former engagement and (as it has turned out) the loss Catherine incurred in being released from it. What with his speech and the other influences, a reconciliation takes place. Mautel proposes to serve as father to the two boys, and take them to a place he has far away in the country. The father agrees to give up visiting Catherine, who can go to see him. In this way the *dénouement* is fairly satisfactory. As to Hélène, she succeeds in getting her marriage set aside, and marries a Roman nobleman. In any case—one feels—the divorce court is open to the young Duc and Duchesse. If the Duc's nerves suffer further, he can go there for a remedy.

"Catherine" is society gossip dramatised. It is not very deep or extremely brilliant, but easy and amusing from first to last. Great pains were taken with the stage decorations. All the porcelain in the salon of the Duchesse is lent by the Museum of Sèvres. Signor Annunzio

was at the first representation. He could have seen that the agency of Byronic passions is not needed for an attractive four-act play with much literary charm.

The anti-Semite agitation must go hard with aristocrats who are sons or husbands of Jewish ladies. Such noblemen are among the most illustrious in name and title of the "Livre d'Or." The Prince de Ligne, the Duc de Gramont, and the Prince de Wagram are married to Rothschilds. The Duchesse de Rivoli is adopted daughter of the late Mme. Furtado Heine. Her daughter is Princesse Murat. The Princesse de Polignac is the only daughter of Mirès; the Duc de Richelieu is grandson of Michel Heine, of New Orleans. The Duchesse d'Etampes, *née* Rommengen; the Marquise de Solignac-Fénelon, *née* Hertz; the Dowager Duchess of FitzJames, *née* Lovenhjem; the Marquise de Breteuil, *née* Fould; the Marquise de la Marismas, *née* Jacob; the Vicomtesse de la Pannonie, *née* Heilbronn, are all of Jewish origin. Then we have the Marquise de Rochouart, *née* Erard; the Princesse F. de Lucinge Faucigny, *née* Cahen; the Marquise de Presle, *née* Klein; and the Marquise de Gronchy, *née* Haber. The late Marquise de Noailles, *née* Lachmann, was a Polish Jewess. The late Duchesse Decazes—step-daughter of the so-called Duc de Campo Felice—was *née* Singer. A Duc de La Rochefoucauld has married Mlle. Rumboldt. This being so, I cannot see how, with any decency, sons of the Crusaders can take up arms against Israel. I am told that one of the reasons why they subscribe to Drumont's paper is that Jews do not care to give any longer their millions and their daughters to French noblemen. The divorce law has brought down the value of titles in the marriage market.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

It appears to me, Dear Lady Betty, that a series of Club Conversations should be very instructive. The following is to be regarded merely as a specimen:—

Scene: A Club. *Enter Smith.*

Jones: "Well, Smith, how are you? How is the world treating you?"

Smith: "Magnificently! You know Midas, the Klondike King?"

Jones: "Yes, by name. An abominable ruffian, is he not?"

Smith (*laughing*): "A colossal thief, I should imagine . . . . but a very useful man to know. His Klondike Consolidateds are already at eight, and Midas tells me that he and his gang are going to force them up to twenty. . . . . I have five hundred of them."

Jones: "What was the property valued at originally?"

Smith: "The capital of the concern is a million. Of course, before the shares reach twenty, we who are behind the scenes will sell out."

Jones: "And who will bear the loss?"

Smith: "The public, obviously."

Jones: "You call that business? It appears to me that Midas is merely a gigantic swindler, and that those who are 'behind the scenes,' as you call it, are accessories to the act, and, therefore, swindlers too."

Smith: "But there is nothing illegal in manipulating the market, or in forcing shares up to a fictitious value."

Jones: "Only because the Legislature never contemplated that modern ingenuity would devise such an elaborate system of fraud."

Smith: "But every one in the West End and in the City speculates upon such private information. It is to obtain this that we make the acquaintance of men like Midas, give them dinners, put their names down for election at our clubs, and show them much civility."

Jones: "All that only makes the matter worse. It shows that the West End is now so eager to make money that it altogether disregards the first principles of honesty."

Smith: "My good Jones, it is waste of time to discuss business principles with you. . . . . Wait till I have sold my Klondike Consolidateds, and you will come to eat my ill-gotten delicacies and to drink my ill-gotten wines."

. . . . .

Scene: The Same Club. Time: Six Months Later.

Enter Smith.

Jones: "Well, Smith, how is Midas?"

Smith (*savagely*): "A *d——d* scoundrel! He ought to be in gaol, and if I can get him there I shall."

Jones: "Why? Did Klondike Consolidateds not go up to twenty?"

Smith: "Of course they did not. Midas merely unloaded his own shares upon his friends at eight, after which the concern collapsed. He made his money; we lost ours."

Jones (*chuckling*): "So long as Midas was only going to cheat the obscure public, retired tradesmen, clergymen, and ignorant widows, there was nothing dishonest in the transaction. When, however, he caught you, he became an abominable scoundrel."

Smith: "My good Jones, it is useless to talk about business with you. Any man who possesses the slightest knowledge of business can see that . . . ."

Jones (interrupting): "To cheat others is honest, but it is dishonest to cheat us."

Exit Smith, growling.

* * * * *

Six years ago Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co. first published a little volume called "Clubs," and attention was directed to it in this column at the time. The object of the publishers in producing the work in question was to provide a book in which the names of all the clubs used by the English in all parts of the world should be recorded, together with the dates on which each was founded, the number of members they have on their books, and much other information which might be useful or interesting. In compiling a work of this kind it is difficult to avoid making mistakes occasionally, and some errors of comparatively trifling importance are still to be found in the edition for 1898. A careful study of "Clubs," however, brings to light some especially curious facts. There are now over one hundred and forty-five clubs in London, of which only thirty existed half a century ago, whilst seventy-five have been founded during the past twenty years, dividing between them no less than a hundred thousand members. At the beginning of the century there were probably not more than twelve hundred men who had secured election to a London club, and now there are considerably more than two hundred thousand! Of course, no distinction now attaches to being a "club man," but it is curious to observe that the revolution as regards clubs in London only commenced just twenty years ago and has raged with unabated energy ever since.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

The results of an over-indulgence in food or drink are promptly rectified, without pain or discomfort, by taking a teaspoonful or two of Kutnow's Improved Effervescent Carlsbad Powder, which acts quickly and brings the patient into a proper condition for further indulgence in the good things of life. Write, mentioning Truth, for a free and post-paid trial sample, and the printed evidence of eminent Physicians and leading Medical publications, to S. Kutnow & Co., Limited, 41, Farringdon-road, London, E.C.

SPORTING NOTES.

MANY years have elapsed since there has been any Two Thousand betting in January, and the transactions recorded last week are wholly unworthy of notice, being paltry in amount, and representing merely the harum-scarum fancies of foolishly impetuous backers. For example, the dark Angus appears to have been backed at 100 to 7, whereas his stable companion Disraeli, who is one of the Derby favourites, is not mentioned. It is any odds on Disraeli being the best horse from this stable, and it is quite likely that Angus will prove a difficult animal to train. As to Hawfinch, I shall be vastly surprised if the Kingsclere stable does not supply a better candidate in either Batt or Collar. Ninus is not engaged in the Derby, so it may be assumed with confidence that he will be prepared for the Two Thousand if possible, but Prince Soltykoff's colt will want a lot of time, and it is quite likely that he may not be seen at his best until the Grand Prix. Ninus is decidedly one of the finest three-year-olds in training, and he looks like a stayer. Hawfinch was lame in his knees during the greater part of last year, and it may be taken for granted that if he is really a Derby horse he would have been bought by the Duke of Westminster.

Hermiston is mentioned as being "well in" at Lincoln, and the colt is certainly most favourably weighted, but there is not the least prospect of his running so early in the season. It is quite possible that Hermiston may go for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap, but that race is run only four days before the Newmarket Stakes, in which Mr. Low's colt is also engaged.

Orzil has been stopped in his work at Newmarket owing to some trifling mishap. He was overworked last season, and has considerably benefited by a long rest, but I do not believe that Mr. Brassey's colt will ever really stay over a longer distance than six furlongs.

Mr. Belmont's Bridegroom II., who is a son of Rayon d'Or, is one of the most improved three-year-olds in training, and he is just the stamp of horse to show to advantage over the Epsom gradients. He is not engaged in the Two Thousand, but he is entered for the Deby, St. Leger, and Grand Prix.

The American horse Voter has been well taken care of by the handicappers, and his owner must the more bitterly lament that his steed was amiss last autumn after his arrival at Newmarket from the United States, for he would certainly have won the Cambridgeshire if he had been all right.

If Major Egerton's estimate of Bay Ronald is correct, then the City and Suburban is surely over, if Mr. Brassey's horse can be got fit and well to the post. At Lincoln, Bay Ronald (8 st. 11 lb.) is placed within 5 lb. of Knight of the Thistle and 1 lb. behind Voter, while Merman has the same weight, and he has to give Bradwardine 4 lb. At Epsom, Bay Ronald receives 8 lb. from Knight of the Thistle and 7 lb. from Voter, while Merman gives him 9 lb., and Bradwardine has the same weight. It seems to me, however, that the City and Suburban handicap is a very indifferent production, having apparently been framed on the fatuous and absurd "flattering" system. Every owner will be delighted with his own horse's weight until he has considered the weights of those owned by other people.

The Stewards of the Jockey Club stipulated for two hundred entries for the Princess of Wales Stakes of 1901, and they ought to think themselves very lucky in obtaining one hundred and ninety-nine. It is difficult to understand why, under such circumstances, the Stewards should have waited for a week to decide whether or not they should go on with the race. This stake would not have come near obtaining the required number of subscriptions but for the generous support of the public breeders and the American owners. The expectation that horses would be lavishly entered, under the new conditions, to run as six-year-olds and upwards, have been grievously disappointed, as was confidently predicted by all practical people. Not a single four-year-old has been engaged, and there are actually only five three-year olds, which are King of Thebes, Ninus, Leisure Hour, Alt Mark, and a brother to Comfrey, whose public form last season is not indicative of high excellence, for he ran eight times, and his only victory was in the Warwick Nursery during the last week of the season. I recently mentioned King of Thebes as likely to prove a dangerous candidate for the Two Thousand and Derby, and the fact that he has been entered for this race shows that his owner and trainer have a good opinion of him. Alt Mark has also been noted by me as a filly that may be expected to run well for the One Thousand and Oaks. Most of the animals engaged are yearlings, and I shall be vastly surprised if the race does not cost the Newmarket fund at least £4,000, for the subscription is heavy, the amount payable on each entry after the final forfeit has been declared being £115. There is sure to be a prodigious weed out in October next, when the minor forfeit is declared. Sir R. Waldie Griffith is the largest subscriber among the owners, having ten entries, and among them are a two-year-old sister to King of Thebes and a yearling half-sister, by St. Serf. The Duke of Westminster has seven entries, his three yearlings all being sired by Orme, the colts out of Quetta and out of Throstle, and the filly out of Vampire. The Duke of Portland also has seven entries, including a yearling by Carbine out of Memoir, with the crazy name of ·303. It may be hoped that other owners will not follow this example, for there is surely more than enough confusion already in the matter of names without any more being created by such fantastical aberrations. Of the public breeders Sir Tatton Sykes has entered ten of the Sledmere yearlings, which will be sold at Doncaster in September, including colts by St. Simon out of Marchioness and out of Mimi, by Morion out of La Flèche, and by Royal Hampton out of Elizabeth and fillies by Orme out of Wedlock (dam of Best Man), by Amphion out of Claribelle, and by Isinglass out of Reprieve. Mr. Platt has engaged five of the Bruntwood yearlings, including a colt by Isinglass out of St. Marguerite, and colts by Kendal out of Geraldine and out of Pixie.

After all the idiotic eulogies which were lavished by crack-brained visionaries upon the Stewards of the Jockey Club for excluding three-year-olds from the Princess of Wales Stakes for 1901, it is amusing to find that, in order to obtain an adequate number of entries, it has been found necessary to reduce the distance from a mile and a half to a mile, a course which nobody can pretend to regard as a satisfactory trial of merit for four-year-olds and upwards.

No fewer than twenty-one three-year-olds have been left in for the Union Jack Stakes of £950 at the Liverpool Spring Meeting, including Cowl, Bittern, The Reeve, Jeddah, Vatel, Sugar Loaf, and Devon. Of this lot Bittern, Sugar Loaf, Devon, and The Reeve have also accepted for the Bickerstaffe Stakes of £600 at the same meeting.

It is quite on the cards that M. Ephrussi's Margaux, by Galopin out of Alicante, by Hermit, may turn out to be a colt worth remembering as the season goes on. Margaux ran several times in France last year without winning, but it may be taken for granted that it is not without reason that he has been left in for all the £10,000 stakes of the season.

Mr. T. K. Barnes, whose death is announced, was the owner of Swaledale, and he had some horses in training at Penrith. Mr. Barnes inherited a large fortune from his father, who sold the Tring Park estate to Lord Rothschild.

Lord Warwick's colt Lucknow will turn out to be one of the most speedy three-year-olds of next season if he goes on all right. This colt must be remembered whenever he starts for a five-furlong race. He has been entered for the Great Surrey Handicap at the Epsom Spring Meeting, but he has quite enough weight there.

The Duke of Portland was at Newmarket last week to see his horses canter. Wantage, his dark three-year-old, is very good-looking, but nothing is known as to his form. The grandly-bred Elizabeth Hardwick, half-sister, by Orme, to Donovan, is never likely to do much good on the

Turf, in spite of her splendid pedigree. It is not often that an owner has two such hopeless failures that are so highly bred as this filly and Golden Moments, by Sheen out of Memoir, who has been relegated to the stud. The Duke has a promising lot of two-year-olds, and he is sure to be dangerous at Lincoln, where he has several animals engaged in the Brocklesby Stakes; but, of course, it will not be known which one is to carry his colours there until they are tried about six weeks hence.

Lord Rosebery is sending his well-known horse, Quarrel (winner of the Royal Hunt Cup at Ascot in 1896), to Dalmeny, where he will be at the service of the tenant farmers in the district. Quarrel is to leave Newmarket to-day. This fine horse is by Discord out of Free and Easy. Lord Rosebery has given the farmers of the Lothians every opportunity of raising good blood stock, and during the last twelve months Oriflamb (by Bend Or out of Illuminata, dam of Ladas and Chelandry) has been standing at Dalmeny. Lord Rosebery has a very smart two-year-old by Oriflamb, named Flambard, now in training at Newmarket.

The Prince of Wales has nine horses in training at Newmarket, five of them being two-year-olds, all of which were bred at Sandringham. H.R.H. commenced last season with the same number, and, of that lot, Persimmon has retired to the stud, Glentilt has been sold to the Duke of Devonshire, who wanted him to lead Diendonné in his work, St. Nicholas has been sold, and Safety Pin and Oakdene are being trained for hurdle-racing by Mr. Thirlwell. As to the much-trumpeted Ormathwaite he has not a 500 to 1 chance for the Derby, but he may win some races over short and easy courses if he is judiciously placed. The Prince's three-year-old fillies, Azeeza (half-sister, by Surefoot, to Persimmon), Mousme, and Little Dorrit are all moderate, and H.R.H. will have to depend mainly upon his two-year-olds next season. Sandringham, own brother to Persimmon, is a splendid colt, and it is hoped that he will be ready to run at Ascot, but he wants time, and it is quite likely that his début may be postponed until the July meeting at Sandown Park, where he is engaged in the £5,000 stake, which is the richest two-year-old race of the season. Sandringham is entered for the Prince of Wales's Post Sweepstake at Goodwood, which will be worth £2,600, and there are no penalties. After Sandringham—*longo intervallo*—it is probable that Eventail, by Ayrshire out of Fanchette, will turn out to be the best of the Prince's two-year-olds, and she is heavily engaged. Warbler, half-brother to Ormathwaite by Windgall, is a promising colt. The Epsom Spring Meeting is likely to be the first meeting of the season for the Prince, as it is probable that H.R.H. will be at Copenhagen during the Newmarket Craven week. His yearlings at Sandringham include Diamond Jubilee, own brother to Persimmon, and Fitzsimmons, half-brother, by St. Simon, to Grig. The Prince will have the first claim on Watts next season, and there is not a particle of foundation for the report, which went round the papers, that H.R.H. was anxious to get Sloan, the American jockey, to ride for him. This story was simply the purest of fictions, but it appears to have been universally accepted as correct in the United States.

With reference to the removal of Mr. Martin D. Rucker's horses to Sir Blundell Maple's stables at Newmarket, the true facts, as given me by a Newmarket correspondent, are these: Sir Blundell Maple made Mr. Rucker a sporting offer for his horses in training, together with his mares and foals. All of them are to be put under the hammer at an early date, and the surplus, if any, over and above the price paid by Sir Blundell Maple, is to be divided between that gentleman and Mr. Rucker. King Hampton and Northallerton, however, were not included in the deal. The former was made a present of to Sir Blundell Maple, while the latter has passed into the hands of a syndicate of three, who, in the judgment of more than one owner at Newmarket, have secured a useful animal. That Mr. Rucker has become tired of his ill-fortune on the turf is nothing to wonder at, seeing that his expensive stud has done nothing toward its keep. After his experience, Mr. Rucker is probably wise in forsaking the "Sport of Kings," and remaining true to bicycles, out of which he is supposed to have amassed a fortune.

The Duke of Leeds is to replace Major Dent as Master of the Bedale Foxhounds. A former Duke hunted this district from Hornby Castle at a time when it was included in the vast Raby country. Mr. Harris has resigned the Mastership of the South and West Wilts, a country which has been for some time distracted by local squabbles. Captain Heywood Lonsdale will not hunt the whole of Shropshire country (in which he succeeded his father last year) after this season, but he is willing to hunt the northern district three days a week at his own expense. There are constantly recurring difficulties about the south or Shrewsbury side of this immense country, the whole of which was hunted by the late Mr. Heywood Lonsdale for fourteen years without any subscription. Several other changes of Mastership are reported to be impending, but Mr. Cockburn has consented to withdraw his resignation of the Blankney country.

The reason why Englishmen are preferred by Scotch constituents for electioneering purposes is becoming very obvious. Mr. Munro-Ferguson has been severely heckled for golfing on the Sabbath by his Musselburgh voters. Poor man! He is not the only sinner. He has had the misfortune to be found out, and that is all. I know a gentleman who was a member for a Scotch constituency. He was a Scotchman, and he loved golf. But he had a pious fear of the unco' guid. Therefore he did not venture to play golf on Sunday when the House was sitting. Tooting or Richmond knew him not on Sunday. On week days he diligently cut divots from the turf. On Saturday he went for a change of air by the shore of the loud sounding ocean. There, as a matter of fact, he did golf. But he took good care that the papers put in a little paragraph about the seaside and his health, and so his constituents pitied him. If he had golfed near town, his name would have gone into the papers for a certainty; and this, as he observed, would offend some of the voters. It is therefore much safer for an Englishman like Mr. Morley, who never golfs, or like Mr. Asquith, who tries to golf and cannot, to sit as a Scotch member.

But, after all, the Scotch are not the only people who regard Sunday enjoyment with religious horror. Near Caversham, which is not far from Reading, there is a village called Southstoke. Here did the youth of the parish indulge in football on a Sunday afternoon. The ground was practically a private one. They had been encouraged to play by the late vicar; but objections were raised by his son who succeeded to the living, but who does not seem to have inherited his father's good sense, and, at his Reverence's instigation, the Parish Council started a prosecution under a long-forgotten Act of Charles I. But the police testified that there was no rioting or rowdyism or betting, and the Bench dismissed the case on the ground that there was no illegal concourse of people within the meaning of "1 Car. I., cap. 1." Well, surely it is better that young fellows should play football or cricket on a Sunday afternoon than loaf about with pipes in their mouths and their hands in their pockets waiting till the local public house opens. The lower people are in the social scale the less they may do on a Sunday in the way of exercise and enjoyment. The richer folk have the Queen's Club with lawn tennis and racquets. Those who can afford it have the river in the summer, and then there is the ubiquitous bicycle. But those who cannot afford to ride have nothing to do. As good Christian men their duty is to put on their best clothes and hang about, playing pitch-and-toss, and smoking all day long—unless, of course, they can be induced to vary these pursuits by going to Church, where, in many parishes at any rate, they will have to hear some parson talking abject nonsense for half an hour, Surely it would be much wiser to encourage them to take a little healthy exercise. The late vicar was a wise man in his generation. It is a pity there are not more like him about. Then perhaps on Sunday afternoons we should see in the London parks and on the

Brandauer's Circular-Pointed Pens. Neither scratch nor spurt. Glide over the roughest paper with the ease of a soft lead pencil. Assorted sample box, 7 stamps, from the Works, Birmingham.

village greens just as much cricket as there is on a Saturday. The turf might suffer a bit, but a good many young fellows would be much healthier and better for the game.

The first round of the Association Cup ties proper is now over, and the hopes and aspirations of a certain number of clubs are laid to rest for another year. Aston Villa, the holders, will not be seen at the Crystal Palace. They were beaten by Derby County after a great struggle. The result might have been different had the Aston forwards shot better. Another surprise was nearly effected. It was all the more remarkable as the match was played at Sheffield when the Burslem team made a draw with the League champions. The United scored from a foul, and the Burslem goal-keeper played a great game. Preston North End were at home to Newcastle United and the visitors actually won, Peddie scoring for them by a lovely shot just in the nick of time. A tremendous crowd assembled to see West Bromwich play New Brighton Tower, and the latter showed surprisingly good defence. The only southern team that survived the round was Southampton, who beat Leicester Fosse after a splendid game. The upshot of all the games seems to be that the first division of the League are not such a long way ahead of other football clubs as some people imagine.

In Rugby football, the games that were played were not particularly interesting. Cambridge had an easy win over Richmond, Mackie and Pilkington at three-quarter showing some very pretty combination. Coventry as usual were weak when playing from home, but so were Blackheath, and yet the visitors to the Rectory Field were badly beaten. Lennox once more showed what great improvement they have made this season by beating Kensington after a close game. Although they had not much the best of the score, the Old Merchant Taylors always had the best of the match with Croydon, whose outsides played a strong defensive game. In the County Championship, Durham had only to beat Northumberland to be champions of the North. Unfortunately, Pool, their full-back, had to leave the ground for a time, and during his absence Northumberland gained the only try scored. By the way, in the match against Coventry, one of Mitchell's place kicks was rather remarkable; the ball hit the top of the right-hand pole and dropped over the crossbar. It was given a goal.

At Oxford the crew is practically settled although Phillips has not yet taken his seat, and Pitman will probably be tried at bow. The eight looks like being a very powerful one, but a good deal will depend on Darling. The Cantabs have improved a great deal. They are, unfortunately, light, but they look like making a fast crew all the same. There is no doubt that Fletcher's efforts are beginning to bear excellent results.

In another exhibition game at billiards Roberts has beaten Harverson. But when is the champion's match with Dawson coming off. Apparently, Dawson has staked a hundred pounds and Roberts refuses to do anything until he sees a thousand on the table. It really looks as though Roberts were not so anxious about the match after all. He may know his own business best, but one can scarcely understand how he allowed himself to be drawn and to make the public statements he did if he had no intention of seeing the matter through. It almost amounts to a breach of good faith with the public when a leading man like Roberts acts in this way.

Tincler, the Irish runner, looked much more fit in his three-quarters of a mile race against Kilpatrick than he did when he ran half a mile. The track at Blackburn was loose and the wind high. Tincler had to make his own running, and won easily in what was, under the circumstances, excellent time.

It is very satisfactory to know that the A.A.A. and the N.C.U. have healed up their little dispute over racing tracks. The N.C.U. has been agitating for a reduced rate for the carriage of bicycles by the railway companies. Something ought to be done in the matter. But, without going into the question, it is interesting to note that the N.C.U. has approached the Cyclist Touring Club, and invited that august body to join with them in the matter. One would have imagined that the C.T.C., with all its thousands of members and the enormous power it wields (in its own estimation), would have but to speak the word and the thing would be done. It is, therefore, very amusing to find the N.C.U. taking the initiative. It would seem that the policy of the C.T.C. is about as ridiculous as its book-keeping. It is absurd to expect that a body which carries on a stationery and drapery business would pay attention to such a trivial matter as railway rates.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—Although movements have been by no means uniformly in the upward direction during the past week, we have had strong speculative outbursts in several departments, and important advances have been established in many of the stocks to which I have of late drawn attention. The Mining Markets and the Home Railway section, almost alone, have displayed dulness, but there are indications that this is not going to last.

The Outlook Brightening.

The outlook generally has distinctly improved, and the situation in the Far East no longer gives cause for anxiety. Even the Russian Press now acknowledges the correctness of England's attitude in standing up for the freedom of trade, and I should be very much surprised if the Celestials were to renounce the much-coveted British loan. Should the latter be concluded amidst favourable surroundings, it would probably give quite an impulse to speculative activity in all the markets, with the exception, perhaps, chiefly, of gilt-edged securities from Consols downwards. The disinclination of the public to pay fancy prices for British Corporation stocks is sufficiently indicated by the fiasco of the Liverpool Two and a Half per Cent. issue at 98, and now we have the Hull Corporation going on the warpath with a Two and a Half per Cent. redeemable stock at 96. It looks to me almost as if this class of securities would reach a still lower level. The general outlook is further improved by the return of the engineers to work. Had not unfavourable dividend announcements been made in the Home Railway department, we should probably have seen a strong rally in these stocks. As it is, the first favourable dividend will probably produce a recovery after the almost general decline. The most animated departments have been those of American Rails, Canadian Rails, and Mexican Rails. In Canadian Pacifics and Grand Trunks, however, the movements have not been all the same way, and, as I anticipated, there have been large realisations accompanied by temporary reactions. The despatch of the American warship *Maine* to Havana harbour, which had a week ago encouraged the "Bears" to renewed efforts, has proved a blessing in disguise to the Yankee market, as after a moderate relapse a strong improvement set in, which was at first started by the news that the visit of the *Maine* was a friendly one, and was to be followed by equally amicable calls of Spanish vessels at United States ports. Then followed the announcement of the great New York Central-Lake Shore deal, which is one of the most important events that has ever taken place in connection with the history of United States railroads, and finally, President McKinley's strong speech in favour of currency reform more than counteracted the Teller resolution. The leaders of the Wall-street market are evidently on the "Bull" tack now, and we may have drastic developments. Mexican Rails have been put up to a higher level, and there has been a boom in most other Mexican railway stocks, Inter-Oceanic of Mexico securities, to which I drew attention to when much lower, coming into special notice. The South American section, generally, has been firm, and I maintain my view that we may look for great animation in these stocks during the present year. South African mining shares have hardened slightly since the carry-over, and the market is now awaiting the result of the Presidential contest in the Transvaal. But in view

of several favourable developments, set out elsewhere, we may at any time see a sharp rally. West Australians have moved irregularly, and the public are, for the time, neglecting this department. Declines have, however, been moderate, and several leading shares have shown continued strength. The Industrial section is becoming a huge gambling hell, the speculation in petroleum, fish oil, cotton, and electric light shares being excessive, and likely to lead to serious disaster.

Home Rails—A Reaction.

The Home Railway Market has had to bear the brunt of several unfavourable dividend-announcements, which have more than neutralised the favourable feature presented by the settlement of the engineering strike and the return of the men to work. I herewith give, as usual, my comparative table of dividends:—

—	Date of Declaration of Dividend for second half of 1896.	Dividend at the rate of per cent. per annum.	Amount carried forward.	Dividend for second half of 1897.	Amount carried forward.
	1897.		£.		£.
Great Central	Jan. 13	1½	2,400	1	2,200
London and Brighton	,, 13	8	22,280	8	26,000
South Eastern	,, 14	6¾	5,520	6⅝	4,000
Great Eastern	,, 14	4¾	50,918	5	51,000
Metropolitan	,, 20	3⅜	14,130	3¾	17,000
Do. Sur. Lands Stock	,, 20	2⅝	—	2¾	—
London and South Western	,, 21	8¼	24,805	8½	23,038
London and Chatham First Prefs.	,, 22	4½	64,543	4½	72,295
Lan. & Yorkshire	,, 25	5¾	29,140	5¼	21,000
Metropolitan District Prefs.	,, 26	2¼	403	2¾	4,000
North Eastern	,, 28	7¼	31,602	7	—
Great Northern	,, 29	5¼	8,096	5	15,094
Great Western	Feb. 4	7¼	42,884	—	—
London and North Western	,, 5	8	99,779	—	—
Midland	,, 5	7	40,036	—	—
Caledonian	Mar. 2	5	17,418	—	—
North British	,, 11	3	1,484	—	—

It will be seen that the South Western dividend, showing an increase of ¼ per cent., was fairly satisfactory, although somewhat below the market estimate. Neither is there any fault to find with the Metropolitan District Preference dividend, at the rate of 2¾ per cent., against 2¼ per cent. a year ago, the carry-forward being considerably larger. District Ordinary have fallen to 30¼, although there is no apparent reason for this movement. Not only is the introduction of electric traction assured, but the various extensions in which this Company is interested are being carried out, and must eventually greatly benefit the line. There remain the unfavourable announcements of the North Eastern and Great Northern Companies. A reduction in the North Eastern dividend from 7¼ per cent. to 7 per cent. is undoubtedly disappointing, and shows that the expenses have largely increased. This Company has, of course, suffered very considerably through the engineering lockout. The Great Northern dividend at the rate of 5 per cent., against 5¼ per cent. last year, although with a larger balance carried forward, created a very unfavourable impression, and put down the price of the Deferred stock to 58, from which it has recovered to 58¼. It is not, of course, difficult to find an explanation of this unsatisfactory result. Heavy working expenses mostly account for it, while the policy of the Board has no doubt been to trench upon revenue in preparing to face the coming competition of the Great Central. It should not be forgotten, however, that the Deferred stock at the present price yields 3⅞ per cent. The dividends of the three remaining Heavy lines should be announced in the course of the present week, and should these prove satisfactory the Home Railway department will doubtless experience an important recovery. The last settlement showed that stock was generally scarce, and that instead of being frightened out of their holdings investors appeared to have increased the same. Traffics continue to show large increases, and the resumption of work in the engineering shops should further improve the returns. For the week ending January 23 the increase amounted to £49,464. The traffics, more particularly of the Caledonian, were satisfactory, while the Brighton and South-Eastern gains continue on a large scale. At the Brighton meeting the Chairman was able to show that the reduction of fares had stimulated passenger traffic, a feature being the success of the policy of tempting people out of the third into the second-class by reducing the latter fares. Goods traffic is also increasing, but this will entail a considerable outlay in waggons. There is no doubt that the Brighton Company will have to spend large sums on capital account in the near future, and from that point of view the present quotation of Brighton "A" would appear to be high enough, although at 178½ xd. they yield 3⅞ per cent. per annum. At the South-Eastern meeting Sir George Russell was able to make satisfactory statements. As regards the passenger traffic, however, the chief increase was in the third-class, in which it amounted to nearly £20,000, while the second and first classes together only went ahead to the extent of £12,500. There seems every hope that by the widening of the approaches to Charing Cross and Cannon-street the South-Eastern will be able to run a considerably larger traffic than hitherto, especially in the summer months, and its Continental business is also expanding. In fact, the only "Bear" point that the market has got hold of is the approaching opening of the City and Waterloo Railway, but I fancy that the loss from that source is greatly overrated. Dover "A" at one time rose to 116¼, reacting to 115¾. When the dividend of 3⅞ is deducted, they will look very cheap. Great Centrals have been steady, the Preferred at 71, the 1894 Ordinary at 43 xd. The latter stock is no doubt especially suitable for a lock-up, and promises to advance to a much higher level. The Chatham Company has done well during the last half of 1897, the increase in passenger receipts being as much as £22,000. The Company, however, requires an addition to its rolling stock in the way of goods trucks. The dividend estimates of the Heavy lines have not so far been reduced on the unsatisfactory results obtained by the Great Northern and North-Eastern Companies, and it would be imprudent to prophesy so close to the event. I should think, however, that the distributions will be more satisfactory than in the case of these two lines. The Scotch stocks have suffered a moderate set-back; but the Caledonian, especially, has so much to gain from the reopening of the shipbuilding yards on the Clyde, that I quite anticipate an important upward movement in "Coras."

The American Market—Sensational Advances.

The outlook in the Yankee market was by no means bright at the commencement of the week, and the Cuban and silver bugbears were being worked by the ursine party to their hearts' content. The revulsion of feelings was great in Wall-street when it transpired that the despatch of the American man-of-war *Maine* to Havana was a peaceful event. Recent successes of the Spanish army in Cuba, moreover, appear to foreshadow the coming end of the insurrection, and it looks as if the "Bears" would have to discover some other point to work on. There remains, of course, the silver agitation, but Senator Teller's resolution in the U.S. Senate, declaring United States bonds to be payable either in gold or silver, although passed, has been altogether disregarded, it being of academical interest only. It was, moreover, counteracted by the strong pronouncement of President McKinley at the banquet given to him in New York by the Association of Manufacturers of the United States in favour of currency reform and sound money. The President has thus nailed the colours to the mast, and has openly pledged himself in favour of sound money. Whether the President's Administration will be able to pass an effective currency reform measure this session is another question, the Senate still being under the control of the silver men, but we may at least rest assured that during his tenure of office no Bill in favour of silver will have a chance of becoming law. The big leaders in Wall-street are evidently recognising that the time is favourable to a strong upward movement, and thus the Vanderbilts have selected the past week for the announce-

ment of the deal between the New York Central and the Lake Shore. The New York Central is to take over the Lake Shore, acquiring the stock of the latter by a large bond issue. According to latest advices, the New York Central will offer $200 in New York Collateral Trust Three and a Half per Cent. bonds for each Lake Shore share, and as a majority of the stockholders of the Lake Shore have already agreed, there is no doubt about the deal being consummated. But the new policy of the Vanderbilts is a much farther reaching one, as by acquiring control and allying themselves with the Chicago and North-Western, the Union Pacific, and the Oregon roads, they secure an absolute Vanderbilt trans-continental route from New York to San Francisco. The importance of this event can hardly be over-rated, as the Vanderbilts have always looked well after their Companies, and have discountenanced the wrecking which used to go on in other roads. The new departure, therefore, is of special moment to all those interested in the Union Pacific, which under the Vanderbilt and Morgan influences promises to develop into one of the most prosperous railroads in the United States. The new combination will, doubtless, also benefit largely by the coming rush to Klondike, of which there are already strong indications. In the meantime, very important advances have been established. Lake Shores jumped on Saturday 6 points in New York, and the following comparative list of quotations shows how important the rise has been in these, in New York Centrals, in Union Pacifics, and in Northern Pacific Prefs. :—

—	Price, Jan. 2, 1897.	Highest in 1897.	Lowest in 1897.	Jan. 21, 1898.	Jan. 31, 1898.
Atchison	14⅜	17⅛	10	13	13¾
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	23¾	36¼	17¾	30⅝	32¼
Canadian Pacifics	57¾	90⅛	46¾	91¼	90¾
Central Pacific	15½	18½	7½	13¾	14½
Denver	12⅛	15½	9 7/16	2⅝	13¾
Do. Pref.	42¾	51⅞	37⅝	49	52¼
Erie	15¼	19 11/16	12	15	15¾
Do. First Pref.	35	46½	28⅝	38¾	40¾
Grand Trunk 1st Pref.	—	66⅛	30⅛	66¾	67⅜
Do. Guaranteed	—	74¼	39⅝	77	76¾
Lake Shore	144	183	156	83	199
Louisville	49¼	65¼	43⅛	57¾	62¼
Milwaukee	75⅛	105⅛	71⅞	97⅜	99½
Mis., Kan., and Texas	13½	17⅜	10¾	12⅞	14⅛
Norfolk Adjust. Pref.	—	50	22½	48⅝	50
Nor. Pacific New Pref.	—	61⅞	34½	65⅞	70⅞
New York Central	96½	118⅛	95⅛	115¾	122¾
Ontario	15⅛	20 9/16	13	17	18½
Reading	13¾	15¼	9⅞	11⅓	11⅝
Southern Ordinary	9⅝	13	7 11/16	9⅛	9⅝
Do. Pref.	26¼	39	25	31⅛	33
Union Pacific	9¾	35 7/16	19 13/16	32⅜	36
Wabash Pref.	15¾	24¾	12⅛	18¾	19½

There is a growing disposition on the part of the leading groups to take up the stocks *seriatim*. Thus, after the Vanderbilt transaction, we are apparently going to have a big deal in Louisville and Nashville on the refunding scheme, an improvement of from $4 to $5 having already taken place. Missouri, Kansas, and Texas have also been taken up by a Syndicate, who are apparently anticipating an early payment of a Preference dividend. The Ontario, too, has been drawn into the Vanderbilt combination, Mr. Chauncey Depew having taken a seat on the board, while there is a talk of a small dividend being guaranteed by the Vanderbilt roads, but the rise which has taken place is justified by the Road's alliance with the Vanderbilt interests alone. Northern Pacific Prefs. have scored a further important improvement on dividend rumours, and in anticipation of large earnings from the Klondyke boom. Central Pacifics, too, are on the upgrade, but I cannot help thinking that Union Pacifics are the pick of the Pacific bunch. The new securities are about to be issued, and the Prefs. have now gone ahead to 61¼, the Four per Cent. Mortgage bonds to 97, while the Ordinary stock at 35½ is well on the road to 40 ex. the new Prefs., which is by insiders mentioned as the goal. It is also anticipated that the new Prefs. will rapidly rise to 70. Milwaukee have been comparatively neglected for some time, but the last traffic increase of $66,000 was by no means unsatisfactory. The Road is, moreover, stated to have earned at the rate of over 6 per cent. per annum during the last six months, and the continuance of a 5 per cent. dividend therefore seems to be pretty well assured. The rise in Denvers is partly due to a refunding scheme for the Seven per Cent. First Mortgage bonds, maturing in 1900. Many other "Bull" points are being cabled over from New York, such as the fact that the gold reserve in the United States Treasury is $164,000,000, the highest figure reached for the last seven years, while traffics continue satisfactory. The earnings of all the roads so far received show an average increase for the first week of January of 16 per cent., while for the third week of January the increase amounts to 13 per cent., and for the second week of January an increase of 15 per cent. is shown by sixty-seven roads. Canadian-Pacifics have, as I anticipated, suffered from realisations, and, after touching 92¾, are down again at 90¾; but the December statement shows a gross increase of $397,000, and a net gain of $129,000, which is satisfactory as far as it goes. The question now is, what dividend will be announced. Should 3½ per cent. be paid, this, with the previous distribution of 1½ per cent., would make 5 per cent. for the year, and we might have a further rise, but the market now inclines rather to a 2½ per cent. dividend, and the question of new capital, which will have to be raised for the extensions, must also be faced. Grand Trunks are still being strongly supported by the clique who are working the deal. But temporary reactions are becoming more frequent, and the top prices have not been maintained, the First Prefs. being quoted 67⅜, the Guaranteed 76¾. The Trunk market has now become very large, a number of jobbers having joined the half-a-dozen who stood there disconsolately twelve months ago. Prospects, moreover, are distinctly encouraging, but after the important advance a pause is due, as any unfavourable turn in the markets generally might bring about a heavy relapse in view of the unwieldy "Bull" account.

FOREIGNERS AND SOUTH AMERICANS.

The Chinese difficulty has entered a much more favourable phase, and even the Cretan question seems at last to look more favourable. Thus, it is probable that the foreign Bourses will become more optimistic again, especially as the relations between the United States and Spain as regards Cuba have become more amicable. Spanish have thereupon improved, and Turks have been fairly steady, as the report on the Greek finances has now been issued, and there is a fair prospect of the Greek indemnity loan being launched. The South American section has displayed a good deal of strength, and after a further reaction Argentine Government stocks have moved up again, the 1886 Loan to 92¾, the Funding Loan to 91¼, Buenos Ayres Water and Drainage bonds to 75½, and the Four per Cent. Railway Guarantee Rescission bonds to 63½. The gold premium in Buenos Ayres, moreover, continues on the down grade, having now fallen to as low as 155. The advance in Cedulas, especially in the National, is not surprising in view of the downward movement in the gold premium, which has a direct bearing upon their yield. It would not be at all unlikely if Argentines were to rise considerably, not only in view of the large quantity of wheat available for export, but also of the election of General Roca to the Presidency, which is considered a "Bull" point by the initiated. Argentine Railway stocks show a moderate recovery for the week, Buenos Ayres Great Southern Ordinary at 157, Buenos Ayres and Rosario at 77½, Central Argentine at 86, which latter quotation, by the way seems too high from the dividend point of view. Cordoba Central First Prefs. are unchanged at 91, the Second Prefs. at 50. Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debenture stock is slightly firmer at 60. Cordoba and Rosario Prefs. at 50 deserve attention, as there is a considerable margin for an improvement in these, even after the recent advance. Mexican Sixes have been very

MORTLOCK'S (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "MORTLOCK'S" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

firm, and Mexican railway stocks generally have been better, the First Prefs of the Vera Cruz Line having gone ahead to 83. The upward movement has, however, extended to other Mexican railway securities. Thus, Mexican Central Four per Cent. Gold bonds, which have always been a favourite investment with me, are up at 70, and the various Inter-Oceanic of Mexico stocks are much higher. This reminds me that in TRUTH of December 9, 1897, I strongly recommended the purchase of Inter-Oceanic of Mexico Prefs., then quoted $1\frac{1}{8}$-$\frac{3}{16}$, which now stand at 2, while the "A" and "B" Debenture stock, which I recommended at 45 and 22 respectively, have advanced to 64 and 32 respectively. Uruguay bonds have been well maintained, while Brazilians are neglected, and Chilians are lower. Peruvian Corporation stocks, after a setback, are apparently preparing for a fresh start, the Prefs. having hardened to $10\frac{1}{4}$, the Debentures to 43.

The Kaffir Circus—Small Fluctuations.

The settlement in South African shares passed off satisfactorily, and rates proved comparatively light. There is only a small "Bull" account, and it is quite certain that whenever a strong buying movement comes about stock will prove very scarce. For the present, however, the public keep out of the market, as they are awaiting the upshot of the Presidential election in the Transvaal. According to more recent news the contest between President Kruger and Mr. Schalk Burger will be closer than had been anticipated. The *Standard and Diggers' News* is responsible for the statement that the result will not be known until February 20, but I venture the opinion that it will be possible to see which way the wind blows much sooner. Personally, I am afraid that the anticipation entertained in some quarters, that President Kruger will be defeated, is too good to be true. Notwithstanding a renewed "Bear" attack, East Rands have been well supported on the result of the meeting which has been held in Johannesburg. The quotation of these shares is now $5\frac{3}{16}$. At the East Rand Proprietary meeting, held at Johannesburg last week, the Chairman, Mr. W. Dalrymple, who presided, explained that, owing to the opposition of a section of the shareholders and to Press criticism, the board had been forced to raise a loan of £300,000. The chief difficulties, however—that with regard to the lien of the H. F. Syndicate and that of the representation of the French shareholders on the board—had been overcome. An issue of £600,000 of debentures would now be made, which would enable the board to liquidate the loan and to provide ample funds with which to complete the development work. The Chairman stated that the prospects had greatly improved, and that three of the subsidiary companies would shortly be working with an aggregate of 320 stamps, while all the dividends derived from these subsidiary companies would be placed to a special account for dividends to the East Rand shareholders. The Chairmen then gave some brief particulars of the profits made by the Angelo, New Comet, and Driefontein Companies, the first-named of which has declared a dividend of 25 per cent. Consolidated Goldfields have been dull at $4\frac{7}{8}$; but Rand Mines have hardened to $33\frac{7}{16}$, and Deep Level shares generally, after a reaction, are firming up again, the following being the quotations:—Goldfields Deep $10\frac{1}{4}$, Crown Deep 14, Nourse Deep $6\frac{11}{16}$, Rose Deep $7\frac{1}{8}$, Durban-Roodepoort Deep $4\frac{3}{8}$, Jumpers Deep $5\frac{7}{8}$, Knight's Deep $2\frac{1}{8}$. As regards Rand Mines there cannot be the slightest doubt that whenever the firm chiefly interested gives the signal they can easily rise a few points. The stocks of the Barnato group have been very dull, but it may be expected that when Mr. Woolf Joel has been at work for some time in the Transvaal these stocks will feel the effect of his exertions. In the Robinson group Langlaagte Star continue to show a firm front at $1\frac{3}{4}$, but Randfontein are barely steady at 2, this being also one of the groups which is not being supported to any extent at present. My anticipation that the launching of a Transvaal loan is on the tapis is confirmed by a Reuter's cablegram from Pretoria, according to which "provision for the proposed railways and public works is to be made by a State loan, and the President will ask the Raad to place this loan where it is deemed advisable." It is evident that the Transvaal Government must have money, and it is equally certain that they will not be able to obtain a large loan on anything like reasonable terms, unless they make concessions to the mining industry. Not only would the English market be closed to such an issue, but the French and German Bourses would insist quite as strongly upon the Transvaal Government acting upon the recommendations of the Industrial Commission. At the meeting of the Waterfall Estate and Gold Mines, held on Friday, the Chairman confirmed the statement which has already appeared that the Homestead Block has been acquired, and that the action with reference to the Mynpacht has been terminated by the withdrawal of the defendants, ending thus in the victory of the Company. He stated that the Directors had been able, through the licences, to accumulate sufficient money to pay the shareholders annually about 5 per cent., and they hoped to be able to sell a portion of their property shortly, or to formulate a reconstruction scheme which would place them in a more advantageous position. He mentioned that on some of the claims on the northern portion of the property many very valuable discoveries of gold had been made which would help them when they came or to sell a portion of their present holding. Diamond shares have moved within narrow limits, and are somewhat firmer at $30\frac{3}{16}$ for De Beers, and at $8\frac{3}{8}$ for New Jagersfontein.

Golden West Australia.

With the South African Market the "Kangaroo" department has suffered from the exceptional activity which is shown by certain other sections of the Stock Markets, chiefly those of American, Canadian, and Mexican Rails, which appear to absorb the attention of operators. Thus public buying is stopped for the moment, and Adelaide is also resting on its oars. The strong groups, however, are supporting values to some extent, and there have been no important declines, while during the last day or two there has been a disposition to put up prices. The list of crushings is small this week, and is as follows:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Ounces of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per Ton.
Peak Hill Goldfields ..	432	1,863	—
North Burgess	120	694¼	23 dwt.
Burbank's Birthday Gift	344	550	—
Wealth of Nations ...	520	310	—
Londonderry	330	652	—
Belle Vue Prop.	129	185	—

The Burbank's Birthday Gift crushing is a satisfactory one, and it is somewhat surprising that these shares do not rise beyond $1\frac{3}{4}$. Lake View Consols, after receding to $10\frac{3}{8}$, have rallied to $10\frac{5}{8}$. Rumours were at one time current that Mr. Callahan, the very able manager of the Lake View Consols, was giving up his post. This was a false report, as it is now officially announced that he has entered into a contract with the Company to continue to act in his present capacity for a further period of three years. Ivanhoe still stand at $6\frac{1}{4}$, while London and Globe Finance shares are quoted $2\frac{3}{16}$ xd. No doubt the issue of the prospectus of the amalgamation scheme of the sub-Companies will again induce activity in London and Globes. By the way, the 10 per cent. dividend has been duly paid to the numerous shareholders. The London and West Australian Exploration group also suffered at one time from a "Bear" attack, from which it has, however, since recovered, Hannan's Brownhill being again very firm at $7\frac{7}{8}$ xd. The principal advance in these shares should come about in March, when all the machinery is at work, and an improvement of two or three points is quite on the cards. London and West Australian Exploration shares declined at one time to $1\frac{1}{16}$, from which there has been a rally to $1\frac{1}{8}$. East Murchison United at $1\frac{1}{8}$ xd. deserve attention, and so do Consolidated Murchison, one of the cheapest shares in the market, which have now hardened to 6s. 3d. By the way, in these and in a number of other shares, the recent weakness was caused by the failure of an old-established

firm of brokers, R. B. Smith & Co. The firm used to be much more important than it has been lately, but it had large commitments in Westralian shares here and on the Continent, and the forced closing of these accounts was responsible for some of the weakness in the market. Sons of Gwalia shares have been firm at $2\frac{1}{8}$. According to a *British Australasian* cablegram the south drive is now in 259 ft., the ore assaying throughout over 2 oz. per ton. The winze has been sunk 17 ft. on the underlie of the lode formation, which assays 5 oz. per ton. The West Australian Goldfields, Limited, have issued a circular reporting latest developments and the present position of a number of their properties. Several of the mines are promising, and the Company has acquired some important interests in the Hannan's district, while it had a considerable share in the Sons of Gwalia deal. The Company does not, however, confine its attention to Western Australia, having also acquired an interest in a British Columbian property, the Whitewater Mines, and, as I have already stated, it has invested in the Victorian Deep Leads. The shares have not, however, moved to any extent, being quoted $2\frac{1}{4}$, while Hampton Plains stand at $1\frac{1}{8}$. The strongest share in the whole market has been Lady Shenton, which have advanced sharply to $2\frac{5}{16}$ ex the dividend of one shilling per share paid last week. This is only what I have been expecting all along, as the shares have all been absorbed by investors, with the exception of those in the possession of Colonial holders who are looking for much higher prices. A favourable cablegram has just been received, which is to the following effect:—"Rayfield (Manager) reports all machinery in good order and working well. Has been thoroughly overhauled. Battery was started January 21. North drive No. 4 level the width of reef is 6 ft., showing first-class stone. Full report sent by mail." Kalgurli have fluctuated, and after touching $5\frac{3}{4}$ have recovered to $6\frac{1}{4}$. Golden Horseshoes have not been in favour, and stand at $8\frac{3}{4}$. The Market Trust group has shown some irregularity. West Australian Market Trust shares are firm at $1\frac{1}{4}$, but Associated Gold Mines declined at one time to $3\frac{7}{8}$, rallying again to 4. West Australian Joint Stock Trusts are quoted $2\frac{7}{16}$. North Boulder have eased off to $\frac{7}{8}$, and Credo have not been helped much by the statements made at Tuesday's meeting of shareholders. Brownhill Central have, however, been firm at $1\frac{1}{2}$, on the very satisfactory advices from the mine. Belle Vue Proprietary, after receding to $\frac{7}{8}$, have hardened to 1. Peak Hill Goldfields have again fluctuated, and, after touching 3, are lower at $2\frac{7}{8}$. Efforts have been made to galvanise Golden Links, Hainaults, and Chaffers into life, but so far with little success. Mr. Prell, one of the Directors of the Champion Reef (Nannine) deserves some credit for not claiming against the Company, which is now being wound up for the purposes of reconstruction, his full fees, such as his other four colleagues are doing. The Directors had agreed to take half fees, and there is no reason why, on liquidation, they should rank for the full sum. Hannan's Proprietary have been quiet at 15s. 9d., but the news from the property is very satisfactory, especially as the flotation of the Ironsides North, a lease belonging to this Company, has been very successful in Adelaide. A cablegram, which has just come to hand, states that the lode on the Pheasant, one of the Company's leases, is 6 ft. 6 in. thick, averaging 1 oz. 10 dwt.

Indian, Australasian, and British Columbian Mines.

The Indian section has shown some irregularity, the chief set back to $3\frac{9}{16}$ taking place in Nundydroog, on an inrush of water—Ooregum Prefs. and Ordinary, Coromandel, Mysore Wynaad, Mysore Reefs, being also lower. Goldfields of Mysore have, however, improved. In Australian mines, other than West Australian, Aladdin's Lamp have been quiet at $1\frac{3}{4}$; but there has been a good deal of movement in the various Mount Lyell shares. Mount Lyell are quoted $14\frac{1}{2}$, while Mount Lyell North stand at $3\frac{13}{16}$, Mount Lyell South at $\frac{15}{16}$, Mount Lyell West at 11s. Mount Morgan have improved to $4\frac{1}{2}$; while Broken Hill Proprietary are easier. A remark which I recently made in "My Letter Box" as to the insufficiency of information concerning the Anglo-Australian Exploration, Limited, has brought me some documents from which I gather that this Company was started in November, 1894, with a capital of £50,000 in 44,000 Ordinary and 6,000 Deferred Shares. On January 4, 1896, the first dividend was paid of 7s. per ordinary share 10s. paid, while the deferred shares received 22s. each. Subsequently, on July 23, a balance dividend of 8s. 6d. per share was paid, and three fully-paid shares in the Gibraltar Gold Mines were distributed for every five shares in the Anglo-Australian Exploration, a considerable distribution being also made on the deferred shares. After reconstruction in July, 1897, the capital was increased to £125,000 in £1 shares, and the Company is now stated to have £44,000 in cash, 131,000 shares in subsidiary undertakings, and two valuable properties in New South Wales. This Company, by the way, was instrumental in issuing the Gallymont Gold Fields and the Gibraltar Consolidated Gold Mines, both of which were successfully floated, and Anglo-Australian Exploration shares are now quoted at $\frac{15}{16}$, with every prospect of an improvement. With reference to the Gallymont Gold Fields, recent advices have been very promising. In the southern mine the manager obtained one assay sample giving 1 oz. 7 dwt. 5 gr. of gold and 4 dwt. 2 gr. of silver to the ton. At the southern mine the middle line of lode continues to open up well, and the average size of the lode is reported as 3 ft., and the last four samples were exceptionally good, assaying from 6 oz. to 11 oz. per ton. These £1 shares fully-paid are now quoted $\frac{5}{8}$-$\frac{3}{4}$. In the New Zealand section declines have preponderated, Hauraki, Taitapu, Woodstock, and Waitekauri all being lower. In copper shares Rio Tinto are easier at $27\frac{1}{4}$, and Cape and Anaconda are also down, but Tharsis are firmer. In the general foreign section Alamillos, Fortuna, Fontino and Bolivia, and Linares are lower, while Montana have hardened. British Columbians have been steady, British Columbia Financial Trust and Klondike North-West Territories being nominally higher. I have already directed attention to the fact that amongst the various enterprises started in connection with the Klondike boom there are just a few good Companies, while the rest are bad and indifferent. On November 4, 1897, I commented upon the Klondike Gold Syndicate, capital £25,000, concerning which circulars were being issued by the secretary, Mr. Davenport, from 18A, London-street, E.C. This prospectus was sent out together with a circular of a bucket-shop, Davenport & Co., who at the same time urged participation in their "Double Operation Guaranteed System." I now gather from the *Financial News* that Mr. Davenport's activity is increasing. He is distributing prospectuses and handbills offering a commission of 10 per cent. to agents for placing shares in the Klondike Gold Syndicate, and making statements such as that "each Klondike Gold Syndicate £1 share may be worth £100 (or possibly a still larger sum) within the next twelve months," while also promising interest at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum to be paid monthly "until a division of profits next spring." This is altogether too good to be safe, and I strongly advise my readers to have absolutely nothing to do with Mr. Davenport and his Klondike Gold Syndicate. British America Corporation shares have been dealt in to some extent at from 2s. 9d. to 3s. premium. According to the *Colonial Goldfields Gazette*, the British America Corporation now own in Rossland the Number One, You Know, Josie, Nickel Plate, Oreornogo, Great Western, Golden Chariot, Surprise, Lucky Queen, and Columbia and Kootenay mines. The Legal Tender, Pack Train, and Derby mines are, it is said, under option to them, pending a settlement of difficulties between the owners, and when this is arranged, the British America will control, in connection with the Red Mountain Railway Company, one-half the surface rights of the entire northern zone of Rossland. They have also purchased 800 acres known as the Algonquin group, in the boundary country, as well as properties in a promising district

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known as White Horse Creek. Amongst British Columbian mines which are coming into notice is the Waverley, a silver lead mine which appears to be turning out exceptionally rich. At present they are shipping selected ore to Swansea at the rate of £500 per week, but when they get their concentrator to work the output will doubtless be largely increased. The Company was formed in May last, and the £1 shares are being dealt in at 1⅜ ½. The Klondike boom will doubtless commence very shortly, and I gather from American sources that the Northern Pacific alone expects to transport about 150,000 passengers to that region. Under these circumstances it may be useful to give the opinion of cool-headed men, even though their views may be somewhat pessimistic. A correspondent, who has resided for some twenty years on the Pacific Coast, has not conceived very sanguine opinions with regard to the prospect. This is what he has to say on the matter:—

I beg to say I broached this North-West Yukon Klondike Alaska matter to parties in London in October, 1896, little dreaming there would be such an absurd "flare" respecting it a year after. The discovery of the Mother Lode, "$300,000 to the ton," is a delightful vision, beating "Africa and golden joys." It reminds me of an old mining friend of mine in California twenty years ago, informing me of a rich find, made by a chum of his in Amador County. He said: "We have struck it rich, very rich—$17,500 to the ton." After a while he added, "There is only one drawback in the proposition: The Hell of it is to find the ton." No. All my information respecting ledges in the Yukon Country points to very large veins of low grade, free milling ore, evenly distributed through the lode formation on somewhat the lines of the "Treadwell" of the Exploration Company. Needless to say, this feature is the most favourable to the first-class mining engineer. The $17,500 ore will do very well for "the Marines," and the general run of investors who want a really "good thing."

With all due respect to my correspondent, recent advices from the spot fully confirm the view that there are very rich properties in the Yukon goldfield. Mexican mines have been in good demand, Grand Central being quoted 1⅞, Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico 1⅜. Efforts are being made to create a market for Campana shares, but so far developments do not appear to have been very encouraging.

The South London Electric Supply Corporation, Limited.

A week ago I passed some comment upon the complaint of Mr. R. Wheelock, a shareholder in the South London Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, with regard to the manner in which the Directors had disposed of 21,659 unissued shares, at par, which now are worth a very considerable premium. The secretary of the Corporation, Mr. S. H. Webster, has since been instructed by the Board to issue a circular to the shareholders, in which the statement is made that "at the time no one came forward to take up the remainder of the issue, until in July last a gentleman took up 1,530 shares, paying £2 apiece for them, although the market price was then 30s. to 35s., this number being requisite for the obtaining of a Stock Exchange quotation. As a *quid pro quo*, this gentleman acquired an option to subscribe the balance of the issue, namely, 21,659 shares, at any time up to December 2 last. This offer was considered so advantageous in the interests of the Company that it was readily accepted by the Directors." They also make the point that there was only one issue of shares, so that the statement in the prospectus that a further issue should be offered to the shareholders would not apply. With this contention I do not agree, and in my opinion, moreover, the explanation given by the Board of the circumstances under which the option was arranged is an unsatisfactory one, and the shareholders will probably still harbour feelings of disappointment and regret at not having been able to participate in the profits made by the gentleman who obtained this very lucrative option. It is curious that the Directors should not mention what Mr. Wheelock had stated in his circular, that the gentleman in question was Mr. Atherton, of Hynton, near Liverpool, the promoter of the Company. In my opinion the option was indeed very cheaply acquired by taking over the small number of 1,530 shares at £2 each, and as the Board appears to have held a very high opinion of the prospects of the undertaking, it is certainly surprising that they should have parted with this valuable option merely against the placing of 1,530 shares. They ought most certainly to have taken their shareholders into their confidence. Mr. Wheelock puts the amount of the difference between the market value and par, at which the option was given, at £12,000, and I am not surprised that he has received a great many letters from shareholders endorsing his views.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues, have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Anglo-Mexican Colonization and Trading Company, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire from the vendor, about 43,000 acres of freehold land, and also about 60,000 acres of freehold land from the Mexican Government for cultivation and colonisation; also to promote subsidiary companies for the further development of the property and to establish a trade with the various ports on the Pacific Coast. The capital is fixed at £150,000 in £1 shares, 70,000 shares being reserved for working capital.

Grosvenor Mansions Company, Limited.—Invite subscriptions for £50,000 Four and a Half per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures of £100 each at par. They will form the first and only mortgage on the property which is situated in Victoria-street, S.W., and are redeemable in 1960. The redemption is secured under a sinking fund policy with the Sun Life Assurance Society. The share capital of the Company is £120,000, divided into Preference and Ordinary shares, of which £22,500 in Preference and £40,000 in Ordinary shares remain unissued.

Kenilworth Sugar Estates, Limited.—With a capital of £160,000, divided into Six per Cent. Preference and Ordinary shares of £5 each, this Company has been formed for the purpose of purchasing about 10,000 acres of freehold land, situated in the delta of the Mississippi, and to erect thereon a sugar factory.

This is hardly the time to issue a sugar venture, considering the depressed state of the market. The capital appears excessive, and the probability of the Company being brought to a dividend paying stage is remote.

Henry Heath, Limited, is a company formed with a share capital of £50,000 in £1 shares, and 45,000 Four and a Half per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture stock at par, for the purpose of taking over as a going concern the business established by Henry Heath in 1822, and which is now one of the largest hat manufacturing establishments in London.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

H. S. B.—1. I really do not know whether you have the power to do this; at all events, you cannot obtain 4 per cent. in any gilt-edged investment security. 2. The Chinese Five per Cent. Gold Loan is a fair investment, which yields about £4 18s. 6d. per cent. at the present price of 101½; but it cannot be called safe. *Bey.*—You might as well sell these bonds and invest in a more progressive stock. At present the American Market is the most active, and you will perhaps elect to take a hand in this. *C. R. P.*—Yes, Uruguay bonds are a good investment, and if the election goes all right they will rise to a much higher level.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Australia.—There is no further news with regard to this Australian Bank. *Secretariat.*—The Credit Assurance and Guarantee Corporation shares are promising. *A Constant Reader, Aberdeen.*—1. Doubtful. 2. Impossible to tell. 3. Probably. 4. Not as safe as some banks. *A. E. W.*—If you will forward a stamped and addressed envelope I will send you the address. *Ubique.*—A fair investment, but no catch.

Home Rails.

Polar Bear.—I see no reason for selling your Central London Railway shares. You receive 3 per cent. till the opening of the line, and there is every prospect of its proving a great success. *F.P.*—Yes; Dover "A" should be held for a rise.

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American and Foreign Rails.

Trunk.—I am glad to see that you bought Grand Trunk Four per Cent. Debenture stock at 83 on my advice. It is now quoted 106, and I see no reason for selling the same, as it is a gilt-edged stock. *F. G. G.*—No fresh news is available. *A. W.*—The lowest price of Grand Trunk Four per Cent. Debenture stock since September 18, 1897, was 99½. *Cecil*—You have done quite right in buying the various American Railroad bonds mentioned, and eventually you will see them much higher. *Libretto.*—All your American Railroad bonds, Nos. 1 to 6, are well selected, and should be held for a considerable advance. *A. M. W.*—I am glad to see that you have a profit of 20 per cent. on Grand Trunk Five per Cent. Debenture stock but there is no reason for selling at present. Do not sell Calgary and Edmonton now, as these are also improving. *Belmont.*—No reason to sell Midland of Canada (1), and the South Americans Nos. 2 to 4 should also be held for an improvement. There is no information to be had here regarding the local concern No. 5.

Mining Shares.

J. B. C.—London and West Australian Exploration shares should be held for an improvement, and as the Sons of Gwalia is apparently doing exceedingly well, the shares may rise further. I cannot reply by letter. *Warrington.*—1. No option but to hold for the present. 2. Ditto. 3. Sell North Mount Lyell on any further advance. *Registrar.*—I understand that the final circulars concerning this amalgamation will be issued this week, and I must refer you to these. *Glynn.*—I have not sufficient information on this property to recommend a purchase. *G. C., Norwich.*—I should think that it would be as well to leave this district alone until there is a decent output. *Hampton.*—From all reports from this extensive property, it is largely gold bearing, and the shares should be held. *Bimbashi.*—This Company is being amalgamated, and you will not be able to avoid the payment. 2. There is no market for the shares at present. *S. W.*—No, I do not agree with the view mentioned. *Persevere.*—In the case of such reconstructions it is generally best to join and sell after. *Crimean.*—There is no option but to join the amalgamation with Wealth of Nations. No reason to sell Langlaagte Estate, Cons. Goldfields Deferred, or any of the others at present price. *Draper.*—It will be preferable to defer a purchase of No. 2 until the reef has been struck again. I see nothing to tempt a purchase of the New Zealand mines Nos. 1, 3, and 4. *Meath.*—There seems no option but to hold the various shares, although they are badly selected. But this is not the time to sell. You should await a recovery in the mining market. *W. H. M.*—If you send postage stamps the copy can be supplied. The Institute in question has now been closed. If you have good profits to take in any of the shares Nos. 3-5 do so on the next advance. Hold Associated Gold Mines (1). *Edgirdla.*—1. A fair purchase. 2. This mine may come along after crushing has commenced. 3. Mismanaged. 4. The circular is returned. You have not apparently joined the reconstruction, and I cannot tell you if you have any rights left. Apply to the liquidator. *D. W. M.*—1. Yes, you should hold for a material recovery. II. No. *X. Y. Z.*—1. There may be some chance of recovery of Herbert Gold Mines, now ¼-⅜, but I never held a favourable view of this mine. 2. Yes, Consolidated Murchisons are a good purchase at present price, also Hannan's Proprietary (3). The South African shares, No. 4, are a fair mining risk. There is very little market for Robinson Randfontein (5). No reason for the reaction in No. 6. Leave Frank Smith Diamonds (7) alone. Burbank's Birthday Gift (8) are a fair purchase. No reason to sell No. 9 unless you have a large profit. *Wednesbury.*—This Corporation is a very doubtful concern, and there is no market for the shares. *Croyland.*—I. Not a bogus Company, but so far an unsuccessful one. II. There seems no possibility to evade payment of the call. III. They would give you notice of forfeiture. The Australian shares should be held. *Horace.*—There is nothing against the purchase of Nos. 2-4, which will probably improve in a general revival of the South African market. No. 1 (Music Halls) are, of course, speculative. Certainly hold Nos. 5-10 for an improvement. *Julie.*—No special reason to make the exchange from Randfontein, but the other shares may move up more quickly. *F. M.*—1. You should certainly hold British America Corporation shares for a substantial advance. 2. In Matabele Gold Reefs and Geelong a fresh rig is probable, and you had better await this before selling. 3. Hold the West Australian shares, especially the last mentioned. The Founders' shares will probably improve. *Folio.*—You had better hold Nos. 1-3 for a recovery now that you have joined the reconstruction. 4. Golden Crown will participate in the amalgamation scheme about to be carried out. *Wanderer.*—You have a very large holding in Indian mines (Nos. 1-7) which probably leave you a big profit. Why not reduce this? I do not advise holding No. 24. The West Australian and South African shares Nos. 8-23, should be held. *D. D. D.*—I quite agree with you that the directors of the Hannan's Napier have been greatly remiss in the matter of furnishing information to the shareholders. I notice, that an extraordinary general meeting was held yesterday (Saturday) for the confirmation of the voluntary winding up and reconstruction decided upon on December 29. The resolutions, creating 80,000 new £1 shares, 18s. paid, a call of 2s. per share to be made, were confirmed.

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Industrial Shares.

L. L. L.—1. It is quite impossible to tell what price these cycle shares will reach, but I do not advise you to be too sanguine in the matter. 2. These tyre shares are cheap enough, but there is not much inducement to buy them. *Z. F. G.*—If you wish to invest in Industrial securities, there is no objection to those mentioned by you. *Medicus, Dublin.*—Stretton's Derby Brewery Prefs. at 13, and Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery Prefs., also at 13, should suit you. *F. J.*—1. No catch. 2. Somewhat speculative. 3. A local concern, about which no information is available here. 4. Ditto. *Fame, South Shields.*—I am not in favour of the cycle and tube shares Nos. 1 to 6, and am afraid that you will never see your prices again. It may be advisable to hold for the present, and sell on an improvement. *W. M. S.*—Eastman Prefs. are now quoted 10¼, and the last dividend was 12s. per share. As regards the future of the Company, everything depends upon conditions in the meat trade. *Green.*—I do not see how you can resist the payment of calls in the Kent Coal Finance and Development Company, unless you can prove misrepresentation, and this would involve legal steps and combination amongst the shareholders. *Marathon.*—A fair investment, but no catch. *Carlo Blanco.*—There is no information available here with regard to the Burton and Lincoln Breweries. This concern has evidently been very unsuccessful, and as it appears to have been leased to Messrs. Salt & Co., you had better obtain the terms on which it has so been transferred. *W. P. L. L.*—No war seems to be on the tapis at present, so it is useless to speculate on such an event. The iron trade generally has been depressed, but it appears to be reviving now. *D. D. P.*—You should write to the secretary, Mr. T. R. Wyles, at the office of the National Model Dwellings Company, Limited, Queen's Buildings, Southwark, S.E., for information, the undertaking being still in existence.

Mixed Investments.

H. H. A., Yorkshire.—1. Great Horseless Carriage shares have collapsed to 2s. 6d., so that I cannot give you any advice on the matter, but why did you not heed my warning? 2. Yes, London and Globes are a promising investment. 3. The tyre shares will hardly decline any further, so that it would be best to hold on the chance of a rise. 4. You might as well hold these also. *Ouf.*—1. A fair investment, but I cannot tell you whether they will improve. 2. Metropolitan Districts should be held for an important rise during the present year. 3. There may be a recovery, but I do not anticipate any important upward movement. 4. Very speculative. *P. D. S.*—The Colonial Mutual Insurance Company is a large and wealthy Australian office. I do not entertain a favourable view of the Hannan's Excelsior Mine. *Roseland.*—1. Having held so long I almost think you should keep these Brewery shares a little longer. 2. Yes. 3. Too speculative. 4. No catch. 5. Hold Glencairn for a substantial recovery. The mine is doing well. *Frugal.*—I do not recommend the two first-named stocks, but the electric shares are a good investment. *Cricket.*—1. A fair mining property, but not yet sufficiently proved. 2. London and Globe will no doubt recover eventually. 3. Of course they would be in favour of properties in which they are interested. *E. M., Devon.*—1. You can make a much better selection. Why do you not make your selection from the gilt-edged and good second-class American railroad bonds of which I published lists in TRUTH of December 9. The yield is from 3¾ to 5½ per cent. 2. Colonial Government Inscribed stocks are also a good investment, but the yield is smaller. 3. There is nothing against Guinness debentures. *Fee.*—1. The reason is that there is so much uncertainty about American Brewery Companies. 2. I should prefer holding, as the clique will no doubt attempt another rig. 3. It might be advisable to await a possible further recovery. 4. A fair investment, but no catch. *Ixion.*—Argentine Cedulas (1) are worth buying, also the Argentine Rails No. 5. There is also every prospect of the South African shares Nos. 7 and 8 improving, but the others had best be left alone. *Music.*—As regards the tyre shares No. 1 a recovery is not improbable, I do not think much of Nos. 2 and 3. The Hainault Mine (4) has possibilities in it. *Anxious, Tulse Hill.*—1. I do not see how you can resist payment of the call. 2. Yes, Knights are promising. 3. No. 4. Hold Woodstock Transvaal. 5. Great Central 1894 Ordinary and Uruguay Three and a Half per Cent. bonds. *Tyro, Leicester.*—No reason to sell Nos. 1-5. Sell No. 6 if you can. The Tea Companies Nos. 7-10 might be held for the present. Driefontein (11) and *Financial Times* (12) shares are promising.

Various Investments.

The Money Market is distinctly firmer at 2¼-½ per cent. for short money, and 2¾ per cent. for three months bills. This is exactly what I had anticipated, and with the growing activity of the Stock Markets, and the extension of business generally, I quite expect further hardening, especially as several big loans are looming large on the horizon, notably the Chinese and Greek loans. Consols are but slightly easier at 112 9/16 for the account, and the non-success of the issue of Indian Railway 2½ per Cent. Debentures at a minimum of 97 per cent. again goes to show that the demand for gilt-edged securities is falling off. Silver has been easier at 26 3/16d., and prospects of

the metal are by no means brilliant. I do not feel inclined to attach as much value to Lord George Hamilton's allusions to a possible gold standard in India, as some people do, for a good deal will have to happen yet before this can be established. But the possibility of this event must be borne in mind, and it would certainly be a severe blow to the white metal. A rise in Rupee Paper to 61¼ has been engineered on Lord George Hamilton's speech, but is somewhat premature, just as, on the other hand the speculation in Mexican Railway stocks, which depend so largely on silver, is somewhat dangerous. The more favourable outlook of the Chinese question has caused an improvement in Japanese bonds to 101½, while the Chinese loans are well supported. Business in the cycle section has again been very small. Dunlop Deferred have fallen to 13s., while French Dunlops are somewhat firmer at 5s. 3d. Humber Ordinary are easier at 15s., while the Extensions are also lower at 10s. 6d. Cycle Components have eased off to 2 7/16, while Singer's at 14s., and Swift's at ¾, show no alteration. Amalgamated Tyres are rather lower at 7s. The dividends of nearly all the leading English banks have now been announced, and I gather that amongst fifteen London institutions there are seven which have added to their distributions, while eight have maintained the previous rate, and of the two discount companies one pays 1 per cent. more, while the other makes the same payment as last time. Lloyd's Bank shows the largest increase, viz., 3¾ per cent. per annum for the half-year and 2½ per cent. for the year; the banks next in order of increase being the London and County and London and South Western. The London and Midland, too, has done exceedingly well in increasing its dividend by 1 per cent., and it is satisfactory to notice that the Clydesdale Bank has obtained an increase in its profits of over £8,000 against the year 1896, and that while the distribution of 10 per cent. is the same as last year, a larger addition is made to the reserve fund. Amongst the so-called private banks Martin's has increased its profits, the dividend of 6 per cent. for the year comparing with 5½ per cent. for 1896. Bovril shares are slightly firmer at 15s. for the Deferred. In Schweppes, the Ordinary stand at 1 3/16, the Deferred at 12s. 6d. The feature in the Industrial Market has been a sharp advance in Welsbach Gas Ordinary to 122½, while the Prefs. are quoted 102, the Deferred 1 1/16. It is said that the buying was for Vienna, but the cause is so far a mystery. Coats Ordinary are dull at 61½, and Threads are quoted ⅞ premium. Even now all the allotment letters do not appear to have been despatched. Some curious proceedings took place at the St. John's Hall, Penzance, on Friday, January 21, when Mr. E. J. Gardiner, as liquidator, presided over a meeting of shareholders in Batten, Carne, & Carne's Banking Company, Limited. Mr. J. H. Tonking read the report of the Committee of Inspection, from which it appeared that the estimated liabilities were £178,000, while the accounts estimated as available for assets amounted to £130,000, showing a deficit of £48,000, which must be met by a call on the shareholders. The Committee referred to the reckless advances which had been made without proper security, and to the fact that an actual loss of £175,000 was shown during the period of the Bank's existence—or £30,000 for six years. The liquidator objected to giving the names of the persons through whom the enormous losses were made, another speaker expressing the opinion that if the names were disclosed there would be six petitions in bankruptcy the next day, with the result that the losses of the shareholders would be further augmented. Opinions varied very much on this point, and there seemed to be a strong feeling amongst those present that the names should be disclosed. Mr. C. C. Ross, who is joint liquidator with Mr. Gardiner, owes £38,000 to the Bank on an overdraft, but it is evident that several other Directors of the Bank had also obtained overdrafts. In the end a Committee of Inspection was appointed for the purpose of thoroughly examining the Company's affairs. One would think that keeping the matter an open secret could not possibly be to the advantage of the shareholders, and that it would be far better to make a clean breast of it. Why should the Gas Light and Coke Company take £74,500 from its reserve fund in order to make up its "statutory rate of dividend of 12¾ per cent. per annum," which amounts to £377,000? One would think that in view of the fact that the electrical Companies are encroaching upon the Company's profits, the Directors would acknowledge this new factor and simply distribute as much dividend as they earned, retaining the reserve fund intact. H. Newman & Co., of 9 and 10, Railway Approach, London Bridge S.E., are forming themselves into a Company with a capital of £15,000, but the prospectus does not contain anything about past profits, the statements being confined to mere estimates. It is obvious that under these circumstances the investment cannot be recommended. Outside brokers are not relaxing their efforts, and in addition to Currie, Sons, & Co., of 30, Craven-street, Strand, W. C., to whose efforts to draw country people into their blind pools by means of circulars suspiciously like those issued by Errington, Williams, & Co., whilom of 30, Warwick-street, Regent-street, W., I have already drawn attention, we have Sanford & Co., of 48, Finsbury-pavement, E.C., endeavouring to launch deals in Union Pacifics and Milwaukees. The curious feature is that the latter people warn the recipients of their circulars against blind pools.

—Your affectionate uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

A PARISH DOCTOR'S ROMANCE.

SOME time ago I received the following letter from a well-known West End physician:—

— Wimpole-street,
November 15, 1897.

Sir,—In reference to your "Queer Story" in the current issue of Truth (November 11), I should like to inform you that the story is unquestionably based on a real occurrence. I can speak with authority, because my mother was Dr. "Theobald's" favourite niece; and she often heard him talk in his old age (strictly *sub rosâ*), of the successful trick which he had played on the Earl of "Bodmin," in conjunction with Lord "Charles Devenish."

It may interest your contributor, and perhaps some of your readers, to know this.

And now in reference to another matter. I have a true, and I venture to think an extremely interesting story of my own to communicate to you. I herewith enclose particulars, in case you should care to make use of them. Naturally, I have not the skill, as I scarcely have the leisure, to present the story to you in a form fit for publication. I am, therefore, sending a mere bald recital of the facts, which I place at your disposal to work up in any way you please—at least, if you think it worth while.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

The Editor of Truth.

Being then very busy with my Christmas Number, and other pressing matters, I was unable to attend to my correspondent's enclosure at the time. I laid it on one side, therefore, for future perusal. And it was only a fortnight ago that I found leisure to go through it. I at once saw that the circumstances related were exceptionally interesting. And I turned the matter over to one of my staff, to work up into a form suitable for publication in my "Queer Story" columns. In accordance with my request, he has produced the following.—Ed. Truth.

People who know me nowadays as a prosperous West End physician, with a house in Wimpole-street, and a practice worth several thousands per annum, little realise what struggles I had to encounter when, as a young man, I first set up for myself. I always say—and with reason—that I had exceptionally bad luck at the outset of my career. In the first place, my mother's uncle—the celebrated Dr. Theobald—who might have given me valuable help in my profession, died while I was still walking the hospitals; in the next, the substantial legacy which we had confidently expected from him, and a fraction of which would have afforded me the requisite capital for the purchase of a good partnership, proved to have dwindled down to almost nothing; my uncle having apparently frittered away the bulk of his fortune in rotten investments and rash speculations. My father, I may add, was a poor man, and could only afford me a very few hundreds t

start life upon. Thus, instead of embarking upon my career, as I had expected, under unusually favourable auspices, I was left to make my own way from the first, practically unassisted.

With the meagre capital at my disposal I bought a correspondingly meagre practice in Greenwich. It was not, of course, the sort of practice I should have chosen if I had had my choice, lying, as it did, almost exclusively among the poorest members of the population, and producing an income not merely small, but exceptionally difficult to get in. But I was given to understand by the vendor of the practice, that if I cared to apply to the Guardians, they would, no doubt, transfer to me the post of assistant parish doctor, which he had held for some years; and for which (owing to the scanty pay and hard work) there was very little likelihood of competition among other local practitioners. His statement was justified by results. I did apply, and I got the post. They call such people medical officers nowadays, and pay them a decent, if not a lordly, stipend. At that time I was simply dubbed a parish doctor, and received the magnificent recompence of £80 per annum for my services. However, it was a certainty, and, to a man in my position, that of itself counted for much.

On the other hand, I may say, without exaggeration, that I earned the money ten times over. A calculation which I made, at the end of the first three months, showed me that I was being paid for my work among the paupers at the rate of about sixpence a visit. And such visits! The slums of Greenwich and Deptford (part of which lay in my district) are bad enough now, even under the maternal care of a lynx-eyed County Council. In those days, they were infinitely worse. The cellars and attics in which I often found myself were—many of them—so squalid and loathsome that thirty years afterwards I can hardly recall them without a shudder. The dirt and vermin, the foul diseases resultant from debauchery and drink, the——. But there! I will not pollute your ears with these unpleasant details. Suffice it to say that my work as parish doctor was at least as sickening as it was arduous—which is saying much, and that stern necessity alone kept me from throwing up the post.

But even a parish doctor may find his consolations; and I am going to tell you how I found mine. The consciousness of doing my duty? Of alleviating misery? Of earning the gratitude of the sick and helpless poor? Of serving my generation in the best way I could? Dear me! No! A consolation much less abstractedly virtuous, and much more concretely satisfactory. The most effective consolation of all, when you can get it in the proper form. Comfort incarnate. Balm in Gilead personified. That moving and breathing anodyne—a woman.*

I saw her first by the bedside of a dying woman, in a miserable garret in East Greenwich. It did not seem at all the place for a pure young girl; for the dying hag and all her family were a vicious, abandoned lot; and, indeed, the very street in which they lived bore a character which made many people loth to go down it, even in broad daylight. She was trying to feed the half-unconscious old creature with a teaspoon, as I entered. But when she heard my footsteps, she stopped and glanced up. She had large, innocent blue eyes, which looked into mine anxiously.

"Are you the doctor?" she cried. "I am so glad you have come. Poor old Mary is much worse. Can—can nothing be done for her?"

I shook my head.

"Her case is quite hopeless," I said, with a glance downwards at the comatose old woman. "She cannot last many hours."

"I—I—was afraid it was so. Will—will—she, do you think, die before the evening?" whispered the blue-eyed girl.

"I think it extremely probable."

"I—I—want to remain here until the end," she said. "I cannot bear to think of her dying all alone in this dreadful place. One of her daughters came in a short time ago. I tried to persuade her to stop, but she only laughed at me and went off. They seem to be terrible people."

"Some of the worst in the street," I rejoined; "and that is saying a great deal." Then I added, "You will not think me impertinent or interfering, will you? But—but—you can really do no good by your presence here, and this is not a fit place for you to remain in."

"I thank you for considering me," she answered, with a pleasant smile. "But I am not afraid. And I must remain with this poor creature until the end."

She said that in a quiet, resolute way, which precluded my making any further remark upon the subject. I lingered, however, a few minutes, conversing with her on other topics, before I took my departure. And when I did so, I carried with me a very pleasant vision of a fair, girlish face, with honest blue eyes and waving flaxen hair.

Late in the afternoon, I went again to see whether old Mary was still alive. Of course, my visit could do no possible good. But perhaps it was kinder to go; and perhaps I might catch another glimpse of the blue-eyed girl. The fates favoured me. As I was approaching the door of the house, I met her coming out.

"Oh, Dr. Selby!" she exclaimed. "Poor old Mary is dead!"

"Ah!" I said. "I hope she died quietly, and that you were not called upon to witness any distressing scene."

"She died quite quietly. In fact, she never recovered consciousness. Oh, no! There was nothing at all distressing; except that death, amid such surroundings, must always be distressing. One of her neighbours has come in to perform the last offices; and as there is nothing for me to do, I am going home."

"It is getting dark," I said, "and I do not like the idea of your walking alone through these abominable streets. Will you allow me to escort you—at any rate, part of the way?"

"I am not afraid. Nobody is at all likely to hurt me," she answered; adding, with her bright, innocent smile. "I shall be pleased to have your company, of course. Will you come to tea and let me introduce you to mamma? We have only been here a short time; but we have already heard of you, and your kindness to your poor patients. Mamma was saying only yesterday that she should like to make your acquaintance."

I could not refuse this invitation, which was as welcome as it was unexpected. Since I had first seen her that morning, I had been consumed with an eager desire to find out who she was and where she lived, with a view to making, if possible, her better acquaintance. But I had never supposed, for a moment, that so immediate an opportunity would be spontaneously afforded me by the blue-eyed damsel herself.

And yet there was nothing forward, nothing in the remotest degree—I—I can't get the word I want; may I be allowed to coin the adjective flirtatious?—in her manner of inviting me. Her air was just the air of a simple, friendly child. What her age may have been I did not, of course, know. I imagined, however, that it did not exceed twenty; and even for her years, it was evident that she was exceptionally ignorant of what is called "life." As we walked, she conversed in her natural way of the neglected condition of the poor who lived in these slums: and the artless schemes she propounded for dealing with this most difficult of social problems amused, while they also touched me. I was a young man myself, whose knowledge of the world was, as yet, neither extensive nor peculiar. But as I listened to the sweet-faced, flaxen child who walked at my side, I felt myself a veritable old serpent.

She led me to a quiet little house in South-street, where I was introduced to her mother. The latter greeted me with a friendly, unaffected cordiality. In appearance, she was just an elder edition of her daughter; the same flaxen hair, the same fair, clear complexion, the same large blue eyes. In her soft, pleasant voice I thought

* These phrases, and indeed many others throughout the story, are the ctor's own.—[Ed. Truth.]

Sahara (Turkish) Cigarettes are manufactured from the choicest Turkish Tobacco, the excellence and regularity of which is guaranteed by the makers, W. D. & H. O. Wills, Ltd.

I detected a hint of a foreign accent. Her dress was plain and homely, and all her surroundings bespoke a small and inexpensive menage. But I knew a lady when I met one, and I knew that I was talking to a lady then.

They made me at home immediately. In five minutes we were chatting as if we had been acquainted for years. I found that mother as well as daughter was absorbedly interested in work among the poor. They had only been at Greenwich about a month—as the elder lady told me—having come there because it had been recommended to them as a field in which workers were especially needed.

"We are poor ourselves," she told me, candidly. "Gladys and I have only just enough to live upon." (And so my blue-eyed maiden was Gladys. How charming a name!) "We cannot afford to give money away. But we want to do something towards alleviating the appalling misery which reigns in our vast London. Therefore, we have come to work ourselves. We are from the country, and you may imagine how shocked we were when we first began to visit among the Greenwich poor. I could never have believed in the existence of such unutterable squalor and degradation. However, we are getting used to it now. And we like the work—don't we, Gladys?"

"Yes! yes! We do indeed! But," cried out the girl, clasping her hands, while her blue eyes shone very earnestly, "I wish I was rich. I wish I had—had a million pounds a year. There should be no wretchedness and starvation and misery among the London poor—if I had a million pounds a year!"

Her mother smiled.

"Gladys has great faith in the power of money," she said, addressing me. "Perhaps we are all apt to think that we could do more good, if we had some means at our disposal other than those with which Providence has endowed us."

"Yet it is terrible to see people, almost daily, sold up and rendered homeless, aye, and often dying by slow starvation—all for want of money—money—money; and not to have the money to give them! It is like sitting with your hands and feet tied, and watching a fellow-creature drown," said Gladys, sighing.

"It *is* terrible!" I assented. "I have often experienced the same feeling myself. And yet," I added, "I doubt whether money is what is most wanted. You might flood Greenwich and Deptford with gold; but you might, perhaps, confer little lasting benefit, all the same, except on the publicans and the pawnbrokers."

"I am sure you are right," broke in Gladys' mother. "I do not under-estimate the value of money. No one less. But to go to these people with gold in your hand will, in nine cases out of ten, be to make yourself the victim of worthless imposture. And while I am on that subject, Dr. Selby, I should like to ask you a few questions. You know, we are quite new to the work here; and we want to give what little help we can to the really deserving. Can you, now, tell me the exact truth about So and So; So and So; So and So?"

She mentioned the names of more than a dozen poor people in the course of her inquiries. About many of them I was able to afford her information, sometimes favourable, more often the reverse. I saw that both she and Gladys noted my answers with close attention. That they took the work on which they had embarked very much to heart was obvious and unquestionable. When I rose to depart, after a most delightful hour, they both thanked me warmly for the help I had given them.

"We shall hope to meet again soon," said the elder lady, as she shook hands with me.

"Oh, we are sure to meet soon and often!" cried Gladys, with a frank and friendly smile.

We did meet very often during the next month. And a happy month for me that was. My heavy burden of work seemed easy and light, and I went about it with a blithe spirit and an elastic step, for each day the sun shone brighter—brighter—brighter. Yes, the heavy, humid atmosphere, the clouds, the smoke, the fog of a viler than usual November could not hide nor even dim my sunlight; a sunlight of blue eyes and flaxen curls; of sparkling smiles and sweet-faced girlish innocence.

To tell you the stages by which that love affair grew would be long and tedious. Therefore I will pass all this by, and just invite your attention to the culminating scene in which I confessed my love to Gladys, and asked her to be my wife.

I had called and had found her alone. It was an opportunity I had long been desiring, and I seized it. I don't remember how I said my say. I only know that I said it somehow; or rather part of it. For before I had finished she stopped me. Her image is before me now as she appeared at that minute, very pale, with a startled, pained expression in her blue eyes. I can hear the very tones of her voice, exclaiming in great distress,

"Oh, stop. Please stop! I cannot listen to any more."

"Do—do—you not—not—care for me?" I stammered, greatly taken aback; for I was a conceited fellow (as young men are), and I had felt confident of the impression I had made on Gladys.

"I do—do—care for you," she answered, and I saw that she was trembling violently. "I do care for you. But not—not—in that way. At least, I can never be your—wife!"

There was something in her tone and manner that seemed to give me hope, to suggest that she did really care for me in 'that way,' despite what she had said. I leaned forward and tried to take her hand. She just suffered me to touch it. It was very cold. Then, as with an effort, she drew it away.

"No, she said, in a low, resolute voice. "You—you have done me a great honour, Dr. Selby. I am sensible of it. I thank you for it. But—but there are circumstances which—which make what you ask quite impossible. Please do not press me for an explanation. And now I—I——"

Here, without any warning, she suddenly broke down, covered her face with her hands and burst into tears.

I was at her side in a moment. I placed my arm round her. I drew her to me. I felt, I knew, I was certain that she did—did love me; and bold in this conviction and wild with an ecstasy of happiness, I called her by every endearing name in love's vocabulary, and again and again kissed the white little hands with which she had veiled her face.

It was while I still held her in my arms, that I became aware of another presence. The door of the room had been thrown open, and Gladys's mother stood before us. I hardly recognised the gentle, genial face I had hitherto known in the imperious, haughty countenance now regarding me. The voice that struck upon my ears was strange and proud and cold.

"Dr. Selby!—Gladys!—what does this mean? I awai an explanation."

"I—I—have ventured to ask your daughter to become my wife," I stammered.

"Indeed, sir. You do us a great honour, I am sure And have you, Gladys" (turning to her daughter, wh had already extricated herself from my embrace), "give him the answer your attitude would seem to suggest?"

"No, mamma; no, indeed," she cried, running to he mother. "I have told him it is impossible—utterl impossible."

"But you did not convince him, it appears. Tell hi again, Gladys, in order that he may be sure there is n mistake."

"It can never be—it is impossible," said my darling, i a choking voice, and hiding her face upon her mother shoulder.

I was mad, frantic. I felt sure she did love me, and cried out, wildly:

"No! Not impossible. In the eyes of love nothing impossible. Why——"

"Yes, sir. Even in the eyes of love some things a impossible," her mother interrupted me, with ste hauteur. "Leave us, Gladys. I desire a few wor alone with Dr. Selby." . . . .

I left the house soon afterwards, unhappy and hum liated. But no blame had attached to me, as even th proud lady admitted. It was her own fault, she said, a so it was. For what right have Royal personages—ev with the best intentions of putting themselves in tou

with the poor—to masquerade as mere middle-class people? I do not think that these two ever repeated the experiment. Perhaps the fact of "Gladys" having allowed herself to care for my humble self—as I am still proud to believe she did—gave her mother too great a shock. Perhaps she was apprehensive that some other parish doctor might emulate my presumption, and propose, as I had proposed, to unite to himself in marriage a lineal descendant of George the Third.

ART NOTES.

It was but fitting that the Old Water-Colour Society should accord the honour of a special Exhibition to the late Sir John Gilbert, R.A. He had been a regular contributor to the Society since 1852, and from the year 1871 to his death a few months ago had been its President. It is an open secret that in 1886, when many years of hard work had made a heavy strain on his health and energy, he sent in his resignation. But the members would not hear of it. In 1888, when he first suffered from the paralysis that crippled his later life, he again resigned his office. But again he was persuaded with kind insistence to remain. About two years ago an attack of greater severity led him to send in his resignation for a third time. Once more with affectionate urgency it was refused. The members determined, as Gilbert himself used to smilingly say, to keep their "King Log" to the end. It is tolerably clear, then, how much Sir John was admired and beloved by those who best knew him, and who found him as simple, as manly, as direct, and as straightforward as his manner of life and his manner of painting always were.

A one-man show is a trying ordeal for any artist. Sir John Gilbert gets through it with a very fair amount of success. The inspection of a collection of his works confirms the impression that he was a popular rather than a great artist. He did in the course of his long life a large amount of sound and good work, and he always contrived to invest it with his strong individuality. But an inspection of the collection of his water-colours and black and white drawings now on view at No. 5A, Pall Mall East, serves to emphasise the limitations of his art. It enables one to see, too, what a successful impressionist he was at a time when that now much hackneyed term had never been heard of. His battle scenes and his pageants and processions impress one with a general sense of colour and life and movement. It does not do, however, to examine them too closely. They then reveal deficiencies in draughtsmanship and technique; and one recalls the fact that Gilbert was a self-trained artist who became a painter without any aid from Schools of Art, Academy classes, or visits to easily accessible picture galleries. Without doubt he must have been born with the artistic instinct inherent in him. Even his early relegation to the office of an estate-agent in the City could not crush this, and at the age of nineteen we find him exhibiting his first water-colour at the Gallery of the Society of British Artists. This very drawing is included in the present Exhibition, and is hung next to the drawing ("The Return from the Raid") on which the artist was at work immediately before his death. It is at once instructive and interesting to make a comparison between the two. The first picture he exhibited at the Old Water-Colour Society's Exhibition was a water-colour drawing of a Standard Bearer. By a curious coincidence, his last exhibited water-colour in 1897 was a Standard Bearer also. Such subjects always had a special attraction for him. From the first to the last he was fascinated by pomp and colour, and an imposing largeness of design. Rubens, it is easy to see, was the old master with whose method he most sympathised.

I am inclined to think, however, that it is as book-illustrator that Sir John Gilbert will find his most enduring fame. I am old enough, alas! to remember the publication of the Shakespeare he illustrated for Messrs. Routledge. In the works of the Bard he was always able to find affinities. During the very years when he was almost engulfed in the whirl of current book work it was to Shakespeare's historical plays he often went for the subjects of the pictures he still found time to paint. And the edition of Shakespeare he illustrated remains his best-known achievement. It will be remembered also that during the latter years of his life Sir John Gilbert ceased to sell his pictures, having made up his mind to reserve them as a gift for the nation. In 1893 he made presentations of them to the Cities of London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, and Blackburn. It was an appropriate ending to the life of an English-born artist who had drawn his inspiration from native sources. The Exhibition at the Old Water-Colour Society's Gallery includes many of the above works, and is one which should not be missed by any who take an interest in all that is most characteristic and admirable in English art.

MUSIC.

TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR OPERA.

It has long been a reproach, though perhaps not altogether a well-deserved one, that despite the money spent upon our academies and colleges of music, we have no real school for opera in this country. The performance given on Thursday last week of Mozart's "Don Giovanni" by the students of the Royal College of Music tends, however, to prove that when one of our great music schools has the material, the reproach is undeserved. Dr. Stanford's tempi, it is true, were often strange to Londoners' ears, though considering what queer antics opera conductors have attempted in past days, I am not going to say Dr. Stanford was wrong. So far, at any rate, as the male characters were concerned, the performance of Mozart's opera would certainly have done no discredit to the regular operatic stage. In Mr. Foster the college has a representative of the Don who can bear himself and make love like a gentleman; who possesses the light touch necessary for this attractive part, which has wrecked so many professional reputations; and who, moreover, has a good voice, and is a well-trained vocalist. Mr. Thomas Thomas, the Don Ottavio is a perfect novice as an actor, although it is only fair to say that no tenor nowadays ever dreams of acting Don Ottavio. Mr. Thomas Thomas, at any rate, has a genuine tenor voice of agreeable and even powerful quality, though somewhat limited in range. These two students are already sufficiently advanced to take their place in regular operatic troupes. The Royal College also has two promising comic actors in Mr. Madoe Davies, the Leporello, and Mr. Dutton, the Masetto. The ladies, on the other hand, were rather a feeble party—a rather unusual experience, as women are mostly superior to men students from an acting point of view. The present plan adopted at South Kensington of placing in study operas in the existing repertory is very much better than the practice once preferred of performing works never likely to be seen upon the stage of to-day. The Royal College Opera Class is by far the best if not the only genuine training school for opera that we have. But even here the preparations for a single representation of a well-known opera take many months, so careful are the authorities to secure an adequate *ensemble*. At the Royal Academy of Music the stage of the concert room is much too small for practice, while at the Guildhall School of Music, the last two or three performances given by the students showed pretty conclusively either that the system of tuition was wrong, or that the students did not profit by the instruction of their professors.

Under the title of "Vicars and Organists" I have received from a well-known Mus. Doc. and Organist a letter concerning the ridiculous salary of £1 a week offered for multifarious duties by the heads of the Church Army. I regret that the letter in question, which would

The Greatest of all Pianofortes.—The Steinway Pianofortes. New York and London.

occupy a couple of pages of Truth, is too long to be inserted. As, however, the whole matter is admirably argued out by the Mus. Doc. it will be of interest to give the gist of his treatise. My correspondent is a musical graduate of one of our British Universities, and an organist of a quarter of a century's standing. He admits that the clergy as a class are neither pleasanter nor more reliable persons to deal with than are the average publicans and sinners. He has, it is true, in the course of his experience met with many petty annoyances, such, indeed, as he might have met with in other callings, but with only a few serious grievances. One is a reduction of salary without fair notice. My correspondent confesses that if he accepted an inadequate salary on taking up a post that would not constitute any ground for complaint. But a reduction of salary is a grievance, and so also are delays in paying salary and stupid excuses for the delay, arbitrary dismissal, shiftiness as regards terms of notice, unwillingness to write a testimonial though verbally complimenting in the most fulsome manner, and a general disposition to encroach and get more out of the organist for his salary, and to pry unduly into his private affairs. My correspondent confesses that a little tact has always floated him pleasantly over small annoyances. In regard to some of the other alleged grievances of organists, he does not think they are well founded. Insufficient stipend is a matter for arrangement before the berth is accepted, while as to insecurity of tenure my correspondent asks why should the tenure of an organist be better than that of an orchestral player of corresponding professional proficiency. In other words, why should a clergyman be bound to retain the services of an organist if he is not satisfied with him. Organists complain of the absence of any kind of appeal in cases of hardship, but my correspondent does not see that an organist is worse off in this respect than any other employee at a corresponding salary. He admits that the organist, or at any rate, the parish organist, has no recognised status, and this he considers may be a sentimental grievance. On the other hand he thinks the organist's status should be found in his published works, in the price his public performances command, his degrees and his academical training. My correspondent even defends the clergy, and asks whether they also have no rights. The clergy in many instances are unable to pay more than they do, but he inquires in what manner in this respect they differ from other employers and managers. That they are often meddlesome and that what they give is sometimes not worth the getting must be admitted as facts, but he rightly says "talking won't alter it." Musicians, he declares, "cannot, either singly or combined, bully the clergy out of money. If a clergyman can't pay an artist and chooses to advertise for a miserable drudge, no trade-union will prevent him doing so." The organist, however, has one grievance which is not the fault of the clergy at all. Twenty years ago there were no public musical schools of the Guildhall type, which have destroyed private teaching except in the case of delicate or backward pupils. Again, of late, churches have multiplied indefinitely, and the good old-fashioned church, with vested funds and endowments, is almost a thing of the past. Doubtless, £20 or £30 a year (or even 3½d. an hour) is poor pay, but "the love of black cloth and of 'gentlemanly' occupations is answerable for the majority of the legion of musical failures our profession is overcrowded with. They have adopted it because it was a 'genteel' calling, and not because they had a distinct vocation." It seems to me that my correspondent's remarks, although they may not be popular with organists, and may, in other respects, be open to controversy, nevertheless contain a good deal of sound sense.

Another correspondent whimsically points out that a Cathedral organist sometimes has something more of the loaves and fishes than his mere salary. In two instances very recently Cathedral organists, in point of fact, have married a considerable fortune; a fortune which would be a godsend to a rural dean, a cavalry captain, or even a swain of the rank of a stockbroker. In country places, particularly, the organist, as almost the only higher representative of art in the district, has an enormous chance of honourable alliance with a wealthy family; the more especially as, from the days of Beaumarchais downwards, it has been the weakness of young ladies to fall in love with their good-looking music-teachers.

The question of musical pitch is likely again to come prominently before the public, owing to the refusal of Mr. Lloyd to sing at the Leeds Festival if the low pitch is used. Mr. Lloyd is not bigoted in the matter, but he tried the dull pitch at last year's Birmingham Festival, with, be it said, by no means satisfactory results. Indeed, even at Birmingham, although the pitch of the organ has at great expense being lowered, the performances, at the demand of the choir, who dislike the dull pitch, are now given at the old high pitch, the organ part being transposed half a tone higher in consequence. High or dull pitch, however, a musical festival without Mr. Lloyd will certainly be a new experience.

The details of the two cycles of "Der Ring des Nibelungen" to be given at Covent Garden on June 6, 8, 9, 11, and on June 27, 29, 30, and July 2, have now been settled. The subscription price of stalls will probably be five guineas, and no single seat will be sold. The performances will begin at various times, "Das Rheingold," which will be performed without break, starting at half-past eight, while "Die Götterdämmerung" will begin as early as four o'clock on Saturday afternoon, so as to allow time for dinner after the first act, and for supper at the end of the performance. The other two operas will commence at five o'clock in the afternoon. The cast is certainly the strongest ever announced, and for this, as for other details, we have mainly to thank Mr. Maurice Grau; ably supported by Mme. Wagner's British representative, Mr. Alfred Schultz-Curtius. Jean de Reszke will be Siegfried, Van Dyck will be Loge and Siegmund, Mme. Ternina of Munich and Mme. Nordica will divide the part of Brünnhilde, Mme. Eames will be Sieglinde, Frau Heink will be the Erda, Van Rooy will be Wotan, Edouard de Reszke will be Hagen, Lieban will be Mime, while the Rhine daughters and Walkyries will be the same artists who played the parts at Bayreuth. We shall thus have a bonâ-fide Wagner Festival without the trouble and expense of going to Bavaria, and with an infinitely better cast than Frau Cosima Wagner ever put forward.

There have been some rather sharp criticisms upon the performance at Venice of Mancinelli's "Hero and Leander," which will be one of the novelties of the coming Covent Garden season, Mme. Eames then playing the part sung at the Norwich Festival by Mme. Albani. One of the critics, writing from Venice, speaks of "clumsy coryphées in pink and blue sprawling about, waving paper rosettes in a hopeless attempt to entertain Aphrodite." The criticism is, of course, directed at the performance and not at the music. But a cynic has put the case concerning Mancinelli's work this way. He declares that at Norwich every one said that the work was not a cantata proper, but was more suited to the operatic stage. At Covent Garden it is prophesied that the same writers will declare the work to have been written for the concert room, and to be better suited to the platform than to the opera house.

There seems to be a good deal of soreness in Paris because the Covent Garden management have secured M. Saleza, one of the tenors of the Paris Grand Opéra. A London engagement, however, is so very much more valuable than any sort of salary which a vocalist can secure at any of the subsidised opera houses of Paris, that the growl is rather unreasonable. It is, nevertheless, a curious truth that the best chance which an operatic vocalist stands of securing an engagement in London is by passing through one of the Paris opera houses. It has been done over and over again. On the other hand, Italian vocalists now have no hearing here. The reason, it has wickedly been said, lies in the fact that the Covent Garden Syndicate (the polyglot Mr. Maurice Grau always excepted) do not understand the Italian tongue. But they all speak French.

An extraordinary report, by the way, comes from Paris that M. Jean de Reszke has been studying during his holidays, not only Arnold in "William Tell," but also Manrico in "Il Trovatore." Of course, the co-operation of the great Polish tenor would revive the popularity of Verdi's out-of-date opera. I, however, greatly doubt

whether we shall ever in London see M. Jean as Manrico, although I have heard him as the Count di Luna years ago. Apart from "Aida," and "Otello," his last Verdi part, so far as I recollect, was in "Un Ballo."

English music does not seem to be popular at Queen's Hall, and, owing to the small audiences recently drawn by the works of our native composers, Mr. Cliffe's symphony, announced by Mr. Robert Newman next Saturday, has been withdrawn in favour of one of Beethoven's symphonies. When managers neglect native music a howl comes up from certain perfectly sincere British musical Chauvinists. Perhaps, also, English programmes are not sufficiently supported at concerts by first-rate soloists as some foreign novelties have been. However, managers have to carry on their business upon commercial principles, and Mr. Newman, at any rate, cannot be blamed if he provides his audiences with the works which they prefer.

M. Paderewski has been ill of influenza, and therefore his tours in Norway and Spain have been abandoned. He will be here next month for some provincial concerts, but he has not yet decided upon giving any performances in London proper. It is, however, hardly likely that he will leave this country without appearing in the metropolis.

I learn that the music composed by Mr. Edward German for the coming presentation of "Much Ado about Nothing," at the St. James's Theatre, is partly constructed from earlier works. There is an overture, while the first entr'acte is a pastorale, the second being a berceuse, followed by a Bacchanalian dance. There is also an andante religioso for the church scene and some masque music.

The music of the past week has been rather plentiful. At the Albert Hall on Thursday there was a capital performance of Haydn's "Creation," with the rarely-heard third part restored. The public, however, obviously did not appreciate it very much, and the bulk of the audience left the hall after "Achieved is the Glorious Work." At the Popular Concerts there have been no novelties, but Smetana's Quartet in E Minor has been revived by Lady Halle, and on Monday Mr. Clinton took part in Mozart's Clarionet Quintet in A. Ballad concerts have been given both at St. James's and Queen's Halls, the latter being very largely attended. Miss Mary Carmichael, on Thursday, gave a concert mostly of her own songs and drawing-room pieces, some of them very charming, although the programme was a good deal too long. At Queen's Hall Mr. Newman on Saturday revived Lalo's suite "Namouna" and Borodine's Second Symphony in B Minor, besides including in his programme several Wagner works.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—"England," said Gordon, "was never made by her politicians, but by her adventurers;" but "adventurers," when translated into any other tongue than English, becomes "buccaneers," "filibusters," "picaroons." Our edifying rage when another country seizes an island or a province to which it has no more and no less right than we, reminds me of the story of the three tarts on the dish, to two of which a brother and sister helped themselves. When the sister devoured ers in time to be the first to grab the third, the brother ied furiously, "You greedy little pig! I was just going take that!" Add to the *dramatis personæ* a wretched mike, to whom the third tart really belonged, but who ured not hint his claim under pain of a ferocious rashing, and you have the game-of-grab situation chronic Asia and Africa. How it was played between England and Holland for Singapore, &c., is told in an extremely interesting life of the champion of England "Sir Stamford Raffles" (1). Sir Stamford was a strong man, with, I fancy, from his many foes and quarrels, the defect of the quality—masterfulness. To him we owe—and it is a big debt—Singapore, and in acknowledgment of that debt, his statue, by Woolner, was unveiled there in 1887, to express in marble what Sir Frederick Weld expressed in words at the ceremony:—

> Look around and a greater monument than any that the highest art or the most lavish outlay can raise to him is visible in this, that his name is still held in affectionate veneration by all our races, that all acknowledge the benefits that have resulted from his wise policy. See that crowd of shipping in the harbour in front of his statue. Cast a glance at the city which surrounds it, on the evidences of civilisation—churches, public buildings, and offices. Were this all, it would still be sufficient to say, "Si monumentum quæris, circumspice." But this is only a small part of the monument. Look for it in other parts of the colony. Look for it in the Native States. Look for it in the constantly-increasing influence of the British name in these parts, and you will say with me that in Raffles England had one of her greatest sons.

Taking due discount off for the flattery necessary to the occasion, this statement may be accepted as a fair estimate of Sir Stamford's services. What amuses you most in such annexations, by the way, is the wretched goose-quill used for the forgery of the necessary deeds. Someone is set up and sustained as nominal sovereign on the condition that he makes over to his investors the very powers wherewith they have themselves invested him! Even more interesting, absorbingly interesting, is Captain Trotter's "Life of John Nicholson" (2), who did England the more heroic service of recovering an Empire well-nigh lost. He also was a strong man, if ever there was one, with also the defect of his quality. "In Nicholson," said Lord Lawrence, "were combined ardent energy, lofty aspirations, indomitable will, unswerving perseverance, unfaltering coolness, unflagging zeal, and to these moral qualities was added the advantage of enduring strength. But he had an imperious temper, and was hardly tolerant of even reasonable and necessary control." Upon learning, when he was himself dying of the wound received in his heroic assault on Delhi, that the General alluded to the possibility of our having to retire, Nicholson exclaimed, "Thank God! I have strength yet to shoot him, if necessary." Lord Roberts, then a Lieutenant, came over to Nicholson's tent for a chat, and was thunderstruck by his announcement, "If Wilson hesitates longer to attack Delhi, I intend to propose at to-day's meeting that he should be superseded." Roberts objected that Wilson's removal would leave Nicholson himself senior officer. He answered, smiling, "I shall propose that it be given to Campbell of the 52nd. I am prepared to serve under him for the time being; so none can ever accuse me of personal motives." Truly a strong man! We know what he would have thought of our present Indian frontier Generals. "You won't take the Commissionership of Leia now that you are likely to remain a General and get a division, Nicholson." "General," he said, laughing haughtily, "You don't think I'd like to be a General of division, do you? Look at them! Look at the Generals!"

Another North of Ireland man has done the State some service for which he was rewarded in Ireland by imprisonment, and in Australia by investment with the order of St. Michael and St. George. "Plaisante justice," exclaims Pascal, "plaisante justice qu'une rivière ou une montaigne borne! Vérité au deça des Pyrénées, erreur au delà." I really do not know when I have read an autobiography more interesting, more instructive, more entertaining and delightful than Sir Charles Gavan Duffy's "My Life in Two Hemispheres" (3). No English Unionist can read it without having his faith shaken in the first article of his political creed—that Irishmen are competent governors of every country but their own. "What on earth are you disembarking at Queenstown for?" asked a fellow-passenger of a Yankee tourist. "Wall," he said, "I've a fancy to see the only country in the world that Irishmen don't govern." Two measures were taken in Australia to diminish the political influence of the Irish—the importation of Irish *girls* only, and the importation of Germans. The Irish girls married

(1) "The Life of Sir Stamford Raffles." By Demetrius Charles Boulger. th Portraits, Maps, and Illustrations. (London: Horace Marshall & .)

(2) "The Life of John Nicholson." Soldier and Administrator. Based on vate and Unpublished Documents. By Captain Lionel J. Trotter. With traits and Maps. (London: John Murray. Price 16s.)

(3) "My Life in Two Hemispheres." By Sir Charles Gavan Duffy. Two Vols. ndon: T. Fisher Unwin. Price 28s.)

(4) "John Bright." By C. A. Vince, M.A. (The Victorian Era Series.) ndon: Blackie & Son. Price 2s. 6d.)

immediately, and made their husbands, whatever their nationality, vote the Irish ticket. When Sir Charles' Inspector of Schools, visited those attended exclusively by the children of these German counterpoises to the Irish, the song that greeted his entrance was "We're Paddies evermore!" Sir Charles is over eighty years of age, yet his autobiography is as light and bright and breezy as youth itself. Another biography which will unquestionably interest you, for it is admirably done, is Mr. Vince's "John Bright" (4). Here is Mr. Vince's fair answer to Tennyson's sneer in "Maud":—

> The broad-brimmed hawker of holy things,
> Whose ear is stuffed with his cotton and rings,
> Even in dreams to the chink of his pence,

and to Carlyle's denunciation of Bright as "one of the foolishest creatures he had ever heard of, clamouring about America and universal suffrage, as if there was any sensible man anywhere in the world who put the smallest confidence in that sort of thing nowadays"—here, I say, is Mr. Vince's irrefutable retort:—

> Certainly Bright's performances did not resemble those of Mirabeau, Governor Eyre, and the rest of the heroes. On the other hand, he was doing something to prevent one of those crises at which the Carlylean hero makes his distinguished appearance—generally too late to do much good without doing also a great deal of harm.

Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—My weekly letters to you are very useful to me in keeping a straight clue to the passing of time and the sequence of events. Often and often, when I sit down to write to you, I have to search in my memory for the events of even a day or two before. How astonishingly swiftly things fade from the mind? Ruby keeps a diary, but when I asked her the other day if she ever reads it over, she answered, "Never." Now, my letters to you are far better than a never-opened diary, for they impress the different incidents on my mind. And I suppose you find the same thing with yours to me.

Well, what have we done since last I wrote? What good deeds? Alas, I fear but few, if any! What ill ones? Nothing remarkably distinguished in that line, either, I hope. We tried to be good to an old soldier, and, on writing to his old regiment about him, found that he had been "dismissed with ignominy" some years since. So, beyond giving him food and clothing, we could do no more. And now, when some really deserving case crops up, Richard will not let us do anything kind, because this other man was a bad lot. I think men are just as prone as women to reason from individual instances. And they are not half so pitiful and charitable as we are. I said so to him one day, and he observed that if it were not for women, there would not be half so many attempts at imposition as there are now.

Our idea for helping the old soldier was to buy him a barrel-organ, and we made inquiries of one or two of our friends as to where such things are sold and how much they cost. The astonishment of these good souls on being made recipients of these queries was amusing. "What on earth can you want with a barrel-organ?" they asked, and we could scarcely explain for laughing at their amazed faces. Astonishment expressed in a graphic arrangement of feature and gesture always excites mirth, on the stage and off, and it is the wish to "see his face" that inspires half the practical jokes. Don't you think so?

We went to Niagara on Saturday, and were delighted with some clever and very graceful skating we saw there. It was so soft, so easy, so flowing, and the skater—a lady—evidently revels in it, so that no one can see it without pleasure. Another lady who skated very well wore quite a summer gown, a pale mauve barège with a short double skirt, a band of white lace or embroidery below it, and another horizontal trimming, also white, on the bodice. This seemed to cut her into three instalments, and apparently abbreviated her to a considerable extent. The mauve gown was lined with pink. A very pretty dress consisted of a black umbrella skirt of the new shape and a white silk zouave bodice covered with a network of black and a broad white silk belt which came up in a point both back and front. There were many sweet gowns in the corridor. One was all black velvet and chinchilla and was worn by a very pretty woman. A tight-fitting coat of black Persian lamb had sable sleeves, revers, and collar. A little lady wore a long pelisse in green velvet trimmed with sable, and a blue velvet toque. A handsome black velvet jacket was trimmed with ermine in flat bands down the front, the bands being strapped across with narrow tabs of black velvet fastened down with diamond buttons. Her hat was quite a novelty, the brim being covered with sable as well as the crown, which was surrounded with loops of ribbon.

I also noticed a very successful toque in mauve and pink, the "smart" combination of the moment. The tone of mauve was not too aggressively bright to jar with the pink.

We are going to the Carnival Ball, the date of which has been altered from the 4th to the 8th. You will then be on your wedding tour. I wish you could be in town to go with us. These balls are very amusing.

By the way, dear, I hear for a fact that shawl-shaped capes are coming into fashion, with the points hanging down back and front. It will be just as though we had cut the neck out of our grandmothers' shawls, and hung them round us. Black silk is to be a favourite material for these, lined with a colour, and lace shawls are to be utilised in the same way with linings of white or coloured surah.

You will remember that last summer our grenadine and muslin gowns were all set loose on separate silk skirts, and the prophets of chiffons say that it will be the same this season, but only for quite thin materials. Bodices are to be tighter than we have been wearing them, so that a good figure will now have some chance of standing out from the mediocre shapes. The cape-pelerine, with its slight but useful protection to the shoulders, and its long ends hanging down in front, is to be again a favourite form, and it is to be expected that these ends will form a pretext for elaborate trimmings. An infinity of narrow ruches in chiffon or lisse will be applied to this purpose, and I greatly fear that the day of inordinate and meaningless trimming is by no means over. But we must not forget to be thankful for small mercies. The huge sleeves are a good riddance. May their shadow never be greater than it is at present! The correct pilaster for a sleeve at the present time is a little, shaped jockey, put on without a wrinkle or a fold; in other words, perfectly plain and without a single pleat. This means skill! But then, what is there in dress that does not?

A high evening bodice is now among the indispensables. Here is an idea for one that could be worn at a restaurant dinner. In fact, I saw it at the Savoy the other evening on a lady of high rank and recognised beauty. The material was white satin with the yoke covered with handsome lace which rose in a rather high collar, and accommodated a lovely dog-collar of pearls and diamonds. From the yoke downwards there were bands of black lace insertion all glittering with steel, and all of them converging toward the waist, where they were held by a black satin belt richly sewn with steel. From under this they all came out again, spreading outwards very slightly in a basque made of the white satin, the whole being bordered with jet and steel. On a stout figure this would be an advisable form, and on the lithe and well-proportioned one on which we saw it, it was quite perfection.

"THE SUNNY SOUTH."—Messrs. REDFERN have designed some becoming Costumes for wear along the Riviera, and which are now on view in their Showroom. Very moderate in price. Inspection invited.—REDFERN, 26, Conduit-street, London, W.

KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY.—"The Cream of Old Irish Whiskies." Kinahan's LL Whisky. Gold Medal Paris Exhibition, 1878. Kinahan's Glenisle Whisky. The Finest Scotch Whisky sold.

In the stalls of the Comedy Theatre—where we went for the second time to see that sweet little play, "One Summer's Day"—we saw some beautiful dresses. One was white satin, veiled with silver-embroidered net, and a dainty ruche of net at the end of the skirt and round the shoulders. Another was in pink brocade, with a black, wavy line straying all over it. The bodice was pink, veiled with accordion-pleated white chiffon, and edged with a ruche of the chiffon. The sleeves were white net, embroidered in black sequins to match the skirt, and finished at the shoulders with a billowy arrangement of white and pink chiffon. This was worn with a cape of pink brocade, like the skirt. The cape was lined throughout with alternate frills of white, pink, and black chiffon. Another lady had a cloak of pink brocade, with three frills round it of the same material, which curved up in front, rounding the corners of the cloak, and giving a magnificent sweep to the figure. Pink and black were predominant in the stalls.

In the first piece, "A Sheep in Wolf's Clothing," Mrs. Bernard Beere wore a charming gown of grey-blue brocade. This was lined with soft white cashmere, and was turned back in front with huge revers on the skirt, to show an under-robe of white satin, with a band of gold embroidery about six inches from the ground. The under-bodice was also in white. The brocade was held together at the waist by a gold buckle, and a gold tasselled girdle was worn. The bodice was low, and had a deep Vandyke collar of rich cream-coloured grenadine, embroidered in gold. The points of this collar formed epaulettes on the shoulders, and came far down towards the waist, both back and front. The sleeves had a puff of the brocade, above soft white chiffon, tied in with gold, which came to the elbow, and were continued to the waist in the brocade.

I fell very much in love with the gown worn by Miss Beardsley in "Oh! Susannah!" It is grey cloth of a very soft and sumptuous texture, which drapes beautifully. The skirt is hung with inimitable skill, and the semi-touched bodice has the fronts bordered with black velvet, and opening over a front of red velvet. This gown is in the latest Parisian style, clinging very closely to the figure for a long way below the waist. This was our first visit to "Oh! Susannah!" and we were astonished at the extraordinary first piece, "The Cat and the Cherub." The title prepared us for an amusing performance, but we soon found it to be most gruesome, though there are some wonderfully beautiful lines in the play, which is all about the Heathen Chinee in San Francisco.

I took the girls to the cookery lesson at Debenham & Freebody's on Wednesday, the subject being Indian cookery and the teacher Mr. Veerasawmy, the native chef who prepares the excellent dishes I told you of some time ago, and which have become quite an institution with us on Wednesday evenings. We received our lesson in a large room filled with those useful beings, cooks, who are so sadly maligned (sometimes) by a proverb relating to the sharply-contrasted sources of our food supply and our cook supply. The platform was decorated with flowers, and held a long table provided with every variety of dish, pan, and cookery implement, while another long table was fitted with two hot-plates heated by gas. Mr. Veerasawmy, who is distinguished as an historian and mathematician, wore a white and gold turban and a long coat of magnificent red brocade. The white apron and long linen cuffs that he afterwards donned seemed to be a fling the brocade, as a street boy chaffs a heavy swell.

We are all more than partial to Indian dishes, and we learned an immense deal about them on this occasion. I cannot share with you all the enlightenment we enjoyed, it would leave me no room to write of anything else, but I must tell you of a delicious way of making vegetable fritters which we learned. All the processes were conducted before our eyes, and the printed recipes were given to us to bring home, so that we have no excuse for not reproducing the dish fairly satisfactorily. The vegetables are cooked separately, and then a batter is made with vegetables and flavouring all mixed together in it and spoonfuls are fried in oil or butter. Our instructor told us that the proper thing to use was ghee, an Indian preparation of butter with no salt in it. The salt that is contained in ordinary butter turns the things brown instead of a tempting straw colour. We are going to try this dish at home so soon as we can get the proper materials, for the "bhugias" (pronounced budgias)—garlic vinegar, for instance, which is more lightly flavoured with the strong, but useful, herb than any other preparation of garlic. This sounds invaluable, does it not?

The lesson was an experiment, and it will probably be followed by a course, as there is an endless number of Indian dishes, though our experience of them is usually limited to curries. We were given a little of each dish to taste, and the girls approved very highly of poppadums, a sort of very thin cake fried for something under a minute and looking not unlike an extremely attenuated pancake. These poppadums are made of moongh dhall, or Indian lentils, but the making of them is a serious thing and kept as a family secret by those who can compass them. I should perhaps say that it was kept as very few family secrets ever succeed in getting kept in these days of proclaiming everything upon the housetops.

The report of the London Needlework Guild for 1897, which has just been published, contains an account of the annual meeting held at 9, Southwick-crescent in November. At this meeting the announcement was officially made known by Mrs. Pasil Ellis, the Hon. Secretary, that the Duchess of York had consented to take her mother's place as Patroness and President of the Guild. The advice given by the Duchess of Albany, who presided, was thoroughly to the purpose, and speaks a practical mind; and it would appear from a remark made by the Hon. Secretary that there is great need of practical advice. The carelessness or thoughtlessness of members causes endless trouble to the ladies who collect, classify, and send out the Guild garments. It is all done so economically that those who send in should feel in honour bound to comply with all requests for the furtherance of the object in view.

Expenses were increased this year, partly owing to a kindly exception made to the rule never to send things out of London. This was the despatch of 500 articles of clothing to the poor and needy sufferers from typhoid in Maidstone, a course that was suggested by the late Duchess of Teck (the then President). And a special grant was made to the sufferers from the great London fire.

We all wondered what course would be adopted with regard to the Poor Clergy Corporation, and the report informs us upon this point. As many objected to a grant being made, a *written* assurance was asked for and received to the effect that nothing sent by the Guild should be sold. It would have been scarcely fair to exclude the Poor Clergy from participating as usual in the favours of the Guild for the fault of one man, especially as he has no longer anything to do with the Corporation.

The Countess of Warwick established a new industry last year—the Warwick Cottage Industry—which produces knitted stockings for sale in a great variety of patterns, and on special lines, for there is now much variety of taste on the part of sportsmen, golf-players, and others in the matter of knitted hose. And they all very naturally insist that the feet shall be knitted in much finer wool than the portion that does not go into the boot. There was a time when such a subtlety as this was never thought of, and men went shooting in boots that were constructed to fit not only themselves, but their stockings, and which were, consequently, a few sizes too large. And are there not for choosing all sorts of patterns—the plait, the cross-bar, diamond, diagonal, zig-zag, cable and moss-stitch, besides the clerical greys, black, and white? Orders can be sent to the Warwick Cottage Industry, 20, High-street, Warwick.

This is a nice way of cooking rabbits, and one to which some men are very partial:—

Cut a nice young rabbit into joints and immerse them in salad oil for half an hour. Then grill them very carefully over a clear

Invalid Corsets.—Ladies in search of that gentle support, so essential at this period, should have a Surgical Corset Belt shaped by the experts, Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., The Celebrated Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent street, Oxford-circus, London, W.

fire. Cover the pieces of rabbit with a spoonful of mustard, a spoonful of chutney, a spoonful of Worcester sauce, a small chopped chili, a spoonful of salad oil, and an egg, previously mixed together on a plate. Have a small stewpan with some good brown stock ready heated on the stove, place the pieces of rabbit in it, cover closely and keep it hot, without boiling, on the side of the stove for about ten minutes. Arrange the rabbit in a nice pyramid on a hot dish and pour the sauce round. It may be accompanied with boiled rice in a separate dish.

Have you ever tried "Curried Scallops"? They are excellent. If possible have a little fish broth, which may be made from any fish trimmings:—

Fry a large minced onion with 1 oz. of butter in a stewpan until brown. Mix in a dessertspoonful of curry powder, a dessertspoonful of curry paste, a tablespoonful of flour, and a little chutney; add the fish broth, stir until boiling, then rub through the tammy. Return the sauce to the stewpan with a dozen blanched and pounded almonds, a dessertspoonful of tomato purée, and a chopped green chilli. Add about 8 or 9 scallops, and simmer about half an hour. When the fish is tender, add the juice of half a lemon and half a gill of cream. Serve with boiled rice in a separate dish.

Endive in velouté:—

Take off all the outer leaves of the endive, and, having opened the hearts, put them into cold water. In the meanwhile heat a kettle of water, put in it a handful of salt, drain, then throw in the endive; keep it constantly under water to prevent it turning black. As soon as the endive is tender, drain, and then put it into cold water, and when quite cold strain, and press it well; then chop it small and put it into a saucepan with some butter, salt, and pepper; stir it well, then add 5 spoonfuls of velouté or thick white sauce, and the same of good stock; reduce it till pretty thick, and before serving stir among it the yolks of 2 eggs. Serve with sippets of fried bread round the dish. This is a delicate vegetable with cutlets, broiled fowl, sausages, &c.

Do try these "little cheese creams," they are lovely and quite new:—

Make a little custard with a gill of milk and the yolks of 2 eggs. While hot, add three sheets of soaked gelatine, season with salt, pepper, and cayenne pepper, and, when quite cold, mix in 2 oz. of grated Parmesan, half a gill of whipped cream, and a few drops of strained lemon-juice. Pour at once into small bouché moulds to set. When required for table, turn the creams on to rounds of tomato aspic, put a sprig of chervil on the top of each, sprinkle lightly with coralline pepper, and garnish with chopped aspic jelly.

To Make Tomato Aspic.—Mix two tablespoonfuls of stiffly-reduced tomato purée with half a pint of cold, liquid aspic, add a teaspoonful of chilli vinegar, mix thoroughly, and pour on to a flat dish to cool. Cut into rounds with a plain, round cutter.

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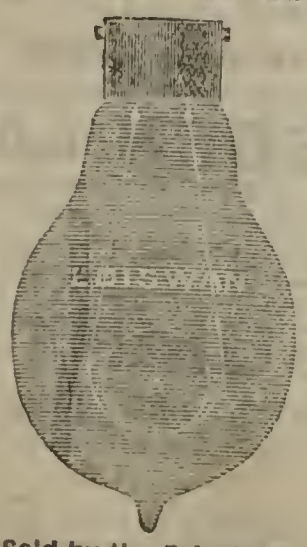

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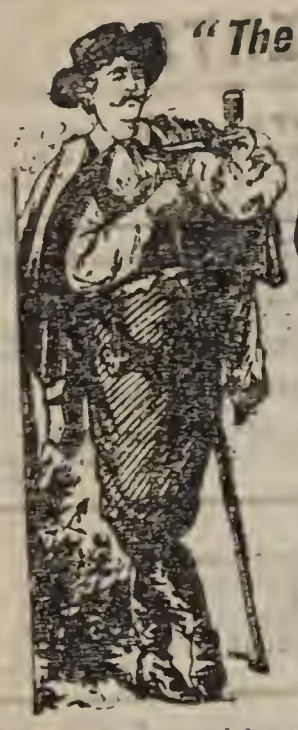

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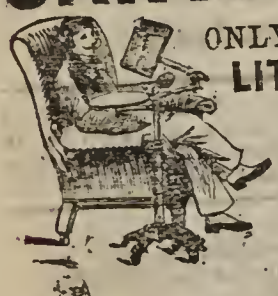

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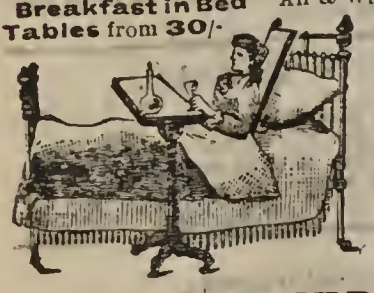

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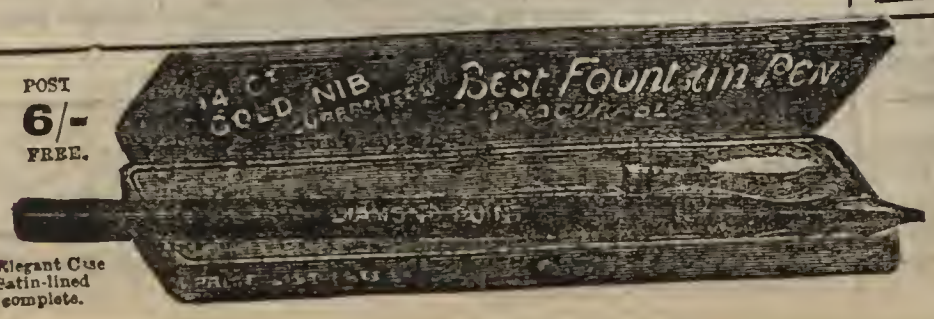

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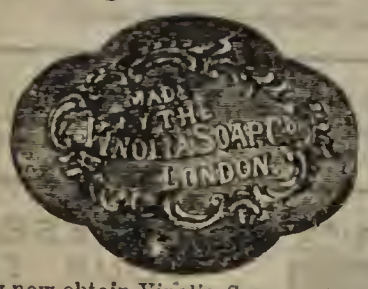

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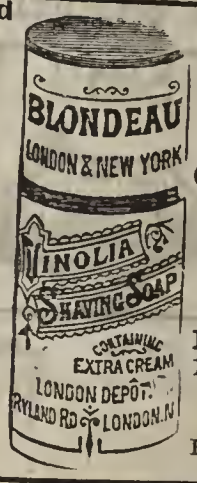

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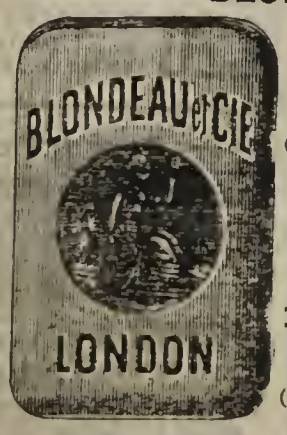

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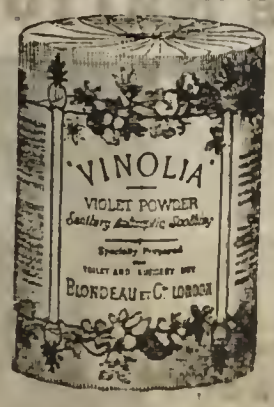

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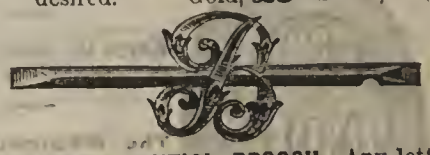

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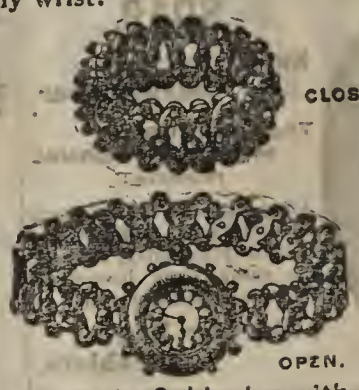

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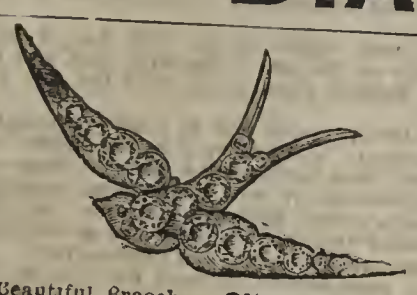

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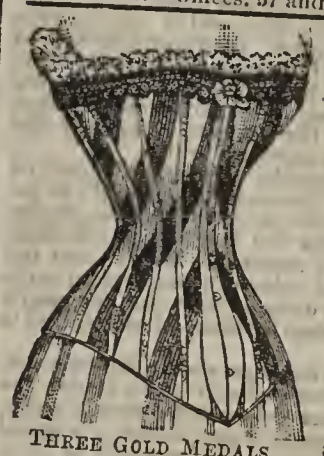
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.



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LONDON AND PARIS

LIST of APPLICATIONS will CLOSE on or before WEDNESDAY, the 2nd February, 1898, for both Town and Country.

THE ANGLO-MEXICAN COLONIZATION AND TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

Capital £150,000, in 150,000 Shares of £1 each, of which 70,000 are "A" Shares and 80,000 are "B" Shares, ranking equally for Dividend.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are INVITED for 100,000 Shares, payable as follows:—2s. 6d. per Share on Application, 7s. 6d. per Share on Allotment, and the balance as required in calls of 5s. per Share, at intervals of not less than two months. Subscribers will have the privilege of paying up in full at an interest of 5 per cent. per annum. 70,000 Shares are reserved for providing the working capital.

It is estimated that the profits which will be derived from developing only 2,000 acres of the Company's lands will be sufficient to pay at least 25 per cent. on the Capital, in addition to the profits to be derived from the subsidiary Companies referred to in the Prospectus.

DIRECTORS.

Daniel King, Esq., of Messrs. Bullard, King, & Co. (Natal Line of steamers), St. Mary-axe, E.C., Chairman.

John T. Eayrs, Esq., M.Inst.C.E., F.S.I., 39, Corporation-street, Birmingham.

Richard Hewitt, Esq., Director John Moir & Sons, Limited, 28, Westbourne-gardens, W.

Lieut.-Col. Francis Lean, the Editor of "Lean's Royal Navy List," 4, Colville-terrace, Kensington Park, W.

William Lees, Esq., J.P., Ex-Mayor of Stockport, Fairfield, Stockport.

*F. Barry Stanton, Esq., M.I.M.E., 11, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.

* Will join the Board after Allotment.

BANKERS.—The City Bank, Limited, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Trass & Enever, 25, Colman-street, London, E.C.

Judge Y. Sepulveda, Local Legal Adviser, City of Mexico.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Welton, Jones, & Co., 5, Moorgate-street, London, E.C.

CONSULTING ENGINEER.—Walter Horner, Esq., A.M.I.C.E., 11, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.

SECRETARY (pro tem.) and Offices.—J. R. Elliott, Esq., 11, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS

This Company has been formed to acquire from the Vendor about 43,000 acres of Freehold land, also about 60,000 acres of Freehold land from the Mexican Government for cultivation and colonization.

To promote subsidiary companies for the further development of the property, and to establish a trade with the various ports on the Pacific Coast.

The Company was registered on June 25th, 1896, since which time various portions of the lands have been put under cultivation; the results, as will be seen from the photographs referred to hereafter, have been most satisfactory, tobacco, bananas, sugar-cane, maize, melons, &c., having been produced very successfully, besides which, vines, oranges, lemons, limes, pomegranates, figs, dates, and olives, &c., have been cultivated by the previous owners of the property, and the trees are now producing crops of excellent fruit.

The Company's lands are situated in Lower California, Mexico (as shown on the map accompanying the Prospectus), on the Californian Gulf, opposite to the port of Guaymas, which is visited regularly by vessels of the various Pacific Steamship Companies. Guaymas is the terminus for the Southern Pacific Railway, which is in connection with the vast railway systems of Mexico and the United States of America, and is also in direct cable communication with London. The City of Guaymos is about 75 miles distant from the Company's Harbour. This magnificent harbour (Port Paraiso) is three miles long and is capable of accommodating large vessels.

The land has a coast line of about 40 miles, and contains about 100,000 acres, of which about 70,000 acres consist of beautiful level and rich arable lands. The property includes all the fertile lands of the once celebrated Jesuit Mission, Guadaloupe, which produced excellent coffee, tobacco, sugar, cotton, grain, and fruits. A photograph of the ruins of this Mission, also upwards of forty beautiful photographs of the property, showing the crops at present under cultivation on the Company's lands, can be inspected at the Company's offices—these photographs were taken by the Company's own representative sent to inspect the lands and report thereon (see report on back of map accompanying Prospectus).

Facilities will be given to a limited number of young gentlemen, who, having small capital, may desire to proceed to the Company's property and take up portions of land for cultivation. Arrangements would be made for their residence, and also for instructions in farming, fruit growing, &c., with a further prospect of remunerative employment by the Company hereafter. Preference will be given to subscribers for 100 Shares and upwards.

An abundance of very cheap labour is procurable in the neighbourhood.

From the Railway terminus at Guaymas produce can be consigned direct into the heart of the United States of America and Mexico, by the shortest, quickest, and cheapest routes, and in the case of choice fruits, which can be raised in perfection on the Company's coast lands, at least four weeks sooner than in Upper California, the earliest markets and highest prices should be secured.

The highest value may be put upon the Company's property in consequence of the abundance of fresh water for irrigation in such favourable positions as to require very little outlay in using it upon the land.

The River San José, the waters of which flow through the Company's lands at all seasons of the year, can be utilised for irrigating thousands of acres of beautiful level lands in its immediate vicinity.

Three fresh-water lakes, situated near the coast (see map accompanying the Prospectus), which are fed by springs, are full at all seasons, and from the largest lake, San Marcos, which is three miles long and a quarter of a mile wide, several thousand acres of land may be irrigated. This inexhaustible water-supply will ensure regular and unfailing crops.

The climate, which is considered the most equable and salubrious, is entirely free from frost, snow, and excessive rains.

The boundary of the land on the west is a high range of hills and mountains connected with others north and south, rich in minerals.

The Boleo Copper Mines of Rothschilds at Santa Rosalia, adjoining the Company's lands, at present engage thousands of persons.

Gold, Silver, and Copper are known to exist, and the Company, possessing all Mineral Prospecting Rights, will consider the question of developing the same.

It is proposed to plant the first 2,000 acres as follows:—

			Profit.
500	acres of Tobacco, estimated to produce	per annum	£20,000
500	" Sugar Cane, estimated to produce	"	14,000
500	" Maize and other Cereals, estimated to produce	"	10,000
500	" Bananas, the second and subsequent years	"	24,000
2,000	(See detailed Estimates, pages 6 and 7 of the Prospectus.)		£68,000

After deducting £30,000 (for administration, general working expenses, further planting and contingencies), a net profit of £38,000 would remain, which sum would be sufficient to pay a dividend of 25 per cent. on the capital.

No time will be lost in the formation of subsidiary Companies for the further development of the property, the Company leasing or selling portions of the lands to the subsidiary Companies on such terms that considerable profits should be derived by the parent Company either in the shape of a cash purchase price, Shares in such subsidiary Companies, or Royalties, in addition to the Company's own planting and trading operations.

At the present time negotiations are pending which it is hoped will result in the formation of a subsidiary Company for the development of a large area of the Company's land as a tea plantation.

The purchase price has been fixed as follows:—£10,000 in cash and 70,000 in "A" Shares of £1 each, fully paid up; but as to 20,000 of these Shares, the Directors may at their option, instead of allotting the same as part of the purchase consideration, pay the equivalent value thereof in cash, in order to meet the requirements of the Stock Exchange.

Prospectuses, containing particulars of contracts, &c., and Forms of Application may be obtained at the City Bank, Limited, Threadneedle-street, at the [illegible] from the Solicitors.

The LISTS will CLOSE on or before the 2nd February, 1898, for Town, and on the following morning for the Country.

GROSVENOR MANSIONS COMPANY (Limited), Victoria-street, Westminster.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893. Share Capital £120,000, in 12,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference and 12,000 Ordinary Shares of £5 each, of which £22,500 in Preference Shares and £40,000 in Ordinary Shares remain unissued.

ISSUE at PAR of £50,000 FOUR-AND-A-QUARTER PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES of £100 each. The interest is payable half-yearly on the 1st January and 1st July. The full half-year's interest on the Debentures now offered will be paid on the 1st July, 1898.

The Debentures are payable as follows:—£20 on Application, £30 on Allotment, £25 one month after Allotment, £25 two months after Allotment. Payment in full may be made under rebate at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

These First Mortgage Debentures are redeemable at par on the 1st January, 1960; they will be secured by a First Mortgage in favour of the Trustees for the Debenture-holders over the whole of property of the Company. The Debentures will be issued with half-yearly interest coupons attached, or, at the option of any Debenture-holder, the interest may be made payable by warrants.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE-HOLDERS.

The City Safe Deposit and Agency Company, Limited, 13 & 15, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Sir Henry Cartwright, Director of Tottenham and Edmonton Gas Light Company.

Charles John Cox, Esq., Chairman Civil Service Co-operative Society, Limited.

Lieut.-Colonel R. P. Hare, Director Bodega Company, Limited.

BANKERS.—The Capital and Counties Bank, Limited. Head Office: 39, Threadneedle-street, E.C., and Branches.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, & Co., 17, Throgmorton-avenue, London, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES *(pro tem.)*.—Mr. J. J. Truran, 183, Gresham House, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

These Debentures will form the first and only Mortgage on one of the most important properties in Victoria-street, Westminster, numbered 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, and 86, and known as Grosvenor Mansions. The interest is payable half-yearly, the first full half-year's interest from the 1st of January, 1898, being payable on the 1st July next.

The premises, which occupy the large area of between one-third and one-half of an acre, are of imposing elevation with a main entrance in Victoria-street, and a second entrance in Palace-street, and contain eight floors in addition to the basement. They are most substantially built, and are situate within a few minutes' walk of Victoria Station, and of the Army and Navy Stores, about five minutes from St. James's Park, and within little more than half-a-mile of the Houses of Parliament. The commanding frontage to Victoria-street is over 180 feet in length.

The lease, which has over 63 years to run, expires on the 24th day of June, 1961. The Debentures are redeemable on the 1st of January, 1960, and the redemption will be secured under a Sinking Fund policy with the Sun Life Assurance Society.

The premises were erected some twenty years ago in a very substantial manner. They have lately been extensively enlarged at a heavy outlay, two upper floors containing eight additional flats having been added. These are now ready for letting. Further improvements are now in progress, consisting of the erection of an additional lift and a second principal staircase, the utilisation of some of the spare ground, and of the conversion of the ground floor premises into shops, for which there is a great demand in Victoria-street.

It is well known that there is a considerable demand for flats in this favourite locality, and those in Grosvenor Mansions are not only of unusually large size, but light in every part of the building, owing to the fact that the light at the back of the premises is practically unobstructed.

A large number of the flats at Grosvenor Mansions having been let to tenants at a time when rentals were far below their present value, arrangements have lately been completed with most of the tenants to surrender their tenancies on payment of a lump sum. These residences, some of which are being further improved, are now available for being let at rentals representing their actual value. It is anticipated that the whole of these flats will be occupied within a short time. Applications have already been received for several of the shops on the ground floor, and taking the rentals now obtainable for the flats and for the shops, the total rental of the premises when fully let is estimated at £11,300 per annum.

The following is a report on the properties by the well-known surveyor, Mr. B. Tabberer, of 31, Basinghall-street, London, E.C.—

To the GROSVENOR MANSIONS COMPANY, Limited.

10th January, 1898.

Gentlemen,—I beg leave to report that I have made a survey of your property situate in Victoria-street, Westminster, with regard to the rentals obtainable and the consequent value of the leasehold, which I understand has about 64 years unexpired at a ground rent of £4,000 per annum.

The buildings are of very substantial fireproof construction, and situated in one of the best positions for letting in flats. There is also now a great demand for shops in the locality.

When the works now in progress in erecting a new staircase and lift to the block at the corner of Palace-street, the conversion of the whole of the ground floor into shops, and some works which are required in fitting and improving certain of the flats ready for occupation are completed, I am of opinion that a total gross rental of £11,300 would be obtainable, as shown on the schedule accompanying this report.

Taking this return as a basis of calculation, and allowing the necessary deductions for ground rent, rates, taxes, and other outgoings, I consider the value of the property may be fairly estimated at £91,000.

I am, gentlemen, yours faithfully,

(Signed) BENJ. TABBERER, Surveyor, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.I., Surveyor to the Worshipful Company of Pewterers.

Out of the present issue a sum of £10,000 is set aside for the alterations and improvements referred to, and for working capital.

After deducting the ground rent from the rental of £11,200, there will remain a sum of £7,300 per annum, whereas the interest on, and sinking fund for the redemption of, the Debentures require about £2,400, leaving a large balance available for outgoings, dividend on the share capital issued, &c.

Attention is drawn to the present prices of similar Debentures, taken from the Official list of the 19th January, 1898:—

Name of Company.	Stock.	Present Price.
Ashley Gardens Properties, Ltd.	4½ p.c. Debenture Stock	114—117
City Offices Company, Ltd.	3½ p.c. Mort. Debenture Stock	107—110 ex div
De Keyser's Royal Hotel, Ltd.	4 p.c. Mort. Debenture Stock	108—110
Gordon Hotels Company, Ltd.	4 p.c. Debenture Stock	123—126
Middle Class Dwellings Co., Ltd.	4½ p.c. Mort. Debenture Stock	118—123
Savoy Hotel, Ltd.	4 p.c. 1st Mort. Stock	111—114

The Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Trust Deed securing the First Mortgage Debentures now offered, and the above-mentioned report may be seen at the offices of the Solicitors to the Company.

Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and in case of partial allotment the balance of deposit will be applied towards payment of the first instalment. Any further surplus will be returned. If default be made in the payment of any instalment at the due date the deposit and instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

Debentures will be issued in exchange for the letters of allotment and Bankers' receipt in due course.

Applications for Debentures must be made on the following form or the form accompanying the prospectus, and sent, together with the required deposit, to the Bankers, the Capital and Counties Bank, Limited, or to the Secretary of the Company.

THE MOUNT LYELL FIELD.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. JAMES CROTTY:

In the interests of the shareholding public a representative of "The Financier" waited on Mr. Crotty, so well known in connection with the Mount Lyell field, on Saturday, in order to gain from him information as to the particular Companies in which he is interested, with the result that we are enabled to publish the following particulars :—

"Now, Mr. Crotty, will you be so good as to inform us what Companies you are interested in in the Mount Lyell field?"—"I am only interested in the Companies along the line of hematite defined by us some thirteen years ago, and carefully examined since by us, when we came to the conclusion that these were the only Companies we would have anything to do with. These are the South Mount Lyell Mining Company, the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company, the West Mount Lyell, the Lyell Extended, Lyell Consols, North Mount Lyell, Tasman Lyell, and Lyell Comstock."

"Is the Lyell Tharsis not on the line of hematite?"—It is not on the line of hematite; but it is very close to that line, and as the underlie of the formation is westerly, it stands in a very good position to get a portion of the lode at a depth."

"Outside this hematite line you have not a good opinion of the field generally?"—"I have no opinion of the Mount Lyell field outside that line of hematite, which is well defined, the enclosing rocks being conglomerate and quartzite to the east and schist to the west. This hematite is peculiar; on assay some of it is very rich in gold, while it almost invariably gives a trace. Another distinguishing feature is that it contains baryta or heavy spar."

"I notice, Mr. Crotty, a number of registrations of Lyell Companies with not too modest capitals. One of the most recent of this class of Company is the Mount Lyell Proprietary, in which I am assured you are interested."—"I have absolutely nothing to do with it. I know the property well. It was open to us for years and years; but I confined myself, as mentioned, to the hematite line, from which I have no intention of deviating. Here is a plan showing the properties along the line of lode."

"There is one Company whose property is situated to the east of the Mount Lyell Company. I shall be glad if you can give me any information as to its prospects of getting the ore body."—"As regards their nearness to the Mount Lyell ore body on the east, they might be within a foot of that ore body and have not the slightest chance of getting it, as it is proved now that the ore body dips fast to the south and west. In proof of my statement, the No. 5 tunnel in the Mount Lyell Company's property has got the ore body at a depth of nearly 500 ft., and at that depth it has dipped to the west and south about 20 degrees, that is, more than 1 in 4. In other words, it has pitched west and south a distance of 135 ft."

"There is another point that I hear. I hear that the North Mount Lyell and Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Companies are about to amalgamate."—"There is absolutely no truth in that statement. Some people know more about other people's business than they themselves do."

"I should like to ask you a question about the extent of ore body proved on the Mount Lyell Company's property. You will recollect that in a well-known interview which was published last autumn you stated, on the authority of Mr. Sticht, the engineer in charge of that mine, that the ore body proved was 22,500,000 tons. From the report of the proceedings at the recent meeting of shareholders of that Company in Melbourne, the Chairman (Mr. Bowes Kelly) would appear to have discredited the statement made by the general manager. This has occasioned very considerable discussion of the position of the Company, and possibly you may be able to throw some light on the matter."—"The Chairman has placed himself in a very extraordinary position. There is not the slightest doubt that Mr. Sticht's estimates are correct, even to the odd 500,000 tons, which he was very careful to state. He is a gentleman who does not make mistakes, certainly not as regards the affairs of his own Company. If I had made the calculation for myself at the time, as I intended to do, I should certainly have come very near Mr. Sticht's estimate, for the following reasons: The eminent Dr. Peters estimated five years ago that there were 9,200,000 tons of ore in sight. This estimate was made on only 200 feet of the eastern portion of the ore body, the remaining western portion (which amounted to over one-third of the entire mass) not being taken into consideration, as being not sufficiently productive. Since that estimate was made the ore body has been proved to be infinitely greater than Dr. Peters supposed. This must be taken in connection with the fact that not alone the 200 ft. which Dr. Peters reckoned on at that time is being broken and sent to the smelters, but the entire western portion of the ore body is also being dealt with, and to a far greater extent than the richer western portion—that is to say, the whole mass of pyrites from the eastern to the western wall is proved to be productive, and is being treated. In the face of this, Mr. Kelly's statements at the meeting are unwarranted, loose, and misleading, and consequently injurious to the interests of the shareholders. I openly challenge Mr. Kelly to deny, if he can, my statements, and as it is clear he cannot deny them, the only reparation he can make to the shareholders is to voluntarily retire from the directorate."

"Then I conclude that you are not satisfied with the present administration of the Mount Lyell Company's mine?"—"Certainly not; and if I wished to go into this matter just now, which I do not, I have data which would convince the most sceptical that a change in the administration is urgently required. I content myself at the present time by showing you a letter which I have just received from Tasmania fully bearing out what I have stated. Of course, you will understand that I am in close touch with the mine and with everything that is going on there just as well as if I were on the spot."

"May I make an extract from that letter?"—"Certainly, if you care to."—"Thank you, I will."

The extract is as follows :—

Extract from letter from Tasmania to Mr. Crotty, dated December 12th, 1897:

"Mount Lyell Mine—I have visited the open-faced workings pretty frequently of late, and note their course of procedure; they appear to be bringing in the benching pretty regularly—that is, taking all before them from foot to hanging wall, although, if anything, the hanging or low-grade side is extended the furthest. The idea seems to be to keep the ore grade at about its lowest paying limit; very little ore is being produced from the south drive No. 4 tunnel, although the various winzes, rises, and stopes show really good grade material. Along the hematite on surface No. 2 and 2½ benches some very nice ore is showing, but these parts are further projecting than the same level hanging wall, or poor side, showing that the principle for breaking the ore for smelting is to keep the average at about 4 to 4½ per cent. If the whole width of the deposit were taken in exactly even, or at right angles to its length, the grade would be much higher, as the richer and considerably deeper portion of the ore body is on the footwall, the slope of the hill being from the hematite towards a small break (gully) along the hanging wall; and, as the benches are level, it will easily be seen that more ore comes off (or should do) the hematite side than the hanging-wall side, if the benches are kept continuously going at right angles to the direction of ore body. The south drive No. 4 tunnel is now carried along for 810 ft., showing the pyrites deposit to still continue solid and of average value. A cross-cut from this level to the outer wall has been made, and shows that the ore body is not making so much westerly as formerly, although, on the whole, the trend is south-west."

"From what I gather it is obviously your opinion that the present quotation of the Mount Lyell Company's shares is below their intrinsic value?"—"Most certainly; and they are bound to advance, in spite of maladministration. The shareholders will move in their own interests immediately they realise their true position. Even now there is no dividend-paying mining stock on the London market that can be named in the same breath with Mount Lyell."

"I presume that you have nothing further to add about the North Mount Lyell, as you have so recently met the shareholders."—"Nothing more than that the advices to hand by to-day's mail most explicitly confirm all that has been said as to the great future of the Company's mine."

"I am sorry to trouble you at such length."—"I am only too pleased to have had the opportunity of replying to your questions."—*Financier*, Jan. 24th.

THE ORE BODY of the MOUNT LYELL MINING and RAILWAY COMPANY, Limited.

"In another column will be found a letter from a 'Mount Lyell Shareholder' in reference to the estimated quantity of ore in the Mount Lyell Mine. We are pleased that our attention has been drawn to the matter by one interested in the property, and hope now to give an explanation that will fully satisfy the shareholders in the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company and the public generally.

"At the last half-yearly meeting of the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company (Limited), held at Melbourne on the 26th ult., an account of which appeared in a previous issue, the usual formal proceedings were, to the astonishment and dismay of the shareholders, diversified by an ill-timed exhibition of the Chairman's quality as a person of humour and sagacity. The episode demands serious notice, not only on account of its deplorable result in the sudden fall of the Company's shares, but for its ominous revelation of a source of possible recurring danger to the Company's interests in the future. In this community, where the Chairman is well known, his utterances could under no circumstances excite particular interest, and certainly nobody would seek for an explanation of his remarks in any supposed subtle policy of breaking down the value of the Company's shares in emulation of the late Jay Gould. His deadliest enemies, if he has any, would admit that Mr. Bowes Kelly is not a Jay Gould, and that, by the natural limitations of his intellectual equipment, he never will be. Any suggestions, therefore, of the Napoleonic projects for adding to his existing holding by the masterful method of creating a panic, designed to flood the market with the scrip of alarmed shareholders, may be dismissed at once. Other persons in the background may have had such designs and may have already profited at the expense of the shareholders, as they have profited in the past, but obviously no such aim need be attributed to Mr. Bowes Kelly. But if mischief is done, the consequences are not mitigated by the absence of evil intent on the part of the mischief-maker.

"The shareholders in the Mount Lyell Company are a numerous body, and as a large number of them live in remote parts beyond the seas, it is important that those to whom they have entrusted the management of their interests should in their public appearances act and speak with at least ordinary wisdom and decorum. Having no reason to doubt that they are thus efficiently represented, and accustomed as they are to see only men of ripe experience, proved capacity and attainment at the head of colossal enterprises, they are apt to assume that the same rule holds good here, and therefore the explanation of Mr. Kelly's display, which is so obvious to those who understand the position here, is the very one that distant shareholders are least likely to adopt. They will suspect unpleasant motives where we on this side recognise mere *gaucherie*. It is a sorry explanation, and hardly less damaging than the one which all but those acquainted with him can perceive to be the true one. It is not Mr. Bowes Kelly's fault that he is a round peg in a square hole, and that as Chairman of such a Board of Directors he occupies a position in which he must always command the sympathy of his best friends. With a stock-whip in his fist, securing the plains of Riverina on horseback, they might, for anything we know, feel proud of his skill in an occupation for which nature and training had so admirably fitted him. But to elevate him to the Chairmanship of a great Company was to place him where, amongst many delicate and difficult duties requiring a commercial education, he would have to occasionally open his mouth with the always imminent danger of 'putting his foot in it,' to the possible detriment of his own as well as other people's interests. And that is what has happened at the recent half-yearly meeting; and the danger is that he is just as likely to say what he doesn't mean on the very next emergency. While nothing certainly was farther from his intention, he contrived, by mere blundering maladroitness of speech, to stultify and belittle the manager and to disparage the mine. But Mr. Bowes Kelly's gifts of unpremeditated speech are not known to shareholders abroad, who naturally picture him as the ordinary careful-speaking Chairman of their acquaintance, and our readers can imagine the perplexity and alarm with which they will peruse the report when it appears in the London Press. His ambiguous statement with regard to the ore in the mine, that there is 'plenty there for the next few years,' will inevitably suggest the ridiculously false impression that the estimate of its size has been revised, and that its present extent is ascertained to be even less than that given by Dr. Peters, after the deduction of 50 per cent. from his own estimates of five years ago. Most people would regard thirty-six years as considerably more than 'a few years' in the life either of a mine or an individual. And yet, at its present rate of working, it will take the Company absolutely thirty-six years to smelt its ores, supposing that not a ton more had been discovered since Dr. Peters calculated the minimum quantity five years ago. That Dr. Peters' figures were under the mark he himself admitted at the time, and they have long since been proved to have been so; and if the work of the past five years has not demonstrated that the mine is bigger by many millions of tons than Dr. Peters' largest estimate, then the Company's half-yearly reports for years past have been a series of lying fables. But we are told that Mr. Bowes Kelly, when he used the phrase 'a few years,' accompanied the words with a significant expression of the countenance, implying that by 'a few years' he meant 'many years.' This we can well believe; but, unfortunately, Mr. Bowes Kelly's expressive countenance and knowing wink cannot be distributed broadcast, and absent shareholders must peruse the report in cold type, unassisted by the explanatory smirk which happily reassured the meeting, including the irrelevant and intruding Tapp, who was so mysteriously 'turned on' for the occasion. But the whole affair was a sorry and silly exhibition. Whether Mr. Sticht was in error or not to the extent of several millions of tons, or to any extent at all, is a question which does not practically concern this generation of shareholders and the paltry quibbling at his totals has left no impression upon those who personally know the mine and its brilliant manager. Our hope is that the distinguished position which Mr. Sticht holds in his profession, acknowledged as it is in the best scientific circles of Europe and America, will help somewhat to neutralise the mischief to which the Chairman's utterances may give rise. With regard to Mr. Sticht personally, whether Mr. Bowes Kelly's insulting innuendoes were serious, or whether they represented merely a crude and elephantine humour peculiar to himself, we do not pretend to determine. They were unpardonable in any view, and their perusal must bring a flush of shame and indignation to the cheek of every one at Mount Lyell and elsewhere who knows that, eminent as Mr. Sticht is in his profession, he will always be as highly respected and admired in his character of gentleman."—MOUNT LYELL STANDARD, Dec. 15, 1897.

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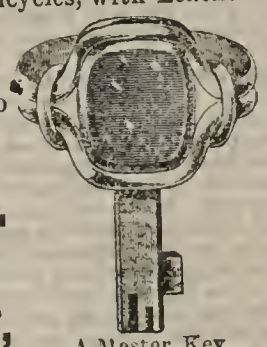

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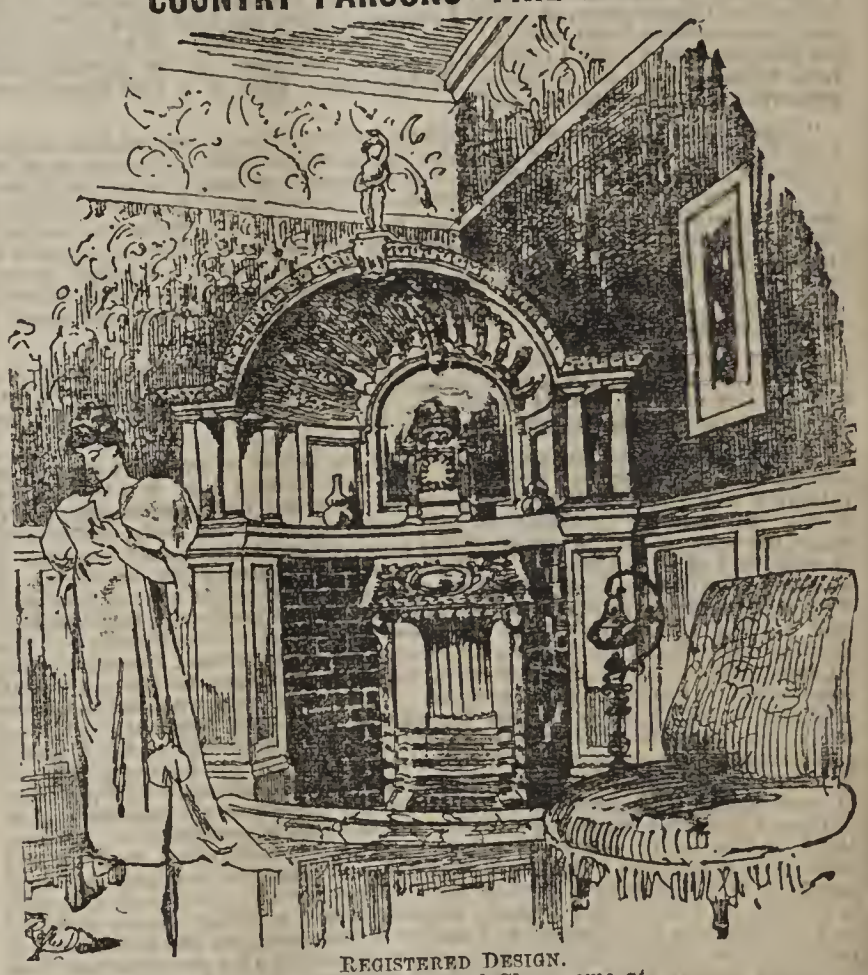

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OUR PUZZLES.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 986.

The Prize in this Competition has been awarded to ROUGHTY for the following Epitaph on A. A Prime Minister. B. A 'Bus Conductor. C. A Low Comedian. D. A Railway Guard. E. A Stockbroker :—

A. Gone out with the flowing Tide. B. He has taken his last fare well. C. One whom the "gods" loved. D. Tipped off the track. E. Waiting for the settling day.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 989.

A careful collation of the lists received (some of which were published in TRUTH for January 27) shows that the following Epitaphs were selected by the largest number of competitors :—A. A prey to dissolution.—Mac. B. He has taken his last fare well.—Roughty, Granite, Ooloo, &c. C. One whom the "gods" loved.—Roughty. D. We must all travel in his train.—Elk. E. He died because he had no option.—Quilp. No competitor included all these in his or her list; but SCOTUS VIATOR selected three out of the five, and the Prize will therefore be awarded to him.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 993.

Many requests have been made for another Translation Competition, and accordingly the usual prize is offered this week for

THE BEST RENDERING INTO ENGLISH RHYMED VERSE OF THE FOLLOWING STANZAS FROM THE LATE MR. DU MAURIER'S WELL-KNOWN NOVEL "TRILBY."

As many would-be competitors may not have a copy of "Trilby" at hand, I append the stanzas in question, which are to be found on pages 291-2 of the novel. It will be remembered that the Laird and his friend made a pilgrimage to the studio they remembered so well. There, as they examined the relics of the past still remaining, they found, the author tells us, "under a square of plate-glass fixed on the wall by an oak frame, Little Billee's old black and white and red chalk sketch of Trilby's left foot, as fresh as if done only yesterday. Over it was written, 'Souvenir de la Grande Trilby, par W. B. (Litrebill).' And beneath, carefully engrossed on imperishable parchment, and pasted on the glass, the following stanzas :—

"'Pauvre Trilby—la belle et bonne et chère!
Je suis son pied. Devine qui voudra
Quel tendre ami, la chérissant naguère,
Encadra d'elle (et d'un amour sincère)
Ce souvenir charmant qu'un caprice inspira—
Qu'un souffle emportera!

"J'étais jumeau: qu'est devenu mon frère?
Hélas! Hélas! L'Amour nous egara.
L'Eternité nous unira, J'espère;
Et nous ferons comme autrefois la paire
Au fond d'un lit bien chaste où nul ne troublera
Trilby—qui dormira.

"O tendre ami, sans nous qu'allez-vous faire?
La porte est close où Trilby demeura.
Le Paradis et loin . . . et sur la terre
(Qui nous fut douce et lui sera légère)
Pour trouver nos pareils, si bien qu'on cherchera—
Beau chercher l'on aura!'"

A literal translation is not asked for; but competitors should keep as closely to the original, both in sense and metre, as they can. In no case must the number of lines in the original be exceeded. All versions of the stanzas intended for competition must reach me by the morning of Monday, February 14, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of PAT-A-CAKE, winner of a half of Puzzle Prize No. 987, is Miss Dymphna Ellis, Osborne Lodge, Ascot Heath.

*** The real name, with the address, of AVIS, winner of a half of Puzzle Prize No. 987, is E. M. Lashbrooke, Esq., Leigh Villa, Street, Somersetshire.

AVIS.—You will be eligible to compete again when Competition No. 994 is reached.

MRS. L. B.—Many thanks for your note. I hope the obvious mistake did not inconvenience you.

PTERIS.—Thanks. I will see that your *nom de plume* is not misprinted in future.

CORTEX.—I hope the cutting from TRUTH duly reached you.

CAM.—I am much obliged to you for your letter.

J. MCGRIGOR.—You will see that I have acted this week on the suggestion so kindly sent by you.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 990.

QUOTATIONS FROM POETS WHO WROTE IN ENGLISH DURING THE PRESENT CENTURY CONTAINING THE NAMES OF TOWNS AND CITIES IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

*** It may be said at once that the results of this Competition have fairly astonished me. Competitors have, in several instances, succeeded in finding such a large number of quotations that it is impossible to make room to print even one of the longer lists in its completeness. COMMA, for example, claims to have found 524 quotations. It has been thought well, therefore, to print one of the shorter lists, and I have chosen for this purpose that sent by ABBOT. By next week I hope to be able to carefully examine all the lists received, and to announce the Prize Winner's name.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

1. I waited for the train at Coventry.—Godiva. Tennyson.
2. Burleigh House, by Stamford town.—The Lord of Burleigh. Tennyson.
3. The bells are ringing at Maidstone. Doesn't our Worship hear?—Queen Mary, act ii., sc. 1. Tennyson.
4. The Duke hath gone to Leicester. Carew Mirs.—Queen Mary, act. ii., sc. 1. Tennyson.
5. But first to Rochester, to take the guns.—Queen Mary, act ii., sc. 1. Tennyson.
6. Were those your sires who fought at Lewes? The Third of February, 1852. Tennyson.
7. Tho' niggard throats of Manchester may bawl. The Third of February, 1852. Tennyson.
8. . . . Look, adown the dusk hillside A troop of Oxford hunters going home.—Thyrsis. Matthew Arnold.
9. And two of us at Conway dwell.—We are seven. Wordsworth.
10. Though the Castle of Richmond stand fair on the hill.—Allen-A-Dale. Sir Walter Scott.
11. There came a gallant merchant ship full sail to Plymouth Bay.—The Armada. Lord Macaulay.
12. From Eddystone to Berwick bounds.—The Armada. Lord Macaulay.
13. Right sharp and quick the bells rang out, All night from Bristol town.—The Armada. Lord Macaulay.
14. And ere the day three hundred horse had met on Clifton Down.—The Armada. Lord Macaulay.
15. Till twelve fair counties saw the blaze on Malvern's lonely height.—The Armada. Lord Macaulay.
16. Till broad and fierce the star came forth on high's stately fane.—The Armada. Lord Macaulay.
17. And Lincoln sped the message on o'er the wide vale of Trent.—The Armada. Lord Macaulay.
18. And the red glare on Skiddaw roused the burghers of Carlisle.—The Armada. Lord Macaulay.
19. Pleasantly shone the setting sun over the town of Lynn.—The Dream of Eugene Aram. Hood.
20. There was little Tom Linstock, of Dover.—When our Time's Come we Must Go. Charles Mackay.
21. From Chester to Kilkenny, oh!—Darby Kelly. Dibdin.
22. Once more the London dirt and dun.—The Burden of Nineveh. D. G. Rossetti.
23. Another, like Colchester native, born.—Miss Killmansegg and her Precious Leg. Hood.
24. Tom, are you still within this land of livers. Still on Hastings' sand.—Stanzas to Tom Woodgate, of Hastings. Hood.
25. Vicar of Wakefield, Eward Gibbon's. Vicar.—Elegy on David Laing, Esq. Hood.
26. A sergeant soon came down to York.—John Trot. Hood.
27. On Margate beach, where the sick one roams.—The Mermaid of Margate. Hood.
28. Of Deal (but builded of oak).—The Mermaid of Margate. Hood.
29. But the town of Brentford marked with wonder.—Canto III. Lillian. W. M. Praed.
30. He bore him like a British Knight from London to Penzance.—Canto II. Lillian. W. M. Praed.
31. It seems she sailed from Milford Haven.—Gog. W. M. Praed.
32. You go to Cheltenham for the waters, And meet the Countess and her daughters.—The Bridal of Belmont. W. M. Praed.
33. And finer far than what a king Built up to prove his taste at Brighton.—The Legend of the Teufel Haus. W. M. Praed.
34. We expect too—at least, we've been plotting and planning To get that great actor from Liverpool—C-nn-ng.—Occasional Addresses. T. Moore.
35. Here dwelt the man of Ross! O traveller hear.—Lines written at the King's Arms, Ross. S. T. Coleridge.
36. Choose between them, Cambridge, pray, Which is weakest? Cambridge say.—A Cambridge Ballad. S. T. Coleridge.
37. At Worthing, an exile from Geraldine G——.—Geraldine Green. Frederick Locker.
38. But slowly in the twilight I came to Cromer town.—Requiescat in Pace. Jean Ingelow.
39. Play uppe, play uppe, Oh, Boston bells!—The High Tide on the Coast of Lincolnshire. Jean Ingelow.
40. For evil news from Mablethorpe The High Tide on the Coast of Lincolnshire.—Jean Ingelow.
41. Oh, blessed drums of Aldershot, O blessed south-west train.—The South Wind. Charles Kingsley.
42. Or the Vale of Windsor, England's golden eye.—The Invitation. Charles Kingsley.
43. Where, behind Keighley, the road Up to the heart of the moors.—Haworth Churchyard. Matthew Arnold.
44. Go, view the splendid domes of Greenwich—go!—Pleasures of memory. Rogers.
45. Between Shellness Point and the pier at Herne Bay.—Mr. Peter's story, The Bagman's Dog, Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
46. I saw thee Netley as the sun.—Netley Abbey, Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
47. Been gibbeted on Chatham Downs, had they met with Nell.—Nell Cook, Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
48. Branch'd off to the left from the one to Devizes.—A Legend of Salisbury Plain, Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
49. Tunbridge, thy waters are bitter, alas!—The Nymph of the Well. Frederick Locker.
50. Which was tried at Guildford 'sizes, this day week as ever was.—Damages, Two Hundred Pounds. W. M. Thackeray.
51. Oh, come to Bath, to Lansdowne-crescent.—The Knight and the Lady. W. M. Thackeray.
52. My child, in Durham do you dwell?—Alice Fell. Wordsworth.
53. The sword from Bangor's walls, and guard the store.—Monastery of Old Bangor. Wordsworth.
54. Who dragged Earl Pembroke from Banbury church?—The White Doe of Rylstone or The Fate of the Nortons. Wordsworth.
55. Methought I stood in Canterbury Minster. Act i, sc. 1, Becket. Tennyson.
56. There where the mountains ascend, by the white little town of Llandovery.—The Physicians of Myddfai. Sir Lewis Morris.
57. That traced of old in Woodstock bower.—Rokeby, canto vi., verse 25. Sir Walter Scott.
58. He passed red Penrith's table round.—The Bridal of Triermain, Canto i, verse 7. Sir Walter Scott.
59. Oh, Salisbury plain is bleak and bare.—The Dead Drummer. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.

60. And if ever you go to Herne Bay or Southend.—A Legend of Afric. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
61. The groom who's been over to Folkestone and Dover.—A Legend of the Reign of Queen Anne. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
62. O'er his lost works let classic Sheffield weep.—English Bards and Scotch Reviewers. Lord Byron.
63. Losing herself as 'twere in Kidderminster.—Love and Lunacy. Hood.
64. Tray, an old mastiff, bred at Dunstable.—The Fox and the Hen. Hood.
65. But a two, out at Penge it's all right.—Hamlet at the Crystal Palace. H. J. Byron.
66. Held court at old Caerleon upon Usk.—Geraint and Enid. Idylls of the King. Tennyson.
67. And may your business thrive in Nottingham.—Act iii., sc 1., The Foresters. Tennyson.
68. That Eton's sons are here to-night.—Surly Hall. W. M. Praed.
69. Of Tamworth tower and town.—Canto i., verse 11., Marmion. Sir Walter Scott.
70. Dumble's the best milcher in Islip.—Queen Mary, act iv., sc. 3. Tennyson.
71. Where from high Whitby's cloistered pile.—Marmion, The Convent, canto ii., verse 1. Sir Walter Scott.
72. Monk-Wearmouth soon behind them lay.—Marmion, The Convent, canto ii., verse 8.
73. And Tynemouth's priory and bay. Marmion, The Convent, canto ii., verse 8. Sir Walter Scott.
74. With Kendal bow and Gilsland Brand.—Lay of the Last Minstrel, canto iv., verse 21. Sir Walter Scott.
75. When Hawick he passed had Curfew rung.—Lay of the Last Minstrel, canto i., verse 31. Sir Walter Scott.
76. On Derby hills, the paths are steep.—Marmion, canto v., verse 18, Sir Walter Scott.
77. And meaning not to hunt at all, had gone to Enfield chase.—The Epping Hunt. Hood.
78. In riding with a friend to Ponder's End.—Ode to Rae Wilson, Esq. Hood.
79. In Truro town, hard by the wave-worn headlands of the west.—Henry Martyn,—A Vision of Saints. Sir Lewis Morris.
80. Working in summer in the silent streets Of Bedford, at his task, he chanced to hear.—John Bunyan. A Vision of Saints. Sir Lewis Morris.
81. And Croydon monks his praise record.—The Lord of the Isles, canto, iv., verse 4. Sir Walter Scott.
82. At Camelot, high above the yellowing woods.—The Last Tournament. Idylls of the King. Tennyson.
83. To Glastonbury where the winter thorn Blossoms at Christmas, mindful of our Lord.—The Holy Grail. Idylls of the King. Tennyson.
84. To whom the Lord of *Astolat bide with us.—Lancelot and Elaine Idylls of the King. Tennyson.
*Astolat, the ancient name of Guildford.
85. We found him your worship a plundering o' Bishop Winchester's house.—Queen Mary. Act ii, sc. 3. Tennyson.
86. Hath taken Scarboro' Castle, north of York.—Queen Mary., act v., sc. 1. Tennyson.
87. The nightingale's at Havering in the bower.—Harold., act i., sc. 1. Tennyson.
88. They dug three graves in Lyndhurst yard.—A New Forest Ballad. Charles Kingsley.
89. One goes to Capel-Curig and I can't mind its name.—Peny Gwrydd. Charles Kingsley.
90. At Dunwich in the East Country John landed from the weary sea.—The Land East of the Sun and West of the Moon. Earthly Paradise. W. Morris.
91. Men call St. Alban's: there he told.—The Land East of the Sun and West of the Moon. Earthly Paradise. W. Morris.
92 Though stretched at ease in Chertsey's silent bowers. Praise of the Country. Cowper.
93. In classic Dartmouth's college halls.—Snow Bound. J. G. Whittier.
94. Men of Bideford in Devon.—The Revenge. Tennyson.
95. That time Lord Howe, from Gravesend Bay, His banner bold advanced.—Death of Woodhull. Anonymous, 1823. Fugitive Poetry.
96. Beneath the spreading Weymouth pine.—Prologue, Peter Bell. Wordsworth.
97. And he had seen Carnarvon's towers.—Part I., Peter Bell. Wordsworth.
98. And Doncaster, at York and Leeds, And Merry Carlisle had he been.—Part I., Peter Bell. Wordsworth.
99. Joy, joy to both, but most to her, Who is the flower of Lancaster.—Song at the Feast of Brougham Castle. Wordsworth.
100. If you from Wimborne took your road.—Blackmwore Maidens. W. Barnes.
101. Sandwich, and Romney, Hastings, Hythe, and Dover.—The Warden of the Cinque Ports. Longfellow.
102. For why? His owner had a horse, Full ten miles off at Ware.—John Gilpin. Cowper.
103. She has run into Shrewsbury town.—Blondie Jacke of Shrewsberrie. Ingoldsby Legends, Barham.
104. Some seek Whitstable, some Grove Ferry.—A Legend of Thanet. Ingoldsby Legends, Barham.
105. A mile to the north of the Ramsgate Road.—A Legend of Thanet. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
106. And so died in the workhouse at Norwich.—The Babes in the Wood. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
107. For the soul of the Prior of Abingdon.—A Legend of Palestine. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
108. I thought on Naseby—Marston Moor—on Worcester's crowning flight.—Fragment. Netley Abbey. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
109. And a third down in Kent at a place called Foots' Cray. — Aunt Fanny. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
110. Or whether a barrel of Faversham oysters.—A Lay of St. Romwold. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
111. Was behind them at London, or Windsor, or Sheen.—Lay of St. Romwold. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
112. Except for the Birchington boys and their vow. — The Brothers of Birchington. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
113. We must round By Kingston Bridge.—Queen Mary, act ii., sc. 3. Tennyson.
114. She met the Queen at Wanstead. — Queen Mary, act i., sc. 1. Tennyson.
115. Beside the Deans of Christchurch, Durham, Exeter, and Wells.—Queen Mary, act i., sc. 2. Tennyson.
116 Leofric, and all the monks of Peterboro'.—Harold, act v., sc. 1. Tennyson.
117. To cedared Sydenham for their outing.—The Palace. Fly Leaves. C. S. Calverley.
118. Alone beside Carmarthen Bay.—Peace. Fly Leaves. C. S. Caverley.
119. Of the marvellous valley hidden in the depths of Gloucester woods.—The Garrison of Cape Ann. J. G. Whittier.
120. In one of the streets of this city of steel, This Sheffield and Birmingham store of Castile.—The Cobbler of Toronto. Anonymous poem. Nineteenth century., The Bentley Ballads.
121. One autumn night in Sudbury town.—Prelude, The Wayside Inn. Tales of a Wayside Inn. Longfellow.
122. From Chepstow's towers ere dawn of morn.—The Norman Horseshoe, verse 2. Sir Walter Scott.
123. 'Twixt Newcastle and Holy-Rood.—Marmion, canto i., verse 21. Sir Walter Scott.
124. You would ransack all Hungerford Market in vain.—Legend of Germany, Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
125. Along the Woodford road there comes a noise.—Sonnet. Flood.
126. At Deptford done by night.—A Report from Below. Flood.
127. Near Battle Mr Peter Baker was powder maker.—A Blow Up. Hood.
128. At Cowes Regatta as I once observed.—A Blow Up. Hood.
129. I've toured the lakes and scoured the coast From Scarboro' to Torquay.—I'm Going to Bombay. Hood.
130. Give me for home a house of brick, The Kate I love at Kew.—Poem, from the Polish. Hood.
131. It's plain—as plain as Harrow's steeple.—Ode to Mr. Malthus. Hood.
132. At far off Pontypool.—Ode to Mr. Malthus. Hood.
133. The monk her son, and her daughter the nun, Their way to Berkeley went.—A ballad showing how an old woman rode double and who rode before her. Southey.
134. Blogg Brothers—Milton—Grote and Prescott—Pope, Bristles and Hogg, Glyn Mills and Halifax.—Literary Reminiscences, No. I, line 2. Hood.
135. To Penrith, Penrhyn, even to Penzance.—Ode to Perry. Verse 3. Hood.
136. Bill Blossom was a nice young man, And drove the Bury coach.—The Poacher. Hood.
137. Cannot a rural maiden or a man, Seek Hornsey-road by invitation sipping.—Ode to St. Swithin. Hood.
138. Then Malmesbury's arch had never met my sight.—St. Juan Gualberto. Verse 20. Southey.
139. One lying in the dust at Almesbury.—The Passing of Arthur. Idylls of the King. Tennyson.
140. Eclipsed in its brilliance the finest Bude light.—The Lay of St. Odille. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
141. When the rock gaping wide as the Thames at Sheerness.—The Lay of St. Odille. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
142. Since not even Clapham, that sanctified ville.—The Lay of St. Odille. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
143.—Which the bum-boat woman brought out to Spithead.—Legend of Hamilton Tighe. Ingoldsby Legends.—Barham.
144. Lady Arundel, now, in her own right a Peeress.—Some Account of a New Play. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
145. To the morals (as Johnson of Chesterfield said).—The Bagman's Story. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
146. Than George Robins' filters or Thorpe's (which are dearer).—A Legend of Germany. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
147. Now lithe and listen, Sir Bray, to me. — The Ingoldsby Penance. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
148. Then you've Milton and Gravesend behind—and before.—A Legend of Palestine. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
149. First-rate of the kind, just brought out by Miss Acton.—A Lady of St. Romwald. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
150. At Waltham Abbey o'er King Harold's grave.—Grave of the Last Saxon. Rev. W. L. Bowles.
151. The fleet sailed on, till Pevensey! we saw thy welcome strand.—Grave of the Last Saxon. Rev. W. L. Bowles.
152. The good Sidmouth preferred solitaire.—A Game at St. Stephen's Chapel. George Canning. 1808.
153. And craftily told 'em What isn't in Oldham.—Emma and Eginard. Anonymous. Nineteenth Century. The Bentley Ballads.
154. And sandy Barnstaple rose up wet with the salt sea spray.—Massachusetts to Virginia. J. G. Whittier.
155. And Newbury's spire and weathercock peered o'er the pines before them.—The Exiles. J. G. Whittier.
156. There's old Sir Harry Vane, the Earl of Pembroke.—Charles I. Shelley.
157. What I was at Newmarket, the same I am now.—Parody of a celebrated letter. T. Moore.
158. By honest Newport bought, and paid By Papists for the Orange altar.—A Hymn of welcome after the Recess. T. Moore.
159. A ship sailed from Newhaven.—The Phantom Ship. Longfellow.
160. And hear in Stratford's quiet street The patter of his little feet.—To the Avon. Longfellow.
161. He came on the Sheriff of Hereford as he sat him down to his Sunday dinner.—Lillian. W. M. Praed.
162. I have seen men walk on the Brixton wheel.—The Troubadour. W M. Praed.
163. There was a jousting at Chichester.—The Troubadour. W. M. Praed.
164. There was a wedding done at Bramber.—The Troubadour. W. M. Praed.
165. And nowhere but at Epsom races.—The Legend of the Teufel-haus. W. M. Praed.
166. At Keswick, and through still continued fusion.—Don Juan. Dedication. Lord Byron.
167. The Bard of Freshwater was voted to the chair.—Caliban. Comic Poets of the Nineteenth Century.
168. Of the Southampton Pier. Musings on Mummy Paper. Tom Taylor.
169. Of Bass within its Burton home.—Fons Burtonensis. H. Savile Clarke. Comic Poets of the Nineteenth Century.
170. Or come ye from the Shrine of St. James the Divine, or St. John of Beverley?—The Gray Brother. Sir Walter Scott.
171. It's a' o' the gude Ripon steel.—The Feast of Spurs. By Rev. John Marriott. Included in Scott's Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border.
—172. Then Uther in his wrath and heat besieged Ygerne within Tintagel, where her men.—The Coming of Arthur, Idylls of the Kings. Tennyson.
173. To thee, sea-girt St. David's, far away.—To my Motherland. Songs of Two Worlds. Sir Lewis Morris.
174. Came downe that kyndly message free, The "Brides of Mavis Enderby"—The High Tide on the Coast of Lincolnshire. Jean Ingelow.
175. Before the "Grace of Sunderland" was wrecked.—Brothers and a Sermon. Jean Ingelow.
176. Sweet Be'mis'ter (Beaminster) that bist a'bound By green and woody hills all round.—Be'mis'ter: Poems of Rural Life in the Dorset Dialect. Rev. W. Barnes.
177. Vrom Sherborn left, to Blanvord (Blandford) right.—The Hwomestead. Poems of Rural Life in the Dorset Dialect. Rev. W. Barnes.
178. The fearest maid of Newton—The Maid o' Newton. Poems of Rural Life in the Dorset Dialect. Rev. W. Barnes.
179. At Stalbridge with its grey walled park.—The window freamed wi' stwon.—Poems of Rural Life in the Dorset Dialect. Rev. W. Barnes.
180. Tis' Pentridge—Pentridge by the river.—Pentridge by the River. Poems of Rural Life in the Dorset Dialect. Rev. W. Barnes.
181. To bear with her from Rokeby's towers.—Rokeby, Canto iv., verse 31. Sir Walter Scott.
182. To Barnard Castle's lofty towers.—Rokeby, Canto iv., verse 31. Sir Walter Scott.
183. From Ixworth town, in Suffolk, vich his name did not transpire.—The Foundling of Shoreditch. W. M. Thackeray.
184 There was Lord Crowhurst. I knew him first, When only Mr. Pips he was.—Mr. Malony's Account of the Ball. W. M. Thackeray.
185 Thus far, O Mr. Buckingham, I've gather'd.—Ode to J. S. Buckingham, Esq., J.P. Hood.
186. At Bedford, or Bedhampton? None of these.—Ode to J. S. Buckingham, Esq., J.P. Hood.
187. Of the warming-pans, Wallsend, and flannel.—A New Song from the Polish. Hood.
188. Charging, of course, each bantam as a Dorking.—Cackle *v.* Cackle. Hood.
189. Perch'd on the proudest peak of Penmaen Mawr.—Ode to Perry. Hood.
190. He roused the shepherds of Stonehenge, the rangers of Beaulieu.—The Armada. Lord Macaulay.
191. O'er Longleat's towers, o'er Cranbourne's oaks the fiery herald flew.—The Armada. Lord Macaulay.
192. They came from Henley-on-the-Thames.—Fire, verse 5. Green Bays, by Q. (Quiller Couch).
193. And in thy bowers of Camelot or of Usk.—Guinevere. The Idylls of the King. Tennyson.
194. They march with Dudley at their head.—The White Doe of Rylstone. Wordsworth.
195. As I from Hawes to Richmond did repair.—Hart Leap Well. Wordsworth.
196. Matthew Robinson, too, with his beard, from Monk's Horton.—The Wedding Day, Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
197. His poke in the eye from that clumsy Montgomery. — The Lord of Thoulouse. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
198. To Gretna Green, or sons rebellious grown.—Puritans. Crabbe.
199. On Brandon Hall, ere went my lord to town.—The Patron. Crabbe.
200. A noble peasant, Isaac Ashford died.—Isaac Ashford. Crabbe.
201. As I swung in my stride six lengths to the good, hard held over Brixworth Brook.—A Voice from the Bush. Australian Ballads.
202. And of the Lady Huntingdon persuasion. The Ghost. Ingoldsby Legends. Barham.
203. Besides, when Wilton with him vied.—Marmion, canto v., verse 28. Sir Walter Scott.
204. A token true of Bosworth Field.—Marmion, canto i., verse 5. Sir Walter Scott.
205. Then oft from Newark's riven tower.—Marmion. Introduction to Canto Second. Sir Walter Scott
206. On Brusleton and Houghton height.—Rokeby, canto ii., verse 1. Sir Walter Scott.

*** 209 names of towns and cities, in 206 quotations. ABBOT.

The following are the winners of the competitions who have sent in lists of cities and towns exceeding forty in number. The figures after each name represent the total number of quotations claimed to have been made by each competitor:—Comma, 524; Cam, 478; The Hen, 210; Abbot, 209; C. M. P 208; Hopetown, 204; Tray, 195; Busy Bee, 189 Crock, 187; Granite, 184; Newnham, 177 Qu'Appelle, 172; M. J. W., 171; Leah, 170 Ailema, 169; Ivy Leaves No. II., 160; D'Arcy, 139 Snooks, 136; Courage, 130; Sing-Song, 129; Violet 124; Leaf Rule, 120; Epah, 117; Ruby, 113; Dracula 109; Maria, 107; Dennis, 102; Perlina, 98 Majorca, 95; The Girl, 93; Enilorac, 93; Gluigi, 91 Guess, 85; Fish, 80; E. Culverhouse, 80; Tryon 67; Red Rowan, 57; R. Martin, 53; Outis, 5 Pseudonym, 50; Sylvia, 45; Blossom, 42; Myrah, 4

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TRUTH

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NOTICE.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen is to return from Osborne to Windsor Castle next week, probably on Thursday, accompanied by Princess Beatrice and Princess Louis of Battenberg, who are going with her Majesty to the Riviera, starting on March 8 or 9. The Queen will not visit London until May 2 or 3, when her Majesty is coming up to Buckingham Palace for three days.

After Royal favours have been for so many years lavished upon the Army almost exclusively, it is satisfactory to find that the Queen has at last remembered the existence of the Navy. It may be hoped that her Majesty's reception of the officers and men of the *St. George* in the Indian Room at Osborne last Wednesday will be the beginning of a new era in these matters. Prince Louis of Battenberg, whose hearty interest in the Navy is well known, is said to have originated this function by suggesting it to Princess Beatrice. The men were entertained at luncheon in the stables after they left the Indian Room, and the officers refreshed themselves at a buffet in the billiard-room. The Queen sat in a low chair on the north side of the room, with Princess Beatrice on one side and Princess Louis of Battenberg on the other. The officers of the *St. George* were presented by Sir Michael Culme Seymour, and then the men passed through the room, each man halting before the Queen's chair and saluting.

A daily paper professes to give particulars of the Queen's daily life at Cimiez, according to which her Majesty breakfasts in the private garden of the hotel at ten, and dines at eight. As a matter of fact, the Queen takes a light breakfast in her own rooms at nine o'clock, and afterwards goes out for about an hour in her donkey chair. The time between eleven and half-past one is devoted by the Queen to business, Sir Arthur Bigge and his assistant (usually Colonel Carington) working simultaneously in another room. Luncheon is served at two, and at half-past three the Queen starts on her drive, seldom returning until past seven. Tea is always served in the course of the drive. Dinner is at a quarter to nine, the same hour as at Windsor Castle. The drive is often postponed until four o'clock, in order that the Queen may receive visitors at three o'clock, and, as a rule, there are guests at dinner. Last year Royalties were literally swarming on the Riviera when the Queen was at Cimiez, and her Majesty was consequently quite overwhelmed with company.

The Prince of Wales is to arrive at Marlborough House from Sandringham next Monday, and the Princess and Princess Victoria are coming to town about the 21st. The Royal party are to pay a "dine and sleep" visit to the Queen at Windsor Castle on the 22nd or 23rd, and on the evening of Saturday, the 26th, the Prince is to leave London for Paris on his way to Cannes. The Princess and Princess Victoria will stay in town for a few days longer before proceeding to Copenhagen, where they are to travel by way of Calais, Brussels, Cologne, and Hamburg; and they may possibly break the journey by a brief visit to King Christian's sister, the Duchess of Anhalt-Bernburg, at Ballenstedt.

At the beginning of April, the Prince of Wales will return to England, and H.R.H. intends to spend the Easter holidays at Sandringham, and will come to town for the season on Monday, April 18. The Princess and Princess Victoria are to return from Denmark about April 28, but the date of their departure from Copenhagen will depend upon the arrangements for the wedding of Prince Christian, eldest son of the Crown Prince, and the Duchess Alexandrina of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, which is to take place directly after Easter. It is not yet settled whether this marriage is to be celebrated at Cannes or at Copenhagen.

The Prince of Wales's sale of shire horses from the Royal Stud Farm at Wolferton, near Sandringham, is to take place on Friday, at one o'clock, after luncheon, which will be served in an immense tent at twelve, H.R.H. being in the chair. There are fifty-four shire mares, fillies, and

stallions in the catalogue, and the sale will be entirely without reserve. These animals are all grandly bred, and several of them are prize winners. The Prince and Princess of Wales will entertain a large party at Sandringham for the sale, the guests being invited to dine and sleep at the Hall to-morrow.

The Duke and Duchess of York, who are to arrive in town next week from Sandringham for the season, will go to Copenhagen for the celebration of King Christian's eightieth birthday on April 8. The Duchess of York is herself nearly related to the Royal Family of Denmark, the Duchess of Teck having been a first cousin of Queen Louise.

The first "house party" of the season, which assembled last week at Dublin Castle, before the Levee day, was a large one. It included Lord Londonderry and Lady Helen Stewart, Lady Headfort, and Lady Beatrice Taylour, Lord and Lady Dudley, Lady Annesley, Lord and Lady Clonbrock, Miss Dillon, Lady Coventry, Lady Dorothy Coventry, Lord Castlereagh, Ladies D. Long and Mary Currie, Miss Farquharson, and others. Lord and Lady Lurgan also arrived at Dublin Castle, where Lord Lurgan holds the place of State Steward in the Viceregal Household.

The Irish Viceregal Household is sufficiently imposing in numbers to keep up the dignity of a Court. Only the jobs which Viceroys persist in, with regard to retaining old officials and making the Upper Castle a kind of home for pensioners, brings it into disrepute. A "Castle" clique is created and made a fixture, which does a good deal of jobbing on its own account. The establishment consists of a State Steward, Comptroller, Chamberlain, and Master of the Horse, one Gentleman Usher, four Gentlemen-in-Waiting, four Private Secretaries, four paid Aides-de-Camp, and four unpaid. The salaries are on a strictly economic scale, and the work chiefly ornamental.

The first Levee, to inaugurate the Dublin Castle season was held last week, over 900 attending it.

Everybody in Dublin has been laughing at the egregious exhibition a certain high and mighty lord has been making of himself. He is a life member of the Royal Dublin Society, and he wrote the following entry in the complaint book at that institution :—

> I had occasion to refer to "Burke's Peerage" while here this day. I inquired first from a female who sits at the table, who referred to a boy by a wave of the hand, and I was brought one (*sic.*) for 1893, which is of no use. When I asked for complaint book the female at the head of the table insisted for some time on my using a book which contains the names of proposers and seconders of members, until I gave my name, when she condescended to wave the same boy downstairs and bring up this book (*sic.*). I think her impertinent in demeanour. . . . .

It will be seen that, under the stress of his emotion, this haughty peer became somewhat incoherent as well as decidedly impolite. There are now further entries in the complaint-book in which other members severely criticise his attack upon the lady librarian, whom he so contemptuously describes as "the female." It is suggested by one of his fellow members that his lordship's high sense of his own dignity and importance was shocked by the omission of the lady to rise up, then fall down and cry "Hail to the great lord ——"; and some of the other remarks are still more personal and caustic. In fairness to the nobleman in question, it may be added that he did not object—as spiteful people might suppose—to the 1893 "Burke" because it was too ancient to contain the record of his own elevation to the peerage. His title dates back so far as 1889.

Lord Carlingford was an excellent administrator and a remarkably luminous speaker. He was in office for more than thirty years under Lord Palmerston and Mr. Gladstone, and sat in several Cabinets. He practically retired from society on the death of his wife in 1879, and he took no part in public affairs after the fall of Mr. Gladstone's Administration in 1885. He had been in failing health for more than ten years, and he divided his time between his place in Somersetshire, the Engadine, and his place in Ireland. His marriage with Lady Waldegrave, which gave him a great social position, was a very happy one, but she left her affairs in a seriously embarrassed state, and Lord Carlingford devoted himself for a long time to paying off debts and nursing the estates in Somersetshire and Essex, which now pass to Lord Waldegrave. Lord Carlingford was always most genial and hospitable, and he had a charming manner and talked remarkably well. He was a fine scholar, and very accomplished, with an excellent and well-cultivated taste in art and literature. His death will be sincerely deplored by his tenants and his country neighbours, and he will be regretted by many former friends who had not seen him for years.

During the time when he held the office of Chief Secretary of Ireland, Lord Carlingford was well known in Irish Society. Of late he usually spent some months every year at Ravensdale, his picturesque place in Louth. Never was the Chief Secretary's Lodge such a brilliant centre of Society as in Lady Waldegrave's time. She used her social talents there as at Strawberry Hill, and practised her gift of discovering all the gifted amongst those whom she met. Her large mind made her superior to narrow exclusiveness. Society, as cultivated by her, was worthy of the name.

I see it stated in a newspaper that the Marquise di Santurce bought her title. This is a mistake. She had known the late King of Spain well in his days of exile, and when he resided in England. On his attaining the throne he made Mr. Murrieta a Marquis, and it is in this way that Mrs. Murrieta became a Marquise: there was no buying in the matter.

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 360 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 361.
For Amusements, see page 359.
For Our Puzzles, see page 369.

Colonel Ibbetson, who died last week, devoted himself to playing whist and to reading. He was best known through his sensational elopement from Brighton to Gretna Green, in 1845, with Lady Adele Villiers, daughter of Lord and Lady Jersey, and sister of the famous beauty, Lady Clementina Villiers. Their mother, Lady Jersey, figures in several of Lord Beaconsfield's novels as Lady St. Julian. Ibbetson was then a very handsome man, and a dashing officer of the 10th Hussars. There was a story that Lady Adele (who had been brought up in Olympian exclusiveness), writing during her honeymoon to her prime confidante, from her father-in-law's house, thus finished an enthusiastic description of the place :—

Indeed, my dear, till now I had not the slightest notion of the style in which these sort of people live.

Mr. Sydney Buxton, in a letter I have just had from him, tells me that the Society for the Protection of Birds, of which he is the president, finds its chief difficulty in combating the ignorance of ladies in regard to the amount of cruelty perpetrated in obtaining feathers for millinery purposes. It is not my fault if this ignorance prevails among the readers of TRUTH, for the subject has been frequently dealt with in these columns. It seems, however, that, in spite of all that has been said, the destruction of the white egret during the breeding season for the purpose of obtaining the so-called "osprey" plumes and "aigrettes" for ladies' hats and bonnets still goes on as mercilessly as ever, and the complete extermination of the breed cannot be far distant. The extent of the slaughter may be judged from the fact that a single bird in good plumage only produces about one-sixth of an ounce of feathers, so that a fine showy aigrette represents the destruction of several birds. A firm in the feather trade sold at one sale last year 11,352 ounces of osprey plumes. From this it is easy to judge of the extent of the massacre that goes on every year.

In conversation the other day with a coach-builder, I was told that the roofs of broughams have been raised of late in order to accommodate the hats of ladies, and a good deal of business has also been done in lowering the seats of carriages built before headgear rose to the height which it has recently attained. It is not only the egret, therefore, that bleeds to provide ladies with the millinery they fancy. Husbands and fathers have their turn too.

A singular omission occurs in a specimen portion of a commercial chart of the world which Messrs. W. & A. K. Johnston, the well-known map publishers, are issuing. In that part of the chart showing the South African Republic, Pretoria and other smaller places are duly marked and named, but not a trace can be discovered of Johannesburg. The "gold reef city," as our poetical Poet Austin called it in a famous ode, seems, in fact, to have entirely disappeared from the face of the earth. Is this a mere oversight? or is it a sinister prophecy?

One of the latest dodges of the pushful tradesman is to place with hotel managers cards of invitation to view his wares, which are addressed and delivered to the guests, the understanding being that the manager receives a commission on any orders booked in this way. Probably many visitors staying in London hotels at present have been favoured with attractive invitations to visit a certain art gallery in the West End. The invitations are explained by the fact above mentioned. The best hotels, of course, set their faces against practices of this kind, but possibly in many cases they are carried on by managers, or even waiters, without the knowledge of the proprietors.

It was Mark Twain, if I remember rightly, who pointed out the ingratitude and inconsistency of the human race in neglecting, during all these years, to put up a memorial to Adam, to whom (under Providence) the whole race practically owes its existence, while erecting monuments to so many worthies of later date, whose services to posterity are comparatively insignificant. We are getting on in that direction, however. King Alfred is to have a commemoration, and (I take for granted) a statue. Hengist and Horsa will no doubt have their turn next. There is hope for Adam yet. Everything comes to him who can wait.

I trust that the Mayor of Winchester will pardon me for not publishing the letter which he has sent round to the Press on the subject of the Alfred millenary festival. It has had so much publicity that a little more or less cannot make much difference, and, upon my word, I don't know that I can get up much enthusiasm about the deceased monarch. Not that I have a word to say against his public character or his private life. For a king and a successful man Alfred seems to have been a highly estimable individual—something between General Gordon and the late Prince Consort. But what weighs with me is the possibility of a statue. In view of what we see around us, the man who does anything which may add to the number of our graven images of defunct worthies incurs a grave responsibility. It is a risk, too, to which we ought never lightly to expose the great dead; and when a man has escaped a statue for a thousand years, his claim to be let off altogether becomes so much the stronger. You have also to remember that even if we erect a statue to our own satisfaction, it is ten to one that posterity pronounces it an eyesore, and sells it for old iron, or removes it to some decent hiding-place—witness the fate of the Iron Duke, late of Hyde Park Corner.

My Paris correspondent seems to have erred last week in speaking of "a Duc de La Rochefoucauld" as married to a "Mademoiselle Rumboldt." The lady referred to is apparently Miss Rumbold, sister of Sir Horace Rumbold, who married Comte Gaston de La Rochefoucauld.

THE FAMED "ADELPHI" TURTLE forwarded from the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, to all parts of the country. Per quart jar, 18s.; per pint jar, 9s. 6d., carriage paid. *Speciality for Invalids.*

It has often struck me when perusing a new number of some of the cheaper monthlies that the multiplication of fly-leaf advertisements between their pages is becoming an intolerable nuisance. I have refrained from complaining on my own behalf, but during the last two or three months I have been fortified by the receipt of several letters suggesting that the evil is one calling for notice in Truth; and at last I am emboldened to speak by a gentleman who forwards by parcel post a huge bundle of these advertisements, culled from the February number of a popular monthly. By all accounts competition in the magazine business is extremely brisk. I suggest to any proprietor of one of these publications who feels the stress, that it would be good business to exclude loose advertisements, and announce the fact to the public. To say nothing of the annoyance of having your reading interrupted, can anything be more irritating than to have your floor littered with tradesmen's handbills every time you open a magazine?

After all, however, the loose fly-leaf is a small abomination compared with the interleaved advertisements which are now part and parcel of so many periodicals. Speaking as an editor, it would seem to me an impertinence to thrust on my readers a page full of somebody's soap or somebody else's corsets in the middle of an article or a story; and how the public stand this sort of thing to the extent they do I confess I do not understand. It can only be, I suppose, because they are glad of any temporary relief from the literary matter offered to them.

The writer of a Queer Story, published in a recent number of Truth, wound up with the following sentence:—"I leave it to wiser men than I to analyse the process." A schoolmaster challenges the accuracy of the expression "I leave it to wiser men than I." It ought, he says, to be "wiser men than me," or "than myself." Heaven forbid that I should argue this point, especially with a professional grammarian. If, however, the construction is wrong, the error is a very common one, and I fear I am falling into it myself almost every day. It would seem, moreover, that greater authorities than I (or should it be "than me"?) have fallen into the same blunder. I turn to the first authority I have at hand, "Webster's Dictionary," and I find "than" defined as "a particle expressing comparison," and "usually followed by the object compared *in the nominative case.*" Instances are given. "Sometimes, however," says Webster, "the object compared is placed in the objective case, and 'than' is then considered by some grammarians as a preposition." As an example of this he quotes no less an authority than Milton, who speaks of "Beelzebub . . . . *than whom*, Satan except, none higher sat." The inference which I draw from this is, that the usage even of high literary authorities is divided upon this point, and that if grammarians deny this, it is only because their literary knowledge is defective. I imagine that the use of the nominative after "than" in a sentence like that penned by the writer of my Queer Story, is to be explained on the ground that the sentence is elliptical, the full form of it being, "I leave it to wiser men than I am." Perhaps I had better say, in conclusion, that I do not invite further correspondence on this subject.

The Lord Chancellor appears to be decidedly eccentric in his dispensation of Church patronage. The Rev. Edgar Sheppard has been appointed to a residentiary stall at Gloucester on condition that he resigns his office as Sub-Dean of the Chapel Royal. This stall is worth only about £350 a year, with house. A few months ago Canon Hervey, Rector of Sandringham, was appointed by the same Lord Halsbury to a stall at Norwich, value £650 a year, with house, but in his case there was no stipulation that he should vacate his benefice. There really ought to be one weight and one measure for all ecclesiastics in these matters, instead of a special arrangement being made for each case, as caprice, or friendship, or pure and simple favouritism may suggest. If Mr. Sheppard is forbidden to hold other preferment with a canonry of £350 a year, why, in the name of common-sense and common fairness, should Canon Hervey be allowed to retain his living in spite of his appointment to a canonry of £650 a year? It is, besides, highly objectionable that a clergyman should hold a living with a canonry, and there are now very few cases indeed where such pluralities are permitted. Canon Hervey cannot possibly devote himself to the diocesan and other duties at Norwich, which he ought to undertake, and at the same time carry on his work properly in the parish of Sandringham, which is quite at the other end of Norfolk.

The fact is that Lord Halsbury has sanctioned this exceedingly unsatisfactory arrangement simply from a wish to please certain members of the Royal Family with whom Canon Hervey is a favourite, and it is discreditable that the understanding not to permit pluralities, which has generally prevailed for some years, should be audaciously ignored in this case. There are now very few residentiary canons who hold livings, as compared with the number twenty years ago, and the vigorous remonstrances of the Press have done something to put an end to such abuses, as to which the Church papers observe a stupid silence. Canons Rawlinson (Canterbury), Fleming (York), Knox-Little (Worcester), and Duckworth (Westminster), all hold benefices along with their stalls. Canon Duckworth's case is the worst, for he has a stall of £1,000 a year, with a Crown living of £1,000 a year, and two excellent residences.

Mr. G. J. Talbot, who recently succeeded Sir Walter Phillimore as Chancellor of the Diocese of Lincoln, has been appointed by the Bishop of Ely to the same office in his diocese, the post being vacant in consequence of Mr. Albert Grey having received a place in the House of Lords. The High Church party are anxious that the

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patent granted to all new Chancellors should be so framed as to make this official entirely subservient to the Bishop. It is well known that at York Lord Grimthorpe exercises a free hand, as the terms of his patent enable him to override the Archbishop in various ministerial matters, notably in the issue of marriage licences.

The valuable living of Houghton-le-Spring, which is worth about £1,200 a year, and is in the gift of the Bishop of Durham, has become vacant by the resignation of Canon Norman, who was appointed a few years ago, on the death of the Rev. John Grey, a son of Earl Grey, the Minister, who was rector of the parish for nearly half a century, having been presented by Bishop Maltby. Canon Norman is retiring through ill-health. Houghton-le-Spring was formerly worth upwards of £3,000 a year, and it was at one time held by the celebrated Bernard Gilpin.

The Archbishop of Canterbury calls attention to the united temperance movement which is now taking place, with the view to securing, during the present year's session of Parliament, an Act for compulsorily closing all public-houses on Sundays throughout the United Kingdom. I must not for one moment be supposed to champion the cause of drunkenness when I venture to question the "benefits" which have accrued to Scotland and Wales through the possession of this piece of legislation, or if I fail to see "that the great class which lives by manual labour would heartily welcome such an Act of Parliament." Even if it were admitted that the cause of sobriety would be advanced thereby, I still think that the comfort and convenience of the many should not be sacrificed to an unpopular endeavour to check the shortcomings of a weak few; neither do I think that the total abstainers have any right to force upon others a deprivation which is no sacrifice to themselves.

I do not know who is looking after the affairs of the Diocese of Salisbury during the Bishop's absence abroad, but I would suggest to his lordship's *locum tenens*, whoever he may be, that the parish of Damerham is in urgent need of his good offices. On two consecutive Sundays last month the parish church was entirely closed, the Vicar (the Rev. W. Owen) neither holding any service himself nor arranging for anybody else to take his place. I am told that similar neglect of duty has occurred on previous occasions, and it seems time, therefore, that Mr. Owen was reminded that the parishioners are entitled to the ministrations for which he is paid £400 a year.

The address of Canon McLarney, Rector of Clonfert, is Banagher, not Benaghet as given in last week's Truth. I trust that this correction may be in time to prevent any subscriptions to the Clonfert Cathedral Restoration Fund from going astray.

Two of the young women who rattle collecting-boxes in the faces of every passer-by at street corners and railway stations were last week prosecuted by the District Railway Company for trespassing, in spite of repeated warnings, at Charing Cross Station. The Company deserves the thanks of the public for undertaking the prosecution, and it is a pity that Sir James Vaughan did not impose a heavier fine than 5s. for the offence. Not only are these collectors a public nuisance, but the funds and institutions for which they collect are mostly of a shady character. The Hospital Saturday Fund has now abandoned the street-collecting business, and it is high time that some steps were taken to stop it altogether. It ought to be for the police, and not for railway companies or private individuals, to prosecute beggars of this class.

It should be clearly understood, both by the public who part with coppers under such solicitation and by the police whose business it is to stop begging in the streets, that the young women who go about in this way are begging for themselves quite as much as for the funds they nominally represent. In the Charing Cross case the two collectors were working for a so-called Metropolitan Provincial Association which professes to give "free meals to the children of the slums." The promoter, manager, and treasurer of this fund is a Mr. F. Harris. Although this gentleman publishes audited accounts, the public have practically to take his word for the financial regularity of his operations, which, with all respect to Mr. Harris, is not a satisfactory state of things. This much, at any rate, is certain, that the collectors get 25 per cent. on the takings in the boxes, not to mention other expenses of administration. Out of every £1, therefore, which is put into her box, the collector gets 5s. for herself, and it is very doubtful whether out of the whole amount collected as much as 10s. in the pound ever goes to the nominal object. The people who encourage "charity" in this shape must be indeed fools.

I have several times commended to the favourable consideration of my readers the very excellent little work carried on at a very small outlay by the London Spectacle Mission Society, which supplies spectacles at trifling cost to workers in poor circumstances who need them. I hear from the honorary secretary, Miss Waring, of 197, Sutherland-avenue, W., that the work is still growing, and that the Society hope, if the means are forthcoming, to carry their operations this year into the East End. Doubtless many will be ready to assist in enlarging the undertaking.

The following amounts have reached me towards the deficit of the Toy Fund:—

William Whiteley, £26 5s.; H. Mallins, M.B., £1; C. J. A., 10s.; Baby, 6d.; Grace, 1s.; Kitty, 2s.; Paddy, 3s.; Molly, 5s.; Mrs. Majolier, 8s.; and £5 from the anonymous donor of the new silver sixpences to cover the cost of their distribution to the children in the workhouses.

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Up to the present, the War Office apologists have not come off particularly well in their attempts to refute Mr. Arnold Forster. Seldom has a more crushing rejoinder been delivered than that with which that gentleman favoured Colonel Bulwer. The Colonel undertook to deny Mr. Arnold Forster's remark that "not one of the officers who hold the British Army in the hollow of their hand have had one day of experience as officers commanding a battalion." Colonel Bulwer answered by citing the case of Sir Evelyn Wood and ten or eleven other officers employed at the War Office. He omitted, however, the Commander-in-Chief, the late Adjutant-General, Sir F. W. Grenfell, and several other officers in high positions. The retort of Mr. Arnold Forster is highly instructive. Although it is true that Sir Evelyn Wood nominally commanded a battalion for thirteen months, he was during the whole of that time absent on staff duty in South Africa. Lord Wolseley has only had five years' regimental service, and never rose above the rank of captain in that time. Sir Redvers Buller, though he had sixteen years' regimental service, never rose in that time above the rank of captain. Thus, looking at those who have "held the British Army in the hollow of their hand" for the better part of the last five years, the Commander-in-Chief and the Adjutant-General only served regimentally as subalterns and captains, while the Quartermaster-General only served actively up to the rank of major. On the other hand, seven of the principal officers at the Admiralty have each served as Commander and Captain for periods ranging from twelve up to eighteen years. These facts may account for a good deal of the difference between the work of the two Departments, as shown by results.

I will say one thing, however, for the War Office under the present *régime*. It is showing a certain amount of readiness to take advice. The provision for Reservists to rejoin the colours which was granted the other day to the Guards, has now been extended, *mutatis mutandis*, to the whole of the Infantry of the Line. I have not seen the text of the new order, but if the terms are correctly given in the daily papers, any Reservist with two years or upwards still to serve will be free to rejoin (subject to the consent of the C.O.) without refunding deferred pay, and on other conditions which seem fairly equitable. Having been hammering at this point for many a year past, I congratulate myself, as well as the War Office and the Reservists, on seeing the concession made at last. As a matter of fact, I have never suggested that the Reservist should be allowed to come back after the first year from his discharge, so that the War Office has gone beyond TRUTH this time. I hope that the result will justify the experiment.

The Director-General Army Medical Staff has lately made himself responsible for two appointments which are open to highly unfavourable criticism. At Leeds, one of the most important recruiting stations in the North-Eastern District, furnishing upwards of 1,500 men to the Army per annum the recruiting duty usually performed by a Senior Medical Officer, has been handed over to a young civilian practitioner, the son of the Director-General. The passing of recruits is a duty requiring exceptional experience, and, above all, Army experience. It is impossible that any young general practitioner, however gifted, can perform it efficiently.

Again, the charge of the Lunatic Hospital at Netley has just been given to a Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel, who certainly possesses no special knowledge of this branch of medical practice, while at least one officer with exceptional qualifications for the post has been passed over. It seems a tradition of 18, Victoria-street that lunacy experience is not requisite in the superintendent of an Army Lunatic Hospital; for I believe that the last occupant of the same berth at Netley possessed no special qualifications at the time of his appointment, and actually went through a course of study before he entered on his duties.

When I published a letter last week reflecting on the craving of Army medical officers for titles, I had no intention, as some of my readers seem to think, of endorsing the imputation, although I think it might be fairly levelled against a certain number of the military medical fraternity. No one knows better than I do that Army medical officers are exposed to innumerable snubs and insults, and it is desirable that anything which can be done to rescue them from this position, by conferring upon them a better defined rank than they at present hold should be done. Here are two fresh examples of the sort of slights that medical officers have to put up with. In one case a doctor was ordered to a certain Indian station as senior medical officer of the British troops there. In due course, he called upon the wife of the Commandant, and other ladies, and none of them was at home to him. He subsequently heard the Commandant's wife boasting within his hearing that she "drew the line at doctors." For ten months this medical officer occupied the next bungalow to the Commandant and his lady, and never during all the time received the slightest mark of social or personal recognition, until the day when the Commandant's wife was taken very seriously ill, when the doctor was of course called in. No doubt many a medical officer can corroborate this with similar stories of studied incivility, and the profession are right to resent such treatment.

Here is a later case. An officer, who resigned from the Medical Staff a few years back in India, has applied to be presented to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales at the Levee on the 21st instant. The War Office reply that, having retired, he must be privately presented. There is no such rule applicable to the Service generally, as many retired officers, including representatives of the Pay Department, are presented from time to time by the Adjutant-General. A special exception is therefore made to the disadvantage of the Army Medical Service, whether for this occasion or as a general rule matters not. The offensiveness and injustice of this exception are aggravated by the fact that medical officers are the only members of the Service who, after resigning their commissions on gratuity, remain

liable to be recalled for further service. That being so, they ought to be the more favourably treated after resigning their commissions.

The officers of the 4th Hussars continue to earn distinction in India. A few weeks back they provoked a chorus of sarcastic protest in the Indian Press by their behaviour to the Madras Gymkhana Football team, which went over to Bangalore to play a match with them. The team were met at the station by a sergeant, and, after the match, were invited to enjoy the hospitality of the regiment in the sergeants' mess. This was politely declined, and the team went off to feed at the nearest hotel. Under any circumstances the conduct of the 4th would have been an offensive display of snobbishness. But it seems to have been aggravated by the fact that all the members of the visiting team were members of the Madras Club, where the officers of the 4th have not been above accepting hospitality for themselves.

Private letters from India are filled with accounts of the profound dissatisfaction which prevails in the Indian Army in consequence of the scandalous abuse of patronage on the part of the War Office authorities in appointing officers of the Household Cavalry, who happen to be visiting India, to Sir Bindon Blood's staff as orderly officers. This is stated to have been done "by orders from home," without the approval of the Indian military authorities, and to the exclusion of "the tried and qualified officers of the British and Native Army in India, who have served years in the country through all its privations and discomfort." It is grossly unfair thus to pitchfork officers from England into posts which qualify them for decorations and mention in despatches, and every one knows that there are bitter complaints of the utter incompetency of many of the staff officers.

An Army tutor sends me an analysis of the last batch of Staff Corps appointments from Sandhurst, which shows in the most conspicuous way the flagrant jobbery which characterises the distribution of these commissions. The published list of successful candidates was made up as follows:—

Cavalry	14
Infantry	83
West India	4
Queen's Cadets	2
Queen's India Cadet	1

Thirty-six appointments to the Staff Corps were to be filled up, and, these appointments being the most valuable, they should only be distributed—at any rate subject to the wishes of the candidates—in the order of the published list. As a matter of fact, the Staff Corps list was made up as follows:—

One Queen's Cadet (not one of the successful candidates).
Ten Queen's India Cadets (seven not successful candidates).
Two Honorary Queen's India Cadets (not among the successful candidates).
One Cavalry (first on the Cavalry list).
Twenty-two successful candidates (the lowest being thirty-fifth Infantry).

Of the three Queen's India cadets who appeared among the successful candidates, one was ninth on the Cavalry list, and another sixty-fifth. It will be seen that ten Staff Corps appointments were given to cadets who had not figured in the list of successful candidates, while another was given to a man whose marks would not have secured a Staff Corps commission had the names been selected in the order of merit. Moral: In order to make sure of the best-paid appointments in the Army, it is better to have influence at headquarters than brains and industry.

There was a paragraph in Truth of December 30 referring to the failure of any officer to turn up on the occasion of the funeral of a soldier of the Welsh Regiment at Poonamalee, the officer who should have been on parade excusing himself on the ground that he had been out snipe-shooting and was too tired. On behalf of the Welsh Regiment I am asked to state that, whoever the officer may have been, he did not belong to that regiment. Poonamalee is a Sanatorium, and there has been no officer of the Welsh Regiment there for over two years.

Is it regular or customary for quartermasters in the Army to take contracts for clothing Volunteers? I ask in view of certain evidence laid before me from one of the Scotch depots. If this evidence is to be believed, not only is the depot quartermaster engaged in clothing a local Volunteer company, but incidental irregularities have occurred which in the public interest require investigation. Even if inquiry should prove that everything is in proper order, the system seems one liable to abuse, and requiring very careful watching.

The following history is highly characteristic of our present military administration, and full of interest for the British taxpayer. In the middle of November last the Circular Redoubt, Harwich, was taken over by a certain company R.A. In the cook-house at the time was a coal box, slightly the worse for wear, but perfectly fit to serve its purpose for some time to come. It was not, however, on the barrack schedule. For this reason, the officer in charge, on discovering its existence, ordered it to be returned to the barrack store. The cook-house was consequently left without a coal-box, and for some time the coal, when taken in, was shot down on the floor in a corner. At the end of a week or two the C.R.A., Eastern District, discovered this state of things, and reported upon it. A long correspondence ensued respecting the absence of a coal-box, with the result that, after a considerable expenditure of ink and stationery, not to say time and labour which would have been put to a much better use, the Royal Engineers appeared upon the scene, and converted, at further cost of time and labour, two recesses in the cook-house into coal bunkers. This work was completed by the middle of January. In the meantime a Board of Survey had assembled, and had sat upon the coal-box, which was

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condemned and ordered to be broken up. At the end of last month its mortal remains were lying about in the barrack yard. That's the way the money goes!

In connection with the recent case of Sergeant-Major Sullivan at Rangoon, referred to the other day in TRUTH, there are one or two other points which accentuate the necessity for some further inquiry into the charges made by Sullivan against his Commanding Officer. The charges arose, it will be remembered, out of the court-martial on a Quartermaster-Sergeant Smith, who was accused by Sullivan of being drunk in barracks in the afternoon. It seems that at the trial it was stated by the prosecuting officer that Major Molesworth, the C.O., had informed him that the prisoner was at work with him in the office until half-past two on the date of his alleged drunkenness. The C.O. himself did not give evidence directly at the trial. Now, the evidence in regard to Smith's drunkenness was very strong, Sullivan, at the time when he placed him under arrest, having had him inspected by two other N.C.O.s. The C.O.'s statement, as conveyed second-hand to the court-martial, does not disprove the charge, and it certainly seems an extraordinary thing that, after the Sergeant-Major had placed a man under arrest for drunkenness, and others had seen him in that condition, an attempt should be made to put in a second-hand statement from the Commanding Officer as evidence for the defence. On the face of it, there is here some justification for the Sergeant-Major's complaint against Major Molesworth's proceedings, and the matter undoubtedly demands further inquiry.

A very good remark is made on this case in a recent issue of the *Mandalay Herald*. It is that if Sullivan had been actuated by any malice against the Commanding Officer, he could easily have made public his allegations in other ways without exposing himself to any trouble in connection with them. In preference to that he took the bold and straightforward course of laying what he had to say directly before the authorities. For merely doing this, and without any inquiry whatever into his charges upon their merits, he is charged with insubordination, and heavily punished. This is a most scandalous proceeding, and the scandal is increased if the authorities intend permanently to abstain from any inquiry into the truth of Sullivan's charges.

The following complaint was recently put forward, in accordance with the regulations, by a gunner of No. 3 Company, Eastern Division, R.A.—if I remember rightly, the very same company to which Sergeant-Major Sullivan belonged. The man stated that on December 2 Corporal Haycock and Corporal Strutt, of his company, accompanied by three bombardiers, came up to him at Syriam, and, after putting a question to him which he did not answer, informed him that they were going to drown him. They then pulled off his coat and trousers, hustled him to the shore of the lake near by, and pushed him in. Two of the party then threw stones at him while he was in the water, one of which cut him over the eye, and another over the lip. He was then pulled out by Corporal Haycock and told to go to his room. He fainted on the way back, and was attended to by the apothecary. On the next day he went sick, and was seen by the assistant surgeon, and subsequently went to hospital. These facts he reported in writing to his Captain, who forwarded it to the Officer Commanding Royal Artillery in the district. The reply of that Officer was that he did not see any occasion for the complaint to go further, and warned him that he would probably get into trouble if it were done. The R.A. authorities in Burma certainly seem to have the most amazing notions of administering justice. Assuming that this complaint was unfounded—as would seem to follow from the intimation that it would get the complainant into trouble—that furnishes only an additional reason for investigating it and punishing the man who put it forward. On one side or the other there must have been gross misconduct, and the course taken by the Officer Commanding can only have been prompted by a desire to hush up a scandal.

In a regiment now stationed at Malta a man was put in charge of the shoe-maker's shop, some three years ago, and at the same time received the lance stripe. Finding as time went on that he was passed over for promotion, he made inquiries on the subject, and was told that he was not eligible for promotion, and, though wearing a stripe, was not really a lance-corporal. He then requested to be allowed to return to duty, and was told that, if he did, he must go as a private. It appears that this man has every qualification for promotion in certificates and character. He is an old Duke of York's boy, and comes of a soldiering family; and it certainly seems an extraordinary thing that he should be debarred from promotion because he has obtained a post like the charge of the shoe-maker's shop, and still more so that he should have been allowed to go on for three years in this position without being informed of the consequences.

At the best the life of our troops in Crete is not exactly a happy one, and it would seem that not much is done by those in authority to improve it. A ship recently came into Candia with about 700 tons of timber for constructing huts, &c., and the men of the 2nd Seaforth Highlanders had to unload it, a task which involved very heavy work for several days, there being no cranes or other appliances, and no extra allowance of any kind being made on account of the job. In one of the companies of the said battalion a recent order requires every man to parade daily at 10.30, with his bayonet, until he has removed the stain caused by the spring or catch inside the scabbard, which is said to be tantamount to asking him to perform a physical impossibility. Two hours' extra fatigue have also been imposed lately for the crime of dropping orange peel about in camp. Here is another growl from the same quarter which shows the difficulty which a soldier sometimes has in pleasing those in authority over him:—

A certain officer in our company insists on seeing a certain amount of oil on the rifles; whilst another never fails to check us if he discovers oil. To avoid getting into trouble we have to try

and find out which of the two officers is going to inspect us on parade and deal with our rifles accordingly. If the wrong officer happens to turn up, we pay for the mistake.

In an unguarded moment, I remarked the other day that the supply of Tommy's grievances for the TRUTH pillory had run short. The consequence is that I have been literally overwhelmed with the communications of gallant fellows anxious to make up the deficiency, and I find myself in the position of being quite unable to attend to the whole of the correspondence thus poured in upon me. Below, however, I give a selection of a few cases which seem most deserving of notice :—

2nd Battalion Somersetshire Light Infantry, Aldershot.—A recent battalion order lays down that "the regimental police have at all times authority to enter the barrack rooms when in the execution of their duty." This is a somewhat unusual order, and a result of it, which might be foreseen, is that active and intelligent young regimental policemen are obtruding themselves into the barrack rooms at all times in search of crime. One of these active and intelligent ones, a private with less than two years' service, discovered the other day two men engaged in what he described as gambling, and they were put into the guard room and brought before the C.O., charged with that crime. It turned out that they were raffling a pin-cushion, and they were discharged. A policeman, civilian or military, is a very good thing, but he ought to be kept in his right place.

2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, Fort George, Guernsey.—In consequence of the unsteadiness of the drill the whole of the N.C.O.s of this battalion were recently ordered an extra hour's recruits' drill daily until further notice. A correspondent on the spot asserts that the whole cause of the unsteadiness which brought about this result was the mistakes of officers in giving the words of command. It might be well for the Commanding Officer to look into this allegation, for the spectacle which has been visible during the last week or two, of the whole of the N.C.O.s, some of them men of nineteen or twenty years' service, doing recruits' drill every afternoon for the amusement of the privates, is not one calculated to improve discipline or good feeling in the regiment.

Depot, South Staffordshire Regiment, Lichfield.—The following incident is curious: In his monthly accounts a sergeant was charged considerably more than he reckoned he had to pay, and on inquiry found that 5s. 6d. had been entered against him as paid to the cycle club on his account, whereas the amount should have been 3s. On reference to the president of the cycle club, it appeared that 3s. was the only charge that had been put in against the man. The sergeant accordingly brought the matter up at Orderly-room, and upon his doing so the odd 2s. 6d. was refunded. The pay-sergeant, through whose hands the matter had passed, did not produce the cycle club account, alleging that he did not keep bills, which seems in itself an irregular proceeding. Now, who refunded the 2s. 6d.; in whose hands had the money been between the time it was paid and refunded; and how came an amount to be entered on the sergeant's accounts for which there could be no voucher? These questions seem to require investigation.

2nd Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers, Pietermaritzburg.—In the barracks at this station there is, attached to each barrack room, a room intended for sergeants' quarters, and capable of accommodating two men, or thirty sergeants altogether. For some reason nearly all these rooms are at present used as store and pay rooms, and in one case as a barber's shop, the consequence being that the majority of the sergeants have no separate quarters. It is never a desirable thing to make sergeants sleep in the barrack rooms, and it would be interesting to know why, if proper accommodation is provided in the barracks, such a practice prevails in this instance.

Royal Marine Artillery, Eastney Barracks.—From this quarter a case is reported similar to one recently noticed in TRUTH as having occurred in a company of the Army Service Corps in the Eastern District. An officer suddenly seized the whole of the non-regimental caps in the possession of the men, and destroyed them without warning, and without giving the men an opportunity of disposing of them for what they would fetch. It may be necessary to prevent men furnishing themselves with caps except through the regulation channel, but the motives which lead them to give their custom elsewhere are generally laudable, and if it is necessary to prevent non-regimental caps being worn, at least the thing might be done with some regard for the men's feelings and their pockets.

By the way, I am sorry to hear that the alterations in the bathrooms at Eastney Barracks, on which the authorities were complimented in TRUTH some few weeks back, have never yet been properly completed. The work seems to have been taken in hand, and then discontinued; and as, in the meantime, the bathrooms cannot be used, the last state of the men in barracks is worse than the first.

Army Service Corps, Woolwich.—"For about the last three months the butter has been unfit to eat and the tea unfit to drink. Half the men in this company (No. 27) have to buy extras from the coffee-bar or else eat dry bread." So runs a complaint from this quarter. If half the company are prepared to support the statement, it would appear to have some foundation. The complaint dates back to a change in the canteen management.

Medical Staff Corps, Netley.—A private was brought up before the C.O. on the charge of disobeying an order, and was awarded seven days' C.B., without being allowed to offer a word of explanation in his own defence. The order had undoubtedly been disobeyed, but the explanation which the man had to give was a simple and reasonable one. The private, considering himself aggrieved, paraded again before the C.O., who again declined to hear him. He then paraded before his captain, in order to lay his complaint before the officer commanding the station. This also was refused him. This is a clear breach of the rights of a soldier as laid down by Act of Parliament, as well as a further proof of the high-handed and inconsiderate way in which things are managed at Netley.

It is a strange anomaly that the men who were brought over to London to represent various colonial forces in the Diamond Jubilee procession have received the Jubilee medal, while their comrades who stayed at home have been passed over. I have a touching complaint on this subject from an officer in a certain colonial police force, serving in one of the vilest climates in one of the most out-of-the-way regions of the British Empire. He remarks that he and many others would have been only too glad if they could have obtained leave to come home to figure in the Jubilee at their own expense, but such a chance was not for them; whereas the two members of the force who had a free trip home and a long leave for the occasion are further rewarded by a special mark of Royal recognition. Of course the rest of the force have to consider that they are honoured in the persons of their comrades, and that they have, as it were, received the Jubilee Medal by deputy. But I don't know that that is much comfort.

A non-commissioned officer who lately performed a voyage out in the hired transport *Spartan*, belonging to the Union Steamship Company, gives an account of the feeding arrangements on board which agrees only too well with much that has been heard respecting the Indian trooping service. The complaints relate specially to:—(1) the bread, which is described as having been badly baked, dark brown in colour, and so unpalatable that more than half of it was thrown overboard by the men, and other bread bought in its place; (2) the tea, which was quite undrinkable for the first half of the voyage, owing to the foulness of the water with which it was made; and (3) the excessive prices charged in the dry canteen. It seems that a price list is exhibited at the dry canteen, but it does not cover all the articles sold, and those not specified are apparently priced at any figure which suits the convenience of the storekeeper. The statement in regard to the bread is specially serious, because the extra bread which the troops have to buy is bought of the ship's baker, and if he can bake eatable bread for cash, he ought to be made to supply eatable bread for the free rations.

Another complaint which seems worthy of notice is the impossibility of obtaining, unless surreptitiously, either beer or spirits during the voyage. In former days, I believe, a pint of beer or porter used to be issued daily to troops on board ship. This has been stopped, and no compensation is given in other directions. The compulsory

deprivation of beer is, in many cases, a hardship, more especially when everybody on board, except the soldiers, is able to obtain any liquor required. If teetotalism is to be compulsory for one class of passengers, it should be for all, officers included.

A system also seems to prevail on board the *Spartan*—whether it exists on other troopships I do not know—of selling, during the evening, plates of stew and soup made up from the leavings of the saloon. Under the circumstances, the price is high—6d. a plate for the stew and 2d. for the soup. The idea of feeding the lower ranks with the crumbs which fall from their masters' table is at the best not an agreeable one, and if the thing is done at all, it should be done at much lower prices than this; for I presume that the food which goes to the saloon is paid for once by the passengers to whom it is served. It must be good business to sell the surplus over again at the above prices. Unless men were very insufficiently fed already they would not buy such food on these terms.

In Truth of January 13, there was a statement (published on good authority) with reference to N.C.O.s of the Marines being drilled on board H.M.S. *Royal Sovereign* by a second class petty officer. I have been asked, on what ought to be even better authority, to contradict this statement. My latest informant states that no N.C.O.s have ever been drilled by a second class P.O. or by any one else. This denial comes from the Captain of the *Royal Sovereign* himself. I would gladly publish the letter he sends me, but as Captain Grenfell appears to have cultivated an unusually rich quarterdeck vocabulary, and as Truth is largely read by ladies, clergymen, and others who have a prejudice against "swear-words," I fear that the publication of the epistle would get me into trouble, and might not create a very favourable impression about the writer. So strong, indeed, are the gallant officer's feelings that he has been compelled to express them here and there in asterisks, though he has relieved his mind by underscoring the principal points in red ink. He desires me, in conclusion, to tell my original informant from him that he is "a lying son of a ——," the blank to be supplied by a reference to a certain nautical novel. I have much pleasure in complying with this request.

By the way, was not it the *Royal Sovereign* that we read so much about in the papers a few months back, in connection with sundry mutinous demonstrations? If the gallant Captain has as brusque a way with his subordinates as he has with the editors of journals which displease him, it is not surprising that there should be a little friction on board.

If there is an atom of truth in the statement published broadcast that for years past it has been the custom at Portsmouth and other Royal Dockyards to allow a system of charging twice over for work, a most searching inquiry must be at once instituted in the interests of the British tax-payer. At present, this charge is made on the testimony of the dockyard labourers, and is an outcome of the recent action of the Admiralty in dismissing the leaders of the men who held a public meeting outside the dockyard gates at Portsmouth, in order to ventilate their grievances. There should, however, be no difficulty in at once refuting what is stated to be common talk in Portsmouth, that the Government labourers are compelled to cheat to enable them to live, and the sooner an emphatic and authoritative denial to this is published, the better it will be for those in authority.

I have been asked to publish a very severe criticism of the recent action of the General Medical Council in prohibiting the employment by medical men of unqualified assistants. The writer is a gentleman with considerable knowledge of the subject, and I do not gather that he has any axe of his own to grind; but, with all respect to him, I hardly see my way to endorse his views. No doubt it is true, as he argues, that there are large numbers of men who, for one reason or other, have been prevented from technically qualifying, but who have yet acquired a wider medical knowledge and more practical experience than many qualified practitioners. I have myself known unqualified doctors' assistants whose advice I would much rather have relied upon in an emergency than upon that of their employers. It is also true, no doubt, that the action of the Medical Council is in some degree prompted by trade-union motives. At the same time, this looks like one of those trade-union regulations which are, on the whole, to the interest of the public as well as that of the trade. If any means can be suggested by which the qualifications of a technically unqualified practitioner can be tested, and the qualified unqualified, so to speak, be separated from the unqualified unqualified, well and good. But until that is done, the public ought to be protected against the technically unqualified man, whether practising on his own account or under cover of one technically qualified.

Who says that the Post Office do not lend an attentive ear to the complaints of the public? In the autumn of 1896 a gentleman at Exmouth called attention to the inadequate staff of telegraph messengers at the local post-office, and the consequent delay in the delivery of messages. On *February 2, 1898*, he was gratified by the receipt of the following communication:—

General Post Office, London.
February 1, 1898.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of October 28, 1896, I am directed to inform you that the force of telegraph messengers at the Exmouth Post-office has now been strengthened.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, L. Bridger.

The hearty congratulations of the public are due to the staff of St. Martin's-le-Grand upon this performance. Let no man in future despair because a complaint has not been answered. It may be a matter of years, but

sooner or later, there will always be henceforward a chance of a reply coming to hand.

It is interesting to come across a case in which the Post Office has over-reached itself in its desire to look after the pence. A firm in the North who had several postcards, received in reply to a circular, to forward on to London, put them all into an envelope and posted them with a halfpenny stamp. They were returned by the Post Office as not transmissible in this way, and were accordingly redirected and sent free, the Post Office, consequently, having to transmit half a dozen packets instead of one, and losing the halfpenny for their postage. As it may sometimes be a convenience to the public to send a batch of postcards in this way, the Post Office might well allow them the privilege of paying a halfpenny for so doing, in preference to sending them separately for nothing.

There was an acrimonious discussion at a recent meeting of the Glasgow Town Council on a charge in the Corporation accounts of £15 5s. 6d. for white gloves and ties. The Lord Provost at first declined to discuss the matter, as being "below the dignity" of the Council, but, as some contumacious members persisted in demanding an explanation, it transpired that the magistrates often forgot to bring white ties with them to the Court, so the Council officer was instructed to provide a stock, in order that there might be no inconvenience. The Lord Provost added that it would be "undignified" for a magistrate of the city to be required to pay up a few pence for a white tie. It seems to me that it is far more "undignified" to cadge upon the ratepayers for any such articles of attire.

The tendency of vestrymen to get themselves inextricably mixed up with jobs was amusingly illustrated in the recent case of Barnes *v.* Scantlebury and others, heard before Mr. Justice Wright. A lady sued her landlords for neglecting to carry out necessary sanitary alterations in her house. In the course of the case it was elicited that the landlords' agent was a member of the Paddington Vestry, that the builder to whom the important sanitary work was committed was a brother vestryman, and that a son of the latter was the sanitary inspector of the parish, and in that capacity was called upon to report upon his father's work. Small wonder that the learned Judge denounced it as a reproach to the whole system of local government that a state of things should be allowed to exist which must, as he put it, "promote a conflict between public duty and private interest." And it is to such bodies as this vestry, under the glorified name of municipal corporations, that Lord Salisbury would entrust the duties now discharged by the County Council!

The Home Secretary has declined to take any action in reference to the death of the woman Bird at Bromyard Workhouse, and the Local Government Board does not deem it expedient to institute an inquiry "at present." It is only fair to the Board to say that when this decision was arrived at they were in ignorance of the decision of the Home Secretary. Probably they thought that the Home Secretary would undertake the further investigation which the case demands, and his failure to do this is somewhat astounding. He appears to be under the impression that the "local authorities" properly discharged their duty of ascertaining the cause of the woman's death; but if he had taken the trouble to read a report of the proceedings he would have seen that the inquiry by the coroner and jury was of the most perfunctory and inadequate character, and that the verdict of suicide was arrived at by a process of mere hasty guessing. There is now strong reason to believe that this unfortunate woman was the victim of a foul murder, and it is absolutely scandalous that the crime should be allowed to pass without any real attempt to throw light upon it.

For some strange reason, the rule which prohibits a magistrate from adjudicating in a case in which he is interested does not apply when his interest arises from his membership of a municipal corporation. There was an example of this at Halifax the other day, when a member of the Halifax Corporation, Alderman G. H. Smith, sat as Chairman of the Justices who heard and granted an application made by the Town Clerk on behalf of the Corporation, as owners of certain public-house property, for the removal of the licence from an hotel which is about to be closed to another hotel which is about to be opened. In a legal sense the Alderman was fully justified in acting, but his presence in the chair on such an occasion has probably mystified a good many people besides the local correspondent who draws my attention to the matter. If only for the sake of appearances, it would be much better for magistrates to retire from the Bench during the hearing of any matters concerning public bodies to which they belong.

The just and desirable practice of giving the prisoner the benefit of any doubt in the case against him does not seem to commend itself to the Slough Bench. A few days ago a casual inmate of the Eton Workhouse, named Hughes, was charged with neglecting to perform his allotted task of work. He was sick and unable to eat the food supplied, and he pleaded that he was too ill to do the work. The medical officer who examined him was unable to discover any symptoms of illness, but at the same time he admitted that a man might suffer sickness and pain without showing any evidence of the fact; and the superintendent of police testified for the defence that he had advised Hughes—who was not a man of the professional tramp class—to go to the workhouse because he certainly thought that he was ill. This made it questionable, to say the least, whether the prisoner was malingering, but the Magistrates, nevertheless, sent him to gaol for fourteen days' hard labour. It is apparently

their sagacious idea that a man cannot be ill—despite what the doctor says—unless he exhibits outward and visible signs of his illness.

There is much grumbling among suitors, solicitors, and others in reference to the enormous amount of arrears and the consequent block of business at the Wandsworth County Court. A case is practically never heard on the day for which the trial is fixed, and frequently two, three, and even four adjournments take place, causing endless and useless expense and annoyance to the parties. A legal friend says he does not think the Judge can really be blamed for this, as although he undoubtedly adds to the annoyance by being invariably unpunctual in the morning, yet he sits late at night, and does his best to deal conscientiously with the work. In addition to Wandsworth, where the business is very heavy, his Honour also has to hold courts at Hungerford, Newbury, Reading, Chertsey, Croydon, Epsom, Aldershot, Guildford, and Kingston. This circuit is more than one Judge can properly undertake, and in view of the congestion of business at Wandsworth it is to be hoped that the Lord Chancellor will try to make some rearrangement of the courts.

In reference to that most iniquitous provision of the Game Laws under which persons convicted of night poaching are ordered, in addition to a sentence of hard labour, to find sureties not to so offend again for a certain period, or in default to undergo a further six months' imprisonment, a City Justice's clerk suggests that the order for sureties may sometimes be made in ignorance of the fact that it is optional. Under the statute 9 George IV., c. 69, such an order was obligatory upon a conviction, but the Summary Jurisdiction Act of 1879 gave the Justices a discretion in the matter; and my correspondent thinks that this amendment of the law may not yet have penetrated the dull minds of the Great Unpaid in the rural districts. It is, perhaps, a charitable view to take of some of the shocking sentences that are recorded nearly every week in my Legal Pillory; but I am afraid it is hardly correct. It is not because they are under an impression that such a course is compulsory that the country magistracy demand sureties from poachers. It is because they persist in punishing all offences against the sacred interests of the game-preserver with the utmost harshness and vindictiveness. The administration of the Game Laws nowadays is, in many districts, just as ferocious as it was fifty years ago, when John Bright used to denounce it with such scathing eloquence.

In this connection, a remark that fell the other day from the Chairman of the Isle of Ely Petty Sessions is worth notice. Two youths, named Lambert and Fisher, were fined 5s. each, with 17s. 6d. costs, for trespassing in pursuit of conies, the fact being that they saw some rabbits and went after them, but did not catch one. Fisher had no money, and, in default of payment, he was at once removed in custody to undergo fourteen days' imprisonment. Shocked at the committal of the lad to prison, some people in Court subscribed 9s. towards the amount of the penalty, and requested the Bench to allow Fisher a fortnight for the payment of the balance—a request which the Chairman (Mr. A. W. English) granted, with the observation that it was "*a curious incident.*" To the minds of these Ely Shallows, devoted to the holy cause of game preservation, it would, you see, have been quite in the natural order of things that a poor youth should be punished with fourteen days' imprisonment for chasing a few rabbits.

There is a serious side to the question of Divorce Court costs, and I was not oblivious of it when referring to the subject in a frivolous spirit last week. A country solicitor sends me a letter which brings out the importance of this matter so well that I venture to publish it verbatim:—

The expense of getting a divorce is a very serious matter for the poorer members of the community, and we have frequent experience of the hardship. One recent case is particularly in my mind.

A gardener earning 25s. a week consulted us. His wife had deserted him, and was living in open adultery with a young man formerly lodging in his house. He was left with three young children, the eldest seven years of age. He had to sell up his home and go into lodgings, and get a woman to look after his children. He was at work all day.

He came to us to know the absolutely cheapest way of getting a divorce, as he had the chance of marrying again—a most respectable woman who would look after his family. There was absolutely no dispute as to the facts. We made the most careful estimate and inquiries, and were informed by our London agents that Court fees, counsel's fees, and out of pockets would be certainly £15. They offered to take £10 for their work—a merely nominal sum. But the worst of it was that if the wife chose to consult a solicitor, and she could find any one who would take up such a case, she could get an order for her costs to be provided for, and these costs might be £50 at the least, and the case could not be set down for hearing unless security was given.

Even if the petitioner sued *in formâ pauperis*, the Registrar was of opinion that he must provide for his wife's costs.

The poor man had only saved £10, and his brother, also a labouring man, offered to give him £5, but they could do nothing more.

The man must have a housekeeper to look after his house and children, and the sequel can easily be imagined.

There are scores of poor people living together unmarried, not from immoral desire, but because one or other is tied to a husband or wife who has deserted, and they have not the means to get a divorce.

Surely some means of preliminary inquiry might be sanctioned before a County Court judge in the case of all persons working for weekly wages or with an income, say under £100 per annum.

If the County Court judge is satisfied it is a proper case, it should be remitted to the Divorce Division of the High Court at reduced fees, and with no liability for costs of the other party. Divorce should not be too cheap or easy, but at present only rich people can afford it, and the poor do without it.

The exponents of Woman's Wrongs have a great deal to say about the unfairness of the divorce laws towards women; but I have never heard of them taking into account the hardship which the same laws inflict upon man. I have myself known of a case very similar to the one described above, and probably they are frequent. No doubt it is necessary for the protection of women who have no separate estate that the husband should have to provide them with the means of defending themselves where there is any substantial ground of defence. But in a case where the facts cannot be seriously disputed, a man ought not to be debarred from relief because he cannot pay down in advance two sets of costs. A sort of "Order XIV." proceeding before a County Court judge, such as the writer of the above letter suggests, would remove this hardship, and would be in the interests of public morality as well as private convenience.

The asinine absurdity of the law with regard to the heinous crime of sleeping out is aptly illustrated by the cases from Newtown, Penge, and Salisbury, which figure in my legal Pillory this week. Could anything be at once more ludicrous and more monstrous than the system under which the punishment for this so-called offence is exclusively reserved for persons who are destitute, those who are in a position to pay for lodgings being able to "sleep out" with impunity? The other contrasted sentences in the following list speak for themselves, and the only case to which I desire to draw special attention is that from Gateshead, where a brute convicted for the second time of inhuman cruelty to his infant daughter is let off with half the punishment he received on the first occasion. If he had been convicted for a second time of theft, poaching, or vagrancy, his sentence would have been increased instead of being reduced:—

Bath City Police-court. Before the Mayor and other justices. John Willcox, charged with ill-treating and torturing a horse. Defendant was instructed to kill the horse, and by means of a spike and a mallet he knocked a hole in the animal's head. The horse fell but was not killed, and defendant then pushed a stable prong into the hole. He next fastened a chain round the horse's neck and tried to hoist it, still alive, on to a knacker's cart. Finally, after twenty minutes' agony, the horse was killed by a blow with an iron bar. Fined £5 or one month.

Nuneaton Police-court. George Hill, Thomas Sharrod, and Frederick Steptoe, charged with assaulting Frederick Ware. The three defendants attacked Ware, who had never seen them previously, threatened to kill him, punched him, knocked him down three times, kicked him, and treated him so brutally that he sought refuge in a neighbouring cottage, and stayed there the night. Fined £3 each.

Chesterfield Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Thomas Joseph Austin, convicted of cruelty by working a horse while it had a broken fetlock. Fined 10s. and costs.

West Bromwich Police-court. Samuel Marshall, charged with assaulting Thomas Payne. Without any provocation defendant kicked complainant several times in the ribs and above the eye, inflicting injuries which confined him to his bed for more than a week. Fined £2 9s., including costs.

Portsmouth Police-court. Before Messrs. G. Curtis, H. G. Matthews, R. Barnes, and J. J. Young. Charles Smith, dockyardman, charged with assaulting Lily Hanson, aged twelve years. Because he supposed that the child had knocked at his door defendant punched her on the face and gave her a black eye. He also hit her sister in the face and kicked her legs. Fined 15s.

Ashbourn Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. H. C. Okeover, W. B. Badnall, J. Simpson, T. O. Farmer, and F. Wright. George Chadwick, charged with absconding from the workhouse. Prisoner, who was an imbecile, got over the workhouse wall and went to his parents' house. One month.

East Grinstead Police-court. Before Dr. E. Stewart and Mr. C. H. Everard. John Mitchell, charged with poaching. Five weeks.

Broseley Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Wayne, Messrs. J. Bodenham, — Dyas, T. Cooke, E. W. Shorting, and F. R. Smith. John Owen, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of nine rabbits and a rabbit-net, and John Baugh and Edward Williams, charged with aiding and abetting Owen. Owen and Baugh fined £5 9s. each; Williams, £3 11s.

Londonderry Petty Sessions. Before Alderman Bell and other justices. Fred. Lawrence, charged with stealing 1 cwt. 14 lb. of coal from the quay. One month.

Harwich Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. S. Evans, W. J. Nalborough, and H. G. Everard. Alfred Smith, labourer, charged with stealing a piece of coal, weighing 65 lb., from the railway works. It was the prisoner's first offence, and the chairman said "they proposed to deal with him as leniently as they could." Fourteen days.

Salisbury County Petty Sessions. Before Mr. W. Eyre Malcham and other justices. Caroline Cooper charged with doing damage to the amount of sixpence by lighting a fire on land belonging to the Earl of Radnor. Defendant and her four little children were found round the fire. She had no money. Committed to prison for two days.

Bedford Borough Petty Sessions. Before the Mayor and other justices. Charles Gough, charged with cruelty to a dog. For a "lark" he dropped the animal into a tub of water which was nearly boiling. Fined £2 and costs.

Salisbury County Petty Sessions. Before Mr. W. Eyre-Matcham and other justices, Charles Grace, charged with sleeping in an outhouse, and having no visible means of subsistence. It was stated that there had been numerous complaints against the prisoner for sleeping out, but as he was not without visible means, having the sum of one shilling in his possession, he was discharged.

Saffron Walden County Petty Sessions. Before Major Biscoe and other justices. Frederick Start, Wm. Barker, and Frank Rushforth, summoned for trespassing in search of conies. Fined £2 each and costs.

Newtown Police-court. Before Mr. R. Lloyd. Richard Roberts and Thomas Rees, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Roberts fourteen days, Rees ten days.

Penge Police-court. Mary Chantrell, charged with sleeping out on a doorstep. Four days.

Gateshead Borough Police-court.—Joseph Cooney charged with illtreating his daughter, aged three years. He beat the child with a piece of leather in the most brutal manner, her back being fearfully bruised. He had previously had six months' imprisonment for severely assaulting the same child. He was now let off with three months.

It is satisfactory to know that the efforts that have been made to expedite legal procedure are bearing fruit. An action on a dishonoured bill was recently disposed of in the High Court. The bill was dishonoured on December 28, the writ issued January 4, and the case tried out in the short cause list before January 31—a little over a month from the time when the cause of action arose. The expense to the parties is of course reduced in proportion to the time. Lawyers seem to be beginning to recognise that quick and cheap justice means, after all, good business, and I hear that the state of the cause list on the Queen's Bench side bears ample evidence of this. A legal friend tells me, in connection with this, that the proposed compulsory retirement of Masters and other court officials at sixty-five years of age is entirely in the interest both of the profession and the public, the old stagers who have been brought up under a different system not falling in readily with the new rules and the new system of pleading. It is generally best to have new men to work a new machine.

A great deal of soreness has been caused in the Dublin Metropolitan Police by the action of the Commissioners in forming an ambulance class of their own at Kevin-street Barracks. The Force has already a highly efficient ambulance team, which gained the first prize in a recent competition among the teams of the United Kingdom at the Crystal Palace. The men are naturally proud of this distinction, and resent in proportion the official attempt to form an opposition team under different auspices; and it seems likely that the work of the St. John's Ambulance Association in Dublin will suffer if this attempt is persevered in upon the present lines.

Mr. C. W. Bell, J.P., writes to inform me (1) that he was not one of the magistrates who adjudicated on the poaching case at East Grinstead Petty Sessions, which I pilloried last week; and (2) "that he has further good reason to believe that the poacher was not ordered to find sureties for future good conduct." With regard to the

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Subscriptions greatly needed by The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—6,929 convictions this year; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

first point, I fully sympathise with Mr. Bell's anxiety to relieve himself of the obloquy of being concerned in the sentence which his colleagues passed, and I regret that his name was erroneously mentioned in connection with the case. It was given in the report in the *Sussex Daily News*—usually a trustworthy paper—but possibly the explanation is that Mr. Bell quitted the bench before this particular case was reached. As to the second point, I confess I should like a more positive assurance from some one who was present that the prisoner was not ordered to find sureties. It would be a strange freak on the part of the reporter to deliberately invent the circumstantial account which was given of this addition to the sentence.

The libel action at Chelmsford Assizes on Saturday was another case of a newspaper being sued on account of a mistake, for which it had at once apologised, and, in addition, offered monetary compensation. Considering that the plaintiff failed to show that he had suffered any special injury through the libel—his one allegation that it had caused him to lose the chance of an appointment being refuted — the jury seem to have been exceedingly liberal in awarding him £50 damages. Probably they were influenced by the summing up of Mr. Justice Grantham, who evidently differs from more eminent Judges as to the course which justice demands when a newspaper has published a libel not maliciously but by accident, and offered reasonable reparation for it. His Lordship said that managers of newspapers must exercise the highest care, and if a mistake of this kind was made they must "make adequate compensation." But mistakes will happen even when the greatest care is exercised. A Judge himself, as Mr. Justice Grantham may know, sometimes makes a mistake, and *he* is not called upon to make compensation, adequate or otherwise.

One more illustration of the anomalies and absurdities of the muzzling order was afforded at Leicester Police-court last week, when the owner of two greyhounds was summoned for allowing them to be at large unmuzzled. The hounds were in slips in charge of an attendant, and the defence was that as sporting dogs out for exercise they were exempted from the order. The Bench held that the case did not come within the exemption, their worships expressing the opinion that "the fact that the animals were being led through the town militated against the idea that they were being exercised." Why this fact should militate against that idea is not at all clear; and I should have thought myself that these hounds were entitled under the order to go unmuzzled.

I say this, of course, without for a moment approving of the exemption of sporting dogs, which to my mind—seeing that such animals are just as liable to rabies as any others—is wholly indefensible. No doubt it was framed in the interests of country gentlemen and sportsmen. But if there is no danger in allowing whole packs of unmuzzled hounds to run about the country, there can be no danger in allowing a couple of unmuzzled hounds to be led through a town. It would be interesting, by the way, to learn how "sporting dogs" are defined. One of the most "sporting" dogs I know is a terrier. His sport is with rats; but it seems to me he is just as much a sporting dog as one which hunts a fox or courses a hare.

If a man may run a lottery for a church, why should he not run one for himself? To the logical mind of Mr. A. A. Hogg, of Glasgow, it appeared that what was lawful in the first case must be equally lawful in the second; and so, after gaining experience in the promotion of lotteries for a United Presbyterian Church, he launched out in the same line of business on his own account. Much to his surprise, he was last week haled before Bailie Dick, who let him off with an admonition, only because he thought there was some excuse for the accused in the fact that he had not seen any churches "pulled up," as they ought to be, for the same offence. At the same time, the Procurator-Fiscal promised to take proceedings in respect of any church lottery which was brought to his notice, and the Bailie intimated that in future he would fine "church managers or any one else" who broke the law. I hope the police will act upon these hints, and no longer turn a blind eye to lotteries which happen to be got up for religious objects.

The old question of magisterial reluctance to grant bail to prisoners incidentally cropped up in connection with the wrongful conviction at Norfolk Quarter Sessions which was quashed on Saturday by the Court of Crown Cases Reserved. It seemed that the prisoner in this case was not allowed bail pending his trial at the Sessions, nor again pending the decision of the Judges on the point of law that was raised, so that he has altogether had a considerable term of imprisonment. The Lord Chief Justice pointed out once more that questions of bail ought not to be regarded from the point of view of punishment, but from the point of view of securing the attendance of the prisoner. He was afraid, he added, that notwithstanding what Judges had said, there was not that disposition to accept bail in cases of this kind, which, in the opinion of the Judges, ought to characterise the conduct of Magistrates. This is perfectly true. Judges have been hammering away at the woodenheads of the Great Unpaid for years past, but without making any appreciable impression. They continue to go their own way, heedless of the judicial admonitions they receive, and regardless of the injustice they inflict on untried prisoners.

Yet another instance of the sharp and shady methods of the usurer Shuckburgh, alias the Clerical and Medical Bank of Bristol. A widow named Hichens borrowed £30 from him for a year, with interest at 60 per cent., the security being a bill of sale. Because she omitted to send

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to him her last quarter's rent receipt Shuckburgh obtained and executed a warrant for the seizure of her goods for the sum—including most exorbitant fees and costs—of £52 18s. The matter came before Mr. Justice Day, who held that the seizure was wrongful, and refused to allow Shuckburgh anything beyond the £30 principal, and the 15s. due for interest when the seizure took place. This decision, I am glad to say, was last week affirmed by the Court of Appeal, which dismissed Shuckburgh's appeal against it, and saddled him with the costs. It is always gratifying to see the vaulting rapacity of such a rascal overleap itself.

A firm of merchants at Newcastle-upon-Tyne have been favoured with a delectable piece of impertinence in the shape of a circular from Mr. H. Hayle, of 18A, London-street, E.C. "A friend, for whom we have done financial business, informs us," writes Hayle, "that you may feel inclined to increase your working capital." Then, of course, he goes on to mention that he is just the man to "arrange a financial transaction on a satisfactory basis." The firm in question tell me that they are not in want of any capital, and they appear somewhat incredulous as to the existence of the "friend" from whom Hayle says he derived his utterly erroneous information. I think their incredulity is justified, seeing that Hayle does not give the name of his "friend," and that the statement in reference to him is part of a circular which is apparently sent out in all directions. The "friend," I suspect, is only another Mrs. Harris.

Apropos of the recent suggestion in these columns that the Money-lending Committee should obtain information as to the operation of the laws against usury in the United States, I have been reminded that there is a place nearer home where similar legislation, enacted two centuries ago, is still in force. The Tynwald Court of the Isle of Man in 1691 passed an Act "that none shall take above £6 for the loan of £100 for a year," and the interest must not exceed the same rate for a greater or lesser sum, or a longer or shorter period. It is provided that all bonds, contracts, or assurances for the payment of interest above the rate of 6 per cent. per annum shall be "utterly void," and furthermore that any person doing anything contrary to "the tenor or meaning of this statute shall forfeit and lose for every such offence . . . the treble value of the moneys, wares, merchandises, or other things so lent, bargained, sold, or exchanged." One of my Manx readers in sending me a copy of this interesting statute says that it has worked well; and the Parliamentary Committee certainly ought to secure official evidence from the island on the subject. Thanks to the Home Rule which they enjoy the Manxmen seem to have protected themselves very effectively from the curse of Shylockism.

Here is an instance of the wiles to which the notorious Isaac Gordon resorts in the pursuit of his prey. A man applied to "Mr. J. Williamson," 44, Park-road, Bristol—one of Gordon's innumerable aliases and addresses—for a loan of £10, but on learning that for this amount he would have to repay £16 in instalments of £2 per month, he prudently declined to have anything to do with the bloodsucker. It is part of Isaac's system, however, never to let any likely victim escape his clutches without a determined struggle, and about a month after his interview at the office the applicant received a letter asking him to call again and promising him a loan on "most easy and reasonable terms." He took no notice whatever of this letter, but a week or two later he was favoured with another entirely unsolicited communication from the usurer enclosing two £5 notes, together with a promissory note for £16 which the recipient was requested to sign and return. This communication was also ignored, with the result that at the end of four days Gordon wrote, in his usual impudent style, demanding the return of the £10 under threat of legal proceedings. To get it back, however, he finally had to send his representative to the house of his intended dupe, a distance of two or three miles.

This kind of confidence trick is often practised by Gordon, and although it was unsuccessful on the present occasion, it generally pays. He takes good care, of course, not to forward money to any person until he has satisfied himself that its repayment is morally certain; and he counts upon the temptation supplied by the actual possession of the required cash inducing a man to agree to exorbitant terms of interest, which he might otherwise reject. When the dodge fails, Gordon pretends that the money was forwarded "by mistake," and his first letter enclosing it is so artfully worded as to give colour to this statement. But the mistake is made so systematically that I have little doubt that in the event of any one leaving him to take legal proceedings for the recovery of the money, the Judge would saddle him with the whole of the costs.

Scotland Yard ought to look into the little incident described in the letter given below. It is written by a young lady residing in a street off the Hackney-road to a brother serving with the British force in Crete. The individual who perpetrated the fraud here described must be a heartless as well as an ingenious rascal. It is probably not the first time he has played the trick successfully, and it should not be impossible to trace "Mr. Jackson, of Burton, Surrey." The occurrence took place about the first week in January:—

My Dear George,—We had a gentleman called home the other evening. He said he called on behalf of you. He said he was captain of the band, and he used to call you his boy. You liked him because he was like father. He also said you had sent presents home for us all, and a note inside who the present was for. Of course we thought it very kind of him. We made him very welcome as you know we should do. He said he was with you twelve days ago, but he come home after serving twenty-one years' service, and also going to get his discharge on Monday. Dear George, he said you did not drink, which we were very pleased to hear; he said he did not know the taste of it for fifteen years, and his account of you was everything that was good. He also said you had a pet monkey, but his hobby was parrots, and he would give mother one if she had a cage to put

it in. Out of respect she had for you, mother did not like to refuse the bird, so she gave him fourteen shillings for the cage. He said he would get it at his end, as he did not like to send the bird in a box, and we should receive the presents and the parrot the next day. But, George, we have not received anything, but we think we have been swindled of our fourteen shillings. This man said he had spoken for you to be an officer's servant, and that would be three shillings more a week for you, which pleased us very much. Dear George, I want you to answer this letter as soon as you receive this, because if there is no truth in any of this and you have not sent us presents by this man, we are going to Scotland Yard, if we can do good by other poor mothers and put them on their guard. So please write at once. If it's a lie, I think you ought to speak about this for the benefit of the other soldiers' mothers. I should speak to the head one about it if I were you, so, dear George, one and all send their best love.—I remain, your loving sister, ———.

P.S.—The man's name is Mr. Jackson. c/o. H. White, Penrith Villa, London-road, Burton, Surrey. That is the address he gave us.

The Protean Leigh Sampson has come out in yet another new character. Here is a letter just addressed by him to an American gentleman in London :—

20, Rue Lenliette, 20, Boulogne-sur-Mer, France.
January 19, 1898.

Dear Sir,—Can you *greatly* oblige me by giving me upon a foreign post-card (stamps for which is enclosed) the names and addresses of any American publishers you know, who would possibly publish a novel *dealing satirically and sarcastically with modern English life?*

I have written such a book, but know that it is useless even to seek for a publisher in London, where prejudice if not ignorance has supreme command of the book market.

If you will help me by replying with the information, I will not only never forget the kindness, but will strive in after years to repay you.—I beg to remain, dear sir, your very obedient servant,

H. Travers.

I would recommend the publisher to whom this work is offered to make sure that it really is Sampson's, and not, like the pictures which he has been hawking about for so many years past, the production of a "ghost." Of course, this inquiry after an American publisher is all bunkum. There are plenty of publishers in London who would be only too glad to get hold of a novel satirising modern life, however caustically, if it were of respectable literary merit. One can only suppose that this letter is the opening move in some new kind of application for a cash advance.

Notwithstanding all that has been said on the subject in Truth, I still get inquiries from time to time from people who are in the dark as to the nature of the operations carried on by Mr. Ernest Day, of 439, Old Kent-road. I therefore ask my regular readers to excuse my mentioning once again that Day, whose black-edged circulars are now more in evidence than ever, is a dealer in old curiosities, and similar rubbish, who endeavours to dispose of cheap prints of deceased worthies by representing that he has come into possession of them through the death of a relative, and is willing to part with them at a terrible sacrifice. His sacrifice consists in obtaining a guinea, or perhaps two, for an article worth possibly sixpence. Looking only at the collection of his letters that has come into my possession during the last three weeks, it would seem that Day's deceased relative must have had enough old prints on hand to stock a small gallery.

Are any of my Manchester readers familiar with the pencil manufactory of Mr. W. D. Metcalfe, of 49, Great Portwood, Stockport? I ask the question in view of a cadging circular distributed from house to house in various parts of the country with an "indelible ink pencil," purporting to be manufactured by Mr. Metcalfe. Metcalfe's appeal to the public is, for a tradesman, somewhat unusual. It begins thus :—

Dear Sir or Madam,—It is owing to the depression in trade that we submit to your inspection, optional to purchase, the enclosed sample, and trust that the same may meet with your approval, as, by becoming a purchaser of same, it will enable us to employ many more of the willing hands, and be the means of supporting many Starving Families. . . . Being the manufacturer, I can afford to supply these pencils at a very low price, placeing (*sic*) the pencils within the reach of everybody. . . .

This, it will be seen, is virtually an appeal to charity, not on behalf of Mr. Metcalfe himself, but for the benefit of the many starving families whom he is anxious to employ in manufacturing pencils. A stony-hearted Welshman, at whose house the circular and pencil have been left, actually suggests to me that these pencils are not only dear at the price asked, but are made in Germany. I should be very glad, therefore, if somebody in the neighbourhood who has seen Mr. Metcalfe's works and the starving families employed there would give me the necessary evidence to enable me to relieve a genuine philanthropist of this stigma.

Some interesting facts were given in Truth two or three weeks back respecting an advertisement purporting to emanate from a "lady leaving to join her husband in India," who wished to sell a lovely drawing-room upright grand piano. Any doubt that might have been felt as to the character of this advertisement on the facts then stated is entirely set at rest by information which has come to hand since. To begin with, I hear that the advertisement, which had then to my knowledge been running for at least three months, has been appearing in one form or another for some years. The advertiser was originally "a medical gentleman about to take a practice in the Colonies," and he also wished to get rid of an equally desirable instrument at an equally alarming sacrifice. I have this information from a gentleman who saw the advertisement, and had the piano sent to him on approbation, the offer so to send it being a part of the advertisement then, as it is to-day. He had a professional friend ready to inspect the instrument on its arrival, and it was pronounced to be a shoddy instrument, obviously made merely to "sell" (in every sense of the word). On its being returned, the gentleman who had inspected it was favoured with a letter, representing that the carriage had cost £2, and begging him to reconsider the matter, which, naturally, he did not do.

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

Since I called attention to the advertisement, the "lady leaving to join her husband in India" has once more changed her sex, and become a gentleman who has suffered from serious losses in business. Here is the latest form of the advertisement as it has appeared in the *Standard*, *Telegraph*, and other papers, including the *Guardian* :—

PIANOFORTE (upright iron grand).—A gentleman, through serious losses in business, is compelled to sell his most superb walnut-wood drawing-room piano. Panel front, choicely inlaid marqueterie in three compartments, seven octaves, full trichord, check repeater action, brilliant powerful tone, delightful touch. Absolutely faultless and unscratched, new this season. Original price, 55 guineas; accept 19 guineas. No handsomer or finer toned instrument can be obtained. Owner will send on approval and pay carriage both ways if unsatisfactory.—W., 193, New Cross-gate.

I had this advertisement answered, and received the following letter in reply :—

35, Erlanger-road, New Cross Gate, S.E.
January 29, 1898.

MADAM,—I have to thank you for your esteemed inquiry *re* piano addressed W., 193, New Cross Gate, and shall have great pleasure in showing it to you here, 35, Erlanger-road, at any time you may appoint.—I am, madam, yours faithfully,

REGINALD GRATTON.

35, Erlanger-road, it will be remembered, was the address of "Mrs. G.," the lady who was three weeks ago leaving to join her husband in India. This identification of the two advertisers at the same address removes all doubt that the advertisement is a trick. What part Mr. Gratton plays in the game I do not know. He may be a principal, or merely an agent.

I hear, from another source, that in some cases where this trick has been played the manufacturers of shoddy pianos get an impecunious householder to house the instruments, and attend to replies to the advertisements, taking a commission on all business done. In such cases inquisitive neighbours have been much puzzled at seeing pianos going into or out of the house two or three times in a week. It will be seen from this that a roaring trade is done by means of this dodge. It is not a particularly new one; the piano is evidently a near relation of the time-honoured "horse, property of an officer going abroad," which used to be always on sale through the columns of one or other of the papers. But no doubt the trick is good enough to deceive plenty of small people with limited means, equally limited knowledge of music, and unlimited desire to furnish their drawing-rooms in the most imposing style. The offer to send the piano "on appro." carriage paid both ways, shows that the vendor, whoever he may be, must have a good margin of profit on the price.

The great New South Wales snowball continues to roll on its serio-comic course, and every week brings some new addition to my collection of the addresses of the lady who is supposed to be collecting a million postage stamps for the benefit of an unknown hospital in an unknown place in that colony. To show how the matter stands at present, here are a few of the addresses already given in TRUTH :—

Miss Ardley Griffon, Mill-street, Hivitoville, near Sidney, N.S.W.
Miss Griffin, Botoga Hill, St. Hankwell, N.S. Wales.
Miss Griffith, Bologna Mill, St. Hurst Villa, New South Wales.
Miss Suffen, Shellionga Mills, Fleutsville, U.S.A.
Miss Audley Griffin, Walwage Hill, St. Harp Villa, N.S. Wales.
Miss Griffin, Hurtsville, Rockdale, near Sydney.

The above list was published some three or four months back. Since then the following have been added to the collection :—

Mrs. Dudley Gibbons, Montague Mills, New South Wales.
Miss Griffen, Hartsville, U.S.A.
Miss Griffin, Naluga, Mid Saint Harville, N.S.W.
Miss Suffin, Flintville, S.W.
Miss Grifton, Katanga, Great Hunt's Villa, South Wales.

One of the latest letters of which I have heard was actually addressed to a gentleman on the Continent by an Italian, dating from a remote village in the Abruzzi Mountains, the letter being written in French, so that the snowball has now rolled onto the Continent. We may therefore expect shortly to hear of even more surprising variations of Miss Griffin's address than any yet recorded.

A Torquay correspondent wants to know if I will show up an advertising tipster. He holds that he has been swindled by this tipster, because out of twenty tips for which he paid seventeen were losers and only three winners at very short odds. No, my friend, I will not show up the tipster. If I felt inclined to show up anybody, it would be the simpleton who thought he was going to make a fortune by such an investment.

As a warning to other water consumers who may be similarly victimised, a householder asks me to mention his experience of the ways of the New River Company. For a long period he innocently paid the company £4 10s. per annum, the amount demanded. Finding at last that he was being illegally charged upon his rental of £63 instead of upon the rateable value of £50, he disputed the claim, with the result that the company, after refusing for some time to accept any reduction, have now been compelled to acknowledge that the full amount to which they are entitled—comprising a charge of 5 per cent. on the rateable value and four "extras"—is only £3 10s. per annum.

In other words, the company have hitherto been robbing the customer in question to the extent of £1 a year! Many similar cases have been brought to light, and no doubt there would be hundreds more if Londoners would always check the demand notes of the water monopolists. Every consumer has a statutory right to full particulars of the charges he is called upon to pay; yet nine out of ten pay without demur the lump sum demanded, and so run the risk of being year after year over-rated or fleeced for extras for which they are not liable.

The following advertisement, which has just appeared in the *Bankers' Institute Journal*, has an instructive bearing upon what has lately been said in these columns on the

BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—The Mentone of England.—THE SACKVILLE HOTEL, an ideal winter and spring residence. Special inclusive terms till Easter. For tariff, &c., apply to Manager.

remuneration of bank clerks. £100 to £120 per annum for a man of eight or ten years' experience is not a very princely remuneration, but evidently the advertisers reckon that there are plenty of men in receipt of lower salaries at rival establishments who will be attracted by this magnificent offer :—

> Bank Clerks.—A leading joint stock bank (Metropolitan and country) has Vacancies for a few Clerks, unmarried, with eight to ten years' banking experience. Salary, £100 to £120 per annum.
> Apply, with full particulars, &c.

Note the stipulation, "unmarried." It will be remembered that, in the course of my recent correspondence on the subject, reference was made to the rule of some of the leading joint-stock banks which forbids any clerk to marry until he reaches a salary which he can hardly expect to obtain under forty years of age. The truth, of course, is that the banks are afraid to employ married men in the lower grades of the service, knowing the temptations which they would be exposed to upon the miserable pittance allowed them.

An anonymous correspondent, writing in defence of the Mercantile Bank of Lancashire, informs me that the bank is a comparatively young one, and that several of the branches do but small business, and so on. The point of the argument I do not perceive. If the Directors are prepared to say that the bank is doing such a poor business that it cannot afford to pay its staff properly, I am quite willing to give publicity to a properly authenticated statement to that effect. I hardly expect that they will say so, however. I have the last balance-sheet before me, and it shows that the bank is making very fair profits. The Directors seem to think that intimidation is the wisest policy, for I hear that on Wednesday last the staff were treated to an harangue on the evils of discontent, and the determination of the Board not to be coerced into raising salaries, with more to the same effect.

At a meeting of shareholders of the Clydesdale Bank at Glasgow a sympathetic shareholder took up the cudgels on behalf of the junior staff. The bank in question had made during the year a profit, including balance carried forward, of over £155,000. Its deposits had increased during the year by £230,000, and after carrying £30,000 to the reserve fund, writing £10,000 off the valuation of the bank buildings, and carrying forward a balance of £12,000 odd, a dividend of 10 per cent., free of income-tax, was declared. Upon this Mr. James McCull moved that out of the £30,000 proposed to be carried to reserve, a bonus of £10 should be paid to every clerk, excluding apprentices, whose income did not exceed £120 per annum. The proposal, however, did not find a seconder, and the chairman's comment upon it was that it would have been a vote of want of confidence in the Directors, who had spent £1,000 out of the £150,000 profit made during the year in increasing salaries. He went on to enlarge upon the enviable position of the clerks, who received a rise of £10 every year after they entered the service until they reached the splendid income of £100 a year, after which "the salary was accommodated to the value of the office held," whatever that may mean. However, the Clydesdale Bank comes out better than a good many of the joint-stock concerns whose meetings have been held during the last week or two, for I have not seen a single other meeting at which even one shareholder has been found to suggest that the staff ought to be considered before the profits were divided.

With the Pope's "Index Expurgatorius" everybody is familiar, but it is somewhat unusual to hear of one of his ecclesiastical satellites arrogating to himself the right to exercise a censorship over the newspaper Press. The Archbishop of Colombo does this, and some time ago he prohibited the faithful under his jurisdiction from reading certain periodicals, among them being the *Ceylon Independent*. It is now announced that the interdict against that particular paper has been formally removed, as the result of certain "assurances" which the editor has given to the archbishop. I do not know the precise nature of the offence which caused the *Ceylon Independent* to be placed on the black list, but from the little I have seen of the paper I should have thought it was a perfectly harmless and thoroughly respectable publication. It is pretty clear, however, that its title of *Independent* was chosen on the *lucus a non lucendo* principle.

I referred last week to certain changes at the Bodleian which have been rendered necessary in consequence of the increased and increasing depredations of unscrupulous visitors. It appears from the report of Mr. Nicholson, who has been Bodley librarian for fifteen years, that 156 books have been stolen during that period from the open shelves in the Radcliffe Camera, which is the reference part of the library. This does not include the very large number of volumes which have been stolen for a time, and then surreptitiously replaced in a more or less mutilated condition. Last year no fewer than thirty-two volumes were stolen, and it is strongly suspected by the Bodleian officials that twelve of these were taken away by one person. Panizzi stopped thefts from the Library of the British Museum by an ingenious system of spy holes.

Mr. Rhodes has evidently been very free with his confidences lately. The other day the *Chronicle* published some conversations in which he gave away the case for Rhodesia with engaging frankness. Now the *Daily News*, in an interview with Mr. Gambier Bolton, has fully confirmed these Rhodesian confessions. This is the sort of thing :—

> Oh! yes—he talked freely, when I was alone with him, and didn't scruple to admit that *Rhodesia at present is practically worthless* from the agricultural point of view, what with horse and mule sickness of two kinds, tsetse fly, and rinderpest or cattle-plague, scab, locusts, drought, and, above all, the scarcity of native labour. And even from a mining point of view, owing to the want of labour. . . . . As for the ordinary emigrant—he is the last person they want in Rhodesia. So long as food for man and grain for animals have to be brought into the country the cost of living *must* be enormous—far higher than any wages

Sahara Cigarettes. Choicest Turkish Tobacco. Every cigarette
Sahara Cigarettes. bears the name of the sole manufacturers,
Sahara Cigarettes. W.D. & H.O. Wills, Ltd.

Avoid Influenza.—Bellis's Turtle Soup, more strengthening than any beef fluid. Pint tins, 5/-; glass flaçons, 6/-.—Obtainable Stores, Grocers, Chemists, or from T. K. Bellis, 6, Jeffrey's-square, London.

would provide for. No—the only sort of emigrant Mr. Rhodes wants is the capitalist—capital, capital. Capital—to develop the mines—to buy the crushing machinery—for the extraction of more gold from the earth.

Precisely. Before you get any gold out of Rhodesia you have got to put the gold in.

On the question of native labour Mr. Rhodes was frank to the verge of artlessness. "It was almost pathetic," says Mr. Bolton, "to hear him hurl anathemas against Exeter Hall and the Aborigines' Protection Society." Again :—

"The natives won't work unless they're made. They say they don't want the white man's money. They lived without it before he came to their country, they can do so now. They are mostly warriors, and fighting and hunting are all they care for. 'Look at them,' exclaimed Mr. Rhodes, raging, 'there they sit, great able-bodied men, squatting round their huts week after week, plotting and scheming, loafing, eating, and sleeping—and the country going to rack and ruin for want of the labour which they alone can give us, if we are to work our mines and farms profitably. Exeter Hall and the Aborigines' Protection Society have dealt us, and me personally, the worst blow that has ever fallen on this country, and, if things go wrong from this cause, on their heads must be the blame.' These are almost Mr. Rhodes's own words."

"And has he no 'cure' to propose?"

"Local self-government—a free hand except in affairs affecting the whole empire."

"A free hand" to introduce slavery! "Self-government" in such a form as will enable Messrs. Rhodes & Co., after robbing these great able-bodied loafers of their country, to compel them to work for their keep in more or less bogus mines for the benefit of their "self-governing" oppressors. It must be pathetic, indeed, to hear Mr. Rhodes lamenting over the contumacy of the inconsiderate native, who prefers to keep himself alive his own way, and denouncing the unpatriotic conduct of "Exeter Hall." I do not quite know who Exeter Hall is. Perhaps it is I. Why did not Mr. Rhodes say "Little Englanders"? It would be highly gratifying to many of us to know that in addition to his other offences against his country, the Little Englander is now guilty of the crime of objecting to slavery under the British Flag. There was a time, and not so long ago, when the anti-slavery cry was the rallying cry of the Jingo.

A Scotch Member has been censured by his political committee for having played at golf on the Sabbath. What the fact of his having, during his Sunday constitutional, knocked a ball along before him has to do with his political relations with his constituents, I am at a loss to understand. The Scotch are a level-headed nation in most things, and their censorious interference in the private Sabbath avocations of their Members has always been a matter of surprise to me. I had thought that this meddling fussiness was dying out. Years ago I represented a constituency, and one of my constituents wrote to reprove me because he had seen me, he said, rowing on the river on Sunday. I replied that, so far as he knew, I might be a Jew, in which case my Sabbath would be Saturday, or a Mahommedan, when it would be Friday, or a Lutheran or a Roman Catholic, in which case such amusement as that in which I had indulged was deemed permissible on Sunday, or a member of the Church of England, most of whose members agreed with Lutherans and Roman Catholics as to Sunday amusements, but that however this might be, the matter in no way concerned him.

I doubt whether people in this country yet appreciate the gravity and danger of the policy the Government of India is pursuing with regard to the Press. Mr. Justice Strachey's strained interpretation of the law in the Tilak case showed how severely the liberty of the Press may be curbed under the existing Code. In view of the result of that prosecution, it was, indeed, hardly possible to see what further check upon newspaper criticism the authorities could desire. But the possibilities revealed by the Tilak case have apparently only had the effect of whetting the appetite of the Government of India for further repressive legislation. The extraordinary lengths to which they propose to go in this direction will be understood from the following comparison of the present law in reference to sedition with the amended law which Mr. Chalmers has brought forward in the Legislative Council :—

Whoever, by words, either spoken or intended to be read, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, excites or attempts to excite feelings of disaffection to the Government established by law in British India, shall be punished with transportation for life or for any term, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine.	Whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation or otherwise, brings or attempts *to bring into hatred or contempt*, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards her Majesty or the Government, *or promotes, or attempts to promote, feelings of enmity or ill-will between different classes of her Majesty's subjects*, shall be punished with transportation for life or any shorter term, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to *ten* years, to which fine may be added, or with fine.

If we had such a law in force at home nearly every political speaker and writer in opposition to the Government would, at one time or another, render himself liable to punishment. Mr. Chamberlain, for instance, in his Radical days—or, as Lord Salisbury would say, his Jack Cade days—might assuredly have been transported for life. In India the new law will make it practically impossible for any journalist to express disapprobation, however well merited, of any act of the Government, or any officer of the Government. The measure applies, of course, to the Anglo-Indian as well as the Native Press, and judges like Mr. Justice Strachey would doubtless manage to bring within the wide terms of the Code such strong comments as the *Pioneer* and other journals have published respecting the conduct of the Frontier campaign. In short, if this proposed legislation is passed, no newspaper writer in India will be safe unless he is content to be a mere lickspittle of officialdom.

Equally open to objection is the proposal to make cases under this clause triable by District Magistrates, instead of being, as at present, triable only by Courts of Session or High Courts. What this means is admirably put by a correspondent of the *Englishman* in a letter which that well-known Anglo-Indian journal prints under the significant heading, "*Quem Deus vult perdere*" :—

Let us take the case of a man who for some indiscreet utterance is prosecuted for sedition with the consent of the Government in a mofussil Magistrate's Court. What would be the relative positions of the parties to the suit? It would, of course, be a Government prosecution. The Government would initiate it, and having, like Pooh-Bah, given itself its own consent to the course it had itself proposed, would hale the unhappy culprit before—whom? *Its own executive officer!*

The system of placing executive and judicial functions

in the same hands is bad enough in ordinary cases. To extend it to cases of this kind, and make an accused journalist amenable to the jurisdiction of an official whose administration may possibly have fallen under his censure, is to pave the way for the most iniquitous oppression and injustice.

I understand that this retrograde legislation, though introduced by Mr. Chalmers, has been chiefly suggested and fomented by Sir Antony MacDonnell, who exercises great influence over the Viceroy. At present Lord Elgin and his advisers appear determined to pass it, and with an official majority on the Legislative Council there is no doubt that it will be passed if they persist. Parliament, however, should have something to say which will modify their intentions. I know from the correspondence that reaches me that the proposals of the Government are viewed with serious misgivings not only by educated natives but by many Anglo-Indians, both official and non-official; and the slight changes which have been adopted in the Bill since it was first laid before the Legislative Council have done little or nothing to make it more acceptable. The gagging of the Press will shut down the only safety-valve for native opinion in India, and remove the sole check upon despotism. No surer means of promoting popular discontent and encouraging secret conspiracies could be devised. If incitements to sedition are published, the existing law affords ample power to deal with the offender. But as Sir Richard Garth, formerly Chief Justice of Bengal, has testified, it is not on account of sedition that the Government of India brings forward this drastic measure for silencing the Press. "I read native papers myself week after week," wrote Sir Richard, "and never see anything there approaching sedition or even disloyalty or disrespect to English rule. What I do find, and what I rejoice to find, is thoroughly well-deserved censure of the arbitrary conduct of many of the Government officials. I am afraid this is exactly what the Government would wish to repress." There, in a few words, is the true explanation of the action the Government of India is taking.

There was a time when I regarded Birmingham as the Radical Mecca. Even when many Radicals there went wrong on Home Rule, I still believed them to be true in all else to Radical principles. At present I have lost all respect for them. They humbly and submissively submit to Mr. Chamberlain's orders, and are prepared to send a Tory to the House of Commons, although in the division in which there is a vacancy the Liberal Unionists outnumber the Tories by three to one. Talk of rotten boroughs! Never was there a more rotten one since a Tory threatened to send his black servant as representative of the free and enlightened constituency that he owned. Does any one suppose that, had Mr. John Bright been alive, he would ever have agreed to be a party to Birmingham being represented by a Tory? Fallen, indeed, are the Birmingham Radicals from their high estate.

And what is the inwardness of this behest? Mr. Chamberlain has made up his mind that it is contrary to his interests to maintain any longer the distinction between Liberal-Unionists and Tories. He aspires to lead the united Party, and the Tories being in the majority, the Liberal-Unionists are offered up as a sacrifice on the Tory altar. They are not even allowed to have a voice in the choice of the Tory who is to misrepresent them. To keep their noses well to the grindstone, Mr, Chamberlain has ordered them to adopt as their candidate a gentleman to whom, apart from his political views, they appear to have a special objection.

THE BRUMMAGEM TYRANT AND HIS SERFS.

Scene.—*The Liberal-Unionist Council Chamber at Edgbaston. As the curtain rises some scores of Liberal-Unionist Delegates are discovered in animated conversation.*

First Liberal-Unionist Delegate.: Be firm, my friends! That's what we have to be.
Too long we've knuckled under to J. C.
He's trodden on us for these ten years past;
But let us show him worms will turn at last.
Be firm, then, I repeat.
Second L.-U. D.: Just so; be firm!
I'm tired, for one, of being but a worm.
Third L.-U. D.: And so am I!
Fourth L.-U. D.: And I!
Fifth L.-U. D.: And I!
Sixth L.-U. D.: And I!
First L.-U. D.: 'Tis well! Our tyrant we'll forthwith defy.
Take courage! Make your minds up to be bold!
And let the truth this very night be told.
Let's tell our cruel despot we intend
Our rights as citizens to now defend.
Shame on the terror that our will benumbs!
Shame on—but, hist! What noise is that? He comes!

A flourish of trumpets is heard without, as the doors are flung back to admit Joseph the Brummagem Tyrant, *who stalks haughtily in, attended by* Jesse, Kenrick, Powell-Williams, *and other humble minions.*

Joseph (*scowling at his assembled serfs*): Why sit ye there so silent and so pale?
Slaves, I am here! Why don't you cry "All Hail!"
(*After a pause.*) Still silent! Is this mutiny I see?
Why don't you rise and shout "All hail!" to me?
First Delegate (*pushed upon his feet by his neighbours*):
May it please your Mightiness, the time has come
When we object to stay beneath your thumb.
We've meekly borne for years your snubs and slights,
But now we've vowed we will assert our rights.
We are free citizens!
Joseph (*bitterly*): *What's* that you say?
My slaves you've been, my slaves you are to-day!
Free citizens, forsooth? Pish, pish! Pooh, pooh!
You are mere items, bound my will to do.
Free citizens? What rubbish! Have a care
How my authority to thwart you dare.
First Delegate (*deprecatingly*): But surely——
Joseph (*fiercely*): Silence! Not another word!
This feeble interruption's too absurd.

H. L. Savory & Co.'s Cigarettes.—By Special Warrants of Appointments, to H R.H. the Prince of Wales, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe Coburg-Gotha, H.S.H. the Duke of Teck, and the House of Lords and Commons. To be obtained of all the leading Houses in the Trade.—Sole address, 59, Piccadilly, London, W.

Duysen Pianos are the most superb of all modern Instruments. They stand absolutely unrivalled for beauty of tone, touch, & finish. A consummate success in small grands.—Lloyd's, 24, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, W.

I've only come to tell you what's my will,
And my behest you've merely to fulfil.
Your silly murmurs reached my ears in town,
And, to my great annoyance, brought me down.
For London's filling up on every hand,
And, socially, I'm greatly in demand.
This very night, instead of being here,
I should be dining with a famous peer.
No wonder, then, I bitterly resent
Your childish show of futile discontent.
And if you're wise, you swift amends will make
By owning humbly your ill-timed mistake;
For otherwise you shortly may deplore
That Highbury holds my residence no more.
You may, too late, find out to your despair,
I and my orchids have removed elsewhere,
And that I've shaken, in disgust complete,
The dust of Birmingham from off my feet.

[*Movement in the Council Chamber.*

Ah, that, I see, affects you. Very good!
Then let it be distinctly understood
That if I still consent with you to stay,
'Tis on condition that I get my way.
You have a vacant seat; you must permit
A Tory member in that seat to sit.
That is my pleasure, understand again,
And further argument is wholly vain.

Several delegates make a half-hearted effort to protest further.

Joseph: No, not a word. My mind is quite made up;
Bitter or not, you'll have to drain the cup.

They proceed to drain it by meekly voting in favour of their Tyrant's ultimatum.

Joseph: 'Tis well! My slaves still answer to the whip.
Jesse (*rapturously*): Great master! you defy all rivalship.
Joseph: My hat, good Jesse. See, it is not late,
And I may catch the up express at eight.
So, after all, I may escape rebuke
By taking lunch to-morrow with the Duke.

With a parting glance of mingled patronage and disdain at his "items," the Brummagem Tyrant turns haughtily on his heel. As he passes out by the door C, *the Ghost of* John Bright *rises* L. Joseph *sees the illustrious Shade, and, dropping his eyeglass, rushes off with a loud exclamation of alarm. The Shade of* John Bright, *advancing to the front of the platform, gazes with mingled sorrow and indignation on the assembled delegates. Then it addresses them thus:—*

Can this be Birmingham? Can you be they
Who used such independence to display?
Radical stalwarts once you used to be,
Now, you're the cringing slaves of Joseph C.!
Oh! shame upon you that you thus should drag
Through mire and dirt our erstwhile spotless flag!
Shame on you that, your sacred trust betrayed,
Once-honoured Birmingham you thus degrade!
Shame on you that to such base lengths you go;
No rotten borough ever stooped so low.
Let Gatton's voters now receive their due,
They were immaculate compared with you!
Compared with you in your disgrace condign,
Old Sarum's "freemen" positively shine!
No noble owner of a pocket borough
Looked on his serfs with a contempt so thorough
As Joseph looks on you; nor ever cared
To show the cynicism *he* has dared.
Yet you endure him. Oh, how long, how long
Will you be weak, you that were once so strong?
How long will you, that he may brag and boast,
Yield the convictions you should treasure most?
How long will you besmirch what you should prize,
And basely stoop that he may higher rise?
These are grave questions that you can't ignore
If you'd fair fame to Birmingham restore.
These are grave questions that you can't repel,
So let them, I implore, be pondered well!

Having thus spoken, the Shade of John Bright *disappears as suddenly as it had come into sight, leaving the delegates in an extremely agitated condition.*

SCRUTATOR.

OFFICE-HOLDERS AND EX-OFFICE-HOLDERS.

THAT the Government is not so popular as it may have been at the General Election would be admitted by its most ardent admirers. If there were a Dissolution to-morrow, probably it would secure a majority, but a considerably reduced one. It has made a good many mistakes in its foreign policy; it has in too barefaced a manner subsidised the classes at the cost of the masses; whilst, by attempting to find favour both with Tories and Liberal Unionists, it has shaken the confidence of both. It may be that, if it continues to blunder abroad, and to endeavour to prove at home that it is alike Liberal and Tory, it will be defeated at the next General Election. I fail, however, to see whether such a victory would in any way benefit the Radical cause. A Liberal Government would assume office. Such a Government would only be negatively good. It would be unable, even if it wished, to inaugurate a drastic Radical policy; whilst, were it to pursue the same course as it did when last in office, it would only carry on for a brief period a hand-to-mouth existence until once again the country, sick of the Liberal King Log, would fall back on the Tory King Stork. But I greatly doubt whether, whatever may be the shortcomings of the present Government, the Liberals will be able to secure a majority in the country on the "swing of the pendulum" tactics; for Radicals are not likely to take off their coats, and enter heartily into a contest, unless they have some clear security that, if successful, Liberal Officialdom will be prepared to give effect to Radical aims. With all respect for our official Leaders, they should realise that they made a thorough mess of matters, by their want of grip and determination, when last entrusted with a Parliamentary majority, and that Radicals naturally hesitate to entrust them with a blank cheque, merely because they insist that collectively they are an exceptionally gifted body of statesmen, and that those who have replaced them are not.

The primary error of Liberal Officialdom was to go over, bag and baggage, to Jingoism. Whenever the Conservative element in a country finds itself confronted with a Democratic wave, it seeks to divert attention from home reforms by a spirited foreign policy. These tactics are as old as the hills. The doctrine that the main aim of an Englishman should be to extend the area of the British Empire ought to have been strenuously resisted by Radicals. The aim of an English Radical should be to to level the ground the fortress of class and privilege at home, resting satisfied with being the citizen of the vastest Empire that the world has ever seen, and spending only such an amount in armaments as will suffice for the defence of that Empire. The Tories of a past generation staved off Democratic progress for years by dragging us into a twenty years' war with France. But the Liberals of that day had the good sense to decline to join in this plan of campaign. Had the Liberals of to-day boldly challenged the policy of annexations and armaments, the Liberal Party would not have

found itself to-day in its present unfortunate position. A second error of Liberal Officialdom has been to ignore the aspirations of the working classes. These classes are minded that the State might do much collectively to better their position, without invading the legitimate province of individualism. In this they are right. But whilst both the Conservative and the Liberal Party have been profuse in vague generalities as to social legislation, very little has come of these professions. The consequence is that the working classes hold aloof from both Parties, some voting with one, some with the other, and some not voting at all.

I would, therefore, have Radicals resist Jingoism in all its forms, and seek to heal the breach between the Liberal Party and the working classes. But as Democratic legislation is only possible when the legislative machine is Democratic, it is essential that all those desirous of such legislation should unite in a specific and drastic scheme to effect this end. On this issue the next General Election should be fought. In every way possible the Radicals outside Parliament have urged this. But Liberal Officialdom only plays with the issue. One eminent Liberal ex-office-holder cautiously declares himself in favour of some legislative reform; the next day another whittles down what his colleague has said. Collectively their only opinion seems to be that it is well to have no opinion. In the meanwhile any one who ventures to suggest that the Radicals are right to make their support contingent on the issue at the next General Election being in accordance with what they believe essential to the progress of Radicalism, are denounced as though they were guilty of high treason. High treason to whom, I would venture to ask? I recognise no more right in ex-office-holders to impose their will on a Party than I do in any other dozen or two members of that Party. There are amongst these ex-officeholders some men strongly Democratic; others are little better than Whigs. Their views in regard to legislative reform are not, therefore, identical. The advanced section has to yield to the retrograde section, in order to prevent a split. This is much what happened at the last General Election. We know what was the result; and unless the Radicals are resolute and active, the same thing will happen at the next General Election. For many of the gentlemen on the Front Opposition Bench I have the greatest admiration. For them collectively, I have none. Their unity is only a unity in inaction. Each man seems to be afraid of his neighbour's shadow. Fidelity to Party means in their eyes fidelity to themselves. They hold that the one sole duty of every Radical and of every Liberal in the country is to labour to put them back into office, without knowing what they would do when they are there. I am for measures, not men. All that I want to know in regard to the latter is that they are prepared to bring forward, and to stand or fall by, the measures which must be passed, unless a Liberal Administration, backed by a Radical majority in the House of Commons, is, as heretofore, to be stalemated. If they are, let them clearly say so; if they are not, why should Radicals move one finger in order to place them in office?

THE ANGLO-INDIAN CAPUA.

The most significant item of news that has come to hand from India during the past week is the announcement that Sir William Lockhart—after having got as far as Calcutta on his homeward journey — has changed his mind, and decided to return to the Frontier to take charge of the operations against the Afridis as soon as they can be renewed. Considering that Sir William was coming home on three months' leave, this change of intention is highly remarkable. We are carefully informed by the oracles of the Press that the alterations in his plans originated with Sir William alone, and that the Indian Government were not parties to it before the fact. Whether this statement is true or not—and probably it is not—the significance of the change of plan remains unaffected. It means clearly that Sir William Lockhart, or those in authority over him, have suddenly awoke to the fact that the ignominious failure of the late operations is regarded both in India and at home with indignation and disgust, that something must be done to appease the growing wrath of the public, and that it is not a time for the Indian Commander-in-Chief elect to be taking a holiday. I am sorry for Sir William Lockhart personally, for he is in bad health—not probably improved by the events of the last three months—and he is, in the opinion of many who are qualified to judge, but little to blame for the lamentable fiasco with which he has been associated. But, if it was he who decided that his duty, or his reputation, requires that he should stick to work at the present juncture, whatever the cost, he is to be congratulated on the soundness of his judgment.

The correspondence that I have received during the past week confirms in every line the views already expressed in TRUTH on the Frontier Fiasco, and though officers both of the English and the Indian Army have communicated their opinions to me with unwonted freedom, I find not a man who attempts to extenuate the gravity of the failure, or to defend those who stand responsible for it. The only point on which I find any difference of opinion is as to the real cause of the failure. As a matter of course, every man who has a strong preconceived opinion as to this or that defect in our military system finds in the Frontier Campaign the conclusive proof that his opinion is the correct one. I find one retired General, for instance, who is confident that all our troubles arise from the abolition of purchase. Another believes that there is something radically wrong in the training of officers at Sandhurst and Woolwich. A third attributes every reverse to short service and the territorial system. A medical officer, for whose opinion I have great respect, writes me a long letter to prove that the "fons et origo mali" (his own expression) is the abandonment of the C.D. Acts. Now if there is one point in the record of the last four months' muddling and blundering on which it seems certain that we may congratulate ourselves legitimately, it is that the rank and file have acquitted themselves admirably throughout the campaign. There may have been isolated cases of unsteadiness, but, looking at the circumstances of the campaign, they are not to be wondered at. No one can read the detailed accounts

of the fighting without feeling that the British soldier of 1897 has shown himself of the same stuff as his predecessors for the last five centuries. There was a graphic letter in the *Times* last week, from the pen of an officer of the Oxfordshire Regiment, describing the affair at Lundi Kotal on December 30. The concluding passage is well worth noting at a time when so many Jeremiahs are lamenting the decay of the British Army :—

That is all I have time to write now, though there is one thing that I have forgotten to mention. A large proportion of the men who had this bit of fighting came out with the last draft, and had not been a month in India. They were as steady and as plucky as if they had been war-worn veterans of a dozen campaigns, and, personally (in spite of what the people at home appear to think about the stamp of men we get for the Army nowadays), I never wish to fight by the side of anything better than these Oxfordshire recruits.

Following on this, let me take the opportunity of removing one of the few imputations that, so far as I know, have been cast upon the behaviour of British troops during the campaign. In a letter published in Truth a fortnight ago reference was made to an alleged panic on the part of a detachment of the West Kent Regiment. I remarked at the time that isolated incidents of this kind might occur in any army fighting a losing battle. The following letter, however, from an officer of the regiment present, on what was evidently the occasion referred to, shows that the occurrence has been entirely misrepresented, and I am very glad to have an opportunity of publishing it :—

The Barracks, Maidstone,
February 4, 1898.

Sir,—Having just had brought to my notice the statement made in Truth on January 27 as to the conduct of the Royal West Kent Regiment in action on the North-West Frontier of India, I write to request that, in common justice to the regiment, you will insert my letter in your next issue, or a paragraph which will refute the very serious charge, viz., "running away and leaving their officer to be cut up and horribly mutilated," which has appeared in your columns. Having been present throughout and an eye-witness of what took place on the only occasion to which your paragraph can possibly refer, viz., the attack on the villages of Agrah and Gat on September 30, I feel I am qualified to say what I can to refute the statement of the person by whom the extract in your paper was written, as he does not appear to have been anywhere near the scene of the operations.

After the first stage of the attack, in which the Guides' Infantry and the Royal West Kent Regiment acted together, the latter were ordered to make a turning movement to the right, in order to dislodge the enemy, who held a very strong position on some broken ground, in front of the village of Gat. The 31st P.I. had proceeded direct against this village, and were now being held in check by overwhelming numbers. In carrying out their orders the three leading companies of the Royal West Kent Regiment became exceedingly hotly engaged. The Captain of the leading company, of which the officer mentioned in your extract was the subaltern, decided to hold a small, low walled sangar, while the other two companies, being unable to get cover where they were, retired to a terrace, not more than sixty yards distant, already held by the supports. The company in the sangar now found that they were drawing on themselves the whole of the enemy's attention, and, in addition, by being where they were, were masking the fire of the companies in the rear. Their Captain, accordingly, very rightly decided to retire his men by degrees. The enemy, seeing this, became bolder and bolder, and advanced within a very short distance of the sangar. Several men were wounded, and had to be carried back, and eventually the Captain was left with his subaltern and only three men. Just as they were about to retire the subaltern was shot through the chest and fell dead. They tried to carry the body in, but by this time the enemy were so close upon them that the Captain, seeing what certain and useless loss of life it would entail to remain, ordered the body to be put down and the men to retire On reaching the supports the Captain immediately informed the Major commanding the firing line of what had occurred, and the latter at once detailed a party which charged forward, retook the sangar in gallant fashion, and then retired, bringing the body back with them and sustaining the loss of two men killed, two officers and three men wounded. The body had only been very slightly mutilated, and I would further point out that this fact had been carefully concealed from the officer's relations until given publicity to in your columns. Should you decide to publish my letter, I leave it for your readers to judge whether the foregoing true account lays "The Royal West Kent Regiment" open to the charge of "running away and leaving their officer to be cut up and horribly mutilated."

There is not a shadow of truth in this accusation, as the men retired in obedience to the direct orders of the Captain commanding the company.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

Hubert Isacke, Lt., the R. W. Kent Regt.

As we are dealing for the moment with the matter of "Tommy's" behaviour in the face of the enemy, perhaps I may be allowed to follow the above with an interesting letter from a soldier in the 1st Northamptonshire Regiment, dealing with an affair which has already been much discussed :—

Sir,—With regard to the Tirah Expedition I venture to write you a few lines, hoping that you will, if you think it worth it, publish what you think fit, as I know you always take a great interest in your county regiment, the 1st Battalion Northampton.

A good deal has been written about what taken place on November 9 at the Saran Sar, which was a hill about four miles from camp. On the above date a reconnaissance taken place, and the 4th Brigade was ordered to advance on it at 5.30 a.m. The hill, which was a very steep one, was taken without opposition, or, at least, next to none, one man only being wounded. The retirement was ordered to commence at 12.30, but was delayed on account of some of the headquarter staff being late. Consequently, it did not commence until about 2.30 p.m. I was one of those who taken part in it. The Northamptons were ordered to cover the retreat of the brigade, and all went well until we got about half way down, when the enemy opened fire from the rear and both sides. "G" company was the rear company, under Captain A. Parkin, and he was with the rear section, about eighteen strong, and in a minute or so six of his men were wounded. This is when the difficulty commenced, every wounded man taking at least two men to carry him off the field. This company had nine men of this section wounded before getting off the field. The Captain and N.C.O.s called out for assistance, as they were very hardly pressed. The companies which preceded them in the retirement were in this order—"D," "R," "A," and "F," at about 100 yards' interval; "D," commanded by Captain Norgate; "R," Major Compton and Lieutenant Waddell; "A," Captain Brereton; "F," Captain Bacon and Lieut. Trent. A section of "D" and "R" arrived to reinforce "G," but no officer came with them. "F" company, which had a great deal further than any of the others to come, arrived under Lieut. Trent (who was shortly afterwards wounded) with three sections. Colour-Sergeant Luck, Corporal Roddy, and thirteen men were one of these sections, and, I regret to say, were never again seen alive. Second Lieut. Macintire joined this section somehow, though he did not belong to "F" company, but his dead body was found with them the next morning.

They say it cannot be found out how Colour-Sergeant Luck and his section got astray; but a great many of their comrades are of opinion that they were sent to protect a point and never ordered to retire. In any case, poor fellows, they lost their lives from some one's mistake in not giving them proper orders. The colour-sergeant was a married man and leaves a young wife and child behind him. About half-past four o'clock there was the greatest confusion. No orders were being given, and the men did not know what to do. Every one that could get out of fire did so. The wounded were being got off the hill as best they could by those left, for three companies had made their way into camp as soon as they could. Lord Methuen knows this. He saw one of the companies and spoke to the officer near camp at about 5.30. Colour-Sergeant Luck and his men were not missed until after arrival in camp at about eight o'clock.

We lost that day two officers and twenty killed, including Mr. Macintire, Colour-Sergeant Luck, and his section; one officer, Lieutenant Trent, and thirty wounded The regiment went out the next morning and found Mr. Macintire and the other fourteen close together. Poor fellows! what a death they must have had. They were all stripped naked and rifles gone—that was a catch for the enemy, the rifles and ammunition. They all say that so many would not have been killed and wounded only the Commanding Officer ordered the retirement by a nullah; that was when the enemy fired into us from the heights. You would not believe how hard it was to get up reinforcements—no order. In many cases the men were shouting for help. I heard Colour-Sergeant Underdown, who was wounded, say to the Commanding Officer, "For God's sake, send up help; the men up there are being killed." He replied, "I can do nothing."

I believe there was a court of inquiry on the cause of the number killed and wounded in the Northamptons that day. We should like to see it published. None of the N.C.O.s and men were asked to give evidence. If they had, some very funny things would have come out. A great many would like you to see into the court of inquiry, for we men are of opinion that if proper orders had been given such a disaster as to lose one whole section wouldn't have happened. Just fancy three companies in camp by six o'clock. The men of these companies say they never got any orders, and the officers said, "Let us go home." I only wish I could write a better letter on this matter; but it wants inquiring into, who is responsible for those fourteen poor fellows' lives, for all their comrades believe that they were sent to

take up a point and forgotten, and they would not leave until it was too late. . . .

Those who will take the trouble to piece it out for themselves will, I think, find this a very instructive narrative. It seems clear enough, even to a civilian, that the men were desperately badly handled; that, owing to this, utter confusion reigned for some time; that a section of fourteen men were lost and massacred *en masse* through some stupid blunder, and that while all this was going on at the rear, several companies were marching back to camp without any attempt to detain or recall them. The suggestion of the writer that Colour-Sergeant Luck and his section were sent to occupy a point and forgotten until they had all been killed has no improbability about it, for if it occurred it would not be the only occurrence of the same kind during the campaign. Many of my readers will doubtless remember the graphic narrative of Colour-Sergeant Walker, who, after being a prisoner for some time in the hands of the Afridis, was released a few weeks back. In this case, also, a party was sent to hold a certain point and utterly forgotten, and the sergeant, who held his post till he had got all his men away, was wounded and taken prisoner in endeavouring to follow them. I have scanned subsequent news and despatches to see if any one was to be called to account for this incident. In the Northamptons' affair there has certainly been a court of inquiry, or some sort of investigation, and, after the above narrative, many of us will wait with considerable curiosity to know what the result of it was.

But through all the accounts of the actual fighting there is not a word that reflects on the behaviour of the soldiers themselves; nor, with the possible exception of the Saran Sar affair, upon any regimental officer. It is impossible, in the face of such evidence, to attribute the failure of the campaign to any shortcomings of the actual fighting line. The cause must be sought higher up in the scale, in blundering at headquarters, in a mistaken plan of campaign, an incompetent staff, and defective organisation. If the "fons et origo mali" is to be found in any one spot, that spot is Simla. Let me select from a dozen letters of the same tenor one which deals specially with this point:—

I read with the greatest satisfaction your plain-spoken words on the Frontier Fiasco. Every syllable of your comment will be endorsed by those who, like myself, have served in India, and have kept an open eye and an open mind. . . . . I served in India over a quarter of a century. How different was the condition of affairs at headquarters when I entered the service and when I left it! At the beginning of my time it was not yet considered necessary for the Government and the Army headquarters to migrate *en masse* to the hills every year for many consecutive months. Work was carried on from Calcutta, and carried on satisfactorily. The now famous "Mutual Adulation Society"—a canker at the heart of Government—only existed in the bud, in a harmless form. "Capua," as Simla has been happily termed, brought into full and virulent activity every form of jobbery and favouritism in high places. You may see the consequences in the gross blundering and mismanagement that have marked the present campaign. . . . .

What is wanted in India more than anything else—it is not my opinion alone, but that of every man who knows the change that has come over the Government of India in the last twenty or thirty years—is a peremptory decree from the India Council, requiring every future Viceroy and Commander-in-Chief to take office on the condition that (sickness alone excepted) the headquarters of the Government and the Army shall carry on work permanently in Calcutta or its vicinity—as did their predecessors before Simla was thought of. By these means constant touch would be established with independent, non-official Anglo-Indian public opinion. Abuses which now sap the vigour and efficiency of Government would be detected, and, before they took root, exposed in the Press, which is by no means entirely of the "reptile" variety in Calcutta. Last, but not least, the Sybaritic luxury of "hill-life" would vanish under the influence of a healthier social atmosphere and a more critical public opinion. . . . .

It so happens that long before the disastrous Frontier War was thought of, public opinion in India had expressed itself strongly on the question of "Simla." Last spring, when the Famine and the Plague were at their height, protests rose from all quarters against the migration of the Viceroy and the Government at such a period to the comfortable retirement of "the hills." A good deal was said on the subject in TRUTH, and I hope that my readers have not forgotten some of the figures which were given respecting the cost of the annual change of quarters. From first to last this operation entails upon the Indian taxpayer a charge of some £200,000 per annum—an item which might well have been saved at a moment when British charity was contributing hundreds of thousands of pounds to relieve the needs of the starving and plague-stricken population of India. But the cost of the migration is only a subordinate count in the indictment of "Simla." From all sides comes the complaint that the life of the place is demoralising, that administrative work becomes slack there, that both military and civil affairs are ruled by cliques or "gangs," that jobbery and favouritism are rampant and unchecked, and the whole atmosphere corrupt. Such influences are reflected only too plainly in the military fiasco we have just witnessed, in the incapacity of those at the head of affairs, in the composition of the staff, in the breakdown of the transport and the medical departments described in last week's TRUTH. "You say," writes a Staff Corps officer at present in England, "that the efficiency of the Indian Army has been taken for granted. So far as the Native Army is concerned, the sooner you drag the public out of such a fool's paradise the better for England and India. The officers and men of the Indian Army have indeed proved their quality, but more than this is required to make an army 'efficient.' At present everything else is lacking, and it is the actors and buffoons of Simla who are responsible for the deficiency and the inefficiency. They have allowed almost the entire control of the Departments of the Army to pass from their hands into that of the Baboo or Native Writer." Then follows a page or two describing the operations of red-tape, and the multiplication of useless correspondence in Indian military administration, and the consequences of these things in paralysing the real work of soldiering. One hears at almost every turn some phrase as contemptuous and eloquent as the above reference to "the actors and buffoons of Simla." "Government by garden-party" is the term which another critic applies to the present system of administration; and I could cite a dozen significant references to the potency of feminine influence in the councils of the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief. To have an aunt or a cousin at headquarters, said an officer, whose remarks I quoted a few weeks back, is now a surer qualification for a staff appointment than a P.S.C., and the remark was unintentionally capped by an officer at the front, in a private letter which found its way into TRUTH, who talked of certain Generals owing their posts to the "amusing parlour tricks" of their wives. Such expressions, repeated a hundred times, show the opinion held in military circles of the *entourage* of Indian

Government in "the hills." Even were the opinion erroneous, the fact of the Army holding such views about its staff and headquarters would be a matter for concern; but, as it is, the whole situation in India at the present moment justifies the prevailing contempt. If Simla serves any purpose at all, it should be to dissipate the enervating influences of the plains, and render the Government purer and more vigorous. All that it does, apparently, is to give India a Government effeminate, indolent, incapable, and corrupt. One of the greatest needs of the country is a strong and determined ruler, who will make short work of this Anglo-Indian "Capua."

CABBY AND HIS SHELTER.

A good deal has appeared in the Press lately respecting the Cabmen's Shelters in the form of letters and editorial comments. This has led me to look into the matter, and in order to do so I have obtained from the Cabmen's Shelter Fund its last annual report and balance-sheet. There are, it would seem, forty-one shelters. Of these, five have been put up by the Fund, and the others have been given by various gentlemen. A Shelter costs to bring into existence about £200. It is divided into two compartments, one for the attendant or cook, the other for seating thirteen cabmen; some of the older shelters, however, do not afford even this accommodation. The system adopted is to let the shelters to the attendants. The rent averages about £10 per annum per shelter; the attendant has to provide food for the cabmen according to a printed tariff, and to cook their food at a fixed charge. He recoups himself for the value of his time, his rent, and the gas that he consumes, out of profit. The Fund has £1,100 invested. In annual subscriptions and donations it receives £476 (I suppress shillings), and the rent from the attendants, together with the charge for gas, brings in £427 per annum. Its total income, including interest on its invested funds, is £966. Its expenditure consists of £215 for central office, printing, advertising, &c. New furniture, stoves, &c., at shelters, repairs to furniture, painting, and repairs of shelters, £505; gas, £94; water, £12. The president of the fund is the Duke of Portland, and there is a committee composed of gentlemen of good position.

A dispute has recently arisen owing to differences between the privileged cabmen (those who are allowed to enter railway stations) and the non-privileged cabmen. The former complain that the attendants decline to serve them; the attendants reply that if they do serve them, the non-privileged cabmen will boycott the shelters. Without entering into the merits of this dispute, it is obvious that, if shelters are provided by the public for cabmen, all cabmen should enjoy an equal right to use them. On the other hand, it is clear that if the non-privileged do not use them, the attendants will not be able to gain their living.

Accepting facts as they are, it seems to me that the Committee would do well to pay the attendants a weekly wage, and to cater directly for the cabmen. I have had some conversation with divers cabmen in regard to the matter. They complain that the charges are slightly higher than at the Lockhart establishments; and that a man, if he comes in to warm himself, is expected to consume something. These would, I think, be the necessary consequences of the attendant being dependent upon profit on consumption. I doubt, however, whether it is essential that chops, steaks, &c., should be provided. It would probably be better to limit the supply to tea, coffee, bread, butter, cheese, and possibly pies, or something of that sort, which need only be kept warmed, each cabman however, being allowed to have steaks or chops that he provides himself cooked for him. If it be said that the Fund has not the means to adopt this plan, this might, I should think, be met by local subscriptions in the neighbourhood of the shelter, the Fund finding one half, on condition that the other half be locally subscribed. The primary idea of a shelter is that a cabman at a stand shall have some place where he can warm himself, and for this purpose the shelters do not seem to me to be large enough. The fault of the present system is that for the idea of a shelter the idea of a cook-shop has been substituted. Moreover, the Committee takes credit to itself for the shelters presenting "a very ornamental appearance." Ornamental buildings cost more to keep up than those that are simply useful, and I do not suppose that a cabman, cold and wet, cares particularly whether the place into which he enters to obtain warmth and some little refreshment, is externally beautiful, or the reverse, so long as it is comfortable inside.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

ARE EXHIBITIONS PEACE-PROMOTERS?

THE list of members of the Royal Commission to the 1900 Exhibition was drawn up by the Prince of Wales. A different list had been sent by a member of the Government to Marlborough House. The Prince read it through. Instead of writing on it "Approved, A. E.," he cast it impatiently from him, and said, though not in terms, that it was too cliquey. As the matter was related to me in French, I cannot say what the exact expression was. H.R.H. further said that if they wanted him to be President of the Royal Commission, they must accept from him the list of members. Of course in writing out his own list, he culled names from the other. His object, they say here, was to make the Commission less Tory-Unionist. Those who were responsible for the original list stood aghast when they found it was not accepted, but gave way.

The Prince of Wales greatly contributed to make the Exhibition held here in 1878 a great success. He was brought up to see in Exhibitions a short cut to the Millennium. His rank prevents him suffering from their grave drawbacks. He knows nothing of how they raise prices and naturalise exotic diseases and vices. Nor can he understand how they work against the Prince Consort's object of welding conflicting nations into one big brotherhood.

In 1878 the Prince was young enough to entertain the generous illusions in which he was brought up about Universal Exhibitions. He did not understand that the more nations know each other, the more they feel in each other's way. The principle of love is a very small factor

in international affairs compared with the principle of jealousy and hatred. I was a good deal behind the scenes in the offices of the Royal Commission in 1878. This enabled me to judge of the ferocious rivalry of exhibitors for "rewards" and advertisement; of the international spite and rivalry; and of the efforts of the Prince. He really showed great energy in trying to make the British section, with its Colonial offshoots, what it was. A Tory Government was in office. If there was a sprinkling of Liberals—Lord Granville, Mr. Mundella, and Sir Lyon Playfair—it was due to the Prince's intervention. Disraeli's Imperialism was *dans l'air*, and was favoured by the Queen. The Prince took it up. He was fond of the French, and they, at that time, of him. This made him very desirous to do them a good turn by helping on their Exhibition—the first held after their defeats of 1870-71. It must be said that he behaved handsomely towards them. But his charming conduct was not trumpeted enough: only a small set knew of it. In this time of feverish advertisement a blare of trumpets should accompany every good action.

To help forward the Exhibition of 1878, the Prince's leal and trusty friend, Sir Philip Cunliffe Owen, stimulated Colonial agents in London to activity. The Colonies answered splendidly to the whip. H.R.H. sent his priceless Indian collection. He refused to put the Exhibition authorities to the heavy expense of insuring, and trusted it to the safe-keeping of the French people.

All this ought to have told in softening the relations of the two countries. It did tell at Exhibition Fêtes, where the Prince came out; but it chiefly excited a spirit of jealous animosity and laid the germs of all the *ennuis* the French have since inflicted on England. Ferry used to go primed and loaded from the British section, and, indeed, most of the politicians since known as Colonials. They were thrown into the state of mind of which Prince Bismarck took advantage. He was at last able to turn France from the roads to Strasburg and Metz by dangling grand Colonial conquests in Africa and Asia before her eyes. The enemy was not Germany, but John Bull. Ferry and the Colonials, and even Gambetta, were thrown into a state of greedy frenzy by the exhibits of the British Colonies. The specimens of metallic ores, of Australian coal, of silky merino sheepskins, of rich wheats, stirred their bile. Four years later, Ferry was full of the notion of seizing, with Bismarck's diplomatic help, on "unappropriated" West Australia. He said that by right India and Canada should belong to France, and did all he could to give trouble in Newfoundland and elsewhere.

It is always dangerous to display wealth unless the force is also shown wherewith to defend it. Hezekiah made this mistake in showing his treasures to the envoys of the King of Babylon. They at once felt greedy, and so did Nebuchadnezzar when they went back with their report. Nobody envies the skill or talent of a nation—only its material riches. The jealousy fostered by the British show at the Champ de Mars, and the bluster of Lord Beaconsfield's Imperial Policy, is still at work. It gave France driving power in Tonquin, Tunis, Siam, the Soudan, Madagascar; and Drumont goes on from victory to victory. The Jews claim him as a lost sheep of the House of Israel. He has certainly the fanaticism, intensity, narrowness, and exclusiveness of the Jewish prophets of old. Much more is he the seer than the philosopher. I don't know whether he is as ferocious as he claims to be, but his instinct, like that of Joshua, seems to be to slay and slay and slay. Some Jews say the name of Drumont was originally Dreimonde, or the three moons—the sign of "my uncle." Now that I think of it, most Drummonds I have met look Jewish.

The Jews in former times were wise to hide their wealth, and live in houses externally mean-looking. Nobody envies us when we have the Kingdom of Heaven in ourselves, but directly we try to control the flesh-pots every one is our foe. A tacit conspiracy goes on round every wealthy man to plunder him and poison his enjoyment. Poor Mrs. Ayer used to complain of being treated as a sheep born to be perpetually shorn. In private life and history one sees the same causes produce similar effects. Why was Louis Philippe knocked over in 1848? Because, in addition to being a King Stork, he had managed to be a Gold King. He, and a Chamber of Deputies named by 200,000 electors, thought to keep all the railway patronage and jobbery in their hands. There was a universal conspiracy—tacit at first—against them of all the struggling middle class. They wanted to share the railway spoils. They could not throw up barricades themselves; but they egged on the unemployed, who had been thrown out of work by the completion of the fortifications of Paris.

The fierce *Judenhetz* that has burst forth in France is due to the small number of Jews—about 100,000—and the vastness of their wealth. They control all the railways, the Bank of France, the Stock Exchange, and Parliament, and are able to raise and depress at will the prices of every kind of merchandise. The fall in the value of real estate around Paris after the siege has led to a zone of Jews being formed all round it. They own most of the fine old châteaux in the suburbs. The finest private houses in Paris belong to Jews. The society journals live by celebrating Jewish dinners, balls, soirées, and what not. Romantic seamstresses in England would enjoy reading how the wives of Jewish Barons blaze in diamonds at Drawing-rooms. Here the accounts of their social triumphs only cause resentment. The Comte de Paris was seriously blamed for publishing his books at Calmann Lévy's. The whole Orleans family lost ground by allowing Baron Hirsch to pay a heavy gambling debt of one of their younger members. Drumont responds to the feeling of anger at Jewish opulence. Hence his success. The Jews really are not worse than Christians would be in their place. Perhaps they are better. But neither Jew nor Christian is good enough for the impunity which colossal wealth secures to the former. I will even admit that in their home lives wealthy Jewish are better than wealthy Christian Frenchmen.

The Saxe-Coburg family (Austrian branch) reigns on the Riviera. The King of the Belgians has a southern Osborne with a private port for his yacht at Villa Franca.

It promises to be a much finer place than the Queen's marine residence, which is too much in the Cubitt style for magnificence. The Princess Philip of Saxe-Coburg, his daughter, has also a fine residence on a hill above Nice —Il Paradiso. She has bought it, and added to it extensive stables and coach-houses. This Princess inherits the taste of the Queen of the Belgians for horses. They say at Spa, where her Majesty stays too often, that were she not a Queen, she would like to be a thorough-bred horse. The Princess Philip is fond of showy equipages, and often travels in a coach and four, with postilions, couriers on horseback, and outriders. She has a large independent fortune. Her husband has the best part of the Kohary estates.

I wonder the Burg metallo-therapeutic treatment is not resorted to by Mr. Gladstone's doctors. It is not much good—what treatment is?—when the vital forces are low. But when there is vitality, it is most efficacious in removing local pain. I can speak from a recent experience. I sprained my knee. The sprain was angered by a touch of rheumatism. Torturing nights were the consequence. I one night remembered to have seen Charcot's experiment with metals on neuralgic heads and rheumatic joints. The only available metals I had were sous—for silver is no good—I bound a number round my knee, had a painless night, and steadily improved. Subsequent applications of St. Amand mud reduced the sprain. There were also dreadful aches in the hands, which the sou treatment cured in a few hours. Some are more easily influenced by gold, some by iron, some by zinc. Each should be tried in turn, until the affinity is ascertained. Relief is given to Mr. Gladstone by opiates. They reduce vitality. Still, it may not be too late to try metallo-therapeutics.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

BARNUM and Bailey at Olympia, Dear Lady Betty, are now to have a rival entertainment at Westminster. The following is the Parliamentary Programme :—

WESTMINSTER.

BULL AND BRITANNIA.

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH.

First Week of the Limited Parliamentary Season.
2 Complete Menageries.
6 Political Parties.
Hundreds of Curious and Wonderful Objects.
The Funniest Clowns in the World.
A Refined and an Elegant Entertainment.

THE MUSEUM OF LIVING FREAKS.

LALOO S . . . . B . RY and LALA CH . MB . . L . . N.
A Veritable Political Paradox.
A Tory Premier and a Radical Colonial Minister in one Cabinet!
Offers to Lovers of the Curious
A MOST INTERESTING SUBJECT FOR STUDY.

THE BALFOUR BROTHERS.

There may have been others before, but there are none to-day to compare with them.
Intelligent and Educated.
Have been Exhibited in all the Principal Cities in Great Britain, causing continual
WONDER, AMAZEMENT, AND SURPRISE.

THE MUZZLE MAN.

JO JO W . LT . R L . NG.

A Bright Mind masked behind the Muzzle of a Dog.
The very Masterpiece of the Government's Wildest Whims.
He has been called by Many Names,
But the Most Appropriate would seem to be
JO JO, THE MUZZLE MINISTER.

STUPENDOUS SENSATIONS BY SURPRISING SPECIALISTS.
The Greatest Show on Earth.

* * * * *

The following familiar sayings of celebrated men may be opportunely misquoted :—

THE TORY GOVERNMENT.

"We must organise against the progress of revolution a Government of combat."—*Anselme Batbie.*

"A Tory reaction is a revolution backwards."—*C. E. J.*

LORD SALISBURY.

"I have consecrated my life to the alliance of royalty and wealth."—*Antoine Berryer.*

THE CRITICISM OF THE NATION ON LORD SALISBURY

"He has taken us amongst savages and he will leave us there."—*Arthur Hugh Clough.*

MR. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN.

"I am not King, but Chamberlain."—(*"Non rex sum, sed Cæsar"*) *Julius Cæsar.*

"The Liberal Unionists are all ciphers. I am the only unit in the Cabinet that gives a value to them."—*Lord Brougham.*

ADVICE TO THE CONSERVATIVES.

"Find, then, an antidote against Chamberlain."—*Caligula.*

COMMENT ON THE PREMIER.

"He puts too much war in his words and too much peace in his policy."—*Goethe.*

OF THE PEERS.

"They do not shock our feelings by pretending to be alive."—*Edmund Burke.*

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Stones are used for various purposes, sometimes for building, sometimes for throwing at others. It is now proposed to use the same stones at one and the same time to accomplish both objects. Last week Dean Farrar attended a meeting in Canterbury which was held to promote the movement to erect a monument in memory of the "forty-one Protestant martyrs who in the reign of Queen Mary were burnt at the stake" in that city. Dean Farrar is reported to have said at the meeting that "since the Reformation was firmly established in England no person had been burnt for purely religious opinions." That was a surprisingly misleading statement. After the Reformation an even more cruel process was adopted for those who suffered death for their religion—and very many did; they were first hanged, then cut down whilst still living, disembowelled, and their entrails burnt before their dying eyes. It may be well, moreover, to remind the Dean of the words attributed to Julius Cæsar—to wit, that "monuments are made for victories over strangers; domestic troubles should be covered with the veil of sadness."

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The "Memoirs of Thomas Earl of Ailesbury," were printed for the Roxburgh Club in 1840. At page 31, vol. i., there occurs a story which is obviously applicable

to the Dreyfus case, and the view which the French authorities take of *la chose jugée*:—

"The mayor of the town was master of the inn I went to (1680), and very naturally I asked him, 'What news'? He, with a grave countenance, told me there was sad news. I cried out, 'Lord, is the King dead?' He made slight of that in comparison to what he told me, that the Lord Castlemaine and Sir George Wachman were acquitted. I replied, 'No doubt they were not guilty.' 'Oh, my Lord!' replied he. '*If they had not been guilty, they never would have had their trial!*' I told him I was sorry the King had not a wiser magistrate to represent him. This serves to let you know the same credulous humour ran through the whole nation."

The same "credulous humour" seems now to be prevalent in France.

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Telephonic communication having been established with the Houses of Lords and Commons, it would greatly benefit members were the electrophone also introduced at Westminster. Were the electrophone established in the libraries, smoking-rooms, and wherever it might be needed, members might learn how the debates were progressing without having to inconvenience themselves as they have now. Moreover, as many members of both Houses have the electrophone at home this would further assist them. Were this suggestion adopted, the electrophone would be even more used by the clubs than it is now, for many members of London and provincial clubs would eagerly seize the opportunity to listen to the debates.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THERE are many owners who would do a great deal better with their racing studs if they would only try their horses in a rational way. In the first place horses ought always to be tried over all distances, and then we should not find animals puddling about in T.Y.C. races which can perfectly well stay two miles, having good stamina but being deficient in speed. Then when a horse is "going for" a mile race, the owner and trainer ought not to be so grossly fatuous as to content themselves with a trial over six furlongs, being so stupid and slovenly as to be satisfied, if the animal does well over that distance, that it will certainly stay the longer course, which assumption proves to be incorrect in three cases out of every four. This idiotic blunder is committed every week of the season. Whatever may be the distance of the race, let the horse be tried over that distance, and no less. Another fathead's trick is to try two-year-olds over four furlongs, although there is no race of a less distance than five furlongs. Every one knows that an animal which apparently walks in at half a mile often stops to nothing when another hundred yards have been traversed. Every spring we hear of two-year-olds being heavily backed on the strength of trials of this delusive and misleading character, and after the beast has been well beaten for lack of stamina, there is a vituperating howl from its friends, who, however, again commit the same insane mistake before another month has passed. Every rational owner ought to satisfy himself that a horse can certainly get the desired course before any money is invested on it. The usual method of trying horses is only worthy of a herd of Bedlamites, and we see its ruinous results nearly every day of the season. There is also something at once ludicrous, melancholy, and instructive in the mulish pertinacity with which some owners will persist in running horses out of their proper courses. How often do we see an animal which has palpably lost a mile race through lack of stamina started over and over again for events of that distance, instead of being kept for five or six furlong contests, the result being that the asinine owner is largely out of pocket by successive defeats, instead of winning the big stake which would have been brought off if the horse had been judiciously managed.

I hear that the Duke of Portland is likely to have a good candidate for the Brocklesby Stakes at Lincoln in Arrowroot, by Morion out of Semolina, and an animal thus bred certainly ought to be able to race if there is anything in "running" blood.

I am glad to hear that the absurd project of a racecourse in the neighbourhood of Newbury, on the estate of Mr. Baxendale, has collapsed. There is no room for any more fixtures whatever. I should vastly like to know how the addleheads who have put money into the so-called Folkestone speculation (the course being really several miles distant from that place) can ever expect any return with one meeting in the year? Instead of the Stewards of the Jockey Club being so foolish as to license new meetings the present list of fixtures ought to be greatly curtailed.

Cortegar was generally thought to be fairly well handicapped for the City and Suburban, but she has paid forfeit, and the stable is represented in the Epsom race by Melfitana, who certainly cannot stay the course. I suspect we shall find Cortegar reserved for the Royal Hunt Cup, but she will be dangerous in any race for which she may go, as she has greatly improved, and has grown into a beautiful mare. Melfitana is the sort of animal to win the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood.

I see that Hermiston has been backed for the Lincolnshire Handicap, but, although Mr. Low's colt has accepted for that race, he certainly will not be fit to run so early in the season. Hermiston will come very near winning either the City and Suburban or the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap, and he is a certain starter for either the one race or the other, most probably for the latter event. Of course it is eminently desirable to win a handicap if possible with this horse before he runs for the Newmarket Stakes at the Second Spring Meeting, but I shall be vastly surprised if he proves capable of beating Cyllene at even weights. I am told that Mr. Rose will probably start Cyllene for the Column Stakes in the Craven week, which race would be a certainty for him, and his 10 lb. penalty is reduced to 5 lb. by a breeding allowance. Cyllene would be receiving 2 lb. from Dieudonné, but if Mr. Rose's colt runs for this race the Duke of Devonshire will, no doubt, reserve his own steed for the Two Thousand.

The Baker has accepted for both the Metropolitan and the Chester Cup, but he is not likely to be really fit before the end of May. If, however, Sir John Kelk's colt "comes on" more rapidly than is expected, he will have a very good chance of winning the Chester Cup if he starts for that race. The Baker is a really good stayer, and he certainly represents the best class in the race except Chelandry, and Lord Rosebery's mare will have 2 lb. the best of the weights on the weight-for-age scale. I fancy that Chelandry will "go for" the City and Suburban, and she ought to win that handicap if she is all right. The Baker will probably in the end be reserved for Ascot, and I daresay Sir John Kelk will try to win both the Vase and the Gold Cup with his colt.

Mr. Rose's The Convict will be found an uncommonly smart colt over from six furlongs to a mile, and he must not be forgotten whenever he is started for a handicap over this course. Mr. Oswald's St. Evox, who finished fourth in the Middle Park Plate, has been much cracked up as a promising Derby outsider by people who are, presumably, unaware of the fact that the colt is touched in the wind. I do not believe that St. Evox has the most remote prospect of winning any of his "classic" engagements, and he can have been left in for the £10,000 stakes only on the off-chance of there being a complete collapse in the field for these races.

King Hampton is very leniently weighted for the Lincolnshire Handicap, and I expect he will prove one of the best of the Newmarket horses for that race, as he is well forward in condition, and he is believed to be now in excellent form; but, of course, no sane person will back any animal whatever for this race until it has been well tried, for every season there are candidates whose appearance and style of galloping throw all beholders into

paroxysms of enthusiasm, but when it comes to racing in earnest they are beaten a hundred yards. The Lincoln backers of Diakka must have a dismally distinct recollection of his wretched running there, when, if he had been in his proper form, he would have won in a trot. After Lincoln I pointed out that Diakka was so preposterously backward in condition that it would be imprudent to take any notice of his running there, and subsequent events speedily proved my view of the case to be perfectly correct. Half the horses which eager mooncalves are gulled into backing for the Lincoln race come to the post utterly untrained, and it is simple fatuity to think of meddling with this race for the next five weeks at least.

Mr. Hooley has become the tenant of Sefton Lodge, the Duchess of Montrose's well-known residence at Newmarket, in the place of Mr. Rucker. The "Calendar" contains the official announcement of a partnership in Northallerton between Mr. Hooley, Mr. Teddy, and Mrs. Macrae. Northallerton has been left in for both the Metropolitan and the City and Suburban. I believe this horse to be a really good stayer of the old-fashioned sort, and he ought to have a very successful career as a four-year-old if only he is judiciously placed.

Kilcock is recommended as a likely horse to win the City and Suburban, but he has no pretensions to stay the course, and would have a better chance for the Kempton Park race so far as the distance is concerned, but he seems decidedly overweighted. He has been a very unlucky horse, and it may be hoped that he will win a good race before he retires from the turf, but this is not likely to be achieved if he is run out of his distance. Ravensdale, who is also in the Beckhampton stable, has likewise accepted for the City and Suburban, but this horse is more likely to be dangerous at Lincoln if he gets through a preparation, which is exceedingly doubtful. Shaddock has been left in for the Chester Cup, and on his best three-year-old form he could win that race easily enough. He was weeded out of the Kingsclere stable at Newmarket last December, when Darling gave 700 gs. for him. I fancy that Porter would not have advised the Duke of Westminster to get rid of this horse if there had been a good race in him. Wild Fowler appears to be much fancied for the Two Thousand and Derby, but I expect he will be found to lack stamina, and in the Middle Park Plate he certainly ran like a non-stayer. Sugar Loaf, the half sister to Galtee Moor, by Gallinule, was not properly fit last season, and she will win some good races as a three-year-old if all goes well with her.

My prediction that Regret would be a good horse to follow this winter has been abundantly verified. At Gatwick last week he cantered away from a large field in the Maiden Hurdle Race, winning at his ease by eight or ten lengths. If only he had been kept to T.Y.C. races as a three-year-old he would have made a great name for himself, but he was ruined for the time by being senselessly trained and raced over distances which were utterly beyond his capacity.

Manifesto was unexpectedly started for the Holmwood Steeplechase at Gatwick, but, although the horse looked very well, backers appeared to be afraid to support him, and, after opening favourite at 5 to 2, he drifted out to 4 to 1, which was offered all over the place, whilst Ballymoney and Siberian became all the rage. The race (two miles) was run at an unusually fast pace for an event of this description, in order, presumably, that Manifesto might feel his weight, as he was giving 37 lb. to one favourite and 32 lb. to the other, but, instead of Mr. Dyas's steed being worn down, as was expected, he won cleverly, and it was an excellent performance, considering that he was obviously a long way from being at his best. Manifesto has incurred no penalty for the Grand National, and he will be much fitter when he appears at Aintree, but he had better not be backed until his number is up, as his owner often moves in mysterious ways.

There are twenty entries for the Goodwood Cup, but why a winner of so paltry an event as the Jockey Club Cup should be made to carry the same penalty as the winner of the Ascot Cup or the Derby it is utterly impossible to understand, and the arrangement is a most fantastical puerility. Quite as extraordinary is the omission of the Goodwood Cup itself from the races for winning which special penalties are incurred. Why in the name of common-sense should the winner of the Doncaster Cup or Ascot Vase carry 14 lb. extra, while the Goodwood Cup, which is a more valuable stake than either of these events, is unmentioned, and a previous winner incurs a penalty of only 3 lb.? These crack-brained anomalies are the more astounding when one remembers that Lord March supervises the management of the Goodwood Meeting. Galtee More has been entered, and so have Love Wisely, Limasol, St. Cloud II., and The Baker; but the name of Cyllene does not appear in the list, and I understand that after Mr. Rose's colt has run for the Ascot Cup he will be reserved for the Jockey Club Stakes of £10,000 at the Newmarket First October Meeting. Count Schomberg has, of course, been entered, but his chance will be as forlorn if Galtee More starts as it would have been last year if Persimmon had been included in the field. Mr. Bottomley's horse has a penalty of 21 lb. for walking over for the Jockey Club Cup. Some wiseacre in an evening paper has informed his unfortunate readers that Count Schomberg will have to be reckoned with at Ascot "as the winner of the two Goodwood Cups." People who have a particle of practical knowledge of racing affairs are aware that in considering a horse's prospects for any race it is desirable to consider, not what events he has won, but rather what he has beaten, from which alone some idea of his form can be obtained. Count Schomberg won the Goodwood Cup of 1896 by the easy process of a walk over, while in last year's race he had to beat only Labrador, who is not even in the second class, and who ran wretchedly all the season. The Count would have a pretty sort of chance at Ascot with 4 lb. the worst of the weights with Galtee More, and having to give 25 lb. to a good three-year-old like Cyllene.

There could not have been a better day for an International match than last Saturday at Richmond when England and Ireland met. The sun shone brightly, there was hardly any wind, and the ground was dry. But the play was disappointing. The game was loose and scrambling. There was an absence of combination on both sides. The Irish forwards played with any amount of dash, but there was not that cohesion one saw a few years ago at Blackheath. Their footwork was not good, and their passing weak. They did not come rolling down the ground like an irresistible wave of green. Three men at most came together. In the scrimmage, even when one short, they more than held their own, and they worked like Trojans to the finish. The halves were superior to their opponents. They tackled well, but they did not consider it necessary to pass. So Bulger had no chance of using his pace. The three-quarters never combined; Lee kicked well until he was smashed, and then Lindsay, who came out of the scrimmage, did fairly well. The full-back seemed nervous. At all events he often mulled his kicks, and even when he got in a good one he suffered by comparison with Byrne, whose kicking was simply superb. He got himself out of difficulties, and then found touch with long, lofty punts. He also tackled well, and he had no chance of stopping Magee, who was badly missed by Myers. It was at half that the chief weakness of the English team lay. Myers was no good at all. He badly mulled every pass he made, sending the ball along the ground. Jacobs was nearly as bad. One does not often see such a weak set of halves in a first-class match. On neither side did they feed their three-quarters. The English made some pretence of so doing, but the three-quarter line was literally starved. On nearly every occasion that he could do so, Bunting made an opening for Robinson, who got in some brilliant runs. But he and Fookes had practically nothing to do. Mackie preferred to charge into the midst of the forwards and

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struggle violently, instead of feeding his wing men. However, it must be remembered that he saved several very nasty rushes in brilliant style. As to the English forwards they started well but did not last. There was practically no dribbling, and it looked as though there was at least one "passenger" in the scrimmage. The game was fast and exciting enough in all conscience. Fortune was very fair in smashing one man on each side for about the same period of time. As Ireland got the winning score when they were one short they deserve credit for their victory.

In one very material respect the game was not an example unto righteousness. There must be in any match some good hard play; but in this match there was a great deal of unnecessary roughness. Both sides were equally to blame. One often saw a man pass the ball just as his opponent was coming up to collar him. But the collarer proceeded with his collar all the same. So, too, when a man had his arms round his opponent who passed; he was slung on to the ground all the same. Such things may be done accidentally; but during this match such occurrences were far too frequent. One does not expect the match to be played as though the men were afraid to touch one another. But it is imperative to protest strongly against unnecessary exhibitions of brute force. It is no excuse to urge that in the excitement of an International match players so far forget themselves as to adopt tactics which they would not indulge in if the game were an ordinary club one. The International Board will have to keep careful watch on this new phase of the game. One has a pretty shrewd suspicion that such collaring is done, not in the heat of the moment, but with a deliberate intention of stopping an opponent from active play until he can pick himself up again. Such illegitimate methods, of course, prevent an open and passing game being properly played.

Before the match was played the International Board agreed that Wales should be once more received into the fold. This very satisfactory arrangement was brought about by the Welshmen agreeing that Gould should not play in any of the representative matches. At the time when he accepted his testimonial it was generally understood that he intended to retire from active football, although he declined to enter into any agreement not to play again. The Welshmen were, therefore, able to make the concession without any loss to themselves, and, having made peace with the Board, they will be in a stronger position to deal with those cases of poaching of which certain English clubs are guilty.

When he is old and in his grey hairs, Dr. E. B. Turner may have put amateur cycle racing on a satisfactory basis. He has waged, in the face of great opposition, a relentless warfare against the makers' amateur. At the recent meeting of the National Cyclists Union he did good work in materially altering the rules as to pace-making. He pointed out that racing for the amateur should be a recreation. A genuine amateur could have no chance against men who had the advantages of being pace-makers, paid and maintained by bicycle manufacturers. The Birmingham section ingenuously suggested that if the pace-making were done away with the championship meetings of that town would no longer be a source of profit. But Dr. Turner was, nevertheless, able to get some very important alterations passed in spite of the opposition of that trade stronghold.

How are the mighty fallen! Three out of the first four clubs in the first division of the League were beaten in the first round of the Cup tie. The fourth, West Bromwich, only just headed New Brighton Tower. Of course, the surprise packet was Burslem, whose team is only second in the Midland League. Their draw against the League champions was no fluke. For in the return game extra time had to be played, and they were successful, chiefly owing to the vagaries of the Sheffield tactics. The goalkeeper got mixed up with the forwards. So the crack teams did no better than the poor despised South. Only one South team was successful, and only one of the four crack teams was victorious. Between cricket and football there is not much to choose in the way of surprises.

The sooner the English cricketers pack up and come home the better it will be for their cricket. The majority of the test games have been lost, like the toss. When our men started off winning, every one said it was the finest team that had been sent out to Australia, and I verily believe it would be difficult to put an eleven into the field that could much improve on it. The fact remains they have been badly beaten. Whether pleasure and cricket have been injudiciously combined is not for me to say. Some think so. No doubt the extraordinary heat has affected them. But the singular fact is that the victory of Australia is due to the new blood, Howell, Noble, and MacLeod. The Colonial bowlers are certainly strong. The wicket is not responsible for such continued success. There is no doubt that if the Australians were to visit this country this summer the excitement would be intense. After a twelvemonth the interest in the new players will have had time to cool down a bit.

There was quite a busy time for cross-country runners last week. The cross-country championships for junior clubs were held, and in the North of the Thames race Silsby, of Hampstead, just got home first from Walker, of the Tee-To-Tum A.C., whose club were very easy winners, and ought to show up well in the Southern Counties Junior Championship. Four yards separated the two after a six miles race. A similar event for clubs south of the Thames was held at Bromley, when the Wandle team just headed Reading. In this event are included several country clubs whose members have great advantages in the way of training over Londoners. The Metropolitan streets are not at this time of the year the best training grounds. They are in the pink of condition in August and September, when there are plenty of obstacles about. But that is too early in the year for the cross-country season. It is very satisfactory to find this form of sport in such a flourishing condition amongst this class of clubs. It means that a lot of young fellows who cannot afford the luxury of football grounds are determined to get sport at any cost. They train hard in the streets after a long day's work, and they thoroughly deserve success. Some of the leading cross-country clubs were engaged in bringing off events for different challenge trophies. Of the Ranelagh men, Kirkcaldy, the limit man, had a very easy win, while, with the Blackheath Harriers, Pyrke, a back marker, was first, after a good race; while the crack club that really started this form of sport, the Thames Hare and Hounds, had a two miles' handicap. Lloyd, Whitelaw, and Rye had a very fine race, and the veteran, J. E. Dixon, came in fourth.

With reference to the note in this column last week respecting the Sunday football prosecution, the Vicar of South Stoke writes to say that I have been "very grossly misinformed both as regards his father, the late vicar, and himself," and that he hopes I shall see my way to "contradict statements so devoid of truth." If the vicar had told me which statements were erroneous I would have corrected them, but as it is I am somewhat in the dark. The comments I published upon the case were my own, but for the facts I relied upon the reports in the London daily papers. Does the vicar object to the statement that his late father encouraged the young men of his parish to play football on Sundays? If it was wrong I am, of course, sorry that it was made —though to my mind it was nothing but creditable to the late vicar. Does the vicar also take exception to the statement that it was at his instigation the recent prosecution was instituted? In the *Daily Telegraph* the action of the Parish Council in putting in motion the obsolete Act of Charles I. is directly attributed to the efforts of the vicar, who is a member of the Council, and whose "party" is said to be in a clear majority; and the same suggestion has since been made by the counsel for the defence in a letter to the *Standard*. If it is untrue that the vicar brought about the prosecution, I am heartily glad to hear it, for it would show that he is, after all, more broad-minded than had been supposed.

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

MAMMON.

FROM MOSES MOSS *TO* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—Considerable irregularity has been apparent in the Stock Markets during the past week, but the course of events has been very much as I have foreshadowed. We have had dulness in gilt-edged investments, but great activity in American Railway stocks. Canadian Rails experienced a distinct slump, while the Mining departments are giving indications of renewed animation. Apart from the Home Railway department, which has been depressed by disappointing dividend announcements, there appears now to be

A LARGE BUSINESS IN SIGHT.

Of the transactions which I thus foresee, a large share will doubtless fall to the Yankee department. The recent pronouncement of President McKinley, in favour of currency reform, and the fact that the Teller silver resolution has been thrown out by the House of Representatives with a considerable majority, have cleared the air, and the strength recently shown by this market is at last attracting the public on this side. The latter had been largely engaged in Canadian Pacifics and Grand Trunks, and the somewhat top-heavy position of both these groups is causing a transfer of attention to Yankee Rails. In favour of the latter it may be said that traffics are improving in a satisfactory manner, that a revival in trade is still going on, and that a great many big deals are still on the tapis, in view of which the leading Wall-street financiers are bound to support quotations. The events of the past week have shown how sensitive Canadian Railway stocks are now to any unfavourable development, and my caution to leave these alone for a while has been fully justified. Home Rails have suffered from the disappointment in the dividends of the Great Western and Midland Companies, but when, in the course of the next few days, the North-Western announcement has been made, it is probable that this market will pull itself together again, although the rumour that the Chinese loan had been definitely concluded by the British Government has not, so far, been confirmed. A satisfactory issue should have a bearing upon the whole of the Stock Markets, and would, no doubt, be favourable to all speculative stocks; while, on the other hand, Consols and certain other gilt-edged securities would probably be adversely affected, as the new loan bearing the British guarantee would compete with them. What effect it would have upon the Money Market remains to be seen, but it may be assumed that the issue would be made with every care not to disturb the same. Although we have had a slight setback in rates of discount, this state of things is not likely to continue, and higher values will doubtless prevail in the near future. South American stocks have been steady, with the exception of Argentine Rails, which have reacted, and it is as well that the advance in this class of securities should not go ahead too fast. There has been a distinct rally in the Kaffir Circus, which promises greater activity, and strong support has also been given to several leading groups in the West Australian section. In the Industrial department the "Bull" movement has received a check in several directions. Thus the exaggerated rise in Hudson Bay shares has been followed by a relapse, while fish-oil and petroleum shares have dropped heavily, and Coats have given way. This is precisely what I have been expecting, and my readers should be extremely careful as to what industrial undertakings they select for investment. Some of the shares which are most active just now will doubtless experience a heavy fall when the insiders have succeeded in unloading their holdings upon the public.

HOME RAILS—MORE DISAPPOINTMENTS.

Although estimates had, after the unfavourable results published by the North-Eastern and Great Northern Companies, been considerably reduced, the Midland and Great Western announcements brought fresh disappointment. The distributions will be gathered from my comparative list, which now requires only the North Western dividend to become complete as far as the English lines are concerned:—

—	Date of Declaration of Dividend for second half of 1896.	Dividend at the rate of per cent. per annum.	Amount carried forward.	Dividend for second half of 1897.	Amount carried forward.
	1897.		£.		£.
Great Central	Jan. 13	1½	2,400	1	2,200
London and Brighton	,, 13	8	22,280	8	26,000
South Eastern	,, 14	6⅜	5,520	6⅝	4,000
Great Eastern	,, 14	4⅝	50,918	5	51,000
Metropolitan	,, 20	3⅜	14,130	3¾	17,000
Do. Sur. Lands Stock	,, 20	2⅝	—	2¾	—
London and South Western	,, 21	8¼	24,805	8½	23,038
London and Chatham First Prefs.	,, 22	4½	64,543	4½	72,295
Lan. & Yorkshire	,, 25	5¾	29,140	5¼	21,000
Metropolitan District Prefs.	,, 26	2¼	403	2¾	4,000
North Eastern	,, 28	7¼	31,602	7	—
Great Northern	,, 29	5¼	8,096	5	15,094
Great Western	Feb. 4	7¼	42,884	7¼	31,000
London and North Western	,, 5	8	99,779	—	—
Midland	,, 5	7	40,036	6½	38,000
Caledonian	Mar. 2	5	17,418	—	—
North British	,, 11	3	1,484	—	—

An increase in working expenses, and interest on capital, have absorbed the £205,000 of additional earnings of the Great Western, which merely maintains the previous distribution. The Midland dividend of 6½ per cent. on the former undivided stock works out to 2½ per cent. on the Preferred, and 4 per cent. on the Deferred, and the dividend is therefore ½ per cent. less than last year. This means that more than the £105,000 of additional earnings have been required in view of larger working expenses. Midlands did not decline on the announcement, however, and Great Western stock is but little lower, as the view is being taken that under the influence of threatened strikes the leading railway Companies have thought fit to make conservative distributions only so as not to furnish any excuse to agitators for asking still higher wages. The Midland and Great Northern, moreover, have to prepare for the coming Great Central competition. I have received several communications with reference to my remarks as to the desirability of splitting or duplicating North Western stock, and it is really to be hoped that the shareholders will take the matter in hand, as the division into Preferred and Deferred would be a very convenient one, while it would certainly ensure a considerable increase in capital value. By the way, the *Railway News*, in publishing a table of working expenses, draws attention to the fact that the Brighton, Chatham, and District Companies are exceptional in their results, the ratio of expenses for the year 1897 of the District being only 48·7 per cent, while out of an increase of £5,880 in gross for the past half-year, the sum of £3,100 is secured as net, or about 54 per cent. The case of the Chatham is similar, while the other Companies, with the exception of the three named, have saved much less, the total net increase amounting to only about 13 per cent. for the past half-year. The result obtained by the District must be considered very satisfactory, and there is every promise of the full Preference dividend being paid in the near future. The increase of traffic has been chiefly obtained from the Western Extension lines, and this circumstance is of great promise when it is considered that the lines which are now being constructed will furnish in a similar way additional traffic. This applies, as I have repeatedly stated, to the Ealing and Harrow, Harrow and Uxbridge, and Whitechapel-Bow lines. At the Chatham and Dover meeting Mr. Forbes was in first-rate form, which is saying a good deal. He drew special attention to the fact that the profits had been earned at a cost of 50·64 per cent., and to the continued progress in distributable earnings. The expenditure of £110,000 on rolling stock will doubtless prove satisfactory, and the money was not spent before it was wanted. Upon the whole the statements made at the meeting were very satisfactory, and seem to bear out the favourable view

taken by Stock Exchange operators, who have put up the Ordinary and Second Prefs., a dividend on the latter being now in sight. Great Centrals have moved irregularly, but the 1894 Ordinary is rallying again at 42 xd., and I maintain that this is one of the most promising lock-ups. Brighton "A" receded to 177¾ xd., recovering to 178⅛, while Dover "A" are quoted 116. From the latter figure the dividend has still to be deducted, and the price ex dividend will look very cheap. I do not for a moment think that the City and Waterloo Railway will make much difference to the South Eastern, as the "Bears" of Dover "A" would have us believe. A moderate decline has taken place in the Scotch section, but the return of the engineers to work has brought much business to the Caledonian, and the strong revival in shipbuilding on the Clyde should prove of the greatest benefit to this line. Coras (Caledonian Deferred), therefore, are well worth buying at their present level of 58⅓. By the way, the return of the men to work has been effected in a very satisfactory and quiet manner, and I trust that the relations between the masters and men will henceforth be of a pleasant character, notwithstanding the prolonged fight. Some attention is being directed to the stocks of the Central London Railway, and according to the statements made by the Chairman at Wednesday's meeting of shareholders the excellent progress which is being made in the construction of the line fully justifies the interest which is beginning to be taken in the stocks from the investment point of view. Three-fourths of the main line tunnel have been completed, also one-half of the station tunnels, while almost the whole of the lift and staircase shafts have been constructed. In about fifteen months' time this line, six and a half miles long, will handle a large number of passengers on a route which may well be considered the most important in the Metropolis, as it traverses the centre of London, which has not hitherto been served by any railway, while also connecting the City with the West. The most improved machinery has been acquired for the purposes of electric traction, and the first shipment of the electric locomotives which have been ordered in the States will be made at the commencement of April. About the success of the line there cannot be the slightest doubt, both from the point of view of its capacity to carry large numbers of passengers rapidly, and of the prospect of the working being carried out at considerable profit. Under these circumstances, the ordinary stock fully paid at 10⅛, and partly paid at 6⅛, as well as the Preferred and Deferred at 1⅝ and 4⅝ respectively, deserve every attention.

The Yankee Market—Increased Animation.

Some remarks in the New York *Journal of Finance* on the great change which has come over the Wall-street market are so much to the point that I cannot refrain from reproducing the same. They bear specially on the important Vanderbilt deals which have recently imparted so much animation to the Yankee department. My contemporary states that it is years since the Vanderbilt and Gould people have worked the market for higher prices openly or at the same time, and they now seem to have separate interests, but to have consummated their plans for the future at one and the same time. In this the market is on a different plan from any occupied for years. Neither interest is striving to overcome the other, but to be occupying positions that promise well for the future prosperity of their individual properties. Wall-street can congratulate itself on this, and can more readily take a chance on the long side of the Gould properties, there being small chance of the Gould people getting astraddle of the market, as was the case upon too many occasions when Mr. Jay Gould was his own leader. The occasional scoop must be expected, but the results that would result to the small speculator under the old methods, when Mr. Gould was amassing his fortune, are not likely to occur in this present market. The strength of the Vanderbilts is too great to be questioned by Mr. George Gould, and it is just as well to pull together for higher prices, leaving the material profits to depend upon the popularity of the scheme each has to propose for public support. My New York contemporary adds that Mr. Keene is the acknowledged leader in speculative circles, yet he has his solid investments as well to take care of, and, being unhampered by the vast property cares of the Vanderbilts or Goulds, he can give his immediate attention to the manipulation which is necessary at all times, whether the market be "Bull" or "Bear." So long as the corporate interests of the Vanderbilts and Goulds are well looked after, it is safe to expect the speculator will do the actual labour of keeping prices at the Exchange moving to the front, other conditions being equal. Thus, the *New York Journal of Finance*. This practically means that it is for the present to the interests of the great Wall-street capitalists to support the market, and that the old Gould methods have fallen into disrepute. Of course, eventually a set-back must come again, especially if prices are pushed up too far, but at present there still seem to be ample opportunities for profitable dealing, especially if stocks are well selected, and care is taken to buy on reactions. As I have already explained, the fact that the Teller resolution has been disposed of by the House of Representatives, and that President McKinley has openly pledged himself to sound money, is in favour of the plans of the big financiers, who have many important deals to engineer, and in this they will be helped by the remarkable growth in traffics, and by the improvement in business generally in the United States. The most interesting feature still remains the alliance between the New York Central and Lake Shore, and the combination which draws the Union Pacific into close connection with the Vanderbilt roads. After a further rise New York Central and Lake Shore stocks have reacted somewhat, which is not surprising considering the enormous recent advance. Union Pacifics at one time moved up in New York to a parity of 37⅜, while the new Preferred stock touched 65. From these points there has been a reaction to 35 and 63½ respectively, but the only disturbing feature is the Kansas Pacific sale, with regard to which various rumours are current. There is but little doubt, however, that the Union Pacific Committee will secure this branch on their own terms, and on any further decline, therefore, Union Pacifics are an excellent purchase. It is generally anticipated in well-informed quarters that Union Pacific New Prefs. will stand at 70 before the settlement takes place. Great attention has been devoted during the last few days to Eries, notably the Ordinary and Prefs., which have gone ahead to 16⅛ and 42⅜ respectively. The improvement occurred on the announcement that the Erie Company had obtained control of the Susquehanna and Western, which runs from the Wyoming Valley goldfields to New York, where its terminals are of considerable value. This secures an alternative inlet to New York and a considerable improvement of the Erie's position amongst the coal roads. Messrs. Morgan have been busy for some considerable time in mopping up the stock, as will be gathered from the following paragraph which appeared in the *Wall-street Journal* of a fortnight ago:—

> Susquehanna and Western Preferred has had quite a fair rally from the lowest shortly after the transfer of control became known. We understand that quite a little of the stock which was thrown on the market has been acquired for the account of J. P. Morgan & Co. in connection with the Erie deal. It is understood that when the time comes for the Erie Company to make an offer for the minority holdings in Susquehanna, Erie First Preferred stock may be used for the purpose. The terms, of course, upon which this stock may be offered to Susquehanna stockholders are not known and probably are not yet fixed.

Under all the circumstances, a further advance in Eries, and especially in the Preferred, may be anticipated, the more so as it is stated in influential quarters that a dividend on the Preferred will be paid very shortly. There is no doubt that the so-called Klondike group will advance further. Amongst these are, as I have already stated, Northern Pacific Prefs. and Common, Union Pacifics, and Central Pacifics. The Klondike boom is expected to commence towards the end of this month, when an enormous number of people will take rail to that destination, and

Mortlock's (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "Mortlock's" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

one can have but little doubt that our Yankee cousins will take advantage of this circumstance to engineer a boom. The Norfolk and Western have declared a dividend of 1 per cent. on the Adjustment Prefs., an announcement which has caused a rise of $6 to 55⅜, thus fully justifying the favourable opinion which I have for some time expressed. It shows also that the view that the Preference stocks of the reorganised roads are worthy of attention is well based. Chesapeake and Ohio have met with some attention at about 25¼. It is currently reported that this road will also shortly be taken into alliance with the Vanderbilt group, and the stock is likely to move more actively in the near future. The Milwaukee has had another good traffic return, which has put up the price to 99¼, and the Louisville is also doing well, the quotation being firmly supported at 61½. The refunding scheme of this line has yet to make its appearance. The words of warning which I have been uttering for some time concerning the over-speculation in Canadian Rails have been illustrated during the past week by a heavy slump. Canadian Pacifics dropped at one time to 88⅜, while Grand Trunk First Prefs. and Guaranteed fell to 64¼ and 74½ respectively, on the report that a war of rates had broken out between the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific. If these were Yankee Companies, one might have concluded that, coming at this particular moment, when a large "Bull" campaign is in progress, the fight had been specially engineered by insiders so as to get hold of some cheap stock; but I should say that the Directors and officials of these two Canadian lines are above suspicion. At the same time it is much to be regretted that, at a time of growing prosperity, the prospects of these Companies should be spoiled by any serious dispute. I suppose that some agreement will be arrived at shortly. At all events, there has been a rally in Canadian Pacifics to 90¼, in Grand Trunk First Prefs. to 67, and in the Guaranteed to 76; but it remains to be seen whether renewed weakness will not develop again in view of the very large "Bull" account which has been piled up.

AMERICAN RAILROAD BONDS.

On December 30 I published two lists of selected gilt-edged and good second-class American Railroad bonds, from which many of my readers have apparently made investments. Those who have done so may be congratulated, as a rise has now taken place of from 1 to 3 in the gilt-edged list, and from 2 to 6 in the list of good second-class bonds. The fact is that very large purchases have been made by American investors, which is not surprising as, in view of the revival in the States and the better business done by the railroads, these bonds are improved in security, while upon the whole still giving a good yield. As I have received a number of further inquiries, I herewith give two new lists, practically of the same bonds, with present prices and yields:—

GILT-EDGED AMERICAN RAILROAD BONDS.

Description.	Interest.	Date of Redemption.	Price.	Actual Yield, allowing for Accrued Interest and Redemption at par.
				£ s. d.
Lake Shore Bonds	3½	1997	108½	3 6 9
New York Central Bonds	3½	1997	107½	3 7 3
New York Central Debentures	4	1905	107¾	3 8 0
Chicago City (Water) Bonds	4	1915	108½	3 11 10
*New York and Putnam First Mort. Bonds	4	1993	111	3 15 3
*Mohawk and Malone First Mort. Bonds	4	1991	111	3 16 6
*Carthage and Adirondack First Mort. Bnds.	4	1981	110	3 15 9
Alleghany Valley Gen. Mort. Bonds	4	1942	110½	3 15 0
Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis (Guaranteed by Pennsylvania Co.)	4	1945	107	3 17 8
Illinois Central Bonds	4	1953	106	3 18 5
Terminal R.R. Association of St. Louis First Mort. Bonds	4½	1939	115	4 0 4

* Principal and interest guaranteed by the New York Central Company.

The above are all high-class bonds, the yield varying from £3 6s. 9d. to £4 0s. 4d. per cent., while the following list gives a much higher return, and if not so well secured, the safety of the investment can be increased by spreading the same over half a dozen different bonds:—

GOOD SECOND-CLASS AMERICAN RAILROAD BONDS.

Description.	Interest.	Date of Redemption.	Price.	Actual Yield, allowing for Accrued Interest and Redemption at par.
				£ s. d.
Manhattan Consolidated Bonds	4	1990	100½	4 3 6
St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Manitoba 1st Mort. Sterling Bonds	4	1940	96½	4 4 2
Central Georgia 1st Mort. Bonds	5	1945	121	4 3 2
Northern Pacific Prior Lien R.R. and Land Grant Bonds	4	1996	100¼	4 2 9
Chesapeake and Ohio Cons. 1st Mort. Bonds	5	1939	119	4 5 7
Denver and Rio Grande 1st Con. Mort. Gold Bonds	4	1936	97¾	4 5 11
Lehigh Valley 1st Mort. Guaranteed Bonds	4½	1940	106½	4 6 10
Erie R.R. 1st Con. Mort. Prior Lien Bonds	4	1996	94½	4 7 9
Central New Jersey R.R. Gen. Mort. Bonds	5	1987	117	4 8 0
Union Pacific R.R. 1st Mort. Bonds	4	1918	98	4 5 2
Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé Gen. Mort. Bonds	4	1995	96¾	4 7 9
New York, Brooklyn, and Man. B. 1st Cons. Bonds	5	1935	111½	4 12 6
Clev., Cin., Chic., and St. Louis (Cairo Div.) 1st Mort. Bonds	4	1939	91	4 13 3
Minneapolis and St. Louis 1st Cons. Bonds	5	1934	110½	4 13 2
Montana Central 1st Mort. (Guaranteed by St. Paul, Minn., and Man. R.R.)	5	1937	112	4 11 3
Terminal R.R. Association of St. Louis 1st Cons. Mort. Bonds	5	1944	112	4 10 11
Louisville and Nashville Unified Bonds	4	1940	90½	4 13 10
New York & Rockaway Beach 1st Mort. Bonds	5	1927	107	4 17 6
Philadelphia & Reading R.R. Gen. Mort. Bonds	4	1997	90	4 12 7
Cleve., Cin., Chic., & St. Louis Gen. Mort. Bonds	4	1993	85	4 13 5
Mexican & International Prior Lien Sterling Gold Bonds	4½	1947	93	5 2 5
Milwaukee Elec. Ry. & Light Co.'s Bonds	5	1926	100	5 4 4
Lehigh Valley Coal Co.'s 1st Mort. Bonds	5	1935	98	5 7 4
St. Paul City Ry. Cons. Bonds	5	1937	96	5 8 6
Southern Ry. 1st Con. Mort. Bonds	5	1994	96	5 8 4
* Alabama Midland 1st Mort. Bonds	5	1928	97	5 10 0
South & North Alabama Cons. (Prin. and Int. guaranteed by Louisville & Nashville R.R. Co.)	5	1936	97	5 7 10
Central Georgia Cons. Mort. Bonds	5	1945	94½	5 11 10
Minneapolis Street 1st Cons. Bonds	5	1919	96	5 11 3
Chesapeake & Ohio Gen. Mort. Bonds	4½	1992	87	5 10 2

* Principal and interest guaranteed by the Savannah, Florida, & Western Co.

Amongst the above issues Reading Four per Cent. General Mortgage bonds have of late come into strong demand, and are still very cheap at anything below 90. The holders of these bonds are in a very strong position, as the road is doing remarkably well, since it has passed through the reorganisation. For the half-year ending December 31, 1897, the net earnings amounted to $6,562,167, against $6,064,395 in the corresponding six months of 1896. What, however, is of greater importance as regards these bonds is that after allowing for all taxes and fixed charges for the half-year, there is a surplus of $2,092,167 in net receipts. The General Mortgage bonds, moreover, have behind them $28,000,000 First Prefs., $42,000,000 Second Prefs., and $70,000,000 Ordinary, and I shall not be surprised, therefore, to see new Reading Fours, now quoted about 89¾, rise to a much higher level.

FOREIGNERS AND SOUTH AMERICANS.

The Continental Bourses have assumed a more favourable aspect, and there seems every prospect of greater animation, especially if the Chinese question were solved in a favourable sense. The trouble as regards Cuba is, moreover, disappearing from the political horizon, and Spanish have hardened again. Turks are still somewhat shaky, owing to the extraordinary persistency with which the Czar is backing up the candidature of Prince George of Greece as Governor of Crete. The South American section has at times shown strength, but realisations have finally put quotations back a little, and Argentine Government bonds, partly on a rebound in the gold premium, are easier, the 1886 Loan at 92½, the Funding Loan at 90¾, Buenos Ayres Water and Drainage bonds at 75½, Argentine Railway Guarantee Rescission bonds at 62½. Cedulas have reacted for the same reason, but on any further setback both the Government issues and Cedulas would be a good purchase. The course of Argentine Rails has been very much the same, and Buenos Ayres Great Southern have maintained themselves at 157, while Buenos Ayres and Rosario

SAHARA (TURKISH) CIGARETTES.—Messrs. W. D. & H. O. WILLS, Ltd., the sole manufacturers, invite the attention of connoisseurs to the excellence and regularity of these high-class Cigarettes.

are easier at 77, Central Argentine at 85. The downward movement in the latter stock is not at all surprising, as I have already explained. Cordoba Central First Prefs. are higher at 93, and the Second Prefs. have risen to 53. Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debenture stock has receded to 58½, another large traffic decrease having been reported. Until the earnings of this line improve it is not advisable to buy this stock. Mexican Sixes have been strong at 99, but Mexican Railway First Prefs. have dropped to 81¾, which is not surprising, as from the point of view of dividends this stock stands far too high. Mexican Central Four per Cent. Gold bonds have remained at 70, while the quotations of the "A" and "B" Debenture stocks of the Inter-Oceanic of Mexico remain firm at 65 and 33 respectively. Uruguay bonds have eased off slightly, although the February coupon has been promptly paid. The only question with regard to Uruguay is the course of politics. If acting-President Cuestas is elected President we shall have a big boom in the Uruguay bonds. Brazilians and Chilians have been neglected, while Peruvian Corporation stocks are steady.

The Kaffir Circus—A Rally.

A somewhat unexpected rally took place in the Kaffir Circus during the last few days, chiefly caused by Paris purchases. It was suggested in some quarters that the buying orders really originated in London, and that some of the leading firms, as they often do, were operating via Paris. At all events, the result was a moderate advance under the lead of Rand Mines, which recovered to 33⅜, while Consolidated Goldfields improved to 5, and East Rands to 5⅜. The question of splitting Rand Mines has again been mooted, and, as it would undoubtedly be satisfactory to the market and enable a wider circle of operators to deal in the shares, it is probable that it will come to this, and then we may anticipate a sharp rise, especially as the various holdings of this Company in Deep Level shares are still appreciating in value. One of the Company's interests, that in the Ferreira Deep, which it owns jointly with the Barnato Consols, appears to be particularly promising. Deep Level shares have been steady all round, being quoted as follows:—Goldfields Deep 10⅜, Crown Deep 13¾, Nourse Deep 6⅝, Rose Deep 7⅛, Durban-Roodepoort Deep 4⅜, Jumpers Deep 6, Knight's Deep 2⅛. Ferreira have also that a favourable reconstruction of the Board is on the tapis, experienced an important advance to 26½, and this improvement has also influenced the rest of the high-class Witwatersrand shares. Chartered have been favourably affected by reports that Mr. Cecil Rhodes will shortly arrive here in order to attend the meeting of the Company, also that a favourable reconstruction of the Board is on the tapis; but these appear to be, so far, only rumours. A firmer tone has been shown in Randfontein, which have hardened to 2, and Barnato Consols have strengthened to 2⅜. So far, the amount of business has not assumed large proportions, but if the improvement should continue it is probable that the public will enter the market again. New Primrose have been firm at 4¼, and Glencairn are steady at 2 5/16. The issue now made by the Directors of the Glencairn of £140,000 Six per Cent. debentures at par, convertible at any time within two years from the date of issue into Ordinary shares of the Company at 70s. per share, should be readily absorbed. The Mine is earning large monthly profits, and this debenture issue by providing for the floating debt will enable the Company to at once pay dividends. Another debenture issue is that made by the New Kleinfontein of £100,000 Six per Cent. debentures, convertible into shares at 60s. per share within two years. It is also expected that the New Comet and New Crœsus Companies will place themselves into a stronger financial position by debenture issues, and the Witwatersrand Deep, too, is on the warpath with an issue of £100,000 Five and a Half per Cent. debentures at par. Advices concerning the Presidential election in the Transvaal are somewhat contradictory, but I cannot help thinking that President Kruger will be re-elected, if not *tant mieux*. But there seems every prospect of even Oom Paul being a good boy when re-elected, as he will not otherwise obtain the much-coveted loan. Diamond shares have been firm, De Beers being quoted 30 3/16, New Jagersfontein 8 5/16.

The Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo, the most fashionable hotel & restaurant on the Riviera. Perfect English sanitation. Now under English management.—Managing Directors, Messrs. Noel & Pattard.

Golden West Australia.

The latest information with regard to West Australian finances and the gold output are calculated to cause one to exclaim, Advance, West Australia! For January the revenue amounted to £226,947, against £202,580 in the corresponding month of 1897, while the gold export in January reached 93,395 oz., against 72,317 oz. in December. At this rate of progress the export of gold from the colony in 1898 will greatly exceed 1,000,000 oz., but it may be anticipated that the progress will be even more rapid as a number of new batteries are going up in all directions, partly for new mines, but also in connection with the substantial mines already crushing. The following list of crushings which came to hand during the past week gives an idea of the substantial results which are now being obtained:—

—	Tons of Ore	Ounces of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per Ton.
Great Boulder Proprietary	1,416	3,366	—
Ivanhoe	1,555	2,760	11 dwt.
Associated Gold Mines ...	315	1,050	—
,, ,, ,,	931	3,583	—
Australia United... ...	300	658	—
Princess Royal (Cue) ...	150	114	—
Florence	—	200	—
,, ...	29	39	—
White Feather Main Reef	698	341	—
Champion Ext. and Home Rule	425	283	5½ dwt.
North Boulder	596	198	—
Champion Reef (Nannine)	560	101	—
Premier	710	484	—
Cue "I."	820	565	—
Cue Victory	494	325	—
Consolidated Murchison	503	507	—
Big Blow	150	70	6 dwt.
Robinson (W. A.) ...	650	439	—
Bayley's United (Cyanide)	869	1,015	—
Menzies' Crusoe	330	244	8 dwt.
Menzies' Gold Reefs ...	50	134	17 dwt.
Menzies' Consolidated ...	748	644	
Mount Malcolm Prop. ...	470	440	—
Queensland Menzies ...	287	857	—
,, ,, ...	17	237	—
Norseman	630	444	—
St. Agnes Gold Reefs ...	340	160	5 dwt.
Great Boulder Main Reef	730	1,200	—
East Murchison United—Great Eastern	810	1,050	8 dwt.
East Murchison United—Donegal Leases ...	600	580	5 dwt.
North Star	408	386	7 dwt.
Lindsay's Consolidated...	252	62	

In this list the splendid output of the Associated Gold Mines calls for special notice. The Consolidated Murchison has also done well, and the Queensland Menzies looks promising. There is some rumour that this property is to be refloated as an English Company. Hannan's Brownhill have been a strong market, rising to 8⅛ xd. It is expected that this mine will eventually be found in the front rank with the Lake View Consols and Ivanhoe. Consolidated Murchison should receive more attention than they do, being quoted 6s., and East Murchison United of the same group at 1 1/16 look cheap. Sons of Gwalia shares are firm at 2⅛, and the news from the property continues satisfactory. The parent Company, the London and Western Australian Exploration Company, has, according to a circular just issued, secured an option on the Gwalia' No. 1 South, a 15-acre lease adjoining the southern boundary of the original Sons of Gwalia lease, and lying directly in line to secure the two main lodes of the latter. Work is being carried on in two shafts, and water was struck at a depth of 57 ft. A 24-acre lease has also been pegged for the Company adjoining the Sons of Gwalia East and the Sons of Gwalia North. The new lease has been named the Edward Hooper, and the Company's representative reports that it

contains "a strong vein carrying gold," upon which an incline shaft is being sunk; also "I have found and exposed for a distance of several hundred feet two other parallel and strong reefs lying about 20 ft. apart." According to telegraphic advice several further leases in the same neighbourhood have also been secured, but particulars of these are not yet to hand. The London and Western Australian Investment Company, Limited, has a half interest in the above business. In view of the progress made by the Company it is surprising that the shares do not stand above 1. London and Globe Finance shares are hardening again at $2\frac{1}{16}$ xd., and Lake View Consols have risen to $10\frac{3}{4}$, while a better demand has been experienced for Ivanhoes at $6\frac{1}{4}$. It is expected that the special settlement, which has been applied for by the Ivanhoe Company, will shortly be granted. Particulars of the proposed amalgamation of the London and Globe sub-Companies have now been published. According to the circulars issued, this Corporation is forming an Exploration Company, with a capital of £1,500,000, in shares of £1 each (limited liability). The Directors of this Exploration Company will be nominated by, and three of them will be Directors of, the London and Globe; £1,000,000 of the capital will be appropriated to the purchase (in fully-paid shares) of various mining properties, and the remaining £500,000 will be set apart for working capital, one-half of which will be guaranteed by the London and Globe, but the whole working capital will be offered for subscription, priority of allotment to be conceded to the proprietors of the properties acquired. Overtures are being made to take over the following properties, viz.:—Golden Crown, Mainland Consols, Wealth of Nations, Paddington Consols, Wealth of Nations Extended, Hannan's Golden Group, Hannan's Golden Treasure, Duke Gold Mines, Hannan's Golden Dream, Thames Hauraki Goldfields, Paddington South, Mahara Royal, Karaka Gold Mines, and Austin Friars Syndicate. Such of these as the proprietors agree to transfer for the considerations offered will constitute the nucleus of the Exploration Company. In addition, however, it is proposed that the Company shall acquire a large interest in, and work in harmony with, the British America Corporation, Limited, and also the London and Globe. Through such co-operation the Exploration Company is expected to prove to be a successful undertaking. The Boards of the various Companies concerned have also issued circulars to their shareholders in which they state their cordial approval of the proposal submitted by the London and Globe, and advise its acceptance. The scheme will have the effect of an allotment of one fully-paid share in the new Exploration Company for each two fully-paid shares in the various Companies now held. It also confers the right to subscribe to the working capital of the new undertaking at par, and it is expected that shareholders will by this means be able to reduce the cost of their holdings, especially as the enterprise under the same able guidance may obtain profits as important as those made by the London and Globe Finance Corporation. There is no mincing matters that these companies have been extremely disappointing to investors, which was apparently in part due to an insufficient water supply, and also to the working capitals being inadequate. The reports originally made on the same, partly by Mr. Charles Kaufman, were of a highly satisfactory character, and testified to the existence of rich ore bodies. By joining the new exploration Company shareholders enter a kind of trust, through which, in case one or the other property should finally prove disappointing, they will have the chance of participating in the success of others. Of course, it will be necessary to furnish the fullest information with regard to the mines which are being taken into the amalgamation, and concerning which nothing is yet known in the market. These are the Dyke Gold Mines, Hannan's Golden Dream, Paddington South, Mahara Royal, Karaka Gold Mines, &c. The chief feature in the market has been the further important advance in Lady Shentons, which touched $3\frac{3}{4}$. They have since reacted to $3\frac{1}{2}$, but there seems to be every prospect of their reaching a higher level. Various rumours are current with regard to the reason for this sharp upward movement, and it is reported that one of the leading groups in the Westralian department has taken the mine up. However this may be, latest advices from the property are of an exceedingly favourable character. The manager reports that the mine looks splendid in the lowest level, and that the very fine specimens obtained will be forwarded to London by mail on February 13. There are those in the market who are talking up the shares to double the present price, and at all events I have to congratulate the many readers of TRUTH who bought them, when they were decried by other financial writers, in the neighbourhood of 2, upon the handsome profit at which they are now standing. That some of the "Bears" have been severely caught is also an undoubted fact. The Market Trust group has been very strong, the return of Mr. Horatio Bottomley from Monte Carlo having been heralded by a general advance, more especially in Northern Territories which are up at 2. Associated Southern are also better at $1\frac{1}{16}$, Lake View South at $1\frac{5}{16}$. The West Australian Gold Fields group has been quite stagnant, and quotations show little change, the shares of the parent Company standing at $2\frac{1}{4}$, while Hampton Plains are quoted $1\frac{1}{8}$. Hannan's Crœsus are lower at 9s., and the low-priced shares generally have been out of favour. I see that an amalgamation is on the board between the Cue One and the Lady Mary and Light of Asia Mines, a new Company being formed under the title of the Cue Consolidated Gold Mines, with a capital of £125,000 in 250,000 shares of 10s. each, with 7s. 6d. credited as paid up. I do not, however, see the *raison d'être* of this new arrangement, as neither of these Companies have so far distinguished themselves by any good results. Kalgurli have been firmer at $6\frac{7}{16}$, and a good demand has been experienced for Brownhill Centrals at $1\frac{3}{8}$. Golden Horseshoes have been pretty steady at $8\frac{3}{4}$. The new Great Boulder shares, on the other hand, have not been in favour, and are quoted 24s. 3d. Hannan's Proprietary have been distinctly firm at 16s., on the favourable advices received from the various properties of this Company. By the way, the Perth (West Australian) Land Corporation does not appear to have gone to allotment, the public not having subscribed to any extent. The prospectus certainly did not make a good showing.

INDIAN, AUSTRALASIAN, AND BRITISH COLUMBIAN MINES.

In the Indian section the feature has been a further decline in Nundydroog, on the flooding of the mine; while Ooregums, Mysore West and Wynaad, Mysore and Champion Reefs are also lower, the only improvements occurring in Mysore Reefs and Nine Reefs. In Australian mines, other than West Australian, an advance has been established in Mount Lyell to $14\frac{1}{2}$, and there has also been a rise in Gibraltar to $\frac{7}{8}$, but Mount Lyell North have receded to $3\frac{3}{4}$. Mount Morgan are steady at $4\frac{1}{2}$. In Charters Towers shares Day Dawn Block and Day Dawn P.C. are firmer. In the New Zealand section losses have again preponderated. Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand, London and New Zealand Exploration, Achilles, and Kathleen Crown are all lower; but Waihi and Waitekauri Extended have improved. In the general foreign section very little change has to be reported, but De Lamar and Bassett are lower. British Columbians have upon the whole been firmer. New Goldfields of B.C. and B.C. Trust have improved, and a considerable business has been transacted in the shares of the Waverley Mine, of which I gave some particulars in last week's issue. The £1 shares have improved to $1\frac{5}{8}$, and look like going higher. British America Corporation shares have been dealt in to a considerable extent at from 3s. to 3s. 3d. premium. It is reported that the ledge on the Josie (one of the British America Corporation's properties), which was broken by a granite dyke, has been recovered in the east drift at the 300-ft. level, and that ore from the new strike assays $32 in gold and 6 per cent. in copper, while some of the ore ran as high as 18 per cent. in copper. Latest information concerning the Campana Consolidated Gold Mines in the Mexican section is of a more favourable character, and although so far there is a battery of ten stamps only at work, the property has been proved by crushings. It is understood that

the water problem is now about to be solved, and as soon as a satisfactory supply has been obtained, fifty more stamps will be added to the present 10 stamp mill. The shares are now quoted 18s.-19s. A good deal of business has been transacted in Grand Central at $1\frac{13}{16}$, while Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico have risen to $1\frac{3}{8}$ on the issue of a very interesting report by the general manager, Mr. Frank Nicholson, who has recently paid a visit to this country. From this report it is evident that the Company owns most valuable properties, which cover an area of 25,000 acres, of which 15,000 are mineral and 10,000 wood and agricultural lands. There are a number of mines amongst these properties, and Mr. Nicholson states that it is not unusual for the daily assays to average 2 oz. of gold and 45 oz. of silver. Although the Company has not been able to maintain this average, there are at present blocked out in the east mine 84,000 tons of ore, which contains a gross value of £241,554. Mr. Nicholson states positively that the Santa Elena Mines are unquestionably of "good value," and that recent development work shows him that the ore bodies continue in depth with quantity and value better than are shown in the upper workings. There have been, according to Mr. Nicholson's report, unavoidable delays in getting the machinery—which consists of 60 stamps and a cyanide plant designed to treat 3,000 tons per month—into full operation; but that has now been accomplished, and the Company has entered the profit-earning stage. I suppose that we shall next have a Chinese mining section on the London Stock Exchange. There is but little doubt that the present negotiations will eventually lead to the opening up of the Celestial Empire, and to judge from the statements made by Mr. Algernon C. Moreing, the eminent mining engineer, there will be great scope for mining operations in China. It appears that, taking time by the forelock, Mr. Moreing's firm have obtained a most valuable series of reports on the mineral resources of Manchuria and the Northern Provinces, where, at the invitation of the Viceroy, Li Hung Chang, a mining engineer of great repute was deputed by them to make an exhaustive examination of such mining districts as might be indicated to him by the Chinese Government. These reports are now in Mr. Moreing's possession, and go to show the still undeveloped condition of the rich mineral resources of those provinces.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

United Ordnance and Engineering Company, Limited.—This Company is formed for the purpose of manufacturing and selling guns, gun carriages, ammunition, and war material, and to carry on business as electrical, hydraulic, mining, and general engineers, to acquire a licence to manufacture and sell the Schneider-Canet Artillery and to acquire and take over as a going concern the business of Easton, Anderson, & Goolden, engineers, of Erith and London. The share capital is fixed at £550,000 divided into Five and a Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference and Ordinary shares of £1 each, and there is in addition a First Mortgage Four and a Half per Cent. Debenture stock issue of £250,000.

The future of this Company appears to be very promising as the business they undertake is in very few hands, while the profits are large. The business of Easton, Anderson, & Goolden has been long established, and the Schneider-Canet artillery, which the Company will manufacture, is of world-wide repute, while important alliances have been concluded with the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company and Messrs. Thos. Firth & Sons, Limited.

Glencairn Main Reef Gold Mining Company, Limited.—This is an issue of £140,000 Six per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures in bonds of £50 each, to be secured by first mortgage of all the landed property, buildings, &c., of the Company. The Glencairn Company was formed in the year 1889 with a capital of £175,000, which was increased to £225,000 for the purpose of acquiring and working further property. In 1896 the capital was increased to £550,000, of which £50,000 is held in reserve, while the balance was issued to the shareholders of the Glenluce Company, whose mine was taken over by the Glencairn.

The property owned by this Company is extensive, and it is being systematically developed. The monthly profits are stated to amount to over £10,000, so that these Debentures seem to be well secured. They are, moreover, convertible at their nominal value into Ordinary shares at the rate of £3 10s. per share.

Venesta, Limited, has been formed to purchase and further develop the business carried on by the Venesta Syndicate, of 23, St. Mary's-axe and Venesta Wharf, Limehouse, E. The capital is fixed at £100,000, in shares of £1 each.

The syndicate was formed in 1896 to prove the value of Venesta boards for making all kinds of boxes, packing-cases, &c. These boards are manufactured by cementing together with a patent waterproof composition, two or more thicknesses of veneer. The capitalisation is obviously excessive for an invention which by no means monopolises the trade and may easily be superseded.

Army and Navy Properties, Limited.—With an authorised capital of £100,000, divided into 10,000 Cumulative Preference shares of £5 each and 50,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each, this Company is formed to purchase properties in St. Martin's-lane and Victoria-street, S.W.

There are such a large number of these mansions and flats round about this neighbourhood that it is somewhat doubtful if the returns will be up to the amount stated in the prospectus. I think investors can find better ventures of this kind in which to place their money.

Ballard & Co., Limited.—This Company is formed with a share capital of £80,000 and a Debenture stock of a like amount for the purpose of acquiring the business of brewers and malsters carried on by Mr. H. J. Beeman under the style of Ballard & Co., at Lewes, Sussex.

The conversion of such small country breweries is not to be advocated, and there is nothing enticing in this venture as the capital appears excessive.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

N. F.—Argentine 1886 bonds should be held for an improvement. *P. L. R.*—1. Uruguay Three and a Half per Cent. bonds are a good speculation at the present price. If the political problem is solved there would be an important advance. 2. Yes, hold Mexican Sixes.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

E. A. McM.—An outside concern, about which I am unable to obtain sufficient information but I have always warned my readers to do business only through members of the Stock Exchange. *Sammot.*—A new life office established in 1896. I should not recommend you to take out a policy with it. *No. 2 Inquirer.*—You had better spread the money over some sound Industrial and Brewery debentures, such as Millwall Docks Perpetual Five per Cent. Debenture stock at $152\frac{1}{2}$; Gordon Hotels Four and a Half per Cent. Debenture stock at $137\frac{1}{2}$; Savoy Hotel Four per Cent. Debenture stock at $112\frac{1}{2}$; Courage & Co. Four per Cent. Debenture stock at 130; Guinness Five per Cent. Debenture stock at 123, and Parker's Burslem Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture stock at 113. *Hon. E. P. and Ireland.*—What you require has been forwarded in your respective envelopes. *Fifer, Glasgow.*—1. An outside concern, which you had better leave alone. Deal only with members of the Stock Exchange. 2. My advice also applies to this firm, who are outside dealers.

Home Rails.

Nouvel An.—The new extension of the Great Central to London should benefit that line very materially, and if you can afford to lock up your stock for twelve months you will doubtless see a very considerable rise. *S. N. S.*—This Ordinary stock is a fair Railway investment. *A. S.*—Yes, I think that if you were to exchange from Great Northern into Great Central 1894 Ordinary there would be a fair chance of getting your money back in time. *W. F.*—Yes, Central London Railway Ordinary stock is a good investment, and very promising.

American and Foreign Rails.

Avenue.—1. I do not think there is any fear of a sharp decline in this Argentine railway stock, and, unless you have thoroughly reliable information, it should be kept. 2. There has already been a considerable advance in Inter-Oceanic of Mexico stocks, and it might be advisable to wait now. 3. A fair investment, but no catch. 4. Yes, I think that Great Central 1894 Ordinary stock has great possibilities. *Empress.*—Union Pacific Prefs. have already advanced to 64, and it is a pity that you did not buy when you received the advice in question. Even now they are good for a rise, as they are expected to go to 70. *Cecil.*—I am glad to see that you have such good profits in American Rails. You might as well take these and buy again Union Pacific Ordinary and Prefs. and Northern Pacific Prefs., which are more

than likely to go ahead sharply in the near future. *Hilltop.*—Yes, you might as well average the Baltimore and Ohio South-Western bonds referred to. *R. W. S.*—Canadian Rails generally are on the up grade, and there also seems to be a fair prospect for the bonds mentioned by you. *Boh.*—Hold your Baltimore and Ohio bonds. The reorganisation is in progress, and interest will doubtless be resumed at an early date.

MINING SHARES.

Heinrich.—I do not advise you to deal with such outside concerns, but only through members of the Stock Exchange. I cannot, however, recommend you brokers who make advances. *A. G.*—1. Consolidated Murchison shares are 10s. paid, and at the present price of 6s. are very cheap. 2. Hit or Miss are a fair mining risk, but prospects at present are not over bright. 3, Very speculative. *Shamrock.*—A fair mining risk, although very little is known about the actual out-turn of diamonds. *Borneo.*—Why did you not buy Lady Shenton when they were much lower and when I so strongly recommended them. See remarks under "Golden West Australia." *Tricky.*—1 and 2. You must have seen the report of the meeting of the Mining Company (b) which is in course of reconstruction. The shareholders of the Armdale (a) ought to inquire into the position. The mine (c) has been disappointing, but the South African shares (d) should recover again, and the news from (e) is much better, as you will have gathered from recent remarks. I am glad you did well in London and Globe Finance shares on my advice. *Seester.*—If you are a shareholder, the secretary of the Murchison Diamond and Gold Company should certainly reply to your letters. I do not advise purchase of the other shares mentioned. *X. Y. Z.*—These shares have reacted with the rest of the South African market, and should recover eventually. *Rugby.*—No reason to sell London and Globe now. Amongst promising shares are Associated Gold Mines, Hannan's Brownhill and British America Corporation. *H.*—I should not advise purchase of the shares in the Sulphides Reduction (New Process), Limited, so obligingly offered at 18s. 6d. to the shareholders of the London and General Exploration Company by Mr. Arthur F. Burrowes, of 7, Castellain-road, Maida Hill. *Viator.*—1. No reason to increase your interest. There is still a chance of the other shares recovering. *A. M., Leeds.*—Surely there has been enough delay with the amalgamation scheme of the London and Globe sub-Companies. You cannot wish for the matter to be further postponed. *J. McJ.*—No; Kalgurli are quite high enough; I should prefer Lady Shenton. 2. Impossible to tell. The settlement has been applied for, but has not yet been fixed. *G. C. Y.*—A temporary reaction, which will doubtless be recovered. *Lex.*—1. The secretary will doubtless give you the information. 2. No reason to sell any of the five shares mentioned by you. *Joseph.*—1. No; I should advise you to keep the shares. 2. Yes. See remarks in last week's issue under "The Kaffir Circus" as regards Waterfall Estates. *Equity.*—I am afraid by acting on your suggestion I should only help to wreck the Company. There seems to be no option but to join the reconstruction. *Colonist.*—1. No. 2. A fair purchase. 3. London and Globe. 4. Yes. 5. No. 6. Hold Randfontein. 7. No. *Money.*—Yes, you should hold, and you might average. *T. S. E. M.*—Not at all, the Company is very promising. *Glencairn.*—1. Quite a different concern. 2. British America Corporation shares are quoted at 3s. to 3s. 3d. premium. I do not understand your question. *Park Lane.*—These various shares will no doubt recover with the rest of the market. *Bones.*—You might as well sell the shares under the circumstances, but instead of averaging the shares Nos. 1-6 you should hold merely for an improvement, and invest in some other shares of a more progressive character.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

Devon.—No, I do not recommend investment in Webb & Ellen. *Anxious Kitty.*—Stretton's Derby Brewery shares have advanced considerably, and I think that in your case, as absolute safety is necessary, you should rather invest in debentures such as Courage & Co.'s Four per Cent. Debenture stock at 130, Guinness's Five per Cent. Debenture stock at 123, and Parker's Burslem Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture stock at 113. *B. G.*—I have not a favourable opinion of this concern, although the debentures may be all right. *Holywell.*—In your position I really cannot advise you to run the risks connected with speculation in stocks and shares. 1. This is a fair investment of the kind, and you cannot look for more than 4 per cent. with safety. 2. Certainly, sell your English Cotton shares as soon as you see a little profit. *J. E. A.*—You ought never to have invested in the Army and Navy Co-operative Breweries; I warned my readers against this concern from the outset. I cannot reply by letter. *Tea.*—You had better sell these Melbourne shares. *Holme, Bingham.*—1. There is no market yet for these shares and little prospect of one for the present. No. 2 is the best of your holdings. There may be a rally with the commencement of the season, when you might as well realise a portion. *J. J., Biggleswade.*—No particular reason for selling Nos. 1, 3, or 4; while No. 2 is a fair industrial investment. Wellsbach Incandescent (5) should be held. *W. S. G.*—Bass's Four and a Half per Cent. Debenture stock stands at 125-7, which should guide you as regards the value of the new Three and a Half per Cent. Debenture stock.

LOOK TO YOUR DRAINS.—Have the Drainage and Water Supply of your residences Examined and Certificated by CARTER BROS., 65, Victoria-st., S.W. Consulting Sanitary Engineers Hotel Cecil, &c.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Africander.—It would be advisable to hold Nos. 1 to 3 as these industrial shares may improve again. In any case you should not sell the South Africans Nos. 4 to 6, which are already advancing. *Kop.*—I should say that in your circumstances you had better invest in English Brewery Debentures yielding about 4 per cent. *Hifa.*—I have nothing against the Trust Prefs. No. 2 and 3, but I do not like No. 1 so much. The Cycle shares are no particular catch. *An Old Reader.*—The present is not a favourable opportunity for your friend to sell his South African Mining shares No. 1-17. Most of these are well selected and should be held for a rise. I do not think much of No. 2. There is no objection to the proposed investments A—E. Rand Mines (D), will doubtless advance further. *Scrutator.*—*a.* This Trust Company is a fair investment of the kind, although speculative and second-class. *b.* Very speculative, the mine not being proved yet. *c.* Leave this British Columbian syndicate alone, unless you can satisfy yourself absolutely concerning the bona fides of the men connected with it. Personally, I should prefer the British America Corporation. *Photographer.*—The Midland is doing badly, and it might be as well to clear out. For your purposes the new West Australian loan should be suitable. *Ricker.*—Newspaper shares such as No. 1-3 must always be speculative, although at present doing well. No reason to sell Cons. Goldfields Prefs. *T.*—1. As your Louisville leave you a large profit you might as well take it, although this stock will eventually go considerably higher. 2. Hold Erie Prefs. for a further important advance. 3. I do not advise the purchase of these Indian Mining shares. 4. Yes, you might as well realise, and buy American Railroad bonds instead. 5. No special reason to sell. *Timothy.*—1. Canadian Pacifics have had an important rise, and it will be advisable to await further developments of the war of rates. 2. No catch. 3. I do not advise purchases of Brazilians at present. No. 4 and 5 are a fair purchase. It will be sufficient for you to write to the Secretary of the London Stock Exchange. *Cymro.*—1. No, I do not recommend Lisbon Berlyn as a purchase. 2. Yes. 3. Certainly hold Erie Second Prefs. 4. The position is unsatisfactory. 5. Prospects very doubtful. *Mona.*—1. Why not make your selections from the lists of American Railroad bonds in this issue. 2. Sell at very small profit. 3. Hold. 4. Hold; the news from the mine is getting better. *Tere.*—Yes, you had better hold the South African shares Nos. 1 and 2. The reason of the fall of these American Brewery shares (3) is the war of rates amongst the breweries in Chicago. No. 4 should be held. Certainly hold Erie Prefs. (5) for an important rise, and see remarks under "The Yankee Market." No option but to hold No. 6. *Lex.*—I am afraid that the West Australian shares No. 1 are doubtful. No. 2 may come round, also No. 3. The Restaurant, No. 5, is doing well. I do not like No. 5, but No. 6 is a fair industrial investment. *Hear.*—1. Certainly this issue should be authorised by the shareholders. 2. Very doubtful, in view of the unfavourable legal position. *Borneo.*—1. Lake View Consols will no doubt eventually rise to a higher level, but I cannot tell you when. 2. Speculative investment. 3. Yes, fairly safe. *Grocer.*—1. No option but to hold, they should recover again. 2. The Tyre shares may improve again, but the prospects of the French concern are doubtful. *Silentio.*—1. The prospects of the Simmer and Jack are very good, and you should hold for a rise. 2. Yes, hold. I cannot reply by letter. *R. B.*—1. No option but to await a recovery. 2. Shortly, no doubt. *Belmont.*—1. Yes, but Brazilians do not look promising just now. 2. St. Paul, Min., and Manitoba Four per Cent. bonds (Pacific extension) now quoted at 97-99 are sterling bonds, secured on the above-named extension. 3. A good second-class American bond. 4. Effingham Wilson, Publisher, Royal Exchange, London, can supply you with all kinds of Stock Exchange books. *Wilts.*—There is no reason why you should not spread the money over Nos. 1-3, and you might add London and West Australian Exploration shares, Hannan's Brownhill, and Lady Shenton.

VARIOUS INVESTMENTS.

The Money Market has eased off again with the turn of the month, and three months' bank bills are being taken at $2\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. As some important new issues are on the board—notably, the Chinese loan—it is not at all likely that the rates will react; but, on the contrary, we shall doubtless see a fresh rise in the value of money. Consols, after improving, have eased off again to $112\frac{1}{2}$ for the account; and British Corporation stocks have been dull on the non-success of the Leicester Corporation issue, of which but a small amount has been placed at 95. Following upon the fiasco of the Liverpool issue, this should teach Corporations the lesson to grant better terms to investors, if they wish to place their loans. Silver has fluctuated within narrow limits, but is slightly firmer at $26\frac{1}{8}$d. Rupee paper has reacted to $63\frac{5}{8}$, as it is being realised that the introduction of a gold standard in India is as yet far off. The Chinese loans at one time gave way a point all round on various adverse rumours concerning the loan negotiations in Pekin. The various new Colonial loans remain at substantial premiums. Thus, the new West Australian Loan is quoted $1\frac{3}{4}$ premium, the new New South Wales Loan $1\frac{1}{8}$ premium,

the new Cape of Good Hope Loan $2\frac{7}{8}$ premium. Japanese bonds are quoted $101\frac{1}{2}$. In the cycle section business has been restricted. Dunlop Deferred have declined to 13s. 6d., and French Dunlops are also lower at 4s. 6d.; Humber Ordinary are easier at 14s. 9d., the Extensions receding to 10s. Cycle Components are lower at $2\frac{3}{8}$, Swifts being unaltered at $\frac{3}{4}$, Singers at 14s., and Amalgamated Tyres have eased off to 6s. 6d. The feature in the industrial department has been the sharp set-back in Hudson Bays, which, after touching $27\frac{1}{8}$ on reported discoveries of gold in the Company's territory, have fallen to 25. A collapse also came about in oil shares, and the favourite of Dublin, Fish Oils, dropped at one time to $24\frac{1}{2}$, from which there has been a slight recovery only. Welsbach Incandescent Gas Ordinary have eased off to 103, the Preferred being quoted 103, the Deferred 21s. Schweppe shares have been steady, and Bovril Deferred have improved to $\frac{13}{16}$. The English Sewing Cotton allotment has been finally completed, the result being that Threads are quoted $\frac{7}{8}$ premium, while Coats are lower at $61\frac{1}{2}$. At the meeting of shareholders of the Baron Cigarette Company very favourable statements were made. Not only has this Company earned a total of £19,488 from machines and accessories sold, but the sale of the South American and Cuban rights has realised £19,022, a portion of the purchase-money having been paid in fully-paid shares in the Prudencio Rabell Cigarette Machine Company. The Chairman also stated that during the current year the total income from machines let out on hire will be £15,000, the arrangement with the firms taking these machines being for a fixed period of five years. The net profit balance was £29,673, out of which a dividend of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is paid, while £1,026 is written off for depreciation, and £10,000 off of patents, the substantial sum of £11,673 being carried forward. With its numerous patents and patent rights for foreign countries the Baron Cigarette Machine Company, which owns undoubtedly the very best machine of the kind, should achieve further success, and it is not surprising to find the £1 shares quoted at 25s. to 30s. A reader of Truth in Mauritius writes to me stating that the Mauritius Government is in a fair way to become the largest sugar estate proprietor in the world. After the hurricane of 1892, planters obtained a loan of £600,000. "Much wants more;" and now a needy few are asking for a further loan of £400,000. Participators in the loan, if granted, will have a tall innings for a time—then, when the shoe begins to pinch again, they will apply for yet another loan, and if this be refused retire gracefully from the field, leaving their estates a white elephant for the Government. Although repeatedly contradicted, I think there is solid foundation for the recent rumours that have been put about with regard to T. J. Lipton being converted into a limited liability company. I hear that the prospectus will be issued early in March. With reference to the South London Electric Supply Corporation, and the dissatisfaction aroused amongst the shareholders by the now famous option which was given by the directors to the promoter of the Company, I learn that it has been decided to hold a private meeting in London at the Cannon-street Hotel, at which it is proposed to lay before the shareholders counsel's opinion, all the correspondence, and the whole facts of the matter. A reader of Truth, who has been answering some advertisements for partnerships in the *Daily Telegraph*, has been favoured in one case by a reply from the London Co-operative Cab Company, to which I devoted some attention in Truth of January 27 under this heading. I then expressed the view that this is not a desirable investment, although the Secretary of the Cab Company lays special stress upon the fact that the capital sent to them is always withdrawable on demand, and that they guarantee to pay dividends punctually, either weekly or monthly, thus arguing that there is no risk or liability to investors. What, however, would happen if a number of persons, who may have entrusted money to this concern, were to withdraw their capital at the same time? The other reply which my correspondent received came from Alexander Baring & Company, 11, Bridge-street, Bath, who are carrying on "the co-operative system of Stock Exchange dealings," in other words, blind pools. Reference has already been made in various issues of Truth to the doings of these people under "Entre Nous." Alexander Baring & Co. profess to transact a business in which they promise investors a permanent income of £5 per week on each £100 entrusted to them. It is hardly necessary to again state that this kind of business must always end in the total loss of the money of any foolish persons who may swallow the bait. £5 per week on £100 means 260 per cent., and if Alexander Baring & Co. were really able to make such large profits, they would undoubtedly realise them for their own account only, and thus retire as millionaires in a very short time.—Your affectionate uncle, MOSES.

Brighton.—Norfolk Hotel.—Old-established County and Family Hotel. The best situation. Replete with comfort, style, and luxury. Moderate charges.—Jules A. Creighton, Manager.

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QUEER STORY.

THE DOUBLE GREEN OF GENEVA.

THREE men sat at dessert in a notably comfortable dining-room in Harley-street. They had been close friends at college, and, though they were all nearing forty, the friendship was cordial still. Hubert Denison, the successful artist, had made an awful matrimonial mistake that had resulted in a *cause celèbre* and freedom. Stanley Hesseltine, the rising barrister, had been badly jilted in early youth, and had very reasonably concluded that he had had enough of women for the rest of his days. As to Frank Sebastian, first of living surgeons, according to his many friends, who proclaimed the fact loudly, and his few enemies, who allowed it with reservations, he was a bachelor. He told meddling outsiders he was not a marrying man, but he had admitted to this special conclave that the true reason was that he had never succeeded in falling in love. He was handsome—tall, active, with keen blue eyes, and a trim beard just touched with grey; but he was much quieter than usual on this foggy fourteenth of February.

"What's the matter, Frank?" asked Denison, filling his glass, with the satisfactory certainty that the port was thoroughly good. "Are we to drink the health of 'Valentine,' as on so many anniversaries made memorable by this divine '58?"

"No," said Frank Sebastian, shortly; "for 'Valentine is dead."

Denison put down his full glass with an amazed exclamation.

"Plumbed the mystery after fourteen years! Impossible!" said Hesseltine, whose legal mind disliked mysteries, and who had always been especially anxious to get to the bottom of the case.

"I expect you both remember Valentine's Day fourteen years ago," began Sebastian, with a certain hesitation. "Hesseltine was briefless then, and was sitting to you, Denison, for Alcibiades."

"Before he grew fat," parenthesised the artist, with a laugh.

"How I tore into the studio with bank notes for four hundred pounds crackling in my pockets—money sent anonymously, money that let me go to Germany and make my fortune by three years' study under old Von Gleich—'From Valentine, so that you may work and attain.'"

"And, by Jove, you've done both, old man," said the friends, simultaneously.

"Yes, I have found out a few things, helped a few unfortunates. But for 'Valentine' I must have drudged away in some out-of-the-way hole in the country. I was no good till I had leisure to work and think without bothering about the bread and cheese."

"*Cherchez la femme* was always *my* advice, only you never took it," said Denison.

"You were right, for it *was* a woman; and now she is dead, and I can never even thank her for letting me rise to the very height of my ambition."

"They say only women do those Quixotic things. But to hold her tongue for fourteen years—that's the bit of the story I can't credit."

"First story I've heard with a woman in it who didn't want a *quid pro quo*."

"You two are misogynists. You've also got a right to be. So perhaps I won't read you this, as, somehow, I half intended."

Denison had loved his wife well, despite her utter heartlessness, and he rejoined,

"Read it. Let us have something sentimental, something prettily tender and ideal, just to put away the flavour of London. I'm not a sham cynic to-night. It looks like a very human document."

Sebastian moved his chair out of the radius of the red-shaded candles, and with a deepening shadow on his grave face, began to read :—

The Vicarage, Cherrington-on-Tarn.

Dear Sir,—By request of my deceased sister I send you the enclosed. She had been for many years companion to Lady Ida Fitzroy, and died at her house from the effects of influenza.—Yours faithfully,

Henry Bradenham.

The enclosure was in a delicate neat writing, upon several yellowed sheets of paper, and Sebastian's firm hand shook a little as he held up the first of them. It had no formal introduction, and Sebastian began to read abruptly, thus :—

"'This will not reach you till I am dead. Perhaps never, if you should die first. So I may say that I love you with my whole soul, and have followed every footstep in your career—the career of which I have been so proud, because I helped to make it. I dare say you will be disappointed to hear that "Valentine" was no one interesting. Just a plain, homely girl, to whom you have forgotten you were kind once.

"'Do you remember, fourteen years ago, a certain Mary Bradenham at the hotel at Newquay, companion to a harsh old aunt, who was handsome and clever, and hard on her niece because she was neither? She was middle-aged, and yet all the men liked to talk to Miss Sinclair, because she had seen everything and been everywhere. She was the last woman in the world to have been accredited with a romance, but we all have one—even I. Hers had ended very badly. Her lover had gone abroad, married someone else, and corresponded with her, even borrowed money of her, all the time. Till she found out. After that she lost all faith in men.

"'She chose me to be her companion—the family hoped her heiress. She even promised to provide for me "if I never made a fool of myself by falling in love." I thought I was quite safe. I was so very ordinary that no one ever seemed to know even that I was present. And not clever—not a bit. Nothing.

"'I did not mind so much till the day in August I first saw you. You were playing bowls and laughing with a lot of ladies. There was a girl in white, with a blue band. I can remember even that. I watched. Afterwards you came and talked to my aunt, and you always spoke to me. Once you joined me when I was walking out to the Headland. I have only to shut my eyes and see the great curling, green breakers. I heard them booming on the rocks, and I was happy.

"'You never guessed all the mischief you did because you pitied the dull companion who looked on when they danced in the hall, and stayed behind when the picnic parties drove merrily away. I loved you, and with love came the bitter, dreadful longing to be as these others. Once you were smoking in the verandah and talking to a friend. I listened, and I heard you say how poor you were, and how "just a few hundreds, and you could do something."

"'I thought I had kept my dear secret all my own—my only treasure. I used sometimes to let myself think of you; and the thought of the wild water, the wet sea breeze, the blue Cornish sky, would bring tears to my eyes that were not unhappy. I loved. I was a woman indeed now, and even the utter hopelessness did not take all the glamour, all the glory away. My aunt found out. She had eyes like a hawk, and a tongue that could hurt cruelly. "You in love; you harbouring stupid dreams!" she said, with a scornful laugh. "I was an heiress, a beauty, a wit; yet I could not hold a man to his allegiance. What can you use to win a man's heart, much less to keep it?"

"'My aunt's fearful temper made life with her purgatory. I had not much longer to bear it, for within a year of our meeting she died. There was no mention of me in the will, but in the codicil it said, "And to my niece, Mary Bradenham, I give and bequeath the Japanese box, and all it contains, she having disobeyed my injunction, and forfeited all other claim." There were no jewels in the shabby box; nothing but an immense bundle of dingy old letters; and my brother and sisters, who had all married into the Church unprosperously, were angry with me for playing my cards so badly. I had to get another situation. But I utterly refused to tell why my aunt had broken her promise. I had been companion long enough to have learnt to be silent.

"'I had glanced at the letters, the false, lying letters written from Geneva to my aunt by her lover, in 1843, when she had been staying at some village near. I did not burn them, though I scarcely knew why. Then I went to Paris with Lady Ida, and one day, when I was idly looking in at a shop window, I saw two small foreign stamps put up for sale—"*Double vert de Genève, très rare, mille francs.*" Something made me look again, and as I did so my heart beat hard. For I was sure that this queer stamp, like two joined together, was on those many letters that lay unregarded, faintly scented with Japanese camphor wood. I was right. I took no one into my confidence, and there was such a rage for collecting that I sold twenty for four hundred pounds.

"'You see, I had always meant to send some money to you, if aunt ever left me any. Only it would have been difficult, because the family would have wanted me to account for every penny. But to get it all like this was so much more enchanting. All my own; actually willed to me! Providence was very kind to frustrate her cruel device, and to make me rich enough, after all, to have my bright minute of romance, to make sunshine for all my grey life.

"'It was only by chance that I remembered it to be February 13, when I was in London, and had, after, oh! such trouble, found out your address. I sat in my little dull room, the happiest woman in England when I wrote, "From Valentine, so that you may work and attain." I kissed the letter before I posted it. How lucky it would be, taken into your hands, meeting your eyes!

"'I only once saw you. You passed me in the street. But I heard of you, and always, as I knew I should, heard of your growing fame and brilliant ability. And when it got into the papers first that an English surgeon had been summoned to an illustrious imperial patient, then there had been a wonderful operation performed with the utmost success, I guessed first that it was Frank Sebastian, and I was glad to think I had helped the man whose discoveries have saved so many precious lives.

"'Forgive me for telling you. When you marry—for surely you will—give her this to read. She will understand it better than you do, because only women know what love really is. You had other things, but, believe me, love is still the best of all.'"

Sebastian's voice faltered slightly. He was full of an immense compassion, a baffling sense of wonder as to what was this strong motor that influenced hearts to be so brave and so selfless.

Back to Denison came the haunting memory of the faithless wife, and he was silent.

Hesseltine hated sentiment, or, rather, hated showing that there was such a thing in his organisation. "Women are not all Violet Trehernes," he said to himself; but aloud he only remarked, "As a very enthusiastic stamp-collector, perhaps you will forgive my writing to the reverend brother at Cherrington to see if by any sort of chance his poor sister had kept just one *double vert de Genève*, 1843. I am ready with my thousand francs if she did."

The Maximum of Effect at the Minimum of Cost.—An Object Lesson in Decorating and Furnishing can be obtained by inspecting Messrs. Waring's Suites of furnished rooms at 175-181, Oxford-st. W.

ART NOTES.

My first impression after walking through the Forty-third Exhibition of the Society of Lady Artists at the Suffolk-street Gallery was that its members can bind books better than they can paint pictures. The exhibitors shine more in the Handicrafts than in the Art section of the Show. The samples of bookbinding, of course, suffer when compared with the rich specimens of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries craftsmanship now to be seen at the Society of Arts' rooms in the Adelphi; but there are several in the cases in the South-east Room at the Society of British Artists which are well deserving of praise. There are some tooled leather bindings exhibited by the Chiswick Art Workers' Guild which are extremely good. So are some of the needlework covers; but what, I wonder, can be the meaning of item No. 567 in the catalogue, "Book bound in vellum; exhibitor, Matthew Arnold"? The Editor of the temporarily-defunct *Borderland* has told us much about the facility with which disembodied spirits produce psychical drawings and ghostly photographs; but this is the first time it has ever been suggested that bookbinding is one of the recreations of dwellers in the Elysian Fields. In needlework, as might have been expected, the Lady Artists shine, and there are some excellent samples of work in *gesso duro* and hammered brass. Several admirable exhibits call attention to the fact that there is an organisation of workers known as "The Red Spider Association." Whatever can have induced these industrious ladies to choose such an ill-omened title as that for their Guild? As every one who has a garden knows, the name "red spider" is synonymous with blight and destruction.

Amongst the hundreds of oil-paintings and water-colours there are not many, unfortunately, which call for laudatory mention. There is a great deal, as some one has already observed, of "the average flower in the average jar." There is much, in fact too much, of the average pet dog painted in conjunction with the inevitable small child. Of the fluffy pet kitten there is positively a redundancy; but there are few signs of especial originality or even of executive ability which is more than mediocre. In the midst of much feeble and amateurish work, the drawings and pictures of such trained artists as Mrs. Jopling and Miss Kemp Welch, Miss Rose Barton and Miss Mildred Butler show to great advantage. Mrs. Clare Atwood's "Veiled Lady" is an ambitious picture, but it is not convincing. There is some excellent if rather prosaic work in Miss Hollam's careful study of a horse's head, which is catalogued as "A Servant of the Queen." The two pictures which seemed to me most striking, however, in the whole exhibition were Miss Janet Fisher's "Driving Home the Geese" and Miss M. Lancaster Lucas's "Zither Player." Let visitors to the Suffolk-street Gallery, therefore, look out specially for numbers 366 and 454.

Miss Ella Du Cane is surely a most fortunate young lady. Not only is she already able to aspire to the dignity of filling an entire room at Messrs. Graves's Galleries in Pall Mall East with her own work, but she is happily in a position to affix to many of the frames of her pictures, even before the general public have been admitted to view, that significant red star which shines only too infrequently in the art firmament in these days. I find, too, that she numbers amongst her patrons the Queen herself as well as the Princess of Wales; both of these royal ladies having lent, for inclusion in the present exhibition, water-colours painted for them by Miss Ella Du Cane. The fifty-seven water-colours she exhibits prove the possession of a very eclectic taste by the fair artist. She has found inspiration alike at Osborne and at Venice, at Windsor and at Florence, at Bruges and at Bellagio. They prove, too, that Miss Du Cane has a strong feeling for bright and beautiful colours. Her colour sense is evidently well developed, and, what is more, her drawings have atmosphere. In draughtsmanship she has still something to learn, but there is so much distinct promise in her work that she is well-nigh certain to obtain the desiderated firmness of touch if she perseveres. If I might venture to advise so facile an artist I would remind her of the well-known Latin saying, "*Festina lente!*" She has already achieved such success that she can well afford to "make haste slowly."

Visitors to Messrs. Graves's Galleries should also have a look at the water-colours of Australasian scenery exhibited in another of the rooms. This exhibition, which may be regarded, in one sense, as a sort of aftermath to the Jubilee, comprises some fifty drawings by Mr. W. J. Wadham and Mr. A. Sinclair, two artists whose art training, I believe, was obtained in England, and who have already attained considerable success at the Antipodes. Most of their work deals with the scenery of New Zealand, and there is in all of it a suggestion of the truthful interpretation of nature. There are scenes, too, in Queensland and New South Wales, so that we do not fail to see much of the inevitable, though not specially picturesque, gum tree. An antipodean critic has assured us that Messrs. Wadham and Sinclair "do not give us sketches that seem to have been painted with the washings of a mustard-pot." This is quite true. Their skies are blue and their trees are green, and, more important still, their drawings are full of that sympathetic quality without which good work can never be achieved.

MUSIC.

ORGAN SALARIES AND CHRISTIAN SOCIALISM.

I HAVE received from the Rev. W. Carlile a letter in regard to recent remarks which I and others have made concerning the post, offered by the Church Army, of organist at St. Mary-at-Hill. Mr. Carlile's letter is as follows:—

> For the life of me I cannot see why I should be accused of "organist sweating." For six hours on Sundays, and three and a half hours on week days, making nine and a half hours in all, I have offered £52 per annum, and the equivalent of as much again by a home in my rectory, and other advantages. We have no anthems, require no elaborate music, and prefer a young beginner who will learn the knack of making all sing rather than have their worship done for them by a choir, however excellent. As I have laboured in the Church Army incessantly myself for sixteen years without salary, to reclaim, on lines of scientific charity the outcast and destitute, I venture to believe that I can find a kind-hearted musician who in his spare time would assist me on the same terms, and I have had numerous and kindly responses. It is refreshing to be able to report that in this Mammon-loving City of London the Church Army has numbers of devoted men and women toiling indefatigably, both day and night, to relieve the miseries of those verging on crime and suicide, and their only remuneration is a poor pittance just sufficient to keep body and soul respectably together. Many have gladly given up from £1 to £5 a week to come in closest touch with the sunken and degraded. If these are "sweating," then the Great Socialist of Nazareth, whose example has moved them, may well be accused of the same.

It is a common expedient of the clergy, in mere matters mundane, to drag in the name of the great Founder of their religion, forgetful of the fact that He in the most solemn terms declared that "the labourer is worthy of his hire." This, however, is a point upon which I do not for a moment desire to dwell. The whole question is whether the Church Army are offering to a professional man a salary which would cheerfully be accepted by nobody but a religious maniac, or an outcast musician "verging on crime and suicide." To bring the charity element into the question was, I fear, an afterthought. There was no suggestion whatever, either in his advertisement or type-written conditions of service, that Mr. Carlile's offer of the berth was anything but a business one. I have previously given particulars of the questions asked of the applicants and of the multifarious duties which they were informed the successful candidate would have to fulfil for the extravagant salary of £1 a week. As to the salary, Mr. Carlile, it will be noticed, is under the impression that he offers an "equivalent of as much again by a home in my rectory,

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and other advantages." What Mr. Carlile really offered was this :—

Residence and board in rectory, next to church, very simple, sharing bedroom with an Evangelist, an earnest Churchman. Salary £52 ; lodging free ; board by arrangement.

If Mr. Carlile really believes that half a bedroom "shared with an Evangelist," however earnest a Churchman he may be, without board is worth an extra £1 a week, I do not think he will find many persons to agree with him. Nor can I quite reconcile Mr Carlile's present statement that the whole work is nine and a half hours in a week with the conditions of service which are now before me. Indeed, he distinctly states that only three hours a day are "free for giving lessons, rest, or recreation," and that the luckless organist's other time is to be filled up in the Samaritan Office, or in the rectory. Moreover, in a recent letter to *Musical News*, Mr. Carlile, stung by the taunt of somebody that his organist's pay was threepence-halfpenny an hour, pleads that his working hours are twenty-eight a week, and the pay 8½d. per hour. When Mr. Carlile falls back upon the charity plea there is, perhaps, not much to be said. But £1 a week, with the privilege of sharing bedroom with Evangelist and paying your own board, a life in which the deleterious joys of wine and cigars (on a pound a week) are replaced by the more sober delights of sacred concerts, brass bands, organ recitals, lantern choral evensong, and finding work for the destitute, is not the pay for a professional man, and it would, I think, be laughed at by the ordinary artisan. It may not be "organist sweating," and, in fact, I never said it was. It may, of course, be mere Christian Socialism. But to recommend, on such starvation terms, to parents and guardians a profession which demands high personal and artistic attainments, together with a long and expensive education, would be arrant folly.

The Philharmonic directors have issued a capital prospectus for the current season, which will start on the 10th prox., Herr Moritz Rosenthal then making his first appearance in London since his long illness. The Society have induced Dr. Saint-Saëns to return, and for the first time for many years to appear in public as an organist, playing one of his own organ concertos. Also they have a promise from Herr Moritz Moszkowski to appear for the first time in England as a pianist, playing his new pianoforte concerto, and likewise conducting a selection from his ballet "Laurin." Mr. Eugene D'Albert, hitherto chiefly known as a pianist, will now appear as a conductor, directing the first performance in England of his Symphony in F. Dr. Dvorak will come expressly to England to conduct some of his newest orchestral works. Mr. Corder will introduce his new dramatic scena, "Pippa Passes," and Mr. Hamish McCunn has rewritten the ballet music from his opera "Diarmid," and will conduct it in person. Also various other eminent performers will appear, amongst them the distinguished Austro-American pianist, Madame Fannie Bloomfield-Zeisler, who holds so high a position as an executant on the other side of the Atlantic.

The story told by Mr. Newland Smith concerning his engagement at the Imperial Institute would be a good joke were it not for the amazement we must all feel that the money of an institution endowed by British munificence is to be distributed almost exclusively among foreigners. The engagement for next season of a wholly unknown band from Milan has already been commented upon. Mr. Newland Smith now declares he wrote to the Imperial Institute, offering the services of himself and his British band, and was refused. He then temporarily changed his name to "Sigvard Eriksen," and again applied, receiving a favourable answer by return of post. Now, this assertion is either true or false. If the latter, the Institute authorities should have no difficulty in exposing Mr. Newland Smith; but, if true, it discloses so disgraceful a state of affairs as to call for the intervention of the Prince of Wales and Lord Herschell, as chiefs of the Institute. It was perfectly impossible for the Institute authorities to know anything about "Sigvard Eriksen," because, as in the case of the historic Mrs. Harris, "there ain't no sich person." Yet, being a foreigner, this mythical individual was accepted, while a well-known British musician was refused. If the doctrine, "No Englishman need apply," is to be adopted, it would only be an act of decency to drop the word "Imperial" from the Institute title.

In the prospectus of Mr. Schulz-Curtius' concerts is the following cryptic reference :—

Mr. Schulz-Curtius avails himself of this opportunity to acknowledge the kind support accorded to his undertakings by the Press, which has almost unanimously declared these concerts to be of the very best that can be heard anywhere in the world. There are, of course, a few exceptions; some critics, for reasons best known to themselves, have repeatedly met the undertaking with that lack of sympathy which minimises every merit and enlarges on any little shortcomings. This treatment has often called forth the indignant protest of subscribers, who, after having derived the greatest pleasure from a concert, are surprised to see these reports, which give so wrong an impression to the outside public. Happily, however, the audiences which attend these concerts are quite capable of forming their own judgment, and, regarding new works, would rather be guided by the eminent artists who co-operate with Mr. Schulz-Curtius than by paragraphs of that description.

All this is, of course, very dreadful, and it would be interesting to know the identity of the offending writers, in order that they may be sacrificed on the high altar of Wagnerism. Of course, when Mr. Schulz-Curtius declares that his concerts are "the very best that can be heard anywhere in the world," there is no need to argue further with him, although it may modestly be suggested that the order is rather a large one. It is also interesting to be told that the public prefer to be guided in the choice of novelties by "eminent artists." Perhaps, when Mr. Curtius has enjoyed a little more experience of concert-giving, he may discover the fact that "eminent artists" have a happy knack of not considering the value of a work as a whole at all, their interest in the composition being mainly limited to their own parts, which, if showy enough, are pronounced masterpieces. It is possible that some of the offending critics may not have taken the view they should have taken of the commanding qualifications as conductors of Herr Siegfried Wagner and Herr Richard Strauss. To avoid trouble in the future, it might indeed be advisable to ask managers to supply their own criticisms.

An amusing *lapsus* is noted in one of the best edited of musical newspapers. Towards the end of a report of the meeting of the Incorporated Society of Musicians it is stated that the conference closed with a toy symphony, "In the execution of which fifteen Doctors of Music and twenty-nine musicians took part." The theory that a Doctor of Music is not necessarily a musician is distinctly refreshing. As somebody has suggested, it recalls the delightfully quaint prayer-book expression, "In quires and places where they sing." The framers of the Book of Common Prayer prophetically imagined certain modern church choirs where they do not sing.

Immense amusement seems to have been caused in Germany by the controversy between Mr. Eugene D'Albert and Dr. Lassen, the distinguished musician of Weimar. These two excellent artists indulged in an exchange of hard words which eventually, it seems, landed them in the Law Courts. According to the papers, at a meeting of the General Musicians Association at Leipsic, Dr. Lassen is alleged to have concluded a speech by calling Mr. D'Albert a "fibber and a calumniator." For this he had to pay 50 marks, or £2 10s., and costs. There was once a blood-thirsty Irishman who, resolving to avenge some real or fancied insult, went to the Court-house and deposited in advance 40s. for the prospective assault fine. Dr. Lassen seems to have got off at an equally inexpensive rate. However, it is alleged that he afterwards wrote to the principal of a music publishing firm, whereupon the Court was appealed to again, and the musician was cast in 200 marks, or £10, damages. This for the privilege of saying your mind in no measured language may be considered fairly moderate. In fact they certainly appear to do this sort of thing much better in Germany than in England.

The bandsmen in the London theatres are not as a body overpaid, and a good deal of sympathy will accordingly be expressed in their present efforts to secure proper remuneration for rehearsals. It seems that the custom at present is

this: All rehearsals in the day time for pantomime or comic opera are supposed to be free, although a certain amount is paid for night rehearsals. The *Gazette* of the "Orchestral Association," which is practically the trades-union of the orchestral players, gives some interesting details of what the unfortunate bandsmen have to put up with. For example, in one instance there were eleven full-day rehearsals for the production of a comic opera which ran eight weeks. In another instance eleven rehearsals were held, in another eight, and another fourteen, none of which are paid for. The *Gazette* seems to hint that these rehearsals were unnecessary, at any rate to perfect the orchestra, and that they were held to a certain extent because some of the artists were incompetent to learn the music without it being drilled into them. Considering the average musical intelligence shown by chorus ladies, and, indeed, by some of the principals, in comic opera, this may very possibly be the fact. The tendency now, however, is to demand some sort of pay for all rehearsals, and it is difficult to understand any reason except parsimony why such rehearsals should not be paid for.

The same periodical, by the way, draws attention to the following amusing advertisement:—

Musicians wanted for orchestra, no pay, apply, &c.

The full name and address of the advertiser are given, but I do not see any reason to print them. A man who supposes that an orchestra plays merely for fun must be a strange person indeed.

The question of Sunday pay of orchestras has also arisen in Liverpool. It has more than once been asserted that when the London Sunday concerts were started at Queen's Hall, the bandsmen accepted half-pay, a step which is likely ultimately to have far reaching results upon the salaries of orchestral players generally. In Liverpool at the Sunday lectures, according to an official statement put forward, it is said that the band received £280 for the winter season and that they now demand an increase of from 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. £280 for an orchestra for a whole season certainly does not appear to be an extravagant rate of remuneration. In London such a sum would be swallowed up by a couple of concerts. The religious objection to Sunday concerts is now, except by a few doubtless sincere bigots, generally scouted. But it is an altogether different thing to suppose that performers should necessarily accept lower pay on Sundays than on week-days. To do so would certainly injure the week-day concerts. Were the performers ordinary working men they would probably demand double pay for Sunday labour.

The revival of Handel's "Athaliah" by the Handel Society was the chief concert event of the week. The oratorio, which was written for a sort of Hanoverian festival in the then Jacobite stronghold of Oxford University, in 1733, is quite unknown to the present generation, and one of the most enthusiastic of its hearers on Saturday was Mr. Arthur Balfour. The airs, of course, are now out of date, and the choruses, one or two of which have been heard at the Handel Festivals, are not so well developed as in some of the later oratorios. But, although "Athaliah" stands no chance of ranking in popular estimation with the "Messiah," "Judas," or "Israel in Egypt," its revival was of interest, if only as a matter of curiosity. A pianoforte concerto, by Mr. Boughton, of Aylesbury, with a new pianist and a conductor imported from Germany, was tried at St. James's Hall last week, but the performance was so bad that to venture to express an opinion of the concerto would be an absurdity. The London and Westminster Bank Orchestral Society has given a successful concert. Mr. W. Vincent Thomas has an excellent command over his little band of forty, and, for an amateur effort, the performance of Mozart's G Minor symphony and two of Moszkowski's Spanish Dances was very creditable. Miss Frances Macquoid, a clever and versatile young lady, has also given a successful dramatic and musical recital. At the Popular Concerts Miss Adela Verne has returned, and on Saturday gave a capital rendering of Bach's "Italian" concerto. Miss Leonora Jackson, an American pupil of Joachim, has also made a successful début at Queen's Hall in the violin concerto in D Minor of Vieuxtemps. Herr Liebling resumed his pianoforte recitals on Monday; and, indeed, concerts are now coming on thick and fast.

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LETTERS ON BOOKS.

My dear Mr. Wyndham,—Mr. Justin McCarthy's "Story of Gladstone's Life" (1) is a mere sketch of the journalistic kind—light, slight, skimming, and impressionist—but it is as interesting as it is opportune. It gives, perhaps, the best answer that has yet been given to the charge of interested inconsistency, which in one form or another is for ever being pressed against the "hope of the stern, unbending Tories" of 1832. The Christian form of the charge is that which was epigrammatically expressed by Archdeacon Denison years since at a Tory dinner. During one of those sudden and sultry silences which sometimes at a dinner-table precede and presage a storm of babble, he launched this thunderbolt, "Gladstone is the most conscientious man in Europe." Before his Tory friends could make up their minds as to whether wine or Satan had entered into the Archdeacon, he added, quietly, "But he changes his conscience every week." While the Arab proverb, "The greatest impostor is the unconscious impostor," fairly expresses this view of Mr. Gladstone, the other—the Vicar of Bray—conception of him is the more popular, as being the more intelligible to the average Tory mind. Mr. McCarthy is more fortunate than I in his Tory friends if, as he informs you, he has never in the whole course of his life met either detractor.

> I have mixed with most of Mr. Gladstone's contemporaries, his political opponents as well as his political followers, and I have never heard a hint of any serious defect in his nature and his character, or of any unworthy motive influencing his public or private career.

All that Mr. McCarthy has ever heard alleged by his bitterest political opponents against Mr. Gladstone is that he was not always conciliatory, diplomatic, and polite, and that "he was not good at remembering faces and names." As, however, such sweet reasonableness is to be met with only in the "ampler ether and diviner air" of the House of Commons, Mr. McCarthy has "builded better than he knew" in supplying this adequate and admirable answer to the sordid detraction of the base world without its walls. His book is written on the text that no statesman can be consistent with the consistency of a moralist, a philosopher, or of a pedant, prig, faddist, or fanatic.

> Gladstone may be charged with inconsistency—a charge which has naturally to be made against any great statesman, for the essence of statesmanship consists in the recognition of imminent tendencies and actual facts. Nobody can possibly be called a statesman who starts in life with a pack of political nostrums which he proposes to apply inveterately to the cure of every constitutional malady in the State. A mind like that of Mr. Gladstone is inexorably compelled to go on studying the changing conditions of things, and is absolutely prohibited from applying remorselessly the remedies of the day before yesterday to the troubles of to-day. Many years ago John Bright said to me that Gladstone was "always struggling towards the light." Such might indeed be the statement of Gladstone's whole career.

This Mr. McCarthy has, I think, demonstrated as far as it is demonstrable in a sketch so slight. "Lord Rosebery," says Mr. Hogan in his interesting history of "The Gladstone Colony" (2), "told Mr. Gladstone on one occasion that, when the time came to write his life in

(1) "The Story of Gladstone's Life." By Justin McCarthy. (London: Adam & Charles Black). Price 7s. 6d.
(2) "The Gladstone Colony." An Unwritten Chapter of Australian History. (London: T. Fisher Unwin.) Price 7s. 6d.
(3) "Anarchism." A Criticism and History of the Anarchist Theory. By E. V. Zenker. Translated from the German. (London: Methuen & Co.) Price 7s. 6d.
(4) "Traits and Confidences." By the Hon. Emily Lawless. (London: Methuen & Co.) Price 6s.

full, the work would have to be undertaken by and distributed amongst a limited liability company." Such a company, however numerous or varied its constituents, would find portraits many enough and diverse enough in Mr. McCarthy's book to illustrate their encyclopædic biography. Mr. Hogan's work is really rather a history, and a very interesting history, of a colonising experiment than a comprehensive survey of Mr. Gladstone's political connection with the Colonies. Here is a characteristic incident of that connection in the days before Mr. Gladstone had found salvation. Zephaniah Williams, a Chartist leader who had been transported for life to Van Diemen's land, having distinguished himself by rushing into a burning lunatic asylum and rescuing thence a number of the inmates at the imminent risk of his life, was recommended by the Governor to Mr. Gladstone, the then Colonial Secretary, for a mitigation of his monstrous sentence in recognition of his gallantry.

But Mr. Gladstone declined to endorse this reasonable recommendation. He was at that time still a Conservative, and possibly did not foresee that in the years to come he would be eloquently advocating and energetically passing into law those identical Radical principles for the propagation of which Williams struggled, laboured, agitated, and endured long years of bitter exile and imprisonment.

In truth there is no crime which is more certain of exemplary punishment than that of being in advance of your time. Whether this is the crime of the Anarchist is discussed with singular acumen, and still more singular calm, in Herr Zenker's "Criticism and History of the Anarchist Theory" (3), which has just been translated from the German. Herr Zenker, while considering the Anarchist idea hopelessly unrealisable, demands for the doctrine, as long as it does not lead to crime, the right of tolerance due to every opinion without regard to its being more probable, practicable, or dangerous than any other opinion—claiming this tolerance not on mere academic grounds, but in the interests of the community. After so stiff and grim a book you should try, as an alterative, the Hon. Emily Lawless's "Traits and Confidences" (4), a set of singularly clever short stories worthy of the author of "Hurrish." Perhaps the best is "What the Bag Contained," but one and all are almost perfect specimens of the art of telling a story as distinguished from the gift of invention—of having a story to tell.—Believe me, dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—When you are in Paris you will notice the horrid cruelty with which most of the *cochers* and omnibus drivers treat their horses. And yet it was in Paris that I have often seen a cabman talk to his horse in the most endearing terms—pet it, coax it, caress it, and even kiss it. This is such a strange world of contrasts! I see by my *Figaro* that a wealthy woman, lately dead, has left a large fortune to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The details of the bequest include a direction to spend forty pounds a year in posting on the walls of the city copies of the Grammont Bill, which deals with cruelty to animals. Funds are also left for providing twelve new inspectors, the Society having been till now notoriously undermanned. And another clause in the will directs that an auto-car shall be established for the prompt removal of injured and suffering horses from the streets, where they have been known to lie in agonies for hours.

We have nothing to boast about ourselves in this respect. Charlie saw a crowd round a fallen horse one day on his way to the City at 10 in the morning, and found the dying animal still there on his return at 2 p.m. He inquired about it, and was told by the policeman that it could not be shot without the permission of the owner, and that he had gone out of town for the day and could not be communicated with. I do not think that London has a street ambulance for horses, though I remember hearing some years ago that one was to be started.

Perhaps the Jubilee killed it as it has done so many other minor charities, and winter parties as well. Hannah's children were lunching here the other day, and when we asked them if they had been to many parties this winter, they replied in doleful voices: "Only two!" Their usual experience is a plethora of parties all through the Christmas holidays and Hannah had prepared their pretty little frocks with a view to the ordinary state of things. "They'll all be outgrown next winter," she sighed, whereupon we administered a judicious blend of sympathy and rebuke, for it is ridiculous to be so very previous in so uncertain a world.

Her children looked such perfect ducks in their Dutch bonnets with the sides turned back in revers, so to speak, and covered with imitation Venice point. They have lovely hair, and it is so beautifully kept that it would look well even if the colour were not so fine. The way it is worn now, too, is so much prettier than the childish style of some few years back, when the hair was crimped in long plaits at night, emerging in the morning with ripples down the whole length. Now the ends are masses in great, round curls, and the straight fringe is a thing of the past, except with the youngsters of our Royal family, whose members are so excessively conservative in dress and toilet matters. The bright scarlet coats and caps that children have been wearing this winter are also picturesque. Hannah's children had their red Dutch bonnets matching the coats, and turned back from the face with lace, as I have described. The boy looked delicious in his little jockey cap. And then they have the charm of being well-behaved and well-brought up. So many children are spoiled nowadays that it is quite a treat to see the agreeable exceptions. Their manners at table contrasted pleasantly with those of some other children we met at a friend's a short time ago, who made their mother do exactly as they wished. They asked her in whispers for everything they wanted, and she got it for them, however unsuitable it may have been. Conversation was impossible, with the incessant whispered demands of these ill-bred children, and when they had had all they wished for, they got up from table and began noisily racing up and down the room, to the horror and dismay of the sweet, high-bred, and well-behaved little girls of the hostess. When the naughty ones had gone she said to her own youngsters: "Remember, darlings, those children are never to be asked here again, nor are you to go to Mrs. ——'s house." Spoiling children is dreadful selfishness, storing up misery for the youngsters themselves, as well as making a sharp rod for one's own back. When people talk of "indulgent parents" I always amend the phrase in my own mind to "self-indulgent."

Lilla had such a sweet gown made for herself for a big county ball—white silk covered with a tulle overdress embroidered with jet and silver. Getting into her carriage on her way to the ball, her footman shut a bit of her gown into the door. Arrived, she was getting out at the other door with the consequence that a great piece of the gown was torn away, and she found herself in rags instead of being one of the best-dressed women there, as she had fully intended. She discharged the footman on the spot, as you may imagine who know her so well. It was annoying, of course, but that is the worst of those very flimsy materials. The slightest mishap is apt to ruin them, and it always seems as if these accidents happen at the most critical moments.

Lilla gave a dinner party herself last week entirely in honour, as we chaffingly told her, of a new mahogany dinner table. One forgets, on ordinary occasions, how much real beauty there is in this wood. Servants grime it over with

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dingy dusters until there is no beauty left in it, and it is only when we come across a perfectly new one that we see the exquisite depth and variety of tone and tint. There was no cloth on the table, and the floral decorations were confined to wallflowers and daffodils in white and gold vases placed down the centre, each standing on a gold and black embroidered Persian mat. Down the sides of the table were damask slips embroidered in a new way, which leaves the outline of the plate quite plain, while surrounding it with curved sprays of flowers. A design in drawn-thread work formed an edging. When these slips were removed for dessert the maids removed with them a new sort of quilted and yet perfectly smooth and flat underlay, the best thing of the kind I have ever seen. It would be impossible to injure the table through this thickness, and the damask looked its very best over its white softness. I noticed, too, that there were ample d'oyleys provided for our dessert plates in addition to the smaller ones for the finger glasses. Such tender care did Lilla display for her new table. The maids carefully laid the d'oyleys on the mahogany before setting down the plates. They were sweet things, made of the finest cambric, lined with yellow satin and beribboned with yellow, a spray of mimosa, laburnum, marsh-mallow, or other yellow flower being embroidered lightly in the centre of each. She gives perfect little dinners. There is never too much. There are never any waits. Everything that should be hot *is* hot, and everything that should be cold *is* cold. Whenever we dine there she gives us our favourite wine, sparkling Burgundy, and I take it, one of the most agreeable traits of genuine hospitality is that which takes note of a guest's particular fancies in order to indulge them on future occasions.

So Margaret wants advice as to the best style of calling costume to get for the spring. She asks if coats and skirts are still worn, and if so, how they are made. They are still worn, and are likely to enjoy long popularity. The coats are almost without exception open-fronted, with all kinds of decorative appliances in the shape of waistcoats, fronts, and chemisettes, with lace cravats in long ends. There is a greater tendency to tightness of fit than has been noticeable for a long time, and the blowsiness of blouses has quite disappeared. Everything will be trim and neat. I should advise for a smart spring calling costume for a young wife of twenty-two, as she is, a rather light-tinted satin cloth or cashmere, with a very prettily-made bodice, and a cape that would easily slip off when in a friend's crowded drawing-room. There is nothing so becoming to a slight figure as a well-made bodice. Suppose she should select tan colour, the bodice might have cross-way bands of black or dark-brown velvet on each side, and rather in a diagonal line, as these are so much more becoming than straight lines. Military braiding is going to be very much worn this season. If she has a coat, it should be braided in front on the shoulders, and again on the sleeves, and perhaps on the collar as well. I saw a delicious coat in the Park on Sunday. It was in some thick, woolly stuff, probably a variety of camel's-hair, the colour being putty, or pale mushroom, just as Margaret chooses to call it. This was braided in a darker tone high on the shoulders, on the tops of the sleeves, and again on the fronts, which were three or four inches apart, the space between being filled in with folds of cardinal-red, wave-pleated chiffon. Many ruches of the chiffon filled the space between the rather wide but not very high collar and the neck. This might serve as an idea for Margaret to build up some conception upon of the gown of her eventual choice. The skirt, to be strictly up-to-date, should have some rows of braid upon it. There is a great fancy for wide, military braid just now. It describes squares, outlines the form of an apron on the front breadth, or is otherwise irrationally disposed, adding weight, and not in the least improving the appearance, except that it imparts a certain smartness.

You might tell your friend, who writes under the *nom-de-guerre* of "Practical Cook" that the best marmalade we ever tasted had the oranges all boiled together, with the single exception of the pips.

We have seen "Julius Cæsar" since I last wrote to you and our reverent admiration for Shakespeare is greater than ever. What a wonderful speech is that he puts into the mouth of Mark Antony on Cæsar's death! Schoolgirls and schoolboys are taught to recite it when they are far too young to appreciate its marvellous art, which seems a pity, for it often spoils their appreciation of it afterwards. It was with quite a wrench that we came back to the present when the curtain fell each time and ancient Rome gave place with a jerk to modern London. The curly wigs of the senators were very becoming to the actors. Did all men's hair curl in Italy of old? Miss Lily Hanbury's draperies of soft grey blue were lovely, and the black veil she added when her husband was dead seemed more graphically to express mourning than our suits of sable. Almost every feminine head in the stalls had its black feather and these little waving plumes are occasionally rather obstructive to the vision. To be out of the common one has only to dispense with a tall black aigrette. Sounds easy, does it not? But then one may be out of the common and yet completely insignificant. And that is not exactly what a woman's heart yearns after, is it? The music was most barbarically impressive, dating from the time before semitones had entered into the thoughts of men.

Such a pretty girl was skating at Niagara on Saturday. She had quantities of fair hair, large dark eyes, either blue or grey, and very delicate tinting, except the lips, which were bright coral. She was dressed all in white, and a toque and tie matched exactly to the coral of her lips. Need I say that she had no lack of squires on the ice? Another tall girl in grey, with a graceful figure and long lines of dark fur giving value to her height, was well supplied with convoys round the rink. Lady Randolph Churchill showed us some fine skating. Her gown was as simple as effective. It was black, with collar and revers to the waist of tapestry blue velvet, folds of soft white filling in the interval. She talked for a time to the Duc d'Orléans, but chiefly skated with her sister, Mrs. Jack Leslie, and once or twice helped a pretty little niece round—a courageous child who was determined to succeed. There was some one there in a mauve dress and a very wide pink sash with deeply fringed ends, who excited our wrath, so loudly did the shades of mauve and pink swear at each other.

By the way, Frances mentions that the managers of the Brighton Ice Rink have secured a great attraction this week, M. Maurice being engaged to give an exhibition of bicycle riding on the ice each afternoon. He is known as "the champion trick rider of France."

Christabel writes from Paris:—

This week I send you particulars of the dresses worn by the actresses in the new piece that every one goes to see, and, as the costumes are in the style of to-day, with a little of to-morrow, they may be useful in the way of ideas.

At the Theatre Français the piece is "Catherine," and Mdlle. Lara takes the part of the heroine. One of the gowns she wears is of cream-coloured spotted net with stripes of insertion introduced horizontally, a large collar of embroidered batiste which comes down the front and crosses at the waist, and above this a small collar of guipure insertion. The waistband is blue taffetas, with paste buckle, and in front of the bodice are pinned some yellow roses in a blue taffetas bow. The second costume is dove-grey velvet embroidered all over with chenille the same shade and a shade darker. The blouse bodice consists of transparent embroidery lined with green and fastening at the side. It has a neck-band of green silk folded in pleats.

Mlle. Brandès wore first a visiting dress. The skirt was cloth of the colour called here "pain brûlé" (a brownish shade), the tablier, surrounded by fine spangled embroidery, the design widening towards the foot; over a chemisette of red China crêpe was a large bolero of bronze-brown velvet embroidered with jet, and having revers of chinchilla, with a black net cravat. A small black velvet hat and chinchilla muff lined with red completed the costume. She next wore a very handsome princess robe of cloth in a lovely pale-green shade. On the bodice were vandykes

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of pink velvet mixed with lace and paste buttons to fasten it. The cloth sleeves were half long with a fall of lace, and at the top they had a frilling of pink velvet.

Mme. Pierson looked the dowager-duchess to perfection in a gown of mauve crêpon with wide satin stripes. All down the front was very handsome guipure embroidered with mother-o'-pearl and a cascade of mauve silk muslin.

Mlle. Muller wore white spotted net over rose-coloured silk and a waist-belt of white satin.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin :—

DEAREST MADGE,—The Castle season began early last week in Dublin, the third under the auspices of Lord and Lady Cadogan. Lord Cadogan, according to his own utterances, has taken very kindly to being a king and finds his crown light and easy wear. He is very practised in playing his part, or rather parts—now, the only difficulty must be with regard to getting them mixed. That, however, is not very threatening, on the occasions of a Levee and Drawing Room, when he stands under the canopy in the Throne Room of Dublin Castle, with the Sword of State displayed beside him and surrounded by a numerous and brilliantly arrayed Household, who number in their ranks four peers and some belted knights. At the Drawing Room, in especial, the Lord Lieutenant's sense of the consecrated viceregal person—though very far from having the "mailed fist" as an adjunct—must be very strong, when exercising the Royal prerogative of kissing all the ladies presented to him for various reasons, and the débutantes. Until the Duke of Marlborough's time, each Viceroy had the more than Royal privilege of kissing every woman at his first Drawing Room, sometimes nearly 700 kisses in one night—a surfeit of sweets, truly. No viceroy surrendered the privilege, but the Duchess of Marlborough receives the credit of having abolished it.

The Drawing Room on Wednesday night had no special features of interest, but was, as usual, a very pretty sight—the entrance and inner halls, with the guard of honour drawn up, the great staircase and corridors brilliantly lighted, the rows of powdered lacqueys and tropical plants, the long suites of rooms full of women in Court dress, train, feathers, and lappets, and of men in an infinite variety of uniforms, civil and military. How like a fancy ball a Court ceremonial of this kind must seem to the men! They must feel like going masquerading, and no doubt the dressy ones enjoy the outbreak from the usual sombre monotony of black and white. The Court sword is an example of a very unfit survival; one's lace and chiffon often furnish melancholy examples of what deadly effect this weapon can have in a crowd.

Lady Cadogan wore a handsome costume, made in Dublin, a harmony in blue and violet velvet. The blue dress was embroidered in lilac and the violet train lined with blue. Her diamonds were magnificent enough to suit the highest Court ceremonial. She looked a thoroughly regal figure walking in the procession through St. Patrick's Hall, her train carried by two pages-in-waiting. Lord and Lady Waterford made their first appearance at the Irish Court, where Lady Waterford's grandfather once reigned with a splendour never since surpassed. It was curious to see Lord Londonderry not seated on the Throne, but no doubt critically studying his successor on it. Another ex-Viceroy—though not of Ireland—Lord Dufferin, was present, too One feels that these occasions must be trying to abdicated or deposed vice-kings, they must feel a bit "out of it" when not filling the leading rôle. And as they are human, can they help feeling that there are some little things at least, about the present man's way of doing the part which are—well, no improvement on their ways of reading it? Ladies Annesley, Fingall, Eva and Margaret Forbes were a few amongst many pretty matrons and maidens. There was a goodly number of débutantes. Ladies Headfort, Ashbourne, Holmpatrick, and Clonbrock each presented a daughter. Amongst those who were accompanied by two daughters each were Ladies Mowbray and Stourton, Morris, Roberts, and Granard. Others had more than two daughters, but one passes them over in sympathetic silence. What a gift of girls so many families seem to have. The surplus woman must be increasing with the declining century. We shall soon have the very big battalions on the woman's side, and then—what next?

Lady Dufferin wore a handsome train, and looked charming and distinguished with her Orders. She had no daughter with her. Violet in every shade, from dark to light, and blue to red and primrose colours were much worn, no doubt because of the mild, spring-like weather. White and cream tints prevailed amongst the younger people. In many cases dark dresses were worn, with light trains. Lace and embroideries were in great favour. The number of bouquets—almost a necessary adjunct to Court dress, even at Dublin Castle—made the atmosphere quite fragrant, and brought sweet suggestions of gardens and conservatories.

Dublin is not now honoured by having a regiment of Guards included in its garrison, which is a great loss on ceremonial occasions, and partakes of the nature of an Irish grievance So long as Lord Wolseley was in Ireland he always had a battalion in the barracks nearest to the Royal Hospital. From the year of the Fenian rising when the Coldstream Guards went into action on outside cars, a Guard regiment, except for one short interval, was always stationed in Dublin. Their absence was quite remarkable on Wednesday night, one quite wanted to see the Guards uniform, the eye missing the accustomed brilliant colouring, as one might miss an effective flower from a garden.

On Thursday there was a big dinner in St. Patrick's Hall, followed by a dance in the Throne Room. Everything was beautifully done. The number of pretty dresses was co-equal with that of the guests of our sex, for every one had on a new frock. The dinner on Friday was smaller, and the dance larger, a very pretty one, too. Lord Cadogan allows his young people to do the dancing for him, and only occasionally goes through a duty quadrille. Lady Cadogan is an admirable vice-queen, and shows an example of agreeability and activity in entertaining her guests that many a less high placed hostess might usefully copy. In these days how often *noblesse oblige*, apparently means that the obligation is to be rude and ill bred.—Yours ever,

CLARE.

And now for a little cookery. You will find that fillets of eels dressed in this way make a superior dish :—

Remove the fillets from a fine eel, trim and cut them into pieces about three inches long, lay them in a buttered sauté pan with the ends slightly curved, season them with salt, pepper, lemon-juice, a little chopped shalot and chopped parsley; cover them with a buttered paper, after having added a glass of red wine and a little stock. Cook the fish in a moderate oven for about half an hour, then arrange the fillets in a circle on a thin border of mashed potato, to prevent them slipping. Put the ragoût in the centre and pour the sauce over all. To prepare the ragoût:—Blanch the soft roes of three nice fresh herrings by boiling them in salted water and lemon juice for ten minutes. Blanch, strain, and beard a dozen oysters, add them, with a few scallops of truffle, to a little stock, and keep them warm without allowing them to boil.

To make the sauce :—The bones of the fish should be chopped and put on to stew for about two hours in water with a little root vegetable, herbs, and spices, strained and reduced by boiling with the oyster liquor until about a teacupful remains, then mix it with a gill of good brown sauce and a glass of claret, and boil it again until it is a nice consistency. Finish the sauce by working in a small piece of anchovy butter, the juice of half a lemon, and a teaspoonful of chopped parsley. Add the ragoût to the sauce at the moment of serving.

Pilau of haddock is a pleasant change of food. It is advisable to use the fillets from a large fish, as they cut into thicker pieces :—

Trim the fillets, cut them into six or eight pieces, and fry them very slightly in a little salad oil. Rub the contents of a tin of tomatoes through a hair sieve, make it hot, and dissolve 1 oz. of glaze or a little Liebig in it. Make the quantity of liquid to about a pint with stock or water, then shower in 4 oz of Carolina rice. Put in the pieces of fish, season with salt, pepper, and a little lemon juice Cover all with a buttered paper and allow it to simmer for an hour, when the rice and fish should be quite done and have absorbed all the liquor. Arrange the rice in the centre of a hot dish, put the pieces of fish round, and pour a little brown sauce, which may be made from the bones of the fish, over all.

Dry curry made from the remains of turbot or soles makes a nice second-course dish :—

Take the fish from the bones whilst still warm, and, when cold, cut it into fine, dice-shaped pieces. Cut a large Spanish onion

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into dice, and put it into a stew-pan with 2 oz. of butter; cover it with the lid, and stand the stew-pan on a warm part of the stove until the onion is quite cooked and slightly browned. Then add 2 apples, which must be pared, cored, and cut in a similar manner, and about 1½ oz. of grated cocoanut; replace the lid, and cook all until the apple is done. Now mix in a dessertspoonful of curry paste, and a similar quantity of chutney and tomato sauce; add the milk of the cocoanut if possible. Failing this, add a little cream; add also the juice of half a small lemon, stir together, and simmer for half an hour. Now mix in the minced fish, and when quite hot arrange it in a silver dish, garnish it with fried croûtons, and serve with it nicely-boiled rice in a separate dish.

Cardoons make an excellent second course dish when dressed in this way:—

Having blanched one, stew it in some good brown sauce, for three-quarters of an hour, adding a pinch of sugar and two table spoonfuls of sherry, then boil it rapidly until the sauce will adhere to a spoon. Now stir in a dessertspoonful of chopped and blanched parsley and a squeeze of lemon juice. Arrange the vegetable nicely on a hot dish and garnish it with a border of heart-shaped pieces of fried bread, on each of which is placed a nice piece of beef marrow, previously blanched and seasoned with pepper, salt, lemon juice, and chopped and blanched parsley.

To make the lemon icing that you inquired about:—

Put 10 oz. of sifted icing sugar into a basin, add the strained juice of a lemon, and work it with a wooden spoon until it is thick enough to adhere to the cake.

I think you will like this way of dressing salt fish. It is nicer than when plainly boiled:—

Remove the fish in nice flakes, when it comes from table, and put the bones and skin on to stew in water for two hours. Dissolve 2 oz. of butter in a stewpan, mix in a heaped tablespoonful of flour and the strained fish broth, stir until boiling. Now make a border of mashed parsnips on the dish the fish is to be served in. Pour a little of the sauce in the dish, put a layer of the fish, sprinkle with hard-boiled yolk of egg passed through a wire sieve, season with pepper, and repeat the layers of fish and egg, making sauce the last layer. Cover the top with 1 oz. of grated Parmesan cheese, and place the dish in the oven for ten minutes. Glaze the top with the hot salamander.

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Passengers should book to Vancouver City, terminus of the CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY. The arrival platform is the departure wharf of all Klondike steamers. Complete outfits can be purchased in Vancouver City cheaper than in the United States. Purchasers save not only in first cost, but escape all Customs duties. Remember Klondike is in Canada. All outfits purchased elsewhere pay an average duty of 30 per cent. Steamers leave Vancouver City regularly direct for the Klondike.—Apply, CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY OFFICES, 67 and 68, King William-street, London Bridge, E.C.; 30, Cockspur-street, Trafalgar-square, W.C.
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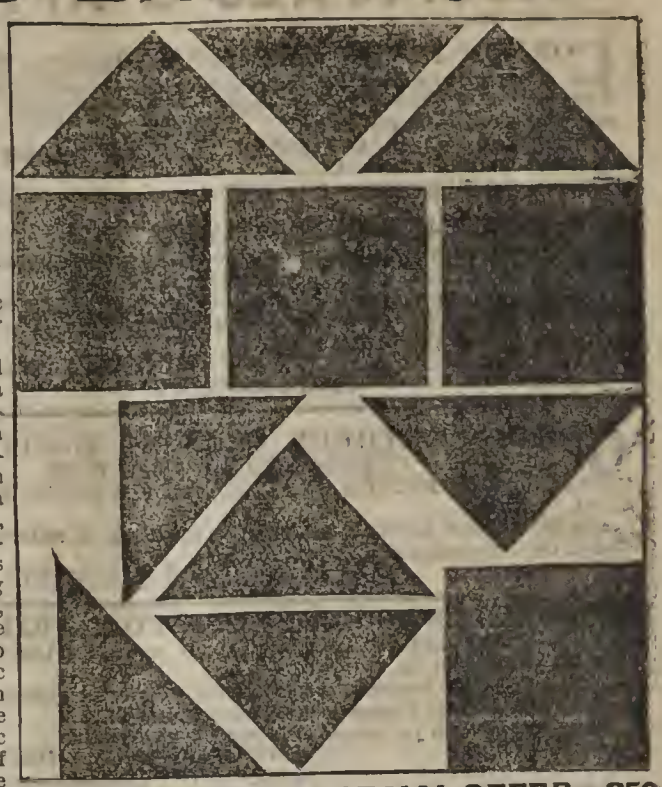

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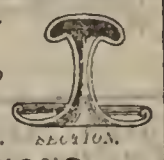

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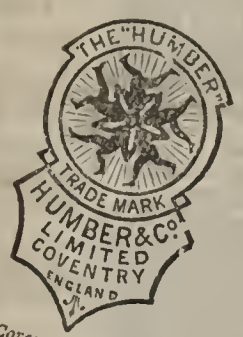

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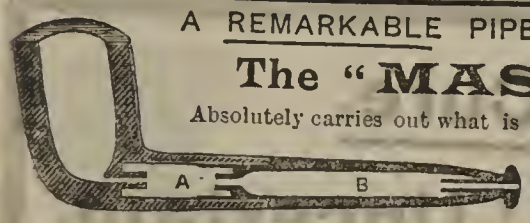

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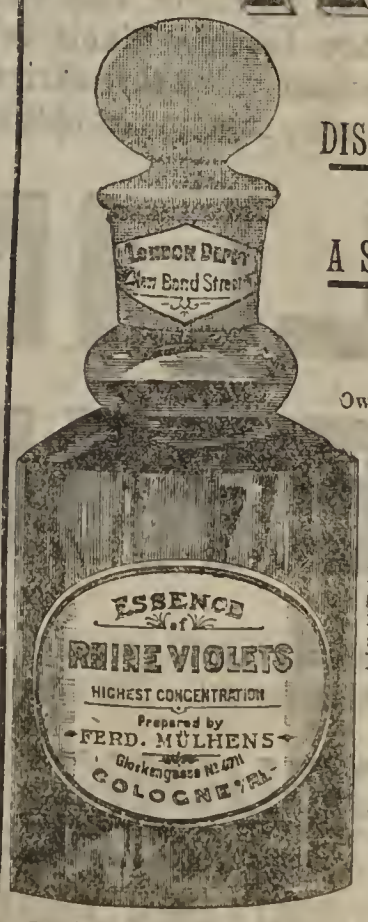

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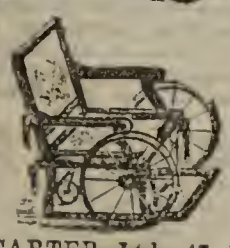

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The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

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CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND, AND PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY FIVE PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE, EXTENSION, AND COLLATERAL BONDS.
FIVE PER CENT. DEBENTURE BONDS.

This Company has entered into an agreement with Messrs. Speyer & Co., New York, for the sale of about $52,000,000 New General Mortgage Four per Cent. Ninety Year Gold Bonds, Interest payable Jan. 1st and July 1st, to be issued for the purpose of retiring the following issues:—
$40,712,000 Five per Cent. First Mortgage, Extension, and Collateral Bonds.
$4,500,000 Five per Cent. Debenture Bonds.
$5,000,000 Seven per Cent. Chicago and South-Western Railway Company First Mortgage Bonds, due November 1st, 1899.

Upon ratification of the new mortgage by the stockholders at a meeting called for February 15th, 1898, the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway Company intends to exercise its privilege of redemption at 105 and accrued interest, New York terms, as follows: The Five per Cent. First Mortgage, Extension, and Collateral Bonds to be paid on or before July 1st, 1898.

The Five per Cent. Debenture Bonds to be paid on September 1st, 1898.

The following particulars are taken from a statement by R. R. Cable, Esq., the President of the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway Company:—

The New Mortgage provides that none of the existing Bonds shall be extended at maturity, but that they shall be retired, so that thereafter the New Bonds will be secured by a First Mortgage on all the railroad property and real estate of the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway Company, including its railroad, terminals at Chicago and other points and equipment; and also its leases, all as is more fully specified in the mortgage.

The Capital Stock of the Company on March 31st, 1897, was	$46,156,000
The Bonded Debt	62,712,000
(This amount includes $12,500,000 Six per Cent. Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway First Mortgage Bonds due 1917.)	
The net income of the Company for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1897, after deduction of rentals and all other charges, was	$4,765,121.27
The interest on the bonded debt was	3,321,525
The surplus income for the year was	$1,443,596.27

By the proposed plan of refunding, the annual interest charges will be reduced, upon the retirement of the Five per Cent. First Mortgage, Extension, and Collateral Bonds, the Five per Cent. Debenture Bonds, and the Chicago and South-Western Railway Seven per Cent. Bonds, from $3,321,525 to $2,824,904, an annual **SAVING of $496,621.**

The net earnings for the nine months ending December 31st, 1897 (December estimated) show an increase of $1,525,198.24 over the corresponding period in 1896.

The Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway Company has regularly paid cash dividends in each year since the organisation of the Company in 1880, amounting in the aggregate to $38,938,465.

Subject to the ratification of the New Mortgage by the Stockholders,

The undersigned hereby OFFER, until February 17th, 1898 (unless the amount available for this purpose is exhausted earlier), $25,000,000 of the New General Mortgage Four per Cent. Gold Bonds

To the holders of the FIVE PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE, EXTENSION, and COLLATERAL BONDS, and the FIVE PER CENT. DEBENTURE BONDS, in exchange for their existing Bonds at the price of 103½ per cent. and accrued interest, New York terms, the computation to be made as of May 1st next, and the difference of interest between 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. to be allowed to the Bondholder.

Receipts will be issued for the Bonds deposited, to be exchanged free of charge to the Bondholders against new definitive Bonds when ready.

Applications will be made to have the new General Mortgage Four Per Cent. Gold Bonds officially quoted in New York, London, and Frankfort.

Full particulars as to the terms and conditions of the exchange may be obtained at the offices of the undersigned:

SPEYER BROTHERS 7, Lothbury, London, E.C.
SPEYER & COMPANY, New York.
L. SPEYER ELLISEN, Frankfort-on-Main.

Dated January 27th, 1898.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

Issues now offered.—£250,000 First Mortgage 4½ per Cent. Debenture Stock; £275,000 in 5½ per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of One Pound each (having priority rights on distribution of Capital). £275,000 in Ordinary Shares of One Pound each.

The Subscription List will open on MONDAY, 7th FEBRUARY, 1898, at 10 a.m., and close at 4 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, 9th FEBRUARY, 1898, for both Town and Country.

UNITED ORDNANCE AND ENGINEERING COMPANY, LIMITED.

With which is Incorporated the Business of EASTON, ANDERSON, & GOOLDEN, Limited.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

SHARE CAPITAL—275,000 5½ per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each, £275,000 (being also preferential as to capital), and 275,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, £275,000; First Mortgage 4½ per Cent. Debenture Stock, £250,000.

The Debenture Stock will be redeemable at 105 per cent. at any time after the 1st January, 1908, at the option of the Company on six months' notice, and will be secured by a First Mortgage to the Trustees on the Freeholds and Fixed Plant, and a floating first charge on the Stock, Stores, Patent Rights, Moveable Plant, unfinished Work, and other Assets of the Company, including its Uncalled Capital.

The whole of the Preference and Ordinary Shares and Debenture Stock are now offered for subscription payable as follows:—Preference and Ordinary Shares, 2s. 6d. on Application; 7s. 6d. on Allotment, and the balance at the expiration of one month after Allotment. Debenture Stock, 10 per cent. on Application; 40 per cent. on Allotment; and the balance at the expiration of one month after Allotment.

£250,000 will be provided for further Working Capital and the construction of new Works.

TRUSTEES FOR DEBENTURE HOLDERS.
Charles Hoare, Esq., 37, Fleet-street, London, E.C.
The Right Hon. Sir W. T. Marriott, Q.C.

SOLICITORS TO TRUSTEES FOR DEBENTURE HOLDERS.
Messrs. Frere, Cholmeley, & Co., 28, Lincoln's Inn-fields, London, W.C.

DIRECTORS.
Admiral Sir H. F. Nicholson, K.C.B., late Vice-President of the Ordnance Committee, and late Commander-in-Chief at the Nore.
H. McCalmont, M.P. (Director of the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, Limited).
*F. Elgar, LL.D., F.R.S. (Director of the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, Limited).
Charles Cammell (Director of Charles Cammell & Co., Limited, Sheffield, of the Harvey Steel Company of Great Britain, Limited, and of the Harvey Continental Steel Company, Limited).
Colonel Paget Mosley (Chairman of the Trafford Park Estates, Limited).
*T. Perceval Wilson (Chairman of Easton, Anderson, & Goolden, Limited), *a Managing Director.*
*H. K. Baynes (Director of Easton, Anderson, & Goolden, Limited), *a Managing Director.*

* Will join the Board after Allotment.

SOLICITORS FOR THE COMPANY.—Messrs. Golding & Hargrove, 99, Cannon-street, London, E.C.

BANKERS.—Messrs. Hoare, 37, Fleet-street, London, E.C., and their Agents, Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank, Limited, Manchester; The Bank of Liverpool, Limited, Liverpool; and the National Bank of Scotland, Limited, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

BROKERS.—Messrs. Westmacott, Escombe, & Co., 5, Copthall-buildings, Throgmorton-street, London, E.C., and Stock Exchange.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. W. B. Peat & Co., 3, Lothbury, London, E.C.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICES.—W. E. Davies, Broad Sanctuary Chambers, Westminster, London, S.W.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed for the purposes defined by the Memorandum of Association, including powers:—

(1.) To manufacture and sell Guns, Gun Carriages, Ammunition and War Material, and to carry on business as Electrical, Hydraulic, Mining and General Engineers.

(2.) To acquire a Licence dated 19th November, 1897, granted by Messrs. Schneider & Co., of Creusot and Havre, the celebrated Manufacturers of Guns and War Material, to Manufacture and Sell the Schneider-Canet Artillery.

(3.) To acquire and take over as a going concern the undertaking of Easton, Anderson, & Goolden, Limited, the well-known Engineers, of Erith and London.

A distinctive feature of this Company will be its co-operation with other existing and well-known undertakings, by means of which it will gain many of the practical advantages of an amalgamation of Associated Firms so far as the securing of orders is concerned.

The Manufactories of Messrs. Schneider & Co. at Creusot and Havre are, as is well-known, among the largest of the kind in the world, and occupy in France, as regards Artillery, a position similar to of Messrs. Krupp in Germany and Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth, & Co., Limited, in Great Britain.

The Schneider-Canet Artillery is extensively used in the French Army and Navy, and has been supplied to other Governments, including those of Brazil, Chili, Japan, Greece, and Portugal.

It is well-known that the profits on the manufacture of War Material are large. The business is at present in very few hands; and, the reputation of the Schneider-Canet Artillery being equal to that of any other type, the Directors are of opinion that a large and profitable business can be done by this Company. At the present time there is a great and increasing demand for Guns and War Material.

Under the terms of the Licence (which was granted on the 19th November, 1897, to Sir W. G. Pearce, Bart., and Mr. Francis Elgar), a translation of which, annexed to the Agreement of the 25th January, 1898, can be seen at the Offices of the Company and of the Company's Solicitors, this Company will have the benefit of the experience of Messrs. Schneider & Co., who undertake to furnish all the necessary Drawings, Information, Notes, Calculations, &c., and to afford other facilities for the execution of orders.

This Company is, therefore, saved much of the heavy expense of a separate and costly expert staff, and is consequently on very favourable terms as regards competition.

The Licence leaves this Company free to construct Artillery of any design for the British Government, and Guns in accordance with the Government requirements will be constructed, and submitted for trial.

Provisional Agreements have been secured for co-operation with the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, Limited, of Govan, Glasgow, and also in relation to the supply by Thos. Firth & Sons, Limited, of Sheffield, of the Steel which will be required for the manufacture of Guns and other purposes, so that the Company, in conjunction with the Companies above mentioned, will be in a position to take orders for the Construction and Complete Equipment of Battle Ships of the largest size, and generally to undertake contracts of any magnitude.

The Agreements in question provide that each of the above-named Companies shall use its influence to secure orders for and promote the business of the others. This Company is thus at once furnished with representatives throughout the world, and placed in an unusually favourable position for the early securing of remunerative orders, while its capital is comparatively so small that the results should be specially satisfactory.

In order to lessen the delay inseparable from the establishment of new Works, the Company have arranged for the purchase as a going concern of the entire Business and undertaking of Easton, Anderson, & Goolden, Limited, the well-known Engineers of Erith and London.

The Erith Works of Easton, Anderson, & Goolden, Limited, are admirably adapted for the purposes of this Company. Their situation and extent and the condition and value of the Plant, Machinery, and Works are fully detailed in the Report of Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons, & Cassell, dated the 29th day of April, 1897, to the Trustees for the Debenture Stock Holders of Easton, Anderson, & Goolden, Limited; a copy of which, together with a copy of the same firm's Supplemental Report, dated the 2nd February, 1898, and of Messrs. W. B. Peat & Co.'s Certificate, dated the 31st January, 1898, as regards the other Assets of the Concern, accompanies the Prospectus.

Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons, & Cassell's report of the 29th of April, 1897, states as regards the Plant and Machinery that, "with the exception perhaps of the Locomotive Works of the larger Railway Companies and the Royal Dockyards, it comprises the finest and most costly collection of Engineer's machine tools to be found in the South of England, and is in admirable working order."

They value the Freehold Engineering Works with Fixed and Loose Plant (exclusive of goodwill) at	£202,257 0 0
While Messrs. W. B. Peat & Co. certify that in addition to the items included in the above valuation the Stocks and Stores and other Assets of the undertaking in hand on the 30th June, 1897 (particulars of which are specified in their Certificate) were valued in the Books of the Company at that date (exclusive of goodwill), at ...	154,955 11 4
Making the Total Property and Assets of Easton, Anderson, & Goolden, Limited (as valued and certified above) ...	£357,212 11 4

These Assets were on the 30th June, 1897, subject to certain Liabilities which, excluding the amounts due in respect of Debenture Issues, stood on that date in the Books of the Company at the sum of £35,956 5s. 3d.

The Business has been carried on from the 30th June, 1897, down to the 31st December, 1897, from which date it is to be taken over by the Company, on the account and at the risk of Mr. Ernest Terah Hooley, who will indemnify the Company against any risk of Loss arising from the recent Engineers' Strike and Lockout, or otherwise during that period.

Easton, Anderson, & Goolden, Limited, possesses one of the oldest Engineering businesses in the Country, and its reputation for first-class work extends to all parts of the world, and as Contractors to the Home and Foreign Governments for many years it has acquired great experience in the manufacture of Gun Mountings, Gun Carriages, and War Material.

The Agreement for the purchase of this business provides that Messrs. Wilson & Baynes, Directors of Easton, Anderson, & Goolden, Limited, shall be appointed Managing Directors of the Company for a period of five years.

In addition to the manufacture of Ordnance and War Material, the Company will continue, develop, and extend the General Engineering business of Easton, Anderson, & Goolden, Limited, and in connection therewith special attention will be devoted to Electrical Traction and Electrical Transmission of Power, in both of which branches there will undoubtedly be great developments both at home and abroad in the immediate future. Several important schemes have been submitted to Easton, Anderson, & Goolden, Limited, and will be carefully examined by the Directors of this Company.

The Works Manager certifies that the Orders now on the books which will be taken over by this Company will keep the existing works fully employed for a period of six months.

The additional Plant required for the production of Guns, &c., will be proceeded with at once; and special arrangements have been made with one of the first Tool-Makers in Manchester for expediting the construction of the Plant in question, by allowing much of the finishing work to be done at Erith.

Sir W. G. Pearce and Mr. Francis Elgar, by an Agreement of the 25th of January, 1898, mentioned below, have agreed to transfer the benefit of the Licence from Messrs. Schneider & Co. to Mr. Ernest Terah Hooley for the sum of £50,000, payable partly in cash and partly in fully-paid Ordinary Shares of this Company, and this Licence is included in the sale by Mr. Ernest Terah Hooley to the Company under the Agreement of the 2nd of February, 1898.

Under the said Contract of the 2nd February, 1898, Mr. Ernest Terah Hooley agrees to sell to the Company the undertaking and assets of Easton, Anderson & Goolden, Limited, as a going concern as from the 31st December, 1897, subject to its debts, liabilities and contracts, except its debenture issues, which will be discharged by Easton, Anderson, & Goolden, Limited.

The Vendor, who is selling at a profit, has fixed the aggregate purchase money for the Licence and Properties before referred to at £550,000, and guarantees the subscription of a sum of £250,000 towards working capital and construction of Works, and agrees to pay the expenses of the issue of capital and of the promotion, formation, registration, and incorporation of the Company down to the allotment of Shares other than the stamp duties in connection with the acquisition of the Properties.

Contracts have been entered into between Sir William George Pearce, Bart., and Mr. Francis Elgar, and Mr. Ernest Terah Hooley, dated the 25th January, 1898; Mr. William Edward Davies, on behalf of the Company, and the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, Limited, dated the 31st January, 1898; Mr. William Edward Davies on behalf of the Company and Thos. Firth & Sons, Limited, dated 31st January, 1898; Easton, Anderson, & Goolden, Limited, and Mr. Ernest Terah Tooley, dated 31st January, 1898; and Mr. Ernest Terah Hooley and United Ordnance and Engineering Company, Limited, dated 2nd February, 1898; and Mr. Thomas Perceval Wilson and Mr. Ernest Terah Hooley, dated 31st January, 1898.

These Contracts can be seen, together with the Reports before referred to, at the Offices of the Company, and copies can also be seen at the Offices of the Company's Solicitors.

Easton, Anderson, & Goolden, Limited, whose business is to be acquired, have in the course of their business entered into numerous Trade and other Contracts the benefits whereof, and the obligations thereunder affect this Company. Full particulars of such Contracts cannot be set out within the limits of this Prospectus, and it is not considered that the 38th Section of the Companies Act of 1867, can be deemed to apply thereto. Subscribers for Share Capital under this Prospectus shall by their application expressly waive and be deemed to waive all right (if any) to disclosure or production of Contracts other than those above referred to.

Application will in due course be made to the London Stock Exchange for a settlement and official quotation.

Where the number of Shares or amount of Debenture Stock allotted is less than the number or amount applied for, the surplus paid on application will be credited towards the amount payable on allotment. In cases where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application for Shares and Debenture Stock respectively can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, and at the Bankers, Brokers, and Solicitors.

Dated 3rd February, 1898.

The List of Applications will be opened on Monday morning, 7th February, at 10 a.m. to Tuesday at 4 p.m. for Town Subscribers, and to Wednesday at 4 p.m. for Country Subscribers. Preference in Allotment will be given to Shareholders of the Glencairn Company registered on the 5th February.

GLENCAIRN MAIN REEF GOLD MINING

COMPANY, Limited.

Registered as a Limited Liability Company under the Laws of the South African Republic.

CAPITAL - - - - £550,000,

In 550,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

ISSUED CAPITAL - - £500,000.

Issue of £140,000 Six per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures in Bonds of £50 each.

To be secured by first mortgage of all the landed property, buildings, plant and machinery of the Company.

The Debentures will be issued at par, and be repayable at 102 in seven annual drawings of £20,000 each and the premium of 2 per cent., commencing on May 1st, 1901, and terminating on May 1st, 1907, or by purchases in the market if below par. Holders of Debentures will have the option until 7th February, 1900, on giving seven days' notice, of converting them, at their nominal value, into Ordinary Shares, at the rate of £3 10s. per Share, that is to say, a holder of Debentures to the value of £350 would be entitled to 100 Ordinary Shares in exchange. Should this option be exercised the amount of the annual drawings will be correspondingly reduced.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE HOLDERS.
THE JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED,
10 & 11, Austin Friars, E.C.

BANKERS—Messrs. GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & CO., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.

THE JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, Limited, invite applications for the above issue at par, payable as follows—10 per cent. on Application; 40 per cent. on Allotment; 25 per cent. on 7th March; 25 per cent. on 7th April.

The issue will be secured by a first mortgage bond in favour of the Trustees, and duly registered in the Deeds Registry Office in Pretoria, upon all the landed property, mining claims and water rights, dams and reservoirs, buildings, stamps, cyanide works, machinery, and fixed plant of every description belonging to the Company. These are all in good working order and the buildings and surface works in good repair. There will also be a floating charge over the whole of the undertakings and assets of the Company.

The Debentures will bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly on 1st May and 1st November, and the first coupon will be payable 1st November, 1898.

Interest on payments calculated from date of allotment, and the dates of subsequent instalments will accrue at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum to the 30th April, and will be paid when the provisional scrip is exchanged for definitive bonds on or about 1st May.

Instalments may be paid in full in advance either on allotment or on the due date of subsequent instalments under a discount at the rate of £3 per cent. per annum.

The Debentures will be to bearer, with coupons attached, or they can be registered at the Offices of the Company in Johannesburg, or of the London Agents, the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, 10 & 11, Austin Friars, E.C., where the half-yearly Coupons will also be payable.

PROSPECTUS.

THE Glencairn Main Reef Gold Mining Company was originally formed in the year 1889, with a capital of £175,000, which was subsequently increased to £225,000, for the purpose of acquiring and working a block of 72 claims, in extent 102 acres, on the outcrop of the reef of the farm Driefontein, being portion of the Mynpacht of the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company.

In June, 1896, it was decided to acquire the adjoining property of the Glenluce Gold Mining Company, and for this purpose the capital was further increased to £550,000, of which 225,000 shares were issued to the Shareholders of the Glenluce Gold Mining Company, in exchange for their shares, 50,000 shares were taken up, at £3 per share, by the Shareholders of the two companies, to furnish working capital, and 50,000 are held in reserve.

By this amalgamation the life of the mine is practically doubled (for the Glenluce property had only been worked as The Knight's Tribute on a small scale), but its extent and richness were ascertained to be fully equal to that of the Glencairn. This property consists of 60 claims on the farm Driefontein and on the same series of reefs as those of the Glencairn and the Witwatersrand Companies. These reefs are now well known to be amongst the most reliable and regular of the Witwatersrand series, and though not of a high grade are capable of being worked at a good profit. In addition to this, a valuable water right has been secured and a quantity of useful rock-drill and other plant acquired.

The property is bounded by the May Consolidated and New Primrose Companies on the west, and by the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company on the east, and its relative position as regards neighbouring properties will be seen from the Sketch Plan.

In order to economise working costs, and to ensure more efficient control in the management, it was decided to remove the modern portions of the Glencairn Battery to the Glenluce site, and to increase the Battery power to 160 stamps of the most improved construction, also to erect 14 new steel Cyanide Vats, with reduction plant of sufficient capacity to treat all the tailings from the larger Battery. This radical change in the system of working entailed the suspension of all milling work, but at the same time the development of both sections of the Mine was carried on with vigour. The ore reserves in the two sections in December, 1896, as certified by the Surveyor, amounted to 253,000 tons. These extensive alterations and improvements, rendered necessary by the amalgamation, exhausted the working capital of the Company, and necessitated further expenditure to the extent of £140,000. It is for the purpose of liquidating this debt, and so cover the expenditure on the works above indicated, and thus place the Company at once on a dividend-paying basis, that this issue is now made.

Milling operations were resumed in the month of July, 1897, with 100 stamps, increased later on to 110, and preparations are being now made to drop an additional 20 stamps. The following table shows the working of the mine for the six months ending December, 1897, and from this it will be seen that working costs have been reduced from 19s. 1·8d. to 17s. 9·15d. or 16s. 10d. per ton milled, whereas before the suspension of work they were never less than 22s. to 23s. per ton. It will also be noticed that the development of the mine has been kept well ahead of the milling power, and that the quality of the ore maintains a consistent average value throughout. The monthly profit has also steadily improved from £7,483 to £10,600, and the management have no doubt that this will be materially increased when the additional stamps are operating.

MONTH 1897.	MINE.		MILL.				CYANIDE.					
	Tons Mined.	Tons Developed.	Stamps Running.	Tons Crushed.	Yield ozs.	Yield per Ton.	Tons treated.	Yield ozs.	Yield per ton.	Total yield per ton.	Total cost per ton milled and treated.	Profit.
July		12716	100	7029	1549	3·6	No	clean	up.	Only	worked pa	rt of
											month.	
August	13927	28302	100	14177	3571	5·03	9670	2022	4·18	9·21	19/1·8	£7483
September	14492	27228	110	14992	3897	5·19	10770	1898	3·52	8·71	17/9·66	8507
October	16460	24540	110	15860	4097	5·16	10710	2174	4·06	9·22	17/11	9345
November	15650	27196	110	16250	4108	5·05	10940	2435	4·45	9·5	17/9·15	10097
*December			110	16630	4146	4·98	11350	2553	4·41	9·39		10600

* Per Cable Return.

A copy of the Articles of Association of the Company and the draft Trust deed securing the Debentures can be seen at the Offices of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, 10 & 11, Austin Friars, London, E.C., where the Prospectus and Forms of Application can be obtained.

In the event of the Company going into voluntary liquidation before the 7th February, 1900, the debentures will be repayable at 102.

Applications for Debentures on the Form accompanying the Prospectus may be sent to the Company's Bankers, together with cheque for the application money.

Failure to pay any instalment will render previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Provisional scrip will be issued against letters of allotment and cash receipts, and will be exchanged for definitive Debentures on and after 1st May, 1898.

Where no allotment is made the application money will be returned in full, and when the number of Debentures allotted is less than those applied for, the surplus will be credited to the account of future payments.

Application will be made to the Stock Exchange for a quotation in their Official List.

4th February, 1898.

THE "SAN REMO" BABY CAR.

Price as drawn £6 6s. nett.
Cheaper qualities from £3 3s

HITCHINGS' BABY STORES.

The Premier Manufacturers of HIGH-GRADE BABY CARRIAGES in the World, have extensive Showrooms at

198, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W. (Near Peter Robinson's.)

23, 21, & 19, LUDGATE HILL, LONDON, E.C.
(Works: Ludgate Square.)

28, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, S.W. (St. George's Place, near Hyde Park Corner.)

THIS elegant Baby Car is equally adapted for use as a Sleeping Car for a young baby, or a Mail Car for an older child.

1. Newest registered design.
2. Runs on four silent wheels.
3. Small light front wheels.
4. Very safe bed being lower than in any other Car.
5. Hitchings' "Versailles" Cee Springs. Very easy.
6. Occupies less space than any other.
7. Has deep well for legs and feet. No cramping.
8. Hitchings' Patent "Any Position Hood."
9. Half the weight of a wood body. Finest cane & rattan.
10. Cool in summer.
11. Artistically painted.
12. Beautifully upholstered in biscuit, biscuit and pale blue, mignonette green, &c.

HITCHINGS, LIMITED, have recently had the honour of building the Baby Carriage for the Baby Prince Edward of York, having previously executed orders for H.M. the Queen, H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg, H.R.H. the Duchess of Fife, H.R.H. Princess Henry of Prussia, &c. Also the Royal and Imperial families of Russia, Germany, Denmark, Portugal, and Sweden.

Hitchings' Baby Carriages from 2 to 25 Guineas, and **Baby Cars** from 15/6 to 10 Guineas, are not only the **Best**, but also 25 per cent. *cheaper* than those sold by dealers and stores. A carriage should always be purchased from the actual manufacturer. Enquiries receive prompt and courteous attention. Illustrations free. Correspondence solicited.

Bankers: Capital & Counties Bank and City Bank. *Telegram Address:* "Hitchings London." Liverpool House, 74, Bold Street. *Boston (U.S.A.) Agency:* 92, Washington Street.

HITCHINGS' "PRINCESS MAY" BABY CARRIAGE IS MOST SUITABLE FOR A CHRISTENING PRESENT, BEING RECHERCHE & UNPROCURABLE ELSEWHERE.

Before going elsewhere send for Hitchings' Pictorial Price Book free on mentioning "TRUTH."

A Great Public Boon!

LIPTON'S

Finest Quality

EXTRACT OF BEEF

EXTRACT OF BEEF
AND
FLUID BEEF

FLUID BEEF

Are made from Fresh Ox Beef, under the most skilful, scientific, and practical supervision, by a process entirely his own, unquestionably making his

EXTRACT OF BEEF and FLUID BEEF

The Finest Quality ever offered to the Public, and Saving Purchasers from 25 to 35 PER CENT.

LIPTON'S EXTRACT OF BEEF.
MADE FROM FINEST OX BEEF.

LIPTON'S FLUID BEEF.
A PERFECT FOOD.

THE DAYS OF HUGE PROFITS ARE OVER!

It is admitted by everyone that Lipton caused a revolution in the Tea Trade, and forced Tea Dealers and Merchants to Reduce their Prices. Before Lipton introduced his celebrated Teas, THE PUBLIC HAD TO PAY nearly double the price they are now charged by Lipton for the Finest Teas the World can produce.

WHAT LIPTON HAS DONE IN THE TEA TRADE, LIPTON WILL DO IN THE EXTRACT OF BEEF TRADE.

In these days no Housewife can afford to throw money needlessly away, which she will do if she buys any other than Lipton's Extract of Beef or Lipton's Fluid Beef.

No fancy names are used to describe Lipton's Extract of Beef and Fluid Beef. Every person can therefore understand at once what they are. There is no mystery about them. They are made from the finest quality of Beef. Lipton can offer buyers no greater inducement than the high-class quality of these goods, and their remarkably low prices.

LIPTON'S EXTRACT OF BEEF. LIPTON'S FLUID BEEF.

WHAT THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO.

They are made from the finest quality of fresh Ox Beef, and contain all its nourishing, stimulating, and strengthening properties. They are invaluable alike to the invalid and the strong. They nourish and fortify the system, and are unequalled for their strength-giving properties. Lipton's Extract of Beef or Fluid Beef makes the richest Beef Tea. They are also invaluable in the domestic economy, and will be found by all good cooks the most economical and the best for flavouring Soups, Gravies, Sauces, Entrées, &c.

Lipton's Extract of Beef and Fluid Beef can be obtained from Lipton's Markets and Agencies throughout the World.

CHIEF OFFICES: CITY ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from falling off.
Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.
Being delicately perfumed it leaves no unpleasant odour.
IS NOT a dye, and therefore does not stain the skin or even white linen.
Should be in every house where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.
Ask your Chemist or Hairdresser for

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per large Bottle.

Prepared only by the

ANGLO-AMERICAN DRUG COMPANY, Ltd.,
33, FARRINGDON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.

IS THE BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE IN THE WORLD.

Prevents the Decay of Teeth.
Renders the Teeth Pearly White.
Is perfectly Harmless and Delicious to the Taste.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World
2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER

Put up in Glass Jars, price 1s.

OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2. 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.
2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.
3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and, for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.
4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.
5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.
6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.
7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.
8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.
9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THEIR NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.
10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.
11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S-GATE, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 986.—EPITAPHS ON A PRIME MINISTER, &c.

ROUGHTY (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 989.—SELECTION OF EPITAPHS ON A PRIME MINISTER, &c.

SCOTUS VIATOR (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 988.

The prize in this competition will be awarded when Competition No. 991 is decided.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 990.

I am not yet able to announce the result of this competition. The task of checking the more voluminous of the lists is by no means a light one, but I hope to publish the winner's name next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 994.

The usual prize of Two Guineas is offered this week to the competitor who succeeds best

IN EMBODYING IN AN EIGHT-LINED RHYMED VERSE THE WORD "CHINAMAN," IN A SIMILAR WAY TO THAT SHOWN IN THE STANZA QUOTED BELOW AND IN A SIMILAR METRE.

This is the verse which is to serve as a model:—

Dear fOoLish LAdy were youR eyeS distresseD
On ListLess AfteRnoonS, to finD the crOwd—
Low crowd of miLlionAiReS, Dull, cOmmon, Loud—
Lolling At ReSt on lanD yOur Liking bLessed?
ARe you So maD with gOLd? At LeAst 'twere wise,
Rich Snob, to stanD by gOLd, Lest weAlth's unRest
Set free the DoOmfuL hate in LAbouR's eyeS.

It will be noticed that the word "dollars" is embodied seven times in the stanza, and that the first initials of the seven lines also form the same word. The lines positively reek with dollars. They were published in an evening paper as a comment on the following paragraph which appeared a few days ago:—

"The 'highest' New York Society consists now of seventy-five exclusive millionaire families, among whom, while the Vanderbilts are leaders of fashion, the Goulds and working millionaires generally find no place. One of the leaders of this set is reported to have said the other day, 'Nothing spoils the ocean like the proximity of a few common people.'"

In writing the eight lined rhymed verse which is asked for, competitors must embody the word "Chinaman" as frequently as they can. They must be careful, too, that the first initials of their eight lines also make this word. The stanzas should refer in some way to current events in the Far East; and, as has been said above, must be written in the metre of the specimen verse; that is to say, each line must contain ten syllables. In no case must more than two of the letters of the embodied word come together. Each line in the stanza must rhyme with some other, and all answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, February 21, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** Will Pendarley, winner of Prize No. 977, please send name and address.
ARTHUR A.—The exception in the case you quote only proves the rule.
MEX.—No answer signed in your name reached me.
TITANIA.—Many thanks for your letter.
MYRAH.—Thanks for your explanation. Your total, as you say, exceeds forty-one.
MONA.—I will see if I can trace the arrival of an answer from you.
R. MARTIN.—Yes, things have got a little mixed, as you say. On going through the answers a second time I found that your list referred to Competition No. 991, and not No. 990.
A. D. B.—I shall not overlook the points you raise.
THE HEN.—Many thanks for your letter.
E. L. S.—I am much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken.
J. MCGRIGOR ALLAN.—Many thanks.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 991.

ANSWERS TO THE ORIGINAL CONUNDRUMS PUBLISHED ON THIS PAGE IN CONNECTION WITH COMPETITION NO. 988.

*** The following are the answers furnished by the authors of the Conundrums. Numerous lists of replies have been received in connection with Competition No. 991, but it is thought better to print those originally sent in with the Conundrums.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

1. Because, when his tonsils were cut, he could do nothing else but stick to the stumps.
2. Because she thought it suitable for a (n)egress, and that she had a right to an(n)exit.
3. One is a caterpillar, the other a pater-killer.
4. Because he must devote himself to high G, A (hygeia).
5. Because under their merry thoughts you commonly find a stuffing of chestnuts. Ludwig B.
6. Tom-a-hawk. Harebell.
7. Waste. (Cotton waste used for cleaning bicycles.) G. E. W.
8. Because they are engaged in breaking China. A. E. B.
9. Because he has a steak (stake) in the country. J. McGrigor Allan.
10. A loan in London ("Alone in London"). Cochran Field.
11. Because they let in flats. Atoi.
12. Because he created a Christian in a Storm and Glor(y)ied in it.
13. Because it is merely a weather report.
14. Because they are dumb bell(e)s. Georgina.
15. They were merely exchanging the compliments of the seizin' (season).
16. Because they shrink from much washing.
17. Sportsmen trying to keep up their "bags" by destroying their braces. Robert Martin.
18. By rushing like a bull into a China shop. A. P.
19. B-E-S-T.
20. D-E-F.
21. When it cures asthma and other throat affections by inhaling. M. E. B.
22. Because he bade his brother Harry carry (hari-kari) himself nobly.
23. Because they sat upon their hams!
24. By giving the revenue its greatest check (cheque).
25. Because we all know there are nomad (no mad) dogs. Marplot.
26. Because we see mischievous Bruin (mischief is brewing) around the Port Arthur (poor tar there), which foreshows a great rush on (Russian) China.
27. Because for a goal-keeper she has to depend on a dog with one eye (i) (Doig).
28. Because they work with great Faure-thought (forethought), and while they continue thus there will be no Emperor (M.P. roar).
29. Because he is buried (berried), and his name is ever-green.

30. Because they would soon get over being in Solent (insolent), and after a nice Ryde (ride) would enjoy plenty of Fresh-water, New-port, and Isle (oil*) of Wight (white) Cow(e)s. Felixicus.
*Oil=milk.

31. More than one pound won. Oldham.
32. B-right-on. Felsberg.
33. Salisbury, because its characteristics are strength and symmetry, with a high aim (a spire).
34. One is the German Seaman's look-out and the other the German Siemens lock-out. Mac.
35. Because thousands wish to enter in, but never will.
36. When he brays like a donkey and becomes a little horse (hoarse.) Elk.
37. The one is spoiling for a fight, the other fighting for the spoils.
38. When a mendicant asks for a coppers
39. By employing a "young general" in the first place. Baritone.
40. Yes, he says that his son there, among the cockneys, soon would be 'ill. Colouiensis.
41. Because she has a Pacific object.
42. Because it is on the border-land (Borderland).
43. The Teu-tonic spirit, as exemplified by Kaiser William II. Esperanza.
44. A pun-gent (pungent).
45. Because each wishes to steal (steel) her heart.
46. That on the Indian frontier, owing to the presence of General Blood. Excelsior.
47. Aaron ought. Pteris
48. Because he invented the high pot in use (hypothenuse). Moonshine.
49. One makes us arms and the other makes us knees (sneeze). Moonshine.
50. Because he is the "bos" of creation. Touchstone.
51. Both are so often in bad spirits. Pigtail.
52. A damson (Adam's son). Singeon.
53. Because of course it's so (of corsets, Oh!).
54. Annie Royd (aneroid).
55. Because he is the Prince of wails (Wales). Giglamps.
56. Because they both make the noscgay.
57. Being a "non est" (au honest) man. J. Beynon.
58. Because he looks with longing eyes on old (C) china.
59. Because it would make needles needless. Chess Vale.
60. Because while Russia manœuvres with her eye on Pekin, England watches with pique in (Pekin) her eye. Ooloo.
61. Because she is nae kid (naked).
62. When he is too free with his (h)oof.
63. When he wants to bray (pray). Svonok.
64. Because it is "sic (k) transit."
65. Because he is always ailing (ale-ing).
66. Uganda (you gander!). Irma Lee.
67. A bunch of honesty. J. M.
68. Because even if you cut off his head he will remain "Evil," and then if you proceed to lop off a quarter of what is left, and place it in an opposite position, he will still be "vile." Juno.
69. Why, one is Clement Scot, and the other is inclement Scotland. East Anglia.
70. Because she steps at once from a low menial to a hy-meneal capacity. Scissors.
71. On her anti (auntie) macassars. Sissic.
72. Because it ignites only by friction.
73. Because it started breaking up China.
74. Because it's the opening chapter of coming events.
75. Because it stamps a stationary requirement.
76. Because it's a Germ-an invasion.
77. Because it's a Christmas annual. Sol.
78. Braemar (Bray, ma!) Barbato.
79. Because he is always making allusions to "certes." Xuihps.
80. When he has a bad cold, he often becomes a little hoarse (horse).
81. In the gas works, because those men are always in a scent (innocent). Risk.
82. Because it's simply a matter of opinion (a pinion).
83. Because it's a loan (alone).
84. When it's a float.
85. When he's aloft (a loft).
86. When it's ahead (a head).
87. When it's a king (aching). Crock.
88. Because it is the land of the single he's (Cingalese). Comet Aster.
89. When it becomes a (k)nightly terror. Phyllis.
90. Because he loves to linger before the public.
91. Because it is a boney party (Bonaparte).
92. When he causes manslaughter (man's laughter).
93. When he's her own pa's son (parson).
94. Because of the long-continued reign; and we pray for its continuance. Hireling.
95. Io died (iodide) of potassium.
96. Determination.
97. Procrastination.
98. Vacciuatiou, because it is always in arms. Ooloo.
99. Goodwood. Table Bay.
100. Because they are both inquiring—the German gentleman for the vatercan (watercan), and the tourist for the Vatican. Table Bay.
101. Because both had enough of dangerous roads (Rhodes). Table Bay.
102. The Chinese offer sacrifices to the moon, and the Government may sacrifice its mooney (money). Table Bay.
103. Because it's for weal or woe (four wheeler—whoa!).
104. Because for every sixpence you give her, she makes a bob.
105. When it is all mitey.
106. When they're platinum (plait'in'em). Thersites.
107. One is the better of a spring onion, the other is the worse of a sprung leak (leek). Azile.
108. You find guns "going off" without moving, and kernals (colonels) outside the shells, and sometimes the shells inside the kernels (in case of colonels killed or wounded). Verax.
109. Hunger. Azile.
110. Because they have to scratch for their living, be able to fight with their quills like bantam cocks, and stand the world's pecking through feather and shell.
111. Sixteen; fo(u)r better, 4 worse 4 richer, 4 poorer = 16. The plurality of wives among the Mormons is nothing to it.
112. Because he would be Benny-fitted, and she would be Annie-mated.
113. Because he never went to college, but the Lord opened his mouth to preach without any learning.
114. We have every reason to believe she was Maid of Orleans. But in Abingdon Grammar School a knowing young gentleman of thirteen years old declared to his teacher "she was made of dust." Vandyke Brown.
115. Gas-o-meter. Pelleas.
116. Distrain, I strain, strain, train, rain, air, in N. Harebell.

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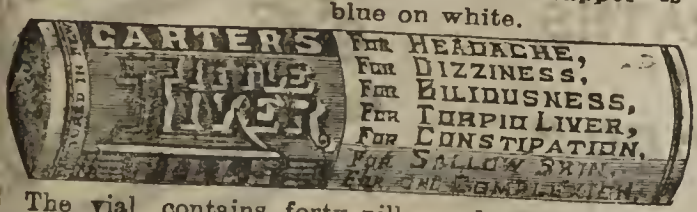

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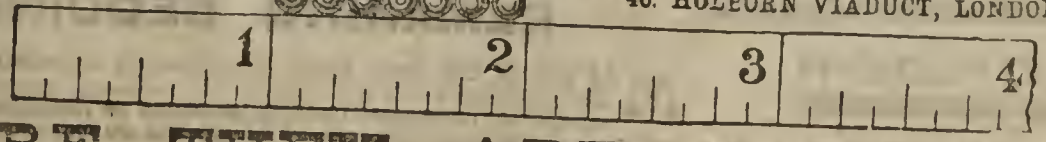

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

An Index *to the* Forty Second Volume *of* Truth *will be forwarded, post-free, to any address on application to the Publishing Office, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, E.C. The half-yearly Volume can be obtained at the same address, price 25s.*

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen will entertain a succession of "dine and sleep" guests at Windsor Castle from to-morrow until Monday, March 7, including most of the members of the Royal family who are now in England, some of the Ambassadors and Foreign Ministers, and several members of the Cabinet.

The first Levee of the season is to be held next Monday afternoon at St. James's Palace by the Prince of Wales, who will be accompanied to the Throne Room by the Duke of Connaught, Duke of York, and Prince Christian. A very large attendance is expected at this Levee, as an immense number of presentations have been intimated, and there is sure to be an unusually full *entrée*, as the Prince of Wales will receive the Corps Diplomatique, and the Ministers are to attend this Levee.

The Dowager Lady Ampthill and the Duchess of Roxburghe are to be successively the Ladies-in-Waiting on the Queen during the three weeks' rèsidence of the Court at Windsor Castle.

Her Majesty's suite during her visit to the Riviera will consist of Lady Antrim, Lord William Cecil, Mrs. Phipps, Sir Arthur Bigge, Colonel Carington, Lieutenant Ponsonby, the Munshi Abdul Karim, and Sir James Reid. Lord Cross and Lord James of Hereford will be successively the Ministers-in-Attendance on the Queen at Cimiez.

The Duke and Duchess of York have arrived at their apartments in St. James's Palace from Sandringham for the season.

The Duchess of Albany and her daughter, Princess Alice, who are staying at the Villa Nevada, Cannes, will return to Claremont about March 30, and at Whitsuntide they are going to Holland on a long visit to the Queen Regent of the Netherlands.

Prince Albert of Belgium, only surviving son of the Comte de Flandre, and heir presumptive to the throne, is to arrive in London from Brussels on Friday the 25th, and he will stay in England for a week before proceeding on a tour through the United States and Canada. Prince Albert is to be the guest of the Queen at Windsor Castle for a day or two during his stay in England, and he will pay a visit to the Duc and Duchesse d'Orléans at Twickenham. The King of the Belgians and the Comte de Flandre are first cousins of the late Comte de Paris, and of the Archduchess Clotilde of Austria, the mother of the Duchesse d'Orléans.

The second Levee and Drawing Room are to be held this week at Dublin Castle, only a fortnight after the first function. The same programme with regard to dinners and dances will be gone through after the second Drawing Room as on the first occasion. Between times Lord Cadogan has done a turn as a Conservative Cabinet Minister. Last week he crossed and recrossed the Irish Channel in order to attend the Cabinet Council. Common sense would suggest that the Chief Secretary should be in the Cabinet, and the Lord Lieutenant confine himself to representing in Ireland the Sovereign who has never represented herself there. In connection with Ireland, however, it is not the fashion to follow the dictates of common sense.

The death of Lord Carlingford leaves a vacant ribbon of St. Patrick. The Knights made in Lord Cadogan's time have not been—with the exception of Lord Roberts, and, of course, the Duke of York—particularly happily selected. There is much competition amongst Irish noblemen—who alone are eligible—to add K.P. to their styles and titles. In fact, the majority of them show nationality in no other way, except in the desire to obtain the national order.

Dr. Ingram, the author of "Who Fears to Speak of '98," has, by a curious coincidence, been elected Vice Provost of Trinity College, in the centenary year of '98. He has succeeded the late Dr. Carson in the post. Trinity College is popularly looked on as a centre of Unionism and even anti-Nationalism. It has, however,

produced many rebels in its time, including the '98 hero, Robert Emmett. In later times, many of the "Young Irelanders" were Trinity Collegians, amongst their number being John Blake Dillon, the father of Mr. John Dillon.

The Morpeth Hunt Ball was held last week at the Assembly Rooms, Newcastle, instead of the Town Hall, Morpeth, where it has always hitherto taken place. It is understood locally that this was owing to the objection of the Earl of Carlisle (or, probably, his Countess), who owns the hall, to have intoxicating liquors consumed on the premises. If this statement is true, it certainly marks a new development of teetotalism. I know many worthy abstainers who, when they entertain their friends, do not hesitate to offer alcoholic drinks—sometimes of a very decent quality—to those who have a taste for them. Lord and Lady Carlisle, I suppose, would only regale their guests upon cold water or temperance decoctions. Unless that is so, I do not see why they should refuse to allow alcohol to be introduced at a ball in a building owned by them.

The Duke of Devonshire has consented to take the chair at the Royal Literary Fund annual dinner, which is to be held on Tuesday, May 17, at the Hotel Métropole. The American Ambassador (Colonel John Hay) will respond for the toast of literature.

THE "CYCLE *IN* CATHAY."

A Reuter's telegram from Shanghai calls attention to the fact that "Chinese ladies who, twenty years ago, were locked up in harems, may now be seen bicycling through the town."

So now the secret has come out,
  The mystery 's explained;
The situation's key at last
  Has surely been obtained.
The revolution which, 'twas said,
  Would soon make China reel,
Is but the revolution of
  The circling cycle wheel!

With us the bubble has been pricked,
  Tyre-shares have "punctured" been,
And Cycle companies, 'tis felt,
  Their brightest days have seen;
In England, and in Europe, too,
  The craze has passed away.
Then, why not to revive it try
  In populous Cathay?

Don't talk of Russia's scheming, then,
  Cease, prithee, to insist
Upon the dread intentions of
  The Kaiser's "Mailèd Fist";
The strange proceedings in the East
  Don't herald China's doom,
They only serve to introduce
  A Chinese Cycling boom!

Any one wanting a cottage by the sea with "associations" would do well to buy the "Octagon Cottage," at Budleigh Salterton, which is now on sale, for it has been tenanted by many men of note. Lord Jeffrey, Dr. Pusey, Sir John Millais, and Lord Leighton, are amongst those who have at various periods occupied it.

A recent circular of the Science and Art Department has produced a feeling of something like consternation among all who are interested in the work of schools of science. The circular intimated that the Department contemplated withdrawing its special grants from every school of science "where 25 per cent. of the first-year students leave at the end of the year, or more than that percentage of the second-year students at the end of the second year." There is, of course, no difference of opinion whatever as to the desirability of retaining as large a percentage as possible of the pupils for a two or three years' course, and nobody would object to reasonable regulations upon the subject. But what is desirable is often not practicable, and managers and teachers of all the schools of science carried on by School Boards, as well as of many other similar schools, unanimously affirm that the enforcement of the proposed regulation would be fatal to the existence of such institutions. It is admitted on all hands that the schools are doing a most valuable work, and to destroy them because they are unable as yet to keep as many as 75 per cent. of the students for a second or third year, would be an insane and disastrous proceeding. Owing to the outcry that has been raised, the Department has now issued a second circular, intended to remove the apprehensions occasioned by the first. To the minds of those acquainted with the peculiar ways of South Kensington, however, the second circular is scarcely less unsatisfactory than the first, which will have to be entirely withdrawn before confidence in the intentions of the Department towards the schools can be restored.

A little handbill has been sent to me, which has been circulated at Witney and the neighbourhood, with reference to "Dr." Sturman and his Society of Science, Literature, and Art, of London. The handbill reproduces a recent paragraph from TRUTH dealing with this Society, and refers to the previous exposure of Sturman's methods in this journal. It would seem that one or two people in that neighbourhood have paid money to Sturman for "Fellowships," under the impression that they were getting some sort of value for their money; and a neighbour who was wiser than they, has, therefore, issued this public notification. I wish I could prevail upon the Provincial Press to join in the good work of warning the public against this impudent piece of imposture.

The University of Durham will sustain a serious loss by the departure of the Rev. J. R. Shortt, Bursar of Hatfield Hall, who has been presented by the Dean and Chapter to the valuable rectory of Southwick, near Sunderland, which is worth about £750 a year, with residence. Mr. Shortt has well earned his preferment, for he has worked hard for the University, and has rendered important services in many ways, particularly as secretary of

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 422 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 421.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 423.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 433.

examinations, the duties of which post have been admirably organised by him.

Archdeacon Anson, who died last week at the Deanery, Winchester, while on a visit to his brother-in-law, Dean Stephens, did a great work in Lancashire during the forty years that he was Vicar of Birch-in-Rusholme. Many churches were built in the Birch district by the Archdeacon and his brother. He succeeded the late Bishop of Chichester as Archdeacon of Manchester, on the nomination of Mr. Gladstone, and filled that office most efficiently for twenty years. The Archdeacon not only worked hard at his parochial and diocesan duties, but he was actively interested in many of the Manchester charities, which he most generously supported. He was a son-in-law of Dean Hook, under whom he worked at Leeds for three years.

The important vicarage of St. Mary's, Beverley, has fallen to the gift of the Archbishop of York, in consequence of the preferment of the Rev. J. C. W. Burnaby to his family living of Asfordby, near Melton Mowbray. The vicarage of St. Mary's has been held successively by the Bishop of Peterborough, Canon Pelham, the Bishop of Southampton, and Canon Quirk, Rector of Bath, all of whom were nominees of Archbishop Thomson.

The Rev. Edgar Sheppard has withdrawn his acceptance of the Canonry at Gloucester to which he was recently nominated by the Lord Chancellor, and he will therefore retain his office of Sub-Dean of the Chapel Royal. I suspect the real reason for this change is to be found in the fact that Mr. Sheppard would not have been so well off at Gloucester as he is in London, and, by accepting the stall, he would practically have shelved himself. It is, under the circumstances, highly ridiculous for the papers to print nonsense about Mr. Sheppard changing his mind "in deference to the entreaties of his many friends," who wish him to remain in London. Nobody who was *en connaissance de cause* could in the least degree understand why Mr. Sheppard accepted the Gloucester Canonry, unless he was to continue to hold his present preferment with it.

There are often some very funny items of news in the local pages of the parish magazines, which are now published every month in all parts of the country. The last number of the magazine of a certain suburban parish contains a "summary of the month's work," signed by the Vicar, which proves, at least, that if the congregation of this incumbent do not entertain a high opinion of him it certainly will not be his own fault. At one function, this ecclesiastic reports that "the Vicar gave an earnest address," while on another occasion "the Vicar's address was a model for many a Sunday congregation," and at the watch-night service "the Vicar preached with all his ordinary force and clearness." There is an infantile ingenuousness worthy only of Parson Adams in the complacency with which "the Vicar" indites these glowing puffs of his own performances.

We are all company promoters now. A Welsh paper relates that the Bishop of Swansea, holding forth in a Sunday-school, referred to an undertaking styled the Welsh Church Press, remarking that 2,000 shares in the concern out of 6,000 had been taken up, and that he hoped some of his audience would subscribe, and that the company would be floated in the course of a fortnight. From what I know of the Episcopal Bench, I don't think I should myself accept any Bishop as an adviser on the subject of investments.

Here is another example of the parson as promoter—this time of a bazaar, which is also to be an unrivalled advertising medium. The writer is the Rev. A. T. Kinnings, of Huddersfield, and the document is addressed to likely firms in the neighbourhood :—

> Dear Sir,—In connection with my church—Trinity, Fartown, Huddersfield — we are holding in March one of the largest bazaars held in this town. From its character, and the popularity of the last, it will be well and largely patronised. The young men with whom I am associated are making a very special effort, and a *chief element* of their effort is a medium of advertisements for reliable business houses. Unless I was assured of an honest effort in return for goods given I would not enter into this arrangement. We propose to distribute by hand, in parcels, by an advertisement stall, all papers and cards forwarded to us. I ask your firm, therefore, if you will favour us with a parcel of goods, and in return your house shall be well advertised, &c., &c.

If the same amount of impudence is shown in pushing the advertisements as is shown in stocking the bazaar, there can be little doubt that this promise will be filled to the letter. What a pretty way it is of advancing the cause of religion!

A Wesleyan correspondent is anxious to know something more than has yet been made public as to the means by which the financial success of the Wesley House scheme has been assured. The scheme was to free from debt the house in the City-road where John Wesley used to reside and to establish and maintain there a museum of Wesley relics and other objects of interest to Methodists. There are many men of means in the Connexion, and if the scheme had aroused any general enthusiasm, there would have been no difficulty in obtaining the money required. It failed to do anything of the kind, and languished till some weeks ago when it was suddenly announced with a flourish of trumpets that a certain unnamed trust fund of £5,000, hitherto applied to other Wesleyan objects, was to be devoted to the purpose of this scheme. But a mysterious reticence was displayed respecting the name of the trust, and it is as to this and as to the intentions of the testator that my correspondent expresses what appears to be a pardonable curiosity. The present trustees presumably consider that they have power to hand over the money. It certainly seems desirable, however, that the name and

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particulars of the trust should be disclosed, so that the Wesleyan public may judge whether such an application of the fund will be in harmony with the views and wishes of the testator. At present many doubt it.

Some interesting particulars are given in the *Chester Chronicle* of the method in which the business of collecting money for the Baptist Mission Lecture Hall, Bridge-street, Chester, is carried on. As my readers are aware, this concern is run by one W. S. Jones, who calls himself a "pastor," and whose financial transactions and affairs were severely criticised some time ago in the Bankruptcy Court, which has not yet deemed it desirable to grant him his discharge. Hundreds of circulars appealing for subscriptions to the work of the mission are sent out every week to people in all parts of the country. These circulars do not bear the name of W. S. Jones, the pastor, which has probably become too well known, but the names of E. H. Jones, who is his wife (though there is nothing to indicate that fact) and of Mr. T. Bellis, who is described as the treasurer. Mr. Bellis, a young and inexperienced working man, has explained with perfect frankness his share in the affair. He is the treasurer, but it is Mrs. Jones who receives subscriptions, enters them in a book, and gives receipts. All Bellis has to do is to take once or twice a week the money she hands over to him, to pay with it the expenses of the mission, and to prepare the balance-sheet. Here is an extract from an interview with him in the local paper:—

> Now what guarantee have you, Bellis, that you receive all the money sent to Mrs. Jones? Are the postal orders and cheques made payable to her? Yes. You simply take the money that is handed over to you without question?—That is so. . . . . I (the interviewer) asked him if he did not think it a very dangerous game to play. He said he could not deny that it was a bit risky and thought he would give it up.

In view of this I would repeat the warning I have more than once given in reference to the begging letters from this mission. Jones has just stated that the accounts are in the hands of an auditor, but an auditor's certificate is practically worthless so long as the collection of the money is carried on under the conditions described above.

I am asked to mention that a *matinée musicale* will be given at 3, Stratford-place, Oxford-street, W., next Saturday evening, in aid of the building fund for the proposed St. Anselm's Institute. Mme. Recoschewitz Wilson, Mme. Zippora Monteith, Mr. Edgar Stevens, Mr. Hermann Vezin, and other artists will take part in the entertainment. Tickets can be obtained from the Rev. R. H. Sinclair, St. Anselm's Vicarage, Grosvenor-square.

The sum of £2 2s. from "Thankful" has reached me towards the deficit of the Toy Fund.

H. L. Savory & Co.'s Cigarettes.—By Special Warrants of Appointments, to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe Coburg-Gotha, H.S.H. the Duke of Teck, and the House of Lords and Commons. To be obtained of all the leading Houses in the Trade.—Sole address, 59, Piccadilly, London, W.

When the administration of the Commissariat Transport Department in Madras and Bombay was transferred to the Government of India in 1889 a special Army circular was issued containing the following clause:—

> No change will be made in the conditions under which officers and others now in the Commissariat Transport Department are serving; their promotion will continue to run on their respective Presidential lists, and they will continue to serve within their own Presidency, except in cases of emergency, when it may be desirable to employ them temporarily beyond it.

This order has just been unceremoniously set aside for the benefit of Lieutenant-Colonel G. L. Eliot, late Assistant Commissary-General, First Class, on the Bengal list, who has been promoted to the rank of Commissary-General in the Madras command. Some time back, owing to Lieutenant-Colonel Cooke, Commissary-General, going on sick leave, Lieutenant-Colonel Eliot was appointed officiating Commissary-General, he happening to hold at that time the appointment of Administrative Commissariat Officer in Burma, which, although under Madras, is open to officers of the other commands. Lieutenant-Colonel Cooke having subsequently retired, Lieutenant-Colonel Eliot is permanently confirmed in the rank which he was given temporarily. There can be no doubt that this appointment is simply the latest manifestation of the jobbing proclivities of Simla. The injustice that has been done to the other Commissariat officers on the Madras list might yet be put right by transferring to the Bengal list Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly, at present senior Commissary-General, First Class, on the Madras list, who is already officiating as Administrative Commissariat officer in Burma, and by filling up the vacancy thus created from the Madras list. But whether Simla will have the decency to mitigate the job in this way remains to be seen.

It seems to be a regular thing to reject cadets for the Army who are "defective in green." The mention of such a case in last week's Truth has brought to hand particulars of two others. If the short-sightedness of these youths had been of the kind associated with the immortal name of Verdant Green, one can understand that there are regiments in the British Army for whom they would have been constitutionally unsuited—the 4th Hussars, for example. It is also easy to see that an officer who was "defective in green" would fall a ready victim to the wiles of the bill-discounter. But why on earth a difficulty in distinguishing between certain shades of colour should interfere with a man's efficiency as an officer, passes my comprehension. It looks more like a test for girls entering a needlework school.

In another recent case a cadet was rejected on account of the loss of two front teeth, knocked out at football. As everybody knows, there was a time when the loss of the front teeth was a real disqualification for military service, but the reason for that disappeared with the arms and ammunition of our great-grandfathers. It has been urged that sound teeth are essential to the health of every soldier, but that, again, applies chiefly to the molars. A man who has lost two front teeth accidentally is under no

difficulty in masticating his food. The defect is purely one of appearance, and can be easily remedied. We shall hear next that premature baldness is a disqualification for the Queen's commission.

Another recent case in which an Army candidate has been rejected on medical grounds illustrates the working of favouritism and personal influence at the War Office. The candidate in question passed the educational examination for admission to Woolwich in July last, but was rejected on the ground of a bodily ailment. He underwent an operation, passed again at the November examination (the War Office having declined to admit him to a second medical examination unless he again passed), and was a second time rejected for the same ailment, which had now developed again. He was again operated upon by an eminent surgeon, who certified that a very simple treatment, which could be completed in a fortnight, would prevent a recurrence of the trouble, and that he had no permanent ailment which disqualified him for the Army. Armed with this, the boy's father, Mr. E. F. Studd, applied to the War Office to allow the time for the remedy specified to be applied, and that the boy should be then re-examined by another medical board. This request was peremptorily refused, with an intimation that the decision already given was final.

Looking at this case alone, the attitude of the War Office is sufficiently unreasonable and inconsiderate. The boy having passed his educational examination twice in six months—the second time under great disadvantage—is evidently of the right stuff intellectually; and if there is any valid ground for supposing that the ailment can be easily and permanently cured, there is every reason for giving him a chance of trying the proposed treatment. But the ugly part of the affair is that in two other instances of recent occurrence, the War Office has assented to the very course which was here refused. Why this difference in the official attitude? Apparently because in those cases the friends of the candidates were able to bring to bear private interest, which Mr. Studd had not at his command. It may thus be seen that the occult influences which shape so many careers in the Service are at work even before a boy has gone up to Woolwich or Sandhurst.

It is a singular fact that the graphic account of Lieutenant Henderson's fight with Samory's forces should only have appeared in the London Press last Friday, seeing that the affair took place nine or ten months previously, and that the news of it in outline reached England a few weeks after the event. I confess I should uncommonly like to know when and by whom the narrative was compiled, and how it came to be communicated to the Press. The writer, whoever he may have been, exalts Lieutenant Henderson's valour very much at the expense of his discretion, for his surrendering himself to Samory seems to have been an unnecessary and useless act, the only effect of which was to embarass the Government. Unless I am mistaken, Lieutenant Henderson flatly disobeyed orders in going beyond Wa at all, and the whole of the operations which have been so trumpeted were a fruitless failure. The author of the Press narrative also seems to be strangely oblivious of the merits of other officers connected with the expedition—notably Captains Cramer and Haslewood of the Hausas.

A complaint reached me from Scarborough the other day respecting the arbitrary way in which non-commissioned officers on the Militia staff are sometimes refused permission to transfer to the Volunteers. A case has just occurred at that particular place, in which the Colonel refused to sanction the transfer of an N.C.O. of sixteen years' service, with every necessary qualification in the shape of character and certificates. There does not seem to be any local reason why the transfer of the man from the Permanent Staff should be objected to; and it would appear that the reason is rather to be found in some general objection which the C.O. has to part with his N.C.O.s, for I hear that in the last two years other cases of the same kind have occurred, and men have actually taken their discharge altogether because they were refused transfers to the Volunteer staff. The matter is also of importance from the point of view of the Volunteers, who would have a difficulty in getting the men they want if every Militia C.O. were to veto the transfer of his N.C.O.s in the same way.

Talking of the Militia, is it really necessary to charge a militiaman for the marking of his kit? In the Line a recruit gets his kit marked free. A Militiaman, on the other hand, seems to have the privilege of paying twice over, once on the completion of his recruit's drill, and a second time when he comes up for the annual training; the charge amounting to about eightpence altogether. The price seems very excessive, and it ought to be reduced to about one-quarter the present amount, and charged to the public.

The Army tailors seem to be a very unhappy class. Only the other day I gave expression to a growl from India. On the top of it comes another respecting the position of the master tailors in the Royal Artillery. The point of it is this: that, whereas in the cavalry and infantry qualified tailors are made sergeants as soon as they get an appointment, and thus have a chance of earning a pension in that rank, the men of the Royal Artillery who have been through their course at Pimlico, go to the batteries with the rank of acting bombardier, and take their turn for promotion to corporal, but are never made sergeants, although possessing

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all the necessary qualifications. Their only chance of getting to higher rank is by obtaining the appointment of sergeant-master-tailor at a depot, and as there is one depot for eighty-eight batteries, this chance is somewhat remote. The difficulty seems to be that, as the qualified tailors are on the strength of the battery as duty N.C.O.s, but cannot perform duty in barracks without neglecting their work in the shop, their promotion to the rank of sergeant would be inconvenient. This could be got over by making a certain number of these men supernumerary to the duty establishment of N.C.O.s, as are the collar-makers.

Another promotion grievance of very old standing, and repeatedly referred to in Truth, exists among the armourers, who are now, I understand, a section of the Army Ordnance Corps. A first-class armourer writing to me on the subject tells me that when he joined the Corps he was told that, after beginning as sergeant, he would become first-class armourer in five years, and that in another five or six years, at the utmost, he would be promoted to staff-armourer. He has now done seven or eight years as first-class armourer, but without seeing any prospect of further promotion before him, and there seem to be many others in the same case. The grievance has just been rendered acute by the fact that a batch of warrant officers, on completion of five years' service, have been allowed to extend their time, thus deferring for a long while any further prospect of promotion to the men below. Another grievance in this branch of the Service is the irregularity of the tour of foreign service. While one man is sent out to India, and remains there for eight years, another goes to Malta or Hong Kong, and comes home at the end of five. There ought to be a general rule on this point applicable to all.

I do not know whether it is intended to do anything for the non-commissioned ranks simultaneously with the betterment of "Tommy Atkins;" but if it is, attention might well be directed to an anomaly in connection with the pensions of quartermaster-sergeants. A quartermaster-sergeant becomes entitled to a pension of 2s. 9d. a day on completion of one year's service in that rank, provided he has completed twelve years from his promotion of sergeant; but no number of years' service as quartermaster-sergeant will enable him to increase this pension. I know a case in which a man has served over eight years as quartermaster-sergeant, but, as regards pension, he is in no better position than another who attained the same rank seven years later than himself. No doubt there are many cases of the same kind. There ought, I think, to be a provision for an extra threepence per diem after, say, five years' service as quartermaster-sergeant.

The promised increase of the Army will involve, presumably, some corresponding increase both in the Medical and in the Chaplains' departments, and it will be interesting to learn where the requisite officers are to come from. The difficulty is likely to be felt seriously in the Medical Department, already deplorably undermanned, unless the reforms Lord Lansdowne has promised bring up a handsome supply of new medical recruits. In both the Medical and the Chaplains' departments there are many men who have retired owing to temporary ill-health or other similar causes, and who would now be only too glad to return to active service, if red tape did not stand in the way. It would be worth the while of the Secretary of State to consider whether some of the men required might not be obtained from this source.

If Lord Lansdowne has not yet arrived at any decision in regard to the titles of Army medical officers, he would do well to note the way they arrange this matter in America. In the United States Army, which possesses, I believe, a highly distinguished and efficient medical service, the surgeons hold an ordinary military title, supplemented by the designation of their own department, thus: "Colonel Dash, Surgeon, United States Army." If the proposal to create a Medical Corps is carried out, the American system could be adopted by giving our doctors a similar military title, followed by "Royal Medical Corps," or whatever name may be adopted for the Department. What legitimate objection there can be to this, so long as the Army Pay Corps, and other non-combatant Departments, possess ordinary military rank, I fail altogether to see; and I think that combatant officers will show a very bad spirit if they object to the Medical Staff being placed on the same footing as the other Departmental Corps.

May I now suggest to Army medical officers and their friends, and also to their enemies, that an armistice should be declared, pending the definite announcement of Lord Lansdowne's intentions with regard to the Department? During the last fortnight I have been literally overwhelmed with correspondence on both sides of this question, and, as it is quite impossible for me to deal with more than a fraction of it, and the discussion can hardly lead to any practical result at the present juncture, I think we had better, for the present, at any rate, let the subject drop.

The Warrant Officers and Staff-Sergeants, R.A., at Valetta, have a mess, the members of which are seven in number. Six out of the seven are married men, and live some distance off, and not a few of them regularly frequent a second R.A. sergeants' mess situate at St. Elmo. Nevertheless, the takings at the first mess average upwards of £30 per month. There is only one possible conclusion from this, namely, that the mess is a regular drinking-shop for others than the nominal members; and I am told, that in point of fact, it is largely frequented by civilians. There are one or two minor irregularities in the management of this mess—*e.g.*, the liquor is ordered

direct from the brewer instead of through the canteen—and it is worth the consideration of the local military authorities whether its existence should not be cut short.

Reference was made in TRUTH the other day to an alleged grievance of Mrs. Atkins in regard to Tommy's washing at Malta. The point was that the normal week's wash is liable to be increased by suits of khaki and other extras without any corresponding addition to the payment. The ground, however, is rather cut from under this complaint by a subsequent letter from Malta, which states that Mrs. Atkins does no washing on that station, but habitually farms it out to native washerwomen, and pockets a handsome middlewoman's profit. From figures given me in regard to one company, it appears that as much as £5 profit per month can be made in this way, £6 or £7 being paid by the company for washing which Mrs. A. gets done for 25s. or 30s. I am sorry to have to add that there are serious complaints as to the way in which the work is done, and one Tommy tells me that his shirts come home in a simply disgraceful condition. The remedy would seem to be to eliminate the middlewoman, and allow a little more to the party who does the work.

The drift of the remarks in TRUTH, on February 3, respecting soldier grooms seems to have been somewhat misunderstood. It was certainly not my intention to pronounce any general opinion as to the suitability of ex-soldiers from mounted corps for employment as grooms in private service. But I have heard on many occasions that such men do not turn out as good servants as might be expected, and the reason for this seems worth while inquiring into. If the reason is to be looked for anywhere, it is undoubtedly in the considerations mentioned in TRUTH a fortnight ago, and the object which I had in view was to draw the attention of the military authorities to this point at a time when they are professing great anxiety to give "Tommy" technical instruction, and otherwise fit him for employment on leaving the Service. So far as knowledge of horses and stable work goes, an old Cavalryman, or Artillery or Army Service Corps driver ought to be fully qualified for engagement as a groom, and if he is not, the fault must lie with the system under which he has been working.

There was a correspondence in the *Field* some few years ago respecting the merits and demerits of "Tommy" as a servant in private stables; and the general balance of opinion was, I am sorry to say, somewhat unfavourable. It is better to face than to blink this fact. On the other hand, I am glad to be able to say that several competent witnesses give their testimony in "Tommy's" favour. I have a long letter from a retired officer, who, on the strength of extensive experience in India, entirely traverses the statements made by the correspondent whom I quoted on February 3 respecting the deficient knowledge of horses which cavalry soldiers possess. This gentleman states that he prefers soldiers for grooms, first, because they obey orders, secondly, because they work systematically, thirdly, because they are generally clean and smart. "My advice," he says, "to any man wanting a groom is to select an old soldier." A civilian medical practitioner writes to me in the same sense. He says that he has little time for personal supervision of his stables, but his animals, harness, and stables are always in the best of order, his bills are less than those of most of his friends, and he has never had occasion to employ a "vet." for anything except tail docking. I am very glad indeed to be able to give "Tommy" this testimonial, and I trust that the experience of others may be equally satisfactory.

Under the Canadian Poor Law, I understand, when a pensioner gets into the workhouse, he is left in possession of half his pension. A case in point is to be found at present in the poor house at Halifax, Nova Scotia, where a Crimean veteran from the old 49th Regiment is at present in the enjoyment of a pension of sixpence per diem, half of which the Poor Law authorities appropriate towards his keep. This is a degree better than the rule in force in England, but it is an utterly anomalous state of things that a pension should be dealt with in this way at all. The pension is given to the man for his own use, and it is then compulsorily appropriated for the benefit of the ratepayers. The proper way to get over this difficulty would be to empower guardians to supplement the pension by outdoor relief to an amount sufficient to keep the pensioner out of the workhouse.

There are a great many millionaires among us, and their number is increasing almost daily. For some reason—whether it is a case of cause and effect I cannot say—the number of paupers also increases. Millionaires are also often in great difficulty as to how to dispose of their surplus wealth. Let me suggest that a great opportunity offers itself to them in my plan for building almshouses or hospitals for Army pensioners. Such institutions would do a great deal of good, and the millionaire who built them would immortalise himself as a generous friend of our invincible Army and a noble upholder of the Empire.

I came across the other day another case which shows how shabbily some of the pensioners in employment as messengers in the Government Offices are treated under the existing rules. The case is that of an ex-sergeant in a Line regiment, who for some years carried on successfully a small business in a country town, but was ultimately ruined by a calamity which overtook the place. He was an industrious and well-behaved man, with an excellent

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Service record and good testimonials. When he came to grief, he had to look out for what work he could find, and eventually got one of these berths in the Office of Woods and Forests. There he is condemned permanently to work at wages rising from 21s. to 24s. per week, without the slightest prospect of promotion, however well he may behave, while scores of retired lackeys from the service of Ministers and M.P.s are infinitely better off. It was only, I believe, in 1893 that the Civil Service rules relating to messengers, &c., were last overhauled and resettled; but there seems a strong case for revising them once more. Surely a man who has spent the best part of his life in the Army or the Navy ought to be treated on as good terms as the man who has served in the butler's pantry or the servants' hall.

It is a point worthy of note in connection with the complaints of these temporary messengers that they are actually paid less than the labourers in the same offices, the latter getting 7d. an hour for fifty hours per week (£1 9s. 2d.) against the messengers' 21s. While the Government are improving the soldier's terms of employment, and making provision for finding work for him after discharge, they could not do better than improve the position of the old Army men who fill these berths in the Civil Service.

I find I did not do full justice to the case of the Lieutenant, R.N., who, after having been four months previously reprimanded and dismissed his ship, after trial by court-martial, for a brutal assault on a petty officer, has just been gazetted to H.M.S. *Phœbe*. The officer in question, Lieutenant Allenby, has not only got another ship, but has been actually appointed senior executive officer of that ship—a much-coveted berth, for which several officers applied. So far, therefore, from the sentence of the court-martial (where, by the way, he pleaded guilty) having the effect of a black mark against Lieutenant Allenby, it seems to be treated by the Admiralty as entitling him to special favour. It is not surprising to hear that on the Mediterranean Station, where the facts are only too well known, the appointment is regarded with profound disgust by all ranks.

It has already been remarked on this case that many a seaman has been flogged, imprisoned, and dismissed the Service for less serious offences than that of which Lieutenant Allenby was guilty. For an example in proof of this one need not look far. In Saturday's *Times* was reported the case of a boy belonging to H.M.S. *Impregnable*, who struck the Commander when he was awarding him a punishment. His punishment is twenty-four cuts with the birch inflicted in the presence of the ship's company, followed by three months imprisonment with hard labour, followed again by dismissal from the Service. That is the sentence on a youngster who, in a fit of temper, commits what can hardly have been more than a technical assault on a superior officer. But for a superior officer, who comes on board in the small hours of the morning, and in an explicable outburst of violence commits a murderous assault on a subordinate, first kicking him about the head and face, and then thrashing him with a stick until stopped by another officer, the punishment is four months' holiday followed by a special mark of Admiralty favour. Am I wrong in maintaining that in the maintenance of discipline in the Navy, the most elementary principles of justice are absolutely unknown?

I recently called attention to the scandalously insanitary state of the training ship *Britannia* at Dartmouth. There has been an extensive outbreak of measles on board this vessel, and a large number of cadets are ill. By the way, a correspondent of one of the Service papers asserts that at the last examination for entry to the *Britannia* only 104 candidates were examined for sixty-one vacancies! He states, moreover, that the examination was made very much easier than usual in order to prevent the failure of eighteen competitors. "The minimum in arithmetic, algebra, and geometry had to be changed, as also in the aggregate of Part I., or otherwise eighteen of the sixty-one would have been thrown out, having failed in one or more of the elementary subjects." This writer also states "that one Service and one Colonial candidate were so specially favoured by the examiners that they were actually allowed to pass without having complied with the printed regulations." These are very serious charges, and the matter ought to be thoroughly investigated. Perhaps some Service member will interrogate Mr. Goschen on the subject.

With reference to a paragraph in last week's Truth about the *Royal Sovereign*, I am informed that Captain Grenfell was not in command of the vessel at the time of the "mutinous demonstrations" which occurred while she was at Portsmouth last year. The ship was at the time manned by a navigating crew, and her present commander and crew were only turned over to her when she arrived out at Malta. I am very glad to know this, because it disposes of any suspicion that the aforesaid mutinous demonstrations may have been due to the quarter-deck vocabulary of the then Commanding Officer.

The following extraordinary story is sent to me from Chatham:—A man belonging to H.M.S. *Pembroke*, while on foreign service leave, wrote to the master-at-arms, forwarding an application for an extension of leave. The extension was not granted, and the man returned in due course, when he was made a prisoner and brought before the Commander on a charge of attempting to bribe the master-at-arms. He was not allowed to say a word in his own defence, and was sentenced to be reduced to the

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second class for leave, and second class for conduct. It was the first crime against him in his record. The explanation of the attempted bribery is this: When writing to the master-at-arms the man was at the same time writing to a shipmate, enclosing him a postal order for 6s. 6d. By a mistake he put the postal order into the letter to the master-at-arms, and on this the charge was based. Whether this defence is genuine or not, it is not for me to say. But at least it is one the truth of which can easily be tested, and which ought to have been tested thoroughly before the man was convicted and punished. If it is really true that he was sentenced to reduction without being allowed to offer any explanation, the case is a flagrant example of the loose and arbitrary way in which "justice" is administered in the Navy.

There is a great deal of grumbling among men employed at the Naval Ordnance Depot, Chatham, over the way in which promotion is carried out, and vacancies on the establishment filled up. From information received I could give a dozen instances in support of these complaints. They are individually small matters, but in the aggregate it is easy to understand that they create a large amount of dissatisfaction. The chief grievance seems to be the jobbing of outsiders into vacancies, which ought to be filled up from men who have been serving for some time on the establishment. It would be well if the officer in command were to look into this matter.

Two men of the Poona Punitive Police recently died, and an application was made through the station staff officer to the Officer Commanding Royal Artillery for the use of a gun carriage for the funeral. The O.C.R.A. replied: "Is the man a warrant officer? If not, why a gun carriage?" As no satisfactory answer could be given to this conundrum, the District Superintendent of Police at Poona was instructed to obtain the use of a hearse, which was done. When, however, the bills came to be submitted to the officers commanding the regiments to which the two men belonged, they declined to pay for the hearse, and the question then arose who was to pay the undertaker who had supplied the vehicle. The difficulty ended in the District Officer persuading the undertaker to strike the item out of his bill, which I am bound to say I should not have done had I been in the undertaker's place. The funeral in question was a military one, being attended by a firing party and a band from the Royal Irish Rifles. On the other hand, a gun carriage has been recently supplied at Poona, on the occasion of the burial of Mr. Rand, a civilian, and also at that of a General's daughter who died lately on the station. Under these circumstances the O.C.R.A. may well be asked why he took upon himself to object to lend a gun carriage on this occasion.

It is a difficult matter to criticise the treatment of prisoners in gaol, the witnesses as to what goes on there being what is called "tainted." I think, however, from a statement lately sent to Truth, that the authorities responsible for the Poona military prison might with advantage inquire into the way the soldiers there are treated, more especially when they are suffering from sickness. I am told that extra-cold shower-baths have been ordered in winter as a form of punishment, and that men suffering from ague have not been exempted from this discipline. It is also stated that it is impossible to obtain permission to make complaint to the chief warder, which would account for many irregularities going on without being brought to light.

Whenever the Channel Squadron is assembled at Portland inexplicable delay in the delivery of the mails is always a source of complaint. Elsewhere the postal service to warships in harbour is satisfactory enough; but at Portland it is a common occurrence for the letters and papers which ought to be delivered in the morning to arrive in the evening, and for those which ought to be received in the evening to be delayed till the next morning. Judging from the communications I have received, it is high time the Postmaster-General woke up his local representatives.

A telegram addressed "107, High-street, Manchester," was the other day returned to the sender on the ground that there is "no such number in High-street, City." There is such a number, however, in High-street, Oxford-road, a residential district of Manchester, and at that number lived the gentleman to whom the telegram was addressed. That the Post Office well know this, is proved by the fact that a few days after the telegram, a letter addressed to the same gentleman at "High-street, Manchester," without any number at all, was duly delivered at High-street, Oxford-road. If the Post Office can deliver the letter, where they have to supply the number from their own knowledge, why cannot they deliver the telegram, where the correct number is given, and the Post Office is merely left to decide which of two High-streets is intended?

Every one, of course, knows the answer to this question. If the fuller address, "High-street, Oxford-road," had been given, another penny must have been paid for the telegram. The Post Office, therefore, feign ignorance of the fact that there are two High-streets, in order to extort the additional penny, or to punish the sender for neglecting to pay it. Considering what serious consequences may result from the non-delivery of a telegram, it is a monstrous state of things that a public Department should resort to mischievous tricks of this kind for the sake of a copper or two. The addresses of telegrams ought to be free. The sender could then give all particulars necessary for the identification of the addressee, and the Post Office could transmit just as much as they considered necessary for their purpose. If the public revenue of this poverty-stricken country cannot afford to sacrifice the few pounds a year that this concession would cost, the

number of words transmissible for sixpence in the body of the telegram might be reduced. I would rather be limited to six or eight words, and be at liberty to write the full address without charge, than be nominally allowed twelve words, including the address, with the knowledge that if I cut the address too short my message will miscarry, while if I make it too long I am making the Post Office a present of the charge for every superfluous word.

A good example of the dealings of the G.P.O. with its staff comes from Swansea, though whether it is peculiar to that town I cannot say. In 1893 a number of men entered the service as temporary sorting clerks, having been given to understand that a revision of the staff was shortly to be expected, and that several appointments would be made. After making themselves proficient in their duties, the men were all given employment on what are termed "allowances," and are still working as "temporary clerks." The Tweedmouth Commission, if I remember rightly, recommended the abolition of temporary allowances, but no attempt has yet been made to place these men on a permanent footing. On the contrary, they were recently asked to sign a document in the following terms:—

(1) I agree to attend at whatever official hours I may be directed;
(2) To conduct myself with propriety, and conform to the rules and regulations of the Post Office;
(3) I agree to assist in the work of the office without remuneration; and
(4) I acknowledge that I have no claim upon the Department for a permanent situation by reason of my temporary employment.

In other words, these men, after five years' regular employment in the office, are required to sign a document placing themselves for ever on the footing of temporary hands, renouncing all right to pay, and all claims to promotion or treatment as permanent servants. The document which I have quoted has been hectographed in the Swansea office. Whether it originated there or in some higher sphere does not appear; but it is a matter on which the heads of the Department ought to be challenged in Parliament. A more cold-blooded and oppressive display of official tyranny has rarely come to light.

A curious complaint reaches me from Maxwelltown, Kirkcudbright. It is to the effect that the local post-office has absolutely disappeared. There is no doubt that a post-office existed there once, but what has become of it nobody knows. As Maxwelltown contains some 4,000 inhabitants, and is, in fact, the most populous town in the county, the mysterious disappearance of the post-office is certainly a matter of some importance.

It may be worth while to mention that there is a simple way of providing against the smashing of valuable parcels in the Post Office in the manner complained of the other day by a firm at Hawick. The Postmaster-General accepts liability for parcels to an amount not exceeding 40s., provided that a certificate of posting (which is issued free of charge) be obtained at the time when the parcel is despatched. The 40s. liability can be extended by registering the parcel like a letter. In view of these provisions, I really do not think that people have much cause for complaint when they send valuable articles by letter post, and get them lost or damaged.

Those who are interested in the County Council Election cannot do better than provide themselves with the *Municipal Year Book*, the new edition of which has just been issued by Edward Lloyd, Limited. An immense amount of information relating to the municipal affairs both of London and provincial towns will be found in this handy little volume, and many of the facts are extremely interesting. I note, for instance, that Manchester made £40,000 last year from its gas works, and £10,000 more from its electric lighting service, as well as £12,000 from its markets. Glasgow, Leeds, and other towns show equally satisfactory results. Why London ratepayers should be denied the benefit of similar municipal enterprises it would puzzle anybody but a Moderate candidate to explain.

Now that Lord Salisbury and his friends are so intent on the glorification of the London Vestries, the question of the paving of the London streets, for which these bodies are responsible, is of special interest. Attention was called in TRUTH some time back to certain curious facts in connection with the laying of asphalte pavements. There are at present three companies in the field, and by an extraordinary coincidence each one of them, year by year, obtains the contract for paving in the same parishes or districts. If they had a private arrangement by which each was only to work in one particular district of London, the partition could not be arranged more neatly. In Westminster, for instance, I note that the Limmer Asphalte Company do all the work year after year, and at the present time out of 87,794 square yards they have laid about 82,000. Every year the process is solemnly gone through of inviting tenders for the work, yet, strange to say, other companies which tender successfully elsewhere never seem to succeed in Westminster. Very possibly the Vestries and Boards of Works are in no way responsible for this state of things. They may be perfectly helpless in the hands of the companies. But that only shows the advantage of having a central authority instead of a number of small local authorities to deal with a matter of this kind.

It is said that the Local Government Board is unable to keep pace with its work. No wonder. Just imagine Mr. Henry Chaplin, Mr. T. W. Russell, Sir Hugh Owen, and the other members of this august body worrying their minds for months over such a subject as the ingredients of the children's puddings at Holbeach Workhouse. At first they wanted to know how many currants were put in each pudding. After much expenditure of red tape this important question has been satisfactorily settled. Now

the Board is complaining that there is—so it considers—an excess of suet in the puddings; also that no milk is used in making them. The workhouse master affirms that the children like the puddings as they are prepared at present, but will not eat them when they are made, according to the official recipe, with 1½ oz. of suet and 2 oz. of skimmed milk to each pound. This explanation may satisfy people who believe in the old-fashioned adage that the proof of the pudding is in the eating; but it is hardly likely that it will be accepted at Whitehall. The wiseacres there are evidently bent upon emulating the pedant who

> By geometric scale,
> Could take the size of pots of ale,
> Resolve, by sines and tangents straight,
> If bread and butter wanted weight.

The Local Government Board for Ireland has been asked to hold an inquiry into the financial affairs of the Bangor Town Commissioners, which are said to be in an inextricable muddle. If there is such a muddle, the fact can hardly be wondered at after the edifying exhibition of their methods of conducting the business of the town which the Commissioners gave at last week's meeting. A series of squabbles culminated in what a local reporter calls "a wild and indescribable scene." All the Commissioners rose from their seats, one put his clenched fist in another's face, and threats of personal violence, met with invitations to "just do it," were general. Then a couple of spectators joined in the war of words—no actual blows were struck—and finally the Chairman, who had "turned quite pale," succeeded in inducing the Commissioners "to go into committee." This meant that everybody except the members had to leave the room, which was decidedly a pity; for, judging from their behaviour in public meeting, the proceedings of these Bangor Commissioners in private must be highly entertaining.

There was another heated discussion at the meeting of the Lincoln Guardians last week respecting the boarding-out case, which some time ago led to an interesting passage-at-arms between the Chairman and Truth. It seems that the ladies of the District Boarding-out Committee, after personal visits to the home in question, declined to approve of it, and recommended that the two children living there should be removed. In an ordinary case such a recommendation would be adopted almost as a matter of course; but the woman with whom these children are placed has some exceedingly zealous friends among the Guardians, and, as the result of their efforts and eloquence, the proposal of the committee was rejected. It would almost appear that in some quarters more is thought of the interests of the foster-mother than of the welfare of the children; and the action of the Guardians in over-riding this recommendation certainly makes a farce of the appointment of a visiting committee as part of the boarding-out system.

The Conway Rural District Council still displays the most callous indifference in regard to the serious epidemic of scarlet fever which has occurred in the parish of Llysfaen. It has been proved that this epidemic, like previous epidemics, was due to the absence of a pure supply of water, the inhabitants having to depend upon rain water collected from the roofs of the houses and stored in old casks. Nothing whatever has been done to remedy this state of things, and the attitude of the Council in the presence of the scandal may be judged from an incident that occurred at their last meeting. The Sanitary Inspector reported that he had had an analysis made of a sample of water from one of the house casks, and that it was condemned as unfit for use, whereupon the unfortunate officer was actually censured for daring to take such a step without the authority of the Council! These Bumbles would apparently have preferred to let the family poison themselves by drinking the water.

A somewhat extraordinary case is reported in the *Hampshire Chronicle*. Two inmates of the lunatic ward of the Cambridge Military Hospital made their escape. They were both recaptured. One of them, Lee, had recently enlisted in the Carabineers. It seems that he had previously enlisted twice, and on each occasion had been discharged as insane. Brought before a magistrate, he was convicted of having on the last occasion of his enlistment made a false attestation, and he was sentenced to a month's hard labour. But if he had been put in an asylum as a lunatic, how, on his escape, could he be treated as a sane man? Either he ought not to have been put in the asylum, or he ought not to have been sent to prison.

Here is a curious story, sent to me apropos of what has been said in Truth about the tenant's liability for landlord's income tax. A firm in the City paid in the usual course, on their landlord's account, tax to the amount of £25 in two successive years, but omitted by an oversight to deduct it from their rent until the Michaelmas quarter in the second year. The landlord refused to allow the deduction then, contending that the law provides that the tax *must* be deducted from the rent for the quarter following the payment, and that if the tenant omits to deduct it, then he loses his right to do so. By way of excuse for insisting on his rights, the landlord pleaded that he had himself been guilty of a similar omission in regard to his own rent to a superior landlord, and that on the right to deduct the tax later than the next quarter being denied, he had taken counsel's opinion, and had been advised that he had no remedy. If this be really the state of the law, the law requires immediate amendment. But, partial as our laws are to landlords, I can hardly believe that things are as bad as this. Will some legal reader of Truth volunteer an opinion on the point?

On the question of Divorce Court costs, a correspondent, who has omitted to disclose his identity, but who writes from the Temple and presumably speaks by the card, calls

my attention to the following observations of Sir Francis Jeune in a case of Richardson *v.* Richardson :—

> Whether a wife should obtain an order against a pauper husband for security, with a stay on failure to provide such security, is a matter as to which, I understand, no clear rule of practice exists, nor, in my opinion, should be laid down. Such cases must be rare, and each should, I think, be dealt with on its own merits, especial regard being had to the nature of the defence relied on by the wife.

It might be worth the while of the solicitor who wrote to me on the subject last week to look again into this point. My Inner Temple correspondent, not only gives his opinion that in such a case as was mentioned no order for security would be made against the husband suing *in formâ pauperis*, but he states that within his experience, a husband so suing—a workman with 15s. per week—has obtained a divorce at no other cost than that of a few shillings for bringing the witnesses to town. The petitioner was represented by counsel, of course gratis, instructed by a friendly solicitor's clerk, who drew up a brief consisting of a short epitome of the case on a couple of sheets of paper.

I am asked by a country clergyman to pillory this instance of legal extortion : His daughter, while a minor, had a legacy of £50 left to her—her sole worldly wealth. The legacy has somehow got into Chancery, and having come of age, the legatee is desirous of getting possession of it. She finds that she can only obtain an order for the purpose through a solicitor, and that the cost will not be less than £2 2s.—a pretty heavy tax on a sum of £50. I confess I should like to know how the young lady discovered this, for I presume that she has the same right as other parties to approach the majesty of the law in person. If that is not so, the case is certainly a hard one ; but I am not prepared to say that £2 2s. would be an excessive fee for the work which a solicitor would have to do in such a case.

A somewhat astounding decision has been given at Eddisbury Petty Sessions in a prosecution by the R.S.P.C.A. against two farmers named Williamson. The charge arose out of the drastic means the defendants adopted to cure a horse of the vice of jibbing. It seemed that the animal was harnessed to a cart and attached by a chain fastened round its neck to another horse and cart ; and in this position it was flogged and dragged along a field till it fell down. One of the defendants then thrashed the jibber till it got up, and after being pulled another hundred yards the wretched creature put an end to the struggle by again dropping down and dying on the spot. In dismissing the summonses, the magistrates expressed the opinion, not only that no cruelty was intended, but that none was inflicted. This view of the defendant's "intentions" may possibly have been right ; but how, in the face of the evidence, the magistrates could also hold that no cruelty was inflicted is utterly incomprehensible. After this decision, it would appear, indeed, almost useless for the R.S.P.C.A. to take any charge of cruelty whatever before the Eddisbury Bench.

My Legal Pillory this week shows once more the fantastic manner in which punishment is weighed out when the scales of justice are in the incompetent hands of the Great Unpaid. For callous brutality to a sick wife, the Warrington Shallows impose a paltry penalty of 10s. ; for snaring a rabbit the Bearsted Bench inflict a fine and costs amounting to £2 1s. 11d. Pecuniary penalties are also deemed sufficient for serious assaults at Wellington, Dunfermline, Eckington, and elsewhere ; but sentences of hard labour are passed for the most trumpery theft, and also for the crime of sleeping out or begging a penny. The results of the cases of cruelty to animals are also noteworthy. At Chelmsford the Bench "doubted whether they would not commit the defendant to prison," but they ended by allowing him a week's grace for the payment of a small penalty ; and at Manchester two out of three Justices held that anything more than a fine of 21s. would be "unduly severe" punishment for a most barbarous and horrible act of cruelty to an over-loaded horse. The quality of mercy is nearly always strained for the benefit of the animal torturer :—

Oldbury Police-court. Before Messrs. T. Lavender and E. Danks. John Baker charged with assaulting Samuel Rushton. Defendant struck complainant in the mouth and knocked him down. Fined 17s. 6d. including costs.

Warrington Police-court. Before the Mayor (Alderman Wright), Dr. Gornall, Messrs. Hepherd, and Smethurst. John Caldwell, convicted of an aggravated assault on his wife. Three days after her confinement defendant went into the bedroom drunk, used abusive language, and taking hold of her face crushed her nose with all his force. Next day he forced her to get up and do the housework while he went to bed. Fined 10s. and costs.

Eckington Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. F. Swallow, H. A. Fowler, R. Eyre, and Major L. B. Bowden. John Monaghan, convicted of assaulting Harry Morris. Defendant struck complainant with such force as to fracture his jaw, and knock two teeth out. Fined £2 10s. ; in default one month.

Dunfermline Burgh Court. Wm. Gilmour, convicted of assaulting his wife. He seized hold of the poor woman, threw her on the floor, and twisted her hand so violently that a finger was dislocated and the flesh badly torn. Fined 20s.

Wellington (Salop) Police-court. Before Messrs. R. Hobson and J. W. Clift. Edward Upton, convicted of assaulting his sister-in-law, the charge being reduced from one of unlawful wounding. He struck her on the head with a heavy poker, inflicting a wound on each side of the head, and also battered her about the body, rendering her unconscious. A doctor said the injuries were severe, though not dangerous. Fined £2 and costs.

Oldbury Police-court. Before the same magistrates. Frank Oakes, charged with vagrancy, by sleeping out in a shed and having no visible means of subsistence. One month.

Bearsted Police-court. Edwin Stedman, charged with trespassing in search of conies. He was seen to take a rabbit from some wires. Fined £2 1s. 11d. including costs.

Weston-super-Mare Police-court. Henry and Ellen Fowler, charged with sleeping out in the temporary sanitary hospital. They said they took shelter there as the night was bitterly cold and they had nowhere else to go. Seven days each.

North Shields Police-court. George King charged with stealing a jacket. Three months.

Liscard Police-court. John Riley, charged with begging. He asked for a penny at what proved to be a policeman's house. One month.

Godstone Petty Sessions. Before Major-General Sibley, Messrs. F. H. Birley, F. A. White, A. S. Daniell, and G. F. Rooke. James James, charged with stealing twelve cabbages from a field. Ten days.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. F. W. Elers, R. Pelton, G. Langridge, and Alderman Pink. Henry Greener, charged with sleeping out. Three weeks.

Birmingham Police-court. Before Messrs. Gilliver, Sambridge, Brame, Leech, Warden, and Phillips. W. Ballam, charged with stealing a bundle of braces from a shop door. Two months.

Subscriptions greatly needed by The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—6,929 convictions this year ; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Manchester City Police-court. Before Mr. T. C. Horsfall (Chairman), Mr. Arrandale, and Mr. Hughes. Thomas Gollan, Frederick Bollard, and Wm. Bollard, charged with cruelty to a horse. The horse was unable to move a heavily-laden furniture van; and after beating it, the defendants deliberately lighted a fire of shavings under the animal's hind quarters. The Chairman would have liked to send them to prison without the option of a fine, or at least to have imposed a penalty of 40s. and costs. His colleagues thought that would be "unduly severe," and defendants were fined 21s. each and costs.

Chelmsford County Petty Sessions. Before Mr. T. Kemble and other magistrates. James Bones, charged with cruelty to a mare. He beat the animal most unmercifully with a heavy crowbar, causing some weals nine inches long. The Bench considered it a shameful case. Fined £1 and 6s. costs; allowed a week to pay.

Burton County Police-court. Before Messrs. M. Richardson and S. Higgott. Joseph Page, Arthur Clover, Joseph Salt, and Wm. Bagnall, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of rabbits and nets. Fined £3 8s. each; in default one month.

Bristol Police-court. Before Messrs. W. W. Jose and W. J. Davis. John Morgan, charged with stealing a duck. One month.

Glasgow Sheriff Criminal-court. Before Sheriff Fyfe. John Jardine, convicted of stealing a turkey from a shed at the docks. Six months.

Carnarvon Police-court. Before Dr. R. Parry and other magistrates. Samuel Loyal, a professional acrobat, charged with cruelty to an apprentice name Ricks, aged twelve years. Defendant struck the lad on the head and in the mouth, severely thrashed him on the legs and back with a whip, and lifted him up by the ears till they were cut and swollen. Fined 10s. and £4 10s. costs.

In the case of H. E. Collins, the manager, and F. R. Howell and T. Cory, two of the directors of the National Bank of Wales, who were sentenced at the Old Bailey last week, justice has been exceedingly slow, if sure. It is nearly four years since the failure of the bank and the discovery of the fraud by which the three prisoners pocketed £30,000. But though the fraud was of the grossest possible character, the trustee in the bankruptcy, acting, he has explained, under the advice of counsel, took no criminal proceedings against the swindlers, and it seems probable that nothing whatever would have been done had it not been for the exceedingly severe remarks which Judge Owen, of the Cardiff County Court, made when the facts came before him last July. The result of the Judge's action is that Collins has now been sentenced to four years' penal servitude, and Howell to fifteen, and Cory to eight months' hard labour. This is satisfactory, for the accused well-deserved the punishment which has been inflicted upon them. It is, however, anything but satisfactory to know that the prosecution was delayed so long, and that it would apparently never have been instituted at all if the case had not chanced to come, quite incidentally, under the notice of the County Court Judge. One would like to hear now the name of the learned counsel who advised the trustee not to take any action.

One or two correspondents have drawn my attention to the result of a case at Oxford Assizes in which a man named Bayzand was indicted for the manslaughter of his wife. There was plenty of evidence that the woman had been most cruelly neglected, but there was no proof that this neglect, shocking though it was, caused, or even substantially accelerated, death, and in these circumstances the jury found the prisoner not guilty of the crime of manslaughter, and he was discharged. One correspondent deems it a monstrous state of things that what the Judge stigmatised as "wilful, gross, and culpable neglect on the part of the prisoner" should thus go entirely unpunished; and with this I agree. But it would have been equally monstrous for the jury to convict the man of manslaughter on account of conduct which, however bad, was not shown to have occasioned or hastened the poor creature's death. A different charge ought to have been preferred against the prisoner, if that was possible; and, if it was not possible, the law needs amending to meet such a case.

The latest move of the notorious Richard Banner Oakley is to tout for subscriptions to what he calls "the *Star* Prosecution Fund." My evening contemporary has been saying nasty things about R. B. O.—I have said some myself—and he recognises that, "as a public duty," he ought to take criminal proceedings; but, sad to say, "he cannot afford the expense." Hence his appeal to the public to assist him in performing this public duty. In the circular he is sending out Oakley poses, of course, as an injured innocent. With characteristic impudence he asserts that he was "improperly convicted" upon a "technical charge"—this being his humorous euphemism for the gross fraud he perpetrated in connection with the Co-operative Credit Bank. He further argues that as he has served his sentence (I believe it was five years' penal servitude) he is entitled "to live a peaceable and honest life." Certainly. But now that he has again had the effrontery to invite investments from the public through the medium of his Underwriting Bureau, the Press has a right to point out the disastrous experiences which befell those who "co-operated" with Mr. Banner Oakley in past years. I scarcely think his *Star* Prosecution Fund will amount to much. But if people are misguided enough to subscribe at all, I hope they will subscribe sufficient to provide for the payment of the defendant's costs. If that is done, my contemporary can view the threatened proceedings with perfect equanimity.

There is a new recruit to the ravening army of West End usurers. His name—that is to say, the name he gives himself—is George J. Addison, his address is 3, Holles-street, Cavendish-square, and his ground bait for gudgeon in the shape of a specious circular is now being scattered with a lavish hand in all directions. "I beg to call your attention that (*sic*) I still continue to make immediate cash advances" he writes, for all the world as if he were an old-established blood-sucker. It will be seen from this sample that Addison's style is scarcely Addisonian. Curious to relate, in the opening sentence and throughout the circular he uses the same words and makes the same mistakes as the notorious Isaac Gordon. This may be, of course, a mere case of illiterate plagiarism; but, on the other hand, I shall not be in the least surprised to find that Addison is simply another alias of the many-aliased Gordon. And whether these twain are one or not, I pity anybody who falls into the new usury trap at 3, Holles-street.

For *Truth*, and all other Newspapers, Magazines, and Periodicals, send your Subscriptions to Wm. Dawson & Sons, Ltd., Cannon House, Bream's-bldngs., London. (Estab. 1809.) Catalogue gratis.

In addition to the circulars just mentioned, George J. Addison is also sending out a special circular to secretaries of West-End clubs, in which he offers those who "introduce good loans" (he means easy dupes) "from 5 to 10 per cent. commission upon the profit made." It is perhaps only natural that Addison should be oblivious of the fact that this is about as odious and insulting an offer as could be made to an honourable man. Several of the club secretaries who have forwarded the circulars to me express themselves very strongly on the subject, and, really, if one of them chose to make Mr. Addison acquainted with his opinion through the medium of a horsewhip I do not think he would be much blamed.

It would not the least surprise me if the intelligent foreigner, making a study of this country, were to record the fact that the law in London is not the same as the law in Liverpool, and, startling as it may seem, he would be right. Only last week, in the latter city, two wretched women were brought up at the police-court for pretending to tell fortunes. One was sent to hard labour for two months, and the other bound over. So much for Liverpool. Now, in London, if I walk down the most fashionable streets, I come across the advertisements of the Society soothsayers, against whom, apparently, the police are powerless; for in these cases there is no secrecy—rather bold advertisement—since, in one instance, a uniformed servitor parades outside the door ready to marshal the "clients" into the presence of the "rogue and vagabond"—I mean the mouthpiece of the stars. Of course, if the police in London had the power to interfere, such a state of things would never be permitted to exist.

People continue to send me letters and postcards which they have received from Monsieur Emile Solomiac, of Bordeaux, whose little dodge for unloading cheap claret on the British public has recently been exposed in Truth. I regret to state, however, that although I have repeatedly asked purchasers of the "Grand Cru, La Générale, année, 1888," to favour me with their opinions on that brand and vintage, not a word have I heard from any one who has bought the wine. I confess this has aroused an awful suspicion in my mind. Can it be that none of the purchasers has survived the first dose of "Grand Cru, La Générale"?

I see that Messrs. Klene & Co., publishers, of 105, Great Russell-street, are once more touting for the materials for another of their monumental works. Last autumn they were promising enduring fame—cash price £25—to such persons as would furnish them with their biographies for inclusion amongst "Men of Merit and Women of Worth." How that venture has succeeded I am unable to state. I do not even know whether the worthy women and meritorious men have yet had an opportunity of blushing at the record of their virtues, as supplied by themselves. But I have seen a number of the circulars with which Messrs. Klene, who in the meantime have left their old address at 83, New Oxford-street, are making a fresh attempt to beguile the vain-glorious. "Our Contemporaries" is the title of the new venture, and the book "is designed to give a permanent record of the careers of prominent men and women, who are directly engaged or interesting themselves in works or occupations of usefulness and renown, embracing music, art, literature, science, the Army, Navy," &c. In this circular, however, Messrs. Klene have been discreetly reticent upon one point. They have not mentioned the price of inclusion in their roll of fame. Perhaps they found that many a worthy man was frightened at the £25 subscription to the first volume. Besides, there are so many cheaper methods of self-advertisement. Manning Press, for instance, would always provide the same thing for a guinea or two.

The Chief Officers of County and Borough Police Forces should be on their guard against the following move, just tried—I am glad to say unsuccessfully—upon the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire. This gentleman was favoured a week or two back with a letter from a Mr. Lloyd Palmer, Secretary of "St. Margaret's Home for Invalid Children," Anerley-road, intimating that a lady was about to visit Cambridgeshire to solicit subscriptions to the Home, and asking the Chief Constable to "afford her protection." The Chief Constable thought he should like to know more of St. Margaret's Home for Invalid Children before obliging to the extent desired. He made inquiries, and the result was not of a nature to lead him to take the representative of St. Margaret's Home under special police protection. It is pretty clear that the application was only made for the purpose of exploiting the Chief Constable's reply, if it had been favourable, and representing that the work of the collectors was specially sanctioned and approved by the police. The mere fact of such an attempt being made should be sufficient to cast suspicion on those who made it.

The particular "charity" concerned in the above incident appears to be a concern of a type only too common. It was started some years ago by a professional nurse, avowedly as a business undertaking. Later on a "free ward" was opened, and contributions invited for its support. The proprietress married, and the present "secretary" of the concern is her husband. They have no committee, or other guarantee for the *bona fides* of the undertaking, nor do they issue any proper accounts. There is, therefore, not the slightest reason why persons collecting money (presumably on commission) for this concern should be treated on a different footing from ordinary beggars.

Here is another example of the *modus operandi* of the "Creditreform Association"—a concern of German origin, to which reference was made in Truth a few weeks back. The deponents are a firm in Liverpool:—

This afternoon we had a visit from a representative of this Association. The said representative desired to see one of our principals, asserting it was on some private matter. Incautiously, as it proved afterwards, he was allowed to enter into our private office. He made a statement to the effect that his Company had previously had some inquiry about the standing of our firm, and that they, the Association, had recently received a further inquiry, in consideration of which it was his duty to come to us, the subjects of such inquiry, to obtain from us infor-

nation as regards our financial standing. He seemed very much surprised when we informed him that we considered such a method of procedure might be detrimental to the interest of the inquiry. He produced a paper which he asked us to fill in. Unfortunately, this paper he subsequently placed in his pocket, but as far as we remember it asked a certain number of questions, most of which were of a leading and personal nature. Upon our refusing to continue the discussion with him, ... instead of taking his departure, he implied in a more or less direct fashion that if we did not answer the questions detailed in this printed report, our so not doing would be detrimental to us. As we, fortunately, are quite independent of the report, good or evil, of any association of this nature, we gave him to understand the door was open for him. The man's presence in itself was displeasing, and his method of endeavouring to secure his purpose was bullying. . . . .

The writer seems to have made a mistake in merely intimating that the door was open. The least he ought to have done under the circumstances, was to apply to the person of the intruder a sufficient amount of pressure to facilitate his egress. I trust that this will be done at the next office where he presents himself, and if the proprietor has first put on his heaviest boots, the result will be the more satisfactory.

By an oversight on the part of my advertisement manager there appeared in last week's TRUTH a "competition" advertisement, emanating from the Zuilia Perfumery Company, 13, Rosebery-avenue. The advertisement offered a prize of £50 to any purchaser of the company's goods who could solve a puzzle attached. I do not know much for or against the Zuilia Perfumery Company, and at the time when the advertisement appeared I knew nothing at all. But the advertisement belonged to a class which I am not as a rule prepared to take the responsibility of publishing. On my attention being called to the matter, I sent a representative to interview the Zuilia Company, but, although he has called twice, he has been unable to find any responsible person on the premises, and a correspondent writing on the subject states that he has had a similar experience. I can only hope, therefore, that no reader of TRUTH has paid his or her money to the company in the hope of securing the £50 prize; and in reply to one or two special inquiries as to whether I recommend people to enter for the competition, my answer is, Certainly not.

The London and Provincial Bank, Limited, seems to deserve a word of notice while the treatment of bank clerks is under consideration. In this bank the juniors start at £20 a year, which rises by £10 a year until £120 is reached, so that it takes a man eight or nine years to earn £2 a week, and after that his prospects of further increase become doubtful. In this bank, also, the rule prevails that no man must marry until his salary reaches £150 a year, and I can speak to at least one case in which it has taken a man twenty years to arrive at that desirable consummation. This is a bank which, according to its last balance-sheet, is making an annual profit of over £370,000 a year, and its last year's dividends have been at the rate of 17½ per cent., free of income-tax. Except for a grant of £4,000 to "Officers' Pension and Gratuity Fund," not a penny out of these enormous profits is devoted to improving the condition of the staff.

Now, I would suggest to the Directors of the London and Provincial Bank that they should, out of their next half-year's profits, devote a sufficient sum to increasing their salaries to such a point as will permit of their men being allowed to marry at thirty years of age. There is nothing in the relations between banking companies and their junior staffs which is more objectionable from every point of view than this anti-matrimonial regulation. In no other field of employment, so far as I am aware, is celibacy enforced, and the fact of the banks insisting upon it is a tacit confession that they are not paying their employees a living wage; for if that phrase means anything, it means a sufficient wage to enable a man when he is well past his youth to marry and maintain his family in decency and comfort.

I am, I suppose, an old-fashioned person, unduly conservative in my notions. But I cannot reconcile myself to the last stage in the advance of Woman—the sandwich-girl. Twice have I encountered a procession of these damsels, tramping the gutters in their pantomime costumes, bearing the praises of Thingumy's cocoa, or some other matchless compound on their backs and bosoms, exchanging chaff with the 'bus-drivers and street boys, and trying their best to look as if they liked the job. Of course I know that my prejudice will wear out in time—like the prejudice against railways, Wagner's music, or Home Rule. Of course I know that the time-honoured sandwich-man was an eyesore in our streets, and that the genius of the advertisement contractor is going to replace him with something up-to-date, piquant, and attractive. Of course I know that selfish masculine prejudices must not debar Woman from her sacred right to earn her independence by any form of honest toil within her reach. All round, I am quite aware, I have "no case." But, nevertheless, I can't help wishing that we could do something better with our girls than *that*.

Here is another opportunity for girls which does not sound over attractive :—

Young Lady Wanted, to Assist in Office. Must be quick at figures. Used to long hours. Strand district preferred. Wages, 7s.—Address, &c.

Seven shillings a week, and must be used to long hours! Such a state of things is worth the attention of moralists who are concerned about the temptations offered to girls in London. If a shilling for a long day—say 1d. an hour—is the market rate of wages for girls in the Strand district, who desire to earn "an honest living," is it wonderful that many prefer a living which is not "honest"?

I hear, somewhat late in the day, from a resident on the Great Western line, who has come across the recent remarks in TRUTH on foot-warmers, that the Great Western Company have lately made great progress in warming their trains by steam. In that case, they are far in advance of most of their contemporaries, and deserve all credit for it. But the fact of one train being warmed by steam does not excuse the absence of the common foot-warmer in a train which is not provided with the steam apparatus.

In spite of all that has been said on the subject, no abatement seems to take place in the cruelties perpetrated on poultry exported alive from Ireland to England. A gentleman at Brighton tells me that he saw the other day a railway truck loaded with crates of fowls on their way from Ireland to some place in Sussex. Such a journey cannot possibly be performed much under forty-eight hours, and must often take longer. But, however long it may be, the wretched birds get neither food nor drink from beginning to end of it, unless some tender-hearted railway official or passenger takes pity upon them. The trade is, I believe, a growing one, and steps ought to be taken to have it conducted with more humanity.

A brewer's drayman in Hampshire picked up the other day a pocket-book containing a £5 note, a silver pencil, and various papers, as well as a notification that, if lost and returned, the finder would be rewarded. The drayman forwarded it to its owner, a doctor near Petersfield, in a registered letter, and was rewarded by a brief note of thanks, accompanied by stamps for the postage of the parcel, and *one halfpenny over*. I don't say that he was entitled to more, though it is hardly a handsome remuneration for the work of packing up the parcel and taking it to the post; but I *do* say that the doctor has a curious idea of what constitutes a "reward." To save disappointment in future, it would be better for him to inscribe in his pocket-book that anybody finding and returning it will be—thanked.

One has heard such depressing accounts of the dangers of the journey to Klondike, and the hardships of life in that region, that it is decidedly refreshing to come across a rosier picture. This is supplied by a correspondent of mine who went to Dawson City last June, and who has lately returned to Winnipeg. He intends to go back to Dawson City in the coming spring, and without pretending that the journey is an easy one, or that life is all beer and skittles when you get there, he affirms that many of the stories on the subject in the newspapers and magazines are most exaggerated and misleading. Still I trust none of my readers will rashly assume from this gentleman's testimony that a trip to Klondike can be lightly undertaken. It may be that things are not so black as they have been painted; but on the other hand my correspondent may be something of a Mark Tapley.

Here is a curiosity in the shape of English as she is wrote by our negro fellow subjects. The document is a letter addressed to an English firm of ship-owners by a coloured gentleman at Sierra Leone:—

Messrs. ———

Sirs,—I hope you are all well. I only write these few lines to remind you of the favours I have be asking you. Will you be kind as to put me in any of your ships as Pursers s Clerk. If you have that extremely oblidging state of mind which will permit you to do that did of kindness I shall experience the deepest Love you have for your friend whose age is 20 years.—I remain Your Humble and Dutiful Servant ———

It would be amusing if it were not so serious to watch the impassiveness of the authorities in this country; whatever the need for legislation in any direction little short of a cataclysm will ensure its adoption. Notwithstanding repeated accidents—not infrequently accompanied by loss of life—through this modern craze for carrying firearms, no steps have been taken to make the practice illegal and punishable by heavy penalties. The consequences of this supineness are, that it is open to a half-witted individual to fire off a revolver in the crowded gallery of a theatre, or, as happened only last week in Camden Town, for a quarrel between two boys to end in one of them being shot through the arm and carried away to a hospital. The necessity for legislation on this subject has been emphasised from the Bench, apparently without result, and there appears every probability that (as enterprising traders are to be found who meet the increasing demand by supplying a pistol for eighteenpence) many more lives will have to be lost before the Government sees fit to pay any attention to such a trivial matter.

"SLEEPY HOLLOW" AT WESTMINSTER.

There's no stir in the air, there's no stir on the floor,
Each bench is more empty than ever before;
The Members stroll in and look listlessly round
At a House that is steeped in depression profound;
No sign of a laugh does the sitting beguile,
There is never a chance for the ghost of a smile;
There's a somnolent hush, a somniferous lull—
Oh! it's dismally,
Direfully,
Dolefully dull!

The writers of leaders take placid repose,
As the flabby debate drowses on to its close;
The "lobby-ists" yawn as they limply withdraw,
Soon weary of making their bricks without straw;
The descriptive reporters to *ennui* succumb;
The caricaturists look languidly glum;
For how can they subjects for merriment cull?
It's so mournfully,
Mopingly,
Mumpishly dull!

The Ministers nod on the Treasury Bench,
Too torpid to even an argument clench.
Returned to do nothing—the truth let us tell,
And admit that they do it remarkably well.
Supinely, inertly, they bring in their Bills,
With an air that the zest of their followers kills;
They are even too lazy to make a good mull—
Oh, it's dreadfully,
Drowsily,
Drearily dull!

Where, where is the jester? Where, where is the bore?
Where, where are the fighters that once "took the floor"?
Where, where are the cheers, and the shouts of "'Vide! 'Vide!"
And the yells and the groans that the Irish supplied?
Where, where are the partisan passions so deep?
Come, Echo, make answer!——But Echo's asleep.
Yes, all the proceedings are numbingly null—
It is dismally,
Direfully,
Dolefully dull!

The absolute freedom from all Parliamentary control in all foreign affairs, which is the outcome of the Premiership and the Secretaryship for Foreign Affairs being concentrated in the person of a Peer was exemplified last week by Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour making at the same moment two directly contrary statements with regard to the Chinese Loan, the one in the Lords and the other in the Commons. But Lord Salisbury's speech was

remarkable for another reason. A considerable portion of it was obviously a reply to Mr. Chamberlain and to the fire-eaters in the Cabinet, who decline to allow that gentleman to have the monopoly of pernicious braggadocio.

The Parliamentary position is a curious one. According to the Liberal Unionists, they went over to Lord Salisbury in order to save the United Kingdom from what they were pleased to call dismemberment. At present a Radical can only look to the cautious sense and experience of Lord Salisbury in foreign affairs to save the country from being plunged into some mad war, in order to enable Mr. Chamberlain to substitute a policy of armaments and annexations for one of domestic reform.

The difference between the two men is this. Lord Salisbury honestly disbelieves in democratic reforms at home, but he is not prepared to involve us in a foreign war in order to avert them. Mr. Chamberlain does believe in such reforms; but, as to act on this belief would ruin him with his Tory allies, he is prepared to involve us in foreign war in order to divert public attention from them. Differing as I do entirely from Lord Salisbury upon domestic politics, I do not believe that he would go one inch beyond what he deems desirable for the public welfare, in order to retain office; whereas I believe that Mr. Chamberlain would take any course that might lead to his own aggrandisement, regardless of the consequences to the country. What I fear, however, is that the Premier may not have sufficient determination to be able to hold his own against Mr. Chamberlain. The latter gentleman is as dangerous in a Cabinet as would be a powder-monkey with a match-box in a powder-magazine, bitten with the illusion that he would personally benefit by an explosion. I would therefore urge on Lord Salisbury not to lose sight of the powder-monkey; indeed, he would do well to take from him the match-box and keep it under lock and key.

I agree with Mr. Dillon that Mr. Redmond's amendment to the Address in favour of Home Rule would have been far more practical had the word "independent" been left out, and "on the lines of Mr. Gladstone's two Bills" been substituted; for "independent," when applied to a Parliament, is open to several constructions. Mr. Dillon, speaking for the majority of the Irish Nationalists, stated that they understood it as meaning that the Irish Parliament ought to be independent of interference in the local matters assigned to it; and Mr. Balfour, as Leader of the House, accepted this meaning.

What surprised me in the debate that took place was the ignorance of the Conservative Members in regard to the past history of Home Rule. They appeared greatly elated when Mr. Dillon stated that the Irish desired separation—*i.e.*, co-equal legislative rights with England, and that they had accepted Mr. Gladstone's scheme of Home Rule as a compromise to which they were prepared loyally to adhere. This had been explained by Mr. Parnell and other Irish Nationalists a hundred times during the Parnell debates.

I am as much to-day for Irish Home Rule as I ever was; but I am convinced that Ireland will never get it so long as a Home Rule Bill which has passed in the House of Commons has to be ratified by the House of Lords. To convert the absolute veto of the House of Lords into a suspensory veto is, therefore, as much a preliminary necessity as it is to take the drag off the wheel of a cart that has to be moved forward. And the same is the case with regard to all Democratic legislation.

A CONCERT OF-EUROPE-CURSED ISLAND.

(With apologies to Charles Dibdin.)

"Oh, Freedom!" one day a poor Cretan did say,
"I wish your assistance you'd lend us,
For woe and disaster
Come thicker and faster,
And threaten to speedily end us.
We have fleets on our seas, 'twas the Powers sent us these,
And their soldiers are camped on our *dry* land;
But though they have mustered,
And flustered and blustered,
They seem to be fooling our island—
Our injured and much-deceived island!
Our humbugged and victimised island!
The Turks were to go
Ages since, as you know,
But still they are lords of our island.

"The Powers in their might talk and wrangle and write,
And plan after plan are debating;
They are fuming and fussing,
And always discussing,
Whilst we grow aweary of waiting.
Crete, they say, shall be free, but they all disagree,
Each time that we think we descry land;
Their ev'ry endeavour,
Leaves things worse than ever,
In our poor, long-suffering island—
Our 'sold' and our stultified island!
Our dished and our much-diddled island!
Our cruelly treated,
Repeatedly cheated,
Our 'Concert-of-Europe'-cursed island!

"'The Concert!' Oh! shame, they should use such a name
For what seems expressly created
To discord induce,
And to make more profuse
The ills that it should have abated.
'The Concert!' What stuff! We have had quite enough
Of its sinister music in *my* land;
With Europe, once trusted,
We now are disgusted
Throughout my unfortunate island.
We are sick of the Powers in our island!
They are proving the bane of our island;
And if they'd clear out,
Why, without the least doubt,
There would then be some chance for our island!"

Port-Ensign Kokorris, of the Greek Navy, who has been under trial for sending to the Minister of Marine at Athens a telegram accusing one of the Greek commanders of treachery and disobedience to orders, has been acquitted. The bearing of this trial upon the explanation which I have given of the cause of the inactivity of the Greek fleet during the late war is manifest. The news, however, comes to hand so late that I am compelled to defer further remark upon it.

Artificial Teeth can be Cleaned by using "Dentakon." It keeps them bright, sweet, and good colour. In boxes, 1s. 6d., through Chemists, or post free.—C. Lowe & Co., Surbiton, S.W.

SCRUTATOR.

ANGLO-AFRICAN SLAVERY.

ZANZIBAR, with the Island of Pemba, is, to all intents and purposes, British territory. There is a Sultan residing at Zanzibar, but he is about as much a factor in the government of the country over which he is nominally the ruler as was the descendant of the Moguls at Delhi in India after we had replaced him by British rule. Pemba is an island where cloves are cultivated. The owners of the soil are Arabs, and the cultivation is carried on by slave labour. Of slaves there are about 150,000, almost all of whom are employed in field labour; but there are about 2,000 women who are held in slave concubinage by their Arab masters. The adjacent mainland belongs directly to us. There, too, the land is worked by slaves, of whom there are about 100,000.

A year ago a decree was published declaring that the status of slavery has ceased to exist in Pemba. Any slave there might go before a Court and claim his freedom. The decree has practically been a dead letter, because few of the slaves understand what it means, and as the masters decline to employ freed slaves, those who do understand what they have to do in order to obtain their liberty have the cheerful prospect before them of starving to death if they choose to obtain it. The total number of those who have taken advantage of the decree, which excludes slave concubines from its provisions, are at most fifty. In last week's debate Mr. Curzon admitted these facts, and justified them. The object of the decree, he contended, was to strike off the shackles of these unfortunate people, but at the same time not to ruin the industry of Pemba. The slaves had not sought to be emancipated by the action of the Courts because their masters had offered to substitute for the former condition of their service other conditions. Paid labour was thus replacing slave labour. This was a condition of things that ought to be encouraged, for otherwise the slaves would become disobedient and independent.

On the mainland Mr. Curzon admitted that nothing had been done to abolish slavery, and that before doing anything in this direction we must wait the result of the experiment in Pemba. At present the landowners are on the verge of ruin, because the missionaries hold out the temptation to slaves to run away from their masters and to settle on missionary land, and the construction of the railroad to Uganda has raised the price of labour.

What does all this really mean? Slavery, under the name of forced labour, is to continue both in Pemba and on the mainland. The status of slavery is not to be legally recognised, but matters are to be so arranged that if a black man does not work for a master, he will have to starve. The only difference, therefore, made by the decree is that, whereas formerly black men were made to work for food and lodging, they are now to be made to work for some little pittance in lieu of food.

The natives of Africa are black. Every endeavour to profit by annexations of African territory to the Empire is based upon the idea of making the black owners of the territory work for the white men who may take up their residence in it. Look, says Mr. Rhodes, in a recent interview, at these strong black men shooting, hunting, and amusing themselves, instead of working for the whites! and he denounces "Exeter Hall" as having ruined Rhodesia by its fads. In tropical countries a black man may easily secure for himself all his simple requirements by rudely and carelessly cultivating a very small area of ground. If this pleases him, why should he work for a white man? We call him lazy. But is he more lazy than a country gentleman at home? Is he doing more harm by declining to work in a mine than the company promoter who would make him work in one? I can understand the Socialist doctrine that every one should do his share of work. But I do not understand the doctrine that every black man should labour, whether he likes to or not, in order to put money into the pocket of a white man. We may lay it down broadly that very few black men work more than is absolutely necessary in order to provide themselves with food, and get themselves guns and spirits. In a native State, when a black man wants this gun and a bottle of spirits, he forces some other black man to produce something in exchange for them. I regret that such should be the case, but our idea of substituting for this forced labour of one black for another the forced labour of all blacks for us, hardly commends itself to me. I do not believe that we are likely to profit by laying hands on vast territories in the interior of Africa. A few merchants may make money by trading, but the cost and the responsibilities involved in these additions to the Empire outweigh this profit. Be this, however, as it may, one thing is certain, and is admitted by Mr. Rhodes. Wherever we annex territory peopled by Africans, these Africans must be forced to work for us, if the territory is to be rendered valuable. Free labour means that one man can only be forced to work for another if he so pleases. In making the conditions under which he is prepared to sell his labour, he is only a free agent when he may elect to work or *not* to work, and, if he does the former, when he has a voice in the conditions under which he accepts service. Slavery means that a man is forced to work for a master, although he may not be disposed to do so, and under the conditions that the master imposes. Wherever the British flag flies, this latter state of things should not be allowed to exist. Wherever there are Englishmen seeking to grow rich by black labour, there ought to be a Labour Bureau specially charged with the duty of seeing that such a state of things does not exist. We must accept the responsibilities involved in bringing under our rule subject races. The subject race is the actual owner of the soil. If the owner likes to cultivate it for himself, he should have an opportunity to do so. If he likes to accept a wage for working for another, he should be free to say what that wage is to be, and if at the end of any week he prefers to cease to work, then he should have a right to put an end to the bargain.

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

MR. ANDREW'S SIX-AND-EIGHTPENCE.

During the last week or two a Manchester jury have again been occupied for several days with the story of "The Wreck of a Cotton Mill," originally told in TRUTH of March 25 last year. The action was again an action for libel, but the plaintiffs this time were Mr. Eli Andrew, the Managing Director of Jonathan Andrew & Sons, Limited, Ashton-under-Lyne (the concern respecting the failure of which the public have heard so much), and his son, Mr. Harold Andrew. The circumstances of the action were peculiar, and reflect but little credit upon the plaintiffs. It will be remembered that in the first TRUTH article dealing with the failure of Jonathan Andrew & Sons an accidental mistake was made respecting the position of Mr. Frank Andrew, one of the principal shareholders, in relation to the failure. This accident, although at once apologised for, and although the apology was followed by an ample tender of pecuniary compensation, was made the subject of an action for libel, which was tried at Manchester last summer, and ended in a verdict for £500 damages. It was a significant fact in connection with that action that while the conduct of the Directors as a body was severely criticised in my article, the Directors themselves preferred to offer no reply of any kind; and it was left to another member of the Andrew family to take proceedings, on the ground that he had been wrongfully associated in the article with his brother and his brother's son. The action of Mr. Frank Andrew against TRUTH was, in fact, avowedly brought for the purpose of showing that that gentleman was in no way personally responsible for what his brother and nephew had done, and looked at in that light the action endorsed, rather than traversed, my criticism of the conduct of the Directors.

In the course of Mr. Frank Andrew's action against me, however, various documents were disclosed, as usually happens in such proceedings. Among them was the original communication from various victims of the failure at Ashton, which had first drawn my attention to the matter. The authors of this communication were men in humble circumstances, who had been practically ruined by the failure of Jonathan Andrew & Sons, and their case afforded a striking example of the mischief which my articles pointed out—the mischief of an insolvent joint-stock concern borrowing money right and left from its own employees and others, without giving them the slightest means of knowing the true position of those to whom their money was lent. As might be expected, these unfortunate men, in communicating with TRUTH on the subject, wrote very strongly. Substantially the version of the case which they gave was accurate, but in certain particulars they went beyond the facts. They imputed that Mr. Eli Andrew had drawn considerable sums out of the business, and they drew a comparison between the conduct of the Directors and that of the notorious Jabez Balfour. The document in which these expressions occurred was, as I have said, sent for the purpose of calling my attention to the case, and was not intended for publication in TRUTH. It was not published, nor were the statements of which Mr. Eli Andrew complained reproduced in any form in this paper. Before dealing with the case at all, I sent down and made my own inquiries on the spot, and I found that, whatever ground there might be for criticising the conduct of the Directors, there was no evidence that they had benefited pecuniarily by what had taken place—rather the reverse. Had the matter, therefore, ended with the publication of the TRUTH article, nothing further would have been heard of this communication to me from Ashton-under-Lyne. Mr. Eli Andrew and his son have never to this day challenged a single statement or remark that has been made in TRUTH. But the action of Mr. Frank Andrew incidentally brought to light the private correspondence that had passed between myself and various parties at Ashton, and thereby Mr. Eli Andrew was furnished with the means of setting the law in motion against those who had dared to call the attention of the Press to the affairs of his firm. One of these men was an employee of a boiler insurance company, and had lost £700 by the failure of Jonathan Andrew & Sons. A second was a working millwright, who had lost £600. It mattered not that these men had already been the heaviest sufferers by the failure of Jonathan Andrew & Sons. It mattered not that they had lost by that failure the savings of years, and the provision which they had made for their old age. It mattered not that they had on every possible ground the strongest claim to the sympathy of the proprietors and Directors of the concern. It mattered not that they were poor men, from whom no substantial damages could possibly be extracted, and who would be involved by expensive litigation in present ruin upon the top of the loss they had already incurred. Insensible to every consideration of this kind, Mr. Eli Andrew and his son, although they had never dared to utter a word of protest against the indictment of their company in TRUTH, as soon as they learnt what had passed, more or less confidentially, between the victims of the failure and myself, seized the opportunity of attempting to vindicate their own characters at the expense of these men.

What has been the result? After a hearing extending over four days, in the course of which Mr. Eli Andrew gave evidence at great length, and all the affairs of this company for a period of many years were minutely gone into, the jury have awarded the plaintiffs the sum of forty shillings as damages against three of the defendants. In other words, they consider that each of the Messrs. Andrew is entitled to 6s. 8d. as compensation from each of the defendants for the wrong that has been done him. Such a verdict carries with it the fullest possible condemnation, not only of the conduct of the plaintiffs in relation to the management of the company, but of the course they have taken in attempting to vindicate themselves at the cost of those whom the failure of their company has already involved in ruin. In order to appreciate the significance of the jury's finding, it must be remembered that the defendants had made allegations of the gravest kind, not only against the business capacity, but also against the integrity, of the

The GRAND HOTEL, Monte Carlo, the most fashionable hotel & restaurant on the Riviera. Perfect English sanitation. Now under English management.—Managing Directors, Messrs. NOEL & PATTARD.

plaintiffs. Although they pleaded justification, they undoubtedly failed at the trial to bring home to the plaintiffs any charge of malversation of money. So far therefore, if the plaintiffs were entitled to a verdict, they would seem to have been entitled to damages on a very heavy and substantial scale. In awarding only the contemptuous sum they did, the jury were clearly influenced by the feeling that, of the two parties, the defendants had the most to complain of, and that although they had, in their communication to Truth, gone beyond what the facts justified, their error was not one to be heavily visited upon them. It is clear that but for the unjustifiable allusion to Jabez Balfour, and the suggestion that the plaintiffs had lined their own nest at the expense of the creditors of the company, the jury would either have returned a verdict for the defendants, or have dismissed the plaintiffs with the proverbial farthing damages. Even as it is, it seems a matter for regret that they did not take the latter course. In view of the fact that damages to the amount of £2 had been awarded, the judge declined to interfere with the ordinary course of the law in regard to costs, and the whole expense of this litigation is, therefore, thrown upon the three working men, who already owe to the Messrs. Andrew the loss of nearly every penny they possessed. The result, therefore, of the case is as disastrous to the defendants as it is useless to the Messrs. Eli and Harold Andrew. It should also be mentioned that there was a fourth defendant in the case, Mr. Whitworth, a solicitor, who had prepared the statement which was forwarded by the other defendants to Truth Office. This gentleman pleaded that he had only acted under professional privilege, and that there had been no publication of the alleged libel so far as he was concerned. This question was left to the jury, who found in his favour. Mr. Whitworth, therefore, gets his verdict, and I suppose his costs also, against the Messrs. Andrew. These gentlemen have, therefore, but little to congratulate themselves upon in the result of their proceedings.

Turning to the question which underlies the whole of this litigation, the trial at Manchester only serves to bring out more clearly than ever the perfect accuracy of all the statements respecting Messrs. Andrew & Sons' dealings with their creditors which were made in Truth last March. The facts now established serve to fortify the case which I have put forward both in regard to the culpability of the Directors of Jonathan Andrew & Sons, and the urgent necessity for some change in the law regulating borrowing by joint-stock companies. The gist of this case lies in the fact that the Directors went on year after year receiving small loans on deposit from working men in their employ, and small tradespeople and others in the neighbourhood, at a time when they were carrying on business at a loss, and when the solvency of the concern was at best doubtful; and further, that when matters reached a critical position, they gave to their bankers a charge upon the whole assets of the concern, except the actual premises which were already mortgaged. Thus, after keeping their business afloat for years chiefly by loans, the greater part of which were obtained from people in humble circumstances, who would never have advanced a halfpenny had they known the true facts about the business, the Directors finally, behind the backs of these people, deprived them of the whole visible security for their advances. The company took over the business in 1882. For three years after that date dividends were paid; but it has already been shown, in the action of Mr. Frank Andrew against Truth, that that gentleman found fault with the accounts on which these dividends were based, and objected so strongly to the payment of a dividend that he resigned his directorship mainly upon this ground. It is, therefore, doubtful whether the company ever worked at a profit after the first few months of its existence. The borrowing by means of small deposits from workpeople and others began about 1889, at which time, according to Mr. Eli Andrew's own statement in the witness-box, there were liabilities to the amount of £39,000 beyond the share capital, although it is true he estimated that the assets far more than covered all liabilities. His account of the way in which the deposits began is worth reproducing as showing the course of business in these cases:—

> It was the custom in Ashton-under-Lyne and many other large towns for the workpeople in mills to pay so much a week into a club, and to divide it when "the wakes" came round. The people at their mill paid sixpence, or a shilling, or one shilling and sixpence, a week into the club, and the secretary of the Company, who acted for the club, paid the money weekly into the Company's exchequer, and at the end of the year it was divided.
>
> The Judge: The secretary of the club, instead of paying the money to a banker or holding it himself, paid it to the Company?
>
> Witness: Yes, and 5 per cent. interest was paid on it.
>
> Further examined, plaintiff said that other clubs in the town, finding that they were taking money in that way, came to them and offered money. They therefore decided to put up a printed notice at the entrance to the works to the effect that they were prepared to receive loans. They also advertised in the local papers for loans. They were at that time one of twenty-one companies that were advertising for loans. They offered 4½ per cent.

From this, turn to a passage in the cross-examination of Mr. Eli Andrew:—

> And is it a fact that from 1885 until this Company was finally wound up there was each year, with the exception of 1890, an increasing loss?—Yes.
>
> And is it not equally true that in each year, not excepting 1890, there was an increase of loans from the unfortunate workpeople of Ashton-under-Lyne?—Up to a certain point you are quite right.
>
> Is it not a fact that from 1885, when the total loans were £1,600, the amount increased till May, 1895, when the loans of these unfortunate people had steadily increased till they had reached £14,000 odd?—Yes.
>
> The balance-sheets and reports that have been referred to were balance-sheets and reports made to the seven shareholders, including the three dummies?—And the bank.
>
> And the bank. But the unfortunate loanholders, most of them working people earning weekly wages, did not see the balance-sheets and the reports?—No.
>
> And did you think it right, Mr. Andrew, when the losses on your business were steadily increasing, that these loans should go on from people who were ignorant of the actual state of affairs?—We thought the money lost was the money of the shareholders; we were confident that there was money to pay everybody else.
>
> Do you say it is a thing you would do over again if you had the chance?—No, not if I knew that the thing was to be shipwrecked in the way it was. I should never dream of doing it over again.

Among the victims of the reckless borrowing thus described there were, besides the defendants whose case has already been mentioned, a former manager of Jonathan Andrew & Company, who put in some £94, the wife of a carpenter who had put in £400, another former employee

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of the firm who had put in £50, and several other witnesses. So many witnesses of this kind, indeed, were forthcoming at the trial that the jury stopped the evidence under this head, declaring that they had heard enough. The contention, of course, on behalf of Mr. Andrew, was, as he stated in his own evidence, that at the time these loans were accepted, he believed, first, that the assets more than covered the liabilities, and, secondly, that although the business was working for the time at a loss, it only needed a turn of the tide in the cotton trade to bring prosperity to Andrew & Sons again. A good deal of expert evidence in support of this contention was given, but evidence at least as cogent was given on the other side. An auctioneer and valuer from Ashton, the valuer to the Assessment Committee of the local Union, put the gross valuation of the premises at £17,773, while the actual valuation in the books of the company was £42,870. This gentleman criticised the machinery most unfavourably, and remarked that "such mills could not hope to make a profit in the Ashton trade." An expert from Oldham said that "if the mills were offered to him free of charge he would not undertake to work them at a profit. . . . . As a going concern he considered that the mills of Jonathan Andrew & Sons, Limited, had no value." I mention this evidence to show that the opinions entertained by Mr. Eli Andrew, both as to the value of the assets and as to the prospects of a future improvement in the trade, were, to put it at the mildest, extremely sanguine. On the *bona fides* of this gentleman and his son I neither make now, nor ever have made, any imputation. Nothing graver is alleged against them than errors of judgment; but there is a point where errors of judgment become little short of criminal, and that point seems to be very nearly reached when the Managing Director and principal proprietor of a joint-stock concern so grossly miscalculates both the present value and the future prospects of the business as to involve a whole crowd of working men and small tradesmen in hopeless ruin.

The moral of this case is clear as the day. Some protection is required for working men, women, and others with little knowledge of business, against the consequences of such colossal mistakes as were made in this case. At the least, all those who are invited to lend their money to joint-stock companies ought to be furnished with the fullest and most explicit statement of the financial position of the business, and with some independent valuation of its assets. More than this, I hold that loans contracted under the circumstances which prevail in Lancashire should have the validity of debentures, and should rank before all subsequent charges. As I put it in a former reference to this case, it should be made, once and for all, impossible that men and women who, from faith in an old family name, or a sentimental belief in the solvency and integrity of their employers, have invested their all in a rickety joint-stock concern, should find in the hour of disaster that a bank, or some creditor better able than themselves to assert his rights, has scooped in every farthing of the available assets, while they themselves are repaid for their confidence in the firm by being left in beggary. Among the legislative measures promised for the present session is a bill for amending the Companies Acts in such a manner as to check frauds by promoters. The opportunity might well be taken of adding a clause or two which would save confiding creditors from such disastrous consequences as followed on the failure of Jonathan Andrew & Sons.

WALKER'S PARTNERSHIP TRICK.

It may save some few unsuspecting persons from parting with cash which they can ill afford to lose if I mention that Mr. F. E. Walker, of Swiss embroidery fame, is still going about seeking whom he may devour. The Swiss embroidery swindle was very fully described in TRUTH last summer, but there is evidently a sufficient number of people still in the dark about it to provide Walker with a modest livelihood. He is still at his old address, 4, Queen's Club-terrace, West Kensington; he has not attempted to disguise his identity by changing his name; and the game he is now carrying on differs from the old one merely in details. The old trick was begun by advertising for a partner. The partner, when found, was invited to open an office in the City, and stock it with Swiss embroidery, or similar goods, which Walker knew how to buy cheap and sell at a handsome profit. If the partner went through with the transaction, he presently found himself installed in the office with perhaps fifty or a hundred pounds' worth of Swiss embroidery on his hands, for which he had paid cash to a firm at St. Gallen; and that Walker had either gone to Madeira to cure a lung complaint, or had simply disappeared from Queen's Club-terrace without leaving either address or explanation behind him. Inquiry of the firm at St. Gallen then disclosed that Walker had received a commission from them on the sale of the embroidery, and that the firm were greatly shocked to hear of his shady dealings. They might be willing to take the embroidery back at a heavy discount on the price paid; failing that, the victim had to sell it for what it would fetch in the City, what it would fetch being invariably but a small fraction of what it had cost.

Such was the Swiss embroidery swindle. What precise variation of it Walker is now working I am not in a position to say. But I find that in the early part of January he was again advertising for a partner, and representing himself as a traveller for a large drapery dealer, desirous of finding a capitalist to start with him independently in the household drapery line. He writes to the prospective partner:—

> I want some one to take an inexpensive office and start this business and share profits, and until they reach £25 a month after paying all expenses I will be content with ¼ share. There is no risk. Everything would be entirely under your control, I being in much the same position as a traveller. £60 to £80 is sufficient to start and carry on the business, but additional capital can be made use of, &c.

The gentleman to whom this was addressed went on with the negotiation for some little time. Then he communicated with TRUTH. At my request he endeavoured to obtain from Walker the names of the wholesale firms with which the proposed partnership was to deal. Walker proved coy, but eventually in the course of a personal interview he mentioned the names of Hermann Dreyfus, St. Gallen (not the firm which figured in

the Swiss embroidery swindle); a firm named Beecroft, of Halifax (recommended for blankets); and a Birmingham firm, who were offering an attractive line of watches at 8s. 3d. Walker also stated that he had himself been in the employ of Messrs. Thomas Wallis & Co., Lewis & Allenby, and William Whiteley. It would be interesting to know whether these firms have any knowledge of him, and particularly whether those first mentioned have lately been dealing through him on commission.

Beyond the point thus reached, the negotiation to which I have been referring did not go. The prospective partner wrote that, having seen the articles in TRUTH on the Swiss embroidery trick, and noticing the similarity of the name and address, he did not feel disposed to do business with F. Walker, of Queen's Club-terrace, and Walker replied with the following frank and engaging communication:—

4, Queen's Club-terrace, W.

——, Esq.

DEAR SIR,—Yours received. It is a case of "give a dog a bad name," &c. While quite understanding your disinclination to carry on any business with me in view of what you have read, I insist you could go in with a worse party, for, call me what you like, I am not a fool, and if I have sold indifferent embroidery, I can sell goods privately on easy terms.

You were in possession of TRUTH revelations when you wrote me, and I am sorry you did not refer to them when we met. You wanted to know where our goods should be bought. I did not tell you because I did not know myself. I was only interested in getting bargains, and when you said you could get credit, I agreed readily. If I wanted you to buy embroidery, I should have told you, because it is clear if I wanted you to buy stuff I was interested in, I must tell you the place to go.

The incident is now closed. I put a mad cat scheme before people, they tumble over each other to start. I put an ordinary, steady, every-day business proposal forward on lines above suspicion, and it does not go.

As to TRUTH, they got some copy for the silly season out of my insignificant tale-pitching. If I dealt in stocks and shares on the same plan instead of embroidery, I should have been left alone. I shall not change my name or address. I have left off spoof because it was not so profitable as steady business; and, as I am famous, I must abandon hopes of getting financed in a genuine venture, unless I change my name, and that I shan't do, because I am not ashamed of anything I have done, as long as City ways are at their present level.—Yours truly,

F. WALKER.

After this candid confession a third party need not affect any delicacy in speaking of Walker's character. "Call me what you like," he says, "I am not a fool." The proper thing to call him seems to me to be "an impudent swindler." Apparently, he is not altogether a fool, because he has managed, up to now, to keep out of gaol. But I would not advise him to boast of this too soon. He is quite in error on one point. "If he dealt in stocks and shares on the same plan," it is by no means so certain as he thinks that he would have been "left alone." There are now in her Majesty's prisons plenty of fraudulent bucket-shop keepers who could undeceive him on this point. Nor does it follow that because "City ways are at their present level" that there is nothing to be ashamed of, and no particular risk in a dry goods swindle at West Kensington. I can only hope that it will not be long before the truth of this is brought home to Mr. Walker.

ANOTHER URGENT REQUEST FOR 2s. 6d.

Nearly three years ago a few interesting particulars were published in TRUTH respecting "An Urgent Request for 2s. 6d.," circulated by a Mr. G. W. Linnecar, of "Mansion House Mission," Camberwell-road. As it appears that Mr. Linnecar is still urgently requesting 2s. 6d., and as half-crowns seem to have been rolling in ever since in response to his request, it may be useful to re-state the reasons which I then gave Mr. Linnecar's sympathisers for keeping their silver in their own pockets. The "Urgent Request" is based on an imposing account of the amount of food and other charitable relief given by Mr. Linnecar to the poor of the neighbourhood. Now, Mr. Linnecar is the pastor of a place of worship called "The Mansion House Chapel"—the only connection with the Mansion House of which the Mission can boast. The contributions of the charitable public are thrown into the working funds of this chapel, the chief charge upon which is the salary of the pastor. The amount of money disbursed from the same funds in charity is insignificant. It follows that, of the money subscribed in response to the appeals, only a small portion is devoted to the purpose for which it is asked. By an analysis of Mr. Linnecar's accounts, I was able to show in 1895 that out of every 2s. 6d. subscribed in response to his "urgent request," Mr. Linnecar himself got 1s. 0¾d., the chapel and the working expenses about the same, and the poor about 4¼d.

Mr. Linnecar's latest accounts show that what was true in 1895 is equally true now. If anything, matters are worse. For the year ending October last, Linnecar received about £417 in donations, &c. He expended on charity little more than one-seventh of this—£61 6s. 4d. But even out of this amount £25 odd was granted to other charities, so that the actual amount expended in charitable relief through the mission (free meals, and so on) was only £36. On this basis, out of each 2s. 6d. contributed during that year in answer to his "urgent request," Linnecar devoted less than 2½d. to the object for which the money was asked. Now let us see where the remaining 2s. 3½d. went to.

The Mansion House Chapel and Mission got through in 1896-7 £586. The lion's share of this went to Mr. Linnecar himself, who is down for £246. The general chapel expenses, including the rent and payments on account of a mortgage, came to £141. The principal other item is £61 14s. 6d. for "stationery, printing, and advertising." It is impossible to suppose that the ordinary chapel work involved this last expenditure, and the bulk of it must clearly have been incurred in connection with the mission—probably on the appeals which benefited the local poor to the amount of £36. On the other hand, the "collections at services" only brought in £155 7s. 6d. The rest of the income (which amounted to £601 11s. 9d.) is made up of the charitable donations and a few other trifling items. So that it comes to this. Mr. Linnecar is pastor of a chapel the up-keep of which costs about £150 a year, apart from the pastor's salary. The collections at services only yield £155. The chapel and the pastor cannot, therefore, possibly be kept going on the ordinary resources of the chapel. Mr. Linnecar, however, starts free teas and charitable relief, and appeals to the public generally for help. He gets a response to the tune of over £400 a year, out of which he expends about £60 on charity (less than £40 of it on relief in kind). He is thereby enabled to draw a salary of £246, and to wind up

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the year's accounts with a credit balance of £15. These facts will, I trust, furnish every intelligent reader with a sufficient reason for refusing Mr. Linnecar's "Urgent Request for 2s. 6d."

"THE DOVEC-OT."

Mr. George Edwardes has presented the English public with a delightful work. Intensely interesting, amusing, and human, "The Dove-Cot," which is an adaptation from the French play called "Jalouse," by Bisson and Leclercq, has just that touch of tenderness and pathos which adds so much charm to the light, delicate, and fragrant humour of the story. Miss Ellis Jeffreys, married to clever young Seymour Hicks, is insanely jealous of his every action. She rummages his pockets, "goes through" his private papers, and makes a daily tour of inspection round his sanctum sanctorum. The confidential maid, fully alive to the "jaundiced eye" of her pretty mistress, and desirous of getting a night off on her own account, sprinkles her master's best Sunday go-to-meeting coat with patchouli, and adorns his shoulder with two golden hairs plucked from her brilliant dyed tresses. Ellis falls a victim to the artful trick, and is convinced Seymour is faithless to her. She will have a divorce; she will go back to mamma and papa—anything, or anywhere, sooner than become reconciled to her poor innocent husband. So off they both go to the home of her childhood in Barlescombe, where the good old people have already got wind of the lovers' quarrel and decided upon a little plan of their own to effect a re-union. These dear, simple, loving souls, so admirably played by Mr. James Welch and Miss Carlotta Addison—this tender, devoted couple, who have never had a dispute in all their gentle lives, and are certainly entitled to the Dunmow Flitch, suddenly round on each other in order to give a false impression to the foolish youngsters. They hurl sugar-basins about, the contents of wardrobes are flung on to the stage through the open doors, and sundry valuable nick-nacks are pitched here and there with ruthless disregard by these transformed beings. At the height of the confusion in come the other distracted pair, who stand paralysed at the amazing scene before them. The subterfuge succeeds admirably, Ellis firmly believes her wretched mother is a deceived and ill-used woman, and they both retire to one side of the house, whilst the husband and father slink off to the opposite wing. The lights are low, all is still, silence reigns supreme, when a door on either side of the room is cautiously opened, and Miss Addison and Mr. Welch steal in on tip toe. "Good-night, sweetheart; this is the first time for thirty-two years that we've been separated," murmurs the loving wife. "It is, it is," whispers the dear old man; and with one last kiss the honest couple divide again and return to their refractory children. Of course, the naughty lady's maid confesses her guilt in the end and Ellis promises her Seymour never, never to suspect him any more. But how about the acting of this pretty and wholesome work? It has certainly not met with the appreciation it deserves. Take Miss Ellis Jeffreys and Mr. Seymour Hicks, for instance. What do we hear from the critics about them? Comparatively nothing. And yet they remind the student and lover of acting of the most delightful French comedians, I mean comedians of the good old days when we could see a far better style of the great art in Paris than here in London. When actresses like Sarah Bernhardt and Réjane come over here they are treated to columns of adulation. Then it is the play that is neglected for the artist. But the brilliantly clever acting which can now be seen at the Duke of York's Theatre is passed over with a line or half a sentence. Take, again, the performance of Miss Carlotta Addison as the dear, sweet old mother; here is the most finished and delicate piece of art that can possibly be imagined. It is just the style that was perfected by Lady Bancroft when she played the old lady in "The Vicarage." But what is said of this little gem of a study? What do we hear about it? Nothing at all. It is thrown away, unrecognised and neglected. For my own part, I strongly recommend every one to go and see "The Dove-Cot" who can appreciate a charming story daintily told, dialogue brilliantly humorous and witty, and acting of which any artistic country might well be proud.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

SNAP-SHOTS AT THE ZOLA TRIAL.

THE Zola trial has been so exciting that nobody thinks of Sardou's new drama. Yet it has for its subject the abduction of Louis XVII. from the Temple. The drama on which all eyes are now turned is the Assize Court of the Seine. The theatre in which the actors come and go is an oblong room with a high dado, and six or eight tall windows above it, facing as many on the other side. The public entrance is a noble portal at the head of a broad flight of stone steps. What is technically "the public" enter by this door. By "public" I mean the people who stand patiently in a queue for hours before the Court opens. They have standing room in a pen that is on a higher level than the rest of the room. Persons having tickets, witnesses, and advocates, enter by low, narrow doors, guarded by gendarmes, from corridors. There are rows of chairs for them; but tickets are never numbered, and, in their impatience to see and hear, people jump upon the chairs. The witnesses have padded benches. I should say the Assize Court might hold comfortably 250 ticket-holders, but not more. About 1,200 have managed daily to squeeze into it. As nothing exacerbates nerves and temper more than the air of an ill-ventilated, over-crowded room, battles are frequent. When about five spectators try to keep a footing on the same chair, how can they feel amiably towards each other? Opposite the pen, at the other end of the room, is the bench—a more imposing piece of carved oak furniture than that of an English law court. I should say *on* it, but must say *behind* it, sit three judges in crimson ermine trimmed robes and black velvet *mortier* caps with gold bands. The central judge is the President, or Chief Justice; the others the Councillors, or puisne Judges, who are the merest dummies. Behind the President, and hung high, is a "Christ on the Cross" by Bonnat. Symbolism is so much better in religious art than naturalism. This Christ was painted in the last decade of

the Empire, when the Naturalist school was beginning to make a noise. Courbet then said: "Who ever *saw* a real allegory?" Zola was already "burning the Seine." Bonnat, a friend of the late M. Floquet—they were both from Bayonne—painted, to be *dans le mouvement*, this dreadful Christ, who has the coarse anatomy of a hodman and veins swollen into ropes. It is not "Ecce Homo!" but "Behold the poor wretch!" The imagination is pinned down, limited, and pestered with such mere "reality." It becomes an eyesore after one has been some time in Court. The French never excelled in religious pictorial art or sculpture. But they excelled in the Middle Ages in church architecture and coloured-glass windows.

The jury, as in England, sit in a box at right angles to the bench, and facing the dock. Zola is not there. He sits on a chair within the bar. Maître Labori sits beside him. The *gérant* of the *Aurore* — a plain, humble person, who lives at Belleville — is beside Clémenceau, whose brother, Maître Clémenceau, is between him and Labori. The Public Prosecutor is behind a desk, under the jury-box. He is in crimson, but wears no ermine. His cap is also a *mortier*, and looks like a baron's. Like St. Paul, Zola is of mean presence. He looks *souffreteux*, or ill at ease, and chronically out of sorts. There is no observation in his eye, but a staring, bewildered expression. That "document," on which he so much insists as a writer, is not taken from the outer world, but is the product of his nerves acting on his fancy. A conflict must go on within him between his Venetian and French instincts. Hence, perhaps, the air of discomfort. He strikes me as one who was too scantily fed in childhood. The features are common-place. It would be hard to describe his nose. But the forehead is remarkable for the quantity of horizontal wrinkles and a horseshoe. The face rather hides than expresses power. There is no *soupçon* of "side" or *pose*. He is very unaffected, speaks exactly as he feels, and has the voice of a very nervous man. Drumont charges him with having had a Jewish father. But the type is not Hebrew, though I have seen Jews with that curiously wrinkled forehead, and I know not what in the eyes that might be due to past forefathers working in dark counting-houses and living in obscure ghettos. His father came to France to obtain a concession for supplying Aix in Provence with water. This looks rather Jewish, but Christians, as well as Jews, can be company promoters. Where Zola shows strength is in the neck, shoulders, and chest. One understands, when one eyes his trunk, how indefatigable he has been in working at his mixen; what labour he has accomplished, pitchfork in hand, in piling up that heap! Unfortunately, the stables of Augeas in which he works are filthier than when he began. I am afraid that Naturalism has made the present state of France worse than the past.

Zola comes daily in an elegant carriage. It is his own. The one in which he rode on the opening day of the trial was his publisher's. He is escorted by cyclists belonging to the police. For safety he enters by the judges' door. It opens on to a courtyard strongly guarded. Directly his carriage enters, the *porte-cochère* is shut behind it. These precautions are necessary. He would otherwise risk being frightfully mauled, if not murdered. The Clémenceaus are always with him. They leave each day by a different door.

The Chief Justice is a good-humoured, elderly person. He is wonderfully fair, for a French judge, in dealing with a case in which political interests are involved. When Colonel Henry gave Lieutenant-Colonel Picquart the lie direct, this Judge said, with a twinkle in the eye, "These gentlemen cannot agree." He let them fight it out—verbally.

The military witnesses came in undress uniform. Most of them belonged to the General Staff. None of them gave me a high idea of its intellect—save Picquart, who might be a redoubtable man if he saw his way to a *coup d'état*. Three Generals were point-blank and straightforward. They were Boisdeffre, Pellieux, and Mercier. Boisdeffre is visibly of aristocratic race. He is not a gamecock like Lord Cardigan, but is showy, and might be the hero of a Balaclava charge. General Gonse, who was mixed up in what he spoke of as "Picquart's intrigues," seemed to feel he was in a mess, and anxious to slip out of it.

The military witnesses were dreadfully bothered by counsel. Certainly they were guilty of an illegality. But to minds like theirs this would be of no consequence, once they were persuaded that Dreyfus was a traitor. Colonel Picquart was wholly different from the other officers. He is forty-two, and the youngest Colonel in the French Army, is fair, has small Teutonic eyes of turquoise blue, with heavy eyelids and a projecting intellectual forehead. In nose and contour of face he resembles Mme. Bartet, and he has a tall, slim figure. The eyes have a vague expression, cultivated, I dare say, in Intelligence work, and look at distant objects. He gave his evidence as if dictating. It was less clear than it seemed, but a fine piece of special pleading. Picquart was brought into the Intelligence Department with a view to the revision of the Dreyfus trial. He would have succeeded had the Dreyfus clan been less impatient. They kept goading and threatening to make a noise. He had brought round his chief, General Gonse, who, when Picquart wanted to move, got frightened and half revealed the matter to Boisdeffre. The fat was then in the fire.

The hands at the witness-bar afforded interesting studies. Colonel Henry had a hand like a shoulder of mutton. Mme. Dreyfus had a white, elegant hand, but from old habit showed too much the diamond ring on her little finger, which remained apart from the other fingers. The Generals held their hands bolt upright when being sworn, and let them fall straight down. Picquart had slim, nervous, elegant hands, good to run over the keyboard of a piano, to draw, etch, or possibly make artificial flowers.

"Gyp" during the trial kept on the move in the corridors encircling the Assize Court. Anatole France, of the Academy, was in attendance. She is a little bit of a woman, and so slender. But one sees she is somebody. She has an eye that rivets one. And yet it is not impertinent. Persons who did not know who she was were puzzled to fix her class or rank. Still, she is ladylike. Her complexion is fair, and her hair, of which she has a quantity, is a golden fleece shot with magenta.

I am so sorry to hear of the death of Tony Revillon, the novelist, journalist, ex-Deputy, and good-humoured, good-natured wit. Tony was called simply "Tony" by his friends; and nearly every one was a friend of this capital fellow. He could not be stuck up or dignified if he were given all France to *poser* as such. There was a deal of the good-hearted, devoted dog in Tony, but I never knew him to show his teeth or bark at any one. He was for long years in the Chamber of Deputies, where he represented Charonne, an east-end quarter bearing the same relation to Paris that Hackney does to London. Tony might be known by his round, smiling face, pug nose, long hair, Macfarlane surtout, and broad-brimmed hat, the shape of a Louisiana planter's, but in felt. The views in politics of this good soul were almost rick-burning. He was quite sincere. But he was, when he laid down his pen, too indolent and easy-going ever to light an incendiary match. Tony was faithful in all things. He had a lot of poor relations in Burgundy, who were a constant drain on his purse. As he never saved a farthing, this was hard on him. I never heard of his losing a friend, or turning his back on a friend in need. Like the dog, he could not help devoting himself to somebody. His first idol was Lamartine. He came—walking, I believe—all the way from Burgundy, in 1848 or thereabouts, to dedicate to that poet an ode he had written in his honour. Lamartine was enchanted with his good nature and harmless mirth. He employed him on a newspaper he then directed, and made him his journalistic secretary. Tony's affection for the first idol of his life never varied. His feminine idol was Mme. Ratazzi. He was always at her side when he could be of any use, and absent when he was not wanted. He thought her house the most picturesque, amusing, and interesting in Europe; and so it was. He was a humble follower of hers when Eugène Sue and Victor Hugo were offering flowers of literature at her shrine, and Ponsard writing for her "Horace et Lydie." Illustrious admirers came and went, but Tony seemed destined to go on admiring. One could not imagine him doing anything so grave as dying. He was the trusty friend of Mme. Ratazzi's second and third husbands, Signor Ratazzi, the Italian statesman, and Señor de Rute, one of the most charming and *distingué* Spaniards that it has ever been my good fortune to meet.

Shakespeare is nearly perfect. But there is one great want in "Antony and Cleopatra." It lacks a Tony Revillon. Cleopatra does not seem to have had among her followers one whose devoted attachment was absolute and unswerving as that of a dog. She bewitched Herod, Cæsar, Antony. But she attached permanently no devoted soul. I cannot, therefore, agree with Mrs. Jameson in thinking her good-natured. Birds of a feather *do* flock together. Tony was at all Mme. Ratazzi's regally appointed dinners when she was a widow for the second time, and living in the Duc de Aquila's house in the Avenue du Bois de Boulogne, a house she since sold to Count Telfner, Mrs. John Mackay's brother-in-law. He sat some places from her, but near enough to the centre to serve as a *bout en train*. His humour—and good humour—flowed easily, and was never excessive. Poor Tony, though his face was not aristocratic, was one of Nature's gentlemen. On birthdays and other festal occasions he recited at dessert neatly-turned and sparkling verses written for the hostess. His voice, as he delivered them, was soft and sonorous—so different from the thundering tones in the Chamber of Deputies. Tony was fond of voting Estimates in the Chamber of Deputies. This taste was analogous to the chronically hungry man's for the smell of restaurants. It raised him in his own eyes to think that he who lived constantly from hand to mouth, unless when he had a Deputy's salary, could help to vote away millions.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

DEAR LADY BETTY,—The opening of Parliament is the signal for commencing the elections at most of the old-established clubs, and, in consequence of these, for several weeks after that event there is an amount of irritation in the West End which is both undesirable and unwholesome. According to the present system the names of those who wish to be admitted come up in rotation, and either the members or the committee elect or reject the candidate. This system is altogether wrong, and the majority of sensible men now perceive that selection is the best method of election. The following letter which has been addressed to me deals with the matter very satisfactorily:—

"Travellers' Club,
"Thursday, February 10, 1898.

"SIR,—You have frequently written in TRUTH against the present system of electing candidates for clubs, and a case which has recently occurred is so glaringly unjust that I cannot resist the temptation of addressing these few remarks to you. A, an unmarried man, fell in love with Mrs. B, who very properly avoided him in consequence of his offensive attentions. This year, B, the husband of the lady, came up for election at a celebrated club, and A, who was a member of the committee, secured his rejection. I may add that B is a well-known man, and is in every way suited to be a member of the club to which I refer.

"The system opens the door to much injustice; it breeds bad blood amongst members, and it often injures the interests of the club itself. Moreover, few well-known men will submit themselves to the ordeal; for the more widely a man is known the more enemies he has. The time has come when election by selection must be substituted for the present system. Were the names of all the candidates submitted to the committee at each election, the best could be admitted without having to wait many years as they now have, and this would encourage them to seek admission. Besides this, no candidate would have to run the risk of being black-balled, and of for ever afterwards having it remembered against him that he was. The only argument used in favour of the old method is that it provides an admirable opportunity for paying off old scores, but that is, to my mind, a very serious objection to it. I am happy to say that most men are now in favour of altering the present system of election, but it is indescribably difficult to make club committee-men move on to new lines. Seeing the competition which there is in these days, when clubs are founded by the score every year, and considering the fact that the most desirable members can no longer afford to belong to several clubs, as their predecessors did, committee-men will not much longer be able to resist the general demand for a change in the system of elections. "X. Y. Z."

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It is notorious that Blue Books are compiled in a scandalously slip-shod manner, but during the past few

days a truly marvellous specimen of this kind of work has been presented to Parliament, and it is to be hoped that the notice of the House of Commons will be drawn to the matter. The Royal Commission on Liquor Licensing Laws directed that a return of clubs in Great Britain and Ireland should be made, and this return, "compiled from information supplied by the police authorities," has now been published. There are 195 pages in the Blue Book in question, and the first twenty-seven of these deal with the Metropolitan Clubs and those within the City of London Police District. Half-an-hour's study of the latter has revealed the existence of over a hundred flagrant errors! For instance, the Amphitryon Club, which was started some six years ago and closed its doors more than a year ago, is included in the Report, and it is incidently mentioned that this club has been in existence seventy-four years! The Wheel Club and the Trafalgar Cycling Club also appear in the Report, though they have both ceased to exist.

The Marylebone Cricket Club, with 4,000 members; the Queen's Club, with 1,300 members; Prince's Club, Knightsbridge, with 1,500 members; the Sheen House Club, with 1,500 members; the Imperial Institute, with 6,500 members; and the Empress Club in Dover-street, with 2,000 members, are omitted. These are only a few of the clubs which are not mentioned in the Report, which the secretary of the Royal Commission assures us is "A complete record of the clubs in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, as nearly as they can be obtained." If the authorities of the Metropolitan and City Police know so little of the London clubs, as it is shown that they do in this Report, the errors which must occur in the odd 150 pages which deal with the provinces may be expected to be altogether amazing. To hark back, no notice is taken of the existence of the Cecil Club, the Dilettante—one of the oldest institutions of the kind in Great Britain—the Welcome Club at Earl's Court, the Gallery Club in Grafton-street, and many others which are equally well known.

It would take several columns to mention all the mistakes which occur even in the first twenty-seven pages of the Report in question, but, as a final shot, it may be stated that even the addition, which purports to give the total number of clubs in London, is about sixty short of the mark. A more slip-shod piece of work can scarcely ever have been placed before the public, and it is to be hoped that some member will ask a question in the House on the subject, as these official Reports cost large sums of money to produce.

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British diplomatists and many others of all nationalities who have come into contact with Sir Francis Clare Ford, our Ambassador at Rome, will hear with regret that he has been and is still seriously unwell. It is, moreover, feared that he may be compelled to retire from the Service before his term of office expires, which, according to the superannuation regulations, will be towards the end of the present year. Sir Francis has been an especially popular diplomatist throughout his long career, and at every post at which he has served his name is remembered by a host of friends.

. . . . .

As the commercial interests of Great Britain have grown, the importance of British Consuls and Vice-Consuls has increased, and this has been greatly assisted by the disinclination which the members of our Diplomatic Service for many years showed to occupy themselves with commercial matters. The tendency of the day is to attach more and more importance to Consular officials, and many experienced diplomatists predict that in the future this will affect the position of members of the Diplomatic Service. As there is not so much competition to obtain appointments in the Consular service, and as the salaries are frequently high, parents who are puzzling their brains to discover employment for their sons might profitably look in this direction. Besides, the old system of pitch-forking ruined Guardsmen and others of the same stamp into Consular berths is now almost entirely obsolete, which increases the chances of promotion.

It seems strange that in the Colonial Service the custom still exists of reserving the higher appointments for supporters of which ever Government happens to be in power when a vacancy occurs. When a man enters the Colonial Service, he should have the right to expect to be able to climb to the highest rung of the ladder, if he has sufficient ability and Fortune is on his side. As it is, the Colonial Service is the only one which is still regarded by the various Governments as a happy hunting-ground for impecunious supporters. If an Ambassador is the product of long training and much experience, surely a man who is to govern a big colony should be a specially trained man.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

The luxury of a bath is incomplete without the addition of Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia, which refreshes and invigorates. Sold everywhere, but avoid injurious imitations.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE race for the Two Thousand will be run this year on April 27, which is about a week earlier than usual. The result of the Newmarket Biennial, on April 13, might revolutionise the betting on both the Two Thousand and Derby if Lord Durham's dark colt Gerolstein (who cost 2,600 gs. as a yearling) should happen to defeat Orzil or Ninus, and he would have a considerable advantage in the weight, with both these colts. Cap Martin was mentioned the other day in one of the papers in connection with the Two Thousand, but Mr. Baird's colt is not entered, which, however, matters the less, inasmuch as Cap Martin wants so much time to develop that he certainly will not be in proper racing condition before Ascot at the earliest. He will be found dangerous only in T.Y.C. races. Mr. Baird, however, may have a formidable candidate for the Two Thousand in the dark Brio, who is going on very well indeed. It is much to be regretted that Champ de Mars has scarcely any engagements of any value, as he is decidedly one of the finest three-year-olds now in training at Newmarket. He was never entered for any of the "classic" stakes, and he was unluckily struck out of several rich races when he was a yearling.

Chelandry is being warmly recommended for the Lincolnshire Handicap by writers whose advice is manifestly founded on the most intense ignorance, as Lord Rosebery's mare is doing only easy work at Newmarket, and it is almost certain that she will not run until the City and Suburban, which race she will probably win if she goes on all right.

Lord Dunraven has a couple of the best looking and most racing-like two-year-olds at Newmarket in the colts by St. Simon out of L'Abbesse de Jouarre and by Bend Or out of Molly Morgan. They ought certainly to distinguish themselves on the turf; and in the same stable is another magnificent youngster—the filly by Kendal out of the famous St. Marguerite, for which Sir Blundell Maple paid 3,100 gs. at Doncaster; and he afterwards resold her to Sir Richard Waldie Griffith. She should turn out one of the flyers of next season.

It is full time that the idiotic practice of having ten or a dozen purely ornamental stewards at race meetings should be stopped by the authorities, and the managers ought not to be allowed to advertise the names of individuals until they have ascertained that an adequate number of the persons chosen can certainly attend. At some recent meetings infinite trouble and inconvenience have been caused through the absence of stewards, but the authorities continue to watch this scandalous state of affairs with stupid unconcern. The other day, at a certain meeting, the names of ten stewards were printed on the card, but, lo and behold! an objection was lodged against the winner of one of the principal races, and then it turned out that the case could not be decided at once (as it obviously ought to have been) because there were not a sufficient number of stewards on the course to deal with the matter.

I see that Longtown has been mentioned as a promising Derby outsider. Any one who is asinine enough to be gulled into backing this horse for the Derby may look upon his money as absolutely lost. Longtown has such bad hocks that he could have no chance under any circumstances at Epsom, where the gradients of the course would soon stop him. He has come on during the winter in a very satisfactory way, but he is far more likely to win some second-class handicap than to go for any big race. This horse will probably prove to be deficient in stamina. Matthew Dawson, who is taking the waters at Bath, has removed to Waterloo Lodge, Newmarket, from Exning, where his late stables have been let to Mr. Keene, with Melton Lodge.

Nobody should back Gulistan for the Lincolnshire Handicap until his number is up, as it is exceedingly doubtful whether Mr. de Rothschild's horse will stand a preparation. Gulistan ran very well in the Cambridgeshire, but he has become a most difficult horse to train, and last week he was stopped in his work for several days. I shall be vastly surprised if he turns out a second Le Nicham.

The weights for the Liverpool Spring Cup were published last week, and that the entry is a poor one in point of class is proved by the fact that Labrador is top weight with 9 st. I do not believe that the Duke of Westminster's horse can give 2 lb. to Crestfallen, who has made a prodigious improvement during the winter. The distance is not far enough for St. Bris, who is a much over-rated horse, and Butter is exceedingly moderate, there being no merit in his defeat of Merle at Doncaster, as this filly is clearly deficient in stamina. Stowmarket has seen his best day, and the distance is not far enough for either Northallerton, Asterie, or Nouveau Riche. It is a proof of the frantic and ruinous competition which now prevails, owing to the excessive number of race meetings, that there should be only twenty-two entries for this handicap of £800, although the liability on each entry is only £3. Twenty years ago such a race would have attracted a hundred entries at least. If Crestfallen is the best of Mr. Lambton's lot, I should be inclined to fancy that he will win this event for Lord Derby if he "goes for it."

I hear that the Duke of Westminster's colt Batt is going on remarkably well; he will be specially prepared for the Two Thousand, and is tolerably certain to be the best of the Kingsclere lot for the Derby, in spite of the support which has been given by some mooncalves to Collar. Batt was seized (like other horses trained by Porter) with influenza at Ascot, and months elapsed before the colt had fairly recovered. He was very far from being at his best when he won the Criterion Stakes and the Mile Houghton Stakes at Newmarket during the last week in October. This colt, who is by Sheen out of Vampire, has fine speed, and he can stay well. If he comes all right to the post, it is any odds on his defeating Hawfinch both at Newmarket and at Epsom.

The Duke of Portland has a dreadfully moderate lot of horses in training at Newmarket, and unless his two-year-olds are really smart he will have another bad season. Wantage, the dark three-year-old colt by Sheen out of Satchel, is likely to win some races if he is judiciously placed, but he is not expected to turn out to be within measurable distance of Derby form. That grandly-bred filly, Elizabeth Hardwick, by Orme out of Mowerina, dam of Donovan, is a failure, and will never do much good on the turf, but she ought to make a valuable brood mare. The two-year-olds do not include any produce of Atalanta, Mowerina, or Memoir, and the best-looking of the lot is Manners, own brother to Amiable.

I see it is stated that Captain Machell has a great desire to win a Grand National. The writer has persumably forgotten that Captain Machell won the Grand National of 1873 with Disturbance, when he netted nearly £30,000 in bets. In that year the Grand National was a very heavy betting race, and Footman, a horse owned by the present Lord Penrhyn, was backed to win a great stake, both by its stable and by the public. Another horse which carried an enormous lot of money was Rhyshworth, who had won many good races on the flat for Mr. Henry Savile, who sold him to Mr. Chaplin, and he would have won a big stake if his steed had secured the Aintree event. Disturbance was a gold mine to Captain Machell, who had won a lot of money in the previous November, when his horse carried off the Croydon Steeplechase, which was then a very important race.

I fully expect that Mr. Keene will be very dangerous indeed at Lincoln with either Voter or St. Cloud II. It is a fantastical puerility for any one to suppose that Knight of the Thistle could give Voter 4 lb., and, considering the excellent form which the American horse has shown in the United States, I cannot see that he is overweighted. It is probable, however, that St. Cloud II. (who has made a great improvement during the winter) will be the best from this stable at Lincoln. This horse is a good beginner and he has fine speed.

Barcalwhey, who has been backed for a good deal of money for the Grand National, started favourite for the Prince of Wales's Steeplechase at Sandown Park last week, but he fell when going well. There has been a great deal of talk about The Shaker, a horse belonging to Lord William Beresford, who here met Barcalwhey with 17 lb. the best of the weights, and he finished third. At Aintree the pair will meet at 10 lb., and I should fancy that Barcalwhey will be the better. It is, however, all nonsense and rubbish to bet upon the Grand National until the day of running arrives. There will probably be a very large field, and great and manifold may be the changes in the course of the next five weeks. I myself fancy that Cathal will run well if he goes on all right.

It is complained, with much justice, that steeplechasing in this country has become a perfect farce, and anything more entirely ludicrous and melancholy than the incidents of some recent contests could not well be imagined, and they are certainly calculated to bring this form of sport into utter and well-deserved contempt. A rule ought at once to be passed that, unless a steeplechase is completed within a certain time, the race shall be void. I believe that there is such a law in Australia, and the sooner it is adopted in England the better for all concerned.

Vatel will be found a smart colt next season. It will be remembered that this animal came out last year with a great reputation at the Kempton Park Easter meeting, where odds of 3 to 1 were betted on him for a Maiden Plate in a field of twelve, and he won in a common canter. Vatel directly afterwards fell lame, and he was thrown up for the summer, and did not run again as a two-year-old. He, however, has wintered well, and he has remarkably fine action. This colt is being prepared to run for the Union Jack Stakes at Liverpool, and he will probably win that race for Mr. de Rothschild, who has a two-year-old own brother to Vatel, now in training at Newmarket.

I hear that Sir John Kelk intends to have The Baker specially prepared for the Chester Cup, after which he will be reserved for the Gold Cup at Ascot. There was not a better two-year-old performance last season than The Baker's runaway victory for the mile Nursery at Doncaster, with 8st. 7lb. on his back, and a field of eighteen behind him. The only defeats of this colt were at Stockton and at York, and, in my opinion, his running on those occasions had better be ignored altogether in estimating his chance for future events.

Hermiston is doing practically no work at Kingsclere, and it is quite certain that Mr. Low's colt will not run before Epsom, and very likely he will be kept for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap. If he should win the City and Suburban we should at once find Batt made first favourite for the Two Thousand.

It is very disappointing to find only thirty-two entries for the National Hunt Steeplechase of £1,000, which is to be run at Gatwick next month, the distance being four miles. The first year this steeplechase was run there were actually thirty-one starters, Mr. Angell ("Cherry") winning with Bridegroom. The race was run at Market Harborough, and I fancy it was a stake of about £200. There were twenty-nine starters at Wetherby, in 1865, when Mr. Chaplin won with Emperor. Sir Humphrey

de Trafford would very likely have won the Gatwick race with his American four-year-old Lafayette, but for this animal being disqualified by his victory at Kempton Park the other day. There is not a single French entry, although last year's race, which was run at Newmarket, went across the Channel through the victory of Nord Ouest.

Lord Downe's term of office as Steward of the Jockey Club will expire when the annual financial meeting of the members is held at Newmarket in April during the Craven week, and it is reported that he will be replaced by Mr. Henry Fitzwilliam, Lord Harewood then becoming the senior Steward. Lord Downe was appointed in April, 1895, in succession to Lord March.

No wonder Hall men and University men are staggered by the turn events have taken at Cambridge. Old members of the University are disgusted and ashamed. It was known that there were differences between Trinity Hall and the rowing authorities. Howell, the Hall first-boat captain and an old Blue had declined to row. Bell, just when the crew was going into strict training, also declined. He had been rowing for some time. I will content myself with saying that, in many important respects his position with reference to his rowing differed very materially from that of Howell, and it is unfair to put the two in the same boat. At a meeting of the C.U.B.C., Dudley Ward and Etherington-Smith charged Howell with inducing Hall men to refuse to row in the University eight. Matters must indeed have come to a pretty pass when the President has to impeach any boat captain for such an offence. I doubt if the records of either University or any college can give a precedent for such a proceeding.

The charge was too serious to be lightly made, and Lehmann was invited to take the chair, such was the importance of the occasion. Howell denied that he had endeavoured to prevent any one from rowing. Admitted that his statement was correct, and that he had not brought direct pressure to bear, he must have a very poor notion of the authority of a Hall first boat captain if he does not realise that his own refusal to row would, in itself, be an influence working in the very direction of which Dudley Ward complained. It is to be hoped that Howell and Bell will have the good sense to follow Lehmann's advice, and make up their differences. Surely they have too much good feeling to continue to allow themselves to incur public odium while the person whose catspaw they permit themselves to be escapes scathless. To describe their conduct as unsportsmanlike would be courteous, says the *Granta*. I have no wish to enter into the details of the events which have led up to the present regrettable incident. Howell may rest assured that he has done both Cambridge and his college an infinity of harm. It is not merely his services which are a loss to the University, but the loss to the prestige and honour both of the Hall and Cambridge is almost irreparable. Owing to the conduct of one man the position of the Hall is impugned. What parent will care to send a son to a college which has been for many years the leading rowing college in the University, after the name of Trinity Hall has been made a reproach to the ears of the University. It is a thousand pities that the glorious reputation of the college should be imperilled by the ill-considered action of a few. There is to be a college meeting to consider the question, and it is to be hoped that the college will clearly show that it supports Steele, who is rowing stroke, and will induce Howell to give all his energy and abilities to the President of the University Boat Club. In no other way can the offence be atoned. All the same, those who know the inner workings both of the Hall and University rowing, cannot fail to sympathise to a great extent with Mr. Howell. In condemning his action, as I have done, I have not forgotten that he has in all probability not acted on his own initiative. He has been injudicious enough to have his hand forced. He has appeared before the public as the culprit. He has to bear blame which is not altogether his due. His task, therefore, in abandoning his old position and in loyally assisting his University should not be made too difficult for him. There is one who is old enough to know better, who ought to be able to fight his own quarrels himself, and he is most likely at the bottom of the whole mischief. I hope he is happy.

With regard to the University eight itself, it is not by any means so bad as some people imagine. Steele is improving rapidly at stroke; Goldie is developing into an excellent seven, and Etherington-Smith is much better with his body swing, and rows long, while Swanston, at five, has made the most improvement of any. Rennie, at bow, varies considerably. Their chances of success are not rosy, but Rome was not built in a day, and Fletcher cannot eradicate old vices and teach new methods at once. He can teach oarsmanship, but watermanship is only gained by experience. There is every probability that the crew will be much better than any of recent years. For the sake of the University it is to be hoped that peace will be proclaimed. It is bad enough that Cambridge has forgotten how to row. Surely she has not forgotten how to behave as well.

Since the above was written the good sense of the Hall men has saved the situation. They have passed a vote of confidence in Howell, and urged both him and Bell to row for the University. I believe Howell has acted with the best intentions, but he has been as badly advised as a young fellow could be.

At both Universities college meetings are now in full swing. At Oxford the Exeter open half was won by Dawson from scratch, on a heavy track, in excellent time. In the Christ Church sports the open event was a long jump, in which Gordon, the Blue, did well. At Cambridge there are one or two promising half-milers. In the Trinity Sports Hunter, a freshman, won that event in fast time, and also took the mile easily. In the sprints Pilkington showed very good form, and if he has a little more practice he will be a first-class sprinter, and with training he should come on well for the quarter. Workman won the open mile in good style. Carter, the University president, showed up very fairly in the King's open quarter, and he and Pilkington ought to make a good pair at Queen's. Judging by the Emmanuel open three miles, the Oxford president, Fremantle, will win the event on one leg. Davis shows promise with the weight.

There has been another round of the Association Cup, and those old cup-winners, West Bromwich Albion, just managed to pull through, and so did Derby County. A southern club has again survived. In the first five minutes Southampton scored against Newcastle United, and that was the only point scored. The southern team showed excellent defence, and were very lucky in again playing on their own ground. It would not be nice to damp the ardour of some of their supporters, so it is better not to suggest that they will not win the Cup. The heroes of the first round, Burslem Port Vale, had to visit Burnley, and found the local team too strong for them. They could beat the champions of the first division of the League, but the leaders of the second division were too much for them. In the Amateur Cup the best game was that which resulted in a draw between the Casuals and Old Etonians after a very fast game. At Queen's Club the Corinthians were beaten by Edinburgh St. Bernard's, but the Englishmen had the misfortune to lose Topham from the forwards early in the game. This loss necessarily made them weak in front of goal. Moon did some good work in goal. The crowd behaved very badly on more than one occasion, and hooted the referee. Both the Universities were playing. Oxford met Clapton and Cambridge the Old Carthusians, for whom Cobbold played. The Inter-University match ought to be very close and interesting.

As an exposition of Rugby football, the match between Cambridge and Blackheath was far more interesting than the International game on the previous Saturday. The narrow victory of Blackheath was attributable to the better passing of the halves. During the second half Robinson, who had been putting in some brilliant runs, had to retire. By the way, why has not Tucker got his International again? There was some extraordinary play in the match between Rosslyn Park and the Harlequins. The latter soon scored, but they were in the end beaten, Hewlett, a comparatively new three-quarter, scoring

thrice. That Croydon are a strong team was shown by the fact that Oxford could only just win, but then several blues were away. After an uninteresting and scrambling game, the Old Merchant Taylors drew with St. Thomas's.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—The growing hopes that the Chinese problem would be solved by a favourable result of the loan negotiations have been shattered, and it now appears that there is to be no loan until, I suppose, the Celestials want the money very badly. This country is not likely to force a loan upon China, and it suffices for the present that a firm stand has been made against encroachments by any particular Power.

Politics and Markets.

Politics are, however, still a factor in the Stock Markets. It is true that the friction between Russia and this country, on account of the Far East, has for the present been removed, but the Cretan question remains, and we have had a full-fledged Cuban scare, which was this time engineered with the assistance of a stolen private letter of the Spanish Minister in Washington. That document contained some sound home-truths, which President McKinley might as well take to heart, but it has brought about the recall of the Ambassador, and the prompt action of the Spanish Government has prevented the incident from assuming larger proportions. It sufficed to put down Yankee Rails at one time, but there has since been a very sharp recovery, and, unless our American cousins provide some fresh unpleasant revelations, the Yankee Market looks like going considerably higher. Rumours of a coming fight between the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk Companies have kept back an advance in these stocks, although an excellent six-monthly Trunk statement played into the hands of the "Bulls." Inter-Bourse securities have partly been under the influence of the Zola trial, which has put the Paris Bourse out of humour; but in the South American section a sharp rise in Uruguay bonds has been the feature, on cablegrams from Monte Video announcing the defeat of the Herrera party by a *coup d'état* on the part of Señor Cuestas. Argentines have been firm, and Perus are bracing up again. The Home Railway department has borne another dividend disappointment, that of the North-Western very bravely, and now that no further disappointments of this kind need be feared, investors and speculators are nibbling again, so that in view of the great scarcity of stock disclosed at the settlement, we may have a general improvement any day. In the Mining Market greater activity has prevailed amongst West Australians, the West Australian Market Trust group distinguishing itself by important upward movements. In the Kaffir Circus business has been on a very small scale, notwithstanding a fresh record output for January. I said all along that Oom Paul would again be elected President, but the market is now waiting for some indications as to how he will conduct himself towards the mining industry after his victory. In the Industrial section a favourable Allsopp dividend has been the feature, and there has been a speculative outburst in West Australian timber shares, the Karri and Jarrah wood being in great favour for street paving. A rush of industrial enterprises is coming on again, amongst which the Oil Companies will more especially have to be carefully scrutinised.

Home Rails—Scarcity of Stock.

The position which was shown in Home Rails at the fortnightly settlement is an interesting one, inasmuch as there was a surprising scarcity of stock, considering the recent disappointing dividend announcements. Contangoes were generally lower, and while on North-Western a backwardation of $\frac{1}{4}$ was finally paid, and Great Central 1894 Ordinary were carried over at even, the contango on Dover "A" dropped to below $\frac{1}{8}$. Almost the only stocks on which rates were higher were North-Eastern and Brighton "A." There is no doubt that North-Western had been largely sold speculatively in anticipation of some such unfavourable result as was announced, viz., a dividend at the rate of $7\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. against 8 per cent. last year. The reports, both of the North-Western and Midland, show that the expenditure has grown very considerably, the ratio of the North-Western for 1897 being 57·9 per cent., against 55·6 per cent. in 1896, while the Midland shows still worse with 57·6 per cent., against 54·8 per cent. in 1896. It is evident, however, that holders of Home Railway stocks are not selling. They probably view the increase in working expenses as partly due to temporary causes, such as the preparations of some of the Companies for the coming competition of the Great Central Railway, and they are disinclined to part with stocks in which they have undoubtedly done exceedingly well during the past few years. This is a position which lends itself eminently to a move on the part of the speculative element, and should money remain fairly easy, it is more than probable that we shall see a speculative outburst. In such a movement Dover "A" will doubtless be well to the front, as they look cheap at $112\frac{3}{4}$ xd., and traffics continue remarkably good. Stock is more plentiful as regards Brighton "A," but these have also improved to $178\frac{3}{8}$, the line also showing well with traffic increases. In fact, the total traffic gain for the past week of £83,665 was most satisfactory, and brings up the aggregate increase for the past five weeks to £264,356. In the next returns, moreover, the resumption of work in the engineering trade should begin to tell, and large traffic increases from the lines most affected can be looked for. Great Easterns are high enough in comparison with Dover "A," but Chathams have met with a good deal of favour, owing to the steady progress which has been made. In the Heavy division, North-Western will probably experience the most important improvement, when they do move, as stock is so scarce. Great Central stocks, after the recent set-back, are going ahead again, the 1894 Ordinary being quoted 42, and as this stock is heavily oversold it will not be surprising to see some of the operators take it up. The relapse in Great Northern Deferred appears to have been quite heavy enough, and a recovery is due. The statements made at the Metropolitan District meeting by Mr. J. S. Forbes were in every respect favourable, and point to exceptional progress of this line. The opposition with regard to the low-rate experiment proved, moreover, very weak, and I cannot, under the circumstances, understand the decline in Districts, except on the assumption that somebody is depressing them in order to pick up some cheap stock, and then to engineer a fresh rise. Easier rates at the last settlement seemed to indicate investment purchases. Excellent trade reports from Scotland were responsible for a sharp rally in Caledonian Deferred and North British Deferred, the former improving to $58\frac{1}{2}$, the latter to $46\frac{3}{8}$. Very large traffics are being looked for in the immediate future. Since I wrote last week on the promising outlook for the Central London Railway, an important advance has taken place in all the various stocks of this Company. The £10 Ordinary fully-paid is now quoted $10\frac{3}{4}$, ditto partly-paid $6\frac{3}{4}$, the Preferred $1\frac{3}{4}$, the Deferred $4\frac{7}{8}$. I am not surprised that the public should view these stocks with favour, as the line may be considered the most important underground electric railway ever built, and must attract an enormous amount of passenger traffic. Until the opening of the line early next year the shares receive 3 per cent. interest, and I should not be surprised if they were to receive considerable dividends immediately on the commencement of working. In the meantime, the £10 shares of the Waterloo and City Railway are already quoted at 14, and for my part I would rather buy Central London shares.

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The Yankee Market Bracing Up.

Not very long ago one heard the universal cry amongst those who had been heavily hit in Yankee Rails in the past "Never again." "Never," however, is a long word, and quite a change has come over the scene during the last few months. At first some of the more plucky speculators went for short turns. They accumulated considerable profits, and then grew bolder, with yet better results, while now the well-sustained advance and the general activity have attracted a considerable portion of the public to the Yankee market again. For this there is every reason, and although some financial scribes are still posing as irreconcilable, it is manifestly absurd to abandon a market for ever because at some former time you have experienced some losses in it. The position of the American department has altogether changed—through excellent crops and the end of the financial crisis, while large traffic increases provide a sound basis for a further appreciation in the stocks. The various reorganisations have, moreover, placed a number of hitherto weak roads into a firm position. It is in the Preference stocks of these reorganised Companies that, as I have repeatedly mentioned, the most important improvement is justified, and readers of Truth who have taken my advice have benefited very largely thereby. Take, for instance, Atchison Five per Cent. Prefs., which have risen from 17¾ to 32⅝, Erie First Prefs., which from 28⅝ have advanced to 43¾; Norfolk Adjustment Prefs., which are quoted at 54½ against 22½ last year; Northern Pacific new Prefs. at 67⅞ x.d., against 34½ in 1897; and Southern Prefs. at 33⅜ against 25 last year. Amongst all these Preference stocks it appears to me that Northern Pacific new Prefs. and Erie Prefs. are at present the most tempting. The Northern Pacific is expected to benefit very largely by the rush to Klondike. It appears also that the syndicate, which is desirous of buying all the remaining surplus lands of the Northern Pacific, has come to an agreement with the Company respecting the principal details of the deal. If the negotiations prove successful, the Northern Pacific would be a gainer to the extent of $15,000,000, while its stockholders will have the right to subscribe to the Company which will be formed to purchase the land. As regards the Erie, I have already mentioned the favourable nature of the Susquehanna and Western deal. The Erie Company has now issued a circular informing the holders of the stock trust certificates of the arrangements made for the acquisition of the Susquehanna by the issue of additional Ordinary and Preference shares of the Erie Company. The deal has, of course, been approved by the reorganisation depositaries and the voting trustees. For each Preference share of the Susquehanna $\frac{30}{100}$ of one share of Erie First Prefs. will be given, and the Common stock is to obtain share for share in Erie Common. Erie Prefs. have now improved to 43¾, and are expected to rise to 47 in the near future, while the Common stock now quoted 15⅞ should take a jump as soon as certain options are finished with. The market generally has been very buoyant at times, although a set-back was caused by a fresh Cuban scare, which was brought about by the publication of Senor Dupuy de Lôme's indiscreet private letter. The Spanish Minister acted, however, with promptitude in sending his resignation to his Government, who at once recalled him. Thus it may be hoped that the incident, which has been worked for all that it is worth by Wall-street "Bears," is closed. The New York Central deal still acts as a strong supporting factor. In the general advance which has of late taken place Milwaukee have not had their share, and whenever the stock rises to the neighbourhood of 99 it appears to relapse again. Yet traffics are upon the whole very satisfactory, and it may be assumed, therefore, that insiders do not wish to start any upward movement yet, and that they are reserving their strength until we get close to the next dividend announcement in March. On the other hand, Louisville and Nashville have commenced a fresh improvement, which seems to be due chiefly to the success of the refunding scheme. It is announced that the Company have sold $12,500,000 of Collateral Trust Gold Fours to retire the $7,070,000 Consolidated Sevens maturing on April 1, and to reimburse the Treasury for the cost of the Paducah and Memphis Division and other properties acquired. It is stated that the saving of interest on the Sevens alone will be $212,000. This, combined with the improvement of traffics on the road, renders a resumption of dividends certain in the near future. A stumbling-block as regards the Union Pacific has hitherto been the Kansas-Pacific sale. We have, however, cablegrams now to the effect that the Kansas-Pacific sale will not be postponed beyond the 15th inst., and that the United States Government has agreed with the Reorganisation Committee on the amount to be paid. Should this prove correct, we may look for an important advance in both Union-Pacific Prefs., now quoted 63, and in the Common stock, which again improved to 36, reacting to 34¾. I hope that my readers took the advice I gave them a week ago of buying Union-Pacifics on a decline. They touched at one time 34¼, and thus there has been an excellent opportunity for making a profitable turn. For the month of December the Union Pacific system shows a gross increase of $325,710, and a net gain of $270,477, which must be considered most satisfactory. Central Pacifics should also benefit by a settlement of the Union Pacific difficulty. This Company is doing remarkably well, and once the Government debt is settled the shares should go ahead. In December the gross profits showed an increase of $196,000, while for the whole twelve months of 1897 the gross traffics amounted to $14,173,602, which compares with $12,453,950 in 1890, the net earnings being $5,979,761, against $4,694,990. Chesapeake and Ohio have so far hung fire, being quoted 24½, but it is reported that this stock is close to dividend point, and that, moreover, it will be taken into the Vanderbilt system. In Denvers a moderate improvement has taken place, a syndicate having taken these up, with the result that the Prefs. have risen to 52¾, the Ordinary being quoted 14. I have for some time taken a favourable view of these stocks. Missouri, Kansas, and Texas have been neglected somewhat of late, but they are a good purchase at anything like 13⅝. Readings have, on the whole, been quiet, but a considerable demand has arisen for Reading Fours, with buyers at 89¼. Canadian Pacifics have again moved irregularly, and at one time dropped to 89½, from which there has been a recovery to 90. As has been generally expected, the Canadian Pacific dividend has now been announced at 2½ per cent. for the six months, making 4 per cent. for the year. Traffics continue satisfactory, although the increases are not so large as they have been, the last weekly return showing $53,000 increases. Rumours of trouble with the Grand Trunk on account of the Klondike traffic are being persistently circulated, and this has apparently prevented any further rise in the stock. Grand Trunks, on the other hand, have not suffered so much from these rumours, as they were supported by an excellent six-monthly statement, which shows that through the improved earnings in that period the net revenue deficiency which was left on June 30, 1897, of £265,000, has not only been wiped out, but that there is now a credit balance of £10,200. This means, of course, that the surplus of earnings over fixed charges will henceforth accrue to the benefit of the Guaranteed, and after that to the Prefs. The Guaranteed has now moved up to 77⅝, the First Prefs. being quoted 69½, and it will therefore be seen that there is not much more margin left for a further rise, especially if these two Companies should now set to rate-cutting. The respective Boards would, however, be so severely blamed by their stockholders for the adoption of a fighting policy, that I expect the matter will be settled.

Foreigners and South Americans.

At one time the Paris Bourse showed considerable buoyancy, and Foreigners benefited from this circumstance, but during the last few days the Zola trial has again acted as a wet blanket. Spanish receded from the highest point touched to 61⅜ on the ambassadorial trouble, and Turks seem to fluctuate with the varying news concerning the governorship of Crete and Russian policy as regards Prince George of Greece. I have, however, for some time taken the view that there is nothing to be made out of old-world

securities, and that on the contrary my readers should devote their attention to the South American department, in which very considerable profits are still to be realised. I am glad to see that the view which I took with regard to Uruguay is being borne out by events. Under ordinary circumstances the Stock Exchange would not hail the execution of a *coup d'état* with a rise in the stock of the country affected, but in Uruguay the position is very peculiar. The late President Borda, one of the creatures of Herrera, had left Uruguay a legacy in the shape of a corrupt Congress nominated by him, and not elected in the usual course. This Congress is disavowed by the majority of the people, and every respectable and wealthy inhabitant supports Senor Cuestas, hitherto acting-President. Cuestas has dissolved the Chambers, has formed a Provisional Government which has been recognised by all the military and departmental authorities, and has appointed a Council of State of eighty-eight members representing all political parties in proportion, which will perform all legislative functions until the new elections in November. He has with him as Vice-President, Senor Maceachen, who, as the name indicates, is of Scotch descent, and represents the very considerable Scottish element in Uruguay, where our compatriots from across the border are amongst the most prosperous settlers. Thus, even if Senor Cuestas should fall a victim to the assassin's dagger he will at once be replaced by a man equally honest and honourable. Cablegrams from Monte Video state that he will now apply all his energies to financial reorganisation, and in this he will have the support of European financiers. The Three and a Half per Cent. Loan has now moved up to 43, the Five per Cent. Loan to 55, and, unless some fresh unfavourable event should occur, we may look for an important rise in these bonds. Argentine Government stocks have been steady, and but fractional advances are shown, the 1886 Loan being quoted 92¾, the Funding Loan 91½, Buenos Ayres Water and Drainage bonds 75¾. Argentine Railway stocks have been well maintained, as traffics commence to show satisfactory increases, owing to the moving of the crops. Buenos Ayres Great Southern are quoted 157, Buenos Ayres and Rosario 76½; but Central Argentine have reacted to 84, which is not surprising in view of the indifferent dividend outlook for this line. Cordoba Central First Prefs. are steady at 93, the Second Prefs. rising to 54, but Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debenture stock remains at 58½, another traffic decrease of $16,270 being shown. Reports have been cabled from New York that Messrs. Seligmann Bros. are negotiating with the Mexican Government concerning the refunding of the National Gold Debt, which amounts to $100,000,000, and which can be redeemed in July next. These bonds are largely held in this country, and in Germany and Holland. This refunding scheme has been on the tapis for some time, but so far there has been no improvement in the 6 per cent. Loans, which remain at 98¾. Brazilians and Chilians have kept dull, and Guatemala bonds are 1½ lower on the assassination of President Barrios. Peruvian Corporation stocks, however, are recovering, latest news from Lima being more satisfactory. I have received several inquiries from holders of Ecuador bonds as to whether anything will be done for them. One of my correspondents mentions that about three months ago an American-German Syndicate was formed to build a railway in Ecuador, giving £2 10s. for every £100 bond deposited to their scheme in cash, and, furthermore, guaranteeing 6 per cent. on £35 for every £100 bond, and to redeem or pay off in six or seven years the present outstanding bonds at £35 for every £100. My correspondent is under the impression that about eighty per cent. agreed to the Syndicate's terms, and fondly hopes that there is a prospect of the coupons due being paid from some £40,000 which he fancies should be in the bank at Guayaquil to the credit of the Ecuador bondholders. The conduct of the Government of Ecuador has been so disreputable that, for the present, no hopes can be cherished such as my correspondent entertains. According to the last report of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders, the Minister of Finance at Guayaquil had stated that a deposit made in connection with the payment of the interest on the Internal Debt had been transferred to London, "so as to preserve it from the fatal consequences which the increasing depreciation of silver was producing, and to give a guarantee to the bondholders of the honesty of the Ecuador Government." The Council of Foreign Bondholders, however, state that this alleged deposit in London is a mere figure of speech, and that it is extremely unlikely that any cash has actually been lodged with any bank in London. The ideas entertained by the Minister of Finance of Ecuador as to national honesty are well illustrated by his suggestion that a Government agent should be appointed in London for the purpose of privately buying up the bonds of Ecuador now in circulation in all the European Markets, and that the funds required for this purpose should be raised by the issue of a consolidated loan, to be obtained from one of the Guayaquil banks. This suggestion of buying up depreciated bonds in order to effect an arrangement with the creditors of the Republic is too precious, and shows that honesty is at a considerable discount in Ecuador.

The Kaffir Circus—Another Record Crushing.

I have all along predicted that Oom Paul would be re-elected as President of the Transvaal with a considerable majority, and I looked upon the repeated rumours that this would not be the case as mere electioneering dodges. The majority is a large one, the President having been supported by 12,858 votes, against 3,753 for Burger, and 2,001 for General Joubert. The not inconsiderable number of Boers who have supported Mr. Schalk Burger shows, however, that the view in favour of concessions to the mining industry, which are specially recommended by Mr. Schalk Burger, is gaining ground even in Boer circles, and President Kruger will have to reckon with this. If he is wise he will, now that he has again been victorious, use his power with moderation, and show greater liberality in the treatment of the mining industry. It is well known that he will require a very large loan in order to carry out railway construction, and otherwise strengthen the finances of the country. It will be quite impossible for him to obtain the sums required if he does not grant suitable concessions, for it is not only England that insists upon these, but both France and Germany have very large amounts invested in Transvaal mining enterprises, and the financiers of these countries will, therefore, also answer with a distinct *non possumus*, unless the Transvaal Government assumes a more liberal policy. The Kaffir Circus is awaiting developments in this respect, and in the meantime even another record output for January has not contrived to bring about an improvement in this market. As regards these crushings, which amounted to 313,826 oz. from the Witwatersrand district, as against 310,712 oz. in December, 1897, they were not by any means uniformly favourable. There were, on the contrary, decreases in the case of the Crown Deep (605 oz.), Johannesburg Pioneer (612 oz.), Langlaagte Estate (337 oz.), North Randfontein (310 oz.), Nourse Deep (700 oz.), Paarl Central (750 oz.), Porges Randfontein (511 oz.), Violet Consolidated (375 oz.), and notably the Sheba (2,605 oz.). On the other hand, increases were not wanting, the Geldenhuis Deep being to the front with an increase of 1,485 oz., while the Geldenhuis Estate showed an increase of 627 oz., and Henry Nourse 242 oz. Knights showed well with a return of 5,215 oz., against 4,983 oz. in December, and 4,724 oz. in November, and it is surprising that these shares do not improve. The Lancaster had an increase of 346 oz., and the Langlaagte Block B shows well with a return of 4,709 oz., against 4,484 oz. in December. The Langlaagte Star, too, was well up the previous crushing (4,031 oz. against 4,020 oz. in December). The Rose Deep had 9,666 oz., against 9,491 oz., and the Van Ryn West showed well with 4,463 oz., against 3,936 oz. in December, the output of the Van Ryn being 4,189 oz., against 4,002 oz. in December. Hardly any support has been given to the market by leading houses, and all the groups have therefore shown dulness. Rand Mines are easier at 33$\frac{1}{16}$, Consolidated Goldfields at 4$\frac{13}{16}$, while even East Rands, which had hitherto been firmly supported, are down to 5⅛. Chartered shares have been dull at 3⅛, further information being awaited concerning the intentions of the Govern-

ment with regard to future arrangements. The resignation of some of the ornamental Directors would not perhaps hurt the Company much. In the Robinson group Randfontein have been quiet at $1\frac{15}{16}$, but Langlaagte Star are firm at $1\frac{13}{16}$, and Langlaagte Estate are dull at $3\frac{5}{8}$. In the Barnato group Glencairn at $2\frac{1}{4}$ are well maintained, while Barnato Consols stand at $2\frac{1}{4}$, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment at $1\frac{15}{16}$. A Johannesburg correspondent writes to me with reference to the special supplement to the *Economist* of December 18, dealing with the Deep Level mines. He says that this article has excited no small attention in Johannesburg, and while admitting that it is a sufficiently creditable production, my correspondent complains that the writer shows too much bias in favour of certain undertakings to the detriment of others. My correspondent asks why the undertakings controlled by the Rand Mines are so highly commended, while those of the Consolidated Goldfields are damned with faint praise? The writer of the article states that roughly £2,800,000 must still be provided to bring the various Companies of the Goldfields group to a producing stage, and that of this sum the Consolidated Goldfields have in hand about £1,000,000, while "financing the balance will be a severe strain upon the resources of that Company." To this my correspondent remarks that of the £1,800,000 there has already been provided £500,000 for the Simmer East, and towards this sum the Consolidated Goldfields did not contribute a single penny. A sum of £1,050,000 must be found for the Jupiter and Simmer West; but if the reefs struck on these properties are good no sane man doubts that the money will be forthcoming, just as it was when wanted for the Simmer East. My correspondent further objects to the statement which the *Economist* man is kind enough to make, that the holdings of the Goldfields Deep Company in the Glen Deep and Rose Deep are thoroughly sound, but do not represent a large figure. Yet these two assets, taking Rose Deep at £7 and Glen Deep at £2, represent, according to my correspondent, a value of well over £800,000, leaving out altogether the trifle of 300,000 Robinson Deep shares, which to-day are valued at well over £3,000,000 sterling! The other Company to be financed is the Knight's Deep, which has in hand sufficient reserve shares to provide for all its requirements. So, asks my correspondent, where is "the severe strain," and he suggests that "it exists merely in the jaundiced imagination of the *Economist* man." This is how my correspondent concludes his argument:—

> But it is not at all likely that any shares will have to be sold. The money will be provided when wanted from outside sources, as it has been over and over again provided before. There is only one strong point to bear in mind. When the outcrop mine is good, the deep level is practically certain to be good also. Moreover, in the early stages these deep levels have been, and will be, financed by the big houses; as soon as a good reef is struck, there are plenty of people willing to come forward and advance money on debentures—witness the recent issues of Robinson Deep debentures, which stand at about £120, and of Simmer East, towards which the parent Companies did not contribute a shilling. Or, as soon as operations are well started, reserve shares are issued to liquidate liabilities—witness the issue of 50,000 Crown Deep shares at £10. 10s., guaranteed at £10, and now the issue of 75,066 Nourse Deep shares at £6 10s., guaranteed at £6 5s

I hold no brief for the Consolidated Goldfields Company, but the remarks of this Johannesburg correspondent are very much to the point, and tend to show that the article in question was conceived more in favour of the Rand Mines than of the other parent Company. From the details to hand concerning the East Rand meeting, which was held at Johannesburg on January 12, it may be assumed that the appointment of a European committee of eight members, four of whom are nominated by French shareholders, will prove a step in the right direction. The amendments also with regard to the representation at the meetings seem to be appropriate. The consolidation of the Henderson's Consolidated Corporation with the Henderson's Transvaal Estates has now been completed, and an issue of First Mortgage Debentures is being made, which are certainly well secured. The consolidation is doubtless in the interest of both enterprises, and when matters in the Transvaal generally revive the Henderson's Estates will be in a position to take advantage of it. Simmer and Jack shares have been affected by what has generally been looked upon as a disappointing return, the additional new stamps not having supplied a corresponding increase, although the total of 10,163 oz. for January compares with 8,120 oz. for December. There is every prospect, however, that the next crushings will show a very important improvement. It is announced that the appointment of Mr. George Albu as Managing Director of the Van Ryn Gold Mines Estate has been ratified, while his brother, Mr. Leopold Albu, joins the Board here. This is very satisfactory, as Messrs. Albu are well known for the excellence of their management. Diamond shares have been quiet in sympathy with gold mines, De Beers being quoted $30\frac{1}{16}$, New Jagersfontein $8\frac{1}{4}$.

Golden West Australia.

A good deal of irregularity has been shown in the West Australian department during the past week. While the majority of the groups were dull, the West Australian Market Trust group distinguished itself by an all-round advance, which was led by Northern Territories, the rise in which to 2 I mentioned last week. The price has now jumped to $3\frac{3}{16}$, and some information of a most favourable nature has been published. It appears that advices have been received from the property, according to which considerable bodies of high-class ore have now been exposed, after the shafts which had been sunk by the Chinese had been cleared of water, and it is believed that a large amount of gold-bearing ore is in sight. The other shares of this group have also improved, Associated Gold Mines being quoted $4\frac{1}{8}$; Associated Southern, $1\frac{3}{16}$; while Associated North Western have taken a jump to $1\frac{1}{16}$. The latest rumour is to the effect that an amalgamation of all the Associated Companies is in contemplation. Lake View South stand at $1\frac{1}{2}$. West Australian Joint Stock Trust have hardened in sympathy with the other finance shares of this group to $2\frac{9}{16}$, West Australian Loan and General Finance being quoted $1\frac{13}{16}$, and West Australian Market Trusts stand at $1\frac{1}{4}$-$\frac{5}{16}$. Of crushings, the list this week is not so extensive, but it contains some very satisfactory results, being as follows:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Ounces of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per Ton.
Lake View Consols ...	5,026	4,576	14 dwt.
,, ,, ,, (Cyanide)	3,527	2,607	2 dwt.
,, ,, (Concentrates)	20	371	—
Associated Gold Mines (From Mill)	2,000	2,108	—
Associated Gold Mines (Shipped)	360	2,000	—
Burbank's Birthday Gift	305	458	—
Sherlaw's	330	340	—
Agamemnon	600	350	—
Hannan's Reward ..	216	43	—
,, ,, (Cement)	256	103	1 dwt.
Webster's Find	30	31	—
Blevin's Find	417	280	—
Sons of Gwalia	1,260	1,577	25 dwt.
Great Boulder Prop. ...	1,428	3,293	—
Australia Associated ...	736	2,637	—
,, ,, ...	2,050	2,355	—
Gullewa	270	339	—

The Lake View Consols output would have been larger, had not the twenty old stamps broken down. It was only a question of time when this old battery would become useless, and now ten new stamps are being erected instead alongside the forty-stamp mill, which will probably commence working this month. The crushing of 5,026 tons yielded 4,576 oz. of gold, the cyanide return from 3,527 tons was 2,607 oz., and with the concentrates of 371 oz., the total output for January is brought up to 7,554 oz., against 8,615 oz. in December. Mr. Callahan, however, cables that with the new filter presses and the additional ten stamps at work, he expected to increase the monthly return to between 11,000 and 12,000 oz. The occurrence shows that unforseen delays must always be expected in connection with mining enterprises, and that, therefore, my advice to clear profits when the shares rose to 12 was sound. At the present price of $10\frac{3}{8}$ Lake View Consols should certainly be held, as the output will henceforth

doubtless increase. The manager also cables that the experimental treatment of telluride ore has been successful, and that he has ordered plant for the treatment of this ore with a capacity of 100 tons per day. This should yield large returns, as the telluride ore is known to be very rich. Further ore bodies have also been cut, the assays of which vary from 1 oz. to 7 oz. per ton. At the Ivanhoe meeting very satisfactory statements were made, and the shares are firmer at $6\frac{5}{16}$. The day of the special settlement should be announced almost immediately. The various meetings of the sub-Companies of the London and Globe Finance Corporation, which have been invited to amalgamate in the new Exploration Company, have been adjourned to the 23rd and 25th inst. I think that this was the proper course to take, for, as I stated last week, particulars of the other mines which were to be combined in the same Company should be furnished. The matter may now be left to the respective Boards and to the committees which have been nominated to confer with the Directors. They will, doubtless, now obtain all the information available, including the accounts and balance-sheets of their Companies, and if these should prove satisfactory, no better solution can possibly be found than the combination now contemplated, which will be supported by so powerful a Company as the London and Globe Finance Corporation, and obviate separate reconstructions. By joining this exploration Company the shareholders should have a fair prospect of making good their losses. West Australian Goldfields have remained dull at $2\frac{3}{16}$, chiefly owing to the protracted illness of the head of the group, whom I hope, however, to see in the City again shortly. Hampton Plains have also been inactive at $1\frac{1}{16}$. Hannan's Brownhill have again shown strength, the price having now reached $8\frac{1}{8}$, and the other shares of the London and West Australian group have also been firm, East Murchison United at $1\frac{1}{16}$, Consolidated Murchison at 6s. 3d., Sons of Gwalia at $2\frac{1}{8}$. A cablegram from the Sons of Gwalia Mine states that the January crushing of 1,260 tons yielded 1,577 oz. of gold, while the tailings are stated to assay 25 dwt. per ton. Golden Horseshoes have been fairly steady at $8\frac{5}{16}$, and Lady Shentons, after advancing to $3\frac{5}{8}$, have reacted to 3. Further favourable information has been received from the property, the latest news being to the effect that the winze from the No. 4 level has been sunk 7 ft., showing 4 ft. of high-class ore. The view of insiders is that the shares may any day start again on the up-grade. In the meantime, a good deal of attention is being directed to the Florence Gold Mine, which adjoins the Lady Shenton. The Company was recently reconstructed, and therefore has ample working capital, and the Lady Shenton lode has been struck close to the boundary, so that there can be no doubt now that it runs through the Florence Mine. Under these circumstances, Florence shares, now quoted $\frac{3}{4}$, are likely to rise to a higher level. Great Boulder Proprietary have been quiet at 23s. 9d., but with the return of Mr. John Waddington, a good deal of fresh information will doubtless be available. North Boulders, after improving, are easier again, and Burbank's Birthday Gift remain dull at $1\frac{5}{8}$. Hannan's Props. have been firm at 16s., but business in Kalgurli has been less active, the quotation being now $6\frac{1}{8}$. At the meeting of the West Australian Development Association, Mr. Nicolas, the mining engineer who was responsible for the favourable reports on the McKenzie and Armadale properties, at last put in an appearance. Curiously enough, Mr. Nicolas complained that he had been denied an opportunity of meeting the shareholders in order to explain his true position, and the position of affairs generally. Who, then, is responsible for this extraordinary state of things, and why, and by whom, was Mr. Nicolas denied his opportunity?

Indian, Australasian, and British Columbian Mines.

A firmer tone has prevailed in the Indian section under the lead of Mysore Gold, which have improved to $5\frac{7}{16}$. Advances have also occurred in Ooregums and Nundydroog, but Mysore Reefs are lower. In Australian mines, other than West Australian, Mount Lyell have eased off to $14\frac{1}{4}$, while Mount Lyell North are quoted $3\frac{5}{8}$, Mount Lyell West 14s. Mount Morgan are slightly lower at $4\frac{7}{16}$, and Aladdin's Lamp are quiet at $1\frac{3}{4}$, Broken Hill Proprietary at $2\frac{1}{8}$. In the New Zealand section Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand, Waitekauri, and Taitapu have improved, but New Zealand Joint Stock and Waihi are lower. In the British Columbian department Klondike North-West Territories are better, but London and British Columbian Goldfields have given way. A very strong tendency has been shown by Waverley Gold, which I recommended when quoted $1\frac{3}{8}$, and which have now risen to $1\frac{3}{4}$. British America Corporation shares have been quiet at 2s. 9d. to 3s. 3d. premium, but I should not be suprised to see these wake up very suddenly. In the Mexican section Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico have been firm at $1\frac{7}{16}$ to $1\frac{9}{16}$ on the favourable report of the manager, while Grand Central have been dealt in at $1\frac{3}{4}$. From the Campana mine advices continue favourable, and a cablegram has just been received stating that in laying the pipe-line a new discovery has been made of very rich alluvial gold. Very tardily, the Directors of the Golden Feather Company have come to the conclusion that the upper part of the river bed has been so thoroughly mined by the old workers that they are not justified in recommending any further outlay in reopening that portion of the claim. Of course, the Directors now propose to acquire another property, and there experiments are to be made by a new Company to be formed. I should think that the shareholders would not throw any more good money after bad.

Persia on the War-Path.

According to a *Times* cablegram from Teheran, Sir Abdul Kasim Khan, Nasir-ul-Mulk, G.C.M.G., who was last year Ambassador to England on a special mission, has been named Minister of Finance. I suppose this has something to do with the rumours of a coming Persian loan which have recently been current. This time Paris appears to be selected for the operation, and, of course, London will again be appealed to. I hear from Paris that the Imperial Bank of Persia has been trying to get prominent bankers in that city, whose names can easily be guessed, to take up the new loan of about £1,500,000, but that so far no success has crowned these efforts, chiefly because the French Government is throwing cold water upon the scheme, no doubt in order to protect the French public. Be this as it may, the Persian Government have failed in that quarter, and it is just possible, if not highly probable, that in their extremity they may have recourse to the London market. Here they should not have much chance of success until certain outstanding claims have been adjusted. It will be remembered that the Persian Ambassador in London received in 1890 the sum of £40,000 for a concession which the late Shah granted while enjoying England's hospitality, but which was revoked when he returned to his own dominions. That is one of the reasons why, at the time when a loan of £500,000 was offered some years ago, merely £11,000 were taken up here, and why also eighteen months ago when an application was made to the Stock Exchange for a quotation the Committee refused to grant it. That the Stock Exchange is still of the same opinion I make no doubt, and I would certainly caution the public against exchanging hard cash for what will doubtless be, as the Easterns say, worthless Persian paper promises.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Amazonas Rubber Estates, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire and develop the India-rubber estate situate in the municipal district of Teffé, in the State of Amazonas, Brazil, covering an area of about 137 English miles, and for the purpose of carrying on the business of rubber growers, manufacturers, shippers, &c. The capital is fixed at £300,000, divided into 150,000 Seven per Cent. Cumulative Preference and 150,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each.

Avondale Hotel and Restaurant and Hatchett's Restaurant, Limited.—With a share capital of £200,000, divided into Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference and Ordinary shares of £5 each, also a Four per Cent. Debenture stock of £125,000, this Company is formed to acquire "The White Horse Cellars," at the corner of Piccadilly and Dover-street, and the well-known "Hatchett's

Restaurant." The premises are fitted with all modern improvements for carrying on a first-class hotel and restaurant.

The "De Windt" Exploration Company, Limited.—This Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring, developing, and working gold and other mines, and carrying on general trading businesses in Klondyke, British Columbia, and Alaska, and generally of turning to practical profit the experience gained by Mr. H. De Windt in his explorations in this district, and also of purchasing and taking over the properties, &c., acquired by the Explorers and Travellers, Limited. The capital is £250,000 divided into shares of £1 each.

The "Excel" (British and Colonial) Milk Sterilizing Company, Limited.—With a capital of £100,000 in shares of £1 each of which 60,000 shares are set aside for working capital, this Company has been formed to acquire the patents of the "Excel" Sterilized Milk Company, Limited, of No. 1, Vandon-street, Westminster, and to provide the necessary working capital to develop the increasing business of the said Company.

Cicero and Proviso Street Railway Company.—This is an issue of $1,700,000 Five per Cent. Consolidated Mortgage Gold bonds at par. They are redeemable on May 1, 1915, and the principal and interest are guaranteed by the West Chicago Street Railroad Company.

The objections to these bonds are, firstly, that according to the revenue account for the year ended January 31, 1897, the earnings did not cover the charges, a deficit of $212 being shown; secondly, that no definite statement is made that the West Chicago Company guarantees payment of principal and interest in United States gold coin; thirdly, that the bonds run over too short a period, viz., to May 1, 1915, to be suitable for British investors, while they will not have first mortgage rights upon the property until 1904. This is not, therefore, a bond to be recommended for investment.

Leeds and Batley Breweries, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire the businesses of R. & H. Sykes & Company, of the Soothill Brewery, Batley, near Leeds, and Cutler's Saville Green Brewery, Leeds, including fifty-one licensed houses, twenty-three licensed hotels, beer-houses, and off-licenses, with a considerable number of shops, cottages, and parcels of building land. The share capital is fixed at £225,000 in £1 shares, of which 125,000 are Five and a Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares, and an issue of £200,000 Four and a Half per Cent. Irredeemable First Mortgage Debenture stock at the issue price of £105 for £100 of stock.

Marshall & Snelgrove, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire the business of Messrs. Marshall & Snelgrove, which was established in 1837 at Vere-street, Oxford-street, London, and at Scarborough. The share capital is fixed at £550,000, divided into Preference and Ordinary shares, and an issue of £225,000 First Mortgage Four and a Half per Cent. Debenture stock is now made at the price of £106 per cent. The whole of the share capital is held by recent or former members of the firm.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

Constant Reader, Hotel Metropole.—I certainly should not advise a purchase of Hungarians as an absolutely safe investment. I should prefer Colonial Government bonds, or the gilt-edged American Railroad bonds of which I gave a list in last week's issue. *Twelve-Month Reader.*—No such lists of lottery-bonds are available, but you ought to get the information you require from the people through whom you purchased your bonds, if any. *E.B.*—What you state with regard to Ecuador bonds is ancient history, and I do not look for anything as a result of the efforts of the American-German syndicate mentioned by you. You will find some remarks as regards the position of Ecuador under "Foreigners and South Americans."

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

L. W. H. T.—With regard to your elderly lady friend, who has been sending large sums of money to a Hamburg lottery agent, I cannot possibly obtain any special information about the person in question. Most of the intermediaries are shady, and if she is badly off, it is altogether unadvisable to speculate in foreign lotteries. *Jumper.*—You must really tell me what kind of securities you require before I can advise you. *Horseshoes.*—1. Outside brokers, and not members of the Stock Exchange. 2 and 3. I advise you to deal only through members of the Stock Exchange, and certainly not to deposit securities with outside brokers of whom you know nothing. *N. A. T.*—You should apply to the Official Receiver with regard to the Amalgamated Syndicates, Limited (Jubilee); so far no distribution appears to have been made. 2. London General Omnibus shares appear to be high enough, in view of the impending competition of electric railways in London. *Insurance.*—The life offices mentioned are wealthy American institutions. There is nothing to be said against their means, which are ample, but I do not think that they now score as regards terms in comparison with English offices. *M. J. B.*—I do not approve of the concern mentioned. None of this kind of enterprises fulfil the promises of the prospectus. The certificate is returned.

Home Rails.

Z. A. Y.—Amongst Home Rails the best purchases just now are Dover "A," Caledonian Deferred, and Metropolitan Districts. *Jumbo.*—No option but to hold, there being no market for these. *E. B., Streatham.*—I do not think there is any prospect of Vestas having a big rise as the dividends of the Heavy lines have been mostly disappointing. They will probably maintain their present value.

American and Foreign Rails.

J. G.—Erie are in the ascendant. Both the Ordinary and Prefs. are advancing, and are likely to reach a higher level. This also applies to Atchison Prefs., which should be held for a rise, but as you have a big profit on Louisville you might as well take it on any further improvement. *Expectant.*—There is no chance of the bondholders in question receiving any dividend at present, but prospects are distinctly brightening. *Inquirer, Sidmouth.*—I think that you have forfeited your holding by not joining the reconstruction. Prospects seem to have somewhat improved. *Jumbo, Dublin.*—The reorganisation of the Baltimore and Ohio has not yet been actually accomplished, but it is hoped that the scheme will shortly be placed before the holders.

Mining Shares.

Qui Vive.—Amongst the South African mines mentioned by you, Meyer and Charlton and South African Gold Trust are the best purchase. *Dunedin.*—You should certainly hold the Mining shares Nos. 1 to 5, and 7 and 8 for an improvement. No. 1 might be averaged. Coras should be held. *Coffee.*—Prospects of this West Australian mine are doubtful, and it is impossible to say whether it will ever prove successful. *Highgate.*—Hold Lydenburg Estates for a recovery. *Thornton.*—I do not advise investment in the Sulphide Reduction Company (New Process). *J. H., Cambridge.*—I cannot, obviously, obtain the information for you which the Secretary, in the interests of the shareholders, declines to give. I should say you might leave the matter in the Directors' hands. *Henri.*—The West Australian shares, No. 1, should be held for a recovery. You might hold Waihi for the price named. 3. The recent incident was certainly adverse to the Globe Venture Syndicate, and prospects are by no means rosy. *Duchess.*—Yes, you should average London and Globe now. Amongst the shares mentioned by you, Florence (3), Brownhill Central (2), and British America Corporation (5) are the most promising. *Broach.*—1. Within the next three months. 2. Yes. 3. Always be satisfied with a moderate profit. 4. There is every prospect of a further rise in Lady Shenton. 5. Good profits ought to be taken. You might sell half. *Demos.*—I can trace nothing about "The Great Tywarnehaile Mining Company," a Cornish mine, the share certificates of which are dated 1860. It remains to be seen whether any readers of Truth can help you with information. They will doubtless do so, if possible. *Ivy.*—I am glad you bought Lady Shenton at the time, on my advice. You should hold for a further rise. I do not think much of the other concerns; but please to number your inquiries in future. *Clare.*—You will do all right with the Lady Shentons, London and Globe, and British America Corporation. Amongst Nos. 1-5, I approve only of No. 2 as a purchase. *Fedora.*—Hold Lady Shenton, London and Globe, and Hampton Plains. Sell the others when you see a profit. *W. W.*—You might buy Lady Shentons in the reaction, also Lady Florence. *A. O. N.*—All your South African shares should be held for a rise. *X. Y. Z.*—The shares are well selected and should be held for a rise. *G. C.*—No, I do not consider the Buffelsdoorn Estate as hopeless, and there is every prospect of matters turning out better. The shares should improve, when the present depression in the Kaffir Circus passes off. *C. H. E.*—No, I do not recommend Fairley's Creek. *W.*—Prospects of Mawson's Reward appear very doubtful. I do not recommend investment in any of the other shares mentioned. *Anti-Humbug.*—If you are a shareholder you will see the full reports of the meetings at which the whole matter is being threshed out. The shareholders in meeting assembled will judge of the matter, assisted by a Committee of Inspection, and that should be conclusive. *T. P., Hampstead.*—These four mining shares (1-4) are by no means promising now, but you should hold for a recovery, which is not impossible. *Nemo, Glasgow.*—I cannot see any indication of persistent falling away of Lake View Consols. The price is $10\frac{3}{8}$, and that is, I think, full present value. When the price rose to 12 I advised realising. Eventually, when the crushings increase, the price will probably advance. I do not believe the tale about the "Bear" sales. *Plunger.* The news from the mine appears to be favourable, but take a good profit. *C. K. R.*—Fair mining risks, especially No. 3. *Cork.*—No. 1 is preferable to Nos. 2 and 3 just now. *Langside.*—There is no other reason for the decline and a rise is probable. *G., Bath.*—1. Prospects of the Florence Mine appear very favourable. 2. £1 shares, 15s paid. 3. Cons. Murchison are 10s. shares paid up. 4. Lady Shenton should be bought on the reaction. *Bimbashi.*—This may have been the price in the morning. 2. Florence mining shares. *Warrington.*—Yes, the Waverley Mine (British Columbia) looks promising. Having bought Lady Shenton on my advice at $2\frac{1}{8}$ and sold at $3\frac{11}{16}$, you might now buy again on the reaction. I am afraid I cannot introduce the feature recommended by you; it savours too much of the common

tipster. *Grumpy.*—1. Yes, the exchange would be advisable. 2. Not much chance. *M. E. R.*—There is no reason why you should not buy W. A. Market Trusts as intended. *Trevor.*—1. A fair mining risk, the shares are likely to improve. 2. For 1897 the dividends amounted to 16s. per share.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

E. Y.—Under the circumstances there is no option but to hold your Bovril shares. *J. M., Durham.*—I do not think that a special settlement has so far been granted; but, of course, I take it also that you have not yet paid for the shares. The offices of the Company are at 103, Hatton-garden, London, E.C. I cannot reply by letter. *Matlock.*—1. A fair industrial investment, but very speculative. 2 and 3. Fair investments, but quite high enough. *Brown.*—I have never been in favour of No. 3; but Nos. 1, 2, 4, and 5 should be held for a rise. *J. M.*—This Company has been very disappointing, but the shares may recover. *Matlock.*—The investment No. 2 would undoubtedly be the best. *Trutta, Waterloo.*—1. I have always warned my readers against buying United Altal's shares. 2 and 3. No catch. 4. A fair industrial investment. *T. K.*—1. No information available here. 2. Impossible to tell without having the prospectus before me. I cannot reply by letter. *A. M.*—Yes, the West Australian Timber Companies deserve attention, especially Millar's. *C. C., Northumberland.*—Cheap enough, but I am not sure that they will recover soon. *C. M. Edin.*—In time the monopoly will, doubtless, be overthrown, but not yet.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Peter.—1. Fair mining risk. 2. Yes. 3. Sell on a further improvement. 4. A fair low-priced share, but no catch. 5. Promising. *D. P. H.*—1. Outside brokers; deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. 2. Hold for a possible recovery. 3. Take a good profit when you can get it. 4. Certainly hold Ivanhoe for a further rise. *X. Y. Z.*—No reason to make any change in your investments, Nos. 1 to 10. *Hastings.*—1. Yes, hold Can. Pacs. as an investment. 2. No reason to sell Mexican Central Four per Cent. Gold bonds. 3. I do not care for this kind of investment. *Z. X. Y.*—I. A local concern, concerning which I cannot obtain any information here. II. Yes, the Standard Bank of South Africa is a prosperous bank, and the investment is promising. III. and IV. are good securities of the kind. No reason to sell Nos. V., VI., and VII. now. *Londonderry Reader.*—1. A fair investment. 2. No catch. *Klondike.*—1. No, these Heavy lines are not doing well just now. 2. Apply to the Secretary. 3. Yes. You can buy them at 3s. premium for special settlement. *Sperno.*—Hold Nos. 1 to 5 for a possible rise. Don't hold Sewing Cottons (6) too long. I do not like the Tyre shares, Nos. 7 and 8, but they may recover. *Grateful.*—You will find what you want in my letter, but you should deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. *Dubio.*—A. Apparently the vendors of the Artificial Silk Spinning Company, Limited, are very anxious to get out, hence they sell their shares below the price of the market shares. This is a very doubtful concern. B. Not yet. *Ndjole.*—I am glad to hear you have done so well in Lady Shenton on my advice. As regards the shares Nos. 1-5, I should prefer No. 4 (Sons of Gwalia) and No. 5 (Hannan's Props.). Florence shares are very promising. See remarks under "Golden West Australia." *Miles.*—1. Yes. 2. You are right, prospects are not favourable. 3. Ditto. *J. W.*—1. Florence. 2. No, I do not recommend the Fish Oil shares. *New York.* — Yes, I have a favourable opinion of Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Second Mortgage bonds, but it is not a first mortgage. 2. A further rise is expected. I cannot reply by letter. *Klondyker.*—Hold Associated Southern Gold Mines. I do not think much of Golden Links. *Timothy.*—My rule is to answer only one letter from any correspondent per week, while you send three. I will reply exceptionally, but must ask you in future to conform to this. I cannot reply by letter. 1. Lady Shenton are expected to further advance. 2. Nothing is known yet as to any coming dividend in Costa Rica Rails. I do not like the Mexican concerns. I do not approve of the gold mine mentioned, neither do I approve of the source whence it is recommended. The circular is returned.

VARIOUS INVESTMENTS.

Money has been in considerable demand during the week in connection with the settlement on the Stock Exchange, and the rate of discount on three months' bank bills has hardened to $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Quite at the last there was a tendency to ease off, partly owing to the view now taken that the Chinese loan will not come off for the present, and for the same reason there has been a rise in Consols, which has also been assisted by purchases of the Government broker, an advance of $\frac{5}{8}$ being established for the week at $113\frac{1}{8}$ for the account. British Corporation stocks have been slightly firmer for similar reasons. Silver has not moved much, and is but slightly lower at $26\frac{15}{16}$d., while Rupee Paper has hardened a little to $63\frac{3}{4}$. The various Chinese loans are lower, the Seven per Cent. Silver Loan at 101, the Six per Cent. Gold Loan at 106, the Five per Cent. Gold Loan at 101. Japanese bonds have risen to $102\frac{1}{2}$, as Japan does not appear to be any more inclined to make warlike demonstrations. The various new Colonial issues have eased off somewhat, notably the West Australian Loan, which has dropped to $1\frac{5}{8}$ premium. The new New South Wales Loan remains at $1\frac{1}{8}$ premium, the new Cape of Good Hope Loan at $2\frac{7}{8}$ premium. In the cycle section Dunlop Deferred have hardened to 15s., while French Dunlops have been firmer at 5s. Humbers have been flat, the Ordinary falling 1s. 9d. to 13s., while the Extensions are 2s. 6d. lower at 7s. 6d. Cycle Components have eased off to $2\frac{5}{16}$, but Swifts are unaltered at $\frac{3}{4}$, while Singers are lower at 13s. 3d., and Amalgamated Tyres have dropped to 5s. 9d. In the Industrial market the Allsopp dividend was announced at the rate of 7 per cent., which was slightly above market estimates, and put up the price of Allsopp Ordinary to 167. The feature has been the improvement in Australian timber shares, Millars' Karri advancing to $2\frac{5}{8}$, Davies' Karri to $1\frac{3}{4}$. The former Company is stated to have concluded a large contract for street paving in Paris. Bovril Deferred have eased off to $\frac{5}{8}$, and Schweppe Deferred have been dull at 14s. 6d. xd., while Harrod's Stores have declined to $4\frac{7}{8}$. Lyons', on the other hand, have hardened to 3. In Spiers & Pond shares a recovery has followed on a relapse, and they are now quoted at 21. At first it was reported that the Company had lost the contract with the Chatham Company, but this they have obtained again, although on higher terms. It is also stated that Spiers & Pond are entering the field of light refreshment depots, and they have acquired thirteen shops from Stevensons. There is, moreover, quite a lively competition for Throgmorton-street custom amongst the leading caterers now. "It was too good to be true:" last week I was under the impression that the outside brokers had relaxed their attempts to beguile the public, but it seems that they had merely been taking a rest, and now a number of circulars have been forwarded to me which are being distributed by J. Edwards & Co., Talbot House, Arundel-street, London, W.C. They are headed respectively, "Continuation of profits," "Continued success," and "Another good profit," and announce the success of an operation in North-Eastern Consols, and a profit of exactly 20 per cent., which is a good deal more modest than the profits the firm used to boast of. The projected deals are to take place in London and North-Western stock, in Louisville and Nashville, and in Midland Preferred, and I should like to hear from any one who really receives a good profit in these operations. Currrie, Sons & Co., of 30, Craven-street, Strand, W.C., are also on the warpath with circulars, in which they boast that their last deal was closed at a profit of £50 on each £10 share. They are now opening another deal, which they say they can confidently recommend to their clients, and which they state they have every reason to believe will produce a profit of £80 to £100 on each £10 share. The circular also contains the notice, "We guarantee our clients against any loss in this operation;" but this seemed rather to refer to a deal then running than the one they are now forming, a quibble to which I may as well draw attention. I need hardly again say that it is quite impossible for Currie, Sons, & Co., or the persons who hide behind this name, to make such profits on the Stock Exchange. If they could, they would make them for themselves, and have retired as millionaires long ago. Some curious information has been vouchsafed to me by a reader of TRUTH, who has lost money with Douglas, Hungerford, & Williams, having unfortunately failed to profit by my warnings. A firm of solicitors, who advertised in the daily Press to the effect that those who invested money with Douglas, Hungerford, & Williams may hear of something to their advantage by communicating with them, told my correspondent that by an order of attachment they had laid their hands on £420 of the money left behind on the flight of the swindlers, and that the High-Sheriff of Devon was in some way or other holding the funds that come in on behalf of the swindled. My correspondent was shown a long list of names of victims, and

BEAUTIFUL TORQUAY.—The Imperial Hotel has the best position, and is the leading hotel in Torquay. Grand climate. Cool in summer, warm in winter, and well known as the "Queen of Watering Places."

the solicitors in question expected to pay 4s. or 5s. in the £ to these persons. Their charge was 5 per cent., and on a payment of £1 the name would be entered in the list. This is a very extraordinary story, and I publish it for the purpose of inviting communications from other readers of Truth who may know something about it.—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

P.S.—Tuesday Morning.—Another Cuban scare has taken hold of the Wall-street Market, and a general set-back has occurred. It may be assumed, however, that, like so many other similar scares, the present one will pass away again, and that in due time a recovery will set in, when explanations are forthcoming concerning the Dupuy de Lôme incident, and when the Washington Legislators have closed their "Bears" in New York. M.

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QUEER STORY.

A PHASE OF FELICITA.

NOT every woman is a book in herself; some have natural limitations. The compass of a chapter, for instance, is sufficient for me. At least, it seems so, for I do not readily lend myself to getting beyond it. It is the hardest thing in the world to know whether or not one is a genius. To have all the feelings—or to think one has—of acknowledged geniuses is not enough. The difficulty, however, is to discover what is enough.

From the very first I was misunderstood. How well I remember my passion of tears in the nursery one day, at tea! Nurse assumed that I wanted more sugar in my cup. It was quite the contrary. I hated everything sweet. That distaste was, I fancy, the keynote of my character. I was born to the sweets of life, and despised the birthright. Comfort, conventionality, leisure, frivolity, I would have none of them. I had, however, to spend my youth in my parents' house and conform to its way of living. I was hampered by being an only child; furthermore, I loved my parents. Father was a delicious old thing; fussy, good-natured, and imperturbably good-humoured. Mother was simply too sweet for words, and so considerate and dependable. Still they misunderstood me. That is they did not know me as I knew myself. Then there was Cousin Peter—Sir Peter Pontifex. At one time, I had thought that he was the only one in the world who understood me. He used to discuss problems with me by the hour, and show such enlightenment and broad-minded liberality, sympathising in all my views and aspirations. To my bitter disappointment, when I was grown-up and just contemplating the beginning of a real life, founded on all my new ideas, he asked me to marry him. It was a great blow. A proposal from anyone would have annoyed me, but from Peter it was an absolute injury. He would not look at it in that light, however.

"I could not do a more handsome thing than offer you myself," he said calmly, "It is the possession—barring one—I prize most in the world. But anyhow, I can wait. I don't mind so long as there is no other fellow."

That "other fellow" was a downright outrage. No "fellow" of any sort or condition came into my scheme of life. Marriage was the conventional goal of woman's existence, therefore not of mine; as Peter ought to have known, as he did know, well. When I reproached him for his injurious words, he merely lapsed into imbecility.

"And you don't by any chance care for a poor devil whom you have known all your life?" he inquired.

It annoyed me to feel my cheeks grow crimson under his eyes.

"Good-bye, Peter!" I said abruptly, turning to the door. As I was leaving the room a soft "Au révoir, Felicita?" fell on my ear.

Jane P. Dempster was my consolation in this, as in all other worries. She it was who at first understood me—under her I had been consecrated to the "higher life" on which I was about to enter. Not an aspiration, a yearning, a soaring thought of mine, but met with a sympathetic response from her. The same spark seemed to kindle our souls, the same touch to set the chords of our hearts vibrating. Of course I told her about Peter, and of course she understood.

"Sir Peter ought to have known better," she said. "However, he will be sure to marry some one else soon. Men always do. Then you will be quite happy." Jane's rather pale blue eyes scintillated through her glasses. It was a curious way they had. "Meanwhile," she added, after a little pause, "we may look on the incident as closed."

My first step was to join the World's Woman's Association, of which Jane P. Dempster was the secretary and leading spirit. The members were not as numerous as they might have been, considering the magnitude of the work before us, and the enormous field over which it ranged. We made up in enthusiasm what was wanting in numbers, however; the spirit of aggression animating us would have been sufficient to kindle the biggest of battalions. We were bound to free our sex from the galling fetters, the remnants of Orientalism, which still held us in degrading bondage, and to break down one by one the barriers which an effete tyranny still opposed to our progress.

My career had begun in real earnest. The first meeting of the World's Woman's Association, after my enrolment, thrilled me to the core. The latch-key question was brought forward by Cilly (Cecilia) Smithson, one of our greatest speakers. Her impassioned address roused the warmest enthusiasm. Jane spoke, I spoke; in fact, we all spoke, and more or less together at times. It was magnificent, and it was war. Each of us, separately and singly, registered a vow not to rest, not to desist from strenuous effort until each was the possessor of a latch-key.

Who does not know the reaction which follows enthusiasm, the cool of the morning after the evening glow? I awoke next morning to the thought of the solemn pledge of the night before, with a half guilty feeling. I had been second to none in sounding fierce blasts on the trumpet of war. Yet what were the secret whisperings within my breast? Had I not, from the beginning, had misgivings about father and mother? They had been so cheerful about my joining the World's Woman's Association, and shown such a suspicious tendency to object to nothing that I did. It was a most embarrassing attitude, considering our warlike one. The want of opposition paralyzes attack; the prompt and polite removal of the barriers against which one is making a warlike advance takes the very heart out of the onset. I had to endure it, however.

"You want a latch-key, is that all?" mother exclaimed, on my broaching the subject; "a very reasonable desire. It will save Henry's time with regard to opening the hall door. You shall have a latch-key at once, my dear child."

"It is the symbol of emancipation," I said, struggling to bear up against mother's ready acquiescence, and her disconcerting allusion to the footman.

"I wonder what you mean by emancipation, Felicita?"

"Liberty, as young men have. We want freedom from conventionality, and all that sort of rubbish."

"Young men are, in their own way, just as conventional as young women."

"That may be, mother. But it is conventional for them to have absolute liberty. And that makes all the difference in the world."

"It does, indeed!" mother said with a pensive sigh.

I received a perfect ovation at the next meeting of the World's Woman's Association, when I produced the latch-key—the only one forthcoming. I must say that, in my heart, I felt a bit mean. But, I suppose many, under similar circumstances, feel the same. They know the secret of the triumph, which the others do not.

Next on our programme came the abolition of chaperons. Owing to my success in the latch-key business, I was called on to inaugurate the movement. And I was so fond of

Mortlock's (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "Mortlock's" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

going about with mother! She was so interesting to be with, so comfortable. It was very awkward; but, of course, one's own weakness could not be allowed to stand in the way of the progress of our sex.

Before I had said anything to mother on the subject, however, she called me into her boudoir one morning.

"Your father and I," she began, "have been discussing your grievances. We regret that you should have any, as your happiness is the chief object of our lives. Henceforth, we mean to do all we can in the way of redressing them. We shall treat you exactly as if you were our son, not our daughter. Would you like to take rooms for yourself and live away from home?"

I gave a little gasp and stared at mother. She made the horrible suggestion in such a matter of fact way.

"Oh! no—no," I stammered. "It is not necessary. I should hate to leave you and father and live by myself."

"Well, I think you are right, especially as your freedom in coming and going does not even meet with the conventional interference of the footman in the matter of opening the door. Another thing," mother went on, "your maid's duties had better be assimilated to those of a valet. Let D'Arcy attend on you, as Gregory does on your father. She will no longer accompany you to shops, and so on. I will not interfere with regard to your going about alone. Now, in the matter of my chaperonage. Of course you want to get rid of it also?"

"Don't, mother, don't," I interrupted, forgetting at the moment the mapped-out work before me. "As if I should ever want to get rid of you! As if——" I stopped short, remembering. My face grew crimson.

"My dear child, I know that the 'advanced' programme abolishes chaperons. So, if ever you do want to abolish me, remember, I shall not stand in your way. A mother can be 'advanced' as well as a daughter. The only difficulty will be in the case of mutual acquaintances. They might happen to want us both, and at the same time."

"They will always want you, mother, and so will I. And you must not talk like that." I threw my arms round the dear thing. Not for me would be the chance of distinction as pioneer in the anti-chaperon movement. Let Jane Dempster, who had no mother, take the lead. I would work some other branch.

I still saw a good deal of Peter. He came about the house as usual. The slight disturbance in our relations with each other had passed. He, like Jane Dempster, evidently looked on the incident as closed.

"I am thinking of joining the 'higher life,'" Peter announced. He had lunched with the family, and was lounging in a chair close by the bureau at which I sat writing. "I like what I hear about it."

"From whom? Who has given you information about what you are pleased to call the 'higher life?'" I inquired.

"Competent authority. I have learned that it includes latch-keys, drinks, and tobacco."

"Did your competent authority use those refined expressions?"

"The expressions are my own; *le style c'est l'homme.* I am to have an object-lesson in the subject too. I shall be a guest at your next smoking concert."

"I presume that some one has invited you," I said, carefully concealing my surprise at the announcement.

"You are correct. I am going to become a 'higher man.' It was latent in me. I mean to repress the noble yearning no longer. I have met the most charming being in the world; she is a 'higher woman.'"

"Not Nelly Thurston!" I could not help turning round in my chair and looking at him. The idea was so preposterous.

"Why not?"

"I didn't think you liked that kind of girl."

"I think I like all kinds of girls. What kind do you specially allude to?"

"Pink and white doll faced girls, who think of nothing in the world but flirting."

"Oh! it is all right when it's the 'higher' flirting."

"Of course, it's nothing to me who you like or dislike. If you are Nelly Thurston's guest it's no affair of mine."

"Nor of hers. I haven't the pleasure of knowing the young lady."

"Then why did you say it was she?"

"Pardon me; I didn't. You did. I never contradict ladies. Miss Dempster is my friend."

"Not Jane?" I exclaimed, in unmitigated surprise. She had not told me! She to whom I had told everything!

"Is that her adorable name—Jane?"

"Jane P. Dempster is our secretary."

"Jane P. sounds nice." Peter stroked his moustache thoughtfully. "The Dempster spoils it. Fortunately," he added, slowly, "it's not a fixture."

I had never associated Jane Dempster with anything of the kind. Therefore I, naturally, could not help noticing—as others did, too—when she sat out the whole evening with Peter. She looked so different, also. Her eyes—she was not wearing glasses—were quite pretty; especially if one was not near enough to see their washed-out want of colour. She was not really old, either; not older than Peter, probably. I had always known that she could talk, it became evident that she could listen as well. How interesting she seemed to find Peter! It was absurd; but, somehow, I could not help thinking of her sympathy with me and her advice, her eloquence, too, on the subject of the marring of woman's career through philandering and marriage. She was strong even to severity regarding the first; and now—well, I know what I would have called it had it been Nelly Thurston instead of Jane. I did not exchange a single word either with Miss Dempster or Peter. I went home early, having a feeling of malaise—headache, I suppose—and the odious little Socialist poet with the "shock" of pale hair, was bothering me with his triolets; better, however, than the attentions of the scrubby esoteric Buddhist, usually in attendance on Jane, but thrown over that night for Peter.

"You seemed greatly attracted by my cousin, Sir Peter," I remarked to Jane at our next meeting. She had not made the faintest allusion to him, which, all things considered—my confidences and consultations with her—was very strange, a little irritating even. "He is certainly of the worthless, drone class, whom you condemn. He has not and is never likely to come to the front in any way."

"The man in the rear is also necessary to the battle. He has his post to fill," she said gravely.

"Are you aware that Sir Peter is a great flirt?" The very moment the hasty, unworthy remark had escaped me, I would have given worls to recall it.

"No, I know nothing on the subject you mention. Flirting, as you know, is not a method of our world." Jane's glance was cold. She had on her glasses now. And how faded she looked in the morning light!

It was not easy to avoid Peter. Being father's favourite relation, he was always appearing at some meal or other, or in some situation which made avoidance impossible. A glacial manner was my natural recourse. Peter had been very rude to me. We were all hostesses, more or less, at our association entertainments. In common politeness, for the sake of appearances even, he should have spared a moment or two to me out of the hours otherwise devoted.

"Your higher men," Peter began one afternoon, without taking any notice of my manner—I was at the tea-table, mother and a visitor at the far end of the room—"seem to balance their advanced views by some, which on certain subjects are absolutely mediæval. They do not wash nor cut their hair, nor shave in a progressive spirit. I don't think much of their tailors."

"I dare say they don't think much of their tailors either. They have something better to think of."

"The higher woman?"

I did not condescend to reply, but, leaving the tea-table, joined mother and her friend.

I could not, however, allow trifles to engage my mind. Rescued from frivolity, my life had been consecrated to

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

high aims and earnest work. There was so much to be done; the whole world, sitting in darkness, to be illumined. The wideness of choice was in itself a difficulty. Where to begin? Strangely enough no one even suggested a beginning. After the latch-key business and the assertion of the anti-chaperon principle by the establishment of what Peter had called our "smoking concerts," we seemed disposed to rest on our laurels and sink into inglorious ease. No doubt we did as much speaking as ever—even more; but somehow there was nothing to show for it—no particular work. I could not shut my eyes to a change in Jane, our pioneer—the feminine Prince Rupert of our movement. Something had come over her, but what? My feelings regarding our inaction found vent one day. Jane received my outburst with a singular absence of her usual sympathy.

"You want to run before you can walk," she said, coldly.

"But you were always urging me to speed!"

"And now I advise a breathing time. A great deal has been done. We must pull ourselves together. The soldier who rushes unprepared into the battle is not the one who wins."

A familiar ring in the last phrase struck me. What did it suggest? With a sudden flash of memory the "man in the rear" came to my mind; as if Jane were falling back into line with him. I bit my lips hard to prevent any words coming, but from that moment I became aware of a little rift in the sympathy which had been so perfect between me and Jane.

I suppose we had done a great deal. I certainly often felt—as a personal experience—that we had. For instance, when going about alone and shopping without D'Arcy. I had been so accustomed to her assistance; and then people were often rude, staring at me and so on. For the first time it occurred to me that even independence might have, like dependence, its drawbacks. The cigarette, too, that my leading position obliged me to smoke at our association parties was a worry. Unfortunately, I had a natural distaste for tobacco, which opposition had not removed, father and mother making no difficulties about my smoking. Worst, of all, however, was the manner of the men; their unconventionality, their free and easy ways. And yet what miserable weakness to expect from them the old-fashioned deference and politeness based on the effete idea of woman as the weaker sex! Well might I cry shame on myself for the unworthy thought.

About a week or so after my conversation with Jane, mother and I went to a Gymkhana at Ranelagh. Although Peter was—I understood from mother—taking a leading part in the entertainment, we did not come across him. We had not met for some time. He had not of late come to any of the association "evenings," nor to our house. Not that I cast a thought to whether he came or not, but I sometimes heard father and mother wondering what had become of him. We left the ground early—getting bored—and took a short cut to the gate by a secluded walk. At a turn we suddenly came face to face with Peter, sitting under a tree, in earnest conversation with—Jane Dempster! No wonder I nearly gasped; an indescribable feeling came over me. Jane in muslin, chiffon, frills, and a "picture" hat! Jane at a Gymkhana! Or, rather, not at it, but sitting out with Peter!

We did not stop. I think that I quickened my pace, and mother did the same. Peter lightly waved his hand, Jane acknowledged our passing with a bow and a smile that was curiously irritating. Quite a thrill of annoyance passed through me. I thought of the "pulling together" process. Was Jane engaged on it now?

"She wants to marry Peter! That woman, Jane P. Dempster," I blurted out, when mother and I were in the carriage. "You saw her, didn't you?"

"Certainly. And I don't wonder," mother said, calmly. "Anyone might want to marry Peter. I consider him one of the most attractive men in England."

"But you don't know how she used to talk about men and marriage; and the things she said, the advice she gave, when I told her everything about Peter!"

"My dear Felicita, no one ever takes the advice she gives."

"But the deceitfulness, the inconsistency——"

"Not inconsistency," interrupted mother. "Miss Dempster agreed with you that Peter would not suit you; it is quite consistent of her to think that he might suit her."

"No, no, no! It is horrid and deceitful. How can I trust any of her principles? She may change them too. And she was so much to me."

"She will be a relation if she marries Cousin Peter," mother said, with a smile. "You can reproach her to your heart's content."

"Never! Not one word shall I ever speak to her again." I looked steadily out of the window; there was a kind of blur over the streets and houses and the passing vehicles. Something trickled down my nose. I furtively rubbed it away. It was so annoying to be deceived in a person.

Some would think, perhaps, that I was jealous, but I repudiate the idea. What did it matter to me whether Peter married or not? He might marry Jane, or fifty Janes, for all I cared. What mattered, however, was that I had been deceived in Jane; cruelly, bitterly deceived. Mother did not understand. Jane was atrociously inconsistent, and acting in direct contradiction to her professions on the subject of marriage. If false to one principle why not to all? The thought was dreadful; it opened up such awful possibilities. The ground seemed to crumble beneath my feet. Who was true? What was true? When Jane fell away who could stand? Was the hollow ring in all our professions? Were our aims and aspirations only "sound and fury, signifying nothing"? Illusions and disillusions, life is a mere alternating chain of them! Oh, those traitor doubts, too, those whispering within one's own breast!

My frame of mind was very perturbed at our next association meeting. I avoided Jane. There was no exception now, every one misunderstood me. I recklessly accepted Cilly Smithson's suggestion of going to the theatre that night. I neither liked her, nor the proposed entertainment. I liked it less when we met—evidently by arrangement, for Miss Smithson showed no surprise—the pale-haired poet, Auberon, and the Buddhist, Brown, at the door. They joined us, as if it was the most natural thing in the world for them to do. I thought the play would never end; Auberon's manner—he had placed himself beside me—was horrible, and grew more and more familiar and offensive as the evening went on. Cilly Smithson was entirely absorbed in her companion, Brown. My joy and relief were intense when we rose to go away. They did not last long. Miss Smithson either hurried on purposely, or Auberon delayed me, or, it may be, they acted in concert. As I reached the porch she was getting into a hansom. "Brown is coming my way, so we are off together," she called out, "you and Auberon can look after each other." She waved adieu, and was gone before I had recovered my dismay.

Perhaps I ought not to have been appalled, but I was. The self-revelation of the moment was the most complete of all the disillusions; I felt so terrified and absolutely helpless standing in the flaring gaslight with the odious creature beside me, and the hurrying indifferent crowd around. At another time I would have dreaded being alone in that place, at that hour; then I felt that there were far worse things than being alone. My heart almost stood still when Auberon's voice sounded in my ear.

"Here is our cab, jump in, pretty one!"

I suppose that I must have started and recoiled, for he went on in a low tone:

"Come now, don't affect squeamishness. I'm not going to desert you."

His dreadful smile made me shiver. A wild, voiceless cry went up from my heart, "Mother! Peter!" At the moment a step rang on the pavement, the familiar tones of a clear, commanding voice struck my ear. I don't know what the words addressed to Auberon were, nor what exactly happened. I only knew that in an instant I was

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clinging to Peter's arm, not as a drowning person to a straw, but with the blessed feeling of one who has reached an absolutely safe haven.

We were half way on our homeward drive when I asked Peter,

"How did you know that I was at the theatre?"

"Miss Dempster told me."

I had forgotten Jane until that moment. Her name—I don't know why—came on me like a douche of cold water. Involuntarily I drew further back into my corner of the cab.

"I'm sorry if I took you away from the enjoyment of Miss Dempster's society this evening," I said.

"Well, you ought not to be," he returned calmly. "And for that matter, you did not seem sorry to see me just now."

"I wasn't—but awfully, awfully glad. And I'm not ungrateful. I will try—yes, I will try—to like Jane Dempster again, for your sake, Peter."

"The adorable Jane! I should think any one might like her for her own!"

"I—I—hope—you will be—happy, Peter." For the life of me, I could not have prevented the shake in my voice.

"I intend to be." Peter's voice had a curious sound. And then——

Well, it is hard to remember, and would be still harder to explain what happened. But, it wasn't Jane at all—and it never had been—but always—me.

We were driving up to the door before I again thought of Jane. A sudden compunction entered my breast.

"You know, you acted horribly, Peter. She will be terribly disappointed. Poor Jane!"

"Poor Jane!" echoed Peter, thoughtfully stroking his moustache.

After this I feel bound to say that Jane received the announcement of my engagement to Peter with undisturbed serenity. The scintillation of her eyes even suggested a little smile. I was greatly relieved. She was very good, too, about my backsliding, and accepted my resignation of membership of the World's Woman's Association without any comment.

She and mother have since become great allies. I sometimes find myself wondering. But what nonsense! As if mother, Jane—yes, and Peter, too—were just a set of conspirators!

ART NOTES.

THERE is a picture on view at The Continental Gallery just now which it would be well for all London *not* to see. I refer to an oil painting by M. Jean Veber called "The Butcher's Shop." If, as rumour asserts, this picture was catalogued for the Paris Salon last Spring but not exhibited, I congratulate the hanging committee on the discretion which prevented what would have been a public scandal. I am not easily shocked, but I am bound to say that M. Veber has succeeded in shocking me. Never have I previously seen in a picture exhibition such a repellent canvas as "The Butcher's Shop." It is sickening, it is nauseating, it is disgusting, it is revolting! That my adjectives may not be considered too strong, let me explain briefly what this abominable picture represents. The butcher standing in the doorway, with coarse, bloated face and heavy bags under his eyes, is Bismarck. All around him is displayed his gruesome stock-in-trade. On hooks on each side of him are hung headless human corpses dressed for the market as the carcases of swine and oxen might be. Human quarters and legs and arms are exposed in serried rows. On the marble slab of the shop is an assortment of distorted human heads, that of Napoleon III. amongst them. This is bad enough, but it is not all. To make the picture still more revolting, the artist has filled up any available space still remaining with human hands and feet, and with gory specimens of the more esoteric details of the human anatomy. These are adorned with laurel leaves and rosettes such as are seen in a butcher's at Christmas. Then on the pavement in front of the shop, to accentuate the brutish horror of the whole scene, are Bismarck's two enormous boarhounds sniffing at their master's loathsome stock-in-trade. I do not think I need say any more. To describe such a picture as this is utterly to condemn it. The fact that M. Jean Veber is a painter of ability only makes the matter worse. I doubt if even the most unblushing of decadents could defend such a prostitution of art as this.

It is much pleasanter to turn to some of the other pictures which are to be seen at the Continental Gallery. M. Jean Veber himself, for instance, has several smaller works, which show how excellent a caricaturist he would be if he could exercise more self-restraint, and were content to be mordant without degenerating into morbidity. His portrait of the German Kaiser crucified upon a cross-hilted sword is already familiar, as it has appeared on the cover of a book published in Paris, with the title of "Guillaume II., Intime." One of the largest pictures in the exhibition—and it almost fills half of one of the walls at the gallery—is Henri Martin's "Vers l'Abîme." It is a new and not particularly convincing presentment of one of the tritest of moral allegories, the pursuit of elusive Pleasure by her infatuated votaries. Pleasure in this particular instance is personated by a light-o'-love damsel, with gauzy garments, and lower limbs that suggest an eccentric anatomical formation, to say the least. She also wears black mittens, and one of those particularly tasteless jewelled belts now in fashion; and is followed by a number of excited old and middle-aged gentlemen, wearing, as a rule, scandalously little clothing, and waving their arms with the unanimity of a well-drilled stage crowd. There is some masterly work in the picture, but it is not so striking and impressive as it is clear its talented artist meant it to be. For the group of works from the brush of M. Henri Evenepoel, inspiration has been sought in the *cafés* and *brasseries* of the "Quartier Latin." The result is some characteristic work in the school of Degas. There is an admirable picture by M. Tattegrain, much to be preferred to the repulsive work he exhibited a season or two ago. "A Great Catch of Whiting," as it is called, is on as large a scale as the Pilchard picture of our new Associate, Mr. Napier Hemy, and those who remember the latter will find it most interesting to compare it with M. Tattegrain's canvas. A small room at the Continental Gallery is devoted to the exhibition of a score or so of Mr. Charles Sainton's delicate and graceful "Silver Point" fancies, drawings made with a pencil or stylus of pure silver on paper prepared with a wash of opaque white.

MUSIC.

ORGANISTS' GROWLS FROM BRITAIN AND AMERICA.

IN reference to recent articles concerning the status and pay of cathedral organists, I learn that a committee has been appointed under the chairmanship of Sir Frederick Bridge, to investigate the whole question and to suggest a remedy. Several experts and others have given evidence, and, as indeed the correspondence I have myself printed will have suggested, some startling facts have been disclosed. The chief point, of course, is one of status. So far as salary is concerned, the average cathedral organist has, perhaps, little to complain of. His pay may be much lower than would be expected by the heads of other professions. But he has "pickings." The Guildhall School scheme, which seems to have sounded the death-knell of the medium teacher in London, has not yet generally extended to the provinces. Accordingly, the provincial cathedral organist as a rule gets plenty of teaching. Also, as has been proved in more instances than one of late, the musical Romeo has an excellent chance of meeting with an opulent provincial Juliet, a species of romance which I need hardly say richly gilds the cage of the organ loft.

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Indeed, what the Cathedral organist chiefly now needs is some sort of fixity of tenure. In "new foundation" Cathedrals he has it, or, at any rate, legally should have it; for the evidence collected by Sir F. Bridge's committee, I believe, shows that Deans and Chapters, by appointing men at three months' notice, have acted *ultra vires*. But Sir Frederick has certainly not moved before it is full time, for there is a well organised clerical attempt to take away the rights of organists. In many of the reports of the Cathedral Commission, Deans and Chapters, while safely conserving their own positions, have blithely suggested that the organist should be placed more than ever under the control of the Precentor (usually either a non-musician or, even worse, a specimen of the genus, enthusiastic musical amateur), and should be liable to dismissal at will.

The church organist is supposed to be in a worse position, though I learn from a protest issued by the American Guild of Organists that in the New World matters are no better. There it is the custom to elect annually the organist, the director of the music (who is often not identical with the organist), and the members of the choir. The idea of vested interests is abhorrent to a free Republic, and, accordingly, every Easter there is a vigorous canvas, in which the fair sex take a very prominent part, to oust the present organist in favour of a perhaps better looking new comer. American Church committees, it is bluntly said, often know more of pork packing than organ playing, of whiskey vending than worship music, and bright-eyed canvassers carry the day. British Church organists, however much they may grumble at their lot, would certainly not be willing to change their own status for the American. And yet the American Church choir system has resulted in the formation of a whole race of opera and concert singers. The American Church is not State endowed, and in order to attract paying congregations at all good singing is essential. Hence, as choirs are selected every May, the singers, from their youngest days, are subject to constant criticism and competition, the best mount upwards to better paid churches, and the best of all are sent (often at the expense of wealthy members of the congregation) to study in Europe for the regular profession. Many great vocalists, from Mme. Albani and Mme. Nordica downwards, have started their careers in this way.

Mme. Patti is not going to retire, and the reports which have so persistently been sent to this country from the Continental papers are purely imaginative. Her contract with Messrs. Harrison extends to the next century, and so far as the present year is concerned, she has already arranged to take part in the Crystal Palace Festival on June 25, besides, perhaps, at one or two London concerts, and in October and November to undertake another provincial tour. It is true that the greatest soprano of her time has now just passed fifty-five, and that, in the natural order of things, her public life cannot last for ever. But the first signal of retirement will probably be a farewell American tour, which will be worth to her upwards of £50,000. Then will most decidedly come a farewell Continental tour, and lastly, a farewell tour in this country, and a final adieu possibly at the opera, and certainly at the Albert Hall. But it will not be in the present century.

By the way, a doubt has in some quarters been expressed concerning the exact day of the month of Mme. Patti's birth. Grove's "Dictionary" has, indeed, been called as witness by one enthusiast, although to cite Grove's Dictionary as an authority on dates seems amusing enough. As a matter of fact, Grove corrects his own mistake in an appendix. Mme. Patti's birthday was last Thursday. The following is a translation of the *acte de naissance*, which it will be of general interest to reproduce:—

Book of Baptisms, No. 42, Folio 153.—In the town and province of Madrid, on April 3, 1843, I, Don Joseph Losada, parish priest of St. Louis, solemnly baptised a girl, born at four o'clock in the afternoon of February 10, of this year, the legitimate child of Salvator Patti, professor of music, born at Catania, in Sicily, and of Catherine Chiesa, born in Rome. The paternal grandparents were Peter Patti and Conception Marino, and the maternal were Jean Chiesa, born at Venice, and Louisa Caselli, born at Marino in the Pontifical States. The child bears the names Adela Jeanne Marie. There assisted at the baptism as godfather, Joseph Sinico, born at Venice, professor of music, and as godmother, his wife, Rosa Monara Sinico, born at Cremona in Lombardy, to whom I have explained the duties they have contracted by this act; and as witnesses Julien Huezal and Casimir Garcia, born at Madrid, sacristans of this parish. In testimony whereof I have written, signed, and delivered the present certificate, April 8, 1843.—Joseph Losada.

I read in *Musical News*, a paper in which it was once said the staff, on scenting a bogus Mus. Doc., turned out *en masse* with scalping knives, that at an Eisteddfod, to be held at Pembroke Dock on Easter Monday, one of the adjudicators is described as "Professor B——." The editor, who signs his initials to the paragraph, waxes wroth, and describes this worthy man as giving his name "an unenviable notoriety, attaching to its possessor a suspicion of charlatanism which it does not merit." But there is an ancient proverb about the throwing of stones by those who live in glass houses. *Musical News* is the organ of the Royal College of Organists, whose hon. sec., in the advertisement of Trinity College, London, in the same number, describes himself as "Professor" E. H. Turpin, the director of studies being "Professor" Bradbury Turner. The sauce prepared for the goose is apparently spared from the gander.

A daily paper which apologises for Signor Randegger in regard to the engagement of an imported band for the Imperial Institute, and to the preference shown at the Norwich Festival for Italian operatic and opera buffa composers, refers to the writer who dares to offer such criticism as showing a "sad lack of knowledge." I suppose I am the culprit, and I have no doubt I ought to have declared Signor Bottesini's "Olivette" the greatest work ever written, Signor Mancinelli's "Isaias" the most popular of oratorios, and his "Ero e Leandro" a masterpiece among cantatas (or is it operas?). As I have not done these things, I must, of course, plead guilty to "sad lack of knowledge." But, perhaps, if the apologist had shown a trifle less zeal, he might more effectively have claimed that Signor Randegger, in favouring the Italians, was acting in a pardonably patriotic manner, and as his consciousness and racial predilections indicated. If I were living in Rome, I very possibly should champion the cause of British music and musicians. No one would, of course, blame me, whatever might be said about the Italian committee who allowed me to air my patriotism. So also nobody blames Signor Randegger, whatever may be thought of the conduct of the management of an "Imperial" Institute in employing him upon such a business.

The freshest excuse for the engagement of an Italian Band for the Imperial Institute is, however, of the lamest. The apologist in question does not for a moment suggest that the imported band is better than a British orchestra. But it is cheap. If, however, it be the same Scala band that appeared here under Faccio, at the representations of "Otello" at the Lyceum, about ten years ago, it is distinctly inferior to, say, the orchestras of the Alhambra or the Empire. But it will, we are told, play "on those terms which alone are possible to the Council of the Institute. The orchestra of the Milan Scala can accept the work because it fills up their off season, and is to them in some sort a holiday." Here, however, we find another instance of "sad lack of knowledge." As the Municipality of Milan have not renewed the subvention, La Scala has not been opened this year at all. Indeed, it has been closed since May, 1897—an "off season" with a vengeance. I believe, however, the imported band is not the opera orchestra of La Scala at all, but a concert enterprise.

But if for our "Imperial" institutions we are bound to import foreigners, because they work for less than the Briton, the matter should logically be carried further. A Lord Chancellor "made in Germany" would, I imagine, come much cheaper than Lord Halsbury, even if, like the ordinary restaurant waiter, he were not willing to pay for his berth in consideration of the pickings

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appertaining thereto. From France or Italy, too, I expect we could import an Archbishop of Canterbury at a much lower figure than 375,000 francs a year; while I am bound to say that there is many an American millionaire who would pay handsomely to exchange places and titles with the Prince of Wales. Indeed, if the mere question of bare economy be alone considered, a saving might, in the administration itself of the Imperial Institute, be made by engaging foreigners to do the office work. Whether this form of foreign-imported economy should be aimed at in a building erected by British subscription, and kept up by Englishmen, is altogether another matter. And on that point I am bound to say I should not ask the opinion of Signor Randegger, and still less of his newspaper apologists.

The fact that the whole house, from stalls to gallery, for the performances of "Der Ring des Nibelungen" at Covent Garden next June was sold out within three days of the issue of the prospectus is not at all surprising. It, doubtless, is largely due to the co-operation of M. Jean de Reszke. And unless M. de Reszke can be induced in 1899 to go to Bavaria, the present Covent Garden season will probably sound the death knell of Bayreuth. The Elect may still proceed there for "Parsifal." But nobody save a Wagner-maniac would, I should imagine, consent to waste his time and money in travelling to Bayreuth, paying through the nose for indifferent hotels and lodging houses, and giving £4 a seat, when the same opera can be heard in London with an infinitely better cast for 12s. 6d. to £5 5s. The average American will, I fancy, infinitely prefer Jean de Reszke and London to Burgstaller and Bavaria. But unless he hurries up he will have to pay heavily for his seats. There is even now a librarians' "corner" in them, and however much the Elect may declare against this form of speculation, it cannot possibly be prevented.

The Covent Garden doors are, as we know, to be closed before each performance, and, therefore, if "Das Rheingold" be given without break, a lazy cabman may cause the belated one to be shut out during the entire evening. As, however, "Das Rheingold" is the weakest work of the tetralogy, perhaps the philosophical may comfort themselves in the smoking-room. But the proposal to prevent any man going out is quite preposterous. I have no doubt it is also hopelessly illegal, though I do not suppose any ticket holder would provide himself in advance with a habeas corpus. Certain British adjectives, combined with a few stout kicks at the door, will amply suffice for egress for those wearied of grandmotherly Germanism. As to the other operas of the series I have no doubt what will be the result. Society will simply miss the first act, and will arrive after the dinner interval, namely, about half-past eight. Whether this absurd dragooning of audiences, restively tolerated in Germany, will pay in freer London after the first flutter is another matter. Meanwhile, the Bayreuth gentleman who has been over here to give us hints on stage business, has, I hear, solemnly been shown over the theatre by Mr. Morse, who triumphantly paraded a couple of Lowther Arcade goats for Fricka's car. They moved their legs after the manner of the dolls in "La Poupée," and were duly pronounced Kosher by the Teuton. A mechanical goat which moves its legs is a delight to your true Wagnerite.

Last week, so far as concerts were concerned, was the week of Amateur Orchestras. First we had the Stock Exchange band, which I fear has not improved since it lost, through ill-health, its enthusiastic conductor, Mr. George Kitchin. The best thing of the concert was the rendering, by Mr. Douglas Boxall, of Liszt's Hungarian Fantasia. A new piece by Mr. Bantock was only employed to play the audience out. The prophet, so far as musical London is concerned, rarely ever receives honour in his own land. The Royal Amateurs, on the other hand, have immensely improved since Mr. Ernest Ford became conductor, although on Wednesday they tried nothing more important than some overtures, the most difficult being that to "Die Meistersinger." On Thursday we heard the Strolling Players who, under Mr. Norfolk Megone, gave a capital account of several works, including Litolff's curious "Robespierre" overture. I fear, however, that the excellent music disturbed the conversation. For talking during a performance, the audience of the Strolling Players is hard to beat. On Saturday, Mr. Wood at Queen's Hall gave a splendid performance of Mendelssohn's "Italian" symphony and other works, while at the Popular Concerts, where Dr. Joachin is next Monday expected, there have been no novelties. We have also had two pianoforte recitals, the better of the twain being M. Slivinski in an overlong selection from the most interesting works of Chopin.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Now that you are back and settled down again after your wedding trip, you will be wanting to hear all the news about everything. Even a week away from home seems to make one drop the threads, and it is both interesting and amusing to pick them up again. So far as our little parcel of humanity is concerned, we have been amusing ourselves satisfactorily enough since our fleeting glimpse of you on your way through town. How full our beloved London is! And every one seems intent on buying new clothes. One's wardrobe has a knack of being disagreeably unsatisfactory when bright Spring suns begin to shine And, oh dear! How odiously soiled our houses look. Fighting the dust is a daily battle, and one in which many a warrior housemaid is worsted for lack of valour to do doughty deeds with dusters.

We had an excellent chance of learning all about the very newest fashions at the Duke of York's Theatre on Saturday in the new play, "The Dove-cot." As the dresses were made at Jay's they are sure to be well up to date. Miss Ellis Jeffreys has some perfectly delicious toilettes. The first is an afternoon costume of pink net trimmed with many bouillonnés. The sides of the coat are covered with lace and the long rucked sleeves are puffed like the skirt. A sash with long ends floating over the dress is made of black tulle. Another of her dresses is embroidered net with a deep collar and sleeves and a frilled sash of turquoise tulle. The elbow sleeves, with their drooping folds of turquoise tulle, are particularly pretty and becoming, and a telling touch is found in the large chou of black tulle on the left side of the bodice.

Miss Jeffreys' third gown is made of white China silk, with a number of tucks and insertions of Valenciennes sweeping in a lordly curve from the waist downwards and continuing in a deep flounce all round. On the bodice is a deep square collar, with lines of lace and insertion running upwards from the sides to the centre, this being now the orthodox shape of every bodice trimming, as well as of the upper line of low-cut dresses. The sleeves are tucked with lines of Valenciennes insertion. This promises to be a wonderful year for fine needlework of this description. The travelling costume is grey cloth, the skirt and sleeves being trimmed alike with straps of the cloth appliqué on the stuff, and also on the boléro, which is faced with white satin and lace, a little baby ribbon being introduced round the lace. The front is filled in with tulle, held with a large bow of turquoise glacé ribbon. From this description you will gather that the boléro is still represented among the fashions of the day after to-morrow.

Miss Sybil Carlisle's frocks are equally graceful and pretty. One is a white cloth with a deep flounce all round the skirt, opening at the foot in the centre to show a glimpse of white net pleated, and held with satin ribbons. A bow of black velvet ribbon holds the pointed velvet belt fastened with a buckle. The sleeves are trimmed with narrow bands of ribbon round them all the way down to the wrists, where, as well as on the shoulders, they are finished with lace, net, and baby ribbon. Her second dress is green foulard covered with lisse-embroidered white net,

"The Sunny South."—Messrs. Redfern have designed some becoming Costumes for wear along the Riviera, and which are now on view in their Showroom. Very moderate in price. Inspection invited.—Redfern, 26, Conduit-street, London, W.

and over this again a lace skirt with a lovely trimming of green chiffon roses embroidered with silver. The sleeves match the skirt, and there is a collar of paler green chiffon. A glorious bunch of Maréchal Niel roses forms a sweet finish to this lovely gown. Here, again, the belt is pointed, so you may draw your own conclusions.

In the third act Miss Carlisle wears yellow cashmere, with plissé cashmere sleeves. A collar and scarf of white chiffon, trimmed with lace and frilled with chiffon, are held with choux of white satin ribbon. Miss Desmond's pale green cloth gown is flounced round the skirt, the flounce being headed with two stitched bands of cloth. The bodice is finished with three little basques at the back, and a large collar of white satin, with a wonderful trimming of batiste, tucks, lace, and bands of cloth. The fastenings are steel buckles at the left side, the front being filled in with white tulle. Her second dress is a cream satin foulard, the skirt of which fastens up the left side. The bodice is a most deft arrangement of satin, bands of silver trimming, and the finest possible little puffings of snowy lisse massed together. A perfect La France rose nestles in the bodice.

So now you will know exactly what details of the mode you will be obliged to live up to in your character of bride exploiting her trousseau gowns after a week spent in Paris. If you fail to rise to the height of the occasion, it will not be my fault.

Miss Carlotta Addison wears some charming gowns in her character of Mrs. Brindle. One is a black moiré silk, the skirt of which opens down the front. The folded bodice is trimmed with a fichu-shaped collar finished with jet roses. From the elbow sleeves is a fall of pleated lace, a band of jet roses surrounding the arms below the elbows.

So much for dresses on the stage, which now reflect with fidelity the forthcoming fashions. Christabel, too, sends descriptions of stage dresses worn in a new play in Paris, so you cannot say that we have not done our duty by chiffons for you.

I hear that the Duchess of Devonshire, overwhelmed by the Court duties that devolve upon her owing to the illness of the Marchioness of Salisbury, is about to inaugurate a new departure in the matter of visiting cards. If the report be true, she does not intend to reciprocate by leaving cards in the usual fashion. The wives of our Prime Ministers have hitherto managed to combine pretty comfortably their social and political duties without indulging in the immunities till now reserved for Royalty. But then the Duchess of Devonshire is German, and therefore privileged. We might devise a new proverb to suit the occasion: "A German may do what an Englishman dare not, and a Scotchman may freely venture where even a German must not."

Now that the season will so soon be beginning, some one ought to evolve some original and powerfully-compelling plan of inducing the irresponsible butterflies of fashion to order their gowns in good time, and not to change their minds about their unimportant little trimmings at the last moment. Handsome prizes are given to the persons who wear the best fancy dresses, and would it not be a good idea to give prizes to the good souls who are considerate of the convenience of others, even of the poor workgirl and the harassed Court milliner, who is driven nearly wild, very often, by the silly vacillation of vain women, and their dilatoriness in giving their orders? Suppose a cinematograph were got up, showing the pale, tired girls at work in the long and sultry days of June. I should like one of the scenes to deal with the dinner-hour of the workgirls and that of the customers. What a contrast the two would form! I remember telling you some years ago of a visit I paid to some West-End workrooms, and I have never forgotten, and never shall forget, the poor little pitiful dinners that some of the young women had brought for the kindly housekeeper to cook for them. Among the two dozen meals laid out on the long table, ready for cooking, very few were of the sort to sustain a girl throughout a long day's work. A rasher of bacon with a couple of potatoes seemed the favourite menu, and a neatly trimmed, though not phenomenally large, chop looked quite lordly among the others. One meal, if so it can be called, consisted of a thick slice of dry bread and the thinnest slice of cheese I ever saw. The housekeeper told me that this was the usual fare of a girl who was earning a good wage, but had a crippled mother to support, and a "fast" brother, who would always keep the family poor. Fancy the contrast of this picture and of that. But the people to be impressed would be the very ones who would stay away. The prize scheme would be the better of the two.

There should be prizes, too, for those who pay their debts in decent time instead of keeping their unfortunate creditors waiting for their money in the usual fashion. It is so dreadfully mean to borrow money from one's tradespeople—and that is practically what these people do, and without any interest. A very great foreign lady owes no less than £2,000 to one milliner alone, and some of our own leaders of the fashion would be quite willing to emulate her if they could get the chance.

The matinée to be given at the Grafton Galleries on Friday of next week promises to be an amusing one. It is in aid of the Benevolent Fund of the Society of Women Journalists, and the best musical and dramatic talent in London has enlisted itself in the gentle cause.

What a pity it seems that our arrangements for laughing and our apparatus for coughing should be so mixed up with each other. At the Strand Theatre, where we enjoyed "A Brace of Partridges," the funniest play we have seen for a long time, whenever there was a roar of laughter there was also a synchronous chorus of coughing, one seeming to be inseparable from the other. We lost some of the good things of the dialogue owing to this. Would it not be nice if we could disentangle the two sets of machinery, which appear to have got mixed up? The first night's performance of a new play is always interesting, apart from the play itself. It is pleasant to study the critics who assemble in force on such occasions. We were interested to observe that directly the curtain fell after each act these gentlemen with one consent precipitately left their seats and rushed out, presumably to imbibe inspiration at some Pierian spring. We amused ourselves in their absence by speculating as to whether its limpid waters were bottled or merely on draught. We noticed Mr. Penley enjoying the fun with his well-known lateral laugh.

Miss Branson wears a pretty cycling costume in the first act. The skirt and Eton coat are dark-blue serge, and the front is filled in with the most extensive tie I have ever seen. The scarlet Tam o' Shanter on the top of the white wig is highly becoming. So is the bright red-currant coloured glacé silk in the second act, the trimming of which is well worthy a description. The pointed waist line is marked by a narrow band of black chiffon run through diamond slides, and a long, frilled black chiffon sash floats at the back of the skirt. At the neck a black chiffon frill finishes the collar at the back and sides, being deeper in the centre than elsewhere. In the last act Miss Branson wears a thyme-green cashmere skirt and sleeves with a bodice of brocade in paler tones of green, and relieved with green velvet, matching that in the toque, which is trimmed with shaded roses. Miss Aumonier looks very charming in her simple rural frocks, and on her wedding day dons a white muslin of the most fascinating kind, though still simple enough. The bodice is finished with a fichu, and the sleeves come to the elbows with a becoming fall of transparent muslin. In the first scene this young lady wears a most fascinating sunbonnet, but the colour is one that would not stand the sun for half an hour—a soft, pale heliotrope. This does not matter, however, for it is *so* becoming.

The popular Harry Steigert, whose skating it is always a delight to witness, is to have a benefit performance at New Niagara on Thursday afternoon. M. Steigert has such a host of admirers that there is certain to be a large

Stooping.—A remedy should be immediately sought for a young lady inclined to round shoulders and a contracted chest. Consult Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., The Celebrated Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, Oxford-circus, London.

attendance to see the exhibition of fancy skating which he and M. Charles Kurlin are to give.

Christabel writes from Paris:—

I now send you a description of some of the dresses worn by the actresses in the new piece at the Variétés called "Nouveau Jeu," played for the first time on Tuesday. The daily papers will, doubtless, have mentioned the plot and the new trick of the turning scene, so I will only say it is beautifully put on the stage, but I think in London the Lord Chamberlain would have some observations to make, and girls of the period would prefer leaving their mothers at home, for fear of their propriety being shocked, for in one of the scenes there is very slight clothing, and still less morality!

Jeanne Granier takes the leading part very cleverly. In the first scene, or tableau she wears a ball dress of pale grey China crêpe embroidered with silver and chenille, and small puffings of grey chiffon on the bodice, with a bunch of roses in the front, and a waistband of turquoise velvet. The opera cloak is turquoise velvet, the hood trimmed inside with silk muslin and lace, and round it frills of white lace spangled with silver.

Another dress is of prune velvet, with a deep flounce round the hem of cloth in the same shade, with velvet appliqué. On the bodice is a collarette of finely-pleated white muslin. The long cloak is prune cloth, rather drawn in at the waist, and lined throughout with ermine. In the fourth tableau her dress, a sort of tea-gown, is embroidered net over pink Liberty silk; at the top of the bodice is a large collar of the same, fastened in front with a bow of pink ribbon.

In the last tableau, before the magistrate, or juge d'instruction, she is soberly dressed in dark blue cloth embroidered with steel, and a black silk waistcoat.

Marguerite Caron wears in the second scene a very pretty gown of Nile green cloth. The flounce at the edge of the skirt and also the sleeves are embroidered in the Louis XVI. style, the black silk revers on the bodice being also embroidered. A fichu of white silk muslin passes under the revers and fastens at the side with a rose. In her next appearance she has on a brown cloth dress, the bodice made with a yoke of sky-blue velvet surrounded with white guipure forming a collar. Over this is worn a walking jacket of brown velvet trimmed with fox. In the last scene her dress is cloth of the shade of Parma violets, the bodice forming a short jacket, and embroidered. Mlle. Dieterle appears in the first scene in a very pretty gown of cream-coloured cloth, having a flounce with black cashmere laid on in a pattern and worked with gold. The walking cape matches it, and is embroidered in a similar fashion. In the next scene she wears geranium-coloured silk covered with black net handsomely worked with chenille and steel.

The costumes worn by Jeanne Granier and Marguerite Caron were made at Paquin's, also the rich, but thin and transparent, lingerie in the sixth tableau, which may be summed up with the words—morality at zero, and clothing very little above it.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—Humanity in general has a taste for climax; for getting to the top of a hill, though it be only—like the King of France and his forty thousand men—in order to march down again. Society—the small world which thinks itself great—rushes through life, but varies the monotony of the perpetual rushing by making special rushes to special places at special times. Thus "seasons" are made—climax after climax is reached. Every self-respecting place, on which Society condescends to bestow even a small degree of its favour, has its yearly climacteric, otherwise "season." Dublin is going through that period now, and with a most respectable degree of liveliness. One wonders why the world which amuses itself does not come more to the Irish capital—that is, on an independent basis, not as guests. It has attractions which other winter resorts cannot boast. Hunting to content the keenest craving for the noble pastime, and dancing by night. One has only to settle the matter with one's constitution and staying powers—whether one can stand flying across country by day and round ballrooms by night. It is wonderful what youthful enthusiasm can do in that connection, and still more so the capabilities of the quality even when no longer young. The elderly who frequent society with the zeal of youth are always a wonder to me, how they have managed to retain the "talent for living." Do you remember A. de Musset's marquise who says, "I am beginning to be thirty"—it takes a long time to quite reach it, however—"and I am losing the talent for living."

Society has had a good deal of opportunity for exercising that talent during this week in Dublin. The first State Ball of the season was given at the Castle on Tuesday evening, most of those who attended the Levee and Drawing-Room being invited to it. Two ball-rooms gave sufficient room for dancing. The portrait gallery was an extensive supper-room for the general company, whilst a smaller one was provided for the Viceregal party and the elect. How curiously ill-bred a division of one's guests into the select and unselect would seem to be. It is, of course, a Royal idea, like most things of the kind, and Viceroyalty must do likewise. What a subversal of the manners taught to us are those of Royalty and Viceroyalty. The best for one's self, and second best for the others. The Viceregal procession entered St. Patrick's Hall shortly after ten o'clock. The visitors and household made a goodly show, quite a bevy of girls being included amongst the former. The Ladies Mary and Victoria Innes-Ker, with their mother, the Duchess of Roxburghe, who was often to be seen at Dublin Castle in the time of her father's, the Duke of Marlborough's, reign, Ladies Kathleen and Florence Cole, Evelyn Crichton, A. Acheson, May Brabazon, Miss Corkran, and Miss Farquharson. Lady Cadogan must be very popular with her young friends, for no doubt a visit to the Castle during the season must be popular with girls, and give them a very good time. Also amongst the visitors were Lord and Lady Dartrey, Lord and Lady Gosford, Lord and Lady Castletown, and Lord and Lady Erne. Lady Cadogan was, as always, beautifully and richly dressed, in white, and with marvellous lace and wonderful jewels. Lady Lurgan is always amongst the best dressers, in a style peculiarly her own. White was much worn by the young girls, with much trimming of silver and other embroideries. Nothing looks so well, especially at a ball where uniforms prevail. The crowd was considerable, and, as usual, there were a good many wallflowers, very sweet ones too, such as have lately been a remarkable feature at Dublin Castle. In contrast to the State Ball, there was on the following night a tiny dance in the Throne Room, to which only a few young people, in addition to the "house party," were invited.

On Thursday night, mostly with the same company, the scene of the dancing was changed to Kilmainham, where Lord and Lady Roberts gave a ball in the big oak panelled hall of the Royal Hospital, "To have the honour to meet their Excellencies." Lady Cadogan and the Viceregal party were, on the following evening, at Lord and Lady Ashbourne's ball at their residence in Merrion-square. The house is a fine one, which used to belong to the Gort family, in the days when Lord Ashbourne's father, who was a solicitor, used to live in a smaller house quite near. What chances and changes there are in life! All ups and downs. And how little memory flourishes in the higher altitudes. How readily the "ups" forget that there were ever any "downs." The waters of Lethe are not for those who are down, however; the keen remembrance of better days completes the unhappy position. No doubt the English-speaking world is a world of snobs. How few there are who rise in the world that do not anxiously draw a veil over even a respectable, and probably happier, though lowlier, past.—Your ever, Clare.

Chestnuts and caramel make a lovely dish. This recipe is quite original. The spun sugar may be dispensed with, but it adds greatly to its charming appearance:—

Scald and remove the husks from 18 large chestnuts, boil them in sweetened milk until they will easily mash. Drain the chestnuts thoroughly and rub them through a wire sieve. Mix the purée thus obtained with a very little whipped cream, to which a little sugar and a dessertspoonful of maraschino have been added. Form the mixture into balls and leave them to get firm. Boil 8 oz. of sugar in half a pint of water until it turns to caramel; test it by dipping a skewer first in the caramel, then into cold water, and if the sugar snaps easily it is ready. Now dip the chestnut balls one at a time in the caramel, placing them on an oiled baking sheet as you do so. When the balls are set, proceed to arrange them in a pyramid on a dish, dipping them again in a very little caramel to make them keep in position.

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Garnish between each with whipped cream, sweetened and flavoured with maraschino, and cover them with a cloud of spun sugar.

You will find this pineapple cream a delicious confection :—

Drain the juice from a tinned pineapple, cut the fruit into tiny square pieces and pour a liqueur glass of rum over them. Make half a pint of good custard, dissolve ½ oz. of sheet gelatine in it and strain it into a basin to cool. When the custard is quite cold mix it with a gill and a half of stiffly whipped cream. Decorate a mould with halves of cherries and leaves of green angelica, put a layer of the cream at the bottom of the mould, then a layer of the pineapple. Fill the mould in this way, fruit and cream alternately, and leave it to set. When required for table the cream must be turned out on a dish and the sauce poured round it.

To make the sauce :—Boil the juice of the pineapple until it is getting thick, then mix it with the beaten yolks of 3 eggs, and whisk it until it is cold ; add a dessertspoonful of rum and two tablespoonfuls of whipped cream.

Artichoke bottoms dressed with eggs and fish in this way make an excellent savoury :—

Open a bottle of preserved artichoke bottoms, drain and season them with pepper, salt, oil, and vinegar. Place each one on a round of fried bread that is spread with a thin coating of Montpelier butter. Fill the artichokes with the egg preparation, sprinkle the top with coralline pepper, and arrange them on a dish-paper garnished tastefully with mustard and cress or any other small salad.

To prepare the egg mixture :—Boil 4 or 5 eggs for ten minutes, plunge them into cold water and remove the shells. Cut the eggs into fine dice-shaped pieces, and mix it with some stiff green mayonnaise sauce, and any cold minced fish that is convenient, preferably sole or turbot.

The green mayonnaise is easily made by blanching a handful of parsley, a sprig of thyme, and one or two chives in salted water. Drain them, squeeze them dry in a cloth, and pound them in a mortar, adding a little salad oil. Rub the preparation through a hair sieve and mix it lightly with mayonnaise sauce, which is made in the usual way.

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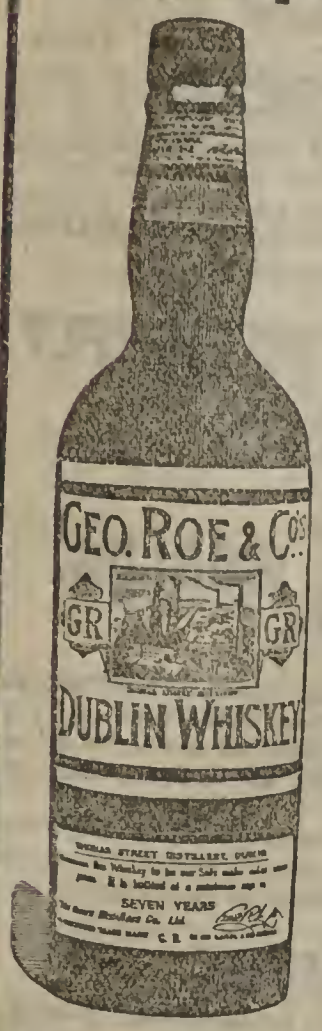

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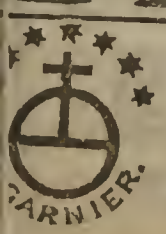

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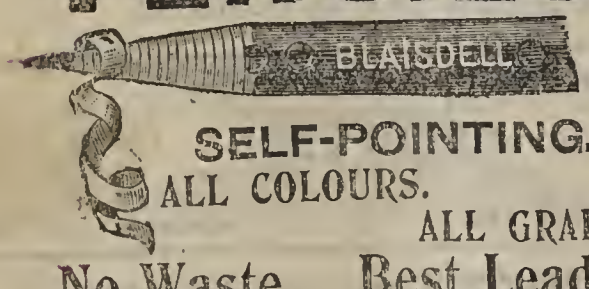

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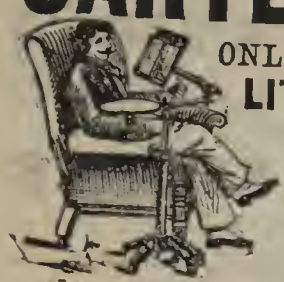

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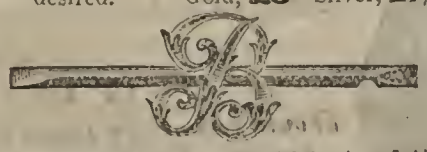

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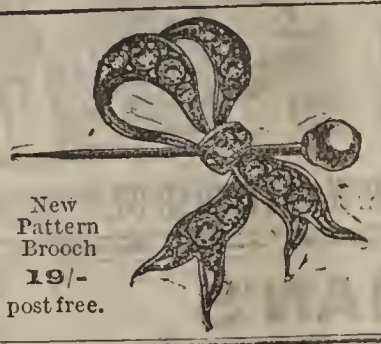

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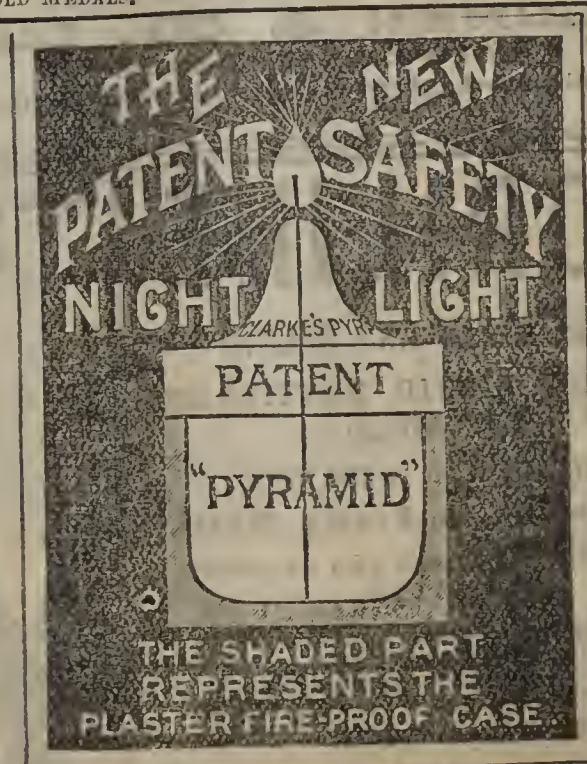


SOLD EVERYWHERE.
Clarke's "Pyramid" and "Fairy" Light Co., Ltd., Cricklewood, London, N.W.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £30,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.
THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd. Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, 255,000 SHARES OF £50 EACH, £12,750,000.

CAPITAL PAID UP.....£8 PER SHARE.....£2,040,000
DO. UNCALLED..... 1,147,500
RESERVE LIABILITY 9,562,500
RESERVED FUND .....£1,200,000.

DIRECTORS.
THOMAS SALT, ESQ., CHAIRMAN.
J. SPENCER PHILLIPS, ESQ., DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN.
CHARLES EDWARD BARNETT, ESQ.
WILLIAM DE WINTON, ESQ.
WALTER RANDOLPH FARQUHAR, ESQ.
EDWARD BRODIE HOARE, ESQ., M.P.
JOSEPH SCRIVENER KEEP, ESQ.
J. ARTHUR KENRICK, ESQ.
GEORGE BRAITHWAITE LLOYD, ESQ.
RICHARD BORRADAILE LLOYD, ESQ.
SAMPSON SAMUEL LLOYD, ESQ.
JOHN CHARLES SALT, ESQ.
AUGUSTUS WILLIAM SUMMERS, ESQ.
RICHARD VASSAR VASSAR-SMITH, ESQ.
GEORGE DUNBAR WHATMAN, ESQ.
ROBERT WOODWARD, ESQ.

HEAD OFFICE: BIRMINGHAM.
REGISTERED OFFICE: 72, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON.

STATEMENT OF LIABILITIES AND ASSETS ON THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1897.

LIABILITIES.

Subscribed Capital (being 255,000 Shares of £50 each)		£12,750,000 0 0
Capital paid up, viz., 255,000 Shares at £8 per Share	£2,040,000 0 0	
Reserved Fund (after addition from Profit as below)	1,200,000 0 0	3,240,000 0 0
Debts owing to sundry persons by the Company—		
On Bills or Notes accepted or endorsed		407,914 3 10
On Current and other Accounts	£20,528,097 6 8	
On Deposit Accounts at Notice	16,584,121 5 9	37,112,218 12 5
Liabilities in respect of Customers' Loans to Brokers, fully secured	£453,500	
Profit (including £26,010 : 2 : 0 brought forward from last year)	£464,361 11 2	
Less Interim Dividend for Half-year ending 30th June, at 15 per cent. per annum.	138,750 0 0	
Balance, proposed to be appropriated as follows:	£325,611 11 2	
In payment of Half-year's Dividend to 31st December, at 20 per cent. per annum	£204,000 0 0	
Added to the Reserved Fund	50,000 0 0	
Written off Bank Premises Account	25,000 0 0	
Income Tax	13,925 0 0	
Carried forward to next year	32,686 11 2	
	£325,611 11 2	
		£40,760,132 16 3

ASSETS.

Cash in hand and with the Bank of England	4,641,871 5 4	
Cash at Call and Short Notice	£3,980,019 19 10	
		8,621,891 5 2
Bills of Exchange		4,095,311 4 9
Consols and other British Government Securities	£4,089,546 3 9	
Indian and Colonial Government Securities, Corporation Stocks, English Railway Debenture and Preference Stocks, and other Investments	3,869,501 16 11	
		7,959,048 0 8
Advances to Customers, Promissory Notes, and other Securities		20,676,250 10 7
Liabilities of Customers for Bills accepted or endorsed by the Company		18,962,148 9 0
Bank Premises and Furniture (after provision as above)		407,914 3 10
		713,819 12 10
		£40,760,132 16 3

HOWARD LLOYD, GENERAL MANAGER.

We have examined the above Statement with the Accounts of the Company, including the Certified Returns from the branches; and, having satisfied ourselves as to the correctness of the Cash and Investments, and considered in detail the other items of the Account, we are of opinion that such Statement correctly sets forth the position of the affairs of the Bank on the 31st December, 1897.
C. A. HARRISON, BARRATT, WEST & THORLEY, } CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS,
PRICE, WATERHOUSE & CO., } AUDITORS.

The Bank has Correspondents and Agents throughout the British Islands, by whom its Customers' Credits are received and transmitted *free of charge*. It has also a large number of Colonial and Foreign Agents, upon whom Drafts, Circular Notes, and Letters of Credit, payable in all parts of the world, are granted, and thus offers to the public great facilities for transacting Banking business. A detailed list of such Correspondents can be obtained on application at any of the Branches.

Current Accounts are opened upon the terms usually adopted by Bankers. Deposits are received at interest, subject to notice of withdrawal, or by special agreement. Purchases and Sales of Stocks effected, and every description of Banking business undertaken.

A DECLARATION OF SECRECY is signed, on appointment, by every person engaged in the Bank's service.

CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND, AND PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.
To the Holders of
CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND, AND PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY FIVE PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE, EXTENSION, AND COLLATERAL BONDS,
FIVE PER CENT. DEBENTURE BONDS.

This Company has entered into an agreement with Messrs. Speyer & Co., New York, for the sale of about $52,000,000 New General Mortgage Four per Cent. Ninety Year Gold Bonds, Interest payable January 1st and July 1st, to be issued for the purpose of retiring the following issues:—
$40,712,000 Five per Cent. First Mortgage, Extension, and Collateral Bonds.
$4,500,000 Five per Cent. Debenture Bonds.
$5,000,000 Seven per Cent. Chicago and South-Western Railway Company First Mortgage Bonds, due November 1st, 1899.

Upon ratification of the new mortgage by the stockholders at a meeting called for February 15th, 1898, the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway Company intends to exercise its privilege of redemption at 105 and accrued interest, New York terms, as follows: The Five per Cent. First Mortgage, Extension, and Collateral Bonds to be paid on or before July 1st, 1898.

The Five per Cent. Debenture Bonds to be paid on September 1st, 1898.

The following particulars are taken from a statement by R. R. Cable, Esq., the President of the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway Company:—

The New Mortgage provides that none of the existing Bonds shall be extended at maturity, but that they shall be retired, so that thereafter the New Bonds will be secured by a First Mortgage on all the railroad property and real estate of the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway Company, including its railroad, terminals at Chicago and other points and equipment; and also its leases, all as is more fully specified in the mortgage.

The Capital Stock of the Company on March 31st, 1897, was	$46,156,000
The Bonded Debt	62,712,000
(This amount includes $12,500,000 Six per Cent. Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway First Mortgage Bonds due 1917.)	
The net income of the Company for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1897, after deduction of rentals and all other charges, was	$4,765,121.27
The interest on the bonded debt was	3,321,525
The surplus income for the year was	$1,443,596.27

By the proposed plan of refunding, the annual interest charges will be reduced, upon the retirement of the Five per Cent. First Mortgage, Extension, and Collateral Bonds, the Five per Cent. Debenture Bonds, and the Chicago and South-Western Railway Seven per Cent. Bonds, from $3,321,525 to $2,824,904, an annual **SAVING of $496,321.**

The net earnings for the nine months ending December 31st, 1897 (December estimated), show an increase of $1,525,198.24 over the corresponding period in 1896.

The Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway Company has regularly paid cash dividends in each year since the organisation of the Company in 1880, amounting in the aggregate to $38,938,465.

Subject to the ratification of the New Mortgage by the Stockholders,

The undersigned hereby OFFER, until February 17th, 1898 (unless the amount available for this purpose is exhausted earlier), $25,000,000 of the New General Mortgage Four per Cent. Gold Bonds

To the holders of the FIVE PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE, EXTENSION, and COLLATERAL BONDS, and the FIVE PER CENT. DEBENTURE BONDS, in exchange for their existing Bonds at the price of 103½ per cent. and accrued interest, New York terms, the computation to be made as of May 1st next, and the difference of interest between 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. to be allowed to the Bondholder.

Receipts will be issued for the Bonds deposited, to be exchanged free of charge to the Bondholders against new definitive Bonds when ready.

Applications will be made to have the new General Mortgage Four Per Cent. Gold Bonds officially quoted in New York, London, and Frankfort.

Full particulars as to the terms and conditions of the exchange may be obtained at the offices of the undersigned:
SPEYER BROTHERS 7, Lothbury, London, E.C.
SPEYER & COMPANY, New York.
L. SPEYER ELLISEN, Frankfort-on-Main.
Dated January 27th, 1898.

NEW YORK CENTRAL AND HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD COMPANY.—THREE-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. BONDS OF 1997.—Referring to our circular of 3rd January last offering to exchange various New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company Bonds for the new Three-and-a-Half per Cent. Bonds of the same Company, we hereby give notice that our offer to supply the new Bonds at 103 and interest will be withdrawn not later than 19th February instant.
J. S. MORGAN & CO.,
22, Old Broad-street, London.
J. P. MORGAN & CO.,
23, Wall-street, New York.
3rd February, 1898.

H. HALFORD and COMPANY,
70 and 71,
Palmerston Buildings,
Old Broad Street,
London.
ESTABLISHED 1869.

Business in Stocks and Shares at close prices.
Dealings reported by wire if required.
Prompt Settlements.
Thousands of Testimonials from Clients.
Americans and Canadians a Speciality. Also Westralians and Kaffirs.
Lists of Closing Prices gratis.
Telegrams: "Monitor, London."
NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER FIRM.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will CLOSE on or before FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 1898.

Of the undermentioned Issue, 60,000 Shares (half Preference and half Ordinary) are reserved for issue on the Continent.

THE AMAZONAS RUBBER ESTATES, Limited.

CAPITAL, £300,000, divided into 300,000 Shares of £1 each, as follows:—

150,000	Seven per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares (Preferential as to Capital as well as Dividend in priority to the Ordinary Shares), and entitled to 25 per cent. of the balance of net profits after 10 per cent. has been paid on the Ordinary Shares, and after provision, if considered necessary, for a Reserve ...	£150,000
150,000	Ordinary Shares	£150,000
300,000		£300,000

SUBSCRIPTIONS are invited for 100,000 PREFERENCE SHARES and for 100,000 ORDINARY SHARES at par. Payable—2s. 6d. per Share on Application; 7s. 6d. per Share on Allotment; 5s. per share one month after Allotment, and 5s. per Share two months after Allotment. 50,000 Shares which form part of the present issue are reserved for working Capital.

DIRECTORS.

Augustus F. Godson, M.P. (Director of the Birmingham District and Counties Banking Company Limited).

Matthew G. Hale (Hale & Son, Colonial Produce Brokers).

Hon. F. S. A. Hanbury-Tracey (Chairman of London Board of Palatine Insurance Company.)

George Mure Ritchie (Chairman Millom & Askam Hematite Iron Company, Limited).

*E. Osmond Daniel.

* Will join the Board after Allotment.

BANKERS.

Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank, Limited, 20, Birchin-lane, London, E.C.

Birmingham and District and Counties Banking Company, Limited, Birmingham, and Branches.

SOLICITORS.—Goodchild & Hammond, 1, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.

BROKERS.

London—Seyers & Thomas, Founders'-court, Lothbury.

Edinburgh—John Robertson & Co., 31, George-street.

AUDITORS.—Carnaby, Harrower, Barham, & Co.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICES.—Ernest K. W. Ryan, 7, Great Winchester-street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to acquire and develop the extensive India Rubber Estate situate in the State of Amazonas, Brazil, and covering an area of 364,542,500 square mètres, equal to about 137 English square miles, and to carry on the business of Rubber Growers, Manufacturers, Shippers, &c.

There being direct water communication with Manáos, the Rubber can be easily conveyed to that City, and shipped by the regular lines of steamers direct to Europe and the United States.

A thorough examination of the property has been made by Mr. H. C. F. Rohe. He reports that the estate "abounds with untapped India Rubber trees of many years' growth. These comprise various species of Hevea, of which the most numerous has been identified as Hevea brasiliensis, producing the most valuable Rubber of the genus. The trees are of the best quality, and immediately available for tapping."

Senhors H. J. MOERS & RAYMUNDO NERY.—Senhor H. J. Moers, Government Engineer for the State of Amazonas, who has made a survey of the estate, and Senhor Raymundo Nery, Director of Public Lands, have certified that the property "contains 'Seringaes' (workable forests) of India Rubber trees of the best quality, and also large quantities of hardwood and oleiferous timber."

Dr. J. BACH, states that he visited the property acquired by this Company, and that he found there an enormous quantity of India Rubber trees, as well as a great number of other valuable trees of various kinds.

Dr. Bach counted an average of 11,971 per square mile, and he states that the forests are of such great extent that enormous quantities of India Rubber may be extracted for very many years to come, without the slightest need of planting a single tree.

The Rubber produced in the States of Amazonas and Para is recognised to be the best and most valuable of all Rubbers, the market price for "Fine" being 3s. 6d. to 3s. 7d. per lb. on December 31st, 1897.

Since May, 1896, the lowest price recorded is 3s. 4d., and the highest 3s. 9½d.

According to the British Consul's Reports, the total quantity exported from Brazil during the year 1895 amounted to 20,769,581 kilos equal to over 45,500,000lb. while in 1896 the exports amounted to nearly 48,000,000lb. The value of the imports of all kinds of Rubber into the United Kingdom alone amounted in the latter year to about £5,000,000 sterling.

In consequence of the extraordinary development of the cycle and other industries in which Rubber is used, the consumption, already so important, is still increasing as shown by the following particulars obtained from the Board of Trade Returns:—In 1894 the United Kingdom imported 304,451 cwt. of raw India Rubber of all kinds, the average value being 216s. per cwt. In 1895 the imports rose to 341,543 cwts., and the average price to 220s. per cwt. In 1896 the imports into the United Kingdom amounted to no less a quantity than 431,164 cwts., and the average value rose to 232s. per cwt.

From the property a minimum annual production of 1,500,000 lb. of Rubber may be estimated, and, in order to arrive at this production, it would only be necessary to work a small portion of the Company's Estate of 137 square miles in each year.

1,500,000 lb. of "Fine" Rubber, at the average price of 3s. 6d. per lb., would realise	£262,500 0 0
From this should be deducted the expenses of collecting and curing the Rubber, transport from the River Teffé to the City of Manáos, boxing, packing, shipping, export duties, local taxes, loss in weight, freight to Liverpool, insurance, landing, storing, brokerage, &c., calculated at 60 per cent.	157,500 0 0
Leaving a net profit of	£105,000 0 0
The dividend of 7 per cent. on £150,000 Preference Shares will amount to	10,500 0 0
Leaving the sum of	£94,500 0 0

to provide for administration expenses, &c., and a dividend of 10 per cent. (=£15,000) on the £150,000 Ordinary Shares. The balance of net profits after provision, if considered necessary, for a reserve, will be divided in the proportion of one-fourth for the Preference Shares, and three-fourths for the Ordinary Shares.

The foregoing estimate is for Rubber of the best quality only, and exclusive of "Entrefine" and "Negro Head" Rubbers, the sale of which should yield additional revenue to the Company, the price on December 31st. 1897, of the former being 3s. 4½d. to 3s. 5d. per lb., and of the latter from 2s. 4d. to 2s. 7d. per lb.

In addition to the production of Rubber, a reference to the reports will show that there are other important sources of revenue from the estate, which should be of great advantage in the future.

CONTRACT, &c.

The Vendors have fixed the purchase price at the sum of £250,000, payable as to £50,000 in fully-paid Ordinary Shares, £50,000, in fully-paid Preference Shares, and the balance in cash or Shares, or partly in both, at the option of the Directors. 50,000 Shares, which form part of the present issue, are reserved for working capital.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application for Shares may be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, or at the Offices of the Company.

MASSAGE AT HOME.

The MATTO CHAIN

Used by Sandow and all the leading Athletes, Cyclists, &c.

Recommended by the Medical Profession.

For Liver Complaints, Rheumatism, and all Nervous Disorders. Prevents Obesity.

Price 7s. 6d. each. By Post, 4d. extra. From all Chemists.

MATTO LIMITED, 32 & 34, Clerkenwell-rd. London, E.C.

WIRE CYCLE SADDLE.

WOODS' PATENT.

AN IDEAL SADDLE FOR LADY OR GENTLEMAN.

NO MORE CHAFING.

SADDLE SORENESS ENTIRELY PREVENTED.

One Month's Trial Allowed.

Prices and Testimonials on application to

THE LONGFORD WIRE CO., LTD., WARRINGTON.

Fitted with Felt or Leather Cover.

Please mention this Journal.

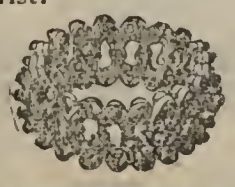
The New Patent

SELF-CLOSING BRACELETS.

NEVER SLIP in whatever position placed.

Delightfully Flexible and Comfortable.

Specially Suitable for Presents; as fit any wrist.



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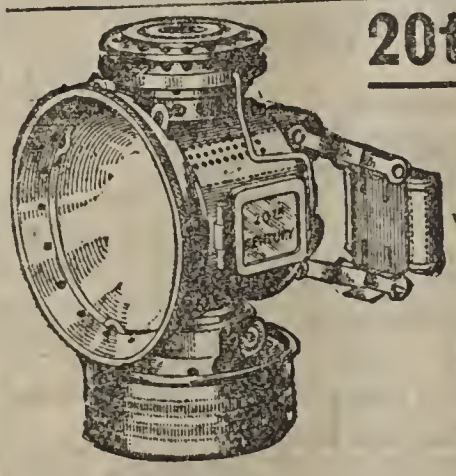
OPEN.

Made in Plain Gold, also with Gem or Watch Centre.

LARGE VARIETY OF PATTERNS.

Sold by all Leading Jewellers.

WHOLESALE ONLY, SAMUEL & SHEPHERD, LONDON



20th Century Cycle Lamp.

Weight, 8 oz. Burns Paraffin. Keeps Lit. Powerful light. 40% less than charged elsewhere.

NICKEL	BLACK	ALUMINIUM
6/6	6/6	7/6

Postage - 3d.

A. W. GAMAGE, Ltd., HOLBORN, E.C.

BEST AND SAFEST NATURAL APERIENT.

Hunyadi János

"The Prototype of all Bitter Waters."

THE LANCET.

CAUTION.

Every Bottle bears the Signature of the Proprietor, ANDREAS SAXLEHNER.

Leeds and Batley Breweries,

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893. LIMITED.

The LONDON and MIDLAND BANK, Limited, 52, Cornhill, London, E.C., Park-row, Leeds, and all other Branches, are authorised to RECEIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS for the undermentioned Capital.

The LIST will CLOSE WEDNESDAY, 16th FEBRUARY, 1898.

SHARE CAPITAL - - £225,000,

DIVIDED INTO

125,000 5½ per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each, also Preferential as to Capital ...	£125,000
And 100,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each ...	£100,000
	£225,000

All of which are now OFFERED for PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION, at par; also ISSUE of £200,000 FOUR AND A HALF PER CENT. IRREDEEMABLE FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCK, secured by a first mortgage to the Trustees, for the Debenture Stock-holders of the whole of the Company's freehold and leasehold properties, and by a charge upon the floating Assets of the Company at £105 for each £100 of Stock. The Debenture Stock will be registered in the books of the Company, and will be transferable in sums of £1, and multiples thereof. The interest upon the Debenture Stock and Preference Shares will be payable half-yearly on the 1st July and 1st January in each year. The first payment will be made on the 1st of July, 1898, calculated from the dates on which instalments were paid.

The payments are to be made as follows:—

Debenture Stock.

On Application	£10
On Allotment	55*
On 1st March, 1898	40
	£105

* Of which £5 is premium.

Preference and Ordinary Shares.

On Application	£0 2 6
On Allotment	0 7 6
On 1st March, 1898	0 10 0
	£1 0 0

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE STOCK HOLDERS.
John North, East-parade, Leeds.
Herbert Beaumont, Hatfeild House, Wakefield.
W. E. Bradley, L.L.D., 2, St. James's-square, Manchester.

DIRECTORS.
F. E. Bradley, Manchester (Chairman Clarkson's Old Brewery, Barnsley, Limited), Chairman.
R. H. Sykes, Batley, Leeds (Chairman R. H. Sykes & Co., Limited, Brewers), Managing Director.
Herbert Beaumont, Wakefield (Director R. H. Sykes & Co., Limited, Brewers).
G. C. Cutler, the Saville-green Brewery, Leeds.
John Matthew, Leeds (Manager Joseph Cliff & Sons, Branch Leeds Fire Clay Company, Limited).
P. E. Roberts, Retired Brewery Proprietor, Nelson.

BANKERS.—The London and Midland Bank, Limited.
SOLICITORS FOR THE COMPANY.—North & Sons, East-parade, Leeds.
SOLICITORS FOR THE TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE STOCK-HOLDERS.—Harrison, Beaumont, & Smith, Wakefield.
AUDITORS.—Armitage & Norton, Chartered Accountants, Huddersfield, Bradford, and Dewsbury.

BROKERS.
Leeds—Potter & Co., 16, Park-row, and Stock Exchange, Leeds; Hirst, Turner, & Tennant, 5, East-parade, and Stock Exchange, Leeds.
Bradford—John Gurney, 29, Kirkgate, Bradford.
London—William H. Hart, 25, Old Broad-street, and Stock Exchange, London, E.C.
REGISTERED OFFICES AND SECRETARY (*pro tem.*).—R. Hilditch, Prudential buildings, Park-row, Leeds.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to acquire, as going concerns, and to carry on under one management, the businesses of R. H. Sykes & Company, Limited, at the Soothill Brewery, Batley, near Leeds (with which was recently incorporated the Atlas Brewery, Batley), and Cutler's Saville-green Brewery, Leeds, including 51 licensed houses held therewith; and, in addition, to acquire 23 licensed hotels, beerhouses, and off-licenses, with a considerable number of shops, cottages, and parcels of building land. With one exception, the whole of these additional properties are situate in Leeds, and are entirely freehold. They comprise some of the best licensed properties in the City, and have been most carefully selected under skilled advice. The Soothill Brewery is of modern construction. The business has been in existence upwards of 20 years, and is steadily increasing. The site affords ample space for all necessary extensions for an output up to 100,000 barrels per annum. The present trade is nearly all tied.

The total number of licensed properties acquired by the Company, in addition to the two Breweries, is 74, of which 61 are freehold.

Messrs. Armitage & Norton, Chartered Accountants, Huddersfield, Dewsbury, and Bradford, have examined the books and accounts of R. H. Sykes & Company, Limited, and of Mr. G. C. Cutler for three years, and their certificate shows increasing profits for each year. "The Trading profits for the year ending 1897, together with the rentals of the new properties to be acquired, amount to £15,031." (Extract from Certificate).

The properties and assets have been valued by Messrs. E. Belfield & Co., Brewery Valuers and Chartered Accountants, at £341,397 (without considering goodwill of the business), and they certify that a net additional profit of at least £11,450 per annum will be earned from the 23 new houses acquired by the Company, exclusive of rentals.

To the above valuation must be added £11,000 additional working capital provided by this issue.

The profits as set out in the foregoing Certificates amount to per annum:

No. 1.	£15,031 0 0	
No. 2.	11,450 0 0	
		£26,481 0 0

The sum required to pay:—

Interest on £200,000 Debenture Stock at 4½ per cent. is	9,000 0 0	
Interest on £125,000 Five-and-a-Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares is	6,875 0 0	
		15,875 0 0
Surplus profits for dividend on Ordinary Shares, Administration, &c.		£10,666 0 0

At various dates during the last twelve months R. H. Sykes & Co., Limited, Mr. G. C. Cutler have expended upwards of £10,000 in the purchase of licensed properties. The profits from these houses, as included in the Auditors' certificates, are only for a portion of the year, and future profits ought necessarily to be larger.

It will be seen from the above Certificates that the profits of the Company are sufficient to pay the interest on the Debenture Stock nearly three times over; the surplus profits, after paying the Debenture interest, are more than sufficient to pay the interest on the Preference Shares two and a half times.

The purchase price for the breweries, properties, and assets, as set out in Messrs. Belfield's valuation and Report, has been fixed by the Vendors, the undermentioned Syndicate (who are the promoters and are selling at a profit) of four hundred and fourteen thousand pounds. In addition, the Vendors take premiums on the Debenture Stock. The Vendors and their friends will apply for at least £100,000 of Debenture Stock and Preference and Ordinary Shares. The Vendors will pay all the expenses of forming the Company up to the allotment of capital, and costs, including stamps, of vesting the above-mentioned properties and assets in the Company. Mr. Sykes and Cutler being interested as Vendors, and Mr. Beaumont being a Director of R. H. Sykes & Co. Limited, will not vote on the allotment.

Mr. Sykes has agreed to act as Managing Director for a period of at least three years.

For Contracts see full Prospectus.

Applications for Debenture Stock and Preference and Ordinary Shares should be made on the accompanying Forms, and forwarded to the Company's Bankers, or to any of their Branches, together with a remittance for the amount payable on application. Prospectuses, with Forms of Application, may be obtained from the Solicitors, Bankers, Brokers, or at the Offices of the Company.

This Form may be used by an Applicant for Ordinary or Preference Shares.

LEEDS and BATLEY BREWERIES, Limited.

All cheques to be drawn and sent to the Bankers of the Company, the London and Midland Bank, Limited, 52, Cornhill, London, E.C.; Park-row, Leeds, or any of its Branches.

To the Directors of the Leeds and Batley Breweries, Limited.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to the Company's Bankers, the sum of £..... being the deposit of Two Shilling and Sixpence per Share on .....Preference .....or Ordinary Shares of £1 each in the above-named Company, I request you to allot me that number of Shares, and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any less number that may be allotted to me, upon the terms of the Prospectus dated 26th January, 1898, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and to pay the further instalments as thereby provided, and I authorise you to place my name on the Register of Members of the Company in respect of the Shares allotted to me, and I agree with the Company, as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable, to waive any claim I may have had against them for not more fully complying in the said Prospectus with the requirements of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867.

In the event of my not receiving an allotment, the amount to be returned in full.

Usual Signature .....
Name (in full) .....
Address .....
Occupation or Description .....
Date .....1898.

This Form may be used by an Applicant for Debenture Stock.

LEEDS and BATLEY BREWERIES, Limited.

All cheques to be drawn and sent to the Bankers of the Company, the London and Midland Bank, Limited, 52, Cornhill, London, E.C.; Park-row, Leeds, or any of its Branches.

To the Directors of the Leeds and Batley Breweries, Limited.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to the Company's Bankers the sum of £..... being a deposit of £10 per cent. on £..... 4½ per cent. Irredeemable First Mortgage Debenture Stock at £105, I hereby request you to allot me that amount, and I hereby agree to accept that or any less amount allotted to me, and to pay the instalments thereon as required in accordance with the terms of the Prospectus dated 26th January, 1898, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

In the event of my receiving no allotment the amount deposited to be returned to me in in full.

Usual Signature.....
Name in full .....
Address .....
Occupation or Description.....
Date .....1898.

The LIST of APPLICATIONS will OPEN on the 16th FEBRUARY, and will CLOSE both for Town and Country on or before the 18th FEBRUARY, 1898.

MARSHALL & SNELGROVE, LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.)

SHARE CAPITAL (Authorised)	£550,000,

Divided into 10,000 Five per Cent. Preference Shares, 44,900 A Ordinary Shares, and 100 B Ordinary Shares of £10 each.

Share Capital Issued	10,000 Preference Shares	£100,000
	39,900 A Ordinary Shares	399,000
	100 B do. do.	1,000
	50,000	£500,000

Issue, in multiples of £10, of £225,000 First Mortgage Four and a Quarter per Cent. Debenture Stock, part of a total authorised issue of £300,000.

The UNION BANK OF LONDON as Bankers of the Company are authorised to RECEIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS for the above-mentioned Debenture Stock at the price of £106 per cent., payable as follows, viz.:—

On Application, 10 per cent.	... £10 0 0
On Allotment 90 per cent., together with 6 per cent. premium	... 96 0 0
	£106 0 0

Interest payable half-yearly on 20th February and 20th August; that on the 20th August, 1898, being calculated from the dates of payments upon the Stock.

DIRECTORS.

James C. Marshall, Chairman.
Herbert C. Marshall, Deputy Chairman.
Frederick Tollit, Vere-street, W.
James F. Oliver, Vere-street, W.
W. E. Peckham, Scarborough.
C. R. Rhodes, Scarborough.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE-STOCK HOLDERS.

Edmund Boulnois, M.P., for East Marylebone, 27, Westbourne-terrace, W.
W. C. Jackson, 58, Coleman-street, E.C.

BANKERS.—Union Bank of London, Limited, Princes-street, E.C., and Argyll-place, W.

SOLICITORS.

For the Company: Baileys, Shaw, & Gillett, 5, Berners-street, W.
For the Debenture Trustees: Paines, Blyth, & Huxtable, 14, St. Helen's-place, E.C.

BROKERS.—Brunton, Bourke, & Co., 18, Finch-lane, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Jackson, Pixley, Browning, Husey, & Co., Chartered Accountants, 58, Coleman-street, E.C.

SECRETARY (pro tem.) AND TEMPORARY OFFICE.—W. R. Hunt, 58, Coleman-street, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire the well-known business of Messrs. MARSHALL & SNELGROVE which was established in the year 1837, and has since been carried on among the very best class of customers and with much success at Vere-street and Oxford-street, London, and at Scarborough.

The lease of the premises hitherto held at Leeds being about to expire, the business carried on there will shortly be transferred to the Scarborough branch.

In addition to the retail business, known all over the world, Messrs. Marshall & Snelgrove have also a large wholesale business in the United Kingdom and abroad.

The main London premises are situate on the Portland Marylebone Estate, and are held under Ground Leases and Underleases and Contracts for Leases for terms of sixty years from Ladyday, 1898; and the buildings erected thereon are of the highest class, and have been specially designed for the purposes of the business. The Scarborough premises are held under lease on favourable terms, and the buildings there are also especially adapted to the trade.

For family reasons the business has been turned into a private Limited Company, the whole of the Issued Capital—£500,000—being taken by the late and former partners. No part of this is offered for public or private subscription.

There will be no change in the Management, the Board consisting of the late Partners and their Head Managers in London and Scarborough.

It is now proposed to offer to the public Debenture Stock to the extent of £225,000, being part of the total of £300,000 authorised by the Company's Articles of Association, mainly for the purpose of paying-out capital of former partners and existing deposits.

The price of the Debenture Stock has been fixed at £106 for each £100 subscribed, carrying interest at the rate of 4¼ per cent. per annum, which will afford a net return of almost exactly 4 per cent. It will be repayable at par on the 20th February, 1948. The Company, however, retains the right to repay the Stock on and after the 20th February, 1911, on six months' notice at the price of £110 per cent.; and on any distribution of assets on a reconstruction or amalgamation of the Company's undertakings with that of another Company at any time (prior to 20th February, 1948) the Stock shall be repayable at £110 per cent.

The Debenture Stock will be secured by a Trust Deed, vesting in the Trustees the Leasehold Property of the Company, which has been valued (as will be seen below) by Messrs. Lofts & Warner at £130,000, and by a floating charge on all the remaining property of the Company. The security for the Debenture Stock will be as follows, exclusive of Goodwill:—

Leases—London and Scarborough	£130,000 0 0
Horses, Carts, Furniture, Fittings, and Equipment of Shops	32,596 14 1
Stock	283,086 14 0
Debtors, Cash and Bills Receivable	318,195 5 0
	£763,878 13 1
Deduct—Trade and other Creditors	101,823 6 7
	£662,055 6 6

There is therefore a total value of tangible Assets to the extent of £660,000 and upwards, to secure a charge thereon of only £300,000; while the proceeds of the last £75,000 if and when issued will have the effect of increasing the security to that extent.

The above Assets and the Goodwill of the business are acquired as a going concern by the Company at the price of £625,000, payable as to £500,000 in fully-paid Shares of the Company, and the balance in Cash.

The Contract for Sale is dated the 9th February, 1898, and is made between James Charles Marshall and Herbert Charles Marshall of the one part, and Edmund Read for and on behalf of the Company of the other part.

The Company covenants with the Trustees for the Debenture Holders to effect and maintain in the names of the Trustees a policy or policies of Assurance with the Law Life Assurance Society or other Assurance Company approved by the Trustees, to repay the amount of the Debenture Stock for the time being outstanding at the expiration of fifty years, when the Debenture Stock falls due.

As the whole of the Share Capital is held by recent or former members of the Firm, it is not necessary to disclose the figures of the profits: but the following certificate will show the confidence with which the holders of Debenture Stock may rely upon the payment of their interest:—

"58, Coleman-street, London, E.C.
"February 4th, 1898.

"Gentlemen,

"We have continuously audited the Accounts of Messrs. Marshall & Snelgrove for nineteen years past; and we certify that in each of these years, the Net Profits of the business, after making due provision for Bad Debts, have been sufficient to pay the Interest upon the proposed issue of Debenture Stock to the extent of £225,000 more than four times over.

"The figures relating to property set out in the Prospectus as security for the Capital of the Debenture Stock (other than the leases valued independently) are those of the Balance Sheet at the close of the last financial year of the firm; and were prepared in the usual way, without reference to the conversion of the business into a Company.

"JACKSON, PIXLEY, BROWNING, HUSEY, & CO.,
"Chartered Accountants."

The Report of Messrs. Lofts & Warner on the value of the Leases is as follows:—

"February 2nd, 1898.

"We have inspected the premises in London and Scarborough occupied by Messrs. Marshall & Snelgrove for the purpose of their business, comprising the magnificent block of buildings facing Oxford-street, and bounded by Marylebone-lane, Henrietta-street, and Vere-street, which are most substantially built and well arranged and especially well lighted and adapted for a business of this kind; also other premises in Henrietta-street, connected by Subway, a large double shop and houses in Oxford-street adjacent, and extensive Stabling in Stratford-mews, held upon Leases, Underleases and Contracts for Leases for terms of upwards of sixty years, and other detached premises in London held on shorter terms, together with the fine Block of premises in St. Nicholas-street, Scarborough, occupied by the firm.

"We value the above properties at the sum of £130,000 (one hundred and thirty thousand pounds), exclusive of the fixtures and fittings therein.

"LOFTS & WARNER."

Application will be made in due course for an official quotation of the Debenture Stock on the Stock Exchange.

No part of this issue has been underwritten or guaranteed.

Application for the Debenture Stock must be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus, and forwarded with a remittance for the amount of the application money, to the Union Bank of London, Limited, Princes-street, E.C., or Argyll-place, W.

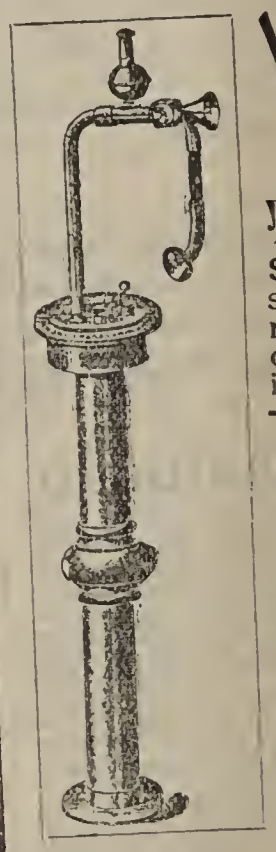
If the full amount applied for be not allotted, the surplus paid on deposit will be applied towards payment of the amount due on allotment, where no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full. Non-payment of the amount due on allotment will render the application money liable to forfeiture.

A print of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the original valuation of Messrs. Lofts & Warner, the original certificate of the Auditors, and a draft of the trust deed for securing the Debenture Stock, may be seen at the Offices of Messrs. Baileys, Shaw, & Gillett, 5, Berners-street, W.; and copies thereof can also be seen at the Offices of the Auditors, and of Messrs. Paines, Blyth, & Huxtable, 14, St. Helen's-place, E.C.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from Messrs. Brunton, Bourke, & Co., 18, Finch-lane, E.C.; Messrs. Jackson, Pixley, & Co., 58, Coleman-street, E.C.; and from the Union Bank of London, Limited, Princes-street, E.C. and Branches.

London, February 12th, 1898.

THE HOMACOUSTIC.



WHAT IS THE HOMACOUSTIC?

THE HOMACOUSTIC is a contrivance connected with Speaking Tubes, which entirely supersedes for indoor purposes not only the Telephone, but all other existing arrangements for indoor inter-communication.

THE HOMACOUSTIC

Is Automatic, not Mechanical. Once fixed always in Working Order. Its first cost is its last cost.

WITH THE HOMACOUSTIC

There is no blowing into pipes. The automatic whistle is always in position. One speaks and listens at the same time. The tube is closed when not in actual use. Ordinary speaking tubes can be utilised.

ONE (No. 4) HOMACOUSTIC

Places the speaker in communication with any Number of Rooms.

THE HOMACOUSTIC

Is of special value and inestimable convenience not only in business establishments, but in all Private Houses.

TESTIMONIALS.

Atlas Assurance Company, Fire and Life, 92, Cheapside, London, E.C.

Dear Sir,—I have pleasure in stating that I have had one of your Homacoustic Speaking Tube Commutators and Instruments in my room, communicating with seven departments in this office, and that I find the same to work admirably. It is a vast improvement on the old method of a separate mouthpiece for each tube, and it is an invention which I think needs only to be known to command very wide adoption.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

SAML. J. PIPKIN Secretary.

The Central London Throat and Ear Hospital,
Gray's Inn-road, W.C.,
December 14, 1891.

I have much pleasure in testifying to the excellence of the principle of the Homacoustic Speaking Tube Instruments, as well as to the perfect workmanship of the tubes fitted at this Hospital.

Quite independently of sanitary reasons it is decidedly more agreeable to have a Speaking Tube by which all blowing and breathing into the face are avoided. There is no difficulty whatever in its employment.

LENNOX BROWNE, F.R.C.S.E.,
Senior Surgeon to the Hospital.

SHOW ROOMS: 6, Bruton Street, New Bond Street.

Of all Speaking-Tube Fitters, or

THE HOMACOUSTIC SPEAKING TUBE CO.

As no Prospectuses are being circulated through the post in connection with this issue, intending Applicants for Shares are requested to apply on the annexed form. Prospectus and Application Forms can be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, and of the Secretary at the Offices of the Company.

The Company will proceed to allotment immediately on the closing of the lists, a sufficient amount of the Capital of the Company having already been guaranteed.

The Subscription List is now OPEN, and will CLOSE on or before FRIDAY, the 18th, for Town and Country.

"The germs of cholera, typhus, diphtheria, tuberculosis, erysipelas, and the germs which produce curdling of milk, are all without exception destroyed by this process." (See Report). The spread of virulent diseases can therefore be minimised by the use of milk sterilized under these patents. The nourishing properties remain intact.

The milk is absolutely pure, with nothing abstracted and nothing added. See Press and medical opinions. Bottles can be seen at the offices of the Company containing milk sterilized by this process two years ago.

THE "EXCEL"

(BRITISH AND COLONIAL) MILK STERILIZING CO. Ltd.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL - - £100,000,

In 100,000 Shares of £1 each, of which 60,000 Shares are set aside for working capital.

ISSUE OF 100,000 SHARES,

Payable 2s. 6d. per Share on Application, 7s. 6d. on Allotment, and the balance in calls of not more than 5s. at intervals of not less than three months.

The Vendors are prepared to accept 32,500 fully-paid Shares in part payment of the purchase consideration, and have entered into an agreement with the Company whereby they forego all right to participate, for the first year, in any dividend on such Shares as may be allotted them or their nominees, until 8 per cent. has been paid on the Shares other than the Vendors'.

DIRECTORS.

Sir G. WILLIAM DES VOEUX, G.C.M.G., 7, Cromwell-gardens, S.W. (Chairman).
P. E. BEACHCROFT, Esq., 10, Upper Hamilton-terrace, London, N.W.
WM. S. NICHOLSON, Esq., Eastmore, Isle of Wight (Director of the Union Steamship Company, Limited).
Major-General E. TANNER, C.B., Woodside, Old Shirley, near Southampton.
*ED. C. DE SEGUNDO, Esq., Assoc.M.Inst.C.E., 28, Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W. (Managing Director, "Excel" Sterilized Milk Company, Limited).
* Will join the Board after Allotment.

Bankers.

THE LONDON AND MIDLAND BANK, Limited, 52, Cornhill, E.C. and Branches.

Brokers.

GEORGE REAVELY & CO., 5, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C., and Stock Exchange, London.
ERSKINE, OXENFORD, & CO., Southsea House, Threadneedle-street, E.C., and Stock Exchange, London.

Solicitors.

For the Company: MARSHALL & MARSHALL, 3 and 4, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London.
For the Vendors: WAINWRIGHT, POLLOCK, & CO., 42, Bishopsgate-street Within, London, E.C.

Auditors.

McAULIFFE & DAVIS, Chartered Accountants, 23, Billiter-buildings, Billiter-street, E.C.

Secretary and Offices (pro tem.).

R. WARNER, 53, Parliament-street, London, S.W.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire inter alia the patents of the "Excel" Sterilized Milk Company, Limited, whose factory is situated at No. 1, Vandon-street, Westminster, and to provide the necessary working capital to develop the increasing business of the said Company.

The Company will also acquire the stock-in-trade, lease of premises, goodwill, trade marks, and business generally of the "Excel" Sterilized Milk Company, Limited, as from January 1st. 1898, together with the afore-mentioned valuable patents for the process of Neuhauss, Gronwald, and Oehlmann, relating to the sterilization of milk, &c., for Great Britain and Ireland. The patents have been submitted to the well-known patent agents, Messrs. Haslctine, Lake, & Co., who have reported favourably thereon.

The number of customers on the books of the Company now exceeds 350, including a large number of the co-operative stores and wholesale houses, among which may be mentioned the following:—Spiers & Ponds, Army & Navy Stores, William Whiteley, Civil Service Supply Association, Harrod's Stores, Junior Army & Navy Stores, J. Lyons & Co., &c.

The following steamship companies, amongst others, are also being supplied with "Excel" Milk:—Union Steamship Company, Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Messrs. Rennie, Sons, & Co.

The Superintendent of Stores of the Union Steamship Company writes, under date 4th November, 1896:—"You now supply all the milk we require for our ships."

The existing factory of the "Excel" Sterilized Milk Company, Limited, is in complete working order, and is equipped with patent sterilizing machines capable of treating about 1,500 gallons per week (in quart bottles), together with cooling tanks, filtering apparatus, testing room, boiler, apparatus for cleansing and sterilizing india-rubber rings, and other utensils, plant, and apparatus, but owing to the large increase in the demand, the storage capacity of the London factory is now inadequate, and it is proposed in the first instance to erect a plant capable of sterilizing at least 10,000 gallons of milk per week at Eastleigh.

The directors have acquired the option to purchase, at a low rental, the long leasehold interest in a factory situated at Eastleigh. It is in every way suited for meeting the requirements of this Company, particularly as regards storage space, and is substantially built and recently erected.

Owing to the fact that under this process a stock of milk can be stored without risk of loss from the milk turning sour, and owing to the saving in the cost of distribution in the "Excel" system of milk supply, the Company will be enabled to fix the retail price per quart, including delivery and collection of empties in London and suburbs, at a figure not exceeding that at which ordinary milk of equal quality is now sold in London.

A provisional licence has been granted on very favourable terms for the purpose of developing the trade in milk sterilized by the above mentioned improved process, for which patent rights are being applied for in Canada and the United States. The benefit of this licence is included in the option above referred to.

The "Excel" Sterilized Milk Company, Limited, have received several applications for sole licences to trade in "Excel" Milk in South Africa. A provisional monopoly of the sale of "Excel" Milk for three months has been granted to a substantial firm for the district covered by the charter of the British South Africa Company.

The directors anticipate that a considerable saving will be effected in many directions by sterilising milk at Eastleigh, and that a reduction in the price of "Excel" Milk would result in an immediate increase in the orders received from the steamship companies now supplied, and would also enable the directors to introduce "Excel" Milk on many of the other lines of steamships sailing from Southampton and other ports. The directors consider that there should be little difficulty in working up the output of the new factory to 1,500 gallons per working day, and the following estimate of profits is worked out on this basis.

Sale of 1,800,000 quarts per annum at 4d. per quart (this price to include delivery to the steamers at Southampton Docks, collection of empties and dock dues).....		£30,000
Estimated cost of milk per annum at 6½d. per gallon	£12,187	
Estimated cost of production, including rent of factories, London offices, wages, coal, management and incidental expenses	4,780	
Carriage and dock charges	2,498	
		19,465
Net profit		£10,535

Or sufficient to pay 10 per cent. on the present issue of shares.

The purchase consideration for all the property acquired by the Company is fixed at £40,000, as to £7,500 in cash and £32,500 in cash or fully paid shares. All expenses up to allotment (except the cost of registration and legal expenses) will be borne by the vendors. The business will be taken over subject to all existing contracts, which are of the ordinary trade character.

For contracts, &c., see full prospectus.

Copies of the contracts, and of the memorandum and articles of association, together with copies of the complete certificates and reports referred to above, or from which extracts have been taken, can be seen at the offices of the solicitors.

It is intended to apply for a Stock Exchange quotation in due course.

Applications for Shares should be made on the form accompanying this prospectus, and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company, with remittance of 2s. 6d. per Share.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, and Solicitors, and of the Secretary at the Offices of the Company.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

To be cut out, filled up, and forwarded with cheque to the Company's bankers, the London and Midland Bank, Limited, 52, Cornhill, E.C., or branches.

THE "EXCEL" (British and Colonial) MILK STERILIZING CO., LTD.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR ORDINARY SHARES.

To the Directors of
THE "EXCEL" (BRITISH AND COLONIAL) MILK STERILIZING COMPANY, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,

Having paid to the Company's Bankers the sum of £....., being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share on Application for.....Ordinary Shares of £1 each in the Company, I request you to allot me that number of Shares, and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any less number that may be allotted to me, upon the terms of the Company's Prospectus, dated 14th February, 1898, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and to pay the amount due on Allotment, and the balance when called up, and I authorise you to register me as the holder of the said Shares.

Signature.....

Name (in full).....
(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Address (In full).....

Profession or Occupation .....

Date .....1893.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT

Beautifully Cool, Sweet Smoking.

The Original and the Best.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT TOBACCO is sold only in 1-oz Packets, and 2, 4, and 8-oz. and 1-lb. Tins, which keep the Tobacco in Fine Smoking Condition. Ask for "PLAYER'S" at all Tobacco Sellers, Stores, &c., and don't be put off with any other. The genuine bears the Trade Mark, "NOTTINGHAM CASTLE," on every Packet and Tin.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT CIGARETTES are now obtainable in Packets containing 6 and 12, and in Tins of 24, 50, and 100. The "MAGNUMS"—large size—are sold in Card Cases containing 8, and in Tins of 16, 50, and 100.

A MASTER KEY of this SIZE

Can be made to open any number of Locks. Many Ladies and Gentlemen have the whole of their locks so arranged that **a MASTER KEY,** so small as to be worn in a finger-ring or locket, will open every lock they possess—from their Dressing Bags, Trunks, Jewel Cases, Despatch Boxes, &c., to the Front Door, Wine Cellar, Park Gates, &c. **Just think of the Convenience!** The locks are made in suites, each suite with its own key, so that the ladies' maid or valet can open the luggage, the butler the wine cellar, and so on, but the suite keys are of no use for any but their own series.

BRAMAH JEWEL SAFES,

BURGLAR AND FIRE RESISTING, SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR BED AND DRESSING ROOMS.

Specialities in fitted Suite Cases and Dressing Bags, Jewel Cases, Despatch and Deed Boxes, Bramah Street Door Latches, with small keys, Bramah Padlocks for Bicycles, with Leather-covered Chains, &c. &c.

New Illustrated Catalogues Post Free.

For Prices and Particulars apply to

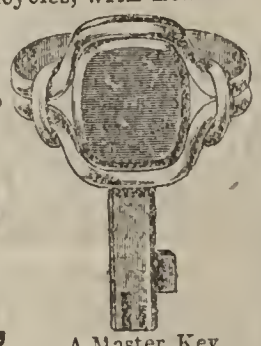
NEEDS & CO. *Late*

Bramah & Co.

Sole Manufacturers of the real Bramah Locks.

100, NEW BOND STREET,

LONDON, W.



A Master Key Signet Ring (Open).

BARNARD, BISHOP, & BARNARDS LIMITED.

(Late of Queen Victoria-street, E.C.)

ORIGINAL MANUFACTURERS OF

THE CELEBRATED SLOW-COMBUSTION STOVES, or COUNTRY PARSONS' FIRE-GRATES.

REGISTERED DESIGN.

Invite a Visit to their New West-End Showrooms at

23, PRINCES-STREET, CAVENDISH SQUARE, W.

(A FEW DOORS FROM OXFORD CIRCUS).

Where a most recherche selection of their newest designs in Stoves, Carved Wood and other Mantles, Tile Slabs, and Hearths, &c., &c., will be seen. Catalogues free. Competent representatives sent to any part of London or Suburbs to take instructions and particulars.

Manufactory: NORFOLK IRON WORKS, NORWICH.

SINGER MODÈLE DE LUXE

(Registered Trade Mark)

CYCLES

IMPORTANT NOVELTIES FOR 1898.

1898 Lists Free.

SINGER CYCLE CO. LTD. COVENTRY
LONDON: 17, HOLBORN VIADUCT.

IF YOU COUGH USE . .

CERAUDEL'S PASTILLES.

Let your lungs be filled with the vapour of Norwegian Pine Tar, which they give off whilst dissolving in the mouth. The efficacy of Pine Tar in all affections of the Throat and Lungs is well known; the best mode of applying it is by inhalation, and the mouth makes the best inhaler.

ALL CHEMISTS SELL THEM.

OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2. 2s. will be given every week for the best Epigram, Conundrum, Lipogram, Bouts-Rimés, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.
2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.
3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and, for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.
4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.
5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the Truth Office by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.
6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.
7. All New Contributors are Required to Forward with their First Answers their Real Names and Addresses for Registration; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.
8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.
9. Competitors must on no account change their noms-de-plume they have once assumed.
10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.
11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 988.

The Prize in this competition has been awarded to Ludwig B. for the following Original Conundrum:—

Why did Ranjitsinhji, in continuing his celebrated innings after a surgical operation, do no more than might be expected?

Because, when his tonsils were cut, he could do nothing else but stick to the stumps.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 995.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week to the competitor who proves most successful

In Completing the Following Imperfect Stanzas:—

Down — — — her name — traced
— the — — sand;
The — — jealous —,—
— kissed it — — —.

I breathed — — — — breeze
That — — — sea;
And lo — dawn — — —
Whispered — — to —.

In the above stanzas each — stands for a word, and competitors are asked to supply it in every case. The word at the end of line three in verse one must rhyme with "traced"; and that at the end of line four with "sand." So, in verse two, the words at the ends of lines three and four must rhyme with "breeze" and "sea" respectively. Competitors must only send in one completed version of the stanzas; and all answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, February 28.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 990.

I am not yet in a position to announce the name of the Prize winner in this competition.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 991.

The winner of the Prize in this competition for answering fifty Original Conundrums is Dandelion. The competitors who followed him most closely are (in order of merit) Woodlands, R. Martin, Bredon, Beginner, Conkie, Crock, Felsberg, Wildcat, and Pteris.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** The real name, with the address, of Pendarley, winner of Prize No. 977, is Mrs. Frank Dingle, The Chestnuts, Great Malvern.

*** By an error the name of the winner of a half of Prize No. 987 was printed last week as "E. M. Lashbrooke, Esq."; it should have appeared as Miss Emily M Lashbrooke.

Apostrophe.—No, there is no such unwritten law as you suppose. I regret to say that your "Parody" arrived too late to be printed, but it will, in the circumstances, be admitted to the competition.

Qu'Appelle.—Many thanks for your letter. It must not be supposed that all the quotations printed have been approved by me. I shall have more to say about this competition next week.

Cortex.—I am much obliged to you for your letter, and let me hope you are now convalescent.

Etak.—The correction has been made.

Meg.—The competition you suggest would, I think, interest but a very limited number of competitors.

Rose of Devon.—I fail to see the point of your objection.

Starlight.—See Rule 10.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 992.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

UP-TO-DATE PARODIES OF BRET HARTE'S "HEATHEN CHINEE."

Which you may, if you hark
To this whimsical strain,
Perceive 'neath the bark
Round the Chinese chicane,
That the heathen Chinee has, most truly, a
Decidedly strong business vein.

It was Li who first came,
Unassuming and shy,
Belying his name
By an absence of "I;"
But his questions were pointed, though mild-like,
As we often observed, by the bye.

Many things we have heard
Since this visit of Li's;
Now a game has occurred
Where the Heathen One trics
Going partners with Nich'las and William,
To take Johnny Bull by surprise.

It is square; and for name
(Like all games which are planned)
It has Luere. The same
Which we played in the Rand,
And at which certain folks are so able
When posing as patriots grand.

John a loan card essayed,
Which he reckoned worth "three,"
When a mailed fist displayed
What was trumps to a "T,"
And William put down Kiao-Chau-er,
Of which same he is now the lessee.

Then the Heathen looked sly,
As he said to John B.,
"For his piece of my pie
William pays rent to me;
But he sends you his German cheap labour,
While I'll have your loan, p'r'aps, at 'three.'

"And my soft air has long
Raised the wind and worked sales,
But if that goes wrong
(And my smile seldom fails),
By reversing my head, I turn up, John,
What's common to heads—that is 'taels.'"

Which is why, if you hark
To this whimsical strain,
You'll perceive 'neath the bark
Round the Chinese chicane,
That the Heathen Chinee has, most truly, a
Cunning I've tried to explain.

Oom Paul.

PLAIN LANGUAGE FROM TRUTHFUL JOHN (BULL).

Which I wish to remark,
In the style of Bret Harte,
That for ways that are dark,
And for tricks that are smart,
The heathen Chinee, tho' peculiar,
Finds the Russian can give him a start

Grabovitch was his name,
And I shall not deny,
In regard to the same,
What that name might imply;
But his smile it was kind and protecting,
And his humour decidedly dry.

It was in the Far East,
Not a cloud in the skies,
That a harbour he leased,
Which a friend did likewise;
And they played it out there, he and William,
In a way that was bound to surprise.

I saw thro' their game,
And at once took a hand;
It was Euchre, the same
That we all understand.
And the Muscovite smiled at Port Arthur
With a smile that was childlike and bland.

His cards they were stocked
In a way that I grieve,
And my feelings were shocked
As I spied up his sleeve
A card that denoted Partition,
Which was held with intent to deceive.

Then the hands that were played
For the heathen Chinee,
And the points that were made,
Were quite pretty to see,
Till he showed his trump card and said China
Should not borrow millions from me.

Then I looked at Wai-hai,
And Japan looked at me,
As I winked with one eye,
And we said "Can this be?
He'll be ruined by Russian protection
To a cert. will the heathen Chinee."

In the game that comes next
I must needs take a hand,
With Free Ports as my text,
For my people won't stand
Too much interference with China
If it shuts out their trade from that land.

Which is why I remark,
In the style of Bret Harte,
That for ways that are dark,
And for tricks that are smart,
The heathen Chinee, though peculiar,
Finds the Russian can give him a start.

Norfolk.

Which I wish to remark
It's a very great shame,
That for ways that are dark
And deserving of blame,
The heathen Chinee in particular
Is considered legitimate game.

Ah! since defeat came
(And I shall not deny
That he gained neither fame
Nor advantage thereby)
He perforce has been pensive and mild-like,
Which the Kaiser was quick to espy.

Now, some preachers inferred
He was soft as the skies,
But they fatally erred,
For it proved otherwise;
And their deaths formed a pretext for William
To act in a way I despise.

Which he played the old game,
And the Czar took a hand,
And the game was the same
That we all understand.
Since the poor old Chinee wasn't able
To resist, he was mild-like and bland.

Yes, his ports were annexed
Without asking his leave,
And, although he felt vexed,
He could do naught but grieve;
For it seemed as though all the Great Powers
Had the self-same intention—to thieve.

But a hand was then played
By that heathen Chinee,
And the point that he made
They were staggered to see—
For he called to his aid a Great Power,
Which the same had a charm—£ s. d.

Then the Czar looked awry,
And to William said he,
As he heaved a great sigh,
"Alas! can this be?
We are balked by Great Britain's behaviour
In our plans 'gainst that heathen Chinee."

In the game that ensued,
Johnny Bull took a hand,
And, though late in the feud,
He soon held the command.
For the "Loan" card that he had been hiding
Was a trump that they could not withstand.

Though the strife may be long,
Yet I do not surmise
That those wreakers of wrong
Will get much of a prize.
Though we doubtless shall read in their papers
What is frequent in papers—that's lies.

Which I therefore remark,
And my language is plain,
That in ways that are dark,
And in tricks that are vain,
The heathen Chinee in particular
Is quite able his own to maintain.

Vox.

Which I wish to remark—
And my language is sane—
That for making his mark,
And for speech that is vain,
The Emperor William's peculiar—
Which the same I would sit to explain.

"Holy Will" is his name,
And I shall not deny
In regard to the same
What that name must imply,
For his smile is extensive and godlike,
Which I frequent remarked to Chung Li.

And august was his word,
And quite big were his cries,
Which they might be absurd
And as foolish likewise;
Yet he played it that day upon China
And me in a way I despise.

Which we had a big game,
And our Will took a hand;
It was "Luere," the same
He did quite understand;
But he smiled as he worked at the exble,
With a smile that was godlike and grand.

Yet his yards they were stooked
In a way that I grieve,
And our Bourses were shocked
When the *Deutschland* did leave,
Which was sent to displace the Great Powers,
And the same with intent to relieve.

But the land that he made
Quite his own property,
And the plans that he laid,
Were quite frightful to see;
For he thought his "mailed fist" had the power
To break treaties which Li made with me.

When I looked up at Li,
And he gazed upon me,
And he rose with a sigh,
And said, "Can this be?"
We are ruined by German cheap labour,
And we went for that godlike Bilee.

In the scene that ensued,
I did take a high hand;
But the shore it was strewed,
Like the leaves on the strand,
With the guns Holy Will has been landing,
In the game he did quite understand.

In the forts, which were strong,
There were many more stacks,
Which was coming it strong;
Yet I state but the facts,
And we found the mailed fist, which the paper
Had told us was sent to give whacks!

Which is why I remark—
And my language is sane—
That for making his mark,
And for speech that is vain,
The Emperor William's peculiar,
Which the same I am bound to maintain.

Etak.

THAT MUSCULAR SHE.

(Being truthful language from Jones, Major.)

Which I wish to retort—
And my language is plain—
That for temper that's short,
And for ways that aren't vain,
The Muscular She is a caution,
And the same (it's no rise) I'll explain.

Miss New was her name;
And I shall not deny,
With regard to the same,
What it may not imply!
But my smile it is pensive and child-like,
As you'll see if you wink t'other eye.

'Twas December the third,
And quite soft were the skies;
Which it might be inferred
That Miss New was likewise;
But she played it that day with a hockey-stick
Upon me in a way I despise.

For we had a small game,
And Miss New with us ran:
It was hockey. The same
She could "play like a man"? . . .
Well, I smiled as I stood near the goal-posts,
With a smile that was short-lived and wan.

Yet her boots they were thick,
In a way that I cringe . . .
And my feelings were sick,
At her hat with a dinge,
Which was tumbling right on to her eyebrows—
And the same with regard to her fringe.

Oh! the game that was played
By that Muscular She!
Oh! the misses she made!
They were frightful to see—
Till at last she brought down a stout ashplant
On the head that belongeth to me.

Then at her looked down I,
And on me looked down she;
And I bowed with a sigh,
And said, "I'm but a he!
'Game is ruined by timid precautious"—
And the Muscular She went for me!

In the scene that ensued
I did not say my say;
For my face was imbrued—
And my hockey-array—
With the blood that Miss New had been shedding,
At the game that "she knew how to play."

In her speech—which was cheap—
There were twenty-four crams;
Which may sound a bit steep,
But it's true as the Psalms;
And we found in her words like a torrent,
What is frequent in torrents, that's ——!

So at last I retort—
And my language is plain—
That for temper that's short,
And for ways that aren't vain,
The Muscular She is a caution,
And the same I intend to maintain.

Kooràli.

Which I wish to remark, in a critical strain,
That for secret courts-martial whose findings are vain,
Republican France is peculiar;
Which the same I would like to explain.

Billot was his name, and I shall not deny
In regard to that name what that name might imply;
And his ways were a long chalk from childlike,
Which friend Zola was quick to espy.

Though 'twas late in December, quite bright were the skies,
And, it might be inferred, Billot's honour likewise;
But for all that he played it on Dreyfus,
The Jew, in a way I despise.

Which there was a small game, and Billot took a hand—
'Twas "Court-Martial," the same he did not understand,
But he smiled as he glanced at the judges,
With a smile that was meaning and bland.

Now the tricks that were played by the General bold,
And the points that he scored were most sad to behold;
For, to whitewash his friend, Esterhazy,
French justice and honour he sold.

Then I gazed upon Zola, and he gazed on me,
And he took up his pen, and wrote, "Can such things be?
We are made the derision of Europe!"
And he went for old Billot et Cie.

In the game to ensue I shall not take a hand,
But I wish it came off over here in the Strand,
Where the ruse of from prisoners hiding
The charge, we do not understand!

To secure the right verdict courts-martial he packs
And, to come it still stronger, suppresses the facts;
And when hard pressed for this or that paper,
He gets in a thundering wax.

Which is why I remark, and my language is plain,
That for making the findings of courts-martial vain
War Minister Billot 's peculiar;
Which the same I am free to maintain.

Quilp.

THE BRITISH RAILWAY.

(Plain language from suffering Tom.)

Sir, I wish to remark—
And my language is plain—
That for scenes that are dark
And for rules most insane,
The British rail*way* is peculiar,
Which the same, I will try to explain.

N.E.R. is its name,
And I need not supply,
In regard to the same,
What these letters imply.
But in form it was honest and handsome,
As I often remarked to Nelly.

'Twas December the third,
Clear and kind were the skies,
Which it might be inferred,
N.E.R. was likewise;
But it served it that day upon Nelly
And me in a way I despise.

Which we had a small dip,
N.E.R. took our hand,
'Twas to Yorkshire, a trip
It did not understand.
But they smiled as we sat on the platform
And waited with patience so bland.

Well, the train came at last,
Nelly clung to my sleeve,
And at length we pushed past,
In a way that I grieve.
For the shouting was fumbled and deafening,
And the same with intent to deceive.

Then the tricks we were served
By that rail's companee,
And the way the train swerved
Was quite frightful to see,
Till at last I was pitched on my neighbour
And Nelly was shoved on to me.

Then I looked down on Nell
And she gazed up at me,
And I rose with a yell
And said "Need this be?
We have paid quite enough for our tickets;
I must write about this to Labbee."

In the scene that ensued
I did take a full hand,
And our words they were rude,
You will well understand.
To think that such muddles were frequent
In this our o'er-civilised land!

For our journey was long
And our feet they were cold,
For the draught it was strong
And the carriages old;
And ourselves, when at last we were landed,
Was really a sight to behold.

Which is why I remark—
And my language is plain—
That for ways that are dark
And for rules most insane,
The British rail*way* is peculiar,
Which the same I shall always maintain.

Nurse.

*** Parodies have also been received from Woodlands, Prima Donna, Myrah, and Apostrophe.

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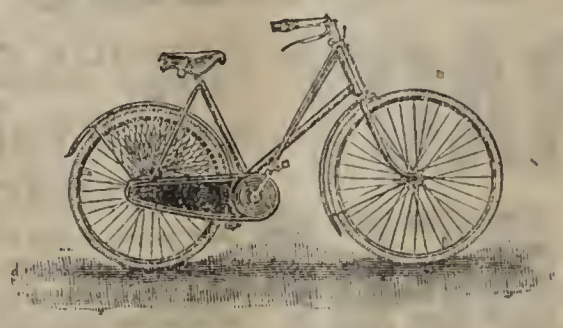

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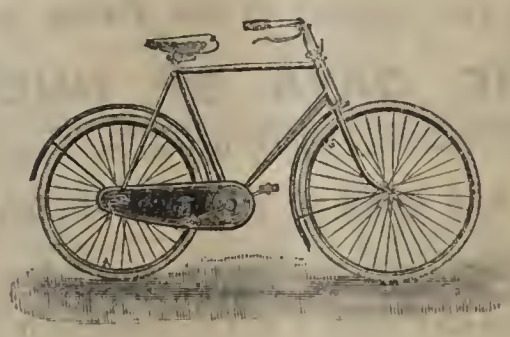

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

An Index *to the* Forty Second Volume *of* Truth *will be forwarded, post-free, to any address on application to the Publishing Office, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, E.C. The half-yearly Volume can be obtained at the same address, price 25s.*

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen is to leave Windsor Castle for the Riviera on either Tuesday, March 8, or Wednesday, the 9th, and her Majesty will arrive at Cimiez on the afternoon of Friday, the 11th. The Queen will be accompanied to Cimiez by Princess Beatrice and Princess Louis of Battenberg. Her Majesty is to stay on the Continent between six and seven weeks, returning to Windsor Castle about Thursday, April 28. The Queen will both go and return by the Portsmouth and Cherbourg route. Her Majesty's large double saloon, which she uses on all her Continental journeys, and which is her own private property, is being overhauled and renovated at the Gare du Nord, Brussels, where it is always kept when not in use.

Her Majesty has consented to come up to Buckingham Palace to-morrow (Thursday) morning for two nights, in order that she may receive the Diplomatic Corps at the Drawing Room on Friday, as it causes much inconvenience for this annual function to be postponed until May, as was intended. The Queen will remain in the Throne Room on Friday only until the entrée is over, and, so far as the general company are concerned, the Drawing Room will be held by the Princess of Wales. The Queen does not now join in the Royal procession from the Sovereign's closet to the Throne Room, but she is wheeled in a chair direct from her own apartments to her seat.

A ridiculous statement has appeared in some papers that the Queen is going to grant the privilege of the entrée to the daughters of Lord Rosebery at the Drawing Room in July, "in order that these two débutantes may be received by her Majesty in person." As a matter of fact, the unmarried daughters of an ex-Cabinet Minister have the entrée at Court as a right, so there could be no question of the Queen making any special arrangement for the Ladies Primrose. It might just as well be stated that the Queen was considering whether she would grant the entrée to one of the Ambassadors.

The Queen was exceedingly annoyed at the publicity which had been given to her proposed visit to Netley, which was intended to be kept a profound secret until it was over. Just before her Majesty left Osborne to embark on board the *Alberta* at East Cowes, she directed Sir Henry Byng, the Equerry-in-Waiting, to telegraph a peremptory order to Netley that all reporters were to be entirely excluded from the hospital during the Queen's visit. Of course, this order was strictly carried out, and therefore the circumstantial account of the Queen's pathetic conversation with the sick and wounded soldiers was simply evolved by the reporters out of their own fertile and ingenious imaginations.

The Prince of Wales will leave London for Paris and Cannes either on Saturday night or else early next week, and H.R.H. intends to stay on the Continent until a few days before Easter, when he will be at Sandringham, where there is to be a small party for the West Norfolk Hunt Steeplechase. The Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria are not going to Copenhagen until after the second Drawing Room, on March 11. They will stay in Denmark until the end of April, returning to London about the 28th of that month, accompanied by Princess Charles of Denmark, who is coming to England on a long visit, as her husband is going on a cruise to Ceylon and Siam in the man-of-war which is commanded by his uncle, Prince Waldemar. The Princess of Wales is to stay at Copenhagen, with the King and Queen, at the Amalienborg Palace, where the Empress Dowager of Russia will also be lodged. Princess Victoria is to be the guest of her sister, Princess Charles, at her flat in the immense new palace of the King of the Hellenes.

The marriage of Princess Feodore of Saxe-Meiningen, only child of the Hereditary Prince, and granddaughter of the Empress Frederick, with Prince Henry XXX. of Reuss, has been postponed until September, when it will take place at Cronburg, from Friedrichshof, the residence of the Empress Frederick in the Taunus Hills. The

Hereditary Princess Charlotte and Princess Feodore are coming to England at the end of June on a visit to the Queen at Windsor Castle.

The King and Queen of Italy have offered to place the Royal apartments in the Pitti Palace at the disposal of Princess Beatrice, if she wishes to visit Florence during the Queen's stay on the Riviera.

Colonel Carrington and Colonel Davidson are to be the Equerries in Waiting on the Queen during March, replacing Sir Henry Byng and Major Legge. The Lords in Waiting next month will be, successively, Lords Bridport, Denbigh, and Bagot; while Sir Edmund Commerell, Lord William Cecil, and Major Harbord are to be the Grooms in Waiting.

The *St James's Gazette* printed some remarkable information about "some of the débutantes" of next season, which is "gleaned" from an American contemporary. It is a pity that such insane nonsense should be thought worthy of being quoted by any rational journal. Lady Mary Hamilton, who, it is stated, "is to be brought out with her fortune of $8,000,000," happens to be not yet fifteen, so that she is not likely to be "brought out" for the next three years. Lady Margaret Crichton Stuart, who "will make her first appearance in the social throng," has been out for nearly three years. Lady Cromartie has also been out for some time, and although she possesses large farming estates in the North of Scotland, yet it is absurd to describe her as having a "great fortune."

It is droll to see how some of the American papers are revelling in the saturnalia of snobbishness for which the creation of the Order of the Crown has afforded so favourable an opening. One Republican journal devotes a whole page to extolling the feminine vanities of this egregious society, and flaunting in the faces of a plebeian community the Royal pedigrees of the members. Only women who are descended from one of the Kings of England, Scotland, France, or Germany are eligible for admission to this very select Order. Thus, Mrs. C. C. Harrison traces her ancestry—so the papers say—to Hugh Capet, King of France; Mrs. John Jacob Astor to Edward I. of England; Mrs. S. F. Leib to the Emperor Charlemagne; Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt to Alfred the Great; and Mrs. J. T. Spencer to Robert Bruce. I like best, however, the modest claim of the Lady Anna Von Rydingsvard (of Boston). Her ladyship is a descendant of "the entire roll of monarchs of England and France before the Tudor Ascension!"

The pedigree-making industry does not yet seem to have been properly developed in the United States, inasmuch as it is said that less than a hundred women have qualified for membership of the Order of the Crown. In London, as some of my readers may remember, there is an enterprising genealogist who is ready to work up a Royal pedigree for anybody prepared to pay ten guineas for the luxury. He would evidently find a great demand for his services in America; and the pedigrees he produces are, I am sure, quite as authentic as those of the exalted dames who constitute the Order of the Crown.

Amongst the visitors who stayed with Lord and Lady Cadogan last week, when the second Levee and Drawing Room of the season were held at Dublin Castle, were Lord and Lady Ormonde, Ladies Beatrice and Constance Butler, Lord and Lady Mayo, the Hon. Harry and Mrs. Bourke, Lord and Lady Rossmore, Lord Dunraven, Lady Lucy Hicks-Beach and her daughter, Mr. and Lady Sarah Wilson, and Sir Charles and Lady Barrington. The attendance at the Levee and Drawing Room was small compared to the previous occasions, most of those who intend to "do" the Castle season taking it from the beginning. Unlike these ceremonials at the Royal Court, they are, at the Irish Viceregal Court, chiefly viewed—and attended accordingly—as the prelude to a series of dances and other entertainments. Every one of a certain—or, possibly, also of an uncertain—position who attends a Levee or Drawing Room is profoundly aggrieved if no invitations follow.

Cycling on the footpaths may fitly be called, if not a burning, at least a scorching, question in Ireland at present. The sacrifice of one poor cripple does not seem to have quite satisfied Dublin Castle. The Viceregal decree abolishing the humble pedestrian has not yet been revoked. The Queen of France wondered why people should starve for want of bread when there were cakes to be had; no doubt the Lord Lieutenant and Chief Secretary wonder why any one should walk when there are carriages and bicycles. Fortunately, the High Court of Justice, and the magistrates, in many cases, have come to the assistance of the lowly. The Castle "tyred wheel" has not been allowed, as yet, to play the part of the "mailed fist" in Ireland.

The landlords also have been grumbling over the fashion in which justice in Ireland is administered, and perhaps with more reason than usual, apropos of the fortieth section of the last Land Act. Apart from the judicial decision itself, certain circumstances attending it were unsatisfactory, and hardly in keeping with a blindfold justice holding an even balance. Lord Ashbourne, who had the casting voice amongst the seven judges in giving judgment on the Act, was partly its author, and the decision he upheld was that of his brother-in-law, Sir E. Bewley.

The annual exhibition of the Water Colour Society of Ireland was opened in Dublin on Friday. This Society, though comparatively in its youth, has produced many members who are well-known exhibitors in the London galleries—Miss Rose Barton and Miss Mildred Butler—

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 489 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 487.
For Amusements, see page 487.
For Our Puzzles, see page 497.

both associates of the R.W.S—Miss Helen O'Hara, Mr. Bingham McGuinness, R.H.A., Miss Fanny Currey, Mr. A. Williams, R.H.A. Lady Cadogan, with Lord and Lady Ormonde, Lady Mayo, and a Viceregal suite were present on the opening day, being received by Miss H. R. Lynch, Mr. P. Chevenix Trench, and Mr. Clayton Brown, members of the Committee. The exhibition is a good one, some excellent work of artists from "across the water" being exhibited as well as that of Irish artists.

A happily rare, if not an unprecedented event in University history has just taken place at Durham, in the shape of a meeting of Convocation in order to deprive a graduate, who had been convicted of felony, of his degrees in arts, medicine, and surgery. There was no discussion whatever, the painful proceedings being purely formal, and the sitting occupied less than a quarter of an hour.

Mr. Carrick Moore, of Corsewall, who died last week at the age of ninety-three, owned large estates in Wigtownshire and Kirkcudbrightshire, and also in various parts of England. He was a very clever man, with strong literary and scientific tastes, and he had a great reputation as a geologist. Mr. Carrick Moore had been for many years a constant *habitué* of the Athenæum, where he will be much missed by the older members. His talk was remarkably good, and he had the fine manners of the old school. He was a most liberal and considerate landlord, and for generous kindness his name was a household word throughout the wide district of Kirkcoln, in which the Corsewall estate is situated. This property, which was purchased by Mr. Robert Carrick, a well-known and very rich banker at Glasgow, from whom it came to the Moores, will now pass under the entail to Sir David Carrick Buchanan, of Drumpellier. Mr. Carrick Moore was a nephew of Sir John, the hero of Corunna, and at his place in Surrey there is an oak in the grounds which was planted by the General the day before he left England for Spain.

It was lately proposed that the Pope should be approached on the subject of the priestly precepts in reference to animals which are responsible for so much barbarous cruelty in Southern Italy. One of my Italian readers makes the further suggestion that any representation to the Pope in favour of more humanitarian teaching will be most likely to succeed if it comes from prominent English Catholics whose opinion carries great weight owing to his Holiness's intense desire for the "conversion of England." There is an innuendo in this which I by no means endorse. At the same time I repeat the suggestion itself, in the hope that some influential English Catholic, like the Duke of Norfolk, will bear it in mind the next time he is at the Vatican.

Apropos of a reference in TRUTH the other day to the perils incidental to the practice of putting boots outside doors at hotels, I have been asked by a traveller why this primitive arrangement cannot be improved upon by providing each room with a small cupboard, having one door opening out into the passage and another into the room, in which boots might be placed. The answer to this is that the thing not only can be done, but has been done. I can mention the Hôtel Métropole, London, as one house where such an arrangement has been adopted. The outer door of the cupboard has a key, which is kept by the chambermaid, while the inner door can be bolted on the inside, so as to ensure the occupant of the room against any breach of his or her privacy. Seeing how freely money and thought are expended on adding to the comforts of modern hotels, it is rather strange that this contrivance has not been more widely adopted. Besides the protection which it affords to boots, the arrangement has another advantage which will be specially appreciated by ladies, for it obviates the necessity of visitors appearing at their doors in *déshabille* to take in their hot water or tea.

THE PASSING OF ALFRED.

Literature announces that the Poet Laureate has severed his connection with the *Standard*, in order to have more time to devote to the Muses.

When first this piece of news is read,
Which *Literature* diffuses,
The reader his remark thereon
With difficulty chooses:
Ought he to "Happy *Standard*!" cry,
Or moan "Alas! poor Muses"?

We seem to have come now to the beginning of the end of the Imperial Institute. The crisis is marked by the official intimation of the desire of the Government of Victoria to drop its contribution. There is a possibility, of course, that the Victorian Government may reconsider its position; there is also a possibility that other Colonies may remain faithful while Victoria secedes. But the probabilities are all the other way. If Victoria is not getting value for its money, and feels that the money, if spent at all, should be spent in the City rather than at South Kensington, other Colonies are not likely to be long in arriving at the same conclusions. From certain recent utterances of Sir Walter Peace, Natal seems already on the road.

What is happening does not surprise me, and will not surprise any one who read the articles on the management of the Institute which appeared in TRUTH last spring. The Imperial Institute can do nothing for the Colonies commensurate with the contribution which they are making. The site is a fatal difficulty, even if the management were in better hands, and the plan of operations were drawn on more practical lines. No sane person could suppose that the Colonies would continue much longer to contribute to the up-keep of the forlorn and deserted galleries at Kensington, and the only wonder is that they have paid tribute so long as they have. The last straw has, I suppose, been the discovery that the Institute has only been able to keep open its Imperial doors by importing Continental bands to amuse the London public with

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foreign music. At contributing to that they not unnaturally draw the line.

A correspondent of mine, who was at the recent morning performance of "Much Ado About Nothing," at the St. James's, sends on a copy of the earnest appeal Mr. George Alexander made to the ladies present to remove their matinée hats. "Scarcely a lady in the theatre," he adds, "complied with the lessee's request." My correspondent has been induced, in his indignation, to pen a verse or two on the subject, which I publish with pleasure, as I, too, know to my sorrow what a nuisance the matinée hat is :—

SCHULZ-CURTIUS JUMPS INTO THE GULF.

There was once in the past a renowned Alexander
Who did in his time many wonderful things ;
Who defeated in turn this and that great commander,
And made but short work of a number of kings.
You may read in your "Grote" his remarkable story ;
But I very much doubt, notwithstanding all that,
Whether he—even *he*—in the height of his glory,
Could ever have vanquished the Matinée Hat.

So let not his namesake who runs the St. James's,
His recent repulse take too sadly to heart.
We know he a *protégé* favoured of Fame's is,
We've seen him with credit play many a part ;
But, oh ! 'twas too much he was boldly essaying,
When down at his desk he defiantly sat,
And penned—(thus incredible rashness displaying)
His "notice" concerning the Matinée Hat.

'Tis true that in much he has found the Fates lenient,
But he should have had a suspicion inbred,
That to many a dame 'twould be *most* inconvenient
To suddenly doff what is pinned on her head.
He ought to have known, too, how very much hinges
(For particulars—*vide* each week's "Toilet Chat")—
On the puffs and the pads, and the fronts, and the fringes
That some ladies wear 'neath the Matinée Hat.

But fortune, we know, is exceedingly fickle,
And the ladies, if wise, for defeat will prepare ;
For the daring Schulz-Curtius a rod has in pickle,
And already strange rumours are filling the air ;
At last one lessee has determined to harden
His heart, and has made his arrangements all pat—
When Opera next occupies Covent Garden—
For finally crushing the Matinée Hat.

It is clear that the ladies won't listen to reason ;
Pleas, prayers, and petitions have nothing availed ;
Satirical sallies and stanzas in season
Alike to secure their attention have failed.
So now 'tis resolved that a more drastic measure
Shall cure what the playgoer sadly deplores—
Schulz-Curtius has thought out a plan at his leisure
For stopping the Matinée Hat at the doors !

A new departure in journalism has been made by the proprietor of the *Lincolnshire Echo* and the *Lincoln Gazette*. He states that as he received "many appeals from delinquents (usually drunken cases) to keep their names out of his papers," it occurred to him that "in doing a merciful act he ought also to assist local charity" ; and to begin with he has charged one delinquent 4s. for suppressing his name, and sent that sum to a hospital as "an inebriate's penance-money." This seems to mean that in future offenders can have their names omitted from the papers if they are able and willing to pay for the privilege. Merciful and charitable though the motive may be, it appears to me to be a very ill-advised scheme. In the public interest it is not desirable that offenders should be allowed to escape the penalty of publicity by payment of a donation to a charity, and for the credit of the Press it is assuredly undignified, to say the least, for a paper to allow itself to be thus vicariously "squared."

The *Daily News* was very funny in its comments on Mr. Wallace's speech in the Catholic University debate, insisting that "the people of Scotland do not desire that the Universities shall be sectarian." As a matter of fact, every Scotch University is a thoroughly sectarian establishment, always including a Presbyterian Theological Faculty, which is the Divinity Hall of the Kirk. Mr. Wallace, moreover, is the very last man in the House of Commons to need correction on any point connected with the Universities of Scotland, considering that for many years he was a prominent member of the Edinburgh Theological Faculty, and held the Chair of Ecclesiastical History, being at the same time minister of the historic Greyfriars Church.

The death of Bishop Selwyn makes a vacancy among the Queen's Chaplains-in-Ordinary. Dr. Selwyn was appointed on the recommendation of Lord Carrington, who was then Lord Chamberlain. Prebendary Turner, the well-known Vicar of Whitechapel, is to be the new Chaplain-in-Ordinary.

The special Lent sermons at St. Paul's during the midday (1.15) services this week are to be preached by the Bishop of St. Andrew's, late of Truro. During the third week in Lent (March 14 to 18), the pulpit will be occupied by the Rev. J. A. V. Magee, vicar of Gargrave-in-Craven, who is a son of the late Archbishop of York, and a most admirable preacher. Canon Knox-Little will be heard from March 28 to April 1, and the Bishop of London is to preach from April 4 to April 7, Dr. Creighton also taking the Three Hours' Service on Good Friday.

Archdeacon Sinclair is to be the Canon in residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral during March, replacing the Bishop of Stepney ; while at Westminster Abbey, Archdeacon Furse is to be succeeded by Canon Gore, who will be on duty for two months.

A short time since the Vicar of East Ardsley was issuing appeals broadcast for contributions towards the cost of the "Jubilee wing" which has been added to the church schools. In his "Parish Magazine" the Vicar has now explained that the "primary cause" of the enlargement of the school, upon which £900 has been expended, was "the removal of three church workers" from the St. Gabriel's Mission Church and "his inability to fill their vacant places." St. Gabriel's was built to supply the needs of an outlying part of the parish ; but because three workers cannot now be obtained on the spot the further sum of £900 has been spent in order that the children

may be taken from their own district, and accommodated at the parish school a mile or so away! Such is the genesis of the remarkable enterprise which people in all parts of the country have been asked to support. I do not wonder that the necessary funds were not forthcoming from the parishioners.

A somewhat perplexing communication in reference to the sale of the American Cemetery at Jerusalem has just reached me. It has been sent on behalf of a small religious community, whose deceased members have been buried in this cemetery. Some months ago one of their number died, and application was made, as usual, to the United States Consul for the key of the cemetery. It was then discovered, for the first time, that the cemetery had been sold, and the remains of the dead exhumed and removed in wooden boxes to the English cemetery. The land was vested in the American Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, and it is alleged that it was to replenish the depleted coffers of the Board that the sale was effected. Secrecy was observed because the transaction was contrary to Turkish law.

My informants say that they have addressed protests against the outrage to the State Department at Washington, to the American Ambassador at Constantinople, and also to the British Foreign Office, at least two of the bodies disinterred being those of Englishmen. The Foreign Office here was the most attentive and sympathetic; but from no quarter have they been able to obtain any redress for the wrong they consider they have suffered, or any assistance in recovering the remains which were so unceremoniously dealt with. Now they ask me what else they can do. I really do not know—unless they like to seek the advice of the Kaiser on his approaching visit to the Holy Land. He is a friend of Abdul Hamid, and Abdul Hamid is apparently the party to put the matter right.

One or two inquiries have reached me lately respecting the begging-letters of the Rev. S. S. Browne, Rector of North Cove, Beccles. I therefore take the opportunity of repeating the advice that I have already given to my readers to turn a deaf ear to the voice of this clerical charmer. Mr. Browne has several times come under notice in Truth. He is an old man, and has been begging for cash on every conceivable pretext for the last twenty years, first as a curate, and afterwards as an incumbent. When I last referred to him, about a year ago, his sacristan had dropped a valuable flagon, and four pounds was required to purchase a new one. Immediately after that he wanted money to restore a series of precious thirteenth-century frescoes in the parish church at North Cove. Lately, he seems to have reverted to the original tack, and begs frankly for himself, on the strength of a long story about the poverty of his living. There are hundreds of men in the Church, I regret to say, quite as badly off as he is, and most of them far more deserving, though they do not thrust their necessities upon the public.

Talking of the poor clergy, I had a letter the other day on the subject of clerical appeals which is well deserving of attention. The writer was struck by the fact that his alms were asked for the relief of the poor clergy by a society numbering among its patrons and organisers numbers of exalted ecclesiastics, all well endowed with this world's goods. There are, he remarks, quite as many poverty-stricken commercial clerks as there are destitute clerks in Holy Orders. But what would be thought of an association of bankers and merchants who put forth general appeals to the public to subscribe to a fund for supplementing the incomes of their own employees? The two cases, of course, are not precisely on all fours, because the higher clergy do not pay the lower clergy. But there is a certain amount of point in the argument.

The Church possesses in the aggregate enormous wealth, and many of its higher dignitaries draw princely salaries. If the whole revenue of the Church were equitably divided, there would be enough to keep all in such comfort and dignity as befits their sacred calling. The proper and reasonable way to relieve clerical distress is to redistribute the ecclesiastical funds on an equitable basis; and if the higher clergy felt sincerely for the sufferings of their humbler brethren, they would be the first to advocate this redistribution. Until they are prepared to do so, they have no business to appeal to the public. There is something offensive in the position of a bishop, living in a palace on £5,000 a year, passing round his episcopal hat for the benefit of struggling incumbents on a pound a week; and I do not think the position is materially improved by the fact that his Lordship puts a sovereign into the hat himself by way of ground-bait.

I wish all who are interested in the playground question, which was discussed in these columns a few months ago, would read the record of the work of the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association which is set forth in its recently-issued annual report. The result would be, I am sure, a very considerable addition to the income of this admirable Association. In a letter I published some time ago, Lord Meath, the chairman, said his ideal was that there should be a playground within a quarter of a mile of every working man's house in London. I sympathise with that ideal, but its attainment will have to wait, I fear, until the dim and distant future. In the meantime the Association is doing a great amount of good work. To do more, it requires more money, and I hope its present appeal for funds will meet with a liberal response.

The traffic in live poultry between Ireland and England, referred to in last week's Truth, is carried on by more than one route. I hear from Dover that large numbers of crates packed with fowls are landed there, having been shipped from Waterford or other Irish ports. I suppose that on a voyage from Waterford to Dover some provision must necessarily be made for feeding the birds, if they are to reach their destination alive; but from the account given of their appearance on reaching Dover, it might be well for the R.S.P.C.A. to inquire what that provision really amounts to. The whole trade wants carefully watching.

The Gurkha has been a good deal before the British public of late. I trust, therefore, that I may be excused for calling the attention of my charitable readers, especially those interested in the Army and in India, to the fact that a movement is on foot for establishing an asylum for the orphans of Gurkha soldiers. Colonel Ridgeway, V.C., late Commandant 44th Gurkhas, is President of the Association which has the undertaking in hand. It is only desired to raise sufficient funds to open the building clear of debt, and after that it will be supported by contributions from the Gurkha regiments. Contributions towards the asylum may be sent to Messrs. Grindlay & Co., 55, Parliament-street. It may be asked why a special provision should be made for the children of Gurkhas. The answer is that the Gurkhas are natives of Nepaul, which is across the frontier, and that they are nearly all married men and bring their wives with them, so that in the event of the husband's death the family are left helpless in a foreign land; whereas the native Indian Sepoy may trust to his wife and children being looked after by their own friends and countrymen in the event of anything happening to him.

Respecting the value of the Gurkhas as soldiers, Lieutenant Wilson, Adjutant 44th Gurkhas, writing to me on behalf of the asylum, says "There is no better soldier in the world than the Gurkha; brave, loyal, devoted to his officers, fond of any game or sport, well behaved in barracks, and trustworthy and patient under all circumstances. From every point of view it is a pity that his children, born more or less in our service, should be neglected, when a little trouble and expense would turn them into first-rate soldiers and excellent fighting material, by instilling into them from childhood habits of obedience and discipline."

The 1st Battalion The Queen's has furnished during the Frontier campaign an interesting illustration of the value of the confidential report system. During the last fifteen months Major Hanford-Flood of The Queen's has been twice passed over for promotion, one of his juniors having been appointed to the command of the 1st Battalion, and the other second in command of the 2nd Battalion. It is understood that this is in consequence of an unfavourable report on Major Hanford-Flood by a former Commanding Officer. During the Frontier campaign, however, owing to the fact that the present C.O. has been for some time on the sick list, and that the second in command was on the Staff, the battalion has been on several occasions commanded by Major Hanford-Flood. One of the occasions was the taking of the Sampagha Pass, one of the few really creditable incidents in the campaign, and one in which The Queen's greatly distinguished themselves. It is not likely that General Gaselee would have quietly submitted to the command of a battalion of his brigade being held, during a critical period on active service, by an officer of whose competency he had any doubt, and his confidence in Major Hanford-Flood seems to have been amply justified by the results. Can anything be more unjust than that an officer, who is thoroughly popular with all ranks in the regiment, and has proved his fitness for command in the face of the enemy, should be debarred from promotion through some fad or prejudice of a Colonel under whom he is no longer serving?

"It would be interesting to know," remarks a military acquaintance of mine (and I entirely agree with him) "whether there is any foundation for the current belief that the stoppage of promotion among the Colonels of the Royal Artillery is due to one of the clerks in the Finance Branch at the War Office." A vacancy on the list of Major-Generals occurred on October 1 last, and a second on January 4 of this year. Neither has been filled up, and it is understood that the clerk above referred to, who is looked upon as a high authority, is unable to decide whether he will allow the promotions to take place or not.

Here is another example of the straining at gnats in Army medical examinations. A young Militia officer, a highly promising man in every respect, was recently rejected on account of an insignificant deformity, due to his having been accidentally shot in one foot. The accident was no impediment to his marching, or his gait, or to his performance of any of his duties, as proved by the fact that he had been for some months attached to a Line regiment at Aldershot. It was simply a question of appearances; but that was enough to settle the case with the medical board. We shall hear next that some man has been rejected on account of an unduly conspicuous pimple on the nose.

Of course it is true enough, as an Army surgeon points out in a letter just received, that if the medical examiners pass doubtful men they are not doing their duty to the Service, or to the taxpayers. But the answer to that is that they frequently *do* pass doubtful men. While they are straining at the gnats, they are continually swallowing camels. The camels are simply the candidates who have influence at the War Office. I have particulars of two cases before me now, together with the opinion of an Army medical officer that neither man ought ever to have been passed. One of the two has been continually absent from duty since he joined, and has been home from a Mediterranean station and back, at the public expense, to undergo an operation. This man was let into the Army entirely through private influence. Medical boards are habitually unfair under pressure, and they frequently make glaring mistakes even when they have a free hand.

Messrs. Sampson Low & Co., Limited, send me a promising-looking little "Handbook to British Military Stations Abroad," edited by Mr. C. R. Duncombe-Jewell. The book gives all particulars relating to such stations which are likely to be of use to officers or others who have to visit them, including the situation, clothing required, hotels, clubs, amusements, sporting facilities in the neighbourhood, and railway and postal information. So far as I can judge, it is certainly calculated to supply a want.

A lady writes to me as follows:—

I think you have been hammering away at "Tommy's" grievances long enough. What say you now to turn your attention to the officers, who, believe me as an officer's wife, have by far the worst of it, only they are ready to accept the inevitable, while "Tommy" growls away till he gets what he wants. . . . .

My dear lady, I am always ready to turn my attention to officers' grievances, especially when their wives bring them personally before me, and I do not think it can fairly be said that the commissioned ranks do not get a fair share of the space which TRUTH can give them. When, however, I am asked, even by an officers' wife, to take up as the first grievance the payment of income tax on officers' salaries, I must point out that I have already given on more than one occasion my reasons for not regarding this liability as a grievance. I cannot see any reason why an Army man should not pay the same taxes as a civilian. Please try another grievance.

Many a grievance of Tommy Atkins has been reported at one time and another from Hamilton Depot. Now the tale is varied by a growl from Mrs. A. It seems that the wives of soldiers at Hamilton get no work in the shape of shirtmaking for the soldiers. There are plenty of women with large families on their hands who would be glad of the work, and, as a good many shillings per week are earned by such work at other places, it ought not to be difficult to make similar arrangements at Hamilton.

Judging by the Army Estimates and the accompanying Memorandum, the next instalment of Army Reform is to be a thing of shreds and patches. So far as the present announcement goes, it entirely falsifies any hopes of a comprehensive scheme of reorganisation which Lord Lansdowne's recent utterances have held out. "Tommy" is to get his shilling at last, but what is given with one hand is taken away with the other by the substitution of a gratuity of a pound a year for the present deferred pay. The new three years' service infantry-men are not even to get this concession, which may probably be taken to indicate the objection to the new term of enlistment entertained in certain high quarters. Nor is the shilling to be given before nineteen years of age—a partial and ineffectual recognition of the principle that the soldier's pay should increase as he improves his professional qualification.

For the rest, additional money to the tune of about two millions a year—the exact figure is almost impossible to calculate owing to the tangled confusion in which the votes are presented—is to be spent in merely adding so many men to cavalry, infantry, and artillery; and the number we shall get for the money within the year will inevitably turn out far below the number promised on paper. Beyond this, the Secretary of State's Memorandum promises nothing. The outcome of all that has been written and said in the last few months on the shortcomings of the Army is simply a demand for so many more millions in cash, so many more men on paper, with a few trifling concessions to the rank and file, obviously designed merely to stimulate recruiting, and bring up the extra men needed to meet the demand. Of any general scheme of reorganisation, of any serious administrative reform, of any attempt to place on an efficient footing the hundreds of thousands of ill-equipped and ill-organised troops constituting our auxiliary forces, there is not a hint. It is a hand-to-mouth proposal, merely designed to patch up and perpetuate a system that has broken down. As to the duty of every Radical to resist an increase of ten per cent. in our Army expenditure on such terms, there can be no question.

On Friday last the *Daily Chronicle* published a full account of a complete revolution in the Field Artillery of the German and French armies, which has been carried out with complete secrecy within a few months. The statements made, whether accurate in every detail or not, can hardly be untrue in the main. Unless they are, a similar revolution must follow in our own Artillery within the next year or two. Not a penny ought to be voted towards increasing our present Artillery until the Government has made a full statement as to what has been done in this direction in France and Germany, and what is intended in England.

It may interest the War Office to know that I have received from many quarters proof of what was said in last week's TRUTH as to the readiness of many retired Army doctors and chaplains to return to duty if the opportunity of doing so were given to them. This applies more especially to retired Army Medical Staff men, and as all of them are already liable to further service, it seems only fair that if the strength of the Staff is to be increased in order to meet the increased strength of the Army such men should at least have an opportunity of rejoining before fresh men are enrolled.

The latest intelligence from Fort Carlisle brings to light a characteristic performance of the Royal Engineers. An electric light installation is now being carried out at that station by the Army Works Department, in the course of which a tunnel has had to be constructed. The Royal Engineer officers who have the work in hand seem to have assumed that they were going to cut through hard rock, but it has turned out that they had a mere shell of rock between the tunnel and the clay overhead, the result being that the roof has twice collapsed. I suppose that the cost of the work will be largely increased in consequence, and although no one has been injured by the slips that have taken place, that is clearly not the fault of the Royal Engineers.

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I commend to the consideration of the War Office the following extract from a private letter received the other day from a man serving with the Buffs on the Indian Frontier :—

> One hundred and thirty time-expired men and forty invalids are just leaving the battalion. They will be in Kent in a few weeks, and *they hope to succeed in making the next recruiting returns of the regiment the lowest on record.*

What is the meaning of this seditious utterance? The recent record of the regiment will, I think, show. In 1895 the Buffs went up to Chitral, and bore a fair share in all the hardships of the campaign, besides doing a lot of heavy work at roadmaking. During 1896 the married women were at Cherat for six months without their husbands. The regiment followed to the same place in 1897, and there experienced a severe epidemic of enteric fever, thirty men, women, and children dying in three months. At the end of July last they went to Malakand, the women being sent off to Murree, and from that time to the end of the campaign they were constantly engaged, first in fighting and afterwards in roadmaking. Finally, after three years on the Frontier in work of this kind, while several other regiments have been sent back to healthy stations, the Buffs have now been selected, for an indefinite period, to form part of the Swat Valley garrison. It is this last straw which has prompted the sentence quoted above, and I think no one can deny that the regiment has cause to complain. It has acquitted itself admirably on all occasions; I believe there has not been a single court-martial during the whole of the three years on the Frontier; and another fact which speaks well for the smartness of the regiment is that during the whole time only four rifles have been lost, one of which has since been recovered.

There was a reference in last week's TRUTH to the charge made against Militiamen for kit marking, which was given as eightpence—fourpence on completion of recruit's drill, and another fourpence when the man comes up for his annual training. I wrote this on the strength of a case where these charges were said to have been levied, but, if the statement was correct, the case would seem to have been exceptional, for I hear from several quarters that the ordinary charge only amounts to twopence, and that it is only levied once. If, therefore, any Militiaman has really been charged as much as eightpence, somebody must have been robbing him.

Here is a little hint for Militia officers when their regiments are next coming up for training. A man who formerly served in a certain battalion of Irish Militia states that on coming up for training last year he was charged a shilling or two for having returned his rifle in a dirty condition at the close of the previous year's training. The reason that his rifle was in this condition was simply that he had been unable to obtain any material to clean it with. A quantity of cleaning material was issued to certain N.C.O.s, but very little of it ever came into the hands of the men. What became of it is not certain, but an inspection of the under-garments of some of the N.C.O.s' families might possibly throw light upon the mystery.

Why should the Malta Sporting and Jockey Club be allowed to employ soldiers as waiters at its race meetings without paying for their services? At the last meeting held by the Club in December, a number of officers' servants and mess waiters went down to assist in serving the lunch and tea, besides a regimental cook to make sandwiches, and a fatigue party to wash up. They had to be on duty from 2.30 until it was time to hurry back and get ready for mess, but up to the present time they have received no pay for this work. It seems that the picket which is in attendance on the course are paid one shilling a day for their services, and that servants and waiters have been paid on some previous occasions. It may be by an oversight that they have not been paid this time, in which case I hope that this mention of the matter will have the desired result.

According to the *Aberdeen Journal* the Duke of Richmond has just refused the Elgin Volunteers a highly eligible site for a range at Fochabers-on-Spey. The corps in question is one of the many that are now without ranges, owing to their old ones having been condemned as unsafe for shooting with the Lee-Metford rifle. The Duke of Richmond's land at Fochabers is a wide stretch of waste, where rifle practice could have been indulged in without inconvenience to the Duke or any other living soul. It seems to have been expected in the neighbourhood that a distinguished ornament of the Party which contains all the patriots, and which is so anxious to improve the Army, would have rejoiced at a chance of putting his land to such good use. But such expectations are generally fallacious.

Among the batch of Tommy's grievances pilloried below will be found a further example of the erratic way in which time-expired men are shipped home from India. Is it not about time that the War Office reorganised the whole system on some definite and regular plan, which will ensure men being brought home in the order of seniority, to say nothing of securing that every man shall be back in England by the time when he is legally entitled to his discharge?

2nd Battalion, Royal Scots, Mandalay.—About 200 time-expired men of this battalion ought by rights to have been brought home by steamers leaving Burma in November last. For some reason, however, only about forty of them were taken, while room was found for the whole of the time-expired men from the Suffolk Regiment—more than double the number of the Royal Scots. The whole of the Scotsmen left England with the battalion in December, 1890, so that they have been a full seven years abroad, and have practically completed the whole of their colour service in India. Many of the Suffolk men, on the other hand, have come out at considerably later dates.

2nd Somersetshire Light Infantry, Aldershot.—Certain companies of this battalion, a wing of which was recently stationed at Alderney, have a grievance in regard to the refuse which was used during that time for keeping pigs for the use of the wing. The pigs seem to have been the property of the regiment, and those that were still alive when the wing left Alderney were sold.

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Out of the proceeds the refuse which had been supplied by the sergeants' mess was paid for, but the company messes received nothing, although apparently they had an equal right to payment, and an equal property in the pigs. If this statement of facts is correct, perhaps some arrangement might be made for putting the account right, as there is nothing which causes "Tommy" more dissatisfaction than to feel that he has been defrauded of his just rights over the mess accounts.

New Barracks, Scarborough.—Some dissatisfaction prevails among the N.C.O.s here at the fact of a set of married quarters being occupied by a corporal and his wife, who are married without leave and not on the strength, while at least one married couple on the strength are living out of barracks. The corporal's wife happens to be the mistress of the infant school, and it is understood that, unless she is allowed to live in barracks, she will not undertake the work. But surely there is nothing in her position which entitles her husband to be favoured at the expense of several men who have a better right to the privilege. Besides that, the fact of married people on the strength having to live out of barracks and draw lodging, fuel, and light allowances, involves an expense to the taxpayer which ought not to be incurred.

3rd Battalion, Manchester Regiment, Ashton-under-Lyne.—Here are two cases which seem to indicate that justice is meted out in a somewhat free and easy fashion at this Depot:—(1) A Militia recruit whose boots were not laced to the entire satisfaction of a certain officer, was brought up for being "improperly dressed on guard-mounting," and was sentenced to seven days' C.B., and to attend every parade in marching order for a week. The parades which this man would have to attend are, running drill, 7 a.m.; defaulters' fatigue, 8.15 to 8.45; parade, 9 to 10 and 11 to 12; defaulters' fatigue, 12.15 to 12.45; parade, 2 to 3; defaulters' fatigue or drill, 3.25 to 4.45; defaulters' roll-call, every half-hour from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. A pretty stiff dose for a little mistake in the matter of lacing a boot. (2) Two men, A and B, were absent from kit inspection. A is groom to the Officer Commanding the district, B ditto to the Adjutant of the 3rd Battalion. B has to go nearly two miles to his master's stables, while the C.O.'s stables are at the barracks. A has 5½ years' service, B 9½ years, and has had no entry for eight years. B was brought up before the Commanding Officer and given five days' C.B.; A's offence passed unnoticed.

9th Lancers, Ladysmith, Natal.—Here is a clothing grievance of a kind which is very common in the Army. The regiment has just received a new issue of cloth trousers. Numbers of the men, having worn out the previous issue, have obtained new trousers at their own expense during the last two or three months. Their new garments having been only worn a few times, they ask to be allowed cash compensation in place of a new issue of further clothing. But this is refused. Many of the men will be transferred to the Reserve before the present stock of garments is worn out, and their clothing could then only be sold at a fraction of its value. There ought to be no difficulty in a case of this kind about allowing the men a cash payment, instead of forcing them to take new clothing which they do not want.

Station Hospital, Barbados.—The Medical Staff Corps at this hospital are very badly off for canteen accommodation. The only European canteen is a mile distant, and none of the M.S.C. detachment are allowed to leave hospital before 5 p.m., so that they are unable to make use of the canteen during the day. Is there any reason why a canteen for the use of the M.S.C. should not be opened inside the hospital boundary, as is done in nearly every other headquarters station?

In reference to the complaints noticed in TRUTH the other day about the feeding of the troops on board the hired transport *Spartan*, I have received the following very interesting memorandum from the Union Steamship Company:—

1. The Union Company have nothing to do with the victualling of the troops. This is entirely in the hands of the Government officials.
2. The Union Company victual only the officers in the saloon, and the company has received very satisfactory and complimentary reports regarding the officers' mess from the officers commanding the troops.
3. The canteen was erected and stocked under the direction of the transport officers.
4. The canteen prices are fixed by the Government regulations.
5. The Union Company do not benefit in any way by the sale of the canteen stores, the profit being handed over to the authorities. Nor do they derive any benefit from the victualling of the troops; nor did the company supply the troop stores.
6. The Union Company have no control over the provision or issue of beer, spirits, &c., to the troops.
7. The bread was made from flour supplied by the Government. The tea is not the Union Company's tea.

These statements entirely exonerate the company from all blame for any shortcomings in the service, and throw the whole blame upon the Government representatives. Some official inquiry ought, therefore, to be made into the allegations noticed in TRUTH of the 10th inst. I am told that when the Union Company have themselves undertaken the victualling of the troops there has been no complaint; and unless the complaints that have been made in regard to the *Spartan* are entirely unfounded, it would seem desirable that the company should take the job in hand in future.

In regard to the question of recruiting for the Navy in the Colonies, I have had an interesting letter from Dr. Alfred Mattei, of Malta, who states that if the opportunity were given them, large numbers of Maltese British subjects would gladly join the Navy at any moment. Having made inquiries on the subject, he has been promised 1,000 young men of good physique, trained in seamanship, as well as in carpentering and other handicrafts. Dr. Mattei is anxious to send a number of young men, from eighteen to twenty-five years of age, to be trained on the *Hibernia*, so as to form a naval reserve at Malta. Surely any such offer ought to be accepted.

A correspondent, who signs his letter with the name of Bateman, but gives no address, has written to inform me that I am entirely in error in what I have said about the case of Lieutenant Allenby. If I am, I shall be delighted to admit as much. He invites me to obtain the opinion of any officers of the ship in which the assault took place—"except the Captain." I do not see how I am to do this, and the exception is a somewhat singular one. If any one personally cognisant of the facts desires to correct any statement that has appeared in TRUTH, his correction will have full consideration and such publicity as it merits. But at present the position is that I have followed information received from witnesses who are in a position to speak as to the facts, and that not a word of contradiction has been offered, except from a gentleman whom I do not know, and who does not profess to be personally acquainted with the circumstances.

An extraordinary statement is made in a Portsmouth paper respecting the Duke of Coburg's recent journey from Malta to Alexandria in the *Surprise*. His Royal Highness is said to have gone on board in the uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet, which necessitated the hoisting of the Jack at the mainmast head, and the saluting of the Admiral by the Fleet, and constituted the Duke for the time being the senior officer on the station, although presumably he was in no way under the orders of the Admiralty. Such a state of things is very irregular, and might possibly prove highly inconvenient, and steps ought to be taken to prevent its recurrence. What would be thought if the Czar, or the Kaiser, or some other foreign potentate holding an honorary colonelcy, were one of these days to appear uninvited at Aldershot, and come on parade in uniform to take command of his regiment?

MAJOR HOWE & CO.—Fashionable BOOTS and SHOES.—16, Coventry-st., W. (also 60, Strand), and City, London. "Note Addresses." (Repairs.)

The Post Office has just issued an order to the Parcel Post depots in London (and presumably to other departments) requiring men who have had more than eighteen days' sick leave during two years to submit to a medical examination as to their fitness for further service. The order is retrospective, and a considerable number of men are threatened with dismissal. As all of them passed a stringent medical examination before their admission to the Service, it is to be hoped they will not be turned off without due consideration of the question whether their impaired health is attributable in any way to their hours and conditions of employment.

There are establishments belonging to the Post Office in which the work is carried on—as was admitted before the Tweedmouth Committee—under most insanitary conditions. As to the hours, there is at least one depot—that at London Bridge—in which the recommendation of the Committee that day duties should begin at 6 a.m. and end at 10 p.m. is still ignored. It would be a simple matter to arrange the day and night shifts in accordance with this recommendation. But the authorities persist in bringing one lot of men on duty at 5 a.m., with the consequence that, as there are no trains, trams, or 'buses available in time, they have to walk to their work, whatever the state of the weather. The men necessarily have to live at a distance from the depot, and it is easy to see that this arrangement, which often causes them to arrive wet through, after a walk of several miles, may be in itself responsible for a good deal of illness.

The following letter, recently addressed to a gentleman in Scotland, is interesting as showing the frank way in which the Post Office authorities admit that the promised universal house-to-house delivery of letters is not yet an accomplished fact:—

General Post-office, Edinburgh,
January 24, 1898.

Sir,—With reference to correspondence addressed by you to the Postmaster of Greenock during last year, and to your letter of the 3rd ultimo addressed to this office, I beg leave to inform you that authority has been given for the extension to Whistlefield of the Coyht Rural Post on six days a week all the year round.

I regret it is not practicable to effect the delivery of your letters at your residence, but the postman will place them in the box which you have erected on the Coyht side of Loch Eck.—I am, sir, your obedient servant, (Signed) H. L. Cresswell, Secretary.

True, the case here referred to is a somewhat exceptional one, the house being in a very remote district, and being only directly approached by a ferry across the loch. But the refusal to deliver letters is not by any means confined to houses in isolated situations, as is shown by many other cases previously given in Truth. Once again I ask, what became of the money which, according to last year's Budget, was to be devoted to securing a delivery of letters at every house in the United Kingdom? The Chancellor of the Exchequer should be interrogated on this point.

I am pleased to see that the editor of *The News* is agitating for a reform of the Post Office regulation, under which he was called upon to pay extra postage for his Christmas number, on the ground that it did not contain a sufficient proportion of "news matter." The regulation is ridiculous in itself, and it is sometimes enforced and sometimes ignored in the most absurd and inconsistent manner, the question whether the matter published comes within the designation of news being evidently left to the capricious judgment of some official who is utterly unqualified for the job. Since I last referred to the matter my Church contemporary has made further attempts to obtain some information as to what is and what is not reckoned as "news," but the authorities at the Post Office prudently decline to be drawn. It is now proposed to bring Parliamentary pressure to bear upon the Postmaster-General for the purpose of getting the regulation—which affects the whole of the Press—abolished or put upon a more satisfactory basis.

In connection with the boarding-out case in the Lincoln Union, which was mentioned in last week's Truth, I have received a long letter in explanation of the action of the Guardians who opposed the removal of the children from their present home at Fiskerton. The gist of it is that the objection to the foster-mother is really traceable to personal animosity, the outcome of a squabble some years ago when the woman took the children from the Church school. How far this is correct I cannot pretend to say, nor is it necessary to discuss the question. My point was that the Guardians incurred a very serious and unusual responsibility in rejecting the recommendation of the committee appointed under the regulations of the Local Government Board to look after the boarded-out children. It is now suggested that the ladies who dealt with the case were prejudiced against the foster-mother; but if this be true, why did the Guardians appoint these biassed judges? If they could not choose a committee upon whose fairness and judgment they could rely, it would have been better to do without any committee at all.

Carnarvon must be a regular hot-bed of Puritanical fanaticism, judging from the furious fulminations the Mayor has evoked, first, by giving a juvenile fancy dress party at which children danced—yes, actually danced; and, secondly, by voting with a minority of the Town Council in favour of allowing a sacred concert to be held on a Sunday in the Guildhall. For these acts the Mayor has been denounced from the pulpit and in the papers as though he had been guilty of the most abominable wickedness. The choicest display of intolerance and self-righteousness is made by a reverend gentleman named Hugh Hughes. I have been favoured with a

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Charing Cross Hospital, W.C., entirely dependent on voluntary support, urgently requires help. Liabilities, £11,000. No investments.

translation of a letter he has written in Welsh to a local journal "to convey his sincerest thanks to the Lord of Heaven and the majority of the Carnarvon Town Council for taking their stand so bravely against allowing Sunday concerts to enter the Guildhall." Observe the gracious way in which Mr. Hughes expresses his approbation of the part the Almighty (he presumes) played in the matter. He goes on to assert that "those who advocate concerts on the Sabbath-day and dances on other days have not a whole heart before God," and to indulge in the the most bitter, bigoted, and uncharitable reflections upon all who disagree with him. Perhaps the most amazing passage in his letter is one on dancing, which I should be sorry to reproduce. It shows how prurient the mind of a Puritan may be.

The Nonconformist Council of a small town in Wales have actually requested the School Board to prohibit the game of football in the playgrounds, because, forsooth, "it is a pastime which incites evil passions and is dangerous to health." The School Board, however, unanimously decided to refuse this silly request, and it is a pity that any public body should be brought into just contempt by indulging in such idiotic cant.

It is unfortunate that the advocacy of temperance in drinking is so often associated with intemperance in speaking. At a conference of teetotallers at Leeds last week a discussion took place upon the question "ought licensed liquor sellers to be office-bearers in Christian Churches," and strong opinions were expressed in favour of the excommunication of all who are engaged in the trade. One gentleman argued that a person who sells intoxicants must be "necessarily debased," and the Rev. J. S. Balmer declared that if he had his way he would keep such persons "not only out of office but out of membership of the Church." It is encouraging to see, however, that for once in a way fanatical utterances of this kind were not allowed to pass without a protest from more broad-minded temperance workers. The most effective rebuke to the extremists came from the Rev. Edward Wilcox, who suggested that "if Christians were more Christ-like" they would not use such language as had been used on that occasion.

Having once or twice referred in TRUTH to the excellent programme of the Edinburgh School of Cookery and Domestic Economy, I have been asked to say a good word for a similar institution at Glasgow. I do not know very much about the Glasgow school, but I see that it is issuing an excellent series of cheap handbooks on domestic economy, including one on laundry work and a book of plain cookery recipes, each published at the price of one penny. I should uncommonly like to see a few similar schools at work in London and other towns this side of the Tweed.

AVOID INFLUENZA.—Bellis's Turtle Soup, more strengthening than any beef fluid. Pint tins, 5/-.—Obtainable Stores, Grocers, Chemists, or direct from T. K. BELLIS, 6, Jeffrey's-square, London.

THE BOOK OF DEATH.

The mouldy old Court had been freed from its taint
By a lavish, though tardy, anointment of paint;
The walls had been whitewashed, the metal-work rubbed,
The barrister's bench had been thoroughly scrubbed;
The solicitors' table recovered with leather,
The moth-eaten curtains renewed altogether;
Whilst the magistrate's chair, inked and broken and stained,
Had been smartly french-polished and wholly re-caned.

To the eye there was nought that seemed tainted or tarnished.
The seats for the public had all been revarnished;
The dock was a picture, the windows a sight,
The ceiling a pure and immaculate white;
In short, the whole building, both outside and in,
Shone as spick and as span as a newly-made pin;
And all who beheld it were glad to agree
That the Court was as spotless as Justice should be.

Then came the first sitting—a case was called on,
And the first of the witnesses stepped up anon.
The usher came forward (his gown was brand-new),
And he did what 'tis usual for ushers to do,
That is, from its place of concealment he took
A sacred, an honoured, a much-revered Book,
And, holding it up, till no eye there could miss it,
Severely requested the witness to kiss it!

But no wonder the witness drew back in disgust,
As near to his nostrils that volume was thrust;
For 'twas foul, it was filthy, its covers were cased
In a sort of a damp oleaginous paste.
No wonder his nose he should quickly avert
From that pestilent centre of microbes and dirt.
No wonder he started, excessively pained,
To see such a volume so grossly profaned.

But in vain his disgust; for no Hebrew was he,
No Scotchman, no Quaker, no Heathen Chince,
His fear of infection was greeted with "Stuff!
The custom's an old one, and that is enough."
So the magistrate bade him his protests to cease,
And to kiss that grimed cover encrusted with grease.
So he kissed it; and passed from the court by and bye
To, probably, suffer; to, possibly, die!

* * * * *

Yet there's very good cause to believe the report
That that germ-reeking book is still kissed in that Court,
More, there's reason to know that, in Courts by the score,
A similar scandal we've still to deplore.
Yes, we paint and we whitewash, we polish and rub,
We scour and we fumigate, launder and scrub;
Yet we cling, notwithstanding, by hook and by crook,
To the nasty old custom of kissing the book.

How long do we mean in this plan to persist?
How long is a death-dealing book to be kissed?
Already a constable down in the West*
Has died of the kiss that upon it he press'd.
Then how many more, let us ask, are to die
Before we this pestilent fetish defy,
And resolve, once for all, 'gainst a course to rebel
That is not only dirty, but deadly as well?

A libel action of a somewhat peculiar character has just been heard at Winchester Assizes, the plaintiff being the Assistant Overseer of the parish of Ryde and the defendants Mr. Ellery, a member of the Ryde Corporation,

* The Medical Officer of the Wareham Rural District Council has reported the death of a police-constable which he has every reason to attribute to the dangerous practice of "kissing the book." The deceased had been seized with acute ulceration of the throat within a few hours of giving evidence at a local Petty Sessions Court.

and Mr. O. G. Vincent, the Town Clerk of Ryde. It appeared that a dispute arose as to whether the plaintiff was entitled under the terms of his appointment to receive certain payments in connection with the registration of voters, and that the defendants sought the opinion of a legal journal upon the subject. The question they put was published, and, though no names were mentioned, it was seen that it applied to the plaintiff, and that it implied —quite erroneously—that he was claiming money to which he had no right. He consequently sued Messrs. Ellery and Vincent for libel, and the result was a verdict in his favour by consent for twenty-five pounds and costs. The Judge and the Bar seem to have been filled with surprise and indignation at the conduct of the defendants—one of them a professional man—in seeking the gratuitous advice of a legal paper when counsel's opinion might have been obtained for a fee; and certainly on this occasion cheap law proved in the long run rather expensive.

Lord William Nevill received, I believe, the maximum punishment assigned by the law to the offence of which he was convicted. There can be no question that he deserved the full penalty, and the learned judge deserves the congratulations which have been offered to him from so many quarters on having dealt with a peer's son as if he had been an ordinary mortal. At the same time, without in any way extenuating Lord William's offence, I must say that some measure of blame for his downfall seems to me to rest on Mr. Spender Clay. It is a noble thing, no doubt, to have perfect confidence in your friend up to a point, but beyond a certain point confidence degenerates into culpable simplicity.

The first essential of the "confidence trick," as played in the humbler ranks of society, is that between gentlemen there must be confidence on both sides. When Lord William Nevill asked his friend to sign a document through a hole in the historical sheet of blotting-paper, he plainly showed that he at any rate had only a limited confidence in his friend, and did not care to trust him with what could hardly have been a very momentous secret. The friend would obviously have been justified in replying that if Lord William had so little confidence in him, he did not feel called upon to repose any more confidence in Lord William. I confess that, had I been on the jury which tried the civil action against Mr. Clay, I should not have acquitted that gentleman of negligence. To sign a document without knowing its contents is *primâ facie* an act of extreme folly; and the flimsy excuse given by Lord William in this case for concealing the contents scarcely makes Mr. Clay's act the wiser. At any rate, it can hardly be a pleasant reflection for that gentleman now that if he had shown a trifle less confidence in his friend he would have saved him from five years' penal servitude—to say nothing of saving Mr. Sam Lewis from the loss of £11,000. After this demonstration of the consequences of undue confidence in a friend, the next confiding youth who signs a document through a hole in a sheet of blotting paper will deserve to bear the consequences himself.

On Saturday last Edwin Whitley was discharged from Shrewsbury Gaol after serving fourteen days' imprisonment in default of paying a fine and costs amounting to £1 0s. 3d. Edwin is a small boy only eleven years of age, and the crime for which he received this punishment at the hands of the Wrexham magistrates was the theft of two pennyworth of coal. I am told that his father, being out of work, was quite unable to pay the heavy fine, and so save him from the gaol. However that may be, it is scandalous in the extreme that this child should have been imprisoned upon such a trumpery charge, and the magistrates who convicted him must be hard-hearted as well as wooden-headed.

Two answers have been offered to the question asked in last week's Truth as to the rights of a tenant who has paid his landlord's income tax, and omitted to deduct it from the next quarter's rent. Unfortunately, the two are directly at variance. Mr. Roger N. Carter, of Manchester, joint author of "A Guide to Income Tax Practice," refers me to that book, where it is laid down, on the strength of several cases, that the tenant has no right to claim repayment under such circumstances, unless he has made application to the landlord for the deduction, or arranged with him that it shall be temporarily waived. On the other hand, Mr. Chapman, of the Income Tax Repayment Agency, confidently expresses the opposite view, on the strength of a judgment of his Honour Judge Collier, from which he sends me extracts. He does not give the place or date of this judgment, nor state the facts, but from the language of the Judge it would seem that his Honour managed somehow to give judgment in favour of a tenant in a case of this kind, notwithstanding the cases cited in Mr. Carter's book. Neither of my correspondents being lawyers, it is possible that a legal intellect may be able to reconcile the apparent contradiction. All that I can myself say is that the point still seems involved in hopeless doubt.

A dispute is going on at Newark respecting the right of the Duke of Newcastle to demand the payment of market tolls from persons selling produce not only in the market-place but in the streets of the town. Lately, a carrier offering a hamper of apples for sale in the street was called upon to pay his Grace the sum of one penny. The carrier refused, and took no notice of the proceedings which were instituted in the local Court of Record, the consequence being that judgment went against him by default, and an execution was last week levied on his goods for the original toll of one penny, damages to the amount of £2, and £3 1s. 7d. for costs. It is unfortunate that the defendant failed to enter an appearance and fight out the case—a course in which he would have had the assistance of many other interested parties—for it would have provided a good opportunity for testing the validity of the claim to levy tolls on sales in the streets, about which there is, to say the least, considerable doubt. The Duke is understood, however, to be as anxious as the towns-people that the matter should be settled, so there ought to be no difficulty in getting another case before the Court.

In my Legal Pillory this week the most astounding exhibition of misapplied lenity is made by Mr. Wall, one of the Dublin Stipendiaries. Within the jurisdiction of this indulgent magistrate the unnatural ruffian who breaks the fifth commandment and the law of the land by thrashing and kicking his mother or his father is simply called upon to find a surety for his future good behaviour. Brutality towards a parent in the northern division of Dublin is, indeed, even cheaper than wife-beating at Blackburn or Horsham, where so much as five or ten shillings is charged for knocking a woman down and then kicking her. The quality of Justices's justice can be very well gauged from a comparison of the penalties imposed in these and other cases on the same side of the following list with those inflicted in the parallel column, for trivial thefts, offences against the Game Laws, and vagrancy by "sleeping out." The committal of the boy Rolph to a reformatory from the West Ham Union Schools appears to be a particularly cruel and senseless proceeding. The excuse was that the Poor-law authorities could not allow the lad to leave the school and earn his own livelihood, as he was anxious and able to do, on account of "the backward state of his education." What muttonheads they must be if they suppose that four years in a reformatory —an institution for the reform of young criminals, not for the instruction of young dunces—will make him a more useful member of society :—

Belper Petty Sessions. Before Mr. J. H. Woolley, Sir J. G. N. Alleyne, Messrs. H. V. Mellor, and J. Smedley. Herbert Jackson, charged with assaulting Annie Morton. As complainant was going home with her sister, defendant used offensive language, and committed what the Bench characterised as an unprovoked assault. It was not the first time he had annoyed her. Fined £1 and costs.

Dublin Northern Divisional Police-court. Before Mr. Wall. Thomas Beatman, labourer, charged with assaulting his mother. He threw her down stairs, caught hold of her by the neck, endeavouring to throttle her, hit her about the head, and while she was on the ground kicked her several times about the body. Ordered to find bail in £10 for his future good behaviour.

Michael Connolly, charged with assaulting his father by knocking him down and kicking him. Ordered to find bail in £5 for his future good behaviour.

Doncaster Police-court. James Grant, convicted of assaulting Thomas Gallagher. Defendant kicked complainant under the chin and on the face and head, inflicting serious injuries. Fined 10s. and costs.

Blackburn Police-court. Before Messrs. G. Green, H. Higson, R. Leeming, and E. Cooper. James Crossland, charged with assaulting his wife, who was living apart from him. He struck her twice in the face, knocked her down, and kicked her in the back. Fined 5s. and costs.

Belper Petty Sessions. Before the same magistrates. Wm. Cowlishaw, charged with setting snares for the purpose of taking game. Fined £1 and costs.

Alresford Petty Sessions. Before Mr. C. Stone, Colonel S. Bates, Colonel Aubertin, and Mr. J. C. Christy. Mary Ann King, an elderly woman, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Barnsley Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. T. Wilkinson, W. Jackson, and other magistrates. Charles Henry Cawthorne, and Frederick Allen, both seventeen years of age, charged with stealing an empty pint glass bottle. One month each.

Stratford Police-court. Fredk. Rolph, aged 13, charged with absconding from the West Ham Workhouse Schools. He "wanted to go to work," and ran away and obtained a situation, but the authorities had him arrested. Sent to a reformatory for four years.

Forfar Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff Lee. David Lowson, labourer, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2 and £1 12s. 6d. costs, or thirty days.

Malvern Police-court. Before Colonel Heywood. Two youths, named Perry and Murray, charged with obstructing a footpath, and with begging. They were exhibiting some crayon drawings on the footpath. Fined 5s. each; in default fourteen days.

Horsham Police-court. Before Mr. R. H. Hurst and Mr. E. I. Bostock. Walter Buckman, charged with assaulting his wife. He struck her with his fist, knocked her down, and kicked her. He subsequently again struck her several times and knocked her down, though she was carrying her baby in her arms. Ordered to pay 10s. costs and bound over.

Douglas (Isle of Man) Police-court. Before the Stipendiary. Robert Kelly Quillian, farmer, charged with cruelty by starving a horse. The animal was found in a terribly emaciated condition. Fined £1 and costs.

Shrewsbury Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Cock, T. Corbett, J. E. Jones, T. P. Deakin, and J. Oliver. Frederick Heath, charged with assaulting Fanny Roberts. Without any provocation defendant struck her across the face with something which he held in his hand, blackening both her eyes and the bridge of her nose. Fined 10s., including costs.

Heanor Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. R. S. W. Sitwell, J. J. A. Woolley, T. N. Turner, J. K. Fletcher, and T. Smith. Wm. Matthews charged with causing a horse to be worked whilst in an unfit state. The animal was in a wretched condition, completely worn out, its body being a mass of raw wounds. Fined £2 10s. and costs.

Stamford Borough Police-court. Before Aldermen Hayes, Betts, and Simpson, Messrs. J. S. Lowell, C. Chapman, and C. Gray. Thomas Mountain, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with coming from land where he had been trespassing in search of game. Fined £3 and costs, or one month.

Swindon Police-court. Before Mr. A. D. Hussey Freke and other magistrates. John Fletcher and Herbert Turner, charged with sleeping out and being without visible means of subsistence, Seven days each.

Maidenhead Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. R. Silver, H. R. Burrows, A. Playne, and E. R. Lovegrove. James Egan, charged with stealing a pair of boots. One month.

Brackley Borough Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. L. Stratton, T. Farmer, and E. Hopcraft. Nathaniel Seckington, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £1 11s., including costs.

Roborough Police-court. Before Mr. R. Risdon and Colonel Briggs. John Martin convicted of poaching. Three months.

East Grinstead Police-court. Before Mr. C. H. Everard. Emily Freeman, an elderly woman, pleaded guilty to sleep-out under a railway arch. Five days.

With reference to a monstrous sentence for the crime of sleeping out at Tunbridge Wells which I pilloried last week, Mr. R. Pelton, J.P., asks me to mention that he was not on the Bench nor in the Court when the case was dealt with. My list of magistrates present was taken from a local newspaper report; and the explanation of the mistake is, I presume, that Mr. Pelton either arrived after the Court opened or went away before the business was finished.

I shall be curious to see whether the local coroner will consider it necessary to hold an inquiry in the case of the recent disastrous fire which has entailed such a serious loss upon Sir Henry Irving. If not, I should strongly advise the inhabitants of Southwark to agitate with all their power. There will be but little use in spending an enormous sum of money to increase the Fire Brigade, both in men and appliances, if the one great necessity of an instant and unfailing supply of water is allowed to be wanting. There is no saying how much of the loss might have been prevented had this not been the case in the present instance; and whilst on this subject I might suggest that the Brigade should carry the necessary implements for turning on the water, and thus do away with avoidable delay in searching for a turncock and waiting for his arrival with his tools.

Recently the police of the Wimborne Division proposed to hold a supper, and subscriptions towards the entertainment were received from the gentry and tradesmen of the town and neighbourhood. The Chief Constable gave his

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Subscriptions greatly needed by The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—6,929 convictions this year; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

sanction, but certain magistrates interfered, and at their instance the supper has been prohibited and the subscriptions returned. The result is much soreness and disappointment, and I have been asked to express my opinion of the conduct of the magistrates. To be perfectly frank, my opinion is that these gentlemen only did what the Chief Constable himself ought to have done. I am sorry that the policemen have been deprived of a supper. But it is clearly undesirable that they should be in the position of receiving favours from some and rebuffs from others of the community among whom they have to discharge their duties, and that would inevitably happen in connection with the promotion of such a subscription list. It is much better that the police should be kept free from the shadow of a suspicion of personal influence or feeling in anything they do or leave undone.

To the long catalogue of things that we get made in Germany, the juvenile criminal must now be added. Young Herman Hagenburg took a situation as page at a Dartford hotel, stole about fifty pounds, and went to Amsterdam, whence he transmitted the bulk of his plunder to his native Düsseldorf. Then he returned to London and the police arrested him. The German Consul was asked to send him back to Germany. "No, thank you," was the effect of the Consul's reply; "the lad's character is so very unsatisfactory that we prefer to leave him in England." Here he accordingly remains, and at the end of the three weeks' imprisonment, which he is now serving, he will be free to repeat his ingenious trick for spoiling the English. So successful an exploit—three weeks' hard labour being, after all, a cheap price to pay for fifty pounds—is almost certain to be emulated by others, and there is, indeed, nothing to prevent the systematic shipment of youthful thieves to this hospitable country. It has long been a dumping ground for pauper aliens, and this case shows that it is equally open to criminal aliens.

Some of the magisterial decisions that are given distinctly encourage the pernicious idea that any cruelty can be legally inflicted in killing or attempting to kill an animal. At Stafford the other day two defendants were charged with ill-treating a dog. One of them was paid threepence to take the dog to the sanitary depôt so that it might be destroyed. Instead of doing so he tied the animal's hind legs to its neck, placed it in the river, and threw stones at it. As he could not kill it in this way he went for the other defendant, who brought a gun and fired three shots at the dog. Next morning the poor brute was found on the bank of the river wounded from the shots, but still alive. The Bench dismissed the summonses, holding that there was no intentional cruelty on the part of the defendants, though "it was a bungling business." No doubt the intention of the defendants was to kill, not to ill-treat, the animal, but surely the end did not justify the barbarous means which they employed.

Fully a year ago a friend laid before me certain particulars relating to what has since become known as "the Grosvenor Hotel Scandal." From what I could see of the case I concluded that it was too big and complicated a matter for a newspaper to deal with effectually, more especially as it was then already in train to be threshed out by an official inquiry. After the trial that has just concluded, I do not regret having come to that decision. Never within my recollection has a more ingenious and comprehensive system of frauds on that long-suffering creature, the British shareholder, been brought to light. Mr. Spokes deserves the thanks of the public for the pertinacity and skill with which he has hunted down the Drew family and its various satellites. Only an instalment of justice, however, has yet been done; and it now rests with the Public Prosecutor to deal with the balance still unsettled.

Once or twice I have heard surprise expressed that while the Gordon Hotels, and one or two other modern establishments and groups, pay their shareholders fairly well, so many old-established London hotels, though apparently doing a good business, have long been unprofitable. The exploits of Mr. Drew and his colleagues go a long way towards explaining the mystery. During the next few weeks many hotel shareholders will probably be seeking anxiously for information as to who all their brother shareholders are, and whether the butcher, the baker, and the wine merchant, not to mention the laundryman, the coal-man, and the picture-dealer, have any place on the list.

How much gold there may be in the soil of Klondike I do not know. But there can be no doubt that the place has already proved a rich gold mine to swindlers of all classes, from the company-promoting fraternity downwards. Some time ago an individual, signing himself W. J. Mitchell, and dating from 150, Leadenhall-street, was offering to people who answered his advertisements a fortnightly circular on "Mining at Klondyke," containing the fullest and latest information respecting the goldfields, together with hints for intending emigrants. For this valuable production, Mitchell asked £1 1s., paid in advance, and I am sorry to say that he got the guinea in more than one case. Needless to say, those who paid the money have heard nothing since of Mr. Mitchell or his promised periodical. The address on his circulars was 150, Leadenhall-street, E.C., "and at Dawson City, N.W.T." His envelopes, however, bore the Brighton post-mark. It seems that he merely occupied an office in Leadenhall-street in conjunction with other tenants, and that they all left about the time of the issue of the circular, leaving nothing behind them but debts. A brass plate remains on the door bearing the inscription, "W. J. Mitchell, Accountant and Auditor. And at Central

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

Chambers, Brighton." If any one can give any further information about Mitchell, it may conduce to the ends of justice.

Here is a still more impudent swindle. A Mr. J. Williamson, of 1, Tuscan-street, London, E., has been advertising in the newspapers in the character of the Secretary to the "Anglo-American Clondyke Goldmining Company." Some of his advertisements have been inserted as far off as the Glasgow papers, no doubt with a view of catching thrifty and ambitious Scotch working men who have got their eye on the Klondike Goldfields. Those who replied to his advertisement received the following circular:—

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN CLONDYKE GOLDMINING CO.,
London

In reply to your application, we communicate you that we will employ you as miner in our Gold Mines in the Youkon district at the rate of £3 wages per day, if you subject yourself to the rules of the company, and sign the enclosed agreement, in case you wish to be employed in our comp. you must subject yourself to be examined through a Phisician who has to examine your health whether you are fit to become a miner in that northern regions, this examination will take place either in the native place of th applicant or in the surrounding next town, the Phisician will be delegated from our comp. to summon you and you have to present yourself to him to investigate your bodily condition, this certificate will be re-examind from our cheef doctor here, no certificate from other phisician as that one delegated from our company will be accepted.

Every miner has to pay in advance one pound for his medical examination. When you are willing to become our miner and you feel yourself healthy and hardy enough for that regions and climate you have to sign the enclosed agreement send to snd in the asked for money to Mr. J. Williamson, Secretary, 1, Tuscan Street, London E. As soon we have accepted all the miners we wanted we will send you a free ticket to Southampton and there you have to join our expedition.

We request you not to molest us with questions about food, voyage etc.

J. Williamson,
Secrtary

This promising-looking document bears the notice, "Money for medical examination to be sent in postal orders registered." The agreement enclosed is a document in a style similar to that of the covering letter. From the grammar, spelling, and printing, it may be inferred that the Anglo-American Clondyke Goldmining Company is made in Germany, and that its printing is done in that country. On inquiry I learn that No. 1, Tuscan-street—a back alley in the Bethnal Green district—has lately been rented by a middle-aged foreigner of Semitic aspect, who is out all day, but appears to sleep on the premises. He has been seen taking in letters, and if the letters have contained fees for medical examination by the company's "Phisician," it is probable that he has also taken in the writers. If so, they had better communicate at once with the police.

It seems that the price of a personal advertisement through Messrs. Klene & Co., of Great Russell-street, has fallen considerably of late. A place in their most recent publication, to which I referred last week, has recently been offered at £2 10s., that being the price of the work in which any one can have a biographical notice by taking one copy. A gentleman who has seen the book in question estimates that it would be dear at 7s. 6d. So I should think.

Owing to certain steps taken by the French Post Office, whose regulations he had violated, Mr. Leigh Sampson, in his character of "Henry Travers," has thought it desirable to depart from No. 20, Rue Leuliette, Boulogne-sur-Mer, leaving no address. It is not very likely under the circumstances that he will seek any fresh residence in French territory. What I anticipated has, therefore, come true. Should any one be favoured with further communications from this impudent rascal, whether offering pictures, novels, or other wares, on any of the pretexts in his extensive repertory, I shall be glad to receive information on the subject.

I am sincerely sorry for those of my readers who have parted with eighteenpence through the accidental appearance in Truth of the Zuilia Company's puzzle advertisement, but I really cannot admit that the chief share in the blame rests on me, as some of the victims seem to think. For instance, an anonymous "Vicar's Daughter" writes:—

I always thought Truth had a reputation for being very reliable, and it was this that made me trusting. I shall now suspect the advice of my best friends. It is no use their being sorry afterwards.

Of course Truth *is* very reliable; but nobody has any business to suppose that I am responsible for all the statements that may be made in my advertising columns. Tradesmen's puffs of their own goods must be taken for what they are worth, wherever they are made. If you read on a hoarding that Prodger's Purple Pills would cure you in half an hour of any complaint that afflicts you, you would not think of blaming the owner of the hoarding if the pills, after trial, did not fulfil your expectations. I am in the position of the proprietor of a hoarding. I do my best to see that the space I let out is not used for nefarious purposes, because if it were so used with my knowledge, I should feel that I was assisting to defraud my readers. But I cannot guarantee that no evil-disposed person will ever get a show there, any more than I can guarantee that no mistake will ever be made in my editorial columns. I have said this a hundred times, and it is not my fault if people do not understand it.

Since writing on the subject last week, I have had (by deputy) an interview with the "Zuilia Company." He seems to be a cool hand, and he is doing a roaring trade. He stocks a large quantity of spirits of wine; scents it with certain essences; bottles it; and sends it out to those who compete for his prizes. He manufactures a tooth-powder by similar primitive processes, and sends that out at the same time. He has a large number of hands working at these jobs as hard as they can, and as the

Bexhill-on-Sea.—The Mentone of England.—The Sackville Hotel, an ideal winter and spring residence. Special inclusive terms till Easter. For tariff, &c., apply to Manager.

The Famed "Adelphi" Turtle forwarded from the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, to all parts of the country. Per quart jar, 18s.; per pint jar, 9s. 6d., carriage paid. *Speciality for Invalids.*

gross profit on every order must be over 50 per cent., he is clearly doing a good business. He talks about distributing the £50 promised when the competition is closed. He says that his game is perfectly legal, and he chuckles at the thought. Well he may.

A letter has been published in the *Hampshire Herald* which puts a different complexion on the story of the finding of a doctor's pocket-book by a drayman, to which reference was made in last week's Truth. The material point of the correction is that the pocket-book contained no notification that a reward would be given for its return, and that the owner was unaware, when forwarding the postage, what was the social status of the person who had returned his property. The editor of the *Hampshire Herald* notes that "some one seems to have communicated the original story to Truth," and remarks that when I see the explanation I may be inclined to lecture some one else. Yes. I am inclined to lecture those who published the story without verifying the facts, and then took the trouble to invite my opinion on it. No one, I am sure, would be more surprised than my Hampshire contemporary if I were to say who took the latter step.

I see it stated that the directors of the Brighton line have decided that the normal week of their staff shall be reduced to six days, and Sunday work paid for extra. If this is true, it is a great step in advance, and the Brighton directors are entitled to great credit for it. As I have lately been preaching the doctrine that the employees of the railway companies are entitled to some share in the high profits at present being realised, I hope that I also am entitled to a little credit for the result.

A trooper in the Natal Mounted Police Field Force thinks it will be a useful warning to others if I mention his experiences of that Corps. I think so, too. He joined because the pay was so good. It certainly looked good on paper, but at the end of the first month the gilt was taken off the gingerbread. Out of the £9 6s. nominally due to him for the month, no less than £8 3s. 6d. was swallowed up by the following stoppages:—Messing, at 2s. 6d. per diem, £3 15s.; forage, at 1s. per diem, £1 10s.; clothing and equipment account, £2; superannuation fund, 5s. 6d.; library fund, 1s.; game fund, 1s.; remount fund, 4s. 6d.; horse shod, 4s. 6d.; tombstones, 2s. My correspondent, unfortunately, omits to explain the precise meaning of the last particularly cheerful item. In addition to all these charges, he had had to spend about £1 at the canteen for cleaning gear, &c., so that he was left with the magnificent sum of half-a-crown as remuneration for a month's work. Sundry other grievances in connection with the service are enumerated in the letter I have received, one being that the contribution to the superannuation fund, though supposed to be optional, is practically obligatory. But I imagine that the foregoing list of stoppages will, in itself, suffice as a caution to young men who contemplate enlisting in the N.M.P.F.F.

For *Truth*, and all other Newspapers, Magazines, and Periodicals, send your Subscriptions to Wm. Dawson & Sons, Ltd., Cannon House, Bream's-bldngs., London. (Estab. 1809.) Catalogue gratis.

GOOD NEWS FOR BAD SPEAKERS.

Instead of journeying into Cornwall and wearing out his voice with speech-making, Mr. F. J. Horniman, M.P. for Penrhyn and Falmouth, committed his remarks to a phonograph cylinder and sent it down west in charge of his secretary, who unwound the speech every night in various parts of the constituency with unmeasured success.—*The Star.*

An excellent suggestion this!
  An innovation truly striking!
Which Members and Constituents
  Should look upon with equal liking.
For both, 'twould seem, are bound to score
  In ways too numerous to mention
By thus encouraging the use
  Of Mr. Edison's invention.

As 'tis, a Member often finds,
  When his constituents addressing,
That he is fated to pass through
  An ordeal more or less distressing.
How useful then, when he's aware
  His popularity 's grown speckled,
For him to send as substitute
  A cylinder that can't be heckled!

A cylinder which glibly spouts
  The views that he could only stammer;
A cylinder that makes no slips,
  Through nervousness, in sense or grammar.
A cylinder still bold as brass,
  Though all it says may be refuted;
And which still calmly grinds away
  However hotly it is hooted.

Nor need constituents complain
  Or show a jealousy uncivil
Of what might often be the means
  Of sparing them from spells of drivel.
For even members little skilled
  In public speech and declamation
Might speak into a Phonograph
  A really passable oration.

Besides, in case a phonogram
  Should prove in rhetoric unruly,
Or seem determined to prolong
  Its observations too unduly,
How very easy it would be
  Into a bucket, say, to pop it,
Or by the pressing of a spring
  To quickly and completely stop it.

Then "*Vive* the Phonograph!" say we,
  And may it soon, in this or that form,
Be heard in place of those who now
  Break down on many a public platform.
Welcome the Phonograph, say we,
  For surely its desired appearance
Must serve to check unbridled rant
  And *vivâ voce* incoherence!

Speaking frankly, I do not think that the Opposition have scored by the debate on the Address. They voted against the Amendment affirming Home Rule, on the score that the adjective "independent," as applied to the Irish Parliament, implied that it was not to be subordinate to the Imperial Parliament, although it was pointed out again and again that it meant nothing more than that Ireland should be independent of our control on Irish matters that had been delegated it. If they did not like the adjective, as capable of a wider interpretation, they would have done better to withdraw without voting. As matters stand, it is impossible to say whether the Liberal Party is for or against such a general measure of Home Rule as was proposed in Mr. Gladstone's Bills.

On the Indian Frontier debate there was a good deal too much of the pot and kettle between the two Front Benches in regard to the Forward policy. I disagreed with a good deal in Mr. Curzon's speech, but it was far and away the best speech in the debate. He laid down clearly the policy that had actuated the Government, and stated the grounds on which it had been based.

The Opposition, instead of challenging the policy, carped rather at the manner in which it had been carried out. In fact, our respected leaders are so overwhelmed with the sense of responsibility that they appear to find themselves unable to assume a definite position on anything. Like most Radicals, I care very little who made the road to Chitral; I think the policy of the Government in regard to the hill tribes entirely wrong; and I am anxious to know whether they intend to send another expedition to convert the hill men into enemies; and this last is precisely what no one can discover from the debate.

The *Manchester Guardian* published last week a letter from its special correspondent in Athens which confirms in the most significant way the secret history of the late war given a few weeks back in TRUTH. After remarking that, for the last five-and-thirty years, Greece has enjoyed the most democratic Government in Europe, but has at the same time been saddled with a Sovereign and a Court who are the mere puppets of certain Great Powers, and ready instruments of foreign intrigue, he makes the following reference to the Turkish war:—

> Never was the heavy hand of the Concert more apparent than during the late war and the negotiations which have sprung from it. The Concert and the King are committed to respect the integrity of Turkey; it is this anomaly which is at the root of all the questions that are vexing Greece to-day. Was the Army unfit to take the field? The King is at its head on Palmerston's terms, and his view was that Greece had no need of a field force, and might be content with troops efficient enough to act as police. Are there still mysteries connected with the war? Why was there no advance across the Thessalian frontier; why was the army of Epirus so criminally inactive; and why those inexplicable retreats? Again it is Europe which must give the answer. The Concert was busy "localising the conflagration," so Mr. Curzon has told us, and the King was the agent of the Concert in Athens. It was the Court which countermanded the orders of the Ministry and kept the Fleet idle. I have talked with journalists and deputies regarding these matters. Public opinion is all but unanimous. There was some arrangement between the Concert, the Greek Court, and the Sultan. But if Russia was the intermediary, then it is more probable that the Queen of Greece was responsible, for the King is rather English than Russian in his sympathies. It is almost certain that the Turk should have stopped at Larissa. Much becomes comprehensible on this supposition. Grumkopf Pasha left the army, whose movements he had directed, after entering Larissa. The Turks made no effort to pursue their advantage, and delayed their advance for a week. *I have also seen the originals of telegrams of Delyannis and Sapounzaki, the Prince's chief of staff, which prove that the Greek Government had for some days no intention of defending Volo or Velestino, and only sent Smolenski to the latter position on the entreaty of certain Thessalian deputies.* Had not Delyannis' Government fallen, it is probable that the war would have ended sooner.

When a nation, after being defeated in a war, cries "*Nous sommes trahis!*" the onlooker is naturally disposed to laugh at it. All the evidence, however, up to the present time points to the conclusion that the Greeks were betrayed, and that the King and the Court were the traitors. Athens at the present time is in a ferment over the charges of treachery, intrigue, and corruption which are bandied about from one side to another. The charge against Port Ensign Kokkoris is only one incident out of many, but it is almost enough in itself to justify the allegations of Court treachery. Kokkoris, in a telegram to the Minister of Marine, accused the officer in command of betraying the Fleet and disobeying orders. He justified his allegation at the trial, and he has been acquitted. That is to say, the court-martial has found that the Commodore did disobey the orders of the Minister. Prince George appeared at the trial as a witness for the prosecution. He gave his reasons why it was decided to avoid an encounter with the Turkish fleet, but they are reasons which avail very little, one of them being that the Greeks had so little ammunition that it would have been exhausted in one engagement—a pretty confession from one of the rulers of the navy. Prince George also pleaded that the Commodore had received contradictory instructions from the Minister at Athens. Very possibly. The whole case against the Court is that contradictory orders were given—one set for the benefit of the public, the other set for the private guidance of the officers in command. It will be interesting to see what happens next, after the court-martial which acquitted Kokkoris has virtually found somebody in the background to have been guilty of treachery.

The West African dispute is not one in regard to which any two sane civilised countries would go to war. We, Germany, and France have colonies in and about the Bight of Benin. Up to the ninth parallel we have delimited their frontiers. At about the thirteenth parallel we recognise that the hinterland of the French Mediterranean possessions commences. The present quarrel is in regard to what is the line of longitude from the ninth to the thirteenth parallel, which separates the English and French spheres of influence. It has been agreed that a line shall be drawn, but this has never been done, and the two countries are seeking to come to an agreement about it. In the meanwhile, we and the French have made treaties with various chiefs professing to rule in the disputed territory, and each side has been seeking to strengthen its position by "effective occupation."

It is a matter of very little practical importance where the line of demarcation shall be drawn. But it is most desirable that it be drawn as soon as possible. If we and the French cannot agree, then the matter should be referred to arbitration. Questions in regard to title often arise between man and man in the most civilised countries, and are often complicated enough. In Central Africa, the geography of which is not known, and where rival chiefs claim the right to sell titles, such questions are far more complicated.

We have no clear knowledge of the incident that has been made the most of by Mr. Chamberlain in order to strengthen his hands against Lord Salisbury. When, therefore, Mr. Chamberlain talks of an invasion of British territory, it is obvious that he is endeavouring to stir up passions which he ought to be the first to deprecate. He seems desirous to force us into war with France; and here lies the real danger of the situation.

SCRUTATOR.

REFERENDUM NO REMEDY.

THE Newcastle Programme was faulty because it proposed more reforms than it was possible to carry in one Parliament. But it by no means follows that a Party should eschew all specific declarations in regard to reforms, because such a declaration may be termed a programme. The present position is this: The Liberals had a majority in the last Parliament. The Bills that they sent up to the Lords were either emasculated or thrown out. Instead of appealing to the country they continued in office, and, as Mr. Asquith aptly said, ploughed the sands of the sea-shore, in order to afford an object-lesson on the impossibility of the Liberal Party being able to do anything, so long as the Lords retain their present powers. I am not entirely in agreement with Lord Rosebery on foreign affairs, but unquestionably he was the one Minister who came forward with a proposal that the election should turn on the limitation of the power of the Lords. His error was, as it seemed to me, that he did not make it clear how he would effect this limitation if the Lords opposed it. Then came the election. No specific proposal was submitted to the constituencies. Naturally the majority of electors held that, if a Liberal majority were again returned, all that would ensue would be another object-lesson in ploughing the sands. The Liberal party was therefore defeated, and deservedly defeated, hip and thigh. We are now told that it is alike a crime and a fault on the part of Liberals to assert that the next election ought to turn on such Parliamentary reform as will enable their Party, if it secures a majority, to act as well as talk. The rank and file are almost unanimous that the election should be fought on this issue. The opposition comes exclusively from Liberal officialdom. Why is this? Because, whereas some of the gentlemen who held office in the last Liberal Government individually agree with the rank and file, collectively they do not. They all desire to hold together. Therefore, they are averse to any declaration which would lead to an open split amongst them. The pace, consequently, has to be that of the slowest, and this inaction has to be elevated into a principle of tactics.

Many Radicals are for the abolition of the Lords, pure and simple. But they are practical. What they politically object to is, that an hereditary Assembly of Conservatives, composed of Peers of long descent, ennobled brewers, bankers, and others, who have bought their right to be Peers, shall reduce the popular branch of the Legislature to impotence whenever the country returns as its representatives a majority of Liberals. Consequently they demand as an irreducible minimum, that the existing veto of the Lords shall be reduced to a suspensory veto, and that, if the Lords proved recalcitrant, the means to overcome their resistance provided by the Constitution shall be used to give legislative effect to the measure. To say that any one who is in favour of this is a "programme spinner," and therefore an unpractical dolt, is nonsense. As well might it be said that those were programme-spinners who were in favour of Free Trade, or of any of the other great measures of reform which have been carried in the past—when the Lords had not yet become a mere Tory club—by the Liberal Party. Not one of these reforms would ever have been carried, had it not been by the pressure of the Party outside Parliament on Liberal officialdom.

Mr. Asquith, in a speech last week, admitted that the Liberals would be powerless were they once again in office, and urged them to clearly make up their minds upon what lines a means of escape is to be found for so intolerable a state of things. They have made up their minds. It is by limiting the Lords to a suspensory veto. But Mr. Asquith suggested an alternative method. This was the referendum, and he instanced Switzerland. The Swiss have a written Constitution, and any change in the Constitution has to be submitted directly to the electors. But Mr. Asquith said that he hoped that we should never establish a distinction between constitutional and ordinary legislation: consequently, in this he would not have us follow the example of the Swiss. They have further a plan of referring anything to a direct popular vote, if a certain number of cantons demand it. This, I apprehend, is the referendum that Mr. Asquith would suggest as a means of escape from the thraldom of the Lords. But would it effect that object? The Lords, as I have said, either throw out or emasculate Liberal Bills, with the result that a Liberal Administration is absolutely powerless to give effect to its views, no matter what may be its majority in the Commons. Are we to have a direct appeal to the country whenever they do either? If so, we should pass our existence in organising and voting on referendums. In Switzerland they have no House of Lords to render it necessary that the Radical section of the electors should have to fall back on a referendum, in order to have their way after the country has elected representatives to carry out a suggested reform in matters of ordinary legislation; and, as a matter of fact, the referendum in matters of ordinary legislation only takes place on State purchase of railroads and other matters of this kind. The plan would be unworkable with us. It assumes, moreover, that the hereditary branch of the Legislature is co-equal with the representative branch, which has never yet been asserted even by the Tories. I am for every measure becoming law which has been passed by the House of Commons in two successive sessions. But, rather than this scheme of a referendum, I should be for two successive Parliaments being substituted for two sessions, with triennial instead of septennial Parliaments.

I have myself a weakness for Mr. Asquith. He is a good and effective speaker, and he is not wanting in backbone. But this suggestion of a referendum is a sad falling off from his previous utterances in regard to the Lords. When the House of Commons was sadly ploughing the sands of the sea, he was all for depriving the Lords of their present legislative powers by the simple and practical expedient of a Suspensory Veto; indeed, this was the plea for the ploughing. Probably he is still himself of the same mind. It may be, therefore,

taken that he finds that some of his late colleagues are not in unison with him. Hence this strange referendum suggestion, and hence his advice to us to meditate instead of acting. It is the old story. In order to retain in our ranks a few gentlemen of Whig proclivities, the declared and almost unanimous opinions of the Party are to be ignored, and we are called upon once more to drift to perdition with Hamlet at the wheel. For my part, nothing would please me more than the loss of these Whigs. They are a millstone about our necks; nay, worse, for our policy is to be decided by the millstone instead of by the man who bears this burthen. He who loses his liberty loses half his virtue, said some Greek author. It may equally be said that he who has been in a Liberal Administration loses half his Liberalism. He cannot free his mind from the conviction that the first aim of his Party should be to put him back in office. All determination, all grit, seems to have been taken out of him. The cold shade of Opposition paralyses him. He gasps for the sun of office as a fish gasps for water when on dry land. Officialdom never yet has forgiven Mr. Gladstone for his resolve to stand or fall by Home Rule. His sin—his unpardonable sin—was that, believing as he did that this measure would be alike beneficial to the Empire and to Ireland, he preferred to incur the risk of defeat rather than to shelve the issue. *Victrix causa Diis placuit, sed victa Catoni* was the epitaph of the Roman poet on Cato; but every man with an official mind regards Cato as a fool.

FRESH LIGHT ON THE FRONTIER FIASCO.

The great, wise, and eminent occupants of the two Front Benches have now debated, with all the fulness which the importance of the subject demands, their respective responsibilities in regard to the making of a military road to Chitral. Each side has settled, entirely to its own satisfaction, that the chief share of the responsibility, both for the road-making and for the outbreak of the tribes, rests with the other. Whether the public at large is as much interested in the issue as are the aforesaid great, wise, and eminent personages, I am not sure. It seems to me that infinitely more importance attaches to the questions (1) what are the reasons for the failure of the Indian Government to grapple successfully with the recent outbreak, and (2) what is to be the next step in our dealings with the tribes?

During the last fortnight I have had the advantage of discussing these questions with men fresh from the frontier and from Simla, who are in a position to tell much that the public does not know, both in regard to our political relations with the tribes, and with regard to the campaign of last autumn. In some respects these conversations have been confidential, and I am not, therefore, at liberty to repeat everything that I have heard. But enough remains to enable me to throw a good deal of additional light upon the two questions stated above.

Let us look, first, at the political side of the situation. Up to a point, the movement among the Afridis and the Orakzais is no doubt accurately described in the Queen's Speech as an "organised outbreak of fanaticism." It was fanaticism in the sense that it was inspired by the Mullahs. I take it that only a few Britons at home know precisely what a Mullah is—certainly I did not myself until a fortnight ago. The Mullahs are virtually the Mahommedan priests of this region. They are a distinct caste, the office of Mullah descending from father to son—not necessarily to the eldest son, but to whichever of his male offspring the parent Mullah may select. The Mullahs are a degree better educated than the ordinary tribesmen, and exercise over them an enormous influence. The tribes are all Moslems of a most fanatical type, and they are ready to believe everything that a Mullah tells them, and to do anything that a Mullah may, in his official capacity, direct. During last summer the Mullahs along the Afghan frontier suddenly became inflamed with intense hostility to the British power. They went about preaching that the British were about to annex the entire hill country, and to force the Christian religion upon the tribesmen; and they incited these hardy warriors to a holy war in defence of their religion and liberty. The individual who at one time figured conspicuously in the British Press as "the Mad Mullah" specially distinguished himself; and eventually went on the war path to attack the outposts on the road between Peshawur and Chitral. His progress is compared to that of a snowball or an avalanche, every day as he marched forward bringing hundreds of fresh followers to his standard. By the early part of September the hill country along the Afghan frontier, from the Khaiber to Chitral, was in a blaze of hostility to the British. All this, of course, may be accurately described as "fanaticism," but the question remains behind, what was the cause of this fanatical outbreak? It cannot, I think be doubted, that the vexed question of the road through the Swat Valley was at the bottom of it. The road and the outposts, at any rate, clearly furnished the Mullahs with a striking object lesson for an appeal to the tribes to rise in defence of their homes and religion.

While this outbreak was simmering, what was the Indian Government doing? The truth seems to be that the Government was absolutely in the dark as to what was going on, and here we come to the beginning of the long chapter of mismanagement and blundering. All along the frontier are stationed Political Officers, who ought to have been closely in touch with the tribes, and to have reported the movement to Simla before it had attained serious proportions. How far this was from being done may be judged from one incident. Major Deane, the Political Officer for Dir, Swat, and Chitral, was in the very heart of the disturbed district. Immediately before the British outposts were actually threatened, he had written to the Government telling them that the Mullah was advancing, and even intimating that the Khan of Dir thought that steps should be taken to stop him; but at the same time he, Major Deane, stated that he did not think it necessary to take any notice of the movement. Yet the actual fact was that, before this despatch reached Simla, Major Deane had to telegraph that the Mullah was advancing on one of the forts with a force

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of 500 men, and that a regiment should be hurried up at once to meet him. This telegram actually reached Simla *before* the despatch in which Major Deane committed himself to the opinion that the movements of the Mullah were not deserving of notice.

On the receipt of Major Deane's telegram at Simla, the Viceroy's Council was hurriedly summoned, and met within two or three hours. The Commander-in-Chief was present, and gave his opinion as to the measures necessary, and instructions were at once telegraphed for a regiment to be sent up from Rawalpindi. So hurried was the movement, that the regiment in question—I forget its name for the moment—having only received its orders about noon, was on the march the same evening—a circumstance which the *Pioneer* has noted as probably without record in military history. The regiment arrived on the scene in time to save the post which was immediately threatened, but of course too late to overawe the tribesmen, or to avert the general aggressive movement which had now begun all along the frontier. News soon reached Simla of movements in other directions, and regiment after regiment was moved up as the call came, until at last we had in the field the vast army that was operating in the latter part of the autumn.

It will be seen from this that at the time when we began to mobilise our forces, the full extent of the task before them was not in the least appreciated at Simla. From lack of proper information, no opportunity was given of forming a comprehensive and well-considered plan of operations; or even of considering whether it might not be advisable to adopt merely defensive tactics until the winter was over. All was hurry and confusion. The operations were begun under the stress of a serious emergency, and the Government became involved in the conflict without any clear conception of the magnitude to which it would grow. If this excuses in some degree the failure of the military authorities, they are only exonerated at the expense of the political officers. Major Deane, in particular, seems to have been completely at sea. Either he was entirely misinformed as to what was going on in his district, or he utterly misunderstood the significance of his information. Had he formed and telegraphed to Simla a just estimate of the situation at the time when he informed the Government by letter that the Khan of Dir advised that resistance should be at once offered to the Mullah, and when he deprecated on his own account any such step being taken, the probability is that the rising would have been nipped in the bud, and the whole campaign avoided. Sir Richard Udny has already been severely blamed in the Indian Press for his share in the events immediately attending the outbreak, and the censure seems to have been well deserved. Sir Richard Udny has been on the Punjab Frontier for about twenty years, and is the most trusted agent on the spot. He delimited the Afghan Frontier from the neighbourhood of the Mahmund country to the Hindu Kush. He ought to know every chief and Mullah in the district, and to have been fully informed of the feelings and intentions of the tribes in time to advise the Government of the mischief that was brewing. Whether from ignorance of the situation, or from error of judgment, he recalled the Captain of the Khaiberi Rifles just on the eve of the outbreak, leaving the native levies which garrison the Khaiber forts to face their insurgent fellow-countrymen without a white officer to encourage or direct them. The fall of Ali Musjid and the Khaiber outposts has been openly attributed to Sir Richard Udny's lack of knowledge or judgment, and if this reproach is just, as it seems to be, it carries with it a heavy share of responsibility for the early successes of the Afridis, the consequent growth of the rising, and the difficulty of making headway against it at the outset.

So far are the Indian Government from showing any appreciation of these facts, that Sir Richard Udny was subsequently appointed political officer with the Tirah Field Force, and he has recently been selected for special honour by being publicly invested with the Star of India at the chapter held by the Viceroy on January 14. On the other hand, while Sir Richard Udny was practically placed in control of our relations with the tribes during the campaign, Colonel Warburton, whose knowledge of the Frontier is unique, and whose services are universally acknowledged, was recalled. Every Anglo-Indian to whom I have spoken on this subject testifies to the immense value of Colonel Warburton's services on the Frontier. He has the advantage of being the son of an Afghan mother, and for that reason holds a position in the eyes of the tribesmen which no other Englishman can possibly occupy. He is regarded by them as a friend and a kinsman; he is personally familiar with all the principal chiefs, and with the habits and ideas of the people. I hear from an officer who was with the Tirah Force during the last disastrous march down the Bara Valley, of which so much has been heard, that it was mainly owing to Colonel Warburton's influence that the force was not completely annihilated. Sir Richard Udny had at this time temporarily left the scene, and Colonel Warburton had taken his place. It may be remembered that in an extract from the *Times of India* commenting upon this march, which was quoted in TRUTH of January 27, the following passage occurred:—

> Thus, in the first march from Bagh to Dwatoi, it took one division three days to cover the distance, which is only seven miles, and this without any opposition from the enemy, *from whom Colonel Warburton had happily bought immunity.*

The phrase "bought immunity" does not seem to mean, as the reader might perhaps suppose, that the tribes were bought off with cash, but that Colonel Warburton was able to persuade them into a temporary cessation of hostilities by the use of his influence and by making certain terms. I believe that he promised that, if the force were unmolested during its march, no damage should be done to the trees and property of the tribes, and his assurance to that effect was at once accepted. Such an incident shows conclusively the value of the services which Colonel Warburton might have rendered in dealing with the tribes, had the Indian Government thought fit to make more use of his services.

Let us now pass for a moment to the errors of the military authorities. From conversation with officers who have been through the campaign, I learn beyond question that what has been said in the Indian Press and in TRUTH in criticism of the plan of operations and the competency of the staff is universally endorsed by those who best

know the facts. I do not find, however, so general a disposition to acquit Sir William Lockhart of all blame as has hitherto been supposed. To begin with, although the staff appointments were virtually made from Simla before Sir William Lockhart arrived to take the command, I understand that he was personally responsible for the appointment of the Chief of the Staff, General Nicholson. General Nicholson is undoubtedly a distinguished and competent officer in his own line, but that he failed—chiefly through faults of manner and temper—as Chief of the Staff is the universal opinion. It is worth while to repeat in this connection a passage from the valuable letter from an officer which appeared in Truth of February 3:—

> General Lockhart unfortunately fell into bad health almost from the start, and the campaign was practically run by others whose gifts of tact and temper failed to shine out brightly when "the band began to play." The method of conveying orders to the numerous Generals was not particularly happy. Consequently a cloud of sulkiness spread over the higher ranks of the force almost before we had crossed the border, and dwelt over them until after the closing skedaddle, late in December, down the Bara Pass into the Peshawur Valley. . . .

I eliminated from this letter a passage referring specially to General Nicholson, but in view of the corroborative evidence from other quarters that I have since received, the interests of truth and fairness to the rest of the Staff seem to require the statement that the Chief of the Staff was the officer here particularly pointed at. Again, the inexplicable abandonment of the Dargai heights, after they had been captured without difficulty, and almost without loss, on October 18, is attributed by my military informants entirely to General Lockhart. If this be correct, it carries with it the responsibility for one of the most fatal errors committed in the course of the campaign. Some blame has been attributed to the late General Yeatman Biggs in connection with this and other incidents. In justice to the memory of General Biggs, it ought to be known that he had been in such bad health as almost to be unfit for duty for at least a week before the two battles at Dargai. On October 20, the day of the historical second attack on the Dargai heights, the General was actually taken on to the field in bed, with an awning stretched over him. Severe criticism cannot be justly levelled at an officer in this condition, and whatever blame is imputed to him must react, to a certain extent, upon the General commanding the force, who allowed a subordinate to remain at his post while in such a condition. There seems good reason to believe that, if General Biggs had been placed on the sick list when he first became unfit for duty, not only might many mistakes have been avoided, but the General's life might possibly have been saved.

A great deal of unfavourable remark has also been made in regard to certain incidents which occurred in the week or two succeeding the fight at Dargai, and here again the General and the Staff seem to have been to blame. Let me refer for a moment to the following passage from the *Pioneer*:—

> The block of transport on the Chagru Kotal, which was the result of the (Dargai) heights being left open to the enemy, had serious consequences for the time being, as many animals perished, and their attendants suffered terribly. No General Officer or responsible Staff Officer on the spot grasped the position; had they done so, and acted with decision, the transport would have been turned back, the baggage parked at Shenowrie, and the chaotic state of affairs on the road over the Kotal would have been avoided. Again, on the concentration of the troops at Korappa, it was not until some thirty-five casualties had occurred on one day from the firing into foraging parties and into camp at night that orders were issued for the neighbouring heights to be picqueted. When this was done the casualties practically stopped, at least those due to sniping into camp. As regards attacks upon convoys, we need only instance one: that which took place near the Arhanga Pass owing to some one in authority not having seen that the convoy would most certainly be unable to reach its destination before nightfall. *On this occasion some* 12,000 *or* 13,000 *rounds of Lee-Metford ammunition were lost*—a rare windfall for the enemy, who have been flush of cartridges ever since, and have used them with great effect.

With regard to the casualties from sniping at Korappa here described, there can be no question that the blame rests at headquarters. The simple remedy which was ultimately adopted had suggested itself to most of the officers in camp several days before the General or the Chief of the Staff thought fit to adopt it. The same thing may be said in regard to the attacks upon the convoys, which, I am told, were entirely due to their being allowed to be moving after dark. There was a serious night attack on the baggage convoy on October 31. No warning, however, was taken from this, and precisely the same thing was repeated on the following night, which I take to be identical with the attack in the Arhanga Pass mentioned in the *Pioneer*. On this occasion not only were eleven boxes of ammunition and five rifles captured by the enemy, but five men were killed, and a large number of mules lost, and even the treasure chest was captured. How much money was lost with it nobody appears to know. The Government has succeeded in keeping that dark. Those who have been behind the scenes attribute the principal blame for this disaster entirely to General Nicholson, who failed to give the necessary orders after the risks which were being run had been demonstrated. I understand that General Yeatman Biggs had himself gone to General Nicholson to make representations on this subject. After the disaster of November 1, an order forbidding convoys to be on the march after dark was issued; that is to say, after the steed had been stolen, the stable door was carefully locked. Whether it happened at Korappa or not, I do not know, but I am told that on one occasion, when Gurkha scouts were sent out, they were actually fired on by the brigade—a stupid blunder entirely attributable to defective Staff work and the absence of proper information as to what was being done. One might go on indefinitely multiplying little items of this kind, each small in itself, but each pointing the same moral of the incompetence of the Staff. And who was responsible for the incompetence of the Staff? Simla, and Simla only. These blunders in the field are the direct and natural consequences of the state of things recently described by one of my correspondents, under which the qualification for Staff employment in India is not a P.S.C., but an attractive lady relative at headquarters.

From what has been said above, and on previous occasions in Truth, it is easy to see the chief requirements of the present situation on the Frontier. Many of my Anglo-Indian friends are strongly of opinion that the Afridis must be "licked" before anything else is done. On the other hand, I hear, from very good authorities, political as well as military, that most of the tribes have already had enough of it. At the very moment of going to press there is news in the papers of

the submission of one outstanding tribe, and the probable submission of others. A very competent authority told me that the Afridis generally have suffered quite as heavily as ourselves, and that they know by this time that they cannot resist us if we renew operations seriously in the spring. He excepts two tribes, the Zakka Khel and one other. He believes that when these two have been worsted, the rest of the tribes will submit, if we offer them fair and reasonable terms, and if they are assured that their virtual independence and their religion are not threatened. A significant point is that the Mullahs have disappeared. They are believed to have taken refuge in Afghanistan. This shows that they think the game is up, and it must do much to take the fight out of their followers. It would be a master-stroke of policy, if the Ameer of Afghanistan could be induced to capture these incendiaries, and hand them over to us, on the understanding that they shall be properly treated. If we could get them into our power, our object should be, not to make scape-goats of them, but to persuade them, through the agency of their co-religionists in India, that the religious institutions of the Afridis, at any rate, have nothing to fear from us. It is always a good thing to have the Church on your side. The difficulty, however, I fear, is that if the Ameer were asked to try and catch the Mullahs for us, he might find this a tempting opportunity to negotiate a deal, and suggest that we should give up in exchange a few of his enemies who are at present in the custody of the Indian Government.

While, therefore, the necessity for further fighting against any of the clans is extremely doubtful, the time is evidently ripe for trying pacific measures with the rest, and for doing our best to satisfy them that we have no design either to grab their territory or to destroy their tribal autonomy. All parties seem agreed that our policy should be to make these indomitable mountaineers a bulwark of the Indian Empire. Of their value as fighting men we have had the best possible means of judging. Fighting is, if not their trade, at any rate their chief pastime and enjoyment. What we have to secure is that their fighting propensities shall not be gratified at our expense, and that they shall feel sufficiently secure of their tribal independence under our suzerainty to exert their full strength against any foreign invader attacking India. A gentleman who should know the facts well tells me that the total fighting force of the whole of the tribes along this Frontier is not less than 80,000 men. Large numbers of these might no doubt be enrolled in the Indian Army—I believe not a few are serving already. By our mistaken policy we have gone far towards making them all our deadly enemies; but it is not too late to reverse this policy, and if it ever is to be reversed the time is now close at hand. For the purpose of coming to an amicable understanding with the tribes we require chiefly competent agents who know the country and the men. There is, I believe, no difficulty in finding them, but the Indian Government will have to avoid some of its past errors in the choice of political officers if a satisfactory result is to be arrived at.

Again, if there is to be any further fighting it is absolutely essential that the Staff should be reorganised. Sir William Lockhart escapes, to some extent, responsibility for the past shortcomings of his Staff owing to the fact that it was ready made for him by the time he arrived in India. But that excuse will not serve a second time. During the present lull in the operations he has had ample time to make whatever changes are necessary, and if we hear, in the next campaign, such stories as have come home during the last two or three months, Sir William Lockhart will have to take the whole blame himself.

So much for the immediate future. Looking a little further ahead, there is one point in regard to our future dealings with the Frontier tribes to which I find that experts attach great importance. It is that the whole of the Frontier should be placed under the control of a single Political Officer directly responsible to the Government. At the present time, the North-West Frontier between Chitral and Beluchistan is parcelled out among about half-a-dozen political agents or commissioners. Some of them are responsible to the Punjab Government, others, I believe, directly to the Indian Government. From this it follows that the Indian Government is not promptly informed of everything that goes on among the Frontier tribes; it has not direct control over a number of men occupying most important political positions; and there may also be a diversity in the policy or the tone adopted towards the natives at different points along the Frontier. The remedy for this is to establish a single commissioner for the whole Frontier, from the Hindoo Kush down to the sea, to place under him so many local officers as may be necessary, and above all to make him directly responsible to the Indian Government. The advantages of this course are so obvious that they hardly need further arguing.

There is yet one other administrative reform the necessity for which has been pressed upon me in discussing the Frontier difficulty with experienced Anglo-Indian officials. By an extraordinary anomaly, the Indian Foreign Office is the one great Department of State which has not a member of the Council at its head. All the other Departments are represented on the Council, much in the same way as the Departments at home are represented in the House of Commons. The Foreign Office, on the other hand, is under an official known as the Foreign Secretary, who is simply the head clerk on the staff. This is very much the same thing as if the senior or most successful Foreign Office clerk at home were in his turn to be promoted to Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The arrangement in India leads at the best of times to much inconvenience, and may, at a critical moment, have very disastrous results. I believe I am right in stating that the Indian Foreign Office is in direct relation with its representatives in Persia, Afghanistan, and other countries beyond the Frontier, as well as with the quasi-independent States of the Indian Empire. The head of such a Department ought necessarily to be a statesman of general experience, and not merely a head clerk in the office, however competent or highly salaried; and it stands to reason that this head should be a member of the highest Council of State. There is, probably, no precedent in any other country for the divorce of the Foreign Office from the supreme Executive Government.

Such are a few of the principal measures now called for.

At the close of the recrimination over the roadmaking, Lord George Hamilton indicated some desire to arrive at a Frontier policy on which all parties can agree. He has a great opportunity now of adopting such a policy, and securing the tranquillity of the Frontier for the next generation. It remains to be seen whether he is the man to rise to the occasion.

THE APOTHEOSIS OF BUMBLE.

Though a Party man, I am not one of those who commit the mistake of under-rating the intelligence of their political opponents. So far from that, I hold that, as a rule, the Conservatives have of late years shown themselves wiser and shrewder in political warfare than Liberals and Radicals. But it, nevertheless, seems to me that greater twaddle than is being talked on County Council election platforms by the majority of the "Moderate and Unionist" Party has never been uttered. I do not wonder that hitherto large numbers of Unionists have enrolled themselves as Progressives at the County Council Elections, and my respect for their general political intelligence leads me to anticipate that they will do so again.

One of the "Moderate" orators professed last week his belief that "the true principles of municipal patriotism" are more fully developed in the individual parishes and districts of the Metropolis than in London as a whole. In other words, the ideal of "Moderate" municipal government is to be found in the typical London Vestryman, and the typical London parochial official. Sad, indeed, is it to reflect that the old London parish beadle has not survived to hear this joyful news. The "local patriotism" so highly developed in our Vestries and parochial functionaries is now to be gratified and yet further developed by converting the Vestries and Boards of Works into Corporations, who are to exercise various important functions, as yet undefined. Our old friend Bumble, apparently, is to be rigged out with a new gown and a gold chain, and is to save London from the sinister designs of a too aspiring County Council. Well, give him the power, and I have no doubt Bumble will do all that. But whether London under twenty or thirty glorified Bumbledoms will be a more desirable place to live in than London under one freely elected Municipal Council, is a question which no one who knows London and Bumbledom will have much difficulty in answering.

Where has this local "municipal patriotism" been discovered? Take any of the great London residential districts—Kensington, Chelsea, Marylebone, Paddington. How many residents are there in any one of them who know the names of half-a-dozen members of their own Vestry? How many of them have ever voted at a Vestry election? How many of them have ever read a report of a Vestry meeting, or know the ins and outs of a single question the Vestry has before it? Every resident in London who reads these lines knows that the local municipal elections are an empty farce. In half the wards the members are returned unopposed. The keenest contest will hardly bring out 500 electors on any side in a constituency of thousands. The usual thing—I am speaking now of the West End, where my experience lies—is to see Smith returned by about a couple of hundred votes, while Jones has polled perhaps half that number. The voters are the friends and acquaintances of Smith and Jones, and who Smith and Jones may be the two or three thousand who have not voted neither know nor care. The consequence is that all these Metropolitan local authorities are close corporations. Nominally elected, they are really co-opted, the dominant ring getting in its own nominees in nine cases out of ten. As a further consequence, they are nearly all hotbeds of jobbery and corruption. If the vast majority of the constituency neither know nor care who is elected, they know and care still less about what the elect do after the election. Those of the elect who have axes to grind, and who have got elected for the purpose of grinding them, grind away to their hearts' content, without fear of public opinion or the next polling day.

You may say that this is a highly deplorable state of things, and so it is. Progressives deplore it probably more than Moderates, for they have more belief in the virtues of decentralisation and local self-government. That, if possible, "increased dignity and efficiency" should be given to our Vestries is a commonplace of the election addresses on both sides in the County Council fight. But you are not going to remove this deplorable state of things by giving Vestrymen another name, and arming them with increased facilities for axe-grinding. The fault lies deep down in London life. It is the natural result of a state of society in which no resident knows his next-door neighbour, in which half the population move to a new district every few years, in which the majority of the voters work and have their most serious interests miles away from the parish or district in which they for the time being reside. From causes over which we have no control there is from end to end of London an utter absence of local public life, of general interest in local affairs. From this cause has arisen the whole difficulty of local government in the Metropolis. To talk of anything in the nature of "local patriotism" as existing is an insane delusion. To construct a system of parochial municipalities in the absence of such a spirit is to make an engine without the remotest prospect of ever being able to get up steam in it. If such municipalities are to be created, and if, as the Duke of Devonshire's speech last week seemed to suggest, such bodies are to send delegates to the County Council, so as to adapt the constitution of that body to the model of the defunct Metropolitan Board of Works, then the last state of London will be infinitely worse than anything we have seen yet. The only sign of "municipal patriotism" that has ever yet been seen in London, outside the City, has manifested itself during the last nine years since the County Council was established. The existence of the Council has called into existence a spirit that was before unknown. For the first time in their history Londoners have begun to take an interest in their own local affairs, and to feel some sense of corporate unity. They have interested themselves in the choice of representatives, and they have watched with a certain amount of attention the work their representatives have done. Because they have not had the majority, because they do not approve of all the work, the "Moderates" are now striving by hook or by crook to put the clock back, to restore the *status quo ante* Ritchie, to reinstate Vestrydom

and Bumbledom in their former control over the fortunes of London. It is, indeed, an invitation to London to commit municipal suicide. If it succeeds, London will deserve the fate that most assuredly awaits it.

"MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING."

It is seriously argued in certain quarters that Shakespeare's most enchanting comedy should be placed on the shelf until we have all forgotten the merry, tripping, womanly, and almost ideal Beatrice of Ellen Terry; the grimly humorous and philosophical Benedick of Henry Irving; the famous cathedral scene at Messina designed for the Lyceum, and afterwards painted by Forbes Robertson, which is always quoted as one of the most magnificent stage sets ever seen in a modern theatre. Put away "Much Ado About Nothing"? Perish the thought! Are we to banish this Shakespearian comedy from the stage because the famous "kill Claudio" has never electrified an audience since the days of Helen Faucit? No, no! Let the young people have a chance both on and off the stage. Many on it have never acted in the play, many off it have never seen it. To miss the latest revival under the clever direction of popular George Alexander, with the addition of Edward German's accompanying music, probably the most tuneful and melodious ever composed for a play of Shakespeare's, would be a loss indeed. The great difficulty with this particular comedy has always been, first, how to repress, with fairness to the text, the loquacity of Dogberry and Verges; next, how to avoid playing the most buoyant scene of all before the high altar in a Catholic Cathedral. At the Lyceum Henry Irving solved the first question by cutting Dogberry and Verges "down to lines," as they say on the stage—to the indignation, I may add, of the Shakespearian scholars and purists, who insist on the whole text, and nothing but the text, but who at the same time would be the first to cry out if the comedy acted until one o'clock in the morning. The second stumbling-block at the Lyceum was not shirked at all. Benedick and Beatrice railed, chaffed, flouted one another, and kissed amidst the fumes of incense, perfume of flowers, and before the lighted candles and tabernacles on the high altar just prepared for a nuptial mass. George Alexander adopts a convenient compromise. The marriage is supposed to take place at a side altar in a vast cathedral, and so the religious part of the show is not so much in evidence as it was at the Lyceum. We have incense, choristers in scarlet cottas, processional crosses, a curious mixture of Franciscans and Dominicans in the same fold, and all the rest, but there is "no offence in it."

The players give a very fair account of themselves indeed, and are surprisingly good in characters that, as a rule, are indifferently acted. The wonder of the occasion was the strongly developed comedy power and dashing manner of Fred Terry as Don Pedro. He carried everything before him, and showed what such a play emphatically requires — style. Never too noisy or assertive, with an aristocratic manner and excellent diction, I do not remember to have seen a better performance of its kind. In fact, Don Pedro was so good that he occasionally swamped poor Benedick, capitally as he was played—and, oh, dear ladies, beautifully as he was dressed!—by George Alexander. Still, it was suggested that Don Pedro and Benedick might occasionally change places, even as Othello and Iago have been known to do. A more beautiful Beatrice than Julia Neilson no one could possibly desire, and this very clever lady has rarely given a more charming performance. I have seen it suggested that her Beatrice is not played in the spirit of true comedy because it differs in some respects from Ellen Terry's reading of the part. I myself recall with delight Miss Terry's admirable impersonation, but that does not in the least interfere with my appreciation of the excellent qualities of the new Beatrice. To my mind, it is a piece of perfect comedy that Julia Neilson gives us. The Hero of Fay Davies was, perhaps, just a little wanting in colour and variety. Hero should never be monotonous or mournful. She is the picture of maiden innocence and refinement. She is the pure-white lily to the blush-rose of Beatrice. The Don John of H. B. Irving was very good—a little slow and over-emphasised at times, but admirably made up and an impressive picture. Young Robert Loraine, who bears a wonderful resemblance to poor William Terriss, as Claudio did not come up to my expectations. He was not bad, but never as good as I thought he could be. A better Leonato than Mr. W. H. Vernon I have never seen—bold, dignified, and all the text made music by so accomplished an actor. They may chaff J. D. Beveridge about being Irish, but there are very few on the stage who could speak the "Sir Boy" speeches better than he did. As the old priest, Nutcombe Gould was a perfect picture, and the celebrated lines when he takes Hero to her living death brought tears into the eyes of the audience. Amongst the youngsters, one called Arthur Royston is exceedingly promising; but poor Mr. Vincent and Mr. Esmond as Dogberry and Verges were so lopped about that they had no chance. In these days, when the feast of the eye is almost as important as the feast of the soul, I should say that George Alexander's last experiment would prove one of his very luckiest. For my own part, I could go there again and again for Edward German's music alone. It was just the thing that was wanted.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

PARIS AND ZOLA.

WHO can hunt two hares at the same time? Not even the Parisians. Prince Ouroussoff, the new Russian Ambassador, has been the victim of this inability. He was hardly noticed the day he was taken in Protocol state to the Elysée to deliver his credentials. The Prince is not only a *diplomat de carriere*, but he was brought up in the very centre of the diplomatic cobweb of Russian foreign affairs. This privileged situation was due to his being Prince Gortshakoff's nephew. The new Ambassador

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might be thonght natty, were it not for his *air dégagé.* This air saves him also from being dapper, for he is under the middle height. Through the Radzivills—his mother was a Razivill-Ouroussoff—he is a distant connection of the Talleyrand-Périgords. But as the Prince de Chic's race is run, this will not be of much use to him. He speaks French better than most Russians. This is due to his having passed so much of his youth here with his mother and sister. The ambassadress is daughter of the late M. Abbazza, a finance minister of Alexander III. She won the favour of Brussels society by her easy and gracious manners and her entertainments. Prince Ouroussoff comes at a curious time. He may soon witness stranger events than the Dreyfus trial. We now live under the rule of topsy-turvy. One is knocked on the head for crying "*Vive la République!*" Republicans, Socialists, and policemen look on in silence. Had the new Ambassador come here six weeks ago, Paris would have turned out to see him go to the Elysée. As it was, the great capital forgot all about him. Its citizens were too busy at that Babel, the Assize Court, giving and receiving blows, and uttering factious cries and counter-cries. Society bravely mixed with the *canaille* to applaud the Generals, who made speeches to the jury and revealed secret papers quite as meaningless as the mysteries of Udolpho's mysterious castle. Prince Henry of Orleans embraced, in the face of the crowd, Major Esterhazy as he entered a cab. The budding Egalité the second did *not* cry "À bas les Juifs!" But the kiss did not commit him to anything, and yet might be taken for an anti-Semitic demonstration. Esterhazy dreams of Jewish carnage as the Sultan Achmet dreamt of Christian carnage. He makes no secret of it. Prince Henry showed himself daily in the Palais de Justice, walking in the Gallery where advocates congregate. He paid the Army the bad compliment of crying "Vive l'Armée!" as he embraced Esterhazy.

Colonel Picquart became more enigmatical as the trial went on. The detective policeman has been a favourite character of sensational English novelists. I submit to them, for a change, the detective Lieutenant-Colonel, sinuous and slippery as an eel, handsome, and with the nerves and address of a clever woman. I said he was like Mme. Bartet. So he is; but he is more like Mme. Rachel in the projecting, broad forehead and the long, oval face, from the eyes down; only he is blond. The forget-me-not eyes sometimes lose their vague expression and look feline, as did hers. He was brought into the Intelligence Department under M. Reinach's and General de Gallifet's auspices, to deliver Captain Dreyfus. He had been, as a chair-officer, allowed to witness the Captain's trial, and, enlightened on points of law by an attorney named Leblois, was able to put his finger on the illegalities. The feelings of the officers of the General Staff about Dreyfus may or may not have been right; but their procedure was tragi-comical. The documentary evidence would be hardly received by a third or fourth rate playwright. It was furnished by Secret Service agents. These gentlemen, of course, wanted to give value for the travelling and other expenses they incurred.

Colonel Sandherr, the head of the Department, a bigoted anti Semite, could not understand why a Jew entered the War Office, unless to increase opportunities to make money. If Germany spent heavily in obtaining military secrets, gold from Berlin, he argued, was sure to flow into Jewish pockets. He had Dreyfus watched for two years. One of the detectives was Colonel Henry, an *enfant du peuple.* He rose from the ranks. The *enfant du peuple* may be a good judge of a man, but not of a document. Henry received the most astonishing papers from agents of the department. He and Colonel Sandherr swallowed them. Dreyfus used to intrude on the spheres of other officers. They complained that he showed a too inquiring mind. He did not feel the need of observing their unwritten laws. These laws are a restraint on selfishness, and enable a number of men to live together on the footing of brotherhood. His presence among them made them chafe. I dare say the corrupt onés, who lend themselves to jobs, feared he would take this source of profit from them. They did think it was his information that led the Germans to arrest two naval officers sent to spy at Kiel. Not being very critical, they clutched the "evidence," brought in to Colonel Henry, and sent Dreyfus to the Devil's Island.

It is thought treasonable of Picquart to have secretly worked with Leblois for Dreyfus. He hid his purpose, so far as the watchful eye of Colonel Henry would allow. Leblois is unfortunate in his countenance. It is, line for line, that of Judas in the Last Supper. But the expression is modern, and that of a sharp lawyer. The "approaches" and lines of circumvallation were beautifully laid; but the Dreyfus family spoiled everything by their impatience, and ruined Picquart's military career.

Esterhazy is an anachronism. He is a man for Wallenstein's camp. There is more of the Tsigane than the Magyar in his blazing eyes. If silence gives consent, he must be a terrible fellow—in intention. The questions that he would not answer were on dreams of carnage—on his sorrow expressed in a letter at not being able to take a wretched woman to Tunis. Were she there, one of his African soldiers would plant a bullet in her, and no questions would be asked. Other questions were about his secret service work. Was he engaged in it twenty years? And then what were his relations with Colonel Schwartzkoppen? This Colonel was the German military attaché. A lawless spirit is catching. While Esterhazy was playing the part of silent witness, some spectators hoped he would take a revolver out of his pocket and shoot the counsel who bothered him.

The beauty of the trial was Mme. Labori, formerly Miss Maggie Okey, and afterwards Mme. Pachmann. Labori is *une force de la nature.* This force would be the better for a little taming. But it is a splendid gift. He is fair, florid, ready witted, and must be one of the greatest actors alive. This trial has given him a wide-world advertisement. It has also given him one of the first places at the Paris bar. His drift was constantly appearing, and as often

CHINA AND GLASS. — Messrs. GOODE, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

repressed. It was to show that Esterhazy was the author of the *bordereau* found in a waste-paper-basket at the German Embassy. The son of the concierge there served under Esterhazy in Tunis. But Esterhazy could not have obtained secret papers of the War Office, unless with the complicity of an officer there. Nobody tried to ascertain whether he knew Dreyfus, and, if he did, whether he had been set to entrap him. It was disappointing not to see the Veiled Lady advance to the witness box and unveil herself. Ladies who had evidence to give were tenderly dealt with; they sent doctors' certificates. When Counsel discarded these, a Juge d'Instruction was sent to take their evidence at their bedsides.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

WHEN Damiens, dear Lady Betty, who tried to assassinate Louis XV., had his limbs torn from him, the ladies of the Court witnessed the execution, and, as the drivers thrashed the horses, lisped "Les pauvres chevaux! les pauvres chevaux!" Some one has wisely said that "The world, after nearly two thousand years, has scarcely spelt out three letters of the meaning of Christianity." At the close of the enlightened nineteenth century, the ladies of London Society throng to the Central Criminal Court to be present at the trial of a former companion, and to watch him as he is being dragged through the mire of disgrace! Of the crime and of the well-merited punishment it is unnecessary to write here; but in thus protesting against the unlady-like conduct of such women, the unwomanly conduct of such ladies, I am giving voice to the feelings of abhorrence which their behaviour has generally excited.

* * * * *

Dreyfus Day by Day, the new piece which is the sensation of the moment in Paris, recalls the best period of opéra bouffe. I venture to reproduce one inimitable scene:—

Maître Labori: "M. le Président, I am not a naturalised Frenchman, of German origin, who has married an English Jewess."

The President: "You are not! Then you are my long lost brother."

Here the spectators climbed on to the benches and broke forth into vociferous cheering.

Expert in Handwriting: "No; I have not seen the *bordereau*, but I have spilt my blood on the battle field: therefore, I pronounce Dreyfus to be a traitor."

This statement created a deep impression, and an officer promptly struck a barrister across the face with a cane. The commotion having been subdued, addressing Maître Labori, the President said:—

"Put your questions. They will not be answered. There is something superior to justice: it is the army."

Cries of "Vivent les Généraux," "Vive les Bordereaux," and "A l'eau" with everything else.

The Court rose amid lively agitation, and a military band outside played "Le Petit Bleu Polka." The trial is making rapid progress.

. . . . .

Though it is permissible to laugh at these somewhat burlesque proceedings, Englishmen will now perceive how ridiculous was the recent Parliamentary inquiry which was held on the Raid into the Transvaal. The Zola trial is almost line for line a reproduction of that inquiry. At both proceedings the witnesses made statements, and then refused to be cross-examined; at both the Court supported the witnesses which the Government, for its own purposes, wished to shield; at both the most important documents were withheld; and at both the populace sided with those who do not set the requirements of justice above other considerations. It is true that a Parliamentary inquiry is not absolutely on all fours with a trial in a Court of Justice; but the generality of people are not aware of this, and, indeed, they imagine that the former is of higher importance than the latter. It, therefore, especially ill becomes Englishmen, on this occasion, to ridicule the proceedings in Paris, which, however inconsistent and unjust they may appear to be, are not one whit more so than were those that caused wide-spread surprise throughout Great Britain last year.

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An interesting correspondence is being published in the *Morning Post* on the subject of "Poor Gentlemen." A reader of these letters has written to me as follows:—

"Sir,—My case is similar to that of many others, and therefore it deserves some attention. My father is a Peer, rich as compared with most commoners, but poor as compared with many Peers. He has a large estate, upon which stands a house, which is little less than a palace. There I was born and there I was bred, surrounded by every luxury, treated by all in the neighbourhood with the utmost deference, and utterly ignorant of the inconvenience of poverty. I am a younger son, and at eighteen my father placed me in the office of a West End merchant, and gave me an allowance of £300 a year. Born in a palace, bred in a palace, accustomed to all the refinement and respect which my previous surroundings afforded me, I suddenly found myself lodged in a little fourth-floor room in a Mayfair lodging, with barely sufficient money to supply the necessaries of life, and much less than is required to live up to the position which my name and connections made it obligatory for me to keep up. I have to dress well; I have to live with those who are either rich or pretend to be so; I have to belong to a West End club; and, with these and other expenses, it is practically impossible for me to avoid running into debt. You will perhaps say, 'Why must you do these things?' The answer is plain: because, unless I associate with those who are of the same social position as myself, I shall be shunned by them; and it is they who can provide for me the opportunities of making money and of obtaining advancement. This is almost a new situation, for, until Mr. Gladstone threw open all Government employment to competition, men like my father could always secure for their younger sons official berths. I do not say that Mr. Gladstone was wrong in doing as he did, but the immediate effect of his legislation in this direction has been to ruin the prospects, if not the lives, of hundreds of younger sons, who, like myself, have had no proper training for rough work. Such cases are rendered all the harder to bear because the eldest son of the family inherits the palace, the property, and the wealth; he is treated with the deference and respect which we all had equally when we were young together; whilst we have to suffer in silence, and be snubbed, not only by our neighbours, but by him, who, of course, is convinced that he is superior to us in every way, intelligence included! There never was an age in Great Britain when the younger son had so hard a fate as he has now; and—mark my words—for many years to come, in consequence of this, the community will be scandalised by disgraceful incidents, which are mostly the outcome of young men being educated like princes, then cast upon the world as paupers, and compelled to keep up the appearances of their social position.

"Eton and Oxford."

. . . . .

I have also received a letter from a correspondent who signs himself "William Shakespeare." It surely cannot be a communication from the greatest genius that Britain ever produced:—

"With the Olympian Gods.

"Sir,—It causes me inexpressible pain to perceive that my works are no longer popular in England. The latest additions to our little circle of celebrities here assure me that, in England now, literary reputations are entirely made by certain log-rollers, who praise each other in the Press upon the principle of 'You scratch my back, and I will scratch yours.' As I am very jealous of my popularity,

could you kindly give me the names of some of these log-rollers, so that I may become one of their body? I understand that a 'log-roller' is a literary gentleman who makes much noise in the world now, foreseeing that he will never be heard of in the future. He and his friends make each other for the present, and posterity will unmake them all. "WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE."

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Mr. Walter Long is but a plagiarist! Sir William Jenner, who invented vaccination, wished to vaccinate all the dogs in England! Mr. Long has modified the proposal: he merely muzzles them.

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The Inter-University cycling races will be held for the first time at the Sheen House Cycling Club on July 2. This is as it should be, as the Club is the centre of polo cycling in England.

* * * * *

Señor de Bosc, the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at Washington, whose name is now so prominently before the public, was on two occasions attached to the Spanish Embassy in London, spending many years here and being widely known. If a further proof of the colossal ignorance of editors, and those who write for the newspapers in London, is wanting, it may easily be supplied, for throughout the past week the name of Señor de Bosc has been persistently spelt Bose, Box, Bos, or Bosh.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE sporting papers are constantly printing trash and nonsense about the large sums of money which are now "given" on the Turf, and they persist in impudently ignoring the flagrant fact that the bulk of the sums advertised comes out of the pockets of the owners, by a dexterous system of entrances and forfeits. Except at Ascot, subscription races are now quite the rule. Things are very different in France, where £101,780 was *given* last year in added money at Longchamps and at Chantilly alone, and there is to be the same munificent sum of added money next season, besides £12,321 given by the Jockey Club to the various provincial meetings. The programme of the French Jockey Club deserves the careful attention of the Newmarket authorities, who would do well to follow the example of the Paris Club in many matters, for it is certain that nothing could possibly be worse than the present system at all the English meetings, with an overwhelming plethora of two-year-old races, five and six furlong scrambles, and selling plates, while the Utopian theory that the Turf exists in order to improve the breed of horses is never mentioned except to be laughed at. Certainly our breed of horses has deteriorated so direfully that it can scarcely get much worse. The animals are recklessly over-raced as two-year-olds, and then are prematurely hurried off to the stud, so that a high-class five-year-old, still on the turf and winning races, is nearly as rare a phenomenon as a phœnix or a unicorn.

It is a fact worthy to be noted that the French Jockey Club add only £10,000 to their two-year-old races, the number of which is sensibly limited, there being only twenty-eight of them out of a total of 268 events. Three-year-olds have fifty-two races, with £42,000 added. There are 157 stakes open to three-year-olds and upwards, with £44,160 added, and four-year-olds and upwards have thirty-one events, with £15,200 added. Out of these 268 races, only fifty are run over a shorter course than one mile and a quarter. There are 160 for distances between ten furlongs and fifteen furlongs, and fifty-eight over two miles and upwards. At Maisons Laffitte, where the races are managed by the Société Sportive d'Encouragement, the added money will amount to £65,000, being an increase of £14,000 over the sum which was given last year.

There will be an interval this year of ten days between the Grand Prix and Ascot, an arrangement which ought to benefit the English meeting. Hitherto the French race has always been run on the Sunday in Ascot week.

Manifesto has been purchased by Mr. J. G. Bulteel, and is to be ridden in the Grand National by Mr. Cecil Grenfell. The horse has been sent to Weyhill, where he will be trained for his Aintree engagement by Collins. Mr. Dyas is a sagacious man, and he probably apprehends that this year's Grand National will take a good deal of winning, so that he was not likely to refuse such a ridiculous price as 4,000 gs. for Manifesto, who can be no catch to Mr. Bulteel, seeing that he is ten years old, and a gelding.

I see that Hermiston is warmly recommended for the Lincolnshire Handicap by one of the sporting papers. There is not the least prospect of Mr. Low's colt being seen out at Lincoln, and backers might just as well deposit their money in the nearest river as throw it away upon Hermiston, who, however, will run either in the City and Suburban or the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap.

I stated last week that Sir John Kelk intends to have The Baker specially prepared for the Chester Cup, after which he will be reserved for the Gold Cup at Ascot. The *Sportsman* points out that The Baker has accepted for the Great Metropolitan, and that he is better handicapped for that race than for the Chester Cup. This is true enough, but horses are left in every day for events for which there is no intention to start them, and the Chester Cup is a very much more important race than the Metropolitan, besides being more than twice as valuable. As a matter of fact, The Baker would scarcely be fit in time for the Epsom Spring Meeting, even if it was desired to run him there; indeed, it will take the trainer all his time to get Sir John Kelk's colt into thorough racing condition for the Chester Cup. It will not at all surprise me if The Baker runs his first race as a three-year-old at Ascot, although, as I mentioned last week, it is his owner's wish at present to start the colt at Chester.

With regard to Matthew Dawson's colt Longtown, who has been mentioned by some fatheads as a likely outsider for the Derby, I understand that the animal is being prepared to run for the Batthyany Stakes, the principal T.Y.C. handicap at the Lincoln meeting, and if he misses that event he will probably go for the Welbeck Handicap at Derby. Longtown has plenty of weight, but I fancy that he will be found a very smart colt over short courses.

People who are so infatuated as to bet upon future events at this period of the season will do well not to be gulled into backing Hawfinch for the Two Thousand or Derby. I am assured that it will be wise not to attach any importance to the Dewhurst Plate running. It must be remembered that Dieudonné, who was beaten a length with 9 lb. the worst of the weights, was running his third big race in three weeks. I hear, by the way, that the Duke of Devonshire's colt will not start for his engagement at the Newmarket Craven Meeting, but that the Two Thousand is to be his first race next season. In the Dewhurst Plate Ninus had 4 lb. the worst of the weights with Hawfinch, and he was beaten a neck, but, in the opinion of many good judges who carefully watched the race, Prince Soltykoff's colt ought to have won cleverly. That Hawfinch will ever again beat Ninus if the latter colt is all right I do not for a moment believe. There was no merit in the defeat of Orzil, as Mr. Brassey's colt had most palpably demonstrated his lack of stamina in the race for the Middle Park Plate. As to Royal Footstep, her running in the Dewhurst Plate may be ignored altogether, as she was suffering from the effects of a slight accident when she took part in that race. Sir Blundell Maple may justifiably anticipate winning the Oaks with Royal Footstep, whose performance in running Batt to a neck for the Criterion Stakes with 11 lb. the worst of the weights was an excellent one. If Royal Footstep had been all right on the last day of the Houghton meeting, she would probably have won the Dewhurst Plate, estimating the form through her running with Batt. She wants time, and she may not be ready to run for the One Thousand; but Sir Blundell Maple has an excellent second string for that race in Nun Nicer, who has wintered exceedingly well.

Mr. Oswald's colt, St. Evox, by St. Simon out of Saltire, who finished fourth for the Middle Park Plate, which was his only race last season, has been backed by some addleheads for both the Two Thousand and the Derby, but his friends are probably unaware of the fact that he is touched in his wind. He is a big, lumbering colt, but he gallops well, and, if he were sound, he might have developed into a good horse.

The American colt, Bridegroom II. (Mr. Belmont's), is as promising a Derby outsider as can be found either at Newmarket or anywhere else. He is a remarkably good looking animal, with very fine action, and the Epsom gradients will exactly suit him. Bridegroom II. has made a vast improvement since last November, and he is sure to win some good races this year.

The Prince of Wales's dark colt, Ormathwaite, about whom there was so much trumpeting last season, is not likely to stand a preparation. He could not be trained for his two-year-old engagements.

Only seven horses have been withdrawn from the Liverpool Spring Cup, fifteen being left in; but three of them are trained by Mr. Lambton. I pointed out last week the absurdity and fatuity of supposing that Labrador could give 2 lb. to Crestfallen, and the Duke of Westminster's overrated horse has been withdrawn. The Kingsclere stable is doubly represented with Butter and St. Bris, but there is not the least chance that either of these animals will be fit to run so early in the season. The distance is not far enough for Northallerton, who, however, has accepted. Dancing Wave is nicely weighted, and so also is First Foot.

The value of the Goodwood Stakes is to be increased to £800, but I doubt if any amount of money will restore vitality to a handicap of two miles and a half. A quarter of a century ago the Goodwood Stakes, with only £100 added, was the most important of the summer handicaps, and a very heavy betting race. The fact is that not one horse in fifty can fairly stay two miles and a half with a fast run race, for only the grievous lack of stamina which now prevails on the turf can account for the failure, year after year, of the Ascot Cup, which is the most richly endowed race in England.

Mr. Brassey has a truly grand two-year-old in Boniface, by St. Simon out of Merry Miser, dam of Orzil, and he will probably make his début at the Epsom Summer Meeting, and then follow in the footsteps of his half brother, and go for the Coventry Stakes at Ascot, a race in which winners have no extra weight to carry. If Mr. Brassey remains on the turf for all the rest of his life he will be fortunate indeed if ever again he makes so good a bargain as he did at Newmarket in July, 1895, when he paid only 1,050 gs. for Merry Miser, with her foal (Orzil), and she being then in foal to St. Simon, the result being the aforesaid Boniface. How Mr. J. S. Harrison could be so infatuated as to sell the mare at any such price it is impossible to understand; but I suppose he thought she was not in foal. In any case, however, it was a blunder to part with Merry Miser so hastily, as she was then only eight years old.

Royal Angus continues to be backed for the Two Thousand and Derby, but his supporters must surely be idiots to accept such a ridiculous price about a dark colt of whose form absolutely nothing whatever is known, and especially as it is literally any odds on his stable companion, Disraeli, proving the best three-year-old in Mr. W. Johnstone's team. Royal Angus is a colt that will be found difficult to train as time goes on, and particularly if the ground becomes hard.

Mr. Leigh's colt, The Wyvern, who so grievously disappointed his friends last year, has wintered remarkably well, and although he may not be up to Derby form, yet he certainly ought to secure a good race in which he will meet previous winners with an advantage in the weights. The Wyvern was highly tried before his unsuccessful début in the Coventry Stakes at Ascot, and he was heavily backed for that race, but the great dash was on the French colt, Manitou, whose owner would have won a very large stake, but his steed could only finish third to Orzil and Cap Martin, being apparently unable to stay beyond five furlongs. Manitou is a probable starter for the Derby.

Mr. Justice Hawkins has rather startled some of those who either play football or write about the game by his exposition of the law of murder and manslaughter in connection with the trial of a young fellow at Leicester, who was charged with having caused the death of a player in an Association match. The learned judge laid down an elementary principle which a good many people forget. He pointed out that even the rules of Association football could not over-rule the laws of the land. Whereupon some sages observed that if a man takes part in a game, with a full knowledge of its rules and dangers, he cannot complain if he is hurt. It is perfectly true that he cannot complain if he is dead. The argument would, no doubt, be of some importance if the injured party were seeking damages by way of compensation for the injuries he had received, but it is no answer to the remarks of the learned judge. The suggested argument probably finds its origin in the confusion which exists in many minds between the process of the civil and criminal law. In a criminal case it is the State that prosecutes and the State that punishes. An argument that may be an answer to an action by a private individual is not worth the paper it is written on when the State is the prosecutor. If this were not the case, the rules of football might legalise hacking, foul charging, and free fights. They might also exonerate from responsibility any player who injured or killed an antagonist, and the strong arm of the law would be powerless to interfere. In business and in pleasure the law of the land is paramount. It can reach both an Association football player and a Grosvenor Hotel Director.

In the case referred to, the young fellow was found guilty of manslaughter by the jury, and the judge deferred sentence until the next day. I do not envy that young fellow his feelings during that night. He was finally bound over to come up for judgment when called upon, and so long, therefore, as he behaves himself he has nothing to fear. His case should, however, not only be a salutary warning to those who indulge in foul tactics or rough play, but awaken referees to their responsibilities in seeing that the rules of the game are strictly observed.

It was an excellent idea holding the University Association match on a Saturday, and the consequence was that the game at Queen's Club was watched by a record gathering. After their spell of bad luck, every one will congratulate Cambridge on their success after a very close and fast game. It was almost half time before Burnup, by a brilliant run, scored the winning and only goal. Up till that time Oxford, with the wind, had been having all the best of the play. The Cambridge halves were weak, and Simpson was slow at back. In fact, it was the brilliant goal-keeping of Campbell that more than once saved the situation. To him more than to anybody the Light Blues owe their victory. After Burnup scored, a change for the better came over the whole team. That goal was like a tonic. The halves tackled better and the backs played more resolutely, and Cambridge had quite their share of the play, Taylor missing a good chance of scoring, while a centre from a fast run by Haig-Brown ought to have been taken. The Oxford forwards were fairly well together, and Vassall's pace was very useful. They shot pretty decently, but the goalkeeping was too good for them. It was an exciting match, and the combination of both teams made the game much more interesting than the Rugby scramble.

In the League game a great surprise was effected by Notts County, the wooden spoon of the first division, beating the leading team, Sheffield United, after a very close game. Derby County were rather unlucky to lose to Sheffield Wednesday. In the United League Milwall and Woolwich had one of their usual rough-and-tumble games which ended in a draw. Ilford effected a great surprise in

Princes' Restaurant, Piccadilly.—The fashionable resort. Finest wines and cuisine only. Tabled hôte luncheon 4s. 6d. Dinners à la carte, Suppers 5s. Mang. Director, G. Fourault, from Benoist.

the London Senior Cup by beating the Old Carthusians after a very hard game. The winner's defence was excellent. In another tie Brentford had the satisfaction of beating Clapton on their own ground.

In the Rugby game it is satisfactory to see that England and Wales will probably be playing this season. Against Ireland, Scotland scored a most meritorious win, the outsides showing much better combination than had been anticipated. Blackheath, after a hard game, spoiled Oxford's unbeaten record. But, then, Smith was away, and it is rather ridiculous to carry on a University programme so long after Christmas. Cambridge, likewise, showed good form against Coventry; but what is the use of International form after the University match has been lost? Rugby is the only sport in which the University is not the be-all and end-all. The Association game winds up the season, and I think that when the University match is being played, the Rugby teams might avoid a fixture. Richmond turned out a better team against Cooper's Hill than they have recently been able to put in the field, but the game ended in a draw, the ball being chiefly controlled by the forwards. The Old Merchant Taylors ought to have beaten Rosslyn Park, but their outsides did not combine well, although Crimp did some useful work. The Hospital Cup ties are going strongly, and St. George's, with an admirable set of forwards, led by Tucker, nearly beat Guy's. In the losers' team were the old Cambridge rowing blues, Pennington and Taylor, and the old C.U.B.C. President, G. C. Kerr, was playing for Scotland against Ireland. Now, if rowing men can play football, why cannot footballers row? Middlesex just managed to beat St. Mary's, after first playing a draw. The former team would have been a very fair one if it had played together all through the season. Unfortunately, there seems to have been a slackness in matters athletic at that hospital recently. By the way, what admirable worms are those students who never play the game, and yet lay odds against their hospital in a Cup tie.

While Mr. Justice Hawkins has been teaching footballers the law, Mr. Hannay, the Stipendiary, has been showing cyclists that the recent decision of the Queen's Bench that the police cannot stop a rider and demand his name and address when he is travelling without his light after dark will not be of much avail to such riders who are anxious to break the law. A policeman did stop a cyclist who was fined 5s. and costs. The National Cyclist Union thereupon summoned the policeman, who was fined one penny without costs. The magistrate further intimated that, in his opinion, a rider without a light when there was traffic about was riding to the common danger and could therefore be stopped. It will be just as well if cyclists bear this dictum in mind. It is very foolish, indeed, of riders to endeavour to take advantage of an obvious omission in the law. The N.C.U. has done a lot of excellent work, but it will rapidly lose all public confidence if it continues to harrass the police in this absurd fashion. Cyclists are for ever agitating for concessions of one sort or another. The Universal Light Bill is one of their hobbies; it is rather foolish of them to expect that other people will go out of their way to light up their vehicles when the one object of cyclists is to make the existing legislation on the subject as ridiculous as possible.

The carriage of bicycles by the railway companies is a matter that is daily becoming more important. Apparently the railway companies will do nothing because there has yet to be invented a van which will satisfy the managers' requirements. In the meanwhile, the companies adopt a very high-handed procedure and compel consignors to sign a note relieving the company from all risk. It is bad enough for a company to secure itself from immunity for any damage occasioned on transit, but it is perfectly preposterous for a company to compel anyone to sign a note relieving the railway from any liability if the article disappears en route. Yet a correspondent in the *Field* was compelled to sign such a document and the bicycle vanished. The company not only refused redress, but withheld any information which would have enabled the owner to trace his machine. It would ruin any ordinary man to fight the company. I had an idea that the handsome profits of the Cyclists' Touring Club were to be devoted to giving battle in such test cases. Mere deputations to railway companies are useless. But that august body does not move. The members are scattered abroad, and are like a flock of sheep. They have no will of their own. They bleat and cry if one suggests that their admirable shepherd, with his snug little billet, might do something. Perhaps, at a general meeting some one will some day organise a sufficiently strong body of voters to insist on something being done of a more useful character than a trade in buttons and brooches.

On Saturday next, at 2 p.m., there will be an interesting lawn-tennis match in the covered court at Queen's Club, between two professional players, for a purse provided for the members of the Club. The players are Fleming of the Queen's Club and Burke, the professional of the Lawn Tennis Club of Paris. Both men are very keen, and Burke is having a week's practice at Queen's to accustom himself to the court. He has an admirable style, and he has been called a "soft Pim," owing to the marked similarity of his style to that of the well-known amateur. Fleming has recently been showing excellent form against some of the leading amateurs. The match, therefore, promises to be most interesting.

After all the nonsense that has been written about Roberts's inability to play if the push stroke were barred, it was rather a good move on his part to play Mitchell, who claims to be the champion at that class of game. Roberts has only given over a quarter start in 21,000 up, and, judging by the score at half time, he looks like winning. The change of rule or limitation of stroke does not seem to have troubled him. He has made five century breaks, and he has created a record break. It is said that a real professional championship is to be started, in which push and spot strokes will be barred, and a player will not be able to score from balls when jammed. The Billiard Association, or whatever the ruling body is called, is evolving a championship scheme on this basis, and if the regulations are sensible, and the prizes good, no doubt the cracks will support it. Mahomet has had to go to the mountain Roberts.

The going for the Southern Counties Cross Country Championship at Wembley was decidedly sticky. In the Seniors the struggle for the first position was very keen, and the Essex Beagles just secured first honours from the Finchley men by two points; Bennett, the Finchley Harriers' champion, was first home, beating Bartlett of the Essex Beagles. In the Juniors Silsby at first cut out the pace, but at the finish he was easily beaten by Steadman of the Epsom Harriers. After their success in the North of the Thames contest, the Tee-To-Tum were, as was expected, easy winners. The Northern event was run over a grass course at Trafford Park, Manchester, and a comparatively unknown runner, Hosker, was the winner, while the Manchester men secured team honours.

Thank goodness, peace has been declared at Cambridge! Dudley Ward did the best thing possible in bringing matters to a crisis. I do hope if Cambridge men have any more rows or tiffs they will have it out at once like men instead of indulging in backbiting and scheming like a lot of viper-tongued old spinsters. Every now and then there must be a breeze, but if each man fought his own fight and, having unburdened himself, offered to shake hands and make it up, how much happier things would be. A University life is meant to cement life-long friendships, not to create deadly and irreconcilable feuds.

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MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—I had occasion to remark last week that politics were still a factor in the Stock Markets, but the outlook then was brightening, as the position in the Far East was more settled, and the Dupuy de Lôme incident had been practically closed. There is, however, nowadays, no rest for the Markets, and a fresh Cuban scare, combined with some disagreeable Anglo-French incidents in West Africa, have again shattered the nerves of the Stock Exchanges and Bourses.

Stock Exchange Politics.

I cannot refrain from again quoting an old saying, viz., that "in foreign politics the Stock Exchange is an ass." It is true that the London Stock Exchange has borne up pretty well against the weakening effect of the *Maine* disaster, but the New York Stock Exchange was greatly depressed by the occurrence, although it was evident from the outset that this catastrophe was the result of an accident. This was recognised more clearly here than in New York, and London at first held up quotations, although Wall-street put them down. The dismissal of Chief Justice Kotze by President Kruger increased the weakness, until finally "the last straw" appeared in the shape of Saturday's West African scare. The latter is in every respect unreasonable, and the selling which is exclusively traceable to professional operators, is by no means creditable to Stock Exchange intelligence. The West African problem is at present being discussed by an Anglo-French conference, and it is evident that the taking-up of positions in the debatable territory by both English and French troops is not intended to lead to any real collision; as instructions from the respective Governments are clearly to the effect that these should be avoided. I have no doubt but that a solution of the difficulty will be found, and that this scare will pass off, as so many others have. What the succession of scares has, however, accomplished is a shake out in all the chief speculative departments, and notably in Home Rails, American and Canadian Rails, and in the Kaffir Circus. The weak elements must, to a considerable extent, now have been eliminated, and the carry-over will probably show that not only has the account for the rise been greatly reduced, but also that a very considerable "Bear" account has been created. It is not surprising that operators of ursine proclivities should have availed themselves of the series of disagreeable political accidents to make raids on the market, and in this they have been assisted by the tight condition of the Money Market. In view of the impending Government disbursements, however, and of the cessation of the Continental demand for gold, we appear to be close to a period of greater ease, and it is therefore not at all improbable that, provided politics shape themselves more favourably, the tables will be turned upon the "Bears." This should more particularly occur in the Home Railway department, in which stock was shown to be exceedingly scarce at the last settlement; but sharp recoveries are also on the cards, in connection with the American and South African markets, and in this connection I would insist upon the importance of basing calculations upon intrinsic conditions, disregarding to some extent passing influences and market movements. Business in the United States continues to show remarkable progress, and everything tends to increase railroad traffics, and, consequently, the prosperity of the railroad interest. Again, in the matter of the Kaffir Circus, the chief feature, after all, notwithstanding the somewhat arbitrary action of Oom Paul, is the continued prosperity of the mines, as indicated by fresh monthly crushing records. The West Australian section has resisted the adverse influences better than the Kaffir Circus, and, in a few instances, sharp advances have, moreover, occurred. Interbourse securities have not so far suffered to any extent, and it stands to reason that if there were really any fear of war between England and France, these stocks would experience a severe fall, just as Consols would drop points instead of small fractions. My warning that the large "Bull" account in Grand Trunks and Canadian Pacifics, as well as in Argentine Rails, might lead to unpleasant consequences whenever any difficulties arose, has, on the other hand, been fully justified by the sharp declines in all these securities. Similarly, there have been numerous falls in the Industrial Department, in which I have for some time seen danger ahead, and I have this week to record a partial collapse in the speculation in Hudson Bays, Allsopps, Salt Union, and Bovrils. There are a great many others to follow suit. Apart from these weak spots, however, the condition of the markets appears to be sound enough, and any favourable developments in connection with the various political clouds which at present obscure the horizon should produce a general recovery.

Home Rails—A "Bear" Raid.

The firmer tendency which has made itself felt in the Home Railway department after the various dividend announcements had been made, and which was partly induced by the evidence of scarcity shown at the last settlement, has made room for a reaction on systematic "Bear" raids, which culminated yesterday in an attack on the Southern Passenger stocks and on the Scotch section. There has, however, been no selling on the part of the public, and if, as is probable, stock should again prove scarce at the carry-over, and the political outlook should improve, the "Bears" will have to face a much stronger market. In the meantime, they succeeded in putting down Brighton "A" to 175, Dover "A" to 110½, Chatham Ordinary to 19¾. They were equally successful in the Scotch section, in which they depressed Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras) to 56⅝, and North British Deferred to 44⅞. In the case of the southern passenger lines the setback is certainly devoid of any basis, as traffics continue to show exceedingly well. For the first seven weeks of the present year the Brighton Company has an increase of £22,548, the South-Eastern one of £16,083 to show, and these come on the top of substantial gains over 1896. Neither is there any fault to find with Brighton "A" and Dover "A" on the score of the yields. This will easily be gathered from the following table of comparative yields of the leading Home Railway stocks:—

—	First Half 1897.	Second Half, 1897.	Divid. for 1897.	Prices Feb. 19.	Yield per Cent. per Annum.
London and North-Western	6½	7¾	7⅛	204¼	3½
Great Western	4¾	7¼	6	178¼	3⅜
Midland Preferred	2½	2½	2½	87½	2⅞
do. Deferred	2¾	4	3⅜	93¾	3 1/16
North-Eastern	5¾	7	6⅜	179¾	3 9/16
London and Brighton Ord.	4¾	8¼	6½	187	3½
do. Def.	—	—	7	177½	3 13/16
South-Eastern Ord.	3¼	6⅝	4 15/16	153	3¼
do. Def.	—	—	3⅞	112½	3 7/16
Great Eastern	2	5	3½	121½	2⅞
Lancs. and Yorks.	5	5¼	5⅛	147½	3½
London and Chatham First Prefs.	4½	4½	4½	137	3¼
South-Western Ord.	5½	8½	7	234	3
do. Def.	—	—	3	98	3 1/16
Great Northern "A"	—	—	2¼	52	4 7/16
do. Def.	—	—	2¼	56	4
*Great Central 1894 Ord.	3	3	3	42	3⅞
Rhymney	11	10	10½	272½	3⅞
Metropolitan	3¾	3¾	3¾	133½	2 13/16
Metropolitan District. Prefs.	4	2¾	3⅜	111½	3
*Central London (£10 Ord.)	3	3	3	10¾	2 13/16

* Dividends payable until opening of line.

With the exception of the Great Northern Deferred stocks, which yield a higher return, but will have to face the coming Great Central competition, the Brighton "A" yield of 3 15/16 per cent. is the best, for the return on the Great Central 1894 Ordinary stock on the basis of the present dividend will cease with the opening of the London extension. Dover "A" (South Eastern Deferred) yield as much as 3 7/16 per cent., which is satisfactory considering that this is a very progressive line, which will receive considerable benefit from the extensions now being carried out. Dover "A" are certainly cheaper than Great Eastern, although this is also a progressive Company.

There does not appear to be much room for a further decline in the Heavies, as investors are satisfied with a yield of 3½ per cent. in view of the dearth of high-class investments, while the maintenance of the dividends of these lines seem to be fully guaranteed by the continued traffic increases. The Scotch dividends will shortly be announced. They may not show an increase over the previous year, but the future is very promising. Advices from the north are to the effect that the engineering trade is very busy, and substantial traffic increases are therefore in sight, more especially for the Caledonian. Efforts have again been made to depress Metropolitan Districts, but the various extensions which will act as feeders of this system are now well in hand, and in due time they should benefit the Ordinary stock to a substantial extent. Districts, therefore, are one of the best lock-ups in this department. This may also be said to be the case with Central London Ordinary fully-paid shares, which have maintained their recent improvement amidst the surrounding weakness. Interest at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum is paid until the opening of the line, and there can be but little doubt that when this is accomplished it will attract so large an amount of passenger traffic that it will pay good dividends from the outset. The *Financial News* of the 19th inst. contains an account of the progress which has so far been made with the construction of the line, from which it appears that it will be opened for traffic early next year. Of the total length of 22,000 yards of tunnelling only 6,000 yards remain to be driven. As the representative of my financial contemporary puts it, "Very few persons who pass the Exchange in the course of their daily business know that the site of the Great Central station, into which the Central London, City and South London, Waterloo and City, and other electric lines will converge, is virtually cleared, and that the roadways over a considerable area are completely undermined." The foundations of the Company's generating station at Shepherd's Bush are begun, and it is proposed to take advantage of the extensive plant to work all the station lifts, of which there are forty-nine, by electricity, this being more economical than hydraulic power. The whole of the rolling stock, consisting of 150 carriages, which are being made in England, and thirty locomotives, which are being constructed in America, is in hand. The cars will be somewhat similar to those in use on the Manhattan Elevated Railway in New York, the inside length of each being 36 ft., height 7 ft. 6 in., width 8 ft. This means, as the *Financial News* remarks, that a Central London car will be of greater dimensions than a London and North-Western dining-car, thus ensuring greater airiness and comfort, in contrast, I may add, to the somewhat scanty proportions of the City and South London carriages.

The Yankee Market—Another Cuban Scare.

Hardly had the Wall-street market recovered its tone after the Dupuy de Lôme incident—which, by the way, was disavowed by the Spanish Government with the best grace possible—than a fresh Cuban incident burst upon the long-suffering American market in the shape of the frightful catastrophe to the U.S. cruiser *Maine*. The nerves of Wall-street were altogether shattered by this disaster, and, as usual, my sensational American contemporaries did their best to convey the impression that Spanish perfidy was at the bottom of the explosion. A different view was taken here from the outset, and the curious spectacle appeared that on several consecutive days London held up quotations while New York put them down. A calmer view of the occurrence has since been taken by our American cousins, although there are still occasional outbursts on sensational, but false, rumours, and it is quite clear that the Spanish authorities were in no way connected with what seems to have been an accident. The manner in which the wounded were tended, and the respect shown to the remains of the unfortunate victims by Spanish and Cubans are, moreover, beyond all praise. Under these circumstances, there is reason for hoping that in due time, and especially after an examination of the wreck, the people of the United States will recognise the generous conduct of Spain in the matter, in which case this deplorable disaster may after all conduce to more amicable relations between the two countries. It is most unfortunate that at this juncture the statement made by Mr. Chamberlain in the House of Commons concerning certain occurrences in the Lagos hinterland should have precipitated a scare on the London Stock Exchange, thus withdrawing temporarily the support which American Rails had received on this side. But as there is no indication of serious trouble between England and France, it is as well to look rather at the commercial and financial position in the United States than at the political rumours which at present disturb this department. Traffics certainly continue most satisfactory, and, according to the *Financial Chronicle*, the earnings of thirty-five railroads in the second week of February amounted to $3,672,769, an increase of $433,966, and those of seventy-six railroads in the first week of February were $7,035,846, a gain of $676,913. Amongst the traffic increases for the second week of February are Milwaukee, $80,000; Louisville, $43,000; Texas and Pacific, $31,618; Southern, $25,000; Chesapeake and Ohio, $48,551; Missouri Pacific, $35,000; and Wabash, $30,007. The money outlook in the United States is also satisfactory, and the effect of the splendid crops is still visible in the greater prosperity of the whole country. Wages, moreover, are being raised, and will thus increase the spending power of the masses. There is a talk of the directors of the Louisville and Nashville Company raising the wages of their employees. This, as I have repeatedly mentioned, is a necessary condition before dividends can be resumed, and in view of the refunding scheme which has now been fixed up, it is evident that the resumption of dividends is imminent. The recent advance in Louisville has been lost again, chiefly under the pressure of the unfavourable political news, and on heavy sales, which appear to have piled up a considerable "Bear" account. I mentioned last week that Milwaukee had not had their share in the general upward movement which had taken place, and I suggested that the insiders were reserving their strength until we get close to the next dividend announcement in March. This has evidently been the case, and now the first rumours of the next distribution, which is expected to be 2½ per cent. for the half-year, are being cabled over. There is no doubt that the Milwaukee Company can easily maintain a 5 per cent. dividend now. In fact, the earnings for the fiscal year are working out to over 7 per cent. I do not anticipate that the present weakness of Atchison Prefs., Erie Prefs., Norfolk Adjustment Prefs., Northern Pacific Prefs., and Southern Prefs. will be maintained, as all these reorganised roads are doing well, and earning dividends on their Preference stocks. I expect a sharp rally, more particularly in Erie Prefs., which stock is likely to prove exceedingly scarce in the near future, but whenever the recovery comes it will doubtless be general, and it should more particularly affect Union Pacifics as the Kansas Pacific sale has taken place, and the reorganisation committee has acquired this road. The position of the Union Pacific is undoubtedly one of great promise now that the Government lien is done with. The net earnings during the year 1897, while the road was in the receivers' hands, amounted to $6,336,100, and, adding the revenue from other sources, this would be sufficient to pay fixed charges, and the full four per cent. preference interest, leaving, moreover, a credit balance. When it is considered that the Company has done so well while in the hands of the receivers, it may be anticipated that now the road will be worked independently, and especially in view of the intimate relations formed with the Vanderbilt roads, still better progress will be made, so that it may be said that the Common Stock is in sight of dividends. It should not be forgotten, moreover, that the present price includes $15 of Preference due to the old shareholders in lieu of the assessment, so that the quotation is reduced to $23 ex rights. In discussing the probable course of American Rails in the near future one must not leave out of calculation the fact that a number of big deals have still to be carried out by the leading American financial houses, and it may therefore be assumed that a strong effort will be made by these to impart renewed strength to this department whenever political events permit this. For some time I have warned

my readers to "stand from under" as regards Canadian Railroad stocks, the rise having been too fast and furious. Now that rate cutting has commenced between the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk, both stocks have declined sharply, the weakness of the Yankee market at last also affecting them. On Saturday Canadian Pacifics fell over 4 points to 84½, and Grand Trunk First Prefs. are down to 65⅝, the Guaranteed to 74½, and there has since been a further decline. It remains to be seen how far this war of rates will be carried. I have been favoured with the latest issue of the "American Railways Traffic Book," published by Messrs. Hodding, King, & Co., stock and share brokers, 14, Angel-court, E.C., which is a very useful handbook for those interested in the American market.

Foreigners and South Americans.

The strength of inter-Bourse securities has been remarkable amidst the various weakening influences, and although they have at last given way on the rumours concerning the West African difficulty, the relapse has been merely fractional. Even Spanish have not fallen much below 61, the price at which they have been maintained for some time. Turks are easier on the Cretan difficulty, but Greeks have been very firm. In fact, the present range of quotations in the Foreign department does not in any way suggest serious fears of trouble between this country and France. In the South American section the only improvement has taken place in Uruguayan bonds, which have risen to 43 for the Three and a Half per Cent. Loan, on the continued favourable advices from Monte Video, according to which Señor Cuestas has the united support of the Blancos and Colorados, while the Herrera party has been finally worsted. On the other hand, Argentine Government stocks have experienced a general decline of about 2 points, chiefly on realisations by nervous "Bulls." It looks, moreover, as if no important advance would come about until General Costa occupies the Presidential chair. In Argentine Railway stocks there has been an important set back, at which readers of Truth will not be surprised, as I have for some time explained that the upward movement in these securities has gone far in advance of the improvement in earnings, the future progress having been unduly discounted. I mentioned more especially Central Argentine Ordinary as having been pushed up altogether regardless of the dividend outlook, and I have now to record a further fall in this stock to 81½. Buenos Ayres Great Southern are down four points to 153, and Buenos Ayres and Rosario are 2 lower at 74½, while another heavy decrease of the Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) has caused the Income debentures to fall 4 points to 54½. According to a cablegram from the Buenos Ayres correspondent of the *Financial News*, a group of continental bankers has agreed to purchase from the Government "locust bonds" to the amount of $3,000,000, thus providing the Finance Minister with the necessary funds for the payment of the coupons on the foreign loans. It may be assumed that a portion of this amount has been spent in the destruction of locusts, but it is not stated what the security of the bonds will be. It is to be hoped that the security will not consist of these amiable insects. Nothing more has been heard of the refunding scheme of the Mexican Gold Debt, but the quotations of Mexican Sixes have been well maintained. On the other hand, the decline in silver has caused Mexican Rails to join the downward movement, the First Prefs. having now receded to 79½. Peruvian Corporation stocks are slightly easier, although no unfavourable news has come to hand. There has been no recovery in Brazilians, and Chilians have been weak, but I do not share the opinion expressed in some quarters that there will be trouble between Chili and Argentina over the boundary question.

The Kaffir Circus—Oom Paul Spoils the Market.

The arbitrary dismissal of Chief Justice Kotze by President Kruger has caused a disagreeable impression, not only here but also in Paris, and French realising sales have been effected in addition to London "Bear" sales, thus causing a further general reaction. This judicial squabble is very unfortunate, but I do not think that Oom Paul proposes exactly to interfere with the administration of justice, and I should think that this event will in due time be viewed more calmly. What has after all to be borne in mind is that the mining industry in the Transvaal is making excellent progress, and there is no indication that Oom Paul will stifle the industry upon which the very existence of the South African Republic depends. A further shake-out of weak elements has also been caused by the recent set-back, and after the settlement it would not by any means be surprising to see a very general recovery. In the meantime, Rand Mines, after declining to 30, have rallied to 30⅝, and Consolidated Goldfields and East Rands, after touching 4½, are firmer at 4⅝. Chartered have also been affected by sales on the part of stale "Bulls," and are but little firmer at 2¾; while the reaction has extended to the Barnato and Robinson groups. Holders of substantial mining and finance shares, however, should not throw the same away, but await a recovery which cannot be far off. Cable information has been received that the Main Reef series in the Knight's Deep has been cut in the Robertson Shaft at 1,173 ft. The following are three average assays of the Main Reef: Over 4 ft., 12 dwt. 10 gr.; over 4 ft. 7 in., 9 dwt. per ton; over 4 ft., 1 oz. 4 gr. per ton; the north reef over 1 ft, 9 dwt. 21 gr. A movement is on foot to call a meeting of shareholders of the South African Gold Trust for the purpose of obtaining an expression of their opinion concerning the threatened resignation of Mr. H. E. M. Davies. It will be remembered that at the last ordinary meeting the proposal was made to increase the remuneration of the Directors by £2,000, but the shareholders took very little interest in the matter, and Mr. Davies, who was in the chair, decided that the resolution had been negatived, and signified his intention to abandon the chairmanship. There is a very general feeling of regret at this decision, and it is evident that the large majority of the shareholders will be in favour of retaining the valuable services of Mr. Davies, so that the amount of £2,000 for the past year, which has been fully deserved by the able management of the Board, will doubtless be voted. Diamond shares have also been dull, De Beers being quoted 29¾, New Jagersfontein, 8.

Golden West Australia.

It cannot be said that the West Australian section has shown uniform firmness. At the same time, there has not prevailed in the "Kangaroo" department that general weakness which has distinguished the Kaffir Circus, and in one instance more particularly great strength has been shown. I refer to the Market Trust group, in which Northern Territories have again advanced to $3\frac{13}{16}$, so that the quotation of these shares has more than doubled itself during the last few weeks. I explained the reason of this rise last week, and I have now to record a further sharp improvement in this group in W.A. Loan and General Finance shares, which have gone ahead to $2\frac{3}{16}$, or $\frac{7}{16}$ better. The other shares of this group have also been firm, and a notable circumstance is the proposal to amalgamate the bulk of the Associated properties. A circular has been issued to the shareholders of the W.A. Market Trust stating that the Directors are engaged upon the consideration of the consolidation of the principal parent Companies, and it is incidentally mentioned that the Associated Gold Mines of Western Australian, Associated Southern Gold Mines, Associated North-Western Gold Mines, and the Auxiliary Associated Gold Mines, will be among the first to derive benefit from this scheme. From the Associated Gold Mines a cablegram has been received, stating that "there is a great improvement at the north-west drive on lode No. 2, off south-west cross-cut 110-ft. level, and that at No. 6 shaft, Australia East lease,

Glacier Window Decoration.—A pleasant occupation for ladies is the decoration of the windows of the house, and a reliable substitute for Stained Glass, giving warmth and brightness at small cost, should be warmly welcomed. Glacier has now for 15 years stood the test of use in every country in the world. Send rough plan and measurements of any window, and sketch and estimate of cost of decoration with Glacier will be sent free of charge.—M'Caw, Stevenson, & Orr, Ltd., 29, Cannon-st., London, E.C., & Belfast.

No. 72E, 5 ft. in width, the assays average 7 oz. per ton." The list of crushings this week is not extensive, being as follows:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per ton.
Great Boulder Perseverance ...	1,049	933	—
Westralia and East Extension...	1,882	1,236	—
Hannan's Oroya	832	374	—
Belle Vue Proprietary	300	394	—
Light of Asia Amalgamated.....	168	142	—
Weld-Hercules.....	200	135	—
Lady Shenton	552	1,518	—
Ivanhoe Gold.....	793	1,354	17 dwt.
Mount Yagahong.....	548	612	—
Royal Sovereign	73	166	—
Cuddingwarra	280	290½	37 dwt.

It will be noted that the Great Boulder Perseverance milling return is not all that could be desired, but it remains to be seen what will be the result of the next smelting operation. From the White Feather Reward Claim a cablegram states that the 300-ft. level continues to improve, and that gold can be seen at almost every shot. With reference to the Belle Vue Proprietary, the Directors state that crushings will now commence from the stopes direct, the quartz recently crushed having been taken from the dump formed during development. Brownhill Central shares have been in fair request at 1¾, and the manager, Mr. J. H. Edols, has been authorised to obtain complete air-compressing plant with six rock drills. I understand that the question of the Agent-Generalship for Western Australia has now been decided, and that the Hon. E. H. Wittenoom, Minister of Mines, will receive the appointment on the return of the Premier, Sir John Forrest, from the inter-Colonial conference. Mr. Wittenoom is expected here early in May. He will doubtless be an ideal Agent-General, but it will be somewhat difficult to find an equally good man to succeed him as Minister and leader in the Legislative Council. It is also announced that the Government Geologist has just returned from the goldfields. He reports that the possibilities of deep alluvial mining are very great, and that there is abundance of promisingly rich unoccupied ground outside leases available for alluvial workers. Once again a strong attack has been made on the London and Globe Finance group, and the raid was accompanied by false rumours to the effect that the Marquis of Dufferin had resigned the chairmanship, not only of the London and Globe, but also of the British America Corporation. These reports may do credit to the ingenuity and unscrupulousness of the "Bears," but they were absolute lies, and no one was more surprised at the rumour so unblushingly set about than Lord Dufferin himself, who happened to be at the London and Globe offices when the report reached there. Of course, it was at once contradicted, but even when a lie does not get a start, as in this case, it is sometimes believed by the public. I have, however, the fullest authority for giving this untruth a complete contradiction. During the past week conferences have been held between the Directors and committees of shareholders of the various sub-companies of the London and Globe Finance Corporation, which are to be amalgamated, and the authorities of the parent Company, and, with few exceptions, I believe that the information vouchsafed, which was complete in every respect, was favourably received. It remains now for the shareholders to receive the report of their Directors and of the members of their committees at Wednesday's and Friday's meetings, and to act thereon. The matter is, of course, entirely in their hands, but it strikes the impartial observer that, as reconstruction is the only alternative, it would be distinctly to the advantage of the shareholders in the sub-companies to join this larger exploration Company. It seems to me quite a wrong view to take to resent the offer of one share in the new undertaking for every two of the shares in the various sub-companies, as it is probable that the new shares will rise to a considerable premium, if, as may be expected, the new corporation shares in profitable undertakings, such as have produced such large sums for the shareholders of the London and Globe Finance Corporation. Lake View Consols, after a firming-up, have been depressed to 9¾; but the news from the mine is very satisfactory, it being reported that the 300-ft. level is opening up splendidly. The south drive is stated to be in ore ranging from 5 to 15 oz. per ton, and the north drive averages from 1 to 3 oz., the lode being about 10 ft. wide. Ivanhoe shares have been pretty firm on favourable advices from the property, being quoted 6¼. Sensational developments are reported from the Great Boulder Proprietary at the 300 ft. level, although the shares are not much better at 22s. 9d. The Great Boulder Main Reef seems to be distinguishing itself chiefly by striking big flows of water. The West Australian Goldfields group has shown dulness, the shares in the parent company being quoted 2, while Hampton Plains stand at $\frac{15}{16}$. Dulness has also prevailed in the London and West Australian Exploration group, the parent Company's shares being quoted $\frac{15}{16}$, while Hannan's Brownhill, after rising to 8⅛, have reacted to 7¾. Sons of Gwalia shares are, however, firm at 2⅛, and the news from the mine continues satisfactory. The London and West Australian Exploration Company, Limited, have received information by this week's mail, according to which the Company has located five leases near the "Sons of Gwalia," in addition to the "Gwalia No. 1 South" and the "Edward Hooper." A sample taken from the latter is understood to have shown 19 dwt. of gold per ton by fire assay. With regard to the Waroonga Lease (Lawlers) of this Company, it is stated that in the North Drive from Ogilvie's Shaft the face shows 18 in. of rubbly formation, worth about 1 oz. per ton, and that the reef in the leading stope north of the shaft is 10 in. wide and worth about 2 oz. per ton. The Venture Corporation are about to send another diamond drill plant to Western Australia, the excellent work done by the one already out there on the Crœsus Consols having induced them to also test by the same means at depth some of their other properties in the Coolgardie district owned by the Corporation. Lady Shenton shares, after receding to 2⅞ on profit-taking, have advanced sharply to 3⅜, and it is expected that these, as well as Florence shares, will reach much higher prices. Very favourable advices are being received with regard to both properties. An excellent crushing of 552 tons for 1,518 oz. of gold has just been cabled over, making a total of 7,143 tons crushed for 25,145 oz. It should also be remembered, with regard to these and other mines in the Menzies district, that the new railway to Menzies is to be opened this week, and that this will save many thousands of pounds to the various mining Companies. The rest of the West Australian department has been very dull, and declines have occurred in Kalgurli, South Kalgurli, Hannan's Crœsus, Central Boulder, Hannan's Oroya, Londonderry, Peak Hill Goldfields, Hannan's Proprietary, Golden Links, and many others. There are, however, those closely connected with this market who anticipate a fresh improvement during the new account, always provided that political developments are not very unfavourable.

Indian, Australasian, and British Columbian Mines.

In view of the weakness of other sections it was not likely that the Indian department should show strength. In fact, the tone was weak, and business was altogether inactive. Mysore Gold, Coromandel, and Ooregum are all lower; and the only improvements have occurred in Mysore Wynaad and Mysore West. In Australian mines, other than West Australian, Mount Lyell are scarcely altered at 13⅞, while Mount Lyell North are quoted 3⅜. New Australian Broken Hill Consols have taken a jump to 3s. 6d., on the news that a rich silver deposit had been struck. It will be remembered that in its earlier history, and before reconstruction, this Company's shares rose to 2½, and remained at that price, while a rich silver deposit was being worked. Finally, the rich ore pinched out, and it was discovered that the mine was very patchy, and it remains to be seen, therefore, how long the newly-struck

patch will last. Aladdin's Lamp have eased off to 1⅝. In Charters Towers shares, Brilliant and St. George United and Day Dawn Block have given way. In the New Zealand division, general weakness has prevailed, and declines were marked in Taitapu Estates, Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand, Waihi Silverton, Kauri Freehold, and Kapanga. Amongst British Columbian shares there has been a little more doing, but prices have not improved. London and British Columbian Goldfields and British Columbian Development are lower, and there has also been a setback in Klondike North-Western Territories. The "Bear" raid on London and Globe Finance shares was accompanied by an attack on British America Corporation shares, which have receded to 1s. 9d. premium, but from all I can gather there is no reason for this relapse, and a circular will shortly be issued explaining the undoubtedly promising position of this Company. The objection has been urged that this Company has abandoned some of the options which it held. It is obvious that one must not mention names in connection with such matters, as this might interfere with negotiations in progress, but I happen to know that in connection with one important property the fact that the option was abandoned resulted in the undertaking being offered to the Corporation at a very much lower figure. One thing should not be forgotten, viz., that this Corporation has the largest cash capital of any British Columbian Finance Company, and that with careful sifting of the options it owns and of those that have since been offered to it, it should be in the position of acquiring the best selection of properties. In the general foreign section improvements are marked in Frontino and Bolivia, Alamilos, and Burma Ruby. Copper shares have been generally firm under the lead of Rio Tinto, and Mexican mining shares have been steady. Utah shares have experienced a revival, the price having recovered to 2¾.

New Enterprises and Issues

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

Albion (The Burton-on-Trent) Brewery, Limited.—This is an issue of £110,000 Four per Cent. Perpetual "A" Mortgage stock at par in sums of not less than £50, in multiples of £1. The interest will be payable half-yearly. The Company was formed in 1896 to acquire the Albion Brewery, Burton-on-Trent, with the licensed houses and other properties attached thereto, the share capital being fixed at £140,000 in shares of £10 each, all of which were taken by the vendors, except eighty-seven shares.

The Klondike Hydraulic, Limited.—With a capital of £310,000 in shares of £1 each, this Company has been formed to acquire and work three placer claims of 20 acres each in the Klondike district on Bonanza Creek, Alaska, U.S.A.

This is a rather curious issue. The prospectus does not contain a single expert opinion on the value of the property. The whole information is vouchsafed by the vendor who states that there is already £46,000 worth of gold dust awaiting shipment and another £20,000 on the dump, yet he is willing to take the purchase consideration as to £6,000 in cash and the rest in shares. This is too generous!

The Schibaieff Petroleum Company, Limited.—This Company is formed with a share capital of £750,000 in 75,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £5 each, and 375,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each, for the purpose of acquiring the entire interest and assets of the petroleum business carried on at Baku, Moscow, and elsewhere, by the Russian private limited liability company, known as Messrs. S. M. Schibaieff & Co., Limited, and carried on since 1884.

The "Era" Incandescent Oil Lamp Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring the British, foreign, and colonial letters-patent for Graetz's incandescent oil lamp. The capital is fixed at £60,000 in £1 shares.

There is but little future for oil lamp improvements in view of the dangers attending the use of oil, and the prospectus does not state that the new burner is absolutely safe. No lamp is likely to be a success in the future unless it is so.

The Premier Trawling and Fish Carrying Company, Limited.—With a capital of £200,000, divided into Cumulative Preference and Ordinary shares of £1 each, and a Four and a half per Cent. Debenture stock of £150,000, this Company is formed to acquire as a going concern, develop, and carry on, the business of steam trawler owners, &c., now carried on by Richard Simpson & Co., Limited, of Hull.

This Company is formed to take over the business of an existing one. It would be as well to know the reason of the change and what profit has been made out of the deal. Unless these questions are satisfactorily answered, this venture should be left alone.

J. Edwards & Co. and their Operations.

I have ere this had occasion to refer to the touting circulars of J. Edwards & Co., who style themselves stock and share brokers, of Talbot House, Arundel-street, W.C. They have boasted of many profits, but I have never come across anyone who actually received the same. This kind of gentry generally distribute circulars in which they talk of enormous profits having been obtained for their clients in previous deals, and on the strength of these allurements they endeavour to obtain subscriptions to further operations. I happen to have in my possession some information with reference to the latest transactions of J. Edwards & Co., which causes me to specially warn my readers against entrusting any money to them. A reader of Truth, who noticed my remarks with reference to this firm in last week's issue, has just given me his experience with J. Edwards & Co. In the beginning of January he sent them a £5 subscription to an operation in Louisville and Nashville, and on the 8th inst. he received back £6 5s., or what they called a 25 per cent. profit. They at the same time forwarded a circular inviting participation in another operation, which was to take place in Caledonian Deferred Ordinary. Encouraged by the small profit which he had made in the Louisville deal, my correspondent forwarded £5 towards the Caledonian operation, and on the 17th inst. received the following communication:—

Tudor House, Arundel-street,
London, W.C., February 16, 1898.

We regret to have to inform you that the workings of the operation in Caledonian Deferred Stock opened on February 9, 1898, have proved so unfortunate as to involve the total loss of the cover subscribed.—With much regrets, yours faithfully,
J. Edwards & Co.

For the benefit of other readers of Truth, who may, notwithstanding my continued warnings against syndicate-touts, still be inclined to embark their money with them, I herewith give publicity to this experience of a reader of Truth, who, in view of my repeated warnings, ought to have known much better than to support the "operations" of J. Edwards & Co. Is it necessary to again repeat that the syndicate-touts sometimes allow their subscribers to win once, only in order to fleece them more effectually in subsequent transactions.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

L. O.—There seems to be a fair prospect of Uruguay bonds rising further. No reason to sell Argentine Funding bonds after the fall. *F. B.*—If you will forward a stamped addressed envelope, I will send you what you require in same.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

C. W., Ventnor.—What you require has been forwarded in your envelope. *Oxonian.*—The directors undoubtedly have the power to make a call, but, as the general meeting will shortly take place, you should be able to resist the payment of same until then. I quite agree with you that the best plan would be to wind up the concern. *Captain, Cornwall.*—It seems to me that your best plan would be to invest in Colonial Government bonds, which yield at present about 3 per cent., unless you go so far as to invest in Home Industrial debentures, including brewery debentures, in which you can obtain from 4 to 5 per cent. *Correspondent, Leamington.*—No; I do not consider that this Company is a swindle, although it is inadvisable to go into such an undertaking without possessing the necessary funds. It certainly is not a concern to put your savings in. I do not see how I can help you. *Jumper.*—In your position you ought not to expect more than 2¾ per cent., which you can obtain in Brighton Corporation 3½ cent. stock, and Tunbridge Wells Corporation 3 per cent. stock. *Dora, R. S. V. C.*—The banks in which you are interested are all high-class, and there is no reason for anxiety. But as you seem to be afraid of the uncalled liability, you will no doubt get an

opportunity of selling out at a good price in the course of the present year. It will then be time enough to give you a list of industrial debentures in which to place the money. There is no reason for hurrying out of the bank shares. *Constant Reader, Cambridge.*—The present quotation of this Australian debenture stock is 105·7, but it is not a security which I am inclined to recommend. *G. I. B.*—I cannot trace this concern. It has evidently passed into the haven of liquidation. *S. C., Rochdale.*—Have nothing to do with the outside brokers in question.

Home Rails.

Demos.—When the Great Central extension to London is open for traffic, and the Three per Cent. Guarantee therefore expires, the stock will be dependent upon the earnings for its dividend. You may as well hold the other stock. Linotypes are quite high enough. *C. F.*—I do not see any reason for selling your Home Rails Nos. 1 to 7 now, but you should do so on an advance. *X. X.*—The future of the line entirely depends upon the question as to what profit the new extension to London will yield. When the Midland was in the same position, an extraordinary change for the better took place, and there is every reason to think that history will repeat itself; but it is quite impossible to give actual estimates. There is no doubt that the line will take a good deal of traffic away from the existing companies—notably from the Great Northern and Midland—but it is not possible to give figures. *Medicus, Glasgow.*—Yes, I think that these stocks are suitable for you.

American and Foreign Rails.

H. B.—Obviously, there are not the same possibilities for Mexican Central Four per Cent. Gold bonds (as these cannot get more than the fixed rate of interest) as for the more speculative Mexican Railway First Prefs., although the price of the latter is also too high. The low price of silver is against both stocks. *James.*—This certainly is a gambling transaction, and I really cannot gather from your statement how you stand in the matter. *An Old Reader of* Truth.—There is no fresh information with reference to the Wabash. *Northern.*—You might put the money into Erie Prefs., Southern Prefs., and Union Pacifics, all of which are expected to rise considerably higher. *Cecil.*—1. Yes, of course, respectable bankers are. 2. There is no reason why you should not clear the profit, and make the re-investment, especially as you can now get Reading Fours at something like 89. 3. You might as well wait with these for a further advance. *H. J. G.*—1. It might be advisable to hold for some time. 2. There is every prospect of a good dividend. *Pat.*—Yes. *Heavy Loser.*—There is every prospect of Norfolk and Western Prefs. and Common rising to a much higher level. *T. M. R.*—It is quite correct that Mexican Central First Mortgage Gold bonds are well worth the present quotation, but you must not forget that the low price of silver affects the earnings very considerably.

Mining Shares.

Madeline G.—1. I do not see how you can resist payment of the call; I do not think much of the Company. 2. No doubt they will proceed against you if you do not pay up. *Mechanic.*—You should hold these shares now on the chance of an improvement. *A Victim (D.G.).*—You seem to place mining companies in the same category as Consols. I think that the scheme in question is the best solution of the difficulty. *Scrutator.*—I am inclined to be extremely suspicious with regard to this Klondike Company, and am afraid that you will lose your money. I have warned my readers quite sufficiently against wild-cat Klondike concerns. *Sea Gull.*—This is not the time to sell mining shares. The market is very flat, and there is nothing for it but to await a recovery. *Z. A.*—1. Yes, you had better hold May Consolidated now. 2. I do not advise a purchase. 3. North Mount Lyell shares are quite high enough. 4. No, silver is too much depreciated. *Kerneguy.*—This mine is not doing well, and I certainly do not advise a purchase. *Grass.*—You should hold Lake View Consols for a recovery. I am glad to hear that you did so well in Lady Shentons on my advice, and London and Globes are a good purchase. *J. B. A. S.*—I cannot possibly mix myself up with your dealings with the secretary of this Company, and have returned the whole of the documents to you. You must take your own course. *W. S. S. X.*—I have never recommended Light of Asia Amalgamated, and have but a poor opinion of the same. You must take your own decision in this matter. *A. S. B.*—The mine is believed to contain payable ore, but I should not like to express a definite opinion. *Spec.*—A fair mining risk, but I would not advise a purchase yet. *Mercator.*—Your mining shares Nos. 1 to 8 should be held, and you might buy more to average of Nos. 1, 2, and 6 (Randfontein). Lady Shentons are a good purchase. *Yelvertoft.*—You got very high into the mining shares Nos. 1 to 20, but this is not the time to sell. You should await a recovery in the Mining Market, which is at present unduly depressed. *Scot.*—1. I mentioned last week the reason for the rise in Northern Territories. 2. Possibly. 3. Impossible to tell. 4. No. *J. H. P.*—There is no definite news with reference to this property, and pending further developments, I should advise you to wait. I cannot reply by letter. *J. P.*—I still hold the same opinion, and if the scheme goes through there will probably be an important improvement all round. *W. M.*—Some delay in increasing the output of the Lake View Consols has occurred through the old battery of twenty stamps breaking down. I have already stated the position in last week's issue. You will remember that I advised sale when the shares reached 12. *Suspec.*—1. I think that Golden Links have been overrated by the market. 2. Yes. 3. Write to the secretary for information. *Anxious Martha.*—There is every prospect of the shares Nos. 1 to 3 improving, when you should take your profit. *Houldsworth.*—I would not sell the South African mining shares at present. The market is exceptionally depressed, and the shares should be held for a recovery. To go now promiscuously into British Columbian ventures might be jumping from the frying-pan into the fire. *Bernard.*—Of course, you will have nothing to do with these Birmingham people, who offer 2½ per cent. dividends a week. It is quite clear that no one can afford to pay interest at the rate of 130 per cent. per annum, and this must therefore be a swindle. 1. No; I do not recommend a purchase of these mining shares. 2. Leave these alone. 3. I do not like this mine. *Pat-a-Cake.*—There is nothing for it but to await the results of the meetings of shareholders. If they decide to fall in with the matter, you may safely do so also. 2. Probably. *T.*—1. I have nothing to add to the remarks on this amalgamation scheme under "Golden West Australia." 2. It is quite correct that an independent and exhaustive report has been obtained from Dr. Krause on the Woodstock Transvaal, which is very satisfactory. 3. Not as far as I know. *Onudrans.*—1. Because prospects are good. It is expected from week to week that valuable reefs will be discovered by the prospectors, who are now in large numbers on these properties. 2. Yes. 3. Not promising. 4. Yes. 5. I should not like to express an opinion. *Yak.*—I do not propose to give this address unless I can convince myself of the bona-fides of this person, which I doubt very much at present. I am afraid that prospects of Nos. 1 and 2 are not good. You should certainly hold Nos. 3-6. I am glad you did well in Lady Shenton, London and Globe, and Lake View on my advice. *Rover.*—1. This Diamond mine is very promising. 2. Not doing well just now. 3. Yes, a dividend was announced on December 31. *O. K.*—See remarks under "Golden West Australia." *Inquirer, Burnley.*—You got too high into Golden Horseshoe, but after the decline you had, perhaps, better hold. *Bey.*—Very favourable news has been received from the White Feather Reward, as mentioned under "Golden West Australia."

Industrial Shares.

Captain, Somerset.—1. No reason to sell this brewery stock. 2. The electric shares "A" appear to be quite high enough, and cable property like "B" is not progressive, neither is "C" a good purchase. *E.T., Reading.*—1. Very speculative, and not suitable for permanent investment. 2. Not at present. 3. Highly speculative; I do not advise the investment. *Oakhurst.*—The brewery shares Nos. 1 to 3 have been very disappointing, but you should await a recovery before selling. The debentures No. 4 should come all right. Nos. 5 to 7 are doing fairly well, and the American Gold bonds No. 8 are improving. No. 9 is a fair investment. *Mona.*—I meant to imply that you should sell as soon as ever you can get out at a small profit, as there is now too much competition in this kind of business. *Trutta.*—I have always warned my readers against United Alkali shares, and I still hold the same opinion. You may take your own course. *Oakroyd.*—The first-named shares seem to be at present on the down-grade, but it would perhaps be advisable to hold for a recovery and then sell. I do not recommend a purchase of electric shares.

Mixed Investments.

Mother.—No option but to hold your shares Nos. 1 to 4 and No. 6 for an improvement. No 5, however, are quite high enough. As regards the further investment, would you like to put the money into Home Industrial debentures, yielding from 4 to 4½ per cent? If so, I will give you the names of such. *Dan.*—This is not the time to sell South African mining shares like Nos. 1-8. Await a recovery. Hold also Nos. 9 and 10. *M. T.*—No option but to hold the mining shares Nos. 1-13. Florence (14) are likely to go much higher. I don't think well of No. 15. *Acorn.*—I don't think much of the two stocks mentioned by you. Brighton "A" would yield you 3⅞ per cent., and you might add Home Industrial debentures yielding from 4 to 4¼ per cent. *Vixen.*—1. I should not recommend the investment. 2. Yes. 3. No, leave these cycle shares alone. 4. Yes. 5. Meyer & Charlton are preferable of the two. 6. I do not like them. *B. S.*—I. No, I do not recommend purchase of Great Central Deferred, but of Great Central 1894 Ordinary. II. Yes. III. Yes. IV. In time these should improve. *C. F., Penzance.*—Yes, I think the time is favourable for buying good South African gold shares. 2. Norfolk and Western Prefs. and Northern Pacific Prefs. 3. The brokers. *J. R. X.*—1. Yes, Union Pacific shares are a good purchase and there is no further liability on them, an assessment of $15 having recently been paid. 2. No. 3. Probably. *E. A. K. C.*—1. Better hold for the present. 2. I do not like these Patent Medicine shares. *Retram.*—1. A fair speculation. 2. Yes. 3. I do not recommend Cuddingwarra. *Holywell.*—1. You should not hold Threads long. 2. When Central Argentine rose to 88 the other day, this would have been a good time to sell. At present they have declined to 81½. 3. Florence Gold Mining shares. 4. This is a speculative investment. 5. As a matter of principle I cannot recommend individual stockbrokers. I cannot reply by letter.

Various Investments.

Money at one time eased off, but repayments of loans to the Bank of England have again caused rates to stiffen, and three months' bank bills are not quoted below 2¾ per cent. There are, however, indications of coming greater

ease, as some of the Government funds will be released in the near future, while the Bank is likely to obtain the bulk of the gold which will arrive shortly. Notwithstanding ever-recurring rumours that the Chinese loan has been concluded by the British Government, nothing definite is known yet, and some of my contemporaries are evidently drawing upon their imagination. In the meantime, the Chinese loans have not escaped the effect of the political scares, although closing firmer at the last, and the Seven per Cent. Silver Loan is quoted 101, the Six per Cent. Gold Loan 106. Japanese bonds are about unchanged at 102. The Far Eastern question is not, however, troubling the stock markets, neither has the disaster to the *Maine* affected high-class investments to any extent, and the best proof that there is not much in the West African scare is the fact that Consols have only dropped $\frac{3}{8}$ on the recent rumours, the quotation for the account being $112\frac{3}{8}$. British Corporation stocks have been steady, but Colonial Government bonds are somewhat easier, more especially Canadian issues, which are about a point lower. Some of the new Colonial loans are easier, the new Cape of Good Hope loan having declined to $2\frac{1}{2}$ premium, the new West Australian loan to $1\frac{1}{2}$ premium, while the last New South Wales loan is still quoted $1\frac{1}{8}$ premium. Silver has lost over a point at $25\frac{3}{4}$d., but Rupee Paper at $63\frac{5}{8}$ shows hardly any change. In the Cycle section general weakness has prevailed, although there have not been wanting a few recoveries. Humber Ordinary have improved 1s. 8d. to 14s., while the Extensions have hardened to 8s. Cycle Components are lower at $2\frac{1}{4}$, and Swifts remain at $\frac{3}{4}$, Singers at 13s. 3d., Amalgamated Tyres have eased off 9d. to 5s., and Dunlop Deferred are quoted 14s. 6d., the Ordinary 18s., French Dunlops 5s. In the Industrial department a partial collapse has occurred in the highly speculative stocks, this being in accordance with my anticipation. Allsopp Ordinary have dropped 7 to 160, and Bovril Deferred have been a feature of weakness at about 12s., while Schweppe Deferred have given way to $\frac{5}{8}$. Harrod's Stores have shown dulness at $4\frac{3}{4}$. Welsbach Incandescent Ordinary, after declining, have rallied to 120, the Prefs. being quoted 102, the Deferred shares 22s. One of the weakest shares in this market has been Hudson Bays, which have fallen to $21\frac{1}{2}$, the various reports concerning the discoveries of gold on the Company's territories having proved altogether exaggerated. When the Salt Union was first launched I warned my readers that this attempt at the creation of a monopoly could not possibly succeed on the lines on which it was conceived. Those who followed my advice to leave the concern alone, and those who heeded my subsequent warnings to the same effect, may well congratulate themselves, as the £10 Ordinary shares have fallen to $1\frac{5}{8}$, and the £10 Seven per Cent. Preference shares to 6, on the announcement of a dividend of only $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the Prefs., against the market estimate of about 6 per cent. Thus things are going from bad to worse, and I am not surprised that the committee of investigation which has been appointed are recommending a change in the management. Whether a removal of the head offices from London to Liverpool will do the trick remains of course to be seen, but I am strongly of opinion that the Company will never achieve prosperity, and that in any case the Board should be thoroughly reconstructed. An undertaking of a very different kind is that of Maple & Co., Limited, which, under very able management, is achieving great prosperity. The net profit earned in 1897, after providing for interest on Debentures and Preference shares, and after placing a sum of £53,875 to reserve, enables the Directors to recommend the payment of a further dividend of $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the Ordinary share capital, making, with the interim dividend of 5 per cent., a total distribution of $15\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year. In addition to this dividend a bonus of 10s. per share is paid out of the reserve fund, the amount thus distributed being £250,000. A new issue of 250,000 shares is offered to the shareholders at the rate of one share for every two now held, and these shares will no doubt be promptly taken up, the Prefs. being quoted $1\frac{5}{8}$, the Ordinary $4\frac{1}{8}$. A new prophet has arisen amongst the syndicate-touts, a firm trading under the name of Germayne, Hardy, & Co., of Dominion House, 110, Fenchurch-street, London, E.C., being engaged in distributing circulars broadcast over the country, in which they invite participation in their "special combinations for conservative investors." According to the scheme propounded by these people, the subscribers have to agree to the operation being left to the best judgment of Germayne, Hardy, & Co., both as to buying and selling, so that any one signing their special order forms binds himself hand and foot. The usual boasts of big profits are made, the total distribution for 1896 being stated as 78 per cent., and that for 1897 at 94 per cent. Is it necessary to again point out that this is all bunkum, and that these blind pools should be avoided like the pest? It is strange, to say the least of it, that notwithstanding the severe sentences passed upon a number of syndicate-touts, others should enter upon a similar business.—Your affectionate Uncle,

MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

PAID IN FULL.

On all the long, lonely road stretching away to the skyline, and glaring white under the scorching sun of an afternoon in late July, there was but one moving object, a slightly-built lad of seventeen, or thereabouts, who toiled slowly on with drooping head and feeble, uncertain steps. The dust lay thick upon his clothing, and formed a black crust about his parched lips and the corners of his eyes. There was no shade to be found anywhere. No grateful hedge of green, no sheltering wall, bordered the moorland road, which ran straight over the wolds, turning aside for no obstacle, in the uncompromising manner of its original makers, the grim old Romans.

The boy had walked twelve miles that day, without tasting a morsel of food, and the small remnant of his strength was fast deserting him. Had there been any wished-for goal in front, the indication of a house, or even a tree, he might have struggled on a little longer; but before, as well as behind, lay the dreary blankness of the far-spreading moors, a vast expanse of dull, depressing brown, unrelieved by a single spot of colour. With a despairing cry he flung himself face downwards on the parched grass by the wayside.

"Might as well die and ha' done with it!" he groaned.

Bob Carley, poor lad, had suffered a most cruel and unexpected reverse of fortune. But a short month ago he was one of the happiest youngsters at Newmarket, clever at his work, trusted by his master, and bidding fair to reach a high place in his profession; now he was homeless, friendless, penniless. And yet no crime, or even neglect, had been laid to Bob's charge; his misfortunes were wholly unmerited. He had been given the mount on one of his employer's horses in a certain race, with strict injunctions not to win, as the animal was only "out for an airing;" and he had been unfortunate enough to pass the post first—that was all. He had followed his instructions to the letter, and had his horse well in hand at the distance, when some malicious rider in his rear gave the animal a stinging cut with his whip. The wilful thoroughbred shot out instantly, and, in spite of all Bob's efforts, won the race in a canter. There was no preventing the unlucky victory, unless by deliberately pulling the horse before the eyes of the stewards, which would have been fatal to the young jockey's prospects.

But, unfortunately, he had to pay the penalty. His master stormed and raved, and, notwithstanding his vehement and tearful protestations of innocence, discharged him on the spot. Bob, of course, was supposed to have ridden the race to suit his own book; and there were not wanting calumniators to say that he had made a good thing out of it. At all events, no trainer at headquarters would look at him afterwards, and the poor fellow left Newmarket on a hopeless quest for employment.

After many a fruitless tramp, he made his way to Newcastle for the summer meeting, with the lingering

hope that some North-country trainer might be found to give him a job. But Bob's luck, as he put it to himself was dead out, and he failed to obtain even the humblest situation. With the recklessness of despair he risked his last few shillings on the Northumberland Plate, and lost them. Then there was nothing for it but to face the long two hundred miles that lay between him and the south, where he might possibly find a friend or two. Bob never cares to dwell much upon this portion of his experiences; he says he wouldn't wish his worst enemy such a time. It was on the third day after leaving Newcastle that he found himself upon the Yorkshire moors, where he believed his young life was to have an untimely ending.

Half an hour passed by, seeming an age to the luckless wayfarer, prey to the twin fiends of thirst and hunger, when the familiar sound of hoofs fell upon his ear, and he was aware of a horse cantering briskly on the turf by the wayside. The rider was at the opposite side of the road, and Bob never raised his head. It hadn't occurred to him to beg, and the tears of weakness and distress had been dropping from his eyes, so he kept his hands over his face.

But the horse was pulled up close to him, and a sweet voice, full of kindly solicitude, was heard to ask:

"What is the matter?"

Raising his head, Bob beheld what he always maintained to be the nearest approach to an angel he was ever likely to see. It was a lovely young lady, whose eyes, in colour like the summer sky, were bent upon him with a look of heavenly pity. Beneath her low-crowned hat was visible a mass of hair that gleamed in the sunlight like burnished gold; her perfectly-fitting habit revealed the symmetry of a slender, womanly figure, and she sat her horse, a fine slashing chestnut, as one to the manner born.

No wonder the half-starved lad was dazzled by this radiant vision. He staggered to his feet, and stared at the lady in dumb bewilderment.

"You seem in trouble," she said; adding to herself, "Poor boy! he can scarcely stand."

Then Bob recollected himself sufficiently to pull off his cap, and make answer: "I'm just about done up, ma'am—miss."

"You have come a long way?"

"All the way from Newcastle, miss; and I ain't had a bite to eat since yesterday morning."

"Oh, how dreadful!"

The friendly sympathy of the speaker's tones fell upon the lad's bruised and wounded spirit like dew from heaven upon the thirsty earth.

A few questions elicited the main facts of Bob's pitiful story, and the young lady pondered over them for a minute or two. It did not occur to her to cross-question him. Indeed, the tale was told so simply and straightforwardly, and there was such a look of truth in the boy's open brown eyes, that even a more experienced person might have hesitated to doubt him.

"Then you understand the management of horses?" she asked, at last.

"Oh, yes, ma'am," replied Bob, "I've been five years among 'em."

"In that case," she said, "I think I may be able to find some work for you."

She beckoned to the groom who had been riding behind her, and he held the chestnut while she took out a card-case and pencilled something on the back of one of her cards.

"About ten miles from here," she said, "at a place called Hillfield there is a training stable. You must try to make your way there by to-morrow morning; ask for a gentleman named Brookton, and give him this."

Just the least little touch of pink came into the young lady's cheeks as she handed the card to Bob.

"I know he will be there some time to-morrow," she went on, "and you must wait till he comes; I think he will help you. And this may be of use for the present," she smiled, putting some loose silver into his hand. "Down in that hollow to the right there is a village, where you will be able to get something to eat. Can you manage to walk so far? it is not more than a couple of miles."

"Oh, yes, Miss," returned Bob, "you've cheered me up wonderful."

Then he tried to utter some words of thanks, but his heart was too full. His eyes, however, dim with a grateful moisture, spoke eloquently for him, and his benefactress smiled, well pleased.

"Mind you do credit to my recommendation," and nodding kindly, she rode away.

Bob's eyes remained fixed upon her as long as she was in sight, and when she had disappeared over the brow of the hill he said to himself, with intense earnestness:

"If I don't, may I be d—d!"

Bob did'nt mean any harm by a small swear; it was his method of vowing fidelity to his future master.

With renewed life and energy, and a spring in his gait, which an hour ago would have been absolutely impossible for him—such is the magical influence of hope—Bob set out for the village indicated by the beautiful stranger. It was a tiny little place, of a dozen houses or so, but, fortunately, it was able to boast of a small beer-house, where the famished lad was able to obtain some bread and cheese and a mug of home-brewed ale. No food or drink ever tasted so delicious to hungry mortal.

Feeling himself his own man again, he decided on trying to reach Hillfield that evening, as there still remained some hours of daylight. The landlord of the humble hostelry showed him a path over the wolds by which a couple of miles might be saved, and he took to his feet once more. The crisp, springy turf of the moors was a welcome exchange from the hot, dusty road, and Bob marched along bravely, even breaking into a snatch of song now and again.

But when the sun went down, and darkness began to settle over the wide-spreading moorland, the uncomfortable conviction grew upon him that he had lost his way. By this time he should have been near Hillfield, but there was no sign of habitation anywhere about. Clearly, there was nothing for it but camping out, but this was not much of a novelty; and making himself a cosy couch of soft, dry heather, he was soon sound asleep.

He awoke just as day was breaking, and, feeling rather cold and stiff, he set out walking briskly, so as to get his blood into circulation. He had a general idea of the direction in which he had come, and bent his steps towards the opposite point of the compass.

It was not long before he came upon a well-defined path running at right angles to the line he was pursuing, and, turning to the left, a quarter of an hour's sharp walking brought him to the brow of a hill commanding an extensive view.

Some objects moving in the valley beneath caught his eye, and instantly Bob threw himself flat on his face. Three horses, hooded and sheeted, with small boys perched upon their backs, and accompanied by a man on a pony, were cantering along easily, at less than half-a-mile's distance. Bob's experienced eye quickly made them out to be racehorses, and the unusual earliness of the hour—as yet it was only in the grey dawn—convinced him that their business was of a secret nature, most probably a trial. By pure accident he had stumbled upon the Hillfield training ground, and at a particularly interesting moment too.

Bob was possessed of a fair share of common-sense, and he saw that it would by no means improve his prospects of employment to be discovered prying into stable secrets, so he got out of sight with the utmost expedition. A handy gorse-patch offered a convenient screen, and here he ensconced himself in such a position as to be able to see all that was going on, while completely hidden from view.

The man on the pony proceeded towards one end of a level stretch, of rather better than a mile in length, the others moving to the opposite extremity. Arrived here, the lads dismounted, and quickly proceeded to divest the thoroughbreds of their clothing. Having remounted, one of them walked his horse along for about fifty yards, and then set off at full gallop, the others instantly following in his wake.

"He's trying them two," said Bob to himself.

One was a leggy-looking chestnut with a blaze on his

face, and four white stockings; the other a dark bay of splendid proportions, looking a racer every inch of him.

"The bay must be giving a lot of weight away," was Bob's comment.

Before half the distance had been covered, the leading horse, whose mission it was to make a pace for the others, was overhauled, and dropped out of the fray. Then a magnificent trial of speed ensued between the two competitors. First one would get his head in front, and then the other, till they came within about a hundred yards of the trainer, as Bob supposed him to be. There the chestnut began to forge ahead, and, in spite of the most strenuous exertions on the part of the rival jockey, won rather easily at last by a couple of lengths.

After a turn or two to get them cool, the clothing was put on again, and the whole cavalcade trotted off towards a big square house at the other side of the valley, which Bob rightly conjectured to be his destination.

He had brought some bread and cheese from the inn, so he made a very tolerable breakfast, afterwards washing his face and hands in a brackish pool. It would be no use to present himself at Hillfield for hours to come, as Mr. Brookton was unlikely to put in an early appearance at the stable; and to while away the time he took out the young lady's card, which he had wrapped carefully in a piece of newspaper, and looked at it for at least the tenth time. It bore the name of "Grace Morland," and on the back was written: "Find some work for the bearer, as a favour to —G."

Bob had to hang about for a considerable time before the gentleman turned up, and another long interval passed before he was able to get to speak to him. Mr. Brookton was a tall, good-looking young man of about five-and-twenty, with a pleasant manner, and a kindly look in his clear grey eyes.

Miss Morland's card proved a sure passport to his consideration, and when Bob had told his story the young gentleman asked a few questions as to his experience and capacity.

"Well, I don't know how Brumby is fixed," he said, "but something shall be found for you, if possible."

Bob looked longingly after the card, which, he noticed, was put carefully away in a pocket book. He would have given a great deal—for him—to be able to retain it.

"I'll bet he's just gone on her," was the lad's simple thought. "And no wonder," he added, with a heavy sigh, for the soft, azure eyes had played havoc with his susceptible heart.

The trainer, a lean, yellow-faced man, with sinister, shifty eyes, cross-questioned the stranger minutely, and at last gave a grudging assent to his being employed as an extra hand, till he saw how he "framed."

Bob, however, was overjoyed to find even a temporary haven, and entered upon his new duties with eager alacrity. Before he had been long at work something occurred that set him thinking deeply. A bay horse was led out for Mr. Brookton's inspection, which Bob at once recognised as the second in that morning's gallop. The appearance and progress of the animal were discussed by the owner and trainer, but not a word was said about the trial that had taken place at daybreak. This seemed passing strange to the lad, and he could not help fancying there was some underhand business afoot.

"I'll lay my life that there Brumby has some game of his own on," was Bob's conclusion, and there and then he made up his mind to be ever on the watch. Perhaps he might be able to discover something of importance to Mr. Brookton, and thus prove his gratitude to Miss Morland.

Bob had not been long at Hillfield before he found out all about that young lady. She was the only child of a wealthy squire of the neighbourhood, and had been engaged to Mr. Brookton for a considerable time. They would have been married before now, so it was said, but for the young man's reverses on the turf. In fact, so seriously had he impaired his property that there was just a possibility of the match being broken off altogether. All Mr. Brookton's hopes, said Bob's informant, were centred in the bay horse, Bronzewing, who was first favourite for the Merepool Cup. His owner had backed him heavily, and, in stable phrase, had gone a "regular raker." The white-legged chestnut, which was also Mr. Brookton's property, was engaged in the same race, but was not supposed to have the ghost of a chance as long as the favourite kept well.

The young gentleman arrived very early one morning, and it was given out that there was to be a trial. Bronzewing and the chestnut, Montrose, together with a third horse to make the running for them, were despatched to the training ground, whither they were shortly followed by Mr. Brookton and Brumby. Greatly to his disgust, the new stable-lad was not allowed to form one of the party, but he consoled himself with the reflection that he had seen it all before.

When they came back Bob noticed that the owner of Bronzewing seemed in excellent spirits, and as the horses were being returned to their boxes he heard him remark to the trainer:

"I don't suppose there will be any good in running Montrose, will there?"

"Oh, I shouldn't say that, sir," returned the trainer. "For one thing, it will open his eyes a bit; and, besides, it might be a great advantage for Bronzewing to have something to make a pace for him."

"Well, I'll think it over," returned Brookton, and the rest of the conversation was inaudible to Bob.

At the first opportunity he asked one of the lads which of the two had won the trial.

"Oh, Bronzewing, easy," was the reply.

Considering what he had himself seen on the previous occasion this was astonishing news to Bob, and now, more than ever, he was convinced there was foul play going on. If things were as they should be, why had the former trial been kept dark? For, although Bob had thrown out several feelers, he had failed utterly to discover anyone who could throw the smallest ray of light upon the transactions at daybreak. At all events, none of the stable-lads would admit any knowledge of the matter; and it was evident that whoever was concerned in it must have been strictly bound to secrecy. Of course, the horses might not have carried the same weights as on the first trial, though that was scarcely likely. Above all, why was Mr. Brookton kept in the dark about the former affair? For that he was ignorant of it Bob felt assured. The whole thing was a mystery.

The lad might have puzzled his brains over the matter for long enough, and been none the wiser, but for a most surprising and unforeseen piece of good luck. A couple of days after the trial, just about breakfast time, a dog-cart was driven into the yard, and a vulgar looking man, considerably over-dressed, got down; calling out in a very pompous way for some one to put his horse up. One of the lads asked Bob to lend a hand, and the horse was taken out of the shafts.

"Who is that?" asked Bob, when the man had gone into the house.

"Don't know him from Adam," was the reply. "Looks a good deal like a bookmaker."

When the animal's wants had been attended to, the other lad went in to breakfast, and Bob was left alone in the yard. He noticed that the window of Brumby's office, which looked out upon the stables, was open, and at that moment he saw the stranger being shown into the room. A sudden impulse took possession of him, and he made up his mind to hear some of the conversation about to take place, let the consequences be what they might. The resolve was not prompted by a very exalted sense of honour, perhaps, but then he was only a poor stable-lad, and he would not have hesitated at a much more questionable act, if he could only do a service to the gracious lady who had, as he fully believed, saved him from death.

Bob walked noisily across to the kitchen door, then turned and crept silently along the wall till he was right under the window, the sill of which was no more than a yard above his head. There was not a soul about, and he could hear every word as plainly as if he were in the room.

Put briefly, the substance of what he learned was this: Brumby had discovered, quite by accident, that Montrose,

who had been a very backward two year old, had improved marvellously in the last few months. In the Merepool Cup the handicapper had allotted him the very lenient impost of 6st. 7lb.; while Bronzewing, always a creditable performer, though hitherto an unlucky one, had 8st. to carry. Even with that substantial weight both the trainer and his employer looked upon the race as a good thing for him, and, as Bob had heard, the young gentleman's future practically depended on Bronzewing's victory. In the secret trial Brumby had ascertained, beyond doubt, that Montrose was a good three lengths the better at the weights, and immediately conceived the idea of a splendid coup on his own account. With the assistance of a bookmaking confederate named Moss—the person who was now closeted with him—Montrose had been quietly backed to win a great stake, a matter easy of accomplishment owing to the pronounced favouritism of his stable companion. In addition to this, Moss had been steadily laying against the favourite, and intended launching out further in this direction on the day of the race. Altogether, the precious pair looked forward confidently to making their fortunes over the Merepool Cup, coolly indifferent to the inevitable ruin their villainy must entail upon poor young Brookton. In the public trial Montrose had really carried a stone more than his proper weight, so that his owner was completely hoodwinked. Brumby had no doubt about being able to persuade his employer to run Montrose; for, as he contemptuously remarked to his confederate: "He's such a mug there's no credit in foolin' him."

Having lingered as long as he could venture with safety, Bob stole away, and joined his companions at the breakfast table. But for once his appetite completely failed him. He was in a furious rage against the pair of cold-blooded swindlers, as well as frantic to think how utterly powerless he was to circumvent their abominable plot. If he were to tell Mr. Brookton all he knew, it was almost any odds against his being believed. How could a straight-forward, honourable young gentleman like him credit the existence of such foul treachery? The first thing he would do would be to go and question Brumby, and then, as Bob succinctly put it, "all the fat would be in the fire." Even if Mr. Brookton were to scratch Montrose it would be of no use, for it was scarcely likely a pair of ruffians like Moss and Brumby would let Bronzewing win after having laid against him. No, the matter must be kept quiet—for the present, at all events—and he must set himself unaided to the task of spoiling the "plant." But how?—that was, indeed, a question hard to answer.

Bob racked his brains by day and by night, till he grew quite pale and haggard-looking, but never a plan could he discover worthy of a second thought. As a last resource he had made up his mind to tell all to Mr. Brookton, hoping to convince him by his earnestness and sincerity, when an accident occurred that caused him to defer that proceeding for a while. Montrose was by no means a good-tempered colt, and one morning he lashed out at his stable attendant, breaking a couple of his ribs. The important part of it to Bob was that he was installed in the injured lad's place. The Merepool Cup would be run in a few days, and he knew that he should have to accompany the horse. Thus, chances were afforded him on which he had never reckoned, and, with a slice of luck, he thought he could see his way to putting Messrs. Brumby and Co. "properly in the cart."

The horses were sent to Merepool the day before the race, and stabled at an inn near the course. Bob and Bronzewing's attendant went in the horse-box, and Brumby also travelled by the same train. The accommodation at the small hostelry was limited, and no boxes being available, the thoroughbreds were put up in a two-stalled stable.

In the morning they were taken out for a gallop of the course, and when breakfast was over, and the two lads returned to their charges, Bob felt that the time had come for settling Montrose. He did'nt want to injure the horse, merely to prevent his winning; and what he had in his mind must be done as near to the time of the race as possible. However, he was determined to take advantage of the first convenient opportunity, and leave the result to Providence.

He waited and waited, for hours upon hours as it seemed to him, yet the longed-for chance would not come. Brumby was a fixture in the yard that morning. He walked up and down chewing a straw, or leant against the stable door while he smoked his cigar, and Bob's heart grew sick within him. Of course, it was still open to him to reveal the plot to Mr. Brookton, but that, he considered, would be a poor, tame alternative. What Bob wished for was something much more dramatic. He wanted to have the conspirators assured of their triumph, their hopes of victory excited to the highest possible pitch, and then—retribution.

Shortly after twelve o'clock there came a welcome diversion in the shape of Mr. Brookton. The cheery young fellow had a pleasant word for everybody, and was loud in his praises of Bronzewing's looks.

"He's a perfect picture," he said. "I think he'll show them his heels to-day, Brumby?"

"There's nothing in the race to touch him, sir," returned the trainer, with easy confidence.

"Oh, you lying beast!" muttered Bob, under his breath.

"Well, we must drink to his success," said Brookton. "Come along, Brumby," and he turned into the inn by a side door, followed by the trainer.

"Now or never," thought Bob.

"Got a cig, Jemmy?" he asked his companion.

"Not the ghost of one," was the reply.

"Well, here's a tanner; go and get a packet—there's a shop just round the corner."

"What if the boss should come?" put in Jemmy.

"Oh, he's all right for a quarter of an hour—look sharp!"

The boy ran off, and Bob went into the stable.

When Jemmy returned with the cigarettes a few minutes later there was a look on Bob's face as of a man who had performed an arduous duty to his entire satisfaction.

In the race for the Merepool Cup Montrose was first away, and he led his field a lively dance for about three-quarters of a mile. Then he collapsed suddenly—shut up like a knife, the experts said—and was seen no more in the race.

As he witnessed the shattering of his hopes, a wild-eyed, white-faced man on the trainer's stand was biting his lip through, in the effort to keep back the flood of profanity that was surging to his mouth.

"He's been got at!" he hissed between his clenched teeth, "nobbled, by——."

Then came a roar of "Bronzewing! The favourite wins!"—and that good horse, shooting out with the race in hand, passed the post an easy winner.

"Congratulate you, Brumby," said a brother trainer, clapping him heartily on the back. "You've done the trick this time, old man!"

Brumby shook him off with an angry oath, which made the other stare in surprise, and rushed madly down to the paddock.

He was just in time to see Brookton, his handsome face flushed with delight, leading in the winner. It was a bitter pill for the baffled rogue, but he had to swallow it with the best grace he could muster.

Montrose walked in with the crowd, and as the jockey dismounted Brumby came up to him in a white heat of rage.

"What the —— has happened?" he growled.

The lad scowled back at him.

"Well, it strikes me you ought to know. I should say he's had a bucket of water—that's about the size of it."

"Good Lord!" groaned Brumby, "do you suppose I should go stopping the horse I stood to win a fortune over—eh?"

"Well, then, somebody else has gone and put you

Mortlock's (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "Mortlock's" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

properly in the hole," returned the jockey. "And me too, d—n him!" he added ruefully.

The lad had backed the presumed good thing for rather more than he could afford, and was inclined to be crusty in consequence.

Brumby was in a quandary. He could not make a fuss over the supposed nobbling without letting in more light on his crooked proceedings than would have been at all prudent. But he strongly suspected Bob. He had never liked the boy, and felt, somehow, that the feeling was mutual.

At the first opportunity he questioned him. "Did you give any water to Montrose this morning?"

And Bob, looking him fairly and squarely in the face, made answer:

"Not a drop."

If Brumby had succeeded in verifying his suspicions, there is no doubt he would have inflicted a signal vengeance upon Bob, but the opportunity was not afforded him. He was completely ruined by his losses, and before many days the bailiffs were in possession of Hillfield, and its tenant had fled.

Bob Carley, however, soon found a new place with Mr. Brookton, who was giving up the turf, but intended forming a small breeding stud. With rare magnanimity he never told his master how he had saved him from being ruined by the victory of his own horse. It was reward enough for him to know that the debt of gratitude owing to his sweet young mistress had been paid in full.

ART NOTES.

THE fact that another collection of Miss Kate Greenaway's delightful drawings of child life is to be seen just now at the Fine Art Society's Galleries serves to remind us how much we owe to this accomplished lady. She has achieved a result which far greater artists than she have, as far as I remember, never accomplished. For Miss Kate Greenaway, be it remembered, has completely revolutionised the dress of the children of this generation. The late Mr. Du Maurier did much to popularize black stockings for a while amongst little girls. The late Sir John Millais, too, to some extent, affected feminine fashion by the costumes he painted in certain of his pictures. Mr. Marcus Stone, Mr. George Leslie, and Mr. Luke Fildes have, doubtless, given hints in some of their paintings which milliners and *modistes* have been glad to avail themselves of; but Miss Kate Greenaway, as I have already said, has done much more than this. She has transformed the costume of our juveniles; she has given her name to an epoch in dressmaking; she has carried the British nursery at the point of her paintbrush. "If you seek for my monument," she might proudly say with Christopher Wren, "look around you!" And if one does look around, be it in the Nurses' Walk in Kensington Gardens, the amphitheatre at Olympia, or the dress circle of Drury Lane during the Pantomime season, one sees Greenawayesque costumes on every side. For Kate Greenaway is still, if I may so put it, the Allah of the nursery, and Liberty is her prophet!

The present Exhibition reveals no new features in her art. It has its limitations as of yore. It is in drawings of children and of child life that she excels, and her work loses much of its charm when it deals with "grown-ups." A frame of drawings, lent by John Ruskin, is included in the exhibits, and serves to recall the fact that the "Sage of Coniston" highly appreciates Miss Greenaway's work.

In another room at the Fine Art Society's, what I may call MacWhirterism is rampant. Mr. J. MacWhirter, R.A., as I scarcely need say, is a very popular artist, but to some of us, at any rate, a roomful of his pictures at a time is rather too much of a good thing. We have learned to expect a fair sprinkling of them at each recurring Academy. We look upon his tempestuous Scotch torrents, his wind-stricken pines and birches, and his storm-swept glens as more or less inevitable; but this "one-man" Show of his comes as a surprise that is not altogether pleasant. It is all explained, however, in a "Prefatory Note" to the catalogue. "The van containing his Academy work has hardly left Mr. MacWhirter's doors," we are assured, "before the cab has driven up which will start him on his journey to foreign parts; Switzerland, the Tyrol, Italy, Sicily, Greece, or Constantinople being his destination, according as the season suggests to him the greatest opportunities for work, and the brightest show of Nature's adornments." This may suggest great indefatigability on the part of Mr. MacWhirter, but I am not at all sure that it proves his complete discretion. Most of us are aware what all work and no play made of the proverbial Jack. Is it not possible that a too persistent attention to business may at last make even a popular Royal Academician a wearisome painter? But there are other interesting confidences in the "Prefatory Note," I have already quoted. "Mr. MacWhirter," we are informed, "has always entertained an ardent passion for the flowers of the field." Of course, as a Scotchman, the "bonny briar rose," and what I believe is known north of the Tweed as "the braw bonny heather," hold a first place in his floral affections, but it is evident from the collection of water-colours he now shows, that when necessary he can make shift with the Alpine pink, the corn-cockle, the anemone, and the gentian. His studies of these and other plants (to quote for the last time the enthusiastic log-roller of the "Prefatory Note") are not only characterised by "crisp freshness," but carry with them "the gladness which accompanies Mr. J. MacWhirter, R.A., when he once more finds himself at work outside the four walls of his studio." It is a sad confession to have to make but I am bound to say that, by the time I had come to Mr. MacWhirter's third study of "anemone and gentian," the effect of these gladness-carrying drawings upon me personally was decidedly a depressing one.

MUSIC.

STARVING THE SUNDAY BANDS.

I HAPPENED last week casually to refer to the ridiculous idea which certain managers of Sunday concerts seem to have formed that the members of the orchestras engaged in Sabbath performances were anxious to play under price. The original excuse for this comfortable notion lay in the plea that Sunday concerts had not then become popular in the strict sense of the term, and also that a considerable number of free seats had, owing to the scandalous state of the law, to be allotted to the general public. The free seats, however, have now dwindled down to the smallest possible number, and those not very readily to be found; while Sunday concerts have become so popular that any further fostering and dry-nursing of them are wholly unnecessary. Yet certain concert-givers seem to labour under the impression that Sunday bandsmen should be paid a good deal less than they usually receive at regular concerts given on week days. I referred to the announcement made by the Liverpool Sunday Society that, owing to the formation of an Orchestral trade-union in Liverpool the bandsmen had demanded an increase of 25 to 33 per cent., so that the orchestral concerts could not be given at all. I have since received some correspondence on this subject. It seems to indicate that the trade-union was not formed at all prematurely.

According to a statement issued by Mr. J. B. Williams, the general secretary of the Amalgamated Musicians Union, the total sum paid by the Liverpool Sunday Society to the orchestra during last year was £280 for twelve concerts, or, in other words, about £23 6s. 8d. per concert. This sum had to be divided among an average number of seventy-five orchestral musicians, who thus received rather less than 6s. 3d. each per concert, that fee also including

several rehearsals. Now, the ordinary pay of an orchestral performer at concerts is a guinea, one morning rehearsal being thrown in gratuitously. Why, therefore, orchestral performers should be expected to play on Sundays for 6s. 3d. a head is not at all clear. None but (doubtless conscientious) bigots nowadays object to the giving of high-class concerts on Sundays. But it is altogether another thing to expect working musicians to play on Sundays so ridiculously at under price. If anything Sunday labour should be paid extra. The Amalgamated Musicians' Union mildly asked 10s. 6d. a concert for principals and 7s. 6d. for ripieni. The terms certainly do not seem extravagant, and they decidedly do not warrant the pathetic appeal which the authorities of the Liverpool Sunday Society seem to have issued concerning them. The point of the joke, however, lies in the fact that although the Liverpool orchestra are grudged more than £23 6s. 8d. per concert, a special point was made in a recent programme of the Liverpool Sunday Society that the band of the Grenadier Guards had been brought down to Liverpool for one concert at an expense of nearly £100.

Whether, even from their own wordly point of view, performers in concert orchestras are wise to accept absurdly low prices for Sunday labour is a matter well worth consideration. Cheap Sunday concerts, beyond all doubt, are injuring the more expensive regular week-day orchestral performances of the season. Mr. Robert Newman crowds Queen's Hall on Sundays at cheap prices, but is rarely able to secure a full house on Saturday afternoons, while his Saturday night concerts have been abandoned. And as managers are gradually being compelled to reduce the prices of admission to symphony concerts, the fees of the orchestra must necessarily come down. In London, however, we are not likely yet to arrive at such a point as to consider extortionate a demand for 10s. 6d. per concert for principals and 7s. 6d. for ripieni, rehearsals being thrown in gratis. Not even at Sunday concerts is it probable that we shall drop quite so low as this.

As was generally expected, Mr. Schulz-Curtius has been compelled to organise at Covent Garden an overflow cycle of "Der Ring des Nibelungen." No tickets, as I understand, will be offered to the general public at all. Indeed, the demand for seats for the other two cycles previously announced was so great that Covent Garden will be filled with the overflow. Accordingly an extra cycle has been arranged for in mid June. How far the subscribers to the Royal Opera will appreciate this wholesale invasion of Wagnerism is another matter. As at present arranged no fewer than twelve out of the twenty-six days available in June are to be taken up by the "Ring," while four other Wagner operas are likewise in the programmes. This will not leave much room for anything else. Perhaps, however, after the Covent Garden taste has become sated with this Gargantual food, it may the better appreciate the lighter dishes of France and Italy. Indeed, for the Royal Opera Syndicate to risk wearying the subscribers (the geese with the golden eggs) and to try to shut them out of their own private boxes after four o'clock in the afternoon for the sake of a few rabid extremists who deem six hours of Wagner in the dark to be a sort of terrestrial paradsie, would be to court a very early dissolution.

A lengthy letter has been sent to me by Herr Georg Liebling, the pianist, concerning the circumstances which led to his departure from Germany. It seems that he had a dispute with one of the music critics in Berlin, and technically assaulted the writer, who appealed to the Courts; whereupon Herr Liebling was sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment. However, the critic, who appears to have somewhat exceeded the bounds of ordinary journalism, himself headed a petition to the Emperor for the remission of the sentence, and this, it seems, the Kaiser, on November 24, consented to do. The whole matter, however, is more or less of personal rather than general interest. What the British public would really like to read is a reprint of the libel in question.

The custom of appealing from the judgment of the critics seems to be growing. I think the movement may be viewed with equanimity. At any rate it does no harm to the critics themselves, and by allowing him to blow off steam it often saves the person criticised from apoplexy or some other accident. The latest composer to rush into print is Mr. Rutland Boughton, whose new Pianoforte Concerto in A Flat was executed—the term is in no sense inapt—at a concert given at St. James's Hall, under the conductorship of a new German chef, on the 1st instant. I happened to say, "The performance was so bad that to venture to express an opinion of the Concerto would be an absurdity." The composer in his pamphlet obligingly admits that he takes no exception to this judgment, holding it to be an honest opinion on the performance. Mr. Boughton, however, prints some very hard things which were said in other papers. For example, the *Daily Telegraph* declared the production "one of the feeblest apologies for a piano concerto that the critics have ever been asked to listen to," while the *Globe* considered it "kindest to be silent about this work." The *Globe*, indeed, seems to have mightily offended the composer, who reminds the writer that, "in addition to the silence of kindness, there is also the silence of ignorance." Mr. Boughton then goes on to tell a story at the expense of the critics. He happened to remark to "the manager of a well-known series of chamber concerts in London" that the analyses of new works were hardly suited, owing to the technicalities with which they bristled, to the knowledge of the average musical amateur. "No, indeed," the manager is alleged to have replied, "The analyses are not intended for our audiences, but for the musical critics who are not present, in order that they may give theoretically correct reports on a work without the trouble of hearing and studying it for themselves." Of course, all this is very damaging. But the only "manager of well-known chamber concerts in London" is Mr. Arthur Chappell. I have not the remotest doubt if that business-like gentleman were asked whether he ever uttered such absurdities what the reply would be. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chappell employs the musical critic of the *Daily Telegraph* to write the analyses in question.

The Alexandra Palace is to be opened on Good Friday with a performance of the "Messiah," for which a choir is being formed. Musical performances are, I believe, to play a prominent part in the newly-decorated palace, as indeed, they did in the time of Weist Hill. There is, in fact, a quite large enough population in North London to support a properly-designed scheme of this character. But if the patronage of music-lovers from town be desired, an improvement in the railway arrangements is imperative. Those who recollect the Alexandra Palace in the seventies may recall the fact that it was often quicker to get from Charing Cross to Brighton than from Charing Cross to Muswell Hill.

A well-known musician, a member of the "Incorporated Society of Musicians," and a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, has received the following letter. He remarks—and most people will agree with him—that if this sort of business is countenanced by the Incorporated Society, the sooner he severs his connection with it the better. It is quite possible that the raffle is illegal; it is equally possible that the ladies, enthusiastic in charity as ladies are, may be acting without the authority of the heads of the Society; it is also possible that the ladies may have formed an exaggerated view of the personal vanity of musicians, which may not have sunk so low as to impel them to pay for their signatures and music worked in somebody else's tablecloth. But the sooner the whole trade is stopped the better:—

38, Albany-street, Hull,
February 15, 1898.

Dear Sir,—A plan has been started by some ladies of the I.S.M. by which they hope to raise a substantial sum for the orphanage. A tablecloth is being embroidered with the names, degrees, &c., of members and others interested in the society. Any one sending his or her signature, written rather large on a piece of thin paper, can have it worked on the cloth for 1s. Christian name in full, 3d. a word extra. Musical extracts

The Greatest of all Pianofortes.—The Steinway Pianofortes. New York and London.

(original preferred), 3d. a bar, one stave; two staves, 6d. a bar. Mottoes and other wording, 3d. a word.

For each shilling sent the sender will receive a number; for 2s. two numbers, and so on.

At the next conference the corresponding numbers to those allotted will be put in a bag, and seven of them drawn out by seven different people. The person holding the duplicate to the seventh number drawn will have the cloth, and the money will go to the orphanage.

Miss S. Lewin, Claremont, Ford Park-road, Plymouth, is acting as secretary, and will be happy to receive money and signatures.—Yours faithfully, JENNIE LANGFORD.

In regard to the "musical extracts," the suggestion "original preferred" strikes me as being particularly sardonic.

I learn that during the winter, Mr. F. H. Cowen has put the finishing touches to a new "Concertstück" for pianoforte and orchestra which he has written at the express desire of M. Paderewski. Nothing has yet been decided as to where or when the piece is to be produced, though if M. Paderewski appears this season in London, perhaps we may hear it. Mr. Cowen will during the summer devote himself to the composition of a new half-programme oratorio on an Old Testament subject.

Mme. Melba, who last week signed her contract for Covent Garden, has been appearing in New York as Rosina, Patti's old part in "Il Barbiere," and also as Marguerite, and as Aïda. In point of fact, when Brünnhilde proved unsuited to her voice she publicly eschewed Wagner, and decided to go in for the Italian florid or melodic school. This, at any rate, will be an agreeable change from the inevitable Wagner, who at one time promised to monopolise the whole repertory. Unfortunately, the older Italian operas do not draw unless some great star appears in them. Whether Mme. Melba will prove so great a star as to compensate for the thinness of the old Italian music will provide an interesting experiment.

There is some talk—but at present it is only talk—of an extra opera season this summer. It seems to have been devised by certain lovers of Italian music and Italian vocalists, and although Drury Lane has been mentioned as a possible *locale*, nothing has, I know, been definitely decided upon. It is nevertheless strange that the Covent Garden company at present does not contain a solitary Italian singer.

There is also a scheme on foot to send out some of the Covent Garden artists this season to give special performances of operas in certain of the leading provincial cities. No regular Italian opera season in the provinces pays, owing to the extremely heavy expense of salaries and transport. But a single performance of opera with some of the leading Covent Garden vocalists (among whom Mme. Calvé is mentioned) would probably draw one special audience at high prices in such cities as Manchester, Birmingham, and Liverpool.

M. Audran is coming over from Paris on Thursday week in order to conduct the anniversary performance at the Prince of Wales Theatre of "La Poupée." When that successful opera has run its course we are to have a new work from the same pen, the libretto written conjointly by M. Ordonnau and his English adaptor, Mr. Sturgess. At present the opera bears the title of "A Secret Agent," and it will be produced in Paris next month, long, of course, before it is needed in London.

The principal production of the week was Dr. Hubert Parry's "Magnificat," originally heard at the Hereford Festival last September, and now performed for the first time in London. It seems a pity that this noble work was not included in the prospectus of the Albert Hall this year. But the British public have a not altogether unreasonable objection to cantatas in the Latin language, and accordingly the "Magnificat" was knocked out of the Albert Hall prospectus. An excellent performance was, however, given at Queen's Hall on Saturday, when a London audience, like that of Hereford, was able to admire the deeply impressive chorus with violin obbligato, and the wonderfully well-written fugue with which the composition closes. When the canticle was first heard the motto theme was recognised as that utilised by Mendelssohn in "All who have Life and Breath." This, however, proves merely to be the Gregorian intonation associated in the Romish Church with the "Magnificat." Another important performance last week was that of Beethoven's Choral Symphony, under M. Lamoureux. The Queen's Hall Choir were at their best, although, of course, by no means so good as the Leeds Choir who last sang this work at Queen's Hall. M. Lamoureux gave quite a classical reading of the symphony, the *tempi*, in most cases, being the same as those usually employed in this country. The performance was remarkable for finish, although it lacked the breadth and dignity secured by the German conductors.

Lady Halle made her last appearance at the Popular Concerts on Saturday, when, besides playing a couple of solos, she led Beethoven's "Harp" quartet. She was replaced on Monday by Dr. Joachim, whose solos were three movements from one of Bach's violin suites. At Queen's Hall a by no means interesting fantasia for orchestra by the Russian composer, Moussorgsky, was produced on Saturday. Mr. Hillier has given a violoncello concert, the programme of which contained several pieces from his own pen. Mr. Kordy, a Hungarian violoncellist from the Royal Academy of Music, has likewise given a violoncello performance, and various other concerts to which I cannot further allude have likewise taken place. Indeed, the musical season is now in full swing, and upwards of forty performances are announced for the current week.

At Glasgow last Friday the long-expected opera, entitled "The Poet's Dream," was produced by the Carl Rosa Troupe. This work is an adaptation of Ambroise Thomas's "Midsummer Night's Dream," an extraordinary work in which Queen Elizabeth is supposed to be in love with Shakespeare, who in a drunken fit stumbles into the Thames and is rescued by Sir John Falstaff. So experienced a librettist as Mr. Beatty Kingston was not at all likely to fall into the mistake of putting this farrago of nonsense before the British public. Accordingly he has transferred the whole scene to Spain. In operatic life a Spanish Duchess of Restino in love with the poet Pedro Valdez can be guilty of stupidities which patriotism would deem impossible in a British Queen.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—American humour threatens to die of its excesses. When everything is exaggerated, exaggeration ceases to amaze or amuse, and when nothing is sacred profanity loses its piquancy. When you have dragged a statue down into the mud, it ceases to be funny to fling mud at it. However, as "Pudd'nhead Wilson's New Calendar" has it, "True irreverence is disrespect for another man's god," and as the American Almighty is presumably the dollar, the Yankee humourist's withers are unwrung by any evangelical protest from our side. By the way, it was only through an unaccountable oversight that I omitted to write to you weeks ago about Mark Twain's "More Tramps Abroad" (1). I think you will be of my opinion that the best things in the book are the "Pudd'nhead Wilson" mottoes for each chapter, though the chapters themselves are close-packed with wit, wisdom, and humour. Sometimes, as I have hinted, the humour is not in the best taste, at least as our

The Maximum of Effect at the Minimum of Cost.—An Object Lesson in Decorating and Furnishing can be obtained by inspecting Messrs. WARING'S Suites of furnished rooms at 175-181, Oxford-st. W.

(1) "More Tramps Abroad." By Mark Twain. (London: Chatto & Windus.) Price 6s.

(2) "His Grace of Osmonde." Being the portion of the History of that Nobleman's Life omitted in the Relation of his Lady's Story presented to the World of Fashion under the title of "A Lady of Quality." By Frances Hodgson Burnett. (London: Frederick Warne & Co.) Price 6s.

(3) "The Story of Marlborough." Told in Fifty-two Pictures by Caran d'Ache. With Descriptive Text by the Hon. Frances Wolseley. (London: H. Grevel & Co.)

(4) "The Architectural Review." For the Artist and Craftsman. Vol. I. November-May, 1897. (London: Effingham House, Arundel street, Strand.)

(5) "The Rivers of Great Britain." (South and West Coasts.) (London: Cassell & Co., Limited.) Price 42s.

taste goes, but always, or nearly always, it is irresistible. Here, for instance, is an unfortunate joke to open the book with :—

Two members of my family elected to go with me, also a carbuncle. The dictionary says a carbuncle is a kind of jewel. Humour is out of place in a dictionary.

Anything dread or disgusting—death, disease, sea-sickness, bimetallism, &c.—are unfit subjects for humour. Jests thereupon remind you of O'Connell's witty description of Sir Robert Peel's smile, "It was like the silver plate on a coffin." Apropos of sombre heads of the State, here is a good story of Mark Twain's first and second meetings with President Grant. At their first interview Mr. Clemens was a negligeable literary quantity, and when the introducing Senator said :—

"Mr. President, may I have the privilege of introducing Mr. Clemens?" the President gave my hand an unsympathetic wag and dropped it. He did not say a word, but just stood. In my trouble I could not think of anything to say; I merely wanted to resign. There was an awkward pause, a dreary pause, a horrible pause. Then I thought of something, and looked up into that unyielding face and said timidly, "Mr. President, I—I am embarrassed. Are you?" His face broke, just a little—a wee glimmer—the momentary flicker of a summer-lightning smile seven years ahead of time; and I was out and gone as soon as *it* was.

After the lapse of ten years, when Mr. Clemens had "arrived" and was, indeed, the best-known author in America—

Mr. Harrison came over and led me to the General and formally introduced me. Before I could put together the proper remark, General Grant said, "Mr. Clemens, I am not embarrassed. Are you?" and that little seven-year smile twinkled across his face again.

There is not much conscious humour in Mrs. Hodgson Burnett's new novel, "His Grace of Osmonde" (2), but, unconsciously, the rather stilted style she has adopted as that of the days of Marlborough is occasionally humorous. The not very recondite moral wherewith the story closes is clothed in these appropriately Tupperian garments :—

So it befell that one man met his death by chance, and none were punished, and only good grew out of his evil grave. And should there be a power which, for strange high reasons, calls forth helpless souls from peaceful nothingness to relentless life, and judges all life does and leaves undone, 'tis surely safe to trust its honesty and justice.

Why? "Relentless life," *ex vi termini*, suggests an opposite conclusion; but this kind of affected writing goes always with looseness, and often with insincerity of thought. The story itself is fairly interesting and certainly original, since its heroine commits manslaughter, and makes for it every atonement save that of confession. Her husband learns it only through overhearing a death-bed conversation—a lack of trust in him unworthy at once of the heroine's courage and of the hero's magnanimity. Apropos of Marlborough, I have just been looking through a singularly spirited set of coloured pictures by Caran d'Ache, illustrative of the "Story of Marlborough" (3). The Hon. Miss Wolseley's ingenuity in supplying appropriate letterpress is occasionally taxed, but never overtaxed. There is, for instance, one picture of cows only whose horns soar straight up to heaven, and, but for the Hon. Miss Wolseley, the reader might be misled into supposing some allusion to John Bull, or to the contracts for beef by which the Duke profited, or to the Psalmist's warning against ambition, "Set not up your horn on high." The picture's real relation to Marlborough, however, is this: the Duke's father was a small landed proprietor in Devonshire, a county remarkable for fat cattle. "The flowers that bloom in the spring, tra-la," as they bloom also in Devonshire, might have been no less appropriately introduced. Apropos of finely illustrated books, I can recommend to you a superb serial, "The Architectural Review" (4) a magazine for the artist, archæologist, designer, and craftsman, whose first volume has been contributed to by all the leading men in their respective domains of art; and Messrs. Cassell's admirably written and illustrated "Rivers of Great Britain" (5), a descriptive, historical, and pictorial account of our south and west coast rivers.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Do you ever, when viewing the accumulations of every kind of article in the household, almost wish that some god out of a machine would rid you of them? To find places for an ever-increasing store of articles, more or less fallen away from their first freshness, is difficult and discouraging, especially if one's memory is not good, and the hiding-place of the various impedimenta is occasionally forgotten. To have a defective memory is a constant source of ill-temper, for there is no surer way to feel vexed with others than to feel annoyed with oneself.

What to do with last year's gowns, or rather, those of the year before last, is an annually recurring question, and it is in reviewing the contents of one's wardrobe that the feeling of helplessness in the face of accumulations assails one most strongly. Last year's gowns are passably appropriate to the moment, but the sleeves and skirts of their predecessors tell tales of old. I find that the best plan is to engage the services of a good dressmaker for a few hours' consultation on the matter. Then, with a collection of all the ladies' papers, with their illustrations of the latest designs in bodices and skirts, one can plan out the restoration and conversion of a portion of the garments under review, and settle the destination of the rest.

Never to be without a well-made blue serge is a good rule. Directly the one in wear begins to look in the least degree off colour get a new one. This was the plan adopted by the Aunts Clegg and Poyser two generations since with their indispensable black silks. How they would have despised a serge! And what on earth would they have thought of hop-sacking and house-flannel tweed as materials for the clothing of women who could afford to "walk in silk attire"?

We spent a most fatiguing morning this week in reviewing our forces. The girls turned everything out on their beds, and immediately a feeling of despair came over me, and a longing to get rid of everything old and make a perfectly new start with a kind of trousseau for each of them. You may be sure that I refrained from giving utterance to this idea, for the girls would have been only too delighted to jump at it. And, after all, we arranged for skirts to be shaved more closely down the seams, and braid to be applied to the trimming of them and of the coats to match them. Other gowns of the evening order are to be converted into dainty under-skirts and trimmed with lace and ribbons by our clever little dressmaker. One of these, in cherry-coloured broché, is a triumph, with flounces edged with rows of narrow black velvet ribbon. A pink surah tea-gown, the lace on which had become a trifle crushed, is now, after having been sponged and ironed, the lining of a sweet grey cashmere frock, intended for home wear during the next few weeks. We feel unduly inflated with pride in our economies after all this planning, and I shall be able to tell you, when everything is finished, if we should not have been in pocket by buying new dresses and giving the old ones away. I think it not unlikely. And then all the tiring planning would have been saved. Our "short cuts" take us such a long way round sometimes. Have you not occasionally found it so?

What do your veils cost you a year? And gloves? And do you blow into your gloves every time you take them off? And fold your veils in exactly the same folds each time they are put away? Excuse these very intimate questions, dear. I have been reading an article on economy, and I find all these practices advocated. What a tiring time we should have if we were conscientiously to obey all the promiscuous advice that is so freely *répandu* throughout the world nowadays! What to have for dinner and how much to give for it jumps out of every newspaper one opens. How to manage one's health and

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one's teeth, how much to pay the butcher every week, and how far to open one's window on foggy nights, are all laid down most imperatively for us by a host of unseen advisers who may, or may not, be our guardian angels in the guise of ready writers. How fared the world before all this flood of information was poured forth daily for its benefit?

We have been studying the list of peculiarly pronounced proper names given as a new feature in this year's "Who's Who." In addition to such well-known ones as Cholmondeley and Colquhoun, there are scores of others whose pronunciation is opposed to their spelling. Ayscough, for instance, is, orally, Askew, with the accent on the first syllable, Beaulieu is Bewly, and Cromartie Crummarty. Norah, however, takes exception to the pronunciation of Armagh being given as Armar. There is no sound of "r" at the end, she says, but only the long "ah" as in the exclamation. And Claverhouse I always thought was pronounced Claverse, not Clayverse, as given. I think, too, that the terrible name Llangattock should have been included. I believe it is pronounced Thlangatock, with the accent on the last syllable, but Welsh always alarms me, and I never venture on it if I can help it.

"Who's Who" this year celebrates its Jubilee. Mr. Douglas Sladen, the present editor, has introduced many interesting new features and striking improvements; and the book is published in a form at once handy and handsome. The biographies make it a very fascinating work, so different from all its elder and younger brothers and sisters, which are little better than dictionaries in the matter of affording mental pabulum. We have been reading diligently the biographies of the millionaires, possibly with a vague view of learning the art of becoming wealthy.

It interests us to discover their favourite amusements. I had always fancied that a millionaire was quite past amusing himself, and that any pastime that did not mean money would be scorned by such a man. I was quite wrong, however. One millionaire likes fencing, another yachting, &c., though in most cases the biography is silent except as to the large facts in their great lives: viz., how they made their money.

I notice that it is the fashion now in London for dogs to wear their muzzles, pannikin style, under their chins. I often wonder what the dear things think these muzzles are. They have a very funny look, suspended round the necks of the canines, and they must be almost as much in their way as if they occupied the orthodox position. I was amused by seeing a dog sneeze the other day with his muzzle hung below his chin. The shock knocked the wire cage against the ground, and caused it to hit its wearer sharply on the nose, upon which the animal looked quickly round to see who had done it. Perceiving a boy close by, he barked furiously at him, to the boy's amazement. It was a rather farcical incident.

'Tis a true indictment, dear! I wear high heels in muddy weather, and would wear high toes, too, if I could manage to get them. High heels are the only things that keep one out of the horrid, sticky mud. An up-to-date pair of clogs would be a boon, only they would have to be shod with leather, for modern nerves could not stand the rattling noise of the wooden soles.

Last week I was present at the very pretty wedding of Sir James Blyth's third daughter (Gladys) to Mr. Gerald Gold, and afterwards at the reception at 33, Portland-place. The floral decorations, both at the church and at the house, were on a very lavish scale, consisting of magnificent specimens of white roses, lilies, and other flowers, all from the Blythwood gardens in Essex. But I know you will be anxious for me to tell you something about the dresses of the bride and the bridesmaids. The bride, who is a pretty, fair, slight girl, looked charming in a lovely gown of antique Honiton lace, with deep flounces at the sides of sun-pleated chiffon, which was kept in shape by five rows of bouillons of the same soft material; the corsage, with deep collar, was made entirely of the lace, bordered with a multiplicity of tiny tucks and bouillons of chiffon. Similar trimming edged and lined the court train of ivory satin, which was suspended from both shoulders by antique paste buckles.

Mrs. Gold's going-away dress was in the palest of grey, and just the right shade. I can only remember that the skirt was beautifully cut, and that the coat had a huge collar, the back of which was decorated with grey silk scroll and embroidered roses, and the front with a hundred and one tiny frills of lace. The travelling hat was white lisse with black plumes—a mass of prettiness.

The seven bridesmaids were picturesque in soft English satin of an ivory-white tone. The skirts were cut in the newest way and trimmed with four shaped flounces; sashes in shades of green tulle, were tucked and frilled, and fell to the edge of the skirts on the left side from the waist. The bodices were made of pale string-colour guipure and tucks of chiffon. More tiny frills of tulle formed the sweet little white hat all bedecked with rows and rows of baby black velvet, and a peep of green showing among the black plumes. And lastly, the seven bouquets were quite sweet, the "drapery" of them being smilax and some other excellent greenery.

It was a smart wedding as you can imagine, for Sir James Blyth is popular both politically and socially. I saw that Prince and Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar, the Danish and Chinese Ministers, Sir William and Lady Harcourt, the Speaker and Mrs. Gully, Lord and Lady Charles Beresford, and over four hundred well-known people had accepted Sir James's invitation to his daughter's wedding.

We had heard so much of Mons. Maurice and his wonderful cycling feats on the ice at Brighton and Niagara that on Saturday we turned in to see him. The corridors were crowded with spectators, the skaters having cleared off the glittering sheet of ice, which, for a few seconds before Maurice appeared, looked positively unhappy in its emptiness. The "champion trick-cyclist of France" is a good-looking young fellow of about twenty-five, and it needed no second look at him to discover that he is also an athlete. He did some most remarkable things on his machine, but with such wonderful agility and ease that one was inclined to underrate his skill. He managed in some extraordinary way to balance his bicycle while he crept all over it like a fly, between the wheels, under and over the cross bar, without touching the ice with either hands or feet. He was greatly applauded several times, especially when he rode on one wheel backwards, and forwards with the other raised high in the air.

Frances writes from Brighton:—

Dearest Madge,—The second fancy dress ball at the Brighton Ice Rink came off on Friday last, and proved an even greater success than the first, the decorations being quite as pretty, the dresses better and more original, and the company decidedly smarter. Quite a large party came down from town, including the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, who came early and stayed till two o'clock, the Marquis of Headfort, the Earl and Countess of Minto, Lord Suffield, Lord Charles Montagu, Lady Alington, Lady John Kennedy, and many others. Lady Minto, in a handsome white satin and fur skating dress, was one of the judges, and distributed the prizes, assisted by Lady Call, prettily dressed as a French *modiste* (Louis Seize period) in green velvet and striped silk, with large velvet hat, and Sir William Call in a Breton peasant's holiday dress. Miss Call, in a Breton peasant dress of the same period as Lady Call's, was an ideal rustic maiden. Mrs. Walter Winans and Miss Winans were among the lady prize-winners, the first-named wearing a superb Russian Court costume (a very old dress) in green, white, and gold, with a most delightful high-crowned lace hat and fine emeralds and diamonds; while Miss Winans, a tall, handsome girl, in pink silk and white chiffon, with a most becoming pink velvet hat with magnificent plumes, was a pleasing Duchess of Devonshire. The family of Mr. Walter

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Winans were, indeed, the cynosure of all eyes as they walked round the corridor. Following the eldest daughter were the two small sons, dressed as rough riders of the Guards, their uniforms fitting to perfection, and then came a pair of the sweetest of tiny "Geisha" girls, one in black satin and the other in white, both these dresses being beautifully embroidered, and evidently procured direct from Japan. Among many other striking dresses one of the most unique was worn by Mrs. Ernest Kennedy, who, I suppose, called herself "Sports." The skirt, of white satin, was beautifully painted with landscapes, in which fishing, hunting, and shooting scenes were most realistically depicted. Mrs. Kennedy wore a short red coat, carried a hunting crop in her hand, and had a gun slung across her back, and spurs on her top boots, while a lovely pheasant upon her head crowned a most effective costume. The men's dresses singled out for reward were those of a black poodle, with artistically cut coat and muzzle: a very realistic beggar, of the Rip Van Winkle type, and a Polish Hussar: these winning first, second, and third prizes. The waltzing competition took place after supper, and was most interesting: in this Lady Minto, Lady Coke, Mrs. Kennedy, Miss Lucy Eliot James, Miss Saunders, Mr. Mann, Mr. French Brewster, Mr. Nation, Monsieur Noblemaire, Mr. Pugh, and others took part—nine couples in all, Lady Coke, in a blue and black costume, with Mr. French Brewster as a yellow Pierrot, securing the prize. Dr. Bird and Miss Call acted as judges. Mr. Harry Stiegert, with M. Kurten, gave an exhibition of fancy skating during the supper interval. The whole affair, which was full of go from first to last, was much enjoyed by every one, over 300 being present.

On Sunday afternoon the Prince of Wales, who was staying with Mr. Arthur Sassoon, paid a visit to the Rink. Sunday, you know, is a private members' day, and so, though there was a large attendance, H.R.H. was able to come in freedom and comfort. For his entertainment, M. Maurice, who happened to be in Brighton, gave a clever exhibition of cycling feats and tricks on the ice, and, at the special request of the Prince, Miss Call waltzed with Mr. Harry Stiegert. As I think I have before told you, Miss Call is one of the best and prettiest skaters I have ever seen, and her waltzing is simply perfection, her manner and style being indescribably graceful and charming. I believe the Prince thoroughly enjoyed his first experience of our Brighton Ice Rink and Club.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—Are you weary of the chronicles of the Dublin Castle season and beginning to think that the case is one, if not exactly of "damnable," at least of tiresome reiteration? After all, however, what is life but repetition—the same thing over and over again; risings and settings, beginnings and endings, buttonings and unbuttonings? The same old play and the same old stage, the actors only changing. As regards this eternal monotony, a Viceregal Court has advantages over a Royal one. Those cast for the leading parts change more frequently and more thoroughly, and not in a mournful way. The novelty of entirely new Viceregal families is offered to the Celtic mind—which has an innate appreciation of variety—at comparatively frequent intervals. Since the Queen's Accession to the Throne, no less than twenty different Viceroys have "reigned" at Dublin Castle. There might have been more, too, except that four of them had their reigns, as it were, encored. The student of humanity in a courtly form has had the opportunity of seeing the part of Lord-Lieutenant taken in a variety of ways, and of contrasting and comparing the merits of the different actors. Aunt Maria, with more than forty years' experience of the Viceregal Court, gives the palm to the late Duke of Abercorn, for his first reign, when Marquis of Abercorn. His surroundings were exceptional, too, his daughters so lively, beautiful, and charming.

The second Drawing Room last week was a repetition of the first on a smaller scale. A new batch of visitors formed the now established "house party," which is as much a part of the Viceregal entourage as the Household. The presentations were not numerous; amongst them were Lady Kingston, Lady E. Corry, the Honble. F. Dawnay, presented by her mother, Lady Downe, and Miss Roche, by her mother, Lady Fermoy. Lady Cadogan wore a beautiful white satin train lined with daffodil colour, and trimmed with clusters of feathers of the same tint; her bodice and skirt also white, were beautifully embroidered and trimmed with silver. Lady Kingston was in white, embroidered with silver, with some touches of green. Lady Downe's black train was lined with pale blue; one of her daughters wore blue with pale pink flowers. Lady Mayo was in white, as also were Lady Ormonde's two pretty daughters, and Lady Sarah Wilson.

The latter was on familiar ground in Dublin Castle, where as a child she spent many seasons during the Viceroyalty of her father, the Duke of Marlborough. Another familiar face was that of Lady Lucy Hicks-Beach, who presided over many entertainments in the Chief Secretary's Lodge during her husband's tenure of office in Ireland. By the way, her grandfather, Lord Fortescue, was one of the Viceroys of the Queen's reign, and is famous in the annals of Dublin Castle through his marriage with a Dublin beauty, the daughter of Mr. Geale and widow of Sir M. Somerville. Ladies Huntingdon and Rossmore wore handsome dresses, as did Mrs. Foljambe, Lord Monck's daughter, who was presented on her marriage. The procession through the rooms was more effective than at the first Drawing Room, as the crowd was not so great.

The small dance, following the big dinner, on the next night, was one of the best of the season. The throne-room was not too crowded for dancing, the superfluous woman was not in evidence as at the State Ball, and pretty dresses had an opportunity of displaying themselves, not enjoyed before. Lady Cadogan wore blue and pink. A beautiful dress of embroidered white net over pink satin, edged with narrow flounces, was very effective. Nothing can be nicer than these small dances for those who are at them—you can imagine the heart-burnings of those who are not, and the mistakes that are made about invitations, the old traditional blunders of the officials! Needless to say that with the jobbing system of keeping on at the Castle the members of the Household who should change with each Lord Lieutenant, cliquism is rampant. But perhaps a Court would not be a Court without it. The big dance on Friday night after the small dinner was a pretty one, if not so enjoyable as that of the previous night. All the same people, so far as the very elect went, were there, but in different frocks as regards our sex. What an amount of luggage a visit to the Castle at this season necessitates. Trains and court dress in addition to everything else. One wonders where all the boxes of millinery can be accommodated, the piles of portmanteaux and boxes stacked.

Lady Ashbourne gave another ball on the night of the Levee. On this occasion Lord Cadogan was present with the Viceregal party; on the first occasion he was in England attending a Cabinet Council. This week, being the first of Lent, brings a lull in the entertainments at the Castle; in the next there will be another big ball.—Yours ever,

Clare.

I want you to try some of these recipes. Fillets of soles with lobster farce are a superior and excellent dish:—

Trim the fillets of a pair of soles, coat the inside with the farce, fold them over and place them on a buttered saucepan, dust each one with salt and pepper, sprinkle them with a few drops of lemon juice, moisten them with stock; put a greased paper over, and cook them in the oven for half an hour. Arrange the fillets, resting on each other, in two straight rows down a hot dish, pour some very good white sauce over, and sprinkle each piece of fish with passed lobster coral.

The farce is made thus.—Pound the flesh of a hen lobster until quite smooth, add a large tablespoonful of cold white sauce, 2 oz. of butter, and a teaspoonful of lobster spawn, previously rubbed through a hair sieve with a piece of butter; add a good pinch of cayenne pepper, and a little salt, if necessary; work in two fresh eggs, and rub through a wire sieve.

This is a nice way of working up the remains of cold fish with macaroni:—

The fish should be taken from the bones in as large pieces as possible when it comes from the table. The bones must be stewed with water, herbs, and vegetables to make stock. When the bones have simmered an hour or longer, strain, and reduce the liquor to half a pint, thicken it with a dessertspoonful of flour mixed with 1 oz. of butter, stir it till boiling, season with salt and pepper, and strain into a basin. Meanwhile, 4 oz. of macaroni should be boiled until soft, strained, and cut into inch lengths

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pieces. Butter a fire-proof china dish, put a layer of the macaroni in the bottom, sprinkle with grated Parmesan cheese, then add a layer of the pieces of fish, which must be nicely seasoned and covered with some of the sauce; repeat with another layer of the macaroni and fish in the same way as before, making macaroni the last layer, mix 1 oz. of Parmesan with half a teacupful of cream, spread it over the top, and bake it a nice brown colour in a moderate oven.

Try this "Cream Pastry" for afternoon tea. It is lovely:—

Roll 8 oz. of butter in 8 oz. of flour into leaf-like pieces, place them aside, add a pinch of salt to the flour and mix it into a stiff paste with good, thick cream, roll it out, lay the sheets of butter on half the paste, fold the other half over and roll again, repeat the rolling process five or six times, with ten minutes intermission, always folding the paste evenly in half. Now roll out to about a quarter of an inch thick, and cut into fancy shaped pieces, leaves, rounds, diamonds, and three-corner shaped pieces, always remembering to dip the cutter in hot water each time of cutting. Dust the cakes with pounded sugar and bake in a brisk oven. The pastry can be served plain, or with apple jelly between the flakes. Arrange them tastefully on a fancy paper.

This dish of eggs and cheese will also be found to have its charms:—

Mix 4 oz. of grated Parmesan cheese with half a pint of cream, and spread part of it at the bottom of a buttered fireproof dish. Break on it 5 or 6 eggs, dust them with salt and pepper, and cover them with the remainder of the cream and cheese. Sprinkle the top with a little grated Parmesan and bake it a nice brown colour. Serve it in the dish in which it is cooked.

Lastly, you will find this a really admirable dish:—

Break 3 or 4 eggs in a basin, season them with salt, pepper, chopped parsley, and a tablespoonful of chopped red tongue. Whisk them lightly together with the addition of half a pint of cream. Divide the mixture into about 8 small buttered fireproof cups—that can be bought for the purpose—and either steam or bake them until the contents are set, but not hard. Sprinkle the top with chopped red tongue and a very little chopped parsley. Serve the cups on a napkin.

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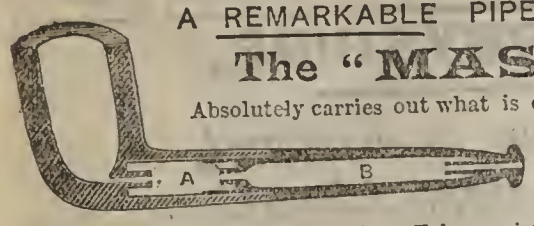

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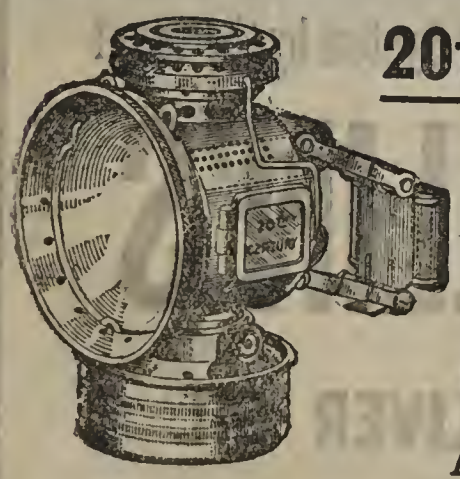

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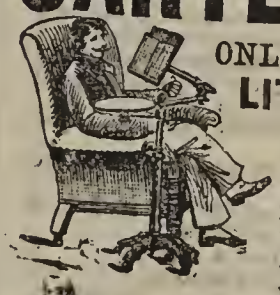

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Payable as follows:—

		Preference.	Ordinary.
On Application,	per Share	10s.	2s.
" Allotment,	"	25s.	5s.
" 15th March, 1898	"	30s.	6s.
" 5th April,	" "	35s.	7s.
		100s.	20s.

Of the above, £118,000 Ordinary and £77,000 Preference Shares have been subscribed for by the Directors and their friends, and the balance is now offered to the public, less £20,000 Ordinary Shares taken by the Vendors in part payment.

Applications will be received in London by Messrs. GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE, & CO., and in Amsterdam by Messrs. LABOUCHERE, OYENS, & CO., and Messrs. H. OYENS & ZONEN.

DIRECTORS.

The Right Honourable Lord Wenlock, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., Director of the York Union Banking Company, Limited.
R. C. Antrobus, Esq., Vice-Chairman Economic Life Assurance Society.
F. Lane, Esq. (Messrs. Lane & Macandrew, London).
H. J. Rahusen (Messrs. H. Oyens & Zonen, Amsterdam).
C. J. Cater Scott, Esq., Deputy-Chairman London and St. Katharine Dock Company.

BANKERS.—Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co., 67, Lombard-street, E.C.; Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co., Ltd., 8, Bishopsgate-street Within, E.C.; La Banque Internationale de Commerce, St. Petersburg.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Bompas, Bischoff, Dodgson, Coxe, & Bompas, 4, Great Winchester-street, E.C.

BROKERS.

Messrs. Panmure Gordon, Hill, & Co., Hatton-court, Threadneedle-street, E.C.
Messrs. Govett, Sons, & Co., 4, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C.
Messrs. Egerton Jones & Simpson, 2, Copthall-buildings, E.C

AUDITORS.

Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, Bishop, & Clarke, 41, Coleman-street, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES (pro tem.).

J. H. Bouwer, 6, Princes-street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring, by the purchase of all the Shares as from 31st March, 1897 (old style) the entire interest in the well-known Petroleum business carried on at Baku, Moscow, and elsewhere, by the Russian private Limited Liability Company known as Messrs. S. M. Schibaieff & Co.

The Russian Company was established in 1884, with Statutes approved by Imperial Ukase. The present Share Capital is 2,500,000 Roubles (about £265,000), divided into 2,500 Shares of 1,000 Roubles each, fully paid.

Mr. Boverton Redwood, the well-known Petroleum Expert, assisted by Mr. Eastlake and Mr. Palmer, has made an exhaustive survey, valuation and Report as to the assets of the Russian Company, a copy of which accompanies the Prospectus, from which it will be seen that the principal assets comprise the following valuable freehold and leasehold properties:—

(1.) An important Refinery at Baku, covering an area of 74 acres, with complete equipment for treating a maximum of nearly 35,000,000 poods (about Tons 564,516) of Crude Petroleum per annum.

(2.) A Sulphuric Acid Factory, for the manufacture of about 260,000 poods (about Tons 4,193) of Sulphuric Acid and plant for dealing with 60,000 poods (about Tons 968) of Acid Liquor per annum.

(3.) Lands in the oil-producing districts at Balakhany, Sabountschy, Romany, and Bibi-Eibat, comprising in all about 9 desiatines (25 acres more or less).

(4.) 40 desiatines (about 108 acres) of promising Petroleum Territory at Khidershindeh, where drilling is now being carried on by the Russian Company, and favourable results expected.

(5.) 10 desiatines (about 27 acres) of promising Petroleum Territory, situate at Binagadi, close to Balakhany, Baku.

(6.) A pumping station at Balakhany, covering about 2¾ acres, with 6 miles of pipe lines, connecting the Oil Fields with the Refinery.

(7.) Extensive storage and distributing installations and offices at Astrakhan, Tzaritzyn, Saratov, Nijni-Novgorod, Yaroslav, Moscow, and Oufa.

The aggregate storage capacity at the different Towns amounts—

in Iron Reservoirs ... ... to about 4,384,390 poods, equal to about 70,715 tons.
in Brick & Earth Reservoirs " 23,140,000 " " " 373,225 "

(8.) Well equipped storing and shipping installations at Batoum, on the Black Sea, with pumps, pipe lines, &c.

(9.) Residence and offices situate in the town of Batoum.

(10.) 98 railway tank wagons, 2 steamers, and 10 tank barges.

There are additional Assets as shown by the Balance Sheet to 31st March, 1897 (old style), compared with the books by Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, Bishop, & Clarke, consisting of cash, Government Bonds, stock of oils (taken at considerably below market price), book debts, &c., amounting to £116,177 (after making provision for all liabilities, including an advance from Madame Schibaieff on current account).

The purchase includes the profits that may result from the working of the business during the current financial year ending 31st March, 1898, which the present Managing Director of the Russian Company estimates at about £90,000, from which depreciation only has to be deducted.

The above properties form one of the most complete organisations for the production of Crude Petroleum, and the manufacture of Petroleum products and liquid fuel, and their distribution in Russia, as well as their export abroad.

Mr. Boverton Redwood's report points out that, whereas the present valuation of the existing plant, machinery, and buildings alone, leaving out altogether the freehold and leasehold lands, as well as freehold and leasehold Petroleum Territories, is put down at £273,877, it would cost £410,751 to construct similar plant. He also states that "the buildings throughout are of a substantial character, and are in good condition."

Attention is directed to the following extracts from Mr. Redwood's Report:—

"In this valuation no account has been taken of the value of the freehold land, or payments made in advance in respect of the leasehold properties. The value of the site of the refinery alone has been already stated to be estimated at about £123,000. The aggregate value stated is also exclusive of the value of movable plant (other than barges, steamers, and tank wagons), and tools, and of the goodwill of the business, though the property has, as regards the plant, &c., been valued as a 'going concern.'

"I am therefore, on the whole, distinctly of opinion that the business of Messrs. Schibaieff would be a highly desirable and very valuable acquisition."

From the foregoing it appears that although the subscribed capital of Messrs. Schibaieff & Co. is only 2,500,000 Roubles (say £265,000) the amount of expenditure on the construction and development of the business has been £565,832, in addition to which there existed on 31st March, 1897, the other assets above referred to of the value of about £116,000, which, with the addition of the estimated profits for the current year ending 31st March, 1898, of about £90,000, would give a grand total of about £771,000, of which £265,000 only is represented by original capital put into the business.

It is therefore evident that the business in the past has yielded considerable profits, which have been utilised to develop the enterprise and bring it up to its present high state of efficiency.

Of the present Issue £110,000 will be available for introduction into the business of the Russian Company, when that Company's working capital, after providing for all liabilities, would stand at about £300,000, which is considered ample. The benefit of Messrs. Schibaieff's policy of leaving the profits in the business will be reaped by the Shareholders of this Company, who will acquire a going concern with very valuable assets and a large working capital, with every prospect of substantial dividends, especially as it will be the policy of the Directors to develope the production of Crude Oil. This production during the current year, as per Mr. Redwood's Report, amounted to about 14,300,000 poods in 9 months, which after deducting the proportion payable by way of Royalty, left 11,500,000 poods for the Schibaieff Company, as compared with 8,908,805 poods for the whole of the previous 12 months. Moreover, the Directors believe that the administration expenses can be materially reduced.

The Petroleum Industry in Russia has very much developed in recent years, mainly owing to the large demand for Astatki or Petroleum Residuum which, from 3¼ Kopecks per pood in 1891, has risen to its present price of 9 Kopecks per pood. This residuum is used as fuel for Railways, Factories, and Steamers, and the demand for it is constantly increasing. Besides, in order to aid the Petroleum industry, which has become one of the staple industries of the country, the Russian Government has lately considerably reduced the railway freights on refined Petroleum between Russia and Germany and Baku and Batoum.

The Vendors, who are the promoters and are selling at a profit, have fixed the purchase price of the 2,500 Shares representing the entire nominal capital of S. M. Schibaieff & Co.—say Roubles 2,500,000, with all rights as from 31st March, 1897—at the sum of £640,000, payable as follows:—£620,000 in cash, and £20,000 in fully-paid Ordinary Shares, and the Company will guarantee the outstanding debt to Madame Schibaieff, estimated to amount, on 31st March next, to about £126,000, but for which provision has already been made in arriving at the assets of the Russian Company.

All expenses incidental to the formation of the Company, and the issue of the Capital up to allotment, will be borne by the Vendors.

The following Agreements have been entered into: an Agreement dated the 5th September, 1897, between Alexander Ivanovitsch Klein and Eudoxia Vukolovna Schibaieff; an Agreement of the same date between Alexander Ivanovitsch Klein and Labouchere, Oyens & Co., and H. Oyens & Zonen; an Agreement of the same date between Alexander Ivanovitsch Klein and Ivan Sidorovitsch Schibaieff; an Agreement of the same date between Alexander Ivanovitsch Klein and Labouchere, Oyens & Co., and H. Oyens & Zonen; and an Agreement dated 17th February, 1898, and made between Labouchere, Oyens & Co., and H. Oyens & Zonen, of the one part, and George Grinnell-Milne, contracting on behalf of the Company, of the other part. Mr. Rahusen, one of the Directors, is a partner in H. Oyens & Zonen, and Mr. Lane, another Director, is a member of the firm of Lane & Macandrew, which firms are interested in the sale.

During the negotiations for the purchase of the property and the formation of the Company, Agreements have been entered into with various parties as to participation in the profits of the sale and the issue of the capital now offered, to none of which the Company is a party. Applicants for Shares must be deemed to have had notice of these Agreements, and to have waived all rights to any particulars thereof, whether under Section 38 of "The Companies Acts, 1867," or otherwise, and applications for Shares will only be received and allotments made on that footing.

The Reports, copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the above-mentioned Agreements, can be inspected at the Office of the Solicitors of the Company.

Applications for Shares should be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus, and sent with the deposit direct to the Company's Bankers. In any case where no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full; and where the number of Shares allotted is less than the number applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction of the further amount payable on allotment.

Application is intended to be made to the Committee of the Stock Exchange for a special settlement, and an official quotation of the Company's Shares.

Copies of the Prospectus and Forms of Application for Shares may be had from the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, and at the Offices of the Company, 6, Princes-street, E.C.

London, February 19th, 1898.

4 PER CENT. PERPETUAL MORTGAGE "A" DEBENTURE STOCK.

The LIST of APPLICATIONS OPENED at 10 a.m. on TUESDAY, February 22nd, and will CLOSE on or before 4 p.m. on Wednesday, 23rd, for London. Country applications will be received in London up to 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 24th.

THE ALBION (Burton-on-Trent) BREWERY, LIMITED.

(Registered under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.)

SHARE CAPITAL (all issued to the vendors except 87 shares) £140,000, divided into 6,000 5½ per cent. Preference Shares of £10 each, and 8,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each.

ISSUE of £110,000 Four per Cent. PERPETUAL MORTGAGE "A" DEBENTURE STOCK at PAR.

The Mortgage Debenture Stock will be issued in sums of not less than £50, in multiples of £1, and will be registered in the books of the Company. The interest will be payable half-yearly, on the 1st May and the 1st November in each year. The first payment of interest, calculated from the dates fixed for the respective payments of the instalments, will be made on Monday, 2nd May, 1898.

If the Debenture Stock shall at any time become payable owing to the voluntary winding-up of the Company, for amalgamation purposes or otherwise, it shall be redeemed at a price to be calculated according to the average mean market price in London of the stock during the three years immediately preceding the date when the security became enforceable, but so that the price shall not be less than £110 per £100 of the stock.

Subscriptions will be received for the above Stock, payable as follows:—On Application, £10 per cent.; On Allotment, £50 per cent.; One Month after Allotment, £40 per cent.: £100.

Payment in full may be made on allotment if desired, under discount at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

TRUSTEES FOR THE MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCK-HOLDERS.

William A. Bevan, Esq. | Edwin Pratt, Esq., J.P.

DIRECTORS.

William A. Bevan, Esq., Chairman Northern Breweries Corporation, Limited, Chairman.

Henry Taylor, Esq., Director Royal Brewery, Brentford, Limited.

Henry Stubbs, Esq., Director Yates Castle Brewery, Limited.

R. G. Griffiths, Esq., Shobnall House, Burton-on-Trent.

BANKERS.

Barclay & Company, Limited, 54, Lombard-street, London, E.C., and Branches.

The Birmingham District and Counties Banking Company, Limited, Birmingham, and Branches.

BROKERS.—Messrs. Pim, Vanghan, & Co., 1, Drapers'-gardens, London, E.C.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Slaughter & May, 18, Austin Friars, London, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Mason & Son, 61, King William-street, London, E.C.

SECRETARY.—S. C. Robertson.

REGISTERED OFFICES.—2, Tokenhouse-buildings, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company was formed in 1896, to acquire the Albion Brewery, Burton-on-Trent, together with 135 licensed houses, 121 unlicensed houses, stores, and cottages, and about 119 acres of freehold and long leasehold building and other land.

The demand at Burton-on-Trent for so important a block of licensed properties as now owned by the Company is such that a favourable offer has recently been accepted, and an Agreement entered into by the Company for leasing the whole of its licensed houses to Messrs. Thomas Salt & Co., Limited, of Burton-on-Trent. The term is for 21 years from Michaelmas, 1897, with the option to the lessees of renewing in perpetuity.

The Brewery is let on favourable terms for a period of 79 years as from January 1st, 1898, and the whole of the Company's other properties (with the exception of the building land, certain maltings, stores, &c.) are also let to produce a good rental.

The rents and royalties payable by Messrs. Thomas Salt & Co., Limited, will secure to the Company from the 29th September, 1897, a satisfactory income, which, as to the major part, is practically fixed and determined; and rights have been retained by the Company of acquiring further licensed houses, and letting the same on lease, as opportunities may arise.

In pursuance of this policy, and with a view to further increasing the income of the Company, contracts have been entered into for the acquisition of 55 additional licensed houses, and agreements have also been secured for leasing the same for 21 years to Messrs. Ind, Coope, & Co., Limited, and others, upon terms favourable to this Company.

The whole of these houses, with the exception of 12, are either freehold, or leasehold for upwards of 900 years, and to enable the Company to complete the purchase of these properties the present issue of Debenture Stock is made.

The Debenture Stock now offered for subscription will be irredeemable, and will be secured by:—

An absolute specific first mortgage on the above-mentioned fifty-five Freehold and Leasehold Properties, valued at		£101,607 10
A floating charge on the effects taken with the above properties, valued at		3,024 14
A fixed charge (subject only to an existing issue of £180,000 of irredeemable debenture stock) on the Albion Brewery, all the licensed and unlicensed houses, land, and all other properties included in the prior fixed charge; and a floating charge (subject only to the existing debenture stock) on all other the assets and properties of the Company, including stock-in-trade, plant, book debts, and goodwill, together standing in the books of the Company on the 29th September, 1897, at	£329,143	
Deduct amount of existing debenture stock	180,000	
		149,143 0
		£253,775 4

The present issue is £110,000 of Debenture Stock.

The Rents and Royalties receivable by the Company from Messrs. Thomas Salt & Co., Limited, Messrs. Ind, Coope, & Co., Limited, and other tenants, are calculated, under the terms of the tenancy agreements, to produce, together with interest on the Company's investments, an income of at least		£20,170 per annum.
Deduct the interest payable on the existing Debenture Stock, viz.	8,100	"
Leaves	£12,070	"
To pay the interest on the present issue of £110,000 4 per cent. Debenture Stock requires	£4,400	"

In addition to the above, a further revenue is expected to result from the extension of the business, and from the development of the Company's Building Estate at Burton-on-Trent.

The Company's existing debenture stock is officially quoted on the London Stock Exchange, and it is intended to make prompt application for a quotation of the present issue.

If the debenture stock shall at any time become payable owing to the voluntary winding-up of the Company, for amalgamation purposes or otherwise, it shall be redeemed at a price to be calculated according to the average mean market price in London of the stock during the three years immediately preceding the date when the security became enforceable, but so that the price shall not be less than £110 per £100 of the stock.

The directors have instructed Messrs. Hoskins & Son, brewery valuers, to make a valuation of the additional properties about to be acquired by the Company. The report is as follows:—

49, King William-street, London Bridge, E.C.
February 7th, 1898.

To the Directors of the Albion (Burton-on-Trent) Brewery, Limited.

GENTLEMEN,—We have personally inspected the houses and other properties included in the Schedules (5) herewith, numbering 55 licensed properties.

We have further perused the terms on which these houses have been let, and are of opinion that, taking into account the rents payable by the respective tenants, the aggregate value of the same is not less than one hundred and one thousand six hundred and seven pounds and ten shillings (say) ... ... £ 101,607 s. 10 d. 0

To which must be added the agreed valuation of stock-in-trade, book debts, effects, &c. 3,024 14 0

Total £104,632 4 0

We are, gentlemen, yours faithfully,
HOSKINS & SON.

The draft trust deed, the form of "A" Debenture Stock Certificate, the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and Messrs. Hoskins & Son's report may be seen at the offices of the Solicitors of the Company.

Applications, accompanied by a remittance of the above-mentioned deposit of 10 per cent., should be sent to the Company's Bankers or to any of their branches. Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full.

In the event of a less amount of Debenture Stock than applied for being allotted to any applicant, the surplus amount paid on application will be appropriated towards the sum due on allotment. Failure to pay any instalment when due will render the previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be had from the Bankers, Brokers, or Solicitors, or at the Offices of the Company.

February 19th, 1898.

NEW YORK CENTRAL and HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD CO.

3½ PER CENT. BONDS of 1897.

London and New York, February 19th, 1898.

Referring to our Circular of January 3rd, 1898, offering to exchange various New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Bonds for the New 3½ per cent. Gold Bonds, 1997, of the same Company, we hereby announce that the holders of $20,000,000 of such Bonds have availed of the offer of conversion therein contained.

We are now prepared to receive $20,000,000 additional of the various issues enumerated in our circular above-mentioned for conversion on the same terms, except that the price for the New 3½ per cent. Mortgage Gold Bonds will be 103½ and interest.

We reserve to ourselves the right, however, to further advance this price without notice.

New York Central and Hudson R.R. Debenture 5's, 1904, will be received at 108·65 ex March coupon.

J. S. MORGAN & CO.
J. P. MORGAN & CO.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE

63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.

THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD

SUN FIRE OFFICE FOUNDED 1710.

SUM INSURED IN 1896 - £388 952,800.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.

THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd. Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £30,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.

The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.

FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

H. HALFORD and COMPANY,

70 and 71, Palmerston Buildings, Old Broad Street, London.

ESTABLISHED 1869.

Business in Stocks and Shares at close prices.

Dealings reported by wire if required.

Prompt Settlements.

Thousands of Testimonials from Clients.

Americans and Canadians a Speciality.
Also Westralians and Kaffirs.

Lists of Closing Prices gratis.

Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER FIRM.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

HAVE YOU TRIED . . .

CEPHALIA

For HAY FEVER, NEURALGIC PAINS, & COLDS in the HEAD, &c.?

If not, send 13½d. for a Box to

REECE & CO., Medical Hall, Piccadilly, London.

EFFECT SIMPLY MIRACULOUS.

The PARISIAN DIAMOND CO.

"ORIENT" PEARL and DIAMOND CROWN.
A very exquisitely executed piece of Diamond work. Price £80 0 0.

THE
"Orient" Pearls.
THE COMPANY'S GREAT SPÉCIALITÉ.

143, Regent St., W,
THE COMPANY'S NEW BRANCH (Opposite Liberty's, Chesham House).

GOLD MEDAL, PARIS, 1889.

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE POST FREE.

DIAMOND TIARA.
New Design. Set *à jour* in Real Diamond Mounts.
Price £27 0 0.

143, Regent St., W.
43, Burlington Arcade, W.
85, New Bond St., W.
And in Paris.

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 988.—ORIGINAL CONUNDRUM.

LUDWIG B. (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 991.—ANSWERS TO ORIGINAL CONUNDRUMS.

DANDELION (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of e Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE DITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. he answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve ters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; hilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be warded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 990.

Though, as a result of careful examination, I have found it necessary to reduce nsiderably the total number of the names of towns and cities of England and ales, included in the quotations sent in by COMMA and other competitors, I d that after all deductions have been made, COMMA retains the lead. The ize will, therefore, be awarded to him. He was run very closely by CAM, t managed, in sporting parlance, to win on the post by a short head. I may ld that many of the names sent in by competitors were not those of cities or wns at all. Some merely referred to small villages; some to country seats, d some to parts of large cities; whilst others had not been used by the oted poets as names of places, but as names of individuals. After making deductions, however, I still consider that the competitors are to be con- tulated on the success of their research. I was very much surprised at the mber of quotations they contrived to find, and think that the results ieved testify strongly to the patience and persistence that must have been rcised.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 992.

he prize for the best Up-to-Date Parody of the Heathen Chinee has been ded between OOM PAUL and ETAK.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 996.

correspondent has suggested a form of Puzzle which, though well known in Realm of Puzzledom, has not yet been tried in the pages of TRUTH. Its *modus operandi* is as follows. First a collection of consonants is given, as, for instance:—

G D L D P R T F R R T H D X X F R D D N S.

Then competitors are asked to convert the above collection of letters into a sensible sentence by adding any one vowel as often as they please, on condition that it must always be the same vowel. Thus, it will be found that by adding the vowel O sufficiently often to the line of consonants given above they can be amplified into the sentence:—

GOOD OLD PORT FOR ORTHODOX OXFORD DONS.

The usual prize of Two Guineas is therefore offered to the competitor who succeeds best

IN CONSTRUCTING A SENTENCE ON THE ABOVE MODEL.

Competitors will do well to bear in mind that it is a *sentence* and not a paragraph which is wanted; and that the sentence should not be lengthened at the expense of its intelligibility. In sending in their answers competitors are desired to give, first, merely the consonants of their answers, and then to add in another line what these sentences become by the addition of the necessary vowel. All answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, March 7, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of the winner of Prize No. 986 is PHILIP A. MCCARTHY, Esq., Ballyre, Willeagh, Co. Cork.

ALDBARN.—I regret that by a printer's error Conundrum No. 31 was credited to OLDHAM instead of to you. At the same time let me thank you for the novel suggestion you have sent to me.

LUDWIG B.—Thanks for your letter. I have handed your inquiry about the "Rusk" competition to the Editor.

M. L.—Thanks for your letter.

MICAH DOW.—It comes from Goethe's "Faust."

A. S. P.—You will see that I have turned your kind suggestion to practical account.

W. W. R.—I doubt the advisability of such a competition.

BLANCHE.—See Rule 3.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 993.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

NDERINGS INTO ENGLISH OF THREE FRENCH STANZAS FROM THE LATE MR. DU MAURIER'S "TRILBY."

*** The French verses, of which the following are English renderings, were printed in TRUTH for February 3.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

Trilby—beautiful and good and dear!
old her foot. Divine who ever will
tender friend, who lately lov'd her here,
amed of her (and with a love sincere)
charming token, a caprice of skill—
hich a mere breath may kill!

t twin: my brother claims a tear.
! Alas! Love wrought us cruel ill.
neet again in the Eternal sphere,
together once more, ever near;
at chaste bed no troubles more can thrill
lby, asleep and still.*

er friend for thee alone we fear!
loor where Trilby dwelt is closed and chill.
radise is far. . . . On earth so drear
right to both, lie lightly on his bier!)
d our equals, veinly search dale, hill—
must our fate fulfil.

J. McGrigor Allan.

ere the wicked cease from troubling; and
e weary be at rest."—Job iii., 17.

lby—good and beautiful and dear—
er foot. So let him guess who may
rmer friend, with many a loving tear,
d of her (and of a passion clear)
weet remembrance, born of fancy half in
play,
must so soon decay!

of my twin-brother who may hear?
Alas! Love led us both astray.
shall bring us ever near;
hall make a pair, as yester-year,
in an holy bed, where none shall drive
way
y's soft sleep, I pray.

weet friend, is not our parting drear?
r is shut where Trilby once did stay.
ld you seek—so far Heav'n's gates appear—
r like among this earthly gear
light on her will lie, which once we found
gay)
seek till Judgment Day!

Clive.

Poor Trilby, the beloved, the kind, the fair,
Her foot am I. Guess, stranger, if you may,
What tender friend of tender days that were,
Hath here inscribed her love and his despair,
Hath measured in his mood a breath—a simple lay
A breath shall sweep away!

Twin was I; but my mate is otherwhere.
Alas! alas! Love led our steps astray;
But death, I think, shall join what life could tear,
And twain us as aforetime, and prepare
Deeply a chaste, cold bed, and none shall murmur nay,
Where Trilby sleeps alway.

Without us, gentle friend, how wilt thou fare?
The door is shut, for Trilby would not stay.
Heaven is so far . . . . and on this world of care
(To us so sweet—light to her dreaming there)
Seek, stranger, for our likes—but look, and go your way,
Or look in vain for aye!

W. Nevermore.

I'm Trilby's foot—by master rare,
In happy moments pictured here,
Framed by a friend, with thoughtful care,
Lest passing breath my charm impair,
Kept as a mem'ry of my mistress dear—
Kind friendship's souvenir.

Twin sister had I, we were pair.
Love took her with my mistress dear,
From out these ways with him to fare,
Took them, alas! I know not where,
But we shall meet and rest some coming year,
Stainless on flow'r-decked bier.

Dear friend, left sorrowing in despair,
What will you do without us near?
The earth we gladdened no such pair
Has on it, search you ev'rywhere;
And Trilby's door is closed, the earth is drear,
And Heav'n is far from here.

Guillaumette.

Poor Trilby, beautiful, and good, and dear,
I am her foot; let him divine who may
What tender friend, late cherishing her here,
Enframed of her this charming souvenir,
That a caprice inspired, that, like bouquet,
Will fade with breath of day.

I was the twin. Where, brother, dost thou steer
Thy life course? Ah! Love led our steps astray
Eternity will join us. In that sphere
We shall, as in the time of yore, appear
A pair, in some chaste peaceful bed to stay,
Where Trilby sleeps alway.

O tender friend, without us life is sear.
The door is closed where Trilby held her sway.
And Paradise is far, and on earth drear
(Once sweet to us, and will be light and clear
To her) to find our like, should you essay
To search—you may—for aye!

Oom Paul.

Poor Trilby—she was gentle, dear, and fair!
I am her foot. Let him who wishes guess
What tender friend, rememb'ring cherished there
Enframed for love of her (love deep and rare),
This charming trace of Fancy's tenderness
Which a breath might distress!

I was a twin: my brother's gone, ah! where?
Alas! We parted in love's wilderness.
Eternity will join us—'tis my prayer;
And we shall rest together in our share
Of that cold bed where no unhappiness
Grieves Trilby—whom God bless!

Oh! tender friend alone, how wilt thou fare?
The house where Trilby stayed is loneliness.
Heaven is so far—and on this earth so bare
('Twas soft to us, 'twill softly for her care)
To find our equals, search with eager stress,
Vain is your eagerness!

Impérieuse.

Poor Trilby!—beautiful and good and dear!
Her foot am I. Guess, ye who look on me,
What kind friend framed this charming souvenir
Of her he cherished with a love sincere.
A breath would cause this child of freakish fantasy
To vanish instantly!

Where now is my twin brother, once so near?
Alas! Love severed us. Eternity
Will re-unite, I trust, those parted here.
Then, deep in bed of chastity severe,
We'll meet again where Trilby, from all trouble free,
Will slumber peacefully.

What will thou do, fond friend, without us here,
Now Trilby's door no longer ope's to thee?
'Tis far to Paradise, and on this sphere
(Where the soft earth shall lightly press her bier)
In vain a pair like us will any look to see,
Though he search anxiously. Orlando.

Poor Trilby—fair, and good, and dear!
Her foot behold! Guess you who may
What lover, once held kind and near,
Her memory framed (and love's); and here
It lies—a thing a thought would sway,
A breath shall blow away!

I was a twin: alas! but where
Is he, my brother? Far astray
Love leads us; sleep's eternal sphere
Shall draw us side by side—No tear
Trilby's white bed shall trouble—nay,
Calm shall be alway.

Kind friend, no sound of us you hear;
And Trilby's door is closed—the way
So far to Heaven! And should you here
On earth—once soft to us, now near
To her still heart—seek day by day
Two like us; seek you may!
Sydney.

Trilby, poor girl, so fair, so kind, so dear!
This is her foot. It is not hard to tell
The faithful friend, whose ever watchful care
Preserved of her (of his great love as well)
This token of an hour, inspired by fancy's whim—
A lightest touch might dim.

And there were two; where has the other stray'd?
Alas! Alas! 'Twas love did part the twain,
Though sever'd here, may they at last be laid,
United in eternity again,
In that cold narrow bed, where naught shall vex or wound
Trilby's last sleep profound.

Oh, faithful heart, alone what will you do?
The door whence Trilby came is closed and barred
And heaven is very far . . . . this earth below
(So good and kind, 'twill not on her lie hard)
No like to this can show, seek it the best who may,
They'll seek for many a day.
Janet.

Poor Trilby—beautiful and good and dear!
Her foot am I. Let him divine who may
What tender friend, remindful, guarded here
Enframed, this trace of her (and love sincere)—
This charming relic Fancy made one day)—
And winds might blow away!

I was a twin: my brother, oh! what cheer?
Alas! Love made us from each other stray.
Eternity, perhaps, will bring us once more near
To make our pair (as in that yester-year),
In a cold bed where no one will affray
Trilby—asleep for aye.

Where, tender friend left lonely, wilt thou steer?
The door is shut where Trilby used to stay.
And Heav'n so far! . . . and on the earth adrear,
(But soft for us, and light on her—don't fear!)
Seeking our equals, let who will delay—
In vain is his essay!
Kooràli.

Poor Trilby! once so fair, so good, so dear,
Behold her foot portrayed. Divine, I pray,
What tender erstwhile friend, in love sincere,
Perchance hath framed this charming souvenir
Of her which fond caprice inspires to-day,
A breath can blow away.

I was a twin; Where is my brother? Where?
Alas! Eternity may re-unite
What love has parted. This my hope, my prayer.
Then, as of yore, we'll form again a pair
When Trilby rests throughout the peaceful night
In slumber pure and light.

Deprived of us, what may you, will you, do?
The gate is closed where she abode, dear friend.
Through Paradise afar . . . . the world search through—
(Earth! sweet to us, lie light on Trilby too)—
Seeking our peers you may long ages spend,
And yet the quest not end!
Whig.

Poor Trilby! she, the fair, the kind, the dea
I am her foot. Guess, curious passer-by,
What tender lover of a bygone year
Encased of her this touching souvenir,
Right faithfully. Inspired by airy fantasy
'Twould flutter at a sigh!

I was a twin. Where, and how fares, my brother?
Alas! Love sent us straying! 'Tis my prayer
Eternity will render each to other—
Make us once more a pair with one another
In a lone bed, where no one more shall dare
Vex Trilby, sleeping there.

O, loving friend! without us, tell me how
You'll do? Where, whilom, Trilby dwelt, the door
Is shut—Paradise far—and, well you know,
On earth (soft once to us, light on her now),
You'll never find our like—go search the wide world o'er—
No, never, never more!
Sissie.

Poor Trilby! she the lovely, good, and dear!
I am her foot, and let him guess who may
What tender friend has framed this souvenir
So sweet of her (and of a love sincere
Of one who cherished her), which, due to fancy's play,
A breeze will take away.

I was a twin; my brother, where is he?
Alas, alas! Love set us wandering.
We shall, I hope, meet in Eternity,
And then, as formerly, a pair shall be,
Deep in a modest bed where trouble none will bring
To Trilby—slumbering.

Kind friend, without us what is left for thee?
Where Trilby dwelt the doors all closed remain,
And Paradise is far. . . . On earth (which we
Found sweet, and which so light for her will be)
To find our peers, although should one a search maintain,
His search will be in vain!
Romeo.

Poor Trilby! the beauteous, good, and dear!
See here her foot—guess who did this portray.
What tender friend, who, loving her while here,
Enshrined (and with a passion so sincere)
This charming souvenir, born of fancy's play,
And which a breath will sway.

I was a twin, what has befallen my peer?
Alas, alas! 'tis Love has made us stray.
I hope Eternity will bring us near,
And, as we were a pair, once more appear
In a chaste bed, where, to no care a prey,
Trilby shall sleep alway.

O tender friend! without us life is drear:
The door is closed where Trilby used to stay;
Heaven is far off, and on this earthly sphere
(So sweet to us, be light for her its clay!)
To find our equals, wheresoe'er you steer,
You will search long, I fear. Esperanza.

Poor Trilby! beautiful, and kind, and dear!
I am her foot, but who can say
What former friend, warm-hearted and sincere,
This charming memory framed, still bold and clear?
Which, swift inspired by passing fancy's play,
A breath might blow away.

I was a twin, but where is now my mate?
Alas! 'twas Love sent us astray.
Eternity, I hope, will re-instate
The link, and make us one pair, as of late,
On a chaste bed, where trouble cannot weigh
On Trilby's sleeping clay.

Fond lover! how without us wilt thou fare?
Door closed, where Trilby erst did stay.
Heaven is far off, and on this earth now bare,
Which we deemed soft, and she feels light as air,
To find our equals, search where'er you may,
Vain is your quest for aye.
Excelsior.

Trilby is gone! the fair, and sweet, and dear!
I am her foot. Now let him guess who may
What skilled and loving hand has pencilled here,
Upon the wall, so frail a souvenir,
Light as a breath upon a winter's day,
As soon to pass away.

Alas! what love is that which could divide
Such faithful friends, the closest and the best
Of brothers? For the world is very wide.
Yet maybe we shall slumber side by side
Upon the narrow couch by Trilby prest,
With none to break her rest.

The door is fastened now of Trilby's home—
A peaceful dwelling, "without fear or stain"—
Heav'n is so far for human feet to roam,
And on the earth (our covering become)
He who would hope to find our like again
May seek, but all in vain.
Vinard.

Poor Trilby! good, and beautiful, and dear!
I am her foot. Come, let who will but say
What tender friend, to whose heart she lay near,
Enframed this relic sweet, with love sincere,
The inspiration of some fancy stray,
And which a breath will blow away.

I was a twin. Where is my brother, where?
Alas! By Love destined apart to keep,
Eternity, I trust, again will join us: there
We'll make, as in the days of yore, a pair
Upon a spotless couch, and safe will sleep
Poor Trilby in a slumber deep.

Dear friend, without us, O what will you do?
At Trilby's fast-shut door you knock in vain.
Heaven is far, yet search the whole earth thro',
(Earth, sweet to us, rest lightly on her too!)
And you will never find, for all your strain,
Search how you will, our like again.
Malignant.

Poor Trilby! beautiful, and good, and dear!
I am her foot, and whoso will may guess
What tender friend, late holding her heart near,
Enshrined of her, and of a love sincere,
This charming memory, whose light impress
(Caprice-inspired) flies 'neath a breathed caress

I was a twin. My brother is not here.
What has become of him? Alas! Love's stress
Reft us apart. Yet shall we both appear,
I hope, united, in Eternity's long, clear
Expanse, one pair, in calm reposefulness,
On that chaste couch which Trilby's sleep doth bless!

What wilt thou do without us, friend so dear,
Since Trilby's door is shut in silentness?
And Paradise is far from this low sphere,
And, though thou search the earth to find our pee
(Earth sweet to us, which light on her shall pres
Thou shalt seek long, and vain the searc
confess!
Suisse.

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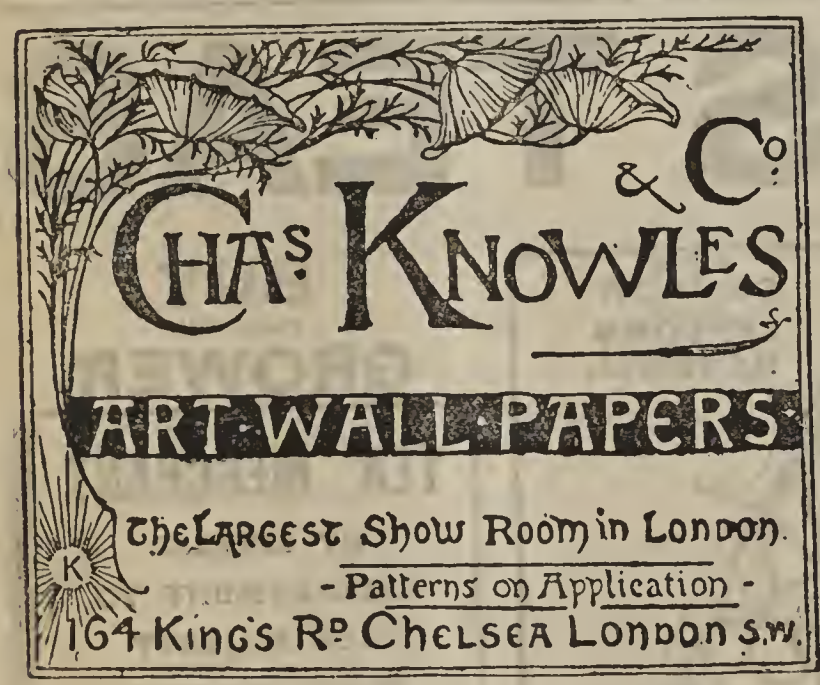

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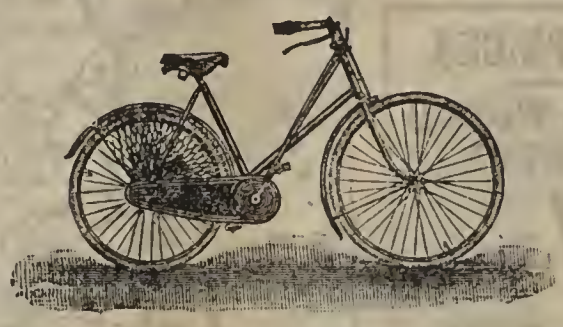

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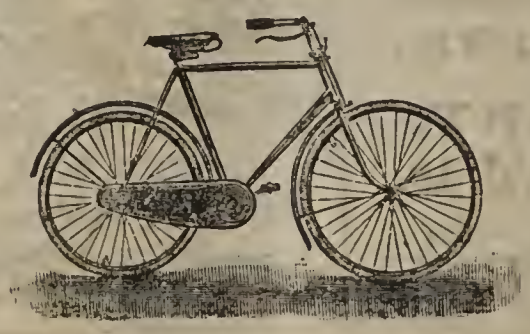

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• TRUTH •

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NOTICE.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen is to leave Windsor Castle next Wednesday afternoon, and her Majesty will arrive at Cimiez on Friday evening. The first night of the journey is to be spent on board the *Victoria and Albert* in Portsmouth Harbour, and the second night will be passed in the train but as one half of the Queen's saloon is fitted up as a bedroom, with every conceivable comfort, her Majesty can sleep just as well while travelling as if she were in her own room at Windsor Castle, especially as the speed of the train is to be reduced to twenty miles an hour between ten at night and nine in the morning.

There was a remarkably full entrée, at the Drawing Room, and the Queen was in the Throne Room for exactly an hour. The Queen, who looked exceedingly well, did not wear a single foreign Order, whereas her Majesty usually displays the Russian and Prussian decorations at the first Drawing Room. The Princess of Wales, who blazed with diamonds, wore the ribbon (broad pink with silver border) of the St. Catherine of Russia, and also the silver star of that Order, which has a white crown on a red ground. The Princess, was evidently much fatigued by the time the function was over. Lady Helen Vincent was the beauty of the Drawing Room, and Lady Marjorie Carrington (who had the entrée with her mother Lady Carrington) was the most admired of the débutantes. The Duchess of Devonshire and Lady Spencer both looked very well indeed. The Queen spoke to several of the Corps Diplomatique, and to a few of the entrée people. The carriages were grievously shabby, with a few distinguished exceptions, notably the equipages of the Russian Ambassador, the Dukes of Devonshire, Norfolk, and Richmond and Gordon, and Lord Carrington. Hired broughams and hired servants were the rule, and one "unimpeachable female" positively went to Court in a four-wheeled cab!

The second Drawing Room is to be held on Friday, the 11th inst., by the Princess of Wales, who, with Princess Victoria, leaves Sandringham next week for the season. After the Drawing Room the Princess and her daughter will proceed to Copenhagen until the end of April, and the Empress Dowager of Russia and the younger members of her family are also expected there the week after next. Princess Charles of Denmark, who has been suffering from rheumatism, will probably go to Wiesbaden at the end of April for a course of the waters, and King Christian is to be there at the same time.

There is no foundation whatever for the statement of a contemporary that the Queen has been invited to attend the coronation of the Queen of the Netherlands, and it is also utterly untrue that an invitation has been sent to the German Emperor. It would be a flagrant breach of etiquette for any reigning Sovereigns to attend at a Foreign Court on such an occasion, unless they happened to be very near relatives. The Queen will be represented by the Prince and Princess of Wales, and Prince and Princess Albert of Prussia are to attend on the part of the German Emperor and Empress.

Following on what I said last week respecting the Duke of Coburg's recent voyage from Malta to Alexandria in the *Surprise*, I see it is announced that one of her Majesty's ships will again be placed at the service of the Duke when he returns from Egypt. Considering that he is now a German kinglet, this practice of conveying the Duke on his holiday jaunts at the cost of the British taxpayer is a very questionable, not to say impudent, piece of business; and it is high time a protest was entered against it.

The Empress Frederick, who is still at Berlin, has postponed her trip to England until the first week in May, when she will arrive at Windsor Castle on a visit to the Queen. The Empress is to stay at Windsor until her Majesty goes to Scotland about May 20, and she will then come to Buckingham Palace for a week, after which she is to spend a few days at Sandringham with the Prince and

Princess of Wales before leaving for Germany to pass the summer at Friedrichshof. The Hereditary Princess of Saxe-Meiningen and her daughter, Princess Feodore, and Princess Henry of Prussia, will accompany the Empress to England.

The attempt on the life of the King of Greece is a deplorable incident, and every one must rejoice that it miscarried—more especially as it seems to have given the King an opportunity of showing his pluck and self-possession in the face of imminent danger. When, however, Canon MacColl writes to the papers to lay a portion of the blame for this occurrence upon "those persons in this country who have been for some time making accusations against his Majesty," he is as wild and reckless in his aim as the assassins who fired six rifle shots at the King, almost point blank, without getting nearer the mark than the footman's legs. As TRUTH is the only prominent paper in which any accusation against the King has been made, I take it that the Canon's observations are intended as a rebuke and a warning to me. If so, they are absurd. The charges of a treacherous intrigue in connection with the late war that have been made against the Greek Court have long been current in Greece, and there is ample evidence to support them. To suggest that the plot against the King's life was prompted, not by what was known and believed in Greece, but by something which appeared in an English newspaper, is as ridiculous as it would be to suggest that facts unfavourable to a Royal personage ought to be suppressed, lest their publication should provoke some reckless fanatic to take the law into his own hands.

Last week brought an interval in the Dublin Castle season. Not only did all the visitors leave the Castle, but the Viceregal host and hostess betook themselves to London. The unusual sight was offered of Dublin Castle, during the season, without the Royal Standard floating over it for an entire week. Three non-Catholic Lord Justices were sworn in as deputies during the Lord Lieutenant's absence, the assistants at the ceremonial being, strange to say—that is, if anything can be considered strange for Dublin Castle—two Catholic Privy Councillors. With regard to the Privy Councillors, from whose ranks the representatives of the absent Lord Lieutenant are always taken, the case is one of "Turk, Jew, or Atheist, but not a Papist." Why the Catholic Privy Councillors accept this peculiar situation, considering that all creeds in Ireland are on an equality in the eyes of the State, is one of those mysteries that abound in Dublin Castle. It is one more proof that the Irish Catholics are a long-suffering rather than an aggressive body, though a dying-out Protestant Ascendancy affects to believe them the latter.

This week the Castle season resumes its course, a concert and large ball being amongst the entertainments to be given. Lord and Lady Cadogan will again receive a succession of visitors, the last party of them assembling for St. Patrick's Ball, held on the festival of the national saint, March 17. As the saints of early times were not particularly favourable to dancing, it is curious that St. Patrick should be commemorated by a ball. No doubt the words of the national air "St. Patrick's Day," one verse of which commences

> "We will be merry
> All drinking our sherry,"

are responsible for the festive idea.

Lady Rachel Butler was well known in Society in Dublin, where she lived for many years until the death of her husband, Lord James Butler. In his young days Lord James Butler was a military member of the Viceregal staff; afterwards, during the first Viceroyalty of his brother-in-law, the Duke of Abercorn, he held the post of State Steward at Dublin Castle. Lady Rachel Butler's only daughter died in Ireland little more than a week before her mother. The Dowager Duchess of Abercorn is an elder sister of Lady Rachel Butler.

Although Lord Cadogan is not himself a hunting man, the noble sport does not want for Viceregal patronage under his rule. Quite a squadron of mighty hunters and huntresses—sometimes joined by Lady Cadogan—sets out every morning from Dublin Castle. This week the Army point-to-point races take place in Kildare on Wednesday. Lord Cadogan has presented a handsome cup for the occasion. A large Viceregal party will be present.

The Duke of Richmond and Gordon came up from Goodwood for the Drawing Room in compliance with the rule which requires attendance at the first function over which the Queen herself presides after a visit to any of the Palaces. The Duke was her Majesty's guest at Balmoral last autumn for several days.

The season in Malta has been a gay one, notwithstanding unusually bad weather—for such a southern clime—and the rumours of wars and sudden movements of ships and troops. Sir Arthur Fremantle has been having visitors at the Palace during the season. Lady Mary Sackville has been staying with her sister, Lady Edeline Strickland. As in other Catholic countries, dancing ends in Malta with the beginning of Lent. The season was accordingly brought to a close, so far as concerns balls, by the customary fancy-dress ball at the Palace, given by Sir Arthur and Lady Fremantle on Shrove Tuesday.

It may interest any of my readers returning home from Italy or the Riviera to know that, in the event of the "Rome" or "Mediterranean" express *trains de luxe* reaching Paris too late for the mid-day train running in connection with the 3.45 p.m. boat from Boulogne, they are now sent on at once to Boulogne, where they arrive at 5.20 p.m. This arrangement enables passengers desirous of arriving in London the same night to dine at Boulogne,

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For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 554 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 548.
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For OUR PUZZLES, see page 565.

and then join the 7.50 p.m. boat in connection with the 3.45 p.m. train from Paris. There was a time when the privilege of dining at Boulogne would not have been valued very highly; but since the notorious buffet at that place has been taken over by the South-Eastern Railway Company, matters have greatly improved, and it will no doubt be a great convenience to travellers from the South to be able to dine there in comfort and reach London before midnight.

Mrs. Goschen, whose death is lamented by a very large circle of friends, was a remarkably clever woman, with much force of character, and she will be an irreparable loss to her husband, for whom the utmost sympathy is universally felt.

My attention has been called to the remarkable historical parallel formed by the two passages given below. The first is taken from one of last week's evening papers; the second from one of our great English classics:—

(1) Probably in view of the serious situation in West Africa, Mr. Chamberlain remained in town for the week-end. It is stated that the right honourable gentleman attended Her Majesty's Theatre on Saturday night with Mrs. Chamberlain, and in connection with his visit a curious incident occurred. During the performance some one drove up hastily to the theatre and sent his card to Mr. Chamberlain, who at once left his box and remained for several minutes in conversation with his visitor. The right honourable gentleman then returned to his seat, whispered to Mrs. Chamberlain, and they both left the theatre. The incident is said to have attracted much attention.

(2) "My boy always rushes into church just before the psalms, when the people have got nothing to do but look about 'em, and calls me out, with horror and dismay depicted on his countenance. 'Bless my soul,' everybody says, 'somebody taken suddenly ill! Sawyer, late Nockemorf, sent for. What a business that young man has!'"

The tenant of some garden ground on a certain East Anglian estate has just been sharply reminded that kotowing to the landlord's agent, though not mentioned in the agreement, was nevertheless an indispensable condition of his tenancy. For a long time this tenant, a small shopkeeper, was in the habit of touching his hat to the agent, but observing that the salutation was haughtily ignored, he ventured to drop it, whereupon he was at once served with notice to quit his ground. The agent in question is a scion of the aristocracy, and though he has to work for his own livelihood, like a mere plebeian, he is evidently determined that nobody shall omit the obsequious attention due to a man of his exalted pedigree.

In connection with the public claim to a right-of-way in Charleville-lane, near Uxbridge, I understand from the secretary of the Uxbridge Centre of the Commons' Preservation Society, that a fund is being raised for the defence of the men against whom Lord Hillingdon has commenced an action. All the defendants are poor men, and in the public interest it is very desirable that they should be assisted, so that the question at issue can be properly fought out.

Apropos of the refusal to allow the use of the Morpeth Town Hall for the Morpeth Hunt Ball unless on condition that no alcoholic drinks were consumed, I am told that a certain hall in the North of London, owned by a temperance lecturer, is frequently let for balls and other entertainments on the same condition, and that the restriction rather popularises the use of the hall for this purpose than otherwise. Very possibly; but the cases are by no means parallel. If people want to give a ball in London, they are not restricted to the use of any particular hall. Many people may be pleased to give, or to go to, an entertainment on temperance lines, and I am not saying that such an entertainment may not be quite as attractive and enjoyable as one where wines and spirits are supplied. But what I object to, and what seems to me legitimate ground for objection, is that where temperance people happen to have the whip hand they should endeavour to use it for the purpose of compelling those who disagree with them to conform to their ideas.

From a statement in the *Daily Mail*, it appears that New Zealand has already followed the example of Australia in stopping its contribution to the Imperial Institute. Whether the whole amount has been withdrawn is not stated for certain; but, at any rate, the Government has withdrawn from Parliament this year a vote of £200, which appears to be the whole amount recently given. It therefore appears that three colonies have withdrawn, or are threatening to withdraw. A fourth, South Australia, has, I believe, definitely refused to contribute; while many others are in arrears with their subscriptions, and some, if I am not mistaken, although they made promises, have never paid up. If the various dependencies of the Empire take up this attitude, the Imperial Institute loses not only a large slice of its exiguous revenue, but its very *raison d'être*. An "Imperial Institute of the United Kingdom and the Colonies" which is boycotted by the colonies is a contradiction in terms.

I agree with the writer of the following letter in not being an admirer of the Boadicea group. The Queen is in a car, which is drawn by two rearing horses. They are standing on their hind legs, and pawing the air with their fore legs. One of these animals turns his neck to the right and the other to the left. The Sovereign does not guide them, for there are no reins. Behind her are two females. What they are doing is not clear. They are massive ladies, and (to put it delicately) they are the reverse of top-heavy. Looking at the group from the front, the fore legs of the horses give a spectator the idea of a mass of metal entirely unconnected with the horses. I can only say that if the Queen really did go in advance of her troops in this sort of car, with two horses attached to it without reins, it is no wonder that her army was defeated:—

Will you allow me to ask in TRUTH if it is too late for further consideration as to whether the proposed Boadicea statue group is all that could be desired, and worthy of the subject, the site, and the art of the period at which it is to be erected? It seems to me that the sculptor, in trying to realise heroic grandeur, has treated his subject in too classical a spirit altogether, and has, moreover,

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not carried out, with sufficient faithfulness to the true principles of art, the substantial embodiment of idealised historical action. There should be grace, harmony, and consistency of detail in combination with the strength and passion which the grouping is intended to illustrate as seen from every point, otherwise the lessons of inspiration and good taste, which truth and beauty in design inculcate, are not effectually taught by the work. The work, in fact, becomes merely a temptation to criticism, and its purpose is lost sight of. I do not deny that there are many good points in this work, but I do think it might be very greatly improved.

As to the equestrian side of it, the horses are of too conventional a type. There is too much of the Grecian temple frieze about them, and, seen in profile, their bodies are too light for their necks and heads. If they were made to appear to be starting, with less uniformity of action, and one of them biting at the other, with his forefeet down, the props, which are always a great disfigurement, might be dispensed with; and, as it is common for horses at starting to bear on each other, they might be joined to make the one with his forefeet down support the other. Again, the horses are too thoroughbred for the period; they require to be sturdier, and much less might be made of their tails.

The figure of Boadicea should, I think, be robed more closely; the flying drapery leaving the bent back bare, has a very peculiar appearance in a profile view of the group. The Queen should grasp the reins with her left hand, and her attitude would be more consistent with the action and the pace at which the horses would start, if she were turning to beckon her followers with her spear, as it were, after a final harangue, before plunging into the fray. With regard to the two daughters, cowering one on either side of their mother, and holding on to the chariot, I venture to think nothing could be more defective in design as seen from the back of the figures. It surely is not too late to vary their attitudes, and, at the same time, make their physical proportions here and there less uniform.

"The drama's laws the drama's patrons give." At Gateshead, one night last week, the stage of the Standard Theatre was given up to—"a beef-dressing competition for £50 a side." There was a very large audience at this elevating entertainment, and the performers were loudly applauded. The carcasses of four fat bullocks, slaughtered for the occasion, were skinned and dressed by the rival butchers in the sight of the appreciative audience, who were freely betting on the result of the contest. I can understand butchers and meat-salesmen being interested in such a spectacle, but how anybody else could find a pleasure in witnessing it passes my comprehension. It seems to have been looked upon at Gateshead as a piece of sport. If this is sport, then I thank goodness I am not a sportsman.

It is to be hoped that few literary men—and if any, only those of the minor fry—will sign Mr. Christie Murray's appeal to the French Government to reconsider the verdict and the sentence on M. Zola. In the appeal, it is stated that the verdict of the civilised world beyond the French borders is opposed to that of the jury; that the sentence is a vindictive one; that M. Zola has been moved alone by a sense of duty, and that "we" (the signatories) have watched the case now closed with painful and anxious interest. Assuming that Zola's sentence ought to be reduced, I can conceive nothing more likely to render this improbable than that such an address should be sent by the literary men of this country to France. Mr. Murray may have watched the case with painful and anxious interest, but I doubt whether a dozen literary men in England have read all the facts connected with it, and even if they have, they cannot tell by what motives Zola was actuated; unless it is to be laid down that, whenever a novelist declares a sentence of the Courts of his country to have been the result of a conspiracy against justice, he is actuated by the noblest of motives. A more foolish proposal, in the interest of Zola himself, could not be made.

A stained-glass window is to be placed in the retro-choir of Lincoln Cathedral as a County memorial of Lord Tennyson. It is hoped that a sufficient sum will be subscribed to provide also either a bust or a medallion portrait.

This year's Romanes Lecture is to be delivered in the Sheldonian Theatre at Oxford, on June 1, by Sir Archibald Geikie, whose subject is "Types of Scenery and their Influence on Literature."

Dean Lake has left £1,000 to Newcastle College for the foundation of a theological lectureship. If the late Dean desired to benefit practically an institution in which he took a most hearty interest, it is a pity that he did not leave the money at the free disposal of the President and Council; but the bequest of so inadequate a sum as £1,000 for a lectureship on any subject whatever is simply embarrassing, as the income will be something under £30 a year, which is not a remuneration calculated to attract any one whose discourses would be of any value. It is difficult, moreover, to understand how a lectureship in theology can possibly be established in a college which is most strictly undenominational. Even if this difficulty were overcome, how many students would be likely to attend the (inevitably) flabby and colourless lectures which would be provided?

The Oriel College living of Plymtree, Devon, has been given by the Provost and Fellows to the Rev. Edgar Hay Hay, rector of Carlton Colville. This benefice was held for twelve years (1868–80) by the Rev. Thomas Mozley, the celebrated *Times* leader writer, and author of the interesting "Reminiscences of Oriel" and other successful works. Mr. Mozley's predecessor at Plymtree was the Rev. Joseph Dornford, who was one of the early leaders of the Tractarian Movement at Oxford, and a tutor at Oriel in the most palmy days of that College, when Newman Hurrell, Froude, and Robert Wilberforce were his colleagues. There is a most entertaining account of Dornford in Mozley's Reminiscences. He was a very brilliant man, but decidedly eccentric. Dornford once had occasion to call upon Bishop Phillpotts, and he appeared at the palace arrayed in white trousers. "Mr. Dornford," said Henry of Exeter, "are those white trousers quite clerical?" "My lord, they must have washed white." "Then, I presume," replied the prelate, "that your neck-cloth has washed black."

During Lent the pulpit of the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, is filled on Sundays by a succession of prelates nominated by the Bishop of London (a Dean of the Chapel), whose list is always sent to the Queen for

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approval before it is printed. The Bishop Suffragan of Stepney preaches next Sunday, the Bishop of Bristol on the 13th, the Bishop of Wakefield on the 20th, the Bishop of St. Andrew's on the 27th, the Archbishop of York on April 3, and the Bishop of Ely (Lord High Almoner to the Queen) on April 10 (Easter Day), unless he is out of town, in which case his place will be taken by Canon Eyton, the sub-Almoner. The Dean of Westminster is to preach on Good Friday.

Bishop Billing literally killed himself by hard work, which made him a hopeless wreck before he was sixty. He became famous by his able and thorough administration of the great parish of Spitalfields, where he laboured for many years like a Hercules, being at the same time in constant demand all over London as a platform speaker, and as a manager of all kinds of Church societies, for he was a first-rate organiser and administrator. The late Bishop was for a long time one of the leaders of the Evangelical party, and he was an admirable preacher. It was considered discreditable that no recognition should have been made of his excellent work until 1888, when the present Primate nominated him as one of his candidates for the Suffragan Bishopric of Bedford, in the place of the late Bishop of Wakefield. It was well known at the time that the name of Archdeacon Sandford, of Exeter, was also sent up to the Queen by Bishop Temple, who placed his friend first, in the expectation that her Majesty would select him, in accordance with the usual practice. The Queen, however, considered—and very properly—that a London clergyman was the right person to fill this post. Dr. Billing became a zealous and a popular prelate, fully maintaining the office at the very high standard to which Dr. Walsham How had raised it, and his success was the more creditable to him, inasmuch as it required considerable tact and *savoir-faire* to work well with Bishop Temple. The Bishop began his career as a very decided Low Churchman, but he mellowed considerably after his removal to London, and his relations with the High Church party were always most harmonious, while he displayed not a particle of favouritism as a prelate in any sort of way.

The deepest regret is felt in the Isle of Wight at the death of the Rev. C. I. Burland, Vicar of St. Saviour's, Shanklin, who was held in the highest respect by all who knew him. Mr. Burland, who had been Vicar of St. Saviour's for more than thirty years, was honorary chaplain to the Princess Beatrice's Isle of Wight Volunteers at the time the late Prince Henry of Battenberg accepted the honorary colonelcy. The living of St. Saviour's is in the gift of the Vicar of Shanklin.

An incident at Llandudno illustrates what my musical critic lately said as to the inconsiderate treatment which Church organists sometimes experience at the hands of the clergy. Last Christmas the organist at a Llandudno church trained the choir to perform Bach's Christmas Oratorio, and the date of the performance was duly advertised. These preparations were made with the approval of the parson, but at the last moment he forbade the performance, simply because he was affronted at the absence of certain choir-men from the early choral celebration on Christmas Day. When the organist was recently asked to arrange for some Passion-music on Good Friday, he naturally desired to have some assurance that the previous fiasco would not be repeated. To this request the clergyman replied by at once dismissing him from his post; his reverence evidently holding, like not a few of his brethren, that an organist and choir ought to submit humbly, and without murmuring, to any behest of his, however arbitrary and unreasonable it may be.

Four members of the choir of St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead, so far forgot their duty as to attend a lecture by a Wesleyan minister in the Town Hall, and on the following Sunday they went to hear him preach in the chapel. For these heinous offences they were sharply reprimanded by the indignant vicar to whose congregation they belonged, and this ecclesiastic demanded from the erring ones "a distinct assurance that this kind of thing would not occur again." The intolerance and arrogance of a great majority of the Anglican clergy are really beyond all bounds. In many country places members of the Church choir are required to give a solemn promise not to enter a Dissenting place of worship. I remember hearing of some choir boys who had presumed to take part in a Wesleyan school treat, and who were made to do public penance for the outrage on the following Sunday. They entered the church with the choir, but arrayed merely in their black cassocks, and during the service they sat in prominently placed seats of repentance, a warning to future misdoers. On that occasion, however, the reverend fanatic who was responsible for all the fuss found his conduct questioned by the father of one of the culprits, who threatened to "punch his head" if ever his son was thus "insulted" again, the result being that the whole family went over bag and baggage to the neighbouring chapel, and the *quondam* choir boy is now a Wesleyan Evangelist.

The man Widdows, ex-monk and Protestant lecturer, against whom I have repeatedly warned credulous Protestants, ventured at a meeting at Cardiff last week to answer TRUTH by making five statements. Out of these five statements three were absolutely false, one was partially true, and the remaining one a fact of no significance. From what I have heard of him, I should imagine that the proportion of truth to falsehood in this case is that which is usually to be found in the statements of Widdows. It is an astonishing thing that the more rabid enemies of the Church of Rome should bring themselves into discredit by encouraging anti-Popery lecturers whose methods are so unscrupulous, and whose antecedents are so shady.

A sequel to the strange story I told last week of the sale of the American Cemetery at Jerusalem has since reached me. It was represented by the American

missionaries and the American Consul that the bodies of the dead had been reverently and carefully exhumed and removed to the English Cemetery. Owing to the action taken by Lord Salisbury at the instance of the friends of one of the dead, the truth of this statement has now been put to the test. The pit in which the bodies had been reburied at the English Cemetery was opened, with the object of recovering possession of the remains of a British officer and subject, and the result was a most ghastly discovery. All the bodies had been broken up and packed in small wooden boxes, so that neither in the case of this officer nor in any other case was there any means of identification. Both the sale of the cemetery and the removal of the corpses appear to have been carried out in a manner disgraceful in the extreme to those responsible for what was done, and exceedingly painful to the relatives and friends of the dead.

Messrs. Lunn & Perowne are a very enterprising firm, and now that they no longer pose as apostles of religion disguised as tourist agents, I have the greatest admiration for their enterprise. My admiration, however, does not extend to the high dignitaries of the Church who lend themselves to this enterprising firm as advertising agents. Advertisements are now being distributed in all directions notifying that on one of the forthcoming Lunn & Perowne tours, the Bishop of Carlisle, among other distinguished individuals, will be one of the lecturers. The Bishop is, I presume, paid for the job—in kind, if not in cash. He is one of the attractions on the bill, and no doubt he earns his remuneration. But is it a becoming position for a high ecclesiastic to occupy? If it is, Mr. Whiteley and other leading tradesmen should lose no time in engaging other equally distinguished ecclesiastics to co-operate in their own particular lines of business.

When one comes to think of it, this is an idea capable of very extensive development. Not long ago a Scottish divine achieved fame by letting out the galleries and walls of his church as advertising spaces, and I believe the same thing has been done in America. Even more effective would be the introduction of judicious advertisements into pulpit oratory. Imagine the effect of some great preacher —a Haweis or a Parker—pausing in his discourse to impress upon his hearers the virtue of Vinolia soap, or Beecham's pills! I do not say that this should be done as a regular thing for the purpose of adding to the preacher's stipend, or the funds of the church; but it might be very effective in charity sermons, and would not be worse than many of the sins which charity already covers.

I am glad to give a word of welcome to the new edition of the "Annual Charities Register and Digest," which Messrs. Longmans, Green, & Co. publish for the C.O.S. There is scarcely any work which I have to consult more frequently, and there is none to which I turn with greater reliance upon its accuracy. Mr. C. S. Loch supplies a general introduction, dealing with a variety of poor law and charitable questions, and the special introductions to many of the sections or groups of charities also form a valuable feature of the Register. With this publication, and with the arrival also of "Kelly's Handbook to the Titled, Landed, and Official Classes," and "Walford's County Families," my collection of reference books for the present year is, I think, pretty well complete. In its special line each of the latter is an invaluable work.

An answer has now been given to the question I lately asked, in reference to the name of the trust fund of £5,000 which has been applied to the purpose of the Wesley House scheme. The trust in question is one known as the Angel-alley or Wilson-street Trust, and, according to a Wesleyan correspondent, its history is somewhat curious. It seems that a generation or so ago some Wesleyans started a mission school and evangelistic work in Angel-alley, near Old Bishopsgate, and appealed for subscriptions for the purchase of the premises. Soon after the purchase was effected, a railway company required the property and paid £6,900 for it, and this formed the original capital of the trust, which, by loans and grants to various charitable works, has since been reduced to the £5,000 now handed over to Wesley House. It is clear from this that the fund is the outcome of the appeal made in the first place for the slum mission work in Angel-alley; and, to say the least, it is exceedingly questionable whether money so derived can be properly devoted to the totally different object of maintaining a Methodist museum at Wesley House—an object which, if it had excited any real interest in the Connexion, would have been attained by personal subscriptions and donations. In the circumstances, it seems highly desirable that the terms of the Angel-alley trust deed should be published.

I have never been able to see much virtue, or much charity in the true sense, in the pious benefactor, who, not being able to take his riches with him when he departs this life, and having had all he can get out of them while here below, bestows them all in charity at the expense of his relatives when the time comes for him to depart. At the best it is an easy way of getting posthumous credit for a generosity which has never been exhibited during life, and very often it is a mere excuse for gratifying some feeling of spite. A good example of this is shown in a case which has recently been noticed in the Press—the case of the Rev. E. N. Pochin, who died leaving the whole of a fortune of about £109,000 to the British and Foreign Bible Society. As the reverend testator had left a widow and three children utterly unprovided for, the Bible Society were good enough to make over to them one half of the legacy — a circumstance for which they have got quite as much credit as they were entitled to. The fact was that Mr. Pochin, having married a wealthy woman, and amassed a handsome fortune by the use of her money, treated her so abominably that she had to leave him, and for twenty-two years gave not a halfpenny to her or his children beyond what he paid under compulsion of law. He lived in the meantime a disreputable life, and has rounded off his existence by

the noble act of bequeathing everything he possessed to a religious society, in order to place it out of the reach of his wife and children. A more striking illustration has rarely been given of the spirit which occasionally animates such benefactions. Neither does it seem to me that the Bible Society are entitled to very much credit for having returned a share of the bequest to the deceased man's dependants.

There is no institution of the same class in London for which I have more sympathy than the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond-street, and I am therefore glad to give publicity to the appeal which is now being made to pay for a large extension of the Hospital premises. Owing to a proposal to rebuild the adjoining Hospital of St. John and St. Elizabeth, which would have gravely affected the light and air of the Children's Hospital, and destroyed its utility in other ways, the bold step has been taken by the managers of the Children's Hospital of buying out the adjoining institution. The purchase affords an opportunity for a much-needed enlargement of the Children's Hospital, which will greatly improve the accommodation of the nurses—an improvement urgently required—besides enlarging the wards. For this purpose, however, the sum of £30,000 has to be paid, one-third of it by April 28 next. There is the strongest need, therefore, for the benevolent public to come at this juncture to the assistance of the Hospital management.

The fact that a cheque for £50 has reached me in aid of the deficit in the Truth Toy Fund from a "Traveller on the Nile," seems to me of exceptional interest. The letter containing the donation was written on one of Messrs. Cook's Nile steamboats, and is dated "Dahabeah Cheops, off Assouan." Charity begins at home, we are told, but in this case it has been continued with excellent effect from abroad. I hope other travellers, on the Nile and elsewhere, will soon give me an opportunity for making a similarly grateful acknowledgment. I have also received £5 from Mr. John C. Bumsted, of King William-street, E.C. Mr. Bumsted, I may add, is a member of the Board of Management of Earlswood Asylum, and his contribution is a particularly exemplary one, which might well be imitated by many of those connected with the management of the hospitals and other charities which have for many years past been receiving Truth toys and dolls.

Attention has been more than once called in Truth to the unauthorised collection of funds for widows, orphans, sick, and others of the Fire Brigade. Commander Wells has taken the matter up, and is engaged in seeking to obtain funds to provide money for a General Benefit Club. The Chairman and the Clerk of the L.C.C., the Hon. G. Hill Trevor, and Mr. Mackworth Praed are the trustees. On Tuesday afternoon, March 15, there is to be a dramatic entertainment at the Haymarket Theatre in aid of the fund. Those who cannot go to it would do well to send money to Commander Wells. Appreciation of the Fire Brigade is all very well, but to be practical it should take a monetary form.

I presume that the question asked last week respecting the alleged traffic in Volunteer commissions, and a recent incident of such traffic in the case of one of the Metropolitan Volunteer Corps, had reference to the honorary colonelcy of the 22nd Middlesex, which was referred to in Truth of December 23. It will be remembered that the case came to light in the course of a prosecution for libel at the Old Bailey, where it appeared that Colonel A. J. G. Kane had undertaken to obtain an honorary colonelcy for a well-known West Australian financier at the price of £600, £400 to go into the regimental funds, and £200 to be the negotiator's commission. It appears that the matter has been inquired into at the War Office, and that the appointment of "an Honorary Colonel"—presumably the Honorary Colonel above referred to—has been cancelled. This is well as far as it goes, but it is a pity that the War Office cannot go to the root of the evil and make such provision for the financing of Volunteer regiments as would obviate the necessity for obtaining wealthy men, and none but wealthy men, as Colonels.

One episode of the North-Western Frontier operations which ought not to be lost sight of is the Tochi Expedition. The force for this expedition was, I think, made up of four regiments. Virtually they have had no fighting at all, and some explanation would seem to be needed, under such circumstances, of the dispatch of a brigade to a spot so remote from the scene of the more critical operations. On the other hand, unstinted honour and glory have been heaped upon the Staff of the force. A despatch published in the middle of January actually mentioned the name of every single officer on the Headquarters Staff, even down to a youngster who only went out as an orderly officer in October, when all the hardest part of the work had been got over. A more conspicuous example has not been seen for a long time of the ridiculous extent to which modern Generals laud the services of their own *entourage*, to the exclusion of the regimental officers and others who often do the hardest work and bear the burden and heat of the day.

It may be safely said that of all the officers selected for honourable mention in connection with the Tochi Valley Expedition, the only men who thoroughly earned such distinction are the Medical Officers. For reasons which require further elucidation, the force suffered from sickness to an amazing extent, and two out of the four regiments had to be sent back to India decimated by disease. It was stated by Mr. Brodrick last week, in answer to a question on the subject, that the 3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade lost, in the four months ending December 31, 102 men, besides a considerable number invalided. My own information is that the deaths amounted to three officers and nearly 150 men. There is good reason to suppose that this deplorable loss of life was mainly due to the ill-advised selection of the site for the camp, which was close to a native burial ground which polluted the

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water-supply; and I am told that the Medical Officer of the Rifle Brigade called the attention of higher authorities to the danger, but in vain. The whole management of the Tochi Expedition ought to be made the subject of a special inquiry.

In view of occurrences such as the above, the following extract from "The Soldier's Pocketbook" is decidedly apropos:—

> The sanitary officer is a creation of recent years, and, as a general rule, he is a very useless functionary. In the numerous campaigns where I have served with a sanitary officer, I can conscientiously state that I have never known him make any useful suggestion, whereas I have known him make silly ones. *In future, as long as the fad continues, my recommendation is to leave him at the base.* . . . .

Such are the enlightened views of our Commander-in-Chief upon a matter which may involve the health of hundreds of men and the efficiency of a whole brigade.

As most of the facts respecting the Indian Government in my last week's article on the Frontier Fiasco were derived from experts, it goes almost without saying that they have been contradicted in one or two particulars by other experts. With all respect, however, I cannot see that the contradiction comes to much. For instance, I am told that the Viceroy is the real Foreign Minister of India, and that, consequently, the Foreign Department has its head in the Council. To this my answer would be that, great as are the objections in England to the combination of the offices of Premier and Foreign Secretary in one Minister, they must be infinitely greater in India, where the Viceroy has a vast number of executive duties to perform which do not fall to the English Prime Minister. The fact that the Viceroy is virtually Foreign Minister of India seems to me only to strengthen the case as stated in last week's TRUTH.

Again, I am taken to task for having alluded to the Indian Foreign Secretary as a "clerk." He is, I am told, always "a member of the Bengal Civil Service"; a man who will always have held a dozen other high offices before he rises to the position of Foreign Secretary, and who will blossom forth from that position to the still more exalted one of Lieutenant-Governor. Really, I cannot see that this is more than a question of names, but if any Civil Servant feels hurt at being called a "clerk," I cheerfully withdraw the offending term.

There was one inaccuracy in my last week's article, which I hasten to correct. It was said that when the first news came of the Afridi rising, and orders were sent for the movements of troops, one regiment at Rawalpindi received its orders at mid-day, and was on the march the same night. This incident, I find, did not occur at the first outbreak, but later on. The correction, however, has no material bearing upon the situation, one way or the other.

It would be interesting to know the precise origin of the Reuter telegram from Peshawur, which found its way into some of the English papers last week, and purported to convey the views of the troops at Peshawur in reference to the recent articles in TRUTH upon the Frontier campaign. The style of the writer is peculiar. He begins:—

> Great indignation prevails throughout the Tirah Field Force at the charges made by anonymous correspondents in TRUTH on January 27 and February 3. It is pointed out that these statements are quite misleading, &c.

The statement "great indignation prevails" is utterly irreconcilable with the communications that have reached me from the Tirah Field Force; and the phrase "it is pointed out" suggests that the correspondent is transmitting something directly communicated to him by one or more individuals rather than the general sentiments of the officers and troops. When he goes on to specify what is "pointed out" as misleading, he does not improve matters. He devotes some space to denying that the Tirah Field Force consisted of 50,000 men—a statement which I cannot find that I or any correspondent whom I have quoted has made; and he then goes on to argue that the baggage-train was not in excess of the requirements of the troops, which does not go to the root of the matter, and does not coincide with the opinion of competent military observers on the spot.

And what end is to be served by publishing such bunkum as this?—

> The force is thoroughly fit and inspired with complete confidence in its commanders, and challenges its calumniators in the Home and Indian Press to publish their names and substantiate their charges.
>
> The conduct of officers in writing anonymously in the papers is condemned as cowardly and unsoldierlike, inasmuch as the writers well know that the military regulations prohibit those vilified from replying.

If it is against the rules for "those vilified" to reply, what is the use of challenging the vilifiers to publish their names? If it is impossible for the vilified to reply, how do they manage to send their reply to the whole of the English Press through the columns of Reuter? Really, this is a little too thin. Any officer who desired to make a reply could have done it in TRUTH as easily as through Reuter, and even if TRUTH failed to do him justice, there are dozens of other papers which would be perfectly ready to hear him. The channels which are open to one officer, or twenty officers, are open to all.

The author of this Reuter telegram, and those who have inspired him, know perfectly well that the unanimous criticism of the Indian Press, equally with the correspondence that has appeared in TRUTH, merely reflects the prevailing feeling among all ranks of the forces that have taken part in the Frontier campaign. The best answer to Reuter is that all the ugliest facts that have appeared, whether in the Indian papers or TRUTH, are vouched for by the letters of officers in the field, *acting openly as newspaper correspondents, and writing with the sanction and under the censorship of the military authorities.* In the face of this, it is futile to suggest that any material facts have been misrepresented. Whether the criticism founded on those facts has been unjust or unfair, every military reader, and

every civilian of any intelligence, can judge for himself. So far from rehabilitating the reputation of the Staff on the Frontier, the Reuter despatch, with its flimsy evasions and its whining appeal on behalf of parties who are perfectly able to take care of themselves, is only calculated to discredit them further.

The one useful purpose which this telegram seems to have served is to furnish the editor of the *Globe* with another opportunity of exhibiting his peculiar journalistic talents. Here is a passage which well illustrates his knowledge of what he is talking about :—

> Another venomous statement to which currency was given by the same egregious paper was that the retirement through the Bara Valley amounted to nothing less than a *sauve qui peut*—that is, a disorderly and demoralised flight. What is the truth? The retrograde march through one of the most difficult countries in the world was carried out with both skill and courage; there was hard fighting, it is true, from first to last, but all trustworthy accounts go to prove that the troops displayed splendid gallantry.

The phrase "sauve qui peut" was not mine, but was applied by one who had been through the "retrograde march," and ought to be as good a judge of the facts as any journalist in the Strand. No one has questioned the courage and gallantry of our troops, of any rank, and the facts that have appeared in TRUTH only serve to accentuate their admirable behaviour. But it is certainly not true that "there was hard fighting from first to last," seeing that perhaps the most successful feature in the operations was the "squaring"—or, as one of the Indian papers called it, the "buying off"—of the enemy by Colonel Warburton. It is a pity that the editor of the *Globe* was not aware of that trivial circumstance when he aired his virtuous indignation at those who have ventured to criticise the Staff and the Simla authorities.

An Irish officer offers the following contribution to the discussion on Army reform :—

> Some seventeen years ago, when the territorial system was theoretically first introduced into the Service, the recognition of the national claims of Ireland was specially provided for in the uniforms then appointed for Irish infantry regiments: the principal changes in dress then introduced being that the facings were to be green (and consequently the regimental colours also), and the lace of the shamrock pattern.
>
> These regulations were practically nullified for the following reason. By an old regulation, which was allowed to remain intact, all our Irish regiments, with the single exception of the "Connaught Rangers," being what is termed "Royal" regiments, retained their "Royal" or blue facings—the lace only being of the new pattern. Consequently, the plain intention of the new regulations was frustrated and one regiment only was permitted to bear the national colour on its facings and on its flag.
>
> What I propose is that we should now fully recognise the claims of Irish regiments from a national point of view, and give the Irish soldier a handsome, distinguishable green coat.

The idea does not seem a bad one, for it would probably do much to promote *esprit de corps* in the Irish regiments. At any rate, it has the advantage over most other measures of Army reform that are in the air at present, that it would cost very little.

In reference to a statement in last week's TRUTH that the Duke of Richmond had refused the Elgin Volunteers a site for a rifle range at Fochabers, a correspondent writes to say he "doubts very much" whether a "serious request" for a range there has ever been made. He thinks I ought to withdraw what I said. As I mentioned, however, my information was derived from the statement in the *Aberdeen Journal*, and it will require something more definite and authoritative than the "doubts" of my correspondent to convince me that the statements in that paper were unfounded.

May I suggest to the War Office that, while our military machinery is being overhauled, some definite age-limit should be assigned to the service of warrant and non-commissioned officers? I do not agree with all that I hear on this subject. Junior N.C.O.s, yearning for promotion, naturally think that every man, when he has earned his full pension, should at once be sent about his business. I have a letter before me now in which it is calmly proposed that no warrant or non-commissioned officer should be allowed to serve beyond twenty-one years. That is not to the interest of the taxpayer, and not necessarily to the interest of the Service. A man may complete twenty-one years before he is forty years of age, and he ought to be capable of good work for some years beyond that.

When, however, it comes to a man serving on beyond thirty years, the reasonable limit is certainly exceeded. I could point to one of the southern Depots where at the present moment there is a quartermaster-sergeant who has completed thirty-three years' service, and who has actually held his present rank since April, 1874; while another sergeant on the Militia Staff at the same Depot has completed twenty-eight years' service. Similar cases may be found at the great majority of the Depots. Not only do old stagers of this class block the promotion of other men who have a fair claim to it, but they must get rusty in their duties, and they cannot possibly be in touch with the latest ideas on the subject of drill, tactics, and soldiering generally. A commissioned officer is lucky in these days if he is allowed to remain on the active list beyond five-and-forty. I see no reason why the same rule should not apply to the warrant and non-commissioned ranks.

It seems to be occasionally the practice in India, when bandsmen are in hospital, for the bandmaster to give a hint to the senior surgeon that he wants men on some particular occasion, and for the obliging surgeon to comply by returning a few men to duty. Such a thing has more than once happened in the band of the Devonshire Regiment at Jullundur. On the last occasion, which occurred a few weeks back, several of the bandsmen had been attending the hospital after having been up at Peshawur, some of them having been on the Tirah Campaign. A communication was made by the bandmaster to one of the doctors, and on the following day all the bandsmen, with one exception, were returned to duty. It must be assumed, of course, that the doctor really considered that the men were in a fit condition to rejoin the band, and I suppose that a man, although in the doctor's hands, might play a trombone or a euphonium for a few hours without serious risk; but a

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doctor ought hardly to be influenced in the performance of his duty by the wishes of any other officer, whatever his status.

Reference was made in TRUTH some few weeks back to the inadequate accommodation for the N.C.O.s at Cambridge Barracks, Woolwich. When the 2nd Middlesex arrived at these barracks recently, on their return from abroad, there was no accommodation available for some of the married N.C.O.s, and one man and his wife had to turn out and look for lodgings in the town at a moment's notice, although perfect strangers to the place. On the other hand, there are barrack labourers and others quartered in the barracks who have apparently no reason to be there, added to which there is, I fancy, other new barrack accommodation at Woolwich which is not yet fully occupied. It reflects no credit on the authorities responsible that a non-commissioned officer arriving with his regiment from India should be turned out in the streets to shift for himself and his family as best he can.

In a reference to Major Hanford-Flood, of the Queen's, in last week's TRUTH, it was stated by a slip of the pen that that officer had been passed over for promotion by a junior, who had been appointed to the command of the 1st Battalion. This is not so. The junior who passed over Major Hanford-Flood's head was appointed second in command of the 1st Battalion. By the way, it is a very extraordinary thing that no less than three majors (including two seconds in command) and four captains have retired from this regiment within about a year. Surely there must be something wrong at the bottom of this?

With all respect to our much aggrieved friend, the Army Medical Officer, I must say that a good deal of the evidence which comes to hand respecting his notions of administering justice does not convey a too favourable impression of his fitness for command. Here is a recent case in point. A corporal in the Medical Staff Corps at Netley, of fourteen years' service, who had been out on pass, came back to the hospital from his home about 5.30 a.m. to attend early morning parade. In his anxiety to be in time the man got into hospital a little too early, and went into one of the wards, where he sat down. He was seen there by the sergeant-major, reported, brought up on a charge of irregular conduct in sleeping in a hospital ward when on pass, and was reprimanded. As witnesses to the truth of his explanation he had a patient in the ward, and the orderly in charge of the corridor, who had seen him come in. He was not, however, allowed to call evidence, and his defence seems to have been absolutely ignored. Feeling naturally aggrieved, he endeavoured to make a complaint to his Commanding Officer, but was not allowed to see him. He then wrote a statement in writing and took it to his company officer with a request that it should be forwarded to the P.M.O. The answer was that his conduct was irregular, that the C.O. would not forward his complaint, and that if he made any further application upon the subject he would be placed under arrest. In the face of such arbitrary, if not illegal, conduct as this, it is not surprising that the staff at Netley figure so often in the columns of TRUTH.

Another instance of Medical Officers' justice came to hand the other day from Crete. For being absent without leave from 9.30 p.m. till 7 a.m. a first-class orderly, with six years' service, and over five years free from any entry, and having two good-conduct badges, was punished with seven days' confinement to barracks, and two days' loss of pay; while a second man for the same offence was punished with seventy-two hours' hard labour, and loss of two days' pay. Neither of these men was given the option of electing to be tried by court-martial, as required by the Queen's Regulations. The sentence in the first case is a particularly harsh one, as it carries with it the forfeiture of a conduct badge and one penny a day, together with the loss of corps pay at eightpence per diem during the time of confinement to barracks, besides spoiling for some time the man's chance of promotion. By the way, it would be interesting to know why a Medical Officer is occupying a portion of a house which does duty as a field hospital in Crete, while patients have on certain occasions had to sleep, and are even said to have been operated upon, in corridors.

In November last Private H. F. Phelps, of the 2nd Wiltshire Regiment, was convicted in the Royal Court of Guernsey, of highway robbery with violence, and sentenced to three years' penal servitude. There was a general impression that the conviction was one of those gross miscarriages of justice to which legal procedure in the Channel Islands so frequently lends itself. An extensively signed petition was forwarded to the Home Secretary, and resulted in a free pardon. Now, by the terms of the Queen's Regulations, Phelps' conviction necessitated his immediate discharge from the Army, which duly took place. One would have supposed that, upon the conviction being practically quashed by the Home Secretary, Phelps would have been at once reinstated. Up to the present time, however, nothing of the sort has been done, and it seems time to inquire what are the intentions of the military authorities in the matter. Under the circumstances, of course, Phelps leaves the Army without a character, and has therefore little chance of obtaining employment. There ought to be no hesitation about redressing this gross injustice.

Some of "Tommy's" grievances are very difficult for a civilian to understand. A most forcibly worded complaint has just come to hand from N Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, in India, in consequence of the following occurrence. In the course of a twenty-two miles' march on January 20 the horse ridden by one sergeant was found to

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be slightly galled. On the following day, when fourteen miles had to be traversed, the sergeant rode a different horse, but one which had recently been badly galled, and at the end of the day this animal was found to be slightly galled on the old place. Thereupon the officer commanding the battery ordered that on the next day this sergeant was to ride on an ammunition waggon. I gather that this is regarded as an intolerable indignity, for it is described as "utterly illegal," and an "unprecedented outrage.' Speaking for myself, however, if I had to do a march of twenty-two miles I would infinitely rather do it on an ammunition waggon than on a horse.

Another example of the hardships inflicted under the Aliens Order at Gibraltar, to which I referred a few weeks ago, has been brought under my notice. A stationer named Miller is anxious to keep under his roof his widowed sister and her three little children. He is a native, and so is his sister, but her husband was an alien, and, accordingly, on the expiration of a temporary six months' "permit," the woman and her children will be compelled to leave Gibraltar, and the only home open to them. However necessary it may be to restrict the number of aliens admitted to the Rock, the order might surely be relaxed in a case like this—more especially as it is notorious that whilst this poor widow and her children are driven away, hundreds of aliens by birth, not merely by marriage, are allowed to remain with their families quite unmolested.

Two or three years ago attention was called in TRUTH to the "shebbeening" that was going on in sergeants' messes on Sundays in different parts of the kingdom; and there seemed reason to suppose that the result was a considerable abatement of the evil. I hear, however, that it still prevails in Ireland, and Tralee is mentioned as a place where it particularly flourishes. A competent witness tells me that any civilian can get beer at the military messes and canteens at Tralee at any time on Sunday when they are open, and that the privilege is extensively used. Such a trade does a great deal of harm, is very unfair to the civilian publican, and generally disgraceful to the military authorities, who must be very blind indeed if they are unaware of it.

With respect to the paragraph in TRUTH of February 17, concerning the refusal to lend a gun-carriage for the funeral of a man belonging to the Poona Punitive Police, an officer of the Royal Horse Artillery points out that there is no artillery stationed at Poona, and that the Officer Commanding Royal Artillery referred to is probably the O.C.R.A. Kirkee. There is an order requiring the R.A. at Kirkee to supply gun-carriages for the funerals of officers and warrant officers at Poona, but not for any below that rank, and to meet the latter case there is said to be a gun-carriage fitted with coffin board kept in Poona under the order of the station staff officer. The question raised by the fact stated in my paragraph, therefore, seems to be why this gun-carriage was not used on the particular occasion in question.

Although I have again and again declared my inability to take up the grievance of Service men in regard to the payment of income tax, I am still beset with statements and arguments on the subject. In one of the most recent of these a Naval Officer puts to me several questions, of which this is one:—

> Is it just that Naval Officers who are serving on foreign stations where no benefit of income tax is derived should pay that tax? Is it just that an officer on the Persian Gulf or the West Coast of Africa should only draw the same pay as an officer at home? Surely the officers on the foreign stations mentioned should be relieved of income tax. . . .

This is rather a new line of argument, but if it applies to Naval Officers it must apply equally to civilians. At present the principle of the law is that income accruing in England is taxed in England, wherever spent. It is a difficult principle to interfere with, and if it is modified for the benefit of one class of British residents abroad, it must be modified for all. That an officer serving on an unhealthy or otherwise undesirable station should be paid more than an officer serving at home is no doubt equitable in principle, but how on earth it is to be applied in practice I do not know. The only practical way of equalising matters seems to me to distribute the service of all as equally as possible between the desirable and the undesirable posts.

Here is another point made by the same officer:—

> Is it just that Naval Officers should be charged income tax in time of war? If we were to go to war to-morrow with a first-class European Power, nearly all the officers of the Navy would be at once sent to sea to fight. The income tax would also be doubled, if not trebled. Is it then just that officers who, in such a case, would be risking their lives daily, to say nothing of enduring the hardships of a campaign, should be drawing less pay than they drew in time of peace?

This illustration accentuates the grievance, but I cannot see that it touches the principle. Why should a journalist, the circulation of whose paper might be very much reduced in time of war, or any one else whose income is reduced from the same cause, have at the same time to pay an increased income tax? The Naval or Military Officer only suffers in company with nine out of ten income-tax payers, for a great war would probably very speedily reduce most of our incomes. The officer on active service has clearly no special claim to consideration on that ground, for to fight when called upon is part of the terms of his contract, and he is paid in time of peace on the understanding that he will risk his life in time of war. If officers, whether of the Army or Navy, want an increase of pay, they would do better to ask for it on that footing, and make what case they can, rather than strive to get it by a side wind in the form of a remission of income tax, for which there is no valid argument.

The following letter is of great interest to the British taxpayer, and should be of interest to the British Admiralty, although it is not often that that august body pays any attention to criticism from outside its own select circle:—

> With reference to a paragraph in your issue of the 17th inst., just received, anent a boy of H.M.S. *Impregnable*, who received twenty-four cuts with the birch, imprisonment, and dismissal from the Service, would you be astonished to hear that

this insubordination and striking of officers is considered to be an easy and economical way of being discharged from H.M. Service? That such is the case I am in a position to vouch for. Being a visitor to one of H.M. prisons where bluejackets are sent in pursuance of courts-martial sentences, I have often stopped before a good-looking lad on going my rounds of the prison. It is always the same story—insubordination to be discharged the Service! The prisoners do not tell me so, but they speak out to the warders. That various bad men should be discharged the Service is good policy and advisable, but that boys who would make good sailors and honest men—even at the cost of two or three consecutive birchings—are so discharged is a crying evil, a loss to the Service, injurious to discipline, and, in the long run, unkind to the boys themselves, who fall into worse courses. The stoker class appears to me to be particularly addicted to this insubordination.

I have often protested against the iniquity of first punishing a man and then dismissing him from the Service, a treatment analogous to torturing your victim before killing him. But what this letter shows is the utter stupidity of the treatment. The Admiralty in its attempt to pile up punishments for breaches of discipline has so far overshot its own mark that it has really supplied inducements for what it desires to prevent. One has often wondered at the number of cases in which boys serving in the Navy strike a Commanding Officer, or some other person high in authority. The above letter explains the mystery. The boy who strikes an officer does it because he desires to receive the punishment which the Admiralty in its wisdom has assigned to the offence.

It is to be hoped that the Naval authorities are satisfied with the result of the first examination for Naval cadetships under the new regulations, for it is quite certain that nobody else will be. The most startling feature in the result is the utter failure of the majority of the candidates in Mathematics. Seventeen successful candidates below number twenty on the list each made an average of 370 in Latin out of a maximum of 800, and an average of 49 only in Higher Mathematics out of a maximum of 400; four of them getting absolutely no marks at all in this subject, five under 50, four under 75, and not one over 100. On the other hand, eleven candidates, who qualified but did not pass, each made an average of 104 in Latin, and the same number in Higher Mathematics. In consequence of the hopeless failure of so many candidates in Mathematics—only 43 out of 101 lads making 40 per cent. of the marks—the Admiralty had at the last moment to get the Commissioners to covertly reduce the maximum in order to fill up the vacancies—a proceeding which operated most unfairly in several cases.

The recent raising of the age of candidates has also worked out in a most unsatisfactory manner, as may be seen from the following figures:—

Date.	Candidates.	Cadetships.
June, 1896	182	63
December, 1896	175	69
March, 1897	123	70
June, 1897	135	70
December, 1897	108	65

The age limit was increased after March and June, 1897. The result is that while the number of cadetships has increased, the number of candidates has decreased by more than 40 per cent, and this in spite of the fact that candidates to whom nominations had been promised have been pressed to compete at the very earliest period that they come within the age limit. The state of things thus revealed is most unsatisfactory, for the supply of cadets is falling off, while it is evident there is an alarming amount of ignorance among the candidates in those subjects which are most useful for a Naval career. There can be little question that the increased importance recently given to Latin has had much to do with this result. While this useless subject has been altogether dropped out of the *Britannia* course, it is made the principal qualification for a cadetship, the maximum marks assigned to it being double those allowed to English, French, or Higher Mathematics, and four times as many as for History, Geography, or Drawing.

It was recently announced in the *Englishman* that the Government of India has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 6,000 "for the town expenses of the Lieutenant-Generals commanding the forces in the four commands for 1898-9 and future years." What is the meaning of this? The summer quarters of the four Generals are respectively at Murree, Dalhousie, Ootacamund and Poona, all healthily situated in the hills. During the winter the Generals spend a great deal of their time on tour, when they are usually the guests of their subordinate Generals or other officers. Even during the period when they occupy their permanent quarters in town, their expenses are hardly of an abnormal character, such as to justify a special allowance. Surely £3,000 or £4,000 per annum is a sufficient sum to meet the requirements of any public official, civil or military, in such a position. The contrast between such an expenditure as this grant of Rs. 24,000 per annum among four officers for town expenses, and the despicable niggardliness of the Indian Government towards its officers and servants in lower grades, is very striking.

It appears from the accounts of the solar eclipse in India, that, in order to witness the phenomenon, the Viceroy, and a large concourse of his satellites, went by special train from Howrath to Buxar. In addition to that, a second special of sixteen carriages was provided for a further party of eighty or ninety passengers, chiefly officials, and a third for "the remainder of the visitors from Calcutta." I am told by one who knows something of the usual practice in India that, while the third train was possibly paid for by the passengers, it is extremely improbable that the other two were. If so, at a time when such widespread distress exists in India, and the finances of the country are in so critical a condition, the expenditure of a large sum of public money on such a purpose is a downright scandal.

The Post Office issues a weekly circular which purports to give notice of all vacancies in and appointments to postmasterships, and invites applications for the former, but warns them not to imperil applicants' prospects by attempting

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to bring any outside influence to bear in their favour. A Post Office official suggests that it is about time this piece of humbug was dropped. It is notorious in the service that many appointments are still made through outside influence, and made, too, before the vacancies are announced, if they are ever announced at all. There was an amusing proof of this not long since when, by an unfortunate transposition of the notices, the appointment to an Irish office was published in the circular one week, and the vacancy in the following week!

Parents who suppose that the position of a "boy learner" in the Post Office will afford a good opening for their sons will do well to ponder a grievance that a disgusted father has brought under my notice. More than three years ago his son, then a lad of fifteen, entered a small country office as a "boy learner," the idea being that in twelve months at the outside, he would be qualified for an appointment. He served for two years and a half without any salary, except for a few weeks in the summer of the second year, when he was transferred for temporary duty to another town. As there seemed no prospect of advancement in his first office, he last year entered for a competitive examination for boy learners at a bigger office. He passed the examination, and since then he has been employed at this bigger office, where he is paid six shillings a week for performing a clerk's duties, eight hours' work a day.

At each office this "boy learner" has had to sign a document similar to the one from Swansea reproduced the other day in TRUTH, in which he acknowledges that he has no claim upon the Department for a permanent situation. He is now eighteen years of age, he has been in the service three years, and his superiors have testified to his competence; but, apparently, the G.P.O. considers itself entitled to keep him on for an indefinite period at less than the salary of an errand boy. It would be interesting, by the way, to hear why "boy learners" are paid nothing at all in some offices, but a salary—beggarly pittance though it is—in others.

So the notification on the tax-collector's demand-note that a landlord is bound to allow his tenant the amount of income-tax paid by the latter under Schedule A is to be restored next year. In view of the attention that was lately given to the matter in these columns, I scarcely need say that I heard Sir Michael Hicks-Beach's statement with much satisfaction. It was a mistake ever to omit the notice, and its absence from the demand-note has not improbably caused many ill-informed and unbusiness-like tenants to saddle themselves with a liability belonging to their landlords.

The recent edict of the General Medical Council on the subject of unqualified assistants has evidently inflicted very great hardship on a large number of men, and I have had many communications upon the subject from different parts of the country. It is evidently quite true, as the first gentleman who wrote to me respecting this matter stated, that there are a number of men who through unexpected loss of means, or domestic or private circumstances of one kind or another, have been compelled to relinquish their medical studies before finally qualifying themselves, and have since then been earning their living as assistants to qualified practitioners for, it may be, the last twenty or thirty years. Such men probably know quite as much about the ordinary business of doctoring as any general practitioner, and to suddenly deprive them of the means of livelihood is an act of inconsiderate harshness of which only a body dominated by professional prejudice could be capable. Parliament before now has had to interfere with unqualified practitioners—witness the case of the Dentists—but it has always respected the legitimate interests of men already in the field. The General Medical Council ought to have acted in the same way.

It has been suggested by one of the victims of this edict that to mitigate the hardship to men who, although technically unqualified, have been acting as assistants for the best part of their lives, an opportunity should be given to all assistants at present in practice to register themselves, their names being registered on the production of satisfactory certificates or testimonials from the medical men under whom they have served. If mere personal references were not considered sufficient, a practical examination in medicine, surgery, and midwifery might be made a condition of registration. The registered men could then be allowed to serve out their times; no names need be added to the register after a certain date; and in process of time the whole of the present generation of assistants would die out. Subject to some provision of this kind, there can be no objection to the Medical Council making what regulations it pleases with regard to the employment of assistants in future.

Another suggestion has been made to me which may be worth the attention of the assistants who are now threatened with the loss of their livelihood. Why should they not obtain diplomas from Apothecaries' Hall? As was pointed out in TRUTH some months back, the apothecary's qualification is valid for all practical purposes; it does not cost much, and a man who has been practising for years under a qualified practitioner ought to have no difficulty in obtaining it, unless there is some condition attached to it with which I am not familiar.

A return presented the other day to the Lewisham Guardians shows that an enormous reduction has been effected in the expenditure upon stimulants and mineral waters at the workhouse since the matter was discussed in these columns a few years ago. In 1893 intoxicants cost £153 3s. 7d., and mineral waters £179 14s. 6d. In 1897, thanks in a great measure to the persistent efforts of Mr. C. Wilkinson, the vice-chairman of the Board, these figures had dropped to £2 2s. 1d. and £12 3s. 3d. respectively. The return must be grateful and comforting to the ratepayers of the Lewisham Union, whose pockets are being saved to the amount of upwards of £300

THE FAMED "ADELPHI" TURTLE forwarded from the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, to all parts of the country. Per quart jar, 18s.; per pint jar, 9s. 6d., carriage paid. *Speciality for Invalids.*

a year. It should also open the eyes of ratepayers in other unions where the expenditure upon intoxicants is still unnecessarily high, if not, indeed, so scandalously extravagant as it used to be at Lewisham.

Last week the Carmarthen Town Council discussed certain charges against the borough surveyor, and as a result decided to accept his resignation, but not to institute a prosecution. It is said that there was a difficulty in the way of a prosecution, but if that be so, then a serious injustice must have been done to the surveyor in the report of the committee who recommended his resignation. The truth seems to be that some members of the Council were anxious that the officer referred to should be let off as lightly as possible, and there was even an attempt to hush up the whole affair. This is an excess of mercy which is often displayed by corporate bodies, though the members in their private capacities would probably be the last to overlook such allegations against a servant. There is an idea that where a public officer is concerned it is sufficient to get rid of him and so prevent the recurrence of irregularities. It is a most mistaken and pernicious notion, for the very position of such officials, and the difficulty of detecting abuses of their trust, really render it all the more important that any delinquent should be sternly dealt with.

It is instructive to compare this affair at Carmarthen with a case which happened the other day at Ramsgate. A gardener in the employ of the Ramsgate Corporation was seen to carry some plants to a local nursery garden, and was forthwith arrested, and charged with theft. At the hearing of the case it was shown that the man had been accustomed, with the knowledge of members of the Corporation, to make exchanges of plants with other gardeners, and that those which he took away were given in return for others which he had obtained for the benefit of the town gardens. The magistrates, of course, dismissed the charge. It ought never to have been preferred; but then the defendant was only an employee on weekly wages, and so no hesitation was felt about putting him in the dock.

Very different was the spirit which this same Corporation of Ramsgate exhibited in disposing of a complaint against the Engineer. It seemed that this official had employed the Corporation workmen to level some ground at the waterworks and lay out two lawn-tennis courts. He coolly asserted that "if there was any spare land he had a perfect right by custom to use it," and he appeared also to think that he had the further right to saddle the ratepayers with the expense, which, judging from the particulars given, must have been considerable. One would have expected the Corporation to express their opinion pretty plainly upon such a proceeding, but the Engineer, being a gentleman in receipt of a handsome salary, escaped without any formal censure. In truth, one man may steal a horse while another may not look over the hedge.

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Some one sends me a copy of the *Stewartry Observer*, in which Bailie Hay, of Stranraer, is reported as saying that he once brought me "to my knees," and that, therefore, he could easily crush "gutter snipe second-hand reporters." Judging from the remarks of my contemporary, the local journalists to whom the Bailie so politely alludes are very well able to take care of themselves. For my own part, I do not recollect ever before hearing of this redoubtable magistrate, and I am quite certain he never brought me to my knees. I think, however, that his fellow-townsmen might well go on their knees and pray that he may be blessed with more grace, wisdom, and understanding.

My recent experience of the Irish Grand Jury system caused me to sympathise with the cheers which last week greeted Mr. Gerald Balfour's announcement that, under his Bill the Grand Juries would meet for the last time at the next Spring Assizes. I suppose that the Clare Grand Jury, about which my readers have heard a good deal, is a fairly representative institution of its class. The facts respecting it which have appeared in Truth indicate that a Jury can be moulded very much as those concerned in its proceedings desire, and it follows as a matter of course that a body so constituted is a highly efficient instrument of jobbery. It strikes me that the substitution of more or less democratic County Councils in Ireland for the old county government by Grand Jury will prove far more revolutionary than Home Rule or any local government proposal yet made from the Liberal side. But this is generally the way with Tory reforms.

The abuse of the libel laws was again conspicuously illustrated in a case before the Lord Chief Justice last week. By a curious coincidence the plaintiff, like one who figured disadvantageously in the Courts a week or two ago, was a solicitor with a grievance on the score of an imperfect newspaper police-court report. The object of his wrath was the *Daily News*, which had, as he contended, done him injustice by condensing too much its report of certain proceedings taken against him. So flimsy was the case, that before the plaintiff had gone into the box Lord Russell intimated that the jury would be asked to stultify themselves if the question whether the report was a libel were put to them. After this the jury at once found that there was no libel, and the proceedings terminated. I trust that the solicitor in question will not now bring an action against me for unduly condensing this account of the libel proceedings, but I really cannot see anything else in the reports which requires reproduction in justice to the plaintiff.

In the course of his remarks, Lord Russell said that he could not understand who advised proceedings of this character, though he was sure it was not counsel. In this he is perfectly right. I have had experience of frivolous libel actions, in which, as soon as the case came into the hands of counsel, it has been abandoned. There are hundreds of actions brought against newspapers every year from which there is never a chance of the plaintiff deriving any benefit.

The fear of such actions is a constant restriction upon the liberty of the Press, and it is as much in the interest of the public as of the proprietors of newspapers that such an abuse of the process of the courts should be stopped.

There was another case before Lord Russell last week which drew from the Bench some sensible remarks. By the present practice, when money is paid into court by a defendant who admits that he is, for one reason or another, bound to compensate the plaintiff, both the fact and the amount of the payment into court are concealed from the jury, who, consequently, have to give their verdict in complete ignorance of a most important feature in the case. It was suggested last week by a well-known barrister that this rule was designed as much for the protection of defendants as plaintiffs, and he instanced particularly the case of actions against railway companies for negligence, where, after a substantial sum has been paid into court, the jury were formerly apt to give the plaintiff a pound or two more in order to ensure his getting his costs. Lord Russell, however, replied to this that it implies a complete distrust of judges and juries, and obviously that is the case. If juries can be trusted to assess damages equitably in any case, they can also be trusted to deal equitably with the question of costs. If a jury holds that the amount paid into court is sufficient compensation for any wrong done, they ought also to hold that the plaintiff was in the wrong in bringing the action into court for trial in the hope of getting more; and, having come to this conclusion, they are clearly disregarding their duty if they add a further sum to the damages for the purpose of compelling the defendants to pay costs which the plaintiff had no business to incur. Speaking for myself, I have every confidence in juries, and I would as soon trust them to deal equitably with the question of costs as with that of damages.

The creditors of Mr. John Crook, of 75, Northam-road, Southampton, have just been gratified with a second and final dividend of one penny in the pound, and I am indebted for this information to one of the creditors who has received the precise amount of one penny in payment of his claim. The position of a creditor who receives the sum of one penny by post at a cost of one penny, and is expected to pay another penny, or at any rate a half-penny, in returning a receipt, is a monument indeed to the success of our bankruptcy system. In this particular case an estate of £890 has been divided between the Board of Trade, the lawyers, the trustee, and a few minor claimants, including the creditors, with the result that the creditors have got £410, and that the other parties concerned have got £479. Every pound therefore paid to the creditors has cost something considerably over a pound to realise and distribute.

A committee has been formed, I understand, at Ashton-under-Lyne for the purpose of receiving donations to enable the defendants in the late case of Andrew *v.* Whitworth and others to pay their costs. After what has been said in Truth already upon the proceedings of the Messrs. Andrew in connection with this case, I need not say that the defendants have my full sympathy. But I confess I do not see how the defendants are to be paid without paying the costs of the plaintiffs also, and my sympathy does not extend to any public collection of funds which is likely to benefit the Messrs. Andrew. When these gentlemen commenced an action on the very flimsiest grounds against men in humble circumstances, who had already been ruined by the failure of Jonathan Andrew & Sons, Limited, they did so at their own risk. The action has substantially failed—a verdict for forty shillings damages can hardly be regarded in any other light—and the equity of the case requires that the plaintiffs should bear the loss. It seems to me that the best thing would be to let the law take its course, and when Messrs. Andrew have squeezed what they can out of the defendants, public benevolence should come to the rescue of all the victims of the failure.

I referred the other day to the case of a clergyman's daughter who, having had a legacy of £50 left to her whilst she was a minor, was seeking to obtain the money from the Court of Chancery, which had, *nolens volens*, taken possession of it. The young lady's father now tells me that the costs of getting the money out of the Court, as assessed by the Court itself, have amounted to no less than £7 16s. 6d., which just about swallows up the interest allowed for the five years during which the legacy has been in Chancery. Whether the legatee could have obtained the money without any deduction by applying to the Court in person I do not know. However that may be, it is a monstrous thing that £7 16s. 6d. should have to be paid to secure possession of a sum of £50; and the fact shows that though there may be less red tape than in the days of "Jarndyce *v.* Jarndyce," there is still a good deal too much of that article about the Court of Chancery.

The Bail Bill, which was read a second time in the House of Lords last week, is a step in the right direction. One of its objects is to empower magistrates to admit an accused person to bail without requiring other sureties; and if this power is employed in all cases where it can be safely exercised, much injustice will, in future, be avoided. The "if," however, is an important one. The matter must, of necessity, be left to the discretion of the magistrates, and, as the judges are continually pointing out, and as the Lord Chancellor repeated in introducing the Bill, magistrates throughout the country exhibit at present a most extraordinary reluctance to allow bail in cases in which it can be and ought to be granted. The danger is, therefore, that many of these self-opiniated wooden-heads will refuse to use the further power conferred upon them by this Bill, just as they refuse to use the powers they already possess. It is one thing for the Legislature to show the Great Unpaid what they ought to do, but quite another thing to get them to do it.

I wonder, by the way, whether bail was offered to two prisoners, named McGregor and Parker, who were tried at the last Salford Quarter Sessions. In each case bail might have been allowed without any danger to the interests of justice, but McGregor was kept in gaol eighty-one days

One Hundred Pieces for £1. 1s.—Send a postcard to the Pearson Pottery Co., Hanley, Staffs., for particulars of the most wonderful package of crockery the world has ever seen. Sold all the world over.

and Parker sixty-six days before they were brought to trial, and then both were acquitted. There were other prisoners at the same sessions who had been in custody for even longer periods than these men; and, apart from the question of bail, it would clearly prevent much hardship if the Recorder would resume his former practice of holding a Court every six weeks or so, instead of only once a quarter.

At an inquest at Liverpool last week on the body of a child who had died from burns, it was stated that the deceased was carried, in the first instance, to the Royal Infirmary, but that a doctor there refused to dress the wounds, and directed that the little one should be taken on to the Children's Infirmary. Dr. Martin, of the Royal Infirmary, acknowledged that this was correct. His explanation was that children were not admitted to the Royal Infirmary, unless under exceptional circumstances, and that if they dressed the wounds before sending the child to the Children's Infirmary, the authorities of the latter institution would not receive the case. A nurse from the out-patient department of the Children's Infirmary, denied that this had ever been done. It is to be hoped that Dr. Martin was mistaken; but in any event there ought to be some further inquiry by the managers of the two infirmaries, for the relations between them are clearly not what they should be. It would, indeed, be difficult to imagine anything more discreditable than the state of affairs revealed at this inquest.

A J.P. sends me an interesting letter upon the "foolish leniency" which is so often displayed by his magisterial brethren in dealing with cases of assault. Quoting from my Legal Pillory some recent examples of the trivial penalties imposed for brutal outrages on women, he says:—

> These would be extremely lenient sentences, and some of them absurd, even treating the offences as common assaults. But I go further than this, and maintain that the magistrates who decided them were not justified in treating them as common assaults at all. For what says the Statute? "When any person shall be charged before two Justices of the Peace with an assault or battery upon any male child whose age shall not in the opinion of such Justices exceed fourteen years, or upon any female, the said Justices, if the assault or battery is of such an aggravated nature that it cannot in their opinion be sufficiently punished under the provisions hereinbefore contained as to common assaults and batteries, may proceed to hear and determine the same in a summary way. Punishment on conviction by imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for not exceeding six months, or a fine not exceeding together with costs £20." I may also point out that an assault "occasioning bodily harm" is indictable, and can be punished on conviction by penal servitude.

All this is perfectly true. Not only are aggravated assaults continually dealt with as common assaults, but in the case of such indictable offences as unlawful wounding and occasioning bodily harm it is not at all an uncommon practice for the magistrates to "reduce the charge" to one of ordinary assault, and dispose of it summarily. In this matter, however, as in the matter of bail, it seems of little use to tell magistrates what the law provides and what justice requires in such cases. You may take an ass to the water, but you cannot make him drink. You may pass an excellent law, but you cannot be sure that it will be properly used so long as its administration is left in the hands of the Great Unpaid.

The Dublin Recorder this week occupies the conspicuous position in my Legal Pillory which I last week assigned to one of the Stipendiaries of the same city. It will be seen that at the Sessions, as at the Police-court, offences against the person are held exceedingly cheap, a case of wounding in which the prisoner narrowly escaped a charge of murder being visited by the Recorder with a trumpery sentence of three months' imprisonment. In the scales of justice a woman's life is apparently appraised at precisely the same value as a piece of plate glass, and only half the value of a heifer. Most of the contrasted sentences in the list speak for themselves; but I would specially call attention to the lenity of the penalties imposed for abominable cruelty to coal-pit ponies in the Newcastle district. It is true that the culprits were only young men, but if they had been convicted of poaching, sleeping out, or theft, their youth would not have saved them from imprisonment. I should add that the case from Birkenhead is not inserted in the list for the purpose of reflecting in any way upon the decision of the Bench, who really did the most the law allowed them to do. It is cited to show the absurd inadequacy of the maximum fine, which is, in fact, rather less than the amount of the freight the ship-owner receives for landing the animals alive:—

Dublin City Sessions. Before the Recorder. James Hart, indicted for wounding Jane Cummins by cutting her throat. He knocked her down, rendering her insensible, and then inflicted a deep wound in her throat, almost completely severing the windpipe. The woman's life was in danger for some time. Three months.

Birmingham Police-court. Before Messrs. Lord, Stone, Payton, and Phillips. Harry Portman, a betting man, convicted of assaulting George Williams in a railway carriage. Defendant, who had no ticket, forced his way into a first-class compartment, in which there were already nine or ten persons, and when complainant protested, struck him a violent blow in the face. He afterwards struck complainant a second time, seriously injuring his eye. Fined £3 and costs.

Merthyr Police-court. Before Mr. North and Alderman T. Williams. Gabriel Davies, charged with assaulting his mother. He beat and kicked her, blackening her eyes. The Bench said he was a brutal young coward. Fined £1 and costs, and bound over.

Newcastle County Police-court. Robert Simpson, charged with cruelty to a pony in a colliery. Defendant beat the animal with his whip and then horribly mutilated it with an iron drill, causing its intestines to come out. The pony had, of course, to be destroyed. The Bench "felt that the defendant should go to prison," but as he was young they let him off with a fine of £5.

Tynemouth Petty Sessions. George Snedder, a youth, charged with cruelty to a pit pony. He kicked the animal under the stomach, causing it to suffer great pain. Fined 2s. 6d. and 17s. 6d. costs.

Dublin City Sessions. Before the Recorder. Peter Maher pleaded guilty to smashing a window, value twelve pounds, at a coffee tavern. Three months.

Wm. Rice, convicted of stealing a heifer. Six months.

Birmingham Police-court. Before Messrs. A. Chamberlain, W. Williams, Waterhouse, and Gilliver. Thomas Turner, draper's assistant, charged with stealing six yards of dress material. He had borne a good character, and the prosecutor did not wish to press the case. Fined £5 and costs, or two months.

Boxford Petty Sessions. Before Colonel G. H. Pocklington, and Mr. E. B. Cooke. James Baker, Charles Wright, and John Prentice, charged with trespassing in search of game. Prentice fined 19s.; Baker and Wright, £2 9s. each.

Scunthorpe Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. C. S. Holgate and J. Fletcher. Henry Ogley, aged 14, charged with stealing dinners from a school. Sent to prison for fourteen days.

Tiverton Police-court. Wm. Vinnicombe, charged with wandering abroad, having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Abingdon County Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. W. Graham, A. F. Blandy, and General Bailie. John Webb, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2 and costs; in default, one month.

Subscriptions greatly needed by The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—6,929 convictions this year; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Chichester City Police-court. Before Alderman Smith, Messrs. J. Coffin and E. M. Street. Arthur Attfield, Frederick Bedford, and George Hutson, charged with cruelty to a dog. The dog was tied to a gate, and defendants threw stones at it and shot at it with a catapult, inflicting such injuries that the animal had to be destroyed. The Bench said their conduct was disgraceful and wantonly cruel, for they had virtually stoned the dog to death. Fined £1 each, including costs.

Spittlegate (Grantham) Petty Sessions. Wm. Mawer, gamekeeper, convicted of assaulting Thomas Catton, a farmer's son, by knocking him down, striking him in the eye with a stick, and jumping upon him. Fined 10s. and costs.

Grimsby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Aldermen Jackson, Louth, and Morton, and other magistrates. Thomas Burns, fishing apprentice, charged with neglecting to go to sea. Twenty-one days.

Ruthin Petty Sessions. Before the Rev. Chancellor Bulkeley Jones and Mr. W. T. Rouw. Peter Jones and Thomas Jones, charged with poaching. Peter Jones, one month; Thomas Jones (a first offender), fined £1 9s.

Petersfield Police-court. Before Messrs. A. W. Still and W. B. Edgeter. Wm. Burgess pleaded guilty to a charge of poaching. One month, and a further six months in default of finding sureties.

Birkenhead Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Pennock and J. M. Kelly. Captain Stubbs, of the steamer *Michigan*, charged with neglecting to slaughter cattle which were injured on a voyage from Boston to the Mersey. The ship arrived with four sheep and two oxen suffering from broken shoulders, legs, and other serious injuries. Fined £20 and £1 13s. costs, the maximum penalty.

It is a rare thing to hear people complaining of the undue lenity of a sentence by Mr. Justice Grantham; but this has happened at Hastings, in reference to a case at Sussex Assizes. A schoolmaster, named T. K. Gregory, was indicted for obtaining various sums of money by false pretences, and also for a series of offences under the Debtors' Act. Gregory started a school at Hastings, got into debt and borrowed money right and left, and last October became a bankrupt, with liabilities amounting to £7,522, and assets which have realised £1,250. The most serious charge against him was one of obtaining certain loans, shortly before his failure, by means of false representations as to his indebtedness at that time. After the case had been opened he pleaded guilty to one of the minor offences under the Debtors' Act. The prosecution thereupon consented to drop the other charges; and the Judge released the prisoner, binding him to come up for judgment if called upon. It is supposed that his lordship was, to some extent, influenced by the statement of the counsel for the defence that, with the exception of the sums due to the prosecutor, most of the debts were incurred with money-lenders or relations of the prisoner. This was, however, a long way from being an accurate account of the facts, and if the Judge had had before him the story of some of the other creditors, or if the prosecution had persisted with the charges which were dropped, the decision would probably have been very different.

The doctrine of the "anointed person" has received a wide extension at the hands of Bailie Munro, of Pollokshaws. A bold bad man who had "attempted" to strike the Provost was last week sentenced by this magistrate to sixty days' imprisonment for the following reasons:—

Bailie Munro said the magistrates derived their authority from the people. They were also appointed with the approval of the Sovereign and of the Almighty, and any insult offered to them was also offered to the community, to the Sovereign, and to the Almighty.

One has got used to hearing the German Kaiser and the Almighty bracketed together as if their identity could not be easily distinguished; but it is something new to hear that any Justice of the Peace stands in the same position. Without wishing to fly in the face of Providence, I certainly think that this sentence—I do not mean the Bailie's remark so much as the punishment which he imposed—requires the attention of the Lord Advocate.

"There *are* a lot of fools in the world, are there not?" This question was addressed by my representative to a Mr. Smith, of 6, Station-road, Finsbury Park. Needless to say, Mr. Smith assented to the proposition with a confidence founded upon his experience of the gullibility of the public in the course of carrying on a prize competition from the above address for the past two or three months. Subsequently, in the most genial manner, he unbosomed himself to my representative of some few facts, which form the foundations of his belief. These I have tabulated for the amusement of my readers, and the information of the editors of papers who assist Mr. Smith in taking toll from the simple-minded. Mr. Smith, it seems, starts with an advertisement headed, "£25 to be given away." This sum is to go in "free cash prizes" amongst those who re-arrange nineteen letters to spell the names of three well-known birds. To the person who takes the bait the following circular is sent:—

£25 Free Cash Prize Competition.

Dear Sir or Madam,—We are duly in receipt of your letter, and have much pleasure in informing you that the correct solutions to the nineteen puzzle letters advertised (EGONIPAYRCNAW SAWLOL) are as follows, viz.:—Pigeon, Canary, Swallow. Therefore all your names are correct, and if you comply with the undermentioned conditions, you will be entitled to the first prize of fifteen pounds, or share of same, at the close of the competition, as stated below.

This free competition is offered in order to advertise our new "Eight letter Puzzle," and is absolutely free and open to all purchasers of this fascinating diversion. . . . .

Upon receipt of your order for the puzzle, accompanied by Postal Order for two shillings (or twenty-five penny stamps), and the order form at foot marked "correct" by us, together with stamped addressed envelope for sending you the prize money at the conclusion of the competition, we will at once forward you our new renowned "Eight-letter Puzzle," carriage paid per parcels post. . . .

The puzzle consists of "a highly-finished board" made of cardboard, a dozen discs of the same material, and a few counters, the full retail value of which would be fourpence halfpenny or sixpence, the cost probably not exceeding threepence. This valuable article Mr. Smith is selling at the rate of considerably more than four hundred a day at two shillings each. Calculated upon this basis, it is evident that, excluding the cost of advertising, Mr. Smith's returns must amount to about one hundred and fifty pounds a week. As for the prizes, they will be so infinitesimal as to be scarcely worth notice. In the airest manner Mr. Smith declares that he will add sufficient to the prize money to enable him to send a halfpenny stamp to each prize-winner. Well may he chuckle over the prevalence of folly!

Many people with more money than brains continue to respond, I am sorry to see, to the begging letters of that shady member of the noble order of baronets, Sir Charles Coote. This individual is still located at 15, Summer Hill Parade, Dublin, and is still sending out begging-letters in all directions, accompanied as of old by letters which he has recently received from those who have forwarded cash. Of course, if people knowing all about the distressed baronet choose deliberately to send him cheques and postal-orders, nothing more can be said than that it is a pity that they have not got a better use

for their money. But if people receiving Sir Charles Coote's letters, and knowing nothing of his antecedents, assume that he is a deserving object of charity, they make a very deplorable mistake.

I should like to hear from Colonel Turner, late of the Cameronians, whether he still accepts responsibility for the appeals of Mrs. Longshaw, the begging-letter writer whose case has more than once been noticed in TRUTH. It may be remembered that, in consequence of my remarks, Colonel Turner undertook last autumn to receive for three months subscriptions to keep the lady going until the laundry, which she had started at Liverpool, began to pay. The three months have now expired. During the last week or two Mrs. Longshaw has been again pestering people with urgent appeals. She encloses with her letters copies of a communication from the Globe Furnishing Company, Pembroke-place—a Liverpool firm, presumably—dated February 14, and notifying that unless arrears of hire are paid within two days, a cart will be sent to take away all the furniture Mrs. Longshaw has on hire from the company.

In order to heighten the effect of this document, Mrs. Longshaw states that one of her children is ill with what "the doctor fears may turn to rheumatic fever," and she dreads the effect of the shock and chill if the beds are removed. It would seem, however, that the "Globe Furnishing Company" are not such hard-hearted creditors as the letter quoted might suggest. The letter from them threatens seizure on Wednesday, February 16; but on Thursday, February 17, Mrs. Longshaw is sending out one of her appeals, pleading that "unless I can pay £4 *by Monday* (I have asked for time until then) this furniture will be taken." She did not pay the £4 by that date (*i.e.*, February 21), but the furniture evidently was not seized, for in a later letter, received on February 22, and dated "Monday" (the date having been altered), she writes: "Unless I can pay four pounds by Thursday (I have preyed (*sic*) for time until then) the furniture will be removed." After this, it would not surprise me to hear that the money remains unpaid down to the present moment, and that the furniture is still unremoved. Another remarkable point is that, although four days had elapsed between these two letters, the doctor was still fearing, when the second was written, that the child's illness "might turn to rheumatic fever"—the words used being exactly the same in both letters.

There is a suspicious look about these documents which is entirely in keeping with all that has previously come to light about Mrs. Longshaw. That being so, the gallant officer who—doubtless from the best of motives—came forward on a former occasion as sponsor for the lady's bona fides, might advantageously let us know whether he is prepared to answer personally for the Furnishing Company, the doctor, and the prospect of rheumatic fever. Luckily, these are facts (or allegations) easily verified. The Globe Furnishing Company will not object, of course, to admit the genuineness of their letters of February 14, and will be able to state whether they extended the time of the threatened seizure, first, to Monday the 21st, and afterwards to Thursday the 24th. The doctor who has been in attendance will no doubt readily vouch for the alarming condition of the sick daughter. Let us have all these points established, and Mrs. Longshaw's veracity will be triumphantly vindicated.

It is no credit to the Press that the misleading and mischievous advertisement of Nicholson's ear-drums should still be appearing in various newspapers. Fully twelve months ago the nature of this advertisement was exposed in TRUTH. At that time these ear-drums were sold from a suburban villa dignified with the name of "Nicholson's Aural Institute," and it was stated that a rich lady had given £1,000 to the "Institute" for the purpose of enabling the poor to get Nicholson's ear-drums free. Those who responded to the advertisement were told that the supply of free ear-drums under the donation was quite unequal to the demand, but were offered the treatment of the "Institute" at a charge of 13s. 6d. for certain appliances and prescriptions which would have been dear at a quarter that sum. Although "Nicholson's Aural Institute" is no longer heard of, the story of the rich lady's thousand pounds is still being advertised, and people who want to avail themselves of her benevolence are now told to apply by letter to a firm in Great Russell-street. The whole thing is an impudent trick, practised for the most part on poor and afflicted people, who have little money to spare for the treatment of their ailments. My attention has been called to the matter by the proprietor of two provincial papers, who has refused the advertisement, and it is a pity that there are not a few more newspaper proprietors and editors with an equally keen sense of their responsibility to their readers.

The following letter seems to merit a word of reply:—

February 23, 1898.

DEAR TRUTH.—I do not agree with you politically, but I often find a great deal of common sense in your weekly paragraphs, and you never do a better public service than when you tilt at the usurers.

So why on earth should it be an unpleasant reflection for Mr. Clay that he was instrumental in causing the man Lewis to lose his money? Why, my dear good man, that a Jew money-lender made a loss is the only redeeming feature in the whole disgusting story.—Yours,

X. X. X.

Against that view I take the opportunity of protesting. I have "tilted at the usurers" because a large number of them prey on the unsuspecting by every conceivable fraud, and are utterly unscrupulous in squeezing their victims when once they have got them into their power. But I am not going to say that no professional money-lenders do a legitimate or honest trade; still less am I going to say that a dirty fraud is any the less black because the victim happens to be a Jew money-lender. "Hath not a Jew eyes, hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, functions, passions?" I recommend my correspondent to read and study the rest of the quotation.

So little has been heard recently of the syndicate who promised to "place hot water within the reach of everybody" through the medium of the street lamp-posts that it was justifiably supposed that the scheme had fallen through. This, however, turns out to be by no means

the case; on the contrary, the company have been applying to the Court of Chancery for leave to extend their field of operations. It was argued that the value and utility of this novel idea would be considerably enhanced if, in addition to supplying the poorer portion of the community with hot water, it could at the same time be arranged to provide them—always on the penny-in-the-slot system—with packets of tea, cocoa, &c., to accentuate the usefulness of the boiling fluid. It is really difficult to put any limits to this beneficent enterprise; for instance, the addition of a slot for the delivery on payment of bread and butter would at once convert each lamp-post into a species of coffee-house or refreshment-room.

It is true, I find, that the directors of the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway have, much to their credit, reduced the normal week of their guards and porters to six days, Sunday work being paid for extra; but the carriage examiners and Westinghouse-brake men are still employed on the old terms, and are told that if they want a Sunday off it will be stopped out of their wages. It would not cost any very formidable sum to extend to these men the concessions already made to the guards and porters, and if the matter is brought before the directors they will, I should think, have little hesitation in doing this.

Without wishing to boast, I think that some of the seed recently sown in these columns for the benefit of railway managers has fallen upon good ground, and is already bearing fruit. A good deal was said in my recent articles on railway management respecting the neglected opportunities of offering small comforts to railway travellers—a direction in which the American lines are much in advance of our own. The Midland Railway Company, evidently recognising this, have just opened at Leeds a sort of afternoon tea-room in connection with their ladies' waiting-room, so that ladies can obtain there any light refreshment they may require without going to the buffet, which many of them do not care to do. In addition to the refreshments various toilet requisites are provided, including curling tongs, which can be used at the reasonable fee of twopence, and I believe there are ladies who would consider this boon cheap at ten times the price.

The Westminster Improvements Bill will soon be before Parliament. The scheme, as I understand it, is to take by compulsory powers a considerable area running back from the river between the Houses of Parliament and the Tate Gallery. In consideration of being granted these powers, the promoters of the scheme agree to make an embankment along the river, and to clear and dedicate to the public as an open space the land within the line of Victoria Tower. Personally I do not want to surrender the humble roof that protects me from the inclemency of the weather, and I should have to do so were the Bill carried. I opposed the proposal of Mr. Lefevre to take my house and build on its site a mortuary chapel, for I honestly thought that a live man ought not to be dispossessed in order to lodge a few corpses. In regard to this new scheme, however, I am not able to deny that, if carried out, there might be public advantage.

I do not hold, with the County Council, that London ought not to be bettered by any private scheme, because such work appertains alone to the Council. If any scheme is suggested, and it were a question whether the Council or private individuals should carry it out, I should be for the former, but only if the Council said it would carry it out. Nor do I agree with the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey, that everything architectural in the neighbourhood of the Abbey should be left to public bodies. The scheme seems to me to depend: (1), whether it is to the public advantage; (2), whether those asking powers to undertake it can show that they have the means to carry it out.

All this can only be threshed out by the Bill going before a Committee. Therefore, desirous as I may be not to be dispossessed, I should not feel justified in voting against the second reading of the Bill. It would be for the Committee to find out whether the promoters have the requisite money behind them; whether they are prepared to provide, as required by law, homes for poor people whose houses they may clear away; and whether all architectural requirements are fulfilled. Should this be done, and the Bill pass through Committee stage, then the House will have the entire scheme before it as settled in Committee, and on the third reading it will be able with full knowledge to say aye or nay.

Close behind my house is a building called the Jewel Tower. I have tried to find out in books on London when, and by whom, it was built, but I have never been able to discover, and I suppose that it is not known. The curious part of the matter is that I doubt whether any one can see this ancient monument, except from my back windows.

Between this tower and the Abbey there is an underground passage, which is now blocked up. Presumably, therefore, the tower formed part of that ancient Palace of Westminster, of which there is no existing plan, and the passage was probably designed to enable persons to take refuge in the Abbey if the Palace were attacked. It is a square tower in stone, and now used, I believe, to keep the standards of weights and measures. If the scheme of the Westminster Improvements Bill is adopted, this old tower should be left standing.

I rejoice to see that the Sunday Society is taking in hand a movement for the repeal of the monstrous Lord's Day Act of George III. Recent events have utterly

Avoid Influenza.—Bellis's Turtle Soup, more strengthening than any beef fluid. Pint tins, 5/-.—Obtainable Stores, Grocers, Chemists, or direct from T. K. Bellis, 6, Jeffrey's-square, London.

discredited this enactment, even in the eyes of the less progressive part of the public, and everybody knows that the Act is now inoperative except for mischievous purposes. The whole *raison d'être* of the statute is to enable a small minority, who hold certain irreligious and unbiblical views as to the proper mode of keeping Sunday, to enforce their peculiar notions upon the majority who disagree with them. Such an Act has no proper place on the Statute Book of a free country, and I trust that even a Conservative and Unionist House of Commons may have sufficient sense to wipe it out.

The petition which Sir Christopher Furness has just presented in connection with the York by-election emphasises the unsatisfactory nature of the law with regard to Parliamentary contests. The object desired is a mere recount of the votes; in order to attain this, the expensive and tedious process of petitioning has to be gone through, and two judges will have to go down to York to deal with the matter. Why should not a recount of the votes in such cases be granted upon an *ex parte* application to one of the courts, or to the Speaker, the costs to be paid by one side or the other according to the result? There would seem to be no serious objection to such a reform, and it would obviously lessen the expense and simplify matters enormously.

This point is but one of a number which require attention in connection with Parliamentary election petitions. Little more than two years ago the Cause List and the business of the Courts generally were thrown into a state of utter confusion by the time of many of the judges being taken up in hearing lengthy petitions, with consequent delay and inconvenience to ordinary litigants. The appointment of a standing Judicial Commission to take all work of this kind would go far to remedy matters, and the advantages accruing from this or some other step in the same direction would make it well worth the taking.

It is not in Africa only that a reactionary tendency is being manifested in the treatment of native races under British rule. The same process is visible in West Australia. Most of the English papers recently reported the atrocious case at Perth in which a man named Anderson was proved to have brutally flogged three natives to death. Anderson was clearly guilty of murder, but, in spite of a strong summing-up by the Chief Justice, the jury convicted him of manslaughter only. The Chief Justice has since called attention to an "equally revolting" case at Geraldton, in which a worse miscarriage of justice occurred. On that occasion one of the witnesses for the defence was a magistrate, who frankly admitted that he had himself habitually broken the law by thrashing natives. Not only is this law-breaking magistrate allowed to retain his commission, but the Premier has stated in the Council that he sees nothing wrong in the arrangement, "for it is not reasonable chastisement that is to be guarded against, but horrible brutality." It is, of course, left to the law-breaker himself to decide as to the "reasonableness" of the chastisement he inflicts. So long as it stops short of "horrible brutality"—which seems to mean so long as the nigger is not actually flogged to death—it is permissible, though illegal.

It is asserted by a Perth journalist that, though the Anderson case was an extreme one, the brutal flogging of natives is one of "the settled institutions of the north;" and after this amazing utterance of the Premier nobody can be surprised at the fact. The same writer remarks that "the West Australian indenturing system as applied to natives is as near a thing to slavery as flourishes in the British dominions." But it can scarcely be a nearer approach to slavery than the "indenturing system" which the Cape Government has enforced upon the Bechuana "rebels," to say nothing of the slavery, pure and undisguised, which the British Government itself sanctions in Zanzibar. On all questions relating to the freedom and the just and humane treatment of our coloured fellow subjects both in Africa and Australia we seem to be going directly backwards.

I have been told various stories in connection with the Dreyfus matter by persons who profess to know more than the rest of the world. One is that, before Russia entered into the French alliance, it was thought well to discover the precise condition of the French Army, and Esterhazy was employed to send secret information. He, on his part, told his chiefs what he had been asked to do, and received their permission to send information, of course the fact of the information proceeding from the General Staff being unknown to Russia. Dreyfus knew of this arrangement, and, having agreed to reveal General Staff secrets to Germany, wrote the bordereau, so far as he could, in Esterhazy's handwriting, in order that, if suspicion was aroused, it should fall on him. The part that Esterhazy had played in regard to Russia was discovered by the friends of Dreyfus, and hence the endeavour to show that Esterhazy was the traitor, and not Dreyfus. Another story is that Dreyfus did reveal secrets, not to Germany, but to Russia.

What makes me suppose that Russia is in some way mixed up with the business is that, if one Government has a secret invention connected with war, another Government would not hesitate to buy it, if it had the chance, and this would be deemed well within the rules of the game. But in these buyings all accredited representatives of the buying country would keep clear of direct communication with the vendor. A go-between would be employed. Russia's position in respect to France is, however, a peculiar one, and, theoretically at least, it might be held that between such friends there could be no secrets which one would not be willing to reveal to the other.

Duysen Pianos are the most superb of all modern Instruments. They stand absolutely unrivalled for beauty of tone, touch, & finish. A consummate success in small grands.—Lloyd's, 24, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, W.

The accuracy of Mr. Chamberlain's statement that the Cabinet (inclusive of himself) is actuated by the friendliest feeling towards France is somewhat discounted by his accompanying assurance that it is also united in approval of his West African policy and procedure. What he meant by the latter statement evidently was that it was united in the particular vote under discussion. Probably it would have been more exact, had he said that it was united in letting him get the money to play at soldiering in Africa in order to secure some sort of peace and quiet n their Cabinet meetings.

If Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain are the Damon and Pythias of politics, they most successfully conceal their union of hearts. So admirably do they dissemble their love, that, to the looker-on, there seems to be no love to dissemble.

In the House of Commons Mr. Curzon, as Lord Salis bury's direct representative, has more than once rushed to the front to answer questions addressed to Mr. Chamber lain, which the latter was preparing to answer. The day after Mr. Chamberlain had read his Sokoto-invasion telegram, many were surprised to see Lord Salisbury dashing through the lobby on his way to the Lords at a pace that did honour to his agility, tearing off his outer coat as he rushed along. "What was up?" they inquired of each other. What happened in the Lords furnished the answer. The Premier was on the war-path. But the enemy was not France: it was Mr. Chamberlain. The Lords do not sit long, and he was afraid that he might not be in time to undo the mischief of the telegram read in the House of Commons by Mr. Chamberlain on the previous night, which was making havoc with stocks and shares on the Stock Exchange.

The object of soldiers in war, as far as I understand it, is to put as many as possible of their enemies *hors de combat*. Gunpowder and guns, bullets and shells, in all their shapes and varieties, are designed primarily for the purpose of killing and maiming the enemy to the greatest possible extent. On principle, therefore, I am not altogether clear why the use of explosive bullets should be interdicted among civilised nations. If, however, such bullets are con sidered a breach of the rules of the game in civilised warfare, it is difficult to see on what ground the Dum Dum bullet of the Indian Government can be permitted. Everybody knows that the effect of this bullet when it hits a man is indistinguishable from that of an explosive bullet. In point of fact, I believe that it does actually burst owing to the air inside it, or for some other reason. But, however that may be, it goes through a process of disintegration which is virtually an explosion inside the man who is struck, and a corresponding process of disintegration ensues in all parts of the human frame within reach the bones in particular being pulverised.

H. L. Savory & Co.'s Cigarettes.—By Special Warrants of Appointments, to H R.H. the Prince of Wales, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe Coburg-Gotha, H.S.H. the Duke of Teck, and the House of Lords and Commons. To be obtained of all the leading Houses in the Trade.—Sole address, 59, Piccadilly, London, W.

Owing to the fact of the Afridis having captured many thousands of rounds of British ammunition during the late campaign, the effects of the bullet have been exhibited at the expense of our own troops, so that we have the best means of knowing what they are. It may be that the use of such a bullet in European warfare would not be a breach of the St. Petersburg Convention, to which we are one of the signatories; but it is quite certain that there would be an outcry against any European Power which used the bullet against any other; and if the St. Petersburg Convention is to be anything but waste paper, it will have to be so altered as to include the Dum Dum or any similar projectile. That being so, those who object to our using such a bullet against Afridis, or others who are not parties to the St. Petersburg Convention, seem to have reason and justice on their side.

In view of the County Council election, the following question seems timely:—

Dear Sir,—It appears to be now established as a matter of common honesty and commercial morality that a man should not be a director of the Grosvenor Hotel, and also a director of the laundry company which does work for the Grosvenor Hotel.

How then can Mr. Boulnois, a Water Company director, and leading light of the Water Companies' joint committee, reconcile it with his conscience to also represent the interests of the rate-payers who have no choice but to be customers of the Water Companies?—Yours, &c.

Perhaps some Marylebone elector will take an oppor tunity of asking this question.

THE MODERATE WAR-SONG.

With fuss and with fluster
The Moderates muster
At the tap of the Tory big-drum;
Resolved, now or never,
On frantic endeavour,
The hordes of Monopolists come.
Ground-landlords in legions
From rack-rented regions,
Their banner of "Privilege" wave;
Abuses' protectors,
And Water-directors
March wildly their pockets to save.
The slyest House-knacker,
The harshest Rent-racker,
Whose gains in the balance are hung,
Now, visibly bolder,
Stand shoulder to shoulder,
With Gog, and with Bumble, and Bung,
And all of them spouting,
And yelling and shouting
Are eager an audience to find,
For they have good reason
Their chance thus to seize on—
They all have their axes to grind.
And this is the fashion
With more or less passion,
They frankly their motives confess,
As each eager section
On Thursday's election
All London proceeds to address:—

Chorus of Ground Landlords.

You may wonder at our clamour, but we've reason to complain,
And to make the strongest efforts these Progressives to restrain;

For Mosquito Bites nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia, and it is an immediate remedy for Wasp or Bee Stings.

For remember our position—sure as quarter day's returned,
We for years have filled our pockets with an increment unearned.
By our tenants and their neighbours vast improvements have been made,
T'wards the cost of which no penny has by us been ever paid.
Whatsoever fancy value for our land has been created,
It is understood our ground-rents should on no account be rated.
But these pestilent Progressives have the impudence to say
That we ought a fair proportion of our City's rates to pay.
Was there ever such extortion as these Radicals now lean to?
We have never paid a penny, and we never, never mean to!

So, London voters, if you please,
Upon this great occasion seize,
Or there's no chance remote for us.
Come, simple citizens, befriend
The ground-rents which we would defend,
Come, and to-morrow's polls attend,
And in your thousands vote for us!

Chorus of Water Company Directors.

These same pestilent Progressives dare to us attack as well,
But we're sure that grateful London will such agitators quell.
We are sure that grateful London will remember that our plan
Is to take as much and render just as little as we can;
Is to dole out doubtful water with an intermittent hand,
But to *not* be intermittent in the rates that we demand;
And to see, when mains are frozen, or when reservoirs run dry,
That we still succeed in charging for a full and free supply.
And if some day, as at Maidstone, typhoid germs should wriggle through,
Surely London for a moment cannot doubt what we should do:
We should all responsibility most certainly disclaim,
And send round our rate collectors every quarter just the same!

So, London voters, if you please,
Upon this great occasion seize,
And all our virtues quote for us!
Come, simple citizens, befriend
The vested interest we defend;
Come, and to-morrow's poll attend,
And in your thousands vote for us!

Chorus of Vestrymen.

In the mighty name of Bumble we appeal for London's aid;
These Progressive chaps mean mischief, and they make us feel afraid.
In the name of Mr. Bumble, help us still to keep at bay
Those reforms which, if effected, would sweep all of us away—
Those reforms which, if effected, would clear out the vilest slums,
And would take away the profits of slum-owners—our best chums.
In the name of Mr. Bumble, help us still to rob and job,
And to stop the busy prying of such fellows as John Lobb!

Brandauer's Circular-Pointed Pens. Neither scratch nor spurt. Glide over the roughest paper with the ease of a soft lead pencil. Assorted sample box, 7 stamps, from the Works, Birmingham.

Help us still to gorge and guzzle, and the public funds to share
In a way that apes corruption quite as closely as we dare!
And oh! help us, as you love us, so that we may soon obtain
That much-longed-for badge of office, and that coveted gold chain.
For they'd bring that social status that at present we so lack,
And our "dignity" might save us when exposed to fresh attack.

So, London voters, if you please,
Upon this great occasion seize,
Or there's no chance remote for us!
Come, simple citizens, attend
To-morrow's polls and there defend
The system which the Rads would end—
Come, and in thousands vote for us!

General Chorus of Monopolists, Contractors, Back-Scratchers, and Axe-Grinders.

You must come and help us, voters, if you wish to see once more
The strong arm of Progress palsied as it oft has been before;
You must come and help us, voters, if your poor you'd still repress,
And would leave them helpless, hopeless in their dirt and their distress:
If you'd stop the Parks and music that have made their lives more bright,
You must vote the Moderate ticket—yes, with all your main and might!
If you'd give a sum immoderate for the tram-lines that you buy
You must send us to Spring-gardens, those Progressives to defy.
If you'd help the rich contractor larger profits yet to hoard
You must vote for the whitewashers of your great Asylums Board:
And, in short, if London's government should still be our disgrace,
We're the men to serve your purpose if you'll give us power and place!

So, London voters, if you please,
Upon this great occasion seize
And our success promote for us;
Muster in thousands to befriend
The rank abuses we defend,
And show that you our aims commend
By polling every vote for us!

SCRUTATOR.

CHAMBERLAIN IN THE HINTERLAND.

THE doctrine of Imperial expansion that Mr. Chamberlain preaches and practises is one which not many years ago would hardly have been regarded as within the area of practical politics. The only field now left for this expansion is in Africa. The greater portion of the interior of that vast continent is peopled by tribes, each claiming ownership in the little district where it lives, or by some collection of tribes, one of which has reduced to its rule the others, when the chief is called a King. According to international law, in the making of which Africans had no voice, the natives of Africa have no absolute right of ownership

in their own land. In some cases they are conquered by whites; in other cases they are swindled out of their territory by a treaty that they are induced to sign for a bottle of gin or an old coat, not knowing what a treaty is. Several of the European Powers have divided Africa amongst them, and each claims the exclusive right of shooting or swindling natives in his own sphere. Often, however, these Powers fall out with each other as to the limits of their respective spheres. The plea for all this is the civilising advantage to Africa of being provided with European goods. But these goods have to be paid for, and no African is prepared to work for any goods, unless it may be a little light work to obtain a bottle of spirits with which to get drunk, or a gun with which to shoot his neighbour; therefore, all the European Powers are obliged to tolerate slavery of Africans *inter se* in these spheres, or to force them to work for the whites. In days past the African exports consisted of slaves, and a very remunerative business was done in this merchandise. We have suppressed this export, and we are surprised that any Christian countries could ever have been engaged in the trade. As it seems to me, however, we have replaced it by making the Africans slaves at home. And our old friend the Nonconformist Conscience sleeps!

On the Bight of Benin, France, Germany and ourselves have colonies upon the sea-board. Behind them, up to the ninth parallel, each colony has its hinterland, and the lines of demarcation are clearly defined. At the thirteenth parallel begins the hinterland of the French Mediterranean possessions. Eastward our Lagos hinterland is bounded by a German hinterland, and the frontiers between both have been agreed to. Westward the line between French and English hinterland has never been drawn between the ninth and thirteenth parallel, although it is admitted that about nine-tenth of the hinterland that we claim is ours. A Commission is now sitting at Paris to draw this frontier line.

In the meantime, each country is sending armed negroes to run up flags in the villages of the disputed region, the right to do so being based upon priority of treaty with the chief of the village. Behind our Gold Coast Colony and the French Dahomey Colony, the same thing is going on; for there, too, further north than the ninth parallel, there has been no delimitation. Titles to land often present a good deal of difficulty in Europe; in Central Africa, where not even the geography is clearly known, the difficulty is, of course, greater. It signifies really very little to whom these hinterlands, or, rather, strips of hinterland, belong. The essential is that the respective frontiers shall be laid down, so that we and the French do not quarrel over what is a bone with very little meat on it. So far as regards ourselves, we have, both behind Lagos and behind the Gold Coast Colony, as much hinterland as the most greedy can desire. Behind the former, we have taken under our Protectorate the Empire of Sokoto, although we do not exactly know what this Empire is. We should have done far better to content ourselves with seeing that there should be free trade in this region. The consequence of our Protectorate is that we are enrolling an Army to aid our feudatory Emperor in his raids. Slavery is the law in all this "happy land," and with this we shall not meddle, for without it, as a field for our commercial enterprise, it would be useless.

Mr. Chamberlain is never satisfied unless he can attract attention to himself. In order to do this, he has been doing his utmost to envenom this question of a frontier line, and this endeavour culminated in his reading telegrams from the region in dispute designed to arouse angry passions between the two countries; and reading them with a dramatic solemnity that convinced me that, had he adopted the stage as a pursuit, he would have run Sir Henry Irving close. Lord Salisbury is not disposed to allow us to drift into war for the benefit of Mr. Chamberlain, and he has poured oil on the waters which had been troubled by these telegrams. But he has weakly yielded, in allowing Mr. Chamberlain to send out nearly two hundred officers to enlist an army of blacks in the Lagos Colony, and in leaving it to him to direct this force. He will have to look very closely to prevent such a use being made of this army that we shall find iourselves embroiled with France.

Last Tuesday £130,000 was voted for the Chamberlain Army, and he explained that we shall have to pay for its maintenance. This will cost us about £200,000 per annum. The vote was challenged, but very few English Members voted against it, and Sir Edward Grey from the front Opposition Bench had nothing but praise for the Colonial Secretary. If, however, the Liberals outside Parliament were polled, I am inclined to think that there would be a majority against all the Africa-raiding that goes on South, North, East, and West in that continent. Africa has become the chief hunting-ground of the Jingoes. Now, Jingoism means this: for democratic reform at home, we are to substitute annexations, raids, and wars in Africa. These cost us huge sums of money, and will cost more, for our Army is to be increased by 23,000 men. One of the reasons why we lost the last election was that the Liberal Party abrogated all its former principles, and declared itself even more Jingo than its opponents. Jingoism is all to the advantage of the Tories. When we profess ourselves believers in the creed, we gain no adherents. We are regarded as mere amateurs, pretending belief in the hopes of catching votes. Naturally, the electors who are of the Jingo persuasion prefer the men who honestly believe in this pernicious faith, and whose interests are bound up in it, to amateurs masquerading in borrowed garments. Until the Liberals in Parliament perceive this, and oppose Jingoism in all its various forms, the Liberal Party will be little more than an historical expression. Jingoism is Militarism; and Jingoism and Militarism are almost identical terms. Democracy means peace, economy, and reform. Toryism means war, expenditure, and no reform. We have surrendered the cardinal principles of our Party, because we found that they were unpopular. Have we gained by it? The result of the last General Election furnishes an answer.

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SNARES FOR LONDON VOTERS.

Unionists who are not personally concerned with London politics are apprehensive that a "Moderate" victory in the County Council election will have a disastrous effect on Unionist prospects at the next Parliamentary election. In that I think they are right. The reason is this: the most Democratic and Radical part of the London vote at Parliamentary elections is that of the lodgers, who do not vote for the County Council. The sympathies of the lodgers are in the main with the Progressives in municipal affairs. By using the Unionist name and the Unionist machinery, as they are now doing, the Moderates may possibly gain a majority at the County Council election; but they are alienating at the same time from the Unionist side so many who have no sympathy with the inanities and futilities of "Moderate" municipal politics, that when the lodger vote comes to be thrown in at the Parliamentary election, Unionism in London will be seriously damaged. Let us hope that the event may justify this reasoning. Provincial Conservatives and Unionists are also aghast, and with good cause, at an attempt to identify Unionism with a policy directly opposed to everything that is accepted as good municipal government in the chief provincial towns.

That the Moderates are going to win on Thursday I do not say. Political prophecy is not in my line. There is no doubt that Lord Onslow and his friends have succeeded in awakening most strenuous opposition, and that many of their keenest opponents are convinced Unionists, Looking, however, at the overwhelming majority secured by the Unionists in London at the last General Election. and at the undisguised use now being made of the Party machinery to force every Unionist voter to the poll on the Moderate side, I confess I shall be agreeably surprised if this effort fails.

My estimate of the intelligence of the London elector is not high. He is told in his *Times* and *Standard* that the Progressive policy will involve increased rates; and I doubt if he is capable of seeing for himself that rates in London can only be reduced either by starving all existing public services, or by obtaining additional revenue by rating ground-rents, and acquiring for public use the vast profits of the water, tramway, lighting, and other monopolies. Lord Onslow and the Moderate penmen and canvassers din into him every day that the Progressive policy in this respect is a policy of "fads," or "rash experiments," or "municipal Socialism," and he is too ignorant or careless to ask himself in reply why what every great town in the Kingdom has done successfully should be "a fad," or "rash," or "Socialistic" when London attempts it. The Moderate programme is a programme designed chiefly by monopolists, owners of ground-rents, and contractors, for fools and indolent Metropolitan householders, who take their opinions ready-made from their daily papers, who have never seen municipal government as it is organised in other towns, and feel no interest in the subject. It is, therefore, a programme well adapted to London constituencies.

The Brook Hospital case has come to light opportunely as an object-lesson for the County Council Election. The Metropolitan Asylums Board is a body on the pattern of the good old Metropolitan Board of Works. It is thoroughly "Moderate" in constitution and tone. It therefore has a strong belief in the contractor, and a strong feeling that he ought to have a free hand. It would shrink with horror from any idea so "Socialistic" as that of undertaking its own building work itself in order to protect its constituents against the contractor. Its architect estimated the cost of the Brook Hospital at £194,810. The lowest tender that could be obtained was £218,171. The ultimate cost was £268,507. A further interesting fact was that the manufacturer, who, under the specification, was to supply the bricks, was the chairman of the sub-committee of the Board which had charge of the work. This was illegal, and the illegality was pointed out by the officials of the Board before the work was taken in hand, but nevertheless the chairman of the sub-committee did, by a roundabout course, supply certain of the bricks, though he disclaims any knowledge that he was doing so. The Asylums Board has inquired into, and has glossed over, these peculiar facts. One of the whitewashers is Mr. White, himself a builder and contractor. This gentleman also sits on the London County Council as a "Moderate" member for Marylebone. In that capacity he has been a leader in the assault on the Works Department of the Council. The only offence of the Works Department is that on certain jobs it exceeded its architect's estimate. There is no proof that any contractor could have done the work cheaper or better. On the other hand, the Works Department has undoubtedly delivered London and its ratepayers from a ring of contractors, and has done the bulk of its work below the architect's estimates. Accordingly Mr. White and the Moderates, who find nothing objectionable in the little excess of £74,000 of cost over estimate upon one single job done by a contractor for the Asylums Board, are filled with horror at vastly smaller excesses in the case of the County Council Works Department, and one and all unite in beseeching the ratepayers to abolish such a Socialistic fad, and place themselves once more in the hands of their good friends the contractors. On the part of Mr. White, the builder and contractor, and all his friends, this is an intelligible attitude. But that the ratepayers of London should walk into the parlour of Mr. White and his friends simply for the reason that these disinterested gentlemen are opposed to Home Rule for Ireland, denotes a state of mind beyond my comprehension. It has been said on high authority that the snare is set in vain in the sight of any bird. The snare is pretty conspicuous this time, but it has yet to be seen whether the London voter has a sharp enough eye for it.

ARMY TINKERS AT WORK.

The most material point, to my thinking, in Mr. Brodrick's statement on the Army Estimates is the reason for the increase in the Army now proposed. Although three new battalions were raised last year, we are now asked for 23,000 additional men. Why? Because (1) "we have twenty battalions on the North-West Frontier,

calling upon us for additional drafts; (2) we have sent two additional battalions and three batteries to South Africa; (3) we have had to furnish three more for active service up the Nile—and may have to send more; and (4) we have sent one to Crete." In other words, we have to furnish twenty battalions on the North West Frontier, with additional drafts, to gratify the Old Forward Party; we have to furnish two battalions and three batteries to the Cape for the benefit of Mr. Chamberlain, the New Forward Party; we have to find another three battalions, and probably more, to gratify our insane Jingo policy in Egypt; and we have to offer up another battalion in Crete as a sacrifice to the Concert of Europe. The whole of the increase in the Army, with its attendant cost, is, therefore, directly due to the blustering and blundering Foreign and Colonial policy of our present rulers.

To criticise here in any detail the Government Army proposals would require more space than I have at my disposal, and is not necessary in view of what has already been said about them in TRUTH. Many of the changes which are to be carried out are undoubtedly in the right direction, more especially those which directly affect our friend Tommy Atkins. But how the taxpayers and their representatives can consent to the enormous outlay now proposed on merely tinkering up a system which leads to such unsatisfactory results as at present, I am unable to understand. Tinkering is the only name for it. For the increase of infantry battalions a twofold reason is put forward, viz., that the number of troops maintained abroad unduly depletes the home battalions, and that we ought to have two army corps at home ready in a moment to attack any Power with whom we have a quarrel. Assuming that we have in India and the Colonies a sufficient force for the defence of our territories—and surely 120,000 men, in addition to the Indian native army, ought to be sufficient for that purpose—what do we want with two complete Army Corps at home? Who are they going to fight? Suppose we were involved in any of the wars with which we have been threatened during the last twelve months, say with Germany, France, or Russia: do our military authorities seriously propose to send a couple of Army Corps to invade any one of those countries? If so, it matters little or not of what troops they are composed, or whether they are perfectly equipped or otherwise. They will most assuredly be annihilated within a few days of their landing, and I should say, under these circumstances, the less money we waste upon them beforehand the better.

On the other hand, if the purpose of the Home Army is merely Home defence, the first object of an intelligent Army reformer would seem to me to be to organise our present Auxiliary Forces in such a way that they may form a trustworthy second line of defence in the event of our first line, the Navy, being broken through. The neglect of the Auxiliary Forces by the War Office is the blackest spot in the record. In the Militia and the Volunteers, properly organised, we have the raw material of an army amply sufficient for all purposes of Home defence. But no attempt has ever been made, nor is there apparently any hope of its being made, to make them anything better than raw material, to organise or equip them so that they could take the field against a modern European army. The money spent on these forces, exceeding, so far as I can make out, £1,000,000 per annum, is virtually wasted. The Militia gets a little place in Mr. Brodrick's programme. But it only seems to be treated as a sort of feeder of the Line. The Volunteers pass altogether unnoticed; although by an expenditure of less than the extra money that is now being asked for the Regular Army, they might be converted into a force capable of holding its own against any foreign enemy that is ever likely to land on our shores. There seems to be an utter lack of intelligent appreciation at the War Office of the necessity of reorganising our forces to meet the altered conditions of our own Empire and of military warfare in Europe. The idea that we can, under present conditions, repeat the exploits of Marlborough or Wellington on the Continent is chimerical, and ought to be abandoned. We should have a foreign service army sufficient for the defence of India and the Colonies, and we should have such establishments of regular troops at Home as are necessary to feed it, and to meet a sudden call on an emergency in any distant part of the world. For the rest, our Home forces should be organised for the purpose of defending our shores in the event of any serious naval disaster, and for this purpose we should employ that modification of the Continental system which we already have in our Auxiliary Forces. Anything short of this merely tides over for the moment a difficulty which is certain to recur at the end of a few years. A system which, by the law of its being, necessarily breaks down as soon as the number of infantry battalions abroad is in excess of that at Home—that is to say, as soon as there is an exceptional call upon it—is a system useless for our purpose. To merely tinker it up every time it breaks down, and to lay with each tinkering operation an increased annual charge on the public exchequer, is an insane policy, which ought to be stopped.

FRANCE, ZOLA, AND DREYFUS.

Judging from the comments on the Zola trial in the English newspapers, I am inclined to think that I am one of the few inhabitants of this island who have taken the trouble to acquaint themselves with facts without any foregone conclusion. In 1894, it became evident that some person was communicating secrets connected with the French Army to a foreign Government. These secrets could only be known to a very few, and amongst them was a certain Dreyfus. Circumstances led to suspicion falling on him, and he was arrested. As is the law in France, a preliminary investigation took place. It was conducted by Colonel du Paty de Clam, and as he came to the conclusion that there was a *primâ facie* case against Dreyfus, the prisoner was brought before a court-martial. When the charge is that of having treasonable relations with a foreign Government, a French Court, whether civil or military, may conduct all proceedings in secret. The case was therefore tried in

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secret. Dreyfus had for his counsel a distinguished French lawyer. He was found guilty and sentenced to penal servitude for life. The proceedings were submitted to the officers of the General Staff, and they confirmed the finding and the sentence, as did the then Minister of War, General Mercier, who had it in his power to insist on a new trial if, in his opinion, the verdict was not in conformity with the evidence, or there had been irregularities of procedure.

Dreyfus is a Jew, and his family is a wealthy one. At once a campaign was inaugurated to obtain a revision of the sentence. In this campaign it is admitted that large funds were employed. The ground first taken was that there is so strong a feeling in France against Jews, that no Jew can have a fair trial, and that consequently Dreyfus must have been unfairly condemned. This was supplemented by statements in regard to the procedure before the court-martial, for which there was no evidence, and which, therefore, may or may not be true.

Later on it leaked out that one portion of the evidence against Dreyfus had been a "bordereau." This was a letter written to some person, detailing the secrets, and asking what more was required. This bordereau was alleged by the prosecution to be in Dreyfus' handwriting. By some occult means, a newspaper got hold of a photograph of it, and published what was alleged to be a fac-simile of the photograph, together with the opinion of experts that it was not written by Dreyfus. It was further asserted that the bordereau was the only evidence that had been shown to Dreyfus and his counsel, all other evidence being shown alone to the court-martial, and this, too, may or may not have been true.

Then another development took place. Colonel Picquart had become the head of the investigating department of the General Staff. It was reported that he questioned whether Dreyfus was guilty, and was inclined to believe that the bordereau had been written by a Major Esterhazy. This rumour proved correct, and at once the campaigners charged the Major with having been the guilty man in regard to the charges for which Dreyfus was condemned. In order to clear up the matter, Esterhazy was brought before a court-martial. It was shown that it was impossible that he could have known the secrets that were revealed in the bordereau. All that the campaigners could put forward was that, years ago, piqued at some fancied injustice, he had spoken in unbecoming terms of the French Army in some letters to an aunt, and that, in the opinion of some experts, his handwriting bore a resemblance to that of the bordereau. The court appointed three experts to compare the two handwritings, and they swore that, to the best of their belief, the bordereau was not written by him. Esterhazy was therefore acquitted, and rightly, for no evidence tending to show that he was the guilty man was submitted to the Court.

Then Zola came on the scene. He published a letter in which he asserted, not only that Dreyfus was innocent, and Esterhazy guilty, but that the officers on the two courts-martial, the Generals who confirmed the verdicts, General Mercier, the Minister of War in 1894, and General Billot, the present Minister of War, had all been engaged in a conspiracy to secure this monstrous miscarriage of justice. On this Zola was charged with defamation. The charge was limited to the Esterhazy trial, because the Dreyfus trial had been held in secret, and consequently, as the grounds for secrecy still continued, it was thought undesirable to re-try the case in public by means of a by-issue. Before, however, the trial took place, General Billot stated in the Chamber not only that he was convinced himself of Dreyfus's guilt, but that the man had confessed it.

At the commencement of the trial the Judge laid down that the Court could not go into any question relating to the Dreyfus trial. Zola had called all the Generals and other officers of the General Staff connected with that trial as witnesses. They declined to answer questions put to them in regard to the proceedings before the Dreyfus court-martial. On neither side was anything of what we should call evidence submitted. The Generals made speeches, Colonel Picquart made speeches, and various other witnesses called for the defence made speeches. The proceedings wound up with a speech from M. Zola, in which he swore by his novels that Dreyfus was not guilty; and by a clever rhetorical effort by his advocate, Maître Labori, suggesting and affirming much for which—as would be said in our courts—no foundation had been laid in examination or cross-examination. The main point of the advocate seems to have been that, as the Generals declined to say whether evidence had been laid before the Dreyfus court-martial that had not been shown to the accused man or his counsel, it was to be taken for granted that this had taken place, and that, consequently, there had been such a miscarriage of justice as proved a conspiracy to find him guilty. This contention, however, hardly holds water, for if the Generals declined to state what had taken place on the court-martial on the ground of their obligation to maintain secrecy, it is evident that they could only reply by refusing to answer the particular questions as to what had been submitted, or what had not, to the prisoner and his counsel. In regard either to Dreyfus or Esterhazy no new facts of any importance were elicited. Whether Zola's accusation was true or false, he certainly failed to prove it before the court. The jury, therefore, found him guilty of defamation and he was sentenced to a year's imprisonment.

The above are the plain facts of the Dreyfus-Esterhazy-Zola affair. Zola, we are told, has done a noble work. Where the nobility comes in, I do not perceive. He is a clever writer, but he has a diseased mind. His novels are so foul in their beastiality that I, who am not a blushing young girl, have more than once thrown away one or other of them in disgust. This beastiality was evidently introduced into them with a view to attract attention. Possibly he may believe in this conspiracy against an innocent man, but it is still more probable that he wished to attract attention to himself. He insists that it is monstrous to insinuate that he insulted the Army. Suppose that there had been a secret trial of an officer for treason in England; that the court-martial had found him guilty; that the sentence had been confirmed by Lord Wolseley and Sir Evelyn Wood; and that Lord Lansdowne in the House of Lords had stated, not only that he was convinced that the verdict

had been a proper one, but that the officer had confessed his guilt. If, in such a case, an English novelist had come forward, sworn by his novels that the officer was innocent, and charged all concerned in the trial and Lord Lansdowne with being guilty of conduct which would compare disadvantageously with that of Caiaphas and Pilate, I am inclined to think that English officers would have felt that our Army had been insulted, and that in this opinion most Englishmen would have concurred.

I cannot see why the French should be abused for their attitude in regard to this Dreyfus affair. I am not, of course, speaking of mobs who attack Jews, but of the almost unanimous belief that Dreyfus was guilty, and had been rightly found guilty. The friends of this man imported the race element into the issue. They commenced their campaign with the assertion that, because he was a Jew, the verdict against him could not be just. They "worked" the Press, a large portion of which, both in France and elsewhere, is in the hands of Jews. To assert on the evidence that Dreyfus was guilty is absurd, because we do not know what that evidence is; but it is equally absurd to assert on the evidence that he is innocent. Zola has put it clearly: either we must believe that all the officers concerned in the trial acted fairly and honourably, or that they one and all were united in a conspiracy deliberately to disgrace and send to penal servitude an innocent man; and I hold that the first of these two alternatives is the more tenable one. The jury, it is said, in the Zola trial, were afraid to find him not guilty. There is not one single Judge on the English Bench who would not, on the case presented, have summed up in favour of a verdict of guilty. I certainly have no prejudice against Dreyfus because he is a Jew, for I rather like Jews, and I think that the Christian Esterhazy is, on his own showing, a very shady person. I look simply and solely to facts. I believe that French officers are a thoroughly honourable set of men, and that Zola's accusation against a number of them is so improbable that I certainly should require the clearest evidence to believe it, whereas there is none. Of course, it is possible that the courts-martial, the General Staffs, and General Billot may have been mistaken. But here, again, we have no evidence on which to base an opinion, for all proceedings before the Dreyfus court-martial were private. Many of these gentlemen are men of distinguished position, and I see no reason to suppose that they were not perfectly able to come to a right conclusion in regard to Dreyfus's guilt or innocence. It is asserted by the Dreyfus campaigners that certain evidence was shown to the court-martial and not to the prisoner or his counsel. This has not been proved. Possibly it may be true, possibly it may not, for the officers concerned in the court-martial were not lawyers, and the proceedings of courts-martial are often of a rough-and-ready character, which would not be allowed in a civil court. General Billot and General Pellieux have both declared that the proceedings were strictly legal, and until it is proved that they were not, we must accept this statement.

It seems to me that the French Government would act wisely in submitting evidence and procedure to a committee composed of independent men like M. Cavaignac. The committee would then report (1) whether the evidence on which Dreyfus was condemned justified the verdict; (2) whether there were such irregularities of procedure during the man's trial as to justify the demand for a new trial. The declaration of such a committee that the man was guilty, and that the trial was fairly conducted, would set at rest the whole Dreyfus question; whilst, if unable to say this, he ought to be re-tried. Very few persons really doubt that Dreyfus was guilty; but a good many do doubt that his trial was strictly in accordance with legal procedure. By law, it would seem that the *chose jugée* cannot be reopened, unless new evidence is forthcoming of such weight as would justify the belief that an innocent man has been wrongly condemned, or that there have been such irregularities of procedure in the trial as would justify its finding being set aside and a new trial ordered. But the Government of a country has to look a little beyond the strict law in matters such as this. The whole trouble has arisen owing to the trial having been in secret, and the sooner the law is changed in this particular the better it will be for France. It may be that, when a man is publicly tried for having betrayed secrets to a foreign Government, publicity will create ill-feeling between the two countries. This is an evil, but, as the Dreyfus secret trial has proved, a secret trial is a still greater evil.

"THE WHITE KNIGHT."

An unfortunate and misleading title for Mr. Edward Terry's new play! Theatre goers may be induced to imagine that this delightfully droll actor has taken it into his head to play Lohengrin, Tannhäuser, or Parsifal, whereas he is only a semi-comic, semi-pathetic inventor, with a sensitive conscience and tears in his voice. It is one of the tricks of the trade nowadays for the comic actor to dabble in sentiment. The cobbler can very seldom be induced to stick to his last. One of the oldest and funniest actors on the stage, with a face that might have been modelled for the mask of comedy, has been dying all his life for an opportunity of playing Richard III. The cases of "low comedy merchants" who have been breaking their hearts for a chance of appearing as Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, are innumerable. Edward Terry is no doubt a first-class comedian, gifted by nature with humour and also a pathetic stop. He proved that as dear old Dick Phenyl in "Sweet Lavender." Who will ever forget his wailing utterance of "Clemmy, my boy?"

Mr. Stewart Ogilvie, one of the rising dramatists of the day, has not put Edward Terry into armour, as the posters insist, but has made him an earnest City man, with his busy brain full of inventions, but too honest a man to cope with the scoundrels of the financing world. He is amiable, tender, and lovable. Luckily he secures as his partner for life, after all his troubles are at an end, the sweet-voiced and excellent Kate Rorke, whose charming presence in any play is ever a source of universal delight. There is one fine scene which no doubt brought out the tragic ambition of Edward Terry, where the thinking and inventive man bursts into the board-room, and discovers

the swindlers. But the dark cloud has a silver lining, and all Edward Terry's anxieties and worries are driven away by the welcomo sound of marriage bells. Miss Esmé Beringer plays an adventuress, who is rather forced into the comedy with a second plot. She is a capable, earnest, and industrious actress, who has only to guard against excess of expression and over-emphasis, faults on the right side, but still faults that should be fought down. With a clever and well-selected company, the little play was soon lifted to success. Edward Terry is naturally a great favourite, and his friends like to see his upward advance from the wildest of burlesques and extravaganzas in the old Strand and Gaiety days to what I should call in these more responsible and earnest times a combination of Robsonian or Cravenesque humour and pathos. Good acting is never lost on the discriminating public, and Edward Terry is emphatically a good actor; so is Mr. Abingdon, who, alas! is always cast for the stage villain, when his heart hankers after Romeos and Orlandos.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

We have not yet come to the end of the Zola affair. All the Professors who publicly sympathised with him or Dreyfus are trembling for their places. The old Professor Grimaux, of the Polytechnic, who pleaded so ardently at the witness-bar for Zola, trembles lest his pension should be curtailed. He has been, in all but terms, dismissed. Poor old Grimaux is son and nephew of sea-dogs who worried and spoiled the English during the first Empire, and a Chauvin of the Chauvins. What I do not like in those "intellectuels" is their utter indifference to administrative iniquities that do not entail suffering on rich people. Not ono of them raised his voice against the police "raids" and other wicked things got up to show the late Czar what a strong Government France was blessed with. The Government was quite as arbitrary as his own, but in another way. Vaillant was egged on by the police to throw his harmless bomb in the Chamber of Deputies. He was supplied by secret agents of the Government with money to mako it. The "intellectuels" accepted, as a matter of course, the awful laws that the bomb was an excuse for passing. Those laws have never been applied, but were Prince Henri de Chartres King, and Esterhazy Minister of War, they might well be. In that case the "intellectuels" might long for liberty as in Russia. This does not palliate the injustice done to Dreyfus in not giving him a trial in conformity with legal rules. But *que voulez-vous?* His class, as opportunists, sowed the wind; there is now a reaping of the whirlwind.

To complete my snap-shots of the Zola trial. Were Zola a man of small vanity, he would not have sat beside Labori. I fancy that Victor Hugo in his place would have managed to be detached. He would, to have been in telling relief, have asked for a seat in the dock. The seat of infamy would thenceforth, in his eyes, have been exalted into a glorious pedestal. Such a notion could not present itself to Zola's mind, which has no sense, so far as he himself goes, of dramatic effect. In sitting by Labori ho was at a disadvantage. As I said before, Zola hides power—mental and other; Labori parades it, without meaning to do so. He has a splendid physique, and tho dignity and lusty life of an Assyrian bull with a Royal human head. The fair hair grows down thick on his forehead. This advocate has pliancy and mobility. He possesses the whole keyboard of the passions and emotions. But I do hope he will not practiso much in Assize Courts. Clap-trap and play-acting for jurios are so vulgarising; yet the temptation to indulge in them is scarcely to be resisted.

The only great Assize Court advocate I can remember who managed not to be vulgarised was Lachaud. His exceptional strength of body kept him fresh. Mixing socially with the most clever and brilliant people, he imbibed their tone. It gave charm to his vigour. His mother-in-law had the last salon where conversation was not banished by music, though she had the best musicians going. At the outset of his career Lachaud's eloquence and gift of tears exalted into a heroine a woman who poisoned her husband. As he advanced in life, he sometimes bellowed to a jury and drenched his pocket-handkerchief with tears. But he learned to coax and wheedle in a bland and softly pathetic manner. His effects were touch and go. When he rose to a storm of emotion in declaring the innocence of some guilty wretch, he was really fine, and not a bit vulgar. But it was ruinous to an innocent person to be defended by Lachaud. The jury took for granted that since he retained that advocate, he must be an arrant rascal. Lachaud's tears, somehow, did not flow for an innocent client. There was not uphill work enough to put him on his mettle. His tears flowed less freely. The pathos seemed to lack sincerity. It was said that the most he ever did for a guiltless client was to obtain "extenuating circumstances." But he constantly brought guilt through with flying colours.

Zola has worked thirty-six years in a quiet study. He was at a disadvantage in showing himself in public, and especially in reading. The reflexes of the brain do not operate in the same way when one writes, as when one speaks before a large audience. I almost think that much writing cripples oratorical power, and *vice versâ*. Dictated literature is poor mechanical stuff. Zola's nerves played him unpleasant tricks as he read his address to the jury. The forehead was lost in those horizontal wrinkles. But he was admirable when judgment was passed, and behaved as a mere disinterested spectator. It calmed him, and he is now quite reconciled to a year's confinement. His admirers are delighted at the ordeal. "Martyrdom for a cause must add to his glory as an author." Mme. Zola has worked horself up not to flinch. She finds consolation in thinking that but for the sentence he might have been lynched. It has been as the lightning-rod in the thunderstorm.

I have noglected Mme. Zola. Ladies should be drawn with crayons made out of the dust of butterflies' wings. But where find them? She is a sweet creature. The

"Le Nouveau Jeu" represents Paris life "up to date." The author is more useful than Baedecker. In "Viveurs," he shows us the best restaurant in Paris, Durand's, at the Madeleine.

natural refinement and charm come of the three thousand years of civilisation to which the descendants of the Gallo Romans are heirs. She looks an Arlésienne, but is a Parisienne. Her figure is tall and flexible; her face expressive, beaming with the pallor of a healthy brunette. A pair of lambent black eyes lights it up. The raven hair, crisp, curly, and so thick, is brushed up high from the forehead. She is in all respects most shapely: shapely features, a shapely waist, shapely hands; and is just as unaffected as Zola. Of all the authors I have ever met, he is the freest from conceit. He is also guileless, not to say innocent. The horrors in which he sometimes deals as a novelist are not painted from personal experience, but from mere glimpses, helped by divination. Those nerves of his enable him to divine. His naturalism often blooms in beauty, as in that Eden in "La Faute de l'Abbé Mouron," or gives out noisome effluvia. In both cases it has germinated and evolved in his inner consciousness.

Thus, Zola saw nothing whatever (save in the streets) of the high jinks of Imperial France. Yet, in reading "La Curée" one might fancy that he went to the De Morny and the De Chasseloup-Laubat fancy balls. The first time I saw Zola was at Menier's. But I had heard much of his promising talents, fine character, and truthfulness from a M. Duret, an accomplished historian, who has been all those years my very good friend, and the most intimate friend of Zola. Duret may be said to have "discovered" Zola as the Empire tottered to its fall. He founded then an opposition paper, *La Tribune*. Zola was asked to furnish the *feuilleton*, and wrote for it "Thérèse Raquin." This novel is a drama of the conscience, and the strongest thing Zola ever wrote. I subscribed to *La Tribune* for the sake of the *feuilleton*. It showed the influence of "Renée de Mauperin," a novel of the Goncourts. But the depth of "Thérèse Raquin" was not to be sounded. Nemesis is brought in with circumstances that almost paralyse one with horror, and yet in the most natural way. Marie Laurent longed to be young again, to come out in "Thérèse Raquin" as adapted to the stage, and teach the world what a penal scourge is a guilty conscience.

Zola's great source of material enjoyment is sumptuous furniture. His taste in this respect is Italian. French country houses are very simply furnished. The curtains, when there are curtains, are generally chintz. Zola's place near Triel is an exception. The study, salon, and dining-room there reminded me, so far as furniture went, of the state rooms at Isola Bella. The bed-rock of Zola's sensorium is Venetian. He has the instincts of the magnifico. This may seem discrepant with what I said about his presence being like St. Paul's. But his mother was a French peasant. She redeemed him from Italian trickiness, and gave him his toughness and love of hard work. He has, in spite of his nervousness, Italian suavity. The agitation is only surface: down deep he is *pococurante*. No task daunts him. He is as methodic as Anthony Trollope, and writes whether in town or country, so many pages, and no more, a day, and then cycles, boats, gardens, or chats with friends who come down to Triel to pass the afternoon. The house there was at first a one-story roadside cottage, with a room to right and left of the little hall. Addition after addition have made it quite a big place. The garden has been widened and lengthened down to the river, where there is a boathouse. Zola is owner of an island facing his garden. The fine furniture greatly ties him down. It represents, with the villa, the interest of so much money that he thinks he cannot afford to summer, unless at Triel.

The simplicity of La Salle de la Gomme at Ste. Pélagie will be a great change after Zola's domestic sumptuosities. Fortunately, that prison is on a hill, and the air and view extensive. "La Salle de la Gomme" means "the swell's room." Rochefort made there last week a charming halt in his feverishly busy life; and he wrote a preface—an exquisite gem of French literature—for the Caran d'Ache edition of Lafontaine's "Fables."

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

EMPERORS and Empresses, Kings, Queens, and Presidents, dear Lady Betty, are mere puppets; it is Gold that governs, and I have this week been permitted to enter the Holy of Holies in Threadneedle street, where the Gold King rests upon his trolley throne, undisturbed by his subjects, who are skurrying, squabbling, and swindling in his servce overhead.

Some of the curiosities of the Bank of England are well worth describing. In the printing-room a man sits at a little table, and every three seconds a machine hands him two complete five-pound notes. If he sits there six hours he receives over seventy thousand pounds, and in three hundred days over twenty millions in paper money! It is a strange duty for a man to have to perform—to sit at a table to receive from a machine twenty millions a year!

The vaults where the gold is stored are still more curious. In the antechamber to the Gold King's throne-room are a few men attired in almost mediæval costume, commanded by a very modern personage, who wears a frock-coat and a silk hat. The latter, with the assistance of another, who is also sprucely dressed, unlocks the iron gates of the vault. Around the well-whitewashed cellar are ranged trolleys, upon each of which rest bars of pure gold to the amount of eighty thousand pounds, the particular vault to which visitors are admitted containing two millions' worth of bullion. Through the thick walls can just be heard the confused murmur of the myriads above, who are hurrying, working, and worrying, eagerly endeavouring to obtain some trifle of the treasure which rests so placidly on the trolleys. Has there ever yet been a millionaire miser who has built for his gold such a throne-room? and did he sit there through the days thinking out all the good and all the evil which these millions might be made to do? But millionaires are seldom imaginative.

In another vault every note which is returned is stored for five years, and here is kept one, for twenty-five pounds, which stayed away for over a hundred years. It has been calculated that during that period the loss on the note in interest amounted to over six thousand pounds!

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

As a companion picture the following account of two inquests, which were held in London last week, may be quoted:—

"At Bethnal Green, on Wednesday, an inquest was held by Dr. Wynn Westcott on the body of a woman unknown, aged about sixty years. The woman was found sitting in a doorway unconscious and very cold. In her lap were two boxes of matches, and some crusts which she had evidently picked up in the street. Her clothes were thin and dirty, in fact, merely rags!"

"On the same day, Dr. Westcott also inquired into the death of William Grant, forty-three, dock labourer, Robert-street, Bethnal Green. On February 4 he became ill. His wife did not call in a doctor as she had no money, having only 4s. a week, after paying the rent, to provide food for her husband, herself, and her daughter. The medical evidence attributed death to exhaustion and want of food!"

* * * * *

There are only three living British writers whose works have any chance of becoming classics, to wit, Swinburne, Lecky, and Ruskin; and, it is unnecessary to add, that these authors are scarcely ever mentioned. A few weeks ago there was buried a writer—"Lewis Carroll"—whose creations will live long. Some of his writings will probably be as popular amongst British children for many generations as they have been for the past quarter of a century. A fund is being raised to endow a cot in the Hospital for Sick Children in memory of the author of "Alice in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass," and it is to be hoped that all who have ever derived enjoyment from reading these admirable books will contribute to it. There are numerous children's associations throughout the country, and it would be a graceful tribute of gratitude were all of these to contribute to the fund for the proposed memorial to an author who has an especial claim to be called the Children's Friend.

* * * * *

A topical picture is now being sold in the streets, which should attract the attention of earnest Tories. It is a portrait of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain. Out of one of his pockets there is a small strip of cardboard, and under the picture are the following words:—"Find Lord Salisbury." Upon pulling the cardboard strip a small sketch of the Premier comes out of the pocket of Mr. Chamberlain. The Liberal Unionists did an excellent stroke of business when they seceded.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

When the winter betting on the Derby first commenced, backers were warned in Truth not to overlook the fact that M. E. Blanc's smart colt, Manitou, who was one of the best two-year-olds in France last season, is engaged at Epsom. I was quite alone in mentioning the name of Manitou in connection with the Derby, and it is probably assumed that, as is usually the case with French three-year-olds of high calibre, his owner will prefer to "go for" the Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby), which is run at Chantilly on the Sunday before the Epsom race. Of course it is easily possible for a colt to run at Chantilly on Sunday and at Epsom on the Wednesday afterwards; but the result of attempting to "go for" both these races has never been satisfactory. It may, however, be regarded as certain that Manitou will run only at Epsom, inasmuch as his owner has another candidate for the Prix du Jockey Club in the unbeaten Cazabat, who was decidedly the best two-year-old in France last autumn. "Pavo" describes Cazabat as "a most formidable outsider" for the Derby, but the son of Rueil and Clementine is not entered for the Epsom race, and, indeed, he has no engagement whatever in England. If Cazabat was in the Derby, and certain to start, his two-year-old form should entitle him to the position of first favourite, seeing that his running at Longchamps in October proved him to be quite a stone superior to Manitou, the latter, however, being a colt capable of much improvement, and he is said to have done very well during the winter.

Batt was recommended by me for the Derby when he was a complete outsider, and the latest accounts of the Duke of Westminster's colt are so favourable that if it was necessary now to back a horse for the Two Thousand and Derby, I would certainly select him. Batt is one of the few three-year-olds that can be justifiably expected to stay both the R.M. and the Epsom course. He has two engagements at the Newmarket Second Spring Meeting, the Newmarket Stakes and the Payne Stakes, but if he should win the Two Thousand he will probably be reserved for the Derby. The Newmarket Stakes may very likely take a deal more winning than the Two Thousand, as the entry includes both Cyllene and Hermiston, and, although Mr. Low's colt beat nothing when he won the only race for which he was started as a two-year-old, yet it should not be forgotten that in the autumn he was one of the best youngsters in the Kingsclere stable, and decidedly superior to Hawfinch. It is all vastly fine for people to indulge in supercilious sneers about a colt whose only victory was at such a meeting as Warwick, but, after all, it was over this same course that Sterling ran his first race in September, 1870.

"Pavo" is in error in stating that Orzil "is in the Derby but not in the Guineas," for Mr. Brassey's colt is in both races, and also in the Newmarket Stakes. Ever since the doleful collapse of Orzil in the Middle Park Plate I have regarded this colt as a non-stayer, and it is desperate fatuity to back him for either of his great engagements until his stamina has been tested in a satisfactory manner. If Bay Ronald is in form he would be just the sort of animal for Orzil to be galloped with, but the colt has not been doing well lately.

I have reason to believe that Melange will be the best for Lincoln from Mr. Lambton's stable, and Lord Stanley's horse is very well indeed, and is doing an excellent preparation. The course will just suit Melange, who is a good beginner, and he has fine speed, but he also has a vile temper, and if there were many false starts he would probably refuse to try.

Knight of the Thistle has been warmly recommended for Lincoln, but this horse always seemed to me to be preposterously overweighted, and he has been scratched. I fancied he was held perfectly safe by at least half-a-dozen of the probable starters. Knight of the Thistle has no pretensions to give weight to the American horse Voter, and if St. Cloud II. is the better of the pair in Pincus's stable, my opinion is that whatever beats him will win. St. Cloud II. is very fresh and well, and he will be thoroughly fit to run at Lincoln, for he has done plenty of work. He was very unlucky indeed in not being returned winner of the Cambridgeshire.

Lord Rosebery has a very much improved filly in Mauchline, by Ayrshire out of Corstorphine, and she is quite likely to prove a dangerous candidate for the One Thousand and Oaks if she goes on all right. Mauchline made her début last year at York, where she won the Gimcrack Stakes, beating Lowood and Royal Footstep, but Sir Blundell Maple's filly had 12 lb. the worst of the weights. The Baker was among the beaten lot, but this colt's running at York had better be ignored altogether. Mauchline was heavily backed for the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster, but she ran very badly indeed, and it will be remembered that Ayah inflicted severe punishment on the plungers by defeating Florio Rubattino, winner of the New Stakes at Ascot, 20 to 1 being freely offered against Mr. de Rothschild's filly. Mauchline was then very wisely thrown up for the season, and she has been greatly benefited by her long rest, which has allowed her time to develop. She has two engagements in the First Spring week, in addition to the One Thousand, and she might possibly be started for the Hastings Plate on the first day of the meeting, a race which will not take much winning, as none of the Two Thousand horses which are entered are likely to run

Manchline will be Lord Rosebery's best three-year-old, for Ebba, the sister to Ladas, seems likely to turn out a failure; and Tom Cringle, by Donovan out of Seabreeze, of whom a very high opinion was once entertained, is a very moderate colt. As to the older horses in this team, Velasquez and Chelandry have both wintered very well indeed. Velasquez will not run before the Newmarket First July Meeting, when it is hoped that he will win the Princess of Wales's Stakes of ten thousand pounds for the second time. That he will beat all the other four-year-olds is certain enough, but the full strength of the three-year-old form will not be discovered until Ascot. If anything happened to Velasquez, Lord Rosebery would have an excellent second string for this race in Chelandry, whose 9 lb. penalty is reduced to 3 lb. by a breeding allowance, whereas Velasquez will have to carry 9 lb. extra. Chelandry, however, will be seen out in the City and Suburban, and, in my opinion, she is the pick of that handicap. There has always been a disposition to underrate Chelandry, in order that Velasquez might be unduly exalted, some writers being perfectly infatuated about Lord Rosebery's colt, whose *quand même* admirers have invariably evolved plausible excuses for his various defeats out of their fertile and ingenious imaginations. Chelandry carried off last year's One Thousand in a canter, and she ran a good second for the Oaks when amiss, while she made a better fight against Galtee More in the Leger than either Velasquez or any other three-year-old of the season had ever achieved. In the race for the Jockey Club Stakes Velasquez finished second to Love Wisely, but he would assuredly have been beaten by Chelandry if she had been ridden out, a fact which backers might find it profitable to remember as the next season goes on.

Vesuvian, who has been left in for several heavy stakes, is not at all likely to stand training again. Vesuvian's collapse last season was as grievous a disappointment to the Kingsclere stable as the failure of Regret had been in 1896, but the horse was so desperately groggy that it was really a piece of remarkably good fortune to win so rich a race as the St. James's Palace Stakes at Ascot with him. That a very high opinion was entertained of Vesuvian last summer was proved by the lavish manner in which he was backed for the Princess of Wales's Stakes at Newmarket, although he had only 3 lb. the best of the weights with Velasquez, who, however, was then regarded with considerable contempt in consequence of his ignominious exhibitions in the Two Thousand and Derby when running against Galtee More.

I am informed that Lord Rosebery's crack two-year-olds —Corposant, half-sister, by Sheen, to Ladas and Chelandry; and Apennine, own sister to Velasquez—will not be seen out during the early part of the season. Lord Rosebery will probably run his smart colt by Oriflamb out of Armorica at the Epsom Spring Meeting.

A writer in the *Sportsman*, who has been inspecting the horses at Beckhampton, states that he liked La Fortune "best of the two-year-olds," after Birkenhead, the colt by Orme out of Tragedy, dam of Wild Fowler. The fact is, however, that La Fortune is a three-year-old. Before Lord Zetland's horses were sold last autumn I recommended La Fortune to the notice of buyers, as she was well galloped in August, but she never ran in public within measurable distance of her trial, and she seemed to be a much improving filly. Darling paid 1,250 gs. for La Fortune (by Retreat out of Santa Felice) at Lord Zetland's sale, and no doubt she will get back the money with good interest if she goes on all right. La Fortune is entered for both the One Thousand and the Oaks, but the best policy would be to keep her for the rich Coronation Stakes at Ascot, when she would have a 7 lb. maiden allowance, and the best fillies of the season would have extra weight to carry. There are sixty-two entries for this race, which will be worth £3,900 even if only ten fillies start.

Lord Wolverton was down at Newmarket last week, and some of his horses were galloped, including Ugly, who is being prepared to run for one of the T.Y.C. handicaps at Liverpool; while Maisie, who is a smart filly, will probably be seen out at Lincoln.

The Duke of Devonshire's colt, Carhaix, who was purchased for 600 gs. at the sale of M. Lebaudy's stud last October, will probably be started for the Union Jack Stakes at Liverpool.

Mr. Rose was at Newmarket last week, and he saw Cyllene do a mile gallop with Valerio. Cyllene is certainly the best-looking three-year-old now at Newmarket, and it is much to be regretted that this splendid colt should not have been entered for any of the classic stakes. He will, no doubt, start for the Column Stakes in the Craven week, which race is as much a certainty for him as it was two years ago for St. Frusquin. I shall confidently expect Cyllene to win the Newmarket Stakes, and, whatever Velasquez may achieve in the summer, it will surprise me much if he defeats Mr. Rose's colt for the Jockey Club Stakes. Mr. Rose has a most promising colt in Loreto, by Bona Vista out of Lottie, who was very backward when he was running last autumn, and he has made a prodigious improvement during the winter. Loreto will be quite fit by the end of April, and it is exceedingly probable that he will carry off the Chippenham Stakes, which is run at Newmarket on the day after the Two Thousand, over the D.M. course.

Ninus is going on very well in his Two Thousand preparation, and I fancy Prince Soltykoff's colt will turn out to be the best of the Newmarket horses for that race. If Ninus should be the winner on April 27, the Derby betting will be kept lively, as he is not entered for the Epsom race, which will be more open than it has been for many years past, if both the Two Thousand and the Newmarket Stakes should fall to horses that are not engaged in the Derby.

One sporting writer advises his readers to back Chelandry for the Lincolnshire Handicap, "as she is very likely to win that race," while another scribe announces that she "is doing nice mile work" in preparation for this event. As a matter of fact, Chelandry has been doing only easy canters over five and six furlongs, and I have the best reason for believing that the City and Suburban will be her first race next season.

All prudent people will leave the Grand National alone until the numbers are up. An excellent judge of cross-country sport tells me that Gauntlet will win. This horse is a perfect jumper, and he will have a great advantage in the weights with Manifesto.

The professional lawn tennis match, played on the covered court of the Queen's Club, between Burke, of Paris, and Fleming, of the Queen's Club, came off on Saturday. The visitor won by three sets to two. The first set was decidedly poor, both men being nervous. Afterwards the play improved, but at no time could it be considered exhilarating. There were some excellent rallies, but, in marked contradistinction to the amateur game, there was an utter absence of volleying. The play was all from the back of the court, and this made the match rather monotonous to watch. It would be interesting if a game could be arranged between the winner and Kerr, the professional of the Fitzwilliam Club, Dublin.

The rival crews are progressing favourably, and daily bulletins will be issued until the day of the race. First of all let me say that the Cambridge men are certainly repaying Fletcher for the care he has taken with them. Tubbing has been indulged in every morning, and in the afternoon they have rowed at Ely. The result of practice on waters where there is not a right angle turn every few yards has been at once apparent. They are better together, more lively, and longer, and they have all gone up in weight, which shows that hard work agrees with them. No doubt the change to Bourne End will do them a lot of good. They will become accustomed to a livelier stream, and in the Bourne End reach they will have plenty of opportunities of getting used to rough water. It is a great pity that the pious founders of Cambridge colleges did not select Ely for their building sites. I suppose they considered that too much drainage would be necessary. Such a detail would not trouble the present urban authorities. They revel in drains.

Mr. Woodgate's remarks in the *St. James's Gazette* should

put the Cambridge crew on good terms with themselves, and at the same time show Fletcher what good work he has done. He says, "Fletcher has already made a crew, and a promising one, out of absolute chaos." *Vive* Fletcher! But in the interests of peace I will not *conspuer* anybody.

The chief item of rowing news from Oxford is the fact that the University crew tried another set of oars, lighter and better balanced, and at once showed improved form. They became smart and lively. One cannot help thinking how often some such attention is necessary, especially in the October term, when the freshman is first learning how to row. He is innocent of oars and riggers. And yet no care is taken to try to suit him in this respect. He is left to pick up his experience as best he can. How necessary it is to be careful about the details of a boat is shown by the fact that for two years the Cambridge trials were rowed in eights that had been experimentally altered by Mr. J. B. Close. He left for America, but the crews kept on rowing in boats fitted in a way utterly unsuited to them. When such ignorance or inexperience was displayed at headquarters one cannot expect that college boat clubs will be any better off. At both Universities better results would be obtained in training freshmen if more attention were paid to details.

The Oxford crew, with new oars and Carr at six getting into condition and rapidly improving, did some hard work last week, and MacLean now has them in hand. In the Torpids Balliol easily kept head. They had a remarkably heavy eight, five of the crew being over 12 st., and number five was getting on to 14 st. Some people say that brains weigh heavy. At Cambridge the Lent races showed that the rowing is improving, but, judging by the weights, enough care is not taken to look after the heavy men in the October term. Boat captains should bear in mind that every man over 12 st. is worth a lot of care, and the 13 st. fresher should realise that he has a grand chance of a blue. The rowing would, no doubt, improve if the crews in practice did long pieces of work instead of short snatches, against the stop-watch. This defect can be amended when the crews are practising for the Mays.

The third round of the Association Cup ties produced results which were in every way remarkable. Two matches resulted in drawn games, and in the other two the visiting team was victorious. It is indeed singular that in no case could the home team pull the game off. The most unexpected win was that of Notts Forest over West Bromwich. The latter won the toss, and, led by Bassett and Reid, the forwards did such excellent work that at half time they had scored two goals to nil. In the second half the visitors pulled themselves together, and, lasting better than their opponents, scored three goals. As was anticipated, Burnley were defeated by Everton, but the losers had rather bad luck in losing one of their men early in the game. Derby County played a disappointing game on their own ground against Liverpool. They won the toss, but muddled away all their chances by somewhat erratic kicking in front of goal. The team ought to be good enough to win outright if the men did not get so over-anxious. Very satisfactory to Southern footballers was the display of Southampton against Bolton Wanderers. The successes of the former team in the competition had been discounted by the fact that they had been playing on their own ground. On this occasion they were the visitors. A very fast game resulted in a draw. Both sets of forwards showed good attack, but the goal-keepers on either side were in brilliant form, and neither made a mistake. The upshot of the competition at present is that the six leading clubs of the League have been ousted, and the seventh and eighth teams have on Saturday's play qualified for the final. In the competition for the Amateur Cup the play was very poor. The Casuals put a fair team into the field against Middlesbrough, but lack of combination and previous practice told its inevitable tale, and the Northerners won easily. The Old Malvernians put a strong team into the field, and beat Chesham. If the Old Boys keep playing together, and also put in some regular training, they ought to stand a fine chance of winning. Against Sunderland the Corinthians did not have a very stiff game. The professional forwards were off colour, although the backs worked hard.. At the same time the amateur forwards gave a very pretty display.

By the way, the League amateur has not a very pleasant time. Assume that he leaves the local club for which he has been playing, and goes into another district and wishes to play for some other League club in the neighbourhood, he will find he cannot play. In order that he may do so, the club for which he has been playing must execute a transfer. But a professional club will not do so for nothing, and so the unfortunate amateur may find himself without an opportunity of getting a first-class game, because the club for which he has been playing for nothing puts a prohibitive price on his transfer. It is scandalous that the transfer of amateurs should be made a matter of bargain and sale. If the Football Association or the League is managed by such admirable sportsmen as my Derby correspondent recently hinted, one of those bodies will no doubt take steps to prevent the practice to which reference has been made.

It was an excellent move on the part of the Executive of the Rugby Union to play the second trial game at Exeter. The West has felt rather slighted by the choices the Selection Committee made for the team for the first International match. The enormous growth of the popularity of the game of recent years in the West of England fully justified the selection of a town in that part of the country for the second trial game. The ground was in excellent condition, the gate a record one, and the play all that the Southerners could desire. Nor has the West any reason to complain of want of representation in the team against Scotland. It has three forwards and one three-quarter. The match itself needs but little description. The North were beaten at every point. The Southern forwards carried the scrums and left the ball for the halves, of whom Unwin got the ball cleaner away than Rotherham. The three-quarters combined well, and both the wings passed when near touch. Byrne, at back, had so little to do that he got rather careless in the second half, but Pilkington and Forrest, the three-quarters, were always round in time to prevent a score. Forrest only got his place at the last moment, and fully justified the selection. The Northern pack tried to play a tight game and failed miserably. Myers, who got his cap against Ireland at half, showed himself utterly useless for a defensive game. The three-quarters had but few chances, and these they spoilt by knocking on. All footballers will rejoice to hear that England and Wales will meet in London on April 2. Mr. Rowland Hill made the arrangements by wire on Saturday last. The football horizon now looks clearer than that of the world of politics.

The Cardiff and Newport match excited a lot of enthusiasm, as usual. The game was very fast, and characterised by high scoring, Cardiff winning by one goal and five tries to one goal and two tries. This seems to indicate that Welsh defence is anything but strong, and it looks as though England will be successful this year. The Oxford men had a ridiculously easy win over the London Scottish. Cambridge found the Old Merchant Taylors just too strong for them. Although the Old Boys have had bad luck this year, they played a very close match with Oxford last term, and they are to be heartily congratulated on beating Cambridge. They showed a defence worthy of their best days, and in the last few minutes kicked a goal from a mark, the only score. Richmond found the Harlequins at full strength and got badly beaten. Kensington made a much better display against Blackheath than had been expected. The R.M.C. Sandhurst were scarcely wise to play the Old Leysians and Lennox on the same day. The Old Boys won by thirty-one points, two goals, and seven tries, and Lennox, who were meeting the stronger team, ran up nine goals and five tries. A record beating for the College, and one which their temerity richly deserved.

I have been favoured with a lot of literature relating to the secession of the Southern Counties Swimming Association from the parent body. A careful perusal of these papers does not make one much the wiser. Substantial grievances

are overshadowed by personal recriminations. Fortunately there seems to be every probability of the breach being healed if certain individuals condescend to be reasonable. The amount of legislation in which swimmers indulge is simply appalling.

Bournemouth now recognises the wisdom of catering for the entertainment of visitors fond of cricket and tennis. Last year a successful cricket week was added to the attractions of this delightful watering place. During the present year the cricket week will be repeated, and arrangements are also being made for a first-class lawn tennis tournament, winding up with a ball, in the latter part of August. The committee hope to rival the glories of Eastbourne, and to draw the crack players on their way round the coast.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—I hope that the advice which I urged last week, to keep cool, and not to take all the wild rumours as regards foreign politics as gospel, has been taken to heart, for it was only by so doing that it was possible for any one engaged to any extent in the Stock Markets to escape heavy loss. It is unfortunate that so many untoward events should have happened in close succession, thus generally shaking confidence and causing the public to keep aloof. The combination of the West African scare and of the *Maine* disaster brought about a full-fledged panic last week, which happened precisely to break out on the first days of the settlement, thus coming on the markets with its full force.

After the Panic.

The West African crisis has now passed its serious stage, and, looking back, one cannot help expressing surprise that the Colonial Secretary should have initiated it by the mysterious manner in which he replied to certain questions concerning events in the Lagos Hinterland. But during the few days that this scare lasted, the flames were fanned by a most injudicious attitude on the part of the English Press, whose hysterical shouting was for once in contrast with the dignified calm of the French papers. The French Government has since disavowed the whole matter, and there is little doubt but that a complete settlement will be arrived at through the negotiations in Paris. All the same, this storm in a teacup did its share in alarming the Stock Markets, and the subsequent semi-panic which originated in Wall-street, owing to mischievous and false rumours, was aggravated by it. It boots not to discuss the various reports which are current as regards the probable finding of the U.S. Court of Inquiry now sitting, but, notwithstanding all the lies which have been told, there is so far absolutely no proof that the catastrophe was anything else but the result of an accident. A certain portion of the American Press has undoubtedly behaved shamefully in propagating lying rumours, and doing its utmost by misrepresentation to bring about a war between the United States and Spain. Fortunately, President McKinley has kept his head cool, and there is now a fair prospect of the matter blowing over, always provided that the report of the Court does not disclose any treacherous act. The American market has, of course been well buffeted, and at one time declines of from four to five dollars were frequent, but a steady recovery is now in progress. The continued war of rates between the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk roads has caused weakness in these stocks, but the very acute phase which this fight has entered should insure an early arrangement. The Foreign department has weathered the West African *intermezzo* remarkably well, and the strength of Spanish on the Paris Bourse amidst the rush of warlike rumours has been quite a feature, although this has not been quite maintained at the last. Equally remarkable has been the firmness of Uruguay bonds, which alone in the South American department mark a further advance, and thus fully bear out the recommendation which I gave when the price was considerably lower. Argentines are under a cloud just now, and some of the railway stocks have shown great weakness, thus also confirming the view which I have expressed for some time. Home Rails experienced a severe shake out as a consequence of the West African episode, but an important rally followed, and with such advantages to general trade as the opening up of the Celestial Empire, and the rush of orders in the shipbuilding trade, the position is at present one of considerable promise. The Kaffir Circus is but slowly rallying from the recent slump, which was undoubtedly aggravated by the fact that many of the South African jobbers had taken a large interest in American Rails. That the heavy losses which have been experienced in both these departments have not led to more serious trouble than has actually occurred is distinctly encouraging. Of course, several men had to be helped in both sections, but so far only one small failure has occurred, and that was quite an unimportant one. The *esprit de corps* which has again been shown by members of the House in giving mutual assistance is certainly very much to be commended. In one case, too, it is said that a brother came to the rescue to the extent of £5,000. By the way, I am afraid that some of the members stand in need of lessons in book-keeping. I am told that a jobber was informed by the clerk who had charge of his books that he was wrong to the extent of £5,000, and he thereupon asked some of his friends to help him. One of these, with a good head for figures, had a look at the books, and discovered almost at a glance that the difference was only £2,000, the clerk having made a mistake. Of course, there was no difficulty in arranging the £2,000, but the jobber is very unhappy, for if the clerk had not made a mistake he (the jobber) would not have needed to disclose his weakness at all, as he would have been able to raise the smaller sum. The Westralian department was at no time affected to any extent by the prevailing scare in the other markets, and a number of shares show a further improvement. The Industrial section was at one time severely affected by the ominous rumours, and a sharp, speculative shake out took place; but it is now rallying again, the feature being a sensational and very dangerous rise in Russian Petroleum shares.

Home Rails—A General Recovery.

What the various Cuban scares and the Far Eastern question did not accomplish, the West African incident brought about, viz., a sharp set-back in Home Railway stocks. A war with France would, of course, have been a very awkward occurrence, not only for Home Rails, but for almost every other security in the Stock Exchange list. It is now evident that there never was the slightest cause to fear even serious complications with our French neighbours, just as there never was any reason for the gloomy forebodings which were expressed at the time when the Chinese question attained such prominence. A war with Russia was then being predicted by people who ought to have known better. Events that have transpired during the last few days show that the Far Eastern question has been easily solved by diplomatic means, and that the Northern Colossus never took up the uncompromising attitude ascribed to it. The concessions made by China will apparently permit the opening-up of the country to trade to a very considerable extent, and while it is a far cry, perhaps, to see in this satisfactory settlement favourable points for the Home Railway market, it is nevertheless evident that eventually our industrial centres will greatly benefit by the new outlet for British manufactures, and the railways will naturally share in this new source of prosperity. Another promising feature is the enormous rush of orders in the shipbuilding and engineering trades. Since the return of the engineers to work the new orders that have been booked on the Clyde during February are stated to be for 50,000 tons, which is double the number booked in January. Trade generally in the North is looking up, and I quite anticipate large traffics for the Scotch lines in the near future. Under these circumstances, I certainly look for an improvement in Caledonian Deferred (Coras) and in North British Deferred. It is true that the Caledonian dividend is

imminent, and will probably be declared before this reaches my readers, but recent disappointments in connection with the dividends of the Heavy lines have caused a material reduction in the market estimates of the Scotch distributions, and thus I do not look for any disappointment in this connection, except on the part of the very sanguine operators. Traffic returns during the past week were fairly satisfactory, amounting to £32,000 in the aggregate, which brings the total increase for the seven weeks up to £337,000, but it must be remembered that the resumption of work in the engineering trade has not yet had time to produce anything like a proportion of traffic. At the settlement rates for Home Rails proved generally easy, and a scarcity was more particularly shown in the case of Great Eastern and Dover "A." Had the settlement taken place under more favourable surroundings, a material advance would, no doubt, have resulted. As it is, the payment of several of the Heavy dividends has caused reinvestment on the part of the public to a moderate extent. Dover "A," after touching 110½, have recovered to 111⅝, and in view of the excellent traffics may easily experience a further rise. By the way, it should not be forgotten that the new electric scheme for a line from Charing Cross to Hampstead, which was approved of at the Wharncliffe meeting of the London and North-Western, should prove very important to the South-Eastern, as it would connect Charing Cross with Euston Station. When Brighton "A" were put down to 175 during the scare, large purchases were made by influential firms, and the leading financial house was in the market with a buying order for £50,000 stock. I still consider that Dover "A" are cheaper than Great Eastern, now quoted 122. The stocks of all the Heavy lines are now quoted ex dividend, and look cheap, notably North-Western at 200¼ xd. Great Northern Deferred at 54 xd. should also be a fair purchase, and the demand for Great Central 1894 Ordinary at 41 continues. This stock is being picked up by investors to lock up, and will doubtless yield an excellent result. The speculation in Chatham Ordinary has been checked by the scare, but will doubtless be resumed. Metropolitan Districts are firm at 29, and they should improve, in view of the important extensions that are in progress. Even now the weekly returns show substantial gains, the increase for the seven weeks being £2,400, while that of the Metropolitan is not much more, viz., £2,476. The prospectus has been privately circulated of the Brompton and Piccadilly Railway, and this has been used by some misinformed operators to depress the quotation of Districts. This is obviously a mistake. The proposed line will connect at South Kensington with the District, and thus act as a feeder. It was the City and West End scheme, which did not pass through Parliament, that would have been a rival to the District. The strength of Central London Railway stocks has been a feature, the fully paid Ordinary being quoted 10¾, the partly-paid Ordinary 6¾, the Preferred 1¾, the Deferred 4⅞.

The Yankee Market—A Panic and a Recovery.

Was there ever such a perverse nation as the American? For years they have suffered from a financial crisis, brought about chiefly by the silver craze, which drove away the British investor. When prosperity again began to dawn they nearly picked a quarrel with England over the Venezuelan question, and the sensational message of President Cleveland knocked Wall-street head over heels. Since that time we have had periodical scares, and thus our American cousins are doing their very best to mar the very thing they so ardently desire, viz., the re-introduction of foreign capital into their country. There was reason for hoping that, with the introduction of autonomy in Cuba, an end would be put to the Cuban scares, for a time at least, but we have since had the De Lôme incident, and closely following upon it the *Maine* disaster and the string of false rumours which have been set afloat in the United States with regard to the cause of this catastrophe. The part which the sensational Press of the States has taken in the propagation of lies in connection with this unfortunate occurrence is monstrous, and the manner in which many of these journals have sought to inflame the public by dint of a whole tissue of lies is almost without a parallel. The proprietors of some of these papers are said to have made large "Bear" sales in Wall-street, and, as a matter of fact, there is not the slightest doubt that Washington statesmen and Senators are continually dabbling in Wall-street. If one could examine the books of the brokers of the Jingo Senators, one would probably discover that they effected large "Bear" sales on the eve of every fresh move in the Senate against Spain; and that perhaps even on the eve of the delivery of a fiery speech by any particular Senator, the latter went "short" of the market. It is some consolation that occasionally the Senators go egregiously wrong with their speculations, as the rest of the world do not always attach the same value to their utterances as they do themselves. The New York *Journal of Finance* makes an observation on this point which shows that the Senate is estimated at its true value by a number of Americans, when it says that "the Senate of to-day is as revolutionary as that which Julius Cæsar had a run in with. The difference consists simply in stabbing the prosperity of the country rather than the knifing of a man." Another paragraph from the *New York Times*, dated February 7, is also characteristic:—

> One of the most interesting phases of Stock Exchange activity just now is reflected in transactions made for the account of politicians of local consequence and their brethren at Albany and Washington. In a number of conspicuous stocks the political traders are pegging away with quite an old-fashioned vigour. The Washington crowd are on the "Bull" side now, after having been taught some expensive lessons a little while ago. They all started in at the beginning of the year to gamble on the depressing effects of what the Senate was going to do. It is estimated that they sold a number of the prominent stocks on a large scale. They went short not only of the industrials, but of the standard railroad stocks as well. They counted on Senatorial action to demoralise business confidence generally. At the beginning of last week the most of them flopped over to the "Bull" side, covered their shorts, took their losses; and now they are as vehemently "Bullish" as all through January they were dolefully "Bearish."

This paragraph describes the situation before the latest Cuban scare, but it may be taken for granted that the Washington crowd changed its position to the "Bear" side in ample time. We have during the past week had a large number of rumours which emanated from Wall-street, but were faithfully reflected in the London Press, and when any one walked down Throgmorton-street the words "Grave Situation—War Imminent—Spanish Treachery Proved," &c., greeted him from dozens of posters. As rumour after rumour has been falsified, however, people are taking less interest in these reports, and, according to all accounts, the feeling has also sobered down in New York. The panic was at its height on Thursday, the 24th inst., when, on wild sales from Wall-street, quotations here were knocked down all round. In order to show to what extent prices gave way, I have compiled a table giving quotations of a fortnight ago, viz., on February 11, as compared with the lowest prices touched on that Thursday:—

—	February 11, 1898.	February 24, 1898, Lowest Pnts.	Present Price.
Atchison	13½	12	12¼
Do. 5 per cent. Pref.	32¾	28	28¾
Canadian Pacifics	90⅛	83½	84⅝
Central Pacific	14⅝	13	12⅞
Denver	14	12½	12½
Do. Pref.	53⅞	48½	48⅞
Erie	16	14¼	14½
Do. 1st Pref.	44⅛	39½	39¾
Lake Shore	199	196	197
Louisville	61¾	55½	56¼
Milwaukee	98½	94¾	96½
Missouri, Kansas, and Texas	14	12⅛	12⅛
Norfolk Adjust. Pref.	55⅛ x.d.	49	49
North Pacific Pref. New	68⅝ x.d.	62¼	63¾
New York Central	121½	115	117
Ontario	17½	15¾	16
Reading	11¼	10	9¾
Southern Ordy.	10⅛	8⅞	8⅞
Do. Pref.	33⅞	29½	29
Union Pacific	34⅝	28½	31¼
Wabash Pref.	19¼	17	17

It will be seen that the falls from the level of a fortnight ago to Thursday averaged from $2 to $6, while since a

recovery of from $1 to $3 has occurred. European capitalists have doubtless to some extent stemmed the fall, as was indicated by the fact that London has for some days opened and kept prices above parity. President McKinley is fortunately keeping his head cool, and he even appears to have sent his *alter ego* and election agent, Senator Hanna, to New York to calm the fears of business people there. I am not going to guess what the finding of the U.S. Court of Inquiry will be, but so far everything points to an accident having been the cause of the destruction of the *Maine*. As regards the suggestion that a submarine mine might by accident have destroyed the ship, the Spanish Government asserts positively that there were no mines in Havana Harbour. Few Cuban Jingoes in the States even now suggest that the Spanish Government had anything to do with the disaster, and there would remain only the possibility of a dastardly deed by private persons. Even if that were to be proved, it should not cause war between the two countries. On the whole, therefore, I am inclined to think that after further see-saw markets, we may look for an improvement again. A sharp advance would doubtless come about should the Court of Inquiry frankly declare that the catastrophe was due to accident, or even that there was no sign of an attempt on the vessel from outside. But until this desirable end is reached, we shall doubtless be treated to another series of sensational rumours. The improvement, when it comes, should affect the whole list, from Milwaukee to Louisville and Union Pacifics, and from Norfolk Prefs. to Northern Pacific Prefs. and Erie Prefs. There are indications that the Standard Oil people have been picking up Milwaukee of late, and the Union Pacific position is one of exceptional promise, now that the Kansas Pacific matter is out of the way. There is no doubt that the new Four per Cent. Preferred stock of the Company will receive the full dividend from the outset, and as the stock has declined to 56½, there is ample margin for a big rise. An American banking firm argues that, allowing for the new Preference stock to be obtained in lieu of the assessment, Union Pacific stock should sell points higher than Northern Pacific Common, while the Four per Cent. Preferred should rank with Northern Pacific New Prefs. This argument is based on an estimate that the Union Pacific will earn $1,000,000 over its Preferred dividend, while the surplus of the Northern Pacific would only be $500,000 more. The The connection with the Vanderbilt roads must further be considered. I also notice in the New York *Journal of Finance* that the successful sale of the collateral under the Union Pacific notes proved a great surprise. The balance of the securities revert to the Union Pacific treasury from the Colorado Central 7s. down the published list. The sale is a "bull" point on Union Pacific stock, as it puts a substantial sum of money, not less than $1,500,000, and possibly considerably more, into the treasury. Canadian-Pacifics at one time dropped heavily in sympathy with American Rails, touching 83½, and even at the present price of 84⅝ a fall of 8 points from the top is shown. Similarly, Grand Trunks have experienced a sharp decline, the First Prefs. being over 6 points below the best at 63½, while the Guaranteed are quoted 72¾. The fall in Canadian-Pacifics and Grand Trunks is, of course, chiefly due to the war of rates, which has assumed large proportions, the Pacific Roads of the United States having, in alliance with the Grand Trunk, fully met the cut of the Canadian-Pacific. The fight is, however, too hot to last, and I should think that some settlement will shortly be arrived at. But the occurrence fully bears out my warning, given at the time when the highest quotations were touched, to clear profits and leave these stocks alone for the time being.

South Americans.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders' Report.

It says much for the acumen of French Boursiers that they did not allow themselves to be frightened by the West African episode. When prices were breaking here in high-class investment securities the Paris Bourse maintained a very calm demeanour, although it had its own trouble in the shape of the Zola trial. Even Spanish were not allowed at one time to drop more than a fraction below 60, and Paris seemed inclined to put up values all round. A reaction to 59 has, however, since occurred in Spanish. Turks have been fairly steady, and Rio Tinto Deferred, always the bell-wether in Paris, after a sharp relapse, are hardening again. In the South American section the only really strong stock throughout was Uruguay. The news from Monte Video has been scanty, which, under the circumstances was favourable, as ill-news travels fast. Argentine Government and Railway stocks have suffered from the rise in the Buenos Ayres gold premium, which is considerable, the quotation being now 171¼, as against 156 a few weeks ago. The fall in Argentine Government issues for the week amounts to about a point, but some of the Railway stocks have again lost a temporary recovery. Central Argentine have been dull at 82½, and Buenos Ayres Great Southern stand at 154, Buenos Ayres and Rosario at 75. On the other hand, Cordoba Central (Central Northern section) Income Debenture bonds have dropped as low as 52½ on another very unsatisfactory traffic return. Some of the traffics, however, show indications of a larger movement of the crops, notably the Buenos Ayres Great Southern and Central Argentine. The twenty-fifth annual report of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders has just been issued, and, as usual, contains some matters of South American interest. It records the earlier resumption of the full service on the Argentine Government debt, and reiterates the statement that the Rothschild Committee expect to pay in March the certificates issued in respect of the 1 per cent. unpaid on the 1886 loan during the four preceding years, and to apply the balance to the payment *pro rata* in July, 1898, of the certificates issued in respect of the 1 per cent. on the Funding loan. Reference is made to the arrangement of the external debt of the province of Buenos Ayres, after a default of seven years. The terms have already been published, and are, unfortunately, very disappointing. Similarly, a settlement of the Buenos Ayres Loan of 1888 is announced. As regards Ecuador, it seems extremely doubtful whether the arrangement made by the Guayaquil and Quito Railway Company, who hold a concession from the Government of Ecuador for the construction of the Transandine Railway, to hand over $175 in Six per Cent. First Mortgage Gold bonds of the railway, guaranteed by the Government of Ecuador, and £2. 10s. for each £100 of the external debt with coupons in arrear from May 1, 1896, will be carried out; or, if carried out, whether the interest will be paid, while the Government guarantee is, of course, worthless. The only comfort for the bondholders is that in that case they will at least be able to stick to the cash bonus of £2 10s. The Costa Rica arrangement, of which particulars are given, is undoubtedly an unsatisfactory one, but as the majority of the bondholders accepted it, no more is to be said. It may be hoped that the fact that Mr. Gonzalo Ramoz Ruiz, the new Consul-General of Colombia, has signed the new converted bonds, will once and for all take Colombia out of the list of defaulting States; but I am not sanguine that this state of affairs will last. Guatemala has recently passed through a severe political and financial crisis, and it remains to be seen whether it will carry out its good intentions. As to Paraguay this hardened defaulter has not yet forwarded the surplus resulting from the Yerba Maté duties, which is to be applied to amortisation in accordance with the arrangement of August, 1895. All that the Council has been able to obtain are promises. No progress has been made with regard to the Buenos Ayres Cedulas, and the offer made by Honduras through an American Company does not appear to present much hope of a satisfactory settlement. Venezuela has suspended remittances, and the promise of a resumption of payments has not so far been kept. Thus there is still a considerable number of Spanish American Republics in default, although there is with most of these at least a show of coming to terms with the bondholders.

Mortlock's (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "Mortlock's" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

The Kaffir Circus—A Rally.

All the talk about serious trouble in the South African Market came to naught, and, although it is well-known that a few jobbers who were committed somewhat largely in Chartered and a few other speculative shares had to be assisted, no serious difficulty has come to light. It is no secret that a number of jobbers in the Kaffir Circus have of late taken a hand in the American department, and thus the spasm in Yankees also reacted unfavourably on the South African Market. It may be assumed, however, that the profits which they had made in American Rails in their early connection with the same helped them to pay some of their more recent losses. There is still some rumour as regards possible political trouble with the Transvaal, there being various reports that the question of the suzerainty is to be raised by the Volksraad. Other reports are to the effect that on the urgent representations of the Orange Free State President Kruger has decided to drop this matter for the present. It is not at all improbable that Oom Paul would have raised the question if the rumours of war between England and France had come true, but it looks now as if this country were drawing out of its foreign complications, in which case the Boer Government will probably consider discretion the better part of valour. Should no fresh political trouble ensue, it may be assumed that the South African mining market will further improve. After all, the progress of the mines themselves should chiefly guide the course of prices, and the protracted depression through which we have been passing has yet one redeeming point about it, viz., that it stimulates the efforts of mining boards and managers to increase the production and reduce the working costs where possible. This is precisely what is not generally practised in times of boom, when, on the contrary, extravagance is encouraged, and the efforts to increase production are generally relaxed. I see that Mr. Albu delivered a speech at Johannesburg a few days ago, in which, while expressing his disappointment at the fate of the report of the Industrial Commission, of which body he was a member, he declared himself still optimistic, and "thought that President Kruger would do anything in his power to deserve the goodwill of the people in Johannesburg, and to meet the requirements of the mining industry." If Oom Paul were to give any tangible proof of the sentiment thus attributed to him, the Kaffir Circus would very quickly respond with a rise in quotations. Chartered shares were at one time affected by the publication of the full particulars of the future relations of the Chartered Company with the Government. The market finally came to the conclusion that there was nothing in the new regulations to prevent the commercial development of the country, and the increase of its prosperity. Everything must, however, depend upon the gold-bearing nature of the territory, and crushings at some of the mines, which had been promised for March are now put off until April or May. Until some considerable amount of gold is actually produced, the public will, doubtless, hold aloof from Chartered and Rhodesian shares, and in this they will certainly adopt a prudent course. The lowest price touched by Rand Mines during the height of the scare was 30, from which there has been a recovery to 32, reacting to 31. After touching lower prices, Consolidated Gold Fields are quoted $4\frac{5}{8}$, East Rands $4\frac{5}{8}$. The various shares of the Robinson group, under the lead of Randfontein, have also hardened, while the Barnato group is still dull. From Johannesburg I learn that recent results of the Simmer East are quite satisfactory, for the south reef has been cut in the "Clement" or western shaft at a depth of 2,150 ft., and the main reef was expected to be cut in this shaft during February. Development has been commenced in the "Hammond" or centre shaft, where the south reef was cut last December at 1,780 ft. The north reef, assaying well, has been intersected at 1,900 ft., and driving has been started at the 1,800 ft. and 1,900 ft. levels. It must not be forgotten that the Simmer East owns the dip of the Rose Deep and Glen Deep, the former of which is now crushing and earning substantial profits, and the latter will start milling in April with most favourable prospects. There is no reason to suppose that the Simmer is at all inferior to these mines. My correspondent also states that the Simmer and Jack is now running 220 stamps, and that twenty more were to start in February. A considerable increase both in the output and monthly profit may be confidently expected, and the reef in the lower levels is opening up extremely well. In the Knight's Deep much trouble has been experienced with water, but this is now overcome, as powerful electric pumps have been installed, and sinking will be much more rapid. It is expected to cut the reef in the Robertson shaft on this property some time during March. De Beers have been dull in sympathy with gold shares, being quoted $29\frac{1}{8}$. The absurd rumour that Messrs. Rothschild proposed to buy the holding of Messrs. Barnato Brothers in De Beers has since been denied. New Jagersfontein are quoted at 8.

Golden West Australia.

The West Australian department has distinguished itself as against the Kaffir Circus by the greater strength with which it passed through the slump. Fortunately, operators and investors in Westralians have no political troubles to contend with, and the developments recently reported from the goldfields have been in every respect satisfactory. The shares in the high-class mines are still chiefly in demand, and Hannan's Brownhill have again been very strong at about 8. This is undoubtedly one of the future great mines, and in a month or two such an output is expected that far higher prices will be justified. A cablegram states that the Company expects to cut the reef at 470 ft. this week, and that the construction of the new mill is progressing rapidly. From the Sons of Gwalia, too, the news is good, a *British Australasian* cablegram stating that the mine is developing splendidly, and that the No. 1 Winze at the No. 1 Level is down 39 ft., all in lode formation, yielding 3 oz. by pan assay, and 5 oz. by fire assay. These shares are currently dealt in at $2\frac{1}{16}$. It is curious that London and West Australian Exploration shares are not firmer in view of the excellent results which are being obtained by its sub-Companies. The firmest group has again been that of the West Australian Market Trust. Northern Territories have improved to $4\frac{1}{4}$, and West Australian Loan and General have been uniformly firm during the week, improving to $2\frac{1}{4}$. The news from the Associated Gold Mines has been very satisfactory, and these shares have also been firm at $4\frac{1}{16}$. Brownhill Central, which have of late worked in connection with the same group, are also on the up grade, and have improved to $2\frac{3}{8}$. My readers will remember that I strongly recommended these shares when quoted $\frac{7}{8}$-1. Similarly, I have been in favour of Hannan's Props. ever since they were quoted in the neighbourhood of 15s., and they have now risen to $1\frac{1}{16}$, while rumours are current that the West Australian Market Trust group are also interested in these. It is further stated that Mr. H. C. Callahan has consented to join the Board of the Ironside North Company, recently formed to acquire the lease of that name from the Hannan's Proprietary Development Company. The list of crushings this week is a short one, being as follows:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per ton.
Burbank's Birthday Gift	373	505	—
Kalgoorlie Bank of England ...	78	385	—
Mount Yagahong.....	1,200	715	—
Great Boulder Main Reef.....	—	863	—
Lady Loch.....	100	52	6 dwt.
Weld-Hercules.....	163	86	4 dwt.

The news from the Great Boulder has been conflicting. While at first a rich telluride discovery was announced, later advices state that this was only a patch, and it is mentioned that the sulphide lode in which the find was made is 2 ft. wide, and worth 1 oz. per ton. The specimens broken out are described as exceedingly rich. From the North West Australian Goldfields the following is reported:—"Battery ready to start crushing on arrival of shifts, ripple tables; ample supply of water for twelve

hours' notwithstanding the prolonged drought; everything progressing satisfactorily." A cablegram from the manager of the Smelting Company of Australia advises that the refinery has started, and that the 60-ton copper furnace is now in full work. The London and Globe Finance group at one time showed considerable weakness, from which, however, they are recovering again. Lake View Consols fell to $9\frac{9}{16}$, but have since rallied to 10. The shares of the sub-Companies have been put down to an absurdly low level, and it is to be hoped that shareholders will not be frightened into selling. With the amalgamation I am dealing specially in another column. Ivanhoe have been firm, and have improved to $6\frac{3}{8}$. The special settlement in these shares should take place in the near future. West Australian Goldfields have been dull at 2, in the absence of the Chairman of the Company, who has been ordered abroad by his medical adviser in order to recover from the effects of a severe attack of influenza. Hampton Plains have also been neglected in the neighbourhood of 1. Advices from the Menzies district are very satisfactory. Not only have, as I am explaining elsewhere, favourable cablegrams been received concerning the Lady Shenton mine, but from the manager of the Menzies Golden Age a cable is to hand according to which heavy rains have fallen on the field, and the railway to Menzies has been completed. Rain was much wanted in the Menzies district, while, on the other hand, the advent of the railway must, as I have already stated, prove of the greatest importance to all the mines on that field. West Australian Venture Corporation shares have improved to 5s. 6d. to 6s., which is, however, still a very low price. The shares of one of the sub-Companies of this Corporation, viz., Field's Find, have suddenly come into demand, apparently on favourable news, of which particulars have not yet transpired. This mine took the place of the valueless property known as the Joker (Yalgoo) mine, and the fully-paid shares are now quoted $\frac{5}{8}$. It will be remembered that the Corsair Consolidated property proved a duffer, and the Colonial Finance Corporation has now transferred a new property to this Company, which has still a considerable working capital, and the shares are now rallying. Golden Horseshoes have fluctuated a good deal, and are lower at $7\frac{5}{8}$, while Great Boulder Perseverance, Kalgurli, South Kalgurli, and Brookman's Boulder have also eased off.

The Lady Shenton Deal.

The vagaries of the market in Lady Shenton shares have of late been so extraordinary that I made it my business to inquire into the position, and I have ascertained that the recent decline had nothing to do with the merits of the mine, concerning which the most favourable information is to hand. But there had happened an accident in connection with the deal, and a breach of faith on the part of somebody. The men chiefly interested in the deal, and all the large Colonial shareholders, who have an unbounded belief in the future of the mine, however, are standing firmly shoulder to shoulder, and the result will doubtless be that retribution will overtake the faithless one and the price take another jump, a much higher price being undoubtedly justified. The last crushing of 552 tons for 1,518 oz. of gold brings the total output up to 25,145 oz. from 7,143 tons, and what is even more important, a careful examination of the mine by the manager shows that large bodies of rich ore are developed, and that the mine has every appearance of being permanent, and therefore, with a 3 oz. yield and 16 dwt. in the tailings, is likely to rival such leading properties as the Lake View Consols, Ivanhoe, Great Boulder, and Hannan's Brownhill. The following is the text of a cablegram which has just been received from the Company's offices at Perth, W.A., dated February 24:—

Rayfield (Manager) reports south drift of Level No. 1 extended to 110 ft.; the vein is fully 3 ft. in width, high-grade ore in the stopes; north the vein is fully 3 ft. in width, of very good stone. Level No. 3, Winze No. 3 North, sunk to a total depth of 28 ft.; the vein is fully 4 ft. in width, high-grade ore; gold can be seen freely; this continuous satisfactory developments proves amply life of reef. North drift of Level No. 4, total distance from crosscut in the main shaft, 107 ft.; the vein is fully 5 ft. in width, ore is rich in gold, face looking well, and it indicates that there is every reason to believe it will continue for a long distance. No. 1 Winze from this level has been sunk 10 ft.; the vein is fully 5 ft. in width, high-grade ore; prospects look splendid. There is everything to indicate many years' work. All machinery in good order and working well. We have been milling ore taken from all parts of the mine—absolutely has not been picked over. Recommend extra ten-stamp mill as soon as water is available for. Also cyanide plant for treatment of tailings. The mine looks splendid. Six months' stoping ground opened up of pay ore. Every week proves mine to be more permanent. Fair rains have fallen. Some very fine specimens from all parts of the mine will be forwarded next mail.

This report speaks for itself, and when I add that the market position is such that a rise to £4 or £5 is quite on the board in the near future, I need hardly impress upon holders to stick tight to their shares and upon those who have not got any to buy at anything like present prices. By the way, the shares in the adjoining Florence Mine have advanced to $\frac{7}{8}$, and, as it has the Lady Shenton lode, a more important rise is expected.

Amalgamation or No Amalgamation.

So many nquiries have ireached me from shareholders in the sub-Companies of the London and Globe Finance Corporation, which it is proposed to amalgamate into one large exploration Company, that I cannot refrain from again referring to the subject, although I should think that with the advice of their Directors and committees the shareholders are well able to decide for themselves. There is considerable danger that the amalgamation will fall through; in fact, owing to the strong objections raised by various speakers at the meetings, the Directors of the London and Globe have now, it appears, withdrawn the amalgamation proposal, and would only reconsider this decision in the case of any Company in which their committee of shareholders advised the acceptance of the scheme. All the meetings have been adjourned, some for this week, some for next. There seems a good deal of divergence of opinion on the point chiefly that the shareholders in this or that mine consider their property better than the others, and are, therefore, inclined to work out their own salvation. If they persist in this view, well and good. But here enter the uncertainties of mining, and it should not be forgotten that all the properties have been reported upon favourably by leading experts, especially Mr. Charles Kaufman. One would therefore think that by joining forces a sort of average would be struck, which would render success more certain, even should one or the other property prove disappointing. Then there arises also questions of ways and means, and, as more working capital will be required, reconstruction will be necessary if amalgamation is declined. I gather from the various balance-sheets which have now been rendered that the Wealth of Nations, Limited, had on September 30 last about £18,000 cash resources (deducting amounts owing on bills payable and to sundry creditors) left, the Wealth of Nations Extended £13,300, the Paddington Consols £5,200, Hannan's Golden Treasure £3,000, Hannan's Golden Group £7,900, and the Golden Crown £2,670, while the Mainland Consols owes something like £24,000. It is hardly likely that any of these Companies will be able to achieve complete success without raising more money. The shareholders will therefore have to ask themselves whether they are prepared to find more capital. I find that at several meetings Dr. Haden-Haden, a large shareholder, raised this very point, and argued that, "instead of keeping the mine in their own hands, and working it themselves, it would be far better to allow a powerful Company like the London and Globe to provide the necessary capital to bring the mines to a successful issue." I notice that in the case of the Wealth of Nations, Limited, the Chairman carried at the last meeting a resolution to the effect that a form inviting an expression of the shareholder's assent to or dissent from the amalgamation proposals should be distributed amongst the shareholders. It will be interesting to watch what will be the result of this inquiry, as there are apparently several thousand shareholders, while only perhaps a hundred attend the meetings. Personally, I am of opinion that the amalgamation scheme is by far the best, with the proviso that the necessary particulars of the properties to be taken into the amalgamation, but not so

far yet known on the market, be furnished. But this will doubtless, be communicated to the Boards and committees of shareholders.

Indian, Australasian, and British Columbian Mines.

While the volume of business in Indian mines has been reduced through the surrounding slump, no particular weakness has prevailed. On the contrary, an advance is marked in Mysore, and Nundydroog are better. There has, however, been a decline of 1s. 6d. in Mysore Goldfields, and Mysore West, and Mysore Wynaad are lower. In Australian mines, other than West Australian, Mount Lyell have given way, and Mount Lyell South are also easier; but Mount Lyell North have hardened, and there has been also an improvement in Gallymont of $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{11}{16}$. New Australian Broken Hill have reacted, further particulars concerning the new find being awaited. Broken Hill Proprietary are steady at $2\frac{3}{16}$. In Charters Towers mines Brilliant and St. George United have improved. In the New Zealand section the only notable rise has been one of $\frac{1}{4}$ in Consolidated Goldfields of N.Z. On the other hand, Taitapu, Waihi, Silverton, Kauri, Woodstock, Komata Reefs, and Hauraki, are all lower. Amongst British Columbian shares the principal movement has been a recovery in British American Corporation, which are up again at 3s. premium. I understand that ex-Governor Mackintosh is on the way to this country with all the documents relating to the various options, &c., and that on his arrival some very important information will be published. The British Columbian correspondent of the *Financial News* furnishes some interesting information concerning the Rossland district. He states that there are at present numerous ore bodies uncovered in these mines, which hitherto have been considered of too low-grade for treatment, but can now be shipped at a profit. The Le Roi Mine he describes as a rich property, but he considers that it is open to doubt as to whether it is the richest, and the British America Corporation has not been long in obtaining some of the best mines. According to this correspondent, the Hon. C. H. Mackintosh has secured many properties, some of which are known to be the most promising in the district, viz., the Josie, West Le Roi, Nickel Plate, Whoop-up, Great Western, Surprise, No. 1, and You Know, besides groups in the Boundary and Ymir districts. Amongst other British Columbian undertakings, British Columbian Development Association and New Goldfields of British Columbia have hardened. The shares of the Waverley Mine, which is, as I have already stated, a rich silver lead property, have maintained their advance to $1\frac{5}{8}$-$\frac{11}{16}$, so that my readers who bought at lower prices stand already at a good profit. It is stated that the first shipment of Waverley ore has arrived at Liverpool, and it will be interesting to notice the results. A similar property is the Tangier Mine, the shares in which have come into demand at $1\frac{3}{8}$. The property is situated twenty-five miles north of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and almost adjoins the Waverley. A large and rich vein of ore, consisting of iron pyrites containing gold and grey copper, and galena carrying a very high value of silver, has been proved to a width of about 15 ft., and when the preliminary work has all been carried out good results are looked for. Fifteen tons of ore, of an approximate value of $1,700, have already been shipped. In the general foreign section Consolidated Gold Mines of California have fallen 2s., and Montana are also easier. Copper shares were dull at one time under the lead of Rio Tinto, but are now recovering again.

Men of Millions and Company Directors.

My excellent contemporary, the *Financial Times*, presented its readers last week with a supplement under the heading of "Men of Millions," giving the portraits of twenty gentlemen who "during the present decade have been the principal history-makers in the joint-stock world." The background selected was that of a Bank of England note for £1,000,000, and while there may be a doubt about the gentlemen in question all being able to write out a cheque for £1,000,000, there is not the slightest doubt that we should all like to have a bank-note of that amount, were it in existence. The supplement in question does not pretend to exhaust the list of City millionaires, and we might furnish a few names of those who have been history-makers in the joint-stock world which are not included in this very excellent cartoon. Thus Mr. Wernher, of Messrs. Wernher, Beit, & Co., might have appeared side by side with Mr. Beit, and the names of Mr. Cecil Rhodes and of Mr. S. Neumann also suggest themselves. Another gentleman who has been largely connected with the De Beers Company is Mr. Sheil, who is, no doubt, a millionaire, and I should not be surprised if Mr. John Stroyan were to acknowledge the soft impeachment. The last two decades have undoubtedly been productive of new millionaires, but I do not think that, while perhaps being men dealing in millions, Mr. Adolf Goerz or Mr. George Albu would boast of being actual millionaires, and this applies also to several other gentlemen whose portraits appear in the supplement. It may be useful to mention some of the millionaires of older standing in the City of London, such as Messrs. Rothschild, Mr. H. Raphael of the Stock Exchange, Baron Hambro, Mr. Bucknall, Sir Donald Currie, and Mr. L. Cohen of the Stock Exchange. But these gentlemen and many others are of a retiring disposition, and if the *Financial Times* had asked leave to publish their portraits, they would probably have declined the invitation. One cannot help noticing the disinclination of men of millions to appear as Directors of many Companies, although in numerous instances they are the promoters and chief supporters of such undertakings. Obviously, their profession is that of pulling the strings, while others are undertaking the public direction of their enterprises. Proceeding alphabetically, I notice that Mr. Beit is on the Board of only six South African concerns, and that Mr. Horatio Bottomley is Chairman of three West Australian Companies, while Mr. Harvey Du Cros directs five, which is also the number of Boards on which Mr. Robert English has a seat. Sir Christopher Furness is in a different position, being on the Board of ten concerns, and Mr. Frank L. Gardner distinguishes himself by being on the Boards of fourteen different undertakings, chiefly Westralian. Mr. Adolf Goerz is on the Board of only two Companies (South African), and Mr. E. T. Hooley, the originator of so many new enterprises, figures as the Director of only two. Mr. Isaac Lewis presides over three South African concerns, and Mr. William Mendel has a seat on the Board of five Companies, while Mr. A. C. Moreing has a voice in the direction of eight. Mr. Henry O'Hagan, the founder of countless English and American Brewery Companies, is only on the Board of three undertakings which are not connected with breweries, and Mr. W. F. Orriss directs three enterprises, Mr. Charles D. Rudd one, Mr. Whitaker Wright three. It almost looks as if, in proportion to their millions, the great financiers were occupying a smaller number of directorships, and one might extend the argument and say that the pluralists amongst the Directors are not amongst the most wealthy. This brings me to the "Directory of Directors," the new issue of which for 1898 has just been brought out by Mr. Thomas Skinner. The present volume contains about 17,000 names, of which 3,000 appear for the first time, but the withdrawals amount to 1,500, so that the net increase is 1,500. The "Directory of Directors" is now a well-known *vade mecum* for all those interested in joint-stock enterprises, and the new issue is as complete as possible. I propose shortly to devote a few lines to some of the guinea-pigs and pluralists amongst Company Directors.

Seventeen Years of Securities.

The sixteenth issue of "Burdett's Official Intelligence" has just made its appearance. It will be the last under the editorship of Sir Henry Burdett, who is handing over the copyright to the Committee of the Stock Exchange; but there is no doubt that this elaborate work will be continued, and it will require exceptional capacity and diligence to keep it up to the standard hitherto attained. A great deal happens in seventeen years, especially on the Stock Exchange, where six months generally, in view of the many events that interrupt the ordinary course of business, are reckoned as a lifetime. As compared with

seventeen years ago, the amount of securities admitted to a quotation in the Official List shows an increase of no less than £1,825,000,000. This means that the amount has increased from £3,586,000,000 in 1881 to £5,411,000,000 in 1897. The particulars furnished of new Companies and securities brought out during that period are especially interesting, and I find that the highest amount issued in any one year was £356,321,490 in 1890, when the principal additions were large amounts of Russian Conversion bonds and American Railroad bonds and shares. For 1897 the amount was £313,815,932. "Burdett's Official Intelligence" really represents a life's labour, and it will be a difficult task for Sir Henry Burdett's successor to maintain the same standard. What is of special importance is that the neutral tone which Sir Henry Burdett so scrupulously maintained should be continued, and that also the difference so clearly established by him as between floating charges and effective mortgages should be scrupulously adhered to.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

Salviati, Jesurum, & Company, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire, develop, and carry on as a going concern the businesses of G. Salviati, of London, Venice, Murano, and Paris, with agencies in New York, St. Petersburg, Berlin, &c., Venetian glass and art mosaics manufacturers; M. Jesurum & Company, of Venice, lace, silks, brocades, &c., manufacturers; Testolini Bros., of St. Mark's-square, Venice, dealers in carved wood furniture; the Venice Art Company, antique furniture dealers and Pagliarin and Franco, glass manufacturers, both of Venice. The capital is fixed at £330,000 divided into 180,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference and 150,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each.

Gartsides (Brookside Brewery), Limited.—With a capital of £350,000, in Preference and Ordinary shares of £10 each and £300,000 Four and a Quarter per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture stock issued at £103 per cent., this Company is formed to acquire the brewery known as Brookside Brewery at Ashton-under-Lyne, which was founded in 1830, and converted in 1892 into a private limited Company.

Hudson's Hotel, Limited, is formed with a capital of £125,500, divided into 75,000 Five and a Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference, 50,000 Ordinary, and 500 Management shares of £1 each, to acquire five hotels in and near Scarborough. There is also a Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture issue of £125,000.

The purchase price of this lot of hotels is fixed at £240,500, while the profits are expected to realise £13,000. Expectations are liable to be disappointed, and the earnings of hotels in and near Scarborough must necessarily fluctuate. The feature of management shares entitled to a certain proportion of the profits and assets is, moreover, a most objectionable one.

The Brigg Horse Haulage Appliance Company, Limited.—This Company is being formed with a capital of £75,000, in shares of £1 each, for the purpose of acquiring the patents of Mr. T. H. Brigg for minimising draught in connection with horse haulage, the purchase price being fixed at £50,000.

This is admittedly an untried invention, and the purchase price seems preposterous. I strongly advise investors to await the result of a practical trial.

Nicholson & Wordley, Limited.—With a share capital of £35,000 and a Debenture issue of £10,000, this Company has been formed to acquire the business of Messrs. Nicholson & Wordley, drapers, &c., of High-street, Camden Town.

The net profits are stated to be about £2,000 per annum, and as the interest on the Preference shares and Debentures will absorb over £1,350, there is but a small margin left for the Ordinary shareholders, especially if the Company should have a bad season or two. The capital, too, appears excessive for such a concern.

Read Brothers, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire and develop the export bottling business of Read Brothers, of Kentish Town, London. The capital is £200,000 in 10,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares, and 10,000 Ordinary shares of £10 each, and £65,000 Four per Cent. Irredeemable First Mortgage Debenture stock.

The sum to be paid for this business is excessive, and the expected increase in the future business must be looked upon as uncertain. Competition in this business is keen and on the increase.

R. H. & S. Rogers, Limited.—Capital, £165,000 in £1 shares. The Company has been formed to acquire as a going concern the business of R. H. & S. Rogers, shirt and collar warehousemen and manufacturers, of Addle-street, London, Rotherhithe, and Coleraine, Ireland.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

A. L.—Although statements have been repeatedly made as regards the proposed arrangement on the part of the Honduras Government, nothing more is known than the statement mentioned elsewhere under "South Americans." *J. T., Malta.*—The bonds are genuine enough, but you have probably paid more than the market value for them, and in your position you ought not to go in for this kind of speculative security.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

C. H. R.—I am not satisfied of the bona-fides of the persons in question, and under these circumstances I cannot communicate the address asked for. I cannot reply by letter. *J. W. S.*—I cannot reply by letter. I do not see how I can give you any information with regard to these inventions, and I know nothing of the concern mentioned by you. *Archipelago.*—1. This is a leading and prosperous bank, and I should think that it would do well for some time to come, as the value of money is rising. The present quotation of 56 is ex-dividend. 2. This is also a high-class bank, but I do not know that its management is better than that of the other institution. *Mrs. B., Gloucester.*—I recommend you to have absolutely nothing to do with the outside brokers mentioned.

Home Rails.

X. Y. Z.—I am surprised that you should not have understood my remarks *re* Great Central 1894 Ordinary. This stock is of the nominal value of £100, and is now quoted 41. It bears interest at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum until the opening of the extension of the line to London. It is, of course, the old Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincoln Railway, and it remains to be seen what dividends will be paid when the line is opened for traffic.

American and Foreign Rails.

Kingstown.—The nitrate industry has been in a bad way for a considerable time, and this reacts upon the railway. *Jumbo.*—There is no possibility of any assessments being made on these high-class bonds. It is likely, however, that they will be redeemed. As regards the Baltimore and Ohio, the bonds will certainly not be assessed in the reorganisation.

Mining Shares.

Kent.—1. There is a possibility of these shares improving again, and you had better hold. 2. Fair. *Devorgilla.*—The South Africans Nos. 1 and 2 are promising mines and likely to improve. *Warrington.*—1. I do not advise you to average yet. 2. No; I do not recommend a purchase of these shares. 3. Yes, in time, but not just yet. 4. The Glencairn mine is doing well. *Miner.*—1. Yes, the mine is doing well, and should gradually work into a better position. 2. I am afraid that prospects are not favourable. *Nildrof, Norwich.*—The present is not the time for selling your South African shares Nos. 1 to 21, hold for an improvement. This also applies to No. 15. *Fir.*—1. There has been a temporary reaction, but these shares should advance again. Hold. 2. Hannan's Props. are bound for much higher prices, and as they have been taken in hand by a leading group, should go higher. 3. I am glad you did so well in Lady Shentons on my advice, and there is every prospect of your doing so again if you buy at once. *Sammy.*—You should hold all your South African shares for an improvement, but do not buy any more just yet. When you do buy I will give you a different selection. Amongst the shares mentioned by you I should think that Nos. 4, 6, and 7 would be the best purchase. *Ajax.*—1. After the reaction I should certainly advise you to hold Lake View Consols, Ivanhoe, and London and Globes, but you must remember that I strongly advised realisations of Lake View Consols when they reached 12. 2. Certainly hold British America Corporation shares and buy more. 3. Yes, the Deferred would be the best purchase. 4. I cannot tell you anything about the present position of the Jubilee syndicates, you should apply to the Official Receiver. *Tyke.*—I cannot be responsible for any temporary fluctuations, but there is every prospect of these shares again rising to a much higher level. *R. P. T.*—There is nothing for it but to hold Nos. 1 to 6, this not being the time to sell. You should await a recovery, which is more than probable. *Derrymane.*—You should hold your Londonderry shares, but not buy any more to average until some more information is available. *Dubious.*—You should certainly hold your Glencairns (1), Knights (2), Randfontein (3), and the new issue No. 4 is also a good security, as you will have gathered from my remarks under "The Kaffir Circus."

Type-writers and Cycles, all makes, for Sale, Hire, or Exchange, at half makers' prices. MS. Type-written.—Taylor's 74, Chancery-lane, London. Established 1884.

Industrial Shares.

Eden.—1. I am afraid that in the electric department the improvement has already been discounted by the recent advance. 2. A fair investment, but no catch. 3. You cannot obtain more than 3¼ per cent. in good-class Colonial bonds. *C. E. W.*—1. Yes, it would be advisable to hold these Petroleum shares. 2. In view of the advance in the price of copper it is probable that a further improvement will take place. 3 It would be preferable to hold now. *Jack, Cork.*—1. This Company is to be reconstructed, and you should apply to the liquidator, Mr. J. H. Duncan, 39, Coleman-street, E.C., for information. 2. These Brewery Companies have been doing badly of late, but there is a hope of improvement.

Mixed Investments.

Sartorius.—1. Yes, Maple Ordinary are a good purchase. 2. Yes, a fairly safe investment. 3. A fair investment, but no catch. 4. John Barker Ordinary are likely to improve. 5. Great Central 1894 Ordinary are a good purchase at the present price. *Holly.*—1. I have all along warned my readers against buying Coats shares at excessive prices, and you have paid £75 for those you hold. You should take an opportunity of getting out without much loss. 2. A fair investment, but not likely to improve much. 3. No option but to hold for the present. *R. D. N.*—1. Hold these shares, the directors' report will shortly be issued. 2. Certainly stick to these mining shares. *Heron.*—The most promising amongst the mining shares mentioned, Nos. 1 to 5 are Menzies Consols (1) and Florence (4), and you had better purchase these two shares. *Grey, Batley.*—The Brewery Companies, Nos. 1 and 2, are not doing well just now, but I should think that a recovery is not improbable. 3. Hold these shares, but instead of buying more of them, invest rather in Lady Shentons and Florence. 4. I always held an unfavourable opinion of Klerksdorp shares, and still maintain this view. *C. M. K.*—I do not care for Glenrocks (1). The breweries Nos. 2 and 3 have been very disappointing. *Hopeful Sailor.*—1. There may be a chance of an improvement now that the Dominion of Canada is looking up. 2. There is every prospect of an advance, but you should be satisfied with a moderate profit. I am glad you did so well in Lady Shentons on my advice, and as you sold at a high figure you should go in again at the present level. *J. R.*—I referred to your experience with an outside broker in last week's issue under "Various Investments." There is no option but to hold Bovrils for the present; but Hannan's Props. are strongly on the up-grade, and you should hold for a further important rise. They are now 1⅛ bid. *Lee.*—1. No, I do not advise averaging these shares; instead, you should buy Glencairn and East Rands. 2. Yes, Randfontein might be averaged now. 3. No, I would not buy these for choice. 4. A fair industrial investment, but very speculative. 5. Hold. *R. S.*—1. I do not advise a purchase of United Alkali, and never have been in their favour. 2. Quite high enough. 3. I do not recommend these. *G. A. V.*—No option but to hold A to E; they should improve further. F, G, and H should also be held; but I do not think much of I.

Various Investments.

The future of the Money Market is at present being discussed with much concern. Large sums will shortly be released through Government payments, but considerable amounts will also be required in connection with the new Chinese loan for £16,000,000 sterling. It is not expected that Germany will be able to raise its half without assistance from this side, but, on the other hand, large sums will doubtless remain here in order to pay for amounts falling due both on account of China and Japan. The Greek loan is also looming ahead, but, on the other hand, the demand for gold for Russian account has ceased, and a small amount of £91,000 has just been sent into the Bank of England. No importance is attributed to the small gold shipment to New York, which will probably prove exceptional. The Chinese loans have been steady at 101 for the Silver loan, at 106 for the Six per Cent. Gold loan, and at 101½ for the Five per Cent. Gold loan. It remains to be seen what reception the new Four and Half per Cent. Gold loan at its probable issue price of 88-90 will receive. Silver is very little changed at 25⅝d., the forward quotation being 25$\frac{9}{16}$. Rupee paper has hardly moved, being still quoted at 63⅝. Consols have fluctuated to a considerable extent with the varying political rumours. At one time the quotation recovered to 113, and is now but little lower at 112¾. In the cycle section there has so far been no improvement. Humber Ordinary are unaltered at 14s., while the Extensions are easier at 8s. 3d. Cycle Components at 2$\frac{3}{16}$ are also lower, but Swifts remain at ¾, Singers at 13s. 6d. Amalgamated Tyres are dull at 5s., while Dunlop Deferred at 14s. 6d. are slightly easier, the Ordinary being quoted 18s., French Dunlops, 5s. Allsopp Ordinary are lower at 158½, and Bovril Deferred are better at $\frac{13}{16}$, while Schweppe Deferred have been dull at $\frac{9}{16}$. Welsbach Incandescent Gas stocks have also been dull, and the Ordinary have receded to 117, the Preferred to 101, while the Deferred are quoted 21s. 6d. Hudson Bays have rallied slightly to 22, but they are a weak market. A satisfactory announcement is that made by the directors of the Baring Estate Company, that the whole of the outstanding Second Mortgage Debentures of the Company (being the £350,000 not previously drawn) will be paid off, with accrued interest, on April 1 next, at the National Provincial Bank of England, Limited. Immediate steps will now be taken to wind up the Company. With reference to the controversy concerning the issue of shares in the South London Electric Supply Corporation by the Directors at a price considerably below the market quotation, I understand that it is proposed, on the part of a number of important shareholders, to require the Board to call a special meeting of shareholders, under Clause 38 of the Articles of Association. I was one of the first to draw attention to the charges of irregularities in the management of the Grosvenor Hotel. Pending the legal proceedings I was unable to pass any comment. It now appears from the proceedings at the meeting of a body of shareholders, which has just been held, that much obstruction is practised by the Drew party, Mr. Newitt, who was in the chair on Monday, having done his best to stifle publicity and to bring matters to a deadlock. Sooner or later, however, the shareholders, headed by Mr. Kimber, M.P., and by Mr. Spokes, must get their way, and it certainly is quite time that the management should be changed, or that Mr. Kimber's proposal, to put the conduct of the business into commission pending the appointment of a legally constituted board, should be carried out.—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

KLONDYKE CAXTON.

SOME shrewd observer of human nature—I think it was Dr. Johnson—once expressed this particularly well-founded opinion, that every man who has gone out into the world, and there made name and fame, always likes to return and air his celebrity in his native place. I suppose we have all seen the truth of the dictum exemplified in a thousand instances. I know, at least, that I have. But one especially striking example has been brought before my notice lately, attended by circumstances so interesting, as to make it well-worth recording *in extenso*. I will venture, therefore, to give you the whole story of "Klondyke Caxton."

Klondyke Caxton was a native of X., a largish manufacturing centre in the Black Country. His father, a poor clergyman, had no means to afford his son a good start in life, and he was thankful enough when the interest of certain friends secured him a clerkship in one of the local banks. Young Charlie Caxton (as he was then called), remained in the bank for nine or ten years, until he had achieved the age of twenty-eight, and a salary of £150 per annum. Now—taking into account the conditions of the bank-clerk labour market—this was by no means bad. But Charlie Caxton was a shrewd fellow, and had done even better for himself, in the time, than he might have expected. He was already assistant-cashier, with the prospect of soon becoming chief-cashier, at an increased salary; and, in fact, so well were his business abilities thought of by his chiefs, that he had a very fair hope of being appointed manager of one of the country branches before many years were over. But circumstances occurred just at this time which caused him to throw up his situation and leave the neighbourhood. These circumstances were connected with an affair of the heart.

The young lady was Miss Miriam Wakefield, only daughter of the Vicar of X. She was a very pretty and charming, if somewhat superficial girl, then barely eighteen years of age; and her maiden fancy was soon caught by Charlie Caxton's handsome face and agreeable manners.

On his side, Charles was deeply in love with Miriam, and made no secret of his attachment. But the relatives of both young people naturally viewed the affair with disapproval; for Charles had nothing but his meagre salary, and Miriam had not a penny. However, the enamoured Charles was deaf to all reasoning, and Miriam, being a spoiled daughter and accustomed to have her way, at length coaxed her father into giving a reluctant consent to the engagement.

"But it will be a siege of Troy, my darling," he pointed out. "Charles will not be in a position to marry for ten years."

"I would wait for him, if it were twenty, father," she cried, with sparkling and flushing cheeks.

The Vicar smiled to himself, but said no more. He was a man wise in his generation. He thought he could gauge Miriam's disposition, and—well, ten years was a long time.

Everything went smoothly with the lovers for about a twelvemonth. Then a cloud began to appear upon the horizon of Charles Caxton's happiness. He noticed some slight change in Miriam's demeanour towards himself. At first it was very slight, but gradually it became more marked. Poor Charles was terribly upset. He felt that he was not mistaken, and that Miriam's love for him was cooling daily. In this conviction—as a matter of fact—he was quite correct. Miriam, if the truth must be told, was a young lady incapable of any real intensity of love. She was emphatically not the stuff out of which heroines are made, and that degree of heroism in love which required her to wait an indefinite time for marriage, while the best of her youth was slipping away, and which offered her no better reward at the end than the position of a very poor man's wife, was (as she thought on mature reflection) just a spot beyond her.

In this idea she was sedulously encouraged and supported by all her friends and relations. "You are throwing yourself away on Charles Caxton," they said, "when with your pretty face, my dear, you might marry a fortune." "There are many rich men quite as handsome as Charles," was the tenor of others' remarks. "There is young Silkstone for instance. He has just come into £3,000 a year." Miriam blushed at this. There *was* young Silkstone, and he *was* quite as handsome as Charles, and he *had* £3,000 a year, or rather more. For his father, the retired coal merchant, had only died six months ago, and his personalty, almost the whole of which came to his son, had been sworn at £110,000 net. Also the latter had begun to be very polite and attentive to herself, and—and—and——.

Now reflections of this kind often begin by ending with an "and——." But they seldom end by ending so. Miriam's reflections ended with a letter—a very nice, proper, prettily-worded letter to Charles Caxton. Young Silkstone's name was not mentioned in the letter; but only her (Miriam's) struggles between love and duty, in which Heaven had given her the strength to range herself on the latter's side. Heaven also (it appeared from the letter) had given her not only strength, but conviction; conviction that she had no right—nay, that it would be selfish in her to the point of criminality—to marry him (Charles), and to foist herself as a burden upon his slender means. No, she would not hamper him. She would not ruin his prospects. She cared for him far too much. It was because she cared for him so much that she was giving him his freedom; and when in future years he, married perchance to some rich wife, and become a county magnate, should meet a dowdy, faded little old maid, yclept Miriam Wakefield, he would surely breathe a prayer of thankfulness to Heaven at the merciful escape that he had had of being tied for life to such an incubus. And in conclusion she was always his sincere friend and true well-wisher—Miriam.

That was a very artful little touch about the "old maid," wasn't it? It contradicted the truth of any rumours that Charles might have heard in reference to young Silkstone and herself in the most delicately insinuating manner. Charles read this letter without any external display of emotion; though, to be sure, his face was hard and set, and a bitter smile curled his lip. The blow did not fall unexpectedly. He had been studying the signs of the times in Miriam's demeanour now for months past; and had felt sure that, sooner or later, it would come to this. Of course, he read between the lines of the letter. He saw that Miriam merely wanted to be rid of him. And he had too much pride and self-respect to abase himself by any weak entreaties or protestations. Nor, in his reply, did he indulge in any angry reproaches, or, whatever he may have felt, other exhibitions of mortification or ill temper. Charles always had perfect command of himself, and his answering letter was polite and dignified.

He was deeply grieved (he said) by her communication. But in this, as in all other matters, he bowed himself to her lightest wish. Her letters and presents were returned in an accompanying packet. But one thing he still retained—the sweet memory of what had been. And one privilege he should still claim—the privilege of serving her, if occasion offered, at any future time. Though no longer her affianced lover, he begged permission to subscribe himself her always devoted servant, Charles Caxton.

So that affair was ended, and Miriam congratulated herself on having escaped from her engagement without fuss, unpleasantness, or scandal. Six months elapsed. Then a further announcement was made in the columns of certain London and local papers:—

> A marriage has been arranged and will shortly take place between Londonderry Silkstone, Esq., of Walksend Manor, X., and Miriam, only daughter of the Rev. Theodore Wakefield, Vicar of X.

It was soon after this announcement that Charles threw up his berth at the Bank and suddenly quitted X., without having communicated his intention to any of his friends.

For several years nothing was heard of Charles by his friends in X. Then, one day a letter was received by one of them, dated six or seven weeks previously, and bearing the postmark, "Dawson City." The young man wrote in good spirits. And no wonder! For he had excellent news about himself to tell. It appeared that, soon after quitting X., he had gone out to British Columbia, of which he had heard the highest reports from a friend of his who had settled there previously, and who invited him to come out and see the country for himself. He had accepted the invitation, and, on arriving in the Colony, had first of all, helped his friend with his stock-raising, the pursuit in which he was engaged. But after a few months, they heard, from a traveller, who visited them on his way South, such glowing accounts of the gold-finding prospects in the Klondyke region, that they were caught with the fever to go there themselves and try their luck.

Fortunately, his friend had some capital at command; fortunately, also, they got into Klondyke (though only after considerable hardships), before the boom set in. They had thus been able to acquire a small plot from the Dominion Government on comparatively easy terms; and judge of their delight when they found that they had hit upon one of the richest lots in the whole district. Charlie's friend had had the sense to enlist, at once, the services of a competent mining engineer, to whom they had to pay the modest fee of 3,000 dollars. But in spite of that expense; in spite of the money (4,000 dollars), which they had given for their plot; in spite of a wages bill of about 2,400 dollars; in spite of the enormous price they had to pay for food, they had netted a considerable fortune in their first season. In the next season they had done even better; in the season following better still; and now they were negotiating the sale of their lot to a syndicate at a figure which, when added to their already large takings, would make them both wealthy men (for his friend was most generously going equal shares with himself), for the rest of their lives.

He went on to add that when the sale in question was completed, and other business matters arranged, he should probably run over to the old country; in which event his friends at X. might certainly rely on his looking them up, and he concluded by asking his friend to write and tell him all the news of the neighbourhood.

When the contents of this letter got about, as they at once did, quite a stir was created in Charles' native town; and his friend, in writing back to him, informed him,

half jocularly, that every inhabitant of X., especially the marriageable maidens, were dying to have a personal sight of "Klondyke Caxton," as they had already christened him. "I have not much news to send you," said the writer, in the course of his epistle. "Things go on here much as usual. Stay! There is one item, though, that will interest you. Young Silkstone is dead. He was killed by a fall out hunting two years after you went away. So, you see, my dear fellow, your faithless little sweetheart, Miriam, is now a very charming widow. It looks as if Silkstone hadn't left her nearly so well off as was expected. For she is now living in a tiny house in the smallest of small ways, and even what she has is to go from her in event of her marrying again: at least, so it is popularly reported. Rather a shame of Silkstone to treat her so, I must say. Though, to be sure, she deserves it, in a sense, for the way in which she treated you."

No further letter was received from Caxton. The next event was his personal return to X. a few months later. As regards appearance, he was not much altered, except for being somewhat tanned by exposure to the weather. But in his manner, his demeanour, his general air, there was a very decided change. It was, indeed, just the change that might have been expected to result from his completely altered circumstances; a change from the modest diffidence of a poor young clerk into the full assurance of a wealthy and successful man. Not that he was in the least arrogant, or bumptious, or ostentatious. Quite the reverse. But he bore himself, and could not help bearing himself, with that almost unconscious self-confidence that great success inevitably imparts. Some of his friends, who fancied themselves particularly observant, said that they now and then detected a gleam of contemptuous triumph in his eye when he met some acquaintance, who, having been coldly neglectful of him in his poverty, was now obsequiously cordial to him in his wealth. But if such a feeling even betrayed itself for a moment in his eye, it was never exhibited either in his manner or his conversation. He was friendly and affable to every one. Even Silkstone's widow, whom he might have been excused for treating with hauteur, and who had, on the first occasion of their meeting again, been obviously embarrassed, was relieved to find Charles perfectly pleasant and agreeable; and his demeanour towards her was all the more remarkable, because he had previously had the reputation of being a man who did not easily forgive.

"It is really very sweet of Charles to bear no malice," said Miriam to her father the vicar, some weeks later. "He is a good, generous fellow."

"He can afford to be generous, my dear," replied her parent. "His success has been extraordinary; and I should say his wealth must be immense."

"I heard people saying the other day that he was worth nearly half a million, papa."

"Hardly so much as that, my pet. But from what I can hear in well informed circles, he is worth nearly a quarter of a million."

"How much a year would a quarter of a million be, papa?" asked Mrs. Silkstone, carelessly.

"Well—as a shrewd fellow like Charles would invest it, ten or twelve thousand, at least. Certainly Charles is a lucky man."

"He is lucky," assented Miriam, with a sigh.

And, for some reason, the expression of her face grew grave, and even gloomy, as she spoke.

Nothing worthy of record occurred for the next few months, except that people began to talk a good deal and to say how foolish it was of Klondyke Caxton to allow himself to be entangled (as he was apparently doing) into a second affair with the woman who had thrown him over so scandalously five years before. And while they wondered he could be so idiotic, they marvelled how she could be so barefaced. The mothers of marriageables were particularly strong on this point, and swelled, to the full extent of their corsets, with righteous indignation whenever they spoke of it. That he should pass by hundreds of nice girls in favour of that perfidious and designing creature was incomprehensible. But that she should spread her nets for him, without disguise or shame, in the full glare of the public eye, was neither more nor less than an outrage on common decency. Heaven grant her intended victim might come to his senses, and free himself from her toils, before it was too late!

This pious prayer, however, was not destined to be granted. Six months after his return to X., Caxton's re-engagement to Silkstone's widow was duly announced, and the corsets of the mothers of the marriageables were in serious danger of bursting. There was no reason for waiting. The wedding was fixed to take place at a very early date.

But much may happen in a short time; and in this brief interval a very important thing, indeed, occurred. At first, came a vague rumour—a rumour which people whispered into each other's ears with impressive nods and gestures. But soon it swelled and asserted itself into louder utterance and more assertive tones. Klondyke Caxton's wealth had been immensely overrated. If he had ever possessed a quarter of what people had credited him with, it was the outside. But that was not the worst. There were two far graver statements to be made. The one; that the Canadian Bank, with which the bulk of Caxton's money had been placed on deposit, pending investment, had suspended payment. The other: that the negotiations for the sale of his Klondyke diggings to a syndicate, at a high figure, had fallen through, owing to the unexpected exhaustion of the gold, which had suddenly rendered them valueless.

Of course, one cannot believe all that one hears, and had this been only a matter of hearsay, it need not have meant much. But Caxton himself, in talking to his friends, admitted the general accuracy of these rumours. To Miriam he had been more explicit. About a fortnight before their wedding—as soon as the certainty of these disasters reached him—he went to her and told her the truth. From the wealthy man he had hitherto believed himself to be, he was suddenly transformed to a very poor man indeed. A few thousands were left—that was all; enough to bring in a meagre income of, say, £200 a year. Under these circumstances, he could not hold her to her promise. She was free—if she wished to be free. He placed himself, unreservedly, in her hands, and so on.

Miriam's answer quite took his breath away.

"Oh, Charlie!" she said, gazing at him with earnest, eager eyes, and clasping her hands together nervously. "I'm—I'm—I'm *so glad!*"

Charles started, and stared at her in blank astonishment. He could find no words to express his surprise.

"I don't mean that I'm glad for *your* sake," she went on to explain, eagerly. "But I'm so—*so* glad for my own."

"Eh?" gasped Charles, more and more bewildered. "Eh?"

"I must tell you something, Charlie," she said, dropping her voice, and speaking with unmistakable earnestness. "By marrying Mr. Silkstone, because he was rich, I learnt a bitter, bitter lesson. It was not until after I became his wife that I realised how much I had loved you—how much I loved you still. And when he was killed, Charlie, I was not, I could not be, sorry; for I felt—I—I—knew, that—that, when you heard of his death, you would come—come back. You have heard, perhaps, how he left his money to me, Charlie? An income of £3,000 a year during my life or widowhood. But everything to pass from me, if I married again. And knowing that you would return to me some day, I at once took a small house and lived on a tiny income, Charlie, in order that I might save and save and save, and have a little something to bring to you when you returned. But you came back rich, Charlie, and I was so disappointed, and—and—and——"

She said no more; for at that conjuncture, Charles started forward and caught her in his arms. And for the next ten minutes nothing was said on either side that could be of the slightest interest to any except the two immediately concerned.

By and bye, however, Charles had to make a confession. "Sweetheart," he said, "Don't banish me into outer darkness for what I am going to confess to you. It was not until you told me this just now, that I—I realised that—that I loved you still, from the bottom of my heart. I thought that when you threw me over and

married Silkstone you had killed my love. And I vowed, that if I ever had the chance, I would punish you for the wrong you had done me. So when I came back here, Miriam, a wealthy man, my design was simply to induce you to become engaged to me thinking I was rich——"

"Oh, Charlie, Charlie! But I have deserved it all. Go on!"

"And then—don't look at me, sweetest, while I confess my baseness—then to—to place you in the position in which you would— would—(oh, forgive me, Miriam! I thought you only cared for money)—incur the odium of throwing me over a second time, because I was poor. It was a blackguardly design. I loathe myself for it. I——"

"Charlie," whispered Miriam, looking up suddenly into his face, "perhaps we both have reason to loathe ourselves for what we were in the past. But don't you think we have—have even better reason to—love each other—for what we are going to be in the future?"

They were married on the day appointed. Charles looked radiantly happy. So did Miriam. The mothers of marriageables did not look radiantly happy; for it had transpired (to the most perilous straining of their matronly staylaces) that Klondyke Caxton's loss of money was merely a myth which he himself had set on foot.

ART NOTES.

I NEED make no apology for devoting my first paragraph to a hearty commendation of the Exhibition of the late Sir Frank Lockwood's sketches and caricatures now to be seen at Mr. Mendoza's Galleries in King-street, St. James's. It is emphatically the most interesting show in London. For genial fun, keen observation, and infinite variety it would be hard to beat these delightful pen and ink drawings. And then, above all, they prove that Sir Frank Lockwood was a genuine humourist. A rapid glance at his exhibited sketches would be enough to convince the most severe of his critics of that. Humour is the saving salt of his drawings, rough and hastily done and unfinished as many of them are. But his humour was never mordant or even unkind. As a matter of fact, it is in many cases the legal and parliamentary comrades he caricatured who have sent the most characteristic of his pen and ink skits, hurriedly pencilled or "quilled," some of them on the margin of Parliamentary papers, some on briefs, some on the backs of envelopes, some even on fragments of blotting-paper. Nothing this genial humourist ever did is more irresistibly comical than his sketches of the well-known and widely-popular Mr. Murphy, Q.C. And some of these, thanks to the good nature of that weighty counsel himself, are now to be enjoyed at Mr. Mendoza's. The skits on Sir Richard Webster, again, are full of the most delightful fun. But it is invidious to particularise where nearly all are so good. The Exhibition, I may add, will only be open to the public for a limited period, and the fact that the proceeds are to be devoted to the aid of an excellent charity—the Barristers' Benevolent Fund—enables me to recommend an early visit with all the more emphasis.

According to Mr. Ruskin, landscape painting is "the thoughtful, passionate representation of the physical conditions appointed for human existence." This dependence of landscape for its power over the human soul upon human association has always been a favourite theme with the author of "Modern Painters," and forms, as his readers will readily recall, the subject of many an eloquent page in his earlier books. There is a very good opportunity just now to see how far Mr. Ruskin's definition applies to the work of some of the greatest masters of our English school of water-colourists—such as Turner, De Wint, David Cox, Varley, and R. P. Bonington—for Messrs. Agnew are exhibiting at their Bond-street Galleries an exceedingly choice collection of water-colour drawings by the artists I have named, and many others of note. There can be little doubt as to what the verdict will be in the case of such drawings, for instance, as De Wint's "Ploughing" (No. 15), or his "Essex Marshes" (No. 118). The Turners on view are not of such masterful quality. Bonington, I think, is seen to far greater advantage. But it is not only specimens of our Classical school of water-colour painting that Messrs. Agnew are exhibiting. The collection at their galleries includes also the works of more recent masters, such as Leighton and Alma Tadema, George Wetherbee, and Dante Gabriel Rossetti. There are a couple of drawings, too, by Sir Edward Burne-Jones, in which his supremacy as a rich colourist may be noted. Nor should a characteristic example of the late Mr. A. B. Houghton's artistic method be overlooked. It is called "The Transformation of King Beder," and like much of Houghton's best work was inspired by "The Arabian Nights."

It is not a far cry from the bottom of Bond-street to the Egyptian Hall, but there is, alas! a great gulf fixed between the two shows that are to be seen at Messrs. Agnew's and at the Dudley Gallery respectively. The Thirty-fourth Annual Exhibition of the Dudley Gallery Art Society is at the best but a depressing one. I doubt if even a Mark Tapleyan art critic would long preserve his sanguine jollity and optimistic high spirits amongst such surroundings. Professor Ruskin, I notice, is one of the Honorary Vice-Presidents of the Society; but it is not much use at the Egyptian Hall to look for any practical carrying out of his already-quoted definition. It is not that there are no works of merit in the exhibition but such as there are unfortunately get swamped, so to speak, by their commonplace surroundings, for the public display of some of which it is difficult to find even a plausible excuse.

At the Dowdeswell Galleries is to be seen a collection of water-colours of Cairo, Damascus, and other oriental places by Mr. Walter Tyndale. One is getting a little sated with drawings of Cairo, but Damascus has not yet been done to death, and there is much that is interesting and attractive in Mr. Tyndale's water-colours of the latter city. He is able to convey the brilliant aspect of outdoor life in the East with a facility and success which show he is in sympathy with his subject. He achieves his effects, too, with a mastery of technique that is often admirable.

MUSIC.

THE WELSH INVASION.

THE present week in musical London has been largely devoted to gallant little Wales. There was on Monday a big festival at St. Paul's, the evening service (including the sermon, which was an exhilarating experience to the humble Sassenach) being given throughout in the Welsh tongue, illustrated by Welsh music. One of the features of this St. David's Day service was the reading by Sir John Puleston of the First Lesson. On Monday, too, at the City Temple, Dr. Parker provided an almost unique "entertainment," the principal feature of which was announced to be the delivery of sermons by no fewer than five eminent Welsh preachers. The worst enemy of a Welsh clergyman will not truthfully deny him the virtue of prolixity; but five Welsh sermons at a sitting must have satisfied the voracity even of the preachers themselves. There has also been an Eisteddfod at Queen's Hall.

Eisteddfodau, so popular in Wales, have, however, never flourished in London. The choirs and the solo singers who took part in the contests last week were certainly not of the first order of merit, and the proceedings were decorous and consequently not a little dull. At the real Eisteddfodau given in Wales things are much more lively. The big choral contests, indeed, create an amount of

The luxury of a bath is incomplete without the addition of Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia, which refreshes and invigorates. Sold everywhere, but avoid injurious imitations.

The Greatest of all Pianofortes.—The Steinway Pianofortes. New York and London.

excitement rivalled only by cricket in Australia or football in Yorkshire. At Queen's Hall things were tame enough. Nobody was pelted or even hooted at. The judgment of the adjudicators was accepted with hardly a murmur, while any attempt to "duck" the judges, unfairly said to be a favourite pastime in the Principality, was evidently considered an impropriety. In short, there was none of the fun of the fair, and a disconsolate Welshman, on leaving the hall, was overheard in a pathetic lament concerning the "waste of his blessed bob." Indeed, although at Easter a modified form of song contest is successfully held in the East End of London, these competitions never flourish here. One was tried by the late Willert Beale at the Crystal Palace nearly thirty years ago; but it attracted comparatively little attention, although one of its "discoveries" was the gifted soprano who subsequently became so popular as Miss Anna Williams. The late Henry Leslie also tried singing competitions, but they were a failure. The greatest fiasco, however, occurred at the Albert Hall in 1887, when the National Eisteddfod of Wales was held, "In the rays of the Sun, in the eye of the Light, in the City of Lud in Britain." I believe that something like 20,000 tickets, at reduced prices, from Wales to London, had been issued by the railway companies, and this was considered amply sufficient to have filled the Albert Hall twice over. But the great building, day after day, presented a beggarly array of empty benches, and it was not until some Welsh wag tried the experiment of starting the National Welsh hymn, "Land of my Fathers," in the big arena then occupied by Buffalo Bill, and the familiar tune was taken up by his countrymen from all parts of the building, that the whereabouts was discovered of some of the supposed visitors to the Eisteddfod. As a matter of fact, Welshmen seem to care little for a London Eisteddfod, and their only National celebration in the metropolis is the very fine service at St. Paul's Cathedral, over which the Bishop of St. David's presided on Monday. Here familiar Welsh hymns were sung in procession by a body of about 200 choristers, ladies for once at St. Paul's being permitted to take part in the service, while Mr. Ben Davies, "chief tenor of Wales," sang the solo in the anthem which boasted the hopelessly incomprehensible title of "Bloeddiwch Cydgenwch." The setting of the canticles was from the pen of a typical Welshman, Owain Alaw. Even the sermon was in the Welsh tongue, a fact which ought to have rendered Cymric reporters at a premium. Indeed, a year or two ago the young and enterprising representative of a great London daily paper received in this respect a crushing disappointment. He engaged a native Welshman to whisper into his ear the English translation of the sermon as it proceeded. But his sub-editor prudently struck it all out, on the ground that he might have been hoaxed. Welsh preachers usually adopt different tactics. They duly provide a written English translation of the sermon for those of the reporters who are conscientiously inclined and like to give a *précis* of the discourse. On Monday the Bishop of St. David's omitted this precaution, on the ground that he preached extempore. The inevitable result was seen in Tuesday's daily papers.

The cantata "Deirdre," by Signor Esposito, which carried off the prize at the Dublin Musical Festival last year, was produced for the first time in London at Queen's Hall on Saturday. A good many people were surprised that at a purely Irish festival an Italian musician—albeit an old resident of Dublin—should win the prize which was obviously intended for an Irish musician. But the Festival itself resulted in a sort of split in the Irish musical camp, and Sir Arthur Sullivan, Dr. Stanford, and other eminent Irishmen refrained from taking any part in it. Italians have always been favourites in the Irish capital, and besides Signor Esposito, among the professors of music still practising there, are Signor Papini, the well-known violinist, Signor Angelis, and the Brothers Regazzoli.

The cantata "Deirdre" has, in fact, very little of the Irish element about it, and it is for the most part pure Italian, pretty as to its melody, and, except in one entry, where the Queen's Hall choir made a slip, presenting few difficulties to the performers. The story is the national legend, common however to many countries, of a swain who eloped with the betrothed of a king and was tempted back to his native land, where by treachery he was slain. The hero of the present cantata carried the lady off to Scotia, where, after a sort of Gretna Green ceremony and a long honeymoon, he, discovering no human being to kill, became deadly dull. So he went back blithely enough to Ireland, perhaps the happier because he had left his wife in Scotia. The best feature of Signor Esposito's cantata is the dirge sung by the Irishman's hapless wife, who kills herself by falling on her husband's sword. The music, however, merits a better libretto.

The orchestral season in Glasgow is about to close, and it is understood that the enterprise of the Scottish Orchestra Company will then come to an end. This scheme was organised by certain busybodies, more or less in antagonism to Mr. Manns, who had rescued the Glasgow orchestral concerts from the distressful pecuniary state in which they had been left by certain foreign conductors; and who had carried them on for many years with artistic and commercial profit.

The Scottish Orchestra was founded partly to organise a permanent band for Scotland, partly to introduce certain foreign conductors. Its first result was to stifle the old orchestral scheme, for the commercial capital of Scotland was not sufficiently advanced in music to be able to support two symphony bands Its second result was to confine the "Scottish" orchestra mainly to Dutchmen and other foreigners. The, season originally consisting of six months, was reduced to five, then to four, later on to three, and this year to two months, the band filling up time by touring in Holland, where their Dutch was understood far better than their Scotch. In Glasgow various orchestral chiefs have from time to time been employed, particularly Mr. Henschel, who is now almost a British subject, and Herr Kes, of Amsterdam. Both these gentlemen are distinguished conductors, but neither of them was able to permanently establish the orchestra. Now it is said that Mr. Wood, of Queen's Hall, is to be approached, and possibly under his guidance there may be better results. Or, if the directors prefer foreign musicians, they might consult that undoubted expert on such matters, Signor Randegger.

In the course of a discussion concerning the position of orchestral music in Glasgow last week, a proposition was gravely put forward that the Town Council should subsidise the orchestral concerts. It was received with shouts of derision. The canny Scot knows a good deal better than to subsidise public amusements. Those who wish to hear symphonies should be in a position to pay for the entertainment.

Sir Arthur Sullivan's "Martyr of Antioch" was duly produced as an opera at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, on Friday. It is a pity that in the stage version the beautiful setting of "Brother, thou hast gone before us" had to be sacrificed, but this funeral hymn, the masterpiece perhaps of Milman, is now so frequently used as a portion of the Church service that Sir Arthur preferred it should not be utilised for stage work. Accordingly, another and inferior funeral anthem, "Wreaths for our Graves" was substituted, and the finale to the cantata was slightly altered. The Carl Rosa troupe, who this week are at Brighton, have produced two new operas within a fortnight, not at all a bad record for a travelling party.

"La Poupée" reached its anniversary on Thursday, when M. Audran, its composer, came to London expressly to direct the work, this being his first appearance here as a conductor. A pleasant little surprise was prepared for him, for at the close of the first act in the doll-maker's shop, where all sorts of animated toys are seen in motion, there were revived a series of tableaux from "Olivette,"

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

"La Mascotte," "Miss Decima," and "La Cigale," the works by which M. Audran is best known in England.

Dr. Joachim drew on Saturday to the Popular Concerts the biggest audience of the season, perhaps, to hear that celebrated piece of musical fireworks, Tartini's "Devil's Trill." The Saturday performances still continue to attract a good deal more largely than the Mondays—a fact which one of these days must be taken into serious consideration. Last week Sir Frederick Bridge conducted an admirable performance of the "Redemption" at the Albert Hall. Some of the tempi were taken at a much slower pace than that adopted by the late Sir Joseph Barnby, but they were none the worse for that. Sir Joseph always appeared as a conductor of oratorio to be anxious not to miss his last train to Eton. One of the principal productions of the week was the "Elegiac" pianoforte trio by the young Russian composer Rachmaninoff. It is too long, lasting nearly an hour, and in some places very abstruse, but it is beyond question a fine work. Mr. Mark Hambourg, who has so greatly improved both in power and technique since his visit to Australia, has played at a recital, and the first of a series of concerts has likewise been given by Messrs. Greene and Borwick—the popular Irish basso reviving a series of old Irish melodies which have felicitously been fitted to new words by Mr. A. P. Graves.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

My dear Mr. Wyndham,—In "Simon Dale" (1) Mr. Anthony Hope has achieved the most brilliant success of the year—though the public who could admire "The Christian" may lack the wit to discover it. As, however, it has the popular and opportune merit of being an historical novel of breathless interest, it must score an ample, if not an adequate, success. What will most charm *you* in it is a wit worthy of the Merry Monarch, of Rochester, and of Nell Gwyn, who grace its lively stage, and indeed and in truth worthy of Congreve himself. Like Congreve and like Sheridan, Mr. Hope cannot resist the temptation of making all his personages as witty as himself, and the result is that you read the story, as it were, by successive and incessant flashes of sheet lightning. Open the book where you will, and you are dazzled by these coruscations, of which the following specimens of Charles's and Rochester's cynical vein is but an average sample:—

"In defining virtue as the device by which the weak intimidate the strong," observed Rochester, "the philosopher declared the purpose of virtue rather than its effect. For the strong are not intimidated, while the weak, falling slaves to their own puppet, grow more helpless still." "It's a just retribution on them," said the King, "for having invented a thing so tiresome." "In truth, sir, all these things that make virtue are given a man for his profit, that he may not go empty-handed into the mart of the world. He has stuff for barter; he can give honour for pleasure, morality for money, religion for power." "The sum of the matter," said the King, "is that he who refuses no bargain, however iniquitous, and performs none, however binding"—"Is a King among men, sir," interposed Rochester, with a low bow, "even as your Majesty is here at Whitehall."

The only lack of wit shown in the book is exhibited by its hero—not in words, since he also is brilliant in repartee—but in his mutton-headed obtuseness in love. If, however, heroes did not in this way play bo-peep with heroines, most novels would come to an untimely end. By giving the book the form of an autobiography, Mr. Anthony Hope encounters, without overcoming, the difficulty of describing in minute detail scenes and conversations which the narrator could not by any possibility have either seen or heard or had reported to him. While the heroine of "Simon Dale" exhausts in vain all the resources of feminine finesse for the encouragement of the hero, the heroine of "The Kentuckians" (2) has her woman's wit taxed to the utmost to keep at bay her swarming hosts of suitors. Every one loves her, every one proposes for her, and she refuses every one, and most decidedly and repeatedly of all him whom she finally accepts. This difference between the two heroines is all the more striking because of the difference between the fascination each has for the reader. No one can help loving Mr. Anthony Hope's heroine, whereas the heroine of "The Kentuckians" interests you only as a piece of ribbon which is the prize of an exciting competition. The struggle for her hand between Valentine and Orson *is* exciting, though neither of the competitors is very convincing, and though the prize goes to the less convincing and deserving of the two. What, however, strikes you most in the novel is its picture of the Arcadian manners of Kentucky, where the very members who denounce the Sicilian vendetta, which is carried on incessantly and murderously in the mountains, themselves fire at each other at sight on the steps of the Parliament House to the admiration of the police. As one of the duellists quitted the field of honour—the steps of the Parliament House—and walked towards the gate, "a policeman held it open for him, and touched his corded slouch hat as the mountaineer passed through." And what extorted the policeman's reverence and wrung tears from strong men? The magnanimity of one of the two heroes in refraining from shooting down the other whom the disabling of his revolver left at his mercy! But "The Kentuckians" has go in it, and interests you throughout. "The Broom of the War-God" (3) is all go from the first to the last page. It is a singularly vivid narrative in the form of a novel of the Græco-Turkish War, while every line bears the impress of absolute truthfulness. There seems to be not the slightest doubt that the Greeks were "more sinned against than sinning," and that the arch-sinner against them was not the Turk, nor the Powers, but their own King:—

In an interview published in the "Acropolis" (September 9), writes Mr. Brailsford, the Crown Prince remarked, "I need hardly tell you that when I went to Thessaly I did not believe that we were really going to war." It is now abundantly clear that the King and Delyanni were playing a game of bluff, as they did in 1878 and in 1886. The war was an appeal, not to arms, but to the nerves of an over-drilled Europe. In this light, the half-hearted defence of the frontier, and the withdrawal from Larissa, and then from Pharsala, become explicable. It is now known that it was only after a protest from the Thessalian deputies that any force was sent to Velestino. A serious resistance was not in the programme of the King and his Prime Minister, however much in earnest the nation as a whole may have been. In a book recently published in Athens, "Foreign Rule and Monarchy in Greece," by M. Philaretos, the deputy for Volo, it is stated on the authority of M. Levidis, formerly Minister of Marine, that the instructions sent by the Ministry to the fleet were constantly met by contradictory orders emanating from the Court. He had prepared an aggressive programme, but the King co-operated with the European Concert in "localising the conflagration." This certainly tends to confirm the theory that King George had some understanding with Russia.

After all, it is not these Kings that are chiefly to blame if their peoples allow themselves to be bought and sold and slaughtered like sheep. I cannot resist quoting for you Campanella's fine sonnet:—

The people is a beast of muddy brain
That knows not its own strength, and therefore stands
Loaded with wood and stone; the powerless hands
Of a mere child guide it with bit and rein;
One kick would be enough to break the chain;
But the beast fears, and what the child demands
It does; nor its own terror understands
Confused and stupified by bugbears vain.
Most wonderful! With its own hand it ties
And gags itself—gives itself death and war
For pence doled out by Kings from its own store.
Its own are all things between earth and heaven;
But this it knows not; and if one arise
To tell this truth, it kills him unforgiven.

(1) "Simon Dale." By Anthony Hope. With Eight Illustrations by W. St. J. Harper. (London: Methuen & Co.) Price 6s.
(2) "The Kentuckians." By John Fox, Jun. Illustrated by W. T. Smedley. (London: Harper Brothers.) Price 6s.
(3) "The Broom of the War-God." By Henry Noel Brailsford. (London: William Heinemann.) Price 6s.
(4) "The Marchioness Against the County." By Edward H. Cooper. (London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd.) Price 6s.

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Finally, let me recommend to you most strongly an admirably told story of a scandal, "The Marchioness Against the County (4), a woman's war, which is the most merciless and remorseless of all. The Marchioness wins a Cadmeian victory; for at the moment of conquering her detractors she loses her loveliness and her serenity; and the naturalness of the effect upon her of the ravages of disease is in keeping with the vivid realism of the entire story. Indeed, its personages are so life-like as to seem portraits drawn direct from life.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—The first Drawing Room was neither a very small nor a very large one. Several brides of more or less high degree were presented on their marriage, among them Mrs. Hamilton, who was Miss FitzGeorge. She wore her lovely wedding gown, a creation of Mr. Joyce. You may remember that it was embroidered in fairy-like fashion with pearls and turquoises mingled with crystal. She was presented by her mother-in-law, Lady Hamilton, of Iping, Sussex, who wore a sweet black satin gown embroidered all over with jet scrolls and showing glimpses of a white satin underdress veiled with Honiton. Touches of the lace and white satin on the bodice were deftly added, and a cluster of red geranium repeated the tone of the satin lining of the train.

Mrs. Dighton Probyn, another bride, wore her wedding gown, and carried an exquisite Goodyear bouquet of white lilac, with a cluster of white roses falling outwards at one side. Lady Griselda Cheape, also a bride, proved that she possesses her mother's picturesque taste in dress, for she wore quite a picture-gown of pearl-grey satin, with folds crossing the bodice trimmed with sable and silver. Scarves of silk muslin trimmed the skirt, and the train was edged with light and graceful frills of chiffon.

Mrs. Pierpoint-Morgan was much observed. She is the wife of the multi-millionaire, and is nice-looking with a lovely complexion and golden hair of the true, natural colour. Her dress was lovely, with no false glitter about it, but radiant in simplicity, if I may use an apparently contradictory expression. The white satin bodice and petticoat were veiled with finest, snowy lisse, on which lay lines of cream-tinted lace. The white satin was in a new shape called "Duchess" by its clever inventor, and was lined with pale blue glacé velvet, a tint that exactly suited the wearer's style and colouring. The train was bordered with roses in many shades of pink and crimson. Miss James, niece of Lord James of Hereford, wore a most artistic gown of deep cream-tinted satin, embroidered in burnished steel and diamonds, and veiled with lace in the same soft, deep tone of cream-colour as the satin. The sleeves were lace with pink roses tucked into them. The train, of striped green and silver and white Pompadour, was lined with petal pink, and put on with roses. Mrs. Edward Hope's lovely dress was white satin, the bodice embossed with gold, and silver, and crystal, and divided up to the front, and the edges bordered with a band of pale, bright-green velvet—a lovely touch. The brocade train was white and green. Lady Aline Beaumont's cream-coloured satin was artistically embroidered in silver and crystal in a French design, and trimmed with lovely Mechlin lace, stoles of it falling at either side. The brocade of the train was in a design of white lilac and green leaves on a white ground, and was trimmed with flowers to match those in the pattern. Lady Aline wore a tiara and necklet of rubies and diamonds. Mrs. Dunlop Best had on a sweet bodice, embroidered in silver in a most uncommon design of roses, which presented a very rich appearance. The pale-green satin petticoat was veiled with lisse embroidered all over with diamonds set on in curves. A band of silver tissue formed the belt, and into it was tucked a spray of La France roses.

The Marchioness of Worcester's Arcade châtelaine of Cattleya orchids was one of the prettiest things at the Drawing Room. They were real flowers, and, falling over her white satin crêpe-trimmed dress, they looked delicious. They served instead of a bouquet.

Mrs. Hanbury, of Pontypool, had a wonderful gown. The black lace petticoat fitted tightly over the hips, and thence hung most gracefully. The design, which consisted of cones and panels of embroidered jet sequins, was let in all round. Through the transparent lace pale-blue silk was visible, and the skirt was edged with three rows of pale-blue chiffon bouillonnés, a trimming that is now seen on everything. The black brocaded train was in a design of roses and forget-me-nots in the natural colours, and was lined with pink. All over it strayed bow-knots of rose-pink and forget-me-not blue chiffon arranged in bouillonnés, and interspersed with little bunches of small roses and foliage. A long trail of jessamine fell from the sleeve at one side of the bodice. Lady Caroline Gordon-Lennox wore black, as did the Countess of Normanton, the Countess of Lytton, and Mrs. Clement Royds, who had a satin Princess dress opening in front, with a lattice-work of jet over white chiffon. The black velvet train was trimmed with Limerick lace which looked lovely, so light and graceful and refined. She presented Miss Evelyn Tylden-Wright, her niece, who wore a very pretty white gown, trimmed with silver and white lilac.

Lady Anna Chandos-Pole, in black moiré velours trimmed with chiffon, and a train of pale heliotrope broché, trimmed with Malmaison carnations, was accompanied by her daughter, Miss Margaret Chandos-Pole, who looked extremely well in a Redfern creation. The dress was turquoise-blue satin, with trimmings of white silk muslin, and bouillonnés of the same, and Parma violets—a long spray of which began on the right shoulder, passing across the bodice, and falling over the skirt on the left. The foliage was powdered over with a simulation of frost, which proved very appropriate. The train was ivory satin, trimmed with chiffon and violets. The ornaments worn with this sweet gown were pearls. Mrs. Bolton, of Copped Hall, deserves the acclamations of the patriotic for having chosen Spitalfields brocade. It was lovely mauve and green, and her Arcade bouquet of cymbidium orchids and Parma violets went admirably with it.

The Hon. Mrs. Whateley wore a very beautiful dress of pale eau-de-Nil satin, both petticoat and bodice being embroidered with emeralds, brilliants, and pearls, and trimmed with lace appliqués and carnations. The pale-pink moiré train was sweetly pretty. Mrs. Whateley wore magnificent emeralds and diamonds. Lady Duckworth King's poppy-red satin, embroidered all over with paste, steel, and jet, was beautiful to behold. The pointed bodice, with lines of the embroidery converging at the waist, was draped with red and black tulle round the shoulders, and trimmed with black velvet and shaded poppies. The black velvet train was lined with red satin, and trimmed with red and black tulle and shaded flowers. Lady King's jewels included a diamond tiara, a pearl necklet, and ruby and diamond stars. Her bouquet was made of shaded red poppies and foliage.

The Lady Mayoress wore a charming gown of silver-grey satin shot with mauve and embroidered with steel. The train was violet velvet lined with satin in a paler tone, and trimmed with shaded feathers. She presented a daughter, Miss Violet Davies, who wore a dainty gown of white gauze over satin, frilled almost to the waist and trimmed with white violets and lilies. The flowers formed a ruche round the hem of the skirt and a berthe upon the bodice. Miss Davies wore pearl ornaments. Mrs. Charles Steel's black satin embroidered with steel and fine jet and violet velvet train made a pretty union; and Mrs. Colin

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Minton Campbell's white and Parma satin embroidered in a feather design, together with her train of petunia velvet trimmed with clusters of shaded feathers, was another distinct success. Very sweet, too, was the ivory satin of Mrs. Staunton, of Dungeith, Panchory, showered with diamonds and trimmed with Alençon, folds of chiffon and pale-pink roses with lily-of-the-valley.

Mrs. Walter Carlile wore yellow satin trimmed with panels of Indian embroidery and some rare old pillow lace. White and yellow chiffon with mauve orchids completed the trimming. The train was white and yellow brocade lined with mauve, matching the tint of the orchids on the bodice. Mrs. Mervyn de Montmorency's Buckingham lace was most covetable. Mrs. Thomas Willans Nussey, presented by Lady Reay, wore a softly beautiful composition in tones of ivory and white. Miss Gertrude Horsfall's presentation gown was trimmed with white heather. Miss Mackenzie's Greek tulle was most effective. The Misses De Burgh D'Arcy were dressed alike in sweet gowns trimmed with white lilies and shamrocks. They enjoyed the privilege of the entrée—no small matter on so cold a day. Lady Violet Brassey had a sweet ivory satin, embroidered with turquoise-velvet bows in true lovers' knots and steel wheat-ears. Her guipure collar was outlined with rows of puckered blue velvet ribbon. The train, in ivory satin, was embroidered to match up one side, and the other was draped with Brussels lace festooned with white and pink roses. Mrs. Hervey Greathed was presented on her marriage, wearing white lace over white satin. The train was trimmed with white chiffon and pink roses. Lady Hartland, wife of Sir Frederick Dixon Hartland, wore a very beautiful Court dress, consisting of a train of satin of a rare shade, Papal red, lined with Easter white, and trimmed with priceless Spanish point (formerly belonging to one of the Cardinal-Archbishops of Toledo). The petticoat, of rich moire antique, was profusely brocaded with coloured flowers, and round the hem hung a flounce of the lovely Spanish point; it was also trimmed with a small tablier, with long sash ends of silken gauze, edged with elaborately ruched chiffon. The bodice of the brocade was draped to match, and a branch of red roses, repeating the colour of the satin train, fell across the front. Her ornaments were magnificent diamonds, and the bouquet consisted of white Lenten flowers.

The Hon. Lady Grey Egerton's ivory satin dress had a lovely pink shade through it by reason of the lining, which was in shell-pink, and was embroidered in sequins and diamonds. Frills of pink mousseline de chiffon and rare old Brussels lace draped the bodice. The train, fastened to the bodice with four embroidered wings, was in rich Lyons velvet in shades of mauve and pansy colours. It was trimmed with pink and white chiffon. Lady Isabel Larnach achieved a highly successful contrast with her petticoat of pale mauve satin and train of yellow silk brocade trimmed with mauve and yellow iris. Lady Inverclyde, presented by the Duchess of Buccleuch on her husband being raised to the peerage, wore a most beautiful dress of rich opal satin, the skirt vandyked with opal passementerie. A spray of rosebuds and mauve primulas held the folds of lace on the bodice. Lady Inverclyde carried a lovely arcade bouquet of La France roses and mauve primulas. She presented her daughter, the Hon. Jane Burns, in a very sweet frock, the bodice of which was turned back in quite a new way with revers tapering to the waist. Lady Galway's black gown had lovely old point on it. Lady Cranborne, in white satin, wore a black satin train. Madame Romaro, wife of the Mexican Minister, in a beautiful dress, presented her daughter, Miss José Romaro, also exquisitely dressed in white moiré glacé silk, trimmed with lily-of-the-valley.

We went to a private view at the depôt of Greek Industries at 39, Marloes-road, Kensington, on Tuesday last, and found there so much that was novel and interesting that we stayed ever so long. This depot was opened last September, with the object of assisting the poor Greeks who had suffered in consequence of the war with the Turks. The factories had to be closed, and commerce was at a standstill. Consequently the sufferings of the poor workers thrown out of employment were and still are very severe. The depot is a small room, quite inadequate to show all the beautiful things brought from Greece, but the Committee hope in time to be able to take larger premises. The carpets and embroideries are hung upon the walls, where one can hardly see their quaintness of design and uncommon colouring. The stair-carpets are extremely pretty, being made with a white ground strewn over with designs in red and blue, which have partly a Russian and partly an Oriental character. Being hand-woven they are very durable. Greece appears to have no machinery whatever. The silks, gauzes, and linens are all hand-spun, and the laces, among them a peculiarly fine torchon, hand-made. Dhurries and narrow strips of embroidery on white wool would be found useful in the home, and large squares in lamb's-wool would be capital as bed-spreads. The colours in which they are worked are red, white, and blue, the designs being quaintly Greek. Shaped leather belts intended for the reception of pistols and dagger would serve as wall-pockets for newspapers and letter-racks. The colour is a deep, rich red, with spaces cut out, through which white leather shows. Small ordinary belts in various tints are ready for wear, some in the Greek mixture of white and blue.

The church lamps appealed to me almost more than anything else, their shape being so curiously antique, and probably unchanged since the early days of the Greek Church. The oil reservoir is fitted with three receptacles for wicks, and for every one of these an extinguisher is provided, being suspended from the upper portion, which is surmounted by the emblematic dove. A pendent pair of snuffers, with quaintly wrought handles, is another item in the whole. The leather shoes are interesting, those for children being ornamented with small rosettes of red, white, and blue wool. We bought some of the Greek soap, and intend to have some of the honey from Mount Hymettus, and olives from Kalamata, considered the best in the world. Already the Committee has been able, through private sales, to send out a thousand drachmas to Greece, but unfortunately the drachma, like the rupee, dwindles considerably in the exchange. It should be worth tenpence of our money, but really only fetches 7½d. Marloes-road is quite near Kensington High-street, and is close to Cheniston Gardens. If any of your London friends want to be good to Greece, you can direct them to the depot.

An Irish lady has just invented a very useful article that will be a boon to mothers. It is a frame of bamboo and netting that can be fitted to a cot of any size, allowing sufficient height to admit of the child standing upright inside, and yet protecting him efficiently from falling out. It well deserves its name of "Happy Thought," for it is as simple as it is useful. It can be had of Maple, Whiteley, and of Pim, Dublin. When not in use, the frame can be folded in four and tucked under the cot.

The Empress Club has just sent out a Jubilee badge to all its original members, a medallion with the two significant dates of which we all heard so much last year, the Crown, and the member's name. The Committee has handed over one hundred guineas to the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund, in accord with the intention expressed at the outset of giving to that purpose the odd shillings in the members' subscriptions. The success of the club is so great that a considerable enlargement of the premises is to take place at once, in order to accommodate the rush of new members.

Have you tried the combination of hot chocolate sauce with ice cream? It is rather good, and this is the way it is made:—

Steep a piece of vanilla pod in ½ pint of milk on the side of the stove for twenty minutes. Then remove the vanilla, add 4 oz. of sugar, and pour the boiling milk on to the beaten yolks of 4 eggs. Return it to the stewpan, stir it till the custard thickens, and whisk it till cold. Thoroughly blend the custard with ½ pint of

Sports.—By having recourse to a scientific Corsetière a graceful and becoming figure is the result, for the proportions are harmoniously delineated. Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., The Celebrated Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-st., Oxford-circus, London.

whipped and sweetened cream, freeze and mould it in the usual way. Turn the ice on to a dessert paper, and serve the sauce in a boat.

For the sauce:—Dissolve 1 oz. of grated "chocolate menier" in ½ gill of milk, mix the third of a spoonful of potato flour with a little milk, add it to the chocolate, and stir until boiling. Now mix in the yolk of an egg, whisk it till hot, then add, thoroughly and lightly, the whisked white of an egg and a heaped tablespoonful of whipped cream.

Cucumbers farced and larded with kidney and bacon for breakfast are a novelty:—

Choose a large straight cucumber; then peel it thinly, leaving a small strip ¾ in. wide down one side (this is left for larding purposes) Cut it down the middle, lengthwise, scoop out the centre of each half, then fill with this forcemeat: Take the white meat from the breast of a fowl, and mince it small, with green onions or chives, parsley, one or two mushrooms, bread crumbs soaked in cream, the juice of an orange, and the zest of a lemon, sufficient to fill the vacuum. Season with pepper, salt, and nutmeg. Mix altogether with the beaten yolk of an egg. Form the mixture into the shape of a sausage and place it in the cucumber. Set on the other half carefully, so that the stuffing is quite safe; tie each end with tape. Secure the whole with fine skewers, then boil it in good stock until tender, but on no account must the cucumber be broken. Have ready a par-cooked sheep's kidney, cut it into strips with these and narrow pieces of bacon, lard the cucumber alternately, taking the needle straight through. Set the cucumber in a hot oven to finishing cooking. In the meantime prepare a rich, thick, brown gravy. When ready, dish the cucumber, and pour the gravy around it.

These médaillons of veal form a superior entrée, seasonable all the year:—

Cut the best part of a fillet of veal into rounds ½ in. thick and 2 inches in diameter. Lard them through with strips of fat bacon. Put them into a buttered sautépan with a sliced onion, half a carrot, sliced, 1 oz. of minced lean bacon, a sprig each of thyme, marjoram, and parsley, a blade of mace, a glass of Madeira, and a little stock. Cover with a buttered paper, and braise them in a slow oven for half an hour, cool in the liquor, drain and trim. Now coat the surface of each with chicken forcemeat and ornament the top with cut truffles. Arrange them again in a buttered sautépan, moisten with good stock, cover with a buttered paper, and cook them in a slow oven for about half an hour, or until the forcemeat is firm. Make a thin border of mashed potato on an entrée dish, put a macédoine of cooked mushrooms, carrots, and truffles, tossed in a little sauce, in the centre of the dish. Arrange the médaillons round, and pour good suprême sauce over all.

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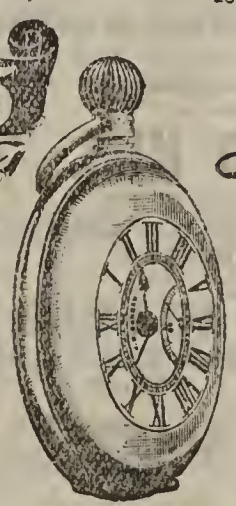

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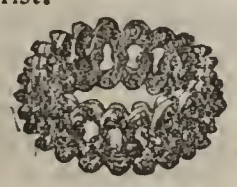
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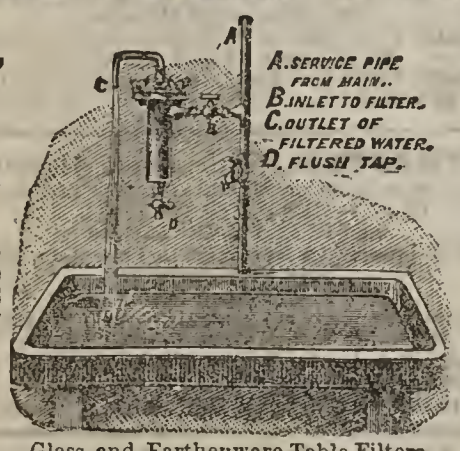

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CLIVEDEN-PLACE, Eaton-square.—A Delightful HOUSE TO BE LET, Furnished. Five bedrooms, three reception. Two good servants left. 10 guineas a week.—Apply, THE BELGRAVE LADIES' AGENCY, 83, Ebury-street, S.W.

TO INVALIDS.—A LIST of MEDICAL MEN, in all parts, receiving RESIDENT PATIENTS sent gratis, with full particulars. Schools also recommended.—Medical, &c., Association, Ltd., 8, Lancaster-place, Strand, W.C. Tel. Add., "Triform, London." Telephone No. 1,854 (Gerrard).

MAPLE & CO

BILLIARD MATS
BILLIARD MATS
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In NOISELESS CORK CARPET
DURABLE LINOLEUM
RICH SOFT WILTON
LUXURIOUS AXMINSTER
THICK PILE TURKEY

Woven specially for the purpose
The Largest Stock in the World
The Lowest Prices

BILLIARD MATS at from 50/- per Set

MAPLE & CO
LONDON AND SMYRNA

BITING EAST WINDS.

"Vinolia" Soap.

IS THE BEST FOR THE COMPLEXION, KEEPING THE SKIN SMOOTH AND VELVETY.
ESPECIALLY PREPARED FOR DELICATE, SENSITIVE SKINS.

4d

1/- per box of 3 Tablets.

6d

1/6 per box of 3 Tablets.

6d

1/6 per box of 3 Tablets.

10d

2/6 per box of 3 Tablets.

"Vinolia Shaving Soap."

For Sensitive Faces.

YIELDS A CREAMY LATHER, AND DOES NOT IRRITATE OR DRY THE SKIN.

6d

PREMIER VINOLIA SHAVING STICK.

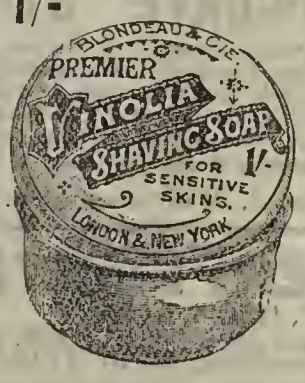
In gold-blocked cardboard case.

6d. per stick.

1/-

PREMIER VINOLIA SHAVING CAKE.

In celluloid box, or plain porcelain dish with lid, 1/-

1/-


TOILET VINOLIA SHAVING STICK.

In silver metal, or ivory-like tube

1/- per stick.

1/-

VINOLIA CREAM.

1/1½ 1/9

FOR ITCHING, FACE SPOTS, ECZEMA,

and the skin in health and disease.

1/1½ and 1/9 per box.

VINOLIA POWDER.

1/- 1/9

FOR REDNESS, ROUGHNESS, TOILET, NURSERY,

and for the complexion.

1/- and 1/9 per box.

In White, Pink, or Cream Tints.

VINOLIA DENTIFRICE.

6d 1/-

KEEPS THE TEETH IVORY WHITE.

Makes the breath sweet and the gums strong.

6d. and 1/- per box.

LAIT VINOLIA.

9d 9d

(NON-MEDICINAL), FOR THE COMPLEXION.

Keeps the skin beautifully soft, and of a velvety appearance.

9d. per bottle.

These Cigarettes are the Choicest in the Market, and will be appreciated by connoisseurs. Sample Box of 25, Post Free, 2s.

THE VASSO
HIGH-CLASS TURKISH CIGARETTES.

Of the Manufacturers,
LITSICA, MARX & Co.
21, Piccadilly, 24, Strand,
Or at Head Depot-174, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.
Price List on Application

OLLVAAN DIAMONDS

Exquisite New Design Brooch, 27/6 post free.

(Rgd.) are all mounted in **SOLID GOLD and SILVER, but that is not the point.** The point is that these stones are in themselves **the Only Rivals** of real Diamonds, of which they are an exact representation.

Book of illustrations post free for the asking. Address:

OLLVAAN, Rgd., 227, Regent St.

The Best CHAINLESS Cycle!
1898 **THE BANTAM** 1898
New Regd. 'Alpha' Frame.

List, Testimonials, and "Notes on the Bantam," free; also particulars of Bantamette, Crypto Safety, Gardner Back-Pedalling Brake, Collier 2-Speed Gear, Crypto Carrier-Cab, &c. CRYPTO WORKS CO., LTD., 29, CLERKENWELL ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

"COOPER" CYCLES.

From £5 10. Competition Defied.

Latest design Frame, large Weldless Steel Tubes, Ball Bearings, Tangent Wheels, Brake, and Mud-guards, Cushion Tyres, £5 10; Pneumatic, £7 10; Ladies', with Dress and Gear Guards, from £6. Twelve months' warranty. Lists free. AGENTS WANTED

Wm. Cooper, 753, Old Kent Rd., London, S.E.

THE PATENT "RIGID-CURVE" STROP.

Curved to the exact sweep a razor would describe if stropped by an expert, a man's hand instinctively acquires the knack of stropping like a barber, and nothing is easier after a little practice than perfection in shaving at home with any razor not actually in need of an oilstone.

Price **3s. 6d.**, carriage paid. A month's free trial allowed in actual use. Full money returned with pleasure if not approved.

A. HOWARTH, 53, Penn-road, Wolverhampton.

ALFRED CARTER, LIMITED

47, HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON, E.C.

New and Extensive SHOWROOMS 31 and 32, SHOE LANE, E.C. (Midway between Holborn-circus and Ludgate-circus). (*ONLY ADDRESSES*)

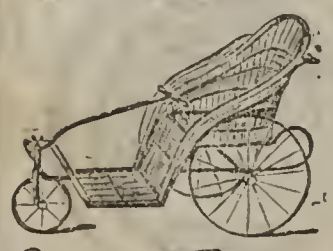
INVALIDS' MECHANICAL FURNITURE, BATH CHAIRS, &c.
Maker and Inventor of **VIADUCT AMBULANCE LITTER,** *used all over the World.*

BRIGHTON BATH CHAIR

SPINAL AND BATH CHAIR COMBINED.

WICKER BATH CHAIR.

BATH CHAIR.



SELF-PROPELLING AND CARRYING CHAIR COMBINED

PERAMBULATORS. (*New Designs for 1897.*)

ALFRED CARTER, Ltd., 47, HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON.
Illustrated Catalogue Post Free. No connection with any other Firm.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.
THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd. Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £30,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

WIRE CYCLE SADDLE.

WOODS' PATENT.

AN IDEAL SADDLE FOR LADY OR GENTLEMAN.

NO MORE CHAFING.

SADDLE SORENESS ENTIRELY PREVENTED.

Fitted with Felt or Leather Cover

One Month's Trial Allowed.

Prices and Testimonials on application to

THE LONGFORD WIRE CO., LTD., WARRINGTON.

Please mention this Journal.

GAMAGE'S CYCLING SHOES.

THE "REFEREE."

10/6 10/6

Horse-Skin or Tan Calf ... ... 10/6 | Extra Quality, Hand-Sewn ... 12/6

Made to measure. When sending by post, send size with order. Orders over 10s. carriage paid.

GAMAGE, Ltd., HOLBORN, LONDON, E.C.

THREE GOLD MEDALS.

Exquisite Models. Perfect Fit. Guaranteed Wear.

THE **Y & N** **PATENT DIAGONAL SEAM CORSET**

Will not split in the Seams nor tear in the Fabric. Made in White, Black, and all the fashionable colours and Shades in Italian Cloth, Satin, and Coutil, 4/11, 5/11, 6/11, 7/11 per pair and upwards.

CAUTION.—Every genuine **Y & N** Corset is stamped.

Sold by Drapers and Ladies' Outfitters in the United Kingdom and Colonies

BEST AND SAFEST NATURAL APERIENT.

Hunyadi János

"The Prototype of all Bitter Waters."
THE LANCET.

CAUTION.

Every Bottle bears the Signature of the Proprietor, ANDREAS SAXLEHNER.

The List of Applications will be **OPENED** on the 4th **MARCH, 1898**, and **CLOSED** on or before the 7th **MARCH, 1898**, both for Town and Country.

R. H. & S. ROGERS, LTD.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL - - £165,000,

DIVIDED INTO

75,000 5 per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each (Preferred as to Capital and Dividend) and ...	£75,000
90,000 ORDINARY SHARES of £1 each ...	90,000
	£165,000

ISSUE OF 75,000 PREFERENCE SHARES and 90,000 ORDINARY SHARES,

Payable as follows:—2s. 6d. on Application; 7s. 6d. on Allotment; 10s. one month after Allotment.

The first Dividend on the Preference Shares will be calculated on the instalments from the dates fixed for the payment thereof respectively.

DIRECTORS.

Sir Robert Hargreaves Rogers, 9, 10 and 11, Addle-street, London, E.C., Chairman.

Samuel Rogers, Esq., 9, 10 and 11, Addle-street, London, E.C.

John Pound, Esq., Alderman, J.P., Stanmore, Highbury New Park, N. (Chairman, London General Omnibus Company, Limited).

Edward Thomas Heffill, Esq., Cliftonville Works, Rotherhithe.

BANKERS.—Messrs. Glyn, Mills & Co., 67, Lombard-street, London, E.C.

BROKERS.—Messrs. John Gibbs, Son & Co., 29, Cornhill, and Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Reed & Reed, Guildhall Chambers, London, E.C.

AUDITOR.—Thomas Frid Maunder, Esq., 26, Martin's-lane, Cannon-street, London, E.C.

SECRETARY & OFFICES.—Mr. Albert H. Whitaker, 9, 10, and 11, Addle-street, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

The Company has been formed to acquire as a going concern the old established business of R. H. & S. Rogers, the well-known Shirt and Collar Warehousemen and Manufacturers, of 9, 10, and 11, Addle-street, London, with Factories at Rotherhithe, and at Coleraine, Ireland.

The business was founded upwards of fifty years ago by the late Mr. Thomas Rogers (the father of the present proprietors), who, from a comparatively small beginning, gradually built up and extended the concern until his death in 1876. Since that period his sons, Sir Robert Hargreaves Rogers and Mr. Samuel Rogers, have so successfully conducted the business, that their firm now occupies a leading position in the trade, and gives employment to some 2,000 hands.

The factory at Coleraine was erected only two years ago, and that at Rotherhithe has not been built more than a year, while the laundry there has only just been completed; both of the factories were built in place of smaller ones to provide for the necessities of the increasing trade, and for a similar reason the laundry has been erected at Rotherhithe, adjoining the factory, in the place of one in Bermondsey, which is no longer sufficient for the execution of the work of the firm. All these buildings have been erected under the supervision of Frederick W. Ledger, Esq., A.R.I.B.A.

The warehouses in Addle-street have within the last year been considerably added to and remodelled and fitted anew throughout, while at the factories and laundry, the machinery, plant, and tools are believed to comprise every modern improvement, and have been supplied under the advice of Joseph Crawhill Chapman, Esq., M.I.C.E., M.I.M.E. No expense has been spared to render the works of the firm as perfect in plant and appliances as modern skill and knowledge can provide.

The speciality of the firm has been the promptest execution of orders, thereby supplying a felt want in the trade, and their factories have been built and fitted and their whole business has been organised to this end.

As the firm has hitherto mainly confined its operation to London and a radius of something like twenty miles, it may be well understood that the scope for extending its business is practically unlimited, not only in the particular branches of the trade hitherto carried on, but in others closely allied to it, so that the addition to the capital which the present issue, and the payment by the Vendors of the liabilities provide, will, in the opinion of the Directors, materially increase the profits.

The accounts of the firm have been supervised for many years past by Mr. Thomas Frid Maunder, and amongst the satisfactory features of the business, it will be seen from his Certificate, that while the turnover has increased year by year, the percentage of profits has been maintained and the bad debts have averaged less than half per cent. on the amount of the turnover.

The following is a copy of his Certificate:—

26, Martin's-lane, Cannon-street, E.C.,
28th February, 1898.

To the Directors of R. H. & S. Rogers, Limited.

Gentlemen:—I have audited the books of Messrs. R. H. & S. Rogers' business for many years, and I certify that for the past ten years both the gross turnover and the net profits have steadily increased from year to year, while at the same time the percentage of profit on turnover has been fully maintained, and the bad debts during the whole period have averaged less than half per cent. on the turnover.

I further certify that the net profits for the past three years, after making adequate allowance for depreciation of machinery and plant, have been as follows:—

Year ended 30th September, 1895 ...	£10,246 12 2
" " " 1896 ...	11,401 13 0
" " " 1897 ...	12,440 7 10

In ascertaining the above profits no deduction has been made for interest on capital, income tax, or partners' remuneration.

The profits for the year ended September, 1897, would have been sufficient, after paying a dividend of 5 per cent. on £75,000 of Preference Shares, to pay a 7½ per cent. dividend on £90,000 of Ordinary Shares, leaving a balance of nearly two thousand pounds (£1,946).

I have examined the accounts of the past three months to 31st December, and find that the sales exceed those of any previous year for the same period.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS FRID MAUNDER.

Mr. Charles Perry Whiteley, F.S.I., Surveyor and Valuer, of 82, Queen-street, London, has valued the fee farm and leasehold property, machinery, plant and fixtures, and a copy of his valuation follows:—

82, Queen-street, Cheapside,
London, E.C. 28th February, 1898.

To the Directors of Messrs. R. H. & S. ROGERS, Limited.

Gentlemen,—In accordance with your instructions, I have surveyed and valued the several properties set forth in the schedule hereto. They are all of substantial construction, in good repair, and well fitted with modern appliances.

I have also valued the engines, machinery, fixtures, fittings, and utensils in trade at the various factories. This plant is of the most approved type, and in excellent condition.

The Cliftonville Laundry has only just been erected, having been built to replace a much smaller building (now disposed of), and the engines, boilers, machinery, &c., are consequently quite new.

I value the whole of the properties referred to, together with the machinery, plant, &c., at the sum of thirty-four thousand four hundred and fifty-five pounds and twelve shillings.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTIES.

COLERAINE FACTORY.—Nearly equal to freehold, being held in perpetuity, subject to a land charge of £16 per annum.

CLIFTONVILLE WORKS and LAUNDRY, Bolina-road, Rotherhithe.—Held upon lease for a term of 81 years (less 10 days) from 29th September, 1883, at the ground rent of £45 per annum.

Nos. 9 and 10, ADDLE-STREET, with Premises in the rear.—Held upon lease for a term of 21 years from 29th September, 1895, at the rent of £775 per annum.

No. 11, ADDLE-STREET.—Held upon lease for a term of 12 years (less 10 days) from 25th December, 1895, at the rent of £550 per annum.

Yours faithfully,
CHAS. P. WHITELEY.

The Company take over the Vendors' business and business assets, with the benefit of all their existing contracts as from the 30th of September last, up to which date the Vendors discharge liabilities. The Company will be entitled to the profits since that time subject to the Vendors receiving from that date their remuneration and interest on the cash portion of the purchase money at 5 per cent. per annum up to the completion of the transfer to the Company.

The purchase price for the assets of the business and goodwill has been fixed by Sir Robert Hargreaves Rogers and Mr. Samuel Rogers, the Vendors, at £160,000, payable as to £25,000 in preference shares, £29,998 in ordinary shares, and the balance in cash.

The assets on the 30th September last (apart from the fee farm and leasehold premises and plant, machinery and tools since added to and now valued at £34,455 12s. 0d., and also apart from goodwill) comprised stock-in-trade (taken by the Vendors at or under cost) £29,243 4s. 8d.; book debts (guaranteed by the Vendors) £21,839 1s. 10d.; and cash, £2,048 7s. 10d.

The sale price of the old Bermondsey laundry business, which has been sold since the 30th September last, the sale of the leasehold interest being carried out by way of underlease has been applied towards the completion and fitting of the new one, any further moneys that were required having been paid out of the business, and the Company will therefore be credited with this sale price and debited with any payments since the 30th September last, connected with the erection and fitting of the new one.

The present members of the firm, to whose management the continued and increasing success of the business is due, have agreed to act as joint Managing Directors of the Company for at least five years, taking as remuneration, after a fixed minimum, a share of the net profits after paying the Preference Shareholders a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and the Ordinary Shareholders a dividend at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum (the first dividend being calculated on the instalments payable on the Shares from the dates fixed for the payment thereof respectively) as provided in detail by the agreement between the Vendors and the Company mentioned below. Mr. Heffill, who has for many years had the management of the laundry department of the business, is joining the Board as Director, and will continue to manage this branch.

The Vendors will pay all expenses of every kind incidental to the formation and registration of the Company, and up to the first allotment, except the stamp duty on the agreement for sale to the Company.

No promotion money has been or will be paid, and no portion of the capital has been or will be underwritten.

Application for a settlement and quotation on the London Stock Exchange will be made in due course.

An agreement dated 1st March, 1898, has been entered into between Sir Robert Hargreaves Rogers and Mr. Samuel Rogers (the Vendors) of the one part, and the Company of the other part, and on the sale (since completed) of the old laundry an agreement for sale dated the 10th November, 1897, and made between Sir Robert Hargreaves Rogers and Mr. Samuel Rogers of the one part, and Charles Kingstone and James Maunder Kingstone of the other part, was entered into.

The business will be taken over subject to all existing contracts. They are of the ordinary trade character and necessary for the working of the concern, but including as they do contracts with employés, agents, representatives, customers and others they cannot be specified. There may be also other contracts which may technically fall within section 38 of the Companies Acts, 1867. Subscribers will be held to have had notice of all these contracts and to have waived all right to be supplied with particulars of such contracts, and to have agreed with the Company as trustees for the Directors and other persons liable not to make any claim whatsoever or to take any proceedings under the said Section in respect of any non-compliance therewith.

Copies of the above agreements dated the 1st March, 1898, and the 10th November, 1897, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Accountants' Certificate and the Valuer's Certificate can be inspected at the offices of the Solicitors to the Company.

Application for the Shares should be made on the form accompanying the prospectus, and forwarded to the Company's Bankers, Messrs. Glyn, Mills, & Co., with a remittance for the amount of the deposit.

If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and when the number of Shares allotted is less than that applied for, the surplus deposit will be appropriated to the amount due on allotment, and any excess will be returned to the applicant.

Prospectuses and forms of application may be obtained from the Solicitors, Brokers, Auditor, and Bankers of the Company, and also at the Office of the Company.

London, 1st March, 1898.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will Open To-day, TUESDAY, the 1st day of MARCH, 1898, and Close on or before FOUR o'clock on THURSDAY, the 3rd day of MARCH for Town and Country.

SALVIATI, JESURUM, & CO., LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL, £330,000,

Divided into 180,000 Cumulative Six per Cent. Preference Shares of £1 each, and 150,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

Of the above 150,000 Ordinary Shares, the Vendors stipulate that 140,000 shall be allotted to them as fully paid up, the remaining 10,000 being retained by the Company to be issued as further Working Capital as and when required.

The Preference Shares will be entitled, out of the Profits, to a fixed Cumulative Preferential Dividend of Six per Cent. per annum, payable half-yearly, and will rank in respect of Capital and Dividend on the Property and Assets of the Company in priority to the Ordinary Shares.

The Preference Shares will be also entitled to 25 per Cent. of the surplus Profits after payment of 6 per Cent. per annum on the Preference and 8 per Cent. per annum on the Ordinary Shares and providing an amount equal to 10 per Cent. of the Balance for Reserve Fund.

It is not intended to create any Debentures, and no Debentures will be issued without the consent of the holders of three-fourths of the Preference Shares given at a Meeting duly convened for the purpose of giving such consent.

PREFERENCE SHARES HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPLIED FOR IN LONDON AND VENICE.

Subscriptions are invited for 180,000 Cumulative Six per Cent. Preference Shares of £1 each at par, payable as follows:—
2s. 6d. per Share on Application; 7s. 6d. per Share on Allotment; 5s. per Share One Month after Allotment; 5s. per Share Two Months after Allotment.

DIRECTORS.

William B. Leaf, Esq., Director of Pawsons & Leafs, Ltd., St. Paul's Churchyard, London, Chairman.
William Gray, Esq., Director of the Fore-street Warehouse Co., Ltd., London.
William Jackson, Esq., Director of the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd.
Sir John N. Maitland, Bart., lately with Messrs. Ogilvy, Gillanders, & Co., 67, Cornhill, London.
Commendatore G. Suppiei, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Venice, and Member of the Council of the Banca Veneta di Depositi e Conti Correnti.
*Commendatore M. Jesurum, of M. Jesurum & Co., Venice, Member of the Council of the Chamber of Commerce of Venice.
*G. Salviati, Esq., 213, Regent-street, London.
* Will join the Board after Allotment.

ART ADVISER.—John R. Clayton, Esq., of Messrs. Clayton & Bell, 311, Regent-street, London.

BANKERS.

London: Union Bank of London, Ltd., 2, Princes-street, London; and Branches.
Venice: Messrs. Jesurum Bros. & Co.

SOLICITORS FOR THE COMPANY.—Messrs. Edell & Gordon, 4, King-st., London.
SOLICITOR FOR THE VENDORS.—Gilbert E. Samuel, Esq., 16, Great Winchester-street, London.
BROKERS.—Messrs. Elliott & Bendon, 13, Copthall-court, and Stock Exchange, London.
AUDITORS.—Messrs. C. F. Kemp, Ford, & Co., 73, Lombard-street, London.
SECRETARY AND OFFICES (*pro tem.*).—A. R. Peruzzi, Esq., 1, Queen Victoria-street, London.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to acquire, develop, and carry on, as a going concern, the following well-known businesses, viz.:—

G. SALVIATI, 213, Regent-street, London, trading as Salviati & Co., at Venice, Murano, and Paris, with agencies at New York, St. Petersburg, Berlin, &c.

M. JESURUM & CO., Venice, with agency in Paris.

TESTOLINI BROS., Nos. 65, 66, 67, 76, 77, 101, 102, 103, 110, 111, and 112, St. Mark's-square (containing 45 show rooms) and the Palace Labia, Venice, and at Murano.

THE VENICE ART CO., Successors to A. Marcato, Venice.

PAGLIARIN AND FRANCO, Venice.

The businesses of G. Salviati and Salviati & Co., have been established for many years. Their specialities in Venetian glass and art Mosaics have attained a world-wide reputation by reason of their beauty and artistic excellence.

Mosaics by the Salviatis can be inspected at St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Kensington Museum, Wolsey Chapel, Windsor, the Mausoleum, Frogmore, and many other places, both here and abroad. The Mosaic decorations of Budapest Cathedral and the New Basilique, at Antwerp, are now being executed by Salviati.

Signor Salviati has recently been honoured by an important order from Her Majesty the Queen, for the Mosaic decoration of Frogmore Mausoleum at Windsor, and is now executing the same.

Messrs. Jesurum & Co., established in 1879, in Venice, are manufacturers of hand-made point, pillow, and polychrome laces, silks, brocades, tapestries, damasks, velvets, stuffs, embroideries, dress silks, &c., and have gained pre-eminence for the beauty and novelty of their designs and exquisite taste, while for excellence of workmanship they are unsurpassed. They make a special feature of the reproduction of the old patterns in these beautiful fabrics, and are also dealers in antique lace, of which they have a very valuable stock.

The magnitude of the business of Messrs. Jesurum & Co. may be gathered from the fact that they give employment to some thousands of workpeople for the production of their fabrics and laces. In addition, they dispose by special agreement the lace made at the Lace Schools of Burano, which are presided over by Her Majesty the Queen of Italy. M. Jesurum & Co. are lace manufacturers to many of the Sovereigns and Courts of Europe.

Testolini Bros. are old-established manufacturers and dealers in carved wood furniture, their speciality being the reproductions of furniture from the old Venetian models. The firm is also noted for its ornamental marbles, mirrors, and ornaments, bronzes, upholstery, fancy hammered iron, armour, &c., and they have gained a prominent name for table glass and glass for table decoration.

The Venice Art Co. are successors to the celebrated firm of A. Marcato, and possess a superb collection of antique furniture, tapestries, bronzes, and works of art, which is reputed to be one of the most varied of the kind in Europe. They are also manufacturers of modern furniture reproduced from old models.

Since the arrangements for purchasing the four first above-named businesses were completed, the Directors in Venice had offered to them the glass factory of Messrs. Pagliarin & Franco. After careful investigation, they were satisfied that the average profits derived from this establishment have been £2,000 and upwards during the last two years. The Directors hold what they consider an ample guarantee that the profits from this business, during the next three years, shall not be less than £2,000 per annum. As its acquisition will strengthen the combination, it will be acquired by the Company.

Many of the articles manufactured by the above firms are peculiar to Venice, and are only produced by native workers, who inherit the methods of manipulation acquired through generations. Their skill imparts a distinctive character to their work, stamping it as Venetian, and causing it to be sought after in every country.

The principal object of this amalgamation is to do away with the competition at present existing between the above firms in the payment of commissions, advertising, and other expenses; and also to establish a large and important depot in London, as well as to extend the branches in other cities.

The premises at present occupied by Salviati in Regent-street being insufficient for the requirements of the combined businesses, it is intended to select more suitable premises in a leading West End thoroughfare in London, where the manufactures produced can be properly displayed. The directors feel confident that by the establishment of such a depot in London a considerable increase in the sales of the various goods will be effected and the profits increased in proportion.

M. Jesurum, in Venice, and G. Salviati, in London, independently of their positions as Directors, will superintend the business for a period of five years, and thereafter as long as they shall remain Directors without any extra remuneration. Arrangements have been made with the other proprietors who have been managing their businesses to continue as managers for a period of not less than five years, and the Company will thus secure the benefit of the assistance of those who have brought these businesses to their present state of prosperity.

The bulk of the sales being affected for cash, the risk of bad debts is reduced to a minimum.

Messrs. C. F. Kemp, Ford, & Co., Chartered Accountants, of London, have examined the books and accounts of the firms mentioned in their certificate, of which the following is an extract:—

The combined profits of the five firms for the period averaging about three years show an average annual profit of Lire 673,627.03 which at the exchange of 26, are equal to £25,908 14s. 6d. sterling.

The profit for the last year of the periods examined amount to Lire 755,783.86, or £29,068 12s. 2d. sterling.

The Directors have every reason to believe that the above profits of the years 1896-97 will not only be maintained, but largely increased. To these must be added the profits to be derived from the acquisition of the business of Pagliarin and Franco—viz., £2,000, and the rental received from property to be acquired by the Company, and let to tenants at total rentals of £465 7s. 6d., thus giving a total net annual profit of £31,533 19s. 8d.

Taking the above figures as a basis for calculation, the following dividends can be paid:—

	£	s.	d.
On £180,000 Preference Shares at 6 per cent....	10,800	0	0
On £140,000 Ordinary Shares at 8 per cent.	11,200	0	0
Leaving a margin of...	9,533	19	8

per annum, which will be available for reserve fund, additional dividends, Directors' fees, &c.

In the above calculation no account has been taken of the economies which can be effected by this amalgamation, nor of the profits which it is believed will accrue to the Company by preventing competition and extending its business.

Messrs. Cadel & Padoa, of Venice, sworn valuers to the Law Courts of Venice, have valued in Venice and Murano the freehold properties in the occupation of M. Jesurum & Co., Testolini Brothers, The Venice Art Company, and Pagliarin & Franco, now to be acquired by the Company, at 668,000 lire, which is equivalent to £25,692 6s. 2d.

In addition to the above, the Company also acquires the numerous and valuable leasehold properties. All the properties are situate in the best positions in Venice.

The businesses will be taken over as from the 1st January, 1898. The stock-in-trade held by the several firms, at absolute cost price, amounted on the 1st January, 1897, to the sum of £101,686 18s. 4d., and the book debts to the sum of £8,699 1s. 6d. The stock-in-trade and book debts will be taken over by the Company at these figures, the later being guaranteed by the Vendors.

The plant and fittings will be taken over at a price not exceeding £11,438 9s. 2d. Their original cost was greatly in excess of this amount, and proper allowances have been made for depreciation from time to time.

The plant and fittings will be valued by a competent valuer on behalf of the Company after allotment, and any excess in value shall be retained by the Company, but should the stock and valuation of the plant and fittings be less than the above sums, the purchase money will be reduced accordingly, and the difference between such sums and the valuation will be applied to additional working capital.

In addition to the sum of £20,000, provided by the present issue for working capital, which, with the valuable stock now held and book debts guaranteed by the Vendors, is considered ample for all purposes, £10,000 in Ordinary Shares are left in the hands of the Directors for future issue as and when required.

The Company incurs no liability or expense relative to the formation, promotion, or registration of the Company except the stamp duty on the contract.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and of the contracts, together with the report of Messrs. Kemp, Ford, & Co., and sworn valuation of the freehold by Messrs. Cadel & Padoa, may be inspected by intending subscribers at the Office of the Solicitors to the Company.

It is intended to make application in due course for a Stock Exchange quotation and settlement of the Preference Shares.

Applications for Shares should be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus, and sent with deposit to the Company's Bankers. If no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full; and if a less amount is allotted than that applied for, the deposit will be credited towards the amount due on allotment.

Prospectuses and forms of application, &c., can be obtained at the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, Auditors, and the Offices of the Company.

London, 26th February, 1898.

SALVIATI, JESURUM, & COMPANY, LIMITED.

APPLICATION FORM FOR £6 PER CENT. PREFERENCE SHARES.

To the Directors of Salviati, Jesurum & Co., Limited.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your bankers the sum of.....being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share on an application for.....Preference Shares of £1 each in the above-named Company, I request you to allot me that number of Shares, and I agree to accept the same or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and upon terms of the Prospectus, issued by you, dated the 26th day of February, 1898, and I authorise you to place my name on the register of members in respect of the Shares so allotted to me, and I agree to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Shares as the same shall become due; and I agree with the Company, as trustee for the Directors and other persons liable, to waive any claims I may have against them for not more fully complying in the said Prospectus with the requirements of Sec. 38 of the Companies Act, 1867.

Name (in full) .....
Address .....
Description .....
Date .....1898.
Signature .....

All cheques to be made payable to the Bankers.

The LIST of APPLICATIONS will be closed on or before THURSDAY, MARCH 3, both for Town and Country.

The Manchester and County Bank, Limited, and their branches are authorised to receive subscriptions for the undermentioned debenture stock and shares.

GARTSIDES (BROOKSIDE BREWERY), Limited.—Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

SHARE CAPITAL, £350,000.

divided into

27,500 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each £175,000

and

17,500 Ordinary Shares of £10 each £175,000

First Mortgage Debenture Stock, £300,000.

Bearing Interest at 4¼ per Cent. per annum.

Present Issue:—

£300,000 4¼ per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture Stock at £103 per £100.
27,500 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each.
15,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each.

Payable in each case as follows:—

Debenture Stock.

£5 per Cent. on Application.
£48 per Cent. (on Allotment of which 3 per Cent. represents premium).
£50 per Cent. April 15, 1898.

£103

Preference Shares.

£	s.	d.	
0	10	0	per Share on Application.
4	10	0	per Share on Allotment.
5	0	0	per Share, March 31, 1898.
£10	0	0	

Ordinary Shares.

£	s.	d	
0	10	0	per Share on Application.
4	10	0	per Share on Allotment.
5	0	0	per Share, March 31, 1898.
£10	0	0	

Out of the proceeds of this issue £25,000 will be provided as additional working capital, and the balance of the Ordinary Shares—viz., £25,000, will be reserved for future issue as further working capital if required.

Mr. Henry Gartside, the Chairman of the old Company, will subscribe for and take an allotment of one-third of the Cumulative Preference Shares, one-third of the present issue of Ordinary Shares, and one-third of the Debenture Stock.

The Debenture Stock will be secured by a specific First Mortgage to Trustees for the Debenture Stockholders upon the freehold and leasehold properties, having more than seven years to run, comprised in the valuation of Messrs. William Wilson and Son set out below, and by a floating charge (subject to a power reserved by the Trust Deed to charge hereditaments other than the freeholds and leaseholds specifically mortgaged) upon the other assets and general undertaking of the Company, but not including its capital for the time being uncalled. The Stock will be redeemable at the option of the Company, on or at any time after December 31, 1915, at the rate of £110 per cent. on six months' notice, and in the event of a voluntary winding up for the purpose of reconstruction or amalgamation, it will be redeemable at the like rate. The Debenture Stock will be registered in the books of the Company, and the interest will be payable half-yearly on every January 1 and July 1, the first payment (calculated from the due dates of payment of the several instalments) being made on July 1, 1898. The last instalment of the Debenture stock may be paid in full in advance under a discount of 2 per cent. per annum. Failure to pay any instalment when due will render the amounts already paid liable to forfeiture. Power is reserved by the Trust Deed to issue a further £300,000 Debenture stock, ranking *pari passu* with the present issue, but this power is not to be exercised unless additional properties approved by the Trustees be conveyed to them, as provided by the Trust Deed, and then only to the extent of three-fifths of the cost of such additional properties. The Preference Shares are entitled to a cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 5 per centum per annum, and will rank both for capital and dividend in priority to the Ordinary Shares. The interest on the Preference shares will be paid half-yearly on March 1 and September 1 in each year. The first payment will be made on September 1, 1898, and will be calculated from the due dates of payment of the several instalments.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE STOCKHOLDERS.—The North of England Trustee Debenture and Assets Corporation, Limited, 45, Spring-gardens, Manchester.

SOLICITORS TO THE TRUSTEES.—Grundy, Kershaw, Saxon, & Samson, 31, Booth-street, Manchester, and 4, New-court, Carey-street, London, W.C.

DIRECTORS.

Robert Ascroft, M.P. (Oldham), Sedgley Hall, Prestwich, Manchester, Chairman.
Roger A. Gartside, Greenfield, near Oldham (Director of Gartsides, Limited).
A. Gartside Brierly, Denshaw House, Delph (Director of Gartsides, Limited).
George Mellor, J.P., High Bank, Werneth, Oldham, Auctioneer and Valuer.
Charles E. Redfern, J.P., Brookside Brewery, Ashton-under-Lyne, Managing Director.

BANKERS.

Manchester—The Manchester and County Bank (Limited), King-street, Manchester, and its Branches.
London—Barclay and Company, Limited, 54, Lombard-street, London, and Branches.

SOLICITORS TO THE COMPANY.

Nicholson, Graham, and Graham, 24, Coleman-street, London, E.C.

BROKERS.

Faithfull Begg and Co., Bartholomew House, London, E.C.
Henry Cooke and Son, 4, St. Ann's-churchyard, Manchester.

AUDITORS.—F. W. Popplewell, Son, and Kenyon, chartered accountants, 2, Marsden-street, Manchester.

SECRETARY and Registered Office.—T. P. Smith, Brookside Brewery, Ashton-under-Lyne.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring as a going concern, and carrying on the old-established Brewery known as Brookside Brewery, Ashton-under-Lyne, situate near to the Guide Bridge Railway Station, fuller particulars of which are mentioned in the valuation of Messrs. William Wilson & Son, set out below. The brewery was founded by the late John Gartside, in 1830, and was in 1892 (for family reasons only) converted into a private Limited Company, under the title of "Gartsides (Limited)" and has since been successfully carried on by the family under that name.

The properties to be acquired by the Company comprise the following:—

1. Freehold brewery offices, stables, fixed plant, and machinery, called Brookside Brewery, Ashton-under-Lyne, and freehold and long leasehold public-houses, beer-houses, and other properties, valued by Messrs. William Wilson & Son, auctioneers and valuers, Manchester, at	£411,350 19 2	
2. Properties held on short leases and yearly tenancies, valued by Messrs. William Wilson & Son at.....	21,508 0 0	
3. Horses, drays, vehicles, harness, casks, and working plant, &c., valued by Messrs. William Wilson & Son at.....	13,043 7 8	
		£445,902 6 10
4. Book debts and loans, rent and interest guaranteed by the old Company.....		60,415 0 0
5. Rolling stock and stocks of brewing materials taken at cost price		7,114 0 0
6. Shares in hotel companies taken at par		1,000 0 0
7. Extra working capital provided from this issue		25,000 0 0
		£539,431 6 10

The following is a copy of Messrs. William Wilson and Son's valuation, referred to above:—

29, Fountain-street, Manchester, December 31, 1897.

To Messrs. Gartsides (Limited), Brookside Brewery, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Gentlemen,—We, the undersigned, in accordance with your instructions, have made a valuation of the "Brookside Brewery," situate at Ashton-under-Lyne, in the county of Lancaster, together with the fixed plant, stables, and premises adjoining. In connection with the Brewery are sixty fully-licensed hotels and public-houses, forty-five beer-houses, some with wine licences, six beer-houses with out-door licences, forty-three shops and premises, and 182 dwelling-houses and cottages, and several plots of vacant land, all freehold of inheritance or held on lease for long terms, the whole of which are situate in Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, Hooley Hill, Dukinfield, Hurst, Hyde, Oldham, Austerlands, Denshaw, Delph, Diggle, Saddleworth, Greenfield, Mossley, Newton Heath, Gorton, Middleton, Mottram, Haughton Green, Hadfield, Glossop, Broadbottom, Marple, New Mills, Furness Vale, Blackpool, Poulton-le-Fylde, and Liverpool, in the counties of Cheshire, Lancashire, Derbyshire, and Yorkshire; together with eighty-five fully-licensed public-houses and beer-houses, and eighteen beer-houses with out-door licences, situate in the before-mentioned localities, and held on short leases. The brewery and plant, with the stables and other appurtenances in connection therewith, are all in first-class order and condition, well appointed, and capable of producing a very large output, much in excess of the present trade. They are situate with a frontage to the Ashton Canal, and connected with a loading gangway to the Great Central Railway, and are in close proximity to the Guide Bridge Railway Station, and placed advantageously for most of the houses. We have also valued the rolling stock, comprising casks, horses, drays, carts, traps, conveyances, harness, loose tools, office furniture, fittings, and effects, which are all in first-class working order and condition.

The total amount of our valuation is the sum of four hundred and forty-five thousand nine hundred and two pounds six shillings and tenpence.

SUMMARY.

Freehold brewery, stables and premises, together with the freehold and long leasehold public-houses, beerhouses, shops, and dwelling-houses	£411,350 19 2
Short leasehold public-houses, beerhouses, shops, and premises	21,508 0 0
Horses, drays, vehicles, harness, casks, and working plant.....	13,043 7 8
	£445,902 6 10

WILLIAM WILSON & SON, Valuers.

Messrs. F. W. Popplewell, Son, & Kenyon, of 2, Marsden-street, Manchester, chartered accountants, have audited the books of the concern since 1852, and they certify as follows:—

February 3, 1898.

We have audited the Books and Accounts of Gartsides, Limited, of Brookside Brewery, Ashton-under-Lyne, and of their predecessors, from the year 1852 to the present time, and certify that the net profits of the business, including rentals, but excluding Directors' and Managers' remuneration for the four and a half years ending December 31, 1897, were as under:—

For the year ending June 30, 1894.....	£25,796 14 2
" " June 30, 1895.....	26,656 6 1
" " June 30, 1896.....	30,463 13 11
" " June 30, 1897.....	35,474 13 9
For the half-year ending December 31, 1897....	19,549 6 9

In arriving at the above figures, large sums have from time to time been expended in repairs, renewals, and extensions to buildings and fixed plant, and charged against revenue, depreciation has not been written off, except in the case of leaseholds.

Interest on mortgages and loans, which are to be repaid by Gartsides, (Limited), has not been charged, and no rent has been charged for the Brewery, as that property, hitherto held on lease, will be owned by the proposed Company.

Extending over the four years ending June 30, 1897, there was a special trading loss of £4,694 19s. 5d. (of which £508 15s. 4d. is attributable to the year ending June 30, 1897) in respect of certain transactions which are now closed. This loss has not been charged against the foregoing profits, as it will not recur.

F. W. POPPLEWELL, SON, & KENYON,
Chartered Accountants.

The Company will have the benefit of purchases made at last year's prices of a supply of hops bought since June 30, 1897, sufficient for all probable requirements for the next fifteen months, and of malt similarly bought, which it is estimated will last until November next.

Until 1897 the business was confined to beer, ale, and stout, but now extra profits may reasonably be expected from the sale of wines and spirits to the Company's houses and the public.

The profits of the business for the 18 months ending December 31, 1897, as certified above, were £55,024 0s. 6d., or at the rate of per annum		£36,682 13 8
To pay 4¼ per cent. on £300,000 Debenture Stock will take.....	£12,750 0 0	
To pay 5 per cent. on £175,000 Preference shares will take.....	8,750 0 0	
		21,500 0 0
Leaving a balance for the payment of Directors' fees and Manager's remuneration and the dividend on the present issue of Ordinary Shares of		£15,182 13 8

The policy of the Brewery has been to let their houses to respectable and bonâ-fide tenants, so as to ensure as far as possible the permanence of the licences.

The Directors propose to retain the services of the existing staff of the Brewery, and have arranged with Mr. Charles E. Redfern, who has been the Manager for twenty-one years, to be Managing Director of the Company, thereby ensuring the continuity of the present successful management.

The business will be taken over from June 30, 1897, with the benefit of the trading from that date, subject to payment of interest on the share of purchase money payable to the vendors of the brewery freehold and the old Company at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum, the old Company guaranteeing the book debts and loans, and discharging their liabilities existing at that date, other than liabilities under pending contracts, of which the benefit is included in the sale.

The present sale of the business is made by the Conversion Guarantee Company, Limited (hereinafter called the Conversion Company), who have purchased it from the old Company, and the Freehold of the Brewery is being sold by the Devisees under the late John Gartside's will. Mr. Roger A. Gartside, one of the Directors of the present Company, is one of such Devisees, and is also interested in the Conversion Company.

The aggregate purchase price for the Freehold Brewery and other Properties and Assets mentioned above, and for the benefit of the Contracts mentioned in the next clause, and the Goodwill, has been fixed by the Conversion Company (who are the promoters) at £600,000, payable in cash (in addition to the premium on the £300,000 Debenture Stock offered for subscription), of which sums amounting in the aggregate to £550,000 will be paid to the original Vendors, and the balance to the Conversion Company; who will thereout pay all the expenses of forming the Company and of this issue up to the first allotment, including printing and advertising, legal expenses, brokerage, and commissions for guaranteeing and procuring the subscription of the whole of the present issue, and all other expenses up to the first allotment (except stamp duties and registration duties and fees, and the Company's cost of conveyance and investigation of title, which are to be paid by the Company.)

In addition to the above the present Company will take over certain contracts entered into by the old Company for the purchase of additional houses not included in Messrs. William Wilson and Son's valuation set out above, and will repay to the old Company all deposit and other moneys which have been paid by them under such contracts.

Application for a settlement and quotation of the Debenture Stock and Preference and Ordinary shares will be made in due course to the Committees of the London and Manchester Stock Exchanges.

[Continued on Next Page.

Gartsides (Brookside Brewery), *Continued.*—

The Trust Deed for securing the Debenture Stock will be executed on the completion of the purchase, and will be in the form of the printed draft referred to in an Agreement dated February 21, 1898, and made between the Company of the one part, and the above-named Trustees for the Debenture Stock holders of the other part, or such modified form as may be adopted in accordance with the terms of that Agreement. Pending the execution of the Trust Deed, moneys payable by subscribers for the Debenture Stock will be paid to the Trustees, who will pay over to the Conversion Company at once so much thereof as represents premium, and will retain or apply the balance in manner mentioned in the said Agreement.

The following Contracts have been entered into:—

(1) Dated February 17, 1898, Contract between Gartsides, Limited, and John Edmund Gartside and Henry Gartside and the Conversion Company; (2) dated February 15, 1898, Contract between Henry Gartside, Roger Arthure Gartside, and Susan Brierley and Frederick Harrison on behalf of this Company, which has, by another Coutract, dated February 21, 1898, and made between the parties to the last-mentioned Contract and this Company, been since adopted by this Company; (3) dated February 21, 1898, Contract between the Conversion Company and this Company; (4 to 7) four Contracts, all dated February 16, 1898, and respectively made between the Conversion Company and the above-named solicitors for the Trustees for the Debenture Stockholders, the solicitor for the old Company (Roger A. Gartside), the North of England Trustee Debenture and Assets Corporation, Limited, who are guaranteeing the subscription of part of the Debenture Stock, and John Doig, who guarantees the subscription of part of the Preference and Ordinary shares, respectively.

In addition to the above, there are various trade and other Contracts and arrangements in connection with the formation of the present Company, all of which applicants for the Debenture Stock and Shares shall be held to have notice of, as well as of the terms of the other agreement and Contracts, specifically referred to above, and shall be deemed to have waived any right to further particulars of contracts, whether under Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise, and to have agreed with the Company as Trustees for the Directors, and all persons authorising or taking part in the issue of this Prospectus, not to make any claim upon them, or any of them, under the said Section, and allotment will only be made on this condition.

Applications must be made on the Forms accompanying the Prospectus, and sent with the deposit to the Bankers, or any of their Branches.

Special consideration will be given to applications from the trade.

If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, but in cases where the amount applied for exceeds the allotment, the surplus paid on application will be appropriated in payment of the amount due on allotment.

Prospectuses and forms of application may be obtained at the office of the Company, or from the Bankers, Solicitors, or Brokers.

The valuation of Messrs. William Wilson & Son, the Accountants' Certificate, the above specifically mentioned Agreement and Contracts, the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and the above-mentioned draft of the Trust Deed securing the Debenture Stock, may be seen at the offices of the Solicitors to the Company.

Dated February 23, 1898.

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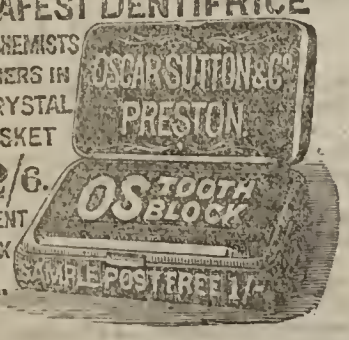

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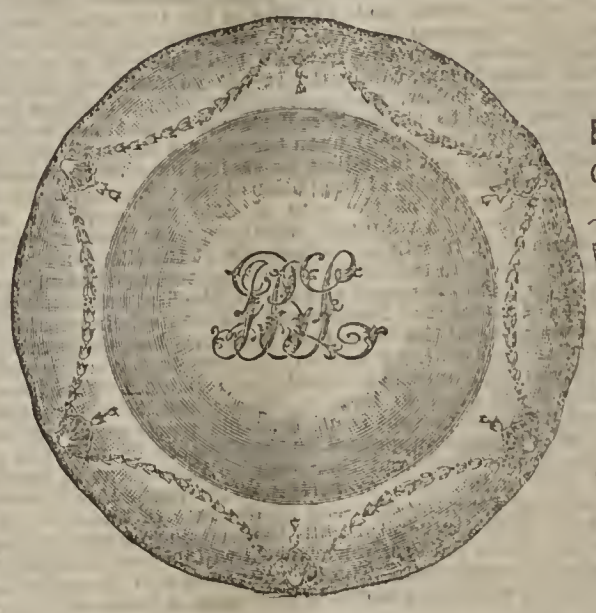

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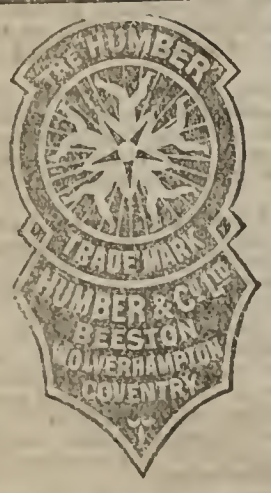

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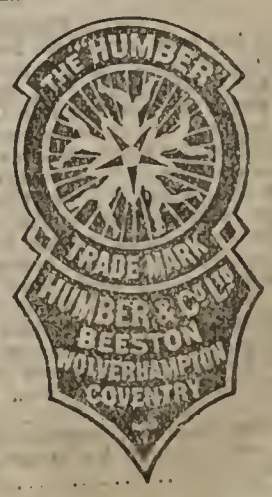

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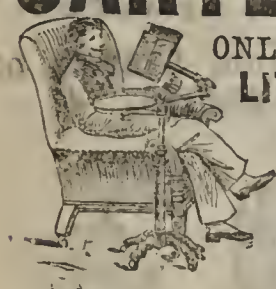

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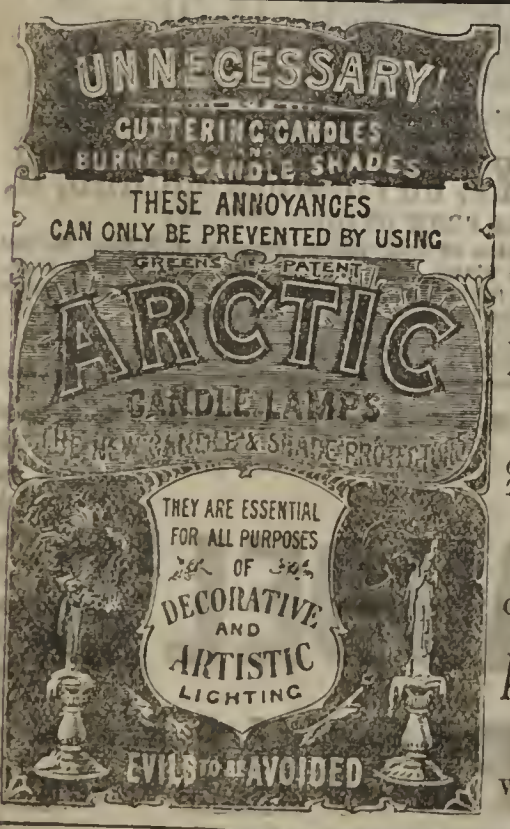

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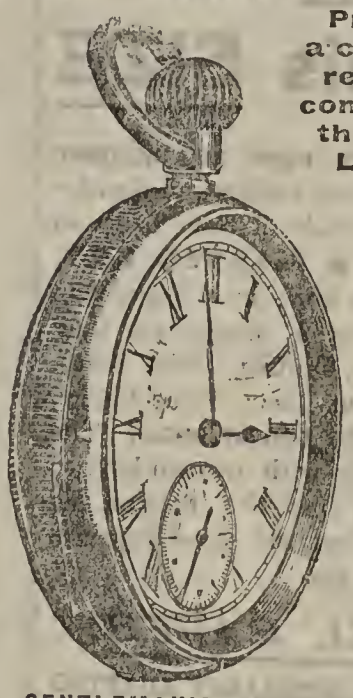

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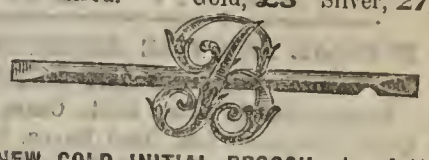

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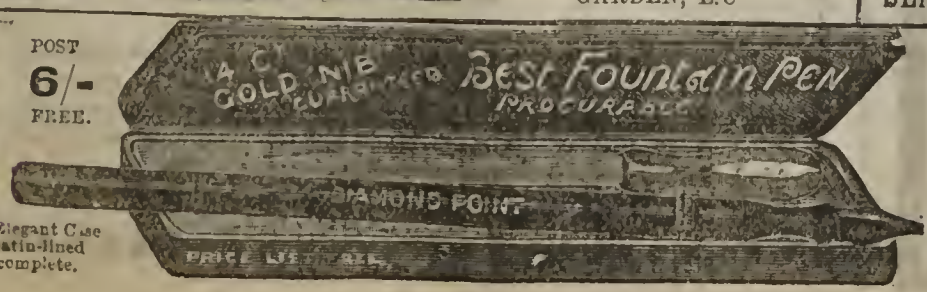

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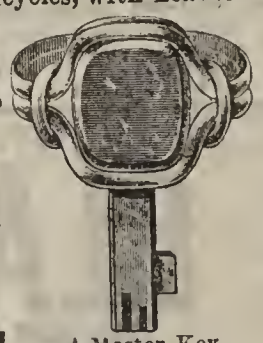

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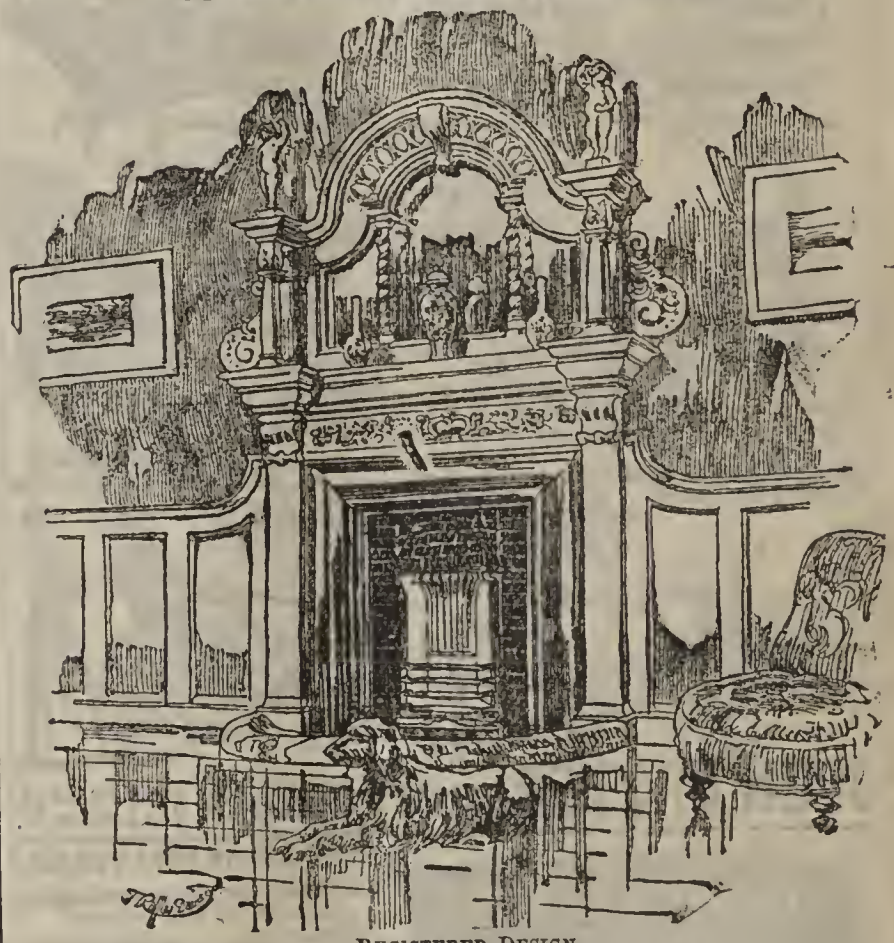

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OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 990.—QUOTATIONS FROM ENGLISH POETS.

COMMA (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 992.—PARODIES OF "THE HEATHEN CHINEE."

OOM PAUL (real name and address will be published in due course) £1 1 0
ETAK (,, ,, ,, ,, ,,) 1 1 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 997.

The letters printed below, if properly rearranged, will be found to constitute a stanza from one of Browning's shorter poems. The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered to the competitor who best succeeds

IN GIVING THE STANZA IN QUESTION, AND IN ADDING A SECOND STANZA OF HIS OR HER OWN COMPOSITION, IN THE METRE AND MANNER OF BROWNING'S LINES.

The following are the letters which are contained in the Browning stanza:—
a a a a a a; b; c c c e; d d; e e e e e e e e e e e e; f f f f; g; h h h h h h h h; i i i i i i; k k; l l l l; m m m m m m m m; n n n n n; o o o o o o o o o; p p; r r r r r r r r r r; s s s s s; t t t t t t t t t t t t; u u; w w w w w w; y y y.

All answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, March 14, at the latest.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 993.

As a further selection of the "Trilby" verses is to be published, the name of the Prize-winner in this competition will not be announced this week.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of LUDWIG B, winner of Prize No. 988, is the Rev. L. C. Biggs, The Manor House, Langton Herring, Weymouth.
S. S. T.—Very many thanks for your suggestion.
TOMBOY.—Certainly.
MOLLY.—The competition failed to arouse general interest.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 994.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

STANZAS CONTAINING THE WORD "CHINAMAN" IN ACCORDANCE WITH CERTAIN GIVEN DIRECTIONS.

CHoIce chiNA, sMAshed aNd CHipped IN fAMe,
ANd scratCHed!
HIts, sNAtchings—MeAN and CHiselIINg—AiMed
ANd hatCHed
IN nAMe ANd speeCH of kINgs—AMaze ANd
CHaIn,
NAy, MAddeN muCH—mINds shAMed ANd
elenCHed IN pain.
A Mailed hANd's CHafINg pAIM, ANd CHippING
Aim,
MeANs CHeapenINg All! coMmANd thy CHiefs
fINd shAMe
ANd CHastenINg. ArMs ANd CHafferINg flAunt
aMAin,
Now CHarterINg clAiMs, ANd CHangINg reAlMs
to gAiN.

Robert Martin.

Come HIther, NAtions! coMe ye, ANd rejoiCe!
Here's chINa breAking—MAke aN early CHoice!
INfAMous hANds stretCH forth IN rAMpAnt
greed;
No CHaINs of shAMe need ANy CHafINg breed.
All MeANs whiCH wIN are fAir MeANs. CHristIaN fAme
MAy sNatCH fINe bAys MAde iN this CHrIstiaN
gAMe;
ANd eaCH vaIN, rAMpANt CHampIoN's ArMed
hAnd—
Nay, CHrIsteN it mAiled fist—MAy do the graNd.

Vox.

THE CHINAMAN'S NIGHT-MARE.

CHopped IN hAlf My lANd. CHaINed And MoANing, siCk,
HIt, No ArMs ANd CHode. INfAMy, ANd—
CHucked
INto cAMp. JapANned. ScrunCHed. IN dAMs.
Aye, ducked.
NotCHed. IN quAlMs, ANd clutCHed INto flAMe
like brick.
ANgry FrenCH, kIdNApped, MAkiNg CHoIce
HaiNAn
MAigre aNd CHétIf. NAgged. MAd, "eN niCHe."
INflAMed,
ANd I CHrIsteNed AM. HANdCuffed. HeartsIck.
Shamed.
NAiled by MAiled PriNce. "CHau IN WilliAM's
pAN.

Peter.

ASIA IRREDENTA! CHINA'S CHALLENGE.

CHoose, INdiA, choose! Must AsiaNs CHafe
INert,
HAil MAndariN truCe, and HImalayaN peAce?
Ill were't to MAsk stauNCh Hope's INdignAnt
MoAN:
Nay, while eaCH carrIoN swArM teArs boNe from
bone,
A CHafferINg After Western MArts iNCrease,
MarcH, INdiA! MAke us oNe! UnCHaINed,
Alert,
All Asia, MArshalliNg CHiefs IN leAgue subliMe,
New lifts the stANdard of a lordlier time!

Tortoise.

*** Malay figures in line 2; Afghanistan, 1 to 5; Beloochistan, 4 to 8; Tartary, 1-2; Siberia, 4-5 and 7-8; Turkey, alas, 3-4; Japan, 2 and 3; Thibet, 4 and 6, 7, 8; Persia, 2 and 3, 3 and 4; Birmah, 4, 5, 6; Siam, 1-2 and 7. The key-word, Chinaman, effaces itself towards the end, and throughout the challenge the letters of India predominate, showing a spirit of Pan-Asiatic modesty.

"THE LEGEND OF TÁLIENWÁN."

Come, Hearken I eNtreAt—MAn, womaN, Child!
Hear IN amAze My tAle! The oNe I CHoose
Is Newly nAMed, ANd Called "tHe Legend wIld"
(NAy, MAny meN Count tHIs tale truth, aNd
loose
A preMier's wrAth oN SuCH!) "of TálIeNwÁn."
My ANeCdote witH foreIgN ArMaments,
ANd sCHemINg stAtesMen deAls, loans urging on
Needy CHina's kINg—th' CzAr comMAnds
eveNts!

Volpe.

ON CHINA'S CONDITION.

Can Heav'n IN wrAth Make nAtioNs break their
peaCe?
Has IgnoraNce abroAd MAde eN'mies CHarge
IN bAttle? May All laNds aCHieve Increase?
NAy, this were MAdNess—eaCH wIll Not enlarge.
AMid A Noisy CHangINg wrAngling crowd,
'Mid wArs aNd anarCHies, IN eAIM disdain
ANd speeCHless, stIll she staNds, unArMed And
proud,
Not CHoosINg Action if she but reMAiN.

Maldon.

Coal sHort, theIr wiNgs Are clipped. SteaMers
eAN't raCe,
HoldINg the fAMe of nAtioN first in CHase;
If No ArMs cAN be CHartered—that Is, fuel,
No steAM to fight AgaiNst riCH BritaIN's rule.
A Most gigANtiC scHeme IN lAter strife,
Millions Are speNt, CHeap If iNsteAd Men's lIfe!
A Noble poliCy. THIs NAtion MAy
Now CHarm IN dAys coMe with mAideN lay.

Invicta.

CHin-chIN chinAMan, mANy seek to ClaIm
HIgh haNd, And faMe, ANd CHange; to aim
IN port And MAiN at sCHemINg AMbuseAde;
Nay more, by CoHibItioN, ArMs, ANd CHaIN
AMend, ANnex, and take by CHurchINg, trAde
MontANic . . . . CHrIstiaNs needs A Mission sue,
ANd CHangINg All a MeANs, CoHesIve woo,
Not A MeANs CHaotIc No "A Money plANe."

Manchurian.

CHrIstiaNs ArMed ANd CHatterINg frAMe ANd
s-Cheme,
HatINg eAch other More thAN CHeating me,
IN envious feAr MeAs'riNg whiCH wIll best seem
Not A Mere AgeNt CHum IN £ s. d.
Advancing Me a loAN, muCH wIshed, IN fAct,
Most RussiANs CHeered me wIth a graNd
progrAM,
AskiNg me then to CHoose mINe AiM And pact,
Not riCH Great BritaIN's AIMs, but RussiAN
jam.

Esperanza.

CHristians IN nAMe ANd suCH IN nAMe AloNe,
Here eaCH In turN At last Must show his hANd
(InCH deep IN dirt Are all these palMs As showN).
Nice preaCHers these, IN truth, this ArMed
bAND!
Ah! CHeats and swINdlers All, Mock pArsoNs, too,
MuCH mINd hAve ye of Missions, stAle aNd dull,
A CHousing, grabbINg And MAn huNting crew.
Now Kaiser clutCH, cIING TsAr, MArk time
JohN Bull.

Baritone.

Come, EnglisHee, I waNt A MAgic NiCHe,
HIgh piled aNd spArkling, MArk, aN ample
CHest;
In BrItaiN, Aye, My hope, ANd she is riCH,
Nor IN affAirs of Money wANts she zest.
And CHarged I Now to rAise a Mighty loAN.
MarCH Is NeAr by, My empty hANd is CHilled;
AvaIls Not Art? nor stratageM? nor moAN?
No CHance I've seeN, I AM with ANger filled.

Stephanotis.

Come HIther Now A Moment, ANd I'll tell
How CHrIstiaNs After China MAke aNd yell,
In whiCH thIs NAtion MeANs to see fair play;
No Craft! THIs NAtion—Britain—MeANs to stay,
And see whiCH trIes with NAughty MeANs to
snare
MuCH as they thINk AMong themselves cAN
share;
Ah! Let these CHrIstiaNs wAtch, or MAy be
ChaNg,
Next CHance, wIth ENglAnd's aid MAy show his
faNg.

One Hand.

CHina Is Now A ManiA aNd the Craze.
HImself—the ChiNamAn—MAy Not muCH care,
IN thAt he Might AH ENgland CHeatIng daze,
Nor AiMs! demANds! alike CrusH IN despair.
AMong the nAtioNs CHallenge IN a loAn
MAny by Nature CHums, IN ArMs to fight
ANd CHildren stIll uNborn to mAke their MoAn.
N'er could a CHampIoN mAke of hiM A kNight!

Nurse.

THE CHINAMAN'S LAMENT.

Care Has INvAded My lANd, for the Czar
Has laId oN All My rich mAudariNs' CHips
ImportuNate clAiMs. GermAN oCean sIIps
NavigAte My bAys—No CHangINg trips.
All MArkiNg my defeCts Have drIveN fAr
More hArd a bargaiN, CHoIce Nor AiM have I
ANd Cannot Have. IN vAin My pAngs I fly,
No CasH IN AlMost ANy hand I try.

Cochran Field.

Can tHe CelestIal kNow A MeANs by whiCH
HINdrAnces MAy, iNCH after INch, give wAy
In a Most pleAsiNg fashion, and seCure Her
sway?
NatIoNs Are MAkiNg rival offers, itCH
An orIeNt supremAcy to MAiNtain.
Money's the word; caCH has hIs price, so gaiN,
Albion Mine, A New, seCurer Hold,
Nor shrINk from Any eneMy! Thy hANd's the
gold!

Sissie.

Can HaughtY RussIaN ArMAmeNts Crave flglIt?
Hold, saId BritaiN. Free trAde shall be MAiNtained.
I CHarge IN EnglAnd's naMe and nAtioN's might,
No CHange IN my trAde, and My rights retAiNed.
Aye, CHurlIsh kNAves, My ANswer soon would
teaCH
My evIl NAgging eneMies AtoNe.
ACeursed. THe dIN And huM that cANnons
preaCH,
NIce NAval guns to MAke them take my loaN.

Klondike.

*** The other competitors have failed to carry out the conditions laid down.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 993.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ENGLISH RENDERINGS OF THREE FRENCH STANZAS FROM "TRILBY."

*** Space has been found for the publication of a further selection of "Trilby" verses.—The Puzzle Editor.

Poor Trilby! Fair and pure was she, and dear,
I am her foot. Think what a friend was he
Who, cherishing her memory, traced me here,
His fingers taught and thrilled by love sincere,
One swift, wild wish, inspired him, and created me;
One touch—I cease to be.

I am a twin; my fellow is not near.
Alas! Alas! Love stole my liberty!
But one day on a still and snowy bier
We two shall meet, no weariness to fear
Again for evermore—and Trilby, tired and free,
Who will sleep soft as she?

Oh, tender friend, who filled this place with cheer,
Now empty—where art thou? We yearn for thee.
The heavens are far, and on this mortal sphere
Whose dust will kiss thee (oh, sweet earth, once dear!)
Whene'er joy's starry eyes and shining feet we see,
They turn from us and flee!

Mrs. Buchanan.

I'm Trilby's foot! Let him divine who may
Who framed this souvenir of Trilby fair;
Brief inspiration, caprice of a day,
Vanishing to-morrow like a passing air.
What tender-hearted friend moved by a love sincere
In pious memory of him and her?

How fares my brother? for twin feet we were.
Alas! alas! blind love has made us stray,
Still hope trusts on eternity is there
Where we again a pair shall meet one day
Couched in the narrow bed where worldly troubles cease—
And Trilby sleeps in peace.

O, tender friend! bereft of us what say
Of hope have you now Trilby's door is closed?
Far off is Paradise—far off the day
When others like to us, who joyous posed.
On earth by search you'll find—dear earth to us so bright,
On her fair breast lie light!

Ardebil.

Poor Trilby! fair, and good, and dear,
I am her foot; let him divine who will,
The tender friend, who fondly cherished still
This charming souvenir, of a love sincere,
And thus he framed, what once caprice inspired,
Lest time should ruin what we all admired.

A twin was I! my brother where is he?
Alas! alas! this love he strayed from me,
Eternity, I hope, will us unite,
And make us both, as heretofore, a pair
On couch so chaste, where none can trouble there
Poor Trilby's slumbers, ever pure and bright.

Without us, tender friend, what wilt thou do?
The door is closed where dwelt that maiden true,
And Paradise is far; this earth so bright,
So sweet to us, on her may it be light.
To find our equals, seek the world around,
Seek as you may, they never will be found!

Lady B.

Poor Trilby—beautiful, so good and dear,
I am her foot. Let those who like inquire
Why gentle friend, holding her very near,
Had framed of her (and of a love sincere)
This charming token, which, fraught with artistic fire,
Love's magic did inspire.

I was a twin! my brother, where is he?
Alas! alas! by love we were opprest,
Eternity will join us (him and me)
Once more together from life's thraldom free,
In that cool sheltered spot where no foe can molest
Trilby—in her last rest.

O, gentle friend, without us, where are you?
Shut is the door where Trilby lived below,
Heaven's nectar is afar, and earth's sweet dew
(For ever fresh to us, for ever new!)
To find our match on earth you may seek high and low
Without success I trow.

Kashan.

Poor Trilby! good and well belov'd and fair,
I am her foot. New, let divine who may,
What loving friend, who lately held her dear,
Framed this reminder (true love's souvenir),
Capricious inspiration, which, one day
A breath might waft away!

Ah! we were twins. My brother is not here—
Alas! alas! love led us both astray—
Re-union and eternity are near,
And we, as formerly, shall be a pair,
Where, in her lovely bed, without dismay,
Trilby sleeps calm till day.

What will you do without us, friend sincere?
The door is closed where Trilby used to stay.
Heaven is far, and upon this earth here
(To us so sweet, to her so bright, so dear)
Our equals are not found where'er you stray,
Search as you may.

Precautia.

Poor Trilby—good and beautiful, and dear!
I am her foot. Guess who of all her friends,
Touched by a tender thought of her once near,
Wrapped up in her (and moved by love sincere),
Will not desire this souvenir, which caprice sends,
Which softest zephyr ends!

A twin was I; my brother's lost to sight!
Alas! Alas! By Love bewildered we.
Eternity, I hope, will us unite;
And we shall then once more be perfect quite,
At foot of virgin couch, whereon most fair will be
Trilby—from trouble free.

Without us, friend, how lost must be thy mind!
The door is shut where Trilby once did reign.
Afar is Paradise. Our peers to find
On earth (lie lightly on her, Earth! so kind
To us), how well soe'er they seek, how great their pain,
Their search will be in vain.

Bellinda.

Poor Trilby—beautiful and good and dear!
I am her foot. Guess all who gaze on me
What tender friend, but lately cherished—here
Enshrined of her (and with a love sincere)
This souvenir, inspired by fond caprice to be
A transient memory.

I was a twin; where is my brother, where?
Alas! alas! Love us asunder tore;
Eternity will make us one, and there
We'll be as we were once, a perfect pair
Within a pure, chaste bed, where, all her troubles o'er,
Trilby shall sleep once more.

Oh, tender friend, with you went all our mirth,
Closed is the portal Trilby once made fair,
And Paradise is far away—and Earth
(Tho' it to her and so to us gave birth),
Does not contain, search where you will, two feet so rare,
That can with us compare.

Spahe.

Unlucky Trilby, lovely, good, and dear;
I am her foot. Let him who wishes say
What tender friend has, with a love sincere,
Enclosed in glass this charming souvenir,
Lest the capricious fancy of an idle day
Should e'er be swept away.

I was a twin, where is my fellow, where?
Though parted by a lover's playful jest
Heaven will unite us once more I declare,
And we will lie, as formerly a pair,
Together on the virgin couch of her whose rest
Shall be the last and best.

Oh, tender friend, what wilt thou do? Where go?
The gate is shut where Trilby used to dwell,
And Paradise is far. The grass will grow
Green o'er her grave. We, too, will lie below
And where our equals are no mortal man can tell,
Although he search full well.

Kappa.

Poor Trilby—so good and fair, so dear!
Her foot am I. Let him who will surmise
What loving friend, whose heart she still is near,
Has framed of her (and of a love sincere)
This charming souvenir, which through a whim took rise,
To which a breath is bane.

Where is my brother gone? A twin was I;
Ah me! Ah me! Love led us far apart.
Eternity I trust will bring us nigh
Each other; once again a pair to lie
At foot of a chaste bed, where, with untroubled heart,
Trilby will rest from pain.

O loving friend, do you not miss us now?
The door is closed where Trilby used to dwell.
Heaven is afar! and on the Earth below
(To us 'twas soft; on her 'twill lie as snow)
To find our equal, e'en though you search full well,
You yet will search in vain.

Woodlands.

Poor Trilby, good, and beautiful and dear—
I am her foot—so guess whoever may
What friend, the lover of some bygone year,
Framed this memorial (and with love sincere);
This inspiration of a moment's fancy play
One breath will sweep away.

I was a 'twin'—my brother, where is he?
Alas! twas love that bade our union cease,
But my hope is that in Eternity
We shall be two, just as we used to be,
Down in that most chaste bed where Trilby finds release
From toil—and sleeps in peace.

Friend, what of you, with us beyond your sight?
The door is shut where Trilby made her home,
'Tis far to Heaven, and on this earth, once bright
To us, which on her ashes shall rest light—
Let men with hardest search to find our equals come—
On a vain quest they roam.

Outis.

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen is to return to Windsor from the Riviera during the last week in April, and her Majesty will then reside at the Castle for three weeks before going to Balmoral. The Queen intends to spend two or three days at Buckingham Palace early in May, which will be her only other visit to London during the present year.

There has been a great fuss lately about an "irregular" presentation which was made at one of last season's Drawing Rooms, and the case was the more difficult to deal with, inasmuch as an exalted personage had kindly interested himself on behalf of the female in question. In the old days "irregular" presentations were of very rare occurrence, but when there was such an oversight on the part of the Court officials the individual was gazetted out. Now, however, there are some such cases every year, and, unless the circumstances are peculiarly flagrant, the practice is merely to cancel the presentation privately, all blame falling upon the person who introduced the objectionable individual at Court. The penalty for making an irregular presentation has been hitherto exclusion from Court for a certain time, but the Queen proposes to deal in a more drastic fashion with any future cases, and the culprit will be forbidden ever again to attend a Drawing Room or a Levee, as the case may be. Formerly only a limited section of Society went to Court, and everybody there knew everything about everybody else. Now, however, it is absolutely impossible for the Lord Chamberlain and his officials to attempt to investigate the antecedents of the vast herds of people whose names are sent in; and, therefore, "irregular" presentations constantly occur. But they are invariably detected, for no sooner has the name appeared in the papers, than a shoal of letters arrives at St. James's Palace denouncing the unfortunate person, and furnishing the most ample details of the *jeunesse orageuse*, or whatever the flaw may be.

Early next week the Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria are to leave Marlborough House for Copenhagen, where they will stay until the end of April. The Empress-Dowager of Russia is expected at Copenhagen towards the end of next week, and she will pass through Berlin on her journey from St. Petersburg.

The Prince of Wales has promised to open the new buildings of the University Extension College at Reading on June 11, being the Saturday before Ascot, and after the function H.R.H. will proceed to Lockinge Park, where he is to be the guest of Lord and Lady Wantage until the following Monday. The Prince's last visit to Lockinge took place in 1877.

H.R.H. has also promised to take the chair at a dinner to be held in the course of the summer, in aid of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* announced last Wednesday that the Prince of Wales had left London "for Homburg." H.R.H. having really no more intention of visiting that place than of proceeding to Pekin; and did ever any one think of going to a German bath at this period of the year? The Prince has gone to the Riviera; and during his stay at Cannes he will take a cruise on a French yacht, which he has hired at Marseilles. H.R.H. will return to England about April 5, and he intends to spend Easter at Sandringham, proceeding afterwards to Newmarket for the Craven Meeting, and coming up to town for the season on Monday, April 18. The *Pall Mall* is also egregiously wrong in stating that the Prince will go to Copenhagen on his way home, no such détour being contemplated, and the Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria will not return to London until April 28 or 29.

The Duchess of York is staying at the Grand Hotel du Louvre, Mentone, with her aunt, the Grand Duchess Augusta of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. The Duke has gone to Scotland for some salmon fishing on the Queen's Balmoral water on the Dee, and he is staying at Abergeldie Mains, but returns to London on Friday. The Duke and Duchess are going to Copenhagen at Easter for a fortnight.

It has become the regular practice to convey German Royalties about the Mediterranean in the Admiralty yacht *Surprise*, and it is an arrangement which ought

to be discontinued, as it involves considerable expense to the public, while it is often very inconvenient that this vessel should be thus diverted from her proper duties. Within quite a short time the *Surprise* has been placed at the disposal of the Empress Frederick, the Duke of Coburg, Prince and Princess Henry of Prussia, and Princess Louis of Battenberg. I hear that the Admiralty yacht will shortly convey the Grand Duke of Hesse (who is at Naples) on a trip to Malta and back.

A sum of £11,000 is to be expended in furnishing Buckingham Palace with the electric light, but by the time the work is fully completed it is probable that quite £15,000 will have disappeared. It is all very well to light the hall, staircases, corridors, ball-room, and supper-rooms by electricity, but it does seem a ridiculous waste of money to make any such costly alteration in the other portions of the Palace, considering that the Queen seldom resides in it for more than five nights in the year. The vote for the Royal palaces is scandalously large, being upwards of £58,400, or an increase of £24,000 over last year's expenditure, which was then regarded as much too heavy.

It was announced last week by the papers that Lieut.-General Clerk had kissed hands at Windsor Castle on his appointment as Groom-in-Waiting to the Queen. This is incorrect. There is no vacancy for a Groom-in-Waiting. Lieut.-General Clerk kissed hands on his appointment to be Keeper of the Regalia at the Tower, a place in the Household under the Lord Chamberlain, to which he was nominated by the Queen. The salary is £300 a year, with a furnished residence in the Tower and certain allowances.

The domestic *tracasseries* of the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Hesse appear to have culminated in a separation. The Grand Duke Ernest has left Darmstadt to spend the spring in Italy, intending afterwards to proceed to Russia. The Grand Duchess has joined her mother, the Duchess of Coburg, at Gotha, and she is going to Nice on a long visit to her eldest sister, the Crown Princess of Roumania, whom, it is said, she will accompany back to Bucharest at the end of April. The question of the succession to the Grand Duchy of Hesse is exciting much interest both at our own Court and in Germany The Grand Duke Ernest is in delicate health, and both his uncles are excluded from the succession in consequence of their having contracted morganatic marriages, while he has no cousins who are eligible for the throne. A strong attempt will be made to get the succession for the Grand Duke's eldest sister, Princess Louis of Battenberg, and this arrangement is warmly favoured at our Court and at St. Petersburg, while it is not likely to be much opposed at Berlin.

A "she-writer" on a weekly paper gives a long account of the daily life of the Empress of Austria at Cap Martin. It happens, unluckily, that the Empress Elizabeth gave up her intended visit to Cap Martin after every arrangement had been made at the hotel for her reception, and she has been spending the winter at San Remo. The minute details, therefore, of the "daily life" of the Empress at Cap Martin are purely imaginative.

A friend at Athens writes to me that the attempt on the life of King George is, to say the least, accompanied by remarkable incidents, and he forwards me, in confirmation of this, a number of extracts from the Greek papers. The Saturday on which the attempt occurred was the day preceding the end of the Carnival, when the drive where the attempt took place, which is usually frequented by carriages, was absolutely deserted. The horses that were usually used by the King were not taken, but two of the oldest in the Royal stables, which would not have bolted if cannon had been fired all round them. The coachman, too, was not the usual one, but an old man who, it is said, was a friend of Karditza, the elder of the two criminals. The carriage was an open landau, with the head towards the coachman put up.

The coachman's narrative to one of the reporters of the *Acropolis* is to the effect that, as soon as he heard the two first shots, and was informed by the footman that he was wounded in the leg, he whipped up the horses, on which the King asked him what was the matter. He replied that the shots had not come from sportsmen, but had been directed against the carriage. On this the King told him not to be afraid, and stood up to see what was happening. The coachman says that there were at least fifteen shots fired, but according to the King there were only six. A public fiacre was only some twenty-eight yards behind the landau at the moment of the attack, but it has not come out who were its occupants, or what it was doing there. Three mounted gendarmes followed the landau at a distance of about 200 paces, but they failed to come up before the criminals had fled, or to seize a third person who, from an eminence close by, was directing their operations. This latter person has not been found, and it is not yet known who he was.

The wounded footman was sent to a hospital, and strict orders were given that no one should be allowed to question him. The two criminals towards the night returned to the city. Karditza, during the whole of Sunday, was about the town, and actually present at the *Te Deum* at the Cathedral; but on the following morning, he voluntarily presented himself at the police station, stating that he understood that he was "wanted." The explanations that he gave in regard to his motives for the crime were of the flimsiest kind, but he graciously stated that the King had behaved with great courage. It had been noticed days before that this man, who was usually penniless, was flush of money. The idea, however, that the pair were being subsidised by some secret society seems to have been abandoned.

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 620 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 619.
For Amusements, see page 621.
For Our Puzzles, see page 629.

Neither of the two rifles used has been found. But in Karditza's lodging cartridges have been discovered which he had himself manufactured, but which contained no balls. His accomplice fired at the horses and the footman, whilst he—the cooler hand—was supposed to be firing at the King. He now explains that their object was to kill the horses, and then murder the King with pistols; but, unfortunately for this explanation, neither carried pistols, nor have any been found near the scene of their operations. At a distance of one hundred yards, however, a tin box was discovered in some bushes containing dynamite, but without cap or fusee.

All this leads to the inference that the attempt was one got up by the police, and that precautions had been taken to make it as dramatic as ineffectual. The position of the King had become almost impossible after the recent revelations of the Kokkoris court-martial, when 123 naval officers—many of them staunch Royalists—on being called as witnesses, deposed that the operations of the fleet were rendered useless owing to direct orders from the Palace. Court-martials on the aides-de-camp of the King, who had been placed at the head of the Army, are impending. Under these circumstances, it would seem as though some over-zealous friends of the Danish dynasty had engineered this *coup de théâtre*.

No one has been, or is, a stronger advocate of the Greek cause than I am. The Greeks had my heartiest sympathy during their recent struggle. Neither the Army nor the Navy played the part that was expected of them, because the King had entered into a private arrangement with Russia, which involved the Army retreating from Thessaly, and the Navy doing nothing against the Turks. I am no believer in foreign Royalties who are forced upon a country by Europe as its rulers. It is as absurd for Greece to be dependent on the Greek patriotism of a Dane as it would for Denmark to be dependent on the Danish patriotism of a Greek. The King may possibly have thought, when war became inevitable, that he was doing his best for Greece by making a bargain with Russia. But the effects of this bargain have been more disastrous.

Lord and Lady Cadogan returned to Ireland after a week spent in London, and resumed the social duties of Viceroyalty. On the day after their arrival, a large party of visitors arrived at Dublin Castle to stay for the week, amongst them being Lord Arran, Ladies Annesley, Kilmorey, and Duncannon, and many more of the elect. Dinner parties, a concert, and two dances were given at the Castle during the week. On Wednesday, Lord and Lady Cadogan, with most of the Viceregal visitors and suite, attended the Army point-to-point races at Kill, in Kildare. There was a large and smart attendance. Though the glacial weather had some tempering of sunshine, pleasure seeking in the open air was a seasonably penitential undertaking. The Lord Lieutenant's Cup was won by Mr. E. Peel, R.H.A. Lord Downe, who is now in command at the Curragh, was the judge on the occasion, and Mr. Percy La Touche, starter.

The Lord Chief Justice of Ireland is laid up at his residence, Castletown, county of Kildare, from an accident in the hunting field, which has given him a serious shaking. He was unable to go on circuit, Lord Justice Holmes taking his place. Captain Wyndham's accident when hunting in Cork was much severer. His mother, Lady Leconfield, arrived last week in Ireland, and is staying in the private hospital where Captain Wyndham is laid up, his condition being still critical. He is a nephew of Lord Rosebery.

Lord and Lady Salisbury are to leave Hatfield next week for Beaulieu, near Nice, where they will stay until after the Easter holidays at their villa. Lord Salisbury is to return to England then, but if the air of the Riviera suits Lady Salisbury, she will stop on at Beaulieu unti the end of May. During the latter part of Lord Salisbury's stay on the Riviera he will act as Minister-in-Attendance on the Queen, as he did last year.

Major Gaisford, of Offington, who died the other day, was the eldest son of the celebrated Dean of Christ Church, but himself a devoted Roman Catholic. Major Gaisford was an enthusiastic supporter of the Volunteer movement, He was for several years Master of the Worthing Harriers, and a remarkably fine rider. Major Gaisford was a most learned classical scholar and an accomplished linguist. He inherited the Dean's immense library, and was himself a zealous collector of rare books. A few years ago he disposed of some two thousand duplicate copies, which realised nearly £10,000.

I said last week that I never had been able to discover by whom, or when, the Jewel Tower had been built. A gentleman in Warrington supplies me with the following particulars. It is, as I said last week, curious that this tower can only be seen from the back windows of one or two houses, for it is one of the most ancient buildings in London:—

From "Widmore's Enquiry," &c., 4to., 1473.

In the last year of King Edward III., an exchange was made between that Prince and the convent; the King had from them a part, either of a tower, which was afterward the King's Jewel-house, and is at present the Parliament Office, or else the ground on which this building stands. I have given the authority for this because there may be some doubt as to the meaning of the writer; but the place is so particularly described, and I think there can be no question concerning that. The church had no lands in return for this, but only which yet might possibly be as agreeable to them, a licence to purchase in mortmain £40 a year.

From "Niger Quaternus," Folio 79.

Anno regni regis Edwardi tertii quinquagesimo primo, septimo die Junii, idem dominus rex licentiam dedit abbati et conventui Westmonasterii perquisendi terras, tenementa et redditus ad valorem quadrigenta librarum per annum, Statuto, &c., ad manum mortnam, &c., non obstanto. . . . . Et haec licentia concessa est pro magna parte cujusdam Turris in angulo Palatii privati versus austrum una cun. quadam clausura juxta Turrim

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praedictam ex parte occidentali infra clausum abbatiae et solum sancti Petri domino regi concessum. . . . . Erat autem inter Turrim praedictam et murum Infirmarii, ubi nunc est clausura praedicta, via pedestris et carectaria usque ad angulum Turris, &c.

A meeting of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland was held at Edinburgh last Wednesday, when Sir James Gibson Craig announced that the Prince of Wales had accepted the Presidency for next year, when the annual show is to be held at Edinburgh. H.R.H. is going to stay at Dalkeith Palace as the guest of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch during the show week. The Duke of York was elected an honorary member of the society.

THE SECRET OF BALDNESS.

[According to an article in this month's *Contemporary Review*, by Mr. Nuttall, a certain M. Sebouraud has discovered the secret of baldness. It is all on account of a microbe, to fight against which is apparently hopeless.—*Evening Paper.*

Since the announcement of M. Sebouraud's discovery a German savant has demonstrated the existence of a microbe which preys upon the former's "bacillus of baldness."—*Weekly Paper.*]

Oh, mischievous Microbe of Baldness!
  Too tiny to cope with or catch;
'Tis to *you*, then, we have to attribute
  The premature loss of our thatch!
It is *you*, in your limitless legions,
  That lurk at the roots of our hair;
It is *you* that lay waste hirsute regions,
    Once fertile as fair!

It is said you have far from nice habits
  As well as a colourless hue;
It is said that Australian rabbits
  Are not so prolific as you;
And that when you have once got our locks in—
  Thus the reader of Sebouraud gleans—
You proceed to "develop a toxin"—
    Whatever that means.

Then, as your encampment grows bigger,
  (Of this there is no kind of doubt),
Our locks lose their colour and vigour,
  And slowly but surely drop out.
We may blister our hair, we may cut all
  We've left, but we're still in the wood,
For all this, so asserts Mr. Nuttall,
    Is not the least good.

Small wonder, then, potent Bacillus,
  You cause such a widely-spread scare;
Small wonder reports of you fill us
  With deep and increasing despair;
For if it is not all a joke, O!
  This tale of your pestilent whims,
What becomes of the once trusted "Koko,"
    And the "Tatcho" of Sims?

* * * * *

But stay! hope illumes our horizon,
  For another great savant, Herr L.,
Has this Sebouraud spring a surprise on,
  And all, even yet, may go well;
For he's found—his announcement must thrill us—
  A microbe we cannot but love—
A microbe that eats the Bacillus
    Referred to above!

So all this research microscopic
  Which has tracked these new germs to their lair;
All these pars on a hair-splitting topic,
  Leave things very much as they were;
And, whichever bacillus proves winner,
  We shall probably have to deplore
That our hair still goes on getting thinner,
    The same as before.

Some hopeful people are looking forward to an improved condition of affairs in that very close borough the South Kensington Museum, consequent upon the approaching retirement of the Art Director. I am afraid they will be disappointed. Almost from its inception South Kensington seems to have been recognised as a place to be conducted on the "take care of Dowb" principle, with the result that the heads and the staff have never pulled well together, and the influence that it might have exercised over Art in this country has been heavily discounted. Moreover, recent doings in connection with the administration of the Museum have certainly not warranted any expectation of improvement.

Two or three weeks ago the Science and Art Department came in for unfavourable comment in TRUTH by reason of a very ill-advised change in the conditions for earning its grants. Now a complaint reaches me from a well-known technical college about an alteration in the syllabus for the Science Examinations which the Department holds annually. It seems that formerly students could enter for either the Elementary, the Advanced, or the Honours stage in each subject. Under the regulations for the present year, however, the Honours stage is divided into two parts, which must be passed in two years before an "Honours" certificate is granted. So far as this is concerned, no fault can be found with the change; but the hardship lies in the fact that men who are in their third and last year at technical colleges will next May sit for Part I. Honours, and get no certificate. The difficulty only extends to this year, since afterwards the easier Honours paper can be taken by second-year men instead of the Advanced, leaving them another year for tackling the harder Part II. paper. The proper course would be to let the old arrangement continue for the present year concurrently with the new one.

From another source I hear that the same change operates unfavourably this year upon the chances of candidates for the Whitworth Scholarships, many of whom are precluded from taking the higher-marked Part II., because they have not previously passed the old Honours stage. It would have been a great deal better if the Science and Art Department had had the sense to give a longer notice of the proposed change, and thus have afforded the science schools and technical colleges throughout the country time to alter their arrangements accordingly. Other examining bodies do so, and it is a pity that a public Department cannot see the desirability of such common fairness to its candidates.

It was only natural to expect that any effort to modify the preposterous Sabbatarian legislation of our ancestors would rouse the opposition of the dissentient minority who delight in that species of sanctity derived from Act of Parliament. Accordingly the committee of the Working Men's Lord's Day Rest Association has announced its intention of using every means in its power to maintain the Act which prohibits the opening

of places of amusement and entertainment, for money payment, on Sunday. These egregious busybodies introduce a red-herring by suggesting that the repeal of the Act in question would mean the throwing open of the theatres and music halls on Sunday, and by declaring that the Lord's Day Act of 1781 "is an incalculable benefit to upwards of 500,000 persons employed in the amusement industry, to whom it secures the Sunday as a day of rest."

It is scarcely necessary to say that those who are agitating for the repeal of the Act of 1781 have never contemplated any such result. Every one who reads a paper—and who doesn't?—will remember cases, now and again, in which use has been made of the Act of George III. to hamper and annoy people who have devised Sunday entertainments (such as lectures, illustrated by the magic lantern) to counteract the influence of the public-house. The partial repeal of the Act would put an end to this means of annoyance; and "the 500,000 persons employed in the amusement industry" may be as safely left to take care of their own interests as those employed in any other field of labour.

A new mid-weekly paper has just been started in the Barnet and Finchley district, and for some weeks past it has been extensively advertised in advance under the title of the *Barnet and Finchley Chronicle*. Last week, however, the new-comer made its appearance under the title of the *Barnet and Finchley Herald*. The reason given for the change of name at the last moment is peculiar. It appears that at the moment when the paper was going to press the following telegram was received:—

> Have produced and circulated newspaper under registered title *Barnet and Finchley Chronicle*, and legal notice of this fact will be served upon you to-day.—Trueman Press, Essex House, Friern Barnet.

The legal notice here referred to was duly served. Subsequent inquiry showed that Trueman Press had only registered the title on the same morning on which he dispatched his telegram. The name of this individual will be familiar to readers of TRUTH. He is the proprietor of another local paper, and the proceeding above described is, of course, a mere trick to defeat an opposition enterprise. For the credit of journalism I am glad to say that there are not many Trueman Presses about; at the same time the case points the moral that when you are advertising a new paper it may be as well to take the precaution of registering the title beforehand.

The Dean of Winchester is engaged in writing a biography of the late Bishop of Chichester. I do not fancy that Dr. Durnford would have expressed delight if he could have known that Dean Stephens would be his biographer, for this dignitary's Life of Dean Hook was a singularly poor production, nor are his other works of much interest. The fact is that Bishop Durnford's career scarcely justifies an elaborate biography. It seems now to be considered as indispensable that every deceased prelate should have his life written as that a monument should be erected to his memory. There are really very few Church dignitaries (or laymen either!) who require a biography of four or five hundred pages, and of those who have died during the last twenty years I should say that Archbishops Tait and Magee are the only ones of whom forty or fifty pages would not contain everything that was required to be written for the information of the public. The Life of Dr. Pusey is a preposterously prolix production, and terribly tiresome besides.

Archdeacon Wilson, of Manchester, has been elected Hulsean Lecturer at Cambridge for next year. The Archdeacon has to deliver four discourses, and his remuneration will be £70. Archdeacon Wilson was formerly Fellow of St. John's College.

A Country Vicar writes:—

> When you say, in last week's TRUTH, that if the revenues of the Church were redistributed there would be ample means to maintain the clergy in comfort and suitable dignity, are you aware that, supposing the revenues of the Church were pooled and divided, the average income of all, including bishops and all dignitaries, would be barely £200 per annum? And do you consider £200 per annum an income sufficient to keep a clergyman and his family in a manner suitable to his work and calling?

These questions raise several others. In the first place, are the facts correct? A correspondent at Cambridge gives the total net income of the parochial clergy, exclusive of Bishops, curates, and Cathedral establishments, as £3,363,531 odd, and the total number of incumbents as 13,638. These figures are given on the authority of "Crockford"—about the best that can be produced. If they are correct, the parochial revenues alone, if "pooled," and divided among the parochial clergy, would give an annual income of £246 per annum. If the episcopal and capitular revenues were added in, the average for the whole clergy would of course be very much higher.

If I am asked whether an average income of £246 would be sufficient to maintain the parochial clergyman and his family "in a manner suitable to his work and calling," my answer would be Yes. I would go further, and say that large numbers of them are already living in such a manner on an even smaller income. But I am not proposing, and have not proposed, that all the incomes of the parochial clergy should be equalised. If the whole income were distributed on a reasonable basis, I would suggest that the income should be progressive, say beginning at about £200 a year and increasing up to about £300. Some regard should also be paid to the amount of work attached to the living. The incumbent whose flock numbers thousands should be better paid than the man with a parish of a few score inhabitants.

At the same time I admit that my ideas of what is "a manner suitable to his work and calling" are probably directly at variance with those of the clergyman who puts the above question. My idea—derived from sundry

MAJOR HOWE & CO.—Fashionable BOOTS and SHOES.—16, Coventry-st., W. (also 60, Strand), and City, London. "Note Addresses." (Repairs)

passages in the New Testament—is that a clergyman ought to be a poor man, and that the poorer he is the greater his dignity. The late Cardinal Manning lived and died in something little better than a garret, and left behind him, in worldly goods, less than £100 all told. To my thinking, his dignity and status were more in accordance with his calling than those of an Archbishop of Canterbury, with his palaces and horses, his men-servants and his maid-servants, and his income of £15,000 a year.

On one point there can be no question. Whether by a redistribution of the Church revenues, or by some other means, a stop should be put to the clerical mendicancy with which we are now afflicted. A friend of mine, whose name had become known in connection with a liberal offer of a scholastic endowment, received the other day the following letter. It is difficult to say which is more conspicuous, its impudence or its foolishness; for it is hardly likely that any one approached in such a tone as this would at once take out his cheque book and forward the suggested donation:—

The Rectory, Kirkandrews-on-Eden, Carlisle.
March 1, 1898.

Dear Sir,—I have read an account of your quite recent munificence in a certain direction, but if I asked you to send me a donation towards paying off a debt of £10 a year on this poor living, which has yet sixteen years to run before it is clear, I suppose you would say you could not afford it!—Yours faithfully,
J. Chapelhow.

The Archbishop of York, who has been suffering severely from rheumatism all the winter, is going abroad for ten weeks for the benefit of his health. Archbishop Maclagan, who held an Ordination in York Minster on Sunday, is to arrive in town from Bishopthorpe next Monday, and he will leave for the Continent next day. The Queen has excused the Archbishop from the duty of preaching at the Chapel Royal, St. James' Palace, on Palm Sunday.

Canon W. W. Douglas, who died a few days ago, was one of the most popular, most influential, and most highly-esteemed clergymen in the diocese of Worcester. He possessed a considerable estate in the county of Worcester, and was the owner of a large fortune besides. Canon Douglas, who had held the family living of Salwarpe since 1849, was an excellent parish clergyman, and indefatigable in rendering valuable services to all the diocesan societies and organisations, and to many local charities. He was a man of very fine character, and the secular side of his position as a squire-parson was entirely subordinate to the spiritual. Exercising great influence in many directions, he always kept himself entirely in the background. Canon Douglas was the son of the Rev. Henry Douglas, who held for many years a "golden stall" in Durham Cathedral, the average stipend being upwards of £5,000, in return for which payment one annual month of close residence was required. Canon Douglas was a brother-in-law of the late Bishop of Wakefield.

Ernest, Ltd., 185, Regent-street.—The handsome new Salons, where fancy Tailor-made Gowns and Coats are always on view. Send for the new Spring Illustrated Price List.

The Rev. Edgar Sheppard withdrew his acceptance of the vacant stall at Gloucester in deference to the request of the Prince and Princess of Wales, who did not wish him to leave the Chapel Royal. It is understood that two other clergymen have since declined the canonry, which can be held only by an ecclesiastic possessed of adequate private means, as the income is under £300 a year (supposed to be £600), and there is a large prebendal house in the College Green to be kept up. Mr. Sheppard could perfectly well have held the stall in conjunction with his office of Sub-Dean of the Chapel Royal. Why the Lord Chancellor should insist that this canonry is not to be held with any other preferment it is impossible to understand, considering that only a few months ago the Rev. F. A. J. Hervey was nominated by Lord Halsbury to a stall at Norwich (£650 a year, with house) without any stipulation that he was to resign the living of Sandringham, which, accordingly, he continues to hold. There ought to be one weight and one measure for all nominees; but Lord Halsbury is not only not guided by fixed principles, but he does not appear to be guided in such affairs by any principle whatever.

It seems to be almost as difficult to get out of the Norton Fitzwarren Village Club as it is to get into the Carlton or Reform, the Athenæum or the Marlborough. Recently a gentleman, who holds the office of churchwarden in this village, desired to sever his connection with the club, and returned his card of membership and copy of the rules to the President, a local squire. The latter replied that, in his capacity as churchwarden, the gentleman in question was a member of the club and of the managing committee, "notwithstanding his objection to acknowledge the position." And in this club the President's word is law, for the rules practically give him power to govern it as he pleases.

An advertisement has frequently appeared in the daily Press asking the public to "kindly send something for the sick in south-east London." The advertiser is the Rev. A. S. Hewlett, St. John's Clergy House, Tooley-street. It is somewhat strange that an advertisement of this kind should proceed from this particular parish, for, attached to St. John's, Horsleydown, and St. Olave's, there used to be several unusually well-endowed local charities. It would seem, therefore, that the public has some right to know, before contributing specially for relief in that quarter, what has become of these endowments.

I ought to have mentioned last week that subscriptions to the fund for the defence of the action which Lord Hillingdon is bringing, in connection the Charleville-lane right-of-way dispute, may be sent to Mr. Basil Martineau, the Commons Preservation Society, 1, Great College-street, Westminster, S.W.

The sums of £1 1s. from Captain Hubert Earle, and £5 from T., have reached me towards the deficit of last year's Truth Toy Fund.

It has been decided to abandon the Army Rifle Meeting at Aldershot, which has perished from lack of funds to keep it going, nor has it been favoured with much general support from the Army. There have been flagrant mistakes in the management of the institution, and few people *en connaissance de cause* will be surprised at its collapse.

I take the following from a long letter written by an officer of extensive Indian experience :—

DEAR SIR,—You have touched the *fons et origo mali* of frontier fiascoes when pointing out the danger of the theory that the Viceroy is the proper Foreign Minister of India. He may be so, but how can a nobleman, fresh from his clubs, his Parish Councils, or his pheasants, know the difference between a Baboo and an Afridi? He must lean on some one. Naturally he ought to lean on the Foreign Secretary, who is half a Minister and half a Secretary. Supposing him not to do this, there is no saying who leads him. Perhaps his private secretary, perhaps the Commander-in-Chief. . . . . Of course the Bengal Civil Service will "take you to task" for letting in the light on the present evil system, whereby any civil servant in India, who can effect his entrance into the Simla Foreign Office as an assistant précis-writer, may rise, as in two recent cases men actually have risen, through the mere favour of his superiors, to be Foreign Secretary, and virtually, though not in name, Foreign Minister. But you are doing a great service in bringing the question forward, for all that. . . . . .

It is high time that some stringent regulations were formulated with respect to the running of shops by N.C.O.s in garrison towns. Many cases of this kind have been at different times noted in TRUTH, the shops being sometimes kept in the names of the men's wives, but occasionally by N.C.O.s themselves. A further development of the practice is to be seen at present at Aldershot. The wife of a pay-sergeant in the Royal Engineers keeps a hosiery shop, and through this shop men in the battalion are supplied, the bills being passed through their accounts. The matter creates a grievance among the men, who complain that they are thus placed under an inducement to buy things that they do not want. It is obvious that abuses of one kind and another easily may arise, and the War Office should take steps to suppress all such trading.

The arrangement by which retired Quartermasters are temporarily employed on duty with the Army Service Corps appears to be on the increase, a recent *Gazette* giving the names of no less than five officers who have just rejoined in this way at different stations. As I understand it, these officers do not fill vacancies on the establishment, but are in the position of supernumeraries, being remunerated with an allowance of £120 a year in addition to their pension. Although this does not interfere with promotion from the lower ranks to fill vacancies on the establishment, it naturally creates a feeling of soreness among those who would otherwise have to be appointed to these posts. If, as is evidently the case, the present establishment of Quartermasters A.S.C. is insufficient for the requirements of the Department, it ought to be increased, and the additional appointments filled up by promotions in the usual course. The practice of bringing back pensioners who have left the Service is a makeshift of very doubtful expediency.

A characteristic incident is reported in connection with the death at Dehra Dun of an old veteran N.C.O., who had been for many years well known in this neighbourhood. The man in question, Sergeant Skilling, formerly of the 11th and 4th Hussars, enlisted somewhere back in the forties, came out to India at the time of the Rohilla War, and distinguished himself in something like eighteen engagements down to the close of the Indian Mutiny, and for the last twenty years he had resided at Dehra Dun. When he died, his family asked that he might be allowed a military funeral, but the request was refused on the ground that there were no military at the place. But a few days afterwards a retired major died at the same place, and was buried with the usual military honours. The excuse, therefore, given in the case of the sergeant cannot have been the true reason. I should have thought that there were many reasons in this case why the military authorities should have shown as much honour to the memory of the non-commissioned as to that of the commissioned officer.

I am sorry to find that pensioners still complain about the feeding in Chelsea Hospital. All complaints of this kind it is my custom to take with a grain of salt, but when I find a credible witness deposing to having had set before him a rabbit pie containing three heads and no bodies, I think inquiry may be legitimately raised as to what has become of the rest of the animals. In all institutions of this kind it is necessary to keep a very sharp eye on the officials, in order to see that the inmates get what they are supposed to have, and from what I hear there seems to be room for more supervision of this kind at Chelsea. Some years ago each mess in the Hospital used to receive the dripping out of the meat. This was stopped, and an allowance in cash was given to the men instead. After a time the cash allowance was also stopped, and the men were told that the money would go to provide them with extras. They complain, however, that the fare has been even more meagre since that date than it was before.

The natives of Malta are often reproached on account of their ill-treatment of animals, but it would seem that there are other similar offenders in the island who by reason of their position are far more to blame. In a letter in the *Malta Chronicle* an "English Civilian" describes a case of gross cruelty through the overloading of a military transport cart; and a correspondent of my own says it is by no means the only case of the kind that has occurred lately. Perhaps the officer responsible for transport arrangements will look into these charges. He is understood to pride himself upon keeping down expenses; but probably he is not aware that his zeal for economy—so laudable within proper limits—sometimes results in one wretched undersized pony being compelled (with the assistance of men shoving behind the cart) to drag a load heavy enough for a couple of animals. Such a spectacle brings the military authorities into disrepute and sets a very bad example to the native population of Malta.

In view of the increase of the Army, we shall probably hear a good deal before long about the necessity of doing something to increase recruiting—something more, that is to say, than the concessions just made and announced in

connection with the Army Estimates. Two officers at Aldershot, who have made it their business to collect opinions on the subject from N.C.O.'s engaged in recruiting work, send me the following suggestions as to what is required to increase the supply of men. They seem worthy of notice at the present juncture—more especially as they do not involve any additional call upon the taxpayer:—

1. More recruiting sergeants in country districts, where it is very rare to see one at present.

2. More liberty for soldiers when off duty, *e.g.*, a man of good conduct should not be required to obtain a pass in order to be out of barracks after 10 p.m.; afternoon barrack-square parade under the sergeant-major should be abolished for trained soldiers.

3. A more substantial breakfast should be given to soldiers, who at present have only one solid meal in the course of the day. The recent concession over the grocery ration ought to make this no difficult matter.

4. A smarter walking-out uniform for the Infantry of the Line. Although Cavalry do more work than the Infantry on practically the same pay, they have no difficulty in obtaining all the recruits they require. Recruiting Sergeants attribute this almost entirely to the superior attractions of the Cavalry uniform. It is suggested that there should be two kits, one specially smart for walking-out and ceremonial parades, and the other business-like and serviceable for other parades and fatigues. Probably this division would obviate any increase in the present total cost of kit.

I was favoured the other day by some men of the 2nd Somerset Light Infantry with a sample of the dinner served up to them at Corunna Barracks, Aldershot. I do not wish to do an injustice to the cook, but I am bound to say that, unless the sample had suffered considerably during transit through the post, it did not speak highly for his talents. A less inviting repast I have never seen. I am told that there has been some grumbling on the subject, and that the cook defends himself on the ground that the ovens are cracked. There must be something wrong somewhere, if the sample submitted to me fairly represents the bulk, and I hope that this notice will cause the matter to be looked into.

By the way, is it a common thing for the privates' reading-room to be constantly in use for such purposes as lectures, courts-martial, and married people's tea-parties? It seems that the reading-room at Corunna Barracks has several times lately been closed, for some hours at a time, for one or other of these purposes. Surely other and more convenient places could be found for use on such occasions.

Few officers have better cause to complain of the inconsiderate meanness of the Indian Government than those of the Royal Indian Marine. No branch of the Service is more trying to the health, several stations being notoriously unhealthy; and this is so well understood that the premium for life insurance for officers of the R.I.M. is higher than for any other service or occupation in India. When, however, one of these officers is invalided home, he has in nine cases out of ten to pay his passage both ways at his own expense, and to live at home on a pittance of a few shillings per week. It is true that he is nominally entitled to a non-regulation troopship passage "when available;" but as such a passage is only available during five months of the year, and only very rarely during those five months, while a man invalided home generally has to get away almost at a moment's notice, this concession is purely nominal.

To show the hardship of the case, take the position of a lieutenant of the Royal Indian Marine, who has to come home under such circumstances. His allowance is only Rs.125 a month, paid at the official rate of exchange, and subject to income-tax and subscription to family pension fund. His passage home and back, if he has to pay it, will cost about three-quarters of his whole year's allowance, and he will have something under Rs.400 left to live upon for the whole year. It is a monstrous thing that any man who has temporarily lost his health in a specially arduous public service should be treated like this.

A question in which the public have a double interest as taxpayers and consumers is raised by the *Grocers' Gazette*, in connection with a recent sale by auction at the Royal Clarence Yard, Gosport. The stores brought to the hammer included the following:—Biscuits, 4,000 lb.; ditto siftings, 5,100 lb.; split peas, 700 lb; flour, kiln dried, 140 lb.; rice, 1,200 lb.; preserved potatoes, 185 lb.; cook's fat, 780 lb. It must be assumed that these victuals had been condemned as unfit for use, and nobody will blame the authorities for refusing to issue them to the Navy. But one would like to know how it comes about that the Admiralty so often has to dispose of similarly large quantities of provisions. A certain amount of loss through the deterioration of such goods in store is unavoidable, but with proper management it might surely be very much reduced. One would like to know, too, what becomes of these condemned provisions. Is stuff pronounced unwholesome for seamen sold for consumption by landsmen?

The Chief Petty Officers of the Navy have, I see, issued an appeal to M.P.s to assist them in obtaining the removal of a pension grievance which has often been noticed in these columns. I hope the appeal will be successful. At present a C.P.O. receives only the same pension as he would have received if he had remained a P.O. 1st class, though in every other respect a distinction is drawn between the two grades. Such an arrangement is both anomalous and unjust, and it ought to be altered by giving the C.P.O., in addition to his ordinary pension, a halfpenny per day extra for each year's service in that rank, just as the P.O. 1st class is given a halfpenny per day more than the P.O. 2nd class.

It would seem from a complaint I have received, that among the guards working on the Indian North Western State Railway are several ex-soldiers, who were induced to accept this employment by the promise that they would be paid Rs. 85 a month, with regular yearly increments, till they reached Rs. 120 a month. The Rs. 85 a month are duly paid, but the increments are never, or hardly ever, granted, the natural consequence being the existence of much resentment and dissatisfaction. Such a breach of faith, discreditable in any circumstances, is doubly discreditable, if it be true, as I am informed, that in some cases the men only went from their regiments to the railway service on the assurances as to their prospects which were given by their commanding officers, though

the latter were, of course, only repeating what they believed to be the trustworthy statements of the railway officials.

At the present moment it is, perhaps, hardly of much use to further discuss the ill-advised amendments of the law of sedition in India which have been rushed with such indecent haste through the Legislative Council. Since I dealt with the matter a few weeks ago, however, my attention has been called to one peculiarly iniquitous clause of the Act, which has not been generally noticed. It is actually provided that the code shall apply to any native Indian subject of her Majesty "in any place without and beyond British India," so that, for instance, a native Indian subject in London who while here writes a strong letter or article on the Frontier policy can, under the new law, be tried and convicted of sedition whenever he returns to British India. As another illustration, the Calcutta Bar, in its protest against the Bill, pointed out that

> any native Indian subject of her Majesty who petitions the British Parliament for the redress of grievances or against alleged oppression, and thereby excites or attempts to excite any feeling of enmity against the Government of India as by law established, would, though his petition were in such terms as were allowable according to the procedure of the British Parliament, be liable to transportation for life when found in British India. This appears to be in this respect a measure which may affect the authority of Parliament within the meaning of the last clause of Sec. 22 of the Indian Councils Act of 1861, and the putting of it in force in such a case would undoubtedly constitute a breach of the privileges of Parliament.

The whole question has, of course, still to be thrashed out in Parliament.

After all, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's idea of a postal delivery to every house in the country was not exactly stillborn. It is merely growing into life with the extreme deliberation, which, in the course of nature, must be expected of any idea nurtured by the old women at St. Martin's-le-Grand. That is the conclusion I draw from Mr. Hanbury's answer to a question last week respecting the non-delivery of letters to certain residents of a district in Denbighshire. The Post Office surveyors, he said, are proceeding as rapidly as possible with the task of establishing postal deliveries throughout the United Kingdom, but, of course, many localities still remain to be dealt with. Of course. It is only twelve months since the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave his promise and the House of Commons voted the money for carrying it out. How could the Department be reasonably expected to deal with so gigantic a business in so short a time? It will positively involve the appointment of several additional postmen.

Enthusiasts on the subject of "purity" have at one time and another inflicted a prodigious quantity of foul and mischievous literature upon the public; but it is something new to find a beneficed clergyman of the Established Church engaged in this dirty work. At the present time a pamphlet is being systematically distributed among young men by the rector of a parish in Kent. The reverend gentleman's motives are, no doubt, highly meritorious, but few practical people will question that the views set forth in his pamphlet are altogether mischievous. I hear from Oxford that the book is being posted wholesale to undergraduates of that University. It seems to be another among the many cases in which a little censorship on the part of the Post Office might be exercised with great benefit to the public.

With reference to the action of the General Medical Council in regard to unqualified assistants, a medical friend tells me that what has been done is merely to call the attention of practitioners to the rule, which has long been in existence, forbidding the employment of such assistants except under the direct supervision of the principal. I take it, however, that there is no doubt that the rule has always been more or less a dead letter. Here is another letter which gives the case for the Medical Council:—

> In justice to the General Council it ought to be mentioned that one great object at least of their action is to protect the poorer classes, with whom everybody inside a surgery is "the doctor." But the Council would do well to go a step further and obtain powers—if they do not already possess them—to prevent any person who has, for malpractices, been struck off the register from practising as a medical man. If I am rightly informed, there is, at the present time, no law which will prevent such an one from continuing to attend patients, with the sole drawback that he is not capable of signing death certificates; this, of course, necessitating a coroner's inquiry.
>
> In illustration of the foregoing it is only necessary to call attention to an inquest recently held at the East-end of London. The subject of the inquiry was a child eleven years old. Of the two so-called "practitioners" who attended the case, one admitted that he had no qualification whatever, the other stated that he had been a licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries, but had been struck off the register. Very naturally, the coroner doubted the utility of striking a man off the register when there is so little to prevent him from carrying on the practice of prescribing for patients, and, the jury endorsing this view, a rider was appended to the verdict declaring that it is not in the interests of the public that unqualified practitioners should be allowed to practise. And I think, on reflection, nobody will doubt the correctness of such a proposition.

Perhaps I am of an unduly sceptical disposition, but I confess that the solicitude of the medical authorities for the interests of poor patients strikes me as a little comic. No one, of course, can doubt for a moment the desirability of preventing unqualified men from practising. But the fact remains that the action of the Medical Council deprives of their livelihood many men who have shown themselves by years of practice thoroughly competent doctors, and that the benefit which will result to the public is extremely doubtful. If the writer of the above letter is correctly informed, the Medical Council have no power to prevent any unqualified man from practising, although they may prevent a qualified man from employing him as an assistant. The present state of things seems to be that any unscrupulous quack or ignoramus is perfectly free to doctor people, provided he is prepared to face the chance of an inquest; while more conscientious men who have been working for years past as doctors' assistants, but would not care to start now on their own account on the above terms, are suddenly precluded from earning their living. The law is undoubtedly in a very unsatisfactory state, and I cannot see that the action of the General Medical Council makes things materially better. The Council would be far better occupied in devoting itself to getting the law amended, not in the interests of the profession, but in the interests of the public.

Surplice Shirts for evening wear, with pique fronts, 9/6, 10/6 each, made to measure.—Sampson & Co., Shirt Tailors, 268, 270, Oxford-street, London, W. Price lists forwarded.

It would, perhaps, be a piece of poetic licence to say in these days that "chalk and alum and plaster are sold to the poor for bread;" but even if there be nothing wrong with the quality, there is, according to the Master Bakers' Society, a good deal lacking in the quantity of the cheap loaf. "Day by day," says a paper representing the views of the Society, "the public is robbed—that is the proper word—of tons of bread by men who, under the pretence of selling cheap loaves, cheat their customers in weight." The Society ought to be an authority on the subject, and, coming from such a quarter, the demand for more inspectors to check the sale of bread is one which deserves careful consideration at Spring Gardens. There is probably plenty of room for increased inspection, and even more for increased stringency in the enforcement of the law against swindling bakers.

The Swansea Bumbles have been behaving fairly well for some time past; but last week they indulged once more in the luxury of a scandalous scene. It arose upon the refusal of the Board to send the children from the Cottage Homes to a certain school, the Rev. J. Davies (Cadle) remarking that they had "damned the school." Another member, in protesting against this remark, made some occult reference to the connection of Mr. Davies with "an insurance company," whereupon the reverend gentleman broke forth as follows:—

> You are going to hell if you say that. I have never said anything about it. The *Daily Post* said that the Rev. Burwyn Davies and me were insurance agents for hell. You, and your beer—you are going to hell; you know more about it than I do. I am afraid to go there; I am trying to keep people away from there; but I am afraid I will never keep you from there.

Such incidents must be highly edifying to the ratepayers, to say nothing of the children whose interests were supposed to be under consideration.

It is a decidedly sad and incomprehensible state of things that a man should be under treatment for a month by a poor law medical officer and then die of starvation. This is what appears to have happened in the case of a poor fellow named Griffiths, whose death has lately been investigated by a coroner's jury and by a committee of the Board of Guardians at Newport, Salop. Griffiths went to the doctor, who gave him a bottle of medicine and advised him to go into the workhouse, where he would get the more nourishing food which he evidently needed. The man did not act upon this advice, but contented himself with taking bottle after bottle of the medicine, and at the end of a month he suddenly died. It was found at the inquest that his death was due to starvation; but the jury did not make any allusion to the conduct of the medical officer, which it was understood would be brought before the Guardians. Last week a committee of the latter body reported that they considered the doctor should have recommended the relieving officer to provide suitable relief in kind for Griffiths; but, by the casting vote of the Chairman, the Guardians declined to adopt this report, because, forsooth, it might be construed into a censure. To most people reading the story, it will seem a very sensible and at the same time justifiable expression of opinion.

Several of my readers have contributed further to the discussion of the question whether a tenant who has paid his landlord's income tax, and omitted to deduct it from the next quarter's rent, has a right to make a deduction in the next subsequent quarter. Up to the present, however, there does not seem to be any further ground for believing that the tenant has, at any rate in ordinary cases, such a right. A barrister refers me to Woodfall's "Landlord and Tenant," where on the authority of a case reported in 15 Meeson and Welsby, p. 438, it is laid down that the tenant cannot recover the income tax if he has omitted to deduct it from the next quarter's rent. The Income Tax Repayment Agency write me that cases decided before February 3, 1893, are over-ruled by the judgment of Judge Collier in the case mentioned in TRUTH the other day. My knowledge of law may be imperfect, but it is something new to me to hear that decisions in the superior courts can be over-ruled by a County Court judge.

The case relied on by the Income-tax Repayment Agency appears to be one of "Thomson *v.* Adcock," tried at the Liverpool County Court, on February 3, 1893. In this case the defendant deducted from his quarter's rent at the end of 1892 income tax for two previous years, which he had omitted to deduct at the proper time. The landlord refused to allow the deduction, sued the tenant, and failed. The judgment, I am told, rested on the ground that the Income Tax Act of 1853 amended the previous Act of 1842, and allowed the deduction under such circumstances. How the County Court judge got over the previous decisions I do not know, unless they were prior to the Act of 1853. Possibly the point is doubtful, but the balance of authority at present seems to be on the side of the landlord. It generally is.

Here is a fresh version of the Indian income tax grievance, this time from a civilian:—

> I am a member of a mercantile firm in Calcutta. The profits of the firm are subject to and pay income tax in India. Part of my share of these profits is remitted to me in England, and on the portion so remitted the Inland Revenue Commissioners again levy income tax on me here. Can the same income be taxed twice by the Queen's Government, *i.e.*, once in India and again in England? If so it appears to be a mere delusion to hold that all subjects of the Crown are on equality in matters of taxation.

There seem to be one or two fallacies here. If the same individual is in the fortunate position of having establishments, mercantile or otherwise, in two or three countries, he must submit to the inconvenience of paying the taxes in all those countries. The fiscal systems of India and of England are as distinct as those of France and Russia, and I can see no reason why a person residing in any one of these countries should be exempt from taxation there because he has been taxed elsewhere.

DUYSEN PIANOS are the most superb of all modern Instruments. They stand absolutely unrivalled for beauty of tone, touch, & finish. A consummate success in small grands.—LLOYD'S, 24, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, W.

H. L. SAVORY & CO.'S CIGARETTES.—By Special Warrants of Appointments, to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe Coburg-Gotha, H.S.H. the Duke of Teck, and the House of Lords and Commons. To be obtained of all the leading Houses in the Trade.—Sole address, 59, Piccadilly, London, W.

My Legal Pillory this week contains a case from West Powder Petty Sessions which affords a striking illustration of the constant, almost inexhaustible, mercy of many of the magistracy towards persons convicted of ill-treating animals. The defendant had been fined for cruelty on seven previous occasions, and the Bench recognised that the only thing likely to cure him was a term of hard labour. It is quite certain that if he had shown a propensity for poaching or petty larceny, to say nothing of the horrible crime of sleeping out, this remedy would have been tried long before he had reached his seventh conviction; but as he was simply an animal-torturer, he was let off, for the eighth time, with a pecuniary penalty. In the following list there are a number of other examples of the unaccountable aberrations of the Great Unpaid with regard to the relative heinousness of offences:—

Derby County Police-court. Before Messrs. W. M. Jervis, J. H. Gascoyne, and other magistrates. John Saxelby and Edward Saxelby, charged with assaulting John Colclough. They knocked complainant down, and kicked and "pummelled" him whilst he lay on the ground. The Bench said it was a bad assault. Fined £1 each and costs.

West Powder Petty Sessions, Truro. Before Mr. T. R. Polwhele, Sir Geo. J. Smith, and Mr. E. S. Carus-Wilson. Elisha Rickard, charged with cruelty by allowing a horse to be worked whilst in an unfit state. The animal was in low condition and suffering from four wounds under the saddle. There were seven previous convictions for cruelty, and the Bench said nothing, apparently, would cure the defendant unless it was a commitment to gaol. They were "almost inclined" to inflict the full penalty of £5; but only fined him £3 and costs.

Oswestry Borough Petty Sessions. Before the Mayor, Messrs. W. H. Spaull, J. Jones, E. B. Smith, G. Perks, and D. Vaughan. Richard Jones pleaded guilty to a charge of assaulting his wife. She had four children to support, and he had only given her 18s. 6d. during the last four months. He brought home two loaves for his own consumption, and when she begged him to give one to her and the children, he hit her on the head till she became unconscious. The chairman said defendant had behaved like a brute. Fined £1, and bound over.

Shrewsbury Borough Police-court. Before Mr. George J. Holt, Major-General W. H. Herbert, and other magistrates. George Littlehales, charged with assaulting Ruth Brown and John Cullis. Both the complainants were knocked down and rendered insensible by the defendant, who hit them on the head with a poker or some similar weapon. There were five previous convictions against the defendant. Fined £1 and costs for each assault.

Derby County Police-court. Before the same magistrates. John Murdock and George Rivers, charged with stealing a brass tap, value 6d. Murdock, seven days; Rivers, fourteen days.

Malling Petty Sessions. Thomas Chambers, summoned for trespassing in search of rabbits. Fined £2.

Midhurst Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Watson, Colonel Lascelles, Messrs. G. H. Drew, and C. T. Lane. Wm. Osborne, charged with stealing two pieces of harness belonging to his employer. Prisoner had hitherto borne a good character. One month.

Halesworth Police-court. Before Mr. F. E. Babington. Wm. Strange, charged with sleeping out. Fourteen days.

Waltham Abbey Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Parnell, J. W. Melles, R. B. Colvin, and A. J. Edwards. Alfred Curtis, charged with trespassing in search of conies. Fined £2 10s. 6d. or one month.

Neath County Police-court. Before Messrs. J. B. Paddon, E. Davies, and M. G. Roberts. Richard Pearce, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2 and costs, or one month.

Fakenham Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. C. A. Hamond, B. Le Neve Foster, W. Freuer, and Captain F. R. Thackray. John Parke, labourer, charged with stealing a pair of boots, which were hanging outside a shop. Nothing was known against the defendant's character. Fourteen days.

Widnes Police-court. Before Mr. W. W. Gossage and Alderman Sadler. Andrew Hegarty, charged with assaulting Maria Heron. Defendant struck her a blow on the cheek, knocked her down, and kicked her in the back. She was confined to her bed for a week in consequence. Fined 20s. and costs.

Sheffield City Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Robertshaw and G. Senior. John Patrick Swinden, barber, charged with assaulting a boy, twelve years of age, whom he employed. On three successive days the defendant most severely thrashed the boy, causing about forty bruises. Fined £2.

Batley Police-court. Joseph Waddington and his wife charged with assaulting James Hudson. The complainant, an old man, was given several severe blows on the face and knocked down, after which he was kicked on the face and head. The woman fined 6s. 6d.; the male defendant £2 10s.

Reading County Police-court. Before Major Thoyts and other magistrates. William Creed charged with cruelty to a mare, by working her whilst in an unfit condition. The animal was a very old one, "a mere bag of bones," and suffering from a large suppurating wound on the back. Defendant had been previously convicted of similar cruelty. Fined £2 and costs.

Grimsby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. W. Jackson, C. Morton, S. Oates, A. Connell, E. de Lacy Read, and A. Bannister. George Goodwin, fishing apprentice to the Anchor Steam Fishing Company, charged with neglecting to go to sea. One month.

Chelmsford Police-court. Before Mr. J. Thomasin Foster, and other magistrates. Wm. Collison, charged with sleeping out, and having no visible means of subsistence. Twenty-one days.

Staffordshire Adjourned Quarter Sessions. Before Lord Hatherton and other magistrates. George Henry Greenwood pleaded guilty to stealing a pair of boots. Six months.

Tiverton Police-court. Margaret Donovan and Margaret Western charged with sleeping out under a hay stack. Fourteen days each.

An ingenuous gentleman, who declares himself "a land owner, a magistrate, and a game-preserver," writes me a letter beginning:—

When you advocate the abolition of the Game Laws have you ever considered the other side of the question, I mean the effect which such a step would produce upon the country generally? . .

Yes, I have considered it very often, for it is a subject on which the landed interest is never tired of expatiating. I do not think it necessary, therefore, to print the rest of my correspondent's letter, which is merely devoted to showing the loss which would result to the "country generally" if those at present employed in the game-preserving industry were thrown out of work, if game became extinct, and country gentlemen had no longer the attractions of shooting to occupy them at their country residences. The prospect may strike a landlord with horror, but I think it is one which "the country" may face with equanimity. Of course, if no other industry is to take the place of game-preserving, if extensive tracts of the soil of this country are fit for no other purpose except to grow pheasants for rich men to shoot, rural districts will undoubtedly lose something by the abolition of the Game Laws. The "if," however, is a big one.

At last I have got to the bottom of the mystery concerning the expenditure of £7 15s. 6d. in recovering a legacy of £50 from the clutches of the Court of Chancery, which had taken possession of the money while the legatee was a minor. It appears that a legatee is not allowed to apply to the Court in person, a rule of the Court making it necessary that a solicitor shall be employed to obtain an order on an originating summons. The stamps and fees alone absorb about £2, apart from the solicitor's own costs. Such a rule imposes a monstrously heavy tax on small legatees for the benefit of

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Subscriptions greatly needed by The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—6,929 convictions this year; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

the legal profession, and it ought to be abolished or amended. In a case like that to which I referred, it would surely be quite sufficient if evidence of the identity and age of the legatee were produced, and this could be done without the assistance of a solicitor.

With reference to the fund being raised to defray the costs of the defendants in the case of Andrew *v.* Whitworth, I am glad to hear that the public meeting at which the fund was inaugurated passed a resolution instructing the committee to distribute the fund "so that no part can be touched by the plaintiffs." Provided this instruction is carried out, I wish the fund every success, and the bigger it is the better.

Bailie Hay, of Stranraer, modestly disclaims the vainglorious remark, attributed to him by the *Stewartry Observer*, that he once brought me to my knees. In reply to my paragraph last week he has sent me a letter from which it seems that what he really said was that a year or two ago I "put the Bench right" by giving his version of a case which had been commented upon in TRUTH. This incident, and, indeed, the very existence of the worthy magistrate, had passed from my recollection, but I was quite right in affirming that I had never gone on my knees to his worship, or for that matter to any other Bailie. Bailie Hay admits the soft impeachment that he spoke of certain local scribes as "gutter-snipe, second-hand reporters," and expressed the belief that he could bring *them* to their knees. He appears to consider that he had plenty of provocation for the language he used; but that is a question which he must settle with his local critics.

A letter has been written by the Chairman of the Eddisbury Petty Sessions in reference to some recent comments in TRUTH on the dismissal of a charge of cruelty to a mare which died while under treatment for jibbing. The treatment consisted in fastening a chain round the mare's neck, having her dragged along a field by a cart-horse, and beating her with a whip to make her rise when she fell, or, as is now suggested, threw herself down. The Chairman says that this was only done after gentler methods had been tried in vain, that death was caused by "heart failure, consequent on the resistance due to the animal's obstinacy," and that the whip could not have been used to an undue or cruel extent, as no marks of blows were found on the carcass. As to "the forcible dragging forward of the mare," the Chairman says that this process is adopted, sometimes with great apparent violence, yet without apparent suffering or injury, when a horse is cast and unable to extricate itself, or buried up to the head in a brook or bog; at the same time, in dismissing the summons, the Bench "by no means committed themselves to an approval of such a method as a cure for jibbing." If the Magistrates had been content to hold that no cruelty was intended, I should not have commented upon their decision. I did so, as I explained at the time, because they went further, and expressed the opinion that no cruelty was even inflicted—an opinion from which, after carefully considering the Chairman's letter, I still most strongly dissent.

The present month is always marked by the awakening of the turf tipster and the man with a betting system from their winter slumber. One of the first to brace himself up for the coming racing season is C. Wildcroft, of 72, Hampstead-road, N.W. He is the inventor of a "method of investment" which, after three years of patient labour, he has just brought to a state of perfection —"winning an absolute certainty," &c. With the unselfishness which should characterise all great inventors, he does not wish to keep this good thing to himself, but, on the contrary, is anxious to give a share in it to "a few gentlemen with sufficient capital to work the same." No doubt the system will work to its prophet's profit, if not to anybody else's.

A few months back, for the benefit of numerous readers and correspondents, I offered an opinion upon the home work business carried on by Coleman & Co., 33, Old Queen-street, Westminster. The substance of my remarks was that although there was no proof that the business was not carried on honestly any lady expecting to increase her income substantially by such means was likely to be disappointed. In view of a recent development, this opinion seems to require a little modification. The principle of Coleman & Co.'s business was that the would-be lady worker first paid 2s. 6d., in return for which she received a sample of the work, materials for her to try her hand upon, and a promise that her name would be entered on the books, and further work guaranteed if her first work was satisfactory. She then had to send another 2s. 6d. for materials to make a dozen of the articles—watch-holders made from macramé string. For each dozen made the payment was 9d., and the second 2s. 6d. was to be returned when the work was discontinued.

A lady went in for this business in November, paid her first 2s. 6d. for preliminary expenses, and a further 2s. 6d. for materials, out of which she completed her first dozen. She then received notice that no more work could be given till the end of January, and when that date was passed she wrote again for more work, or for the return of the 2s. 6d. paid as a preliminary fee, and the 2s. 6d. subsequently deposited. Coleman & Co. answered to this that they could only supply materials in future by the gross, and must have a deposit of 24s. before sending further materials. This being a clear breach of the original agreement, the lady declined to send 24s, and applied again for the return of her 5s., but without success. She then got a solicitor to write a letter to Coleman & Co. on her behalf, and without further demur the 5s. was refunded. It is pretty clear from this that the business is not conducted in a straightforward way, and any lady of limited means who sends 24s. to Coleman & Co. after this will be extremely ill-advised.

THE FAMED "ADELPHI" TURTLE forwarded from the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, to all parts of the country. Per quart jar, 18s.; per pint jar, 9s. 6d., carriage paid. *Speciality for Invalids.*

For *Truth*, and all other Newspapers, Magazines, and Periodicals, send your Subscriptions to WM. DAWSON & SONS, Ltd., Cannon House, Bream's-bldngs., London. (Estab. 1809.) Catalogue gratis.

Isaac Gordon has found a friend. In the course of a public examination before Mr. Registrar E. S. Gills, in the Chester Bankruptcy Court last week, the debtor mentioned that he had borrowed £3,205 from moneylenders, that he had repaid them £4,464, and that they still claimed £1,672 from him. A number of these transactions were with Isaac Gordon, and for the last £300 that he advanced that insatiable bloodsucker obtained promissory notes for £900. This would have struck most people as a pretty bad example of extortion; but all it elicited from Mr. Registrar Gills was the sage remark that Gordon could not be expected "to lend money without interest"! The Registrar also delivered himself of the equally valuable opinions that "there was a lot of nonsense talked in these days about moneylenders, who might be as bad as they were painted, but there were other things as bad, if not worse." It will probably occur to most people that one thing a shade worse than the exactions of scoundrels like Gordon is the spectacle of a bankruptcy official talking such puerile and pernicious nonsense about practices which cause so much distress and ruin.

The debtor in the above case was lured into the toils of Gordon by a circular purporting to emanate from one "Arthur A. Andrews." The "Andrews" circulars are sent out from 6, High-street, Kingsland, London, N. In another case at the Worcester Bankruptcy Court last week, the victim had been caught by a circular from "James W. Ryland," 6, Livery-street, Birmingham. He borrowed £150 from "Ryland," otherwise Gordon, and repaid £200. Then he borrowed a similar amount from "B. Edwards"—Gordon again, under another of his innumerable aliases. Two days, as he alleged, after an instalment had become due Gordon issued a writ for the balance of the loan, but he graciously withdrew it on payment of the instalment, £3 10s. costs, and £10 for his "extra trouble." The Assistant Official Receiver at Worcester takes a more practical and sensible view of Gordon's methods than the Registrar at Chester, and when the borrower became bankrupt he demanded the return of the £10 which had been thus extorted from him. Here are some charming extracts from the redoubtable Isaac's reply to this demand:—

> It is quite clear that I was strictly within my right to issue the the writ and to demand £10 for my extra trouble, because I am not the bankrupt's slave, dog, or servant to send him writs and write him letters without due and proper payment. I challenge the bankrupt to prove his story, and I wish you would be a bit more long-headed and not simply take bankrupts' words, but insist on having facts before you keep on troubling and worrying people with all sorts of correspondence and rubbishing demands to no purpose, and for which one does not get one penny, and which is extremely irritating and annoying. I often get cruelly robbed by some of the debtors, and I have a perfect right to make the best bargain I can for myself, which I always do—up and above board. Please do not pester me with any more letters on the subject, as I have something else to do than to keep up a correspondence with you to no purpose.

This scoundrel's impudence is scarcely less phenomenal than his rapacity.

There is a usurer or a usurer's tout of a particularly obnoxious type, who calls himself "G. Milner," and dates his letters and circulars from 258, High Holborn, W.C. He marks down as his special prey persons who have given bills of sale, or who have had County Court judgments registered against them, offering loans to get them out of their difficulties. Whether Milner merely collects fees for preliminary expenses, or whether he actually makes advances, it is pretty certain that anybody in financial straits who accepts an offer of this kind will speedily find that he has jumped from the frying-pan into the fire.

The following seems to be a variation on the trick of the soldier and the parrot which was described in Truth a week or two ago. In the obituary notices of a gentleman, who died in London about a month back, he was described as "of Calcutta." A week afterwards, a man called upon the widow with a story about some parcels having just arrived from India by the *Ceylon* for her late husband, and also a magnificent parrot. He also represented that there was 3s. 6d. to pay for expenses. The mention of the parrot fortunately awakened the lady's scepticism, and she requested the man to fetch the parcels and the bird, and she would then pay all necessary expenses. The man left, but has not since been heard of. He is probably a near relative of the *soi-disant* warrant officer, who had returned from Crete with a parrot as a present sent by one of the soldiers there to his friends in London. The police should direct their attention to these worthies.

Since the last reference in Truth to the advertising of shoddy pianos for sale at a great sacrifice upon the original cost, I have received a number of particulars which tend to prove the extensive nature of the business. Into three cases I have made inquiry, and the results are quite sufficient to warn any one against being tempted to secure such bargains. The following advertisements have all appeared frequently of late in the *Telegraph*:—

> 1. Piano, equal to new. A really high-class instrument. Would originally cost forty-five guineas. Great sacrifice to avoid storage expenses. Will accept twenty-two guineas, and arrange for gradual payments if most convenient to purchaser. Italian figured case, magnificent inlaid marqueterie panel front, iron frame, full trichord, patent check action; in fact, every up-to-date improvement for power and sweetness of tone. Seen any time by appointment.—Address, Professional, Box 8,095, Postal Department, *Daily Telegraph*, Fleet-street, E.C.
>
> 2. Pianoforte.—Lady, in difficulties, must sell seventy-guinea upright grand. Nearly new. Magnificent figured walnut. Every improvement. Noble instrument. Brilliant tone. Nineteen guineas. Approval, carriage paid.—191, Ferndale-road, Brixton.
>
> 3. Pianoforte.—Compulsory sale, very superior fifty-guinea upright iron grand, beautifully inlaid. Improved check action. New last August. Very great sacrifice, fifteen guineas. Private house, 24, Rust-square, Addington-square, Camberwell-road.

A reply to the first advertisement in the preceding list elicited a letter from "Arthur Godfrey," of 11, Canonbury Park South, Islington, who can "positively assure you that this is not of the ordinary common class, but a realy (*sic*) genuine first-class instrument." My inquiries reveal the fact that no professional of the name of Arthur Godfrey resides at this address, which is the private residence of a Mr. Siegenberg, who happens to be a furniture dealer with a shop a few hundred yards away in Upper-street, Islington. One piano is kept in the front room ready to show to possible purchasers, while four others are stocked in a back room. They are all brand new, all bear the name of "Henry Lender & Co.," and all are of the usual showy, badly-finished type. The second advertisement emanates from a small newspaper shop, whence reference

is made to 2, Stockwell Park-road. The lady in difficulties, who descants upon the qualities of the instrument admits that seventy guineas is only the "list" price, but declares that she paid forty-five guineas cash for the instrument. The maker's name is given as "Hoffmann," but no address is attached. The piano referred to in the third advertisement is housed in a small dwelling let out in tenements. The instrument is of precisely the same type as the others. Thirty guineas is mentioned as the price paid for it in September last, and the maker's name appears as "Bansall & Sons," London.

It is obvious from the frequency of the appearance of these and similar advertisements, that the business is a profitable one. It is equally obvious that it is founded upon gross misrepresentations. Of course, no one with any knowledge of what constitutes a good instrument would be deceived by the trick; but there are an unlimited number of people who, considering their homes are incomplete without the inevitable piano, are prepared to become easy victims to the device. One point I should still like to see cleared up. All the pianos bear the strongest family resemblance, and the names of the reputed makers, Warner & Co., Hoffmann, and Bansall & Sons, are not to be found amongst the list of pianoforte manufacturers in the current London directory. I have a shrewd suspicion that they all come from one factory. It is in regard to the identity of the manufacturer that I should like to be enlightened. The agents who undertake to distribute his shoddy stuff are, after all, culpable only in a minor degree. The manufacturer who deliberately sets himself to perpetrate an extensive fraud upon the ignorant, deserves a wider publicity than, unfortunately, I am at present in a position to give him.

Talking of shoddy pianos, here is an experience which may serve as a warning to others besides those who purchase bogus second-hand instruments through trick advertisements in the newspapers. In a suburban drawing-room, the common accident recently occurred of one of the piano shades catching light, and falling on to the keys. Almost as soon as the burning paper touched the keys there was a small explosion, followed by the burning up of a large portion of the keyboard. This I take to be due to the use of celluloid, or some other substitute for ivory. Considering how often one sees piano candle-shades on fire, purchasers of pianos would certainly do well to ascertain what the keys are made of.

I hear that a Roman Catholic priest, or some one purporting to be such, has recently been collecting a good deal of money in some parts of Ireland for an orphanage in London, which, when questioned, he has stated to be situated at Battersea. He recently paid a visit to Newtownards, where he collected a considerable sum. He gave no receipts for the money collected, and when on one occasion asked to give his name to a gentleman who proposed to send some money after him, he declined to do so. When coupled with the fact that no institution in the nature of a Roman Catholic orphanage appears to exist at Battersea, these circumstances are somewhat suspicious. I would recommend any one visited by this priest to obtain full particulars respecting the charity before contributing, and if the collector can be induced to give his own name, I should be glad to have it, together with a description of his personal appearance.

Some person or persons, styling themselves the Memorial Publishing Company, and occupying a room on the second floor at No. 6, Bouverie-street, are at the present time attempting to establish a business, which, if successful, would add a new terror to death. The "company" is appointing agents to hawk from door to door "The Dove Memorial," wherein it is proposed to enshrine, in a gilt frame and on highly-finished cardboard paper, the names and memories of the deceased members of families. To the agent the cost of a complete memorial is 4s., the retail price to the purchaser is 8s. 6d., and the "company" assure applicants for the agency that they have a number of energetic persons in their employ who are clearing more than £5 a week at the business. How this result is to be accomplished appears from the instructions issued to each agent. He is informed that he should call at each house and thus state his business:—"I am taking a list of deaths that have occurred in this locality during the last ten years, and would like to know if you have lost any of your own family during that time." He should "exercise a little tact, never mentioning sale while collecting the inscriptions." Of course not; that is to come later, when, armed with the gilt-framed atrocity, the agent returns to wheedle the victim into purchasing it. The company argues that this is a permanent business, since "death is certain to us all." There is a slight flaw in this argument, and it is to be hoped that the extinction which awaits us all will soon overtake the Dove Memorial Company.

I have been favoured with some particulars of the National Association of General Railway Clerks, a promising infant which will, I trust, develop into a strong and vigorous trade union. No class of railway employees is in greater need of such an organisation, for, as I incidentally pointed out in some recent articles, none is worse sweated. The vast majority of the clerical staff on railways are miserably underpaid, and they have many substantial grievances in regard to excessive hours of duty, Sunday work, night work, and office accommodation which are not likely to be redressed until they can show a united front to the companies.

To take the question of office accommodation, the conditions under which many of the booking clerks in London and other large towns have to labour are simply disgraceful; work in these small, dark, stuffy, unwholesome, badly-ventilated dens being almost as dangerous to health and life as work in the shunting-yard or on the line. It is all the more necessary that the railway clerks should help themselves, inasmuch as their interests are held to be outside the province of the Railway Department of the Board of Trade. There are 64,000 of them in the United Kingdom, and if they like they can, therefore, form a most powerful combination.

Some one sends me a copy of the last report of the York City and County Banking Company, showing that the shareholders were paid a dividend at the rate of £16 13s. 4d. per cent. per annum, and the officers and clerks presented with a gratuity of 10 per cent. on their salaries. In view of the facts disclosed in a trial at Leeds, two or three months since, I should think this gratuity to the managers and clerks—the first that has been forthcoming for eight or ten years—must have been given as a sort of conscience money for the payment of miserably inadequate salaries. At that trial it transpired that a man who had been in the service of the company for twenty-one years, and who held the important position of manager of the Leeds branch of the bank, received the munificent salary of £200 a year. The salaries paid to younger members of the staff, occupying less responsible positions, are said to be in proportion to this, so that the company must be almost as bad a sweater as any of those which I pilloried in my recent articles on the treatment of bank clerks.

THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF L.C.C. ROBIN.

(BY A PROGRESSIVE POET.)

Who'll kill Cock Robin?
I, said the "Markis,"
I'm willin' as Barkis:
I'll kill Cock Robin.

Who'll tear him in pieces?
We, said the Unionists:
We'll be disunionists,
We'll tear him in pieces.

Who'll see him die?
I, said The Spy,
With my "single eye,"
I'll see him die.

Who'll be chief mourner?
I, said the Dook,
With candle and book,
I'll be chief mourner.

Who'll dig his grave?
I, said Lord On-*slow*;
I'll see him—below,
I'll dig his grave.

Who'll bear the pall?
I, said Lord Halsbury—
I and Lord Salisbury—
We'll bear the pall.

Who'll toll the bell?
I, said A. Balfour
Just give me one half-hour!
I'll toll the bell.

Who found him alive?
We, said the Tories
(Confound your false stories!)
We found him alive!

The electors of London have shown more common sense than I was disposed to give them credit for. At the last General Election the London constituencies returned fifty-one Unionist members to Parliament, against eight Radicals. Notwithstanding every effort to persuade them to vote again solely as Unionists, and notwithstanding Mr Chamberlain's final declaration that the question they had to vote upon was the foreign and home policy of the Government, they have returned to the County Council sixty-eight Progressives against forty-eight of th Moderates, who have preferred to run as Unionists.

I do not suppose, nor will any dispassionate observer, that this indicates the readiness of London to return a Liberal or Radical majority at a Parliamentary election, if it took place now. What it means is that the electors decline to be guided by ordinary party politics in voting on municipal questions, and that in municipal questions they have the sense to see that the only chance of improving the government of London, and bringing it into line with that of the great provincial municipalities, is to vote the Progressive ticket. So many efforts have been made to confuse the issue, and to mislead the electors as to the true nature of the Progressive policy, that I for one should not have been surprised had the Moderates got a majority; and I am proportionately pleased that they have failed.

It is amusing to see the wisdom which the Metropolitan Unionists have learnt—after the event. The *Times*, which has been foremost in denouncing the "fads," "rash enterprises," and "socialistic tendency" of the Progressive Party, and in appealing to Unionists to save London from the dangers with which it is threatened, discovered on Friday morning that "many Unionists and Conservatives are at the same time far from satisfied at much that they encounter in their domestic affairs," and that "gas and water companies do not command the affections of all who prefer to see a Unionist Government in power." These views were obviously expounded for the purpose of showing that the vote of London on Thursday was not directed against the Government. But how much better it would have been for Unionism had the truth been discovered before the Parliamentary machinery was placed at the disposal of Lord Onslow and his friends! Seldom have the managers of that Party committed a mere egregious blunder. It was not likely that the Unionist machinery would give better results in 1898 than it did in 1895, when the tide of Conservative reaction was at full flood. How, under these circumstances, an ordinarily intelligent politician like Mr. Chamberlain could have gone out of his way to identify Unionism with such a policy of feeble ineptitude as that of the Moderates on the County Council I am at a loss to understand. However, they have taken this course, and they must stand the consequences.

While one line of argument represented the Moderate Party on the County Council as the chief bulwark of the Constitution and the Empire, another upheld it as the only safeguard against the conquest of London by the Socialists. Those who have taken this line have even more cause than the mere Unionist party politicians to stand aghast at the result. Foremost among them is the Editor of the *Globe*. In his frenzy, this strange journalist last week called upon the Government to make its promised Bill stronger than ever, in order to limit the powers of mischief that a Progressive majority on the County Council may possess. Judging from internal evidence, I take this article to have been written by our old friend George Brooks. The idea of the *Globe*, I suppose, is that Kensington, Marylebone, Westminster, and a few

other equally Moderate constituencies, should be formed into Cities of Refuge, in which the elect may take refuge from the advancing flood. Each will have, I take it, not only its own Mayor, Corporation, water supply, fire brigade, and main drainage system, but its own police, and its own army. And each stronghold will doubtless be surrounded by a wall and fortifications, behind which the Moderate inhabitants will be prepared to die in defence of their sacred monopolies and privileges.

The cry of "Socialism" on the part of some of the Tory Party, whether at municipal or political elections, is uncommonly like the shepherd boy's cry of "wolf!" and, if it is repeated much oftener, the day is probably not distant when those who raised the cry will find themselves in the wolf's jaws. From the point of view of those who are opposed to Socialism, can anything be more mischievous than that a number of prophets, with the Editor of the *Times* among them, should go about preaching that the acquisition of public works and the discharge of public services by municipalities is Socialism? If this cry is well-founded, then the obvious answer is that as all the great towns in the Empire, including those most Conservative in their politics, are already governed, and governed successfully, on Socialistic principles, there cannot be very much in Socialism to be afraid of. What makes this cry the more offensive is that while Socialism is denounced in the interest of the Moderates, they owe at least one of their seats on the new County Council to the candidature of a Socialist, while evidence has been published during the last week showing that Socialist candidates at the Election were offered money from Tory sources.

I heard a good story of one of the candidates for the London County Council. The constituency which he sought to represent contained a good many electors of sporting proclivities, and in addressing them he dilated on his great interest in sport. A voice: "What have you backed for the Waterloo Cup?" The candidate: "Although I love sport, I never myself bet on horse races."

The following document (type-written) has been handed to me by one to whom it has been addressed. In order to relieve "Radical Socialist papers"—of which, I suppose, Truth is one—of the charge of concealing the truth about Brooks's financial position, I hasten to publish it:—

148, Old-street, E.C.,
February 27, 1898.

My Lord,—The Radical Socialist papers are saying that I have got a generous response from the Moderates to my appeal for financial help because I have published a 48-page pamphlet on good paper. Indeed, it is common talk among the Progressives that I have been subsidised by somebody to a fabulous extent.

You will know it is true I have published the document, for I sent you a copy; but I regret to say it is not true that I have got a generous response from the Moderates. Nor did I expect such help from the Moderates as a party. My faith is in individuals.

I regret to say that I have had to borrow £20 to enable me to get out this pamphlet, and this I wish to pay back, as well as a further £15 to the printer.

I believe you are one of those who, like Sir Theodore Martin, recognise that such work requires to be aided, and, also like Sir Theodore, that a good return for such aid is received in the work done; though it is only men of generous public spirit who can take this view, and these are not common.

One thing ever to be borne in mind is, as I have shown in this manifesto, that the triumph of confiscatory doctrines would be even more disastrous to small property owners than to large ones.

Time is short, needs urgent, and work cries out to be done. It can be done, and effectively, but not without means. Will you assist?—I beg to remain, my lord, your obedient servant,

George Brooks.

P.S. I had 100 copies of the pamphlet given away at Mr. Lowther's Battersea meeting, 240 copies at the Duke of Norfolk's Lambeth Baths meeting, 240 at Mr. Long's New Cross meeting, 250 at Mr. Balfour's Stepney meeting, and 250 at Sir M. W. Ridley's Holloway meeting, and I shall have 500 given away at the Duke of Norfolk's Hackney meeting on Monday. Altogether I am distributing 2,500 copies of this publication, and each one will probably influence ten people. Such work is both laborious and expensive, as you know.

Of course it is the policy of the Progressives to persuade people that I have received more funds than I need, and more than I ought to have—which, according to their view, is—Nothing. But the literal fact is that I require £35 simply to square accounts in relation to this London County Council effort.—G. B.

Not only have the Moderates failed to support Brooks financially, but they have washed their hands of him politically, for since the above appeal was penned the London Municipal Society has publicly repudiated Brooks, and I understand that Brooks has retorted by repudiating the Municipal Society. The ingratitude of these Moderates is sad from a moral point of view, but it speaks better for their intelligence than anything that has happened during the elections. Until I read Brooks's P.S. I was not aware that it is one point in the Progressive programme that Brooks should have—nothing. But if it is, then the Moderates were certainly wise, for once, not to join issue on that particular question. Their ship contained quite enough Jonahs without adding George Brooks to the number. I suppose Brooks has some vague idea that if the Moderates had won he would have had another grant. But clearly this sort of thing must be left in future to "men of generous public spirit"—especially that large and intelligent section of them who forward Brooks's appeals to Truth office as soon as they receive them.

A report recently drawn up by Mr. Gomme, the statistical officer of the London County Council, supplies some remarkable evidence of the way in which railway companies habitually thrust aside the rights of the public for the benefit of their shareholders. In 1883 Parliament passed the Cheap Trains Act, which, among other things, made it obligatory on all railway companies to provide "sufficient workmen's trains;" and as a pecuniary equivalent for this and other obligations that might cause additional expense or loss of revenue, certain remissions and reductions of the five per cent. passenger duty were granted. By these remissions and reductions the Great Western Company has benefited to the extent of about £64,000 per annum, yet ten years elapsed before it began to run a single workmen's train on its metropolitan and suburban lines, and at the present time it only runs two such trains. Only two such trains are run by the Midland Company, which nets £53,000 per annum under the Act.

The workmen's services on these two lines are notoriously inadequate; but it is easy to see how it has come about that the Companies pocket the money without giving the *quid pro quo* for which it is paid. The Act leaves it to the Board of Trade to decide what workmen's trains are sufficient, and before the Board will put the Act

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in force it requires the working men interested first of all to get up and present a memorial, and then to prepare and present evidence in support of their case at a public inquiry, and possibly again on an appeal to the Railway Commission. In other words, working men, without the time, money, or organisation for such a purpose, "are required, alone and unaided, to fight their claims to statutory rights against powerful Companies having unlimited command of expert help and financial resources." The County Council at present possesses no power to submit a case to the Board of Trade for putting in force the provisions of the Act, no matter how gross the default of the Railway Company may be. Just before its demise, the last Council resolved to seek this power; and if the present body proceeds with the application, its bitterest opponents will hardly, I should think, care to oppose it.

On Monday, all the evening papers announced that there was a scare in the City, and Consols dropped one-half per cent. Since the present Government came into office there have been rumours of war here, there, and everywhere. One day it is Venezuela, another the United States, another India, another Germany, another France, another the Transvaal. This wondrous Unionist Ministry seems never satisfied unless it is quarrelling with somebody about something. The quarrel generally ends in their knocking some negroes about the head to show how terrible they are when really aroused. But one of these days they will find that they have gone too far in bully and bluster, and to the delight of Mr. Chamberlain, but to the dismay of his colleagues, they will find that they are faced with a war against one or more of the Great Powers.

Lord Salisbury has the influenza. May he soon entirely recover his strength, and use it to keep the Colonial Office in order! When the cat is away, the mice, and other rodents, play. A Commission is sitting in Paris to delimit the frontier between the French and English hinterland. In the meanwhile Frenchmen and Englishmen, or rather, negroes under French and English officials, are occupying villages in the disputed strip of territory, and basing their respective claims upon the priority of treaties with the village headmen. Under these circumstances, both Lord Salisbury and M. Hanotaux have weighed every word they have said in connection with this Central African tangle. Not so Mr. Chamberlain. He rushed down to the House of Commons with a telegram that he had received from an English official, reporting a rumour that a French force had entered the Sokoto Empire, which belongs to us. Lord Salisbury more wisely inquired about the matter of M. Hanotaux, who replied that he did not believe the news to be true; that the French Colonial Minister assured him that there were no French troops in that region, and that if anything of the kind had occurred, it would have been done against the instructions of the French Government.

But what do the newspapers now tell us? That the Royal Niger Company's forces are on their march to Sokoto to resist a French invasion, and that the Agent-General of the Company is awaiting orders with ammunition and stores to expel the French from "British territory." Thank Heaven there is no French Chamberlain at the head of the French Colonial Ministry, for if this were so, the French and the English Chamberlains would unquestionably drag us into war, notwithstanding the efforts of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the two countries to restrain them.

Now that the elections for the London County Council have gone against the Unionists, and that Mr. Chamberlain has failed to force on London his views of what is best for it, we may depend upon it that he will seek to efface this defeat by doing something abroad to thoroughly establish himself in the good graces of the howling crew of Jingoes, whose High Priest he is anxious to remain. Rather than that his position should be shaken, or that anything should occur to weaken his chance of becoming the Premier of a Tory Government, he would drag us into war to-morrow. As it is, his tone towards the French is that which he adopts to the Liberal-Unionists of Birmingham, and he seems to be under the impression that he can bully the Great Powers of Europe as easily as he finds it to be to bully into submission the latter.

We have recognised that Russia is justly entitled to have a port free from ice as the Eastern terminus of her Siberian Railway, and Lord Salisbury has given an assurance to this effect. Such a port can only be found in Manchuria, and it is obvious that if Russia has the port, the railway must be built to it through Manchuria. I do not therefore see why we should complain of Russia demanding of China that she shall be placed in the same position as regards Port Arthur as Germany has been in regard to Kiao-Chau. Our treaties with China, which involve free trade in all the dominions of China, include Manchuria. Russia does not contest this, and assuredly it is time enough for us to quarrel with her when she does. If the right to build the railway and the right to have a port involves Manchuria becoming Russian rather than Chinese, we have debarred ourselves from raising this House-that-Jack-built argument by the spontaneous assurances in regard to the occupation of a port given by Lord Salisbury.

"FOR THE FLAG."

[Mr. Balfour said no one doubted the loyalty of Wales, but the question of altering the Royal Standard was a very serious one; and if the Welsh dragon were added there were many other of her Majesty's dominions besides Wales that would require consideration.—*Parliamentary Intelligence.*]

Quite so; if we a dragon add to leopard and to lion,
Other dependencies, be sure, in turn will have a try on.
From Canada they may request room for a beaver, too;
Australia may with reason ask, "Why not a kangaroo?"
India may urge us on the flag an elephant to place,
The Cape may for an antelope befittingly seek space;
Whilst Colonies we need not name would think it only fair
To add a tiger and a boa, a camel and a bear!
In short, if all should get their way for patriotism's sake,
They'd of our Royal Standard soon a small menagerie make!

B

SCRUTATOR.

EXIT HESS.

ON Wednesday last week the evening papers conveyed to me the intelligence that Mr. Hess had withdrawn his action against me for libel, because he had been informed by his solicitors in the Transvaal that documents, indispensable for his case, had been stolen or illegally removed from the archives of the Johannesburg Court. The next day I received a copy of the following letter, which Sir George Lewis had written to the solicitors of Mr. Hess in London, in reply to a communication from them announcing the withdrawal :—

Ely Place, Holborn,
March 2, 1898.

LABOUCHERE *ats* HESS.

DEAR SIRS,—We are in receipt of your letter of the 1st inst., in which you purport to give the reason for Mr. Hess abandoning the action for libel brought by him against Mr. Labouchere. In withdrawing the action it became necessary to throw a veil over the act, but the true reason for taking this step is obvious, viz., that Mr. Hess will not go into the witness-box and deny the serious statements which Mr. Labouchere has made against him.

Mr. Labouchere stated that Mr. Hess had been guilty of fraud, perjury, cheating the creditors of one Goodman, and other most discreditable and dishonourable conduct, and supported his statements by publishing a letter written by Mr. Hess in which he admitted that he had committed perjury, and had committed the frauds in question. Mr. Hess thereupon, with a great flourish of trumpets in the papers, brought this action, claiming £10,000 damages for what was no doubt a most shocking libel if it was not true.

Mr. Labouchere wished to give Mr. Hess the earliest opportunity of going into the witness-box and being placed face to face with his own letters and false affidavits confirming his own statement that he had been guilty of perjury. He therefore at once put in his defence that the libel was true in all respects. He then delivered interrogatories to Mr. Hess (as is usual under such circumstances) compelling him to say whether the letters and other documents were written by him and whether he had been guilty of the dishonourable acts set forth in the libel. Inspection of the letters and documents was given personally to Mr. Hess upon two occasions at our office, and four photographs of each document furnished to you. We should have thought Mr. Hess would have hastened to deny that the letters and documents were in his handwriting, but up to this day he has not answered the interrogatories, notwithstanding our notice that an application would be made for a writ of attachment against him for non-obedience of the order of the Court, and that a summons has been served for this purpose.

You have availed yourselves of every possible delay to enter this action for trial, but directly Mr. Labouchere was in a position to do so, he entered it for trial himself, and it is at this juncture, when this summons for attachment is issued, when the case is entered for trial, and when the only escape for Mr. Hess is to abandon the action, he discontinues it, and so deprives Mr. Labouchere of the opportunity of establishing the truth of every statement he has made about Mr. Hess.

Under these circumstances, it is idle for Mr. Hess to pretend that he abandons the action because he alleges there were documents in the Court of Johannesburg which are not now on the files of the Court. If Mr. Hess is guilty of the conduct which Mr. Labouchere has charged him with, it is not difficult for him to invent one extra falsehood, which he does by the statement he instructs you to make with regard to the alleged abstraction of documents. We believe Mr. Hollard to be a thoroughly honourable man, and the imputation made by Mr. Hess against him is wholly indefensible and only made for the purpose of covering his retreat.

We think no intelligent person can fail to see that Mr. Hess, in his own interests, has thought discretion the better part of valour.

We will in due course forward you the costs which Mr. Hess has to pay to Mr. Labouchere.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS & LEWIS.

Messrs. GUEDALLA & CROSS.

As my readers may possibly not remember fully the exact circumstances under which Mr. Hess commenced the action now abandoned, I give below the statement of claim which he delivered :—

STATEMENT OF CLAIM.

1. The defendant is the editor, proprietor, and publisher of a newspaper called TRUTH, circulating in the United Kingdom, and the British Colonies.

The plaintiff is the proprietor and editor of a newspaper called the *African Critic*.

2 In the issue of the aforesaid newspaper called TRUTH, dated November 4, 1897, the defendant falsely and maliciously wrote, printed, and published, of and concerning the plaintiff, a false and malicious libel in the words and figures following, that is to say :—

"A DOCUMENT FROM JOHANNESBURG.

"In an article that I wrote two or three weeks back in reference to certain attacks made on me by a South African editor named Henry Hess, I stated that I knew nothing of his antecedents. Last week, however, certain documents relating to that individual were submitted to me by the kindness of the authorities of the Transvaal Republic from the archives of one of the Johannesburg Courts. In view of the rôle which Hess has assumed in London it seems to me that certain facts established by these documents should be made known in order that the English public and the newspaper world (of which he aspires to become an ornament) should know clearly what manner of man we have among us. The manner in which the documents were brought to my notice precludes all doubt as to their authenticity. The most instructive among them is the following letter in Hess's handwriting :—

"Hess & Hess — No. 6, Union Buildings.
"Henry Hess — (Opposite Rand Club.)
"Attorney-at-Law and
"Notary Public of the Supreme Court, — Johannesburg, S.A.R.
"Cape Colony.
"P.O. Box, No. 236. Telegraphic Address : 'Law.'

"November 17, 1890.

"DEAR GOODMAN,—I have just wired you that the mistake has been discovered, that it was entirely an accident, and that, having handed the money to Fineston and also the bill, I await your apologies. The mistake arose in this way. Instead of cashing Ferguson's cheques, he placed them to my credit, and drew out a cheque for £400 instead of one for £500. Out of the £400 he paid your ticket, £7 10s., and bank commission 10s., which should have left £392 due to you ; before placing this in envelope he, instead of paying some monies for me amounting to £12 10s. out of my own funds, took it from yours, and forgot to replace it.

"The matter therefore stands :—

You received in cash	£379	10	0		
Ticket	7	10	0		
(Letter burnt) { mission of Bank	0	10	0		
(Letter burnt) { estone	100	0	0		
	12	10	0		
				£500	0 0

"The bal (letter burnt) of £12 10s. I am keeping or at least meant to keep here, but since this morning I have received affidavits in your case, which I have just answered, and must pay counsel to go into Court with ; there is no doubt about it they want to make you insolvent, or, if possible, arrest you, but this they can't and shan't do while I am here. I have made an affidavit to-day swearing that I held your power, that you were still in this country, and that you never were, nor are, a partner in the Fountain business.

"To judge by your conduct yesterday morning now that you are away safe from these hounds (? bounds) you don't care a damn what becomes of me, left here alone without a penny to face the music. Not a word of thanks did I get from you, not a £5 note over and above my just rights (and not even that), for all I have done for you outside what I was compelled to do as your attorney, talk about trusting me—*bah, you* wanted as mu (letter burnt) you could get and when you had it you (letter burnt) care a damn what became of me (letter burnt), matter of a pure accident cropped (letter burnt) you were the first one to suspect me of dishonesty, Finestone *didn't*, and I have no claim on his regard. Never mind, I have learnt enough now ; of the whole crowd of us there is no one left. I thought you were better than Charlie Smith or Jim Parker, but I am mistaken it seems. If you had offered me £250 out of your haul of £850 it would not have repaid me for the sleepless nights and anxious time I have had on your account ever since first I did business for you. For your sake I have committed perjury, I whom you thought a thief, and if I can manage to scrape a little money together (my own hard earnings) I shall have to flee the country all for your sake, you who have money and are safe, I who am poor and can to-morrow be arrested. I don't beg anything of you, I am too proud (letter burnt) that ; I want what is my due.

"I sup (letter burnt) it is no good my telling you what your obvious duty is towards me, as I regret to say that your late actions show you perfectly bereft of any sense of duty ; you should see me clear out of this and with the money you have gained out of *my* exertions (as you admitted you would have taken £600 had I advised it, and I could have easily been squared by F.). I cannot stay here if once your share in this business comes out, and must try to make a fresh start elsewhere all on *your* account. I leave this matter to you now ; whichever way you decide I shall still as long as I am able do your work for you,

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but I should be sorry, if any harm befell me, to see you reproach yourself as being the cause of it—that is why I have written to you in this strain.

"Please destroy this letter when read.

"Yours anxiously,

"Henry.

"The occasional blanks in this document are due to the fact that it has gone through certain curious adventures, into the history of which there is no occasion to enter at present, and has thereby been slightly burnt in one or two places. Enough, however, remains to enable its purport to be clearly appreciated. Now, what is its purport?

"The writer is the aforesaid Henry Hess. The person to whom the letter was written was a man named Goodman. The circumstances under which Hess wrote the letter were these:—Hess was a qualified attorney of the Cape Colony, but had not passed the examination necessary in order to qualify him for practice in the Transvaal. He was, however, at the time of the above letter, in business as a lawyer at Johannesburg, employing a qualified solicitor to do such business as he was not legally competent to undertake himself. Goodman, to whom the above letter is written, was one of his clients. For some time before the letter was written Goodman had been seriously embarrassed, and had several judgments out against him. The only tangible asset he had was a third share in an hotel and restaurant called "The Fountain" at Pretoria. In order to protect this asset from his creditors he transferred it to Hess, and Hess undertook to sell it for him. Hess accordingly arranged with one of Goodman's partners to buy it for £850 The bargain was carried out, and the purchase-money was paid to Hess in cheques for £550 and a promissory note for £300. It was then arranged that Goodman should depart from the Transvaal with the money thus realised, leaving his creditors unpaid. On the eve of his departure Goodman went to Hess for the money. Hess handed him a portion only of the amount—apparently the £379 10s. mentioned in the little account given in the above letter. He made some excuse for not handing over the balance, but Goodman was so inconsiderate as to decline to start until he had some security that he would get the money. An arrangement was consequently made that the balance should be paid by Hess next day to a mutual friend named Finestone, who was to receive the money on Goodman's behalf and forward it to him. On this understanding Goodman left Johannesburg for Natal on the following morning by the five o'clock coach.

"His departure in some mysterious manner at once became known, and one or other of the creditors within a day or two obtained an order sequestrating his estate, the equivalent apparently of our adjudication in bankruptcy. Hess had, on the day of Goodman's departure, paid over the balance of the £850 to Finestone, in accordance with the arrangement arrived at on the previous evening. Within a few days, however, he asked Finestone to return him the money. This, Finestone naturally refused to do. On this Hess obtained from the Court an order directing Finestone to return the money to him, which Finestone then did. The order of the Court for this purpose was made on a sworn statement by Hess, that the money belonged to him, and had been handed to Finestone as a loan to Goodman. Hess thus recovered possession of the whole balance of the purchase money beyond the amount which had been paid to Goodman; and it may be added that, having recovered it, he retained possession of it, and neither the creditors nor Goodman ever got it.

"These facts will enable the reader to perceive the full significance of the letter set out above. Goodman had absconded from Johannesburg on November 16 in order to defeat his creditors. Hess writes this letter to the absconding bankrupt on the following day. It clearly indicates the position of affairs between this worthy pair. In the first paragraph, Hess offers an explanation of his failure to pay over the whole of the money before Goodman's departure, and awaits his absconding friend's apologies. From this and what follows, it is evident that Goodman had, at their last interview, made no secret of his distrust of his attorney. Hess now replies by reproaching Goodman with ingratitude, and formulates his claim on the absconding fraudulent debtor for a share in the 'haul.' He does not beg, he is too proud; he merely puts it on the footing of his 'just rights' as a participator in the conspiracy by which Goodman's creditors had been robbed of the money. He has committed perjury, and rendered himself liable to be arrested to-morrow. As soon as he can scrape a little money together he will have to flee the country and start afresh. He has even so far sacrificed himself as to abstain from being 'squared by F.,'—apparently Mr. Ferguson, Goodman's partner, to whom he (Hess) had sold Goodman's shares in the Fountain. He estimates that all these labours and sacrifices would not have been underpaid at £250 out of the 'haul of £850.' and, while scorning to beg, he leaves Goodman to do his 'obvious duty.' He does not say in so many words that there should be honour among thieves, but that is the general tenour of his communication.

"It seems probable that Goodman was not unduly impressed with the self-sacrifice of his disinterested friend. He had had to go away leaving the larger half of the 'haul' at Hess's disposal—Hess having kindly (as appears from the letter) procured the ticket to facilitate his departure—and he may have felt doubtful about the chances of ever seeing the balance of the money of which his creditors had been defrauded by the pair. What reply he made to Hess's plaintive upbraiding does not appear; possibly he made none. But what the disinterested Hess did next is clear enough by the light of the official documents from the Transvaal Court. Not being satisfied about the effect of his appeal to the absconding bankrupt, he forthwith took steps to recover possession of all that he had left behind him. He had, according to his own modest statement, already committed perjury for Goodman's sake: and had rendered himself liable to arrest at any moment. On the principle, presumably, that one may as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb, he proceeded to perform a further masterpiece of perjury on his own account. By this means he got possession of the rest of the money that was to have been sent to Goodman through Finestone, and defrauded the creditors of all that the absconding bankrupt had left behind him.

"There are other facts, prior to Goodman's departure and subsequent to it, equally illustrative of Hess's character. To go into the whole story of sordid knavery would be waste of time. It is sufficient, and more than sufficient, to leave Hess to the public judgment as he stands revealed by his own letter and the circumstances surrounding it—a swindling attorney, first engaged in a conspiracy to enable an insolvent debtor to cheat his creditors, then appealing to his fellow conspirator to reward him for his perjury with a share of the spoil, and finally resorting to further perjury in order to rob the creditors on his own account. The man is shown by his own letter to be a rogue of the dirtiest type, sticking at no villainy in order to put a few pounds into his own pocket, even at the expense of an accomplice."

The plaintiff claims £10,000 damages.

Place of trial, Middlesex.

C. F. Gill.

Such were the grounds on which Mr. Hess commenced his action against me. In order to succeed in his action, he had to prove that the letter reprinted in the article was never written by him to Goodman, but was a forgery, and that the transactions between himself and Goodman, referred to in that letter, and evidenced by various affidavits and other legal documents in my possession, never, in fact, took place, or could be satisfactorily explained away. Even before his action was commenced, he had ostentatiously proclaimed his ability to do all this, and, if he was really innocent, it should have been a simple matter. On the publication of the Truth article he had at once informed a newspaper correspondent who interviewed him that the letter to Goodman published in the article was a forgery, and that it had been proved to be such in certain proceedings at Johannesburg, when, as he asserted, he had been tried and acquitted of charges identical with those put forward in Truth. With characteristic braggadocio, he added that I had given him the whip-hand over me, and to show that he meant to use the whip-hand he intimated that the only question in his mind was whether he should take criminal or civil proceedings upon the Truth article. To assist him in deciding this point, my solicitors wrote to his, intimating that as a criminal prosecution would expedite the settlement of the question, they would offer no opposition to an application for leave to institute such proceedings. The proposal was declined, and Hess delivered the statement of claim set out above, laying his damages at £10,000—a fact which was also paraded in the Press.

Now, had Mr. Hess and his advisers so desired, the action thus commenced might have been by this time ready and waiting for trial. My defence, justifying the alleged libel in every particular, was delivered at the earliest possible moment. Mr. Hess and his solicitor at once had inspection of all the original documents in my possession. Then followed the delivery of interrogatories on my part, designed chiefly to ascertain whether he admitted or denied the genuineness of the documents, and what was his explanation of

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the transactions with Goodman described in the alleged libel. For the benefit of those inexperienced in the law, it should be explained that such interrogatories have to be answered by affidavit; and as they were in nearly every instance germane to the issue, a false statement in the answer would have exposed the party making it to a prosecution for perjury. In another proceeding which came before the Courts about the same time, Hess incidentally swore that the letter to Goodman, reprinted in the TRUTH article, was a forgery. In that case, however, the genuineness of this particular letter was hardly material to the issue, and it is extremely improbable that Mr. Hess could be successfully prosecuted for perjury on that affidavit, even if his statement were proved to be false. In the present action the position was very different, the genuineness of the letter to Goodman being the principal point at issue. Note then what follows. The interrogatories were delivered on December 14 last. Mr. Hess failed to give his sworn answer to the interrogatories within the appointed time. Sir George Lewis wrote twice to his solicitors calling their attention to the omission, but still the interrogatories remained unanswered. This was a strange attitude for one who had the whip-hand of his antagonist. It became open to me then to apply to have the action dismissed; but as I had no desire to play into Hess's hands by placing him in a position to say that I had got rid of the action on a mere technicality, Sir George Lewis adopted another alternative, and threatened to apply for an attachment against him for disobeying the order of the Court. This produced some shuffling explanation as to Hess being unable to swear his affidavit until he had certain information from Johannesburg, on which ground further indulgence was asked for, and was granted. In the meantime, I became entitled to set the action down for trial on my own account, and did so. Time went on, the interrogatories still remained unanswered, and Sir George Lewis was considering the best means of bringing Mr. Hess up to the scratch, when the notice suddenly came that he had abandoned the action, because certain documents had mysteriously disappeared which were necessary for his case.

There can hardly be a person in England, outside an idiot asylum, who will be imposed upon by this childish and empty excuse. My statements in regard to Mr. Hess stood or fell on his letter to Goodman, in which he himself described the transactions between them up to the date that the letter was written, and on the affidavits subsequently made by him, which carried the story on beyond that date. Either the letter was written by him and the affidavits were sworn by him, or they were not. No books kept by him, no other documents produced by him, could destroy the damning character of the letter and of the affidavits if they were genuine. The only possible defence was a denial of their authenticity. That denial, although he has given it defiantly and ostentatiously to Press interviewers, Mr. Hess—"the belligerent Heinrich," as an admirer once fondly styled him—has flatly refused to give when faced with the necessity of giving it on oath. What these missing documents were, in the absence of which he could not swear his affidavit, he makes not an attempt to explain. In what way they could dispose of his letter to Goodman, his own affidavits in the bankruptcy proceedings, and the other documents from the Johannesburg Court, he leaves in equal darkness. He was specifically asked in the interrogatories whether the letter signed "Henry" was in his handwriting, and whether the other documents shown to him by Sir George Lewis were in his handwriting. What documents could he possibly require to enable him to answer these questions—the vital questions in the whole case? If there were further questions asked him in regard to his dealings with Goodman, which he could only answer by reference to his books, and if these books, as he says, were impounded by the Transvaal Court, and he had failed to obtain copies of them, he might have given this as his reason for not answering them, or have asked for time to obtain copies of these books, which no doubt would have been granted him by the Court. If in the end he could show, what he now vaguely asserts, that any documents which would have put a different complexion on his letter and affidavits had disappeared from the archives of the Johannesburg Court, and that he could neither obtain sight of them nor certified copies of them—facts which require a good deal more proof than his unsupported assertion — this circumstance, established by proper evidence, would have told much more in his favour than against him. In putting forward, utterly without proof, the story about the abstraction of documents as a reason for declining to swear to his own innocence, and to come into court in support of his oath, it would really seem that he is under the impression that this country is inhabited by such a race of dolts that any absurdity which he trumps up is sufficient to hoodwink them.

The true reason for his retreat is so obvious that it hardly needs to be stated. Mr. Hess was in a hopeless dilemma. In a recent action in England he had sworn that his letter to Goodman was a forgery, although, as explained above, it was doubtful from the circumstances of that case whether he had thereby exposed himself to conviction for perjury, even if the statement were false. If, however, in his action against me he had denied the authenticity of the letter, he exposed himself to the certainty of conviction for perjury if a jury once found the letter to be genuine. On the other hand, if he admitted the authenticity of the letter, he was denying his own previous sworn statement, and at the same time establishing the truth of all my charges against him. Hence the delay in answering the interrogatories, and hence the ignominious withdrawal of the action commenced with such a flourish of trumpets last November. It cannot be supposed that he took this decision without knowing the disastrous consequences to himself. He cannot have expected seriously that the transparent subterfuges by which he has sought to mask his retreat would impose upon any intelligent being. He must have foreseen that his withdrawal will be accepted as a confession of guilt, and that it means ruin to him in England. But he has deliberately accepted this alternative rather than face the consequences of swearing on affidavit the nature of his defence, and going into court in support of

his sworn statement. Disastrous though the consequences of his retreat must be to him, I think he has chosen wisely.

There is one other point put forward by his solicitors, and also by himself, on which I ought, perhaps, to say a word. It is the familiar *chose jugée* argument. In the Transvaal, as in all countries where the Roman law is the basis of jurisprudence, one individual cannot directly prosecute another criminally. If he wishes to do so he has to show cause for the prosecution to the Public Prosecutor. Should the latter consider that there is *primâ facie* ground for a trial, he undertakes the prosecution at the instance of the complainant. This is what occurred in respect to the prosecution of Hess at Johannesburg. The evidence produced at the trial showed clearly that Goodman and Hess had jointly swindled certain third parties, and that Hess had swindled Goodman out of the lion's share of the proceeds of this joint robbery. The jury, perceiving presumably that the issue was one raised by one thief against another, declined to convict. I can understand the feeling that actuated the jury, but I was and am prepared to prove that their verdict, so far as the question of Hess's guilt or innocence was concerned, was a miscarriage of justice. The authenticity of the letter of Hess to Goodman, and of the affidavits sworn to by Hess in respect to his proceedings in aiding Goodman to swindle, and then in swindling Goodman, was never for one moment contested at the Johannesburg trial, and at the end of the trial letter and affidavits were impounded by the Court. The more material of these documents have temporarily come into my possession, and I have given a receipt for them. It is idle for Hess to impugn to-day the authenticity of documents which he never disputed at the Johannesburg trial. Equally idle is it for him to take refuge in the plea of *chose jugée* after having accepted defiantly a challenge to prove his innocence in an English court, and having ignominiously thrown up the sponge when confronted with the original documents and called upon to admit or deny their authenticity on oath. On my side, I have asserted that he was wrongfully acquitted. He undertook to prove the contrary. When he sees that the task is hopeless, and that if he goes on he is in danger of placing himself again within reach of the criminal law, he beats a hasty retreat, and cries that the issue has already been decided in his favour. Of what use is this, except to make his position the more ignominious?

With this I must leave Mr. Hess to the tender mercy of the public. The abortive effort which he has made to vindicate himself proves that I have estimated his character accurately. That an adventurer, with such a record as his, should come over here from Johannesburg, or Frankfort, or wherever it may be, arrogate to himself the character of a new light in English journalism and a law-giver in finance, politics, and morals, and succeed in the attempt, would hardly be flattering to native English journalists, or creditable to the intelligence of the public generally. But, happily, he has failed, and failed with ignominy. He now stands revealed to all the world in his true colours. Let us hope the last has been heard of him.

A POLICY OF SHADOW-GRABBING.

It surpasses my understanding how a sensible, practical nation like this can allow itself to become the victim of one of the silliest crazes that ever affected humanity. In the Far East there is a vast market for the sale of our goods. We have treaties with China that secure to us a fair field and no favour. No Power has ever contemplated forcing China to abrogate them. For a considerable number of years we had a monopoly of this trade, because, as manufacturers of most of the goods that China is prepared to take from Europe, we had no competitors. But now the European Continental Powers are seeking to obtain a share in it. All our efforts should, therefore, be concentrated on holding our own in the Eastern markets; and whether we succeed will depend, not upon the action of our Government, but upon the intelligence and enterprise of our citizens. Instead of this, we allow ourselves to be fooled into a vast expenditure for the purpose of acquiring territory in Africa on the ground that we must open out new markets. In doing this we are dropping the substance to grab the shadow. Europeans cannot colonise the interior of Africa; indeed, they cannot live there. The African never yet has worked for anything beyond his simplest requirements, unless forced to do so. In West Africa, and in East Africa, we have to tolerate slavery in the hope that the inhabitants will be made to produce something wherewith to buy our imports. In South Africa Mr. Rhodes has explained that, so long as Exeter Hall prevents the few white gold hunters there compelling the natives to grub after gold for them, there is no chance of Rhodesia ever paying its way. Practically, therefore, this endeavour to create markets in Africa is based upon slavery, more or less disguised.

But even if slavery be permitted, there is exceedingly little probability of Africa becoming a dumping ground for our goods, because the natives have, and always will have, comparatively little to exchange for them. Take Uganda as an instance. We are told that rice can be grown there. But the country is 700 miles from the seaboard, and from thence to a market there is a long sea voyage. Assuming that this rice were produced in excess of the food supply of the country itself, where would it be sent? We seem to forget that the world is suffering already from excess of production of food supplies, and that export is only profitable from places advantageously situated in regard to market. Cotton, too, we are told, will grow in Uganda. But in the latest official trade Report, it is suggested that we should put up cotton mills in the country to compete with Lancashire. As a matter of fact, the only export at present is ivory, the supply of which is getting less and less each successive year, whilst the value of imports during a year does not amount to £20,000, the greater portion of this being sent for the consumption of European officials in the country. We are building a railroad to connect Uganda with the sea at the cost of many

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millions, and we have recognised that our Protectorate over it will cost us above £200,000 per annum. Regarded, therefore, as a matter of business, our Protectorate over Uganda has proved a dismal failure. It is now justified on the ground that the possession of Uganda will enable us to become possessed of the district between it and the country ruled over by the Khalifa. But of what practical use this district will be to us no one can explain. I am merely taking Uganda as an instance of our folly, for in the Soudan, in West Africa, and in South Africa it is the same story. The "markets" of Africa are as real as the mirages that tempt the traveller onward in its deserts. It is time that we dropped the shadow-grbbaing policy that sends us in pursuit of them.

We have a strong Navy. I have always been in favour of this, although I believe that we have at present exceeded our requirements in the matter of naval armaments. But our having this strong Navy is made a plea for augmenting our Army. We have this year voted an increase of 23,000 men. We are told that our Army must be sufficiently numerous to enable us to man all our garrisons abroad, to employ permanently some 20,000 men in African grab, to defend these islands, and, in addition to all this, to leave us two Army Corps—*i.e.*, 70,000 men—always at hand to invade and vanquish any Great European Power that may declare war against us. Lord Wolseley has stated that these modest aims cannot be met unless we add, not 23,000 men, but about 70,000 men to our Regular Army. But, even if we did this, we should only have two Army Corps to launch against the world in arms. The Continental Great Powers count their soldiers by millions. Of what use, then, would it be to attack one of them with 70,000 men? If we are to compete with them in the matter of soldiers, we must be prepared to increase our Army, not by 70,000 men, but by 700,000 men. But how is such an Army to be obtained? Voluntary enlistment has already pretty nearly reached its limit. The military authorities tried last year to obtain about 3,000 additional soldiers. They could not get the full number, and many of those that they did get were taken from the Reserve, thus robbing Peter to pay Paul. That the military authorities really believe that they will get an additional 23,000 men, and at the same time obtain the 35,000 recruits that are needed each year to keep up our present establishment, I greatly doubt. They suggest that they possibly may, by giving to soldiers an extra 1½d. per diem, and reducing the period of enlistment, although those who take advantage of the latter are not to profit by the former. Of the 35,000 men obtained, or sought to be obtained, each year, about one third are lads who love adventure for adventure's sake. The extra 1½d. will not augment their numbers. Nor will it increase the number of the others, who go into the Army as a last resource, when they can get no work elsewhere. Englishmen are good fighters when attacked, but they do not take kindly to the discipline involved in a soldier's life. Foreign countries, the inhabitants of which are perhaps more inclined to a military life than Englishmen, are obliged to have recourse to conscription, and if we are not only to outbuild them in ships, but to compete with them in the number of our soldiers, we shall have to fall back on conscription. Is the country prepared for this?

In the first year of the Queen's reign our total expenditure on armaments was about 12½ millions. It is now about 43 millions, exclusive of the Indian Army and of the little armies of mercenaries that the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office are bringing into existence in various parts of our possessions. Even with this expenditure our naval and military amateur experts are not satisfied. They want more. And more they will get, if the taxpayer does not make his voice heard. The country is for the nonce exceptionally prosperous. But fat years are invariably succeeded by lean years. As it is, money cannot be found for many things that would better the condition of our workers at home, and no taxes can be taken off, although the revenue is expanding. What will happen when there is a shrinkage in the revenue? Two things will put an end to our present military craze—one is conscription, the other is the imposition of new taxes. Both are certain to come, and, to my thinking, the sooner that they do come the better, for this will bring home to us our folly. The fear is that we shall be dragged by Mr. Chamberlain and his swashbucklers into some great war before the cure is effected. If we really hold with Mr. Chamberlain that our Empire can only be maintained by perpetual expenditure, it is clear that we soon shall have to expand by means of war. As it is, all the surface of the globe worth having has been seized. We are now annexing what is comparatively valueless. But even this valueless country has its limits, and then to carry out the creed of expansion, we shall have to find some cause of quarrel with one of our neighbours in order to lay hands on what belongs to them.

The country, probably, is more Radical to-day than it was twenty years ago. But Radicalism, as a factor in the political situation, is far weaker than it was then. For this there are many causes; but one of the most important is, that a mania for expansion abroad has diverted attention from Democratic progress at home. A nation in which militarism is predominant may become great, but it ceases to be Democratic. The greatest mistake that the Liberal Party ever made was to seek to out-Jingo the Tories, under the illusion that this might secure to it a majority. It played into the hands of its opponents, and its desertion of its principles only led the electorate to despise it. Until it reverts to its time-honoured principles, and bases its claim for support on its determination to give effect to them, the Tories will remain in power. Since the world began, every man, or set of men, who have sought to stem the advance of Democracy in any country have played the card of a "spirited foreign policy," and so long as they have been able to practise it they have remained the masters of the situation. What are the Radicals at present? A negligible quantity. What ought they to be? The masters of the country and of its destinies. They look on helplessly and hopelessly, whilst politics have become an arena in which two gangs, the one as little truly democratic as the other, dispute for the spoils of office by adopting a policy which not many

years ago was confined to the music-halls. When I listen to a debate in the House of Commons, I am reminded of the songs of "Jolly Nash" and of the "Great Vance" that used to be received with rapturous music-hall applause twenty years ago.

THE NEWSPAPER COMPETITION TRICK.

The time seems to have arrived when the proprietors and editors of newspapers ought to give their attention seriously to the growing abuses arising out of the "competitions" run through the medium of their columns. Scarcely a week passes without bringing complaints on this subject from one quarter or another. Sometimes these complaints relate to the manner in which the competition is conducted or the prizes awarded; sometimes they are directed against the nature and form of the competition; and not unfrequently both the character and the management of the competition are impugned. Let me give two recent instances.

A ladies' journal with the seductive title *Hearth and Home* has lately been offering what are described as "scholarships" for competition among its readers. The noble aim of promoting the higher education of girls makes this a peculiarly striking and attractive offer. The competition is of the simplest form. The scholarship is awarded by the votes of the readers of the paper, each vote being given on a coupon published with each copy of the journal. The names of the candidates are to be written on the coupons, and the coupons forwarded in packets to the Editor. On the principle of allowing a reduction on taking a quantity, an annual subscription to the paper entitles the subscriber to seventy votes, or eighteen more than would be obtained by buying fifty-two copies week by week. The poll remains open for six months, and during that period the names of the candidates, with the number of votes polled for each, are published week by week—obviously for the purpose of stimulating the candidates to renewed efforts. The first prize or "scholarship" is £50, the second £10, and the third £5. The candidates must be under twenty-one years of age, and the money must be spent on education in any line—scholastic, artistic, or technical; but there is no limit to the time within which it must be thus expended, and what security the editor has that it will be expended in that way at all is not revealed. These are the only conditions.

Now, what does this amount to? Any person of average intelligence can see that it is simply an ingenious dodge for selling and advertising the paper, by offering a prize to the girl who buys, or persuades her friends to buy, the largest number of copies, or who succeeds in obtaining the largest number of annual subscribers. Now to advertise a paper and increase its sale are perfectly legitimate objects, as I should be the last to deny, and an ingenious dodge for that purpose need not in itself be open to objection. From the Editor of the *Times* downwards we are all anxious to increase our sale, and we all have our own favourite dodges, which we hope may lead to that result. But the particular dodge above described is open to many and serious objections. To begin with, the girl with the longest purse, and the largest number of friends with long purses, has evidently the best chance of winning the £50. This consideration at once disposes of the "scholarship" fiction. More than this, the contest may easily resolve itself into a mere blind gamble, conducted on very much the same principles as the game of "poker." In the earlier stages the girl who by a judicious cash investment could put in a big block of votes (at 3d. apiece, or seventy for 15s.) might easily "bluff" all the other competitors, and get the field to herself. Or suppose, failing this, that several competitors are running one another close up to the last week or two. It is then obvious that any one of them has a chance of turning the scale in her favour and securing the £50 by putting in a handsome batch of yearly subscriptions (at 15s. each). Each competitor is under the strongest inducement to bid her highest at the close, more especially if she has already risked her own money in the game. Could a more pernicious form of "competition" possibly be devised?

That this is no exaggerated estimate of the possibilities is shown by the last contest, in which four competitors each secured over 8,000 votes, the winner scoring 8,927 and the second 8,848—a margin of only seventy-nine Had the second girl invested 17s. 6d. (one yearly subscription and ten odd copies) in the last week, she would have won the £50. The language of the Editor's award does very fair justice to the state of the case:—

> After a most exciting finish the winner has been found in Marian Symons, who at the last moment snatched the victory from Sylvia Field. We congratulate Marian Symons most heartily on her victory. At the same time, although Sylvia Field wins the second prize, we feel for her in her disappointment in not winning the race in which for so long a time she was leading. Margaret Spencer is a good third, and she is closely followed by Enid Weeks, and at a longer interval by Sarah Logan and Emily Mosse. These last three have all worked well, and at one time or another each has led, but towards the end their efforts seem to have relaxed. Nevertheless, we congratulate them on the sterling efforts they have made, and sympathise with them in their failure to win outright.

By way of stimulating his young lady readers to further "sterling efforts" in the same direction, the Editor awards two extra £5 prizes to the fourth, fifth, and sixth competitors, and then expresses a pious hope that "candidates who have not been successful in this competition will try again, and not be put off by one failure." Well he may! Let us look at the competition a moment from his point of view. Taking each vote as representing one copy of the paper, here are the cash values of the amount polled by each of the first six competitors:—

	£	s.	d.
No. 1. (£50 prize—8,927 votes)...	111	11	9
No. 2. (£10 prize—8,848 votes)...	110	12	0
No. 3. (£5 prize—8,679 votes)	108	9	9
No. 4. (£5 prize—8,029 votes)	100	7	3
No. 5. (£5 prize—5,527 votes)	69	1	9
No. 6. (£5 prize—4,807 votes)	60	1	9

There are eleven more competitors, whose total votes represent a cash expenditure of £76. 18s. 9d. The total amount of business, therefore, done for the paper by the "scholarship" competition was £637 3s.—a result well worth the modest expenditure of £80 in prizes It is true, of course, that the amount of cash expended may have been somewhat less than this, owing to the extra votes given for a yearly subscription. But as against this, it must be remembered that a yearly subscription is worth more to a newspaper proprietor than the

sale of fifty-two separate copies of his paper through newsagents, who take a substantial share of the profits on the ordinary sales, so that the larger the proportion of the £637 taken in yearly subscriptions, the larger would be the percentage of profit on the turnover. In order to do this amount of business for the paper, it is evident that each of the six first girls on the list must have been cadging away mercilessly among all her friends and acquaintance for six months, even if she did not invest a substantial sum on her own account. The friends and acquaintance have, no doubt, paid their money largely in the hope of getting the canvasser her £50 scholarship. In the case of the one girl who has secured the £50, £111 odd has been expended for the purpose; and this is the best case of the lot. In the worst case (No. 3), no less than £108 has been expended to obtain a £5 prize. Looking at all these aspects of the competition, few, I think, will deny that it is in every way undesirable that the juvenile readers of ladies' papers should be enrolled as agents and canvassers on such terms; or that the pretence of aiding in this way the higher education of girls is a piece of very delusive humbug.

There is the more reason for saying this plainly, because, no doubt stimulated by the example of the rival publication, another ladies' paper, *Woman*, has also started "free scholarships" for its readers on the same lines. In this case the net is cast a little wider, ladies up to the age of thirty being eligible. Considering the number of spinsters who, however long they may live, never get beyond the age of thirty, the candidates eligible for this "free scholarship" must be named Legion. In a curious editorial note they are advised to enter at once, or they "may find themselves left behind by the early birds." That puts the position very frankly. If you must be a worm, it is better to be the one who is left behind by the early bird than the one who is caught.

Let us turn to a competition of a totally different class. A month or two before Christmas a number of provincial journals—I am sorry to say that the *Leeds Mercury* (weekly) was one of them—started a "Grand Inventions Competition." The condition of entry was that the inventors who competed took out provisional protection or full patents for their productions, through the medium of the paper, paying three and a half guineas in the former case and eleven guineas in the latter. These were represented as "reduced" fees, and to add to the inducement to compete a first prize was offered of fifteen guineas, a second prize in the shape of a complete patent value twelve guineas, and a third a provisional protection value four guineas, besides fifty silver medals, fifty bronze ditto, and fifty diplomas of honour. The announcement of the competition was seasoned with the most extravagant flim-flams about the fortunes to be made out of patents for common articles in everyday use.

Now it will be clear to any one with a glimmering of technical knowledge that such a competition must necessarily be an utter farce. One competitor, we will say, submits a new idea in boot-jacks, a second an improved mangle, a third a novelty in ship's steering-gear. How on earth can any expert that ever lived decide fairly on the respective merits of these inventions? A competition in which every one should submit a new invention for one and the same purpose would be reasonable and legitimate, but a competition between inventions which have absolutely nothing in common as a basis of comparison is as nonsensical as the Caucus race in "Alice in Wonderland." But this is only one objection. If the competition is to be genuine, every pains ought to be taken to ascertain that the successful specifications can really be the subject of a valid patent. It is a scandal, indeed, if the proprietors of a great newspaper are going to take four or ten guineas from an impecunious enthusiast for obtaining a patent which will be upset as soon as granted. How far was this done by the journals which promoted the competition in question? One instance will show. A sceptic, who saw the mischievous folly of the whole thing, purchased in a shop a window-sash fastener which had been patented in 1886, and sent it as his contribution to the competition. In due course he was awarded a diploma of merit; and—not the least significant point in the story—received communications from the "Patent Editors" of the *Leeds Mercury* offering to obtain him full protection at the further reduced fee of nine guineas (this offer only to be open for a fortnight), and suggesting the desirability of taking out patents on the Continent and in America. This incident proves up to the hilt that no attempt, worthy of the name, was made to test the novelty of the inventions submitted for competition. Can it be said that the Editor of an influential newspaper, circulating in an industrial district, who induces working men and others of little education to use him as a patent agent, and is anxious to take their money with so little security for getting value in return, occupies a very creditable position?

I am sorry to say that is not the end of it. As already mentioned, several other journals in different parts of the country started a similar competition at the same time. When the awards were published, it turned out that the prize-winners were in all cases the same. This shows conclusively that what was announced in the *Leeds Mercury*, and I believe in the other papers, as an enterprise started by each paper on its own account for the benefit of the public and inventors, was really either a joint undertaking of several papers, or, what is more probable, the undertaking of some individual in the background—presumably a patent agent or firm of patent agents—using the names of all these papers. The concealment, or misrepresentation, of this fact was certainly not fair to the competitors. Again, in at least one case, a competitor was allowed to pay fees and enter after the nominal date of the closing of the competition.

Some of these facts came to the knowledge of one of the competitors — a working-man — and he commenced an action in the County Court against the *Leeds Mercury* to recover his money. The course taken by the defendants was peculiar. They applied for and obtained an order for the removal of the case into the High Court, on the double ground (1) that if one competitor recovered his money a large number of others could do so; and (2) that difficult points of law were likely to arise at the trial of the action. The plaintiff being a man of very limited means could not possibly fight the case in the High Court, and, being

unable to obtain help, abandoned his action. It may be asked why the aggrieved parties do not take combined action. The answer is that many of the names were published with insufficient addresses, and when application has been made for fuller information it has been refused. The complainants are, therefore, checkmated. I do not say that there has been on the other side any intention of taking advantage of their poverty, or of avoiding a public ventilation of the whole circumstances. But I *do* say that the whole competition was a stupid thing for the proprietors of any respectable paper to get mixed up with; that it has been conducted in a most unsatisfactory way; and that such occurrences are calculated to bring discredit upon the Press generally.

"THE SEA FLOWER."

It is intensely amusing to me to note the defeat of the realists on their own confession. The stage can never be real. In order to exist, it must be surrounded with an atmosphere of imagination. To be true to life, to be accurate to every-day conversation, to be pedantic as to what actually occurs in our miserably prosaic lives, is to fail on the stage. The so-called problem play did not succeed because it was coarse and common-place. The younger Dumas wrote problem plays long before Ibsen and his imitators were ever heard of. The "Dame aux Camélias" is the oldest of problem plays. It has held the fort. Why? Because, morbid as the subject may be, it has been treated by a sensitive and imaginative writer.

Mr. Arthur Law has written a clear, interesting, and wholesome work, which has been applauded by the majority of the playgoers who have seen it. Being a play for the theatre, and not a problem for the philosophic discussion forum, we are told that "grown-up people are to be fed with a pap-ladle, and soothed with dill-water." In other words, playgoers are to be playgoers, and not musty, dusty philosophers. All lovers of the play are more or less children. They revert to their original innocence. They adore the injured heroine; they hate the detestable villain. If this were not so, the theatre would have no charm. There is surely misery enough, sorrow enough, and the curse of realism enough outside the walls of the theatre without compelling people to see more for their narrow enjoyment. The parson who fulminates and fumes, and sends his trembling congregation red hot to the lower regions is the unpopular parson. The dramatist who harps incessantly on the agonies of life is the unpopular dramatist. We do not go to church to be consigned to the flames, and we do not go to the play to be worried and tortured with problems and pessimism. So I therefore venture to praise Mr. Arthur Law, a clever and experienced dramatist, for his undoubted tact in understanding his audience. This play at the Comedy pleases me by means of its wholesomeness and humanity. Presumably, Tom Pinch is pap-ladle, and Little Em'ly is dill-water, and dear Old Peggotty is a happy blend of both, but the readers of Dickens love them all the same. Then are the admirers of Dickens to be accused of "living on bon-bons"? If so, they are very good and extremely wholesome bon-bons, and rather more palatable to my taste than the "nips" of vitriolic spirit marked with the brand of Ibsen or Maeterlinck. The public has tried them both, and prefers the delicately-flavoured sweetstuff.

And, after all, who can complain when in exchange for good, honest money come such performances—artistic to a pin's-point—as those, for instance, of Charles Groves, and Arthur Playfair, whose gallant struggles have at last landed him on the great high road of success? And the ladies, too, are not far behind; notably Miss Eva Moore the embodiment of all that is gentle and sweet, Miss Lena Ashwell, with her pathetic voice, and Miss Gladys Homfrey, who, having found her chance, makes the most of it. One of Mr. Arthur Law's apologists says, "There is a great deal of childishness in us all, and perhaps the world is none the worse, because it will always listen to a well-told fairy tale." Such satire misses its mark. Here we have the definition of the true playgoer. He will be a child to the end of time, and always listen to fairy tales. He does not care for realism, he has an imagination, and he loves fancy and idealism.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

FRENCH VIEWS OF KING GEORGE.

THE French no doubt are the friends and allies of Russia. But if Russia long stands in the way of their crusading instincts, love may turn sour. They cannot forgive King George for playing into the hands of the Czar's Government. His duty and best policy were to have forced M. Hanotaux to come forward with the Greeks as against the Turks, and to promote a French expedition which must have turned the tide of victory in the plains of Thessaly. Independent writers of the Paris Press are terribly severe on King George and his sons. M. Henry Bauer gives the following anecdote to show how much the dynasty has fallen in public estimation. The Queen of Greece, in one of her frequent visits to the hospitals, was shown a wounded soldier. She approached his bed to see in what way she could serve him. "Begone!" he cried; "it is not meet that one who is dying for his country should be aided by the mother of three traitors." Her eyes filled with tears. When she left the ward she sat down and wept bitterly. M. Henri Bauer speaks of the Court of Greece as a mere pawn in the hands of the Concert—that is to say, of International Finance, with which the King for years coquetted through Baron Erlanger. His paltry conduct and *bourgeois* care for family interests (the expression is not mine) enabled Hanotaux to join in keeping up bonds. Had he elected to fight the Turks in good earnest, he must have been master of the game. Any French Government refusing to help him must have been tossed over.

Among the causes of the prevailing Judenhetze in France should be reckoned the support given by the Jews to Turkey. The French longed to force the Dardanelles and avenge the Armenian massacres. They next wanted to give practical expression to their sympathy for Greece. But the papers, obedient to Finance, kept silent about massacres, and throw cold water on Greek fire, or fever.

A daring and capable man in King George's place might have led Greece to victory. Imagine what a Mehemet Ali could have done with the Greek Navy. Those men in ballet-girls' petticoats whom I saw on the Parade at Athens may not be first-rate soldiers; but nobody can assert that the Greek sailors are not among the best in Europe. Finance condemned them to remain inactive.

The death of the Duchesse de Doudeauville, *née* De Ligne, was almost sudden. She, as Duchesse de Bisaccia, enjoyed a brief hour of triumph at Albert Gate House in 1873. The Queen, associating her with the Prince de Ligne who offered the Belgian Crown to Leopold, was particularly gracious. The Duc de Bisaccia refitted and overhauled the Embassy at his own expense. This showed that he hoped to remain long in London. But he offended MacMahon in acting as if he represented merely French Royalty. The Marshal had a fine sense of dignity and propriety, and put his foot down so decisively that the Bisaccias were recalled.

The Comte de Chambord was glad of this step. He had a poor opinion of all the French Ducs, and was jealous of any attention shown to the Comte de Paris. On the death of the Legitimate Pretender, the Duc and Duchesse became warmly Philippist. Their relations with the head of the Orleanist branch gave them a peculiar standing in Royalist society. They were already very wealthy, and had most brilliant expectations. The death of the fat Duc de Doudeauville brought them some years ago his title and a great increase of fortune. Every fête they gave was an event in the Faubourg St. Germain. The Duc de Doudeauville (as he had become) liked to dazzle. The Duchesse enjoyed being hospitable. She was counted the most charming hostess in the noble faubourg. Polish liveliness (her mother was a Pole), Viennese manners, and Belgian sonsiness formed a pleasing combination. Without being a beauty, she was singularly comely and agreeable. The younger daughter of a Prince de Ligne's third wife, and a member of an endless family, she was no spoiled pet in youth. The brilliant situation to which she rose through marriage brought years of unalloyed enjoyment. But, as she advanced in life, she sometimes wished for a more intellectual atmosphere. She was also seized with a desire to innovate. One of her whims was to set herself up with an American secretary. An ex-beauty of the Empire *qui a le chic et le chèque* followed this example. The American secretary seemed likely to become an institution; but he somehow dropped out of sight. It was complained that he asked for too many invitations for fair compatriots.

The Duchesse de Doudeauville died of meningitis. She was for two days unconscious; but as she was on good terms with the Church, she was shriven and aneled. Her death must cause a painful void in Royalist society.

Zola's French friends rejoice in his martyrdom. They feel that he might have been made ridiculous were the First Offenders Act applied to him. But six months of Ste. Pélagie is a severe ordeal. The sentence is for twelve months. But the custom is to release literary misdemeanants sentenced to a year on the first day of the seventh month. No exception will be made in Zola's case, if his admirers keep quiet. Should they think prolonged captivity good for the cause he has taken up, they will agitate about him. Agitation would have the effect of keeping him in for the whole year. Any English fuss or interference would certainly be resented. Public opinion would be with the Government in treating it as impertinent. The French, an ex-Canadian Minister tells me, prevented Riel's sentence being commuted by getting up sentimental demonstrations in that rebel's favour. It was impossible to let him off when once they meddled in the matter.

Zola has now more than a month to sun himself. Zola's publisher must be rather disappointed at the sale of "Paris." Naturally, he expected that a great trial would vastly raise the sale. "Paris" came out as a *feuilleton* in *Le Journal*. The publication of the last serial slice coincided with that of the work as a book. At first the French orders exceeded those for any previous work by the same author, but as the trial proceeded counter orders grew numerous. On the day after the verdict, they amounted to 10,000, but orders from Russia, Hungary, Germany, and Italy have more than made up for this loss. These countries do not go in so much for translations as England and the United States. They are to be congratulated. The cesspool fluid with which Zola waters his garden may be tolerable in French hydrants; but in British or American watering carts it is *too* offensive.

Though the book trade is now dull to stagnation, Frasquelle had orders for 65,000 copies of "Paris" some time before it came out as a book. It had been feared that Daudet's death and funeral apotheosis might injure the sale of "Paris." Daudet, though he, too, had sat at the feet of the Goncourts, was at the opposite pole from Zola. He went in for delicate sensibility and emotion, for grace and charm, for playful satire, and for a charitable view of human errors. "They are not so bad, after all," is the teaching of his novels. But he saw that goodness on the whole made for happiness; that one is better off in taking the strait and difficult path than in following the wide and easy road.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

TOWARDS the end of October, 1888, dear Lady Betty, the Government of the United States demanded the recall of Lord Sackville, the then British Minister at Washington; and as Lord Salisbury did not at once accede to the request, on October 30th the President forwarded to Lord Sackville his passports. Mr. Phelps, who was then United States Minister in London, supported the action of his Government in a letter which he addressed to Lord Salisbury, and in this letter occur the following passages:—"In asking from her Majesty's Government the recall or withdrawal of its Minister . . . . the Government of the United States assumed that such request would be sufficient for that purpose. . . . . It was believed that

Old False Teeth Bought.—Many ladies and gentlemen have by them old or disused false teeth, which might as well be turned into money. Messrs. R. D. & J. B. Fraser, of Princes-street, Ipswich (established since 1833), buy old false teeth. If you send your teeth to them they will remit you by return post the utmost value; or, if preferred, they will make you the best offer, and hold the teeth over for your reply. If reference necessary, apply to Messrs. Bacon & Co., Bankers, Ipswich.

the acceptance or retention of a Minister was a question solely to be determined, either with or without the assignment of reasons, by the Government to which he was accredited."

Spain has now demanded the recall of General Lee, the United States Consul-General at Havana, and the State Department of the Government at Washington has authorised the publication of the following statement:—"The President will not take General Lee's recall into consideration!"

The matter is a serious one, for it is now obvious that the Government of the United States does not consider itself bound by international usage, in the conduct of its diplomatic relations with other countries. According to every precedent, it committed a grievous wrong in handing Lord Sackville his passports in 1888. But, on that occasion, the Government of the United States distinctly laid down the rule of action which it imagined to be binding upon it in such circumstances; and, therefore, its refusal to accede to the request of Spain now stultifies it in the eyes of the whole world. Lord Sackville was a distinguished diplomatist who had served his country long and well, and, in handing him his passports contrary to all the usages of nations on such occasions, Great Britain was grossly insulted in the person of her Minister, and a cruel wrong was done to Lord Sackville himself. It was hardly to be expected that, within ten years, the Government of the United States would act in a totally contrary manner on an occasion which is on all-fours with the celebrated "Sackville Incident" of 1888.

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The Ambassadors, Ministers, and Chargés-d'Affaires accredited to the Court of St. James have been much disturbed by a regulation which was communicated to them last week by Sir William Colville, the Master of the Ceremonies. It has always been the custom for the head of a Mission to have his name called out by the official whose duty it is to do this, before passing the Queen at a Drawing Room, and his suite followed. A regulation was issued last week requesting the heads of Missions on such occasions to stop when they came beside the Queen, and then to name to her Majesty each member of the suite as he passed. There can be no reason for the innovation, which is one that must cause some inconvenience, and, however well-trained a courtier a diplomatist may be, he occasionally resents being compelled to submit to unnecessary regulations. It is to be hoped that this unfortunate departure will not be insisted upon, now that it has been ascertained that it is displeasing to many of those whom it concerns.

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It is understood that the celebrated Hope collection of pictures from the galleries at Deepdene will shortly be sold, sanction having been obtained for the sale. It is to be hoped that, if the report is correct, the sale may be held at Christie, Manson, & Wood's auction-rooms; for, in that event, the dispersal of this magnificent collection will be one of the sensations of the season. There is, however, some ground for believing that the collection may be sold intact by private contract. The Hope pictures must be worth considerably over £100,000; and, indeed, a dozen of the best of them should fetch about £60,000 or £70,000. Amongst the best are three Rembrandts, three Metsus, two Wouvermans, a Jan Steen, a Paul Potter, a Cuyp, a Peter de Hooghe, a Hobbema, and an Adrian van Ostade.

A well-known collection of works of art, chiefly of the fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, and eighteenth centuries, formed by the late Herr Hechscher, of Vienna, will be sold by auction by Messrs. Christie, Manson, & Wood, during the present season. The collection is very similar in character to the Colworth collection, though not so extensive as the latter. The especial features of the Hechscher collection are the French bijouterie and snuff-boxes of last century, and perhaps the most interesting is the gold and enamelled watch which belonged to Louis XIV. when he was Dauphin. The whole collection has been exhibited of late years at the Imperial Museum in Berlin.

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Lady Milltown has presented to the National Gallery of Ireland the valuable collection of pictures, works of art, furniture, and books from Russborough, Blessington. This includes some fine examples of the school of Wattean and four Sir Joshuas', being altogether over a hundred pictures. Several rooms are to be built to contain the collection, the cost of erecting which the Government has very rightly consented to defray. The gratitude of all Irish men and women is due to Lady Milltown for the munificent gift which she has made to that especially deserving institution, the National Gallery of Ireland, and it is to be hoped that others of her country-men and women will follow her patriotic example in this regard.

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It is with inexpressible regret that I record the death of the Reverend Father William Eyre, S.J., which occurred on Sunday at Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, after an illness of several weeks' duration. The late Father Eyre, who was a brother of Archbishop Eyre, Archbishop of Glasgow, was a prominent member of the Society of Jesus, and one of the most popular Catholic ecclesiastics in Great Britain. An especially learned theologian, an eloquent preacher, an experienced man of the world, who had devoted his large fortune, his energies, and his life to the good of the Church to which he belonged, his memory will live for ever in the affectionate remembrance of those whose privilege it has been to be educated under his guidance. It is with immeasurable pain that I indite these few lines expressive of deep regret at the loss of the kindest of friends.

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The death of Sir Frank Lockwood, the eminent Queen's Counsel, caused widespread regret, but those who now see for the first time his sketches—a collection of which are being exhibited at the St. James's Galleries—will realise as they never did before how genial and how generous was his disposition. The collection numbers several hundreds of sketches which have been lent by, amongst others, the Prince of Wales, Sir Frederick Milner, Sir Richard Webster, Lord Field, Lord Battersea, Sir Edward Lawson, Lord Justice Rigby, Lady Cave, Lord Rosebery, Lord James of Hereford, the Dowager Lady Shrewsbury, Mr. Justice Wills, Judge Bacon, Mr. Frank Burnand, and Sir Henry Roscoe. The vast majority of the sketches were drawn, on the spur of the moment, on odds and ends of paper which happened to be at hand, and in no instance can any suspicion of spitefulness be traced. The collection, which ranges over a period of about thirty years, contains only one sketch of Lord Beaconsfield, and few that deal with political events. They are all boldly drawn, and show that the late Sir Frank was overflowing with good spirits and original humour. One of the most amusing is his sketch of "Mr. Lawrence, Q.C., going North," extended on four railway trucks; and a memorable one is of "A Christmas Reconciliation" between the late Lord Chief Justice Cockburn and the late Dr. Kenealy. These two were intimate friends until the conduct of the latter in the Tichborne trial caused a rupture between them. Sir Alexander Cockburn was an especially witty man, and he aimed his shafts at Dr. Kenealy on several occasions after their friendship terminated. Once some one was deploring that in English there was no equivalent for the French word *canaille*. "Oh, but there is," maintained Sir Alexander Cockburn, "it is Kenealy." Few are aware that the late Dr. Kenealy wrote some of the prettiest poems in the English language. It is a pity, now that the irritation caused by his action in the Tichborne trial has ceased to exist, that these poems are not republished, for they are too good to cast away.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE new course "at Folkestone" (an absurd description, considering that it is really several miles from that place) was "inspected" by the Press last week, and florid puffs of any undertaking are as sure to follow closely upon a gratuitous entertainment of this kind as thunder is certain to come after lightning. The writers who have indited gushing eulogies of the course, and everything and everybody connected with it, must be perfectly aware, if they are in possession of their senses, that the undertaking is certain to be a complete and ignominious failure. Considering the frantic competition which now prevails among race meetings, how can there possibly be room for another, and especially in Kent, where all the old and once well-established open fixtures have died from sheer inanition. Kent seems to be altogether played out in connection with the Turf. The *Sporting Times* gives a list of seven Derby winners which were bred in the county, but the last of them won at Epsom in 1884. The late Lord Falmouth did well in former days at Mereworth, and so did Sir Joseph Hawley at Leybourne, but their successors at those places have not been fortunate. I cannot remember that the present Lord Falmouth has bred anything better than Butter, although neither expense nor trouble has been spared to make his stud a success.

The backers of Perthshire for the Derby surely ought not to be at large. If any horse has ever demonstrated his inability to stay even six furlongs in the most conclusive fashion it is certainly Mr. Dewar's insanely over-rated colt, and his price for the Epsom race should be not 50 to 1, but rather 5,000 to 1. It would be a fantastical piece of fatuity to train Perthshire for the Derby, as his speed would certainly become impaired, and the chances are that he would never win a race.

The Cheltenham Steeplechases are to be revived this year, the meeting taking the place of the Cotswold Hunt Point to Point races. This fixture is to be held over the Prestbury Park course, which is a very good one.

Mr. Edmund Tattersall died on Saturday in his 83rd year, after a long illness. A more popular man never lived. He was always most genial, hospitable, and generous. Mr. Tattersall was a consummate auctioneer, and an excellent man of business, besides being a first-rate judge of all kinds of blood stock. For a few years Mr. Tattersall raced under the name of "Mr. Somerville," and with Oxford Mixture he ought to have won an important handicap, but the mare was grievously mismanaged, being constantly run out of her proper course. If Marie Stuart had been out of the way, Oxford Mixture would have won the Oaks of 1873, as she was certainly second-best in that race. Mr. Tattersall won the Newmarket October Handicap (then an important race) in 1873 with Tichborne, and he carried off several stakes with Miserrimus. Mr. Tattersall's death will be lamented by all who knew him, and he will live long in the affectionate remembrance of a very large circle of friends in all classes of life.

The Aldershot Point to Point Races are to take place next Saturday over a course in the neighbourhood of Banbury, and the Duke of Connaught, who will be present, has given a cup for competition.

County Council won the Grand Military Gold Cup at Sandown Park on Friday in a common trot, there being eleven runners. Major Fenwick's horse was so much fancied that he started a hot favourite at 9 to 4. The fact has escaped the notice of the papers that County Council was bred at Sandringham by the Prince of Wales in 1889, and a very high opinion was entertained of him as a yearling, so that he was heavily engaged. County Council carried the Prince's colours several times in 1891 as a two-year-old, but his only success was in the Ham Stakes at Goodwood, and he was shortly afterwards weeded out of the Royal stud.

The Prince of Wales may very likely win the Suffolk and Berkshire Welter Flat Race Plate of £200 at Kempton Park next Friday with Oakdene, who was expected to distinguish himself over hurdles, but he has proved a failure in that line. Oakdene was going very well at Newmarket last week, and he will have the best of the weights with several of the starters. The entry of twenty-six includes Knife Boy, Rampion, Court Ball, and Lord Key, besides Manifesto, who is not likely to run.

The Australian horse Daimio, about whom there was such a prodigious trumpeting some twelve months ago, when he was proclaimed by some harebrained enthusiasts to be the best steeplechaser ever foaled, has been struck out of the Grand National, for which race he was remarkably well handicapped, and he will return shortly to his native land. The climate of Europe has not suited Daimio, and it is a great pity that he ever left Australia.

Several very speedy horses have been entered for the Ely Plate of £200 at the Newmarket First Spring Meeting, including Ugly, Lucknow, Vatel, and The Convict; and I feel convinced that all these animals will be worth following next season when running for T.Y.C. events.

No fewer than thirty-four maiden three-year-olds have been entered for the Scarborough Stakes at the Houghton meeting, which race also closed last week. The entry includes Mr. Baird's Brio and Helianthus and Mr. de Rothschild's Isabinda, own sister to St. Frusquin, who is likely to prove a very difficult animal to train, and I fear she will never greatly distinguish herself on the turf. As to Mr. Baird's pair, Brio is good looking enough for anything, and he will very likely prove to be the best "dark" horse for the Two Thousand and Derby. Brio is a very racing-like colt, with capital action, but he has never been tried in any sort of way whatever, so that nothing is known as to his racing merits. His breeding is not calculated to inspire his friends with much hope of his turning out a flyer. Helianthus was very backward when he ran his only race last season, which was the Clearwell Stakes, won by Orzil, but he has made a vast improvement during the winter, and he ought to win plenty of races if judiciously placed. Cap Martin is likely to turn out a failure, and he need not be thought of for a moment in connection with any of his spring engagements.

Lord Rosebery's Illuminata (dam of Ladas and Chelandry) has foaled a colt by Royal Hampton, and she goes to Sheen, another son of the sire of Ladas. Craig Crook has a colt by Sir Visto, and goes to Ladas. Avilion has a filly by Ladas, and goes to him again. Orfe has a filly by Ladas, and goes to St. Frusquin.

The Duke of Devonshire's colt Dieudonné has settled down to good work, and he seems all right, and is evidently very fresh and well. Dieudonné will not run until the Two Thousand, although he has a previous engagement in the Craven week, and it is quite possible that he may be reserved for the Derby, the same policy being adopted with him as proved so successful two years ago in the case of Persimmon. He is just the stamp of colt to run well over the Epsom gradients. He is in all the principal three-year-old races at Ascot, and in the Rous Memorial, but, oddly enough, he was not entered for the rich Hardwicke Stakes, a race which will not require much winning this year, as neither Velasquez, Galtee More, nor Chelandry is engaged, Melange, Cortegar, Bay Ronald (who won last year), and Crestfallen being the best of the older horses, while the three-year-old list includes Batt, Collar, Jenny Howlett colt, Jeddah, and Orzil. The Hardwicke Stakes will be worth £2,670, and it is the richest event in the Ascot programme, excepting only the Gold Cup and the Coronation Stakes. I am assured that Dieudonné is perfectly sound in his wind, there being no truth in the report, which was generally credited at Newmarket, that he makes a noise.

The Duke of Portland went to Newmarket last Thursday to see his horses gallop, and his dark three-year-old Wantage, by Sheen out of Satchel, who is a remarkably good-looking colt, went very well indeed over a mile and a quarter. I do not expect that Wantage will distinguish himself in the "classic" races, and he may very likely be reserved for Ascot, where he has several nice engagements, in which event his maiden allowance would be an advan-

tage. The Duke saw several of his two-year-olds sent a racing gallop over nearly five furlongs, and they will, no doubt, be tried next week, as all this lot are entered for the Brocklesby Stakes at Lincoln. It is quite probable that Arrowroot, filly by Morion out of Semolina, will be the best of the Heath House team at Lincoln. Her dam won the Brocklesby Stakes nine years ago.

Champ de Mars has been stopped in his work at Newmarket, and it is said that Mr. Baird's colt has injured his shoulder. It is earnestly to be hoped that this accident is not of a serious character, as Champ de Mars has grown into a beautiful colt, and everyone at Newmarket regrets that he has no engagements of much value. I understand that it was Mr. Baird's intention to start Champ de Mars for the Chippenham Stakes, which is run on the day after the Two Thousand, and that event should be a good thing for the colt if he is all right.

Mr. Baird will have a dangerous candidate for the Brocklesby Stakes in Marauder, by Martagon out of Petulance, who did well last week in a gallop over five furlongs with Marasca, who is believed to be now in good form. Marauder is probably a very smart colt, and he may prove as useful to his owner as did Champ de Mars last year, when he won the Molyneux Stakes at Liverpool in the first week of the season.

I have repeatedly warned my readers to leave Gulistan alone for the Lincolnshire Handicap, and my advice has been justified by the sudden withdrawal of this horse from that race. Gulistan was zealously "written up" for Lincoln in certain quarters, and silly backers have been gulled into throwing a great deal of money away on him. It was always doubtful whether Gulistan would stand a preparation, as everybody at Newmarket perfectly apprehended, and Mr. de Rothschild's horse has now broken down so badly that his turf career is probably at an end. Gulistan has cost the public a pretty penny from first to last, but his supporters have only to thank themselves for their misfortunes, as they would rush in and back him for race after race in utter ignorance of his real condition.

Knight of the Thistle has not broken down, as has been reported, for he is still in good work, and he goes well in his gallops. How any sane person could be so infatuated as to back Mr. McCalmont's horse for the Lincolnshire Handicap at the weights it is quite impossible to understand, but it is quite certain that he had a numerous band of supporters. Captain Machell, however, who is a practical man, no doubt recognised the fatuity of the notion that Knight of the Thistle could possibly have a winning chance at Lincoln, and the horse will now probably be reserved for the Doveridge Handicap at Derby—a race which he is quite likely to win.

Sir R. Waldie Griffith is likely to be dangerous in the Brocklesby Stakes at Lincoln with an own sister to Merle, who is a most promising and racing-like filly, and she is believed to be smart. I expect, however, that as the season advances this filly will be found a long way inferior to her stable companions — the colt by Bend Or out of Molly Morgan, and Desmond, by St. Simon out of l'Abbesse de Jouarre, both of which animals are owned by Lord Dunraven. Desmond is a truly magnificent animal, with beautiful action, but I fancy he will not be seen out during the early part of the season.

Mr. de Rothschild's Isabinda, own sister to St. Frusquin, is likely, as I have said, to turn out a difficult animal to train, and it will probably be the autumn before she is thoroughly fit, even if she stands a preparation. I see that Isabinda is mentioned as likely to be a formidable opponent to the best of the public lot in the One Thousand and Oaks, but I do not believe she has a 500 to 1 chance for either the one race or the other.

Sir Blundell Maple has a smart two-year-old in Monopoly, by Common out of Minting Queen, and she will be thoroughly fit to run either at Lincoln or at Liverpool. Monopoly is very racing like, and a grand galloper. It will be remembered that her dam carried off the Brocklesby Stakes six years ago.

The Grand National will be a more than usually difficult race to win this year, for there is sure to be a very large field, and a crowd greatly increases the chance of accidents, for a horse in falling is tolerably sure to bring down others. Manifesto, who is, of course, favourite, fell two years ago when running at Aintree. It is said that Timon was pulling hard when he fell last year, and if this is correct he has only to keep on his legs to make certain of beating Manifesto. Timon, however, is a beast for whom excuses have continually been made. The recent public performances of some of the Liverpool horses have been most perplexing, and the form in many races must have been all wrong. The odd thing is that the fact of a horse having been ignominiously beaten does not appear to permanently weaken his position in the betting. For example, The Soarer has been in brisk demand since his queer defeat by Ruric, although one would have expected him to be knocked out. Parapluie, who won the Grand Military Gold Cup last year, has been backed for good money, and this horse certainly cannot complain of being overweighted, but he may not stand a preparation. Many clever people greatly fancy Gauntlet. It will be a very dangerous race to meddle with, the risks of a fall at Aintree being great and manifold on all occasions, but with a huge field they are enormously increased.

I see it is stated that Ninus will run for the Newmarket Biennial on April 13, but Prince Soltykoff's colt is not at all likely to be seen out before the Two Thousand. It will take Gibbons all his time to get Ninus thoroughly fit by April 27, and there would be no object in knocking the colt about, for he is so heavily engaged that he can very well afford to miss such a trumpery event as the Biennial. Ninus would have to give a lot of weight in the Biennial to Cowl, Devon, St. Maur, and Gerolstein; and Prince Soltykoff might find a more suitable candidate for this race in Leisure Hour. I see it is stated that Nina, dam of Ninus, was bred by the late Duke of Hamilton. As a matter of fact, however, Ninus himself was bred by the Duke, and he was sold as a foal, with his dam, for 1,500 gs., to Prince Soltykoff, at Newmarket in July, 1895. Nina, dam of Ninus, was half sister to Ossian, who won the St. Leger in 1883. I must add that the pedigree of Ninus is not encouraging to those who are "going for" him for the Two Thousand, as his own brother, The Nipper, was always a T.Y.C. horse, and of no use over any distance beyond an easy five furlongs, although his sire was such a fine stayer as Sheen.

The English Rugby Football Union has a bad bee buzzing in its bonnet. That bee is Mr. A. J. Gould, the late Welsh International three-quarter. It will be remembered that the English Rugby Union forbade him to play with or against English teams, because he had received a testimonial some fifteen months ago. I do not wish to go over the old ground again, nor do I wish to say anything more about the refusal to permit Gould to play football. That incident was concluded when the terms upon which England and Wales were to meet in an International match were arranged. One hoped that this wretched dispute which reflected but little credit on the English Union was once and for ever at an end. But this was not to be; the persecution of Gould has not ceased. The English Union has forbidden him to referee in English matches. In the West of England he is very popular as a referee, and there is no one who has a better knowledge of the game. Being a Welshman, no one can accuse him of bias in important West-country games. All this has been stopped by the despicable action of the English authorities, whose conduct is as mean and petty as one can conceive. It is a matter of profound regret that the management of English football should be in the hands of men who have shown themselves capable of such narrow-minded and unsportsmanlike action. Probably these modern inquisitors are now hunting round for some fresh methods of punishment and torture. Let me suggest to them that they should forbid Gould to be a spectator at the forthcoming International match at Blackheath. The mere presence of such an unmitigated and unrepentant reprobate on the ground would be sufficient in itself to contaminate the pure and saintly souls of those who run

the English Union. But if this is not enough, and they wish to draw out their punishment to its full tether, then they might first of all forbid him to touch judge and finally prohibit his presence on any football ground in England. I only hope that at the next meeting of the Rugby Union English footballers will let the present authorities clearly understand that they are thoroughly disgusted with and entirely dissociate themselves from the tyrannical proceedings to which I have referred.

Naturally Southerners are delighted with the fact that Southampton have got into the semi-final for the English Association Cup. Playing on their own ground they gave a splendid display, and literally overran the Bolton Wanderers. Derby County visited Liverpool and gave the local club a thorough beating. They meet Everton in the semi-final, while Southampton have to play Notts Forest. It is by no means improbable that the Southern team will get into the final. Their successes indicate that the game has made enormous strides in the south. No team could have done so brilliantly in the cup competition had it not been meeting good clubs in the earlier part of the season.

The International Association match between England and Ireland was played on heavy ground at Belfast. At first the Irishmen had the best of the play, but just before half-time the English team settled down and attacked briskly. During the second half the visitors lost Forman, the Notts Forest half for a time, and the game was fast, the Irishmen seeming to revel in the mud, which became worse every minute. However, the Englishmen kept the lead they had secured fairly easily. Several of the League teams were weakened by having representatives playing in this match. The chief match was between the two leading teams, Sheffield United and Sunderland, whose attack all through the game was singularly strong, and so they won rather easily. Twice this season Derby County have beaten the Villa, but last Saturday the Aston team had its revenge. It simply made rings round Derby, who had perhaps had quite enough football when they met Liverpool in the Cup tie earlier in the week. In the final for the Staffordshire Cup, Burslem, who did so well in the Association Cup, after a hard struggle beat West Bromwich.

The Old Westminsters and Carthusians fill such an important place in the amateur game that the meeting between the two schools is always interesting. For the first time for many years the Westminster boys won. They have a clinking set of forwards who shoot brilliantly, and the Carthusian goalkeeper did some wonderful saving. For a London school to beat a country boarding-school is in itself a creditable performance. The gallery round the railings at Vincent-square became wildly enthusiastic. Where will these faithful followers of the Westminster boys go to if the improvement scheme for that neighbourhood becomes a solid fact?

A well-informed correspondent thinks I must be mistaken in saying that any League club demands money for the transfer of an amateur. The case was mentioned, however, in the London Press, and not contradicted. My correspondent also says that the club with which he is connected would not act in that way. That may be; but the fact that another club has acted differently shows the need for legislation.

If ever a crew had bad luck, that crew is the Cambridge University eight. There is a persistent fate pursuing the crew and coach, who, nevertheless, seem to rise superior to all the difficulties that present themselves in a way which commands the admiration and sympathy of everybody. At Bourne End the crew was improving rapidly. Old Blues were literally surprised at what Fletcher had done with the material at his command. The marvellous improvement in the men to which I have previously referred was being maintained, the crew were apparently flourishing, for they were gaining in weight, when, all of a sudden, Steele, the stroke, was laid up with influenza. Fortunately, the crew are in a forward condition. But the fact that the men have not been able to take full advantage of their stay on the Upper Thames is an almost irreparable loss. A well-known oar, who recently saw the crew, said that while it did not contain a single brilliant oarsman, the level of all-round work was so good that any crew would have the greatest difficulty in getting away from it. That this was the case is shown by the fact that the Oxford President, with four old Blues and two men who had won the Ladies' at Henley, deemed it necessary to bring up Carr to row again. No greater compliment could have been paid to Fletcher, or the men who have so keenly and successfully carried out his instructions. I have no doubt the Cambridge men would rather that the compliment had not been rendered necessary. The Oxford men are very much in the same condition that they were this time last year when at Henley, except that this year they have often seemed rather slovenly in their work. Some hard rowing has pulled them together, and they will certainly be a powerful crew. It must be remembered that the seven Etonians all rowed for their school, while the three Cambridge men from the same school were never in the Eton eight. This fact alone gives the Dark Blues a tremendous advantage. A correspondent points out that the last time Cambridge won was on March 26, the day of the race this year.

The Cambridge University sports were productive of some very good racing. There is quite a glut of milers in residence. That race was won in 4 min. 26 sec. Graham, Workman, and Hunter were all together a hundred yards from home, and the last named, finishing remarkably strongly for such a fast race, won by 15 yards from Workman. Maundrell has improved wonderfully over the hurdles, and does not hang as he did last year. His time was given as being just over 16 sec. It should be a fine race between him and Garnier, of Oxford, who earlier in the week at Fenner's, when running for Oriel against Clare, was about a yard and a half slower. Carter, the President, could not run in the sprints owing to an injured instep. But Davidson and Harrison both did good time in the quarter. Bullock will have to improve at least a foot in the weight to make certain of this event against Oxford. Athletic meetings between the colleges of each University are now a regular feature in the Lent term. These events help to relieve the deadly monotony which comes over the Universities when the Lents and Torpids are over, and the football clubs have finished their matches. In these events the best performances were by Garnier, Farncombe, and Vassal, all of Oriel, in the hurdles, weight, and long jump, while Bevan, of Trinity Hall, did a fine leap of 22 ft.

Once again the South took part in the Cross Country Championships, which were held near Northampton over a genuine cross country course. The arrangements showed a decided improvement. Martin's absence, owing to influenza, undoubtedly cost the Essex Beagles the Championship, as they were only two points behind the winners, Salford. The race for first place was a close one, and a local runner, Robinson, pulled out at the finish, and was again easily first, with Bartlett, of the Essex team, second, and Harrison, from Manchester, third.

Last week the preliminary rounds in the competition for the Army Racket Championship were played. The matches were not very interesting, as the losers all through the competition only won a single game. In the final round Captain King and W. E. Foster, of the R.A. Aldershot, qualified to meet the holders by beating Colonel Spens and Captain Mounsey-Heysham of the King's (Shropshire Light Infantry). Colonel Spens retains his form in a wonderful way, but both he and his partner failed to show such good form as in the earlier games. The match was a one-man game, Foster, who is brother to the champion, doing all the work. He started and won the first game without losing his hand. His returns were very severe, his service good, and his placing excellent. He was a class above the rest of the players.

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MAMMON.

FROM MOSES MOSS *TO* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—We have again been suffering from a succession of adverse rumours with regard to affairs in almost all parts of the globe, and it is a long time since the Stock Markets have had to face so curious a combination of untoward circumstances. At the same time, there is no doubt that many of the reports are exaggerated, and that one of these days most of these ominous clouds may vanish, leaving us wondering that we ever attached any importance to them. In the meantime, however, every rumour is aggravated by sensational journalism, and the ursine party are doing their best to create

PANICKY MARKETS.

First and foremost there is the strained position between the United States and Spain. The news dished up in the States and cabled to this side is of an unusually unreliable character. Much of it is manufactured in Washington by statesmen and legislators and their hangers-on, who are evidently speculating in Wall-street. The moderate measures which have been taken by the United States Government to strengthen the defences of the country are being exaggerated into active military and naval armaments for the purpose of attack. Yet interest in the *Maine* disaster is flagging considerably, and it seems almost to be dropping out of sight. This is precisely what happened at the time in connection with the Venezuelan scare, and as the Spanish Government seems to be determined to go to considerable length in concessions to Cuba in order to pacify the American people, it is not improbable that with the arrival of the new Spanish Minister, Señor Louis Polo Bernarde, the tide will turn again towards peace. There is just the danger that with all the Yankee talk the Spaniards will lose patience, and the latest move of Spain in demanding the recall of General Lee confirms this view. In the meantime, there are indications that powerful interests are buying American Railroad stocks on the declines in New York, and a marked rebound may happen any day. Efforts have again been made by certain organs of the Press to keep the West African question alive. It appears that the two French members of the committee now sitting in Paris are ill, and one really wonders whether some of our sensational jonrnals will not say that they fell ill on purpose, so as to delay the negotiations. Fortunately, however, there is every reason to anticipate an early and peaceful settlement, and as a market factor the West African question has almost disappeared, only to make room, however, for a fresh outburst of the Russo-Chinese scare. There remains the Transvaal difficulty. Great efforts are being made in certain quarters to create the impression that President Kruger is about to renounce the suzerainty of England. I do not anticipate anything of the kind, neither do I consider the much-talked-of imposition of 15 per cent. on the profits of mining enterprises as anything else but an effort of imagination. In the meantime, the mining industry in the Transvaal is making satisfactory progress, and as soon as certain big accounts are disposed of, a rally is probable. The trouble between the Parquet and the Coulisse in Paris is a disagreeable feature, but latest advices are more favourable, and there is evidently no fear of the Coulisse being actually done away with, while, after all, a reform of the Bourse appears imperative. Too much is also being made of the prospects of dearer money. Rates are at present low enough in all conscience, and while some big new loans are in sight, there is also a prospect of further Government disbursements and of the April dividend payments. Thus, while it is not likely that we shall see lower rates, no advance on the Bank rate of 3 per cent. need for the present be apprehended. The West Australian department has maintained a very firm tone in several leading sections, and is thus in distinct contrast with the Kaffir Circus. The Industrial market is inflated, and a day of reckoning is undoubtedly coming with reference to a great deal of over-speculation and over-capitalisation which has been going on. But looking at the other departments of the Stock Exchange, and at the comparatively moderate level of prices, together with the satisfactory state of trade, and such favourable features as the coming opening-up of China, I cannot resist the impression that one of these days, when the political clouds are blown away, we shall have a very marked revival.

HOME RAILS—NARROW FLUCTUATIONS.

Notwithstanding several favourable features, the Home Railway department is showing dulness, and as there is a considerable "Bear" account, the ursine party every now and then make an attack on the market, without, however, making much impression. The dear money question is also being trotted out, but on the other hand stock is so scarce that the argument loses its force. The Caledonian dividend has fully borne out my anticipation, the distribution of 5 per cent. having been maintained, although the balance carried forward is £8,000 less. The announcement was greeted by a rise of Scotch stocks in the market, but this has since been lost again. Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras) are, however, very cheap at anything like 56 or 57, as they yield nearly 4 per cent. per annum, and thus form one of the best investments in this section. Trade reports are, moreover, so favourable, that it is confidently anticipated that the Caledonian will show further large increases, especially when the resumption of work by the engineers tells upon the traffics. I am not very sanguine with reference to the North British dividend, but the quotations of the stocks are low enough. What exactly caused some of the Home Railway traffics for the eighth week of the current year to be comparatively poor it is difficult to say, especially as the resumption of business in the engineering trade had caused sanguine views to be entertained, but the occurrence is probably only temporary. Brighton "A" had been fairly steady at 175½, and Dover "A" moved in the neighbourhood of 111½ until the Russian scare put prices down again. Dover "A" is, undoubtedly, a most progressive stock, and as the supply in the market is small the price is likely to advance. Chathams and Great Easterns have been a quiet market, and the Heavies have suffered somewhat from the pause in the traffic increases. Great Northern Deferred have been fairly steady, but Midlands have shown some weakness. These are the two lines which will chiefly be affected by the Great Central extension to London. I have of late received a great many inquiries from correspondents who do not appear to have perused the remarks which I made on the actual position in TRUTH of January 6, and which I, therefore, herewith briefly recapitulate. By the extension to London the Great Central becomes one of the great trunk lines of the country, spreading its arms to the east as far as Hull and East Grimsby, and to the west as far as Manchester and Liverpool, covering the centre at Sheffield, Nottingham, Leicester, and Rugby. Thirty-five years ago, in the case of the Midland, the same pessimistic croakings were employed which are now being uttered in certain quarters with regard to the Great Central. Yet the Midland, which then had an Ordinary share capital of about eleven millions, has now a capital of about thirty-four millions, while the revenue has grown in proportion until it has reached the magnificent total of about ten millions per annum. The Great Central has at present a prospective Ordinary share capital of £11,250,000, divided into £2,750,000 Preferred Ordinary stock, £2,750,000 Deferred Ordinary, £2,750,000 1894 Ordinary stock, and £3,000,000 Extension Scrip. This comparatively small amount of about £11,000,000 will become entitled to the whole profits, which will be divisible after the Debenture and Preference charges have been paid. When I penned these remarks in January I expressed my full concurrence in the view held by a correspondent signing himself "Railway Investigator" to the effect that, while it is impossible to say how the returns will work immediately on the opening of the new line, big increases must come eventually, and that a gain of £20,000 per week, which would give the Company a net increase of at least £400,000 revenue, would be a reasonable estimate. In Great Central stocks a fair business is passing, and Great

Central 1894 Ordinary is being picked up by investors in the neighbourhood of 41 as a promising lock-up. Metropolitans are slightly easier, but Districts have been very steady at about 29. This is not surprising, as not only is the line doing very well now, but the various extensions which have been authorised will eventually bring a large accession of traffic to the Company. The promising position is clearly set forth in a letter which appeared in the columns of the *Financial News* a few days ago, and which I consider well worth reproducing :—

With your permission I should like to place before your readers reasons showing District Ordinary to be at the present time much undervalued. The last carry-forward, after payment of an increase of ½ per cent. on the Contingent Prefs. was £4,000. The traffic increase of the last seven weeks amounts to £2,400. This rate being continued, the full dividend of 5 per cent. for the current half-year is assured. The last full payment on the Prefs. was in 1884, when the Ordinary touched 72. In 1887, only one half-yearly dividend was paid, at the rate of 1½ per cent. ; the Ordinary then reached 43. In 1889 the Preference dividend was entirely passed, and the highest quotation for the Ordinary was 39. Now that full payment is again in sight, the extensions well in hand, and Electric Traction in the near future, Districts stand at 29, although the security above them has risen during the past year 14 points.

It will not surprise me if the market wakes up some day to find Districts five or ten points higher. A very large business is being transacted in Central London Railway shares, and the fully-paid Ordinary have been dealt in up to 10⅞, while the partly-paid Ordinary are quoted 6¾, the Preferred 1¾, the Deferred 5. I see that my contemporary *Engineering* is going in for a series of articles on the Central London, and that the estimate of traffics is computed by some writers at from 80,000,000 to 100,000,000 passengers a year. This would mean that the Ordinary stock would receive over 10 per cent. dividend per annum, and under all the circumstances investors have an excellent opportunity at present of acquiring an interest at a moderate price in a Company which bids fair to become one of the most prosperous railway undertakings in the country.

The Yankee Market—Rumours and Scares.

Rarely have the "Bears" in Wall-street had such opportunities of availing themselves of all manner of rumours manufactured ready to hand for them as during the last few weeks. Hardly had the De Lôme incident passed off when the *Maine* catastrophe furnished a most sensational event for the Cuban Jingoes to take hold of, and we have heard all kinds of unfavourable explanations of the disaster. Spanish treachery, submarine mines, and the most circumstantial accounts of the blowing up of the vessel through attacks from the outside, were discussed *ad nauseum*, and war was, ever so many times, declared as imminent. The fare was, however, evidently somewhat too strong, and it finally satiated the public, both in the States and here, to such an extent that the *Maine* disaster has taken quite a back seat of late, and it looks as if it were to pass into oblivion, as so many other sensational "Bear" points have done in the past. The fact is that the work of the divers has apparently been without any result, for the very good reason that the catastrophe was the consequence of an accident and of internal causes. But the Jingoes have not been slow to take up another cue, and that is the necessity of the United States interfering for the benefit of the Cubans, in case Spain cannot bring the war to a speedy termination; and now every measure for the strengthening of coast defences and for bringing up the American navy to some degree of efficiency is magnified into preparations for war. The United States have undoubtedly neglected their coast defences to an extraordinary extent, and are at present making up for lost time; and it would not be surprising if they were to strengthen their navy, which is not at all in proportion to their pretensions in connection with foreign politics. But this does not exactly mean war with Spain, and the manner in which President McKinley has so far conducted the Government gives rise to every hope that he will keep his head cool and refrain from precipitating his country into war. The question is, however, how far the latest action of Spain in demanding the recall of General Lee may precipitate matters. Another unsettling feature in the American and Canadian markets has been the continued war of rates between the Canadian Pacific and the Grand Trunk in alliance with the American Pacific roads on the other. Several times the rumour had gained currency that a settlement had been reached, but so far these reports are unconfirmed. I do not think that the whole matter is of so much importance as has been attributed to it in the market, the Klondike traffic being probably over-rated, and the last traffic returns of the Canadian roads do not show any traces of this disturbing factor. But it seems nothing short of wanton mischief than to quarrel at the present juncture when both the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk roads are on a wave of prosperity, and promise to make up to the shareholders for the disappointments of recent years. It is stated that the German shareholders are remonstrating seriously with the Canadian Pacific management, and it might be as well if the British shareholders in both Companies were to bring pressure to bear upon their respective boards. If the latter do not speedily conclude peace they will lay themselves open to the charge of carrying on this war for their own private benefit. It is true that experience with American Railroad directors has shown that they utilise their positions for the furtherance of private interests and for stock-jobbing purposes, but I refuse to believe that the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk directors come into that category. Movements in Yankee Rails have been of a seesaw character, and after a substantial recovery there is a renewed and severe fall, which has practically affected the whole of the active stocks. The rally, whenever it comes, will doubtless be equally general. Upon the whole, Milwaukee have shown a firm front, and there are indications that the Standard Oil group is picking these up at every opportunity. The dividend announcement will shortly be made, and will probably be 2½ per cent., or it may be in the form of a 2 per cent. dividend and ½ per cent. bonus. The present price must, under the circumstances, be considered moderate. Whenever the improvement comes, Louisville, Erie Prefs. and Ordinary, Denver Prefs. and Ordinary, Norfolk Prefs., and Missouri, Kansas, and Texas will no doubt be well to the front, and as the so-called Klondike division has been greatly depressed, there is every prospect of Northern Pacific Prefs., Union Pacific Prefs. and Ordinary, and Central Pacifics experiencing a sharp recovery. In the matter of the Canadian section traffics have been very satisfactory, the Grand Trunk showing an increase of £9,464, the Canadian Pacific one of $71,000. A moderate recovery in Canadian Pacifics has been lost again in the scare, the quotation being down to 84, while Grand Trunk First Prefs. have fallen to 63¼, the Guaranteed to 72¼. These stocks must necessarily sympathise with the movements of the Yankee market.

Foreigners and South Americans.

The Foreign department has been adversely affected by the trouble between the *parquet* and the *coulisse* on the Paris Bourse, to which I am referring further on. Spanish, moreover, have suffered from the ever-recurring rumours of an outbreak of war between the United States and Spain, a fall to 56½ being caused by the latest action of the Spanish Government. Turks have been dull, although the Greek Loan is in a forward stage; and Italians have been steady. Rio Tinto kept up well, until the trouble with the *coulisse* came to the front, when there was a temporary reaction. So far, however, there has been no financial difficulty on the Paris Bourse, and the settlement was completed without any failure. Argentine Government stocks, after improving, are again lower, the Funding Loan at 88, the 1886 Loan at 89¼, Buenos Ayres Water and Drainage bonds at 71¾. Argentine Railway stocks, on the other hand, have shown renewed dulness, there being still a considerable "Bull" account open in these. Buenos Ayres Great Southern Ordinary stand at 151, Buenos Ayres and Rosario at 72, Buenos Ayres and Pacific First Prefs. at 91, Central Argentine at 80½, while Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section),

Income Debenture stock is quoted as low as 48½. I gave my readers timely warning not to buy the last-mentioned stock as long as the large traffic decreases continued, and for the present there appears to be no prospect of any improvement, although if I were a holder I should not sell now. The strongest stocks in the South American section have been Uruguay, the Old Loan having risen to 44, the New Loan to 55½. The news from Monte Video is in every respect satisfactory, and Señor Cuestas is apparently firmly established as dictator. Mexican Sixes and Peruvian Corporation stocks have been fairly steady, but Brazilians continue dull notwithstanding the election by a large majority of Señor Campos Salles as President. I suppose there is something very wrong in Brazilian finance, as otherwise the improvement in politics would have affected the prices of the stocks favourably.

Reforming the Paris Bourse.

The disputes between the *parquet* and the *coulisse* of the Paris Bourse have finally forced action on the part of M. Cochery, the French Minister of Finance, and it is indeed surprising that some reform of the antiquated methods of the Bourse has not been attempted long ago. I believe that the Bourse was instituted, in the first place, by decree of Napoleon I., while at Moscow, and that there has been hardly any change in the conditions under which the *agents de change* carry on business. Of these the number is limited to sixty, and they are practically alone authorised to deal in officially quoted securities. The *coulisse*, or outside market, has, however, gradually grown up and assumed very large proportions, especially in dealings in securities that are not officially quoted. Gradually the *coulissiers* have encroached upon the privileges of the *agents de change*—the members of the *parquet*—which is not by any means surprising, when it is considered how enormously business in stocks and shares has grown during the nineteenth century. The privileges of the *agents de change* are most valuable, but their number is too small, and one of the changes now proposed by M. Cochery is to increase their number from sixty to eighty, by raising some of the leading *coulisse* firms to official rank. The further measure proposed by the Minister, of grouping the *agents de change* by specialties thus creating separate markets would be obviously useful. Indeed, it is difficult to see how business could be carried on on the London Stock Exchange without this sub-division into different markets. On our Stock Exchange, however, we have the assistance of the jobbers, who create the different markets, while in Paris the "jobber's turn" does not exist, broker dealing direct with broker. The much-maligned jobber, however, has his very useful function, as through him there is always a dealable market in the various sections of stocks, which is not the case in the French capital. The commissions of the *agents de change*, moreover, are high, and while the *parquet* charges, for instance, ⅛ on Turks, the *coulisse* does business at $\frac{1}{16}$ or even less, while the commission of the *coulisse* on Spanish is $\frac{1}{32}$ to $\frac{1}{16}$ per cent., as against ⅛ to ¼ per cent. of the *parquet*. Hence the third reform proposed, viz., the lowering of the brokerage of the *parquet*. In view of the privileges hitherto conferred upon the *agents de change*, their positions were highly appreciated, and the goodwill was valued, according to the clientèle at from 2,000,000 fr. to 10,000,000 fr., the latter price having more than once been paid. In addition to paying a certain sum for membership the *agent de change* has to make a dépôt of 1,000,000 fr. in the *Banque de France*, and he must also provide a *fonds de roulement* of 1,500,000 fr. Thus it is evident that only a wealthy man can hold this position. The *coulisse*, by the way, cannot possibly be done away with, neither is it intended to do so, and M. Cochery fully realises that the dealings in the *coulisse*, or unofficial market in French Rentes, for instance are absolutely necessary for the public credit. I have no doubt but that the reform of the Bourse will leave the position of the *coulisse* very much where it was. For instance, in stocks not officially quoted they will almost have a monopoly, and as no mining shares of any other par value than 100 fr. (£4) are officially quoted, the *coulisse* will retain the business in all the mining shares of a lower denomination, and more especially in those of 25 fr. (£1), which is the general run of the mining market. It is obvious, therefore, that the reforms now contemplated will not hurt the South African market to any extent, and if there is any fault to find with the movement it is that the reforms will not go far enough, and will not do away altogether with the antiquated usages practised on the Paris Bourse.

The Kaffir Circus Still Nervous.

The rally in the Kaffir Circus had made room for a fresh reaction. Somehow or other, people appear to think that something is going to happen in South Africa which will interfere with the market. From all accounts which I have been able to obtain, however, there is nothing in this nervous state of apprehension. President Kruger is not, perhaps, in the best of humours with this country, and various hints have been thrown out that the Volksraad means to disavow the suzerainty. As far as I can learn, Oom Paul is not going to proceed to such extremes, but he will temporise, especially in view of the fact that the foreign complications of this country are gradually being solved, so that there is no chance of taking Great Britain at a disadvantage just now. Mr. Chamberlain is not going to trouble himself about the question of judges in the Transvaal, and on the other hand, the talk about the Transvaal Government putting a tax of fifteen per cent. on the revenue of the mining companies is evidently altogether irresponsible. There remains the unfavourable circumstance that the February crushings of the Witwatersrand mines cannot mark a record. To begin with, it is a short month, and it is known that native labour was scarce. On the other hand, this and more than this is fully discounted in the present low prices of South African shares. It is true that there may still be some wreckage to clear away from last account, but a considerable proportion of the stock which has recently been thrown on the market has undoubtedly found a resting-place in firm hands, and to this extent the position is distinctly improved. The most important decline has occurred in Rand Mines, which dropped at one time to 28, rallying to 28¾. All kinds of rumours have been current concerning the Deep Level mines, with the object of causing a relapse in these, but I fancy that the Deep Levels will defeat their enemies. I learn from my Johannesburg correspondent that very satisfactory progress continues to be made with the Deep Levels. The latest Company to strike the reef and to arrange its finances on a sound basis is the Knight's Deep, which owns 185 claims on the dip of the Glencairn and Witwatersrand Companies, and adjoins the Glen Deep on the east. The reef was struck in the "Robertson" or western shaft at a depth of 1,173 ft., and the assays vary from 8 dwt. to 20 dwt. over 4 ft. As regards finance, a loan of £400,000 has been arranged, in the form of debentures bearing interest at 5½ per cent., with the option to convert into Ordinary shares at £4 within two years. The principal and interest are guaranteed by the Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa, which Company, moreover, waives its right to call 29,500 shares, at £3 per share, a call granted in consideration of an existing loan of £88,500. As the Knight's Deep has 106,000 reserve shares unissued, the debenture loan is fully secured, and the arrangement must be considered a most satisfactory one from the shareholders' point of view. The large firm interested in Rand Mines, Limited, can, of course, by simply showing itself in the market again, put the price up two or three points, and I would strongly advise operators not to go short of these shares. There is no doubt that a great deal of "Bear" selling is going on just now, and the slightest improvement in the outlook would bring about a regular "Bear" squeeze, in Rand Mines, in Consolidated Goldfields, and in East Rands, which have been specially selected for attack by the ursine party. In most of the other shares the mere fact that stale "Bulls" have cleared out has caused slight falls, but the reaction has been by no means important, and in the case of a number of the lower-priced shares, bottom has evidently been reached. A rally in Chartered shares is ascribed to the communication made

by Mr. Chamberlain, according to which the Government does not object to the re-election by the shareholders of Mr. Cecil Rhodes on the board, and under these circumstances it is a foregone conclusion that at the meeting to be held on April 4, not only Mr. Rhodes, but also Mr. Beit, will be reappointed. I am glad that my suggestion, that the shareholders of the South African Gold Trust should reverse their decision with regard to the directors, has been adopted. At Monday's meeting of the shareholders a vote of confidence in the Board was passed, and the merits of the Chairman, Mr. H. E. M. Davies, were duly acknowledged by every speaker. It is satisfactory to know that the valuable services of the chairman will be retained by the Company. Diamond shares have displayed weakness, De Beers suffering from the nervous state of the Paris Bourse, and from the Russian scare, which have put the price down to 27¾. New Jagersfontein are also lower at 7¾.

Golden West Australia.

Although the surroundings were most discouraging, the "Kangaroo" department has kept up its spirits remarkably well. There have been declines in various directions, they but took place chiefly in the less-known mining shares, while advices from the colony are in every respect satisfactory. The latest from Western Australia is the announcement that the coal discoveries are proving most important, and that several collieries will soon be at work. This will be of considerable importance to the mines, as the wood surrounding the better-known properties is being cut down to such an extent that little fuel will be left for the use of the mines. The production of gold goes on steadily, although for February the exports fell off. This, however, is evidently only a temporary circumstance, due to accidental causes, and March is expected to prove all the more favourable, a record crushing being looked for. During the past week the following crushings have been reported:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per ton.
Great Boulder Proprietary	1,413	3,220	—
North Boulder	341	350	—
Cuddingwarra	335	335	—
Golden Arrow	98	101	—
Australian Champion Reef	373	168	—
Champion Extended and Home Rule	785	396	—
St. Agnes Gold Reefs	370	162	—
Crown United	40	19	—
Burbanks Consols	18	14½	—
Queensland Menzies	220	670	—
Princess Royal (Cue)	130	126	—
Belle Vue Proprietary	186	210	—
Australia United	210	439	—
Norseman	697	515	—
Bayley's United (tailings)	679	842	—
Menzies Consolidated	650	597	—
Ivanhoe Gold	929	1,497	14 dwts.
White Feather Main Reef	600	380	—
White Feather Reward Claim	527	282¼	—
Hannan's Brownhill (Sands and Slimes)	994	1,840	—
Light of Asia Amalgamated	200	189	—
Menzies Crusoe	133	106	10 dwt.
,, ,, (Cyanide)	800	600	—
,, ,, (Plates)	—	93	—
Menzies Gold Reefs	60	102	14 dwt.
Burbank's Birthday Gift	460	851	—
Hannan's Reward (Cement)	513	86	1 dwt.
Robinson (W.A.)	415	292	—

The Great Boulder Proprietary is steadily going on with a large output. Some of the trial crushings above referred to are not, perhaps, very encouraging, but other returns must be considered as exceedingly satisfactory. An announcement which caused at one time a considerable improvement in Lake View Consols, now quoted 9¼, has been that of another dividend of 10s. per share, making £1 per share so far declared; but I do not suppose that the price of Lake View Consols will rise to any considerable extent until the crushings become larger, which should occur when the new battery gets to work. According to the latest cablegram from the mine, the ten additional stamps were expected to start on March 6, and should therefore now be crushing. It also appears that the filter presses have only just been delivered complete, and these will commence to run on March 21. The news concerning the developments at the 300 ft. level is also very satisfactory. The special settlement of the Ivanhoe Mine has at last been fixed for the 17th inst. The news from that property is in every respect satisfactory, and seems to point to a considerable advance in the price of the shares. Further meetings of the various sub-Companies of the London and Globe Finance Corporation have been held, and there seems now to be a distinct change in the views taken by those who are seeking to guide the opinions of the shareholders. The fact is that the latter are realising that unless they agree to the amalgamation there will have to be reconstruction, in which case they will have to put their hands in their pockets to find more working capital. If, on the other hand, the scheme of the London and Globe Corporation is accepted, this company will guarantee the finding of the working capital. The policy which has now been adopted, to ask the shareholders at large to signify their wishes by filling in a form as to whether they would prefer amalgamation to reconstruction, is undoubtedly a correct one, and I sincerely hope that the shareholders will take the trouble to fill up these forms. That will place the directors and members of the shareholders' committee too, in a position to fulfil their desires. Personally, I repeat the view that amalgamation would be to the greater advantage of the shareholders, and that it would be more likely to recoup them at an earlier date for the losses and disappointments they have experienced. The West Australian Market Trust group has again shown great strength, and Northern Territories have now gone ahead to 4¾, on a cablegram received from Port Darwin by the *Financial News*, according to which the properties are phenomenally rich, especially the Eureka and Howley. It is stated that in the former there is sufficient high-grade ore in sight to keep forty heads of stamps at work for several years. A new mill is in course of erection, and it is reported that the cyanide plant is at work on the tailings, of which about 50,000 tons are stated to be available from old Chinese workings, running from 1 oz. to 3 oz. per ton. Some remarkable trial crushings are reported, but the cablegram states that the general value at the 150-ft. levels is roughly 6 oz. West Australian Loan and General Finance shares are steady at 2 1/16, and a large business has been transacted in West Australian Joint Stock Founders' shares at 1 to 1⅛. In view of coming dividends these shares are considered very promising. The news from the Australia Mine of the Associated Gold Mines is exceedingly favourable, and the price of the latter shares is close upon 4. Great Boulder Proprietary have been dull and lower at 21s. but a recovery does not appear to be far off. I hear that the West Boulder Company require some further working capital, and that a reconstruction has been arranged, in connection with which the amount necessary has already been guaranteed by substantial men. From the Central Boulder advices are of the most favourable character, and it is expected that this will prove a very rich property. A further issue of shares will be made in order to energetically work the property, and this will be offered to the shareholders in the first instance, although the whole amount has been guaranteed. Mr. John Waddington, who has just returned from Western Australia, brings some very favourable news concerning this property, and also with respect to the karri and jarrah industry. In fact, I believe he has some important concessions in connection with these in his pocket. Hannan's Proprietary have eased off to 16s. 6d., but in the new account they will doubtless again advance, as the news from the property continues in every respect satisfactory. West Australian Goldfields have been dull at 1⅞ while Hampton Plains have given rise to but small dealings at 15/16. In the London and West Australian Exploration group, Hannan's Brownhill have been firm, but after rising to 8¼, have reacted to 8. A steady business has been transacted in East Murchison United

at 1, in Consolidated Murchison at 5s. 3d. West Australian Venture Corporation shares have improved to 6s. on a very favourable report which has been received from Field's Find. Lady Shenton's have risen to 2½ buyers, and there is reason to anticipate a jump in these shares at an early date. Golden Horseshoes have shown weakness, and are quoted 7$\frac{1}{16}$. According to mail information the main shaft on this property was on January 25 down 324 ft. There has been little doing in Great Boulder Perseverance and Kalgurli, and Belle Vue Proprietary have been fairly steady at 1$\frac{1}{16}$. At Monday's meeting of shareholders in the Corsair Consolidated, Limited, the proposal made by the vendors to hand over to the Company two new properties, and the scheme of reconstruction connected therewith, were unanimously adopted. There is every prospect that the Company will now retrieve its fortunes, and it is gratifying that the vendors have behaved so handsomely in the matter

Indian, Australasian, and British Columbian Mines.

In the Indian mining section a firm tone has prevailed, notwithstanding the surrounding depression. Movements have, however, been slight, and with the exception of a decline in Ooregum and a rise in Goldfields of Mysore, no changes have to be reported. Yet crushings continue most satisfactory, especially at the Mysore Gold Mine. Amongst Australian mines, other than West Australian, Broken Hill Proprietary have advanced, and New Australian Broken Hill are also firmer; but Mount Lyell, Mount Lyell North, and Aladdin's Lamp have given way. In Charters Towers mines Day Dawn P.C., Brilliant and St. George United, and Brilliant are all lower. In the New Zealand section losses have preponderated, notably in Waihi Silverton, Komata Reefs, Kauri Freehold, and Waitekauri; but Taitapu Estates are firmer. In the British Columbian department movements have been irregular. Hall Mines have been better, but B.C. Financial Trust and London and B.C. Goldfields have receded. New Goldfields of British Columbia are lower, while Fairview have hardened. British America Corporation shares, after rising to 3s. 3d. premium, are easier at 2s. 9d. premium; but the Hon. C. H. Mackintosh has now arrived with a number of reports and documents concerning the holdings of this Company in British Columbia, and it is expected that an important advance will take place shortly. By the way, several interviews are published which Mr. Mackintosh had before starting for this side. Amongst these is one which appeared in the *Rossland Miner* of February 8, which gives very favourable statements concerning the position of the Company, and seems to fully dispose of recent criticisms. I also gather from the *British Columbia Mining Critic* that the British America Corporation has now bought the Argenteuil claim on the North fork of Salmon river—a very promising district indeed, and has bought for $285,000 another important Rossland mine, the Columbia and Kootenay. My British Columbian contemporary also states that the British America Corporation has secured, at a price stated to be $25,000, Mr. E. Haney's interests in the Pack Train and Legal Tender mining claims on Nickel Plate flat. Mr. Haney's interest was contested, but the corporation has acquired the opposing rights, and now controls the ownership of the property. It is further reported that the British America Corporation has secured the Whoop-Up on Sophie Mountain, the sale of which has been already reported. In the general foreign section, Tolima "A" and "B" have hardened; but Consolidated Goldfields of California have been extremely flat, and there have also been declines in Montana and Bassett. Mexican gold mines have been steady, Grand Central at 1$\frac{13}{16}$, Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico at 1$\frac{3}{16}$, Campana at ¾.

Where are J. Edwards & Co. Now?

On February 24 I mentioned the experience of a reader of Truth in connection with certain "operations" of J. Edwards & Co., outside stock and share brokers, Talbot House, Arundel-street, Strand, W.C., and I stated that these people, who have hitherto boasted all along of enormous profits realised for their clients, admitted under date of February 16 that "the workings of the operation in Caledonian Deferred stock opened on February 9, 1898, have proved so unfortunate as to involve the total loss of the cover subscribed." The number of communications which have since reached me concerning J. Edwards & Co. has caused me to make inquiries at Talbot House, when I discovered that the persons trading under this name had left several weeks ago without giving any new address. I am not at all surprised at this collapse, which I have been anticipating for some time. What I cannot understand is, that notwithstanding my repeated warnings, persons could still be found foolish enough to trust these syndicate touts. J. Edwards & Co. held out much longer than many of the others, chiefly because they were not within reach of the City Solicitor. Had their domicile been within the City, they would long ago have made acquaintance with the law. Where they may have gone to is at present impossible to tell, but I should not be at all surprised if the same persons were to crop up elsewhere under a different name. I cannot refrain from quoting from the last circular of these individuals which came under my notice, and was dated February 7, in which the boast was made that forty-three different operations had during the past few weeks been successfully closed at profits ranging from 20 to 201½ per cent. I have frequently argued that if these touts could make the enormous profits of which they boasted, they would make them for their own account, and have retired as millionaires long ago, instead of realising them for entire strangers. As it is, they are merely clumsy touts, who rake in the money of foolish people, pay up on one or two "operations," and, after having induced their subscribers to increase their stakes, decamp with the lot, and nothing more is heard of them.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

Lipton, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire as a going concern the business of Sir Thomas J. Lipton, which deals with tea, coffee, fruit preserving, cake and biscuit baking, confectionery, provisions, and general food products. The principal warehouse is in the City-road, with branches distributed all over England, Scotland, and Ireland. The Company also acquire several tea estates in Ceylon. The capital is fixed at £2,000,000, divided into Preference and Ordinary shares of £1 each, with a Four per Cent. Debenture issue of £500,000. The Ordinary shares are issued at 5s. premium.

A. Baker & Co., Limited.—With a capital of £200,000 in shares of £1 each, this Company has been formed for the purpose of purchasing the business of manufacturing and retail tobacconists carried on by A. Baker & Co. at 65, Holloway-road, with branches in the metropolis and suburbs.

The Patent Double Pick Loom Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire and work the inventions of Messrs. Slicer & d'Andria for the patent double pick loom, which have been secured for the United Kingdom and other countries. The share capital has been fixed at £150,000 in shares of £1 each.

The purchase price of this invention is to be £100,000, and the prospectus states that the German and Belgian patents have been sold for £80,000. The prospective profits are put down at £50,000. Is not this a little too transparent? It certainly ought to put investors on their guard. If as good as represented, the patent should be worth more than £20,000.

The Lake Bennett and Klondike Steam Navigation Company, Limited.—With a capital of £150,000, in £1 shares, this Company is formed for the purpose of establishing a line of steamers to trade from the head of Lake Bennett to Dawson City.

The prospectus states that this Company has a practical monopoly of the trade and passenger traffic to Klondike, but they wisely state "during the ensuing season." After that time there will, of course, come a flood of competition, and the expected profitable returns may be found wanting.

The Maximum of Effect at the Minimum of Cost.—An Object Lesson in Decorating and Furnishing can be obtained by inspecting Messrs. Waring's Suites of furnished rooms at 175-181, Oxford-st. W.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

Calm.—1. The new Chinese Loan cannot obviously be a safe investment, it would not bear such high interest if it were. The security is a reasonable one, but in your position you should run no risk, and should be satisfied with a yield of about 3 per cent. in gilt-edged securities. 2. The same applies to this. *F. N.*—Quite so. I am glad you are profiting by my advice as regards Uruguay bonds, which from 40 have advanced to 44½. *Reader, Finchley-road.*—It is impossible to recommend an absolutely safe South American Government stock, but I consider Uruguay bonds a good investment at the present price, and if you had bought the same when I recommended them at 40 you would have done better than buying now at 44½. *Beaulieu.*—It is really impossible to talk about safety in connection with South American Government securities or other securities yielding a high rate of interest, such as Chilians, Mexicans, Chinese, and Japanese. At their present prices they are fair investments, but there is always an element of risk connected with them.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Constant Reader, Belfast.—If you are a regular reader of Truth you must know that my advice is to deal only through members of the Stock Exchange, and to leave outside concerns alone. *Finance.*—You would obviously forfeit the shares by not paying up, and all the same be liable for the calls, so that there is no option but to pay. *A. W. J.*—I cannot reply by letter. 1. No; I do not consider that this Bank is in a sound position. 2. To some extent fully merited. 3 to 5. You will find a leading article on this Bank in the *Citizen* of February 26, which will enlighten you fully. I. Do not deal with outside brokers. II. Of course, they are not members of the Stock Exchange but outside brokers. With regard to the mining matter referred to, there is no such exchange now, and it never had any chance of succeeding. *J. T. P.*—The documents are returned. You appear to have some cause for complaint, but I cannot help you in the matter. If you wish to employ a sharp City solicitor I will, on receipt of a stamped and addressed envelope, send you the name of such a firm. At the same time, I have so frequently warned my readers against having anything to do with outside brokers that I am surprised at your having any dealings with them. *L. M. M.*—I really could not take any responsibility as regards the solvency of the people you inquire about, and personally I doubt very much whether it will be possible to recover any of this money.

Home Rails.

B. T. R.—There is no special reason for getting out of Midland Deferred and Preferred at present. I, however, consider Dover "A" and Great Central 1894 Ordinary more promising investments. *Deva.*—1. I have again referred to the actual position of Great Central 1894 Ordinary in to-day's issue under "Home Rails." 2. I should prefer Glasgow and South Western to London and South Western Deferred, but even better investments are Caledonian Deferred (Coras) and Dover "A." *X. Y. Z.*—Obviously a clerical error. The yield at present is, as you say, 7½ per cent. per annum. *Pilot.*—I quite agree with you that Great Central 1894 Ordinary at present price are a good investment. *Perplexed.*—You do not seem to understand that the dividend of 3 per cent. per annum on Great Central 1894 Ordinary stock is only payable until the opening of the extension to London, but there is every prospect of good dividends being earned eventually. *G. O. P.*—I should think that Dover "A" and Coras (Caledonian Deferred) would be the best speculative purchase.

American and Foreign Rails.

Leo.—The trouble about the Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia) Railway is that the mine belonging to the guaranteeing Company, the Huanchaca Mine, is flooded, thus rendering the position somewhat doubtful. After the heavy fall it would be advisable to hold, but you should not average yet. *F. L.*—Yes, you should certainly hold Baltimore and Ohio bonds, as the reorganisation plan is in course of preparation. *F. C., Ramsgate.*—1. I do not recommend the purchase. 2. After the heavy fall I should think that it would be better to hold now. The dividend will, of course, be considerably curtailed in view of the bad traffics. 3. I do not think there is any fear of war breaking out between the United States and Spain, and you had better hold your American Rails. *Skipper.*—1 and 2. No reason to sell. 3. Certainly hold Union Pacifics, there is every prospect of an important improvement. *Dum.*—After the heavy fall, I think it would be better to hold these Debentures. *James.*—It is really impossible to give an opinion on this matter without having all the documents before one, and I think you had better consult a solicitor.

Mining Shares.

L. A. C.—This is not the time to sell South African or any other mining shares, and you should hold all yours, No. 1 to 9. Ivanhoe (10), British America Corporation (11), and Narket Trusts (12), are good purchases; and No. 13 will doubtless recover. *Scot.*—1. These shares have declined in sympathy with the general collapse in the South African Market, and there is no option but to hold. 2. Hold for a recovery. 3. Do not sell Sheba now. *Lincolnshire.*—If you want to speculate in South Africans you might select such leading shares as Rand Mines, Consolidated Goldfields, East Rands, Randfontein, and Glencairn. *Shirley.*—This is a very doubtful concern, and prospects are by no means satisfactory. *Sphinx.*—Amongst the mining shares mentioned by you I consider the following the best purchase:—Lady Shenton, Randfontein, British America Corporation, and W.A. Market Trusts. *Z.*—1. I do not advise a purchase of Chaffers now. 2. Not at present. 3. Yes, you might average South African Gold Trusts. *Weekly Reader.*—Yes, Lady Shentons are good enough to hold for twice the present price. You had better double your holding in these rather than buy the other shares mentioned. See remarks elsewhere with regard to J. Edwards & Co. *Heinrich.*—I think that the improvement in West Australian Loan and General Finance shares speaks for itself. Brokers are very fond of repeating the claptrap which they hear from other people. No reason to sell. *Shareholder.*—These West Australian Syndicate shares have been very disappointing, but they should be held, as, with a general recovery, they will also doubtless improve. *One Interested.*—I have for a long time expressed an unfavourable view of the Guadalcazar Quicksilver Mines, and still hold the same opinion. *Cribden.*—You should hold all your mining shares for an improvement, and if you wish to make a further purchase you should buy Lady Shentons and Florence shares. A. The British-America Corporation is promising. B. I think that Tangier shares, which are similar, are preferable now as the price is lower—viz., 1⅜. D. Sons of Gwalia shares are promising, as are also Brownhill Central (E). *Jimmy.*—The South African market is at present very flat, and when it recovers these shares will probably improve. *Gracedieu.*—You should certainly hold Randfontein for a marked improvement. *Twyn.*—1. There is very little market for these shares at present, and there is no option but to hold. 2. I am afraid that the management is bad. 3. No option but to hold. *Warwick.*—No; I do not advise a purchase of these shares. This mine has nothing to do with the Lake View Consols. *K. M.*—You have done quite right in buying Florence shares (1) and Sons of Gwalia (2), which you should hold for a rise. As regards No. 3, you probably have a profit now, which you should take and reinvest in No. 3 (Tangier). Sell No. 4 on an improvement. *J. R. Paisley.*—I have referred to the question of J. Edwards & Co. in a separate paragraph. Hannan's Props. should be held for an important improvement. They have been taken in hand by a strong group, and the news from the property is very favourable.

Industrial Shares.

Nemo, Watford.—No; I do not advise the purchase. *J. J.*—A fair investment, but no catch. *Hifa.*—The following Industrial Debentures should suit you:—Millwall Docks Perpetual Five per Cent. Debenture stock at 152½; Gordon Hotels Four and a Half per Cent. Debenture stock at 137½; Savoy Hotel Four per Cent. Debenture stock at 112½; Courage & Co. Four per Cent. Debenture stock at 129; Guinness Five per Cent. Debenture stock at 122, and Parker's Burslem Four per Cent, First Mortgage Debenture stock at 113. 1. A fair investment, but at present I do not care for Dock stocks. 2. A fair investment. *Water Gruel.*—There is no official quotation for this stock. *Erie.*—1. Fish oils are a most speculative share, and I should not advise you to have anything to do with them. 2. This is a highly speculative and dangerous investment. 3. So high that a collapse might come about any time. 4. A fair investment at present price. 5. I do not care for these, or for Nos. 6 and 7. *Mother.*—As regards Industrial debentures see reply above to "Hifa." I cannot tell you when an official quotation of the new Welsbach stocks will be granted, but the present price of Welsbach Preferred stock is 101½, so that the value of the £5 Preference shares works out to slightly over 5. I cannot possibly express an opinion with regard to the Industrial issue in question until I have full particulars before me. You will find the information you require in the *Citizen*, which is published weekly (on Saturdays) at 10, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C., price 1d. *Cymro.*—Yes, I think you might with advantage exchange into Lady Shenton shares. *M. J. R.*—No, I do not advise investment in City and West-End Properties Prefs. *Derby Ram.*—No, I do not care for Bread shares, for which there is not always a ready market. *Investor, Grimsby.*—The capital of this Company is £200,000 in shares of £10 each, half being Five and a Half per Cent. Preference shares, and the other half Ordinary shares, in addition to £150,000 Four and a Half per Cent. Debenture stock. The Prefs. are a fair investment of the kind. *Roland.*—(*A*) A fair industrial investment, but, of course, speculative; you cannot call such a share safe. (*B*) This is not a high-class Mortgage debenture. *Blackwood.*—I certainly do not advise the purchase of the two last-named industrial shares. The Electric Preference shares may do fairly well. *Acorn.*—See reply to "Hifa." *G. G.*—I have heard nothing against this concern, but I do not advise you to do any business with it. Deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. I do not advise a purchase of the cycle shares now, as the depression in this section does not appear to have passed off. Allsopps (6) at present are also very dangerous, and the Tin shares (1), too, are not promising.

Mixed Investments.

Deodora.—A. This is not a stock which comes under the ordinary range of investments. B. No reason to sell. C. Ditto. D. No option but to hold. E. These may recover again. F to I. Hold these for the present. J and K are good investments, and

L, M, and N are fair investments of the kind. *Vexatus.*—1. Your best plan is to hold the South African shares for a recovery, which appears to be close at hand. No option but to hold the other shares. I see no objection to putting the other money into Lloyd's Bank shares. *Ohio.*—The Funding Loan certificates are about to be repaid, as you will gather from my remarks last week under "South Americans—The Corporation of Foreign Bondholders' Report." The Baltimore and Ohio bonds should be held for a recovery, as the reorganisation which is now being arranged should put the roads on its legs again. *E. C. T.*—1. A fair industrial investment, but speculative. 2. Broken Hill Props. are speculative, owing to the fluctuations in the price of silver, but at the present price they seem to be fair value. 3. No particular reason to sell at a loss at present. *Another Mother, Ealing.*—1. You will find some Industrial debentures suitable for you mentioned in reply to "Hifa" under "Industrial Shares," but you will quite understand that these are not gilt-edged securities, and if you want such you cannot obtain more than from 2½ to 2¾ per cent., as in British Corporation stocks. 2. Great Central 1894 Ordinary is very promising, but the stock should be locked up for some time. *Quondam.*—Why do you deal with outside brokers, who take every advantage of any little quibble? I do not see how you can resist the matter. If you wish to do so, I will send you the name of a smart firm of City solicitors, on receipt of a stamped and addressed envelope. The South African mine mentioned has been very disappointing, and you should not throw good money after bad, but get out the best way you can. *N. M. T.*—1. You are quite right. Amongst Uruguay bonds the 5 per cent. Loan returns the highest yield, but the bonds are not so well placed, and you will find that in any movement the 3½ per cent. Loan will go more quickly. Do not make any change. 2. Not at present. 3. Certainly, Lady Shentons should be held for a very important improvement. 4 and 5. No catch. *Novice.*—Yes, I consider Central London Railway fully-paid Ordinary at 10⅞ a good investment, and there is every prospect of an advance. The brewery company is a local concern, about which no information is available here. *Holywell.*—1. You cannot possibly buy at the lowest quotation. I believe the price was then ¾ to ⅞, which means that the buying price was ⅞, and the selling price ¾; but it will not be a question of a small fraction, and you are sure to do well with the shares. 2. No particular catch. 3. Speculative. 5. Lady Shentons are the most promising.

Various Investments.

Money is not getting dear enough for some people, and the money-bags have been doing their utmost to raise rates. While I do not see any chance of really cheaper money for some time to come, I do not anticipate either that we shall get very high rates, unless exceptional circumstances should occur. Just at present the American demand is falling upon the Bank of France, while our own money market is in a strong position, and gold is being attracted to this centre. The Chinese Loan is, I am told, to be issued very shortly, and is already fully underwritten. I do not suppose that much gold will leave this country on account of this loan, as both China and Japan will have large amounts to meet here. Silver is again on the downgrade, having declined to 25$\frac{3}{16}$d., but Rupee Paper is steady at 63½. Owing to the rumoured Russian demands on China, the Chinese loans have declined the Five per Cent. Gold Loan to 100½, the Six per Cent. Gold Loan to 105, the Silver Loan to 101. Consols, which are now quoted ex dividend, are lower at 111¾ x.d., but this is not by any means a low quotation, and certainly does not indicate any serious alarm of capitalists concerning the political outlook, notwithstanding the semi-panic through which we are passing. In the Cycle section an irregular tendency has prevailed. Humber Ordinary are unaltered at 14s., while the Extensions have hardened to 7s. 6d. Cycle Components are slightly easier at 2⅛, and Swifts are quiet at ¾, Singers at 13s. 6d. Amalgamated Tyres remain flat at 5s., while Dunlop Deferred have risen to 14s. 9d., and French Dunlops are quoted 5s. Allsopp Ordinary have been dull at 151, and brewery stocks generally have been somewhat neglected. Bovril Deferred have been dealt in to a considerable extent at 11s. 6d., and the Ordinary are quoted 20s. Recent sales have not been effected by any one connected with the Company, and it is understood that large profits are being earned. Schweppes have been steady, the Deferred at 11s., the Ordinary at 1$\frac{3}{16}$. A sharp relapse occurred at one time in Welsbach Incandescent Gas Light shares, but prices are now somewhat above the lowest, the Ordinary at 115½, the Preferred at 101, the Deferred at 21s. Lyons shares have advanced to 3⅝ on a variety of rumours, most of which are unconfirmed. The rise would certainly not be justified merely by the acquisition of premises for a depot in Throgmorton-street. The dangerous gamble in Russian Petroleum shares, which have now risen to 21½ for the £10 shares, may collapse at any time. Hudson Bays, which at one time were so largely dealt in speculatively, have turned quite dull, and the price has fallen to 21¼. I have received several communications with reference to the liquidation of the firm of Eliot, Pearce & Co., bankers, Weymouth. This bank stopped payment on March 31, 1897, and up to date one dividend of 6s. 8d. in the £ has been paid. Many persons have lost their all, and the distress amongst these is great. It is really desirable that some more light should be thrown upon the whole matter, and I hope that the liquidator will publish a full report at an early date. The following advertisement recently appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*:—

> Large Profits.—Persons desirous of obtaining a very large return on their capital, combined with absolute safety, should write for particulars of one of the most lucrative investments of the day to Messrs. Davenport & Co., 18A, London-street, London, E.C.

A reader of Truth, who thereupon wrote to Davenport & Co., received from them a circular in which they recommended their "Double Operation Guaranteed System:—A mathematical and infallible method of making money by transactions in active securities quoted on the London Stock Exchange." Of course, Davenport & Co. promise immense profits without risk to those who favour them with subscriptions of either £5, £10, £20, £50, £100, and upwards. I have already explained on a former occasion that this double system consists of opening a "Bull" and "Bear" account in the same stock at the same time, a most curious combination which cannot, according to my lights, ever result in any satisfactory profit. Another outside broker is working under the title of "The Alliance Guarantee Syndicate," of 15, Great St. Helen's, E.C. He also patronises the advertising columns of the *Daily Telegraph*, the following advertisement having recently appeared:—

> How to Become a Modern Crœsus.—Investors having £5 and upwards should write for particulars of a highly-lucrative Investment. Interest paid weekly. Not a speculation.—Address Genuine, Box 9,365, Postal Department, Daily Telegraph, Fleet-street, E.C.

On replying to this advertisement a reader of Truth received a typewritten circular from the Alliance Guarantee Syndicate, proposing the investment of amounts of from £5 to £100, for which a weekly profit of £2 10s. on every £100 is promised. It appears from this document that the boom in British Columbia offers endless facilities for the employment of capital in the manner suggested by the Alliance Guarantee Syndicate, and as far as the somewhat hazy circular explains, the profits from which this large return is to be made are to be obtained by exercising options for the purchase of gold-bearing claims in the Kootenay goldfields. I should, however, strongly advise my readers to keep their money in their own pockets.—Your affectionate uncle,

MOSES.

P.S., Tuesday Morning.—Like a bolt from the blue the news of further action by Russia in China has come upon the Stock Markets, aggravating the depression which had already prevailed. The Cuban scare, too, assumed alarming proportions; but it almost looks as if, now that Spain has withdrawn her demand for the recall of General Lee, and that the question of the vessels to carry aid to the distressed Cubans has been adjusted, the incident might clear the air, and, at all events, calm somewhat the Jingo talk in the States, which has all along been the greatest source of danger. This view was this morning taken on the London Stock Exchange, which opened $1 above New York parity. The favourable decision in the Nebraska case would, under ordinary circumstances, have caused a smart advance, and it will in due time benefit the market, as it greatly improves the Railroad position.—M.

Brighton.—Norfolk Hotel.—Old-established County and Family Hotel. The best situation. Replete with comfort, style, and luxury. Moderate charges.—Jules A. Creighton, Manager.

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QUEER STORY.

MRS. BRABAZON'S BICYCLE GYMKHANA.

A BICYCLE gymkhana seems an innocent amusement enough on the face of it, but somehow the one that Mrs. Brabazon got up was responsible for several untoward consequences. For one thing it made deadly enemies of two people whose families had been close friends and allies for generations—but that, as Mr. Kipling says, is another story. Then it brought about the meeting of Captain Willis and Mrs. Davidson, and all the world knows what came of that—but that also is another story. Then as regards Jim Beresford and Mab Montague. Well, if it had not been for Mrs. Brabazon's Bicycle Gymkhana, Jim Beresford and Mab Montague might never—but that is the story I am going to tell, so I must not anticipate.

Mab was nineteen and very pretty, with the most kissable little face in the world, and a general air of fluffy innocence that made her look like an overgrown baby. Her ways were as pretty as her face, and she managed to charm and beguile all the men with whom she came in contact save and except General Tempest only. General Tempest was her guardian, and he was about as well fitted to occupy that position as is the usual round man to occupy the usual square hole—that is to say, he was not fitted at all. The fates that rule our destiny are not infallible, and when they decreed that the guardianship of Mab Montague should fall to the lot of General Tempest, they made a very grave mistake indeed. For he was a martinet of the most aggressive type, and a tyrant of the first water; intolerant, selfish, unjust, and ungenerous; the very last man who ought to have been set in authority over a high-spirited, warm-hearted, sensitive girl. He did not understand women, and did not try to; and his sole idea of dealing with them could be summed up in one comprehensive word—bullying. He had bullied Mab systematically and conscientiously during the ten years that she had lived under his roof, and she had stood it very well on the whole. For ten years she submitted to have her small follies and vanities sneered at, her opinions derided, and her feelings hurt, and made no open show of resentment or rebellion; but, at the end of that time, the inevitable climax came. It took the shape of two lovers. Mab loved the one and hated the other, and the General approved of the one and disapproved of the other.

There was a scene. Mab pleaded and protested, and expostulated, and wept floods of passionate tears, but the General was adamant. She could not touch him anywhere. The fancies of a love-sick girl, he declared in his most dogmatic manner, were beneath the serious consideration of any sensible man, and he should not consider them. The choice of a husband was not a matter in which she ought to expect to have a voice, and he should not allow her one. He did not wish her to marry Jim Beresford, and he did wish her to marry Philip Cunard, and she would have to marry Philip Cunard, and the sooner she made up her mind to it the better.

Then Mab dried her eyes and wept no more tears, but faced the General, holding her pretty head very erect, and told him that she intended to have a voice in the matter, whether he allowed her one or not, and to marry the man she loved in spite of him.

The General's face was a study. After she had said her say, he sat in silence for quite two minutes, choking with wrath and amazement. Then the storm broke, and raged with unabated fury, until Mab grew tired of listening to bitter and unjust speeches, and quietly left the room.

The General was a man of action as well as a man of words, and after that day he installed a grim, elderly maiden cousin at the head of the household, ostensibly to act as chaperon to Mab, but in reality to be a spy and check upon her actions. Poor Mab! The state of things was now very bad indeed. She had no privacy, and no liberty. She was not allowed to go out of the house alone, and she had no chance of writing or speaking to Jim Beresford, while Philip Cunard's hateful company was forced upon her constantly. Yet she did not despair. She knew that Jim loved her, and she trusted that in time all would be well. Only the time seemed so long. She was very young, and youth is always intolerant and impatient. The calm unruffled philosophy that weighs one thing with another and takes life as it comes is the growth of age and experience alone.

Matters had been in this uncomfortable state for some months, when Sir George Tempest, the General's elder brother and the head of the family, came to stay at East Hill. Now, Mab adored Sir George, who was always kind to her, and Sir George was very fond of Mab. Privately, he took her part in every way, and thought the General's treatment of her little short of brutal. Openly, however, he seldom interfered, or said a word on her behalf—not because he did not long to interfere and say a good many words on her behalf, but because such interference had no effect beyond that of further incensing the General, and so making things worse.

When one morning, as he was smoking a cigarette in the garden, Mab joined him with tears in her eyes and a most woe-begone expression on her face, he was very much upset.

"I am so miserable, Sir George," said Mab, "awfully miserable."

She broke off with a little sob, and Sir George coughed uneasily. He liked pretty girls, and he hated to see them cry.

"Are you, my dear?" he said, kindly. "I'm very sorry to hear it."

She slipped her hand through his arm, and gave it a little squeeze.

"I want to talk to you," she said. "May I?"

"But, my dear," objected Sir George, "you're going to cry, and I can't bear to see a woman cry, you know. It knocks me out of time altogether."

"No," said Mab, resolutely strangling a wild desire to laugh and sob at the same time. "I am not going to cry. I am not going to make you uncomfortable in any way. I am going to ask you to do something for me, that's all. Just one little tiny, weeny thing. Will you promise to do it?"

She flashed him a very eloquent glance from her big—yes—such pretty blue eyes! and Sir George resigned himself to his fate.

"Well, my dear," he answered, "you must tell me what you want first, and then if I can do it for you I will."

"Oh! you can do it," returned Mab, "you can do it if you will."

"Well, what is it, my dear?" asked Sir George.

She clasped her hands round his arm, and rubbed her soft cheek caressingly on his rough tweed shoulder.

"I want to ride in Mrs. Brabazon's Bicycle Gymkhana," she said, "and I'm afraid the General won't let me. Do arrange it for me, you dear old thing."

"Mrs. Brabazon's Bicycle Gymkhana," Sir George repeated; "I don't think I knew she was going to give one."

"Oh, yes!" said Mab "It is to be on the 15th. They were all talking about it at Mrs. Robinson's garden party yesterday. It will be no end of fun, and I'm simply dying to ride. Our invitation came this morning, I know, for I saw the card on the breakfast table."

Sir George shook his head.

"I'm afraid my brother won't let you ride, my dear," he said, reluctantly; "and I don't see what I can do in the matter."

Mab drew up her tiny figure to its full height, and faced him with flushed cheeks and flashing eyes.

"The General is a tyrant," she cried, passionately. "He has no heart, only a stone. He is hard and cruel and unjust. He thinks he can force me to give up the man I love, and compel me to marry the man I hate, but he will find out his mistake. No woman worth the name was ever forced in matters of that kind. If he were my father it would be different, but he is not my father. If there were anything against Jim, it would be different; but there is nothing against him. He is the best man in the world, and I will never give him up; never! I will stand

by him through everything, and at all costs." Then suddenly, all the passion died out of her face, and her eyes grew dark again with unshed tears. "Do you think me very wicked?" she asked, in a weary, hopeless tone that went straight to Sir George's kind heart. "Perhaps I am. I don't know. I only know that I am very, very unhappy."

Sir George took her hand in his and patted it soothingly.

"There, there, my dear," he said, "never mind. You mustn't cry, or I shall have to run away."

"I won't cry," said Mab, "I promised I wouldn't, and I won't, but—but—Oh! Sir George, Jim will be at Mrs. Brabazon's. He is going to ride, and if I could ride too, perhaps I might get a word with him—just one word. You wouldn't grudge me that, would you?"

"I, my dear?" said Sir George, rather huskily, "I wouldn't grudge you any number of words. I like Beresford, you know. I consider him a very fine young fellow, and good enough for you—and that is the highest praise I can bestow on any man, for only the very best is good enough for you."

Mab laughed to save a sob.

"Don't," she said, with a little catch in her voice—"don't talk to me like that! I'm not used to it, and I shall only do something silly and annoy you."

Sir George patted her hand again.

"I am afraid I can't help you, my dear," he said, "so you'd better give up thinking about it. If I were to try and persuade my brother to let you ride, it would only make him all the more determined not to let you. You know he always does exactly the reverse of what I want him to do."

Mab nodded.

"I know he does," she said, "and that is just why I think you can help me so well. If you try to persuade him to let me ride, of course it will make him determined not to let me, but if you try and persuade him not to let me ride, there is just the off-chance that it may make him determined to let me, just to show you that he won't take any interference from you. Do you see?"

Sir George looked doubtful.

"Oh! yes, I see," he answered, "but it's a poor chance, a very poor chance. I shouldn't pin my faith to it, my dear, if I were you."

"But will you try it?" Mab cried eagerly, "Oh! do say you will try it. Do."

Very few men could have resisted the look in her uplifted eyes, and Sir George did not try to resist it.

"Yes, I'll try it, my dear," he answered. "I'll try it, but I don't think it will be any good."

A joyful light flashed over her eloquent face.

"You dear old thing!" she cried. "Oh! you dear old thing! I love you better than any one in the world, except Jim. It's awfully good of you to try and help me, and I'll never forget your kindness, even if you don't succeed; and—and—Oh! would you mind going now, at once? Do go now. I can't bear suspense, it maddens me. I would far rather know the worst."

"Very well," said Sir George, good-naturedly. "I'll go now, my dear, but don't—don't be too hopeful."

He found the General sitting at his writing table in the library with Mrs. Brabazon's card before him. His pen was in his hand, and he was just on the point of writing an answer when Sir George entered the room.

"Oh! it's you," he grunted, when he saw who the intruder was, "Sit down for a minute, will you, while I answer this thing. I'll talk to you afterwards"

Sir George strolled up to the writing table, with his hands in his pockets and the most indifferent air he could assume.

"What is that?" he asked, nodding towards the card.

The General snorted contemptuously,

"An invitation to Mrs. Brabazon's Bicycle Gymkhana," he answered "Really there seems to be no limit to the rot that people inundate one with nowadays. A Bicycle Gymkhana indeed! What next?"

Sir George nodded.

"What next!" he echoed. "Of course you're going to refuse."

"Humph!" grunted the General.

"Of course you won't go to it," Sir George went on, feeling like a nineteenth century Machiavelli, "and as for letting Mab ride, why of course you would never think of such a thing."

The General looked up sharply.

"Why?" he asked.

"Why?" echoed Sir George, assuming quite a judicial tone. "Oh, because it would be a very ill-advised thing to do, a very ill-advised thing indeed. Ten to one young Beresford will be there, and if you take my advice——"

"Confound your advice!" spluttered the General, turning purple with rage, "Confound your advice, sir! Keep it till it's asked for. You may be my elder brother and the head of the family, but I'll see you at Hanover before I'll be dictated to and domineered over by you. What do I care for young Beresford? What do I care for fifty young Beresfords? Am I such a fool that I can't manage a girl of nineteen? If I choose that Mab shall ride in this rotten show, she shall ride. And if she rides I'll see that she conducts herself properly, in spite of young Beresford or young anybody else."

Sir George stroked his moustache to conceal a smile.

"I didn't mean to put your back up," he said, "I only thought——"

"Then you shouldn't think," raved the General. "What business have you to think about my affairs? Things are coming to a pretty pass, a very pretty pass indeed, when I'm hectored and brow-beaten in my own house, first by an ignorant, ungrateful child, and then by my own brother. But I won't stand it, George. I'm a mild-tempered man, as all the world knows, but I won't take interference from anybody. I shall go to Mrs. Brabazon's Bicycle Gymkhana, and I shall let Mab ride, so there's an end to the matter. It's no good arguing with me. My mind is made up."

Sir George smiled again as he sauntered out of the room to rejoin Mab in the garden.

"The child's a thorough woman, though she looks such a baby," he mused. "A wilful woman, too; and a wilful woman must have her way." And then he quoted four lines of an old rhyming proverb, smiling still more—

> That man's a fool who tries, by force or skill,
> To stem the current of a woman's will;
> For if she will, she will; you may depend on't—
> And if she won't, she won't; and there's an end on't.

* * * * *

The day of Mrs. Brabazon's Bicycle Gymkhana dawned fresh and fair—an ideal June day of cloudless skies and golden sunshine, glad with the song of birds and sweet with the scent of roses. The large lawn in front of the house was a very gay and animated scene indeed, when the East Hill party arrived. The tracks were all marked out with brightly-coloured flags that waved and fluttered in the breeze, and a band discoursed sweet music under the trees. Most of the competitors had already assembled, and were laughing and talking in groups, criticising the arrangements, and discussing one another's chances of carrying off the prizes, which were temptingly displayed on a little table outside the drawing-room window.

Mab went to get her number, escorted by Miss Tempest, and then returned at once to her party to wait under the General's personal supervision until the races began. She looked nervous and excited, and her eyes kept wandering wistfully over the laughing crowd towards a little group of which Jim Beresford formed the centre. The most formal of bows was the only greeting that had passed between them, and Sir George wondered how they would manage to exchange any words directly under the lynx eyes of the General and Miss Tempest. That they did manage it some way subsequent events showed, but how, when, and where, Sir George was never able to make out.

At three o'clock the starting bell sounded, and a little flutter ran through the expectant crowd. Mab sprang to her saddle as lightly as a bird, and wheeled swiftly away to join the groups that were collecting at the head of the tracks. Very pretty and very dainty she looked in her fresh white bicycling suit. Her cheeks were flushed with

excitement, her eyes shone like stars, and the perfect poise of her slender figure, swaying lightly and easily with every motion of the wheel that she guided so skilfully, gave the lie direct to the oft-made assertion that bicycling is an ungraceful and unbecoming exercise for women.

"Go!" cried the starter; and away flew half-a-dozen girls, dropping potatoes into flower-pots as they went.

Mab was the most successful one. She managed to drop all the homely vegetables with which her hands were filled into the receptacles provided for them, and quite a little round of applause greeted her as she rode back to the starting-point, looking prettier than ever.

"Well done, Miss Montague!" said the starter, and then he began to marshal another line of girls into something approaching order.

Race followed race in quick succession, and the afternoon wore on. Of course they had an egg and spoon race, and a tortoise race, and a serpentine race, and all the usual exciting events. The last and most successful of all was the musical ride, in which Mab distinguished herself afresh by playing the guitar and singing a fashionable plantation song in a way that elicited a perfect storm of applause from the audience. Jim Beresford clapped louder than anybody, but he kept his distance.

Then came tea under the trees, and as soon as the General had swallowed a cup he began to think about going. He always liked to be as nearly as possible the last to arrive at entertainments, and the first to leave. That was one of his amiable weaknesses.

"Now, Mab," he said, standing up.

Sir George, who was sitting by Mab, saw a look of utter dismay and consternation flash over her expressive face; but the next moment she was walking decorously by her guardian's side towards their hostess.

"Going!" exclaimed Mrs. Brabazon, making no attempt to take the General's proffered hand. "Oh! nonsense. I can't hear of such a thing. You mustn't take Mab away, and break up my party like this. Why, the prizes haven't been given yet, and Mab has won two. Besides, there is another race to come off after tea—an extra event that we only put in this afternoon after the programme was made up. It was Mab's suggestion, too, and she persuaded me to have it, so you must let her take part in it. Sit down again, please, and don't say any more about going till I give you permission."

The General was bearish, but he was also by way of being a gentleman, and he could not very well refuse his hostess, so he gave in with the best grace he could muster.

Sir George looked down at Mab.

"What is the extra event, my dear?" he asked. "If it's your suggestion, it's sure to be something good."

She laughed, and the pretty colour deepened in her cheeks.

"Oh! it's only a trick race," she explained. "Everybody is to show off their own special trick, you know. No restrictions."

"Oh! is that all?" said Sir George. "It will be very amusing, I dare say. What is your special trick, my dear?"

She laughed again.

"Wait and see," she said. "Wait and see."

The extra event proved to be most amusing, and quite the feature of the entertainment. All the competitors gave some special performance on which they prided themselves, and some of them were very funny indeed.

"This was a good suggestion of yours, Miss Montague," said the starter, between shouts of laughter. "It's brought out some queer exhibitions, by Jove! And now, how about your turn? I think it's time for you to show us what you can do, isn't it?"

Mab grew rather pale, and a curious look of mingled defiance and amusement flashed into her eyes.

"All right," she said, "I'll show you."

Sir George from his place in the audience watched her attentively as she started off, riding very slowly and carefully.

"I wonder what she is going to do," he said.

Just then a furious exclamation broke from the General.

"Look at that! Look at that, I say! Under my very eyes, too! What does it mean? What the—the deuce does it mean?"

Sir George looked, and as he looked he could not repress a smile. For as Mab rode along, Jim Beresford wheeled out from the crowd and joined her, and they rode side by side and hand in hand, while the spectators looked on wonderingly.

"I suppose," said Sir George, "they are going to do something together—a sort of Gretna Green race it looks like."

It did indeed. At that point Jim and Mab reached the end of the track, and suddenly unclasped their hands. A moment later they had put on speed, and were racing down the lawn towards the drive as if they were racing for dear life.

"Stop them, can't you!" shrieked the General, addressing himself to the crowd at large and dancing about in a perfect frenzy. "Stop them! Stop them! What the devil—the devil! Stop them, I say! Stop them!"

But the spectators only looked wonderingly at one another, for they did not at all grasp what had happened. By the time they realised the fact that Jim and Mab were not performing a trick in the common or gymkhana sense of the term, pursuit was practically useless, for the runaways had left the park far behind them, and were speeding along the high road in the direction of the nearest railway station as fast as two 1898 first grade machines could carry them.

Then Mrs. Brabazon's Bicycle Gymkhana came to an abrupt close.

MUSIC.

ANOTHER "DIPLOMA" DEPOT.

About a year ago I devoted some attention to certain schemes put before the public for musical examinations and the granting of more or less valuable diplomas. Some of these enterprises are still existent, and no doubt are reaping an excellent harvest, while others seem to have gone under. A new scheme has been started, though not, I think, under the limited liability plan, or, at any rate, I cannot find any record of it at Somerset House. It seems to be entitled the "Music Teachers' Guild, British and Colonial"; its offices are at 73, Berners-street, and its secretary, *pro tem.* is Mr. F. W. Chanot. Parenthetically it may be remarked that Mr. Chanot is a violin maker and importer and publisher of violin music at 73, Berners-street, aforesaid. The new Guild is declared to be the result of a remark made by Sir John Stainer at the last conference of the Incorporated Society of Musicians. Sir John was speaking about the real or supposed necessity of securing from parliament a registration of teachers. This the new Guild, amusingly enough proposes to do. Like the rest of her Majesty's subjects, it has the power to grant diplomas, and it proposes to do so to teachers "after thoroughly testing their qualifications, the test, apparently a mere arithmetical one, being the number of pupils they have already passed." Then, of course, the teachers who have paid for these valuable documents will possess for their money all the honour which Mr. Chanot, the violin maker and importer, and his friends can bestow. The following is Mr. Chanot's letter, addressed to a musician, whose opinion of it may be judged by the appearance of the document in these columns:—

Music Teachers' Guild, British and Colonial.

73, Berners-street, W.,
21.2.98.

Dear Sir,—It was mentioned at the recent conference of the Incorporated Society of Musicians that the society had long but ineffectually sought to secure the registration of teachers, and Sir

Look to your Drains.—Have the Drainage and Water Supply of your residences Examined and Certificated by Carter Bros., 65, Victoria-st., S.W. Consulting Sanitary Engineers Hotel Cecil, &c.

John Stainer dwelt on the very unsatisfactory status of music teachers in this country. Numerous teachers who are quite unfitted for their occupation at present take pupils, to the detriment of competent members of the profession. It is for the purpose of protecting *bona fide* teachers that the Music Teachers' Guild has been founded. Its work will be to grant diplomas to teachers after thoroughly testing their qualifications.

The system of tests adopted will be based on the actual work of the teacher, and its value as demonstrated by the number of his pupils who have successfully passed the examinations of the Royal Academy of Music, the Royal College of Music, Trinity College, London, the Royal College of Organists, and such other institutions as may be approved by the Council.

A representative council is being formed, and will include most of the leading members of the profession, and I am instructed to say that the Guild will be pleased if your name may be added as a member of the Council.—I remain, faithfully yours,

pro F. W. Chanot, Sec. *pro tem.*

Sir John Stainer will, I hope, excuse me for saying that he talks too much and composes too little. The registration of teachers, as he knows perfectly well, is a question that bristles with difficulties. Would he, for example, exclude Tonic Sol-faists who cannot teach the staff notation, and would he throw out of work the large army of struggling musical governesses, whose duty it may be to instruct only the very young? He would do far better to concentrate his efforts upon the abolition of speculative diploma-conferring concerns, and to limit the lawful grant of musical diplomas to the chartered institutions. We should then get rid of that burlesque "College of Pianists," which, as I have frequently shown, was started and run by a plumber and members of his family. As to Mr. Chanot's circular, except that, thanks to an absurd defect in the law, he shares with the crossing-sweeper round the corner, the privilege of granting "diplomas" in music, with or without examination, a more ridiculous scheme it would hardly be possible to devise. Who are the "Council" of this concern has yet to be settled, and, indeed, the letter above will indicate that the profession are being circularised for recruits. But the test of the number of pupils which a teacher has sent up for examination elsewhere is self-evident nonsense. Supposing that a teacher, like many other sensible people, has a conscientious objection to speculative or other examination schemes, and has never sent up a pupil to them at all. Is he, therefore, to be deprived of the certificate or "diploma" of this precious "Music Teachers' Guild"? So far as teachers are concerned, they know perfectly well that there are examinations open to them as a test of their qualifications for degrees in music and the arts at the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, and Dublin. There are also special Teachers' Examinations at the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music, examinations to the worth of which the Prince of Wales, as President, has borne testimony. A diploma from any of these bodies, and more particularly from the Universities or chartered institutions, would possess a value absent from the certificates of an anonymous enterprise like the "Music Teachers' Guild." If the Musicians' Company, the only musical guild of the City of London, had done its duty, instead of confining its efforts to the granting of an annual medal and the eating of an occasional dinner, we should not perhaps have heard so much of the diploma-conferring enterprises.

The following question appears in an evening paper. I have not yet seen the reply, but I have no difficulty whatever in recognising the enterprise to which this luckless individual refers. The "free scholarship" business has often been exposed in Truth, and it would probably have been stopped long ago if the daily papers in town and country had refused to insert the advertisements. Here is the question:—

(37,952) Harmony.—I entered into an agreement for a so-called *free* scholarship for musical tuition; I was told that I had to pay two separate sums for the first two terms, which I did pay, and then afterwards was to receive the remaining two years free tuition, subject to the rules of the institution. One rule was that I was required to pay a lump sum down half-yearly in advance for my music. I am willing to pay for my music, but not thus in advance. Can I not demand the remaining two years' tuition, without this advance payment?—*R. G.*

The Greatest of all Pianofortes.—The Steinway Pianofortes. New York and London.

Perhaps I may be allowed to give a word of advice. Sue the proprietor for a return of the money paid, on the ground that it is no "free" scholarship at all, and particularly subpœna the proprietor as a witness. There is many an ambitious young barrister who would be delighted to get our friend into the witness-box on the question of "free" scholarships.

The Philharmonic concerts begin on Thursday of this week. There has, I learn, been a "ruction," owing to the very proper refusal of the Covent Garden authorities to allow the sending of deputies to the Opera on Philharmonic nights. More than once a new opera or important revival has been postponed because the rehearsal clashed with that of the Philharmonic. Considering that the entire Philharmonic engagement is only for seven nights, for which, I believe, the Ripieni receive for the season a total sum of about £11, it is hardly likely that the Directors of the Opera, who offer an engagement extending over upwards of fifty nights would long submit to have their arrangements upset in this way. In point of fact, the Philharmonic ought to change its day of performance. Thursday is often an important opera night, and is in many respects one of the most inconvenient days of the whole week. The old Philharmonic nights, if I recollect rightly, some thirty years ago, were Mondays, and afterwards the even more convenient Wednesday was chosen, for Wednesday has always been recognised as a sort of "off" night. However, although the Philharmonic dates clash with only two or three of the opera performances about a dozen members of the opera band have preferred to stick to the Philharmonic, and their places at Covent Garden will therefore be filled up, some of them, I believe, by players whom M. Flon will bring over from Brussels.

Two important organ posts have been filled up during the past week. One was the office of Borough Organist at Leeds, a berth held for something like fifty years by the late Dr. Spark. It is only worth £200 a year, but it is, nevertheless, one of the prizes of the profession, and there were seventy-eight candidates for it. Eight of these were selected, and played at the Albert Hall before a committee of three, Sir Frederick Bridge, Dr. Villiers Stanford, and Mr. Perkins, of Birmingham. The judges were, I believe, hidden behind the drawn curtain of one of the private boxes, but the post was carried off by Sir F. Bridge's clever pupil, Mr. Fricker, who is at present organist of Trinity Church, Folkestone. The other post is that of organist at the Temple Church in succession to Dr. Hopkins, who has now retired owing to old age. Here, I understand, a Committee of Benchers made the choice, with the assistance of some ladies, who probably knew more about music and less about law than the Benchers. The berth fell to Mr. Davies, another of the numerous pupils of the Royal College who have recently secured good posts.

Many will regret to learn of the death of Edward Howell, who was one of the best 'cellists of native birth that we ever had. His father, James Howell, was for many years a leading double bass player in the orchestra, while his brother Arthur, also a double bass player, was the husband of Mme. Rose Hersee, and was for a very long time stage manager to the Carl Rosa troupe. Edward Howell, I believe, was a student of the Royal Academy of Music, and, besides being an accomplished soloist, he was for very many years principal violoncellist at the opera, the Philharmonic concerts, the Queen's private band, and the principal musical festivals.

The Bohemian quartet party have returned to London, but they were unwise at their first concert to trust to the classics instead of to Bohemian music, in which they are always heard at their best. At their next concert they will remedy this mistake by performing Dvorak's Quartet in C. Their rendering of Quartets by Beethoven and Schumann last week was rather rough, though full of fire and enthusiasm. The new Sonata for violin and pianoforte by Oskar Nedbal, their viola player, which was then performed for the first time in England, proved to be a clever, though not particularly striking work. At the Popular Concerts, too, Dr. Joachim and Lady Halle attracted an enormous audience last Saturday by their

performance of Bach's double Concerto in D Minor. Here, also, Richard Strauss's early Sonata in F, written when the now "advanced" composer was a melodist, was performed for the first time in England by Miss Fanny Davies and Herr Becker. Next Monday the Joachim Quartet party will appear at the Popular Concerts. It is a pity they could not have come earlier in the season, for they have been sadly needed.

The principal orchestral concerts of the season commence this week. The Philharmonic concerts begin on Thursday, but without Herr Rosenthal, who has slightly injured his arm, and prefers to delay his return to England until his provincial tour starts. The soloists at the Philharmonic are more or less "guests." Some of them play or sing gratuitously, while others receive much less than they would at ordinary concerts. Herr Rosenthal was therefore wise not to risk tiring himself. The Crystal Palace Concerts likewise start this week, although I believe the band is to be reduced and the programmes are to be formed of more or less hackneyed, though popular, works, mainly, perhaps, for the benefit of the Sydenham residents. M. Lamoureux last week gave an unequal performance of Tschaikowsky's "Pathetic" symphony. The first movement went capitally, but the rest indicated pretty plainly that Richter is still the greatest of conductors of this now famous work. At Queen's Hall on Saturday Mr. Wood again attempted to popularise Moussorgsky. The public, however, received a March in A from the deceased Russian composer's pen in chilling silence. It indeed seems strange that the valuable time of this excellent orchestra should be wasted upon such material.

Conrad Behrens some five-and-twenty years was one of the principal bassos at Her Majesty's Opera. He also organised the first tour in Scandinavia for the late Mme. Trebelli, and he, I believe, got up some performances in the United States, where he has resided for something like sixteen years. Behrens died in New York a week or two ago. He was originally in a merchant's office, but was "discovered" by the King of Sweden, who paid for his education and brought him out at the Stockholm Opera.

It has more than once been declared to be a defect of our schools of music that after the period of tuition is over they take little or no interest in the future success of their pupils. For example, they all turn out dozens of lady violinists, although they know perfectly well that no woman will ever receive a guinea in a professional orchestra, and that only one Lady Halle is born in a generation. At the Royal College, however, Dr. Stanford is continually, and very rightly, pushing the claims of the best of the male students of the institution. I believe that the necessary recruits for the Bach choir band, which commenced proceedings for the season on Tuesday, have been derived from the Royal College; young and vigorous players who, as the orchestral concerts of the College have proved, are quite competent to take their places in ordinary professional bands. No doubt this causes a good deal of grumbling amongst some of the seniors. But it cannot be helped. As a matter of fact, down to a comparatively recent period, the best places in our leading orchestras were almost the monopoly of a few specified performers, some of whom placed all sorts of difficulties in the way of conductors.

Signor Leone Chiozza has given a humorous turn to the discussion concerning the engagement of a cheap Italian band at the Imperial Institute. In a communication to the paper so ably edited by Mr. T. P. O'Connor this gentlemen suggests that the ultra patriots should see that the band parts are written "in Tonic Solfa, that grand English invention. The Staff notation was invented by some miserable Italian who did not know any better." The discussion is still going merrily on concerning the engagement of the Campanari orchestra, but there is a disposition to do fairer justice to Signor Randegger, who negotiated the affair. As I have already said, it would be absurd to blame Signor Randegger for preferring his own countrymen, and the fault, indeed, lies with the authorities of the Imperial Institute who allowed or authorised him to engage a band whose chief qualification seems to be that it comes cheaper than a British orchestra. The discussion appears, however, in one respect to have done some good. In the programme of the Ladies' Concert to be given under the direction of Signor Randegger at the Imperial Institute to-night (Wednesday), we find works by Cowen, Goring Thomas, Percy Pitt, Ernest Ford, and Sir George Macfarren. If we continue in this reforming way we may even some day discover British music in the programme of a State Concert.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—"The indolent reviewer," whom Tennyson denounces in his experimental hexametres, had better review Mr. Conan Doyle's "Tragedy of the Korosko" (1) according to Sydney Smith's receipt; "Cut the book carefully and then smell the paper-knife." If he ventures to open it, he will be swept along at a pace he little reckoned upon till he finds to his surprise, and also to his regret, that he has read to the very end.

It is a perfectly breathless narrative of the capture, captivity, and rescue of a party of tourists—English, Irish, American, and French—who had ventured too far into the Lybian desert; and the sole fault the most cynical novel reader is likely to find with the story is the superlative heroism it attributes to all its personages, whatever their age, sex, nationality, or colour. "When everybody is somebody, then nobody is anybody," as one of Mr. Gilbert's heroes observe, and it is inartistic as well as unnatural not to make one star differ from another in glory. No doubt, Mr. Conan Doyle attributes the common heroism to a common peril; but peril is not a creator, but a revealer of character, and the same fire which purifies gold hardens clay. Instead of the entire party having been made by their common calamity equally and divinely unselfish, at least half of it would have developed selfishness the reverse of divine. By the way, Mr. Conan Doyle is a still more firm believer in the divine unselfishness of England, which absorbs India, Egypt, &c., in the exclusive interests of the peoples of those countries:—

> We came to India by a kind of natural law, like air rushing into a vacuum. All over the world, against our direct interests and our deliberate intentions, we are drawn into the same thing.
>
> Except the pay of a couple of hundred men, who spend their money in the country, England has neither directly nor indirectly made a shilling out of the occupation of Egypt, and I don't believe you will find in history a more successful and more disinterested bit of work.

What a commercial-traveller view of statesmanship, that

> The worth of anything
> Is so much money as 'twill bring!

Maxwell Grey's "Ribstone Pippins" (2) is the simplest of stories of a rustic courtship, told in a dialect which is nothing short of maddening. The chorus of a Greek play is a simple matter to master compared, for instance, with this letter, upon which the fate of the lovers hung:—

> Throo jellusy she wood not do know such thing been. Stiddy bewty is vane hand makes sum mad witch the kitchen winder hopen I cooed year all was that jelluss hand spitefull off her she aint much two boste off hand fond of millitry pardon, the libberty hand remane with luv too hall kind fiends ewer obedient humble well-wisher has object. To like no name she wood bee that mad hand doo lather a pore fallow sirvant offal sow nott lett out i rote.

The story ought to have appeared in one of the puzzle-journals, with an offer to its decipherer of a prize of £50, which would certainly not have to be divided and remitted in halfpenny stamps to a host of successful contributors. From the sweet simplicity of "Ribstone Pippins" to Miss Braddon's complex study of a philanthropist whose enthusiasm for humanity

(1) "The Tragedy of Korosko." By A. Conan Doyle. With forty full-page Illustrations. (London: Smith, Elder, & Co. Price 6s.)
(2) "Ribstone Pippins." A Country Tale by Maxwell Gray. (London: Harper Brothers Price 6s.)
(3) "Rough Justice." By M. E. Braddon. (London: Simpkin, Marshall, & Co. Price 6s.)
(4) "Many Memories of Many People." (By M. C. M. Simpson. London: Edward Arnold.)

impels him to commit murder, is a far cry. Miss Braddon need not have made her philanthropic murderer an atheist in order to persuade you of his existence, since there are so many Christian paradoxes of the kind on record. A philanthropist, like John Howard, who was a savage to his own children and to the children of Christ's Hospital, is no more uncommon than a misanthropist, like Swift, who was the fastest of friends and the most tender-hearted and charitable of human beings. On the whole, Miss Braddon has succeeded in making her atheistic humanitarian interesting and probable both from the novelist's and the psychologist's point of view, while the other characters and incidents of "Rough Justice" (3) show no falling off in this veteran novelist's power of holding her numberless readers enthralled.

Of more interest to you than the most interesting novel will be Mrs. Simpson's "Many Memories of Many People" (4), a perfectly delightful book of gossip about men and women of historical importance. Within the first couple of pages you come upon this cynical retort of Count d'Orsay and this little anecdote of the Queen in her childhood:—

"What a charming *pensive* expression Lady Harriet has!" said some one to the Count of his wife, who replied, "She owes *that* to me." "In those very early days we often met Princess Victoria and her mother in Kensington Gardens. She used to take great notice of my brother, whom she called 'her little favourite'; and I remember our dogs, which we had taken to the Serpentine for a swim, shaking themselves over the dress of her Royal Highness, to her great amusement."

Here are two significant admissions by statesmen of the little wisdom which goes to the government of States:—

"It is wonderful," says Lord Lansdowne, "how imagination, and invention, and courage, and knowledge, and diligence—all the qualities that seem to make an orator, and even a statesman—may be neutralised by the want of a sound, overruling judgment. Gladstone's faculties are like an army without a general, or a jury without a judge. They are always at variance. Sometimes one gets the better, sometimes another, and the feeling that rules for the time carries him away. I am astonished how little is the practical loss which we feel in the absence from our councils of two or three of the acutest and brightest intellects in England."

"I believe," said John Bright, "that if you were to take the first ten men you could catch in the Strand, they would be a much better set than any Cabinet that I have ever seen."

"As respects our diplomatists," said Lord Aberdeen, "I am not sure that I do not agree with you."

"You would like, then," I said to Bright, "to revert to the old Greek mode of choosing your Government by lot from the mass of the people. Aristotle considers a government that is elected an aristocracy. He confines the term democracy to one that is caught by chance."

"It must be a very unlucky chance," said Bright, "that would catch for you so bad a minister as the Duke of Wellington. He cared nothing for the people. He thought only of the King, or the Queen, or the House of Lords. And he did nothing but harm to both."

These are but specimens of the kind and degree of interest with which this charming book abounds.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—I have been reading in some magazine the replies of some well-known people as to what they would do if they were millionaires, and have been settling in my own mind what I would do in similar circumstances. To begin with, I should not care to be a millionaire. After a certain figure, money ceases to be a pleasure and becomes a burden. And even if the best and kindest use is made of wealth, this is such a curiously constructed world that it is very difficult to do a little good without at the same time working a tremendous amount of harm. It is as though any individual effort only serves to throw the balance of general affairs out of gear.

But there are one or two little things I should dearly love to do if I were a millionaire. One would be to provide comfortable homes for every old couple who have worked hard as long as they are able, and who are unable to work any longer owing to old age and infirmities. It seems a cruel thing that such as these should have no better provision than the workhouse after lives of honest toil. Fancy the feelings of some of them who have prided themselves on respectable associations, having to be companions with all the queer characters who find their way to the workhouse. If you go over it all in your mind you will find an enormous amount of pathos in it.

And another thing I should like to do would be to get a law made to fine every Bishop or Archbishop who passes over elderly clergymen to give promotion to young ones. A big fine, too, I should like it to be. It is so abominably unfair. I know now of a clergyman in a terribly poor London parish who has slaved there for twenty years, and seems to have no chance of preferment. He has a family of delicate girls, who would flourish splendidly in the country vicarage I should get for them if I were a millionaire. Think of their joy, and the thankfulness of the father after twenty years of London slums.

And I would promote motor cabs and omnibuses with all my might if I were a millionaire. I feel the keenest (and most uncomfortable) compassion for the poor horses in the London streets. There was a slight snowfall one day last week——

But no! I will not harrow your feelings by detailing any circumstances of the case; and as to what I want to do when I am a millionaire, there will be plenty of time to make a long list of things before that event arrives.

I have just read a sickening paragraph in a weekly paper, stating that blouses made entirely of feathers are coming into fashion. "Rare tropical feathers, ordered by specialists from abroad," are specified as the ones most likely to be in demand. Poor birds of the tropics! Was it not enough that ye were required for hats and bonnets and boas? "Whole blouses," quotha. What an unutterably cruel, heartless creature the true woman of fashion is! Hopelessly beyond the reach of reason, too.

I see that the Sandringham Club, at 13, Old Bond-street, of which I wrote you some time since, is to be opened on Wednesday evening of every week for suppers, to be served from 10 o'clock to midnight. This is a new departure for a ladies' club, is it not? I should think it would be a boon to many who would not care for the ordinary restaurant; and the club is so central as to make it all the more convenient.

Since the return of Mr. Wyndham and the re-dressing of the very agreeable party of naughty fibsters in "The Liars," there have been crowded houses at the Criterion. The costumes express the very latest note of fashion, and you may imagine with what eagerness they are studied by the numerous women who live for dress, devoting five-sixths of their time, thought, and affections to it. Seeing gowns on the stage like this is ever so much better than seeing them in even the most imposing of West End establishments for the sale of chiffons. Graceful as are the figures and lovely the faces of the choice selected girls who don the wares to show them off to customers, they cannot sit and walk and flirt and flutter about in them like the ladies on the stage, who are at least equally graceful and pretty. All that is permitted to the shop-lady is to solemnly peacock up and down in a sort of sentry-go, with countenance set to a sort of respectful decorum. It is so much more useful to see the fashions on lively people who sorrow for the consequences of their fibs in them and rejoice in the temporary success of their crimes.

I have picked out six of the dresses to tell you about. The first is a cream-coloured satin dinner gown worn by Miss Mary Moore in the first act. It fits very closely indeed from the waist downward, but there is plenty of fulness from where a deep flounce of cream coloured gauze begins, embroidered with silver sequins and beaded with jewelled passementerie. This flounce rises slightly in the

Hunting.—An elegant and graceful up-to-date figure is created by the easy and perfect fit of the ingenious and appropriate Stays built by Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., The Celebrated Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-st., Oxford-circus, London, W.

centre of the front, and a line of the passementerie is carried up from that point to the waist, also forming a belt. The bodice has a berthe of the silver gauze and jewelled passementerie. The sleeves are a fold or two of turquoise velvet with shaped epaulettes of the gauze above them, edged with the blue velvet. The arms are veiled, from wrists to just above the elbows, with mittens made of the sequined gauze, sewn with turquoises as well, and finished at the top with a roll of the blue velvet. Quite a new idea this; and there is also novelty in the way that a pointed piece of the mitten falls over the back of the hand. Miss Moore flirts deliciously in this gown. In fact, it is just the gown for a wicked, daring little flirt to wear; and I am certain that her diamond-and-turquoise comb is quite an assistance to her in her scene with her husband. There is so much that is inspiring and reassuring in the conviction of being well dressed down to the smallest particular. Another sweet dinner-gown is worn by Miss Brunton. It is rose-pink figured silk, forming bodice and deep panier over a plain, flounce-edged under-skirt. The tablier is bordered with three pink chiffon flounces, and the short sleeves are finished in the same way. An immense bow of black tulle, strewn thickly with silver sequins, is fastened on the left side of the bodice, a drapery of the same passing across the left arm and thence to the waist, from where it falls in double ends over the skirt. A black feather and pink rose crown the coiffure.

Miss Moore's river dress in the second act consists of a white serge skirt, plain and close-fitting, above a deep flounce, which is put on rather full and begins at the sides, the front being quite plain. The flounce is beaded with white ribbon. Over a full bodice of the serge there is a very novel and elaborate little zouave, completely covered with a running design in pale blue ruched chiffon. There are blue revers with appliques of lace. They are edged with white cord, and so are the jockey-shaped caps of the sleeves of this lovely zouave. An immense bow of white tulle is tied at the neck. With this is worn a toque made of chinchilla, with blue velvet drawn round the crown and forming a rosette at the left side, caught with a diamond buckle, from which rise curled white quills. With two pink roses and a knot of black velvet these complete the trimming.

Miss Brunton's river dress is pale yellow cashmere as to the skirt, with rows of white ribbon round the lower part. The white jacket bodice is thickly braided in gold, and has revers of striped black and white over an under-bodice of white satin crossed in folds. The large white tulle hat has red feathers in front and long plumes floating above it. Wallflowers make a *cache-peigne* at the back.

In the third act Miss Mary Moore realises her folly, and dolefully makes friends with her husband in an anything but penitential pink silk gown, veiled with white embroidered muslin, on which inappropriate (to the play) true lovers' knots are conspicuous. The top of the bodice forms a rounded yoke in rucked muslin, outlined by a frill of pink silk. The sleeves are in the rucked white muslin, most elaborate, and requiring heaps of infinitesimal stitches to do, but a very great feature in this season's dress. The sweet hat is made of mauve hyacinths, with three white feathers, all of which are couchant, according to the latest dictum, not rampant, as they have been of late. The stems of these feathers are studded with Rhine stones. Two red roses droop over the hair at the left side.

One more gown—Miss Brunton's in the drawing-room scene. It is turquoise silk, vandyked all round the lower part of the skirt with four or five rows of rucked blue chiffon. Lines of creamy lace trim the skirt from the waist downwards at the sides and back. The bodice has folds of the silk going round the figure, and a chemisette of white folded muslin, braces of creamy lace hiding the point of junction of the two. The tight sleeves of blue chiffon lined with blue silk are quite plain, and are finished on the shoulders with cap-shaped epaulettes of the cream-coloured lace.

These gowns are full of information to the experienced as to the modes of the day after to-morrow.

In "A White Knight" Kate Rorke embellishes her gowns, as she always does. In the first act she wears a blue serge dress with black braid, closely fitting, which she rapidly changes for a sombre black, about which there is nothing remarkable. She looks best in the second act wearing mauve, also with black braid, and a charming toque of the same stuff, with, I believe, a couple of feathers. In the third, her gown is a very soft pale-grey, which suits her figure to perfection. Esmé Beringer is seen first in grey (commonplace), then in a putty-coloured dress with various touches of green at neck, wrists, and in hat; then in green again. In the third act she comes in wearing a very handsome cloak or mantle (crimson, I fancy) lined with yellow.

Evelyn went yesterday to see Mr. Cecil Crofton's collection of old paste ornaments and old-fashioned jewellery, which is now the most fashionable thing in the world. Everyone is introducing to the light of day the long-hidden contents of the far-back corners of their jewel cases, and those who had no grandmothers are ransacking curiosity shops to find something fresh and charming in antiques. Mr. Crofton has been collecting for some time, and Evelyn is quite eloquent about the lovely old paste she saw there. In fact, she bought an old marquise ring, which is one of the most becoming I have ever seen. The centre is in dark blue enamel, slightly raised above the oval of paste diamonds, and on it reposes a spray of forget-me-not. The workmanship is quite exquisite, and so, says Evelyn, is that of many of the old-world brooches, crosses, and earrings. These last can be utilised by setting each in the centre of a modern gold lace-pin. There are several of the quaint old "comet" brooches in the collection at Elizabeth-street, Eaton-square, and there is one brooch in the shape of a miniature basket of fruit, with golden grapes hanging over one side and the centre heaped with coloured stones as apples. A pansy brooch had the flower deftly imitated in petals of topaz and amethyst. We are going some day soon to have a look at all these pretties.

On Tuesday of this week began a course of evening lectures in connection with the Royal School of Art Needlework, delivered by Mr. Aymer Vallance, F.S.A., author of "The Art of William Morris." The subject of these discourses is the application of ornamental form to textile design. Tuesday's dealt with architectural, next Tuesday's is to be on animal, the following week on floral, and the ultimate lecture on designs in the abstract. A number of magic-lantern slides have been prepared to illustrate the remarks.

International marriages seem to be becoming more frequent. English women are in demand among all civilised nations, including Sweden, whose daughters are so tall and fair and full of charm. Miss Kate Morgan Pritchard, the elder daughter of Mr. W. Pritchard-Morgan, M.P., is soon to be married to Count Eric Piper, second son of the late Count Eric Piper, of Snögeholm, Sweden. I wonder if that word means "snug home"?

Christabel writes from Paris:—

Some smart dresses and bodices have been made for some ladies of the Russian court by a large firm in the Rue de la Paix, and I send you a description of a few, mentioning beforehand that what I stated a few weeks back still holds good, and that the skirts are now made so close and tight round the hips and at the back, that a deep flounce is added to give sufficient width or play at the base.

One dress is pale water-green surah, entirely covered with white spotted muslin, the spots being alternately white and green; this has two rows of real Mechlin insertion let in in the front in apron fashion. The bodice also is green covered with muslin and insertion, and open in front over a fulling of very handsome Mechlin lace: the green Liberty sash has long ends falling at the back, and there is a neck band of green silk and lace. The top of the long sleeves are slightly puffed with muslin and insertion, and are furnished with small revers of green silk at the wrist. This gown

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was so much admired that it was copied for another lady in pink.

Another gown had a plain skirt of mauve satin, with a crossway flounce at the bottom, sewn on the edge to give width; the front opened over coral-pink velvet. The mauve satin bodice was plain, with a jabot, and small straps of coral-pink velvet across, and in the centre of each a handsome button of coloured enamel. The long sleeves had folds of velvet at the top, the rest being in mauve satin, with waistband and neckband of coral velvet, the latter being enhanced with a rich lace, wired to make it stand up and out.

A lovely ball-dress was of turquoise-blue velvet, made plain and close at the top of the skirt, and a crossway flounce round the foot, sewn on to the edge. This flounce is beautifully embroidered with turquoises and pearls. The low bodice is embroidered to match, with a berthe of valuable old Duchesse lace, and on the left side a Louis XV. velvet bow. A sash scarf of the same handsome lace falls on the skirt, and the sleeves are also of the same lace, with little tabs of embroidered velvet.

A very dressy blouse bodice of white silk had a plain back with three rows of gold-spangled galon round the upper part, and coming round to the front, which was slightly open over a plastron of pleated white silk muslin, and on each side of this a very tiny pleating of the same with small loops of narrow black velvet on the pleating. The belt and neckband were white silk, the latter spangled. The sleeves had three folds at the top and three at the wrist.

A white silk ball dress was covered with green silk muslin. This was trimmed in what is called the Greek pattern, formed with green lace insertion edged with a very narrow green Valenciennes gathered. (I consider dyeing and colouring lace very wrong in art.) Lodged in the various corners and angles of the Greek pattern were little loops of green velvet ribbon. The low bodice was cut square and ornamented with a spray of white moss roses and foliage. The Greek design was carried out on the short sleeves and furnished with the Valenciennes edging. A green silk waistbelt, with sash ends on the left side, finished the costume.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—March evidently took compassion on the unsnowed snows and hoarded up frosts of winter and allowed them, though in modified form, to accompany his lion-like entry. Last week we had more frost and snow than the entire winter produced, or, at least, it showed and felt more. We were reminded of the fact—not in evidence during the mild weather—that we had bones, and that these possessions were very capable of having pains and aches. Don't you know the chill, penetrating cold, which neither one's own skin, nor any other, can keep out, which goes through the flesh, right into the bones, like a Röntgen ray? I think it was Sydney Smith who, in very hot weather, longed to be able to sit in his bones; in very cold, one rather longs to be able to sit out of them. It is only in these days when rheumatism, following the spirit of the age, has ceased to be exclusive, and includes the young as well as the old in its rackings, that one can confess to bones without incriminating one's self. In society one cannot afford to grow old, it is such an old fashion and should only be followed in domesticity, and by one's own fireside.

Last week, after the week's interval, the Dublin Castle season again resumed its course. Besides the dinners and dances usually given, there was a concert to which over five hundred were invited; an entertainment designed to suit the elderly and serious in the Lenten season. That it did suit the latter with regard to being—well, not too festive, need hardly be said. No form of evening entertainment seems to thaw and "mix" an English-speaking assemblage but a dance. At private houses, no doubt, a little music promotes conversation, but that cannot be in a great hall where people are ranged in formal rows opposite a platform of performers. There is nothing for it, under the circumstances, but to grin and bear—the music, no matter what its intrinsic merits may be, for they do not enter into the matter at all. On Wednesday night a small and very select dance was given in the Throne Room after a dinner party. The invitations were not sent out by the Chamberlain; as to the other dances, the aide-de-camps were allowed to give them. All the women wore pretty frocks, and there was ample space for dancing. There were a great many girls amongst the Viceregal "house party," Lady Duncannon's two daughters, Miss B. Forbes, Miss Norah Dawnay and Miss Faith Dawnay. The pretty faces, girlish as well as matronly, were all more or less familiar. Lady Annesley and Lady Kilmorey wore striking costumes, as usual; the jewels of the former were very brilliant. The hair dressing adopted by many, though not universally, is rather untidy looking, especially when very full and fluffy over the ears. I like what may be called a well-groomed, high-bred looking head, with no hair out of place, but not stiffly arranged for all that. The popularity of the "Geisha" is, perhaps, accountable for some of the fashions of hair dressing. On Friday night the entertainment was a ball, not merely a dance, and took place in St. Patrick's Hall, which has a beautiful springy dancing floor, much appreciated by dancers, when, as on that night, the room is not too crowded. Lord Cadogan, one would think, not being a dancing man, must get bored by all the dancing he has to look on at from his throne seat under the canopy at the top of St. Patrick's Hall. Lady Cadogan seems to have untiring energy in society, and never looks tired or bored. She might well look tired, for the position of mistress of Dublin Castle is not an idle one, but entails a good deal of real work—in fact, there is no busier woman in the country than her Excellency, day and night.

The Castle had not a monopoly of the ball giving, though no one gives a dance on the same night as a Viceregal one. It is etiquette to consider a Viceregal invitation a command; on receiving one, the invited guest is supposed to cancel any other engagement. So, naturally, no other host or hostess enters into rivalry with the Castle. The elect of society were all at Colonel and Mrs. Knox's ball, at the house they have taken for the season in Merrion-square, on Monday night. It was beautifully got up in every way—the house decorated in a fashion worthy of the great capital across the water. On Thursday Lady Musgrave and Lady Keane gave a ball together at the Rotunda, which was a brilliant one also, the invited guests including Lady Granard and the pretty Ladies Forbes, Lady Mowbray and Stourton and two fair daughters, Lady Ashbourne and her daughters, Lady Roberts Lord and Lady Lurgan, in fact, every one who is any one, just now in Dublin. One of the joint hostesses, Lady Keane, was, unable to be present owing to the death of a relative.—Yours ever,

Clare.

Frances writes from Brighton:—

Dearest Madge,—We shall all be quite dull when the Ice Rink closes in April, for there is always something attractive going on at it. A prize competition for lady skaters, who have learned at the Brighton Ice Rink this season, took place on Wednesday afternoon (March 2) and was most amusing. It was a pity so few competed for the valuable prizes Sir William Call gave, only four being left in the list when the time came. The attendance, as the reporters say, "was large and fashionable," the corridor being so crowded that chairs and tea-tables were alike difficult to secure. The competition was admirably managed; Mr. Hull Saye, an efficient and critical judge, decided, by points, on the merits of the respective competitors. The highest number of points attainable was ninety-nine. Miss Gaskell, with sixty points, won the first prize (a lovely diamond and sapphire twenty-five guinea bracelet); Miss L. Eliot James, with fifty-seven points, the second prize (a season ticket for the Rink); and Miss Rowe, with fifty-four points, the third prize (a half season ticket). Miss Dora Pepys scored fifty-two. The waltzing competition which followed was also interesting. The prize for this contest was a Columbia bicycle, given by Mr. Hulton Moss, of gymkhana fame, for the best lady waltzer (Brighton resident). Mrs. Hulton Moss, being the winner, passed on the bicycle to Miss Dora Pepys, who was second. The afternoon's entertainment finished up with one of the hockey matches, for which the Brighton Skating Club is making itself quite a name.

And now for a few things culinary:—Fillets of trout dressed in this way are excellent for a dinner party:—

Trim the fillets of 2 small trout; divide each in halves, trim them neatly, and sautez the fillets quickly in butter over a hot stove. Arrange them on a thin border of forcemeat, pour the sauce over them, and garnish the centre with small quenelles and

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button mushrooms. To make the sauce, stew the bones of the fish in weak stock for 2 hours, strain and reduce the liquor. Mix a tablespoonful of flour with 1 oz. of dissolved butter in a stewpan, add the fish liquor, stir until it boils, simmer it 20 minutes and strain it. Warm the sauce, adding the yolk of an egg, a little cream, a teaspoonful of chili and tarragon vinegar mixed together, and a teaspoonful of lobster spawn, previously pounded and rubbed through a hair sieve. The forcemeat is made by pounding the flesh of a whiting, adding 2 oz. of butter, 2 tablespoonsful of cold white sauce, one yolk and one whole egg, working it thoroughly together with salt and pepper to taste, and rubbing it through a hair sieve.

This "parfait" is really lovely:—

Put the yolks of 6 eggs, with 2 tablespoonsful of water, into an egg-bowl, and whisk it over a saucepan of boiling-water until thick. Add 2 oz. of blanched and pounded almonds, and continue whisking until cold. Mix the stiffly-whipped whites of 5 eggs with a gill of boiling syrup, add it, when cold, to the custard with 1½ gills of whipped cream, flavour with a few drops of noyeau, freeze it in the ice-machine, mould and imbed it in ice and salt for an hour in the usual way.

You will like these cakes for afternoon tea:—

Boil 8 oz. of good loaf sugar in half a pint of water until it will turn white when rubbed on the side of the stewpan. Then mix in very quickly the stiffly-whipped whites of 4 fresh eggs. Press the mixture through a forcing bag, into finger-shaped pieces, on to a sheet of wafer paper, that is placed on another sheet of oiled paper on a baking sheet. Sprinkle them thickly with desiccated cocoanut, dust them over with pounded sugar and bake them about an hour in a cool oven, or until they are quite dry and a pretty fawn colour.

These "cream cakes," too, are an original novelty and are really delicious:—

Beat 4 oz. of butter and fine sugar together until white, add the yolks of 2 eggs, a few drops of cochineal, and the whipped whites of 3 eggs, in alternate spoonfuls, with 4 oz. of flour, spread on a greased baking sheet, and bake 20 minutes in a moderate oven. Now beat 4 oz. of butter and sugar in the same way as before, add the yolks of 2 eggs and 2 oz. of grated chocolate Menier, then mix in very lightly the whipped whites of 3 eggs and 4 oz. of flour, bake on a greased baking sheet, and turn on to a paper to cool. When the cakes are quite cold, beat 2 oz. of fresh butter and 4 oz. of sifted icing sugar together until white, add a few drops of essence of vanilla and spread between the pink and brown cakes. Cut into crescent-shaped pieces Dissolve 2 oz. of chocolate with a very little water, mix in about 4 oz. of icing sugar, and stir until just warm. Coat the pink side of the cakes with the icing, and sprinkle them with blanched and chopped pistachios.

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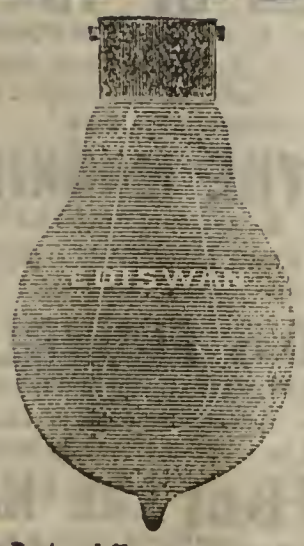

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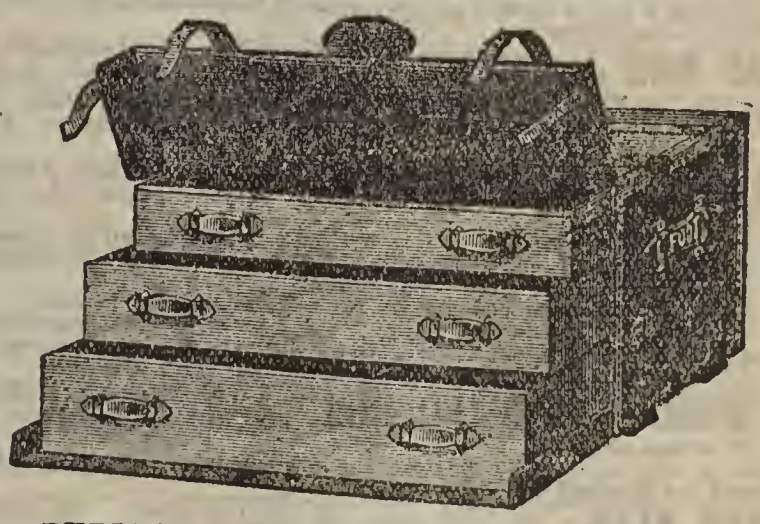

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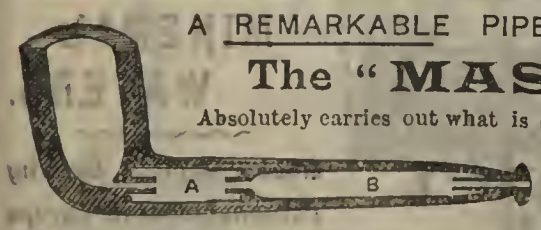

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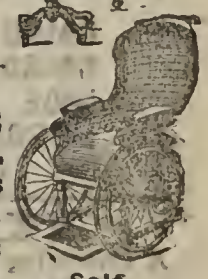

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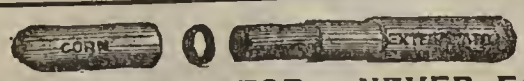

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NOTE.—Joseph Lunt, B.Sc., F.C.S., British Institute of Preventive Medicine, in his report on the Berkefeld Filter, says: "Exhaustive experiments showed that with London tap-water strongly infected artificially WITH THE TYPHOID BACILLUS, not a single typhoid bacillus was detected IN THE FILTERED WATER for a period of 26 days."

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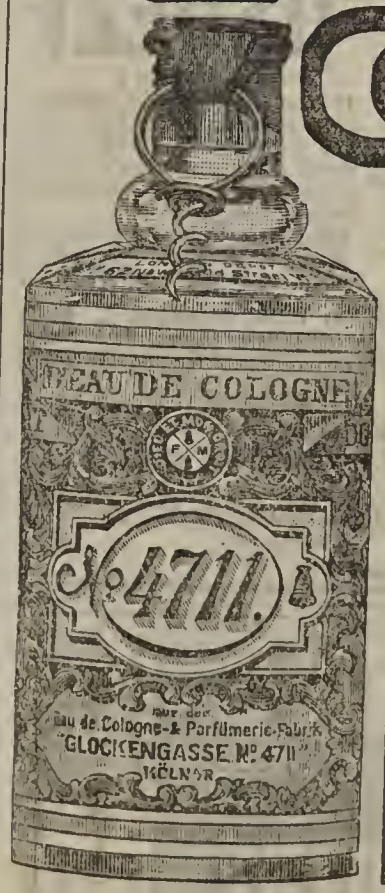

IT IS THE BEST, GENUINE, STRONGEST, MOST LASTING, MOST REFRESHING AND INVIGORATING.

Insist upon the **"4711"** Brand.

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Of most Dealers in First-class Perfumes. Case of 6 Bottles, carriage paid, for 12/6; or Sample Bottle, 2/3 post free.

THE 4711 DEPOT, 62, NEW BOND ST., LONDON, W.

"The Old Favourite."

MAX GREGER'S

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SAFEST,
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Dinner Wine.

PURE
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From 15/- per doz.

Of all Wine Merchants and Grocers.

See that every cork bears the brand "Max Greger." Without it the wine is not genuine.

THE PATENT "RIGID-CURVE" STROP.

An English Gentleman, J.P., F.R.S., M.I.C.E., &c., writes:—"I have tried your Razor Strop, and have pleasure in sending you this Testimonial:—It is a simple and sure means in the hands of any novice of securing a proper cutting-edge upon a Razor, and I am surprised that such an improvement has been so long delayed."

Price **3s. 6d.**, carriage paid. A month's free trial allowed in actual use. Full money returned with pleasure if not approved.

A. HOWARTH, 53, Penn-road, Wolverhampton.

'ONE PIECE' STUDS

PATENTED Unbreakable.

Beautifully Formed. AVOID IMITATIONS.

No one who appreciates a nice Stud wears any other.

None Genuine Unless Stamped Patent.

Sold by all Leading Jewellers.

WHOLESALE ONLY, SAUNDERS & SHEPHERD, LONDON.

LIQUEURS OF THE GRANDE CHARTREUSE.

These delicious Liqueurs, which have come so much into public favour on account of their wonderful properties of aiding Digestion and preventing Dyspepsia, can now be had of all the principal Wine and Spirit Merchants, and all good Hotels and Restaurants throughout the Kingdom.

Sole Consignee: W. DOYLE, 35, Crutched Friars, London, E.C

ASK YOUR DOCTOR

Which is the Best Saddle for Cycling?
He will at once reply—THE

'OSOEZI'

And Why?

It is at once hygienic, anatomically correct, and pressure upon the perineum is avoided. No Saddle-Soreness, even after the hardest and most continuous riding.

21/- post free. Suitable for Ladies or Gentlemen.

Easily adaptable to any machine

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CEPHALIA

For HAY FEVER, NEURALGIC PAINS, & COLDS in the HEAD, &c.?

If not, send 13½d. for a Box to

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EFFECT SIMPLY MIRACULOUS.

Toilet "Lanoline" For Delicate and Sensitive Skins. 6d. and 1s.

"LANOLINE" Toilet Preparations "LANOLINE"

Darling Brand. from all Chemists.

Wholesale Depôt:—67 HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON.

"Lanoline" Toilet Soap For Health and Beauty of the Skin. 6d. per tablet. 3 in a box 1s. 6d.

Best is Cheapest. Fixed prices.

TRADE MARK

PROTECTION FROM CHILL.

Jaeger

PURE WOOL

Underwear, Hose, Pyjamas, Rugs, Blankets. Cashmere Sheets, Dressing Gowns, Shawls, Corsets, Cycling Outfits, Boots & Shoes, Hats and Caps, &c., &c.

"Health Culture" and Jaeger Price List Free.

3 and 4, PRINCES-STREET, CAVENDISH-SQUARE (near Regent-circus).
126, REGENT-STREET (near the Quadrant).
30, SLOANE-STREET (adjoining McPherson's Gymnasium).
456, STRAND (near Trafalgar-square).
85 and 86, CHEAPSIDE (near King-street).

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BLAISDELL PENCILS

SELF-POINTING.

ALL COLOURS. ALL GRADES.
NO WASTE. BEST LEADS.

Black Lead 1d. & 2d. Coloured Crayons 2d. & 3d.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Sample Box of 5 Pencils 1s., Free by Post in the U.K.

BLAISDELL PENCILS, Ltd., 46, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Clarke's "Pyramid" and "Fairy" Light Co., Ltd., Cricklewood, London, N.W.

The Subscription List opened on Tuesday, March 8th, and will close on or before Wednesday, March 9th, for both Town and Country.

ALBERT BAKER & CO., Limited, the Purchasers of the business and assets of

A. BAKER & CO., Limited (the Up-to-date Tobacconists).

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL, £200,000, in 200,000 SHARES of £1 each. PRESENT ISSUE of 150,000 SHARES of £1 each (Of which the Vendor Company takes 50,000 Shares in part payment). Payable 2s. 6d. on Application; 7s. 6d. on Allotment and 10s. on the 1st May, 1898.

DIRECTORS.—Maurice de Meza, 65, Holloway-road, N.; Nathaniel de Meza, 65, Holloway-rd., N.; Hungerford Eardley-Wilmot, Colonial Broker, 27, Mincing-lane, E.C. (A Fourth Director will be appointed by the Company in General Meeting). BANKERS.—The London and County Banking Co., Ltd., Lombard-st., 181 and 182, Shoreditch, and their other Branches. SOLICITOR.—Walter B. Styer, LL.B., 2, Threadneedle-st., E.C. BROKERS.—Lumsden & Myers, 18, Finch-lane, E.C.; and the Stock Exchange, E.C. AUDITORS.—Tilly & Co., 37, Queen Victoria-st., E.C. SECRETARY *(pro tem.)*.—P. E. Hooper. OFFICES.—65, Holloway-rd.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of purchasing the business of Manufacturing and Retail Tobacconists (together with the goodwill, trade marks, &c.) carried on by A. Baker & Co., Ltd., at 65, Holloway-road, N., and branches in many of the most important thoroughfares in the metropolis and suburbs. The Founders of the Vendor Company, who were originally manufacturers of tobacco, and were established in the year 1864, decided in the year 1895 to open a further number of retail shops, thereby putting themselves in direct contact with the buying public, and eliminating the middlemen; for that purpose the Vendor Company was formed and commenced business at 99, Tottenham Court-road, and at seven branch establishments, which number it has since increased to twenty-two. The Vendor Company, by adopting the most thorough and up-to-date method of trading, and by giving the public the full benefit of the advantages gained by purchasing on an extensive scale, succeeded in a comparatively short space of time in creating a retail business which stands easily first in popularity and reputation with the vast smoking population.

The positions of the various retail branches have been selected with great judgment and discrimination, and many of them rank as the choicest business points in London, being situated in streets thronged daily by business men. Future competition in these streets is little to be feared, as the Company hold the most attractive and commanding positions. The establishments of the Vendor Company to be acquired by this Company are situated as under:—

Chief Offices, Warehouses, and Factory:—65, Holloway-road, N.

BRANCHES.

136, Fenchurch-street, E.C., corner of Cullum-street, E.C.
16, Liverpool-street, E.C., corner of New Broad-street.
12, Bridge-street, Westminster, facing the Houses of Parliament.
112, Cheapside, E.C., opposite Bow Church.
1, Ludgate-circus, E.C.
Charles-street, Farringdon-street, next Farringdon-street Station.
1, Railway-place, Fenchurch-street, next Fenchurch-street Station.
159, Bishopsgate-street Without, next Great Eastern Railway Station.
66, Woodgrange-road, E. facing Forest Gate Station.
99, Tottenham Court-road, W.
Railway Approach, S.W., outside Clapham Junction Station.
18 and 20, Oxford-street, W., next the Oxford Music Hall.
122, Holborn, E.C., opposite Wallis'.
1, Euston-road, N.W., facing Great Northern Railway, King's Cross.
2, Seven Sisters'-road, N., next the "Nag's Head."
36, Bishopsgate-street Within, corner of Great St. Helen's.
423 & 424, Strand, W., corner Bedford-st.
58, High Holborn, W.C.
16A, Liverpool-street, opposite Liverpool-street Station.
*2, Pentonville-rd, N., next the "Angel."
*63, Holloway-road, N.
*Finsbury Circus-bldgs, Eldon-st., E.C.

The shops marked by an asterisk are not yet opened, but the Vendor Company covenants to pay for the fixtures and fittings now being completed.

Out of the turnover for the year ending 31st December, 1897, £135,918 9s. 1d. were the retail cash sales of their several branches, and it must be remembered that this result has been obtained without resort to the expense of advertisement.

The Directors have received the following certificate as to the profits of the Vendor Company from the Company's Auditors:—

37, Queen Victoria-street, E.C., February 28th, 1898.

Messrs. A. Baker & Co., Ltd., 65, Holloway-road, N.

Gentlemen,—As Auditors of your Company, since its formation in July, 1895, we have examined your books each half-year to the present time, and beg to certify that the progress and profitable development of your business has been most remarkable, and that the present net profits of the business, according to the terms stated in the Prospectus, are sufficient to pay a substantial dividend on the present issue of £150,000, and we feel assured that the opening of new shops with the additional capital will, as it has done in the past, add largely to the net results.—We are, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,

TILLY & Co., Chartered Accountants, per J. H. TILLY, F.C.A.

The Directors consider that the true interest of the Company would not be served by giving publicity to further details of the working of the business.

The Company has secured the services, as Managing Directors, of Messrs. Maurice and Nathaniel de Meza, two Directors of the Vendor Company, for a period of at least six years. These gentlemen, who were instrumental in making the Vendor Company the phenomenal success it has become, have every confidence of achieving similar results for this Company. As showing their belief in its success, they have agreed not to receive remuneration for their services in any year should less than 7 per cent. on the issued capital of the Company be earned for that year. The purchase price to be paid to the Vendor Company is £125,000, payable as to £50,000 in Shares and the balance in cash.

The Company will take over the business as a going concern as from the 1st January, 1898, according to the Balance Sheet prepared by Messrs. Tilly & Co., subject to its debts and liabilities at that date (except as to certain liabilities set out in the Agreement for sale to be discharged by the Vendor Company), together with all the assets of the Vendor Co. and accrued profits from that date.

It is proposed to use the £25,000 additional Capital in opening new branches whenever desirable positions can be acquired, and the Directors have every confidence that, by the continued exercise of the same happy judgment in the choice of them the profits of the Company will be materially increased. It is intended to place the unissued Capital of £50,000, so soon as the Directors are of opinion that it can be advantageously used for the further development of the Company.

The Company has ample facilities for the continuous expansion of its manufacturing business and also for the enlargement of its stores to meet every increase of business, for in addition to its factory and warehouse at 65, Holloway-road, N., it holds the premises adjoining, No. 63, Holloway-road; it has also acquired manufacturing premises (at present sub-let) at No. 2, Allen-street, N., at the rear of its present factory. By the Company's Articles of Association no Preference Shares, Debentures or Debenture Stock can be issued without the consent of three-fourths of the Shareholders.

The Contract made between the Vendor Company of the first part, Messrs. Maurice and Nathaniel de Meza of the second part, and the new Company of the third part, and dated 4th March, 1898, for the purchase of the business and the engagement of the Managing Directors; also the Leases and other documents of Title can be inspected at the offices of the Solicitor of the Company. Beyond the above contract there are numerous trade agreements relating to the carrying on of the business, and also agreements with reference to the promotion and the subscription of the Capital of the Company, to none of which the Company is a party. Applicants for Shares shall be deemed to have had notice of all these agreements, and to have waived their right to be supplied with particulars thereof under section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, and subscriptions are received on this condition only. The Vendor Company, who are selling at a profit, will pay all expenses up to allotment. Messrs. Maurice and Nathaniel de Meza, as large Shareholders in the Vendor Company, are interested in the profits arising from such sale. A settlement and quotation on the London Stock Exchange will be applied for in due course. Applications for Shares should be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus, and sent with the deposit to the Company's Bankers. If no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full; and if less Shares are allotted than those applied for, the deposit will be credited towards the amount due on allotment. Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained of the Bankers, Brokers, and Solicitor, and at the offices of the Company or any of its Branches. March 4th, 1898.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Chief Office: HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

Summary of the Report presented at the Forty-ninth Annual Meeting held on 3rd March, 1898.

ORDINARY BRANCH.—The number of Policies issued during the year was **65,893** assuring the sum of **£6,698,755,** and producing a New Annual Premium Income of **£365,996.**

The Premiums received during the year were **£2,774,264,** being an increase of **£231,002** over the year 1896.

The Claims of the year amounted to **£707,643.** The number of deaths was **5,038,** and **656** Endowment Assurances matured.

The number of Policies in force at the end of the year was **497,327.**

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.—The Premiums received during the year were **£4,793,591,** being an increase of **£214,798.**

The Claims of the year amounted to **£1,823,338.** The number of deaths was **192,359,** and **1,876** Endowment Assurances matured.

The number of Free Policies granted during the year to those Policy-holders of five years' standing, who desired to discontinue their payments, was **60,848,** the number in force being **549,889.** The number of Free Policies which became Claims during the year was **10,716.**

The total number of Policies in force at the end of the year was **12,546,132**: their average duration exceeds eight and a quarter years.

The Assets of the Company, in both branches, as shown in the Balance Sheet, are **£30,438,337,** being an increase of **£3,379,226** over those of 1896. A supplement showing in detail the various investments is published with this report.

Having regard to the growth of the Company, and also with a view to afford relief to the Managers and Secretary, the Directors have made certain re-arrangements and alterations in the Chief Office Staff. Messrs. Dewey, Hughes, & Fisher will in future be Joint General Managers, and certain duties of administration have been entrusted to a number of senior officials, whose long and intimate acquaintance with the management has qualified them for promotion. The Directors believe that the traditions of management which have produced such successful results in the past will thus be continued in the future.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET OF THE PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, ON THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1897.

LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.
Shareholders' capital	1,000,000	0	0
Ordinary Branch funds	15,134,804	10	3
Industrial Branch fund	13,568,033	14	10
Reserve fund	600,000	0	0
Claims under life policies admitted ...	135,499	4	7
	£30,438,337	9	8

ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.
British Government Securities (£3,000,000 Consols)	2,982,232	16	11
Indian & Colonial Government Securities	2,814,523	18	3
Railway and other Debentures and Debenture Stocks	2,159,273	7	5
Loans on County Council, Municipal, and other rates	5,992,665	1	10
Freehold ground-rents & Scotch feu duties	2,628,268	9	6
Freehold and leasehold property	1,882,662	5	6
Mortgages	3,155,015	1	3
Railway, gas, and water Stocks	4,963,189	13	5
Suez Canal Shares	168,489	5	8
Telegraph and other Shares...	26,025	11	7
Metropolitan Consolidated Stock and City of London Bonds	363,420	13	6
Bank of England Stock	200,559	18	6
Foreign Government Securities	692,757	9	2
Reversions and Life Interests	473,705	9	5
Loans on the Company's Policies	578,520	8	3
Rent charges	153,077	17	4
Outstanding premiums	402,094	18	1
Cash in hands of Superintendents & Agents' balances	49,911	6	5
Outstanding interest and rents	231,677	18	7
Cash—On deposit, on current accounts, and in hand	520,265	19	1
	£30,438,337	9	8

THOS. C. DEWEY, WILLIAM HUGHES, FREDERICK FISHER, } *Joint General Managers.*
W. J. LANCASTER, *Secretary.*
EDGAR HORNE, *Chairman.*
HENRY HARBEN, ROBERT BARNES, } *Directors.*

We have examined the Cash transactions, Receipts, and Payments affecting the accounts of the Assets and Investments for the year ended December 31st, 1897, and we find the same in good order and properly vouched. We have also examined the Deeds and Securities, Certificates, &c., representing the Assets and Investments set out in the above account, and we certify that they were in possession and safe custody as on December 31st, 1897.

February 15th, 1898. DELOITTE, DEVER, GRIFFITHS, & CO.

HITCHINGS' BABY STORES.

The Premier Manufacturers of HIGH-GRADE BABY CARRIAGES in the World, have extensive Showrooms at

198, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W. (Near Peter Robinson's.)

23, 21, & 19, LUDGATE HILL, LONDON, E.C.

(Works: LUDGATE SQUARE.)

28, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, S.W. (St. George's Place, near Hyde Park Corner.)

HITCHINGS, LIMITED, have recently had the honour of building the Baby Carriage for the Baby Prince Edward of York, having previously executed orders for H.M. the Queen, H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg, H.R.H. the Duchess of Fife, H.R.H. Princess Henry of Prussia, &c. Also the Royal and Imperial families of Russia, Germany, Denmark, Portugal, and Sweden.

Hitchings' Baby Carriages from 2 to 25 Guineas, and **Baby Cars** from 15/6 to 10 Guineas, are not only the **Best**, but also 25 per cent. *cheaper* than those sold by dealers and stores. A carriage should always be purchased from the actual manufacturer. Enquiries receive prompt and courteous attention. Illustrations free. Correspondence solicited. 300 varieties in stock.

Bankers: Capital & Counties Bank and City Bank. *Telegram Address:* "Hitchings, London."
Liverpool House, 74, Bold Street. *Boston (U.S.A.) Agency:* 92, Washington Street.

HITCHINGS' "PRINCESS MAY" BABY CARRIAGE IS MOST SUITABLE FOR A CHRISTENING PRESENT, BEING RECHERCHE & UNPROCURABLE ELSEWHERE.

Before going elsewhere send for Hitchings' Pictorial Price Book free on mentioning "TRUTH."

THE "TROUVILLE" BABY-CAR.

Is equally adapted for use as a Sleeping Car for a young baby, or a Mail Car for an older child.

1. New registered design.
2. Runs on four silent wheels.
3. Small light front wheels.
4. Very safe, centre of gravity being very low.
5. Hitchings' Patent Cee Springs. Very easy.
6. Occupies small space.
7. Has deep well for legs and feet. No cramping.
8. Hitchings' Patent "Any Position Hood."
9. Half the weight of a wood body. Fine wicker and grass.
10. Cool in summer.
11. Artistically painted.
12. Beautifully upholstered in pale blue or art green.

Price as drawn **£4. 4s. nett.**

Genuine Old Welch Dressers

(Inlaid and Carved Oak), from **£6. 10s.**

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ALL GOODS CARRIAGE PAID TO ANY STATION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, London, W.

Established] [1784.

Old Bushmills

PURE MALT WHISKEY.

A. H. ALLEN, F.I.C., Public Analyst, in his evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Bonding of Spirits, remarked:—

"Bushmills Whiskey is entirely a Pot Still Whiskey, and is Distilled wholly from Malt."

PERFECT PURITY GUARANTEED.

Orders will be executed from either of the undermentioned Offices, or from the accredited agents in all parts of the world.

The Old Bushmills Distillery Co., Ltd., Hill Street, Belfast.
The Old Bushmills Distillery Co., Ltd., 42, Norfolk-st., Strand, W.C.

Old Liqueur, 51s. per doz. * * * (Three Stars), **45s. per doz.**

Carriage Paid. Packages Free. Net Cash.

ATKINSON'S EAU DE COLOGNE

Is absolutely the finest made.

More fragrant, more lasting, and very much more refreshing than all others.

USE ONLY ATKINSON'S!

ONCE USED, ALWAYS USED.

Single Bottle 2/3 post free,
Case of 6 Bottles 11s. Carriage Paid.
OF ALL DEALERS.

J. & E. ATKINSON, Limited, 24, Old Bond Street, London,

INVENTORS OF THE CELEBRATED

"WHITE ROSE" PERFUME.

"A Charming Scent."—H.R.H. The Duchess of York.

This Announcement

entitles you to a Dainty Sample Tin of **DR. TIBBLES' VI-COCOA FREE** (subject to this paper being mentioned). We, the Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, Ltd., of Suffolk House, Cannon-street, London, E.C., hereby promise to send **FREE** on receipt of your name and address (a postcard will do) a Dainty Sample Tin of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, so that you can test its merits free of charge. Not a medicine, but a wonderful food beverage. Such is Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa. As a concentrated form of nourishment and vitality it is invaluable. Pleasant and palatable, and embodying the numerous principles contained in Malt, Hops, Kola, and Cocoa, it imparts nourishment and builds up strength. Sold in 6d. packets and 9d. and 1s. 6d. tins. This unprecedented offer of a free sample is made as a means of introducing so palatable and invigorative a preparation into every home. A postcard will do. P.S.—It is absolutely necessary that the name of this paper should be mentioned when accepting the above offer.

DR. TIBBLES' VI-COCOA

Address: DR. TIBBLES' VI-COCOA, LTD., 60, 61, & 62, Bunhill Row, London, E.C.

£20 TOBACCONISTS COMMENCING. Illd. guide (259 pgs.), 3d., "How to open respectably £20 to £2,000." Tobacconists' Outfitting Co., Euston-rd., Ldn. Hairdressers fitted.—H. MYERS.

JUNO CYCLES ARE THE VERY BEST

Any JUNO Twelve Monthly Payments.
JUNO Lady's or Gent's Safety, £12 12s., 21/- monthly; £14 14s., 24/6 monthly. JUNOS from £10, 16/8 monthly. *Write for New Season's List of* JUNO *Cycles & Accessories, sent post free.* Standard Cyclometers, 10,000 miles, 2/3. Juno Riding School.

METROPOLITAN MACHINISTS CO., LTD., 75, 76, Bishopsgate Without, E.C.; & at Piccadilly Circus, London, W.

OUR PUZZLES.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 993.

I hope to be able to give a still further selection of the "Trilby" verses, and shall, therefore, delay for the present the announcement of the Prize-winner's name.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 994.

The Prize in this competition has been awarded to VOX, whose stanza will be found in TRUTH for March 3.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 998.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

THE BEST DEFINITION IN AS BRIEF AND EPIGRAMMATIC A FORM AS POSSIBLE OF "SMART SOCIETY."

All answers must reach me, at the latest, by the morning of Monday, March 21 next.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of OOM PAUL, winner of a half of Prize No. 992, is R. E. Eeles, Esq., 30, Handen-road, Lee, S.E.

*** The real name, with the address, of DANDELION, winner of Prize No. 991, is J. W. Baines, Esq., 1, Ash-terrace, Cricklewood, N.W.

*** The real name, with the address, of ETAK, winner of a half of Prize, No. 992, is Mrs. Hodgson, 21, Shooters Hill-road, Blackheath, S.E.

M. J. C.—No *nom de plume* must exceed twelve letters in length, so I have abbreviated yours to Lady S.

ETAK.—The omission of the two stanzas had not been overlooked by me. Parodies, however, are not necessarily of exactly the same length as their originals, and I considered it fair to divide the prize.

HERMIT and ULIS.—Your answers to Puzzle No. 994 arrived too late to be printed with the others.

H. S. H.—I will substitute your amended version of the stanzas.

ORLANDO.—The ambiguity is to be regretted. I certainly meant that any succession of consonants might be used. The misprint of "will" for "wilt" in your "Trilby" verses is obvious, as you say.

GEORGINA.—Your suggestion is quite a new one, and I am much obliged to you for it.

SYDNEY.—Thanks for your note.

SURGEON.—Your name was unintentionally omitted.

MONA.—A paragraph usually contains more than one sentence. A sentence, I take to be a number of words grammatically joined so as to make a complete sense, and containing only one full stop.

M. L.—Thanks for your letter.

D. C. L.—I have read your courteous criticism with much interest; and must admit that there is some force in what you say. I will spare you my defence.

R MARTIN.—The misprints did not invalidate your chance; but the inclusion of so large a total of "Chinamen" tended to make the sense of your stanza somewhat obscure.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 995.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

COMPLETION OF SKELETON STANZAS PUBLISHED IN "TRUTH" FOR FEBRUARY 17.

*** The skeleton stanzas which had to be completed ran thus:—

Down — — — her name — traced
— the — — sand;
The — — jealous — —
— kissed it — — —.

I breathed — — — — breeze
That — — — sea;
And lo! — dawn — — —
Whispered — — to —.

Subjoined will be found a few of the numerous completions received:—

Down on the shore her name I traced
On the soft, yellow sand;
The waves with jealous envy raced,
And kissed it off the strand.

I breathed a wish upon the breeze
That swept across the sea;
And lo! at dawn the distant trees
Whispered it back to me. Rex.

Down by the tide her name I traced
Upon the smooth, white sand;
The waves in jealous tumult raced,
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed it to the evening breeze
That wooed the moonlit sea;
And lo! at dawn the wind-tossed trees
Whispered it back to me. Creran.

Down by the port her name I traced
Upon the wan, grey sand;
The tide with jealous ripples raced,
And kissed it 'neath my hand.

I breathed, "Oh, waft me swiftly, breeze,
That treasure: spare her, sea!"
And lo! as dawn was breaking there
Whispered "She comes!" to me. R. M. T.

Down by the sea her name I traced
Upon the smooth, white sand;
The waves with jealous hurry raced,
And kissed it from my hand.

I breathed it to the evening breeze
That wandered o'er the sea;
And lo! the dawn, o'er silent leas,
Whispered it back to me. Gluck.

Down on the shore her name I traced
Upon the smooth, white sand;
The waves with jealous lips effaced,
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed it on the evening breeze,
That wandered from the sea;
And lo! at dawn, the gossip trees
Whispered it back to me. Beaumont.

Down on my knees her name I traced
Upon the soft, wet sand;
The waves, half jealous, shoreward raced,
But kissed it 'neath my hand.

I breathed it to the evening breeze
That sped beyond the sea;
And lo! the dawn from far countries
Whispered it back to me. Nell.

Down dropped a rose: her name he traced
Upon the late-washed sand;
The rose the jealous youth replaced,
And kissed it in his hand.

I breathe thy name upon the breeze
That whispers to the sea;
And lo! the dawn, broke thro' the trees,
Whispered "My love to thee!" Malignant.

Down by the sea her name I traced
Upon the fair, white sand;
The tide with jealous waves embraced,
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed her name upon the breeze
That crisped the sun-set sea;
And lo! at dawn the eastern trees
Whispered it back to me. Oceania.

Down by the sea her name I traced
Upon the firm, white sand;
The waves in jealous ardour raced,
And kissed it from the land.

I breathed her name unto the breeze
That rippled o'er the sea;
And lo! at dawn the rustling trees
Whispered it back to me. Manipur.

Down on the beach her name I traced
Upon the soft, white sand;
The sea was jealous—first embraced,
Then kissed it off the strand.

I breathed her name upon the breeze
That murmured by the sea;
And lo! at dawn the quivering trees
Whispered it back to me. Esperanza.

Down by the sea her name I traced
On the smooth, shining sand;
The waves, with jealous eager haste,
Soon kissed it off the strand.

I breathed her name upon the breeze,
That blew across the sea;
And lo! at dawn the rustling trees
Whispered it back to me. Excelsior.

Down by the sea her name I traced
On the soft, virgin sand;
The waves in jealous ripples raced,
And kissed it 'neath my hand.

I breathed her name upon the breeze
That stole across the sea;
And lo! red dawn from distant leas
Whispered it back to me. Bridge.

Down by the shore her name I traced
Upon the brown sea-sand;
The waves in jealous ripples raced,
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed it to the evening breeze,
That murmured o'er the sea;
And lo! at dawn the breaking seas
Whispered it back to me. Burgage.

Down by the sea her name I traced
Upon the soft, bright sand;
The waves in jealous anger raced,
And kissed it from the land.

I breathed her name upon the breeze
That travelled o'er the sea;
And lo! at dawn the love-sick trees
Whispered it back to me. Vox.

Down by the shore her name she traced
In the soft, untrodden sand;
The waves in jealous love embraced,
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed a prayer to every breeze
That swept across the sea;
And lo! at dawn the bending trees
Whispered her name to me. Whig.

Down at my feet her name I traced
Upon the smooth sea sand;
The waves, in jealous, angry haste,
Have kissed it from the strand.

I breathed my story to the breeze
That came across the sea;
And lo! at dawn the forest trees
Whispered it back to me. Lady H. S.

Down at her feet her name I traced
Upon the smooth sea sand;
The ring in jealous ardour placed,
And kissed it on her hand.

I breathed my love with every breeze
That floated from the sea;
And lo! at dawn, "Your income, please?"
Whispered the maid to me. Josephine.

Down by the sea her name I traced
In the glistening, yellow sand;
The waves in jealous madness raced,
And kissed it from the land.

I breathed her name upon the breeze
That told the listening sea;
And lo! at dawn the wakening trees
Whispered it back to me. Scissors.

Down by the shore her name I traced
Upon the bright sea sand;
The wild waves, jealous, forward raced,
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed it to the midnight breeze
That came across the sea;
And lo! at dawn the rustling trees
Whispered it back to me. Orlando.

Down on the beach her name I traced
Upon the red sea sand;
The tide, so jealous, it erased,
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed her name upon the breeze
That wafted it to sea;
And lo! at dawn the rustling trees
Whispered it back to me. Jemima.

Down 'neath the rocks her name I traced
Upon the shell-strewn sand;
The waves were jealous, so effaced
And kissed it from the land.

I breathed her name in ev'ry breeze
That blew towards the sea;
And lo! at dawn the waving trees
Whispered it back to me. Cæsar's Corner.

Down by the sea her name I traced
Upon the warm, bright sand;
The tide with jealous arms embraced,
And kissed it from the land.

I breathed her name unto the breeze
That carried it to sea;
And lo! at dawn the rustling trees
Whispered it back to me. Eoo es.

Down by the sea her name I traced
Upon the cool, wet sand;
The flow of jealous ripples raced,
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed her name unto the breeze
That hush'd the evening sea;
And lo! the dawn thro' murm'ring trees,
Whispered it back to me. Larose.

Down by the shore her name I traced
In the twilight's darkening sand;
The grey waves, jealous, softly chased,
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed a prayer: the kindly breeze
That pitied, swept the sea;
And lo! at dawn, the bending trees
Whispered, "Love, come to me."
Nodding Violet.

Down by the shore her name I traced
Upon the soft sea sand;
The waves, ah! jealous rivals, raced,
And kissed it from my strand.

I breathed it to the evening breeze
That sighed adown the sea;
And lo! at dawn my linden trees
Whispered it back to me. Musafir.

Down on the beach her name I traced
Upon the firm, brown sand;
That name, the jealous wave effaced,
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed her dear name to the breeze
That floated out to sea;
And lo, at dawn the rustling trees
Whispered it back to me Gygne.

Down by the sea her name I traced
Upon the yielding sand;
The tide with jealous hurry raced,
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed my vows upon the breeze
That fanned the evening sea;
And lo! at dawn, my sweet Louise
Whispered them back to me. Homnis.

Down on the beach her name I traced
Upon the brown-ribbed sand;
The sea with jealous wave effaced,
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed a sigh unto the breeze
That fanned the moonlit sea;
And lo! when dawn appeared, the trees
Whispered it back to me.
Waynflete.

Down by the sea her name I traced
Upon the tide-swept sand;
The wild waves, jealous, madly raced,
And kissed it, as I planned.

I breathed "'Tis she" to sunset breeze
That wooed the languorous sea;
And lo, damp dawn in stifled sneeze,
Whispered "'Tis she" to me.
Robert Martin.

Down by the sea her name I traced
On the sparkling, yellow sand;
The sea with jealous lover's haste
Soon kissed it from the land.

I breathed her name unto the breeze
That gently kissed the sea;
And lo! at dawn the rustling trees
Whispered that name to me. La Plata.

Down on my knees her name I traced
Upon the yielding sand;
The name the jealous tide effaced,
But kiss'd it like a hand.

I breathed her name upon the breeze
That wanton'd with the sea:
And lo! at dawn my sweet Louise
Whispered her love to me.
J. McGrigor Allan.

Down by the sea her name I traced,
In the shifting, yellow sand;
The waves with jealous billows raced
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed a secret in the breeze
That floated o'er the sea;
And lo! at dawn the faithless trees
Whispered it back to me. Fury.

Down on the shore her name I traced
On the smooth, plastic sand,
The waves were jealous—they effaced
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed it to the evening breeze
That swept the sunset sea;
And lo! the dawn, more kind than these,
Whispered it back to me. Pemmie.

Down on the ground her name was traced,
Upon the soft, white sand,
The man was jealous and disgraced,
But kissed it on the strand.

I breathed once more the kindly breeze
That fluttered o'er the sea,
And lo! the dawn behind the Lees
Whispered her name to me. Crock.

Down by the sea her name she traced
Upon the bright, smooth sand;
The swift waves jealous me outpaced,
And kissed it from the land.

I breathed a sigh into the breeze
That passed across the sea;
And, lo! at dawn her name—Louise,
Whispered it back to me. Quantock.

A BEDLAMITE.

Down in the mouth her name I traced
Upon the cracked sea sand;
The tide with jealous spuming haste
Soon kissed it off the strand.

I breathed my wish upon the breeze
That cross'd that moonstruck sea;
And lo! by dawn, for answer, Spes
Whispered, "She's mad to be—."
Physician.

Down by the sea her name I traced
Upon the shining, silvery sand;
The waves with jealous swiftness raced,
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed her name upon the breeze
That wafted it to sea;
And lo! at dawn, an answering breeze
Whispered it back to me. Floré.

Down by the sea her name she traced
On the shifting silver sand;
The waves in jealous ripples raced
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed all night the balmy breeze
That wafted from the sea;
And lo! the dawn by slow degrees
Whispered that name to me.
Rien de Trop.

Down by the shore her name I traced
In the yellow, golden sand;
The waves in jealous mood embraced,
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed it to the evening breeze
That woo'd the summer sea,
And lo! at dawn the drowsy bees
Whispered it back to me. Scorpio.

Down 'mid the rocks her name I traced
On the soft fickle sand;
The bright tide, jealous, swiftly raced,
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed my sorrow to the breeze
That herald from the sea;
And lo, the dawn-wind's rustling trees
Whispered her name to me.
Inamorato.

Answers have been received from:—Peromnia Perro, Crock, Alf, Etak, Clericus, Quantock, Nosetub, Busy Bee, Ellart, Avis, J. Brown, Bullyduff, Ivy Leaves, Irene, Advena, Chica, Sophrosyne, Qu'Appelle, Manx Cat, Huntsman, Gifford Vale, Scotia, Nesclo Quid, Desire, Martlet, Mushroom, Rag, Gug, Wildcat, Freda, The Snark, Malabar, Bad Luck, Malda, J. McGrigor Allan, Fury, Reseek, Grip, Nin Nin, Pretoria, Rex, Mrs. Thomas, Bel Demonio, Creran, Felicité, R. M. T., C. F. Reid, A Daft Scot, Gluck, Aston Villa, Beaumont, Bathampton, O. E. M., Urquhart, Gwilt Gwalea, Nell, W. Gossmann, A. W., Myrah, May S., Physician, Erin, Cavalier, Sang Froid, Borris, Malignant, Bureau, Wyndene, Janet, Sceptic, Bishop O., Wig and Gown, Merle, Rats, Corollary, Suum Cuique, Relwof, Orchid, Blackboard, Anno Dominl, Oceanla, Manipur, Esperanza, Excelsior, Gulidmus, Bridge, Culpepper, Eblana, Leander, Burgage, Vox, Gib, Heathfield, Whig, Grouse, A M. T., Cromwell, Miss Hyde, Bag, Red Rowan, Nin Nin, Lady Hester Stanhope, Mr. Tiger, Wrotthurst, R. B. G., Westbrook, Cis, Josephine, Mona, Prepyshowle, Newnham, Ann, Sissy, Connie, Scissors, Georgina, Nurse, Scudran, Simmondi, Krassatow, Mumarcts, Orlando, Number Nine, Save, Cross, Risk, Jemima, Castlecomer, Venatrix, Miss E. Leith, S. Pup, Prak, Chutney, Bardo, Kedogo, Wayland Smith, Viper, Scorpio, The Hen, Rien de trop, Menar, Ellerig, Roy, Rose, Edwin, Busy Bee, Floré, Aidye, Esmeralda, Myra, Aidee, Sheila, Wandering Jew, Glenrosa, Ukadoo, Sissie, Pendragon, Candide, Cæsar's Corner, Psycho, Carima, Courage, Moonshine, Verax, Fir Tree, Rowna, Felsberg, Betty Malachi, Miss Jackson, Miss R. Chapman, Esser, Francescan, Miss Middleton, Larose, Viggy Pudden, Richman, A. Vichnu, Shadows, Mrs. Nora Gellebrand, Mos, Pemmie, Nodding Violet, Dan, Rover, Musafir, Cygne, Nora, Homnis, Railway Car, Yolande, Pie-repone-te, Epoh, The Fam, Waynflete, Brenda, Robert Martin, Xuihps, Shamus, May Jeune, Kappa, Invicta, Mona, La Plata, Pumphia, Thirty-six, Louise, Trablig, Gollywog, Engineer, Zeta, St. Ives, Blunderbuss, Scrivener, Felix, Stowan, Laddie, M. M., Jinko, Heatner Bell, Cygnet, Rule, Peter, Hircling, Woodlands, and Barratt Hall

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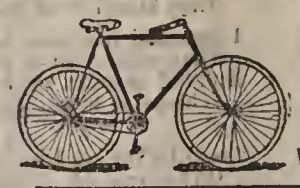

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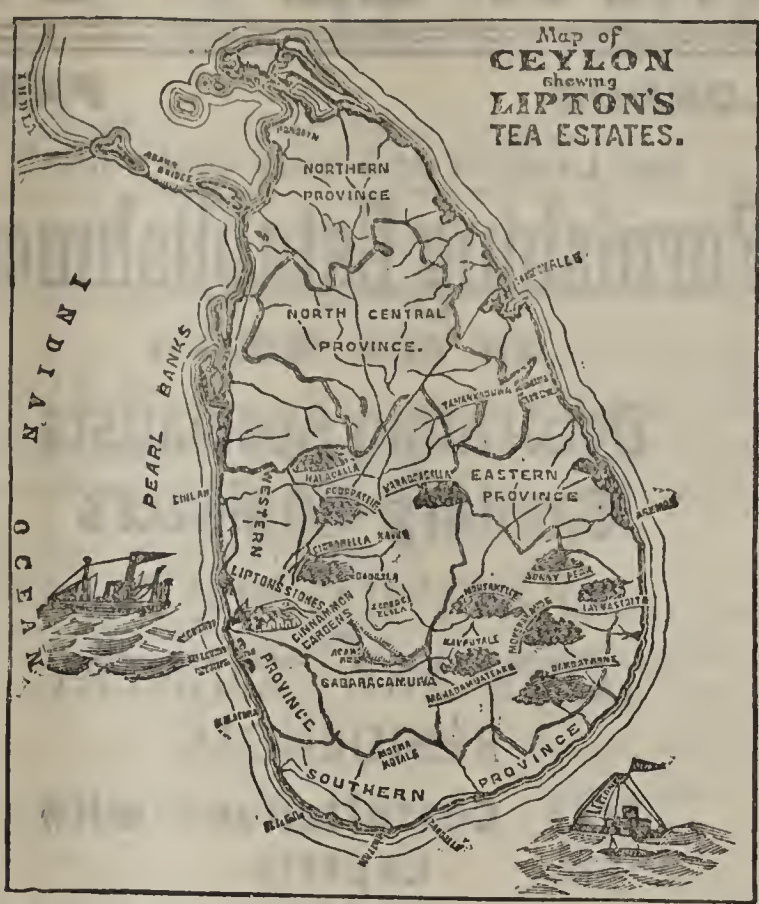

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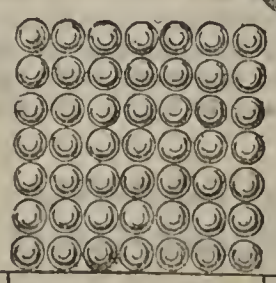

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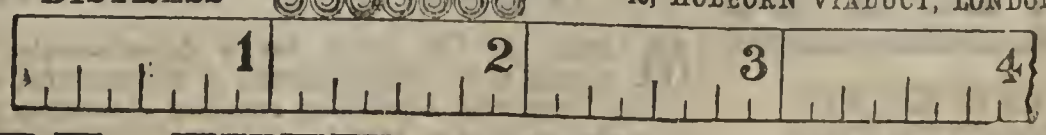

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE reckless and idiotic sensation-mongering of news-agencies and enterprising journals caused a pretty scare last week about the Queen's health. The "anxiety" alleged to exist at Court by a romancing morning paper on the subject of her Majesty's health was purely imaginative. The Queen's "slight indisposition" was simply nothing whatever, and she had neither a cold nor a bilious attack. The fact is that the Queen has been in really wonderfully good health ever since her return from the Riviera nearly twelve months ago, and in the last year she has never been unwell for a single day, except for one slight cold and occasional twinges from the rheumatism which has troubled her for the last twelve years.

The *St. James's Gazette* has been printing some nonsensical fiction about the Queen's eyesight, stating that "it cannot be denied that no improvement has taken place since an oculist was last consulted." Did ever any one hear of an improvement taking place in the eyesight of a person who is nearly seventy-nine? As a matter of fact, an oculist sees the Queen every few weeks, and it is difficult to understand how ever an evening paper can endeavour to get up an alarm because her Majesty uses glasses for reading and writing! As to the Queen leaving her ordinary reading to the Maids of Honour, this has been her custom to a great extent for the last thirty years. The Queen has used glasses for reading and writing for more than twenty years. Very few women of the Queen's age have such good eyesight.

It is reported at Berlin that after the Queen returns to Windsor Castle, Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, elder daughter of Prince and Princess Christian, will be betrothed to the Grand Duke Alexis Alexandrovitch of Russia, uncle of the Emperor Nicholas. The Grand Duke Alexis, who was born in January, 1850, is Lord High Admiral of the Russian Navy. Princess Victoria is just twenty years the junior of the Grand Duke Alexis, who has hitherto resisted all the numerous attempts of his Imperial relatives to induce him to change his condition.

There is to be a great gathering of Royal personages at Cannes at Easter, for the celebration on April 14 of the eightieth birthday of Queen Marie of Hanover, who is expected there shortly on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland.

The Duke of Connaught is going to Dresden about April 20 for a few days, to represent the Queen at the Court fêtes in celebration of King Albert's seventieth birthday. The late Prince Consort was a Duke of Saxony, a distinction which his sons have inherited. When the Prince of Wales was born he was gazetted "Duke of Saxony," and much offence was given because this title had precedence in the official announcement over the various British titles. The Prince of Wales quarters the arms of Saxony with the Royal arms of England, in accordance with the advice of the Privy Council. Sir Robert Peel and Sir James Graham were responsible for this advice, but the arrangement was not carried out without vigorous opposition from the Earl Marshal.

Empress Frederick also has the Saxon arms, but her armorial bearings were given to her by the Queen by warrant in December, 1840. It is expected that the Queen will confer the first class (G.C.V.O.) of the Royal Victorian order upon the King of Saxony, who was made a Knight of the Garter in 1882, when the Duke of Fife went on a special mission to Dresden to invest his Majesty with the ribbon and insignia.

The Duke of Cambridge, who is staying at Cannes, will return to England early next month in time to spend Easter at Kew, after which H.R.H. goes to Newmarket for the Craven Meeting, and he is to be the guest of the Prince of Wales at Sandringham from April 15 to 18, on which day he is to arrive at Gloucester House for the season.

The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Greece are about to leave Athens, and they will be away for a year. The Crown Prince and Crown Princess are to divide the period of their absence between Germany and Denmark.

There was a very small attendance at the Drawing Room, both in the entrée, and of the general company. It would have been much better to postpone the second Drawing Room until May, but the Queen refused to do so. There are to be only two Drawing Rooms after Easter, with 200 presentations at each, in addition to those from the entrée.

A daily paper, in an account of the Drawing Room, states that some of the company "were back again in their own houses soon after three." They must have been very clever people indeed, seeing that the Princess of Wales did not enter the Throne Room until several minutes after three, and fully half an hour elapsed before any carriage drove away from the Palace. The best got-up of the equipages were those of the Russian Ambassador, the Duchess of Buccleuch, and Lady Lansdowne. The Ladies Scott were not "granted the entrée," but they are entitled to that privilege while unmarried as the daughters of the Mistress of the Robes. The Queen granted the entrée for this function to Lady Waterford, who was presented, on her marriage, by her mother, Lady Lansdowne.

Lord Tweeddale declined again to undertake the office of Lord High Commissioner to the Church of Scotland, which he has held several times, and he is to be succeeded by Lord Leven and Melville. The Lord High Commissioner resides for a fortnight in May at Holyrood House, presides over the daily sittings of the Assembly, takes part in all sorts of public functions, and gives an immense dinner every night to the clerical and lay members of the Assembly, besides holding a Levee and giving two or three huge receptions. The Lord High Commissioner receives £2,000, but this sum is considerably below the outlay, if the hospitalities are on a generous scale, and if everything is thoroughly well done. Lord and Lady Tweeddale were both very popular, and their hospitalities were sumptuous.

Last week Lord Cadogan paid one of his flying visits to London, though the Castle was full of guests. Lord Cadogan goes through changes of character so rapid that they must puzzle even himself. He leaves Kingstown a Viceroy, with all the privileges and precedence of the position. At a point in the Channel, however, a certain number of miles from the shore, his privileges and precedence vanish; without even a change of costume, he lapses into a plain English nobleman and Cabinet Minister. At this point too, no doubt, his mind, till then neutral and loftily free of Party feeling, assumes the Conservative tinge suitable for the Council the attendance at which is the object of his journey.

Lord and Lady Cadogan, with a large Viceregal party, were present at the opening of the annual exhibition of the Royal Hibernian Academy last week, and were received by the President, Sir T. Farrell, Mr. Walter Osborne, Mr. Duffy, and other members of the Committee. Some excellent work is exhibited by Messrs. Osborne, Moynan, and B. McGuinness, Miss Purser, and many others. In addition to the exhibition some pictures of Messrs. Orchardson and Sargent have been lent.

Lord Arran, who is to receive the ribbon of St. Patrick vacant owing to the death of Lord Carlingford, is better known in England than in Ireland, though of late he has lived a good deal at his picturesque residence near Foxford, where Lady Arran has been active in promoting home industries. Lord Arran is head of the family of Gore, one of whose members, the Duchess of Inverness, was the wife of the Queen's uncle, the Duke of Sussex. One of his daughters is married to Lord Salisbury's eldest son. Lady Arran was well known in Dublin society, and as a débutante was one of the beauties at Dublin Castle. Her father, Mr. John Reilly, was an official at the Four Courts, and married the daughter of the Chancellor, Lord St. Leonards.

Lord HolmPatrick was very well known in Irish society. He was a constant resident at Abbotstown, which is only five miles distant from Dublin. He was personally popular with every class being courteous and amiable. Politically he belonged to the old Irish Conservative school, of which Protestant ascendancy is the leading doctrine. All shades of politicians, however, attended his funeral, at which Lady HolmPatrick and all his children were present. Lord HolmPatrick was moderately wealthy; and his successor, now only ten years old, will be a rich man when he comes of age. Lady HolmPatrick is a god-daughter of the Queen and sister to the present Duke of Wellington.

The Dowager Lady Elgin, who died last week at Broomhall, Fifeshire, had lived in complete retirement since her husband's death in 1863. She was a very clever woman, and a charming hostess, and much distinguished for her high intellectual culture. Lady Elgin was greatly beloved in the neighbourhood of Broomhall, and her kindness to the poor was untiring. Lady Elgin accompanied her father, Lord Durham, to Canada before her marriage, and when she returned thither with Lord Elgin her knowledge of the country and its parties was of great service to her husband. Both at Ottawa and at Calcutta Lady Elgin was a perfect hostess and leader of society, and her success was the more remarkable, inasmuch as her disposition was naturally very retiring. She was an immense favourite with Dean Stanley, who married her sister-in-law, Lady Augusta Bruce, and he often visited her at Broomhall.

Parties will be entertained next week for Liverpool races, by the Duke and Duchess of Westminster at Eaton Hall, and by Lord Stanley and Lady Alice Stanley at Knowsley Park.

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 684 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 682.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 683.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 693.

The Duke and Duchess of Westminster have returned to Eaton Hall from Torquay, and will stay there until after the Easter holidays. The Duke's health has been much benefited by his stay at Torquay, and he is so charmed with the place that he will probably take a villa there for next winter.

Kind-hearted ladies and gentlemen are continually inviting me to bring about some amendment of the law which will put a stop to the cruelty perpetrated on goats at seaside towns, Brighton chief among them. I have a great deal of sympathy with the goats, but I also sympathise with the children, who derive much enjoyment from goat-carriage exercise. Although it is true we do not allow dogs to be used for draught purposes in this country, there seems no reason why goats should not be allowed to draw reasonable weights. What is required is that the local authorities should take steps to see that goat carriages are not overloaded, and that the boys in charge do not ill-treat the animals. Most of the cruelty of this kind that has come under my personal observation seems due to a mistaken idea on the part of the boys that a goat is able to draw his load better if at the same time his conductor is endeavouring to pull his head off.

A matinée will be given at the Comedy Theatre on Tuesday next in aid of various societies for the benefit of animals, including the R.S.P.C.A., the Home of Rest for Horses, the Society for the Protection of Birds, the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association, and others. The proceeds will be distributed among the societies from which the tickets are purchased.

I have thought it my duty to intercept the following question, addressed to my valued contributor, "Madge." It is a case where I think a man can advise better than any woman.

Supposing a young man is thrown daily into the society of a young and pretty girl, living in the same house, in fact; and suppose that they are very good friends, but are nothing more, and don't want to be as at present advised—(1) Is there any reason why he should not give her a birthday present of some value? (2) May he ask her for her photograph?

Oh, my dear young friend, why cannot you leave well alone? If at present you and she are very good friends, and as at present advised—very well advised, I should say—do not want to be anything more, there is every reason in the world why you should not give her a birthday present, and why you should not ask her for her photograph. Even granting that you yourself have made up your mind that you do not want to be anything more than friends, how on earth do you know that she has? Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest a few reports of breach of promise cases.

Many reasons besides the true one have been given for the failure of the Imperial Institute. The latest that has come under my notice is the extravagant prices of the refreshment tariff. A gentleman told me the other day that, having joined the Imperial Institute merely as a convenient West End club, he withdrew because he found that he could not get a decent lunch there at a reasonable price. There may be something in this; but it does not explain the withdrawal of the Colonial Governments, and I doubt if it altogether explains the defection of the subscribers.

A friend of whom I expected better things has, I am sorry to say, fallen a victim to Klene & Co., of biographical notoriety. He is a gentleman well known in the musical world, and having been misled into the belief that he was contributing to an authoritative biographical publication, he supplied Klene & Co. with the necessary particulars for his own memoirs, and agreed to pay £2 10s. for a copy of the volume. When the book came out, it appeared that both his christian name and surname were misspelt, the compiler having adopted two methods of spelling the surname, and used both of them alternately with engaging impartiality. Thinking that a work compiled on these principles could not be worth much, my friend returned the book, and declined to pay for it. He is now being pressed by a debt-collecting firm for his £2 10s. I hope he may get out of the bargain, but in any case, his experience should serve as a warning to others.

The *Sporting Times* published the other day notices to the effect that the advertisements of turf tipsters, money-lenders, and massage establishments will in future be excluded from its blushing columns. If my chastened contemporary could see the vast pile of letters calling attention to this announcement that have reached Truth office from all parts of Europe, he would feel indeed that he has his reward. Seriously, the *Sporting Times* deserves the thanks of all decent-minded people for taking this step. Hitherto the great difficulty of making any reference to the massage evil has been that, in doing so one necessarily directed attention to the advertisements of such places. I have learned by experience, that owing to this reason, more harm than good was done by discussing the subject. Let the advertisements once be systematically boycotted in the Press, and we may hope soon to see the end of all such abominations.

There seems to be a wave of respectability flowing over the Press all round. Another class of advertisements against which I have long waged war formed the subject of an action last week between the proprietors of a certain patent medicine and a firm of advertising agents. The action arose in consequence of the new proprietors of another weekly journal, *Pick-Me-Up*, having decided to exclude such advertisements from their columns. The evidence given in the case showed what I have always contended—viz., that advertisements of this particular class are not only immoral,

A Beautiful Hotel at Bournemouth.—The "Royal Bath." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Sea frontage, 1,000 ft.; grounds, 5 acres. Due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.* Moderate fixed tariff.

but fraudulent. One of the defendants stated in the course of the trial that similar advertisements "appear in any number of respectable papers," and "are scattered broadcast through the Press." This also is true, and I recommend the proprietors of the respectable journals which still publish such garbage to study the summing up of Mr. Justice Darling in the *Pick-Me-Up* case, and the evidence of Dr. Allfield in the witness-box. The *Weekly Times and Echo* still remains unpurified.

It is proposed at Cambridge to appoint a Reader in Surgery for five years, the General Board of Studies recommending the suppression of a Professorship for a further period of five years. The arrangement is regarded with much disapproval, as not a step has so far been gained towards getting rid of the difficulties in connection with the matter which have been a constant subject of discussion during the last five years. The University cannot expect to obtain the services of a really eminent surgeon unless he has charge of the beds in Addenbrooke's Hospital, and it seems that this cannot be arranged without an Act of Parliament, followed by extensive changes in the constitution of this establishment.

Archdeacon Salmon, who was recently appointed by Bishop Kennion to the Archdeaconry of Wells, in the place of Archdeacon Fitzgerald, has resigned the important living of Weston-super-Mare, where he succeeded Canon Buckle. This benefice is worth about £500 a year, with residence, and is in the gift of the Bishop of Bath and Wells. Archdeacon Salmon has presented himself to the Vicarage of Brent Knoll, of which he is patron in right of his office as Archdeacon of Wells. This living is worth about £450 a year, with residence, and it is within a few miles of Weston, being the next parish to East Brent, where Archdeacon Denison was incumbent for nearly half a century.

Here is a case which has an obvious bearing on the question whether the present revenues of the Church are sufficient for the proper maintenance of the clergy. The living of Fishley in Norfolk is worth £125 a year and a house. The village contains three houses besides the parsonage. The parsonage is a good house, recently rebuilt at a cost of £1,200. A gentleman, who calls my attention to this case, mentions as others of the same class within his own knowledge a Devonshire parish containing three houses, and another in Buckinghamshire with nine houses, the parson's income in each case being over £200 a year. Dozens of other cases equally scandalous might easily be found.

The appeal just issued on behalf of the Queen Victoria Clergy Fund stated that there are now 5,907 parishes in England, of which the nominal value ranges from £30 to £200. This statement is devoid of all significance unless supplemented by full information as to the exact amount of duty attached to each benefice. The truth is that the system of parochial endowments involves a waste of thousands upon thousands of pounds per annum. The object of the Queen Victoria Clergy Fund is said to be to raise the income of every beneficed clergyman to £200 per annum. The idea of paying a man £200 a year for looking after the spiritual needs of a parish containing three—or, for the matter of that, thirty—houses is preposterous. Any other religious or secular organisation which squandered its funds in this manner would be held up to ridicule and opprobrium, and it is outrageous that urgent appeals should be sent out to increase the incomes of the clergy, while no effort is made to properly husband and apportion the existing resources of the Church.

A clergyman, who was long on intimate terms with the late Bishop of Bedford, takes exception to an observation in TRUTH that "he began his ministry as a very Low Churchman." "Depend upon it," observes my correspondent, "Billing was never what I should call a very Low Churchman, *i.e.*, one who ignores or is utterly indifferent to Church order, or to the decency, dignity, and reverence which every clergyman is bound by his ordination vows and instructions to maintain in public worship." No doubt, the accepted view of the difference between High and Low Church varies with each generation, much as does that between a Liberal and a Tory. I am old enough to remember when the outward sign of a High Churchman was preaching in a surplice; this was deemed by Low Churchmen to be equivalent to being on the high road to what was then called a Roman. But now, I take it, most clergy preach in their surplices without any of their congregations objecting.

A singular little exposition of bigotry has been given by the members of a voluntary Parochial Church Council at Colchester. Owing to complaints of the annoyance caused by "the sound of the church-going bell," including some from the congregation, the clergyman, himself a liberal-minded man, proposed that the time of the tolling should be shortened from a quarter of an hour to five minutes before each service; but the Council disapproved of the change, one of the objections mentioned being that *Nonconformists would be gratified by such a concession.* In other words, the bell is to be kept ringing for the full quarter of an hour, not because so long a spell of the noise is agreeable to Churchmen, but because it annoys Dissenters.

I am asked to state that the address of the London Depot of Greek Industries is 39, Marloes-road, Kensington, W.; the Hon. Secretary's address is 2, Kensington Park-gardens, W.; and that large additions to the stock are pouring in from different parts of Greece. The goods, which sold well while housed in the crypt of the Greek-Church, Moscow-road, should go off still better now that they have their own roof over their heads.

BELLIS'S world-famed real TURTLE SOUP, more strengthening than any beef fluid. Glass flaçons 7/-, tins. 5/-.—Obtainable everywhere, or direct, postfree. T. K BELLIS, 6, Jeffrey's-square, London

It will, no doubt, interest many of my readers to know that Mr. Arnold Forster's recent letters to the *Times* on the Condition of the Army have been republished in a handy volume, as have also Sir Charles Dilke's on the same subject. The former volume is published by Mr. Edward Arnold, and the latter by Messrs. Service & Paton. I do not see eye to eye with either writer, and in particular there is much in Mr. Arnold Forster's criticism which seems to me entirely wide of the mark, even assuming the accuracy of the facts · but unquestionably his letters form one of the most serious indictments of the War Office that have ever been published, and that is saying a good deal.

The whole basis of Sir Charles Dilke's arguments appears to be that we should be ready, not merely to resist an attack, but also to deliver what he terms a "counter-stroke." This I understand to mean that we must be in a position to invade the territory of either France, Germany, or Russia. There is only one Army reform which will put us in a position to do this, and that is conscription. Either we must rely on our insular position to save us from the militarism which now dominates the Continent, or we must adopt the Continental military system *en bloc*. My contention has always been that the latter alternative is the one towards which our present military advisers are, consciously or unconsciously, tending, and Sir Charles Dilke's arguments seem to prove it.

While the idea of our undertaking military operations on the Continent under modern conditions is chimerical, no one can doubt the necessity of being prepared to repel an invasion in the event of a naval disaster. For this we should rely upon our Auxiliary Forces, stiffened by a small infusion of regular troops. That, at any rate, is my view, and for that reason I call attention to the following passage from Sir Charles Dilke's book, which, to my thinking, contains the most serious charge that can be made against our present military administrators :—

> Our insular position would enable us to resist invasion with a comparatively small Army—less than our present number of men with muskets—if that Army were well organised and commanded. But at the present moment the Volunteer battalions are of extraordinarily unequal merit; they are terribly short of officers; their command is not, as a rule, so provided for as to make us feel that they would be handled in the best way; and they are entirely unsupplied with a well-trained field artillery, which is specially required by young troops. The Militia, I may add, are also wholly without field artillery, and the Regular Army itself has a smaller proportional supply of field artillery than has any other army in the world.

It is reported that a committee, composed of the Financial Secretary and representatives of both the combatant and the medical branches of the War Office, is now at work on the long-expected Medical Warrant. If there is any truth in this, Lord Lansdowne would be well advised if he at once strengthened the committee by adding to it some representative administrative Medical Officer on full pay, not connected with the War Office. There is a strong feeling throughout the Army Medical Staff that no good thing can ever come out of 18, Victoria-street, and this feeling is fully justified by past experience.

If any competent judge of the facts doubts the justice of all that has appeared in Truth in criticism of the Tirah operations, let him study the article on the Tirah Campaign in the current number of the *Fortnightly Review*. That article is written by an eye-witness who has been through the campaign. Every point in the Truth criticisms is repeated and confirmed — the delay in the advance, the breakdown of the transport, the excessive quantity of baggage carried, largely owing to the crowd of superfluous Staff officers, the inefficiency of many of the Staff, the inaptitude of the operations at Dargai, and the shortcomings of Sir Richard Udny. Above all, the writer insists that in what he says he is only expressing "the con ensus of opinion among the officers of the Tirah Field Force." I have myself heard enough of the opinion of officers with the Force to know that he is right in this. What, becomes, then, of the foolish and futile telegram transmitted home the other day in answer to Truth by a Reuter's representative at Peshawur?

Perhaps the most interesting passage of the *Fortnightly Review* article is that describing the second attack on Dargai. The great point which it brings out is that the failure of the Gurkhas, Derbys, and Dorsets to carry the position in the earlier part of the day was due far less to any lack of pluck and go on the part of the men, than to the way in which the attacking force was handled. After describing the successive futile rushes made in "driblets" by these regiments, the writer says :

> Gradually a hesitation arose as to the orders of the General —a hesitation fatally infectious—aggravated by every second's delay; aggravated by the sight of the dead and dying. Were they not to wait till the batteries, by a concentrated fire, had beaten down the rain of bullets from above?—or were they to rush forward now?—would a man survive?—then what would bethe use? Was it not too much to ask of men, many hungry and tired, many more mere boys, poisoned with disease? Couldn't the General give some clear order? Where was his Brigadier?
>
> The General lay on a native bed in the village below, covered with a blanket, wracked with dysentery. Below, too, was his Brigadier. . . . .

There are one or two important questions which ought not to be lost sight of in connection with the deplorable illness and death of Major-General Yeatman Biggs. Sir William Lockhart has put it on record in his own despatches that he himself believed the General to be unfit for active service from the outset of the campaign, and did not agree with the opinion of the Medical Officer who had pronounced him fit. As a matter of fact, it was well known before he went on active service that General Yeatman Biggs was in extremely bad health. I believe that he had been recommended to leave India, and his friends anticipated the worst results from

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his going on active service. It therefore becomes of great public importance to know: (1) Whether the deceased officer was examined by a Medical Board in the usual course before his promotion to Major-General; (2) whether he was examined as to his physical fitness before he proceeded on active service; and (3) who were the Medical Officers, if any, who passed him on either or both of these occasions? One would also like to know the name of the Medical Officer referred to in Sir William Lockhart's dispatch who pronounced Major-General Biggs fit to remain in the field. The decisions of Medical Boards and Medical Officers in the case of officers of high rank have often been falsified by the event, but there has rarely been a more striking example of their fallibility than this.

Apart from the question of the responsibility of Medical Officers, it is impossible altogether to absolve Sir William Lockhart. If, as he himself declares, he did not agree with the decision of the Medical Officer who declared Major-General Yeatman Biggs fit to remain in the field, it was surely open to him to have himself ordered a fresh Medical Board to report upon the officer's physical condition. It is beyond question that for a week before the battle of Dargai General Yeatman Biggs had been virtually incapacitated for the efficient discharge of his duties. Every one must sympathise with the devotion of an officer who could stick to his post in the face of such difficulties. That it may not be expedient, however, to allow him to do so, is pretty evident from the *Fortnightly Review* account of the second attack on Dargai.

Not only is the TRUTH criticism of Sir Richard Udny's handling of the Frontier outbreak in its earliest stage confirmed by the *Fortnightly Review's* "Eyewitness," but it seems to have been anticipated in the *Civil and Military Gazette*. I have just received an extract from that paper which condemns Sir Richard Udny's abandonment of the Khaiber in terms seldom applied to prominent officials in responsible newspapers. It is pointed out that the coming attack on the Khaiber was known a week beforehand, and that it was open to the Commissioner either to garrison the forts with British troops, or to make arrangements to relieve them when attacked, or to withdraw the garrisons from the forts. Sir Richard Udny chose a fourth course. He first recalled Captain Barton, the Commandant of the Khaiber Rifles, from Lundi Kotal, and he then sent the following telegram to the Punjab Government:—

> As there is now no officer in the Khaiber whom it would be necessary to succour if Lundi Kotal and the post are attacked, it will not be necessary to do anything from this side, or to force the pass. General Elles agrees in this.

The result was that the Khaiber Rifles were left to their fate, and the forts captured, with all the arms, ammunition, and property contained in them.

It would be difficult, indeed, to speak too strongly of this incident. Sir Richard Udny, and apparently General Elles with him, calmly advocate the abandonment of a body of native troops in British pay on the cynical ground that there was no officer with them whom it was necessary to rescue. Even if the abandonment of the pass and forts had been desirable for strategical or technical reasons, nothing could justify this treatment of the garrisons, especially when it is remembered that there was no reason whatever why they should not have been withdrawn at the time when their Commandant was ordered to Jamrud. It is inconceivable how, after this exploit, Sir Richard Udny could have been appointed Political Agent with the Tirah Field Force, and, still more, how he could be rewarded, as he has since been, with additional honours in commemoration of his services. There has actually been some talk in India of his appointment to the post of Frontier Commissioner, which, it is understood, is likely to be created. If so, it may be necessary to say something even stronger than anything which has appeared at present.

A good deal of hostile comment has been made in India on the appointment of Colonel J. W. Otley to the Tirah Field Force, with the rank of Brigadier-General. I believe I am right in saying that this officer served continuously on irrigation works under the Public Works Department from January, 1870, until August, 1896, when he was retired from the Department on attaining the age of 55. In January, 1898, he is given an important command upon a force in the field at a most critical juncture. Could there be a better illustration of everything that has been said in condemnation of the reckless jobbery which marks the Simla administration?

There is a story told by one of the American humourists —I forget which—illustrative of the phenomenal stinginess of the inhabitants of some spot—I forget where. The gist of it is that a workman was blown up in an explosion so far that he disappeared entirely out of sight. His comrades had given him up, and almost forgotten all about him, when a speck was seen far away in the empyrean, which grew larger and larger, until the missing man dropped on his feet just where he had gone up. He had his pickaxe still in his hand, and at once went to work again with all his might to make up for lost time. But when the pay time came, he was docked of ten minutes' pay for absence without leave. Judging by the case of Colour-Sergeant Walker, of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, this is precisely the principle on which the War Office deals with our soldiers.

Colour-Sergeant Walker's story has already been told in these columns. He was sent with a small party to hold a certain point, and keep the enemy in check while his battalion was retiring. They were apparently forgotten, and were most of them killed or wounded in attempting to overtake the retreating force. Walker was shot, and taken prisoner by the Afridis, who kept him as a hostage

HEERING'S COPENHAGEN CHERRY BRANDY. The most delicious Liqueur. Established 1818. Of all respectable Wine Merchants.

for some weeks, and then released him. On rejoining his battalion, he was brought before a court of inquiry for absence without leave and deprived of his pay for the time of his absence. Mr. Brodrick explains that this is the usual course, as duly provided by the Queen's Regulations and the Royal Warrant, although the Secretary of State is accustomed to exercise a benevolent discretion under such circumstances, and restore the man's pay—I suppose some time "in the coming by-and-by." This is like the unspeakable clemency of the Crown, which grants a "free pardon" to an innocent man when it is shown that he has been wrongfully convicted. As such rules make the Queen's Regulations and the Royal Warrant look idiotic and contemptible in the eyes of every rational being, Mr. Brodrick would do well to get them amended promptly.

One of my readers in the rank and file, who is also a student of Kipling, sends the following verses, inspired by the story of the Scots Fusiliers' Colour-Sergeant:—

A CASE OF "WALKER!"

As long as fightin's to be done they talks us fair enough,
We're "a thin red line of 'eroes" an' all that sort o' stuff.
The Colonel sez he's proud of us, and 'ow we're just the men
To charge them durned Afridis—yus! it's all soft sawder then.

Yus, it's Tommy this an' Tommy that,
An' Tommy make 'em run!
But they're down on us poor Tommies
When we've got the fightin' done.
When we've got the fightin' done, my boys,
When we've got the fightin' done—
It's quite another pair o' boots
When we've got the fightin' done.

For if so be in chargin' 'ome you should get a bit too far,
Why, if they knocks you on the 'ed and kills you—there you are!
But, 'spose you're only wounded, and is made a pris'ner—phew!
It's a Gawd-forsaken future that is then stored up for you.

For, say the crafty enemy
You manage to deceive,
They'll try you when you reach your camp
For absence without leave!
For absence without leave, my boys,
For absence without leave—
They'll try you by court-marshil
For absence without leave!

You may 'ave 'ad an awful time, what with dust an' thirst an' flies,
Your wounds they may 'ave fester'd and the glare 'ave spoilt your eyes;
You may 'ave risked your life an' all in boltin' for the plains;
But if you expect a welcome—you're a juggins for your pains!

'Strewth, you'll just catch it jolly 'ot
For gettin' clean away;
They'll try you by court-marshil
And they'll stop your bloomin' pay.
They'll stop your bloomin' pay, my boys,
They'll stop your bloomin' pay,
For bein' "absent without leave,"
They'll stop your bloomin' pay!

"It is in the Regilations," that's the answer wot we've got;
But if *that's* the Regilations, why, I call 'em tommy rot.
If for doin' of your duty, and for stickin' to the same,
You get kicks instead of ha'pence, it's a strite-down bloomin' shame!

An' the next time that our Colonel
Tries his complimints so pat,
And reminds us we're 'is 'eroes,
An' sich gushin' things as that,
Why, it oughtn't to surprise him
If, by way of our reply,
All us Tommies shouted "Walker!"
And just winked the other eye.

If a statement just sent to me is to be trusted, the experiences of the 3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade with the Tochi Field Force were even more calamitous than has yet appeared. A Service reader tells me that the battalion marched out, a splendid body of men, over 900 strong. All that returned to India were some ten officers and 260 fever-stricken men. The rest were either buried, in hospital, or invalided home. The remnant of the Battalion has since been sent to some health resort to recuperate. The same informant tells me that there are officers now in London who have had ample experience of the plague-stricken spot where the Rifle Brigade were encamped, in defiance of the advice and remonstrances of their Medical Officer. It is said that a brigade was encamped near the same place with very similar results about twelve years ago. There was not the slighest stategical reason for the choice of this site, as the position could have been commanded had the battalion been encamped two, or even three, miles off. If the military authorities dispute these allegations, let them hold a proper inquiry into the experiences of the Tochi Field Force, and let the public hear the evidence.

Why should not India have a Staff College of its own? The question seems opportune at present, when we have been hearing so much of the shortcomings on the Frontier, and the paucity of Staff College officers on the Indian Staff. I hear from officers of the Staff Corps, past and present, that they are seriously handicapped in qualifying for Staff appointments by the expense of going through the Staff College course in England. To an officer in the British Service the Staff College course involves no loss of pay, but it does to a Staff Corps officer, who is put on English rates of pay during the time he is in this country, at the same time that he incurs numerous extra incidental expenses. As a rule, the private means of Staff Corps officers are, I believe, less than those of their comrades in the Home service, those who select the Staff Corps generally doing so chiefly on account of the higher pay. It is therefore unfair to them, and not in the interest of the Indian Service, that they should be at any disadvantage in acquiring the Staff

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College qualification. In other matters the Indian Army already has its own schools of instruction, and no one questions their efficiency. Why not, then, let it train its own Staff officers?

Since writing the foregoing, I have discovered a new argument for an Indian Staff College in a letter from an officer now in India. Referring to the recent remarks in TRUTH on the dearth of Staff College officers on the Indian Staff, he writes:—

> The Indian Army does not want Staff College officers. Whenever a vacancy on the Staff occurs, a hope is universally expressed that it will not be filled by one of them.
>
> The Indian Army finds from bitter experience that Staff College officers are, as a rule, so engrossed in themselves and their theories that they are less efficient and do not serve the Army as well as officers who have not graduated at the Staff College.

Possibly the fact of the Staff College being an English Institution does as much as anything else to create the feeling here described.

It has been pointed out to me that I ought not to have bracketed warrant with non-commissioned officers in the remarks that appeared in TRUTH a fortnight ago respecting the necessity for some definite age of retirement, the age limit for warrant officers being already clearly laid down. This is true, and it rather strengthens the case as regards N.C.O's. If an age limit is laid down for warrant officers, it should apply to the lower ranks as well.

Here is another criticism bearing on the same point:—

> You say that much good can be got out of N.C.O.s after forty years of age, and that a man may have completed twenty-one years' service before attaining that age. This I admit, but, assuming that a man enlists at twenty-five years of age, which is the limit, he would be forty-six on completing twenty-one years' service.

Very well. Then fix the limit at forty-six. This is about the period at which I should say a man's usefulness becomes in most cases doubtful, and if the limit were fixed here it would give to every N.C.O. a chance of completing twenty-one years' service before retirement.

Having, I regret to say, passed the critical age of forty-five myself, I confess to some sympathy with the feelings of those who object to being laid on the shelf at that point in their existence. Although the age limit is of more consequence in military than in civil life, we yet admit that a man over forty-five may be good for active service in the Army by allowing Generals and Field-Marshals to remain at their posts long beyond that period. The exigencies of promotion no doubt necessitate the present system of superannuation; but what I cannot understand is why some attempt is not made to utilise in the Auxiliary Forces the services of the commissioned and warrant officers who are now every year leaving the Army almost in the prime of life. On the one hand, we have it admitted that the Militia and the Volunteers are most inadequately and insufficiently officered; on the other, we are burdened with an enormous "non-effective list" of officers, who might be rendering most useful service in one or other of these Forces. Why we should keep a man for years in absolute idleness on a pension or half-pay, when we could make good use of him at a small additional expenditure, I cannot understand.

Non-commissioned officers of No. 4 Mountain Battery, R.A., have lately had a disagreeable experience of the erratic manner in which promotion is occasionally awarded as between different corps. When the battery went out to Malta last year, three N.C.O.s were brought in from garrison companies to replace men found unfit for foreign service. While it was at Malta, a draft of three N.C.O.s and 100 men were sent out to India. The three vacancies were not filled up at the time, and on the return of the battery to England it is discovered that three more N.C.O.s attached to it at Newport for garrison duty are to be brought in. Thus six vacancies arising in the battery within little more than a year are filled up from outside. Such a course can only have the effect of utterly disgusting all the more promising and efficient men who are waiting for their promotion, and will not improbably cause them to leave the Service at the earliest possible opportunity.

I had a very plausible letter the other day from a non-commissioned officer respecting the regulation which makes it a condition of a sergeant's pension that the qualifying service must have been continuous. Is it just that a single offence, which leads to a man's reduction in rank for a brief period in his military career, should, in addition to that punishment, carry with it the life-long loss of pension, earned, but for this one fault, by years of good service? Take one case that I have had before me. A sergeant of fourteen years' service, ten years as an N.C.O., commits an indiscretion which leads to his reduction. He retrieves his character, and recovers his former rank, and again puts in four years' service in the rank of sergeant. This man, at the time of his discharge, has served in the aggregate fourteen years as a sergeant, but he has forfeited his sergeant's pension; whereas a man who has served a continuous twelve years as sergeant, whatever the crimes he may have committed during his first nine years' service, obtains a full pension; and even a man who has served for fourteen years as sergeant, and has been reduced in his first two years, would still save his pension. This state of things is anomalous, and to my mind unjust. A pension should be earned by so many years' service, and should only be forfeited for some serious offence, such as would involve imprisonment or expulsion from the Army.

The new regulations with regard to the rejoining of Reservists have naturally created some dissatisfaction among N.C.O.s and men still serving with the colours, and I have had two or three letters on the subject. The chief grievance, of course, is that N.C.O.s coming back with their former rank stand in the way of men waiting for promotion, and the result may be that some of them

MAJOR HOWE & CO.—Fashionable BOOTS and SHOES.—16, Coventry-st., W.; 60, Strand, W.C.; 81, Gracechurch-st.; and 13, Queen Victoria-st., London. "Note Addresses." (Repairs.)

will lose their chance of pension. A similar grievance is created by married men returning to the strength, and thus standing in the way of others who are waiting to get married, or for a chance of coming on the strength. I am bound to say that I do not altogether see how such hardships are to be avoided, and if the new regulations are maintained permanently, the only comfort I can offer to men who suffer is that they, in their turn, may some day have the privilege of rejoining the colours to the prejudice of their juniors. There is no reason, however, why special privileges should be granted to men rejoining which are not extended to those who have never left the colours.

I understand that for a whole year one of the Metropolitan Rifle Corps has been virtually without a sergeant-major, owing to the fact that the excellent officer filling that place had the misfortune, more than a year ago, to lose one of his legs in consequence of an accident. Twelve months have apparently not sufficed for the War Office to pension the sergeant-major off and appoint a successor in his place. It would be interesting to know how much correspondence has passed upon the subject during that time.

Soldiers and sailors who have earned medals on active service show a lamentable lack of regard for the cares and labours of officials at home. I have just been asked to censure exalted functionaries in Whitehall because the Benin medal, which Mr. Goschen last Session promised should be issued in about three months, has not yet made its appearance. Why, it is only a year or so since Benin was captured, and the men who served in Chitral three years ago have hardly yet got their medals. I hear that the first instalment of Chitral medals was issued quite recently —a most gratifying piece of intelligence, by the way. At this rate the heroes of Benin will be lucky if they get attended before the end of the century.

Compliments have been paid in these columns to the great solicitude which many officers in these days manifest in regard to the domestic welfare of their men. But never has a more striking proof of this interest come to light than in certain orders now in force at Fort Westmoreland, Spike Island. It is there notified that a certain lady, being properly qualified to assist Mrs. Atkins at those periods when she is making an "addition to the strength," the Officer Commanding troops directs that no one else is to be employed on those critical occasions without his permission. The order even lays down the fees to be paid to the lady for her services in the case of staff-sergeants and sergeants, corporals and bombardiers, privates and gunners respectively, together with the number of days she is to remain in attendance. The C.O. has evidently the very strongest faith in the qualifications of the lady of his choice, for it appears that a soldier (a single man) has been going round the married quarters with a book, obtaining the signatures of the married women to the order, as evidence, I suppose, that they bind themselves to employ the lady in question. The little "Tommies" of this garrison will almost be born swaddled in red-tape.

Strange to say, the C.O. at this station is a single man. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon him for the pains which he must have taken, doubtless at some sacrifice of his own feelings, to ascertain the qualifications of the lady in question. It is painful to have to add, however, that his judgment in this matter is not implicitly accepted by all the husbands and wives under his command, and that more than one Mrs. Atkins has a strong opinion that she ought to be allowed to arrange this delicate business for herself. The worst of grandmotherly government, whether in military or civil affairs, is that people so often kick against it, even when it is for their own benefit. I really think that the C.O. at Fort Westmoreland would do well to countenance a second Mrs. Gamp, even if he entertains private misgivings as to her qualifications.

It is contrary to my practice to insert anything in the nature of an advertisement in this column, but having said so much as to the difficulty experienced by old soldiers in finding civil employment, I am persuaded for once to make an exception to the rule. I do so at the request of a retired military officer, who wishes to engage an ex-soldier (or sailor) and his wife, as gardener and cook respectively. It will, I trust, be understood that this *is* to be regarded as an exception, and that applications must be addressed, not to Truth, but to "Lagopa," Coverack, Helston, Cornwall.

A member of the Malta Sporting and Jockey Club states that the soldiers supplied as waiters on the occasion of the club race meetings are paid for through the president of the Officers' Mess, who in due course sends in an account to the honorary secretary to the Jockey Club. This is in reference to a paragraph which appeared in Truth of February 24, airing a complaint of some of the waiters that they had not been paid. It would seem, therefore, that the proper person to look into this complaint is the president of the Officers' Mess.

I have received from a soldier serving in the Soudan with the Nile Expeditionary Force, a comparative table of the canteen prices at Cairo and at the front respectively. It seems that in the case of many necessaries—such as butter, cheese, jam, milk, not to mention luxuries such as tobacco, tinned salmon, and notepaper—the prices at the front are on the average more than doubled. Is it not very hard on the defender of his country that when he is sent to the front the cost of living should be

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increased in this way? And is there any justification for it when goods can be sent up by a Government railway?

The N.C.O. who lately complained of the victualling arrangements on board the hired transport *Spartan* must, I fancy, have been a rather fastidious person—at any rate, I have now received letters from several other N.C.O.s expressing their satisfaction with the food supplied. It is true one of them gives a somewhat guarded certificate of character to the bread, "but even that," he says, "was often better than ration bread on shore in barracks." As to the dry canteen, it is asserted that all articles were sold at the regulation prices, and that an officer of the ship was always present to prevent any irregularities.

There seem to have been some extraordinary occurrences on board one of the troopships which left England for the East shortly before Christmas. My information on the subject comes from a private letter written by a man in the North Lancashire Regiment, and sent to me by a gentleman who vouches for the truthfulness and general good character of the writer. A draft of the North Lancashire went out by the ship, but what the ship was I am not able to say. The man states that in consequence of the inferior quality of the food, which principally consisted of ship's biscuit, a number of the soldiers one night broke into the bread locker and seized about 300 loaves. The baker arrived on the scene, and was attacked by the men, who threatened to throw him overboard. The ship's crew were turned out, and fired on the rioters with blank cartridge. A number of men were put in confinement in a lock-up at the bottom of the ship, which is stated to have been swarming with rats. The writer states that so incensed were the soldiers at their treatment, that if the prisoners could have broken out there would probably have been a general mutiny. This is a very ugly story, and there ought to be some further inquiry into the facts.

The authorities will, I presume, have no difficulty in identifying the ship to which the above statement refers. Was it by any chance the *Shanghai?* If so, there is a special significance about a complaint which I have myself received from one of the men who went out by this ship. The *Shanghai* left England in November with drafts and detachments of various corps for the East. It is stated that after passing Gibraltar, the meat rations were very short in quantity, and of the worst possible quality, so bad, indeed, that the men threw overboard a great part of what was issued. Another curious statement is that numbers of soldiers were regularly employed in scrubbing paint, swabbing the decks, &c., which is surely not the usual practice on board troop ships, where soldiers are virtually in the position of passengers. The grievance in this case was heightened by the excessive amount of guard duty, as many as twenty-four men being put on this duty every morning. If the disturbance referred to in the previous paragraph did occur on the *Shanghai*, these facts would go some way towards explaining it.

Surplice Shirts for evening wear, with pique fronts, 9/6, 10/6 each, made to measure.—Sampson & Co., Shirt Tailors, 268, 270, Oxford-street, London, W. Price lists forwarded.

It is a pity that the Royal National Lifeboat Institution could not have got over its annual meeting without a display of silly and vindictive animosity against those who have criticised the management of the Institution. The Duke of Leeds, after referring to the criticism of the Institution as "braggadocio" and "spite," delivered himself of the following strange sentiment:—

> I may, however, say that while slanders and unfounded charges when brought against individuals are cruel enough, when brought against a noble charity they are ten times as cruel.

In the name of common sense, why? Is any human being the worse for any one of the charges which have been made against the National Lifeboat Institution? One would really think that when a body of gentlemen get into a room, and form themselves into a committee to manage a charity, they acquire a sacrosanct character, and that any reflection upon their omniscience is like an outrage upon the anointed person of a German Emperor. In my time, I have criticised a good many public institutions, and some of them have well deserved criticism. But I never yet indicted any body of men in this position without being denounced as a wrecker, animated by no motive but that of upsetting a glorious work and defaming virtuous men whose time and money were devoted to the benefit of their fellow-creatures.

In the case of the National Lifeboat Institution, a great deal of the criticism it incurred was well deserved. The worst charges made against it were made by the Secretary of Lloyd's, in error, as the event proved, but on what he had every reason to consider good information. The criticism for which I was personally responsible was chiefly directed to the manner in which the accounts were presented, and every word that I have said on that subject stands fully justified. If it is to be held a crime to criticise, even wrongly, the management of any public charitable undertaking like the National Lifeboat Institution, then I will never cease to agitate until such institutions are abolished, and their work handed over to the State. Thank goodness we are still free to criticise the action of public departments, and are likely to continue so. Unless public institutions are open to criticism, the public have no security whatever for their honest and capable management.

I have received a letter from the Central Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Relief Fund, in reply to a note in these columns, explaining that they were powerless to insist upon the payment of interest on the money placed in the hands of the Bank of Bengal. The Committee had no discretion in the selection of bankers to the fund, the Bank of Bengal having been virtually nominated by the Government of India and accepted at a public meeting in Calcutta before the Committee was formed. The question of interest was raised at an early period, but

the Committee were informed that it was not the practice of the Bank to allow interest on floating deposits, and the directors could not be induced to make an exception in this very special case, nor did the Bank, as a corporation, subscribe to the fund. The explanation exonerates the Committee, but shows up the conduct of the Bank in anything but a creditable light. Nor does it speak highly for the intelligence of the Government.

Fresh proof of the ineptitude of the present Indian administration is afforded by the riots at Bombay. Nothing could be clearer or more significant than the account of the origin of the outbreak furnished by Reuter. A Mohammedan woman was lying ill. A plague party endeavoured to investigate for themselves the nature of the illness. Permission to examine the woman was refused; a crowd gathered; the plague party were stoned; armed police arrived to assist the plague party in effecting their object; police, magistrates, and plague officers were stoned; and in a very few minutes a formidable riot was in progress, which quickly spread to other parts of the city.

Compare this with the causes which immediately provoked the Indian Mutiny, and many other similar incidents of more recent date, and it would really seem that the Indian authorities learn nothing by experience. Domiciliary visits, such as that described above, and the inspection of sick women by European officials, and even soldiers, are indignities which the natives would rather die than submit to. To force such humiliation upon them, however legitimate the object may appear to European minds, is the rankest folly, and folly which imperils the whole stability of British rule in India. I question myself very much whether any of these plague precautions, which cause so much disturbance and trouble, are of any practical value. At any rate, it is certain that the medical authorities in India, up to the present time, have failed signally to deal effectually with the epidemic. But, however that may be, it is absolutely essential that in any precautions or remedial measures which are adopted by public authorities, the susceptibilities and prejudices of the natives should be scrupulously observed. If that cannot be done, it would almost be better that the plague should be left to take its course.

On March 9, Lord George Hamilton read to the House of Commons a telegram from the Governor of Bombay to this effect: "In case of rumours of serious unrest among Mohammedans at Bombay, they are untrue." Within twenty-four hours came the rumours of the rioting and consequent loss of life. If the facts had been less notorious, and the information telegraphed home less complete, we should probably have been told, on the authority of this telegram from the Governor of Bombay, that the news was false. The Governor of Bombay has made himself look remarkably foolish, and it is to be hoped that his example will deter other exalted Indian officials from forwarding contradictions in advance of the facts.

Londoners have often had occasion to abuse the Metropolitan Asylums Board for its failure to cope with outbreaks of infectious disease; but it appears that some of the provincial towns are not always perfect in that respect. A resident in Huddersfield recently had a servant taken ill with diphtheria. On applying to the medical officer for her removal to the isolation hospital, he was informed that there was at present no ward for such cases. The consequence was that the hapless householder had to vacate his residence, to engage two trained nurses, and to practically turn his house into a hospital for about five weeks, not to mention the subsequent process of disinfection, paperhanging, and overhauling of drainage, the total cost imposed upon him being something over £50. It should be stated in fairness to him that the diphtheria was not bred on the premises, the patient having been taken ill only two days after arriving. Considering that the borough rate at Huddersfield is 5s. 9d. in the pound, and that that is supposed to include the provision of an infectious diseases hospital, the ratepayer in this case has certainly cause to doubt whether he is receiving value for his money.

London is suffering from a serious epidemic of measles, and in some districts it has been considered advisable to close the schools to prevent the spread of the disease. Singularly enough, neither whooping cough nor measles are included in the list of maladies compulsorily notifiable under the Public Health Act; consequently, an outbreak of either becomes thoroughly established before the attention of the authorities can be directed to it. Seeing how admirably the law of notification has worked in the case of the more serious of the zymotic diseases, it is a question well worth consideration whether it is not desirable to add measles and whooping-cough to the compulsory list, so as to check their progress from the very outset. For the sake of our American visitors, it is satisfactory to know that medical evidence entirely contradicts the malicious rumour that Barnum's Show at Olympia is responsible for the present epidemic.

Does the law empower sanitary officers to make domiciliary inspections wherever and whenever they please? According to a Liverpool paper, two officers of the Liverpool Corporation demanded admission, late one night, to a house occupied jointly by a man named Francis Mackenzie and his father-in-law. Their object, they explained, was "to count the number of people in the house," and Mackenzie, supposing that they had a legal right to do this, allowed them to enter, whereupon they searched the premises with the utmost closeness, even flashing a lantern on to the bed where the man's sick wife was lying. A protest against the conduct of the intruders was sent to the Liverpool Health Committee,

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and in reply the Town Clerk is said to have written a letter to the effect that Section 92 of the Public Health Act of 1875, "not only empowers a local authority to make the inspection in question, but imposes an absolute duty on them to do so."

This statement will come as a surprise to a good many citizens, who have fondly imagined that any such violation of the sanctity of the home was entirely at variance with the law of the land. Everybody is aware, of course, that sanitary inspectors have a right to visit registered common lodging-houses; but this was not a common lodging-house. It was a private residence, and if the officers of the Liverpool Corporation had power to enter it in this unceremonious manner to see whether there was any overcrowding, then the officers of other local authorities throughout the country must also have power to make similar nocturnal inspections, and any night I may be, I suppose, aroused from my slumbers by an emissary of the Westminster Vestry or the London County Council bent upon searching my humble dwelling. If this be the law, then the good old principle that an Englishman's house is his castle has indeed received a final knock-out blow. But is it really a fact that the municipal authorities are invested with such a drastic and objectionable power, enabling them to do at their own sweet will what even the police cannot do without first showing good cause for the issue of a search warrant? Perhaps some of my legal readers will be able to throw further light upon the subject.

Bumble appears to be under the impression that he is entitled to look on unconcernedly at the suffering and starvation of any applicant for relief who declines to enter the workhouse. At Peckham the other day an inquest was held on the body of a poor old woman named Pope. For a couple of years she and her husband, both over seventy, were allowed outdoor relief, but this was stopped, and they were offered "the house" or nothing. Like many of the poor—often, too, the most respectable and deserving of the poor—they had an invincible repugnance to the workhouse; and so the old couple lived or lingered on in the most awful poverty until the woman died of starvation. A second case of the same kind has happened lately at St. Day in the Redruth Union. There also a woman was allowed to starve to death because she had "refused the house," and the Coroner states that the representations respecting her condition were made in vain both to a member of the Board of Guardians and to the relieving officer.

The Local Government Board encourages Guardians to dispense as far as possible with outdoor relief; but, needless to say, it strongly disapproves of its policy in this direction being carried to the callous and inhuman extreme revealed in the above cases. Last week, Mr. Chaplin, replying to a question about the death of Mrs. Pope, said:—

> We consider that when admission to the workhouse is offered and refused, the case should be watched by the Relieving Officer, with a view of giving relief in kind if it should appear to him to be requisite. It is very greatly to be regretted that this course was not adopted in the case in question, and the Board have informed the Guardians accordingly.

These remarks will, I hope, be taken to heart by Guardians throughout the country, for the cases at Peckham and Redruth are but typical of many that occur.

From the proceedings at an inquest at Belfast last week, it would seem that the inhabitants of that city are compelled to offer up a heavy sacrifice of human lives to the parsimony and negligence of the Harbour Commissioners. Hundreds of deaths by drowning have occurred, it was stated, in consequence of the unguarded condition of the docks; but though repeated representations have been made to the Commissioners, they refuse to provide protective posts and chains or do anything whatever for the safety of the public. The coroner expressed regret that the Commissioners could not be placed in the dock, for if not legally, morally, at any rate, they were guilty of causing many deaths. He did not say whether he meant one of their own docks or the dock of a criminal court, but either would be equally effectual.

A number of the inhabitants of Hythe, Kent, have lately petitioned the Local Government Board for an inquiry into the borough finances, which seem to have been scandalously muddled and mismanaged for years past. The accounts have been kept in a most loose and slipshod manner, and ratepayers experience great difficulty in getting at all the facts; but sufficient is known to show that the Town Council has played the part of a spendthrift, contracting loans at extravagant interest, and paying for large overdrafts at the bank, while keeping the rates too low to meet the expenditure, and allowing their collection to fall into hopeless arrear and confusion. Latterly some attempt has been made to bring the collection a little more up to date; but even now it is fifteen months behind, the rate just demanded being for the half-year ending August 28, 1897. This rate is one of 5s. in the £, an increase upon the previous rate which was only obtained by making it retrospectively in January last! The system of holding the rates over for so long has resulted, of course, in almost inextricable confusion and inevitable loss, and the ratepayers will probably have to suffer for past indulgence by paying the equivalent of three half-yearly rates during the present year. The inquiry for which they ask certainly seems to be needed.

Wembley is another place where many of the ratepayers are up in arms against the local governing authority—an Urban District Council formed under the Act of 1894. The indictment of the Council is a lengthy one, but the principal count seems to be that since this body was constituted it has spent most of its

The luxury of a bath is incomplete without the addition of Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia, which refreshes and invigorates. Sold everywhere, but avoid injurious imitations.

time and energy in quarrelling with every neighbouring authority and every individual brought into relationship with it; the result being a constant waste of the ratepayers' money in needless litigation and other law expenses. Its critics assert, indeed, that beyond the accumulation of lawyers' bills there is practically nothing to show for the existence of the Council; and a short time since a meeting of 400 or 500 of the aggrieved inhabitants passed a resolution calling upon the whole of the members to resign. The members, however, stick to their seats; and apparently the only thing the ratepayers can do is to grin and bear the present state of affairs until the elections give them an opportunity of changing the composition of the Council.

The disclosures in a case at the Exeter County-court last week must be somewhat disquieting to the ratepayers of Exmouth, who have before them the prospect of a large expenditure on a drainage scheme. It seems that the Exmouth District Council undertook to effect an alteration in the drainage at a private house, but did the work so badly that the owner had to have the drains taken up again and relaid. When complaint was made to the Council, they replied that they were "perfectly satisfied that the work had been properly carried out." The Judge of the County-court, on the contrary, was perfectly satisfied that the work had been done in a negligent and improper manner, and as the result of the action brought by the householder he gave a verdict against the Council for £33 8s. 4d. damages, with costs. If the extensive works which have yet to be tackled are executed in the same "perfectly satisfactory" way as this little job, it will be a cheerful business for the unfortunate ratepayers.

My remarks the other day on the Irish Grand Juries have brought me an interesting letter from a correspondent, who declares that what happened in County Clare really gives but a poor idea of the way in which public offices have been filled and local affairs managed by these bodies. He instances another county, where for sixty years past practically every post of value and importance has been treated as the exclusive preserve of one particular family, who between them "run the whole show." There seems indeed little doubt that many of the Grand Juries have been what somebody has picturesquely described as "nests of nepotism and jungles of jobbery." Seeing, however, that these anomalous institutions are to be swept away by the new Local Government Bill, it would be hardly worth while to devote any further attention to them—unless, of course, the Ministry should lose the courage of their convictions and drop or emasculate the measure.

It may interest those who have followed the discussion in Truth of the question whether the right to deduct landlord's income-tax from rent is lost if the deduction is not made at the next payment of rent after the payment of the tax, to know that the law appears to have been laid down in a Scottish appeal case in the same sense as that given by the English authorities. I have this from a barrister, who states that the authority is to be found in the Law Reports (England) Consolidated Digest for 1896, No. 21, pp. 202, 203.

Concerning the mean and impudent trick which Truman Press played upon the proprietor of a new paper at Barnet, a barrister tells me that Press's registration of the advertised title gave him no legal claim to it, nor did his issue of one copy of a paper bearing that title. This will be seen on reference to the case of the Licensed Victuallers' Newspaper Company *v.* Bingham (38 Ch. D., 139). The only way in which an exclusive right to a title can be acquired is by use and reputation; and my correspondent thinks that in the case at Barnet an injunction could probably be obtained to restrain Press from using the title which had been made known by advertisement as the intended title of the new journal.

Here is another example of the cost of legal red tape. On the death of a testator who had appointed one sole executor of his will it was found that the executor had become insane, and was confined in an asylum. The whole of the real and personal estate was left by the will to two sons, who were responsible men of middle age. They applied for administration, but before they could get it had to produce affidavits from two officers at the asylum, proving the insanity of the executor, at a cost of £4 14s. 6d.; and after this the administration granted is limited to the life of the insane executor. This means that on the death of the lunatic the two sons will have to go through the process of taking out administration over again, at a further outlay in fees and solicitor's costs. Is it not a monstrous thing that in such a case the Court cannot dispose of the job once for all?

It was somewhat cold comfort which the Lord Chancellor gave last week to the deputation of newspaper proprietors and journalists who besought his assistance in securing an amendment of the libel laws. Lord Halsbury seems to think that the Press does not suffer any special hardship from the bringing of baseless actions by impecunious persons, inasmuch as all subjects of the Queen are liable to the same hardship. It is true enough, of course, that in theory everybody stands to be shot at in this way; but it is also true—and the Lord Chancellor must be singularly ill-informed if he does not know it—that in practice, newspapers are harassed to an exceptional extent by the unjustifiable attacks of litigious sharpshooters. To the suggestion that plaintiffs should be required, under certain conditions, to give security for costs, his lordship raised the usual objection that the Queen's Courts must not be closed to a person who happens to be poor. Nobody proposes that a man should be debarred by poverty from seeking redress for a bonâ fide injury. What is proposed is that security for costs

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should be ordered when, and only when, it can be shown to the satisfaction of a Judge in Chambers that the action is of an essentially frivolous and vexatious character. The Judges might surely be trusted to see that the order is not made in any case where a poor plaintiff has a genuine wrong to complain of.

On the question of the consolidation of actions the Lord Chancellor was more sympathetic. He agreed that there should be greater facilities for dealing in this manner with repetitions of actions for the same libel; and, in this connection, he threw out a hint that causeless and frivolous actions brought by the same solicitor should be the subject of an application of a summary character against the solicitor himself. It would, indeed, be a gain if some process could be devised for calling to account the Dodsons and Foggs who take advantage of the present state of the law of libel for the institution of what are practically blackmailing actions against newspapers. But how this is to be done Lord Halsbury omitted to explain, and such a proceeding, even if it were practicable, would only touch the fringe of the question. As we have seen from several recent cases, it is not merely from the pettifogging attorney who takes up a case as a speculation that newspapers suffer. Actions quite as frivolous and vexatious are often brought by solicitors whose professional standing and "respectability" would make hopeless any attempt to impugn their conduct. One can only hope, therefore, that the more effectual remedies for prevalent abuses of the law which are embodied in Sir John Willox's Bill will be received with less qualified approval in Parliament than at the hands of the Lord Chancellor. Meanwhile, whatever the fate of the Bill may be, it is encouraging to note, from what happened last week in the case of that very touchy gentleman, Mr. Fox, the Registrar of the Croydon County Court, that the Court of Appeal is ready to back up Judges and juries who make short work of childish and trumpery claims against newspapers.

In Christchurch justice is carried on under strange conditions. A lady recently bought a house there. She had a French cook on the job, and a man-servant who looked after her husband, who was paralysed. The cook did not like the man-servant. She accused him (apparently without the slightest ground) of having stolen money from her purse, and she went about the house shouting "thief," in the end sending for a constable to arrest him. The lady explained to the constable that the man was thoroughly honest. The war culminated in the cook rushing at the man with a poker, and, in the scuffle that ensued, the cook got a black eye. For this she went to the police office to have him punished. The Druitts, it would appear, are the ruling dynasty at Christchurch: the father Druitt is a magistrate, and was then the magistrate's clerk, one son is the town clerk, and the other sons are the leading solicitors. The cook obtained a warrant against the man-servant. This seems to have been drawn up by the town clerk, acting in his father's place as magistrate's clerk, and it was signed by the magistrate's clerk acting as a magistrate. On this the man was arrested, and taken through the town in custody. On hearing of the arrest, the lady went to the police office; explained how matters were, and offered any amount of bail. This was refused, and the man, after passing the night in confinement, was brought before the magistrates the next morning. He was discharged because he had been arrested for wounding, and there was no wound. The cook then applied for a summons for assault. On this the man was a week or two later brought up, and was fined £1. On both occasions Mr. Druitt, the magistrate's clerk, sat as a magistrate.

The case was then taken by the mistress of the man before the Divisional Court of the High Court of Justice, with the object of quashing the conviction, on the ground that Mr. Druitt had sat on the Bench when the conviction took place, although disqualified by being the magistrate's clerk. The defence seems to have been that this was no disqualification, and that, as a matter of fact, Mr. Druitt had only taken the salary as magistrate's clerk, but had allowed his son to perform the duties. The Chief Justice decided that there was no legal disqualification, but that it was a public scandal that a magistrate should be also the magistrate's clerk. Most undoubtedly it is, nor do I see how taking the salary, and not fulfilling the duties of the clerkship, lessens the scandal. This legal point being settled, it seems to me that the man-servant should bring an action for damages against Mr. Druitt in view of his imprisonment. Here is a respectable man arrested and kept in prison for a night, for wounding a cook, when the next day it is admitted that there was no wound; bail refused when the mistress of the man offers to give it; and finally a fine is imposed on him for defending himself against the assault of an enraged cook armed with a poker. Was he to have waited until his head had been staved in with this lethal weapon?

There are, in different parts of the country, several ancient local courts of law whose procedure has escaped recent legal reforms, with the result that those who are compulsorily taken before them have to pay costs far in excess of what would be incurred in a County Court. A case in point is to be found at Preston, where there is a local Court of Record, in which the pleading is conducted on the old system. A defendant brought before this or any other similar court, although he may appear in person to the writ, is bound to employ a solicitor after that point in order to file the technical pleadings. If he does not he is in danger of a judgment against him by default, followed by a summary execution. It is high time that all such tribunals were reformed. They only succeed in competing with the County Courts, owing to the fact that they offer a speedier and more effectual machinery for the recovery of small debts. No doubt it is

BEAUTIFUL TORQUAY.—The Imperial Hotel has the best position, and is the leading hotel in Torquay. Grand climate. Cool in summer, warm in winter, and well known as the "Queen of Watering Places."

to the interest of the community that just debts should be collected as expeditiously as possible, but the debtors ought not to have to pay for special facilities offered to creditors.

Mrs. Druce is the daughter-in-law of Mr. Thomas Druce, and she has a son. Her father-in-law appears to have had a furniture establishment in Baker-street. In 1864 he was by way of dying, and being buried. But, according to Mrs. Druce, he did not die, and was not buried. For several years after 1864, he lived at Richmond as Dr. Harmer, practised homœopathy, and married a second wife, and varied his domestic life by an occasional visit to a lunatic asylum. Then he died or disappeared. So far the matter is clear. But it would seem, according to Mrs. Druce, that her father-in-law was really a Duke now dead, who, when not engaged in ducal functions, was a furniture dealer, a homœopathic doctor, the husband successively of two wives, and occasionally a patient in a lunatic asylum. For all this, whether the departed Druce is in the vault that his Druce relatives provided for him or not, I should require a great deal of evidence.

I believe that far more blackmailing goes on in London than is supposed, and many a blackmailer lives comfortably on having discovered something that another would not have made public. Last week there was a trial of blackmailers, when it came out in evidence that for several years there had been a gang acting together in this peculiar industry, and sharing the profits. Mr. Bernard Abrahams incidentally stated that he was a trustee to pay one of the gang £100 per annum. This, it would seem, was the amount that was being paid by one individual for the man's silence.

I have always thought that the law ought to be so altered, that a blackmailer may be tried, and, if the charge against him be proved, sentenced to penal servitude, without the name of his victim, or the grounds of the blackmail, being made public.

Some one sends me the trustee's accounts in the bankruptcy of a Mr. James Smith, who has just been through the Bradford County Court. It seems that Mr. Smith's estate realised £218 13s. 10d., and that £103 16s. 11d. was due to his landlord for rent. The landlord, of course, got his £103 16s. 11d., the Board of Trade, the lawyers, the trustee, and the other eagles who gather together on such occasions, got the rest of the assets, and the creditors, other than the landlord, got nothing. Among the items is £21 17s. 4d., the trustee's percentage on the assets realised. As the trustee got no other remuneration in this case, he probably was not overpaid. It strikes me, however, that in many cases of this class the result would be more satisfactory to the creditors if the trustee were paid by a percentage on the dividend instead of by a percentage on the assets.

The judgment of Mr. Justice Bruce in the case of Knight *v.* the North Metropolitan Tramways Company turned on a nice point as to the liability of the defendant company for the act of one of its servants. A conductor, acting with the approval of a ticket-inspector, gave the plaintiff in charge of the police for passing a sixpence which was alleged to be bad in payment of his fare. It was found that the coin was in reality a good one, and the magistrate accordingly dismissed the charge against the plaintiff, who thereupon sued the company for damages for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution. The jury considered that the defendant had the authority of the company to act as he did, and they gave a verdict for the plaintiff with £60 damages.

The defence was that the conductor was not acting within the scope of his authority in giving into custody and prosecuting the plaintiff, and, after considering the facts and the cases bearing on the question, Mr. Justice Bruce has come to the same conclusion, and entered judgment for the defendants. His lordship said that if the charge against the plaintiff had been that he had attempted to avoid payment of his fare, or any charge of a like nature, within Section 51 of the Tramways Act, 1870, a very different result would have been arrived at; but there was nothing to show that any officer of the defendant company had authority from the company, express or implied, to give a passenger into custody for passing counterfeit coin. This is a distinction which will hardly be appreciated by the non-legal mind, for if an officer has authority to give into custody a person refusing to pay his fare, one would think this would naturally imply authority to take the same course with a person paying his fare with counterfeit coin. For the present, of course, Mr. Justice Bruce's exposition of the law must be accepted as correct; but, if it is not altered on appeal, then it is to be hoped some amendment will be made in the law to meet such cases.

The re-establishment of slavery in Cape Colony proceeds apace. At the Kimberley Criminal Sessions on February 5, before Mr. Justice Lange, a native boy named August, twelve years of age, was found guilty of being concerned with another native in stealing some goats belonging to Joel Schermin, a farmer, for whom August worked. "His lordship," says the report in the *Diamond Fields Advertiser*, "sentenced August *to be apprenticed to Mr. Schermin until twenty-one years of age*, and to receive ten cuts with the cane." No doubt "apprenticeship" has a prettier sound to English ears than "slavery"; but it is nine years' slavery to which the little black boy has been condemned, all the same. It would be hard to devise a system of dealing with offenders more repugnant to all our notions of justice, and more conducive to cruelty and oppression.

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

In my Legal Pillory this week I give the usual illustrations of magisterial clemency in dealing with offences of violence and cruelty. For savage and cowardly assaults on men and women, the penalties, it will be seen, range from 10s. to 40s., and are even more glaringly inadequate than those imposed for ill-treating dumb animals. Among the cases on the other side of the list I would particularly call attention to the harsh and asinine action of the Warrington Bench who sentence boys of thirteen to three days' confinement in the police-cells for the crime of playing at pitch and toss; and to the stupid pranks of the judicial humourists at Burnley, Brixham, and Ellesmere, who go through the farcical form of offering the option of a fine to persons convicted of sleeping out and having "no visible means of subsistence." With reference to the case from Auckland, I am somewhat loth to take exception to a merciful straining of the law in favour of a first offender. The fact that the prisoner was "well off," however, aggravated his offence, and I shall be curious to see whether the Auckland Bench is equally indulgent to the next needy wretch who comes before them for stealing a loaf of bread or a piece of meat to assuage his hunger. Meanwhile the decision at Auckland may be usefully compared with that given in the case of another first offender at Plymouth :—

Bolton Borough Police-court. Before Dr. Livy and Messrs. Nicholson and Hough. Robert Daniels, convicted of assaulting his wife, who said he kicked and struck her, knocking several of her teeth out. The Bench considered the assault both brutal and savage. Fined 10s. and costs.

Crockernell Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. C. G. Hayter-Hames and J. Stevens-Neck, and Commander E. S. Evans. Daniel Jarvis charged with cruelty to a horse. Because the animal could not move its load, defendant held some burning straw under its belly. The horse was very severely burnt, and must have suffered great pain. Fined £5.

Wigan Police-court. G. F. Martlen, charged with assaulting his wife. Complainant appeared to have been severely maltreated. The Bench granted a separation order, and for the assault, which they said was of a very aggravated character, the defendant was fined 40s. and costs.

Batley Police-court. George Henry Ryan charged with assaulting George Wm. Ridsdale. Defendant kicked the complainant so savagely that he was confined to his bed for some time and was afterwards compelled to use a pair of crutches. Fined 10s. and costs.

Southampton Borough Police-Court. Before Messrs. G. P. Perkins, R. Chipperfield, and M. Emanuel. Cornelius Adam, convicted of assaulting Alex. Augustus, a man of colour. Defendant knocked complainant down and kicked him, his head being cut open. Fined £1 and costs.

Liverpool County Police-court. Before Messrs. G. Cannington and J. Jowett. Richard Croft, William Austin, and Henry Fairclough, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Croft and Austin fined 10s. each and costs; Fairclough 40s. and costs.

Birmingham Quarter Sessions. Emma Norris pleaded guilty to stealing fifteen yards of cotton shirting. Nine months.

Chelmsford Petty Sessions. Before Mr. T. Kemble and other magistrates. George Coe charged with stealing a pair of child's shoes from a shop. Twenty-one days.

Long Ashton Police-court. Before Mr. E. J. Swann and Major Thorne. Edwin Poole, summoned for trespassing in search of rabbits. Fined 40s. and costs or one month.

John Bobbett, charged with absconding from the workhouse. Fourteen days.

Burnley County Police-court. Before Messrs. T. Thornber and J. Kay. Alfred Stevenson charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fined 10s. or seven days.

East Harling Petty Sessions. Before Mr. H. T. Partridge, Major Keppel, and Mr. A. N. C. Hemsworth. Edwd. Reeve, labourer, charged with stealing a whip. Fourteen days.

Wrexham County Police-court. Before Captain Griffith Boscawen and other magistrates. John Henry Edwards, farmer, charged with cruelty to a mare. The mare fell down in an exhausted state, and the defendant, who was drunk, beat her about the head and body, first with a whip, and then with a pitchfork, which he used so violently that it was broken in three places. After he had further ill-treated the mare, another man shot her in the head, but failed to kill her, and defendant then filled her mouth with turf, and so caused her death. An examination of the carcase showed that a rib had been broken and other bones pulverised. Fined £3 11s. 6d., including costs.

Newport (Mon.) Police-court. John Jones convicted of assaulting his wife. He dragged her out of the house, twisted her hair, threw her down, knelt upon her, and then poured some water over her. She had been repeatedly assaulted. Fined 21s.

Condover Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. E. Corbett, R. Ll. Purcell-Llewellin, and R. Blakeway-Phillips. Harry H. Cave, land-agent, charged with cruelty to a mare by causing her to be worked whilst in an unfit condition. The mare was suffering from a large raw wound on the shoulder, which was being rubbed by the collar. The Bench considered the case an exceedingly bad one. Fined £1, and 18s. costs.

Framlingham Petty Sessions. Before Mr. G. E. Jeaffreson and other justices. Walter Page, charged with killing game without a licence. Fined £3 12s. 6d.

Warrington Police - court. John Seddon, John Green, John Quinn, and Wm. Rudge, boys about thirteen years old, charged with playing pitch and toss in the street. They were sent to the police cells for three days each.

Plymouth Police-Court. Before Messrs. J. Pillman and J. Wills. Charles Joiner, carman, charged with stealing 1 lb. of butter. Nothing was said against his previous character. Three months.

Okehampton Petty Sessions Before Messrs. W. Holley, C. Green, S. Newcombe, and T. Jessop. Wm. Mudge and John Kemp, charged with trespassing in pursuit of rabbits. Fined 10s. and 16s. 6d.

Ellesmere Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. H. D. Chapman, C. Morrall, and C. F. K. Mainwaring. Charles Williams, charged with sleeping in a farm outbuilding and having no visible means of subsistence. Fined 5s.

Brixham Petty Sessions. John Peeke, mason, charged with sleeping out. Defendant, who was out of work, was fined 10s. A builder paid the fine and promised to give defendant some work.

Auckland Police-court. Before Councillor Lingford and Dr. Mackay. John Hammond, charged with breaking and entering a grocer's shop for an unlawful purpose. Money having been missed from the till, a constable watched in the shop, and at 5.30 a.m. the prisoner entered and went straight to the till, when he was arrested. He had a key which fitted the door, and carried a lamp. It was stated that he bore a good character, and that he was well off. The Bench altered the charge, dealing with the prisoner under the Vagrancy Act for "being on premises for an unlawful purpose," and fined him £10 and costs.

The rule against the interrogation of accused persons seems to have been momentarily forgotten by the magistrate at Marylebone Police-court the other day, when a baker's boy was charged with embezzling eighteenpence. The magistrate appears from the report to have first asked the prisoner if that was all he had pocketed, and then, on receiving a reply in the negative, to have further asked him how much more money he had taken. The lad told the truth, and, so far as he is concerned, the questions did no harm to the interests of justice. All the same, such questions are irregular, and an irregularity of this kind on the part of a stipendiary sets a very bad example to the Great Unpaid, who may be led to follow it with unfortunate results.

I am sorry to hear that the man Kempe, of Cathedral Offices, 41, St. Andrew's-hill, Doctors' Commons, E.C., is still finding victims. It may be remembered that this rascal is one of the many who prey upon the deaf. His *modus operandi* is of the simplest character. He gets into correspondence with deaf people by means of advertisements, professes to make a diagnosis of their cases, and

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Subscriptions greatly needed by The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—6,929 convictions this year; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

recommends a certain treatment, for which he charges any sum which he thinks likely to suit the victim's purse. Having got the money, he does nothing more; letters addressed to him remain unanswered; and visitors to his office find that it is a sort of cupboard with a letter-box on the door, where Kempe only attends at brief intervals for the purpose of collecting his correspondence. All this was pointed out in TRUTH many months ago, and it is much to be regretted that none of those who have been taken in has set the police in motion against Kempe. Still more regrettable is it that professedly respectable newspapers should continue to publish his advertisements. The last victim I have come across was caught through the medium of the *Illustrated Church News*.

A most successful minor swindle is carried on by parties who send out circulars inviting orders for the supply of newspapers and magazines, and then, after scooping in the subscriptions, suddenly disappear with their plunder. A correspondent of mine in Jamaica complains that he has been defrauded in this way by a "firm" at Manchester, to whom he forwarded 8s. for twelve months' numbers of a sixpenny magazine; and from inquiries I have made I have little doubt that the individual constituting this "firm" has obtained many other victims in the West Indies. On the ground, doubtless, that distance lends safety to such a scheme, this man specially addressed himself to residents in that part of the world, but bolder knaves often practise the same trick nearer home. People are often warned against forwarding cash to these unknown touting "firms," but warnings do not seem to have much effect on the business, too many individuals preferring to pay for the teaching of experience.

A new practitioner in the usury trade has recently made his appearance at 159, Cannon-street. From that address he issues circulars signed "Charles Jones and Co., Ltd." Jones appears to cater specially for impecunious medicos, for he commences his circular with the statement that it has been brought to his knowledge "that there are a great number of medical gentlemen who at times require an extra amount of ready cash"—a statement which, unless the medical profession differs very greatly from others with which I am acquainted, is probably true. It may interest medical gentlemen to know that no company bearing the name of "Charles Jones & Co., Ltd." appears on the register at Somerset House, and the probability is that the term "Limited" has as little meaning as the term "Co." It would be a pity that any one should do business with Jones, who is probably a mere tout, under the impression that he is dealing with a joint-stock company.

Among the impudent trick advertisements by which numerous tradesmen live is that of Dorey, Lester & Co., 8, Kenilworth-road, Kilburn, which was some time back noticed in TRUTH. These people, I find, are still sending out their coupon in the form of a cheque, entitling the bearer to an 18-carat gold-plated chronograph stop-watch, "same as advertised at £4," on payment of 11s. 6d. before the date named in the coupon. The covering letter states that only a limited number of these watches are being offered to the public as an advertisement, and that no further coupons will be issued at this special price. In point of fact, Dorey, Lester & Co. have been circulating the same advertisement, and the same coupons, for about twelve months past, and no doubt intend to keep on at it as long as the game pays. To all appearance the supply of fools is far from being exhausted.

The warning given in last week's TRUTH respecting Coleman & Co., the home employment agents of 33, Old Queen-street, Westminster, may with advantage be extended to W. Johnson & Co., in the adjoining thoroughfare, Dartmouth-street. As a matter of fact, Johnson & Co. and Coleman & Co. are identical, and I have a case before me in which one of Johnson & Co.'s customers had a precisely similar experience to that of the lady whose case was described last week. She paid her 5s. for registry of her name and the supply of materials, earned a few pence by some work done before Christmas, and then received notification that Johnson & Co. could take no more work until after Christmas. Since then she has been unable to get her money back, or obtain any answer to her letters. All those who have suffered in this way—and doubtless there are many—would do well to follow the example I have already quoted, and put their cases in the hands of a business-like solicitor.

I have been interested to learn that the Rev. Robert Macmillan is pursuing his career of mendicancy in Westminster. While he is in the neighbourhood, I trust he will not omit TRUTH office from his visiting list. There are so many questions I should like to put to him. I should be pleased to know, for instance, how he has expended the farthing damages which a jury awarded him for my previous comments upon his career. Particulars, too, of the present position of his "sustentation" fund would be full of edification alike to the elect and the graceless, for, according to all accounts, he flourishes as the green bay tree. A clerical coat, an oily smile, an unctuous trick of speech, and a gospel shop in the suburbs, are apparently an ample stock-in-trade for a humbug, however much discredited. At all events, there can be no question that Macmillan waxes fat upon these modest endowments.

A gentleman well known in the Committee Rooms of the House of Commons has asked me to use my influence to get him a cup of tea or coffee with his mid-day sandwich. He puts it on the ground that the reform of Private Bill procedure is once more being ventilated, and that this is the most simple and practical reform called for in that direction. There are said to be dozens of hard-working men in the Committee Rooms forced to drink whisky or sherry as the only alternative to cold water of questionable quality. Such a state of things calls loudly for the attention of my friend Sir Wilfrid Lawson.

Some verses on the use of the Phonograph as a substitute for the political speaker which appeared in TRUTH recently, have moved a correspondent of mine to make some further metrical suggestions on the subject. I agree with him that there is an almost unlimited future for Mr. Edison's ingenious machine, and therefore print his communication with pleasure:—

MORE PHONOGRAPHIC POSSIBILITIES.

How excellent a plan 'twould be,
  Wherever talk is most effusive,
To henceforth make the Phonograph,
  To verbal reticence conducive;
To let it check the tides of words,
  Which now, to our annoyance, stream on;
And, in effect, to exorcise
  The rampant Talky-talky demon!

Think what the Phonograph might do
  At our perennial public dinners,
Where, against syntax and its laws,
  So many are such hardened sinners;
Think how the never-failing flow
  Of washy speakers 'twould diminish—
Speakers so eager to commence
  The sentences they never finish.

Think what a treat 'twould be to hear
  The toasts responded to succinctly
By cylinders which could not fail
  To utter what they said distinctly;
And which, in case they spoke too long,
  Or rashly dwelt on topics burning,
Could in a moment silenced be,
  A simple little tap by turning.

Then, in the pulpit what a boon
  Would be the phonographic sermon,
Falling upon the hearer's ears
  As gratefully as dew on Hermon!
For if the phonogram evinced
  The least intention of digressing,
It always could be stopped at once
  By merely on a button pressing.

Even on the domestic hearth
  'Twould cause a pleasant variation,
If Darby could with Joan exchange
  A phonographic conversation;
If, 'stead of Mr. Caudle's grunts,
  And Mrs. C.'s eternal nagging,
A pair of wit-charged cylinders
  Could keep the interest from flagging.

May-meetings, too, might be reformed,
  And blows more trenchant dealt at error;
The wedding-breakfast might be robbed
  Of most of its remaining terror.
At dinners, too, where one pairs off
  Too often with a fair disheart'ner,
How charming it would be to get
  A sprightly phonogram as partner!

By all means, then, "*Vive* Edison
  And his remarkable invention!"
And may its use extended be,
  In ways too numerous to mention,
For, aided by the Phonograph,
  We may succeed ere long in baulking
The widely-spreading itch and craze
  For loose and unconsidered talking!

SAVOY HOTEL, Savoy Restaurant, London. Large reception-rooms for fashionable réunions. Orchestra plays daily during dinner and opera supper.

A year or two ago a question was raised in reference to a sum of several thousand pounds which appeared in the Civil Service Estimates as grants to certain County Court officers in Ireland for clerical assistance. It was pointed out that no details were given, and no guarantee obtained that this money was actually expended in the payment of clerks. In the Estimates for the present year a sum of £8,500 is set down in the same form, and beyond the fact that each official participating in the grant has to give a receipt for the amount allotted to him, there is still apparently no check upon the expenditure of the money. Whether a Registrar or other functionary spends upon clerical assistance all the cash he gets for that purpose, or whether he retains some of it in his own pocket, is left entirely to his own honour and honesty. No doubt all these officers are honest and honourable men; but, nevertheless, this is not a satisfactory way of dealing with public money. In every such case a full account of the actual disbursement of the grant ought to be insisted upon.

In the *Financial Reformer* of February there is a curious tabular statement of the distribution of the net amount of real and personal property in the United Kingdom, based on the Report of the Inland Revenue Department, in regard to death dues. The number of persons possessing above £1,000,000 is 293; of those possessing between £500,000 and £1,000,000, 1,171; between £250,000 and £500,000, 2,410. The number of those having above £100,000 is 14,751. The total population of the United Kingdom in 1896 amounted to 39,464,582; of these 3,001,065 will have to pay death duties when they die, against 36,463,517 persons who, having either nothing, or, if anything less than £100, will not have to pay them. The net value of all personal and real estate is £12,672,846,988. Of this those having above £100,000 possess £3,511,328,967, or 27·71 per cent.; those having between £10,000 and £100,000, £5,367,840,560, or 42·35 per cent.; those having between £100 and £1,000, £3,754,637,983, or 20·63 per cent.

The evidence given by Sir George Lewis before the Money-lending Committee is extremely valuable, for, by reason of his professional experience, no man can speak with greater authority on the subject of the inquiry. Nothing could be more complete and emphatic than his testimony to the disastrous effects of usurious money-lending. To put an end to what he rightly characterised as a national scandal, he proposed (1) that money-lenders should be licensed and compelled to trade in their own names, the issue of false and misleading advertisements and circulars (such, for instance, as those of Gordon, Kirkwood, and Shuckburgh) being made a misdemeanour; and (2) that Judges, including the Judges of the County Courts, should be empowered to fix a fair rate of interest according

MESSRS. H. L. SAVORY & CO., of 59, Piccadilly, wish again to caution the public against the close imitations of their scarlet cigarette boxes. Each genuine box bears their special warrants of appointment to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, his Royal Highness the Duke of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, his Highness the Duke of Teck, and also the appointment which they solely hold to the House of Lords and Commons.

to the circumstances of the cases brought before them. It is to be hoped that the Committee will see their way to recommend legislation on these lines. At present the law is wholly in favour of Shylock, and the result is seen in the evils laid bare at this inquiry.

The mere fact of one man lending another money at a high rate of interest is not in itself evidence of swindling-for the interest must depend to a certain extent on the risk. The business becomes illegitimate when unfair terms have been exacted from a person owing to his inexperience, or owing to his already embarrassed circumstances. I confess, however, that I have very little sympathy with the young man who borrows at high interest from a money-lender, and spends the proceeds of the loan on ladies and horses. He is not, as a rule, the innocent fool he would have the world believe when the moment comes for repayment. But the poor curate who borrows at 50 per cent. some trifle, which to him is large, or the struggling man who is tempted to give a bill of sale on all his goods in order to tide over some difficulty not of his own creation, and then finds all his possessions sold up at a quarter of their value, has the sympathy of every right-minded person.

A dead set is being made against Sir Cuthbert Quilter by some of the more truculent Tories in his constituency, the chief charge against him being that while subscribing to the funds of the Conservative Association, he also assists the Liberals with their registration work. Mr. Wrightson, late Conservative agent for the division, has taken the leading part in the revolt, and has issued a circular in which he describes it as "the most grotesque and anomalous political proceeding ever perpetrated, that a man should be assisting out of one pocket the Conservative Association, the object of which is to keep Home Rulers and Radicals off the register, while out of the other pocket he is paying so much per annum to put them on." It appears from this that Sir Cuthbert Quilter retains too much of his former Liberalism to be acceptable to his Tory allies. To a Liberal, the only legitimate object of a Registration Association should be to secure votes to all persons, whatever their opinions, lawfully entitled to them. The Tory idea appears to be that the object should be to disfranchise as many opponents as possible.

Perhaps the most curious question that ever was put down on the House of Commons notice paper was that of Colonel Duncan, asking whether the Government were prepared to lend the British fleet to the United States in case the latter country went to war with Spain. As the question was never asked, I presume that it must have been put down as a joke. What our *quid pro quo* was to have been I do not know. Presumably, the United States would have been required to pay for the Navy thus lent during the period of operations against Spain, just as we paid the wretched German Princes who supplied us with soldiers to fight the Americans during the War of Independence. Clearly the loan would have been an act of war against Spain, which would have endeavoured to capture our merchant ships. The bill for this, too, would, I suppose, have been met by the United States, had the offer been really made and accepted. I am partial to the United States, but I confess that my partiality does not go to the lengths of Colonel Duncan's.

It is surpassing strange how the *Times* and the *Standard* shriek for war, as though it were a thing above all to be desired. The latter newspaper seems to have looked up all its denunciations of Mr. Gladstone in order to hurl them at Lord Salisbury. A few days ago it was France with which we were ordered to go to war. Now it is Russia. But what for? She has asked China to give her a port as the terminus of her Siberian railway in Manchuria, and to allow the railway to be extended to that port. This Lord Salisbury stated at the commencement of the Session that he regarded as a reasonable demand on the part of Russia. We asked Russia to agree to make the port an open one to the commerce of all nations. To this she has assented. Where then does the *casus belli* come in?

China consists of eighteen provinces. This is China proper. To the north of it is Manchuria, a State under the rule of the Chinese Emperor, but not China. We have very little commerce with this State, and it is far behind China in civilisation. If we secure free trade in China, in accordance with our treaties, we have the market for our goods that up to now has satisfied us; whilst if we wish to extend that market to Manchuria, we are not precluded by Russia having a port there. No one has either directly or indirectly contested our treaties with China, and surely it will be time to cry out when some one does. Heaven knows that I am not at one with Lord Salisbury in domestic politics. But I do not find fault with him in declining to drag us into war at the bidding of Jingo journalism, and in order to suit the personal aspirations of one of his colleagues.

The main complaint against Lord Salisbury by the Jingo Press is, that he is a weak man. They contend that he should have insisted upon France and Russia yielding in regard to West Africa and Manchuria, because otherwise those Powers will make further demands, counting on the Premier's weakness. This, the Jingo journals tell us, is the real way to secure peace. But supposing that France and Russia had not been compliant, we should have found ourselves engaged in a war with them. This war would, on a mild estimate, cost us 100 millions, the lives of thousands of Englishmen, and in all probability it would end by leaving matters precisely where they were when it began.

Mr. Gladstone was a Little Englander, according to the Jingo papers. Lord Salisbury is one according to them. Sir Robert Peel, who prophetically protested against

Jingoism, was a poor narrow-minded fool, according to them. Mr. Chamberlain is their divinity. Now, with all respect to the latter, and to the editors of these newspapers, I am rather inclined to think that these three Statesmen are better guides to follow than either Mr. Chamberlain or these journalistic braggarts.

I respect a man who really fights himself. But I thoroughly despise that cheap form of courage which takes the form of shouting to others to fight, without the remotest intention of personally taking part in the fray. Yet this sort of bluster is regarded at present as "courageous patriotism." It may be seen in its most aggravated form in the Editor of the *Globe*, who was once a Lieutenant, I believe, in some branch or other of the Service. Not having a stomach for salt-water, or preferring a well-paid easy-chair at home to the chance of getting knocked about in his country's service abroad, he has exchanged the sword for the goose-quill. Armed with this more congenial weapon, he advertises his valour and "patriotism" by urging us to quarrel with half the universe, and reviling as "traitors" all who are less eager than himself to spill their countrymen's blood.

THE DOWNFALL OF THE DAMES.

Then there were the cohorts of Belgravian Dames who penetrated into the courts and slums of Stepney to canvass for Major Gordon.—*Daily Paper.*

The Belgravians drove down on the Radical fold,
And their landaus were gleaming with purple and gold,
And "Jeames" on the box was a picture to see
As he sniffed in his pride through the streets of Step-nee.

Like the leaves of the forest when Epping is green,
These dames ere the day of the polling were seen.
Like the leaves of the forest when Autumn has come,
Their leaflets be-littered each alley and slum.

How they walked, how they talked, how they coaxed and cajoled!
And oh! with what zest tarradiddles they told,
Not only the Unionist cause to abet,
But because the "dear Major" was one of their set.

But oh! what a shock when the news came at last
That the Major, alack! at the poll had been pass'd;
What a blow for the ladies who toil not nor spin,
When they heard that "that Steadman" had managed to win!

Back, back to the West in high dudgeon they rolled,
Possessed by a wrath that was quite uncontrolled;
And pierced in their pride by a passionate pain
To feel they had thus "stooped to conquer" in vain.

To know that in vain, for the "dear Major's" sake,
They had gone where their poodles they'd trembled to take!
Oh! it filled them with grief it was hard to dispel;
And some feminine "D.'s" were o'erheard in Pall Mall.

And the Dames of the Primrose were loud in their wail,
And the sobs of the *Standard* were borne on the gale,
To think that the East 'gainst the West should have scored,
And have thus put to rout the Belgravian horde!

SCRUTATOR.

RADICALS AND THE N.L.F.

THE Report of the Executive Committee of the National Liberal Federation, which is to be submitted to the Council on March 22, will be the last dying speech and confession of the Federation, unless the Council takes matters into its hands, and acts with energy and determination. The Federation was originally formed to control Liberal officialdom. It was for several years absolutely independent of it. But after the Liberal Unionist secession, Officialdom captured it. Its officers and those of Officialdom became one and the same, and it was lodged in Officialdom's headquarters. With its independence its vitality disappeared. At present the only reason for its being is to whip Radicals into the official fold.

The Federation is made up of Associations which are affiliated to it. It has a Council, a General Committee, and an Executive Committee.

Council.—This is elected by the Associations. Each may elect one representative for every thousand Parliamentary electors in the district covered by it, without regard to the number of members belonging to the Association, or to its importance in the district. This Council meets once a year. Its functions are limited to saying aye or nay to certain cut-and-dried resolutions that are submitted to it by the Executive Committee, and to adopting the report of that Committee.

General Committee.—Each affiliated Association has the right to elect three members. It generally meets once a year in some provincial town. Its functions are (*a*) to elect officers and the Executive Committee; (*b*) to pass political resolutions, which are in no way binding on the Federation.

The Executive Committee.—In this body all power resides. It makes a report each year, which, together with resolutions that it has elaborated, are submitted to the Council at its annual meeting. In regard to the latter, no amendments are allowed, nor is any member of the Council permitted to move a new resolution.

The Council and the General Committee are permeated with officialism. Many of the members of both are paid agents. In many cases they are gentlemen who have undertaken to attend the two annual meetings of the Federation at their own expense. The members are often elected in some little hole-in-a-corner meeting of the Association that they are by way of representing, which itself is often a very hole-in-the-corner one. Thus the officials of the Federation and the Executive Committee have had it pretty well their own way at the annual Federation meetings, except last year, when things had reached such a point that a good many of the affiliated Associations sent delegates bent on reform. One of these reforms, and a most reasonable one if the Executive is to represent the real views of the affiliated Associations, was that the members of the Executive Committee should be elected by voting papers sent round to the Associations, instead of its being, as now, elected by those who may happen to attend the meeting of the General Committee.

The working of the system is thus described and defended in the report of the Executive Committee, just issued :—

The Council of the Federation meets once a year in some provincial centre to receive the annual report of the Executive Committee and appoint a treasurer and a president. It is customary at these gatherings to pass certain resolutions which are believed to express the wishes of the great majority of the Liberal Party upon the leading questions of the day. These resolutions are prepared by the Executive Committee after consultation with all the federated Associations, and after taking into full consideration any resolutions which may have been passed by the General Committee of the Federation, or at local conferences held under its auspices. These resolutions are intended to inform the party leaders of the subjects, in dealing with which they may rely on the support of the party as a whole. The Federation does not interfere with the time or order in which questions should be taken up. That is the province of the leaders of the party. There can be dissension at the annual Council meeting, but the resolutions must be accepted or rejected, not amended. They are the expression of a united desire.

Now, the Liberal Party consists of a vast majority of Radicals eager to march forward on the democratic path, and of a small section by no means prepared to keep pace with them. If the Party is to do nothing unless there be a "united desire" to do something, it is obvious that this small section can regulate the pace. Thus the minority has the whip hand over the majority. But even this is not deemed sufficient by the gentlemen controlling the Federation. The time and order in which reforms for which there is a "united desire" are to be brought forward are, they insist, matters to be determined by the Leaders of the Party. Any reform, consequently, for which the Party expresses a "united desire," if not approved of by Officialdom, may be put off until Doomsday. And this is laid down as a cardinal article of Liberalism!

The Report pronounces against all programmes. It would seem that it is a mistake to suppose that there ever was a Newcastle Programme. What is called the Newcastle Programme was only a collection of pious opinions. Unfortunately, Mr. Gladstone, who spoke at the Federation meeting at Newcastle, had these pious opinions placed in his hands. He, imagining them to be reforms to which the Federation was pledged, expressed his approval of them, greatly to the horror of the Federation, which had expected him to confine his remarks to Irish Home Rule. Anything more pitiable than this endeavour to shift the responsibility of the Newcastle Programme from the Federation on to the shoulders of Mr. Gladstone never came under my notice. Mr. Gladstone thought that he was dealing with men who meant what they said. He was asked to speak at a meeting of the Federation. He was given the resolutions passed by the Federation. How possibly could he be aware that he was expected to ignore them? If this had been intended, the Executive Committee should have said to him, "Mr. Gladstone, all these resolutions that we place in your hands are merely dirt thrown in the eyes of the electorate. We entreat you carefully to avoid expressing your approval of them." But had the Executive taken this course, I think it highly probable that Mr. Gladstone would have shaken the Federation dust from his shoes, and have declined to have anything to do with such a crew of humbugs.

After this explanation by the Executive Committee of the value that it attaches to his own resolutions, it is almost waste of time to criticise those that it proposes to submit to the Council of the Federation on March 22. With the exception of one, they are mere vague aspirations. This one is a demand to be entrusted with cash in order to organise the Liberal Party. Organise for what? To leave everything in the hands of the Leaders of the Party. But who are the Leaders? The Executive would have done well to publish their names. I believe that the doctrine of the Federation is, that we have no Leader, and that to appoint one would be to trench on the prerogative of the Crown. The selection of our Leader, according to the creed of the Federation, is to be left to the Sovereign, who will proclaim it so soon as the Party secures a majority in the House of Commons, and it then will become the duty of every Liberal humbly and submissively to bow down and worship him. In the meantime, we are to regard as our Leaders the noblemen and gentlemen who were members of the last Liberal Ministry, and we are to await to know for what we have to fight until they have agreed amongst themselves what it is to be. If they cannot decide before the General Election, the Election is to turn on the question of placing these Humpty Dumpties again on the wall, in the hope and expectation that then, at least, they will be able to make up their minds what they will do.

'Tis like the Spanish fleet, I ween,
If I read matters right;
The Liberal programme can't be seen
Because it's out of sight.

A programme containing all the reforms to which Radicals aspire is one thing. An electoral programme is another. The latter should be limited to one or two important reforms. In regard to their character, and the form in which they are to be carried, there should be nothing ambiguous, for if a majority be returned to Parliament in favour of them, there should be no doubt as to the country having expressed its approval of them They should be in the nature of a mandate. In this sense I hold that the Liberal Party should have a programme. If we are to fight, we must be assured that victory will secure us something more valuable than the privilege of seeing our Leaders enjoying the honour of being Ministers of the Crown, and ploughing the sands of the seashore. At the last General Election we had no electoral programme. Untaught by experience, are we again to commit the same fault? Conservatives want no changes. Theirs is merely a war of defence. Liberals, if they hope to win, must always wage a war of offence. If our plan of campaign is only to be confidence in our Front Bench, and a confiding faith that, if placed in power, they will do something to our advantage, the campaign will end disastrously.

I take the question of the Lords as an instance of what I mean. The Executive Committee asks the Council of the Federation to declare its belief that Parliament will never be representative until the House of Lords is deprived of its present power of nullifying the decisions of the popular and representative branch. This is self-evident. It is a truism to which even Conservatives could not refuse assent, for it is obvious that if one branch of a Parliament

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consists of hereditary members, the Parliament cannot collectively be called representative. What is needed is a distinct resolution, that any Bill that has passed in the Commons House in two consecutive Sessions shall become law, and that no Executive is worthy of the confidence of the Party that is not prepared to carry, on being placed in office, such an alteration in the Constitution by all means known to the Constitution. Such a resolution would be an irreducible minimum, and our leaders would be notified of the condition under which we are prepared to recognise them as leaders.

At the meeting of the Council last year, the following resolution was carried :—

> That this Council respectfully urges the Executive Committee to take the amendments amendments which would have gone far to make the Federation a popular reality], proposed by the Kingston Division of Surrey Liberal Association into careful consideration during the next twelve months and report thereon at the next General Meeting.

Clearly the Council would not have passed such a resolution had it not been in favour of amendments in the sense of those proposed by the Kingston Association. What is the reply of the Executive Committee?

> The Executive Committee, in pursuance of the instruction at the last annual meeting that they should report upon the subject, now beg to state that they are unanimously opposed to the question being reopened at present.

In defence of this *non possumus* the Executive states in its Report that it sent a circular to all the affiliated Associations, asking them carefully to consider the matter, and that more than three quarters of them did not trouble themselves to send a reply. Surely this ought to open the eyes of these gentlemen to the fact, that the vast majority of the affiliated Associations are so utterly disgusted with the way in which the Federation is managed, that they consign communications from it to the waste-paper basket. Yet they actually cite this as a proof of the confidence that the Associations have in them! A Member of the House of Commons who, on moving a resolution, is counted out, might as well insist on this as evidence of the interest taken by the House in him and his resolution.

The Council, at the meeting of March 22, should refuse to receive the report of the Executive Committee, and it should decline to agree to the political Resolutions submitted to it, on the two grounds (1), that they are goody-goody twaddle rather fitted for a tea-party of old women than as a declaration of policy by a great Party; (2) that the Council declines to be dragged to Leicester to vote on resolutions in the making of which they have had no hand, without being allowed even to move amendments to them. The affiliated Associations should elect members of the General Committee of independence and of energy, and thus be able to secure on the Executive Council men who will make the Federation a real, living, popular force, not cohabiting with Officialdom, but dictating to Officialdom the popular will. We are now under Conservative rule. This I regard with equanimity, because it is a mere passing episode. What is more important is, that the Radicals should not only be in the majority in the Liberal Party, but that—being the majority—they should control it. Until they do this, Party warfare will be little more than a struggle between two gangs of office-holders, the one a little more Liberal than the other, but both equally opposed to any real advance on the Democratic path. Radicals must realise that the Liberal Party in the last few years has become less, rather than more, Radical, so far as definite action is concerned. In its ranks there are many who rejoice at this, and who, with Radical professions on their lips, are little better than Tories. If we are not careful, watchful, and energetic, we shall go back to the days of Palmerston, when a so-called Liberal Ministry was in office, whose main aim it was to shelve all really Radical measures.

THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF CHUBB JACKSON.

The name of Chubb Jackson is a comparatively new one in the annals of philanthropic enterprise. The owner of the name, however, is a remarkable man, who, in the space of less than three years, has achieved a surprising amount of success. Having watched him carefully during the period of his germination and early growth, I have come to the conclusion that the world ought now to know more of him.

The present seat of Chubb Jackson's charitable efforts is the village of Hadlow in Kent, a few miles from Tonbridge. He has recently opened a branch establishment at No. 6, George-street, Ryde. At these premises he carries on "Children's Country and Seaside Homes." The work done in this direction is, by his own account, very considerable. Here is his own account, indited specially for my benefit in a letter dated January 24, 1898:—

> I have had altogether at the two Homes up to the end of last year between 600 and 700 children, some of them staying as long as six months, and previous to the Jubilee I paid all their railway fares to and from London, and in no case did I have any pay whatever from the parents. Since the Jubilee the children that have come to the Homes have paid their railway fares only.
>
> You may ask, how did I get the children? In some cases I have visited the slums myself, but in most cases I gave the letters to well-known missions in London. In two instances I took cases from the London Police-courts, and in both cases I kept the children six months, receiving no pay whatever. In addition to these agencies I have been in touch with several visiting ladies of very poor districts in London. . . . .

Even more remarkable than the proportions which Chubb Jackson's work has reached is the extremely small expenditure which has sufficed to maintain it. In the letter quoted above he tells me that "since he first opened the Hadlow Home in 1895 up, he has received *considerably under £500.*" I should say that I had applied to him for information as to his finances, and this statement was what I got in reply. That two Homes should have been furnished and opened, and maintained, one for two and a half years the other for about six months, and that between 600 and 700 should have been taken in, some of them for periods of six months, and all this for an expenditure "considerably under £500," is one of the most astonishing feats performed since the age of miracles came to an end. Now a word as to the history of this worker of miracles.

Chubb Jackson seems to have been originally in the refreshment-contracting and picnic-catering line of business, and indeed he was still pursuing this particular line in the summer of 1895, when he opened the Home at Hadlow. I have one of his trade circulars—a highly attractive document—in which "S. A. Chubb Jackson begs to thank those persons who kindly patronised him during last

season, and to inform Superintendents of Sunday Schools and Bands of Hope, Cyclists, Ramblers, Cricket Clubs, Mothers' Meetings, &c., &c., that he is again catering for the requirements of such parties at this delightful spot." The "delightful spot" is "The Retreat, Bushey Heath, Herts," and S. A. Chubb Jackson describes himself as its proprietor. Under the influence of his rural surroundings, he develops a poetic vein :—

At my Stanmore Retreat
There is plenty to eat,
Served up by attendants, quick, civil, and neat.

So without more delay
Send your orders this way,
That is, if you'd spend an enjoyable day.

* * * * *

It is I who aspire
To meet the desire
Of the child or the more epicurean sire.

And so forth. In addition to the Bushey address this document is headed in writing, "Red House, Hadlow, Kent," and "139, Alexandra-road, St. John's Wood, N.W." and at the foot appears this notification :—

Terms on application to the Proprietor—
S. A. Chubb Jackson,
Red House, Hadlow, Kent.
Mr. Jackson is also prepared to accommodate Children or Adults wishing to spend a week or two in the country on reasonable terms.

From this it will be seen that in the summer of 1895 (the date at which the Hadlow Home was started) Mr. Jackson was avowedly combining the two characters of philanthropist and refreshment contractor. This is further shown by an interesting publication dated June 1, 1895, and purporting to be No. 1, Vol. 1, of *The Organ of the Hadlow Convalescent Home, and Special Work among the Children.* On the front of the cover of this organ is the appropriate text "Suffer little Children to come unto Me," and on the back an advertisement of "Progressive Refreshment Contractors—Price List can be obtained from The Manager, 139, Alexandra-road, St. John's Wood, N.W., or Red House Coffee Tavern, Hadlow, near Tonbridge, Kent. P.S.—By patronising this Firm you will be greatly helping the Home."

The address, 139, Alexandra-road, St. John's Wood, is given on various documents (including the subscription form published in the *Organ*) as that of the "London Office" of the charity, as well as of S. A. Chubb Jackson in his capacity of a "Progressive Refreshment Contractor." Chubb Jackson's connection with these premises is one of the most instructive features in his career. The fact is that during the time it figured as the "London Office" of the Home and the refreshment business, 139, Alexandra-road was an empty house, and Chubb Jackson was established there with his family in the humble though useful capacity of a caretaker. It appears that he was put in charge of the premises upon the recommendation of a clergyman by the agents who had the house on their books. The clergyman knew Jackson as an applicant for relief, and had actually relieved him in cash at various times to the tune of about £3. Jackson seems to have used the Alexandra-road house for about eighteen months in 1894 and 1895, and kept some of the paraphernalia of the catering business there. The agents wondered, they say, why the house did not let.

A year or two back Chubb Jackson issued by post a "Special Appeal," which among other interesting statements contained the following further biographical details bearing upon the Alexandra-road period of his career :—

I am compelled to bring before your notice my pressing needs respecting the work which God has for two years enabled me to carry on.

In April, 1894, having a large tent, &c., accompanied by two earnest workers, I left London. We visited Sevenoaks and Tonbridge, finishing up with Mission Work among the Hop-pickers. That being over, I returned to London, where during the winter of 1894, which was the severest for many years, and the distress being very great, I decided to do something.

From December 1, 1894, to March 20, 1895, I had a large Soup Kitchen in the Kilburn District, where by voluntary contributions, I was enabled to give daily large quantities of Soup, Bread, and Free Dinners to School Children, &c.

The early part of June, 1895, I took the premises then and now known as the Red House, Hadlow, which, after a lot of repairs inside and out, I converted into a Holiday Home for poor London slum children, &c.

What the soup-kitchen was I do not know. Sundry facts, however, which are perfectly certain, tend to throw considerable doubt on the accuracy of the above statements. During the period referred to, Jackson was evidently in sore financial straits. He admits as much in a letter which I will give presently. He also applied for and received, about the same time, the charitable relief for his own personal benefit already referred to. The clergyman who relieved him actually gave him 30s. for the purpose of enabling him to open an eating-house. Again, in the autumn of 1895, the police of the District Railway Company had occasion to make some inquiries about Chubb Jackson, in consequence of his having arrived one night at Charing Cross station with a small party of boys, told the station inspector a story about having had his pocket picked, borrowed of that functionary the sum of 3s. 4½d., in order to pay the fares of the party to Latimer-road, and failed to repay the loan, in spite of his promises that it would be forthcoming next day. He had given as his address, the "London Office," 139, Alexandra-road, and on that house being visited and found empty, suspicions were naturally aroused. The police officer who hunted him up, made a report containing the following passage :—

I had some inquiry made at 139, Alexandra-road, St. John's-wood, and find that the house is in charge of a caretaker, who says Mr. Chubb Jackson was formerly living there. . . . On making further inquiries in the neighbourhood, I found that Chubb Jackson was well known about there, and *formerly stood with a coffee stall in the street, close by the above address, where he was living as caretaker.* . . .

These statements throw a striking light on Jackson's own account of his "large soup-kitchen," and the vast amount of "relief work" done by him in "the Kilburn district" during the winter of 1894-5.

There is one other little piece of evidence with which I will trouble the reader, in order to make the picture of the rise of Chubb Jackson perfectly clear. It is a letter written by Jackson on May 2, 1895, to a gentleman who had previously assisted him with cash :—

139, Alexandra-road,
St. John's Wood,
May 2, 1895.

Sir,—I trust you will pardon this liberty. I am the lame young man whom you so kindly helped about twelve months ago towards starting me in business. Your butler, who knew me when I was in Stoureliffe St., knew that I tried my hardest and I got on pretty fair, but it has been such a bad winter, and I have been laid up over two months with piles and fistula, but I am thankful to say I am a great deal better. It took all I earned last summer to get my things together, so that when I had

finished I had no ready money, but I had all my things for my use. I was obliged to pledge my tents to get a little ready money to work upon for the winter, and I have not been able to redeem them; they only granted me a three months' ticket, and they have been in now nearly six months, and if I do not redeem them within the next few days they will sell them. They cost me over £20 and they are only in for £2, and the interest will be another £1. If you will kindly help me I should feel truly grateful. I have got £1 towards it. I have enclosed the ticket for you to see. If you will kindly help me this once I will never apply to you again. I have every prospect of plenty of work this summer. Thanking you for your past kindness, I beg to remain, sir, your humble servant,

Sydney C. Jackson.

The reader will note for himself the singular contrast between the account of his condition during the winter of 1894-5 given by Jackson in this letter, and that contained in the "Special Appeal" quoted above, wherein he describes his work at the large Soup Kitchen carried on by him in the Kilburn District during the same period.

Without going into further facts, of which I have a plentiful store on hand, I think enough has been said to furnish material for a pretty accurate estimate of this worthy. In 1894-5 we have him in the character of a struggling refreshment contractor appealing to charity, and getting a roof temporarily over his head by means of a job as caretaker of an empty house. While there, he supplements his income by keeping a coffee-stall in a neighbouring street. In May, 1895, he is appealing for cash to get his tents out of pawn. In June of the same year he has managed to take the house at Hadlow, formerly a coffee-shop, and again run by him on that basis. He then has a business circular out offering to receive children and adults as boarders for a week or two, apparently at Hadlow. A further inspiration occurs to him, and we have *The Organ of the Hadlow Convalescent Home*, with the alluring motto, "Suffer Little Children to come unto Me," the fly-leaf subscription form inside, and the "Progressive Refreshment Contractors'" advertisement on the back. The empty house in Alexandra-road, of which he was nominally the caretaker, blossoms forth into the London Office of the Convalescent Home and the "Special Work among the Children." Once embarked in the philanthropic line, Chubb Jackson prospers. The Hadlow house is run as a coffee tavern, and a few children are brought down in batches from time to time during the summer. An inspection of the premises which I caused to be made in the autumn of 1895 showed that there were four rooms available for the accommodation of children, the rooms containing nineteen beds. According to Mrs. Jackson's statement then, sixty-five children had been down during the summer. The 1895 season was then over. Last spring, in his Jubilee appeal, Jackson was asserting that up to that time he had admitted "over three hundred children" to the Home, for periods ranging from a fortnight to three months, and this notwithstanding the fact that for eight months eight out of the nineteen beds had been closed for want of funds. However, there have been a certain number of children there, no doubt—the usual charity-monger's stock-in-trade. To keep the place going money has been collected far and wide by itinerant collectors. At one time there was a collector at work on the beach at Eastbourne. The "work" was next pushed into Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, where Jackson has had two or three local agents and collectors for some time past. The business speedily grew so flourishing that the second "Home" was opened at Ryde—also with a coffee and refreshment room attached to it. Appeals were issued by post of the character indicated above. There was also, as a matter of course, a Jubilee Appeal, in which Jackson strove to enlist all loyal and patriotic subjects of the Queen in a "commemoration effort" of a complicated character, the essential feature being that £1,000 was to be placed at Chubb Jackson's disposal by the end of September. This appeal contains an imposing account of Jackson's past work and future plans, together with sample "cases" illustrating the practical results of Jackson's philanthropic activity. It shows that in the space of two years the humble beggar of a few shillings had blossomed forth into a thorough-going, accomplished charity-monger, who would ask for a thousand pounds at one stroke, and knew well the most likely way to get it.

During all this time there has not been even a pretence that there was anybody but Chubb Jackson, late coffee-stall keeper and house agent's caretaker, in the management of the concern. He does not even take the trouble to advertise a committee, a treasurer, or any of the usual appurtenances of a charitable organisation. He publishes no accounts, not even a subscription list. You send your money to "Chubb Jackson, Founder," and leave Chubb Jackson to do what he pleases with it. In this Jubilee Appeal, which seems to have been issued about May last, he made the following announcement:—

A Balance Sheet is in course of preparation, and will be ready at the anniversary services; this will contain a full report from the commencement of all money received, how it has been spent, together with a list of subscribers. A Balance Sheet of this special appeal will be issued at the end of the season.

Having had many inquiries about the Jubilee Appeal, and having seen nothing of either of the promised balance-sheets, I myself wrote to Chubb Jackson, as mentioned earlier in this article, asking him to kindly forward me the two accounts, in order that I might be in a position to reply to such inquiries. This was on January 14 of the present year. I have already quoted one passage of his reply, in which he endeavoured to stagger me with a recital of the magnitude of his work and the smallness of his receipts. Here is the only portion of his letter which had any direct bearing upon the request that I had made:—

Respecting my balance sheet the end of 1895 I published a small magazine containing a balance sheet this I intended to keep up every six months, but I found I had to give them away, and they cost too much to print, and I thought the money would be better spent in feeding the children, another reason is I have had to depend greatly upon voluntary labour, not being in a position to pay a secretary.

But in October last I thoroughly reorganised the whole thing and my books from that date will be kept by a secretary and I shall be prepared to produce them any time I am called upon to do so. Respecting the money I received in 1896 and 1897, those of my friends who supplied the most of it are I believe thoroughly satisfied in the way which it was spent, otherwise they would not give again and again.

I am preparing a balance-sheet from January, 1896, to September, 1897, to the best of my ability if people are not satisfied with that it will be for them to prove that the money has not been spent for the purpose for which it has been asked.

For the future I shall issue a balance-sheet every six months, which will be properly audited. You may ask do I take any salary each summer I have earned in a separate way entirely enough to keep me my wife and those of my family have had their food nothing else thus saving expenses for labour that otherwise would have been incurred.

All monies received since January '96 is entered in our collecting books, and most of it in the subscribers' handwriting.

Directly I have the balance-sheet ready and I have funds to have it printed which I trust will be by the end of febuary, I will forward you one, but I wish you to thoroughly understand this is the last correspondence I can hold on the subject in fact I have gone a great deal further than I was advised.

I shall be pleased to forward you letters of admission any time should you require them.

Trusting that you will feel satisfied with this explanation.—I beg to remain, sir, your obedient servant

CHUBB JACKSON.

To the Editor of TRUTH.

It will be seen that the balance-sheet which last May was in course of preparation, and was to be issued at the "anniversary services" (then fixed for June 17) is still, in January, 1898, in course of preparation. The balance-sheet dealing with the results of the Jubilee Appeal, which was promised at the end of last season, never seems to have appeared, and there is nothing in Jackson's letter to me indicating that it is ever likely to do so. In expressing the hope that this reply will be satisfactory to me, Jackson can only have been writing with his tongue in his cheek. As for the impudent remark that it is for those who are not satisfied with his balance-sheet (when it appears) to prove that the money has not been properly expended, I will only say that on Chubb Jackson's own statements, coupled with the other plain facts of the case, I should think there would be but little difficulty in proving it.

How much cash this individual really has extracted from the pockets of the confiding public during the last three years it is of course impossible to say. His own statement that the total amount is under £500 is entirely inconsistent with his own statements about his work, and although his statements about his work are manifestly fanciful, that does not lend additional credibility to his statements about his receipts. The fact is clear that for three years the quondam coffee-stall keeper and house agent's caretaker has lived with his family in a fair amount of comfort, either at Hadlow or Ryde, that he has managed to establish for himself a couple of coffee-house businesses which probably in themselves yield a respectable income, and that in addition to this he has been scooping in money in all directions by means of collectors and postal circulars. For those who have parted with their money in this way, I confess I have not much sympathy. They deserve to lose it. There is little genuine charity about the process of disbursing cash, without consideration or inquiry, to any plausible *soi-disant* philanthropist, who comes round with an imposing account of his own performances, and an appeal plentifully garnished with scriptural cant. The practice of throwing about money indiscriminately under the name of charity is the chief cause of the existence of the vast army of philanthropic quacks and impostors, who bring discredit upon the whole business of public charity. I have gone into the case of Chubb Jackson in detail, not so much because the man himself, at any rate at his present stage, is a practitioner on a very large scale, but because his case conveys such a conspicuous warning to all those who give away money in response to *ad captandum* appeals to their benevolence. I trust that the warning will have its due effect upon those who have hitherto been supporting Mr. Chubb Jackson, and that in giving this account of his rise and progress I shall dispose of him once and for all.

AN EDITOR ON "COMPETITION" TRICKS.

In reply to the article on newspaper competition tricks in last week's TRUTH, I have received a long communication from Mr. Langton Bayly, editor of *Hearth and Home*. It seems to me that what Mr. Bayly has to say might have been put into about a quarter of the space which his letter fills, and as my own space is extremely limited, I must ask to be allowed to condense his remarks for him. He begins by pointing out that he has never dissembled the fact that his "Scholarship" competition was intended as an advertisement. This is really immaterial; for no one has objected to the thing on the ground that it was an advertisement. I do not think, however, that if the editor had in so many words offered the prize to the young lady who should sell the largest number of copies of his paper for him, or obtain him the largest number of annual subscribers, he would have met with a very hearty response; and I took the liberty of pointing out to the young ladies who were competing for scholarships the precise nature of the undertaking in which they were engaged. Having got over this point, Mr. Bayly deals thus with the objections to his competition which I formulated:—

First, you say the girl with the longest purse and the largest number of relations with long purses has evidently the best chance of winning the £50. May I ask whether this can be considered an objection to the scholarship scheme, and, if so, on what grounds? I fancy that nearly all benevolent institutions are run on the principle of giving votes to those people who subscribe to the objects of the institution. We have distinctly stated that ours is not a purely philanthropic venture; but, at the same time, it is necessary in giving away a sum of £80 for the sake of advertising ourselves to take precautions to ensure that only readers of the paper are allowed to vote; and, in so doing, we are following the usual practice.

Secondly, you say that this contest may easily resolve itself into a mere blind gamble, conducted on very much the same principle as the game of "poker." May I ask you in what particular our scholarship scheme can come under the category of a gamble? To every person who pays a yearly subscription full value is given for the money, and the same applies to everybody who buys a single copy, and thus obtains one vote. Therefore, I shall be glad to hear your definition of the word "gamble." It is quite apparent to the meanest intelligence—and we have particularly drawn attention to the fact in the opening announcement—that everybody cannot win.

I do not wish to be offensive, but really this is a very twaddling line of argument. If I were to run a gambling competition in TRUTH, to limit it to purchasers of the paper, and to notify those who took part in it that they could not all win, I do not see how either the limitation or the notice would relieve it of the character of a gamble. As to the gambling nature of Mr. Bayly's competition, my article clearly explained why it was a gamble, and I really do not see any necessity to give the explanation over again. The opportunity was given to all the competitors to bid blindfold against one another week by week for a chance of the prize. Any girl, by putting in a 15s. subscription on her own account, or getting her friends to do it for her, could raise her score by seventy points, and if the girl who came out second in the final list had only spent 17s. 6d. more in the last week, she would have been the winner of £50. I really do not see that it is necessary to give a definition of the word "gamble" in order to prove that such a competition is essentially of a gambling character. If it is not, then the popular game of poker is not gambling either. Mr. Bayly goes on to say that "there is no necessity for a candidate to do more than get her friends

to vote for her; there is no compulsion, as you imply, to make her invest her own money." I did not say or imply that there was compulsion; I said that there was a strong inducement. Considering that seventy votes could be purchased for 15s., and that seventy votes would go far towards turning the scale in a close finish, it is obvious that each girl must have been under the strongest inducement to buy votes out of her own pocket. Mr. Bayly continues:—

> Thirdly, you say that "by way of stimulating his young lady readers to further sterling efforts in the same direction, the editor awards two extra £5 prizes to the fourth, fifth, and sixth competitors, and then expresses a pious hope that any of those who have not been successful in this competition will try again, and not be put off by one failure." Doubtless you have made a clerical error here. We certainly did give extra prizes—not two, but three prizes of £5. I think your description is hardly fair, as we obviously cannot stimulate people to further efforts after the competition is over.

Why cannot you stimulate people to further efforts after the competition is over? As pointed out in TRUTH, the hope was expressed in so many words that those who had not been successful in the competition would try again and not be put off by one failure. What is this but stimulating them to further efforts? and what on earth does Mr. Bayly mean in the face of this invitation to the unsuccessful to compete again by saying now that he "obviously cannot stimulate people to further efforts after the competition is over"? There is only one other point in his letter. He answers my statement that the total amount of business done for the paper by the scholarship competition was £637 3s., by pointing out that "every person who contributed towards that £637 3s. has had full value for her money." This is really childish. When I say that so much business was done for the paper, I mean that the paper was sold to that extent. Of course, the people who bought it got what they paid for. The question at issue is the legitimacy of the means adopted for inducing them to buy.

I shall, perhaps, be charged with unfairness to Mr. Bayly if I do not publish his concluding hit:—

> I do not wish to embark on a *tu quoque* argument, but I gather that the fact of your running this series of articles against various papers and people is only your way of advertising your paper, and of gaining fresh readers and subscribers. I think personally that my way is the less objectionable of the two, and that at any rate it does not merit the designation which you give it of "a piece of delusive humbug."

Mr. Bayly is quite at liberty to embark on a *tu quoque* argument whenever he finds an opening for it. But I am not running any "series of articles against various papers," and, if I were, it is absurd to suppose that the ordinary contents of a newspaper can be described as an advertisement. In my last article I gave Mr. Bayly the credit of every argument which can be drawn from the legitimate business of newspaper proprietors and editors. We are all, as I said, anxious to enlarge our circulation, and to gain fresh subscribers. We are all doing our best in that direction according to our lights. Some of us, however, confine ourselves to the ordinary and legitimate business of journalism; others endeavour to increase the attractions of their papers by tacking on to them lotteries, competitions, prize distributions, and a dozen other features which stand in precisely the same relation to the literary portion of the publication as the big drum outside a booth at a fair does to the show inside. With this I do not quarrel. It is one of the results of trade competition, and I rather sympathise with Mr. Langton Bayly in his ingenious effort to keep abreast of the enterprise of his rivals. When, however, these adventitious aids to journalistic success take forms which seem objectionable on public grounds, then I feel it part of *my* legitimate business as a journalist to point these objections out.

While on this subject, let me call attention to another example of the unsatisfactory manner in which too many newspaper prize competitions are conducted. A weekly paper called the *Sunday Companion* offers £100 in prizes for what it calls a "Bible-searching examination." A certain number of anagrams on Biblical names or words are given each week, and £5 notes up to the number of twenty are to be given to the parties solving the whole number of names successfully. In the case in question six competitors were announced as having been successful, and, according to the published award, received a £5 note each. Now, it so happened in this case that six readers of the paper at Bethnal Green had combined together and sent in identical lists, keeping copies of them. Their answers corresponded exactly with those in the published prize list. None of the names, however, of these six competitors appeared in the award. Complaint was made to the editor, and he replied that after having made a careful search, he was unable to find any trace of the answers of these competitors having been received. He did not question the complainants' veracity, but he took his stand firmly on the ground that although the lists might have been posted, they did not come to hand. The complaint having been brought to me, I communicated with the editor of the *Sunday Companion*, but he can only give me the same answer as he originally gave the complainants.

There seems no room for doubt in this case that the six lists were duly sent in. Six perfectly credible witnesses are prepared to swear to it, and each can give the time and place at which the letter was posted. Which is more probable, that by an almost miraculous coincidence all these letters miscarried in the post, or that they have been overlooked in the office of the *Sunday Companion*? Few would hesitate to adopt the latter alternative. The editor of the paper states that "many thousands" took part in the competition. It seems pretty clear that due pains were not taken to do justice to them all. Considering that each individual among these thousands of competitors paid his or her penny, week by week, for the privilege of competing, they have every right to complain of such treatment. In calling attention to the legitimate grounds which too often exist for complaints on this score, I humbly believe that I am doing some of my contemporaries a good service. The disadvantage of the "competition" form of advertisement is that for every reader who is propitiated by the award of a prize, a dozen are apt to be annoyed at being sent empty away. And if any considerable proportion of them go away, not only empty, but cherishing the idea that they have been swindled or unfairly treated, the competition is likely to do its promoter quite as much harm as good.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE Russian Ambassador loses no opportunity of gaining a personal foothold. One sees him everywhere, and bearing himself as one who merely wishes to pass in a crowd, at the same time not forgetting the high place to which he has always taken with easy dignity. Be sure he will never write gushing letters to Prefects of Police, who, on the principle that he who hides knows where to find, discover Nihilist plots in the Forest of Bondy — of all places! Prince Ouroussoff, Russians tell me, would have preferred Rome to Paris as a diplomatic post. In Rome he would have had opportunities to add to his *cabinet d'antiquités*. He has a passion for Italian art of the great epochs, and especially Etruscan and Græco-Roman art. One can understand a cultivated Russian, not used to government by talk, preferring quiet old Rome to feverish Paris. After all, it is such a loss of time to have to witness constant battles between Parliamentary kites and crows. Princess Ouroussoff is in no apparent haste to come here. She will not be at the Russian Embassy, it is said, before next May. The absence of an Ambassadress is really of no consequence. I can think of no more popular Ambassador than the late Lord Lyons. Who could have been more useful in helping Bismarck to prepare for 1870 than Count von Goltz? Lord Lyons was a bachelor, and there certainly was no Countess de Goltz when the Count was at the Rue de Lille. And Commander Nigra? The Faubourg St. Germain, which knew all about his very humble origin, pretended that a Signora Nigra was vegetating in some village near Turin, at the sign of the Barber and Phlebotomist. (The Faubourg St. Germain, fifteen years later, refused to see "a gentleman" in General Menabrea). If its story about the Signora were true —which I doubt—she never showed herself at the Italian Embassy. The palmy days there were in Nigra's time. Nigra had a *faux air* of Mario that suited the taste of the Empress and her ladies. His figure was tall, and naturally took graceful curves as he bowed, kissed hands, stooped to catch some light saying that flew from a beauteous mouth, or to recite verses meant to hold an Imperial ear. He obtained by his graces everything Victor Emmanuel wanted, save the evacuation of Rome. And he all but obtained that in 1868. Queen Isabella that year consented to take over the military task of protecting the Pope. The substitution of Spain for France was to have been "the beginning of the end." But the secret of her consent got out, and Bismarck, Prim, and the Duc de Montpensier drove her into exile. Nigra, however, remained a power at the Court of the Tuileries. It was he who, with the help of Prince Metternich, hurried the Empress out of the Tuileries and thrust her into a *fiacre*. This done, he telegraphed to Florence: — "The Roman question practically solved. Madame fled, and *en route* for England. Particular route unknown." Madame was the conventional name for the Empress.

Diplomatic ladies are, it seems to me, very often undiplomatic. They seldom perceive where power really lies. The power of the day, however tottering, seems to them eternal. Directly it falls it is cold-shouldered. The fallen who rise again, remember who snubbed them, and try to pay back. Then often they have their small prejudices. The Princess Metternich, after the war, made her husband impossible by calling Mme. Thiers *un paquet*. She took her off in the salon of Mme. de Rainneville. Mme. Thiers rose at five in the morning to prepare the chocolate of M. Thiers. She was apt to go to sleep in the evening as she received company. Her slumbers were noisy—a feature that did not escape the Austrian Ambassadress. The latter had the sort of *gouailleur* genius for low comedy that Milly Meyer shows in singing. Thiers resented it when his wife was the object or the subject. And thus Prince Metternich lost a post he greatly wished to keep.

England has had reason to be satisfied with her Ambassadresses. Lady Cowley was a very clever woman, and excellent. Lady Lytton was sweet and gracious, and so ornamental. She never gave offence to the most sensitive. Nobody could be more considerate and kind, when kindness and consideration were called for. Aristocratic she certainly was; but she was free from the prejudices of her caste. How could she be otherwise? She admired Lord Lytton's freedom from starch, his originality, and his refreshing independence of thought and speech that showed he truly belonged to the Republic of Letters. Lady Lytton, remaining in love with him to the end, was bitten by his literary "Republicanism." It did so well in Paris, where English affectations are hated. Her successor, Lady Dufferin, was quite unaffected. She came in an evil time. The French resented her second title, of Ava. But, helped by the more than feminine charm of Lord Dufferin's mind, she overcame hostility.

Every one says how anxious the Prince must be to please the French. The "anxiety" is deduced from a small fact which tailors and dandies will think a great event. H.R.H. wore—as Frenchmen wear—an evening coat the other day at a morning ceremony. But he took from the black and white solemnity of full dress by adding the Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honour. The occasion was the laying of the foundation stone of the Prince of Wales's pier at Cannes. It must have pleased him to find he is as popular as ever there. The Grand Duke Michael Michailovitch and the Countess Torby were the only Russians present of great distinction. The Russian hymn was played in their honour as the doxology is sung in church. "God Save the Queen" announced the Prince's arrival, and the rousing strains of the "Marseillaise" immediately followed. The Prince must feel what great changes have taken place at Cannes since he began to go there. Prince de Sagan, with the Princesse, figure, to be sure, in the Strangers' Guide; but he is no longer himself—only the mere bodily survival. The new generation, however, will not, if it can help it, let H.R.H. realise to what a degree the other has passed away.

King Leopold I. dreaded, after the death of his eldest son, giving fresh hostages to fortune. He wanted to declare his nephew Augustus his heir, and to persuade Queen Louise to take the vows of a lay Carmelite.

Augustus could marry her sister Clémentine, and thus reconcile Louis Philippe to the idea of Leopold and Louise dying childless. Leopold was haunted with the idea that an evil fate must pursue his posterity. There may not have been rational grounds for the presentiment, although time really justifies it. The hand of destiny has pressed heavily on the daughter and other posterity of Leopold I. His very promising grandson, the Duc de Brabant, suddenly seemed struck with a blight, and rapidly followed his grandfather to the tomb. Charlotte's fate exceeds, in tragical horror, everything the Greek dramatists imagined. Ill-luck has tracked the daughters of Leopold II. Stéphanie lost a husband and a prospective crown in the Meyerling tragedy. She is now a stranger in the country over which she was to have reigned. The Princesse Clémentine of Belgium has never been herself since she saw her governess burned to death in the fire that consumed Laeken Palace. The Comte de Flandre lost his handsome son Prince Baldwin. The surviving son has endless good qualities, but he is unfortunate in his appearance and health. Leopold, notwithstanding, leads a merry life. They say he is angling to become King of Egypt, in which case France or Germany might take Belgium, and welcome. However, he is creating for himself an earthly paradise at Villa Franca. He has let his palace in the Ardennes to the International Company of Hotels. It will be a northern Gizereh Palace hotel.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

SYDNEY SMITH once wrote, dear Lady Betty: "I have got into all my London feelings, which come on me immediately I pass Hyde Park Corner. I am heartless, selfish, insolent, worldly, and frivolous. Pardon the vices inevitable in the greatest of cities."

The following letter, which has been addressed to me, is probably intended to be a philosophical defence of those "London vices":—

"Sir,—A conversation which I had a day or two ago with a friend of mine has made so great an impression on me that I venture to send you an account of it. My friend happened to mention the name of a man who is known to us both, and I described him as a 'villainous creature.' My companion, who is much older than I am, and an especially shrewd and experienced man of the world, eyed me curiously for an instant, and then asked:

"'Do you imagine that you possess a monopoly of knowledge of character?'

"'Certainly not,' I replied.

"'My boy,' he continued, 'we most of us know the precise value of each other, but the better trained we are, and the wiser we are in our generation, the less often do we express the bad opinion which we have of our neighbour—that is, so long as he can either render us a service or can cause us an injury.'

"Myself: 'That is the very custom which I consider to be so contemptible. Why not have the courage of your dislikes?'

"He: 'An admirable sentiment; but that which is admirable in theory is often mischievous in practice. We are living in the world an artificial life, which we endeavour by self-restraint and by the exercise of judgment to render as smooth and as agreeable as we can both for ourselves and for others—those others, of course, whose condition will react upon our own. . . . .

"Myself (*interrupting*): 'You stifle individuality to acquire comfort.'

"He: 'It is just such men as yourself who are the centres of immeasurable irritation and mischief. You perceive, as we do, that A. is a villainous creature, and you say so. In an instant you cause contention. The supporters of A. on the one hand, and the men like yourself on the other, commence to abuse each other, and a vast amount of ill-feeling is created which has far-spreading consequences. I am fully aware that A. is a despicable creature, but so long as he can give me a dinner, or can defend himself, I pronounce him to be excellent. Believe me, that you do much more harm by your honesty than we do by our deceit.'

"Myself: 'Then honesty is not the best policy?'

"He: 'Honesty is no policy; it is a principle. Worldliness is expediency.'

"Yours faithfully, "Piccadilly."

* * * * *

"Who's Who?" is a book of reference which contains much personal information, but in the present condition of London society what is more needed is a work which will tell us "Who's Somebody Else." Nearly every man and woman who is well known is now interested in some shop, is on the stage, or leads a double life under another name. "Who's Somebody Else?" would tell us, for instance, that Lady Lerwick is "Celandine," the florist; that Cecilia Chateris is "Reinette," the milliner; that "Isidore," the restaurant keeper, is FitzFoodle; that "Naaman," the art dealer, is Lord Redruth; and that "Candide," the sprightly contributor to *Clap-Trap*, is Fridoline Frisk, who has never been nearer to Court than the Divorce Court.

* * * * *

The death of Sir Richard Quain removes one of the last of the medical giants of the later Victorian Era, and as no new giants seem to be growing up to replace those who have gone, in art, oratory, statesmanship, and literature, so no new ones seem to be prepared to rule over the medical world. Twenty years ago the great names in the latter were Sir William Jenner, Sir William Gull, Sir Richard Quain, Sir Andrew Clark, Sir James Paget, Sir Oscar Clayton, Sir Spencer Wells, and one or two others, and of these how few have not been removed! Most of them were not only eminent in their profession, but had attained social popularity through their conversational powers. They were experienced men of the world, who exercised much influence behind the scenes, and had established for themselves household names.

. . . . .

The latter remarks apply especially to the late Sir Richard Quain. He knew his world well; he had been behind the scenes in many interesting events; he told the best of good stories; he possessed the best of good spirits; and his generosity knew absolutely no limits. It is not patients that he has left behind, but friends.

* * * * *

An accident occurred last week in Piccadilly which happily had comparatively slight consequences, but should nevertheless act as a warning against the practice of cycling in the crowded streets. A man on a cycle turned into Piccadilly from Half Moon-street, was run into by a cab, thrown in front of an omnibus, and in a second both horses of the latter vehicle fell upon him. The majority of reasonable people are beginning to recognise the value of the advice which has been frequently given in these columns—to wit, that it is the utmost folly to cycle in the streets. The cycle is not a toy; it is a machine which is of great use for going from one place to another in ordinary circumstances. But to cycle in a crowded thoroughfare is as ridiculous as it would be to play polo in Piccadilly Circus. Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

For Mosquito Bites nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia, and it is an immediate remedy for Wasp or Bee Stings.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE late Lord Bradford owned racehorses for more than forty years, his Turf career having commenced (when he was Lord Newport) in 1853; but for some years previously he had taken considerable interest in this branch of sport, his intimate friend, Lord Wilton, and his brother-in-law, General Anson, both having a large number of horses in training. Lord Bradford's colours were always very popular, and his horses had usually been bred by himself. He trained with Wadlow, whose gallops are over downs closely adjacent to Weston Park, Lord Bradford's place in Shropshire. His brother-in-law, the late Colonel Forester, was the manager of the stud. His favourite meetings were Ascot and Goodwood. Lord and Lady Bradford were invariably included in the Goodwood house party during the race week for more than thirty years. Lord Bradford was exceedingly fond of hunting, and he was an admirable rider. No obstacle stopped him, and, like his friend Lord Wilton (whom he often visited at Melton), he had a keen eye for the best place in a fence, and rode with as much judgment as pluck. Lord Bradford was a most genial, generous, and hospitable man, and on his estates he was greatly beloved and esteemed. He had large and valuable estates in Shropshire, Staffordshire, and Lancashire. Lord Bradford sat in Parliament for twenty-three years before he succeeded to the title in 1865, and he was twice Vice-Chamberlain of the Household, and afterwards Lord Chamberlain under his great friend Lord Derby. Lord Bradford was on very intimate terms with Lord Beaconsfield, who made him Master of the Horse in 1874, and he also filled that office in Lord Salisbury's first Government. He was for many years Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire, but resigned about two years ago. He had been a member of the Jockey Club for about thirty-four years, and in a quiet way he exercised considerable influence at Newmarket.

I have several times expressed the opinion that Hermiston will win either the City and Suburban or the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap, whichever race he may go for, and it will be interesting to see how the Kingsclere colt gets on when he meets Cyllene at even weights in the Newmarket Stakes. Hermiston has grown into a grand colt, and Mr. Low must deeply deplore his omission from the Derby entry. If Hermiston does well for his spring engagements, I fancy he will probably be entered for the Queen's Vase at Ascot, as he will have no extra weight to carry in that race, unless he should happen to win the Newmarket Stakes.

The addleheads who have been so infatuated as to back Ormathwaite for the Derby may look upon their money as lost, for there is not the least chance that the Prince of Wales's colt will stand training. The supporters of Ormathwaite do not deserve a particle of sympathy, for it was utterly idiotic to back the colt after the Prince had sold his dam (Marguerite) out of the Sandringham stud for such a paltry sum as 300 gs. This was a plain tip that Ormathwaite was not expected by his owner to distinguish himself in any remarkable manner as a three-year-old.

A vigorous attempt is being made in certain quarters to write up Dunlop, the colt being for sale. Dunlop is the colt by Ayrshire out of Fortuna, for which Mr. Rucker paid 5,000 gs. to the Prince of Wales in the autumn of 1896, and there have been constant outbursts of trumpeting about his alleged merits. Dunlop has grown into a nice colt, but he is never likely to be of much use over any longer distance than six furlongs, and he has not the most remote chance of winning either the Two Thousand or the Derby.

Lord Derby will probably have a good candidate for the Molyneux Stakes at Liverpool in Arsenal, by St. Angelo out of Spud, who is a remarkably nice colt, and he is believed to be very smart.

The Prince of Wales will not win the Brocklesby Stakes with Rosamunde, as that animal has been well beaten in a trial at Newmarket, in which gallop several more of the Egerton Lodge two-year-olds failed to distinguish themselves.

I hear that Mr. Larnach's Jeddah, by Janissary out of Pilgrimage (dam of Canterbury Pilgrim), will probably represent the Egerton Lodge stable in the Two Thousand, Diendonné being reserved for the Derby. As I have before stated, the Duke of Devonshire's colt will be admirably suited by the Epsom gradients, whereas Jeddah (a big slashing colt) would show to more advantage at Newmarket. Jeddah was so backward last season that his two-year-old form need not be regarded. Mr. Larnach's colt will very likely be started for the Craven Stakes, in which race he has a 5-lb. maiden allowance, and there is nothing in the entry (fifty-nine) which appears to have a chance of beating him if he is all right.

The Duke of Portland went to Newmarket last Thursday to gallop his two-year-olds that are engaged at Lincoln. The pair which did best in the trials (of which there were two) are Arrowroot, by Morion out of Semolina, and Dismay, by St. Simon out of Ismay, and whichever of these represents Heath House in the Brocklesby Stakes is certain to run well.

There is no foundation for the statement that Lord Dunraven's Desmond, by St. Simon out of L'Abbesse de Jouarre, has broken down, and how this report originated it is difficult to understand, for the mishap to this splendid colt was a mere trifle, which has left no bad effects. If Desmond runs at Lincoln he will probably secure the Brocklesby Stakes, as he is not likely to start unless he has won a good trial.

I have seen some high-flown eulogies of the merits of Baden, a colt by St. Serf out of Florence, who, however, was beaten in a trial last week. Baden wants time, and if he is judiciously managed he will very likely turn out a useful colt, but if Mr. Hammond is so foolish as to race him during the early part of the season he will probably prove an utter failure.

The Duke of Westminster is hopeful of winning the Chester Cup with Labrador, and the horse is undergoing a special preparation for that race. Labrador was all to pieces during the greater part of last year, but it is believed that he has now returned to his best form.

Mr. Gubbins intends to start Galtee More for the March Stakes at Newmarket, a race which is run on the day after the Two Thousand, and over the same course. Galtee More will carry the extreme penalty of 14 lb., but this is not likely to stop him if he is in his best form. I should fancy, however, that the wiser policy would have been to keep this horse for the Ascot Cup. If Galtee More is defeated at Ascot it will be by either Cyllene or The Baker.

It is quite on the cards that Ninus will not be ready for the Two Thousand, as Prince Soltykoff's horse wants a lot of work, and up to the present time he has done very little. If Ninus should miss the Two Thousand, or if he should be beaten in that race for lack of condition, he will no doubt be reserved for the Grand Prix de Paris, and then he has several nice engagements (including the Prince of Wales's Stakes and the St. James's Palace Stakes) at Ascot, which is his owner's favourite meeting.

Mr. James Lowther will have a dangerous candidate for the Brocklesby Stakes in Chief Warden, by Janissary out of Warden Belle, who has won a good trial over five furlongs. Chief Warden is tolerably certain to win a race in the course of the first month of the season. This colt was bought by Mr. Lowther for 360 gs. at Newmarket last July, out of the Howbury Stud team.

The Lincolnshire Handicap betting has been all fiddle-faddle, and the market is certain to be revolutionised before the flag falls. Sensible people will leave this race alone until the day of running arrives, for it is a veritable leap in the dark to back any horse whatever at the opening of the season until its form has been tested by a satisfactory trial. Every year we find animals whose "splendid gallops" have thrown all beholders into paroxysms of enthusiasm, collapsing most ignominiously when it comes to racing in earnest. Besides, at Lincoln not half the

horses that run are ever properly fit. Even the most feather-brained of backers must have a dismally distinct recollection of Diakka, who ran nowhere last year with 7 st. 7 lb. on his back, the impulsive and credulous public having been gulled into backing him down to 7 to 1. Of course, Diakka would have won by a dozen lengths if he had been trained properly, but his ridiculously backward condition was obvious to every rational creature who beheld him at Lincoln.

Chelandry was to have been reserved for the City and Suburban, but Lord Rosebery may have come to the conclusion that the Epsom event will take more winning than next Tuesday's race. I do not fancy the mare, as it seems to me that the Lincoln course will not quite suit her. The Bedford Lodge stable does not appear likely to be dangerous with either Melange or Golden Rule, of which pair I now prefer the latter. Beato is a horse that will certainly win a handicap in the course of the season, but it is said that M. Ephrussi's steed will not be wanted at Lincoln. High Treasurer is not good enough for this race, and no boy can do justice to Kyoto. Merle is a doubtful starter, and the same may be said of St Cloud, who has been backed for as much money as anything in the race, but not, I fancy, by the stable. Sardis is a horse that is always going to win a big handicap, and he must have cost his supporters a pretty penny. I shall be vastly surprised if Ravensdale wins. Mack Briggs will probably be tried this week, but he seems scarcely class enough, nor do I expect to see Not Much win for Lord Durham, although this horse is greatly fancied by some of the best judges at Newmarket. Voter has not done much work, but he is the sort of horse to show his best form after a light course of training. Voter has gone well in his gallops, and he evidently has fine speed, while his American form proves him to be a really good horse over a mile. If he runs I shall expect him to win if he can beat Prince Barcaldine, and I would be content to give a plumper for Mr. W. M. Clarke's steed in the absence of the American horse. I do not believe any one at present knows for certain whether Mr. Keene's horse will run, but if he does start fit and well I shall predict that Voter will finish first, and that Prince Barcaldine will be second.

A correspondent has sent me a cutting from the *Cambridge Review*, which deplores what it is pleased to call my attack on the Trinity Hall Boat Club. It was not my intention to refer again to the dispute which recently occurred in Cambridge rowing circles, when, owing to the conduct of a few men, the fair name of a college and of the University were dragged in the mire. I did say, and I repeat, that if the T.H.B.C. is in the hands of men who try to prevent their members from rowing for the University, and who plot against the constitution of the C.U.B.C. for their own ends, then parents would, and should, hesitate to send their sons to such a college. Rowing men, says Mr. Andrew Lang, are the salt of a college, and if the salt has lost its savour, that college is in a bad way. I pointed out that these few individuals did not represent the real feelings of Hall men, past and present, and the College, by its action in a general meeting, practically repudiated the conduct of this minority, which included a gentleman who was old enough to know how to behave and how to fight his own quarrels. The *Review* says: "Did parents know how the gentleman, to whom the Hall owes its prominence on the river, had used his influence to promote the *moral well-being* of the crews he has coached, they would not, as the writer in TRUTH seems to imply, be unwilling to send their sons to that college." The gentleman to whom both the *Review* and myself were referring is Mr. Trevor-Jones. Nineteen years ago he took a second class in the Classical Tripos and rowed in the Hall second May boat. He has since taken pupils for the Little-go and General, and been very energetic in coaching on the river. He was eleven years ago given his first boat colours as a reward for the zeal he had shown in the not very pleasant task of coaching and teaching freshmen the elements of rowing, and in that respect he has undoubtedly done the college great service. Since then he has gradually obtained an extraordinary ascendency in Cambridge rowing, which has been disastrous to the success of the University. He has coached the trials and the University crews, and the unfortunate results of his efforts are known to all the world. At the same time his great use as a preparatory coach is shown by the success of the Hall in the clinkers.

This is the gentleman to whom the Hall owes its rowing prominence and its oarsmen their moral well-being. I will admit, for the sake of argument, that the assertions of the *Review* are correct. To this gentleman then is due a pre-eminence, the price of which has been the peace and prosperity of the C.U.B.C. Men have been passed over who ought to have rowed, and others who ought not to have rowed have been included in the University crew. It is singularly unfortunate that this pre-eminence has been coincident with a long list of Cambridge defeats. It is not a pre-eminence from which the University has gained any advantage. It has cost too much. But we are told that parents are to trust their sons to this gentleman because of his moral influence. I have no doubt that Mr. Trevor Jones's morals are excellent, and I believe he has a perfect horror of strong language. But to suggest that the morals of Hall men require his chaperonage is an insult to the College. The *Review* remarks that the fault it has to find with the Hall is that some of the members of its boat club have taken too restricted a view of their duty to the University. This is a very nasty charge written very mildly. And I do not think that any one would care to be inculcated with a code of morals the fruits of which are actions that deserve such strictures. I should certainly not have referred to the matter again if this attempt had not been made to whitewash the conduct of which certain Hall men have been guilty. It is true they have been forgiven, but their conduct cannot and should not be forgotten. Peace has not for the first time been declared, and I sincerely trust that this time it will be kept, but it would be the height of folly to allow the offenders to have another opportunity of repeating their old tactics. I believe all the proceedings of the now historic meeting at the University Boat Club were recorded. A copy should be sent to every boat club, to be preserved in the college records, that future generations of undergraduates may know what they owe to a gentleman whose paramount influence at one College has been synchronous with a period of trouble and disaster without parallel in the annals of University rowing.

Both the crews have done trials over the full course. The circumstances under which each rowed were so different that, as a relative test of their merits, they were worth little. It is sufficient to say that the performance of both crews stamped them as being good eights. Very satisfactory indeed was that of the Cambridge men, who, if public sympathy avails anything, have that to its full extent. Bell has surprised everybody, and probably no one more than himself, by his brilliant success at stroke. He took the crew over the course splendidly, and now that Beale and Brown are getting fit, the crew will be a powerful one. Of course, it was very hard lines on Steele to lose his Blue. Better luck next time. But for a young fellow there is no more bitter disappointment, and everybody is sorry for him.

An Old Malvern Boy is wrong in saying that I have run down Old Boys' teams that play Association football. On the contrary, I have always pointed to their success with pleasure, and it is because I regard them as being the backbone of genuine amateurism that one notes with regret the fact that, except in Cup ties, they do not turn out full strength. Naturally, the decadence of a club like the Old Etonians is to be deplored. And as naturally, the advent of a club like the Old Malvernians is to be hailed with satisfaction, and having already expressed a vain hope that they would win the Amateur Cup, one can scarcely be expected to say more in their favour. But my correspondent is not satisfied. He is young, enthusiastic, and energetic. He need not be afraid that one will belittle the efforts of his team, whose record for its first season is one of which any older club might be proud. They have worked their way into the semi-final of the Amateur Cup, and have scored

thirty-four goals to seven, while on a Christmas tour they played every day for a week, and Eastbourne alone beat them. Unfortunately, Uxbridge has beaten them in the semi final.

The gentlemen who protested that League clubs do not require payment when amateurs are transferred, admits that a Second Division club in the south has done so. I do not expect that the others have a less keen eye to business, for the fact that such a thing is not known in the First Division clubs is probably due to the absence of amateurs and consequently the case has never arisen.

For the seventh time the Military Racquet Championship has been played and for the sixth time Captains Eastwood and Crawley have carried off the Cup. Their opponents were Captain King and Mr. Foster, R.A., Aldershot. The play was a class better than that shown in the earlier rounds and the pair was too fast for Captain King to be able to give his partner as much help as he would otherwise have done, though he played steadily. Crawley's services and smashes were very good and it was some time before either Foster or King could do anything with them.

It would be difficult to imagine a more pleasant meeting than that which was held at Fenner's between the London Athletic Club and Cambridge University Athletic Club. The London team consisted chiefly of old Oxford and Cambridge blues. Harrison, a fourth-year man won both the sprints for the University. In the quarter he went right away at the beginning, and Fitzherbert, the old blue, had not had enough training to catch him in the straight. Carter, the president, was not in his best form, as he has only been able to do very light work, owing to an injured instep, but he was running very strongly at the finish of the quarter, and he will no doubt be quite fit by the date of the sports. Hunter, a freshman, is a first-class miler; he made a mistake in letting Lutyens get too far away from him at the beginning, and the ex-President held his opponent well in hand from start to finish. Hunter made a grand attempt to get up in the last 150 yards, and he was only beaten by three yards. Workman, another freshman, shows some promise as a three-miler, but he should not try to run a race in new shoes. Considering that he tumbled in the middle he did not do badly. Davie, the L.A.C. man, ran in beautifully light and easy style, and won as he pleased, getting a splendid reception. Maundrel has undoubtedly improved over the hurdles, and if he can conquer his nervousness before racing, should stand a good chance of winning. The high jump was disappointing, and Gardiner, the old Oxford blue, who had not had a shoe on since this meeting was held last year, had no difficulty in winning this event. He cleared 5 feet 7 inches. The hammer was won by Lawrence, the oldest and smallest of the competitors, a pigmy and a veteran compared with the Cambridge giants. In 1881 he won this event for Oxford against Cambridge. Then, as now, he threw with one hand, and he cleared over 111 feet. Then came Robertson, another old Oxford blue, and the Cantab comfortably lost, Bulloch's erratic throwing threatening the spectators with sudden death. Young of the L.A.C. won the weight, but the visitors could do nothing with the long jump, which Bevan won. He does not tuck his feet away and shoot them out, as well as he might. Taking a line through the Oxford sports, the quarter and mile are the only certainties for Cambridge. The hundred is open, but Thomas ought to win. Garnier will win the hurdles, Fremantle the three miles, Adair the high jump, and Crossley the hammer. This gives Oxford four events, and though the weight and long jump are open, Cambridge can scarcely hope to win both events. It looks therefore at present as though Oxford would win the sports.

Mr. Newton Digby, the official time-keeper to the C.U.A.C., has compiled a useful little volume containing a list of old blues and their performances, the club meetings with Oxford and the L.A.C., and other details. An opportunity should be given for the book to be on sale on the day of the sports, as many old blues will find it interesting.

The International Rugby Union match between Scotland and England was a very hard game, and there is little doubt but that the changes in the English team since Ireland was met were very advantageous. The team, as selected, was supposed to be strong in attack and weak in defence. But it proved remarkably strong in defence, especially when it is remembered that Unwin, one of the half backs, had to leave the field for a time and was not able subsequently to do much. Byrne, Royds, and Bunting played a strong game. The English pack lasted well. The Scotch outsides, especially Smith, were disappointing. Their forwards hack at the ball instead of dribbling, and this lost them the game. In Association football, the Corinthians scored a brilliant win over Queen's Park, Glasgow.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—What shall I tell you to-day? It is not much use arguing on the merits of stocks when the swords rattle in the scabbards, and imaginative writers are already preparing to listen for the distant boom of cannon in a huge struggle of nations. The fact is that both the Stock Exchange and the public are suffering from a surfeit of war news, and so much of this fare is being dished up from day to day, and from week to week, that we get now almost regularly

Our Weekly Panic.

Just now it is the Far Eastern question, at another time the West African problem, or the coming war between the United States and Spain, or the trouble in the Transvaal. It is not for me to enter at length into these political questions, although unfortunately every one interested in stocks and shares opens the newspapers morning after morning in fear and trembling that some fresh disaster may have happened. To this extreme state of nervousness the sensational Press has very largely contributed, and it is not only in this case a question of the halfpenny papers, but even the steady-going *Times*, the custodian of the interests of capital, has of late adopted so menacing a tone, especially on the Far Eastern question, that it was quite surprising to hear from Mr. Curzon that Great Britain does not look upon the position in China with the apprehensions of the Thunderer, and that the British Government is keeping its head cool. But when it is not the *Times* it is some other highly respectable daily organ which preaches war in this or that part of the world, and I should advise my readers to take all these vapourings *cum grano*. Just at present it does not look as if the Chinese problem would lead to war, and from the terms of the Chinese loan, it is obvious that England has secured most effective safeguards, and a lien upon one of the most prosperous portions of the Celestial Empire. Why should she want to grab more? That the West African question will be settled peacefully between France and this country I do not doubt, and the latest Transvaal rumours of a coming insurrection are so utterly absurd that in ordinary times they would not have obtained the slightest credence. So considerable a "Bear" account has, moreover, been piled up in the Kaffir Circus, that any day may bring a squeeze. The strained relations between the United States and Spain are an unpleasant fact, which has already sent many a shiver through Wall-street, and reduced prices to panic level. I do not pretend to predict what will happen, but, according to the most respectable newspaper correspondents, there is still a prospect of war being avoided, and if so, the ursine party in the Yankee Market will have to suffer severely. The money position is somewhat doubtful, as in addition to the Chinese Loan various other Foreign Government issues will be made, and the United States are mopping up a good deal of gold. We may thus see yet greater scarcity, and possibly a 3½ per cent. Bank rate. Much, however, depends upon the action of the Imperial Bank of Germany

in connection with the new Chinese Loan, as its stock of gold is large, and it could easily afford to part with a few millions. The Mining Markets have shown great weakness, which has not been confined to the Kaffir Circus; but the outlook is brightening, especially as the past disastrous account has been got over so satisfactorily. Considering the troubled times, the success of the Lipton issue has been marvellous, it having been subscribed to the extent of £30,000,000. The issue has undoubtedly been engineered with consummate skill, yet I have great misgivings as regards the Industrial department generally, in which a large "Bull" market has grown up, while the over-capitalisation of many undertakings must prove a source of weakness when pressure arises.

Home Rails—A Favourable Outlook.

Were it not for the political anxieties, we should doubtless have had an improvement in the Home Railway department, for not only is trade generally in a prosperous condition, but large sums are being spent by the Government on the Navy, and nothing could be better than the traffics of the past week. An increase is shown of £63,562 in the case of all the Companies, bringing up the gain for the nine weeks to £238,000, and this increase comes on the top of very large gains in 1897 over 1896. The returns, in fact, represent an increase of £113,000 over the 1896 figures. Some of the best traffics for the week were those of the North-Western, showing a gain of £10,588, of the Caledonian with £4,738, the Brighton with £3,475, and the South-Eastern with £2,618 increase. Prices, moreover, are moderate, and Dover "A" at their present quotation of 109 are an excellent purchase. The same can also be said of North-Western at 198, and of Great Northern Deferred at 52¼. There has been little doing in Chathams and in Great Eastern. Great Central stocks, on the other hand, have been very firm, and are being picked up by far-seeing investors, more particularly the 1894 Ordinary in the neighbourhood of 40. The North British dividend has been announced at the rate of 1¼ per cent., with £800 carried forward, which compares with the same rate last year, and £1,500 forward. This was quite as good as had been expected by the market, and North British Deferred have been well maintained at 43¼. Under ordinary circumstances, the declaration would probably have caused an improvement. Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras) have firmed up to 56⅜, which is still a low figure, and at this the stock yields nearly 4 per cent. per annum, a dividend of 2 per cent. having still to be deducted. Metropolitans have been steady, and although Districts declined at one time in sympathy with Home Railway stocks generally, they are again on the up-grade. Central London Railway shares have been a steady market, the fully-paid Ordinary at 10¾, the partly-paid Ordinary at 6¾, the Preferred at 1¾, the Deferred at 4⅞. A considerable investment business is being transacted in these.

The Yankee Market—A Rally.

It is no use going into particulars of the excellent traffics and satisfactory dividend announcements which are being published as regard Yankee Rails, as the political position dominates everything. Otherwise I should have mentioned, as "Bull" factors, the declaration of the Milwaukee dividend for the half-year of 2 per cent, with a ½ per cent. bonus, thus bringing this Company on a regular 5 per cent. basis. Then, again, the Nebraska rate decision is of exceptional importance, and will greatly benefit the American railroads. At present it has been altogether passed over. A further heavy set-back has been caused in American rails by all the various rumours of a coming outbreak of war between the United States and Spain, and a very considerable "Bear" account has doubtless been piled up in Wall-street. On this side it has not been judged wise to go very heavily on the "short" side, as it is apprehended that even the outbreak of war has been discounted by the very large sales that have been effected; and there is just the chance, and a very fair chance too, of matters after all not coming to a head, and of war thus being avoided. President McKinley has so far given proof of statesmanlike qualities, and it may be hoped that he will hesitate before precipitating the United States into war, which, although it would doubtless end in the victory of the Americans, would by no means be a walk-over, and would damage the interests of the country very considerably. But it is useless to foreshadow events. If the latter shape themselves peacefully there would be a sharp revival. If not, there would be more spasms in Wall-street, and all the same finally a recovery. In fact, a rally is at the time of writing in progress. The outlook concerning the rate war between the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Companies has distinctly improved, as, apparently owing to severe pressure being brought to bear upon the Canadian Pacific management by the German shareholders, this Company has declared itself ready to submit the matter to arbitration. Now that the American market is in so agitated a condition, the more pacific outlook between the Canadian Companies does not help the shareholders much, as prices, after improving, are on the down grade again, Canadian Pacifics being quoted 82¾ xd., Grand Trunk First Prefs. 64½, the Guaranteed 73.

Foreigners and South Americans.

Inter-bourse securities are still under the shadow of the trouble with the *coulisse*, and are likely to remain dull for some time longer, although the proposals for the reform of the Bourse will probably be considerably modified by the Senate, which, moreover, will doubtless delay the matter. The other unfavourable influences have been the severe falls in Spanish and in Brazilians. All kinds of rumours have been current, but the report that the next Spanish coupon would be paid in pesetas has been officially contradicted. A great deal will, however, depend upon developments as regards the relations with the United States. Possibly the supporters of Spain amongst the *haute finance* in Paris will give further financial help, in which case the coupon might once again be paid in full. In the meantime, the quotation has fallen to 52⅞. As regards Brazilians, the 1889 Loan at one time touched 51, from which there has been a recovery to 55¼. It is impossible to tell yet whether there was anything in the rumours of financial difficulties; but the fact that Messrs. Rothschild bought a large block which had been hanging over the Paris Bourse would suggest the fact that trouble will be averted. In fact, it is now officially announced that the funds for the payment of the next coupon are already in hand. Argentine Government bonds have also been affected by the political unrest, the Funding Loan being quoted 87½, the 1886 Loan 88¾, Buenos Ayres Water and Drainage bonds 70¼. Argentine Railway stocks have been weak, and sales have again been effected in reduction of the "Bull" account. Buenos Ayres Great Southern Ordinary are lower at 150, Buenos Ayres and Rosario at 70½, while Central Argentine have given way to 79½, and Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debenture stock is quoted 49. The strength of Uruguay bonds has again been the feature, and the Old Loan has risen to 46¼, the New Loan to 57½. Advices from Monte Video continue favourable. Very little change has taken place in other South American stocks, and both Perus and Mexican Sixes are steady.

The Kaffir Circus—Canards and "Bears."

The South African market has passed very creditably through the last settlement. Heavy differences had to be met, but no trouble ensued, with the exception of one small failure, that of a jobber not in a large way of business. Of course, a great deal of assistance has been given with that *esprit de corps*, which is one of the best characteristics of members of the Stock Exchange. After the carry-over had been completed, prices showed a tendency to rally, but the improvement was arrested, and a fresh spasm created, by a number of unfavourable cable reports from the Transvaal. The talk about an incipient insurrection in Johannesburg is, however, so utterly absurd that it is surprising that any one should credit it. Much has been made also of some utterance of President Kruger, who, when speaking in support of a scheme for the cold storage of meat, was reported to have said that troublesome times were ahead, and that they were dependent upon

foreign countries for their provisions. Then again, ex-Chief Justice Kotze is sending a letter to Mr. Chamberlain, which the latter will submit to the law officers, although I fail to see why this country should interfere with the internal affairs of the Transvaal. I hear, moreover, from well-informed private sources that all the talk about a coming revolution in Johannesburg is absolutely unfounded. This is confirmed by a special cablegram received at the London office of the *Johannesburg Standard and Diggers' News*, to the following effect:—

Johannesburg, March 12, 6 p.m.

The town has been inundated with cables from London anxiously inquiring as to the political situation in the Transvaal. It is stated in these telegrams that rumours are abroad to the effect that another raid is imminent, that the Republic is going to war upon the subject of the suzerainty, and that either a tax is to be levied upon company dividends and the gold output, or that an aggressive resolution is about to be adopted by the First Volksraad on Monday. All these statements are the merest fabrication, evidently composed for "Bear" purposes, and have not a shadow of foundation in truth. The attitude of the Government is absolutely pacific.

That the ursine party has a great deal to do with the recent disquieting rumours that have been set about is obvious, and there has now been created so considerable a "Bear" position that the smallest budget of favourable news must act strongly upon the market. There has been a great deal of discussion of the position of a well-known South African financier, who at one time had amassed a considerable fortune, and who very recently, having made very large losses in American Rails and in South Africans, got into rather a dangerous position. As far as I can learn, he has closed his account, the various blocks of his South African shares being taken over by a leading firm, and I hear, moreover, that he has a large portion of his fortune left. The latter news has been received with much satisfaction, as he is generally popular. The chief "Bear" attack has been made upon Rand Mines, East Rands, and Consolidated Goldfields, and although the lower-priced shares have receded in sympathy, the decline has not assumed large proportions. The three first-mentioned stocks, however, happen to be connected with the most powerful groups in the South African department, and whenever the leaders consider the time ripe, they will doubtless be able to pull prices up. Recent setbacks have certainly not been justified by the position of the mining industry in the Transvaal; and although the February crushings show a decrease for the whole of the Republic of 15,339 oz. over January, this is by no means unsatisfactory, in view of the shorter working period. The total output of the Witwatersrand mines was 297,975 oz., against 313,826 oz. in January. I cannot help thinking that we must be nearly at the end of the slump, and that on the contradiction of the rumours of political trouble in the Transvaal, prices will harden again. The present is certainly an excellent time for investors to buy to a moderate extent shares in high-class mines, from the point of view of their dividend-earning capacity. Reports from the Randfontein give particulars of the rich leader, which is from 4 in. to 6 in. wide, and at times assays as high as 6 oz. 7 dwt. Other banket reefs average 5 dwt. Although, owing to the scarcity of native labour, the yields of most of the mines of this group were reduced, it is now stated that everything is progressing satisfactorily. Diamond shares have moved in sympathy with gold-mining shares, and De Beers, which have been affected by the trouble in Paris and by the death of Mr. Woolf Joel, are again lower. New Jagersfontein stand at 7⅝.

The Death of Mr. Woolf Joel.

Like a bolt from the blue came on Monday evening the news of the assassination of Mr. Woolf Joel, of Messrs. Barnato Brothers. He fell a victim to a blackmailer who shot him in his office on receiving a refusal to his demand. The occurrence is inexpressibly sad, not only because Mr. Joel was a young man who had achieved a brilliant career, and had attained the rank of millionaire at a very early age, but also from the fact that the life of his uncle, the late Mr. B. I. Barnato, not long ago came to an untimely end through drowning. In the City the melancholy intelligence was received with every expression of regret, Mr. Woolf Joel having been a very popular man. I join in expressing my heartfelt sympathy with the family, especially with Mrs. Joel, who is at present with her baby son at Cape Town, Mr. Harry Barnato, Messrs. Sol Joel and Jack Barnato. In consequence of the scare which was produced by speculators selling down the shares in which Messrs. Barnato are interested, notably Johannesburg Consolidated Investment and Barnato Consols, I have made diligent inquiry, and I am able to state on the best authority that not a share will be sold, either for the account of Messrs. Barnato Brothers or for any of the financial companies with which they are connected. Official announcements have, moreover, been sent to the Press to the effect that no change will be caused by the sad occurrence in the policy or business of Messrs. Barnato Brothers and of the various Barnato Companies. Mr. Woolf Joel's able co-operation will doubtless be missed, but the various enterprises have now reached a point at which fostering care is no longer so necessary as it was in their earlier history. Mr. Sol Joel, moreover, who has charge of the firm's South African business, is an able man and thoroughly acquainted with all the details. He will continue to act on the other side, while Mr. Harry Barnato and Mr. Jack Joel will co-operate here. I may as well mention that in the late Mr. B. I. Barnato's will a special proviso was made that no reduction in stocks and shares was to take place. This still holds good, and will be acted upon, the other members of the Barnato and Joel families merely succeeding to the estate. As regards the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, it is presided over by an influential board, and managed by experienced officials, Sir W. L. Young, Bart., being general manager, and Mr. Tom Honey secretary.

Golden West Australia.

Notwithstanding a whole crop of rumours as regards difficulties that were expected, the West Australian department has passed almost unscathed through a very difficult settlement. Of course, a considerable transfer from weak to strong hands has taken place. For instance, the temporary weakness of Lake View Consols and London and Globes is attributable to the fact that 10,000 of the former and 30,000 were taken over from a firm which could carry the same no longer. Such changes, however, should really place the market into a healthier position, and I should not be surprised to see an early recovery. The following is my usual list of the week's crushings:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per ton.
Lake View Consols	4,583	4,485½	12 dwt.
,, ,, (Cyanide)	3,257	2,690¾	2½ dwt.
,, ,, (Concentrates)	10	220	—
East Murchison United	1,290	1,395	6½ dwt.
Sons of Gwalia	960	1,139	23 dwt.
Great Boulder Perseverance	259	769	—
,, ,, ,,	760	807	—
Wealth of Nations	270	256	—
Sherlaw's Gold	123	119	—
,, ,, (Concentrates)	—	117	—
,, ,,	330	140	—
Hannan's Virginia	400	102	—
Consolidated Murchison	308	320	—
Mount Malcolm Prop	529	474	—
Weld-Hercules	216	125	2 dwt.
Lady Loch	60	58½	9 dwt.
Menzies Lady Sherry	93	209	—

The Lake View output has, of course, been affected by the circumstance that the old battery has not been working. On the other hand, it is stated in the cablegram that the additional ten stamps are now working well. These are new stamps that have been erected, and should greatly increase the March output. The January total was 7,554 oz., the February result, as above detailed, 7,396 oz., and the March return may be expected to exceed 10,000 oz. Another dividend of 10s. per share by the Lake View Consols Company has now been declared. The Wealth of Nations is to the front with a small but satisfactory crushing. This is one of the sub-companies of the

London and Globe which is to be amalgamated in the Standard Exploration Company. As I anticipated, the various Companies are now falling into line, the shareholders, by large majorities, giving acceptance to the London and Globe proposals for amalgamation, rather than entering upon reconstructions. So far, the Wealth of Nations, Hannan's Golden Group, Hannan's Golden Treasure, and Wealth of Nations Extended shareholders have passed resolutions to this effect, and there remain now to be consulted the Golden Crown, Mainland Consols, and Paddington Consols shareholders. If they act up to their own best interests they will also fall into line. Mr. Whitaker Wright, the Managing Director of the London and Globe Finance Corporation, has addressed an exhaustive circular to all the shareholders, which clearly sets forth all the objects and advantages of the amalgamation. Realisations in New Ivanhoe, in anticipation of the settlement to take place this week, have caused a temporary fall in these shares to $4\frac{3}{4}$; but I venture to predict that they will not remain for long at this very moderate level, and that purchases now made will yield good results, this being a mine in every respect equal in merit to the Lake View Consols. The W.A. Market Trust group has displayed considerable strength throughout the recent weakness, and Northern Territories have well maintained best part of their advance at $4\frac{7}{16}$. West Australian Loan and General Finance at 2, and West Australian Joint Stock Founders' shares at 1 to $1\frac{1}{8}$ are being steadily picked up by investors. It is reported that the West Australian Loan and General Finance Company has in 1897 made a profit of £192,000. Great Boulder Proprietary remain dull at 20s., but Central Boulder are firm. Hannan's Proprietary have been rather easier at 15s. 3d., but a circular has now been issued to the shareholders, informing them that negotiations have already been completed for the sale of three of the leases owned by the Company, namely, the Ironsides North, the Hidden Treasure South, and the Golden Gully North. The Ironsides North lease has been disposed of to an Australian Company, having a capital of £100,000 in shares of £1 each, and this Company receives as consideration 25,000 fully-paid shares. A condition of the sale was that £12,000 of a proposed working capital of £36,000 was provided in cash. This Company is represented on the Board of the Ironsides North Company by Mr. H. C. Callahan, as a Director, and by Mr. C. S. Stafford (the Hannan's Proprietary Company's manager) as Managing Director. The terms of sale of the Hidden Treasure South and Golden Gully North leases, comprising 25 acres, are that the Company is to receive 65,000 fully-paid shares of £1 each in a Company with an authorised capital of £150,000, of which £20,000 is to be an available cash working capital. The Directors have, according to this circular, been much influenced in making these arrangements by the consideration that each of these two sales will enable development work to be done, without cost to the Hannan's Proprietary, which will much benefit the adjoining leases. West Australian Goldfields have been dull at $1\frac{7}{8}$, and Hampton Plains have been barely steady at $\frac{13}{16}$. A cablegram from the Victoria Deep leads property of the West Australian Gold Fields is to the following effect:—"Drills timber reserve and north of same bottomed on gold." By the way, even in these bad times members of the House will have some fun, and one day last week much amusement was caused by some of the wags of the West Australian market introducing "Southern Terrors" as a new share, dealings in which became very animated between the conspirators up to $1\frac{1}{2}$. Several innocent members were caught, and one, the brother of a shrewd and popular jobber, had got a very nice book in "Southern Terrors" before he discovered that it was all a hoax. From the Field's Find property favourable news is to hand, according to which the ore is improving, and assays go from 4 to 6 oz. per ton. Lady Shenton shares have been fairly steady at $2\frac{3}{8}$, notwithstanding the general weakness, and the news from the property is in every respect satisfactory. Whenever the dulness passes away from this market, a sharp rise in these shares may be looked for. A cablegram has been received from Messrs. H. J. Saunders & Co., the agents of the Florence Gold Mine in Western Australia, which bears very favourably upon both the Lady Shenton and Florence mines, as the lode in question is the Lady Shenton Reef, which had previously been traced to the boundary of the Florence. The cablegram is to the following effect:—

> Manager reports we have struck reef 35 ft. past Shenton boundary. The width of reef is 2 ft., showing gold. Have not yet got to footwall. Will telegraph when through.

Brownhill Central are easier at $1\frac{9}{16}$, and Golden Horseshoes have reacted to $6\frac{11}{16}$, while Burbank's Birthday Gift have shown a dull tone at $1\frac{7}{16}$, notwithstanding fairly satisfactory returns. Great Boulder Main Reef have declined to $1\frac{1}{8}$, and Golden Links have been a weak market at $\frac{3}{4}$. I have all along stated that the reports concerning the last-mentioned property were greatly exaggerated. By the way, the Western Australian Bank, although a comparatively small institution, is doing an excellent business, and the net profits, including £23,360 brought forward, were for the past half-year £41,611. The large sum of £25,000 is carried to reserve, and it is nevertheless possible to pay a dividend at the rate of $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, and to carry forward £7,861.

Indian, Australasian, and British Columbian Mines.

Indian mines have moved irregularly, and while Ooregum, Mysore Gold, and Balaghat have risen, there have been declines in Road Blocks, Champion Reefs, Nine Reefs, Goldfields of Mysore, and several others. In Australian mines, other than West Australian, Mount Lyell are lower at $13\frac{5}{8}$; but there has been an improvement in Mount Lyell South. Amongst Charters Towers shares Lady Carrington have hardened, but Brilliant and St. George United are lower. From the New Australian Broken Hill a cablegram is to hand stating that two tons containing 5,600 ozs. of silver have been obtained, and that the prospects are decidedly encouraging. This mine, it will be remembered, gave splendid results some years ago, when all at once the lode petered out. Only small patches have since been discovered, but now they have evidently struck a very rich patch. The question is now how long this will last. In the New Zealand section Kapanga have improved, but all the other movements have been downward, declines more especially taking place in Taitapu, Hauraki, Komata Reefs, and Waihi. In British Columbian mines, movements have been rather irregular. While Hall Mines, Klondike Bonanza, New Golden Twins, and London and British Columbia Goldfields have hardened, there has been a slight setback in Klondike and British Columbia Goldfields, in New Goldfields of British Columbia, and in Fairview. British America Corporation shares have receded again to 2s. 3d. premium, but I am informed that a most important circular will shortly be issued to the shareholders, in which the Hon. C. H. Mackintosh will give particulars of the company's holdings. The news which Mr. Mackintosh has brought leaves no doubt about the great future in store for this Corporation. With reference to the Waverley and Tangier Mines, it is stated that a further shipment of ore, consisting of $17\frac{1}{4}$ tons of the estimated value of £395, was despatched to Liverpool on February 19, and that two cartloads of Waverley ore have been shipped to the smelter at Everett. In Copper mines Rio Tinto have given way, although not closing at the lowest, Paris having recovered from its nervousness. Tharsis and Cape Copper, as well as Anaconda, are, however, lower, while the heaviest setback has occurred in Mountain Coppers, which are down $\frac{3}{8}$. I have always warned my readers that this would come about. In the general foreign section Tolima "A" and "B" are lower, and St. John del Rey have also receded, but Santa Anna and Argentine Concessions have hardened.

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The Commemoration Syndicate Scandal.

When, in April, 1897, great efforts were being made by certain shady promoters to create a boom in Commemoration and Jubilee Syndicates, launched for the purpose of dealing in window-seats and other positions on the line of route of the Royal Procession, I used my utmost endeavours to dissuade the public from parting with their money for this purpose. In TRUTH of April 1, 1897, I specially warned my readers against joining the Commemoration Syndicate, and I drew attention at the time to the names of the Directors of this ambitious concern, and to the fact that, notwithstanding the handles to some of their names, they did not rank amongst City capitalists. I may as well repeat the names as I then gave them:—Sir William Gordon Macgregor, Bart., Dagmar House, Leyton; the Hon. A. E. Henley, Park Village West; Mr. F. E. Burnett, 11, Northumberland Park, Tottenham; and Mr. Eliot Miller, 19, Clarendon-gardens, W. I do not know whether these persons are still living at the same addresses. If so, they will probably have a hot time of it. As regards Sir William Gordon MacGregor, Bart., it was stated in TRUTH some time ago that this necessitous gentleman applied to another Baronet for assistance. A fine figurehead indeed for a board of directors! Notwithstanding my repeated warnings, and they were many and often repeated, the public subscribed nearly the whole of the capital of £10,000 to this precious Commemoration Syndicate. After the Jubilee Day I urged the shareholders to bestir themselves, and call the directors to account so as to obtain the return of some of their money. But there evidently never was any chance of a penny being returned out of this bottomless pit. The report of the Official Receiver, in whose hands the concern finally landed when there was no longer any chance of getting money returned, is a most melancholy one. The total amount subscribed to the Company was £9,904, out of a nominal capital of £10,000. The whole of this has been got rid of, and £368 more, while the assets consist merely of £136, amongst which cash figures at *five pence*. No proper books or accounts were kept, but it appears that the Company undertook to pay for amount of hire of sites, together with the other Companies affiliated to it, enormous sums amounting altogether to £29,025, for which only £4,896 was realised. My readers will recollect that when the promoters had succeeded in obtaining a full subscription to the first Syndicate they started the Commemoration Syndicates, Nos. 2, 3, and 4. So anxious were the foolish public to take shares in these rotten concerns that £11,794 was received for No. 2 Company, which had a capital of only £10,000, while No. 3 Company obtained £9,050, and No. 4 Company £6,031—a total of £37,679, the bulk of which has disappeared. The promoters, Tarrant and Fry, the former of whom is well-known to readers of TRUTH owing to his connection with the firm of Frank Tarrant & Co., the syndicate touts, joined the board and obtained large salaries. Both these men are at present undergoing terms of penal servitude on charges of fraud in connection with other undertakings. Mr. Jules Inger obtained £2,800 under agreements for carrying out negotiations for the purpose of the jubilee procession. Subscriptions were in May invited from the shareholders for funds to provide wines and refreshments for the seatholders, for which £2,437 more was obtained from these gullible persons. These amounts were paid into separate banking accounts, and were not devoted to the purposes for which they were obtained, but were used for the general expenses of the business, and all the comfort these foolish subscribers can obtain is to prove as general creditors in the liquidation. One of the most impudent tricks in connection with this matter was the payment of £4,000 to the London Commercial Investment Corporation for the insurance of the life of the Queen, this concern being promoted and controlled by Tarrant and Fry, but having no subscribed capital. Fry states that this sum was expended in insurance with various offices and at Lloyds, and that at the date of the procession he had insured the Queen's life for £65,000; but no proof of this statement is forthcoming. It appears that the directors drew "Bearer" cheques on each of the banking accounts, which were handed to Fry, who paid them into his own banking account. The Official Receiver makes some severe remarks upon the negligence of the directors, which seems to him to have been so gross as to amount to fraud, and it is satisfactory to find that a public examination of the promoters and directors is to be held. I should think that the directors have placed themselves in a most serious position, but nothing can now be done to get the money back for the deluded shareholders, and their chief regret must be that they did not read TRUTH, and, if they did, that they did not heed my oft-repeated and emphatic warnings.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

Stanley Gibbons, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire the business of Stanley Gibbons, Limited, foreign stamp dealers and publishers, of 391, Strand. The share capital is fixed at £75,000, and 900 Five per cent. First Debentures of £50 each.

Johns, Sons, & Watts, Limited.—With a share capital of £85,000, divided into 55,000 Six per Cent. Preference and 30,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each, and £35,000 Five per Cent. debentures, which have issued in exchange for similar debentures in the old Company—this Company will acquire the business of Johns, Son, & Watts, Limited, plain and fancy box makers, &c., of City-road, E.C., and Old Ford, E.

This is a reconstruction of a Company formed as recently as 1894, and stated to be doing a large and profitable business. If such is the case, money could have been obtained by other means than reconstructing the Company.

The Crowborough District Water Company.—Issue of 2,364 Ordinary shares of £10 each, balance of the authorised share capital of £30,000.

The United Breweries of Western Australia, Limited.—Capital, £150,000, divided into 75,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £1 each, and 75,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each. This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring as going concerns two brewery businesses in Western Australia, carried on respectively by the Stanley Brewery Company, Limited, Perth, and the Port Brewery Company, Limited, Fremantle, and it is intended to further develop and extend the same by the erection and equipment of a lager beer brewery.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

S. N.—Thanks; you are quite right. Uruguay bonds are almost the only stock which has weathered the panic well. I am glad you took my advice to buy the same when low down, and you have now an excellent profit. *G. W. R.*—The outlook as regards Brazilian bonds is at present very much involved, owing to the financial weakness in Paris.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

H. J. B.—I cannot reply by letter. I do not assume any responsibility with regard to the advertisements which appear in the columns of TRUTH, and should strongly advise you to deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. Situated as you are, you ought not to speculate at all. *J. H., Cambridge.*—Surely you cannot expect advice of this kind from me! If you subscribe to journals which disappear you have only yourself to blame. There are many mushrooms of this kind in journalism. *D. V. D., Old Burlington-street.*—This kind of advice is always suspicious, and I recommend you to have nothing to do with it. *A. R., Oxford.*—I have repeatedly expressed the opinion that the actual facts do not bear out the promises made in the prospectuses of the Provident Association of London. Least of all do they do so in the case of the proposed purchase of a house. You will do far better with a respectable building society. *J. T.*—What you require has been forwarded in your envelope, as requested. *G. A. H.*—What you require has, at your request, been forwarded in your envelope. You will have to make haste, as the firm in question seems to be in difficulties. *Glen B.*—1. Doubtful. 2. Yes, I think he could claim. 3. No; there is no market for this stock.

Home Rails.

Rover.—Yes, Dover "A" and Coras are good value at the present level of prices, and you might avail yourself of the depression to buy the same for investment. *Neptune.*—I should think that you could not do better than put the money into Great Central 1894 Ordinary stock, which is a very promising lock-up. So are, by the way, Districts. I explained the position of both Companies in last week's issue under "Home Rails."

American and Foreign Rails.

Lachasse.—Yes, I think that the proposed investment in Reading General Mortgage bonds, Illinois Central Gold bonds, and in Central London Railway Ordinary shares, is a suitable one, especially if you buy on a smart reaction, but you can no longer buy Central London fully-paid Ordinary at 10⅛. The price is now 10⅞, at which they are still cheap. I published

some remarks concerning the Central London Railway in last week's issue under "Home Rails." Great Western stock at the present price of 171, and on the basis of the last year's dividend, yields 3½ per cent. per annum. *A. R. P.*—The proposal made by the New York Central Company is a good one, and the gold bonds offered are gilt-edged. It is really a question for you to decide as to whether you will keep the Lake Shores or to take the New York Central bonds, but in the present state of the American market the latter are safer, while No. 3 are also, to some extent, risky. *Puzzled.*—After the heavy fall in Central Argentine I should not advise you to sell. The position of the Company will greatly improve with the better traffics. What I have repeatedly explained is that the price went higher than the actual position warranted, although prospects are good. *Waterloo.*—I have repeatedly stated that it was not advisable to buy Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debenture stock until the traffics improved. The latter have, unfortunately, gone from bad to worse, and the stock has dropped to 48. There is no immediate chance of an improvement, and the best thing you can do is to wait. *Ex non com.*—Yes, it would be difficult to deal with any advantage in less than ten shares. This applies to both buying and selling. You can, of course, buy a smaller quantity, but you will find it more difficult to sell them again. *John Gilpin.*—The position is very doubtful at present and I should not advise a purchase. *Katherine.*—You should hold your American Rails. There might be another spasm, but the position is more settled.

Mining Shares.

Sol.—This is not a mine, but a South African finance Company, which should do pretty well, and the shares are not dear. *Avonmore.*—1. I have done my very best to rouse the shareholders of the Umtoli Gold Reefs to combine against the Directors and vendors, but have unfortunately met with great indifference on their part. 2. Reconstructed, and in a good way. I do not advise purchase of Nos. 3 to 6. *Enaf.*—A fair West Australian finance shares, but just at present things are very flat, and I would not advise a purchase now. *Lem.*—1. I should not advise sale of London and Globes now. 2. No doubt a further dividend will be paid for the past year. *Doreen.*—1. A fair Deep Level share. 2. Just reconstructed, and promising. 3 and 4. I do not like these New Zealand shares. 5. Cheap now, and a fair lock-up. I am glad to find that my remarks on the amalgamation scheme meet with your approval. *Disappointed.*—1. I do not recommend a sale of S. A. Gold Trusts now. 2. Yes, De Beers are recovering now. 3. I would not buy just now. 4. Yes, they should be kept. *F. F. F.*—1. Yes, there is reason for stating that Hannan's Props. have been taken in hand by a leading group, and the price will doubtless improve again. 2. Impossible to say. If you have a good profit to take you should secure it. *Success.*—I am indeed glad to hear that my advice has proved in every instance a success, but unfortunately it is not possible to be always successful. 1. I think West Australian Market Trusts and West Australian Joint Stock Trust Founders the most promising amongst the shares mentioned by you. *Quadrant.*—No option but to hold until the present depression in the South African market has passed away. *Duphir.*—Yes, I think East Rands and Johnnies are at present a very promising purchase. *Bombay.*—After the recent setback I should certainly advise you to keep your London and Globes and Ivanhoes. *W. A. S.*—I do not think much of the West Australian mines mentioned, Nos. 1 and 2. Sell if you can. *Colne.*—1. January 10,163 oz., February 9,081 oz. 2. Yes. 3. Certainly hold Simmer and Jack. *Ben Slioch.*—There is no option but to hold the shares Nos. 1 and 2 for the present. They may come round again, although they are not particularly promising. *Spero.*—I think you had better hold these shares until the meeting of shareholders has taken place, when no doubt some statements will be made which will put the price better, and enable you to sell at a higher level. *Ibex.*—You should hold your South African shares, as when the market generally recovers they will also improve. *H. T. H.*—Central Boulder are likely to improve, as the news from the property is favourable. Certainly hold. *Okota.*—The decline in London and Globes (1) is due to exceptional circumstances, and you should hold. Also keep Nos. 2 to 5, amongst which Florence (4) and British America Corporation (5) are very promising. *Turner.*—The Company you inquire about is still in existence as a trading concern, but I am afraid it is not doing well. Tharsis Copper shares stand at 7⅛. *F. T. G.* — The Peak Hill Goldfields is a promising Company, but as you have doubtless a large profit you had better clear the same. These are not the times to wait for excessive profits. *Ajax-Minerva.*—1. The Achilles Goldfields are ever in the market with fresh reconstructions, and I do not advise supplying further capital. 2. I do not approve of this Yukon concern. *R. W. G.*—A fair Indian mining risk, but no catch. *Stair.*—1. A fair mining risk, they may improve again. 2. London and Western Australian Exploration shares should certainly be held for a rise. *Opinion.*—No option but to hold all your mining shares Nos. 1 to 10, amongst which Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, and 10 are very promising. You might add the following to your holding: — Ivanhoe, Lady Shenton, Florence, Hannan's Props., and W.A. Joint Stock Trust Founders. *Lee.*—1. You should hold London and Globes now. 2. There appears to be no option but to join this reconstruction and sell after. *Grass.*—Certainly hold Consolidated Murchison (1), Florence (2), and London and Globe (3). *Grantham.*—1. Yes, you should average London and Globes now. 2. No; you had better take a further interest in the new undertaking, the Standard Exploration Company. 3. Hannan's Props. are in a very promising position, and they should be held. *A. B. C.*—No reason to sell Boulder No. 1 at present price. *An Irish Ass.*—I am afraid it is not yet advisable to buy more. *J. McI.*—The mine is apparently doing well, and I do not advise selling now. Amongst the others mentioned, the British America Corporation is the most promising, but you might also buy Ivanhoes, which are temporarily cheap. *Eric.*—I cannot possibly tell you when Lady Shentons will advance, but it will not probably be long. There is every prospect of your getting a good profit.

Industrial Shares.

Tennis.—I meant Bovril, Limited, as the shares which I consider will improve. After the recent occurrences I really could not tell you anything special about the other Company mentioned by you. *C. B.*—There is no fresh news concerning these Breweries, but they are not flourishing just now. Obviously, the present critical position must interfere with their prosperity. *Jumbo.*—I should think that there is sufficient security in the Savoy Hotel to render the Debenture stock altogether safe. The wholesale dismissal of employees has temporarily disturbed the market for the shares, but possibly this was in the interest of the Company. Under the circumstances, you ought not to sell your Debenture stock. *Scotia.*—1. There is no market for Rosbach shares. 2. Local concern, and no information available here. *Reader T. M.*—Cable property of this kind is by no means progressive. There will doubtless be great competition one of these days for the Eastern telegraph business. *Shamus.*—The premium is very high, and the capitalisation is equally so. I do not recommend the investment, unless you can get in at the issue price. *A. R. H.*—The stocks in question are fair investments; but perhaps, under the circumstances, Harrod's Stores would suit you best. *Ednam.*—All the shares mentioned by you are fair investments; but perhaps C is preferable to A and B. *Eta.*—The Debentures seem to be safe enough at present; but when a company is not in a progressive position, it is not even wise to retain the Debentures. *C. D.*—1. A fair investment of the kind, and no reason to sell. 2. Hudson Bays are far too speculative now, and you may just as well take your profit. 3. A fair investment of the kind, but speculative. *Cerioca.*—There is, no doubt, something in the point you raise; but I do not hold a favourable view of the concern. *Hastings.*—There is no market for Pyramidical Railway shares, and I do not think there ever will be. I warned my readers against having anything to do with this concern at the outset. The documents are returned in your envelope.

Mixed Investments.

T. S. O'C.—1. A fair Brewery investment of the kind. 2. North British Deferred look promising, but personally I prefer Coras (Caledonian Deferred). *A. T.*—1. The present seems to be a suitable time for buying Coras. 2. The price is now only 56½, and in due time, a rise of 4 or 5 points would be quite on the cards. 4. Yes. 5. Ivanhoe shares should improve after the special settlement, which has been fixed for the 17th inst. *Bernard.*—No, I do not advise a purchase of Gold Reefs of West Africa, or of the other shares mentioned by you. If you want to invest in mines, you had better select high-class shares. *Jasmine.*—Yes, I consider British American Corporation (1) and West Australian Market Trust (4) very promising; also West Australian Joint Stock Trust Founders at 1$\frac{1}{16}$. Instead of North British Deferred (5) you should buy Coras. *Moses, Sheffield.*—Hold your mining shares Nos. 1 to 4 for an advance. I have no favourable opinion of New Seddons, and have always said so. *T. T.*—1. No; I do not advise purchase of Luipaard's Vlei. 2. I would not advise a purchase of Fish Oil shares, as they are most dangerous. 3 There is every prospect of Hannan's Mount Ferrum improving again. Hold. *Buxton.*—No option but to hold the mining shares Nos. 1 and 2 for a recovery. The Tyre shares (3) are likely to improve at no distant date. *Kingsborough.*—1. I do not like Mountain Copper shares. 2. The Indian Government. The present price is quite high enough.

Various Investments.

The course of the Money Market naturally is at present being watched with considerable interest, and in view of the American demand for gold which has developed of late, I fully anticipate an advance in the Bank rate to 3½ per cent., not, perhaps, this week, but probably after the Chinese loan has been launched, as this issue, although not having the Government guarantee, is yet one closely connected with British interests. When the provisions upon which this loan is based come to be fully published, it will be seen that it practically mortgages a large portion of China to this country and to Germany, the latter country, however, playing second fiddle, as the financial control is in British hands. The Chinese loans, which had at one time given way on the various fables which were put about concerning Russian opposition to the new loan, have since recovered, the Six per Cent. Gold loan having rallied to 105, the Five per Cent. Gold loan to 100¼, the Seven per Cent. Silver loan to 100½. Silver does not appear to move down below 25d., and is now quoted 25$\frac{3}{16}$d., while Rupee Paper is steady at 63½. High-class

investment stocks, including Consols, were at one time last week subjected to a spasm, owing to the announcement that her Majesty was, through indisposition, compelled to put off her journey to France. The quidnuncs at once jumped to the conclusion that this was merely an excuse, and that the Queen was remaining in England owing to the threatening outlook in foreign politics—as if the Queen of England would stoop to such a subterfuge! Quite a scare was, however, produced by the rumour-mongers, and Consols at one time dropped to 111⅜, from which there has been a recovery to 111¾. Declines were also forced at the time in Home Railway stocks, including the Preference stocks, of which a considerable amount has now also been dislodged owing to the fears of dearer money. In the cycle section very few changes have occurred, and, in fact, this market is quite nominal, all the old spirit having gone out of it, probably never to return. It only wants the fair sex to give up cycling to make the collapse complete, and they alone could really help this department by redoubling their efforts to increase the popularity of this pastime. Such speculative stocks as Allsopp Ordinary have naturally been affected by recent disquieting events, and the price at one time touched 151, recovering but slightly to 151½. Schweppe Deferred are quoted $\frac{9}{16}$ while Bovril Deferred have rallied to 12s. 6d., thus confirming the view which I took last week, that recent sales were by no means due to operations of insiders, but pointed merely to a shake out of weak holders. Welsbach Incandescent Gas stocks do not show any buoyancy, and quotations are merely maintained, the Ordinary at 117½, the Preferred at 101, the Deferred at 22s. 6d. The gamble in Russian Petroleum shares is going on merrily, and, after a sharp relapse, the price has firmed up to 21¼ for the Ordinary and to 11⅛ for the Preferred. The premium on Threads has fizzled away to $\frac{9}{16}$, and Coats have declined to 60. Hudson Bays have been inactive, and remain at about 20¾, while Paquin Ordinary are distinctly firmer at 1⅛, the Prefs. at 4¾, thus pointing to satisfactory trade. Electric shares have been steady but quiet, and business has been reduced to a minimum. I am told that the prospectus of the Company which is to take over the Hydraulic Joint Syndicate, Limited, will be issued within the next few days, and that this Company will be very powerfully backed. In proof of this it is perhaps sufficient to glance at the list of the principal shareholders in the above-mentioned Syndicate, which is an exceptionally strong one, and I should think that, thus powerfully backed, Mr. E. T. Hooley would be able to make the issue a success, if, as is generally believed, the invention is a very valuable one. Elsewhere I am drawing attention to the prosperous half-year which the Western Australian Bank has experienced. The Bank of Australasia has also issued its report, and is able to maintain the same rate of dividend as distributed for some time past, viz., 5 per cent., and to carry forward £18,275. This is one of the leading Australian banks which passed unscathed through the Australian banking crisis. It is always satisfactory when promises made in the prospectus of a converted Company are confirmed by actual results. For the year ended December 31 last the Maypole Company, after writing off the preliminary expenses, is able to pay dividends of 7 per cent. on the Preference, and 5 per cent. on the Ordinary shares. It was pointed out at the ordinary general meeting, held last week, that the sales for the year have nearly trebled those of 1896, which shows that the company is of a progressive character. The Secretary of the Metropolitan United Floral Company, Limited, 137, Northcote-road, Clapham Junction, S.W., is using his utmost endeavours to dispose of 100 Ordinary and 100 Preference shares of his Company. The circulars in which he recommends these shares are of the most glowing character, and are accompanied by a prospectus of the Company, which was apparently floated in June, 1897, with a capital of £15,000. He says that these shares belong to a gentleman who has just met with very heavy losses on the Stock Exchange in Americans and mining securities, being therefore compelled to realise all his holdings, and has thus to throw these shares overboard. Dividends of 16 per cent. on the Preference, and 20 per cent. on the Ordinary, shares are promised in the future, and it is intended to bring out this Company in an enlarged form with a capital of £100,000. If the position is really so good as the secretary represents it to be, it is surprising that the Directors of the Company do not take over the 200 shares themselves. I certainly should not advise any of my readers to do so. The London Co-operative Cab Company is still continuing to send out circulars and prospectuses. As I stated some time ago, I distinctly challenge the "absolute safety" which is claimed for this investment, and the "absence of risk" of which the circulars boast, and I strongly advise my readers not to put their money into this concern. Another syndicate tout has arisen under the name of Browne, Johnson, & Company, bankers and brokers, 39, Lombard-street, London, E.C. These touts boast of profits obtained in various former operations of from £66 10s. to £140 on each £10 share. Of course, the usual claptrap is employed, such as "Prudent speculation is the secret of success—American Rails our speciality." I would strongly advise my readers not to be tempted by these boastful promises. A very peculiar circumstance is that the name adopted by these syndicate touts is very similar to that of the well-known banking firm of Brown, Janson, & Company, of 32, Abchurch-lane, E.C., who are also connected with the United States. This really looks more like design than accident. It is permissible in this connection to refer to the attempts which were made some time ago by outside syndicate touts to convey the impression that they were respectable firms by adopting names similar to those of well-known City firms. Thus, Hartridge & Co., of 1, Southampton-street, Strand, W.C., adopted this name undoubtedly in order that people should think they were connected or identical with the highly-respectable firm of Messrs. W. R. Hartridge & Co., members of the Stock Exchange, of 5, Drapers'-gardens, E.C., while Algernon Borthwick & Co., of Mason's-avenue, E.C., traded under that name no doubt in order to convey the impression that they were connected with Messrs. Borthwick, Wark, & Co., 11, Copthall-court, E.C., the well-known firm of American arbitrage dealers. It is needless to say that the outside firms who traded under these names have since entirely disappeared, leaving very unpleasant traces, while Messrs. W. R. Hartridge & Co., and Messrs. Borthwick, Wark, & Co., of course still occupy a high position amongst respectable City firms.—Your affectionate uncle,

MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

THE DUCHESS AND THE MONEY-LENDER.

I WONDER how many people have heard of Ephraim Davis, the money-lender. Most people, perhaps, by name. Possibly, more than would care to admit it knew him by acquaintance, in the days when he moved amongst us in the flesh; for it is certain that Ephraim had an extremely large connection in the West End, and I can assert, with authority, that if all the signatures that have at one time or another lain in Ephraim's safe were divulged, quite a series of shocks would be caused in Society at the many unexpected and respectable autographs that have there reposed, in their time, awaiting maturity.

Ephraim was a typical money-lender of the smarter kind. I, myself, in the days of my youth and folly, had dealings with him; and though I knew him to be a rapacious rascal, he used rather to amuse me by his assumed tone of confidential unreserve. In the course of my then visits to him, for purposes of renewal and other, I had many chats with Ephraim, and he used to give me his opinions on borrowers in general and on myself in particular with a certain cynical candour.

"Excuse my saying so," I remember he once remarked to me, "you are a fool, you know, to be borrowing at sixty per cent. But I should be a fool if I were to accommodate you at less than sixty per cent. You offer me no security. Indeed, the fact of your applying to me at all

shows that you have no security to offer. I lend you money simply on the strength of your promise. Now what is any borrower's promise worth financially? Not that," said Ephraim, snapping his fingers.

"All the same, I expect you make a good thing out of borrowers' promises," I answered, laughing.

"Yes," he admitted. "I make a good thing. But not a better thing than I ought to do, taking into account the obloquy that I incur by my profession, and the frequent unpleasantness that I have to face. My customers must pay me for that, you know, as well as for the accommodation. We money-lenders have our feelings, after all."

"Which you turn to pecuniary account," I answered, drily.

"Yes," he admitted, with a shrug of his shoulders, "to the tune of an extra twenty per cent."

"Feelings, then, are of some value after all?"

"Undoubtedly—if they are regulated on a strictly financial basis."

"I wish I could make twenty per cent. out of my feelings," I said.

"Then you must cease to spend money, borrowed at sixty per cent., on your feelings," retorted Ephraim, with a queer, meaning look at me that made me wince. I knew to what he was alluding. And, indeed, many less shrewd persons than he had detected my infatuation and rallied me about it. I was a fool, of course, to be in love with another man's wife—and that man my employer. But there! are we not all fools—when we get the chance to indulge our folly? I think I had more excuse than the majority. She was the most divine of women, and a Duchess; and she let me—nay, she encouraged me—to make love to her; of course, within proper limits.

I occupied the post of private secretary to the Duke of Z——, her husband. The Duke was considerably older than his lovely and adorable wife. He was none too well off, I believe, and he was certainly most stingy and parsimonious. His fascinating Duchess often had not so much as a cab-fare in her purse; and many, many's the time I have enjoyed the delicious privilege of paying little personal claims for her out of my own pocket. Many's the time, also, I have ventured to offer her little tokens of my loyal devotion—books and knick-knacks, and sometimes jewellery. On one occasion I gave one hundred pounds for a bracelet which I presented to her. It was a large sum for a man of my means; but I was amply repaid for the expense by the flush of pleasure which overspread her countenance when she opened the case, and by her sweet and artless exclamation—"Oh, Mr. Cordner, I—I—couldn't not have—have—accepted this from any one but you!"

The Duke, in spite of his stinginess, had certain negative virtues. He was not, in the least, suspicious or jealous. I hope I do not create a false impression by saying this, and seem to imply that he had anything to be suspicious or jealous of. He had nothing. Her Grace was an angel who would have shrunk with horror from the slightest idea of an indiscretion; and I would have cut off my right hand rather than have done anything to injure her good name. Still, there are green-eyed tyrants of husbands, who might take a different line — with the churlish idiocy characteristic of such men. It is, therefore, to the Duke's credit that he fully trusted, if he somewhat neglected, his incomparable wife.

His Grace, indeed, was almost entirely occupied with philanthropic work. He had at least fifty benevolent irons in the fire. But his pet iron was a scheme for the rehabilitation of discharged convicts, on which he spent much of the time, attention, and money, that he ought to have bestowed upon his Duchess. She, however, never complained. On the contrary, she always spoke of the Duke in tones of the most perfect wifely respect. Never once, during the long period of my acquaintance with this gracious couple, did I see her fail in any single observance that her conjugal position required of her.

I do not say that she had no little secrets from the Duke. That would be saying more than can be said for any wife in the world, and I have no desire to set up my idol upon a pedestal of impossible perfection. But I do say that all her little secrets were of the most innocent description, and that if there was one among them all to which strait-laced moralists could take exception, this one was distinctly and directly the fault of the Duke himself.

I myself was not aware of this particular secret until I had been in the gracious household for nearly two years, and I found it out by accident in the following manner. I went to Ephraim Davis's one afternoon to renew a promissory note that had fallen due. Just as I was about to enter the outer office, where the money-lender's clerk sat, the door opened and a lady came out. She was thickly veiled, and she passed me hurriedly, without looking up. Perhaps in the semi-gloom of the passage she did not recognise me. But I had recognised her, with a sudden start of surprise. It was my adorable Duchess! Before I had made up my mind whether to speak to her or not, she had vanished through the street door. I did not follow her, but passed on into Ephraim's office.

"Ha, Mr. Cordner," he said to me, as I entered. "Come to renew—eh?"

"If you are agreeable," I said.

"Oh, I'm agreeable enough. On the usual terms, of course."

"I say, Davis," I exclaimed. "I—I—didn't know that you numbered Duchesses among your customers."

"Ah! you have just met your Duchess coming out of this, have you?" replied Ephraim, with a snigger. "Was she taken aback at meeting you on my staircase?"

"I don't know whether she recognised me. She hurried past me in the semi-darkness and did not speak."

"No doubt she hoped you had not twigged her. Ah, well! She needn't mind so very much, after all. She's not the only Duchess of whose autograph I have the honour to be custodian. But you are a man of discretion, Mr. Cordner. You will not talk about this."

"You may rely upon my being enough of a gentleman to hold my tongue where a lady is concerned," I told him. And then I added, "I say, Davis — don't think me impertinent—but—but—has—has her Grace bor——does she owe you much?"

"Hem! I must really decline to answer that question," he said, drily.

"It is a shame of the Duke to drive her to this sort of thing," I exclaimed. "He scarcely lets her have a penny."

"I understand that his Grace parts rather hard," remarked Ephraim, with a grin. "Perhaps, however, he has not a superfluity of the needful to part with."

"No doubt he is badly off—for a Duke. Still, he always has plenty to give to his philanthropic schemes. His name appears in some new subscription list every week."

"Ah, my dear sir. These are his personal extravagances, you see; and it is for their personal extravagances, even more than for their necessities, that people contrive to find money, as long as, by hook or by crook, it is to be found. Haven't you noticed that a man, for instance, whose personal extravagance takes the form of good cigars, somehow always manages to pay cash for these, long after he has given up any attempt to pay his butcher or his grocer?"

"You are a philosopher, Davis."

"I am an observer of human nature, as it appears under stress of financial difficulty," he replied. "In other words, I see my fellow creatures with the paint of honour and the varnish of honesty rubbed off. Why, I would almost venture to say that there isn't a Bishop on the Bench who, if he were seriously embarrassed, wouldn't accommodate his right reverend tongue to any lie for a loan. And the merest boy from the Universities, who is as ignorant as a babe on any ordinary matter of business, will concoct the most plausible and Machiavellian falsehoods to induce us to make him an advance. However, we need not waste time in discussing such obvious truths. About this renewal, now?"

The terms of renewal were duly arranged, and I returned to my quarters in the ducal establishment. The Duchess was dining out. I did not see her again that night. But we met next day at a tête-a-tête luncheon. Before we had concluded that meal, any doubt I might have entertained as to whether her Grace had recognised me yesterday at Ephraim's was set at rest. For she, of her own initiative,

though with some evident embarrassment, made an allusion to the rencontre.

"Mr. Cordner," she began, blushing and faltering, "I—I—was not aware till—till—yesterday that you—you—were a cust—that you—you—had—had—dealings with Ephraim Davis."

"You recognised me, then, Duchess?" I said.

"Could I fail to recognise *you* anywhere?" she murmured, with an emphasis on the *you* that increased my pulse by at least thirty beats a minute. "But—but—I hurried past you, without appearing to notice you, because I was so confused—so vexed—that one whose respect I value so highly should have—have—seen me—in—that place."

"Surely, your Grace," I exclaimed warmly, "you do not imagine that my esteem for you would be, in any degree, lessened because you had been driven by force of circumstances to borrow a few pounds from a Jew. More especially as I myself was in the same predicament."

"I—I—hated doing it," she said. "But—but—I could not help myself. The—the—Duke—I do not complain—but—but—he does not seem to realise that a—a—woman of my position *must* have ready money."

"Some one ought to give his Grace a hint," I replied. "No doubt, as you say, he simply does not realise. And if it were pointed out to him, he——"

Before I could finish my sentence, the Duchess suddenly covered her face with her hands, and began to sob.

"I'm so miserable," she groaned. "So very—very miserable. I have no one I dare tell my trouble to. May—may—I make a confidant of you?"

"I could desire no greater privilege," was my earnest response. It thrilled me with ineffable delight to think that I should be made the receptacle of this most adorable woman's secrets.

"I—I—" she told me, between her sobs, "I—did not go to b-borrow money yesterday. I went to—to—renew a bill for two—two—thousand pounds. And—and—" (here for a minute her sobs quite got the better of her)—"Ephraim wouldn't renew!"

"Ephraim wouldn't renew?" I ejaculated. "Why on earth not?"

"Be-because I couldn't pay him f-five hundred pounds for interest."

"And what will he do if this five hundred is not forthcoming?"

"He says he—he will present the bill at—at the Duke's b-bankers."

And my poor charming Duchess relapsed into a fit of sobbing more violent than before.

"Would he, do you think, take some smaller sum for a short renewal?" I suggested. "I dare say I could scrape together a hundred or so if——"

She shook her head.

"A thousand thanks, my dearest friend! But I fear it would be useless to offer it to him. He was inexorable. He declared he must have five hundred pounds, and nothing less. He—he—did, indeed, mention one alternative, but—but—it is an impossible one. It cannot be considered."

"What was it?"

"He said that with—with my position, and—and influence, I could, if I liked, bring good business to him. And that—that supposing I introduced one or two customers, out of whom money was to be made, within, say, a week from now, he—he—would let me off the five hundred pounds, and renew the bill. I—I—told him the demand was—was—outrageous, absurd. But he only laughed, and said I should probably think better of it before the week was out."

"The scoundrel!" I exclaimed, in great indignation. "The impudent scoundrel! As—as—though you could possibly debase yourself to become a usurer's jackal! I should like to go and interview the fellow with a horse-whip."

She smiled—a tearful, wintry smile.

"Thank you for that wish," she said. "And—and—if he did not hold me in his power—for I never dare let the Duke know that I have borrowed from a moneylender—I would like to see you execute it. But—but, as things are, I cannot afford to provoke Ephraim. Perhaps—perhaps, though, if you would not mind, you might go to see him for me, and try to make terms. Sh-should you" (with bewitching wistfulness) "should you mind—very much?"

"I will go with the greatest delight," I cried.

And so it was arranged.

I went to Ephraim's the same afternoon. Never, until that interview, had I fully realised what a sordid and grasping scoundrel this Hebrew was. He would not listen for an instant to any proposed abatement of his demands.

"Won't do," he said, in an off-hand manner, to my suggestion for a reasonable compromise. "Business is business, I tell you. Five hundred in cash or its equivalent in introductions. These are my terms. And I shan't budge."

"But the Duchess of Z—— cannot find five hundred pounds at this minute."

"Then she can bring me introductions."

"Really, Davis—do you expect a lady of her rank and status to act as your tout?" I could not help exclaiming.

"I expect nothing," he retorted. "But those are my terms. I have often made them before, and they have often been accepted by ladies quite as exalted as her Grace. I may inform you, indeed, that some of the most lucrative clients I have ever had have been introduced to me by a Princess. I make no secret of my practice. It is one of my regular methods of extending my business."

"I am sure the Duchess will not stoop to it," I asserted.

He shrugged his shoulders.

"Very well, then. Let her take the consequences. Unless, indeed," he added, with a meaning look at myself, for which I could have kicked him, "any of her gentlemen friends would care to get her out of the difficulty by doing for her what she is too dainty to do for herself."

I did not affect to misunderstand his insinuation.

"You propose, then, that I should take upon myself the rôle of your jackal?" I said.

"I propose nothing. I merely stated a possibility that crossed my mind. Anyhow, I must have the money, or its equivalent within the week."

I tried further persuasions. But they proved useless. He would not budge an inch from his position. And at length I had to take my leave, baffled and chafing with scarcely suppressed indignation.

When I told my Duchess how I had fared, she was deeply disappointed, though evidently not surprised.

"Thank you, my dear friend," she said, with tearful resignation; "you have done your best. But it is of no use. I suppose I shall have to d—do it myself—somehow. For if the Duke were to find out ——"

Here she burst out sobbing, and sobbed as though her gracious heart would break.

Then I took a desperate resolve. She should not be driven to degrade herself. I would take Ephraim's suggestion, I would degrade myself instead. I was well connected. I knew many good fellows of the smarter and faster type. There were two or three youngsters, in particular, whom I had in my mind's eye as promising potential victims of Ephraim Davis. And yet I—a man of honour—a Hebrew's jackal? Impossible! Impossible? Alas! frail man! How can honour weigh in the scales against love? Where is the magic of honesty in comparison with the tears of an adorable Duchess? I gave way. For her sake I laid myself out to play the miserable part. And within the week, through my skilful agency, Ephraim had thrown his toils round two fresh victims, and my sweet Duchess had obtained a renewal of her little bill.

* * * * *

I must now tell you the end of all this. There might, indeed, have been no end—at least, for many years to come—had not a sudden and unforeseen occurrence intervened. One afternoon, about a month later, I received a note, marked urgent on the outside, from the hand of a post office messenger. Hastily opening and perusing it, I found that it was dated from St. Thomas's Hospital, and the contents were to the following effect: that a gentleman, giving the name of Ephraim Davis, who was lying at the hospital in a hopeless condition, having been run over

by a van in the Waterloo-road, had expressed an earnest wish that I might be sent for at once. "If," the writer added, "you wish to see him alive, you must come without delay; for his internal injuries are so severe that he cannot last many hours."

Of course, I felt it incumbent on me to obey a dying man's summons; and, inwardly wondering what could be Davis's reasons for wishing to see me, of all people, I lost no time in chartering a hansom, and driving to St. Thomas's.

I found the unfortunate money-lender lying on a bed in the accident ward, a pitiable and painful object. But he was not suffering much pain, he said; only a terrible sense of numbness and exhaustion; and his faculties were quite clear, and his voice, though weak, was distinctly audible. At a sign from the sufferer, I bent forward, with my ear close to his lips; and the nurse, who was in attendance, having considerately withdrawn a few paces, he proceeded to explain his reasons for summoning me.

"It is on account of the Duchess," he said—"the Duchess of Z——"

I nodded. No doubt, it had something to do with the money which her Grace owed him.

"I—I—you are a man of honour," he went on; "and—and—you will respect the Duchess's secret, and do your best to keep it from being made public. Will you not?"

"Certainly," I replied.

"I should have—have sent for her Grace personally," he continued, "only I—I thought it might lead to the exposure of what she herself is so anxious to keep close."

"You have shown a thoughtful consideration," I told him. "If the Duchess's transactions with you were to be made public, it would be a severe blow to her."

"There is only one way to avoid it," he said. "I have treated her Grace very hardly, and I wish now to make what reparation I can. I—I have made my will, leaving everything to—to her. The house-surgeon has written it out for me, and he and the nurse have witnessed it. I have appointed you sole executor. Will you promise to act, and—and to take immediate possession of my office and all my effects? It is for her sake."

"I promise to do so," I said. Indeed, under the circumstances, I could hardly have given any other reply.

"Then go at once," he said, in an eager whisper. "Go at once. The nurse will give you the will. Go at once!"

When I examined the deceased money-lender's papers, the whole truth about my Duchess's relations with him—a truth which, I will not deny, amazed me—was made abundantly plain. Her unhappy Grace had been in Ephraim's clutches for years. Ever since, as I discovered, an unfortunate occasion when, being in tremendous straits for money to pay a gaming debt, and being unable to obtain the large amount required on her own security, she had committed the appalling blunder of countersigning a promissory note with the Duke's name.

Ephraim discovered this; and, instead of exposing her—which was not, of course, his game—he used his knowledge as a means of putting on the screw and compelling her to tout for him among her many friends and admirers in high places. This she had been doing for upwards of three years; resorting to every conceivable device whereby she might carry out her humiliating task with the least risk of discovery. Of these, the little dodge to which I myself had been subjected may be regarded as a fair specimen.

I will add that, owing to my precautions, her Grace's secret still remains a secret; and that she still occupies her former high position in Society. You will not, however, find her among the Duchesses. I have promoted her, for my own reasons, to the highest rank. Yet I may be so far explicit as this; she is a very beautiful woman of forty, and she does not walk into dinner after the wives of Viscounts.

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

ART NOTES.

A FINE patriotic throb of emotion may be obtained just now in New Bond-street. At the Fine Art Society's Gallery is to be seen a large oil-painting of the charge of the Gordon Highlanders at Dargai by Mr. Allan Stewart. The fact that the picture is still unfinished may be taken as a proof of the eagerness of the artist to "strike while the iron is hot." It may also be considered a testimony to his national canniness, since in case any new details of the fight should arrive in belated despatches it would not be impossible to correct at leisure details that have evidently been painted in haste. Meanwhile, however, there is enough, even in the unfinished picture, to give the susceptible spectator a thrill of the very completest character. No effort has been spared by the management to make the exhibition impressive. A portion of the historical "Nelson Room" has been screened off for the picture, the frame of which is draped in a profusion of green cloth. On the floor in front of the battle piece are laid votive wreaths of entwined laurel and cypress, tied with white satin bows, on which are stamped in large gilt letters the words "Gordons," "Ghoorkhas," "Derbys," and "Dorsets." The wreaths are a little too suggestive, perhaps, of the "smart" funeral, and two of the names are rather too reminiscent of well-known brands of coal and butter to sound wholly heroic; but they are doubtless well meant. And who shall say that they will not be added to during the time that Mr. Allan Stewart's picture is on view? We know what impulsive "Imperialists" are moved to do on "Primrose Day" at the foot of Lord Beaconsfield's statue. Is it not possible, then, that excited visitors, perfervid Scots and others, may be impelled to heap the floor of the "Nelson Room" with a further supply of chaplets when they see in the picture Colonel Mathias cheering on his men, the Gordons passing through the fire zone, "with lowered heads, as if meeting a hailstorm," and Piper Findlater still raising the inspiring strains of his "braw Hieland instrument."

And this mention of Piper Findlater reminds me that I was a little premature in saying just now that "no effort has been spared by the management to make the exhibition impressive." There *is* one thing more that they could do. They could hire a bag-piper, and let him march about the "Nelson Room" skirling as he went. Fancy the effect of his inspirited performance of the "Cock o' the North," or "The Campbells are Coming," or "The Gordons are Going It!" or any other such exhilarating Scotch melody. It could scarcely fail to be immense, and would doubtless lead to the quick disposal of the artist's proofs and Indian prints of Mr. Allan Stewart's picture, which are to be issued shortly. It has, in fact, long been a notion of mine that music, judiciously chosen, might be made a very popular feature of the average picture exhibition. Even a piano appropriately played might do much to enhance the interest of the ordinary one-man show; and I am sure that an organ or harmonium could be made to add greatly to the drawing powers of a sacred picture exhibition. There is a fortune awaiting the picture dealer who is enterprising enough to engage the Red, White, or Blue Hungarians in connection with his next public display, and if the Royal Academicians would only be unacademic enough to give us a string band and ices and coffee in the Central Hall of Burlington House during the progress of their next summer show, I can promise them a record total of shillings taken at their turnstiles.

But this is a discursion, from which I must return again to the Fine Art Society's Gallery, where Mr. Allan Stewart's "Battle Piece" is only one of the attractions at present provided. In another room are to be seen the original drawings made for "The Martian" by the late Mr. George Du Maurier. Exceptional interest attaches to these very characteristic specimens of the pen-and-ink work of the author of "Trilby." Amongst them are to be found some of the last of the drawings he did. In the centre room is a collection of fifty-one water-colours

of the Wiltshire Avon, by Mr. Hugh L. Norris. These drawings introduce us to some portions of that Wessex which Mr. Hardy has immortalised in his novels, and show us that Mr. Norris has a quick eye for the picturesque, and a pleasantly original way of his own of transferring his impressions of nature to drawing-paper.

A charmingly varied selection of works by painters of the English, French, and Dutch schools is to be seen just now at the Goupil Gallery in Waterloo-place. In a collection happily small enough for one to be able to devote to the pictures it contains the attention they assuredly deserve, there are some characteristic examples of artists as widely different in style and method as Mr. George F. Watts, R.A., and Mr. J. McNeill Whistler, Mynheer Josef Israels and Mr. H. B. Brabazon. There is a delicious Corot to be seen there, full of that silvery luminosity in which he, that wizard of the brush, was able to steep his canvases. Mathew Maris and his brother James are to be seen, also to great advantage. But the gem of the whole collection, to my mind, is a brilliant little landscape by Señor Diaz—"L'Orage." It is one of those rare pictures one cannot look at too long or too often.

MUSIC.

THE CATHEDRAL ORGANIST AT BAY.

THE cathedral organists have at last, and very properly, drafted their complaints concerning their threatened treatment by the Cathedral Commission and have even ventured to suggest a mild remedy. Both complaints and suggestions are of an extremely modest character, such, indeed, as would, I should imagine, not offend the susceptibilities of the most touchy of deans and chapters. Personally, I believe the organists would be more successful if they took a much bolder course; for in dealing with a dignitary of the Established Church, any argument but that of the mailed fist is too frequently considered a sign of weakness. It seems that in the draft schemes prepared under the authority of the Cathedral Commission, it is in almost every case suggested that the organist should either be liable to dismissal at three months' notice or should only hold office during pleasure. The Commissioners themselves do not appear to have taken any particular part in this pretty little scheme, but there is so touching a unanimity about the three months' notice business that it has, it is supposed, been inserted by, or at the instigation of, the various cathedral ecclesiastics.

It is, it appears, a part of the latter-day policy of the cathedral clergy to have the organist and choir as far as possible under their complete control. An amusing story, indeed, on this point is now going the rounds. In a certain very great cathedral last week, the organist, as an outgoing voluntary, was playing one of Bach's fugues. A canon rushed into the organ loft, in quite uncanonical haste, and to the amazement of the musician required him immediately to stop. The canon was, it seems, a delegate of the precentor. He gravely admonished the musician that "loud music" must not be played during Lent. And Samuel Sebastian Wesley would probably have replied with a sarcastic paraphrase of "The Vicar of Bray," but the musician feebly bowed his head. The great impiety of playing Bach in church during Lent I confess I do not myself understand. Nor, by the way, do the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, who annually wind up their Lent with a Festival performance of the greater part of Bach's "St. Matthew" Passion. The particular canon in question possibly preferred the "Old Hundredth" or "Put Me in My Little Bed," or some simple and unsophisticated melody of a "five o'clock tea" type. But this interference with the legitimate work of the musician is unjustifiable and destructive to art, and it would in the old days certainly have resulted either in the practical joke or a verbal explosion on the part of the organist. Indeed, some years ago a well-known organist whose precentor interfered with duties which only technically belonged to him, gave the reverend gentleman a memorable lesson. The hymn was very properly nominated by the preacher, as being a suitable commentary on the the text of his sermon; but the precentor proceeded to choose the tune, which he declared he did not wish to be "quite so lively" as one usually employed The tune selected did not agree in metre with the words, to the huge delight of the organist, who strictly obeyed orders, and gravely played the superfluous notes at the end of every line.

The Royal College of Organists Committee, of which Sir Frederick Bridge is chairman, other members being Dr. Creser of the Chapel Royal, Dr. Greenish, Dr. Jordan, and Dr. Keeton, have now prepared a report which, being of a private character, I shall of course not quote. There is, however, no harm in saying that the committee very properly propose that all cathedral organists should be placed in some such position as they occupy at St. Paul's, Canterbury, and other great cathedrals. They are perfectly ready to accept dismissal for improper conduct, incompetency, or (with a fair pension) as a result of old age. But they are not willing to be at the mercy of, for example, the rabid High Church ecclesiastic who is said the other day to have threatened his organist with dismissal if he did not come to (Protestant) "confession." At St. Paul's the organist holds his office "during good behaviour and while competent," but he can be suspended or dismissed for misconduct or incompetency by a resolution of the Dean and Chapter confirmed by the Visitor. This really is all that is wanted.

Indeed, this appeal to the bishop, or other Church dignitary with the authority of "Visitor," is highly prized by the cathedral organist. It is, it seems, quite a mistake to suppose that the bishop invariably backs up his clergy at the expense of his musicians. Such, in fact, is the infirmity of even episcopal humanity, that it is hinted a bishop, where a good case is shown, is often by no means averse to indulging in a sly dig at his dean. The Committee of the Royal College certainly do not suggest any drastic measures. They first desire to point out their wishes to cathedral chapters, secondly to "respectfully ask" that organists should be placed in a fair position; and thirdly to "watch" such legislation, as, for example, the Bill introduced by Sir Charles Dalrymple in 1896. If they went a little further, and pointed out that there are more brain-wearied bishops and dilapidated deans, precentors, and canons than played-out cathedral organists, I, for one, should not blame them.

In some comments upon the article in last week's Truth concerning the absurd "Music Teachers' Guild," whose honorary secretary is Mr. Chanot, the violin seller, the *Musical News*, always energetic in such matters, furnishes some further interesting and rather startling information. It says—

> In another circular which has reached us, some astonishing further particulars are given of the way these "diplomas" may be obtained. First we are told:—"Personal attention of the teacher will not, as a rule, be required, as generally the necessary information can be given by correspondence." This is almost on a par with the notable institution which dispensed diplomas without testing, though the certificate stated, *Granted after examination*. It would seem this could not be beaten in facility, but Mr. Chanot and partners go still one step further. We are told that "In the case of students about to enter on their professional career, and who are consequently unable to give full particulars about what successes they have been obtaining by their pupils, and to make a statutory declaration thereto if required . . . . it will be deemed sufficient if they prove that they are of good personal reputation, at least two satisfactory references to this effect being required, such as bankers', clergymen's, doctors', solicitors', &c."

Imagine a "banker's" reference as to the ability of a student to teach music. I should really like to know what the "diplomas" of this precious "Guild" are supposed to cost. Their real value can, of course, far more readily be appraised.

The Joachim Quartet party have now returned, and on Monday, at the Popular Concerts, the whole programme was devoted to them and to three quartets, viz.: the

The Greatest of all Pianofortes.—The Steinway Pianofortes. New York and London.

"posthumous" work of Beethoven in C sharp minor, Brahms' Quartet in B flat, op. 67, and one of Haydn's quartets. Last year the excellence of the Joachim party was fully established. The individual members, their famous chief excepted, may perhaps not be individually so good as those of the ordinary quartet of the Monday Pops:—or, at any rate, as the quartet as we used to know it two or three years ago. But by long association and by so frequently playing together throughout Germany during the winter, they have attained an excellence of ensemble to which our scratch quartets are strangers. On Saturday the admirable setting by Mme. Lisa Lehmann "In a Persian Garden," to Fitzgerald's translation of Omar Kayyam, was repeated, the composer herself accompanying on the piano.

The comic opera, "The King's Sweetheart," which, under the name of "Regina B.A.," has for some months past been touring the provinces, had last week a short run at the Theatre Metropole, Camberwell. The story is a pure piece of extravagance, farcical enough, and exactly, no doubt, suited to the tastes of the provinces, for which, apparently, it was specially written. Mr. J. M. Glover, who is responsible for the music, has also felt himself bound to keep in mind the limitations of a company on tour. Nevertheless, he has successfully performed his task, and, although some of his tunes may appear more or less as old friends, yet his songs, of which there are perhaps a superabundance, are melodious and taking, whilst his dances are of the brightest possible character, and the opera likewise contains one or two parodies of Sullivan and other composers, amusing alike to the amateur and musician. It is a pity that Mr. Glover does not have an opportunity of showing his talents in still more important work.

Professor Stanford's "Requiem" was duly performed by the Bach Choir last week under the composer's direction. The work will now probably, so far as London is concerned, be shelved, for it is not to be given at the Albert Hall, where the authorities recognise the distaste of the general public for compositions written to Latin words. Nevertheless, Dr. Stanford's "Requiem" contains some of his most ambitious music, and taking into consideration the limitations of the choir, due justice was, of course, done to it.

The Philharmonic Concerts also started last week, though somewhat limply, as the star, Herr Rosenthal, could not appear. Indeed, many of the audience left after the first part, and thus avoided the Symphony, which, according to the recent ridiculous practice of the Society, is now employed to play the people out. The Crystal Palace Concerts were resumed on Saturday, but with a smaller orchestra than usual. There seems no reason why the standard works should be performed by an orchestra of 100, more particularly as, when the high pitch is used, the necessity for extra strings is avoided. The Crystal Palace daily orchestra is the oldest of our London permanent Symphony Bands, and, although occasionally for modern works it must, of course, be reinforced, yet a well-trained orchestra of seventy is quite sufficient for all reasonable purposes. There were no novelties whatever in Saturday's programme, which comprised Beethoven's first Symphony, Bennett's "Paradise and Peri" overture, three dances from MacKenzie's "Little Minister" music and the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto, played by Dr. Joachim. At the Queen's Hall concert on Saturday also, except as to a new overture, "The Taming of the Shrew," by Mr. Percy Pitt, accompanist at these entertainments, the programme was devoted to familiar works, including Beethoven's Violin Concerto, played by M. Rivarde, and Mendelssohn's Scotch Symphony, which did not start till half past four. There is no need for these extravagantly long functions. Mr. Newman's audiences this season have not been so large as to warrant the assumption that plethoric programmes are popular.

Mr. Newman, it seems, had rather over-estimated the interest of the public in Wagner's "Love Feast of the Apostles." This work was tried at the Birmingham Festival twenty-two years ago. It is true its execution then exemplified the Philistinism of that arch anti-Wagnerite Sir Michael Costa himself. About ten years since the "Love Feast" was placed in rehearsal by Novello's Choir under Sir A. C. Mackenzie, but it was then dropped, as the choristers did not think it worth the trouble involved upon it. The same thing seems to have happened at Queen's Hall. The work is for male voices only, and whether the gentlemen resented the slur thus cast by Wagner upon the ladies, or whether they did not think much of music, which dates back to "Tannhäuser" times, they, at any rate, did not turn up to rehearsal. As the public did not appear to appreciate the "Love Feast," it has been knocked out of the programme of next Saturday's concert, the last of the season. It is unlikely now that it will be heard for a considerable time. Your thick and thin Wagnerite has no sort of sympathy with the compositions of the Meister's youth.

M. Paderewski is now in England, and he has promised to inaugurate the new Salle Erard on Saturday fortnight. He "opened" the same room some years ago, before it had secured a license. It is hoped that on April 2 the arrangements will be better than they were when the great Polish pianist last appeared there. Sufficient people had then been invited to crowd the room twice over, and those who really were upon business never heard M. Paderewski at all. The Salle Erard holds, I believe, about 300 people.

It will be interesting to know the reason why the Philharmonic directors so boldly announced Goldmarks's "Im Frühling" overture ac for the "first time in England." The fact that the majority of the younger school of musical critics rushed into this absurd error does not, of course, particularly signify. But the Philharmonic directors are teachers who ought to be conversant with such elementary facts. The overture, of course, was produced at the Crystal Palace in 1890, a very short time after it was first given in Germany, and in the following season it was repeated by Dr. Richter. Whether the novelty is worth much bragging about may be altogether another matter.

Now that the fair sex are, according to a (possibly malicious) rumour, by no means averse to the gentle weed, there seems no earthly reason why Sunday smoking concerts should be the monopoly of the mere man. So, at any rate, the Playgoers' Club appear to think. At any rate, next Sunday night at the Hotel Cecil they announce a "Cigarette Concert for Ladies." It will be interesting to note whether the ladies will pluck up sufficient courage to try the cigarette in public.

Music publishers are very properly taking up the question of the sale in the streets of pirated penny versions of valuable copyright songs and other pieces. They have petitioned the Government to allow a short Act to be run through Parliament giving them practically what the fine art publishers have enjoyed for a long time, viz., some sort of right to proceed against pirates in the police-courts. The printers of these pirated versions are rarely to be found, and when discovered they are not worth powder and shot, consequently the ordinary remedy by injunction is inapplicable. The hawkers who sell in the street two-shilling songs for a penny purchase their goods illicitly, generally in shady public-houses. One publisher, it is true, at considerable expense recently made a raid upon the hawkers, and managed to discover a public-house where 2,500 pirated copies of a copyright song were stored. He thereupon seized and triumphantly carried the entire stock off in a cab. He also went for some of the hawkers, and, as he had a perfect right to do, confiscated their goods. But this sort of thing is rather miserable business, and the publishers would much prefer the right to bring the real delinquents, namely, the printers of pirated songs, before a magistrate, who would deal with them summarily and equitably.

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LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM.—The good stories in "Social Hours with Celebrities" (1) are like the conversation of Gratiano—"two grains of wheat to a bushel of chaff"—while one of the two grains is shrivelled with age. Here is a good veteran which, though it ought to be retired as an "*emeritus*," you may possibly not have heard:—

> One Sunday, Bishop Samuel Wilberforce was staying in the country where Lord Palmerston formed one of the house party. As they came away from church, the day appearing fine and the carriage being crowded, Bishop Wilberforce declared he preferred to walk back, and took a start and a short cut. Half way home a shower came on just as the carriage overtook him.
>
> "How blest the man who ne'er consents
> By ill-advice to *walk*,"
>
> exclaimed Lord Palmerston, chaffingly,
>
> "Nor *sits* where men *profanely* talk!"
>
> rejoined the Bishop.

Of the stories which are at once old and poor, the Irish are incomparably the baldest, since even in my childhood they seemed to me forced and foolish. Of the new stories, perhaps the best—at any rate from a Protestant standpoint—is this:—

> Cardinal Wiseman used to tell of a young Spanish nobleman he once had staying with him in York-place, whom he observed one day to his surprise in an adjoining room suddenly snatch up a pair of lighted candles and rush to the window, fall on his knees, and, after making the sign of the cross, remain some moments in that devout attitude. A day or two after he inquired of his host if there were not an hospital in the neighbourhood. "Why should you think so?" asked the Cardinal. "Simply," replied the youth, "because I hear 'His Majesty' pass so often. Ha! there he is again," and he lost no time in repairing to the window to salute the Blessed Sacrament as before. The Cardinal found it difficult to maintain his gravity whilst explaining to his guest that it was not the *Viaticum* that was passing, but—the muffin-bell.

How the narrator, herself once a heretic, could make miscreant Protestants merry with this muffin-parody of the wafer, I cannot imagine. A little holy water, or, indeed, a wholesale exorcism would have made "The Scourge-Stick" (2) a duller but pleasanter book.

> "We writing people," says its hero, "are full of devils. Good demons and bad demons! And upon my soul I don't know whether the good or the bad ar most responsible for the best work we do. I know that w f have honestly tried to give the moral excellencies an innings, I've done my feeblest and insincerest work. And the other way on, when I've let go the brake."

Mrs. Campbell Praed has let go the brake a little, with the natural result of making her story as fast in the literary as in the moral sense. The only fault I have to find with her title and its motto,

> I have seen my little boy oft scourge his top,
> And compared myself to 't: nought made me e'er go right
> But Heaven's scourge-stick,

is its misapplication. It is not God, but the heroine's passions, which have made her and the novel "hum." She marries for his money a millionaire, rather seduces, than is seduced by, his nephew and greatest enemy, and thereby foists upon her husband the son of his chief foe as the heir of his vast property. Her husband, it is true, is a very trying person; but it is no less true that he was very severely tried, and your sympathies are not as frequently and strongly as those of the author on the side of her heroine. However, upon the birth of her illegitimate child she makes a bargain with God in her misery and remorse, and keeps it, with the result that she sins no more and no worse thing happens to her—and no better. It is a very powerful and interesting story, but not quite so pleasant as it is exciting and strong. Still less pleasant is Iota's incomprehensible "Poor Max" (3), whose heroine marries first a chameleon-like kind of Skimpole, and next a man whom she knows to be the most infamous scoundrel in London. She jilts for this blackguard the man whom she worships, and who worships her, because he has but £500 a year as against his rival's millions. Why? Because one of Skimpole's children promises to be as irresponsible a butterfly as his father! In truth the book is as hysterical, or, if you like, nenrotic, as poor Max himself, and occasionally as unintelligible. "I wonder—I wonder," cries the heroine, "if God has ever quite understood Max?" And you sometimes wonder whether their creator quite understands her own creatures in this smart novel. Its very smartness is at times so strained as to be unintelligible. What, for instance, is to be said for a style of this kind?

> She turned to watch his wife, and memory came echoing up her throat so oddly that it interfered with a sharp interjection of common sense also on its way and choked it.

Iota, to use her own phrase, is always "literally pouring herself out in epigrammatic torrents of varying quality," occasionally of very good quality, as when Skimpole says:—

> "After all, in the whole wide world there's no beauty like that of a true faith in any God, while an honest God's the noblest work of man."

Mr. Bram Stoker is not given to smartness of any kind, but his "Miss Betty" (4) is a charming story which fails only in supplying its hero with an adqeuate motive for "taking to the road." He took to it so heroically that on one occasion he not only robbed but bound the coachman, guard, and all the passengers, single-handed. A Briarean feat! The little tale is prettily and quaintly told, and will pass for you a pleasant hour. I wonder, by the way, how Mr. Bram Stoker could suppose life's one sweetener—hope—an evil, and "the last evil in Pandora's box"! If Pandora's box had been emptied of *evils*, we should not have needed such delightful distractions as "Miss Betty" to help us to forget real life.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

(1) "Social Hours with Celebrities." Being the third and fourth volumes of "Gossip of the Century." By the late Mrs. W. Pitt Byrne. Edited by her sister, Miss R. H. Busk. With sixty-six illustrations. Two volumes. (London: Ward & Downey.) Price 32s.
(2) "The Scourge-Stick." By Mrs. Campbell Praed. (London: William Heinemann.) Price 6s.
(3) "Poor Max." By Iota. (London: Hutchinson & Co.) Price 6s.
(4) "Miss Betty." By Bram Stoker. (London: C. Arthur Pearson, Limited.) Price 2s. 6d.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—We have had a wonderful week of weather in town, almost every variety having presented itself in turn between Sunday morning and Saturday night. The particular sample that turned up on Tuesday—snow, sleet, mud, slush, and bitter wind—had the effect of deterring many from going to the Drawing Room who otherwise would have attended; and afterwards, when a little improvement came, it was too late. It was a limited function in consequence. But there were some sweet gowns worn, lovely flowers accompanying them to Court. Lady Granville Gordon wore a charming gown, white satin veiled with black net, sewn with jet baskets in a Louis XV. design, and black velvet train lined with pale blue satin. One corner was turned back with an immense Louis XV. bow of black tulle. "Lady Granny" presented her daughter, Miss Armyn Gordon, who wore a very sweet satin gown and train, the former trimmed with pearl embroidery and the train ruched all round with drifting tulle. The very girlish, and therefore highly appropriate, trimming consisted of small white pompon roses. Miss Gordon's bouquet was made of white roses and lily of the valley.

The Ladies Scott had pretty gowns. They were dressed almost alike, in white satin, the front of the skirts being embroidered apron-fashion. The bodices were veiled with silver-spangled tulle, caught in at the waist with a satin sash. A cluster of forget-me-nots and gardenias on the shoulder repeated the trimming on the trains, which were cleverly differentiated from each other, though alike in style. The Countess of Wicklow went in black, gracefully

FASHIONS UP TO DATE.—An elegant and svelte figure is produced by the easy and perfect-fitting anatomical corset shaped by the experts, Mesdames SYKES, JOSEPHINE, & Co., The Celebrated Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-st., Oxford-circus, London, W.

and effectively relieved with white chiffon. A lovely collar of old lace trimmed the bodice. The Countess of Loudoun wore blue, a lovely shade, over white satin, the chiffon being exquisitely embroidered with azure sequins and crystal of the same hue. The blue satin train was brocaded with lilac flowers, a very up-to-date and successful combination.

Lady Binnie attended the Drawing Room in a very sweet toilette, consisting of a pearl-grey satin skirt with a silvery sheen on it, and a train of orchid-mauve terry velvet. Lovely embroideries and some rare old lace trimmed the dress, with clusters of orchids, and Lady Binnie carried a bouquet of exquisite orchids.

Lady Savile wore black and pink, carrying a bow-bouquet of deep pink roses, and presented her daughter, Miss Helyar, whose gown was exquisite, all soft tulle over gleaming satin, with a novel trimming of spangled lace roses. A picturesque pointed collar of the rose-embroidered tulle finished this lovely gown.

Another delicious frock was worn by Miss Cust. It was a real triumph. The dress itself was composed entirely of old lace, through the meshes of which a gleam of satin could be seen. The train was putty coloured satin, lined with crêpe-de-chine of the same shade, and bordered with old silver lace. The train was caught in the middle of the back with an old paste buckle.

Mrs. Wadsworth Ritchie, Mrs. Adair's daughter, had her white satin train lined with green velvet, and showered down one side with roses. The dress was white satin, over which was thrown a veil of snowy chiffon, and on it meandered lines of creamy lace. The bodice, all folds of soft chiffon and lace, was drawn in at the waist under a belt of silver and pearl.

It is not often that a decided novelty of any kind appears at a pre-Easter Drawing Room, but this year there was something new introduced at each. At the one in February the new "duchess" train made its appearance, a remarkably graceful innovation due to the genius of Mrs. Harrison; and at the March function the new "bow-bouquet" made its appearance. It is devised by Mr. Goodyear, and, for several reasons, is a great improvement upon the ordinary arrangement. It consists of a large bow of ribbon, with a loop on either side, the loops forming a background for flowers, sometimes all alike in hue and character, and sometimes quite different. For instance, the one carried by Lady "Granny" Gordon was in pale blue ribbon, with bunches of gardenias on one side, looking as though they had just been cut, and on the other side spikes of white orchids. Lady Gilmour had a lovely bow-bouquet, with white orchids on one side and tea-roses on the other. It went beautifully with her lovely gown of splendid old Brussels point, arranged over ivory satin. It fell from the waist in a deep flounce, and I could not sufficiently admire the cleverness with which the rich design was supported at the edge by quillings of chiffon, which served to display the beauty of the lace to the greatest possible advantage. The train was in geranium-pink velvet, trimmed with white flowers. Lady Gilmour's ornaments included a diamond tiara and necklet. Lady Alexander, too, had lovely Brussels point on her dress of white brocade. The train was in old rose satin, lined with a deeper shade, and trimmed all down one side with the too covetable Brussels point. But that was not all. Read on, and expire with envy. Down the centre of the train was draped a lovely shawl, also of Brussels lace.

How unfair for one person to have such quantities of adorable lace while others only have "bits." Treasured, truly, yet only "bits."

But it does not do to give way to coveting one's neighbour's goods. If we once begin we are pretty sure to go on. And, in fact, I could proceed immediately to covet Mrs. Jack Fraser's lovely old paste buckles which fastened on her train of turquoise velvet, worn over a white satin gown beautifully embroidered with paste and turquoises and lace appliqués.

Miss Dewar, of Perth, in a blaze of diamonds, wore silver-grey satin, embroidered all over most elaborately in fine steel and paste and pearls, and appliqués of lisse, with a black velvet train trimmed with tulle and diamond-studded plumes. Do you remember a picture somewhere of a young Highland chieftain drinking whiskey, and his ancestors stepping down from their frames to clutch the bottle? Well, I am sure that Miss Dewar's ancestresses would all want to come down from their frames to wear that gown and those glorious jewels.

No gown at the Drawing Room was lovelier than that worn by Lady Lansdowne, who introduced the ladies of the Diplomatic Corps in the absence of Lady Salisbury and the Duchess of Devonshire. It was white satin, violet velvet, old lace, diamonds, all commingled with deftest art, and graced by being worn by one of the prettiest and most charming women in England. Lady Lansdowne presented her daughter, the youthful Marchioness of Waterford, on her marriage. She wore her beautiful wedding gown and carried a nosegay of sweet exotics.

Lady Merrick had a lovely dress in fawn-coloured shot-satin moire, the skirt trimmed with scarves of Alençon lace, with diamonds scattered over it. Sprays of large Californian violets and ivy trimmed the bodice and the emerald velvet train.

Miss Waterlow, grand-daughter of Sir Sydney of that ilk, had a gown of sweetest whiteness, in satin veiled with chiffon embroidered in Louis XVI. knots with ruched baby ribbon, diamonds, and silver. The freshest of frills adorned the bodice, and a spray of lily-of-the-valley and ivy trimmed it, another ornamenting one corner of the satin train. Lady McGregor, over white satin, wore a pale green satin train, brocaded, with bunches of primulas and lily-of-the-valley in natural tints. Touches of primula mauve velvet on the bodice and skirt brought all into consonance. Mrs. Lowe had a lovely gown—white satin draped with creamy lace and embroidered richly with pendant jet sequins. The black satin train was lined with pink, and held back with a cluster of roses.

And I must not omit from this skimming of the cream of all the sweetest frocks Mrs. Callander's pale-grey satin, veiled with a deep lace flounce, high at the back, lower in front. Zouaves of silver trimmed the bodice, and clusters of pink and white carnations trimmed the myrtle-green velvet train, lined with pink satin. The Hon. Mrs. Kennedy's was another lovely gown, grey satin embroidered with steel, the loose bodice drawn up over pink velvet. The pink train was in the new material, fleur de velours, lined with cream-coloured satin.

Lady Clifford of Chudleigh brightened the scene with her lovely yellow satin embroidered with silver, paste, and steel. Her train was blue and silver.

One more gown and I have done. It was white satin, draped with magnificent old point d'Alençon, touches of Parma violet velvet contrasting deliciously with the mellow cream tint of the lovely lace. The train, in silver-grey brocade, was trimmed with grey tulle and sashes of the violet velvet caught back with diamond buttons. Mrs. Cordes wore this beautiful gown.

We had a little glimpse at Goodyear's of a lovely little Irish harp in silver, and inquiring about it, we were told that it was for Lady Cadogan, to carry instead of a bouquet, and that trails of shamrock were to outline it. The occasion was an Irish ball, and I have no doubt that the compliment was well appreciated by those present.

I see that there is to be a vegetarian banquet at the Holborn Restaurant on April 22, at 7.30. I think we shall go. I have always been rather attracted by vegetarianism, believing that most "Britishers" eat too much meat and far too little vegetable and fruit. I am extremely curious to know how such a considerable menu as that conveyed in the word "banquet" can be carried out without the introduction of fish, meat, poultry, or game.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Charles Bellairs for having invented a veil fastener which is not only most

New Spring Fashions.—Messrs. Redfern have now on view in their Showrooms a unique display of Toilettes, illustrative of the latest London and Paris fashions, and to which they invite an inspection.—26, Conduit-street, London, W.

useful but very ornamental. It can be fixed in a moment to any hat, and opens with a spring, the veil is then folded and the spring closed, the only outward and visible sign being a smart enamel bow studded with diamonds.

Christabel sends from Paris the following description of some evening dresses lately made for a party of rich American ladies:—

A white satin ball dress was covered with white tulle spotted with black, the spots increasing in size towards the base of the skirt, all round the lower part of which was a Greek pattern carried out in pink chrysanthemums, above this a simple row of similar flowers, then a Greek pattern again, and above it another row of flowers. The low bodice was cut away heart-shape, both back and front, and covered with spotted tulle like the skirt. The short sleeves were composed of bouillonnés of tulle, with a wreath of chrysanthemums falling on the arm.

A very striking ball dress for a matron was of yellow satin, covered with silk muslin of the same shade in sun-ray pleats. The low bodice was cut square, and covered with yellow silk muslin pleated like the skirt, and on each side was a small revers of rich white lace and a spray of mimosa on the left side. The waistband was yellow satin.

A very beautiful dress made to be worn at Mlle. Reichemberg's farewell at the Comédie Française was white satin, cut in Princess shape and entirely covered with rich Irish guipure-tinted cream colour. The low bodice was cut round in the neck, the lace arranged in flutes like a baby bodice or à la vierge, with splendid real diamonds between each fulling. A red velvet waistband, was fastened with a diamond buckle, and a large bow on the left shoulder, with ends crossing the bodice and falling to the ground, was held on the shoulder with a small bouquet of violets made of real amethysts.

An evening robe was of rich white silk with the Greek pattern woven in black as a border to the skirt, aud a pink rose, also woven or printed in each corner of the pattern. The bodice was half high with a small Greek or key pattern going round to correspond with the skirt, and very handsome lace trimmed the neck. The sleeves were also half-long, ending with a fall of lace. This very pretty dress was finished with a black velvet waistband slightly pointed at the back and front and fastening with a diamond buckle at the side.

An extremely stylish visiting dress was of Sèvres blue Liberty satin, with a pattern of white diamond-shaped lozenges, rather large at the foot and diminishing in size towards the top. The bodice to match was made blouse fashion with, three wide pleats, and slashed with white satin between the pleats. Blue velvet of the same shade formed a bolero at the back and came over the shoulder, falling in front in points. This was enhanced with a raised appliqué of white roses made in fine silk cord. The sleeves were of the modified gigot shape, slashed with white satin at the top, and finished with revers of blue velvet at the wrist. The waistband and collar were of similar velvet, the collar and sleeves revers having also white appliqué in relief like the bodice.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—The shortest season ever known at Dublin Castle is to end this week with St. Patrick's Ball. Just six weeks from beginning to end, but with the interval of one week to be subtracted and only, therefore, a five weeks' season. Though Lord and Lady Cadogan are personably agreeable and a good host and hostess, one gets the impression that they are going through duty work. They do not enter into the spirit of viceregal life in Ireland; one always has a lurking suspicion that their happiest moments in connection with the country are when they embark at Kingstown to cross the water. One has this idea, however, with many who occupy the viceregal throne. The fact is we are a great deal too near England, and above all, London, with its magnificence and overwhelming attractions, to have a comfortable viceroyalty. In India and Canada the viceroys have to take temporary root in the soil, as it were; with regard to Ireland they never go through any process of transplantation. The Viceroy does Ireland as he might Cairo or the Riviera, and rarely, if ever, misses the London season, the fashionable English race meetings, and the usual rounds of country visits. The Viceroy, to make him a really useful Irish institution, should be bound over to live in Ireland as the Viceroys do in Canada and India, to become a chief member of Irish Society and promoter of its interests, instead of a kind of spectator of the Irish social stage. This, no doubt, would seem a dreadful programme to many English noblemen, especially of the courtier class—Ireland being so out of favour at Court—but then the acceptance of the post of Viceroyalty is always a purely voluntary act. No doubt it has for many years been a fashion for Irish Viceroys to pose as martyrs to duty, but there is always a noble army of them whose services are available. Prime Ministers do not have any very serious difficulty in filling up places of high position with salaries to match. In fact, from what one hears, they suffer most from the embarrassment of a wide choice.

Last week the "house party"—which has become such an established institution of the season at Dublin Castle—consisted of the Duchess of Sutherland and Lady Cromartie, the Duchess of Manchester and Lady Alice Montagu, Lord and Lady Rathdonnell and Miss Bunbury, Count Mensdorf, Lady Huntingdon, Lady Fingall, Miss Van de Weyer, Mr. and Miss Mildmay, Mr. Heseltine, and several others. A large party, and, with the addition of the Viceregal household, enough in itself for a dinner party or dance—there generally is more or less of a dance every night at the Castle. The tiny dances, which are not chronicled in the newspapers, and to which a few, very few and select extra girls and men are invited, are highly appreciated by those who chance to be selected. They are not late entertainments, as there are some limits to what human nature—even when in pursuit of pleasure—can go through. On Tuesday a big ball was given, most of those who attended the second Drawing Room being invited. The Viceregal party make an imposing procession, entering St. Patrick's Hall to the strains of "God Save the Queen." Lady Cadogan's toilets and jewels are always remarkable, the Duchess of Sutherland and the Duchess of Manchester also glittered with diamonds; quite a bevy of prettily dressed young girls followed them, white predominating in their costumes. All Dublin society was present; a party from the Royal Hospital, Ladies Ashbourne (with two daughters), Granard (with the same), Mowbray and Stourton (with two also), Rachel-Saunderson, Musgrave, and Emily. On Friday night a big dinner preceded a small dance in the Throne Room, which was very pleasant and less crowded. Lady Cadogan very capably did the honours, all by herself, Lord Cadogan being absent, attending a Cabinet Council. By the way, his constant flittings across the Channel produce quite a grievance in Kingstown, where his arrival—if between sunrise and sunset—has to be attended by a Royal salute, which startles the inhabitants from their slumbers, as the mail steamer keeps early hours. This week the Castle festivities end with two State ceremonials, the first being the installation of Lord Arran as a Knight of St. Patrick, on Tuesday evening, in St. Patrick's Hall, when Levee dress is worn by the male guests, and the ladies wear Court dress except for the trains. Lord Roberts is the Junior Knight, the Duke of York and he being the last who were installed, and at the same time, in the Castle. The other ceremonial is the St. Patrick's Ball on the 17th inst. After it the Castle shutters will be put up until next season. Dublin Castle is evidently not popular with its owners for the time. Not even two months out of the twelve are spent there. The situation, being high, is not bad, but the surrounding localities are not inviting. A viceregal residence in the neighbourhood of the good squares and streets would be a desirable change. The old historic and the modern sanitary ideas are often in strong antagonism.—Yours ever,

Clare.

This suprême of quails is rather extravagant, but is a perfect dream of delicacy:—

Procure half-a-dozen boned quails. Pound the flesh with 2 oz. of raw veal, add 3 oz. of butter and the crumb of a French roll, previously stewed in milk until it is a stiff paste. Work in the yolks of four eggs a gill of cream, and pepper and salt to taste. When the ingredients are thoroughly amalgamated, rub them through a wire sieve, and work the forcemeat in a basin with a gill of thick cream. Steam the suprême in a timbale mould that is prettily decorated with cut truffle, without allowing it to boil. Turn the mould out on a dish, fill the centre with nicely boiled asparagus and pour the sauce round it.

To make the sauce: Stew the bones of the birds in weak stock with a little root vegetable, herbs, spices, and a slice of bacon for two hours, strain, remove the grease, and reduce the liquor to half a pint. Cook a minced shalot with an ounce of butter in a stewpan, mix in a tablespoonful of flour and the stock from the bones, stir it until it boils, simmer it for twenty minutes, and squeeze it through the tammy. Return the sauce to the stewpan to warm, adding pepper, salt, and a squeeze of lemon juice. Mix

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the yolk of an egg with half a gill of cream, add it to the sauce, and stir it constantly until it is quite hot, but not boiling.

Almond soup is almost out of date, but it is excellent for variety's sake :—

Blanch and pound 6 oz. of Valencia and ½ oz. of bitter almonds, adding a little veal broth to prevent them oiling. Soak 4 oz. of crumb of bread in boiling milk. When cold, drain the moisture from it, pound, and put the whole into a stewpan with a quart of veal stock and a blade of mace. Simmer half an hour, then rub through the tammy. Return the soup to the stewpan to warm with a little boiling milk and a pinch of cayenne pepper. At the moment of serving, add the yolks of two eggs mixed with a gill of cream, season with salt and a pinch of sugar. The soup must not boil after the eggs are added.

This dish of spinach and eggs is nice for a second course :—

Thoroughly wash and boil the spinach, rub it through a wire sieve and work it up in a stewpan with pepper and salt to taste. When the spinach is quite hot put it into a buttered, fancy, fire-proof dish ; scoop out little hollows, in which place four or five poached eggs. Pour a little good white sauce over them, sprinkle them with grated parmesan cheese and bake them a nice colour in a sharp oven.

You will find this a capital lunch sweet :—

First line a French tart tin with puff paste, and put a layer of apricot jam at the bottom. Work two eggs with 2 oz. of pounded sugar in a basin until creamy, add 1 oz. of butter, melted, and 1 oz. of crushed ratafias. Pour the mixture into the prepared tin, garnish around the edge with leaves of puff paste, sprinkle it with pounded sugar, and bake it a nice colour in a moderate oven.

Finally, this is a lovely "Iced Soufflé" and quite original :—

Put a tumbler of sherry into a stewpan with 6 oz. of sugar, pour it, when boiling, on to the beaten yolks of 5 eggs, return it to the stewpan and stir it until it thickens. Then whisk the custard until it is cold ; add a few drops of essence of vanilla, and mix lightly into it half a pint of whipped cream and the whites of the eggs whipped to a stiff froth. Put the mixture into a soufflé dish, with a band of greased paper 2 in. higher than the mould, pinned round the outside, sprinkle a few bruised ratafias on the top and freeze it in a charged ice cave in the usual way for three or four hours.

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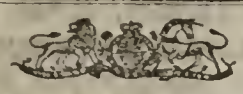

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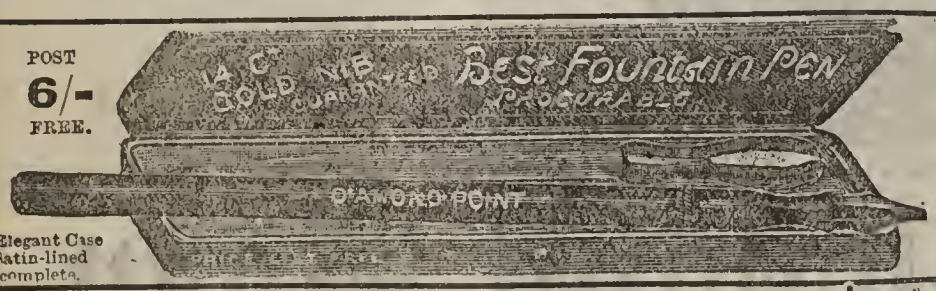

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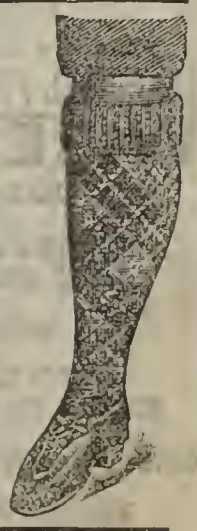

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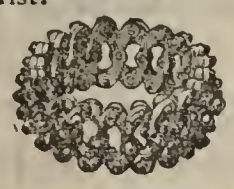
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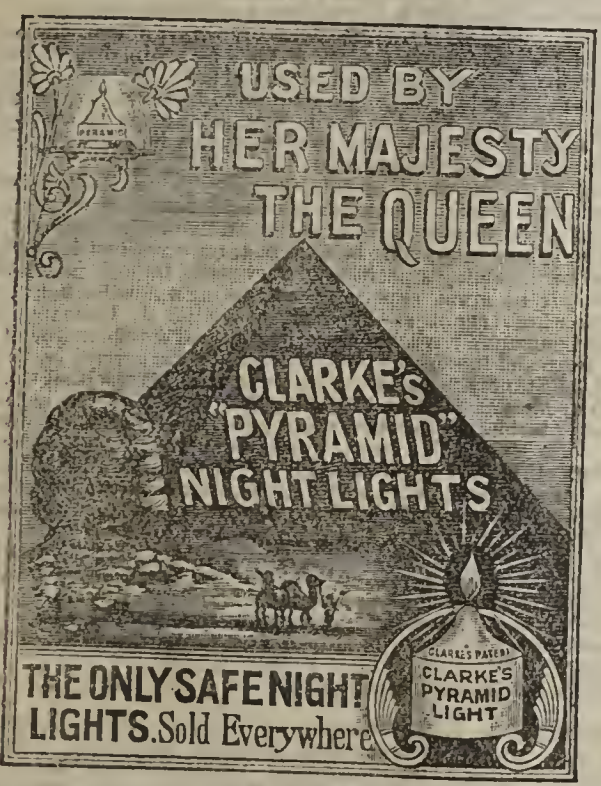

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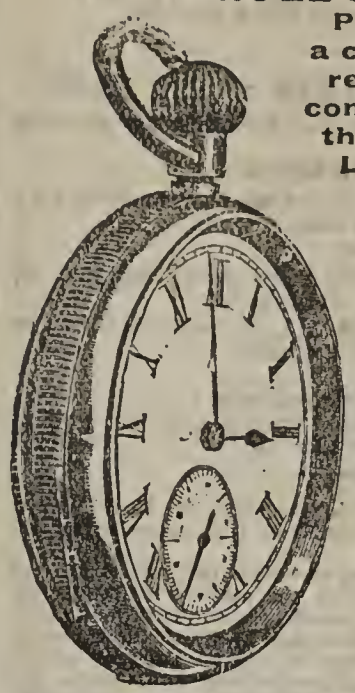

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Simple, Compact, Durable, Speedy. Thoroughly tested for four years, and greatly improved for 1898. Send for Price List and "Notes on the Bantam;" also particulars of the Crypto Safety and other patterns.

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COLEMAN'S WINCARNIS

is a delicious beverage and tonic made from Port Wine, Liebig's Extract of Meat and Extract of Malt.

OVER FIVE THOUSAND

Unsolicited Testimonials have been received from Medical Men.

The following Important Testimonial has been received from Dr. FLETCHER.

Applecross, Rosshire, N.B., July 2nd, 1897.

Dear Sirs,—Please forward quarter of a dozen "Wincarnis" immediately as my patient's supply is about done.

I trust there will be no delay, as he takes no other nourishment, and has been sustained and gained strength by "Wincarnis" for twelve weeks. Yours faithfully, DUNCAN FLETCHER, L.R.C.P.

Sole Proprietors and Manufacturers of the above,

COLEMAN & CO., Ltd.,
NORWICH and LONDON.

Sample Bottle may be had, free of charge, on receipt of full postal address. Sold in Bottles, 2/9 and 4/6.

"The Old Favourite."

MAX GREGER'S CARLOWITZ

SAFEST, SOUNDEST

Dinner Wine.

PURE HUNGARIAN BURGUNDY.

From 15/- per doz.

Of all Wine Merchants and Grocers.

See that every cork bears the brand "Max Greger." Without it the wine is not genuine.

THE CROWBOROUGH DISTRICT WATER COMPANY.

Incorporated by the Crowborough District Water Act, 1897.

ISSUE of 2,364 ORDINARY SHARES of £10 EACH

(balance of the Authorised Share Capital of £30,000), £6,360 having been privately subscribed.

The liability on the Shares is limited.

Under Section 75 of the Waterworks Clauses Act, 1847, the Shares may rank for dividends up to 10 per cent.

Price of Issue, Par.

BANKERS.—Messrs. Barclay & Company, Limited, Union Bank, Brighton, 54, Lombard-street, London, E.C., and Branches.

The LIST will OPEN on THURSDAY, MARCH 17th, and will CLOSE on or before MONDAY, MARCH 21st, 1898.

Payments—On Application 40 per cent.;
Three months after allotment 10 per cent.;
And the balance in calls of not exceeding 20 per cent. at intervals of not less than three months.

The Crowborough District Water Act, 1897, which received the Royal Assent on the 15th day of July, 1897, incorporated the Company and empowered them to construct waterworks, as follows:—

Section 5: The limits of this Act for the supply of water (hereinafter referred to as "the limits of this Act") shall be so much of the parishes of Rotherfield and Withyham, in the County of Sussex, as lies south of a line drawn due west from the point where the main road from Tunbridge Wells to Crowborough enters the Parish of Rotherfield at or near Eridge Green, and so much of the Parish of Buxted in the said County of Sussex, as lies north of a line drawn due west from the point of junction of the boundaries of the Parishes of Rotherfield, Buxted, and Mayfield, at or near Little Forge.

Section 25: Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Company may make and maintain in the lines and situations and according to the levels shown on the deposited plans and sections the waterworks hereinafter described, with all proper and necessary embankments, filtering beds, drains, sluices, catchpits, conduits, culverts, channels, wells, outs, adits, roads, approaches, telegraphs, telephones, and other means of electrical communication, standpipes and hydraulic rams for high-level service, and other apparatus, engines, works, and conveniences connected with the said works, or any of them or incidental hereto, or necessary or convenient for inspecting, maintaining, cleansing, repairing, conducting or managing the same, and may enter upon, take and use such of the lands delineated on the deposited plans, and described in the deposited book of reference, as may be required for that purpose.

Under a contract entered into by the Company on 2nd March, 1898, the construction of the high and low service reservoirs, water tower, and pumping station, and the laying of the necessary mains, all of which are situate in the Parish of Rotherfield, in the County of Sussex, are being proceeded with.

The Company are authorised under their Act to construct an impounding reservoir, with a pumping station and filter beds, to be situate upon or across the stream flowing down from Crowborough to Jarvis Brook, to be formed by a dam or weir across the said stream, situate at a point eight hundred yards or thereabouts, measured in a north-westerly direction, from the bridge carrying the railway from Uckfield to Tunbridge Wells, over the road from Crowborough to Rotherfield, at or near Crowborough Station.

In addition to, or possibly in substitution for, the impounding reservoir above mentioned, use will be made of a good underground supply, which has been already obtained from a well sunk in a most convenient position at Maynard's Gate (on the main road from Crowborough Station to Rotherfield, and with easy access to the railway station) where the pumping station will now be placed.

The well above referred to has been sunk to a depth of over 50 ft., and now yields a quarter of a million gallons of water every twenty-four hours.

The freehold land at present required for the undertaking has been acquired by agreement between the Marquess of Abergavenny and the Company, dated the 30th day of December, 1897.

A copy from the Ordnance Survey is enclosed with the Prospectus, showing the position of the pumping station, Company's Offices, high and low service reservoirs, water-tower, mains, &c., which it is proposed to construct.

Crowborough is situated seven miles south-west of Tunbridge Wells and about nineteen miles from Lewes and twenty-eight miles from Brighton. The station is on the L. B. & S. C. Railway.

Crowborough Beacon, being situated 800 feet above sea level, is very highly recommended by physicians and others as a health resort, the air being particularly dry and bracing. It has the advantage, owing to its elevated position, of possessing some of the most beautiful views in the South of England; in one direction Eastbourne can be seen many miles distant, and various other points of the coast. Then, as to its inland scenery, a view of the heart of Sussex and the whole range of the South Downs right away to Hampshire, and westward along the centre of the Ashdown Forest to the Dorking Hills, is obtained. The locality is not only picturesque, but bears a strong resemblance to Scotland, many of the hills being covered with heather, and is therefore a unique spot considering its short distance from London. The estates in the district are being developed for building purposes; during the last few years many excellent houses have been erected and a first-class water supply is only required to further develop the district, which it is thought by many will become a formidable rival to Tunbridge Wells as a health resort.

As an illustration of the present value of local waterworks investments, it may be mentioned that the £5 Ordinary Shares of the Tonbridge Waterworks Company, Limited, are certified by the Secretary to stand at £11 per share, or a premium of 120 per cent.; while the Secretary of the Cranbrook District Water Company certifies that the £1 Ordinary Shares in that Company have recently changed hands at a premium of from 20 to 25 per cent., and that on a recent issue of Debentures part realised £128 11s. 6d. for each 100 Debentures, or a premium of over 28 per cent.

A Form of Application for Shares is enclosed with the Prospectus. Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and in case of a partial allotment the balance of the deposit will be applied towards the subsequent instalments. If default be made in payment of any instalment at its proper date, the deposit and instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the Company's Offices; or of their Bankers, Messrs. Barclay & Company, Limited, Union Bank, Brighton, Head Office, 54, Lombard-street, E.C., and Branches; or of Messrs. Verrall & Borlase, Solicitors, 4 and 5, New-road, Brighton, at whose office the before-mentioned contract and agreement can be inspected.

Applications for Shares to be made on the form enclosed with the prospectus and forwarded to the Company's Bankers with the amount of deposit.

DIRECTORS.

F. Miller, Esq., Director of the Barton-upon-Humber Water Company and the Cranbrook District Water Company.
E. J. Holmes, Esq., Director of The Cranbrook District Water Company.
S. Dennis, Esq., Director of The Guernsey Waterworks Company, Limited.

BANKERS.—Messrs. Barclay & Company, Limited, Union Bank, Brighton.
SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Verrall & Borlase, 4 and 5, New-road, Brighton.
ENGINEERS.—C. O. Blaber, Esq., C.E., and G. Perryn, Esq., A.M.I.C.E.
ANALYST.—Otto Hehner, Esq., Public Analyst for West Sussex.
COMPANY'S OFFICES.—4, Tokenhouse-buildings, Bank of England, E.C.
WORKS.—Crowborough, Sussex.

March 14th, 1898.

The List of Applications will OPEN on WEDNESDAY, the 16th MARCH, and CLOSE on or before FRIDAY, the 18th MARCH, 1898, for both Town and Country.

UNITED BREWERIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, Ltd.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.)

CAPITAL £150,000, divided into 75,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each (Preferential both as to Capital and Dividend), and 75,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each. The Purchase Price payable to the Vendor Company is £105,000, in part satisfaction of which 10,000 Preference Shares and 18,333 Ordinary Shares will be allotted to them as fully paid.

65,000 Six per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares and 36,667 Ordinary Shares are offered for Subscription at par, payable:—2s. 6d. per Share on Application, 7s. 6d. on Allotment, 5s. One Month after Allotment, and the balance Two Months after Allotment. The Interest on the Preference Shares will be payable half-yearly, on the 1st of March and 1st of September, the first half-year's dividend being payable on the 1st September next. This Issue will provide £25,000 beyond the above-mentioned Purchase Price. 20,000 Ordinary Shares will be reserved for future issue for providing additional Working Capital.

DIRECTORS.—W. F. Morgan (Bakers, White, & Morgan, Hop Merchants), London Bridge, S.E., Chairman; T. O. Pugh (Managing Director, the Kingsbury (St. Albans) Brewery Co., Ltd).; G. P. D. Kinahan (Director, Kinahan & Co., Ltd.), London and Dublin; John Welch (Chairman, Welch & Sons, Ltd.), London and Luton; A. E. Barton, 195A, Winchester House, E.C.

LOCAL DIRECTORS IN AUSTRALIA.—W. Strickland, Senior (Managing Director, Port Brewery Co., Ltd.); A. J. Diamond (Messrs. Diamond & Son), Fremantle.

BANKERS.—The City Bank, Limited, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
The Bank of Australasia, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.

SOLICITORS.—Burn & Berridge, 11, Old Broad-street, E.C.

BROKERS.—Aylward Bros., 120, Bishopsgate-street Within, and Stock Exchange, E.C.; Dean Swift & Co., 18, Old Broad-street, and Stock Exchange, E.C.

AUDITORS.—London: Ford, Rhodes, & Ford, 81, Cannon-street, E.C.
Western Australia: Ford, Rhodes, Ford, & Co., Perth.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.

A. V. J. Fellowes, 195a, Winchester House, Old Broad-street, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring as going concerns the two important brewery businesses in Western Australia, carried on respectively by the Stanley Brewery Company, Limited, Perth, and the Port Brewery Company, Limited, Fremantle, and it is intended to further develop and extend the same by the erection and equipment, on an extensive scale, of a Lager Beer Brewery.

THE STANLEY BREWERY COMPANY, LIMITED.

This business, together with its assets and liabilities, will be taken over as a going concern as from the 12th November, 1897.

An independent valuation has been made at the request of the Westralia Industries, Limited, by Mr. B. C. Wood, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Valuer for the Australian Mutual Provident Society, the Perth City Council, and for the principal Banks and Insurance Companies of that city. His report is as follows:— Western Australia, 501, Hay-street, Perth, 16th Dec., 1897.

STANLEY BREWERY COMPANY, LIMITED.

The particulars referred to in this Valuation consist of Freeholds, Leaseholds, and Rights to supply various Hotels in Western Australia by the above Company.

My estimate of value of the Stanley Brewery Company's, Limited, assets, as contained in the foregoing particulars, is Sixty Thousand Two Hundred Pounds sterling. (Signed) B. C. WOOD, Valuer.

The other Assets (not included in the above valuation) comprising Book Debts, Bills Receivable, &c., amount to about ...	£14,550	0	0
Profits from 13th November, 1897, which to 31st January, 1898, are certified by Messrs. Ford, Rhodes, Ford, & Co. (Accountants), to amount to	1,576	0	0
	£16,126	0	0

THE PORT BREWERY COMPANY, LTD.

This business will be taken over as a going concern as from the 1st Feb., 1898.

The Brewery occupies a site consisting of two Blocks, having frontages to Beach-street and Cantonment-road, Fremantle, and very near to East Fremantle Station. This property is the Company's Freehold.

The business of the Company is an important and increasing one.

The Brewery and Properties of the Port Brewery Company have also been similiarly independently valued by Mr. B. C. Wood, who has transmitted per cable his valuation as amounting to the sum of £22,300. Subsequent advices increase the total to about £24,200. The Assets to be taken over include Loans on Mortgages, Book-debts, Stock-in-Trade, &c., amounting to about £9,900.

Goodwill of the free trade of the two Breweries has not been taken into account by Mr. Wood in his valuations.

The properties to be acquired by this Company being situated in Perth, the seat of Government and most populous commercial centre of Western Australia, and in Fremantle, the nearest seaport (only twelve miles distant by rail from the capital), will, it may reasonably be assumed, improve considerably in value.

Fremantle is now attaining a position of very great importance in the Colony. The Government is, at great expense, constructing a new harbour; the North German Lloyd (whose agent at Fremantle, Mr. A. J. Diamond, is a Local Director of this Company), have made it a port-of-call for their line of steamers, and there is a large and increasing inter-Colonial traffic carried on there.

The books of the Stanley Brewery Co., Ltd., and the Port Brewery Co., Ltd., have been examined by Messrs. FORD, RHODES, FORD & CO., Accountants, Perth, W.A., who have furnished through their London house the following certificate:— 81, Cannon-street, London, E.C., 12th March, 1898.

To the Directors, UNITED BREWERIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, LTD.

Gentlemen,—In accordance with instructions, we have examined the books of the Stanley Brewery Company, Ltd., Perth, for two years and two months, and of the Port Brewery Company, Ltd., Fremantle, for two years, and after providing for depreciation and bad debts, Directors' remuneration and expenses of management, but not for interest on loans, we find the profits to be as under:—

STANLEY BREWERY COMPANY, LTD., PERTH. For two years and two months, averaging for two years to November 30th, 1897	£11,510	14	7
PORT BREWERY COMPANY, LTD., FREMANTLE. For two years ended 31st January, 1898	9,360	0	0
Averaging £10,435 7s. 3d. per annum.	£20,870	14	7

The profits of the Stanley Brewery from the 12th November, 1897 (the date from which your Company, we understand, will take over the business), to Jan. 31st, 1898, amount to £1,576. (Signed) FORD, RHODES, FORD, & CO.

The combined profits as per above Certificate have amounted to, per annum, £10,435 7s. 3d.; To pay the interest on the 75,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares will require £4,500; leaving a balance of £5,935 7s. 3d., over 10 per cent. on the present issue of 55,000 Ordinary Shares.

FUTURE PROFITS.—The point to which the Directors attach the greatest importance as bearing upon the future of the Company is the proposed

"LAGER BEER BREWERY,"

the produce of which will undoubtedly sell at a much higher price than any other beer at present brewed in the Colony, and which it is believed will procure for this Company a command of the trade throughout the Colony, to an extent scarcely attainable by any other means. No brewery has yet been established in Western Australia to supply the demand for the lighter German kinds of beer known as "Lager." All such beers sold in the Colony are imported, heavy duties being levied upon their importation, viz., 1s. 6d. per gallon in bottle and 1s. 3d. per gallon in cask. When it is remembered that to these duties and the brewer's price the cost of freight and transport, besides numerous intermediate profits, must be added before the article reaches the consumer, it will be apparent that brewing the beer in the Colony, as proposed, offers prospects of a highly remunerative nature. It is intended that the erection of the new Brewery (a plan for which has already been prepared) shall at once be proceeded with, and equipped with machinery and appliances of the latest construction. The Directors do not deem it expedient in the interests of the Company's business to state publicly the estimated revenue to be derived from the brewing of Lager Beer, but assuming the sale to be equal to only 5,000 gallons per week, the profits from this source should be more than sufficient to double the sum at present available for the Ordinary Shares. Prospectuses and Forms of Application for Shares may be obtained of the Bankers, Solicitors, Brokers, and Auditors, and at the Offices of the Company. London, March 15th, 1898.

THE SUBSCRIPTION LIST for both Debentures and Shares opens to-day WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16th, and will close on or before FRIDAY, MARCH 18th, at Four o'clock, for both Town and Country.

No Promotion Money has been or will be paid by the Company.

None of the Debentures or Shares have been or will be underwritten.

STANLEY GIBBONS, Limited.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893, whereby the Liability of Shareholders is limited to the amount of their Shares.

SHARE CAPITAL AND DEBENTURES:

75,000 Shares of £1 each	£75,000
900 5 per cent. First Debentures of £50 each	£45,000
	£120,000

Of which shares the Vendors will take £25,000, the maximum proportion of the Shares allowed under the Rules of the Stock Exchange, and also £13,000 of the Debentures.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE INVITED FOR

50,000 Shares of £1 each	£50,000
and	
640 First Debentures of £50 each	£32,000
	£82,000

The Debentures, which are offered at par, will be redeemed by annual drawings of not less than £1,000 per annum, commencing on June 30th, 1901, at Five Pounds per cent. premium, and six months' notice thereof will be given to the holders of the Debentures drawn previous to payment. On any reconstruction or amalgamation with any other Company the Debentures shall not be redeemable except at the same premium.

The Debentures will bear interest from the date of allotment up to the 1st day of July, 1898, and afterwards the interest will be payable half-yearly on the 1st day of January and 1st day of July in each year. The Debentures will constitute a first floating charge upon the whole of the present and future property undertaking and assets of the Company.

PAYMENTS.

SHARES.		FIRST DEBENTURES.	
On Application ...	2s. 6d. per Share.	On Application	£10 per £50
On Allotment ...	7s. 6d. ,,	On Allotment...	£40 per £50
One month after Allotment	10s. ,,		

DIRECTORS.

Marcellus Purnell Castle, J.P., Kingston Lodge, Brighton, Chairman.
Charles James Phillips, Amyand House, Twickenham, Managing Director.
Major Edward Benjamin Evans, late R.A., Glenarm, Sydenham, S.E.
Gordon Smith, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, 61, Royal Hill, Greenwich.
William Henry Phillips, 73, Tollington-park, London, N., Assistant Managing Director.
Robert Ehrenbach, Brook House, Addlestone, Surrey.

SECRETARY *(pro tem.)*.—W. Percy Barnsdall.

BANKERS.—Lloyds Bank, Limited, 72, Lombard-street, E.C.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Gush, Phillips, Walters, & Williams, 3, Finsbury-circus, E.C.

BROKERS.—Messrs. E. O. Lloyd & Hardy, 7, Finch-lane, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Mackintosh & Ridsdale, Chartered Accountants, Colmore-row, Birmingham.

REGISTERED OFFICES.—391, Strand, London.

PROSPECTUS.

The Company has been formed to acquire, continue, and extend the well-known business of Stanley Gibbons, Limited, Foreign Stamp Dealers and Publishers. The business was founded in or about the year 1856 by Mr. Edward Stanley Gibbons, and is believed to be the oldest in the trade. Mr. Edward Stanley Gibbons carried it on alone until the year 1890, when he retired from the business.

In August, 1890, the business was purchased by a private limited Company, and since that date it has, under the management of Mr. C. J. Phillips, the Managing Director (with Mr. W. H. Phillips as his assistant), been most successfully carried on. The sales during the last seven years have been marvellously increased—in fact, they have trebled—as will be seen from the figures set forth below, which are taken from the books of that Company.

In addition to their business of Dealers in Postage Stamps, which extends throughout the civilised world, Stanley Gibbons, Limited, are very extensive Publishers of Albums, Catalogues, and Handbooks. The sales for the last few years in this branch have approximated to 60,000 Volumes per annum. Their Price Lists are the standard Price Lists of the World. Their Trade Journal, published monthly by subscription, under the title of *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*, has a very large circulation—larger, it is believed, than any similar journal. They have keen and energetic Agents in almost every civilised country, who are continually extending and increasing the connection in both branches of the business.

Stanley Gibbons, Limited, have secured the highest possible Awards at all the various Exhibitions where their publications have been shown, amongst the most recent which they have obtained being:—

A Gold Medal at Paris, 1892.
A Gold Medal at the World's Fair, Chicago, 1893.
A Gold Medal at Geneva, 1896.
Three highest possible Awards at the London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

The immense growth of the business may be gathered from the following figures as to the Cash Receipts, which, for the past seven years to the 30th June, 1897, have been, as shown by the books of the business, as follows, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Year ending June 30th, 1891	16,605	14	5
,, ,, 1892	17,740	3	7
,, ,, 1893	22,582	13	1
,, ,, 1894	27,166	10	2
,, ,, 1895	44,044	15	8
,, ,, 1896	45,955	4	10
,, ,, 1897	50,600	11	8

The Accounts show that the Sales effected during the six months ending the 31st December, 1897, have exceeded the Sales made in the corresponding period of the previous year.

The books have been regularly audited since 1890 by Messrs. Mackintosh & Ridsdale, Chartered Accountants, of Colmore-row, Birmingham, whose Certificate as to the net profits is as follows, viz.:—

To the Directors of Stanley Gibbons, Limited (New Company).

9th March, 1898.

Gentlemen,—We have examined the Accounts of Stanley Gibbons, Limited, and beg to certify that the books have been well kept and regularly audited by us for the past seven years, and that the net profits of the last three years, ending 30th June, 1897, have averaged at the rate of £11,399 10s. 8d. per annum. These profits, as ascertained by our examination of the Books, are arrived at after making due provision for depreciation, but without charging Interest on Capital, or Directors' remuneration.

We are, Gentlemen, yours truly,
MACKINTOSH & RIDSDALE.

On the basis of the average profits certified by the Accountants of £11,399 per annum, there will be available for Dividends—

5 per cent. on £45,000 Debentures	£2,250
10 per cent. on £75,000 Shares	7,500
	£9,750
Leaving for Directors' remuneration, Reserve, and further Dividend	1,649
	£11,399

This, however, is without making any allowance for the extra profits which may be expected to accrue from the expansion of the business consequent on the increase of working Capital provided for out of this issue, and the many sources of profit which, as hereafter stated, can be developed by its use.

The purchase price has been fixed by the Vendors at £102,000 payable as to £64,000 in cash, as to £13,000 in Debentures, and as to £25,000 in Shares.

The Assets which will be acquired by the Company comprise—

(1) The Stock-in-Trade, Fixtures, Fittings, and Furniture which stood in the Vendors' Books at 30th June, 1897, at the sum of £70,159 15s. 3d. The Stock-in-Trade includes Rare, Medium, and Common Used and Unused Postage and Fiscal Stamps, Post Cards, Envelopes, Albums, Catalogues, Handbooks, Unprinted Paper, Blocks for Illustrations (over 15,000), and Printer's Type.

(2) The Book Debts, which at 30th June, 1897, amounted to £7,854 13s. 8d., and are guaranteed by the Vendors to realise that sum.

(3) The Profits accrued since June 30th, 1897, less interest to Vendors on Purchase Money at 4 per cent. per annum.

(4) The valuable Leasehold Premises, 391, Strand, London, as now occupied by the Vendors, and held for a term of 35 years from 25th December, 1892, at the yearly rent of £600, until the 25th December, 1913, and thereafter of £650 per annum. Over £2,300 has been expended since 1893 in alterations and extensions of these premises.

(5) The valuable Goodwill of the business, and the numerous and valuable Copyrights.

Having regard to the importance and value of the Stock, the Directors deem it right to state that in their opinion the basis on which the valuation of it by the Vendors, at the 30th June, 1897, was arrived at is extremely fair and moderate, the discounts off selling value as to Retail Stock and off trade price as to Wholesale Stock ranging from 40 per cent. to as much as 75 per cent., while Publications, Albums, Catalogues, Handbooks, and unprinted paper have been taken at absolute cost price (no stock of obsolete publications having been taken into account), and Printers' Type, Blocks for illustration, &c., have been taken at cost price, less a large depreciation allowed for wear and tear.

The Directors have thought it advisable to obtain an independent valuation of the Stock-in-Trade to be acquired by the Company (which has not been increased by any abnormal purchases since the 30th June, 1897) and accordingly they have instructed Messrs. Ventom, Bull, & Cooper, the well-known Valuers, to make a valuation of it at the 1st of January, 1898, and the following is a copy of Messrs. Ventom, Bull, & Cooper's valuation:—

To the Directors of Stanley Gibbons, Limited (New Company).

35, Old Jewry, London, E.C., 9th March, 1898.

Dear Sirs,—We have surveyed the Leasehold Premises, No. 391, Strand, at which the business of Stanley Gibbons, Limited, Stamp Importers, Dealers, and Philatelic Publishers, is now carried on, and have also made a detailed valuation of the Stock-in-Trade, Fixtures, Fittings, and Effects.

The Stock of Stamps is an exceptionally large one, and comprises the rarities, medium and common stamps of every country, used and unused, together with a very large quantity of Envelopes, Post Cards, and Wrappers. In addition there is an important Stock of Philatelic Publications and Accessories.

We value the Lease, Fixtures, Fittings, and Effects, and Stock-in-Trade, as a going concern, at the sum of Ninety thousand, six hundred and thirty-eight pounds (£90,638), divided as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Lease, Fixtures, Fittings, and Effects	3,237	16	0
Stock of Stamps on hand	69,691	13	0
Stamps in Books out on approval	12,416	14	0
(These have not been seen, but are estimated on the basis of similar books.)			
Publications and Accessories at 391, Strand, and Unbound Publications, Type, Blocks, and Unprinted Paper at the Printers' and elsewhere, taken at cost price...	5,292	10	0
	£90,638	13	0

The packets and sets of stamps, common approval sheets, and loose used stamps, post cards, envelopes, and wrappers, of which there is a large and valuable stock, are purposely excluded from this valuation, as it was not possible to value same within the time at our disposal.

Yours faithfully, VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER.

The Directors are satisfied that the Stock (which has been very largely and judiciously increased by the Vendors during the past seven years out of their profits) is ample for the present requirements of the Company, but they have provided out of the present subscription for £18,000 as additional working Cash Capital to enable them to more fully develop different branches of the business, such as the Importation and Wholesale Sale of New Issues of Postage Stamps, &c.; the Purchase and Sale of Large Collections for Cash; and the Publication of several new and much-wanted Stamp Albums, Books, &c.—branches which they are assured can be largely developed by the judicious use of such further capital so as to yield larger profits—and also to extend the business in other directions of a remunerative character which they have in view, but which it would be inadvisable to make prematurely public.

The Vendors will bear and discharge all Liabilities which existed on 30th June, 1897. These include Debentures for £25,500 and a Loan of £4,000, mainly incurred in respect of the original purchase of the business and assets from Mr. E. Stanley Gibbons, and of the purchase of two large Private Collections of Stamps. This Loan and the Debentures (the payment of which latter is spread over a series of years, but with power to the Vendors to pay off at any time) will be wholly paid off out of the cash purchase money.

The business will be taken over as a going concern as from 30th June, 1897, and the Company will take all profits from that date, allowing the Vendors interest on the purchase money to the date of completion at 4 per cent. per annum.

The Rare Stamps, Collections, Stock Books, and best Reserve Stocks are kept in Fire-proof Strong Room and Safes. All other Stocks, both at 391, Strand, and at the printers', are kept fully insured against fire.

It will be seen that the Company have secured the services of Mr. M. P. Castle (whose knowledge and experience in Stamp matters is universally recognised) as Chairman, while the present Managing Director, Mr. Charles J. Phillips, and Assistant Managing Director, Mr. Wm. H. Phillips, will by agreement continue to act as Managing Director and Assistant Managing Director, respectively, for at least five years.

Major Evans and Mr. Gordon Smith, and all the present principal Assistants have also expressed their willingness to continue their services to the Company.

The following Contracts have been entered into, viz.:—

(1) Agreement dated the eighth day of March, 1898, between the old Company and Charles James Phillips, as the Liquidator thereof, of the one part, and John Kemp, as Trustee for the new Company, of the other part.

(2) Agreement dated the ninth day of March, 1898, between the new Company, of the one part, and Charles James Phillips, of the other part.

(3) Agreement dated the ninth day of March, 1898, between the new Company, of the one part, and William Henry Phillips, of the other part.

These, with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and Accountants' Certificate, and a specimen of the Form of Debenture can be seen at the Offices of the Company's Solicitors.

The above Contracts are, so far as the Directors are advised, the only contracts which could come within the meaning of the 38th section of the Companies Act, 1867, but in case any of the Trading Contracts can be construed to do so, applicants for Shares must (as it is not in the interests of the Company to specify such Contracts here) be deemed to have had notice of, and to have waived their right to, the publication of any particulars as to them.

The Vendors will pay all expenses of every kind in connection with the formation and registration of the Company, up to and including the first allotment of Shares, and of the vesting in the Company of the property agreed to be sold.

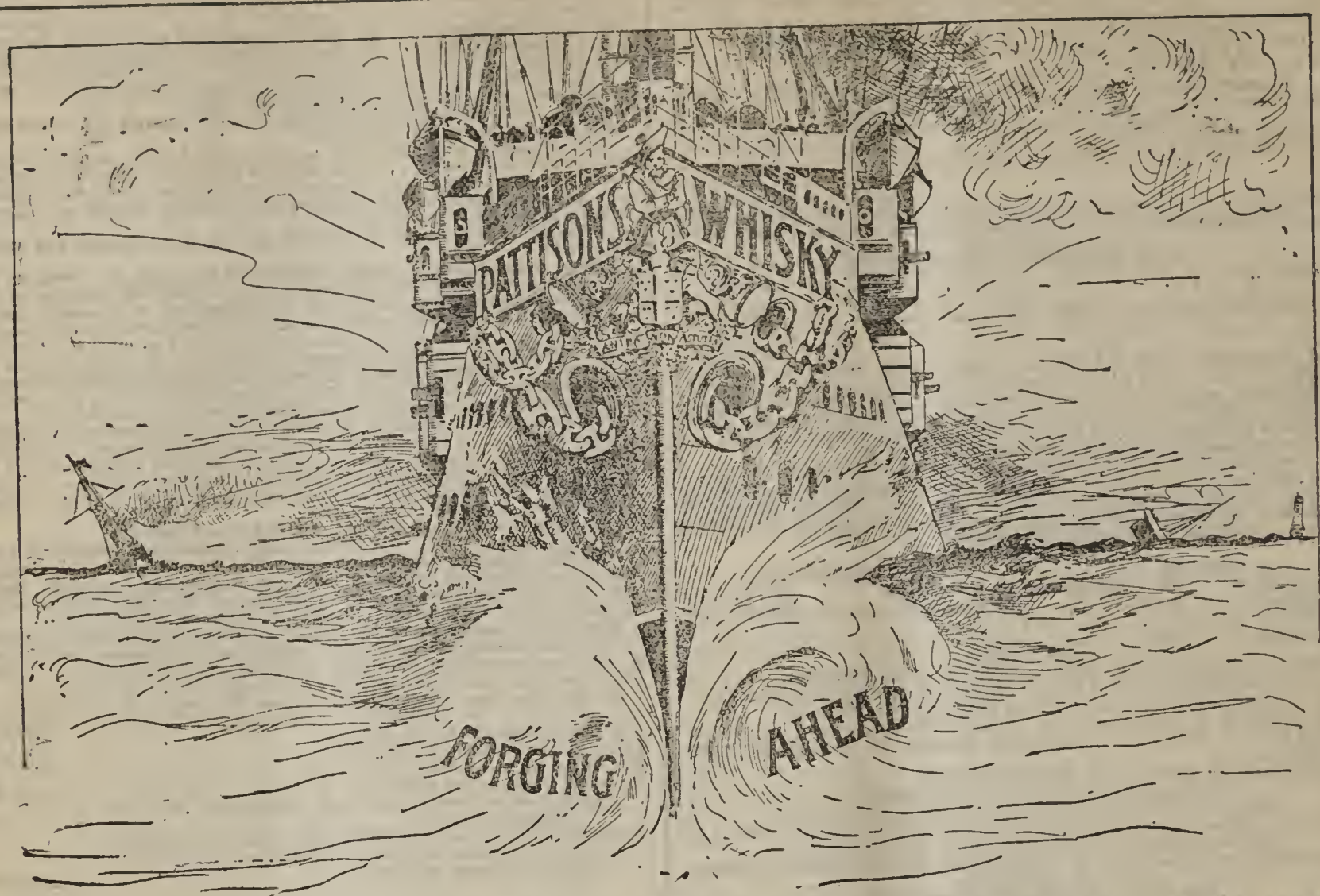
A Stock Exchange Official Quotation will be applied for in due course as to both Debentures and Shares.

Applications for Debentures and Shares should be made on the Forms accompanying the Prospectus, and forwarded to the Bankers or their Branches with remittances for the amount of the Deposit.

If no allotment is made, the Deposit will be returned in full; and where the amount of Debentures or number of Shares allotted is less than that applied for, the balance will be applied towards the amount due on allotment, and any excess will be returned to the applicant. Failure to pay the amount due on allotment in respect of any Debenture will render the amount paid on application liable to be forfeited.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained at the Registered Offices of the Company, and from the Bankers and their Branches, the Auditors, the Brokers, and the Solicitors.

London, 10th March, 1898.



Pattisons' Whisky, like a British Ironclad, is at home in all "Waters."

Ask for { **"PATTISONS'"** and Schweppe. **"PATTISONS'"** and Soda.

"PATTISONS'" and Apollinaris. **"PATTISONS'"** and St. Ronans.

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MODÈLE DE LUXE

(Registered Trade Mark)

CYCLES

IMPORTANT NOVELTIES FOR 1898.

1898 Lists Free.

SINGER CYCLE CO. LTD. COVENTRY
LONDON: 17, HOLBORN VIADUCT.

IF YOU COUGH USE . .

GERAUDEL'S PASTILLES.

Let your lungs be filled with the vapour of Norwegian Pine Tar, which they give off whilst dissolving in the mouth. The efficacy of Pine Tar in all affections of the Throat and Lungs is well known; the best mode of applying it is by inhalation, and the mouth makes the best inhaler.

ALL CHEMISTS SELL THEM.

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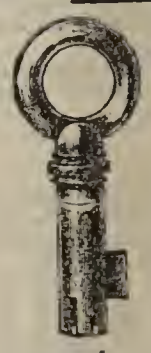

Can be made to open any number of Locks. Many Ladies and Gentlemen have the whole of their locks so arranged that **a MASTER KEY,** so small as to be worn in a finger-ring or locket, will open every lock they possess—from their Dressing Bags, Trunks, Jewel Cases, Despatch Boxes, &c., to the Front Door, Wine Cellar, Park Gates, &c. **Just think of the Convenience!** The locks are made in suites, each suite with its own key, so that the ladies' maid or valet can open the luggage, the butler the wine cellar, and so on, but the suite keys are of no use for any but their own series.

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Specialities in fitted Suite Cases and Dressing Bags, Jewel Cases, Despatch and Deed Boxes, Bramah Street Door Latches, with small keys, Bramah Padlocks for Bicycles, with Leather-covered Chains, &c. &c.

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Sole Manufacturers of the real Bramah Locks.

100, NEW BOND STREET,
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A Master Key Signet Ring (Open).

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 994.—STANZA CONTAINING THE WORD "CHINAMAN."

Vox (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 993.

There will be a chance, I think, of printing some more "Trilby" verses next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 995.

It will have been seen that an exceptionally large number of competitors essayed to complete the two stanzas published in a skeleton form in this page on February 17. No competitor succeeded in supplying the exact words of the original; and no two competitors, I may say, sent in an identical version. The competitor who came nearest to the original was CRERAN, whose verses run as below:—

Down by the tide her name I traced
Upon the smooth, white sand;
The waves in jealous tumult raced,
And kissed it from the strand.

I breathed it to the evening breeze
That wooed the moonlit sea;
And lo! at dawn the wind-tossed trees
Whispered it back to me.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 999.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week to the competitor who proves most successful

IN COMPLETING THE FIRST FIFTY OF THE SENTENCES PRINTED BELOW.

It should be understood that the addition of some one particular vowel will make sense of the combinations of consonants which are printed as "Specimens" this week. In different sentences the vowel to be added also differs, but only a, e, i, o, or u must be added throughout any one of the given sentences. All Lists of the Fifty Sentences must reach me by the morning of Monday, March 28, at the latest. In the possible case of more than one competitor proving equally successful in completing all the sentences correctly, the weekly Prize would be divided amongst those who thus tied. I would add that, in spite of the careful "reading" the combinations of letters have received, it is quite possible that errors may have crept in.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of COMMA, winner of Prize No. 990, is Miss Ellen Fitz Gibbon, 10, Merrion-square, Dublin.

LUSS.—I find that the stanzas of which you write were duly received from you. The failure to acknowledge them last week was the consequence of an oversight, which I regret.

O. B. C.—Your inference is obviously correct.

W. B. W.—Many thanks for your letter. I am afraid, however, that your suggestion is one I cannot undertake to carry out. Even if there were many to be found able to compile such a list as you propose, I doubt my own ability to accurately appraise the relative value of such lists when the time came to award the prize.

LUDWIG B.—The Editor has caused inquiries to be made into the competition about which you wrote, and, from what he has heard, it would seem to be a bonâ fide one.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 996.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

COMBINATIONS OF CONSONANTS WHICH CAN BE READ AS SENTENCES BY THE ADDITION OF A VOWEL.

*** It should be understood that the vowel which has to be added differs in many of the sentences—"a" being the absent one in some cases, "e" in others, "i" in others, and so on.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

1. H l f m d n d l l g h s t s m l l h g g r d v g r n t l d h r d p g n r g c l d r b b r t t r m p s f s t n d f r p s t g s l m p s b n k n d t l l b r r c k s p s t s p h l t p t h s n d t r m s s t r t s t l l p l c r d s s t b l c k p h n t s m s t h t l r m p s t d r k v c n t b r n s l g g r d f r m h n d s m r l c r t s n d c r v n n d s n s t r l b l m c h r m s b r n c h n d c r g h l t s t l s t t d m p r n k g r s s p t c h g r s p s n d b s t r c t s n s h s t f f t h n d n d h z r d p s t n d m n s t r c k s f r b c k f l l s s l n t c n v s b g t h t r n k s s k n p s c k n d h t h t c l l l l c n n s f r g r n t l n d s g r n t n d l m b s t g r s s s f t s r s c l s.—Dombey.

2. T w s t r n g t r p s f l r d j h n h d s c r p s t l d f f f r p n t n w r k g t m r r w n s i p g l w w r m f r m p r t f l n d n t n r t h c n c b t s k t—Whig.

3. N v r h d t h s c r d l s s m n
S y k p t h t n t s t n
F d t h w r t c h d t n d t h m k
V r y w h r t h h l p l s s s k
T l l t h m t h r s t h n d l s s r s t
W h r t h y l l t h n b v r b l s t
Union Jack.

4. N t r t h f l h m b g s p l c k t r s t f l g l l s b t l s t s c h h m b g s t r t h h n t s p.—Woodlands.

5. S p r n g s n g h b r d s w l l s n g w l d p p n g r l l s w h l s t c r c l n g n f r s t f l g h t s w t h t n d w n g s.—Bel Demonio.

6. When that eminent archæologist and investigator of ancient ruins, Herr Pr. Gröbemungern, met his death at the hands of the savages of Central Asia, it is not generally known that his regretted demise prevented the definite solution of the much-vexed question of the exact position of Paradise. The last entry in his pocket-book runs as follows:—Copy of inscription found to-day on a granite rock. Note.—Must be at least 5,000 years old.

V n h r v h l d h r l v r v r t h s r p n t n t r d d n

Archæologists who have scrutinised this pocket-book have come to the unanimous conclusion that this inscription bears but one—and that a simple interpretation. What is it?

7. B v r g n t l s w t t m p r d m k p r s r v p r f c s l f s t m b n v r h d l s s k p y t h s p r c p t s.—Special Bee.

8. L d d c t r s w h g f r t h t l k r w r k f r g l d r s c l d f l s w h d n t c r s s l c h s r p l s r f l d s t r k f r f d d g d w r k.—Islay.

9. M s t x f r d d n s r t h d x r n t l k t c l m b r n g k n g f r c m f r t n t t p r t s f t l r s c r t n h k r g d l d s c t c h t h c m m n r m s h l d s t c k f r m p r t r f r m b n d f l n d n d c k s.—Orlando.

10. W l l f d r c t r s p l n d n t g n t l m n s g n t m n t h m s l v s d p c l v r s c h m r s r f l c t f f r s c n t g r d w h n n d l s s s p l n n t r s t h m w n v r m r p n c t n d r d t h m r p r s n t w l l b r s w t t m p r d y t d b t f t t r d m n s m k p r s n s.—La Plata.

11. T h t l s t f g h n b r w l w s s d s c n d i g l l n b r h m n t k n d h r b r r c k s s w t l l d r k r s c n t c h b r b n d c r w l h i f p s t h r b c n n d s m n t h t h d c s t b n n s p l l m l l t p g n c r v.—Ukdoo.

12. P t m d j c k t r h n n h t l l f r m l s s h l f d f t n g l d n d n s s n d c r t s h l l l l d s h f s t t f r t b r c l l h l t s t c k r m s p s s b d n n s s t n d p r t n d h w k f t l m b c r b s y m s l t b n n s n d r t t r p s s d p l n t.—Scarp.

13. T h r c k l s s d t s t d f r n c h j w r s n t s t h s v r s n t n c h n v r d s r v d.—Polar Bear.

14. S p d w l l l c t d m m b r s n v r r c d n v r b d t r r d f f c t n d d b t t r m n t.—Kinbaun.

15. W h n t h s v n c h r l s s s l p r s v r s t m d f b l f l t r s t d t h y n v r t h l s s x r t d t h m s l v s t h n t h y s l p t y t t h r w k s.—Corkscrew.

16. T b r d f r m m r n t m r r w t d r p f r m f r s t s f s c r n s h w s n g d w n f r m s r r w s m s t h l y c r w n f t h r n.—Pauvre Femme.

17. G r c r g r t s t h r c n t s n s l s s d d r l n t l s s m n f f c t d n v r t h l s h r r g n t v r c l m n t s t s n t n c s t h n f r s t h m.—Oxoniensis.

18. M n w n t s l l t h t m n c n g r s p n d w n t s t h t l l s g r n t t h t s h l l l s t.—Excelsior.

19. T h x m p r s s n v r n g l c t d t h f r n c h v n w h n t h m n d s r t d h r.—Squat.

20. H r t h r w h r v r t h s t t l r n t r s t h r l n t l s s l m n t g r d s m s v r p r s n t.—Marpiot.

21. C h p t h v n t h s c t c l l t h t t t r c t s c t s t d r k n d l r m s l l r t s n d b t s f r w y s t n d r d.—Singer.

22. W h n b t t r g t h r f r s h g g s t n d r g r n s d p r d b f b s t b r n v r h d l n t l t h r s l p.—Carima.

23. T h n r k n w n r t h f l r d r l w b r n r t h d x r n t h l d s g d n w f r l n d n f l k.—Wild Thyme.

24. S w t s l p w h n m n s y s n d r s t v r r n w s t h n r g y r c k l s s l y x p n d d.—Poofy.

25. R t h l b r t f f c t d t h n d d r t r n c h m n t t h p r v r s r v r n d b r t h r n r j c t d t h s c h m.—Pemmie.

26. T h t s m r t c h p t c h t h m b r r c k s h s f t l p i n t h t c n t l s t p p l l l p c h s.—Natacha.

27. L l n n s w t l l h b d n d m d r s w s b l n k w l l n d n r c h w y.—Pseudonym.

28.—B r h m n d s r h s t t n l t r n d s n g g r n d c n t t.—Fury.

29.—H g h m r m r s h s h s h t p s c h c r s t h b b b m c h h r t s s.—Woodhurst.

30. W h n w f i d c m b r s b r z t h n t h w r t c h d m t r s f r z.—Beaumont.

31. W h n p r s s s b t p n c x t r m s m t.—Surplice.

32. F s m l n g s w n n n g g r n n n g s s n n n g.—Cassock.

33. T h t h r f r n c h v r s s w r v r y w l l r n d r d.—8*nt*nc*.

34. T h s t h n g s r g h t s t f f w s h m g h t w t h s k l l w n r c h p c k n g s n t.—Mercutio.

35. S t r l p r l l x c n h r s s c n t b s s s m r t s d m s w s.—Erica.

36. T h w r t v s t s h r p s s c r v n s f r p r t.—Mos.

37. F r i n g m n t h s c l c l n y b s s s t d m s t f x y l d m s b y c t t f g l d m o n p l y t w n.—Quilp.

38. N t h s c h l l w n d t h n s h r t s w l l b r n g p h t h s s.—Kelt.

39. R w x p c t d t h f b l x m p r s s n t r d h r x c l l n t n w s t t l m n t s.—Beginner.

40. G r c d f n d d h r s l f v n w h n s h m t n d l s s r v r s s.—Castle Corner.

41. T h r v r n d g n t w h r v r h w n t s m d v d p r s s d w h n t h r p n c h s p n t.—Selah.

42. W h n v r p l r s n t r p r s d m s n s t h y d m t h m s l v s b l s s d.—N. C. N.

43. P r s v r v r y t n v r l t g r d x c d t h n d. — One Hand.

44. P r s v r v p r f c t m n v r k p t h s p r c p t s t n.—North Pole.

45. T h s c n t d b r z r f r s h d t h t r s t h g n t l d w h r j w l s t h r w.—Felicité.

46. P r s v r y p r f c t m n v r k p t h s p r c p t s t n.—Fife Rabbit.

47. R s t l s s f r n c h r v r s t h s n t n c.—Louise.

48. C l v r m n d s r v p r c d n c w n d r m m b r s t m v n r v r n c t h m.—Pearl.

49. R g h t t h n k n g m n d s f n d b l s s n g v n g t s s g n c h r s t s s p r t s t l l s l v n g.—Elk.

50. W l i f d m n n v r s l p w l l g r d k p s t h m r s t l s s.—Expectant.

51. T r c s s n d r h l l t t n p r s h t t l v s s l d h.—Mops.

52. W t h n t h s s t l l f m p s n s p r n g g r n w l d s t l l l c t r s h g n.—Touch.

53. T l h m b r s g r n d h l l b r s s b n d h d c l l.—Wim.

54. T h b s t m n v r r v r x c l l n t d d s.—Svinok.

55. L s t h t s s p s m m d r m p u t w r c l s s r m s n d t t c k s s v n t s m r t g r n d m n c t t h t l r m s l l r n k s.—Esperanza.

56. T h t f r w y l n d l s k t t r c t s m n y r s h m n.—Heathfield.

57. L v n g s g r t d t h l r d w h n h n t r d t h g r n.—Anselm.

58. W k p r s r v d t h z w h l z s s w t t m p r d t n d r y d s s l k w l l f d s t d s.—Kulo.

59. W h n g n t l n s s c h r s t h d p r s s d s h d s r v s r s p c t.—Ainsi Quasi.

60. G n t l m n v r y w k t h n d l s s c r t r f r n c s s m s t r b l d.—Peg.

61. T r t h h m b l y s h t s p n j s t m r m r s.—Luss.

62. V r r d w h n t h s r p n t n t r d d n.—Wyalong.

63. W h r v r f r n c h m n m t d m n t d s c n s x p c t.—Pump

64. P r s v r y p r f c t m n v r k p t h s p r c p t s t n.—Gringoire.

65. R v t h g n t s h p s l p t x c p t t h w r t c h d n w w.—Celandine.

66. T h p r s s d m s t h f r n c h s n t n c x t r m p y s v r.—The Hen.

67. T h r c h t f r n c h s n t h c s m s m r p r t x t.—A. E. L.

68. M m n d d h d g r n d s t l l t c h t h m b z r l s t m r c h.—Colonicnsis

69. V n t h t h r x p r t s n v r d t c t d t h d p s c r t.—Notnag.

70. H n w j h e l d b y d n t g t t w n s s n.—Borris.

71. R m m b r n v r m d d l b t w n t h r h n p c k d m n.—Rex.
72. N s p d w t t c s m s m x s g h s w t h m r t h.—Nota Bene.
73. H t g r g r g d f d s n c m f r t s p r l d f l k s.—D'Arcy.
74. H f l s t g f r g l d n c m f r t n f d s c l d.—Klondyke.
75. M d n g h t f n d s h m s t l l w r t n g h s l p s t w t c h n g h s s g h t d m h s s p r t n s t n e t w t h n h l s t r g h t s.—Susy.
76. W h n p t r p l t h b k p r n t r d t h x t r x p r s s h r g r t t d t h p n c h t h n s p n t.—Ebonite.
77. W h r w s t h w b f d w v n s m k s h p r c d.—Sing Song.
78. T h g n t l b r z b t w n t h t r s b n d s t h r d s w h r t h w r n s k s h r n s t.—Beaumont.
79. N d w k p t h p r s w h n l e t d m m b r s b s t r p r s n t f r m n.—Selwood.
80. W h n g r k m t s g r k t h n w x p c t x c l l n t d d s.—Argonaut.
81. T h n v r s l p y h b r w f l c s t h v r y g r n p r.—Tiny.
82. H r c n t d f n d r s w r t n b s t m n g r c v r k n w.—Varmint.
83. T h s r p n t t m p t d v w h n s h n t r d d n.—Teajaypea.
84. B r n f c l d s n w g r w s n w d r p b l s s m s t s h w g d m r r w.—Megrah.
85. G h s v n s h p p t r s k n s n t m s m d w l l w h n t h s h p h r d l t t h m n t r t h g l n.—Vesta.
86. Y s t r v q u r p t r n t r d s w t q u n h l n s s h l t r d g l n.—Ilfra.
87. T h s l c t d m m b r s r d m t h b t t r m n t s c h m p l d g s.—India.
88. P g s t c k n g p n k p g s n b c y c l n g t h n g s s s m p l y s l l y.—Pink Pig.
89. B l s s d b t h p r l s s m p r s s w s r v.—Union Jack.
90. B r t s h w t s w l l b r n g n b l l r g h t n g r s h l l s.—Hacomaco.
91. S t r n v n t s p r v n t d t h s p t m b r r v l s.—Sinona.
92. T h n d l s s b r z v n f r z s t h v r g r n s.—Tom P.
93. T h n k s t l l f n d p n k s p l l s f r s t l n l l s.—
94. T r n i t y n g n d r s h o p t r n a l.—P. P.
95. T h m b z z l m n t s t h m n f f c t d w r r d r s s d.—Untruth.
96. N v r t h l s s t h x c l l n t m n w r x p l l d.—Cygnet.
97. N f d r c m f r t f r p r f l s w h g f r g l d.—Cygne.
98. W h n n d w d d d h d m d x p n s s n d l s s.—Djalfi.
99. C t t n w l f t e m f r t s h l l w c r w n f t t h.—Martlet.
100. C b m n s s l n g d w r f s s r c s m.—Vice Versa.
101. W h k n w s h w s n h t c r s s w r d s r l k s f g l m m g r w t s t r m s f s r r w s.—Hopping.
102. B r t s h d r n k v c t m s n h b t l l c t s p r t d r n k n g d m n s h t h r s t w t h m b b n g m l k n s l g h t s p s n s t l n m n d l l s v s t n g t h s n f r m t y.—Yalgogrin.
103. M s t l d f l k s k n w g d l d s n g s.—Heartsease.
104. W h r t h f l t d r s h l t d t h r t h s k r s s c n t h r.—Flamingo.
105. W h t c t e h f r n k m y l n d s g l l n t n v l s p r k.—Prak.
106. W h n g r k m t s g r k s v r t h t s t w s y t g r c r p n t d r t h e r t s w r f r.—A. A. G.
107. C l v r f r n e h m n w h n t m p r h l p s t h m d t c t v n t h b s t p r s r v d s c r t s.—Scorpio.
108. N t p m s t r c k s r s t t r p s f r y s t n c r w s.—Bathyllus.
100. W h r g r k m t s g k s v r s t s t s t h s t r s s—Quatra Bras.
110. D h n r t t m p e n n r m p s t h r b s n p r h f l r d s n h f e m m r s f l r.—Edgcome.
111. T h s r e n t v n t s x p r s s d t h f r n c h m n s f b l r g r t.—Psycho.
112. P r l d t t l k s t g d t d w r n g.—Club.
113. T h s w t b r z f r s h n s t h r s t l s s.—Ellarb.
114. W h n c h r y m n m t m r r y c h r r v l s.—Mrs. M.
115. N j s t h g h s h t p n t r t h f l z l s.—Cotton.
116. C v l c v c c t s c l m b l g h.—Ecossalse.
117. L t m g t t h l t h w w w s h x p e t d y s t r v.—Duff.
118.—P r s v r y p r f c t m n v r k p t h s p r c p t s t n.—Moll.
119. R m m b r t h n d w s k l s d.—Dorset.
120. D m s f f t m r r w t t w l m l.—A. C.
121. L v n r l c t d m m b r s w r p r s n t w h n w n t r d.—Albula.
122.—H y r d w h l y t r p r s s s h f l s h l y s t d.—Sylvia.
123. T h s m n s t r y s r s h b l l s n v t n g b r t s h c r t e s m.—Ubique.
124. D s t l l t l k w s l l t r s h.—Nippo.
125. G l d g r w s s c m m n c r w d s f l c k t b e.—Ninnin.
126. H f l s t g f r g l d n e m f r t h f d s c l d.—Klondyke.
127. V f l l w h n t h s r p n t t m p t d h r.—Flag.

Combinations of consonants have also been reeeived from Parish, Tum Tum, Rover, His Holiness, Ooloo, The Cock, Viper, Cockatoo, Chiea, Malabar, E. Furquhart, Brentwood Cat. Row, Mad Margaret, O'Lady, Hunter, Harry, Daffodil, South West, Ed-al-Anoram, Bag, Feather, Manx Cat, Old Bailey, Fluffy, Gee Gee, Swinton Park, Tuffy, Lola, Anne Kerenina, Swallow, Lynden, Gronèe, Firtree.

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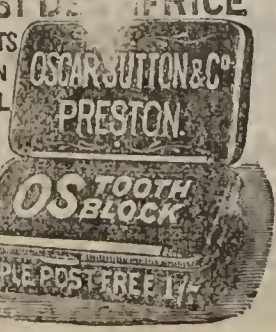

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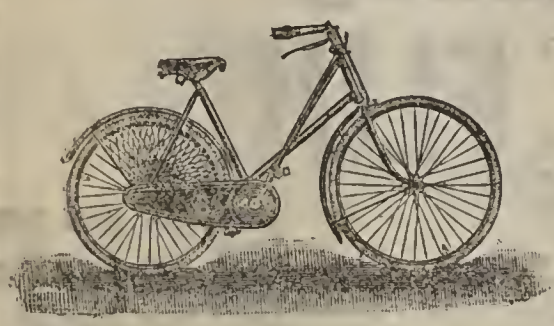

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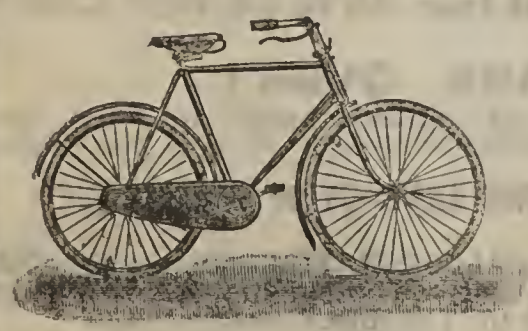

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TRUTH

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE Prince of Wales will leave Cannes at the end of next week on his return to England. H.R.H. intends to stay for a few days in Paris, at the Hôtel Bristol, on his way home. The Prince is expected at Sandringham on Thursday, April 7, and on Easter Monday H.R.H. and his guests will attend the West Norfolk Hunt Club Steeple-chases at East Winch, near Lynn. The Prince goes to Newmarket on Wednesday morning, April 13, returning to Sandringham after the races on Friday, the 15th, and he will arrive at Marlborough House for the season on Monday, the 18th.

The Duke of Saxe-Coburg has been living in Malta harbour for some days on board H.M.S. *Surprise*, the Admiral's despatch boat which brought the Duke from Alexandria. Even the most loyal have been severely tried by seeing the Saxe-Coburg flag flying from the British ship. The Duke of Saxe-Coburg is so entirely a Prince of the German Empire that the Duchess would not be permitted to have in Germany an English Lady-in Waiting.

An evening paper announced on Thursday that the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz "is residing for the present in Paris quite privately," whereas H.R.H. has not been in Paris for years, and during the last month she has been staying at Mentone. The Grand Duchess Augusta is at the Hôtel du Louvre, where her niece the Duchess of York, is also staying incognita as Lady Killarney.

The Empress Frederick has been seriously ill from bronchitis, and she has left Berlin to recruit her health at Kiel, the physicians having advised sea air. The Empress will stay for several weeks at Kiel with Princess Henry of Prussia, and it is possible that she may defer her visit to England until the third week in May, in which case she will accompany the Queen to Balmoral. The Empress Frederick has been much pulled down and depressed by her illness.

The Duchess of Albany and her daughter Princess Alice are expected to return next week to Claremont Park from Cannes, where they have been staying for nearly two months at the Villa Nevada. Princess Alice is to be confirmed at St. George's Church, Cannes, by the Bishop of Ripon in the course of the next few days.

The Empress Dowager of Russia and the Princess of Wales are expected this week at Copenhagen, to stay until April 12, when they will proceed to Gmunden on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland. It has been settled that Queen Marie of Hanover's eightieth birthday is to be celebrated on April 14 at Gmunden, and not at Cannes, as was originally arranged. The Crown Prince of Denmark will accompany his sisters from Copenhagen to Gmunden, and H.R.H. and the Crown Princess are to proceed thence to Cannes to attend the marriage of their eldest son, Prince Christian, with the Duchess Alexandrina of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. The Crown Princess Louise has settled twenty millions of marks on Prince Christian, whose bride has a large fortune.

I hear that the "irregular" presentation which was made at the first Drawing Room of the season has since been privately cancelled. The same course has been adopted in regard to another presentation, about which there has been a great fuss, and it was with difficulty that the Queen was induced to withdraw her order that an official notification of the "mistake" should be published in the *Gazette*.

It is greatly to be hoped that Lord Salisbury will recover shortly from the effects of influenza. Should he break down entirely, it is understood that the Duke of Devonshire will become Premier, and that Lord Lansdowne will be Foreign Secretary, unless this post should devolve on Mr. Balfour. In the latter case, as it would be impossible for any one man to do the work of the Foreign Office and that of Leader of the House, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, it is expected, would become the Leader.

There is not a particle of foundation for the report that Lord Londonderry is to replace Lord Aberdeen as

Governor-General of Canada. The post will probably be offered to Lord Hertford, but there are several eager candidates.

One of the shortest Castle seasons on record came to an end in Dublin last week. For a little over five weeks Lord and Lady Cadogan stayed at Dublin Castle, and gave the customary entertainments in the customary way. The enthusiasm — not to say hysterics — of Court-inspired journals over the brilliancy of Lord Cadogan's reign in Dublin Castle is all rubbish. Lord Cadogan, in entertaining, has closely followed, as every Viceroy does, the traditions of the Castle, and done exactly what his predecessors, with very few exceptions, did. To be sure, each Viceroy was, in his day, lauded as exceptional, and as surpassing his predecessors in brilliancy. The laudations of the courtiers may therefore also be looked on as traditional at Dublin Castle.

The last party of visitors at Dublin Castle included Lord and Lady Arran, Lady Ancaster, Lady Alice Willoughby, Lord and Lady Listowel, Lady Beatrice Hare, Lady Rosse, Lady Muriel Parsons, Lords Kilmorey, Erne, Inchiquin, Colonel Crichton, and many others. The party broke up on Friday morning, St. Patrick's Ball taking place on the previous night. In the evening Lord and Lady Cadogan left Dublin Castle for England, where they will remain for some weeks. They will return to the Viceregal Lodge for Easter.

Lord Roberts, on his white Arab of Jubilee fame, presided at the guard mounting and trooping of colours in the Castle-yard, Dublin, on St. Patrick's Day. Lord and Lady Cadogan and all the Viceregal party, profusely decorated with shamrocks—a fact which may be of interest to Commanding Officers who cavil at the harmless fancy of their Irish subordinates for wearing the green—were present on the balcony in front of the Throne Room. After the ceremony their Excellencies and most of the Viceregal party drove to the race meeting at Baldoyle. A band played in the enclosure, where, notwithstanding a strong March wind from the sea, a large assemblage of the elect of Irish society seemed to enjoy themselves.

The Duke of Devonshire is going to the Riviera, to join the Duchess, who has been staying at Monte Carlo during the last three weeks. They will return to England on April 12.

Sir Henry Bessemer had the good fortune (so rarely enjoyed by inventors) of reaping a generous harvest from his famous process, which greatly lessened the cost of the production of steel, while the quality of the metal was improved. Sir Henry's royalties brought him in upwards of £1,100,000; but his boat, which was to prevent seasickness, proved an ignominious failure.

The late Sir William Fraser was a most learned antiquary, and quite unrivalled in his knowledge of the Scotch Records. In 1832, at the age of sixteen, Sir William came to Edinburgh from a village in Kincardineshire with only a few shillings in his pocket, and he commenced life as a clerk in a writer's office. Even in those days he was conspicuous for his zeal in historic research. He was employed at the Record Office at Edinburgh for thirty years. Sir William was so engrossed in the work which was the business and the pleasure of his life that he never troubled himself about politics, but he received decorations from both Mr. Gladstone and Lord Salisbury. He brought out many family histories, the fruit of his garnerings in charter chests and muniment rooms, and each volume contains much curious, interesting, and valuable information which can nowhere else be found. These volumes were all privately printed, and they command high prices at sales. Sir William was a delightful companion when in the vein (which was not always), for he was a perfect reservoir of strange and entertaining reminiscences.

There is not a particle of foundation for the statement in the *Westminster Gazette* of Saturday that Avery Hill, Eltham, the residence of the late Colonel North, "has been acquired by the Duke of York." The report, which was probably started in order to facilitate the sale of the property, is absurd, for there are already more than a sufficient number of Royal residences, and the Queen has granted the White Lodge to the Duke and Duchess of York, who had been given Bushey Park after the death of the Duc de Nemours, but they prefer the Richmond place.

The tyrant Man seems to have been rather unfairly handled at the meeting of the Rational Dress League last week. Lady Harberton expressed her wonder at his stupidity in being unable to look at knickerbockers and divided skirts from a common-sense standpoint, and went on to attribute his hostility to these garments to the survival of "tribal influence." The "tribal influence," it seems, leads men to regard women as creatures whose place is by the fireside, and who are doomed to a life of inactivity. In order to keep women in this state of inactivity, Man insists in dressing them in petticoats. Possibly the "tribal influence" has the effects here attributed to it, although I have heard of tribes in which the women do all the work and the men sit about in a state of inactivity, even if they do not wear petticoats. But really it is a little hard on the inferior being to saddle him with responsibility for the way women dress themselves.

Within my own brief experience I have seen Man expending his sarcasms on crinolines, dress improvers, matinée hats, and a dozen other eccentricities of feminine costume, but for any result produced he might as well have addressed his remarks to the advancing tide. Women

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For the Truth Hotel List, see page 750 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 749.
For Amusements, see page 751.
For Our Puzzles, see page 761.

will always wear what they please, regardless of the feelings of their male belongings. I know that I am a stupid thing, and possibly I am dominated by tribal influences, but still I have some knowledge of the world around me, and my impression is that if the parties who set the female fashions chose to-morrow to ordain that civilised Woman should array herself in the costume of the Esquimaux, or the South Sea Islander, the whole of our female population would speedily be dressed in that style. Nor have I the slightest doubt that if men began to-morrow to denounce the wearing of petticoats, and beg their sisters, cousins, and aunts to array themselves in "bifurcated garments," even those who at present affect divided skirts and cycling knickers would instantly renounce them for ever.

A poet, who has evidently risen superior to "tribal influences," sends me the following verses inspired by the Rational Dress meeting. In the hope that they may do something to advance "the cause," I humbly publish them :—

"THE SONG OF THE SKIRT."

With accents heated and high,
  With cheeks that were angrily red,
A woman stood, in unwomanly "bags,"
  Scornfully tossing her head.
At a platform's front she stood
  The claims of her sex to assert;
And there, with a voice of indignant pitch,
  She sang this "Song of the Skirt."

"Work! work! work!
  Oh, women, though men may scoff!
Work! work! work!
  Till you've thrown this incubus off!
For the skirt is the badge of shame
  That Man to our sex allots,
So work till you've changed that humbling badge
  For a pair of—you-know-whats.

"Work! work! work!
  However the cynics laugh;
Work! work! work!
  Though the comic papers chaff;
Enjoy neither ease nor rest
  Till your end at last you gain,
And proudly stand, as you see me now,
  Arrayed in cylinders twain!

"The tyrants whom I denounce
  Have sisters, and mothers, and wives,
Yet they'd make you wear the badge
  Of slavery all your lives.
New Women! uprise, I say!
  For unless you soon rebel,
This skirt which clings to your waist will be
  The shroud of your hopes as well.

"The Spirit of the Age
  You will all in vain invoke
For a latch-key—Freedom's sign—
  And the precious right to smoke.
You will still remain the slaves
  Of Man's tyrannical whims,
So long as the skirt is still begirt
  Round your—well, your nether limbs.

"As long as that skirt you wear,
  Your onward path 'twill block;
You must still Man's dinners cook,
  You must still his cradles rock;
You will still remain his toy,
  You will never bestride the barb,
As Emancipated Woman should,
  In a bifurcated garb!

"So, work! work! work!
  For the cause you have at heart!
With pamphlet and with speech
  Be ready to play your part.
On the platform take your stand,
  And the downfall there proclaim
Of the hated skirt, and the advent hail
  Of the—things I need not name.

"Twin omens of victory,
  These garments should lead you on—
I've grasped and I wear the prize,
  And so may you all, anon.
Already has trembling Man
  Good reason to fear our raid,
For he knows that his citadel we shall storm
  Through the *breaches* we have made!"

* * * * *

With accents heated and high,
  With a face that was angrily red,
A woman stood, in unwomanly "bags,"
  Scornfully tossing her head.
At the front of the platform stood,
  The rights of her sex to assert;
And there, in a voice of indignant pitch—
And giving her "knicks" an occasional hitch—
  She sang this "Song of the Skirt."

Should hospital nurses be allowed to wear their bonnets in those parts of theatres where other ladies are compelled to remove them? I should have said not; the feminine bonnet being at all times a nuisance in places of amusement. I have had a letter, however, from an invalid, who visited one of the theatres the other day attended by a nurse, and is very indignant at the delay caused by the nurse having to go to the cloak-room to remove and replace her bonnet on entering and leaving the theatre. It happens that, in this case, the party were occupying a private box, so that I suppose the nurse's bonnet would not have interfered with any other members of the audience. But if managers make rules for the general observance of ladies visiting their theatres, I really do not quite see why hospital nurses should be specially exempted from them.

A medical gentleman, who recently sought admission to St. Thomas's Hospital as a paying patient, gives an account of his reception, which is, *primâ facie*, not over creditable to the Hospital authorities. He had made his arrangements for admission in advance, had explained that he was a doctor, and also that he was stone deaf. On arriving, however, he found that no arrangements whatever had been made for his reception. He had to go through the annoyance of being shouted at in vain by one official after another, and being requested to pay fees, &c., which is unusual in the case of a doctor, and only

Major Howe & Co.—Fashionable Boots and Shoes.—16, Coventry-st., W.; 60, Strand, W.C.; 81, Gracechurch-st.; and 13, Queen Victoria-st., London. "Note Addresses." (Repairs)

after a long delay was he interviewed by a medical officer. This gentleman offered in writing a few words of apology for what had occurred, and the patient replied that he thought he had good grounds for complaining: whereupon, to his astonishment, the medical officer angrily informed him that St. Thomas's Home was not a suitable place for his case, and he was packed off there and then. This is really a very singular story, and I should be glad to hear if the Hospital authorities can put a more agreeable complexion upon it.

There is one terror of London life which I wonder we submit to so patiently. It is the invasion of quiet streets, between ten and midnight, by leather-lunged louts, generally two or three in a party, who make night hideous by shouting for sale an "extry speshul" evening paper, alleged to contain news of some "'orrible murder" or "'orrible discovery" in that particular district. The paper is usually sold at double the nominal price, and the purchaser is usually sold too, for the journal rarely contains anything corresponding in the remotest degree to the sensational announcements of the vendors. On almost every occasion the latter might be given into custody for obtaining money by false pretences. Nobody cares to take that extreme course, but most people strongly object to having their peace disturbed by this untimely bawling, and it is strange the police do not put an end to the nuisance.

The police appear to make up for their apathy in the presence of undoubted nuisances, such as that described above, by extra vigilance in dealing with minor and technical offenders who cause no annoyance. This has just been strikingly shown at Liverpool, where, according to the *Porcupine*, the Chief Superintendent of the Police has entered upon a vigorous crusade against the harmless, if not necessary, flower-girl. The girl who stands in the street a minute or two to sell a bunch of violets is at once summoned under some musty local by-law, and fined by the magistrates for causing an obstruction, though it is obviously ridiculous to pretend that anybody has been obstructed. The police strain at gnats while swallowing camels.

Apropos of street nuisances, a friend who has suffered many things of church bells suggests that those responsible for the Street Noises Bill should endeavour to remove this distressing form of annoyance at the same time that they put a limit to the operations of the organ-grinder and the German band. I fear that the Bill in question experienced ill-fortune in the ballot at the commencement of the Session, but if more is heard of it later on, this suggestion may be worth the notice of its promoters. As was pointed out in Truth the other day, the clergy have in the present state of things, no choice in the matter of bell-ringing. What seems needed, therefore, is a change in the law, which shall veto the nuisance, at any rate in populous localities.

One of my readers raised the other day the question whether there is any legal objection to a man marrying his divorced wife's sister. I told him in reply that I imagine there is the strongest legal objection, but he does not feel satisfied, so I am curious to know whether any legal reader can corroborate my views. I take it that the law is laid down in the Table of Affinity in the Book of Common Prayer, which begins by prohibiting a man from marrying his grandmother, and among other things declares that he cannot marry his "wife's sister." His wife's sister does not cease to be his wife's sister when he has divorced his wife, any more than she does when his wife is dead. However, there may be some special legislation on the point with which I am unacquainted.

Apart, however, from legal considerations, my advice to any one who contemplates marrying his divorced wife's sister is "Don't!" I should give the same advice to any one who contemplated marrying his deceased wife's sister. It is, of course, a matter of individual taste, but to me, personally, I confess the hankering that so many men have after their wives' sisters is a little mysterious. Possibly the attraction is like that of forbidden fruit, and if we withdrew the prohibition, the desire for marrying deceased wives' sisters, or divorced wives' sisters would disappear with it.

The famous Worcestershire sauce has produced financial results which a former Lord Sandys can never have contemplated when he presented the recipe to the original partners in the firm of Lea & Perrins, who were druggists at Worcester. The fortunes left by Mr. C. W. Lea, Mr. J. W. Lea, and Mr. J. D. Perrins amounted in the aggregate to over two millions. The present owner of Ombersley Court must regret that his ancestor did not speculate on his own account in the sauce, the recipe of which is said to have been brought from the East by Lord Sandys, and it was by a mere chance that he one day mentioned it to Lea & Perrins while purchasing some articles in their shop.

There are many men of wealth among us—indeed, if one might believe all that one reads, millionaires nowadays are becoming quite common. What they do with their money I cannot say. I can say, however, that it is very rarely applied with such munificence for the public benefit as Mr. F. J. Horniman, M.P., is showing in the gift he is about to make to London. Mr. Horniman is building a permanent house at Forest Hill for the fine collection of curios and works of art which has been open to the public in a temporary museum for some years past; he intends to fit up another large building as a club-house and free library for the neighbourhood, and to convert the fifteen surrounding acres of land into a public

"Hôtel Burlington," at Sunny Boscombe. (200 rooms). Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

pleasure and recreation ground; and the whole property is eventually to be handed over to the County Council. Such an example of generosity and public spirit may well be commended to those who are in a position to go and do likewise.

A Leamington paper reports that, at a pigeon-shooting match a few days ago at the neighbouring village of Radford, the supply of birds ran short, and so "those shot at were imprisoned by a piece of string attached to the body, and, if not killed, they were pulled back into the trap" to be shot at again. I am not a pigeon-shooter myself, but I should much like to know whether followers of that noble sport consider that this practice comes within the rules of the game. My own opinion is that it is a piece of abominable cruelty.

Here is another "ingenuous gentleman" in defence of the Game Laws:—

> You say, in reply to an ingenuous gentleman, that the "prospect of the abolition of the Game Laws is one which the country may face with equanimity." Now, I am another ingenuous gentleman, and I would ask you in all simplicity and meekness if the country would face at the same time with equal equanimity the accompanying abolition of all game birds, such as grouse, pheasants, partridges, &c.? Would, moreover, the fishmongers, greengrocers, and gamekeepers face it? Would reputed *gourmets* like yourself face it? And last, but not least, what would become of the poachers?
>
> You, sir, may talk vaguely of the land suffering from game preserving, but, after all, pheasant rearing is only a modified form of poultry growing, and every one knows how profitable a branch of farming industry that is.

This raises various and complicated questions. As regards the extinction of game, my impression is that if the Game Laws of England were assimilated to those of foreign countries, the only game whose existence might be jeopardised would be pheasants, and perhaps in some degree hares and rabbits. If, however, pheasant rearing is to be treated as a branch of poultry growing, it would be perfectly easy to preserve the pheasants without Game Laws. No special legislation has been needed up to the present for the preservation of our domestic cocks and hens. The difficulty only arises when you turn your poultry loose in the woods, with a view to the sport of shooting them periodically. My impression is that this difficulty of rearing and preserving poultry for purposes of sport rather than for the market is the whole *raison d'être* of the British Game Laws. As to grouse and partridges being exterminated if our special legislation in regard to night poaching and game trespass were abolished, I simply don't believe it.

I recommend this second "ingenuous gentleman," as he finds pheasant growing so profitable, to go into it on commercial lines, and drop the idea of getting sport out of it. He will then be able to keep the gamedealers and the "greengrocers" fully stocked, to employ as many hands as at present, and probably to add more to his income. It is, indeed, news to me to hear that pheasant preserving is such a profitable business. Not many years back a friend in that line told me that every bird he shot cost him 20s. That, however, was before the development of the practice of sending the game to market by the ton after a *battue*.

By the way, it is surprising intelligence to me to know that I have acquired the reputation of a *gourmet*. I should as soon have expected to hear that Sir Wilfrid Lawson was a reputed connoisseur of dry champagne. Truly it is an easy thing in this life to acquire a reputation. One day I am told that I am a notorious atheist, another that I am well known as a socialist, another that I am a well-known gambler; and now I am a reputed *gourmet*.

TO NELLIE FARREN.

(March 17, 1898.)

Full many triumphs you have won, delightful "Little Nell,"
But none so great as that of which to-day's records will tell;
This is your greatest and your best—the sweetest you could win,
For love for you makes all the world of London stageland kin!

If Friendship, proved beyond all doubt, can happiness decree,
It would be hard to overstate how happy you must be.
If sympathy can soothe the smart of trouble such as yours,
You have a solace that will last whilst life itself endures.

In those glad years we all recall you freely gave your best,
But how incomparable that was till now we never guess'd;
Now, by a surer standard, we its worth can estimate—
No trivial service could have earned a gratitude so great!

Take, then, this tribute, not by way of adding to your bays,
But for the happy sake of old and unforgotten days;
Take it, and be assured, should it inelegant appear,
It might have been much more ornate had it been less sincere.

A gentleman in the provinces writes to me, under the suggestive *nom de plume* of "An Old Scribbler," to complain of the great lack of independence shown by editors in publishing letters addressed to them. Not only has this Old Scribbler found by experience that letters likely to give offence to advertisers or persons in authority always fail to obtain insertion, but he also finds that the contributions of voluntary correspondents too often share the fate of pearls cast before swine. In order to relieve myself of this reproach, I select the following pearl:—

> Editors are usually well-informed; but they cannot know everything, and what may seem to them to be of no moment, may greatly interest some of their readers and the public. Besides, the letter writers themselves should be considered. They often have

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an object in view, which they cannot otherwise obtain, and having made their effort, they should have a fair field and no favour.

That such scribblers often have an object in view which they cannot otherwise obtain, is a truth to which no one will assent more readily than I. Unfortunately their objects are not always those to which an editor can conscientiously lend himself. In nine cases out of ten, according to my experience, the object is self-advertisement. As to the failure of editors to perceive what the public really care for, it may be that we are, as a class, very ignorant of our own business. But I am afraid it will hardly do for us to surrender our editorial judgment, such as it is, into the hands of any casual contributor who thinks he understands the public taste better than we do, or has an object in view which he could not otherwise obtain.

Mr. Langton Bayly is very cross with me for having presumed to condense the lengthy letter which he sent for publication in TRUTH last week. He now sends a further communication, in four large sheets of type-written matter, which I am to publish, accompanied by a retractation of my views, unless I am willing to incur the charge of dishonesty. The last alternative is a serious one, but I really think that, out of respect for my readers, I must take this risk. Every point that Mr. Bayly made in his first letter in answer to my criticism was fairly given in last week's TRUTH. The whole contents of his present letter may be fairly and accurately summed up by saying that he disagrees with all my conclusions and opinions about his scholarship competition, and reiterates everything that he said before. When I have said this, I consider that I have said all that Mr. Langton Bayly has any right to ask for. If he wishes to expound his views and refute mine at greater length, he has a weekly journal of his own in which he can do it, and his doing it in his own columns will have the advantage that it will reach his own readers, who are presumably the persons chiefly interested in the matter.

A curious document recently reached the London County Council offices in Spring-gardens, addressed to "Señor Presidente de Consejo Municipal de Londres." The writer of the letter was Senor Rafaela Caramon, of Cordova, who was anxious to dispose of a printed pedigree of the Kings of the Angles. He wanted £2 for the pedigree, and was prepared to forward it on receipt of that amount. It would be interesting to know more of Señor Rafaela Caramon, who looks as if he might be some relative of the unfortunate prisoner who has been so long languishing in the dungeons of various Spanish towns. Anyhow, it is to be hoped that his knowledge of genealogy is superior to his knowledge of etymology, for he states in his letter that the English were formerly called Angles from Angela, a queen of the Saxons—a statement calculated to make the late Professor Freeman turn in his grave.

The *Westminster Gazette* has been publishing an interesting description of "Christian Science," the latest fashionable superstition. By a curious coincidence, it so happens that I have also been investigating the teaching and practice of Mrs. Field-King and her disciples, and it was purely by a journalistic accident that the result of my inquiries did not appear on Wednesday last, simultaneously with the first of the *Westminster Gazette* articles. As my contemporary is now in possession of the field, I think it better to wait until its articles have been concluded before saying anything on the subject. But I think it possible that I may be able to supplement those articles with some particulars which will throw a good deal of additional light upon the Christian Scientists.

The new issues of two more works of reference have been added to my shelves during the past week or so—Kelly & Co.'s "Clergy List" for 1898, and the spring edition of "Ruff's Guide to the Turf." I take the liberty of coupling them because each in its own line is excellent, and to me at least both are indispensable. It would be hardly possible to send a number of TRUTH to press without consulting the Clergy List and Ruff's Guide for the name of some parson and the record of some race.

A certain Mr. Walter Cave has confided to the Editor of the *Times* and the public his indignation "at the flagrant injustice" of Sir William Harcourt's remark that the police building by Westminster Bridge compares unfavourably with the establishment of Crosse & Blackwell on the other side of the river, as an ornament to the Metropolis. This, says Mr. Cave, "must have caused a feeling of hopeless despair in the hearts of all artists in the country." If such be the case, the condition of the hearts of all the artists in the country fills mine with despair, for on a more hideous building than this police structure never did my eyes rest.

It is by no means necessary to be "an artist" in order to judge of the beauty of a building. The artist, indeed, is less fitted to form a sound opinion on the matter than others, because his judgment is warped by technical trivialities. The less artists and architects have to do with the new Government buildings, the more suitable will the buildings be for their purpose inside, and the more pleasing will they be outside. On the site in Parliament-street a building for the Local Government Board and other Departments is to be erected. Mr. Akers Douglas has promised that all the internal arrangements shall be in the hands of that capable official, Sir John Taylor, but that in regard to the exterior an architect will be consulted. Why? The exterior should correspond with that of the building on the right side of Whitehall-place that was erected a few years ago. This being admitted, and I suppose few who are not artists would contest it, what is the use of an architect?

It is highly desirable from every point of view that the South Kensington Museum buildings should be finished off. Before, however, we spend £800,000 on bricks and

mortar for this purpose, we ought to seriously consider whether we cannot save some of it by utilising the vast barren solitudes of the Imperial Institute. I read in the papers last week that "those who have the control of the Institute are still hoping against hope that something may happen to make it popular." The picture which this calls to mind of the Institute management waiting patiently, with folded hands, "for something to turn up," is a very touching one. But I doubt whether anything better could "happen" to the Imperial Institute, than that it should come to the aid of the National exchequer, and lessen the cost of the new Museum buildings. It would then be necessary to do little more than finish off the present Museum with a frontage to Cromwell and Exhibition roads. The memory of the Institute might be suitably enshrined on a prominent tablet, setting forth how it had expired for the sake of a grateful country, whom its efforts to serve during life were unavailing.

Some one in authority is very much to blame for the delay in distributing the grants of the Science and Art Department. I hear of a case in which the grants in respect of the examinations held in May last have not yet been paid. Application after application has been made for the money, which is considerably over £100, but up to the present time the only communication received in reply is a request, forwarded some few weeks ago, for the filling up of another form for an amount of six guineas in a certain science subject, on the ground that the previous demand was made on a blue form instead of a white, or *vice versâ*. There are few schools in which the payment of these grants is not a matter of urgent importance, and where the delay does not materially affect the efficiency of the schools.

As already mentioned in Truth, the fees paid to polling clerks at the last School Board election were very considerably reduced. One would have thought that in view of this fact special promptness would have been shown by the authorities in making the payments. As a matter of fact, some of the clerks have only got their money within the last week. Even then they have had to apply in person at the Vestry offices in order to obtain payment, which means in some cases a journey of several miles. Why on earth could not this money have been sent out at once by cheque or postal order?

I take the following edifying specimen of sectarian intolerance and educational blindness from a speech by Professor Mahaffy at Belfast last week:—

> But if there was to be a Roman Catholic University for Ireland, for what purpose would it be? Was it to educate paupers in the arts? There might be countries, such as Scotland, in which very poor people learned the arts and became professional men. He (the professor) had now lived forty years in Ireland, and he could say conscientiously that any system of education *in the form of a Roman Catholic University* which took the poor classes and educated them to leave their own condition in life and become professional men, would be *not only no benefit to that class of their population, but a great mischief.*

It might, indeed, be an argument against the establishment of the proposed University, if these enlightened views of an Irish Protestant were to be taken as a fair indication of the probable results of an academic training on Irish Catholics.

The Country Vicar whose questions anent the suggested "pooling" of parochial endowments I answered a fortnight ago returns to the charge with another series of interrogatories. If I could spare a couple of columns for the discussion of this subject, I think I could deal with his questions, but, as I cannot, I must ask to be excused for the present. I will admit, however, that in one point the Country Vicar scores. He asks how a clergyman could give a suitable education to three or four children on an income of £246, taking that as the average value of the present livings. The education difficulty is no doubt a real one, and I can only suggest that it should be met by making some special provision for the education of the children of the clergy.

It cannot be seriously contended, however, that a clergyman's income should be proportional to the number of his children. Neither is it an answer to a proposal for a readjustment of the revenue to say that even if readjusted the available income would still be insufficient for this or that purpose in particular cases. We must look at the case all round. So looking at it, what I contend is that it would be infinitely better that every clergyman whose parish justified it should have an income of from £200 to £300 a year, than that a large number of them should be in a state of chronic destitution while others are in comparative affluence.

This discussion arose out of a reference in Truth to one of the too numerous clerical begging-letter writers. Another appeal from one of these mendicants has just come under my notice, the writer being the Rev. Henry E. Smith, Vicar of Weston, Crewe. Mr. Smith's appeals were referred to in Truth last July. He was then giving a heart-rending account of his poverty, and referring specially to the sad condition of his wife, who had fractured her knee-cap. In his latest appeal the fractured knee-cap is again a prominent feature. After it had been partially cured, one of the reverend gentleman's daughters contracted typhoid fever. While endeavouring to get about and nurse her, the wife dislocated one of the sinews of the fractured knee, and this leads to a piteous account of the condition of the household, with the mother laid up in one room and the daughter in another. As I intimated on the last occasion, I do not feel unduly exercised over Mr. Smith's troubles, because they have been systematically paraded in the same way over the last seven or eight years. At the same time, Mr. Smith—and he is not the only one—is at present expected by the Church to perform his parochial duties on a stipend of £46 a year. That a man in this position should degenerate into a sort of professional mendicant is not to be wondered at. If I were responsible for the arrangement, and saw on the one hand Mr. Smith with his £46 a year, and on the other a brother Rector with £460, I should consider myself justified in pooling the two incomes, and

giving each incumbent £253. The result would, I think, be more creditable to the Church, even if the hitherto wealthier Rector found a difficulty about sending his sons to a public school.

I have also been taken to task for introducing the late Cardinal Manning on to the scene. One cleric takes exception to the statement that the late Cardinal lived and died in something little better than a garret, and points out that Archbishop's House at Westminster, if not an attractive building outside, is a beautiful place within—large, and suitably fitted up for the purpose of hospitality or reception. Another Anglican remarks that the Cardinal was a bachelor, and wants to know if I am going to advocate the celibacy of the clergy. Really, all this is somewhat wide of the mark. I was asked what income I thought suitable to the sacred calling of a minister of religion, and I instanced perfectly well-known facts as to the simple and unostentatious way in which Cardinal Manning lived, and the virtual poverty in which he died. These facts seemed to me to prove that a large income is not necessary to the dignity of a clergyman of any rank. The other day an Anglican bishop died—and he was a prelate of rather democratic tendencies—and he left personal estate to the value of over £70,000. When at the same time one sees a country vicar in possession of a stipend of £46 a year, and left to supplement his income by scattering begging-letters broadcast over the country, it is no use contending that the distribution of ecclesiastical revenues cannot be improved. I really am not open to conviction on this point, and I must decline to argue it further.

The Master of the Temple, who has been the Canon-in-Residence at Bristol Cathedral since January 1, will return to town next week from Clifton, and he will preach in the Temple Church for the first time this year at the morning service on Palm Sunday.

I learn that the Primate, who has been living at Lambeth since the beginning of October, is going to Canterbury for three weeks at Easter, and that he will occupy one of the prebendal houses in the precincts. The Primate at present has two desirable benefices in his gift, and it is much to be hoped that he will not go outside of his own diocese to find new incumbents. The rectory of Buxted, Sussex, is worth nearly £600 a year, with residence; while the vicarage of St. Peter's, Isle of Thanet, has a stipend of about £400 a year, with residence.

The appointment, by the Lord Chancellor, of Archdeacon Hayward to the vacant stall in Gloucester Cathedral has given much satisfaction in the diocese, where the new Canon has worked hard and successfully for many years. Archdeacon Hayward will resign the living of Cirencester, to which he was presented by Bishop Ellicott in 1882, and he intends to reside entirely at his prebendal house in the College Green, at Gloucester. It is well known in the diocese that the Archdeacon has drawn nothing for himself from Church funds at Cirencester, as both his income as Vicar and his stipend as Archdeacon have been required to pay for an adequate staff of assistant clergy.

The important and valuable living of Emmanuel, Streatham Common, which has become vacant by the preferment of Canon Streatfeild to Christ Church, Hampstead, has been given by the Low Church trustees, who are the patrons, to the Rev. H. F. S. Adams, Rector of Branston, Lincolnshire. Mr. Adams is a clever, energetic man, and a very good preacher. He was educated at Cambridge and read theology under Dr. Moule, and he was ordained in 1886 at Liverpool by Bishop Ryle. Mr. Adams is an uncompromising Evangelical.

A meeting held a few days ago at Lowfield Heath was occupied with one of those ecclesiastical scandals which are inevitable under the system of endowing the parish priest with autocratic authority in all the parochial affairs of the Church. Lowfield Heath is a portion of the parish of Charlwood, but it has a church of its own and a small endowment for a minister. Without the sanction of the Rector of Charlwood, however, the church cannot be used, and for the last six months his reverence, for some reason best known to himself, has kept it closed. The congregation invoked the assistance of the Bishop of Rochester, and the result was a proposal for re-opening the church on certain conditions approved by the Rector, one being that a stipend of £140 a year, including the income from the endowment, should be raised for the payment of a resident curate at Lowfield Heath. Considering that the Rector is in receipt of the handsome stipend of £850 a year, and that the arrangement in question would relieve him of a considerable portion of his spiritual labours, or at least responsibilities, it might be thought that he would make a substantial contribution towards the support of the curate. But the reverend gentleman does not appear to have offered any help in that direction, and the residents of the district must either comply with his terms, or see their church permanently shut up.

The dismissal of Mr. Crockett, the schoolmaster at Gresford, Denbighshire, affords a flagrant example of ecclesiastical tyranny, and it may be hoped that the Education Department will interfere. Mr. Crockett, who has filled his post most efficiently for many years, is an Evangelical, like most Welsh Churchmen. Dean Howell was recently succeeded as Vicar of Gresford by the Rev. J. Fishbourne, an appointment of the Bishop of St. Asaph which excited much disapproval in the diocese. Mr. Fishbourne has introduced numerous Ritualistic innovations, to the annoyance of his new parishioners, and one of his practices is to process round the church before the service, the congregation being expected to stand while this is going on. Many of the worshippers, however, have remained seated, and Mr. Crockett belonged to this contingent. The Vicar required the schoolmaster to resign within twenty-four hours and when

he refused to do so, he gave him notice to leave. Parish clergymen must be taught that they cannot play tricks of this kind in their parishes, for many of them appear to be under the delusion that they are as omnipotent in the school as in the vicarage.

The *Church Times* published the other day a letter from Mr. A. H. Lang, editor of the *Quarterly Paper of the Assyrian Mission*, defending himself for publishing the Rev. Mr. Jenks' cold-blooded record of his brutal treatment of a horse while on a missionary journey. Mr. Lang pleads that in Eastern travel it is only possible to obtain halt, blind, maimed, and broken horses in the last stage of weakness, and he suggests that Mr. Jenks mistook the weakness of his animal for obstinacy. It looks from this as if Mr. Lang considers it quite a natural and legitimate proceeding to beat an obstinate horse to death. The objection to the Jenks' story was not merely in the facts, but in the cold-blooded and indifferent way in which they were described. The man not only beat his horse till it dropped down dead, but recorded the fact without a sign of compunction, and rather with the air of one who considered the incident a good joke. If he mistook weakness for obstinacy, he must, at least, have been undeceived when the animal died, unless he supposes that horses die of obstinacy. It would seem that Mr. Lang and Mr. Jenks are not the only parties whose perception of what constitutes cruelty is a little obtuse, for the editor of the *Church Times* has refused to publish a further letter written in reply to Mr. Lang. Does the editor of the *Church Times* seriously consider that Mr. Lang's letter satisfactorily closed the case?

At a meeting of the local Women's Temperance Union at Ottawa the other day, a lady gave a shocking example of the indifference to Sabbath observance which is creeping over the modern world. She stated that she had, to her shame and sorrow, seen two men looking in at the window of a well-known tailor's shop on the Sabbath Day, evidently engaged in selecting the materials for their new spring suits. She added that she had consulted a solicitor as to whether there is no law which could be invoked for the purpose of putting a stop to such profane conduct, and that she had been informed in reply that, though there is at present no law under which tradesmen can be compelled to pull their blinds down on Sundays, it was quite within the power of the Legislature to pass such a law. She asked the meeting to join in a petition to the Legislature in favour of such an enactment, and the matter was referred to the Lord's Day Committee. I believe that I can cap the shocking experience of this Canadian lady. I have seen ladies in church on Sunday taking stock of the bonnets of their lady neighbours, obviously with the view of deciding on the purchases that they contemplated making during the week. Such conduct occurs in all countries. It seems highly improbable that there is any law in Canada for the purpose of stopping this desecration not only of the Sabbath, but of the House of Prayer; and the Canadian Legislature would do well to take this evil into consideration at the same time as the other.

The Rector or the Curate—it is not clear which—of St. Mark's, Salisbury, has hit upon an idea for raising money which is, I should think, unique and unlikely to lose that distinction. It appears from an announcement in the *District Magazine* that the scheme is to admit persons who promise "to earn or to give £1 in the year for the Building Fund" to a select circle of "The Friends of God." Apparently £1 is the minimum subscription, and the widow with her mite, in common with those who cannot or will not give anything whatever to the fund, is not to be counted among "The Friends of God."

The Rev. A. S. Hewlett, of St. John's Clergy House, Tooley-street, has answered my inquiry as to what had become of the endowed local charities, in view of his advertisements for funds for the relief of the sick in south-east London. The local charities, he states, are admirably administered by trustees under a strict scheme sanctioned by the Charity Commissioners, but innumerable cases of relief, where the bread-winner is laid up for a time, where extra nourishment is required, and where immediate action is necessitated, are outside the scope of the scheme. Hence his appeal. Mr. Hewlett adds to this explanation a plaintive note of complaint as to popular ignorance of poverty-stricken south-east London. No doubt he is right. Philanthropy has boomed the East End to the exclusion of the equally poor districts over the water, where there is in reality unlimited scope for charitable effort.

The advantage of having practical men at the head of a charitable undertaking was never better exemplified than by the present position of the Queen's Commemoration Fund, organised on behalf of the Queen's Jubilee Institute for Nurses. From the report just issued I learn that about £136,000 has altogether been subscribed to this object, of which some £41,000 is the result of the Central Committee's labours. In the collection of this latter sum the expenses incurred by the Committee during the sixteen months over which their work has spread only amounts to £1,300 or about 3¼ per cent. Few other Jubilee Commemoration Funds would I fancy be able to point to so satisfactory a result, and the Hon. Sydney Holland, as treasurer, and Messrs. Harold Boulton and Ernest Flower, M.P., as secretaries to the Fund, have reason to congratulate themselves upon it.

At the recent annual meeting of the Governors of the Royal Victoria Hospital at Bournemouth, attention was called to a case which the Committee considered, apparently with justice, an abuse of the charity. It appears that Mr. E. S. Mostyn Pryce, who is one of her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, and also, I believe, a Welsh landowner, applied to the hospital for a letter of recommendation, for which he tendered 5s. Under the rules that is the rate at which additional letters are issued to subscribers of one guinea and upwards. Mr. Pryce was not a subscriber, but the letter was nevertheless given to him (under protest), and with it he sent to the hospital

his governess, who required advice as to the condition of her eyesight.

The Committee next wrote to Mr. Pryce expressing the opinion that, in sending a governess in receipt of a salary of £40 a year and board and lodging, to be treated at the hospital he had not complied with the conditions attached to the use of the letter of recommendation. They also expressed surprise that Mr. Pryce, a resident in the town of many years' standing, was not a contributor to the hospital. To this Mr. Pryce replied that an institution "so parsimonious and money-seeking that it begrudged the small services which were rendered for 5s. to an applicant having under 15s. 6d. a week and board did not commend itself to him for an annual subscription." The Committee, in a second letter, said it was never intended that the hospital should be used in the way Mr. Pryce had used it, and that it scarcely lay with him to write of "parsimony and money-seeking."

With the Chairman of the hospital, I think that the above facts scarcely require any comment. It may be interesting, however, to mention that the local papers are said to have been prevented from publishing a statement of the case by a threat of legal proceedings. The correspondence was sent to them by the Hospital Committee, but was not printed, and in the reports of the annual meeting the names and details were carefully suppressed. Not being so easily terrified as the local Press, I have given publicity to what seems to me a very interesting narrative. Mr. Pryce can hardly complain, for if his view of the matter is correct, the course I am taking will only show up a "parsimonious and money-seeking" institution. If, on the other hand, the Committee are right, the case affords a timely illustration of the free-and-easy fashion in which a certain section of the public makes use of medical charities.

I am asked to mention that the annual meeting of the Factory Girls' Country Holiday Fund will be held at the Mansion House on April 22, the Lord Mayor presiding. The Fund is deserving of support, for it confers an inestimable boon on many poor and sick girls who, without some help, would be unable to obtain a much-needed rest and change of air. Last year no fewer than 1,250 were sent to the country or the seaside for periods amounting in the aggregate to 2,120 weeks. The fact that this was done at a cost of £1,230. 3s. 6d. (of which the girls themselves contributed £246) speaks well for the management of the Fund.

The Duke of Cambridge has consented to take the chair at the Festival Dinner in aid of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital on Friday, May 6. The Duke of Leeds will discharge the same office at the Earlswood Asylum Dinner on Friday, May 20.

I have received the following amounts towards the deficit of last year's Toy Fund:—Mrs. Arlosh, £2 2s.; Pte. 5s.; C. H. T., £1; D. T. N., £1; Bahiana, £1.

Owing to the increase of the Army Estimates, and the reforms in connection therewith, it would seem that nearly every non-commissioned officer and private in the British Army is seizing on the opportunity to advocate his claims to an increase of pay or pension. On one day last week I counted on my table communications from about fifty claimants to consideration in this direction. Needless to say, the various Departmental Corps are particularly to the front. With every desire to oblige my military readers, I must reluctantly decline to ventilate every one of these grievances in Truth. Even if I had time to read all that the complainants have to say, which I have not, the present size of Truth would render it out of the question to go into all their cases on their merits. There are some few cases here and there which I will do my best to put forward in due course, but as regards the majority, this general apology must suffice.

An officer came home from abroad a few weeks back to take up the appointment of second in command of a battalion in Ireland. He is married, but the only quarters provided for his accommodation are two small rooms and a kitchen in a house in which three subalterns are also living. The officer had previously applied for a lodging allowance, having heard that there were no quarters for him, and the application was refused. Surely the gentlemen at Whitehall who arrange these things do not expect the second in command of a regiment to live in this style. At the very same station the quartermaster occupies a house similar to that in which the second in command is quartered, but he has it all to himself; and even the sergeant-major and some of the N.C.O.s have three or four rooms If there are no better quarters available, the officer ought to have a decent lodging allowance and be allowed to provide for himself.

An interesting item of news from India is that the cemetery at Benares is being enlarged by three acres, and enclosed with a solid brick wall. The cost of the whole job is said to be about Rs.10,000. The Government has presumably adopted this course in preference to spending the money on improving the sanitary condition of the barracks. It is cheaper, probably, to provide the troops with more burying-ground than to prevent them dying.

The rumour was current in India a week or two back that the present P.M.O. is likely to obtain an extension of time beyond the age limit. It is devoutly to be hoped that this rumour is untrue, or that, if the P.M.O. is seeking such an extension, his efforts will be frustrated. The appointment of Surgeon Major-General Gore was in the first instance looked upon with scant approval by the Medical Staff in India, and his services have hardly been such as to call for an extension of his term of office.

Since referring to the matter in Truth last week, I hear that the various soldiers who acted as waiters, &c., at the last Malta Jockey and Sporting Club race meeting have

now received their pay. It is therefore unnecessary to say anything more on the subject, unless it is to thank the officer concerned for reading his TRUTH so carefully.

The Royal Warrant for Pay provides that when a sergeant-major or an orderly-room sergeant is absent from duty on account of sickness or other domestic reasons, an acting sergeant-major or acting orderly-room sergeant may be appointed and paid; but when either of these officers is away on duty, a deputy can only be appointed on a special application, which is to be submitted to the Secretary of State for War. Can anybody explain the reason for this distinction? If not, can the War Office show cause why the Royal Warrant should not be amended?

Reference has frequently been made in TRUTH to the injustice done to the Military Staff Clerks R.A. by the systematic appointment of clerks from the War Office staff to Superintending Clerkships elsewhere. This habitual jobbery is as much against the interest of the Service as it is unfair to the district Staff Clerks. The War Office section of the Staff Clerks is a close preserve; the men in it have in some cases never even completed their recruit's training, and have rarely served anywhere but in offices at London and Woolwich. There are only about a dozen of them, and there are nearly as many Superintending Clerkships at the War Office open to them for promotion. On the other hand, the district Staff Clerks—about fifty in number—have only about twelve Superintending Clerkships as an opening for promotion when once they have reached the rank of quartermaster-sergeant. It ought to be the rule that these berths shall be reserved exclusively for the district Staff Clerks.

While soldiers still in the ranks are complaining that they lose their chance of promotion by N.C.O.s rejoining under the new rules, the Reservists are also crying out that they have been induced to come back under false pretences. It seems that under an order issued two or three weeks back, N.C.O.s rejoining are placed at the bottom of the roll for promotion. They were told, when they decided to rejoin, that they would come back with their former rank, and they assumed (if, indeed, they were not expressly told so) that they would be credited with their former service as N.C.O.s, and take their place accordingly. This may not have been the intention of the authorities, but it is a great pity that the point was not made clear, for some of the men say that, had they known what was intended, they would not have rejoined.

There is no doubt that the new regulations on this point are likely to cause friction, and they need to be carried out with much circumspection. It is quite clear that you do not want to tempt men back to the Army who are already provided for in civil life. To do that you must offer them terms which will create a grievance among those still with the colours. I have preached for years the desirability of giving facilities to men to rejoin, but merely from the point of view of those Reservists who have been unable to find their legs in civil life, and are ready to rejoin the Army on almost any terms. The men whose case requires to be met are the Reservists who re-enlist fraudulently, or those who have been deterred from coming back by the necessity of refunding their deferred pay. Experience has shown that there are plenty of men who, after a few months of civil life, are ready to rejoin, even at considerable risk and some sacrifice of their former position. Common-sense suggests that you should take such men without demur; but it does not suggest that you should let the men rejoin under a misapprehension, or that you should purchase their services at the expense of men still in the ranks. It strikes me that in their eagerness to increase the number of men with the colours, the authorities have rather overshot the mark.

Below I summarise a few more growls from various regiments which seem worthy of attention. The most noteworthy among them relates to the barrack damages accounts of the Longford Militia. The figures given I have every reason to believe authentic, and no information whatever seems to be accessible as to the purpose to which the money has been applied. Judging from other evidence before me, there are several other matters in regard to the management of the same Depot which need looking into. I also solicit special attention again for a long-standing grievance of the 1st Northamptonshire—a battalion which, by its exploits on the Frontier, has deserved well of its country:—

6th Battalion Rifle Brigade, Longford.—In 1896 each man in this battalion was charged 1s. 9d. for barrack damages, and in 1897, 1s. 3d. In 1896 there were 393 men to pay, and in 1897, 373. It is stated on good evidence that the total official charges for damages and deficiencies against the battalion were in 1896 £4 5s., and in 1897, 3s. What became of the balance of the money? The importance of the question is accentuated by the fact that at the commencement of the 1897 drill the battalion funds were actually in debt, so that the money does not seem to have gone in that direction.

No. 4 Mountain Battery, R.A., Newport (Mon.).—Not only have the three vacancies in the non-commissioned ranks been filled up by outsiders, as mentioned in last week's TRUTH, but a further grievance is likely to arise in regard to five men who were sent from field batteries, and appointed acting bombardiers when the battery went on field service. These men have been kept on as supernumerary to the establishment, retaining their stripes, but without pay, and they are to be recommended for the first vacancy that occurs if still efficient as N.C.O.s. This I understand to be in pursuance of direct instructions from the War Office. It is obviously unfair to qualified men in the battery waiting for promotion. What is the reason for it?

1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment, Peshawur.—It appears that the native tradesman, whose management of the regimental coffee-shop caused so much dissatisfaction when this battalion was with the Tirah Field Force, still remains in possession, and quite recently he has been allowed to set up a mineral-water shop in the barracks, the regimental mineral-water machine being put away into store. Unless I am mistaken, it is entirely contrary to regulations for an outsider to be running all the regimental institutions. There is presumably a sergeant nominally in charge of the grocery bar and the coffee shop, and it would be interesting to know what his real functions are under the present arrangement.

1st Battalion Royal Irish Regiment, Limerick.—In order to encourage shooting, every man in this battalion is now being subjected to a stoppage of sixpence per month, in order to form a fund out of which prizes are given when the men are firing their annual musketry course. This is all very well in theory, but as

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all the men certainly cannot get prizes, however good their shooting, it seems decidedly unfair that the majority of them should be compulsorily made to provide, out of their own pockets, rewards for the men who score a few points more than they do. Is a Commanding Officer really authorised to lay men under a stoppage of this kind?

1st Battalion Connaught Rangers, Athlone.—A boy in the band of this battalion recently broke the key of a clarinet. The instrument was sent to be repaired, and the firm who did the work thought fit to have the whole instrument refitted, at a cost of £2 10s. 5d. This amount the boy has been ordered to pay by weekly stoppages of 5s. In excuse for the C.O. who sanctioned this stoppage, it may be mentioned that there seems to have been a suggestion that the boy had done other damage to the instrument besides breaking the key. But this suggestion appears to have been entirely unsupported by evidence, and no inquiry was made into the facts before the stoppage was ordered. It really seems too bad that a band-boy should be fined 5s. a week for ten weeks, unless good cause for doing so was clearly made out.

1st Battalion Suffolk Regiment, Malta.—There are a number of complaints from this quarter about the unsatisfactory character of the messing arrangements. It seems, among other things, that there is a regulation in force that each mess shall consist of twenty-five men, or as near that as possible. Instead of this, the quartermaster has been making the whole of each company mess together. The available accommodation is insufficient for this purpose, and a great deal of the discomfort and bad serving of food, &c., which are complained of, are very probably more due to this cause than anything else.

A Cavalry N.C.O. of twenty-three years' experience forwards the following notes on the training of recruits at the Canterbury Depot and elsewhere. As he is a man of large experience, and seems to know thoroughly well what he is talking about, I think they may be worth the notice of those interested in the training of cavalry soldiers :—

When drafts left Canterbury I can say positively that the men were thoroughly well trained, considering the time they had spent there. I am speaking of the time when Major Knox was the Adjutant. They were all dismissed musketry, gymnasium, riding-school, and foot-drill. The Depot could put as many as 600 or 700 men in the field, all of whom could ride thoroughly well. Of course, I do not mean to say that these men know all about reconnaisance and outpost duty, but they had a very fair idea of that. When General Luck once inspected them as a regiment on Park Farm, Canterbury, he remarked that they worked as well or better than some regiments he had seen.

Now, I have watched recruits at foot-drill in several regiments, and I have asked N.C.O.s how long these men had joined, and in some cases they averaged nine months' service and upwards. As far as I could see they knew very little about their drill, and they had done no musketry or gymnasium. I was told "we have not had time yet to put them through that." I could see at a glance that the real reason was that the Instructors did not understand drilling their men. I do not mean that the Instructors did not know their drill, but many of them had no idea of pointing out their faults to the men. Now this is the thing that wants looking into.

You will see that there is an Inspector of Musketry, and an Inspector of Gymnasiums, who make their quarterly visits to see that things are all right. But what is wanted is an inspector to go round and visit each regiment, and see the N.C.O.s drill their own squads, and explain to the Instructors their faults. There should be an officer of very great experience appointed for this business. No recruits ought to be at foot-drill more than five months. I have seen, under Major Knox, a thousand recruits on the Square in Canterbury. I think they used to form three or four lines, with four strong squadrons in each line. These men averaged four to five months' service, mere boys. They used to work like clockwork. Now go and look at regiments standing on parade. You will see men moving about all over the place, and the instructors drilling the squads take no notice of it. That shows the instructors have not been properly trained themselves. I was looking the other day at a squad at lance drill. I was told they had joined nine or ten months. They were a disgrace to the regiment. I know that there are old soldiers and N.C. officers who think men should not be dismissed till they have done twelve months' service. That is nonsense. If they are put under good Instructors they could be dismissed under six months. You see, after that the poor devils get sick of the grind. They don't care whether they work or not, and no wonder, seeing what recruits have to do between réveillé and 1 p.m.

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The two following cases are authenticated by the accounts of a Line infantry regiment :—

1. Private Smith, two badges, employed in canteen, attends one parade a week, does no fatigues, has his meals specially prepared by canteen steward's wife, no grocery stoppage, and 1s. per day extra duty pay. Remuneration for one year :—

Pay at 1s. ...				£18 5 0
G. C. pay ...				3 0 10
Extra Pay				18 5 0
				39 10 10
Less Washing ...	£0	15	2½	
,, Library ...	0	13	0	
				1 8 2½
Total pay for the year				£38 2 7½

2. Corporal Jones, Drill Instructor for three years, exemplary character, has had 60 per cent of the battalion passed through his hands with credit. Remuneration for one year :—

Pay at 1s. 8d.				£30 8 4
Extra pay...				nil
				30 8 4
Less groceries	£4	11	3	
,, washing	0	15	2½	
,, library, &c.	0	13	0	
				5 19 5½
Total pay for the year				£24 8 10½

Thus we have, on one hand, a private soldier in a highly desirable berth, with no responsibility of any kind, and no special abilities as a soldier, drawing more than half as much again as a non-commissioned officer occupying one of the most responsible, important, and arduous positions in the battalion—a man who must be one of the smartest soldiers in the regiment, and must be endowed with an inexhaustible fund of perseverance and patience, as well as capacity for teaching. Surely this points to the necessity for some improvement in the position of Drill Instructors.

A bitter cry has reached Truth Office from the wives and families of the Seaforth Highlanders, whose experiences during the last fourteen months appear to have been truly phenomenal. When the regiment arrived in Malta in January, 1897, the women and children were quartered in the Cameratta at Valetta. When the husbands and fathers departed for Crete, their families were packed off to Imtarfa, seven miles distant. After a few months there, they were again removed to the Cottenara district, nine miles off. Here they remained till the return of the regiment from Crete in November, when they were once more brought back to the Cameratta. On the departure of the regiment for Cairo in January of this year, the women were left behind at Malta, and at the expiration of a month were again shifted to their former quarters in the Cottenara district, where they remain for the present, waiting anxiously to know what the next move will be. Every one of these moves involves not only an immense amount of trouble and discomfort to women with families, but also a heavy loss in the way of breakages and small expenses, and of course things are worse when the job is done in the absence of the husband. It is true, as the lady who sends me these particulars admits, "that the girl who weds a soldier must be prepared to rough it." That is no reason, however, why the authorities should go out of their way to make things rougher for her than is necessary ; and for bandying these unfortunate women and

children to and fro, all over the island, every three or four months, it is difficult to believe there is any necessity whatever.

A letter recently received from Gibraltar throws light on the condition of some of the skeleton battalions which have incurred the criticism of Mr. Arnold-Forster and other critics. The 1st Battalion Yorkshire Regiment, which was recently sent out to Gibraltar very hurriedly, is only about 550 strong, and consists largely of raw recruits, fully half of them of less than twelve months' service. My informant states that there are at least 200 men in the battalion who had never fired a rifle at the time they went out. The battalion had recently been depleted by several large drafts. If it was absolutely unavoidable to send a battalion in this condition on foreign service, things must indeed be in a bad way. Gibraltar, with its limited facilities for training soldiers, is the very last station to which such a corps ought to have been sent.

Sundry dovecotes seem to have been fluttered—more seriously, I think, than the occasion warrants—by two paragraphs in last week's TRUTH, one of which related to the *Shanghai*, and the other to a troopship unknown, which I surmised might possibly be the *Shanghai*. The P. & O. Company inform me that no complaints whatever have been received by them in regard to the victualling of the ship. On the contrary, everything has been officially reported as satisfactory. From the details which the company give of the arrangements made, it seems credible that this should have been so, and that if our friend "Tommy" threw his rations overboard during the voyage, it was because sea-sickness or some other cause had rendered him more than usually fastidious. I cannot see, however, that in so doing he has injured any one, unless it be himself.

With regard to the other points mentioned in the same connection, I take the following from a long and interesting letter which an officer—and not an unsympathetic one—writes on "Tommy's" grievances :—

> TRUTH says :—"Another curious statement is that numbers of soldiers were regularly employed in scrubbing paint, swabbing the decks, &c., which is surely not the usual practice, &c." The very last joined subaltern must be aware that the duties are, and always have been and must be, the duties of troops on board ship, who are in no sense passengers. It is absolutely essential from a sanitary and disciplinary point of view that soldiers should swab decks and do all these things, and it is no more than they do in barracks every day of their lives. . . .
>
> Then again, with regard to guard duties on board ship, with such a responsibility as the charge of a trooper, the danger of an outbreak of fire, collision, men falling overboard, &c., it is obvious to the meanest (military) capacity that a very large proportion of the troops must be kept on the alert day and night. Hence the guard duties. TRUTH states that "as many as twenty-four men" were "put on this duty every morning." Assuming the number of troops on board to be only 900—a low estimate—this means that a man would only have been on guard duty one day in thirty-seven.

It is highly gratifying to me, as a humble civilian, to know as much as the last joined subaltern; but with all this knowledge I question whether it is a legitimate thing to put men—probably in an advanced stage of sea-sickness—on a rough passage through the Bay of Biscay to the same sort of duty they would have to discharge in barracks. Personally, I should be very sorry if I had to pursue my ordinary business daily routine in the course of a voyage across the Atlantic. As to the guard duty, it is possible that I misunderstood my information; but I take it to be that as many as twenty-four men were mounted on guard simultaneously during the voyage, which would, of course, work out very differently from the calculation of my correspondent. However, these are minor points. I referred to the *Shanghai* because it struck me that the vessel might be the one on which the mutiny and robbery of the bread locker are alleged to have taken place. This story, as mentioned in last week's TRUTH, was told in a private letter, written home by a man whose good character and credibility are vouched for. I think it is to the public interest that the matter should be noticed, and any doubt about it cleared up.

The following memorandum, which was sent recently to candidates going up for the March examination for Naval cadets, throws further light on the point mentioned in TRUTH the other day :—

> At the examination to be held this month for the entry of cadets in the Royal Navy, candidates will be regarded as having qualified who obtain such an aggregate of marks in arithmetic, algebra, and geometry combined, also in the subjects under Class I, as a whole, as shall satisfy the Civil Service Commissioners, *without regard to the qualifying standard laid down in the regulations.*

This I take to mean that provided a boy does well in Latin, the Commissioners will be ready to turn a blind eye to his deficiencies in mathematics.

At the last annual meeting of the P. & O. Company it was categorically denied that the shipping "conference" headed by that company quotes cheaper rates for Continental than for British ports on freights to and from the Far East. This denial appears to have evoked a good deal of discussion at Hong Kong, and the local *Telegraph* quotes current freight market reports, which certainly seem to show that the "conference" rates for homeward freight from China are uniformly the same to London as to Hamburg, Bremen, and other northern Continental ports, even by boats calling at London, while the rate to Liverpool is as high as to New York viâ London, and 25 per cent. higher than to Antwerp, Hamburg, or Bremen. Possibly this conflict of statements is susceptible of some satisfactory explanation, but in view of the constant allegation that a preference is given by the "conference" to foreign ports—an allegation repeated once more at the meeting of the Association of Chambers of Commerce last week—it would be interesting to know what the explanation is.

I have been asked to gibbet the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company by an aggrieved passenger who recently travelled by one of their boats from Jamaica, and lost a trunk or box which he had left on deck during the first

night of the voyage. It seems that he told one of the stewards to bring the box down, but it was not brought, and the next morning it had disappeared. As I find that the Company disclaim on their tickets all responsibility for baggage, and urge passengers to cover themselves by insurance, I really do not see that anybody but the aggrieved passenger himself is responsible for the loss he has incurred. Would he have expected the Company to compensate him if somebody had stolen his watch from his berth during the voyage? Judging from what one often sees on board steamboats, there is a general impression among passengers that the duty of looking after their effects is anybody's business except the owners'.

The following items in connection with the grounding of H.M.S. *Victorious* should be read, marked, and digested by every British taxpayer. On February 22, at noon, the *Victorious* came out of the Suez Canal, and anchored in Suez Roads. At 5.30 p.m. she was followed by the *Surprise*, with Rear-Admiral Noel on board. On his arrival, the Admiral placed the Captain of H.M.S. *Victorious* under arrest for having put his ship ashore at Port Said. In the meantime, H.M.S. *Rapid*, homeward bound from the Australian Station, also anchored at Suez. Instead of sending the prisoner back to Port Said by the *Rapid*, which in the ordinary course of things would have resumed her journey in the course of a few hours, the Admiral ordered H.M.S. *Melita*, which had been stationed at Suez for some weeks, to convey the Captain and four witnesses from Suez to Port Said. The *Rapid* was ordered to remain at Suez pending the return of the *Melita*. On the following morning the *Surprise* returned to Port Said with the Admiral, and on the following morning the *Melita* followed, carrying the Captain of H.M.S. *Victorious* and the witnesses.

Now there is railway and telegraphic communication between Port Said and Suez, by which means all necessary steps could have been taken to detain the *Victorious* on her arrival at Suez and bring the Captain back to Port Said, thus saving the two journeys of the *Surprise* through the Canal. Further, even if it was necessary for the Admiral in person to pursue the *Victorious* to Suez in the *Surprise*, there is no conceivable reason why the prisoner and the witnesses could not then have been brought back to Port Said either on the *Rapid*, or by railway, or even on the *Surprise*. In point of fact, both the Captain and the witnesses eventually returned from Port Said to Suez by train. The Canal dues for the two journeys of H.M.S. *Surprise* from Port Said to Suez were £343 16s. 8d., and for those of the *Melita* £190 15s. 2d. £534 11s. 10d. was, therefore, the trifling sum charged against the taxpayer by the failure of Rear-Admiral Noel (unless it was some one higher in authority) to use ordinary common-sense in arranging for the arrest and return of the Captain of the *Victorious*. Well may it be said that if any private firm were to conduct its business on such lines as our great "spending departments" adopt, it would be in the bankruptcy court in a few months!

From many communications received during the last two or three weeks, I find that there is a wide consensus of opinion among experienced Anglo-Indians as to the desirability of the appointment of a genuine Foreign Minister as a member of the Viceroy's Council. The following comes from a gentleman exceptionally well qualified to speak on the subject:—

> The work of the Foreign Office in India is so vast, so very responsible, and of such vital importance, that there is really required between the Office and the Viceroy the best *civil* administrator and statesman India can produce. Things are widely different now from what they were half a century ago. The Foreign Office has grown during that period to eight times its former size, and the work has multiplied twentyfold. Experience shows that the absence of an able, independent, and *unmilitary* administrator at the head of foreign affairs practically leaves them to be bossed by the Commander-in-Chief and military member of Council, goaded on as they are by an array of enthusiastic Adjutant-Generals, Quartermaster-Generals, and "Intelligence" experts. These officials, with their unquestionable knowledge and argumentative resource, are well able to hustle the Viceroy and his small civil Council. Only a strong civil statesman, having time and facilities to deal with foreign affairs exclusively, could grapple with this military horde and advise the Viceroy as a diplomatist. No mere secretary is in a position to do this fearlessly, even if he could or would. If, in addition to other disadvantages, the Foreign Secretary is himself imbued with military ardour, as is often the case, the civil element in the Government is reduced to impotence.

Commenting on the portentous development of red-tape in the Government of India, an Anglo-Indian, who has had large experience of Simla, writes:—

> The arm-chair administrators at Simla pride themselves before everything else on the extent of their correspondence. It is a race between them as to which office can turn out the greatest quantity of official literature. A few years ago an official, with the air of a weary Titan, pointed out to me the great bundles of papers, neatly tied up with red tape and bristling with reference slips, which embodied his official labours. The bundles were scattered all over the floor and the tables of his office, they overflowed into his sitting or drawing-room, and they covered the seats and the table in the billiard-room. Of course, there are no billiard-rooms in public offices, but big officials at Simla usually work in their own houses. He imagined that I should be astounded at his gigantic labours, but I knew by bitter experience how executive works were suffering from this terrible craze to win renown as a laborious administrator.
>
> I believe the War Office well deserves its evil reputation for red-tapeism, but it is not to be compared with Simla. A small volume, called the Queen's Regulations, suffices for the British Army at home and in the Colonies. The Bengal Army Regulations now fill about sixteen huge volumes!

It is announced from Calcutta that, with the submission of the Kuki Khels and the Kambar Khels, the frontier fighting may now be regarded as practically ended. Everybody will hope that this anticipation will be justified by the event. If it is, we shall probably be told that the result is a conclusive answer to the criticism that has been passed upon the management of the late campaign. Let there be no mistake upon this point. If, as seems to be the case, the Afridis and the kindred tribes have had enough fighting for the present, and are anxious to avoid a fresh invasion of their territory by British

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Duysen Pianos are the most superb of all modern Instruments. They stand absolutely unrivalled for beauty of tone, touch, & finish. A consummate success in small grands.—Lloyd's, 24, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, W.

troops, that result is due to the pluck and fortitude of our fighting men, officers and soldiers, and to that only.

I am told by an officer, who ought to be an authority on this question, that it is quite erroneous to suppose that anything in the nature of an explosion occurs when the Dum-Dum bullet "finds its billet." The history of the bullet is this: the original Lee-Metford bullet was encased in a nickel shell to prevent the lead getting into the grooving of the rifle. It was found that the hardness of this covering prevented the bullet from "setting up," as it is technically called, on impact. Unless it met with a very powerful resistance it would pass clean through the body it struck, inflicting a wound similar to what would be caused by a long slender weapon. The consequence was that a man struck by the bullet, unless hit in a vital part, would often not be conscious for some time that he had received a wound, and the effect of the rifle in stopping an advancing enemy was proportionately reduced. To remedy this, the Dum-Dum authorities removed the point of the nickel cap without altering the shape of the bullet, and introduced a softer metal into the nose. The effect is that the nose flattens on impact, and the harder metal forming the base breaks up. There is no air inside the bullet, and I take it that it only differs from any bullet hitherto in use in that, owing to the higher velocity, when it is once stopped, it breaks up more, and does more damage to the resisting body than bullets fired from the old-fashioned rifles.

The Bombay authorities have carefully closed the stable-door after the steed has been stolen, by revising the procedure which led to the recent deplorable riots. The announcement of the Governor that search parties are to be "abolished experimentally" is a virtual confession that the previous procedure was at fault; that is to say, that the whole responsibility for the recent riots and loss of life rests with the authorities. A gentleman with a long experience of India, writing to me on this subject, remarks that to send a plague party to search the zenana of a Mohammedan in a Mohammedan quarter is an act of folly akin to taking a lighted candle into a powder magazine; and that to employ a Parsee magistrate in the attempt to quell a Mohammedan riot is like endeavouring to extinguish a fire with petroleum. Is anybody to be called to account for such blundering?

I take the following from a very good letter on this subject which appeared the other day in the *Western Times*, the writer of which expresses similar sentiments to the above:—

> An English reader may ask, What is to be done to enforce the law? Well, this is what would have been done when India under the Lawrences was governed by men, and not by sticks of red sealingwax clad in foolscap. The householder would have been told to admit to his zenana a female practitioner or medical examiner. To this, nine chances to one, no objection would have been made. If entry was denied, the door would have been nailed up as a quarantine precaution, and the inhabitants of the house supplied with food through a hole in the wall.

This disposes of any suggestion that the measures adopted by the Bombay Government were unavoidable.

A member of the Indian Medical Service who has charge of one of the largest plague hospitals and segregation camps strongly complains of the inadequacy of the extra allowance granted by the Government for such services. The allowance to the medical officer is, it appears, only Rs. 150 per month, whereas combatant military officers working under his superintendence on plague duty are rewarded with Rs. 300 per month. It may be said that plague duty should come in the day's work of the medicos. Putting aside, however, the question of special remuneration, the Rs. 150 a month is in many instances insufficient to compensate the medical officer for the other allowance and private earnings which he necessarily sacrifices while on this special employment.

By the way, it would be interesting to know whether any missionary agencies have been engaged in the plague work at Bombay. I have been told that such is the case, and if it were really so, this would no doubt be an additional provocative of fanatical resistance to the sanitary measures of the Government.

Every mail from India brings fresh evidence of the deep and widespread opposition which the Criminal Procedure Bill has excited among the non-official European community, as well as among the most loyal and distinguished exponents of native opinion. Its strongest opponents, both in the Legislative Council and outside, are men above the suspicion of any sympathy with the incitements to sedition which it is one of the professed objects of the measure to suppress—men who would have nothing to gain and everything to lose from any disturbance of the existing order of things. The truth is, however, that the Bill has been designed, not to deal with seditious journals—the existing law gives ample powers for that purpose—but to afford a means of silencing all unfavourable criticism of officialdom, no matter how legitimate or well merited it may be. This is pointed out with great force in the protest of the Calcutta Bar—a document drawn up by a committee composed exclusively of the European leaders of the Bar:—

> In effect, all newspapers will be placed under the complete control of the District Magistrates, or those Magistrates specially empowered in that behalf, that is to say, of the very persons whose action, by virtue of their public position and the very wide powers they enjoy, is likely to meet with disapproval and to be the subject of strong criticism at the hands of the Press, and who, therefore, will be the most intolerant and the most inclined to be prejudiced.

It is very much as if an official in an English town, combining the powers of a Chief Magistrate with the duties of Head Constable, were placed in a position to

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Bellis's world-famed real Turtle Soup, more strengthening than any beef fluid. Glass flacons 7/-, tins. 5/-.—Obtainable everywhere, or direct, post free. T. K Bellis, 6, Jeffrey's-square, London.

prosecute, to try, and to punish any local journalist who happened to fall foul of him in his judicial or executive capacity. The Bill relates to various offences besides sedition, and the memorandum of the Calcutta Bar sets forth a dozen different provisions, more especially in reference to the extension of the jurisdiction of the inferior magistracy and the powers of the police, which set aside the most elementary principles of justice. However, the measure has now been passed by the Legislative Council, and, unless the Secretary of State interferes, it will soon be in operation. Outside official circles the universal opinion is that these changes in the law will be productive of an infinite amount of mischief and injustice, and tend more than anything else to create that disaffection towards the Government in India which the Bill is ostensibly framed to prevent.

By a recent appointment in the Excise Department in Somerset House, the Board of Inland Revenue has finally broken down an arrangement which had prevailed for the past half-century. The Department is divided into two sections—the Secretary's office, composed of a clerical staff, and the Chief Inspector's office, composed of practically-trained outdoor experts, who have to deal with an immense variety of technical questions. It was originally considered necessary for the efficient working of the Secretary's office that both the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary should be selected from among the practically-trained officials, but the old practice was over-ridden a few years ago on the appointment of the present Secretary. Now the Assistant Secretaryship is about to become vacant, and it is announced that this berth also will be filled by an indoor clerk, so that for the first time during fifty years neither of the men at the head of the Secretary's office will have had any training or experience in the practical department. This will occasion much inconvenience and circumlocution in disposing of many points that come up in the Secretary's office; but neither that fact, nor the further fact that the appointment filches a piece of promotion from the Chief Inspector's Department, seems to have weighed with the Board.

I understand that a committee of inquiry has been sitting at the G.P.O. to devise some means of reducing the arduous labours of the Surveyors. To do this will be easy enough if only the departmental passion for red tape can be abated. Nothing could be more useless, vexatious, and absurd than the present arrangement, under which all Postmasters, except those of Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham, and Bristol, are prevented from submitting any proposal direct to the Secretary at St. Martin's-le-Grand, everything having to be forwarded through the Surveyor for the district. Is it not, for instance, perfectly ridiculous that the Postmaster of an office where upwards of fifty telegraph messengers are employed should have to consult a Surveyor, whose residence is possibly fifty miles away, respecting the appointment of a new messenger in the place of one dismissed?

If you want to entirely Furnish your House or select any article of Furniture or Carpet, &c., send for Hewetsons' Illustrated Priced Catalogue.—Hewetsons, Tottenham Court-road, London.

So far, at any rate, as the larger offices are concerned, there are dozens of minor matters in regard to which the Surveyors might be relieved of their duties without the slightest impairment of either the efficiency or economy of the service. There seems, indeed, no valid reason why the Postmasters of Newcastle-on-Tyne, Bradford, Sheffield, and a score or two other places should not be entirely released, like the five already mentioned, from the supervision of the Surveyors, and allowed to deal direct with the head office in London.

The Gas Light and Coke Company have just notified those of their customers who use penny-in-the-slot meters, that on April 1 the charge will be raised to one penny per twenty-two cubic feet. The present rate is 3s. 4d. per thousand, and it will be seen from this that the price is actually to be raised nearly 5½d. per thousand feet. The threatened increase all round in the price of gas in London at the present time is quite unjustified by existing circumstances, and ought to bring home to Londoners once more, the utter futility of the present statutory sliding-scale, and the helplessness of the community in the hands of the gas monopolists. But that the price should be specially increased at the expense of the poorest class of consumers is particularly outrageous. The effect of the new scale will be that, while the consumer by ordinary meter is paying 3s. per thousand for his gas, the user of the penny-in-the-slot meters will pay nearly 3s. 9½d.

By the way, it is a significant fact that the circular to the penny-in-the-slot consumers was only issued on March 4—the day after the County Council Election. Had it made its appearance a few days earlier, it might have been another useful weapon in the hands of the Progressives.

In talking over this matter the other day with a man who uses a penny-in-the-slot meter, I discovered a new instance of the high-handed tactics of these monopolists. Although the penny-in-the-slot contrivance is supposed to measure out the gas in pennyworths, and although the company have advantage of payment beforehand for every pennyworth of gas used, they decline to be bound by the reckoning of their own machine, and employ side by side with it an ordinary measuring apparatus which registers at the same time the number of feet consumed; and it generally happens that when the company's man comes round to collect the coppers from the meter he finds that the total amount consumed is in excess of that represented by the pence, and the consumer is presented with a bill for the difference. No case has been heard of in which it has been found the consumer was entitled to the return of some of his coppers from the company. As usual, the rule of the monopolists is, "Heads, we win; tails, you lose."

It is satisfactory to see that energetic efforts are being made to deliver London from the hands of the telephone monopolists, who, though young in years, have already

exhibited the worst vices of their elder brethren, the water, and the gas, and the tramway companies. Outside the office of the National Telephone Company it is universally recognised that in the greatest city in the world an abnormally high price has to be paid for an abominably bad service. Insignificant little towns in Switzerland and in Norway are far better served at much cheaper rates. The conference of local authorities held at the Guildhall last week passed a resolution asking for an inquiry by the Treasury, and if this is granted there will be no difficulty in making out an overwhelming case against the National Telephone Company.

Of the minor shortcomings of railway management, a good illustration is furnished by a recent experience on the North-Eastern line at Newcastle-on-Tyne. There is a notification in the Company's time table that a commercial traveller's luggage can be booked forward from the station at which he starts to the station at which his day's journey ends, notwithstanding any intended stoppages at intermediate stations. A commercial traveller was refused this privilege at Newcastle, because the officials were ignorant of the fact that the Company had adopted and printed such a rule. The same traveller then applied to have his luggage labelled in the ordinary way for York; but he was told that this also could not be done, as the supply of York labels had just run out! Passing over the latter mishap, what is to be said of the management of a company which advertises a regulation for the benefit of travellers, but keeps its own servants in the dark as to its existence?

Telegraphists appear to be among the worst paid of the clerical employees of the railway companies. There are many employed by the London and North-Western Company who, after upwards of twenty years' service, are only receiving £80 a year, less £2 deducted for the superannuation fund; and probably the position of men on other lines is fully as bad—if not worse. Considering the nature of a telegraph clerk's work, 30s. a week is miserably inadequate pay for men who have served the Company so many years. It is exceedingly mean in the case of a wealthy and flourishing concern like the North-Western, more especially as it makes a very large sum from rent and commission on Post Office messages sent over the railway wires.

Concerning the extraordinary tangle into which the Hythe Town Council has got the financial affairs of the borough, a ratepayer assures me that it has not been in any way due to the lowness of the rates. On the contrary, the rates, including the water-rate, reach the appalling total of 9s. 7d. in the £. This makes the mismanagement of the corporation appear worse than before, and strengthens the demand that is being made for an inquiry by the Local Government Board.

It will be a relief to a good many householders to hear that sanitary inspectors have no right to make, merely in virtue of their office, such a domiciliary visit as I described last week in connection with a case at Liverpool. From the statements with which two or three correspondents have favoured me, I gather that though the local sanitary authority is charged with the general duty of inspection of nuisances, its officers have no power whatever to enter any private dwelling against the wish of the occupier, unless they first lay an information before a magistrate, and show good cause for the granting of an order of admission. In the case at Liverpool the inspection appears to have been made both vexatiously and illegally, and the aggrieved householder has a good cause of action against the intruding officials.

Certain remarks in these columns in reference to a conviction under the Margarine Act at Mullingar Petty Sessions have borne fruit; for I now hear from a local correspondent that the Lord Chancellor of Ireland has called upon Mr. Fitzherbert Delamer to resign his commission as a justice of the peace. Lord Ashbourne's jealous regard for the reputation of the Bench stands out in very favourable contrast to the conduct of Judge Curran, who so strangely and vainly attempted to white wash the character of the defendant magistrate.

The action of Klene & Co. against Mr. Frank Dicksee, R.A., in the Bloomsbury County Court, must have been particularly amusing to readers of TRUTH, who have long been acquainted with the true character of the biographical works published by the plaintiffs. Mr. Dicksee ordered a copy of "Our Contemporaries," but declined to pay, on the ground that the book did not fulfil Klene & Co.'s representation that it would contain a comprehensive, and, at the same time, circumspect selection of biographies. The comprehensiveness was shown by the exclusion of all but a score or so of really well-known names, and the circumspection by the inclusion of a host of self-advertising nobodies. It would be invidious, perhaps, to mention any of the latter, but among the former were such men as Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the President of the Royal Academy. Judge Bacon had no hesitation in finding that Klene & Co. failed to carry out their contract, and he therefore gave judgment for the defendant with costs—a result which conveys a valuable lesson to other persons who have been similarly victimised by the same firm.

Yet another development of the case of the young lady who, having attained her majority, was put to a cost of £7 16s. 6d. in obtaining an order for the payment out of the Court of Chancery of a legacy of £50, which had been left to her whilst she was a minor. The money was invested by the Court, and the legatee is now informed that it cannot actually be handed over to her till a dividend which becomes due in April is paid! The option of taking the capital without waiting for the dividend is not allowed, and if the owner of the money had happened to be in the direst need, it would still have been all the same to the Court of Chancery.

In my Legal Pillory this week the West Kerrier magistrates are represented by a peculiarly harsh and discreditable sentence. The practice of sending people to gaol for sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence is scandalous enough in ordinary cases, but when the homeless and penniless delinquent is a wretched old man of eighty-three, one might surely expect even the most Draconic Bench to show a little compassion. It was such a man who was accused of this enormity at West Kerrier, and his judges were so destitute of mercy that they condemned him to seven days' imprisonment—a heavier punishment than many an able-bodied ruffian receives for thrashing his wife. But, as will be seen from the following list, the magistracy generally treat offences of violence and cruelty as of small account in comparison with acts of vagrancy or poaching and petty thefts:—

Thingoe Petty Sessions. Before Rev. J. White, Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. Josselyn, and Mr. R. Burrell. John Mayes, convicted of assaulting George Codling by striking him in the face and biting his ear. Fined 5s. and 13s. costs.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. W. Newbold and R. Jefferson. Charles Wright, convicted of assaulting Joseph Mardle. Defendant gave complainant a severe blow, which fractured his jaw. He had been previously convicted of an assault. Fined £2 and costs.

Exeter Police-court. Robert Salter, convicted of assaulting Sarah Jeffrey, who said he struck her in the face and knocked her down. The fall broke her collar-bone. Fined 30s. and costs.

Nottingham Police-court. Before Messrs. T. Gascoigne and S. Bourne. Reuben Belshaw, convicted of assaulting Mary Ann Francis, with whom he cohabited. He struck the woman and knocked her down, causing a serious injury to her head. Fined 15s.

East Penwith Petty Sessions. Wm. Henry Mugford charged with cruelty, by abandoning and neglecting a pony. The animal was reduced almost to a skeleton, and it died from neglect and exposure. Fined £1 1s. and costs.

Chester Police-court. Before the Mayor and Mr. G. Dulton. Elijah Beckett, convicted of a brutal assault upon his wife. She had had to summon him on a previous occasion, and she stated that he had not worked for nine months but had lived upon her money. Bound over and ordered to pay the costs.

Stafford Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. W. H. Peach and N. Joyce. Benjamin Patrick, charged with assaulting Thomas Underhill, a cripple. Defendant knocked complainant down and kicked him five or six times. Fined 15s., including costs.

Thingoe Petty Sessions. Before the same magistrates. John Cooper, David Bullock, and Harry Elliston, charged with an offence under the Game Laws by killing a hare. Each fined £1 and 2s. 10d. costs.

West Kerrier Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. R. G. Rows, C. C. Hocking, J. Coad, J. Boaden, Sir V. Vyvyan, and Captain Rogers. Thomas Johnson, a tramp 83 years of age, charged with sleeping in an outhouse, and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Ludlow County Police-court. Before Messrs. W. St. A. Rouse-Boughton, H. Foster, T. H. Atherton, and Captain Parkinson. John Fletcher, charged with using a gun without a licence to kill partridges. Fined £2 9s. 6d.

Henley County Police-court. Before Colonel Baskerville, Messrs. I. T. Witherington, and G. T. Inman. Arthur Hanson and Charles Sweeney, summoned for trespassing in search of game. Sweeney fined £1 6s. 6d., and Hanson £2 6s. 6d.

Bedford Police-court. Wm. Westley charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of rabbits and nets. Fined £5 and costs or one month.

Samford Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. C. H. Berners, T. S. Furness, W. A. Elliston, J. O. Fison, and Captain A. H. Morse. Wm. Hamilton, a young sailor, charged with stealing a shirt and a pair of socks. The prisoner had hitherto borne a good character. Fourteen days.

Jedburgh Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff V. Campbell. Robert Storrie, charged with poaching on land belonging to the Marquis of Lothian. Three months.

Malvern Police-court. Before Colonel Heywood. George King, charged with sleeping in an outhouse. Seven days.

Dursley Police-court. Before Captain Graham, Colonel Browne, Messrs. W. Phelps and R. A. Lister. John H. Blake, a football player, charged with assaulting J. F. Chambers, another player. The parties were playing in opposing teams in an Association League match, and defendant was dribbling the ball down the field when complainant charged and obtained possession of it. At this defendant lost his temper and deliberately kicked complainant, rendering him partly unconscious. Fined £2 and costs.

Clevedon Police-court. Before Sir E. H. Elton, Messrs. C. Hill and F. Weatherly. Albert Jones, Wm. Walbridge, and John Smith, charged with stealing a quantity of watercress growing in open land. Fourteen days each.

Lichfield County Police-court. Before Mr. J. Fowler. Thomas Rose, John Thompson, and George Littlewood, charged with sleeping out. Seven days each.

Westminster Police-court. Before Mr. Shiel. Robert W. Hardingham, cab-driver, charged with cruelty to a horse by overdriving it. He drove the animal to Lingfield and back, a distance of sixty-four miles, without giving it a rest. Fined 40s. and costs.

Strange indeed are the aberrations of the Great Unpaid on the subject of cruelty to animals. At Bridgwater the other day, four defendants, described as young men, were charged with torturing a cat by tying a tin on its tail, and anointing its body with turpentine. The turpentine naturally caused the animal's fur to come off, and witnesses deposed (if such evidence was necessary) that it suffered from the ill-treatment for several days. Nevertheless the Bench dismissed the case, with the extraordinary observation that, "having seen the very small tin and the string, they had come to the conclusion that it was a boyish prank, and they considered no cruelty had been committed." Nature has unaccountably omitted to equip some beings with the caudal appendages and elongated ears which they ought to possess—otherwise this view of the matter might be modified by a suitable experiment upon some member of the Bridgwater Bench with a tin, however small, a piece of string, and a quantity of turpentine.

I am glad to see that in the latest of his periodical warnings against swindling advertisements, the Commissioner of Police has specially noticed the "free gift" trick, which Ernest Goode and others continue to practise with such amazing impudence. The Commissioner also mentions the puzzle competition and home employment swindles, and suggests that provincial papers would do a service to the community by cautioning their readers against all such frauds. It seems to me that the provincial papers, and some in London, too, would do a far greater service if they would have the decency to omit from their columns the palpably dishonest advertisements by which these frauds are carried on. The warning also refers to the Spanish prisoner and buried treasure swindle, which, the Commissioner remarks, "is apparently as flourishing as ever." That the gangs who work it are as busy as ever I can myself testify from the number of the letters that are sent on to me every week.

Subscriptions greatly needed by The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—6,929 convictions this year; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

H. L. Savory & Co.'s Cigarettes.—By Special Warrants of Appointments to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, H.S.H. the Duke of Teck, and the Houses of Lords and Commons. To be obtained of all the leading Houses in the trade.—Sole address, 59, Piccadilly, London, W. Specimen case of samples, containing all sizes, 2s. 6d., with price list.

The evidence given before the Money-Lending Committee by the man Shuckburgh, *alias* the Clerical and Medical Bank, hardly requires any notice here, for nearly all the cases of cruel and unprincipled extortion to which this notorious shark confessed have been recorded from time to time in these columns. Mr. Justice Hawkins's endorsement of the suggestions made by Sir George Lewis was, however, extremely important, and should greatly encourage the Committee to recommend legislation on those lines.

Pending an alteration of the law, it is pleasing to find Judges making effective use of their existing powers to curb the rapacity of such vampires as Isaac Gordon. This well-known scoundrel last week applied to the Bath County Court for an order of commitment against a borrower who had received £30, had repaid £10, and was still indebted to the amount of £39 10s. It was a case in which Gordon had got the man into his clutches by one of his usual tricks, and the Judge marked his sense of the usurer's conduct by making an order which is to be suspended so long as the defendant pays sixpence a month. At this rate it will take more than 130 years to clear off the debt.

Since the Select Committee resumed its inquiry the circularising usurers and usurers' touts have been more active than ever. No doubt they want to make the most of the time that remains before the Legislature proceeds to pare their claws. In this enterprise, it is almost superfluous to say, the champion bloodsucker, Gordon, easily outdistances all his rivals. He must be spending money in printing and postage with the most reckless prodigality. The famous polychromatic circular bearing the name James W. Ryland, and the address, 6, Livery-street, Birmingham—I am amused, by the way, to notice, that some of my contemporaries have only just discovered that this gorgeous missive emanates from Gordon—is being scattered broadcast. That, however, is only one instance of his industry, for Gordon has a dozen different addresses—in London, Bristol, Manchester, Liverpool, and elsewhere—and a score of different aliases. Thus the circulars sent all over the country from 99, Withington-road, Whalley Range, Manchester, and signed "Robert Dean," are Gordon's, and so also are those from "W. Wallis," of 66, Great Russell-street, London, "Arthur A. Andrews," of 6, High-street, Kingsland, N., and "George J. Addison," of 3, Holles-street, W.

Joel Ford, of 17, Coleman-street, E.C., is another member of the tribe—and a most unconscionable extortioner—who is very busy at the present moment. Beaumont & Co., of 92 and 93, Great Russell-street, W.C., of whom I had lost sight for some time, have also broken out afresh, and the clergy throughout the country, as well as many other people, are being persecuted by the attentions of the new usurer's jackal who calls himself "Jones & Co., Limited," of 159, Cannon-street, E.C., though, as I mentioned last week, no such Company has been registered at Somerset House. Richard Pelham, of 47, Whitcomb-street, W.C., used at one time to specially bait his hook for medical gudgeon; but he is now, like Shuckburgh and Jones & Co., addressing himself more particularly to the clergy, whose necessities and innocence oftener make them an easy prey.

Just when the pricking of the editorial conscience has led to the exclusion of objectionable advertisements from one or two other well-known papers, the *People* has begun to open its columns again to one of the vilest quacks in the country. In his latest advertisement this man calls himself "Henry Davis, Esq.," and gives one of the two addresses which he is able to use from the occupation of a house at the corner of two streets in Brighton. At different times the same individual has also christened himself "W. H. Brown," "Hawkins & Co.," and the "Rev. David Jones," of Lewes. His business is so pernicious, and the literature he issues so filthy, that I feel sure it must be simply through an oversight that his advertisement is republished in the *People*, from which it had long disappeared.

The extract given below should cause some of my contemporaries who are engaged in running competitions not altogether above suspicion to thank their stars that they do not live in the United States. It is taken, needless to say, from an American paper. It is a pity that the "fraud order" is not a British institution. If it were, the official charged with the duty of issuing these documents would have a pretty busy time of it :—

> Washington, March 3.—The Post Office Department to-day issued a fraud order against the *Woman's World* Publishing Company, of 22 and 24, William-street, New York, and James H. Plummer, manager. It was charged that this paper had attained a large circulation by offering prizes which were advertised as being of much greater value than they were. Plummer was represented by counsel from New York and Washington at a hearing recently before Attorney-General Tyner, of the Post Office Department, which lasted three days. There is no appeal from a fraud order, and no mail will be delivered to the publication.

A Folkestone paper announces, among other items of fashionable intelligence, that John James Jones has acquired a "beautiful little place" on the Royal Military Road, which was for many years the residence of the late County Court Judge Lonsdale. Is John James about to retire on a competency, or is this another investment on behalf of the London Samaritan Society?

Although the famous New South Wales snowball lately began to roll wildly about the Continent, it has not by any means finished its fantastic career in this country. Copies of the chain letter are still being circulated here, and one ingenuous writer has just managed to produce yet another variation of the address of the Miss Griffin (or Suffen, or Giffon, &c.) who is supposed to be collecting the million cancelled postage-stamps. What the original address was, goodness only knows; but it is now being rendered as Ralienga Mill-street, Hartsville, New South Wales—evidently a corruption of Botago Hill, St. Hankwell, N.S.W., which in its turn was derived from something else equally fanciful. This idiotic enterprise

really seems destined "to spin for ever down the ringing grooves of change," a moving monument of human folly.

Reuben May's latest:—

Dear Friend,—I am sorry to say that both the premises shown in the enclosed circular are in jeopardy, in part owing to arrears of rent. But I cannot think God, who has hitherto so graciously and even marvellously used them will let the cloud continue long and beg to ask some special help of some of my old and faithful friends. . . .

This plaintive utterance is dated March 8. The premises referred to are apparently those occupied by the Great Arthur-street Mission. Perhaps the editor of the *City Press*, who has taken Reuben May under his protection, and vouches for the veracity of all his statements, will let us know what amount of rent was owing at that date, and to what extent the premises were "in jeopardy."

A peculiar temptation has been devised for persons of strong religious views, who are not exactly Rechabites. The tempter is the "Palestine Wine and Trading Company, Limited," which is now sending its circulars to ministers of religion and others. The Company's price list contains such specialties as the following:—

No. 1.—Vin de Rishon le Zion, Red .....18s. per doz.
Produced from Bordeaux Vines, transplanted to Palestine.

No. 4.—Vin de Rishon le Zion, Red, Sweet Wine 24s. per doz.
A Beautiful Wine from Alicante Vines. Similar to Port.

No. 5.—Cognac de Rishon le Zion.....54s. per doz.
Old. Pure Grape.

The Mount Zion Port will, I imagine, find special favour with the old crusted Tory High Church school of divines. One has heard of Palestine as a land flowing with milk and honey, but it is something new to learn that it also flows with port wine and cognac.

M. Emile Solomiac's stock of "Domaine La Générale, Année 1888," seems to be as inexhaustible as the widow's cruse. The bereaved Frenchman began offering four cases of the precious vintage some time last November. I have a postcard before me, dated March 14, in which he is still offering precisely the original quantity (*quatre caisses*) which, in view of the necessity of disposing of them at once, he offers at the reduced price of 2 francs a bottle, "paiement comme vous voudrez." This is tempting, but, I should say, not quite tempting enough.

A suggestion is made by Mr. Ellis Lever, of Liverpool, that railway companies should arrange for every ticket to carry with it, without extra charge, an insurance of the passenger in case of accidental injury or death. Such an all-round insurance would be an addition to their liabilities which the companies are not in the least likely to undertake; but it seems to me that they might find a modification of the plan serviceable in attracting passengers back to the first and second classes. Many who travel third might be induced to patronise the second class if the cost of the ticket covered insurance; and some who go second class might change to the first if that brought a heavier insurance.

Cabby is so pronounced a conservative in all his ways and ideas that I shall not be at all surprised to see him offer the strongest opposition to the introduction here of the "taxameter." It is stated that this machine, which is already being used in Paris, automatically indicates on a dial the distance travelled by the vehicle on which it is fixed, takes count also of the time consumed in stoppages, and—best of all—shows the exact amount of the fare to be paid at the end of a journey. The majority of fares, at any rate, will be grateful for so useful an invention. In the long run, too, I think Cabby himself may be brought to look upon it as a friend. He would much prefer, if I understand him aright, to have a fair fixed wage, instead of being obliged to hire his vehicle from the owner, and make what he can out of it. By keeping, as it apparently will, an infallible record of the earnings of the cab, the taxameter will render practicable such an alteration in the relations between the owner and the driver.

English journalists at Bangkok seem to have been getting into hot water all round. The editor of the *Siam Free Press* has been deprived of the protection of the British Consul, and the editor of the *Bangkok Times* has been sued for libel by the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Nightingale. In the latter case it seems that the paper had argued that the duty of inspecting cattle and condemning diseased animals would be performed more satisfactorily by a veterinary surgeon than by a medical man. Dr. Nightingale resented the imputation that he was not qualified to do this work; but, after an exhaustive trial, the jury by a majority returned a verdict for the defendant. It would have surpassed almost anything we have heard of the libel laws at home if it had been held to be a libel on a medical man to say that he is not a veterinary surgeon.

Oh, no! I do not abuse the *Globe*. I am only desirous that this organ of Conservatism, which has some reputation to lose, should not lose it because its proprietor and former Editor is allowing his son to swagger and bluster in it after the manner of the 'Arries of a music hall. The son is a Lieutenant, whether of the Army or of the Navy, or of the Horse Marines, I know not. Be this as it may, his tone is hardly one that can commend itself to the officers of our Army or Navy, who fight well when called upon, but eschew cheap bluster. The Lieutenant is apparently anxious to emulate the fame of that ornament of American journalism, Mr. Jefferson Brick; and it must be admitted that he runs him close. I am all the more benevolent in seeking to restrain him, since I do not know a person who does more to stem the tide of Jingoism than this young gentleman. He renders that creed not only odious, but ridiculous, and he thus serves the purpose of the drunken Helot among the Spartans. A soldier or a sailor, why does he not betake himself to the Soudan or to West Africa? Surely in this he would do more for the cause that he advocates than in shouting, "War! War!" from the safe retreat of a newspaper office.

I cannot help smiling at the way in which we have been "hoist with our own petar." The House of Commons passed a resolution that it was essential to our interests that China should remain independent, and we have secured from the Chinese Government a pledge that none of the Yang-tsze provinces shall be alienated to any European Power. This has been met by France demanding that none of the provinces south of the Yang-tsze Valley shall be ceded to any such Power. This, it is urged by our Jingo Press, is a monstrous action on the part of the French; for they must be aware that we want a rectification of the frontier of the Burmese-Shan States, and also a trifle of Chinese territory to be ceded to us on the mainland opposite Hong-Kong. We are told that against this French demand we must protest, and, if necessary, "have recourse to our Fleet to checkmate the designs of France." But on what grounds? France is simply following our example, and acting on the resolution of the House of Commons.

One of the amendments to the Benefices Bill adopted in Committee last week empowers a Bishop to refuse presentation to any clergyman who at the date of his presentation to the living has not been five years in orders. Instead of leaving the matter to the discretion of the Bishop, it would be more satisfactory to make a clergyman absolutely ineligible for preferment until five years after his ordination—a proposal frequently advocated in TRUTH. But in Church reforms we have to be thankful for small mercies, and this amendment is at any rate a good step in the right direction. If it becomes law, the Bishops will no longer be able to say, as they do now, that they cannot prevent the scandals that arise from the appointment to benefices of young and inexperienced curates of one or two years' standing.

The pay of a trooper in some of the Colonial police forces seems as a rule to be sweated by stoppages even more grievously than the soldier's shilling a day used to be under the old order of things. An ex-trooper in the Natal Mounted Police corroborates the statement I published recently respecting the system in vogue in that force, and he adds one or two further details of the deductions that are made from the monthly pay. For instance, if a new station is established, the men themselves are charged with the cost of a cooking stove and a variety of other necessaries; all that the Government provides for their accommodation being a table, a couple of forms, and the requisite number of iron bedsteads. Even the buckets and brooms used in cleaning the cells at the out-stations have to be purchased by the troopers. One mysterious entry in the account I reproduced is explained, it appears, by the fact that, when a man dies, each of his comrades is compelled to give a shilling towards the erection of a tombstone.

These, however, are but small items in the long list of stoppages, of which the net result is that at the end of a month a trooper is sometimes lucky if he gets half a sovereign for himself—in other words, about as many shillings as he was promised pounds. It naturally makes him the more discontented with his lot when he finds that he is actually worse off than the Kaffir policeman, who invariably draws his £1 10s. a month. The Natal Government keeps its bargain with the native policeman, but it has no compunction about enlisting white troopers, many of them young fellows from this country, on what is undoubtedly a false pretence.

Nor is it only in regard to pay that recruits for the Colonial police forces are deceived and disappointed. Many enlist under a complete delusion as to the real nature of the duties they have to perform, and the conditions of the life they have to lead. This appears to be particularly the case with those who join the Chartered Company's Police in Mashonaland. Complaint after complaint is received that the men are not only ill-paid, but ill-clothed, ill-fed, ill-sheltered, and generally ill-treated, and in one of the latest letters I have seen, a young trooper, writing home to his relatives, speaks in particularly strong terms of the unhealthiness of the climate, which he has found vastly different from what the rhapsodies of Mr. Rhodes had led him to expect. Minor discomforts might be patiently endured if good health could be maintained, but there is little chance of that—more especially for men kept, as the Company's police are, for months together on a diet of inferior tinned stuff, with no fresh meat or vegetables.

Some of these Colonial police forces profess, by the way, to be extremely exclusive. The other day a man who had served in the Royal Horse Artillery inquired at the Cape Government offices if there were any vacancies in the Cape Mounted Rifles. Since he left the Army he has been employed in a "menial" capacity at a well-known club, and on this fact being mentioned he was at once informed that he was not eligible for the C.M.R. Only the sons of military men who have been plucked in their Army examinations are admitted—so he was given to understand—to this select corps. I did not know that these colonial policemen were such exalted beings; but the fact only makes the ill-treatment of which they complain all the more serious.

The extravagance of the expenditure on the government of the West Indian Colonies is effectively illustrated by a comparison of the salaries paid to the Governors with those paid to the Governors of the Australian Colonies. For example, Jamaica, with a population of 625,271, and a revenue of £777,133, pays its Governor £6,000 a year—only £1,000 less than is given by New South Wales with a population more than twice as large, and a revenue amounting to upwards of nine millions. Still more striking is the case of Trinidad, which, with a population of 248,404, and a revenue of £618,322, is bled to the extent of £5,000 a year for the salary of its Governor, while the Governor of South Australia, where there is a

population of 356,835 and a revenue of £2,628,019, has to be content with £4,000.

It is the same all through the system of administration in the West Indies. Many snug berths could be abolished altogether, and three fourths of the remaining salaries greatly reduced without any injury to the efficiency of the Government. That is what would be done first of all by any self-governing colony brought face to face with the condition of things prevailing in the West Indies. But these Crown Colonies are regarded as a natural and legitimate dumping ground for over-paid officials, and it is to maintain them in that position, and at the same time to put money in the pockets of the sugar planters, that the British taxpayer now has to make a grant of £120,000.

"DOLUS LATET IN GENERALIBUS."

Debate on the West Indian Vote, March 15, 1898.

Mr. Chamberlain, *loquitur* :—

"You're quite mistaken. Bless my soul!
You must not say it is a 'dole';
It is a 'grant': to make things pleasant
You might describe it as a present;
Or as a stimulus to trade;
Or a Colonial "rate in aid";
Or as a kindly indication
Of all good wishes from the nation;
Or as a handsome gift from 'Joe,'
The man from whom all blessings flow.
Don't say a 'dole,' though, I beseech—
Don't join in Little England's screech!
When I, you know, devise a scheme,
Things are not always what they seem.
So vote my project 'holus bolus;'
It's not a 'dole,' but only 'dolus.'"

SCRUTATOR.

NIGGER SPHERES AND BRITISH INFLUENCE.

SUPPOSING that two men each owned a portion of the outside rim of a circle, and that both claimed all within the circle in the rear of his portion, it is evident that if both acted on this proprietary view, a point within the circle would be eventually reached where the rival claims would clash. This is briefly the history of our dispute with France in the interior of Western Africa Both of us have colonies on the Bight of Benin which faces south; both of us have colonies on the coast which faces west; and France has possessions on the African coast of the Mediterranean which faces north. In regard to the hinterland of the French Mediterranean possessions, the two countries have come to an agreement. This is what is called the Say-Barru agreement, which is a line of delimitation drawn laterally from a place called Say to a place called Barru. The line is on the thirteenth parallel, and all to the north of it we recognise as within the French Mediterranean sphere of influence. As far north as the ninth parallel the frontiers have also been delimited between the hinterland of our colonies and that of France on the Bight of Benin. Between the ninth parallel and the thirteenth parallel there is a vast territory, through which the Niger flows. On the eastern side, the German sphere of influence commences, and the line delimiting this sphere has been drawn. But no line has been drawn on the western side. We and France both push forward from our respective colonies on the Bight of Benin, and France also pushes forward laterally from her colonies on the Western coast of Africa. All that has been agreed to is, that "all that fairly belongs to the Empire of Sokoto" is within our sphere of influence, and the Niger Company has concluded a treaty with the Sultan of Sokoto giving effect to this. The Empire of Sokoto is situated between the German sphere and the left bank of the Niger, but of what the Empire precisely consists, and how far it extends, are points which have never been settled. On the right, or western, bank of the Niger, and between it and what is admitted to be within the French sphere of influence, there is a strip of land. France claims it, and we claim it Both countries have agreed that a line of delimitation from north to south—*i.e.*, from the ninth to the thirteenth parallel—ought to be agreed to, and a joint Commission is now sitting at Paris to draw it, if possible.

Our respective claims to this disputed strip are based upon treaties with the sultans and chiefs holding sway there, and upon effective occupation following up these treaties. There seem to be two kingdoms in the strip. One is called Boussa, the other is called Gandu. But who is the monarch of Boussa, and what precisely Boussa is, or what precisely is Gandu, no one exactly knows. In 1890 an official of the Royal Niger Company concluded a treaty with a monarch professing to be the Sultan of Boussa or Borgu (for this kingdom is known by both names), in which the Ethiopian placed his monarchy under the protection of the Company, in consideration of receiving a yearly sum of "fifty bags, native value, in any class of goods." But in 1894, Colonel Lugard, acting for the Company, seems to have come to the conclusion that this sovereign was merely the ruler of the town of Boussa, and that the real ruler of the Monarchy of Boussa, or Borgu, was another potentate residing at Nikki. He therefore made a treaty with three negroes, who professed to be the representatives of Lafia, also called Alsalami, son of Warukura, King of Nikki and of all Boussa or Borgu country, by which the said Lafia placed himself and his dominions under the protection of the Niger Company, on receipt of a "donation." This treaty was signed by the three representatives of the monarch, and was sent to him by a man named Joseph, who appended the following certificate to the treaty:—

> I certify and solemnly declare that I was sent to the King Lafia by Captain Lugard to carry to him a present from the Company, and that at that interview, in accordance with my instructions, I asked the king myself in the presence of various chiefs and people whether he had himself deputed the Leman, and Sirkin Powa, and Naiman to act for him in the matter of this Treaty, and that he thrice declared to me that he had done so.
>
> (Signed) J. F. Joseph.

As regards the kingdom of Gandu, the Niger Company first asserted its claim to it on the ground that the Sultan of Gandu is a feudatory of the Sultan of Sokoto, and that, consequently, Gandu is by agreement with France and with the Sultan of Sokoto within the sphere of British influence. The Company appears, however, subsequently

to have discovered that this was not correct, for in 1894 it concluded a treaty with the Sultan of Gandu as an independent potentate. The treaty is on the same lines as that made with the Sultans residing at Boussa and at Nikki, except that the Gandu sovereign, instead of a "donation," or of 50 bags per annum of goods, is to receive 2,000 bags of goods each year for accepting the protection of the Company.

It will be seen from the above how very vague all these treaties are. It is, in fact, an absurdity that such gifts of kingdoms in return for a "donation," or for a promise of a few bags of goods, should be termed treaties. Those making over the kingdoms often do not own them, and even if they did, they do not understand what they are signing away. The French also claim the disputed strip on the strength of treaties made with negroes professing to rule more or less of it, and these treaties probably are neither better nor worse than ours. In the meantime, French officers, and Niger Company officers, each with a band of armed negroes at his heels, have been strengthening the "treaty claims" by what they are pleased to call "effective occupation." They encamp in this village or in that, and assert that the village and its surrounding territory are, as the case may be, either in the French or the English sphere—the only persons to whom both agree that it does not belong being apparently its dusky inhabitants. The disputed territory is comparatively worthless. In view of the large tracts of land that both France and England have acquired in Western Africa, a small accession of area to either of their acquisitions is unimportant. Both are, in fact, in the position of two gorged dogs snarling over a bone with the very smallest shred of meat attached to it.

I am myself strongly opposed to all these African annexations. I do not believe that the game is worth the candle. Some little commerce may be carried on with Central Africa, but even this is only possible so long as slavery is permitted. In our East African Protectorates we tolerate the enslavement of one African by another. In Rhodesia, Mr. Rhodes bitterly complains that the country is going to the dogs, because we will not allow him and his brother financiers to force the natives to work in mines for them. We have owned islands in the West Indies for many a year; we have an expensive system of government there, and the islands have for long enjoyed the advantage of civilisation. But what do we find? That they do not pay their way; and we are now called upon to supply them with doles and grants. It is ridiculous, therefore, to add to our dominions and responsibilities vast kingdoms in Central Africa peopled by uncivilised negroes, and where Europeans cannot live, under the illusion that this is a sound business speculation. We have now nearly 400 million of subjects. Our notion of keeping them under subjection is to arm one race against another race. This is precisely what Carthage did, and we know what was the fate of Carthage. To add to the number of our subjects on the ground that we are lost so soon as we do not continue to expand the area of Empire is simply lunacy. What we should do is to devote all our attention to maintain Free Trade and no favour in the eighteen provinces constituting China; instead of annexing swamps and jungles in Central Africa, or attempting, at a heavy cost, to bring within our sway the wild tribes inhabiting the Upper Valley of the Nile.

Apart from my own views in regard to African expansion, it would be a lasting disgrace to our boasted civilisation were we and France to go to war for a wretched strip of land in Central Africa. But this is not the view of our Jingo Press, and bellicose scribblers are doing their best to urge us to fight for our "undoubted rights," as though our "rights" to this strip were as unquestionable as they are to the British Isles; whilst the "rights" of France to it are as mythical as they would be if she claimed Kent or Surrey. They are just now indignant at the French *Temps* hinting that Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain are not entirely of one mind in regard to our West African policy of bluster. Yet the very newspapers that insist upon these two statesmen being as much agreed as were David and Jonathan, have themselves for weeks been reviling Lord Salisbury as a weak, vacillating creature, oblivious of the honour and interests of his country, and lauding Mr. Chamberlain as the incarnation of patriotism. I have observed that our Jingo Pressmen are never happy unless they can egg on the Ministry to some folly. A little while ago they were howling for war with the United States rather than that we should agree to arbitration in regard to the respective title of Venezuela and British Guiana to some worthless disputed territory in the interior of South America. Then came the turn of the Transvaal. We were called upon to smash and pulverise that Republic, to "avenge Majuba Hill," and Mr. Rhodes was the hero of the moment for endeavouring to do this on his own account and on that of Herr Beit and the other cosmopolitan financiers with whom he was connected. After this they rejoiced over our fatuous attempt to deprive the Afridis of their independence. At present they are running two hares, one in West Africa and the other in Manchuria. One day they give the African hare a run, the next day the Asiatic hare; and if they could manage to hustle us into war with France, Russia, and Germany, they would, I presume, feel that they have accomplished their beneficial mission.

But Jingoism is a creed as mean as it is blustering. When its high priests threaten one Power, they try to wheedle with childish flattery the other Powers that they have threatened a few months before. When the enemy of the moment was France, they flattered Germany; when it became Germany, they flattered France. Now that the enemies are all the European Continental Powers, they are flattering the United States, and suggesting that Americans should help us to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for our own consumption. When they find—as might have been expected—that all this does not succeed, they then boast

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

of our "splendid isolation," as though this were a perfect triumph of diplomacy, and they urge that our Army and Navy should be increased. In the first year of the Queen's reign our armaments cost us twelve millions. This was deemed amply sufficient for our needs by the Duke of Wellington and by Sir Robert Peel. Now they cost us forty-four millions, and our Jingoes are clamouring for more. If they were double what they were in the first year of the Queen, we should have in hand each year twenty millions. This would provide a meal for every hungry child in our schools, and a pension for every veteran of labour. Assuredly this expenditure would be more reasonable than adding million on million to the cost of our armaments and giving doles to the "classes." But Ministers do not think so. Economy is as odious to them as is a proper application of the national resources. When they propose some swollen estimate, they generally apologise for its not being more. We shall only awake from this war craze when conscription is established, and when we feel the pinch of taxation. As it is, in addition to our Army of British soldiers, we are raising an Army of blacks at the cost of £250,000 per annum, either to aid or to fight Lafia, also called Alsalami, son of Warukura, and other black potentates, in order to establish our rule over territories in the interior of Africa.

And what will our rule be like when it is established? This may be judged from what goes on on the coast colonies of the Bight of Benin, which have been ours for many a year. This is the experience of Mr. Joseph Thomson, who negotiated the treaty of the Niger Company with the Sultan of Sokoto. Speaking in 1887, he said:—

> In wandering through some of the native villages on the Kru Coast one feels in a sort of Hades, peopled by brutalised human beings, whose punishment it is to be possessed of a never-ending thirst for drink. On all sides, you are followed by eager cries for gin, gin, always gin. Under these eager appeals one seems to hear the bitter reproach, "You see what you Christians have made us. You talk of peace and goodwill, and yet you put devils in us. Give us more drink that we may allay these cravings, and for a moment be allowed to forget our misery." The boast of many a village on that unhappy line of coast is the amount of liquor they can afford to drink; the gauge of their wealth and its proudest monument, the pyramid of empty gin bottles which adorns its square.

Nor are things better now. Miss Agnes McAllister, who has been for nearly eight years on the Kru Coast, tells us in a book that she has just published, called "A Lone Woman in Africa," that it is rather worse:—

> One of the greatest obstructions in the way of the Gospel in Africa is the rum traffic carried on by the European saloons. A few years ago this traffic was not to be compared with what it was to-day. It is not long since one bottle of gin would satisfy all the people in a town; they used to take a spoon to drink it out of. But now when rum comes into town, not by the bottle but by the barrel, I have seen men standing round it with brass kettles, tin buckets, iron pots, and tin cans contending to see who could get the most, and then ending in a fight. The little children stood round, sipping the last drops out of the dish father or mother had emptied. Many of the older people think it a good piece of fun to get a child drunk.

Sir Ralph Muir, the British Consul-General of the Niger Protectorate, defends the sale of imported spirits in this way:—

> From personal observations in the Protectorate I can state that while a man who gets drunk on imported spirits on one day is fit and able to work on the following, the man who becomes drunk on native fermented liquor will be absolutely unfit for work for from one to four days, and a continuance of the abuse of such drink ruins the native, both mentally and physically, much more quickly than the abuse of imported spirits. Having now for some years carefully observed the mode of life and circumstances of work of the native in the Niger Delta and the Protectorate Territories, I am of opinion that the conditions of his life and work are such as to render the moderate use of a sound spirit beneficial rather than harmful.

The native spirit thus alluded to is a sort of light lager beer made from maize and palm wine. What the trade spirit is, that is beneficial rather than harmful, may be estimated from the fact that a case containing twelve bottles ($1\frac{3}{4}$ gallons) is invoiced to West Africa at 2s. 11d., and here is the evidence in regard to its excellent qualities:—

> A certain Anglican clergyman visited one of the English firms of Lagos. He saw the European agent there giving away as presents to the Krooboys, trade gin and rum. The Krooboys were drinking, and appeared to be jolly. The clergyman, anxious to teach the European agent that it is not right to give to others what we would not like ourselves, said to the agent, "I would like to have a glass." The agent refused to give him one. The clergyman asked why? The agent replied, "It is not good for you. It is fire-water; it is only turpentine and rotten ingredients. I would not take it myself."

The mode in which the trade in liquor is dealt with in our West African Colonies and in the Niger Country Protectorate is to levy a high duty on imported spirits. This duty now amounts to two shillings per gallon. But if a gallon and three-quarters of liquor can be invoiced to West Africa at 2s. 11d., it can be imported, including the duty, at 7s. 5d. per gallon and three-quarters, which still enables it to be sold at a price that (including a large profit to the trader) cannot put it beyond the paying capacity of any African who may wish to get drunk. As a matter of fact, trade spirit is indeed the currency of the country in many parts, being the chief article of barter, and in the Delta region of the Royal Niger Company a missionary states that he found it difficult to obtain food because he could not pay for it in gin. Truly, therefore, has Sir John Kirk, the British Commissioner to Brass, written:—

> The last four centuries of contact with Europeans and European trade have degraded rather than elevated or improved the people.

THE CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AGAIN.

My Service readers may remember the case of Major Acheson, of the Army Service Corps, which was dealt with at some length in TRUTH in the autumn of 1896. It recently came to my knowledge that, by a curious coincidence, Major Acheson's successor at Fermoy has also fallen a victim to the abuse of the confidential report system; and although the case is now a matter of history, it points a moral which ought not to be missed.

The victim in this case was Lieutenant-Colonel D. S. Skirving, of the Army Service Corps, an officer who, after five and twenty years' service, sent in his papers some few months back under the following circumstances:—In December, 1896, Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Belfield, Royal Munster Fusiliers, then commanding the troops at Fermoy, made a confidential report on Lieutenant-Colonel Skirving, to the effect that "he did not suppose" that the Lieutenant-Colonel possessed either much energy or ability, and that he had caused friction in his relations with the troops. At the time when

MORTLOCK'S (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "MORTLOCK'S" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

he supposed, or did not suppose, this, Lieutenant-Colonel Belfield had been commanding at Fermoy for about a month or five weeks. During that period he had seen Lieutenant-Colonel Skirving *three times*. The report having been communicated to him, Lieutenant-Colonel Skirving made an answer to it in the manner provided for by the Regulations. To contradict what Colonel Belfield had merely supposed was, of course, impossible; but in regard to the second point, as to his causing friction, the accused officer referred to ten past and present Officers Commanding Troops and Corps at Fermoy, Buttevant, and Tralee, in proof of his cordial relations with those with whom he had to work. It may be remarked that no complaint against Colonel Skirving's energy or ability had previously been made. At the time when the report was made he had recently passed with credit as a French interpreter, and he had recently contributed a valuable series of articles to the *Army Service Corps Journal* on the "French Intendance." Work of this kind, done in addition to his ordinary Service duties, certainly does not suggest lack of energy or ability on the part of an officer. After the appeal was sent in, Colonel Belfield's report seems to have been referred back to him and altered. Notwithstanding this, however, the C.S.O. at Cork declined to forward Colonel Skirving's appeal to the War Office. Thereupon, in disgust at such treatment after twenty-five years' satisfactory service in the Army, Lieutenant-Colonel Skirving sent in his papers, intimating that he did so as a protest against an Army Service Corps Officer in his position being placed absolutely at the mercy of any Officer for the time being in command of his station.

Any one who can consider this case with a judgment unbiassed by the traditions of officialism must admit that Lieutenant-Colonel Skirving had been treated with gross unfairness, and that, in resigning under the circumstances, he took the only dignified course. It is on the face of it a monstrous thing that the reputation and prospects of a Departmental Officer of twenty-five years' service should be at the mercy of any Regimental Officer temporarily commanding troops at the same station. It is still more monstrous that when such a Departmental Officer has been unfavourably reported upon by the Commandant, and has appealed against the report, he should be refused the right to be heard at the War Office. Over and above this, the case has a special importance for officers of the Army Service Corps. From their position, such officers are necessarily liable to be brought into conflict, or at any rate into differences of opinion, with Officers in authority over them. In this very instance it appears that Lieutenant-Colonel Skirving had previously come into conflict with the G.O.C. at Cork on a question of canteen supply. The C.O. of the Sussex Regiment had complained to Colonel Skirving, in his capacity of local Canteen Inspector, respecting the quality of the butter and soap supplied to his canteen. Colonel Skirving thought the articles very bad, and said so. He was subsequently told that his complaints were quite groundless, and rebuked for saying that the butter was adulterated, the fact being that it was an admixture of two qualities, one of them very inferior. As, however, both he and the C.O. of the Sussex Regiment were confident that their complaints were just, Lieutenant-Colonel Skirving respectfully declined to withdraw what he had said. As my military readers are aware, the G.O.C. Cork District has established a system of supplying the whole of the canteens of the District from an office at the District headquarters; and it is not unnatural to suppose that he felt aggrieved at the imputation on the quality of his butter. In another and more personal matter, Lieutenant-Colonel Skirving had had a little difference of opinion with the Cork authorities, and in this instance had scored off them on appeal to the War Office. These facts do not lend a more agreeable colour to the subsequent refusal of the General to forward to the War Office Colonel Skirving's appeal against the unfavourable confidential report. It looks uncommonly as if there was somewhere a desire in this case to snub and suppress an officer who had shown a little too much independence of judgment. It is not for the interest of any one concerned that such a design should succeed. The position which Army Service Corps officers hold in relation to commissariat and other domestic matters affecting the troops renders it of great importance to the Service, and possibly also to the public, that they should occupy a position of some independence, and this they certainly do not occupy if they are to be treated as Lieutenant-Colonel Skirving was in the above case.

The worst objection to the confidential report is that it lends itself so readily to indirect motives of this kind. That there are circumstances under which confidential reports may serve a useful purpose, I have never denied, but it were better that the system should not exist at all than that it should be improperly used for any purpose whatever. It is a weapon of the most dangerous kind, carrying with it a standing menace to the character and professional career of every officer in the Army. This is virtually admitted in the Regulations, which have prescribed various safeguards against abuse. Even, however, if these safeguards were observed, it is doubtful whether they are sufficient for their purpose, and if they are not to be observed with the most scrupulous care and loyalty, they are absolutely useless. Judging from what one continually sees, the confidential report serves in the British Army very much the purpose which the Lion's Mouth served in the Venetian Constitution—a convenient instrument for paying off grudges, and damaging men who have not earned the favour of those in authority over them. If the rulers of the Army do not approve of such a state of things, it is time they took steps to stop the abuses which are so frequently coming to light.

THE CHARITY-MONGER'S LIVE-STOCK.

An inquiry reached this office from Oxfordshire a week or two back respecting an Orphan Girls' Home and Christian (or Gospel) Mission to the Fallen, carried on at 326, Kennington-road, S.E. A lady collector representing this institution was at work in the neighbourhood of Witney, and one of the residents on whom she had called very wisely sought independent information before contributing. It so happens that I have had this institu-

tion under my eye for some months past, and as it forms a suitable pendant to the enterprise of Mr. Chubb Jackson dealt with in last week's TRUTH, this will be a convenient opportunity for fully enlightening, not only my Witney correspondent, but any others who may be approached by the same collectors.

The presiding genius of the Orphan Girls' Home and Christian (or Gospel) Mission to the Fallen is a Mr. H. W. Street. He is a printer by trade, but has for many years past combined philanthropy with printing. He had a "Rescue Home" in Lambeth as far back as 1889. The Rescue Home attracted the kindly attention of the Charity Organisation Society, and their investigations into it do not seem to have furnished much proof of the value of the rescue work there carried on. The Rescue Home was subsequently converted into a "Preventive Home." At this institution a servants' registry office was conducted, and servant girls out of places were taken in at a charge of 7s. a week. The idea looks a promising one; but somehow the "Preventive Home" does not seem to have been a success. Perhaps it was the name that was against it, perhaps it was the terms. At any rate, before long Mr. Street dropped the Preventive Home, and fell back upon the ultimate resort of every struggling philanthropist, an orphanage. Whatever other lines they may try, they always seem to find in the long run that the orphan is the most profitable stock-in-trade. Mr. Street's efforts on behalf of the orphans first came under my notice about twelve months ago; and from what I have seen of him and his work in the interval, I should think he has no reason to regret having left servant girls to their fate in order to devote himself exclusively to the fatherless.

It was in May last that, in consequence of inquiries from one quarter and another, I sent one of my staff to look into the Orphan Girls' Home. Having hunted up Mr. Street at his business premises hard by, my representative obtained permission to view the Home, and was conducted over it by the matron. The Home consists of an eight-roomed house, two of the rooms being the kitchen and scullery in the basement. The two rooms on the ground floor were occupied by the matron; the four rooms above were occupied by the children and two young women. There were at that time fourteen children on the premises, nine of them being in a room on the first floor with six beds in it, and the remaining five with the two young women in the other three rooms. There was no sitting-room or playroom for the children other than the kitchen, where they were having their dinner when my representative called. There was a small yard at the back where the matron stated that they played. The furniture of the upstairs rooms was meagre in the extreme. The bedrooms contained no other furniture than the beds, not even washing appliances. There was no bath-room in the house. The bed-clothing was old and dirty. The house generally was squalid and dilapidated, the walls of the staircase were broken, and the paper hanging in shreds. A place more utterly unfit for a Children's Home could hardly be found. The children themselves struck my representative as ill-clothed, though apparently well fed.

After inspecting the Home, my representative returned to Mr. Street's printing office, and asked to see his accounts and reports. Street replied that he had never published any, but that he had one on hand. Asked at what date it would be out, he replied about a fortnight. He added that he collected very little money, and that the orphanage was mainly supported out of his own private means. He was asked if he could mention the total amount of his income from subscriptions, and he replied that he had no idea what it was; but it would appear upon the balance-sheet in due course. He promised to forward this document in about a fortnight, and, with the understanding that he would call again as soon as he had seen the accounts, my representative left. Ten months have since elapsed, but no balance-sheet has made its appearance. I have sent to Kennington-road in search of it I think about six times during the interval, and have always had the same answer from Mr. Street, viz., that the document was in hand, and would be out in the course of a week or two.

Now, here is a pretty specimen of a voluntary "charity." During all the time that Mr. Street has been labouring in the philanthropic field he has had no committee, no treasurer, other than himself, no independent responsible person as a guarantee for the proper administration of the funds he collects or the efficient discharge of the work he professes to do. The concern, under all its varying names, has been run solely by Street and his paid assistants. Money for the purpose has been obtained during this period by collectors working in all parts of the country. I have mentioned at the outset of this article that one of them was cadging from house to house a few weeks back in Oxfordshire. The same lady was similarly employed during last summer in Cornwall, where she got into trouble by her cadging operations, was arrested by the police, and charged at Launceston Police-court. These two instances alone suffice to show that Street's net is cast over a wide area. He has told my representative that he collects very little money, and mainly carries on the home out of his own pocket. I regret to say that this statement does not appear to be worthy of credit. His ordinary business is only a small one, and his circumstances do not convey the idea that he is overburdened with cash. When I mention that the Bills of Sale Register records several of these tell-tale instruments executed by Mr. Street during the years 1882-1894, the last one being in favour of a money-lending firm, the reader will probably feel as much difficulty as I do in believing Mr. Street's assertion that he is voluntarily maintaining a home and fourteen orphans out of the superabundance of his worldly goods. But even if his statement were true, the fact of his spending his own money on the concern would not absolve him from the duty of keeping and publishing accounts. That Street has published none is certain. That he has kept none is a legitimate inference from his own statements and conduct. He asserted in May last that he did not know what his income from subscriptions was, which can only be explained by his never having kept an account of his receipts. He has asserted half a dozen times in nine months that a balance-sheet was in course of preparation, and would be out in a

week or two; and none has ever yet appeared. It can only be inferred from this that he has no intention of issuing any such account, and that his professions of such an intention are a mere pretext to gain time. Here we have, then, a man who has been busily collecting money from the public for eight or ten years past, if not longer, who is unwilling (and probably unable) to give an account of what he has received or spent, who makes statements about his relations with the charity which are incredible in view of well-established facts, and who, when challenged to justify his proceedings, takes refuge in prevarication and subterfuge. This is the sort of men whom a certain infatuated section of the public support with their alms, as a father to the fatherless and a rescuer of the fallen.

My sympathy with the subscribers to "charities" such as those of Street or Chubb Jackson is limited. But public attention ought to be seriously directed to the position of the children who form the stock-in-trade of enterprising gentry of this class. It may be that as a rule the little waifs are not worse off in the speculative "orphanage" or "home" than they would be elsewhere. The proprietor of the establishment knows that anything amiss in the condition of his little boarders may quickly attract the eyes of suspicious neighbours, or of that troublesome body the N.S.P.C.C. If he is in a large way of business, he has to reckon with the possibility of a visit from an enthusiastic subscriber, or it may be from some inquisitive outsider like the editor of Truth. Besides, the philanthropist who knows his trade will be as careful to have his children healthy-looking and clean, as an intelligent shopkeeper is about the dressing of his window. But can anybody, in the face of such cases as have been noticed in Truth, hold that these are sufficient guarantees, or that it is a satisfactory state of the law which allows children to be exploited on such conditions by any enterprising charity-monger who can get hold of them? Look at Chubb Jackson; yesterday the impecunious caretaker in charge of a house in St. John's Wood, to-day the flourishing proprietor of two so-called "Homes" where children are taken in for country holidays. Look at H. W. Street—a small tradesman of limited means — with his shabby house in Kennington stuffed full of little friendless waifs, and not a soul in the world, but Street himself, answerable for their present condition or future prospects. Look at the exploits in time past of men like Bradshaw and Walter Austin, who have perpetrated the grossest frauds on the public by means of such Homes, and who are notoriously unfit to have ever had a single child under their care. Remember that the children who form the stock-in-trade of the charity-monger can be obtained without difficulty, and in any quantity desired, by any plausible "philanthropist," through slum Missions, district visitors, police-court missionaries, or it may be from baby-farmers and other custodians of illegitimate or "unwanted" children. Is it, I ask, a tolerable state of things that any philanthropic adventurer should be free to lay his hands on as much human live-stock of this kind as he can, and use it to bait a subscription-trap, without a shadow of guarantee beyond his own word, as to how the little creatures will be treated, how they will be housed, fed, nursed, clothed, or educated? If, as I think, few will deny that such a state of things is radically wrong, then there ought to be some amendment of the law which will put a check upon this branch of the charity-monger's trade. Premises used for such purposes should, at least, be registered or licensed, and inspected by public authority. Their registration or their licences should be made conditional upon their being under the control and management of a certain number of persons whose character and responsibility are satisfactorily vouched for. If they profess to stand on a charitable basis, the publication of duly certified accounts should also be insisted upon. The present state of the law in regard to the promotion and maintenance of voluntary charities is in many respects most unsatisfactory, but I know of no direction in which reform is more urgently needed than in this.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

A PRINCESS'S DEBTS.

"TAKE Notice!" Prince Philip of Saxe-Coburg warns all whom it may concern that he will be no longer answerable for his wife's debts. As she has been living expensively at Nice, the notice appears in a French legal journal, *Les Petites Affiches*. Every one is supposed to read *Les Petites Affiches*. The Princess will have now to reduce her stables at her own place at Paradiso, near Cimiez. They are, in arrangement and inmates, worthy of belonging to Queen Marie Henriette, and contain horses enough for a troop of dragoons. Her old-fashioned mode of travelling with relays, postilions, and mounted servants must be expensive. The Duke of Cumberland shares her dislike to railways, but he goes on a "mail coach" that he drives himself, and is not an ostentatious traveller. But I fancy the Princess is rich enough in her own right to keep up the showy style of living she affects. Her expectations are also brilliant. The King of the Belgians is enormously rich. The Princess is heiress to the third of his wealth. She is now staying at an hotel in Vienna, whither she went when she quietly slipped away from Nice the other day. Her object in going there was to meet King Leopold, who is going to attend a family council.

The Princess is an object of sympathy to Frenchmen. Their doctrine is that a woman has a right to happiness, and to secure it as best she can. She is the age of the German Emperor, is good-looking, of a robust style of beauty, and extremely dressy. But she has rather high shoulders and a curiously Brussels air. The prodigality must be inherited from her mother's branch of the Hapsburg family. They have for three generations lived in a magnificent patriarchal style in Hungary.

Prince Philip was born at the Tuileries in 1844, and is eldest son of the Princess Clémentine and the late Duke Augustus of Saxe-Coburg-Kohary. He is thirteen years her senior, and is a handsome, fair-haired man, bearing a strong family likeness to the sons and daughters of Louis Philippe. The marriage took place when she was only seventeen—a dangerous age to be transferred from quiet Brussels to Vienna. She took precedence of him, as being

Royal. He disliked on this account to go about with her. She had, therefore, a rather lonely life, until her second sister married the Imperial Crown Prince Rudolph. Incompatibility of temper showed itself in the two *ménages*. Prince Philip and the Crown Prince left their wives to make out the time as best they could, and shared each other's amusements. The two husbands were at Meyerling on the night of Rudolph's mysterious death.

The great manufacturer of perfumes at Grasse, M. Louis Roure, died last week. He was an active, clever, and ingenious Frenchman. All his perfumes were extracted from flowers. He combined the scents of six or seven in endless varieties. They were to him, as a perfumer, what the keyboard of a piano is to a Rubinstein. But he did not catch up the Orientals in his distillations of roses. He was very proud of his jessamine extract, a few drops of which will fill a bath with a clinging, subtle perfume. M. Roure made a large fortune with his perfumes. His best customers were American ladies. But he saw the time coming when Florida would be the great manufacturing country of flower perfumes.

M. Charles Schefer, who died last week at the age of seventy-nine, was one of the best-informed persons of his time on Levantine affairs. He was dragoman at the chief French Consulates of Syria and Egypt at an interesting time. He was Chancellor of the French Embassy at Constantinople during the Crimean War, and came to Paris to translate at the Congress of Paris. His store of anecdotes about the great people he had known and translated for in the East was endless. Schefer was employed as translator to Abdul Aziz, when that monarch was the guest of the Emperor and Empress of the French in 1867. That Sultan was as coarse and crude in speech as his Kurd mother. He had no sense of politeness, or of any of the *convenances*. His talk to the Empress at the Imperial table and elsewhere was meant to be complimentary; but the translator thought it could not be repeated even in a very free translation. As he said, he had to drown Constantinople odours with rose water. The Empress was enchanted with the compliments, she not suspecting what was behind the translation. But the Sultan sometimes suspected that his words were not faithfully rendered, and kept calling to the Turkish Ambassador: "Keep your ears open, and tell me whether the rogue presumes to alter what I say."

The Palais Royal Theatre loses a taking actress by the enforced retirement of Alice Lavigne. She is blinded by the glare of the footlights. Her forte was comicality. It lay in her broad face and the curious tones of her voice. Did you ever in childhood talk into an empty barrel? If so, you can have a notion of her odd intonations. The face was sometimes stolid. It sometimes gleamed with tomboy fun and spirit. But, however it looked, it was irresistibly funny. Nothing is rarer in women than the *vis comica* carried to the degree she had it. She was admirable in the part of the vulgar, good-natured Englishwoman. She became familiar with English types at Chantilly, where her husband Petitt had horsey employments. Her French, as spoken by an English mouth, used to keep the audience in a continual roar. She had only to show herself to tickle. The benefit representation set on foot by the *Figaro* has brought in £2,000.

Is French spoken well outside France? I think not. The best samples of exotic French I can think of were furnished by old Canadians of Quebec; but it was French as spoken in the eighteenth century. Geneva and Lausanne French of the present day is good enough for English youths to learn. It will enable them to understand a conversation in a Paris drawing-room. But it is quite different from what they might hear there. French was very well taught in Belgium when that city was the abiding-place of French exiles. That was during the greater part of Napoleon III.'s reign. The *Indépendance Belge* absorbed the best talents France could furnish. Its palmy days were in the eighteen years of the Second Empire. It still keeps up a certain Parisian style. But some of its chief rivals are not at that trouble. Nothing amuses me more than to read their smart—or would be smart—articles. I was first in Brussels when Sardou's "Patrie" was coming out there under the patronage of Victor Hugo and the Duc d'Aumale. In regard to French conversation, Brussels was then better off than Paris. There was freer speech, and the Frenchmen of brilliant parts were endless. But in recent visits I have been greatly struck by the alteration both in the spoken and the written French of that city.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

It is seldom, dear Lady Betty, that an opportunity occurs which enables a considerable section of the community to become twenty years younger, even for an instant! The extraordinary performance which was given at Drury Lane Theatre last week, for the benefit of Miss Nellie Farren, owed much of its success to this, that it enabled three generations to revive vividly the memories of youth.

From the late-sixties to the middle-seventies the generation which was influenced by the example of the Prince of Wales, and numbered amongst its leaders the late Duke of Hamilton and Lord Carrington, reigned supreme. Cosmopolitanism was the keynote of this influence. The Prince of Wales and the late Duke of Hamilton popularised the Continent. Their horses ran at Paris and at Baden; they themselves were familiar figures in every capital in Europe; and to their example is in a great measure due the extinction of that insular spirit which until then had been a prominent feature of English character and customs. This was the period of luxury and extravagance; it was an immoderately princely and moderately polished period—and many vast fortunes were squandered whilst it lasted.

From the middle-seventies to the early-eighties another generation was to the front. The tone of this generation was greatly influenced by Miss Nellie Farren and the actors and actresses who were associated with her in the series of brilliant burlesque performances which then attracted all who were either young or lively to the Gaiety Theatre. This group of young men earned for itself the name of the "Crutch and Toothpick Brigade." This generation resented unnecessary restraint; it upset many old-world conventionalities; it inaugurated the habit of dining and supping at restaurants; and it helped to emancipate its womankind from the unreasonable restrictions

which formerly were so oppressive. Since then, however, this emancipation has been unduly extended. It was a good-humoured, good-natured generation—and hundreds of small fortunes were frittered away by it in small extravagances.

The third generation, which is just relinquishing its hold on the situation, has devoted most of its energies to making money, and has contrived, in so doing, to utterly ruin the West End. It must be admitted, however, that the two preceding generations had so greatly impoverished the families to which they belonged that no option was left to the last but to venture into the City—now, the eternal City!

Miss Nellie Farren has been a star in the theatrical firmament almost throughout all three generations, and it is not surprising that at the different stages of age which these have reached, they eagerly combined to pay tribute to her genius and liveliness, and to revive the memories of youth. The actors and actresses who performed on the Gaiety stage during the period referred to will long be remembered for their humour, talent, and beauty. The names of Miss Nellie Farren, Miss Kate Vaughan, Miss Constance Gilchrist, Miss Amalia, Miss Phyllis Broughton, Miss Marion Hood, Miss Lizzy Wilson, Miss Alma Stanley, Miss Agnes Hewitt, Miss Wadman, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. Royce, Mr. David James, Mr. Fred Leslie, Mr. Willie Edouin, and Mr. Lonnen revive in many a mind memories that are indescribably pleasant.

Would that it had been possible at the recent performance at Drury Lane Theatre to fill even one row of the stalls with well-known frequenters of the Gaiety fifteen years ago! There were the late Colonel "Jim" Farquharson; the late "Phizzy" Drummond Wolff, whose wit was almost as keen and as ready as that of his brilliant father, Sir Henry Drummond Wolff; Mr. "Hughie" Drummond, whose overflowing spirits, audacious escapades, and undoubted cleverness for several years attracted considerable attention; the late Mr. Harry Tyrrwhit Wilson; Mr. "Charlie" Balfour; the late Lord de Clifford, and a host of others who occupied the same seats at this theatre night after night for years. We were living then, and already this is history!

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Lord Salisbury will not retire from active politics unless his health absolutely collapses; but notwithstanding that this is fully acknowledged, many politicians are discussing the changes which his removal from office might bring about. It is generally imagined that the Duke of Devonshire would become Prime Minister, and most Conservatives admit that he would be a safe Premier. Nevertheless, his appointment would certainly annoy those Conservatives who hold the opinion that the Liberal-Unionists have already been more than sufficiently rewarded for the support which they extended to the Party during the Home Rule Crisis. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach should make a good Minister for Foreign Affairs if his character has been rightly estimated.

. . . . .

Those who are well informed scout the belief that the country is in any imminent danger of going to war with any European Power. The peril—so far as Great Britain is concerned—lies in the Transvaal and at Yukon. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain and President Kruger do not understand each other; and this misunderstanding between two men who are both strong-willed may lead to serious consequences—all the more that certain financial interests are eagerly trying to bring about hostilities between the two countries, and that the Impetuous Imperialist Party is unconsciously working into their hands.

On the Yukon the situation is almost on all fours with that which has caused so much trouble in the Transvaal. The greater proportion of the "claims" in the new gold district are owned by Americans; Canada has formulated several regulations which are much resented by them; and, moreover, the frontier is a subject of dispute. It would be a painful repetition of history were an American filibustering raid to be made upon Klondike, in which event, very probably, the ten millions recently voted by the Senate for the purpose of preparing for war with Spain would be used to support the cause of the filibusterers against Canada and Great Britain. The whole trend of European diplomacy is to entangle this country in a war with some other nation, and then to divide the spoil whilst we are too much engaged to interfere. Mr. Cecil Rhodes with his policy of Impetuous Imperialism has brought about a state of affairs which assuredly must convince even his warmest admirers that, however patriotic he may be, he is certainly not a statesman. Besides, his patriotism has made him immensely rich, whilst it has impoverished thousands of his fellow-countrymen.

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An excellent Berliner established at his own expense a cemetery for dogs just outside the City of Berlin. No dog, however, was allowed to be buried there unless he had either saved the life of a human being or had attempted to do so. For some reason which it is not easy to understand, it appears that this cemetery has been recently closed. The idea, however, is so admirable that it would be well were it adopted in London. English men and women are especially fond of animals, and if one or two would only interest themselves actively in the scheme, such a cemetery could be established in the neighbourhood of London in a short time. The conditions imposed by the German originator of the idea might be rendered less stringent.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

DISRAELI has been doing no work at Newmarket for the last week, and it is reported that he has injured one of his legs. It seems to me that the Two Thousand prospects of the so-called "cracks" at Newmarket are not particularly bright, and I shall not be at all surprised if they are all beaten by Batt and Wildfowler. Mr. Baird's Brio is certainly the most promising of the "dark" candidates, and he goes uncommonly well in his gallops, but no sane person will think of backing him for either the Two Thousand or the Derby until he has been tried in a satisfactory manner. The breeding of Brio (by Galopin out of Briarroot) is not encouraging, and he may very likely prove to be deficient in stamina. The Duke of Devonshire will be at Newmarket for the Craven Meeting, and he will then decide whether Dieudonné is to start for the Two Thousand, or be reserved for the Derby.

A well known writer states that the Comte de Berteux's colt Géronte, by King Lud out of Hysteria, who has been backed for the Derby, is also engaged in the Two Thousand, which is incorrect, this animal being entered only at Epsom. Géronte had much better be left alone for his English engagement as he is entered for a large number of races next month, and in May at Longchamps and at Chantilly, and he will probably start for the Prix du Jockey Club, which is run on the Sunday before our Derby.

Royal Footstep is going on remarkably well at Newmarket, and she will be quite fit to start for the One Thousand, which race I expect her to win if she comes to the post fit and well.

Mr. Leopold de Rothschild has sold Gulistan to the French Government. This horse, when at his best, was only about 12 lb. behind St. Frusquin, but his career has been disappointing, as it was always difficult to give him a proper preparation for any race.

A great deal of nonsense has appeared in the papers about Lord Bradford's "extraordinary luck" in winning the Derby of 1892 with Sir Hugo, but it seems to be forgotten that fortune owed him some compensation for his exasperating disappointment with Chillington, who would have walked in for the St. Leger of 1888 (won by Seabreeze) if he had kept on his legs. Lord Bradford was also very unlucky on more than one occasion with Retreat, and particularly when that horse was disqualified for the Ascot Stakes. Quicklime would very likely have won the Two

Thousand, Derby, and St. Leger of 1882 if he had been in his best form as a three-year-old.

Mr. Raphael's Sangrado, by Friar's Balsam, started twice last season without winning, but this colt appears to have come on very much during the winter, and when he ran as a two-year-old he was exceedingly backward in condition. Sangrado is being prepared to run for the Craven Stakes at Newmarket, on April 15, and he may be able to carry off that race in the absence of Jeddah, who will probably be reserved for the Two Thousand. Sangrado is also engaged in the Hastings Plate at the First Spring Meeting, and if he should miss the Craven Stakes he ought certainly to win the other race, having so considerable an advantage in the weights with all the winners in the entry. Sangrado was bred at Blankney, and he cost 2,000 gs. as a yearling at Newmarket, in July, 1896.

Lowland Chief was shot last week at Stetchworth, as his temper had become so bad that he was useless and unmanageable. Lowland Chief, who was decidedly the best son of Lowlander, won the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood for Lord Ellesmere in 1882, and he was beaten a head for the City and Suburban of 1883 by Roysterer. It cannot be said that Lowland Chief was a success at the stud, Belted Earl being about the best of his stock.

Several of the sporting papers plump for Mr. Raphael's Amurath for the Brocklesby Stakes, and the colt won a good trial last Wednesday; but quite a month ago this animal was mentioned by TRUTH as having been well galloped, and I then predicted that he would be a formidable candidate for Lincoln. Amurath has very few engagements, and the wisest policy would have been to keep him for another month, as he was amiss for several weeks early in the winter, and he wants time to develop.

Mr. Cassel has a smart two-year-old in April Morn, by Common out of April Fool, who easily won a satisfactory trial over five furlongs, at Newmarket last week. April Morn will make her début in the Westminster Plate at the Epsom Spring Meeting.

Lord Rosebery's stud has sustained a great loss by the death of Quarrel, who had been sent to Dalmeny (in the place of Oriflamb) for the use of farmers in the Lothians. Quarrel, who was a son of Discord, was bred in 1891, and he was originally known as Tarrare. Lord Rosebery bought the horse at Newmarket in December, 1895, for 670 gs., and in the following year he won the Royal Hunt Cup and several other races. Last season Quarrel carried off the Durdan Stakes at the Epsom Summer Meeting. How this horse ever come to be beaten for the Lincolnshire Handicap of 1896 (when Clorane gave him 37 lb.!) will remain an inscrutable mystery to the end of time.

Sir Blundell Maple has a very nice lot of two-year-olds, some of them being highly promising animals. The best of the season is unquestionably Commodore, by Common out of Princess Arena. He is a grand colt, and an exceedingly fine mover. Commodore wants time, and nobody will know anything whatever as to his racing capacity for at least two months to come. It is most probable that Commodore will make his début in the Woodcote Stakes at Epsom, and then go for the Coventry Stakes at Ascot, but if it is decided to keep him quiet for a little longer (which would perhaps be the most prudent course to adopt) he will be reserved for the New Stakes at Ascot.

Ardeshir is a horse that is quite certain to win a nice six furlongs handicap in the course of the season, and he must not be forgotten when he is started for such an event. He would assuredly have carried off last year's Stewards' Cup at Goodwood if he had been favoured with a clear course.

There is sure to be some betting on the City and Suburban directly the Grand National has been got rid of. I strongly advise my speculative readers to leave alone the Epsom event until the day of running arrives, as Hermiston will win if he starts, but he may be reserved for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap. I warned my readers from the first that Hermiston would not run at Lincoln, but the horse has been sedulously written up for this week's race in certain quarters, and it is to be feared that a large number of infatuated simpletons were gulled into throwing away their money on him.

I have heard a wonderful account of Captain Greer's Birkenhead (by Orme out of Tragedy, dam of Wildfowler), who is reported to be a magnificent two-year-old, which will be good news for the friends of the colt's sire, whose first season has been a most grievous failure. Birkenhead will probably make his début either in the Coventry Stakes at Ascot or the New Stakes.

Sir M. Fitzgerald's Sister Angela is said to be the highest tried two-year-old at Newmarket for the Brocklesby Stakes, and as she has very few engagements she is sure to run. Sister Angela's gallop was really a good one.

Chamant, who died the other day at the Prussian Royal Stud at Graditz, was one of the best race-horses ever foaled, and he was also a most successful sire. Chamant, who was bred in 1874 by the late Mr. Lefevre, was by Mortemer out of Araucaria, and he was raced in England by Count Lagrange. As a two-year-old Chamant won both the Middle Park Plate and the Dewhurst Plate, and in 1877 he cantered away with the Two Thousand. Chamant would assuredly have won both the Derby and the St. Leger if he had kept well, but he fell lame shortly after the race for the Two Thousand. Silvio, who was the winner both at Epsom and at Doncaster, was estimated by his owner, Lord Falmouth, to be a stone inferior to Chamant, who had "lost" him in the Two Thousand. Chamant was started at Epsom just on the off chance, but he might as well have been kept in his stable, for he was palpably lame, and he never ran again. A few years afterwards Chamant was purchased by that excellent judge, Count Lehndorff, for the Prussian Government for £4,000, which was a ridiculously small price. The horse's stock have won about £200,000 in Germany, Austria, and Hungary.

Several weeks ago I mentioned Sir Blundell Maple's filly Monopoly, by Common out of Minting Queen, as being likely to prove a dangerous candidate for the Brocklesby Stakes. I hear that Monopoly has won her trial. If the filly should be defeated at Lincoln this afternoon she may very likely compensate her owner by winning the Sudbury Stakes at Derby next Monday, and she is also engaged in the Althorp Park Stakes at Northampton next Wednesday.

There will be racing next week at Derby on Monday and Tuesday, at Northampton on Wednesday and Thursday, at Croxton Park on Thursday, and at Leicester on Friday and on Saturday. The arrangement of the List of Fixtures is thoroughly skimble-skamble, and no principle whatever appears to be observed when settling the dates of the various meetings. Why Derby should have been brought forward a fortnight it is impossible to understand, the result of the change being that Northampton has been put back a day—so that there will be a most inconvenient clashing with Croxton Park, which cannot fail to damage both meetings.

There are twenty-two acceptances for the Northamptonshire Stakes, the list being headed by St. Bris (9 st.), but Mr. Low's horse is not likely to run. I fancy that this handicap will be a good thing for Jaquemart (four years, 8 st. 4 lb.) if he starts, but it is possible that Mr. de Rothschild may decide to reserve this horse for the Chester Cup. Jaquemart has improved very much since last autumn, and he is now in good form. If he runs at Northampton he ought to win, and if he does not start Mr. de Rothschild may still secure the race with Morissia, who is very well in with only 6 st. 12 lb. to carry. Nunsuch has accepted with 8 st. 7 lb., and this is a horse that is sure to win an important handicap before long, but he is not likely to distinguish himself so early in the season. Ugly will very likely win the Spencer Plate if he is in form, and the market will indicate whether he is fancied by the stable.

At Liverpool to-morrow Lord Wolverton will very likely win the Prince of Wales's Plate of £300 with Titare, who did well in a gallop at Newmarket last week. Twenty-one three-year-olds are left in for the Union Jack Stakes of £950, and the Duke of Devonshire may take this race with

Carhaix, a colt which he purchased at Newmarket last December (out of M. Lebandy's stud) for 660 gs. Bittern represents the best public form in the race, but he has 11 lb. the worst of the weights with Carhaix. There are fifty-seven entries for the Molyneux Stakes, in which race Champ de Mars made a successful début last year. It is leaping in the dark to meddle with two-year-old events so early in the season. I have heard a good account of both Mr. A. James's Fascination, by Royal Hampton out of Charm; and Mr. L. de Rothschild's Sais, by Lactantius out of Taia.

The Sefton Park Plate on Friday, which race was won last year by Cyllene, has fifty-four entries, and Mr. Dobell's Melfi, by Melton out of Veritas, is the great Newmarket tip for this race. Canonbury is very nicely weighted for the Hylton Handicap of £500, and Mr. Pilkington's horse will win this race if he is in form. The Bickerstaffe Stakes of £600 may fall to Devon or Bittern.

The Grand National will be contested by a big field of moderate horses, and the chances are that there will be an unusually large number of accidents. It was a wise man who declined to bet on cross-country events because he "did not like to see his money in the air." A good judge of steeplechasing protests that he "would not be flogged" into backing Manifesto, whom I never fancied at the weight. I am told that Filbert and Gobo are two good outsiders, and if people must bet on such a race it might be better to trust them with a trifle rather than to plunge on one of the favourites.

BOAT-RACE PROSPECTS.

For the first time for some years it not easy to make a forecast of the result of the University Boat Race with any confidence. Had the race been rowed a few days after the crews came to Putney, Cambridge would probably have won, for Oxford were extremely backward when they first made their appearance on the tide-way, while their rivals were, and still are, better than any of the last seven Cambridge crews. During the past fortnight Oxford have made great improvement in the matter of length and finish. They are a crew of men who have all been often tried, and of whom none has ever been found wanting in a race. To see them "paddling," one would put them down as a distinctly second-rate lot. There is very little body swing (none at all in the case of Carr and Burnell), and the stroke is consequently short in the water and the finish weak. When they lay themselves out to row hard it is quite another story. The swing forward is fairly steady, the blades all get a firm grip of the water, the leg work is very hard, and their only very conspicuous fault is that the slides are all finished a little too soon and the finish is consequently somewhat short and weak, while the body-swing is anything but uniform. They are by no means slow at the start and generally travel at a great pace for a minute or more; after that they are inclined to slack off too much, but they always come again and row well and hard at the end of the course. In fact, the way in which they have rowed when called upon for a dozen or so extra hard strokes in the middle of a course, and the way in which they have responded to the exhortation of their coach during the last hundred yards, gives one the impression that they are lazy and have not as yet really laid themselves out to their full extent over the whole course. If this is so, and if Cambridge lead them, or even press them, for a couple of miles on Saturday, some of them will feel extremely uncomfortable before they reach Mortlake. A crew which is inclined to take matters easy in this way can never race with the same power or with the same confidence as a crew which rows itself "right out" in practice. Gold may be relied upon to race with judgment, and to get every ounce out of the men behind him, so long as "5" and "6" bear in mind that it is their duty to keep the stroke long and to keep the crew together and not merely to "plug" away independently—a fault which they are rather apt to fall into when pressed. Herbert at seven has a long reach, but is not a very strong man, and, consequently, finds some difficulty in getting his blade through with the rest. He has improved considerably during the last few weeks and would probably show up better behind a stroke who gave his men a little more time at the finish. Carr slides too soon, and has little or no idea of using his weight; his leg work, however, is extremely powerful, and his blade very good as far as it goes. Burnell has improved during the last few days in the matter of swing, but he is still very short and a long way from the ideal in that respect; his work is undeniable from start to finish. Warre is rather slow in getting hold of the beginning, and is inclined to hurry forward, especially when rowing a fast stroke. Philips and Edwards are both short in their swing forward, the former more so than any other member of the crew, although he is the only man in the boat who does not finish his slide too soon. Pitman is often late with his blade and generally late with his work. When he does get hold of the beginning his work is very good for a man of his size.

Cambridge are a very much neater crew to look at than Oxford. Their body swing is more uniform, their sliding more correct, and their recovery smarter and better together. In their trials over the full course they have shown themselves capable of going for about three miles at their best pace; during the last mile they have not done so well, and when they rowed from Mortlake to Putney it looked very much as if there was a passenger in the boat for the last five minutes of the course. Their superior finish makes them travel faster than Oxford against a head wind while they are fresh, but they hardly look like staying so well. Bell is rowing better at stroke than he has ever done before. He has had a succession of little mishaps in practice which have brought the crew to a sudden standstill, and which, it is to be hoped, he will avoid in the race. It is reported that a special sliding-seat is being constructed for him which no amount of acrobatic feats will wriggle out of gear. Goldie is a good timekeeper who always maintains his form; he therefore makes a very useful "7," although he supplies a very limited amount of motive power to the boat. Etherington-Smith rows in very fair form and does sound work. Swanston is inclined to lie too far back, and his recovery is consequently somewhat strained. He rows very hard during the first part of the course. Pearson is rather short forward, but works well all the way. Brown hardly does the work that one would expect from a man of his weight. Beall is rowing extremely creditably considering the short time he has been in training. He was in the running for his "Blue" some years, and when one considers the form displayed by several of the members of recent Cambridge crews, it is impossible to understand why he was not selected before. Rennie rows in neat enough form, but hard work is not his strong point.

As I have said, it is not easy to foretell the result of the race. It is not likely that the conditions of wind and tide of 1896 will be repeated. If they are, and if Cambridge draw, as they did in that year, the Surrey station, they should win. Unless, however, there is a strong head wind, I do not expect they will get a commanding lead at any part of the course, and Oxford should win from either station if they are not led by more than a length at Chiswick.

The London Athletic Club opened the season with a short and interesting programme. For each of the challenge cups—the mile and quarter—there were only two runners. In the mile, Lutyens, who now has a curacy in town, had matters his own way after going half the distance, and in the quarter Fitz-Herbert went off at a great pace, closely followed by Jones, the holder, who ran very pluckily; but the Old Blue in the end trotted in almost as fresh as when he started, in 51 sec. These two old Cambridge presidents should win their respective championships. In the half, Lutyens was at scratch, but half way round the last lap, when he was working his way up, he got leg-weary and gave up. Hunter, the Cambridge miler, had little notion of running the race, and went too slowly at the start. But he is running better than he was at Cambridge, and Graham, the Cambridge second string, finished a good second to Coltart. In the two miles, Munro was at scratch, and he worked his way to the front splendidly, but in the last two hundred yards he was

left by Haydon and Lloyd, who had a fine race home, and the latter won easily. In the sprint, Mayne, who has been doing cross-country work, ran well, and won fairly easily from a middle mark. It was very satisfactory to find such good fields and so many club men competing. The open races are practically invitations, and many applications were refused. The list of new members is very satisfactory, and the club looks as though it were going stronger than ever. There has been some talk of a Bar athletic meeting. The first step towards its realisation will have been taken when one finds students of the Inns of Court joining the L.A.C.

There was some little confusion owing to the reports of the further trials for the quarter mile at Oxford. Robertson, who was thought to be first string, tailed off, and Hollins won easily in much better time than any one had previously done this term. It turned out that Robertson was still first string. He was only making the pace, and so Hollins got second place, as he beat Stevenson. Hollins is a good runner who requires a lot of work to get fit, and there should be a fine finish between him and Carter, the Cambridge president.

It is often said, and not without a great deal of truth, that professional teams will not show their best form against amateur clubs. Hence amateurs are not given credit for the abilities they undoubtedly possess. Sheriff Dewar offered a charity shield to be played for by a leading amateur and professional team. The Corinthians altered their rules, and for the first time in their history played for a trophy. Their opponents were Sheffield United. So soon as this club was selected, protests were heard. It was not necessarily head of the League, Sunderland might beat it in the end. Furthermore, it was grossly unfair that any League club should be pitted against a club which had all the amateurs in the Kingdom to select from. It was lovely to hear this growl, which is about the first admission that amateurs can, on occasion, play. Well, those who went to the Palace saw a great game, spoiled, however, by the drifting mist that fell. The Corinthian forwards were in splendid form, and that their opponents were in deadly earnest was shown by the deliberate way in which Burnup was fouled when he had the goal at his mercy. The player seemed to think he was playing Rugby. The free kick was the only penalty awarded, and the Corinthians were given the same penalty when Fry and Oakley at back gave some samples of the legitimate vigour for which the brothers Walters were famous. The game ended in a draw after the Corinthians had shown some splendid work forward. They were not so good as Sheffield at half. In goal, Campbell was simply brilliant. I believe he is qualified for an Irish International cap. He is worth one for any country. Fry played a better game than he has over done, and Newham was the most prominent at half.

In the Association Cup ties Southampton again made a splendid fight. In meeting Notts Forest they had tough opponents, but they acquitted themselves splendidly at Sheffield, where a huge crowd met them and gave both teams a reception and an appreciation of their play which indicated that Yorkshiremen are still, even in football, as good judges of sport as ever. They cheered both sides impartially, and the fine forward play of the South team, even after their centre, Farrell, was injured, was appreciated. Indeed, Southampton had bad luck in not winning. Each side scored from a free kick for a foul, the play often being unnecessarily rough. The other tie was between Everton and Derby county. The weather was wretched and the ground very slippery, but the Derby County team were well trained and lasted well. They attacked well and lost no opportunities of scoring. They ought to win the Cup, and this is the chief reason why they will lose it.

Since Ireland beat England their Rugby team has not been in luck's way. They were beaten by Wales, whose outsides showed strong attacking power, and as the Welsh forwards are stronger than usual, and play as part and parcel of a team, instead of acting as mere feeders to the three-quarters, the match with England promises to be very exciting. In club matches Unwin again had the misfortune to be injured. This accident prevented Blackheath from doing as well as they might have done against Manchester. However, they won easily, and the three-quarters showed some pretty passing. The Marlborough Nomads continued their successes by beating Lennox, who have done so well this season. Next year this Old Boys' team should once again be one of the strongest in the Metropolis. The Old Merchant Taylors had a hard fight against Cooper's Hill. Early in the game they scored. After that they played a hard, defensive game. This year they have had to rely on a number of new hands, who are just learning how to collar. Guy's are to be congratulated on defeating Thomas's and so winning the cup. They played a much better game than is usually seen in the final. Needless to say, rejoicings were great, both at the Hospital and elsewhere.

The dispute in the swimming world has been settled, and there will be no secession of the clubs in the South. The leaders of the swimming world are puffed up with too great a sense of their own importance. They mix up the regulation and the teaching of swimming in a hopeless manner. They imagine the world cannot go round without their help. Each man's feet grows too big for his boots, and he then proceeds to tread on his neighbours' toes. If these worthies would only try to put amateur swimming on a satisfactory basis, and refrain from toasting as champions of one season the professionals of the ensuing year, some good would be done.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—A calm after the storm! The panicky feeling of a week ago has been followed by returning confidence. The Stock Exchange has come to the conclusion that its fears concerning foreign politics had exceeded the bounds of reason, while, on the other hand, the public have not played into the hands of the "Bears."

War Rumours Subsiding.

I have all along expressed the view that there was no fear of war between this country and Russia or France, and that diplomatic means would suffice to bring about an understanding on the points in dispute in China as in West Africa. A number of exaggerated rumours have been set about, and the most daring falsities have been concocted in order to supply sensations to certain newspapers, and to assist the "Bears" in their raids upon the stock markets. So far, they have all come to naught, and we have the spectacle of the Chinese Loan being issued with a fair chance of success, notwithstanding all the alarming news which has been propagated. As regards the loan itself, the security seems to be satisfactory, as under the administration of Sir Robert Hart a great increase in the yield of the taxes may be looked for, while, on the other hand, the opening up of China must necessarily bring about yet further progress. Personally, I should not perhaps care to embark a great deal of money in this loan, for fear that some time or other the "Bear" brigade would again put about alarming reports for the purpose of depressing the quotation, and any one who invests in it must not look upon it as a gilt-edged security. But then investors get 4½ per cent. interest, and the issue price is 90, while the drawings at 100 are a considerable attraction to those who like a little excitement of the game of chance kind. A good many of the recent rumours were doubtless hatched for the purpose of injuring the prospects of the loan, and when the issue has been made, we shall probably hear less disquieting news concerning the Russian and French demands or of coming insurrections. We have also heard a great deal concerning the alleged precarious political situation in the Transvaal, but the absurd talk about a coming insurrection in Johannesburg has fizzled out, and there remains the report that President Kruger proposes to renounce the suzerainty. His statement to the

Volksraad is to the effect that when his despatch to Mr. Chamberlain is published, the people will see that they (the Boers) "are a Government." The Boers have all along challenged the name of suzerainty, but Dr. Leyds has quite recently stated emphatically that they would strictly adhere to the London Convention, and if the despatch be to that effect, it will do no harm. It is altogether incredible that Oom Paul should provoke a war with this country. In the meantime these political rumours are preventing the public from embarking in the South African market, and there is continued nervousness, notwithstanding the progress made by the industry, and the comparatively low level of prices. The West Australian section has, on the contrary, braced up, and there seems to be every prospect of increased animation, the recent shake-out having placed this department on a much sounder basis. Spanish-American relations are still strained, but the apprehension of war has subsided, and Wall-street, after the exaggerated slump, has engineered a very considerable recovery in American Rails. In the coming week the uncertainty concerning the *Maine* disaster will doubtless be removed, and unless very adverse developments should occur, we shall probably have a further important improvement. Home Rails, after an advance, have eased off again, yet traffics are excellent, and the Money Market is distinctly easier on the release of Government funds, while the demand for gold has temporarily stopped. Hence we have also a smart rise in Consols. The Foreign department is still under the influence of the dangers which are threatening the Paris *Coulisse*, while Spanish do not show much of a recovery, notwithstanding the statement that the money for the payment of the coupon has once again been scraped together. South Americans have been fairly steady, but no animation can be expected in this section until the political scares pass away. The Industrial market has recovered somewhat from the depression, but I adhere to my view that there are breakers ahead in consequence of the excessive flotations and over-capitalisations which have been indulged in.

Money and Gilt-edged Investments.

The remarkable change in the tendency of the Money Market which has taken place during the last few days is, of course, to be explained by the release of Government money and by the fact that Japan has parted with a further large sum. But I suppose that we should not have had quite so sudden a change had it not been for the wish of the authorities to give the new Chinese Loan a good send-off. As regards the proceeds of this Loan, it is expected that the bulk will remain here to pay off the indebtedness of China to Japan, and that no great dislocation of funds will occur. There remains yet the Greek Loan to launch, but it is hardly likely that much of that will be taken in this country. The ease of the Money Market, and the disappearance of some of the political clouds, are responsible for a rise in Consols, which are quoted 111⅞ for the account. Other gilt-edged securities which have recently been dislodged by fears of dearer money, such as Home Railway Debenture and Preference stocks, however, have not recovered their fall, and as they have been practically at prohibitive prices, it is as well that their level should be lower. The relapse in some of these Debentures and Preference stocks from the highest in 1897 varies from 6 to 11 per cent., the latter fall being marked in Great Western Five per Cent. Consolidated Prefs. and Four per Cent. Perpetual Prefs. From the highest point in 1897 leading British Corporation stocks show declines of from 2 to 3½, and the Three and a Half per Cent. Metropolitan is 7 lower. India Sterling stock is from 5 to 6 down from the top figure of 1897, and Local Loans stock marks a fall of 3. It is an ill wind that blows no one any good, and this reaction will provide an opportunity for investors who absolutely stick to the most gilt-edged investments. Silver has advanced to 25⅞d., chiefly owing to a cessation of American sales, but these may be renewed at any time. Rupee Paper is lower at 63⅛, and amongst the Chinese loans the Seven per Cent. Silver Loan is quoted 101, the Six per Cent. Gold Loan 105½, the Five per Cent. Gold Loan 100¾, while the new loan stands at a small premium. Japanese bonds are somewhat firmer at 100½.

Home Rails.—A Favourable Outlook.

More almost than any market, with the exception of that for gilt-edged securities, the Home Railway department feels the approach of dearer money, and this has been the reason why the recovery in these stocks has not so far been strong or lasting. Now, however, we have a distinct easing off in the value of money on the release of Japanese funds from the Bank of England and on British Government disbursements, and it may be assumed that the payments in connection with the Chinese Loan will not be allowed to unduly interfere with moderate ease. The trade outlook, on the other hand, is exceedingly satisfactory, and the traffics of the leading lines continue to show increases, while more favourable climatic conditions give fair promise of a growing passenger movement. Easter is now in sight, and the holiday traffic should assume large dimensions if the weather be at all favourable. From this point of view the Southern passenger stocks, such as Brighton "A" and Dover "A," deserve special attention, and no doubt Great Eastern stock will also respond to satisfactory returns. The appointment of Mr. Cosmo Bonsor, M.P., as successor to the late Sir George Russell in the chairmanship of the South Eastern Railway has been generally well received. He is a keen business man, thoroughly acquainted with the work, and his appointment should be a guarantee of the continuance of the progressive policy which is doing so much for this line. When all the various extensions are finished, especially the widening of the approaches to the London stations, it will be possible to carry a larger traffic without the delays which are now unavoidable at times. The issue of £500,000 in Preference stock, bearing only 2 per cent. per annum until July 1, 1900, and then ranking for dividend at 3 per cent. with the present Preference stock, represents, of course, the cheapest manner in which capital can be raised. The unfortunate accident at New Cross has temporarily depressed South-Eastern stocks, and the loss of three lives is greatly to be deplored; but this will not prove a very expensive accident all the same. For the past week the traffic increase of the whole of the Companies was £24,560, chiefly on goods traffic, so that the improvement in the atmospheric conditions will be doubly welcome for stimulating the passenger movement. The stocks of the Heavy division have on the whole been steady, and the Great Northern Deferred stocks are attracting attention. It must be conceded that York Deferred at 53 are a tempting purchase. So is also Great Central 1894 Ordinary, which is being mopped up by investors at from 40 to 41. The opening up of China, which is now at hand, gives fair promise of new markets for our industries, by which all the railways should benefit, but the lines which are at present likely to feel the effect of a particular trade boom most are the Caledonian and North British, especially the former. The shipbuilding industry is in a state of restless activity. I gather from the trade reports that at no time during the present decade has the demand for steel and iron manufactures in Scotland been so great as at the present moment, and the amount of orders for ships in hand in all the Scotch shipyards is now estimated at nearly half a million tons. Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras), at the present price of 57, yields 4 per cent. per annum, with a dividend of 2 per cent. to come off next settlement, and there is now every prospect of last year's distribution not only being maintained but added to. North British Deferred have been steady at about 43½. On Saturday a meeting was held of the shareholders of the Central London Railway, at which Sir Henry Oakley, late the general manager of the Great Northern Railway, was appointed chairman of the Central London Company. This is an important and very satisfactory new departure. As Mr. Henry Tennant, who presided, explained, Sir Henry will take a very great interest in the line, to which his varied experience will be of the greatest importance. Lord Colville of Culross, who also spoke at the meeting, stated his conviction that no man stood higher in the railway service than Sir Henry Oakley, and con-

gratulated the shareholders of the Central London on securing on their board a gentleman who, he was sure, would do a great deal towards bringing to a successful issue the works and working of this new and important undertaking. Central London fully-paid Ordinary shares have been somewhat easier, but are now bracing up again at 10¾, and should certainly be benefited by this new departure.

The Yankee Market—Calmer Views and Higher Prices.

A week ago Wall-street was in the throes of a veritable panic which had been engineered with the assistance of all manner of alarming rumours, and was taken advantage of by the ursine party to commence covering their commitments. Of course, the Senators and statesmen are for the most part actively engaged in the Wall-street gamble, and Washington purchases or sales generally precede any fresh announcement concerning the Spanish-American difficulty. Of late, Washington has been buying back, and this is perhaps the best proof that the outlook is more pacific, and that an actual outbreak of war is not apprehended. When exactly the report of the Court of Inquiry on the *Maine* disaster will be published it is impossible to say, but it is hoped that this will take place during the present week. Nothing is more disturbing for the Stock Markets than uncertainty, and be the report on the occurrence whatever it may, I should think that its publication will improve matters in the American department. It seems a thousand pities that all these rumours of war should now threaten to arrest the satisfactory financial and commercial progress which was being made in the United States. If the actual outbreak of war should, however, be avoided, there is as yet no fear that business generally will be damaged, and in the meantime traffics of the leading railroads continue very satisfactory. Such increases as those shown for the second week of March by the Milwaukee of $149,399, of the Missouri Pacific of $65,000, of the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas of $14,000, are certainly very favourable indications. As to the course of prices, the extent of the recovery from the lowest quotations touched a week ago will be gathered from the following table, which shows that there has been a moderate improvement:—

—	Highest in 1897.	Lowest in 1897.	Price, Jan. 2, 1898.	March 14, 1898.	March 21, 1898.
Atchison	17⅛	10	13⅞	11	11½
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	36¼	17¾	31⅝	23¾	25⅝
Canadian Pacifics	90⅛	46¾	83⅛	82	85
Central Pacific	18½	7½	12½	11¼	12½
Denver	15½	9 7/16	11¾	11	11⅞
Do. Pref.	51⅞	37⅝	47¼	44½	45¾
Erie	19 11/16	12	15⅜	12⅝	13¼
Do. First Pref.	46½	28⅝	39¾	33½	35¾
Lake Shore	183	156	176½	192	192
Louisville	65¼	43¼	58⅛	47¾	50
Milwaukee	105⅛	71⅞	98	89	92
Missouri, Kansas, and Texas	17⅜	10¾	13	10⅞	11⅜
Norfolk Adjust. Pref.	50	22½	48¾	44¼	47
North Pacific New Pref.	61⅞	34½	61	59½	62¾
New York Central	118⅛	95⅛	110½	111½	114
Ontario	20 9/16	13	16¼	14¼	15⅛
Reading	15¼	9⅞	11½	8¼	8¾
Southern Ordinary	13	7 1/16	9¼	7¾	8⅛
Do. Pref.	39	25	33⅛	25½	26⅞
Union Pacific	35 7/16	19 13/16	26¼	24½	26⅝
Wabash Pref.	24¾	12⅛	18½	15½	15¾

Whenever the sky clears, and the market braces up again, I should think that Milwaukee, Louisville, Union Pacifics, Union Pacific Prefs., Erie, and Erie Prefs., Chesapeake and Ohio, Central Pacifics, &c., will be well to the fore. Very little notice has been taken of the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Nebraska rate case in favour of the railroads, yet it will have an important bearing upon the future working of the roads, and also upon the Stock market. It will, of course, do away with the interference by the State Legislatures with fair and just rates to the railroads, viz., rates such as to permit railroads to make fair profits. The case first came before the United States Supreme Court in the October term of 1895 on an appeal from the decision of the Circuit Court, which also had declared the interference with the railroads to be unconstitutional. The Act in question was passed in Nebraska on April 1, 1893, and was a measure of most unjustifiable confiscation and of intolerable interference. The railroads which contested the Act were the Union Pacific, St. Joe and Grand Island, Omaha and Republican Valley, and the Kansas City and Omaha, and they really have fought the battle for the whole of the railroads of the United States, which are thus protected from undue interference on the part of the State Legislatures. The troublous times have unfortunately interfered with the progress of the proposed reorganisation of the Baltimore and Ohio. It is, therefore, satisfactory to see that steps are all the same being taken to prepare the way for such a measure by taking the initiatory legal steps. I gather from the American papers that a Bill has been introduced into the Delaware House of Delegates providing for the complete reorganisation of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company. The incorporators named in the Bill are Louis Fitzgerald, Henry Budge, Eugene Delano, and E. R. Bacon, of New York; George H. Earl, Jr., of Philadelphia; Alexander Broun, John Gill, Edwin Warfield, James Bond, J. McDenny White and Thomas J. Hayward, of Baltimore. The Bill does not set forth in detail a scheme of reorganisation, but simply gives power to reorganise the road should such a thing become necessary before the Legislature meets again in 1900. It is asserted that the incorporators represent all interests. The war of rates between the Grand Trunk and Pacific roads is unfortunately still in progress, but the curious thing about it is that it does not seem to interfere with the traffis, which show large increases in the case of all the lines. The Grand Trunk had a gain of £14,968 for the second week of March, while the Canadian Pacific increase amounted to $169,000. All the same, it is little short of scandalous that at a time when prosperity is within their grasp after all the years of depression, such roads as the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk should take to quarrelling. Negotiations are at present going on for effecting an arrangement, and I cannot help thinking that a settlement will shortly be reached, especially as the principle of arbitration has been conceded. In the meantime, the stocks have moved very irregularly, Canadian Pacifics rallying to 85 after a sharp decline, while Grand Trunks are also above the worst at 66¼ for the First Prefs., and 74 for the Guaranteed.

Union Pacifics.

As the Union Pacific reorganisation is now being finally consummated by the issue of the new stocks, amongst which the new Four per Cent. Prefs. are to be listed this account, it may be useful to again glance at the figures which indicate the future progress of the Company after reorganisation. The total of the new Common stock is $61,000,000, while of Preference stock there is $75,000,000, and, including some 5,000,000 still to be issued, Four per Cent. Gold bonds to the amount of $90,000,000. The interest on the $90,000,000 of First Mortgage bonds will amount to $3,600,000, and that on the Preferred stock to $3,000,000, together $6,600,000. The net earnings for 1897 are stated at $6,180,000, to which, according to the 1896 report, a sum of $500,000, as income from other sources, has to be added, and this amount perhaps understates the case, as the resources in the Treasury are known to be considerable. This brings the total income up to $6,680,000, thus showing that the full Preference dividend has been earned for the year. Whether a dividend will be paid on the Preference stock just yet is doubtful, but at the present rate of progress and with the continued traffic increases, there is no doubt but that at the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 1898, the full 4 per cent. dividend can be paid, while, in view of the alliance with the Vanderbilt group and the more skilful working of the system, much greater progress may be anticipated, bringing a dividend on the Ordinary stock within measurable distance.

It is surprising that under these circumstances the Preference stock, which touched 64 before the Cuban scare assumed an acute form, should have dropped to 53, and I feel sure that this is one of the stocks that will be affected by a favourable turn in the Spanish-American dispute as much as any, and is, therefore, more particularly suitable for a lock-up. More speculative, but equally promising, is Union Pacific Common stock, now quoted 27½ here, and $18¾ in New York. The latter quotation is already ex the $15 Four per Cent. Preference stock, which are due to the Ordinary shareholders in lieu of the assessment paid. As the Four per Cent. Preference stock at 53 works out to nearly $8, this means that the present price of Union Pacifics in London ex rights should be about 19½. Surely an exceptionally low price for a stock so near dividend point! My strong advice to holders of Union Pacifics is to stick tight to them, and certainly not to sell the Preference stock they are receiving until they get 70 for it.

Foreigners and South Americans.

The Foreign market is still troubled by the unfortunate situation with regard to the Paris *Coulisse*, and although the evil day is put off until July 1, there is much fear that realisations in particular securities will continue. I do not attach much importance to all the rumours concerning difficulties with Russia or France over the Chinese question, and the French Press even now maintains a calm attitude, which is in strange contrast with the hysterical conduct of some of our leading dailies. Spain has scraped together the money for the payment of the next coupon, but there is always the fear that this may be the last, and it is certain that the threatened expenditure into which the strained relations with the United States have involved the country must cause most severe financial stress. Nay, it may prove the proverbial last straw on the camel's back. Spanish have been down as low as 52¾, and have now recovered to 54¾, but any unfavourable development of the Cuban question may cause another severe fall. Italians and Hungarians have improved; but Turks are not in favour, although the Greek loan is now in sight, and will furnish the much-needed supplies to the Sultan. South Americans have recovered to some extent from their recent scare, although there is not at present any inclination on the part of the public to effect purchases. Argentines are fairly steady, the 1886 Loan at 89, the Funding Loan at 88¾. It is reported that ex-President Pelligrini is on his way to this country with powers to arrange the consolidation of the debt. Argentine railway stocks have maintained the reduced level at which they arrived during the recent depression, although traffics of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern, Rosario, and Central Argentine continue very favourable. Buenos Ayres Great Southern are now quoted 151, Buenos Ayres and Rosario 72½, Central Argentine 79½, Buenos Ayres Western 11. The report of the Directors for the half-year ended December 31, 1897, of the Buenos Ayres Western is most unsatisfactory, and is attributed by the board to the failure of the maize crop, while the wheat crop was not up to expectations, more damage having been done by the drought and frost in November than was at first anticipated. The gross receipts amounted to £290,292, against £354,524 in the corresponding half-year of 1896 while the net receipts work out to £132,170, against £193,051. The disposable balance is £66,780, out of which the Board have decided to pay an interim dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum on the Ordinary share capital of the Company, carrying forward a balance of £5,530. Some further remarks in the report are of interest as bearing upon the position not only of this Company, but of other Argentine lines. It appears that the wheat crop is coming forward slowly, and there have as yet been few operations for export in consequence of the decline in prices through the heavy fall in gold. This has also affected the moving-off of the wool clip, as many of the holders are waiting for a rise in gold, and the new maize crop is described as coming on splendidly; but unfortunately the young locusts, which have been very numerous in the Company's districts, have done considerable damage to the crops at certain points. Brazilians have been steadier since the April coupon was announced, but the scare which the bondholders have had will not so easily be forgotten. Uruguay bonds have not altogether maintained top price, touching 46½, and reacting to 45¼. This fall is doubtless due only to profit-taking, as the news from Monte Video is very satisfactory. The Central Uruguay Railway of Monte Video has just issued its report for the half-year ended December 31, 1897, which, of course, bears traces of the revolution. The net receipts amounted to £67,524, against £79,215 for the corresponding half of 1896. A disposal balance of £30,138 is shown, and the Directors have decided to pay an interim dividend for the half-year at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £138. The revolution which broke out in March last year is, of course, blamed for paralysing the general traffic movement, until the conclusion of peace arrangements in the month of September; but, according to the report, there has now been a revival of commercial activity, and this, coupled with a good wool clip and favourable harvest prospects in both wheat and maize, has materially improved present prospects. Some rumours have recently been current of coming trouble between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, but authentic information is to the effect that there is no real danger of any outbreak of hostilities between these two countries. In the meantime, the Costa Rica Electric Lighting and Traction Company appears to have met with a satisfactory reception on the part of the public. The Company takes over the local Electric Lighting Company in San José, the capital and principal commercial city of Costa Rica, and the electric light system in Cartago, and, considerable as are the profits of electric lighting Companies in this country, it may be presumed that they will be exceeded by a Company in Costa Rica, which has no competition to fear. Chilians have been quiet, but Peruvian Corporation stocks have risen, the Prefs. being quoted 9⅞.

The Kaffir Circus—Still Nervous.

I related last week how certain "Bear" operators tried to make capital out of the melancholy news of the assassination of Mr. Woolf Joel in order to bang Barnato stocks, and I predicted that this trick would not succeed, and no more it has, as prices of Johannesburg Consolidated Investment and Barnato Consols have since rebounded to the level at which they stood before the catastrophe. But we have had other influences which have again prevented a material improvement in the South African department. The friction between President Kruger and ex-Chief Justice Kotze finally culminated in a manifesto issued by Mr. Kotze, in reply to an utterance by Oom Paul, in which the President invoked an unmentionable personage whom he is very fond of quoting. Finally, the "Bears" invented the story that Kotze had been arrested, this report circulating late on Wednesday afternoon in the street. Ursine operators are beginning to make a practice of depressing values just before the street market closes, the final low quotations being fixed by two or three habitual "Bears," and therefore altogether unreliable. While the story of a coming insurrection in Johannesburg has now been fully contradicted, and is disclosed as a discreditable "Bear" trick, the proceedings at the closing session of the Volksraad have been utilised for all they are worth for the purpose of depressing prices. The rumour, however, that the Volksraad had in secret session authorised President Kruger to repudiate the suzerainty whenever this country should be implicated in a European war, is obviously an invention, which is fully proved by the refusal of the Raad to authorise the raising of a loan of £6,000,000 sterling. On the other hand, President Kruger has evidently indited a despatch to Mr. Chamberlain, in which he makes a quibble over the suzerainty. I cannot bring myself to believe that he can be mad enough to throw up the London Convention. This would, moreover, be altogether opposed to the public statement made by Dr. Leyds, that the London Convention would be scrupulously adhered to. In the meantime the various rumours are preventing a revival in business, which would be fully justified by the progress which has been

made in the mining industry. Rand Mines have fluctuated between 27 and 28⅜, and the other shares chiefly dealt in were Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa and East Rands. Chartered shares are firmer on the announcement that Mr. Cecil Rhodes has left the Cape for this country, and he is expected to be present at the meeting of the Chartered Company, which has been fixed for April 21. De Beers have been steady at 26 9/16, New Jagersfontein at 7⅝.

Golden West Australia.

A distinct improvement has occurred in the "Kangaroo" market, and prices show a general advance, partly owing to a resumption of purchases by Adelaide, which seems at last to have digested the somewhat excessive amounts which it had taken. Crushings have been satisfactory, although the number is smaller this week, the following being the list:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per ton.
Great Boulder Proprietary	1,435	3,273	—
Cue One	790	590	4 dwt.
,, (Plates)	—	662	—
St. Agnes Gold Reefs	180	149	3 dwt.
Londonderry	320	477	—
North Boulder	359	436	—
Westralia and East Extension	1,675	1,104	84 grs.
Belle Vue Proprietary	167	333	—
Ivanhoe Gold	830	1,324	15 dwt.
Cuddingwarra	175	150	—
Wealth of Nations	260	140	—
Associated Gold Mines	1,800	1,500	—
Burbank's Birthday Gift	470	645	—

The news from the Lake View Consols is encouraging, and according to Mr. Callahan's reports, the 300-ft. level is improving in both the north and south drives. The north shows about 3 ft. of ore, sampling from 1 to 2 oz., while in the south drive the full width is in ore which has bulked for some days 7 oz. and 13 oz. per ton. Mr. Callahan expresses the view that the ore bodies continue in size and in richness at depth. The decline in Lake View Consols has now been recovered, the price being again 9½. Ivanhoe shares dropped to below 5 just before the special settlement was completed, but then strongly recovered to 5⅜. This is one of the best purchases in the Westralian section. The amalgamation scheme of the sub-Companies of the London and Globe Finance Corporation is now practically adopted by the Companies, viz., Wealth of Nations, Wealth of Nations Extended, Mainland Consols, Hannan's Golden Treasure, Hannan's Golden Group, Paddington Consols, and Golden Crown. This decision was come to by large majorities, and there are now merely some technicalities to be amended in the case of the Mainland Consols and Golden Crown. There is no doubt that the amalgamation will prove to be in the best interests of the shareholders. London and Globe Finance shares have hardened to 1 9/16. The news from the Wealth of Nations is favourable; 260 tons have been crushed for a yield of 140 oz. of gold, and it is also stated that there is ample water to run 20 stamps, and that they will continue sinking. Most excellent reports are again to hand from the Lady Shenton Mine, and it is evident from the intelligent cable messages that are being sent by the manager, Mr. Rayfield, that he is the right man in the right place. The following is the latest cablegram:—

> North drift of level No. 4 extended to 123 ft.; the vein is fully 4 ft. in width, high-grade ore: good gold can be seen each breaking down. Rise upon the vein started on the northern boundary. Level No. 3—The vein is fully 3 ft. in width, carrying fair sprinkling gold. Winze in No. 4 level is now down 17 ft.; still looking grand. The developments and workings continue to look exceedingly well.

This cablegram shows that the mine is being thoroughly proved as containing rich ore throughout by recent developments, and another good monthly crushing is again in sight. Advices from the adjoining Florence Mine are equally satisfactory, and also bears upon the Lady Shenton. Last week I mentioned a cablegram, according to which the reef was cut in the Florence 36 ft. from the boundary of the Lady Shenton. Now the news is to hand that it has been cut 49 ft. past the Shenton boundary in the No. 3 level, and where cut, shows 2 ft. of first-class ore. Lady Shenton shares have advanced to 2 9/16, Florence to ¾; and, from all accounts I have been able to gather, the Lady Shenton is one of the best mines in Western Australia, equal to the Lake View and Ivanhoe, while the Florence promises in time to become a second Lady Shenton. Both mines are situate in the Menzies district, and will, of course, greatly benefit by the railway from Kalgoorlie to Menzies which has just been opened. According to the latest cablegram, the Ivanhoe Mine cleaned up on March 15, 1,324 oz. of gold having been obtained from 830 tons, the tailings assaying 15 dwt. per ton. Dulness has prevailed in the West Australian Goldfields group, West Australian Goldfields being quoted 1⅞, Hampton Plains ⅞. In the Market Trust group the meeting of the Northern Territories Goldfields of Australia has attracted most attention, and both the Chairman and Mr. Horatio Bottomley were listened to with rapt attention by the shareholders. The information afforded by the former was subsequently supplemented by Mr. Bottomley, who, amongst other statements, mentioned that he had received advices according to which in the Eureka group of mines there is upwards of £3,000,000 in value of ore in sight and ready to be crushed. He also stated that his information was that in the Howley group there were over £2,000,000 of ore in sight. A further point which he made bears on the market position, viz., the discovery that he and various City firms and friends with whom he is in relation are at present the actual possessors of 380,000 shares, as against the total capital of 300,000 shares. His playful allusion to the festive "Bear," for whom he professed great admiration, created much amusement. One of the statements made by the Chairman, which was of special interest, is that there were negotiations in progress for the purpose of floating two more subsidiary companies for working the Eureka and another group of mines. Northern Territories shares have braced up, and are now quoted 4⅞. The Directors of the West Australian Joint Stock Trust have issued their report for 1897, in which the amount of profits for the year is stated as £279,851. Adding to this the balance of undivided profit from 1896, and deducting the interim dividends paid amounting to 20 per cent., and providing for the claims of the founders' shares, the amount of profit is increased to £317,098. The reserve fund has now been increased to £100,000, and the Ordinary shareholders are to receive a further dividend of 20 per cent. The Directors propose to distribute quarterly interim cash dividends at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, commencing on April 1. The Directors of the West Australian Loan and General Finance Company have also issued their report, in which they state that the profit for 1897, after bringing in various amounts from 1896, and deducting the four interim dividends at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum already paid amounts to £176,184. The Directors recommend that the reserve fund be made up to £50,000, and that a scrip dividend of 20 per cent. be distributed amongst the Ordinary shareholders. In this case, also, the directors propose to restrict the payment of cash dividends to 20 per cent. per annum, distributions at this rate being made quarterly and commencing on April 1. The services of Mr. Charles Kaufman have been secured by both these Companies, which, it is expected, will largely benefit by his co-operation and advice. Associated Gold Mines, after a decline, are firmer again at 3 11/16. Great Boulder Proprietary have been steady at 21s., the crushing having been satisfactory, and Golden Links are slightly firmer at 1 1/32 on an official communication. Hannan's Proprietary have also hardened to 16s. 9d., and Brownhill Central, after a sharp relapse on the difficulty with the clearing house owing to the dealings being limited to the fully-paid shares, have rallied to 1⅞. Golden Horseshoes have advanced to 7 5/16. The London and West Australian Exploration group is also firmer, Hannan's Brownhill having risen to 7¾. The news from this mine is exceedingly favourable, and latest advices state that they are about to cut the lode at the

470-ft. level, and that the whole of the machinery will be in full swing in April, so that the output will be largely increased. It may therefore be anticipated that the shares will rise to a much higher level. Sons of Gwalia are still very firm at $2\frac{1}{16}$. A sharp improvement has taken place in Boulder Main Reefs to $1\frac{11}{16}$ on a cablegram from the property stating that the vein had been cut at the 230 ft. level. and looked splendid. I hear that the Great Boulder Perseverance lode has been struck in the adjoining Golden Pike property, whereupon the latter shares have risen to $\frac{7}{8}$. As the strike has been made at considerable depth, this is a most important discovery. The Great Boulder Perseverance lode is, of course, a most valuable one, which has caused the shares in this company to rise to $3\frac{3}{8}$, and it is evident that we are on the eve of a further important improvement in Golden Pike shares. With regard to the Burbank's North a cablegram has been received from Professor Nicholas, stating that a profitable reef 18 in. in width, has been struck on the Burbank's boundary. Peak Hill have declined to $2\frac{1}{2}$ on the alluvial difficulty, which appears to specially hit this property more than others. None of the leading mines, however, have alluvial gold, so that no trouble can arise, for instance-with the Lake View Consols, Ivanhoe, Hannan's Brown, hill, Lady Shenton, &c. As a matter of principle, however, the question is a most important one. On this subject I am writing further on.

The Alluvial Question in Western Australia.

So much has of late been said on the alluvial question in Western Australia, that it may be as well to state the position clearly. It will be remembered that great excitement has been caused throughout the goldfields by the publication of an Amendment to Clause 103 of the Mining Regulations, which limits the depth to which alluvial miners may go, on a lease, to 10 ft. The Hon. E. H. Wittenoom, Minister of Mines for Western Australia and acting Premier, deserves every support for the strength of purpose he has shown in protecting the interests of the leaseholders and of the English Companies owning properties in the colony. The following statement, made on the highest authority, puts the matter in a nutshell:—

Hitherto the law has been that a leaseholder owns everything within his four pegs, as set down in his lease instrument, with the exception of the reservation contained in Section 36, which allows a miner to go on to the lease under certain conditions. Deep alluvial was struck by several of the leaseholders in the vicinity of Kanowna, Bulong, and Kalgoorlie, at depths of over 100 ft., and the alluvial miner immediately proceeded to exercise his rights. It was soon apparent to the Minister of Mines and the West Australian Government that if the alluvial diggers commenced to sink deep shafts within 50 ft. of the workings and machinery houses of a leaseholder, nothing but complications and accidents would ensue. Moreover, if the news became spread about that leases which were going and profitable concerns were pegged out under another title, the shareholders and investors in the other colonies and in England, might be so disgusted with the apparent insecurity and duality of title, that they would transfer their investments to countries giving them more security of tenure. The Government took the only course which was open, and which was not absolutely *ultra vires*, by preventing these men going deeper than 10 ft., with the expressed purpose of suspending the question until Parliament met. It was never intended that this 10 ft. was to be an existing law, or to solve this difficult problem. The idea of the Government is that Parliament alone can do this. Of course, the action taken has been done entirely to protect leaseholders, investors, and capitalists, as the West Australian Government have always tried to make it certain that the title any one obtains for their money shall be as secure as possible.

It may be as well to here point out that throughout his term of management of the Mines Department Mr. Wittenoom has endeavoured to secure to investors a full and sound title:—Firstly, by his strenuous exertions in favour of capable and proper transfer and registration offices, so that there might be no flaw in the titles, for which he was subjected to much abuse; secondly, by the relaxation of the labour conditions; thirdly, by the regulation which compelled that applications for forfeiture should be accompanied by a deposit of £25, to prevent blackmailing by men of straw; and lastly by the amendment of Regulation 103, which simply sets forth the method of applying Section 36 of the Act. The action of the Acting-Premier, although violently attacked in certain quarters, has been endorsed and supported by all the thinking and leading men of the colony, and also throughout South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales, from the centres of which he has received most complimentary telegrams. Latest cable advices from the colony state that the West Australian Government fully maintains the attitude assumed with regard to the alluvial question, but that it is willing to consider any reasonable suggestion that may be satisfactory to all parties. There is no doubt that Sir John Forrest, who has now returned to the colony from Melbourne, will fully endorse Mr. Wittenoom's action, and I understand that the latter will shortly take his departure for London to take up the post of Agent-General for West Australia.

Indian, Australasian, and British Columbian Mines.

In the Indian mining section the only upward movements took place in Ooregums and Champion Reefs, while Mysore Gold are somewhat lower. In Australian mines, other than West Australian, Broken Hill Proprietary are firmer at 44s.; but Mount Lyell have reacted to $13\frac{1}{2}$, Mount Lyell North being quoted $3\frac{1}{16}$. In Charters Towers shares there has been a rise in Mill's Day Dawn United, but Brilliant and New Queen are lower. New Zealand mines have been remarkably dull, and Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand have fallen as much as $\frac{1}{2}$, Waihi, Woodstock, Glenrock, and Kauri are all lower, almost the only improvement taking place in Hauraki. In British Columbian shares changes have been slight. London and British Columbia Goldfields and Hall Mines have improved, and British America Corporation shares have recovered to 21s. On the other hand, Klondike and Columbian Goldfields, British Columbia Development Association, and New Goldfields of British Columbia have eased off. Amongst Mexican Mines a moderate improvement has been established in Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico to $1\frac{1}{16}$, while Grand Centrals are firm at $1\frac{11}{16}$. It would not be surprising to see greater activity in the Mexican section in the near future. Campana are being dealt in at $\frac{3}{4}$. Rio Tinto have advanced to 29, on favourable dividend rumours, other copper shares sympathising.

Governor Mackintosh on British Columbia.

The Hon. C. H. Mackintosh, Lieut.-Governor of the North-West Territories, arrived home a week ago by the *Campania* for the purpose of conferring with his colleagues on the Board of the British-America Corporation. For some time people have been anxious to learn something of the properties acquired by this important Company, and some extracts from an interview which a representative of the *Citizen* has just had with Mr. Mackintosh will, therefore, prove interesting. The Governor expressed a very high opinion of the Rossland district in British Columbia, and mentioned the names of a number of mines owned by his Corporation. This is what he had to say on this head:—

The Corporation purchased the Josie, adjoining the Le Roi on the north-west; the Poorman, closely allied with the Le Roi, Centre Star, and War Eagle; No. 1, adjoining the north-west boundary of the War Eagle; the Nickleplate adjoining the south-eastern boundary of the Centre Star; the West Le Roi, on the western boundary of the Le Roi, Josie, and No. 1; the Golden Chariot and Great Western adjoining the Nickleplate; and also secured options on the Legal Tender or Olivette, south of the Le Roi and Centre Star. The latter, being in legal dispute, was not in a position to give title. All these properties have been thoroughly examined by mining men, not experts in the professional sense of the term. Added to this, the very best expert opinions have been procured.

Mr. Mackintosh explained that all these properties were acquired at very moderate prices, and he also gave conclusive reason why the Le Roi Mine, on which the Corporation had an option, was not purchased. In fact, he stated that the Josie, which has been acquired, proved that it could produce as valuable ore as the Le Roi. After giving the reasons why the Alaska Company's business was not taken over, Mr. Mackintosh stated that the Corporation controlled mineral areas, comprising fully 2,000 acres, in the Salmon River, Wild Horse Creek, Sophie Mountain,

and East Kootenay districts, many of which, he said, would prove very good value. During all last year responsible agents of the Corporation were in the Yukon country, where it holds some very valuable claims. Mr. Frank Bowker, who will be the Company's representative there, and who has had an experience of ten years in that country is now *en route* to Yukon, and early in the summer some very good news is expected. Mr. Mackintosh laid special stress upon the confirmation of his former statement that stories of alleged starvation and wretchedness at Dawson City and other places were questionable. He also furnished some very useful information upon the question of smelting in British Columbia. It appears that within a brief time the ores of Rossland will be smelted for 12s. per ton. When this takes place the Columbia and Kootenay groups of mines (concerning the acquisition of which the Governor told an interesting tale) alone will be able to produce 600 tons per day at a profit of from 14s. to 16s. per ton, as the ore body is phenomenal. In conclusion, the Governor furnished excellent reasons for the policy of the Corporation of not putting all their eggs into one basket or paying excessive prices for any one property. The appointment of Mr. Carlisle, for several years the chief mineralogist of the Province of British Columbia, as chief mining engineer of the Company, is also a step in the right direction, and the whole statement made by Mr. Mackintosh is such as to inspire confidence in the "British commercial principles" upon which the undertaking is to be conducted.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

Chinese Imperial Government Four and a Half per Cent Gold Loan.—The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, of 31, Lombard-street, London, and the Deutsch Asiatische Bank, Berlin, invite subscriptions for £16,000,000 sterling bonds, at the issue price of £90 per cent., in bonds to bearer of £25, £50, £100, and £500 each, with half-yearly coupons attached for interest at the rate of 4½ per cent per annum. The loan is for forty-five years, redeemable at 100 by forty-five annual drawings through the action of an accumulative sinking-fund, and is specially secured by a charge upon the Imperial Maritime Customs Revenues of the Treaty ports of China, subject to loans at present unredeemed. The loan is exempt from all present and future Chinese taxes.

Aplin & Barrett and the Western Counties Creameries, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire and carry on the business of Aplin & Barrett, Cheddar cheese and butter merchants, Yeovil, with which will be amalgamated the businesses of Edwin Down Marden; the Western Counties Creamery, Marston Magna, Somerset; and Maynard & Sons' sausage manufactory, now carried on by Maynard's Pure Food Company, Limited, Yeovil, Somerset. The capital is fixed at £100,000.

This is a mixture that had better be left to the inhabitants of the Western counties. The capital is excessive, and altogether the issue is too rich for the digestion of an average investor.

The Smelting Corporation, Limited.—This Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring from the Burnham Syndicate, Limited, their business and patent rights for the treatment of refractory sulphide ores of silver, lead, zinc, gold, &c. The patents acquired are for the United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, and other British colonies, and also Mexico; in addition to which a right is acquired to 80,000 fully-paid shares of £1 each in the West Prussian Mining Company, Limited, and the vendors interest in the smelting works at Llansamlet, near Swansea, with the benefit of all existing contracts for ore. The capital is fixed at £600,000, in shares of £1 each, of which 350,000 shares are taken by the vendors in part payment of the purchase money.

United Breweries of Western Australia, Limited.—With a capital of £150,000 divided into Preference and Ordinary shares of £1 each, this Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring the businesses of the Stanley Brewery Company, Limited, Perth, and the Port Brewery Company, Limited, Fremantle, W.A.

Brewing business has not been very successful in Australia up to now, and why these two Companies, both presumably doing well according to the prospectus, should wish to combine is not very apparent. It is not a venture to be recommended in any way.

The Omnibus and Tramcar Cigarette Automatic Supply Company, Limited.—With a capital of £100,000, this Company is formed for the purpose of supplying the public with cigarettes on omnibuses and tramcars.

This is a Company the success of which is somewhat doubtful. Most cigarette-smokers carry small cases holding their favourite brands, and are not likely to give them up for they know not what.

The Copper Estates of Western Australia, Limited.—This Company has been formed with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares, to acquire the freehold property known as the Wanerenooka Copper Mine, and an option to purchase other copper estates in the same neighbourhood, situate near the township of Northampton, Western Australia.

The properties acquired are large in extent, but apparently very little development has been done. I would warn my readers that Mount Lyell's are nowadays not so scarce, and from the statements in the prospectus, this does not appear to be anything like one.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

Bath, C. S.—Yes, I think it would be advisable to hold your Perus for an improvement. *Liverpool Reader.*—Thanks. I am glad you are making money in Uruguay bonds on my advice. I was strongly in favour of the Old Loan when at 40, and the price has since been 46¼. *Beaulieu.*—For the investment of your £1,000 I should think that Chilian Fives (1) and Mexican Sixes (2) would be the best purchase from the point of view of safety, if you require high interest. Uruguay bonds (4) are also a progressive stock. As regards Bulgarians what is chiefly to be considered is the possibility of further trouble in the East, and you can never make sure as to the payment of the interest in the case of war.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Tobacco.—1. I do not see why you should sell these bank shares. British Columbia is doing exceedingly well, and this bank should participate in the improvement. 2. I have no information about the electric lighting Company. *An Investor, Manchester.*—I do not think much of this bank, and perhaps you had better sell. *W. F., Stranraer.*—I cannot reply by letter. The rule in the case of subscriptions to Companies is that you can only cancel applications before receiving allotment letters. You ought clearly to have withdrawn your application by telegraph. You have placed yourself anyhow in a doubtful position. If the Company let you off it will be an act of grace. *R. A. C.*—I give you *Punch's* advice to those about to marry—don't. High rates of deposit are not compatible with safety. You had better invest in sound securities. *J. W., Pontefract.*—I do not think you will gain much by connecting yourself with this concern. *Bob.*—I always advise my readers to deal only through members of the Stock Exchange, and not through outside concerns such as that mentioned by you. *Simon.*—Everything depends upon the class of policy under which you insured in the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, and I cannot advise you until I know its provisions. I suppose there would be a certain surrender value. I cannot reply by letter. *A. G. W., Bolivia.*—I do not think that the bank in question offers sufficient security. You had better deposit your money with a London bank. *Wexfordian.*—The bank in question is a third-rate institution, but it should be sufficiently safe for small amounts. *E. B.*—What you require has been forwarded to you, and I hope that you will succeed in making this person disgorge. I have not heard of the individual before.

Home Rails.

Sugar Cane.—The prospects of the Metropolitan District Company are excellent, and I do not advise you to sell any of your holding. If you will lock them up for a little time, you will probably see them take a jump. The other stock is also very promising, but there is no reason to make a change. *X. Z. Y.*—Yes, Dover "A" and Coras are a good purchase. For a lock-up, Great Central 1894 Ordinary are also very promising.

American and Foreign Rails.

A. K., Manchester.—If you can afford to hold your American Rails through the fluctuations which may possibly occur, you will see them very much higher. *F. O.*—There may be further adverse rumours, and further sensational reports, concerning a possible war between the United States and Spain, but personally I think that a settlement will finally be reached. You may, therefore, see your American Rails go lower for some days, but a final recovery is certain.

Old False Teeth Bought.—Many ladies and gentlemen have by them old or disused false teeth, which might as well be turned into money. Messrs. R. D. & J. B. Fraser, of Princes-street, Ipswich (established since 1833), buy old false teeth. If you send your teeth to them they will remit you by return post the utmost value; or, if preferred, they will make you the best offer, and hold the teeth over for your reply. If reference necessary, apply to Messrs. Bacon & Co., Bankers, Ipswich.

MINING SHARES.

Spes.—I am not sufficiently posted about the North Mount Lyell to be able to recommend a purchase of the shares, and certainly cannot promise a dividend within twelve months. *J. W., Brighton.*—Kaffirs Consolidated are certainly not worth buying. *Timolus.*—Yes, you will do well to hold all your shares Nos. 1 to 4. *Tom.*—No; I have always held a most unfavourable opinion of Monastery Diamonds (1), and warned my readers against them when at a high price. I do not even now recommend a purchase of them at their present rubbish price. No. 2 seem to be a fair lock-up, and as regards West Australian shares I must refer you to my letter. *Leamington.*—I do not advise a purchase of No. 1, but Woodstock-Transvaal (2) are in favourable position, an excellent report on the property having been made by an independent expert. There is a prospect of an improvement. 4. I should not advise a purchase just now. 5. Very cheap; you cannot lose much, and might make a good profit. *C. U.*—I do not believe in this reconstruction. *Hydro.*—I do not think much of this concern, and if you can get out without a loss you should sell. *Polo.*—Hold New Crœsus shares for the present. *Viking.*—I cannot possibly tell you whether you are actually liable, but you should do your best to get out of this liability, and not throw good money after bad. If there is any liability it would, of course, be only in proportion to your holding. The document is returned. *C. B.*—I have always had an unfavourable opinion of Mountain Coppers, and still hold this view. You had better sell. *Nitram.*—Unfortunately, South African mining Companies generally pay dividends only two or three months after their declaration. This is also the case with the Porges Randfontein.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

M. E.—There does not appear to be any particular reason for selling these co-operative shares at present. *Cantanvarus.*—As regards your investments Nos. 1 to 13, it cannot be said that "they are safe stocks for a quiet investor to buy." For instance, No. 7 are very speculative, and No. 5 might eventually prove doubtful. The others may safely be held for the present. *Forty.*—I do not by any means consider these debentures a catch. *Bolter.*—There is no official quotation for Belgravia Hotel shares, and there is no market for them. *E. W.*—No reason to sell these shares. *Jersey Pear.*—No reason to get out of these Stores shares. *Lancastrian.*—1. I do not think that prospects are at all satisfactory. All the other shares mentioned are more or less speculative, but No. 4 is the safest of them all. *Box, Leeds.*—A fair industrial investment, but no catch. *A. C., Liverpool.*—Millars Karri and Jarrah Prefs. should be a good investment, as the Company is undoubtedly doing well. The rumours of amalgamation with another Company appear to be unfounded. *R. D. N.*—You were quite right to hold the shares in question on my advice. 1. No option but to hold these debentures, which should come right. 2. Hold Bovril Ordinary; the Company is reported to be doing well. *F. E. D.*—I should advise you to realise if you can get any premium, but these quotations are often altogether nominal. *Twyn.*—From the point of view of infusing fresh blood into a local concern of this kind, I should think that the agreement should be entered into. The document is returned. *Worried, Belfast.*—It almost looks as if tyre and cycle shares of the better class have practically reached bottom, and I strongly advise you not to sell but to hold for a possible improvement. *Motor.*—I should advise you to get out of the Great Horseless Carriage Company, and not to throw good money after bad.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Aurelius.—1. The price of British Motor Cars is nominally $\frac{3}{4}$; but I do not think you could sell at all. 2. The Prefs. are not quoted. 3. No. *An Altruist.*—The Ferreira (1) is one of the best South African mines. The various shares, Nos. 2 to 7, are well selected, and there is no reason to sell. *Stiema.*—A. A local concern about which it is impossible to obtain any information here. 2. These shares should be held for a recovery. 3. The Knights mine is doing very well, and the shares should also be held. B. I really cannot do better than refer you to my letter. *H. C., Canning Town.*—No, I do not advise a purchase of Carlyle Gold. No reason to sell the other shares at present. *S. G. G.*—No reason to sell No. 1; but I should not like to be a "Bull" of English Cottons (2) for any length of time. I do not like St. Augustine (3), and never have. Sell No. 4 if you can. *R. A. W.*—The Company is a wealthy American insurance institution, and I have nothing to say against its stability. Personally, however, I should prefer to insure with an English office. *Fritzomania.*—1. I do not think there will be any fall in Consols for the present. 2. The investments which can at present be bought to yield $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. may fall considerably in capital value, and I can therefore hardly advise you to make a change. 3. Certainly hold Baltimore and Ohio stock, which should certainly improve when the war scare is over. 4. Not yet. *G., Bath.*—1. The Lady Shenton Mine paid 20 per cent. dividend in 1897, and double this dividend is expected for 1898. The shares should certainly be held, and the market moreover is very strong. 2. Yes, Union Pacific Prefs. are an excellent purchase at the present price, and if you lock them up you will see a rise of $10 as soon as ever the war scare is over. 3. A $4 dividend is expected. 4. A fair brewery investment, but no catch. 5. This brewery stock is not tempting under present circumstances. *Lengthy.*—1. I should not like to express an opinion, the prospects are doubtful. 2. The information I possess concerning the Kalgurli Great Western does not enable me to recommend these shares to you. 3. I really must ask you to take your own decision in this matter, the future is somewhat doubtful. 4. Hold Humber Extensions. 5. I do not like Beeston Tyre Rims, and never have. As regards the list of investments Nos. 6 to 20, from which you wish to make a selection, Colonial Finance Corporation (15) and London and West Australian Exploration (6) appear to be the most promising. Beyond these, however, I consider such shares as Hannan's Brownhill, Ivanhoe, Lady Shentons, and Florence, as most promising. *Truth, Radnor.*—There is at present no option but to hold the various railway stocks you have got from A to I. In due time they will doubtless improve. I do not know whether the Carbolic Smoke Ball Company is yet in existence, but I need hardly repeat that I do not at all like this concern.

A CHAPTER ON INDUSTRIAL STOCKS.

The importance which the market for home industrial enterprises has assumed is my excuse for devoting a special paragraph to it. It is true that I have for some time deprecated the excessive flotation of industrial companies, which in many cases takes the form of conversions, the chief defect of which is enormous over-capitalisation; but the public, in view of the disturbed state of foreign politics, and the uncertainty of the South African market, have elected to embark in these ventures to such an extent that quite a big market has grown up for industrial stocks, and I have of late received so large a number of inquiries for advice on such securities that this new departure will meet the wishes of many. One of the features of the moment is the large speculative dealing in Allsopp Ordinary, which have finally dropped to 151, rallying to 155 on the announcement of a capital increase to £3,300,000, by the issue of 110,000 new shares of £10 each. The Ordinary stock is in future to become a preferred Ordinary, entitled to a maximum dividend of 7 per cent., and the dividend on the new shares is to be paid out of the surplus earnings. The latter are not, however, to receive any dividend until the reserve fund has reached £1,100,000. I cannot, however, see that this is sound finance, and I should have thought that a debenture issue—for which there is still authority—would have been preferable; but I suppose that there will be all the more opportunity for the stockjobbing, which has been a feature of the Allsopp market for some time past. The Incandescent Gas Light shares were not at first benefited by the statements made at the meeting of shareholders, and some of the jobbers started banging the stocks. In this they were not, however, finally very successful, as inside support was given, with the result that the Ordinary were finally quoted 115-117, the Preference 100-101. The remarks on the new Welsbach burner and the new electric mantle were, upon the whole, encouraging, but it remains to be seen what the electric lighting industry will have to say about the latter. The prospectuses of a number of Industrial Companies are ready to be rushed out the moment the Lipton allotment is out, so as to catch disappointed subscribers upon the rebound. Amongst these are, I hear, Dr. Tibble's Vi-Cocoa and The Kodak. The Lipton shares, by the way, are quoted at $1\frac{1}{8}$-$\frac{3}{8}$ premium, the Preference at $\frac{3}{16}$-$\frac{5}{16}$ premium, and the Debentures at $6\frac{1}{2}$-$7\frac{1}{2}$ premium. Probably the "Bears" will be punished, but I should think that it will be difficult eventually to maintain these high premiums, although the tale goes that Sir Thomas Lipton made his friends, who are to get large allotments, promise not to sell for two years. By the way, I should like to know more about Lipton's American business. Shareholders in the English Sewing Cotton Company are still waiting for the special settlement, and the quotation of the shares is now $\frac{11}{16}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ premium. It seems likely, however, that when the settlement comes off the price will decline. A pleasing feature amongst recent announcements was that of a dividend of 6 per cent. on Paquin Ordinary, which, with the 4 per cent. already paid, makes 10 per cent. for the year, while £7,642 is placed to reserve, and £2,259 carried forward. It is not surprising that, under these circumstances, the Ordinary shares should have risen to $1\frac{1}{8}$-$\frac{1}{4}$, and I really should like to know what caused all the "Bearish" talk a month or two ago. Anglo "A" are of course entirely dependent upon the American market, and to speculate in

PRINCES' RESTAURANT, PICCADILLY.—The fashionable resort. Finest wines and cuisine only. Table d'hôte luncheon 4s. 6d. Dinners à la carte, Suppers 5s. Mang. Directr., G. FOURAULT, from Benoist.

them is equivalent to taking a hand in Yankee Rails, as any movement in Wall-street at once reacts on Anglo "A." The present quotation of this stock is $12\frac{1}{8}$-$\frac{1}{4}$, and there are not many people who have made money out of this speculative counter. I have for some time been protesting against the gamble in oil shares, and I am not surprised that Russian Oils should have fallen again to $21\frac{1}{4}$, while the Prefs. are quoted 11. A correspondent invites my attention to a comparison between Schibaieff Six per Cent. Prefs., now quoted par to $\frac{1}{16}$ premium (the Ordinary standing at $\frac{1}{4}$-$\frac{3}{8}$ premium) with Russian Petroleum £10 Six per Cent. Prefs. at 11. My informant considers that, apart from their preferential claim of 6 per cent., Schibaieffs have a further deferred interest in that they take one-third of all profits after the Ordinary have received 10 per cent.; also that the Schibaieff, being a refining Company, provides a better security than the Russian Company, which only owns the crude oil business, and is therefore dependent upon the wells of the estate. West Australian timber shares are in favour, and deservedly so, but it is evident that there was nothing in the rumours of the Millars Karri and Jarrah Company amalgamating with one of the other concerns, so that M. C. Davies now stand at $1\frac{5}{8}$ only, while Millars are firm at $3\frac{1}{4}$. The only other West Australian timber share is Canning Jarrah, quoted $\frac{1}{4}$ premium. Schweppes have become a very dull market, the Deferred at 10s. 9d., the Ordinary at $1\frac{3}{16}$, while Bovril Ordinary have been steady at $\frac{15}{16}$, the Deferred at 13s. I referred some time ago to the action of the shareholders in the Rhymney Iron Company against Sir Henry Tyler and his fellow-directors. A circular just issued by Mr. Hern recapitulates the grievances of the shareholders, and I hope that the committee will succeed in forcing the hand of the Board, the members of which appear to have sold all the shares they have been holding. The enterprise should certainly be placed under the control of very different men. I have always taken the view that the United Alkali Company was not promising from the point of view of the investor, as it dealt with an industry that was subject to great fluctuations in view of other processes which were bound to be discovered. The £10 Prefs. are now quoted 9, the £10 Ordinary $1\frac{3}{4}$, and the view which I have taken is fully confirmed by the statements made at the meeting that the Company had to abandon a very large amount of the old "Le Blanc" type of plant, which had become obsolete. This rendered necessary the erection of works for the manufacture of their alkalies by the newest processes, and so history will repeat itself. The same dulness has reigned in the Cycle section during the past week as has been noticeable for some months past, but it should not be forgotten that we are now approaching the springtime when an increased demand for machines will, doubtless, be experienced. In fact, my information is that a number of Companies are very busy. Some of the concerns which were floated during the time of the boom will never recover their position, but there are others—the shares in which are quoted at very low prices—which will certainly take a start one of these days, and shareholders in these should, therefore, not part with their holdings. In the meantime, we see Humber Ordinary quoted at 12s. 6d., ditto Extensions 7s., Singers 13s. 6d., Swifts 13s. 9d., Dunlop Deferred 11s. 6d., ditto Ordinary 17s. I may be able in the near future to give particulars of some of the neglected shares which are at present worth picking up. Several correspondents have drawn my attention to a communication issued by G. & S. Reed, 10, Bush-lane, Cannon-street, E.C., in which they offer 100 fully-paid shares of £5 each in the Cambridge, Limited, at £4 7s. 6d. per share, which they state is a low price. They represent this, in fact, as an exceptionally favourable offer, but I gather from the tape quotations that at about the same time Cambridge shares were quoted 3 only. Under these circumstances I advise my readers not to avail themselves of this tempting offer.—Your affectionate uncle,

MOSES.

Bexhill-on-Sea.—The Mentone of England.—The Sackville Hotel, an ideal winter and spring residence. Special inclusive terms till Easter. For tariff, &c., apply to Manager.

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QUEER STORY.

AN ACCIDENT AT AINTREE.

[I have been rather amused to receive the following letter from a "constant reader" of Truth who lives at Birkenhead:—

—— Mersey-avenue,
Birkenhead, 14/3/98.

Dear Sir,—Bein a constant reeder of Trooth and avin notised as yer sumtimes prints troo storeys—wich I see yer dun it sevril times lately—I ventures ter send yer the enclosed. As I don't set up ter spell or rite grammar, I'll arsk yer to get wun of yer starf to work it up inter sootable littery form, as yer dun with that story bout the Docter larst Jennary.—Yurs trooly,

As will be seen from the letter, my correspondent is not a gentleman with any claim whatever to the literary or grammatical faculty; which, indeed, he himself, with becoming modesty, admits. But, for all that, I have not carried out his suggestion that I should turn over his enclosure to one of my staff to "werk up inter sootable littery form." On the contrary, I am presenting it to my readers precisely as received; feeling that there is a dramatic raciness and humour in this ill-spelt and ungrammatical document which, if it were edited on "littery" lines, would inevitably disappear. The only liberty I have taken with my correspondent's "copy" has been in punctuating and paragraphing it. Without this, parts of it would have been nearly unintelligible. Here it is.—Ed. Truth.]

"I'll begin by sayin as the story I'm goin ter tell is or troo, as them as appens ter be in the no will bare me witness; wich there ain't menny sech left, 'cos orl this appen mor'n thutty eers ago, bein in the urly sixteys. I won't say zackly wich eer, nor will I giv the reel names of the osses and riders. Not cos there cud be enny harm in doin it, but cos it seems ter be the fashun not ter; leastways, not in the Trooth storeys. Wich I dersay yer, Mr. Edditer, Sir, hez good reesons fur it. Wich I might venshur to guess them reesons hez sum conneckshun with the libel lors. Peeple bein ridiklusly tucchy, and juries no more rellyible than 2-eer-olds. Wich I was downright shamed, that I was, wen a Lankashur jury made yer stump up five hundred larst eer fur an hoversight. Yer hez my sinseer simperthy over that job—yer hez indeed, Mr. Edditer, Sir.

"But ter go on with my storey. Wich its about the Gran Nashunal, wen that grate raice wos in its parmy days. Things wos very different then from wot they is now. Thur wos jyents on the turf in those days, as sumwun sez. Sportsmen *wos* sportsmen then. They swore arder; they drank arder; they road arder; they betted arder. My guvnor, in ooz service I then had the onner to be staible-boy, is a good egsample. Wen e swor—wich wos wenever e open is mouth—e'd use langwidge wich wos more egspressive than yer can think. I wos orfen lorst in admirashun at is wunderful flo ov wurds. An Joe—he wos ed groom—I've menny a time erd im say, 'Ther aint 2 ways about it. The Capting's a born orritor.' So e wos. The sware wurds cum to im as natral as jumpin cums to a flee.

"Ruswarp was is name—Capting Ruswarp. E'd been in the Army, but e'd retired wen e cum into is munny, on wich e live like a toff, an keep a dozen steeplechaisers. E wos as good a judge of orseflesh as ever I see, an as dairin a rider. I doubt if e ad is eekal acrorse country in Ingland. Nuthink funk im, from a canal to a bullfinch. An I bleeve e wos never so appy as wen e wos riskin is nek over sumthink extry stiff. Owever, xcep for ridin em a bit too ard, e wos verry kind to is osses, an verry fond of em. So wos they of im. Quite luv im, they did. And the way theyd orl prik their eers, and wicker with pleshur wen e cum inter the staibles wos a reglar treet.

"Now the Capting ad wun scores of steeplechaises in is time, but e'd never wun the bloo ribbing of the crorse country kalender, as they corl it—meanin, of course, the

Gran Nashunal. An e wos natrally as keen as mustard to win it. An that eer e ad as good a charnce of carryin it orf as enny man ever ad. For e wosn't relying on wun candydit—avin, in fact, 2 strings to is bo; and 2 wunderful good strings they wos. Wot's more, they wos in on most easy terms, wich orl the noin wuns recognize; fur they wos maid first and seckond favrit the moment the axeptances appeer.

"I'll giv the naims of these 2 as Angler and Nettie—wich they wosn't really that, enny more than my guvnor's naim was Ruswarp, or than annuther gent, oom I shall now av occaishen to menshun, wos reelly naimed Dingley. But, as I've sed abuv, I'm putting fictishus naims orl throo; though the naims is the only fictishus things about it. This Dingley wos well-nown as a breeder of steeplechaisers and as a gentleman rider; wich, to tell the trooth, gentleman ain't the rite naim for im, bein a snobb of the very wust and most pernounced descripshun. The guvnor orfen ad deelins with im, an, in fack, had bort Angler from im as a 5-eer-old. But e didn't like im enny more than the rest of us did. An wun reeson for our dislikin im—in addishun to is bein a narsty snobb, as I've sed—was is skandlus crool way with osses.

"Not but wot e wos a verry sicksessful rider. Is cullors cum to the frunt in crorse-country events as orfen as most. But this wos freekently brort about by blaggardly crool ridin, an sech tortshur wos, in menny caises, inflicted by im on is pore beests, as ole Nick isself might be ashaimed of.

"Now sum fokes will tell yer that kindness is the only way by which yer can get a oss to do orl e noes for yer. But that is orl swipes and skittles, as the sayin is. Yer can friten im into this by croolty just as orfen as yer can coaks im into it by kindness. Of coorse, this croolty dodge is shaimful and damnerble, an no deesent-minded man would ever try it on. But that ain't sayin it isn't freekently sicksessful; as the igsperience of many brootal riders—*e.g.*, Dingley for wun—abundantly prooves. Orl is osses went in dedly feer of im. Yer coodn't see im neer em without notisen that. Wenever e mount wun of theese pore beests, it was pittiful to see ow it tremble and shiver in evrry lim. An well it mite. Dingley ad a art of concreat. An if it sooted his purpose, or if e lorst is wool, as the sayin is, e wood ride a oss till he killed it, without hesitashun. Wy, I myself av twice seen im brake the back of is mount in a steeplechaise—wen the waiger e wos ridin for wos worth more than the oss e was ridin. An on annuther memmyrible occaishun e was neerly linched by the crowd at Worrick* for savidgely lashin an spurrin a spent oss, till it akshally fell from sheer exorstshun. Arfter that e found it proodent to be more kairful, and to try is and at sertin less open dodges; wich I'll say more about them laiter on.

"Avin deskribed Dingley, I'll now deskribe the 2 osses I've menshuned—Angler and Nettie. Angler was a fine, big oss, a bloo roan in cullor, 17 ands at the withers, an stout and strong in proporshun. E look a little bit evvy in barrel. But e ad a good turn of speed, eeven on the flat; and acrorse country, wen the goin was sticky, e wos a baddun to beet, if there ever wos. Dingley ad soled im to the guvnor (as one of is grooms arfterwards tell Joe on the strict qt) becors e ad sech a devvle of a munkey that Dingley coodn't ride im. That may av been; but if it wos, it wos orl on account of Dingley's treetment of im; Angler bein a oss wot woodn't stand croolty. But wen e wos kindly treeted, e wos mannidgeable enuff, as we proove. For Angler adn't been in our staibles six munths before e wos as gentle a beest as enny rider (wich I don't refer to them as egspecks a oss to av no more spirit than a bike; such pursons bein about) need wish to crorse.

"An now I'll tell yer about Nettie. Nettie's a pritty name, ain't it? But not prittier than this nailin little mair deserve. I ain't given to dror the long bo. And wen I say this, I'm only sayin the sober trooth—she wos the gratest bewty in oss flesh I ever see. In fack, we oners corl er the bell of the staibles. Imadgin to yerself a trim little laidy, standin bairly fourteen ands; a rich chesnut throo-out, without a fleck of enny other culler. Imadgin a barrel of ormost puffick proporshuns, covered with mussel, yet not losin by that saim wun jot of its shaipliness. Imajin legs wot Lanseer mite av been proud to put inter wun of is pickshures; and pastuns by comparison with wich the neetest ankle that wos ever sett orf by pettycuts wood look corse and clumsy. Imajine the prittiest ed that ever graiced an eekwine nek, an large brown Is, sorfter an tenderer an likwider an brillyanter than the britest pare of gal's eyes as ever maid yer art thump. If yer can imadgin orl this—wich, Mister reeder, I taik leeve to dout—yer may form some ideer of wot Nettie wos.

"An now I cum to the raice. My guvnor wos to ride Angler isself; wich is ridin wait, bein twelve stoan, zackly corryspond with wot Angler ad to carry. But for a long time e wos unsertin as to oo shood go up on Nettie. At larst, oo do yer think e pitch on? Wy, nun uther than that snobb Dingley. We in the staibles wosn't too well pleesed wen we erd that this crool broot wos to ride our favrit. But, of corse, the guvnor's wurd was lor, and nun of us daired breethe a sillyble against it. There wos no denyin neither that, as far as ridin went, Dingley was the best meejum wait steeplechaiser in Ingland at the time. An much as we ait the feller, and artless blaggard as we think im, we cooden dispewt that e wos more likely than enny wun else to pilate Nettie ome. But, as I sez to Joe, the ed groom—Joe bein an affible bloke an wun not abuv listenin to the vues of is understrappers—'Mark my words, Mr. Joseph, sir. E'll knock the mair about an arf kill er, an triten er out of er seven sences. And eeven if she win this raice, she'll never no more be enny good for anuther.' An Joe, e spitt three times on to the flore, wich wos orlns his way wen about to say sumthink waity; and then e arnswer: 'There's no use torkin', Sam. The fyat's gon forth. An wen that appen, as yer ort ter no by this time, lad as yer are, the Meedes and Pershuns ain't in it with the guvnor.'

"Well, the day of the raice cum. An a fine day it wos. An a tremenjus crowd there wos at Aintree to see it. The feeld was a big wun that eer. 23 faiced the starter, an it was sum time afor e cood get em away. But at larst the flag fell an they wos fairly orf. I won't deskribe the urly part of the raice; altho I follered it cairfully with my glarses and still remember every inch of it. It wos not until the larst ½ mile that enything notisable occur. By that time ⅘s of the feeld wos well beet, only about 5 bein left in the runnin. An it look to me—wich the guvnor afterwards bor me out in my impreshun—as if Angler, tho still goin gaim and strong, wos beginnin to feel the strain of is wait, and I sez to myself, I rekllect, 'Twon't be long before *e've* shot is bolt, I'll bet.' E wos then (I may remark) oldin 2nd plaice, that snobb Dingley, on Nettie, lyin close up, a few yards beind.

"At the larst jump but 2 the leeder fell and was out of it. Angler cleered it, but only just. In fack, I see is oofs graise; wich then I see, for sertin, is charnce wos up. For even if e negoshated the next leep—as, in is spent condishun wosn't ighly probbible—there wood still remain the larst and stiffest of orl, wich there ain't never no ope for an exorsted oss to cleer. Nettie was now farst drorin up. In anuther 20 strides or so she was level with Angler. But it look to me as if she, orlso, wos a trifle distressed, altho she evvidently ad mor runnin in er than pore ole Angler. An I sez to myself, 'It don't matter,' sez I 'Angler's beat, sertinly. But it's orl in the staible,' I sez, 'for Nettie's bound to win.'

"But there was dainger threttnin wich I adn't notised. Anuther oss—Orang Otang, or some sich outlandish naim—suddinly begin to moove up farst from the reer. An about ¼ mile from ome he cort our 2, and then began to forge a-ead. Gaim ole Angler maid a desperit effut to arnser is challenge, but in vane. E was now fairly beet, and was losin ground on every stride. The raice ad dissolved itself into a dool between Nettie an O. O.—wich I will enceforth so designate im, bein an orkward name to rite.

"The mair, owever, looked to av ad pritty neer enuff of it. And she seem dispose to let er challenger giv er the

* It is to be presumed that my correspondent means Warwick. —Ed. TRUTH.

go-by without a struggel. Dingley used wip and spurr on er for orl e wos worth. But it ad very little effeck. Then e suddintly stop is floggin taktiks. E lay is rite and gently on er nek just abuv the withers. That wos an unexpekted thing—to see this crool blaggard coaxin. An the effeck wos wunderful. Nettie bounded forward at a farster paice, an er flaggin strides seemed ter av akwired qwite a nu life. There wos every prospeck of a ding-dong finnish. And every time that Nettie appear to flag, I see Dingley—oom I wos wotchin throo my glarses—pat the mair's nek with is rite and.

"As I've orlreddy sed, Angler ad looked to be fair beet; an I wosn payin much attenshun to im, keepin my Is fix on O. O. and Nettie. Wot wos my supprize, then, wen I suddenly ketch site of im makin a grate spirt, and gainin on the 2 leeders ands over; im wot a few sekkonds ago ad seemed to av shott is bolt, if ever oss ad. Forward e flu. The croud rored. Them was thrillin moments. Nettie and O. O. ad just cleered the larst jump, nek and nek; an up cum Angler less than 20 yards be-ind. I see the guvnor tryin to pull im together for the leep. But the gaim ole oss ad the bit between is teeth, and was beyond orl controle, as wos eesy to see.

"If yerll bleeve me—an its gospel trooth I'm tellin—Angler went edlong at that larst jump, and took it, so ter speck, in is stride. And then on e went in ot pursoot of Nettie and O. O., oo was bairly 15 yards a-ead in the strate.

"The crowd rored louder than ever as Angler ganed and ganed. An then dam if the old chap—wich was completely out of and (the guvnor tryin in vane to take im up on the orf side)—didn't make strate for the neer side, rite between Nettie and the railins. Evvry wun sorter shivvered, an I myself shut my Is, seein there was bound to be a collishun an a smash up: there bein no room on that side for Angler to get throo.

"An wen I open my Is agen, wot d'ye think I see? A site wich fill me with orror. For Angler ad cort that snobb Dingley by the arm with is teeth, and wos bitin and shakin im with savidg fury. I ope I may never see such a site agen. There was ded silence everywhere, orl the crowd, as I think, being momentry parilised with orror. The guvnor was doin all e nu to pull Angler bak. But e adn't no more power than a baib over the maddened beest. And then cum a worse thing yet, for orl in a moment, Angler stumble an cum evvily down, still grippin Dingley's arm with is teath and draggin im from the saddle with im in is forl.

"Fortchnitely, the guvnor was thrown over the oss's ed, and fell cleer an un-urt; as we soon see, wen e spring to is feat, and rush to Dingley's assistance. But Angler was before'and with im. As the oss lay on the grasse, pantin, an almost at is larst garsp, e turn back is bloodshot Is an ketch site of Dingley, lyin prostrit close beside im. E give a sharp kry ov fury. And then, with a larst effut, e role over twice and flung is ole wait on is unappy victim.

"It was a dreffle site. I've as tuff a stummock as most. But I feel sick an ill wen I see it, an my ed swim round and round. And then wot with orl the wimmen screemin, an the crowd rushin from every quarter to the sene of the axydent—it was too orful for words. An orl I can say is: Evven grant no such thing may ever appen at a raice meetin, when I'm look on, agen . . . .

"It wos sum time befor they wos aible to extrikate the crushed and lifeless Dingley from under the evvy karkis of the ded Angler. For ded they both wos; as ded as mutten; the oss appairently avin killed isself by maikin that last tremenjus, desperit effut, in is spent and exorsted stait. An it wos not for sevril ours arfterwards that I erd, from Joe's lipps, the explinashun of is sudden, savidge attak on Dingley. It was supplide by the follerin serkimstance. In the parm of Dingley's rite-and gluv, with its ed fixed in the letther, they diskuver a smorl drorinpin, the point of wich wos cuvered with blood. This leed them to inspek Nettie's nek, and there, shure enuff, just in front of the mair's rite wither, wos a lot of small punkshures, evvidently maid by this barbrious instriment.

"'There karn't be no doubt about it,' sez Joe to me, avin spitt on the flore with eaven more than is ushual emphysis, 'Angler's Is wos shrooder than the guvnor's, or than enny wun else's for that matter, and e see how that snobb Dingley—wich I won't use no wuss word of a ded man—was tortchurin the mair. An wen, in is spent condishun, e maid that wonderful spirt, wich corst im is life, it wos orl becos e wos resolve to saive suffrin bewty from the ands of er cowerdly pirsikutor.'

"That wos Joe's opinion. But I orter say, that the guvnor e uttly ridikule the idee, an corl Joe a dam fanciful idjut. It was just revenge, the guvnor sed; there bein no dout that Dingley ad treeted Angler very crool, wen e owned im, and osses, like ellyfants, bein annymals as never forgets. And that's the explinashun of the insident that wos genrally serclated an axepted.

"But, with orl du respeck to the guvnor, I rarther incline to Joe's vu. An I like to think of it—eeven at the corst of bein corled a dam fanciful idjut—as a sort of eekwine luv affare. Wich if it wosn't that, wy didn't Angler go for Dingley sooner, instedd of waitin till e wos spent, and thus riskin is charnce of a shure revenge? I ventchured to point this out to the guvnor; but e only larf and say 'Annymils orfen acks on impulse, Sam, same as the wimmen; an the impulse don't orlways take em wen and ow yer expecks. But as for your theery, its orl gammon and spinnidge, my lad; avin its orrigin in your eated imadgination. And I'd vise yer to go an cool your ed in a staible bucket till yer gets yer proper senses.' Wich, bein the guvnor, I cood'n contrydickt im. But I still olds the saim vu."

ART NOTES.

WHY is it, I wonder, that I nearly always think of Mr. Podsnap when I pay a visit to the Galleries of the Royal Institute in Piccadilly? Possibly it is because that eminently respectable Marine Insurance broker, being fully conscious that he set a brilliant social example in being particularly well satisfied with most things, and, above all other things, with himself, never could make out why everybody else was not equally well satisfied. Anyhow, it is a somewhat similar impression that the average Royal Institute Exhibition makes upon me. It persistently suggests a feeling of placid self-satisfaction on the part of its Council and its members. "We have thriven exceedingly in the Art way," they seem to say, "and are firmly of opinion that all is for the best in the very best of Picture Galleries." In the only world Mr. Podsnap would recognise, it will be remembered, too, that everybody got up at eight, shaved close at a quarter-past, breakfasted at nine, went to the City at ten, came home at half-past five, and dined at seven. And so at the Royal Institute, it seems to me, that Art has been resolved into an eminently respectable performance, with brushes and colours, on canvas and cardboard, suggestive, in some indefinite way, of getting up at eight, shaving close at a quarter-past, breakfasting at nine, and all the rest of it. Which is only another way, after all, of saying that the Eighty-second Exhibition of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours is a rather humdrum and unexhilarating one. This, I should add, is primarily due to the needlessly large number of drawings which are fitted and wedged together with such ill-advised ingenuity on the available wall space.

Six hundred and forty-six water colours! How happy one might have been with the forty-six had the other six hundred only been kept discreetly away. As it is it required more time and perseverance than the ordinary critic could possibly spare to separate the sheep from the goats. Fortunately, however, there were compensatory moments for those who persisted in their quest. Wandering through the artistic Sahara, and wearied with exhaustive sketches of conventional mediocrity, depressed with repeated instances of over-elaboration, lack of unity, and inappropriate-

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ness of medium, one came now and again on delightful oases, fresh and green and grateful. It was verily like happing on a bubbling spring in a sandy waste to halt in front of such pictures as Mr R. B. Nisbet's "Waiting for the Tide," Mr. Peppercorn's masterful "Cornish Harbour," Mr. Dudley Hardy's "Last Load," and Mr. Carlton Smith's "By the Fireside," though an over-elaborate technique to some extent mars the merit of the last-named. How welcome, too, was Mr. Austen Brown's "By the Sea," daring, nay defiant, though it be in its colour scheme. Mr. Podsnap, one feels sure, would have promptly swept it behind him with that peculiar sweep of the right arm with which he so often cleared the world of its most difficult problems. "I don't want to know about it," that eminently commonplace gentleman would have said. "I don't choose to discuss it; I don't admit it." Another picture he would have swept behind him, well-nigh as a personal affront, would have been Mr. John Gulich's "Violin Concerto." This work stands out most effectively amongst the acres of weather-beaten mariners, and haystacks, and mills in a mist, and shrimpers returning, and Marys driving the cattle home by moonlight, by which it is surrounded. We are shown in it an orchestra, with endless tiers of 'celloists and bass-violists—if that be the term—and violinists, whilst in the front of the picture stands the tall, *svelte* figure of a young girl, lost in the rhapsody of the music she is evidently playing with marked success, for hovering over her is seen the ghostly, mysterious figure of Fame, crowning her with a garland. It is of this picture of Mr. Gulich's, I venture to say, that most visitors to the galleries of the Royal Institute are likely to carry away a vivid impression. Perhaps it is the certainty that Mr. Percy Buckman's "Artemis" would have brought a blush to the cheek of Mr. Podsnap's "young person" that made me number this drawing also amongst the comparatively small number of really good ones that were to be seen. For humour one had chiefly to depend on Mr. Edgar Bundy and Mr. Frank Dadd. And another picture which is assured of popularity is Mr. A. Chantrey Corbould's "Whoa m'lad—whoa!" a drawing of a coach-and four in difficulties at the commencement of a hill, which we know is a bad one, thanks to the ingenuity of the artist, who has painted in on the roadside, level with the kicking leaders, a board bearing the now familiar legend, "To Cyclists—This hill is dangerous." This is the sort of subject of which the public never wearies, especially when it is painted with such dash and go and intimate knowledge as Mr. Chantrey Corbould exhibits in the present instance.

MUSIC.

MUSIC AND MONEY.

THE intelligent foreigner who happened to be present at the Albert Hall last Wednesday and heard Signor Franco Leoni's "Gate of Life," must have marvelled that such a work should have been selected as the only novelty of the season by the Royal Choral Society, when so many vastly superior compositions by British musicians are still awaiting a hearing. The foreigner, and small blame to him, entirely fails to understand our insular ways. Art in this country is in the closest association with commerce. It was Gounod who first pointed out that at St. James's Hall there was one night in simultaneous progress a Monday Popular Concert, a negro minstrel entertainment, a restaurant, a ball, and a billiard match, all under one roof. This extraordinary aggregation of utterly incongruous pursuits did not surprise Londoners, who were used to it, though it struck Gounod as odd. The Albert Hall was founded for the culture of science and art. But the Albert Hall Council had, it need scarcely be said, nothing whatever to do with Signor Franco Leoni's performance. Nor, except in a sort of secondary capacity, had the Committee of the Royal Choral Society. In short, we are a commercial nation, and even in art matters we act up to our principles. It seems that when Messrs. Novello gave up their choral concerts at St. James's Hall, they entered into some sort of arrangement with the Royal Choral Society, by which the firm had a certain interest in one or two concerts. The idea, of course, was to introduce to London some of Messrs. Novello's publications, and as this eminent firm long held the control of the principal novelties of the great provincial festivals, the arrangement down to date has worked fairly well. But many more experiences such as that of last Wednesday, and the arrangement will have to be modified or readjusted.

There is, of course, nothing to offend, although there is certainly nothing to astonish, in Signor Leoni's "Gate of Life." The chief objection to its inclusion in the season's work of our premier choir is that it is utterly unfit for so vast a space as the Albert Hall and that the time devoted to it was to the exclusion of far better British music. As undertaken by a smaller choir in the provinces it might be quite in place. The choral workmanship, often in unison, is elementary enough, but, like the sugary solos and duets, it is lost in the big building. The fierce warriors of Rome, to mellifluous melody redolent of opéra bouffe, sing such soul-stirring lines as:—

> The gods we serve our lives shall crown
> With love and mirth and war's renown;
> Rejoice, the builder's work is done,
> Behold the Temple of the Sun.

They even dance, accompanying the mildest "saturnalia" with (according to Messrs. Novello's analyst) "the word "'Ah,' first in a mere whisper and later on in excited tones, sung in three octaves." Why they should thus "sing in three octaves" is a secret of the composer. Then comes a storm of so transparently unreal a character that it would hardly alarm a butterfly, whereupon the Romans illogically determine to kill Christians. It is true those worthies partly deserve their fate, by their persistent indulgence in hymns and in the *bouche fermée* beloved by Gounod. At this point in dramatic cantatas we usually expect a miracle. But we have none, unless it be that the voice of Miss Palliser converts to Christianity that doughty Roman centurion Mr. Ben Davies. So the Romans put the hymn singers into the arena, and to the words

> See, see! they come! The desert lions come!
> With lightning leap they bound across the sand,

the Christians are gobbled up. This zoological cantata was conducted by the composer.

Far better and more important was the revival of Beethoven's "Ruins of Athens" for the first time in its integrity, save as to the transposition of one or two of the numbers. If it had been more fairly treated by conductors in days gone by, the "Ruins of Athens" might now be a popular work. It is perfectly true that Beethoven's idea of Dervish and Turkish music must be a fruitful source of amusement to the musical archæologist, and that the spectacle of a couple of gentlemen in the organ loft, the one vigorously pounding a big drum, and the other emulating Mr. "Pony" Moore on the tambourine, might, to the uninitiated, have excited a suspicion that the performers had strayed in from a neighbouring circus. But the fine voices of the gentlemen of the Albert Hall Choir told admirably in the always favourite Chorus of Dervishes—which, of course, was encored; and the Turkish March, the recently-discovered and almost Mozartian interlude for wind, the melodious Chorus of Freedom, and the final Apostrophe to Music, all went splendidly. Sir Frederick Bridge and his forces deserve full credit for a capital revival of a work which, although not a masterpiece, is one which the world would not willingly see further neglected.

The following letter from a very young lady who does not desire her name to be published speaks for itself:—

> In the issue of your paper of the 10th inst. you published a letter relating to the so-called "free scholarships" of a certain college which shall be nameless. Another of their rules is that the students holding these "scholarships" shall not withdraw

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without permission (which, needless to say, is never granted), unless they pay what are called withdrawal fees. Those are the fees for the current term. Have they any legal right to extort the same from students?

No, my dear young lady; and if any such absurd demand is made upon you, you may safely refer the "director" to the personage whose name is offensive to ears polite, but who is supposed to be the patron saint of lawyers. It would, however, be interesting to learn how long this "free" scholarship fiction is to continue before it attracts the attention of the authorities, and of the managers of respectable daily papers who insert the misleading advertisements which really form the bait for the miserable gudgeon.

Mr. Robert Newman's orchestral concerts at Queen's Hall came to an end on Saturday, but an extra performance with a strong Wagner programme will be given on April 30 for the benefit of the director. This year I fear the Saturday afternoon concerts, like many similar entertainments, have been more or less hurt by the cheap Sunday symphony performances, despite the fact that, in the course of the season, Mr. Newman considerably reduced his prices of admission. The truth seems to be that the public have tasted blood with the cheap Sunday orchestral concerts, and the tendency is to reduce prices all round. On Sundays admission is free, and the best reserved seats are 3s., while on Saturday afternoons the prices range from 1s. to 7s. 6d. Yet the programmes are practically the same in each case; Mr. Wood conducts both Saturday and Sunday concerts, and the orchestra, excepting as to a few "extras," is on Saturday and Sunday almost identical. The public therefore crowd to the Sunday performances, and are apt to neglect the more expensive entertainments on Saturdays. As to the Lamoureux Concerts, the band is precisely the same as at Mr. Wood's Saturday afternoon concerts, although the prices when the French conductor directs the performance are further raised about 25 per cent., namely from 7s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. Yet many music lovers are of opinion that, on a comparison between the two, Mr. Wood would be found the better man.

There was again a falling off in the attendance at the Crystal Palace on Saturday. This may possibly be the result of the superior attractions of a football match which was in progress in the grounds. Certainly even the musical enthusiast might have preferred football to listening to the novelty, a "symphonic prelude" to an opera entitled "Kit Marlowe," in which Mr. Herbert Bedford, a youthful but clever amateur, has sought to commence his career at about the point at which Wagner left off in "Tristan und Isolde." The ways of the young in music are ever mysterious. One ambitious student starts life with a choral symphony, another with a Brobdingnagian opera which extends over six consecutive nights. Mr. Bedford will probably be a good deal more interesting when he drops Wagner, and depends upon any individuality which he himself may possess. He would also do well to try his hand at much simpler music. He might, indeed, take example from his clever wife, the gifted lady once so well known as Miss Liza Lehmann, and who has distinguished herself as the composer of the beautiful song cycle "In a Persian Garden," which is so great a favourite at the Popular Concerts. Mr. Lamond on Saturday gave a fine interpretation of Beethoven's E flat concerto, and Mr. Santley sang.

Mr. and Mrs. Henschel, fresh from triumphs in the United States, made their first appearance this season at St. James's Hall on Monday in a very interesting vocal recital. Another vocal recital of Irish songs has been given by Mr. Denis O'Sullivan. Irish music has indeed played an important part in concert affairs during the past week, and on St. Patrick's night Mr. Santley excited the wildest enthusiasm by his splendid delivery of "Who dares to speak of '98?" The Joachim quartet party have taken part in both Popular Concerts, drawing, however, a far larger audience to the Monday than to the Saturday performance. The Royal College students have produced a new Symphony in B minor, a recent work from the pen of the distinguished Italian composer, Martucci, who, when a young man twenty-one years ago, appeared at one of Signor Arditi's concerts at St. George's Hall. The symphony is very advanced and abstruse, but it cannot be taken into serious consideration until it is heard under more satisfactory conditions. At the Royal College it was simply used to play the people out, or, in other words, it was given at the fag end of a long programme, when both executants and audience were tired.

Opéra bouffe by Offenbach, which delighted our fathers, has proved to be to the present generation champagne which has lost its effervescence. Accordingly, Mr. D'Oyly Carte was wise to withdraw the "Grand Duchess" from the Savoy and to replace it on Tuesday by the "Gondoliers." There are other operas of the Gilbert and Sullivan series which might also usefully be revived, such, for example, as the "Princess Ida" and also "Ruddigore," which on its first production somehow missed its chance. The "Gondoliers," however, is most welcome, despite the fact that by its long run only seven years ago it must be still fresh in the memory of playgoers. The cast at the Savoy is, with the exception of Miss Brandram, entirely new, and, if I may judge from the dress rehearsal on Monday (for I, of course, cannot now speak of the public performance on Tuesday night), the men, at any rate, will be found more than the equals of their predecessors. It is something to have in Messrs. Kenningham and Lytton two youthful kings of the mythical Barataria, both of them, moreover, excellent vocalists; a Duke of Plaza Toro in so courtly and experienced an actor as Mr. Elton, and a Grand Inquisitor full of such high animal spirits as Mr. Passmore, particularly as his exuberance of facial gesture and by-play was checked by the watchful eye of Mr. Gilbert. The ladies will not, of course, cause us to forget Miss Decima Moore, Miss Geraldine Ulmar, and Miss Jessie Bond, although, as the contadina Gianetta, Miss Emmie Owen once more showed herself a delightful actress, an intelligent vocalist, and a dancer of rare grace. We could all once more admire Sir Arthur Sullivan's felicitous use of Italian and other dance forms, such as the tarantella, the fandango, the inimitable cachucha, and the gavotte; while Mr. D'Oyly Carte has mounted the second act so luxuriously that he evidently intends the opera for a run. Indeed, the Pinero-Carr opera, upon which Sir Arthur Sullivan is spending his "holiday" in the Riviera, cannot, I suppose, now be expected till the early autumn. To produce it in high summer, with the dead season immediately to follow, would be to court the fate of "Ivanhoe," its predecessor among serio-comic works from Sir Arthur Sullivan's pen.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—You have read the life of Tennyson and discovered from it that he had but one fault—the fault Guinevere finds with King Arthur:—

> He is all fault who hath no fault at all,
> The low sun makes the colour.

You will be relieved, therefore, to find in Professor Max Müller's most interesting recollections, "Auld Lang Syne" (1), that Tennyson was mortal. Here is the Professor's account of the poet as his guest in Oxford:—

> My wife, a young housekeeper, did her best for our honoured guest. He was known to be a gourmand, and at dinner he was evidently put out when he found the sauce with the salmon was not the one he preferred. He was pleased, however, with the wing of a chicken, and said it was the only advantage he got from being Poet Laureate, that he generally received the liver-wing of a chicken. The next morning at breakfast we had rather

(1) "Auld Lang Syne." By the Right Hon. Professor F. Max Müller. With a Portrait. (London: Longmans, Green, & Co.) Price 10s 6d.
(2) "The Vintage." A Romance of the Greek War of Independence. By E. F. Benson. With a Map and Eleven Illustrations by G. P. Jacomb-Hood. (London: Methuen & Co.) Price 6s.
(3) "Her Wild Oats." By John Bickerdyke. (London: Thomas Burleigh.) Price 6s.
(4) "Dick Rivers." By Annie Thomas (Mrs. Pender-Cudlip). (London: F. V. White & Co.) Price 6s.
(5) "Sentimental Education." By Gustave Flaubert. Translated from the French, with an Introduction by D. F. Hannigan. (London: H. S. Nichols, Limited)
(6) "Harry Richmond." By George Meredith. Revised Edition. (London: Archibald Constable & Co.) Price 6s.

plumed ourselves on having been able to get a dish of cutlets, and were not a little surprised when our guest arrived to see him whip off the cover of the hot dish, and to hear the exclamation: "Mutton chops! the staple of every bad inn in England!"

Not the least interesting and suggestive story in the book is Emerson's account of his brother's votive sacrifice of himself to the service of God:—

My brother and I were both meant for the ministry in the Unitarian community. My brother was sent by my father to Germany (I believe to Gottingen) and after a thorough study of theology, was returning to America. On the voyage home the ship was caught in a violent gale, and all hope of saving the ship and the lives of the passengers was given up. At that time my brother said his prayers and made a vow that if his life should be spared he would never preach again, but give up theology altogether and earn an honest living in some other way. The ship weathered the storm, my brother's life was saved, and in spite of all entreaties, he kept his vow.

Surely this ought to find a place in a tract as another instance of a brand snatched from the burning by the very hand of Providence itself. The Professor seems to have honoured with interviews a good many crowned heads, but with the Queen he was made to realise "the divinity that doth hedge a king." While he went to Windsor by command, his portmanteau naturally went home to Oxford. As he could not appear at dinner without a wedding garment he begged Prince Leopold to excuse him to the Queen, and the horror of the Prince at being asked to go on such a monstrous mission left upon the Professor a profound impression of the discipline maintained by her Majesty over her children. I think you will like "The Vintage" (2), an interesting and admirably written romance of the Greek War of Independence, by E. F. Benson. It is an opportune rehabilitation of Greek vigour, valour, and patriotism, but, on the other hand, it shows that, at least in those days, the Greeks did not leave the Turks far behind—did not leave them behind at all—in truculence and treachery. Ferocity and faithlessness of this revolting kind seem to have been rather the rule than the exception:—

Hardly had the garrison evacuated, giving up their arms, when the representative of the Peloponnesian Senate thrust into the fire the treaty of capitulation, so that all evidence against him might be destroyed, and himself gave the signal for the massacre to begin. A pretext was easily found, and a blow given to a Greek by a Turk for insisting on searching the person of one of his wives for treasure concealed about her was enough, and in an hour no Mussulman was left alive. Women were stripped of their clothing, and, rushing into the sea to hide their shame, were shot from the shore; babies were snatched out of their mothers' arms and flung in their faces. Here in mockery of the Turkish atrocities, a man was offered the choice between Christianity and death, and, when he chose the former, was "baptised with steel," or crucified; a dozen or more were burnt alive in a house where they had run for refuge.

While the romance—and a charming romance it is—is of the author's weaving, these recurring horrors are historical, and prove that the Greeks learned in the same school that Shylock learned it, the lesson, "the villainy you teach me I will execute, and it shall go hard but I shall better the instruction." A very different war of independence is chronicled in Mr. John Bickerdyke's quaint, humorous, and delightful "Her Wild Oats" (3). In it a young farmer, incidentally and unconsciously, turns Queen's evidence against his class in its war with the labourers. Mr. Bickerdyke's sympathies are wholly and strongly with the labourers, and yet he asks and wins your sympathies with the young farmer, in spite of his self-revelation of all the narrowness and callousness of his class. It was a difficult thing to do and it is done to perfection. As for the story, it is a midsummer day dream of Titania and Bottom, which ends sadly, but inevitably, with the death of Titania. Its personages are at once natural and simple, though it is not written with the sweet simplicity which its novelist, Aunt Sophy, a delightful creation, brings to her work:—

Aunt Sophy's plan was to commence each chapter with a description of a person or a piece of scenery; then followed an incident, while there was a top-dressing of moral reflection or beautiful sentiment. It was part of her literary system to omit all adjectives from the story until each chapter was complete. She said they were like the shading in a picture, which ought to be done after the drawing had been carefully made. If they were put in at the same time as the outline, the shades—that is, the adjectives—were likely to be too dark or too light in certain places.

This is not quite the way in which Mrs. Pender-Cudlip writes her numberless novels, wherein adjectives, substantives, verbs, adverbs, and prepositions are tumbled out, like articles from a house on fire. She seems to have written "Dick Rivers" (4) as a brilliant editor wrote his leaders, "poured forth without an instant's pause or halt in either word or thought." The story itself is as slight and crude as a child's game of hide-and-seek, but at least it is readable, and can be read in an hour. I am afraid that it would take much longer than an hour to wade through the two volumes which go to the making up of the authorised edition of "L'Education Sentimentale" (5), with which Mr. D. F. Hannigan hopes to win wider recognition of Gustave Flaubert as a master of realism. Of course one recognises the difficulties which beset the translator of Flaubert, who was so eminently a "seeker after the word." But it is a little difficult to believe that he could have been made so uninspiring, so plaintively dull, even though robbed of every grace of style. It seems the more regrettable since the publishers have shown such liberality in producing the work—the translation makes two handsome volumes. For another specimen of a publisher's liberality let me commend to your notice the revised edition of George Meredith's works, of which "Harry Richmond" (6) is the latest to hand. There can be no question here of the contents being unworthy of the casket, and Messrs. Constable are entitled to the thanks of all Meredithians for the handsome and convenient form in which they have enshrined the works of the Master.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, very sincerely yours,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—There was quite a beauty show at the sale of Irish Industries at Lansdowne House last Thursday. I have seldom seen so many pretty faces collected together in one room as I did on that occasion, and there were several very lovely ones. Numbers of tall, slim girls graced the scene, looking taller and slimmer in the new skirt which so faithfully expresses the figure. Too faithfully, it must be confessed, for it turns a slight girl into a lanky one, and the two adjectives express widely different characteristics, do they not?

We awarded the palm of beauty to Lady Bective, whose graceful figure, picturesque white hair, and lovely face, always enhanced by the perfect poise of her head, were set forth by the graceful simplicity of her dress. She wore a long and clinging black gown, absolutely free from adornment or trimming of any kind, the folds falling without fret or frill to her feet. A small lace fichu was the only additional item, except that when passing from room to room the Countess donned a green cape with a deep lace collar. Her bonnet was merely a fan-shaped quilling of lace that projected beyond the hair above the brow. Lady Dufferin was in grey Irish poplin, trimmed with lace of Irish manufacture. The Marchioness of Blandford also wore grey poplin, her zouave being outlined with brown fur. The Marchioness of Hamilton, in a softly-falling black gown, trimmed with lines of white, had the neck filled in with a closely-fitting collar of rose-coloured silk and velvet.

The Duchess of Abercorn and the Marchioness of Londonderry were both much missed. Both are away from England for a similar reason—the health of their children. A daughter of the Duchess needs care and a w[illegible], and the Marchioness' second son is ill with p[illegible] at Teneriffe. It was the Duke of Abercorn who, in 1884, when he was Marquis of Hamilton, started

Obesity.—The happy knack of forming a symmetrical contour and a perfect foundation for a well-setting gown is the especial art of Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, Oxford-circus, London, W.

the Baronscourt Industry, which the Duchess has managed ever since. The cottiers on the small farms round the family estate in Tyrone have no occupation after the harvest is over, and were often in sad want of the necessaries of life. But the Industry is a thriving one and keeps the wolf effectively from the door. It supplies the Army Clothing Depot at Pimlico with 14,000 pairs of socks a year, besides executing other large orders. Lady Lucan presided on Thursday and Friday at the stall where the tweeds were displayed, products of the Industry started by the Countess herself in '93. The colours of these tweeds are beautiful and the wear is almost unending, for the carding, spinning, and weaving are all done by hand, giving employment to a large number of persons in their own Mayo homes. Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar helped at Lady Lucan's stall. Lady Kilmorey was another active saleswoman, and among other beauties were Lady Henry Bentinck, Lady Henry Fitzgerald, Lady Fingall, and Miss Paget.

The Duchess of Connaught opened the Sale on Thursday, and wore a shamrock pinned to the bodice of her dark-blue gown trimmed with black satin and jet. The Duke, who accompanied her, also wore a shamrock, which was very nice and sympathetic of him. The Duchess made several purchases, and the Duke, taking a strong fancy to an embroidered vest, bought it for his wife. The Queen had made several purchases, and all of them were on view. One was a vest and revers of cream-coloured Irish poplin embroidered in gold; another was a length of cornflower-blue tweed. Lady Lansdowne showed us the Princess of Wales's purchase, a dress-length in turquoise blue, dyed specially to her Royal Highness's own order. This is a specialty of these tweeds, that they can be sent in the natural colour of the wool ready to be re-dyed to any tint or shade to suit the purchaser's wish. Lady Lansdowne had a beautiful scarf of Limerick lace, the Queen's choice, and the Princess had also bought some lace from the Convent of the Poor Clares. The Queen had bought some sweet-worked frocks from the Irish Distressed Ladies' Fund, at whose stall there were some beautifully-worked handkerchiefs displayed. Do not you love nice, fine, embroidered handkerchiefs? I noticed a lady buying some exquisite baby linen at this stall. The prices seemed to be remarkably low. The needlework is exquisite. I noticed several very pretty silk blouses at the Irish Distressed Ladies' stall, too. They were in glacé silk of all colours, made with tucks across. This reminds me to tell you of a masterpiece in the shape of a blouse worn by a lady present. It was pale mauve silk sewn with flat tucks all across, back, front, and sleeves. A narrow band of sable passed round the neck and down the front, and a similar band of fur edged the epaulettes. The effect was very good. A tall girl in dark blue opening over an orange vest was followed by admiring glances wherever she went. Miss Claire Stopford has a typically Irish face of the highest class of beauty. She was supposed to be helping her mother, Lady Arran, and perhaps she was; but if she was busy it was in the ideal Celtic fashion, full of fun and blithe, gay insouciance.

The Ladies' Amateur Harp, Mandoline, and Guitar Band played some very good music at the foot of the grand staircase. They were all dressed in black, which had a rather lugubrious effect. We asked if they were in mourning for any one, but were told that black was chosen as the best uniform tint for so many. I suppose it must be a little difficult to select a tint that suits the taste of so many, and if each were to dress according to her own sweet will, the result might be more lively than harmonious.

Entertainments were given in the drawing-room on each day. The first was all musical. The Marchioness of Hamilton played a violin solo, and Mr. Denis O'Sullivan sang some very Irish songs. On Friday, Miss Letty Lind, Miss Juliette Nesville, and Mr. Maurice Farkoa were to contribute to the entertainment, and I have no doubt they did so, but we did not go on the second day.

Just fancy people sitting up all night in the street outside the theatre, and then sitting for hours in the theatre before the performance began, in order to secure a place at the benefit of Nellie Farren! It seems hard enough to sit up all night at home in a warm room, with a comfortable chair at one's command, but when one tries to realise what it means to keep a vigil of nine or ten hours on a March night, the result is admiration for the fortitude and endurance of our countrymen and countrywomen. There were women among these enthusiastic playgoers. How glad they must have been of the hot coffee and buttered rolls sent out early in the morning by Mr. Arthur Collins! It was the action of a good Samaritan.

The neat little subscription book and stamp album sent out in connection with the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund with an autograph letter from the Princess of Wales to the Children of England is pretty sure to achieve considerable results. Each book is of a size to contain twenty years' subscription of 1s. or 2s. 6d. each per annum; or ten years at 5s. each per annum; or five years at 10s. per annum.

The Princess's letter is a sweet one, worded with simplicity, and yet full of heartfelt kindliness and compassion for the sufferers in hospitals. The writing is peculiarly bold and free, though not very legible, owing to the fact that every one of the short lines is looped as though they were the letter *e*. In the word "Commemoration" there are thirteen of these loops, and in "permanent" there are ten. I notice that her Royal Highness observes the good old Lindley Murray rule that the possessive case should be indicated by an apostrophe after a word ending in the letter *s*. She writes "The Prince of Wales Fund." This rule seems now to be falling into disuse. For instance, we have the St. James's and the Princess's Theatre instead of the St. James' and the Princess'.

Some of the new fashions are dreadfully hideous. One of the worst is the new variety of cape, which juts out in a large flute in the centre of the back, the flute growing wider as it descends. Two more huge folds are situated on the sides, but there is some reason in these, since there are the movements of the arms to be provided for.

You will be pleased to hear, however, that the high collar seems to be losing its hold on the affections of the feminine portion of this nation. The high hat is taking it away with it, since a low hat and a high collar have no affinity with each other. Fancy the effect of a collar that hides the ears in conjunction with a flat hat and a low coiffure. The wearer would almost look headless.

The ructions at the Savoy are going to eventuate happily for the patrons of that consummate restaurant. The outcome of the business is that the world renowned chef, Joseph, comes over from Paris this week to conduct the culinary department. 'Tis an ill wind that blows no one good.

There is a Cheshire saying that always pleases me whenever I happen to think of it: "There's nowt so queer as folks." How uninteresting—and sometimes how unlovable—human nature would be without its inconsistencies, otherwise its queerness. An amusing instance of its contradictoriness occurred the other day with Richard. Some one had gone out of the way and been put to some small expense to get for him some information he wanted. Richard, knowing him to be impecunious, sent him a cheque with his note of thanks. By next post came a most reproachful, and in fact, huffy, letter, rebuking him for thinking it necessary to send any money, but, as we afterwards discovered, the cheque was cashed the same day. Truly, there's nowt so queer as folks.

London is full of exquisite flowers. In the streets are sold carnations, pink and coral and pure white, anemones, purple, palest pink, and brightest purple, violets in great heaps, Lenten lilies, daffodils in every shade of gold, primroses, tea-roses, lily-of-the-valley, wallflowers, narcissi, and jonquils. All these are sold in the open street, and they fill the thoroughfares with colour and sweetness, and a suggestion of opulent abundance that is cheery enough.

New Spring Fashions.—Messrs. Redfern have now on view in their Showrooms a unique display of Toilettes, illustrative of the latest London and Paris fashions, and to which they invite an inspection.—26, Conduit-street, London, W.

The new straw hats are in the brightest possible colours, poppy pink, rose-pink and coral, metallic greens of every hue, lurid and livid blues, and even more numerous specimens of mauve and purple. What frights some of these lilac and strong purple tints will make of their wearers. People will say "how dreadfully bilious So-and-So looks to day! I am afraid she is losing her looks." But it will be the fault of the purple hat. However, the wearers will be none the less happy in the possession of their smart head gear, wholly unwitting what it costs them in the item of looks.

By the way, the fairest thing I have ever read about dress occurs in a delightful book, just published, by Mary E. Wilkins, called "Jerome." Of two elderly sisters the authoress says: "The Lawson sisters had always been considered dressy. Each possessed several silk gowns, a fine cashmere shawl, and a satin pelisse; each had two beautiful bonnets, one for winter and one for summer, and each possessed the value of her fine apparel to the uttermost, and realised from it a petty, perhaps, but no less a comforting illumination of spirit. Many of the lights of happiness of this world are feeble and even ignoble, but one must see to live, and even a penny dip is exalted if it save one from the darkness of despair. It is not given to every one to light his way with a sun, or a full moon, or even a star.'

It is easy to understand what a perennial joy their good clothes were to them, but few women would have the large tolerance that the writer of the book shows. Most persons would be very hard on the penny dip; and oh! what thousands they would be condemning in their narrowness.

And here is something about dress from a very different point of view. It occurs in Mrs. Campbell Praed's remarkable new novel, "The Scourge-Stick." "Now that crinoline's buried in the past, and you can always buy yourself a curly toupet, there's no excuse for unbecoming invalidism. Bless the being who invented tea-gowns! They make it so easy to manage picturesque floppiness. A pretty woman who can't keep her husband on his knees adoring is too stupid to exist. The two best safeguards against Influences are Worth and the cookery book. It's always the nice, virtuous, domestic wives who are tyrannised over or neglected—the wives whose maids make their gowns and who screw down the cook. Nobody—not even a genius—wants his wife to wear home-made dresses and economise over eggs for the puddings. The first necessity of a modern man is to dine decently; the second, to be envied by his fellow men; the third, to be amused. Who could envy a man when he owns a frump? Feed your husband; flatter him; flirt, and let him flirt."

There is the modern domestic code almost in its entirety. Are you going to conduct your own matrimonial affairs in accordance with it?

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—As with everything at the end, there was, of course, a great deal too much to be done in the last week of the Castle season. Our social programme in the capital of a distressed country was almost worthy of your great capital of magnificence. It included two Viceregal State entertainments, by night, to wit: Lord Arran's installation as a Knight of St. Patrick and St. Patrick's Ball; and one State ceremonial by day: the guard mounting and trooping of the colours in the Upper Castle Yard, also in honour of St. Patrick. We certainly cannot complain that our patron Saint suffers neglect. What other national saint receives so many and such varied commemorative honours each year? No nation has a custom so universal as the wearing of the shamrock. Does the Queen of Ireland—how curious and unfamiliar, almost legendary, the title sounds—wear a shamrock on St Patrick's Day, I wonder? One almost doubts that she even knows of the custom. She, herself, indeed, seems to realise as little as we Irish do that she is the Sovereign of our country. But I am digressing, which lay to the fault of the Celtic mind that is prone to wander at its own sweet will. On Monday the Master of the Rolls and Mrs. Porter gave a ball in the Rotunda, and on Wednesday Lady Roberts was again "at home" for dancing at the Royal Hospital. On Wednesday and Thursday the Baldoyle race meeting was held. A more than sufficiency of festivity for one week, which might pleasurably and reasonably have been extended over a longer period. Only then one would not have had the exciting rush and crush, the wear and tear which all votaries of fashion seem to crave above everything. Our capital could not have boasted as it now can boast, of having given the pursuers of pleasure the opportunity of thoroughly exhausting themselves in the pursuit. It was a great chance, and we all nobly rose—or perhaps more literally with most of us, sank exhausted—to the occasion.

On Tuesday the installation of Lord Arran as a K.P., was an elaborate ceremonial. St. Patrick's Hall was filled to its fullest extent for the occasion, the men in Levee dress, and our sex in Court dress, minus the trains. The first procession that went through the Hall to the top of the room was Lady Cadogan's. She was accompanied by Lady Arran and all the lady visitors at the Castle, and the Viceregal ladies. They honoured the occasion by a great display of dresses, and, above all, jewels. Lady Cadogan wore white, with rich embroideries and trimmings of ostrich feathers, and literally blazed with diamonds, Lady Arran looked very sweet—how pretty she is still—in pale green and many brilliants. The Duchess of Manchester was magnificent, and also Lady Listowel. Most of the girls were in white, some with touches of the very popular pale blue. There was quite a bevy of them, many looking charming and pretty—Ladies Alice Montague, B. Hare, Alice Willoughby, Muriel Parsons, the Misses O Brien, Miss Crichton, and others. Lady Cadogan has been very kind to her young friends this "season;" the girl visitors have been a feature of the continuous "house parties." Lord Cadogan made an imposing entry into St. Patrick's Hall, in the long, blue cloak of the Order, with two pages, and his whole household. Most of us, it is to be feared, were more inclined to be amused than impressed by the proceedings—by the procession of Knights looking so little at home in their long cloaks, by the stagey dress of "Ulster" and his attendants, and, above all, by the procession bearing the several articles the new knight was to put on! Lord Sudeley bore the family banner, the Master of Ruthven, the sword, and some one else the helmet. You can imagine how pantomimic it looked. The junior Knights, Lords Inchiquin and Roberts, led the coming Knight up to the Chapter table. He was dressed in the robes and insignia of the Order by the senior Knights, Lords Powerscourt and Kenmare, no great experts, it must be said, in the art of tiring. A ceremonial of this kind makes one think that men have just as much taste for dress and "finery" as women. How they covet ribbons and stars, which, unlike the Victoria Cross, are not signs of personal distinction.

Lady Roberts' dance on Wednesday was charming, the great hall of the Royal Hospital makes such a lovely ballroom. Lady Cadogan and her visitors, a large party, were present, but not Lord Cadogan, to whom balls must be somewhat of a weariness.

The St. Patrick's Ball, on the next night, at the Castle was—it is needless to say since no invitations are sent out for it—the most crowded entertainment of the season. It is unique in its way since all who attend a Levee or Drawing-room are thereby entitled to go to it. The same Court dress as at the Installation was worn, though feathers and lappets are not pleasant additions to a dancing dress. Quite the contrary, indeed, as regards the latter, which are a serious cause of anxiety to others as well as their wearers in a crowded dance. The ball opened with the usual country dance, the only feature which distinguished it—as regards the dancing—from any other big Castle ball Lady Cadogan, as usual, was regally dressed and wore the national shamrock. She has been very energetic and untiring in doing the honours of all the Castle entertainments, and may well be called what she is commonly styled in Ireland "The Lady Lieutenant" Among the some of the many pretty girls were Lady Alice Montague, the Ladies Forbes, Miss Crichton, Miss Dawnay, Miss C. Saunderson, Miss M. Porter. All the visitors have dispersed now, and there is somewhat of a fashionable exodus from Dublin going on, but Easter will bring back festivity and Punchestown week. Meanwhile, you have heard the last of the Castle "season" for many long months, and perhaps you may think it just as well.—Yours ever,

Clare

One or two good recipes will not be inappropriate in

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this connection. This excellent little entrée can be made from the remains of cold fowl:—

First, make some good white sauce with the liquor from the stewed bones of the fowl, reserving the pieces of meat, which must be cut into pieces 1 in. long and ¼ in. thick. Boil 2 oz. of macaroni and cut it into similar pieces. Make the sauce very hot, add the yoke of an egg, a little cream, pepper, salt, and a squeeze of lemon juice. Add the pieces of chicken, the macaroni, and a tablespoonful of chopped red tongue. Oil 6 small paper cases, three parts fill them with the hot chicken preparation, put a cover of puff paste, previously baked, on the top of each, and place them in the oven for five minutes before serving. Arrange the cases on a napkin and garnish with fried parsley.

Now the game season is ended you will find this an excellent substitute for second course:—

Blanch 18 good oysters, without allowing them to boil, strain, remove the beards, and place them aside. Boil about 3 oz. of spaghetti in salted water until tender, strain, and cut it into pieces an inch long. Reduce the oyster liquor and mix it with half a pint of good tomato sauce. Make a border on a dish with three-cornered pieces of fried bread, using a little white of egg and flour to make it adhere. Make the spaghetti hot in the sauce, put a layer inside the border, sprinkle with grated Parmesan, arrange half the oysters on this, cover with spaghetti and cheese, add the other half of the oysters and the remainder of the spaghetti. Sprinkle the top with nicely-browned bread crumbs, and put the dish in a moderate oven for ten minutes to gratinate.

Soufflé of carrots is a novelty for the second course:—

Boil about six scraped carrots, cut in quarters, for half an hour in salted water; drain, and finish cooking in some good, but rather thin, brown sauce. When the carrots are done, lift them from the sauce with a slice and rub them through a hair sieve. Return the purée to the stewpan, season with salt and pepper, sprinkle with half a tablespoonful of flour, add a little of the sauce the carrots were stewed in, and stir over the fire until boiling. Now mix in the yolks of 6 eggs and the whisked whites. Put the mixture into a buttered soufflé dish and bake in a moderate oven from fifteen to twenty minutes.

And here is a novel way of preparing stewed apples:—

Wash as many apples as required, then core them nearly through. Make holes large enough to hold a teaspoonful of apricot jam in each; place them in a shallow tin, into which pour wine a quarter of an inch deep. Scatter the zest of a lemon, cut into strips as fine as possible. Serve them hot, with a dish of sponge cakes cut into finger lengths.

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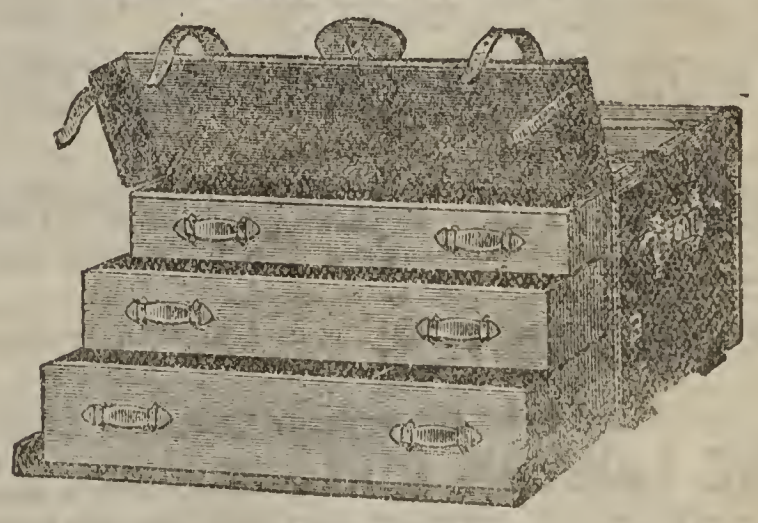

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INVALUABLE IN EVERY HOUSE WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD SOLD EVERYWHERE. 2/6, 3/6, 5/- AND 6/- EACH.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Clarke's "Pyramid" & "Fairy" Light Co., Ltd., Cricklewood, London, N.W.

WATER ABSOLUTELY FREE FROM DISEASE GERMS, BY USING THE

BERKEFELD FILTER.

Full Illustrated Price List and Testimonials free on application.

A. SERVICE PIPE FROM MAIN. B. INLET TO FILTER. C. OUTLET OF FILTERED WATER. D. FLUSH TAP.

FILTER H. AS SKETCH, **42s.**

SMALLER SIZE, **25s.**

Extract from the Special Report to the *British Medical Journal* on "The Relative Efficiency of Water Filters," by Drs. Sims Woodhead and Cartwright Wood, Jan. 22nd, 1898. "Experiments were carried out with the Filter H., an exceedingly good model which seems to subserve the functions of a Filter better than any we have yet seen described. . . . The output is so large that there is no reason why such Filters should not supply sufficient water for all household requirements. These Berkefeld Filters afford complete protection against the communication of waterborne disease."—Offices and Showrooms:—

THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO., Ltd., 121, Oxford-street, London, W.

City Depot: W. SCHACHT & CO., 26, Finsbury-pavement, London, E.C.

VINOLIA TOILET REQUISITES.

4d PREMIER VINOLIA SOAP
(For Family Use).

For Delicate, Sensitive, Irritable Skins.

The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST reports:
"An ideal soap, delightfully perfumed."

1/- per box of 3 Tablets.

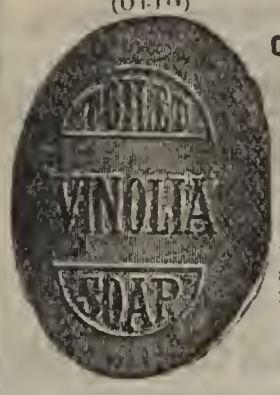
6d FLORAL VINOLIA SOAP
(For Private Use).

Keeps the Skin as soft as Velvet.

The MEDICAL NEWS reports:
"Beautifully emollient and softening to the skin."

1/6 per box of 3 Tablets.

10d TOILET VINOLIA SOAP
(OTTO)



Scented with Choice Otto of Rose Perfume.

Beautifies the Complexion.

The GENTLEWOMAN reports:
"Strongly recommended to keep the skin smooth and free from roughness."

2/6 per Box of 3 Tablets.

6d BLONDEAU PERFUMES
Concentrated, Delicate, Pure.

*Vinolia Bouquet, *Marequil, *Jequilla, *Losaria, Wood Violet, White Heliotrope, Ess. Bouquet, Frangipanni, Jockey Club, Maréchal Niel, Millefleur, White Rose, Jasmin, Musk Rose, Honeysuckle, New Mown Hay, Lily of the Valley, Violet, | *Rhine Violets, | Peau d'Espagne, Rondeletia, Hyacinth, Ylang Ylang, Stephanotis, Opoponax, Patchouli, Musk, Ambergris, Amaryllis, White Lilac, Narcissus, Chypre, Violette de Parme, Mignonette, Clematis, Wallflower.

6d., 1/-, 1/3, 2/-, 3/-, and 5/- per bottle.
*These perfumes are not supplied in the 6d. quality.

1/- VINOLIA HAIR WASH

DRY. Freshens and cleanses the Hair, and preserves it free from any oily moist appearance.

MOIST. Imparts a natural gloss to the Hair.

1/- per Bottle.

Each in 3 odours: Portugal, Rose, and Violet.

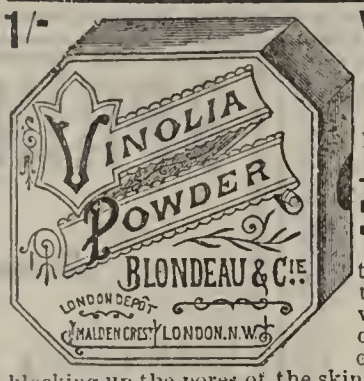
1/1½ VINOLIA CREAM

For Itching. Face Spots. Eczema.

The LANCET reports:
"An emollient cream for the skin in eczema, rash, eruptions, &c."

1/1½, 1/9, 3/6, and 6/- per Box.

1/- VINOLIA POWDER

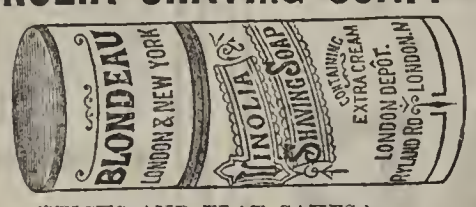


For Redness, Roughness, Toilet Nursery, &c.

The LADY'S PICTORIAL reports:
"Superseding the old-fashioned toilet powders which are apt to cause acne spots on the face by blocking up the pores of the skin."

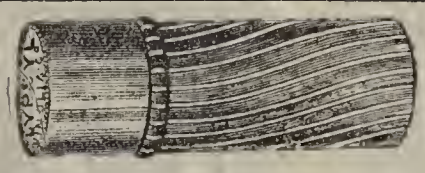
In White, Pink, and Cream Tints.
1/-, 1/9, 3/6, and 6/- per Box.

VINOLIA SHAVING SOAP.
6d



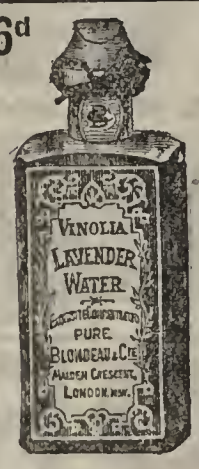
(STICKS AND FLAT CAKES.)
Causes no Blotches.
STICKS: Premier 6d., Toilet 1/-, 1/6, 2/6, Vestal 2/-.
FLAT CAKES: Premier 1/-, Toilet 2/-, Vestal 2/6.

6d LYPSYL.



A Coralline Emollient for Dry, Rough, Cracked, or Pallid Lips.
In Rose-Red and White Tints, 6d. and 1/- a Tube.

6d VINOLIA LAVENDER WATER.



Natural and Very Lasting.

Contains the finest Essential Oils, Concentrated, therefore the Most Economical.

In 1-oz., 2-oz., 4-oz., and 8-oz. Bottles, 6d., 1/-, 2/-, and 3/6.

2d BLONDEAU CHOICE TOILET SOAPS.

Guaranteed Neutral and Pure.

1/- per Box of 6 Tablets.
(Assorted Colours and Perfumes).

6d VINOLIA DENTIFRICE

Aromatic, Tonic, Refreshing, Preservative.

Keeps the Teeth Ivory White.

Premier, in Round Box and Glass Bottle, 6d.
English—2/6.
American—1/6.

6d BLONDEAU CARBOLIC TOOTH POWDER.

Makes the Teeth White, the Breath Sweet, and the Gums strong.

In Round Metal Box, 6d. & 1/-

6d VINOLIA TOOTH PASTE.

Delicately Perfumed.

Whitens and Cleanses the Teeth, without in any way injuriously affecting the dental structure.

In Collapsable Tube, 6d.

6d BLONDEAU INEXHAUSTIBLE LAVENDER SMELLING SALTS.

These Smelling Salts are of exceptional Strength and most Refreshing. They are agreeably scented, the pleasant odour of Lavender being very pronounced.

6d. per Bottle.

6d VINOLIA EAU DE COLOGNE.

Fragrant. Refreshing.
As fine as can possibly be made.

The "Court Circular" reports:
"Vinolia Eau de Cologne we consider is absolutely unequalled for strength, purity, and delicacy of aroma."

1/-, 2/-, 3/3, and 5/6.

3d per 2-oz. Packet. VINOLIA VIOLET POWDER.

Sanitary. Antiseptic. Soothing.

Specially prepared for Toilet and Nursery use.

In 2-oz. and ¼-lb. Packets, 3d. & 6d.
In ¼-lb. Tins, 6d.

THE advice of the Doctor is undoubtedly the best you can possibly have, and when this gentleman is the Medical Officer of an important ship, he must know a great deal about Sea-Sickness. Sufferers from this distressing malady will be interested in reading what, in the opinion of several well-known Ships' Surgeons, is the best way of preventing or curing it.

ADVICE TO THE SEA-SICK

Dr. R. C. ROBERTSON, of the Anchor Line Steamer "Furnessia," says:—"My short experience has led me to consider CHLOROBROM, a most valuable remedy. Of its value as a palliative there can be no doubt. During the second stage of Sea Sickness, in which Nausea, Retching, Headache, Sleeplessness, and Prostration make life for days and weeks a real burden to many, CHLOROBROM acts in the most kindly way. Several passengers who were confirmed bad sailors, and who were ignorant of the nature of the medicine they were taking, expressed in decided terms their opinion of its good effects, and begged me to let them have a bottle to keep by them."

Dr. GEO. BARBER, Surgeon P. and O. Service, says:—"We met with the usual heavy monsoon from Bombay to Aden—six days—and I found Chlorobrom extremely useful."

PROFESSOR CHARTERIS, Professor at the University of Glasgow, had considerable experience of the effect of Cholorobrom in the treatment of Sea Sickness, and he says:—"I have no hesitation in saying that if administered in a sensible and thorough manner, Chlorobrom will effectively meet each and every symptom of the dreaded sickness."

Dr. JAMES MUNRO, of the Clan Line; Dr. MUAT, of the "Buchanan"; Dr. ARCHIBALD LEISHMAN, of the Transport "Dilwara"; Dr BELCHER, of the Cunard Service; Dr. H. JOHN BOYD, of the "City of Rome," and many others, are all impressed with the value of CHLOROBROM in Sea Sickness.

From the SOLE Proprietors and Manufacturers, **BURGOYNE, BURBIDGES, & COMPY., 16, Coleman-street, London, for 2/9, 4/6, and 7/- a bottle. Travellers should send for a supply.**

The Public Benefactor.

HOVIS BREAD

DISTRIBUTES HEALTH.

No loaf genuine unless stamped **HOVIS.**

All good class Bakers make and sell Hovis.

Hovis Flour and Biscuits can be obtained from all leading Bakers and Grocers, or 6d. and 1s. samples will be sent on receipt of stamps by—

S. FITTON & SON, Hovis Mills, Macclesfield.

SPRING CLEANING MADE EASY

BY USING

CLEANSINE, the Liquid Cleanser for Carpets, Rugs, Curtains, and all Wood Work.

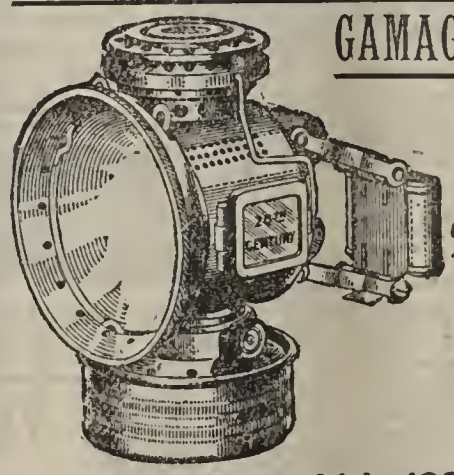
A CHILD CAN USE IT, and make the Carpet look like new. Its use restores the Colour, and removes all stains and dirt. Illustrated Pamphlet sent free on receipt of self addressed wrapper. For OUR SPECIAL "FREE CLEANING" OFFER for this week only, see this week's *Christian Million.* Price **2s. 3d.** per gallon. Send postal order to

CLEANSINE (1898), LIMITED,

119, Holland Park Avenue, Kensington, London.

Telephone, No. 90, Hammersmith.

GAMAGE'S GREAT PURCHASE



A Golden Opportunity.

11,000 20TH CENTURY LAMPS

Enamelled Black.	Nickel Plated.	Aluminium.
3/8.	4/11.	6/11.

1898 Patterns ... 7/11.

Postage 4d.

A. W. GAMAGE, Ltd., 126 to 129, Holborn, E.C.

Goddard's Plate Powder

SIX GOLD MEDALS.

Non-Mercurial.

THE BEST and SAFEST article for CLEANING SILVER and ELECTRO PLATE. Sold in Boxes, 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. each, by Grocers, Oilmen, Chemists, &c., everywhere.

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from falling off.
Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.
Being delicately perfumed it leaves no unpleasant odour.
IS NOT a dye, and therefore does not stain the skin or even white linen.
Should be in every house where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.
Ask your Chemist or Hairdresser for

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per large Bottle.

Prepared only by the

ANGLO-AMERICAN DRUG COMPANY, Ltd.,

33, FARRINGDON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.

IS THE BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE IN THE WORLD.

Prevents the Decay of Teeth.
Renders the Teeth Pearly White.
Is perfectly Harmless and Delicious to the Taste.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World **2s. 6d.** per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER.

Put up in Glass Jars, price 1s.

PHILLIPS'S,

WHITE KITCHEN PANS.

About	s. d.	About	s. d.
4 in. ...	0 4	12 in. ...	1 8
5 in. ..	0 5	13 in. ...	2 0
6 in. ...	0 6	14 in. ...	2 4
7 in. ...	0 7½	15 in. ...	3 1
8 in. ...	0 8½	16 in. ...	4 0
9 in. ...	0 11	17 in. ...	5 3
10 in. ...	1 2	18 in. ...	6 8
11 in. ...	1 4		

New Department of KITCHEN WARES of Finest Quality, at 5 per cent. under Store Prices on their terms, Cash. The prices shown are Store Prices. We give 5 per cent. off these.

Her Majesty's Potters and Glass Manufacturers,

17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, MOUNT ST. GROSVENOR SQ. W.

WEDDING PRESENTS

BREAKFAST SETS.
LUNCHEON SETS.
DINNER SETS.
DESSERT SETS.
TEA SETS.
GLASS SETS.
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RECOMMENDATIONS.

Candles always remain same height, no waste, no dirt, no smell.

Candles cannot gutter, shades cannot take fire.

They fit in any candlestick, and exactly resemble wax candles when in use.

The saving in candles, &c., more than pays for the cost of lamps in a few weeks.

PRICE, from **4/-** each, COMPLETE.

Illustrated Price List and Catalogue of Latest Novelties of Table Decoration and Lighting FREE.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Or can be seen in great variety at the Show Rooms of **THE**

ARCTIC LIGHT CO.,

179, RECENT ST., LONDON, W.
(Nearly opposite Liberty's).

Wholesale Offices: 49, HATTON-GARDEN, E.C

SALE OF

SILVER PENCILS.

Having purchased a huge Stock of 6s. 6d. and 8s. Solid Silver Hall Marked Pencils at an all-round price of 1s. 9½d. each, we are clearing them as follows:—

1,020 to be Sold at 9d. each.
750 to be Sold at 1s. 3d. each.
1,892 to be Sold at 2s. 11d. each.

WATCHMAKERS' ALLIANCE LTD.,

227, Regent-st., & 184, Oxford-st., London.

"COOPER" CYCLES.

From £5 10. Competition Defied.

Latest design Frame, large Weldless Steel Tubes, Ball Bearings, Tangent Wheels, Brake, and Mud-guards, Cushion Tyres, **£5 10**; Pneumatic, **£7 10**; Ladies', with Dress and Gear Guards, from **£6**. Twelve months' warranty. Lists free. AGENTS WANTED

Wm. Cooper, 753, Old Kent Rd., London, S.E

"The Old Favourite."

MAX GREGER'S CARLOWITZ

SAFEST,
SOUNDEST
Dinner Wine.

PURE
HUNGARIAN
BURGUNDY.

From 15/- per doz.

Of all Wine Merchants and Grocers.

See that every cork bears the brand "Max Greger." Without it the wine is not genuine.

USE ONLY

BLAISDELL PENCILS

SELF-POINTING.

ALL COLOURS. ALL GRADES.
NO WASTE. BEST LEADS.

Black Lead 1d. & 2d. Coloured Crayons 2d. & 3d.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Sample Box of 5 Pencils 1s., Free by Post in the U.K.

BLAISDELL PENCILS, Ltd., 46, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

The Best CHAINLESS Cycle!

THE BANTAM.

With Registered "Alpha" Frame.

Simple, Compact, Durable, Speedy. Thoroughly tested for four years, and greatly improved for 1898. Send for Price List and "Notes on the Bantam;" also particulars of the Crypto Safety and other patterns.

CRYPTO WORKS CO., LTD.,
29, CLERKENWELL ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

THE PATENT "RIGID-CURVE" STROP.

FOR THE HOLLOW GROUND RAZOR.

An English Gentleman, J.P., F.R.S., M.I.C.E., M.I.E.E., M.I.M.E., &c., Managing Director of a big Engineering Business, writes as follows:—"I have tried your Razor Strop, and have pleasure in sending you this Testimonial:—It is a simple and sure means of securing a proper cutting edge upon a Razor, and I am surprised that such an improvement has been so long delayed. Its advantage is, in my opinion, beyond question." Price **3s. 6d.**, carriage paid. Full money returned any time within a month if not approved.

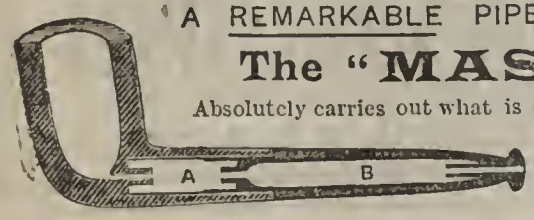
A. HOWARTH, 53, Penn-road, Wolverhampton.

THE HOME and COLONIAL STORES, LIMITED,
Share Transfer and Dividend Office,
2 and 4, Paul-street, Finsbury,
London, E.C., March 17th, 1898.

NOTICE is hereby given that the TRANSFER and REGISTRATION BOOKS of the Home and Colonial Stores, Limited, will be CLOSED from the 24th to 31st inst., preparatory to payment of the usual Quarterly Dividend upon the Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares. Dividend Warrants will be remitted on the evening of March 31st to all Preference Shareholders whose names are on the Register on 24th inst.

NOTICE is also given that the Directors have declared an Interim Dividend upon the Ordinary Shares for the quarter ending March 26th, of Three Shillings per Share (less Income Tax) payable on and after April 1st at the banking house of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co., 67, Lombard-street, where Coupon No. 3, attached to the Share Warrants to Bearer, should be lodged three clear days in advance.

By order of the Board,
ALFRED PIGOTT,
Registrar.



A REMARKABLE PIPE! Why? Because

The "MASTA" Pipe

Absolutely carries out what is claimed for it—viz., Simplicity of Construction, Perfect Freedom from Nicotine, No Choking, Cool, Dry, Sweet, Clean, & Healthful Smoking.

Prices from 1/6, 2/6, 3/6. Your Tobacconist will supply it. If any delay, write The "Masta" Patent Pipe Co., 153, Fleet-street, London, E.C.

What Smokers say:—JOHN PHILLIPS, 67, Frogmore-street, Abergavenny, Oct. 18th, 1897, writes—"Have smoked your 'Masta' Pipe for eight months. It is without doubt the Driest, Cleanest, and Best pipe I ever put in my mouth."

HAVE YOU TRIED . .
CEPHALIA
For HAY FEVER, NEURALGIC PAINS, & COLDS in the HEAD, &c.?
If not, send 13½d. for a Box to
REECE & CO., Medical Hall, Piccadilly, London.
EFFECT SIMPLY MIRACULOUS.

THE HOMACOUSTIC.

WHAT IS THE HOMACOUSTIC?

THE HOMACOUSTIC is a contrivance connected with Speaking Tubes, which entirely supersedes for indoor purposes not only the Telephone, but all other existing arrangements for indoor inter-communication.

THE HOMACOUSTIC
Is Automatic, not Mechanical. Once fixed always in Working Order. Its first cost is its last cost.

WITH THE HOMACOUSTIC
There is no blowing into pipes. The automatic whistle is always in position. One speaks and listens at the same time. The tube is closed when not in actual use. Ordinary speaking tubes can be utilised.

ONE (No. 4) HOMACOUSTIC
Places the speaker in communication with any Number of Rooms.

THE HOMACOUSTIC
Is of special value and inestimable convenience not only in business establishments, but in all Private Houses.

TESTIMONIALS.

Atlas Assurance Company, Fire and Life, 92, Cheapside, London, E.C.

Dear Sir,—I have pleasure in stating that I have had one of your Homacoustic Speaking Tube Commutators and Instruments in my room, communicating with seven departments in this office, and that I find the same to work admirably. It is a vast improvement on the old method of a separate mouthpiece for each tube, and it is an invention which I think needs only to be known to command very wide adoption.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

SAML. J. PIPKIN Secretary.

The Central London Throat and Ear Hospital,
Gray's Inn-road, W.C.,
December 14, 1891.

I have much pleasure in testifying to the excellence of the principle of the Homacoustic Speaking Tube Instruments, as well as to the perfect workmanship of the tubes fitted at this Hospital.

Quite independently of sanitary reasons it is decidedly more agreeable to have a Speaking Tube by which all blowing and breathing into the face are avoided. There is no difficulty whatever in its employment.

LENNOX BROWNE, F.R.C.S.E.,
Senior Surgeon to the Hospital.

SHOW ROOMS: 6, Bruton Street, New Bond Street.

Of all Speaking-Tube Fitters, or
THE HOMACOUSTIC SPEAKING TUBE CO.

Lewis and Allenby LTD.,

193, 195, & 197, REGENT ST.,
And
60, 61, 62, 63, 64, & 65, CONDUIT ST., W.

Silk Mercers, Costumiers, &c.

High reputation for 80 years for Ladies' Dress Requirements.

Unrivalled for GENUINE QUALITY and Moderate Prices.

CHOICEST NOVELTIES FOR THE SPRING SEASON

NOW ON VIEW IN EVERY DEPARTMENT.

SERVANTS! SERVANTS!! SERVANTS!!!

FOR
THOROUGHLY RELIABLE SERVANTS
With personal characters for London or country, also foreign servants. Apply to the BELGRAVE LADIES' AGENCY,
SOLE OFFICES,
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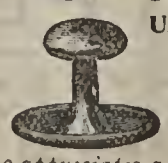
Also job servants with references taken up before recommendation can be had on the shortest notice.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

'ONE PIECE' STUDS
PATENTED Unbreakable.
Beautifully Formed. AVOID IMITATIONS.



No one who appreciates a nice Stud wears any other.
None Genuine Unless Stamped Patent.
Sold by all Leading Jewellers.
WHOLESALE ONLY, SAUNDERS & SHEPHERD, LONDON.

LIQUEURS OF THE GRANDE CHARTREUSE.

These delicious Liqueurs, which have come so much into public favour on account of their wonderful properties of aiding Digestion and preventing Dyspepsia, can now be had of all the principal Wine and Spirit Merchants, and all good Hotels and Restaurants throughout the Kingdom.
Sole Consignee: W. DOYLE, 35, Crutched Friars, London, E.C.

FOR COMPLAINTS of the STOMACH, LIVER, etc., DRINK
VICHY CELESTINS Spring
Sold by all Chemists, Druggists and Grocers throughout the kingdom.
Sole Importers: INGRAM & ROYLE, Ltd, 26, Upper Thames Street, LONDON, E.C.

THE SMELTING CORPORATION, Limited.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893).—Capital, £600,000, in 600,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, of which 350,000 Shares are taken by the Vendors in part payment. APPLICATIONS are INVITED for 250,000 ORDINARY SHARES. The Shares will be paid for as follows:—On Application 2s. 6d.; on Allotment, 7s. 6d.; on May 1st, 5s.; on July 1st, 5s.

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Henry Allhusen, M.P., Stoke Court, Bucks.
Cosmo Bevan, of 54, Lombard street, E.C.
Sir Gerald Fitzgerald, K.C.M.G. (of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, Limited).
H. De la Rue, Six Mile Bottom, Cambridge.
Wilberforce Bryant (Chairman of Bryant and May, Limited). } Directors of the Vendor Syndicate.
H. E. Fry, of Messrs. Fry, Everitt & Co., Swansea. }

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Dixon, Weld, & Dixons, 1, Lancaster-place, Strand, W.C. (for the Vendors).

BROKERS.—Ellis & Co., 2, Royal Exchange-buildings, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Price, Waterhouse, & Co., 44, Gresham-street, E.C.

CONSULTING ENGINEER.—W. B. Devereux (of New York).

SECRETARY AND OFFICES *(pro tem.)*.—W. J. Bessex, 95, Billiter-buildings, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring from the Burnham Syndicate, Limited, their Business and Patent Rights for the treatment of Refractory Sulphide Ores of Silver, Lead, Zinc, Gold, &c.

The assets which the Company acquires consist of—

1. The Patents held by the Burnham Syndicate, Limited, for the

United Kingdom,	Victoria,
United States of America,	West Australia,
Canada,	Tasmania,
New South Wales,	Queensland,
South Australia,	Mexico.

2. The right to 80,000 fully-paid Shares of £1 each in the West Prussian Mining Company, Limited, out of a total of 310,000 Shares, subject to the performance of the obligations of the Syndicate under an Agreement, dated 7th December, 1897, by which the Syndicate sold to the Company Letters Patent relating to the invention for certain Continental countries obtained and to be obtained, with all patent rights relating to the invention, and any improvements for the whole of Europe, except the United Kingdom, and the obligations of which Agreement are to be undertaken by this Company.

3. The Vendors' interest in the smelting works at Llamsamlet, near Swansea, together with the benefit of all existing contracts for ore.

The purchase price has been fixed by the Vendors at £430,000, payable as to £80,000 in cash, and as to £350,000 in £1 fully-paid Shares. This leaves £170,000 available for the construction and extension of works and for working capital.

Refractory sulphide ores of silver, lead, zinc, &c., exist, as is well known, in practically unlimited quantities, notably in the Australian Broken Hill group of Mines, and in the United States of America. The presence of zinc in the ores prevents their treatment by ordinary methods, and the solution of this difficulty has occupied the attention of metallurgists for many years.

On 27th June, 1895, a patent for the United Kingdom was granted to Mr. H. E. Fry and others for the treatment of these ores by means of sulphate of soda and oxide of iron. The patents for the other countries were granted subsequently. The leading feature of the invention consists in smelting the ore (after roasting) with a flux prepared by mixing and melting sulphate of soda and burnt pyrites, or other such like material. This flux has the property of combining with the zinc contents of the ore, and forming therewith a liquid slag.

These Patents, including those sold to the West Prussian Mining Company, Limited, were acquired by the Burnham Syndicate, Limited, from Mr. H. E. Fry and his associates, and operations conducted by them have proved to their entire satisfaction their practical and commercial value.

A Smelting Plant has been at work at Swansea for nearly two years, but continuous operations did not commence until after January 31st, 1897. The Directors have obtained a Report from Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co., upon the results of the eleven months ending December 31st, 1897, which may be inspected at the Company's Offices. This Report shows that during that period 10,872 tons of ore were treated at a smelting profit of £9,521 18s. 10d., exclusive of the profit to be obtained by the desilverising of the lead. These results have been obtained with works constructed for entirely different purposes, and the expenditure incurred in adapting them during the said period has been charged as part of the cost of treatment, of which it represents a considerable portion. Moreover, there are no mechanical appliances, thus necessitating the use of hand labour throughout; and the zinc plant is two miles distant from the rest of the works. The contents of the ore treated have been on an average 31.8 oz. silver, 26.3 per cent. lead, 26 per cent. zinc, 1½dwt. gold per ton.

The Directors of this Company determined, notwithstanding the above satisfactory results, to employ an independent expert of known ability to investigate and report on the process, and selected Mr. August Raht, late Manager of Messrs. Guggenheim's Works, at New Jersey and elsewhere, for this purpose. His Report may be seen in full at the Offices of the Company.

His estimate of profits, based on the treatment of not less than 120 tons of ore per day, and containing on an average 28 oz. of silver, 27 per cent. of lead, and 22 per cent. of zinc per ton, is as follows:—

PROCEEDS OF METALS FROM ONE TON OF ORE.

	Percentage Recovered.	Quantity Recovered.	Price of Metal.	Value.	
Silver ...	90 ...	25.2 oz.	28½d. per oz. (fine)	£2 19 10	
Lead ...	87 ...	23.5 per cent. per ton	£12 10s. (per ton).	2 18 9	
Zinc.....	70 ...	15.4 per cent. per ton	2s. 1d. (per unit).	1 12 1	
					£7 10 8

Deduct cost as follows:—

Net amount paid for a ton of ore	£3 3 0	
Cost of treatment per ton of ore	2 4 8	
		5 7 8
Leaving an estimated profit per ton of ore of		£2 3 0

In purchasing these ores it is customary to pay for the full assay value of the silver and lead contained in them, but nothing is charged for zinc or other bye-products, and a rebate is allowed for cost of treatment, varying as a rule from £3 10s. to £3 15s. per ton, which is taken into consideration in the above estimate of the net amount paid for a ton of ore. A variation in the price of silver or lead would, therefore, not affect the profits as shown above, as the ore would be paid for at a correspondingly higher or lower price.

The selling price of zinc—viz., 2s. 1d. per unit—is that paid at present by zinc works for the oxide of zinc produced at Swansea, and is based on metallic zinc at £17 per ton.

The Directors of this Company have satisfied themselves that all necessary supplies of ore will be obtainable without difficulty on similar terms to those stated above in Mr. Raht's estimate of profits.

The following contract has been entered into by the Company:—

An Agreement for the acquisition of the property between the Burnham Syndicate, Limited, of the one part, and the Company of the other part, dated March 17th, 1898.

There are also contracts relating to the formation of the Company and the underwriting of its capital, and trade contracts, too numerous to specify, with the Burnham Syndicate, Limited, including the contracts for supply of ore, and each applicant shall be deemed by his application to have waived as against the Company, and each Director or other person authorising the issue hereof, any right or claim consequent upon the non-disclosure of their contents, or the failure to set out the dates of and the names of the parties to the several contracts respectively.

All expenses in connection with the formation of the Company up to date of allotment will be borne by the Vendors.

Applications for the Shares are to be made to Barclay & Company, Limited, 54, Lombard-street, E.C., and Branches, on the form accompanying the Prospectus.

If no allotment is made the application money will be returned in full, and when the amount allotted is less than that applied for, the balance will be applied towards the payment due on allotment. Failure to pay any instalment when due will render previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and of the Agreements, Valuation, and Reports can be inspected at the Offices of the Solicitors.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, and from the Bankers and Brokers.

Dated March 18th, 1898.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE
63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.

THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD

SUN FIRE OFFICE FOUNDED 1710

SUM INSURED IN 1896 - £388 952,800.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £30,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.
THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd. Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

H. HALFORD and COMPANY, 70 and 71, Palmerston Buildings, Old Broad Street, London.
ESTABLISHED 1869.

Business in Stocks and Shares at close prices.
Dealings reported by wire if required.
Prompt Settlements.
Thousands of Testimonials from Clients.
Americans and Canadians a Speciality. Also Westralians and Kaffirs.
Lists of Closing Prices gratis.
Telegrams: "Monitor, London."
NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER FIRM.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

THE LATE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD,
SIR MORELL MACKENZIE,
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,
MISS EMILY FAITHFUL,
THE LATE GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,
and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of

Himrod's Cure for Asthma.

Established over a Quarter of a Century.

Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, LYNCH & CO., J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS, & CO., BUTLER & CRISPE, JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale Houses.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

CLARKE'S
WORLD-FAMED
BLOOD MIXTURE

Warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from *whatever* cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it removes the *cause* from the blood and bones. Thousands of Wonderful Cures have been effected by it. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each, of Chemists everywhere.

BEWARE OF WORTHLESS IMITATIONS.

38th ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Equitable Life Assurance Society

OF THE UNITED STATES.

In presenting some Abstracts from the 38th Annual Statement of this Society, together with the Revenue Account and Balance Sheet, the General Managers beg to call attention to the following particular points, which demonstrate, not merely the remarkable progress of last year, but also the careful and conservative management of the Society.

ASSETS.

The Assets now stand at £49,349,231 sterling: being an increase, over the previous year, of £4,187,992.

LIABILITIES.

The Total Liabilities, on a 4 per cent. Valuation, amount to £38,840,236.

SURPLUS.

After a careful and conservative Valuation of the Assets of the Society, and an ample provision for all liabilities under the Society's Contracts, including outstanding obligations, the Surplus has been increased to £10,508,995: being an advance, over last year's figures, of more than 1½ Millions Sterling.

INCOME.

The Premium Income of the year has been increased by over £275,000, and now stands at £7,826,695. The Interest Income has also been augmented by over £215,000. The Total Income has reached £10,089,909: being an addition of £432,266, to that of 1896.

NEW ASSURANCE.

During the year 1897, 58,796 proposals for new assurances, amounting to £36,576,244, were made to the Society. Of these 7,855 proposals for £5,102,494 were declined, and 50,941 accepted, and policies issued for 31,473,750. Policies for £944,268 were revived. Others were increased by Bonus of £231,085. This made a total issue for the year of 52,239 policies for an amount of £32,699,103.

NUMBER OF POLICIES.

There are in all 307,597 policies on the books of the Society, and in addition, 1,993 Annuity Bonds securing immediate payments of £125,327, and deferred payments of £9,852.

EXPENSES.

The expenses for the year have again been reduced.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Disbursements were as follows:—Death Claims, £2,477,742, being a decrease over 1896 of £134,615. Cash Bonuses, £488,312. In Annuities there was paid £109,551 against £90,621 the previous year. The Surrender Values, including Matured Tontines (other than Endowments), reached £1,127,247. The Matured Tontines paid, showed an increase for the year of £34,006. The Surrender Values showed a DECREASE, on previous year, of £82,702.

INCREASE OF BONUS.

In days of universal depreciation of Interest when the Bonuses of most Assurance Companies show decrease, it is highly satisfactory to be able to state that the 10 and 15-year policies, maturing in 1898, will give larger results than in 1897, while the 20-year results of 1898, will equal those of 1897.

SOCIETY'S RECORD FOR THIRTY-NINE YEARS.

The Society has paid more than £57,290,000 sterling to its Policyholders, and, in addition now holds £49,349,231 of Assets (of which £10,508,995 is Surplus to Policyholders), making a total of more than £106,600,000 sterling. This record, covering a period of less than 39 years, is over £49,100,000 more than any other Company has paid and accumulated within the corresponding period of its history.

RATE OF INTEREST.

The average rate of Interest earned on the Assets of the Society, in 1897, was £4 12s. per cent., an increase of 5s. per cent. over the average rate for several preceding years.

CHANGE IN VALUATION.

For about two years the Society has been valuing its Guaranteed Cash Value Policy on a 3 per cent. Reserve. From the 1st January, 1898, the Society's New Business is valued at either 3 per cent. or 3½ per cent., according to the Form of Policy. This Change of Valuation from a 4 per cent. to a 3½ per cent. basis is purely PROSPECTIVE in its bearing.

SURPLUS ON 4% RESERVE.
SURPLUS ON 3% RESERVE.

On a calculation that the Society will receive only 4 per cent. as its future average Rate of Interest, the Surplus, after deducting all liabilities is (as above stated) £10,508,995. Calculated on a 3 per cent. basis, after deducting all liabilities, the Surplus stands at over £6,000,000.

LARGEST SURPLUS IN THE WORLD.

The Surplus of the Society is larger, by several millions sterling, on similar computations, than that of any other Life Assurance Company.

APPORTIONMENT OF PROFITS IN 1898.

Whatever percentage of Interest the Society may receive in future, in excess of the rate assumed in the above calculation, will be computed and invested for the benefit of its Policyholders. An apportionment of profits will be made as usual to Policyholders during the year 1898, in the manner specified in their respective policies.

INVESTMENTS.

The Investments of the Society are made in the most conservative and most careful manner, in those classes of Securities prescribed by the Insurance Department of the State of New York. Last year there was a gain in the Valuation of Assets of £273,765.

BRITISH LIFE OFFICES INVEST IN AMERICAN SECURITIES.

It is a noteworthy fact that twenty of the British Life Offices, including some of the most conservative, have placed no less than SEVEN MILLIONS STERLING of their funds in Securities, in the United States, of the same character as those in which this Society's Funds are invested.

SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS:
PRACTICAL EVIDENCE.

At no period of its history has the Society been favoured with more satisfactory evidence of the sentiments of its Policyholders, in regard to Bonus results, under maturing Contracts, than during last year. These returns, whether taken in cash or paid-up value, have proved eminently profitable, either as an Investment or as Cheap Assurance. Gratifying testimony to this effect has been accorded. Practical evidence is afforded by the fact that New Assurances taken by those whose Policies have matured exceeds the original amount held by them.

NEW POLICIES:
FOUR:
IN ADDITION TO THE GUARANTEED CASH VALUE POLICY.

In addition to the guaranteed Cash Value Policy, which appeared two years ago (with which have been incorporated some special advantages), four New Policies, containing very attractive features, adapted to the Commercial and Financial requirements of the day, are issued this year. These are the 5 per cent. 20-year Coupon Debenture Policy; the Continuous Instalment Policy; the Premium Dividend Policy; and the New Endowment Policy.

Full information concerning these will be given on application, either to the Head Office or to any of the Branch Offices.

BRITISH ORGANISATION.

During the past year the Agency Department of the British Branch has been extensively reorganised, greatly extended, and increased in efficiency of management.

BRITISH BRANCH PRACTICALLY A BRITISH OFFICE.

The British Branch of the Society is practically a British Office. It issues its own policies, pays its own claims, and is self-supporting.

All British Policies are under immediate jurisdiction of the British Courts of Law.

GENERAL RESULT OF LAST YEAR'S OPERATION.

It will prove satisfactory to our Policyholders and to the community at large, to be informed that never since its organisation has the Society held so strong a financial position as in the present year. Its Surplus has been enormously increased, together with its Assets; its Liabilities have been calculated on a more stringent basis; its New Business has been largely augmented whilst Expenses have diminished; a considerable Appreciation of its Assets has also been realised; its Death Rate has been most favourable, and under many policies its Bonuses have shown increase.

SOCIETY'S STRENGTH INCREASES WITH AGE.

The above facts go to prove that the Vitality of the Society improves with its age. Expenditure and strength of Surplus, year by year, develop in due proportion. Whilst heavy disbursements to Policyholders are constantly being made, the loss to funds is more than made up, as proved by the enormous increase of Surplus last year.

A perusal of the above Statement must, it is considered, convince every impartial reader that the EQUITABLE OF THE UNITED STATES still holds the front rank in all matters of Life Assurance. Reform, combining enlightened progress with conservative management, has, from the beginning, marked the course of the Society.

INFORMATION ABOUT SOCIETY'S INVESTMENTS.

A full and detailed Statement of every item of Investment, the Mortgages and Securities of every kind, with particular information regarding Policies, Bonuses, &c., may be obtained on application at the

Head Office for Great Britain and Ireland,

6, PRINCES STREET, BANK, LONDON, E.C.

A. MUNKITTRICK & W. TRIGGS,

General Managers.

Chinese Imperial Government 4½% Gold Loan

OF 1898,

FOR £16,000,000 STERLING,

Offered for Public Subscription in London and Germany.

AUTHORISED BY IMPERIAL EDICT.

Secured upon the balance of the Revenue of the Imperial Maritime Customs of the Treaty Ports of China, and also by a first charge upon the Likin Revenues of certain Ports and Districts of China as hereafter mentioned, which are to be placed forthwith under the control of the Inspector General of Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs.

Exempt from all present and future Chinese Taxes.

In Bonds to Bearer of £25, £50, £100 and £500 each, with Half-yearly Coupons attached, for interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, payable on the 1st September and 1st March.

The First Coupon will be at the full rate of 4½ per cent. per annum for six months, payable 1st September, 1898.

Principal and interest payable in London in sterling, and in Germany in the sterling equivalent at the exchange of the day.

Arrangements have been made by which the Bonds of this Loan can be inscribed at the Bank of England in terms of the accompanying memorandum.

Subscription Price in London, 90 per cent.

The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, 31, Lombard-street, London, and the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank, Berlin, invite subscriptions for £16,000,000 Sterling Bonds of the above Loan. The price of subscription is 90 per cent., payable as follows:—

5 per cent.	on Application.
10 per cent	on Allotment.
25 per cent.	on 7th April, 1898.
25 per cent.	on 21st April, 1898.
25 per cent.	on 3rd May, 1898.
£90	

The Bonds will bear interest at 4½ per cent. per annum from 1st March, 1898. Payment in full can be made on allotment under discount at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

It is stipulated that payment to the Imperial Japanese Government of the balance due in terms of the Treaty of Shimoneoski shall be made by the Chinese Imperial Government out of the proceeds of this loan.

The Loan is for 45 years redeemable at 100 by 45 annual drawings, through the action of an accumulative sinking fund. The Chinese Imperial Government specially undertake not to convert or to redeem this Loan otherwise than as herein specified.

The Chinese Imperial Government undertake to pay, after the first half-yearly instalment due 1st September, 1898, to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank, by monthly instalments, the amounts necessary to cover the service of this Loan.

The Drawings will take place in London in the month of January in each year, beginning in January, 1899, before a Notary public, at the Offices of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and the Drawn Bonds will be paid off at 100 on the 1st March, following, after which date interest on the Bonds so drawn will cease.

The Loan has been authorised by Imperial Edict dated 2nd March, 1898, which has been officially communicated by the Tsung-li-Yamen to the British and German Ministers in Peking.

This Loan is specially secured by and charged upon the Imperial Maritime Customs Revenues of the Treaty Ports of China, subject to loans at present remaining unredeemed, and also as a first charge free from all encumbrances, on the General and Salt Likin of certain Ports and Districts situated in the Yangtsze Valley and the adjoining Province of Chekiang, as under:—

The General Likin of the Port of Soochow.
" " the Port of Kiukiang.
" " Sunghu (Shanghai Sungkiang) District.
" " the Eastern Chekiang District.
The Salt Likin of Ichang.
" " the Hupeh District.
" " the Anhui District.

The above Likin Revenues are to be placed forthwith under the control of the Inspector General of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs. If at any time, in consequence of a decline in Exchange or from any other cause, the said security should prove insufficient, the Chinese Imperial Government undertake to appropriate further Revenues for this purpose, to be likewise placed immediately under control of the Inspector General of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs.

According to an official statement of Sir Robert Hart, Bart., G.C.M.G., Inspector General of Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, the present available balance of the Customs revenues is about 3,000,000 Haikwan Taels per annum. The above Likin revenues specially pledged for the service of this Loan are valued at 5 000,000 Haikwan Taels per annum, thus giving together 8,000,000 Haikwan Taels per annum, which, at the present exchange of 2s. 9d. per Haikwan Tael, is equal to £1,100,000 sterling, while the annual service of the present Loan is £835,232 sterling.

It is expected that, under the admistration of the Inspector General of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, the Likin receipts will largely increase; a great expansion of trade is also expected to result.

In the advent of the Chinese Imperial Government negotiating for a revision of the Chinese Customs Tariff during the currency of this Loan, it is agreed on the one hand that such Tariff revison shall not be barred by the fact that the Loan is secured by the foregoing Likin revenues, and on the other hand that the Likin duties pledged for the service of this Loan shall neither be decreased nor abolished, except by arrangement made with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank, and only then for an equivalent first charge upon increased Customs Revenue consequent upon such Tariff revision.

The Chinese Imperial Government have agreed that this Loan shall be also secured by the deposit in China, with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank, of Customs Likin Bonds issued by the Tsung-li-Yamen and Board of Revenue, and signed by the Inspector-General of Customs. Such Customs Likin Bonds are to be handed to the said Banks against the proceeds of this Loan. The Chinese Imperial Government have further agreed that this Loan shall be also secured by the deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank in China on or before the 1st June next, of Sterling Customs Likin Bonds equal to the total amount of the Loan, principal and interest. Such Bonds will be sealed by the Chinese Superintendent of Customs at Shanghai and by the Viceroy of the Llangklang Provinces, and countersigned by the Foreign Commissioner of Customs at Shanghai. These Bonds will be available for payment of Customs and Likin duties everywhere in China.

The Chinese Imperial Government undertake that the administration of the Imperial Maritime Customs Service shall remain as at present during the currency of this Loan.

This Loan is exempt from all present and future Chinese Taxes.

Subject to Loans at present unredeemed, this Loan has priority, both as regards principal and interest, over all future Loans, Charges of Mortgages, and so long as this Loan or any part thereof shall remain unredeemed, the Chinese Imperial Government undertake that no Loan, Charge or Mortgage shall be raised or created which shall in any manner lessen or impair the security over the said Customs and Likin Revenues, so far as they are required for the service of this Loan, and that any future Loan, Charge or Mortgage charged upon the said Customs and Likin Revenues shall be made subject to this Loan, and that it shall be so expressed in every agreement for any such future Loan, Charge or Mortgage.

Applications will be received in London by THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, 31 Lombard-street, E.C., and in Germany by THE DEUTSCH-ASIATISCHE BANK, Berlin, and further on its behalf by the ROYAL GENERAL DIRECTION OF THE SEEHANDLUNGS SOCIETAT, Berlin, and by the following Bankers:—

Direction der Disconto-Gesellschaft, Berlin.
Deutsche Bank, Berlin, Hamburg, Bremen, Frankfort-on-the-Maine, and Munich.
Berliner Handels-Gesellschaft, Berlin.
Bank fur Handel und Industry, Berlin and Frankfort-on-the-Maine.
Dresdner Bank, Berlin, Dresden, Hamburg, Bremen, and Muremberg.
National Bank fur Deutschland, Berlin.
A. Schaaffhausen'scher Bankverein, Berlin and Cologne.
S. Bleichröder, Berlin.
Mendelssohn & Co., Berlin.
Robert Warschauer & Co., Berlin.
Born & Busse, Berlin.
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Hamburg.
Norddeutsche Bank-in Hamburg, Hamburg.
L. Behrens & Sohne. Hamburg.
Jacob S. H. Stern, Franfort-on-the-Maine.
Bayerische Hypotheken und Wechselbank, Munich.
Sal Oppenheim, Junr., & Co., Cologne.

Default in payment of any instalment at due date will render previous payments liable to forfeiture.

If no allotment is made the Deposit will be returned in full, and if only a portion of the amount applied for is allotted, the balance of the Deposit will be applied towards payment of the amount due on allotment.

Scrip Certificates to Bearer will be issued against Allotment Letters, and Bonds to Bearer sealed by either H. E. The Minister for China in London, or H. E. The Minister for China in Berlin, will, when ready, be exchanged for fully paid Scrip Certificates.

Prospectuses and forms of application may be obtained from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, 31, Lombard-street, London, E.C., and from Messrs. Panmure Gordon, Hill, & Co., Hatton-court, London, E.C.

31, Lombard-street, London,
17th March, 1898.

Copy of Letter from His Excellency Sir Chih Chen Lo-Fêng-Luh, K.C.V.O., the Minister for China in London:—

Chinese Legation,
London, 16th March, 1898.

The Manager,
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation,
31, Lombard-street, E.C.

Sir,—I have much pleasure in informing you that I have received a telegram from the Tsung-li-Yamen acquainting me that the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, conjointly with the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank, have been charged by the Imperial Chinese Government with the issuing of a 4½ per cent. Gold Loan of £16,000,000 sterling, and that the Imperial Edict authorising it has already been issued.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) Lo-Fêng-Luh,
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of China.

CHINESE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT. GOLD LOAN OF 1898,

For £16,000,000.

INSCRIPTION OF SCRIP AND BONDS.

Holders of Fully-paid Scrip of this Issue will have the privilege of exchanging the same for Stock free of all expense, as in the case of the £5 per Cent. Gold Loan of 1896, but they will be able to avail themselves of this privilege only until the 1st of August, 1898, after which date they will be required to pay the duty of 12s. 6d. per cent.

Transfers of the Stock will be exempt from Stamp duty, and the Dividends thereon will be paid through the post, or as otherwise directed.

Transfers will be by Deed, and ordinary forms will be accepted.

Holders of Bonds may at any time exchange their Bonds for Stock on payment of the commutation Stamp Duty—12s. 6d. per cent.

Holders of Stock may at any time exchange the same for the relative Bonds, but such holders will be liable for any Stamp Duty which may be payable in respect of the Bonds.

When the Bonds are ready, the Bank of England will surrender to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation the Scrip which has been inscribed, and will receive in exchange the Bonds which have been allocated by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to such Scrip.

When this has been done the Stockholders will be informed of the numbers and denominations of the Bonds which their Stock represents, and they will be so placed in possession of information which will enable them to fill up, or cause to be filled up, the transfer deeds necessary for sale or transfer.

They will also be in a position to examine lists of drawings and to apply to the Bank of England for the capital amount of Stock representing drawn Bonds.

It will be seen from what goes before that each transfer of Stock must recite the numbers and denominations of the Bonds (or Scrip pending the issue of Bonds) which such Stock represents.

Transfers must be accompanied by the relative certificates.

Bank of England, 17th March, 1898.

For Longhand, Shorthand, Pen-and-Ink Drawing, Music-Writing, indeed, whenever a Pen is necessary, use only

Adds immeasurably to Celerity and Comfort in writing. Of all Pens most famous.

Made in 3 sizes only at
10s. 6d.
16s. 6d.
25s.
UP TO £18 18s.
POST FREE.

MABIE, TODD & BARD,
93, Cheapside, London, E.C.
95a, REGENT ST., W., and 3, EXCHANGE ST., MANCHESTER.

Estd. 1784.

Old Bushmills
PURE MALT
WHISKEY.

ONE of Nature's greatest wonders is the Giant's Causeway, quite near to which the world-famed Old Bushmills Distillery is situated.

The geological formation of the adjoining country is such that barley of an extraordinary fine quality is grown there, and the water obtained from this region possesses wonderful medicinal qualities; hence the great superiority of the Whiskey made at Bushmills over any other in the World.

Old Liqueur, 51s. per doz.
* * * THREE STARS. 45s. ,, ,,
Carriage Paid. Packages Free. Nett Cash.

Orders will be executed from either of the undermentioned Offices or from the accredited Agents in all parts of the World.

The Old Bushmills Distillery Co., Ltd., Hill-street, Belfast.
The Old Bushmills Distillery Co., Ltd., 42, Norfolk-street, Strand, W.C.

ATKINSON'S
EAU DE
COLOGNE

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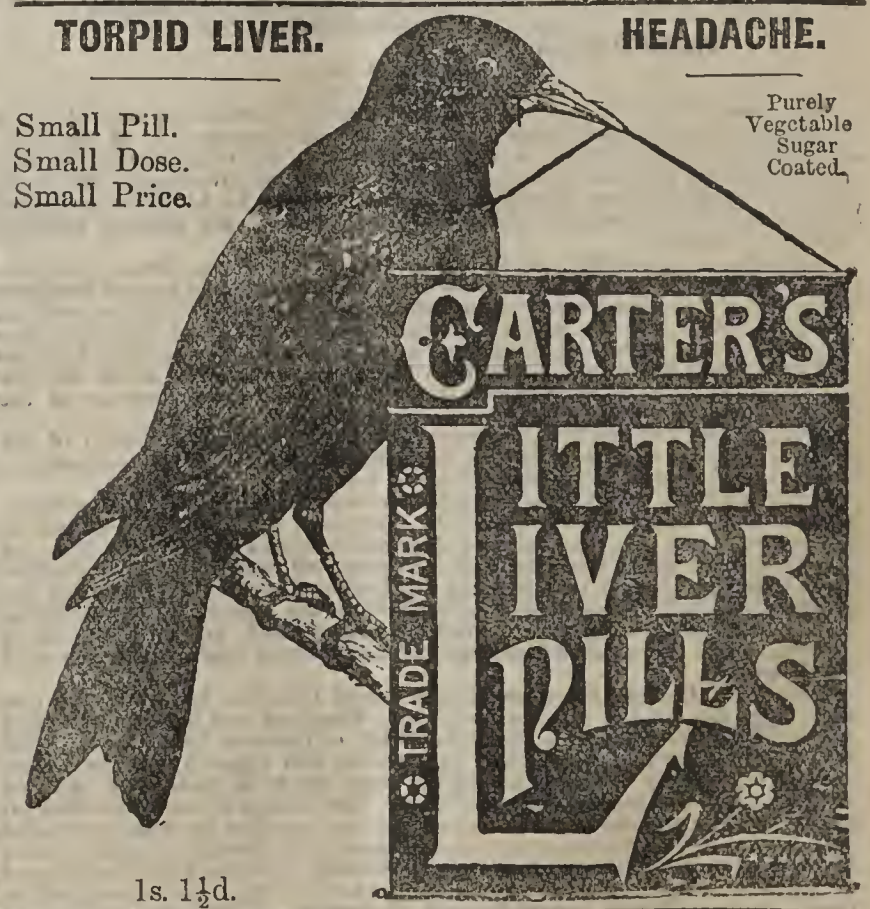

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OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2. 2s. will be given every week for the best Epigram, Conundrum, Lipogram, Bouts-Rimés, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and, for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the Truth Office by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. All New Contributors are Required to Forward with their First Answers their Real Names and Addresses for Registration; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. Competitors must on no account change their noms-de-plume they have once assumed.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 995.—COMPLETION OF TWO GIVEN STANZAS.

Creran (real name and address will be given in due course) £2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 993.

It will be unnecessary to delay the announcement of the result of this competition after this week; so I hope to publish the name of the prize winner in the next number of Truth.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 996.

The result of this competition will be announced when Competition No. 999 is decided.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,000.

This may be considered in one way an appropriate week in which to offer the usual prize of Two Guineas for

The Best Original Acrostic in Rhymed Verse on "Alfred the Great," Whose Millenary is Shortly to be Celebrated.

It will be understood that each of the fourteen lines of which the acrostic consists must commence with one of the letters to be found in "Alfred the Great." Of course, the letters must follow one another in their proper order. Each line, too, must rhyme with some other line in the acrostic. It is left to competitors to choose for themselves the tone in which their acrostics shall be written. They may be grave or gay, lively or severe, sentimental or cynical, or what not. All acrostics must reach me by the morning of Monday, April 4, at the latest.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** The real name, with the address, of Vox, winner of Prize No. 994, is William Vokes, Esq., 86, Marmion-road, Clapham Common, S.W.

Scissors.—Many thanks for your letter. I think it better, however, as some of the answers in the competition have already been received, not to publish the correction you are kind enough to point out.

One Hand.—I am much obliged to you for the information you send me, and shall, if necessary, turn it to practical account.

M. M.—The lines appeared in the *Anti-Jacobin*.

Aldbarn.—Before your letter reached me, I had already decided on the subject of a competition for this week. But I am none the less obliged to you for your kind suggestion.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 997.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

RESOLVING CERTAIN GIVEN LETTERS INTO A STANZA FROM BROWNING'S "SERENADE AT THE VILLA," AND WRITING A SECOND STANZA IN THE SAME STYLE AND METRE.

*** I have been surprised to see that so many competitors have succeeded in finding the Browning stanza which was hidden in the collection of letters published three weeks ago. The stanza in question is the second from the lyric entitled "A Serenade at the Villa," and it runs thus;—

Not a twinkle from the fly,
Not a glimmer from the worm.
When the crickets stopped their cry,
When the owls forbore a term,
You heard music—that was I.

It will be unnecessary to repeat this verse in the subjoined answers. The second verse sent by each competitor is all that need be printed, it being understood that in all cases the hidden stanza was discovered by the following competitors:—

One who comes with song and lute
Scarce can think he comes to stay;
Haply he might add a flute,
Or banjo! playing all the day!
(Moral) Swiftly make such music mute.
The Hen.

Not a wrinkle for my fly,
I'd no trimmer, nor a worm,
When the wicker flask went dry,
When too foul the pipe a term,
You heard snoring; that was I.
E. L. T.

Every note it lingered long,
Near the threshold of your heart;
Pleading tireless. Trust is strong;
Souls, once linked, asunder start
Never—without sense of wrong.
Briony.

Through the hush my song upsprang,
As thro' darkness springs the morn;
Love in every utterance rang;
The day hasted to be born,
The night waited while I sang.
White Lion.

But you came not; then I knew
That your frowning shutters twain,
Stern duennas guarding you,
Shorn of all their love and pain,
Scarce would let the notes come through.
Yen.

Did thy lute or voice prevail,
Or the darkness plead for thee?
Lightning flash on my bed rail,
Soften the hard heart of me?
Patience, friend, love doth not fail.
Myrah.

Music out of darkness grew,
Love and night inspired the song,
Poor, indeed, the words—but true,
What cared I if right or wrong,
For above me there were you.
Knight's Pawn.

There were you, and still awake,
Though 'twas time that you should sleep;
But you fancied fancy'd take
Me at you to take a peep;
Well it did, and no mistake!
Adow.

All my heart cried out to thee,
All my hopes were breathed in song;
In the dark with none to see
Patient I stood watching long—
But never answer came to me.
Paul Ferrol.

Did you hate me? Did you say
"Will this mummer never go?
Must I keep awake till day?"
Dragged the heavy hours and lo!
Morning, eve I went away.

Or,

What becomes of all the flies,
Crickets, owls, and worm as well,
When I do not hear their cries?
When beneath the thunder spell
Silence on the garden lies?
Langlands.

Ay! but if my Che la Morte
Eyes of yours a moment filled,
If you slept the sounder for't—
Love's unrest is lightly stilled—
God wot! gladly went I short.
Physician.

I sang softly, "Thou shalt see,
And thy straining eye shall note,
When thy bark on passion's sea
Can but barely keep afloat,
That thou hast a friend in me."
Flamingo.

Music rising from below,
And the singer, I. Your friend?
Well, I'd have you call me so,
Though small matter—in the end
Much names count for—time will show.
Cushion.

But I swept the chords in vain,
And I stole a look for nought,
So I strained my heart with pain.
Nor a glance nor sign I caught,
But I sighed and sang again.
Culpepper.

No least whisper of the wind
Mingled with the lute's appeal.
Earth was dumb; the world was blind;
So might I my soul reveal,
Hope you would for once be kind.
Amaryllis.

All that night my song cleaved through
Silence black like velvet pall;
So that light should pierce to you:
Did it not—my love—at all?
Well, my heart has missed the cue.

Or,

O! but dark your windows were,
Could you hear me as I played,
Nor your casement curtains stir,
To my throbbing serenade?
Nay, my love, you were not there.

Or,

Darkness lapped your villa round;
This the silence say you heard
Knocking at your heart—a sound
Like the singing of a bird,
Aching in its cage's bound.
Postergirl.

Not a star heaven's whole dome through,
Not a moonbeam pierced the dark;
Soundless—lightless—till there grew
In your pane a wakened spark,
Music answered; that was you!
Rosalys.

Time, tho' days may die, suns set,
Ne'er from memory's sight can move
Days, whose glamour haunts me yet.
Can Time make me cease to love?
Can Time teach me to forget?
Gollywog.

'Twas my voice the stillness broke,
Stayed the brooding hand of death,
When the earth, dumb 'neath his stroke,
Lay as one who strives for breath,
Then my lute and I awoke.
Outis.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 993.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ENGLISH RENDERINGS OF THREE FRENCH STANZAS FROM "TRILBY."

*** I am able this week to print a few more from among the many "Trilby" verses received.—The Puzzle Editor.

Poor Trilby—loved and good and fair,
I am her foot. Let he who will divine
What friend so tender, cherishing with care
Her memory and his love, this souvenir placed there.
Souvenir, caprice-inspired, set in a fitting shrine,
Lest breath should ravish its most lonely line.

I was a twin. My brother, where is he?
Alas, alas! Love led us far astray,
To meet again we trust and once more be
As once we were, linked through eternity,
And chastely there to rest where nothing may
Trouble sweet Trilby more—asleep alway.

Oh! tender friend, how lonely will ye be,
From Trilby's door perforce ye turn away.
And Paradise is far. On earth that tenderly
Now cradles her, where joyous once were we,
Seeking our equals, seek how well ye may,
Ye will seek vainly, ye will seek for aye.
Penea.

Poor Trilby—beautiful and good and dear!
Her little foot am I. Divine, ye bold,
What tender friend, who cherished her of old,
Thus framed of her (and of a love sincere)
This charming memory—an idle whim—
A passing breath might dim.

I was a twin; and where is now my pair?
Alas! alas! Love leads us all astray.
Eternity will reunite I pray
Those who were parted, and will gently bear
Us to a peaceful rest, where none may weep
O'er Trilby, who shall sleep.

O tender friend, if not, how will you fare?
The door is shut where once sweet Trilby dwelt,
And Paradise is far . . . but earth hath dealt
Kindly with us because she lingered there.
No easy quest has he who seeks to show
Our equals here below! Freak.

Poor Trilby! the beautiful, the good, the dear,
I am her foot. Ask, if it be desired,
What tender friend, who lately loved her here,
Enframed of her (and of a love sincere)
This sweet memorial that a whim inspired,
That at a breath shall fade!

I was a twin: twins are we no more,
Alas! alas! Love led us far astray.
Eternity, I hope, shall each to each restore,
And we shall rest, the happy pair of yore,
On a chaste couch where no trouble may
Harm Trilby sleeping!

What will you do without us, tender friend?
The door is shut where Trilby dwelt,
Far, far is Paradise. And in the end,
If earth be searched a match to lend
(Earth, which was sweet to us, by her scarce felt),
The search shall be in vain! Greville.

Ah, hapless Trilby, lovely, good, and sweet!
Her foot am I. Who would may now divine
The truest friend, that for remembrance meet
(And, having loved, with love will still her greet),
Did safe surround, imprison here this fancy fine,
Which, touched, might cease to shine.

A twin was I; who knoweth thy retreat?
Through love we dwell apart, ah, brother mine!
Eternity may join as once a neat
And dainty pair we lived; we'll pace the street
No more; but calmly, in a deep cold bed recline,
Where Trilby doth not pine.

Ah, truest friend, a lonely path to beat!
The door is shut, and where she dwells, no sign,
For Paradise is far—while time doth fleet,
On earth (which once was soft, will gently treat)
Shall ne'er be found, though long the quest, of foot a line,
Oh, Trilby, like to thine!
Myrah.

Trilby—ah, sweet one, brave, and true, and fair!
Say, who that loved her here my form did trace?
The outline of her foot's perfection rare,
Witness of love which time can ne'er efface;
Yet witness frail, born of a fleeting thought,
Of summer winds the sport.

Where is my fellow? I am here alone,
Alas! through love we far apart have strayed;
Let peaceful grave for all our griefs atone:
Once more united, we shall then be laid
In quiet, where no anxious human guest
Will trouble Trilby's rest.

Are you not sad to lose us, faithful friend?
Where Trilby dwelt, the door is now shut fast,
And far from Heaven your tired steps you wend;
Yet earth dealt gently with us in the past,
And many seek with care and tears again
Our like to find—in vain. Rhymster.

Poor Trilby, cynosure of every eye,
I am her foot. Guess then, if any dare,
What gentle friend, what lover constant aye,
Enshrined in glass this charming memory,
(A lover's whim), to her and love sincere,
This trifle light as air?

Where is my twin? For once a twin had I;
Love, disuniting, joined us in despair,
To live at last, I hope, in unity
Together linked as in the days gone by,
Where none shall wake from slumber, chaste and fair,
Dear Trilby, sleeping there.

Where we are not, on whom can she rely?
But, where she lives, is barred the golden stair,
And Heaven is far—so here on earth we sigh
('Twas soft to us, on her 'twill lightly lie),
To find our peers: 'tis mere despair;
Who can with us compare? Pro.

Poor Trilby—beauteous, good, and dear!
I am her foot. Now guess who can and will,
What tender friend—so lately near her still—
Inclosed me here (in love sincere),
A charming whim begot of tender love,
Yet one the lightest breath may quick remove.

I'm one of twins. Where art thou, brother mine?
Alas! alas! 'twas love rent us in twain;
Eternity unite us may again;
And as a pair we will once more entwine
At foot of that chaste bed where neither care
Nor sorrow Trilby's sleep more trouble dare.

Oh, tender friend! bereft of us what mirth
Remains? The door is closed; Trilby lived there;
And Paradise is far; and here on earth
(To us so sweet—may it rest light on her!)
To find our fellows—seek till we go blind—
For ever may we seek, yet never find.
Ulis.

Poor Trilby, fair, and good, and dear!
I am her foot. Can you divine
What tender friend enshrined me here
In memory of his love sincere?
An inspiration!—at a breath, each line
Its beauty must resign.

But my twin brother, where is he?
By love divided though we seem,
We shall again united be
In the far off Eternity,
When Trilby sleeps where naught can mar her dream,
Beyond death's chill, dark stream.

Heaven seems so far, now Trilby's door
Is closed. Lone twin, how dost thou fare?
But one may search for evermore
This earth—lie lightly on her!—for
Such feet, yet never find another pair
Like Trilby's, small and bare. En Route.

Poor lovely Trilby, good and kind and dear;
Her foot am I. Let him divine who will
What tender friend has thus enshrinéd here
For sign of faithful love enduring still.
This souvenir, caught by caprice one day,
A breath could bear away!

I was a twin. Where is my brother gone?
Alas! 'twas love that made us stray in pain.
Eternity will find the missing one
I trust, and we shall be a pair again.
In a pure couch where, in calm rest and deep,
Trilby will sleep.

Fond friend, where will you find the banished feet?
The door is shut where Trilby passed from sight.
And Paradise is far, and earth, once sweet
To us, and which on her lies light,
Holds not our equals—seek o'er land or sea,
You seek them hopelessly!
Rubine.

Alas, poor Trilby! bonny, good, and dear,
I am thy foot—and let him guess who can,
What tender friend, who once caressed its form,
Thus framed the memory of it and love?
A whim inspired its life,
A breath will make it fade.

I was a twin. My little mate has fled,
Love came between. Alas! we lost our way.
Eternity alone can join us now,
And make us as we were of old—
A tiny pair in sheets where trouble ceases
And gentle Trilby sleeps.

Ah, dearest friend! Without thee life is blank;
The door is closed where sweetest Trilby dwelt.
That Paradise is far; and on the earth,
Which was so good to us and light to her,
We seek in vain to find such pretty twins—
We seek in vain. Tea Lamb.

Poor Trilby! beautiful, good, and dear.
I am her foot. Guess the tenderness true
Which fondly and sadly with silent tear
Enframed this sweet relic with love sincere,
Souvenir slight that caprice slightly drew
To pass as a breath with the morning dew.

I was a twin! My brother, where is he?
Alas! alas! Love severed us twain.
Reunited in realms of Eternity
A pair once more we shall happy be.
Resting together, free from pain,
Trilby will sleep in peace again.

Tender friend, how shall I live without you?
The door is closed where my Trilby lies.
Paradise is far from my saddened view,
The sweetness of earth I can ne'er renew.
Her like will never more bless my eyes;
Vain search—with my Trilby all beauty dies.
Ivy Leaves.

Oh! poor sweet Trilby—beautiful and dear!
I am her little foot. Let those divine who may
What tender friend (in some sad yester-year)
Encircled of her this sweet souvenir,
Inspired by a caprice in love's young day,
And fragile, that a breath might blow away

I was a twin. My brother, where is he?
Alas! alas! Love led us a strange quest
And far astray; but in eternity
Once more a pair, hope whispers we may be
On a pure bed, where, by no grief oppress't,
Will lie poor Trilby, sleeping, and at rest.

Oh! tender friend, can it be we shall meet?
Where Trilby dwelt is now a closéd door.
May the kind earth, which was to us so sweet
Lie lightly on her—on those little feet
Awaiting distant Heaven. Ah! nevermore
Can earth produce the loveliness they wore.
Crayon.

Poor Trilby! Beautiful, and good, and dear!
I am her foot. Who can divine shall say
What tender friend loved her with love sincere,
Yet took and framed this charming souvenir;
Capricious inspiration, that a breath's light play
Could wholly blow away.

I was a twin. Ah, whence did disappear
My brother twin? Alas! by Love's strange sway,
The matching pair has been divided here,
Eternity, I hope, will bring us near
Within that bed, where never care or trouble lay,
And Trilby sleeps for aye.

O tender friend, bereft of us, what cheer?
Your Trilby's door is fastened night and day,
And Paradise is far, and earth is drear,
(Once soft to us—now light upon her bier),
To find our like thereon—in vain, in vain you'll stray,
Seeking where'er you may.
Nell.

Poor Trilby! who to all was dear;
Her foot am I. And guess who may
Which tender friend, of love sincere
In days of yore, has 'stablished here
This sweet memorial of a day,
That lightest breath may waft away.

A twin was I. Alas! I fear
My brother fell through love astray;
But sometimes, in th' eternal sphere,
We'll meet again—once more be near
On Trilby's couch—wherefrom the ray
Of Virtue bids all malice stay.

Sweet friend, thou'rt gone, and all is drear,
For night has closed on Trilby's day.
And heaven where? Oh! earth austere,
Our gentle mother, on her bier
Rest lightly. Reader, seek alway
Our equals—we are gone, I say.
Neoptolemus.

Poor Trilby! the lovely, dear, and good!
I am her foot. Surmise who will
What fond friend, in a loving mood,
Framed of her, and with true love stood,
This charming remembrance, a whim did instill,
Which a breath would remove.

I was a twin: where is my brother?
Alas! alas! love made us part;
United, I hope, in the great "forever;"
As before, we two shall be together,
At the foot of a chaste bed, troubled by none,
Trilby the sleeping one!

Sweet friend, without us can you exist?
The door is closed where Trilby lived.
In Paradise—on earth, and far away
(Earth, dear to us, to her as bright as day).
To find our like, however hard you strived,
Your wish would be deprived. H.

Poor Trilby! good, and beautiful, and dear!
I am her foot. Guess if you will, and say
What friend, who loved her in a bygone year,
For sake of her (and of a flame sincere)
Framed this fair relic, sudden fancy wrought one day—
A breath will blow away!

Twins were we: why is not my brother here?
Alas! love bade us wander far astray.
Eternity, I hope, will bring us near;
Then once again I shall have found my peer,
Deep in a pure, untroubled bed, where they will lay
Trilby—asleep for aye!

O friend, without us is your journey drear?
Closed is the door where Trilby used to stay.
Heaven is far . . . . and on the earthly sphere
(Pleasant its soil to us, and on her bier
Light will it lie) you ne'er shall find, seek as you may,
Our like in mortal clay! Beaumont.

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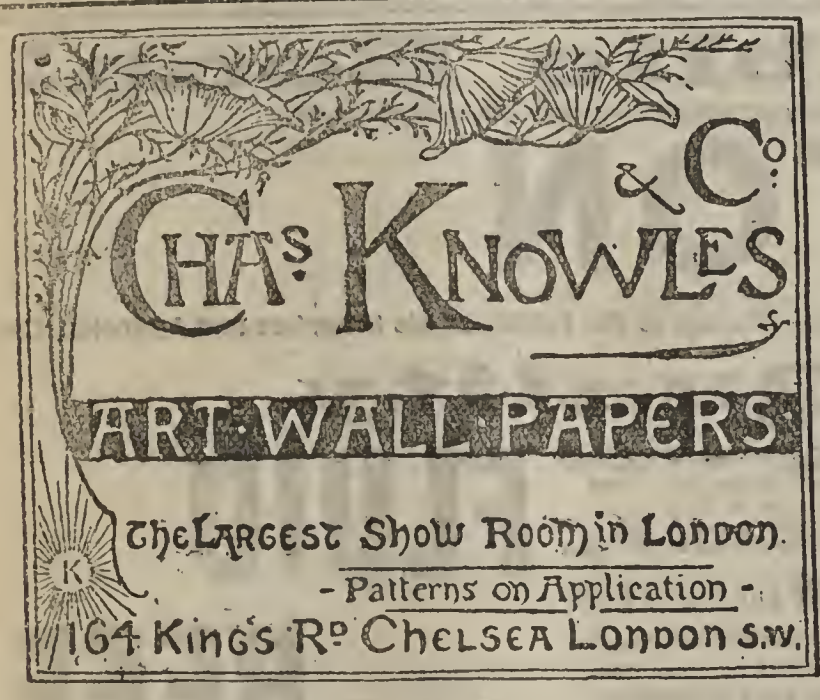

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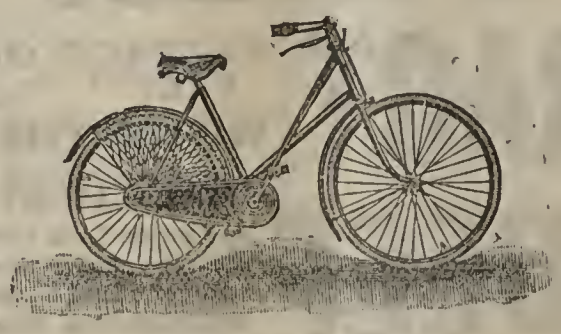
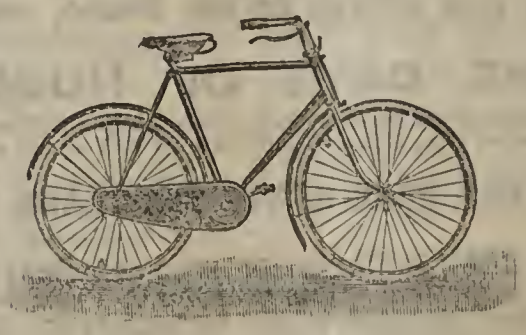


LADY'S ELSWICK.



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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THERE has been a great deal of gossip about the hurried departure of Princess Louise of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha from Cimiez, where she had taken a villa until the middle of May. The real truth is that the Queen wrote to King Leopold, before leaving Windsor, to express her regret that she would not be able to receive the Princess at Cimiez, owing to notorious circumstances, her Majesty's sorrow at the awkward situation being increased by her great and lifelong affection for the Royal family of Belgium, and by her former friendship with the Princess, who has several times been the guest of the Queen at Windsor Castle and at Buckingham Palace. King Leopold thereupon wrote to his daughter, and advised her to leave Cimiez, in order to avoid the vexation and *tracasseries* which must inevitably take place, the result being that Princess Louise departed on the night before the Queen arrived.

The despatch-boat of the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean has been for many weeks in the service of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, and has now taken him to Villefranche. The Duke was ill during most of the time spent in Malta, but made one public appearance on the occasion of the Polo Tournament, when he was accompanied by his physician and German A.D.C. His health is still very bad. The departure of the British ship flying a German flag was witnessed with curious feelings by the British sailors at Malta. Prince Alfred of Saxe-Coburg was with his father on board the *Surprise*, and attended several entertainments in Malta.

The Duke and Duchess of York are to represent the Royal Family at the marriage of Prince Christian of Denmark (eldest son of the Crown Prince) and the Duchess Alexandrina of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, which is to take place at Cannes shortly after Easter.

The Duke of Cambridge returns to Gloucester House this week from Cannes, after a stay of nearly three months on the Riviera. His sister, the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, who has been stopping for several weeks at Mentone, will arrive in town shortly after Easter for the season, and H.R.H. intends to stay in London until the beginning of July.

The German Emperor and Empress have gone to Homburg to spend a month at the Schloss, which was formerly the residence of the Landgraves of Hesse-Homburg, and Princess Elizabeth, daughter of George III., lived there for many years. The Empress, who has been very much out of health for several months, has been ordered bracing air and a complete change, and it is highly probable that she will go to Scotland about the middle of May for a few weeks. The Queen has placed either Abergeldie Castle or Birkhall House (whichever place may be preferred) at the disposal of the Empress if she decides to visit Scotland, and nowhere in Great Britain is the air more invigorating than on Upper Deeside.

The Queen's Household-in-Waiting during April is to be constituted as follows:—Ladies of the Bedchamber: Lady Antrim, Dowager Lady Ampthill, and Dowager Lady Erroll. Lords and Grooms in Waiting: Lords Bagot, Churchill, and Clarendon; Major Harbord, General Godfrey Clerk, and Captain Walter Campbell. Equerries: Sir Arthur Bigge and Lieutenant Ponsonby. During the Queen's stay at Cimiez, Sir Arthur Bigge is acting both as Keeper of the Privy Purse and as Private Secretary to her Majesty, assisted by the other Equerries-in-Waiting. Sir Fleetwood Edwards is taking a holiday, and Sir Arthur Bigge will be absent from Court during the Queen's spring visit to Balmoral.

Lord Elgin is anxious for reasons of health to leave India in a few weeks, and I hear that he will be succeeded as Viceroy by either Lord Ashbourne, Lord Harris, or Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

Lord and Lady Cadogan are not, at present, making a long stay in England. They will spend Easter at the Viceregal Lodge, whither the Viceregal establishment moved immediately on the termination of the Castle season. During the following weeks they have many public engagements to fulfil. The Spring Cattle Show of the

Royal Dublin Society will be held at Ball's Bridge in the week after Easter week. The Punchestown and Leopardstown race meetings are respectively fixed for the 26th and 27th and the 29th and 30th of April. The National race week will, as usual, bring crowds of visitors to Dublin and the neighbourhood. A large party will be entertained at the Viceregal Lodge, from which Lord and Lady Cadogan will attend the races each day in state. All the big houses in the neighbouring counties, as well as in Kildare, will be filled for the week. Sir Peter O'Brien, the Lord Chief Justice, has sufficiently recovered from his late accident—which interfered with his going on circuit—to appear again in the hunting field, and he will have a house party at Castletown for the race week.

The curiously extravagant accounts of the brilliancy of the late "Castle" season in Dublin have caused much surprise and some amusement there. The notices are very rough on Lord Cadogan's immediate Conservative predecessors, Lords Londonderry and Zetland, who certainly did the honours of Dublin Castle with at least as much brilliancy as the present Viceroy does, and did not curtail the "season." "Save me from my friends," Lord Cadogan may well exclaim. Although the age is one of advertisement, there are exalted positions which ought to be out of reach of the intrusion of the sandwich man.

It is satisfactory to hear of the triumph of a cause which has been championed in the pages of Truth. Dublin Castle climbed down some weeks ago with regard to the circular allowing cyclists to take possession of the footpaths in Ireland, issued in Sir Andrew Reed's name to the police. The circular has now been unconditionally withdrawn, and its illegality—as pointed out in these pages—acknowledged. The cyclist in Ireland is still sufficiently dangerous to life and limb without allowing him—or perhaps even more especially her—any extra privileges in that direction. Cyclists, even in the streets of Dublin, are not obliged to carry lamps at night.

The Duchess of Hamilton, who hunted in Meath during the season, has bought a hunting lodge in that county, Ardmulchan. The purchase was completed in the land court last week. Meath is rapidly gaining the position of the happiest hunting ground in Ireland, and, above all, the most fashionable. It is seldom without Royal—foreign, it is needless to say, where Ireland is concerned—patronage, as well as aristocratic. The Duke de Braganza, of Portugal, has again hunted with the Meath hounds all this season.

Parties are being entertained this week for Northampton races by Lord and Lady Spencer at Althorp, and Mr. and Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild at Ascott, while Lady Wilton and Mr. Pryor have a full house at Egerton Lodge, Melton Mowbray, for the Croxton Park meeting and the Quorn Hunt Steeplechases.

The late Lord Charles Kerr was a very famous sportsman and it may be hoped that his diary will be published, as for many years he had kept the most exact records of his angling and shooting experiences, with copious notes on the individuals with whom he had been associated at country houses. Lord Charles was a very fine shot and a beautiful fisherman. He was an excellent *raconteur*, and had many good stories to relate of Court life at Simla and Calcutta; and at Dublin Castle Lord Charles was a general favourite. His death is sincerely and widely lamented.

Mr. Bouverie Primrose, who died last week in his eighty-fifth year, passed the whole of his life at Edinburgh, of which he was one of the best known, most useful, and most popular citizens. Mr. Primrose took a very active part in the promotion of many charitable schemes, and he was a most enthusiastic supporter of the Volunteer movement. Mr. Primrose was appointed by the Whig Ministry in 1839 to be Receiver-General of the Post Office in Scotland, and ten years later Lord John Russell made him Secretary to the Boards of Manufactories and Fisheries, which important post he held until 1882. Edinburgh is mainly indebted to Mr. Primrose for the building and equipment of the Scottish National Gallery, and he also did much to develop the northern fisheries. He was conspicuous for his zeal, energy, and excellent judgment. Mr. Primrose had been in failing health for several years. His death will be regretted by all classes at Edinburgh, as he was one of the last survivors of the brilliant society for which that city was formerly so celebrated. Mr. Primrose had many very interesting reminiscences to relate of Jeffrey, Cockburn, Wilson, Aytoun, and other Edinburgh celebrities of fifty or sixty years ago.

Everything written by James Payn was eminently readable. It is impossible to find a dull page in one of his novels, and his essays and miscellaneous articles were always bright and interesting. His literary career extended over about forty-five years. Mr. Payn was editor of *Chambers' Journal* for many years, at a time when that periodical had an enormous circulation. He cordially disliked William Chambers, but was very fond of Robert, who was really the clever man of the firm. Payn has given an amusing but anything but flattering sketch of William Chambers in his novel, "For Cash Only." Payn was for a long time editor of the *Cornhill Magazine*, and also "reader" to Smith, Elder, & Co. He was himself a charming companion, overflowing with good talk, and full of wit and humour. The plots of his novels were always well-planned, the characters were life-like, and the dialogue was excellent. He was as conscientious a worker as his friend Wilkie Collins, always taking infinite pains with the details of his stories, such as descriptions of scenery and any technical matters.

Mr. James Payn was an almost daily frequenter of the Reform Club, but it is not strictly true, as one or two of his Press biographers have stated, that he was a regular

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 814 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 815.
For Amusements, see page 813.
For Our Puzzles, see page 829.

whist-player there, at any rate of late years. For the last ten years he was a member of the Baldwin Club, and used generally to go there for his whist. It was from the Baldwin, and not from the Reform or Athenæum, as stated by the *Telegraph* and *Standard*, that the four members used to go up to Warrington Crescent every Tuesday and Friday afternoon to make up his rubber.

DO BEES TALK?

(*Vide* a recent discussion in the *Daily Telegraph*).

As to this entomologists cannot decide,
Some think that they do, some the notion deride;
Whilst others are rather inclined to make out
That the question is one that's enshrouded in doubt.
But if on the point you would gain ample light
Just glance at the "House's" debates night by night,
Just notice—wherever the tide of speech rolls—
How you come on the names of a Bartlett and Bowles,
And then "Do "B's" talk?" should one query of you,
You can answer at once "They decidedly do!"

My dear Lieutenant of the *Globe*, you are just a trifle unreasonable. For many a month—if I may believe those who read your paper—you have been abusing me to your heart's content. Some months ago I ventured to suggest that certain charges of treachery that had been brought against the Afridis were absurd. On that you cursed me with journalistic bell, book, and candle, and pleasantly remarked that a person making such a suggestion as I had made was unfit for the society of decent men. Since then you have lost no opportunity of traducing my character. Of all this I have made no complaint. If it amused you, or brought a few additional coppers to the paternal till, I should be the last to object. When, however, I, on my side, take the liberty to comment upon your absurd journalistic performances, this strikes you as singularly "bad taste." You complain now that vulgar and illiterate persons are saying rude things about you in TRUTH without my knowledge. As I understand it, you want me to protect you. Well, I bear you no malice. I fear that you would never have done for the wars; but, as your skin is so tender, I have given orders that you shall be treated with more delicacy in future. When you next require correction, a lady on my staff shall attend to you.

In the meanwhile, let me urge you to amend your ways. I can most sincerely assure you that they are alike offensive to Tories and Radicals, to civilians and soldiers. If you want to fight, go to the wars by all means, but surely you must yourself perceive that mere silly bluster from a post of safety is hardly likely to commend itself, even to the most ardent of fire-eaters.

What the *Globe's* circulation is now I do not know. But I used to hear that it was a large one. This was due, I should fancy, to its having a great deal of news, and a small amount of editorial matter, and this latter, if perhaps a little humdrum, neither vulgar nor personal. It was then under the guidance of experienced journalists. But since you, my Lieutenant, laid down your sword and took up the pen, all this is changed. Let me, in the friendliest spirit, advise you to go back to the old lines, for, if you do not, the paper will lose its position, and—I am afraid—its circulation. Do not forget that the *Globe* has no monopoly, for there are now many ably-edited Tory evening papers.

Having exhausted Warwickshire Worthies, Norfolk Nobodies, Bedfordshire Bounders, and all the rest of them, Mr. Manning Press has now turned his attention to the county of Northamptonshire, and any one desirous of figuring as a "Northamptonshire Leader, social or political," may do so on furnishing the necessary materials, including a cabinet photograph, to the said Press, and ordering five and twenty copies or so of the work when published. I do not contemplate purchasing for myself a niche in this Temple of Fame, and I am glad to find, from sundry communications received, that there is sufficient intelligence among "Northamptonshire Leaders, social and political," to make Press's enterprise a more than usually doubtful one. By the way, the Northamptonshire volume is being advertised in the new name of "Bernard Beaumont, Author," but those who know Manning Press will have no difficulty in detecting him under this disguise.

I have been reading with interest a little shilling novel published by Ward, Lock, & Co., called "An Italian Fortune-hunter." The author is an Italian gentleman—Mr. De Tassinari. It deals with the marriages of English girls with Italian fortune-hunters, and gives, I think, a correct picture of the results of a good many alliances of this kind. Italians are given to falling in love, but when it comes to marrying they are essentially prosaic, and, as in France, the lady is expected to bring something—the more the better—into the joint-stock of the new establishment. Few Italian girls can do this; therefore supply and demand have to be equalised by foreign imports. Mr. De Tassinari selects Florence as the hunting ground, and gives a very good account both of the hunting and of the sort of life which is led by the captured girls in the old country houses in the neighbourhood. Some of these marriages turn out well; others do not. The result depends not only on the husband, but on the wife. The Italian husband is given to gambling. If he is weaned from the habit, he engages in a desperate attempt to remake his fortune by small economies. The wife may not be ill-treated, but her existence, when buried in the country with her new relations, and amid strange surroundings, must be at best a dreary one, especially if the husband happens to be in love with somebody else. Few English girls, after reading Mr. De Tassinari's book, will be disposed to smile on an Italian suitor.

The *Morning Post* one day last week contained no less than twelve advertisements of West End palmists and

A BEAUTIFUL HOTEL AT BOURNEMOUTH.—The "ROYAL BATH." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Sea frontage, 1,000 ft.; grounds, 5 acres. Due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.* Moderate fixed tariff.

fortune-tellers of various classes. If any of these people practised the same line of business in a humble way at area gates, they would speedily find themselves in custody. Should a Commissioner of Police ever arise who will enforce the law without respect of persons, it will be an interesting question whether the proprietor of the *Morning Post* can be indicted at the same time as the fortune-tellers whose advertisements he publishes. The *Morning Post*, after brazening it out for several years, finally yielded to the pressure of public opinion by excluding massage advertisements from its columns. Surely it might at least rise to an equal level of virtue in regard to the fortune-tellers, who are really law-breakers, which the other people were not.

"FOILING" THE EXAMINER.

[The President of the Berlin University has been challenged by a student whom he had found it necessary to "plough" in a recent examination.]

O oft-plucked British Undergrad,
  Here is a welcome innovation
Which you assuredly would hail
  With an effusive approbation.
Failure would lose its sharpest sting
  Were this revenge to be allowed you:
Think with what rapture you would "pink"
  A stern examiner who'd "ploughed" you!

He might not give you marks to-day,
  But you might challenge him to-morrow,
And, with a foil's point, give *him* marks,
  To his protracted pain and sorrow.
Nay, you, if skilled in fence, might make
  Him cut an independent caper
For every "poser" placed by him
  In your examination paper.

So, since examiners are apt
  To unathletic grow and wheezy,
The innovation we report
  Would surely make exams. more easy;
And till examiners were bred
  Whose brain-force was with muscle blended,
We might with confidence expect
  To see the class lists much extended!

Professor Gardner, who holds the Chair of Archæology at Oxford, has gone to America to deliver a series of lectures to various learned societies in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland recently appointed a committee to inquire into the "workings" of a number of Highland parishes. The Presbytery of Inverary sent a "satisfactory report" concerning all the parishes within its bounds, but the Panglossian views of these "fathers of the Church" can scarcely be reconciled with the fact that on Sunday, March 6, the congregation at the Inverary Gaelic Church consisted of three persons, including two elders, while on the 13th a vigorous whip-up resulted in an attendance of six, which, however, included neither an elder nor the precentor. It reminds one of Charles Lever's story of the Government functionary who was charged to report on the attendance at the Anglican churches in Ireland. He went to one church where there were only three persons at the Sunday morning service, consisting of the clergyman, the clerk, and the clerk's mother, and his report was as follows:—"The congregation is orderly and attentive, but not numerous."

Type-writers and Cycles, all makes, for Sale, Hire, or Exchange, at half makers' prices. MS. Type-written.—Taylor's 74, Chancery-lane, London. Established 1884.

Canon Newbolt will on Friday replace Archdeacon Sinclair as Canon-in-Residence at St. Paul's Cathedral, and he is to preach on Sunday afternoons during April. The Bishop of London has arranged to conduct the three hours' special service in the Cathedral on Good Friday. Canon Gore, who has been in residence at Westminster Abbey during the last month, will be on duty there until May 1.

A paragraph has been going round the papers which states that the rectory of Banham, Norfolk, vacant by the death of Canon Garnier, "is, perhaps, the richest living in the gift of the Crown." As a matter of fact, this benefice is in the gift of the Lord Chancellor. The income was formerly about £1,800 a year, but it has been gradually reduced by the agricultural depression, and I am informed that last year the Rector's net stipend was £330, with residence. Canon Garnier, who was a scholarly, hospitable, charitable, and very popular ecclesiastic, was a renowned cricketer when at Winchester and at Balliol. He was a son of the late Dean of Lincoln and Lady Caroline Garnier, and his grandfather was Dean of Winchester for many years.

People seem to me to take very strange and illogical views about Income Tax. I find a good Churchman writing to me now to complain that after he has given an Easter offering to his Vicar, the Vicar has to pay Income Tax upon it. "I have already paid Income Tax on what I give," he says, "and the recipient ought not to be made to pay over again on the same money." But the Income Tax authorities have nothing to do with its being "the same money." The same money may pass, in the course of trade, or in other ways, through a dozen hands in the course of a week, and be rightly taxed as the income of each individual through whose hands it passes. Income tax is a contribution which every individual has to make to the up-keep of the country, on the basis of his receipts from one source and another during the year. What a clergyman receives from the benevolence of his flock is as much income earned by him in his vocation as what I receive from the readers of Truth is the income which I earn in my humble line. Why the clergyman should be exempted, if I am to be taxed, I fail altogether to see.

The Rev. H. F. S. Adams, whose preferment to the living of Emanuel, Streatham Common, was mentioned last week, should have been described as formerly Rector of Branston. For more than three years past Mr. Adams has been Vicar of St. Paul's, Stratford, E., where he is exceedingly popular.

From the days of the Puritans downwards the Bible has been put to many queer uses. Perhaps one of the strangest of them all has just been brought under my notice. It seems that gold-leaf for decorative purposes is, as a regular matter of business, packed in little books made up of the unbound pages of Holy Writ cut to the requisite size for the purpose, and stitched together. A clergyman whose church was being redecorated told me the other day that he found the building littered with these little books, thrown away by the workmen after extracting the gold-leaf. On inquiry of one of the leading firms in the gold-leaf trade, I learn that the practice of packing the material in this way is a well-established one, and that the Bible is selected for this purpose because, as a rule, the type is more evenly set, and the printing generally finer and better executed. On the other hand, I hear from other sources that the use of the Bible is looked upon as a sort of guarantee that the leaf is of the best possible quality.

It appears that the Book of Common Prayer is also employed for the same purpose. What I should like to know is, how the Bibles and Prayer Books are obtained. The firm from whom I sought information informed me that the gold-leaf books are made up and supplied to the trade by an enterprising firm in Birmingham. My informants do not use the Bible packing themselves; but they said that if they wanted these particular books they knew an enterprising gentleman in London who also supplied them, but he was at present an invalid, and inaccessible. It is evident that the books are made up from the sheets in the condition in which they leave the press, and before they are folded. Perhaps, therefore, the printers can throw some light on the mystery.

Mr. E. S. Mostyn Pryce has sent me, "for insertion in this week's TRUTH," a somewhat lengthy letter concerning his dispute with the authorities of the Royal Victoria Hospital, at Bournemouth. I think, however, that without any injustice to Mr. Pryce, I can present his points in a shorter form. He informs me that the governess was told by the matron that she could have the advice she sought upon payment of a small donation to the hospital; that she gave such a donation and saw the house surgeon; and that at a second consultation with another member of the medical staff she was asked for her recommendation ticket. It was only then that application was made for the 5s. ticket, and the application was not made by Mr. Mostyn Pryce himself, though his name was entered on the ticket. "The ticket was afterwards given in," says Mr. Pryce, "to pay for the consultation already given;" and then followed the correspondence to which I referred last week. With regard to the non-appearance of this correspondence in the local Press, Mr. Pryce observes that the editors "civilly agreed" with him that it should not be published.

The details Mr. Pryce gives as to the circumstances under which the ticket was obtained would have had a more important bearing upon the matter had he not in his letter to the Hospital Committee taken up the position that a governess in receipt of a salary of £40 a year and her board and lodging was a proper person to receive treatment at a medical charity of this kind. The Hospital Committee disagreed with Mr. Pryce, and so do I. He complains that the letters addressed to him by the Committee were "hectoring" and "abusive," and he alludes to the "somewhat illiterate secretary" who wrote "surprized" for "surprised." It does not appear to me that there was anything objectionable in the letters which reminded Mr. Pryce that he was not a subscriber to the hospital to which his governess had been sent. Nor do I think, as he seems to do—but then I am not an Inspector of Schools—that a mistake in spelling on the part of the secretary is any serious reproach to the management of the hospital. Mr. Pryce imagines that he was in disfavour at the hospital because "he is known to have shown inclinations to homœopathy." On the other hand, I am rather inclined to conclude from his letters that Mr. Pryce himself had a prejudice against the hospital and its staff owing to his aversion to allopathy.

The Children's Hospital at Bristol has come out with flying colours from an investigation of the charges which have been made against the medical staff, the nurses, and the managing committee. The charges were preferred by a former house surgeon, and were of such gravity, and obtained such credence, that, as was pointed out in TRUTH, an inquiry by an independent tribunal was necessary for the satisfaction of the public mind and in the interests of the hospital. Such an inquiry has just been held by commissioners nominated by Lord Herschell, and the result is a complete and unequivocal acquittal of the accused parties on every count of the indictment. It was much better that the question should be thoroughly threshed out as it has been, so that no cloud of suspicion should any longer rest over the charity.

The latest thing in Irish lotteries is being run by the Convent of Mercy, Kilbeggan, West Meath, and the books of tickets are being sent out in the usual way, accompanied by the usual offer of a premium of one free ticket for every book disposed of. As showing how these things are done, here is a letter addressed by the Mother Superior to a gentleman, who was a perfect stranger, notwithstanding the familiar way in which he is addressed:—

> MY DEAR MR. ———.—Will you kindly purchase the enclosed tickets, only 2s. 6d.? We will feel very grateful, as we are in great difficulties just now, owing to the heavy debt on our convent and schools. If not in your power, *will you ask some child to dispose of them?*

There is an idea over here that it is a bad thing to encourage gambling among children, but I suppose that in the case of gambling for religious objects the end is held (by religious persons) to justify the means.

H. L. SAVORY & CO.'S CIGARETTES.—By Special Warrants of Appointments to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, H.S.H. the Duke of Teck, and the Houses of Lords and Commons. To be obtained of all the leading Houses in the trade.—Sole address, 59, Piccadilly, London, W. Specimen case of samples, containing all sizes, 2s. 6d., with price list.

The extravagant lengths to which General Officers have run of late years in "mentioning" officers in despatches is calculated to bring contempt and ridicule upon the British Army. It was Lord Wolseley who commenced this pernicious custom during his farcical campaign in Egypt. What it has grown to since was shown the other day in the case of the Tochi Valley Expedition. Sir Bindon Blood now reports of the Buner Field Force that no officers were killed, wounded, or missing after the operations; and only one of the non-commissioned officers and men was wounded, none being either killed or missing. The fighting evidently was not severe, but, positively, sixty officers are "mentioned" in the despatch, being a larger number than the Duke of Wellington "mentioned" during the whole of the Peninsular War.

The appointment of a new Commandant of the Staff College has led me to turn up the remarks published in Truth in the autumn of 1894, upon the officering of that establishment. I there came across the following significant passage in a letter written by an officer of considerable standing:—

> The post of Commandant is one, above all, requiring tact, knowledge of men, and of the world. It is alike the most responsible position and the most coveted position for officers of Colonel's rank in the Army. In other countries a similar post is never conferred on anyone who has not proved, by the successful manner in which he has commanded a regiment, that he has a natural ability for ruling men, and that his judgment can be trusted for the important task of selecting those qualified to be future staff officers. . . .
>
> In the appointment of the present Commandant all such considerations were disregarded. He came from fifteen years of uninterrupted Staff service, he had never commanded a regiment, or in fact done any regimental duty since he was a captain; moreover, beyond a fortnight's service in Egypt at the time of Tel-el-Kebir, he had never seen any war service, &c, &c., &c.

Now what of the new Commandant? Colonel Miles joined the Munster Fusiliers in 1867, and served with that regiment until 1881, when, having reached the rank of Major, he was appointed Garrison Instructor at Aldershot. Since then his military career has been passed on the Aldershot Staff, and at the War Office, in the appointments of Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant-General, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General, and Assistant-Adjutant-General. Without wishing to criticise unfairly an officer just taking up a new and important appointment, it is quite certain that if regimental command and war service are desirable in a Commandant of the Staff College, Colonel Miles is hardly the man for the post. Nor does it surprise me, while Staff College appointments are filled up on such principles, that I should have Indian Officers writing to tell me that the Indian Army does not like Staff College men, and can get on better without them.

From many quarters I have received protests against the reported intention of extending Surgeon-Major-General Gore's appointment as P.M.O. in India. Although many Service men speak in praise of the P.M.O.'s administrative ability, there seems to be a general opinion that his appointment was a job in the first instance, and that there is no good reason now why he should not make way for those whose time has come to succeed him, more especially as he has recently received a good service pension of £100 a year, to which his title was questionable. This is a fair and reasonable view of the case, which I trust will commend itself to the Indian military authorities.

The Government have at last definitely promised that the Army Medical Service is to be organised as a special Corps, and that medical officers shall hold ordinary military rank in that Corps. This will, I trust, remove some of the worst of the grievances under which the Army surgeon has been groaning so long and so loudly. Modesty forbids me to mention the share which Truth has taken in bringing about this desirable result; but should Army medical officers feel under any obligations to me on that score, I trust they will show it by relieving me for a brief period of the necessity of ventilating the grievances which they will, no doubt, continue to cherish.

The lamentable state to which the Army Medical Department has been reduced is shown by the fact that the Director-General is compelled to apply to the authorities of the London hospitals for assistance. In explanation it is stated that the large demand for Medical Officers required for duty in Egypt and Africa (South and West) has thrown a great strain upon the Army Medical Staff in this country; and, owing to the impossibility of obtaining the entire services of ordinary general practitioners, the Secretary of State for War has sanctioned the employment of a certain number of young civil surgeons to take charge of troops in the United Kingdom. This appeal to the London hospitals is, to say the least, undignified, and it is to be hoped that the great Departmental reform now promised will obviate any necessity for repeating it.

Mr. Brodrick made a promise last week that the suggested reduction of the term of office of the Director-General A.M.D. from seven years to five should receive the consideration of the Secretary of State for War. It may assist Lord Lansdowne in his deliberations if I remind him of the singular fact that there is not, at the present time, a single ex-Director-General living. The recent occupants of that post have died very shortly after retiring, which seems to show that they must have been pretty nearly used up before they came to the end of their term of office.

Is it the correct thing for a staff-sergeant M.S.C., in charge of a Station Hospital, to employ a tailor who happens to be under his care, on his own private work, paying him for the job? I hear of a case of this kind from a Depot near London, where the tailor, during the time he was in hospital, was employed in "turning" a pair of trousers for the staff-sergeant, at the modest price of one shilling. It seems to me that, for Medical Staff Corps N.C.O.s to

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make use of patients in hospital in this way, is a practice which must readily lend itself to abuse, and if not contrary to regulations it ought to be made so.

Some months back a considerable sum of money was expended in fitting up a stage and scenery in the dining-room at Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, the money coming from the Patients' Library and Recreation Fund. The ostensible object of this expenditure was to provide concerts and amateur theatrical performances for the benefit of the patients, but for some reason or other, after one very successful concert was given, the idea seems to have dropped, and the room and stage have been unused for some months, even the entertainments which have been got up for the amusement of the patients in former years having been abandoned. There is an impression among many of those connected with the Hospital that this is due to the resentment of some one in authority at a paragraph having appeared in TRUTH in reference to the unceremonious appropriation of the canteen piano for the dancing classes of the officers' children. For the sake of all concerned I trust that this impression is erroneous. At the same time it would be interesting to know why the entertainments have been dropped.

Here is another interesting story from Herbert Hospital. Some time ago one of the gardeners asked for a supply of insecticide to destroy green fly and other pests in the greenhouse, which was filled at the time with a large stock of bedding-out plants. There was no insecticide in stock, but the Medical Officer who had to deal with the application, brought his scientific knowledge to bear upon the emergency, and ordered a case of compressed sulphur dioxide to be opened in the greenhouse. The result was most satisfactory, so far as the insects were concerned, every one of them being exterminated. Unfortunately, all the plants were killed, too.

Some time ago, when doing away with the appointment of commissioned officers as paymasters of pensioners, the Indian Government ordered that such posts were to be filled by honorary commissioned and warrant officers on small salaries. This order seems to have become a dead letter in many places, numerous vacancies having been filled up by civilians who had friends at headquarters in a position to pull the strings. The last case of the kind has occurred at Vizagapatam, where a civilian has been appointed to a vacant paymastership in preference to a retired warrant officer residing in the place, who had applied for the post. The original order on this subject was a just and reasonable one, and the Government ought to see that it is carried out.

Should the War Office ever see their way to modify the present regulations regarding sergeants' pensions, I would suggest to them that it would be a more equitable arrangement if service as lance-sergeant were allowed to count towards pension. Here is a case which shows the hardship of the present rule. A man with four years' service is promoted to lance-corporal. From no fault of his own, but purely through the accidents of the Service, such as drafts coming out from the home battalion, and transfers from other regiments, he does not get promoted to full sergeant till he has completed ten years' service. He ends up his time with 11¼ years' service as full sergeant, and three years as lance-sergeant. He has practically been doing sergeant's duty for over fourteen years, and he has been seventeen years an N.C.O., but he retires with 3d. a day less pension than a man who has just completed his twelve years' service as full sergeant. Of course, the line must be drawn somewhere; and on the borderland close to either side of the line there will always be cases of comparative hardship, wherever it is drawn. But the hardship would be much less if the deduction for the full pension were more gradual—say if in the above case the man was only docked 1d. per diem instead of 3d.

I remarked last week that among the many classes of non-commissioned and warrant officers who have been specially agitating of late for a share in the increased advantages of the Army, there are some few who seem to have claims to consideration. Among such may be mentioned the squadron-sergeant-majors of cavalry, who were formerly troop-sergeant-majors. These men took their present rank without increase of pay, but with a promise held out to them that they would, in course of time, become first-class staff-sergeants, in which rank they would have had an extra 3d. a day on retirement—*i.e.* 2s. 9d. instead of 2s. 6d. as at present. There are large numbers of them who have gone on from that time up till now without obtaining the promised advancement—some of them men who have served from fifteen to twenty years with the rank of sergeant-major. There are not a great many of them, and to give them all the extra 3d. a day on retirement would not hurt the taxpayer much.

Here is a striking instance of the injury done to soldiers by the arbitrary way in which characters are awarded on discharge. A gunner in the Royal Artillery took his discharge in September last at Calcutta. He had completed seven and a half years' service, and had two good-conduct badges. He had not a single "drunk" recorded against him in his service, and the most serious crime in his record was one case of absent without leave for five days in September, 1892. The only other entries against him were (1) for absence for a few hours without leave; and (2) for not being properly shaved. On his discharge, however, the C.O. declined even to mark his character as "good," but consented to mark it as "latterly good." The man came home, and found, as might be expected, that he was unable to obtain civil employment with this character.

But now comes the unkindest cut of all. The man in question, whose name is W. E. Buckland, applied recently, under the new regulations, to be allowed to rejoin the colours. He received a reply from Dover on the

23rd inst. that, "on account of his character on transfer not being sufficiently satisfactory, his application to rejoin the colours could not be entertained." So that a man who has only had two or three trumpery entries against him in the whole course of his service, and has left the ranks with the maximum possible number of good conduct badges, is actually considered unfit to re-enter the Army. I hope that this case will be looked into by the official at the War Office who has the task of investigating complaints made through the columns of TRUTH. It strikes me that if the War Office are really anxious to improve the opportunities of soldiers for obtaining civil employment after discharge, they should lay down some stricter rules in regard to the giving of characters.

In a communication which I published three weeks ago on the subject of recruiting, it was suggested that to increase the present supply of soldiers it is desirable that recruiting-sergeants should work the country districts more thoroughly than is done at present. This suggestion has been endorsed by two or three of my Service readers. One of them remarks that in the present day a scarlet coat is scarcely ever seen in many country districts, even the soldiers from the villages, when home on furlough, usually going about in a blue serge fatigue jacket, which, when with the regiment, would only be worn in barracks. It is also suggested that if recruiting-sergeants go through country villages they at any rate should wear a smarter uniform. Everybody who knows anything of the subject seems to agree that the uniform has more than anything to do with drawing youngsters into the Army.

It may interest, and possibly benefit, my friend "Tommy Atkins" to see himself as others see him. For this reason I take the following criticisms on T. A. from a letter written by an officer, who seems to be genuinely solicitous for the welfare of his men :—

> I have always done my best to understand the men in my charge, to be in close touch with them, to grasp their grievances and their pleasures, and, in short, to be as much as I can their real friend and adviser. I must say that, as a rule, they are a most estimable class, with, of course, the inevitable sprinkling of "bad hats," of whom one can make nothing. The majority, however, are cheerful, contented, hard-working, and good fellows all round. My own individual command I will back for intelligence, smartness, and efficiency against any other command of the same class.
>
> But for all that "Tommy" has his delusions and his weaknesses, against which I feel qualified to warn you. For instance, do what you will, many men are firmly convinced that officers derive considerable pecuniary advantage from canteens and regimental institutes. It is a most discouraging thing to try and "run a show" for "Tommy." He *will* persuade himself that no one ever takes any trouble for *his* benefit, and consequently he gives little help in any way. Canteen waiters cheat, give trouble, and commit innumerable irregularities; they sneak coppers which ought to have gone into the tills, supply their pals with free drinks, and give the canteen committee (who often have to sit up at nights puzzling over accounts) any amount of trouble, and all because they believe that officers always cheat them when they get a chance. This is my experience.
>
> Again, if you fed "Tommy" on turtle soup and caviare he would persuade himself that it was adulterated and bad, and frequently refuse it on that ground. I have known a whole mess turn up their noses at a brand of brawn supplied for their breakfast. They flung it out of the window and sulked, and nursed the grievance for a long time. Yet at that very time the same identical brand was used and highly appreciated in the officers' mess! This is a fact. What on earth can one do in such cases?
>
> I am far from maintaining that a soldier's ration is as large as it should be. The quality is generally excellent, certainly far better than ninety per cent. of the men have been used to before enlistment. The quantity, however, would bear increase with advantage, especially the meat ration. . . .

There is some grumbling at the Guards' Depot at Caterham about an order under which barrack-room windows are to be kept fully open during the day, and partially open during the night, no fires being lit until 4 p.m. No doubt, fresh air in a barrack-room, both by day and night, is highly desirable, but it can hardly be desirable for men coming in hot from sharp exercise out of doors to sit in a draughty room without a fire, in such weather as we have been having lately. Bad colds are said to have been very prevalent at Caterham Depot during the last few weeks, and if this is so, it does not seem difficult to find the cause.

A publican at a certain garrison town recently received the following communication from the Officer Commanding the Sierra Leone Emergent Detachment Royal Artilley :—

> Complaints having reached me to the effect that my men are allowed to enter public-houses while improperly dressed, and are served with liquor, please note that, if at any time men are found on your premises improperly dressed—that is to say, without round cap, belt, and gloves—application will be made to have your house placed "out of bounds."

This is a strange way of keeping up military discipline. If the officer in question is unable to keep his detachment properly dressed by the ordinary means at his disposal, and finds it necessary to enlist the services of a publican for that purpose, the least he can do is to offer the publican a reasonable remuneration for the purpose. It would be a highly edifying spectacle to see a detachment of Artillery parading outside a public-house, and being inspected by John Barleycorn before receiving permission to enter and quench their thirst.

It was stated in TRUTH the other day, in reference to the Royal Indian Marine, that life insurance companies charge a higher premium to officers of the R.I.M. than to men in "any other service or occupation in India." The statement is contradicted by the representative of one large company, who says that, so far as he knows, no English company having a branch office in the East lays down any special rate for officers of the Indian Marine, as distinguished from other branches of the Military and Naval Services. On inquiry I find that this is undoubtedly true of certain offices. My information came from an officer of the R.I.M., so that I suppose there is some office which imposes the extra premium he mentioned. If that is really so, other officers in that particular branch of the Service should understand that they can easily insure without paying any such extra premium.

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I hear that sailors serving with the Mediterranean Fleet are being swindled by representatives of English firms, who sell to them watches, chains, and jewellery, as presents for their friends at home, merely obtaining the orders by exhibiting a catalogue, with the understanding that the goods will be sent by the firm direct to the parties for whom they are intended. In one case a man paid three guineas for a watch as a present for his mother. When it arrived, the watch would not go, and on being taken to two Manchester firms to be valued, was priced by one at 15s. and by the other at 10s. It is said that the agents who sell these things are allowed to go on board the ships at Malta. If that is so, they ought to be stopped. If the orders are merely obtained from men on shore, it is most desirable that they should be warned against buying goods in this way.

It is reported from Gibraltar that a Sunday or two ago, just before leaving for a fortnight's cruise, Admiral Stephenson signalled to the Channel Squadron that Wesleyans and Presbyterians would land for Divine service at a given hour, but that Roman Catholics would not land. Such an order is bound to create a most undesirable impression, the attendance at Mass on Sunday being far more obligatory on Roman Catholics than it is upon any Protestant sect; and if such an order was really given, as to which, I believe, there is little room for doubt, the matter requires some further notice. There are something like a thousand Roman Catholics under Admiral Stephenson's command, most of them West of Ireland men. The naval authorities ashore will not allow them to have Catholic chaplains on board, and if the naval authorities afloat will not allow them to go to church on shore, such a course will not be very encouraging to recruiting, either in Ireland or any other place where Roman Catholics are numerous.

From one or two letters I have received it would seem that some of the Outdoor staff of the Excise are rather inclined to chuckle over the growls from the Chief Inspector's Department anent the recent appointment to an assistant secretaryship at Somerset House. There is an idea that favouritism is not unknown in the Chief Inspector's Department, and the discontent of the Outdoor service at the manner in which the examinations for promotion are conducted by the inspectors has by no means disappeared, though the memorial presented last year wrought some improvement. The fact that the Outdoor branch has its grievance against the Chief Inspector's Department does not, of course, make the latter's grievance as to the assistant secretaryship any the less real and substantial. At the same time, there still appears to be ground for complaint respecting the examinations for promotion, and probably it will not be removed until these examinations, like those for the Customs, are conducted by the Civil Service Commissioners. Why cannot this be done?

The Coming Easter Holidays.—Bexhill-on-Sea.—Sackville Hotel. High-class house, moderate charges and all modern improvements. Wurms' Viennese Band daily. For tariff apply Manager.

Here is the latest display of red tape from St. Martin's, le-Grand. Until a few weeks back, people who changed their addresses could have their letters re-directed by the postal authorities for a year, on duly filling up a certain form. Beyond that time the new address used to be "borne in mind as far as possible" for letters arriving for the old address. Now, however, unless a fee of one guinea is paid for a further twelve months' re-direction, communications to the old address, arriving after the first year, will go to the Dead Letter Office. To see how this works, suppose Jones, a well-known tradesman of Leeds—or some other town—changes his business from one street to another in Leeds. After the expiration of a year, if he does not choose to pay an annual guinea, letters to "Jones, Leeds," will be delivered at the new place, while if they are directed to Jones at his old address they will be shunted into the Dead Letter Office. This is really one of the finest anomalies that the G.P.O. has ever produced, and its originators must be highly pleased with it. But in the interests of the public, whom the Post Office is supposed to serve, the regulations on the point should not remain as they are.

A CAUTION TO "SIMPSON."

The British Cow is no longer in peril. For the present, at all events, the threatened invasion of the intrusive Cow of France is "off."—*Morning Paper.*

The swamping tidal wave of milk which was to flow from France,
No longer threatens: so the British Cow has one more chance;
Our London milkman even yet his evil ways may mend,
And something more resembling milk may to his victims vend.

Yes, if he's wise he'll take to heart the warning thus conveyed;
He'll, tardily repentant, cease from his old tricks of trade,
And recognise the important fact, at present lost on him,
That even Cockneys do not care to pay "milk" price for "skim."

As to the good old British Cow, 'twas scarcely fair to say
That *she* was placed in peril or had cause to feel dismay;
The good old British Cow is safe—the one that needs to quail
Is that dishonest animal that has the iron tail

How should an election of overseers be conducted? The Sunbury Urban District Council had to elect three overseers, and the Chairman put, one by one, the names of the retiring officers. Each received the votes of a majority of the Council, and the Chairman thereupon declared them duly elected, notwithstanding the fact that previous to this a fourth candidate had been proposed and seconded and a fifth proposed. A protest was made, but the Chairman refused point blank to submit any other names than the three which he first put to the meeting. The Clerk also refused to record on the minutes

propositions which had not been put from the chair. It would be interesting to learn whether these proceedings were in proper order, and especially whether the election of overseers is valid.

A story is going about in Nottingham that the Mayor is to be presented with a Lambeth degree by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in recognition of his distinguished services on the occasion of the Church Congress. Should a degree be conferred on such grounds, it would only supply an additional reason for abolishing by Act of Parliament these absurd and delusive distinctions. The Lambeth degree, owing to the way in which it has been abused, has never had any value as a mark of learning or academic distinction; and if it is to be conferred by the Archbishop on any citizen who happens to render a service to the Church, in the same way that the Sovereign would bestow a knighthood, it is reduced to the level of the decorations sold by Sturman or the American degree dealers.

The procedure of the Society upon the Stanislaus seems to be imitated with tolerable success by the Bangor Town Commissioners. Last week a little discussion was started upon a statement of the rate collector that a number of ratepayers would not pay their rates because the rates of some of the Commissioners were also not paid. It was a topic which by an easy transition led from words to blows. One member knocked another member down by what is described as "a swinging blow on the temple," and then the fight quickly became general, no fewer than five Commissioners being at one time huddled in a heap on the floor, and freely striking out at each other with their fists and feet. "When the combatants regained their feet," continues the report, "each at once armed himself with the nearest available weapon;" but they seem to have had nearly enough of fighting for that day, and in a short time "pacific counsels prevailed." If it is nothing else, municipal life in Bangor—needless to say, it is the Bangor in Ireland that is referred to—is, at any rate, exciting.

Evidently the Tiverton Corporation does not aspire to be regarded as a "model employer," nor does it consider that the trust and responsibility attaching to a situation should be among the factors which determine the amount of the salary. An advertisement is appearing from the Borough Accountant's office for a clerk and collector of the gas accounts, at a salary of £1 per week; and, lest this munificent wage should fail to place him above temptation, he is required to insure his honesty by obtaining a "guarantee" of £100. Of all kinds of sweating, sweating by public bodies is surely the most odious and reprehensible.

The intelligence of the ratepayers of Cullercoats is about to be put to a curious test. At the County Petty Sessions at Tynemouth, on March 14, a certain Andrew Taylor, an insurance agent, was fined the maximum penalty of £5 for being concerned in making false statements to a relieving officer, with the object of obtaining relief from the Board of Guardians for a woman named Harrison. Within a few days of the conviction this same Taylor was actually brought forward as a candidate for a seat on the very Board which he helped the woman to impose upon! The cost of such an imposition would fall, of course, upon the ratepayers, and it will be interesting to see whether the electorate justify the opinion of their judgment which is implied by this amazing nomination.

An interesting exposition of the ways of the Irish Grand Juries was given in County Cork a few days ago at the hearing of certain applications for compensation for malicious injuries. The applicant alleged that two buildings and a rick had been successively burned by some evil-disposed person or persons, but a number of ratepayers opposed his claim, and, in addition to other witnesses, called the District Inspector of the Constabulary and two other officers, who had investigated the circumstances of the fires, and who expressed very decided opinions as to the real identity of the incendiary. The Grand Jury, however, lightly brushed aside the police evidence, and awarded the applicant compensation to the amount of £45, and this the cesspayers would have had to pay, had not the presentment been taken before the Judge at the Assizes and quashed on a technical point. The way in which the Grand Juries dispose of matters of this kind, coupled with the jobbery and corruption for which they are notorious, make it hardly surprising that their approaching abolition is hailed with delight by the Irish people.

Another very instructive incident has occurred in connection with the same Grand Jury. It seems that a resolution on the financial relations of Great Britain and Ireland was brought forward, but withdrawn at the suggestion of the foreman, Sir R. U. Penrose Fitzgerald, M.P. As a similar resolution was passed last year, the High Sheriff has felt it incumbent upon him to write a letter to the Press in order "to clear *my Grand Jury* from a very grave charge of inconsistency," which he attempts to do by stating that they have not in any way led him to suppose that they have changed their minds, and that the recent resolution "was withdrawn (mistakenly, perhaps) solely with the intention of obliging the foreman." "My Grand Jury"! The Grand Jury is, of course, supposed to represent the county; but apparently from the tenor of this letter it is really expected to be the mouthpiece of the views of the High Sheriff. My readers will remember that the same idea prevails in County Clare.

There have been frequent protests against the systematic and shameful overloading of the Southampton tramcars, but the scandal continues unabated, and a correspondent

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of a local paper states that in one instance a few days ago nearly ninety passengers were packed into and upon a car constructed to carry only forty. This was on the hilly road to Shirley, and the consequent cruelty to the horses can be easily imagined. It is apparently useless to appeal to the humanity of the Company; and the police are said to be powerless. Why? Is it possible that a town like Southampton, which prides itself upon its enlightenment and its prosperity, is actually without any by-law or regulation to limit the number of persons conveyed in these vehicles? If so, it is high time the authorities rectified the omission, and put an end to a practice which is a disgrace to a civilised community.

The wonderful unanimity of police evidence is usually ascribed to perverted *esprit de corps* among the men; but the observations made last week by Mr. Ashby, the Chairman of the Teddington Bench, raise the question whether it may not be due to a more potent and sinister influence. In a recent case of drunkenness at Teddington a constable named Keen said he considered the defendant was not incapable of driving his horse and cart, while two other constables considered that he was incapable. The magistrates convicted, but at the same time expressed the opinion that Keen had given his evidence quite fairly. Keen has since been dismissed from the Metropolitan Police, in which he had served for fourteen years, and Mr. Ashby suggests that his dismissal is the outcome of the evidence he gave on this occasion. "If the Chief Commissioner considered it necessary," said Mr. Ashby, "that one constable should always back up the testimony of another, the less police evidence they had the better it would be for the administration of justice."

It is utterly incredible that the Chief Commissioner himself would countenance such a notion. It would be, however, idle to pretend that that feeling does not prevail in the Force, or even that it is confined merely to the rank and file, and there is nothing inherently improbable in the suggestion that Keen's dismissal was prompted indirectly, if not directly, by the motive suggested. Mr. Ashby has done good service by calling attention to the case, and unless some satisfactory explanation is forthcoming, it will greatly intensify the scepticism with which police evidence is at present regarded. The fear of dismissal from the Force would often do much to explain why one constable's story is so amazingly like another's.

The need for a Court of Criminal Appeal is strikingly shown by the case of one George Young, formerly an attendant at Gateshead Workhouse. In November, 1895, Young was convicted of a serious crime and sentenced to ten years' penal servitude—a heavy punishment, but if he was guilty scarcely too heavy. Owing to evidence which subsequently came to light, the Home Secretary in October, 1896, released Young on ticket-of-leave This was followed up last July by an order relieving him of the supervision of the police and unconditionally remitting the remainder of his sentence. No free pardon was granted, however, and in a recent letter the Home Secretary says he is unable to entertain an application for one.

Why not? It is clear that the Home Secretary would not have liberated Young, and cancelled his convict's licence, unless he had been convinced either that he was innocent or else that there was a doubt about his guilt, and in the latter case, as much as in the former, the man is surely entitled, according to the principles of English law and justice, to the free pardon for which he has applied. Up to a certain point the revision of sentences and rectification of miscarriages of justice are carried out very well by the Home Office. But in such a case as this, a properly constituted Court of Appeal would have either quashed or affirmed the conviction, and avoided a result so transparently inconclusive and illogical.

Last April I gave an account of the hard case of a man named Marshall, who having bought a cottage and garden at Ettington, near Stratford-on-Avon, as freehold property, afterwards received a demand for the payment of 2s. a year rent to Mr. Shirley, the Lord of the Manor. As the property was conveyed to him as freehold, Marshall declined to pay the rent, and he was ultimately sued by Mr. Shirley in the County Court. The Judge excluded evidence which would have set forth that the Lord of the Manor's interest in the land on which the cottage was built was abrogated by a local Enclosure Act of 1795, and judgment was given in favour of the plaintiff. Marshall was then given notice to quit, but—possibly because of certain legal difficulties which were pointed out in these columns—the notice has not been put into force. He is now, however, again summoned for a year's rent, and, as he is a poor man, I have been asked if he cannot be helped to resist what seems an exceedingly questionable claim. I can only commend the case to the consideration of the societies which are interested in the reform of the land laws. It should supply a very useful object-lesson for their propaganda.

Mr. Kershaw, who is to replace Sir John Edge as Chief Justice of the North West Provinces of India, has been for several years one of the leaders of the North Eastern Circuit, having previously practised at Leeds in the local courts. Mr. Kershaw is a sound lawyer, and his appointment has met with general approval, as he is very popular in the profession. The post is worth Rs. 60,000 a year, the headquarters being at Allahabad. Sir John Edge retires on a pension of £1,500 a year, after twelve years' service in India.

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The most notable feature of my Legal Pillory this week is the preponderance of cases in which scandalously inadequate penalties have been imposed for acts of cruelty to animals. The magistrates, paid and unpaid, seem to have overflowed with mercy for the torturers of dumb beasts. At Exeter the defendant was let off with a caution, and at Clarbeston, Southport, Chesterfield, and Liverpool, mere pecuniary penalties were inflicted, though if they had had their deserts every one of the offenders would have been sent to prison for a suitable term without the option of a fine. To understand why Justices' justice has become a by-word, it is only necessary to compare the sentences in these cases of cruelty and the cases of assault in the same column with those meted out for such crimes as the theft of a loaf, the poaching of a few rabbits, and vagrancy by sleeping out:—

Exeter City Police-court. Before Messrs. J. W. Petherick, W. H. Dunn, R. R. M. Dow, and H. Gadd. Frederick Bolton, cattle drover, charged with ill-treating four bullocks. It was stated that he beat the beasts most unmercifully and unnecessarily. Dismissed with a caution.

Clarbeston Police-court. David Davies, charged with cruelty to a mare belonging to his employer. He tore and mutilated the animal's tongue in a shocking manner, splitting it down the middle, severing about two inches of the tip of the tongue, and smashing other portions to a pulp. The Bench considered that it was a most revolting act of cruelty. Fined £4 16s. 10d., including costs.

Blackburn Police-court. Before Messrs. J. A. Watson and E. Rushton. Richard Walmisley, charged with assaulting his wife. He went home drunk and thrashed her, blackening her eye and cutting her nose. Fined £2 and costs.

Chesterfield County Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. A. Barnes, W. Barnes, C. G. Busby, and J. Pierce. William Carlton, charged with ill-treating a pony. The pony was about 30 years of age, and could scarcely walk. Defendant beat it till it fell down exhausted, thrashed it about the head till it got up again, and then ran it against a stone wall. He had been previously summoned for cruelty. Fined £2 and costs, or one month.

Portsmouth Police-court. Before Major-General C. P. Catty and Mr. B. Bramble. Patrick Gallagher, charged with assaulting Alfred Wm. Hodges. Complainant was knocked down and given some heavy blows on the head, several of his teeth being knocked out. Fined £1.

Liverpool Police-court. Before Mr. Stewart. David Rogers convicted of cruelty by starving a mare. The animal was in a shocking condition and had to be destroyed. Fined 20s. and costs.

Exeter City Police-court. Before the same magistrates. George Heale, labourer, charged with stealing a loaf of bread from a hand-cart. He said he took the loaf because he was hungry. Fourteen days.

Bedford Divisional Petty Sessions. Before Major Higgins, Major Dubertis, Messrs. L. C. R. Higgins, and W. H. Allen, and Rev. P. W. Wyatt. Wm. Westley, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of rabbits and nets when searched on October 15. Fined £5, or two months.

Fareham Police-court. Before Messrs. W. H. Deane, C. E. Radclyffe, F. Stapleton-Brotherton, and Colonel H. P. Farquhar. Wm. Walker, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. One month.

Gosport Police-court. Before Colonel C. M. Longmore, Colonel L. G. Rodney, Messrs. P. H. Foard Harris, and G. Cooke. Thomas Stanton, charged with stealing a coat and waistcoat. Prisoner called evidence to show that he was drunk at the time he committed the theft, and that he had hitherto borne a good character. Fourteen days.

Aberdare Police-court. Before Messrs. R. H. Rhys, D. E. Williams, G. George, and Dr. D. Davies. J. McCarthy, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Cranbrook Petty Sessions. Wm. Jackson and Charles Smith, charged with stealing two hop poles, value 3d. Seven days each.

Leek Police-court. Before Mr. J. Robinson and other magistrates. Thomas Hodges charged with poaching three rabbits. Fined £2 7s. 6d.; in default fourteen days.

Nottingham Police-court. Before Messrs. W. Lee and J. T. Spalding. Samuel Taylor, convicted of assaulting Caroline Burton. He seized her by the throat and kicked her on the leg and on the head, causing severe bruises. The Bench said it was a very brutal assault. Fined £2, including costs.

Southport Police-court. Before Mr. T. O. Clinning and other magistrates. Joseph Marsh, coal dealer, charged with cruelty by working a horse whilst it was in an unfit state. The animal was lame, suffering from disease of the lungs, generally emaciated, and very weak. It had to be destroyed. Fined 5s. and costs.

Brackley Borough Petty Sessions. Before the Mayor and Mr. E. Hopcraft. Thomas Sayer, navvy, charged with stealing a piece of mutton from a shop. Fourteen days.

Berks Petty Sessions, Windsor. Before Messrs. T. Clarke and H. O. Tudor. John Price, a coloured man, charged with breaking a plate-glass window. Two months.

Stamford Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. H. Knott and H. T. Betts. Benjamin Pickwell, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Burton Police-court. Before the Mayor and other justices. Alfred Thompson, labourer, charged with stealing a piece of bacon, value 1s. 7d. Two months.

Burnley Police-court. Before Mr. W. C. Hargreaves and other magistrates. Joseph Entwistle, charged with stealing some pieces of bread from the workhouse. Some of the inmates gave him the bread, which they had saved from their own allowance, to take home to his starving children. Fourteen days.

All praise to the Goole Bench for the excellent good sense they exhibited last week in dealing with some prosecutions of small shopkeepers under the Lord's Day Observance Act of Charles II. Their worships denounced this musty old Statute as an absurdity which ought to have been long ago repealed; and they let the defendants off with fines of threepence each including costs, payable in six months' time. If magistrates would always take this course—that is, unless they refuse to convict at all—the Act would soon be dead and buried.

A man named Joseph Morrell has just been the victim of a gross and inexcusable blunder at the Aston Police-court. On February 18, Morrell was brought up on a warrant for the nonpayment of money due to his wife under a maintenance order, and the case was adjourned till March 18 for the payment of £1 12s. towards the amount claimed and for the defendant to have an opportunity of taking out a summons for the reduction of the weekly allowance to his wife. Unfortunately the record of the adjournment was indistinctly written on the magistrate's charge-sheet, and the officer who copied the entries on to the police sheet took the date to be March 8 instead of March 18. There was no sitting of the court on March 8, but on the following day the case was heard and adjudicated upon in the absence of the defendant, and he was sentenced to a month's imprisonment in default of paying the money. Three days before the 18th the defendant, who was in complete ignorance of what had been done, went to apply for the summons for the reduction of the order, whereupon he was at once arrested under the warrant which had been issued on the 9th, and committed to gaol for thirty days.

The next development of the case was on March 18, when the defendant's solicitor attended at the Court, and discovered that the matter had been disposed of on the 9th, and that his client was in prison. The solicitor protested, and intimated that he should apply for a habeas corpus—an intimation which had a prompt effect;

Subscriptions greatly needed by The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—6,929 convictions this year; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

for within a few hours he was informed by an official from the Court that Morrell had been liberated. The Aston Shallows have since refused to give any explanation of these strange and discreditable proceedings; but the wrong inflicted upon the defendant is too monstrous to be passed over without further notice. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Home Secretary will take the matter in hand, and ascertain, first, who is to blame for the extraordinary error by which the date of the remand was altered, and the defendant tried in his absence; and secondly, by what means and under what authority he was released from gaol.

The decisions given upon two recent bogus club prosecutions at Barry Dock Police-court appear from the reports to be inexplicably inconsistent. In the first case the secretary and the steward of the club were fined £40 each and costs, for selling beer without a licence. A precisely similar charge was made against the secretary and the steward of the other club, and the evidence was of precisely the same character, the police having raided the premises and found that the majority of the persons present had not qualified as members by paying their subscriptions, and that rules as to visitors and the allowance of credit had not been kept. If anything, the case against the second club seems indeed to have been the stronger of the two, for it was alleged that the steward was drunk and that the members frequently misconducted themselves; whereas no complaints of that kind were made against the first club. Nevertheless, after imposing the above-mentioned heavy penalties in the first case, the Bench dismissed the second without any penalty whatever. To reconcile the second decision with the first or with the facts, is quite impossible, and it can only be regarded as another instance of the skimble-skamble way in which justice is dispensed by the Great Unpaid.

A surprising disclosure was made in the course of a case under the Licensing Acts at Devonport last week. The defendant was convicted of having been drunk on licensed premises, and the question arose why the landlord of the house was not summoned for having supplied the man with drink. The explanation of the Chief Constable was that though he considered the landlord ought to have been summoned, the Watch Committee had decided otherwise. In Devonport, it transpires, the Watch Committee have arrogated to themselves the right to say who shall and who shall not be prosecuted for any offence under the Licensing Acts, and they are generally credited with being extremely indulgent to the publicans. The system of allowing such a body to deal in secret with cases which ought to be publicly tried is entirely irregular, and most mischievous in its results. The Chief Constable is the proper person to decide whether a prosecution should be instituted against a publican or anybody else, and if the Devonport Chief Constable has the courage of his duties and responsibilities he will in future insist upon doing this, regardless of the interference of the Watch Committee. It is true he is their servant, but he is also the servant of the State, which pays half his salary, and the Home Office can be relied upon to effectively protect him from the wrath of the publicans' friends.

An action to recover the sum of £12 2s. was recently disposed of in the City of London Court, and the plaintiff's costs have been taxed at £20 12s. 2d. What the defendant's costs are, goodness only knows. Considering that the learned Judge of the City of London Court has a morbid horror of costs, and always does his best to provide cheap justice, these figures give some idea of the monstrous scale on which County Court costs in general are assessed.

There are people who always find bad motives in the actions of those with whom they are not pleased. A defendant was brought last week before one of the City magistrates for allowing his dog to go unmuzzled in the streets. He was angry with Mr. Walter Long, as the original cause of his being fined. He therefore informed the magistrate that there is no muzzling order in Devonshire because Mr. Long's mother-in-law lives there. As a matter of fact, I believe that she does not; but that is a detail. What amused me in the accusation was its very far-fetched character. Mr. Long can muzzle or unmuzzle dogs. There is no muzzling order in Devonshire. His mother-in-law lives there. All sons-in-law hate their mothers-in-law; consequently, Mr. Long hates his. He therefore allows dogs to run about without muzzles in the county in which the lady resides, in the hope that rabies may become prevalent there, and that a mad dog may bite her, in order that she may die of hydrophobia. What could be more conclusive and self-evident?

In his warning to the public against "free gift" advertisements, the Commissioner of Police might with advantage have included sundry members of the quack fraternity—notably those who prey specially upon the deaf. Several references have been made in Truth to the Nicholson Aural Institute advertisement, which offers to the public the benefit of an apocryphal bequest of £1,000. Another quack of the same kidney trades under the name of J. H. Moore, M.D. (U.S.A.). Moore makes an offer of gratis treatment to those who wish to test his skill; but, in order to enjoy "three months' free treatment," you have to pay 32s. 6d. ("the lowest cash price") for the instrument by which the treatment is administered. It would be a good thing if the medical authorities, instead of harrying unqualified assistants, would devote themselves to obtaining some legislation for the protection of the public against the quacks who now prey on the public with impunity.

With reference to the advertisements of the man Kempe, referred to in Truth of the 17th inst., the Editor of the *Illustrated Church News* asks me to say that the advertisement which appeared in that paper was

Ernest's American Cycling Skirt.—4,650 sold in New York last season, and the sale in London promises to be even greater.—185, Regent-street, London.

received in the ordinary course of business through an agent, and was stopped after its third insertion in consequence of a complaint received from one of Kempe's victims. I gladly mention this as an example to those journals which are still publishing Kempe's advertisement. There are many swindlers preying upon the deaf, but Kempe's method appears to be the most simple and unscrupulous of them all. It is, in fact, plain, undisguised thieving, and Kempe ought long since to have been dealt with by the police.

It is somewhat disheartening to find that the emissaries of the "Rev." J. Gamble, the Liverpool charity-monger, are still cadging about the country. A full account of this Gamble's history and philanthropic exploits was given in Truth in May last. It was there shown that, even judged by his own published account, Gamble's "Evangelistic and Social Society" was an impudent sham, the bulk of the money collected (nearly £1,600 a year) being expended on the collectors and the working expenses, Gamble himself drawing in one year £219. It was also shown that these accounts, discreditable though they were to him, had been drawn up by an accountant from whom Gamble withheld the vouchers for his expenditure; that Gamble had deliberately altered the balance-sheet in important particulars after the auditor had prepared it; that many of the facts and figures given were utterly incredible; and that Gamble's career had been one disentitling him to all credit as a dispenser of other people's charity. The Truth exposure had the effect, for the time being, of suppressing many of Gamble's collectors, and I was in hopes that the man was snuffed out. But it is necessary to go on dinning such facts again and again into the ears of the public, before any effectual impression is made.

The latest news about Gamble's collectors comes from Leeds, which has always been one of his favourite hunting grounds. A lady has been going from house to house there recently, collecting what she can get. In response to questions, she admitted that she is on a salary of 9s. per week, and that if her receipts exceed 30s., her salary rises to 12s. In other words, this collector is actually receiving 8s. for herself out of every pound which the public give her for charity, an even worse state of things than that described in my articles last year. This woman is working not only at private houses, but among shopkeepers, and she has even been round a bank collecting money from the clerks. She boasted the other day, when interviewed, of having collected 5s. in one day from the clerks at a certain bank, which shows the extent to which her receipts must run.

It may perhaps be said that people who part with their money like this to the first plausible female who comes to them in the name of charity deserve to be imposed upon. But, on the other hand, it must be remembered that Gamble's collectors are furnished with books, that they represent a charity with an imposing name, and can produce, if required, balance-sheets ostensibly vouched for by a chartered accountant; so that it is not surprising that they should deceive many people who are fairly circumspect in their almsgiving, and honestly believe that they are assisting a good work. I would suggest to the Leeds papers that they should warn their fellow-townspeople against this impudent imposture, and it seems high time that the police in various towns gave their attention to Gamble's collectors.

The fashion among professional philanthropists seems to be setting at present in favour of house-to-house collection, rather than the old system of touting by circular, which Walter Austin and others brought into such disrepute. It is easy to see that the house-to-house plan has many advantages for the shadier class of charity-monger. The impostor who begs by circular is obliged to commit himself to definite statements in writing, and should he be charged at a police-court, *litera scripta manet.* It is a difficult matter, on the other hand, to found a charge upon any statement made casually in the course of conversation by a personal canvasser.

Again, while it is an easy matter to chuck a begging circular into a waste-paper basket, it is often a difficult thing to say No to an importunate lady collector. If she knows her business, she can only be got rid of either by downright rudeness or a subscription; and the chances are that she gets a small contribution of some kind from five out of six of the people on whom she calls. These considerations are quite enough to explain the development of collecting by lady canvassers as shown in the case of Gamble, and in the cases of Chubb Jackson, and H. W. Street, more recently described in Truth. For the same reason it is all the more necessary that the police should keep a sharp eye on these ladies. It strikes me that most of them could be dealt with under the existing laws for repressing mendicancy. If not, those laws should be amended.

The mere mention of Klondike is sufficient to make a good number of people forget the most elementary principles of business caution. Consequently, every petty swindler takes advantage of this fascination to attempt to conjure cash out of the pocket of some dupe or other by deft or clumsy use of the word. Here is the latest specimen of this application of the swindler's art, though I can scarcely imagine that any one would be fool enough to intrust the Professor with sixpence in the hope of realising a fortune in return:—

> Grand Klondike Syndicate.
> Insignificant investments producing gigantic results.
> The promoter, Professor Carona, F.B.I.M.S., being about to form an expedition to start shortly for the purpose of acquiring some most valuable property in the richest goldfield in the world, is anxious to admit others to a share of the vast profits likely to accrue therefrom. He is therefore issuing shares of 6d. each, but any number can be taken.
> Please, therefore, send your remittance to Professor Carona, 1, Peel-place, Kensington, and then send a copy of this letter in its entirety to two friends so that they may do the same, and in their turn send it on again to two of their friends. Remember that by so doing you will enormously increase the value of your own share and your consequent chance of success.
> The subscription being so small there is no risk and unlimited prospects.
> N.B.—Please copy this *word for word* and send a copy to at least two friends, asking them to do the same.

How many of these snowball letters Professor Carona,

F.B.I.M.S., has sent out I do not know, but it is perfectly obvious that if the inducement proves sufficient there will be no need for the Professor to form his expedition to the Yukon—he will have discovered a Klondike much nearer home. As to Professor Carona himself, he is, I believe, a professor of the occult, making a subsistence by revelations of the character of the ordinary man as disclosed in handwriting for the modest fee of eighteenpence. In this business he has for some time past made use of 1, Peel-place, Kensington—a newsagent's shop—as an accommodation address. He is of so retiring a disposition, in fact, that in order to learn anything more about him, I have been compelled to seek the assistance of his own art. The eminent graphologist whom I have consulted informs me that the character of the writer of the letter is of no uncommon type. He appears to be constitutionally incapable of earning a livelihood by honest industry, though gifted with a certain amount of low cunning allied to an instinctive knowledge of the weaknesses of the more ignorant of his fellows. Still, he has plenty of impudence, and it is quite upon the cards that, encouraged by small successes, he will eventually embark upon some larger enterprise with disastrous results. I feel that to add any comment of my own to this luminous study of the Professor would be superfluous.

The *Daily Chronicle* has been publishing some interesting articles upon the life of London shop assistants. It might with advantage extend its researches into the case of the employees of some of the large "stores." Many of the rules in force at these establishments are of the most tyrannical character. The following are taken from the regulations of one large establishment owned by a limited company, and they may be accepted as typical of the conditions imposed by nearly all firms of this class:—

(1) Every assistant to permit himself or herself to be searched whenever called upon by an officer of the company

(2) Every assistant subject to instant dismissal, or instant resignation, for breach of regulations, or at the employer's will.

(3) A fine of 10s. if away through illness, unless doctor's certificate arrives before 10 a.m.

(4) No pay during illness.

(5) If late twice to be discharged.

(6) No extra pay for late work at seasons of extra pressure—*e.g.*, during the Christmas season, when work is frequently continued till midnight.

These are not the rules of East End sweating dens, but of West End establishments doing a large trade with the richest customers in the world. It is amazing that in these days labour can be obtained on such terms.

A paragraph in last week's Truth on the subject of street noises has brought me several letters from residents in the West End complaining of the increasing nuisance caused by newspaper boys, especially in residential districts. Here is a sample from a resident in the neighbourhood of Grosvenor-square:—

No one wishes to interfere with the circulation of papers or news, but every one is complaining about the bawling and disorderly behaviour of the men and boys who sell the papers. Take this district, for instance, where the apathy and indifference of the police are greater than anywhere else. A gang, some with newspapers, some without, but all howling the same, work regularly between 8 a.m. and up to the small hours of the following morning, from Piccadilly up Bond-street, Bruton-street, across Berkeley-square, up Mount-street and the adjoining thoroughfares, and then back again to Piccadilly, running or standing in the middle of the pavement, hustling and jostling every passer-by, insulting people at the slightest opposition, and respecting neither age nor sex.

Sunday is not even a *dies non*, for before 9 a.m. men *with barrows* take up a position near the Coburg Hotel, and all through the morning, church time or not, they howl "Ob-zah-vah!" and the police simply look on and smile.

There is no doubt that this nuisance has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished. The proper way to deal with it is by adopting the Parisian kiosque system generally in London. In the meantime, however, the police have power to restrict the annoyance to a certain extent, or if they have not, they ought to obtain it.

Why does not the Lord's Day Observance Society enter on a crusade against Sunday labour in schools? The father of a boy at Bedford Grammar School sends me a Divinity paper which has been set at this school as one Sunday's work. It contains five stiff questions, which I should think would involve a couple of hours' steady grind. When a boy has done this, in addition to his normal allowance of chapel and prayers, it looks doubtful whether his love of Sunday, or of the Scriptures, will be increased.

I take the following from the *Boston Courier*. We must not laugh at the patriotic "official choir" of Americans, for is not much the same thing going on here, and are not many who, if war transpires will keep clear from "combat dire," shouting that "war has got to come, by Jinks"?—

Nightly in the village store,
Hankerin' for Spanish gore,
Chafin', like they can't hold in
For the combat to begin,
Ephra'm Guy an' Gab'el Blare,
Hi' an' Hezekiah Dare,
Joshua Zeal an' Zeb Maguire,
Snort their patriotic fire.

War's proclaimed, no matter what
President McKinley's got
To declare about the thing,
For we've heered the eagle sing
Through the land's official choir—
Joshua Zeal an' Zeb Maguire,
Hi' an' Hezekiah Dare,
Ephra'm Guy an' Gab'el Blare.

War has got to come, by Jinks!
Carnage cut in sausage links
Is the pattern of remains
That is destined to be Spain's.
So hev screamed in frantic ire
Joshua Zeal an' Zeb Maguire,
Hi' an' Hezekiah Dare,
Ephra'm Guy an' Gab'el Blare.

An' when Freedom's fires are lit
An' the fight is bein' fit,
You will find in village store,
On the nail kegs as before,
Far removed from combat dire,
Joshua Zeal an' Zeb Maguire,
Hi' an' Hezekiah Dare,
Ephra'm Guy an' Gab'el Blare.

Despite the enthusiasm and unanimity of the Mansion House Conference, there is little prospect at present of success for the scheme for the acquisition of the Crystal Palace by the nation. Everybody may be willing to admit that it would be a national misfortune if the place were closed and the ground sold for building sites; but everybody may not be so ready to dip into the national purse to the tune of three-quarters of a million; more especially

when the threatened calamity is no longer so imminent as it was. The provinces would probably raise strong objections to an expenditure which, though they send many thousand visitors to the Palace, would, after all, be mainly for the benefit of Londoners. There is, moreover, another scheme afoot which promises to give the Palace a fresh lease of life; and until this has been given a trial, it is hopeless to expect that any progress will be made with the proposal advocated at the conference last week.

In view of the fact that the revised treaties will next year bring foreigners in Japan under the penal jurisdiction of the Japanese Courts, the British community in that country is at present manifesting a lively interest in the accommodation of the gaols and the treatment of prisoners. Judging from an article in the *Kobe Chronicle*, this agitation is by no means unreasonable. The article describes the conditions under which an accused person may be incarcerated, without any possibility of obtaining bail, for from fifty to one hundred days, before he is brought to trial. The cell is a sort of cage, unheated, and unprotected from the winds in winter, and intensely hot and stuffy in summer. Prisoners of all classes—respectable and clean, filthy and degraded—are sometimes packed together so closely that there is not room for each to lie down at full length on the floor where they sleep, and the whole arrangements are loathsome and revolting in the extreme. There is, as we have lately been reminded, plenty of room for improvement in English gaols, but the Japanese appear to be in this respect in a state of primitive barbarism.

The newspapers some time since briefly recorded the refusal of the Government of Hong Kong to allow Dr. Sun Yat Sen to land in that colony. The official letter which was addressed to him is decidedly interesting. Here is the text of it:—

HongKong, Colonial Secretary's Office,
October 4, 1897.

Sir,—In reply to your letter, undated, I am directed to inform you that this Government has no intention of allowing the British colony of Hong Kong to be used as an asylum for persons engaged in plots and dangerous conspiracies against a friendly neighbouring Empire, and that in view of the part taken by you in such transactions, which you euphemistically term in your letter "emancipating your miserable countrymen from the cruel Tartar yoke," you will be arrested if you land in this colony under an order of banishment issued against you in 1896.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. H. Stewart Lockart,
Colonial Secretary.

Dr. Sun Yat Sen is, I scarcely need explain, the Chinese reformer whose incarceration at the Chinese Embassy in London, with a view to his shipment to Pekin, created so much sensation a year or two ago. This country has, perhaps, fallen back from some of its old ideas with regard to political refugees, but still neither the law nor public opinion would tolerate such a gross outrage as the Chinese Minister attempted, and the Foreign Office had perforce to insist on the release of the prisoner. The British Government could not refuse him the right of refuge here, or allow him to be kidnapped and removed to his own land. But it is clear from the above letter that Governors of British Colonies can do things which the Government at home dare not attempt. In Hong Kong, indeed, the declaration of the House of Commons in favour of the independence of the Chinese Empire has been anticipated. In order to maintain that independence we are, it seems, to aid and abet the Chinese Emperor in his endeavours to prevent reform, and to persecute any reformer; just as we were to join in forcing the Cretans to accept the rule of the Turk in Crete.

Exaggerations have wrecked the best of causes. There was a meeting last week against gambling, intemperance, and impurity. Speaking on the first, the Rev. H. Price Hughes said that gambling, whether for a farthing, or for half-a-crown, or for any other sum, is a sin, and that no blessing will come upon money got that way. The latter phrase I do not quite understand. If a man wins a shilling, and spends it in getting a shillingsworth of food, this food, if fitted for his digestive apparatus, will nourish him, and in that sense will be blessed. God's rain, we are told, falls upon the just and the unjust. In regard to gambling, there is no sin in playing, say, a game of whist—for stakes of such an amount that their loss or gain can in no way affect the players. Nor would there be any sin in two persons betting one farthing on the colour of the next omnibus, if their means allowed them to risk the farthing. The object of the meeting was apparently to call attention to the facilities afforded to persons to risk injury to their prospects by betting on horse races. Many would agree that this is an evil, but exceedingly few would agree with Mr. Hughes' farthing creed.

Another gentleman—an Archdeacon—dealt with intemperance. He wanted, he said, Sunday closing. Now, there may be arguments in favour of this, but as a matter of temperance there is no question that it would be far better to have Saturday-evening closing. Rarely, in London, at least, is there much drinking on Sundays—certainly nothing in comparison with the drinking on Saturday evenings. In Wales, where there is Sunday closing, what has been the result? There has been more drinking on that day than heretofore. Men join together to buy a barrel of beer, and, having bought it, they proceed to drink it. Thus secret drinking is substituted for open drinking, with the result that more is drunk.

As a Radical, I believe that the inhabitants of a locality should have a right to deal as they please with matters alone affecting the locality. This is the line on which I have always urged the advocates of Temperance to fight. Those who hold that the sale of spirituous liquors should be universally prohibited may be right or wrong, but they are in the minority; whereas those who hold that the whole question of the regulations affecting the sale of spirituous liquors should be in the hands of the inhabitants of each locality are in the majority. The Temperance

Surplice Shirts for evening wear, with pique fronts, 9/6, 10/6 each, made to measure.—Sampson & Co., Shirt Tailors, 268, 270, Oxford-street, London, W. Price lists forwarded.

Party have spent vast sums, and it cannot be said that they have not been zealous in their cause. But what is the result? Never was the liquor trade more powerful. This is due to the tactics of the Temperance men; and until they alter them, they are doomed to failure.

Apropos of the recent dispute respecting the administration of a parochial charity at Awre, near Gloucester, a local correspondent tells me that in the same place there is another charity for the benefit of the poor in the shape of an annual distribution of some forty tons of coal. It is understood that a load of this coal goes to the National schools, another load to the church, a third to a man employed at the church, and much of the remainder to church-goers who are comfortably off in comparison with some of their fellow-parishioners, who are not church-goers. To prevent such abuses, all charities of this kind ought to be placed in the hands of the Parish Councils or other representative local bodies; but after the result of the division last week on Mr. Strachey's motion, it is, of course, hopeless to expect any movement in that direction, so long as a Tory majority remains in the House of Commons, with a larger Tory majority behind it in the House of Lords.

The demand for legislation to repress the evils of usury becomes stronger with each successive sitting of the Select Committee. It is true that the remedies suggested by the witnesses differ in details, but all are agreed that a change in the law is required, and the general opinion seems to be that it should take the direction of registering (and possibly licensing) money-lenders, and empowering the judiciary to revise extortionate bargains. Mr. Justice Mathew in some respects goes beyond the proposals of previous witnesses. In the case of unsecured loans, he would, as I understand his evidence, make 10 per cent. the maximum rate of interest which could be recovered in a court of law; while in the case of money lent on bills of sale he would limit the interest to 5 per cent. This would at once wipe out of existence such bloodsuckers as Gordon, Shuckburgh, and Kirkwood, greatly to the benefit of the community.

It would seem from the statement of another witness, County Court Judge Snagge, that it is to the House of Lords the usurers are indebted for the facilities for deception and fraud which the bill of sale system affords. A former Bill of Sale Act required every such instrument to be attested by a solicitor, but the House of Lords removed this safeguard from the most recent Act, so that, as the Judge said, the document may now be attested by the clerk or creature of the money-lender. The result is that, though the bill of sale is supposed to be read over before it is signed, illiterate and ignorant people are constantly imposed upon as to the real terms and the real character of the document.

I observe that Mr. Justice Mathew entertained the Committee by reading one of the abusive letters which that unconscionable scoundrel, Isaac Gordon, is in the habit of addressing to his victims. The letter in question is in a printed form familiar to readers of Truth; but here is a new specimen of Gordon's engaging epistolary style. It is from a letter recently written to a tradesman at Northwich, who had borrowed £129 and paid back £154. Gordon sued him for an additional £56, and when £30 was offered in settlement he thus replied:—

> I beg to say that the writ remains strictly in full force, and I mean to put the bailiffs in and also make you bankrupt if necessary. You can consider yourself pretty fortunate that I was not in when you had the impudence and audacity to call here yesterday, as I can assure you you would have had a very warm reception had I been in, as I would have promptly sent for a policeman to have you ejected, as people of your sort should be treated just like dogs, which is also too good for them. . . . I would not lend you one more copper at present, not even to save your miserable life, even if you kept on writing me till you got black in the face.

Among the most detestable of these "predatory vermin"—I thank Judge Snagge for teaching me that phrase—are those who make a special business of ensnaring bank clerks. Here is a letter lately addressed to a clerk in the London and County Bank:—

> 31, Nickolas (*sic*) -lane,
> Lombard-street, E.C.,
> March 15, 1898.
>
> Dear Sir,—Your name was recently given me by a friend, and I now write you to ask you if you could do with a private advance. I can do it for you the same day as applied for with easy monthly repayments. I have an office at the above address, and can see you there at any time by appointment.
>
> Yours faithfully, A. Burton.

A bank clerk is almost invariably liable to instant dismissal if he is found dealing with a usurer, so that when he is once caught he makes an exceptionally easy subject for bleeding and blackmailing. One practitioner in this line, who calls himself "J. W. Court," has already been examined before the Select Committee. Burton's letter shows that "Court" does not enjoy a monopoly of the practice.

I hear from Mashonaland that things are not looking up in that region. My correspondent tells me that the gaoler has been fully occupied in hanging natives, but that, strange to relate, this is not increasing the affection of the natives for us. They are restless and likely soon again to break out. In the meantime, the police force is thoroughly rotten. The officers are incompetent, and the men are dissatisfied.

We frequently see general statements of the blessing that our occupation has been to Egypt. That the administration of the law is better I do not doubt, but that the individual Egyptian has materially profited is questionable, in view of the following figures from "Government of Egypt Statistical Returns: 1881-1897." The number of Egyptians in Egypt was, in 1881, 6,725,033; it is now 9,621,837. The number of foreign residents has risen from 90,886 to 112,566. The increase in the case of the former must obviously be in children, yet the taxation per head of population, which in 1881 was £1 2s. 2d. per head, is now 17s. 9d., which would make the taxation, taking the family as the unit, considerably higher. The gross receipts from taxation have gone up

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£1,072,943; the total receipts from all sources of revenue (and all this comes from the Egyptians) have gone up above two millions. The total revenue of the country which comes into the hands of the Government now is £11,442,937. Of this only £93,778 is spent in public instruction, as against £83,243 in 1881, although the population is half as large again. Expenditure on the army has, however, largely increased. In 1883 it was £246,914. In 1888 it was £386,138; in 1897 it was £589,347. What it amounts to when the expenditure on the Soudan expedition is included is not stated. In addition to this the Egyptians have had to pay between 1883 and 1897 £1,668,771 to us for the cost of the British garrison. Pensions cost in 1881 £279,914; in 1897 they cost £411,031. The debt is at present about what it was in 1881.

As regards the additional benefits which British commerce derives from the import of goods to Egypt through our occupation the figures are still more striking. In 1881 the imports amounted to £7,986,024; in 1897 they amounted to £10,603,672, or an increase of £2,627,648. Of this increase £976,015 is derived from tobacco and cereals and vegetables, which obviously do not come from us. Deducting these items, the increase in imports is, therefore, £1,649,633, and, in view of the way in which Germany has been cutting into the open markets, I greatly doubt whether British commerce has derived any extension in Egypt from the occupation. One item is curious. In 1881 the importation of textile goods was £3,055,868. In 1897 it was £3,526,666; but in every year previous to 1897, it had fallen below the figure of 1881.

In 1881 the exports amounted to £12,982,508; in 1897 they amounted to £12,321,219, so that there is an actual falling off. The export of cereals and vegetables is set down at £2,389,630, and the imports at £1,196,403, though why the Egyptians should at the same time export and import them is not explained.

The only persons who really seem to have gained by the occupation are the bondholders. Their bonds have gone up in price. If a prior year to 1881 be taken, every Egyptian bondholder would be shown to have gained cent. per cent. The low price of the bonds and the fall in their price were the primary causes of our occupation of the country, and in this sense the occupation may be said to have been successful. The great mass of the British nation are not, however, Egyptian bondholders.

I have often protested, on general principle, against the Premiership and the Secretaryship for Foreign Affairs being in the same hands. Now that Lord Salisbury is being denounced as a Minister not up to the Jingo mark, the *Times* has discovered that the real reason why the Unionists have not greatly prospered at the by-elections is that Lord Salisbury is the occupant of both these posts. He is, therefore, ordered to "devolve the work of the Foreign Office upon one of his colleagues." On which colleague it is not said. Were I to place Party before country, I should echo the ultimatum of the *Times*, for I am convinced that such a transfer would greatly weaken the Government. The Unionists have a gentleman in their Cabinet who, I make no doubt, awakes every day in astonishment that his transcendent qualities as a Foreign Secretary and as a Premier have not yet been recognised. He certainly, of all the Unionist Ministers, approaches the nearest to what, according to the *Times* and other Jingo papers, a Foreign Secretary should be. Is it on his behalf that this attack is made upon Lord Salisbury, at a time when, like many others, he is temporarily down owing to influenza?

"READY, AYE, READY!"

Scene.—*The Room of the Secretary of State at the Colonial Office.* The Right Honourable J*s*ph Ch*mb*rl**n *is discovered, as the curtain rises, perusing the first leader in the "Times" for Monday last. As he reads the words,*

> "Practically we have no Prime Minister and no Foreign Secretary,"

he throws down the paper, springs excitedly to his feet, and proceeds to thus give vent to his feelings:—

And if this be our parlous state to-day,
If we have neither—what's the reason, eh?
Is it because no statesman can be found
To make the British Lion's roar resound?
In England's name new triumphs to decree?
No, that is too absurd, for there is *me!*
Or, rather, "*I*" (though, at a time like this,
Bad grammar adds a kind of emphasis).

Is it that no Elisha's near to dare
Elijah's mantle (double-caped) to wear?
Are there no shoulders fit for it in fine?
Pooh! that is nonsense. Pray, are there not *mine?*

I can't conceive what 'tis the *Times* is at:
It grumbles daily; growls at this and that:
Declares the country's honour is its aim,
And yet refrains from mentioning my name.
I am prepared to freely risk my all
Should England call me—but she *doesn't* call;
Gladly I'd undertake her mighty task
If she would ask me—but she *doesn't* ask.
Mere stop-gaps muddle on, and I meanwhile,
Must mask my yearnings with a bitter smile;
They of my talent don't possess a tithe,
Yet in inaction I'm left here to writhe.
(*Sounds heard without.*)
But ah! a footfall! That must Jesse be,
Come in, old friend!
(*Enter* Mr. Jesse C*ll*ngs.)
Well, have you news for me?
What do they talk of at the clubs to-day?
Is my name mentioned?
Mr. Jesse C*ll*ngs (*bitterly*): Nay, dear master, nay!
Mr. Joseph Ch*mb*rl*in: Now this in strangeness surely all outstrips,
My name, by rights, should be upon all lips.
Short-sighted England! how much longer, pray,
Will you refuse to see your only way.
The Hour has struck; be wise, then, if you can,
And recognise I, Joseph, am the Man!

He throws himself again into his chair and proceeds to further vent his pent-up feelings by commencing another despatch to President Kruger—*a regular "scorcher"—as the scene closes.*

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SCRUTATOR.

PEACE OR WAR?

MR. CURZON has stated this to be our policy in regard to China:—

1. Maintenance of the integrity and independence of China;

2. Preservation of our treaty rights under the Treaty of Tien-tsin of 1858, viz., to pay no higher tariffs than other foreign nations, and all ports within the dominions free to our friendly ships of war;

3. Preservation of the most favoured nation rights.

We took Hong Kong, by means of war, from the Chinese. The place is at once a commercial *entrepôt* for our goods, and a fortified naval station for our warships. We have, a few weeks ago, agreed to Germany obtaining from China a lease of Kiao-chau as an *entrepôt* for German goods, and a fortified station for her warships. At present, Russia has obtained a lease of Port Arthur as a fortified station for her warships, and of Ta-lien-wan as an *entrepôt* for her goods. Both these places are in Manchuria, which is a territory outside China Proper, but forming part of the Chinese Empire; and Port Arthur cannot be made a safe naval fortified port, without the possession of Ta-lien-wan. Our warships are to be allowed entrance into the port of Port Arthur, precisely as Russian warships may enter the port of Hong Kong. Ta-lien-wan is to be a commercial free port, *i.e.*, no tariff beyond that permitted by our treaties with China is to be imposed.

Russia is building a railway across Siberia, which is on the high way to completion. She has hitherto had no port on the Pacific which is free from ice in winter. Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour have declared that her endeavour to secure one from China is reasonable and natural. Obviously, as the port is to be the eastern terminus of her trans-Siberian railway, this railway must run through Chinese territory in order to reach the terminus. What grounds, then, have we to complain of the lease of Port Arthur and Ta-lien-wan to Russia, or of the permission granted to her to make a railway to those places? The integrity and independence of China is no more affected by these concessions, than it is by our possession of Hong Kong, or by the lease to Germany of Kaio-chau. That Russia, having the terminus of her railway in Manchuria, and having a railroad through Manchuria to that terminus, will exercise a considerable influence in that territory, I make no doubt. But this is the result of her geographical position. Our commerce with Manchuria is practically nil, because it is a country almost barbarous. If Russia exercises a civilising effect on this region we shall commercially profit, for it must not be forgotten that our commerce with Russia, notwithstanding her high tariffs, is greater than that which we have with the whole of China. What Lord Salisbury seems to have done has been to hold fast to our commercial treaties which make China Proper a free trade area. These treaties have never been contested by any foreign Power, and so long as they are not we may rest satisfied with our relations with China.

We are told by our Jingo Press that we ought to inform Russia and China that unless the lease by the latter of a commercial and a military port to the former is abrogated, we shall make this a *casus belli*, and every effort is being made to get up a war feeling in England by these journals.

Let us suppose that we were to declare war against Russia. What would happen? In the Far East we should sweep the sea of all Russian warships. But we should not be able to land a force in Manchuria able to cope with Russia on land. She would, therefore, remain absolute master of that country. As she has not had time to convert Port Arthur into a strong fortress, we might occupy the harbour with our ships, but we could not do more; for if we tried to entrench ourselves on land, we should find ourselves under the guns that Russia would bring up. What would happen on our Indian frontier? Russia has already a railroad by which she can move troops to within striking distance of Herat. She would mass an army there. As Herat is on the northern side of the mountains that defend our Indian North-Western frontier, the advantage in a struggle for Herat would be on the side of Russia, and Herat would fall into Russian hands. Probably she would not attempt to invade India, but we should have to be prepared for such a contingency, and this would cost us and India much money. In the Mediterranean, both we and Russia would be stalemated. We should not be able to enter the Black Sea, and Russia would not be able to leave that sea. She would comfortably, therefore, convey the products of her Southern Provinces to a market by means of her railroads and her ships or those of neutrals in the Black Sea. In the Baltic we should be able to blockade her ports. But the only result would be that she would send her products to German ports over the railroads which connect these ports with her Empire. Our carrying trade in the Black Sea and in the Baltic is worth above 20 millions to us: this we should be deprived of As a matter of fact, consequently, we should lose more by a war than Russia. She is a self-contained country, having no colonies as hostages to fortune. Our maritime supremacy would be of no benefit to us.

The silly dolts who advocate war fancy that we should have allies. Where should we find them? German and French sympathy would be on the side of Russia. Japan? She wants Corea. Russia, by agreeing to her having it, would make a friend of her, and she would remain neutral in the struggle; indeed, it seems that she has done this already. The United States? Does any one suppose that the Americans would go to war with Russia in order to aid us to hinder her from having a lease of Port Arthur? If so, they know exceedingly little of the policy of the United States. China herself would side with Russia. It must not be forgotten that Russia stood her friend when she was at the mercy of Japan. Russia, with her huge armies, and her frontier marching with that of China, is far more dangerous to China than we are. Li-Hung-Chang, the ablest of

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Chinese statesmen, seems to have perceived this. We might, it is true, seize on Chinese territory. But this is contrary to our policy, which is not one of territorial expansion in the Far East. And were we to do this, Germany and France would follow suit. The result, therefore, would be that China would be split up into spheres of influence. In ours, there would be Free Trade; in those of the other Great European Powers, we should be confronted with hostile tariffs; for we are convinced Free Traders, and they are convinced Protectionists. It is doubtful whether we should really gain by securing a naval fortified post in Northern China, for many naval men hold that it is better to make Hong Kong our one naval fortress in the Far East. The war, therefore, would, so far as we are concerned, be one—to quote a French proverb—*à qui gagne, perd;* and any seizure of Chinese territory by us would be more to the advantage of others than to ourselves. In fighting, or in annexing territory, we should, in fact, be engaged in the folly of cutting off our nose to spite our face.

At present our military resources are heavily strained to meet the exigencies of defence, and those of our absurd policy of adventure in Africa. In a war with Russia this strain would be increased a hundredfold. In warring against Russia for Manchuria, we are warring against the logic of events. Did any sane human being doubt that the outcome of the trans-Siberian railway would be that Russia would secure a foothold in Manchuria? Lord Salisbury has recognised this as inevitable. Does any one doubt that, when this railroad is built along its entire length, this foothold will be consolidated?

Were we in the geographical position of Russia, and had we built this railroad, should we not do precisely what Russia is doing? The railroad alters the conditions of things in the Far East. It overturns the paramount position that we have occupied there owing to our naval supremacy. But we can no more alter this than we can convert dry land into sea. If we can secure that China proper shall form an area of Free Trade, we ought to rest satisfied, for this really meets all our commercial requirements. It is said that with Port Arthur Russia has China at her mercy. If this be true, she has China at her mercy already, for the possession of a port in Manchuria is not necessary to enable her to march her troops into Northern China should she feel disposed to do so. If China were an island, or if she were separated from Europe by impassable deserts, this would be, perhaps, to our advantage. But neither the one nor the other is the case. The position seems to me, *mutatis mutandis*, very much like that which existed when Central Asia consisted of independent Khanates. It was then urged that we should make any advance of Russia in the territory occupied by these Khanates a *casus belli*, because this brought her within striking distance of India. But it was recognised that such a policy would be impossible.

Lord Salisbury has had a difficult task before him. He has acted with wisdom and with caution. May he continue to pursue the same course! My only fear is lest he should give way to the clamour of his followers, and to that of those Radicals who out-Jingo the Tories in their folly. In regard to Greece I was not at one with the Premier. In Africa, he is yielding too much to his pushful colleague at the Colonial Office. In regard to China, I heartily agree with him. We must accept things as they are. Our choice is between him and Sir Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett and the crew of journalistic swashbucklers who share the views of this remarkable statesman. It is urged that we shall look contemptible in the eyes of the world, if we allow Russia to acquire ports in Manchuria after we have declared we would never, never allow it. But Lord Salisbury, who, as Premier and Foreign Secretary, is the mouthpiece of the country to the world, has never, directly or indirectly, hinted this *non possumus*. Far from this, he has invited Russia to secure this eastern terminus to her trans-Siberian railroad. Some of Lord Salisbury's colleagues have occasionally indulged in wild vapouring, and the Jingo newspapers have warned Russia that they have their eyes on her; and that, should she dare to follow the Premier's advice, England will shed its last drop of blood, &c., &c. But the country is not responsible for this chatter of irresponsible frivolity. Every country has its boastful swaggerers, and were each country to be bound to make good the threats of the most foolish of its citizens, the world would know no peace.

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THE GOSPEL OF THE TOMTITS.

The President, having enunciated, at the meeting of the Council of the National Liberal Federation, the truism, that "there is a mighty task before the Liberal Party when it is victorious," and having laid it down that it must be left to the "Generals" to choose the time and the area of the fight for victory, nothing was done at Leicester beyond passing a resolution urging the rank and file of Radicals to contribute £5,000 per annum, in order to enable the Executive Committee to drill them into proper subserviency. That stalwart Radical, Alderman Thompson, as a delegate from the Kingston Association, denounced the Report of the Executive as the weakest and flabbiest of documents that ever was presented to a Liberal Association. At this the agents and wirepullers, who were very fully represented, shuddered in pious horror, and sought to drown his remarks with yells and shouts, to the indignation of the genuine delegates. But when he went on to say, that there was not enough gospel in it to satisfy a tomtit, he was greeted with cries of shame, and one ardent slave urged the President to declare the word tomtit—a word harmless, if expressive—out of order. When it was seen that Mr. Marlow, another delegate, was prepared to second him, a resolution was at once hurried through limiting speeches on the Report to two minutes!

The tomtit gospel having thus been adopted without even discussion being permitted, the meeting cheerfully passed resolutions in harmony with it. They were mere pious opinions, drawn up in vague terms. One of them protested against the foreign policy of the Ministers. Mr. Robson who moved it, thus explained it: "Lord Rosebery's threats have left no enemies, Lord Salisbury's

concessions have made no friends." This cryptic utterance, having an epigrammatic jingle about it, was greatly applauded, which was all the more remarkable as the meeting had previously cheered with equal enthusiasm protests against the militarism and the bloated armaments of the Ministry. According, therefore, to the tomtit gospel, we are to inaugurate a policy of threats without the means or the intention of giving effect to them as the best means of securing the good will of foreign nations, instead of acting on the principle of give and take. The *pax Britannica* is to be secured by bluff and bluster.

The President opined that never had the Federation occupied a more useful position, and never had it enjoyed more thoroughly the confidence of the federated Associations. I should rather have said, that its attempt to crush out all independence of thought and action amongst Radicals has so entirely lost it their confidence, that it is generally recognised that it must be ended or mended. The high-handed proceedings of the Executive at the Council Meeting at Leicester must have accentuated this opinion. The Federation was founded to control Officialdom; it has now become its incarnation. Its modest mission is now to inculcate the doctrine that everything should be left to certain "Generals" whose names are not stated, and to knock the rank and file into shape, so that they may be converted into a blind and passive army of automata, prepared to obey the orders of these "Generals" when they stand revealed. The founder of the Federation, Mr. Chamberlain, took care to arrange its mechanism in such a fashion as would make him its autocrat. When he left the Federation, Officialdom captured it. What little popular element Mr. Chamberlain had left disappeared. Up to 1890 the General Council, which was by way of being elected by the Associations, was the executive body. In that year a sub-Committee, elected by those of the General Committee present at its annual meeting, assumed all power. It was at first, if I remember rightly, called a General Purposes Committee, and it has now become the Executive Committee, and in it all power resides, the Council and the General Committee, *i.e.*, the affiliated Associations, being mere flies on this Executive wheel. The proceedings at Leicester wound up with a speech by Mr. John Morley, in which he enunciated some sensible views of what our Foreign policy should be, but he took good care not to say one word on behalf of the Federation. I have no doubt that he, like most Radicals, is disgusted with the hollow and pompous humbug of its proceedings, and is by no means disposed to recognise it as the centre of Radicalism. There is the making of a sound, popular, representative Association of Radicals in the Federation. But for it to become this, the members of the Federated Associations of which it is composed must popularise its machinery, and substitute themselves for the present little clique, which uses it for its own purposes.

The power of Ministers has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished; that of Parliament has diminished, is diminishing, and ought to be increased. Conservatives may approve; Radicals should disapprove. A Parliament is elected for seven years. During this period, provided that the Ministry called to office has a majority sufficiently large to be independent of accidents, Parliament might, for all the influence that it exercises, be called together each year for a few days to vote the Estimates in silence, and pass any Bills that the Government may deem desirable to submit to it. This is alike true whether the Liberals or the Conservatives are in office, except that, in the former case, if the Liberal Government carries a Bill in the Commons, it is thrown out or emasculated in the Lords. The Conservatives seek to obtain a majority at a General Election by promising doles out of the public Exchequer to the various interests, and, to do them justice, they fulfil their promises with that good faith that often characterises men who have obtained control of moneys that do not belong to them. The aim of the Liberals is to secure a mechanical majority, which will vote black or white as ordered. The funds for the election are provided by the sale of titles and other such devices. There is a difficulty on the Liberal side in getting candidates who can pay their electoral expenses. The Party, therefore, in most cases provides the means. Thus Liberal Officialdom establishes a hold on many of those constituting its majority. If the Party wins the election some safe Peer is disinterred who is acclaimed as the Leader, for the peculiarity of the Liberal Party is its love of a Lord individually, in contradistinction to its dislike of Lords collectively. This Peer forms a Government, composed of Peers and of gentlemen in the House of Commons who, with few exceptions, are rather what are termed Whigs than Radicals. Democratic promises made at the election are ignored. The Liberal Ministry thirsts to carry them, but the moment for doing so is never opportune. If by any chance a reform is embodied in a Bill and carried, the Ministry explains when it is thrown out by the Lords that this ought to serve as an object lesson, by which Ministers themselves are the last to profit. Those who venture to protest against this organised humbug are denounced as traitors to Liberalism. Thus, the Government of the country alternates between two gangs of office-holders, the one active for evil, the other passive for good, and the House of Commons is divided between the adherents of these two gangs. Both gangs are afraid of the advance of Democracy. The Conservative gang admits this: the Liberal gang professes to be ardent on the Democratic path, but unable to progress on it. And what is the result of all this? Popular Government is rapidly becoming a farce. The centre of political power is being removed from the House of Commons to Downing-street. The country, perceiving this, takes each day more interest in football matches than in the proceedings of its representatives, for there is a reality in the doings of the one which they do not perceive in those of the other. An election becomes nothing but a fight between the blues and the yellows. Unless the Radicals take heart, make their voices heard, and organise their forces, we shall go on from bad to worse. Never was the Radical Party so strong in numbers, never had it so little influence on the course of events.

At the bottom of all the disinclination of Officialdom to

stand or fall upon a clear, outspoken, democratic issue, is the feeling that the struggle will possibly be a lengthy one, whilst a good many of our "Generals" are by no means desirous that the existing checks against democracy should be really swept away. Take the question of the Lords. The last Liberal Ministry stated that they remained in office, powerless and helpless, in order to bring home to the constituencies that the Liberal Party could do nothing—although in a majority in the Commons—until the veto of the Lords had been abolished. But when it came to the General Election this issue was shirked. Now we are told that the country requires another object lesson, and that it will never consent to put an end to this veto until the Lords have done further evil. Yet in every way that is possible, the rank and file of the Radicals have declared that they are eager at once to throw down the gauntlet. They are not such fools as the "Generals" seem to fancy. In the main they consist of working men, and working men, when they perceive that an obstacle bars the way to all advance, recognise that their first aim should be to remove it. If their "Generals" do not act on this plain, common-sense view of the exigencies of progress, they lose all confidence in them. It is therefore hardly fair on the "Generals" to profess a desire to remove the obstacle, and to throw the responsibilities of dilatory tactics on the rank and file.

THE WAR OFFICE AND THE VOLUNTEERS.

A timely illustration of the attitude of the War Office towards the Auxiliary Forces, and the disheartening conditions under which the work of the Volunteers is carried on, has just been afforded by the resignation of Lieut.-Colonel Braun, lately commanding the 4th Lancashire Volunteer Artillery. These are the facts, as narrated by the late C.O. in taking leave of the corps last week. The corps in question (which is a well-known and popular one) has been for some time in urgent need of new headquarters, which the C.O. deemed absolutely essential, not only for the proper housing of the material under his charge, but also for the efficient carrying on of the work of the corps. On taking over the command in 1896, Lieut.-Colonel Braun himself found a suitable site; secured an advantageous offer of it, went to the expense of getting out plans and specifications, and then applied to the War Office for the necessary loan. The application was refused on some legal technicality. The C.O. went to work again, nothing daunted; found another site; provided himself with new plans and specifications; and again applied for a loan. The War Office inquired how much could be raised from private sources, suggesting 20 per cent. as the minimum. Colonel Braun found that he could raise no money, and replied to that effect, at the same time strengthening his position with a strong recommendation from the local C.R.A. The application was put in on November 16, 1897. On January 25, 1898, after having had their attention again called to the subject, the War Office got so far as to send a consulting surveyor to meet the C.O. This step was followed by an offer of half the amount required. Upon this, Lieut.-Colonel Braun at once sent in his papers, by way of intimating that it was, in his opinion, impossible to carry on the work of the corps under the present conditions, and that he declined to take further responsibility.

His decision is not to be wondered at. The only matter for wonder is that more Volunteer officers do not take the same course. The present position is well put by another Volunteer officer, writing with reference to Colonel Braun's resignation:—

> The War Office appear to think it quite natural that a gentleman who aspires to command a Volunteer corps should hand them his cheque book, signed in blank, for their, not his, advantage. This may be seen by the fact that, in every corps in the kingdom, if money is required in advance of the capitation grant, or for other legitimate purposes, certain officers of that corps have to go to their own banker and make an arrangement, and give their own personal guarantee, possibly paying as much as 6 per cent. for money to carry on, because the Treasury and the War Office will not undertake to finance the corps. The country suffers financially by this, because if the War Office assumed, under proper safeguards, the risk which is at present undertaken by the banks, and advanced public money at 2½ per cent., the balance of the 5 or 6 per cent. at present paid would be at the service of the corps, and the country would get better work from the Volunteers for less money, for at present a large proportion of the capitation grant goes in paying heavy interest to private banks.

The country suffers in other ways than financially. As long as this system prevails, only wealthy men can afford to become officers of Volunteers, and only those with the longest purses can possibly take the command of a regiment. In other words, the qualification for a Volunteer officer is not military zeal or efficiency, but money. Here you have the root of the evil exemplified the other day in the case of one of the metropolitan regiments, where a Commanding Officer was proved to have paid a fee to the party who assisted him to obtain the commission, which commission he required, of course, simply for its social value. You cannot expect to get, under such conditions, any considerable number of men actuated solely by a disinterested love of soldiering. Moreover, even wealthy men, who may have taken to volunteering from public spirit or pure love of the work, resent being bled by the War Office for purposes which ought to be met out of the public purse. In the very case described above, I believe that the Colonel was a man of fairly substantial means. Probably he could have found without difficulty the whole of the money needed for the new quarters. Probably, also, the War Office had an inkling of this, and thought that by judicious handling the money might be squeezed out of him. No doubt it has been squeezed in the same way before now out of many a Volunteer officer, with more of the snob than the soldier in him, who was prepared to pay through the nose for the honour of commanding a regiment. Colonel Braun, to his credit, objected to be thus bled, and declined to place himself in the position of paying for the right to hold the Queen's Commission. In their attempt to squeeze money out of him, consequently, the War Office have simply squeezed him out of the Service.

It is much to be desired that a few more Volunteer C.O.s would follow his example, and thus force upon the War Office the necessity of either providing public money for public services, or letting the Volunteer Force die out for want of funds. The present state of things is rotten to the core. It is notorious that the tax at present laid upon officers prevents many of the most enthusiastic Volunteers from accepting commissions, and is the chief reason why the officering of the Force is in its present

unsatisfactory condition. If the country accepts the services of the Volunteers, it ought to take upon itself all the incidental cost of organising them into an efficient army. Nor would the country for a moment hesitate to accept the burden, if it were frankly asked to do so. There is a strong public sentiment in favour of the Volunteers, and sentiment is backed by common-sense, for every one can see for himself that money spent upon the Volunteers, provided it were wisely and economically spent, would be a better investment than money spent on the Regular Army. In their present condition the Volunteers are of doubtful value for national defence, unless after long notice and preparation, and they would be treated as a negligeable quantity by any Great Power planning a sudden descent upon our shores. Yet an expenditure of a few hundred thousand pounds would convert them into a well-trained, well-equipped, and well-officered force. We could probably have an efficient Army of 250,000 Volunteers for less than the cost of 25,000 Regulars. But the War Office, while coming on the taxpayer every year for so many more millions sterling to increase the Line by dribblets, declines to spend an additional penny for the Volunteers, and contents itself with shabby expedients for screwing out of private pockets the money on which the whole value and efficiency of the Force depends. Why? Because, I take it, the taxpayer is regarded in Whitehall and Pall Mall as the legitimate prey of the professional soldier; and because the Volunteer is looked upon as an amateur interloper, only to be tolerated on condition that he keeps his nose out of the manger. The efforts of 200,000 citizens to qualify themselves for the defence of the country in time of peril are consequently snubbed and flouted, and their annual expenditure of time, money, and labour robbed of all practical result. The true interests of the taxpayers, and the very safety of the nation, are subordinated to the most ignoble professional jealousy and selfishness. In the brief debate on the Volunteer Vote last week, Colonel Brookfield asked the Under-Secretary-of-State for War, in so many words, "what the Volunteers are for?" Had the War Office answer been frankly given, it would have been that the Volunteers exist for their own amusement, and they must pay for their amusement themselves. Is the country content to acquiesce in that view?

CONFESSIONS OF A COMPETITION DODGER.

In Truth of the 3rd inst. some account was given of an interview which one of my staff had with a party named Smith, of 6, Station-road, Finsbury Park. Smith was at that time running a "competition," which had been extensively advertised in the newspapers all over the country. The "competition" was of a familiar character, a "£25 free cash prize" being offered, apparently for the solution of three very simple anagrams on the names of birds, but in reality as an inducement to the competitors to pay Smith 2s. for a little puzzle game, worth possibly 3d. or 4d. The gifted persons who succeeded in solving the anagrams, and duly paid their 2s. for the puzzle, were to receive their prize money at the conclusion of the competition, and Mr. Smith, with engaging frankness, informed my representative that he was determined to add sufficient money to the £25 promised to ensure that every successful competitor should receive at least one half-penny.

Scarcely had I published my interview with Mr. Smith when I became aware of another "free competition" on the same lines, run by the Harlequin Company, 14, Stroud Green-road, London, N. With a few variations in detail, the two were in general idea identical. There was a prize of £35 instead of £25; there were the names of three fish to solve instead of the names of three birds; and the new "Harlequin Kindergarten Puzzle" was to be purchased at the price of 1s. 3d., instead of the puzzle already described at the price of 2s. These being the only points of difference between the two "competitions," I sent a representative down to Stroud Green-road, to see if he could discover any connecting link between the Harlequin Company and Mr. Smith. He had no difficulty in doing so, for, just as he reached the Harlequin Company's doorway, he discovered the connecting link on the threshold in the person of Mr. Smith himself. The recognition was mutual. "Hullo, Truth!" was Mr. Smith's greeting to my representative, and "Hullo, Smith!" was the response. So overjoyed was Smith to see my representative again that he at once invited him to come upstairs and have a chat, and my representative accepted the invitation, together with an excellent cigar. The conversation which ensued was marked by so much frankness and cordiality on the part of Mr. Harlequin Smith, that I think it almost worth reproducing. Let me give first my representative's description of this harlequin:—

Mr. Smith, the Stroud Green Harlequin, is a man of middle height and undistinguished appearance, somewhere between forty and fifty years of age. He seems a shrewd man, and, judging from the gleam in his eye as he greeted me, he is endowed with a sense of humour. His person is exceedingly well nourished, and he has a general air of prosperity. He might be a flourishing pork-butcher.

"Now, what is it you want to know?" he asked.

"First I should like to know what you thought of the Truth comments upon your last venture."

"They were all right except in one particular. You underestimated the cost of the puzzles. See here——"

Mr. Smith produced an invoice, by which it appeared that the puzzle which he sold for 2s. cost him 6d.

"But that competition is all over now?" I said.

"Yes, we have closed it up."

"Did you send a halfpenny after all to each successful competitor?"

Mr. Smith paused a moment and watched with evident enjoyment the rings of smoke curling upwards.

"No; there was not sufficient to send a farthing to each winner. You see the first prize was £15, and there were 25,000 winners; you can work the figures out for yourself. So I sent the amount to the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund."

"I suppose the Fund is not above taking this toll upon folly?" I asked.

"Oh, dear no! Here is the receipt."

"And what did the prize-winners say? Some of them grumbled, I suppose?"

"Of course they did," replied Mr. Smith, indifferently. "Some of the letters were very funny." (He smiled). "But I haven't had time to read them all."

"And the second and third prizes?" I inquired.

"The competitors who solved only one or two words fared better; 105 solved two words, and get 1s. 4d. each, twenty-two solved only one, and get 2s. 9d. each. Wait a moment, and I'll give you the circular I have sent out to all competitors."

"And now for your present venture. That is a puzzle, too, is it not?"

"Yes. Would you like one?"

I accepted the offer. The puzzle turned out to be a little book

Mortlock's (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "Mortlock's" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

of designs, and a dozen pieces of coloured cardboard with which to execute them.

"Not so elaborate as your last," I remarked.

"No," replied Mr. Smith. "We are not charging so much for it. Only 1s. 3d., postage paid."

"It goes for a penny, I suppose?"

"Yes."

"And how is it going?" I inquired.

"Not so well as it ought, and I am spending a lot of money on it. A lot of money! Over two hundred pounds last week."

"Perhaps," I suggested, "TRUTH has damaged your trade."

Mr. Smith did not think so. "TRUTH readers don't go in for these competitions."

I bowed to the compliment.

"Perhaps some of the editors of papers are following our advice and declining to take the advertisement?" I asked

"Oh, no; I have no difficulty in placing it everywhere. Sells are my agents, and look here, this is where they placed it last week."

He showed me a list of some two or three hundred papers, published all over the kingdom.

"It must be that there are too many at the game, then?"

"Perhaps it is," said Mr. Smith, a little regretfully it seemed.

I attempted to console him with the remark that he could hardly expect to get the same 25,000 fools over again in a fortnight. He was not so sure that it was impossible.

"You have changed your address?" I said.

"Yes; that is always advisable in this business."

"And you think, of course, that 'Smith & Co., Publishers,' will not be recognised in the 'Harlequin Publishing Company'?"

"You didn't recognise them, did you?" returned Mr. Harlequin.

"It is rather a risky business, isn't it?" I asked.

Mr. Smith only smiled.

"You see you have induced a large number of people to purchase a puzzle upon the belief that they had won a share in a £25 prize. Might not a magistrate take the view, seeing that you have not sent them their share, that this was obtaining money under false pretences?"

Still smiling, Mr. Smith replied:

"Oh, I have acted under legal advice. The people order the puzzle altogether apart from any possible prize; and how could I send out a fractional part of a penny? No, I don't think there are many risks of that sort."

"Well," said I, "it is not impossible that such a view might be taken."

Mr. Smith shook his head.

"Anyhow, you have not gone back upon your opinion that there are a lot of fools in the world?" I said, as I rose to depart.

Mr. Smith's smile broadened, and he seemed to enjoy the joke more than ever.

"Twenty-five thousand of them?"

Mr. Smith gently chuckled by way of answer.

"Glad to see you at any time, if you must be going," he said.

I thanked the genial Harlequin for the instruction and amusement he had afforded me. Then we shook hands heartily and parted the best of friends.

I myself am not without a sense of humour, and I fully appreciate the amusing side of Smith's performances There is something decidedly comic in this elderly Harlequin perpetually popping up in some new place, concealing his identity under a fresh alias, and extracting cash from the pockets of the public by a stroke of his wand to the tune of hundreds of pounds per week. But I see the serious side too, and it strikes me as something of a scandal that the policeman should have no part in this Harlequinade. Smith tells us that he has consulted his solicitor, and that he is quite sure about his legal position. No doubt he has taken pains to keep on the right side of the law, but as the law has shown itself equal to dealing with his latest predecessor in this line of business, Walter King, of the "Phunny" trick, there would seem to be no reason why what was sauce for the Phunny man should not be sauce for the Harlequin. The Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund is a highly deserving charity, but there is nothing in the terms of Smith's prospectus which warrants him in handing the money over to this benevolent object, instead of satisfying the claims of the competitors; and I think that if any of the disappointed ones were to place the case in the hands of the police, satisfactory results might follow.

There are other parties to the joke whose position seems somewhat questionable, viz., the newspapers all over the Kingdom who are receiving cash at the rate of £200 or £300 in a week through the agents for publishing the Harlequin's advertisements. After reading Smith's confessions, none of them can possibly entertain any doubt about their position. This man admits, without disguise, that he is simply setting traps to catch fools, and he frankly congratulates himself on having devised a fraud which the law cannot touch. His traps are set, and his frauds are perpetrated through the columns of various daily and weekly papers, the proprietors of which obligingly co-operate with Smith in defrauding their readers at the price of so many coppers a line. If they have hitherto salved their very robust consciences by pretending that they do not know the real nature of Smith's little advertisement, they can no longer apply this flattering unction after Smith's ingenuous confessions. No moral distinction can possibly exist between Smith, the avowed competition swindler, and the journalists who co-operate in his little game, knowing its nature; and it is not clear why there should be any legal distinction either.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

HANOTAUX AT THE ACADEMY.

THE Franco-Russian Alliance was again made manifest the other day at the Academy. Our President, with the Grand Duke Nicholas and the Russian Ambassador as his supporters, took his seat on the bench usually reserved for the families of *récipiendaires*. The President and the illustrious Russians could not have signified more plainly: "We are well satisfied with the Foreign Minister, and long may he keep his portfolio." M. Félix Faure seems to have a Mohammedan's objection to appearing in public with his wife, unless on the Grand Prix day, and at Havre, where Darby and Joan ménages are liked. At the Academy, she and Mlle. Lucie were taken up to the little niche under the cupola occupied by Mme. Thiers the day her husband's successor was received, and since by Mme. Carnot. The Empress Eugénie and her ladies filled that niche at the reception of M. Octave Feuillet. They went to see him inducted because he had in one of his novels represented Sybil, a girl of eighteen, as converting a hardened and brilliant free-thinker. The only head of the State who ever appeared before last Thursday at a public sitting of the Academy was Thiers. He did so as a member and the sponsor of the Duc d'Aumale. Our present estimable chief cannot get up to academical accomplishments. The feeling that he has not a University degree often acts as a bar to sympathy with his Ministers. A Minister who wants to please him takes care not to parade his scholarship. Perhaps this was why M. Hanotaux's discourse was so commonplace and empty. The intellectual feast he provided was a good deal in the nature of a meal at Duval's. One might have thought it the product of an anæmic brain. But, perhaps, its want of salient points, of traits of mental independence, was due to the circumstances under which he began to write it. He first set pen to paper in the man-of-war in

In the Paris mi-carême the crowd was at the RESTAURANT DURAND, by the Madeleine. The generous Proprietor stood them all champagne. Durand's cellar is celebrated, and the Parisians know it.

which he and M. Faure went from Dunkirk to St. Petersburg and back. The initial paragraph was written as the vessel was passing Copenhagen on the return voyage. He had been flat-ironed on the voyage out and in the three days' stay at Peterhof. To have done a speaking likeness of Challemel-Lacour in *eau-forte* might not have been to the taste of the President or Czar. It was safe to tone down his picturesque asperities, seeing that he must be eulogised. The consequence was a chromo-lithograph that might have done for a bon-bon box. I could have never recognised in it, but for the white beard and erect carriage, the rebel Challemel-Lacour, who, rather than bow the knee to false gods, said, "Poverty, be thou my lot," and was for eighteen years as good as his word.

M. Hanotaux is middling and industrious. Your middling man has a much better chance of picking up good things than your man of genius. He does not strike one as having come from that very humble nest that M. de Vogüé talked of. Nothing can be smaller in the middle class professions than a notary in an insignificant country town. The office of M. Hanotaux's father, however, had one redeeming feature. The grim Castle of Beaurevoir frowned down on it. Joan of Arc was a prisoner in the donjon. There were endless vaults which Hanotaux, as a boy, explored torch in hand. All this aroused historical curiosity. When set down to copy legal papers he longed to get away to Paris and study history. The whole country was full of historical suggestion. St. Quentin was within sight. It was there that an Anglo-Spanish force under Philip II. gained the victory which was preceded by Philip's vow to build the Escurial. The Prussian invasion killed the notary of Beaurevoir. M. Hanotaux buried him under the eyes of wearers of spiked helmets. The conclusion he drew was this: What a wise statesman was Richelieu to break up the German power by his intrigues at the Congress of Westphalia! The alliance he devised broke the Teutonic current into nearly four hundred streamlets. Richelieu did not scruple to be the ally of the heretic Gustavus Adolphus. Twenty-six years later the petty notary's son lent himself to another alliance as apparently inconsistent —that of Marianne and the Czar. But he did not reveal in his academical speech this long-continued train of thought.

Perhaps the habit of peering into those endless vaults at Beaurevoir in boyhood has affected the expression of M. Hanotaux's eyes. They seem to be searching in the dark for shapes and forms that will not show themselves distinctly. His appearance is rather agreeable, and for a Frenchman filling a great situation he is still young. He owed his election to M. Faure. The President told the Academicians whom he knew that the Empress of Russia would feel particularly gratified were they to grant immortality to M. Hanotaux. How could they gainsay this? At the election, eighteen abstained and fifteen voted for him.

M. Hanotaux has a rather thin voice, with some falsetto notes. But he read well—better than he reads in the Tribune of the Chamber. Vicomte Melchior de Vogüé managed to be impertinent all round. He spoke in the presence of the head of the State of the *coup d'état* as "a somewhat rough police measure." But M. Faure did not see the *inconvenance* of this stroke of the tongue—or pen. Richelieu, to whom the Academy could refuse nothing, took M. Hanotaux by the hand and presented him. Nor was the Great Cardinal spared. "Nothing has remained of his work," and "he was a dangerous model." Words of wisdom there. But who marked them?

M. de Vogüé is long of face and figure. He was for some time in diplomacy, first serving at Constantinople and then at St. Petersburg. He "discovered" Russian literature, and brought it within the reach of Paris through translations. The Grand Duke Nicholas is also long of face and figure, with an endlessly long neck. I never saw such a neck on human shoulders. One has to go to the bird species to find its match. That of the King of Greece is short compared to it. But this Grand Duke seems an amiable, excellent, and *distingué* person. He is a nephew of the Queen of Hanover. M. Faure seemed pleased and proud to find himself between the Grand Duke and Prince Ouroussoff. The Russians wish for a perpetual Foreign Minister, as in Russia, and a life-President. In this way the danger would be lessened of the secrets of Franco-Russian diplomacy transpiring. It would appear that the Franco-Russian treaty contemplates the break up of the Austrian Empire, and arranges for the two allies to be in at the death.

A most interesting subject for the Boulevards has been the declaration of independence of the Princess Philip of Saxe-Coburg. Paris has learned with astonishment that she has only £1,600 a year, though her husband's fortune is valued at £4,000,000. How, then, could she help going into debt? Vienna is a frivolous place. There was Royal rank to keep up, and the Princess enjoyed appearing to the best advantage. She was here as "Mme. Leman"—a name doubtless borrowed from the loveliest lake in Europe. They say she has gone to join the romantic Doña Elvira in America. According to the papers, steps are being taken by Prince Philip in the Duchy of Coburg to obtain a divorce.

The Princesse de Joinville was the last surviving daughter-in-law of Louis Philippe. She was a prim little woman, and became prosaic and loud-voiced through living so much with almost stone-deaf people. I heard that she was pretty when she came to France as a bride. She had magnificent diamonds, which she brought with her from Brazil. The Princess was a first cousin, through the House of Austria, of the late Duchesse d'Aumale, and a niece of Marie Louise. She led a retired life at St. Firmin in the Forest of Chantilly. The only time she went into society was when the Prince de Joinville was a member of the Versailles Assembly. The late Emperor and Empress of Brazil and their daughter, as Princess Imperial, were then a good deal in Paris and greatly run after. The Princesse de Joinville as Dom Pedro's sister, shared his prestige. But when he fell, she had no patience with the blunders he had (as she thought) committed, and arranged to keep on good terms with the Government that overthrew him. She could see no beauty in European scenery. The forest trees appeared to her mere brushwood. The first time she ever saw a fall of snow was as she landed at Brest

on her way from Rio to Paris. On the road she and De Joinville were snowed up. What with sea-sickness, storms in the Atlantic, snow, and frosts, her bridal voyage to Europe was a succession of miseries and horrors. She never returned to Brazil.

"Jeune demoiselle. Petite tache [or speckled peach]. 150,000 francs de dot." This sort of advertisement was more frequent a few years ago in the Paris papers than at present, though it may still be met with in society papers like the *Echo de Paris* or the *Journal*. Probably penniless suitors, eager to get wealthy all of a sudden, even with an undesirable wife as part of the bargain, have got wiser. Every trick, even the free-portrait swindle or the Spanish prison-trick, gets worn out, though the process of exposure may take years. You know what a "petite tache" is in the matrimonial agent's slang? The agent compares the young lady whom it is expedient to get married quickly, to a piece of silk, greased by accident, and placed in consequence among the job lots.

The "Petite Tache" as a new subject for the theatre, has tempted M. Fabrice Carré and that lively composer M. Victor Rogé, who have brought out a new vaudeville under that title at the Bouffes-Parisiens. The first two acts are amusing, albeit rather too childish; but the last one is distinctly good. The title itself is a pun. Anybody would think from this title that Mlle. Marguerite, the pretty heroine of the play, had a "past history." Not at all. Her mother, Mme. Bénardeau, a buxom bourgeoise of Bolbec, in Normandy, was very much frightened once upon a time by a bull, and the consequence was that Marguerite was born with two bull's horns upon her breast. These horns, to which sign a deep symbolic significance is attached by French husbands, frightened off all the young men of Bolbec. Mme. Bénardeau in her straits applied to a matrimonial agency, and Marguerite was entered in the books as a young lady with a *petite tache* and 150,000 francs dowry.

We are prepared on the stage to take a great deal for granted; but is this not asking too much of the playgoer's good nature? However, the author, having started with this postulate, is bound to build up his plot in consequence. There is not much of a plot, but two acts are spent pleasantly enough in bouffe dialogue. Among the candidates for Marguerite's dowry is a degenerate descendant of the Crusaders, an omnibus conductor, who drops his h's—or at least commits the equivalent mistakes in French—but is a genuine nobleman, —the Marquis de la Buche. He goes down to Bolbec, where his Parisian varnish dazzles M. and Mme. Bénardeau. De la Buche is quite happy. All he wants is the young lady's money. For 150,000 francs he would have winked not only at a "little spot," but at an eclipse of the sun. But—and this is the interesting episode of the play—as, after better acquaintance, the young omnibus conductor begins to fall seriously in love with Marguerite, the petite tache begins to vex him. He wants to know what it consists in, but is put off with vague replies. How superstitious must that Bolbec family be! At length, just when he is frantically in love, he declares he must know the tache or he will break off the match. Marguerite, who has fallen in love with her fiancé, faints, when the father, in order to let her breathe freely, opens her corsage, and, pointing to the two bull's horns, says, "Voila la petite tache."

This plot is not worthy of the name, but it serves as a support for some very easy, entertaining music. The couplets sung by M. Lamy and Mlle. Alice Bonheur are agreeably recollected.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THOUGH the great heart of Great Britain, dear Lady Betty—the Stock Exchange—throbs excitedly, and peculative speculation is at a standstill, though the policy of Imperialism, tempered by incapacity and inconsistency, is discredited, it is possible to be frivolous! "The providential frivolity of our nature," as Goethe described that attribute, has assisted me at an anxious moment, as will be seen by the following reflections:—

1. Many imagine they are making a future when they are only making a past.

. . . . .

2. The wisdom of youth lacks confidence in self; the wisdom of age lacks confidence in others.

. . . . .

3. There is the confidence of vanity and the diffidence of vanity. Mediocrity has the confidence of vanity, and is easily encouraged; talent has the diffidence of vanity, and is easily discouraged.

. . . . .

4. We all misunderstand ourselves, and are, therefore, convinced that all misunderstand us.

. . . . .

5. "No man is a hero to his valet," but many a man is a valet to his hero.

. . . . .

6. Woman is essentially imitative; a woman may be led to any length in any direction by example.

. . . . .

7. Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity are the Faith, Hope, and Charity of political progress.

. . . .

8. There is more heart in the world than head: intellect only appeals to intellect; the heart to humanity.

* * * * *

The following misapplied misquotations may be excused at a moment when the attention of all is directed towards the Government:—

Lord Salisbury to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain.

"You may depend upon it that nobody will ever think of overthrowing me to make you Premier."

Charles II. to his brother James.

The Nation to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain.

"His Imperial fancy laid all England under tribute."

Robert Hall of Burke.

The Radicals to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain.

"Go on, my brave boy, and prosper, for your prosperity will cause the ruin of all this crowd" (*the Conservatives*).

Timon to Alcibiades.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain to Mr. Curzon.

"Pray stand a little out of my sunshine."

Diogenes to Alexander the Great.

* * * * *

Sir George Baden-Powell appears to be anxious that the yachts of England should, in the event of war, be pressed into the service of the State. He might as well propose to utilise the perambulators of London for defensive purposes.

Throughout the West End it is considered to be incomprehensible that the *Times* and the *Morning Post* should have so seriously misunderstood the international situation as the tone of the leading articles which have recently appeared in those newspapers prove that they have. It is generally maintained that in this matter these journals do not reflect either the opinion of those who are well-informed or of the public. In one of the early years of his reign, Louis XIV. said, "Self-aggrandisement is the noblest as well as the pleasantest occupation of kings." More than half a century later the same king, on his death-bed, said to his successor, "I have loved war too well; do not imitate me." The time has passed—in Great Britain, certainly—when Kings, Ministers, or aristocratic combinations can make war for the purpose of self-aggrandisement, or under the impression that by so doing they may aggrandise the nation. The people take scarcely any interest in the Far Eastern question; and it must be remembered that it is the blood of the people which would be spilled, and the treasure of the people which would be spent, were there to be war. The English people are as ready to fight to-day as they have been at any period in history. They were prepared to fight to save the Armenians from massacre, and the whole nation was aroused to fury when the Emperor of Germany despatched his memorable message to President Kruger, which appeared to be a deliberate insult offered to this country. The situation in the Far East does not excite the anger of the people of England, however loudly certain London newspapers may call for war—a call, moreover, which, loud as it is, does not reach them, for they neither read the *Times* nor the *Morning Post*. The well-informed West End is equally apathetic on this subject, and it may, therefore, be predicted with confidence that war over that dispute is improbable, unless the Ministry permits itself to be influenced by certain London newspapers and by the exasperating, but evaporating, paragraph.

Through the influence of the Press we seem in danger of being governed by misinformation.

. . . . .

Oxenstiern—then Chancellor of Sweden—said to his son, "Dost thou not know, my son, with how little wisdom the world is governed?" The present time is a curious exemplification of this: the Government has muzzled the lap-dogs and contemplates loosing the dogs of war!

. . . .

There is a memorable saying, which it may be interesting to recall at this moment. Prince Alexander Gortschakoff wrote in 1856, after the Crimean War, "La Russie ne boude pas, elle se recueille." The declaration has been verified, for during the half-century which has elapsed since the words were written, Russia has gathered herself together, and now overflows with an irresistible force.

. . . . .

The *Times* on Monday earnestly advised Lord Salisbury to resign the office of Minister for Foreign Affairs, and in effect to become a Ministerial expression! It is certainly surprising how rapidly "the spirited policy" of the Government has been spirited away. The present Administration is continually confronted by impossibilities which suddenly become realities, and an especially irritating circumstance is that Lord Salisbury is always surreptitiously compromising. Our difficulties are bewildering. Is the Afridi rising quelled? Is India quieted? Is the plague stamped out? Are the labours of the Congress satisfactorily concluded? Is the Eastern Question closed? Are the Armenian atrocities stayed or atoned for? Greece? Is the Cretan problem solved? Is the Transvaal appeased? Is the Venezuelan dispute ended? Is the Egyptian misunderstanding with France settled? Are the West African troubles overcome? Is the expedition into the Soudan concluded? Is the Chinese problem solved? Are our relations friendly with Germany, Russia, and France? Is Ireland contented? Is trade prosperous, and is finance flourishing? The Imperial farce which was inaugurated at Krugersdorp threatens to develop into an Imperial tragedy.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

PEOPLE who are disposed to bet on the Two Thousand will do well to restrain their speculative ardour, for if there should be another week of wintry weather several fancied candidates will certainly be backward in condition. It must be remembered that we are now within a month of the Two Thousand, the race being run a week earlier than usual. Ninus, for example, is looking very big, and it will take all the trainer's time to get Prince Soltykoff's colt properly fit in order to run at the First Spring Meeting. A very good judge indeed is convinced that Ninus will prove to be deficient in stamina, and he holds the same opinion as to Disraeli. It will not surprise me if the dark Brio proves to be the best of the Newmarket lot for the Two Thousand, but my own opinion of the race is that it will be won by Batt if he comes to the post fit and well. The Duke of Westminster's other candidate for this race and the Derby is Collar who is not likely to be seen out before Ascot if all goes right with Batt. Collar is engaged in the Prince of Wales's Stakes and in the Hardwicke Stakes, but I fancy the Duke will finally decide to reserve this colt for the Princess of Wales's Stakes of £10,000 at the First July Meeting, in which race Velasquez would have to give Collar a stone more than weight for age. The Duke's colt would have 11 lb. the best of the weights with Dieudonné, and 8 lb. with Ninus, so that his chances of success are very bright if he is tolerably smart. Collar is half-brother to Labrador, by St. Simon, and he was obviously very backward in condition when he started for the Middle Park Plate, which was his only race last year.

The money which has been rashly invested on Royal Angus and on Ormathwaite may be regarded as lost, for neither colt is at all likely to stand training.

Last year there were forty-two entries, thirty-one acceptances, and eighteen starters for the Lincolnshire Handicap of £2,000, the result being a loss to the fund of £1,055. This season there are forty-eight entries, thirty-three acceptances, and fourteen runners.

Mr. Rucker's horses are to be sold off, without reserve, by Messrs. Tattersall at Newmarket on April 14, being the Thursday in the Craven week.

When writing a fortnight ago about the Lincolnshire Handicap I predicted that the race would be won by either Voter or Prince Barcaldine, so I have no reason to be dissatisfied with the result. Voter got off badly, and he was never fairly in the race, but the American horse is certain to win an important mile handicap before many months have elapsed, and he must be followed. Prince Barcaldine was purchased for 2,000 gs. by Captain Machell at the sale of Colonel North's stud, and he subsequently passed into the possession of his present owner, for whom he won the Cleveland Handicap at Doncaster last September, when he defeated General Peace by a short head, and thereby upset one of the heaviest plunges of the year. Prince Barcaldine is a very much improved horse, but he would probably have been defeated by King Hampton if that animal had run, and the people who pronounced Mr. Rucker's steed to be the pick of the handicap when the weights appeared were really not far wrong. The form of the race was not particularly good, considering that High Treasurer, who was in receipt of 2 lb. from the winner (both being five years old), was bought in by Lord Howe for 250 gs. only after he had won the Trial Plate at the Newmarket Houghton Meeting. As to Ravensdale, who was declared almost universally to be an absolute certainty, he is an awkward horse for a boy to ride. I see that Ravensdale is now being written up for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap, when he has 6 st. 10 lb. to carry, but I would be sorry to take 100 to 1 about him for that race. He certainly will not beat Hermiston at the weights, and if he could not win at Lincoln with 6 st. 11 lb., I fail entirely to apprehend how he can be expected to win at Kempton Park with 6 st. 10 lb., running in very much better company. Merle and David II. will both improve presently on the form which they showed last week. I could not fancy Melange,

although he had been well galloped, and he was heavily backed. He is a very handsome horse, but did not run up to his trial.

I have always been of the opinion that the City and Suburban will be won by either Chelandry or Hermiston. If the Kingsclere colt is really up to Derby form, I do not see how Chelandry can be expected to give him 5 lb. more than weight for age. It may be, however, that Hermiston will wait for Kempton Park. Bay Ronald is galloping well at Newmarket, and he is certainly one of the best handicapped horses in the race. Balsamo has been stopped in his work, and it is doubtful whether he will stand another preparation. If the City and Suburban goes to the Egerton Lodge stable, it is Nunsuch that will be the winner. Berzak is very well in on his best running, but it will be wise not to think of him until he has been tried, as nothing can be known as to his present form. Brayhead is thrown in with only 6 st. 10 lb., and this horse showed his liking for the Epsom course last year, when he won the Prince of Wales's Handicap at the Spring Meeting.

I predicted last week that Fascination would win the Molyneux Stakes at Liverpool, Carhaix the Union Jack Stakes, Canonbury the Hylton Handicap, and Devon the Bickerstaffe Stakes, and all came off. Fascination, who was heavily backed, is at present the smartest two-year-old by a long way in the Egerton Lodge stable, but I fancy we shall see the best of her in the course of the next few weeks. The Duke of Devonshire, who went to Newmarket at the beginning of last week to see Dieudonné, has not often patronised the Liverpool meeting, but on the present occasion he was one of the guests of Lord Stanley and Lady Alice Stanley at Knowsley, and had the pleasure of seeing Carhaix win his race very easily. The Duke made a good bargain when he bought this colt at Newmarket last December for 660 gs., as the race he won on Thursday was worth nearly £800. Vatel ran very badly. With Canonbury so manifestly the pick of the Hylton Handicap, it was really miraculous to find 4 to 1 betted against him, but Sirdar was a great tip of "the sharps," and the race proved no good thing for the winner after all, as he only just won from Norah Sandys. Bittern was regarded generally as a fine retriever for the numerous backers who had been defeated badly over the Grand National, but he proved a grievous delusion, as Devon won cleverly with 9 to 1 betted against him in a field of six. I mentioned Sir Blundell Maple's colt some weeks ago as having made a great improvement, and being certain to win a race early in the season. The backers of Devon would have been more numerous but for his defeat in the Chaplin Stakes at Lincoln on Monday, when he finished third to King's Messenger and Vatel with 5 lb. the best of the weights. Bittern appears to have developed a temper.

The Grand National, which was run in a snowstorm, has proved a grand benefit for the bookmakers, as the money was fairly piled upon Cathal and Ford of Fyne at the last, and the haul over Manifesto must have been very large. Nobody could possibly fancy Drogheda after his ignominious collapse at Gatwick in December. He held a good place throughout the race, and won very cleverly at the finish. Cathal is an unlucky beast, as on a former occasion he was second at Aintree, when Cloister won. Gauntlet, who was the fancy of some of the best judges of steeplechasing, ran well enough to secure the place money for which he had been backed. There were twenty-five starters, but only nine horses completed the course, one of them being Filbert, who finished fourth.

The placed horses in the Brocklesby Stakes had all been mentioned in TRUTH as being animals certain to distinguish themselves early in the season, so I am well satisfied with the issue of this race, but it may not be prudent to place implicit reliance on the form, as the wet and stormy weather and the long delay at the post may very likely have upset some of the runners. Amurath, by Janissary out of Ladykin, won very cleverly at the finish from Desmond. Mr. Raphael's colt was purchased at Newmarket last July for 410 gs. at the sale of the Howbury stud yearlings. He was well galloped some weeks ago, and he won another good trial a few days before the race was run, after which his merits were an affair of Punchinello's secret. Amurath is an improving colt, and he was much liked at Lincoln by those who inspected him in the paddock, which was a veritable pandemonium, spectators and horses being all huddled up together in chaotic confusion, while rain was falling in torrents, and a freezing wind was blowing. Amurath is not heavily engaged, and his next race will be the Newmarket Plate at the First Spring Meeting, while in the Second Spring week he is entered for the Somerville Stakes. Monopoly got off well, and she ran fast for half-a-mile, nor were there any excuses for Desmond or Sister Angela. The great "pot" at the finish was Mr. Vyner's colt Mintstalk, who was very heavily backed on the strength of a good trial with Chance Medley, but he was by no means generally admired, and if ever he develops into anything of a flyer I shall be vastly surprised. Mintstalk has an engagement at Derby this week, and he is entered for the £500 race at Newcastle on Easter Monday. Chief Warder is a powerful, massive sort of colt, who was much fancied by some of the Newmarket people, but he ran very badly indeed. He will have a chance of retrieving his reputation at the Epsom Spring Meeting, where he is engaged in the Hyde Park Plate, but I shall not be surprised if both this event and the Westminster Plate on the previous day are won by Mr. Cassel's April Morn, who is believed to be a very smart filly. The best looking two-year-old that ran at Lincoln was decidedly Desmond, Lord Dunraven's colt by St. Simon out of L'Abbesse de Jonarre, and he is a very racing-like animal, but he cannot be so smart as was supposed, as there was no excuse whatever for his defeat, and Amurath won with 7 lb. in hand. Desmond was very highly thought of as a yearling, and he has been entered for no fewer than forty-six races, but I fear he is not destined to win many of these engagements, and if he gets back his forfeits and his owner's expenses in connection with breeding and racing him he will do quite as well as most people expect. It was evidently anticipated last year that Desmond would make a good three-year-old, as twenty-seven of his engagements are for 1899 and following seasons. My own opinion is that we shall see the best (whatever that may amount to) of Desmond as a two-year old, and that he will prove to be deficient in stamina. Desmond's next engagement is the Woodcote Stakes at the Epsom Summer Meeting, a race which is likely to take a good deal of winning, as Lord Brassey's Boniface (by St. Simon out of Merry Miser, dam of Orzil), Mr. Low's colt by Rightaway out of Hall Mark, and other animals of which great things are expected will probably make their début on that occasion. The Duke of Portland's Dismay, by St. Simon out of Ismay, is decidedly racing-like, but she is a very small filly, and the best of her on the turf is likely to be seen early in the season. Dismay has more than forty engagements, and it is odd that she should have been so extensively entered, for her appearance can never have justified the chimerical expectation that she would prove a flyer, which was evidently entertained by her owner and trainer. Dismay is next in the Hyde Park Plate at Epsom, but she will very likely be reserved for the Royal Plate of £3,000 at Kempton Park, which is run on May 6, and this will be one of the richest two-year-old races of the season, as it is surpassed in value only by the £5,000 Stakes at Sandown Park in July. There is another £3,000 race at Kempton Park in October, and the Prince of Wales's Sweepstakes at Goodwood will be worth £2,600. The richest two-year-old race at Ascot is the New Stakes, value £2,140, while the Coventry Stakes will be worth £2,000.

I observe it is predicted that Amurath will probably turn out to be a "Derby horse," like Donovan and The Bard, two previous winners of the Brocklesby Stakes. It happens, however, that Mr. Raphael's colt is not entered for either the Derby or any of the great three-year-old races. As to The Bard, this horse obtained a great reputation as a two-year-old because he was placed with such consummate sagacity by Mr. Robert Peck. As a matter of fact, The Bard had no pretensions to be regarded as a first-class two-year-old, for he was some 10 lb. behind his stable companion, Philosophy, who unluckily went all to pieces after winning a few races. When The Bard ran for the

Derby he met a first-class horse (Ormonde) for the first time in his career, and he was very easily beaten.

I do not understand why Amurath should be described as a colt of "unfashionable" breeding. Janissary, his sire, is not a high-priced stallion, but he is one of the very best bred horses in existence, being by Isonomy out of Jannette, by Lord Clifden, who won the Oaks and St. Leger of 1878 for the late Lord Falmouth, at whose sale, in 1884, she was purchased by the late Duchess Dowager of Montrose for 5,000 gs. Janissary was bred in 1887, but he met with some accident early in his racing career, and he never achieved anything on the turf.

I see that regret is expressed at the omission of some of the best three-year-olds of the season from the Two Thousand and Derby, Cyllene, Champ de Mars, and Cap Martin being the animals mentioned. If the writer had substituted The Baker and Hermiston for Mr. Baird's pair he would have been better advised. Cap Martin was much overrated as a two-year-old, and he has not wintered well. He would not have a 100 to 1 chance for the Derby if he was engaged in the Epsom race, and it is generally thought at Newmarket that he will prove to be of no use over any greater distance than five furlongs.

Longtown is a horse that is certain to win a good T.Y.C. handicap before long, and he would very likely have carried off the Batthyany Stakes at Lincoln, but for being practically left at the post. Longtown, as was stated some time ago in Truth, has become a roarer, and he has not a 10,000 to 1 chance for the Derby. He is a fine, slashing colt, and it is a great pity that he has gone wrong so badly.

Sais, who had been well galloped at Newmarket, was a great favourite for the Tathwell Stakes, but she failed most palpably to stay the course. Sais is in the Double Trial Plate at the Craven Meeting, but the last hundred yards of the R.M. will probably stop her, and the best plan would be to keep her for some race run over the last five furlongs of the Ab.M.

THE BOAT RACE.

It would be impossible to imagine a day worse suited for boat-racing than last Saturday. The gale was blowing straight against the tide off the boat-houses at Putney and raising a perfect sea, and it was at first doubtful whether the race could be rowed. Men who have been in training for six weeks are not the people who should be consulted as to the advisability of postponing a boat-race, as they are much too keen to get it over, and cannot be expected to take a reasonable view of the matter. The umpire should, like the umpire at a cricket match, have power to decide whether or not the race is to be postponed on account of the weather. No one could have had the slightest doubt that on Saturday winning the toss meant winning the race. Oxford won the toss, and, accordingly, Oxford won the race, and that is about all there is to be said on the subject, for it is impossible to write a long account of a race which lasted for exactly half a minute. Cambridge, who had the Surrey station, had much the worst water, and before they had rowed twenty strokes their boat was completely waterlogged. Oxford slipped away under the shelter of the Fulham embankment, and were clear before they had rowed a couple of minutes. From the steps, about two minutes from the start, to Mortlake, they kept adding to their lead, and won by very nearly a quarter of a mile. As far as one could see from the steamer, they appeared to be rowing much better than they had done during their training. The boats are now rendered practically unsinkable by placing bladders under all the seats, otherwise Cambridge must have sunk shortly after the start. The manner in which the Cambridge crew propelled their water logged craft from start to finish was worthy of the highest praise. It was about as fine an exhibition of pluck, endurance, and good rowing under the most adverse circumstances as has ever been seen. They were drenched to the skin, chilled to the bone by the coldest of Nor'-east winds, and their boat was full of water, yet they swung well together, kept perfect time, and never stopped working hard all the way. The more one watched them the more one wished that so well-coached, uniform, and plucky a crew could have had a fair chance of showing what they were worth in a fair race.

Although the defeat of Cambridge is in no way to be attributed to any failing on their part, the Oxford crew may justly attribute the extreme ease of their victory to their good watermanship. They, too, had rough water to start in, although it was not nearly so bad for them as it was for Cambridge, but they never once allowed their boat to roll, and consequently took in little or no water.

Those who have fought for fairness in making up the crew at Cambridge and for the establishment of the true style of rowing are disappointed at their luck, but by no means disheartened, for it is admitted by all that the Cambridge crew were better than any of the preceding five or six. For this alone Cambridge owes Mr. Fletcher a debt of gratitude.

By the way, a singular instance of the belief that sportsmen and others, who do a little betting, have in the run of luck came to my notice. The winning of the toss meant winning the race. Of course, mathematically, the betting as to who would win the toss was evens. But so confident were several gentlemen that Cambridge would lose the spin of the coin, that offers of five to four that Oxford would win the toss were not taken. The run of luck had been so persistently dead against Cambridge this year that these gentlemen were confident as to what would happen, and it was so.

It was certainly rough luck that the very worst weather during the last six months should have come to pass just when the Universities were meeting one another in divers events. The golf match had to be stopped, the sports were put off, an event that should have been a boat race took place between Putney and Mortlake, and the chess match was the only event that was concluded in anything like comfort. This shows the advantage of sedentary pursuits during the equinoctial gales. No date has yet been definitely fixed for the postponed sports, but it will most likely be just before the championships, which are always arranged for the first Saturday in July, which this year falls on July 2.

The University golf match was played at Sandwich. The first round was successfully got through. By way of an innovation a second round was started on. The gale rose and snow fell, balls were lost, and the players were forced to retire. Under the directions of the club secretary, these players had to finish in semi-darkness, when the Cambridge men were successful. Both teams were strong, and it is a pity that the match was not played under more favourable circumstances.

It was, perhaps, in ignorance that the Frenchmen challenged England at cross-country running. The consequence was that Mr. Herbert, the hon. sec. of the A.A.A., had to hand the challenge over to the cross-country authorities, who chose a crack team, and who certainly acted most injudiciously in requiring a certain sum for payment of expenses. The French runners would never have thought of making such a request had they been coming over here. They will have a peculiar idea of the meaning of amateur. It would be much wiser another year for the Frenchmen to ask Mr. Herbert to bring over a team which would give them a good race, and not a wholesale thrashing. That sort of thing can do the sport no good. It would be easy to select a team. The Lea and Thames men would be only too pleased to take the trip. The Frenchmen's hospitality is proverbial.

It is a matter for regret that Southampton did not succeed in the semi-final at the Crystal Palace. Notts Forest scored in the last minute, when a perfect blizzard was blowing in their favour. The referee had already stopped the game, and he should have done so again. A protest has been lodged, but has not been upheld. Some correspondents have been kind enough to point out that Southampton is not a Southern team, and therefore, they argue, it is nonsense to crack them up at the expense of North and Midland clubs. They are "pros." no doubt, and they are just as much local men as any

other professional team. The reason for congratulation is that a good team can be supported in the South, and I believe that good football matches do an infinity of good. They give interest and amusement to thousands who would otherwise have nothing to do on a Saturday afternoon. I am glad, therefore, that this advantage is being appreciated in the South. Furthermore, their success is very strong evidence of the improvement that is taking place in the South. I care not where the players were born and bred, the fact remains that they have proved themselves equal and superior to those clubs which have hitherto been supposed to have a monopoly of first-class players. They could not have achieved this end unless they had been meeting good opponents all through the season. Their regular opponents have been Southern clubs, whence it follows that the class of play in the South must have improved enormously. This is also a matter for congratulation.

Despite the threat that the whole of the North of England was going over to professionalism, the Rugby County Championship has been won by Northumberland. The play of the Midland team who were opposing them was certainly disappointing, but the winning forwards played a great game, and carried all before them, even when a gale of wind was blowing against them. Taylor was in great form at half, and deserves his International Cap. Byrne at back was not playing at his best. The weather spoilt the match between Blackheath and the West of Scotland, who just won; and Newport, for the fourth time this season, was beaten by Cardiff.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—Everything is still in favour of the warriors and the war-rumour mongers, with the result that the Stock Markets have shown great weakness, and business has been almost at a standstill. Naturally, the public are waiting for the clouds to roll by, and in the meantime the professional operators, who are carrying much stock, have to get out of their positions as best they can.

More War Scares.

It is not for me to predict as to whether any of the squabbles in various parts of the world will finally lead to actual war. Yesterday a *canard* had already been current, both in New York and at the fag-end of dealings in London, that Spain had declared war against the United States. This was obviously a concocted rumour, but it had the effect of sending Spanish down heavily, and of causing a severe spasm in the American department. Then followed a very strong recovery in New York, which is, of course, reflected in London. There is a saying that in the case of a war threatening you can buy stocks safely as soon as the first shot is fired. It may well be that in the case of a Spanish-American conflict the lowest prices for American Rails have been passed, whether war break out or not, and there certainly are just now strong efforts being made to support this market. It may be considered as certain that the West African difficulty with France will be amicably settled. On this point M. Hanotaux's last statements are distinctly encouraging. That Russia will obtain the concessions which she has demanded from China is true enough, but, as it would be quite impossible for this country to lay hands upon the whole of the Celestial Empire, I really do not see why some of our great dailies should continue to shriek for action. In the City the view is now taken that the British Government will occupy certain points, which will fully assure its future position, and such measures would hardly be opposed by Russia, and would certainly not lead to war with her. I am, therefore, still inclined to think that the Far Eastern question will presently recede to the background. In the Transvaal matters appear to be settling down. The despatch of Oom Paul's famous letter has been delayed, and when it arrives it will, according to all accounts, contain a quibble about the suzerainty, but absolutely uphold the London Convention. Apart from the Spanish-American dispute, therefore, it would appear as if foreign politics were not likely to disturb the peace of the world at present, and when once the public realise the position I should think that they would no longer refrain from investing their money, especially as there are at present many very tempting opportunities, from Home Rails to American Rails, from Argentine railway stocks to South American Government securities, not to mention South African and West Australian Mining shares, while even high-class investments have given way sufficiently to tempt the cautious investor. In the Industrial department there is again a rush of new companies, and I can but repeat my warning to scan these concerns very closely before investing in them.

Money and Gilt Edged Investments.

The fear that the Money Market may experience a further rise, and all the talk about war being ahead, has dislodged further blocks of gilt-edged investment securities. A few weeks ago it was Colonial bonds and Home Railway Debenture and Preference stocks which suffered. During the past week a fall of from two to four points has been marked in British Corporation stocks, which had certainly been pushed up exceedingly high. The fact that recent issues of several leading municipalities met with so cool a reception, evidently had predisposed these stocks to a reaction. Colonial Bonds, by the way, are again lower this week. Consols have experienced several spasms, chiefly on the war rumours, and the quotation for the account is down to 111⅛. There has again been some selling of our premier security as a hedge against other "Bull" commitments; but I do not think that this practice is now so extensively followed as it used to be, owing to the short supply of stock, which renders it exceedingly difficult to buy back. Silver, after touching 26d., has declined to 25⅝d., and somehow or other it does not look as if the white metal would fall below 25d. Rupee Paper has dropped heavily to 62. The fact is that the Indian Budget is viewed very unfavourably, and so far it does not seem to be intended to tinker with a gold standard. The new Chinese Loan has proved a failure, inasmuch as the underwriters here were saddled with a large portion, only about 27 per cent. having been applied for by the British public. The price has now fallen to 2 discount, or 88, so that the underwriters, although making no loss, are minus their commission. But I dare-say the time is not far distant when they will come to their own, provided, of course, that the Far Eastern question has not to be solved by force of arms. The other Chinese Loans are quoted at 100½ for the Seven per Cent. Silver Loan, at 104½ for the Six per Cent. Gold Loan, and at 100 for the Five per Cent. Gold Loan, while Japanese bonds stand at 100. The Greek Loan is now in sight, and as it is to be guaranteed by England, Russia, and France, it will be of the nature of a gilt-edged investment, and probably find its final resting price here, as we outbid Continental capitalists for this kind of security. Discount rates for three months' Bank bills are quoted $2\frac{15}{16}$ to 3 per cent., while short money is obtainable at from 2½ to 3 per cent. The future of the market must to a great extent depend upon the action of the United States. Large withdrawals have taken place for American account, both from the Bank of France and from London, and these will probably continue for some time longer. On the other hand, Government disbursements and dividend-payments will, with the turn of the quarter, provide greater ease, and if the trouble between the United States and Spain were to be settled, money would become very easy.

Why are Home Rails Out of Fashion?

On looking at the position of Home Rails one cannot help feeling surprised at the extreme dulness of this market, especially as, in view of all the war rumours, one would think that the public would be anxious to invest their money nearer home, and in solid undertakings which continue to show good progress and further increases

on the top of large gains in 1897. In several instances, moreover, on the basis of last year's dividends, a very good yield, up to 4 per cent. in Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras) can be obtained. There have, of course, been the labour troubles, and there is the increase in wages and expenditure; but, in view of the large earnings, there is no reason why Home Rails should lose their popularity. Apart from the war scares and the harder money market, there must, however, be some other reason why Home Railway securities are neglected, and this may probably be found in the fashion which has set in for home industrial stocks. That, however, will probably prove only a temporary craze, and when, as cannot fail to be the case, some of the over-capitalised concerns show signs of collapse, I should not be at all surprised if investors were again to turn to the securities of our well-managed and substantial railways. The traffic increase for the past week on the whole of the lines amounted to £34,653, which brings up the gain for the eleven weeks to £463,000. The Caledonian is doing distinctly better than almost any other line, showing again an increase of £2,583 for the week, on the top of a big take in 1897, and when Coras are quoted this week ex the dividend of 2 per cent., they will doubtless tempt purchases. Advices from the Clyde report exceptional activity in the shipbuilding trade, several large Government orders for cruisers having just been placed there, and Caledonian traffics cannot therefore fail to prove very large. The North British is doing fairly well, but I do not consider North British Deferred as cheap as Coras. The stocks of the Heavy lines have displayed dulness, and even the rise in Hull and Barnsley has fizzled out again, as it is now considered that the North-Eastern has the best of the arrangement. Brighton "A" and Dover "A" have suffered from the inclement weather and from the war scares, it being, moreover, the fashion to put down these stocks with American Rails. As the latter securities are now again in the ascendant, both Brighton "A" and Dover "A" should also improve again, especially as great scarcity of stock was disclosed at the settlement. Dover "A" are undoubtedly the best purchase of the two, as the South-Eastern has already piled up an increase for the eleven weeks of £24,656. Great Northern Deferred and Great Central 1894 Ordinary are certainly tempting for a lock-up, and so are Metropolitan Districts, which are slightly easier, in sympathy with the rest of the market. Traffic increases continue to be shown from week to week, these being doubtless due to the development of the extensions. So far, the gross traffic for the eleven weeks amounts to £95,242, an increase of £4,000. Central London Railway shares have been largely dealt in, the fully-paid Ordinary being the favourite, at from $10\frac{5}{8}$ to $10\frac{7}{8}$. These stocks have been but little affected by the surrounding depression, the appointment of Sir Henry Oakley to the chairmanship having been very favourably received.

THE YANKEE MARKET—SCARES AND RALLIES.

One is forcibly reminded of the old adage "that the hour is darkest before the dawn" by the sudden change which came over the American department on Saturday. Not that it is at all certain that there will be no war between the United States and Spain. On the contrary, the position is still critical, although, now that the report of the court of inquiry into the *Maine* disaster has been published, the worst is known. Its exact contents, moreover, have been frequently foreshadowed, and the event is thus more than discounted. What steps the United States will take with regard to Cuba remains to be seen, but there is still hope that the actual outbreak of war can be averted. What, however, caused my introductory remarks was that strong support was forthcoming from Wall-street on Saturday. At first the market was altogether demoralised, prices dropping in all directions, while a *canard* gained credence for some time that Spain had declared war against the United States—a rumour which also caused extreme nervousness in London, and great weakness in quotations. The hour was dark indeed, with Milwaukee selling at $88\frac{1}{4}$, Louisville at $46\frac{1}{4}$, and other shares at similarly depreciated values. Then followed a rally which in Wall-street, where the fluctuations had been the sharpest, carried up prices from \$2 to \$8 above the lowest figures touched, and we have now Milwaukee here again at $94\frac{3}{4}$, Louisville at 51. The question, of course, is whether the improvement will be maintained, and whether it will make further progress. There has been a great deal of liquidation in New York, the *Maine* disaster happening at a time when a huge "Bull" account was open there. This position has now, apparently, been got rid of, and it may be assumed that the stocks are in stronger hands, and that a number of "Bears" have still to cover their commitments. After the heavy fall one would almost think that even the outbreak of war was more than discounted in the present level of prices of American Rails. After all, traffics continue on an excellent scale, and the business of the railroads has not yet suffered any check. The Spaniards are not likely to take possession of them, and, in fact, should war ensue, the railroads will probably in the first instance benefit. Nor can the issue of such a struggle be for one moment doubtful, as the United States are certain to gain the day. It will be useful at the present juncture to again give a comparison of prices, especially in view of the sharp fluctuations which have occurred, and which have in many instances wiped recent severe declines out again:—

—	Highest in 1897.	Lowest in 1897.	Price, Jan. 2, 1898.	March 21, 1898.	March 28, 1898.
Atchison	$17\frac{1}{8}$	10	$13\frac{3}{8}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{7}{8}$
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	$36\frac{1}{4}$	$17\frac{3}{4}$	$31\frac{5}{8}$	$25\frac{5}{8}$	$26\frac{1}{2}$
Canadian Pacifics	$90\frac{1}{8}$	$46\frac{3}{4}$	$83\frac{1}{8}$	85	$84\frac{1}{2}$
Central Pacific	$18\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{3}{8}$
Denver	$15\frac{1}{2}$	$9\frac{7}{16}$	$11\frac{3}{4}$	$11\frac{7}{8}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Do. Pref.	$51\frac{7}{8}$	$37\frac{5}{8}$	$47\frac{1}{4}$	$45\frac{3}{4}$	$45\frac{1}{4}$
Erie	$19\frac{11}{16}$	12	$15\frac{1}{8}$	$13\frac{1}{4}$	$13\frac{1}{8}$
Do. First Pref.	$46\frac{1}{2}$	$28\frac{5}{8}$	$39\frac{3}{4}$	$35\frac{1}{4}$	$35\frac{1}{2}$
Lake Shore	183	156	$176\frac{1}{2}$	192	198
Louisville	$65\frac{1}{4}$	$43\frac{1}{8}$	$58\frac{1}{8}$	50	51
Milwaukee	$105\frac{1}{8}$	$71\frac{7}{8}$	98	92	$94\frac{3}{4}$
Missouri, Kansas, and Texas	$17\frac{3}{8}$	$10\frac{3}{4}$	13	$11\frac{3}{8}$	11
Norfolk Adjust. Pref.	50	$22\frac{1}{2}$	$48\frac{3}{4}$	47	47
North Pacific New Pref.	$61\frac{7}{8}$	$34\frac{1}{2}$	61	$62\frac{3}{4}$	$64\frac{3}{4}$
New York Central	$118\frac{1}{8}$	$95\frac{1}{8}$	$110\frac{1}{2}$	114	114
Ontario	$20\frac{9}{16}$	13	$16\frac{1}{4}$	$15\frac{1}{8}$	$14\frac{1}{2}$
Reading	$15\frac{1}{4}$	$9\frac{7}{8}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{3}{4}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Southern Ordinary	13	$7\frac{1}{16}$	$9\frac{1}{4}$	$8\frac{1}{8}$	$8\frac{1}{8}$
Do. Pref.	39	25	$33\frac{1}{8}$	$26\frac{7}{8}$	$26\frac{3}{4}$
Union Pacific	$35\frac{7}{16}$	$19\frac{13}{16}$	$26\frac{1}{4}$	$26\frac{5}{8}$	$27\frac{3}{4}$
Wabash Pref.	$24\frac{3}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{8}$	$18\frac{1}{2}$	$15\frac{3}{4}$	$15\frac{3}{4}$

It would appear to me that such stocks as Milwaukee, Louisville, Erie, Erie First Prefs., Union Pacifics, Union Pacific Prefs., Central Pacifics, Chesapeake and Ohio, and Southern Prefs., might with advantage now be locked up to a moderate extent. Traffic returns of the leading roads are again satisfactory, as instanced by the following increases:—Milwaukee \$157,955, Missouri \$70,000, Wabash \$41,000. The weakness of the American department naturally affected the stocks of the Canadian roads adversely, notwithstanding satisfactory traffics, the increase of \$138,000 of the Canadian Pacific being more particularly favourable. Canadian Pacifics have, however, now recovered again to $84\frac{1}{2}$, Grand Trunk First Prefs. to $65\frac{3}{4}$, the Guaranteed to $72\frac{3}{4}$. It is much to be regretted that the war of rates still continues, and this certainly does not reflect credit upon the respective boards and managements.

FOREIGNERS AND SOUTH AMERICANS.

In view of the sharp tumble which Spanish bonds have experienced, the quotation dropping to $49\frac{1}{2}$, it is not surprising that Foreign stocks generally should have given way. The Paris Bourse is naturally hard hit over the fall in Spanish, and has put all its specialties down, even Rio Tinto not escaping this fate, although very favourable dividend estimates are current. Much must, of course, depend upon the issue of the Spanish-American trouble. The fall has not, however, been confined to inter-Bourse stocks, but South Americans, too, have declined heavily, the weakest position being that in Argentine railway

stocks. It appears that several jobbers had loaded up with heavy blocks, and as the political scare cut off all investment orders, and caused a general set-back, these stocks had to be liquidated. My readers will recollect that a few months ago I uttered a warning against the over-speculation which had taken place in these stocks, and my fears have been only too amply borne out by events. Buenos Ayres Great Southern are 6 lower for the week at 145, Buenos Ayres and Rosario have fallen 3½ to 69, Central Argentine 3½ to 76, and Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debentures are down to 47, Cordoba and Rosario Prefs. to 42½, Bahia Blanca and North-Western Prefs. to 51½, Argentine Government stocks are also lower, and in this instance the warlike tone of the Chilian Press appears to have aggravated the depression. It would indeed be absurd for Chili and Argentina to go to war over a simple boundary dispute, and I cannot bring myself to believe this. Prospects generally are favourable in Argentina, especially as there is no doubt now that General Costa will be elected President, and he is said to have made up his mind to place the finances of the country on a thoroughly sound basis. In the meantime, however, the Argentine Funding Loan is down to 87½, the 1886 Loan to 88¼, and the Railway Guarantee Rescission bonds have fallen to as low as 56. Uruguay bonds have, in the midst of the general depression, kept up remarkably well, although even they dropped to 44¾ for the Old Loan, from which there was a recovery to 45¼. Brazilians, too, have shown weakness, being predisposed to that by previous occurrences, and by the precarious financial outlook in Rio de Janeiro. The 1889 Loan has fallen to 53¼. Chilians are also lower, the 1886 Loan having fallen to 73. Peruvian Corporation stocks have shown a steady appearance, and Mexican Sixes also have borne the war scares remarkably well.

The Kaffir Circus—A Better Feeling.

The view is gaining ground that the liquidation in the Kaffir Circus has practically been completed, and as the news from the Transvaal is more satisfactory, it would not be surprising to see quotations gradually harden. The consensus of opinion is that President Kruger's letter will not by any means prove a formidable epistle, and that he will declare his readiness to abide by the London Convention. Concessions to the mining industry he will apparently not now make; but, on the other hand, he has not got his loan, and before he can raise any large sum of money, he will doubtless have to show some readiness to improve the position. Had the surrounding conditions been less adverse, the report of the Rand Mines meeting, which was cabled over from Johannesburg, would doubtless have caused prices to brace up. As it is, Rand Mines do not seem to be able to maintain themselves above 28, and every now and then drop back again. The news, however, is of a distinctly favourable kind. At Thursday's meeting, the Chairman reported gratifying progress, stating that the Company was now interested in two parent Companies, eight deep levels, and one syndicate, all of which were doing well. The credit to profit and loss account amounted to £1,694,632, while the value of the shareholdings had increased by £1,500,000. A first dividend of 100 per cent. would be declared during the year, and he hoped that this rate would not only be maintained, but largely increased. Special interest centres in the statement made by the Chairman that no objection was raised on the part of the board to the splitting of the shares, upon which the shareholders are to be consulted. He also mentioned that steps would be taken for the purpose of replacing black labour by white. The chief speculative business has been transacted in Consolidated Goldfields and East Rands, which have hardened slightly. Randfontein have been fairly steady, and Barnato stocks have been well supported, more especially Barnato Consols. No improvement is marked in diamond shares, De Beers being quoted 26⅓, New Jagersfontein 7½.

London and Paris Exchange, Ltd., 24, Throgmorton-street, London, E.C. This Corporation is prepared to make Advances on Mining Shares, at 6 per cent. per annum, subject to a deposit of 20 per cent. Clients by this system save the heavy contangoes usually charged.

Golden West Australia.

The West Australian market has been much agitated by the liquidation, which has been going on, of several accounts, amongst which was one of an outside broker who had been dealing very largely in "Kangaroos." Prices show moderate declines, but there was no difficulty in arranging the account, and two shares more particularly proved scarce, viz., Ivanhoe and Northern Territories. People are speculating as to who has sold all the Northern Territories, in which such a large shortage is shown. But the quotation of these has eased off to 4¼, and the Market Trust group has been somewhat lower in sympathy with the general market. At the last, however, some demand has been experienced for West Australian Joint Stock Trust Founders' shares at $\frac{13}{16}$, and it is expected that after Wednesday's meeting of the West Australian Joint Stock Trust these shares will go ahead to a considerable extent. London and Globe Finance shares receded at one time to $1\frac{5}{16}$, from which there has been a recovery to $1\frac{7}{16}$, and in view of the circular which has just been issued jointly by this Company and the British America Corporation, an advance in these shares would appear to be on the cards. The present should be an excellent opportunity to average London and Globe shares. The amalgamation of the West Australian sub-companies of the London and Globe has now been practically resolved upon by all the shareholders, and an early issue of the Standard Exploration Company is anticipated. A moderate number of crushings has been advised, as per the following list:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per ton.
Peak Hill Goldfield	524	2,024	—
Lady Shenton	600	1,650	19 dwt.
Queensland Menzies	100	641	—
Consolidated Murchison	372	391	—
Weld-Hercules	191	101	2 dwt.
Yalgoo Proprietary	38	29	—
Golconda	605	449	2 dwt.
Menzies Alpha	46	292	—
Australian Champion Reef	180	195	7 dwt.

The result obtained by the Peak Hill Goldfield is more particularly satisfactory, and has caused an improvement in these shares to 2¾, reacting again to $2\frac{9}{16}$, notwithstanding the alluvial trouble. The Lady Shenton crushing of 1,650 oz. is extremely satisfactory, and better than the last, while the assay of the tailings is also greater than last time. It is significant that the Queensland Menzies, the adjoining property, has a crushing of nearly 6½ oz. to the ton. According to a *British Australasian* cablegram from Perth (W.A.), a distinguished party visited the Lady Shenton Mine on the occasion of the opening of the railway to Menzies, when very favourable statements were made, and the opinion was expressed by the Governor that the mine was not sufficiently appreciated at present, but that shareholders could well afford to wait until the result of its operations proved its value. The cablegram concludes as follows:—

> Rayfield (consulting engineer) reports rise upon the vein on the northern boundary level No. 3. Much pleased with developments. The vein is fully 4 ft. in width. Ore payable. The winze at level No. 4 down to 23 ft.; continues to look exceedingly well. The vein is fully 5 ft. in width; first-class ore. North drift is now in 139 ft.; the vein is fully 4 ft. in width; first-class ore; heavily mineralised.

This latest news fully confirms the favourable views held here in well-informed quarters with regard to the Lady Shenton, which would in fact now perhaps stand at nearly double the present price were it not for the surrounding weakness. According to the latest cablegram received from Perth (W. A.), Sir George Shenton, the chairman of the Company, and Mr. McNeil have returned from the mine, which was found to be looking better than their most sanguine expectations. The cablegram states that eight months supply of first-class ore is in sight without further develop-

ment of the property. It is stated that the lowest level and winze are now being developed with the utmost rigour with rock-boring machinery, and that the bottom of the winze is a magnificent show. As regards low-priced mines, which are at present in a very promising position, Florence should also offer an excellent opportunity, the shares being quoted only $\frac{5}{8}$. This is also the price of Golden Pike, concerning which the official cablegram fully confirms my previous information, being as follows:—

400 ft. level west cross-cut 98 ft. struck Great Boulder lode. From the assay results 8 dwt. per ton, 11 dwt., 18 dwt., 2 oz., 3 oz. 12 dwt., 4 oz. The lode is wide, and carries much mineral. 12 ft. mineral still in face.

Advices from the North-west Australian Goldfields are to the effect that crushing has been started, and that the clean-up will take place on March 28. The mill is stated to be working "splendidly," and if the output should be as "splendid" a great many disappointed shareholders in this Company will be pleased. From the Sons of Gwalia very favourable advices are to hand, reporting that the Gwalia Level No. 2 assays an average of 5 oz. per ton, while the manager adds that he has no doubt that he can improve upon this. In the level No. 1, cut No. 8, a rich chute of ore is reported, and it is understood that the mine promises exceedingly well for the future. Hannan's Brownhill shares have experienced a sharp relapse, also no doubt due to some forced closing, the price declining at one time to $7\frac{1}{8}$, from which there has been a recovery to $7\frac{3}{8}$. This is a mine which should come prominently to the front in the course of April, when the new machinery should be at work, and an important improvement is looked for. Lake View Consols have also suffered from realisations, and the quotation dropped back to $8\frac{1}{8}$, recovering to 9, which still includes the 10s. dividend. Should the March output prove satisfactory there will doubtless be a considerable rise in these shares, the news from the property continuing of a favourable character. Hannan's Props., after improving, have eased off again, although the position of this Company is very satisfactory. Great Boulder Proprietary have been a dull market in the neighbourhood of 20s., and Great Boulder Perseverance and Burbank's Birthday Gift have also been very quiet.

Sir John Forrest at Menzies—Turbulent Proceeings.

Every well-wisher of Western Australia, and every fair-thinking man, will deplore the turbulent proceedings which took place at the opening of the railway from Kalgoorlie to Menzies last week. It appears that a deputation waited upon Sir John Forrest, the Premier, at Kalgoorlie, in order to place before him the grievances of the alluvial diggers, to which I devoted a special article a week ago. Sir John Forrest very properly stated that the rights of the leaseholders must be considered, and he refused to release the two miners imprisoned for disobeying the magistrate's order to cease working the alluvial on leasehold property.. The mob thereupon committed various acts of violence, and molested the Premier on his way to the station. Fortunately, the train was in readiness to take him away, and he thus escaped from the riotous crowd. The various miners' associations absolutely disavow these disgraceful proceedings, and numerous meetings have since been held in all parts of the colony expressing sympathy with Sir John, while cablegrams have reached him from all parts of Australia, fully supporting his views. The security of leaseholds will therefore be fully maintained by the West Australian Government, and special legislation will doubtless be resorted to in the West Australian Legislature. In the meantime, it will be useful to mention some of the statements made by the Premier at the banquet at Menzies. According to the published cablegrams he drew attention to the fact that there was now a continuous line of 1,000 miles from Albany, and another of fifty miles to the goldfields of Coolgardie. He also mentioned that the water scheme, which had been started would, although costing £2,250,000, and £300,000 yearly to keep up, pay for itself within twenty years. The mines which were now worked at a loss, would, with an increased water supply, yield profits. The gold production of the colony during January last had been greater than that of Victoria and Queensland combined. The annual trade amounted in value to £10,000,000. Seven years ago there was a population of 50,000, with a revenue of £400,000. At present the population was 160,000, with a revenue of £3,000,000. The colony was, however, capable of holding millions, instead of this 160,000, inasmuch as it comprised one-third of Australia. Altogether the Premier's programme is a comprehensive one, and there is little doubt but that the whilom Cinderella amongst the Australian colonies is now leading the way.

Indian, Australasian, and British Columbian Mines.

The Indian section has shown dulness with the rest of the Mining Market, and declines have predominated, Ooregum Ordinary, Mysore West, and Mysore Reefs all giving way. In fact, this section has also had its share of forced sales. In Australian mines, other than West Australian, Broken Hill Proprietary have been firm at 44s. 6d.; but Mount Lyell and Mount Lyell North mark declines, and hardly any business has been transacted in Charters Towers mines. The only improvements in New Zealand properties occurred in Hauraki and Komata Reefs; while Waihi, Taitapu, and Preece's Point are all lower. Amongst British Columbian mines, slight improvements are marked in Klondike and Columbian Goldfields, in London and British Columbia Goldfields, and in War Eagle; but Klondike and North-West Territories have eased off. British America Corporation shares, after dropping to below par, are firmer again at 20s., and in view of the circular which has just been issued over the signature of the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava and Mr. Whitaker Wright, the prospects of this Company must be considered as most encouraging. A map of the Rossland mining camp is enclosed, on which a large number of valuable properties that have been acquired are to be found. Many of these were already mentioned in the interview with Governor Mackintosh, to which I drew attention last week. It is needless, therefore, for me to refer to these properties in detail, especially as all the shareholders have received maps and circulars. With reference to the territory of Yukon it is stated in the circular that Mr. F. G. Hinde Bowker, who has had an experience of ten years in that country, has been appointed the Yukon manager of the Corporation, with headquarters at Dawson City. Mr. Bowker is now purchasing supplies at Vancouver, and has chartered a steamer (2,000 tons) at that port to convey the goods to St. Michael's. The British Columbian Iron Works are also building for the Corporation a river steamer for use on the Yukon River, which is expected to be ready by the time the river is free from ice. A number of options have been acquired in the Yukon district, but the properties will not be taken over until their value has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Company's agents. One property has, however, been acquired by the British America Corporation jointly with the London and Globe, viz., a lease giving exclusive power to dredge fifty miles of river beds for a period of twenty years. Several other maps are in preparation, which will eventually be sent to the shareholders, and the statement is made that the properties have been so judiciously selected that the Corporation could dispose of them at a large profit if it desired to do so. Lord William Beresford, V.C., has joined the Board vice Mr. E. A. Hoare, who has resigned owing to ill-health. An important item of news is contained in the circular, viz., that all these properties in British Columbia have been acquired by the British America Corporation jointly and in equal shares with the London and Globe Finance Corporation. The reason for this departure is that the properties are of so valuable and extensive a character that it would have proved impossible for either Company to handle them singly. I should think that this combination of forces would bring excellent results to both undertakings.

Heering's Copenhagen Cherry Brandy. The most delicious Liqueur. Established 1818. Of all respectable Wine Merchants.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The New Schultze Gunpowder Company, Limited.—This Company is formed to take over the business of the Schultze Gunpowder Company, Limited, as at present carried on by them; and to further develop the business, to acquire additional leasehold land, new works, and plant. The business was established in 1869, and the profits are stated to have been for the year 1897 £28,921. The capital is fixed at £325,000, divided into Cumulative Preference and Ordinary shares of £5 each.

Chadburn's (Ship) Telegraph Company, Limited.—With a capital of £120,000, divided into 60,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference and 60,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each, this Company has been formed to purchase and carry on the businesses of Chadburn & Son, Limited, and Thomas Bassnett, Limited, and to acquire certain patents, together with the leases, plant, machinery, stock, and goodwill now being carried on at the works at Liverpool and Glasgow, and the branches at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Belfast, and London.

The present net profits are stated to be over £13,000 per annum, which are likely to be greatly increased, owing to the activity in the shipping trade. The orders in hand are reported as large, and sufficient to pay the interest on the Preference shares many times over.

Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa (1898) Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring, as a going concern, the business and assets of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, Limited, and of carrying on and extending the same. The Company acquires the leasehold premises, plant, machinery, formulæ, and all other assets of the vendor Company. The profits for the year ending November, 1897, the prospectus states, amounted to over £72,000. The capital is fixed at £400,000, divided into 200,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares and 200,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each.

The Electric Supply Company of Western Australia, Limited.—This Company is formed with a capital of £100,000 in shares of £1 each, for the purpose of taking over from the Westralian Electric Lighting and Supply Company, Limited, the business and existing system of electric supply to the Town of Coolgardie, Western Australia.

It is doubtful whether there will be any local support for this venture, and there are plenty of Companies carrying on electric business in this country in which investors can do far better, while avoiding considerable risk.

Edwin Woodhouse & Co., Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire the business of Messrs. Edwin Woodhouse & Co., worsted and woollen cloth manufacturers, of Farsley, near Leeds. The share capital is £195,000, and a Debenture stock of £65,000.

This issue may, I think, be safely left to investors in the North, who may know something about the business. There is nothing enticing in it.

The British and Foreign Du Bois Company, Limited.—With a capital of £150,000 this Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and carrying on the business of the British Du Bois Manufacturing Company, Limited, and of amalgamating with a similar business now carried on in Germany by the Du Bois Manufacturing Company, both Companies being engaged in the manufacture and sale of the "Du Bois" lead trap and other sanitary appliances.

Competition in sanitary appliances is now far too great, and fresh inventions are always cropping up, so that it would be unwise to place money in a venture of this class.

Quicksilver Mines (California, U.S.A.), Limited.—This Company has been formed to purchase and develop the Redington Quicksilver Mine, in the north-east "corner" of Napa County, California. The share capital is fixed at £150,000 in £1 shares.

There are a number of mines in a "corner" just now, although they did not start there. Investors may probably find themselves in one, if they place their money in this venture.

Huggins & Co., Limited.—This Company has been incorporated to acquire the brewery undertaking carried on by the Company of the same name which was incorporated in 1894 to carry on the brewery of John Huggins & Co., at Lion Brewhouse, Broad-street, Golden-square. The share capital is fixed at £850,000, in Ordinary and Preference shares of £10 each, and a Three and a Half per Cent. Irredeemable First Mortgage Debenture stock of £550,000.

Thomas Phillips & Company, Limited.—Capital £160,000, consisting of 16,000 Five and a Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £5 each, and 80,000 Ordinary £1 shares. The First Mortgage Debenture stock, £100,000, bearing 4½ per cent. interest is also offered for subscription. The Company has been formed to acquire as a going concern the business of Mr. Thomas Phillips, brewer, &c., of West Malling, Kent, the freehold breweries known as "The Abbey Brewery," West Malling, Kent, the "Diamond Brewery," Dover, the "Park Brewery," Camberwell, London, S.E., &c.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

Red Dragoon.—The Brazilian position is not encouraging. At the same time there seems to be no reason for you to sell what has been bought at high prices (1 and 2), and I think that the better plan would be to hold for a possible recovery. As regards Portuguese (3), whenever you can get a good opportunity you should clear out. As to No. 4, I could not possibly predict such a rise as that you mention in the shares of these Timber Companies. A small advance might be justified, but important competing Companies are now under way. *W. S.*—Do not think there would be any harm done in increasing your holding of Chilians at the present low quotations. This country has always fulfilled its obligations, and will no doubt continue to do so. *Fiducia.*—I see no reason why you should not invest in Mexican Six per Cent. Government bonds. They are a better investment than the railway bonds mentioned. *Sutton.*—The agents for German lottery bonds are generally very shady, and I could not possibly advise you with regard to their solvency. They are not really bankers, and I think you might just as well give these German lotteries a wide berth. *M. S. C.*—1. I do not consider these two Central American bonds worth buying, and as to Honduras (2) prospects are still very doubtful. *A. M.*—There seems to be some disagreement between the Chilian and Argentine Republics. I do not think it will come to anything, but political unrest always affects Government bonds. This is the chief reason why Chilians have fallen. The financial position does not seem to be at all serious.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Fonds.—I have always advised my readers not to deal with outside brokers, and you have done so against my deliberate warnings. I do not think that anything can now be gained by precipitating matters, and you will be wise to wait. *B. P. R.*—It is a great pity that a domestic servant should be tempted by a high rate of interest. I strongly advise you to leave the money in the Post Office Savings Bank. *P. E. G.*—Outside brokers; have absolutely nothing to do with them, and deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. *Sam.*—If you are a constant reader of Truth you must know that warnings against dealing with Alexander Baring & Co., of Bath, have repeatedly appeared in its columns. I advise you to deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. *A Shopkeeper.*—A new and small concern, respecting the solvency of which I could not possibly give you any information. *E. H. C.*—I cannot reply by letter. While I have always expressed an unfavourable view concerning this new-fangled insurance office, I have never published any lengthy article dealing with it. *Keen.*—I take no very favourable view even now of building societies, and the best plan is to fully investigate the accounts before placing your money into them. *Peter.*—All depends upon whether you do not mind the heavy liability attached to the stock. There might be some chance of a recovery. *Correspondent, Waterford.*—Obviously, Browne, Johnson, & Co., outside syndicate touts, are not identical with Messrs. Brown, Janson, & Co., the well-known firm of bankers. You will have seen that I drew attention to the similarity of the names in Truth a fortnight ago. *Gloucester.*—No reason to sell.

Home Rails.

Doubtful, Tunbridge Wells.—1. Furness Railway stock is in a peculiar position. There is no quotation for it here, and on merits it ought to be higher, but when there is no market for a stock it generally remains below its real value. For this reason I cannot reply to your remaining inquiries. *Byt.*—I see no reason why Great Central Five per Cent. Prefs. should not be bought as an investment. Everything must, however, naturally depend upon the results of the extension to London. *Hopeful.*—Yes, I still think well of Great Central 1894 Ordinary. *Towcester.*—No; the Deferred stock ranks after the Ordinary, so that the 1894 Ordinary is far preferable. *Mrs. L.*—I am afraid that prospects of this railway are not very rosy, but in time it may pay, and I must leave it to you whether to sell or not. It has not been one of my recommendations. *Steel.*—If you want to buy Central London Railway shares you had better select the fully-paid Ordinary at 10¾, as there is no liability on these.

American and Foreign Rails.

Sidons.—It is quite impossible to give advice as regards the purchase of American railroad stocks just now. Whenever the turn comes, Nos. 1, 2, and 3 may go considerably higher, but they may also go lower in case of adverse political news. I do not advise purchase of English Sewing Cottons (4) at the present premium, and I must refer you to my remarks under "A Chapter on Industrial Stocks." *Ceres.*—I really cannot undertake to publish remarks on this stock until I am satisfied myself as to the likelihood of its improving. The turn has, in my opinion, not yet come. At the same time, I quite agree with you that it would be wise to hold the stock. *R. R.*—I cannot say that these

Preference shares are absolutely safe, but they are a fair investment of the kind. *J. R. X.*—You should hold both your Union Pacific Ordinary, and the Preference shares which you will receive; if you can. Certainly hold the New Ordinary.

MINING SHARES.

C. H. W.—1. Yes, I advise you to hold Hendersons and buy a few more to average. II. I do not advise a purchase of these. *Ajax.*—Yes, I still hold the opinion that Oceana Consols will one of these days improve considerably. They are shares to be locked up. *Housekeeper.*—Of the shares mentioned by you West Australian Joint Stock Founders appear to look most promising just now. *R. P. T.*—You must remember the general weakness of the markets. The Corporation is doing well. See remarks in this week's letter. Yes, London and Globe are a good purchase. *F. H. C.*—1. Yes, Modderfontim are a good purchase. 2. Yes. 3. Hold, but do not buy any more. Yes, the Mining Manual of W. R. Skinner. *S. E. D.*—Yes, there is every prospect of an improvement. *Anxious, Long Eaton.*—Hold your South African shares. Lady Shentons are good for a big rise, but I cannot tell you when exactly. *Holly.*—1. Yes, there is a better chance in Lady Shentons. 2. I have never recommended this mine, it is disappointing. 3. Yes, London and Globe and Ivanhoe should be held for a rise. *Asset.*—Hold by all means. A turn is close at hand. *Ashton.*—No option but to hold Nos. 1—4, they will recover. Take your profit in No. 5 (Wassau). *Blot.*—Yes, hold No. 1. The meetings of Nos. 2 and 3 will not take place for some time yet. *M. P. J.*—1. Do not buy more to average yet. 2. Not just yet. *Roche.*—A fair investment of the kind, but no catch. *Major L.*—There is very little market as yet, no option but to hold. *Nemo, Watford.*—No, I would not buy any more now. *Leeds.*—1. Hold Ivanhoe for a rise, and buy more to average. 2. Ditto as regards London and Globe. *Toby N.*—Yes, a good purchase. Lady Shenton is the best amongst the shares mentioned. *Jeff.*—If you can afford it buy more London and Globe to average. *H. S. Co.*—There was no reason for the fall, except the general depression. You will now have received the circular. Hold. I make no charge for reply, and, in fact, refuse to do so. *T. S. E. M.*—The fall in London and Globe shares has been altogether exaggerated, and if it had not been for war scares and forced liquidation of some outside accounts, it would never have gone so far. The Company is doing well, and the shares should be bought. 1. No. 2. Yes, for a good rise. 3. Yes. *Eldorado.*—Same reply as above. You should not heed such absurd attacks, which are, moreover, altogether unjustified. *J. P.*—You will find that the lowest point has passed, and that there will now be a steady rise. *Halifax.*—Hold the West Australian shares Nos. 1—6. You should hold these too for an improvement. *Bute.*—There is no option but to hold such shares as No. 1, in view of the general depression in the South African market. Also hold No. 2. *Suspect.*—You are quite right, the expenditure of the Golden Link Consolidated Mines, Limited, is very heavy, and the gold prospects are, after all, still very much in the air. The item "London expenditure, £5,760," seems enormous, although it includes the chairman's travelling expenses (£1,250). *Badford.*—Quite so. Prospects were, of course, interfered with by the unrest in the Transvaal. But you should hold. *Z.*—All the shares, Nos. 1—4 are promising and should improve again when the present depression passes away. No, as to No. 2; yes, as to No. 5. *J. F. T.*—No, Taitapu are not hopeless, although they have been disappointing. *L. W. M.*—Most certainly, hold Simmer and Jack. *Grantham.*—Yes, you might buy your Londonderry shares back again. *E.*—You might risk it for a small amount. *Knock.*—1. Yes, you should buy London and Globe. 2. Amongst South Africans, East Rands, Randfonteins, and Rand Mines. *Albion.*—You should certainly have nothing to do with this tout, whether he offers Randfontein or anything else. There is nothing wrong with London and Globe and you should buy more to average. I cannot answer for other newspapers. *Lamp.*—If you hold Lady Shentons long enough you will no doubt make a good profit on them. The last crushing was 1,650 oz. from 600 tons, and to date, 26,795 oz. from 7,743 tons of ore.

INDUSTRIAL STOCKS.

W. L. M.—1. A very doubtful undertaking. 2. Everything must depend upon the future profits of the hotel, concerning which nothing is known. 3 and 7. Both doing well. 4. To some extent doubtful. 5. These should recover. 6. A fair investment of the kind. *Johnny.*—Very speculative; I cannot advise you. *Industrial.*—I really should not like to advise you on this point, but in my remarks on Industrial stocks you will find what you require. *J. A. P.*—Nothing is known publicly concerning this Company, which I need hardly tell you is highly speculative, and I cannot give you any further information. *Arron.*—I do not know anything of this concern, and should certainly not advise you to invest in it. *Surveyor.*—These debentures can be paid off at six months' notice at the option of the Company, and from the point of view of debentures they are not a good investment, although the price is tempting. *J. S. E. M.*—This appears to be a promising undertaking. *Hew.*—The First Debentures are officially quoted 106-8, but the Second Debentures are merely nominal at par. *Regret.*—No, I do not advise the purchase. *J. E. B.*—Not yet. *Justice.*—All these motor car concerns are failures, and the price is quite nominal. I warned my readers against them at the very outset. *Bath, C. S.*—1. Speculative, but fair of the kind. 2. No option but to hold. Prospects fair. *T. H.*—No option but to keep them for the present. *Appleby.*—No reason to sell No. 1—4. I would not buy No. 5 or 6 yet. *A. C.*—I am afraid that in view to the Spanish-American trouble there is little chance of these shares recovering just yet, but a change may come very suddenly.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Lucre.—1. I do not consider these any particular catch. 2. You should certainly hold W. A. Smelting Corporation shares, as this Company appears to have a great future in that Colony. 3. No; I do not advise a purchase of W. A. United Brewery shares. 4. Under the last arrangement the interest is to be paid in April and October, and the coupons will doubtless be met. *Inquirer.*—1. Hold until the actual position has been ascertained at the meeting to take place on April 21. 2. Not very promising in view of the depression in the nitrate industry. 3. Not a favourite of mine. 4. These may come right. 5. Certainly hold. 6. Do not part with Spratt's Patent now. 7. These may be all right. 8. Promising as regards the near future. *Cribbage.*—It is quite correct that Hampton Plains have been very stagnant of late, but you had better hold now. I feel quite sure that if you were to buy at present prices, and take up and pay for, Union Pacific, Erie Common, Norfolk Common, and Southern Common, as you propose, you would make a good deal of money in six months' time. The present war scare is the investor's opportunity, but you should not run the shares in the market. *Hop Pole.*—1. I do not think that these Brewery Prefs. will improve at present. 2. British America Corporation should be held for an improvement. 3. A fair Industrial investment. 4. London and Globes are now recovering, and are very promising at the present price. *Saltcellar.*—1. Hold for the present. 2. I do not think much of this concern. 3. Yes, you had better hold. 4. Ditto. 5. Randfontein should certainly not be sold now. 6. You might also await a possible recovery in these. *Rum Tum.*—I see no reason why you should now sell your investments Nos. 1 to 4. There is at present a wave of depression owing to political circumstances, and when the clouds have lifted there will be an improvement. All the shares are dividend-payers. With regard to Nos. 5, 6, and 7, I see nothing against these American railroad bonds, except that they are temporarily affected by the present war rumours; but I should not advise you to sell now. 8. Most Home Industrial Prefs. are at a very high level, and I do not advise you to invest in them just at present. 9. Yes, very risky. *Annie.*—No particular reason to sell No. 1; but it is not a very promising investment. 2. A fair Industrial investment. 3. No reason to sell. 4. Hold East Murchison United. 5. I do not like Russian Oil Prefs. 6. London and Globes should be held and averaged. *Ivan.*—1. There has been no undue delay at all yet. 2. The shares mentioned are fair Industrial investments, but no catch. *Levinger.*—1. I do not now advise you to sell Cycle shares at bottom prices. 2. There is a prospect of a recovery. 3. I think you can find better shares mentioned under "Golden West Australia." 4. Yes, probably. *Norris, Bristol.*—Your shares, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, are well selected, and when the present depression passes off they should improve. British America Corporation are a good purchase, as are also Ivanhoe. *Wanderer.*—I see nothing against Illinois Central Four per Cent. Gold bonds except the present war rumours. I should not recommend a purchase of the other shares mentioned, and in future please to number your inquiries, as it is not advisable to mention the name of the stocks. This is one of the conditions I make for answering inquiries. *Harrods.*—A. I am afraid that there is not much chance of getting anything out of this Company, unless matters improve very much. B. Impossible to tell. C. I have not heard of anything unfavourable to this Company. *G. S.*—1. I do not advise industrial Companies for the investment of your £2,000, as these are greatly overdone. 2. No. 3. Yes. Amongst the other undertakings mentioned by you I should think that Randfontein (7), London and Globes (9), Lady Shenton (10), Florence (11), Sons of Gwalia (12), and Glencairn (15), would be an excellent selection. *R. I. U.*—No; I do not advise a purchase of any of the stocks mentioned, Nos. 1 to 5, at present. Wait till the clouds roll by. *Val.*—1. I have no further information with regard to this bank. 2. The debentures should be reasonably secured.

A CHAPTER ON INDUSTRIAL STOCKS.

The Industrial department has also suffered from the political clouds, and business has been greatly restricted, while some forced realisations seem to indicate what will happen sooner or later, viz., that when the majority of operators will want to sell there will be very few buyers about. Even Lipton shares, which are still under the clamour of a very successful issue, showed weakness, and a large number of Preference shares were sold down to $\frac{3}{16}$ premium. The allotment in Preference shares has been more liberal than in the Ordinary, which still maintain a premium of 1, but there have evidently also been a good many stags in Liptons. The

CHINA AND GLASS. — Messrs. GOODE, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

debentures are very steady at 106, and are being quietly absorbed. W.A. Timber shares maintain a good tone, although prices are slightly easier, Millar's Karri and Jarrah being quoted 3, Davies 1¾, Canning ¼ premium. The new issue of the Jarrah Timber and Wood Paving Corporation appears to have met with a favourable reception. This is really an amalgamation of a number of enterprises, viz., the Northern Estate and Lion Mill, the Central Estate and Collie Mill, the Southern Estate and 24-Mile Mill, and freehold land in Bunbury (W.A.). One of the chief points about the enterprise is, however, that it includes timber-yards in Perth and the Western Australian timber business of Messrs. Palfreman, Foster, & Co., of New Broad-street, London, E.C. The latter firm have already carried out extensive contracts for street-paving purposes, and thus a well-established connection for the sale of the timber is assured. Allsopp Ordinary have shown weakness, the quotation having at one time receded to 150, from which they rallied sharply to 153 on the scarcity of stock shown at the settlement. The financial scheme, which I criticised last week, is not at all popular in the market. A fresh set-back is marked in oil shares, Russian Petroleum having fallen to 20⅜. Threads (English Sewing Cottons) continue to dwindle, the premium being now $\frac{9}{16}$, and there has also been a relapse in Welsbach Incandescent stocks, the Ordinary being down to 108, the Preference to 99, the Deferred to 19s. Spiers & Pond have been steady at 21½, and Bovril have been dealt in to a considerable extent at 18s. 6d. for the ordinary, and at 11s. 9d. for the Deferred. Schweppes, on the other hand, have been neglected at $1\frac{3}{16}$ for the Ordinary and 10s. 6d. for the Deferred. In Lyons shares small dealings take place at 3¾. A Company which is meeting with a good deal of encouragement in the market is Chadburn's (Ship) Telegraph Company, as it deals with the amalgamation of two old-established businesses, which are connected with the shipbuilding trade. There is at present no more flourishing industry in this country than that of shipbuilding, as is fully apparent from the favourable advices that are coming to hand from the Clyde and the Tyne. The ships' telegraphs manufactured by Chadburns are now being introduced on all the vessels in course of construction, and this is evidently the case of a Company which, by the addition of a large sum to its working capital, will be able to greatly increase its business and profits. A further decline has taken place in Hudsons Bay shares, which have now dropped to 21. This is a very considerable fall from the top, and it would not be advisable for operators to commit themselves on the "Bear" tack now. Cycle shares have displayed general weakness, and business has been conspicuous by its absence. Prices have simply moved down automatically, and quotations are now for Dunlop Deferred 12s., the Ordinary 16s., Humber Ordinary 12s. 6d., the Extensions 7s., Swifts 9s. 6d., Singers 12s. 3d., Cycle Components 29s. 6d., Amalgamated Tyres 6s. 3d. So far, there is no sign of a rally. A report has been issued by the Natal Steam Coal Company, Limited, which was formed in September, 1897. Since its incorporation the company has been opening up its properties. Advices are favourable, and large profits are expected when the Company is working. A cable just to hand states that the whole of the plant will be completed during the present week, and that the April output has been sold. I should like to know how much money has been subscribed towards the capital of £150,000 in Preference and Ordinary shares of the United Breweries of Western Australia, Limited, the prospectus of which was advertised a fortnight ago. I am afraid there has been a very poor subscription on the part of the public, and the question is asked as to why the allotment has been delayed so much. I have received several communications from shareholders in the Brockie-Pell Arc Lamp, Limited, who are extremely dissatisfied with the report which has just been issued. To these, one and all, I should like to point out that I warned my readers against having anything to do with this concern when the shares were being boomed by some of my contemporaries. I have, however, no objection to giving publicity to some of the complaints, and have selected from the bundle of letters the following remarks:—

> After close on eighteen months' working the shareholders are presented with this precious document, which shows a deficit of close on £4,600 for the period, and I would ask you to cast your eye down the expenditure side of the profit and loss account, and see some of the items that go to make up the deficit: Directors' fees, £1,676 (fancy, five Directors for a small business of this kind!); salaries, £3,257 (a modest amount for their services!); and £500 for trade and office expenses. You will observe the premium on 5,000 shares (£1,250) has been brought into the revenue part of the account, but is all eaten up, too, by this blessed crew. The working capital seems to have been squandered, as the cash in hand and in bank amounts to only £697 odd, and £500 of this is for the sale of French and Belgian patents.

I cannot possibly publish the further remarks made by this correspondent, which are all of an extremely uncomplimentary character to the directors; but I fully agree that the result of the working of the business is exceedingly unsatisfactory, when compared with the rose-coloured views which have at various times been aired in the Press. I should think it would be the best plan to wind up the concern at once. A circular has been sent out by Mr. A. Howard, 286, Essex-road, London, N., at whose residence tickets were to be had at £1 each, and at 10s. for half-tickets, for participating in a drawing for prizes in shares, which I need hardly say are not of a gilt-edged description. The following is the list of prizes:—

		£	s.	£	s.
	1st Prize.				
10	Dumont Coffee Preference Shares ...	80	0	105	0
5	,, ,, Ordinary ,, ...	25	0		
	2nd Prize.				
100	United Rhodesia Goldfields	50	0	75	0
5	Dumont Coffee Ordinary Shares ...	25	0		
	3rd Prize.				
50	Kent Coal Exploration Shares ...	37	10	50	0
50	Rhodesia Concession ,, ...	12	10		
	4th Prize.				
200	Randt Reef Fully-paid Shares — ...			20	0
	And ten prizes of				
100	Randt Reef Fully-paid ... — ...			50	0

All applications for tickets had to be received by Tuesday, March 15, so I suppose this drawing will shortly take place. I wonder who will get the prizes, and what they will do with them? Much of this is, of course, absolute rubbish, and not worth the value stated. I cannot refrain from mentioning, in conclusion, that the German lottery touts have now reached China. A reader of TRUTH from Hankow sends me a circular which he has received from Mr. Albert Jarmulowsky, of Schwerin, Germany. I suppose, as the German Government has obtained a footing in the Celestial Empire, the lottery touts also wish to be in it, and their inroads might be even more dangerous than the occupation of Kiao-chau.—Your affectionate uncle,

MOSES.

P.S., TUESDAY MORNING.—Further peaceful rumours concerning the Spanish-American difficulty have caused a renewed and important improvement in Wall Street, a "Bear" squeeze on a large scale being in progress, so that prices have risen again above yesterday's London quotations. The advance in Milwaukee from the lowest point touched on Saturday now reaches nearly $8, and the improvements in other shares extend in many cases to $5 or $6. Should peace be preserved, a further substantial rise will doubtless take place, although movements in the near future will necessarily be irregular in accordance with the varying rumours. Many of the ursine commitments have not yet, however, been covered, and there is therefore the support of a "Bear" account left. The markets generally recovered materially after the carry-over, and I look more particularly in Home Rails, and in South African and Westralian mines for an all-round advance, especially when it is shown, as I have no doubt it will be shortly, that the Far Eastern question will not lead to war, even should the British Fleet occupy Chefoo, or some other point of vantage on the Chinese coast.

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QUEER STORY.

HOW WE TUBBED THE TOSHER.

THROUGHOUT the 'Varsity he was always known as The Tosher—never by any other designation; and the reason for his being singled out of an estimable, though, at that time, somewhat despised body of undergraduates, to bear the distinction of the definite article was simply, I conceive, that in sheer Toshcriness he out-Toshered all other Toshers.* He was a man of about thirty, so far as one could judge, short and puny, with weak, watery eyes, and a reasty complexion. He wore elastic-side boots—a thing which to my, perhaps, prejudiced mind always gives a man away—and between the top of them and the bottom of his shrunken inexpressibles was usually visible a hiatus of white sock. His shirts were of coloured flannel; his collars—if he had more than one, a point which commentators debated—were discoloured and yellowish; and the umbrella which he invariably carried, wet or fine, was the most obstrusively alpaca instrument that you ever beheld. Add to this that he was never, at any time of the day or night, seen abroad without his cap and gown, and you will readily understand that he soon made himself a marked man. You will readily understand, also, the complete appropriateness of his designation, *The* Tosher.

That he was the sort of man who is utterly out of his element at Oxford was obvious at a glance Nobody knew him. Nobody ever spoke to him. When he came to lectures, he always came alone, and sat by himself in a retired corner of the room. When he was seen walking about the town, he was never accompanied by any companion. Stay, though. He was sometimes seen out walking accompanied by sundry companions. On Sunday afternoons, in the by-ways of the Parks, and in the least frequented parts of Mesopotamia, one occasionally met The Tosher with a youngish, rather pretty little woman, walking at his side, and a toddling olive-branch attached to each hand; and from that we surmised that he was a family man—a husband and a father; a circumstance which provoked not a little mirthful derision in our bosoms. For that a man like The Tosher should have inspired the tender passion in any female breast, or that having inspired it, he should have had the courage to follow it up by matrimonial propositions, seemed to us a monstrous absurdity. But that only showed how little we young fellows understood these things, in supposing that woman sees as man sees. I know better now.

But to return to The Tosher, and to explain how I made his personal acquaintance. It all arose out of the merest accident; an accident which happened to my friend Sullock, the famous Dark-blue oar, whose name is still familiar to rowing men after twenty years, and who was then the greatest man in Oxford, being, in fact, President of the O.U.B.C. It was early in the Lent term of 187—, and Sullock, who was to occupy No. 5 thwart in the 'Varsity boat, had the misfortune to cut his hand rather badly with an oyster-knife, at a big supper given by North of "The Tavern," on the last night before the crew went into training.

The immediate result of this accident was to place Sullock *hors de combat* for a week or ten days; and it was one afternoon during that period, that the President, not feeling sufficiently fit to follow the eight on horseback over the "long course," which they were to row on the day in question, was persuaded by me to "do a slack" in a centre-board on the Upper River—the first time he had ever been guilty of such a thing since he came up to Oxford.

It was while we were careering from side to side of the river—ever and anon running aground in the shallows on the Port Meadow bank; for the water was low and the winds were contrary—it was, I say, while we were engaged in this tedious diversion that we first saw The Tosher in the character of an aquatic. He was seated in a dinghy, with a mortar-board on his head, his coat off, the sleeves of his flannel shirt rolled up to the elbows, and displaying two fore-arms for all the world like the drumsticks of an attenuated duckling. At that minute, he was drifting leisurely downstream; but, on catching sight of us and seeing that we had our eye on him, he suddenly bucked up, and treated us to an exhibition of the sculling art, which was obviously meant to make an impression on us.

It did. As one familiar with the Upper River, I had seen all the worst scullers that the 'Varsity could then produce, but never one quite so atrocious as The Tosher. He was working all he knew; yet I doubt whether there was sufficient force in his strokes to pull the proverbial sprat off the proverbial gridiron. His back was arched, as that of a cat cornered by a terrier; his head was bent forward and nearly lost to sight between his knees. With one scull he hardly caught the water, the other was drowned nearly to the button; and his splashing was as the splashing of a newly-arisen man taking his cold tub on a frosty morning. But what was most absurd and ludicrous about it all was that The Tosher kept casting anxious and inquiring glances in our direction, as much as to ask us what we thought of his style. Indeed, he did this so very obviously and with such evident and complete ingenuousness, that it struck us both on the instant, and tickled us not a little.

The President winked at me, and I winked at the President.

"Don't he think he's doing it just about?" sniggered my friend.

"I believe," I replied, "that he has recognised you as President of the 'Varsity Boat Club, and he wishes to attract your favourable notice by an exhibition of his powers."

"Expects me to try him for the eight—I shouldn't wonder," chuckled the President. "I say," he added, suddenly, slapping his stalwart thigh, "I say!"

I invited an explanation. Sullock unfolded to me a little plan that had flashed across his mind. The President, like John Gilpin, loved a timely—more especially if it were a practical—joke, and the idea of a huge (potential) jest had just occurred to his fertile imagination. It was to this effect: that we should take The Tosher on, by inviting him to come down to the 'Varsity Barge next morning, and there be tried for the eight.

The notion appealed to me immensely. I said, with great glee, that I would do what I could to further so excellent a jest.

"But," I ventured to remark, "do you think he'll be flat enough not to twig our little joke?"

"Not he! He's flatter than a flat iron," replied Sullock, with conviction. "Besides, even if he does happen to spot the hoax, there isn't much harm done after all, is there?"

"Well, by all means let's try it on," I said.

And so we decided. We got his address on our way back from jovial Mr. Bossom, from whom we had hired our centre-board. In reply to a question which I put to him, on the chance of his knowing The Tosher—and, indeed, no man was more likely to be familiar with the devotees of the Upper River—he answered at once, "Ah! That's Mr. Pringle, sir. I've got his address on my books. Subscribes by the term for a dinghy, he does. Simple-minded little gent, too, sir. Thinks he's getting no end of a dab at rowing. But he knows no more about it than my Aunt Martha's tom-cat. I'll step inside and copy his address for you, sir."

He suited the action to the word, and soon reappeared with The Tosher's address—some number in the Woodstock road—written on an envelope, which he handed to me; and, armed with this, we were able to send the following carefully concocted epistle (on O.U.B.C. notepaper) to The Tosher by that evening's post:—

O.U.B.C.
January 29, 187-.

Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in inviting you to come down to the University Barge to-morrow (Wednesday) morning, at eleven o'clock prompt, in order that I may try you with a view to your possible inclusion in the VIII. As you are, perhaps,

* For the benefit of the uninitiated it may be explained that this is the slang term by which the unattached, or non-Collegiate, students are known at Oxford. It may be added, also, that at the time when these events occurred, being more than twenty years ago, there existed an absurd and snobbish prejudice against the (then) newly instituted Toshers, which even now has not entirely died out.

aware, we are in some uncertainty as to the final filling up of two places in the boat, and, from what I have heard of you from competent judges, who have seen you out on the river, and also from what I myself witnessed of the way in which you were shaping this afternoon, I am of opinion that you are worth trying for one of the vacant places.

Kindly, therefore, be at the Barge by eleven a.m. sharp, when I will arrange to take you out for tubbing practice.—Truly yours,

W. J. Sullock,
President, O.U.B C.

— Pringle, Esq.

"Think that'll fetch him?" the President asked me, after reading it aloud with evident gusto.

"'Umph," I replied. "If he's like the ungodly, 'as green as the grass,' don't you know, perhaps it may."

"That being the essential condition," chuckled the President. "He will not fail to come."

And come The Tosher did.

But I must tell you how he came and what screaming enjoyment he afforded us. Sullock and I were down at the barge in good time next morning; and we waited in anxious anticipation to see if The Tosher would come. What was our unholy joy, when, precisely as Tom was striking eleven, the victim of our little hoax made his appearance, in his inevitable mufti, and fully capped and gowned! Nobody was about; except for one of the boatmen, Sullock and I had the barge to ourselves. As The Tosher walked, with somewhat timid steps, across the gangway, the President stepped forward and greeted him effusively.

"Mr. Pringle, I am delighted to see you."

"And I—I am d—delighted to c—come!" stammered The Tosher, blinking his weak eyes nervously, and blushing to the roots of his thin hair with bashful pleasure.

"I wish we had known sooner what a dab oar you were," said the President, with a gravity that did credit to his self-control. "But, fortunately, it is not altogether too late yet. By the way, allow me to introduce my friend—himself a prominent exponent of the aquatic art—Mr. Dalloway—Mr. Pringle."

"A privilege to make your acquaintance, sir," I murmured, bowing.

"The—the privilege is all the—the other way," stammered the poor little greenhorn, who was evidently nearly beside himself with pleasurable exultation.

"Hem! We must not waste time," said the President. "You are ready to make a start, Mr. Pringle?"

"Oh, q—quite r—ready," answered The Tosher, and then he added, with a self-satisfied solemnity that made it extremely difficult for us to restrain our emotions, "I—I had an underdone beefsteak for b—b—breakfast this morning, on purpose to put me in g—g—good trim."

"Underdone?" ejaculated Sullock. "I hope it was blue, Mr. Pringle!"

"Not q—quite blue; but it was v—very pink," answered The Tosher, with the shame-faced air of one who has unwittingly confessed to a serious, though unintentional, irregularity.

"Ah! It ought to have been blue," pronounced the President. "The beefsteaks which *we* eat, never have more than a bowing acquaintance with Kitchener. However, no matter. We must get off. Here is the tub, and here are we. Will you row stroke, Mr. Pringle? My friend will take bow."

It was some minutes before we were duly settled in the boat. The Tosher divested himself of his gown and his coat, though still wearing his mortar-board, and then he made a request that taxed our gravity to the uttermost.

"M—may I t—tie my gown r—round the s—seat," he inquired timidly. "I—I've been rowing a great deal lately, and I'm r—rather s—sore."

Sullock bit his lip, and I thought he would fail to restrain the explosion which he was strenuously endeavouring to bottle. However, he managed to master himself, and replied with befitting seriousness:

"I am afraid not, Mr. Pringle. It would never do for a 'Varsity oar to resort to such cotton-wool practices."

"Oh, I—I beg p—pardon," said The Tosher, again blushing furiously, and bestowing his gown, with his coat, under the seat. "I—I didn't know."

"Get ready!" said the President. "Paddle!"

We proceeded, with jerky splashiness, to the mouth of the Cher (it will be remembered that in those days the "New Cut" did not exist), then turned up that narrow, sluggish little tributary.

Sullock soon gave us an easy.

"Mr. Pringle," he said, with well-assumed conviction, "if you can row as stylishly as you can paddle, you'll set the Isis on fire, and no mistake."

I saw the back of The Tosher's neck, above his yellow collar, blush a deep red with gratification; then he said, with a burst of confidence that struck me at the time as being exquisitely ludicrous, though there was something very pathetic about it, too, had we been able to see it, "I—I—I'm so glad. Do you know, ever s—since I c—came up to Oxford, it has been my—my one wish to—to g—get into the Eight, and I've practised and practised, and I knew that I was g—getting on, but I was afraid n—no one would n—notice me, and—and I can never thank you enough, sir."

"Tut—tut," said the President, choking down his laughter, "it is my business to unearth good oars. That's what I'm here for. But now we'll try a burst of rowing, at a quick stroke. Don't think me impertinent, Mr. Pringle, but may I ask if you are wearing a vest under your shirt?"

"I—I've g—got on a flannel waistcoat," replied The Tosher. "The d—doctor has told me always to wear natural wool next my skin."

"Just so. A most healthy practice. Well, I'm afraid I must trouble you, Mr. Pringle, just to whip off that shirt of yours and row in your flannel waistcoat."

"W—what?" gasped The Tosher, in a tone of horrified amazement.

"Just to whip off your shirt," repeated the President. "It's all very well paddling in a shirt. But, of course, you can't row in a shirt."

"I think I could," The Tosher ventured to protest.

"Out of the question," said the President, in an authoritative tone. "Now, would you like me to peel you; or can you get out of your shirt yourself?"

"Oh, I can do it myself—if I must," responded The Tosher, hurriedly. "I—I—supposing there should be any—any ladies about," he stammered (as he unfastened his collar), with an anxious glance towards the Christchurch meadows.

"Oh, you needn't be bashful, my dear sir. A flannel waistcoat *is* opaque. You'll have to row in a transparent zephyr before you've done. Come now! Hurry up!"

Thus admonished, The Tosher pulled off his shirt in hurried confusion, and stowed it with his coat and gown under his thwart. Then he grasped his oar, ready to row. And a mighty comical figure he cut, with his mortar-board still upon his head, and nothing on his puny trunk except his flannel waistcoat. But Sullock had to administer yet another shock to his sense of delicacy.

"Now," he said, "you must undo the two top buttons of your inexpressibles."

"I—I—don't think I—I can do that," remonstrated The Tosher, nervously. "It—it wouldn't be—be—decent."

"Decency be hanged!" replied the President, with his most Presidential air. "When you row, you have to swing your stomach right down between your knees; and how the devil are you to do that, sir, if you've got the article in question buttoned up tight against your midriff?"

The Tosher did not attempt to answer the unanswerable, or venture on further remonstrance; but, with an embarrassed and unhappy air, he undid the buttons.

"Now," said the President, "get ready—row."

We got ready. We rowed. But not for long. At about the fifth stroke, The Tosher caught a crab—the crabbiest crab I have ever seen caught. Our tub rolled and rocked. The Tosher made a desperate effort to right his oar, but leaning over on that side—like the ass he was

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—when the gunwale was already in the water, he had capsized us all before we knew where we were, into the cold embraces of the Cherwell.

* * * * *

We neither of us saw or heard anything of the Tosher for the next week—a circumstance that occasioned us no little surprise. For to tell the truth, we had been daily expecting him to turn up at the 'Varsity Barge, and had been considering how we should break it to him gently, that he had simply been the victim of a practical joke. From the fact, however, of his not turning up, we concluded that he must somehow have discovered the hoax. And having concluded that, we thought little more about him.

But one evening—I think it was just a week afterwards—Sullock came into my rooms carrying an open letter in his hand, and wearing an unusually agitated look upon his face.

"Read that, Dall," he said, handing me the letter.

I took it, and read as follows:—

Dear Sir,—I have snatched a minute from my husband's bedside to write you this. He wishes to see you and the other gentleman who was with you when you were upset. He is dangerously ill—dying, perhaps—of pneumonia, consequent on the wetting he got the other day. Please, therefore, come at once.—Yours faithfully,

Alice Pringle.

"I say!" was all I could find to utter. "I say!"

"If," said Sullock, greatly agitated, "the poor beggar really has caught his death from——. But it's no good talking. Of course, we must go at once."

"Of course," I assented. And we started off. Neither of us spoke on the way. We were both overcome by the terrible turn that events had taken. That our little joke should have produced this tragic and awful result was a cruelly insupportable thought to both of us.

When we reached the Tosher's house, the door was opened to us by a small Marchioness, with red eyes and a rather soiled countenance. And then The Tosher's wife came down and spoke to us. The little woman's face was very grave and solemn. She fixed her eyes on Sullock with a look of the deepest reproach. She did not offer to shake hands with either of us. We saw, instinctively, from her demeanour, that she had guessed the truth—had seen through the hoax which we had perpetrated on her husband.

"I am glad you have come," she said. "The Doctor gives the worst account of my poor husband. He thinks it improbable that he will be alive at this time to-morrow." And then, she added, with a sudden quivering outburst, "How could—how *could* you—be—so—so—cruel?"

"Good God!" stammered poor Sullock, greatly overcome, as indeed was I, also, myself. "We never meant—we—never thought——."

"No," she exclaimed, bitterly. "You never thought—you never cared—as long as you had your joke—your *joke!* You knew my husband was as simple as a baby—you knew that he had no friends—n-no one to take his part—you took advantage of this. And—and—you see the result. I—I—do not envy you your feelings!"

"I can't resent what you say," cried out Sullock, in a broken voice; "though you do us an—an—injustice in supposing that we were led to practise this—this—hoax on your husband because he was without friends. But—there, I don't wish to whitewash myself. And I can only say that I'm sorry, from the bottom of my heart, that I was ever such a cad as to do what I did."

"Amen to that from me!" I added. I could not say any more. There was a lump in my throat that nearly choked me.

The Tosher's wife was silent for a minute. Then she said, looking up eagerly into Sullock's face.

"You—you—have enough good feeling, I hope to—to—wish to make any reparation to my poor husband that might be possible?"

"Heaven knows, I would do anything I could in that way," he replied, earnestly; "if there was anything to be done."

"I will tell you the exact state of the case," she exclaimed, speaking quickly and with every indication of suppressed excitement. "The danger from the pneumonia itself is over. But my husband is sinking from sheer weakness and exhaustion. He is worrying himself, too—you cannot think how much—with the idea that by—by catching a crab and upsetting the boat, he had spoiled his chance of being chosen for the eight. For he—poor guileless boy—has never guessed that you were merely hoaxing him. Now, I think that—that—if you would stoop to a pious fraud, and tell him, with your own lips, that you *would* have chosen him, and that—that—he *must* get well in order to row next year, it might—I do think it might—make a difference to his chance of rallying. Will you do this—for my sake as well as his?"

"With all my heart! With all my heart!"

"Then come upstairs," she said.

We entered The Tosher's bedroom. We found him propped up with pillows, gasping for breath. His sallow cheeks were very wan. His eyes were closed. He just opened them to greet us with a feeble smile, and stretched out a thin hand to us on the counterpane, as if in welcome.

Sullock approached, and took his wasted hand tenderly. Then he blurted out:

"I—I—say, Pringle, old man! I—I—am sorry to find you in this state, don't you know. However shall we get on without you at Putney?"

The change that came over The Tosher at these words was simply marvellous. A new brightness came into his heavy, half-closed eyes; an expression of lively joy and gladness flashed across his wan face.

"You—you—would have chosen me, then?" he cried, with an energy that had seemed impossible for so weak a man. "You—you—*would*—have—chosen—me?"

"Rather!" said Sullock. "And look here, don't you know, you must get well as soon as you can, so as to be in thoroughly good trim for next year!" . . . .

Whether it was the effect of the President's words, or whether the poor beggar was, perhaps, in less hopeless case than the Doctor had thought, I do not know. But from that hour The Tosher began to mend.

And the funniest thing about it was that, from the date of our visit to his bedside, there grew up the queerest sort of friendship between Sullock and The Tosher—so much so that when the little man got about again, and the Boat Race was over and forgotten, the strange spectacle was seen on the River of the President taking out The Tosher and teaching him to row in real earnest. The Tosher never got into the 'Varsity Eight, but he was consoled by rowing bow in his club boat the following year; and Sullock was rewarded by standing godfather to the next little Tosher that made its appearance.

ART NOTES.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

"PRAISE! Praise! Praise!" was Mr. Pinero's impassioned advice to the critics on a certain well-remembered occasion. This is well enough in its way, but even the author of "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray" can scarcely have intended to suggest that eulogy should be bestowed at the expense of the critic's judgment. It is always pleasant to praise when one honestly can, and I am glad to be able to speak favourably of the hundred-and-ninth Exhibition at the Suffolk-street Galleries. That it is admirable as a whole I am unable to assert. But like the already historical egg of the curate in *Punch*, it is "excellent in parts." There is distinct promise in the work of some of the younger exhibitors, in that of Mr. E. Borough Johnson for example. The chief fault of this artist is that he is still continuing what would seem to be a round of experiments. He does not seem to have yet found out how he can use to the best advantage the talent he so undoubtedly possesses. He is too eclectic in his methods, too diffusive in his aims. He apparently has so far failed to correctly gauge either his power or its limitations. But this being allowed, there is much to commend in his work. The most important picture he

exhibits at Suffolk-street is "At Closing Day," in which we see a minster church in the background, and the figure of a mower looming large in the foreground as he homeward plods his weary way across a stretch of greensward. It is not difficult to trace here the influence of Frederick Walker. The picture is reminiscent, too, in a way, of Mr. La Thangue's later work, but it contains convincing proof of Mr. Borough Johnson's individual capacity, and possesses, moreover, inherent charm. "Two Beauties" is an experiment in quite another direction, and not one, I may add, in which Mr. Johnson can be advised to persevere. His two small portraits in water-colour are wholly admirable.

Mr. J. Sanderson Wells is another exhibitor whose work may be studied with interest. And in "The Spring Time now Advances" and "The Herd Boy" Mr. Adam E. Proctor is to be seen at his very best. Mr. Tom Robertson, Mr. Haynes King, Mr. J. W. T. Manuel (with an audaciously clever portrait of Mlle. Lavallière), Mr. Walter Fowler, Mr. Hans Hansen, Mr. W. H. Y. Titcomb, and Mr. G. C. Haité all exhibit pictures which should not be overlooked by visitors to Suffolk-street. From Mr. F. Cayley Robinson there is unfortunately nothing. Perverse as he has been of late in his artistic methods it is a distinct loss to the Exhibition of the Royal Society of British Artists when he has no pictures upon its walls. What may be considered the place of honour on the west wall of the Central Gallery is assigned to Mr. A. D. McCormick's "Children of the Foam." The best part of this somewhat ambitious picture is its design. The nude sea-nymphs have considerable beauty and gracefulness of form, but they are distressingly anæmic. To judge from their appearance it must be chalk and water and not blood that they have in their veins. The portrait exhibited by Mr. Sidney Sime is delightful in colour, but "soul is lacking there."

The Vestibule is devoted to a curious collection of drawings in water-colour and pastels by three R.B.A.s, Messrs. J. W. Manuel, O. Eckhardt, and S. H. Sime. In most of these modernity in its most pronounced type is predominant. Unfortunately, in straining after realism a descent has been made in several of the drawings into mere brutality. Many of the worst features of such artists as Forain and Steinlen have been imitated, without their redeeming gift of style. I can quite understand Sir Wyke Bayliss wishing to keep such exhibits outside. But the drawings are worth looking at, especially several grotesque studies in which Mr. Sime wields the pencil of a sort of Japanese Aubrey Beardsley. There is a special treat in store for visitors to the Gallery of the Royal British Artists on April 30. On the afternoon of that day, at four o'clock, the Poet Laureate is to read extracts from certain of his poems to those who are fortunate enough to be present. I notice that it is not Mr. Austin's intention to include "Jameson's Ride" in his programme.

MUSIC.

THE REVIVED GONDOLIERS.

"THE GONDOLIERS" is welcome enough again at the Savoy. People obviously did not appreciate a drawing-room version of French opéra-bouffe, and, although I believe the "Grand Duchess' strangely enough attracted a good deal of the clerical element, who would have been rather surprised at Schneider's reading of the part of the merry Monarch of Gerolstein, yet, partly owing to Miss Florence St. John's serious illness, its withdrawal was imperative. "The Gondoliers," on the other hand, although by no means the best of the Gilbert and Sullivan series, is a typical Savoy opera. Moreover, it was the last of a long line of laughter-provoking works, for shortly after its production the Savoy triumvirate quarrelled about a carpet, and, although they once more came together again, the spell seemed to have been broken, and "The Gondoliers" was the last great success of the series. The various artists now play their parts in very different fashion from that of some of their predecessors, but, so far at any rate as the men are concerned, the change is certainly not always a disadvantage. The two great successes of the revival are the Gondolier of Mr. Kenningham, who seems to have lost the hardness of voice which at one time was a real defect, and who has vastly improved both as a singer and actor; and Miss Emmie Owen, a young lady who a very few years ago was a dancer at the establishment, and who now promises to become the leading vocalist of the company. Her voice, it is well known, was discovered by Sir Arthur Sullivan by accident, and although it still needs cultivation—and Miss Owen would certainly be wise to take some lessons in voice production—yet she sings with great natural taste and feeling, while she acts the part of Tessa more brightly and vivaciously than any of her predecessors. Mr. Passmore plays the Grand Inquisitor in the style of the low comedian, while Mr. Lytton, although by far a better vocalist than Mr. Barrington, is rather too refined for the character of the Gondolier Giuseppe. Nevertheless, and despite vocal defects in one or two of the lady performers, the revival was a genuine success, partly, no doubt, owing to its excellent stage management and to the extremely pretty and even sumptuous manner in which Mr. D'Oyly Carte has placed the opera upon the stage. Miss Perry unfortunately is not a member of the cast, and I am told also she has no part in the new opera by Pinero and Carr, to which Sir Arthur Sullivan is now setting the music. Indeed, of the old Savoy company, Miss Brandram is now the only survivor.

By the way, two or three changes in the dialogue of "The Gondoliers" can hardly be considered improvements, particularly the reference to pink pills:—

> I vow my complexion
> Derives its perfection
> From somebody's pink pills—
> Which it doesn't.

Again, Don Alhambra's rebuke of the youthful brides, who very naturally wish to accompany their husbands to the mythical Barataria, is by no means improved by the line:—"No, we must keep the place respectable." In the original, Mr. Denny used to say, "Stop, that won't do at all, we cannot have any ladies. What will her Majesty say?" which, at any rate, is in better taste. It is quite possible that these alterations may be mere gags of "irresponsible comedians," but as Mr. Gilbert was present and made no protest, it is supposed that he approved.

I learn from Mr. Robert Newman that after all he has decided to announce another series of Saturday Concerts next autumn. The Queen's Hall manager is a plucky and enterprising speculator, and it is hoped that next year he will have even better luck than this. Meanwhile his Sunday afternoon concerts, which are perhaps more successful than any symphony performances given at Queen's Hall, will be continued until further notice. The success of the Sunday concerts of course is mainly due to the cheap prices which prevail. When so excellent an orchestra as that under Mr. Wood, plays some of the finest works of the repertory at prices ranged from sixpence to three shillings, we seem to have dropped down to something very like a Continental concert scale.

I understand that Mr. Sidebotham, the member for Hyde and the only M.P. who has secured the degree of Mus. Bac. by examination, will take charge of a Bill to put an end to the sale of foreign *in absentiâ* musical degrees in this country. While Mr. Sidebotham is about it, he might as well include a simple provision forbidding the sale of bogus diplomas and degrees of home manufacture, mostly distributed by limited liability companies and other trading institutions, which have frequently been exposed in TRUTH. Meanwhile, Mr. Sidebotham is being backed up by the Union of Graduates in Music, an association which now includes nearly all the genuine musical graduates in this country. This body proposes to form itself into a joint-stock company, to be registered by

the Board of Trade as "not for profit;" and at a general meeting held a few days ago, with Sir John Stainer in the chair, it was resolved that application should be made to the Board of Trade with this object.

A gentleman of Leek, Staffordshire, sends me the latest of Mr. Lansdowne Cottell's circulars, which now seem again to be in process of distribution to various people of whom Mr. Cottell himself cannot have the slightest knowledge. This circular contains the usual "Special Private Notice" that a ten-guinea season ticket will be issued to various "ladies and gentlemen to whom this form may be addressed" at "one guinea inclusive, nominally to defray the cost of postage and stall-keepers' fees;" or, in the alternative, you may have a twenty-five-guinea life-ticket for ten guineas. Either sum, I need hardly say, would be completely thrown away. The new circular, which is headed with the title of the "London Conservatoire of Music, Hyde Park," contains the astonishing assertion that "since its foundation many hundreds have received free tuition, resident scholarships, and introductions for engagements suitable to capacity." Last year I devoted considerable space to this precious "Conservatoire" and to Mr. Cottell, exposing the whole *modus operandi* and the methods by which the speculation was worked. I had a pretty considerable correspondence and interviews with numbers of Mr. Cottell's former students and others, but I am bound to say that never, during the whole of my investigations did I come across a single one "of the many hundreds who have received free tuition, resident scholarships, &c." Indeed, in every case "free" tuition meant payment of money—a species of gratuitous instruction peculiar to Mr. Cottell.

Last week there was not a single orchestral concert given in London proper, a relief appreciated by a good many people. At the Crystal Palace, however, there was a Beethoven programme on Saturday, but despite the co-operation of Lady Halle, who played the violin concerto and the Romance in F, the audience was not a large one.

Chamber Concerts have, however, been numerous, as is ordinarily the case towards the end of Lent. The Joachim Quartet Party on Saturday at St. James' Hall gave a magnificent performance of the great posthumous Quartet in A Minor, the slow movement of which is expressly stated by Beethoven to be a Pæan of Thanksgiving for his own recovery from a long illness. Messrs. Greene and Borwick have given their last concert, the popular Irish baritone winning special success with a group of national melodies. On the same evening Mme. Frickenhaus gave an interesting recital of music by several composers whose names are unfamiliar here, particularly the American musician Mr. MacDowell, M. Rée, and Mr. Dal Young. The last of the Ballad Concerts took place on Saturday, and the Popular Concerts will come to an end next Monday with a Brahms programme. The Bohemian String Quartet likewise gave their last concert on Tuesday, and the present week will see the final concerts this season of the Bach Choir and of Mr. and Mrs. Henschel.

It is now officially stated that M. Paderewski will not give a public recital in London this season except at the opening of the new Erard Hall next Saturday. M. Paderewski has been touring in the provinces, but he doubtless shares the opinion which has been expressed in some quarters that pianoforte recitals in London are at present more or less under a cloud. His great rival, Herr Rosenthal, however, does not think so, and he has already fixed several dates during the coming season. Indeed, at his first recital on Monday, when he played Schumann's "Carnaval" and Chopin's Funeral March sonata, Rosenthal drew an audience which crowded St. James's Hall.

Erard Hall will be a valuable addition to the number of small concert rooms for recitals and similar purposes. The exits have been greatly improved, a fresh staircase at the rear of the hall has been added, and the place has been licensed as safe against fire by the County Council authorities. Hitherto, at this hall concerts have been given only by "invitation," it being an axiom of English law that every man is entitled to be roasted alive or to be killed in the endeavour to escape from a burning building on the sole condition that he does not pay for his privilege. The payment of money renders death of this sort very wrong, and even illegal. Happily, the Erard Hall is now safe, and the "invitation" concerts have been abandoned in favour of ordinary recitals, money for which can be taken at the doors.

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LETTERS ON BOOKS.

My dear Mr. Wyndham,—"The Disaster" (1) seems to me a more truly realistic description of the catastrophe of 1870 than Zola's "La Débacle," with which, however, it does not specially compete in either subject or treatment. While Zola looks from the point of view of a private soldier upon the disorganisation of the army of Chalons and upon the catastrophe of Sedan, the brother's Margueritte from an officer's standpoint describe the struggles of the Army of the Rhine and the colossal treachery of Bazaine. It is a most opportune book, now that journalistic wreckers at both sides of the Atlantic are trying to drag their countries into war, in order to make a few additional pence without the cost to themselves of a single tear or drop of blood. I cannot resist quoting for you Burke's denunciation of men who, safe themselves upon the sea-wall, would raise the sluices and drench continents in blood and tears:—

> A conscientious man would be cautious how he dealt in blood. He would feel some apprehension at being called to a tremendous account for engaging in so deep a play without a knowledge of the game. It is no excuse for presumptuous ignorance that it is directed by ignorant passion. I cannot conceive any existence under heaven that is more truly odious and disgusting than an impotent, helpless creature, without civil wisdom or military skill, bloated with pride and arrogance, calling for battles which he is not to fight, and contending for a violent dominion which he can never exercise.

Apropos of the Franco-German War, in a work which is a perfect galaxy of sparkling sayings, stories, &c.—Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff's "Notes from a Diary" (2)—I have just come upon the following characteristically strong and patient piece of German policy:—

> Goeben, who was so pre-eminently the tactician, as Moltke was the strategist of the German army, could have annihilated Faidherbe's forces if he had allowed that General to get between him and Paris. As, however, this apparent and momentary triumph of the French might have unfavourably affected the operations of the siege of that city, the German tactician resisted the overpowering temptation.

Here, too, is a characteristic story of Bismarck, which belongs to the same momentous period:—

> In an album where Guizot had written, "Ma longue vie m'a appris à beaucoup pardonner et à rien oublier," and Thiers had written, "Un peu d'oubli ne nuit pas à la sincérité du pardon," Bismarck subscribed, "Quant à moi, j'ai appris à tout oublier et à me faire pardonner beaucoup."

By the way, the diarist omits the most important part of the answer to the riddle, "What wind should a hungry sailor whistle for!" The answer in full runs thus, "A wind that first blows fowl, then chops, then comes in little puffs, and then brings you safe to port." While on the childish subject of puns, I must quote for you the happy answer Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff heard a little girl make, on being remonstrated with for extravagance—"for burning the candle at both ends." "Isn't that the way to make both ends meet?" Not the least interesting portion of a most interesting book, "Mr. Gregory's Letter-

(1) "The Disaster." By Paul and Victor Margueritte. Translated with an Introductory Memoir by Frederick Lees. (London: Chatto & Windus. Price 3s. 6d.)

(2) "Notes from a Dairy," 1873-1881. By the Right Hon. Sir Mounstuart E. Grant Duff, G.C.S.I. Two vols. (London: John Murray. Price 18s.)

(3) "Mr. Gregory's Letter-Box," 1813-1890. Edited by Lady Gregory. With a Portrait. (London: Smith, Elder, & Co.)

(4) "Three Years in Savage Africa." By Lionel Decle. With an Introduction by H. M. Stanley, M.P. With 100 Illustrations, and Five Maps. (London: Methuen & Co. Price 21s.)

(5) "Side-Lights on Siberia." Some Account of the Great Siberian Railroad, the Prisons, and the Exile System. By James Young Simpson, M.A., B.Sc. With Numerous Illustrations. (London: Blackwood & Sons. Price 16s.)

Box" (3), is its description of the agitation in Ireland upon the news of Napoleon's escape from Elba. An Emperor in one of Goldsmith's parables undertook to destroy his enemies utterly, but upon defeating them in a great battle, he pardoned all and promoted some. "Is this destroying your enemies utterly?" indignantly asked his Prime Minister. "Certainly; they are enemies no longer; I have made them my friends." In reading "Mr. Gregory's Letter-box," you cannot help wondering why this simple expedient for the quieting down of that "still-vexed" country never once seems to have occurred spontaneously to England. Apropos of Napoleon, here is one of Mr. Gregory's good stories. Simultaneously with the landing of George IV. in Ireland came the news of Napoleon's death at St. Helena. "Sire, your enemy is dead," were almost the first words that greeted his Majesty. "When did she die?" was his eager answer. Nor was his Majesty disappointed, since, as a matter of fact, his consort also was dead. The Napoleon of Africa, Mr. Rhodes, has due homage paid him in one of the most interesting books of travel I have read for some time, Mr. Lionel Decle's "Three years in Savage Africa" (4). The more high-handed Mr. Rhodes' methods and measures, the more highly does Mr. Decle approve of them. Mr. Decle himself supplies me with the kind of motto I should apply to the policy he approves of so enthusiastically. "Dr. Jameson," he says, "by the exercise of great tact and the exhibition of a Maxim gun, persuaded them to turn back." It is the kind of "moral suasion" which Artemus Ward suggested for his kangaroo. Another book of great political and other interest, which you would certainly enjoy, is Mr. James Young Simpson's "Side Lights on Siberia" (5). I have space only to quote for you his summing-up of the political exile question:—

1. The present condition of the political exile is not as bad as many would have us believe. This conception is largely based on their own evidence.

2. The past of the Terrorist Party is not looked back on by its members with the pride that one would have imagined and expected from them. Many are willing and frank enough to speak of the foolishness of their younger days, and there is a marked eagerness to disclaim all connection with dynamite.

3. It is an undoubted fact that many of them have made a better thing of the remnants of their lives in Siberia than they ever dreamt of making of the whole at home.

Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Do you like blizzards? Or are you like me, pretty miserable when they are about? I must say that, if I must have blizzards, I prefer them in town. I know what they are in the country, blocking the dwellers in remote houses away from all communication with towns and always occurring at most inconvenient seasons, just when one happens to be "out of" supplies of some sort. The absence of flour happened to be our little catastrophe on one occasion of the kind, I remember, and I solemnly ask you, is there anything, after water, that is more likely to be missed?

In London there are always resources, and if it were not for one's grief over the poor horses that are to be seen struggling and falling, a blizzard might be a bearable evil. But then, one thinks of the poor half-clad and ill-fed men, women, and children to whom a snowstorm means a terrible aggravation of their everyday ills. And the poor dear invalids, too! Oh, yes! It is delightful to see it go away.

I saw by the *Daily News* that two sensible men had set the excellent example of wearing fur capes while the storm was on. They were seen in Piccadilly, and appeared to be of the world that amuses itself. A cape is much more sensible that a fur or fur-lined coat, a heavy, clogging, and unhygienic garment of which no really rational person could approve. Let me enumerate its faults. 1. The fur, not being porous, prevents ventilation, which is necessary for the functions of the skin. With the cape, there is plenty of ventilation owing to its shortness. 2. The coat tends to overheat the wearer; so much so, that when he has been battling with the wind he gets so excessively hot that he, manlike, regardless of consequences, flings it off and exposes himself to the risk of a chill. 3. The edges of the long coat become damp and convey that dampness to the hem of the trousers and thence to the socks. A chill is the probable result, and what a chill may mean in these decadent times how is it at all possible to foretell? 4. When the time comes to leave off the fur-lined coat and adopt an ordinary one, the wearer runs great risk of catching cold. I think I have summed up all the points of my indictment. They make a rather formidable array, I flatter myself.

Bee came home from a concert one night last week shivering and white, and the dread word "chill" immediately whispered itself to me. We got her to bed with a roaring fire in her room, piled nine or ten blankets over her, tucked in two hot water bottles between the sheets, and gave her a tumbler full of hot cherry brandy and water. In an hour she was all right, but if it had been a man, nothing would have persuaded him to do the sensible thing and treat his chill in time, and most likely a serious illness would have been the result. And are they not wretched creatures when they are ill? They will not keep their room, but go mooning about the house, low-spirited themselves, and productive of the deepest depression in others, especially as one can never feel quite sure as to whether their dear little tempers are all right or not. However, when things come to a crisis, and they submit themselves to illness, there is a wonderful quiet patience about them, a fortitude in enduring discomfort that makes one long to see them all right again. But in convalescence their rashness makes them very trying again. Wait till your husband has an illness (though I hope he never may!) and you will find out what it is to "struggle wiv' 'em," as Louie Freear says.

It seems hard, somehow, that cooks and others whose business in the world is to deal with food should ever be in need of it. Of course, it is hard for any one to be hungry, but when quantities of eatables pass through the hands daily, the phantom, Want, must seem a long way off, and when he does come close, his appearance must be more than ordinarily fearsome. But cooks and caterers fall on evil days just like other men, and the Cookery and Food Association has a Benevolent Fund attached to it. There is to be an "At Home" and Musical Soirée at the St. James's Hall on Tuesday evening, April 9, in aid of it. Tickets are to be 3s. 6d. each, and will cover the price of refreshments. The Entertainment Committee who have organised this "At Home" is chiefly composed of well-known London caterers. The concert is under the direction of Mr. A. B. Bailey.

The Empress Club has developed so largely that the management have taken No. 35, Dover-street, next door to the Bath Club, and is going to pull it down and rebuild it to suit the exigencies of the club. This was once the town house of the Marquis of Abergavenny, and afterwards of Mr. Robert Smith, the banker. The Empress Club has secured the freehold. It is good to see a woman's club going ahead in so satisfactory a manner, for men have always said that we are unclubbable creatures. This must go some way towards convincing them that we have within us the necessary characteristics, and that they only lay dormant for lack of opportunities to display themselves. The Empress is such a thoroughly comfortable club that it encourages all the pleasantest qualities of human nature to come and bask on the surface.

Let me whisper something to you. Judging from what

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I hear of men's clubs, I am of the opinion that women are much more amiable in their own clubland than men are in theirs. Richard is always telling us of the selfishness of Old So-and-so or the bumptiousness of Young Such-and such. Women seem to prefer to show the brighter side of their dispositions to each other. There may be a variety of vanity and even hypocrisy in this, but without such vanity and such hypocrisy how could the world go on in civilised society?

I have found out why there is such strong opposition to the doffing of the matinée hat. It is not the hat itself that is so closely clung to, but the veil; the deliciously becoming veil. If Mr. George Alexander, the doughty champion of the matinéer, would only set the millinery wits of the world to work to invent a mode whereby the veil could be retained without the hat, he would find his task of clearing away the latter quite an easy one. What a competition that would be, especially if the enterprising manager of the St. James's Theatre were to offer to give the winner a copy of every photograph he has ever had taken of himself.

We have a dear friend to whom has lately arrived a sweet little son. The visiting card of this very young gentleman came by post the other morning in company with his mother's "Thanks for kind inquiries." You never saw such a darling little card. It is an inch deep by an inch and a quarter long, and is tied to the larger card by an infinitesimal bow of white ribbon. The Christian name of the proprietor, "Rolf," is the inscription. By this means he may be said to have made his début in society. It is a pretty fashion in cards.

"Hail, gentle Spring!" quoth the poet, and spring, much too obedient, did hail to any extent, and snowed withal, and blew and rained, answering the behest of the poet with a liberality of full measure, pressed down and running over, that was highly inconvenient to many. And most especially on Boat Race-day.

We had such a delightful invitation to see the finish from a lawn at Mortlake and afterwards have tea. We received that invitation on a lovely morning and accepted it with joy, immediately dressing up the occasion with all that sunshine and balmy airs and the best of good company could do for it. After looking forward to it all the week, we had for sole consolation the opportunity of comparing our mental picture with the reality on Saturday morning. Instead of the sunshine that was to deck that emerald lawn, there were sulien grey skies, a moaning, miserable wind, and showers of the coldest and dreariest sort of rain. Even Longfellow could not have called it beautiful! We did not go, of course, but stayed at home and contemplated our contrast. Let me paraphrase the poet, and say that "Sorrow's crown of sorrow is in *dreaming* better things." We are so often the victims of our own imaginations.

We went to the Lyceum to see the most fascinating of Portias and the Shylockiest of all Shylocks, and really, dear, it was quite beautiful to turn in to Venice, out of the cold and wintry Strand. The weather throughout this play is of the most charming description. The exquisite blue moonlight, the gliding gondolas, the merry masqueraders, and the dainty story, delight the eyes as well as the imagination. And what a dream of colour is the Court of Justice, with its blue and brown walls, dulled to a harmony that looks as if the hand of Time alone could have evolved it. Portia's scarlet robe and cap could have no more telling background. And what a lovely heritage was Belmont! Small wonder that suitors came from all parts of the world to try their fortune with the lovely lady. Lucky Bassanio! I want to know what were the dancing little whitenesses in Portia's coiffure. Pearls or white daisy buds? Never was there a more becoming adjunct to nut-brown locks than the turquoise-sewn net of gold that held up Nerissa's "back hair." With a band of it round the head it was quite utterly too-too. Forgive me for using this now antiquated expression.

Christabel writes from Paris:—

I must describe for you some very pretty gowns I saw at Vignon's, made for a Russian Princess, who has a complete set of costumes sent over every season; this was the spring outfit, and in about two months I hope to see the summer order.

A visiting dress of pale green glacé silk, shot with mauve, was made with a plain skirt, close-fitting at the top, and flowing out gracefully at the foot. From the waistband descended at intervals some embroidery in white silk cord and gold, finishing in points. At the head of each was a little straw-coloured lace, puffed over the same shade of satin, to correspond with the bodice, where the same arrangement simulated a vest under the mauve and green silk, which opened in the front, showing the lace and satin, with revers and neckband embroidered like the points on the skirt. The sleeves were slashed at the top to show the yellow satin and lace, and were edged with embroidery. The under-petticoat was even more elaborate than the gown; it was mauve satin, brocaded with white, made with a flounce quite half a yard deep. On this flounce, at intervals, were stripes of real, yellowish lace insertion, laid on vertically. This rested on a narrow, pleated flounce of mauve silk, covered with a fall of the same rich lace.

Another dress was pale maize or apricot coloured gauze with a small indefinite pattern of black running through; this was made up over maize silk. The gauze skirt had a deep graduated flounce headed with two bands of fine white guipure insertion, with a row of very narrow black velvet above and below each band. The high bodice had alternate puffings of the gauze and bands of guipure edged with black velvet in a vandyke or V form, with tiny bows of black velvet down the front where the vandykes met; a band of guipure and velvet formed the cuffs of the long sleeves, which were gauze over silk.

The petticoat was lovely, the same rich maize tone in satin, with deep flounce of silk muslin or gauze the same shade, on which were placed two or three rows of black lace insertion going round, the edge finished with a plissé of the silk, and black lace over it.

A dark blue cloth costume in the tailor-made style struck me as very effective. The skirt was in longitudinal pleats, very small at the top and gradually widening to give width at the base. The perfect regularity of the pleats made it quite a triumph of skill. The close fitting bodice terminated with a small full basque all round, and there was a wide pleat down the back, confined by the belt, and in front were two pleats that fell free over the skirt, the belt passing under them. On these pleats were about a dozen buttons, as large as a shilling, of most expensive and rare enamel; the neckband, waistband, revers, and cuffs were embroidered in white and gold on silver cloth shot with gold, and the effect was charming.

An evening dress of black fleur de velours had a deep corselet of black guipure and jet embroidery over straw-coloured Liberty muslin. The otherwise plain skirt had a tablier of the same embroidery over straw colour as that on the corselet, but, instead of finishing at the waist in front, it made a kind of contour round the hips. The short sleeves were also straw muslin, with jetted lace over.

A very cool-looking gown was a pale-green foulard flowered with pink, the bodice made full and ornamented with little tabs of lace embroidered on cream-coloured lawn. The waistband was wide green velvet, starting in front from just below the bust, going under the arms, and coming round again to the front. The sleeves had tabs of lace on the top like the bodice. The skirt was gathered, and had a deep flounce at the back, narrowing towards the front. According to what I can learn, these deep-flounce additions will only be used for muslins and foulards and their materials; rich silks and satins will not be cut up in such a wasteful way.

Would you like to know how to make Passover bread? It is quite simple:—

Dissolve 2 oz. of butter in half a pint of hot water, add a pinch of salt, and mix it with the best Hungarian flour into a smooth,

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elastic paste. Beat it slightly with a rolling-pin, roll it out thin, prick it thoroughly with a fork, cut it into rounds, and bake them rather quickly. They should blister and get slightly browned in patches.

Poached eggs "au gratin" is an excellent luncheon dish, one much appreciated by gentlemen :—

Poach 5 or 6 eggs very slightly, place them in a buttered fire-proof dish, pour brown sauce over, to which add a pinch of cayenne pepper, a dessert-spoonful of chopped parsley and a table-spoonful of grated cheese. Sprinkle the top thickly with grated cheese, put tiny pieces of butter here and there, and bake them a nice colour in a sharp oven.

Try this delicious sweet dish before chestnuts are out of season :—

Make some meringue mixture into rings, of one size, dry these thoroughly in the oven and allow to cool. Remove the outer husks from 20 large chestnuts, and boil them in sweetened milk and water until they will easily mash, then strain and place them aside to cool. Put a dessert-spoonful of maraschino and a table-spoonful of castor sugar to half a pint of cream and whip it until very stiff. Now place the meringue rings on the top of each other with cream between, put the remainder of the cream in the centre of the meringue, and rub the chestnuts through a wire sieve over all. Sprinkle the top with chopped pistachios, and put a compôte of oranges, flavoured with maraschino round the base.

This is a lovely gingerbread pudding, and particularly suitable for lunch on a cold day :—

Beat 6 oz. of butter and 6 oz. of fine sugar together until creamy, beat in 6 oz. of golden syrup and 3 eggs separately, mix in 6 oz. of bread crumbs, a level teaspoonful of ground ginger, the same quantity of mixed spice, and half a teaspoonful of baking-powder. Put the mixture into a greased mould and steam three hours.

Have you tried the Italian way of serving macaroni? It may be served either for lunch or dinner :—

Boil 8 oz. of Naples macaroni in salted water until it is done, but not soft, strain it, and have ready a quart of thick tomato purée, to which a table spoonful of Bovril or Liebig has been added. Season the tomato with cayenne pepper, and put a portion in a stewpan; add a layer of the macaroni and a good sprinkling of grated parmesan cheese, add the remainder of the macaroni, cheese, and tomato, toss all up on the fire, and make it quite hot. Turn the whole mass into a soup tureen and serve it on soup plates.

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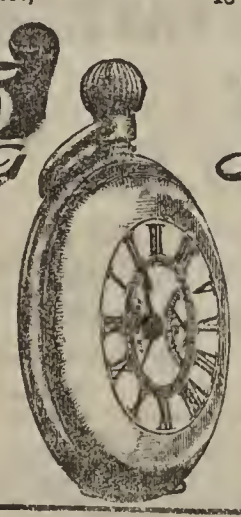

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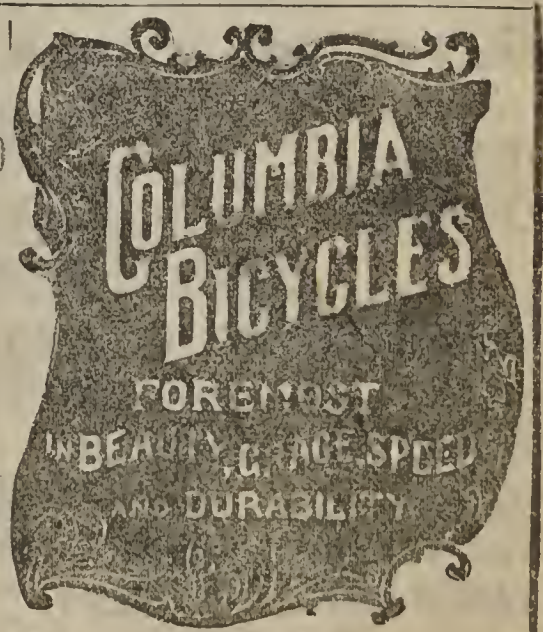

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SPECIAL CHEAP EXCURSIONS.

CHEAP THIRD CLASS RETURN TICKETS from London to PLYMOUTH, WADEBRIDGE, BODMIN, LAUNCESTON, HOLSWORTHY, ILFRACOMBE, BARNSTAPLE, BIDEFORD, EXETER, WEYMOUTH, DORCHESTER, BOURNEMOUTH, BATH, WELLS, RADSTOCK, SHEPTON MALLET, &c., will be issued by all trains on 7th April and subsequent days, up to and including 11th April (not to Somerset and Dorset Line Stations on 8th or 10th April), available to return up to and including 13th April.

EXCURSIONS will leave WATERLOO as under, calling at the principal Stations, on Thursday, 7th April.

At 8.0 a.m. for ANDOVER, SALISBURY, SHERBORNE, SEATON, SIDMOUTH, SALTERTON, OKEHAMPTON, &c.

At 8.0 a.m. and 1.0 p.m. for BRIDGWATER, WELLS, BURNHAM, RADSTOCK, BATH, &c.

At 8.0 a.m. and 8.5 p.m. for MARLBOROUGH, SWINDON, CHELTENHAM, &c.

At 9.15 a.m. for YEOVIL, EXETER, PLYMOUTH, BARNSTAPLE, LYNTON, ILFRACOMBE, BIDEFORD (for Clovelly), &c.

At 11.55 a.m. for SWANAGE, DORCHESTER, WEYMOUTH, PORTLAND, &c.

At 12.10 p.m. for WINCHESTER, SOUTHAMPTON (West), LYNDHURST ROAD, BROCKENHURST (for New Forest), LYMINGTON, YARMOUTH, (for Freshwater), CHRISTCHURCH, BOURNEMOUTH, POOLE, &c.

At 1.0 p.m. for LAUNCESTON, WADEBRIDGE, (for North Cornwall Coach), BODMIN, HOLSWORTHY (for Bude), &c.

The tickets issued by the above will be available to return by certain ordinary trains on 14th, 15th, or 16th April.

SPECIAL EXTRA FAST TRAINS will leave Waterloo on Thursday, 7th April, as follows:—

At 1.45 p.m. and 2.5 p.m. EXPRESS for CHRISTCHURCH, BOSCOMBE, and BOURNEMOUTH.

At 3.0 p.m. for CAMELFORD, DELABOLE, WADEBRIDE, and BODMIN.

At 4.40 p.m. for SOUTHAMPTON WEST, CHRISTCHURCH, and BOURNEMOUTH.

At 5.40 p.m. for SALISBURY, YEOVIL, EXETER, and WEST of ENGLAND LINES.

At 5.40 and 5.50 p.m. for BARNSTAPLE, ILFRACOMBE, BIDEFORD and other NORTH DEVON STATIONS; also to Stations on the SIDMOUTH and SALTERTON BRANCHES.

To the WEST OF ENGLAND, NORTH and SOUTH DEVON, and NORTH CORNWALL.

SPECIAL LATE TRAINS on THURSDAY, 7th APRIL, will leave Waterloo at 10.35 p.m. for SALISBURY, YEOVIL, and EXETER, and intermediate stations, and at 12.15 MIDNIGHT for NORTH and SOUTH DEVON and NORTH CORNWALL.

For full particulars of the Excursions to Portsmouth, Southampton, Salisbury, Bournemouth, the Isle of Wight, &c., on Good Friday; Four Days' trip to Southampton, Portsmouth, and the Isle of Wight on Saturday; Portsmouth on Easter Sunday, and to Seaton, Sidmouth, Salterton, Exmouth, Southampton, Salisbury, Bournemouth, &c., also Races at Kempton Park on Easter Monday, see bills and programmes, which can be obtained at any of the Company's Stations or London Receiving Houses, or from G. T. White, Superintendent of the Line, Waterloo Station.

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London Bridge...	,,	10.0	9.0			p.m.	a.m.
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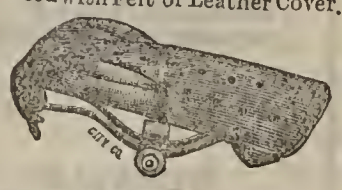

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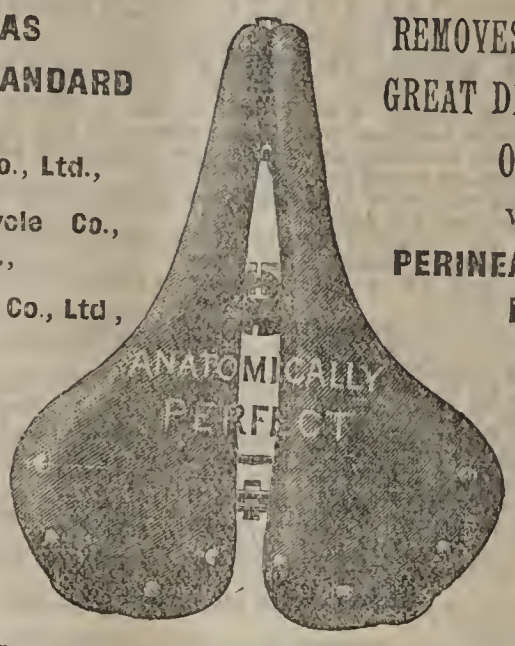

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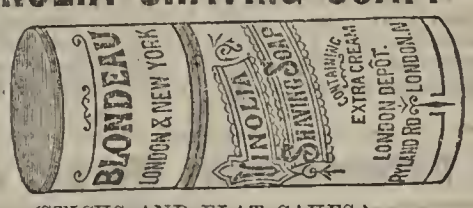

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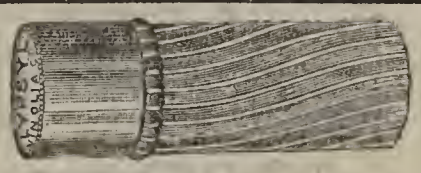
Causes no Blotches.
STICKS: Premier 6d., Toilet 1/-, 1/6, 2/6, Vestal 2/-.
FLAT CAKES: Premier 1/-, Toilet 2/-, Vestal 2/6.

6d LYPSYL.



A Coralline Emollient for Dry, Rough, Cracked, or Pallid Lips.
In Rose-Red and White Tints, 6d. and 1/- a Tube.

6d VINOLIA LAVENDER WATER.

Natural and Very Lasting.

Contains the finest Essential Oils, Concentrated, therefore the Most Economical.

In 1-oz., 2-oz., 4-oz., and 8-oz. Bottles, 6d., 1/-, 2/-, and 3/6.

2d BLONDEAU CHOICE TOILET SOAPS.

Guaranteed Neutral and Pure.

1/- per Box of 6 Tablets.

(Assorted Colours and Perfumes).

6d VINOLIA DENTIFRICE

Aromatic, Tonic, Refreshing, Preservative.

Keeps the Teeth Ivory White.

Premier, in Round Box and Glass Bottle, 6d.

English—2/6.

American—1/6.

6d BLONDEAU CARBOLIC TOOTH POWDER.

Makes the Teeth White, the Breath Sweet, and the Gums strong.

In Round Metal Box, 6d. & 1/-

6d VINOLIA TOOTH PASTE.

Delicately Perfumed.

Whitens and Cleanses the Teeth, without in any way injuriously affecting the dental structure.

In Collapsable Tube, 6d.

6d BLONDEAU INEXHAUSTIBLE LAVENDER SMELLING SALTS.

These Smelling Salts are of exceptional Strength and most Refreshing. They are agreeably scented, the pleasant odour of Lavender being very pronounced.

6d. per Bottle.

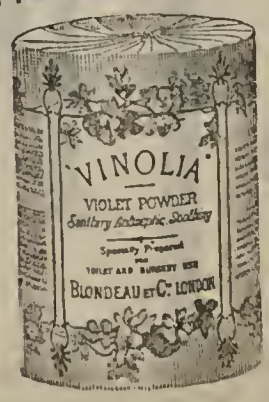
6d VINOLIA EAU DE COLOGNE.

Fragrant. Refreshing.
As fine as can possibly be made.

The "Court Circular" reports:
"Vinolia Eau de Cologne we consider is absolutely unequalled for strength, purity, and delicacy of aroma."

1/-, 2/-, 3/3, and 5/6.

3d per 2-oz. Packet. VINOLIA VIOLET POWDER.



Sanitary.
Antiseptic.
Soothing.

Specially prepared for Toilet and Nursery use.

In 2-oz. and ¼-lb. Packets, 3d. & 6d.
In ½-lb. Tins, 6d.

WATER SUPPLY.

Send for Illustrated List, No. 49, of

JOHN BLAKE'S Patent Self-Acting HYDRAULIC RAMS

For Raising Water for the Supply of Towns, Villages, Irrigation, Railway Stations, Mansions, Fountains, Farms, &c.
No cost for Motive Power, which is obtained from a Stream of Water passing through the Ram. No Oiling or Packing required. Made in Sizes to raise from **300 to 400,000 gallons per day.** Will force to a Height of 800 feet.

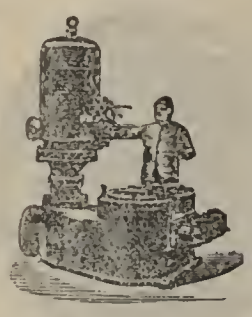


Fig. A.—This Ram lifts part of the same water that works it. (Engraved from photo. of Ram which raises 250,000 gallons per day of 24 hours to medium heights, with good working fall.)

This view represents a Ram worked by impure river water, whilst pumping pure water from a well or spring and forcing it to a small reservoir on the hill, at an elevation of 532 ft. and a distance of one mile, from which reservoir the water is gravitated for fire extinguishing and general requirements of mansion, stables, farm, and village.

Fig. B.—This Ram, whilst worked by a stream of impure water, will pump clean water from a well or spring.

TESTIMONIALS.

From A. FIDLER, Esq., Assoc.M.Inst.C.E., Engineer to the Corporation of Blackburn.

Municipal Offices, Blackburn, July 2nd, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—After having had the New Hydraulic Rams at Guide working without intermission for over six months, I am now able to give you the results of the test. A pair of your Rams which we fixed in 1886 to force 16,000 gallons of water per day for the supply of the district of Guide, above our highest reservoir, pumped up much more than that quantity, and worked well until six months ago, when the consumption of water in the district having largely increased, they were superseded by a pair of your latest Patent Rams to raise 50,000 gallons per day. From a test I have recently made, I find their maximum lifting power exceeds 84,000 GALLONS PER DAY, forced through 1,295 yards of delivery pipe, against a head of 190 feet (including pipe friction). From another test made I found that both Rams supplied with 327,816 gallons per day, with a working fall of 32 feet 3 inches, pumped 47,188 gallons per day to a height of 175 feet (including pipe friction), giving 78 PER CENT. OF EFFICIENCY. The new Rams have worked well and continuously, and, having NO METALLIC CLACKS OR VALVES, their action is smooth and without shock. They are extremely simple, and readily adjusted to vary their lifting power. It requires no skill to keep them in order, or put in new working parts, when that comes to be necessary. Considering that the waste driving water from the Rams flows into a lower service reservoir, a very cheap system of supplying the high-level district is thus utilised. The work done by you is of high-class, and very creditable to you.

From COLONEL A. EGERTON, Comptroller and Treasurer of the Household of H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught.

Buckingham Palace, May 14th, 1897.

COLONEL ALFRED EGERTON has much pleasure in acquainting Mr. John Blake that the Hydraulic Ram which he supplied to the Duke of Connaught, at Bagshot Park, two years ago, has continued to work most satisfactorily.

From Messrs. WINTERTON & SONS, Estate Agents, Walton Warren, Burton-on-Trent.

May 25th, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—We are pleased to report as highly satisfactory the working of the Patent "B" Ram which you fixed, to our order, in 1895, at Oaklands Farm, Walton-on-Trent, for Richard Ratcliffe, Esq., of Stanford Hall. The Ram is worked by a small stream of impure water, and forces spring water through 1,267 yards of delivery pipe to a storage tank, 102 feet above the Ram, from which tank you laid a gravitation main and branches, having a total length of 3,645 yards; also 14 cattle troughs, and supply pipe to farm yard, with various draw-off cocks, ball valves, and other fittings. We are pleased to say that you carried out the work to our entire satisfaction, and the Ram has gone well without any cost for repairs. The Ram works very well, and we are perfectly satisfied with the work.

Yours truly, WINTERTON & SONS.

JOHN BLAKE, Limited, Oxford-street Works, ACCRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE advice of the Doctor is undoubtedly the best you can possibly have, and when this gentleman is the Medical Officer of an important ship, he must know a great deal about Sea-Sickness. Sufferers from this distressing malady will be interested in reading what, in the opinion of several well-known Ships' Surgeons, is the best way of preventing or curing it.

ADVICE TO THE SEA-SICK

Dr. R. C. ROBERTSON, of the Anchor Line Steamer "Furnessia," says:—"My short experience has led me to consider CHLOROBROM, a most valuable remedy. Of its value as a palliative there can be no doubt. During the second stage of Sea Sickness, in which Nausea, Retching, Headache, Sleeplessness, and Prostration make life for days and weeks a real burden to many, CHLOROBROM acts in the most kindly way. Several passengers who were confirmed bad sailors, and who were ignorant of the nature of the medicine they were taking, expressed in decided terms their opinion of its good effects, and begged me to let them have a bottle to keep by them."

Dr. GEO. BARBER, Surgeon P. and O. Service, says:—"We met with the usual heavy monsoon from Bombay to Aden—six days—and I found Chlorobrom extremely useful."

PROFESSOR CHARTERIS, Professor at the University of Glasgow, had considerable experience of the effect of Cholorobrom in the treatment of Sea Sickness, and he says:—"I have no hesitation in saying that if administered in a sensible and thorough manner, Chlorobrom will effectively meet each and every symptom of the dreaded sickness."

Dr. JAMES MUNRO, of the Clan Line; Dr. MUAT, of the "Buchanan"; Dr. ARCHIBALD LEISHMAN, of the Transport "Dilwara"; Dr. BELCHER, of the Cunard Service; Dr. H. JOHN BOYD, of the "City of Rome," and many others, are all impressed with the value of CHLOROBROM in Sea Sickness.

From the SOLE Proprietors and Manufacturers, **BURGOYNE, BURBIDGES, & COMPY., 16, Coleman-street, London, for 2/9, 4/6, and 7/- a bottle. Travellers should send for a supply.**

The Purest and the Nicest.

Hovis Bread

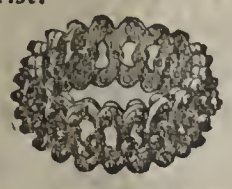
Perfectly Self Digestive.

Hovis Bread is baked and delivered daily by all good class Bakers in the British Isles; **Hovis Biscuits** are sold by most Grocers and Bakers; or 6d. and 1s. Samples of Bread and Biscuits will be sent on receipt of stamps by HOVIS BREAD FLOUR Co., Ltd., Millers, Macclesfield.

The New Patent

SELF-CLOSING BRACELETS.

NEVER SLIP in whatever position placed.
Delightfully Flexible and Comfortable.
Specially Suitable for Presents; as fit any wrist.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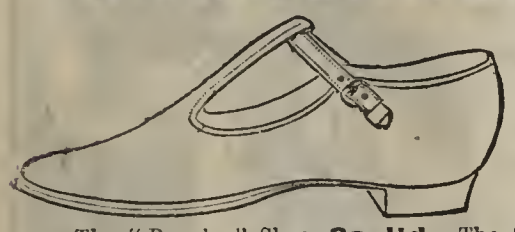
Made in Plain Gold, also with Gem or Watch Centre.
LARGE VARIETY OF PATTERNS.
Sold by all Leading Jewellers.
WHOLESALE ONLY, SAUNDERS & SHEPHERD, LONDON.

GAMAGE'S "SHORLAND" SHOE.



4/11 and 6/6

Black or Tan.

The "Popular" Shoe, **3s. 11d.** The "Ripley" Shoe, **6s. 6d.**
The "Referee" Shoe, **10s. 6d.**

Send size when ordering by post. 200 *Page Catalogue post free anywhere.*

GAMAGE, Limited, Holborn, London, E.C.

FARADAY & SON's

Electric Light Fittings

New Designs

(in Classic and Renaissance)
for Season '98

2 & 3 BERNERS St. LONDON W

Contracts now in hand include Orders for a Complete Installation of Chadburn's Telegraphs upon THIRTY-TWO of Her Majesty's Ships.
The SUBSCRIPTION LIST is NOW OPEN and will CLOSE TO-DAY, WEDNESDAY, MARCH the 30th, 1898, for Town and Country.

CHADBURN'S (SHIP) TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED.

Registered under the Companies Acts, 1862 *to* 1890.

CAPITAL, £120,000, divided as follows:—60,000 6 per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each, £60,000; 60,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, £60,000; of which 50,000 of each class are now offered for Subscription. The Preference Shares are entitled to a fixed Cumulative Preferential Dividend of 6 per Cent. per annum out of the profits of the Company, and also rank in respect of Capital in priority to the Ordinary Shares. The dividends thereon will be payable on the 1st of October and the 1st of April in each year, the first payment will be due on the 1st of October, 1898, and will be calculated from the date of payment of the instalments. There are no Debentures, and the Articles of Association provide that none can be issued without the consent of the Preference Shareholders, by a resolution passed at a meeting specially convened for the purpose. The Shares are payable as follows:—5s. per Share on Application; 10s. per Share upon Allotment. The Balance in One Month.

DIRECTORS.—William Chadburn, 15, Beech-lawn, Waterloo, Liverpool (Chairman and Managing Director); Thos. Bassnett, 68, Rawson-road, Seaforth, Liverpool; Restal Ratsey Bevis, Jun., 2, Boundary-road, Birkenhead, Civil Engineer; John Hardie, 11, Bothwell-street, Glasgow, Ship Owner; Hugh Muir, 7, Kelvin Grove-terrace, Glasgow, Engineer.

BANKERS.—Lloyds Bank, Limited, Lombard-street, and Branches; The Liverpool Union Bank, Liverpool.

BROKERS.—John Prust & Co., 37, Throgmorton-street, E.C.

AUDITORS.—W. H. Pannell & Co., Basinghall-street, E.C.

SOLICITORS TO THE COMPANY.—Simpson, North, Harley, & Birkett, 1, Water-street, Liverpool.

SOLICITORS FOR THE VENDORS.—Maddisons, 1, King's Arms-yard, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES *(pro tem.)*.—E. S. G. Malins, 15, Great St. Helens, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to purchase and carry on the old-established businesses of Chadburn & Son Limited, and Thomas Bassnett, Limited, and to acquire certain patents the property of Mr. William Chadburn and Mr. Thomas Bassnett, together with the valuable leases, plant, machinery, stock and goodwill of the businesses, now being carried on in the well-appointed works at Waterloo-road, Liverpool, Bath-street, Liverpool, Paisley-street, Liverpool, Finnieston Quay, Glasgow. There are also branches with the necessary machinery for effecting repairs at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Belfast, and London.

These businesses, which are now private limited companies, have been established for more than half a century, and as the works (which employ upwards of 350 hands) have been from time to time enlarged, the profits have steadily increased.

Mr. George N. Dixon, the well-known Valuer of Liverpool, certifies the "total valuation for building, machinery, and stock belonging to Messrs. Chadburn & Son, Limited, Messrs. Thomas Bassnett, Limited, is thirty-three thousand pounds. The whole of the machinery and tools on the above premises are modern and in excellent condition, well adapted for the business that is being carried on. The stock is quite new, has been made to special order, and is ready for delivery."

Messrs. W. H. Pannell & Co. have examined the books, and certify as follows:—

13, Basinghall-street, E.C., February 16th, 1898.

To the Directors of Chadburn's (Ship) Telegraph Co., Limited.

Gentlemen,—We have examined the books relating to the businesses of Messrs. Chadburn & Son, Limited, and Messrs. Thomas Bassnett, Limited, whose annual Accounts are made up to 31st March and 7th February respectively. We certify the profits, after making proper adjustments in respect of the additional assets proposed to be acquired by your Company, to be as follows:—

For the Financial Year 1895—1896	£6,647	19	5
For the Financial Year 1896—1897	£10,208	0	4
And from the period included in the above figures to 31st December, 1897, at the rate per annum of	£13,569	2	5

No Charge has been made for either Mr. Chadburn's or Mr. Bassnett's Remuneration and Personal Expenses, Interest on Capital, or Depreciation, but all loose Tools purchased, and Repairs have been written off. We are, Gentlemen, yours faithfully, W. H. PANNELL & CO.

To pay 6% on £60,000 6% Preference Shares will require	£3,600
To pay 10% on £60,000 Ordinary Shares will require	£6,000
	£9,600

It will therefore be seen that as the profits up to the end of 1897, being periods of 10 months 3 weeks and 9 months respectively, are at the rate of £13,569 2s. 5d. per annum, the substantial sum of £3,969 2s. 5d. would be left to meet Directors' fees and other contingencies after paying ten per cent. on the Ordinary Shares.

The business of Chadburn & Son, Limited, was founded by the late Mr. C. H. Chadburn over 50 years ago, and in 1865 Mr. William Chadburn became a partner. The manufacture of Ships' Telegraphs was then commenced. These instruments have been continually improved under several patents, the latest and most important of which has recently been approved by the Admiralty for use in Her Majesty's ships. Chadburn Telegraphs are now used in most of the ships of the British Navy and the principal lines of steamers of the Mercantile Marine, including the Peninsular and Oriental, Cunard, Orient, Pacific Steam Navigation, Allan, Royal Mail, Union, North German Lloyd, Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, Hamburg-American, &c. Chadburn Telegraphs are recognised as the first in the market, and have practically no competitors. The continued increase in the demand testifies to the high quality of the workmanship and material employed in their construction. The whole safety of a ship and its crew may depend upon the precise working of the Telegraph, and the present instruments are the outcome of thirty years' experience.

The most important use of Telegraphs on board ship is as a means of communication between the officers on deck who are navigating the vessel and the engineers in the engine room, but they are also used for many other purposes, such as transmitting orders relating to steering, docking, and the working of capstans and anchors; communicating with the look-out, and conveying orders between the engine room and the boiler rooms. A list of the most important Battle Ships, Cruisers, Gunboats, Destroyers, Royal Mail, and other Steamers, upon which Chadburn's Telegraphs are used, accompanies the prospectus. Chadburn & Son, Limited, have also a large and remunerative business as manufacturers of other instruments of a nautical and general nature used in vessels of the various Navies and Mercantile Marines, many of which are of an unique scientific description. The old-established business of Thomas Bassnett, Limited, is of a similar nature and Chadburn's and Bassnett's number amongst their customers all of the principal Steamship Owners and important Ship Builders and Marine Engineers in the country.

During the past two years the capacity of the works has been very much increased (resulting, as will be seen, in a large increase in the profits), but even the latest additions have not proved sufficient, and the present plant and machinery, which are of the latest type, are quite unable to cope with the demand. There is every reason to believe that even if the plant were doubled the orders ahead would more than justify the additional expenditure. The addition of £15,000 to the working capital—which has been arranged for under the terms of the present issue—will enable the Directors to fit up additional workshops with machinery, and thus considerably increase the trade of the Company, especially abroad. Up to the present the home orders have been more than sufficient to keep the works going full time, and no attempt has been made to secure the large trade which could be done with Foreign Admiralties which usually adopt the latest improvements of the English Navy.

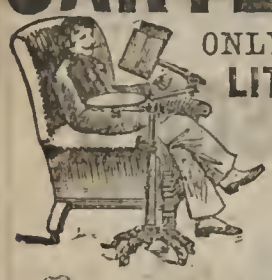
Copies of the Prospectus, with Form of Application for Shares, can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, or from their Bankers, Brokers, or Solicitors.

March, 1898.

CARTER 6A NEW CAVENDISH ST. PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON.

ONLY ADDRESS OF ORIGINAL CARTER

LITERARY MACHINE.



For holding book, lamp, meals, &c., in any position over an easychair, bed, or sofa.

Deliciously luxurious. A most useful gift. Prices from **17/6**

INVALID FURNITURE.

ADJUSTABLE COUCHES and BEDS from £1. 10/-

Bed Lift £3. 10/-
Reclining Boards, 25/-
Walking Machines
Portable W.C.'s.
Electric Bells,
Urinals, &c.
Air & Water Beds.

Bed Rests 7/6
Leg Rests 10/-
Crutches 10/6
Bed Baths 12/6
Commodes, £1. 5/-

Carrying Chairs from **£1.**
Breakfast in Bed Tables from **30/-**

Self-Propelling Chairs from **£2**

BATH CHAIRS FROM **£1. 5/-**

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES POST FREE.

JOHN CARTER. 6a, NEW CAVENDISH ST. Portland-pl. London, W.

These Cigarettes are the Choicest in the Market, and will be appreciated by connoisseurs. Sample Box of 25, Post Free, 2s.

THE VASSO

HIGH-CLASS TURKISH CIGARETTES.

Of the Manufacturers,

LITSICA, MARX & Co.

21, Piccadilly, 84, Strand,

Or at Head Depot-174, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

Price List on Application

SPIERS & POND's STORES

QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C. (Opposite St. Paul's Station, L. C. & D. Ry.).

HARDWARE DEPT.

Brass Cage,

WELL LACQUERED,

15/6.

Price Book No. 50 (1,000 *pages*), *Illustrated, Free on application.*

SPIERS & POND's STORES,

Queen Victoria-st., E.C

(Opposite St. Paul's Station, L. C. & D. Ry.

MASSAGE AT HOME.

The MATTO CHAIN

Used by Sandow and all the leading Athletes, Cyclists, &c.

Recommended by the Medical Profession.

For Liver Complaints, Rheumatism, and all Nervous Disorders. Prevents Obesity.

Price 7s. 6d. each. By Post, 4d. extra. From all Chemists.

MATTO LIMITED, 32 & 34, Clerkenwell-rd. London, E.C.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ARCHITECTS.

AN IMPORTANT INVENTION.

The HOMACOUSTIC APPARATUS (Cutmore's System).

A REVOLUTION IN SPEAKING TUBES.

Patented throughout the World. The Telephone superseded for Short Distances. The Homacoustic System is being universally adopted, and is a Leading Feature in all New Buildings.

THOUSANDS ARE IN USE.

The following are a few of the large establishments where the Homacoustic Speaking Tubes are in use:—

W. & A. GILBEY, Pantheon, Oxford-street.
JAMES WILLING, Junr., 125, Strand.
GAZE & SONS, Tourists' Bureau, Strand.
B. A. MOORE, "Cheshire Cheese," Fleet-st.
"TRUTH" Offices, Westminster.
SPIERS & POND, Limited, Head Offices.
ROBERTS & LEETE, 19 to 25, Bermondsey-street, S.E.
R. WAYGOOD & CO., Falmouth-road, S.E.
E. P. SAUNDERS & SON, 81 to 83, Cannon-street.
ALLIANCE ASSURANCE CO., Bartholomew-lane, E.C.
LONDON ASSURANCE, Royal Exchange.
OETZMANN & CO., 67 to 79, Hampstead-road, N.W.
LLOYD'S BANK, Limited, 189, Fleet-street.
— LITHGOE, Esq., 39a, Wimpole-street Oxford-street.
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK, Threadneedle-street, E.C.
STRAITS INSURANCE, Change-alley, Cornhill.
KELLY & CO., London Directory. Holborn.
LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM AND SOUTH WALES BANK, Gracechurch-street, E.C.

TESTIMONIALS.

Atlas Assurance Company, Fire and Life,
92, Cheapside, London, E.C.

Dear Sir,—I have pleasure in stating that I have had one of your Homacoustic Speaking Tube Commutators and Instruments in my room, communicating with seven departments in this office, and that I find the same to work admirably. It is a vast improvement on the old method of a separate mouthpiece for each tube, and it is an invention which I think needs only to be known to command very wide adoption.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

SAML. J. PIPKIN
Secretary.

The Central London Throat and Ear Hospital,
Gray's Inn-road, W.C.,
December 14, 1891.

I have much pleasure in testifying to the excellence of the principle of the Homacoustic Speaking Tube Instruments, as well as to the perfect workmanship of the tubes fitted at this Hospital.

Quite independently of sanitary reasons it is decidedly more agreeable to have a Speaking Tube by which all blowing and breathing into the face are avoided. There is no difficulty whatever in its employment.

LENNOX BROWNE, F.R.C.S.E.,
Senior Surgeon to the Hospital

Beware of Fraudulent Imitations. Infringers will be prosecuted. Send for Explanatory Pamphlet and Price List Free by Post.

THE HOMACOUSTIC COMPANY, Head Offices and Showroom, **6, Bruton-street, New Bond-street, W.**

POSITIVELY PRODUCES HAIR.

STOPS IT FALLING OUT.

KEEPS IT ITS NATURAL COLOUR.

PREVENTS IT GOING GREY.

BEST FOR BEARDS AND MOUSTACHES.

"TATCHO"

[THE "GEORGE R. SIMS" HAIR RESTORER.]

GROWS BEAUTIFUL BOUNTIFUL HAIR.

MAKES WOMEN'S TRESSES SOFT AND SILKEN.

A DELIGHTFUL HAIR WASH AND TONIC.

BEST FOR THE TOILET TABLE.

"TATCHO" is sold by all Chemists and Hairdressers throughout the World in Bottles, **2s. 9d.** and **5s.**, or can be had post-free direct from the office, 11, Farringdon-avenue, E.C., on receipt of Postal Order for **3s.** or **5s. 4d.** Cheques and P.O.'s should be made payable to the "George R. Sims" Hair Restorer Company, and crossed Union Bank.

"GEORGE R. SIMS" HAIR RESTORER COMPANY, Ltd., 11, Farringdon-avenue, City, E.C.

For Longhand, Shorthand, Pen-and-Ink Dra wing, Music-Writing, indeed, whenever a Pen is necessary, use only

Adds immeasurably to Celerity and Comfort in writing. Of all Pens most famous.

Made in 3 sizes only at

10s. 6d.
16s. 6d.
25s.

UP TO £18 18s.

POST FREE.

MABIE, TODD & BARD,

93, Cheapside, London, E.C.

95a, RECENT ST., W., and 3, EXCHANGE ST., MANCHESTER.

A Cup of Chocolat Suchard

accurately prepared, contains all the delicious, soothing, and restorative properties known to exist in Cocoa. Cup for cup, "Chocolat Suchard" is noted for its superiority of flavour and aroma over all other like preparations.

Chocolat Suchard

owes these characteristics not only to the choice materials it is made of, but equally so, perhaps, to the clean and careful methods by which it is uniformly prepared. The recognition of these sterling qualities has led to a largely increased consumption of Chocolat Suchard among the better classes all over the world. Beware of imitations.

All Chocolates, Cocoas and Bonbons bearing the name of Suchard are of the highest quality only.
70 YEARS' REPUTATION.

"The Old Favourite."

MAX GREGER'S

CARLOWITZ

SAFEST,
SOUNDEST
Dinner Wine.

PURE
HUNGARIAN
BURGUNDY.

From 15/- per doz.

Of all Wine Merchants and Grocers.

See that every cork bears the brand "Max Greger." Without it the wine is not genuine.

USE ONLY

BLAISDELL PENCILS

SELF-POINTING.

ALL COLOURS. ALL GRADES.
NO WASTE. BEST LEADS.

Black Lead 1d. & 2d. Coloured Crayons 2d. & 3d.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Sample Box of 5 Pencils 1s., Free by Post in the U.K.

BLAISDELL PENCILS, Ltd., 46, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

THREE GOLD MEDALS.

Exquisite Models. Perfect Fit. Guaranteed Wear.

THE Y & N PATENT DIAGONAL SEAM CORSET

Will not split in the Seams nor tear in the Fabric. Made in White, Black, and all the fashionable colours and Shades in Italian Cloth, Satin, and Coutil, 4/11, 5/11, 6/11, 7/11 per pair and upwards.

CAUTION.—Every genuine Y & N Corset is stamped.

Sold by Drapers and Ladies' Outfitters in the United Kingdom and Colonies

BEST & SAFEST DENTIFRICE

SOLD BY ALL CHEMISTS AND PERFUMERS IN ELEGANT CRYSTAL TOILET CASKET PRICE 2/6.

ALSO IN PATENT METALLIC BOX PRICE 1/-

PRESERVE YOUR TEETH
BY USING THE

OS TOOTH BLOCK

Established 20 years

OVER 3000 TESTIMONIALS

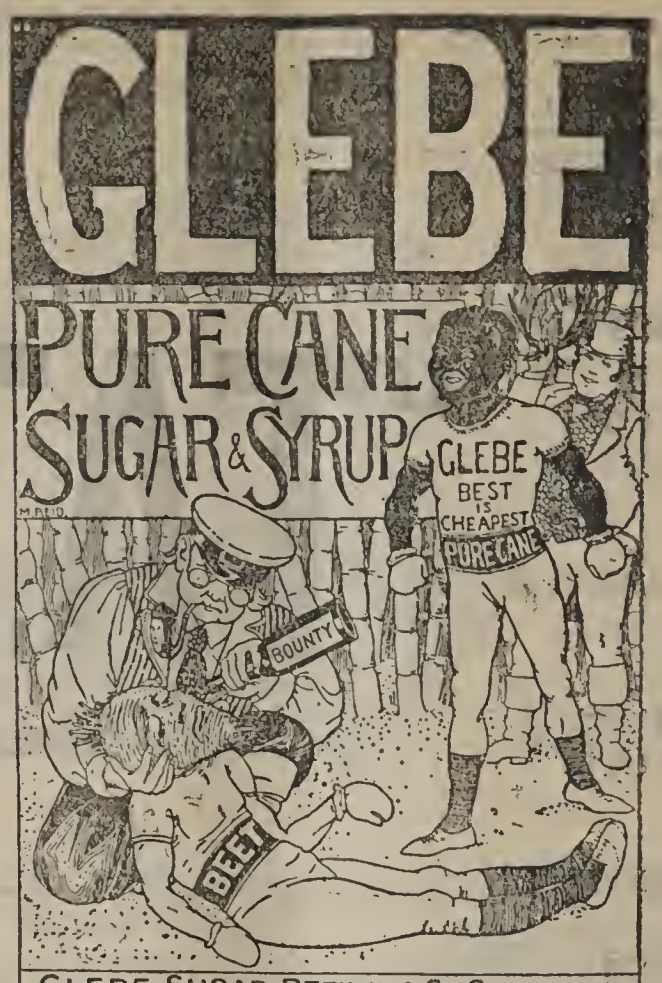
BEST AND SAFEST NATURAL APERIENT.

Hunyadi János

"The Prototype of all Bitter Waters."
THE LANCET.

CAUTION.

Every Bottle bears the Signature of the Proprietor, ANDREAS SAXLEHNER.



GLEBE SUGAR REFINING Co., GREENOCK, GLASGOW, & St GEORGE'S-HOUSE, LONDON, E.C.

NICOLE FRÈRES' POLYPHON MUSICAL BOX

Is the greatest novelty of the age. It plays *to perfection* any selections of secular or sacred music desired. It is not a toy but a delightful musical instrument. All Dealers, or write for No. 50 Catalogue, post free. **From 16s. 6d. to 50 Guineas.**

NICOLE FRÈRES Ltd., 21, Ely Place London, E.C.
Established 1815.

WATER ABSOLUTELY FREE FROM DISEASE GERMS, BY USING THE

BERKEFELD FILTER.

Full Illustrated Price List and Testimonials free on application.

FILTER H. AS SKETCH, **42s.**

SMALLER SIZE, **25s.**

Extract from the Special Report to the *British Medical Journal* on "The Relative Efficiency of Water Filters," by Drs. Sims Woodhead and Cartwright Wood, Jan. 22nd, 1898. "Experiments were carried out with the Filter H, an exceedingly good model which seems to subserve the functions of a Filter better than any we have yet seen described. . . . The output is so large that there is no reason why such Filters should not supply sufficient water for all household requirements. These Berkefeld Filters afford complete protection against the communication of waterborne disease."—Offices and Showrooms :—

THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO., Ltd., 121, Oxford-street, London, W.
City Depot : W. SCHACHT & CO., 26, Finsbury-pavement, London, E.C.

SALE OF

SILVER PENCILS.

Having purchased a huge Stock of 6s. 6d. and 8s. Solid Silver Hall Marked Pencils at an all-round price of 1s. 9½d. each, we are clearing them as follows :—

1,020 to be Sold at 9d. each.
750 to be Sold at 1s. 3d. each.
1,892 to be Sold at 2s. 11d. each.

WATCHMAKERS' ALLIANCE LTD.,
227, Regent-st., & 184, Oxford-st., London.

The Coming Easter Holidays.

Bexhill-on-Sea

WITHIN TWO HOURS OF LONDON.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA BEXHILL-ON-SEA

UNEQUALLED ATTRACTIONS.

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT
OF
HERR WURM'S FAMOUS WHITE VIENNESE BAND.
FOR THE WHOLE SEASON, COMMENCING ON EASTER EVE.

FINEST GOLF LINKS
ON THE SOUTHERN COAST.

EARL DE LA WARR'S CYCLE TRACK.
(One mile in extent).

SPECIAL FEATURES
OF
BEXHILL-ON-SEA.

1. *Bracing and Invigorating Climate. Good Boating and Bathing. Delightful Excursions.*
2. *Admirable Supply of Purest Water.*
3. *SPLENDID SEA FRONT under private control and entirely free from the usual Seaside nuisances.*

EASTER EASTER

THE SACKVILLE HOTEL

Highest-Class Establishment,

WITH EVERY MODERN IMPROVEMENT AND LUXURY, AT MODERATE PRICES.

PROPRIETORS—Messrs. FREDERICK GEORGE & CO. FOR TARIFF APPLY TO MANAGER.

EXCELLENT TRAIN SERVICE BY L. B. & S. C. RAILWAY.

VICTORIA.	LONDON BRIDGE.	BEXHILL.
—	Dept....6 30 a.m.	Arrive...8 27 a.m.
Dept....9 50 a.m.	9 45	12 2 p.m.
12 0	—	2 19
—	12 5 p.m.	2 29
1 30 p.m.	—	3 55
—	2 5	4 0
3 23	—	5 17
—	4 5	6 6
4 30	—	6 45
—	5 5	7 9
6 50	7 0	9 28
9 45	9 55	11 54

Trains leave Bexhill for London about every hour from 6.26 a.m. to 9.29 p.m.

N.B.—Persons desiring information of any kind concerning Bexhill-on-Sea are invited to apply at Earl De La Warr's Estate Office.

The Subscription List will open Wednesday, the 30th day of March, 1898, and will close at or before Four o'clock on the following day.

HUGGINS & COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Registered under the Companies Acts, 1862-1893.)

35,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each	£350,000
50,000 4½ per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each ...	500,000
3½ per Cent. First Mortgage Irredeemable Debenture Stock	550,000
	£1,400,000

The First Mortgage Irredeemable Debenture Stock will be secured by a specific mortgage on all the freehold and leasehold properties of the Company, and by a floating charge on the general undertaking, power being reserved to the Company to sell, exchange, and lease their freehold and leasehold property. In the event of any of the property being sold, the net proceeds must be applied in the purchase of hereditaments, which will be vested in the Trustees, or employed in the improvement and development of the mortgaged premises, or the erection of fixed machinery or plant, or invested in the purchase in the market of Stock of this issue, or invested in the names of the Trustees to be used for any of these purposes. The interest on the Debenture Stock will be payable on the 1st day of October and the 1st day of April in each year, but the first Interest on the Debenture Stock, which will be calculated on instalments from their date of payment, will be payable on the 1st June, 1898. If the Debenture Stock shall at any time become payable owing to the voluntary winding up of the Company, it shall be redeemed at a value to be calculated according to the average mean market value in London of the Stock during the three years immediately preceding the date when the security becomes enforceable, but so that the value shall not be less than £110 per £100 Stock.

The Preference Shares will have priority as to capital, and will be entitled to a Cumulative Preferential Dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, payable on the 1st day of December and the 1st day of June in each year. An Interim Dividend on the Preference Shares, which will be calculated on instalments from their date of payment, will be payable on the 1st June, 1898.

11,650 Ordinary Shares, 25,000 4½% Preference Shares, and £413,600 3½% First Mortgage Irredeemable Debenture Stock will be retained for the Debenture Stock and Shareholders of the Old Company.

Issue at par of—

23,350 Ordinary Shares of £10 each,
25,000 4½% Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each, and
£136,400 3½% First Mortgage Irredeemable Debenture Stock.

PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS:—

	SHARES.	DEBENTURE STOCK.
On Application,	£1 per Share,	£10 per cent.
On Allotment,	£4 per Share,	£40 per cent.
On 31st May, 1898,	£5 per Share,	£50 per cent.

Payment in full may be made on Allotment, interest on prepayment being allowed at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum.

Of the above, 7,648 Ordinary Shares, 9,121 4½ per Cent. Preference Shares and £59,270 3½ per Cent. First Mortgage Irredeemable Debenture Stock, have been applied for by depositors, customers and other connections of the Company.

DIRECTORS.

John Frederick Huggins (Chairman).
Edward Huggins.
Herbert George Huggins.
Albert Edward Huggins.

TRUSTEES FOR THE FIRST MORTGAGE IRREDEEMABLE DEBENTURE STOCK.

Thomas Fenn. John Frederick Huggins.

BANKERS.—Lloyds Bank, Limited, 72, Lombard-street, London, E.C.
BROKERS.—Fenn & Crosthwaite, 44, Coleman-street, London, E.C.
AUDITOR.—T. P. Scrivener, F.C.A., 9, Fleet-street, London, E.C.
SOLICITORS.—Bircham & Co., 50, Old Broad-street, London, E.C., and 46, Parliament-street, S.W.; G. J. Coldham, 8, New Inn, Strand.
SECRETARY and OFFICES.—E. Giudici, Lion Brewhouse, Broad-street, Golden-square, London, W.

The Company has been incorporated to acquire the well-known brewery undertaking carried on by the Company of the same name which was itself incorporated in the year 1894 to carry on the brewery undertaking of John Huggins & Co., at Lion Brewhouse, Broad-street, Golden-square. This business had previously been in the possession of the family for over 50 years.

Since the date of incorporation of the Old Company the business has very largely increased, and it is essential that further capital should be raised for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the trade and extending business by the purchase of new properties. On the 30th September, 1893, from which date the Old Company took over the business, the Brewery premises, the freehold and leasehold properties, loans on mortgage, stock, book debts, cash balances, and other assets were valued at £310,606 8s. 1d. The corresponding items on the Old Company's books on the 30th September, 1897, stood at £812,801 3s. 5d.

The New Company will acquire the business as from the 30th day of September, 1897.

The following report has been made by Mr. T. P. Scrivener, F.C.A., who has for many years past regularly audited the books of the brewery.

Legal & General Chambers, 9, Fleet-street,
London, E.C., March 21st, 1898.

To HUGGINS & CO., LTD.

DEAR SIRS,—I hereby certify that I have examined the books and accounts of the business and find that since it was taken over by Huggins & Co, Limited (Old Company), as from the 30th September, 1893, the net profits, before charging interest and Directors' remuneration, but after providing for ample depreciation, were—

For the year ending September 30th,	1894	£27,761 15 11
" "	1895	35,110 8 0
" "	1896	45,502 1 1
" "	1897	65,532 2 11

The net assets of the Old Company, which are taken over by the New Company, as shewn by the last Balance Sheet, which I audited for the year ending 30th September, 1897, exclusive of goodwill, amounted to £812,801 3s. 5d., and were made up as follows:—

Freeholds, Leaseholds, Public Houses, Plant, &c.	£277,726 9 8
Loans to Customers on Mortgage	490,844 12 11
Stock of Malt, Hops, Book Debts, &c.	23,299 19 6
Cash at Bankers	20,930 1 4

I also certify that the net rents of Public Houses and other property, together with the interest on money lent on Mortgage, exclusive of any profit from the brewing business very largely exceed the amount required to pay the interest on the Debenture Stock.

Yours faithfully, T. P. SCRIVENER.

The sum to be reserved out of the new issue for extending the business and purchasing new properties is £300,000, on which when fully utilised it is estimated that an additional profit of £20,000 per annum will be earned.

The amount required for payment of interest on the Debenture Stock, and dividend on the Preference Shares, is £41,750.

Huggins & Company, Limited (Old Company), are the promoters, and have fixed the price at £1,100,000 (which does not include £25,000 in respect of the profits of the business from the 30th September, 1897 to the date of the agreement for sale), for the whole of the above business and assets. This is to be paid or satisfied as to £116,500 in Fully Paid Ordinary Shares £250,000 in Fully Paid 4½ per cent. Preference Shares £413,600 in 3½ per cent. First Mortgage Irredeemable Debenture Stock and the balance in cash, and they will pay the whole of the expenses of incorporation of the New Company, and the transfer of the property and business to it.

The holders of Preference Shares will be entitled to attend and vote at the General Meetings of the Company for reducing the Capital, sanctioning the sale, or altering the regulations of the Company, or any question directly affecting their rights and privileges.

There are numerous Contracts in existence of the ordinary trade character, and Subscribers will be held to have had notice thereof, and to have agreed with the Company as Trustees for the Directors and the Old Company to waive any claim they may have against them for not more fully complying with the requirements of the Companies Act, 1867.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the agreement dated 28th day of March, 1898, between Huggins & Company, Limited, in Liquidation, and John Frederick Huggins, Liquidator, of the first part, Huggins & Company, Limited, of the second part, and John Frederick Huggins, Edward Huggins, Herbert George Huggins and Albert Edward Huggins of the third part, and the form of First Mortgage Irredeemable Debenture Stock Certificate, and the form of the Mortgage and Trust Deed can be inspected at the Offices of Messrs. Bircham & Co., 50, Old Broad-street, E.C.

Prospectuses and Application Forms may be had at the Offices of the Company their Bankers and Brokers.

Applications should be made on the respective forms and sent to Lloyds Bank, Limited, 72, Lombard-street, E.C., accompanied by a deposit of 10 per cent. on the amount applied for. In case of no allotment, deposits will be returned in full, and when the amount allotted is less than that subscribed for, the balance of the deposit will be applied towards the payment due on allotment. Failure to pay at the due date any instalment, will render the allotment liable to cancellation, and previous payments to forfeiture.

A quotation on the Official List of the Stock Exchange for the Shares and First Mortgage Irredeemable Debenture Stock will be applied for in due course.

March 28th, 1898.

THE
LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE
INSURANCE COMPANY.
Invested Funds ... ... £9,328,708.
FIRE. LIFE. ENDOWMENTS. ANNUITIES.
Fire Insurances Effected on Most Favourable Terms.
Life Bonuses Large, either in Cash or Additions to Sum Assured.
Life Policy-holders may so insure as to participate in NINE-TENTHS OF THE PROFITS of their class.
EQUITABLE RATES. MODERATE EXPENSES.
Head Offices: 1, DALE STREET, LIVERPOOL; 7, CORNHILL, LONDON.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.
EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.
Invested Funds, £30,000,000.
The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

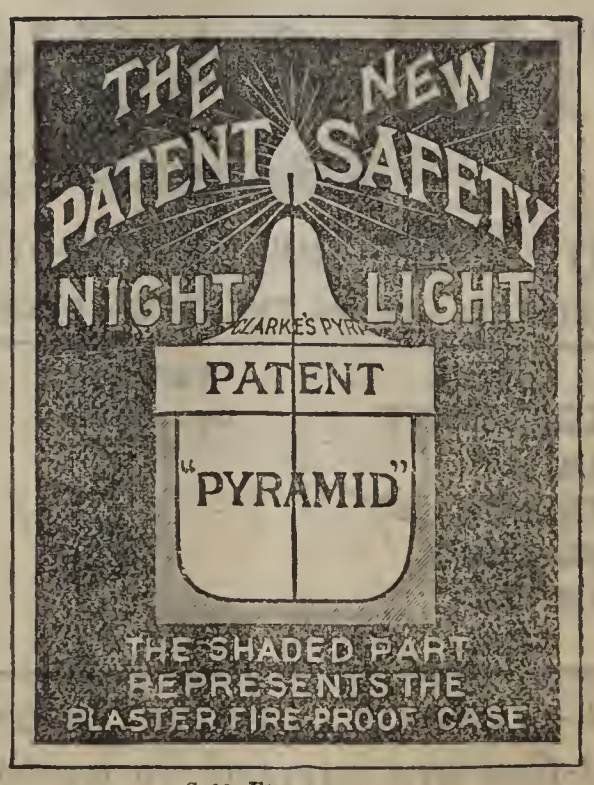
SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.
THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd. Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. Interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

H. HALFORD and COMPANY,
70 and 71,
Palmerston Buildings,
Old Broad Street,
London.
ESTABLISHED 1869.

Business in Stocks and Shares at close prices.
Dealings reported by wire if required.
Prompt Settlements.
Thousands of Testimonials from Clients.
Americans and Canadians a Speciality. Also Westralians and Kaffirs.
Lists of Closing Prices gratis.
Telegrams: "Monitor, London."
NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER FIRM.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.



SOLD EVERYWHERE.
Clarke's "Pyramid" and "Fairy" Light Co., Ltd., Cricklewood, London, N.W.

The List of Applications will Open on Tuesday, the 29th March, 1898, and Close on or before Wednesday, the 30th March, 1898, for Town and Country.

DR. TIBBLES' VI-COCOA

(1898), LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL - £400,000,

DIVIDED INTO

200,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each	£200,000
200,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each	200,000
	£400,000

The Preference Shares will be entitled to a fixed Cumulative Preferential Dividend of Six per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly on the 1st January and 1st July in each year, and will also be entitled to rank in respect of Capital in priority to the Ordinary Shares.

The whole of the Ordinary Shares are taken by the Vendors in part payment of the purchase money.

Issue of 200,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each at par, payable as follows:—2s. 6d. per Share on Application; 7s. 6d. per Share on Allotment; 10s. per Share one month after Allotment.—Total £1.

DIRECTORS.

Alderman W. P. Treloar, J.P., Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.
J. H. Tronncer, M.D. (Deputy-Chairman of the British Empire Mutual Life Assurance Company.)
Thomas Smith (Chairman), S. T. Williamson, J. H. Osborne, C. H. Williamson, } Directors of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, Limited (the Vendor Company).

CONSULTING CHEMISTS.—T. Horne Redwood, F.I.C., F.C.S. A. J. de Hailes, F.I.C., F.C.S.

BANKERS.—The City Bank, Limited, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.; and all Branches.

SOLICITORS.—Martin & Nicholson, 29, Queen-street, London, E.C.

AUDITORS.—T. Fredk. Thorne, Lancaster, & Co., Chartered Accountants, 10, Ironmonger-lane, London, E.C.

BROKERS.—Orwin, Monier-Williams & Co., 5, Tokenhouse-yard, London, E.C. F. W. Bentley & Co., Estate Buildings, Huddersfield.

SECRETARY.—G. Brooks Smalley.

REGISTERED OFFICES.—60, 61, & 62, Bunhill-row, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring, as a going concern, the well-known business and assets of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, Limited, and of carrying on, developing and extending the same.

The New Company acquires the leasehold premises, plant and machinery, fixtures, fittings, stock-in-trade, book debts, trade marks, formulæ and all other assets of the Vendor Company, including the valuable goodwill of the business, as from the 1st day of March, 1898, and undertakes to pay and discharge the liabilities of the Vendor Company existing at that date, amounting to £21,801 10s. 1d.

The business is carried on upon extensive, well erected and admirably adapted leasehold premises—Nos. 60, 61 and 62, Bunhill-row; Nos. 55, 56, 57 and 58, Featherstone-street, Finsbury; Henry-street, Gray's Inn-road; and Church-street, Minories.

The present business was commenced by the Vendor Company, who are the promoters of this Company, on the 6th December, 1895. A large sum of money has been judiciously expended in advertising and placing Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa before the public. There are upwards of 22,500 trade customers on the books of the Company, and it is proposed to make a liberal allotment to such of them as apply for shares.

From the way in which Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa has been received in all countries where introduced, the Directors are of opinion that a most profitable foreign trade can be developed, and it is their intention to employ a portion of the working capital provided by this issue for the further development of the trade in the Colonies and abroad.

The Directors of the Vendor Company, who have brought Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa to its present unrivalled position, continue on the New Board; and, as they take the whole of the Ordinary Shares in part payment of the purchase of the business, their confidence in its continued prosperity is clearly shown.

The first year ending 30th November, 1896, was charged with the heavy expenses incident to the establishment of the business; these expenses, added to the cost of advertising, amounted to over £40,000, and exceeded the profit on sales by the sum of £6,832 15s. 11d. The result of the subsequent trading will be seen from the following Certificates:—

1, Queen Victoria-street, Mansion House, London, E.C., 24th March, 1898.

To the Chairman and Directors of DR. TIBBLES' VI-COCOA (1898), Limited.

Gentlemen,—In accordance with your request we have made an examination of the books of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, Limited, from 1st December, 1896, to 28th February, 1898, and certify that the net profits have been as follows:—

For the period from 1st December, 1896, to 25th November, 1897	£72,832 15 7
The net profits from 26th November, 1897, to 28th February, 1898 (say three months) exceeded	£25,000 0 0

The above results are arrived at after charging all Advertising and other expenses, Depreciation and Bad Debts, but not Income Tax or Directors' Fees.

Yours faithfully, CHATTERIS, NICHOLS & CO., Chartered Accountants.

To the Chairman and Directors of DR. TIBBLES' VI-COCOA (1898), Limited.

Gentlemen,—We have regularly audited the books of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, Limited, from the commencement of the Company, and concur in the certificate of Messrs. Chatteris, Nichols & Co.

Yours faithfully, T. FREDK. THORNE, LANCASTER & CO.

March 24th, 1898. Chartered Accountants.

The amount required to pay the dividend on the Preference Shares is £12,000, whilst the certified profits of the last completed year amounted to £72,832 15s. 7d.

The purchase price has been fixed at the sum of £300,000, payable as to £200,000 in Ordinary Shares, and as to the balance in cash; leaving £100,000 as extra working capital. The new Company pays interest on the purchase-money at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum from March 1st, 1898, until completion, and takes the profits of the business from that date.

Apart from the well-known trade marks, trade names, and the valuable goodwill of the business, the assets acquired by the new Company include the stock-in-trade, book debts, plant, machinery, fixtures, fittings, furniture, utensils, leases, &c., as they stood in the books at the date of the last stock-taking, and guaranteed by the Vendor Company (after deducting the liabilities) to be of the net value of £100,436, to which should be added the extra working capital above referred to, making a total of £200,436.

The Directors intend to create a Reserve Fund out of the annual profits, and provision for this is made in the Articles of Association.

The contract of sale is dated the 24th day of March, 1898, and is made between Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, Limited, as Vendors of the one part, and Dr. Tibbles Vi-Cocoa (1898), Limited, of the other part. The Vendors have entered into a Contract with Williamson, Murray, & Co., dated 17th March, 1898, under which the latter firm guarantee the subscription of a portion of the Capital now issued. These Contracts and the Memorandum and Articles of Association as well as the Accountants' Certificates may be inspected at the Offices of the Company's Solicitors. Williamson, Murray, & Co. have entered into sub-contracts, to which this Company is not a party.

The Vendor Company pays all expenses of, and incident to, the registration of the new Company and of this issue.

The business will be taken over subject to all existing contracts. These are of the ordinary trade character, and as they include numerous contracts with employés, agents, customers, and others, they cannot be more particularly specified. There may be also other contracts which technically fall within Section 38 of the Companies Act 1867. Applicants for shares will be deemed to have had notice thereof, and to have waived their right, if any, to be supplied with particulars of such contracts.

Application will be made to the London Stock Exchange in due course for an official quotation and settlement.

Applications for Shares may be made on the accompanying form and sent to the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount of the deposit.

Where no Allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and where the number of Shares allotted is less than the number applied for, the balance of the deposit will be applied towards the amount due on Allotment. Failure to pay any instalment when due will render previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Prospectuses and forms of Application can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, or from the Bankers, Brokers, or Solicitors, and from Williamson, Murray, & Co., 1, Moorgate-place, London, E.C.

60, 61, & 62, Bunhill-row, London, E.C., March 25th, 1898.

THIS FORM OF APPLICATION MAY BE USED.

To the Directors of

DR. TIBBLES' VI-COCOA (1898), Limited.

GENTLEMEN,—Having paid to the Company's Bankers the sum of £....., being a deposit of Two Shillings and Sixpence per Share on.....Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each in the above-named Company, I request you to allot me that number of Preference Shares, upon the terms of the Company's Prospectus dated March 25th, 1898, and I agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, and to make the remaining payments in respect thereof at the dates specified in the said Prospectus, and I authorise you to register me as the holder of the said Preference Shares, and I agree with the Company (as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable) to waive any claim I may have against them for not more fully complying in the said Prospectus with Section 38 of the Companies' Act, 1867.

Please write distinctly.

Name (in full).....

Address (in full).....

Description.....

(Please say if Mrs., Miss, Rev., or other distinctive description).

Date ..... 1898.

Signature.....

The Subscription Lists will close at Four p.m. To-morrow (Friday).

THOMAS PHILLIPS & CO., LIM.

Brewers, Maltsters, &c., West Malling, Dover, and Camberwell.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

SHARE CAPITAL - - £160,000,

Divided into 16,000 Five and a Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each and 80,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each,

ALSO FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCK £100,000
Redeemable at the Company's option (on six months' notice after June 30, 1908) at 105.

The First Mortgage Debenture stock will be secured by a First Mortgage to the Trustees for the Debenture stockholders of the whole of the Company's freehold and leasehold properties mentioned in the Valuer's Report, and by a floating charge upon the undertaking, together with all the other assets of the Company referred to in the said Report.

The Debenture stock will be registered in the Books of the Company, and will be transferable in sums of £10 and multiples thereof.

The interest on the Debenture Stock and the dividend on the Preference Shares will be payable half-yearly, in the months of January and July; the first payment, calculated from the dates fixed for payment of the instalments, being made on July 1, 1898.

The Preference Shares are preferred both as to Capital and Dividend.

ISSUE OF

£100,000 of 4½ per cent. First Mortgage Debenture Stock at par, payable
£10 per cent. on application.
40 ,, allotment.
50 ,, May 1, 1898.

and

£70,000 in 5½ per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each at par, payable
£1 0 0 on application.
1 10 0 on allotment.
2 10 0 on May 1, 1898.

*** And 70,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, which are taken by the Vendor in part payment of the purchase-money. The remainder of the Preference and Ordinary Shares is reserved for future issue if, and when, necessary for the provision of further working capital.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE STOCKHOLDERS.

The Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Limited, 40 to 44, Moorgate-street, E.C.

DIRECTORS.

Sir Edward Sullivan, Bart., 104, Pall Mall, S.W., Chairman.
George Clarke, Esq., Rayne, Braintree, Essex.
J. W. Rogerson, Esq. (Managing Director of W. & G. Bartram, Ltd., Brewers, Tonbridge, Kent.)
*Thomas Phillips, Esq., The Abbey Brewery, West Malling, Kent (Managing Director).
Humphrey Wickham, Esq., Nettlestead Court, Maidstone, Kent.
* Will join the Board after completion of purchase.

BANKERS.

London and County Banking Company, Limited, 21, Lombard-street, London, E.C.; Maidstone, and all other Branches.

BROKERS.

Messrs. Lumsden & Myers, 18, Finch-lane, and Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Mellor, Smith & May, 1, Moorgate-place, London, E.C.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. Tingle, Comber & Co., Chartered Accountants, 110, Cannon-street, London, E.C.

SECRETARY.—Victor Fabini.

OFFICES.

The Abbey Brewery, West Malling, Kent.
LONDON TRANSFER OFFICE: 110, Cannon-street, London.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire as a going concern from Mr. Thomas Phillips, Brewer, Maltster, and Wine and Spirit Merchant, of West Malling, Kent, the very old-established Freehold Breweries, known as "The Abbey Brewery," West Malling, Kent, the "Diamond Brewery," Dover, and the "Park Brewery," Camberwell, London, S.E.; also seventy licensed properties held therewith, of which eighteen are Freehold, forty-two Leasehold, and ten Annual Tenancies or tied by Loan; also the Freehold Residence and 22-Quarter Freehold Malting attached to the Brewery at Dover; the Freehold Residence and 40-Quarter Leasehold Maltings attached to the Brewery at West Malling; and the Freehold Residence attached to the Brewery at Camberwell, together with the fixed plant and machinery, rolling and loose plant, consumable stores, book debts partly secured by guarantee, loans, and all other the undertaking and assets of the said business as detailed in the Valuers' report.

THE ABBEY BREWERY, WEST MALLING, KENT, comprising an area of over an acre of freehold ground, is favourably situate on the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, between Sevenoaks and Maidstone. Established over a century ago, it was entirely rebuilt in 1891, and has since been enlarged to supply the whole of the present and constantly increasing trade, and estimates have been prepared to increase the present capacity to an output of about 1,200 barrels a week, so as to provide for the supply of new houses which the Directors intend from time to time to acquire as favourable opportunity offers. It has an unlimited and unfailing supply of the finest brewing water, obtained from an artesian well on the premises. It is well and fully equipped with the most recent and improved plant and machinery for the manufacture of beer—all the fixed vessels being composed of copper and oak.

It is the intention of the Directors to utilise the additional working capital provided by this issue in such a way as to enable them to concentrate the whole of the brewing operations of the Company at the Abbey Brewery, thus effecting an enormous economy in the general working expenses that have hitherto been incurred.

The Wine and Spirit trade can be developed, and attention will be paid to this department.

THE DIAMOND BREWERY, DOVER, with its Malting, Residence, gardens and yards comprising a freehold of over an acre in extent, is situate at Maxton, the most rapidly rising residential suburb of Dover. Established in 1849, its trade has increased largely. The proximate construction of a National Harbour of Refuge by the Government (contracts for which, at a cost of £3,500,000, have already been signed) must tend considerably to increase the importance and population of the town, with a consequent enhancement of the prosperity of the business.

THE PARK BREWERY, CAMBERWELL, LONDON, S.E., occupying a Freehold area of about half an acre, has excellent offices, cellarage, store rooms, and stables. The Brewery was established in 1851, and has an excellent trade. The premises are well suited and adapted for use as Stores, for the London trade, and it is the intention of the Directors to use them for this purpose.

VALUATION.—The above-mentioned Property has been surveyed and reported on by Messrs. Bromley, Son, & Kelday, Brewery Valuers and Accountants, of 21, Finsbury-pavement, London, E.C., and their Report, addressed to the Directors of this Company, will be found *in extenso* herewith. From a perusal thereof it will be seen that, exclusive of goodwill, the value of the three Breweries with the Freehold and Leasehold houses attached, together with the value of the Fixed Plant, Rolling and Loose Plant, and Fixtures, is £215,105 16 0
to which must be added the extra working Capital provided by this issue, viz. 30,000 0 0
making a total of £245,105 16 0
as security for the £100,000 Debenture stock.

Messrs. Bromley, Son, & Kelday state that "in the above valuation we do not include any goodwill"; and "many of the houses have a large premium value, which does not enter into our calculations."

From the foregoing extracts it will be observed that the actual assets of the Company—exclusive of goodwill—exceed in value the amount of the purchase price.

PROFITS.—Messrs. Bromley, Son, & Kelday further state in their report that the net average annual profits for the past two years have amounted to upwards of £12,730 5s., and that in their opinion this amount will be considerably increased when the projected alterations and improvements in working arrangements are effected.

Interest on the Debenture Stock (£100,000 at 4½ per cent.) will absorb .. £4,500
Dividend on the Preference Shares issued (£70,000 at 5½ per cent.) will absorb 3,850
£8,350

It will thus be noticed that, assuming no increase of business, the Interest on the Debenture Stock and the Dividend on the Preference Shares are exceedingly well covered. Mr. Thomas Phillips takes the present issue of Ordinary Shares in part payment of the purchase consideration.

MANAGEMENT.—Mr. Thomas Phillips has agreed to further identify himself with the success of the enterprise, by undertaking to act as Managing Director for a period of not less than three years, and the constitution of the directorate is sufficient guarantee that the interests of the subscribers to this issue will be adequately protected.

WORKING CAPITAL.—The capitalisation of the Company will permit the introduction of £30,000 as working capital from the present issue, and £20,000 from future issues. This will be utilised to effect the arrangements and alterations referred to above, and to support the natural development of the Company's resources.

PURCHASE PRICE.—The Vendor (who is the promoter of the Company, and as regards the Dover and Camberwell properties is reselling to the Company at a profit) has fixed the purchase price for the properties previously referred to at £210,000, payable as to £70,000 by the allotment to him of Ordinary Shares and, as to the balance, in cash, or partly in cash and partly in Debenture Stock and/or Preference Shares, at the option of the Company, the stock-in-trade, loans, and book debts being taken by the Company at a price to be agreed or determined by valuation. The Vendor undertakes to apply in the ordinary way for one-third of the Debenture Stock and Preference Shares now offered for subscription, but will not be entitled to preferential allotment. The Vendor also agrees to pay all the expenses of the formation of this Company and this issue up to the first general allotment. Conveyancing charges and stamp duties will be paid by this Company.

Application will be made in due course to the Committee of the Stock Exchange for a settlement in, and quotation of, the Debenture Stock and Preference Shares.

CONTRACTS.—The following Contracts have been entered into, viz.:—

(1) Contract, dated March 29, 1898, between Thomas Phillips of the one part, and this Company of the other part, being the Contract for sale to this Company of all the property and assets enumerated in the schedule thereto.

(2) Contract, dated March 29, 1898, between Thomas Phillips of the one part, and this Company of the other part, being the Contract under which Mr. Phillips acts as Managing Director of the Company.

In addition to the above, there are the contracts under which the said Thomas Phillips acquires the Dover and Camberwell properties, and numerous contracts with employees, customers, manufacturers, and others; also contracts relating to the formation of this Company, underwriting the capital now offered, and otherwise, which may fall within Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867. Applicants for Debenture Stock or Preference Shares are to be deemed to have notice of such contracts, and to have agreed with the Company as trustees for the Dircetors, and any other persons liable, to waive any claim they may have, for not more fully complying with the requirements of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise, and applications will only be received on this footing.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, the Draft of the Trust Deed securing the Debenture Stock, the Valuers' Report and Certificate, and the above-mentioned Contracts for Sale and appointment of Managing Director, may be inspected by intending applicants at the Offices of the Company's Solicitors.

Applications for Debenture Stock and Preference Shares should be made on the accompanying forms, and forwarded to the Bankers, or any of their branches, with a remittance for the amount of deposit.

Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned without deduction, and where the amount of Debenture stock or number of shares allotted is less than that applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction of the amount payable on allotment, and any excess returned to the applicant.

Prospectuses with forms of application may be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, and Auditors, or at the offices of the Company.

March 29, 1898.

THOMAS PHILLIPS & COMPANY, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR FIVE AND A HALF PER CENT. CUMULATIVE PREFERENCE SHARES.

To the Directors of
THOMAS PHILLIPS & COMPANY, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £..... as a deposit of £1 per Share on Application for.....5½ per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each, I request you to allot me that number of such Shares, and I agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me upon the terms of the Company's prospectus, dated March 29, 1898, and to pay £1 10s. per Share on Allotment, and £2 10s. per Share on May 1, 1898, as provided by the Prospectus, and I declare that I waive any fuller compliance with Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise, than that contained in such Prospectus.

Please write distinctly and give full Permanent Address.
Name (in full) .....
Description or Title .....
Address .....
Date.....1898.
Signature.....

THOMAS PHILLIPS & COMPANY, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR FIRST MORTGAGE FOUR AND A HALF PER CENT. DEBENTURE STOCK.

To the Directors of
THOMAS PHILLIPS & COMPANY, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £..... as a deposit of £10 per cent. on £..... First Mortgage Four and a Half per Cent. Debenture Stock, I request you to allot me that amount of such Debenture Stock, and I agree to accept the same, or any smaller amount that may be allotted to me, upon the terms of the Company's Prospectus, dated March 29, 1898, and to pay £40 per cent. on allotment, and £50 per cent. on May 1, 1898, as provided by the Prospectus, and I declare that I waive any fuller compliance with Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise, than that contained in such Prospectus.

Please write distinctly and give full Permanent Address.
Name (in full) .....
Description or Title.....
Address.....
Date.....1898.
Signature.....

The Subscription List will be Opened on Monday, the 28th March, 1898, and will Close on or before Wednesday, the 30th, at 10 a.m. for Town and Country.

NO PART OF THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN UNDERWRITTEN OR GUARANTEED.

THE NEW SCHULTZE GUNPOWDER COMPANY, LIMITED.

Registered under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

SHARE CAPITAL - - £325,000,

DIVIDED INTO

32,500 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each...	£162,500
32,500 Ordinary Shares of £5 each	£162,500
	£325,000

Of which 10,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares and 10,000 Ordinary Shares will be allotted as fully paid to the Vendor in part payment of the Purchase Money, and the balance of 22,500 Preference Shares (£112,500), and 22,500 Ordinary Shares (£112,500) is now offered for subscription at par, payable as follows:—

10s. per Share on Application; £2. 10s. per Share on Allotment; £2 per Share on 3rd May, 1898.

The Preference Shares rank in priority to the Ordinary Shares both as to Capital and Divdend, and the Articles of Association provide that no Mortgage Debentures or Debenture Stock, or other charge can be created to rank before this Issue without the consent of the Preference Shareholders, given by an Extraordinary Resolution at a meeting called for the purpose.

The first Preference Dividend will be payable 1st July, calculated on the amounts from time to time paid up, and it is intended thereafter that the Dividend on the Preference Shares shall be payable Quarterly.

DIRECTORS.

The Hon. JOHN SCOTT MONTAGU, M.P., Chairman.
ARCHIBALD STUART WORTLEY, Esq.
WALTER F. SMITH, Esq., Managing Director } Directors of the Vendor Company.
G. W. MELVILLE DALE, Esq. }
R. W. S. GRIFFITH, Esq., Superintendent of the Works.

Bankers.—UNION BANK OF LONDON, LIMITED, 2, Princes-street, E.C., and Branches.
Solicitors.—SLAUGHTER & MAY, 18, Austin Friars, London, E.C.
Auditors.—TURQUAND, YOUNGS, BISHOP, & CLARKE, 41, Coleman-street, London, E.C.
Brokers.—PIM, VAUGHAN, & CO., 1, Drapers-gardens, London, E.C.
Secretary.—W. W. CLAY, Esq.
Registered Offices.—32, Gresham-street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to take over as from the first day of January last the business of the Schultze Gunpowder Company, Limited, as at present carried on by them; and for the further development of the business, to acquire additional leasehold land, new works and plant, hereafter referred to.

The business of the Schultze Gunpowder Company, Limited, was established in 1869, and has earned a world-wide reputation for the excellence of its gunpowder. It was the first smokeless sporting powder manufactured in this country, and is now the leading sporting nitro compound.

The works of the Company are situated at Eyeworth, Hampshire, in the heart of the New Forest, and occupy a unique and most convenient site of about 43 acres held on lease direct from the Crown for a term of 21 years from the 25th March, 1891.

In view of the ever-increasing volume of the business, an important extension is now in progress, whereby the manufacturing capacity will be at once doubled, and provision for still further developments as the same become necessary. This is accomplished by the acquisition of a new and very convenient leasehold site, upwards of seven acres in extent, adjacent to the London and South Western Company's line, and connected by siding with their station at Redbridge.

This new Nitrating Factory (upon which, including the cost of site, the Vendor undertakes to spend whatever may be necessary up to £10,000) will, it is anticipated, be completed and equipped in time to perform its part of the season's operations.

Arrangements have been made to retain the services of the whole of the present staff including, for a period of five years, those of Mr. Walter F. Smith, the Managing Director of the Company, and of Mr. R. W. S. Griffith, who has had entire charge of the works during the last 24 years. Perfect continuity of the management which has been so successful in the past has thus been secured.

The development of the business during the last six years has been very rapid and the profits have increased proportionately.

The profitable nature of the business, its present extent, and its powers of expansion are sufficiently shown by the following Certificate of Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, Bishop, & Co., who have examined the books of the Company for the period above-mentioned.

The following is a copy of their Certificate:—

41, Coleman-street, London, E.C.
15th March, 1898.

Schultze Gunpowder Company, Limited,

We have examined the books of the Schultze Gunpowder Company, Limited, for the six years from 1st January, 1892, to 31st December, 1897, and find therefrom that the profits of the Company, after deducting any profit made by the American and Canadian agencies, and Interest received or profit made on investments of the Company, which are not included in the proposed sale of the business, were as under:—

Year ending 31st December,	1892	... ...	£ 7,380 3	7
,, ,,	1893	... ...	9,245 14	6
,, ,,	1894	... ...	11,663 12	1
,, ,,	1895	... ...	13,859 8	0
,, ,,	1896	... ...	19,409 3	3
,, ,,	1897	... ...	28,921 10	9

The profits as above stated are after deducting fees for Directors and Auditors, and allowance for depreciation.

TURQUAND, YOUNGS, BISHOP & CLARKE,
Chartered Accountants.

In estimating the probabilities of future profits, the rapid growth of the business during the past few years might fairly be taken into account. Without, however, making any allowance for this, the figures (based on the profits of the last year as shown in the Accountant's certificate) work out as follows:

To pay a Dividend of 5 per cent. on the Preference Shares	8,125 0 0
To pay a Dividend of 8 per cent. on the Ordinary Shares	13,000 0 0
	£21,125 0 0
Leaving a Balance for Reserves, or further Dividend of	7,796 10 9
	£28,921 10 9

The purchase price which is to be paid by this Company to the vendor (who has agreed to acquire the properties from the Schultze Gunpowder Company, Limited, and is re-selling at a profit) includes the whole of the Leasehold Land, Buildings, Plant, Machinery, Stock-in-Trade, Tools, Stores, &c., at Eyeworth; also the recently acquired Leasehold Site at Redbridge, and the works in progress thereon, together with the Goodwill, Secret Processes, Trade Marks, &c., and the Book debts due to the Company (less trade liabilities as upon the 31st December last, which are to be paid by the new Company and which amount to £3,242 6s. 4d.), and the benefit of trading since that date, has been fixed by the Vendor at £317,000, payable as to £50,000 in Preference Shares, £50,000 in Ordinary Shares, and the balance in cash.

The Stock-in-Trade and Book Debts estimated as good, will with the balance of the present issue provide a working capital of over £40,000, which should be ample for all purposes.

The Directors desire, however, to intimate that they especially invite applications from the Gun Trade and from Sportsmen generally, and that the same will be favourably entertained.

The following Contracts have been entered into, viz.: (1)—A Contract dated the 12th day of January, 1898, and made between The Schultze Gunpowder Company, Limited, of the one part, and Robert Austin, the Vendor, of the other part, and (2)—a Contract dated the 21st day of March, 1898, and made between Robert Austin, the Vendor, of the one part, and The New Schultze Gunpowder Company, Limited, of the other part; (3)—a Contract dated the 21st day of March, 1898, and made between Walter Fryer Smith of the one part and The New Schultze Company, Limited, of the other part; (4)—a Contract dated the 12th day of January, 1898, and made between Richard William Smith Griffith of the one part and Robert Austin of the other part.

These Contracts, the Accountants' Certificates, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association can be seen by applicants for Shares at the Offices of the Solicitors to the Company.

The Vendor has agreed to pay all the expenses of the formation of the Company up to the allotment of Shares.

Various trade contracts, agreements, and engagements relating to the ordinary business of the Company, and the engagement of the staff, have been entered into. All applicants for shares shall be deemed to have full notice of the last mentioned contracts, agreements, and engagements, and applications will be received only upon the footing that the applicants are to be deemed to agree with the Company (as Trustees for the Directors and other persons liable) to waive production of any further particulars of the said contracts, agreements, and engagements, and also any claims such applicants may have, owing to any want of full compliance with the requirements of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, in relation thereto.

A settlement and quotation for both Classes of the Shares on the London and Birmingham Stock Exchanges will be applied for in due course.

Applications for Shares should be made on the forms accompanying the Prospectus, and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company with remittance for the amount of the deposit.

If the whole amount applied for be not allotted, the surplus paid on deposit will be appropriated towards the amount due on allotment. Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full.

Prospectuses and Form of application for Shares may be obtained at the offices of the Company, or at the offices of its Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, or Auditors.

March, 1898.

This Form may be filled up and forwarded to the Company's Bankers, with Cheque for 10s. per Share applied for.

THE NEW SCHULTZE GUNPOWDER COMPANY, LIMITED.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

To the Directors of THE NEW SCHULTZE GUNPOWDER COMPANY, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to the Company's Bankers the sum of £..... ..... being a deposit of 10s. per Share on application for..... (state whether Preference or Ordinary) Shares of £5 each in the above Company, I request you to allot me that number of Shares upon the terms of the Prospectus, and I hereby agree to accept the same or any less number, and I authorise you to place my name upon the Register of Members in respect of the Shares so allotted to me, and I agree to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Shares as required by the terms of such Prospectus, and I also agree with the Company, as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable, to waive any claim I may have against them for not more fully complying in the said Prospectus with the requirements of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867.

Ordinary Signature .....

NOTE. Name (in full) .....

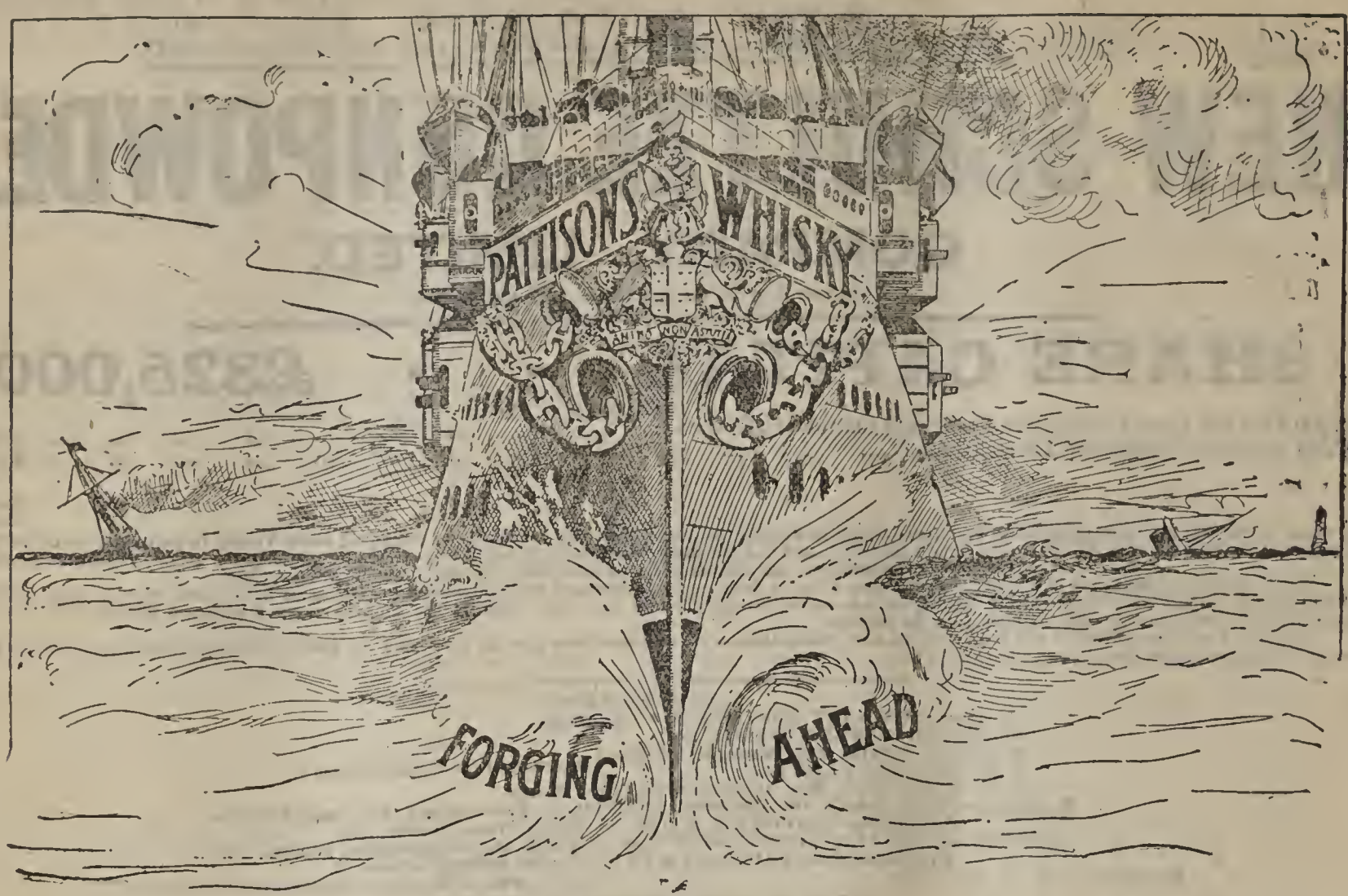
Please write very (Mr., Mrs. or Miss)

distinctly. Address (in full).....

Profession or Business .....

Date 1898

N.B.—The Prospectus and form of Application for Shares can also be obtained from the principal Gunmakers throughout the United Kingdom.



Pattisons' Whisky, like a British Ironclad, is at home in all "Waters."

Ask for { **"PATTISONS'"** and Schweppe. **"PATTISONS'"** and Soda. **"PATTISONS'"** and Apollinaris. **"PATTISONS'"** and St. Ronans.

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IMPORTANT NOVELTIES FOR 1893. 1898 Lists Free.

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LONDON: 17, HOLBORN VIADUCT.

IF YOU COUGH USE . .

GERAUDEL'S PASTILLES.

Let your lungs be filled with the vapour of Norwegian Pine Tar, which they give off whilst dissolving in the mouth. The efficacy of Pine Tar in all affections of the Throat and Lungs is well known; the best mode of applying it is by inhalation, and the mouth makes the best inhaler.

ALL CHEMISTS SELL THEM.

A MASTER KEY of this SIZE

Can be made to open any number of Locks. Many Ladies and Gentlemen have the whole of their locks so arranged that **a MASTER KEY,** so small as to be worn in a finger-ring or locket, will open every lock they possess—from their Dressing Bags, Trunks, Jewel Cases, Despatch Boxes, &c., to the Front Door, Wine Cellar, Park Gates, &c. **Just think of the Convenience!** The locks are made in suites, each suite with its own key, so that the ladies' maid or valet can open the luggage, the butler the wine cellar, and so on, but the suite keys are of no use for any but their own series.

BRAMAH JEWEL SAFES,

BURGLAR AND FIRE RESISTING, SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR BED AND DRESSING ROOMS.

Specialities in fitted Suite Cases and Dressing Bags, Jewel Cases, Despatch and Deed Boxes, Bramah Street Door Latches, with small keys, Bramah Padlocks for Bicycles, with Leather-covered Chains, &c. &c.

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Sole Manufacturers of the real Bramah Locks.

100, NEW BOND STREET,
LONDON, W.

A Master Key Signet Ring (Open).

OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2. 2s. will be given every week for the best Epigram, Conundrum, Lipogram, Bouts-Rimés, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and, for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the Truth Office by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. All New Contributors are Required to Forward with their First Answers their Real Names and Addresses for Registration; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. Competitors must on no account change their noms-de-plume they have once assumed.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 993.

I am compelled to hold over the announcement of the Prize-winner's name in this competition for another week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 996.

The result of this competition will be announced when Competition No. 999 is decided.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 997.

It has been decided to award the Prize in this Competition to Rosalys, who, having formed the given letters into the following stanza—being the second from Browning's "A Serenade at the Villa":—

Not a twinkle from the fly,
Not a glimmer from the worm.
When the crickets stopped their cry,
When the owls forbore a term,
You heard music—that was I.

Wrote as a complementary stanza the subjoined five lines:—

Not a star heaven's whole dome through,
Not a moonbeam pierced the dark;
Soundless—lightless—till there grew
In your paue a wakened spark,
And music answered—that was you!

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,001.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

The Best Original Anagram made out of the letters in the words "The Franco-Russian Alliance in the Far East."

The Anagrams should be made if possible to bear some allusion more or less direct to current events. Competitors may send in more than one Anagram, and all answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, April 11, at the latest.

Answers to Correspondents.

Nellie H.—Let me thank you very much for your original suggestion.

Langlands.—Quite so; the fifth line of your first stanza should have been printed "Morning, ere I went away."

Raymur.—I am much obliged to you for your suggestions and will give them the attention they certainly deserve.

D. B. K.—Very many thanks. Your idea is well worth thinking out.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 998.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

EPIGRAMMATIC DEFINITIONS OF "SMART SOCIETY."

Pleasure's treadmill.—Lucia.
Frocks et præterea nihil!—Crock.
The drones in life's hive.—Briony.
The paradise of fools.—Gollywog.
Skating, prating, mating, and hating.—Mushroom.
1. City swindles, West-end scandals. 2. Scheming in the City, squandering in Mayfair. 3. High collars and low necks.—Albula.
Preserves with the scum attached.—Malabar.
1. Fuss and feathers. 2. Bubbles blown and bubbles burst.—C. M. P.
I, myself, I!—Boythorpe.
The society one regards with envy tempered by hope.—Mona.
1. The survival of the fittest. 2. Fashion's Maelstrom. 3. Passion, fashion, flirtation. 4. A fairy palace of dazzling light to those outside. 5. Not unlike other places to those within.—Pennywig.
A coterie of wit and fashion.—La Plata.
Dress—more or less.—Hunter.
Corinth.—C. F. Reid.
1. A dress circle. 2. A coterie ruled by fashion and fashioned by rule. 3. A society well bred and ærated.—Sceptic.
Upper crust, well puffed.—Bertha.
1. The glass of fashion with up-to-date reflections. 2. An invisible net, inside which are the smart, outside are the outsiders.—Bel Demonio.
The feverish offspring of a loveless union between old blood and new money.—Drywell.
Humbug.—Psycho.
A conspiracy against the manhood of every one of its members (Emerson).—Menar.
Mash, dash, and flash.—Sissie.

The latest in everything, from authors, preachers, and musicians to bonnets and poodles.—Felsberg.
1. The last in fashion, and the bold in form. 2. The world, the flesh, and—the woman. 3. Men—feebly fast; women—with a past! 4. Dress, dinners, and devilment.—Flitters.
Bubbles on the top of vulgarity, set in effervescence by a few drops of blue blood and some pounds of gold dust.—Sir P. Felis.
The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, according to Lord Chesterfield.—Sahib.
1. Froth and sparkle rising to the top of the social waves. 2. Glitter and dash—society splash.—Risk.
1. The paradise of parasites. 2. The Mecca of snobs. 3. A brilliant satellite, hollow at the core, and girdled by snobs.—Selah.
1. The dress circle. 2. The show room in the social fabric. The "swell" mob-ilised. 3. Qualified members of an association under the Companies Act, Limited. 4. A phase of original sin in evolution. 5. The inner circle to which people are admitted less for what they are than what they wear. 6. The Band-boy Brigade.—Merle.
Flash! Splash! Crash!—Affery.
Grand and Rand people.—Leaf Rule.
The place where working for pleasure is the only work in which pleasure is taken, where vice is an amusement, and poverty a crime.—Barney.
Humbugs.—Tortu Foulque.
1. Vain folk, fixed up with a front seat in their own conceit. 2. Vain folk, who ape the air and vamp the virtues of good society.—Ooloo.

Dress, diversion, dinner, and the devil.—Gille Ban.
Fool's Paradise.—Lover of Truth.
Rush, crush, and gush.—Z. Z. Z. Z.
1. Where socialibility gives place to exclusiveness, and exclusiveness yields only to wealth. 2. The triumvirate of wealth, rank, and beauty.—Nota Bene.
Smart society is a self-styled circle of so-called swells.—Extra Cover.
Too much smartness, and too little society.—Alpha.
Smart society is a revolving press, apt at times to be a bit loose, but furnished with plenty of screw.—'98.
1. The over-dressed, over-fed, and over-fêted. 2. Fashion's ephemera.—Dilaram.

1. Some model dames,
Some noble knights;
Some lovely frames—
Some moral frights.

2. The "Inner Circle" of the constitutional railway. 3. Everybody who is anybody.—Georgina.
Smart society thinks itself the élite, but the élite do not think themselves smart society.—Bad Luck.
The appearance of artful peeresses and peers of art.—V. C.
That portion of society devoted to dress, dancing, and divorce.—Floré.
1. Where everybody is somebody, and anybody is nobody. 2. Where everybody knows everybody, and nobody knows nobody.—Cynic.
The survival of the fastest. Underbred and overfed.—Twins.

Flocks, stocks, shocks.—Glossaire.

Rustle and hustle.—M. Janson.

High-collared or in low-shaped dresses decked,
Incontrovertibly the same—stiffnecked.
Mongaroo.

The safety valve of respectability.—Bridge.

The looking-glass in which its devotees rejoice to see their own reflections.—Mat.

Brag and grab.—Bethy.

1. The "fine birds that fine feathers make" and that "flock together." 2. The noble army of martyrs to fashion.—Echo.

1. The polished horde. 2. The gilded clique. 3. The Bauble-shoppers.—Wildcat.

The front rank of the army of fashion—whence most fall.—Homnis.

Smart society seeks variety, stifles piety, sounds satiety.—Anna Karenina.

1. An element in which money floats and empty purses go under. 2. An ether all would breathe though it asphixiate.

3. To dine, to dress, envy, fawn, and flatter;
An endless dance linked to endless chatter.
Myrah.

Smart society lives for self, chiffons, scandal, speculation, and show.—Zero.

A set of manlings marvellously dight,
In dress, deportment, speech, and appetite,
Who think themselves above their fellows raised;
So there's my answer, and the Lord be praised.
(The Lord be praised, but why on earth they pose
Above their fellows, goodness only knows.)
W. Nevermore.

The lucky few on pleasure bent,
To work for whom is the sole intent,
Of the millions who here are sent.
Pria.

A region where they toil not, neither do they spin, yet where the fashionable dress, the rounds of visiting or entertaining, with functions innumerable from morn till night, seem to suggest that pleasure-seekers must work hard after their manner.—Esperanza.

A charmed and envied circle marked by exclusiveness, yet not free from a touch of vulgarity. Push, gush, rush, crush.—Excelsior.

1. The effervescence of worldliness. 2. The masquerade of respectability. 3. The school for scandal. 4. A snare and a delusion. 5. Pain's pyrotechny. 6. The social quicksand. 7. Affluence at the prow and frivolity at the helm. 8. The dashing light brigade. 9. Misguided amenity. 10. The cult of ultra fashion. 11. The carnival of prosperity.—A. E. L.

The vaporous part of life,
Which floats from its realities;
The mist which hides the toilers in the strife,
And wreathes round trivialities.
Azile.

Cheery, cheeky, and courted.—Hope.

Pert, pretty, and purse-proud.—Blossom.

A self-constituted, social clique, courting notoriety, noted for its smart clothes, lax morals, and indifferent manners.—Scorpio.

Pretty frocks! Many shocks!—Pendragon.

Where twopence-halfpenny looks down on twopence.—Aldbarn.

1. A society for promoting one's own pleasure. 2. The dress-circle at a comedy. 3. The light brigade. 4. *Fin-de-siècle* in the swim.—Wild Thyme.

F.R.S. and K.C.B.,
Feathers and plush and £ s. d.,
Lace and stars from 'cross the sea,
Make a "smart Society."
Sinora.

1. Foolish, fast, fashionable folk. 2 The dregs of good, and the froth of inferior society. 3. The scum which rises on the top of society. 4. An imitation of real society. 5. The impudence of many, and the tolerance of one. (H.R.H.). 6. Old aristocracy run to seed, mingling with the new plutocracy. 7. Men and women, without manners, who worship Mammon. 8. New dust, old rust.—D. G. B.

1. Fun, folly, "chic," variety,
And well-dressed impropriety.

2. Mayfair's merry go-round. 3. The burial place of propriety.—Spero.

Society, self nominated, smart—
Motley mummers—each plays petty part—
Grown children after some new plaything dart—
Good appetite, no conscience, a bad heart!
J. McGrigor Allan.

1. The attar distilled from millions of crushed roses. 2. The gilded weathercock on a condemned steeple. 3. A hollow way of living, occasionally needing a "Holloway" corrective. 4. The nation of shopkeepers' spoilt darlings.

5. On world, flesh, de'il,
Their hope is stayed,
Though ever leal
To church—parade!
Robert Martin.

1. Fashion's frivolity. 2. The laughing stock, wonder, and puzzle of the world. 3. A refuge for the rude, cynical, restless, and frivolous. 4. A socialised clique, whose watchword is "exclusiveness." 5. Fashion's slave. 6. A 'sociable,' in which are seated face to face the butterflies of fashion. 7. The safety buoy of fashion's follies. 8. The rock upon which many reputations have been wrecked. 9. Fashion's company exercising those graces which adorn the social state. 10. Is a pair of scales, its members the weights, conventionalism holds the balance which, in many cases, curiously makes the lighter scale appear the heavier. 11. A crucible which separates the base metal from the true. 12. A select set to which *Bon ton*, rank, and plausibility is the masterkey.—Go-ahead.

1. We shield our members from all sin
In ways of all variety;
Dishonour is fame, if you are akin
To—smart society.

2. We make the law for rich and poor,
Of course with all propriety,
Ensuring "Justice" for the sore,
In—smart society.

3. And so it will be to the end,
Perhaps, too, in Eternity!
"We exist by right," so don't intend
To lose our smart society.
P. P.

"The hideous education of this world, where in one evening are committed in thoughts, and words, more crimes than are punished in courts of justice; where ridicule destroys the grandest Ideas; where to be thought able, one must see justly. And there to see justly is to believe in nothing, neither in sentiments, nor in men, nor even in events; there false events are concocted. There to see justly one must weigh each morning a friend's purse, to know how artfully to place onesself above whatever may happen; meantime to admire nothing, neither works of art, nor noble actions; and to ascribe as a motive for all things—personal interest." (Paul de Kock).—J. McGrigor Allan.

Qualily in the abstract.—Angersteen.

All sorts and conditions of men—and women.—Seaton.

Fireflies flashing after an *ignis fatuus*.—A. E. L.

1. The small circle squared by riches. 2. Dress, ducats, and donkeys.—Malignant.

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen will stay at Cimiez until Tuesday, April 26, when her Majesty is to leave Nice for Cherbourg, and will arrive at Windsor Castle on the evening of Thursday, April 28. According to present arrangements the Queen is to leave Windsor for Balmoral on Friday, May 20, and her Majesty will stay in Scotland until after Ascot races.

The Princess of Wales, who is on a visit to the King and Queen of Denmark at Copenhagen, where the Empress Dowager of Russia is also staying at the Royal palace, will be accompanied on her return to England by Princess Maud, as Prince Charles of Denmark is going away for several months on a cruise in the Mediterranean in the warship *Tzar*, which is commanded by his uncle, Prince Waldemar. Princess Victoria of Wales has left Sandringham to spend a few weeks at Cromer for the benefit of her health.

The Prince of Wales and the Duke and Duchess of York are to spend Easter at Sandringham, and on Monday they will all drive to East Winch, near Lynn, to attend the West Norfolk Hunt Club Races. The Prince leaves Sandringham next Wednesday morning for Newmarket, but he will return after the races on Friday, and is to entertain a small party at the Hall until Monday, the 18th, when H.R.H. comes to town for the season. The Prince of Wales will be again at Newmarket for the First Spring Meeting (25th to 29th) and the Duke of Cambridge is expected down both weeks.

The Drawing Room which is to be held at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, May 10, will be held by the Queen herself, so far as the reception of the entrée company is concerned, while the general presentations will be left to the Princess of Wales, who, according to present arrangements, will hold the fourth and last Drawing Room of the season a few days later. These functions are likely to be very full, and the Queen has ordered that the number of presentations at each is to be strictly limited to two hundred, besides those from the Diplomatic circle and from the entrée.

A permanent separation between the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Hesse is in process of arrangement, all efforts to bring about a reconciliation between the young couple (who have been married for less than four years) having entirely failed. I hear that the Queen takes the part of her granddaughter in these painful disputes.

Many curious things in connection with Royalty happen under a Conservative Government. Comment is still rife on the extraordinary circumstance that at this critical time, while the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Squadron is at Malta, his despatch-boat, H.M.S. *Surprise*, has been lying for many days in the harbour of Villefranche, with the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, a Prince owing allegiance to the German Emperor, on board, together with the Hereditary Prince of Saxe-Coburg and several other German officers. Apart from the awkwardness, under certain contingencies, of the British ship flying the German flag, it seems strange that the Emperor of the "consecrated person" does not allow the use of his admiral's despatch-boats to the Princes of his Empire—especially when they are his own uncles.

The young Duke of Albany, who has been for some years a pupil at a private school in the New Forest, where his cousin, Prince Alexander of Battenberg, is also being educated, is to join Prince Arthur of Connaught at Eton after the Easter holidays.

A correspondent writes:—

Your Paris correspondent is mistaken in stating that when the Princesse de Joinville arrived in France from the Brazils in 1843 she was "snowed up" on her way from Brest to Paris. The Prince and Princesse de Joinville reached France in the month of August, and they proceeded direct to the Chateau of Eu in Normandy to visit the King and Queen, while a week later the Prince went to England, accompanied by his brother, the Duc d'Aumale, on a visit to the Queen and Prince Albert at Windsor Castle.

The Princesse de Joinville was then very handsome, and she had a large fortune (about 250,000) and a huge estate in Brazil. She was a perfect *ingénue*, and shortly after her arrival at Eu, Louis Philippe had the Ministers and a large party to meet her at dinner, but she found a long formal entertainment very tiresome, so she suddenly got up from the table and danced about the room *pour se désennuyer*.

Lady Cadogan returned to Ireland at the end of last week. She will be joined by Lord Cadogan at the Viceregal Lodge before Easter, where they will remain until after the Punchestown race meeting. Some dinners and a small dance will be given at the Viceregal Lodge while the Punchestown party is assembled there. Lady Cadogan, as well as the Viceroy, has shown an example in crossing the Irish Channel which may be pointed out as encouraging in view of the approaching tourist season. In Elizabethan times Burton gave the Irish Sea a bad name as one "wherein there is nought to be expected but tempestuous storms and troublesome waves." In Queen Victoria's time, the troubles and tempests have been more on land, perhaps, and the short journey across the Irish Sea is now generally made without any disturbance and with much comfort.

In early life Lord Strafford was a great protégé of Lord Palmerston and Lord Granville, and he was expected to achieve a brilliant political career, but the high expectations of his friends were not realised, although the leading Whigs of that day did everything possible to push him. Lord Strafford really had no taste for the hurly-burly of public life. He was devoted to literature and art, and was an excellent judge of pictures, and fond of sporting in a quiet way. His father was for many years an owner of racehorses and a prominent member of the Jockey Club, and he was General Peel's partner in the ownership of Orlando, winner of the sensational Derby of 1844.

Lord Strafford is succeeded by his brother, Sir Henry Byng, and the Rev. Francis Byng, formerly chaplain to the Speaker, becomes next heir to the title and estates. Sir Henry Byng has been a member of the Household for more than a quarter of a century, and he is at present the senior of the Queen's Equerries-in-Ordinary, a post which he must now resign, and her Majesty will appoint him to be an extra Equerry. Sir John McNeill, who has just been appointed Bath King at Arms, becomes senior Equerry. Sir Henry will probably be succeeded by one of the Grooms-in-Waiting—either Lord William Cecil or Colonel Brown—the place being worth £500 a year, with two and a half months of annual duty at Court.

The late Lord Cawdor was one of the most popular landlords in Great Britain, and a remarkable tribute to his many excellent qualities in this respect was paid before the Welsh Land Commission. He owned large estates both in Scotland and in South Wales, and did everything in his power to promote agriculture in the districts with which he was connected. Lord Cawdor farmed extensively, and his stud of Clydesdales and his herd of black cattle were widely celebrated. A Tory and a Churchman, Lord Cawdor was just as generous and considerate to Dissenters and Radicals as to members of his own party. He will be much and long lamented and missed in South Wales, where he lived during the greater part of the year at Stackpole, his beautiful place on the coast, near Tenby. Lord Cawdor sat in the House of Commons for nineteen years, and during Sir Robert Peel's second Administration he was *précis* writer to Lord Aberdeen at the Foreign Office. For many years past Lord Cawdor had lived a quiet but thoroughly useful life at his two country seats, and he was seldom seen in London.

The Annual Exhibition of the Royal Amateur Art Society is to be held at No. 1, Belgrave-square, on May 11, 12, 13, and 14, and will be opened on the first day by Princess Christian. In connection with it there will be a loan exhibition of portraits and sketches in pencil and water-colour by Sir Thomas Lawrence and the late Mr. George Richmond, R.A., and I am asked to suggest that any possessors of drawings by either of these artists who may be willing to lend them should communicate with Lady Newton, 20, Belgrave-square.

'TWAS THE VOICE OF THE OYSTER.

The Oyster is again being made an object of suspicion as a source of contamination and infection.—*Morning Paper.*

'Twas the voice of the Oyster, I heard him complain:
"They've begun to attack and asperse me again!
Once more they declare, in opprobrious terms,
I effusively reek with malarial germs.
Yes, 'reek' 's the word used, though I'd put this to you,
Pray, *why* do I reek so—supposing I do?"
And, tossing whatever may serve as its head,
That Oyster sat angrily up in its bed.

"They say we're 'infected,' well, that may be so;
But who is to blame, is what I want to know.
Men make us a bed—(and you cannot deny
That we in the same willy-nilly must lie)—
They next o'er that bed, in a quantity large,
Their sewage and garbage proceed to discharge;
And then, in a way that our anger inflames,
Call us 'pestilent molluscs,' and other bad names.

"Just look!" cried the Oyster, "you'll see at a glance
That man does not give us a ghost of a chance.
Above all suspicion we're eager to be,
The cleanest of shellfish that breed in the sea;
We want to be equally toothsome and safe,
But, soaking in sewage, we helplessly chafe.
Just look for yourself, and deny if you can
That the Oyster is scurvily treated by man!"

So I glanced at its bed, and I saw with one eye
Gassy bubbles and foul-looking scum floating by;
The waves all around, dyed a terrible tint,
Of a nameless putridity gave a strong hint;
And the Oyster tucked up, so to speak, in its bed,
On the microbes of muck automatic'lly fed;
And I cried, as I turned from the horrible sight,
"You are right, most ill-treated of bivalves, you're right!"

If the Society for the Protection of Birds takes under its wing the lowly sparrow, it might do worse than turn its attention to Hightown, in Lancashire. So vindictive are the inhabitants of this township towards the sparrow that they cheerfully submit to a voluntary rate of a penny in the pound for the purpose of bringing about his extermination. The money is devoted to the payment of a reward of one halfpenny for every bird that is shot, and the over-

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 882 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 880.
For Amusements, see page 881.
For Our Puzzles, see page 893.

seers have just reported that in the past ten months the number killed was upwards of 6,000. I believe there is some controversy among ornithologists as to the real character and habits of the sparrow. Those who regard him as a harmless, necessary bird, rather a friend of the farmer than otherwise, should endeavour to enlighten the people of Hightown. But I have no desire to open a discussion on this moot point in TRUTH.

If the Imperial Institute is not eventually put to some useful purpose, it will not be for want of suggestions as to the best way of utilising it. I am indebted to a lady for one more proposal in this direction. It is that the Institute should be turned into a national Walhalla for the reception of the statues and monuments which at present adorn Westminster Abbey, and any others that may have hereafter to be added to them. There is no doubt that we shall have to find premises for this purpose sooner or later, as was seen by Mr. Shaw Lefevre's project for erecting such a building at Westminster. The Imperial Institute is an imposing building, and has plenty of space, and is so far very suitable. The disadvantage that it is very much out of the way would not matter in this case, for if a national Walhalla were erected, I do not suppose any one would ever go to look at it, wherever it was situated.

There is a little journal called *Ashore and Afloat*, which is, I believe, published by the Royal Naval Temperance Society. I should be glad if the Editor would inform me on what date the accounts are settled, as it would enable me to relieve the minds of one or two contributors who are anxious on the point. It seems that the Editor asks Service readers to contribute "travellers' tales and sailors' yarns" from their own personal experience, and payment at the usual rate is promised. I find, however, that one story which was sent in in March, 1897, and another in November last, have neither of them yet been paid for, notwithstanding several applications on the subject. This seems rather long credit from literary men on the lower deck, and it is to be hoped that "the usual rate" of payment is proportionately high.

The trick lately played by Truman Press at Barnet has been repeated by the proprietors of a weekly paper in a Midland city. Advertisements were issued announcing the forthcoming publication of a new journal, and giving its intended title, which was entirely different from any previously in use in the town. A week or two afterwards the promoter of this new sheet was sent for by the proprietors of an existing weekly, and informed that they had registered his proposed title. He asked when this was done, and the reply was "within the last twelve months." Subsequent inquiry showed, however, that, as a matter of fact, the title had only been registered on the day of the interview—a fortnight after the advertisements had appeared. Some correspondence followed, and the solicitor to the promoter of the new paper eventually wrote to the firm who had registered the title, pointing out that his client had a prior claim to it, and stating also that he would bring out his paper under that title. In reply the firm at once dropped the old title of their journal, and published it under the title selected and advertised for the rival enterprise.

Registration, as I have before explained, does not give an exclusive right to a title. Such a right can only be acquired by use and reputation, and if the promoter of the newspaper in this instance had cared to go to the cost of legal proceedings, he could probably have obtained an injunction preventing the other parties from using the title which he had advertised. But, as a protection from such mean and contemptible practices, it would, of course, be much cheaper and simpler for persons who intend to produce a newspaper to first take the precaution of registering the title themselves.

There has been a long-pending dispute between the Scotch Kirk and the Duke of Atholl as to Dunkeld Cathedral. This building is an important and interesting national monument, but the Duke of Atholl claims it as his own private property, and has always done so on the strength of a charter alleged to have been granted to one of his ancestors by the Crown. It turns out that this supposed charter is merely a Royal warrant granted by the Prince Regent in 1811 ("at his Court at Carlton House"), and countersigned by Mr. Spencer Percival, by which the choir is granted to the parish of Dunkeld to be used as a church, while nearly £1,000 of the public money was given to the then Duke of Atholl for repairs to the structure, and it was stipulated that future Dukes should keep the fabric in proper repair "in time coming." The Duke now treats the cathedral as if it were his own absolute property, and a part of it is devoted to secular uses. The cathedral needs to be restored, and, unless the Duke of Atholl is prepared to undertake the work, the Crown had better resume possession of the building, and then the Kirk authorities can open a public subscription for the necessary repairs. The Duke actually regards the cathedral as being within the grounds of his own house, and asserts that there is no public right of way either to the church or to the parish burial ground which surrounds it. This is a very remarkable state of affairs, and remarkably unsatisfactory, and it ought to be altered without any more discussion.

The Rev. Charles Sinclair, brother of Lord Caithness, who has been for several years curate of Hornsey, and who was formerly at Kensington under the Bishop of Peterborough, is fortunate in having been presented by Mr. Higford to the rectory of Hempstead, near Gloucester, which is the richest living in that diocese, being of the net value of about £900 a year, with residence, and quite a small parish. Mr. Sinclair has been in Orders for seven years.

The election of Canon Kirkpatrick to the Mastership of Selwyn College, in succession to the late Bishop Selwyn, places the Regius Professorship of Hebrew at Cambridge, with stall in Ely Cathedral annexed, at the disposal of Lord Salisbury. Canon Kirkpatrick was appointed by Mr.

Gladstone in 1882, after the death of Dr. Jarrett, who was a great pluralist, holding also a rich living in Norfolk for over fifty years.

I hear that there are now numerous marriages at St. George's Chapel, Albemarle-street. In order to meet the difficulty of a Proprietary Chapel of the Church of England not being a licensed place for marriages, the civil service is first performed at the Registry Office, and this is followed by the religious service at the Chapel. It may be an open question whether there should be these Proprietary Chapels. But they exist, and as a Bill is now before the House of Commons to allow marriages to be celebrated in Nonconformist places of worship, common-sense suggests that its provisions should be extended to all places of worship.

The secretary of the American Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions has been interviewed by a reporter of the *New York World*, with reference to the statements in TRUTH concerning the American cemetery at Jerusalem. The secretary proved remarkably uncommunicative. He went so far as to say that his board had "deemed it expedient to change the location of the cemetery," a somewhat disingenuous admission of the fact that the ground has been disposed of at a high price, and the remains of the dead transferred to the English cemetery. But he had nothing to say in reply to the allegation that the bodies dug up were packed piecemeal in small boxes and heaped together in a common grave or pit at the English cemetery. Nor would the secretary answer two plain questions—first, whether the sale of the ground and removal of the bodies were carried out secretly to evade the Turkish law, and secondly, whether the sole object of the transaction was to put money in the coffers of the mission. The only conclusion from the secretary's reticence is that the charges that have been made are true. It is absurd to suggest, as he seems to have done, that the Board have not yet had time to properly investigate the scandal. Complaints were made to them, but without effect, some time before the matter was mentioned in TRUTH.

Probably the clergy (of all denominations) are, taking them all round, the worst enemies of religion. Most educated people in these days are agreed that the performance of sacred music is calculated to inspire and stimulate religious sentiment. This, however, is the way a reverend gentleman at West Bromwich, in his parish magazine, fulminates against a proposed performance of "The Messiah" on the Wednesday in Holy Week :—

> We trust that Holy Week and Good Friday will be well observed by all Churchmen connected with the old Church ; and that none of them will be found at the concert which is to be held in the Town Hall on the Wednesday in the Holy Week, the anniversary of the day on which our Lord was betrayed. If they are unwilling to make use of the daily services provided for them by the Church, they may at least abstain from amusements which are most dishonouring, at such a time, to our blessed Lord. The only way to put a stop to such offences against Christian decency is for Churchmen to absolutely withdraw from societies responsible for such actions, unless they receive the most explicit assurance that in the future such offences will not be repeated.

Everybody is at liberty to approve or disapprove of such performance as that here referred to. It is a matter of personal feeling. But for those who disapprove to denounce in such language as this those who differ from them, is the rankest and most un-Christian intolerance. There is really no difference between the spirit of this utterance and that of the Scottish Elder who predicts the damnation of the man who goes for a walk on the Sawbath, or the British Sabbatarian who considers that religion would be insulted if a working man were allowed to look at the pictures in our public galleries on Sunday.

The wiliest and most experienced of advertising tradesmen may well envy the talents of those enterprising gentlemen, Messrs. Lunn & Perowne. This firm has now got hold of a clergyman, the Vicar of St. John's, Stratford, who is also a Freemason. Some months ago he was employed to puff in advance among the Masonic fraternity the forthcoming Masonic function at King Solomon's Quarries, and the advantages of booking per Lunn & Perowne for that ceremony. The function over, the reverend brother is now sending out from his vicarage another circular, beginning thus :—

> DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have received so very many letters (hundreds in all), from Brethren in all parts of the world, asking for information as to the cruise organised by Brother J. T. Woolryeh Perowne and Brother H S Lunn, in January last, to which I acted as chaplain, that I venture to ask you to inform any members of your lodge who might be interested, that it was eminently successful in every respect, and I believe gave thorough satisfaction, &c., &c.

The reverend Mason then goes on to describe the cruise in detail, enlarging on the comforts and facilities afforded by the Brethren of the organising agency, and even noting that "we had smooth seas nearly the whole time," as though Brother Perowne and Brother Lunn were able to command the winds and the waves, as well as the services of Bishops, Deans, and Freemasons. All this, of course, is merely leading up to the announcement that other cruises are now being arranged by the twin Brethren, with an eye to which a post-card for orders is enclosed. I do not know what the Masonic community at large may think of this method of using Masonry as an instrument for trade advertisement, but there can hardly be two opinions as to the part which many of the clergy now think fit to play as side-showmen in this tourist agency line.

It may be a comfort to gamblers of strong Protestant views to hear that a Protestant Orphanage in Transylvania is placing on the English market tickets for a lottery that it is getting up. Some of the tickets are being sent to the English Clergy—with an eye, I hope, to their benevolent rather than their sporting proclivities—accompanied by a circular in this style :—

> REVEREND SIR!
>
> BELOVED BROTHER IN CHRIST!
>
> According to the latest statistics there exist at the present time in Hungary 460 children, orphans of fathers who worked in the service of our Lord, leaving behind them their helpless little ones exposed to the struggles, trials, and temptations of life. In remembrance of the touching and tender words of our Saviour Jesus Christ: "And whoso shall receive one such little child in My name receiveth Me" (Matt. xviii. 5), we decided on taking charge of these little ones. . . . . .
>
> In this assurance, Reverend Sir, I request you kindly, and in all brotherly trust, to forward the accomplishment of the means

"HÔTEL BURLINGTON," AT SUNNY BOSCOMBE. (200 rooms). Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

we have in view by means of the purchase of the enclosed series of four lots issued on the subjoined system of play, and to send by postal order as soon as possible the sum of 8 crowns (5sh 12d) (*sic*) to the Managing Council of the Transylvanian Evangelical Reformed Diocese in Kolozsvar.

The party who signs this is the Bishop of the said Evangelical Reformed Diocese. There seems to be some divergence of views on the question of gambling between the Evangelical party at home and in Hungary.

There is a widespread feeling of dissatisfaction, not by any means confined to the Curates' Union, at the decision of the managers of the Queen Victoria Clergy Sustentation Fund to confine the benefits of the Fund to the beneficed clergy. The decision is an alteration of the purpose of the charity as originally formulated, and to that extent a breach of faith with the subscribers. The Fund was the outcome of a resolution passed in 1895 at the Norwich Church Congress, where it was expressly stated that the proposed fund should include all the clergy. At the Shrewsbury Church Congress the following year Lord Egerton of Tatton, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Fund, stated in so many words that the scheme was to cover "the whole field of the labourers in Christ's vineyard, and though it commences with the beneficed clergy, the unbeneficed are not excluded from its care." Many who have contributed have doubtless done so upon the faith of these representations, and probably similar representations have been made on many occasions when collections have been made, or the objects of the Fund have been under discussion. To exclude assistant curates from the benefits is therefore as unfair to the subscribers as it is unjust to the curates.

An appeal was sent to me the other day inviting my contribution to the very latest memorial. In my humble judgment, the memorial business is being greatly overdone. No sooner does a person die than at once it occurs to every one who has a charitable or ornamental axe to grind, that the departed one should be used as a whetstone, and the world at large is circularised for money in aid of this or that object—possibly very excellent, but with which the connection of the person in whose name the appeal is made is of the shadowest. People are getting tired of this sort of *post-mortem* cadging. It is felt that if a person wishes his memory to live by a gift to a charity, he should himself have left a legacy for that purpose. That he approved of it and supported it when alive, is no reason why his friends and his acquaintances should keep his memory green by subscribing in his name to it when he is dead. Charity not only covers a great many sins, but a great deal of nonsense; and it is high time that this special form of nonsense should be abated. If any one feels inclined to relieve his sadness at the loss of a friend by benefiting some institution, by all means, let him. But I protest against the practice of a few friends forming themselves into a committee, and pestering others with circulars asking them to subscribe, or the still more common practice of parties connected with some religious or charitable institution using the death of some well-known man as a lever for raising cash.

Among the many seductive circulars which have been issued in reference to Klondike, not the least interesting is one emanating from the East-End Gospel Mission, Glasgow. This circular, which bears the signatures of five-and-twenty committee men, states that the Mission is organising an expedition of about eighty men to leave Glasgow early in the spring. "The members are all solemnly pledged to vows of allegiance to Christ's kingdom on earth, and as labourers in His vineyard." When I read this, I concluded that the eighty were being sent forth as missionaries to preach and convert the miners and residents of Klondike—a very fruitful soil I dare say for the Gospel labourer. But on further perusal this does not seem to be the idea at all. The circular goes on to say that:—

> Each man will work during the ordinary working hours, and is pledged and bound to contribute ten per cent. of his earnings (or 2s. in the pound) towards expenses, and as additional security for the repayment of advances and interest. . . .
>
> Towards the furtherance of this object, we confidently appeal to those having the cause of Christ's Kingdom at heart, and the furtherance thereof, to assist us in our laudable undertaking *either by donations, or subscriptions on loan, to be repaid with ten per cent. interest*, thus enabling us to equip the expedition with ample provisions, clothing, &c., for two years, and, at the same time, leave sufficient at home so that the mission work shall not suffer. We thank God for what he has done in the past, and we praise and glorify his holy name for what he is going to do in the future. . . .
>
> We will certainly dig for gold, but the gold so obtained will be for the alleviation of distress and sowing the seed of eternal life on barren soil.

So that the labourers are going to leave the vineyard for a time for the goldfields, in the hope of picking up there a little capital for the renewal of their agricultural operations. I confess I should like to know more of the Mission which is organising this remarkable evangelistic operation. As at present advised, I cannot honestly recommend the ten per cent. debentures of this latest Klondike Syndicate as a promising investment, either in a financial or a spiritual sense.

I am asked by the Hon. Secretary of the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London to explain that when that Fund received a contribution of £15 from Mr. "Harlequin" Smith, as mentioned in last week's TRUTH, they were quite unaware of the true source of the donation. It seems that Smith sent on his undistributed prize money with an ordinary contributor's form, signed "Smith & Co., publishers, 6, Station-road, Finsbury Park," and he naturally did not explain any further details. I never supposed that the officers of the Hospital Fund knew the precise nature of the gift; nor did I suggest that, had they done so, it would have made any difference. If a charitable institution were once to begin inquiring how the money it receives has been earned, I don't know where it would land itself.

The following amounts have reached me towards the deficit of the Toy Fund:—A. W. B., £1 2s 6d.; J. S. £5 5s.; M. A. D., £5.

The Maximum of Effect at the Minimum of Cost.—An Object Lesson in Decorating and Furnishing can be obtained by inspecting Messrs. WARING'S Suites of furnished rooms at 175-181, Oxford-st. W.

An unusual domestic difficulty is at present troubling a certain Line infantry regiment, the name of which wild horses should not drag from me. It seems that the Commanding Officer, in the exercise of his taste and discretion, recently took to himself a wife from behind the bar of certain licensed premises much frequented by the rank and file of the regiment. Such a fact speaks highly for the charms and virtues of the lady, and also for the courage and devotion of the gallant officer; but this view of the matter is unfortunately not the one which is taken by the officers' wives of the regiment. Difficulties of this kind always arise when you have ladies to deal with. If the Colonel had consulted me before taking this bold step, I should have said, "My dear Sir, as a man you have a perfect right to marry whom you please, but as the Colonel of a regiment you have to consider other people besides yourself. More particularly you should reflect upon the future relations of your wife with the wives of your brother officers. If you wish to marry the lady, you ought to leave the regiment. Take your choice between the two alternatives." If the Colonel were to consult me now, I should say, "My dear friend, before you married there were two courses open to you. Now there is only one." But the Colonel has not consulted me.

It strikes me that Colonel Hewson, of the Army Pay Department, who got into trouble in Malta the other day for refusing to sign his deposition before a Maltese magistrate, set an uncommonly bad example to his native fellow-subjects in that island. The facts seem to have been that Colonel Hewson gave evidence in English upon a charge against a Maltese, and that his evidence was, as usual, transcribed by the magistrate in Italian. By the law of Malta, as sanctioned by the Queen in Council, the witness has to sign his deposition when it has been transcribed. Colonel Hewson declined to do this, on the ground that he did not understand the language. The magistrate insisted on his signing, but offered to take a note of his objection. The Colonel still persisted in his refusal, unless he were allowed to add his own protest in English. The magistrate then gave him twenty-four hours' time for consideration, at the end of which period the Colonel appeared in court with the Criminal Code in his hand, admitted that the law compelled him to sign, but again refused to comply with the magistrate's order.

On this the magistrate sentenced the Colonel to three days' imprisonment for contempt. The Governor, by reason of the prerogative of mercy, cancelled the order, and immediately released the prisoner. Questioned on this point in Parliament last week, Mr. Chamberlain stated that he proposed to communicate with the Governor of Malta with a view to amending the law. That may be desirable, but for an officer of high rank, holding the Queen's commission, to set in a colony like Malta the example of defying the law, merely because he does not approve of it, and for the Governor to promptly revoke his sentence, seems a trifle undesirable. Had a native Maltese adopted a similar method of signifying his disapproval of any law, would the result have been similar?

Writing with reference to the frequent irregularities that take place in connection with confidential reports, an officer points out that any commanding or other officer who fails to comply with the strict letter of the Queen's Regulations on this subject is guilty of a gross breach of discipline, and should be dealt with accordingly. This is, no doubt, perfectly true, and nothing could be more desirable than that such irregularities should be dealt with in the most drastic fashion possible. Unfortunately, some of these irregularities take place in the highest quarters. Cases have been mentioned in Truth before now where the War Office has taken a line upon a confidential report which is wholly at variance with the procedure laid down in the regulations. *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?* Who is to order a court-martial upon the Headquarters Staff of the Army?

Here is a genuine grievance from an acting school master in the Army. The ordinary school hours are 9 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. The teachers are, however, often detained until 7 or 7.30 p.m. to coach candidates for first-class certificates. For this they get nominally sixpence a day extra-duty pay. A lance-sergeant, however, so employed is deprived of the pay of fourpence a day which he gets on appointment to that rank, the net result being that he only gets twopence a day for his extra hour's work. This is clearly wrong, and ought to be remedied.

The question was asked in Truth the other day why a special application to the Secretary of State for War should be necessary for the appointment of a deputy when a sergeant-major or orderly-room-sergeant is absent on duty, seeing that in the event of absence on leave a deputy can be appointed without any reference to headquarters. The raising of this question has moved sundry sergeant-majors to point out that where such a deputy is appointed he has to be paid by the sergeant-major himself, and that there is no other officer or soldier in the Service who is subject to the same rule. I am not quite sure about the last point, but it is certainly a shabby thing that if a warrant officer is away on leave for a single day in the year he should have to provide a substitute out of his own pocket, and the rule on this point might well be amended.

The War Office ought to watch very carefully the treatment of Reservists rejoining under the new regulations. I am giving in my Military Pillory some facts from Buttevant which show the necessity for this. It is a monstrous thing that men of eight or ten years' service

Brandauer's Circular-Pointed Pens. Neither scratch nor spurt. Glide over the roughest paper with the ease of a soft lead pencil. Assorted sample box, 7 stamps, from the Works, Birmingham.

American Tooth Crown Company, 24, Old Bond-street, W., where the finest Experts in Dentistry from leading American Colleges are in attendance to save decayed teeth by skilful work. Consultation free. Book describing work post free.

should be kept for weeks doing four hours a day recruits' drill, and an hour's gymnasium; and such a procedure suggests that some one in authority does not altogether approve of the rejoining of Reservists, and is endeavouring to make things as unpleasant for them as possible:—

2nd Battalion Cheshire Regiment, Buttevant.—A number of Reservists who have rejoined this battalion under the new regulations have been occupied for weeks drilling with the last squad of recruits, and though they have frequently been promised that they would be dismissed in a day or two, the dismissal has not come. Several of them have, in consequence, got transferred elsewhere; but some remain, and were still drilling with the recruits up to a week or so ago.

2nd Battalion Somersetshire Light Infantry, Aldershot.—The following record of a man who has apparently only had twelve months' service is interesting. The man in question joined at the Depot in February, 1897. He was given the lance stripe before the end of the month, while drilling on the square as a recruit. He joined the battalion in August, and was again made lance-corporal. In October he was appointed paid lance-corporal, passing over ten lance-corporals senior to himself. On obtaining his drill certificate he was at once struck off duty, and appointed drill-instructor, having then nine months' service, and on March 22, 1898, he was appointed full corporal. There are about twenty-five lance-corporals in the battalion qualified for promotion, and senior to him. It is suggested that this man, who is married, and apparently fully up to the maximum age for enlistment, has had previous service. Even if that were so, should it be allowed as a reason for promoting him so rapidly?

3rd Company Western Division R.A., Bermuda.—This company went out from England to Bermuda in 1886. It was moved to Halifax in 1890. It returned from Halifax to Bermuda in 1894, and has been there ever since. It is understood that it is now in contemplation to move it back again shortly to Halifax. Is is not about time that the company got a turn at home, or, at any rate, on some other foreign station?

No. 10 Mountain Battery, R.A., Pietermaritzburg.—This battery relieved No. 4 Mountain Battery in 1893, and, at the same time, all men who had not completed five years' service in the colony were transferred from No. 4 to No. 10 Battery. Although this is nearly five years ago, there are still a number of these men in the Battery who have practically put in the whole of their Army service at this not over-desirable foreign station, and, so far as they can learn, there is no prospect whatever of their being relieved. It can hardly be supposed, even at the War Office, that men are likely to extend their Army service under such circumstances.

In a regiment quartered in Ireland a man happened the other day to make some mistake on parade in the presence of the Adjutant, who apostrophised him openly as a "—— fool." The man put forward a complaint on the subject to his company officer, who brought it before the C.O., but without result. A day or two later on parade the Adjutant singled out the "man who complained about being called a fool" and informed him that he desired to repeat the epithet, strengthening it at the same time with further expletives drawn from the vocabulary of the "lower orders." No one would suggest that soldiers must be addressed on parade in the same tone as ladies in a drawing-room; but that hardly makes it right or desirable that an officer should talk to his men on the barrack-square like a bargee slanging his adversary in a tap-room.

An officer writes:—

I think you are right in suggesting that guard duty is often overdone on board troopships. Very often, however, it is very much like the proverbial proceeding of taking a horse to the water. On my voyage with troops in the *Assistance*, the bugle daily summoned the watch and other duties to their post at regular intervals, but not a man turned up till we had nearly arrived at our destination, and sea-sickness had begun to work itself out. This applies to officers equally with men.

This is very much what might be imagined, and it seems to me a sufficient answer to the contention that a soldier may be expected to do as much guard and fatigue duty on board ship as he does on land.

This is the sort of polite note that a recruit in a certain Volunteer regiment gets from the Quartermaster when he is waiting for his uniform. When at drill or on parade Volunteers must, of course, expect to be addressed as unceremoniously as Tommy Atkins before the band begins to play. But "take it away at once," addressed to a man in a printed form at his private residence, certainly seems carrying barrack-square manners a little too far:—

Orderly Room, ——,
March 26, 1898.

Dear Sir,—Your uniform is now ready, and I request you will attend here at a time mentioned below for the purpose of trying it on, and fitting the belts, &c. Take it away at once.—Yours truly,

——— ———,
Quartermaster and Captain.

As Truth is so widely read in the Army, I publish the following letter for the enlightenment of any soldiers who may receive similar epistles. This particular document was addressed to the sergeant-major at a station in Scotland, who was fortunately sufficiently wide-awake to detect in it strong evidence that it was not the work of a discharged soldier. No. 77, Fetter-lane, the address from which it is written, is a barber's shop where letters are taken in. A man giving the name of John Walsh is still in the habit of calling there for letters, and any one who has been victimised by him ought therefore to be able to put the police on his track:—

77, Fetter-lane, London, E.C.
March 16, 1898.

Sir,—On leaving Egypt, a friend of yours gave me a box to bring home for you, and told me, when I got to Fort Brockhurst, I should receive a letter from you telling me how to forward the box to you.

I have been a week at Brockhurst (I was discharged yesterday), and not receiving a letter from you, I inform you of the fact.

The box contains different articles (a present) and is about 18 in. square and weighs about 10 lb.

Let me know as soon as you can how to send it, if by parcels post, please send stamps.—I remain, yours truly,

John Walsh.

The *Avoca* recently took out the 2nd Berkshire Regiment to relieve the 1st Middlesex in King Williams-town, Cape Colony. King Williams-town is a short distance by rail from East London. The *Avoca*, however, was ordered to disembark the Berkshire men at Algoa Bay, whence they were to be taken by train to Grahams-town, and thence to march a distance of seventy-six miles to King Williams-town. The 1st Middlesex were in the same way ordered to march the seventy-six miles to Grahams-town, and thence to go by train to Algoa Bay. When this arrangement was made known, the Harbour Board authorities at East London pointed out to the War Office that at that port there is a navigable river with 19 ft. 6 in. of water at low tide, whereas at Algoa Bay there is only an open roadstead, and the troops have to be embarked and disembarked in lighters. Nevertheless, the original arrangement was adhered to. It is no exaggeration to say that, in addition to the six days' march of the troops from King Williams-town to Grahams-town, the embarka-

H. L. Savory & Co.'s Cigarettes.—By Special Warrants of Appointments to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, H.S.H. the Duke of Teck, and the Houses of Lords and Commons. To be obtained of all the leading Houses in the trade.—Sole address, 59, Piccadilly, London, W. Specimen case of samples, containing all sizes, 2s. 6d., with price list.

tion and disembarkation at Algoa Bay will cost the country many hundreds of pounds as compared with what the expense would have been at East London. It would be interesting to know from what motive this unnecessary additional expenditure was incurred.

A Naval contributor writes from Portsmouth that "one of the latest Admiralty orders deals at considerable length with the way in which our Bluejackets are in future to lace up their trousers. Henceforth, it would appear, the old manner of lacing is to be reversed." The consideration of this fresh proof of the never-sleeping vigilance of our Admiralty has inspired my friend to write the following verses, which I gladly publish by way of reassuring the timorous in these anxious times:—

READY TO THE LAST EYELET-HOLE.

Peace, agitated citizen!
  Pray calm thy heaving breast!
Perturbed and anxious Briton, seek
  All fearlessly thy rest!
What though the outlook parlous be,
  You need not care a jot.
What though your foemen's fleets combine,
  You're ready for the lot.

See what it is, at times like these,
  When danger is at hand,
To have such cool, such knowing salts
  Your Navy to command!
Do they show any trace of fear
  Or failing? Not a bit!
Does Panic tinge their policy
  Or force their hands? Not it!

No, they the situation scan,
  And in a moment see
What 'tis our Fleet requires if 'tis
  Invincible to be.
If, in due course, Armadas new
  Are all to be dispersed,
The way Jack laces up his trews
  Forthwith must be reversed!

And so the fiat goeth forth,
  And Jack is told to drop
Down to the bottom eyelet-hole
  The bow now tied on top.
True, laced the other way, he won
  Trafalgar and the Nile;
No matter; now "My Lords" decree
  A wholly altered style!

Then let us, noting what they've done
  Anent Jack's trouser lace,
With placid and unflinching hearts
  Our country's future face.
Aye, let us "Rule Britannia!" shout,
  And thank the Fates that we
Possess a Board thus keen to keep
  Our Empire of the Sea!

The manifold difficulties in the way of obtaining an eligible site for the Naval College at Dartmouth have been overcome, and the building will be commenced in a few weeks, the purchase of the land on the Mount Boone estate having been at last completed by the Admiralty. It is an altogether fatuous arrangement to locate this establishment at Dartmouth, but if the Admiralty authorities are firm in their resolution to favour this town for some mysterious reason, it may be hoped that the college will be completed as soon as possible, for the training-ship *Britannia* is in a miserably insanitary condition, and has been a perfect hot-bed of illness (notably measles and mumps) all through the winter.

The Board of Trade might usefully inquire why an exception to the rule requiring clerks under the Trinity House Commissioners to retire at the age of sixty-five is made in the case of the clerks in the Pilotage Office, who are allowed the privilege of remaining till any age. It is contended by the pilots that this arrangement injuriously affects the Pilots' Fund, out of which their small pensions are paid, inasmuch as it enables a clerk to draw a large salary for a very long time and to pile up a correspondingly large retiring allowance. Whatever force there may be in this objection the arrangement in question is a decided anomaly.

The course adopted by the Punjab Government in reference to a fatal mistake on the part of Dr. Dennys, a Civil surgeon of the Indian Medical Service at Delhi, has been severely criticised in India. In prescribing for Mr. L. F. Maclean, an officer of Government at Delhi, Dr. Dennys wrote "extract of nux vomica" instead of "tincture of nux vomica," and so brought about the death of the patient. The prescription showed that other minor slips of the pen had been made, but had been corrected, so that the omission to notice and rectify the most serious error of all was all the more inexplicable and reprehensible. There was an attempt to account for it by the suggestion that Dr. Dennys was in a very excited state at the time, owing to a difference between Mr. Maclean and himself respecting fees, but the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab has come to the conclusion that this suggestion was not borne out by the evidence. The mistake made by Dr. Dennys ought, it seems, to have been discovered by the native compounder at the dispensary, inasmuch as the dose of extract of nux vomica was written in minims, a measure that was inapplicable to this ingredient, and which the compounder changed to grains. His excuse was that he had been previously threatened by Dr. Dennys with severe punishment if he allowed any delay to occur in the preparation of a prescription. It was further ascertained that the hospital assistant had been guilty of a breach of the rules in allowing the compounder to dispense poisons without his personal supervision.

It is in regard to the differences in the punishment meted out to the three officers concerned in this painful tragedy that there has been so much discussion. The native compounder was dismissed and the hospital assistant reduced in grade for two years. Dr. Dennys, on the other hand, gets off with a transfer to a smaller station and a censure for his carelessness in writing the prescription and for his previous "ill-judged" and "indiscriminate" threat against the compounder. It will seem

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to most people that he has escaped very lightly indeed. A coroner's jury in England would hardly have taken so lenient a view of the carelessness which resulted in poor Mr. Maclean's death, while if Dr. Dennys had been an Army Medical Officer, he would assuredly have been tried by court-martial and probably forced to retire.

It is now announced from India that the Zakka Khels have made their submission. If this is true, it probably marks the end of the Afridi rising, for all authorities with whom I have conversed agree that the Zakka Khels were the most turbulent of the tribesmen, and the most likely to hold out to the end. I confess, however, that I regard these announcements of the voluntary submission of the outstanding clans with some suspicion. Hostages have, I believe, been given in most cases for the future good behaviour of the tribes, but what this security would be worth, if the agreement was violated, is not clear. My impression is that the Afridis will observe their present promises just so long as it suits their purpose, and no longer. There will be no security from future annoyance on their part until we have gained their confidence, and convinced them of our intention to respect their territory, their religion, and their virtual independence.

Assuming that there is to be no more fighting, I hold more strongly than ever that there ought to be an inquiry into the management of the late campaign. The submission of the tribes will, no doubt, be used in official quarters as an argument that the ends in view have been accomplished, that the campaign has thus been a genuine success, and that criticism is thereby refuted. This is all bunkum. The campaign has revealed widespread incompetence among the staff officers employed, serious defects in organisation, and a general lack of preparedness to meet a serious emergency. Never, probably, in a campaign of similar duration have more serious blunders been committed, or more disasters of a preventable nature occurred. Common sense suggests that the reason for these failings should be thoroughly threshed out. If this is not done, the confidence which has hitherto been felt in Indian military organisation will remain seriously impaired.

It is hardly worth while now to go back to the incidents of the late campaign; but I continue to receive from India many interesting contributions to the long story of bungling and mismanagement. Here is one of the most remarkable of them:—

> When General Gaselee's Brigade took the Sanpagha Pass, General Westmacott's advanced and opened volley firing upon it. General Gaselee's Brigade lay down on the crest they had occupied to shelter themselves from the fire of their own countrymen, and, strange to relate, did not suffer one single casualty. This experience probably throws some light on the reports that have been circulated of Afridi "losses" under similar circumstances.

No doubt. It also throws light upon other matters of more importance. This story comes to me from an officer who certainly would not have repeated it unless he had good authority for believing it to be true. If such an incident did occur, no one can question that it ought to be thoroughly sifted, and the parties responsible for the blunder properly dealt with.

One of the supporters of the new Sedition Law in the Indian Legislative Council was Sir Griffith Evans, a non official member, whose record on this question is worth quoting as an instructive and amusing object-lesson in opportunism. In 1878, during the Administration of Lord Lytton, Sir Griffith was a member of the Council which passed the Vernacular Press Act. In 1882, when Lord Ripon was Viceroy, Sir Griffith was a member of the Council which repealed that Act. In 1898, under the Viceroyalty of Lord Elgin, he approves of yet another measure for the muzzling of the Press all round, Anglo-Indian as well as Native. The Vicar of Bray kept his living, and Sir Griffith Evans retains his seat on the Council, whatever may happen.

A story lately unfolded in the police-court at Singapore deserves publicity as a warning to any young women who may be tempted to accept engagements as barmaids in that part of the world. Two respectable girls had been brought over from Melbourne to act as barmaids in a house called the Stamford Hotel, which was represented to them as one of the leading hotels in Singapore. They found that it was a low drinking saloon, and that instead of serving behind the bar, their business was to sit and drink with customers and induce them to spend their money as freely as possible. These Australian girls declined to do anything of the kind, and the proprietor sued them for breach of contract, but the Court gave judgment against him on the ground that they had been engaged by misrepresentation. It would seem, however, that there are many cases in which the proprietors of similar so-called "hotels" have been more successful in ensnaring young women, and a shocking account is given of the lives led by these unfortunate decoy ducks. They have been procured by means of specious advertisements from India as well as from Australia and possibly other parts of the world, and, finding themselves in a strange land without friends, have easily fallen into the trap prepared for them. Cannot the authorities at Singapore do something to stop this iniquitous traffic?

In the last budget of hints to intending emigrants issued by the Emigrants' Information Office, the following appears among other useful matter:—

> In Western Australia an Act has recently been passed prohibiting the landing of the following persons (amongst others):—(1) Any one who cannot himself write out, in the characters of any language of Europe, a passage in English of fifty words taken by the appointed officer from a British author, and append his name thereto in his own language; (2) any one who is a pauper or likely to become a public charge; (3) any one who within three years has been convicted of a felony or an infamous crime. There continues to be a good demand for mechanics, miners, and other labourers.

The idea of a competitive examination for the admission of immigrants to a colony is novel, and suggests that education has reached a high standard in Western Australia. I fear, however, that the explanation is a different one, and that the first clause in the conditions is really designed to exclude Chinese, Hindoos, or other foreigners. The idea

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of excluding any one who within three years has been convicted of felony is excellent in theory, if a little difficult to carry out in practice, and it should do much to establish confidence in the Westralian gold-mining industry. Fancy a goldfield where nobody has been convicted of felony for the past three years!

Latest offer of the "model employer." In the window of the Reigate post-office is a notice inviting applicants for temporary employment as postmen, intimating that "only respectable men whose character will bear the most rigid scrutiny" need apply, and explaining that the pay will be 16s. a week for eight hours' work a day. It is evident that in the Post Office no pecuniary value is attached to a good character, for this is considerably less than the wage received in the same district by plenty of labourers whose only credential is their muscle.

There is still much room for improvement in the condition and treatment of the horses employed by the Post Office mail contractors, and I am glad to see that their case was the subject of investigation before Mr. Haden Corser at Worship-street Police-court last week. The Post Office is apparently endeavouring to avail itself of the facilities offered by horseless vehicles. Quite recently a motor car has been put on to do the duty between Newbury and Reading, and has been favourably reported upon. But horses will always be required to do a certain amount of the work in London, and the least we should do is to see that they receive proper treatment.

Mr. Hanbury's speech on the telephone service must have caused a severe shock to those big-wigs at St. Martin's-le-Grand who have so zealously defended the interests of the monopolists. He condemned the service of the National Telephone Company as costly and inefficient, and he urged that an end must be put to the monopoly it has so misused—the only monopoly which is not, as he pointed out, under strict control and stringent regulations for the protection and benefit of the public. The Post Office policy of protecting the monopoly of the Company is therefore to be abandoned, and competition with it is to be allowed and encouraged, though the question whether municipalities shall enter into this competition has yet to be submitted to a Select Committee. It is scarcely open to doubt, I should think, that the answer will be in favour of municipal services, but in any event it is satisfactory to know that the National Telephone Company will no longer have things all its own way.

I am not always able to endorse the views of those who object to the Income-tax on principle; but there is undoubtedly a great deal of legitimate ground for finding fault with the way the tax is levied in practice. I heard the other day from a tradesman at Daventry, who had recently started in business, was making no profits, and returned his income accordingly; but the assessors, assuming that he was a liar, insisted on assessing him to the tune of £3 6s. 8d. He appealed. Several months elapsed, and he was then notified that he must attend on a certain Saturday at Northampton in support of his case. He did so, and the appeal has been allowed.

Now, for a tradesman to give up a day, and Saturday of all days, means a certain amount of pecuniary loss, and a journey from Daventry to Northampton costs a certain amount of money. If a man is put to this expense by the fault of the Income-tax authorities, who choose to impugn his statement of his income, he ought certainly, like any other litigant, to be reimbursed his expenditure when he has made out his case. Human nature being what it is, I do not suggest that every man's Income-tax return should be taken as accurate, even though he is subject to severe penalties for disguising the truth. But if the Income-tax authorities decline to accept a man's declaration, and the truth can be readily ascertained by inspecting his books, why on earth should not an Income-tax Commissioner visit his premises and there ascertain the facts?

The London County Council have just abolished a long-standing grievance. For the future all persons summoned to serve on coroners' juries will receive remuneration at the rate of two shillings a day, if called upon to go into the box. The fee, however, is not to be paid to substitutes, or to those summoned from the street in cases of emergency. The good results of this reform have been at once seen. In one case a juror sought exemption on the plea of a most important engagement. He was, accordingly, released from attendance; but upon being informed that he would have received the appointed fee for his services, he elected to abandon his important engagement, and sacrifice himself for the good of his country. In another instance fourteen "good men and true" scrambled for the twelve seats, instead of—as in former days—endeavouring to slink off in a body. So much may be accomplished at the modest expenditure of one florin.

The Corporation of Aldeburgh shows the proneness to procrastinate which seems to overcome most local bodies when sanitary improvements have to be undertaken. In this ancient borough things remain, I understand, very much as they were when an outcry was raised a few months ago, and though an analysis of the water has been obtained the authorities are strangely reluctant to make it known. They must be very obtuse if they do not realise that an unfavourable inference will be drawn from this silence. It would be well for them to bear in mind that another summer season is

Duysen Pianos are the most superb of all modern Instruments. They stand absolutely unrivalled for beauty of tone, touch, & finish. A consummate success in small grands.—Lloyd's, 24, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, W.

The Queen at Netley Hospital.—The four specially-constructed Invalid Couches recently presented by Her Majesty to the above Hospital were made by Mr. John Carter, of 6A, New Cavendish-street, Portland-place, W., whose world-wide reputation is unique. He is undoubtedly the premier Surgical Engineer, being invariably selected by all the Crowned Heads and Royalties of the World to supply whatever articles of Invalid Furniture may be required. All invalids requiring appliances should at once write for his profusely-illustrated price list, which will be sent post free.

approaching, and that the failure to take any practical steps for putting their house in order will inevitably have a damaging effect on the prosperity of the town.

The village of Ash, near Dover, has been the scene during the past two or three years of some interesting experiments in the disposal of sewage. A drainage scheme was adopted by the Eastrey Rural District Council, and the sewage poured into a little stream called the Durlock, which was already polluted by the sewage from a brewery. Some patent method of sewage purification was then adopted, but it proved a complete failure, and the brook remained an intolerable nuisance and a serious danger to all living in its neighbourhood. The Local Government Board were induced to send down an inspector, and he made certain recommendations, which, however, were ignored. Then a case of diphtheria occurred, and the so-called "sanitary authority" has now in operation yet another system of sewage treatment. But the state of the stream has not been improved in any way—in fact, the noxious stenches are as bad as ever, and nobody will be surprised if an epidemic of disease breaks out when the warm weather comes. In that event a heavy responsibility will rest upon the authorities, who have been warned time after time of the risks to which the place is being exposed through their peddling and muddling methods of dealing with the matter.

Last week the following advertisement appeared in the *Times*. I cannot help thinking that it has escaped the vigilant eyes of the advertisement managers of that journal. The institution to which the advertisement refers may be unexceptional of its class; but seeing that we have plenty of well-managed lunatic asylums in this country, and that it is before all things necessary that patients in lunatic asylums should be within reach of their friends, it is difficult to believe that English patients would be sent to a foreign asylum for any good purpose, especially with a life payment made in advance. A more objectionable arrangement it is difficult to conceive; indeed, I am curious to know whether the English lunacy laws permit a lunatic to be disposed of in this way:—

A WELL-KNOWN LUNATIC ASYLUM in Prussia RECEIVES PERSONS of either sex suffering from insanity, curable or incurable. Patients will also be received at only one payment for life. The institution has two physicians, two priests, and a number of deacons and deaconesses. Patients can be received in London. Apply to, &c.

A queer story is told in the *Bristol Guardian* respecting the recent appointment of a clerk to the Justices of the Peace at Manchester. About seventy applicants for the berth from all parts of the country—one being from Bristol—were, it seems, invited to appear before the Justices; but when they arrived they found that no secret was made of the fact that a local man was sure of the appointment. In the end, after all his rivals had been solemnly called before the Justices, this local applicant was duly elected; whereupon, according to the Bristol paper, he drew a manuscript from his pocket, and read the speech which he had prepared for the occasion! It would be interesting to hear whether this account of what happened is correct. If it is, the proceedings were discreditable in the extreme to the Manchester Justices.

Some curious views were expressed by certain Clifton doctors at an inquiry at Bristol last week respecting the possible effects of the proposed "dockisation" of the Avon upon the public health. The Avon, as my readers may remember, is at present polluted with the sewage of Bristol, as well as several smaller places, and every summer there are loud complaints respecting the vile and intolerable stenches from the river. A number of local medical men have testified that many illnesses are due to this cause, and the doctors examined last week were apparently called to combat this evidence. They were good enough to admit that an atmosphere devoid of smells was superior to one in which smells existed; but they denied that smells, "even though of a very definite nature as they sometimes were in Clifton," could be considered definitely prejudicial to health. Furthermore, these gentlemen would not say that any danger would arise from this sewage-contaminated river through its "dockisation" and the consequent stoppage of the ebb and flow of the tide.

One might almost imagine, from the statements of some of these medicos, that a foul-smelling river, filled with sewage, is a blessing to the population who have the good fortune to live on its banks. The population, however, will probably prefer the evidence of their own senses and experiences, to say nothing of the medical testimony on the other side, and the inquiry last week is hardly likely to quell the agitation for the purification of the Avon. In Clifton, at least, that process is required as a matter of business no less than as a matter of comfort or hygiene. Visitors have a natural prejudice against a health resort which, though it may be ever so healthy, is afflicted all through the hot weather with stenches of "a very definite nature."

On one of the suburban railways the second-class season-ticket holders are confronted with the difficulty that certain of the trains by which they are entitled to travel contain only first and third class carriages. These trains belong to the Midland Company, which has running powers over the line, and the passengers who have paid for second-class accommodation are expected to put up with the third, excess fare being demanded from all who are found in the first-class compartments. Those who resist this piece of extortion are called upon to furnish their names and addresses. By means of this system of intimidation the second-class ticket holders are driven into the overcrowded "thirds"; but it is noteworthy that though names and addresses are constantly taken, no summons ever follows, so that the legal position of the Company is possibly not so strong as its menaces would imply. However this may be, the only equitable and reasonable arrangement would be to allow second-class passengers the use of the first-class carriages in the trains which have no second-class.

FIRE PROTECTION ON COUNTRY HOUSES.—Merryweathers' system. Economy, convenience, efficiency. Illustrated particulars post free.—Write MERRYWEATHERS, 63, Long-acre, London.

HOTEL ALBEMARLE, Piccadilly, London. Private Suite, Bath, Electric Light, Lift. VERMERSCH, Proprietor. Paris: Imperial Hotel, Champs Elysées. Boulogne S/M: Imperial Pavilion Hotel.

The question was raised in Truth the other day whether, under English law, a man is free to marry his divorced wife's sister. Although I have been favoured with numerous opinions on the question, they do not contribute much towards the settlement of the point, for I find that about an equal number of writers take each side of the question. Those, however, who state that such marriages are clearly illegal seem to be the best authorities. Mr. T. Paynter Allen, secretary of the Marriage Law Reform Association, writes:—

> Permit me to confirm the opinion you have expressed in reply to a correspondent, that such marriages are wholly repugnant to English law. The English law as to prohibited marriages, in theory at all events, is based exclusively upon Leviticus, the eighteenth chapter and eighteenth verse of which—especially as rendered in the Revised Version—makes it absolutely clear, giving a reason, that, so long as the wife *lives*, the husband, separated or not, cannot marry her sister. In the eyes of all Jews—who, however, attach exceptional privileges to marriage with a deceased wife's sister—such a connection would constitute a particularly heinous offence.

Why English law should be based upon Leviticus I do not know. But so it is.

Here is a case of injustice for which the law apparently provides no remedy. Last August a respectable artisan named Chapman and his son, a youth of twenty, were summoned before the Oxted Bench for trespassing in search of game. The only witness for the prosecution was a labourer who was employed as a game-watcher, and who swore that he saw the two defendants out shooting in a certain field at five o'clock in the morning. The defendants both swore that they were in bed at the time, but though they both bore excellent characters, and were, to say the least, fully as much entitled to credence as the game-watcher, they were, nevertheless, convicted and fined. As soon as the case was reported, it was shown that the game-watcher had made a mistake, for the two persons whom he had really seen—one a tradesman and the other a farmer—came forward and admitted that they were the parties. A farm-bailiff who was working in a neighbouring field was also ready to corroborate their statement, and other evidence of the innocence of the Chapmans was forthcoming. The defendants applied to the Bench to re-hear the case, but the application was refused—indeed, the Bench have no power to reopen a case once disposed of—and as the fines were under £2 each there was no right of appeal. The Home Secretary has since been petitioned, but he also has declined to afford any redress.

The story conveys two lessons. One is the unwisdom of leaving the administration of the Game Laws in the hands of the Great Unpaid, who are almost always, consciously or unconsciously, biassed judges. These two defendants ought never to have been convicted on such flimsy evidence as that which was given by the solitary witness against them; and on any charge but one affecting the cult of the sacred birds they would probably have been given the benefit of the doubt, even by the Oxted J.P.'s. The other point is the necessity for the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal, so that any conviction proved to be unjust could be quashed. At present there are no means available for that purpose. Even if the magistrates are ready to acknowledge that a blunder has occurred, they cannot wipe out what they have done, and all the Home Secretary can do is to remit the penalty and grant a "free pardon." The fact that the penalty happened to be a light one does not make the injustice any the less monstrous.

There were some suggestive incidents at Kilmainham Sessions last week upon the occasion of an application for a so-called extension of a licence. It was pointed out by the Recorder that the application, though nominally for an extension to adjoining premises, was in reality one for a new licence which should properly come before the October Licensing Sessions. The Recorder's proposal that the matter ought to be adjourned to those sessions was met by a demand for a poll of the magistrates sitting with him, and the result was that a majority voted in favour of dealing with the case there and then. The applicant was called into the witness-box, and the Recorder at once inquired whether he had canvassed any of the magistrates. He admitted that he "might have spoken," first, to "one or two," next to "not more than three," and, finally, to "three or four"; but, on being further pressed, he refused, under the advice of his counsel, to answer further questions. The upshot of the discussion was that the Recorder announced that he should adjourn the case on his own responsibility, and that if the magistrates objected he should retire from the court. After what had happened none of them had the courage to object; and if those who had been "spoken to" have any sense of decency they will be absent from the Bench when the case is next considered.

Not being in the confidence of Mr. W. S. Gilbert, I cannot say whether he intends to take his case against Mr. Ledger before a second jury, but I trust that I may offer an opinion upon the dispute as it stands without exposing myself to any serious pains and penalties. It struck me that this action is one of Mr. Gilbert's characteristic jokes, carried out in the usual elaborate Gilbertian manner. Mr. Ledger suggested that Mr. Gilbert esteems himself too highly. Mr. Gilbert at once claimed from him heavy damages for libel, by way of showing that he sets no value at all on his own reputation. Mr. Ledger suggested that Mr. Gilbert was abnormally sensitive to criticism. Mr. Gilbert at once issued a writ to prove how little he cared for any adverse comment in the Press. Mr. Ledger suggested that everybody does not love Mr. Gilbert. Mr. Gilbert at once commenced an action, just to show what an amiable creature he is, and (I suppose) to establish himself in the affections of Mr. Ledger, if in nobody else's. All this is excellent fooling; and no doubt we shall hear next that the shorthand writer's notes have been sent to Sir Arthur Sullivan, who ought to find some most inspiring material in them.

Bellis's world-famed real Turtle Soup, more strengthening than any beef fluid. Glass flaçons 7/-, tins, 5/-.—Obtainable everywhere, or direct, post free. T. K. Bellis, 6, Jeffrey's-square, London.

Surplice Shirts for evening wear, with pique fronts, 9/6, 10/6 each, made to measure.—Sampson & Co., Shirt Tailors, 268, 270, Oxford-street, London, W. Price lists forwarded.

My Legal Pillory this week exhibits the customary object-lessons in Justices' justice. At Stratford, a drunken father, convicted of brutally ill-treating his children, is let off with a pecuniary penalty; but two men, guilty of a trumpery theft, are committed to gaol for two months each. The crime of playing pitch and toss in the street is visited at Retford with precisely the same penalty as that which is imposed at East Dereham for a serious and unprovoked assault. At Newport, the indulgent magistrates treat a grave outrage in a railway carriage as a mere common assault, and allow the culprit to escape with a fine; but at Winchester, six weeks' hard labour is unhesitatingly inflicted for an offence against the Game Laws; while at Exeter and at East Grinstead men are sent to prison for sleeping out, and being "without visible means of subsistence":—

Stratford Petty Sessions. Joseph Patrick Fannangher, charged with assaulting his daughter and his son. He went home the worse for drink and assaulted both his son and his daughter, and the latter was so terrified by his conduct that she got out of her bedroom window on to the roof of the house. The defendant had frequently beaten her in a brutal way. Fined 20s. and costs in each case.

East Dereham Police-court. Before Messrs. W. D. Bulwer, T. H. Hubbard, and A. G. Copeman. John Beckett, labourer, convicted of assaulting Henry Greenwood. Defendant knocked complainant down with a stick, rendering him insensible. Fined 10s. 6d.

Axbridge Police-court. George Allen, charged with cruelty by causing a mare to be worked whilst in an unfit condition. The animal was aged, in poor condition, and very lame, one foot being diseased. Defendant told an officer he knew the mare was crippled, but "he thought he would go on jogging along until he was stopped." Fined £1 and costs.

Sheffield City Police-court. Tom Smith, charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit a public-house, and with assaulting Edwin Pepper, the landlord. The defendant, after he had been ordered out of the house, made a sudden rush at the complainant, and dealt him a violent blow in the face, which burst his nose and cut his lip. Fined 5s. on the first charge and 30s. for the assault.

Newport County Police-court. Edward Birch, charged with unlawfully assaulting Maude Tucker in a railway-carriage. Owing to the conduct of the prisoner, who was under the influence of drink, the girl attempted to get out of the carriage; but a passenger in the next compartment, who had heard her screams, persuaded her to wait till the train stopped. The Bench dealt with the case as one of common assault. Fined £3.

Stratford Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Garrett and Mr. C. J. Musgrove. Ernest George Ireland and Henry Taylor, convicted of stealing a horse-collar. Two months each.

Uttoxeter Petty Sessions. Before Captain Dawson, Messrs. S. Blount, and S. B. Bamford. John Hodgkinson, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being in possession of six rabbits. Fined £1 10s. 7d.

Retford Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor (Mr. G. Marshall), Mr. George Cutts, and Mr. Bescoby. John Shaw, summoned for playing pitch and toss in the street. Fined 10s. 6d. or fourteen days.

Albrighton Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. G. B. Lloyd, T. Corbett, W. Jones, C. Walcot, J. Cock, and Major-General W. H. Herbert, Walter Clayton and George Beddows, charged with trespassing in pursuit of conies. Beddows fined £1, Clayton £2.

Exeter County Police-court. Before Admiral White, Sir R. Newman, Colonel Blake, Messrs. G. F. Studd, and J. Webber. Oliver Jennings, charged with sleeping out under a hedge. He pleaded guilty, and said he was doing no harm. The Bench retired, and on their return sentenced prisoner to three days' hard labour.

West Bromwich Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Scattergood and J. E. Wilson. Louisa Tonks, convicted of stealing a pair of boots from a shop. One month.

Sittingbourne Police-court. Charles Webb, a labourer, eighty years of age, charged with stealing growing turnips of the value of 6d. Fined 18s. 4d., and in default committed for seven days.

Dublin Northern Division Police-court. Before Mr. R. P. Carton. Thomas Farrell and his wife, charged with assaulting Catherine Green. The female defendant pulled complainant down by the hair of her head, and when she was on the ground both defendants kicked her. The man fined 10s.; his wife £1.

Barnsley Police-court. James Roberts, convicted of being drunk and assaulting a policeman. He struck the officer in the face, knocking him down, and kicked him several times in the chest. Fined 5s. for the first offence, and 20s. for the assault.

Abergavenny Police-court. Before Mr. Manley Ashwin and other magistrates. James Pritchard, convicted of assaulting Harriet Farr. Defendant threatened to "rip her up," and then struck her two violent blows on the face, knocking out three teeth. Fined £1.

Winchester County Police-court. Before Mr. W. B. Symonds, General W. C. Forrest, Captain C. G. Fryer, Colonel T. B. Hitchcock, and Mr. F. Morshead. John Winkworth, charged with poaching. The offence was committed in November, 1896. Six weeks.

East Grinstead Police-court. Before Mr. C. H. Everard. Walter Calligan, charged with sleeping out and being without visible means of subsistence. He had three halfpence in his possession. Seven days.

Newport Pagnell Divisional Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. W. J. Levi, J. R. Wilmer, T. Taylor, and Colonel Barney. James Orpin and Wm. Barrick, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Barrick fined £2. 0s. 6d., Orpin £2. 10s. 6d.

Our old friend, Mr. Robert Macmillan, self-styled "Reverend," made once again an unfavourable appearance in a court of justice last week, in the character of plaintiff in an action brought by a land agent, who had sold a house for him. By way of evading the agent's claim, Macmillan appears to have made various charges against the plaintiff, which he utterly failed to substantiate, and after hearing the plaintiff's evidence, the County Court Judge at Chertsey, before whom the case was tried, stated that he required no further evidence, adding that it was scandalous that the defendant should make such baseless charges against a respectable man for the mere purpose of gaining time. Mr. E. Bowen Rowlands, who was acting as plaintiff's counsel, then informed the Judge that the defendant, Macmillan, was a "notorious scoundrel," on which Macmillan asked for the protection of the Court against such observations. In reply the learned counsel begged the reverend gentleman to go into the box and submit himself to cross-examination, when he promised to satisfy the Judge that the expression was justified by the facts. Macmillan does not seem, however, to have accepted this invitation, and the case then ended with judgment for the plaintiff.

It will be remembered that when Mr. Macmillan brought an action for libel against me, he had perforce to submit himself to cross-examination, with the result that a jury estimated his injuries at one farthing sterling. He was certainly wise, under these circumstances, not to accept Mr. Bowen Rowland's invitation, and if he takes my advice he will steer clear of courts of justice in future. It is a strange thing that an individual in this position should still be able to obtain considerable sums of money by begging from door to door with a subscription list, on the mere strength of his own cock-and-bull tale of the noble philanthropic and religious work in which he is engaged.

A County Court Registrar offers a useful suggestion in connection with the case at Bath the other day, in which a victim of the usurer Gordon was ordered to pay off a debt of £39 10s. by instalments of sixpence a month. It

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Subscriptions greatly needed by The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—6,929 convictions this year; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

is that in such cases care should be taken to provide in the order that execution shall not be issued for more than one instalment, without leave, as otherwise on the defendant making default in payment of one instalment, the plaintiff can issue execution for the whole balance due. This is done under Sec. 149 of the County Court Act, 1888, and Order 25, Rule 7; but the same section and rule empower the Court to limit the execution, and the order for that purpose may be made "at the time of making the original order, or at any subsequent time." It is very desirable that this should be borne in mind by Judges anxious to frustrate the knavish tricks of Shylock & Co.

Among professional money-lenders none are more dangerous than the philanthropists who, often under some high-sounding and misleading title, offer to come to the assistance of tradesmen and others, when the appearance of their names in the *Gazette* indicates that they are in temporary difficulties. A defendant against whom a County Court judgment was recently registered at Carlisle, was at once favoured with circulars from two practitioners in this line whose names are new to me—"The Midland Mercantile Bureau, Limited," of Birmingham, and "The Tradesmen's Trust, Limited," of Leeds. The latter concern winds up its circular as follows:—

> We would warn tradespeople against the many parties who send out circulars making glowing offers with no intention of fulfilling same. *They mostly extort fees, have no capital, and are best left alone.*

Those are my sentiments exactly.

Our old friend Ernest Day, of the Old Kent-road, is trying a new trick, evidently borrowed from his great rival in the picture-dealing trade, Mr. Leigh Sampson. He writes one of his usual letters, offering a print of an old family portrait at exceptionally reduced terms, and obtains an order to forward the print on approval. Then there appears on the scene Mrs. Ernest Day. She writes as follows, on notepaper of the deepest mourning:—

> Sir,—I have to aeknowledge the receipt of your letter and to thank you very much for the same, and sincerely apologize for delay in answering before the reason being my husband haveing had a very severe attaek of Seiatica, which rendered him entirely unable to do enything until now, and through sheer neeessity we had to raise a temporary loan upon the portrait together with some other things and only to-day able to redeem the same, when I have had it very earefully paeked and forwarded on to you per Carter, Paterson, & Co., when I do hope and trust it will meet with your kind approval and, being in extremely straightened circumstances, may I ask you kindly to purchase the very pretty portrait, as I do most positively assure you the money is very greatly needed, but should you think the price I have asked 2 guineas a little too high I should be pleased to accept from you what you think it is worth, &c., &c.

The gentleman to whom this was written thought the portrait was worth nothing at all. He describes it as a small photograph in a large frame of a fairly common print, and he accordingly told Day to remove it, but said at the same time (evidently not having read his Truth carefully) that, if Day could give satisfactory references as to his circumstances, he might be disposed to assist him. The portrait was removed, but, needless to say, Day did not think it prudent to take any notice of the offer of assistance. The wife's letter, and the story of the portrait having been pledged to tide the Day family over a temporary difficulty, are, of course, introduced for the purpose of enhancing the value of the rubbish which Day offers for sale. Day apparently thinks that, if he sells a worthless print for a guinea or two by this trick, he guards himself against a prosecution for fraud. In this he is probably mistaken.

I find that Mr. Coleman, of 33, Old Queen-street, Westminster, one of the advertising home-employment gentry, has now fortified his circulars with an extract from Truth of November 25. In publishing the paragraph which he quotes, I endeavoured to word it so that he could not possibly make any use of it for his own advantage, and the warmest compliment that I paid him was that I could not say that the business is not honestly conducted. As, however, Mr. Coleman thinks this good enough to reproduce, and as, moreover, he has altered the wording of my paragraph in two places in order to make it read somewhat more favourably to himself, I may as well mention that since November my opinion of Mr. Coleman's business has undergone considerable modification, and that ladies were recently warned in Truth not to have any dealings with him at all. This advice I now repeat.

The person calling himself W. Moult, and posing as "manager" of "The Circular Addressing Company," is still carrying on his "home employment" trick. When last I referred to him his address was 58, Archer-street, N.W. Now his advertisements emanate from 27, Eldon-street, Finsbury, and replies to applicants for the "employment" are dated from 294, St. Paul's-road, Highbury, N. There is, however, no alteration in Moult's methods. He is still endeavouring to obtain small sums as deposits for a directory and instructions to equip the would-be employee for the work of addressing circulars. It is surely time that the police took Moult in hand, more especially since his dodge is practised upon those who are manifestly unable themselves to provide the means of bringing him to book. Meanwhile, I should like to bring home to a number of reputable newspapers the simple fact that by continuing to publish Moult's advertisements they make themselves abettors in a particularly mean form of trickery at the expense of the necessitous.

An old friend has just reappeared upon the scene in the person of Mr. John Paget, "Anglo-Indian Scholastic Agent." I am sorry to say that he reappears in his old character, which is that of an individual obtaining fees from school masters and mistresses on a more or less fictitious pretence that he has it in his power to obtain pupils for them. A full account of this worthy was given in Truth of May 2, 1895. The most notable points in his career are that he was at one time in a lunatic asylum, and at another time in a prison. He sojourned in prison six months in consequence of his conviction at Wakefield, in April, 1893, for obtaining money under false pretences. He is now established at 3, Myddelton-square, E.C., whence he issues circulars and prospectuses of his agency of precisely the same character already described in Truth on more than one occasion. In the latest case that has come under my notice he obtained from a schoolmistress in the North first

a registration fee of 5s., secondly a sum of 25s., nominally for the printing of circulars which he proposed to distribute among his clients; and he subsequently endeavoured to obtain a further fee of £1 1s. for inspecting the lady's house, and 10s. 6d. for his railway fare. His correspondence in this case would be sufficient in itself to show him to be a person undeserving of credit, and engaged in an extremely shady business. It is evident that his last experience of the criminal law has not taught him the needful lesson, and it might possibly do him good to go to gaol for another six months.

Charitable ladies and others continue to make frequent inquiries of me respecting the circulars of Mr. John Martyn, of Albert-road, Dalston, N.E. This Martyn is a victim of paralysis, who sends out book-markers, which he professes to execute himself, accompanied by an appeal to purchase three of the articles at the price of 1s., which appeal he also professes to print himself. It has already been stated in Truth that Martyn's account of his own physical infirmities is apparently accurate. But it is also quite certain that he does a very large trade in his own peculiar line, and there is no evidence that he is in want —on the contrary, I should think he is probably earning a handsome competency. If people choose to send him help, or buy his book-markers under these circumstances, they are, of course, at liberty to do so; but they must excuse my saying that they are extremely foolish.

An evil-disposed cleric in the island of Jamaica has started a snowball for the purpose of raising funds for a new organ for his church. He asks every subscriber to contribute a shilling, and to duplicate the chain lette until the number fifty has been arrived at. He, therefore, calmly proposes to collect £112,590,100,000,000. Even if organs are exceptionally dear in Jamaica, this should suffice to provide a very fine instrument. The snowball having now got under way, I fear that it would be hopeless to attempt to stop it so far as Jamaica is concerned, but should the letter make its appearance in this country, I trust its course will be promptly arrested. It seems about time that the promotion of, or participation in, a snowball collection was made a felony.

In Truth of the 10th ultimo an article was published on newspaper competitions, in which reference was made to an "Inventions Competition" recently run in sundry provincial papers. On March 31, three weeks after the appearance of the article, I received a letter from Messrs. Rayner & Co., 37, Chancery-lane, a firm of patent agents, who, it appears, conducted the competition in question. Messrs. Rayner & Co. write at some length to traverse certain portions of the article. It so happens that I was contemplating dealing further in the next issue of Truth with this particular competition, and as Messrs. Rayner & Co. have already taken three weeks to reply to my original remarks, they will not, I think, be seriously prejudiced if I hold over their letter until that article appears.

There was a peculiar fitness in the announcement of Arthur Orton's death in the newspapers upon All Fools'-day. The most remarkable point in this distinguished man's career was the faith which he inspired in innumerable fools, and the refusal of these fools to be disillusioned, not merely by any ordinary process of reasoning, but even by the confession of the impostor himself. Their faith, too, took the most practical shape, for immense sums were subscribed for the vindication of his supposed "rights;" and though much of it doubtless came from mere speculators, who cared little about the merits of the case, the greater part was furnished by fanatical believers in "the unfortunate nobleman." The history of his great imposture shows how narrow is the gulf which divides this age of education and enlightenment from the ignorant and credulous ages which it looks back upon contemptuously. R.I.P.

Let not ambition mock the "useful toil" and "destiny obscure" of Wm. Rees, a native of Llandovery, who died last week at the age of one hundred and four. His obituary is as worthy of consideration as many that are published. It is recorded that until within ten days of his death he was able to follow his life-long occupation of pig-killing. He was the recognised sty-butcher in a district where every family keeps a pig, and it was his boast that he had killed over 20,000 of these animals. It is also recorded that he was taken by the press-gang for the Battle of Waterloo, but was immediately liberated on account of his diminutive stature—a circumstance which has inspired the following

EPITAPH.

Too small for the Army, where glory is earned,
To the killing of pigs he his energies turned.
In a hundred long years ere he gave up the ghost
It is plain, from the record, he slaughtered a host.

Now, if these fat pigs had been men and not swine,
His deed had been splendid, heroic, divine.
How the world, when it learned of his fame, would have raved
Of the glory he'd won and the danger he'd braved!

How each patriot son and each patriot daughter
Would have gloated like ghouls o'er the details of slaughter,
While the stone in the Abbey had blazoned the story
Of prowess and valour, his deeds, and his glory!

For since those great days when old Cain killed his brother,
Mankind's greatest joy has been killing each other.
But I venture to think that a pig-killing life
Is nobler than one spent in murderous strife.

'Tis true that no widows or orphans he made
While he steadily worked at his pig-killing trade.
'Tis true that no fifes and no trumpets rang high
As he marched with his poleaxe and knife to the sty.

Yet still if we search, we shall certainly find
That the killing of pigs was of use to mankind.
In a battle your foes are but killed when they're beaten,
But with pigs, when they're killed, in the next place they're eaten.

So, more useful than Wolseley or Roberts I hold
Is the man who's now died at a hundred years old.
Then why, fellow-countrymen, why not combine
A statue to raise to this killer of swine?

There is an article in this month's *Blackwood* which gives a cheerful description of the delta of the Niger and of life there. As this is the way by which we have to go to reach the "Empire of Sokoto," which is the most recent addition to our ever-expanding Empire, the following extracts may, perhaps, prove interesting to those who are inclined to betake themselves to that region:—

South and east from Sekki Lagoon, in the Lagos frontier, to the mouth of the Opobo river, there stretches a reeking quagmire some 300 miles in length, where mangroves grow up out of festering ooze and yeasty slime, and through this desolation of rottenness the muddy waters of the Niger pour by many mouths into the sea. . . . . For some four months each year, though the duration of the seasons varies, forest and swamp are alternately swept by tropical deluge and rolled in clouds of steam. Then when the time of the rains is passed the delta lies swelling in fervent heat, until each foul lagoon bubbles like a caldron, and exhalations from the fermenting swamp bring sickness or death to many an unfortunate white man who breathes them.

Such is the delta of the Niger as a whole, and all the way from Gambia to Congo the climate of the West African coast is much the same. . . . The three leading imports of the Niger delta are salt; gin, which costs 2½d. per quart wholesale, and drives the white man who ventures to imbibe more than a modicum of it raving mad; and Manchester cotton, a "piece" of which is worth 2d. We were as usual received by the sickly officials. All were hollow-cheeked, yellow, and haggard, for all had suffered from fever, and one of them could hardly keep his teeth from chattering. Every canoe-load of salt that reaches the interior costs, it is said, the life of a slave. In even the newest settlements there are far more crosses in the cemetery than living white men in the factories. All things considered, it is not strange that the Niger trader at times breaks down mentally, or falls into the lowest drifts of chronic alcoholism.

A Liverpool merchant sends me an interesting letter on the situation in Sierra Leone which he has received from a correspondent at Freetown. Last year the Governor introduced a measure by which the natives of the hinterland were to pay a hut tax of 5s. for two-roomed huts, and 10s. for those having more than two rooms. The outcome of the attempts to enforce this taxation is thus described:—

The Ronietta district, from which we derived a good deal of produce, is disturbed. The Karene district, from which comes all our rice and other food stuffs, has been completely destroyed as regards trade and it is not likely that things will be restored to the state in which they were before for the next year or two. About two hundred troops and over seven hundred labourers have been poured into this district, towns belonging to our own Chiefs have been burnt, the Chiefs have been imprisoned, the people have all forsaken their towns, and provisions here to-day are at famine prices. It is almost impossible to obtain firewood, and rice is selling at about 12s. per bushel, when it used to be between 6s. and 7s.—in fact owing to the want of trade, some of the merchants and traders here close their stores at two, instead of four. It is difficult to understand why the Governor should have pursued this policy, and so far as we are informed, most of the huts on which he intends to collect the debts have been burnt down, if not by the people themselves, by the soldiers., and consequently the natives have betaken themselves to the bush. The prospect of deriving a large revenue from the Protectorate has therefore vanished, and the little that may be obtained for other portions will undoubtedly be absorbed by the cost of the military expedition.

There are now five chiefs in prison, and the country is in a state of unrest. There is no trade, merchants are all complaining, and the community of Freetown are almost in a state of insurrection because they have no food. The situation is still more serious, as this is the time that the natives commence to plant their farms, but the presence of soldiers in their country prevents their doing so. It, therefore, means that if this continues we shall have no trade this year, and very probably none next.

The policy which has produced this disastrous state of things was carried out in the face of the strenuous opposition of the most experienced colonists. Public opinion in Sierra Leone was against the hut tax, on the ground that it would be oppressive to the natives of the interior, and the Chamber of Commerce and other bodies advised the Governor not to proceed with the measure. His Excellency, however, preferred to go his own way, and the consequence of his persistence is a crisis unprecedented in the history of the colony.

Mr. Hodgson, Secretary of the Gold Coast, has been appointed Governor, in the place of the late Sir William Maxwell. The post is worth £4,000 a year, with residence but the climate is so bad that the post is far from an enviable one, and it is not surprising that Sir William MacGregor, Administrator of British Guiana, declined the office, although his present place is worth only £1,500 a year. Mr. Hodgson has been ten years on the Gold Coast, and he is probably acclimatised by this time. He was previously Postmaster-General in British Guiana for six years.

The suggestion that the salaries of the Governors in the West Indies might be very well reduced is improved upon by an old Colonist, who argues that several of those berths should be abolished altogether. His idea is that in these days of the telegraph and constant communication between the islands by steamers, three Governors—namely, one in Jamaica, one in Barbados, and one in Demerara—would suffice in place of the half-dozen or so who are at present drawing from £2,000 to £6,000 a year, each in more or less superfluous and ornamental billets. The extinction of the Governorships would involve the extinction of a host of hangers-on to the Governors, and the net result would be a saving of many thousands a year. But retrenchment in the expenses of the government of these Colonies is not likely to be attempted so long as the British taxpayer submits to be bled for the benefit of the Islands at the behest of Mr. Chamberlain.

Like the people of Egypt, the people of Cyprus appear to have good cause for regarding the British occupation of their country as a somewhat doubtful blessing. So far as taxation is concerned, the Cypriotes assert that they are worse off under our rule than under the rule of the Turks. New taxes have been imposed, and others which used only to be nominal have been rendered effective, with the result that the British Government obtains upwards of £60,000 a year more than the Porte collected. From 1878-9 to 1894-5 the amount paid in taxes—including, of course, the Turkish tribute of £56,897—averaged £172,829 per annum, or nearly one-fourth of the gross production of the island; and it is contended that of this revenue only about £15,000 per annum has been expended upon what may be called the immediate necessities of the country, such as public works, education, and hospitals. Beneficial as our occupation of the island may have been in some respects, it is hardly surprising that the inhabitants of Cyprus consider they are paying too dearly for the privilege of having their affairs administered by the British Government.

Seeing how viciously Jingo journalists are attacking and abusing Lord Salisbury for his pusillanimity—as they consider it—in dealing with big questions and Great Powers, I wonder what these fire-eating scribes will have to say to his handling of a case against the Hawaiian Government. As far back as September, 1895, I called attention to the failure of the Foreign Office to obtain redress from the Republic of Hawaii for the gross and undoubted wrongs which had been illegally inflicted on the

Messrs. Ashford and other British subjects during the so-called revolution of the preceding January. Some time afterwards Lord Salisbury demanded "adequate compensation" for the "arbitrary and oppressive" treatment of these persons, who, it was pointed out, had been arrested and imprisoned and finally exiled from Hawaii without any just reason, none of them having been guilty of participation in seditious or treasonable acts.

In the case of one of the aggrieved individuals, Mr. C. E. Dunwell, who was treated with exceptional cruelty in the effort to extort from him evidence prejudicial to another prisoner, the Hawaiian Government tardily consented to pay the sum of £650 as compensation. But in no other case has compensation been paid, and after a correspondence extending over more than two years, the Hawaiian Government last December finally refused to comply with the claims put forward by Lord Salisbury. The claims were presented forcibly enough on paper, but the authorities at Honolulu appear to have thought they could safely set the British Government at defiance, and up to the present they have been justified in this opinion. It remains to be seen whether any further action will be taken; but the injured parties are beginning to fear that, strong as their case is, Lord Salisbury is disposed to abandon it. Lord Salisbury has not at the present moment a warmer admirer than myself. It grieves me, therefore, to have to say in this instance that he has been lacking in stiffness.

Shade of Bill Sikes! Surprised indeed must the spook of that owner of a sporting dog have been at the announcement of Mr. Long last Friday that sporting dogs, from the animal that forms one of a pack of hounds to the rat-catcher's terrier, are taken such care of by their owners that it is not necessary to include them in a muzzling order. Still more surprised must have been the spook of Bill Sikes's dog.

Mr. Long exempts sporting dogs from the muzzling order, and refuses to exempt sheep dogs. No human being endowed with a vestige of intelligence can doubt that the distinction is made because our Esaus are more fully represented on the Tory side of the House of Commons than our Jacobs. Indeed, carried away by his feelings, he boldly asserted that he was not afraid of the argument that it was desirable to give an exemption in favour of British sport, and he was quite prepared to "defend that line of action." The "line of action" is this: It is necessary to muzzle all dogs in a county if there are cases of rabies. But fox-hunting, covert-shooting, and rat-catching are such ennobling amusements, that dogs needed for these purposes should be exempted from the order, and thus the order itself be reduced to an absurdity. Such an exemption applied to sheep dogs would, however, be quite out of the question. Not only, thererefore, does the Tory Party give doles to landlords from the public Exchequer, but the dogs of this favoured class are to be allowed to propagate hydrophobia.

Cornwall possesses a fine specimen of the most exuberant type of Jingo in the person of Mr. E. Beauchamp-Beauchamp, who disported himself the other day at a meeting of the Cornish members of the National Union of Conservative Associations. This valiant swashbuckler seriously proposed that the Navy ought to be made equal to meeting "all the world if necessary," and that "as other nations were taking parts of China, the best move England could make was to annex Egypt, and make vessels carrying at any cheaper rate than England could carry, pay a tax for going through the Suez Canal." Here you have the Jingo at his best. Because other nations are acquiring territory in China, which is undoubtedly of the greatest commercial value, we should seize Egypt, which is of no value to anybody; and in order to acquire this worthless possession we should throw down the gauntlet to the whole universe! The strangest part of this raving is that it followed immediately upon the unanimous carrying of a vote of confidence in the foreign policy of Lord Salisbury, which has been distinguished, as all the world, including a large section of Jingoism, knows, by the mildest and most unaggressive spirit. Had Mr. Gladstone been responsible for the foreign policy of the United Kingdom during the last two years, fire-eaters of the Beauchamp-Beauchamp type would now have been howling for his impeachment. Indeed, I question whether we should not have heard proposals for his execution upon Tower Hill.

I hear that it is very probable that Lord Salisbury's medical advisers will insist upon his limiting his official duties to the Premiership. In this case, it is said that Mr. Balfour will be Foreign Secretary. The difficulty, however, lies in the Leadership of the House of Commons. The great majority of the Tories decline to entertain the idea of Mr. Chamberlain being the Leader. They thoroughly distrust him. Between recognising his ability in debate and making him their Leader, they rightly perceive that there is a difference. But there is a notion amongst them that Mr. Chamberlain may not perhaps entirely agree with this view of his fitness to be their Leader. It is, therefore, suggested that Mr. Balfour, if he becomes Foreign Secretary, shall continue to be the Leader of the House during the present Session, and that before the commencement of the next Session, after explaining that the work at the Foreign Office will prevent him from leading, he shall resign the Leadership to Sir Michael Hicks-Beach. As for Lord Lansdowne, there seems to be a general consensus of opinion that he would not do as Foreign Minister, whilst the idea of placing Lord Cromer at the head of the Foreign Office has never been seriously entertained.

Assuming that Lord Salisbury does find himself obliged to give up the Foreign Office, I should have thought that the best man for the post was Mr. Curzon. He certainly is as clever as any other of the occupants

Mortlock's (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "Mortlock's" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

of the Government Bench, and as Foreign Secretary he would have the advantage over them of experience and knowledge. Mr. Balfour, as Leader of the House, could not be replaced with advantage. He is personally popular on both sides, and nothing helps forward business so much as this sort of popularity. But whether he would make a good Foreign Secretary is what no one can tell until he has been tried. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach is the best financier on his Bench, and he is a strong man. But I have heard that he is a little short in his temper, and, if so, this must militate against his success as Leader of the House. The imperturbable temper of Mr. Disraeli was his chief qualification for the post.

The Revenue above 106 millions! And we are asked to rejoice at the fact as the evidence of our prosperity. As well might the shorn lamb, shivering in the March wind, be asked to rejoice at the amount of wool taken from him as a proof that he is warm. About three millions of this huge sum ought by law to have been devoted to the repayment of the National Debt. It has been grabbed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and spent. By law also, we have to devote two millions per annum to paying off the National Debt. But nothing is sacred to a Tory. It is therefore proposed by the *St. James's Gazette* that we should drop this annual payment. "What an eye-opener," observes my contemporary, "that would be for the foreigner. It would show him the strength of Great Britain just as conclusively as the building of battleships." Why? On this point I should much like information, for if this curious theory be true, greatly should I rejoice. Looking at the matter from the point of view of an economist, it clearly would be an advantage to make our fleet consist of unpaid debts instead of costly marine monsters of voracious appetite.

Economy is as much out of date as stage coaches. "The halfpenny be demned," said Mr. Mantalini. We improve on Dickens, and say "The millions be demned." Mr. Mantalini's contempt of coppers brought him to turning a mangle, and our contempt of millions will bring us to something as unpleasant if we persist in it. An economist is as rare nowadays as a dodo. Having been bred up in the school of public economy, I find myself one of the last of my kind. To meet with others I should have to betake myself to the Elysian Fields. It used to be the aim of Chancellors of the Exchequer to keep down the Budget. Now a great expenditure is deemed the proof that we have a great Chancellor of the Exchequer. Parliament gushes in admiration over the spendthrift. I already hear the cheers that will greet Sir Michael Hicks-Beach when he boasts to the guardians of the public purse, that he has expended above 106 millions last year, and hopes to spend more this year. As for taking off taxes when there is a surplus, any one who ventured to suggest this would be cursed as a "Little Englander." The true patriot—the Big Englander—must have everything big. So strong is this craze within him that he is made happy by having big taxes. What an ass of asses! But I am forgetting the fable, and must apologise to those sensible quadrupeds. The ass of the fable preferred a light load to a heavy one.

All colonies have a right to become independent of the mother country if they so please; but never had any colony a better ground for adopting this course than Cuba. The attempt of Spain to maintain her sway in that island has been characterised by hideous atrocities, and the civil war has been encouraged by the persons sent from Spain to end it, in order that they may make money. Cuba is almost ruined; its people are starving. The end of the war is as far off, so far as Spain is concerned, as it ever was. Under these circumstances, the determination of the United States to secure to Cuba her independence is worthy of all praise.

The Spaniards are a strange nation. Individually, they are men of exceptionally high honour. But they have been so misgoverned, that no public man loses favour if he robs the Government. Cuba is an annual drain on Spain, but it has been a mine of gold for Spanish officials.

SCRUTATOR.

SHOULD RHODES BE REINSTATED?

On Friday last Sir Robert Reid asked Mr. Chamberlain whether he would take steps to prevent the South Africa Chartered Company from filling up vacancies on its Board with gentlemen who had been found guilty of complicity in the Jameson Raid. Mr. Chamberlain replied that a trading Company should be allowed to select its own Directors. This must confirm the suspicion that the Committee of Investigation did not last year get to the bottom of everything connected with that Raid. The Colonial Secretary is by no means a fool, and he must be aware that the election of Mr. Rhodes and any of his co-conspirators as Directors of the Chartered Company would be a disgrace that would reflect on the entire country.

Having, as one of the Committee, condemned Mr. Rhodes for having acted in a dishonourable and illegal fashion, Mr. Chamberlain, a few days later, stated in the House of Commons that nothing that Mr. Rhodes had done reflected on his personal honour. He had violated his oath as a Privy Councillor; he had tricked the Governor of the Cape Colony, whose servant he was; he had conspired against a friendly country, with which, as Cape Premier, he was professing to be on friendly terms; he had deceived his own Board of Directors; and he had in consequence of these misdeeds caused the death of some and the ruin of many. But although all this was admitted, it would seem that there was nothing in such a record to reflect on his personal honour.

Though Mr. Rhodes was forced to resign his post as a Director, Mr. Chamberlain now sees no reason why he should not be re-elected by the shareholders of his Company. But what is the Company? It is one existing under a Royal Charter, and consequently free from all the

checks imposed by the law regulating Companies incorporated under the Limited Liability Acts. From the fact of its having been granted a Charter, the Government is responsible for all that is done by it. Although the Charter is to be modified so as to enable the Government to hinder raids of the Jameson type in future, the Company is still to retain the right to administer a territory larger than France and Spain. To talk of this as an ordinary trading Company is absurd. The invitation of Mr. Chamberlain to the Company to re-elect Mr. Rhodes as a Director will justify Mr. Kruger in his attitude of distrust of our good faith; it will intensify the feud between those of English and of Dutch extraction in the Cape Colony; it will lead all foreign nations to regard us as the most contemptible crew of hypocrites that ever walked the globe; and it will be a proof that we have so degenerated under the baneful influence of Jingoism that we have ceased to perceive any distinction between right and wrong, honesty and dishonesty, honour and dishonour.

From the shareholders' standpoint, I can understand their desire to have as directors Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Beit. The Company is at the end of its resources; these gentlemen have made a good deal of money out of it, and the shareholders may reasonably hope that they will disgorge some of their gains if on the Board, and thus keep things afloat for two or three years, during which period each shareholder will have a chance of getting rid of his shares. But this can only avert the evil day of reckoning for a brief period. The Company has a charter which secures to it certain financial advantages in Rhodesia, in consideration of which it has to pay all cost of administering the country. This is practically a rent. If the rent is not paid, the lease lapses. We, therefore, find ourselves in this position: the Company, having had a financial career by means of which its promoters have made large sums out of the investing public, will, after a more or less lengthy period, disappear, and we shall have to administer the country at a cost of some £100,000 per annum, which must be provided by the British taxpayer. It is a case of heads the Company wins, tails the taxpayer pays. The sooner we face our loss in regard to the South Africa Company the better. It is not worth our while to stave off payment for a little while by a course of action fraught with national dishonour, and likely to embroil us with the entire Dutch element at the Cape.

A Chartered Company in Africa means this: we want to avert direct responsibility for much that is discreditable, and we fancy that we can do this by creating a sort of middleman. As a nation we lay down the broad principle that where the British flag flies no person may be forced to labour against his will for the benefit of another. But in the interior of Africa the natives will not work unless they are forced, whilst money cannot be made unless they do work. This is the case in Rhodesia. The report of Sir Richard Martin shows that there has been a system of forced labour there. Since that report was issued Mr. Rhodes has publicly stated that the country cannot thrive—by which he means that he and his speculative friends cannot thrive—unless "Exeter Hall fads" in respect to the treatment of natives are ignored. Yet in Mr. Chamberlain's new scheme of a partnership in the government of Rhodesia between the Colonial Office and the Company, there are no guarantees that the natives will be protected against forced labour. In the last century we always protested against any national participation in the slave trade; but we allowed individual Englishmen to engage in it. Then came Wilberforce and other philanthropists. They so worked upon public opinion that they put an end to the slave trade. As the law now stands, any English subject who owns a slave, whether the slave be owned in or out of our jurisdiction, is liable to be prosecuted, and severely punished. But this has been met by English speculators in Africa establishing a system of forced labour which, except in name, is the same as slavery. Instead, therefore, of exporting Africans as slaves to America, we permit Africans to be made slaves by Englishmen in Africa. And when a leading spirit in an African Chartered Company openly enunciates a policy of slavery, far from protesting, we allow him, without let or hindrance, to carry into effect this policy. Those who hold by the views of Wilberforce as to the right of Africans to be free are jeered at as Exeter Hall faddists. To such a pass have the Anglo-African financier-politicians brought the England of the Anti-Slavery movement!

FAITH-HEALING AND FEE-GRABBING.

The writer who lately discoursed on "Christian Science" in the columns of the *Westminster Gazette* certainly did not treat the latest fashionable superstition and its hierarchy with undue severity. On the contrary, he might have expressed himself much more freely, and have worded his criticism much more sharply, without going beyond what the facts justify. The "Christian Scientists," as they call themselves, are pestilent and mischievous quacks, and I think I can show that they have so proved themselves.

For the benefit of those who have not seen the articles on this subject, which have appeared recently in various papers, let me first explain what "Christian Science" is To the ordinary observer it looks very much like the "faith-healing" which has flourished spasmodically in different places in all ages of the world. It professes, however, to be something different from this—nothing less, in fact, than a reduction to scientific terms of the principles on which the Gospel miracles were wrought, and an application of these principles to the treatment of all ills that afflict our mortal bodies. The Christian Scientists assert, in so many words, that they can to-day repeat most of the "so-called miracles of Jesus" (their own expression), and that they will be able to perform any of the wonders recorded in the New Testament as their "science" develops. This, it will be admitted, is rather a large order. In case I am suspected of doing any injustice to the authors of this startling discovery, I can only refer the doubter to their chief text-book. This volume is entitled *Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures.* It is the work of Mrs. Mary Barker G. Eddy, President of Massachusetts Metaphysical College, and founder or discoverer of the new science—*ex Americâ semper aliquid novi.* The book is published at Boston, and is sold in

England at 14s. net, and it is, I should say, the most amazing farrago of pretentious platitudes, metaphysical moonshine, and incoherent gush that has ever issued from a printing press. The nature and scope of the new science are thus summarised by Mrs. Mary G. Eddy at an early stage of her discourse (page 17):—

> The term Christian Science was introduced by the author to designate the Scientific system of Metaphysical Healing.
>
> The revelation consists of two parts:
>
> 1. The discovery of this Divine Science of Mind-healing, through a spiritual sense of the Scriptures, and through the teachings of the Comforter, as promised by the Master.
>
> 2. The proof, by present demonstration, that the so-called miracles of Jesus did not specially belong to a dispensation now ended, but that they illustrate an ever-operative Divine Principle. The operation of this Principle indicates forever the Scientific order and continuity.

The fundamental idea—if I may presume to attempt to state any article of the creed in my own feeble language—is that nothing really exists but Mind or Spirit (it is not quite clear which, and they get mixed up inextricably in the course of the book), that Matter is a mere illusion, and that, consequently, Mind can make anything that it pleases of Matter, if it only goes the right way to work. The bearing of this doctrine upon the ills of the flesh will be readily perceived. Your body being a mere illusion conjured up by your mind, by operating upon the mind you can vary at will the conditions of the illusion, and I suppose its whole nature. In fact, it is obvious that only by operating on the mind can you get at the root of the mischief, and to operate upon the body under such circumstances would be mere ignorant empiricism. The principle of the thing is thus illustrated at page 46 of Mrs. Eddy's *magnum opus*:—

> You say a boil is painful; but that is impossible, for matter without mind is not painful. The boil simply manifests your belief in pain through inflammation and swelling, and you call this belief a boil. Now administer mentally to your patient a high attenuation of truth on this subject, and it will soon cure the boil. The fact that pain cannot exist where there is no mortal mind to feel it, is a proof that this so-called mind makes its own pain—that is its own *belief* in pain.

In theory, nothing could be more simple or intelligible. In practice, however, there seem to be sundry difficulties in the way, one of them being that the Christian Scientist must not only cure the patient of a belief in his boil, but cure all his friends and acquaintance at the same time. Say, for instance, that I have an obtrusive carbuncle on my nose. I call in the Christian Scientist, who administers "a high attenuation of truth." My belief in the carbuncle disappears, and with it goes the carbuncle too, so far as I am concerned. It may be that I look in the glass and perceive no carbuncle. The Christian Scientist takes her fee and leaves me. In comes my friend Brown, and greets me with, "Hullo! old man, you *have* got a nose on you!" or some such vulgar and inconsiderate remark. I endeavour to assure him that he is mistaken, and that the carbuncle is a creation of his diseased imagination. But Jones and Robinson speedily turn up, and accost me in similar terms, until my mind becomes impressed with an uneasy suspicion that all is not as it should be with my nose. The morbid delusion of my friends extends to me. I take up the glass again, and there, sure enough, is the carbuncle as large and angry as ever. Under these circumstances, it seems a clear waste of money to pay a Christian Scientist to cure my carbuncle, unless the fee is to include the treatment of the whole circle of my friends, and indeed of any one whom I may meet by chance in the street. I rather fancy that the Scientists have met with this difficulty in practice, for I find that in many cases which they have taken under their treatment it has been a *sine quâ non* that the patient should be isolated from communication with everybody except the physician.

There is yet another difficulty, and that is that, as Mrs. Mary G. Eddy, her immortal work, and her representatives in this country, are all material objects, of whose existence we are only aware by the evidence of our senses, there is no security whatever that the whole thing is not a mental delusion. How am I to know that Mrs. Eddy has any more substantial existence than the carbuncle on my nose? It is just as easy to lose belief in one as to lose belief in the other. Or, again, Matter being absolutely under the control of Mind, it is possible, by a pure intellectual effort, to establish in the public mind a conviction that Mrs. Eddy is an impostor, and that "Science and Health" is all bunkum. What I propose to do now is to treat Mrs. Eddy and the Christian Scientists with a "high attenuation of Truth," and see how they come out under the treatment.

Christian Scientists have been preaching their gospel in this country for three or four years past. It is a somewhat singular fact that the missionaries are all, like the Founder, of the female sex. The present High Priestess in this country is a Mrs. Julia Field-King. Under her guidance and inspiration the faith has made remarkable strides. In November last the Scientists opened a tabernacle in Bryanston-street, Hyde Park. Here services of a sort are held on Sundays and at other times, and the elect gather and compare notes. They belong exclusively, for a reason which will be indicated presently, to the well-to-do and (ostensibly) educated classes. Women predominate, but men are found among them, though I have not heard that any male neophyte has yet been found worthy of admission to the ministry. The temple is a showy and well-furnished building, and, like the congregation, suggests that Christian Science is in no immediate danger of perishing for want of funds. The same impression is conveyed by Mrs. Field-King's consulting room and residence at Kensington Palace Mansions, where, in company with several of her lady colleagues, she occupies a sumptuously appointed suite of rooms, with a black servant to open the door. Here Mrs. Field-King receives patients, visitors, and seekers after knowledge, and here, a few weeks back, she was kind enough to divulge a few of the mysteries of the Science to a representative of Truth. The cash requisite for the maintenance of the temple and the priestesses is derived solely from the fees paid by patients for Christian Science treatment, or for initiation into the mysteries of Metaphysical Healing. Wide as is the gulf which separates the Christian Scientist from the old medical practitioner, they are at one on the sacred question of fees. Mrs. Field-King makes no secret about this. The present professional scale of remuneration for a Christian Science practitioner is 8s. for the first consultation ("demonstration" is, I believe, the technical name for it),

and 4s. afterwards. In addition to this, it is, I believe, necessary for the patient to purchase a copy of the sacred book of Mary G. Eddy, at the price of 14s. Treatment is also said to be carried on by correspondence, but on what terms I cannot say. The most lucrative source of revenue, however, is the initiation of disciples into the mysteries of the new Science, which is effected by class lectures at a fee of twenty guineas the course. When I mention that Mrs. Field-King informed my representative that she had at present about seventy pupils, representing fees to the amount of 1,400 guineas, it will be seen that whatever Christian Science may do for the sick and suffering, it is doing uncommonly well for its own votaries. It may, perhaps, occur to the reader that there is something here rather different from the conditions under which the Gospel miracles were performed, and the first disciples of Christianity instructed. Mrs. Field-King recognises this, but has the Scriptural quotation, "The labourer is worthy of his hire," ready for any caviller. She also professes to believe that the exaction of fees on the above scale as the price of treatment is fully warranted by Biblical precedent; and she appeals to the "bag" carried by Judas Iscariot as evidence that fees were taken from those on whom the Gospel miracles were wrought. I say that she "professes" to believe this, for I decline to admit that a lady of more than average intelligence can have imposed upon herself by this blasphemous misinterpretation of Scripture, whatever she may have done to her dupes. Anyhow, the fact is clear that the Gospel according to Eddy is a Gospel primarily designed for those who are blessed with this world's goods; and if Lazarus, with his sores, should ever seek relief at the temple of "Christian Science," he will have to sit out on the pavement in Bryanston-street.

With these general observations on the methods of Mrs. Field-King and her friends, let us now see Christian Science at work. Some months back, I believe in 1896, an old lady, whom we will call Lady X, fell under the influence of the Christian Scientists. She was at the time eighty-seven years of age, and is described as a "splendid old woman, with a constitution of iron." She was, however, nearly stone-deaf, and for this the Christian Scientists undertook to treat her. She seems to have been under this treatment for some ten months. Her relatives felt anxious as to the result, but were powerless to interfere. At last a message was sent from her household to one of her relatives, announcing that she was in a critical condition. Lady X was at that time being regularly attended by a healer from Mrs. Field-King's head-quarters. On learning her condition, the gentleman who got the message took steps to bring on to the scene an eminent West End doctor, who had been in the habit of attending Lady X; and at the same time he sent his daughter to interview the Christian Science lady, and represent to her the seriousness of the situation. The Christian Scientist professed to have no fear; but on its being represented to her that in case Lady X died there would be no one to certify, and that a coroner's inquest must follow, she went off in search of Mrs. Field-King, who, she stated, was a qualified medical practitioner. Mrs. Field-King came back with her colleague very shortly, but seems to have hesitated to get mixed up in any unpleasantness; and, having received her fees, took her departure. Before she did so, however, she stated that she was a certified doctor, and qualified to give death certificates. I may here remark that, when subsequently questioned on this point, she professed to be in ignorance of the English law, and said that she would consult her solicitor about it. The Christian Scientists having cleared out, material science in the person of the regular medical attendant took possession, when it was found that Lady X was in a most deplorable condition, purely through the stupid folly of the people who had been attending her. The old lady had been accustomed to use drugs or mineral waters regularly, and the Christian Scientist had undertaken to replace them with metaphysical mind-healing, with results which may be imagined. The natural functions of the body had been absolutely suspended for seven days. The poor woman lay on her back moaning in agony, half unconscious, and apparently at the very point of death. Medical help arrived too late, and she expired very shortly. How much money the Christian Scientists obtained for her treatment from first to last does not seem to have been ascertained; but I can state that long before the end of the case Mrs. Field-King received one cheque for twenty-seven guineas, as I have the document in my possession, with Mrs. Field-King's endorsement upon it.

The foregoing case illustrates in the most convincing manner the dangers incidental to this pernicious combination of religious cant and medical quackery. The separation of the "patient" from the control and advice of relatives and friends, the substitution for these influences of the ascendency of strangers whose chief object is mercenary, the withholding of proper medical treatment in illness possibly of a dangerous character, all these are necessary incidents of the system which Mrs. Field-King and her colleagues practise. How many cases similar to that described above have occurred one can only conjecture. In the United States, where the imposture is also flourishing, criminal charges have been preferred against the Science healers in consequence of the death of patients; though from a mistaken tenderness for their religious or "conscientious" tenets, I believe that no conviction has yet been obtained against them. In England I have heard of cases in which those who have fallen under the influence of the Christian Scientists have become estranged from their friends, who have suffered in consequence the keenest anxiety. I also hear of a case in which serious differences have arisen between husband and wife from the same cause. In all human probability there have been others in which irreparable mischief has been done by the deprivation of proper medical treatment. In all these instances the Christian Scientists have, of course, taken their toll from the purses of their victims. From what is already known on the subject of faith-healing, one would have supposed that these people would be able to point in their defence to striking cases of cures effected by their agency. It is true that at their meetings they talk of such cases, and in a vague way references to apparently miraculous cures, including the healing of broken limbs, are made in

Mrs. Eddy's volume. But one of the strongest points which the *Westminster Gazette* writer recently made against them was that he had been unable to obtain from any one connected with the Christian Science propaganda any authentic particulars of cures; and in corroboration of this, I find that in her interview with my own representative, when Mrs. Field-King discoursed at some length on the ethics of her method, she made no attempt to anticipate hostile criticism by furnishing particulars of patients who have been successfully treated by her.

From this it would appear that Christian Science is not only a more extravagant and pretentious, but also a more empty and delusive form of quackery than anything which has preceded it in the same line. The "Peculiar People" have done harm enough in their way, but no one doubts that, misguided fanatics though they are, they are at least sincere in profession and honest in practice. They may have been guilty of manslaughter, but they have never been charged with obtaining money by false pretences. The disciples of Mrs. Eddy combine a similar form of medico-religious quackery with undisguised designs upon the pockets of their victims. Those who are weak in mind as well as in body are likely to prove absolutely helpless in their hands, and it is hardly an exaggeration to say that the weakest class of victims stand in danger of losing their money first and their lives afterwards. This is a sufficiently alarming prospect, and I think it will be held to justify the warning which I have now given.

DUBLIN CASTLE IN CEYLON.

A good deal is said from time to time in condemnation of the incongruous union of judicial and executive authority in the same hands in India. It is doubtful, however, whether the system there, pernicious though it be, is in the long run so pernicious as the system which has grown up in Ceylon. The magistracy of the colony are nominally in a position of independence, but practically they are bound hand and foot to the Executive Government, unable to express an opinion or to give a decision without considering whether it will meet with the approval of various official superiors. In some recent issues of the *Ceylon Standard* a writer signing himself "Vetus"—a lawyer well qualified to speak on the question—has given an account of the remarkable measures that have been adopted by the Government to watch and check the doings of the magistracy. Every magistrate is, it seems, virtually under the control or subject to the interference of the Inspector-General of Police, a police magistrate of Colombo, the Government or Assistant Government Agent of his district, the Colonial Office, and the Governor. The Inspector-General of Police has "to scrutinise the work of each magistrate and to report thereon to the Government;" so that he is in the anomalous position of having to state his views as to the competence or otherwise of the very men who are daily disposing of the charges and complaints preferred by his own subordinate officers and constables. It is as though Sir Edward Bradford were appointed superintendent of the London Stipendiaries. How this arrangement works out in Ceylon was shown some time ago, when a magistrate ventured to pass some severe but, as he believed, justifiable reflections upon the veracity of certain police witnesses. A circular was at once issued to all magistrates, forbidding the use of such language towards police officers. The objection to the supervision of the Inspector-General of Police applies equally to the practice of requiring the magistrates to furnish returns and reports to the Government Agents, who are, of course, constant litigants in their courts. One of the police magistrates of Colombo also exercises a sort of general control over the work of the other magistrates. They are further under the orders of the Colonial Office and the Governor. And, finally, to complete their subjection, they are liable to dismissal at a month's notice.

Nor is it only the inferior magistrates who are thus hampered and harassed in the discharge of their duties. The District Judges frequently receive memoranda from the Colonial Secretary curtly requesting them "to report" to him upon some decision they have given. Last year, indeed, the Colonial Secretary went a step further than this, actually instructing the District Judge of Colombo to follow a certain procedure in a case which was about to be tried. On another occasion last year Mr. Cameron, then District Judge of Kandy, animadverted upon the conduct of the military authorities in refusing at first to comply with an order for the payment to a judgment creditor of some money which they held belonging to the judgment debtor. There was a right of appeal to the Supreme Court against the Judge's order in the matter, but the military authorities preferred to go to the Governor, and the Governor, without troubling to hear what Mr. Cameron had to say in justification of his remarks, actually wrote a letter, "apologising on behalf of the Public Service for the language used by the District Judge." It would be hard to imagine a proceeding more unfair to the Judge himself, and at the same time better calculated to bring the administration of justice into contempt. People are not likely to care much for the authority of Judges who are snubbed in this way by the head of the Government; and his Excellency's own admission in his letter that he was "advised that he could not interfere with the judicial discretion or judicial functions of a Judge," makes his conduct all the more inexcusable and scandalous. His uncalled-for "apology" was, of course, really a means of doing indirectly that which, as he acknowledged, he had no right to do directly. The fact is that in Ceylon it is only the Supreme Court whose independence is respected by the Executive Government, and in that case it is respected only because the attempts of former Governors to interfere with its discretion were warmly repulsed. The present Governor, Sir West Ridgeway, has taken care not to lay himself open to the well-deserved rebuffs which two of his predecessors received from the Supreme Court. But, on the other hand, he has tightened up the Executive fetters for the minor judiciary, and improved upon the methods he learned during the Coercion *régime* at Dublin Castle. To quote from the correspondent I have previously mentioned, Sir West Ridgeway evidently conceives it to be his duty "to control and guide and influence the judiciary of the island." Accordingly, every magistrate is now required to surrender his discretion to the Governor or

somebody appointed by him. Such a state of affairs is destructive of all confidence in the administration of justice. To ensure that confidence, one of the first essentials is that those who administer the law shall be above even the suspicion of allowing any external influence to affect their decisions. But how can impartiality and independence of judgment be expected from magistrates who are known to be under the orders, and more or less at the mercy, of half a dozen different executive officers with the Governor at their head? A system such as that at present in vogue in Ceylon is certain to lead to abuses, and it would be well for the Secretary of State for the Colonies to give his attention to it before it leads to worse scandals than those which have already occurred.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

PARIS CONVALESCENT.

I DARE say that the Russian alliance is safe and sound, but the Russian fever has run its course, and Paris is convalescent. Were not this so, the Russian concerts got up by Lamoureux, at the Cirque d'Été, must have drawn enthusiastic multitudes. The programmes were enticing; the object in view was that of aiding different interesting French institutions, such, for instance, as the General Association of Students of Paris: but most of the seats were empty, unless just at the outset. Yet the orchestral bâton was wielded by M. de Kosatchenko, leader of the Imperial Opera House of St. Petersburg, a State institution, on which roubles are lavished, and not in vain He came with his choristers round him. The favourite contralto singer, Mme. Gorlinko Dorlino, was in the company, and a prodigy of eight or nine, whom the Parisians call Rubinstein junior. Leader, chorus, contralto, and prodigy were each a great success. Mme. Gorlinko Dorlino has a lovely voice, sweet as honey and rich and round. She is quite as sweet herself, and has the prettiest and most winning manners imaginable. But the fever being over, and Russian music being crowded out of French ears by Italian, German, and French masters, they could not appreciate Glinka, Ivanoff, Dargonijsky, Tschaïkowsky, Solowieff, and so on. A number of journalists had remembered how the Czar almost blistered his hands applauding Mme. Gorlinko Dorlino at the Peterhof concert given in compliment to M. Félix Faure. Those who heard her at the Cirque d'Été did not wonder; but they did not care to hear again a long concert exclusively devoted to Russian music. The Jews, who are great patrons of music, also stood aloof. They are scarcely enthusiasts about anything Russian, not excepting the Alliance.

The leading personages of the official world, however, attended. At last Saturday's concert I saw the Minister of Public Instruction and M. Jules Claretie. M. Hanotaux and a number of his Quai d'Orsay subordinates dropped in. Mme. Carnot was in a box facing the stage. She came accompanied by a lady whose natural function seemed to be that of accompanist. Mme. Carnot was in a black gown and capote bonnet with a good deal of white, a large white feather and aigrette, with white strings, and white plastron and a full cravat and collarette of white lace. A few evenings previously I saw her at the German Embassy in a very elegant black and heliotrope toilette. Prince Troubetskoy, with a lady in crimson velvet, was in a contiguous box, and General Fredericks, the Russian military attaché, with Baroness Fredericks, were behind him. Mme. Carnot warmly applauded the contralto cantatrice. So did every one else. But the Russians only seemed to care for the instrumental music and the choruses. Mme. Gorlinko, whom I have met in private, was in a pink brocade dress made high. Her wraps were luxurious. A mantle of light yellowish-green satin was lined with rich and flexible fur, and her head and neck muffled with a scarf of white Alençon point. Every lady is the age she looks. This singer being fresh, fair, and comely, might be any age from twenty-five to thirty-five. She has a countenance that best expresses light gaiety and amiable and sentimental moods. The complexion is one to go with auburn hair. As a matter of fact, Mme. Gorlinko's very beautiful hair is light brown shot with gold, and has shades the dyer's art is impotent to give. Her laughter is a pleasing, soft ripple; her manners are quite natural, and those of a thoroughly well-bred woman who has ancestors. In short, they are easy and graceful.

I fancy one ought first to hear Glinka and the other composers named above, during a long residence in Russia, to understand them in Paris. It seems to me that I never understood Italian music, though brought up on it, until I went to Italy. It was the same with Italian painting. Each country has its own æsthetic instincts. To be in touch with them one should understand the conditions that produced them. There is much to admire in Russia. The sky, the birch and pine forests, the snow effects, have a beauty of their own. But each effect is marred by monotony. One drives furiously to escape from the monotonous scenery. There is little variety in earth or sky for the six winter months. The monotonous heat of the houses is most depressing. Without cards, tea, and stronger drinks, life would be unbearable. Nature is overpowering. She has few smiles. There is no spring as we understand it, only a sloppy, sludgy thaw of a few days, immediately followed by fierce summer heat. All this explains the oft-recurring minor key in Russian music, and that long-continued plaintiveness that gets on French nerves. It affects them like "the tune the old cow died of."

I chatted at the Cirque d'Été with a French journalist who has just come back from Russia. He is also the proprietor of a great provincial newspaper, and his manners smack of his province. Nothing could be more frank than his talk. The Southern is frank even when trying to deceive. My interlocutor of the Cirque d'Été has a mind made up on most subjects. Naturally, it is impervious to foreign influences. I shall not say that it is stuffed with French prejudices, though one might

One of the sights in Paris during Easter is the Restaurant Durand at the Madeleine. Talk about Easter eggs! Go and taste the "œufs à la Meyerbeer" at Durand's and you will bless me for telling you.

do truthfully. He went to St. Petersburg to see the reception of M. Félix Faure. "Were you pleased with it?" I asked. "Yes, and No." "What was the matter with it?" "They managed to drop on every occasion the word Republic, and to treat the excellent Félix not as a President, but *un roi pour rire.* It all seemed *pire qu'une comédie—une bobêcherie.*" How translate this "But is not Russia a great country?" "In size and military strength. But she is so backward in every other way. Everything is of a piece with that poor music we have been hearing—music good enough for seaside casinos, but without any high inspiration or other great quality. That 'Vie pour le Tsar' of Glinka is childish—I was going to say *degoûtant*, but must not risk so strong an expression. The 'Vive la France' Cantata, which you will presently hear, is the trickiest thing that ever was. The author was at a world of pains not to offend courtly ears with the word President or Republic. Félix—a paid functionary—is 'the Chief of noble France.'" "But the word *President*, you will own, does not lend itself to musical numbers. It is really too hard a word for a librettist to manage." "Perhaps; but you will also own that on so great an occasion it was his business to overcome the difficulty. *Les Russes nous roulent.* As diplomats we are not their match. The most striking effect of the alliance has been to make M. Faure imagine himself a potentate. Everything at the Elysée is now on the Court footing, and every one on the high horse. When waiting for dinner to be announced, one must not speak unless spoken to by the President. The officers of the military household assume in his presence the attitude of humble servants, and are almost disdainful of the second-class guests. One remembers with sorrow Grévy's military secretary, the amiable and obliging General Pittie. The solemnity is crushing. Tongues usually are untied in the smoking-room, but not now at the Elysée. One is dying to yawn or to *s'esquiver à l'anglaise.* But an officer eyes one, and is ready to frown down any such breach of manners. The protocol forbids any dinner guest of the President going away before the latter has retired to his private apartments. Think of the mortal ennui of an evening spent in solemn silence—and in a palace that was brightened by the wit of Thiers and the delightfully clever talk of Grévy!"

In reading the above make allowance for Southern exaggeration and warm Republican feeling. Still I am afraid the President must have English blood in his veins. He loves a sovereign or a grand nobleman as thoroughly as though he were an Englishman. He has also an English middle-class passion for respectability and pompous forms. This will make his approaching visit to the Riviera a source of delight. I do hope he will have an opportunity of studying the Prince of Wales's manners with "inferiors." He has ordered six straw hats in London for Riviera wear. They are of the yachtsman's model. The King of the Belgians' yacht will be at Villa Franca when M. Faure is at Cimiez, and there are many yachts of American railway kings and other such royalties lying about. As ladies do not count in the protocol, M. Faure will go *en garçon* to the Riviera. He will also go *incognito*, the better to recruit after an attack of influenza.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE memory recoils to a quarter of a century ago, dear Lady Betty, at the announcement that Arthur Orton, the Claimant to the Tichborne title and estates, is dead. In the early seventies the attention of the whole English-speaking race was riveted upon this Wapping butcher, whose pretensions it required the combined talent of the British Bar to upset. What a multitude of names, famous or notorious, cluster around that memorable criminal! Chief Justice Bovill, Sir Alexander Cockburn, Lord Coleridge, Lord Bowen, Mr. Serjeant Parry, Mr. Serjeant Ballantine, Dr. Kenealy, Mr. Guildford Onslow, Mr. Whalley, The O'Gorman—whose names were household names at that period—are dead: the *Bella* suggests little or nothing to the present generation: Wagga-Wagga has faded into insignificance; and the catch-phrase, "Would you be surprised to hear?" has so far relaxed its grasp upon the memory that even the *Times* leader-writer misquotes it! Still, some remember the time when even the most ordinary sentence was prefaced by this irritating question, and fewer recollect the celebrated music-hall song which contained these rhymes:—

"Now would you be surprised to hear
That I am going to sing?
But nowadays there's nobody
Surprised at anything"—

a sentiment which is repeatedly expressed to-day as if the conduct of the present generation had given especial occasion for it.

"Now would you be surprised to hear
Her Majesty the Queen
Among her loyal subjects
Now is daily to be seen?
And would you be surprised to hear,
When foreign princes call
At Buckingham's fair palace
There is room enough for all?"—

questions which show that in these respects a quarter of a century has brought about remarkably little change. The actors who occupied the stage of life when we were young are rapidly being replaced, and the giants and the memorable events of our youth seem, the former pigmies and the latter trifling, to the new generation!

* * * * *

Mr. Curzon, the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has, to the great surprise of every diplomatist, defined the duties of the members of the Diplomatic Service as being mainly concerned with reporting "facts of which they have official cognisance." Mr. Curzon has only to refer to the archives of the Foreign Office to learn that his definition is altogether erroneous. A diplomatist is all eyes, ears, and good manners; and the latter quality is very necessary to enable him to make the best use of those inquisitive organs. The duty of a diplomatist is to foresee events by the light of the most trifling circumstances, and to inform his Government of his forecast, and of the incidents which have led to his making it, as speedily as possible. In this matter a diplomatist does not differ from a journalist, except that the information of the former is for official consumption, whilst that of the latter is retailed to the public. For many years it has been repeatedly insisted upon in these columns that the great fault in Lord Salisbury's government of the Foreign Office is that he is not in touch with his subordinates. The punishment for that fault is obviously that he is not as well-informed as he should be.

* * * * *

An expert, whose reputation stands very high as an authority upon the subject in question, has done me the honour of addressing the following letter to me:—

"Sir,—A portion of the French Press has been exulting at what they believe to be the exposed condition of this country, now that the Channel Fleet is at Gibraltar. As several English newspapers have echoed this cry by raising the invasion scare, it may not be inopportune to throw a little light upon the matter.

"The term 'Channel Fleet' is somewhat misleading; for

the duties of the fleet which is so called have nothing to do with the Channel or with home defence. Detached Fleet would better describe it, since its duties are to go anywhere to any waters where an accession of strength may be required; and, in fact, it has no definite cruising area.

"But there is a Fleet the existence of which seems to be entirely overlooked. It is at home, in commission, and ready to repel any attack. It is constituted as follows:—

Nile, *Trafalgar*, *Howe*, *Admiral* class. *Collingwood*, " " *Rodney*, " " } First-class battleships, any one of them superior to any French ship afloat.

Colossus, *Thunderer*, } Second-class battleships of very considerable offensive and defensive power.

Conqueror *Hero* } Third-class, or small battleships of considerable fighting power, but wanting in coal endurance.

Alexandra.—Third-class battleship of but moderate fighting power, but a good sea boat.

Galatea *Australia* } First-class armed cruisers.

Melampus.—Second-class cruiser.

And numerous torpedo-gunboats, and also twelve torpedo-boat destroyers.

"All the above, with the exception of the *Alexandra*, are armed with powerful modern breech-loading and also quick-firing guns.

"It should be mentioned that *Collingwood* has gone into dock to get rid of rats, with which she is infested, but she would always be available at a few hours' notice.

"*Terrible* is at home, and in commission, but as she is intended for specific duties she cannot be counted as belonging to the Reserve Fleet.

"The Reserve Fleet also contains two other ships, *Benbow* and *Sanspareil*, which are usually classed as first-class battleships; but as their armament is of too heavy a character to render them valuable in a fleet action they have been omitted from the above list.

"In addition to those which have been named, which form the Reserve Fleet, and are all in commission, we have at home the following vessels, every one of them modern, and most of them the very best of their class:—

"Two, first-class battleships; two, second-class battleships; seven, first-class cruisers; twenty, second-class cruisers; several third-class cruisers and torpedo gunboats; and about thirty torpedo-boat destroyers. All of these are practically ready for commission.

"It should be remembered that the above lists are exclusive of all obsolete ships; all cruisers which, by reason of their coal consumption, are cramped in their range, and all ships that are not absolutely available.

"As against this, the French have in northern waters:—

"*Hoche*, first-class battleship; four ships of the *Valmy* class, *i.e.*, small coast-defence ships, which can only fight in smooth waters, are of very small coal capacity, and—although intended to be otherwise—of very low speed; one fairly good first-class cruiser; one very bad first-class cruiser; and two second-class cruisers.

"There are also many obsolete and useless ships in reserve; also about ten modern second-class cruisers, all wanting in coal endurance.

"*Entrecasteaux*—a very important ship—which is now going through her trials, is not included in the above list, as it is the function of our *Terrible* to specially look after her.

"Russia has all her cruisers in Chinese waters. She has in the Baltic one battleship, two coast-defence ships, and a few obsolete and useless vessels.

"Both France and Russia have many important ships approaching completion, but not available at the present time. "Nauticus."

* * * * *

The unexpected death of Lady Glenesk has occasioned general regret, for the late Lady Glenesk had many friends belonging to every shade of party politics, in the ranks of literature, music, and art, and in general society both in Great Britain and abroad. The name of the late Lady Glenesk will for long be remembered in history, as it was she who first proposed that women should be associated with the now memorable Primrose League.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

LORD CAWDOR was for many years a member of the Jockey Club, but he rarely attended the meetings, and some time ago he resigned. He won some races twenty years ago with Mavis, a mare purchased by him as a yearling for a small sum, and he afterwards sold her to his intimate friend, the late Lord Falmouth, for whom she bred Galliard, winner of the Two Thousand in 1883, and this horse would have won the Derby and St. Leger if he had gone on all right. Lord Cawdor also won races with King Duncan, Brioche, Witchcraft, and Perdita II., a mare bred by himself, who is now in the Prince of Wales's stud at Sandringham, and better known as the dam of Florizel II. and Persimmon than through her own very moderate performances on the Turf. Lord Cawdor was an owner of the best type, who never betted, but raced solely for sport.

Several weeks ago I stated that The Baker certainly would not run for the Metropolitan Handicap at Epsom, and that it was then the intention of Sir John Kelk to start his colt for the Chester Cup, but that it was exceedingly probable that in the end The Baker would be reserved for Ascot. One of the sporting papers thereupon insisted that Sir John Kelk's colt would run at Epsom, but The Baker has now been struck out of both his handicap engagements, and his owner is very wise in deciding to have him specially prepared for the Ascot Cup. If the going is good at Ascot The Baker might just as well be started for the Queen's Vase on the first day of the meeting, as he would have no extra weight to carry in that race, and a victory would not involve any penalty for the Cup. So far as I remember, the last horse which won both Vase and Cup was Verneuil in 1878.

I see it is stated that Velasquez has improved so much since last season that he is expected to give Galtee More a good deal of trouble in the Ascot Cup. Valasquez has greatly improved in all respects during the winter, and he bids fair in a few weeks to be a really magnificent four-year-old, but the notion that he will be found to have developed from a miler into a Cup horse is extravagantly and insanely chimerical. As a matter of fact, Velasquez is not engaged in the Ascot Cup, so he cannot meet Galtee More in that race. Last season Velasquez plainly demonstrated on more than one occasion that he cannot stay beyond an easy mile, and under the circumstances it would have been desperate fauity to have trained him this year for any long-distance race, as he would have lost his fine speed without gaining any more stamina. Velasquez will undergo a special preparation for the three £10,000 races, and there are many people who expect that Lord Rosebery's horse will follow in the steps of Isinglass in 1894 and sweep the board of these events. In the Princess of Wales' Stakes Velasquez holds all the four-year-olds safe enough, excepting only his stable companion Chelandry, to whom he has to give 6 lb. Minstrel, Goletta, and Berzak have no chance of defeating Lord Rosebery's horse, and Vesuvian cannot be trained again. The danger to Velasquez will lie in the three-year-olds, the best including Dieudonné and Ninus of the so-called "cracks" of the season, while among the maidens are Brio, Collar, Isabinda (sister to St. Frusquin), and The Wyvern. I do not believe that Velasquez would have any pretensions to give a stone more than weight for age to any smart three-year-old.

The acceptance for the Eclipse Stakes is really a second edition of the Princess of Wales's entry, except that Chelandry's name is not to be found in the list, nor is Brio

engaged. Ninus has also been left out of this race, but Dieudonné is entered, and the Duke of Westminster has left in both Batt and Collar. M. Ephrussi's Margaux, by War Dance out of Madeira (dam of Alicante), might be a dangerous candidate, but there is no maiden allowance in the Eclipse Stakes, and Velasquez has to carry 10 lb. extra.

In the Jockey Club Stakes Lord Rosebery has both Velasquez and Chelandry, and Margaux is also in this race, having 17 lb. the best of the weights with Lord Rosebery's horse, as he is blessed with both breeding and maiden allowances. However, I fully expect that Cyllene will win the last of this year's £10,000 stakes if he has any pretensions to be regarded as a good horse, for he will have only 3 lb. extra to carry, thanks to a double breeding allowance.

Lord Rosebery has entered Chelandry for the Ascot Cup, but, on the St. Leger running, she can have no chance whatever of defeating Galtee More, if Mr. Gubbins' horse has trained on all right. My own opinion is that the danger to last year's Derby winner will come from Cyllene and The Baker.

Velasquez is engaged at Ascot only in the Rous Memorial Stakes, but he will not run until the Newmarket First July Meeting. Velasquez and Galtee More might meet at even weights in the Champion Stakes at the Second October Meeting, a race which was won last year very easily indeed by Lord Rosebery's horse, who made a grievous show of Bay Ronald.

Calder was an excellent jockey, and during the last four seasons he had ridden with great success, having steered 272 winners in that time. He rode a very fine race when he won the Cambridgeshire of 1888 on Veracity, who finished a head only in front of Cactus, and in the following year he was successful on the same horse in the Liverpool Summer Cup and in the Chesterfield Cup at Goodwood. He never rode any other important winner, except the Prince of Wales' Florizel II. in the Manchester Cup of 1895. Calder was a thoroughly capable rider and a powerful horseman. He was a capital judge of pace, and never lost his head in a ding-dong finish, nor did he ever commit the direful blunder of easing his horse until the winning post had been fairly passed. He had been for the last eighteen months first jockey to Sir Blundell Maple, who was most kind and considerate to him during his illness. He has died just when the prospects of the stable are beginning to improve, and he could reasonably look forward to winning his first "classic" race on Royal Footstep.

I stated several weeks ago that the Duke of Devonshire contemplates reserving Dieudonné for the Derby, instead of starting the colt for his Newmarket engagements, which are the Column Stakes, the Two Thousand, and the Newmarket Stakes. This will be sound policy, not only because Dieudonné wants time, but also as it is certain that the Epsom gradients will suit the Duke's steed very much better than the R.M. at Newmarket. I hear that the Duke of Devonshire intends to run Carhaix for the Two Thousand, the colt being nominated for that race by his late owner, M. Lebaudy. Carhaix won his race at Liverpool very easily indeed, and he can be much improved before April 27, to which it may be added that he is at least sure to stay the course, which is more than can be said for most of the other probable starters. The Egerton Lodge stable may also be represented in the Two Thousand by Jeddah (by Janissary out of Pilgrimage, dam of Canterbury Pilgrim), a colt owned by Mr. Larnach, but his running will depend upon whether he wins his engagement at Newmarket next week.

I have always been of the opinion that Ninus will beat Hawfinch whenever they again meet, but Prince Soltykoff's horse had better be left alone for the present, as it is by no means certain that he can be properly fit to run for such a race as the Two Thousand in three weeks. Ninus has certainly not been hurried on in his work, and I fancy he is being trained with a view to his winning the Grand Prix on June 5 rather than his English engagements. We have yet to learn that Ninus can stay the R.M., and it is the same with Disraeli, who has recovered from his recent accident. Mr. W. Johnstone's horse will be quite fit to run, as he is not an animal that needs much work. It is certain that if Mr. W. Johnstone is to carry off this year's Two Thousand or Derby it is Disraeli that will be the winner, for the prospect of the much-written-up Angus standing a preparation is forlorn in the extreme. Galashiels, King of Thebes, and Florio Rubattino ought all to win races in the course of the season, but neither of them is likely to be found up to Two Thousand or Derby form, even in such a moderate year as this promises to be. Lord Durham who has been in Egypt for several months, went last week to Newmarket to see Gerolstein gallop, but this dark colt has not a 1,000 to 1 chance for any of the big races, and if the ground gets hard he will be a difficult animal to train. Gerolstein, who is by St. Serf out of Geraldine, cost 2,600 gs. as a yearling, and I fear his owner's prospects of getting back his outlay on this animal are dismally remote. Orzil will do very well while the ground is soft, but directly dry weather sets in it will be all up with him. I do not believe that Mr. Brassey's colt can stay beyond five furlongs. The money invested so recklessly on Ormathwaite during the winter is hopelessly lost, for there is no chance of the Prince of Wales's colt running for either the Two Thousand or Derby, and he will probably be turned out of training in a few weeks.

The Prince of Wales is to be at Newmarket next week, when he will doubtless decide which race Sandringham is to go for. This is the two-year-old brother to Persimmon, and he is a very fine colt, being indeed one of the best-looking and most racing-like animals now in training. Sandringham is in the £3,000 race at Kempton Park on May 6, and in the Woodcote Stakes at Epsom on May 24. It would be good policy to try and win one of these events with Sandringham, and then run him for the Coventry Stakes at Ascot, in which race there are no penalties. Sandringham's half-sister by Surefoot, the three-year-old Azeeza, will probably be turned out of training, and relegated to the Prince's stud before long, as she is never likely to do any good on the Turf. With Ormathwaite's forelegs so "groggy" that it is in the highest degree improbable that he will ever stand training, it would seem that the Prince of Wales will have to depend on his two-year-olds this season, and the best of them, after Sandringham, *longo intervallo*, is Eventail, by Ayrshire out of Fanchette (dam of Mousme), who will probably win a race in the course of the next few weeks. Eventail is in the £200 Plate at Newmarket next Thursday, and if she starts she may very likely carry off this race.

The Duke of Devonshire's best two year-old is the colt by Morion out of Lady Yardley (dam of Disraeli), which was bought at Doncaster out of the Sledmere team for 680 gs. This animal will probably make his debut in the May Plate at the First Spring Meeting. The Duke has a half-brother to Balsamo, by Melanion, that will most likely run for the £3,000 race at Kempton Park next month.

The great dash at Derby was on Lord Carnarvon's two year-old Dark David, in the Osmaston Plate. The colt was declared to be a certainty, and the very slightest shade of odds was freely accepted in a field of ten by infatuated plungers. There must have been some egregious blundering about Dark David's trial, or else the running was all wrong, for the colt utterly failed to stay, being palpably dead beat before half a mile had been traversed. Fokien, a good looking colt by Westminster, won very easily for Wadlow, who must have galloped this animal to his satisfaction, considering the generous manner in which he was backed at outside prices. There were only three starters for the Doveridge Handicap of £1,000! This race resulted in a crash for backers, as liberal odds were freely betted on Melange, whereas Bellevin won in a common canter. This horse has a disastrous habit of bringing plungers to grief, and many people must still have a dismally distinct recollection of his collapse in Ireland, when odds of 10 to 1 were betted on him. Wildfowler was not fit to run last week, so his defeat was nothing to cause surprise to any

rational observer. He will not be fit to run for the Two Thousand.

There is a fearful amount of racing next week, Jockey Club meetings having been sanctioned at Kempton Park, Newcastle, Birmingham, Catterick Bridge, Bogside (Eglinton Hunt), and Windsor, in addition to the Newmarket Craven, which will be the only really important fixture of the week. In addition there are thirty-one steeplechase fixtures, including a great number of Hunt meetings, of which the most important is the West Norfolk Hunt Club gathering at East Winch (which will be patronised by the Prince of Wales) on Monday. There are sure to be large fields for the principal cross-country events at Manchester.

There are twenty-eight three-year-olds left in for the Biennial of £500 at Newmarket, one of the scratched lot being Ninus. I should fancy that Devon will win this race, as he ought to have come on since running at Liverpool, and he has no penalty for his success there. The Column Stakes is as absolute a certainty for Cyllene, if he runs, as it was two years ago for St. Frusquin. The Craven Stakes of £500, which is run over the rarely-used Ancaster Mile, will be the most important three-year-old race during the week, and the entry of fifty-nine includes Leisure Hour, Purser, Dunlop, Glatisant, Sir Hew, Sangrado, Galashiels, Devon, Jeddah, Cowl, Pheon, Orzil, and Cap Martin. I shall expect this race to be won by either Jeddah or Sangrado.

The Fitzwilliam Plate, which will be worth over £500, may fall to Allegory. There are no fewer than fifty-five entries for a Plate of £200, and Sister Angela or Eventail may be able to win. It is dangerous work to meddle with two-year-olds at this period of the season, and particularly at Newmarket.

Hermiston will not run for the Wood Ditton Stakes, and, in the certain absence of the Kingsclere colt, Carhaix, should be successful if he starts, or if he is kept for the Two Thousand then King's Messenger (who won a race at Lincoln) may take the prize.

Lord Suffolk was never prominent as an owner of racehorses, although many years ago (as Lord Andover) he owned some platers in conjunction with Lord Coventry, the late Lord Devon (then Lord Courtenay), Lord Howard (now Lord Effingham), and the late Duke of Newcastle (then Lord Lincoln). They were known as "the Romeo Lords," because they owned a very smart horse named Romeo, who represented the best plating form of the period, and he could always be relied upon as a successful "retriever" after a bad week. Lord Suffolk was a hard and clever rider, and in early life he won several steeplechases. As Steward of the Jockey Club he was a decided success, and in many ways he displayed much ability and sagacity during his three years of office. Lord Suffolk had a considerable literary faculty, and he wrote many excellent and entertaining articles on sporting affairs. He was a fine fisherman and an excellent shot. Lord Suffolk had latterly lived almost entirely at Charlton, his place near Malmesbury, which is a grand old Jacobean house, with charming gardens. Charlton was much before the public some forty years ago, when some of the best of the many fine pictures in the gallery there were cut out of their frames one night and stolen, and a considerable period elapsed before they were recovered. Lord Suffolk was a good practical agriculturist, and had always taken an active part in the management of his estates.

Mr. Sloane, a well-known Rugby football player in the West Country, contemplated matrimony, and when his intention became known a testimonial was suggested. The English Rugby Union sanctioned the proposal, provided that his own club made no grant to it. The presentation took the form of a suite of dining-room furniture, and the authorities of the Union blessed it. One English player gets plate and another furniture. A Welshman gets a little bit of freehold and there is a terrible rumpus. International matches are broken off, and the recipient of the villa residence is subjected to a mean and petty persecution. No one objects to Mr. Sloane's testimonial. He is heartily to be congratulated on his popularity. I believe, too, he has the good sense to be able to see rather more than one inch before his nose, and realises that the professional difficulty cannot be properly dealt with in the manner proposed by the Rugby Union. This august body has stultified itself by the entirely inconsistent attitude it has taken up in the cases of the Gould and Sloane testimonials. It is undoubtedly a serious matter that the conduct of the game in England is vested in a committee of men who hallow with their presence a testimonial to an Englishman, and at the same time indulge their vindictive spite against a Welshman who has created modern football, and done more for the popularity and development of the game than all the officials of the Union put together, their indefatigable honorary secretary, Mr. Rowland Hill, only excepted.

Goodness only knows why the Rugby Union selected Blackheath for the match with Wales. Certainly there was a large crowd, but the inconvenience of the situation is so great that it speaks well for football enthusiasm that some twenty thousand people were present. On the ground itself the arrangements were excellent. The turf was in fine condition, there was but little wind, and the sun only once or twice peeped from behind the clouds, so that the players were never dazzled. As for the game itself, it was certainly one of the best exhibitions that has been seen in international matches this season. People may complain that there was not sufficient passing, yet for an international match the combination was really good. When one side scores thrice and the other once from as pretty pieces of passing as one could wish to see, there is not much cause to complain. The Welsh three-quarters were certainly rather inaccurate, but they had plenty of resource, and the way in which Huzzey dropped a rather lucky goal when a fine chance of attack was spoiled by some muffing passing, showed a great deal of resource. The feature of the game was undoubtedly the long kicking of both teams. The Welshmen excelled in this department of the game. Their three-quarters frequently gained a lot of ground by their long punts into touch. It was then that the superiority of the home team showed itself. Their forwards were faster and stronger and soon got the ball out of danger. The Welsh pack could not hold them long enough to give their outsides a chance, nor did they break up quickly enough when the ball was out. The Welshmen so frequently punted instead of passing that it looked as though they did not like the gentle attentions of Royds, who darted on his opponents, and either collared his man or intercepted a pass in very neat fashion. Stout had, on the whole, little to do. Foulkes, who had been passed over in the Scotch match, was the hero of the day. Against Ireland he suffered from weak halves. There was no mistake about his strong attacking powers on Saturday. Twice the ball came to him when close to touch, and the way in which he swerved inwards and charged through his men was a treat to witness. He reminded one of Bolton. He was irresistible. Livesay and Rotherham played splendidly. The former was most effective. The two might have been playing together all the season so well were they together. Of the two, Livesay was, perhaps, the best, for Rotherham like Elliot, the Welshman, had a predilection for offside play that resulted in free kicks. The Welsh halves were rather disappointing. But then they had not only good men against them, but slightly inferior forwards. It was the forward play that was the weak spot of the Welshman. Scotch forwards would have kept the ball as tight as possible after getting the lead as Wales did. But the Welsh are so used to playing the open game that they cannot keep the ball in the scrum and be content with playing a slow, stolid game. Probably two better full backs have never been seen on the same field in the same match. Byrne is inclined to be slow, but he has great strength, and his kicking was splendid. Bancroft, the Welsh captain, delighted every one by his cool and tricky play at back. If he had made a mistake one would have said he was playing to the gallery, but he never failed, and thus showed his great capacity as a player. It was a most interesting game to watch. It is to be hoped that after this victory the English Rugby Union will show a more friendly attitude to Mr. Gould.

Negotiations are pending between the Oxford and Cambridge athletic clubs with regard to the inclusion of the weight and hammer in the University programme. Oxford has suggested: (i.) the substitution of a two hundred yard and half mile race; (ii.) the abolition of one event and the inclusion of the half mile; (iii.) the weight and hammer each to score a half point, and the half to be added. Cambridge has rejected the first proposal, and will consider the other two. Mr. Lees Knowles trusts that Old Blues will write expressing their views on the question to Mr. Carter, of Caius, the president, or to the Rev. J. H. Gray, of Queens', the trainer. At the present time it does seem rather anomalous that there should be two full blues for feats of strength, and only four for flat racing. Furthermore, the hammer, if not the weight, is, as a rule, such a poor performance that to give a man his full blue for it is like giving a man a blue for doing a quarter in fifty-four. Then, too, the rules under which the competitions take place differ from those of the A.A.A. If the arch in the hammer or the square in the weight were limited, these performances would be even worse than they are. Of course, there may be difficulties in the way of accepting the third proposition of Oxford. It would be said a half point would not be worth a blue. But a full blue might be given if a certain agreed standard were reached.

The responsibilities of parents are manifold, and the tendency of the times is to add to them. In a light-hearted way the Divisional Court has decided that a racing bicycle is a necessary for an infant. It was a case in which a youth was sued for the balance of a machine which he had bought by instalments. He ingenuously pleaded infancy, but in vain. The stern parent who dislikes cycling may find himself confronted with a bill for a son's or daughter's bicycle any day. He will have to meet his adversaries in the way. Machines are as much necessaries as bacon and butter. It was only the depressing political outlook that prevented cycling shares experiencing a strong rise when this decision was made known.

There was a record number of competitors for the Ten Miles Championship. Twenty-three started and nine finished. At the last lap three men, Robinson, Bennett and Barlow were close together. The first named eventually won easily as he put on a spurt that showed he had plenty of strength left. It was worthy of Bacon. The time for three miles was 15 minutes 20 seconds, which is generally fast enough for the Inter-University Sports. Robinson is a Northampton man, who has twice won the Cross-Country Championships. He is undoubtedly entitled to rank as one of the finest long distance runners there has ever been. Just now there are several school sports taking place. The St. Paul's Meeting was, as usual, well managed and well attended. In the hurdles, Bailey cut the school record and in the half he made a dead-heat with Barry, also in record time. He should make a good sprinter and give up long distances. At Dulwich, Powell showed considerable promise as a long distance runner, but he has a lot to learn.

I have received an interesting communication from a member of the Cyclist Tourist Club referring to the distribution by the council to the members of a handbook and lodging list. The circumstances are so peculiar that I must defer any further consideration of the subject until next week.

There was a large attendance at Glasgow to see the International Association game between England and Scotland. In the English team there were three amateurs, Oakley, Smith, and Wreford-Brown, and they all played up to their reputations. It was a great win for the English team. The forwards were in splendid form, and always made straight for goal. There was no dallying with the ball, and Smith, as usual in the centre, was most unselfish. The half-backs were much stronger than their opponents, and Forman headed the ball most cleverly. At back, Doyle was rather slow, but the whole English defence was very sound, especially in the second half, when the Scotch forwards pulled themselves together and looked like giving a lot of trouble. Owing to the smallpox epidemic Middlesbrough played Thornaby in the semi-final of the Amateur Cup with closed gates. They won, and the match must have been exciting. Brentford beat Ilford easily, and so won the London Cup for the first time. Sheffield United, without a full team, just beat Sunderland after a great game, and so kept head of the League.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—A change has come over the political outlook, and, as I anticipated, the Chinese difficulty is disappearing. On the other hand, the Spanish-American position has become very critical, and the question of war or peace is hovering in the balance. We have still, therefore, political markets, and quotations fluctuate from day to day with the outlook, according to the varying advices from the political centres.

The Warriors and the Stock Markets.

In the case of the Spanish-American dispute, the warriors so far appear to have the upper hand; and there is no blinking the fact that the United States Congress is inclined to break out within the next few days, and to enter with a light heart upon a struggle which, in the present temper of Spain, will not be exactly a military promenade. Whether, at the eleventh hour, either by mediation or by concessions, some settlement may be arrived at, it is impossible to say. But the markets have now practically discounted the outbreak of war on the Cuban question. I do not refer to Spanish bonds, which may yet have a much heavier fall, as victory must in the end lie with the United States; but American Railroad stocks, after a fresh reaction, appear now to be at the war-level, and, should war be declared, a further set-back on the first shock of the news would doubtless be recovered almost immediately. As regards the other departments, they should shake themselves free from a struggle between the United States and Spain, although the Money Market may be affected to some extent by further withdrawals of gold for New York. So far, nearly forty millions of dollars have gone to that destination. The Chinese question has entered a more satisfactory phase. That Russia would take possession of Port Arthur and Ta-lien-wan has been clear to intelligent lookers-on for a long time, and City men generally are pleased with the turn which events have taken during the last few days, viz., the demand made by Great Britain for fresh naval bases in China. A lease of the Port of Wei-hai-wei has already been granted under the influence of the naval demonstration in Chinese waters. Guarantees will thus be obtained for the future position of this country in the Far East, which is precisely what the City would like to see, and it is generally anticipated that whatever steps are taken will not lead to any friction with Russia. By the time this reaches my readers, moreover, they will be in possession of the official statements as made in the House of Commons, which will doubtless clear the air to a considerable extent. The West African question has evidently reached a more satisfactory stage, and it is understood that the negotiations between England and France have made very important progress. I am, therefore, confirmed in the view taken a week ago that, apart from the Spanish-American dispute, foreign politics are not likely to disturb the peace of the world at present, so that an excellent opportunity will be provided for investors to buy at a moderate level in many departments, and more particularly in the South African and West Australian mining sections. Home and Argentine Rails stand also in many cases at tempting prices, and as to American Rails, war or no war, they are bound to rise in three months' time to much higher prices than are now current.

London and Paris Exchange, Ltd., 24, Throgmorton-street, London, E.C. This Corporation is prepared to make Advances on Mining Shares, at 6 per cent. per annum, subject to a deposit of 20 per cent. Clients by this system save the heavy contangoes usually charged.

Money and Gilt-Edged Investments.

As usual at the end of the quarter, the purse-strings were tightened by the banks, partly for the purpose of what some of my confrères call "window-dressing." Rates have, however, since fallen away in anticipation of Government disbursements, the rate for short money being 2¼ to 2½ per cent., while three months' bank bills are being taken at 2⅞ per cent. It is not at present likely, however, that rates will fall away further, and the Money Market will doubtless stiffen in case of a declaration of war by the United States, as more gold will then have to go from London. A very satisfactory feature, although one by no means relished by the discount houses and brokers, is the complete control which the Bank of England now has of the Money Market. The new policy of taking a more active part in discount business, adopted by the central institution, is working exceedingly well from the point of view of the public interest, and it will probably in the long run make rather for cheaper than dearer money. Gilt-edged investment stocks have not recovered yet from their recent decline. On the contrary, British Corporation stocks and Colonial bonds are again easier. On the other hand, the new Chinese loan has improved, and instead of 2 discount it stands now at 1⅛ discount. The other Chinese issues are also slightly firmer, the Seven per Cent. Silver Loan at 102½, the Six per Cent. Gold Loan at 105, the Five per Cent. Gold Loan at 98½ xd. Japanese bonds, too, have hardened to 100½. The improvement in these loans is, of course, due to the more pacific outlook in the Far East, and should the guarantees already referred to be granted by the Tsung-li-Yamen, this would, doubtless, be considered as a factor making for a further recovery. The Greek loan is expected after Easter, and will, doubtless, be well received. Consols, after experiencing a sharp improvement, are lower, and for the new account stand at 111½. The relapse appears to have been caused chiefly by sales as a hedge against other commitments, while naturally the possibility of large gold withdrawals for the United States, in case of an outbreak of war, would temporarily depress the price of our premier security.

Home Rails.—A General Rally.

I expressed a week ago my opinion that, looking at the position of Home Rails, one could not help feeling surprised at the extreme dulness of this department. The war rumours naturally caused a temporary feeling of depression, and the make-up prices at the last settlement showed a fresh decline, which has, however, for the best part since been recovered. Provided that this country is not implicated in any war—and that appears most unlikely—there is no reason why Home Rails should be depressed. Even war between the United States and Spain would not affect our railways to any extent, and would rather tend to bring a great deal of business for war material, &c., to this country, while the struggle cannot be a lengthy one. On the other hand, the ever-recurring political scares should make investors anxious to place their money in such substantial Home securities as those of our leading railways. Notwithstanding the adverse atmospheric conditions during the week ending March 27, traffics have kept up pretty well, although, of course, passenger receipts suffered by the return of wintry weather. The week just finished, on the other hand, has brought us so pleasant a climatic change, that good returns are very generally to be anticipated, and it is not to be forgotten that a traffic increase of £456,000 has already been piled up for the present half-year, while the return of sunshine foreshadows excellent holiday traffics. Again, from the point of view of the yield on last year's figures, excellent investment purchases can be made. Thus Brighton "A" yield nearly 4 per cent., Coras (Caledonian Deferred Ordinary) 3¾ per cent., Midland Deferred 3 15/16 per cent., North Eastern, North Western, and Great Western from 3½ to 3⅝ per cent., Dover "A" 3½ per cent., Great Eastern 2⅞ per cent. As regards the last mentioned two stocks, the discrepancy in the yield again shows how favourably Dover "A" compare with Great Eastern, while both are highly progressive lines. The South Eastern, by the way, has now also a new racecourse at Folkestone to swell its returns, and last week's meeting there was evidently well attended. Folkestone is making rapid progress in popularity as a seaside resort, and I am told that all the leading hotels there are fully booked up for Easter. Dover "A" at anything like 109 are undoubtedly an excellent purchase, and so are Brighton "A" at the present quotation. I have frequently insisted that stock is getting more and more scarce in the Home Railway department, and this fact was brought home to operators by the backwardation of ½ which was paid on Brighton "A," while on Great Eastern there was a backwardation of ¼, which was also the case with North Western. Contangos, in fact, went off all round, that on Dover "A" being only ⅛, while Great Central "A" were arranged at "even." It is quite clear, therefore, that this is not a market for the "Bears" to take liberties with, as any clearing of the political horizon might bring about very sharp advances. Next to Brighton "A" and Dover "A," Coras, which are now quoted ex their dividend of 1 per cent., should offer the best opportunity of a progressive investment, as the Caledonian must very considerably benefit by the extraordinary animation in the shipbuilding trade on the Clyde. I have already stated my favourable view of Great Central 1894 Ordinary, which, as a lock-up, have hardly their equal at about 40. Again, Metropolitan Districts are specially adapted for a lock-up. The line is already doing remarkably well, and had a bumper traffic for the week ended March 27, showing an increase of £771, which brings up the total gain, so far, to £4,687. This increase is, no doubt, chiefly due to traffic gained from the country extensions, but it must be considered that the new and more important extensions are only now in course of construction. Central London Railway shares have shown great strength, and do not appear to have been at all affected by the temporary depression in other railway stocks, the fully-paid Ordinary being more especially in favour at 10¾, while the partly-paid Ordinary stand at 6½, the Deferred at 4¾, the Preferred at 1¾. The enormous possibilities of this line, as serving the best route in the Metropolis, render these shares a capital lock-up, the more so as they are in receipt of 3 per cent. interest during the construction of the line, and compare favourably with Waterloo and City Electric Railway stock, which stands at 136½, and is, therefore, at a premium of 36½ per cent., or upwards of 3½ premium per £10, that being the denomination of Central London shares.

The Yankee Market—War or Peace?

Unless any striking change should take place during the next few days, the arbitrament of war will doubtless be appealed to by the United States as against Spain. At the last, perhaps, efforts will be made by the European Powers and by the Pope to avert a conflict by friendly mediation, but unless Spain grants certain concessions, hostilities would appear to be imminent. It is a pity that Spanish pride cannot be induced to give way sufficiently to avoid war, which President McKinley certainly appears to have done his best to prevent. The Congress is in a fighting mood, and grave events are evidently impending. A fresh fall in the Wall-street market shows that operators there have made up their minds that war is inevitable, and the fact that quotations hardened somewhat in New York on Saturday—although the news was, if possible, still more critical—distinctly points to the view that present prices are really at war level. They show, as I explained last week, a fall of from $5 to $10 from the quotations that prevailed before the *Maine* disaster; while, on the other hand, traffics show remarkably well, and the prosperity of the United States has not so far been affected by all the warlike rumours. Whatever may be the result of the first encounters, there can be no doubt that in the end, and probably within a few months' time, victory must be with the Americans, and then we shall see such a boom in Yankee Rails as has perhaps rarely been witnessed. There remains the other alternative, viz., that war may be avoided. There is, unfortunately, little reason for anticipating so satisfactory an ending to the present complications, but should a settlement, if only temporary, be reached, the whole

active list of American Rails would rise to a higher level than that from which it has fallen. This is, of course, so obvious that it would be useless to further discuss this eventuality, which appears, moreover, to be more than doubtful. What, on the other hand, is of the greatest importance is to arrive at some conclusion as to what would happen in the American market should war be declared. I mentioned last week the old saying, "that in the case of a war threatening you can buy stocks safely as soon as the first shot is fired." This should apply more particularly to the impending conflict, as its final issue cannot for a moment be doubtful. The Spaniards will have to carry on war far from the mother-country, while Cuba is within easy reach of the United States, which nation, therefore, has all the advantages of position. While the two countries may be pretty evenly matched as regards their navy, there is little doubt that the Americans would be able to throw a very considerable number of troops into Cuba at a very early period of the struggle, and that with their assistance the insurgents would make short work of the Spanish army in the island. Spain would, therefore, fight a losing battle, while her credit would be altogether destroyed, and her financial resources would hardly carry her longer than a few months, as against the unlimited financial resources controlled by the United States. When war breaks out there would probably be a sharp relapse in Wall-street, but the position has been so fully discounted that both "Bears" and "Bulls" would be at once on the warpath with purchases. It is no secret that large sums are awaiting investment in the United States, the owners of which are only seeking an opportunity to come in. Similarly, British and Continental buyers would be forthcoming to a very large extent, and directly the "Bears" saw prices moving up again we should witness a scramble on their part such as was seen in Wall-street only a week ago when prices rose from $4 to $8. I do not advocate large speculative purchases, but capitalists who can pay for all they buy would do well to effect their purchases either immediately before or after the outbreak of war. They will be certain to see all these shares very much higher in a few months' time, while there are purchases to be made now of dividend-paying securities on terms which have not been obtainable for a long time. I stated last week that Milwaukee, Louisville, Union Pacifics, Union Pacific Prefs., Southern Prefs., and Northern Pacifics might with advantage be locked up now to a moderate extent. I still hold this view, but I would give the preference to Louisville, Union Pacifics, and Union Pacific Prefs., as these have experienced a much more severe decline than, for instance, Milwaukee. Special attention should also be devoted to the stocks of the Canadian lines. An American war would no doubt cause large quantities of goods to be diverted to Canadian lines for export from the ports of the Dominion, thus avoiding the risk of capture by Spain. The Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk should, therefore, obtain a considerable accession of traffic, which should more than compensate them for any falling-off in goods exported or imported by the States. Both roads are doing exceedingly well, the Grand Trunk monthly statement for February showing a net gain of £17,565, while current traffics continue to show large increases over the past year. In sympathy with the American Market, Canadian Pacifics and Grand Trunks have receded from the top prices touched, Canadian Pacifics to 84, Grand Trunk First Prefs. to 67⅜, the Guaranteed to 74⅛; but these stocks would doubtless shake themselves free from the influence of Wall-street fluctuations, more especially if the rate war were over. Unfortunately, the conference has now been postponed until the 15th inst., and I am still of opinion that the managements of both roads deserve censure for their fighting proclivities.

Foreigners and South Americans—a Set Back.

The Paris Bourse has received some very sharp shocks of late, and it is surprising that it has stood them so well. There is, in the first instance, the trouble with the *Coulisse*, which is absolutely *hors de combat*, and will probably remain so, unless at the eleventh hour the Senate should save it from extinction. Equally serious is the collapse in Spanish, the fall during the last three weeks reaching twelve points. Spanish have always been very largely held in France, and are very actively dealt in on the Paris Bourse, so that enormous losses must have been incurred. Again, some of the leading French banking establishments have been propping up Spain for a long time, and if the last peg gives way now, Spain will never be able to retrieve her financial position, default staring her in the face. No wonder that quotations generally of the Paris favourites have given way, and a flat tone prevails in Turks, Italians, Rio Tinto, &c. I have always warned my readers not to speculate in these gambling counters, and have repeatedly expressed the view that to hold Spanish at over 60 was like sleeping on a volcano. The various war rumours have also affected South American stocks unfavourably, and the rally in these has therefore been short-lived. There is no fresh development of the boundary dispute between Chili and Argentina, but Argentine Government stocks have been kept back by the political rumours, and a temporary improvement has been lost again, the Funding Loan now standing at 87½ xd, the 1886 Loan at 89, the Rescission bonds at 57½, and Buenos Ayres Water and Drainage bonds at 69¾. On any further setback, however, these stocks should be an excellent purchase. Argentine Railway stocks also deserve every attention on the reaction which has now again come about, and which is due rather to political influences than to any bad traffics. Buenos Ayres Great Southern at 147, for instance, are certainly a good investment. Not only is the line doing well at present, but for the half-year ended December 31 last, an available balance of £257,472 is shown, and the directors have decided to pay an interim dividend for the half-year of 5½ per cent., against 5 per cent. last year. Central Argentine Ordinary dropped to 75½ on the dividend announcement, from which there has been a recovery to 77. When they were quoted ten points higher I repeatedly stated that that figure was not justified from the dividend point of view. The Company has now announced the payment of a balance dividend of 1 per cent. (against 1¾ per cent. last year), making a total dividend of 1¾ per cent. for the year, against 2¼ per cent. in 1896. My warnings were therefore fully justified, but now that traffics are assuming such large proportions, holders should stick to their stocks. Buenos Ayres and Rosario, after touching a higher quotation, now stand at 70, and Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debentures are down to 46, Cordoba and Rosario Prefs. to 42½. Uruguay bonds have maintained a very firm front, notwithstanding the surrounding weakness, the Old Loan standing at 45¾, the New Loan at 56. Brazilians, on the other hand, are lower, the financial outlook in Rio de Janeiro giving rise to much anxiety. The 1889 Loan is now down to 48½, Western of Minas to 50. Chilians are firmer, the 1886 Loan at 75. Mexican Sixes have maintained quotations, and Peruvian Corporation stocks have been fairly steady.

The Kaffir Circus—An Improved Outlook.

Were it not for the political troubles in other quarters of the globe, we might have had an important advance in the South African department, as there have been indications of late of a very strong undercurrent. The fact is that politics in the Transvaal are no longer to the front, and now that the Volksraad has gone home, Oom Paul is apparently quieting down. Reports are current that he tried to obtain a loan from German bankers, but that this was refused, unless concessions were made to the mining industry. The fact will doubtless be brought home to him shortly that he will be unable to obtain any big loan either in Germany or in France, and certainly not in England, unless he grants reasonable concessions to that industry from which almost the whole revenue of the Transvaal is derived. There is the alternative of raising the money in Holland, or of obtaining advances from the Netherlands Railway Company and the Dynamite Company, but the relations of the Transvaal Government with these two undertakings are looked upon with so much suspicion, even in the Volksraad, that President Kruger will have much

difficulty in piloting such arrangements through the Raad. The further recovery in leading South African shares was doubtless due to the reduction in the account shown at the settlement, and to the steady progress which is being made by the mining industry. It is true that there is some scarcity of native labour, and for that reason the March output may not prove a record. But even if it does not reach the January figures it will be considerably above the February return. Only a passing allusion is due to the rumour which was spread on Wednesday by some unscrupulous persons that President Kruger was dead. No doubt a good many people would not be sorry to see him depart from his present sphere, but it is difficult to realise how such a rumour could have been put about, unless some ingenious person, seeing the rise in South African mines, jumped to the conclusion that something of the kind might have happened. Rand Mines at one time touched $29\frac{3}{4}$, and a temporary setback appears to have merely been caused by the reactions in American Rails, which appear to affect the Kaffir Circus in some extraordinary manner. Formerly the impression usually prevailed that an advance or fall in American rails and in Kaffir mines would not happen at the same time, but *nous avons changé tout cela.* The Kaffir jobbers at present take a lively interest in Yankee Rails, and I am told that they sold big "Bears" of these on Friday night, which they bought back at a moderate profit on Saturday morning. Such quick deals are not possible nowadays in the Kaffir Circus. A fair amount of business has been transacted in Consolidated Goldfields and East Rands, in which at one time a rise of from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ was established. Although this has not been fully maintained, there is no doubt that the outlook is much better, and both these shares will doubtless receive fresh attention in the near future. Rand Mines will probably take a fresh start, when the full mail reports of the meeting of shareholders in Johannesburg come to hand. The fact that the Board of the Rand Mines, Limited, is quite willing to agree to a measure for splitting the shares should act as a warning to ursine operators not to commit themselves too far in them, as the mere rumour that this step is about to be taken would suffice to send the price up very considerably. Randfontein at one time improved to $1\frac{5}{8}$-$\frac{3}{4}$, from which there has been a slight reaction, but they will probably move quickly when a more general advance takes place. The present level of prices is certainly very moderate, and purchases of the above-mentioned mines, as well as of the better-class Witwatersrand mines, such as New Primrose, Glencairn, Langlaagte Estate, Knights, &c., may be recommended for investment. Similarly, some of the Deep Level shares are now to be picked up at tempting quotations, more particularly Goldfields Deep which at present stand at $8\frac{9}{16}$. With reference to the special general meeting of Knight's Deep, Limited, which was recently held in Johannesburg, I am inclined to fully endorse the view expressed by the *South African Financial Record*, that the proceedings on that occasion should suffice to calm the apprehensions of the *Economist* writer lest the Consolidated Gold Fields and the Gold Fields Deep might find the task of financing their deep levels too great a strain on their resources. Major Sapte was able to inform shareholders that such progress had already been made by the London office with regard to the proposed issue of £400,000 of debentures which the meeting was called to authorise, that the matter was practically assured. The arrival of Mr Cecil Rhodes in England will no doubt eventually, either directly or indirectly, act as a support for Chartered shares, and I should not be a bit surprised if there were to be a considerable advance in these, in which case the rest of the South African market would most probably also be favourably affected. Obviously, however, everything must depend upon politics and war prospects. Diamond shares have been temporarily dull in sympathy with the weakness on the Paris Bourse, but De Beers have since rallied to $27\frac{3}{16}$, New Jagersfontein to $7\frac{3}{8}$.

Brighton.—Norfolk Hotel.—Old-established County and Family Hotel. The best situation. Replete with comfort, style, and luxury. Moderate charges.—Jules A. Creighton, Manager.

Golden West Australia.

A marked recovery has taken place in the tone of the West Australian market, the last settlement having conclusively shown that the account has been considerably reduced, while forced liquidation has evidently come to an end. The output of gold continues on a large scale, and exports for March amounted to 75,380 oz., to which 8,396 oz. from the Murchison mines, which arrived after the closing of the export returns, have to be added. This compares with 53,739 oz. in February, 93,395 oz. in January this year, and with 40,296 oz. in March last year. The strongest group has been that of the London and Globe Finance Corporation, these shares having advanced to $1\frac{5}{8}$ on the circular to which I drew attention last week. Lake View Consols, too, have been a strong market at $9\frac{3}{8}$, while Ivanhoe have moved up to $5\frac{1}{8}$, a good demand being experienced for all these shares. The amalgamation of the sub-companies of the London and Globe has now been fully authorised, and there is every prospect of the new undertaking, the Standard Exploration Company, proving a success. In the West Australian Market Trust Group a temporary setback is being recovered again. Northern Territories at one time fell to 4, from which there was an improvement to $4\frac{3}{16}$. Very satisfactory statements were made at the meetings of the Western Australian Joint Stock Trust and the Western Australian Loan and General Finance Company, and the explanation as to why no larger distributions are made seems to indicate a conservative policy, to which no objection ought to be raised. It will not have escaped my readers that at the meeting of the Western Australian Joint Stock Trust the Chairman made the statement that the Founders' shares, which take pound for pound with the Trust after the receipt of a dividend of 10 per cent. by the latter, will get £13,000 in cash and £26,000 in script, which of course represents a very handsome dividend upon the capital of the Founders' Company. In reply to a shareholder, who asked for further particulars, the Chairman stated that this meant something over 5 per cent. in cash upon the nominal capital of the Founders' Company, while the script, if converted into cash, would raise the cash dividend to something like $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Under these circumstances the £1 Founders' shares appear to be a very cheap purchase at anything like $\frac{7}{8}$-1. The list of crushings this week is a large one, and it contains some important figures:—

	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings Per Ton.
Great Boulder Proprietary	1,402	3,161	—
Belle Vue Proprietary	159	392	—
Queensland Menzies	90	312	—
Great Boulder Main Reef	830	1,100	—
Australia United	145	297	—
Burbank's Birthday Gift	470	645	—
Paddington Consols	1,200	665	6 dwt.
Wealth of Nations	337	347	—
Norseman	803	704	—
Golden Valley Mines	226	118	—
" "	300	$112\frac{1}{2}$	6 dwt.
Ivanhoe	1,126	1,681	15 dwt.
Menzies Consolidated	449	363	—
Bayley's United (Tailings)	690	738	—
White Feather Main Reef	580	615	9 dwt.
Hannan's Oroya	902	545	—

The Great Boulder Proprietary continues its regular output, and the Great Boulder Main Reef is beginning to show well. The Queensland Menzies, too, is doing very well, and as this is in the same district as the Lady Shenton, and, in fact, adjoins that property, the above crushing is, in conjunction with the late extremely favourable news from the Lady Shenton, of great importance to both mines and to the whole of the district generally. I understand that a very complete report on the Lady Shenton Mine has been received here by mail from Mr. Rayfield, the manager, and that it confirms to the fullest extent the advices which have been received by cable. Whenever this report is published it will at once silence all criticism. As regards dividend prospects, concerning which several correspondents have asked my opinion, I should not be surprised if the next distribution were 1s. 6d. per share, as against 1s. per share which was the previous rate, although I have no official statement on this point

The dividends for the year 1898 should thus reach at least 30 per cent. From the Florence Gold Mine the news is also very favourable, and the following cablegram has been received from Messrs. H. J. Saunders & Co.:—"Rayfield (manager) reports I have not the slightest doubt that reef cut 49 ft. your property is Shenton Reef. Shows fully 3 ft. between walls of. Contains fair sprinkling of gold. Is of opinion that better stone should be found above and below; at the present time looks encouraging for property. Is of opinion that when cross-cutting from main shaft other reefs will be struck." The West Australian Goldfields Group has been quiet, the shares of the parent Company being quoted $1\frac{11}{16}$, but Hampton Plains have improved to $\frac{7}{8}$, and it is understood that some very satisfactory information has come to hand from the property. The news concerning the various mines of the London and West Australian Exploration group is also encouraging. With reference to the Sons of Gwalia a *British Australasian* cablegram states that the rich discovery at the 200 ft. level is confirmed, the average of 7 oz. being maintained. The cablegram adds that the mine is looking better than ever. On the merits of the property Mr. G. W. Hall, who has just returned from Western Australia, and who was originally identified with the discovery of the Sons of Gwalia, made a long statement at a dinner given at the Hotel Cecil last week, which also goes far to prove its great value. Another function which was held last week took the form of a farewell banquet to Mr. Reginald C. Hare, the Secretary of the West Australian Government Agency, who is leaving for the Colony on a six months' trip. Sir Malcolm Fraser, the retiring Agent-General, presided, and made very complimentary remarks concerning Mr. Hare, which were fully endorsed by the assembled guests. Western Australia was, of course, the topic of all the speeches, and the address of Mr. Davies, the General Manager of the Western Australian Railways, was of special interest as indicating the wonderful progress which has been made with the development of the railway system of the Colony. Mr. Wittenoom, the new Agent-General, is expected here at the end of May. Hannan's Brownhill have been a firm market, the price recovering to $7\frac{5}{8}$, and these are the shares which will be found in the van of the improvement in Westralian mines, that cannot fail to come about sooner or later. Golden Horseshoes, after rising, are slightly easier again at $7\frac{7}{16}$, and Great Boulder Proprietary have been dealt in to some extent at 20s. 3d. According to latest cablegrams from Western Australia, the obnoxious regulation, restricting alluvial mining to a depth of 10 ft., has been cancelled, but at the same time the West Australian Cabinet declares that alluvial mining must not interfere with bona-fide working leases or with shaft mining, also that any dispute must be settled by the wardens. The Cabinet further declines to interfere on behalf of the rioters imprisoned at Kalgoorlie. As this should fully safeguard the leases, no objection is taken to the decision. The Sam's Wealth is again in the throes of reconstruction. It was originally the Sam's Wealth Gold and Exploration Company, and from the outset I pointed out that its prospects were most doubtful, and warned my readers to leave the shares severely alone. About eighteen months ago the company came to the end of its tether, and was reconstructed under the name of the Sam's Wealth Mines Development Company. Now again money is required for carrying on its operations, and a second reconstruction is to be resorted to. As prospects are exceedingly doubtful, and seem to depend chiefly on the striking of some rich ore in the neighbouring property, it would appear to be most desirable to wind up the concern, and not to throw good money after bad.

Indian, Australasian, and British Columbian Mines.

In the Indian section business has been restricted, but an improvement to $5\frac{1}{16}$ in Champion reefs is marked on the announcement of the dividend. Nundydroog, which are quoted, ex the dividend of 3s., at $3\frac{5}{8}$, are also firmer; but Goldfields of Mysore, Coromandel, Balaghat, and Mysore Wynaad are all lower. In Australian mines, other than West Australian, British Broken Hill are easier, and there have also been declines in Mount Morgan, Mount Lyell South, New Australian Broken Hill, and Day Dawn Block. On the other hand, Mount Lyells are firmer. From the very interesting report of the West Australian Chamber of Mines (London), I extract the following figures of the gold production of the Australasian Colonies for 1897 and 1896:—

	Ounces.		Value (£).	
	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.
New South Wales ...	292,217	296,072	1,088,413	1,073,360
New Zealand	251,644	263,722	980,203	1,041,764
Queensland	793,524	640,385	2,777,334	2,241,347
South Australia	32,000	27,010	112,000*	95,528
Tasmania	57,192*	62,591	214,470	237,574
Victoria.....	822,632	805,087	3,290,528	3,220,348
Western Australia...	674,994	281,265	2,289,812	1,068,808
Totals	2,924,203	2,376,132	10,752,760	8,978,729

* Approximate.

This comparison shows what wonderful strides Western Australia is making as compared with the sister colonies. In New Zealand mines dealings have been on a small scale. Hauraki and Komata Reefs are lower, and Taitapu have eased off; but Waihi and Waitekauri have improved. Some dealings are reported in Hauraki Associated, which are 4s. shares fully-paid, and quoted 1s. 6d. Crushing is in progress on this mine, and the shares at their very low price deserve attention. Since November last the crushings have been as follows:—

December 22,	100 tons	274 ozs.
January 28,	90 ,,	290 ,,
March 18,	150 ,,	518 ,,

Amongst British Columbian mines a firmer tone has been noticeable, and it looks as if we were going to have more active dealings. A decline has, however, taken place in British Columbia Development Association, Lilooet, Fraser River and Cariboo Goldfields, Vancouver and British Columbia General Exploration, and in War Eagle Consolidated, Hall Mines also being easier. Klondike Bonanza, on the other hand, have improved slightly. British America Corporation shares have been firmer, and a considerable business has been transacted, the quotation being now 20s.6d. to 21s. Governor Mackintosh has left hurriedly for British Columbia. It is an open secret that he is entrusted with a confidential mission concerning a very important business transaction for the London and Globe and British America Corporations. While a large proportion of the Companies in this section which were so plentifully started some three or six months ago, are likely not to be heard of again, others which have enjoyed good management are coming to the front. This is the case with the London and British Columbian Goldfields, a Company which has paid already a dividend of 1s. per share, the capital amounting to £75,000, in £1 shares, 15s. paid, which are quoted $\frac{1}{16}$ - $\frac{3}{16}$ premium. This Company owns the whole of the Ymir Mines, and various other properties, including a 50 per cent. interest in the Whitewater Mines, Limited, and a third interest in the Ruth Silver Mines, while it has also promising claims in the Yukon. The Whitewater Mines, the shares in which are quoted at $\frac{1}{16}$ $\frac{3}{16}$ premium, is already producing silver, and the net proceeds of ore shipped during the first three months of the current year are estimated at $22,300. Some 3,000 tons of ore are reported to be in sight, and it is expected that the output will now be largely increased. Another Company which has thrown itself very energetically into the Klondike business is the Klondike and Columbia Goldfields, Limited. According to the statements made by Mr. J. Morris Catton, the Chairman, who has just returned from the Dominion, this Company has acquired claims on Bonanza Creek, Sulphur Creek, and Dixon Creek, also five miles of dredging rivers on the Klondike itself, and five miles on other rich rivers in the same district, besides various properties in British Columbia. In connection with this Company, the Klondike and Columbian Passenger Agency has been formed, wharves and steamers have been acquired, and as some 200,000 people are expected to travel to Klondike this year, a large transportation business is looked for. This Agency undertakes to convey passengers from London to Klondike for £300, including one year's provisions, viâ Victoria, Dyea

(luggage being transported by aerial tramway across the Chilcoot Pass) to Lake Linderman, thence by boat to Klondike, and, to judge from the crowds attracted by the complete miner's outfit which is shown at the Agency's offices at Ludgate Hill, great interest is taken in the facilities offered. Mexican Mines have been steady, and an early revival in Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico is looked for, while Grand Central have improved to 1⅝-¾.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Linotype Company, Limited.—This is an issue of £250,000 (part of an authorised issue of £1,000,000) 4 per cent. First Mortgage Debentures of £5 each. This extra capital is raised for the purpose of providing funds for completing a capital outlay of upwards of £400,000 in the acquisition of land and building thereon the Company's new works at Broadheath, near Manchester, and other purposes. The share capital of the Company is £2,000,000, divided into Preference and Ordinary shares of £5 each.

The Rubber Estates of Pará, Limited.—This Company is formed to purchase and work the Pará Rubber Estates of the Visconde de St. Domingos, situate in the centre of the rubber districts known as the Islands in the district of Anajas, State of Pará, Brazil, and to carry on the business of rubber curers, shippers, &c. The capital is fixed at £350,000, divided into Preference and Ordinary shares of £1 each.

Bengal Dooars Railway Company, Limited.—The Nationa Bank of India, Limited, are authorised to receive subscriptions for the issue of 25,000 shares of £10 each = £250,000, being the remaining portion of an authorised capital of £400,000 at the issue price of £10 10s. per £10 share. The Company is empowered by contract with the Secretary of State in Council of India to pay interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the shares until the lines to be constructed are open for traffic, or until June 30, 1901, whichever may be the earlier date.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

Arlo.—I think that the exchange from Brazilians into Mining shares would be advantageous to you, if you are content to hold the latter for some time. *Hardup.*—If you send me a stamped and addressed envelope, I will forward you the name of such a firm. The matter is safe enough as long as you do not pay more than market price. *C. A., Warwickshire.*—I do not advise a purchase of this scrip. *Nemo, Highgate.*—I do not think that the tales about default on the part of the Brazilian Government are quite reliable, and it would be advisable to now hold Nos. 1 and 2. As regards No. 3, that is entirely a question of future arrangement, but as an English Company is about to take over the line there is every prospect of the situation improving. 4. No; stand where you are.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Charlie.—You must really tell me what class of investments you require. If you want to be quite safe you cannot get more than 3 per cent.; if you do not mind a little risk, you can get 5 per cent.; and in more speculative undertakings you can get up to 8 per cent., of course, without any guarantee of security. *Subaltern.*—I know nothing about the Corporation mentioned. I will send you the address you ask for on receipt of a stamped and addressed envelope. *H. J. M.*—This is a third-rate Insurance Company, and personally, when the question of security is considered, I think it best to insure with a first-rate institution, even though the terms should be higher. I should prefer the Sun Life, the Scottish Widows' Fund, the Provident Life Office, and other institutions of the same class. *Emma.*—I see nothing objectionable in the Government Annuities, and under the circumstances stated by you, I think that the very best plan is to make the investment proposed. You might, however, before coming to terms, obtain the conditions upon which the Scottish Widows' Fund or the Sun Life Office would carry out the same arrangements. The amount of uncalled capital on joint-stock banks is, of course, a drawback, although if you select a high-class undertaking, the risk is almost nominal. *Dunips.*—I would strongly advise you to defend the case, as these outside brokers are not likely to go into court. If you send me a stamped and addressed envelope, I will forward the name of a smart firm of City solicitors.

Home Rails.

Marcus.—1. No; I advise you to deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. 2. Ditto. 3. Great Central Deferred are fair value at present price, but the 1894 Ordinary are a far better purchase. 4. Quite so. *Demos.*—I am afraid you cannot alter matters as regards the relations in which you are now with the firm in question, but I may be able to help you if you send me a stamped and addressed envelope.

American and Foreign Rails.

E. P.—There is nothing against Mexican Central Four per Cent. Gold bonds, if you are a holder of these. *Bex.*—1. This is a speculative stock, and is sure to move generally with the Yankee market. 2. Yes, 5 per cent. was paid for the year ended June, 1897. 3. A fair speculation, but as the stock is not quoted here, it is far better to invest in one that is. 4. Not in the open market, only by making special arrangements. *Blairnile.*—It is quite impossible to give any further figures with reference to the Union Pacific, and I do not wish to influence your own judgment in any way. *L. P. C.*—I think that the American Railroad bonds A to D would suit you, although they would not exactly be my selection. I have repeatedly given lists of such bonds in which it is advisable to invest, and to these I adhere. Grand Trunk prospects appear to be very favourable, but I do not wish to pin myself to the statement which you want. The time to average the other bonds has not yet arrived. It will be better to wait until a definite proposal for a reconstruction of the road has been brought forward.

Mining Shares.

Jona.—I do not advise a purchase of the shares mentioned by you. You can do better in other shares which are likely to be more in the front rank when the advance comes. *L. D. S.*—Certainly hold Oceana for an improvement. *Egerton.*—A fair mining risk, but no catch. *J. R.*—I have always expressed an unfavourable view of Klerksdorps, and still hold the same opinion. The other shares may recover, but at present there is no temptation to buy more of either of them. *Broach, Lamp, L. G., Z.*—You should not trouble yourselves about every letter which may be written to the newspapers with regard to mines. The position of the Lady Shenton is so assured that the opinion of some stray correspondent is absolutely unimportant. I understand that the directors have in their possession a detailed mail report, which in every respect fully confirms the high value of the mine. If you only hold tight to your shares, you will see them at double their present price in a comparatively short time. You should disregard these "Bear" tactics, as there are a good many people who would like to get in cheap. Also see remarks under "Golden West Australia." *Upton.*—1. I have never had a favourable opinion of East Lake Views, and must decline to advise on the subject of shares which are bought against my advice. 2. No option but to hold for the present. 3. Leave these alone. 4. A fair mining risk, but no catch. 5. These may improve in sympathy with the group. 6. The news from the Hampton Plains is still very favourable, and I understand that some fresh satisfactory advices have lately been received. The address of the secretary is 28 and 29, St. Swithin's-lane, E.C. *J. E. B.*—1. As an exceptional matter I forward you what you require in your envelope. 2. It would not be a bad plan to divide the money as you suggest over Randfontein, Florence, and London and Globe shares. 3. There is no liability for calls on Randfontein or London and Globe. *Emma, Scarborough.*—1. I cannot tell you when this Company is going to pay another dividend, but it is supposed to be doing well. 2. No fresh news; but that which has already come to hand is favourable. *Lipton.*—1. Yes, you might buy more Randfontein to average. 2. I have never said a word in favour of Blagroves, and do not like them now. 3. Take a profit while you can get it. *S. E G.*—1. The shares are nominally quoted 4½d. to 7½d., and the office is at 2 and 3, Birchin-lane, E.C. 2. The news is fairly satisfactory, but the shares are, of course, speculative. *Alpha, Belfast.*—The South African Market is likely to improve generally, and your only course is to hold for a recovery. *J. McI.*—1. Lady Shenton, Ivanhoe, London and Globe, and West Australia Joint Stock Trust Founders. 2. Quite high enough. *Burdon.*—1. I am informed that the news from the Hampton Plains is very satisfactory, and under all the circumstances I advise you to hold. *B. C. A.*—Yes, Lady Shenton are a good purchase, and another dividend is in sight. It should be of 1s. 6d. per share, against the last of 1s. *C. W. H.*—This is not a Company of which I expressed a favourable opinion, and I advise you to get out if you can.

Industrial Shares.

Perplexed Investor.—No particular reason to sell Apollinaris shares after the fall. You might as well take your profit on English Sewing Cotton shares. *R. W.*—*Financial News* Prefs. are a good newspaper investment, and I do not see any reason for selling the shares again. *Singer.*—If you really want the money I suppose that your best plan is to sell rather than to incur fresh liability. *C. B.*—All Industrial investments are more or less speculative, but the shares mentioned by you might safely be held. *Stoke.*—The shares Nos. 1 to 3 are fairly promising. The Savoy Hotel (4) has, as you must be aware, passed through a very disagreeable experience, and it is not for me to say what will be the upshot. Nos. 5 and 6 are also speculative. *W. J. H.*—Why do you take the advice of such journals, which have absolutely no financial standing. I certainly do not like the concern. *Lion.*—No reason to sell Nos. 1 and 2.

Mixed Investments.

A. H. B.—There is absolutely no reason why you should sell Buenos Ayres Water and Drainage bonds, and as regards the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad the re-organisation is in progress, and you should hold. *High Hill.*—I. Certainly; if De Beers reach your cost price again, which is about three points above the present value, you should sell them. There is, however, nothing

to be anxious about. II. No option but to hold for the present. III. This motor concern is practically valueless. IV. This is also a very doubtful concern. Why did you not heed my warnings against this kind of investment. *C. M.*—The reason is that gilt-edged investments generally have declined, owing to the fears of dearer money. I cannot advise you with reference to the diamond shares mentioned.

A Chapter on Industrial Stocks.

The war scares have again exercised an unfavourable effect upon the Industrial department, and business has been interfered with as in other sections by the threatened rupture between the United States and Spain. The settlement, however, passed off satisfactorily, and rates were no heavier than last time. In fact, there was a tendency for contangos to ease off. The feature has been the Lipton allotment, which has certainly been completed with commendable promptitude, although it disappointed a good many people who received only very small numbers of shares. Perhaps they had no right to grumble much, as it had already been fully stated that friends and business connections would have the preference. According to the *Financial News* the following are, however, some of the specimen allotments. An applicant for 20,000 shares received 50 only, while one for 20,000 obtained the whole allotment. Another man who applied for 5,000 shares was allotted 200, one applicant for 200 received 10 and another 100, while a lady who had applied for twenty-five, got the whole number. I suppose that some allowance has to be made for the elimination of "stags," but, upon the whole, somehow the allotment had a flavour of "kissing goes by favour." The other allotment of the week—that of Vi-Cocoa—has also been made very promptly; but I have no figures to go upon in this case. It is stated, however, that many applications have been declined, the Ledger clients receiving the preference. The Anglo dividend proved a pleasant surprise to the market, and shows that even war rumours have their compensation, as they evidently increased the business of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company. I suppose that if war breaks out there will be even more cablegrams to be sent, and thus the present price of Anglo "A" of 13¼ may be justified. In West Australian Timber shares a steady business is being transacted, Millars' Karri and Jarrah being quoted 3⅜, Davies 1⅝, Canning ¼ premium, Jarrah Timber and Wood Paving ¼ premium. Allsopp Ordinary have not been in favour, and have remained in the neighbourhood of 152. As was shown by the remarks made at the shareholders' meeting the financial proposals are distinctly unpopular with the shareholders as well as with the market. Instead of gambling in Allsopps it is, doubtless, far more promising to look for some of the Home Brewery Preference stocks which are still obtainable at moderate price. Such are, for instance, the £5 Cumulative Five and a Half per Cent. Preference shares of J. & J. Yardley & Co., the breweries of which are situate at Bloxwich, Darlaston, and Wolverhampton. These can at present be bought at 4¾. The Company is earning a considerable dividend on the Ordinary shares, and the sales show an increase over those of the previous year. It holds a number of valuable tied houses, and some favourable announcement is shortly expected. In May next a six months' dividend on the Preference shares is due. Russian Petroleum Ordinary are slightly firmer at 20¾, the Prefs. at 10⅞, while Schibaieff are being dealt in at ¼ premium. English Sewing Cottons have been dull at $\frac{9}{16}$ premium, and the promptness of the Lipton allotment brings strongly in relief the vexatious delays that were connected with the Cotton allotment. Welsbach Incandescent Gas stocks, after declining, have firmed up again, the Ordinary to 113, the Preferred to 100, the Deferred to 20s. 6d. In Bovril shares a slight recovery has taken place to 12s. 3d. for the Deferred, while the Ordinary stand at ⅞-1. Schweppes have displayed weakness, the Deferred at $\frac{9}{16}$, the Ordinary at $1\frac{3}{16}$. Hudson's Bay shares have been somewhat firmer at 21¼. Cycle shares have given indications of a moderate revival, and it would not be surprising to see more business, considering the approach of the cycling season. It is true that Dunlop Deferred have again shown great weakness, being down to 10s. 9d., while the Ordinary are also lower at 15s. 6d. Humber Ordinary, however, are the turn firmer at 13s. the Extensions at 7s. Swifts have hardened to 11s., while Singers have receded to 10s. 6d. Cycle Components are better at 29s. 6d., and Amalgamated Tyres are quoted 6s. 9d. A few of the shares of the manufacturing Companies show advances, notably Raglan at 12s. 6d., New Premier at 12s. 6d., and Griffiths at 4s. Spratt's Patent shares are being steadily dealt in at 12¾-13¼. According to the statements made at the meeting, the appointment of Mr. Stephen Wingrove as a Director has been favourabl received, and so has been, of course, the dividend of 12½ per cent. for the year. National Explosives shares are being dealt in to some extent at 1¼-⅜. This reminds me of the fact that the early history of this undertaking was a chequered one. It was formed as far back as 1888 with a capital of £100,000, but having to contend with the dynamite ring it had to be reconstructed in 1892. It is all the more satisfactory, from the shareholders' point of view, that it should now have achieved success, as for the year 1897 a profit of £26,204 was made, and the Company was able to pay 9 per cent. on the Preference and 11 per cent. on the Ordinary shares. The Chairman seems to be sanguine that the prosperity of the Company will continue, even without the cancellation of the dynamite monopoly in the Transvaal, which would, of course, be of the greatest possible importance to the Company. Unfortunately, there is very little hope of such a desirable consummation, as long as Oom Paul remains in his present mood. A share earning 11 per cent. cannot, however, be said to be dear at the price of $1\frac{5}{16}$. Amongst the new industrial undertakings which have recently been placed before the public one of the most extraordinary flotations was that of Holbrook's Worcestershire Sauce, Limited (United States of America and Canadian rights). How the Birmingham Vinegar Brewery Company can ask £60,000 for the right to vend this sauce in the United States and Canada I am at a loss to understand. It implies a taste on the part of our Yankee cousins for Worcester sauce with which they are not credited by other people. It must be considered, of course, that the new Company will only attend to the sale of the sauce, and that the manufacture—which is, no doubt, the most profitable part of the business—will, as hitherto, be in the hands of the vendor company. A prospectus is being privately circulated by the Consolidated Exploration and Finance Company, Limited, which offers 2,000 shares of £5 each in George Whybrow, Limited (proprietors of Whybrow's Pickles). The Company was formed in the autumn of last year, so that I suppose the public have not subscribed for the shares to the extent asked for, although a great fuss is made as regards this being "a home industrial business established in the reign of King George the Third." A correspondent forwards me the prospectus of the Anglo-Canadian Petroleum Company, Limited, which has been sent to him by Mr. Joseph G. Hillam, of 30, Moorgate-street, London, E.C., who, he says, is a complete stranger to him. In the accompanying circular Mr. Hillam offers an underwriting commission of 7½ per cent. in cash and 10 per cent. in fully-paid Cumulative Preference shares for the first 14,000 shares applied for in advance. These are pretty good terms, but I question whether they will tempt many capitalists, as the future of the concern appears to be very much in the air, and the promotion of petroleum Companies has been greatly overdone of late.—Your affectionate uncle,

MOSES.

Old False Teeth Bought.—Many ladies and gentlemen have by them old or disused false teeth, which might as well be turned into money. Messrs. R. D. & J. B. Fraser, of Princes-street, Ipswich (established since 1833), buy old false teeth. If you send your teeth to them they will remit you by return post the utmost value; or, if preferred, they will make you the best offer, and hold the teeth over for your reply. If reference necessary, apply to Messrs. Bacon & Co., Bankers, Ipswich.

Glacier Window Decoration.—A pleasant occupation for ladies is the decoration of the windows of the house, and a reliable substitute for Stained Glass, giving warmth and brightness at small cost, should be warmly welcomed. Glacier has now for 15 years stood the test of use in every country in the world. Send rough plan and measurements of any window, and sketch and estimate of cost of decoration with Glacier will be sent free of charge.—M'Caw, Stevenson, & Orr, Ltd., 29, Cannon-st., London, E.C., & Belfast.

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QUEER STORY.

LADY DOLLY'S REVENGE.

"GREAT floods have flowed from simple sources." Tragedies have sprung from trifles light as air. If Teddy Brooke of the —th Hussars had not chanced to come up from York by the train that gets to King's Cross at 2 10 he would never have seen what he did see. Not that his seeing what he did see would have mattered so much, if he had not straightway told it all to Lady Dolly D'Arcy. But then he did tell it all to Lady Dolly D'Arcy, and that was the root of the whole matter. For Lady Dolly was a woman, and everybody knows what women are.

"I've got such a joke to tell you," said Teddy, as he lounged lazily in Lady Dolly's boudoir and smoked one of Lady Dolly's own special cigarettes—"such a screaming joke. Jove! how I laughed about it afterwards, and so will you."

Lady Dolly nodded her golden head.

"Go on," she said encouragingly: "it's long enough since I heard a really good joke. They're rather scarce nowadays. Who is it about, Teddy?"

Teddy looked at her and winked solemnly.

"Ah!" he remarked, "that's just where the point comes in. It's about—you would never guess who—your old pal Geoffrey Hamilton."

Lady Dolly shrugged her pretty shoulders, and threw the end of her cigarette into the fire.

"Why my old pal?" she asked scornfully. "He never was a special pal of mine that I know of."

Teddy maintained a discreet silence. In common with the rest of the world he knew that Geoffrey Hamilton had at one time been a very special friend and admirer of Lady Dolly's, also that she had taken his marriage rather badly—but of course he could not say so. A man cannot very well say things of that sort to a woman, even if he wishes to—and Teddy did not wish to.

"A joke about Geoffrey Hamilton ought to be a good one," Lady Dolly went on, as she lighted a fresh cigarette with great deliberation. "At all events, it will be a novelty. He is not the sort of man who lends himself easily to jokes."

"Rather not!" said Teddy. "Now listen, Dolly, and I'll tell you all about it."

Lady Dolly composed herself comfortably in her chair, with her feet crossed on the brass rail of the fender, and her hands clasped at the back of her head.

"Go on," she said again.

Teddy went on.

"You see," he said, "it was like this. When I got to King's Cross I suddenly remembered that I'd forgotten to send a wire that I ought to have sent before I left York, so I turned into the telegraph office to send it. Well, when I got into the office there seemed to be a deuce of a row going on, and I couldn't make out what it was. There was a girl crying, and arguing, and making no end of a fuss, and a clerk arguing, too—you never saw such a set-out. Well, I looked and listened a bit, and first I thought I'd clear out and leave them to it, but the girl—she was a jolly pretty girl, and a lady, too—seemed in such trouble that I thought after all I'd better take a hand in the game. I'm hanged if I can stand seeing a woman cry. It always knocks me out of time."

Teddy paused for breath, and Lady Dolly looked at him from beneath her half-closed eyelids.

"Where does Mr. Hamilton come in?" she asked.

"Give me time," returned Teddy. "What are you in such a hurry for? Well, as I said before, I thought I'd better take a hand in the game. So I went up to the girl and brought out my best manners. 'I beg your pardon,' says I, 'but you seem to be in trouble about something, and I don't like to see a lady in trouble. Can I help you in any way?' The girl turned to me all in a hurry. 'Oh! thank you,' she said; and then she told me the whole story. It seems that she was going to Scarborough, and when she went to take her ticket she found that her pocket had been picked and her purse was gone, so she'd missed her train. Well, that was bad enough, but what she seemed to think worse still was that she couldn't send a wire to the people she was going to. There she was, crying, and offering her umbrella to the clerk, and begging him to take it and send the wire for it. 'I'll bring you the money in an hour,' she said, 'I swear I will. It will only take me that time to go home and get it. I wouldn't ask you to do such a thing, but that every moment is of importance to me. Oh! do send the wire—do.' But the clerk happened to be one of those pompous, wooden-headed, leather-hearted fools who can't see an inch in front of their own noses. 'It's a very extraordinary request,' says he, 'a very extraordinary request indeed, and I should be greatly exceeding my duty if I acceded to it. Your tale may be true, or it may not. In my opinion——' Well, here I came to the rescue. I'd heard enough. 'Oh! stow that,' says I, 'we don't want to hear your opinion; we can get on very well without it. Just send the lady's message, will you, and stop making a fool of yourself?' I really thought he was going to have a fit, but, however, he thought better of it, and took the money I gave him and held out his hand for the telegram like a lamb. The girl had already written it, and now handed it over. I have my share of curiosity, though I'm not a woman, and I must say I should like to have seen what was written on that form. She was too quick for me though, and I only just caught sight of the address. What do you think it was?"

Lady Dolly contemplated the tips of her pretty toes as they rested on the fender in front of her.

"How should I know?" she asked, with a fine assumption of indifference that did not deceive Teddy Brooke in the very least.

He laughed.

"Geoffrey Hamilton, Grand Hotel, Scarborough," he said. "There! what do you think of that?"

Lady Dolly frowned thoughtfully, still contemplating her toes.

"It might be another Geoffrey Hamilton," she suggested.

"It might," said Teddy, "it might, but I happen to know that our mutual friend is at Scarborough now, and staying at the Grand. He went a day or two ago to see his brother-in-law, who has been taken ill there."

"And his wife?" asked Lady Dolly. "Is she with him?"

"No," answered Teddy, "she's in town. I met her as I was driving here this afternoon."

"Ah!" said Lady Dolly, and then she relapsed into silence.

Teddy watched her rather uneasily. Whither her thoughts tended he did not know, but it was evident from the expression of her face that they went far. When at last he spoke to her she started as if she had quite forgotten that he was there.

"Well, what do you make of it?" he asked.

She laughed, shrugging her shoulders.

"What do I make of it?" she repeated. "What should I make of it if it had happened to be my husband, or you, or any man of my acquaintance?"

Teddy laughed too.

"She was a jolly pretty girl," he said rather vaguely, "and in such trouble."

Lady Dolly looked at him sharply.

"What has that got to do with it?" she asked. "I suppose Mr Hamilton has been trying his hand at—at flirtation again. He used to be rather good at it, and although he is married now—well—why should he be different from other men?"

"Why, indeed?" Teddy replied drily. "His wife thinks he is, though."

"Oh! his wife," said Lady Dolly, with fine disdain. "His wife! She is such a strange girl, half a child and half a saint. Who is to understand her?"

"She has uncommon fine eyes," said Teddy reflectively, "and she believes in her husband with all her heart. I hope she'll never get wind of anything of this kind, for there will be the devil to pay if she does. Mind you don't let the cat out of the bag, Dolly. I'll never tell you a joke again if you do."

Lady Dolly nodded and changed the subject. She had made up her mind what she would do; but she was not going to enlighten Teddy. She knew her world.

"I'll let the little fool know that Geoffrey isn't all she thinks him,' she thought to herself, while Teddy poured the latest garrison gossip into her inattentive ears. "I can do it by degrees; just a hint here and a word there, and then, as Teddy says, there will be the devil to pay. Not that she will make scenes—she isn't that sort of woman. It will be a case of the little rift within the lute, that's all. She is too proud to ask him for an explanation: she will only be cold and different to him; and he—don't I know him?—he will never ask her why she is different. He would sooner die. They will drift gradually apart, and then——"

Fate had placed an opportunity for revenge in Lady Dolly's way, and she was not the woman to let it pass.

* * * * *

Lady Dolly and the Hamiltons met very often, as people in the same set always must, and they met the next evening at an At Home. Lady Dolly was by way of being rather friendly with Geoffrey Hamilton's wife, and it never occurred to the latter that the charming smile with which she invariably greeted her veiled the strongest emotions of hatred and jealousy that had ever stirred the shallows of her ladyship's frivolous nature. Ursula Hamilton took everything and everybody quite seriously. She was, as Lady Dolly said, a strange girl, half child and half saint, and her ways were not altogether the ways of Lady Dolly's world.

"How hot it is!" said Lady Dolly, pausing in her passage through the crowded room, a dainty Dresden china-like figure in a shimmer of satin and diamonds. "I wish Mrs. Talbot-Browne wouldn't ask so many people. It's positive cruelty. Mr. Hamilton, do you feel inclined to play the part of Good Samaritan to the extent of getting me an ice?"

"Of course I do," answered Geoffrey Hamilton, as in duty bound; "and if you will trust yourself to me I think I can find you a quiet place to eat it in."

"It sounds too good to be true," laughed Lady Dolly. "May I put him to the test, Mrs. Hamilton? Can you spare him for five minutes?"

There was a challenge in her eyes, but Ursula Hamilton did not see it.

"Oh! yes," she answered, indifferently.

Lady Dolly looked curiously at her as she stood there in her tall, cold, serene beauty, and laughed again as she moved away by Geoffrey Hamilton's side. He piloted her skilfully through the fashionable crowd to a deep, cushioned window seat that by good luck happened to be vacant just then.

"Is this better?" he asked. "If you don't mind waiting a moment, I'll do my best for you in the way of an ice, but don't expect great things."

Lady Dolly sank down on the soft cushions with a sigh of relief.

"Oh! this is too nice," she said. "Get an apricot ice, if you can, and please be quick. The heat has made me feel quite faint."

"I'm sorry," said Geoffrey, and he hurried away.

In a few minutes he returned triumphant.

"Here you are," he said; "I got the best I could. I hope you feel better now."

"Yes, thank you," said Lady Dolly decorously.

He sat down beside her and took up the large white feather fan that lay on her knee.

"Shall I fan you?' he asked.

"Yes—no—I don't care," Lady Dolly answered, rather incoherently. "Look here, Geoffrey, I want to say a word to you quietly, before we're disturbed."

A slight expression of surprise crossed his face.

"I am at your service," he said, with grave and distant politeness. "What can I do for you, Lady Dolly?"

She laughed a little and shrugged her shoulders at the formal address, but she made no remark.

"Oh! it's nothing very special," she said; "I heard a little story about you yesterday, that's all. Teddy Brooke told it to me, and you may thank your stars that he chose me for his confidante. You know what some women are. They delight in spreading a tale all over London, but—but I am not like that, and Teddy can be awfully discreet when he chooses. Besides——" She paused, and her eyes filled up the silence eloquently.

Geoffrey frowned, and his face grew white and stern.

"If you have anything to say, say it," he returned curtly. "What has Brooke been telling you about me?"

"You needn't be so—so—er—brusque," Lady Dolly retorted, with a pout. "You—you never used to speak to me like that."

He frowned again, and squared his broad shoulders with an impatient movement.

"Never mind what I used to do," he said, more gently. "Let sleeping dogs lie. It's better than waking them up, I assure you. What did Brooke tell you?"

She smiled at him mischievously over her last spoonful of ice.

"Such a funny little tale," she answered. "Put my plate down, and I'll tell you all about it."

So Geoffrey put her plate down, and then she told him all about it; and he listened in silence, with a very grave look in his dark eyes—a look that she had never seen there before. When she had finished he did not fly into a rage, as she had half expected he would; he did not even make a remark, but sat staring into space with as absent and preoccupied an air as if he had forgotten her existence. Lady Dolly felt puzzled and angry.

"Well?" she said at last. "Haven't you a word to say for yourself? What does it all mean?"

He roused himself then and turned to her gravely, so gravely that she was quite startled.

"It means," he said, "a great deal—a great deal more than it appears to."

Lady Dolly smiled vaguely at her fan.

"Ah, yes," she said; "things often do."

"It means," he said again, "a great deal." He paused for a moment, then leaned forward with a quick, sudden movement, and looked keenly and searchingly into her face. "We used to be good friends once," he said.

She raised her eyebrows quizzically.

"Men are so inconsistent," she remarked. "A few minutes ago, when I reminded you of that fact, you told me to let sleeping dogs lie."

He made an impatient movement.

"Be serious," he said—"please be serious. This is no laughing matter. It's—it's a matter almost of life and death."

Lady Dolly looked up quickly. The situation was becoming interesting.

"I am quite serious," she said, "and if I can help you, I will. You may depend on me."

Which was true—up to a certain point.

"It isn't a matter that concerns me," Geoffrey went on. "If it were, you and Brooke would be welcome to tell it to all the world, and to put what construction you pleased on it. I shouldn't care. But it concerns my wife."

"Ah!" said Lady Dolly softly.

"It concerns my wife," Geoffrey said again, "and for her sake I hope you will keep quiet, and make Brooke keep quiet, too. She—she has never done you any harm."

Lady Dolly smiled her sweetest and most innocent smile.

"Nobody ever does me any harm," she remarked, equably; "I never let them."

Geoffrey would have smiled, too, if he had not been in such deadly, desperate earnest. The speech was so characteristic of the woman who made it.

"I believe you," he said; and then he went on in a very grave tone, "You will keep quiet, won't you?"

Lady Dolly looked at him reflectively over the edge of her fan.

"You haven't told me the story yet," she said. "What did it all mean?"

He frowned uneasily.

"I can't tell you," he answered. "It's a dead secret. Even Ursula doesn't know it, although it concerns her own brother—and I hope to Heaven she never may."

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Lady Dolly was silent.

"I can't tell you," Geoffrey said again. "I daren't tell you, and that's the honest truth. But I give you my word of honour, it's no scrape of my own. If it were, as I said before, you would be welcome to tell the tale to all the world. But—but—well, it's like this. My wife has only one brother, and he is a great deal more to her than most brothers are to their sisters. She positively idolises him, and thinks there is nobody like him. Well, he has got into a mess, and it is a devil of a mess; not an ordinary affair by any means, I can assure you. How he could do what he did I can't think—he must be mad as well as bad. Fortunately he came to me to help him, and I did my best for him, though I'm not accustomed to being mixed up in things of that sort. Everything is squared up and settled now, and if it hadn't been for that unlucky meeting with Brooke yesterday, no one would ever have got wind of it."

"The lady lost her head, you see," Lady Dolly remarked, examining her fan with critical attention. "If she had kept cool Teddy would have been no wiser."

"Kept cool!" Geoffrey echoed, with a short laugh. "Good heavens! You don't know all that depended on my getting that wire at a certain time, or you wouldn't talk about keeping cool."

"I know nothing," said Lady Dolly.

"You know all that you ever will know from me," Geoffrey returned curtly. "You know more than my wife knows. Poor child! If she knew all that I know it would break her heart."

"Did you ever meet any one with a broken heart?" asked Lady Dolly, still studying her fan.

He frowned impatiently.

"That is an abstract question," he said, "and we've no time to discuss abstract questions now. We might be interrupted any moment. Look here, Dolly, what do you mean to do?"

"What do you want me to do?" asked Lady Dolly slowly.

"You know as well as I do," retorted Geoffrey. "I want you to keep quiet yourself, and keep Brooke quiet too. If that tale gets about, it's bound to come to my wife's ears in the end, and then it will be a choice of two evils with a vengeance. Confound the fellow! Why did he come up by that train?"

Lady Dolly laughed softly.

"The workings of Providence are mysterious," she said.

"Oh! I think we'll leave Providence out of the question," said Geoffrey bluntly. "Providence has no business to take a hand in this sort of game. Look here, Dolly, don't keep me in suspense any longer. Promise that you'll keep quiet, and I'll do anything in the world for you—upon my soul I will. You won't round on me now, will you? Promise—for my wife's sake."

Lady Dolly raised her eyes slowly and looked at him. Geoffrey read the look, and changed his tone a little.

"Oh! well," he said, with a half laugh, "for *my* sake, then, if you like. We used to be good friends, and—and—for *my* sake, then, Dolly."

* * * * *

It was full ten minutes later before Lady Dolly, looking flushed and excited, and prettier than ever, paused by Ursula Hamilton's side.

"I have brought your husband back, Mrs. Hamilton, with many thanks for the loan," she said. "He really was as good as his word for once. He got me a delightful ice, and found me a quite charming place to eat it in." She looked at the girl whom she addressed with her sweetest and friendliest smile; then, seeing that Geoffrey had turned away to speak to a passing acquaintance, she drew a little nearer. "By-the-bye," she whispered behind her fan, safe in the solitude of a crowd, "you remember what I said to you this morning in the Park—or perhaps you have forgotten."

Ursula Hamilton flushed scarlet through all her clear sensitive skin, then grew suddenly white, and a passionate light flashed into her great grey eyes.

"Forgotten!" she echoed, and her tone would have gone straight to Lady Dolly's heart if her ladyship had happened to be in possession of such an old-fashioned commodity.

Lady Dolly smiled again.

"Ah! you always take things so seriously," she said again, "It's an awfully bad habit, and ruin to one's complexion—utter ruin." She paused for a moment with her head a little on one side, and thoughtfully contemplated the girl who had married the only man whose admiration she really cared two straws about. "You mustn't take what I told you this morning seriously though," she went on, still smiling, "for it was a joke—only a joke, I assure you. I didn't mean a word of it."

Ursula Hamilton looked at her.

"You—didn't—mean—a—word—of—it," she repeated slowly.

"Not a word," declared Lady Dolly gaily, with an emphatic shake of her golden head. "Not one single word. Did you really think I did? Why, how white you look! For Heaven's sake, don't make a scene! It was a joke, I tell you, only a joke. Forget it as quickly as you can. This is the first of April, and I made you an April fool. That is all."

Ursula turned suddenly scarlet again.

"Lady Dolly," she exclaimed, "I—I——"

But Lady Dolly had had enough for one day.

"I must go now," she said hurriedly; "I am due at Lady Robinson's in twenty minutes. Au revoir."

And with a smiling nod of farewell she disappeared once more in the crowd.

* * * * *

There are people in the world who say that Lady Dolly is not a clever woman; but I don't agree with them.

ART NOTES.

I WAS referring in this column two or three weeks ago to the way in which the evolution of the Sacred-picture exhibition into a sort of Church service had been carried out of late years in London. The movement is still going on. Mr. Arthur Lucas has gone one better than the Messrs. Dowdeswell; and a visit to "The Great Awakening," by Mr. Herbert Schmalz is even more like a religious function than one paid to Herr Munkacsy's "Ecce Homo." In effect, a pulpit has now been erected in the sacred picture gallery and a well-known divine retained on the establishment, so to speak, to deliver an address to the visitors. Thus, when we go to see "The Great Awakening," a homily, suitable to the occasion, by the Rev. John Watson, M.A., D.D., is placed in our hands, and, to foster still further the idea that one is in church, a copy of an appropriate hymn is also distributed. I have not yet heard of this hymn having been actually sung in front of Mr. Schmalz's canvas, but at any rate there is an offertory—or perhaps I should rather say "a silver collection"—at the doors as the congregation goes in. So that it now only remains for the enterprising picture-gallery proprietor to secure the services of Dr. Parker, or some other minister known to be "powerful in extempore prayer," and the exploitation of the Sacred Picture Show will be virtually complete.

In the present instance, the Rev. John Watson, otherwise better known as "Ian Maclaren," takes his text from the First Epistle to the Corinthians, the twentieth chapter and fifty-first verse. The sermon he delivers on it, which is duly printed in pamphlet form for the edification of every visitor to Ackermann's Gallery, is doubtless what his admirers would call "a braw, bonnie discoorse." The essential points upon which he insists in it are, apparently, that Mr. Herbert Schmalz is an exceptionally excellent painter and that the Reverend John Watson is his interpreter. "When words utterly fail as a mode of expression," he tells us, "then the painter, especially of the mystical order, casts the shadowy aspiration on his canvas in a figure!" But Mr. Herbert Schmalz has done more than this. He has used two figures for his purpose, one representing the Angel of the Resurrection and the other that of a young maiden whom the said Angel is personally conducting—presumably to Paradise. "With a fresh and artistic reserve"—I again quote the

homily of the Rev. J. Watson, D.D.:—"the painter has left each person to imagine both the Valley of the Shadow with its agony and the City of God with its joy." Somewhat similar was the ingenious method of the battle painters of a generation or so since—such as Mr. George Jones, R.A., for example—who used to cover their canvases principally with smoke, and thus leave it to spectators to imagine for themselves what sanguinary conflicts were going on beneath its convenient cover. But it is not my intention to enter into any detailed description of Mr. Schmalz's "Great Awakening." I think it only necessary to say about it (as I have said about other popular works of art in this column before), that for those who like this sort of picture, this is pre-eminently the sort of picture they will like.

There is something delightfully fresh and breezy about Mr. W. L. Wyllie's water-colours at the Dowdeswell Gallery. He has studied fair and foul weather—principally fair—to excellent purpose from his floating studio, and it is hard to look at the drawings he has made without again wondering why it was found necessary to confer the post of "Marine Painter to Her Majesty" on an Italian artist some few years since. Anyhow Mr. Wyllie paints the waves as well as Britannia rules them, and is thoroughly at home in the drawing of all sorts and conditions of ships. The picture I least liked in his Exhibition is the largest, a canvas painted in oils, dealing with the Jubilee Naval Review of last summer. How often it is the case that painting to order has a blighting effect on the hand of the artist. Still there is so much that is charming in the collection of pictures shown by Mr. Wyllie, that it would be indeed hard if one refused to forgive him for the one elaborate mistake it contains.

MUSIC.

THE WAGNER OPERA CONDUCTORSHIP.

THE death of Anton Seidl has only temporarily upset the arrangements for the Wagner Festival at Covent Garden. Of course, there are plenty of good men available, better men perhaps than Seidl himself, who although in German opera infinitely superior to the Italians, who hold firmly to the belief that Wagner and noise are identical terms, could, at any rate not claim to be the equal of Mottl or Richter. Hitherto the difficulty at Covent Garden has been to secure a conductor who does not want to monopolise the whole time of rehearsals in the Continental fashion. Abroad, the salaries of bandsmen are comparatively small, less than a fourth of the London tariff, while the manager has the call upon their whole time and services. Besides, on the Continent operatic novelties are comparatively few and a conductor frequently has three or four months in order to prepare them. At Covent Garden the opera has to be changed nearly every night, and although a British orchestra is amazingly quick to grasp the ideas of a conductor, yet if the orchestral chief be fidgety, as most of the minor Continental conductors are, the work cannot be got through.

Of course, so far as the "Ring" performances are concerned, the usual one or two rehearsals will be supplemented, and thus the objection which Mottl in Sir Augustus Harris' time expressed to accept the post of conductor at Covent Garden no longer applies. Richter, too, is thoroughly accustomed to British ways, and has, indeed, conducted operas both at Covent Garden and Drury Lane. Another possible man is Herr Mahler, who is now director of the Opera at Vienna, although he, I believe, would be willing enough to return to London in May and June. Both Richter and Mottl will actually be here at that time, while in the background are Dr. Muck, Stavenhagen, Richard Strauss, Weingärtner (who, by the way, has just accepted a ten years' engagement as conductor of the Kaim concerts at Munich), D'Albert, Nikisch, and others; so that there is no lack of first-rate men. Indeed, the chief difficulty is to choose from among them. Indications seem to point to the selection of Mottl, already one of the conductors of Mr. Schultz Curtius, who is interested in the enterprise. Perhaps Richter would be an all-round better man, and I understand that there is not likely to be the slightest difficulty on the ground either that his services are needed in Vienna or that he is under the managerial control of Mr. Vert. Indeed, Richter is now in Paris in order to conduct a Colonne Concert there, when the matter is to be discussed. Mottl will also be here in a fortnight's time, and the choice practically lies between these two. It should be recollected that although the influence of Mr. Schultz Curtius in such a matter would be great, as representing the Mme. Wagner interests, yet that the responsible parties after all are the Covent Garden Syndicate. Indeed, although it is perfectly true that every seat allotted to the Wagner Party is sold out for the whole three cycles, yet it seems that only 600 places per night were available to Mr. Curtius—or, in other words, about one-third of the house. The rest belongs to the subscribers and the librarians, who are pretty sure to charge a considerable premium for tickets before the performances take place.

A few weeks ago I had plenty of correspondence concerning the smallness of the fees paid to professors of music in general and to organists in particular. The bitter cry is now raised from the ranks of Music Teachers. Sir John Stainer, it is well known, is an advocate of the registration of teachers in order to exclude the incompetent man. Mr. Ernest Newlandsmith, who recently had a successful bout with the Imperial Institute authorities, has a plan which, in point of fact, is trade-unionism pure and simple. He proposes that there shall be a "registered" fee like a solicitor's 6s. 8d., so that musical tuition should be paid for at the rate of four guineas for a course of twelve half-hour lessons, no more and no less. He believes that this scheme would oust the incompetent man, for if a parent had to pay the same fee, whatever the rank of the professor, he would naturally choose the best man available. How this economic idea would suit Mr. Randegger, Mr. Visetti, Miss Bessie Cox, and the other eminent singing teachers is not exactly clear. No doubt their classes, already full, would then be filled to overflowing, though I doubt very much whether their income-tax returns would be so large. To Mr. Newlandsmith and his friends it might, perhaps, be another matter. Nevertheless, one principle of trade-unionism might successfully be adopted in the case of Music Teachers. What they chiefly need is federation and organisation.

The Philharmonic concert last week again drew a comparatively small audience, despite the fact that the rising young Russian pianist, Ossif Gabrilowitsch, was the star of the evening. The Philharmonic people indeed have, beyond much question, made a mistake in fixing all their concerts upon the "unfashionable" Thursdays. Monday or Wednesday, the former Philharmonic nights, would have been a far better choice. M. Gabrilowitsch gave an amazingly vigorous and wonderfully brilliant performance of Liszt's concerto in E flat, with, for an encore, one of Rubinstein's Barcarolles. The orchestral accompaniments to the concerto were, on the other hand, hopelessly below the old Philharmonic average. It would be interesting to investigate the reasons which have led to this now perfectly obvious falling off in the standard of performance of that which once was our representative English orchestra. It may, of course, be due to fossil directors, a too good-tempered conductor, the transfer of some of the best youngsters to the opera, or the dull pitch. Anyhow, that the Philharmonic band could do far better if they liked was proved by a really excellent performance of Dr. Saint-Saëns symphonic poem "Phaëton."

It has been pointed out that the Centenary of the production of Hadyn's "Creation" takes place on the 29th inst. The date, however, is not quite accurate, for although the famous oratorio was given privately in the Schwarzenburg Palace, Vienna, on April 29, 1798, it was not heard in public at the Imperial Opera House, Vienna, until March 19 in the following year. In 1899, no doubt, we

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shall have a Centenary performance, for, despite its venerable age, the melodies of the "Creation" are still as fresh and pleasant to the ear as ever.

Mr. Cowen's songs are already such public favourites that it hardly needed his song recital on Friday to enhance their popularity, even if a Gargantuan feast of this description did not induce satiety. For thirty-two songs by one composer form rather a severe dose, even to the most inveterate lover of the British ballad. The audience was, however, lucky in the fact that, owing to the illness of one of the artists, eight ballads were omitted. Mr. Cowen, in many of these light and unpretentious though always agreeable works, shows that it is possible to write a drawing-room song with refinement and genuine musicianly feeling.

The Spring Orchestral Concerts at the Crystal Palace never drew very large audiences, and the experience seems this year likely to be repeated. Indeed, it is difficult to understand why the directors should attempt to attract London amateurs at a time when there is a plethora of symphony concerts in London proper. This year Mr. Manns has tried to entice the public by means of familiar programmes of more or less hackneyed works. Also at every concert some eminent artist is engaged. But Londoners have refused to listen to the voice of the charmer, while the local amateur remains apathetic. The Palace management are themselves partly to blame by trying March and April concerts at all, particularly after they had printed and published a ridiculous pamphlet designed for nothing else than to show that the famous concerts were on the down grade. Yet if favourite works could draw the public the concerts ought to be crammed. Last Saturday's programme, for example, was about as good as any one could have drawn up from the popular point of view, although it contained no special novelties. It comprised the "Linz" symphony in C of Mozart, some of the "Rosamunde" music and the Handel "Largo," besides songs for Mme. Lucile Hill, including three musicianly efforts from the pen of a young Royal Academy student upon whom his godfathers and godmothers, thoughtlessly enough, have conferred the wonderful name of "Garnet Wolseley Cox." There were also solos for the young Russian pianist M. Gabrilowitsch. In fact, the pianoforte pieces were quite the most satisfactory things of the day. M. Gabrilowitsch is never heard to greater advantage than in the music of his fellow countryman Tschaikowsky, and he again played that master's B Flat Minor concerto most brilliantly. He was afterwards heard in some Chopin pieces, and in a transcription by Tausig. There will be some big doings at the Palace on Good Friday, when an enormous audience is certain for the afternoon sacred concert. The concert next Saturday might, on the other hand, just as well be abandoned. Audiences are so small on Easter Eve that it was at one time even the practice to devote that day to the production of new works by youthful British composers.

I learn that Mr. Jacobi has relinquished his post as conductor at the Alhambra, a position which he has held for a quarter of a century. The "author of a hundred ballets" will be missed at this home of the dance, but his bright musical fancy will doubtless be in evidence elsewhere. Mr. Jacobi—who is a Berlinese, but studied at the Paris Conservatoire—was originally conductor of the Bouffes in Paris, where he produced two of his operas. The war, however, drove him to England, and he has been here since 1870. His wife, a well-known teacher of stage deportment, was one of the few, and certainly one of the best, pupils of the distinguished danseuse, Mme. Taglioni.

The statements which have gone the rounds concerning the resignation of Mr. Squire as Chief Violoncellist at the Opera are a result of the new policy very properly adopted at Covent Garden, and of which I spoke a few weeks ago. The directors desire to command as far as possible the whole time of the band, and at any rate they have resolved to avoid the annoyance and loss they have so frequently experienced when a rehearsal of a Philharmonic concert has clashed with an important rehearsal of a new opera. Accordingly the band had the choice between eight concerts of the Philharmonic Society and the seventy performances at Covent Garden. All but about a dozen of them, I believe, have wisely stuck to the Opera. The four o'clock Wagner representations no doubt indicate a legitimate grievance, which the liberality of the Covent Garden Syndicate will overcome. It practically is two performances, viz., an afternoon and an evening, and should be paid for accordingly.

M. Paderewski played at the opening of the reconstructed Salle Erard on Saturday. A regular recital at St. James's Hall would have been much better. The tone of the Polish pianist is a great deal too powerfull for so small an apartment.

The last of the Popular Concerts took place on Monday with a Brahms programme, the Joachim Quartet party then making their final appearance this season. It is a pity they did not come earlier in the year, but I believe they are dissatisfied with the usual audiences at the Monday concerts, and will not return next spring. Indeed, the Monday (as distinct from the Saturday) "Pops" want complete reorganising. Mr. and Mrs. Henschel last week gave their final vocal recital. It was extremely well attended and, indeed, there are few more pleasant entertainments than the interesting programmes drawn up by this clever couple. The Bohemian String Quartet Party have given their final concert, and last week Miss Julie Petersen, the Danish flautist who has been personally patronised by the Princess of Wales, made a successful *début*. The oratorio, "St. David"—I spare the Welsh title—by Mr. David Jenkins, one of the foremost composers of the Principality, was produced by a Welsh choir at the Queen's Hall on Monday. It is a sound and musicianly work, the national feeling being supplied by the use of several real old Welsh folk tunes.

Despite rumours that Sir Arthur Sullivan would be unable, after all, to select a subject for the Leeds Festival this year, he has now authorised the announcement that the work is a secular cantata, and that it will be produced on Saturday afternoon, October 8. It perhaps would have been better if it could first have been heard earlier in the Festival week, and repeated on the Saturday night, as in the case of "The Golden Legend." The other novelties of the Leeds Festival will be a symphonic work, lasting about half an hour, from the pen of Humperdinck, which he will conduct himself (it is hoped with less stage fright than he showed at the Philharmonic Concert last autumn), a new cantata, "Caractacus," by Mr. Elgar, and a new sacred ode, "The Foe Behind, the Deep Before," by Dr. Alan Gray, of Trinity College, Cambridge. There is also to be a "Te Deum," written by Dr. Villiers Stanford to his favourite Latin text. It seems strange that the Royal College composers stick so faithfully to the dead language. It may be glorious, but, as the fate of the "Requiem" has shown, it is not business. The new Pinero and Sullivan "romantic opera," entitled "The Beauty Stone," and in three instead of two acts, will be produced at the Savoy on or about May 14.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—It was quite a relief to me to find that Mr. H. B. Irving's rehabilitation of "Judge Jeffreys" (1) did not canonise the bogey of my boyhood. "Macaulay's schoolboy," though he may not have been as omniscient as the historian, was certainly as cocksure and uncompromising in his judgments, and revelled, therefore, in the famous "black and white style." All the historian's unmitigated sheep or goat, "god or devil" judgments are implicitly accepted in boyhood as natural and unimpeachable, and it is only in after life we make the discovery that Macaulay never tells the truth, but always either very much more or less than the truth. I was not in the least surprised, therefore, to discover from Mr. Irving's admirably-written "Life of Judge Jeffreys" that Macaulay had excelled himself in his raw-head and bloody-bones portraiture of the Chief Justice. Indeed, my surprise was rather that the Judge was not,

after the usual fashion of the day, washed white as a new-born lamb. Even in Mr. Irving's portrait, where everything is done to soften the ruffianly fury of this bloodhound, he is a revolting figure. There are a few slips which Mr. Irving might think worth correcting in the next edition of his most interesting work, such as the vulgar use of "aggravate" in the sense of "enrage," of "imperatively" in the sense of "immediately" — as in the phrase "imperatively yielded," applying to a concession a term only applicable to a demand — and the following misquotation from Pope :—

Careless on high stood unabashed Defoe.

No doubt "careless" is historically more correct than what Pope wrote—"earless"—since Defoe was pilloried without the loss of his ears. I hardly know whether or not to recommend to you "Through the Famine Districts of India" (2), because you will find it as heart-harrowing as it is interesting. It is true that Mr. Merewether, Reuter's special Famine Correspondent, has considerately hinted merely at the awful and gruesome scenes it was his business to witness and report upon, yet his account of the monstrous and even murderous dilatoriness and inefficiency of the Government is piteous and at the same time maddening reading. What is to be said for heartless and brainless trifling of this kind :—

It is scarcely conceivable, but none the less a fact, that notwithstanding the very apparent and appalling famine which was prevalent in this district, the Government of India at such a crisis had chosen this time for demanding from the civil authorities of Bilaspur a careful report and returns showing the effect that the present distress was having, or likely to have, upon the cloth industry of the district. The whole of the clerical staff were fully occupied from early morning till dewy eve in preparing the most elaborate and careful statistics upon this all-engrossing topic. In the meantime, the actual inhabitants of Bilaspur were dying of starvation while under the supposed ægis of the Government and within their very gates.

An idiotic Nero, fiddling while Rome burned, is even more hopeless than a tyrant consciously parading his indifference to the conflagration. Even in the poorhouses the wretched natives were starved slowly to death, partly through supineness and mismanagement, and partly through fraud. By the way, did you ever hear, or hear an explanation of, this singular and invariable symptom of approaching death from famine :—

At certain stages of want a fine down of smooth hair appears all over the bodies of the afflicted. It has a most curious look, and gives the wearer a more simian look than ever. When this had once appeared there was no hope for the sufferer. There were more than a score of souls who had reached this stage, and their bodies were covered from head to foot with the soft-looking black fur.

Even if you are not always convinced by Mr. W. H. Mallock's arguments, you will certainly enjoy his "Aristocracy and Evolution" (3), because of the singular clearness and picturesqueness of its presentation of the case against Socialism. The Socialists argue that as feudalism arose out of slavery, and capitalism arose of feudalism, so will socialism arise out of capitalism; but they are reminded that slavery, feudalism, and capitalism agree to differ from socialism in the one essential point. Under all three exceptional strength, intellect, and energy controlled, and were exceptionally rewarded for controlling, the average many. The few always led, though they led in right of different powers—at first in right of fighting power, then of legislative power, and then of industrial power. Incomparably the most brilliant and sympathetic account of "The Thirty Days' War Between Greece and Turkey" (4) of the many I have read is that which Mr. Henry W. Nevinson has compiled out of his special correspondence for the *Daily Chronicle*. In reading this thrilling and heart-breaking narrative you have again and again the misgiving that the charges of vapouring and cowardice with which the Powers have overwhelmed Greece might, with infinitely more justice, be retorted upon the Powers :—

On the field and in finance the ruin of Greece was complete. Committed helplessly by the King into the hands of the Powers, she had practically ceased to be a nation. If they had dared to consummate the crime which they had inaugurated by their jealousies and hatred of liberty, they might have left her again bodily to the possession of the Turk, and she could hardly have protested. And, indeed, in that case she would have been delivered from the politicians and foreign financiers who prey upon her life, and in a few years we might have seen an uprising of the whole nation, compared to which the War of Independence seventy years ago was child's play.

How the inaction of the Greek fleet and the mishandling of the Greek forces should be the mystery it seems to have been to Mr. Nevinson I cannot understand, when the other trickeries and treacheries of their King and of the Powers is so clear to his eyes. Jews, in the vulturous part of bondholders, had probably as much to do with the Greek disasters as the Powers, and as the race will have to be taken into account more and more in politics, it is as well to study our masters. There are, however, pleasanter reasons than this for my recommending to you Mr. Zangwill's powerful and suggestive series of Jewish portraits, "Dreamers of the Ghetto" (5). The most interesting is naturally that of the most interesting of all modern Jews, Heine, who, however, justified amply his own boast of being the most cosmopolitan of men :—

I am a Jew, I am a Christian. I am Tragedy, I am Comedy—Heraclitus and Democritus in one; a Greek, a Hebrew; an adorer of despotism as incarnate in Napoleon; an admirer of Communism as embodied in Proudhon; a Latin, a Teuton; a beast, a devil, a god.

And so, in truth, he was. Different indeed in the kind, though not in the degree, of its interest is J. K. Huysman's "Cathedral" (6), which Mrs. Bell has translated and Mr. Kegan Paul has edited. It is a little too much however, to be asked to accept unreservedly Mr. Kegan Paul's doctrine, that "the strife between Durtal and the Catholic Religion is the struggle between vice and virtue, not between two different modes of serving God. . . . The general view of the matter may be summed up in the words of an hotel-keeper in a Burgundian town :—'Ah, sir, I hope you are not a Protestant. There are only three Protestants in this town, and they are all persons of indifferent lives.'" Finally let me commend to your notice some new fiction which is specially calculated to while away an idle hour. There is Mr. Manville Fenn's latest story, "A Woman Worth Winning" (7), a stirring modern drama of love and madness. Then in "Across the Salt Seas" (8), a story of the days of Marlborough, Mr. Bloundelle Burton has managed to catch the very essence of the true romantic spirit. Another new novel, Mr. Jephson's curious blend of modernity and romance, is consistently amusing, though to some tastes the morals of his "Keepers of the People" (9) may seem just a little too Oriental. Should none of these just meet your taste, a dip into the pages of "Under One Cover" (10) cannot fail to provide you with entertainment. A series of bright original stories such as are contained in this volume, is always welcome.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

(1) "The Life of Judge Jeffreys." By H. B. Irving, M.A. Oxon. With Three Portraits. (London: William Heinemann.)
(2) "A Tour Through the Famine Districts of India." By F. H. S. Merewether (London: A. D Innes & Co. Price 16s.)
(3) "Aristocracy and Evolution." A Study of the Rights, the Origin, and the Social Functions of the Wealthier Classes. By W. H. Mallock. (London: Adam & Charles Black. Price 12s. 6d.)
(4) "Scenes in the Thirty Days War between Greece and Turkey." 1897. By Henry W. Nevinson. (London: J. M. Dent & Co.)
(5) "Dreamers of the Ghetto." By I. Zangwill. (London: William Heinemann. Price 6s.)
(6) "The Cathedral." By J. K. Huysmans. Translated from the French by Clara Bell. Edited with a Prefatory Note by C. Kegan Paul. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, & Co., Limited. Price 6s.)
(7) "A Woman Worth Winning." By G. Manville Fenn. (London: Chatto & Windus. Price 6s.)
(8) "Across the Salt Seas." By J. Bloundelle Burton. (London: Methuen & Co. Price 6s.)
(9) "The Keepers of the People." By Edgar Jephson. (London: C. Arthur Pearson, Limited Price 6s.)
(10) "Under One Cover." A new collection of stories by various authors. (London: Skeffington & Son. Price 3s. 6d.)

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—We have managed to spend a very interesting week, though you will find London described as extremely dull in most of the Society papers. It is dull, I believe, for everybody who can manage it is basking in sunshine in the South of France. If somebody would only leave us a thousand pounds we would escape an English winter ourselves in that agreeable way next year. We love our London dearly, however, and have explored fresh portions since I wrote you last. The Marchioness of Dufferin opened a new branch of the Children's Happy Evenings Association last Tuesday evening at Ponton-road, Nine Elms, and having received an invitation from Miss Edith Heather-Bigg, the hon. secretary, and, I believe, the originator of the Association, we wended our way to Vauxhall Station and thence down Nine Elms-lane to the scene of action. It is a very poor neighbourhood, and the houses are small and dingy. Among them we noticed a very quaint and beautiful old gateway, and, on asking what it was, were told that it once was the entrance to the Greencoat School, but now belongs to a distillery. There is a saint, or the statue of some benevolent person, in a niche above the doorway. How puzzled the poor saint must be to find himself superintending the passage of casks of spirits instead of small children!

At Ponton-road we found a company of children assembled in a very large room of the district Board school, the little creatures all expectation. "A happy evening" has a tempting sound, even to the youngsters in roomy and comfortable homes. What such an evening means to the children of the crowded poor it is difficult to gauge. The little girls were almost all neatly dressed, but the little boys not so much so. There are difficulties about boys' clothes when poverty rules the supply. When Lady Dufferin arrived, the good girl of the school presented her with a bouquet of daffodils, and after a few words of introduction from the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Montague Barlow, the Marchioness made a nice little speech to the children, in a low but very distinct voice, telling them that, in order to know how to play, they must know how to be gentle, good-tempered, self-denying, and considerate—cushions not corners, in fact, as in the old story. With Lady Dufferin was her pretty daughter, Lady Hermione Blackwood, and among other ladies present were the Countess of Iddesleigh, Lady Howard de Walden, the Hon. Mrs. Newdigate, Lady Samuelson, and other members of the Executive Committee. Lady Jersey was "chairman." After the speeches, the children began to play, some of them taking hands in a circle and dancing round some object in the centre, which it was the aim of every player to knock over. Others went into a large room where drawing-slates were provided for them, and a large party elected to be drafted off into another room where Miss Ada Heather-Bigg told them a story. It was the very first evening of the kind in that district, and the children have, in many cases, to be taught how to play. Fun does not enter much into their clouded little lives. All honour to the sweet, good women who try to relieve the gloom that poverty spreads over them!

There are now fifty-nine branches of the Happy Evenings Association, at which over 9,000 children are made happy with healthy recreation in the large rooms of the Board schools, which would otherwise be useless and empty in the evenings. The game of keeping shop is found to be a great favourite, and dolls are provided for the girls of tender age. The children are encouraged to make small presents for their parents out of old Christmas cards, turning them into covers of needlebooks, and making pincushions out of scraps of silk. All kinds of odds and ends come in very usefully, and you might remember the "Happy Evenings" when you are turning out those accumulations of etceteras on which one has periodically to make onslaught. If parents would follow the example of the Duchess of York (who is President of the Association), and send their children's left-off toys to the schools, there would be a considerable increase in the materials for manufacturing happiness on these occasions, a manufacture which requires some skill and experience, as well as kind-heartedness and active goodwill.

Money is wanted. With so many millionaires scattered about London, such a state of things should not exist. For every pound subscribed, twenty children can have a weekly happy evening for a period of seven months. If you know any one who wishes to deal in happiness as a marketable commodity, purveying it by cheque to those who need it, tell them that their contributions may be sent to Mr. Montague Barlow, 12, King's Bench-walk, Temple.

On Wednesday afternoon we spent two delightful hours at the first flower show of the season—the show of spring flowers at the Botanical Gardens. Never have I been more impressed with the incalculable vagaries of our mysterious climate. But three or four days earlier we had been in mid-winter, shivering over the fire as we looked out at the driving squalls of snow and sleet dashed against the windows by the pitiless breath of the north-easterly gale. On Wednesday we were basking at the Botanical Gardens under the balmiest of spring sunshine and listening to the 1st Life Guards' band with quite a summer-like sensation of indolence. As for the flowers, I should have to give up my whole letter to them to do them justice. Though nominally a spring show, there were splendid exhibits of roses, as well as orchids and cliveas and other exotics—the florist in these days knows nothing of seasons. But, to my thinking, the real spring flowers came out the best of all, and among them none made a more entrancing show than the narcissus. Even without a flower show, however, the Botanic Society's gardens are one of the most delightful spots in London, and on a bright spring day, with the birds singing all around, and not a trace of smoke overhead, you can sit there and imagine yourself hundreds of miles from London. It was a selfish thing to shut the public out of this Eden for so long, and the Society deserved to suffer for it, just as it deserves to profit by the more liberal and generous policy which now prevails.

On Thursday afternoon we went to the Comedy to see Mrs. Bernard-Beere in "Masks and Faces," and found a brilliant house assembled in good time to see the first act of "Peril," which preceded Charles Reade's delightful play. Mrs. Beerbohm Tree, as Lady Ormonde, wore a sweet gown in pure white in some soft material that fell in lovely folds. The front of the bodice was filled in with beige-tinted lace with a pink rose tucked in the pale blue sash. Mrs. Bernard-Beere's dresses as Peg Woffington were most successful. I do not know any actress who puts herself, it would seem unconsciously, into such picturesque attitudes as Mrs. Bernard-Beere. In the first act she wore a Dresden China sort of costume, or Watteau shepherdess, the gown of grey and blue brocade being bunched up over a front of white satin painted in a design of pink and white roses. The hat was an inspiration. It was white or palest blue satin, the brim lined with the same and crossed by diagonal lines of red, the tint matching the velvet waistcoat and the narrow ruching on the double cape of the gown. Even more becoming was the tomato-red dress in the supper scene, Mrs. Bernard-Beere's tall figure giving value to the graceful lines in which the soft red silk fell from the waist. There was a long trained over-dress of velvet in a deeper tone of red, and embroidered in long lines of roses and green leaves. A kind of vest of brown and green beads held the silken folds at the waist. The square bodice was held with a great diamond star at one side, and a similar ornament was fastened in the hair. In the last act, the under-dress is beige lace, a material beloved of artistic folk, with over-dress of old rose damask, the tones being poetically soft and dull. Peg's brogue was delicious, and her slippers were enchanting. With the beige lace she wore orange silk stockings and kid shoes to match, the jig she dances giving opportunities of studying *chaussure.*

The seventh annual "At Home" of the Children's Salon is to be held at the Westminster Town Hall, Victoria-street, on Saturday April 16, when the usual programme will be

New Spring Fashions.—Messrs. Redfern have now on view in their Showrooms a unique display of Toilettes, illustrative of the latest London and Paris fashions, and to which they invite an inspection.—26, Conduit-street, London, W.

gone through, to the time of beating girlish hearts. The competitions will be got over in the morning, when a distinguished array of judges will decide as to the winners of the various prizes. Very interesting things are among the prizes, for instance, necklaces of Orient pearls for the best skirt-dancers, brooches of different descriptions, silver-backed brushes and hand-mirrors, sets of Shakespeare and Tennyson, ostrich-feather fans, &c.: well worth trying for. There will be a flutter in the dovecotes that morning!

This is the time for new gowns of every kind, new skirts, new matinées, new everything, is it not? Even men are going to their tailors in an endless procession, unconsciously inspired by the breath of April and the inner conviction of the inappropriateness of shabby garb to the first sweet days of spring. We have been industriously making a round of the shops, and procuring for ourselves those comparatively light and cool garments that supersede winter clothes and precede summer raiment. It is a not disagreeable interval. I love Easter with its hopeful brightness and the cheeriness of an awaking world. And it is plea-ant to feel that one's attire is fresh and in harmony with Nature's new spring toilette.

We saw such sweet sunshades at Sykes Josephine's—little poems, dear. They were made of chiffon in all possible shades, and can be ordered to match any dress. One was in pink chiffon, with the wooden stick enamelled to match, and a very sweet handle of transparent red crystal. This stick and handle can be reproduced in any colour.

Miss Peggie Mactear is to be married on the 30th at St. Margaret's, Westminster, to Mr. Edward Powell, of Oakbank, Cheshire. The wedding will be a smart one, and there will be hosts of friends present, for the bride-elect and her mother are extremely popular, and know everybody. There is to be a reception after the ceremony, at the Grafton Gallery, which is this year in greater demand than ever for such functions.

Some high-born amateurs have resolved to benefit the funds of H.R.H. Princess Christian's Home for Trained Nurses at Windsor by a dramatic performance of "The Home Secretary," to be given at the Matinée Theatre, St. George's place, on Thursday evening, May 12, and Friday evening, May 13. Among those who will play parts are Lady Helena Douglas Hamilton, Lady Mary Pepys, the Hon. Ethel Cadogan, Mrs. Norton, Captain Ulick Browne, and Captain Norton. The Prince and Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar have given their patronage, besides several of our Dukes and Duchesses and a long list of Marchionesses and Countesses. It is going to be a very smart affair.

Have you seen the new periodical, *The World of Fashion?* It comes out weekly, and is all about dress, with any number of illustrations and the brightest possible gossip about chiffons. Clever Mrs. Aria edits it, and sheds the glow of her merry mood over it all. It is just the thing for you to take in down in the country, where it is difficult to keep up with fashion's vagaries unless you supply yourself with constant, reliable information on the subject.

In Piccadilly on Saturday we met a man who wore the new moustache. It is an interesting variety of hirsute adornment, and you must tell your brother all about it. Your husband, being a clergyman, will not seriously incline to such frivolities. The new moustache is butterfly-shaped, the solidly compact arrangement in the centre representing the body, and the ends the wings. These were brushed out in a fringe, each hair of which was distinct, and this fringe took an upward direction, and rested on the cheek. The effect was decidedly out of the common.

Apropos to novelties of this kind, Raoul has just had a show of artistic and historical coiffures, and also of various little contrivances for beautifying the human head feminine, such as fringes and nuques of the most distractingly pretty sort—quite an armoury of coquettish weapons.

The worst of wearing this kind of thing must be the horror with which the natural woman must behold herself in the glass when she has taken off all the etceteras and accidently catches sight of her real self, for she would never have conrage to deliberately scan her appearance without the supplementary charms that make such a difference. And then, one's maid! With what a shiver one must contemplate her inmost impressions about one.

When you are choosing materials for dresses, be sure to ask for those with a pirle finish Don't forget the word, which is an unusual one. It means a particnlarly fine finish, which not only enables the fabrics to which it is applied to retain their gloss for ever so long, but preserves them from the ill effects of a shower of rain.

The new tea-gowns are of a most tempting description. They showed us one in honeysuckle-coloured brocade made in a quite new shape, fitting closely to the figure, and trimmed with yellowish thread lace in a very graceful way. The front was all pink chiffon with insertions of lace across it. The sleeves were also rather new, being double in effect. Long, fully-gathered sleeves of the chiffon were topped by short ones made of puffings of the brocade. A pretty breakfast-gown was made of ondulé pongee silk. Do you know this material? It has all the appearance of having been accordion-pleated, but this effect is secured in the making of the silk. It thus clings closely to the figure defining it very daintily. The gown is trimmed with lace and blue ribbons, the insertions being perpendicular. We noticed some very inexpensive tea-gowns with Watteau backs and in silks of every colour trimmed with ruches of lace, and made with such pretty sleeves widening out slightly below the elbows where they are daintily finished with lace and chiffon These gowns are lined throughout with muslin in the same colour as the silk of which they are composed.

A handsome teagown or reception dress was made of black brocade, the pleat at the back being held in to the figure by means of rich jet ornaments. The front was trimmed with long, shaped pieces of green velvet elaborately embroidered with jet. Beginning at the neck, these pieces slope off at either side, the ends disappearing under the folds of the Watteau at the back. The collar and sleeves of this gown were remarkably pretty.

We had quite an orgie of silk blouses in all the newest and most attractive tones of colour. These are handmade, and have tucks across the front and back. All were different, some having frills down the front, and others being made with revers, lace-edged. One was pink, another blue, a third mauve, and so on, the chief point of similarity being that all were made of glacé silk of a peculiarly brilliant description. Silk petticoats with deep, accordion-pleated flounces, were displayed in bewildering variety, making choice an embarrassment. Their delightful lightness makes these skirts a pleasant change after the necessary warmth of winter ones.

Christabel writes from Paris:—

We passed a charming afternoon the day before yesterday at the Comtesse de Kessler's, when the long-promised performance of "La Dame aux Camélias" took place. The pretty little drawing-room stage was beautifully decorated and upholstered. The hostess took the part of Marguerite Gautier, and in the first scene wore a lovely deep emerald green robe of fleur de velours, softened with tulle of the same shade; the front of the bodice and tablier sparkled with jewels of all colours embroidered on the tulle. The long net sleeves were unlined, but drawn and puckered with a little fulled heading running up the outer seam. In the second act, Marguerite wore an elegant morning gown of white lace, with a Watteau pleat at the back, over the palest tint of mauve. The third dress was lovely rose pink, embroidered and brocaded all over with shaded flowers and leaves, softened with pink gauze and long sleeves of the same.

In the ball-room scene there was quite a sensation when Marguerite entered in a magnificent dress of white tulle over satin, the tulle sprinkled all over with large, glittering, diamond dewdrops. She wore a spray of white camellias on the left side of the low bodice, and the same flowers formed a garland round the foot of the skirt. The Comtesse wore a black velvet dog-collar,

Stoutness.—Well-cut Corsets and a supporting Belt are the most effective means of toning down a redundancy of tissue.—Apply to Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co, The Celebrated Anatomical Corsetières, 289, Regent-st., Oxford-circus, London.

with superb real diamonds, and a band of the same was in her fair hair, with a star in front; it was a most lovely dress, and suited the beautiful wearer. Mme. J., who played Olympe, was in green moire, the bodice handsomely spangled and ornamented. In the dying scene Marguerite appeared in an exquisite lace dressing-gown, covered with a sheath of ermine from head to foot. I say sheath, for I find no other word for the garment; without sleeves, slightly open in front, designing the elegant outline of the figure, without a seam, fulness, or crease being visible.

Now for a few of the pretty gowns worn by the guests. One was of black lace guipure over pale pink. The lace was shaped in princess form and quite untrimmed. The toque worn with it was in black spangled lace, and was slightly raised at the left side with a row of pink roses resting on the hair.

A silver grey cashmere gown was enhanced by white embroidery in relief, executed in white wool over grey faille. This went all round the skirt and up in a garland on each side of the tablier. The bodice had small basques and a white silk belt. The revers were of white guipure striped with white satin, opening in front over a chemisette of pale blue silk muslin. A charming little turban hat of grey tulle with straight black feathers spangled with steel was worn with this.

A costume of fine beige cloth was made with soft long pleats in the skirt. The bodice had a rounded yoke of Oriental embroidery, with a pattern in white kid, following the outline of the yoke, and down one side of the skirt. A toque of lavender blue velvet with black satin chou and a blue aigrette was worn with this. A rich black fleur de velours, with a plain skirt, had revers on the bodice of black satin, edged with a border of very rich and sparkling steel embroidery. The capote was black, with mauve flowers and feathers.

A blue foulard, with a pattern of lilies of the valley in white, had on the skirt small flounces of miroir-blue taffetas. The bodice was of the same taffetas, with handsome white guipure laid on over the silk, and a white satin waistband. A blue straw hat, trimmed with lilies of the valley, finished this rather spring-like costume.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin :—

Dearest Madge,—The question is not "Are you going anywhere for Easter?" but "Where are you going?" The going is taken for granted. Easter is a season at which, without in any way consulting our own tastes and inclinations, we are under the social—selectly social—obligation to go somewhere—to leave, at least, the place of our habitual abiding. The tradition of Christmas—a good deal menaced of late—requires us to stay by our own firesides; that of Easter, on the contrary, demands our forsaking them in favour of other people's houses and pleasure resorts in our own kingdom or abroad. A general change there must be, as in the game of "posts." Let each one be where he was not. Which, perhaps, would take many of the "best set" back to their own homes. For it may well be said in these days, that when it is not homely there is no place like home. What a thing of the past the old, quiet, home life is! Crowded, nd crushed, and rushed out of existence almost! Supposing that ne possibly could have a weakness for anything so old-fashioned, how deep down in the secret depths of the heart one would keep the absurd feeling. Who could stand against the imputation of having spent a whole year, or even six months, at a stretch in one's own home? And as to having enjoyed the experience—well, if one were capable of such an excess of dowdiness one might just as well retire from the stage of Society at once.

It is hardly necessary for me to say that we are not going to spend Easter at home, but are betaking ourselves to the country amongst the primroses and the lambs, exchanging the noises of town for the singing of birds and the distant sound of the sea. There is no festivity this week in Dublin, but afterwards an outbreak of gaiety will culminate in the whirl of Punchestown week. Lord and Lady Cadogan will be at the Viceregal Lodge for the racing carnival; four race days in one week is a good enough record. April is still early for out-door amusements; its traditional capriciousness makes the Punchestown and Leopardstown costumes difficult to plan. One's mind gets so torn with doubts, so tormented with possibilities regarding the weather and impossibilities regarding one's costumes. It is so difficult to bring the weather and the dress into harmony. The week—experience has taught us—may be anything from glacially wintry to softly and sunnily summerlike. And then all the degrees that lie between. In fact one would need the mind and the method of Alice's "White Knight" to prepare what would then no doubt reach the magnitude of a trousseau, for the week. Do you like the return to long dresses? They are not at all in keeping with the spirit of the age, but a going back to more old-fashioned and inactive ideas regarding woman. Draperies in excess do not suit taking life actively. I imagine a man trailing about in long garments. They are in our way, too, now that our pursuits are mostly manly, and we no longer languish, faint gracefully and recline on couches in elegant idleness. Whether or not we are doing any better than our grandmothers did, we are certainly doing it more vehemently and with more expenditure of muscle. Indeed, these respected ladies, with regard to the latter, can hardly have had any muscle to expend, and would have looked on the development of it as very unladylike. Will the twentieth century women look on us as very poor things, and on our most advanced and newest women as terribly behind the times? No doubt it will come to that. And what imagination is powerful enough to picture what these women of the future will be.

The Meath Hunt Races at Navan were the principal social event of last week, and brought together all the elect of the county and many others. The Ward Hunt Races at Fairy House always take place on Easter Monday, and are the most important that precede those at Punchestown. They are nearly always patronised by Viceroyalty, with a party and large suite in attendance. Lord and Lady Roberts, who have entertained hospitably at Kilmainham during the season, are going for a change with their family to Abbeyleix. Lord de Vesci having lent them his house for several weeks. Do you remember the Poet Laureate's description of the gardens and the bluebell-carpeted woods of Abbeyleix? It was not poetry, and none the worse perhaps for that.

Lord de Vesci has come in for a small portion of Lord Carlingford's property, but not for Ravensdale, a fine house in the county of Louth, which has gone to Lord Congleton. It has one of those long avenues which were the pride of the old Irish landlords, and are the despair of their descendants, so expensive to keep up, and so inconvenient in an age that no longer appreciates the exclusiveness of isolation. Lord Congleton, who is the General in command at Malta, where he is living with Lady Congleton and his family, has not yet taken possession of his new residence. He is the head of the Parnell family to which the great Irish leader belonged.

Mrs. Parnell, the mother of Charles Stewart Parnell, who died last week at Avondale, was a clever woman, of strong individuality, an American by birth. She was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery, where her son, O'Connell, and many other celebrated Irishmen rest. The floral tribute sent by the American Ambassador, Colonel Hay, was one of the most beautiful wreaths laid on her grave. At one time a leading member of Irish Society, Mrs. Parnell went through many vicissitudes in her long life.—

Yours ever, Clare.

Frances writes from Brighton :—

Dearest Madge,—The ice rink is to be kept open till April 16, that is, for Easter; it would have been a pity if Brighton had been shorn of one of its greatest attractions just at that holiday season. On Tuesday (March 29) we all went to see Mr. George A. Meagher give one of his marvellous exhibitions of fancy and figure skating. You, of course, have seen him, but to us his cleverness was quite a surprise. There were a number of smart people looking on. You do not know our local celebrities, so their names would not interest you. Among the visitors we noticed Lady Archie Campbell in one of the costumes she usually affects—blouse and toque to match of white brocaded silk, with a velvet skirt; wearing on Thursday (when there was a capital hockey match) a blue silk blouse and toque, with a dark coloured skirt.

The hockey matches are always exciting. This was between the Brighton Ice Skating Club team—now such a strong one—and one composed of officers of the Royal Sussex Regiment, quartered at Preston Barracks. Brighton won very easily by eleven goals to two. Sir William Call, Mr. Duncan Furner, the Hon. McClintock Bunbury, Captain Johnson, and Mr. Cumberledge composed the Brighton team; Mr. Ashworth, Mr. Anderson, Captain Jellicorse, Mr. Gouldsmith, and Captain Blake that of the Royal Sussex. There is a talk of getting up ladies' hockey matches next season, but I hardly think we have enough good skaters as yet to make much of a show. It looks so easy to skate, does it not? But is far from being as easy as it looks.

Brighton will be very full for Easter, I hear, and if we have a continuation of this glorious weather it will be charming. Why not run down for a few days?

Have you any time for recipes this week? You will find this "orange cake" quite new and very delicious:—

For the cake:—Beat 4 oz. of butter with 4 oz. of sugar until creamy, beat in 2 eggs separately, mix in 4 oz. of flour, and the zest of an orange rubbed on sugar and pounded. Bake the cake in a small round tin about an hour, then leave it to cool. Divide half a dozen Jaffa oranges in their natural divisions, free from pips, sprinkle them with castor sugar and a dessertspoonful of maraschino. After standing for an hour, mix the fruit lightly with half a pint of stiffly-whipped cream, sweetened and flavoured with maraschino. At the moment of serving, cut the cake into slices half an inch thick, put a layer in the bottom of a dish, cover it with the orange and cream; repeat the process until all the ingredients are used, making fruit and cream the last layer.

Herring roes preserved in tins are a great delicacy, and very useful in an emergency. They can be dressed in this way:—

Stand the tin containing the roes in a stewpan of hot water for a few minutes. Then open the tin and turn the roes carefully on to a buttered baking tin, sprinkle them with a very little scraped shalot, a spoonful of chopped and blanched parsley, and a little lemon juice. Put the tin in the oven for five minutes, then dish the roes on strips of toast, previously spread with anchovy butter; sprinkle them with a little passed lobster coral, arrange them on a dish paper and garnish them with fried parsley.

Ever, dear, your loving cousin, MADGE.

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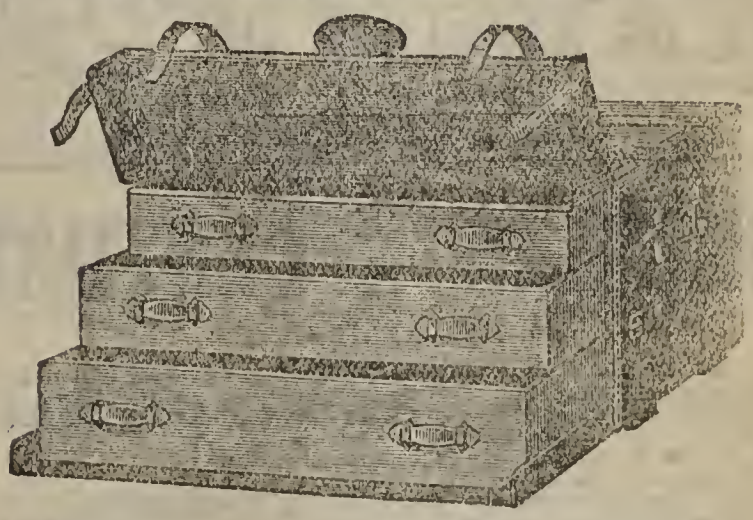

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SPECIAL NOTE.—The CHEAP FRIDAY or SATURDAY to MONDAY TICKETS to CANTERBURY, RAMSGATE, MARGATE, SANDWICH, DEAL, WALMER, HYTHE, SANDGATE, FOLKESTONE, and DOVER, issued on Thursday, April 7th, and the CHEAP SUNDAY to MONDAY TICKETS to TUNBRIDGE WELLS, ST. LEONARDS, HASTINGS, RAMSGATE, and MARGATE, issued on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, will be available to return on Wednesday, April 13th.

CHEAP CONTINENTAL EXCURSIONS.

BOULOGNE.—Charing Cross, dep. 2.45 p.m., and Cannon-street, 2.50 p.m. Saturday, April 9th, 21s. (1st Cl.), 12s. 6d. (3rd Cl.), returning at 7.50 p.m. on Easter Monday. Cheap Tickets will also be issued on April 7th and 8th, from Charing Cross and Cannon-street, 34s. (1st Cl.), 19s. (3rd Cl.). These Tickets are available for 4 days, and by certain Services only. On EASTER MONDAY, leaving Charing Cross at 10.0 a.m. Returning from Boulogne at 7.50 p.m. same day, or 12.30 a.m. following morning, 14s. (1st Cl.), 9s. (3rd Cl.).

PARIS.—Charing Cross and Cannon-street, dep. 9 a.m. and 10.0 a.m. from Charing Cross only, THURSDAY, April 7th, 1st and 2nd Cl. only. Charing Cross and Cannon-street, dep. 2.45 p.m., and 9.0 p.m. April 6th to 11th 58s. 4d. (1st Cl.), 37s. 6d. (2nd Cl.), 30s. (3rd Cl.). Tickets available for 14 days.

CALAIS.—Charing Cross and Cannon-street, dep. 9.0 a.m., EASTER MONDAY, 15s. (1st Cl.), 10s. (3rd Cl.). Returning same day at 1.10 p.m. and 3.45 p.m., or 1.30 a.m. following morning. Cheap Tickets will also be issued on April 7th and 8th, from Charing Cross and Cannon-street, 35s. (1st Cl.), 20s. (3rd Cl.). These Tickets are available for 4 days and by certain Services only.

BRUSSELS, viâ Calais or viâ Boulogne.—Charing Cross and Cannon-street, dep. 9.0 a.m. (viâ Calais, and 1st and 2nd Cl. only), 2.45 p.m. (viâ Boulogne) or 9.0 p.m. (viâ Calais), 47s. 6d. (1st Cl.), 33s. 5d. (2nd Cl.), 22s. 2d. (3rd Cl.), April 6th to 11th. Tickets available for 8 days.

BRUSSELS, viâ Ostend.—Charing Cross and Cannon-street, dep. 9.0 a.m., 5.35 p.m. and 9.0 p.m., 37s. 5d. (1st Cl.), 26s. 8d. (2nd Cl.), 19s. 11d. (3rd Cl.), and by 9.0 p.m. Train only), April 6th to 11th. Tickets available for 8 days.

OSTEND.—Charing Cross and Cannon-street, dep. 9.0 a.m., 5.35 p.m., and 9.0 p.m., 28s. 3d. (1st Cl.), 19s. 9d. (2nd Cl.), April 6th to 11th. Tickets available for 8 days.

The Ordinary Continental Services will run as usual.

For full Particulars of the Return Times of the above Excursions, Alterations in Train Services, &c., see Bills and Holiday Programme.

ALFRED WILLIS,
Manager (Passenger Department).

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.—CHEAP TICKETS will be issued on GOOD FRIDAY, SATURDAY, EASTER SUNDAY and MONDAY, APRIL 8, 9, 10, and 11, by certain Trains from PADDINGTON, Addison Road, Hammersmith, &c., to Staines (2s.), WINDSOR (2s. 6d.), TAPLOW and MAIDENHEAD (3s.), Cookham, Bourne End, GREAT MARLOW, Shiplake, and HENLEY (3s. 6d.), Tilehurst, Pangbourne, and Goring (6s.), Cholsey (6s. 6d.), and on SATURDAY and EASTER MONDAY only to Wallingford (7s.).

For full particulars, see pamphlets.

J. L. WILKINSON, General Manager.

TEN-GUINEA ROME TOUR.

Organised by Dr. Lunn and Mr. Perowne.

Extensions: NAPLES, FLORENCE, VENICE, RIVIERA.

Lectures by Dean Farrar. Dover-Calais Route.

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Electric Light Fittings

New Designs

(in Classic and Renaissance)
for Season '98

2 & 3 BERNERS ST. LONDON W

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ONLY ADDRESS OF ORIGINAL CARTER

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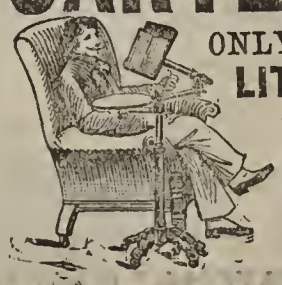

For holding book, lamp, meals, &c., in any position over an easychair, bed, or sofa. Deliciously luxurious. A most useful gift. Prices from **17/6**

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ADJUSTABLE COUCHES and BEDS from £1. 10/-

Bed Lift £3. 10/-
Reclining Boards, 25/-
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Bed Rests 7/6
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Commodes, £1. 5/-

Carrying Chairs from £1.

Breakfast in Bed Tables from 30/-

Self-Propelling Chairs from £2

BATH CHAIRS FROM **£1. 5/-**

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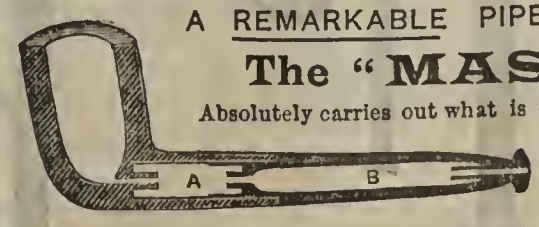
A REMARKABLE PIPE! Why? Because

The "MASTA" Pipe



Absolutely carries out what is claimed for it—viz., Simplicity of Construction, Perfect Freedom from Nicotine, No Choking, Cool, Dry, Sweet, Clean, & Healthful Smoking.

Prices from **1/6, 2/6, 3/6.** Your Tobacconist will supply it. If any delay, write The "Masta" Patent Pipe Co., 153, Fleet-street, London, E.C.

What Smokers say:—JOHN LEES, 123, Regent-road, Bootle, Oct. 21st, 1897, writes—"The 'Masta' Pipe turned out most satisfactorily. It is *very sweet to smoke*, and *absolutely dry*."

WHEN YOU CANNOT SLEEP,

A Dose of Chlorobrom is all you require

A good night's rest follows very shortly after taking this dose.

There are no after effects, and Chlorobrom is absolutely harmless.

It simply has one effect, which is to cause easy and refreshing sleep.

When you are restless at night and cannot sleep, Remember

Chlorobrom

Will give you a Refreshing Night's Rest.

It is not unpleasant to take. It is recommended and prescribed all over the Kingdom by Medical Men. **Price 2s. 9d.**

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BURGOYNE, BURBIDGES & Co., 16, Coleman Street, London.

POSITIVELY PRODUCES HAIR.

STOPS IT FALLING OUT.

KEEPS IT ITS NATURAL COLOUR.

PREVENTS IT GOING GREY.

BEST FOR BEARDS AND MOUSTACHES.

"TATCHO"

[THE "GEORGE R. SIMS" HAIR RESTORER.]

"TATCHO" is sold by all Chemists and Hairdressers throughout the World in Bottles, **2s. 9d.** and **5s.**, or can be had post-free direct from the office, 11, Farringdon-avenue, E.C., on receipt of Postal Order for **3s.** or **5s. 4d.** Cheques and P.O.'s should be made payable to the "George R. Sims" Hair Restorer Company, and crossed Union Bank.

"GEORGE R. SIMS" HAIR RESTORER COMPANY, Ltd., 11, Farringdon-avenue, City, E.C.

GROWS BEAUTIFUL BOUNTIFUL HAIR.

MAKES WOMEN'S TRESSES SOFT AND SILKEN.

A DELIGHTFUL HAIR WASH AND TONIC.

BEST FOR THE TOILET TABLE.

The Purest and the Nicest.

Hovis Bread

Perfectly Self Digestive.

Hovis Bread is baked and delivered daily by all good class Bakers in the British Isles; **Hovis Biscuits** are sold by most Grocers and Bakers; or 6d. and 1s. Samples of Bread and Biscuits will be sent on receipt of stamps by THE HOVIS-BREAD FLOUR Co., Ltd., Millers, Macclesfield.

VINOLIA TOILET REQUISITES.

4d PREMIER VINOLIA SOAP
(For Family Use).

For Delicate, Sensitive' Irritable Skins.

The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST reports:

"An ideal soap, delightfully perfumed."

1/- per box of 3 Tablets.

6d FLORAL VINOLIA SOAP
(For Private Use).

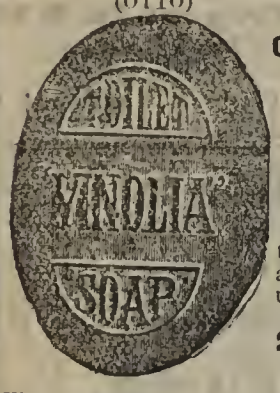
Keeps the Skin as soft as Velvet.

The MEDICAL NEWS reports:

"Beautifully emollient and softening to the skin."

1/6 per box of 3 Tablets.

10d TOILET VINOLIA SOAP
(OTTO)



Scented with Choice Otto of Rose Perfume.

Beautifies the Complexion.

The GENTLEWOMAN reports:

"Strongly recommended to keep the skin smooth and free from roughness."

2/6 per Box of 3 Tablets.

6d BLONDEAU PERFUMES
Concentrated, Delicate, Pure.

*Vinolia Bouquet, *Marequil, *Jequilla, *Losaria, Wood Violet, White Heliotrope, Ess. Bouquet, Frangipanni, Jockey Club, Maréchal Niel, Millefleur, White Rose, Jasmin, Musk Rose, Honeysuckle, New Mown Hay, Lily of the Valley, Violet, *Rhine Violets, Rondeletia, Hyacinth, Ylang Ylang, Stephanotis, Opoponax, Patchouli, Musk, Ambergris, Amaryllis, White Lilac, Narcissus, Chypre, Violette de Parme, Mignonette, Clematis, Wallflower, Peau d'Espagne.

6d., 1/-, 2/-, 3/-, and 5/- per bottle.

*These perfumes are not supplied in the 6d. quality.

1/- VINOLIA HAIR WASH

DRY. Freshens and cleanses the Hair, and preserves it free from any oily moist appearance.

MOIST. Imparts a natural gloss to the Hair.

1/- per Bottle.

Each in 3 odours: Portugal, Rose, and Violet.

1/1½ VINOLIA CREAM

For Itching, Face Spots, Chaps, &c.

The LANCET reports:

"An emollient cream for the skin in eczema, rash, eruptions, &c."

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For Redness, Roughness, Toilet Nursery, &c.

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"Superseding the old-fashioned toilet powders which are apt to cause acne spots on the face by blocking up the pores of the skin."

In White, Pink, and Cream Tints.
1/-, 1/9, 3/6, and 6/- per Box.

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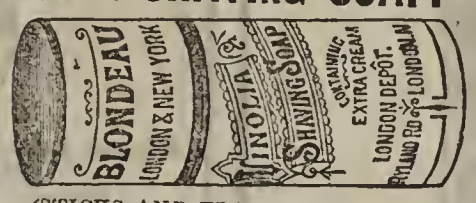


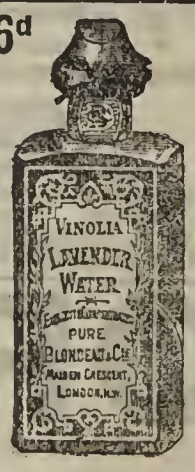
(STICKS AND FLAT CAKES.)
Causes no Blotches.
STICKS: Premier 6d., Toilet 1/-, 1/6, 2/6, Vestal 2/-.
FLAT CAKES: Premier 1/-, Toilet 2/-, Vestal 2/6.

6d LYPSYL.

A Coralline Emollient for Dry, Rough, Cracked, or Pallid Lips.

In Rose-Red and White Tints, 6d. and 1/- a Tube.

6d VINOLIA LAVENDER WATER.

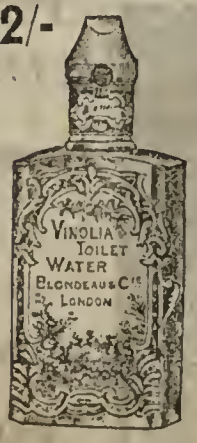


Natural and Very Lasting.

Contains the finest Essential Oils, Concentrated, therefore the Most Economical.

In 1-oz., 2-oz., 4-oz., and 8-oz. Bottles, 6d., 1/-, 2/-, and 3/6.

2/- VINOLIA TOILET WATER.



This is prepared with delicate refreshing perfumes, and is a most exquisite and delightful preparation to use either clear or in water for the Toilet or in the bath.

2s. per Bottle.

6d VINOLIA DENTIFRICE

Aromatic, Tonic, Refreshing, Preservative.

Keeps the Teeth Ivory White.

Premier, in Round Box and Glass Bottle, 6d.

English—2/6.

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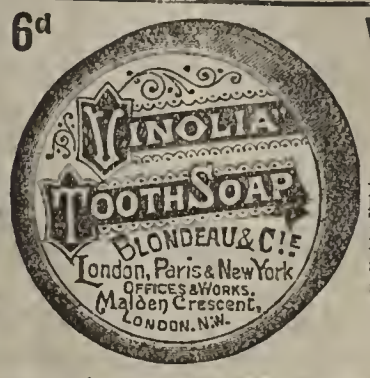
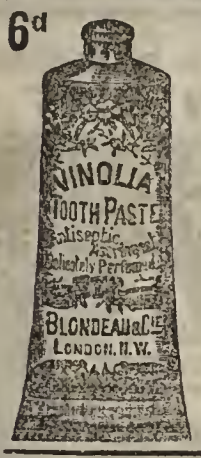
6d VINOLIA TOOTH SOAP.



An exquisite preparation for the Teeth. Delightfully perfumed and free from any injurious ingredients.

In Round Metal Box, 6d.

6d VINOLIA TOOTH PASTE.



Delicately Perfumed.

Whitens and Cleanses the Teeth, without in any way injuriously affecting the dental structures.

In Collapsable Tube, 6d.

6d BLONDEAU INEXHAUSTIBLE LAVENDER SMELLING SALTS.

These Smelling Salts are of exceptional Strength and most Refreshing. They are agreeably scented, the pleasant odour of Lavender being very pronounced.

6d. per Bottle.

6d VINOLIA EAU DE COLOGNE.

Fragrant. Refreshing.
As fine as can possibly be made.

The "Court Circular" reports:

"Vinolia Eau de Cologne we consider is absolutely unequalled for strength, purity, and delicacy of aroma."

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Specially prepared for Toilet and Nursery use.

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FOR UPWARDS OF FIFTY YEARS THE
PREMIER NURSERY LAMP.

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"The Spirit of the Age."
PALATABLE.
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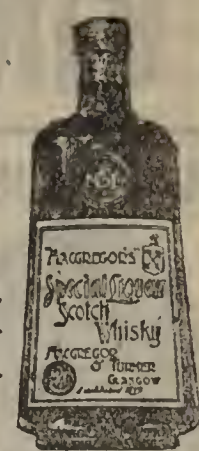

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For Delicate and Sensitive Skins.
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Ingenious instrument. Anyone can use. Highest surgical testimonials. Post free, 13 stamps. Bunion and Chilblain Ointment absolutely cures Tender Feet, Soft Corns, Enlarged Joints, &c., 15 stamps.
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VICHY CELESTINS Spring
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Prevents the Hair from falling off.
Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.
Being delicately perfumed it leaves no unpleasant odour.
IS NOT a dye, and therefore does not stain the skin or even white linen.
Should be in every house where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.
Ask your Chemist or Hairdresser for
THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.
Price 3s. 6d. per large Bottle.
Prepared only by the
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FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.
IS THE BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE IN THE WORLD.
Prevents the Decay of Teeth.
Renders the Teeth Pearly White.
Is perfectly Harmless and Delicious to the Taste.
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Put up in Glass Jars, price 1s.

For Longhand, Shorthand, Pen-and-Ink Drawing, Music-Writing, indeed, whenever a Pen is necessary, use only

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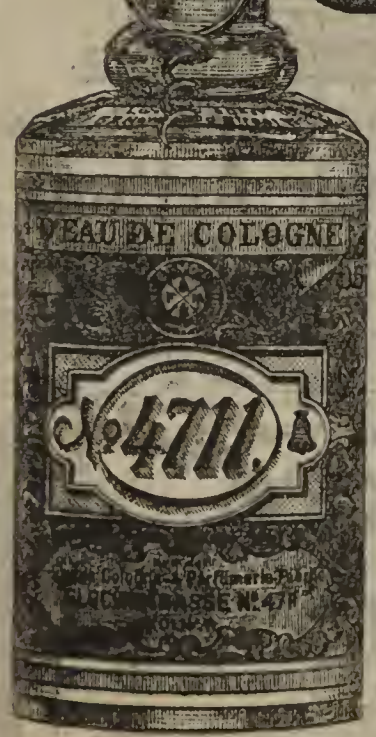

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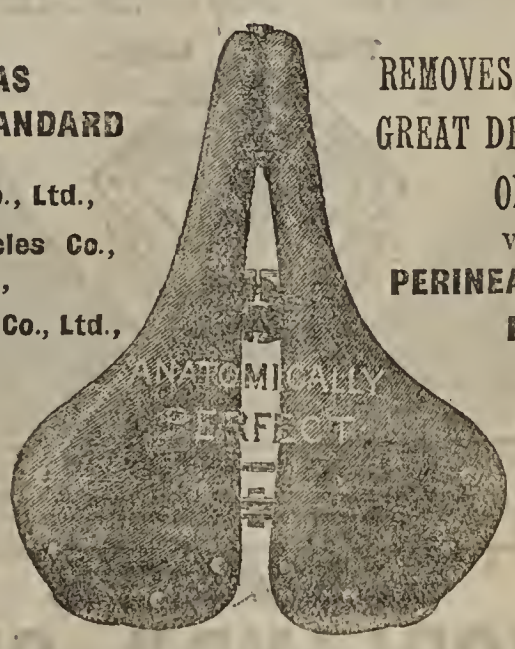

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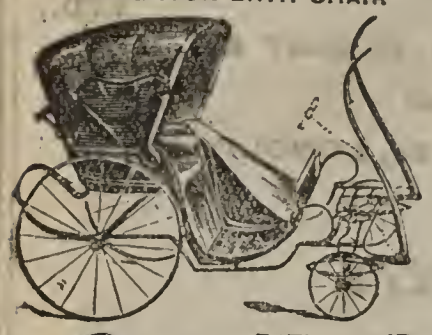

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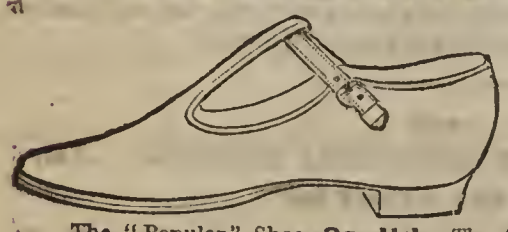

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Black or Tan.

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Life Policy-holders may so insure as to participate in NINE-TENTHS OF THE PROFITS of their class.
EQUITABLE RATES. MODERATE EXPENSES.
Head Offices: 1, DALE STREET, LIVERPOOL; 7, CORNHILL, LONDON.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE

63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.

THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD

SUM INSURED IN 1896 · £388 952,800.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.
THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd. Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

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EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

H. HALFORD and COMPANY,

70 and 71, Palmerston Buildings, Old Broad Street, London.

ESTABLISHED 1869.

Business in Stocks and Shares at close prices.

Dealings reported by wire if required.

Prompt Settlements.

Thousands of Testimonials from Clients.

Americans and Canadians a Speciality. Also Westralians and Kaffirs.

Lists of Closing Prices gratis.

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NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER FIRM.

THE LATE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD,
SIR MORELL MACKENZIE,
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,
MISS EMILY FAITHFUL,
THE LATE GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,
and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of

Himrod's Cure for Asthma.

Established over a Quarter of a Century.

Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, LYNCH & CO., J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS, & CO., BUTLER & CRISPE, JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale Houses.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

CLARKE'S

WORLD-FAMED

BLOOD MIXTURE

Warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from *whatever* cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it removes the *cause* from the blood and bones. Thousands of Wonderful Cures have been effected by it. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each, of Chemists everywhere.

BEWARE OF WORTHLESS IMITATIONS.

THE KLONDYKE AND COLUMBIAN GOLDFIELDS, LTD.

AND THE

DAWSON CITY & DOMINION TRADING CORPORATION, LTD.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE

Klondyke & Columbian Passenger Agency

are now BOOKING PASSENGERS, FIRST-CLASS all through, to KLONDYKE for a stated sum, including in such amount a COMPLETE KLONDYKE MINER'S OUTFIT (hitherto unknown in England), a TENT and MEDICINE CHEST, and sufficient PROVISIONS to last for ONE YEAR. Even the meals and sleeping berths on the Canadian Pacific Railway have been arranged for by the Agency without further payment by the passenger.

The aim of the Ageney has been to secure that the journey to Klondyke should not be much more troublesome than a trip on the Continent, and in the shortest time possible. The route which has been arranged for after personal inquiry and negotiation on the Pacific Coast, is quicker and easier than any other.

The Directors believe that such a comprehensive scheme as the one arranged by the Agency to meet the demand for a journey of this magnitude, at a reasonable cost, has not before been attempted in the history of Passenger Agencies. The intending gold-seeker can leave Liverpool with no more luggage than a Gladstone bag. Every necessary is provided for him from the day he leaves England. He is met by officials in connection with the Agency at New York, the Agency's officials on the Pacific coast meet him on arrival at Vanconver, and, taking him in charge, outfit and provision him at the Company's Depot at Victoria. He is then taken by steamer to Dyea and Personally Conducted through to Lake Lindeman. Here a boat is in waiting with his provisions for a year and a complete outfit, and he then proceeds down stream to Dawson City.

FOR THE THROUGH BOOKING, OCEAN STEAMER, RAILWAY, COMPLETE OUTFIT, PROVISIONS FOR A YEAR, CONVEYANCE OF FREIGHT, SERVICES AS BEFORE MENTIONED, &c., THE INCLUSIVE CHARGE OF £300 IS MADE.

The Route is as follows, and is First Class All Through, and Bookings will be made by this Route ALL THE YEAR ROUND:—

LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK.
White Star Liner, saloon.
NEW YORK TO VANCOUVER.*
Canadian Pacific Railway, including meals and sleeping berth from Montreal, which is 12 hours from New York.
* At Vancouver passengers will be met by the officials of the Klondyke and Columbian Passenger Agency, who will take them in charge to Victoria.
VANCOUVER TO VICTORIA. †
Canadian Pacific Steamers.
† At Victoria passengers will receive their outfit and provisions, properly packed by experienced packers. They will then be personally conducted through to Lake Lindeman.

VICTORIA TO DYEA.
Washington and Alaska Steamship Company. This Company employs only the oldest and most experienced pilots and captains.
DYEA TO LAKE LINDEMAN.
Railroad and tramway (Chilkoot Railroad and Transport Company).

For tickets and further information, apply to
ALFRED POSENER, Directing Manager,
KLONDYKE and COLUMBIAN PASSENGER AGENCY,
56, Ludgate-hill, London, E.C.

EXTRACTS FROM "KLONDYKE: A GUIDE TO THE NEW ELDORADO,"

PUBLISHED BY THE KLONDYKE AND COLUMBIAN PASSENGER AGENCY, PRICE 6d. (Post Free 7 stamps).

1. ABOUT THE GOLDFIELDS.

Actual results have demonstrated beyond doubt the boundless wealth which exists in the Klondyke district of the Dominion of Canada. The well-known Canadian official, Mr. William Ogilvie, whose reliability is unquestioned, says:—

"The richness of the country is beyond dispute. I have no hesitation in saying that there are £20,000,000 in sight to-day, tested and proved, not to speak of what may be found the next year or the year after. It will take years merely to prospect the country. There are 7,000,000 miles of territory. [The total area of the United Kingdom is 121,481 square miles.]

"Bonanza and Eldorado creeks afford between them 278 claims; the several affluents will yield as many more, and all of these claims are good. I have no hesitation in saying that 100 of those on Bonanza will yield upwards of 30,000,000 dols. Claim thirty on Eldorado will yield a million in itself, and ten others will yield from 100,000 dols. upwards. These two creeks will, I am quite confident, turn out from 60,000,000 dols. to 75,000,000 dols., and I can safely say that there is no other region in the world of the same extent that has afforded in the same length of time so many homestakes—fortunes enabling the owners to go home and enjoy the remainer of their days." . . . "We must have from 90,000 to 100,000 square miles, which, with proper care, judicious handling, and better facilities for the transportation of food and utensils, will be the largest, as it is the richest gold field the world has ever known." . . . "That country offers to men of great fortitude and some intelligence and steadiness an opportunity to make more money in a given time than they possibly could make anywhere else."

7. THE SHORTEST AND BEST ROUTE TO THE KLONDYKE ALL THE YEAR ROUND.

The best route is undoubtedly that selected after careful inquiry on the spot by the agents of the Klondyke and Columbian Passenger Agency, viz., that known as the Dyea route over the Chilkoot pass to Lake Lindeman, thence down river by boat to Dawson City. The difficulties of transportation over the Pass which existed last year have now been removed by the construction by the Chilkoot Railroad and Transport Company of a railroad and aërial tramway. It formerly required from twenty to thirty days of toil and peril to deliver an outfit and provisions from Dyea to Lake Lindeman. This feat is now accomplished in twenty-four hours.

The Klondyke and Columbian Passenger Agency has made special preferential arrangements at high rates with the above-named Transport and Tramway Company for the carriage of freight over the Pass for the advantage of passengers booking by their through route from England. By this arrangement the journey is reduced by twenty-five days, and with the special traffic, dining, and sleeping arrangements made by the Agency with Steamship Companies and the Canadian Pacific Railway, the entire journey from Liverpool to Dawson City can be completed in about twenty-eight days.

The St. Michael and Yukon River route is 4,400 miles from the Pacific Coast as against 1,578 by the Dyea route, and no reliability can be placed upon it. The navigation of the Yukon is difficult and uncertain, the river boats being frequently stranded, and passengers delayed for months.

8. OUTFITS, PROVISIONS, PACKING, &c.

Much attention has been paid to these questions by the officials of the Agency on the Pacific Coast. It is only by practical experience that it is possible to secure the best and most suitable outfit for mining purposes, and to obtain the right class and quantity of supplies properly packed. The advantage to the intending Klondyker of expert advice as to the supply of outfit and provisions, and the best methods of packing, can hardly be over-estimated. The Klondyke and Columbian Passenger Agency supplies all the necessary experience.

There are numerous difficulties connected with the journey of which nothing is known in England. It is already impossible to secure passages on steamers to Dyea unless they are engaged some weeks ahead. Rates for baggage and passengers on the Coast are changing almost from hour to hour, so great is the demand.

On arrival at the Pacific Coast the voyager is ignorant of the best steamer on which to take his passage. In a strange country he is at the mercy of the first canvasser; in a strange town he is in the hands of the storekeeper, who undertakes to provide him with a miner's outfit for an exorbitant sum, omitting many of the most important and more expensive necessaries. He is pushed into buying provisions utterly inadequate and unsuitable for a year's sojourn in a gold-mining country. He is plagued by Customs officials, and, without experience and knowledge, is generally at the mercy of hacks all round.

All these difficulties, annoyances, loss of money and temper are smoothed away by the officials of the Klondyke & Columbian Passenger Agency. Not only do they provide first-class through transportation, including all meals *en route* by train, and sleeping accommodation, but have arranged so comprehensive an organisation in England, in New York, and on the Pacific Coast—Victoria, Vancouver, &c.—that a person going to the Klondyke under their guidance is provided with a miner's outfit complete in every detail, and of the best articles procurable; with provisions of the best quality sufficient to last for one year and with a boat on arrival at river navigation at Lake Lindeman, whence he may go down stream to Dawson City, either quickly or slowly at his leisure. Last, but not least, he is met on the arrival of the train at Vancouver by the official of the Agency on the Pacific Coast; taken to Victoria to receive his outfit and provisions, and is then personally conducted right through with his freight (a most important consideration) to Lake Lindeman.

He is relieved of all trouble and responsibility from the moment he leaves England.

THROUGH BOOKINGS TO KLONDYKE IN 28 DAYS,

ALL THE YEAR ROUND,

BY THE

KLONDYKE AND COLUMBIAN PASSENGER AGENCY.

A COMPLETE MINER'S OUTFIT ON VIEW AT

Telegraphic and Cable Address—CHILKOOT, LONDON. THE LONDON DEPOT OF THE AGENCY, 56, LUDGATE HILL, E.C.

The Directorate of the Klondyke and Columbian Goldfields, Ltd., and of the Dawson City and Dominion Trading Corporation, includes the following:—

LONDON.—J. MORRIS CATTON, Chairman.
Col. A. BURTON-BROWN, R.A., F.G.S.
H. CHESTER-MASTER.
J. DE L. COHEN.
HENRY HEAVEN.
J. W. TAYLOR, J.P.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.
The Hon. J. H. TURNER, Premier of British Columbia.
The Hon. C. E. POOLEY, Q.C., President of the Council, British Columbia.
JOSEPH BOSCOWITZ, Esq., Victoria, B.C.

BANKERS.
Brown, Janson, & Co., Abchurch-lane, London, E.C
Bank of British Columbia, Victoria, B.C.
OFFICES.
64, Victoria-street, London, S.W.
Wharf-st., Victoria, British Columbia, Dawson City.

The Subscription List will Open on MONDAY, the 4th day of APRIL, and Close on or before THURSDAY, the 7th day of APRIL, 1898, for Town and Country.

Freehold Rubber Estates of 182,254 acres, or over 284 square miles, containing at a low estimate more than 1,300,000 full-grown trees of the genus *Hevea*, syn. *Siphonia*. In Actual Working, and yielding Large Returns. Producing Fine Pará Rubber (variety—"Islands"), the present market value of which is 3s. 11d. per lb. Only about 52 hours by steamboat from the City of Pará. No planting necessary. The Imports of Indiarubber into the United Kingdom, the rest of Europe and the United States of America, in the year 1896, amounted to over 100,800,000 lbs. of all varieties, and of the total value of £10,395,436 (compiled from the *Indiarubber Journal, Feb.-Mar.*, 1897).

The RUBBER ESTATES of PARÁ, Limited.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 *to* 1896.

CAPITAL, £350,000, Divided into 175,000 Seven per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each (Preferential both as to Capital and Dividend), and 175,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, of which 125,000 Preference Shares and 125,000 Ordinary Shares are now offered for Subscription, payable as follows:—2s. 6d. on Application, 7s. 6d. on Allotment, and the balance of 10s. per Share one month after Allotment.

£50,000 of this issue is appropriated to Working Capital, the Subscription of which is guaranteed. The Balance of 50,000 Preference Shares and 50,000 Ordinary Shares are taken by the Vendors as part payment of the purchase money. There is no Debenture Issue. The Articles of Association provide for the Issue of Share Warrants to Bearer.

DIRECTORS.

The Right Hon. Lord Castletown (Chairman West Australian Gold Fields, Limited, and Director Waterford, Limerick, & Western Railway Company, Limited).
The Hon. John Augustus de Grey, Hill-street House, Knightsbridge, S.W.
Rudolph Oscar Grischotti (of Grischotti & Co., Merchants), 163, West George-street, Glasgow.
John Leach Barrett (Deputy-Chairman D. Jones Dickinson & Co., Limited), 79, Mark-lane, E.C.
Ewen Cattanach (of Ewen Cattanach & Co., Brazilian Merchants), 3, Great St. Helens, E.C.
Robert P. Heilgers (late of F. W. Heilgers & Co., East India Merchants), London and Calcutta.

BANKERS.

London & South Western Bank, Limited, 168, 169, and 170, Fenchurch-street, E.C., or Branches.
The British Bank of South America, Limited, Pará.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Maddisons, 1, King's Arms-yard, London, E.C.
Messrs. T. W. Hardman & Sons, 14, Molesworth-street, Dublin.

BROKERS.

London—Buckler, Norman, & Gower, 11, Angel-court, E.C., and Stock Exchange.
Liverpool—R. W. Elliston, 5, York-buildings, Dale-street, and Stock Exchange.
Manchester—E. H. Royiance, Haworth's-buildings, 5, Cross-street, and Stock Exchange.
Glasgow—James Kirkwood & Son, 62, Buchanan-street, and Stock Exchange.
Edinburgh—Hardie & Turnbull, 42, George-street, and Stock Exchange.
Dublin—W. Wilson & Son, 36, College-green, and Stock Exchange.
Belfast—Herbert Darbishire & Co., Royal-avenue, and Stock Exchange.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. Frank Davies, Meredith & Co., 95 and 97, Finsbury-pavement, London, E.C.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICES (*pro tem.*)

G. T. Milne, Finsbury House, Blomfield-street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to purchase and work the Pará Rubber Estates of the Visconde de S. Domingos, situated, as shown in the appended map, in the centre of the rubber district known as the "Islands," in the municipal District of Anajas, State of Pará, Brazil, and also for the purpose of carrying on the business of Rubber Curers, Shippers, &c. The Estates have yielded large revenues for a number of years, and are being sold owing to the advanced age of the Visconde.

AREA.—As will be seen by reference to the accompanying plan, the Estates comprise eleven different properties, all adjoining, with a total area of 737,572,035 square metres, equal to about 182,254 acres, or over 284 square miles, the whole forming one of the largest rubber properties in the valley of the Amazon and its tributaries. All the lands have been surveyed, and are free of rent and taxes. The title deeds have been examined by Mr. McDowell, Solicitor, of Pará, who reports that they are all in order.

VARIETY AND VALUES OF THE RUBBER.—The Rubber trees on the Estates comprise various species of *Hevea* (syn: *Siphonia*), producing Pará Rubber, the varieties of which are known by different names. The Rubber from the "Islands" district is termed "Islands," to distinguish it from "Up-river hard-cured," "Bolivian," &c. There are three qualities, viz., "Fine," quoted on the Liverpool market, March 18th, 1898, at 3s. 11d. to 3s. 11½d. per lb.; "Entrefine," 3s. 10d. per lb.; and "Negrohead," 2s. 7½d. to 3s. 1d. per lb. On these Estates "Entrefine" is seldom produced. For the value of Rubber produced on these properties, see Mr. A. Camille's report, dated London, March 28th, 1898.

DEMAND.—The demand for Indiarubber is best shown by the following figures, compiled from the *Indiarubber Journal* (February-March, 1897). Europe, together with the United States, in 1896 imported 100,804,238 lbs. of Indiarubber of all varieties, and of the total value of £10,395,436. Of this quantity nearly one-half, or 48,290,368 lbs., was imported into the United Kingdom.

Since 1894 the value of "Fine" PARA RUBBER, the "Islands" variety of which is produced on these Estates, has risen more than 25 per cent. The following table, compiled from the *Indiarubber Journal*, will show the steady increase in prices:

Year.	Lowest price.	Highest price.
1894	2/9½ per lb.	3/- per lb.
1895	3/0¼ per lb.	3/4½ per lb.
1896	3/0¾ per lb.	3/9 per lb.
1897	3/4 per lb.	3/9½ per lb.
1898	3/6 per lb.	4/- per lb.

REVENUE.—The Revenue derivable from these Estates is based on the results of actual production. The Company will acquire properties which are yielding very large profits, and have done so for a number of years.

An investigation of the books of the Visconde de S. Domingos has been made by Mr. E. Kanthack, of Pará (late manager to Messrs. R. Singlehurst & Co., of Pará and Liverpool), local auditor to the British Bank of South America and for many years acting British Consul, whose report is as follows:—

Pará, December 17th, 1897.

GENTLEMEN,—Having been appointed by Mr. Churchill, H.B.M. Consul, to examine the books of the Visconde de S. Domingos, with reference to his Rubber Estates, I beg to inform you that I have ascertained the production of Rubber on that portion of his Estates which has been worked during the last few years, and as this information seems to be particularly wanted in London, you may transmit by cable the following details:—

"Production, 1895, from 399 roads, worked by the Visconde's traders, 125 tons; by other tenants, 436 roads, estimated 137 tons. Total 262 tons. Last year, total 238 tons. Present year, estimated total, 251 tons. Coarse Rubber included, estimated 15 per cent.

"I remain, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,
(Signed) "E. KANTHACK."

From the foregoing report it will be seen that taking the value of the "Fine" at an average price of 3s. 6d. per lb., and the "Negrohead" at 2s. 4d. per lb., and the proportions at 85 per cent. of "Fine" and 15 per cent. of "Negrohead" the gross value in London, from 835 Rubber Roads only, would be as under:—

1895.—262 tons	=	498,848 lbs. of "Fine," at 3s. 6d. per lb.	= £87,298
		88,032 ,, "Negrohead," at 2s. 4d. ,,	= 10,270
1896.—238 ,,	=	453,152 lbs. of "Fine," at 3s. 6d. per lb.	= 79,301
		79,968 ,, "Negrohead," at 2s. 4d. ,,	= 9,329
1897.—251 ,,	=	477,904 lbs. of "Fine," at 3s. 6d. per lb.	= 83,633
		84,336 ,, "Negrohead," at 2s. 4d. ,,	= 9,839
751 tons	=	1,682,240 lbs.	£279,670

Equal to an average gross value per annum of £93,223.

The Visconde's net profit in Pará, on the production of the roads worked by his own traders, has averaged 39 per cent. of the value there.

From figures supplied by Mr. E. Kanthack it is estimated that had the total production of the Estates during the last three years been shipped direct to London, the profit accruing from the sale, including the Rubber received for rents, and for goods supplied to collectors, would have amounted to a minimum of 50 per cent. of the above gross value, equivalent to an average annual net profit of £46,611, sufficient to pay 7 per cent. on the £175,000 Cumulative Preference Shares, and 15 per cent. on the £175,000 ordinary shares, leaving a balance of over £8,000 for administration and other expenses.

FUTURE REVENUES.—The results of the past three years were obtained from the working of an average of 835 Rubber Roads, being less than 28 per cent. of the Roads opened, and under 6½ per cent. of the estimated total number of full-grown trees.

The Revenues to be derived in the future from these Estates are entirely a question of Capital and Labour. It is proposed for the present to continue working the Estates on the Rental System, but under European supervision and control; to sell the Rubber in the best market for Gold; and during the coming season to work 1,600 roads (160,000 trees), reported by Mr. Kanthack to be practicable, and which should produce a net profit exceeding £90,000, which profit would be considerably increased by the further opening up of the Estates; and it should be noted that the average price of Fine Pará Rubber in the English market is now 3s. 11d. per lb., as compared with 3s. 6d. per lb., upon which price the above calculations are based.

WORKING CAPITAL.—The Working Capital, the subscription of which is guaranteed, will be £50,000. This will enable the Company to provide for the expenditure necessary to the increased business.

The statements in this Prospectus are based on Reports by Mr. E. Kanthack, Messrs. José Simoes Chuva and José Antonio de Rezende, jun., Mr. A. Camille, and Mr. F. Pond, and upon a letter from the Visconde de S. Domingos.

The Vendors have fixed the amount of the purchase consideration at £360,000, of which £120,000 is payable in cash, £100,000 in fully-paid Shares, and the balance in fully-paid Shares, or partly in Shares and partly in cash at the option of the Directors. The Vendors desire to have allotted to them the largest number of Shares permitted by the rules of the Stock Exchange relating to quotations.

The following Contracts have been entered into:—(1) Letter of Authority and Agreement dated the 26th July, 1897, by the Visconde de S. Domingos, in favour of Frederick Pond. (2) Letter of Authority and Agreement dated the 20th August, 1897, by Frederick Pond, in favour of William Brice. (3) An Agreement dated the 4th December, 1897, and made between William Brice, of the one part, and Ewen Cattanach, of the other part. (4) An Agreement dated the 6th day of December, 1897, and made between Ewen Cattanach, of the one part, and the Anglo-African Gold Properties, Limited, of the other part. (5) An Agreement (supplemental to the said Agreement dated 6th December, 1897) dated the 8th March, 1898, and made between Ewen Cattanach, of the one part, and the Anglo-African Gold Properties, Limited, of the other part. (6) An Agreement (supplemental to the said Agreement dated 4th December, 1897), dated the 14th day of March, 1898, and made between William Brice, of the one part, and Ewen Cattanach, of the other part. (7) An Agreement dated the 21st March, 1898, and made between the Anglo-African Gold Properties, Limited, of the one part, and William Roland Berkeley, as Trustee on behalf of this Company, of the other part. Copies of the above-mentioned Contracts, and of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, may be inspected by applicants for Shares at the Offices of the Solicitors for the Company.

The Anglo-African Gold Properties, Limited, who are the Vendors, are selling at a profit, and have undertaken to pay all the preliminary expenses of the formation, incorporation, and bringing out of this Company up to the first allotment of Shares. The guaranteeing of the necessary subscription, the advertising of this Prospectus, and such like matters, have entailed upon the Vendors certain Contracts which may technically fall within the 38th Section of the Companies Act, 1867. There are also, or may be, business Agreements or other Agreements which may technically fall within the said Section. To none of the Contracts mentioned in this Clause is this Company a party, and applicants for Shares must waive their rights (if any) under the Companies Acts or otherwise to the insertion herein of the names of the parties and dates of the same, or to disclosure of their contents. Applications for Shares will only be received on this understanding.

Messrs. Ewen Cattanach and Robert P. Heilgers, being interested in the sale, and Mr. R. O. Grischotti, being a Director of the Vendor Company, will join the Board after allotment.

Applications for shares should be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus, and be sent to the Company's Bankers, with the amount payable on application. If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and where the number of shares allotted is less than the number applied for, the balance will be applied towards the payment on allotment.

It is intended to apply at an early date to the London Stock Exchange for a settlement and quotation of the shares of the Company.

Prospectuses, with Forms of Application for Shares, can be obtained at the offices of the Company, or from the Bankers, Brokers, and Solicitors of the Company.

London, March, 1898.

This Form when filled up should be forwarded with the deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share to the Company's Bankers, London & South Western Bank, Ltd., 168, 169, and 170, Fenchurch-street, E.C., or Branches.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

THE RUBBER ESTATES OF PARÁ, LIMITED.

To the Directors of the
RUBBER ESTATES OF PARÁ, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—Having paid to the Company's Bankers the sum of £..... being a deposit of Two Shillings and Sixpence per Share on application for .....Ordinary/Preference Shares of £1 each in the above-named Company, I request you to allot me that number of Ordinary/Preference Shares, and I agree to accept and pay for the same, or any less number that may be allotted to me, upon the terms and conditions of the Prospectus, dated March, 1898, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I authorise you to place my name on the Register of Members in respect of the Shares so allotted to me, and I agree to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Shares as required in the terms of the said Prospectus, and I agree with the Company, as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable, to waive all right to further particulars of any contracts, whether in pursuance of Section 38 of the Companies' Act, 1867, or otherwise, than is contained in the said Prospectus.

Name (in full).....
Address (in full).....
.....
Profession or Occupation.....
Ordinary Signature.....
Date .....1898.

ISSUE OF £250,000 4 PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES.

The Subscription List will open on Monday, the 4th April, 1898, and will be closed on or before Wednesday, the 6th April, 1898, for Town and Country.

Messrs. BROWN, JANSON, & Co., 32, Abchurch-lane, London, E.C., are authorised to receive Subscriptions for the undermentioned FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES.

THE LINOTYPE COMPANY, Ltd.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.)

SHARE CAPITAL £2,000,000,

In 200,000 Preferred Ordinary Shares of £5 each, and 200,000 Deferred Ordinary Shares of £5 each,
All issued and fully paid up.

ISSUE OF £250,000 (part of an Authorised Issue of £1,000,000) Four per Cent. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES of £5 each.

Of which £24,905 have been already subscribed and allotted, and the balance of £225,095 is now offered for public subscription at the price of £102 per £100, **Payable as follows:—**

On Application	**5 per cent.**	
On Allotment	47 „	(including 2 per cent. premium.)
On 4th May, 1898	50 „	
	£102 „	

The DEBENTURES will be registered in the Company's books, and be issued and transferable in sums of not less than **£5, or** multiples of £5. Interest will be payable quarterly on the 1st January, 1st April, 1st July, and the 1st October in each year. **The** first payment of Interest calculated from the dates of payment of the respective instalments will be made on the 1st July, 1898.

The Debentures are issued at £102 per £100, and are repayable by the Company at £105 per £100 on the 31st March, 1923, but the Company reserves the right to redeem the whole or any portion thereof prior to that date at £107 per £100, on giving six months' notice of its intention to do so.

If the Debentures become payable owing to the voluntary winding up of the Company, they will be redeemed at £105 per £100 Debenture.

The Debentures will be secured by a First Mortgage of the freehold land and houses and other permanent assets and a first and floating charge upon the undertaking of the Company.

By the terms of the Trust Deed to secure the Debentures the Company has the right to issue up to £250,000 Debentures beyond those now offered for subscription, but it is also provided that no further issue shall thereafter be made except for an amount equal to the cost price of additional assets acquired by the Company, and that no Debentures can be created to rank in priority to, or *pari passu* with, the above authorised issue of £1,000,000.

PROSPECTUS.

This issue of Debentures is made for the purpose of providing the Company with funds for completing a capital outlay of upwards of £400,000 in respect of the acquisition of freehold land at Broadheath, near Manchester, and the building and equipment thereon of the Company's new works and of workmen's cottages; the purchase of new plant; the acquisition of the Colonial and Continental Patents and business of the Linotype Composing Machine, and the provision of the further working capital required for supplying printers with various new Printing Machines and Appliances, for which important orders have already been received.

SECURITY.—The Debentures will be secured by a first mortgage on the freehold lands and houses and the other permanent assets and a floating charge on the whole of the undertaking, property, assets and effects of the Company, the value of which including patents and goodwill, and the above-mentioned properties, on the 31st December last, stood in the balance-sheet at £2,429,951 19s. 8d.

OBJECTS AND SCOPE OF THE COMPANY.—The business of the Company has hitherto consisted to a very large extent in the manufacture and sale of Linotype Composing Machines.

During the past year, the introduction of a large form of Linotype machine for Book and Pamphlet Work, Government Reports, &c., has extended enormously the field for the supply of the Company's machines.

The manufacture, under the Ballou Patents, of large movable type, known as "display type," used in advertising and ornamental printing, and of various machines and appliances used by printers, is also widening materially the scope of the Company's business.

PROFITS.—The net profits of the business from 1893 to the end of 1897, as appearing from the certified balance sheets of the Company, were as follows:—

Year 1893	...	£9,583
„ 1894	...	28,541
„ 1895	...	59,969
„ 1896	...	123,255
„ 1897	...	162,882 (including £21,984 premiums on new issue of share capital).

£10,000 is the amount required to pay the full year's interest on this issue of Debentures.

The Shares of the Company are quoted *ex dividend* on the London Stock Exchange, and stand at £5¾ per £5 Preferred Ordinary Share, and £7¾ per £5 Deferred Ordinary Share.

The dividends paid in respect of the year 1897 were 6 per cent. on the Preferred Ordinary and 9 per cent. on the Deferred Ordinary Shares.

CONDITIONS OF ISSUE.—If the whole of the Debentures applied for be not allotted, the amount paid on deposit, or such part thereof as will suffice, will be appropriated towards the sum due on allotment, and applicants to whom no allotment is made will receive back their deposits in full.

Failure to pay any instalment when due will render any previous payment liable to forfeiture.

Copies of the memorandum and articles of association, the report, balance sheet, and profit and loss account of the Company for the year ended 31st December, 1897, and the draft trust deed to secure the debentures, can be seen at the offices of the Company, No. 188, Fleet-street, London, E.C.

Applications must be made on the form accompanying this prospectus, and delivered with the deposit to the Company's bankers, Messrs. Brown, Janson, & Co., 32, Abchurch-lane, London, E.C.

Appilcation will be made in due course for a quotation of the Debentnres on the London and Manchester Stock Exchanges.

Copies of this Prospectus and Forms of Application may be obtained at the Offices of the Company, or from their Bankers, Brokers, or Solicitors.

By order of the Board,
WILLIAM H. LOCK,
April 2nd, 1898. Secretary.

Trustees: The City Safe Deposit & Agency Company Limited.
Solicitors to the Trustees: Ashurst, Morris, Crisp & Co.

DIRECTORS:
Joseph Lawrence (*Chairman*).
Sir Henry Howe Bemrose, M.P
Augustus Montague Haines.
John Hopkinson, D.Sc., F.R.S.
Henry John Norman.

Bankers:
Brown, Janson & Co., 32 Abchurch-lane, London, E.C.
The London and Midland Bank, Limited, Cornhill, London, E.C. and 79, King-street, Manchester.

Solicitors:
Hays, Schmettau & Ancrum, 31, Abchurch-lane, London, E.C.

Brokers:
Pim, Vaughan, & Co., 1, Drapers'-gardens, London, E.C.
R. A. Armitage & Son, 10, St. Ann's-square, Manchester.
F. W. Bentley & Co., Estate-buildings, Huddersfield.

Auditors: Cooper Brothers & Co., 14, George-street, Mansion House, London, E.C.
Secretary and Manager: William H. Lock.
Offices: 188, Fleet-street, London, E.C.

This form may be used.

Form of Application for 4 per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures.

THE LINOTYPE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Issue of £250,000 Fonr per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures, including £24,905 which have already been subscribed and allotted,

PRICE OF ISSUE, £102 FOR £100.

Payable 5 per cent. on Application, 47 per cent. on Allotment, and 50 per cent. on the 4th day of May, 1898.

To the Directors of
THE LINOTYPE COMPANY LIMITED, 188, Fleet-street, London, E.C.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £——— being a deposit of £5 per cent. on an application for———First Mortgage Debentures of the above-named Company, I request you to allot me that amount of Debentures, and I agree to accept the same or any smaller amount that may be allotted to me, upon the terms of the Prospectus issued by you, dated the 2nd day of April, 1898; and I agree to pay the further instalments as the same shall become due in accordance with the said Prospectus.

Name in full .....
Address in full .....
Profession or Occupation.....
Date.....April, 1898.

Cadbury's cocoa

"The Standard of Highest Purity."—*The Lancet.*

"The favourite Cocoa of the day. For Nourishment there is nothing superior to be found."—*MEDICAL MAGAZINE.*

A MASTER KEY

of this SIZE

Can be made to open any number of Locks. Many Ladies and Gentlemen have the whole of their locks so arranged that **a MASTER KEY,** so small as to be worn in a finger-ring or locket, will open every lock they possess—from their Dressing Bags, Trunks, Jewel Cases, Despatch Boxes, &c., to the Front Door, Wine Cellar, Park Gates, &c. **Just think of the Convenience!** The locks are made in suites, each suite with its own key, so that the ladies' maid or valet can open the luggage, the butler the wine cellar, and so on, but the suite keys are of no use for any but their own series.

BRAMAH JEWEL SAFES,

BURGLAR AND FIRE RESISTING, SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR BED AND DRESSING ROOMS.

Specialities in fitted Suite Cases and Dressing Bags, Jewel Cases, Despatch and Deed Boxes, Bramah Street Door Latches, with small keys, Bramah Padlocks for Bicycles, with Leather-covered Chains, &c. &c.

New Illustrated Catalogues Post Free.

For Prices and Particulars apply to

NEEDS & CO. *Late*

Bramah & Co.

Sole Manufacturers of the real Bramah Locks.

100, NEW BOND STREET,

LONDON, W.

A Master Key Signet Ring (Open).

IF YOU COUGH USE . .

GERAUDEL'S PASTILLES.

Let your lungs be filled with the vapour of Norwegian Pine Tar, which they give off whilst dissolving in the mouth. The efficacy of Pine Tar in all affections of the Throat and Lungs is well known; the best mode of applying it is by inhalation, and the mouth makes the best inhaler.

ALL CHEMISTS SELL THEM.

SINGER

MODÈLE DE LUXE

(Registered Trade Mark)

CYCLES

IMPORTANT NOVELTIES FOR 1898.

1898 Lists Free.

SINGER CYCLE CO. LTD. COVENTRY
LONDON: 17, HOLBORN VIADUCT.

"Scotland's Best."

Pattisons' WHISKY

THE PINK OF PERFECTION.

A Wholesome and Agreeable Stimulant of Unrivalled Quality and Flavour.

OLDEST, FINEST, PUREST.
RICH, MELLOW, SOFT

The King of Scotch Whiskies.

Sold Everywhere.

SOLE PROPRIETORS:

PATTISONS, LIMITED,

HIGHLAND DISTILLERS,

LEITH, BALLINDALLOCH, AND LONDON.

HEAD OFFICE:

Constitution Street, Leith.

OUR PUZZLES

RULES.

1. The sum of £2. 2s. will be given every week for the best Epigram, Conundrum, Lipogram, Bouts-Rimés, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and, for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the Truth Office by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. All New Contributors are Required to Forward with their First Answers their Real Names and Addresses for Registration; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. Competitors must on no account change their noms-de-plume they have once assumed.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 997.—COMPLETION OF A BROWNING STANZA.

Rosalys (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 993.

I have to apologise to those readers specially interested in this competition for the delay that has taken place in the announcement of the Prize-winner's name. The task of deciding on the winner has, in fact, proved to be one of unusual difficulty, and I have thought it best to seek expert advice in the matter. This compels me once more to postpone the publication of the result of this very interesting competition.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 996.

As previously stated, the result of this competition will be made known when Competition No. 999 is decided.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 998.

The Prize in this competition has been awarded to Lucia, who defined "Smart Society" to be "Pleasure's Treadmill."

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,002.

Much discussion has taken place of late as to which are the most effective Public Buildings in London. Such diversity of opinions evidently exists that it may be interesting to find out what is thought by Truth's readers on the subject. The usual Prize of Two Guineas is therefore offered this week to the competitor who sends in

A List of the Six Handsomest and most Effective Public Buildings in the Metropolis.

The six handsomest and most effective Public Buildings will be considered to be those which are found included most frequently in the lists received, and the competitor in whose list the names of most of these Buildings are found will be adjudged the prize winner. Only one list must be sent by each competitor, and all answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, April 18 next, at the latest.

Answers to Correspondents.

Fuss.—I shall have much pleasure in complying with your request in the circumstances you mention.

Fish.—Your name was omitted in error last week from the list of those who sent answers in connection with Competition No. 999.

W. W. B.—The objection seems to me somewhat irrelevant.

Mum.—Many thanks.

Alice R.—The arrival of your first answer cannot be traced.

Sponge.—I will make inquiries at once,

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 999.

THE EXPANSION INTO SENTENCES, BY MEANS OF AN ADDED VOWEL, OF CERTAIN COMBINATIONS OF CONSONANTS, PUBLISHED IN "TRUTH" ON MARCH 17 LAST.

*** Very many lists of sentences have been received in connection with this Competition. For the present, it must suffice to print a full list of the Completed Sentences as furnished by the Competitors who took part in Competition No. 996.—The Puzzle Editor.

1. Half mad and all aghast, a small, haggard, vagrant lad, a hard pagan, rag-clad Arab brat, tramps fast and far, past gas lamps, bank, and tall barracks, past asphalt paths and trams, starts at all placards as at black phantasms that alarm, past dark vacant barns, laggard farm hands, mail carts, and a caravan, and, as an astral balm charms branch and crag, halts at last at a damp, rank grass patch, grasps and abstracts an ash staff at hand, and, hazard past and man's tracks far back, falls aslant a canvas bag that ranks as knapsack, and hath at call all Canaan's fragrant land as grant, and lambs at grass as fat as rascals.—Dombey.

2. Two strong troops of Lord John Hood's corps, told off for pontoon work, go to-morrow on sloop *Glow-worm* from port of London to North Congo or to Sokoto.—Whig.

3. Never heed these creedless men;
See ye keep the tenets ten.
Feed the wretched, tend the meek,
Everywhere the helpless seek;
Tell them there's the endless rest,
Where they'll then be ever blest.
Union Jack.

4. Untruthful humbugs pluck trustful gulls, but just such humbugs Truth hunts up.—Woodlands.

5. Spring is nigh—birds will sing wild piping trills whilst circling in first flights with timid wings.—Bel Demonio.

6. Even here Eve held her levée ere ever the serpent had entered Eden.—What is it?

7. Be ever gentle, sweet-tempered, meek, preserve perfect self-esteem, be never heedless: keep ye these precepts.—Special Bee.

8. Old doctors, who go forth to look or work for gold, or to scold fools, who do not cross lochs or pools or floods to work for food, do good work.—Islay.

9. Most Oxford dons, orthodox or not, look to Colombo or Hong Kong for comfort, not to port, soft Oloroso, Corton, hock, or good old Scotch; tho' Common Rooms hold stocks from Oporto or from bond of London Docks.—Orlando.

10. Well-fed, erect, resplendent gentlemen's gentlemen,* themselves deep, clever schemers, reflect effervescent greed, when needless spleen enters them, whenever "mere pence" tendered them represent well-bred, sweet-tempered, yet debt-fettered men's meek presents.—La Plata.

* Flunkeys.

11. That last Afghan brawl was a sad scandal; a gallant Brahman at Kandahar barracks saw a tall, dark rascal snatch a barb and crawl half past a barbacan and stab a man that had cast bananas pall-mall at a Pagan caravan.—Ukadoo.

12. Pat, a mad Jack Tar, Hannah, a tall farm lass, a half-daft hag, a lad, and an ass and cart, shall all dash fast at far Atbara, call halt, stack arms, pass bad annas, stand apart and hawk fat lamb, crabs, yam, salt, bananas, and rat-traps; sad plant!—Scorp.

13. The reckless, detested French Jew resents the severe sentence he never deserved (meaning Zola).—Polar Bear.

14. Speed well, elected members, never recede, never be deterred, effect needed betterment.—Kinbann.

15. When the seven cheerless sleepers (ever esteemed feeble) felt rested, they nevertheless exerted themselves; then they slept yet three weeks.—Corkscrew.

16. To brood from morn to morrow, to droop from frosts of scorn,
Shows no good won from sorrow's most holy crown of thorn. Pauvre Femme.

17. Greece regrets the recent senseless deed relentless men effected; nevertheless her regent, ever element, erst sentences, then frees them.—Oxoniensis.

18. Man wants all that a man can grasp, and wants that all as a grant that shall last (with apologies to Oliver Goldsmith).—Excelsior.

19. The ex-Empress never neglected the French, even when the men deserted her.—Squat.

20. Here, there, wherever the "settler" enters, the relentless element greed seems ever present.—Marplot.

A FACT.

21. A chap at Havant has a cat-call that attracts cats at dark, and alarms all rats and bats far away—*Standard*.—Singeon.

22. When better, get her fresh eggs, tender greens, deep red beef, best beer; never heed Lent; let her sleep.—Carenia.

23. To honour known worth if lord or low-born, orthodox or not holds good now for London folk.—Wild Thyme.

24. Sweet sleep, when men's eyes need rest, ever renews the energy recklessly expended.—Poofy.

25. Ere Ethelbert effected the needed retrenchment, the perverse reverend brethren rejected the scheme.—Pemmie.

26. That smart chap at Chatham barracks has a fatal plan that can, at last, appall all pachas.—Natacha.

27. All Anna saw at Allahabad and Madras was a blank wall and an archway.—Pseudonym.

28. Abraham and Sarah sat at an altar and sang a grand cantata.—Fury.

29. Hugh murmurs, "Hush, shut up! such curst hubbub much hurts us."—Woodhurst.

30. When we feel December's breeze, then the wretched meters freeze. (Lament of a gas consumer.)—Beaumont.

31. When peeresses bet pence extremes meet.—Surplice.

32. If smiling is winning, grinning is sinning.—Cassock.

33. The three French verses were very well rendered.—Sentence.

34. This thing is right stiff. I wish I might with skill win rich pickings in it.—Mercutio.

35. Astral parallax can harass Cantabs as smart as Adams was.—Erica.

36 Athwart vast Sahara pass caravans far apart. —Mos.

37. For long months cool colony boss stood most foxy old Oom's boycott of gold monopoly town.—Quilp.

38. In this chill wind their shirts will bring phthisis.—Kelt.

39. Ere we expected the feeble ex-Empress entered her excellent new settlements.—Beginner.

40. Greece defended herself even when she met endless reverses.—Castle Comer.

41. The Reverend Gent
Wherever he went,
Seemed ever depressed
When threepence he spent.
Selah.

42. Whenever peelers enter 'peers' demesnes they deem themselves blessed.—N. C. N.

43. Persevere ever, yet never let greed exceed the need.—One Hand.

44. Persevere, ye perfect men,
Ever keep these precepts ten.
North Pole.

45. The scented breeze
Refreshed the trees;
The gentle dew
Her jewels threw.
Felicité.

46. Persevere, ye perfect men,
Ever keep these precepts ten.
Fife Rabbit.

47. Restless French, reverse the sentence!—Louise.

48. Clever men deserve precedence; we need remember, esteem, even reverence them.—Pearl.

49. Right-thinking minds find bliss in giving;
'Tis sign Christ's spirit still is living.
Elk.

50. Well-fed men never sleep well:
Greed keeps them restless.
Expectant.

51. Heedless Eve let the serpent tell her Eden's secret.—Mops.

52. Within this still, if imps inspiring grin, I will distil illicit Irish gin.—Touch,

53. At Alhambra's grand hall a brass band had a call.—Wim.

54. The best men ever revere excellent deeds.—Svonok.

55. Alas! that as a spasm; a mad, rampant roar; class arms and attacks a savant; a smart, grand man—act that alarms all ranks.—Esperanza.

56. That far away land, Alaska, attracts many a rash man.—Heathfield.

57. Eleven geese greeted Ethelred when he entered the green.—Anselm.

58. We keep reserved three wheelers, sweet tempered, tender eyed, sleek, well-fed steeds.—Kulo.

59. When gentleness cheers the depressed, she deserves respect.—Ainsi Quasi.

60. Gentlemen, every week the endless Crete references seem trebled —Peg

61. TRUTH humbly shuts up unjust murmurs.—Luss.

62. Eve erred when the serpent entered Eden.—Wyalong.

63. Whenever Frenchmen meet, demented scenes expect.—Pump.

64. Persevere, ye perfect men,
Ever keep these precepts ten.
Gringoire.

65. Ere eve the gentle sheep slept, except the wretched new ewe.—Celandine.

66. The Press deems the French sentence extremely severe.—The Hen.

67. The recent French sentence seems mere pretext.—A. E. L.

68. Mama and Ada had a grand stall at Chatham bazaar last March.—Colonlensis.

69. Even the three experts never detected the deep secret.—Notnag.

70. Oh, now, John, old boy, do not go to town so soon.—Berris.

71. Remember, never meddle between three hen-pecked men.—Rex.

72. Insipid witticisms mix sighs with mirth.—Nota Bene.

73. Hot grog or good food soon comforts poor old folks.—D'Arcy.

74. Oh! fools to go for gold; no comfort, no food, so cold.—Klondyke.

75. Midnight finds him still writing, his lips twitching, his sight dim, his spirit instinct with Nihilist rights.—Susy.

76. When Peter Peel the beekeeper, entered the Exeter Express he regretted the pence he then spent.—Ebonite.

77. Where we see the wee bee feed we even see meek sheep recede.—Sing Song.

78. The gentle breeze between the trees bends the reeds where the wren seeks her nest.—Beaumont.

79. Need we keep the peers when elected members best represent free men.—Selwood.

80. When Greek meets Greek then we expect excellent deeds.—Argonaut.

81. The never sleepy Hebrew fleeces the very green peer.—Tiny.

82. Her recent defenders were the best men Greece ever knew.—Varmint.

83. The Serpent tempted Eve when she entered Eden.—Teajaypea.

84. Born of cold snow, grow snowdrop blossoms to show good morrow.—Myrah.

85. The seven sheep Peter Skeen sent me seemed well when the shepherd let them enter the glen.—Vesta.

86. Yester eve queer Peter entered sweet Queen Helen's sheltered glen.—Ilfra.

87. These elected members redeem the betterment scheme pledges.—India.

88. Pigsticking pink pigs in bicyling things is simply silly.—Pink Pig.

89. Blessed be the peerless Empress we serve.—Union Jack.

90. British wits will bring in Bill righting Irish ills.—Hacomaco.

91. Stern events prevented the September revels. —Sinona.

92. The endless breeze even freezes the evergreen. —Tom P.

93. I think I still find Pink's pills first in ills.—Betsy.

94. Eternity engenders hope eternal.—P. P.

95. The embezzlements the men effected were redressed.—Untruth.

96. Nevertheless the excellent men were expelled. —Cygnet.

97. No food or comfort for poor fools who go for gold.—Cygne.

98. When Ned wedded he deemed expenses endless.—Djalfi.

99. Cotton wool oft comforts hollow crown of tooth.—Martlet.

100. A cabman's slang dwarfs sarcasm.—Vice Versa.

101. Who know how soon hot, cross words or looks of gloom grow to storms of sorrows.—Hobbima.

102. British drink victims inhibit illicit spirit drinking, diminish thirst with imbibing milk in slight sips, instil in minds ills visiting this infirmity. —Yalgogrin.

103. Most old folks know good old songs.—Heartsease.

104. Where the fleet deer sheltered, there the seekers seent her.—Flamingo.

105. What a catch Frank may land as a gallant naval spark!—Prak.

106. When Greek meets Greek severe the test we see,
Yet Greece repented ere the Cretes were free.
A. A. G.

107. Clever Frenchmen when temper helps them detect even the best preserved secrets.—Scorpio.

108. On topmost rocks roost troops of Royston crows.—Bathyllus.

109. Where Greek meets Greek severest sets the stress.—Quatre Bras.

110. Do honor to Tom P. O'Connor M.P.'s throbs —on poor Ho. of Lords—on Ho. of Commons floor. Edgcome.—

111. These recent events expressed the Frenchmen's feeble regret.—Psycho.

112. Poor old Otto looks too good to do wrong.—Club.

113. The sweet breeze freshens the restless trees. —Ellart.

114. When cheery men meet merry cheer revels.—Miss M.

115. Unjust Hugh shut up untruthful Zulus.—Cotton.

116. Civil civic cits climb high.—Ecossaise.

117. Let me get Ethel the wee, wee ewe she expected yester-eve.—Duff.

118. Persevere, ye perfect men,
Ever keep these precepts ten.
Moll.

119. Remember the end; we seek £ s. d.—Dorset.

120. Tom's off to-morrow too, to Wooloomooloo. —A. C.

121. Eleven re-elected members were present when we entered.—Albula.

122. The "tyred wheel" yet represses the fleshly steed.—Sylvia.

123. This Ministry's Irish Bill is inviting British criticism —Ubique.

124. Ada's tall talk was all trash.—Nikko.

125. Gold grows so common, crowds flock to B. C. (British Columbia).—Nin Nin.

126. Oh, fools to go for gold!
No comfort, no food—so cold.
Klondyke.

127. Eve fell when the serpent tempted her.—Flag.

Lists have been received from the following competitors:—

Dinah, Wanderer, Flamingo, Yam, Difficilis, Hammonia, Zagazig, Clara Elk, Weg, Mildew, Shah, Leila, Enos, Sclauidge, Gib, Vanessa, Bonwick, Frieda, Karenina, Luck, Natprobanian, Artegal, Scorp, Appoggiatura, Sally Brass, Notag, Fishy, Lyswys, Ecossaise, Oceana, Ivy Leaves, Stiektoit, Stiggins, Bullfinch, Retscrew, Toby, N. S. E. W., Maria, Trouvère, Roffia, C. M. P., Treeve, Snod, Moung Pho, Pemmie, Devon, Viti, S. W. F., Dilkûsha, Svonok, Borneo, Outis, Baba Jujube, Woodlands, Betty, Pupienno, Whig's Wife, The Hen, Impatient, Cassim, Pendarley, Spot, Beginner, Quaver, Little Sewer, Alpha Beta, Bredon, Jemima, Needle, Dry Monopole, Malsah, Myrah, New Dean, Wim, Mad Crank, Untruth, Number Une, Yriouy, La Plata, Quail, Kagubi, Lady Babbie, M. S. W., Erica, Whig, Nin Nin, Baritone, Bon-marché, N. Igma, Chutney, Culpepper, Clerice, Monkendons, Carradalia, Albula, Nippers, India, Corvetta, Peter, Islay, Relwof, Excelsior, E. H. K., Lucy, Bijou, John Duan, Guess, Scissors, Soor, Louise, Two Pounds Two, Murietta, Rich Man, Eleda, Polar Bear, Gwyelym, Wild Cat, Corkscrew, Felicité, Viper, Yen, Beroicus, Dagmar, Ukadoo, Duff, Pauvre Femme, Thomasina, Strix, One Hand, Oxoniensis, Vieux Kitty, Llwslly, Augustine, Charlwood. Laddie, M. A. P., R. Martin, Draeula.

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CEPHALIA
For HAY FEVER, NEURALGIC PAINS, & COLDS in the HEAD, &c.?
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REECE & CO., Medical Hall, Piccadilly, London.
EFFECT SIMPLY MIRACULOUS.

SALE OF
SILVER PENCILS.
Having purchased a huge Stock of 6s. 6d. and 8s. Solid Silver Hall Marked Pencils at an all-round price of 1s. 9½d. each, we are clearing them as follows:—
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750 to be Sold at 1s. 3d. each.
1,892 to be Sold at 2s. 11d. each.
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WATER ABSOLUTELY FREE FROM DISEASE GERMS, BY USING THE
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Full Illustrated Price List and Testimonials free on application.

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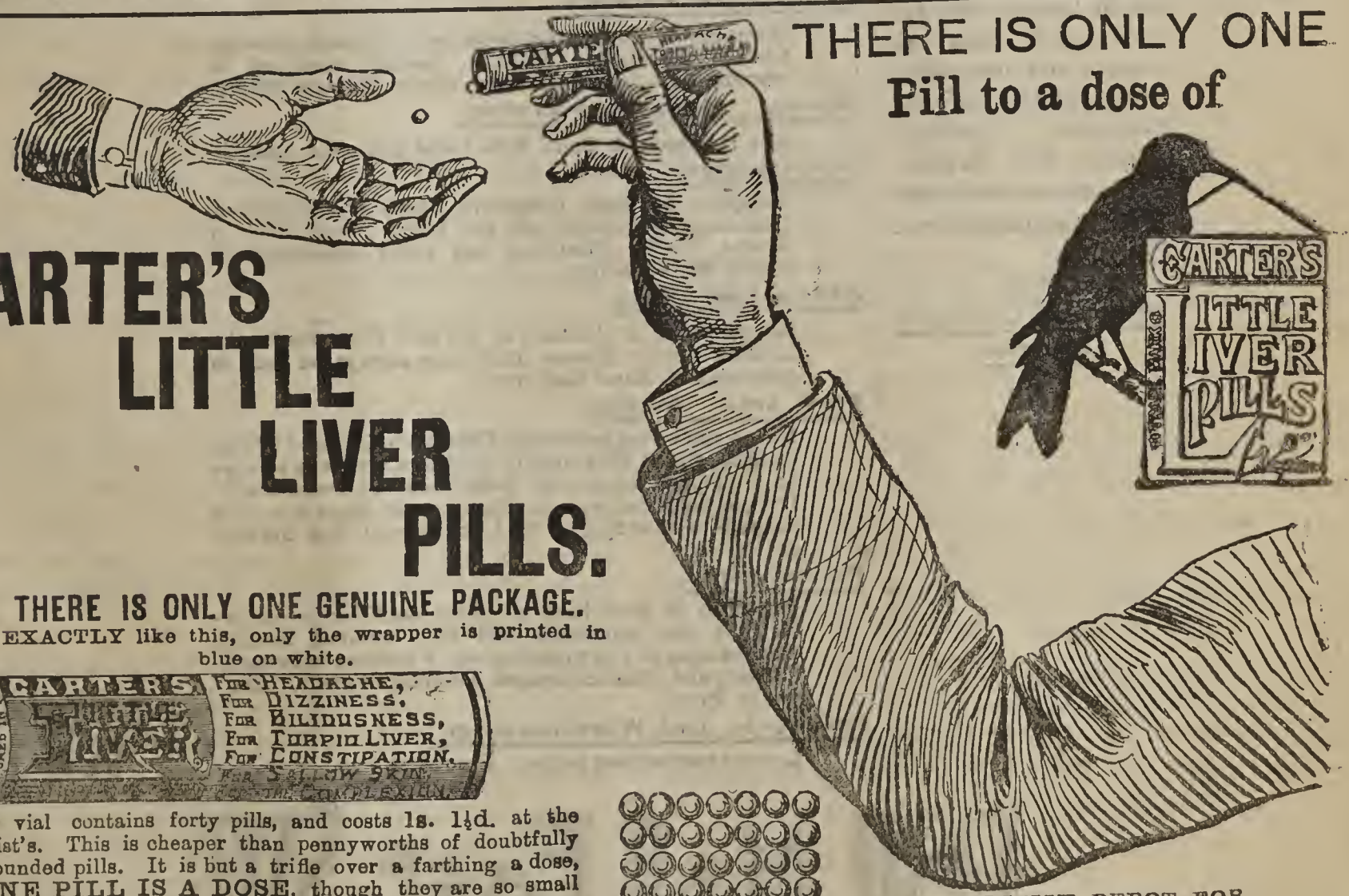

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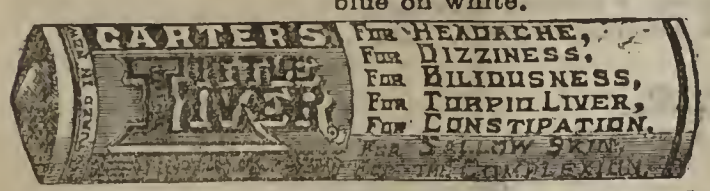

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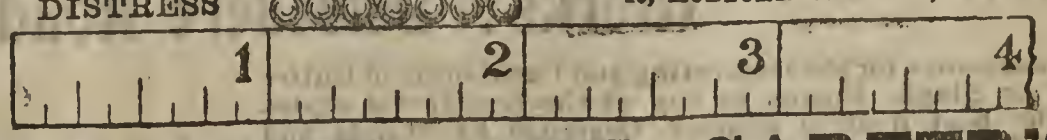

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

As my printers have a conscientious objection (which I respect, and share) to working on Easter Monday, it has been impossible to deal in this week's Truth with several important and interesting communications received during the last few days. All correspondence held over from this cause will receive attention in my next issue.

The Queen has no intention, as has been alleged, of "spending a day or two in Paris" on her way home. Her Majesty will travel direct from Nice to Cherbourg. The Queen is not expected to arrive at Windsor Castle from the Continent until the evening of Thursday, the 28th.

During the last fortnight the Queen has been seeing a great deal of Princess William of Baden, who is staying at Nice, and one of the papers refers to her as being the sister of the Emperor Frederick, which is a ridiculous blunder. The sister of the late Emperor is the Grand Duchess Louise of Baden, while Princess William is the widow of the Grand Duke's brother, her eldest son, Prince Max, being ultimate heir to the throne of Baden. Princess William is a daughter of the late Duke of Leuchtenberg, whose fortune was made by his marriage with the Grand Duchess Marie, eldest daughter of the Emperor Nicholas I., who fell in love with him at a review, and her father was obliged to consent to their marriage in order to prevent her from throwing herself into the Neva. The Duke of Leuchtenberg, who was said to be the handsomest man in the Russian Army, survived his marriage for less than ten years, dying at the age of thirty-five in 1852.

The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Denmark will come to England at the beginning of July on a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales, and they are to stay in London for about three weeks.

The marriage of Prince Christian of Denmark, eldest son of the Crown Prince, and the Duchess Alexandrina of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, which is to take place at Cannes next week, will be attended by the Prince of Wales (and possibly by the Princess), the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Denmark, Prince and Princess Charles, the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, the Duke and Duchess of West Gothland, the Hereditary Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Luxemburg, Prince and Princess Frederick of Schaumburg-Lippe, and several members of the Russian Imperial family.

The Prince of Wales will not be thoroughly settled at Marlborough House until after Ascot race-week, as H.R.H. has numerous provincial engagements before Whitsuntide, when he will go with the Princess to Sandringham for a fortnight. The Prince, who will return to London on Monday, the 25th, from the Continent, is to visit Newmarket for the First Spring Meeting from the 26th to the 29th, and he will be there again for the Second Spring Meeting from May 10 to 12. Then H.R.H. is to visit Lord and Lady Gerard at Garswood Park, Lancashire, on May 16, and afterwards he is going to Buckingham to inspect the Bucks Hussars in Stone Park on Friday, May 20.

About once a month somebody writes to ask me whether, on the succession of the Prince of Wales to the throne, the Duke of York will, *ipso facto*, succeed to his father's present title. It does not seem to be generally understood that a Prince of Wales, unlike a poet, is made —not born. Reference to history would show those who are in doubt on the subject that several Princes of Wales have had their title conferred upon them after their fathers have ascended the Throne, and in the ordinary course of things it is to be presumed that this precedent will be followed upon the next demise of the Crown.

Prince Christian will leave Cumberland Lodge next Monday for Dresden, where he is going to represent the Queen at the celebration of the seventieth birthday of the King of Saxony. Prince Christian is going to Dresden instead of the Duke of Connaught, who cannot conveniently leave England at present. Prince Christian is to spend a few days at Homburg during his stay in Germany, in order that he may see the Emperor and Empress, and

also the Empress Frederick, who is now at Bonn, visiting Prince and Princess Frederick of Schaumburg-Lippe.

Princess Henry of Prussia and her children are to arrive at Windsor Castle about the middle of May on a visit to the Queen, and they will accompany her Majesty to Balmoral shortly before Whitsuntide. Princess Henry is to pass some time during the summer in the Isle of Wight, and she will reside at either Kent House or Osborne Cottage for several weeks.

In spite of reiterated protests, the monstrous annual outlay upon the Royal yachts shows no sign of decreasing. It appears that during the last twelve months the outlay for repairs and decorative work amounted to the extravagant sum of £17,681, of which money the *Victoria and Albert* absorbed £7,076, while £7,097 was laid out on the *Osborne*. The *Alberta*, which never now goes outside of the Solent, required £2,247; and the cost of the *Elfin* (the Queen's milk, newspaper, and stores' boat when the Court is at Osborne) was £1,261.

Lord and Lady Salisbury are expected to return to England on Tuesday, May 3, from the Riviera, and they will reside principally at Hatfield House during the summer. I hear that Lord Salisbury is going to resign the office of Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, as he is so seldom able to visit Walmer Castle, and it is said that he will be succeeded by Lord George Hamilton, who will thus be provided with a pleasant and highly salubrious country residence.

Sir Blundell Maple has the sensible pride of a successful man in himself, and does not seek, like some rich fools, to pass as the descendant of a silly Crusader, or of a ruffian who lived in a castle during the Middle Ages and robbed his neighbours. Some gentlemen were discussing "old families" before him, and one of them suggested to him that his name showed that he is descended from the minstrel who discovered Richard Cœur-de-Lion in his prison. "But how about Maple?" said Sir Blundell. "Nothing more simple," replied the other. "When Richard heard him singing outside the castle, he said, 'Blondel m'appelle.' The minstrel repeated this to his friends so often that he got called 'Blondel m'appelle,' which has been corrupted into Blundell Maple."

At the latest Council meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society, Sir Nigel Kingscote announced that, as the result of last year's working, the total assets of the Society have increased from £45,875 to £48,572. This year's Show will be held at Four Oaks Park, near Birmingham, from June 18 to 24, being the week after Ascot.

Only about a year has elapsed since the death of the Duc d'Aumale, but the collections at Chantilly will be opened to the public on two days in each week, on and after the 15th. One would vastly like to know when the Hertford collections, which were left to the country by Lady Wallace, are likely to be accessible. I am told that the galleries will not be open for another year at least, which probably means two years in reality. Hertford House is certainly not going to be a cheap possession to the country, for £105,000 has already been voted for "necessary alterations," and there is an item of close upon £6,000 for "expenses of management," which is nearly as much as it takes to maintain the National Gallery.

The friends of Mr. Clement Scott—who are many—must all have been glad to see that he has made his peace with the ladies of the dramatic profession. If his historic pronouncement upon stage virtue had been true, it would still have been one of those things which are better left unsaid, and which the speaker generally wishes he had not said as soon as he has uttered them. Not being strictly in accordance with facts (as even the most virtuous now admit) there could be no excuse at all for saying it. The moral which I find in the story is that persons who have not cultivated the art of employing speech to conceal thought should never open their doors to an interviewer. Mr. Clement Scott and Mr. W. S. Gilbert—although, as I was grieved to learn at the late trial, they are not at one upon all points—have combined, within the space of a few days, to furnish the public with striking practical illustrations of this truth.

It is one of the paradoxes of journalism that no papers exhibit greater laxity in publishing baneful and objectionable advertisements than those which are run on strictly religious and temperance lines. The *Scottish Reformer*, the official organ of the temperance party in Scotland, is a conspicuous instance of this. It inserts advertisements which are not only immoral, but fraudulent. Their immorality is patent to the most unsophisticated reader, and their fraudulency has been proved over and over again, the last occasion being in an action in the law courts, to which I referred on March 17. How any respectable journal can allow its columns to be used by this peculiarly vicious class of medical quacks is simply incomprehensible.

At a time when money is urgently needed everywhere for educational purposes, it does seem to be in the highest degree foolish and ridiculous to waste large sums upon absolutely useless foundations, of which there are several at every University in the country. At Edinburgh there is a Chair of Celtic Language and Literature which has an endowment of £514 a year. During the present session the lectures have been attended by one student only! Then there is the Watson Gordon Chair of Fine Arts,

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For the Truth Hotel List, see page 944 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 942.
For Amusements, see page 943.
For Our Puzzles, see page 953.

with an income of £468, and two students! It may truly be said of some University Professors that their yoke is easy and their burden is light, while their fodder is extravagantly generous.

Lord Crawford has been elected President of the Bibliographical Society, which is an excellent choice. Lord Crawford was reluctantly obliged to sell the greater part of his magnificent library at Haigh Hall, but he has since formed another, which contains a large number of rare books. Mr. A. H. Huth, who is the new Vice-President, is the possessor of his late father's famous library, which has been valued at over a quarter of a million.

Much indignation is being expressed at Cambridge about a report that the erection of the Sedgwick Memorial Museum is again to be postponed on some pretext or other. More than twenty-five years have elapsed since Sedgwick's death, while the necessary funds for the proposed building were raised long ago, so the innumerable delays which have taken place have caused profound dissatisfaction. The whole affair reflects the utmost discredit on the University, and it is really to be hoped that the Senate will interfere decisively, and prevent any further delay, for which there can be no reason whatever of any sort or force.

No fewer than seven Anglican dioceses in various parts of the world are now vacant, and some of them have been left unoccupied for so unprecedentedly long a period that many of the "Church people" in the country must have come to think that, having got on very well without a Bishop for such a considerable time, they might now dispense altogether with such a functionary. Five of these dioceses are to be filled up by the Archbishop of Canterbury whenever he can find leisure to attend to such matters. The Sees of Bombay (£2,500 a year, with residence) and Calcutta (£3,000 a year, with residence) are in the gift of Lord George Hamilton, in his official capacity as Secretary of State for India.

It seems that the rumour which credited the Archbishop of Canterbury with the intention of conferring a Lambeth degree upon the Mayor of Nottingham was well founded. At a meeting of the Town Council last week, the Town Clerk announced that upon the recommendation of the Bishop of Southwell the Archbishop had conferred upon their Mayor the degree of LL.D. It is true that the Mayor is a lawyer by profession, but there is no pretence that the degree is given in recognition of his legal learning or acumen, it being avowedly a mere mark of the gratitude of the Church for the Mayor's services at the Church Congress. This proceeding is a gross abuse of the Archbishop's power of conferring degrees, and suggests that steps ought speedily to be taken to deprive him of power to confer bogus academic distinctions.

By way of demonstrating the waste of ecclesiastical revenues in small parishes with microscopic populations, a gentleman has been good enough to work out for me some statistics of such benefices, taking the incomes from the Clergy List, and the populations from the last census returns. The result is highly interesting. Taking only the letters "A" and "B" in the Clergy List, under the former head are to be found ten incumbents with an aggregate income of £1,294, and an aggregate population of 679 persons, inhabiting 154 houses; while under letter "B" are to be found eighteen parsons with an aggregate income of £2,998, a population of 1,227, and 251 houses. Putting the two tables together, we have an income of £4,392 assigned to twenty-eight clergymen for the cure of 1,906 souls, or an average of £157, fourteen and a half houses, and sixty-eight people to each parson.

Here are a few of the more striking individual cases:—

Houses in Parish.	Population.	Value of Living.
7	27	£127
7	40	£120 (and house)
8	42	£185
8	44	£110
8	50	£170 (and house)
11	48	£120 (and house)
12	59	£130 (and house)
14	57	£230 (and house)
15	63	£275 (and house)
15	85	£170 (and house)
18	98	£200 (and house)
20	94	£200 (and house)

No doubt similar results would be found under every initial letter in the Clergy List if it were systematically gone through.

Now it will be seen at a glance that the whole of the twenty-eight parishes referred to above, with their aggregate income of £4,392 per annum, do not contain among them as large a population as many a populous town parish. It would be easy indeed to find in all parts of the country single parishes with populations three or four times as great as the whole of these twenty-eight put together. It is really a monstrous and indefensible proceeding that the Church of England should be appealing to the public for money to support its clergy, while the revenues it possesses are squandered in this reckless and senseless fashion. Neither religion nor business justifies the appointment of a resident parson with a house and income of anything from £100 to £300 a year to a hamlet consisting of a score of houses or less and a population of less than one hundred people.

I have received 5s. from York and Ipswich towards the deficit in the Toy Fund.

H. L. Savory & Co.'s Cigarettes.—By Special Warrants of Appointments to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, H.S.H. the Duke of Teck, and the Houses of Lords and Commons. To be obtained of all the leading Houses in the trade.—Sole address, 59, Piccadilly, London, W. Specimen case of samples, containing all sizes, 2s. 6d., with price list.

A Beautiful Hotel at Bournemouth.—The "Royal Bath." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Sea frontage, 1,000 ft.; grounds, 5 acres. Due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.* Moderate fixed tariff.

Sir William Lockhart's glowing and undiscriminating eulogies on every officer and man engaged in the Tirah Expedition, together with his portentous list of individuals selected for special mention, read like a sort of official counterblast to the criticism which the many blunders of the campaign have provoked in military circles both in India and at home. If by such means it is hoped to throw dust in the eyes of the public, and to gloss over the shortcomings of Indian military organisation, that expectation is likely to be disappointed. The voluminous correspondence that I have received from India by the last two mails affords pretty clear proof that, so far as that country, at any rate, is concerned, opinion on the mismanagement of the campaign has been in no way modified by the submission of the Afridis.

The criticism which the Staff has incurred in connection with the recent operations, has evoked many comments upon the systematic violations of the rules limiting an officer's period of Staff service. The regulation which requires a man to go back to regimental work after two years' Staff employ is undoubtedly sound in principle, and tends quite as much to keep up the efficiency of Staff officers as to promote a wider distribution of Staff billets. But in practice the rule is systematically ignored both in England as well as in India. There are several officers in high places at Simla at present who have done no regimental duty for fifteen years or longer, and it stands to reason that such men must be utterly out of touch with regimental feeling, while their knowledge of the details of regimental work must have grown very rusty. At the same time it is disheartening to officers who have taken the trouble to acquire the P.S.C. to wait year after year without finding Staff employment.

There are no fewer than seven officers, nominally squadron commanders in one Indian Cavalry regiment, at present enjoying billets on the Staff or under the Foreign Office. Two of these have actually not seen their regiment since the last Afghan War. A third was on the Commander-in-Chief's Staff uninterruptedly from 1883 to 1895. He was then appointed Brigade-Major of one of the Brigades of the Chitral Relief Force, and remains in that or some similar berth down to the present moment. It really looks as if some officers were formally granted exemption from all Service rules and regulations, just as in former days Kings and other favoured individuals received indulgences from the Church enabling them to commit with impunity what, in humbler mortals, were counted deadly sins.

Another point on which I have received a good deal of correspondence is the rearguard engagement in which the 1st Northamptonshire were involved on November 9 at Saran Sar. A great deal has been said about this affair, and it may be remembered that a long letter from a soldier in the 1st Northamptonshire was published in Truth of February 10. Colonel Chaytor has, I understand, now been removed from the command of the battalion, presumably as the result of the inquiry that took place into this affair.

Now, in discussing the details of the engagement in Truth of February 10, I said that it was obvious even to a civilian that somebody had blundered, and that the blunder had resulted in a deplorable loss of life. At the same time, let us be sure that we get the blame on the right shoulders. The hill at Saran Sar was occupied by the 4th Brigade on the early morning of November 9. As mentioned in my correspondent's account of the fighting, "the retirement was ordered to commence at 12.30, but was delayed on account of some of the headquarter staff being late; consequently, it did not commence until about 2.30 p.m." The result of this delay was that the troops were overtaken by darkness before they reached camp. Colonel Chaytor took his men through a nullah, where the enemy attacked the rear company, and some desperate fighting took place, one section under a colour-sergeant getting astray, and being killed to a man.

Clearly, the primary cause of this disaster was the delay of two hours in the retirement of the brigade. Whose fault was this? The story universally current in India, and alluded to by the soldier from whose letter I have just quoted, is that the delay arose entirely from Sir William Lockhart and his Staff stopping at the foot of the hill to lunch. If this is true, clearly Colonel Chaytor was not the chief party to blame for the disaster to his battalion. The chief fault that he committed appears to have been taking his men through a nullah, but a mistake of this kind is neither criminal nor inexcusable in a Colonel and a regiment fresh from Madras, and quite inexperienced in mountain warfare. My readers will remember what has been said with regard to the repeated attacks on convoys on the Arhanga Pass, in consequence of their being allowed to be on the move after dark, a blunder which was only rectified after the disastrous attack which resulted in the loss of the treasure chest, 12,000 or 13,000 rounds of Lee-Metford ammunition, and a number of mules. When it is remembered that no one has been punished for this deplorable bungling, it is not surprising that there should be a strong feeling in India that Colonel Chaytor has been most harshly dealt with.

Another interesting fact on which one of my Indian correspondents comments is that, while the C.O. of the 1st Northamptonshire is thus sacrificed, a General Officer commanding a brigade on a different part of the frontier, who undoubtedly by his faulty dispositions and arrangements brought about quite as serious a disaster, has been advanced to the command of a district.

A great deal has been said about the important part that parlour games and amateur theatricals play in the distribution of high commands and snug billets in India. Perhaps the most extraordinary example of this sort of

thing that has occurred is the recent appointment to a certain District Command in the Punjab. The General commanding this district having gone on active service, the post should, in the ordinary course of things, have been filled by the next senior officer. There were at least three officers on the station perfectly qualified to undertake the duty. It so happened, however, that an honorary officer of the Simla Amateur Dramatic Club was then out of military employment, and he was at once recognised as the proper man for the post, and duly appointed. There could hardly have been any other reason than his dramatic talents for the selection, seeing that the officer in question was on half pay, was only in Simla on leave from England, was not on the Indian Establishment, had no claim whatever on the Indian taxpayer, and had never commanded more than a company of infantry during the course of his military career. I hear that since this appointment was announced several well-known amateur actors with military qualifications have gone to India in the hope of securing profitable employment.

For years past we have heard of the grievance of the Indian Staff Corps through its officers being placed under men junior to themselves in the British Service who happen to be serving on the same station. This grievance has been remedied, but apparently only with the result of putting the boot on the other leg, for I now have a communication from India, in which an officer's wife complains that in the Poona command at present several Staff Corps Officers junior to her husband are taking seniority over him, owing to their having the temporary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. This is not a sentimental grievance, for the British officer concerned was passed over for appointment to an important post in the Tirah Expedition, owing to one of these temporary Lieutenant-Colonels coming before him. Surely it might have been possible to do justice to Peter in this matter without robbing Paul.

It is true that our expenditure on the Army is going up at the rate of millions per annum, but it may be some comfort to taxpayers to know that if there is a chance of saving sixpence, our military administrators are not likely to overlook it. In proof of this I may refer to a circular letter recently issued from the War Office "with reference to the charges for cab hire by officers on change of stations," &c. The circular points out that "experience has shown that, as a general rule," the 120 lb. of luggage which an officer is allowed free by passenger train "does not divide into more than three packages that go outside a cab." Consequently "the charge for outside luggage should not exceed sixpence (calculated at the rate of twopence per package)." It would be interesting to know how much time, labour, and money have been spent at the War Office in tabulating experience on this important point, working out statistics, and issuing the necessary instructions.

I do not know whether officers are called upon to produce the cabman's receipt as a voucher for the expenditure of sixpence under the foregoing circumstances, but it appears to be the practice to require such receipts where an officer has to incur cab hire in the performance of his duties. I heard an amusing story told the other day by a man who had to obtain a receipt for this purpose from an illiterate Irish carman. After drawing up the document in his note-book, the officer had to get the carman to affix his cross to it, and then sign it himself as a witness to the carman's signature. Really, considering the quantity of financial camels which the War Office requires us to digest every year, I think a few gnats like these might be swallowed without so much straining.

The Government of India is also cultivating the virtue of economy in this matter of cab fares. I have before me a letter addressed from Fort William on January 1, 1898, with reference to certain claims for garry hire made by a medical officer at Aden in respect of duty during the period from February to September, 1896. It has apparently taken the Government about sixteen months to adjudicate upon this point, and when their decision comes, it is to the effect that a Surgeon-Captain of the Medical Staff who has had in the course of his duties to journey constantly between Steamer Point and the Crater, Aden, which I understand is a distance of about ten miles, going and coming, is not entitled to any allowance for a vehicle.

This matter is argued out at some length by the Government, and seems to be influenced not so much by a feeling that a medical officer ought to walk ten miles in a tropical climate as a matter of course in the performance of his duties, as by a fear that, if the concession is made to this particular officer, it will have to be extended to others. This view of the matter is fortified by the following singular argument :—

> Every officer, as a rule, keeps a pony or a horse for his own convenience, *and, as the pay he receives from Government enables him to do this, it is quite fair that he should occasionally use his animal to assist him in the performance of his duties.*

I do not know what the Army will say to this view, but it obviously implies that the Government has a sort of claim upon the whole of every officer's goods and chattels. If his pony, why not his stables and groom? And if these, why not his house and furniture, the clothes on his back, and everything purchased out of his pay?

According to a statement which appeared in the Press a few days before Easter, the War Office is still appealing to the civilian medical profession for help out of its present difficulties, and as many as six official posts which ought to be filled by Army Medical Officers are now said to have

Duysen Pianos are the most superb of all modern Instruments. They stand absolutely unrivalled for beauty of tone, touch, & finish. A consummate success in small grands.—Lloyd's, 24, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, W.

been given to civilians. Why do not the authorities avail themselves of the services of the many Medical Officers, retired on gratuities, with liability to further service, who are only too anxious to return to duty? Why are these officers liable to further service—and thereby greatly handicapped in civil practice—if they are not to be used in emergencies like the present?

It may interest the War Office authorities to know that I have authentic evidence in my possession showing that the sergeant-major of a certain battery of Royal Horse Artillery in India has, for a long time past, made it a practice to levy on the canteen sergeant for the time being a payment of Rs. 4 per barrel of beer sold. In addition he has, in some cases, retained for his own use the payment of Rs. 7 8 a. per month allowed to the canteen sergeant. In one recent case the sergeant refused to pay the money, but the sergeant-major contrived to make things so unpleasant for him that he eventually gave in to the extent of agreeing to pay Rs. 2 per barrel. The understanding, of course, is that these payments are to be recouped by watering the beer and selling short measure, so that virtually it is an arrangement for defrauding the soldiers for the benefit of the Sergeant-Major. It would be idle to mention the name of the battery, for, of course, the sergeants still in the battery, who have been parties to these irregularities, would decline to admit their share in the transaction. The facts are, however, vouched for by men who have left the Service, and I think that if the military authorities were to go to work in the right way they could soon verify the allegations for themselves. It is much to be desired that such frauds should be detected and stopped.

My attention has been called to a misprint in a paragraph in Truth of February 17, dealing with a recent promotion to the rank of Commissary-General in the Madras Command (Burma). It was there suggested that the grievance of the Commissariat officers on the Madras list, in being deprived of a promotion to which they were entitled under the Army Circular of 1889, should be met by transferring to the Bengal list "Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly, senior Commissary-General, First Class, on the Madras list, who is already officiating as Administrative Commissariat Officer in Burma, and by filling up the vacancy thus created from the Madras list." The officer alluded to was Lieutenant-Colonel Kenny, not Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly. I take this opportunity of saying again that the Indian authorities ought not to lose sight of this point, for as matters stand at present they have been guilty of a direct breach of faith towards the officers of the Madras list.

If a list of the candidates for the post of Commandant at the Staff College could be published, it would probably furnish some interesting and suggestive reading. From what I can learn, there must have been several who, to the ignorant eye of a mere civilian, appear much better qualified for such a post than the officer on whom the choice of the War Office fell. That is to say, while the officer selected can have only a theoretical knowledge of soldiering, there were other candidates who have commanded regiments on active service, and gained war distinctions, and whose educational qualifications were quite as well attested as those of Colonel Miles. *Primâ facie* there is good ground for the remark made by an officer who writes to me on this subject, that "the men who get on in the Army are those who sit at home in comfortable billets, under the eye of the Pall Mall authorities, who do not spend too much time in grinding at the regimental mill, and who do not incur the toils and perils of active service in out-of-the-way parts of the world."

A noble lord holding the Queen's commission the other day raised a protest in Parliament against the outrageous expenditure forced upon him by needless changes of uniform. Lord Lansdowne had, of course, a soft official answer ready, which purported to prove that whatever changes have been made have been rather for the benefit of officers than otherwise. That is a view which I doubt whether the Service generally will endorse. The following letter recently reached me on the subject, and it comes from on officer who is specially qualified to know what has been going on recently in regard to changes of uniform:—

> It was the custom up to the last two years to blame the Duke of Cambridge for every change in the dress of the Army, and it was therefore thought that when Lord Wolseley was appointed officers would be spared the expense entailed by needless alterations. The reverse has been the case, and it is not too much to say that during the last two years there has been more transmogrification of uniform than during the whole thirty-eight years of the Duke's Commander-in-Chiefship. There is hardly an article of dress and equipment that has not been experimented upon, and, as a rule, with the worst results. Whatever our Army may have been in other respects, it was formerly at least well dressed. Now all this is changed, and our officers and men in their slovenly sack-like "frocks," and their field caps, which are something between a Glengarry and a fool's cap, present a spectacle which is certainly not likely to induce recruits to join the Army.
>
> Officers, too, are complaining loudly of the endless expense they are put to in order to satisfy the caprices of individuals at Headquarters, and to fill the pockets of tailors. The whole dress of the Staff has been changed, and Artillery Colonels have now to throw away their blue tunics and clothe themselves in scarlet for no conceivable reason but pure love of change. . . .

On the other hand, when there is an opening for a sensible dress reform, it seems to pass unnoticed. I have once or twice ventilated the grievance of a cavalry officer who complains of having to sit on a court-martial in knee-boots, jack-spurs, haversack, whistle, and "head-dress unplumed." I now hear from this officer that the authorities have so far yielded to the suggestions of common sense as to strike the "head-dress unplumed" out of the regulations. One would have thought that while they were about it they would have gone a little further; but I suppose the exalted individual who interests himself in these matters likes to protract as long as possible the pleasure of issuing new sumptuary regulations, and is therefore reluctant to issue one order where he can carry the thing

Major Howe & Co., Ltd.—Fashionable Boots and Shoes.—16, Coventry-st., W.; 60, Strand, W.C.; 81, Gracechurch-st.; and 13, Queen Victoria-st., London. "Note Addresses." (Repairs.)

out by half a dozen. For his guidance when he next gives his attention to this important subject, I may mention that my cavalry friend suggests that a suitable dress for a court-martial would be "service frock, overalls, Wellington boots and spurs, sword, and belt." My friend thinks that he could try a prisoner much better is this dress, and anything which will conduce to the interests of justice always has my support.

Several Volunteer officers have written in corroboration of the experience of the late C.O. of the 4th Lancashire Volunteer Artillery, dealt with in TRUTH of the 31st ultimo. No doubt if the last week or two had not been the busiest time of the year for Volunteer officers, I should have heard more on the same subject, for I am told on all sides that there is hardly a Volunteer corps which cannot furnish some illustration of the systematic efforts of the War Office to force officers to finance their corps out of their own pockets. I take the following from a letter written by one Commanding Officer:—

The thanks of the Volunteer Force are due to you for your article on "The War Office and the Volunteers," more especially as you hit the nail so straight on the head.

The case of the 4th L.V.A. is simply one example out of many of the present system of War Office management, and it well illustrates the usual methods of the Department.

From an experience of over thirty years in the Volunteer Force, latterly as a Commanding Officer, I have not the least doubt that the War Office has no intention of organising the Volunteers or of doing more for them than can possibly be helped. This is simply due, as you say, to "professional jealousy and selfishness." Not the least effort is made to make use of the splendid material of which the Force is composed; but on the contrary no device of which red tape is capable is spared to thwart the efforts of men who are doing their best to help in the defence of their country.

I am sorry that so little has been said on this point during the discussion on the increased and increasing military Estimates. The public, I do not doubt, are willing to agree to any necessary expenditure to ensure the safety of the country, but it is no use giving more money to be wasted by the present ring of officials. We of the Volunteer Force know that the amount which is necessary for our efficiency would not be grudged if we give good value for the money, and that we can do, and are ready to do, when the War Office will let us.

It is a great pity that the public do not show more interest in this important question. At this time of year, when the Volunteers have been disporting themselves in their Easter manœuvres, one reads in the Press a vast amount of more or less unintelligent gush over their self-devotion and public spirit, and their admirable bearing and physique. But the British Public generally would feel very uncomfortable if they had nothing but the Volunteers behind the Fleet as our second line of defence, and it is an astonishing thing that they should consent, year after year, to vote money for the Force, without making the slightest attempt to secure that value is given for the money. No one appreciates the Volunteers more highly than I do, but I appreciate them more for what they might be than for what they are; and they will never be what they might be until Parliament insists that the War Office shall take the Force in hand and organise it as an effective unit in our national defences.

The Punjab Government is being appealed to, I understand, for a pension for the widow of Mr. L. F. Maclean, superintending engineer at Delhi, whose sad death was noticed in these columns last week. Mrs. Maclean is not, it seems, legally entitled to a pension. Seeing, however, that her husband, a distinguished public officer, lost his life, as the Lieutenant-Governor has declared, partly through the mistake of a Government Civil Surgeon in writing out a prescription, and partly through the disregard of rules by two other servants of the Government in making up the prescription, a pension ought surely to be granted in so exceptional a case. On the principle *qui facit per alium facit per se*, the Government is directly responsible for the death of the lady's husband.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Burma has just given his decision on a case which affords a good illustration of the contempt in which the liberty of the subject is held by Indian officialdom. Some months back the authorities at Rangoon got into a state of unreasoning panic in view of an intended demand for the delivery up to Government of a piece of land on which a Mohammedan sect called Chittagonians had erected a plank hut, alleged to be a mosque. The event proved that the fears of a riot were groundless, neither the Chittagonians nor the Mohammedans in general exhibiting any resentment at the handing over of the building. But the police in their terror thought they must do something, and what they did was to arrest a well-known and respectable native merchant who is a Memon, and who had no concern with or influence over the Chittagonians. A man of his nationality was, in fact, about as likely to stir up a riot on account of a ramshackle Chillagonian mosque as a High Church parson would be to excite himself about the demolition of a Plymouth Brethren's meeting house.

The merchant in question was arrested on a warrant, signed by Mr. H. L. Tilly, District Magistrate, requiring him to show cause why he should not be bound over to keep the peace. By the day following the arrest it was found that a mistake had been made, and the magistrate made an order to the effect that "there was not now any necessity to call upon Ahmed Moolla Darwood to show cause," &c., and that "he might go." Before "going," however, the prisoner desired the magistrate to inquire into the truth of the information upon which the warrant had been issued. By Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code it was clearly the duty of the magistrate to try this question, but he declined to do so, nor would he disclose the names of the parties upon whose information the arrest was decided upon. The prisoner memorialised the Lieutenant-Governor for an inquiry into the circumstances of his arrest and release, but the reply is simply that the magistrate "believed" the information on which he acted, and that nothing further can be done. So long, therefore, as Mr. H. L. Tilly, or any other credulous magistrate, "believes" any cock and bull story that is brought to

HOTEL ALBEMARLE, Piccadilly, London. Private Suite, Bath, Electric Light, Lift. VERMERSCH, Proprietor. Paris: Imperial Hotel, Champs Elysées. Boulogne S/M: Imperial Pavilion Hotel.

him, no matter how absurd it may be, it is sufficient to justify an arrest, and the prisoner may be subsequently dismissed without either an attempt to substantiate the charge against him, an admission that it is unfounded, or a disclosure of the names of his accusers. No subject, whatever his nationality, is safe on these terms.

A few months back it was suggested in TRUTH that discharged soldiers applying to the Dublin branch of the Army and Navy Pensioners' Employment Society sometimes have cause for dissatisfaction at the treatment they receive there. A further complaint on the subject has recently come to hand, and this time it is alleged that Protestants or Freemasons have a better chance than others of getting work through this office. Whether the office is managed by Protestants or Freemasons, I cannot say; but it would cut the ground from under many complaints, and be more satisfactory all round, if there were some sort of committee to look after the work of the branch and hear complaints from disappointed applicants.

A discharged quartermaster-sergeant R.A., applying the other day for employment at the Edinburgh office of the same Association, was shown the telegram reproduced below from the Postmaster at Glasgow to the secretary of the office. Temporary employment at 11s. 9d. to 17s. per week, or permanent employment at 15s. with no prospect of promotion for several years, is a captivating sort of offer to make to a non-commissioned officer discharged with an exemplary character after thirteen years' service. I much fear that, if the duty of finding employment for ex-soldiers is left to any great extent to the "model employer" of St. Martin's-le-Grand, the result will not do much to stimulate recruiting or enhance "the advantages of the Army." This is the Glasgow Postmaster's offer:—

Ten of the twenty men asked for are wanted as relieving postmen at sub-offices, at wages varying from 11s. 9d. to 17s., according to the duties performed. These are wanted for temporary employment only. A few more—three or four probably—are still needed as assistant postmen here, wages 15s. In their case the employment would probably be permanent. No promotion, however, for several years would be at all likely, owing to the large number in this class.

Here are some facts showing that it is not without good reason that the Telephone Department of the Post Office is so severely criticised. For about twelve years an estate agent in the West End has rented from the Post Office a private wire between his two places of business. On March 4 he wrote to the Secretary stating that one of his offices would be transferred on the 25th to a house three doors farther up the same street, and asking that the private telephone should be removed and fixed in the new premises by that date. The receipt of the letter was acknowledged on the 7th, and about a week later an engineer came to ascertain what was required. As nothing more was done, further letters were addressed to the Department on the 23rd and 25th, saying that the office had been removed and the telephone instrument left at the old premises, where it remained at the risk of the Post Office. The instrument was fetched away on the 26th; and on the 30th a formal acknowledgment of the letters of the 23rd and the 25th arrived. But though yet another reminder was sent to the Department, no step has been taken—or, at any rate, had not been a few days back—to carry the private wire to the new office, great inconvenience being caused by the consequent severance of communication with the other office. Comment upon such dilatoriness and mismanagement seems almost superfluous. The way in which this small job has been dealt with is a pretty good proof, however, of the futility of relying upon the Post Office for a proper development of the competition with the National Telephone Company which, as Mr. Hanbury admits, is so urgently required.

THE APOTHEOSIS OF THE PENNY.

The hot water lamp-post, which also supplies packets of tea, cocoa, &c., on the penny-in-the-slot system, is already gaining considerable popularity in London.—*Morning Paper.*

So far, so good! But when these lamps
  Are well-known points in London scenery,
What, *then*, is it proposed to do
  With penny-in-the-slot machinery?
When from a lamp-post we can make
  Hot streams of tea and cocoa well up,
In what direction next, we'd ask,
  Will automatic modes develop?

Will penny-in-the-slot machines
  Supply not only teas, but dinners?
And give out automatic "tips"
  To those intent on backing winners?
Will licensed lamp-posts be allowed
  To take the place of public-houses,
And offer passers-by a chance
  Of strictly limited carouses?

And, may we venture to believe,
  That even now the time quite close is
When similar contrivances
  Will deal out drugs in penny doses?
Dispensing for this trivial fee—
  Without the need of an appointment—
Such remedies for common ills
  As powders, capsules, pills, and ointment.

Will automatic music, too,
  Be, so to speak, "on tap" to cheer us?
Shall we have pennyworths of Brahms,
  And Gounod, and Mascagni near us?
And will there (this we ask, we own,
  With grimmest of anticipations)
Be penny-in-the slot machines
  Charged to the brim with recitations?

In short, 'mongst that which soon to us
  A century new will be allotting,
Shall we acclaim an age of U-
  -niversal Penny-in-the Slotting?
An age when all our daily wants,
  Whether they be but few or many,
Will be sufficiently supplied
  By merely dropping in a penny?

Some highly "Progressive" patron of the drama on the County Council brought forward the other day a proposal to render it compulsory on managers of theatres and music-halls to open their doors so

as to prevent a waiting crowd outside. In spite, however, of the moving picture he drew of the sufferings of the early birds, an unsympathetic meeting declined to entertain the subject, and the enthusiastic playgoer will still have to display his hardihood when he elects to plant himself in front of a door some hours before the advertised time of its opening. It may, perhaps, have occurred to the more practical members of the Council that there is a necessity for some "close time" in which to prepare a theatre for its next audience, and also that if a "waiting crowd" could legally compel a manager to open his doors, the close time would speedily disappear altogether.

The Holbeach Guardians have vanquished the Local Government Board in the famous culinary controversy, and the inmates of the Workhouse will still continue to revel in suet-puddings with three ounces of suet to the pound! How the poor foreigner must envy the fortunate inhabitants of a country which can afford to keep up a Department with a President at £2,000 a year, and an adequate staff, to check wanton extravagance in the shape of too much suet in its paupers' puddings! And how the same P.F. will thrill at mention of those Holbeach Hampdens who refused to stand by and see their paupers quietly dispoiled of their rightful heritage—of suet!

Considering what London suffers at the hands of gas and water companies, it is astonishing that even a vestry should have the audacity in these days to betray the interests of the ratepayers into the hands of another gang of monopolists. The vestries of Hackney and Fulham propose to do this by disposing of their provisional electric lighting orders to companies, and if these reactionary schemes are carried through, each parish will suffer a loss of many thousands a year. In the case of Hackney my contemporary *London* makes some grave allegations of bribery; and in both cases the transaction contemplated is undoubtedly most fatuous and shortsighted, in view of the results of the working of electric lighting enterprises by other local bodies in the metropolis and municipal corporations throughout the country.

The large army of cyclists will rejoice over the recent police notice issued against the reprehensible practice of throwing broken glass haphazard into the streets, as well as nails extracted from packing cases, &c. Not that the Commissioner appears to have been moved into action by the woes of the wheelman, so much as by the serious injuries resulting to the feet of horses from contact with these obnoxious articles. There is unquestionably a strong tendency on the part of the less responsible inhabitants of London to make use of the roadways for the disposal of anything and everything required to be got rid of, and if this practice can be checked by the issue of the notice in question, it is a pity that it has not been made public before. But the caution against strewing the pavement with orange-peel, circulated by the police, is anything but universally regarded, and it is to be feared that a like fate is in store for the present warning.

A correspondent takes exception to a remark in Truth the other day that the Home Secretary could effectively protect the Chief Constable of Devonport from the Watch Committee, if that arrogant body fell foul of him for instituting licensing prosecutions on his own responsibility. I am reminded that a Watch Committee can dismiss a Chief Constable at their pleasure, and that the only appeal against their decision is to the Town Council out of which the Committee is formed. This is perfectly true, but nevertheless it seems to me that the Home Secretary could interfere effectively enough, if he considered that an injustice was being done. He could not absolutely prevent the dismissal, but he could, unless I am greatly mistaken, withdraw the grant of one half of the cost of the police—including one half of the Chief Constable's salary—which is made from the national exchequer to every city and borough. A mere intimation that this would be done would suffice, I fancy, to bring the most pig-headed and tyrannical Watch Committee to their senses.

At the same time, I agree with my correspondent that the position in which a Chief Constable stands is far from satisfactory. In the larger towns he is, as a rule, allowed ample freedom in the discharge of his duties; but in many of the smaller boroughs he is hampered and harassed at every turn. In more than one place besides Devonport it is the practice of the Watch Committee to determine in secret conclave whether prosecutions shall be instituted or not against persons who have been reported by the police for licensing or other offences—in other words, to try in private the question whether a case shall be tried in public. These Star Chamber inquiries almost invariably lead to scandals such as have occurred in Devonport, through the failure to prosecute persons who ought to have been prosecuted, and who would have been prosecuted if the matter had been left with the Chief Constable.

In every town the Chief Constable must, at times, tread upon the corns of influential people—it may be even upon the corns of members of the Watch Committee—and if he is to do his duty in such cases without fear or favour, he should be secured against arbitrary dismissal. I think, myself, as I have explained, that the Home Secretary already possesses the means of shielding him from the wrath of the Watch Committee. But it would certainly be much better that an officer who occupies such a responsible position, and who is really as much the servant of the State

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as of the Municipality, should be given a definite right of appeal from the Watch Committee to the Home Secretary in case of dismissal.

It is one of the blots on the Local Government Act of 1894 that it failed—thanks to Tory obstruction and opposition—to place the administration of parochial charities on a definite and satisfactory footing. Here is a case that has arisen. A Parish Council appoints two trustees of a parochial charity. The Charity Commissioners appoint the other trustees, and the latter refuse to allow the Council to inspect the trust deeds of the charity. Is the Council entitled to make such an inspection; and, if so, what steps should be taken to obtain it? Perhaps some of my legal readers may be willing to answer these queries.

The principle of *noblesse oblige* evidently does not commend itself to the Dacre Hamiltons of County Monaghan. In July last, Mr. Dacre M. Hamilton, a Lieutenant in the Militia, and a son of Mr. Dacre M. A. Hamilton, an extensive landowner in the county, was riding a bicycle on the footpath, when he knocked down and severely hurt a poor old woman named Mary Smith. The old woman, who works hard for her livelihood, asked for compensation, and the Dacre Hamiltons proffered her the munificent sum of five shillings. She took her claim to the Monaghan Quarter Sessions, and last October Judge Craig gave a decree in her favour against Lieutenant Hamilton for £10 and costs. Hamilton Senior then made another offer of £3. This being refused, nothing whatever was paid under the decree, and a few days since the Judge's attention was called to the defendant's default.

It appears that Lieutenant Hamilton is a minor. He is, as the judge put it, "old enough to serve her Majesty in the Militia, yet young enough to set the law at defiance" by refusing to pay this debt. The judge was indignant at the refusal, and he proceeded to express his opinion of the Dacre Hamiltons, father and son, with remarkable frankness:—

> "I thought it impossible," said his Honour, "that a gentleman—an officer in the Militia, and the son of a grand juror and extensive landowner in Monaghan, should behave in such a manner. I often hear that the country is changed, and I say it is changed when conduct of this kind is persisted in by men like the defendant and his father. . . . . There was a time when, if a Militia officer behaved in this manner and refused to compensate this poor old woman, he would have been obliged by the public opinion of his regiment and his fellow officers to resign his commission. I don't know whether Militia officers of the present day entertain the views that were formerly held."

I hope we shall see that they do.

If a new argument was needed—which it was not—against the practice of kissing the cover of a dirty Testament in order to lend additional credibility to evidence in Courts of Justice, that argument has now been supplied. We knew before that the custom is stupid, profane, dirty, and dangerous to health. We know now from the letter of Mr. F. A. Stringer to the *Times*, that it is, comparatively speaking, a new-fangled absurdity, without even the sanction of historical tradition to give it respectability. Mr. Stringer, who has been investigating the subject, declares that, down to the end of the seventeenth century, the witness merely laid his hand on the Bible in swearing, and that no mention of kissing the Book can be found before the middle of the eighteenth century. That ought to settle the matter.

It would be interesting if Mr. Stringer would find out for us next who introduced the practice of kissing the volume, and why. As the custom does not exist in any other country, it could hardly have been imported, yet one would think there must have been some reason for starting such a strange practice. If kissing had to be done at all, I wonder that our forefathers did not start kissing the usher or the judge, both of whom wash their faces occasionally, whereas the Court Testament goes uncleaned from beginning to end of its existence. True, I have seen an usher wipe the book with his pocket-handkerchief before handing it to a witness, but, though well meant, this attention is not as comforting as might be wished. And it was only offered to a Duke—not to an ordinary witness.

In fairness to the authorities of the Supreme Court Pay Office, one more word is necessary in reference to the case of the lady and the legacy recently noticed in TRUTH. It seems that the idea that the money could not be obtained, notwithstanding the order of the Court, until the next dividend became due, arose from a misunderstanding on the part of the solicitors to the legatee. As soon as attention was called to the matter, the Assistant Paymaster-General promptly removed this misunderstanding, and the young lady has now come into her modest inheritance of £50 and interest which the Court of Chancery had kept during her minority. The fact that she was compelled to employ a lawyer, and to incur costs to the tune of £7 15s. 6d. in getting the legacy, still remains, however, a serious reflection upon the procedure of the Court of Chancery in such cases.

Apropos of the question of Chancery costs, a lawyer points out that an immense amount of money is squandered every year through the mere folly of testators. As a case in point, a testator left the interest of £300 to a certain woman for life, and afterwards "to be equally divided among the lawfully-begotten children and grandchildren of my late sister Jane." The £300 was paid into Court in an administration suit, and the Chief Clerk certified that it was payable to thirty-five persons on the death of the life tenant, *i.e.*, seven children and twenty-

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eight grandchildren of the late sister Jane, the parties being scattered all over the world. The shares amount to less than £9 each, and in all probability many of them will never be taken out of Chancery on account of the expense involved to the parties entitled. No doubt a considerable portion of the accumulations of unclaimed property in Chancery is due to similar dispositions.

The Lord Chancellor has added another job to his long list. Judge Edge, of the Devonshire County Court circuit, has been appointed to the vacancy at Clerkenwell, caused by the retirement of Judge Meadows White. The Devonshire vacancy has been given to Mr. Robert Woodfall, who was born in 1855, and called to the Bar in 1883, and was a member of the South Wales circuit, the Chancellor's old circuit. It can scarcely be said that he is a well-known junior. But he is a good Tory, and a brother-in-law of the Lord High Jobber, whose second wife is Mr. Woodfall's sister. Considering the importance which now attaches to County Court jurisdiction, it is scandalous that such appointments should be given in this manner. It has been supposed that every one connected with Lord Halsbury by blood or marriage had at last been provided for at the public expense; and the discovery that the list is not yet exhausted will be an unpleasant discovery for the British taxpayer. By the way, I may mention that the new Judge is not the author of Woodfall's "Landlord and Tenant." The original edition was published in 1802, and since 1830 the work has been brought up to date by many writers, none of whom bears the name of Woodfall.

The following is an interesting story of County Court procedure. On October 18, 1897, a servant girl, who had been unable to obtain her wages on leaving a situation in the West End, took out a summons in the Marylebone County Court for the recovery of the amount due to her, which included, in addition to wages, 5s. 6d. money lent to her late employer. The late master and mistress were apparently people of some means, living in a house probably not rented under £80 a year. On November 23 the case came on for hearing, there was no defence, and an order was made for payment on December 7. On December 7 the employer had not paid, and a further order was made that he should pay on January 31 or be committed. On January 31 the employer had still not paid, and again an order was made that he should pay in ten days, or a warrant should be issued. By this time the unfortunate girl had paid 8s. 6d. in court fees, absolutely without any result. On February 10 the girl called at the Court to see what had been done, and was told that unless the defendant paid by Saturday, the 12th, he would be arrested on Monday, the 14th, and that she need not call again. A friend, however, who was looking after her case, told her to go to the Court again, which she did on the 15th. She was then told that the defendant had not been arrested, and that if she wanted it done she must pay another 3s. This she did.

Nothing more happened until the first week in April, when the plaintiff was informed that the money had been been paid into Court, and would be handed over to her on Friday, the 8th. It seems that a warrant was actually issued on February 15, and has never been executed, although the defendant has frequently been seen about during the interval. I respectfully commend this case to the notice of the learned judge of the Marylebone County Court. What is the use of a Court for the recovery of small debts which orders a man of substantial means to pay a sum of £1 12s. on December 7; which, on his making default, simply orders him to pay on January 31; which, on his defaulting again, declines to do anything further, unless the creditor is disposed to pay 3s. for his arrest; and which, having extorted this 3s., simply leaves the defendant to pay at his own convenience? The whole thing is a mockery from beginning to end, and a travesty of justice.

A note should be made at the Education Department of a case at Redditch Petty Sessions last week, in which Miss Harrison, head mistress of the infants' school, Bentley, was convicted of assaulting a little girl five years of age. The child had been mercilessly thrashed with a blackthorn stick, and the lower part of her body was a perfect mass of bruises, some of them six or eight inches long. In letting the defendant off with a fine of 10s. and £2 19s. costs, the Bench doubtless assumed that she will have to pay the further penalty of dismissal from her situation. It should be the business of the authorities at Whitehall to see that she is dismissed from this situation, and that she does not obtain another of the same kind; for a woman capable of such savagery towards a child of five is utterly unfitted for employment as a schoolmistress or teacher.

Mr. Tonman Mosley, Chairman of the Derbyshire Quarter Sessions, must think no small beer of himself. Sir Henry Hawkins, when recently on circuit at Derby, expressed his strong disapproval of what appeared to him—and his judgment on such a matter can be implicitly accepted as sound—to be a cruel and unnecessary prosecution for bigamy. This displeased Mr. Tonman Mosley, and last week he gave vent to his displeasure in a long lecture to Sir Henry on the administration of the law against bigamy. At one point in his discourse the worthy Mosley had the grace to confess that it might be "somewhat presumptuous" in him to criticise and censure "a most learned, expert, and experienced judge." It was indeed.

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Bellis's world-famed real Turtle Soup, more strengthening than any beef fluid. Glass flacons 7/-, tins. 5/-.—Obtainable everywhere, or direct, post free. T. K Bellis, 6, Jeffrey's-square, London.

It will be seen from my Legal Pillory this week that the Somerset County J.P.'s are still conspicuous for the exceptional severity with which they treat would-be suicides. Judges of Assize and Chairmen of Quarter Sessions in other counties generally recognise the futility and the cruelty of inflicting sentences of imprisonment in such cases, and the culprits are usually handed over to the care of their friends or of some philanthropic agency. These Somerset Shallows seem, however, to think that persons in the state of mind which leads to attempts at suicide are most likely to be reconciled to life by an experience of the rigours of a gaol, and an unhappy creature like the girl Stickland is accordingly given a longer sentence than a vicious brute like the man Gray. The only other case in the following list to which I would call special attention is the sentence upon a man and woman at Edinburgh, who were induced by their poverty to act upon the popular, but erroneous, dictum that "findings" are "keepings." Considering what the Sheriff himself said as to the character of the prisoners, and the temptation to which they were exposed, the "ends of justice" would surely have been met by a very much lighter punishment:—

Batley Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. B. Jubb, W. Critchley, and W. Bagshaw. Gerald Black, convicted of having been drunk and riotous, and assaulted two policemen. It was stated that defendant acted like a madman, and kicked both officers on the legs and body. Fined 2s. 6d. and costs for each offence.

Batley Borough Police-court. Before the same magistrates. Joseph Ackroyd, charged with lodging in the open air, and having no visible means of subsistence. He was found asleep on a door step in the street. Ten days.

Somerset Quarter Sessions. Before Sir R. H. Paget and other justices. Wm. Gray Randall Gray, convicted of unlawfully assaulting Laura Trent. One month.

Somerset Quarter Sessions. Before Sir R. H. Paget and other justices. Ethel Amelia Stickland, aged 18, charged with attempting to commit suicide. Three months.

Grantham Borough Police-court. Before Dr. Shipman and Mr. S. L. Williamson. Lot Goodson, charged with assaulting his wife. He kicked her and threatened to murder her, and he often thrashed her. Bound over to keep the peace.

Grimsby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor (Mr. J. Sutcliffe), Messrs. W. B. Louth, C. Morton, E. Bannister, and A. Connell. Herbert Hutchinson and Wm. Eggleton, two youths, charged with stealing firewood value 1s. 6d Hutchinson fourteen days; Eggleton twenty days.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. F. W. Elers, R. Pelton, G. Cheverton, H. Pink, and G. Langridge. Fred Jenner charged with cruelty to a horse. The animal was found lying on its back in a ditch. It was in a most emaciated condition, and had evidently suffered fearfully from want of food and exposure, which eventually caused its death. The Bench said it was a very gross case of cruel neglect. Fined £2 10s. and £2 13s. costs.

Eckington Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. F. Swallow, H. A. Fowler, and R. Eyre. Four men named Bellamy, Smith, Platts, and Atkin, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of game. Bellamy fined £3, the others £5 each.

Airdrie Sheriff Court. Before Hon. Sheriff Adamson. Alexander Pope pleaded guilty to assaulting Edward Quin by striking him repeatedly on the head and face with a glass bottle, cutting his left temple and jaw; also to assaulting Mary Quin, by striking her on the head with the bottle, knocking her to the ground and kicking her. Fined £2.

Ipswich Police-court. Before Messrs. G. F. Josselyn, J. May, R. M. Miller, S. R. Anness, and R. D. Fraser. Ernest Walford, charged with stealing twopennyworth of coal from the quay. Ten days.

Stourport Police-court. Wm. Upton, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Sheffield City Police-court. Before Messrs. Frank Mappin and R. Colver. Tom Lilley, charged with cruelty to a horse. The animal having fallen down, defendant struck it with a chain so brutally that the marks of the chain links were deeply imprinted on its loins. Fined 15s.

Halifax Police-court. Matthew Dickinson, charged with assaulting his wife. He struck her and kicked her, and then put her out of the house, threatening that if she went back he would cut her throat. Bound over to keep the peace.

Gloucester County Police-court. William Badham, convicted of assaulting William Webb. Defendant struck complainant across the head with a stick rendering him insensible. Fined 10s. and costs.

Sleaford Police-court. Before Mr. H. Smith, Lieutenant J. S. Reeve and Mr. G. W. Lloyd. William Price, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Birkenhead County Police-court. Before Messrs. F. R. Lee, S. Eddowes, and John Elliot. John Wm. Goodier, charged with stealing a pair of boots. He had hitherto borne an excellent character. Twenty-one days.

West Riding Quarter Sessions, Wakefield. Before Mr. G. B. C. Yarborough. Henry Cannon pleaded guilty to stealing a shirt. Six months.

Edinburgh Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Rutherford. John Foinhand and his wife pleaded guilty to a charge of having appropriated a sum of £65 in notes which their child had found in the street. The man watched the newspapers for several days for an advertisement from the owner of the notes. No advertisement appeared, and the family being in extreme poverty, one of the notes was cashed. The Sheriff said there was nothing previously against the prisoners, and they had had a great temptation. The ends of justice would be met by a sentence of two months' imprisonment each.

A monstrous example of Justices' justice came to light at the Surrey Quarter Sessions last week, when one Johnson, a labourer, was indicted for stealing spent bullets from a rifle range at Aldershot. Johnson's explanation was that he did not know he was doing wrong by picking up the bullets, and the jury acquitted him. Unfortunately, however, the verdict could not wipe out the fact that, before he was brought to trial, this man had already undergone three months' imprisonment—a punishment which would have been outrageously excessive even if he had been found guilty of the offence. I regret that the newspaper reports omit to name the magistrates who committed him to the Sessions without bail on such a trumpery charge. The names of such woodenheads could not be too widely advertised.

The latest hiding-place of the Spanish prisoner's fabulous treasure—in this instance a little sum of 650,000 fr. in French bank notes—is a remote spot in the Himalayas. He has addressed one of his familiar communications to a tea planter in that part of the world, and the planter has sent it on to me. The profound faith of these buried, treasure swindlers in the gullibility of mankind was never better shown than in the story of the prisoner's journey to the Himalayas to conceal the money. Another striking proof of it is the fact that many of the letters issued by the gangs who work the swindle from Barcelona and Valencia are actually lithographed. But their faith, profound as it is, is well-known to be justified by the results, so thickly is the world populated with fools.

At the beginning of the winter John James Jones issued one of his plaintive appeals, accompanied by a letter from his auditors, Messrs. Beddow & Son, dated November 3,

Subscriptions greatly needed by The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—6,929 convictions this year; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

showing John James' need of increased pecuniary assistance. In a further circular, dated March 17, this same appeal is enclosed, and the party addressed is requested to kindly read it. Are we to take it that the first appeal has produced no result, and that the financial position of the London Samaritan Society remains the same on March 17 as it was on November 3? Unless that is so, John James has clearly no business to be still circulating this letter as an authentic statement of the financial position of his concern.

Poor Monsieur Solomiac's four cases of "Grand Cru La Générale, année 1888," are still on hand, and are now being hawked about among British Consuls in various parts of Europe. The last of his letters that I have seen is dated March 31, and it tells precisely the same story about the death of the *beau-père*, the dispute with the *beau-frère*, and the necessity of making an inventory of the estate at once that was, first offered to the British public at the beginning of November last. This leads me to suspect that Monsieur Solomiac's statements cannot be implicitly relied upon; but judging from the pertinacity with which he repeats his tale, it is good enough for many of our countrymen.

Under the title of the "Society for the Promotion of Home Industry," some party at 21, Sarsfeld-road, Balham, is playing the old game of coaxing registration fees from the credulous. The "society" touts by circular, pleading that it "does not care to have resource to ordinary advertisement, for the simple reason that so many bogus so-called home employment agencies daily use the medium of the press to induce people to part with their money, with, to say the least, a very shady prospect of any paying result." People who are inveigled by this twaddle into payment of 1s. 6d., receive a circular offering 9d. per dozen for crochet-work doyleys of which a sample is enclosed. The only condition laid down is that Arden's Crochet Cotton No 24 is to be used. Now the retail price of this cotton is 2d. per ball, and one ball will make only three doyleys. Hence the cost of the cotton, plus a penny for postage, swallows up the whole of the 9d. paid by the "Society" for the finished article. Thus, for the privilege of doing work for nothing, and for a sample value ¾d., the unfortunate dupe finds herself mulcted in the sum of 1s. 6d. There are a good many of these home employment gentry who would be the better for a little occupation of the same remunerative character that they provide for others—say six months' oakum-picking.

The advertisement for the sale of "the magnificent upright iron grand piano, with check action, full trichord, and seven octaves, in a lovely walnut-wood case, with marquetrie inlayings," to which I have frequently referred of late has assumed a new form. Evidently the lady who is compelled to sacrifice the instrument in order to join her husband in India has ceased to be attractive. The gentleman whose serious losses in business for years past have led him to sacrifice an enormous number of "magnificent upright grands," apparently no longer exists. Yet it cannot be due to the fact that the stock of these shoddy musical boxes is exhausted, for now an "Electrician, going to China," is willing to part with his cherished fifty-six guinea instrument for nineteen guineas. The explanation is simple. The electrician merely succeeds the distressed gentleman and the grass widow as another and newer alias of Mr. Reginald Grattan, of 35, Erlanger-road, S.E., and the new address, 191, Queen's-road, Peckham, is only a newspaper shop at which letters are received. This intimation will be a sufficient hint, I trust, to the managers of the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Daily Mail*, and such other newspapers who assist this man's designs by publishing his misleading advertisements.

The fortune-tellers of this country are not in it with their contemporaries in the Far East, as may be seen by the following postcard advertisement just sent home from India. You could not get anything like this amount of information at the same price in Bond-street:—

PRICE RETURNED IF PROVED FALSE.

A miracle! An Extraordinary Locket!! A great wonder!

This Locket, a great Charm, enables us to hold an interview with our dead relations or friends: presents before our Sight the Past, the Present and the Future, the sacred pilgrimage places, Rama, Krishna, Christ, Arjun, Mohamed Prophet, and the vivid scenes of other Mahatmas, gives us information of Heaven, the Court of Indra, Kylas and other mysterious places, the result of cases pending in Courts, profit or loss in trade, the future rates of speculations, local and foreign market rates, and important news with electric speed! The present on-goings of friends at home and out stations can be clearly seen! Journey could be made by Railway, Steamer, Bicycle or Tramway. Communications about market rates in England, Africa, America and the other foreign countries can be had only *within five minutes and at our own places*. Price of No. 1 Rs. 10, No. 2 Rs. 5, No. 3 Rs. 2. Postage 6 annas. . . . . Communications to be made only in English, Gujarati, Marathi, or Hindi. Apply to, &c.

I cannot help being struck by the fact that, having recently commented upon the manner in which certain newspaper competitions are conducted, I am now being overwhelmed from all parts of the country with letters complaining of the management of this or that venture of a similar class. My contemporaries who go in for this sort of thing know their own business best; but, judging from the evidence at present to hand, I should think that these competitions must make quite as many enemies as friends. In many instances this is not to be wondered at, for the trick is really a little too thin. One of the favourite forms of competition is the picture-puzzle, in which the meaning has to be interpreted in a series of little sketches illustrating some stated subject. A competition of this kind runs for several weeks, and the usual plan seems to be to set for several weeks in succession pictures which any fool can interpret at a glance, and then in the last week or two to floor the majority of competitors with one or two hopeless enigmas. In this way thousands of deluded idiots are led to go on buying the paper week

Savoy Hotel, Savoy Restaurant, London. Large reception-rooms for fashionable réunions. Orchestra plays daily during dinner and opera supper.

after week, and, in the end, only one or two appear in the running for a prize, which very likely is not awarded at all.

There is another little dodge, recently perpetrated in a weekly which shall be nameless, and very common among all such publications. Instead of the answers to the puzzles being announced when the competition closes, an interval of several weeks elapses before it is declared. Now it very frequently happens that some of the puzzles are obviously capable of more than one interpretation, so that nothing is easier than for the puzzle editor to ultimately fix upon the solution which has been arrived at by the smallest number of competitors. I do not say that this was done in the case above alluded to, but the fact of the announcement being delayed for three or four weeks naturally suggests this conclusion to competitors who have given a solution which is apparently correct, but find that it is not the one intended.

Another difficulty in regard to these competitions is that nothing is easier than for some of the staff of the newspaper running them to secure a prize for themselves or their friends by more or less indirect means. There must be a special danger of this in the case of a number of publications issued at one office in which a numerous staff is employed, and where, consequently, the proprietors can have very little control over the details of the competition. I may be of an unduly suspicious disposition, but I cannot help thinking that there has been some trick of this kind in the case of one or two of the competitions that have been brought specially under my notice. The whole question is one which, I think, deserves more attention than it has hitherto received from the proprietors of journals running such competitions.

Considering the humanitarian spirit of the age, I wonder that no one has ever protested vigorously against the cramming of live poultry by forcible means. If common-sense were combined with humanitarianism, this practice would seem to be worthy of attention before vivisection, for vivisection is excused—rightly or wrongly—by the desire to serve humanity; whereas the poultry-feeder who uses a machine to cram his wretched birds to the bursting point before sending them to market, tortures them solely for the purpose of increasing the profit which each bird yields him during its brief life.

I have often been tempted to protest against this detestable barbarity, but have been restrained by a feeling that I should be raising my voice in the wilderness. But having had a letter on the subject from an officer in the Army, who seems to share my views, I begin to hope that there may be others of the same way of thinking. Army men are not, as a rule, unduly sentimental. My military ally calls attention specially to an advertisement in the *Field* of a "patent cramming machine," illustrated by a tasty picture of an unfortunate fowl undergoing the process—the operator holding the creature under his arm with a tube in its mouth, and forcing the food into it by working a treadle with his foot. If he had to answer the question, the Editor of the *Field* would probably not deny that this machine is an instrument of torture, and torture of the most unjustifiable kind. I wish he would set a good example by stopping the advertisement, and raising his voice against the practice. By the way, what view does the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals hold on this point?

Criticism is always welcome. I therefore publish with pleasure the following postcard:—

> Dear Truth,—Your poetry on page 847 contains a novelty, namely, to *pole-axe* pigs; and on the page 850 you mention, *re* the Revenue, "the shorn lamb shivering in the *March* wind." Where do these phenomenal lambs, that can be shorn in March already, exist? An Admirer of "Truth."

My dear Teutonic admirer (I detect your nationality in your last sentence), you can undoubtedly pole-axe pigs in poetry. If you possess a poet's licence you can kill the animals in any manner that your metre requires, and I really think that there is more poetry about pole-axing than about the ordinary process. As for the shorn lamb, lambs may be found with wool upon them in March in many parts of England (and, I believe, in Germany also), and if a lamb has wool on him he can be shorn—"in March already."

They legislate with greater expedition in some of our Crown Colonies than we do. Last month, a Bill was submitted to the Legislative Council of Ceylon. Its object was to impose an export duty on arrack. Nothing had been known precisely of the intention to bring in the Bill. It was not even on the agenda paper. It was introduced, passed through the first, second, and third readings, and made law by the Governor by the words, "I give my consent to an Ordinance for imposing an export duty on arrack," in the course of three minutes. The Bill may have its merits, but the Ceylon Press complain that such a proceeding in a British Colony may well be regarded with "indignant wonder."

In connection with the Ceylon Legislative Council, I am told that a recent appointment to that body has occasioned much dissatisfaction among the Tamil community. It appears that the Tamils have hitherto always had a representative among the non-official members of the Council, but the term of office of their last representative, Mr. P. Coomaraswamy, lately expired, and the Governor hurriedly filled up the vacancy by the appointment of Dr. Rockwood, who retired for the purpose from the Medical Department, and who had no previous municipal or other

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experience to qualify him for a seat on a legislative body. The Singalese and Mahommedan members were re-appointed for another term, and the idea prevails that the Tamil member has been displaced in consequence of the independent line he took in regard to certain official proposals. The non-official element in the Council might as well be abolished altogether, however, if opposition to the official majority is to be deemed a disqualification for membership.

While the Ceylon Government exercises, as I showed last week, a strict supervision over the proceedings of the District Judges and magistrates, it allows the subordinate officers and employees of the courts to do pretty much as they please. So at least I gather from the experiences narrated by a correspondent, who was lately involved in a civil suit in a district in the southern part of the island. Several of the minor officials of the court were ready to place their services at his disposal in various capacities, clerical and otherwise, and he found that it was a common thing for them to be engaged on private work for litigants. Such a system must obviously lead to abuses, and the Governor would be better employed in putting an end to it instead of interfering so improperly with the discretion of the judges and magistrates.

The last mail from Trinidad brings the news that the sugar planters have this year applied to the Legislative Council for 2,276 East Indian immigrants. This is very interesting in view of the fact that one of the grounds put forward by the West Indian planters and their friends for demanding our aid in maintaining the sugar industry is that, if we do not grant it, we shall have to send back at our cost all the coolies that have been brought from the East Indies. The coolies have been imported simply because the planters would not pay the native black population a fair price for their labour. It would now seem that, in order to force our hands, coolies are to be procured in increasing numbers, for the present application is for 576 more than were obtained last year.

The number last year was 1,700, and it was only by a deliberate violation of the law with regard to coolie immigration—a violation sanctioned by Mr. Chamberlain—that that number could be imported. It is provided by an ordinance of 1870 that no immigrants shall be allotted to any estate on which 15 per cent. of the indentured coolies have received a wage of less than sixpence a day during the previous year. Had this law been observed in 1897 only 168 coolies could have been legally brought into the colony during that year; but the ordinance was set aside for the benefit of the sugar planters then, and now it is to be set aside again.

Nor is this all. For some time past greater severity has been observable in the treatment of the coolies, and in Trinidad, according to the local paper, *Reform*, it has become the custom to imprison without the option of a fine every indentured immigrant who leaves his employer's estate without a pass. In many of these cases a pass is applied for, but refused, simply in order to prevent the coolie from going to the Immigration Office, as he has a right to do, to lay a complaint before the Protector of Immigrants. A coolie must, therefore, either endure any grievance under which he suffers, or else run the risk of being arrested and imprisoned when he goes to seek redress. There is plenty of evidence, in fact, that the indentured coolie system is rapidly developing into a system of slavery. Now that they have got Mr. Chamberlain on their side, the sugar planters apparently imagine that they can do as they like.

To be in the fashion is everything—particularly with a woman. We are now in a martial mood, so far as words go. Therefore, lovely woman must tune her lyre in a martial key. Take the following from "Songs of Love and Empire," a collection of verses by Mrs. Hubert Bland, which has just been published. Thus does this gifted poetess invoke war:—

> Oh, if the gods would send us a balm for our sick, sad years,
> Let them send us a sight of the scarlet, and the sound of the guns in our ears;
> For valour, and faith, and honour—these grow where the red flower grows,
> And the leaves for the nation's healing must spring from the blood of her foes.

I can conscientiously recommend the "Songs of Love and Empire" to all music-hall patriots. There is more of patriotism than poetry in them, but I am sure that they have only to be known widely for a movement to be started for a statue to the poetess on Westminster Bridge, as a companion to Boadicea in her chariot drawn by wild horses.

Mr. McKinley seems to be doing for the United States very much what Lord Salisbury is doing for England—consulting the best interests of his country, and pursuing his own policy without regard to the advice of newspaper editors and the howling of fanatical Jingoes. It is evident that he would avert war, if he could do so without sacrificing the honour of the country and running counter to the deep-seated national sentiments in favour of the efforts of the Cubans to shake off the Spanish yoke. There is, however, a Jingo spirit in Spain as well as in America, and I question whether the Spaniards will make it possible for the United States to keep the peace.

I have been amused to read in one of the most ardent of our Jingo newspapers a denunciation of what goes in America by the name of the Yellow Press. What the Jingo Press is in England the Yellow Press is in America. It preaches war, and when there is any chance of America being involved in one, it publishes telegrams, some purely

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The Savoy Hotel have made a special engagement with the celebrated Boldi, who, with his orchestra, has been creating such a sensation in Paris, to play at the Savoy Hotel during the dinner and supper for ten days, beginning on Saturday next, April 16th. Monsieur Boldi's Paris engagements prevent his staying longer than this. He played recently before Her Majesty the Queen at Nice by special command.

imaginative, some a mixture of fact and fiction, with comments thereon designed to show that the country is being disgraced and degraded by the pusillanimous inactivity of its Government. This is precisely what occurs here. One journal seeks to outbid the others by a patriotism which consists of hysterical vapourings and blatant swagger. For our journalists to complain of American journalists in the same line is much like the yellow sunflower bullying the primrose for its yellowness.

Look at the past two or three years. We were first ordered by the London Yellow Press to go to war with the United States about the ownership of some swamps in Venezuela, the very existence of which is already forgotten. We were to support Mr. Rhodes in his effort to create a revolution in the Transvaal, in order to enable him and other millionaires to keep up the price of the shares of gold companies in that Republic. Only the other day we were to fight France about the exact line of frontier between what we claim and what France claims in West Africa. As for Manchuria and China, we have been ordered by these Press patriots to do something new every day in order to defend our honour and our interests.

And yet who are these Bobadils of journalism? A newspaper is becoming more of a business undertaking every day, and every day the business has, owing to competition, to be carried on at a higher pressure of sensationalism. The owner or the editor of a newspaper is generally a man who, like most others, wants to make money. He is no more entitled to speak for the country than any one else. His opinions are of no more value than those of any other citizen. This, I am happy to think, is pretty fully recognised at present. The London Press has no influence outside London, and very little influence in it. People buy newspapers in London to read the news of the day on current matters. They distrust all that is tinged with politics and that comes from abroad, and pay very scant attention to the patriotic outpourings with which the news is accompanied.

The only scrap of comfort that the patriotic editors have left to them is to announce in the contents-bills that we have, with heroic courage, slain thousands of Dervishes by mowing them down with Maxim guns. That we must, in the long run, overcome the resistance of the Arabs—whom Mr. Gladstone has described as brave men struggling to be free—is certain; but, whether this be necessary or the reverse, I see little cause to boast of our being victors in so one-sided a contest.

A curious uncertainty exists as to the way we ought to pronounce the name of our latest leasehold, interest in the Far East. Some assert it should be called "Wy-ha-wy," others say it is "Way-hi-way," whilst I believe there is a third party in favour of "Wee-ha-wee." If the author of the following verses may be believed, there is some difference of opinion, even amongst the members of the Cabinet, as to what "W-e-i-h-a-i-w-e-i" really spells:—

ECHOES FROM A RECENT CABINET COUNCIL.

"'Tis high time that we did *something*,"
Joseph to his colleagues said.
"Have you seen this morning's *Standard*
And the last *Times* leader read?
We must take a bold step forward,
And of China grab a piece;
Here"—and on the map he pointed—
"Why not get of *this* a lease?
Wei-hai-wei would mask Port Arthur,
We that place must occupy"——
From a colleague came the question,
Like an echo,
"Why-ay-why?"

"*Why?*" exclaimed the pushful Joseph,
"Why? I am surprised at you.
Why? Because the *Times* is furious,
And the *Post* and *Standard*, too.
Shall the Bear checkmate the Lion?
That is what I want to know.
In the name of Trade and Commerce
We must strike an instant blow.
There must be no hesitation,
Not another hour's delay!"——
Said a colleague, "Are you sure, though,
That you see your
Way-oh-way?"

"If you're wise," the voice continued,
"You'll not join the Jingo chaunt;
Wei-hi-wei, I give you warning,
Is a mere white elephant.
No one in this room has seen it,
Nor can knowledge of it claim;
None of you can say for certain
How he should pronounce its name.
'Why-ah-why' or 'Way-hi-way,' now?
Which it is you do not know.
Have a care, then, lest time shows you
Its true name is
'Woe-oh-woe!'"

SCRUTATOR.

COMMON-SENSE AND CHINAMANIA.

MANY Englishmen have been living in a world of illusions, which have been, to a very considerable extent, caused by the silly boastful trash that is daily published by the amateur "patriots" of the Jingo Press. We have hugged to our hearts of hearts three illusions: (1) that we have been granted by a divine decree the special right to annex all countries inhabited by black and yellow men; (2) that, if we have a navy of exceptional strength, we may act on this divine decree without any regard to those who question it; (3) that we may dictate the law to the world, and yet never find ourselves involved in a serious war, all other Great Powers being so convinced of our might, that to hear us is to obey us.

In the Far East, our naval supremacy had for long made us absolute masters. We have held the sea-way to these parts, and there was no other way. All this is changed. Russia has civilised Siberia, and she has welded together the *terra firma* of Europe and Asia. China is consequently at the mercy of the Russian legions, and we can no more hinder this than Russia with her legions can invade

England. This alteration in the position of the two countries towards China is by no means pleasing to us. Our Jingoes can hardly realise it, so angry are they at it. Their anger at the logic of facts leads them to curse our Government for not having hindered it, although what the Government could have done to hinder it, or what it can now do to alter it, they do not themselves know. The usual recipe of building more ships is of no avail.

The first outcome of the situation has been that Russia has insisted upon obtaining a naval fortress and a commercial port in Manchuria. Lord Salisbury recognised that it was only reasonable that the Trans-Siberian railroad should have as a terminus a port free from ice. In the debate last week Mr. Curzon denied that his chief had admitted the reasonableness of Russia having a fortified naval port also. If he did not, he must have been more short-sighted than I take him to be. Russia has warships in the Chinese waters. She knows that we are stronger than she on the sea, therefore she naturally desires to have a naval base, where, if the necessity arises, her ships can find refuge. Russia has the two ports, and had we gone to war with her to prevent it, the only result would have been that she would have laid hands on all Manchuria outside Port Arthur, and very probably have advanced on Pekin. We ought, say the Jingoes, to have entered into an alliance with Japan or with some other Power. It takes two to make an alliance, and I doubt whether Japan would have become our ally against Russia. The latter has practically ceded Corea to her. This is all that Japan wanted, and why should she have fought with us against Russia, when she could secure what she wanted without fighting? Germany has utilised the occasion by herself getting hold of a port. Any one, not absolutely blind, must have perceived that this was done with the consent and approval of Russia. Germany, therefore, was not likely to become our ally in a war against Russia. Nor was France, as an offensive and defensive alliance exists between her and Russia. Probably, neither France nor Germany nor Japan regrets that our absolute supremacy in the Far East has ceased. Each is stronger there by there being two roads from Europe to the East—one ours, and the other Russia's. Where, then, are our allies to be found? China herself would have been on the side of Russia. Li Hung Chang, who seems now to direct her councils, is no fool. He knows that Russia is the only European Power that China has to fear, owing to her territorial proximity and her huge land forces. He therefore seeks to create many foreign interests in China, and thus to secure the independence of his country by maintaining, so far as he can, a balance of power there between those who might assail it. This is the wisest policy that China, under the circumstances, can pursue. Many a weak State in Europe has been long-lived because of the multitude of kind friends, each one of whom wishes to swallow the oyster itself. In this, far from running counter to our policy, the Chinese statesman is aiding it.

Lord Salisbury had the merit of perceiving that, whether we like it or dislike it, Russia must be paramount in Manchuria, and, being paramount, would obtain her two ports there. We could no more prevent it than we could single-handed prevent Germany from laying hands on a Swiss Canton. Whilst, therefore, his colleagues blustered, and whilst his Party organs breathed war and vengeance, he declined to run our heads against a stone wall. His aim seems to have been to do his best, under the circumstances, to protect our trade with China proper. In this he had my heartiest support, and the more he was abused by his own side, the more did I deem him worthy of the respect of all who are not affected with Jingo "swelled-headism." I saw no reason why he should not obtain an assurance from China that she would never alienate any portion of her central Provinces, for this in no way binds us to go to war with her or any other Power if she did. It was a harmless sop to his Jingo followers. He secured that an Englishman should be at the head of the Chinese Custom House so long as our trade with China exceeds that of any other Power, and that the rivers of China should be open to foreign navigation. These were substantial gains to us, and they in no way militated against the "open door." But what was my horror when I read one morning that he had obtained from China a lease of Wei-hai-wei! I awaited anxiously to hear Mr. Balfour's explanation of this change of policy, and the explanation was by no means satisfactory. The Gulf of Pechili is a deep indentation of the sea between Manchuria and China proper. The main importance of this Gulf is due to its being the water-way towards Pekin. At the entrance to the Gulf there are two promontories, one hundred miles apart. On the Northern promontory Port Arthur is situated; on the Southern, Wei-hai-wei, and to the south of the latter promontory, but outside the Gulf, there is the German port, the hinterland of which separates Wei-hai-wei from the rest of China. So far as I could understand Mr. Balfour's explanation, we have secured this lease, without any very definite idea whether we intend to convert the port into a great naval base, or even into a fortified coaling station. If we do not, of what use is it? If we do, the fortifications will cost us several millions, for they would have to be very extensive owing to the port being commanded by the hills in the rear of it, and we shall have to keep a garrison there of at least 10,000 men, which would cost us at least one million per annum. I deny that such a fortress would be of the slightest advantage to us. Were the Russians to advance against Pekin, they would not traverse the Gulf of Pechili, but would move by land. Our tenure of Wei-hai-wei would no more affect this advance than would our tenure of a fortress in Patagonia. If we are masters of the sea, we should, in the event of war with Russia, blockade the Russian fleet in Port Arthur, and we can do this, whether we have a naval base or a fortified coaling-station on the southern promotory of the entrance to the Gulf of Pechili or not. It is, indeed, a moot point amongst naval experts whether, having Hong Kong, we do not rather weaken than strengthen our position in Chinese waters by dividing our forces owing to our having two naval bases. If Lord Salisbury had been able openly to express his views he would, through Mr. Balfour, I make no doubt, have said that he had secured the lease of Wei-hai-wei, not because he thought that it

was of any advantage to us, but because the Jingo feeling ran so strong amongst his followers and some of his colleagues, that he had to do something to maintain their allegiance. Wei-hai-wei is, in fact, in the nature of a sugar-plum that a mother puts in the mouth of a child to stop its howls.

What, then, should a Radical do under present circumstances? He should not ally himself with Jingoes in attacking Lord Salisbury because he is not a Jingo. But, respecting the Premier for having so long struggled against the Jingo wave, he should register his dissent to this "graceful concession" to Jingoism. The Liberal Party should, after the vacation, speak clearly. It should not complain of the Premier for not having dragged us into war with Russia in a wild endeavour to prevent what cannot be prevented, nor for having declined to bark without intending to bite if the bark did not frighten Russia; it should not aid and abet those of his colleagues and his followers who would have him relinquish the post of Foreign Secretary because he is not as recklessly Jingo as they are; it should handsomely recognise much that the Premier has done in the cause of peace. But it should also firmly dissent to this expensive Wei-hai-wei folly.

What these Jingoes really want I never yet have discovered. They are singularly vague about their aspirations. They are not satisfied with the lease of Wei-hai-wei. They seem to be under the impression that if we had shown a bold front, and ordered Russia to withdraw from Port Arthur, withdraw she at once would. They seem to be suffering from a new form of Chinamania. They imagine that, if we were to head a crusade against Russia, France, Germany and Japan would join us, and that if they did not, our navy would drive the Russians out of Manchuria. There is really nothing too silly for these silliest of human beings to believe. They have been so blatant and boastful since they have been able to spend our substance in outbuilding the world in ships, that they are seriously convinced that we can dictate the law to every nation on the globe. To discuss with them is like arguing with a lunatic; and actual facts are as much thrown away on them as arguments. They live in a world of their own imagining.

We have little commerce with Manchuria. It is a barbarous country, where the Chinese authorities never had either influence or power. If Russia annexed it to-morrow, and were to build railroads through it, we should be commercially the gainers, notwithstanding Russia's hostile tariffs. In China proper our commerce has nothing to fear except from competition. Our aim should be to maintain the treaties that give us a free access to the country. These treaties have not yet been assailed. We have Hong Kong. Russia and Germany have now also a naval and commercial basis in Chinese waters and France is to have one. We are, therefore, all four on an equality so far as regards ports. We should do nothing to alter this balance of power. I agree with Mr. Balfour that the time will probably come when all the Powers will consent to make China, by solemn declaration, a free-trade preserve, for this is to the interest of each one separately. They are far more likely to do this, now that there is a balance of power in the Far East, than when our will was law. In the meantime, let us at least show our good faith. Whilst protesting against exclusive advantages to others, let us prove our belief in this policy by not seeking to obtain them for ourselves so long as our treaties are not attacked. Whilst, like sensible men, we must look to our interests, let us drop the wretched cant of pretending that we are actuated by a spirit of universal philanthropy. This nonsense deceives no one, and only causes us to be distrusted by every one. Whilst able to do much in safeguarding these interests, let us not delude ourselves into the idea that our ships can win us battles on the dry land, or that we can expand without let or hindrance, and at the same time prevent other countries from doing the same. If we had been in the geographical position of Russia, does any one doubt that we should long before now have discovered that it was our manifest destiny to become the possessors of Manchuria? First we should have sent missionaries there to convert the blinded heathen to Christianity. Then, on the plea that some of the missionaries had been maltreated, we should have sent an army to look after them. That army would have remained. We should have extended our protection to the Manchurians, and this protection would have soon drifted into annexation. Why, then, make a fuss about Russia doing in her way what we should have done in our way? We occupy Egypt because we consider that, having India, we ought to own the gate to India; and now we are taking the Soudan because it is next door to Egypt. Every argument that we can set up against the action of Russia in Manchuria tells against our occupation of Egypt. If Russia has not been straightforward with us, have we maintained our pledge to occupy Egypt only temporarily? I do not believe in Russia's promises and pledges. In what she is likely to do, I am guided by the knowlege of her persistent policy for more than a century. That policy is to secure for herself outlets to the sea. Wherever she has attempted this, we have sought to hinder her, whether it has been in Europe or in Asia. She has been fully aware that she cannot cope with us on the sea. To meet this, she has, therefore, made her way by land to the Far East. Can we blame her? Can we resist her advance? Would it be reasonable to do so, if we could? If not, then it is surely more befitting to accept facts, than impotently to rail against them, like a flock of cackling, angry geese.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON AT CLOSE QUARTERS.

Just before the Easter holidays I received the following letter, which I will do my best to answer:—

Hotel Provence, Cannes.
April 2, 1898

Dear Labouchere,—I see that in this week's Truth you give advice to those whom you describe as "temperance mad."

Now I want to bring you to close quarters on this matter

I want to know what you really mean and what you definitely advise.

For, in spite of everything which has been done to prevent it, the drink question has become one of "practical politics," and it behoves you—one of our few sound political instructors—to state your own position and to state distinctly what you think ought to be done to obtain the desired reform in the drinking habits of the nation.

So, here follow a few questions which I shall be pleased if you will answer.

First of all I may say that I quite agree with you that more

good would be done by closing the liquor shops on Saturday nights than on Sundays. It is on Saturday, usually, that the men have their wages in their pockets, and if drink shops were not open, a vast deal more of their wages would go to their wives and families than goes to them at present. Then, even if the shops were still open on the Sunday, the men's pockets would probably be empty, and Bung would not reap his present harvest.

Old Lord Bramwell, who hated the very name of "Temperance Men," nevertheless said, "Saturday, pay day, drink day, crime day."

I marvel that one so shrewd as you should have been taken in by the publicans' cant about "secret drinking" arising from Sunday closing. How can they know about it if it is "secret"?

Moreover, all impartial evidence and inquiry, Committees Commissions, and so forth, have proved that there is no evidence at all of this "secret drinking." So "Clear your mind of cant," on that point.

But now for my questions dealing with your assertion—"Never was the liquor trade more powerful. This is due to the tactics of the Temperance men, and until they alter them they are doomed to failure."

I agree that the liquor trade is, for the present, more powerful than ever—if by "powerful" is meant more wealthy and, in a way, influential. Beer is king, and this I think would be admitted to be true by anybody who is in the least behind the scenes in politics.

My questions are three:—

1st. Who are the Temperance men to whom you refer?

Are we not now all Temperance men? If there be an avowedly "Temperance Party," I have not yet heard of it.

2nd. What are the "tactics" to which you refer, which have been practised by those especially anxious to promote temperance, and which have made the trade more powerful?

Have the enactments for Sunday closing in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales tended to enrich the trade? Their frantic endeavours to get rid of these enactments are curious, if such be the case.

Was it bad tactics to fight the Tory Government on their compensation scheme, which Mr. Gladstone described as "Endowment of Public Houses"?

Would the Trade have been to-day *less* strong and powerful if Messrs. Ritchie and Goschen had succeeded in their effort to turn a licence held from year to year into a freehold?

Have the Temperance men been wrong in supporting Sir William Harcourt and the Liberal Party in an effort to give poor men the same opportunity of protecting themselves from public houses which is now enjoyed by rich landowners?

Ought the Temperance men to have opposed or rejected this measure, on which Mr. Gladstone said the Liberal Party were united as one man?

Ought they to have begun to amend and alter Sir W. Harcourt's Bill and put it in danger, because each individual Temperance man thought he could embody his own pet idea in some part or other of the Bill?

Was it bad tactics to accept and support the Bill as going altogether in the right direction, and being substantially what the Temperance men wanted?

Is it bad tactics to work like blacks at every bye-election in favour of the candidate who will give the people the power offered to them in Sir W. Harcourt's Bill, and to bring over a certain number of electors from the Conservative side, who would never vote for a Liberal except on Temperance grounds?

Is it bad tactics to show that there is still in England a "residuum" who look upon politics as something more than a miserable game between the "ins" and the "outs," and who wish to use their political power really to make people somewhat better and happier?

3rd. What are the new tactics to which you refer, in favour of which the Temperance men are to alter their old ones?

This is an important question, for hitherto I have seen no definite statement of what this alternative policy is to be.

No doubt Herbert Gladstone has condemned further support of the veto, and, feeling at the same time that he must suggest something else, has advocated eight items of reform in the licensing system—very good ones, I dare say—but as I do not know who, what, or where his active supporters are, I think his scheme can hardly be considered in the practical politics category.

Your suggestion, as I understand it, vague though it be, points to this. You say, "You Temperance men have worked for nobody knows how long to obtain the Local Veto. For years and years everybody laughed at, despised, and kicked you. At last the Liberal Party took up your reform and embodied it in a Bill. The Liberal Party were defeated at the General Election, *on all sorts of issues*. Therefore, you Temperance men, please to drop your agitation, and start afresh with something else which it will require another generation to get people to understand, and an additional one to get them to ask for."

Is this common sense?

Answer with deliberation.

Ever yours, W. Lawson.

1. I assert that, what with the bonâ-fide traveller, and what with clubs of a dozen or more men subscribing together to buy a quantity of beer to drink on Sundays, it is an open question whether the Sunday Closing Act has reduced drinking on that day in many districts of Wales. Naturally, the publicans object to being debarred from making their retail profit on Sundays, but I doubt whether the brewers suffer from this. I call it "secret drinking" because the members of these drinking clubs drink privately, *i.e.*, amongst themselves. I derive my knowledge, not from publicans, but from what I have seen, and what has been told me by persons who have no connection either with publicans or with brewers.

2. The "Temperance men" to whom I refer are those who are for the Bill, the whole Bill, and nothing but the Bill of Sir William Harcourt.

3. The tactics to which I refer are those which insist on regarding the moderate use of intoxicating liquor as a crime, and fighting the liquor question on this ground. The majority of the electors are not of this opinion, and consequently they are somewhat repelled from a movement which is based upon a view in which they do not concur. On the other hand, I think that the majority of the electors are in favour of reducing the excessive amount of spirituous liquors drunk, because this leads to intemperance, and even where it does not, results in men spending a great deal too much of their money in drink.

4. It was not bad tactics to fight such a compensation scheme as would have rendered it practically impossible to enable the inhabitants of a district, either to put an end to public-houses within it, or to reduce their numbers, owing to the cost involved. I believe, however, that there is a strong feeling that the working publican should receive some moderate compensation, if suddenly deprived of the business that he has acquired under the protection of the law, and of any return of the money that he has expended in fitting up his business premises. Therefore, I would have this paid, as a means to buy off their opposition, and thus grease the wheels of reform.

5. The Temperance men were not wrong in supporting Sir William Harcourt's Bill, because it was to all intents and purposes their Bill. But they were tactically wrong in making their Bill one which was not likely to be carried. It is, moreover, bad tactics to make support of a Parliamentary candidate depend upon his agreeing to vote for a scheme of dealing with the liquor traffic which experience shows is not generally popular, even amongst Liberals. The scheme involves a plébiscite which, whether a good or bad thing, is novel, and therefore indisposes those—and their number is large—who prefer the existing system of legislating through representative bodies. The Bill made each ward in a town a separate area. This would, were publichouses prohibited in one ward, have increased the drinking in the adjacent wards. The inhabitants of the area might allow publichouses, or put an entire end to them; but they could not reduce the number, or regulate hours of sale. This would have left things precisely as they are in most parts of the country, for in very few areas would a required two-thirds majority be obtained for total abolition. The Bill outran the scent.

6. I do not know what Mr. Herbert Gladstone's plan is. This is mine:—

Give to all municipalities, and to all District Councils, or, if it be preferred, to all Parish Councils, the full right to deal with the liquor traffic and all concerning it within the areas of their respective jurisdictions

Pass a general law that the man who sells beer on licensed premises must be the bonâ-fide owner of the licence, and that no one man can hold directly or indirectly more than one licence.

Grant to the bonâ-fide owner of a licence and the vendor of beer in the licensed premises a right to have his licence for, say, five years, provided that he does not misuse it. At the end of this term let him have no right to any compensation if his licence is not continued. Should the Municipality, or Council (township or village) decide to put an end to the licence before the expiration of the five years, then allow him to claim compensation for the period not elapsed. The money for this compensation might be provided by a tax on all remaining public-houses in the area, when only some in it are suppressed. Where all are suppressed, it might come, in towns from the ratepayers of the town; in counties, from the ratepayers of the county. It is true that the holder of a licence has no legal right to its renewal from year to year. But as a matter of fact, this right is generally, indeed almost universally, recognised in practice.

I am only suggesting a plan broadly. It would, of course, have to be carefully worked out in all its details. Were it the law, all Temperance men will, I think, admit that it would be a change for the better on the present state of things. It might, I believe, be carried; all Radicals who believe in local self-government, whether Temperance men or not, would vote for it. So would all those who, without wishing to close all public-houses, yet believe that much might be done to reduce the temptations to intemperance by regulating the liquor traffic. I confess that I do not think that the cause of Temperance, on the lines of the Harcourt Bill, is promising. Rightly or wrongly, many of the Liberal candidates who were defeated at the General Election ascribe their defeat to having advocated it. Many, too, of the Liberals in Parliament, who got in by the skin of their teeth, are inclined to throw it over. I doubt whether it is likely to become a plank again in any Liberal programme. Under these circumstances, it seems to me—apart from the merits or demerits of the Harcourt scheme—tactics somewhat akin to knocking our heads against a shut door, to continue to fight on the lines of the Harcourt Bill, instead of seeking to discover some other and easier road to the attainment of our object. It is a mistake to become so enamoured of the means to a given end, as to subordinate end to means. What is the end desired? That the people in a locality should have authority over the liquor traffic, just as they have authority over many other local matters. How do they obtain this authority over other matters? By authority being placed in the hands of their elected representatives. The bed rock of our scheme of government is the delegation of power to elected representatives. Why, then, not work on this line? It is the line of the least resistance, and this, in my humble judgment, is always the best line to take. For years and years, there has been a zealous and persistent warfare on behalf of Temperance. Not one step in advance has been made by legislation in this direction. Surely this tells its own tale.

THE PRESS AND THE PATENT AGENT.

Since commenting recently on a "Grand Inventions Competition" run by sundry newspapers in London and the Provinces, I have acquired further information which adds considerable force to the objections then urged against this novelty in newspaper enterprise. I have also received from the firm of patent agents concerned in the competition a letter which throws valuable light on the whole business. In order that the value of this letter may be exactly appreciated, it will be convenient if I reproduce in the first place from Truth, of March 10, the remarks to which it refers. They were as follows:—

> A month or two before Christmas a number of provincial journals—I am sorry to say that the *Leeds Mercury* (weekly) was one of them—started a "Grand Inventions Competition." The condition of entry was that the inventors who competed took out provisional protection or full patents for their productions, through the medium of the paper, paying three and a half guineas in the former case and eleven in the latter. These were represented as "reduced" fees, and to add to the inducement to compete, a first prize was offered of fifteen guineas, a second prize in the shape of a complete patent value twelve guineas, and a third a provisional protection value four guineas, beside fifty silver medals, fifty bronze medals, and fifty diplomas of honour. The announcement of the competition was seasoned with the most extravagant flim-flams about the fortunes to be made out of patents for common articles in everyday use.
>
> Now, it will be clear to any one with a glimmering of technical knowledge that such a competition must necessarily be an utter farce. One competitor, we will say, submits a new idea in boot-jacks, a second an improved mangle, a third a novelty in ship's steering-gear. How on earth can any expert that ever lived decide fairly on the respective merits of these inventions? A competition in which every one should submit a new invention for one and the same purpose would be reasonable and legitimate, but a competition between inventions which have absolutely nothing in common as a basis of comparison is as nonsensical as the Caucus race in "Alice in Wonderland." But this is only one objection. If the competition is to be genuine, every pains ought to be taken to ascertain that the successful specifications can really be the subject of a valid patent. It is a scandal, indeed, if the proprietors of a great newspaper are going to take four or ten guineas from an impecunious enthusiast for obtaining a patent which will be upset as soon as granted. How far was this done by the journals which promoted the competition in question? One instance will show. A sceptic, who saw the mischievous folly of the whole thing, purchased in a shop a window-sash fastener which had been patented in 1886, and sent it as his contribution to the competition. In due course he was awarded a diploma of merit; and—not the least significant point in the story—received communications from the "Patent Editors" of the *Leeds Mercury* offering to obtain him full protection at the further reduced fee of nine guineas (this offer only to be open for a fortnight), and suggesting the desirability of taking out patents on the Continent and in America. This incident proves up to the hilt that no attempt, worthy of the name, was made to test the novelty of the inventions submitted for competition.

The article went on to mention other significant facts. It pointed out that the competition was run on the same lines in several papers simultaneously, and that when the prizes were awarded there was only one set of winners for the whole series of competitions; in other words, that what was held out as an enterprise started by each paper for the benefit of its own readers was really a joint undertaking of several papers in different parts of England, or more probably "the undertaking of some individual in the background—presumably a patent agent or firm of patent agents—using the names of all these papers." It was shown that in at least one case the conditions had been violated by allowing the competitor to pay fees and enter after the nominal date of the closing of the competition. It was further mentioned that one of the competitors—a working man—on learning these facts, brought an action in the County-Court against the *Leeds Mercury* to recover the fees he had paid; that the defendants obtained an

order for the removal of the action into the High Court, and that upon this the plaintiff, not having the means to fight under such conditions, abandoned his action. Finally, it was pointed out that combination among the aggrieved parties for their own protection was rendered impossible by the fact that the names and addresses of competitors could not be obtained.

My surmise that the whole competition was really the enterprise of an ingenious patent agent in the background turns out to have been correct. The agent concerned is a Mr. G. H. Rayner, or his firm, Messrs. Rayner & Co., of 37, Chancery-lane. After cogitating for three weeks upon the TRUTH article, this gentleman wrote me the following letter—I say that he himself wrote it, in view of the intimation upon it that it was "Dictated by Mr. Rayner":—

37, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.,
March 31, 1898.

The Editor of TRUTH,
TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street,
Queen Anne's-gate, S.W.

Dictated by Mr. Rayner.

DEAR SIR,—Our attention has been called to an article in TRUTH of March 10, 1898, commenting upon an "Inventions Competition." As we acted as Patent Editors for the competition referred to in this article, we trust you will allow us to call attention to your remarks. Fair comment we think is the right of every newspaper, but we also think that the Proprietors of TRUTH would not desire to put forward a distinctly untrue statement.

We beg, therefore, to call attention to page 592 commencing at line 41 of TRUTH, dated March 10, which reads as follows:—"The condition of entry was that the inventors who competed took out provisional protection or full patent for their productions through the medium of the paper, paying three and a half guineas in the former case, and eleven guineas in the latter." It may interest you to know that this statement is distinctly false. There was no such condition in the competition there commented upon. Every competitor was free to get his Protection or Patent from any source that he thought best, and, as an instance, we beg to quote you the first prize winner in this competition who took out his own Provisional Protection amongst others. Some competitors obtained the Protection through other Patent Agents. The first prize winner above referred to was Mr. T. A. Langhorne, of 62, Kirkgate, Silsden, near Keighley, Yorkshire, and if it should be important to the proprietors of TRUTH to ascertain if the statements put forward are strictly accurate, they can verify this statement of ours for themselves by communicating with Mr. Langhorne.

In another part of your article you mention that "a sceptic, who saw the mischievous folly of the whole thing, purchased in a shop a window-sash fastener which had been patented in 1886, and sent it as his contribution to the competition." We should like here to give a little explanation of this matter upon which possibly you are not aware. The "sceptic" in question submitted a sash-fastener, and at the same time signed a declaration at present in the possession of the Comptroller of H.M. Patent Office, and the declaration was to the following effect, "that I (sceptic) am the true and first inventor thereof, and that the same is not in use by any other person or persons to the best of my knowledge and belief." Upon the strength of this declaration "sceptic" was entered into the competition and we leave it to your judgment of fair play if this was a proper thing to do, when it was distinctly stated in the competition conditions that no "*old invention*" was eligible. The judges of the competition took the declaration to be an honest one, as they could not possibly go into the question of novelty of the inventions submitted, which you will be aware is very often for the jurisdiction of the High Courts of Justice, and it is not to be expected that when 30,000 Patent applications are made per annum that the judges of a competition of this kind can enter into the question of novelty or infringement of every invention submitted. It would take our Law Courts years to decide.

Many of your other comments are extremely unfair, and we can only wonder that you did not ascertain the strict accuracy of the statements you make before putting them to the British public.

In addressing this communication to you we are acting entirely on our own behalf, and can, if needs be, substantiate every statement made. We feel sure that TRUTH will regret having even made one statement which is untrue, and that you will not take it as unfair that we called your attention to this article.—Yours faithfully,
RAYNER & Co.

P.S.—We enclose you a sample of the application form for a protection or patent, which every competitor signed, and such a form as this was signed by the "sceptic" referred to in your paper.

On comparing this letter with the substance of the original article set out above, the reader will at once see for himself that it answers nothing. The remarks on the illusory nature of the competition, on the concealment of the fact that the same offer was made through several papers simultaneously, the allegations respecting violation of the conditions, and the action against the *Leeds Mercury*—all these points are discreetly passed over. Like every clever controversialist with a weak case, Mr. Rayner lays hold of one incidental inaccuracy—if it was an inaccuracy—and does his best to make it appear that in correcting this he is disposing of all criticism. The alleged inaccuracy is that it was a condition of entry that protection should be taken out "through the medium of the paper." It may interest me, Mr. Rayner says, to know that this statement is "distinctly false." It does, indeed, interest me immensely. I wrote the article with the conditions before me, and I interpreted the conditions to have this meaning; and I recognise now, after Mr. Rayner has pointed it out, that the conditions do not say in so many words that protection "must" be taken out through the paper, or its "patent editors." But Mr. Rayner will permit me to remark that if I, reading his conditions, placed upon them an interpretation which was "distinctly false," the chances are that nine out of ten competitors who entered fell into precisely the same error. So far, therefore, from regretting, as Mr. Rayner anticipates I shall do, "having made one statement which is untrue," I rejoice greatly at having illustrated, by falling into the mistake myself, the pitfall which Mr. Rayner's conditions contain for the thousands of more or less uneducated and illiterate people to whom his offer was made. Mr. Rayner points out that certain competitors did not take out protection through the "patent editors" of the papers. Will he tell me, on the other hand, how many *did?* And will he tell me, out of those who did not, how many had previously taken out protection through other channels, and, therefore, could not possibly avail themselves of his kind offices? Will he also kindly answer another point? Although in the published advertisements in the newspapers it was not said in so many words that protection must be taken out through him, as patent editor, did he never in his subsequent correspondence with the competitors insist peremptorily on their employing his firm? Before he answers that question will he kindly glance at the following letter, written by his firm in their character of "patent editors," to an intending competitor:—

37, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.,
December 17, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—If we have a model by Monday next, it will be in time for the Competition.

If the Protection has not been already taken, the enclosed form *must be duly signed and returned to us, together with the fee,* otherwise we cannot enter the matter into the Competition.—Yours faithfully,
RAYNER & Co.

In the face of this letter (and I have in my possession others in similar terms) I shall, until Mr. Rayner gives me reason for altering my opinion, regard his assertion that competitors were not required to take out protection

The luxury of a bath is incomplete without the addition of SCRUBB'S CLOUDY FLUID AMMONIA, which refreshes and invigorates. Sold everywhere, but avoid injurious imitations.

through him, as a disingenuous quibble. We have it (1) that every competitor was absolutely compelled to take out protection somehow; (2) that reduced fees were offered as an inducement to take it out through the "patent editors"; (3) that all the necessary drawings, models, &c., had to be sent by each competitor to the "patent editors"; (4) that the "patent editors" themselves write to competitors, enclosing form of application for protection, and stating that it *must* be returned to them with the fee if the invention is to be entered for the competition. In the face of these facts, Mr. Rayner calls it "distinctly false" to say that it was one of the conditions that competitors should take out protection through his firm. I would recommend him when he next finds it necessary to contradict a statement which is substantially true to word his denial a little more carefully, or he may incur a charge of "distinct falsehood" himself.

As for Mr. Rayner's other point about the "sceptic" who sent in a second-hand sash-fastener with a declaration that it was his own original invention, Mr. Rayner must really forgive me for declining to take him seriously when he appeals to my "judgment of fair play" as to the propriety of this proceeding. The "declaration" in question was a signed statement on the form of application for protection—not, of course, a sworn declaration. The "sceptic" wanted to test the value of the competition, and he resorted to an obvious stratagem for the purpose. His stratagem had the desired effect, and has furnished one of the best pieces of evidence of the delusive character of the whole competition. I should as soon think of saying that this was unfair or improper as I should think of condemning a detective who assumes a fictitious name, or puts on a false nose when engaged on hunting down a party who is "wanted."

It will be noted that in this connection Mr. Rayner expressly declares that the judges "could not possibly go into the question of novelty of the inventions submitted." Probably this is true, and, if it is, it cuts away the whole of Mr. Rayner's case, and conclusively establishes the accuracy of my comments. I said that "it is a scandal indeed if the proprietors of great newspapers are going to take four or ten guineas from an impecunious enthusiast for obtaining a patent which will be upset as soon as granted." We now have it from Mr. Rayner, the "Patent Editor" of a score of journals which have run such competitions, that it is absolutely impossible for the judges to pronounce any opinion upon the validity of the inventions submitted to them. In other words, the whole of these newspapers, in company with their "Patent Editors," are prepared to take without demur the guineas of any sanguine idiot among their readers, who is induced by an offer of cash prizes and medals to enter for one of these competitions, no matter how stale or worthless the invention he may submit. If this is not a scandal, I do not know what is.

Now let us take a general survey of the "Grand Inventions Competition," and the relations which it discloses between the Press, the competitors, and Mr. Rayner, or Messrs. Rayner & Co. To begin with, as already stated, the whole thing is purely and simply the speculation of this enterprising firm of patent agents. The newspapers concerned, although the competition is run in their names, and represented as their undertaking, play literally no other part in it than that of the advertising medium. They publish, week after week, announcements which represent the competition as something originated by themselves for the benefit of their readers, and depict in alluring, not to say deceptive, terms the opportunities it offers to anybody who can invent anything. The conditions are roughly indicated, and further particulars are offered on application to the "Patent Editor" or "Patent Department" of the paper. But it is obvious from the wording that all these announcements are drawn up by Messrs. Rayner & Co.; and it is quite certain that the newspapers do not give the prizes, for, as already mentioned, one set of prizes does duty for the competitors in half a dozen papers. Morever, when the application for particulars is once sent in to the "Patent Department," the answer comes from the office of Messrs. Rayner & Co., 37, Chancery-lane, with whom all subsequent communications and negotiations with reference to the competition are conducted. In communicating with the competitors, Rayner & Co. simply head their ordinary office stationery with the name of the newspaper through which the particular competitor they are addressing happens to have been introduced, and 37, Chancery-lane is for the time being styled the "Patent Department" of that particular paper. What the financial arrangements may be between Rayner & Co. and the various newspapers whose names they thus use, I do not pretend to know, but on the face of it Rayner & Co. are simply in the position of advertisers who are allowed not only to insert their advertisement in the paper, but to make use of the name of the paper afterwards in the ordinary course of their business. The competition can be worth little or nothing to the paper for the purpose of extending its own circulation, and presumably, therefore, whatever advantages it gains from the transaction are derived from the profits of Messrs. Rayner & Co.

It is to be presumed that Rayner & Co. pay substantially for the accommodation. What would their position be if they ran such a competition on their own account? Imagine Rayner & Co., or any other firm of patent agents, offering prizes, medals, and diplomas for the best new invention of any kind, and inviting people all over the country to compete, subject to the condition that they must patent their inventions, Rayner & Co. offering to do the business for them at reduced terms! Would-be inventors are proverbially a foolish and sanguine class, but this dodge would probably be a little too thin even for them. But when such an invitation is held out by widely-circulated and influential newspapers, such as the *Leeds Mercury*, the *Western Mail*, or the *Newcastle Chronicle*, acting and offering the prizes in their own names, and representing the competition and the arrangements for taking out protection as having been organised by them (through their "patent editors") on public grounds and for the benefit of their readers, then the thing stands on a totally different footing, and no one will be surprised to hear that competitors have come forward and paid their fees literally by hundreds. To assume, therefore, that Rayner & Co. have paid sub-

stantially for the valuable privilege of acting as the "patent editors" of all these journals, is only to assume that the proprietors of these papers conduct their business on ordinary business principles. But in this particular instance what is the business? It is, without exaggeration, one of the most questionable enterprises in which any respectable newspaper ever embarked, and its result has been, as it was bound to be, the wholesale victimising of hundreds upon hundreds of simple-minded and credulous people. In order to show this more fully, I will give in a future article some further facts and observations concerning this astonishing development of journalism.

A CHAPTER ON USURY.

I have very little sympathy with a young man who anticipates his means by borrowing at 60 per cent. of a money-lender, nor with a man of the world who has reached what are called years of discretion, and borrows at this rate to meet some temporary requirement. If, after a few years, a spendthrift finds his way into the Bankruptcy Court, this may be unpleasant to him, but the State suffers no harm. The money does not disappear, it only goes from the pocket of one person into that of another, and the circulation of money, from the public standpoint, is rather an advantage than the reverse. The really objectionable part of this class of money-lending is the blackmailing that is practised on relatives of the borrower. If a young man has an allowance from his family of, say, £500 per annum, it is evident that if he gives bills for £1,000, they cannot be paid by him, and that if they are paid, it must be by his relatives. The security for repayment, therefore, is the probability of his relatives coming to his aid, rather than allow him to pass through the Bankruptcy Court. It is in cases such as this that I should be glad to see the Courts invested with a power of giving equitable relief. I would go further than Sir George Lewis, and allow them to relieve the debtor of his liability, which would practically mean relieving his relatives of it. Were the Courts given this power, it would put an end to all lending on the expectation of relatives paying.

Last week I went into the Committee room, where the Money-Lending Committee was sitting. A money-lender said that an equitable power to reduce interest would not diminish his business, because those to whom he lent were men of honour. He seemed indeed to regard a bill discounted at 40 or 60 per cent. as a sacred debt of honour. But where the honour came in I could not see. The borrower confederates with the lender to oblige his parents or other relatives to pay for his extravagances. That a money-lender regards a forged bill as the best of securities, the evidence before the Committee has clearly proved. It is only natural that he should; for here the leverage on relatives is so great that, if they have the means, the bill is almost certain to be paid. This is a very difficult matter to meet. I would suggest that it might be done by providing that no bill for which the borrower has paid, or has covenanted to pay, more than two per cent., whether in the form of interest or commission, shall be recoverable against any person who has received no consideration for signing it, unless the lender has personally seen this person, and obtained in writing from him an assurance that he has signed it.

The hardest cases, however, are not those which arise out of "West End" usury. They are those where the loan is small in amount. Some curate or clerk borrows at extortionate interest. After slaving and scraping for years to pay the interest, in the end he finds it impossible, and is ruined. In all such cases there should be an equitable power of relief vested in the Courts. Equally cruel are the cases where there is a bill of sale. A loan is contracted at 100, or more, per cent. Repayment and interest are arranged for by monthly payments, and there is generally a clause by which the entire debt becomes due with usurious interest upon default in any one of these payments. Some payments are made, then there is a failure to pay, and at once the poor borrower finds a man in possession of his home. The sale takes place, and the ruined borrower's little household goods are sold for a mere song.

Here, too, the Courts should have an equitable jurisdiction. But I would go further. I would put an end to bills of sale. It is true that bills of sale are registered, and any one who reads the *Gazette* may know who has given one. But the butcher and the baker of some country town do not read this publication. They—often kind-hearted men—give a little credit, and they find themselves deprived of any possibility of being repaid by the moneylender stepping in with his bill of sale. Yet a further step would I go. I would with pleasure vote for a "Furniture Bill" on the lines of the Homestead Act of Manitoba. Furniture belonging to any person with a wife and children, or (in the event of the wife having died) with children alone, below the value of, say, £100, should not be made liable for his debts. Why should his furniture be liable, any more than the clothes in which he and his family are standing?

It may be instructive to give here the latest example of the working of the bill of sale trick that has come under my notice. The usurer concerned in the case is one J. Harrison Brown, of 25, Bedford-row, W.C., who has not yet attained the notoriety which he merits. A lady, in temporary want of a loan of £10, applied to a usurer's tout named Milner, of High Holborn. Milner persuaded her that she must borrow £30, and give a bill of sale on her furniture. He then introduced her to Harrison Brown, and she was induced to sign a bill of sale on furniture of the value of £200 for a loan of £30. Milner went with her to the bank to cash Harrison Brown's cheque for the £30, and appropriated £4 out of that amount for his commission. The loan was to be repaid, with interest, in instalments of £2 10s. per month, and three instalments were duly paid. After the second instalment had been paid, the borrower left the house in which she was living, owing to its insanitary state, and removed her furniture to another house without giving Harrison Brown the notice required by the bill of sale—a condition which she knew little about. Harrison Brown accepted one instalment after hearing of the removal, but he returned the next, on the ground that goods included in the bill of sale had been taken away without his consent. In reply to an inquiry as to the

amount still secured upon the bill of sale, he stated that it was £37 3s. 7d. This was exactly four months after the £30 (less Milner's commission) had been advanced, and after £7 10s. of this amount had been repaid! The case had gone no further when the facts were communicated to me a few days ago; but Shylock apparently meditated a seizure of the furniture, and I shall not be surprised to hear that by this time it has been carried out. It seems to me that J. Harrison Brown would be a useful witness to summon before the Money-lending Committee. It is evident that valuable information regarding the abuse of bills of sale could be extracted from him.

I was, by the way, particularly interested in the evidence given before the Committee last week by Jonas Wolfe, of Jermyn-street, alias James Wilton, of 215, Piccadilly. He mentioned that, among other aliases, he also trades as Herbert Grunwell, of 4, Oxford-place, Leeds. Last November I had some correspondence with the said Grunwell, who formerly dignified his office with the title of "The Leeds and Counties Clerical Agency," and specially laid himself out for the catching and bleeding of country parsons. Grunwell was hurt at my inclusion of his name in a batch of bloodsuckers against whom I warned my readers. He posed as an injured innocent anxious to clear his reputation until I showed some inquisitiveness as to his relations with the usurer Wolfe, and then he became curiously evasive and reticent. As a matter of fact, I had not up till that time any absolute proof that Grunwell and Wolfe were one, but the correspondence strengthened my suspicion that they were, and the matter is now finally settled by Wolfe's own admission.

A short time back I came across an example of this Wolfe's rapacity as bad as any that has been brought to light before the Committee. The victim was in possession of freehold property of the value of over £60,000, but subject to encumbrances amounting to about £32,000. He wanted a loan of £1,000 or so, and he could, of course, have easily obtained it at 4 per cent. Being however, a foolish and unbusiness-like old man, he fell into the hands of one Tottenham (otherwise Lofthouse & Co., of 2, Marlborough Mansions, S.W.), who passed him on to James Wilton, otherwise Jonas Wolfe, and pocketed a handsome fee for this valuable introduction. Wolfe advanced this gentleman two sums —first, £1,000, for which he undertook to repay £1,600 in twelve equal monthly instalments; and secondly, £500, for which he undertook to repay £800 in six months. Both loans were secured by charges on the estate, and taking into consideration the monthly repayments the interest would, of course, work out at an enormous rate. It is gratifying to know, however, that this appropriately named financial wolf was deprived of the major part of his plunder. The borrower's legal advisers were consulted, and Jonas deemed it prudent to accept £1,700 in settlement of his full claim of £2,400.

EASTER DRAMATIC NOVELTIES.

The guest who knows how to time his exits and his entrances has at least one social asset. I congratulate the American garrison of the Adelphi on the date of their advent. They have chosen, or chanced—in the same swoop—on the sweet o' the year, and on the psychological moment. War is in the air, the Stars and Stripes begin to have a new meaning for English sympathies, and here is a drama of battle which swarms with heroic Americans in war paint. Nothing could be more opportune.

War is, in fact, the chief element of "The Heart of Maryland," and the most interesting. As a play Mr. Belasco's work abounds in faults. It is not a patch, for instance, on "Secret Service," with which it is sure to be confused, and which it resembles. It is badly constructed and monstrously confusing. The author has made a curiously amateurish error—that which damned Charles Lamb's piece in his day, and has damned a million others since—in leaving the audience to discover the different motives of the characters. If Mr. Belasco had made shift to cut the Gordian knot, and printed a short statement of the case upon the programmes, he would have done better for his play than by leaving us to grope our way about its dusky purlieus. Again, Mr. Gillette's work was original, while "The Heart of Maryland," if you except the mechanical advance over its one now forgotten competitor in the bell trick of Act III., smacks, more or less, of old friends and the familiar components of melodrama. But the comparison, though it was inevitable, need not be prolonged, and does not mean to imply that our Belasco is not vastly ingenious I should like a clearer opening, and Colonel Thorpe's position, for instance, might be made more intelligible, but there are some capital situations; as when the heroine's brother, a Southerner by birth like herself, but a spy in the Northern interest among his own people, gets shot, and his sister is made, without knowing it, to denounce her lover as his confederate. But war, as I say, is the real interest, the impersonal hero of the piece. Modern war is more fascinating than Maryland, and the savour of modern warfare is all over the stage. The author's ingenuity lies in the skill with which he has contrived to suggest where other people might have come to grief by giving palpable object lessons. We see wonderfully little of the fighting, but we feel it as we have seldom felt it at the theatre. Artillery, musketry, galloping A.D.C.s echo all round us; wounded men and a wounded child pass across the stage, and are not much like the conventional pictures. It is the ugly, disgusting side of the business, not the glory, pomp, and circumstance. Mr. Belasco—with mounting—has helped to give the pomp and circumstance away. After the Russians, one or two of his own countrymen have done the same in narrative fiction; and it is not a bad compliment to say that "The Heart of Maryland" recalls, with necessary difference, Mr. Stephen Crane's "Red Badge of Courage." Naturally, then, the characters at the Adelphi pale before the bigger phantom, and I refuse to "oblige" with the plot. But the acting is wonderfully good all round. It is a bit vigorous, of course; these Americans act hard—over-act, an enemy might call it, though I should be sorry to seem to lament a fault which some of our own artists might emulate. They have a great turn of speed, too, there is no dawdling; and the nervous tension is infectious and disposes an audience to be thrilled. Mrs. Leslie Carter is

rather a revelation. No doubt many of her little arts are transparent, and she is not yet her own mistress. But she has passion and intensity, while in another vein her tenderness with the small and wounded Northener was charming. Mr. Frank Mills's Artillery Lieutenant was a pleasant feature, particularly in his scene—in a room under siege—with a northern damsel who is played as pleasantly by Miss Dupree. But if I am to name the prettiest interlude in the piece, to Miss Helen MacBeth is due that modest tribute. Her entrance and colloquy in delicate American with the luckless spy are charming comedy; Miss MacBeth must not alter it by an intonation. In Mr. Morgan we have got a new and exquisite villain, tense, vivid—too vivid, it may be—and, not least, well-bred. Mr. Barrymore's return to his native isle was hailed with rapture. He has become the Terriss of America, a friend informs me.

Miss Louie Freear is getting one hundred pounds (£100) a week at the Royalty Theatre. You may "hae your doots" as to the good taste of this announcement, but do not question its veracity. If you do, you will find yourself threatened with legal proceedings. My authority upon Miss Freear's income is the lady herself, or, at all events, her solicitor. A vivacious contemporary of mine surprised this rumour, and published it in his columns, adding the terrific comment that if it were true he was delighted. Miss Freear's solicitor leapt upon my contemporary. The remark, he urged, was calculated to injure the actress in her calling; moreover, her income was £100 a week and he himself had drawn up her agreement at that figure. Sweet, sweet are the uses of advertisement. Let me add, for fear I should myself incur an action-at-law, that Miss Freear's solicitor did not actually and physically leap upon my contemporary. In point of fact he wrote a letter to him.

I was glad, however, on Monday evening to find that if Mr. Levenstone is liberal he quite understands the art of getting his money's worth. In "Julia," which has succeeded "Oh! Susannah," on the Royalty stage, Miss Freear has plenty to do for her shekels, or, as she probably prefers to call them, her "Jimmy O'Goblins." She is on tap all the evening, and enjoys a perfect trinity of parts. Plays "written round" a particular artist are not, Heaven knows, a new thing. But I fancy the *genre* reaches its climax in "Julia." It is not a play. It is simply Miss Louie Freear at discretion, with a certain quantity of other matter to serve by way of ballast; and if one article of ballast, Mr. Robb Harwood to wit, gives us the best piece of acting in the piece, that, I imagine, is no fault of the author's. Julia was a——well, a Miss Louie Freear, and lived in lodgings with her father, Mr. Minniver, a broken-down gentleman, sodden, lying, good for nothing. Tom, her twin brother, lived there, too, but ran away and became a boy in buttons at Mrs. Merridew's. This was a lady with a will of her own, a son, and a solicitor. The last had a daughter, called Clara. She was quite as obviously a lady as Mrs. Merridew, and an excellent marriage for Master Merridew; but when that youth proposed to marry her, his mother at once turned him out of doors, and into the company of Mr. Minniver. Consequently he saw a good deal of Julia, (who was her papa's general servant), though not enough to satisfy the audience and the management of the Royalty. Mrs. Merridew put that all right. She had a plan to let us see more of Miss Freear. Mr. Minniver is her distant relative. If she is to supplant her own criminal offspring, why shouldn't she replace him with Minniver's? Accordingly she advertises for Tom, who is all the time under her own roof, and brilliant in her own buttons. Merridew jumps at the advertisement, but there is no Tom. Need I go on to say that Julia pulls him through? She is transmogrified into Tom. She answers the advertisement. She rings the changes between Tom and Julia. You can imagine the quick change. But even this wouldn't give us enough of Miss Freear for our money, or, rather, for Mr. Levenstone's. So she enacts the veritable page as well—with more quick changes. I might go on to unravel the chain of improbabilities, but I should give myself brain fever, and not be doing Mr. Sturgess any service. That chain untwisted were rope enough to hang him. He has exactly filled the bill. A piece was wanted for Miss Freear, and such a piece is written.

For myself I cannot see too much of the little lady. If she is always the same, it seems to me that she is always irresistible—simply. How long we shall think so is, perhaps, another matter. At least her pathos was as good as her fun (almost) on Thursday evening. Mr. Harwood once more is as good as they make 'em; his "Never"—a type so called, Julia tells us, because it never gets on—is individual in its soddenness. The others—Miss Maria Davis as the Mamma Merridew—are brave auxiliaries.

"Julia" is preceded by a travesty of Kipling's "Light that Failed." One or two ingenuous critics have been surprised to find that it is gloomy. It is not nearly so gloomy as the original Kipling. The difference is that the latter is of gloom compact plus genius. It is a considerable difference, as the critics will find if they compare the play and the novel.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE revival of "Adrienne Lecouvreur," with Mme. Bartet as Adrienne, has brought up again the subject of death by poison on the stage. That accomplished actress does not go in for crude realism and violent effects. She prefers the pathetic to the shocking, in which Mlle. Croizette excelled in "Le Sphinx." I think she is right, but she may not be right ten years hence, it being now the fashion for young ladies to vivisect, and walk the hospitals. Mature playgoers, unless doctors, are not aware how persons dying from poison writhe, groan, cry out, and are contorted in their agony. The robust beauty and strong magnetism of Mlle. Croizette enabled her to die a hideous death without appearing too horrible. But Mme. Bartet is no more fit for such business than a thoroughbred is to draw a cart. She is true to her essential characteristics in clinging to the gracefully pathetic in spite of the cavilling of the realists.

The law courts are in a way to beat the theatres in comedy with strong situations. Who would have thought that the Zola trial was comedy of the most extravagant

sort? The Court played a comic part with mock solemnity that appeared real to the laics. The counsel saw that Judges allowed illegalities that would make sure of any judgment being quashed on appeal. The War Minister, advised by the Minister of Justice, who is an advocate by profession, came forward as plaintiff when he had no business to do so. He was merely holding a candle to an excited public, or howling with the wolves. Labori was a comedian from first to last, inasmuch as he understood the drift of the Court and War Minister. But the Generals who appeared as witnesses and the poor jurors were the dupes of the play actors. The Court of Cassation has forgotten its severe majesty by allowing itself to resent the placarding of Deputy Viviani's speech at the cost of the country. Viviani charged a leading member of that Court with being a party to another ugly comedy. The allegation was that he made believe that he was, when Attorney-General, hunting down the worst Panamists, whereas he manœuvred to save them from prescription. He also gave facilities for the destruction of compromising documents. The moral drawn by Demos from the placarded speech is that the Court of Cassation *est aussi canaille que la Correctionelle.* Poor Demos does not see the exquisite fun of the whole thing. He only thinks of the £75,000,000 which the Panamists filched. It all came out of his pocket, and was the fruit of small savings.

Comte de Greffuhle is so angry at his electoral campaign coming to nought, that he has determined not to build the iron yacht he was to have launched at Dieppe. A hundred workmen were engaged to carry out this fancy. They have all been sent about their business. The Comte spent sums unheard of in France to secure a seat in the Seine et Marne. The total was calculated by his opponent at £80,000.

Who says that love is a creation of the poet? The Princess of Fürstenburg, *née* Talleyrand, and daughter of the late Duc de Valençay Sagan, proves the contrary. She is aged forty, and has fallen in love with her cousin, the Comte de Castellane, aged thirty. As a consequence, a marriage has been arranged, but it may be delayed, as the *fiancé* is stricken with typhoid fever. The Princess must, in remarrying, give up her great Fürstenburg dowry. She is fortunately rich in her own right. Her mother, a Castellane Greffuhle, was married first to Count von Hatzfeldt, Prussian Ambassador to the Court of the Tuileries. When the Congress of Paris was busy extricating the Emperor Napoleon from the Crimean muddle, the Count and Countess entertained the Congress at a famous ball.

M. Félix Faure's incognito on the Riviera will be rather transparent. He is to put up at the Riviera Palace Hotel, near the Regina Palace. While there, a division of the Mediterranean Squadron will be "in attendance" at Villafranca. The President enjoys sailing about in men-of-war. To do so makes him feel himself a sea king, and on the watery element the peer of H.B.M. What with the ironclads, the fine horses, and the London straw hats, the President will be able to maintain the dignity of the State and hold his head as high as the most august.

A bit of contemporaneous history. The Czar and F.F. returned from the grand review to Peterhof without an escort. When the latter reached the palace he said to the French Minister in attendance, "Thi-thi-thi-th-i-i-i-i-i, Pas d'escorte! Ça manque de dignité."

The announcement of the Earl of Suffolk's death reminds me of Charlton Park, near Malmesbury, where he resided. I was a guest there not many years ago. Charlton is in the grassy part of Wiltshire. The country around it gently undulates. The house is one of the stateliest in England, in the later Elizabethan style. It stands in a park of the sweetest pastoral beauty, to which the age, size, and number of the trees give an air of majesty. This typical house was built by Sir Henry Knevet, father of Lady Rich, who, by her second marriage, was the first Countess of Suffolk. Historians of James I.'s reign have something to say of her and her daughter, Lady Francis Howard, and successively the wife of the Earl of Essex and Carr, whom George Villiers supplanted in King James's favour. The Charlton house-warming took place in 1603. Raby Castle alone can boast of a hall as fine as that of Charlton. It used to be flagged, for the convenience of carriages containing ladies, but has now a parquet floor. In the olden time a coach and eight could turn round in this hall. The picture-gallery is said to be the longest room of any private residence in England. It is magnificently, genially, and cosily Elizabethan. Have you ever remarked how handsome, kind, and cosy looks a true Elizabethan house? Ancestral portraits cover the wall. Some of them date from the time of Edward VI., when Zucchero was in England. They are interspersed with portraits of Sovereigns, each of which has a history connected with the Suffolk family. That of Queen Elizabeth was sent by herself to her Lord High Admiral, Lord Thomas Howard, first Earl of Suffolk. James I. made a present of his own likeness to that nobleman. It is a revealing one. One can almost see from it that his tongue rolled in his mouth when he talked. The countenance is not Scotch, but Piedmontese, thus justifying Henri IV.'s *mot* that the British Solomon was the son of David (Rizzio) the fiddler. The Charlton Park gallery is rich in Mytins and contains some Vandykes. They are heirlooms. The present Earl will come of age in September. He spent some weeks here last winter as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Drake, and made an agreeable impression. He has sweet natural courtesy, a pleasing, open countenance, and though devoted to cricket, cycling, &c., is well educated. He can speak in the Wiltshire vernacular like any Hodge. His sisters are charming country-bred flowers. But to pass one's youth at Charlton Park is in itself an education. The widowed Countess of Suffolk is all-round excellent, and one of the most agreeably frank persons that I know. She has strong genial character, and commands the love and respect of her inner circle. One of her rare characteristics is the most tender and lasting affection for her mother-in-law, now dead many years. One sees her stop before a likeness taken of her when she was elderly,

and gaze on it until her eyes swim. For years after her death she could not reconcile herself to the void that event had caused. The late Dowager Countess must have been a woman of singular purity of soul, and intellectual. She was a daughter of Lord Henry Howard, was an aunt of the Hon. Auberon Herbert, and his image, to judge from her portraits. She had a passion for poetry and for gardening. The garden that she laid out in a wide space of turf on the sunny side of the house, is the first in the carpet style that was known in England. Lady Suffolk is descended from the beautiful Countess of Coventry. But it would give her far more pleasure to hear that her daughters resembled her mother-in-law, than her own more famous ancestress.

The Auto-mobile or Motor Club is about to move from its flat in the Place de l'Opéra to the Place de la Concorde. It has arranged to hire there one of the finest houses in Paris, that left to the Pope by the late Marquise de Plessis Bellière for a Nunciature. The executors of her will find they must sell it to liquidate the testator's estate. It was sold by auction for nearly £80,000. But another bid may yet be made before the 12th instant. The internal decorations of this house are by the great artists of the eighteenth century. The walls and ceilings of a small salon were painted by Fragonard.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

We live in the Age of Transition, dear Lady Betty, and we have reached that stage in the process of change at which we are all half-educated. The amount of newspaper knowledge which the members of this generation have assimilated is phenomenal. The humblest man or woman now knows a little of the law and of legal technicalities; a little of the gossip and of the scandal of society; a little of the intricate problems of foreign policy; and, indeed, a little of everything; just sufficient to accentuate their ignorance and make it more dangerous to themselves and to others than it was before.

This being the condition of the community, it is easy to perceive how mischievous government by newspapers may be. Ever since the memorable raid into the Transvaal—that is over two years ago—the Press has directed its search-light in quick succession upon one foreign question after another, keeping the country in continual excitement, dislocating trade, and demoralising the financial markets. First, there was an American war scare; then we were assured that war with Germany was imminent; later, that Russia and Great Britain must inevitably rush at each other's throats over the Eastern Question; and only a week or two ago we were solemnly warned that France and this country were on the verge of a mighty struggle with regard to the West African dispute. We are still at peace, however, with all the nations, and all the nations are at peace with each other! It is well that this lesson should be enforced now, for the disturbed state produced by this system of penny-a-line politics and by the attempt to introduce government by newspapers is very seriously injuring the trade and the business of the country.

Lord Salisbury may not be an ideal Minister for Foreign Affairs, and he may not be so strong as he even was a few years ago, but he has more experience of Foreign Affairs than have all the newspaper editors between them. Moreover, he obtains the very latest information through the representatives of this country abroad, and through the representatives of other countries at home; and the Foreign Office must, therefore, be better and more accurately informed than the editors of newspapers are. It is true that the latter have their "Own Correspondents," who supply them with news sometimes very ably, and frequently incorrectly. It is difficult now to open a London newspaper and not to find some item of foreign news derived from these sources either denied or discredited. For instance, last week the majority of London newspapers contained savagely-written articles founded upon a telegram from Berlin, which gave a report of an alleged interview between a German journalist and Major d'Albuquerque regarding the future policy of Portugal as to Delagoa Bay. On Thursday an official announcement was published, at the express wish both of the Portuguese Government and of Major d'Albuquerque, absolutely denying, first, that the former contemplated the action attributed to it; and, secondly, that the latter had made the statements attributed to him. Government by newspapers is, as I have said, misgovernment by misinformation.

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Cool-headed, reasonable people have derived much satisfaction by watching the progress of recent events concerning the dispute between America and Spain. The United States is a powerful and an immensely rich country; Spain is comparatively weak and is poor. Nevertheless, so great is the dread of war now-a-days that week after week the President of the United States, though urged to immediate action by a raving Press, has postponed committing his country by a definitely expressed Message to Congress. Moreover, though a war between the United States and Spain would, less than any war between two other nations, disturb the interests of Europe, every European Government has strenuously endeavoured to bring about a peaceful solution of the dispute, and the Pope has exerted all his authority to secure the same end. It should be plain, from these facts, that no civilised nation would now welcome war, either between itself and another country or between two rival nations. Revolution is much more imminent than war, and many Sovereigns in Europe are keenly alive to this.

* * * * *

People might, with much advantage to themselves, occasionally turn their attention from that which is evil in humanity to that which is good. I have frequently been astonished by the number of gifts and bequests to charitable institutions which are announced almost every day in the newspapers, the announcements being, by the way, generally hidden in small type in the least prominent pages, whilst the "Horrible Murders," and "West End Scandals" are accorded the dignity of the largest lettering. I therefore marked during the last few days every announcement of the kind which I happened to notice, and as the gifts and bequests announced during this period are not more startling than usual it may be imagined that they represent the average donations to charitable institutions every fortnight:—

The late Miss Louisa da Costa bequeathed about...	£60,000
Mr. Alexander Peckover has given	4,000
Mr. Hope Morley has given	4,000
The late Mr. George Congreve bequeathed ...	500
The late Mr. Adam Teacher bequeathed	50,000
The late Mr. Hyam Beddington bequeathed about	6,000
The late Mr. John Shank bequeathed	650
An anonymous donor has given to Blackburn ...	13,000
Total	£138,150

Besides this, the late Mr. Teacher has bequeathed all his pictures to the Glasgow Corporation, and the late Mr. George Dennis has bequeathed his entomological collection to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society. It would be curious to learn even approximately how many millions are annually given and bequeathed for charitable purposes in Great Britain, and it cannot be doubted that if these generous endeavours to benefit the community continue sufficiently long, all our charitable institutions will one day be so effectively endowed as to be self-supporting.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE utter rottenness and humbug of the Two Thousand and Derby betting is proved by the fatuous absurdities of last week in connection with Ninus and Brio. Prince Soltykoff's colt was made a warm favourite for the Newmarket race on the strength of his having won a trial, the fact being that he merely had a rough gallop with three platers over the R.M., and no sane creature would surely attach any serious importance to such a spin. Spur Royal would be a pretty sort of beast to try a Derby horse with. Wise people will be content to leave the Two Thousand alone until the day of running arrives, as the stamina of most of the probable starters is exceedingly doubtful, and probably there will be some genuine trials next week. It seems scarcely possible that Ninus will be thoroughly fit in a fortnight, and he will have most assuredly to "come on" with marvellous rapidity if he is to be sent to the post in proper racing condition. I see it is stated that Collar is to represent the Duke of Westminster, Batt being reserved for the Derby, but I believe this is a fiction. Batt is intended to run at Newmarket and at Epsom if well, while Collar will be kept for the Princess of Wales's Stakes of £10,000 at the Newmarket First July Meeting, when he will have the advantage of a maiden allowance, while the best of the other starters will have extra weight to carry. The demonstration in favour of Brio has been quite as preposterously idiotic as the rush on Ninus. I have several times predicted that Brio would be the best of the dark lot for the Two Thousand and Derby, and that he would be found a very smart animal, but did ever any one hear of more insane folly than the backing of a dark horse, who has not been tried in any conclusive fashion, at such a price as 11 to 2, while 100 to 8 was actually accepted about him for the Derby? It will be full time to back Brio when he has been galloped with a horse of real class. Dieudonné (as I long ago stated) is not likely to run before the Derby, but if either Jeddah, Carhaix, or Grodno can be galloped with Nunsuch to the satisfaction of their trainer, the winner of the trial ought to go very near to carrying off the Two Thousand. Jeddah will, no doubt, run for the Craven Stakes to-morrow, and he should win that race easily if he has any real pretensions to be a good horse. Grodno is a French-bred horse (by Gamin out of Georgina), owned by Lord William Beresford, who bought him as a yearling from M. Michel Ephrussi. Grodno was very backward when he ran last autumn, but he is a greatly improved colt, and has been going remarkably well in his gallops. He is in the Hardwicke Stakes at Ascot, and if he misses the classic events he might win that rich race, having a maiden allowance, and a very moderate lot of horses to meet.

If any one desired conclusive evidence that racing is at present outrageously overdone, it would be found in the fact that the Manchester Cup of £2,000, one of the richest handicaps of the season, has obtained only forty-one entries, while the Salford Borough Handicap, the principal mile race at the Whitsuntide meeting, has failed to fill. The Prince of Wales has entered Nunsuch for the Cup, a race which H.R.H. won three years ago with Florizel II. Nunsuch, who is a very smart mare, has been purchased by the Prince of Wales from Lord William Beresford, and this animal is certain to win a good handicap in the course of the season. The Duke of Devonshire has entered Glentilt and Carhaix, but the latter colt will probably be reserved for his weight-for-age engagements. St. Bris and Labrador are the Kingsclere representatives, and among the other notable animals entered are Piety, The Rush, Chiselhampton, Nouveau Riche, Laughing Girl, and Rapallo.

There is to be an end of the Stockbridge meeting, and the Bibury Club fixture will be transferred to Salisbury. After Goodwood, Stockbridge was the most enjoyable meeting of the year, but the proprietor of the famous downs objects to racing, and the manorial difficulties have proved insuperable. Of course, every one knows that Stockbridge has lost nearly all of its old importance of late years, and the Cup has no longer been the race it once was, although run over such a popular course as six furlongs. The two-year-old racing has always been the great feature at Stockbridge, and in this department the meeting has fairly well held its own, considering the comparatively small value of the stakes. Galtee More made a successful début two years ago in the Hurstbourne Stakes, a race which was originally established by John Day at the suggestion of that excellent sportsman and staunch patron of Stockbridge, the late Lord Portsmouth, whose death, indeed, was a blow to the meeting from which it never recovered, as that event put an end to the large annual party at Hurstbourne for the week. The disappearance of Stockbridge from the list of fixtures is the more to be regretted because the "going" was always good there, even in the most dry summer, and one never heard of animals returning home lame from this meeting. The Bibury Club was established in its present form about a hundred years ago, when the Prince of Wales (afterwards George IV.) was its patron, and most of the members of the Jockey Club belonged to it, besides a host of aristocratic sportsmen who were not *habitués* of Newmarket. The club races took place at Cheltenham for several years, but in 1831 the meeting was removed to Stockbridge, where it has ever since remained. Salisbury has direfully lost ground during the last few years, and the best plan will be to incorporate the Bibury Club Stakes with the present very weak programme of the meeting. It may be hoped that no attempt will be made to drag the Salisbury fixture over three days.

Mr. Leopold de Rothschild has lost his three-year-old filly Isabinda, own sister to St. Frusquin, and her death is a most unfortunate event, for, although she may not have achieved anything on the turf, yet she would have been of great value as a brood mare. A very high opinion was entertained of Isabinda when she was a yearling, and she was heavily engaged. It was determined to give the filly every chance, as she manifestly wanted time, so she was not trained as a two-year-old. It was hoped, however, that Isabinda would distinguish herself during the present season, and she was, therefore, left in for the £10,000 races and other "heavy" stakes, and at the time of her death she had upwards of twenty engagements, so that there will be several hundreds of pounds to pay on account of her forfeits. I have several times expressed the opinion that Isabinda would not stand training, and her failure was the more unfortunate inasmuch as she was a remarkably good-looking filly. I hope that Mr. Leopold de Rothschild will be compensated for the early collapse of St. Frusquin and the tragedy of Isabinda by the successes of St. Gris, their two-year-old half-brother, by Galopin. He is a fine racing-like colt, and acquitted himself very creditably in a gallop at Newmarket the other day, although still backward. If St. Gris does well during the next three weeks he will make its début in the Royal Plate of £3,000 at Kempton Park, on May 6. He is is in the Great Surrey Foal Plate of £1,200 at the Epsom Summer Meeting, but at Ascot he is entered for only the Windsor Castle Stakes on the last day.

I am sorry to hear that The Baker has gone amiss, and Sir John Kelk's colt is not at all likely to be in a condition to run at Ascot, which is much to be regretted, as his meeting with Galtee More and Cyllene would have produced one of the most interesting races of the season. The Baker is engaged in the Goodwood Cup, as also is Galtee More, but I fancy that he will not be seen out before Doncaster, at the earliest.

Prince Soltykoff has a smart two-year-old in Crucianella, by Gold out of Cross Wort, and she may be expected to win an "overnight" race at one of the Newmarket spring meetings. Crucianella has no engagement for several months, as she was unluckily struck out of the Sandown Park Stud Produce Stakes on the 22nd.

Geronte, a colt owned by the Comte de Berteux, who has been backed for the Derby, and was believed to be very smart, has met with an accident, and it is most probable that the last has been seen of him on the turf.

I understand that Hermiston (whose owner is in America) will be started for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap,

and if he wins that race he will run, four days later, for the Newmarket Stakes, an event which is likely to take more winning than the Two Thousand.

Mr. Rucker's racehorses, twenty-three in number, are to be sold at Newmarket to-morrow without reserve. Red Heart cost 5,100 gs. at the sale of Colonel North's stud in July, 1896, and he has since won three small races, value £851. That grievously mismanaged animal, Chit-Chat, has so far won nothing, although he has often enough been backed for important handicaps. Cupboard Love, by Saraband (3 yrs.), cost 250 gs. as a yearling, and she won the Tattersall Sale Stakes of £815 at Doncaster. Dunlop, who has won a single race, value £972, is the colt by Ayrshire out of Fortuna, for which Mr. Rucker was so infatuated as to give the Prince of Wales 5,000 gs. It will be interesting to see how much Dunlop fetches to-morrow. I do not believe the colt has the ghost of the shadow of a chance for the Derby, though he may win some T.Y.C. races. Dame Certain (3 yrs.), by Surefoot, cost 570 gs. as a yearling, and has never yet started for a race. Powderham (3 yrs.), by Hampton, cost 760 gs. as a yearling, and last season he ran once, without winning. Little Champion, (3 yrs.), by Hampton, cost 410 gs. as a yearling, and last season he started nine times, and won a single race, value £137. No two-year-old of last season was more assiduously written up in certain quarters than Royal Sport, by Royal Hampton, who, however, won nothing, although he ran three times. He cost 1,600 gs. as a yearling. The three-year-old, Rontgen Ray, by Prism, cost 670 gs. as a yearling, and last season he ran six times without winning. Roger de Coverley (3 yrs.), by Saraband, cost 490 gs. as a yearling, and he has never yet started. Slice of Luck (3 yrs.), by Bread Knife, cost 140 gs. as a yearling, and he ran four times last season, winning a single race, value £805. Lapwing II., an American-bred three-year-old, started eleven times last season, and won a single race, value £100. There are eight two-year-olds, but none of exceptionally "fashionable" breeding.

The Duke of Portland's three-year-old filly, Elizabeth Hardwicke, won her first race at Leicester, which was a five-furlong plate, value £103, a race which will not go far towards paying her last season's forfeits. Elizabeth Hardwicke was a good-looking yearling, and, being so grandly bred (half sister, by Orme, to Donovan), she would certainly have fetched at least 2,000 gs. if she had been offered for sale at that period of her career. The filly won her race very easily at Leicester, but she really had nothing to beat. I should fancy that she will soon be relegated to the stud, as she is never likely to accomplish much on the turf, but as a brood mare she may justifiably be expected to do well.

There will be racing next week at Epsom, Pontefract, and Sandown Park, but, except in one or two of the handicaps, the sport is not likely to be of much general interest.

The Westminster Plate at Epsom may be won by Mr. Cassel's April Fool, who has been well galloped, and she might very likely carry off the Hyde Park Plate also, as she would have no extra weight in the second race.

As to the City and Suburban, which will be practically a post-betting race, for nearly all the transactions which are laboriously recorded by the sporting papers are nonsense and rubbish, I have no fancy myself for Knight of the Thistle, who cannot stay the course, and he is one of the worst roarers in training. However, I understand that Knight of the Thistle is considered by Captain Machell to have an excellent chance of winning, and the field seems to be in a fair way to collapse. Chelandry has not been doing much work, and it was the same sort of slip-slop preparation which mainly caused her defeat for the Oaks. People who fancy Lord Rosebery's mare had better leave her alone until she is seen at the post. Kilcock cannot stay the course, and I should think it is very doubtful whether any of the money for which he has been backed has really come from this stable. Eager would be a good thing if the distance was a mile, but the last two hundred yards will probably stop him. Brayhead is thrown in, but he is not an easy horse for a boy to ride over such a course as Epsom. Brayhead on his best form is far and away the most favourably handicapped horse in the race, and if he got off well he might win in a canter. Lady Ernie would be a better candidate for her owner than Phœbus Apollo, but this horse is apparently intended to run at Epsom. Sandia will probably represent the American stable, Berzak being reserved for Kempton Park.

CHINA AND GLASS. — Messrs. GOODE, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

THE C.T.C. HANDBOOK TRICK.

It may be remembered that about this time last year I referred to the remarkable balance-sheet of the Cyclists' Touring Club. I said pretty plainly that there was no justification for raising the subscription from 3s. 6d. to 5s. The cycling press howled with indignation at my venturing to touch such a sacred institution as the C.T.C., and members wrote plaintive letters saying how hard-hearted I was to attack the club while their poor secretary was away ill. I have now to thank a member of the club for calling my attention to the following remarkable facts. I said, and I repeat, that an increase of membership would on none of the grounds stated be a reason for an increase of subscription. By a recent resolution of the Council every member of the club is to have gratis "The handbook and lodging list, which have hitherto been supplied at a *cost* of 2s." The secretary explains that "this altered condition of things is mainly attributable to the very satisfactory financial position of the club, but is also in part accounted for by the fact that a large percentage of members have in the past been innocent of a knowledge of the existence of these publications. . . . a condition of things the Council have resolved to remedy." My correspondent asks: "Could any body furnish a better justification of the hostile criticisms, or more completely stultify their original action?" I am glad that he, at all events, appreciates the justice of my comments; but I may point out that the original decision to increase the subscription was so utterly ridiculous that it needed no further stultification.

The whole suggestion of the gift of these books is that it is in the nature of a bonus, a present of a generous Council to innocent members. And very innocent the members must be if they can stomach the secretarial or editorial remarks, whose ever they be. Stripped of all verbiage this gift comes to one of two things, neither of which reflect any credit on the Council. I observe the books have been supplied at a cost of two shillings. In order to guard against any mistake, let me point out at once, that this may mean either that this is the net cost of publication, or that the price to members is two shillings, leaving a profit to the club. It may be doubted if even the C.T.C. would mulct its members of more than sixpence profit on these books. The conclusion therefore is that members have their subscription increased, and are then to get either the increase or more than the increase back in the shape of these books. If the financial position of the club allows this generous gift, then there was clearly no need for the subscription to be increased. Members who wished to buy the books would do so, and any profit out of the transaction would go to swell the club funds and reduce the club subscription. I note that the Farm House and Country Lodging list is already immensely popular with members. So says the flyleaf on which new members are cadged for. Thus the generous Council is going to give free books to those who have already purchased them. The club *Gazette* contains the following ingenuous remarks:—"In so deciding, they (the Council) have felt that they are placing in the hands of every subscriber the means whereby his membership may be made of the greatest possible value to him, and they are, at the same time, removing the prejudice from which the club has *occasionally* suffered in the past

at the hands of those who were *frequently* ignorant of the existence of the publications referred to and who were in consequence innocent of the knowledge how to obtain any benefit from even the hotel appointments." I should have thought that so often as people were ignorant so often would the club suffer prejudice. But to meet an alleged occasional prejudice the club is to go to the enormous expense of circulating these precious books, which are so persistently advertised that it is difficult to believe that any one can be ignorant of their existence. Those who do not want them are to have them forced on them. Besides, these books are "immensely popular," so the fly-leaf says, and if this statement be true, why is the club going to give members what they have already purchased, and so deprive the club not only of a valuable property, but also put it to the expense of postage as well?

It would be impossible to believe that any council, or secretary, or editor, could be guilty of more flagrantly inconsistent statements over one simple fact—namely, the popularity of their books. In order to realise these misstatements clearly it is as well to bring them together. In the accounts it appears that the sales of the Handbook last year amounted to over £800. The lodging list is described as immensely popular, and yet the secretary asserts, according to my correspondent, that a large percentage of members are ignorant of these publications, while the *Gazette* announces that people are frequently ignorant of them. These statements are utterly irreconcileable. The conduct of this remarkable Council is quite inexplicable. My correspondent says, "Perhaps the innocence of members may be rather useful to the governing body." It seems to me that the Council and all the rest who run the C.T.C. know how to play the innocent card for its full worth and fairly bluff the simple-minded members. What follows in the editorial notes in the *Gazette* confirms this view. The editor says the Council in giving free handbooks in preference to cheaper road books were "beginning at the right end, seeing that the purchasers of road books are mainly the well-to-do section of the membership, whereas the Farm and Country Lodging List appeals especially to those to whom the *expenditure of every extra shilling* is a matter of some moment." Referring, then, to a letter of complaint, the editor proudly remarks: "We entirely deny that the C.T.C. has ever neglected the interests of the poorer member — the facts are quite to the contrary — and the latest decision of the Council is but the confirmation of the policy it has from first to last consistently followed." What blatant nonsense! The remark can only be true if the policy is one of blarney, bluff and bluster. How on earth can the poor man, to whom every shilling is of importance, be said to be considered when his subscription is increased to five shillings, and he is then given back books costing two shillings, whether he has already bought them, and whether he wants them, or not? Take a concrete case: One such book would do for several persons touring together. One would have bought it, and all would have paid the old subscription. Now all are mulct in five shillings, and get this precious gift. To say that the poor man is being considered is nothing more nor less than a gross misstatement of fact, which is not rendered any more palatable to the poor man by the fact that the club funds are being squandered in this noble effort to remove an occasional prejudice.

I am glad to learn that this action of the Council confirms their policy from first to last. It shows how singularly capable this body is, and how well competent it must be to manage a business involving the receipt and expenditure of enormous sums of money each year. I may note incidentally that, excluding a sick leave grant to the editor and secretary, Mr. Shipton, of £157 10s., salaries, &c., have increased by £1,100. This is one way of considering the poor man, I suppose. My correspondent says:—"Would not ordinary common sense have suggested a reduction of subscription, leaving those who wished for the handbook to purchase them?" Of course, common sense and decency would have suggested this course. But what can one expect from a Council which last year urged the need for an increase of subscription on the grounds, among other things, of the expense of posting the *Gazette*, and now goes to the expense of sending out-gratis these already immensely popular productions, which are unknown to a large percentage of the members.

These books, which are sent gratis, are filled with and accompanied by advertisements, and my correspondent naturally wants to know whether these publications are only advertising media, and further asks how far is a thing calling itself a club justified in using its members' money in order to force upon them undesired trade circulars? I should say that any "thing," which found a sufficient number of people asses enough to give five shillings for what they could get for three-and-sixpence, is quite justified in seeing what further burdens these patient animals will bear. Not only these books, but the *Gazette* itself appears to be very little better than an advertising medium, and from the statement of accounts it seems that some £650 has been paid to one or more persons last year by way of commission on advertisements. If the members of the C.T.C. like their business conducted in this way, and by a Council that acts in the extraordinary manner I have described, that is their affair. One can only hope that some day they will awaken to a true sense of the position of the club. If the club is to maintain the power and prestige which it asserts it has, it must really put its household in order, and condescend to conduct its affairs on common sense lines, otherwise it will fail to carry any weight or to deserve any esteem.

For Mosquito Bites nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia, and it is an immediate remedy for Wasp or Bee Stings.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Good Friday.

My dear Ben,—According to what has now been my custom for a good many years, I take the opportunity of a quiet hour to-day to give you my impressions of the state of the Stock Markets, and their more immediate future. I write thus early as I hope to enjoy a brief holiday over Easter. So far holiday prospects promise well, and the members of the Stock Exchange and the public generally, not to forget the fagged-out journalists, will probably return to the scenes of their labours invigorated by sea and other breezes. What they will come back to precisely is the question, and more particularly whether there will be

Peace or War?

It is a curious coincidence that Easter a year ago brought us an outbreak of war between Greece and Turkey. As in the case of the United States and Spain, there had been a long period of friction and of fears of war. Looking back upon the past year, one cannot help marvelling at the complete change which has come over the scene, and how pacific the sentiments of the then aggressor have become, while the three leading European Powers have actually to guarantee a loan in order to defray the indemnity due to Turkey. The relations between the two Powers which are now on the brink of war, viz., the United States and Spain, are of a somewhat different character to those which prevailed between Turkey and Greece, as in the present case the more powerful country (the United States) is the aggressor. There have been so many turns in the kaleidoscope of the Spanish-American dispute, that it is quite impossible to forecast the upshot. Just now the postponement of the delivery of President McKinley's message to Congress, and other circumstances, would appear to presage a settlement of the vexed Cuban question. There has, therefore, been a moderate rally in American Railroad stocks. More I do not wish to say, as I will append a *post-scriptum* on Tuesday morning, when it should be possible to see matters somewhat more clearly. In the

meantime, the tension between the two countries has caused a further drain of gold to the United States, in view of which the Directors of the Bank of England put up the official minimum from 3 to 4 per cent. The Stock Exchange has received this movement very calmly, and general approval is expressed with the action of the Bank in thus protecting its gold reserve in case war should really break out. On the other hand, should peace, after all, remain undisturbed, the Bank would doubtless put down its rate again in a short time. A favourable feature, and one of the greatest importance, is, of course, the practical settlement of the Far Eastern question as far as the more immediate future is concerned, Mr. Balfour's statement in the House of Commons having created the impression that peace is now assured, which, in fact, I never doubted. Consols have naturally been affected by the war-scare and the rise in the Bank rate, and the quotation for the account has fallen to 111¼. Other high-class investments, too, have been a dull market, from British Corporation stocks to Colonial bonds and Home Railway Prefs., and will remain so until the war clouds lift. The Foreign department has naturally displayed great nervousness, and the fluctuations in Spanish have been particularly severe, ranging from 47¼ to 52. Should, at the eleventh hour, peace be concluded, Spanish bonds will doubtless recover to a moderate extent. But the large expense already incurred by that country for additional armaments must be a drag on it for a long time to come, while in case of war, Spanish bonds would probably experience another very severe tumble. Amongst the great European Powers which are now trying to find a solution for the Spanish-American trouble none has a greater interest in the maintenance of Spanish credit than France, as many millions have been placed by French investors in Spanish bonds. The actual outbreak of war would, therefore, have a very serious bearing upon the Spanish Paris Bourse. South Americans have been fairly steady, and are not likely to suffer much more from any adverse decision, while a settlement of the trouble would doubtless put them up. This also applies to South American and especially to Argentine Railway stocks. Home Rails are in such short supply, and there is so complete an absence of a speculative account, that they are not likely to decline to any extent; while, on the other hand, a peaceful settlement would give them a considerable lift. The very same position exists in the South African and West Australian mining sections. Both are, from the point of view of intrinsic merits, ready for an improvement. Politics in the Transvaal are mending, while the mines continue to yield large returns. In the case of the Westralian department the news from the Colony is excellent, and the accession of the Hon. E. H. Wittenoom, hitherto Minister of Mines in Western Australia, to the Agent-Generalship, will in a month or two doubtless exercise a beneficial effect upon this section. Home Industrial securities have not as yet suffered much from the depression, but it is more than ever necessary to use the utmost care in the selection of investments in this department, and with a view to providing some useful information to those of my readers who have for some time been clamouring for advice on really safe industrial investments, I am again publishing lists of debenture stocks, which should meet their requirements.

The Yield of Home Railways.

Since I wrote last on Home Railways, and pointed out the inconsistency of the market in putting down the stocks of Companies which are doing so remarkably well, a considerable rally has taken place. How far the same will extend in the immediate future must, of course, depend upon political influences, although I have very little doubt that, in a comparatively short time, the ordinary investment demand will reduce the available supply to such an extent that an improvement must follow. Under these circumstances, I have thoroughly gone into the question of the yields of the leading stocks, and herewith present my readers with a table, giving not only the fluctuations in the present year, but also the dividends paid in 1897, and the yield per cent. per annum :—

—	1898. Jan. 1. to Mar. 30. Highest.	Lowest	Present Price.	1897. Dividends p c.	Yield p c. per annum
London and North Western	205¼	197¾	199¼	7½	£3 1[illegible] 0
Great Western	171½	170¼	172	6	3 10 0
North Eastern	187¼	172½	174½	6¾	3 13 0
Midland Preferred	88¼	85¼	85	2½	3 0 0
Do. Deferred	95¼	84¾	87½	3¾	3 17 6
London and Brighton Ordinary	191½	184¼	186	6½	3 10 0
Do. Deferred	186¼	172½	175½	7	3 19 0
South Eastern Ordinary	157	149½	150	4 15/16	3 6 0
Do. Deferred	117½	107	109½	3¾	3 10 0
Great Eastern	124¾	119¾	121½	3½	2 17 0
London and Chatham First Prefs.	133¾	131½	133½	4½	3 5 0
South Western Ordinary	230	220	223½	7	3 2 0
Do. Deferred	98½	91	92	3	3 5 0
Great Northern Deferred	61¾	51¾	53½	2½	4 4 0
Do. "A"	53	48½	50	2½	4 6 0
Great Central 1894, Ordinary	—	—	40	*3	7 10 0
Metropolitan	138¾	127¾	129	3¾	2 18 0
Metropolitan District Prefs.	113½	110	110	3¾	3 1 1
Central London Ordinary fully paid	—	—	10½	*2	2 15 0
Caledonian Ordinary	161¾	156	1[illegible]	5¼	3 6 0
Do. Deferred Ordinary	59¾	55½	56½	2¼	3 17 0
North British Preferred	93¼	89	88¾	3	3 7 0
Do. Deferred	47⅜	42⅝	43¾	1½	2 11 0

* Payable until construction of line.

Traffic returns for the week ending April 2 show a distinct improvement, one of the best returns being that of the Midland with an increase of £10,238, the North Western following with an increase of £5,871. The Great Northern is also doing well, and the Great Central gain of £2,026 is distinctly encouraging, as is also the Caledonian return, which showed an increase of £2,379. If I intended to make an investment to-day, I should single out Dover "A," Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras), and Brighton "A," and if I wanted a lock up I should select Great Central 1894 Ordinary stock and Metropolitan Districts, not to forget Central London Railway fully-paid Ordinary, which are now to be obtained at a somewhat lower price.

Yankee Rails—On the Brink of War.

I am almost reminded by this head-line of the naturalist who, in his chapter on "Snakes in Iceland," vouchsafed the information "there are no snakes in Iceland." Not that I wish to imply that there are no Yankee Rails, but there is no Yankee market at present, and I cannot advise on Yankee Rails without knowing whether there will be peace or war, and thus the few remarks which I am about to make must be entirely of a hypothetical description. If the United States go to war with Spain there will, doubtless, be a temporary decline, which will, however, probably be recovered again, and followed by an improvement, although much will depend upon the result of any naval engagement that may happen in the early course of the war. If President McKinley further postpones his much-discussed Message, if the European Powers succeed in smoothing the way towards a settlement, there will be a smart rise, although necessarily some time must elapse before peace is absolutely certain, and thus the mercurial Yankee Market will for a time be at the mercy of the unscrupulous operators with Washington connections, who are ever in early possession of political news, and thus are able to get the best of the gamble. If a return could be obtained of the number of shares which have been bought and sold by American senators and their friends during the recent period of political uncertainty, I think that some extraordinary figures would be disclosed. My devout wish is that these speculative politicians should in the end be floored. With reference to Canadian Railroads it is quite touching to find how pacific the pronouncements of the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk directors are with reference to the war of rates. One would think that these excellent personages were all very ill-used, if the statements of one board were not absolutely traversed by statements of the other. The upshot of the Grand Trunk meeting appears to me to be that, while prospects generally are excellent, an increase in the working expenses will have to be faced. Both the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific

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would undoubtedly benefit by a Spanish-American war, as very large quantities of goods would be diverted from United States roads to these systems. But even if peace should be maintained, both are likely to remain on the road to prosperity, and I fully anticipate in that case a further advance in Canadian Pacifics and in the higher-class Grand Trunk junior securities.

The South American Market.

South American Government stocks have suffered, with the rest of the markets, from the plethora of war scares which has been inflicted upon us. As a consequence, a well-justified advance, which had been on the *tapis*, has in many cases been prevented, and reactions have, on the contrary, been the order of the day. This circumstance is brought home to one more particularly when looking at recent movements of Argentine Government stocks. It is true that there has again been some friction with Chili over the boundary question, but it is most unlikely that this will lead to fighting, and in the meantime the yield of the various securities, on the basis of the resumption of the full service of the debt, are attractive for investment. It had been anticipated that a unification scheme would be issued ere this, but for that we have evidently to wait until the old rates of interest have been fully restored. I give herewith a list of the chief Argentine Government stocks, with the highest and lowest prices touched during 1897, and the present quotations and yield on the basis of the full interest :—

Loans.	Highest. in 1897.	Lowest	Price April 7, 1898.	Yield per Cent. per annum.
Argentine 5 p.c. 1886-7	96¾	77½	88½	5 12 4
Do. 5 p.c. Waterworks	73⅜	61⅛	68¾	7 2 10
Do. 6 p.c. Funding	90⅞	77¾	86¾	6 15 6
Do. 6 p.c. Railway 1881	88½	69	87½	6 16 1
Argentine 5 p.c. 1884	66¼	53¾	67	7 9 3
Do. 5 p.c. N.C. Railway	67⅛	53¾	66	7 11 6
Do. 5 p.c. Treasury Conversion 1887	67¼	54	66xd	7 9 3
Do. Rly. 4 p.c. Guar. Rescission	64	54	56½	7 0 6
Do. 4½ p.c. Internal	63	50⅛	65	6 18 5
Do. 4½ p.c. Sterling	64	52	65	—
Do. 3½ p.c. External.....	48½	39	48	7 5 10

From this comparative statement it will be gathered that the 1886 Loan gives the lowest yield, as the resumption of the full service in this case has already been discounted. In the other stocks a yield of from 6¾ to 7½ per cent. can be obtained, although a great deal depends upon the nature of the scheme under which the unification of the various loans is to be carried out. Crop prospects in Argentina are favourable, and it is very generally hoped that the accession of General Costa to the Presidency may bring back the good times which the Argentine Republic enjoyed when that statesman was once before their President. That he will do his very best to safeguard the financial position need not be doubted; but even he cannot guarantee the non-appearance of war scares such as have of late demoralised our markets. The fact that the Buenos Ayres gold premium remains at a comparatively low level—viz., 165, is, of course, encouraging. The strongest group in the South American department has been that of Uruguay bonds, the New Loan being quoted 55½, the Old Loan 45¼. This means that the Three and a Half per Cent. bonds still yield over 7½ per cent. per annum on the investment, while the new Five per Cent. bonds would pay about 8⅞ per cent. per annum on present price. President Cuestas appears to have control of the political position, and will doubtless be re-elected President at the next elections. Unless any adverse accidents occur, therefore, it may be presumed that this able and honest statesman will put Uruguayan finance thoroughly on its feet again. Chilian bonds are still at a low level, the 1892 Loan being quoted 84, the 1886 Loan 75. It is not, of course, forgotten that this Republic has always scrupulously fulfilled its obligations, and was at one time the only honest South American nation; but recent monetary legislation was evidently unwise, and the depreciation in nitrate of soda has been a severe blow to Chili. I wonder how much further the Rio exchange will fall? It now stands at 5d., and this disastrous quotation must entail great sacrifices upon Brazil. The April interest has been paid, but people are beginning to ask whether this sort of thing can go on. It was undoubtedly a *faux pas* on the part of the Brazilian Government not to have parted with the Brazilian Central Railway when a syndicate of financiers made an offer of £5,000,000 for the lease. I doubt whether anything like this sum could now be obtained, and in the meantime the 1889 Loan has dropped to 48¾, Western of Minas to 50. Of all the Spanish Republics, Mexico is apparently doing the best under the wise government of President Diaz. Railway traffics show increases, and not only the agricultural resources, but also the mineral riches, of the country are being judiciously developed. The only dark spot in the future of Mexico would seem to be the loss of President Diaz, which she must sooner or later experience, for it will be difficult to find a successor who has an equal hold upon the people, and is, at the same time, so wise and judicious in the legislation initiated by him.

Argentine Railway Stocks.

The position of Argentine Railway securities is fraught with considerable interest at present, as an important improvement which took place in the early part of the present year, owing to a speculative movement, has practically been wiped out again. It is quite true that there was a solid basis for a rise in most of these stocks, as the crops promised a good yield both as regards wheat and the wool clip. But speculators had gone too far in advance of the traffics, and it is only now that the returns begin to show a considerable increase. The following is a comparison of the traffics of the four leading unguaranteed lines during the last three months, as compared with the same period last year :—

	Gross traffics from Jan. 1 to April 6. 1898.	1897.	Increase.
Buenos Ayres Great Southern ...	£490,653	£454,892	£35,761
Central Argentine ...	293,475	220,151	73,324
Buenos Ayres & Rosario	229,614	168,300	61,314
Buenos Ayres Western ...	182,925	195,900	*12,975

* Decrease.

It will be seen that the Central Argentine and Buenos Ayres and Rosario are showing the largest increases; but of course these were also the lines which were most in need of an improvement of traffics, as they had done badly during the year 1897. In that year the Buenos Ayres and Rosario paid 2 per cent. against 3 per cent. for 1896, while the Central Argentine has just announced a dividend of 1¾ per cent., against 2¼ per cent. in 1896. The Buenos Ayres Great Southern, on the other hand, was able to pay a dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. for the half-year ended December 31, 1897, as against 5 per cent. for the corresponding half of 1896. This line, in fact, experienced the effect of the improvement sooner than the others. The Directors' report just issued of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern shows gross receipts £680,895, against £637,429 for the corresponding half-year of 1896. Owing to an increase in the working expenses, the net profit shows a much smaller increase, viz., £391,948, against £382,099 in 1896. After payment of Debenture and Preference interest, a disposable balance of £257,471 remains, from which the above-mentioned dividend is paid. As usual, this report presents a good deal of interest. Mr. White, the Chairman of the Local Committee, after referring to the total loss of the wheat and maize crops, now reports that prospects have improved, and that rains came in time to assure a good if not a large crop, which is now being secured. The law making the destruction of locusts by landowners compulsory is stated to have worked fairly. The following paragraph sums up other promising points :—

The commercial depression had an evident effect on imports, limiting these considerably, but the general confidence which exists as to the future is reflected both in exchange and the appreciation of the paper dollar. The high rate of the former is causing importation of gold, and over a million sovereigns have

been received from England. The fall in the quotation of the gold premium was at one time so rapid as to bring about a fear that financial complications might arise on that score; this, however, should not occur to any serious extent if the anticipated progress and improvement become a fact. With the return of confidence, which has been assisted by the prospects of peace and tranquility in both home and foreign politics, the political situation is more settled, and the prospects of business more hopeful than has been the case for many years, which should tend to encourage an influx of immigration and capital. An improvement in the value of real estate has already become apparent.

It is to be hoped that the ill-advised agitation concerning the boundary dispute with Chili will not spoil the pleasant prospects. Measures are, of course, announced by the Buenos Ayres Great Southern for making the necessary issue of capital for the purpose of taking over the property of the Buenos Ayres and Ensenada Port Railway. The Buenos Ayres Western still shows decreases, and for the half-year ended December 31, 1897, it paid a dividend at the rate of only 3½ per cent. per annum. The unfavourable result is due to the injury done to the maize crop by locusts. In order to show the course of quotations during 1897 and in the present year, I have compiled a table of some of the leading stocks:—

—	1897. Highest.	1897. Lowest.	1898. Highest.	Present Quotations.
Buenos Ayres Great Southern	150¼	128½	158¼	147
Buenos Ayres Western	12⅜	10⅞	12 5/16	10¾xd
Central Argentine Ordinary...	87	67½	87½	77
Buenos Ayres and Rosario ...	80	59½	79	70½
Cordoba and Rosario First Debenture stock	99½	91½	98¾	91
Ditto Six per Cent. (Second Debenture stock)	100	81	92	83
Cordoba Central First Prefs.	98½	90	95½	83½
Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section)	102⅜	91	95½	87½
Ditto Income Debenture stock	76⅜	56¼	62	45½
Bahia Blanca and North-Western Prefs.....	54½	43	65	53½

Prices, it will be seen, are from 8 to 14 points below the quotations of two months ago, when the large "Bull" speculation to which I have referred was in full swing, and when I uttered a word of caution as to the reckless manner in which prices were being pushed up in advance of the improvement in earnings. The depression has since been deepened by the declaration of the unsatisfactory dividend announcement of the Central Argentine, and by the war scares, which have also had their effect in this section. The fall has, however, been so considerable that a rally would be fully justified, especially in case the war-clouds should lift, and while on the basis of last year's dividends the yields cannot be said as yet to be satisfactory, the traffic increases on three of the above-mentioned leading lines promise better returns for the current year. This does not, however, apply to all the lines, and unfortunately continued traffic decreases are, for instance, still shown in the case of the Cordoba Central. The aggregate receipts of the original line since January 1 amounted to $240,700, against $279,600 last year, a decrease of $38,900. The Central Northern Section of the same Company has done even worse, as the aggregate receipts from January 1 were only $484,290, against $668,430 for the same period of last year, a decrease of $184,140. The poorness of the traffics is due chiefly to the collapse in sugar, and so far there is not much daylight to be seen yet, although one of these days, whenever traffics assume normal proportions, Central Northern Section Income Debenture stock will probably experience a sharp improvement.

The Mining Markets.—Firm and Hopeful.

The week has been so short, consisting as it did of only four working days, and the business of the various sections of the Mining Market has been so overshadowed by politics and fears of the outbreak of war between the United States and Spain that I need touch but briefly on Mining shares. The outlook in the Kaffir Circus is distinctly improved, and at one time better prices were current, but the prevailing uncertainty and rumours of war have caused a reaction. In the Transvaal, however, political prospects are improving, and there are those who expect that Oom Paul will become quite amiable presently. At all events, he has no longer the hope to rely upon that this country may be drawn into a great European war, latest developments in China pointing to amicable relations with Russia and France. It is also a sign of the times that Sir Alfred Milner has been so well received in the Free State, and that President Steyn expressed the view that the tension existing in South Africa was abating. When once the political outlook brightens, therefore, we shall doubtless see a general rally. In the meantime, we have Rand Mines, Limited, at 29⅜, Consolidated Goldfields at 4 3/16, East Rands at 4 5/16, after considerably higher quotations had been touched. Whenever a more lasting improvement comes about, Randfontein may be expected to go ahead; and I also look for a sharp rise in Barnato Consols. Amongst the Deep Level propositions, I am still in favour of Goldfields Deep, now quoted at 8⅝. The annual report of the Simmer and Jack will, I hear, show a very satisfactory position. The Company will be found to owe £308,000 in debentures, being the balance of the original issue of £500,000, and against this it has cash in Johannesburg £60,000, debtors in London and Johannesburg (being for the most part cash actually in hand) £330,000, gold in transit not credited at December 31, 1897, £19,000, and 93,070 shares in the Rand Victoria Mines with the right to take up over 40,000 more shares at £2. The available assets are, therefore, far in excess of liabilities. The actual profit earned in the past year of £82,030 is not perhaps brilliant, but this is explained by the difficulties connected with the starting of a new mill. The results obtained by the Geldenhuis Deep in the year 1897 also furnish proof of the possibilities of Deep Level mining. But of this more anon. With reference to the melancholy death of Mr. Woolf Joel, it is now stated that the body will reach England by the *Dunottar Castle*, which is due at Plymouth by the end of next week. The interment at Willesden Cemetery is expected to take place on the 17th or 18th inst., but a definite announcement is expected this week. The West Australian department is showing extreme dulness, operators having almost completely retired from doing business until the political clouds have rolled by. The London and Globe group has, upon the whole, been firm; but Lake View Consols are easier at 9 1/16, while Ivanhoe stand at 5. The shares in the parent Company have been well supported at 1⅝. West Australian Goldfields have been steady at 1⅝, and Hampton Plains have maintained their improvement to ⅞. From the Lady Shenton Mine another excellent crushing has been announced, viz., 900 oz. of gold from 300 tons of ore, this result having been obtained in ten days. The total crushings now amount to 28,052 oz. of gold from 8,043 tons of ore—truly a gratifying result; and the moment normal political conditions prevail, I look for a sharp advance on the present price of 2 7/16. A detailed mail report, dated February 18, from the manager, Mr. J. W. Rayfield, has just been posted to all the shareholders. It is so complete and of so satisfactory a character that I have nothing to add to it, especially as the cablegrams since received report yet more favourable developments. It is stated that the clean-up for the excellent yield of 900 oz. was for ten days only on account of the annual balance on March 31. The West Australian Market Trust group has been dull, chiefly owing to the adverse political outlook and warlike rumours; but a change in these shares

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generally comes about very quickly. The following is the list of crushings for the week:—

	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings Per Ton.
Lady Shenton	300	900	—
North Boulder	373	329	—
Mount Malcolm Prop.	660	520	7 dwt.
Menzies Gold Reefs	68	82	14 dwt.
Champion Extended and Home Rule	900	630	5½ dwt.
Sons of Gwalia	990	1,241	28 dwts.
Cuddingwarra G M.	227	208	—
Northern Territories "Eureka"	1,200	887	—
Great Boulder Perseverance	247	894	—
" " "	770	807	—
Mount Yagahong	1,060	914	—
Sherlaw's	180	149	—

Hannan's Brownhill have been a firm market at 7½, and Sons of Gwalia continue to be dealt in at 2⅛. The above-mentioned crushing of the Sons of Gwalia is very satisfactory, and the total returns to date are now 4,850 tons of ore crushed for 6,163 oz. of gold, the tailings assaying 29 dwts. In the Indian section dealings have been on a moderate scale, the feature being an improvement in Nundydroog; while amongst others Ooregum, Mysore Wynaad, and Mysore West have been flat. New Zealand mines are still out of favour, and business has been reduced to a minimum. In British Columbian shares active dealings have taken place in London and British Columbian Goldfields and in Whitewater Mines. There has also been some inquiry for Klondike and British Columbian Goldfields. British Columbia Development and Tangier have improved, but Hall Mines, Fairview, Waverley, and War Eagle are all slightly easier. British America Corporation shares have been steady at 20s. to 20s. 6d. The last crushing of the Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico is announced as follows:—"During March (working twenty-nine days) cleaned up £3,564; treated 2,040 tons; average gross value, £2 18s. 6d.; profit for month, £1,033, exclusive of tailings averaging £1 3s. 7d. per ton." It is understood that the cyanide plant is not yet showing the percentage of extraction which it will after working a month or two longer. Moreover, only 2,040 tons were crushed for the month, while the full capacity of the mill is 3,000 tons, which will shortly be reached. The extraction by cyanide for February was 51 per cent., while for March it is 66¼ per cent., and the manager hopes that the April or May extraction will be increased to about 80 per cent., which is about the average of the numerous tests made some months ago. If these anticipations are fulfilled, the monthly net profits would be brought up to something like £6,000 per month, or £72,000 per annum, which would be a very handsome return, apart from the many other valuable properties of the Company which will in due time be floated into subsidiary companies. At anything like par, therefore, these shares are a good purchase.

My Letter Box.

If my correspondents do not find answers to all their communications in the present issue, they must put this down to the holiday time, of which I am trying to avail myself, and those letters which have not been replied to in the current number will be duly attended to in next week's Truth. As several of my conditions are not adhered to by many of my correspondents, I take this opportunity of reminding them that I can only reply to communications which are accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers, not, of course, for publication, but as a token of good faith. All anonymous letters will be consigned to the waste-paper basket. Some delay must necessarily occur in answering questions which entail special inquiries, and it is, as a rule, not possible to attend in the current issues to communications which arrive after Friday. My correspondents will also greatly simplify my task by reading my weekly letters carefully through, as these frequently contain remarks on the very subject on which information is sought. Their letters should also be plainly written, and to the point, and it is necessary that the different stocks or shares on which information is asked should be numbered. I again repeat that I can accept no fees for my replies in my "Letter Box," and that I cannot undertake to answer by letter or telegram. I must also absolutely decline to execute any orders for stocks or shares, or to act as an intermediary in any way. The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

R. P. N.—Yes, the outlook in Uruguay is extremely favourable, and the bonds are a good investment at the price. *S. S.*—I see no reason why you should not invest in Argentine Funding bonds, although you must be prepared to face some fluctuations. *Rover.*—You will find the yields of the various Argentine Government stocks given in to-day's letter, and the information supplied about Argentine Railways will answer the rest of your inquiries. *Conister.*—I see no reason why you should not exchange into Uruguay Three and a Half per Cent. bonds.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

S. A. V.—One of those outside touts who are springing up again Have nothing to do with him. *H. B., Streatham.*—A third-class life office. I always recommend my readers to insure with first-rate institutions. *H. C. A.*—I strongly advise you to have nothing to do with Sandford & Co.'s so-called "individual accounts—a safe system of successful stock operations," which is merely a revival of the syndicate deals. It would be interesting to know where Sandford & Co. "acquired their experience extending over a long period." It is distinctly precious that Sandford & Co. warn their clients against the "so-called pools and syndicates." That really reminds one of "pots calling kettles black." *F. J. H.*—What you require has been forwarded in your envelope. *Sam.*—If you forward a stamped and addressed envelope I may be able to comply with your request.

Home Rails.

X. A. E. K.—No, I do not think that there is any advantage in the splitting of these shares. The fully-paid shares are the best from the investor's point of view. *B. N.*—No, I should not feel inclined to sell Dover "A" now. *Bristol Reader.*—Certainly; as a lock-up Metropolitan Districts are difficult to beat amongst the low-priced stocks.

American and Foreign Rails.

T. F.—The article on Argentine Railway stocks in another column will no doubt assist you in your selection. *Stuart.*—The Seven per Cent. "A" Debenture stock of the Inter-Oceanic of Mexico is at present quoted 67, ditto "B" Debenture stock 31, the Four per Cent. Debenture stock 84. You can thus easily arrive at the values. *Blanca.*—You can make your selection from the Argentine Railway stocks referred to in my letter. The strongest company is undoubtedly the Buenos Ayres Great Southern. *Z.*—American Rails are already at war level, and there is no reason why you should not buy Louisville or Union Pacific Prefs., as long as you can take them up and pay for them. *Geneva.*—1. I think that the Brazilian Rails had better be held now. 2. No doubt eventually some settlement will be come to with reference to this Argentine Railway.

Mining Shares.

Nickel.—1 and 2. There is every prospect of an improvement in these mining shares, but as to actual safety you cannot speak of that in connection with such undertakings. The shares A are at a very low price at present, and should advance. B are also a fair mining risk of the New Zealand class, and C look promising. *Mugwump.*—This is not the time to sell any of the mining shares Nos. 1 to 16, as a recovery of some kind is probable. Many of these have been bought against my advice, but I should think that at all events Nos. 1, 4, 12, and 13 should come right, while as regards the others there is still hope. *W. C. S., Attareen.*—There is no option but to hold for the present. *Lamp.*—I am afraid you were too late with your selling order. Such fluctuations are not at all surprising, and there is no option but to hold. *Archie.*—The mine has been a disappointing one, but there is still hope that it may turn out all right. At the same time, I have not sufficient information in my possession to advise a further purchase as yet. *Rona.*—The Ivanhoe (1) is a good Company, and the shares are likely to improve upon the present price of 5⅛. The Lake View Consols (2) is also doing well, and the shares are likely to rise. The Lady Shenton (3) is capitalised at a very low figure, and is certainly exceedingly promising. With regard to the other contents of your letter, I can only say that comparisons are odious. *Baronrath.*—It is always advisable not to place too many eggs into one basket, and under these circumstances, Florence appear to be more suitable for a purchase. *Prue and Kernigy.*—You will have found a reply from the Secretary of the Lady Shenton Company in the issue of April 5 of the same contemporary, which fully explains the position. *Broussa.*—You should not take any notice of such letters. The Lady Shenton is doing remarkably well, as you will see from the last crushing which goes 3 oz. to the ton. Hold, and buy more, if you can afford to do so. You will have noticed the Company's reply on Tuesday. *Maiden City.*—1. There has unfortunately been grave mismanagement, and the Company is not doing well. 2. I do not exactly say that this is a fraud, but results are certainly very

disappointing. 3. Chiefly in sympathy with the general depression. *C. C. W.*—1. I cannot alter my opinion of the mine in question. 2. The cycle shares are a fair purchase. 3. I should not sell Bovril Deferred now. *B. D. D.*—You will have seen in the issue of the 5th inst. of the same newspaper a complete refutation of these allegations, and to that I must refer you. Your eyes ought indeed to be opened now. Randfontein and Sheba are a good purchase at present. *A. Y.*—I should think that your purchases of London and Globe and Florence will come all right, and you may certainly hold Nos. 1 to 3. I do not think you will be disappointed if, as you propose, you select Lady Shenton. *Montpelier.*—You can only be a holder of shares. I do not think it advisable to throw good money after bad. *Bredos.*—I really cannot give an opinion on the matter without receiving further particulars; but if you are still on the list of shareholders, you are no doubt liable. *Buffelsdoorn.*—I think you had better await further developments before buying more. *Anonymous.*—I do not usually answer anonymous letters, and you can obtain the information you require from the secretary of the Peak Hill Goldfields.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

Bidwell.—The £1 shares of the European Petroleum Company stand nominally at $\frac{1}{2}$—$\frac{3}{4}$. *F. P.*—Yes, the Five and a Half per Cent. Preference shares of J. & J. Yardley & Company are a good purchase at their present price of $4\frac{3}{4}$ to 5. *Anglo-Indian.*—1. Both newspaper investments seem to be equally good. 2. The premium is a high one, and I do not advise the purchase. *Land.*—1. There is no market for these shares yet, and I do not hold a favourable opinion of the undertaking. 2. The general depression in the Cycle market; do not buy yet. *W. F.*—1. No; I do not advise a sale of these shares, as the Company is doing well. 2. Possibly. 3. High enough.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

R. D. N.—You have done well to buy Dover "A," Great Eastern, and Union Pacific Ordinary and Prefs. at the prices named, and if you take these up and hold them for some time, you will doubtless see a good profit. *Remotus.*—No reason to sell either No. 1 or 2. Chartered (4) are on the up-grade again, and there is not much fear of No. 5 declining. No. 3 should be held for a recovery. I cannot reply by letter.

A CHAPTER ON THE INDUSTRIAL MARKET.

I have again received a number of inquiries from readers who wish to make selections of Home Industrial Debentures, which they consider at present the safest form of investment when a certain yield has to be obtained. There are, in the first instance, first-class Home Brewery debentures, and I have compiled a little list of about a dozen of such stocks, from which a selection can easily be made:—

HOME BREWERY DEBENTURES.

Description.	Int'rest per cent.	Present Price.	Yield. £.	s.	d.
Courage & Co. Debenture Stock	4	126	3	3	6
Bristol Brewery Debenture Stock (Georges & Co.)	4	115½	3	9	6
Smith, Garrett, & Co.'s 1st Mort. Deben. Stock	3¾	107 xd	3	10	0
Parker's Burslem 1st Mortgage Debenture Stock	4	111	3	12	0
Eadie, James, Irredeemable 1st Mort. Deben. Stock	4	106	3	15	6
Allsopp, S., & Sons, Debenture Stock	4½	118	3	16	3
Yardley, J. & J., & Co., First Mortgage Debenture Stock	4¼	103	4	2	6
Northampton Brewery Debenture Stock	5	126	3	19	3
Guinness, Arthur, & Co.'s Debenture Stock	5	122	4	1	9
Wolverhampton and Dudley Redeemable Debentures	4½	108	4	3	3
Buckley's Redeemable Debenture Stock	4½	105½	4	5	9
Watney & Co.'s Debenture Stock	5	115½	4	6	9

Quotations have during the last few months given way to the extent of from 1 to 3 points, and there is nothing in the immediate future of the brewery industry to indicate reduced profits. Of course, should the Bank rate be raised again there may be a further easing-off in prices, even of the best. Any one, on the other hand, who would like to make a selection of Home Brewery Preference stocks, can compile a little private trust from the following list:—Buckley's Brewery Five and a Quarter per Cent. Cumulative Preference at 10¾ xd.; City of London Brewery Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference stock at 137; Manchester Brewery Seven per Cent. Cumulative Preference at 17; Northampton Brewery Six per Cent. Preference at 12½ xd.; Stretton's Derby Brewery Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference at 13¼; and J. & J. Yardley & Co.'s Five and a Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference at 4¾ to 5. Coming to other Home Industrial debentures I herewith give a list of well-secured debentures from which a suitable selection could easily be made up:—

HOME INDUSTRIAL DEBENTURES.

Description.	Int'rest per cent.	Price.	Yield. £	s.	d.
Millwall Docks Perp. Debenture Stock	5	152½	3	5	6
Gordon Hotels Debenture Stock	4½	137½	3	5	6
Savoy Hotel Perp. Debenture Stock	4	111½	3	11	6
De Keyser's Royal Red. Debenture Stock	4	110	3	13	9
Schweppe Perpetual Deben. Stock	4	108	3	14	3
Metrop. Electric Supply Deben. Stock	4½	119	3	16	6
Hotel Cecil Red. Deben. Stock	4	105½xd	3	16	6
Apollinaris and Johannis Irred. Deben. Stock	4	104xd	3	16	9
Palace Hotel Debenture Stock	4	104	3	16	9
Fore-street Warehouse Co. Reg. Debentures	4	103½	3	17	6
Pears, A. & F., Debenture Stock	5	129	3	17	6
Benson, J. W., Perp. Mort. Debn. Stock	4	101xd	3	19	0
Peebles & Sons' Debenture Stock	4½	113½	3	19	6
Waring & Gillows' Debenture Stock	4½	113	3	19	6
Jones & Higgins' First Mortgage Deben. Stock	4½	113	3	19	9
Henry, A. & S., Debentures	4¼	53	4	0	0
Henley's Telegraph Works Red. Deben. Stock	4½	112½	4	0	6
Lyons, J. & Co., Debenture Stock	4½	111½	4	0	6
Brush Elec. Eng. Debenture Stock	4½	112	4	0	9
Welford & Sons' Redeem. Debentures	4¼	108	4	3	3
Wilsons & Furness Leyland Line 1st Mortgage Debenture Stock	4½	106½	4	5	0
Spiers & Pond 1st Mort. Debentures	5	117½	4	5	3
Savoy Hotel Debenture Stock	5	102½	4	17	0

I may mention that in the majority of cases the present quotations show declines of from 1 to 2 points against the values at the commencement of the year, although in some instances, viz., Peebles, Waring, Schweppe, Lyons, and Gordon Hotels, advances are marked. Turning from these purely investment securities to the market in the more speculative Ordinary stocks of industrial enterprises, I have to record a considerable business in Liptons, the Ordinary being somewhat firmer at $\frac{7}{8}$-1 premium, the Prefs. at $\frac{1}{8}$-$\frac{3}{16}$ premium. If current rumour is to be credited, the Lipton Company is also going to distinguish itself by obtaining a very speedy Stock Exchange settlement, and this in contrast with the scandalous delay which prevails in connection with other Companies, is, apart from all other considerations, likely to make the shares popular in the market. It is reported that the Vi-Cocoa people are about to rival Lipton, Limited, in this laudable endeavour to save time. The Delagoa Bay arbitration is at last drawing to a close, and to judge from the quotations which are now being made by the jobbers, a more hopeful view is taken of a decision favourable to the Company. Oil shares have on the whole been firmer, Russian Petroleum having risen to 22½, Schibaieff to $\frac{3}{16}$-$\frac{1}{4}$ premium. Fish Oil shares, on the other hand, have not been benefited by the meeting held in Dublin on Tuesday, and the price is now lower at 6¾, which is a very different figure from that which prevailed a few months ago when the boom was on. Threads (English Sewing Cotton) remain dull at $\frac{9}{16}$ premium, while Coats Ordinary have declined to 60½. Hardly any business is passing in Welsbach Incandescents, the Ordinary being quoted 111, the Preference 99½, the Deferred 19s. 6d. Bovril Ordinary are quoted $\frac{7}{8}$-1, while the Deferred are inactive at $\frac{5}{8}$. Schweppe Deferred at $\frac{9}{16}$ are neglected, while the Ordinary are dull at $1\frac{3}{16}$. There is no inclination to deal in Hudson's Bay shares or in Anglo "A" until the American outlook is clearer. Cycle shares have been inactive owing to the holiday influences, but prices are pretty well maintained in most instances, with the exception chiefly of Dunlop Ordinary, which fell heavily to 11s., on the result of the Fleuss case, and the resignation of the Duke of Somerset from the Board. Elswick Prefs. have improved to $\frac{9}{16}$,

Rovers to 14s. 3d. Swifts at 11s. 3d., and Singers at 11s. are the turn firmer, while Cycle Components have hardened to 1⅜. A decline in Amalgamated Tyres to 6s. 3d. has taken place, and Raglan are maintained at 12s. 6d. Salt Union Ordinary stand at 1⅝, the Prefs. at 5¾, and I am wondering whether the measures which are being taken by the shareholders' committee will lead to any improvement in this concern, which I condemned from the outset as a hopeless attempt at a monopoly. The committee are now proposing to infuse new blood into the board by the election of five leading Liverpool men, who certainly appear to have good business capacity. Worse management than the Company has had can hardly be imagined, and it remains now to be seen whether the new Directors will be able to place the concern on its legs again. Spiers & Pond shares have improved to 21½xd, apparently on some hopeful view being entertained of the Company's "tea and toast" departure. Paquin shares have been steady at ⅞ to 1⅛, and the Directors score a point by their statement that, in spite of the Paris fire and the prohibitive American tariffs, they have made a profit of about £60,000, as compared with £46,000 before the present Company took over the concern.—Your affectionate Uncle,

MOSES.

P.S., Tuesday Morning.—The budget of news which has come to hand over the holidays is of a varied description, but there is no very bad point. The fact that an armistice has been granted by Spain in Cuba is neutralised by President McKinley's Message, which is certain to give offence to Spain, and places the decision as to armed intervention in the hands of Congress, the majority of which is bellicose. The best that can be said is that peace between the United States and Spain *may* still be preserved. The news from South Africa is favourable The Witwatersrand output for March shows well with 325,907 oz., against 297,975 oz. in February, and 232,067 oz. in March, 1897. At the time of writing the figures for the outside districts have not yet come to hand. The news concerning the Far East is very pacific, and should a settlement of the Spanish-American question be possible, the political horizon would practically be clear, especially as the attitude of Germany towards this country is much more amicable. The brilliant victory in the Soudan is, of course, an excellent piece of news, which should exercise a favourable influence in many ways.

M.

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QUEER STORY.

THE PLAIN CONFESSION OF A PLAIN GIRL.

I AM a very ordinary girl, with a plain face and no particular compensating advantages. I cannot sing or play; I have no skill with brush or pencil; my conversation is neither brilliant nor witty; I am not even sociable. I like to keep myself to myself, and to those few—very few—whom I happen to like. As a natural consequence, I am—I will not say unpopular (because I have never been of sufficient consequence for that)—but simply neglected and ignored in the social sphere in which I move. And when my acquaintances give me a thought at all—which is surely very seldom—they probably think of me simply as a taciturn and morose young person, whose friendship is by no means worth the trouble of going out of the way to seek.

My young sister, Phyllis, who lives with me, occupies quite another position. Everybody likes Phyllis. They cannot help liking her; for she is as friendly and open-hearted as I am self-contained and reserved. And she is pretty, too, and graceful, and accomplished. Half the young fellows in the place are in love with her. Indeed, she has had five offers already, though she is not yet eighteen. She has declined all five. And I think I know why. It is an old story. There is some one else.

Rupert Denison is often at our house. That he loves Phyllis is quite certain; and that Phyllis loves him is equally beyond doubt. I am expecting, after every visit he pays us, to hear from Phyllis that he has spoken, and been accepted. I always make an opportunity for leaving them alone together. But hitherto he has not taken advantage of his chances. I almost wonder that he is so long. But Rupert is shy, and diffident of himself. I do not think he at all realises what a dear, fascinating fellow he is. However, it must come soon now—very soon. And Phyllis will be the happiest girl in the county.

We live alone together, Phyllis and I, in a small house, and a small way. I stand in the place of a mother to my little sister. I am twenty-four, but I feel forty; and I think I must look more. I shall certainly never marry. I do not suppose that I shall ever have an offer. Perhaps, if people knew——. But this is exactly what my dear old father wished to save me from. And, may-be, he was wise and right; although I do not think that I should have been easily deceived by the feigned sentiments of any lover of—my money.

My money? Oh yes! I have money. Plenty. More than I know what to do with. But no one is aware of this—except my solicitors, a London firm, and my bankers, a London Bank. So that there is no danger of the truth leaking out, as there would be if my agents were local people. Why I am at such pains to conceal this fact, I will explain. The plan originated with my dear father, who has now been dead for upwards of a year. My mother, I may mention, in passing, died when Phyllis was born. People, who knew my father prior to his bereavement, have often told me how devoted he was to my mother, and how tremendous an effect her death had upon him. They have more than hinted that his brain was permanently affected by that sorrow; and that the huge financial losses which afterwards overtook him were, in no small measure, due to his thereby impaired intelligence.

Those losses, however, are comparatively recent. They occurred when I was seventeen. Till then we had lived in a large house, with many servants, horses, and carriages. But within a few weeks all was changed. A bank with which my father was deeply involved, failed. We had to leave the big house and all the luxuries we had hitherto enjoyed, and to take a very tiny house indeed—this same house, in fact, where Phyllis and I still live. I remember often hearing my father say, at the time, that he was thankful enough to have been able to pay his liabilities and to have saved even five or six thousand pounds out of the wreck. And I remember, too, its striking me that he bore his ruin not merely with fortitude, but actually with cheerfulness, and that he seemed quite as happy in our humble home, waited on by one maid, as I had ever known him in our big house, with a score of servants at his call, and every luxury that money could buy.

It may be hardly necessary to say that our come-down in the world had the usual effect of separating our friends from us in the most complete and accurate manner. A few stuck to us from the first. A few dropped us from the first. These were the foolish among them, in opposite extremes. For as it is foolishly quixotic to stick to a ruined friend, so it is foolishly indecent to drop him out of hand. Wise folk do what the majority of our friends did. They just slacked off a little, and then a little more, and so on, by decent gradations. I had then many bosom friends among young girls in the neighbourhood. One of them named Laura Cleal wrote to me just after our change of fortune to say how sorry she was. Then she was my ever loving friend. In her next letter she was my very affectionately; then my affectionately; after that, my sincerely. To-day she is my very truly, and has been so any time these seven years. Were it not for the ordinary requirements of civility, she would doubtless by this time be my obediently. Laura Cleal, of course, is only a sample. I do not blame any such Laura Cleals, or the mammas or governesses who edited their letters and their affections. On the contrary, I am truly thankful to have been let down so gradually. For without any rude shock, I have found my proper level, which, after all, is an excellent thing for every one.

From the time of my father's ruin until I was twenty-one, the tenor of my life was humdrum and uneventful. But on my twenty-first birthday I had an extraordinary surprise. At breakfast on that day, among the letters and packets lying round my plate, there was a fat bulky

envelope addressed to me in my father's handwriting. I opened it first, I remember, expecting to find some simple birthday gift, such as he had been accustomed to give me in previous years. You may judge of my inexpressible amazement when I pulled out of the envelope a pile of bank notes, and saw that the top one was for £1,000. Speechless with astonishment, I looked up at my father. He sat regarding me across the table—we were tête-à-tête, for Phyllis was staying away—with a curious quiet smile.

"You seem taken aback," said my father. "Perhaps you did not expect such a handsome present, Nell. And I don't think you understand yet what a handsome present it is. Count them, child."

With trembling fingers, and with a strange, dazed sensation, as though I were in a dream, I turned over the notes one by one. No! No! It could not be true—could not be true. Each note was for the same amount, £1,000, and I had counted 100 of them. £100,000 lying there before me on my plate! It was absurd, ridiculous, impossible!

"They are—are—not real," I gasped. "This is a hoax—a jest, father."

"They are real enough, Nell," he answered, "as, if you took them to the Bank of England, you would soon find. And this is no hoax, or jest, my dear. That is good money, Nell, and I have given it to you for your very own."

"But where has it come from, father?" I cried. "And why have you given it all to me?"

"It is my money, Nell," he said. "I have realised all, or nearly all my investments, in order to make you this present to-day."

I was still incredulous, unable to believe the evidence of my eyes or ears.

"But—but—I thought we were poor, father. I thought——"

"Exactly, my dear. Everybody thought so. Everybody thinks so. Listen, Nell; I have something to tell you. My losses four years ago were never anything like so extensive as people imagined. It was believed that the bulk of my property was invested in that bank. As a matter of fact, I had been quietly unloading my shares for some time previously, and the amount I dropped by the smash was inside £30,000. But it occurred to me—it was an odd notion to occur, too—that it might be a good jest to hoax all my friends into the belief that I was ruined, and see what the effect would be upon them. As a man of the world, I didn't expect very much of human nature; but I am bound to say I was hardly prepared for the pitiably mean manner in which at least ninety per cent. of my intimates behaved to me after my supposed smash. And I was looking forward, with some malicious enjoyment, to resuming my former status of a wealthy man, and seeing how they would manage to crawl or wriggle back into their old intimacy with me, when one day I happened to overhear a conversation between two ladies of our acquaintance (once of our bosom friends), who shall be nameless, Nell—a conversation which set me thinking of other matters, and, after due reflection, induced me to change my plans.

"You were the subject of that conversation, Nell; and what do you think these matrons were saying of you, my child? One of them remarked that she had always thought what a good spec. you would be for her eldest boy, and that it was the cruellest of shocks to her to find that you were merely the daughter of a pauper. And the other told her she ought to be very thankful that things had gone no further; for if the smash had been delayed a little longer, then you, Nell, might have been engaged to her son, and there would have been a dreadful complication! Thereupon the lady for whose son you had been marked out, my dear, was good enough to pity you. 'Poor child,' she said, 'with her plain face, she will never marry now.'"

I flushed when my father told me that, and the tears started to my eyes. I know that my looks are homely, as well as any one, and it was foolish of me to be hurt. But I could not help it. My dear father saw, and he came round to me and took my unattractive face between his hands.

"Well," he said, smiling into my tearful eyes very fondly, "I did not think to wound you, little woman. The criticisms of such contemptible creatures are never worth minding. And if your face is not beautiful, dear" (with such words was my fondly prejudiced old father pleased to comfort me), "it is better than beautiful; it is honest and tender and true, and I would not have it different for all the world."

I dried my tears and smiled and kissed him. I knew the encomium was undeserved. But I knew that my father meant what he said; and it is a comfort to be loved by some one so much, that he sees one different from what one is. Nowadays, there is no one sees me thus.

After that, he said:

"Nell, my dear, when I overheard these remarks, which I have told you, it at once set me thinking about your future. And I came to the conclusion that you should not become 'a good spec.' for money-hunters. Girls are easily deceived, my dear—especially when they are just on the threshold of life; and these scheming fellows are mighty clever at feigning love and devotion. No, no! You are not to be married for your money; you are to be married for yourself, and yourself alone. I determined that I would see to that, as far as I could. With that end in view, I kept up our semblance of poverty, Nell—I have kept it up until this minute, and I wish to keep it up still, until the right man comes, Nell, the man who is good enough to appreciate and love you, the man who shall make you truly happy. You deserve him, Nell—you deserve the best husband that the world has to offer." (Dear, blind, foolish old father thus to speak of poor commonplace me!) "And some day—some day—he will come."

"I—I—don't want to marry, father," I said, smiling, yet greatly touched by his deep concern for my welfare. "I have you. You are better than any husband, dear."

"Even if I were," he answered, "I shall not live for ever. Nay, Nell, I shall not live much longer. My health is breaking now, as I can feel. And that is why I have made this money over to you now, my child. You are to come with me to London to-day; you are to have it all invested in your name. It is to be yours from to-day, absolutely. And when I die the estate that I shall leave will be just a few thousands—nothing more. And no one will ever guess that you have £100,000 of your own, my dear. But promise me, Nell, promise me—for I know that you will do what you promise—that until the right man comes, and loves you, and makes you his wife, you will keep the existence of this money just as dead a secret as it has been hitherto!"

I tried to dissuade my father from his scheme. I tried to say that I would not take the money. But he was so set upon it, so eager, so insistent, that, to please him, I at last gave way. . . . .

And so it is that, without any one knowing it, I am now absolute mistress of a large fortune—a fortune which, with its accumulation of unspent income, is growing larger every year. And I still live with Phyllis, in the same small house, and the same small way. And the right man has not come and married me. And I know that now he never will.

Yes; I know it—too well. There is only one who could ever be the right man for me. And he—— But, no! I will not say it. I will try not even to think it. It is mean, pitiable, wicked to be jealous of my little sister. And, in this case, absurd also. For even if there were no Phyllis, how should handsome Rupert ever give a thought to ugly me? I will choke down this foolish, envious weakness. And when he speaks, and makes Phyllis happy, I will be glad and rejoice with—with—all my heart.

At last, I think I have found out why Rupert has not spoken to Phyllis. It is curious that I have not thought of it before. Rupert has no money; nothing beyond his pay as managing clerk in a country solicitor's office. It is only £250 a year, and he does not like—does not think it fair—to ask her to marry him, when he can offer her nothing better than that. He did not exactly tell me this. But from hints which he has let fall in his conversation, and from inquiries which I have since made, I have no doubt that this is the reason. To be sure, Phyllis is very young—little more than a child; and Rupert is only twenty-seven. They can easily wait. But then, as I understand, Rupert has no capital to buy a partnership or

set up for himself; and he may have to wait many years before his income is materially enlarged. What a topsy-turvy world! The loveless and moneyed rubbing shoulders daily with the loved and moneyless; and each pining for only a taste of the other's happiness, yet unable to obtain it. Why cannot some one readjust the balances?

Some one? Who? Why not I? How can I hesitate? I will go up and see my solicitor to-day.

I have been. I have seen him. I am sure he thought me quite idiotic. At first he tried to pooh-pooh my scheme. But when he found me insistent, he agreed to do what I wished. The only difficulty was to give Rupert the financial lift he needed without letting him know the source from which it came. But, after some reflection, my solicitor thought it could be managed. He is personally intimate, it seems, with the head of Rupert's firm; and he considered that, if sufficient capital were forthcoming, arrangements might be made with him for taking Rupert into partnership. This seemed as practicable a scheme as any. And I have left it with him to make the necessary arrangements, stipulating that sufficient capital must be laid out for Rupert's benefit to insure a return of at least £1,000 per annum. . . . .

Three weeks have passed since then. I hear from my solicitor that matters have been satisfactorily arranged. I should have guessed it, even if I had not heard from him; for Rupert, who has been here every day for the last four or five days, has been, as I could see, bubbling over with joyful, yet half-suppressed, excitement. He has not spoken to Phyllis yet; but he is coming again this afternoon, and I am sure he means to speak then, for there was something in his manner of announcing his intended visit for to-day that said so plainly . . . Ah! there he is now—coming up the road. I must run and find Phyllis. Phyllis must be alone to receive him when he comes in.

How tiresome! how annoying? I cannot find Phyllis anywhere. What can have become of her? There is Rupert ringing the bell now! Phyllis! Phyllis! She is nowhere in the house, it seems. She must have gone out; and yet she knew Rupert was coming, and she must have guessed, from his manner, why. Perhaps she did not expect him quite so early. I must go down and talk to Rupert till she comes in. . . .

* * * * *

How blue the sky is this afternoon! How bright the sun shines! How sweetly the birds are singing! Truly life is delicious on a day like this, and there is an intoxicating joy in every breath one draws. I love every one to-day—every one—every one. Do you know why? It is all because some one loves me.

Yes, would you believe it? Rupert loved me from the first. And Phyllis knew, and she never told me. Sly little Phyllis. But I'm glad I did not know before. Else I could never have bought that partnership for Rupert. And should I ever have heard the truth then?

Do you hear that robin chirruping in the apple tree? I never noticed little Bobby's note before. It is strange how unobservant one is. But now you come to listen, you cannot fail to remark it, can you? Hark! There he goes, as plain as plain. "Hap-py—hap-py—hap-py!"

ART NOTES.

AUSTRALIAN PICTURES AT THE GRAFTON GALLERIES.

A MOST interesting exhibition. It was rather a bold experiment for Australia to make, but of its success there can be no possible doubt. Over three hundred pictures are hung, all of them painted in Australia, by Australian artists, and the general result is unexpectedly good. Perhaps what most surprises one is the independence of British artistic influences to which the majority of the pictures bear witness. There has been no slavish adherence to British art tradition, and there are but few signs of the influence of British art training. Now and then, it is true, one comes upon pictures which are reminiscent of the work of some of our more popular artists. There are suggestions here and there of Mr. Waterhouse and of Mr. Stott, of Mr. Lavery and of Mr. Whistler, but these are but exceptions to the rule. What is generally apparent is that Australia has gone to Paris rather than to London for its art inspiration. It is French influences which one traces in the works of nearly all the Australian artists who most distinguish themselves. To expect to find any veritable masterpieces in the collection would be a little unreasonable. There is no picture that challenges attention as a work of art of the highest order. But what it is so satisfactory to find is evidence of much promise on every hand. Australia has started well on the arduous path that leads to artistic success and fame, and its future progress will be watched with a newly-awakened interest on this side of the world.

It is pleasant to find, too, that most of the pictures shown are Antipodean in something more than their source. They are characteristically Australian in the landscapes they present, the incidents they depict, the faces they portray. It is on strange and unfamiliar scenes that the visitor to the Grafton Galleries looks. He sees towering trees that he feels instinctively must be eucalyptus—unless, indeed, they happen to be gum. He looks on parched yellow slopes down which wild cattle wildly stampede, and on precipitous roads along which thousands of odd-looking sheep are rushing in clouds of torrid dust, escorted by gaunt shepherds of an anything but Oriental type, for their pastoral crook has been exchanged for a long-lashed whip, and they bestride powerful and well-trained steeds of the breed known, I believe, as "walers." He sees squatters tracking the wallaby, and explorers starving in the arid scrub of the Australian interior. In short, he gets many glimpses of Australian life and customs painted with remarkable vigour and with local colour that in many cases is absolutely convincing. Of all the artists represented it seems to me that Mr. Tom Roberts is most strongly and characteristically Australian. He paints with remarkable dash and *verve*; and puts into his pictures all the grip and force that Lindsay Gordon used to put into his poems. Talent of a high order is to be seen in "A Breakaway," the draughtsmanship being really admirable. The subject of "The Golden Fleece" is not so pleasing, but in this, a very vivid presentation of a sheep-shearing scene, the drawing, as distinguished from the colouring, is masterful. Australia has just reason to be proud of Mr. Tom Roberts. Mr. E. P. Fox has also the making of a good artist in him. He is very modern in his style, and has turned to excellent account the art training which, unless I am greatly mistaken, he must have received in the capital of France. He is not nearly so essentially Australian as Mr. Tom Roberts, however.

Another artist who distinguishes himself is Mr. Arthur Streeton, who, like Mr. Tom Roberts, is racy of the soil that gave him birth. I doubt if there is a better landscape in the Show than his "Purple Noon's Transparent Light" (No. 62), a view taken on the Hawkesbury River in New South Wales. This admirable picture, as characteristic in its way as "A Breakaway" and "A Mountain Muster," is lent by the Trustees of the Melbourne Gallery, who have done all they can to make an Exhibition promoted by the authorities of the National Art Gallery of New South Wales a success. One thing that will specially strike the visitor to the Grafton Galleries is the apparent absence of air from the pictures. There is no atmosphere such as we expect to see in British landscapes. But this, I take it, is due to the brilliant clearness of the sunlight in Australia, and cannot fairly be reckoned a defect.

Mortlock's (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "Mortlock's" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

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MUSIC.

LIMITED LIABILITY MUSICAL DIPLOMAS.

I HAVE received a letter from a correspondent who tells me that the craze for musical diplomas distributed by imited liability companies is now rampant in Derbyshire, nd especially in mid-Derby. The *High Peak News* has, t seems, been talking very plainly on the subject, parieularly in regard to somebody who has been sporting he initials "F. C. V." and "A. C. V." A reference to the bsurdity of these appendages to any one's name drew from n anonymous correspondent, who signed himself "Justice," letter of the usual character, dealing largely with eneralities, and I am bound to say more or less full of naccuracies. The writer, after reading a *High Peak* aragraph "reflecting upon the worth of the diplomas ranted by the London College of Violinists," cannot say whether surprise, amusement, pity, contempt, or indignaon was the uppermost feeling." Moreover, he points iumphantly to the opinion of a local critic, who, after a iolin performance by one of the ladies who has adopted iese initials, eloquently and gallantly declared that "her laying was of such a character as to excite the sympathy f her audience to such an extent that even strong ien displayed considerable emotion at her marvellous erformance."

I have no doubt the young lady is fully worthy of all the ood things which are said about her, and it is, therefore, ie more regrettable that she should sport initials which she ight quite as lawfully, and much more economically, have onferred upon herself. The grocer round the corner, or ie potman of the local public house, has just as much right -no less and no more—to grant "diplomas" and initial tters as the so-called London College of Violinists. As a atter of fact, there is no "College" at all, and the asseron of the anonymous writer in the Derby paper that "the ost eminent professors, British and Foreign, and istinguished lovers of music, were the original founders of ie College," is the merest froth. I dealt with the whole atter in TRUTH on June 3 last, and not only with this it also with the Guild of Violinists (otherwise the Interational Union of Musicians), the College of Pianists wned chiefly by the family of a plumber), and other stitutions. The College of Violinists, as I then pointed it, on the evidence of the official documents at Somerset ouse, was nothing more than a limited liability speculaon, with a total cash paid-up capital of £17 10s. The areholders were a musical instrument dealer, his wife d two daughters and his son (a law student), besides a wspaper proprietor, a commercial clerk (afterwards proted to be a journalist), and a solitary professor of music. pa, the musical instrument dealer, was Managing Director, d four other gentlemen, including one whose name did t appear upon the list of shareholders, constituted the Board of Directors." Papa also was Managing Director life and Chairman of all extraordinary meetings of e Company. It is from this precious party that the plomas and initial letters of the College of Violinists anate; and their exact worth can, I should say, easily be praised.

These diploma speculations are not expensive to start. e total paid-up capital (barring that "agreed to be conlered as paid") contributed by the shareholders (seven told) of the "College of Violinists" was only £17 10s. ong the lot. Concerning the examinations of this onomically conducted enterprise I personally, of course, ow nothing. They may, for aught I know, be very rching or quite the contrary. But the diplomas issued the expense and profit of the musical instrument dealer, wife, two daughters and son (a law student) the comrcial clerk (now promoted to be a journalist) and the wspaper proprietor, pretty as they may be as pictures, not recognised by the heads of the musical community the same way, for example, the diplomas granted under authority of the Prince of Wales by the Royal Academy l Royal College of Music.

Last year I referred to a rather sweeping condemnation limited liability degrees printed in the preface to my esteemed contemporary, "Crockford's Clerical Directory." A new "Directory" has recently been published, but the preface deals more especially with foreign and Colonial degrees. It justifiably protests against a proposed revival of the "In absentiâ" degrees granted by Trinity College, Toronto. These ridiculous titles (one, it is said, granted for a hymn tune) were stopped in 1890, after the sturdy protest of the heads of British music and of the British Universities. There are, however, other and even less responsible institutions still selling foreign degrees and diplomas in this country, and the current issue of the Musical Directory contains the name of a gentleman who claims to be a Mus. Doc. of the "Druidic University of State of New York, U.S.A," whatever that may be. The Union of British Graduates in Music intend, I believe, to take up the case of these foreign degrees. They would do far more useful work by agitating in Parliament and elsewhere against a law which permits the wholesale dissemination of degrees and diplomas by limited liability companies and other non-chartered institutions in this country.

About a month ago I happened to mention that music publishers, who are great sufferers by the street music pirates, proposed to take the matter up vigorously, and hoped to interest the Government in the question. The street pirates lay unholy hands upon some of the most valuable copyrights. The songs are reprinted in cheap form, and are sold in the streets at various prices, the words of some of them as low as twenty a penny, and words and music at a penny to threepence each. This naturally injures the rights both of publishers and composers. One publisher took the matter into his own hands a few weeks ago, discovered the public-house from which most of these songs were distributed, seized some two or three thousand copies, and likewise pouncing upon the street hawkers, seized all their stock, amid immense astonishment, not to say protests cast in vigorous language. Such a step, however, cannot be taken until after an injunction has been obtained; and as the printer is rarely to be found, and when discovered is a man of straw, the remedy by injunction is costly and unsatisfactory.

Mr. Leslie Stuart, the composer of a highly-popular song entitled "Soldiers of the Queen" has now addressed the Solicitor-General upon the matter. He sends me this long letter, which I have no room to quote in full. He states that an Attorney-General was petitioned some years ago by various publishers to issue his fiat under the Act 2 Vic. cap. 12, and refused, on the ground that the Act was not intended to cover this particular form of infringement. Mr. Stuart points out that, emboldened by the state of the law, a great development of this illicit traffic commenced about last April in issuing not only the words, but also exact reproductions of the music of some of the most popular songs of the day, the printer's name and address, of course, being omitted. "The Soldiers of the Queen" was sold at various prices, from a 1d. or 2d. to 6d. a copy in the streets, although the legitimate music trade paid, wholesale, 10d. to 1s. 4d. a copy, the composer receiving a royalty of 2½d. a copy. Mr. Stuart estimates his loss on this one song at £250, and the publishers at still more. He and the publishers, after employing detectives for four months, discovered the printer, who had, it is estimated, disposed of 100,000 copies to the hawkers About 800 were found in his possession, and were confiscated, and the plates at once destroyed: all this, of course, at a great expense. It seems that the copies were printed in a small house tenanted by the wife, and that the man's effects were not worth 5s., so no damages or costs could be obtained from him, although over £100 was spent in his detection. However, there seem to be better times in store for Mr. Stuart and his friends. Although he does not appear to be aware of it, an injunction (one was granted to Messrs. Francis & Day last week) will forbid future piracies of the same publisher's works; while Lord Herschell's Bill, now before the House of Lords, authorises the police to seize plates and stocks of printers and hawkers of pirated music, and to hale all parties before a police-magistrate, who has the power to fine and imprison

the delinquents. The composer of "The Soldiers of the Queen" should, therefore, in justice, write a music-hall hymn of thanksgiving to the Liberal Lord Chancellor.

Mr. J. H. Mapleson is up and smiling again, with a full-blown scheme for a summer opera season at the Olympic Theatre, the house which, it may be recollected, saw the very last of that enterprising impresario, Signor Lago. I am not going here to discuss the financial merits of Mr. Mapleson's scheme, which do not concern this column. It will suffice that the share capital of the "New Italian Opera Syndicate, Limited," Mr. Mapleson fixes at £30,000, plus £20,000 Five per Cent. Debentures, the directors being Mr. George Paget, Mr. G. E. Keith, and Captain C. J. Rolleston, and that the vendor has fixed the purchase money at £30,000, one-third of which is to be in cash. The scheme, it is claimed, will give an annual season of at least six months of Italian opera at the Olympic Theatre, the price of seats being about one-half of those charged at Covent Garden except as to the private boxes, which, it seems, are to be let upon special terms. The Olympic, it is said, holds 3,500 persons, but for operatic purposes the seats will be limited to about 2,000. One month in the year will, it is promised, be given up to performances by the Students of the Royal Academy of Music, The Royal College of Music, and the Guildhall School of Music, supposing, of course, that those Institutions agree to accept the offer. Mr. Mapleson declares his intention to produce several new works and to revive operas by half-forgotten masters such as Spontini, Bellini, Donizetti, and others, and (like the Imperial Institute) he announces that arrangements are in progress for the engagement of an orchestra from La Scala, Milan. He claims that he has the scenery for fifteen operas, some of which has never been used, as well as the costumes, properties, and so forth for each opera, and "the celebrated Dragonetti Library consisting of about seventy operas by the greatest masters, many of which have never been performed." He proposes to open the Olympic next month, but opera goers will be better able to judge of the prospects of the enterprise when the repertory and the list of artists are before them.

It is announced in Milan that the Orchestral Society of La Scala is about to be disbanded after a career of twenty years. I believe this is the band which has been engaged, through the intermediary of Signor Randegger, for the Imperial Institute this summer. There is, it is true, a scheme to reorganise the Society, but without a further Government grant, which is not at all likely to be made, the concerts, it seems, cannot continue. This subvention of the band, by the way, may partly explain the fact that the Italian players are able to pay their travelling and hotel expenses in England, and even then to undersell the resident British player.

Concerts, except as to the sacred performances on Good Friday, are suspended during Easter, and considering the rush of music towards the latter end of Lent, the holiday will doubtless be appreciated by the public as well as by professors. The vacation, however, is a very short one, and by the end of the week we shall be at it again. The Crystal Palace Concerts continue, although, as Mr. Manns was ill of bronchitis, he was last Saturday replaced by Mr. Cowen, while within the next few weeks we shall have the pianoforte recitals of Mr. Arthur Friedheim, who, by the way, in some newspapers is absurdly enough described as a débutant; the recitals of M. de Pachmann, who will return to us after an absence of a good many years; besides recitals by Herr Rosenthal, Herr Liebling, and numerous other pianists. Also towards the end of the month the Mottl concerts will be resumed; while on May 9 we shall have the opening of the opera season at Covent Garden.

Details of the Good Friday concerts would be unnecessary. There is one point, however, which has excited some surprise. For fifty years, Rossini's Stabat Mater was one of the most popular compositions in the sacred repertory. For more than a quarter of a century down to last Friday it has been a feature of the sacred concert annually given on Good Friday at St. James's Hall. This year, however, it was for the first time abandoned in favour of a miscellaneous sacred concert. The re-opening of the Alexandra Palace was another of the events of Good Friday. The Palace, so beautifully situated on the summit of Muswell Hill, with a panorama of views all round it, has been closed for about nine years, although the building seems still to be in an excellent state of preservation and repair. The Palace was re-opened with the "Messiah," with a band and chorus of over one thousand, under Mr. Riseley, of Bristol, and it may eventually revive its old musical glories won so deservedly in the time of the late Weist Hill. There is a large population at Muswell Hill and its neighbourhood, large enough, at any rate, to support a proper musical scheme adequately carried out. So far as the London public are concerned, the Alexandra Palace, like the Crystal Palace, suffers a good deal from the train service. You can often get from London Bridge to Brighton quicker than you can from London Bridge to the Alexandra Palace.

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LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—"The Ballad of Reading Gaol" (1) reminds you a little of the walk round and round, round and round the prison courtyard during which it was composed. Its author, "C. 3. 3.," "jades the thing too far," as Bacon expresses it. He wears the same thought, and even the same words, threadbare by monotonous repetition, till a poem which makes you hold your breath when you begin it makes you yawn before you finish it. Indeed, I never read a poem which tempted me more to exclaim with Hesiod, "Fool, not to know how much half exceeds the whole!" In another and more important point also "C. 3. 3." overshoots the mark—his description of the infamies of gaol diet, discipline, and tyranny. No one is more firmly convinced than I of the brutalising effect of gaol discipline upon the prisoners, and no one would have welcomed more eagerly such an exposure of it as would lead to its reform; but "C. 3. 3." so overcharges his gun that there is a violent recoil. I cannot, however, resist giving you a few passages from his indictment—it is so powerfully expressed:—

I know not whether laws be right,
Or whether laws be wrong;
All that we know who lie in gaol,
Is that the wall is strong;
And that each day is like a year,
A year whose days are long.

But this I know, that every law
That men have made for man,
Since first man took his brother's life,
And the sad world began;
But straws the wheat and saves the chaff
With a most evil fan.

This too I know—and wise it were
If each could know the same—
That every prison that men build,
Is built with bricks of shame;
And bound with bars lest Christ should see
How men their brothers maim.

(1) "The Ballad of Reading Gaol." By "C. 3. 3." (London: Leonard Smithers. Price 2s. 6d. net.)
(2) "Tenebræ." By Ernest G. Henham. (London: Skeffington & Son. Price 6s.)
(3) "His Grace o' the Gunne." By I. Hooper. (London: A. & C. Black. Price 5s.)
(4) "The Devil in a Domino." By "Chas. L'Epine." (London: Lawrence Greening & Co. Price 1s.)
(5) 'Political Crime." By Louis Proal. (Criminology Series.) (London: T. Fisher Unwin.)
(6) "Campaigning on the Upper Nile and Niger." By Seymour Vandeleur, D.S.O. With an Introduction by Sir George T. Goldie, K.C.M.G., D.C.L., LL.D. With Maps, Illustrations, and Plans. (London: Methuen & Co. Price 10s. 6d.)
(7) "The Jealousies of a Country Town." By H. de Balzac. Translated by Ellen Marriage. (London: J. M. Dent & Co. Price 3s. 6d.)
(8) "Chambers' English Dictionary." Pronouncing, Explanatory, Etymological. (London: W. & R. Chambers. Price 12s. 6d.)

With bars they blur the gracious moon,
  And blind the goodly sun;
And they do well to hide their Hell,
  For in it things are done
That Son of God nor son of man
  Ever should look upon!

The vilest deeds, like poison weeds,
  Bloom well in prison air;
It is only what is good in man
  That wastes and withers there;
And Anguish keeps the heavy gate,
  And the warder is Despair.

For they starve the little, frightened child
  Till it weeps both night and day;
And they scourge the weak and flog the fool,
  And gibe the old and gray;
And some grow mad, and all grow bad,
  And none a word may say.

. . . . .

With midnight always in one's heart,
  And twilight in one's cell,
We turn the crank, or tear the rope,
  Each in his separate Hell,
And the silence is more awful far
  Than the sound of a brazen bell.

And never a human voice comes near
  To speak a gentle word:
And the eye that watches through the door
  Is pitiless and hard:
And by all forgot, we rot and rot,
  With soul and body marred.

And thus we rust Life's iron chain
  Degraded and alone:
And some men curse, and some men weep,
  And some men make no moan:
But God's eternal Laws are kind
  And break the heart of stone.

In "Tenebræ" (2), Reading Gaol seems to have broken loose and joined forces with Broadmoor, so many and monstrous are its horrors. They are, perhaps, a little crude, but those who like blood-curdling stories can "sup full" here of their favourite fiery stimulant, which, to borrow a happy Irish description of bad whiskey, "goes down your throat like a torchlight procession." "His Grace o' the Gunne" (3) has to do with crime also; but there is no crudeness of treatment here, for Miss Hooper deals delicately and gracefully with her subject, and interests you rather in her criminals than in their crimes. It really is a very pretty and pleasant story in spite of its criminal subject. There is certainly nothing pretty and pleasant about "The Devil in a Domino" (4). It is a frankly morbid study in criminal psychology; but the story is written with remarkable literary skill, and, notwithstanding its gruesomeness, is undeniably fascinating. Apropos of criminal subjects, I can recommend confidently to you the best volume of "The Criminology Series" I have yet read—Mr. Louis Proal's "Political Crime" (5). Its very preface cries to you, "Sursum Corda!" in such passages as this:—

The art of governing has been disfigured by a great number of false maxims, which have made it the art of lying and deceiving, the art of proscribing and despoiling under a cloak of legality. It is these sophisms that I propose to combat. Humanity has had for its governors slaughterers, fanatics, robbers, false coiners, bankrupts, madmen, men who have been corrupt and have sown corruption. There are no greater malefactors than the political malefactors who foment divisions and hatreds by their ambition, cupidity and rivalries

What piece is this "that roars so loud and thunders in the index?" An admirable piece, I assure you, and opportune also. Not least admirable and opportune is this extract of good augury from a speech of Lord Salisbury's delivered at Hastings in 1892.

Civilisation has substituted law court decisions for duels between private persons and conflicts between the great. International wars are destined in the same way to give place in the courts of arbitration of a more advanced civilisation.

This millennial hope, which was not always Lord Salisbury's, is probably held more firmly by him to-day than in 1892. Sir George Goldie has taken the discreet precaution of many reviewers of not reading the work he praises, lest he might thus be prejudiced against it. Seriously, though, it is odd to find Lieutenant Vandeleur's always interesting and occasionally exciting "Campaigning on the Upper Nile and Niger" (6) prefaced by Sir George's disavowal of having read a line of it. As there might be something offensive to France in the book, he thought it more discreet in view of his quasi-official position to deny himself the great pleasure—for it is a great pleasure—of reading it. It is really astonishing what effective leadership will make of the most unpromising military material, increasing its value, as the value of ciphers is increased by an initial figure. Under Lieutenant Vandeleur, 500 Hausas withstood for two days 30,000 Fulahs, their former and most formidable masters, "and though they had never before faced cavalry, they stood firm under charges *home* on to the faces of their squares, maintained perfect fire-discipline, and delivered their volleys as steadily as if on parade." It was touch and go, however, for if fortune had not favoured the brave, the little force must have been annihilated. Let me, in conclusion, draw your attention to the admirable new edition of Balzac which is in process of publication by Messrs. Dent & Co. The translations are uniformly good, and each volume—the latest is "The Jealousies of a Country Town" (7)—has a preface by Mr. George Saintsbury.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, very sincerely yours, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

P.S.—I have reserved for mention here one work which will be a boon to many—the new dictionary (8) published by Messrs. Chambers. Judging from the results of a series of random tests, it is singularly comprehensive and accurate.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—We spent a happy morning among the picture galleries in and about Bond-street one day last week, when Richard had run down to Portsmouth to meet an old brother officer just home from India. To feel that there is no one waiting lunch for one imparts an agreeable feeling of leisureliness, and we enjoyed this to the full. First we turned into the Grafton Gallery and fell deeply in love with Mr. Tudor Tucker's "Sunset," a green-gold sea with long, placid, restful, sun-kissed waves, in which some children are delighting, the rosy sunbeams lighting up their little faces. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain was being conducted through the Galleries while we were there, and we congratulated ourselves, by no means for the first time, on our insignificance which permits us to wander there and here at our own sweet will, without a convoy of attentive escorts. To be a celebrity is not all roses, but perhaps when one becomes a celebrity one likes this sort of homage. Who can tell?

Next we turned into Dowdeswell's, and found the usual crowd silently gazing on Munkacsy's "Ecce Homo." We had been commissioned by a friend to inquire about the prices of the engravings of it, and found that they range from two guineas to ten, according to the quality of the proof. We also saw the engraving of Byam Shaw's picture in last year's Academy, "The Comforter." You will remember it. It is beautifully engraved.

At the Fine Art Society's the girls grew immensely sentimental over the "Charge of the Gordon Highlanders at Dargai" as depicted by Mr. Allan Stewart. For my part I detest battle pictures, and wish that war had never been invented, but the girls made me look at Piper Findlater sitting calmly skirling his bagpipes in full reach of the enemy's fire, and with but too evident proof of his wounded ankle to be seen in the picture. He is surrounded by dead and dying, and some of the figures are distressingly touching. Wreaths of laurel and cypress are placed against the wall beneath the picture, tied with ribbons bearing the names of the four regiments engaged in the battle. There is a mistake, by the way, in the description of the affair given in the

New Spring Fashions.—Messrs. Redfern have now on view in their Showrooms a unique display of Toilettes, illustrative of the latest London and Paris fashions, and to which they invite an inspection.—26, Conduit-street, London, W.

beginning of the explanatory paragraph. Piper Findlater is said to have been playing "Cock o' the North," but it was Milnes who played this inspiring air, poor Milnes who was shot through both lungs, but is slowly recovering. Findlater was playing the regimental march past.

Have you read that a few women have written proposing marriage to Findlater? "A mad world, my masters!"

Bee bought an India print of the "Last Stand of Major Wilson," and is having it framed for her room. It is well to remember these brave fellows, but I do not think I want to see such saddening things the moment I open my eyes in the morning. Plenty of depressing circumstances rain into one's life. Why introduce others? But girls love to be sad now and then when they are in their teens. When they begin to "get on" they are less willing to cry about nothing and indulge in fancied sentimental woes, April showers, as it were.

On our way to lunch at the newly-opened Avondale we passed by Van Hier's lovely window, filled with his dreamy, misty pictures—such a contrast to the stern realities we had just left. I inwardly thanked goodness for a cheery world full of beautiful things—flowers, music, art, brightness—in the midst of which we may forget the inevitable sadness. But I carefully respected the girls' tender mood, remembering similar experiences in my own early youth.

I found, however, that a good lunch had a marvellously restorative effect on their gaiety. They were soon making jokes, and laughing at them as girls love to do. By-the-way, what an epicure's mouth April is! Though March brings us the earliest asparagus and peas, the baby carrot, and the infant turnip, it is April that makes the prices possible. Is 5s. too much to pay for "the first, fine, careless rapture" of the gourmet discussing his early asparagus? Certainly not! There is ever about the gastronomic joys of April a finer touch that after, throughout the year, eludes even the most practised and deliberate, who give to every mouthful a separate thought. Strawberries at 4s. a basket are appreciated by the gastronome with the addition of that subtle factor in all pleasures of the palate, the consciousness that only a limited number of individuals are sharing in them. The idea that the whole nation is eating them has, in June, its due effect upon the fastidious. The egotism of the gourmet is regarded by him as a virtue, not a fault. And does not April give us plovers' eggs? The first arrivals cost a frightful price, it is true, but hope looks on into the future with greedy anticipation. Last season some one discovered that the gull had been made an innocent accomplice in the perpetration of a horrid fraud upon the gastronomic public. Gulls' eggs, deftly coloured to imitate nature's correct tint of deep, warm cream-colour, had been palmed off upon the unsuspecting. Let discriminating palates be on their guard!

April brings us the first young, juicy leaves of the sorrel, and the salad to be evolved therefrom is not to be despised, for more reasons than those connected with the pleasures of the table. And can there be a more appropriate culotte for the bony extremity of a lamb cutlet or the legs of a spring chicken than a purée made of the pretty, pointed leaves? On April 1 last year, there were green gooseberries in the London markets, but I have not seen any as yet this spring. Perhaps the recent hard weather has induced the parent bushes to forbid outdoor life to their baby fruit. Salmon, too, gets cheaper in April, and trout is approaching its finest stage, and there is something about early trout that is never associated with later days. Apropos to culinary matters, I must tell you an amusing story about a cook whom a friend of ours was interviewing last week. She said, "Would you kindly tell me, Madam, how often you dine out?" "About once a fortnight just now, I should think," replied our friend. "But why do you ask?" "Because I could not take any place," was the reply, "where the lady and gentleman do not dine out two or three times a week. Cooking a dinner every night is so wearing to the nerves." Just fancy! Suppose one were to make such an arrangement—though it is difficult to imagine any one making it—and that one were to have a cold or some slight ailment, which, while leaving the appetite unimpaired, would prevent one from going to dinner parties or restaurants. There would be no dinner on at least two evenings in the week. How nice for an invalid!

We are astonished at the enormous number of "Mansions," as houses composed of flats have now come to be called, arising all over London. Not only in central districts are they to be seen, but in Suburbia as well, and no sooner are they finished than they are immediately occupied, before even the walls have had time to dry, one would think. We all prophesied, some five or six years ago, that the reign of flats would be a short one, but the prophecy was all wrong. The convenience of these residences all on one or two floors commends them to thousands, as well as the advantage of being able to leave them with safety, as no one could dare to leave a house. And then it is so pleasant to know that no taxes are to be sprung upon one at inconvenient seasons, except, of course, that horrid income-tax, which every one detests so sincerely.

We were shopping at Evans' the other day, and saw such pretty English silks piled on a counter. We at once examined them and were told that, being free from duty, they are extremely cheap. And so we found them. The colours are well assorted and the patterns well chosen. I liked very much one that had a hair-line in black on a ground of poppy-red. For summer skirts nothing could be nicer than these silks, and we noticed many in shades of grey in narrow stripes, and others striped in mauve and grey, and so on, just the right kind of thing for summer gowns. Clare bought herself a sweet one with a grey ground so pale as to be almost white, striped with a hair-cord in black. She is going to have it lined with pink and wear it with a pink glacé silk blouse like those I told you we had seen last week at Sykes Josephine's.

We always stop and look in at the window of 143, Regent-street, where the Parisian Diamond Company have spread enchantments for the temptation of spectators. Bee was greatly taken with a range of pearls, and as an apropos birthday is approaching we went in to ask the price. There we found Mr. Sanderson himself, an enthusiast about pearls, and he explained to us the endless differences that exist between these beautiful things that, to the casual eye, appear so much alike. Could you believe that no two pearls are ever precisely similar? Some are globular, some spherical, some oblong, others approaching the square in outline. And again, in the matter of colour, there are endless differences. Only the Scotch pearls (found in the Tay) are pure white. In the others are to be found every possible tint of cream colour—ivory, and even a tone of beige. In weight, too, there is again a difference. Now, just imagine the difficulties that beset the path of the workpeople who have to reproduce the real pearls in imitation! The infinite ways in which Nature has differentiated these children of the waters have to be deftly copied, each pearl made in a different mould, of a different tint, and of varied shape; it is only the cheap glass bead pearls that are all alike, as if turned out of a manufactory. One somehow loves the sweet pearls better for being all different from each other. It gives them something in common with humanity. Pearls are now the most fashionable form of jewellery. I think this should be so. They are far lovelier than diamonds.

By the way, dear, we saw some beautiful diamond-headed combs there. A large comb, you know, is now almost indispensable to the fashionable coiffure. The one I liked best had a Louis XV. design in diamonds, the centre being in the honeycomb pattern, and outlined with sweet little floral sprays and points, all in Parisian

Stooping.—A remedy should be immediately sought for a young lady inclined to round shoulders and a contracted chest. Consult Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., The Celebrated Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, Oxford-circus, London.

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amonds. Another had the top of the comb inverted, e centre being lower than the sides. This, too, was vered with diamonds in a tiara shape. Diamond slides e saw, too, in every variety, and dear little charms for e bangle—diamond monkeys, elephants, squirrels, &c. me turquoises of a heavenly blue delighted our eyes. rrings (they are coming in again!) of these were set in amonds, and had a most attractive look. In fact, the ace was full of tempting things, the designs being in ny cases more poetically pretty than one often sees in al jewellery. A string of pearls imitated from the iginal, which were worth several thousand pounds, was ld up before an expert, and he was unable to say which ere the true and which the false.

I am sending you Redfern's "Open Letter." You will d it full of information about the coming fashions, and, tter still, it contains some valuable hints on good taste, nich no one is in a better position to give than a lady's ilor, whose experience ranges from reigning empresses wn to the nice little Miss Nobody who has money ough and sense enough to go to the best sartorial guide e can find. The illustrations are wonderfully neat and etty, and, of course, completely up-to-date—in fact, up to-morrow's date. That is one of the advantages of ing to a good house. One's gown is not out of date fore it is half worn out.

Clare sends me the following from Ireland:—

Dearest Madge,—How few understand the art of taking a liday, or rather, how few practise it with skill and understand-g. A holiday time should be one of recreation in the true aning of the word; a time of renewal and repair, so far as ay be, after the wear and tear and the struggles of life. Each e's holiday should be a thing for himself, to suit his individual eds. It should begin with diagnosis, the eye turned inwardly one's self, instead of outwardly—with the view to imitation—one's neighbour. Then the repairs could be made to suit each e—the strain lessened where it had been greatest, the wear d tear met with the treatment needed by the special form they d taken. With this object a holiday should be thought out efully and cunningly planned, not taken indiscriminately and elessly. How many more blessings would be invoked on iday times then! How they would really recreate us! Whereas mostly take them now, with as little thought as the lobster es his bodily repairs, when Nature renews the claws which his ow lobsters have torn from him in the struggle of life.

There are those who think that a life devoted to Society and nsement does not need a holiday. How little they know! ly let them try it. The labour of a work day, with its limited rs and narrow scope of business, is nothing to that of a ociety" day, or, rather, day and night, with its infinite variety occupation. The world that amuses itself certainly earns and ds a holiday, though it generally takes care that it should not a time of recreation, but of accentuated rush and labour.

The Fates have been kind to us this Easter—restfully, recreagly kind. Here we are in the quiet country, far from the dding crowd, which, however, has a few representatives in the se where we are staying—amongst the primroses and the bs, and with the "hum" of humanity's "mighty workings" hanged for the singing of the birds. We have the new dress of ure to study instead of the new millinery fashions. Nature her spring costume very early in wear this year. Already the gerows are turning green, and the sycamores and other early s bursting timidly into leaf. One hopes that the April ther may not treat them rudely and blight the green freshness heir tender youth. The gaudy spring gardens are in full om, but the cultivated flowers cannot compare with the wild s of spring. What is sweeter than the woody places starred h primroses, except those that are carpeted with bluebells?

ed's delights are not, of course, like mine, in connection with "vegetable kingdom." The birds are just now safe from his ghtering habits, I believe, but he has the fishes. Some men cience advance the theory that plants, like animals, have s; that flowers feel a death-pang when they are plucked. pose Fred had this belief, I often wonder if he, too, would r into the enjoyment of gathering primroses.

Never a day passes but I invoke blessings on the man who found out cycling. Not that I do the thing myself, when it might be quite otherwise. But the others all do it. It al s the restless, old and young, and leaves the tranquil to the undisturbed enjoyment of tranquility. One is safe from being included in cycling excursions, with the early start, the labours of the "scorching" day, and the late—at this season generally belated—return home. The house party that "scorches" forth on fine mornings takes my benediction with it. If only they would not talk "bike" in the evenings! But it is no worse than talking "horse." And one does not get many other alternatives in an ordinary country house with any pretensions to fashion. I suppose the cycle will regain its original favour with fashion, now that the Prince of Wales has taken to it. One hopes that it may induce some inventive courtier to remove its one great flaw, and make it capable of standing alone. When will the motor car come, really and comfortably? Do you live in hopes—as I do—that it may be perfected, at least in time to be the solace of our old age?

Last week being Holy Week, Dublin indulged in no gaiety, the festively disposed had anticipations only to live on. Lady Cadogan, with her sons, was at the Viceregal Lodge, where Lord Cadogan joined her at the end of the week. Lord and Lady Roberts, with their family, are not to return for some weeks to Dublin from Abbeyleix. Several dances will be given in Dublin after Easter, as the "season," which has intervals, does not absolutely come to an end until after the National race meeting at Punchestown. Only there is the exodus from the capital general. The Lord Chief Justice of Ireland reappeared in the hunting field after his severe accident, not to have the season end with disaster. A good seat on the bench and one on the saddle do not often go together. It is characteristic, perhaps, that they should do so in this country of the "horse." Several of our judges have been taking their holidays abroad. Lord Justice FitzGibbon has been in Cairo for a short time, and Mr. Justice Ross in Paris.—Yours ever,

Clare.

What sort of recipes would you like this week? These timbales of whiting with purée of shrimps make a nice entrée for a dinner party, or they may be served as a fish course:—

Pound the flesh of a nice whiting, adding the yolks of two eggs, an ounce of butter, and a tablespoonful of white sauce; season it with salt, pepper, and a pinch of cayenne, and rub all through a hair sieve into a basin. Work the forcemeat with a wooden spoon, adding a gill of cream gradually. Fill seven or eight buttered and decorated dariole moulds with the forcemeat, and press a hole in the centre with the handle of a wooden spoon dipped in hot water. Fill the cavity with purée of shrimps, smooth the forcemeat over with a palette knife dipped in hot water and steam them twenty minutes, but do not allow them to boil. Turn the creams, in two straight rows down a dish, and pour shrimp sauce round. To make the purée:—Pound a gill of picked shrimps with an ounce of butter, adding the yolk of an egg, a little cream, and a very little essence of anchovy; season it with pepper and a squeeze of lemon juice. The bones of the fish should be stewed for the sauce, after which strain it and thicken it with a spoonful of potato flour, add the yolk of an egg, a little cream, salt and pepper to taste, a saltspoonful of essence of anchovy, a squeeze of lemon juice, and a tablespoonful of picked and chopped shrimps.

Clear tomato soup, à la Milanaise, is quite new and really excellent:—

Put the contents of a tin of tomatoes into a stewpan with two whole eggs and 1 lb. of lean beef or veal, previously passed through the sausage-machine; mix it thoroughly together. Add two quarts of good stock, free from grease, and stir it until it is boiling. Season all with six peppercorns, a blade of mace, a bouquet of herbs, a carrot, and an onion. Allow the soup to simmer for two hours, adding a little cold water to make the quantity about two quarts. Then strain it carefully through a cloth. Boil 2 oz. of macaroni in salted water until it is tender. Strain and cut it into tiny rings; add it to the soup at the time of serving. Serve with it grated parmesan on a plate.

These "tri-coloured cakes" are a great novelty, and simply lovely:—

Beat 4 oz. of butter with 4 oz. of sugar until it is a creamy batter, add 4 yolks of eggs, and beat until quite light; mix in 4 oz. of flour, the grated peel of a fresh lemon, and a pinch of baking powder. Spread the mixture on to a greased and papered baking sheet, bake about 20 minutes in a moderate oven, and turn

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on to a pastry rack to cool. Now make another sheet in this way. Beat 4 oz. of fine sugar and fresh butter together until creamy, then mix in the whipped whites of 4 eggs, in alternate spoonfuls, with 4 oz. of flour, spread on a greased baking sheet, and bake in the same way. Mix 2 oz. of ground almonds with 4 oz. of sifted icing sugar, the yolk of an egg, a few drops of cochineal and a squeeze of lemon juice, roll the almond paste into a sheet with a little sugar, and place it between the yellow and white cakes. Cut them into neat square pieces. Mix 6 oz. of icing sugar with a table-spoonful of water in a little stewpan, and stir over the fire until just warm, add a very little Maraschino, coat the top and bottom of the cakes with the icing, and sprinkle them with dessicated cocoanut. Arrange the cubes corner to corner on a dessert paper.

These "balloons" are delicious breakfast bread :—

Mix 1 pint of thick cream with 1 pint of Hungarian flour until quite smooth, add a pinch of salt and the yolks of 3 fresh eggs, whip the whites to a stiff froth and mix them last. Bake in small, buttered patty pans, in a brisk oven. When the bread is done split and butter each one. Serve in a napkin very hot.

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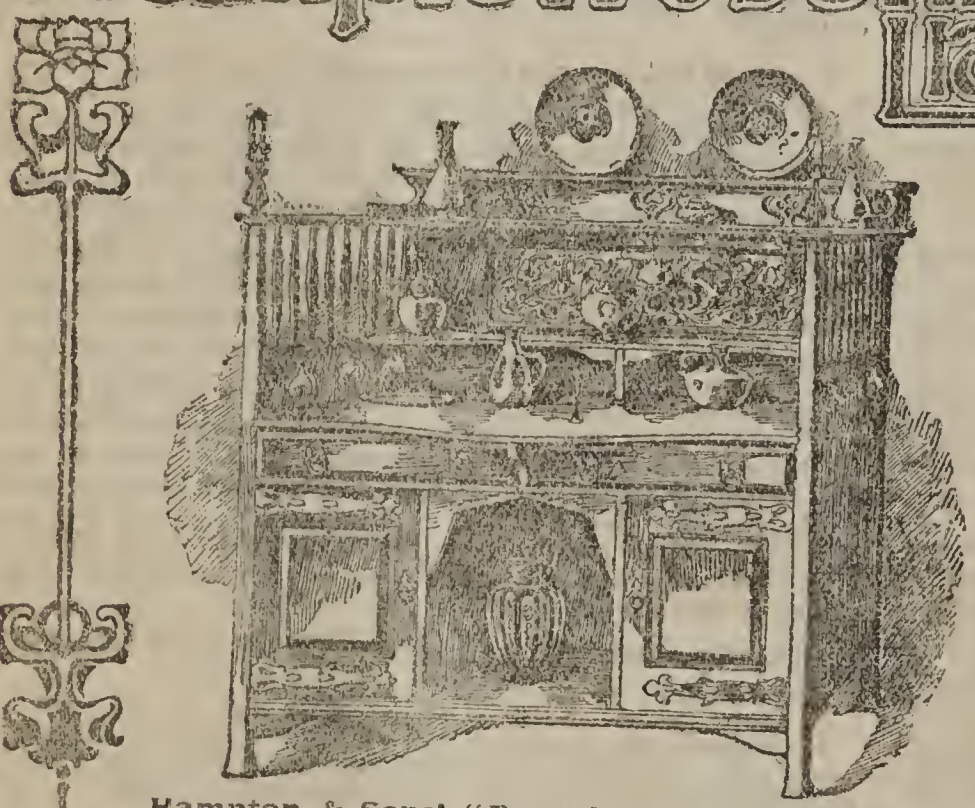

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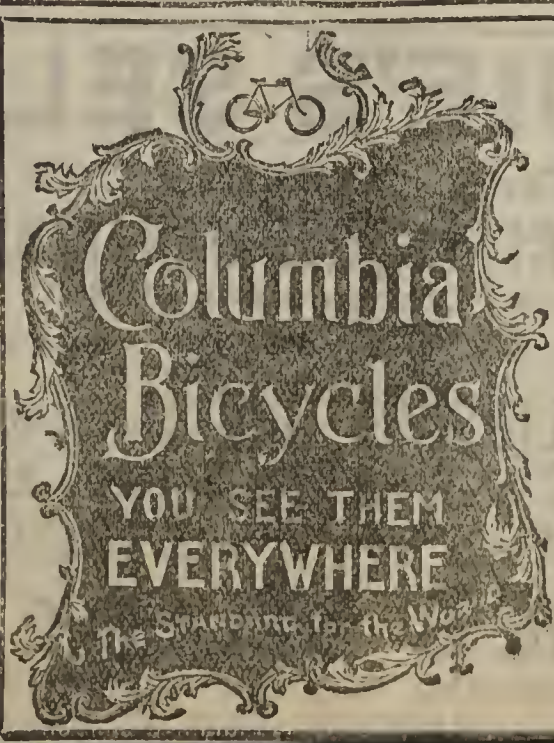

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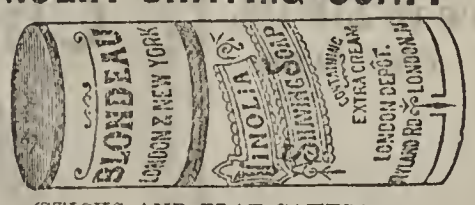

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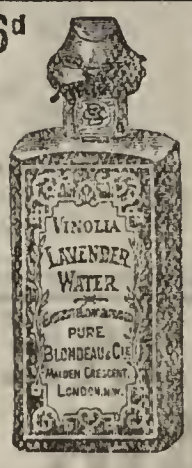

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Renders the Teeth Pearly White.

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Prevents the Hair from Falling off.

Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.

Being delicately perfumed, it leaves no Unpleasant Odour.

IS NOT A DYE.

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THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per bottle.

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For Raising Water for the Supply of Towns, Villages, Irrigation, Railway Stations, Mansions, Fountains, Farms, &c.

No cost for Motive Power, which is obtained from a Stream of Water passing through the Ram. No Oiling or Packing required. Made in Sizes to raise from **300 to 400,000 gallons per day.** Will force to a Height of 800 feet.

Fig. A.—This Ram lifts part of the same water that works it. (Engraved from photo. of Ram which raises 250,000 gallons per day of 24 hours to medium heights, with good working fall.)

This View represents Fig. A Ram forcing up a part of the same water that works it, which is supplied from a spring. Special Rams of A make can be supplied to force to a height of 800 feet.

Fig. B.—This Ram, whilst worked by a stream of impure water, will pump clean water fro well or spring.

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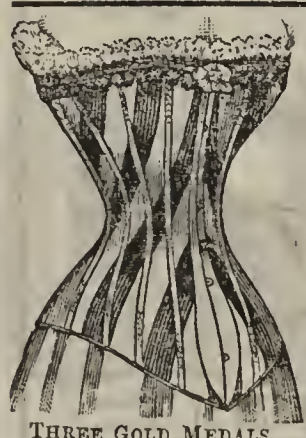

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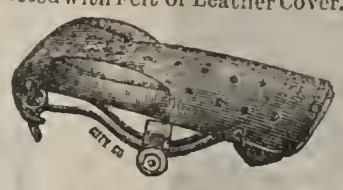

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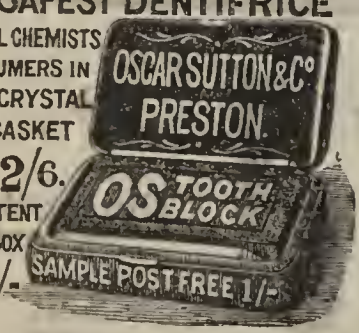

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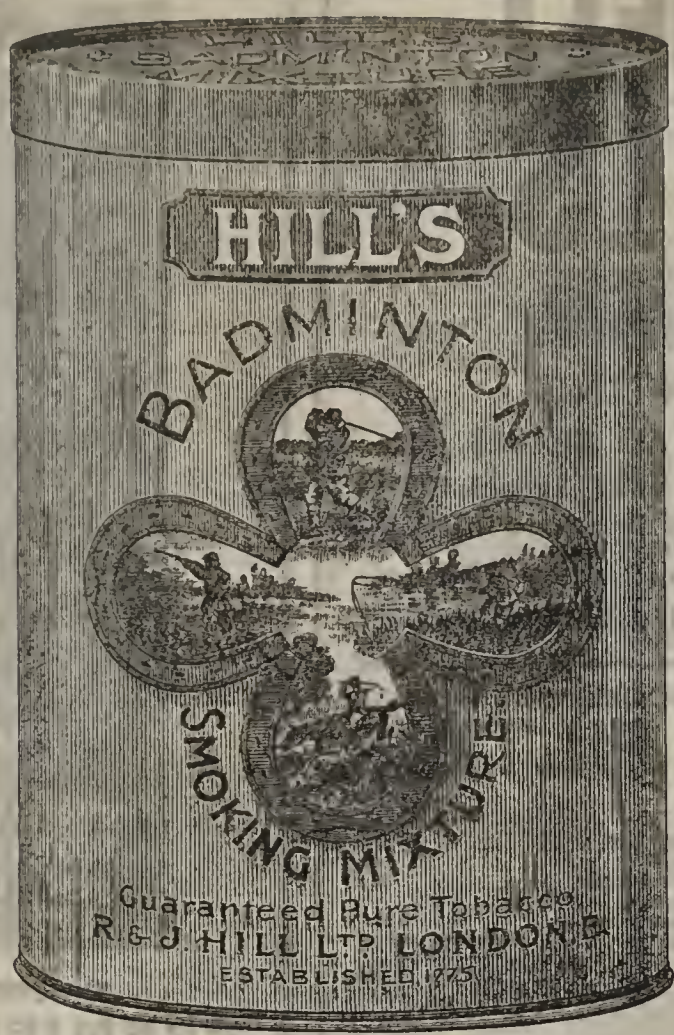

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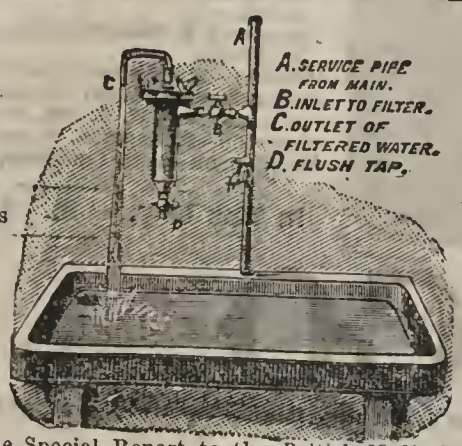

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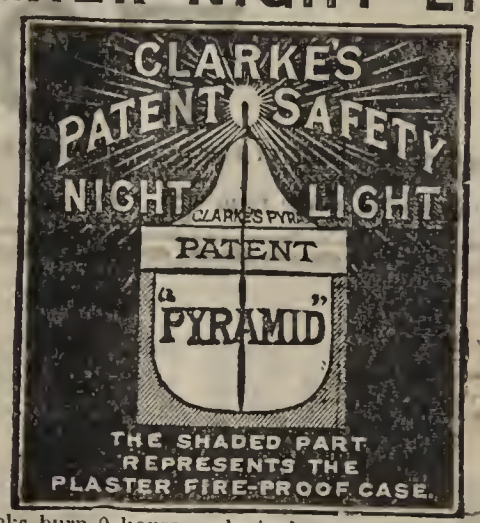

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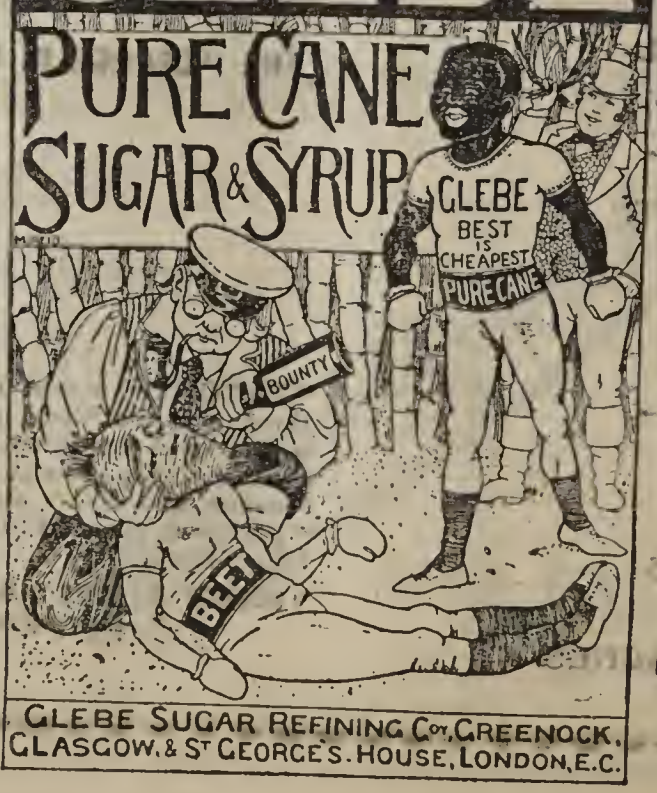

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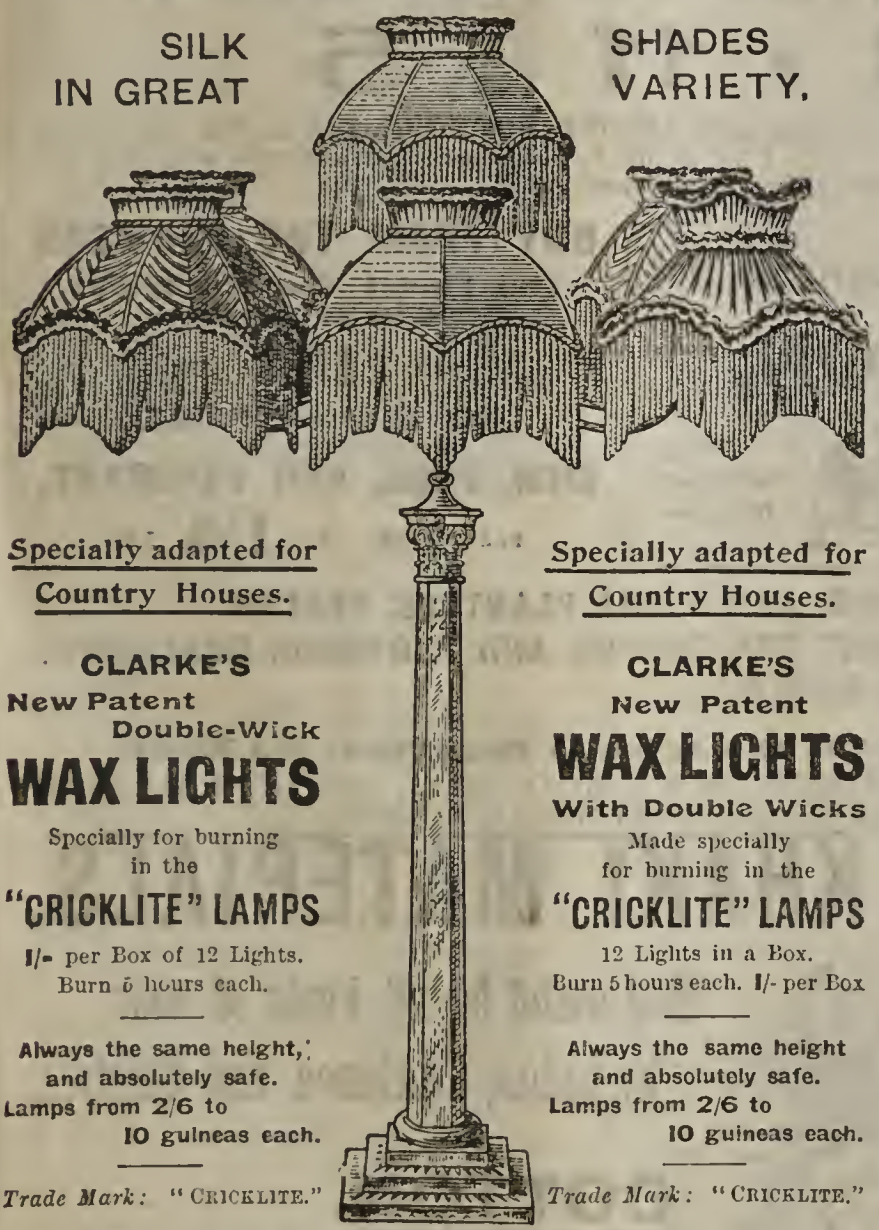

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TO THE HOLDERS OF THE FIVE PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE GOLD BONDS DATED 1st APRIL, 1890.

The West Virginia and Pittsburgh Railroad Company having failed to provide for the payment of the Coupons of the above-mentioned Bonds, due 1st April, 1898, we desire to give notice to the Bondholders that it is our intention to take immediate steps for the protection of their interests. To this end it is necessary for us to have control of the Bonds, and we accordingly request the holders to deposit their Bonds with us without delay.

In exchange for them we shall issue negotiable certificates (a Stock Exchange quotation for which will be applied for) in terms of an agreement bearing date 1st April, 1898, copies of which and schedules of deposit, may be obtained at our office, on and after 12th April, 1898.

Prompt action is desirable, and in order that we may know to what extent we can represent the Bondholders, Bonds should be deposited with us not later than 1st May, 1898.

BROWN, SHIPLEY & Co.

Founders' Court, London, E.C., 5th April, 1898.

CONVERSION of the FOUR AND A HALF PER CENT. MORTGAGE BOND of the Russian Association for Mutual Credit on Landed Property (Société de Crédit Foncier Mutuel de Russie), into Bonds bearing interest at $3\frac{3}{10}$ per cent., to be issued in conformity with the Ukase of his Majesty the Emperor of Russia and the Official Advertisement of the Russian Ministry of Finance.

Notice is hereby given that Messrs. N. M. ROTHSCHILD & SONS will be prepared to receive, from the 4th to the 25th APRIL next, APPLICATIONS for CONVERSION of the above $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Bonds, on the following conditions:—

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The difference in interest between $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and $3\frac{3}{10}$ per cent. for six months will be considered as equivalent to Mks.1.13½ and will be paid to the bondholders in cash at the sight exchange of the day on Berlin.

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"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 998.—DEFINITION OF "SMART SOCIETY."

Lucia (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the Puzzle Editor, Truth Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 993.

After deliberation more than usually prolonged, the prize in this competition has been awarded to W. Nevermore, whose English rendering of three French stanzas from "Trilby" was printed in Truth puzzle page on February 24.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 996.

The result of this competition will be announced next week, when competition No. 999 is decided.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 999.

It has been impossible to complete the examination of the very numerous lists received for this competition, but it is hoped that the result will be announced next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,003.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week to the Competitor who succeeds best

In Writing a Stanza of Four Lines, Two of which Must End in the Words "Jonathan" and "Mexico," and the Other two in Words rhyming with the two in Question.

Competitors would do well to note that rhymes have to be found for the whole words "Jonathan" and "Mexico," not merely for the final syllables "than" and "co." More than one attempt can be sent in by each competitor, and all answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, April 25, at the latest.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** This page of Truth goes to press exceptionally early this week in consequence of the Easter Holidays. The answers to Correspondents' queries have, therefore, to be held over until next week.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,000.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

RHYMED ACROSTICS ON "ALFRED THE GREAT" APROPOS TO HIS MILLENARY CELEBRATION.

A ll hail, great Alfred! to our memory dear;
L ong hast thou been best known of English kings,
F or from our earliest years, though never clear
R especting modern history's men and things,
E ver at thought of thee our memory wakes;
D evoured we childhood's lessons with thy cakes.
T hou first of Britain's heroes! well we know
H ow 'gainst invaders thou did'st ply thy bow—
E xpert as butcher more than baker, thou.
G ermans invade us now on every hand;
R ussia and France our statesmanship command;
E ngland in commerce and in fight subsides,
A n England wanting thee again, abides;—
T hy memory! may it wake thy native land!
Guillaumette.

A little tardy—still, not yet too late,
L ong tho' the twice five hundred years gone by
(F ame, Alfred, needs no statue. In "The Great"
R esteth a witness that can never die).
E ngland a sculptor's finished work rears high,
D eeming thy birthplace needs his lasting art.
T rue! but in every town thy memory
H as found a fitting frame, in every heart.
E ngland! just now when war clouds dim the sky,
G reatness of mind and purpose fixed like his,
R esolve to act, to us might well apply.
E ngland! that pattern our great Alfred is.
A ttain this end—in marble live his fame,
T hrowing new lustre on the monarch's name.
Malignant.

A ll hail, old King! Time was I loathed your name;
L ong, long ago, in boyhood's happy days;
F or oft at school the master sang your praise,
R equiring me to celebrate your fame.
E 'en then I half admired your conduct game;
D ressed as a peasant, chanting shepherd's lays;
T ending the cakes, whose burn your rank betrays;
H unted by Danes, and scolded by a dame.
E xpiring, now a thousand years, though late,
G ive we our statue, and, with all our might,
R edeem our long neglect, though changed is quite
E nglish opinion. Danes no more we hate;
A nd now no more with Danes our princes fight;
T hey marry Danes, and happy count their fate,
Almaviva.

A youngest son of Ethelwulf, said Fame,
L ong shall posterity revere thy name,
F or, Phœnix-like, from Ethelwulfian fires
R ejoicing bards shall praise thee on their lyres.
E mblazoned scrolls shall tell of doughty deeds
D one in thy strength to meet a nation's needs.
T he tyrant's yoke, strange term to British ears,
H as given place, through thee, to happy years
E mployed in pursuits cultured and refined,
G reat blessings that do so enrich the mind.
R emedial thy laws, quite firm, but just,
E ach Briton in them centred all his trust,
A nd pledged pre-destined glory in the toast
T hat Britain's honour ne'er should leave its coast.
Pro Archia.

A lfred the Great, lord of a thousand years,
L ow at thy feet these wreathen rhymes I lay.
F resh as in that fair dawn of England's day
R emains thy glory now; with grateful tears
E ngland regrets thee, and thy name reveres;
D efender of her shores, her foes' dismay,
T rue founder of her wise imperial sway,
H er art, her letters—all that life endears.
E nvy is mute, though ten long cycles lend
G randeur to thee, and swell thy deeds of fame
R ecorded in far annals of our fate;
E ndless thy praise till time itself shall end,
A nd none may ever win a nobler name
T han thine, thou peerless King—Alfred the Great.
W. Nevermore.

A lthough the records of a thousand years
L ight up the noble deeds of England's worth,
F resh as revolving dawn one name appears,
R adiant in glow as at its early birth.
E ngland's first glory, beacon for all time,
D ear to her sons and dreaded by her foes,
T hy skill and courage ruled the battle line,
H urled the invader from our sacred shores,
E ndowed Britannia with an ocean fleet—
G erm of a glory that shall never fade—
R uled with a wand with wisdom's gems replete,
E mpire's arms in freedom's strength arrayed;
A s ages fast receding into ages flow,
T he laurel chaplet still keeps green upon thy brow.
Sceptic.

A lfred, none more deserves the title Great!
L earned, wise, good, brave—preserver of the State.
F ifty-six battles, fought by land and sea,
R estored thy crown and made thy people free.
E ngland commenc'd her course of naval power—
D ebtor to thee for ships the seas to scour,*
T ithings, shires, statutes, twelve men good and true;†
H er parliaments in ev'ry year were two:
E nlighten'd men who sought our friendly shore
G ave Oxford fame it never knew before.
R omance and truth thy name renowned make—
E ach schoolboy knows how Alfred burnt the cake.‡
A better king the world may never see,
T hen let thy millenary honour'd be.§
J. McGrigor Allan.

* Alfred was the founder of the British Navy.

† Alfred composed a body of statutes, instituted trial by jury, and divided the kingdom into shires and tithings.

‡ Alfred took refuge in a herdsman's cottage at Athelney in Somersetshire, where occurred the incident of the burnt cakes.

§ Large orders for millinery are expected from the Ladies' Rational Dress League!

WITH 'ARRY'S COMPLIMENTS TO ALF.

A lf, though underneath the floor
L ain you have years fifty score,
F aith, I drink your health, great King,
R ound your dustbin dance and sing;
E nglishmen, I think, should try
D eeds like yours to magnify;
T imes have changed a bit, you know,
H ero-worship's now the go.
E ngland's grown so very big,
G rabbing lands from heathen Nig;
R obbery is the trade to pay,
E 'en as in your good old day;
A t the game, though, you might see
T ricks to shock your Majesty.
Scorpio.

A lfred Resurgam! that's the latest "boom."
L overs of "Celebrations," now's your chance.
F rom out your purses pour the needful coin,
R oyal Alfred's greatness thus you may enhance.
E ngland's deliverer! fame awaits thee still,
D eath and long years have only been thy gain;
T he country (as no Jubilee is near)
H as now developed "Alfred on the brain."
E ach town which marks thy conflicts with the Danes
G reatly desires to claim thee for its own:
R eleased from cumbrous flesh, there yet remains
E ndless contention having thee for "bone."
A lfred Resurgam! Honour thee they may,
T hough England won't be very keen to pay.
Sybil Ashton.

"A thousand years are but as yesterday!"
L ight up the banquet, let the music swell;
F or he whose kingly valour we would tell
R eigns in our hearts and homes and realms today,
E ach statute wise, whose word is "yea" or "nay"
(D ear to our Britain, where all free things dwell),
T ook root from his good seed, that gently fell
H ere, into ground prepared, and quickening lay.
E ach trumpet-call of "God defend the Right!"
G reets now our ears, because his arm was bold;
R evered his memory, shrined in radiant light,
E ver the story of his life-work told,
A lfred! saint, sage, philosopher, true knight!
T he grandest name old England's annals hold.
Mrs. Buchanan.

A cross the gulf of full a thousand years
L ooks backward lovingly the Motherland,
F rom her old age of honour and command.
R emembering her springtime and its tears.
E nthroned in safety, she no longer hears
D eath-boding war-cry of the Viking band,
T hat often ravaged her ill-guarded strand—
H arassed the shore which now no danger fears.
E arly-begotten offspring of her youth,
G reat elder brother of our island race,
R uler and captain, law-giver and saint,
E stablisher of peace, and tongue of Truth—
A lfred—thy story gratefully we trace
T hrough the far centuries, remote and faint.
Beaumont.

A claim the Saxon King whose life has shed
L ustre succeeding ages can embrace,
"F reedom"—the cause for which he fought and bled—
R emains, as then, the watch-word of his race.
E ach failure firmed his purpose and he stood
D auntless until he bowed the foeman's knee.
T hat tale of glory which was writ in blood
H as taught his sons that, if they dare be free
E 'en as their sire they too must strive and stand
G reat in distress, toil-seeking, scorning rest,
R ejoicing hearts and lives to give their land
E 're foreign foes should strike her sea-girt breast.
A nd they shall hear across the vale of years
T he trump of Alfred sounding in their ears.
Twius.

A down the ages all men call him great;
L earning, through strife and suffering, all his days;
F ought the fierce Danes; after long fights and frays
R epulsed—the King brought order to the State,
E nforced wise laws; plunder and crime t' abate
D id halls of learning found, that he might raise
T he people to the height of his own ways;
H e, the ideal King, in worth and weight,
E ngland owes him much love, for noble deeds;
G reat as a warrior, legislator famed,
R eigning resplendent, in his later years,
E vincing knowledge of his people's needs,
A equired thro' wanderings oft, when poor, unnamed;
T heir woes he knew, and sought to wipe their tears.
Esperanza.

A lfred! sole English monarch called "the Great,"
L ovingly now thy praise we celebrate;
F or through a thousand years resounds thy name,
R ecalling thy last modest wish for fame;
E ven the memory of good service done,
D eeds that have for thy country blessings won;
T hy courage and thy patience long were tried,
H arassed by enemies on every side;
E ncompassed, vanquished, yet thou did'st not yield,
G aining at last full victory on the field:
R eturning days of peace new labours brought,
E ach wrong was righted, the unlearn'd were taught;
A n infant fleet began to guard our coast;
T hen honesty was justly England's boast.
Excelsior.

A ll hail! Great Alfred, king of temporal kings,
L earning's precursor in our native land;
F ull honours to thy fame this era brings,
R emembring him in whose great name there stand
E mancipation, justice, equal rights,
D efeated Dane and Saxon shared together;
T ime doth not pale thy virtues in our sight,
H allowed art, thou whose fame admits no tether.
E ngland must not efface thy memory;
G ood Alfred is enshrined in us for ever;
R esting through ages, thou that made us free,
E ndeared so long, thy country's name ne'er sever.
A lbion's deliv'rer! Saxon, no more slave!
T eacher so wise, so noble, yet true and brave.

Neptune.

A ll honour raise to England's long-since noble dead,
L ike Alfred, monarch never graced the throne;
F or goodness, greatness, wisdom, foemen's direst dread,
R evered he stands of all his peers alone.
E re ray of light illumed the darkness of the past,
D eserted in a shepherd's hut he dwelt;
T here brooding on his country's woes, raised help at last,
H is conquering sword then Danish foemen felt.
E xample rare! the Gospel truths he strove to teach,
G ave equal laws to serf and lord,
R edressed their wrongs, and listened to the plaints of each,
E ffected more by pen than by the sword,
A nd now we reap what an immortal mind has sown,
T hen offer praises high, and all his virtues own.

Culpepper.

A thousand years has Fame thy lustre spread,
L ess three, wherein she'll swift detract instead;
F or none are suffered in these days to rest
R enowned for deeds, unless of proof possest.
E 'en now we learn thou did'st not burn those cakes
D emanding watching. All are myths, mistakes,
T hat hailed thee Oxford's founder. England owes
H er trial courts by jury, meets her foes
E xtraneous with a navy, not through thee;
G rants not thou mad'st her shires' bounds to be!
R eputes but suffer ween too late exhumed;
E arth rests thy bones; Just Heaven thy soul assumed.
A ppeal for cryptic peace to scape all taint,
T RUTH's hero, poet, jurist, soldier, saint!

Robert Martin.

A king was he, hero of much romance;
L awmaker wise and leader bold, by chance
F oredestined all his country's wrongs to right,
R egaining lands subdued by hostile might.
E 'en now his name to English hearts is dear;
D eem it then needless monument to rear
T o one whose memory surely would be green,
H ad twice a thousand years his absence seen.
E ngland, we trust, in all her times of need,
G reat hearts will find—true patriots indeed.
R eady to vanquish, not to crush a foe,
E ven as he who lived long years ago,
A nd sowed the seeds of England's might at sea:
T his to maintain should now our object be.

Woodlands.

A pproach my Muse, and help me sing
L oudest of all the praise of him—
F ounder of laws, both right and good,
R ound whom his steadfast people stood
E ncountering foes and many a pain,
D anes came, went, and came again.
T arnish his reputation if you must,
H omeless—a wanderer, still he's just,
E ngland remembers what you have been.
G reat men have lived, besides this king,
R emember of them, only, what is good,
E nlarge the greatness of the trials they stood;
A final requiem let us sing
T o Alfred, Counsellor and King.

P. P.

A ll hail, Great Alfred, glorious king, how dear to us thy name!
L o! Britain's sons and daughters join to celebrate thy fame.
F ounder of England's Navy: how great our debt to thee!
R eformer, legislator, victor by land and sea!
E ncourager of learning: Oxford would sing thy praise;
D ons one and all would dedicate to thee their choicest lays.
T he heritage that thou did'st leave to be our joy and pride,
H ow jealously we would it guard, an Empire now world-wide!
E ver be this our motto grand: "May Heav'n's light be our guide!"
G reat Britain, thou art destined still great deeds to dare and do,
R est not and think thou hast well done, but to thyself be true;
E ver advance in greatness, deliver the oppress,
A ssist the heavy-laden, succour the sore distrest;
T o find in blessing others thou shalt thyself be blest.

Courage.

A ll hail to thee, our greatest king!
L et Britons now thy praises sing;
F or though the cycle of past ages
R olls stately on through history's pages
E ach reign doth add to thy dear land
D ominion, power, from strand to strand:
T hat power that dares to do what's right,
H urled forward in triumphant might.
E ach craven foe is swept aside,
G reat Britain's power rolls far and wide.
R ighteous in strength, we gaze on high,
E ach voice is raised in clarion cry,
"A lfred the Great, we look to thee!"
T hy monument, a people free.

F. J. Bradley.

A king arose in England, when the wild and cruel Danes
L aid waste the peaceful villages, and slew the Saxon thanes;
F amed Alfred fought his pagan foes on land and on the flood,
R estored the isle to freedom's smile, and sought her greatest good.
E vents have followed fast since then, his realm, still brave and free,
D oth ever praise the king who lit her glory on the sea.
T he hundred ships the Saxon manned to guard the threatened shore
H ave vanished—scattered by the winds of time—for evermore;
E ach clumsy hulk is now replaced by mighty ships, that ride
G igantic, grand, and terrible, our safety and our pride.
R ight royal Alfred, thou whose fame is like a fadeless star,
E nduring through the centuries, a beacon-light afar,
A round the name that knows no blame a wealth of homage clings,
T hy meed, O gallant patriot! thou king of England's kings!

Cestrian.

Acrostics have also been received from The Hew, Georgina, A Daft Scot, Jeannie, Mesarthim, Queen Bess, Gertrude, Tea Eye, Jemima, Kashan, Ivy Leaves, Primâ Donna, Retlaw, Marching, Selah, and Red Rose.

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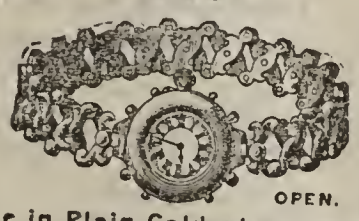
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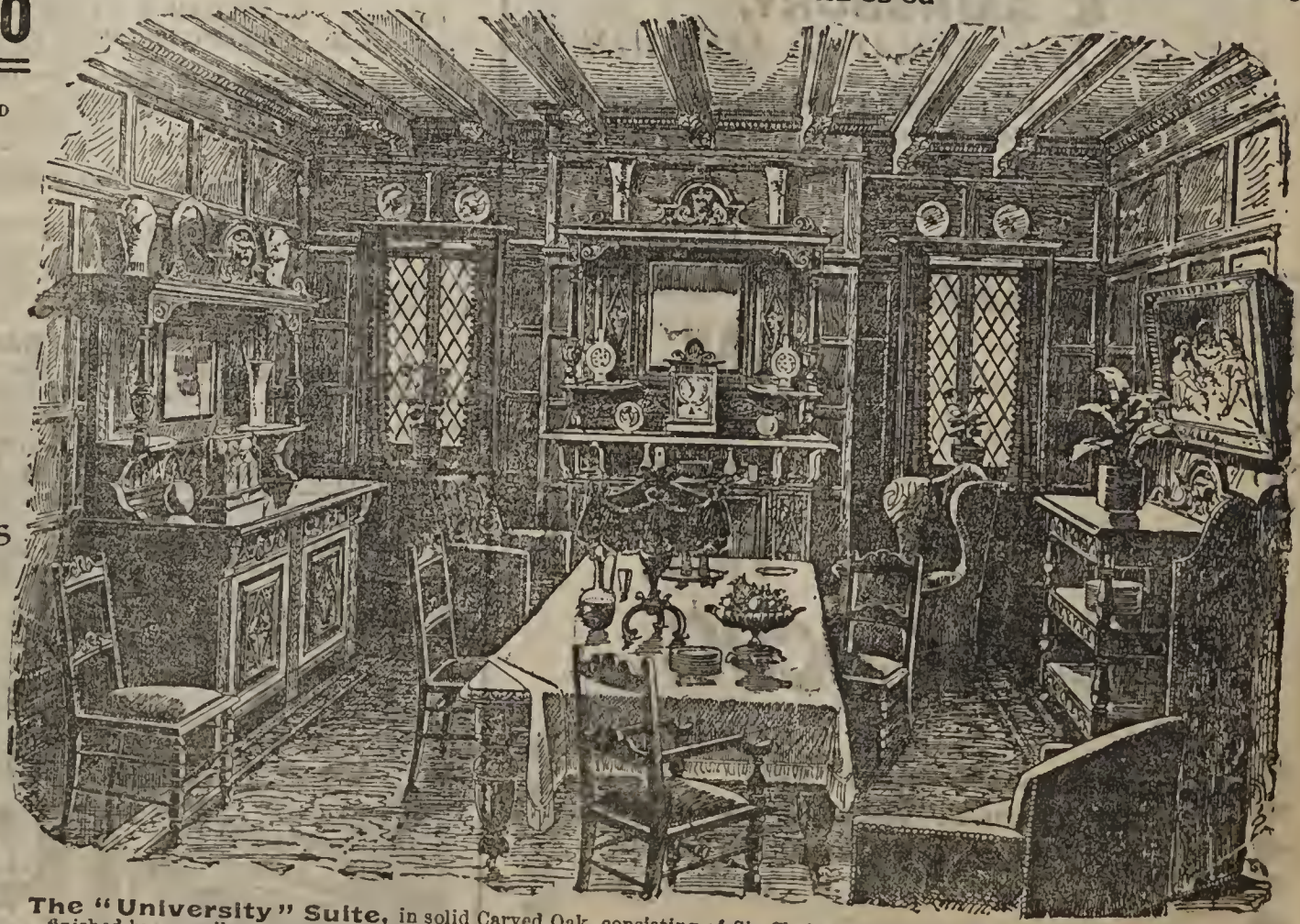

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THE Royal yachts *Victoria and Albert* and *Osborne*, the Trinity House yacht *Galatea*, and two cruisers are under orders to leave Spithead on Tuesday for Cherbourg, when they will embark the Queen, late in the afternoon on the following day, for conveyance to Portsmouth Harbour. The Queen will dine and sleep on board the *Victoria and Albert* at Cherbourg on Wednesday, and her Majesty is to cross the Channel on Thursday, arriving at Portsmouth about half-past three o'clock.

The Princess of Wales and Princess Charles of Denmark will come up to Marlborough House from Sandringham for the season either on Friday, the 29th, or on Monday, May 2, according to present arrangements. The Princess did not stay nearly so long at Copenhagen as was originally intended, as she is anxious about Princess Victoria, who has been stopping during the last three weeks at Cromer, at Lord Suffield's villa, for the benefit of her health.

The wedding of Prince Christian of Denmark and the Duchess Alexandrina of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, which is to take place at Cannes, has been postponed until Tuesday next, so the Prince of Wales could not stay to attend it. The young couple, who will be very rich, are to live principally at the Chateau of Sorgenfri, a fine place, with beautiful gardens and beech woods all round, which is about ten miles from Copenhagen.

With reference to a paragraph in Truth of April 7, I have been requested to contradict the statement that a separation between the Grand Duke and the Grand Duchess of Hesse has been in process of arrangement. In view of the quarter from which this request comes, I cannot hesitate to publish the contradiction; although I notice that the original statement has been repeated in an Exchange Company's telegram, which was widely circulated in the daily Press on Saturday and Sunday last.

I read last week, in a notice from Nice, that the King of the Belgians had actually been seen to wipe the dust off his boots with a handkerchief. What would his flunkey have had him do? Leave the dust on the boots, or order a courtier to lick it off?

Lord and Lady Cadogan, with some members of their family, spent Easter quietly at the Viceregal Lodge, Several small dinner-parties were given during the week. Lord and Lady Cadogan entertaining the Duke of Abercorn, Lord Londonderry, and other representative Irish landlords whom the Landlord Convention had brought to Dublin for their annual meeting. The weather was very bad in Ireland, and especially in the neighbourhood of Dublin at the beginning of the week, tempered neither to the shorn lamb nor to the pleasure seekers in holiday garb. Some of the race meetings prevalent at this season experienced the most disastrous weather. The downpour of rain was persistent all day at the Fairy House races, notwithstanding which Lord and Lady Cadogan heroically fulfilled the viceregal duty of attending them, accompanied by a large suite in attendance. On Saturday, the 14th Hussars were lucky in having a beautiful day for their races at Mullaboden in Kildare. A Viceregal party was present, and all the elect of the county and of other counties. A band played in the enclosure, and military hospitality was dispensed. The sunshine made open-air pastime pleasant, and gave the first opportunity of the season to spring costumes.

Since Easter, Dublin has been crowded with Irish landlords from all parts of the country, holding conference regarding their own special affairs, and the coming Local Government Bill. This week the Spring Cattle and Dog Show of the Royal Dublin Society is being held at Ball's Bridge, and is drawing crowds to the capital. Lord and Lady Cadogan, with a Viceregal party, will attend the Cattle Show in state. On Tuesday, Lord and Lady Cadogan dine with the Chancellor and Lady Ashbourne, who afterwards give a large reception—"To have the honour of meeting their Excellencies"—at their residence in Merrion-square.

Sir John Arnott's career in Ireland is one more example of the fact that self-help can make a fortune in that country as well as in any other. A Glasgow man, he went

over to Ireland, and, by industry and enterprise, and by taking advantage of opportunities open to all who chose to take them, became very wealthy. To the gift of making money Sir John Arnott added that of spending it well. He was liberal, generous, and an active philanthropist. He made his money in Ireland, and spent it there chiefly, a practice which, if more generally followed, might make the country less liable to periods of distress.

The late Lord Exeter was a most popular man, and everybody who knew him liked and esteemed him. In the neighbourhood of Stamford, where he was best known, he was an immense favourite among all classes, and his genial manner and his true kindness of heart caused every one in the district to regard him as a personal friend. It will be impossible to fill his place in the public life of North Northamptonshire, with which county he had been closely and usefully connected ever since he left Oxford. Lord Exeter was actively concerned in every department of local business, and in all good works he was foremost among his neighbours. He was a confirmed Tory, but he was as popular among the Liberals as with his own party. Lord Exeter (then Lord Burghley) replaced the late Mr. Ward Hunt as member for North Northamptonshire in 1877, and he sat for the county until his succession to the peerage, always heading the poll (there were then two members for the division), except in 1880, when his cousin, Mr. Robert Spencer, gained the first place by twenty votes. He was a generous and considerate landlord, although it is well known that he had exceptional difficulties to overcome when he succeeded to the Burghley estates.

Shortly after Lord Exeter came of age he aroused the indignation of many farmers, and still more of their wives and daughters, by expressing the opinion that it would be well if those females devoted their attention to the dairy and kitchen, instead of wasting their time in piano playing, novel reading, and useless fancy work. Lord Exeter's views have been abundantly justified of late years, and many farmers who abused him in the fat days of a quarter of a century ago must in these lean times bitterly lament that his advice was not taken.

The Burghley estates are very extensive, and Lady Exeter inherited a large property from her father, but the peerage is a poor one, although it would have been hugely opulent but for the obstinate fatuity of the grandfather of the late Marquis. He was a dull, pompous man, and was as furiously opposed to railways as that famous Duke of Hamilton (Beckford's son-in-law) who was called by Lord Brougham, "the very Duke of Dukes." When the plans of the Great Northern Railway were originally drawn the main line was intended to run through Stamford, and that town was to have been the Crewe or Swindon of the company. Lord Exeter, however, agitated so vigorously against this proposal that is was decided to divert the course of the line, the result being that Stamford was left in its original seclusion, and the depot was established at Peterborough. Of course the line would have run through Lord Exeter's property, and a great deal of his land at Stamford would have been taken for the railway sidings and buildings, and the profit to his family would have been prodigious. A few years later Lord Exeter was howled at by his neighbours for having ruined them, and the trade of Stamford was rapidly declining, so he was obliged to make a railway at his own expense in order to connect that town with the main line at Essendine, and this he worked at a fearful loss until it was taken over by the Great Northern on terms which were not favourable to the vendor. In order to pay for the private railway Lord Exeter consummated his blunders by selling most of his London property, which of course was not nearly so valuable then as it is now.

Fortune, however, having got tired of persecuting the elder branch of the Cecil family, the three brothers of the late Lord Exeter all married rich heiresses, and one of his sisters is the wife of Lord Barnard, the heir to the bulk of the vast property of the last Duke of Cleveland.

The late Mr. Milner-Gibson, who died so unexpectedly at Monte Carlo, and was cremated on Easter-eve at Woking, was all his life a man of very broad and enlightened views, and a consistent adherent of the Liberal Party, which will greatly miss his support in the Eye Division of Suffolk. He was a man of most genial and open-handed disposition, and was greatly beloved and respected in the neighbourhood of his residence at Saxmundham. He was very well known at Monte Carlo, where he had wintered for several seasons past, and he was a considerable shareholder in the Casino.

A foreign resident at Cairo wishes me to make known the peculiar and unhappy predicament in which he has been placed in regard to his nationality. By birth he is a Swiss; but some years ago he became a naturalised British subject in South Australia. Then he went to live at Cairo, where he was registered at the British Consulate as a naturalised British subject. After that he returned for a time to South Australia, and now he has once more taken up his residence in Cairo. His second application for registration at the British Consulate has been refused, on the ground that the naturalisation which he was granted in South Australia did not extend beyond that colony. This is, indeed, borne out by the certificate itself, which simply conferred upon him "all the rights and capacities *within the aforesaid province* (South Australia) of a natural born British subject;" and it was presumably only through an oversight that he was registered at the British Consulate upon his first arrival in Egypt.

Finding himself thus shorn of his British citizenship, my correspondent supposed that he could revert to his

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For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1008 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 1006.
For Amusements, see page 1007.
For Our Puzzles, see page 1017.

original status as a subject of the Swiss Republic. The Swiss have no Consul at Cairo, but are afforded the protection of either the French or the German Consuls. It being necessary for him to get his signature to some documents from Adelaide legally authenticated, he applied as a Swiss for the requisite assistance both at the French and the German Consulates. The Consuls knew, however, that he had been naturalised as a British subject, and for this reason neither of them would recognise that he had any claim to their services. Applications elsewhere were equally fruitless—in fact, this unfortunate gentleman seems to have become a sort of international derelict. He is a British subject in South Australia, but in the rest of the world he is neither British nor Swiss, nor anything else, and it is nobody's business to look after his interests. Considering that it was through taking the oath of allegiance to the Queen that he has been landed in this difficulty, it would be only fair and courteous for the British Consul to take him under his wing.

Mr. Radcliffe Cooke, M.P., is a wit, a Tory, and a Jingo. I see that his son has passed second out of the *Britannia*. I congratulate him, with his patriotic views, in having devoted his son to the practical business of defending and extending our Empire, as Hamilcar did the young Hannibal. If all Jingo M.P.s were, in default of being themselves soldiers and sailors, to give this Carthaginian proof of their military zeal, I should have more respect for them. But they seem to prefer the example of the Roman Senate, and, whilst leaving others to fight, sit awaiting the advent of the Gauls on their Parliamentary benches, secure in the conviction that, whatever may occur, it is not likely that the Gauls will make their way to the Palace of Westminster.

The following letter is of so much importance to travellers in the Mediterranean and the Levant, especially ladies, that I hasten to publish it. Before now I have ventilated in TRUTH the objections widely entertained to the system of communicating doors between hotel bedrooms; but let us hope that nothing so bad as this is to be found in English hotels. I have heard of a lady who always insisted on hanging a railway rug over a chair in front of the keyhole in her bedroom door as a safeguard against the attentions of "Peeping Toms," but a keyhole affords but limited means of observation by comparison with what is here described :—

It may interest many of your readers to notice that in most hotels on the Continent, Malta, Tangiers, Cairo, &c., whenever there is a door communicating with the next bedroom, you will find in the corners of each panel a small hole neatly bored, through which you can watch all the movements of the occupant of the adjoining room. They are all similar, and in the corners of the panels.

In Malta I pointed it out to a young lady who was taking a room, and who was shocked until I showed her how to stop the holes up with soap.

In Constantinople the landlord assured me with indignation that it was not so in his hotel. I twisted up some spills of papers and left them inserted in the holes for his inspection.

Your readers can amuse themselves by verifying these statements, and, by stopping with soap all but one or two holes, they may have some sport by just attracting attention by loud splashing in a bath, then cautiously from one side approaching the open hole and making a sudden plunge through it with a steel knitting-needle or other convenient implement. They will be able afterwards to notice who has an eye bandaged

Mr. Charles Locke Eastlake has retired from the office of Keeper and Secretary of the National Gallery, and the Treasury have seized the occasion to effect a very considerable reduction in the salary of this post. Mr. Eastlake received £875 a year, but his successor, Mr. H. H. Turner, is cut down to £350, rising in the course of seven years to £500. The office, in fact, has been brought down to a level with that of Keeper of the Tate Gallery at Millbank. Considering the great extent and inestimable importance of the collection in Trafalgar-square, many people will consider that the laudable but decidedly capricious zeal of the Treasury for economy is in this case somewhat misplaced.

Speculators in rare books may learn a lesson from the history of the books and manuscripts, "the property of Harold Baillie Weaver, Esq.," which were sold at Christie's the other day. The collection of 528 lots was purchased in 1895 for upwards of £25,000 at the Phillips, Gennadius, and Stuart sales; but it now realised only £5,527! The six folio Shakespeares (duplicates of the second and fourth), which three years ago cost upwards of £4,000, now fetched £268!

Reference has once or twice been made in TRUTH to competitions run in connection with a publication called *Golden Sovereigns*. People who go in for these competitions receive a notification that they have won a prize, which will be forwarded to them on receipt of one year's subscription to the paper (4s. 4d.). As the articles given as prizes are utter rubbish, what the successful competitors really receive is the privilege of buying this paper at a penny a week for twelve months. It seems, however, that even this condition is not properly carried out, for I have just heard of a case in which a successful competitor finds that after he has received the paper for a few weeks it has been no longer sent to him. As already mentioned in TRUTH, there is some occult connection between *Golden Sovereigns* and the A. T. Hale Company, which runs Nicholson's Aural Institute and the free ear-drum swindle; and to all appearance the two enterprises are of the same character.

A great many residents in the neighbourhood of Dulwich who have sons at the College have been much inconvenienced this Easter by the fact that the College holidays only commenced on April 13, *i.e.*, the Wednesday in Easter week, which made it impossible for parents to go away for Easter without leaving their boys behind. As Dulwich is a large educational centre, where many people with large families fix themselves for the sake of sending their children to the College, the inconvenience is widely felt. It is aggravated by the fact that, in the High School for Girls at the same place, the holidays commenced on April 1, and end on April 26, so that boys and girls in the same family attending the two schools are at home together for less than a fortnight.

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The latter grievance is not confined to Dulwich. Parents who have children of either sex at different schools are often much inconvenienced by the different dates at which holidays are fixed, especially at Easter. Why cannot schoolmasters, like other professions and trades, agree on some common closing time? The reason given by the Dulwich College authorities for deferring the commencement of the Easter holidays till the Wednesday in Easter week, is said to be the necessity of keeping the terms of uniform length. A week more or less, however, cannot make much difference, especially a week which contains two days like Good Friday and Easter Monday.

After all, the inconvenience caused in schools by the movable character of the Easter holidays is a trifle compared to that which the erratic nature of this festival causes in other departments of life. I always used myself to be in favour of fixing Easter at a definite date by Act of Parliament. But when I was reminded that a similar proposal was the cause of the original schism between the Eastern and Western Churches, my courage failed me, and I ceased to advocate the change. I still think, however, privately, that to fix Easter some time in the latter part of April would be a good thing—even at the cost of an ecclesiastical schism.

The decision of the Oxford Convocation, by a small majority, to establish a third set of pass examinations has been severely criticised in the University, for any multiplication of examinations (of which there are already an inordinate number) is a most serious evil. This objectionable change is really a mere job of some of the College tutors who principally devote themselves to pass work.

I recently called attention to the abuse of memorials. Here is an instance to hand. The Reverend Henry Lyte wrote some hymns, which appear to have found favour. He is dead, but fifty years ago he was Vicar of Brixham. The parish church of Brixham is being rebuilt. More than £2,000 has been collected, but £4,000 is still required. Therefore those who like the hymns of the Reverend Henry Lyte are requested to provide this £4,000, as the present incumbent "longs to see the fabric of the noble church completed, which is now being built." I have no objection to the noble church being completed. But what has this to do with Mr. Lyte, or Mr. Lyte's hymns? At most a subscription might have been started to place a memorial brass plate in the church when completed.

The rectory of Eastham, Herefordshire, which is now vacant, is the richest living in Bishop Percival's diocese, the net income being over £900 a year with residence, and the parish is by no means a large one. The advowson belonged to the late incumbent, and the living is in the gift of his trustees.

The Master of the Temple (Canon Ainger) has been appointed to preach at the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, next Sunday.

There are not many of the Anglican clergy who have worked harder than the late Canon Nash, who commenced his parochial career under the well-known Canon Christopher at Oxford, and stayed at St. Aldate's for eight years. Canon Nash laboured with zeal and success in several large parishes until 1889, when the late Lord Forester presented to him the pleasant living of Little Wenlock, where he was much beloved by all classes of his parishioners and neighbours.

It looks as if there had been some exaggeration respecting the number of experienced clergymen of the Church of England who cannot obtain employment. Dr. Thackeray asserted that there are 6,000 priests eager for work. The matter has been investigated by a committee of the Lower House of the Canterbury Convocation, with the result that the number of unemployed clergymen in the Southern Province is found to be 2,000, of whom only seventy-three desire work as assistant curates, while but five are unemployed because they object to the present position of curates. It may be, however, that Dr. Thackeray will find some fallacy in these statistics.

On the question of redistribution of Church endowments, one of my clerical readers asks how endowments which were at one time sufficient for a population of ten millions can be adequate for one of thirty millions, the suggestion being that the increase of population alone must necessitate an increase in the Church revenues. The answer is that the Church revenues, though not the endowments, have increased more or less with the population. The endowments are mainly appropriated to the rural districts, whereas the increase of population has taken place in the towns. It is a significant fact, to which I have often called attention, that the Church of England in the great towns stands on the footing of a voluntary rather than an endowed Church, and that it is precisely here where the Church is most healthy and energetic. Vast though the increase of our towns has been, churches and clergymen have multiplied in proportion, and even in the most poverty-stricken urban districts you will find more money available for the maintenance of Church and clergy than in the most prosperous country parishes. The inference which I draw from this, is that the Church would get on just as well, and probably better, if it had no endowments at all.

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Anyhow, the fact remains that, in the majority of the endowed parishes—that is to say, in the country—the population has declined, and is still declining; and when we hear so much about the depreciation of clerical incomes, this fact ought to be remembered at the same time. In point of fact, the two results both proceed from the same cause, viz., the decay of agriculture. The point which I started the other day was that the proper way to deal with the poverty of the country clergy is to redistribute the endowments and the work, and the increase of population in the towns has clearly no bearing on this point.

It appears that the "Three Lynn Boys," whose collection of shillings on behalf of the Lynn branch of the Y.M.C.A. has several times been referred to in TRUTH, are still at work as actively as ever. They state on one of their last postcards that "kind friends all over the country have enabled us to pay in over 2,000 shillings"; but as they also mention that 10,000 shillings is the amount which they have made up their minds to collect, it would seem that in all these years of cadging they have only got one-fifth of the way through their task. It is some comfort to know that out of all the thousands of people who have been pestered with circulars in the names of these children only 2,000 have been found sufficiently foolish to rise to the bait; but it seems probable that a good many of their shillings have gone to the printers and the Postmaster-General instead of the Y.M.C.A.

It really does seem a monstrous absurdity that, while lotteries are forbidden by law on this side of St. George's Channel, they should be carried on in Ireland, not only without disguise, but under the highest auspices. Tickets are now being circulated for a "ballot for £100," to be carried out at a fête at the Rotunda, Dublin, in June next, in aid of the new schools of the Carmelite Church, and the tickets contain the announcement—obviously as a guarantee of the bona-fides of the proceeding—that "the drawing will take place under the supervision of the Right Honourable Daniel Tallon, Alderman Pile, High Sheriff of Dublin, Sir John Power, the Right Honourable Joseph Mead, LL.D., P.C., James Talbot Power, Esq., D.L., and Count Plunkett." All these gentlemen would, of course, be liable to fine and imprisonment if they conducted the ballot over here. Lotteries may be right, or they may be wrong, but they cannot be both, and there ought to be one law on this point for the whole of the United Kingdom.

"Staff Corps" sends me 5s. towards the deficit of the Toy Fund and 5s. for the London Spectacle Mission Society.

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It seems to be generally admitted by those who condemn the Staff work in the Tirah Campaign that the shortcomings of the Staff cannot be justly attributed to the lack of Staff College training among the Staff officers. "There is no evidence whatever," says one officer writing to me on this subject, "that the Staff College men did any better than the rest;" and he goes on to remark that "a clever man who has never been through a course at Camberley is worth more on the Staff than a dull one with 'P.S.C.' to his name." As a British taxpayer I should uncommonly like to know whether this view is generally regarded as sound, for if it is, the sooner the Staff College is abolished the better. To begin with, men entering the Staff College have to produce such an array of testimonials to their character and professional attainments that it seems difficult to understand how a hopeless duffer could get into the Staff College at all, much less come out of it with "P.S.C." to his name. But if it is possible even for the smartest man without special training to make as good a Staff officer as the stupidest P.S.C., well, then we may as well save the money that we are spending at present on training Staff officers, and leave men to pick up the requisite knowledge by the light of Nature.

The following growl of a regimental officer who has been through the Tirah Campaign was not written for publication, but, I think, deserves it. It is taken from a private letter addressed to a brother officer in England, and it echoes a very similar utterance of an officer in last week's TRUTH:—

> The Tirah Campaign shows that regimental soldiering leads to nothing. We company officers "flat-foot it," have the very hardest physical labour, and all responsibility in this hill fighting, for a company, when once launched, has to carry on upon its own initiative. But we get no thanks and no rewards. Every company officer you speak to is utterly sick at the way dispatches are filled at the end of the campaign with the names of staff and orderly officers "shot out" from home and other places, whilst no regimental officer is by any chance mentioned unless he gets his unit into a mess, has a disaster of some sort, and extricates himself fairly well. For those who avoid the mess there is no reward at all. . . . .

In reference to a letter published in TRUTH of the 7th instant in which it was stated that at the capture of the Sanpagha Pass General Westmacott's Brigade fired into General Gaselee's, an officer of the 36th Sikhs, who was present on the occasion, writes to say that the statement is utterly false. I am very glad to hear this, and I hope it may be taken that there was no foundation of any kind for the story. As I remarked when publishing the letter, it came from an officer who must be taken to have had authority for the statement before making it, but I trust that this denial will dispose of it permanently.

The following is a good instance of the lax way in which regulations are sometimes interpreted by officers in high positions. The quarters of the General Officer Commanding a district which shall be nameless have lately been under repair, and the Army Works Department have been in possession of a part of the house.

During the first part of the time the General was on leave, and absent with his family, but his servants remained in the house. He himself returned, as did his family later on, before the completion of the work. Strange though it may appear, I believe there is no doubt that lodging allowance has been drawn for a considerable part, if not all of this time. From the nature of the certificate which has to be signed before such allowance is paid, it seems clear that the General's attention can never have been drawn to the precise terms of that document; and the incident shows clearly that steps should be taken to ensure greater strictness in the execution of such certificates.

The Officer Commanding a British regiment in Burmah sends me the following interesting document recently received by him. It is specially interesting, because it shows plainly that native tradesmen are not above offering backsheesh to military authorities, and although the honour of a Commanding Officer may be above suspicion, an offer of a substantial sum in rupees might prove a more serious temptation lower down in the military scale:—

Mandalay, March 8, 1893.
Private Correspondence.

To Lieutenant-Colonel ——

Sir,—I most respectfully beg to inform you that I have already given applications for tailoring work. My rates are less than your present tailor-master.

Hoping you will kindly oblige me with the same, and for the same purpose I will give you Rs.500.—I remain, sir, your humble petitioner,

Mandalay.

An officer sends the following experience apropos of the remarks in last week's Truth on vouchers for cab hire:—

I was sent on court-martial duty to a station about ninety miles from my own. There was no railway. I drove fourteen miles in one tonga—changed to another for about twenty miles—then into a canal boat—then to another tonga, and finally did the last thirty miles in a bullock-cart. On the return journey I did the same. So that when I sent in my claim for travelling expenses I had to attach ten receipts. As most of the travelling was by night, it was practically impossible to get receipts from all the different drivers and boatmen. All I did was—on getting back—to write out the various amounts on slips of paper and tell my "butler" to get them signed. He brought them me shortly afterwards, all duly receipted in (apparently) different names. I got my money.

In insisting on vouchers under circumstances such as these, the Government only lays itself out to be imposed upon If it cannot trust to the honour of "officers and gentlemen" to send in correct returns of their out-of-pocket expenses, why does it not work out for itself the expense which will be incurred, and make a reasonable allowance to cover it? Almost everybody in business occasionally has to send employees on journeys by cab, rail, and omnibus, but I doubt if it has ever occurred to any private employer to ask for vouchers for expenses incurred under such circumstances.

Some startling statements have been made by special correspondents in the Soudan respecting the boots of the troops. The *Daily Mail* reports that at the conclusion of the great march of the Camerons, Warwicks, and Lincolns to the Atbara:—

Hundreds of men were all but barefoot; the soles peeled off, and instead of a solid double sole, revealed a layer of shoddy packing, sandwiched between two thin slices of leather.

Coming from a writer who signs his name, and must have seen what he reports, these statements cannot possibly be challenged. The march in question was one of 118 miles, and the troops have only been in the country a few weeks. When one remembers that on the success of this march might have depended the whole result of the campaign, and that the success of the march must have been jeopardised by the wholesale failure of shoe leather, it seems time that an example was made of the contractor who supplied those boots.

I have been much struck by a complaint addressed to me respecting a sentence recently imposed on a man in the Medical Staff Corps at Capetown. The man acts as a groom to a medical officer. At about 7 a.m., while engaged in cleaning his master's horse, another private, employed as storeman, brought him a loaf of bread, asking him to take it to his master for inspection, in order that the bread might be passed before issue to the patients. The groom refused, on the ground that his horse's head was wet, and he could not leave it. The storeman then took the bread, with the same request, to the servant of a second officer, who complied. The bread was passed by this second officer, who thereupon ordered the first private to be made a prisoner, and he was subsequently brought up and awarded five days' "C.B." for neglect of duty.

There are several points in this case which deserve notice. In the first instance, I believe I am right in saying that it is the duty of the orderly medical officer of the day to attend at the stores for the purpose of inspecting and passing the bread, and he would have to report in the ordinary course that he had performed this duty. What he reported on the day in question I do not know, but the duty was certainly not performed. If any one, therefore, was guilty of neglect of duty, it would seem to have been the orderly officer of the day, rather than his groom. At the time when the groom was asked to take the loaf to him, this officer was in bed. It was no part of the groom's duty to take the bread to him there, and no one in authority gave him any order to do so. It is, therefore, difficult to see in what way the man was guilty even of a technical breach of duty in declining to comply.

Again, apart from the injustice and irregularity of the man's punishment, the incident discloses a most improper and irregular manner of carrying out a most important duty. What can be more disgusting than that a groom, engaged in washing a horse, should be told to leave that work and take a loaf of bread in his hands to an officer's bedroom, in order that the officer may there break the loaf and examine it while in bed, and then presumably return it to take its place as part of the patients' food for the day? If this is the usual course of things at this hospital, it is time that the procedure was overhauled.

Some months ago, notice was drawn in Truth to the fact that in February, 1897, litters for the conveyance of sick and wounded soldiers on mules were abolished by an Army order, and that no new arrangement had been

provided to take their place. It seems desirable to mention again that down to the present time no step whatever has been taken to remedy this oversight. During the late campaign on the Indian frontier, the proper transport of the wounded was one of the greatest difficulties which hampered the operations, and this fact should serve to remind the War Office that at present the Army is practically without any organised system of carrying wounded and sick men in countries unprovided with roads.

Here is a further batch of "Tommy's" grievances, all, I think, deserving of attention in their way:—

Royal Engineers, Aldershot.—The R.E. guard-room at Aldershot contains seven beds, which, on the Box and Cox principle, I suppose, afford accommodation for fourteen men. The whole strength of the guard, however, is three N.C.O.s, twenty-seven men, and one trumpeter—thirty-one in all—out of whom twenty-two N.C.O.s and men are in the guard-room at a time. Eight of these twenty-two are, therefore, without any place to rest, except the forms and the floor, and they usually take the latter alternative. This is a very scandalous arrangement, which ought not to be allowed to continue.

18th Company, Western Division R.A., Colaba.—It is a long-standing grievance among the Royal Artillery at Colaba that they are not allowed to use the road which other troops use in going to and from the town. The route from which they are excluded is not only the shorter, but it has the advantage of a tramway. This matter was noticed in TRUTH over two years ago, and no excuse or justification for it has ever been offered, so that it seems about time that the artillerymen were allowed the same rights of way as the other troops.

1st Battalion The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, Dublin.—A private in this battalion with thirteen years' service and no crime against him in the whole time, was the other day awarded ten days' hard labour by the C.O. for his first "drunk." Under the circumstances the sentence seems a very harsh one. No one wants to encourage drunkenness in the Army, but to give a man ten days' hard labour for getting drunk after thirteen years' rigid sobriety seems rather calculated to discourage temperance.

Depot, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, Naas.—A colour-sergeant here completed three years' Depot duty some two months back. It appears to be the second tour of Depot duty that he has enjoyed in the course of eleven years' service, and it would therefore seem to be about time that he was relieved. As two drafts from the Depot have joined the home battalion since his three years expired, it appears to be necessary to call attention to these facts in the interests of other men who have a right to return to the Depot.

13th Hussars, Dublin.—It appears to be the rule in this regiment for every man who comes out of hospital after more than fourteen days there to be sent for a time to rejoin the recruits in the riding school. This practice is, so far as I can learn, peculiar to the 13th Hussars, and the justification for it as a general rule is not obvious. There are no doubt cases in which a man gets into hospital through his own fault. But that does not justify the infliction of punishment indiscriminately upon every man who has been in hospital for a fortnight.

Station Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Among a batch of growls from this quarter I find one to the effect that patients whilst still detained in bed are required to turn out three or four times a week and scrub the floors. If this is the general rule, it is a matter which certainly requires looking into.

Medical Staff Corps, Chester.—A private M.S.C. from the Station Hospital, Chester, has been seen of late every Thursday taking round parcels of fish received from Grimsby to the quarters of certain officers. Further inquiry shows that this same private is employed as a store-man, an orderly-man, and a messenger, and that in the latter capacity he has to take messages and run errands at almost all hours in the evening. It would be interesting to know whether he has any work to do as a ward-orderly, and, if so, when he does it.

Attention was called in TRUTH a couple of months back to certain serious statements made by an English firm of brewers at Esquimalt, in regard to a demand made upon them by a petty officer in charge of the Naval canteen at that station. The statement was to the effect that, on the brewers declining to comply with this individual's request for payment of 3d. per gallon to him, the contract was given to a rival firm of brewers (Germans) at the same place. I have since received some figures which throw a surprising light upon the demands of the canteen officer. It appears that the consumption of beer at the Naval canteen at Esquimalt amounts to 600 gallons per week, and 3d. per gallon on this would amount to £390 per annum. In addition to this, I am told that a profit of nearly 4d. per gallon—or over £500 a year—is made by supplying reputed measure in place of Imperial measure. Here we have illegitimate profits to the amount of nearly £900 a year, all of which, must, in the long run, come out of the pockets of the sailors. In addition to this, there are commissions and profits on the sale of cheese, bread, and other articles.

Let me again impress upon the Admiralty the necessity of giving this matter their attention. I do not mean to suggest that the whole of the profit above indicated goes into the pocket of the petty officer in charge of the canteen. Some portion of it is presumably applied to various working expenses; but the whole of it cannot possibly be absorbed under that head. The £390 a year which comes from the brewers, however, appears to have been asked for and paid as a personal perquisite of the petty officer in charge. I do not suppose it is accounted for to the canteen funds. It is a monstrous thing that any petty officer should be allowed to pocket commissions to this extent, and it is the duty of the Admiralty to put a stop to such proceedings at once. There is, I believe, some sort of committee in charge of the canteen, but it must be totally worthless for any practical purpose if it winks at such proceedings as the above.

In reply to a question asked in TRUTH the other day respecting the payment of contributors to *Ashore and Afloat*, a publication of the Royal Humane Society, I have had a letter from Miss Agnes Weston. The letter is not intended for publication; but having published the query, I think it is only right to mention that Miss Weston informs me that she has inquired into the matter, and that she has communicated with the only contributor she can find who has not been paid promptly. No doubt the communication will be of a satisfactory nature. Miss Weston remarks that the contributions from the lower deck, elicited by the offer referred to, involve a good deal of work to the editor of the publication, and that the offer is intended more for the benefit of the readers than for that of the paper, which seems very probable. The publication is, of course, not a paying concern, and it appears that 20,000 copies a month are distributed gratis in the Service, so that the editor and proprietors are certainly entitled to indulgent criticism.

There is a most absurd and (in more than one sense) shortsighted condition in the Board of Trade examination for officers of the mercantile marine. Besides a colour test, every applicant for a certificate has to undergo a vision test in which he is called upon to distinguish letters half an inch in size from a distance of about sixteen feet. Such a test is useless, for at sea an officer is never required under any circumstances to distinguish such small objects at so short a distance. It is indeed worse than useless, for it involves the rejection of men who, though they cannot

pick out half-inch letters at a distance of sixteen feet, can see larger objects at long distances perfectly well, while it passes others who can comply with the former requirement but who do not possess the more important qualification of long sight. The test seems in fact to be the exact opposite of what is needed, by the practical work of the men upon whom it is imposed.

I hear that there is some dissatisfaction among the Royal Irish Constabulary in Dublin with the management of the sergeants' mess. The point seems to be that the mess has a handsome balance of cash in hand, which the members would like to use in improving the furniture, and particularly in providing a billiard-table. At present there is only a French bagatelle-board. The men are evidently afraid to ventilate their own views on the question, for I have had a communication on the subject from an outsider who has mixed with them. How the mess is managed I do not know, but it ought to be modelled on the lines of a sergeants' mess in the Army, and if it were, the men would soon have a billiard-table, or any other article that they have the money to purchase.

The petition to the Board of Trade from the local authorities north of the Thames against the Gas Light and Coke Company's recent increase of the price of gas deserves Mr. Ritchie's best attention. Here is a corporation which manufactures gas on a scale which, I suppose, is approached nowhere else in the world, and reaps corresponding benefits in the direction of economical working and the advantageous treatment and disposal of the by-products. Besides all this, its sales must be increasing annually by leaps and bounds — yet this company suddenly puts up its prices 20 per cent. without offering any shadow of reason for the rise. We are now presented with the anomaly that gas is sold at a handsome profit on the south side of the Thames at 2s. 3d. per thousand, while on the north the price is 3s. What is required in London is, first, such a revision of the sliding scale as will reduce the profits of the monopolists to something not exceeding 5 per cent.; and, secondly, the transference of the whole undertaking to the hands of a public authority.

My last reference to the overcowding of the trams at Southampton brings me the information from a local correspondent that the cars and 'buses are licensed by the Watch Committee of the Corporation, but that they have, under the general or local Acts, no power to limit the numbers carried. There seems to be no reason, however, why the Corporation should not pass the necessary by-laws if it were so disposed. I understand that some time back such by-laws were drafted, but, for some reason or other, were never proceeded with. Probably the reason was that the Tramway Company possesses sufficient influence in the Corporation to stop the movement.

In the interests of the public it is to be hoped that the Commissioner of Police will have noted two coroner's inquiries held last week on victims to omnibus racing in the London streets. This practice—dangerous at any time—is next door to murder in the present crowded state of all the principal thoroughfares, and the sooner vigorous measures are adopted for its repression, the better it will be for everybody. Another discomforting circumstance elicited by these inquiries, which directly affects the safety of foot-passengers, was the fact that the accident occurred through the omnibus passing on its wrong side of the refuge in the middle of the road, off which the unfortunate victim had just stepped. Nearly every one considers that it is only necessary to be cautious of traffic coming in the right direction, but if drivers are to be allowed to take either side of a refuge at their own discretion, the terrors of crossing our principal streets will be considerably enhanced.

A tourist in the North intending the other day to cycle from Newcastle to Morpeth, wished to send on his luggage by train. The distance is about fourteen miles. He found that the charge for his trunk was 3s. 6d., for his dressing bag 1s. 6d., and for his fishing rod 1s., total 6s. This is a pretty good instance of the monstrous scale on which railway goods rates are fixed. In the case of personal effects, such charges are easily defeated by sending the goods as passenger's luggage. In the above case the cyclist adopted this course, with the result that the company took both himself—a matter of some thirteen stone—and his luggage for a 1s. 2d. third-class ticket. But that does not make it any the less absurd that the company should charge five times this amount for sending the luggage without the man.

The Exmouth District Council continues to interpret its duties as a sanitary authority in a very free and easy fashion. Last week a discussion took place on the case of a firm of builders who had admittedly contravened the building by-laws in the construction of some houses. A majority of the members were more concerned to excuse the builders than to enforce the by-laws. It was affirmed that every builder in the town had "done the same thing time after time," and the Inspector was charged with unfairness in presenting a report against this firm. Building by-laws at Exmouth seem, in fact, to have been made only to be broken, and it was decided that no action should be taken in this case, though a sort of pious opinion was expressed that in future all builders should strictly comply with the regulations. I should be more surprised at the conduct of the Council did I not understand that the question of the by-laws is one which affects more or less closely the private interests and enterprises of several of the members.

By the way, I have had several letters from Exmouth suggesting that the recent dismissal of the Surveyor, though another reason was assigned for it, was really due to the fact that he has had the courage to point out the sanitary shortcomings of the town and to do his duty without regard to the wishes or prejudices of Councillors. The character of the Council assuredly renders it by no means improbable that this is the case, for the members have before now shown themselves to be very "arbitrary gents."

In reference to the statement that no mention of the actice of kissing the book in taking an oath can be found rlier than the latter part of the seventeenth century, veral correspondents have called my attention to an lusion to the subject in Shakespeare. This is to be und in Act ii., scene 2, of the "The Tempest." Probably hen Mr. F. A. Stringer made the statement in the *Times*, was referring to authentic records of legal procedure. is clear, however, from the passage in Shakespeare that ssing the book was a recognised adjunct to an oath early one hundred years before the date which he gave.

A fine of £50, with the alternative of three months' nprisonment, is by no means too severe a punishment to inflicted for the offence (which is scandalously common) sending diseased meat to the London market. It is ell known in East Anglia that a recent outbreak of a alady at a farm in that district originated with the offal a beast, the flesh of which had been sent to market for le; and there is no reason to believe that this filthy and ngerous meat was ever traced. It would be well, deed, if magistrates would invariably inflict sentences of nprisonment in cases of this kind.

When Mr. Kensit next comes before a police magis-ate I would recommend that functionary to order an nquiry into the state of his mind. Some years ago this ndividual was publisher, if I remember rightly, to e Vigilance Association, an organisation of the self-ghteous who desired to mend other people's morals. I lled attention to the fact that, while waging war on vice his character of an officer of the Vigilance Association, ensit was engaged in pandering to the vicious by deluging ondon with grossly obscene literature, under the guise of bels on Roman Catholicism. The result of the disclosures TRUTH was that Kensit's connection with the Vigilants as promptly severed. I hardly supposed at that time that ensit was really desirous of ministering to the prurient hile filling his own pocket as a purveyor of literary filth. regarded him rather as a fanatic, so blinded by sectarian bite and rancour that he was incapable of judging the ue nature and tendency of the garbage in which e dealt. He was apparently incapable of realising that e was himself doing what his Vigilance employers were anded together to prevent. On that view, it was a lear case of mental aberration, resulting from religious naticism.

Kensit's recent proceedings appear to be of the same lass. Nonconformists and other ultra-Protestants have een writing to the papers to disavow any sympathy with ensit's proceedings. They may well do so, for such roceedings bring Protestantism into disrepute. It is also erfectly certain that Kensit has given numerous itualistic churches a splendid advertisement, which will evitably increase their congregations, and lead many into he Ritualistic fold. Here again, therefore, the man's acts are totally antagonistic to his professions. If he seriously believes that any good end is to be gained by going from church to church disturbing the devotions of those whose views he does not hold, it is a clear proof that his mind is deranged.

Many people think that religion is a secondary object with him, and that love of notoriety is the mainspring of his action. There may be an element of truth in this. Doubtless he is suffering from "swelled head," like most of those who conceive that they have a special mission to rescue the world from its sins. But this is consistent, rather than inconsistent, with the theory of insanity. The worst thing to do with such a man is to prosecute him, and on no account should he be allowed to go to prison, for it is probably his dearest wish to become a martyr to the faith, and to gratify his desire will only aggravate the mischief. A few weeks' detention and proper treatment in a lunatic hospital is the most humane course, and would probably work a complete cure.

Personally I have not much more affection than Mr. Kensit for the extreme forms of Anglican Ritualism, which always strike me as a queer sort of bogus or shoddy Romanism, without the *raison d'être* of the original article. But every man's religion is his own affair (so long as he does not unduly obtrude it on others), and if anybody feels the better, morally or intellectually, for florid and elaborate religious ritual, I should as soon think of depriving him of that satisfaction as of interfering with the books he reads or the clothes he wears. There is a parson at Colchester, the Rev. C. C. Naters, who has just announced in his parish magazine that, as he finds some of the parishioners do not like the services at present provided, and as he is anxious to satisfy all, he is prepared to arrange special services for the benefit of the dissentients, if they will kindly meet and confer with him on the subject. There is a true catholicity about this offer, and the result may be awaited with interest. Shall we hear next of the reverend gentleman celebrating high mass in the morning, arrayed in all the vestments of the Ritualistic wardrobe, and preaching in a black gown in the evening from the top-story of a "three-decker," with the clerk snoring peacefully below?

A very ingenuous confession is made by Mr. John F. Eastwood, Chairman of the Kingston County Bench. The Borough Bench at Kingston generally inflicts a fine of 5s. for the offence of allowing an unmuzzled dog to be at large, whereas the County Bench visits the same offence with a fine of 10s. or 12s. 6d. A correspondent of a local paper asked for an explanation of the extraordinary difference in the practice of the two Benches, and Mr. Eastwood has supplied it. He states that a few months ago a meeting of the county magistrates and the mayors of boroughs was held to consider the desirability of equalising the fines for similar offences throughout the county of Surrey. It was decided that in the case of unmuzzled dogs, 10s.

Surplice Shirts for evening wear, with pique fronts, /6, 10/6 each, made to measure.—Sampson & Co., Shirt Tailors, 68, 270, Oxford-street, London, W. Price lists forwarded.

including costs would be a suitable fine; and the Kingston County Bench, Mr. Eastwood proudly proclaims, "has loyally followed the recommendation of the meeting." When the defendant does not appear, an extra half-crown is added to the regulation fine.

This worthy magistrate's sense of humour must be as defective as his sense of justice, or he would never have given the public this interesting glimpse behind the scenes. I have heard of one place where there is said to be a graduated scale of fines in cases of unmuzzled dogs—half-a-crown if the defendant attends and pleads guilty, 5s. if he is absent, and 7s. 6d. if he offers any defence. But the magistrates of that place—it is a seaside town—are too discreet to boast about their little arrangement as Mr. Eastwood does about his. It does not seem to have occurred to him and his colleagues that such a system is ridiculously and hopelessly unjust. No account whatever is taken of the merits of the case or the position of the defendant. The fine of 10s. falls alike on the poor man to whom it means a week's wages and on the rich man to whom it is an unconsidered trifle; and the man whose dog has temporarily escaped into the street through no fault of his own is placed in the same boat as the offender who wilfully takes his dog out without a muzzle. If punishment is to be meted out in this fashion, the Great Unpaid might just as well be replaced by automatic machines.

According to Mr. Drew, the Coroner for West London, "Professor" D'Odiardi, of the "Notting Hill Gate Free Hospital," has had a narrow escape from an indictment for manslaughter. The Coroner expressed this view at an inquest last week on a late patient at the "hospital," whom D'Odiardi had treated for one complaint, and who had died of another. The complaint of which the man died was shown by the medical evidence to be one unsuitable for treatment by the D'Odiardi electrical process; and there can be no doubt that the Coroner was right in his remark that if the death had occurred while the patient was under the electrical treatment, the consequences would have been unpleasant for "the Professor."

Reference has been made in TRUTH on previous occasions to the Silver-street Electrical Hospital and the Professor who runs it. He is a voluble gentleman, with a great deal to say in defence of his treatment, and the disinterestedness of his operations, from which he professes to derive no profit; and I know that in referring to the late inquest I expose myself to a voluminous reply from him, and possibly equally voluminous communications from misguided persons who believe in him. I may as well say, therefore, at once, that I shall publish nothing in defence of the "Professor" or his "hospital." He may be the greatest medical genius of the age, but he is, in plain English, a quack, and the verdict of the jury last week that he ought not to apply his treatment except under qualified medical supervision is not open to question. If the law were what it should be, it would be impossible for him to treat patients at all—even in a "free hospital."

A remarkable disclosure was incidentally made by D'Odiardi in the course of this case. He has treated, it seems, "no less than nine members of a distinguished Cabinet Minister's family—Mr. Joseph Chamberlain." He did not say in so many words that he had electrified the distinguished Cabinet Minister himself, but I have little doubt that such is the case. Long have we wondered at and deplored the sad change in the Right Honourable gentleman. D'Odiardi explains everything. Evidently an excess of electricity in the system brings on attacks of Jingoism. Perhaps some other professor may be able to reverse the process.

In regard to two sentences at Somerset Quarter Sessions, I have received further information which causes me to somewhat modify the opinion I expressed last week. It appears that the prisoner Gray, charged with assaulting a girl, was only a youth of seventeen, that the case was not marked by the brutality so common in the same class of offence, that the culprit received a severe thrashing at the time, and that (though offered bail) he was in prison for three months before his trial. In these circumstances the sentence could not be considered unreasonably lenient. With reference to the girl Stickland, who was committed to gaol for three months for attempting to commit suicide, it seems that the prison doctor advised that it would be unsafe to liberate her on her own recognisances, and that there was apparently no friend or philanthropic agency to take care of her. The Magistrates, moreover, directed that if at the end of a month or two months her condition was such as to render it safe to release her, application should be made to the Home Secretary for that purpose.

It was certainly desirable that this wretched girl should not be set at liberty in the state of mind in which she appeared at the Sessions. But while I am ready to give the Bench credit for acting from the best of motives, it appears to me that a gaol was about the most unsuitable place to which this poor creature could be sent. Prison life is decidedly not calculated to restore her mental balance, and if, in the absence of relatives or friends, prison life is the only remedy the magistrates have power to prescribe in such a case, then the law requires amendment. Committal for a time to a workhouse, or, if the state of the prisoner justified it, to an asylum, would be better. I may add that the circumstances of this particular case do not affect one point which I mentioned last week—namely, that attempts to commit suicide are generally punished far more severely at Somerset Quarter Sessions than elsewhere.

WATER SUPPLY TO COUNTRY HOUSES.—Read "Water Supply to Mansions." The *Times* says, "a practical pamphlet." Post free.—MERRYWEATHERS, 63, Long-acre, W.C., and Greenwich, S.E.

WAYGOOD LIFTS for Hotels, Mansions, Clubs, Flats, &c. These can be worked by hydraulic, hand or engine power, and electricity. R. WAYGOOD & Co., LTD., Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

In my Legal Pillory this week, the most interesting exposition of Justices' justice comes from Langport. Two farm lads are fined £6 each and costs for carrying a gun without a licence and trespassing in search of game—the capon having been lent to them by their employer, and the "trespass" being upon land in his occupation. As the farmer himself paid the fines, the lads escaped the alternative period of imprisonment which they would otherwise have had to undergo; but that does not make the imposition of such outrageously heavy penalties any the less monstrous. Scarcely less monstrous were the penalties inflicted by the same Shallows upon two other youths for the enormity of playing pitch and toss. Had they been grown-up men, and amused themselves by beating their wives, they would have had no more to pay. A comparison of these sentences and others on the same side of the list with those imposed in the opposite column for offences of violence and cruelty will be found highly instructive :—

Birmingham Police - court. Before Messrs. Colmore, and G. Langye, and Dr. Warden. Patrick Green, charged with assaulting Wm. Dickenson. Without any provocation defendant struck complainant a violent blow on the head, knocking him down, and then kicked him on the face. Fined 10s. and costs.

Lawford's Gate Police-court. Before the Duke of Beaufort, Messrs. G. H. Pope, A. Shipley, and Kossuth Robinson. Wm. Jones, charged with assaulting Jesse Fudge, an old man. Defendant struck the old man on the head with the iron forks of a rake, cutting and bruising him. The Bench said it was a serious and cowardly case of assault. Defendant might have killed the complainant. Fined 10s., including costs.

Newport (Mon.) Police-court. Anthony Lee, charged with assaulting his wife. He went home under the influence of drink and assaulted his wife, who called in a policeman. In the presence of the officer, defendant knocked the woman down and struck her several times in the face, and he was in the act of kicking her when he was arrested. One of his children was dying in the house at the time. Fined 21s. or one month.

Ashbourn Petty Sessions. Before Mr. H. C. Okeover and other justices. Wm. Bowler, charged with assaulting his wife by kicking her on the leg. She had to be treated by a doctor. Fined 10s. and costs and bound over.

Barnsley Police-court. Fredk. Davies, charged with cruelty to a horse by working it whilst in an unfit condition. The animal had two large raw wounds on the shoulders, and was utterly unfit for work. The Bench said it was a very bad case. Fined 30s. and costs.

Birmingham Police - court. Before the same magistrates. Edward George Cotterill, charged with stealing a loaf and a pig's hough. Six weeks.

Accrington Police-court. Before Alderman Smith and Mr. T. Birtwisle. John Anderton, charged with stealing a pair of boots. Fourteen days.

Langport Petty Sessions. Before Mr. Vincent Stuckey and Mr. C. L. Eastlake. Robert Cox and Frank Wheadon, labouring youths, charged with carrying a gun without a licence and also with trespassing in search of game on land in the occupation of Henry Vigar. The lads were in the employ of Mr. Vigar, who explained that he lent them the gun, and who subsequently paid the fines. Fined £5 each, including costs, for the first offence, and £1 each, with costs in addition, for the second offence.

Langport Petty Sessions. Herbert Richards and John Tilly, two youths, charged with playing pitch and toss on a Sunday at Curry Rivel. The Chairman said he was afraid they were rather a lawless lot at Curry Rivel, and did not fear man or God. Richards fined £1 and costs, Tilly 10s. and costs. One of them asked for time to pay, and said he had not the money. The Chairman: Then you will go to prison.

Newmarket Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. R. W. King, W. W. de la Rue, and C. E. Hammond. Leonard Pike, labourer, charged with trespassing in search of game on Newmarket Heath. Fined £1.

Tenbury Police-court. Before Messrs. G R. Godson and J. Smith. Richard Price, charged with stealing two eggs. Fourteen days.

Brierley Hill Police - court. Before Mr. N. C. A. Neville. Isaiah Peate, charged with assaulting Lydia Glover. Defendant knocked her down and badly assaulted her. Fined 10s. and costs.

Selly Oak Police - court. Before Messrs. Elliott, Nettlefold, T. R. Bayliss, and Boston. Edward Redman, charged with assaulting Samuel Wills. Defendant knocked complainant down, and seizing his thumb with his teeth, bit it to the bone, tearing away the flesh and the nail. Fined 10s. and costs.

Gosport Police-court. Before Admiral Field, Colonel C. M. Longmore, Colonel E. L. Rodney, Messrs. E. Lapthorn, B. Nicholson, and G. Cooke. Charles Newman, charged with assaulting Sarah Ann Parish. He threw a bottle at her, and it smashed on her nose, causing injuries for which she had to seek surgical treatment. The nose was cut right through. Fined 5s. and 8s. 6d. costs.

Romford Petty Sessions. Before Mr. Henry Joslin and other magistrates. Alfred Charles Knight and Reuben Day, labourers, charged with stealing a bushel of potatoes from a farm. Fourteen days each.

Tiverton Petty Sessions. Before Major Gardner, Messrs. C. J. Cruwys, N. Chichester, T. C. Daniel, and W. J. Llewellyn. Charles Coles, trapper, charged with setting spring traps in other than rabbit holes for the purpose of killing ground game. Fined £2.

Stafford Borough Police-court. Before Mr. B. P. Wright and Mr. A. P. Brookfield. Charles Bates, a pauper, charged with absconding from the workhouse. One month.

Maidenhead Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. H. R. Burrows, E. R. Lovegrove, and J. W. Walker. Wm. Parker, charged with stealing a potted fern. Twenty-one days.

Robertstown Petty Sessions. Patrick Judge, charged with cruelty to a donkey. The animal was tied behind a cart with a rope round its neck and dragged along the road on its side. Defendant's excuse was that the donkey refused to walk. Fined 3s. and 1s. 6d. costs.

Mr. W. Bagshaw, J.P., has written to me in reference to two cases at Batley Police-court, which figured in my Legal Pillory last week. In the first case a man convicted of being drunk and riotous, and of assaulting two policemen, was fined 2s. 6d. and costs on each charge. As to this, Mr. Bagshaw mentions that the defendant was a retired soldier of good character, that the assault was "more technical than real," and that the total amount of the penalties was 24s. The newspaper report was to the effect that the defendant had acted like a madman, and kicked both officers on the legs and body; but taking Mr. Bagshaw's version of the affair, the treatment of this offender was still strikingly lenient in comparison with that accorded to the prisoner in the second case. In that case a man was sent to gaol for ten days for the so-called crime of sleeping out in the open air and having no visible means of subsistence. Mr. Bagshaw informs me that this outcast had 120 previous convictions against him. In my judgment that fact does not make the sentence a bit the less scandalous. Whatever he may have done in the past, the man on this occasion had done nothing whatever which called for punishment. If he was simply punished again because he had been punished before, then I can only say that the justice of the Batley justices is of a rather worse quality than I originally supposed.

The irrepressible Isaac Gordon played his usual part in a case at the Isle of Wight Bankruptcy Court the other day. It seemed that the debtor applied for a loan to "W. Wallis," of 66, Great Russell-street, W.C.—one of Isaac's numerous aliases—and by return he was favoured with bank-notes for £50 and a request for his signature to a promissory note for £70. A less enterprising usurer would hesitate to part with the money until he got the security, but Gordon finds that though not without an occa-

Subscriptions greatly needed by The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—6,929 convictions this year; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

sional risk of loss, this sort of confidence trick is in the long run very successful. The actual handling of the bank-notes disposes a man to agree to exorbitant terms of repayment which he might otherwise refuse to entertain. It was so in this instance, and the debtor paid back £70 for the £50 he had received, and also £35 for a second loan of £25. It is true that he fell behind with the repayment of a third loan, but that was not until Gordon had squeezed out of him considerably more than he had ever advanced, so that the bloodsucker was at no loss on the three transactions.

The threatening letter which he addressed to this victim when an instalment became overdue was in Gordon's best style. Writing as "Wallis," he tells the wretched borrower that he will not stand any nonsense or humbug, that he is not going "to be done or sat on," that his victim will not get "a grain of pity or consideration at his hands," but that, unless he pays up immediately, he (Gordon) will be "down upon him like a ton of bricks with the utmost rigour of the law," and "costs will be piled on to the maximum penny possible." After these amiable promises, he winds up:—

> Please do not address me as "Dear Mr. Wallis," which is objectionable, as I do not want your friendship, and I object to a man of your type addressing me in this fashion.

This is a truly delightful touch. As well might a wolf renounce the "friendship" of the lamb he is devouring.

Apropos of D. Jay's statement before the Money-lending Committee, that he could always trust to the honour of his clients, no matter what laws Parliament might pass to limit the rate of interest, there is a maxim attributed to the late John Day of Danebury, which I am told has never appeared in print. It was "Honest John's" opinion that you should "Beware of three things—the kick of a horse, the bite of a dog, and a gentleman's word without his handwriting." On the same principle a gentleman's handwriting, if it possessed no binding force in law, would not seem to be worth very much.

By the way, a clerical error in an article published last week in TRUTH on usurers, makes me suggest equity powers being granted to the courts of law in all cases where the interest on a bill is above *two* per cent. It ought to have been *ten* per cent. My main object in writing the article was to call attention to the system of blackmailing relatives of young men, more or less impecunious themselves. A young man borrows money on a bill at usurious interest, and he gets some other young man, perhaps a little less impecunious than himself, to be his security. When the bill comes due the usurer threatens either to make the young man bankrupt, or to come down on the backer of the bill. His relatives, therefore, often pay, the real security in fact being their mistaken idea that this is to the advantage of the lad, whereas this usually opens the door to further extravagance, for the money-lender knows that he can count on further payments from the relatives if fresh bills are put in circulation.

Another trick of a money-lender is to lend money to clerks. The clerk ruins himself in paying interest to avert the evil day, when his employer learns what has been going on. A year or two ago I published, at the request of a Director of the Bank of England, a circular addressed to the clerks at that bank. Here, too, there ought to be some legal scheme elaborated to put an end to the blackmailing of the money-lender.

The Society for the Promotion of Home Industry, referred to in last week's TRUTH as carrying on business at 21, Sarsfeld-road, Balham, appears to be another *nom de guerre* of Mr. Coleman, of Old Queen-street, Westminster, the home employment dodger. The same "Society" is also sending out its circulars from 31, Palace-terrace, Fulham, which was mentioned in TRUTH some months ago as the address of one of Coleman's agents. By way, I presume, of impressing the intended victim with an idea of the vast ramifications of Coleman's business, those who approach the Society at Fulham are requested to address their envelopes "The Manageress, C Department, 31, Palace-terrace." The facts given in last week's TRUTH respecting the crotchet work doyley trick carried on from the Fulham address should be sufficient warning to the unwary against dealing with Coleman at any of his addresses or under any of his disguises.

The man Chubb-Jackson, whose "rise and progress" in the charity-mongering profession were recently detailed in these columns, has just been in the hands of the police at Shaftesbury, but, I regret to add, has eluded the guardians of the law. He seems to have been cadging round that neighbourhood, and was arrested for obtaining money under false pretences; but inquiries having shown that he had two "homes" with some children in them, the police seem to have felt that it was impossible to press for a conviction, and the charge was withdrawn. The statement of the superintendent who prosecuted was, however, interesting:—

> The prisoner was supposed to have a home at Hadlow, near Tonbridge, in Kent, but the superintendent of police there did not speak very highly of him. He (Superintendent Elford) also wrote to Ryde, where the prisoner stated he had another establishment. The police there stated that there were two or three children in the home there. At the home in Kent the prisoner's mother lived, and there was one child there.

Two or three children in one establishment, and one child in another, are, therefore, in the eye of the law, a sufficient stock-in-trade to justify a philanthropic adventurer in collecting money from house to house all over the South of England, and rendering no account whatever of the use it is put to. No better proof could be given of the

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need of some amendment of the law for the benefit of these gentry.

It is mentioned incidentally that Chubb-Jackson, when arrested, "was attired in a clerical dress." So that this artful dodger, who was two years ago put, out of charity, in charge of an empty house in St. John's Wood, and at the same time supplemented his income by keeping a coffee-stall in a neighbouring street, is now posing as a minister of some religious denomination unknown. In anything but the legal sense of the term, this would in itself be regarded as a "false pretence." I trust that the police in other places will not be disheartened by the miscarriage of justice at Shaftesbury, but will do their best to stop Chubb-Jackson's game wherever he shows himself. If he cannot be convicted of "false pretences," cannot he be run in as a mendicant, or dealt with as a rogue and vagabond?

Here is a choice specimen of the consummate impudence of the gentry who live by tricking servant girls into buying their goods at back doors, on the instalment system. A gentleman at Altrincham found that one of his servants had been swindled in the usual way by an agent of Hibbins & Co., having been offered a watch and chain on the representation that she could keep them for a month, and return them at the end of that time if she did not like them, and being asked at the same time to write her name and address on a piece of paper, without being told that this was an order form to which she was affixing her signature. On these facts coming to the knowledge of the master of the house, and finding also that the girl was paying 45s. for goods of the value of about 18s., he wrote and told Hibbins & Co. that the girl, under his advice, would not acknowledge the contract, and calling on them to take away the goods. Here is Hibbins & Co.'s answer:—

From Hibbins & Co.,
Manufacturers, Publishers, and Importers,
4, Eton-street,
Richmond, London.

To
Mr. ——
Altrincham.

April 12, 1898.

Sir,—We are in receipt of yours of the 9th, and we accept your letter, and place the same value upon it as your knowledge of jewellery would lead us to believe by the assessed value you have placed upon the same. You will allow us, considering we have served the public since 1849, to be the best judges as to the value of the goods, and must remind you that we, under no circumstances, will tolerate any interference by you, as our account is with Mary T—— and not with H. H. B——.

Your letter has caused us some amusement, as it is quite evident you consider it an outrage that your servant should have the privilege of buying goods which she considered she required at the time of purchase and felt she was in a position to pay for. In reference to our travellers calling, as they are fully furnished with the necessary licence for the same, we should advise you to be very careful in what steps you take, as even the humble hawker has his proper protection. You will pardon us in suggesting that, in future, you turn your attention to the tea and coffee trade, and leave the jewellery to those who have made it a life study. We are returning the watch and chain, and must request you to hand them back to the owner (M. T——) from whom we hold a legal signed contract undertaking to purchase articles, and, under this agreement, the first payment becomes due on the 16th inst., and, failing the receipt of same, we shall take the necessary proceedings to enforce the written contract.—We are, yours respectfully, Hibbins & Co.

P.S.—Messrs. Hibbins can only answer in future business correspondence from H. B—— when he has opened a ledger account with us.

Where Hibbins & Co. have been serving the public since 1849, and in what capacity, I do not know. They were formerly, according to their own account, in business at Forest Hill. On June 24 last, attention was called to their proceedings in Truth in connection with a case in which they had sold a servant girl a watch, worth probably less than £1, for £3 15s., and, on the watch being returned at the instance of the girl's mistress, they made efforts to get at the girl in another situation in order to enforce the contract. It will be seen that in their letter Hibbins & Co. imply that their touts are furnished with hawkers' licences. It does not follow that this is so because Hibbins & Co. suggest it. But, if such is the case, the sooner the licences are revoked the better.

The recent article in Truth on the faith-healing and fee-grabbing of the Christian Scientists has brought me several letters from people who have had experience of this novel sect. All confirm very strongly the opinions expressed in my article. So far as my evidence goes, I should say that the Christian Scientists have not as yet done much evil from a medical point of view, simply because the majority of their "patients" are people who have nothing whatever the matter with them, unless in their own imaginations. But many authentic stories could be told of weak-minded people who have fallen, together with their cheque books, under the influence of the faith-healers, to the great distress of their friends. In fact, the Christian Science propaganda seems to be chiefly directed at present to relieving patients of their cash rather than their ailments.

It was remarked in my article that "the cash requisite for the maintenance of the temple and the priestesses is derived solely from the fees paid by patients for Christian Science treatment, or for initiation into the mysteries of metaphysical healing." This, it would seem, does not fully cover all the sources of revenue, as I hear of converts being induced to pay annual subscriptions for the maintenance of the meeting-house or church in Bryanston-street. One lady, who, during the absence of her husband in India, fell under the influence of Mrs. Field-King, was induced to put her name down for a subscription of £16 a year. Those who have visited the Bryanston-street tabernacle describe the performances, or services, as being attended by a large number of well-dressed and, apparently, wealthy people, and if they all subscribed on the same scale as the lady above mentioned, it is not surprising that Mrs. Field-King and her colleagues are in very flourishing circumstances. Another additional piece of information is that the fee for "treatment by correspondence" is a preliminary guinea, followed by a guinea a week as long as the correspondence continued. The whole thing seems to be one of the most audacious pieces of imposture that have ever been put before the public, and it is astonishing that any considerable number of educated people should lend themselves to it.

For *Truth*, and all other Newspapers, Magazines, and Periodicals, send your Subscriptions to Wm. Dawson & Sons, Ltd., Cannon House, Bream's-bldngs., London. (Estab. 1809.) Catalogue gratis.

My friend Mr. Smith, the Harlequin of Stroud Green-road, is advertising his latest £35 free competition by postal circulars. I heard the other day from Mr. Sell that, in consequence of the disclosures in Mr. Smith's interview with my representative, he (Mr. Sell) had declined to take any more of the Harlequin's advertisements—a decision which is to his credit. Probably this decision has rather upset the Harlequin's little game, and he is accordingly seeking his victims by post rather than through the columns of the newspapers. He seems to be sending out his circulars somewhat carelessly, for I have had one sent on to me which had not been stamped, and for which the lucky recipient had consequently to pay a penny—a circumstance which naturally did not inspire him with any kindly feelings towards the Stroud Green Harlequin.

It is a good illustration of the way in which addresses are obtained by gentry of the Harlequin class for their nefarious purposes, that one of these circulars was actually sent to a servant girl at Durham, the envelope bearing not only the girl's name, but that of her mistress also. It may be that this girl's name and address had been published in connection with some other competition, or it may be that it had been placed on some of the lists of competitors which are hawked about for the use of the Smiths and others engaged in this business. I heard the other day that some of the employees in newspaper offices where competitions are run do a good business in disposing of the names and addresses of competitors.

Strange, indeed, are the devices to which tradesmen have recourse in order to get round the Lottery Acts. There is an advertisement going about at present in the name of the "J. D. Company," of Ormond House, Great Trinity-lane, E.C., offering £2,000 in prizes to purchasers of a dentifrice, which they are placing on the market. The inducement to buy is that every other shilling box will contain a coupon entitling the holder to a share in prizes to the above value. It seems that every coupon is numbered, and the J. D. Company, from whom I have made inquiries on the subject, keep a register, in which the prizes they propose to give are entered against these numbers. Large numbers of the coupons, however, merely entitle the holder to buy other articles from the company at reduced rates. Thus one coupon which I have in my possession carries with it the privilege of buying a 5s. box of soap for 3s. As the box of soap only contains three cakes, the value of this privilege appears open to question. I am assured that the soap is of a very high quality. It certainly ought to be, and I should think that those who buy soap at this price must be extremely sparing in the use of it. Some of the prizes, however, appear to be of real value, and if they are distributed on the principle above mentioned, the whole thing is clearly a lottery, pure and simple.

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

In view of a paragraph in the *Bournemouth Visitors' Directory*, I feel obliged to allude again to the recent dispute between Mr. E. S. Mostyn Pryce and the Committee of the Royal Victoria Hospital at Bournemouth, concerning the question whether Mr. Pryce's governess, a lady enjoying a salary of £40 a year, with her board and lodging, was a proper person to receive the benefits of a medical charity. When I first dealt with the matter, I mentioned a report that the local papers had been prevented from publishing a statement of the case by the threat of legal proceedings. To this Mr. Pryce in his letter to me replied that the local Press "civilly agreed with him that so personal a correspondence should not be published without mutual consent." The editor of the *Directory* now writes:—

> So far as we are concerned, that statement is absolutely misleading. We never "agreed"—civilly or otherwise—to any such course. When appealed to—some weeks before the correspondence was sent to us from the Hospital Secretary—we were told that the letters contained nothing of any public interest; and the only assurance we gave was that if there was nothing of public interest nothing would be published. We had not, of course, at that time seen the letters. When they were sent to us we saw at once that there was a matter of very great public interest—dealing with the important question of the management of the hospital and its finances, and we placed practically the whole correspondence before our readers, withholding, however, the name of one of the writers, in deference, as already stated, to his own protest. Then came a letter threatening us that should the correspondence in question be published in any future issue, or should the writer be either mentioned by name or clearly described in connection with the matter, he would place the publication in the hands of his solicitors, "in view of the usual steps against the Editor." We have not given further publication to the correspondence. . . .

It would seem from this that my original statement on the subject was more accurate than Mr. Mostyn Pryce's subsequent explanation. That fact adds to the satisfaction I feel at having given the affair the publicity which it deserved, but which it did not obtain in the local newspapers.

The advices received from Trinidad since my reference to the matter last week show that the Legislative Council decided, on the proposition of the Government, that only 1,200 Indian coolies should be imported this year instead of the 2,276 for whom the sugar-planters had applied. This reduction caused much wailing and gnashing of teeth among the planters; but as a matter of fact it is only by a scandalous disregard of the law for the protection of indentured immigrants that they are to get even so many as 1,200. As I have previously explained, the law provides that no coolies shall be allotted to any estate on which less than the starvation wage of sixpence a day has been paid for such labour during the preceding year. Much to the annoyance of the functionary who is called the Protector of Immigrants, but who apparently would be more fittingly described as the advocate of the employers, it leaked out during the debate that if this law as to a minimum wage were observed, only 417 coolies could be obtained this year.

This system of State-aided coolie immigration to the West Indies was bad enough at its best. Now that the safeguards for securing the immigrants a living wage and humane treatment are ignored it is an absolute

disgrace to the Empire. In Trinidad there is plenty of free labour to be had, if the planters are willing to pay a fair price for it. But they want labourers who can be dealt with like slaves; and it is to supply this want that the Government of the colony, with the sanction of the Secretary of the Colonies, continues to import those shiploads of coolies.

The reports from Sierra Leone that have been appearing in the daily papers during the past few days confirm in every detail the information given in TRUTH a fortnight ago. It is clear that the insurrection of the natives of the hinterland has been brought about by the oppressive and high-handed conduct of our official representatives in the colony. The European traders and colonists were strongly opposed to the imposition of the hut tax, and warned the Governor (Sir F. Cardew) of the trouble which would inevitably arise from any attempt to levy it. It was furthermore urged that if such a tax were to be insisted upon, it should at any rate be reduced to sixpence or a shilling per hut, the proposed charge of five shillings being preposterously excessive. Sir F. Cardew is, however, a very self-opinionated official. He seems to hold that considerations of reason or expediency need not be taken into account in dealing with niggers; and so the advice and remonstrances of the traders and the appeals and protests of the native chiefs were all contemptuously disregarded.

The responsibility of the Governor for what has happened is strikingly shown in the statement published by Mr. James D. Marcus, who has had factories at Freetown, for many years, and who speaks with exceptional authority respecting, not only European, but native feeling. Some thirty chiefs from the interior went to Freetown, and had an interview with the Governor. They told him that their people absolutely could not pay the hut tax. His reply was that the tax was an accomplished fact, and that he would not alter it. Mr. Marcus continues:—

> The chiefs came to my house and asked me to intercede with the Governor for them. They said their people could not pay the tax, and, furthermore, they found that there was no house or land tax in force on the whole Sierra Leone Peninsula, where some of the houses were worth £2,000 or £3,000, whilst their best was not worth £5, yet they in the Protectorate were called upon to pay a 5s. tax. This they said they considered unjust. I waited on the Governor and gave him the chiefs' views, but his Excellency said the matter was closed, and he intended the hut tax to be insisted upon. I asked the Governor not to consider me presuming, but I was sure that serious trouble would arise and that the trade would be stopped. *His Excellency's reply was that he punished people who made trouble.* After this the trouble commenced.

The situation appears to have been made worse by the hasty and indiscreet conduct of the British Commissioner at Port Lokko. The Commissioner listened to the representations of a chief named Sorie Bunkey, that he could get the hut tax paid if five other chiefs were arrested and he became king at Port Lokko. The five chiefs were accordingly arrested, and sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, and Sorie Bunkey was crowned King by the Commissioner—a good illustration of the way in which monarchs are made in Africa. This particular potentate had a very brief reign. His appointment and the imprisonment of the other chiefs aggravated the hostility towards us which the tax had aroused, and one of the first results was that poor Sorie Bunkey had his throat cut.

With characteristic optimism the Colonial Office professes to hope that the rising of the natives has been "practically suppressed." Judging from all the reports from independent sources at Sierra Leone, this is the very reverse of the truth. The correspondent of the *Standard* at Freetown describes the reverses which have been sustained in the interior by the British troops, declares that so far Bey Burie—a powerful chief, who was especially incensed at the selection of Sorie Bunkey as King—has had the best of the fighting, and adds that the position is becoming more and more critical. There seems to be a general opinion that the insurrection will not easily be quelled unless the obnoxious tax is withdrawn or modified. It ought never to have been imposed, and it can be removed now without any loss of revenue, inasmuch as most of the huts on which it was to be collected have already been burned down, and any prolongation of the disturbances will entail the destruction of the remainder, while all trade with the interior is, of course, brought to a standstill. Not only should the tax be withdrawn, but the officials who have so wantonly provoked our latest little war should be recalled and replaced by men of more tact and judgment.

It is very kind of some Irish gentleman to give me an opportunity of publishing the following sample of Irish logic and Unionist manners. I have given facts in regard to the Grand Juries of Clare and Cork which speak for themselves. The writer of this letter evidently thinks that if he can testify that another Grand Jury is above suspicion he has disposed of the other two cases—a truly Irish piece of reasoning. My correspondent had better address his arguments to the present Unionist Government, who are proposing to abolish the Grand Juries, and who seem to be as equally wrong as I am in regard to the value of the sacred institutions. Another interesting and equally Irish point in the letter is the assertion that "we always got on splendidly" before the days of Gladstone and Parnell, as though Ireland had only become a "distressful country" during the last five-and-twenty years. If the "Demon of Agitation" has disappeared, his disappearance singularly synchronises with the alliance between the Nationalists and the Gladstonian Party, but that again is a fact which the logical mind of an Irish Unionist can hardly be expected to recognise:—

> SIR,—You are *perfectly* wrong about the Grand Jury system in Ireland, as you are about *most Irish things*. I have been a Grand Juror in co. Meath for fifty-two years, a chairman of the Kells Union for many years, and a magistrate for Meath and Cavan for about forty-five. In all my experience of the Royal County of Meath Grand Jury, I have ever found the greatest honesty, and we have ever acted on the terms of our oath without "fear, favour, or affection." If I ever saw on the Grand Jury the smallest inclination to jobbery, it was always put down immediately by almost unanimous *clamour*. The business is needful to the peaceful state of the people. The rents are most accurately paid, and I thank God *the Demon of Agitation* is without us. The County

Cess is the lowest in Ireland, and there cannot be a more peaceful county. No sensible person in Ireland wants any change in Governments. The Grand Jury system has always held the entire confidence of the Cess payer. The two great *and very great evils* for the last twenty years have been *that Gladstone and Parnell.* We always got on splendidly until these *two dummies* cropped up. —Yours faithfully,

John Arthur Farrell, of Maynalty, co. Meath.

So many Conservative Members have put down notices of opposition to Mr. Long's Dog Bill that it seems hardly likely that it will be persevered in. Mr. Long has hydrophobia on the brain, but, being himself a sportsman, he has evolved the singular idea that sporting dogs are not subject to the disease. If hydrophobia can—as is stated—only be propagated by one dog suffering from the disease biting another, then he might have insisted upon every dog in the United Kingdom being muzzled for a month, and no dog during the month being allowed to land without remaining in quarantine for a month. Whether the cases are so numerous as to justify this remedy is open to question. But this is certain, neither the present law nor the law as altered by Mr. Long's Bill can really stamp out the disease. They merely serve the purpose of annoying those who have dogs but do not keep them to run after foxes or deer, or to engage in any other form of sport.

Where there is nothing, says a French proverb, the King loses his rights, and I should say that the sovereign of Rhodesia, whether the Chartered Company, Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Chamberlain, or the British nation, will be in the position described by the proverb. As was shown in Truth in a return from the books of the Company, the foremost "patriots" in the undertaking have very wisely parted with nearly all their shares, whether those that they had paid for, or those which they allotted to themselves gratis; and this shows their estimate of the future prospects of the country. There is now to be a new issue of shares at 100 per cent. premium. If any fool likes to invest his money in this pricked bubble, by all means let him. The connection between a fool and his money is always a slight one, and, whether he parts with it in one way or another, is a matter of very little importance to the general community.

The latest Report of the Chartered Company deals with figures in a remarkable manner. The chief revenue of the Company seems to come from the sale of town lots—*i.e.*, out of capital. Why any one should give a large sum for a town lot in Bulawayo, is like a purchase of the Company's shares—his affair, not mine. In America town lots in a new mining town are always run up to a high price. If the mines in the neighbourhood are shut down, the town lots are worthless. The balance of evidence is that there is not such an amount of paying gold in Rhodesia as will ever be likely, under the best of circumstances, to make gold-mining a serious industry, and therefore the town lots, which are dependent on its being a paying industry, are not, one would think, investments likely to be profitable.

There is one statement in the accounts which will need to be put right. The Company received certain land and mining rights on condition that it paid all costs of government. The Company now explains that, so soon as the Rhodesians enter into the right of self-government, all costs of wars, developments, &c., will be a charge on this self-governing community, the Company retaining its land and mining rights. As the community will not be able to pay interest on this outlay, the interest will have to be provided by the British taxpayer, if this pleasing theory be officially recognised. This "try-on" must, therefore, at once be resisted. The mining and land rights must remain chargeable with all expenses of government that cannot be met by fair taxation of the inhabitants of Rhodesia. Obviously the Company's statement is put forward to induce persons to buy its shares, the implication being that, come what may, a large portion of what it has sunk in follies will be recouped to it.

As yet no human being has profited by Rhodesia, except by what has been obtained from the long-suffering British investor. The Company staked all on finding gold, first in Mashonaland, next in Manicaland, next in Matabeleland; and when it was found that there was no paying gold in any of these countries, an attempt was made to raid the Transvaal. Heads we win, tails some one else loses, has been its doctrine, and, in accordance with this doctrine, the present plan of retaining all mining and land rights, and making some one else pay the rent in consideration of which it obtained these rights, has been elaborated.

The truth is that we are living at a moment in our history—let us hope a brief one—when a needy aristocracy and a pushing plutocracy have made common cause, and there is nothing which the allies may do in the pursuit of wealth that would not be condoned. When they make our distant dependencies the field of their monetary labours, and the Colonial Minister is a quondam Radical, who, as he boasts, has "joined the gentleman of England," I doubt if there is any crime that they might not commit with impunity; for he has to pay his footing as a condition of those whom he is pleased to call the "gentlemen of England" receiving him in their social bosom.

In one sense I am not particularly sorry that the moral sense of all those who do not boast that they are "the gentlemen of England" should have been outraged by Messrs. Rhodes, Beit, and Maguire being once again made directors of the Chartered Company of South Africa with the full approval of the Colonial Secretary, for the majority of the nation needs arousing to the despicable servitude to the aristocracy of money under which we

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have fallen. A few object lessons of this kind are useful. Speaking once about the position that had been created by the secession of Liberals to the Party of the "gentlemen of England," in consequence of his proposal to grant Home Rule to Ireland, Mr. Gladstone said to me, "You, and your friends the Radicals, will be the gainers in the end;" and then he explained the reaction which was likely to follow. Of this reaction, I do not entertain the slightest doubt, and everything that conduces to its speedy advent, is like the wind that clears the atmosphere.

I agree with a correspondent of the *Standard*. I have no doubt that the British troops behaved well at the recent encounter with the Dervishes in the Soudan; but I am by no means disposed to laud their achievements as though they had outdone the valour of Leonidas and his Spartans at Thermopylæ. The Dervishes were ordered by the Khalifa to advance under Mahm against the invading Anglo-Egyptian forces. They did so, and established themselves in a camp, to defend which they had dug rifle pits. Our forces fired projectiles of all sorts into the camp, at a distance that rendered it impossible for the Dervishes to return the fire. Then the camp was stormed and carried, the forces on both sides being about equal, but our troops being infinitely better armed. On our side less than one hundred were killed, on the Dervish side above two thousand. The business was creditably done by our troops and by the Egyptian troops. But the conclusion was foregone. The advance was well planned, and there was no flinching in the assault. But when the arms are entirely unequal, and the numbers engaged are the same on both sides, the better armed must win.

Nothing exemplifies the mixture of swagger and cringing that distinguishes our Jingoes more than the mode in which they have exulted over the congratulatory telegram of the German Emperor to the Queen. I confess that I never saw anything to complain of in the Emperor's former telegram to President Kruger. In the Transvaal there were many Germans engaged in business. A band of marauders, after secretly providing money to get up a revolution in Johannesburg, organised a raid from Rhodesia to aid and abet the revolution. The whole thing was a sordid stock-jobbing piece of iniquity. The Emperor sent a telegram to President Kruger congratulating him on the failure of the raid. Why should he not have done so? But our newspapers raged as though he had committed some monstrous crime. Now the Emperor sends the Queen a congratulatory telegram on a British victory over the Soudanese. At once we are told that he has amended his ways, and that he is anxious to ally himself with us. When the German newspapers explain that he is not desirous to alter his policy, or to become more closely allied with us than heretofore, our papers indignantly complain that the Germans are not willing to accept the olive branch that we extend to them. Our Jingo organs certainly succeed in never losing an occasion to render us ridiculous in the sight of the world.

Germany's policy is what it was in the days of Prince Bismarck, except that instead of wishing to depend entirely on a Russian alliance, she seeks to be also on good terms with France. To us she is neither a friend nor a foe, but, desiring to extend her commerce beyond Europe, she is by no means sorry that there should be some sort of maritime balance of power.

I have always contended that Russia is not at present, and is not likely to be in the near future, a serious commercial rival of this country, and that, consequently, we have little to fear from the extension of her rule over countries previously uncivilised. The soundness of this view is conspicuously shown by the letter from Mr. W. S. Caine, published the other day, dealing with the trade of the port of Batoum. Dismal were the forebodings which our Jingoes expressed when the Treaty of Berlin handed over Batoum to Russia. What has been the result? In 1881 fourteen British ships, with a tonnage of 16,000 tons entered and cleared from this port. In 1893 the number had risen to 529 ships, with a tonnage of 806,000, and, although these figures are the maximum, so far as tonnage is concerned, that has yet been reached, during the last five years the average British tonnage has been close on 700,000. This is about double the tonnage of Russian shipping at the same port, and not far short of that of all the rest of the world combined. In face of these figures, what senseless folly it is for us to shriek against the transfer of Asiatic sea-ports into Russian hands!

That pernicious insect, the Jingo microbe, which has caused such havoc with the intelligence of so many persons in this island, seems to have crossed the Atlantic and to be rioting in American brains. Cuba has been persistently misgoverned by Spain for centuries; it has been the happy hunting-ground of Spanish officials, military and civil. Periodically there has been an attempt at revolution. The latest has now lasted a considerable time, and the civil war has been carried on with that abundant cruelty that appears to be peculiar to the Spanish race. That the United States should interfere in order to put an end to a war, in which neither side seemed likely to get the upper hand, was right and reasonable. But when Spain offered such autonomy to the Cubans as would have made their relations to the mother country similar to those between us and the Dominion, everything was conceded that was necessary for humanity and good government.

In the United States, however, the microbe had been at work with the usual baneful result. The President is a man of sound sense, but he has allowed himself to be overborne by the clamour of those infected with the microbe. Suddenly Congress passes resolutions of such a nature that it is almost impossible for Spain to accept them with honour. Autonomy, it is said, is not enough; there must be independence. If a colony wishes to cut the tie that binds her to the mother country, she has a

right to do so if she has the power. The efforts of the United States to secure good government for Cuba were to be commended. To engage in war in order to substitute independence for autonomy is hardly a proof of wisdom. If, however, the United States had deemed this necessary, the resolutions of Congress should have been carefully worded, in order to enable Spain to accept them, instead of being couched in defiant and bullying language.

Europe is divided into Great Powers, each one of which is wasting its substance on huge armaments. So huge are they, and so terrible would be the shock of war, that there seems to be an agreement amongst the inhabitants of these Powers that their respective Statesmen may bluster and swagger as they please, but on the understanding that all this is not to mean war. If the bluster of one does not cause the other against which it is directed to run away, then the blusterer, according to the rules of the game, is expected to execute a strategical movement to the rear. One of these days some Statesman will break through the rules of the game, and there will be some terrible war. But the United States, up to now, have not joined in this silly game of brag, and therefore their citizens are all the more to blame in substituting unreasoning impulse for plain practical common-sense.

A LAST APPEAL.

Is it too late for this appeal? Too late to plead for peace?
Too late to pray that clamorous tongues their shrieks for war may cease?
Is it too late in Reason's name one protest more to make,
And bid two angry nations pause for very pity's sake?

Death's angel poises for his flight as War's loud tocsin rings,
Already one can well-nigh hear the beating of his wings.
Already Hope is nearly dead, but even now there's time
To save two Christian people from a blunder and a crime.

'Tis not too late to plead with Spain; 'tis not as yet too late
To bid her recollect great faults need reparation great;
'Tis not too late, the Fates be thanked! her people to implore
To freely make concessions now they should have made before.

They plume themselves upon their past; whatever may betide,
They wrap themselves unyieldingly in their unyielding pride;
Their honour is at stake, they say; and they perforce must fight—
But higher honour would be theirs, dared they but do what's right.

Then with America we'd plead; we'd ask her to restrain
Those evil passions, which, unchecked, take Pity's name in vain;
We'd credit her with motives good, but beg her to beware
Of those who in their party traps would Mercy's self ensnare.

"Go on! and right the wrongs," we'd say, by which you have been stirred,
To stay you from your noble task we would not say one word;
But have a care how you proceed, lest evils you abhor
Are magnified and multiplied a thousandfold by war.

"There may be many things in which you cannot acquiesce,
There may be grievances to end; injustice to redress;
But oh! it is a sorry work, full much to be deplored,
When the Philanthropist goes forth to solace with a sword!

"Barbarities there may have been, but nought, pray bear in mind,
Can be more barbarous than the war to which you seem inclined.
There may, there must be ways the pain of Cuba to appease,
But war's a desperate remedy far worse than the disease.

"Come, then, is there no other plan by which to work your will?
Has statesmanship its talent lost, diplomacy its skill?
Civilisation—is that, too, of all resource bereft?
Is war the one available and mad expedient left?"

No, this we can't and won't believe; we never will agree
Americans need Spaniards shoot that Cubans may be free!
Logic denies it, sense protests, humanity demurs;
Reason cries "No!" and in that cry all Christendom concurs.

Is it too late, then, we repeat, to make this last appeal?
Is it too late to put in words what all on-lookers feel?
Too late to hope that statesmanship with common-sense allied
May solve a problem that too long solution has defied?

SCRUTATOR.

A LESSON FROM RUSSIA.

WE and Russia have both sought to expand our respective Empires. But with Russia expansion and consolidation have gone together. Her aims have been limited to the acquisition of territories necessary for her well-being, and within striking distance of her land forces, and to securing the outlets to the open sea to which she is fairly entitled.

In Europe, she sought to secure an outlet to the

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Mediterranean. In face of treaties and of wars she is now certain to obtain it—indeed, to all intents and purposes, she has attained it. What remains of the Treaty that followed the Crimean War? Nothing; not a shred. England, France, Italy, and Turkey were pitted against her. They took Sebastopol, and our share in the cost of the war was about forty millions, interest on which we are still paying. At present France is her ally. Turkey has been brought within the sphere of her influence, and no reasonable human being can doubt that, in the event of a war with us, she will be mistress of the Dardanelles. In Asia, first she conquered Circassia and thus obtained the eastern shore of the Black Sea. Then she slowly and gradually absorbed the independent Khanates of Central Asia. At present, Siberia, which was not very many years ago a long slip of land, frost-bound and almost barbarous, has been civilised, and by extensions towards the south, has become almost as valuable to her as her European territories. Persia remains independent, but this independence is subject to Russia's good-will, for she can overrun the country with her armies whenever she pleases. Her latest efforts have been directed to Manchuria. She has secured the ports that she coveted on the Pacific, and Manchuria, with its countless millions of hardy inhabitants, will in a few years be Russian in reality, if not in name. How have we sought to hinder all this? By endeavouring to lay down the principle that Turkey, the Asiatic Khanates, and Manchuria, ought to remain barbarous and misgoverned in order to act as buffer States between us and Russia. In this struggle against civilisation we have been worsted, and rightly worsted. When a barbarous State is contiguous to a civilised State, the former must in the nature of things be sooner or later absorbed by the latter, provided that she be strong and powerful, and that no other civilised State is in a position to prevent the absorption. It is as foolish to expect anything else, as it would have been to suppose that the United States would not spread themselves over the Far West of the North American Continent, and convert the Red Indian hunting fields into the abodes of civilised men. Russia has been more wise than we in her method of Asiatic conquest. A semi-Asiatic State herself, what she has taken she has made Russian. There has been no hard and-fast line between conquerors and conquered. The two have been merged in one common whole.

Whilst Russia has had definite aims in view, and has adapted her aims to her limitations, we have been fooling away our strength in seeking to expand without consolidating. In these expansions we have endeavoured to bring within our rule subject races, rather than to convert these races into fellow subjects of one State. In Asia, we became possessed of India. We have extended our Asiatic Empire, but the Indians have remained our subjects, and our unwilling subjects. We have not absorbed India, but we have ruled over it by the power of the sword. In Africa, we have added huge districts to our Empire, peopled by races that are not likely to add to our strength or to our wealth. Egypt was a State, Oriental in its civilisation, but still civilised after the Eastern fashion. We have occupied it for nearly twenty years. Yet, although our rule has been better than the native rule, its people are bitterly hostile to us, and, had they the slightest chance of success, they would rise against us. Egypt is no more English to-day than it was before we went there. We have made it a jumping-off ground for further conquest. Why, in the name of all that is reasonable, should we, a sea, not a land, Power, want to have a line of possessions from Alexandria to Cape Town, running not along the coast, but through the interior of Africa? What use is this to us? Why, with millions on millions of half-civilised subjects, should we imagine that we are strengthened by having more? We know perfectly well that the sole possibility of any of the negro races in the interior of Africa being able to buy our goods is, that they be forced to labour in order to produce something that they can exchange for them. In theory we are opposed to forced labour. Then why, in practice, acquire territories—poor under any circumstances—in order to maintain in them forced labour? In Southern Africa we had vast possessions. In the Cape Colony the majority of the inhabitants are of Dutch origin, but they were ready to become Englishmen. Our aim seems to have been to keep up the line of demarcation between English and Dutch.

What has been the outcome of all this folly? Our expenditure on armaments has become greater than that of any one of those great military Continental Powers, whose expenditure on armies we, not many years ago, regarded as almost a proof of insanity. By proclaiming that we must have a navy able to convert the high seas into British ponds, and to make the sea roads into British highways, we have forced other nations into maritime expenditure, with the result that our relative naval strength and theirs is much what it was before. Why have we been so foolish? Because our Statesmen have followed the lead of our newspaper howlers, instead of doing their best to stem the current of the rampant Jingoism preached by these self-appointed guides of public opinion. The newspapers have been engaged in a competition of folly. They have sneered at the wise counsels that would have us regard war as the direst of evils, and rest satisfied with having the greatest empire the world ever knew. Of our statesmen, so far as our foreign relations have been concerned, Lord Salisbury has been one of the wisest. Left to himself, and without the more reckless of his followers hounding him on, he would have been the wisest. It is for this reason that, apart from all home issues, his action, where he has resisted these reckless followers, should find approval with Radicals.

It is all very well for the Jingoes to try to force the country to act on their views, by denouncing as traitors to the Empire all who venture to suggest that these views will conduce neither to our well-being nor to our strength. Abuse is not argument. The same doctrines proposed by those who to-day are termed "Little Englanders" are those that were entertained by every English Statesman of the present century, until within a few years ago; and these Statesmen were, to say the least, as intelligent as Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett.

ZOLA AND THE PAVING STONES.

When amateur legists of one country criticise the legal procedure of another, with a view to show that some particular trial has been conducted unfairly, their strictures miss the point, for, although the procedure may be open to amendment, yet justice requires that it should be followed by the Law Courts unless they are to invade the province of the Legislature. This is what has happened in respect to the Zola, Dreyfus, and Esterhazy imbroglio.

Dreyfus was tried by court-martial, and, having been found guilty of treason, was condemned to penal servitude for life. This trial was—as permitted by law—held in secret. The friends of Dreyfus asserted that Esterhazy was guilty of the act imputed to Dreyfus. He, too, was tried by court-martial. The proceedings were in part public and in part secret. The trial resulted in his acquittal. Then came the Zola trial. He made sweeping charges against all concerned in the two courts-martial, accused the Minister of War and other officers of high rank of having been engaged in a conspiracy to send an innocent man to penal servitude, and explicitly charged the Esterhazy court-martial with having knowingly acquitted a guilty man. Zola was found guilty, but, having appealed to the Cour de Cassation, the finding was upset on technical grounds in respect to procedure.

Zola is to be re-tried. In the first trial the Court held that he could not indirectly raise the question whether there had been errors of procedure in the Dreyfus trial. This decision seemed to me to be in accordance with common sense, for the trial had been in secret, and the secrecy could not well be invaded on a side issue. He, indeed, himself admitted this, for he explained that he was attempting to raise the issue of the innocence or guilt of Dreyfus in a "revolutionary" fashion. In the second trial, in order to prevent any such attempt being indirectly made, Zola is to be tried on one single statement in his general accusation against the military authorities. This is, "a court-martial has just, by order, ventured to acquit an Esterhazy—an unparalleled blow dealt at all truth and all justice."

Against such a limitation, Zola says that "the paving-stones will rise up." They may, though this is not probable. But I fail to understand how any one with more sense than a paving-stone can find fault with it. Esterhazy was tried on a definite issue, *i.e.*, whether he had done what a court-martial found had been done by Dreyfus. To charge the court-martial with having given a verdict of not guilty "by order," is as strong an imputation as well can be levelled against a Court of Law. If Zola can prove it, well and good; if not, he ought to be punished, and would be punished under any system of jurisprudence existing in a civilised community. Mere assertion, mere rhetorical clap-trap, go for nothing in a Court of Law. If, however, we are to judge by what Zola and his friends have published, he has nothing but this to submit to the Court.

That Dreyfus was guilty I entertain no doubt, for I have never seen one iota of evidence that could upset the finding of the court-martial that tried him. That the procedure of the court-martial was technically faulty may be true, but as the trial was secret, neither I nor any one else can assert it to be true. With Zola himself I have not a vestige of sympathy. On his former trial, he adduced no evidence of the innocence of Dreyfus, but swore by his own novels that the man was innocent. Now he rails against all those who refuse to believe in the innocence to which he has sworn.

Zola wrote various novels—clever but so filthy that, when translated into English and published here, the publisher was sent to prison. Of late he has written three novels, which he calls a trilogy of three towns. The first is an account of Lourdes, in which he indulges in a surgical account of various horrible diseases. The second is an account of Rome, in which he asserts that the Cardinals are in the habit of poisoning each other, the rest of the book being a long-winded handbook of Rome. The third is an account of Paris. I have not read it, because I have heard from persons whose opinions I value, and who have themselves read it, that it is not worth reading. This trilogy has fallen flat. Zola believes that he is a prophet vouchsafed to the world by Providence, and he deems all justifiable which rivets attention on himself. He, therefore, has rushed forward as the defender of Dreyfus's innocence, and he accuses the leading military men of France of a conspiracy to send an innocent man to penal servitude because he considers that this sensational accusation will attract notice to himself, much as he dealt in filthy details in his novels in order to attract attention to those works.

As for Esterhazy, he seems to be a very disreputable person. I think it exceedingly likely that, in order to raise the wind, he has before now been a traitor. But, so far as I have been able to discover, there is no more evidence that he was guilty of the particular treason charged against Dreyfus than I was. If it can be shown that he and Dreyfus were both concerned in this particular act, this would hardly prove Dreyfus to be innocent. They may have been confederates. This, however, has not been proved, and, if it were, instead of Dreyfus being released, Esterhazy should be sent to join him on his island. In the present day, it is more difficult for a rich man to be kept in prison than for him to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Immense sums have been spent to restore Dreyfus to his country and to his family. I do not think that the English Press has been corrupted, but it has not mastered the facts, and has been adroitly led astray by friends and allies of the traitor. We are told that his sufferings are great. The sufferings of most persons condemned to penal servitude are great. Treason such as his is the vilest and most despicable of crimes, and therefore his sufferings in no way appeal to my sympathies, so long as I see no reason to doubt the justice of his punishment.

THE INVENTIONS COMPETITION TRICK.

As promised in last week's TRUTH, I now give a few facts showing the scale on which the newspaper "Inventions Competition" dodge has been worked during the last twelve months, and the amount of grist it has brought to the mill of the enterprising firm who devised this magnifi-

cent invention for stimulating inventors and enlarging the patent trade.

For the sake of clearness, it may be convenient to remind the reader at the outset of the principal features of the scheme. To begin with, sundry newspapers—chiefly the weekly editions of provincial journals, which circulate largely among the working classes—publish a flowery prospectus of a competition, which they profess to have originated for the benefit partly of any of their readers who are of an inventive turn, and partly for the benefit of the nation at large, which is to benefit by the multiplication of new and useful inventions resulting from the competition. A first prize is offered of fifteen guineas in cash, a second of a complete patent "value twelve guineas," a third of a provisional protection "value four guineas," and these are to be supplemented by a wholesale distribution of medals and diplomas. No restriction is placed upon the nature of the article submitted for competition, but competitors are instructed that the most valuable inventions are as a rule simple improvements of articles in common use. The vanity of ignorant inventors is artfully stimulated by suggestions that technical knowledge is quite a subordinate qualification for the production of a valuable invention; and the hook is baited with the most extravagant representations of the vast sums to be made by patenting simple ideas. To enter on this competition for a fortune only one condition of any importance is laid down, namely, that each specification entered must be patented, or at least provisionally protected. This is represented as a condition imposed by the proprietors of the journal merely to safeguard the interests of the competitors. Why the proprietors should be so solicitous for the interests of the competitors as to decline to enter even the most worthless invention for competition unless a patent is taken out, they do not attempt to indicate. The competitors are expected to take their benevolence on trust. But, as a further proof of the disinterested motives of the promoters, it is announced that the newspaper has made arrangements under which competitors will be able to take out protection at the "reduced" price of three and a half guineas for provisional protection or eleven guineas for a full patent. On these terms the competition starts. The competitors—mostly, of course, people of humble position and limited means—come forward in their hundreds. The guineas for provisional protection or complete patents roll in by thousands; and in due course a cash prize of fifteen guineas is awarded, together with two others in the shape of provisional or complete protection, and a munificent shower of medals and paper "diplomas." The difference between the value of these prizes, medals, and diplomas, and the thousands of guineas paid by the competitors is the profit on the competition.

And who takes the profit? Presumably the newspapers which start the competition get a share of it. But the bulk goes to the enterprising firm of patent agents who are the real originators and managers of the undertaking—Messrs. Rayner & Co., of 37, Chancery-lane. Beyond receiving the first letters which the competitors send in—which are merely applications for particulars—the newspapers take no part in the competition after the first announcement until the award of prizes. In the capacity of "patent editors" of the various journals concerned, Rayner & Co. manage all the intermediate stages. They conduct, from 37, Chancery-lane, all correspondence with the competitors, they receive the fees and take out the patents, and there cannot be any doubt that it is they who not only award, but actually give, the prizes. From these facts, and from the fact that while several newspapers announce the competition simultaneously, one set of prizes serves for the whole lot, it is perfectly evident that the enterprise originates with Rayner & Co., and is in fact their speculation from beginning to end. The whole pretence that the competition is started by certain newspapers, and that the prizes are offered by them, for the benefit of their readers and on public grounds, is in fact a gross misrepresentation—designed to conceal the fact that the thing is a speculation of a firm of patent agents for their own profit.

A more general statement can give but a faint idea either of the delusive and mischievous character of this scheme, or the scale on which it has been carried out. Let us look now at a few facts which throw further light on these points. The first competition of which I have particulars was commenced in the *Western Mail* (Cardiff) and the *News of the World*, a London weekly, last summer. It was ostensibly organised in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee. Whether more than these journals took part in this demonstration of loyalty, I do not know. In the particulars issued from the "*Western Mail* Patent Department, 37, Chancery-lane, London, W.C. (Bankers: Bank of England)" it was entitled "The Record Reign Inventions Competition," the circular containing the following interesting announcement:—

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

INVENTION OF THE RECORD REIGN.

Competitors will remember that this invention is meant to mark the era of the Record Reign of her Gracious Majesty the Queen, and if possible the successful inventions will be placed before her Majesty for approval. This notice will, we think, stir up the inventive capacity of our readers, and bring forward a really successful window-fastener which shall last for all time.

This competition, unlike those which have succeeded it, was limited entirely to improvements in one article, the window-fastener here alluded to. Prizes to the value of thirty-one guineas were offered, together with fifty medals and fifty "diplomas of honour." According to a statement published later on in the *Western Mail*, "several hundred" competitors came forward under the influence of these various inducements. If that is true, the requirement that all competitors should take out protection was not insisted upon, for the records of the Patent Office show that only 197 applications for protection on the subject of fastening windows, doors, &c., were filed during the period the competition was open. But it is, at any rate, certain that 148 awards were issued at the close of the competition. Whether there were "several hundred" or only 148, the whole galaxy of mechanical geniuses do not seem to have produced among

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them "a really successful window-fastener which shall last for all time;" neither have I heard that a single one out of their inventions was deemed worthy of being "placed before her Majesty for her approval." The net result, in fact, of this loyal and patriotic attempt to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee was that about 140 or more deluded simpletons paid sums ranging from three and a half guineas upwards to Messrs. Rayner & Co. for no result whatever, beyond the award of a few pounds' worth of prizes, and a profuse distribution of medals and diplomas. It is a fact deserving of note that, in addition to the rewards offered at the outset, *forty-five extra diplomas of honour* were awarded at the conclusion of this competition, bringing up the total number of awards to 148. In view of what follows it will be for the reader to judge for himself whether these awards were given for any other purpose than that of inducing the competitors to patent their window-fasteners, under the belief that they had produced articles of great merit and commercial value.

Inspired apparently by the success of this preliminary effort, Messrs. Rayner & Co. next proceeded to organise, towards the end of the year, the competition in the *Leeds Mercury* (Weekly Supplement) and other papers, which has already been fully described in TRUTH. This time no restriction was placed on the character of the article entered for competition, and the newspapers promoting this inventors' caucus-race seriously undertook to compare the merits of inventions having absolutely nothing in common —it might be to adjudicate between the claims of a new tobacco-pipe and a new electric lamp, or between an improved frying-pan and a novelty in motor-cars. For the guidance of competitors, however, various articles were specified as likely to repay the application of a little inventive genius, *e.g.*, ladies' hair or hat pins, cycle tyres, and cowls for smoky chimneys; and in the list appears, strange to say, our old friend the window-sash fastener, which had already, in the *Western Mail* competition, produced 148 highly meritorious new inventions, embodying, in the language of the "patent editors," "one of the best exhibitions of ingenuity that has possibly been gathered together upon one definite subject." "An improved window fastener," said the *Leeds Mercury* prospectus, "will probably pay the inventor well, as the present ones now in use have many failings." I invite Mr. George Rayner, when he next finds himself moved to communicate with TRUTH, to justify, if he can, this invitation to the unwary to pay him more fees for improved sash fasteners, in view of the fact that he had, within a few months previously, taken fees from over 140 inventors of similar articles, every one of whose inventions he had pronounced worthy of a prize, a medal, or a "diploma of honour." As the thing stands at present, I am of opinion that a more unscrupulous attempt to humbug ignorant people into parting with their money has rarely been perpetrated. Mr. Rayner, it will be remembered, has already, in the letter published last week, declared that it was no part of the business of the judges in the competition to go into the question of novelty or infringement of existing patents, so that he was actually publishing this wholesale invitation to people to invent and patent (through him) fresh window fasteners with the knowledge that upwards of 140 such articles had been patented (provisionally) or otherwise during the previous nine months, and with no intention of warning the fresh competitors before he took their money, in case it happened, as in some cases it could hardly fail to do, that they were merely covering the same ground over again.

Simultaneously with the *Leeds Mercury* this record competition was carried on in the *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle*, the *Portsmouth Times*, the *Lynn Advertiser*, the *Devon and Exeter Gazette*, the *Northern Echo*, the *Poole Guardian*, the *Eastbourne Gazette*, and the *Skibbereen Eagle*, and, for aught I know, in other provincial papers. An action was brought in the local county-court, as already mentioned, by a dissatisfied competitor to recover the fees which he had paid through the *Leeds Mercury*. The action was defeated by its removal into the High Court at the instance of the defendants. On the application for that purpose, Mr. Rayner, in his capacity of "patent editor," made an affidavit, in which he swears that if the plaintiff succeeded, the proprietors of the *Leeds Mercury* would be liable to have "upwards of 200 actions brought against them by such competitors." Such, then, was the number of inventors who paid fees in this competition through the *Leeds Mercury* alone. The reader may guess for himself what the number amounted to among the whole of the nine or more papers which took a hand in the game.

Mr. Rayner is now again on the warpath in all directions. Among the papers which have recently published his announcements are *Great Thoughts*, the *Hull News Supplement*, the *Builders' Reporter*, the *Doncaster Chronicle*, the *Southampton Times and Hampshire Express*, the *Stockton News*, the *Burton Chronicle*, the *Walsall Free Press*, the *Oldham Chronicle*, and the *Burnley Express*. With regard to the first two (*Great Thoughts* and the *Hull News*), it should be stated that shortly after the appearance of the TRUTH article of March 10 the competitions were withdrawn from those papers—a fact for which the editors and proprietors are entitled to all credit. It is also worthy of note that the advertisements published during the last two or three weeks contain a notification that the paper is putting forward the competition "in conjunction with other important newspapers in various parts of the kingdom," and there is also a further express intimation that competitors may obtain protection for their inventions in any manner best suited to their convenience. From this there is reason to hope that the criticism of TRUTH has not been without its effect, both upon the newspapers which are acting with Mr. Rayner and also upon that gentleman himself.

Now let us look at the amount of cash which must have passed in connection with the Rayner competitions, so far as they have yet gone. Setting aside the published statement that "several hundred" competitors entered for the *Weekly Mail* competition, it is certain that the number was not less than 145. In the *Leeds Mercury* competition, on Mr. Rayner's sworn statement, upwards of 200 competitors have entered, making about 350 from these two papers alone. Seeing that my own researches alone disclose no less than twenty-one papers in which the competitions have been advertised, one is probably within the mark in reckoning that Rayner & Co. must have secured from

eginning to end at least a thousand applications. One housand applications at £3 10s.—the amount of the educed fees at which Rayner & Co. undertook the usiness—would mean a total payment of £3,500 for rovisional protection only—£1,000 to the Patent Office, nd £2,500 to Rayner & Co. A gentleman who has nterested himself in the subject, has been good enough o work out for me some further calculations as to the robable subsequent payments, based upon the figures in he last published report of the Comptroller-General. Taking the average of one thousand applications as hown in that report, it appears that 509 out of every housand will probably abandon their applications and sacrifice their fees (total £1,781 10s.), while 491 will seal their provisional protections. For this they will pay to the "patent editors" a further sum of £7 10s. (making up the total of £11), out of which £3 goes to the Government as stamp duty, leaving £4 10s. (or a total of £2,209 10s.) to the agents. On this calculation the total amount paid to the agents for provisional protection and full patent on one thousand applications would be upwards of £4,700. Should the patentees keep their patents alive by renewal fees after the first four years, the agent will receive a further fee of half a guinea on each annual renewal. Taking the averages calculated as above from the last report of the Comptroller-General, one thousand applications for protection should be worth to an agent, from beginning to end, upwards of £5,000, the greater part of that amount being paid in the first year. In addition to this there are the fees for protection abroad. That Messrs. Rayner & Co. do not overlook any chance of doing business in this direction may be seen from the case already mentioned in TRUTH, where, having awarded a "diploma of merit" to a window-sash fastener purchased at a shop, and patented long ago, they proceeded to press upon the competitor the importance of his at once taking out protection in the United States, Germany, France, and Belgium. Even without fees under this head, however, enough has been said to show what these competitions are worth to Messrs. Rayner & Co., and what they are likely in the aggregate to cost the readers of the various papers which have taken part in them. They will also show that in offering on three occasions prizes to the value of £31 (half of that amount simply in the shape of a waiver of their own fees for taking out protection), Messrs. Rayner & Co. have not thrown a very big sprat for the purpose of landing their whale.

I trust that what has now been said on the subject in this and previous articles will be sufficient to show, beyond all possibility of question, the magnitude of the raid that has been carried out under the guise of these "inventions competitions" upon a peculiarly simple and gullible portion of the public, as well as the deception and trickery which have characterised the whole business. When I first mastered the scheme in all its details and ramifications, it occurred to me that the one real inventor who had been brought to light by the whole series of competitions was Mr. George Rayner himself; and I almost wondered that he had not himself taken out protection for his own truly marvellous improvements in the *modus operandi* of a patent agent. But it turns out that the invention is not new, and, whatever doctrine he may hold in regard to his clients, Mr. Rayner is far too shrewd a man of business to waste his own money in patenting an idea which has been anticipated. The "inventions competition," like so many other novel and ingenious ideas, comes from the United States. I do not know enough to say that the idea has been worked out there in precisely similar shape, but the principle is the same. The result of one inventions competition in the United States was that the agent and his firm who promoted it were, by order of the Commissioner of the United States Patent Office, disqualified from further practice on the ground of gross misconduct; and some of the observations of the Commissioner upon that case are distinctly relevant to the present one:—

> Sometimes devices, seemingly simple and inconsequential, have proved very valuable to the inventor or owner of the patent; but these instances are like angels' visits, very few and far between.
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> They serve, however, when placed before plain, honest people, in connection with certain suggestive hints and misrepresentations to the effect that there is a great unoccupied territory which inventors may immediately enter with profit and honour, and that the arts pertaining to the common affairs of life and the utensils of every-day use may be readily improved upon, and the improvements patented with pecuniary profit and advantage to the inventor, to mislead and deceive; and thus by well-contrived, false, and delusive suggestions and misleading statements, thousands of men and women in various parts of the country have been induced by the respondents to part with their money in the belief that an opportunity to make a fortune awaited them if they could invent some improvement on an attachment for a rocking-chair, a chalk-sharpener, washing-machine, buckle, butter and cheese-cutter, or any one of the thousand things used on the farm, in the shop, factory, or home. . . .
>
> To endeavour to impress upon the public the idea that any one without experience in the art, without knowledge of what is claimed in the art, without study and thought and experiment, can evolve inventions of value, is as demoralising as the idea so strenuously insisted upon by lottery agents that any one who buys a ticket may win the great prize. . . . . To encourage would-be patentees to believe there is a great demand for the most simple inventions, when, in fact, there is no such demand, to endeavour to impress upon the public a false and exaggerated idea of the value of simple inventions, to induce ignorant persons to believe that old and well-tried fields of invention are new and untried fields in which inventions of value can be readily made by them, all for the purpose of inducing the payment of fees for searches and for other purposes, is demoralising and deceptive and amounts to gross misconduct.
>
> A prize competition open only to those who have paid money to the respondents clearly has nothing philanthropic or generous about it, is not intended for broadly stimulating invention, but is intended solely to boom respondents' business. It is necessary to a fair competition that the jury or board of awards should be impartial, disinterested men, competent to decide on the merits, and it is also necessary that such jury or board should see and examine the invention submitted. To permit the merit of inventions to be finally passed upon by inexperienced and incompetent searchers is to make the competition a mere farce and a fraud.

The last sentence has no application to the present case, for the simple reason that Messrs. Rayner & Co., as they avow, made no attempt to investigate the novelty of the inventions submitted. The difference in the patent-law of the two countries doubtless explains why an American competition-monger would feel it necessary to, at least, go through the form of pronouncing on the novelty of the competition to which prizes or other awards were adjudged. But this difference in the law only gives additional force, in the case of England, to the general condemnation pronounced upon such competitions by the American Patent Commissioner; and for the rest, the reader can see for himself how exactly some of the methods adopted in the various newspaper competitions that have been described above coincide with those on which the United States Commissioner pronounces his scathing censure. We have in England, I understand, a

"Chartered Institute of Patent Agents." What jurisdiction it possesses over the members of the profession I do not know. But unless it is in a position to put a stop to such gross abuses as those which have now been brought to light, its authority can be worth very little.

As for the newspapers that have been assisting in this raid upon the humblest and most ignorant of their readers, I confess I am lost in amazement at their conduct. They have not merely advertised the patent agent's seductive scheme, but they have identified themselves with it as principals, and in so doing they have added incalculably to its power for mischief. For a patent agent to offer in his own name prizes and diplomas to all the inventors who will take out protection at reduced fees through his office would be a trick almost too thin to put into practice; but the thing stands on a totally different footing when a paper like the Cardiff *Mail*, the *Leeds Mercury*, or the *Newcastle Chronicle* offers such a scheme as its own plan for the benefit of its readers. For a patent agent, advertising for business, to hold out dazzling suggestions of the vast sums waiting to be realised by the simplest inventions, to talk about the rubber tip on a lead pencil having yielded £20,000, and a patent shoe-string £500,000, is, after all, no worse than the sort of "gas" to which the patent medicine men and others resort in puffing their own wares, and the reader can discount it accordingly. But it is a different matter altogether when such flim-flams are put forward as the editorial utterances of widely circulated and influential newspapers, and when the editors or proprietors of these journals themselves ask their readers to pay over sums of three and a half or eleven guineas in the hope of realising equally splendid profits. It is this co-operation of the Press which has enabled Messrs. Rayner & Co. to rope in poor and uneducated men by the hundred, and to exact from each his toll of hard-earned guineas; and the responsibility of the papers for the result must be measured accordingly. They may think themselves lucky that the victims *are* for the most part poor and uneducated, for I believe that every one of them could be compelled to refund the money if the matter were brought to an issue in a law court; and when Mr. Rayner swore that the proprietors of the *Leeds Mercury* would be liable to upwards of two hundred actions if a single plaintiff obtained judgment against them, he probably did not state one tenth of the total liability arising out of his competitions. If only as a matter of business, I advise those who are still connecting themselves with this shady business to be wise in time. That the majority have erred through pure carelessness, and without realising in the least the true bearings of the operation with which they were identifying themselves, I readily believe. But, put it at the best, the whole business is as disgraceful to the Press as it is mischievous to the public, and it ought to be stopped at once.

ALEXANDER THE IMPOSSIBLE.

From the playbill at the St. James's it appears that Mr. George Alexander is the proud employer of a stage manager, a busi. ... manager, and a secretary. I believe these gentlemen to be courteous and capable A.D.C.s. But I should like to know what Mr. Alexander has done to Mr. Shone, Mr. Vincent, and Mr. R. G. Legge that they have retaliated so malignantly as to connive at his production of "The Conquerors," a drama in four acts, by Paul Potter. There may be doubts about many pieces which are condemned on a first hearing, but there are unhappily no doubts whatever about "The Conquerors," nor damns enough for its deserts in all the hard swearing of the Commination Service. It is not witty, it is badly constructed, and as to its taste I can only confirm the opinion of the man in the stalls last Thursday, who cried out "This is disgraceful," and left the theatre at the end of the first act. Do not jump to the conclusion that the piece is, therefore, immorally attractive. I hope, and indeed believe, that no such *arrière pensée* inhabits the gentle bosom of Mr. Alexander, and if you go to the St. James's in that expectation you will be disappointed. "The Conquerors" is unpleasant, but not alluring; rather is it crude, banal, and absurd—with the banalities of a badly brought up schoolboy and the violence of the least mitigated melodrama—and, finally, it is a libel on the manners of a foreign army. The action takes place the day after Sedan, in a castle at Dinan. The Germans, of course, are "the Conquerors," and their General and his staff are quartered in a great country-house. In the first act, Eric von Rodeck and friends are seen carousing. They shoot at the family portraits, break the best family china, and bring in French "dancing girls"—a very hardy euphemism—to sup with them. Enters to them the daughter of the house, Yvonne de Grandpré. She has "words" with Master von Rodeck, and not unjustly anoints his fair head with a glass of wine. "You women of France are ours. You shall be mine!" he cries, and he is trying to get at her across the table when the curtain drops. It was perhaps fortunate that the gentleman in the stalls who resented Act I. did not wait for its successor. We are introduced to the village cabaret, and learn that in that terrible September of '70, the French villagers spent their time in perpetual carnival, directed by Mr. Legge, as chief "Orpheonist." Yvonne comes to the cabaret, and so do the Uhlans. Alexander von Rodeck finds her there, and presently he and his brother officers are casting lots for the privilege of dishonouring her. To be fair, I should add that two of them are unconscious of their victim's identity; but when that is disclosed, and Von Rodeck wins the game, they leave her to her fate without lifting a boot to incapacitate her Alexander. When it comes to the point, Yvonne screams and apparently goes mad. She is, in fact, merely hysterical, and the hysterics are the only weak point in what is otherwise, in Miss Julia Neilson's hands, a charming night's work. But, mad or hysterical, she is too much for Von Rodeck, who abandons his design, and conceives a pure passion for her from that hour. The rest of the piece, with its vapourings, mock heroics, and quick changes of affection, is simply "dam silly." That was the opinion of a second unauthorised critic, a gentleman in the gallery, whose comment I overheard later in King-street. "Wot can you expect," asked his companion, "from the man that put on 'Is Little Dodge' at the Royalty?" I confess—with no great pride—that I liked "His Little

odge," but the conversation may suggest to Mr. lexander the propriety of taking in sail. Frankly, I emur to "The Conquerors." It is prettily put on, and Miss Neilson, Mr. Fred Terry, and Mr. H. B. Irving waste alent as freely as the manager has spent scenery on hat was not worth so much taste and care. But I islike the show of French and German manners as hey appear to Mr. Paul M. Potter. I deplore the weakness of such "Conquerors," and the violence of the author's effects, and I object to the very concessions to decency which somehow make the result not less but more offensive than if the worst reports of this advertised piece had been realised. Nothing can be more unpleasant than the darkening of the stage and other preparations for Von Rodeck's chivalrous revenge. For the rest, where much was absurd and disagreeable it is unnecessary to particularise, but under the first category I think that the automatic choir, which the Chateau Grandpré turned on at intervals, is sufficiently foolish, while the part of Foulette, as played by Miss Victor, adorned the second. The manager who thought these elderly frivolities becoming has an odd sense of what is due to his public and his art. The language was mildly amusing. Von Rodeck talks of "facing the music" and "folding his tents like the Arabs," but these are small matters. It is not a small matter that the Licenser should have permitted the piece to be produced. Mr. Redford has done two things. He has demonstrated the need of a Censor in a country where managers care to produce such plays, and he has proved beyond any question the unfitness of a Censor who passes such a piece.

MORE STARS AND STRIPES.

Whatever my colleague Moses Moss may say of Yankee Rails, the boom in stage Americans continues. There were no uneasy palpitations about "The Heart of Maryland" when I diagnosed it last week, and now "The Belle of New York," and "Too Much Johnson" are eminently "firm." The "Belle" is a bouncing young person—noisier, more dazzling, and more restless than her English sister, not very fine, perhaps, but conspicuously large. The story is like our own Gaiety pieces—that is, a labyrinth. But new types wander through it—a Bowery "tough" and his "donah," as we should call her, two Portuguese Counts, Chinamen of course: all things, in short, pretty much as your prophetic soul may have conceived proper to New York comic opera. There are some individual surprises. Mr. Dan Daly, the chief comedian, is one. Miss Edna May, again, the Salvation lassie, is the most demure little rogue imaginable, with a delightful voice and a real turn for comedy. She has only to make up her mind, to become an actress, seriously delightful. As it is, she made the Salvation Army dress becoming, and I wish she would wear it through the evening. It is in their chorus where the invaders principally beat us. That is ample, and its members are sufficiently handsome; but the point is that they all sing and act as though the evening was theirs to make or mar. You could not mistake a single one of them for a piece of scenery, whereas in our own choruses——!

Not often outside comic opera have I seen a coherent piece which was quite so irresponsible as "Too Much Johnson." It is a merry nightmare—the sort of dream which might beset your pillow after a night's talk with Mr. Gillette, following weeks of tiresome people dinning in your ears the name of Cuba. The play-bill does not pretend that the piece is anything else. It does not describe itself as farce, comedy, tragedy, or burlesque; it is simply "Mr. William Gillette in his most recent attempt to kill time, which answers to the name of 'Too Much Johnson,' supported by Charles Frohman's company of comedians." That is all it is! Mr. Gillette, looking and talking exactly as he always does, and in the very accents with which he afterwards addressed a delighted house, pretends to be Mr. Augustus Billings; but one knows he is not. It is simply Mr. Gillette. Augustus Gillette, however, has married a wife, and the wife has a mother, and Augustus has been flirting and a consistent truant from home. He explains his absence to mamma-in-law on the score of Cuba; he has coffee estates, and—well, a man obviously must visit his coffee estates. Alas! coffee was a synonym for Clairette, a lady with a jealous husband. Providence now descended heavily on Augustus. His wife and his mother insisted on his taking them on one of his voyages to Cuba. Conceive Augustus *en route* for Cuba. He has a planter friend there who will see him through and pretend anything. But every man gets the mother-in-law he deserves, and Augustus's relative, rummaging in his pockets, finds love-letters addressed to one Johnson. Augustus is cornered. He has a happy thought—Johnson is the friend of Clairette and his overseer. Augustus breathes again. But M. Dathis appears. He is Clairette's husband, and he is searching the world for Johnson, with half a photograph with which to identify that destroyer of his hearth and home. Augustus squares M. Dathis—never mind how—he squares him. And then comes Mr. Francis Faddish, with his niece and her youthful adorer. They are all going out to Cuba—and to Johnson. For there is a real Johnson, and such a Johnson! He has bought Augustus's friend's, the planter's, property, and lives there Christianising the black man with all the charms of character and presence which distinguish the worst sort of pirate and the entire race of pantomime ogres. So Uncle Faddish, with Johnson's fiancée, whom Johnson has never seen, Augustus, who believes his friend the collusive planter is in Johnson's shoes and that Johnson is a myth, and Mrs. Augustus and her mother, who look upon Johnson as the incarnation of all the vices, are all sprung upon Johnson. Conceive, if you can, the delight of the party, and the delight of Johnson! But you cannot conceive these things unless you go the Garrick and "sit under" your Gillette. He is as ingenious in his way as the author of "Alice in Wonderland," and his voice, his look, his incomparable dry humour are an inspired accompaniment to his invention. All the company act well, if acting is the word for it. I came away in the belief that it is a very mad world, but a funny one, that one cannot have "too much" Frohman, that Mr. Gillette is great, and that I should be proud to be his prophet.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE GIRL-QUEEN OF HOLLAND.

PARIS is in love with the Queen of the Netherlands; and no wonder. She personifies life's delightful morn as it never was before upon a throne. Wilhelmina seems rich in that joy of life which constantly eluded her two brothers. She promises to carry her sceptre as she might bear a rose. Her carriage is singularly free, and gives the impression of growth still going on. She is very well formed, has well-shaped features, a complexion that would beautify any face, fine blue eyes, and golden hair that forms a nimbus round her head. One can see that she is sensitive and impressionable. But the placid conditions of life in the Netherlands have not weighed on her. Great care was taken to develop bodily strength. She skates as only a Dutch girl can, is an accomplished equestrian, plays lawn tennis, and is up to all the athletic accomplishments of a girl of the period, save cycling. The line was drawn at the bike, which was thought undignified and dangerous. One can hardly suppose she would take it up after her swearing-in as Sovereign. This ceremony will come off in September, and the most worthy Regent will step from before the young Queen to her side.

Wilhelmina, in spite of her light green silk dress—so provincial in its general air—looked captivating as she stepped the other morning from the railway train that brought her to Paris. That event took place at eight o'clock. She was rosy as the dawn, and with no rude flush. Her gladsome countenance contrasted with the placid faces behind her and before her on the platform. She stepped down with a springy step. Nothing could be more girlish and less miss-ish than her bearing, and still it seemed made up of easy dignity. The absence of pose was very charming. Any other girl of eighteen must have been at a fearful disadvantage in that green dress, green tippet (lined with ermine), and green capote bonnet, made up into a point, with a white aigrette on the summit. But who could think of the attire, when the young face and figure expressed so much spirit, beauty, amiable girlish feeling, happiness, and health? The two bouquets presented to her were received with the ease of one used to such tributes, but who is not yet blasé. That of Mlle. de Stiers was of roses and orchids. The orange ribbon fastening it jarred with the delicate tints of the flowers.

It was not easy to see the Regent's face, a pair of large green spectacles and a high furred collar hiding it. Her eyes were never strong, and she must protect them to bear travelling. She is stout, staid, and sterling. Her life has been made up of patience and conscientious attention to all her duties, great and small. I am told that she has the enjoyment for life of a large private fortune. The late King of the Netherlands came into the enormous wealth of his brother, Prince Henry. The latter, as it was chiefly personalty, made a will, it was supposed, in favour of his second wife, a sister of the Duchess of Connaught. But this will could not be found after his death, and the heritage went to the late King.

The two Queens have a following of six gentlemen and two ladies, with men servants and *femmes de chambre*. But there is no governess. Their Majesties are inseparable. They rise betimes in the morning, and go to bed early. Their visit to the Louvre took place before that Museum was open, and they had to wait some time at the door. Her youthful Majesty was in a beige woollen dress, with plush jacket and grey felt hat trimmed with blue velvet. She was taken to the Italian Galleries. When she saw the Joconda she exclaimed, "I think she's like me." Wilhelmina speaks French without a foreign accent. She has had the joy of replenishing her wardrobe in the Rue de la Paix, and of ordering of a jeweller there a wedding present for the Princess Alexandrina of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. At the wedding of that Princess she will find quite an assortment of Princes ready to devote themselves to her. The announcement of an engagement with Prince Bernhard of Saxe-Weimar, grandson of Princess Sophie of the Netherlands, is contradicted. The Dutch do not like the idea of a German husband. As the sons of the Crown Princess of Denmark have a Dutch grandmother in their pedigree, Prince Harald, the third, now in his twenty-second year, would be acceptable. The nicest marriageable Prince of a Protestant House in Europe is Eugène of Sweden. He has conduct, engaging manners, and is highly educated. But as he is an artist, perhaps the Dutch might not think him a serious candidate, were he to come forward. He works like a professional painter. As, however, the Netherlands no longer have a history, devotion to his art should not disqualify him. Every one who knows Prince Eugène likes him, and thinks well of him. He is a first cousin of Queen Emma.

"Martyre," Richepin's new play, deals with the birth of Christianity in Rome. It sets up to a sort of sentimental piety, but the author must have laughed in his sleeve as he wrote. Were I not afraid of making Richepin angry, I should say that religious emotions of Flammiola (Bartet) come within the sphere of Doctor Charcot. She is gained to Christianity by Johannes, a prophet preacher of the first century (Mounet-Sully). Her motives are a good deal mixed. Like most Romans of her time, she suffers from that weariness of life that came of over-eating. She mistakes hysteria for piety—and so does the author. Her religious fervour shows itself in running after Mounet-Sully, who shows a splendid pair of legs and arms (quite bare), and has inspired Flammiola with an unconquerable passion. She believes she is subjugated by the doctrine of the Cross, though the other motive constantly appears. Mounet-Sully, in order to develop the muscles of his legs and arms, has been months in training. During that time he gave up tea, coffee, wine, beer, and cigars. It was worth while doing so, inasmuch as all was to lead up to his being crucified in the amphitheatre in Rome. Nothing could be more realistic than the crucifixion drop-curtain scene. Let Ober Ammergau hide its head! All, or nearly all, the ladies kept exclaiming as they watched the contorted muscles, "C'est affreux! Mais, c'est affreux!" But all the same they were delighted at the shocks their nerves received. Mounet-Sully was ghastly. He was master of larynx muscles, countenance, and the

very hair of his head when he writhed and cried, "À boire, à boire!" Bartet tried to tone down her hysterical part. The agony can be piled no higher when Johannes recognises Flammiola. She, mad with grief and nerves, declares herself a Christian to the Prætor, and wants to be crucified also. The magistrate will take her at her word. But her faithful slave, by stabbing her, saves her from the shame of the cross. She crawls to the one on which Johannes hangs. His blood baptizes her, and she puts, as he exhorts her, her whole trust in Christ. All the slaves, centurions, and other Roman characters are mere padding and an excuse for the costumier. The Christian congregation of Johannes are the halt, the maimed, the blind, the crippled, the ulcerated. They seem the kind of beings that infested the Cour des Miracles. This drama is meant for exportation. It is one to attract the morbid of both sexes.

The Duc d'Ursel, who married Mlle. de Franqueville last week, is Governor of Hainault, and a nephew of Comte de Mun. He is gentlemanly. One thinks him *un peu effacé*. But the very careful education he received has not rubbed out all his originality, and it has certainly given him the desire not to make a selfish use of his advantages. Mlle. de Franqueville is daughter of Comte de Franqueville, member of the Institute and also of the Cobden Club. He is a close, clever speaker, but his speeches are few and far between. His wife, *née* Schœffer-Erard is the principal shareholder of the great piano-manufacturing firm. Her enormous wealth enables her to keep the garden and grounds of La Muette as they were when that place was a Royal hunting lodge. I should say those long avenues, shaded with venerable trees, that one sees from the Avenue Henri Martin, are worth 1,000 francs a yard. There are three, forming a fan, with pleasure grounds between. Erard bought this estate on the morrow of the Revolution of 1830 at a ridiculously low price. The Catholic ceremony at the Ursel-Franqueville wedding took place in the drawing-room of the Château de La Muette. As the Marquis de Mun, the bridegroom's father, died so recently, it was a purely family affair.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THERE is little intelligence, dear Lady Betty in "The Latest Intelligence." The following extracts from the leading London papers are, therefore, more entertaining than instructive:—

Rumours of Ship Purchases.

Our Deptford correspondent telegraphs:—A report is current here this morning to the effect that proposals have been made to the Thames Navigation Company for the purchase of one or two of their penny steamboats in connection with the probable outbreak of hostilities between Spain and America. It is understood that the negotiations are on behalf of the United States Government.

Attitude of the Powers.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Monte Carlo, April 16.

Commenting to-day on the Spanish American crisis, the Monte Carlo *Croupier* says:—"There is no room for further European intervention, and the watchword is, complete neutrality. But after the war, and on the day when the final accounts are being prepared, Monaco may make its voice heard."

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Vienna, April 16.

It is generally foreseen that, were the United States to annex Cuba, the Americans would certainly cultivate brown-paper instead of the tobacco plant. In the interests of the millions of smokers the European Governments have, therefore, decided to take concerted action to prevent the United States from occupying the island permanently.

Our representative, in consequence of the foregoing serious report, had an interview to-day with one of the Secretaries of the French Embassy at Albert Gate. The latter stated that no official confirmation of the report had reached the Embassy, and, with diplomatic tact, assured our representative that he felt convinced that were Americans to substitute brown-paper for the tobacco leaf in the manufacture of Havanna cigars, they would, as befitted the members of so great and so honoured a nation, place a most wholesome and admirable article upon the market. He, however, added that personally, acting solely upon medical advice, he would continue to smoke exclusively cigars composed of tobacco. This important statement is deserving of the utmost consideration, since it tends to show that France, whilst harbouring very friendly sentiments towards the United States, will not permit her own interests to be interfered with in any respect.

Our representative then called at the Russian Embassy, in Chesham-place, but was unable to obtain an interview either with the Ambassador or with any member of the staff. He had, however, some words with the second footman, who observed the utmost reticence, being evidently anxious not to commit the Czar by any indiscreet expression of opinion.

After this, our representative proceeded to the German Embassy, but the Ambassador and the entire *personnel* are absent, as the house is in the hands of the decorators, in preparation for the approaching London season. Fortunately our representative was enabled to hold a short conversation with one of the workmen employed on the premises, who, in answer to a direct question, replied:—"Well, guv'nor, I am in favour of the government *of* Cuba *by* the United States *for* Spain." The importance of this declaration is obvious, as the policy which it advocates affords the easiest solution of the difficult problem. Our representative inquired whether he would have a glass of sherry or a brandy cocktail, to which the man answered: "Thankee, but I think a pint of bitter would suit me best." This proves that Germany does not propose to entangle herself in the quarrel either on the side of Spain, or on that of the United States, but that she is especially anxious to draw closer the bonds which bind her to Great Britain.

Edison and Electricity.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Washington, April 16.

The War Minister is in continual communication with Mr. Edison, who, it is said, has completed many contrivances for the use of electricity for destructive purposes should war ensue between the States and Spain. Amongst other plans, it has been decided to attach miniature torpedoes, charged with a new and most violent explosive, to the tails of all the fish in American and Cuban waters.

Certain journals of the extreme "Yellow" type advocate the despatch of a detachment of American "heiresses" to subdue Spain, but the moderate papers oppose the proposal as being too barbarous, and, therefore, likely to elicit the strongly expressed disapproval of the civilised world. The "Yellow" Press in reply to this maintains that America is not concerned with civilisation. Cuba must be freed at whatever cost to the Cubans.

Hotel Albemarle, Piccadilly, London. Private Suite, Bath, Electric Light, Lift. Vermersch, Proprietor. Paris: Imperial Hotel, Champs Elysées. Boulogne S/M: Imperial Pavilion Hotel.

Mr. Edison is also constructing an enormous wind producing machine which is to be established at Key West. The powerful gusts generated by this instrument, and directed towards Cuba, will be charged with electricity, so that, sweeping the island, they will extinguish all life, whether human, animal, or vegetable. The Cubans must be freed.

A vast ram is, moreover, to be erected at the extreme end of Key West towards Cuba, and Mr. Edison proposes, by merely touching a button in his laboratory, to move the Continent of America so as to bring it into collision with Cuba, when the force of the impact must demolish that island. America is determined to free Cuba, even if in doing so she has to exterminate the entire Cuban race.

Congress Unanimous.

Washington, Later.

Congress is unanimous; Congress will not fight.

The Reserves to be Called Out.

New York, April 17.

It is denied that the reserves are to be called out. It is officially declared that in America there is no reserve.

The Commissariat Complete.

Washington, Later.

War is inevitable and imminent. Enormous supplies of brandy-cocktails and gin slings have been despatched to the front. The entire adult male population will follow immediately. The utmost enthusiasm prevails.

(from our own correspondent).

Key West, April 19.

The entire American Army has assembled here: 10,000,000 men. The Commander-in-Chief has just addressed them. He spoke into the receiver of a telephone, with which instrument every man was connected by a separate wire. It was a most impressive ceremony. The Commander-in-Chief said:—"Fellow Citizens, — A beneficent Government has entrusted you with fire-arms. I have but one earnest request to make: for heaven's sake, *do not load them.*"

* * * * *

Is it not time that our bills of fare should be written in English? A few well-known dishes figure always under the same names, but, otherwise, every cook calls his concoctions much as he or she pleases. Most men who are sufficiently honest would admit that they frequently select dishes named on the bills of fare without being absolutely certain of their composition. Then why continue a system which does not offer any very evident advantages? At one period no English singer was sufficiently brave to appear before the British public under his or her own name, but, in order to obtain a hearing, found it necessary to add an "o" or an "e" to the ending, so as to suggest an Italian origin. Three-fourths of the dressmakers in London are English, but the majority of them describe themselves as "Madame" this or that. These obvious deceptions are ridiculous. As regards the description of dishes, however, there can be no rational excuse for puzzling those who consult the bills of fare, as not even the most learned in the art of gastronomy could now say with certainty what the items named in these are composed of.

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Attention was called last week in these columns to several legacies and gifts which charitable institutions in Great Britain had recently received, the total amounting to £138,150. By an error of the printer it was stated that Mr. Hope Morley had given £4,000, and that the late Mr. George Congreve had bequeathed £500. Mr. Morley gave the £500, while the £4,000 was bequeathed by Mr. Congreve. This week it is announced that the late Sir John Arnott has bequeathed £40,000, to be distributed between various charitable institutions in Cork and Dublin. A correspondent has gone somewhat deeply into the matter suggested by the remarks referred to, and he has calculated that over a quarter of a million is handed over every week to charitable institutions in Great Britain. If that is so, it is difficult to account for the fact that the Prince of Wales's Jubilee Hospital Fund has not received more substantial support than it has. As summer is approaching, the attention of the charitably-disposed should be called to the Children's Country Holiday Fund, of which Mr. Samuel Barnett is the chairman, and whose offices are at 10, Buckingham-street, Strand. Thirty thousand children are looking forward with indescribable longing to breathe the fresh air of the country again, and once more to see the green fields. In modern England the children seldom ask in vain if their requests are reasonable, and it is to be hoped that all who can afford to contribute towards this admirable fund will do so.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE Craven Meeting afforded the most interesting racing that has been seen this year, and the week was as fertile in surprises as usual. I predicted some time ago that Jeddah would win the Craven Stakes, which was absurdly enough made the last event on the card on Friday (it ought to have been the first race), but the performance was not brilliant. Jeddah was backward, but so were most of his opponents, and the pace was very bad. The defeat of Cyllene for the Column Stakes (with long odds recklessly betted on him) was the tragedy of the week. It is said that Mr. Rose's colt was "chopped" at the start, and certainly there ought to be some good excuse for him, but he is far from fit, and it would have been a wiser course to have rattled him along in his work and kept him for the Newmarket Stakes. It is certainly a misfortune for the bookmakers that Cyllene is not engaged in the Derby, as he would have been a great winter favourite, and his backers would now have been looking miserably blue. The Biennial running proved that Leisure Hour cannot stay, but he will win a T.Y.C. race before long. St. Maur will do better a little later on, and he ran like a stayer.

The odds on Tarbolton for the four-year-old Biennial should have been 6 to 1 instead of merely 6 to 4, as he was the only animal in the field that had any pretension to be in racing condition, so it was no wonder that he won in a trot.

I predicted last week that Prince Soltykoff would soon win an "overnight" race at Newmarket with Crucianella, and on the day after Truth was published she carried off a Maiden Plate, winning in a common canter. The best two-year-olds that ran at Newmarket were Sister Angela (who was highly tried before Lincoln) and Peterero, who was a general tip for the Ashley Plate.

A great many fairy tales have appeared in the papers about the "tempting offers" which Mr. Houldsworth is alleged to have received for Springfield. The fact is that, so far from Mr. Houldsworth having "refused £20,000" for Springfield, he never once received a direct offer for the horse from any responsible person. It is quite enough for some impecunious mooncalf to jabber about the £10,000 or £20,000 which a notable horse is worth in his opinion, for some gullible reporter to announce that the price mentioned has been offered and refused. It would be a good thing if editors of sporting papers would refuse to print fairy tales of this kind unless they are convinced that the alleged offerer was in a position to complete the purchase if his proposal had been accepted.

Some of the sporting papers would always persist in writing of the late Mr. Bass as "*the Hon.* Hamar Bass," and they might just as well have added the letters "K.G." to his name. He has also been described as next heir to the Barony of Burton, which was conferred upon his elder brother about twelve years ago. Mr. Hamar Bass was heir to his brother's baronetcy, under a special remainder, but the peerage will pass to Lord Burton's only child, Mrs. Baillie of Dochfour.

Mr. Bass wasted an immense amount of money in buying high-priced yearlings, scarcely one of which ever earned a tithe of its purchase money, and his lack of success was

much to be regretted, as his system of racing was an excellent one. He disdained betting, and usually kept his horses for high-class races, the result being that he often opposed one of the flyers of the day with a beast that would have been a costly purchase at £100, so that many a time his enterprise at least stopped a walk over. Mr. Bass won two of the richest handicaps ever run with Rusticus, who was a mere plater, and he carried off the Goodwood Stakes with Carlton Grange, while the Cesarewitch of 1895 was at his mercy if Aborigine had kept on his legs. The best horse ever owned by Mr. Bass was Love Wisely, who won him the Ascot Cup in 1896, and also last year's Jockey Club Stakes of £10,000, in which race he made a dreadful show of Velasquez. Mr. Bass was keenly interested in racing all his life, and his Turf career commenced with an unsuccessful plunge on Christmas Carol, who finished second to Gladiateur for the Derby in 1865, a disastrous dash which brought him into disgrace at home, as Mr. Michael Bass detested the Turf and everything connected with it. Mr. Bass was certainly an "all round" sportsman, as he was for many years Master of the Meynell Hunt, being also prominent as a courser, in addition to his racing. He did not care so much for shooting of any kind as for salmon fishing, which was his favourite amusement, and he had for the last three years rented Lord Lansdowne's celebrated Meikleour Water in the Tay.

There was a very good field for the Lancashire Steeplechase of £1,000 at Manchester, including Drogheda, winner of the Grand National, but he had nothing to do with the finish. Keelson, who was ridiculously handicapped, won in a common trot. This horse was bred by Lord Zetland, for whom he won some good races as a two-year-old, and he finished second to Speedwell for the Middle Park Plate. Keelson, having apparently turned rogue, was sold by Lord Zetland to Mr. Cunningham, who has done remarkably well with him, and this animal affords another example of the fact that a well-bred horse that has shown good form, but which has become of no use on the flat, frequently develops into a brilliant performer in hurdle races and steeplechases.

The winter prediction that Regret would pay for following in hurdle races has been abundantly justified, and at Manchester this horse won the £1,000 hurdle race in a canter, after having made all the running, with 11 st. 10 lb. on his back. Regret is undoubtedly a flyer when in the mood to do his best. Two years ago, when this horse was owned by the Duke of Westminster, he was a prominent favourite for the Derby, but he could never fairly stay beyond six furlongs on the flat, and the fatuous blunder of pertinaciously training him for long-distance races ruined him for the time, and appears to have permanently impaired his temper.

Sefton Lodge, the well-known residence of the late Duchess Dowager of Montrose at Newmarket, has been sold to Mr. Leonard Brassey. Sefton Lodge was built in 1873 by the late M. Lefevre, and after his departure from England, Mr. Stirling-Crawfurd became the owner, and he left it to his widow, who bequeathed the property to her son, the present Duke of Montrose. Sefton Lodge has been since tenanted by Mr. McCalmont and Mr. Rucker successively. The house was built, regardless of cost, by M. Lefevre, and an immense amount of money was afterwards expended on the place by the Duchess Dowager, whose final work was the erection of a memorial church on the outskirts of the property, and in the enclosure belonging to that edifice her Grace and Mr. Stirling-Crawfurd are buried. The Bishop of Ely objected to consecrate this church until a picture which had been placed in it by the builder had been removed, but the Episcopal scruples were overcome by the dexterity of the Duchess Dowager, who took away the picture on the day before the service, and hung it up again on the day afterwards. There was another bother about the endowment, as the Bishop of the diocese had justly decided that the stipend must be guaranteed in a satisfactory way, instead of the incumbent's income depending upon chance.

Ravensdale was very heavily backed at Kempton Park last week, and his wretched running clearly proves that the view which TRUTH was alone in taking after Lincoln of this horse was correct. I then ridiculed the notion that he would turn out a good thing for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap, and it is difficult to understand by what hocus-pocus many people were so infatuated as to regard this horse's performances at Lincoln as justifying the expectation that he would win a big race. I suspect that Ravensdale is a rogue. Jaquemart was mentioned by me some time ago as being likely to win a good handicap, and I had expected he would "go for" the Chester Cup, but his bad running at Northampton disclosed the fact that he cannot stay, so he was wisely slipped for the £1,000 race at Kempton Park, which he won very cleverly. Northern Farmer, who was well backed, cannot stay a mile, and Mr. Bottomley will do well to study the art of placing horses if he intends to succeed with his stud. An animal which is useless in second-class company may carry all before him if he is relegated to a lower grade of competitors, and in the same way a horse that is Gulliver in Brobdingnag at a mile, is often transformed into Gulliver in Lilliput at six furlongs.

I hear that Mr. Bass's stud will be sold off by Messrs. Tattersall, without reserve, on May 11, being the Wednesday in the Second Spring Meeting.

It will probably be soon decided that the three-year-olds are an exceedingly moderate lot, and the public form exhibited up to the present time has been contemptible. After the wretched collapse of Cyllene the Newmarket Stakes ought to be a good thing for Hermiston, unless the Two Thousand running discovers a flyer, and there will have to be a magical transformation in Mr. Rose's disappointing colt if he is to develop into a worthy opponent of Galtee More for the Ascot Cup. The Baker's ailment is more than ever to be regretted after the victory of King's Messenger, to whom Sir John Kelk's colt gave 14 lb. and a handsome beating at Doncaster last September, and Lord Penrhyn's steed was much fancied on that occasion, as he started first favourite at 4 to 1 in a field of nineteen.

The trial of Ninus, about which such an elaborate noise was raised, was all nonsense and rubbish. Prince Soltykoff's colt is remarkably good-looking and a fine galloper, but I do not believe he can be made thoroughly fit to run for such a race as the Two Thousand by Wednesday next, and we have yet to learn that Ninus can stay the R.M. Remembrances of the performances of The Nipper are not calculated to justify the expectation that stamina will be the strong point of Ninus, who is his own brother. Brio has been as much liked as any horse at Newmarket by those who watched last week's gallops, but it is now said that Mr. Baird's colt will be reserved for the Derby, and it is certain that he will be benefited by time. Jeddah is still backward, but he had to be desperately ridden to win his race on Friday, and, with Carhaix beaten for the Wood Ditton Stakes, and Dieudonné to be kept for the Derby (a very wise decision of the Duke of Devonshire), the prospects of Egerton Lodge for next week's race are by no means bright. Orzil was tried over a mile at Newmarket on Friday on the Limekilns, and he won easily. If Orzil can really stay the R.M. he ought to beat all the Newmarket lot next week; but Disraeli is very much fancied there, and so is St. Evox, of which pair I decidedly prefer the former. Dunlop will be found a non-stayer, the dark Wantage is not class enough, although a useful colt, and there is no encouragement for any one to back Wildfowler after his dismal exhibition at Derby. I do not fancy Hawfinch, and neither Carhaix nor Schonberg can have a thousand to one chance after their running last week. I shall predict the victory of Batt if he wins his trial, and of the result of this gallop the market will afford clear indication. One cannot depend upon the stamina of a single one of the Newmarket lot, except Jeddah.

I will deal next week with the One Thousand, for which

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race Ebba (sister to Ladas) will be Lord Rosebery's best, as she easily defeated Mauchline and Fructidor in a trial on Friday over the R.M.

The Duke of Westminster may win the Hastings Plate on Tuesday with Calveley, who will then be in better trim for racing than he was last week.

CYCLING AND CHURCHGOING.

Bishop Stubbs, the Lord Bishop of Oxford, has been lecturing the good people of Maidenhead on the wickedness of Sunday cycling and boating. I can quite understand, in such a town, where Sunday is a busy day, the danger of religious services being relegated to a very back seat. At the same time, neither cyclists nor river folk are deserving of such universal censure as the Bishop is reported to have indulged in. I cannot see that cycling on Sunday is an enormity. As a mere means of getting to and from church it has great advantages, provided the parsons are sufficiently alive to their responsibilities to supply accommodation for machines. The wood and asphalte streets of the metropolis are not bad riding, and it would not take a great change in fashion before a good many people would find a ride to service at a well-known City church a very agreeable exercise. The bicycle needs no watering or feeding. The rider does not employ 'buses or cabs. The majority avoid the railway. The ordinary Sunday traveller gives employment to many more people than the cyclists. Then, too, Sunday is the only day on which thousands of young men and women who are employed in shops or in offices can leave London and get a breath of country air. As a means of healthy recreation, the bicycle has been to many of this class a priceless blessing. If the bishops and clergy who condemn Sunday cycling were to serve behind the counter for a few weeks, and live on the pay of a shop assistant, I feel sure they would prefer a Sunday on their bicycles in the country, and find themselves better for it than if they had stayed in town and listened to the rhetoric of the local rector. Far be it from me to suggest that people should not go to church on Sunday. They can do that and bicycle as well. The bicycle is not a devil's gift when used on a Sunday. The one little point the parsons omit to notice is whether or not the cyclists make any difference to church attendance. If there were no bicycles would their riders go to church? Their doings on Sunday on a bicycle bring them into notoriety, but for every person one sees on a bicycle how many does one meet in the street? If the non-cycling section of the community attended church regularly the number of churches would have to be doubled.

Let me carry the war into the parsons' camp. It is not nearly so much the bicycle as the parson that drives people from church. There is nothing that empties the church so much as the wretched system of sermons. Every parson is supposed to be able to preach. He has no open critics, and if he is put into a good living no amount of incompetency in the pulpit will affect his income. And yet parsons expect people who are busy all the week to sit and listen to their painful prosings or their pompous platitudes for intervals varying from fifteen to forty minutes every Sunday. No wonder men stay away and children grow weary of church, determining to give it up as soon as they are old enough to act for themselves. If the bishops would teach their clergy that brevity is not only the soul of wit but the salvation of sermons they would do a great deal more good for the Church than they will ever do by any amount of diatribes against the healthy and harmless exercise of Sunday cycling.

So far as his financial affairs are concerned, Roberts, the champion billiard player, has fallen on evil times. But these disturbing circumstances have enabled him to demonstrate the brilliancy of his powers as a billiard player. His hostile critics have had to sing small. I care not whether he could, if each man exerted himself to the utmost, give the points he does. The fact remains that, despite his fifty years, he is head and shoulders above the rest. He could not play, said his enemies, without the push-stroke. He not only does so, but increases his own record in nearly every match he plays. Then his own tables helped him. Now the tables are not his, and are measured to the Association standard, and it is on these tables he has been making big breaks. Against Diggle last week he made the record of 679 push- and spot-barred.

There seemed a bigger crowd than ever at the Crystal Palace to see the final tie for the Association Cup. But the turnstiles told a different tale. If the football on such occasions is not first-class there is always plenty to amuse one in the crowd. It is the one day in the year when the provinces invade London. They congregate together and make their presence felt, and so one gets quaint glimpses of provincial life and ideas. The people came in their thousands from Derby and Nottingham. In each town the day was treated as a public holiday, and shops and factories were closed. The Londoner might smile when the visitors mistook Battersea Bridge for the one at the Tower, or gazed in wonderment at the traffic in the Strand. But with what pitying will these provincials regard the poor Cockney on the football ground! He, poor fool, does not know each player in both teams by sight. He cannot tell who tackles or dribbles. No, the men of Derby and Notts regard the Londoners as poor things who scarcely know the joys of life. But to get to the game. Southerners, at all events, hoped Derby would win. They felt that Notts Forest were in the final on sufferance. Southampton ought to have been playing. Hence the tumultuous cheering and the waving of black and white flags and umbrellas when Bloomer equalised for the County. From an early stage of the play it was evident that there would be only one team in it. The Notts defence was admirably strong. The County forwards dallied with the ball and time after time had it taken away from them by the opposing halves and backs. The Derby forwards on the whole had more of the game, but their work lacked grit and determination. In the second half, for a long time they attacked strongly, but the Notts men kept them at bay, and when they in their turn got to the Derby goal just before the close of play they quickly scored a goal. It is all very well to say Derby had bad luck in not scoring, but the fact was that the opposing backs were too good for them, and whenever danger threatened, the whole of their opponents seemed to pack in goal. Their forwards, too, were quicker on the ball, and passed longer and more accurately than those of Derby. There is not a shadow of doubt that the best team won, and the losers cannot throw the blame on any individual player. Neither team had been in the final before. Notts Forest have just attained their majority, being twenty-one years old. Their victory is a happy omen. Derby's failure saved an enterprising local tailor from giving each player a new suit to measure. Such are the uses of advertisement and adversity. It is a quaint sense of humour that enables the vendors of funeral cards in memory of the defeated team to find a ready sale for their wares. With them it is only a question which of two packets shall be opened. The winners' supporters purchase these grim mementoes eagerly.

It is very satisfactory that the new rules regulating Army football competitions are having a wholesome effect. I have not, unfortunately, a copy of these rules, but in them, I believe, several evils to which I called attention a season or two ago are dealt with. Men can no longer exchange from one regiment to another because they may strengthen a team, nor are teams now allowed to go off duty for training as has been the case in the past. These changes may have something to do with the defeat of the Portsmouth R.A. in the Army cup final. It was played on Bank Holiday at Aldershot, and the success of the Gordon Highlanders was immensely popular. Then in the Cavalry cup final the winners were the 12th Lancers, but the cup has been awarded to their opponents the Royal Horse Guards (Blues). The winners had played a man who had recently exchanged, and now a three years' qualification is required. The holders would rather play again than keep the cup under such circumstances. This is a good sporting spirit, but if they do not keep it the whole competition

ought, in fairness to other teams that have been beaten, to be replayed. This cannot be done. In the Middlesex Senior Cup the 2nd Scots Guards defeated Brentford, to the great disappointment of the latter, who have lodged a protest.

Athletic meetings in the suburbs are now few and far between. Old-established ones like Erith have been abandoned. It is, therefore, pleasant to find the meeting at Surbiton still prospering. With proper programmes for schoolboys and others, and with good invitation open events, these gatherings can be made pleasant and interesting. In the open quarter Coltart was successful, and in the two miles the veteran Munroe only just failed to catch young Dixon, with 320 yards start. Munroe's time was 9 min. 41 sec. Being unable to go to the Oval owing to the rebuilding there, the South London Harriers held their spring meeting at the Croydon Football ground and got a good gate. Gerdes, the Oxford blue, won the sprint from a short mark in good time. The time in the three miles handicap, which was won by Byrne, was fast enough for an Inter-University meeting.

At Easter time there is always plenty of golf. The chief event was the spring meeting of the Royal St. George's at Sandwich. The handicapping made the events close and interesting. In the foursome competition it was only after a tie at the twentieth hole that Grosvenor and Caird beat the Messrs. Smith. The Cinque Ports Gold Medal was won by Hambro, with Caird second, but he won the spring medal, the Mills Cup, and Saunders Bowl. His handicap of ten will suffer. There was also a splendid match between F. G. Tait and A. D. Blyth. At the end of the first round the latter was one up, and Tait won at the last hole of the second round, Blyth failing at his putt. Even cracks are mortal, which was demonstrated at Seaford when the local man White was beaten by Braid. Both were off their game on the green, and in the return game White was fearfully nervous. In contrast to these exhibition games is the professional foursome match between Simpson and Sayers, who play Herd and Kircaldy. There is money up, and there is a deadly earnestness about the game which can only be realised by those who witness the play. The first half of the match was played at Balgownie, and Herd and his partner have three holes to their credit when they play the last stage at St. Andrews.

The Mediterranean is rapidly producing the most exciting yacht racing. The reason is not far to seek. The money is lavishly spent in prizes. The prize-money for the big boats runs into hundreds, and reaches to a thousand pounds. The *Bona* and *Satanita* showed excellent sport, and the latter in strong winds was invincible. The former secured nine winning flags to her opponent's six. The *Satanita* comes home to be converted into a yawl. Cannot our English yachtsmen spend enough money to make it worth owners' while to race big yachts in home waters?

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday]

MY DEAR BEN,—Another week has elapsed and war between Spain and the United States has not yet broken out; neither are we nearer a settlement. On the contrary, latest events in Washington in the shape of the passing by the Senate and the House of Representatives of warlike resolutions appear to render hostilities inevitable. It has been evident for some time that Spain would not and could not make such concessions as would satisfy the American Jingoes, who are now in control, and thus one cannot help expressing the view that if war cannot be avoided, it would be best for everybody that it should break out at once and let the sword cut the Gordian knot.

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Stock Markets Nervous—War Inevitable.

There are now few people left in Europe who are still retaining a faint hope that peace may be preserved. The Stock Exchanges and Bourses, at all events, have come to the conclusion that it is best to prepare for the worst, and we have now war markets and war prices. It is true that the Bank rate has as yet not been raised above 4 per cent., but even an advance to 5 per cent. is more or less discounted, and we have been familiarised so long with the prospect of war breaking out, that the actual declaration is not likely to give any very severe shock to the Stock Markets. How greatly business has been curtailed of late appeared clearly at the fortnightly settlement which has just been concluded. There is practically no speculative "Bull" account in existence. In fact, considerable "Bear" commitments have evidently been entered into. This was shown by the exceedingly light rates charged, notwithstanding the rise in the Bank rate, backwardations being in fact exacted in the case of several Home Railway stocks. Were any proof wanted of the existence of a considerable "short" account, it would be furnished by the fitful recoveries which take place every now and then on the publication of any favourable rumour, however far-fetched it may be. Thus, on Friday we had quite a "Bear" skedaddle in American Rails, and in some of the other departments, on the report that two of the insurgent leaders had declared themselves ready to accept autonomy for Cuba from the Spanish Government. Of course, the rally soon fizzled out again, when, next day, the political outlook was shown to be as grave as before. I am dealing with the probabilities of the American market elsewhere, but I should like to point out that, beyond a further hardening of the Money Market, the other departments have nothing to fear from the outbreak of war, and, after all, there must be some limit even to the United States taking gold from this country. War has, moreover, been discounted in the Home Railway, South American, and Mining Markets, while both in the Kaffir Circus and in the Westralian section the intrinsic position is sound, the mining industry making good progress both in the Transvaal and in Western Australia. I should therefore expect that, after a few days, these other departments would shake themselves free from the influence of the war scare, and that business would again assume normal proportions, as contrasted with the utter stagnation which is caused by the present state of uncertainty. I am not so sanguine as to South and Central American securities, which may show inactivity for some time to come. There is one favourable circumstance which should not be lost sight of, viz., the distinct improvement of the political outlook apart from the Spanish-American trouble. There are strong indications of a *rapprochement* between this country and Germany, the Emperor William apparently being inclined to follow up his complimentary telegrams concerning the Atbara victory with other expressions of goodwill. Then, again, the relations of this country with Russia are improving, and as a factor of anxiety the Chinese question no longer counts. All this is forgotten over the impending outbreak of hostilities in the Western Hemisphere, but it will tend to improve matters when once the dread declaration of war has been made.

Money and Gilt-Edged Investments.

The future of the Money Market is at present being discussed with the greatest interest. Last Thursday already another advance in the Bank rate to 5 per cent. was expected in many quarters, and it will certainly take place as soon as war is declared. The action of the directors of the Bank in protecting its stock of gold is generally approved, and it may well be that a 5 per cent. rate will suffice, especially as the United States will, in their own interests, be anxious not to raise the official minimum in London unduly. There is, moreover, on the way to this country, from various parts of the world, a sum of something like £4,000,000 sterling, and a 5 per cent. rate would doubtless attract more. In the meantime, rates in the outside market are approaching the official figure, and although no more than 2½ per cent. is charged for call

loans, three months' bank bills are not taken under 3¾ to 3⅞ per cent. Easy money is, of course, quite out of the question for some time to come, especially as trade is active and likely to remain so—war or no war. That under these circumstances gilt-edged investment securities should display a tendency to give way is not surprising. To begin with, Consols have fallen somewhat heavily to 110¾ for the account, owing chiefly to sales as a hedge against "Bull" commitments in other stocks. There has also been of late a further easing-off in the prices of Colonial bonds, British Corporation and Home Railway Debenture and Preference stocks, and one of the results of the graver outlook has been a fall in the new Chinese loan to 1⅝ discount, after it had recovered to 1¼ discount. The Chinese loans generally are somewhat lower, the Seven per Cent. Silver at 100, the Six per Cent. Gold at 104½, the Five per Cent. Gold at 98. Silver has not so far experienced the heavy decline which had been predicted should war become inevitable. The quotation is now 25 15/16d., while the price for forward delivery is 25¾d. Experiments, such as the establishment of a gold standard in India, will now no doubt be put off until times are more propitious.

Home Rails.—A Reaction.

Although trade generally remains active, and traffic returns for the week before Easter have, notwithstanding the variable weather, been very satisfactory, Home Rails have continued to be affected by the war rumours. They fluctuate, in fact, with American Rails, and every sharp set back in the latter causes a moderate reaction in Home Railway stocks, the argument being that if war breaks out between the United States and Spain, money will go higher. To a certain extent this is correct, but what must not be forgotten is the great scarcity of stock which was again shown at the last settlement. Thus Brighton "A" were arranged at even, and the backwardation on Great Eastern was ¼ to ⅛, while contangoes on all other stocks were easy. Nor is it likely that real holders of substantial Ordinary or Deferred stocks will be induced by the rise of money to clear out of securities in which they have done so well. It is, on the other hand, explicable that holders of Debenture and Preference securities, which had reached extremely high prices, should at present be tempted to realise. As regards the first batch of the Easter traffics, it was exceedingly satisfactory, the increase amounting to £114,000. The figures show that there was actually a gain of £202,000 in passenger receipts, and a decrease of £88,000 in goods, &c. This brings the total traffic increase for the fourteen weeks up to £598,300. So far, the Great Eastern has done excellently in the Easter week with a gain of £15,500, and while the South Eastern had as much as £15,379 to the good, the Brighton increase amounted to £14,865. The Scotch takes too were satisfactory, but that has not prevented a relapse both in Caledonian Deferred and in North British Deferred, caused entirely by the war scare. Whenever some favourable developments should come about, I look for a sharp recovery in these as well as in Dover "A," the South Eastern making remarkable progress just now. Great Central Preferred and Deferred are easier, but the 1894 Ordinary keeps remarkably firm at 40. Metropolitan Districts have been fairly steady, and I maintain my opinion that these as well as Great Central 1894 Ordinary, are an excellent lock-up. Central London Railway shares have been fairly steady at 10½ for the fully-paid Ordinary.

The Yankee Market.—When Will Bottom be Touched?

What interests operators in, and holders of, American Railroad stocks most at the present juncture is the question as to when the lowest point in these will be reached provided war breaks out. It is obviously impossible to fix a period for the firing of the first shot, but it may be as well to discuss the probable course of events. According to latest advices the United States Congress is almost agreed on the policy to be pursued, and although the Cuban independence resolution may cause some delay, everything now seems to point to the outbreak of hostilities in the next few days. Now, war scares are curious in that they fail to create a strong effect in exact proportion to the frequency in which they happen. The Stock Markets have now been well inured to the sentiment that war is inevitable, and so far the level of prices of American Rails has not yet fallen to the panicky quotations of about a month ago, when, on rumours that Spain had declared war against the United States, Milwaukee dropped at one time to 88¼, Louisville to 46¼. These prices have not been touched since, and, in fact, on the same day, an important recovery occurred. To show exactly the course which quotations have taken lately, I have compiled the following comparative statement:—

—	Highest in 1897.	Lowest in 1897.	Price, Jan. 2, 1898.	March 28, 1898.	April 18, 1898.
Atchison	17⅛	10	13¾	11⅞	11⅓
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	36¼	17¾	31⅝	26¼	25¾
Canadian Pacifics	90⅛	46¾	83⅛	84½	81¼
Central Pacific	18⅓	7½	12½	12⅜	12
Denver	15⅓	9 7/16	11¾	11⅓	11⅜
Do. Pref.	51⅞	37⅝	47¼	45¼	44¼
Erie	19 11/16	12	15⅛	13⅛	12½
Do. First Pref.	46½	28⅝	39¾	35½	33¼
Lake Shore	183	156	176½	198	183
Louisville	65¼	43⅛	58⅛	51	50
Milwaukee	105⅛	71⅞	98	94¾	91
Missouri, Kansas, and Texas	17⅜	10¾	13	11	11
Norfolk Adjust. Pref.	50	22½	48¾	47	46⅜
North. Pacific New Pref.	61⅞	34½	61	64¾	63⅝
New York Central	118⅛	95⅛	110½	114	113¾
Ontario	20 9/16	13	16¼	14½	14⅞
Reading	15¼	9 7/16	11½	8½	8⅜
Southern Ordinary	13	7¼	9¼	8⅛	7⅞
Do. Pref.	39	25	33⅛	26¾	26¾
Union Pacific	35 7/16	19 13/16	26¼	27¾	20⅛
Wabash Pref.	24¾	12⅛	18½	15¾	15¾

It will be seen that since the end of March a fresh fall has taken place, chiefly owing to the view now taken that war is inevitable. It is quite on the cards that on the actual declaration of war a general further decline of from $2 to $5 may be marked in the active list, and an opportunity might thus again be given to buy Milwaukee at about 88, Louisville at about 46. Union Pacifics only the other day dropped to 17 ex rights, and Union Pacific Prefs. have been as low as 49. At anything like these figures it would appear that purchases to a moderate extent should be fairly safe. The declaration of war will doubtless be followed by some dash by the American fleet on Cuba, or on some of the Spanish flotillas, and should our Yankee cousins come off victorious in these, Wall-street would doubtless put stocks up in a jubilant mood. An American reverse, on the other hand, would, of course, bring about corresponding depression. But there can be no doubt that in the end victory must remain with the Americans. Protracted hostilities would naturally cause many American industries to suffer, and thus even the final victory would probably leave the railroads with a somewhat uncertain future, just as a quickly-ended fight would really bring grist to the mills of the Southern roads, and thus such roads as the Louisville and Missouri, Kansas, and Texas would even benefit by the carriage of troops. A great deal will depend, no doubt, upon the respective Admirals, and if Spain were to bring forth a dashing and able leader, the eastern coast of the United States would present many vulnerable points to him. At the same time, the American railroads themselves are not likely to be invaded, and, on the sharp reaction indicated, it would appear to me that Yankee Rails would be a good purchase. The same, of course, applies to the stocks of the Canadian railroads, only more so, for the old adage, "It is an ill wind," here comes into play. Large quantities of goods would be despatched over the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific, so as to be forwarded from Canadian ports to Europe in neutral vessels, and in the same way goods from Europe to the United States will doubtless be despatched by the same

route viâ Canada. It is greatly to be regretted that the Commission has separated without effecting a settlement of the Pacific rate-war. It is by no means creditable to the managements and Boards of these roads, and, of all times, the present is not the one in which to quarrel. Of course, Canadian Pacifics have dropped to 81¾, Grand Trunk First Prefs. to 66, the Guaranteed to 73¼. On a declaration of war, and notwithstanding the rate trouble, these stocks should deserve every attention.

Foreigners and South Americans.

It is obvious that the outbreak of war between the United States and Spain would in the first instance affect the more speculative foreign securities which are dealt in by preference on the Paris Bourse. French investors hold Spanish Fours very largely, and there has always been a very considerable gamble in these bonds in Paris chiefly on the "Bull" side. London used to be a chronic "Bear" of Spanish, and unfortunately has not scored in its little gambles, as the *haute finance* in Paris always came to the rescue. Only during the recent war scares have London operators made money in Spanish, and it is to my knowledge that very large amounts were sold here from 60 downwards, on which considerable profits must have been obtained. During the last few days a rally took place to 44½, from which there has again been a relapse to below 40, and on the outbreak of war we shall no doubt see a further drop. Every fresh decline in Spanish causes some of the other French favourites to ease off, notably Turks, Italians, and Rio Tinto. Greeks have given way, apparently on the postponement of the loan, which has certainly fallen upon very bad times. The war rumours have also affected South American stocks, and although Argentines at one time rallied, they are moving down again. As I have already explained, recent business both in Argentine Government and Railway securities has been largely of a speculative character, and although the "Bull" position has to some extent been relieved, there is still some weakness. I certainly do not advise my readers to part with their holdings now, but fresh purchases should not be made unless a further reaction sets in, and then only if the buyers are able to take up and pay for the stock bought. Mexican Sixes have suffered a moderate set back, but I should be slow to give any credence to the rumours that Mexico proposes to side with Spain. Brazilians have been extremely flat, a further relapse being marked, and this Government will doubtless have to strain every nerve if it proposes to avoid default. Guatemala has again distinguished itself by that objectionable drawback of Spanish-American Republics—of not being able to keep faith with the national creditors. The Guatemalans very coolly reduced the duty on coffee, which is pledged to the foreign creditors, and subsequently merely gave an assurance that other duties would be substituted. It seems to me that Guatemala should be taught a severe lesson with regard to honesty. Uruguay bonds have, on the other hand, remained firm, and would no doubt, under ordinary circumstances, have scored a further improvement. Argentine Railway stocks have been dull, with a tendency to ease off. Whenever favourable developments take place in the general markets, substantial Argentine Railway stocks will doubtless again attract attention, but I fully explained the position last week.

The Kaffir Circus—Ever Recurring Obstacles.

Men connected with the South African department are waxing quite plaintive in their remarks on the course of the Kaffir Circus. They do not agree with the old adage "It is a long lane that has no turning." They say, on the contrary, that the South African road has no turning. There is always something occurring which prevents a recovery in this much-tried market, and now after all the various political troubles seem to have been overcome, and circumstances have arisen which are likely to make Oom Paul much more pliable, there comes the Spanish-American war to unsettle all the markets and with them the South African section. It is a far cry from Cuba to the Transvaal, and, on the face of it, it does not appear at all logical that the Kaffir Circus should be put down with American Rails. Yet this has been the recent experience, the explanation no doubt being the fear that the outbreak of war may cause a further rise in the value of money. It certainly seems that, apart from the Cuban spectre, the outlook in the Kaffir Circus has distinctly improved. I have it, in fact, upon the authority of some of the leading South African houses, that a strong improvement would have come about if the upward movement had not been checked by the war rumours. It is easy to prove this from the fluctuations in prices which have of late taken place. The moment it looked as if peace would be preserved, the active speculative stocks advanced. Thus, Rand Mines, which had dropped to as low as 27, recovered to 29¾, and East Rands and Consolidated Goldfields, which had been considerably below 4, improved to 4¼ to ⅝. Then followed fresh war scares, with the result that Rand Mines are now quoted 28, East Rands 4 1/16, Consolidated Goldfields 4. It is, however, not likely that this state of things will continue. When once war is declared the Kaffir Circus will doubtless steady, and the fact that the speculative account was shown at the last settlement to have been almost reduced to *nil* is greatly in favour of an improvement. There is also a remnant of a "Bear" account, but I do not think that it is large. On the other hand, the splendid increase in the March output is a very hopeful feature, while matters have also happened of late which place a more encouraging construction upon the political outlook in the Transvaal. For the third or fourth time the announcement is now made, this time under the date of April 16, from Pretoria, that the despatch of the Transvaal Executive, in reply to Mr. Chamberlain's latest communication, has just been handed to the British Agent. President Kruger has evidently been waiting, Micawber-like, for something to turn up in the way of England's political complications, which he might turn to account. In this he has been disappointed. The Chinese question has entered a much more peaceful phase, and there are indications that Russia wishes to proceed in amicable relations with this country. The German Emperor's telegram congratulating the British authorities on the Atbara victory must have been wormwood and gall to Oom Paul, as it shows that the Emperor is anxious to cultivate favourable relations with this country, and to gloss over the effect of his previous congratulatory message to President Kruger. More than that, public opinion in Germany is turning against the objectionable methods of the Transvaal Government. The *Cologne Gazette*, which has been frequently the exponent of the opinions held by the Berlin Government, has commenced quite a campaign against Boer methods. Under date of the 10th inst., my German contemporary published an interesting article, in which the frank statement is made that people in Germany know now exactly where the screw is loose in the Transvaal, and the advice is given to President Kruger to utilise his present position of power to further the interests of the gold industry, to come to a good understanding with those who are engaged in it, and to pave the way to adaptation of modern conditions. Above all he is advised not to unnecessarily irritate the suzerain power of England. The sting of the article, however, lies in the advice given by the *Cologne Gazette* not to lend the Boers any money. It appears that an attempt was recently made to obtain a loan in Germany by Transvaal emissaries with unsuccessful results, and that another attempt has been made in a different quarter. This leading article has been followed by a long letter from Johannesburg, published in the *Cologne Gazette* of the 15th inst., in which a very doleful account is given of the present position of business and consequent lack of enterprise on the Rand. The circumstance that the eyes of the German people are thus being opened to the facts of the real position in the Transvaal will certainly make the attempts of the Transvaal Government to obtain money in Germany exceedingly difficult. While thus matters are generally shaping more favourably to the Kaffir Circus, the

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fear of war between the United States and Spain depresses quotations. But I am also of opinion that in this instance, too, the actual outbreak of hostilities will render to the South African market its free action again. The chief market feature has been the publication of the report of the British Chartered Company of South Africa, the announcement of a new issue of capital causing a relapse to 2⅝. The market has, however, firmed up again since, and the Directors' report, which is, upon the whole, a business-like document, will doubtless be strengthened at the meeting of shareholders by all manner of favourable statements calculated to secure the success of the new issue of 250,000 shares of £1 each at £2, which it is intended to offer to the shareholders *pro ratâ*. The total increase in the capital to be authorised is, however, £1,500,000 in £1 shares, thus leaving £1,250,000 for future issue. These will no doubt be administered in several doses at such times as are more especially favourable for such operations. The reports on the progress of the mining industry of Rhodesia contained in this document seem promising, but the weak point is undoubtedly the absence of any crushings on a substantial scale. When the Geelong Company, a subsidiary undertaking of the Matabele Reefs, commences crushing with a 20-stamp battery at the end of May or the commencement of June, however, this question will be decided one way or another. The shares in the substantial Witwatersrand mines have had a steadier tendency, and Randfontein as well as the Barnato stocks were at one time in request, although easing off again on the war scares. Deep Level shares have been fairly steady, although they have not been altogether unaffected by the renewed weakness. Goldfields Deep are quoted 8, Rose Deep 6⅛, Crown Deep 10¾, Jumpers Deep 4⅞, Knight's Deep 1⅝, Nourse Deep 4⅞, Glen Deep 2⅜, Durban-Roodepoort Deep 3¼. By the time this meets the eyes of my readers the remains of the late Mr. Woolf Joel will have been interred at Willesden Cemetery, and I cannot help again expressing my deep-felt sympathy with the family of the deceased, and especially with Mrs. Woolf Joel and her little son, who have returned to this country. My condolences are also due to Mr. Harry Barnato and to Mr. S. B. Joel, who are feeling the loss of their nephew and brother very keenly. Mr. S. B. Joel has returned to this country by the *Dunottar Castle*, and is stated to hold a very favourable view with regard to the future prospects of the Barnato companies. According to my contemporary, *South Africa*, Mr. S. B. Joel proposes to return to South Africa after the obsequies of his brother; but his visit will be only a brief one, and he desires eventually to settle in London. Diamond shares have been dull, and De Beers—being a Paris specialty—have been affected by the fall in Spanish, and now stand at $25\frac{3}{16}$. New Jagersfontein are quoted 7⅛.

Golden West Australia.

The chief influence in the West Australian department has also been the fear of the outbreak of war. The public have refrained from purchasing, whilst for some reason or other, best known to themselves, the leaders of some of the principal groups have not supported quotations. This was probably due to a desire to give the "Bears" plenty of rope; and it certainly looks as if this was the underlying sentiment in connection with the Market Trust group, in which strong "Bear" attacks have been the order of the day. Thus, Northern Territories have been sold down to 2½, West Australia Joint-Stock Trust to $1\frac{7}{16}$ xd., ditto Founders' to ¾, West Australia Loan and General Finance to 1¼ xd., and West Australian Market Trust to 14s. 9d. The peculiarity about the position was, however, that while the public refrained from buying, there were all along purchasers on behalf of the group, and it would appear, therefore, that whenever a change comes over the market, those who have been selling "Bears" will find themselves in a tight corner. A moderate reaction has also occurred in the shares of the London and Globe group, Lake View Consols reacting to 8⅞, Ivanhoe to 5, while the various shares in the sub-Companies to be amalgamated stand at ⅜. London and Globe Finance, after a moderate fall, are firmer again at $1\frac{9}{16}$. The return for March of the Lake View Consols of 8,039 oz. of gold is by no means unsatisfactory, as it compares with an output of 7,396 oz. for February. For the month of April the crushing is, moreover, expected to be largely increased by the use of the new filter presses. No fewer than 550 men are now employed on the mine, a number of whom are busy with the erection of machinery, and eventually much higher yields will doubtless be obtained. The following is the long list of crushings which have come to hand during the week:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Ounces of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per Ton.
Lake View Consols ...	4,935	4,492	13¾ dwt.
,, ,, ,, (Cyanide)	3,624	2,672	2¾ dwt.
,, ,, (Concentrates)	25	875	—
Great Boulder Proprietary	1,415	3,146	—
Kalgurli	245	2,100	—
Associated Gold Mines...	1,525	1,520	—
Hannan's Brownhill—			
Sands	550	1,830	—
Slimes	453		
Consolidated Murchison	384	399	—
Hannan's Reward ...	950	120	—
Weld-Hercules	207	135	1 dwt.
Agamemnon	225	150	—
Robinson (W.A.)	570	143	—
Yalgoo Proprietary ...	23	24	—
Burbank's Birthday Gift	1,400	1,926	—
Australian Champion Reef	128	187	6 dwt.
Westralia and East Extension	2,326	909	—
East Murchison United	Gt. Eastern	1,050	1,010	7 dwt.
	Donegal	750	590	4 dwt.
Gullewa	350	330	—
Burbank's Birthday Gift	480	660	—
Belle Vue Proprietary ...	140	316	—
Crown United	51	63	—
Menzies Lady Sherry.....	50	97	—
Premier	625	317	—

A strong attack has been made on the Great Boulder Proprietary, notwithstanding the return in the above list, and the split shares have fallen to 17s. The new shares since the splitting of the old ones have not been popular, and thus the view which I expressed at the time has been fully borne out. But in the present instance unfounded rumours caused the relapse, a scare having been deliberately engineered by reports that the high-grade ore was giving out, and that the mine would shortly have to rely upon low-grade ore, the eyes having been picked out. Rumours of this sort generally take effect only in flat times like the present, and those who propagate them incur a serious responsibility. An official statement has now been made, according to which these reports are absolutely unfounded, and it is asserted that there is a two years' supply of the better-class ore in sight for the present battery. It is pleasant to turn from such unsatisfactory mis-statements to the information given concerning the Hannan's Brownhill at the meeting of the Anglo-Continental Gold Syndicate on Thursday. This Syndicate is interested in the London and Hamburg Gold Recovery Company. The latter undertaking is erecting a plant on the Hannan's Brownhill mine, which should be capable of treating not less than 100 tons of ore per day. Notwithstanding various delays the work of erection has been proceeding rapidly, and Mr. Turner, who presided, stated that they confidently expected the machinery to be running in the course of next month. Mr. Turner also stated that instead of 100 tons per day its daily capacity would probably be about 150, so that the Hannan's Brownhill mine, which has already produced 36,000 oz. of gold from about 8,000 tons of ore, is on the point of becoming one of the largest producers of gold in Western Australia—if not the largest—and the shares are, therefore, expected to appreciate greatly. This is precisely what I was able to state on excellent authority some months ago, and I expect Hannan's Brownhill shares to rise very considerably above the present price of $7\frac{5}{16}$. It is also interesting to learn from the chairman's statements that a trial crushing of 10 tons of ore, which had been made with the view of ascertaining what percentage of gold could be recovered, resulted in a return of 94 per cent., whereas the Company

undertook to recover only a minimum of 80 per cent. Sons of Gwalia shares have been a steady market at $2\frac{1}{8}$. East Murchison United, too, have been firmer at 1 on the crushing above referred to, which is particularly noteworthy, as the cost of production on the Great Eastern Lease is only 18s. per ton, and the profit produced by the crushing was £1,600, while on the Donegal Lease the working costs were 37s. per ton, and the profit produced by the crushing was £680. Lady Shenton have been steady at $2\frac{3}{8}$. The latest cablegram from the mine states that the working costs are now only £1 15s. 5d per ton, the reduction having been maintained, as against the mining costs of £2 0s. 9d. per ton in February. As the output of gold for the first quarter of the present year has been 4,068 oz., although during a period of three weeks the machinery was stopped for the purpose of being overhauled, it is not difficult to calculate that a dividend of 1s. 6d. per share has already actually been earned. Thus, provided the yield is maintained, it may be anticipated that dividends amounting to at least 40 per cent. will be paid for 1898, as against 20 per cent. for 1897. Florence shares have been steady at $\frac{5}{8}$, and there is not the slightest doubt that the new lode struck in that property is the Lady Shenton Reef. Golden Horseshoe have dropped to $6\frac{11}{16}$. Brownhill Central are lower at $\frac{15}{16}$, and Associated Southern have declined to $\frac{11}{16}$. Kalgurli were firm at one time on the above-mentioned rich smelting, but have since eased off to $4\frac{13}{16}$. Burbank's Birthday Gift are easier at $1\frac{1}{4}$. I have received several communications from shareholders in Gladiators, Limited, which has been recently reconstructed. My correspondents would like to know whether the shares have all been taken up, whether the reconstruction has been a success, and also the nature of the news that has been received from the mine. The following is one of the communications which I have received :—

> You are aware that Gladiators, Limited, has been recently reconstructed, an assessment on the shares having recently been paid. The resolutions were duly passed and confirmed at the various meetings, but no information has been forthcoming since. I, and no doubt many other shareholders, would like to know whether the shares in the reconstructed Company have all been taken up, and also what the advices from the property are. This Company was started without any public prospectus, and it is well known that there are a large number of vendors' shares. It would be specially interesting to know whether the vendors have taken up their shares in the new undertaking, and whether they have duly paid their quota. As the vendors are, I believe, on very intimate terms with the directors, it is all the more important that some such official statement should be made.

There appears to be no reason why such a statement should not be forthcoming, and I herewith call upon the secretary, Mr. A. B. Beeston, to inform the shareholders as to what proportion of the shares have been taken up, and whether the application money on the vendors' shares has been paid. Some favourable items of cable news bearing upon the W.A. goldfields generally are, firstly, that the railway to the smelting works of the Western Australian Smelting Company has been completed, and, secondly, that Sir John Forrest has promised to erect Government crushing batteries on the North Coolgardie Goldfields as soon as possible. This would give this portion of the goldfields a fresh chance. The warden of the Dundas Goldfield reports that its output during 1897 amounted to 18,163 oz. of gold. The Bird-in-Hand has unfortunately landed in the haven of liquidation, without the possibility of resurrection. I cannot help expressing my surprise at the unreliable character of the reports of the numerous experts, which were of the most glowing description. It will indeed be all the more important to invest only in those mines which are already fully developed, or have reached crushing point. I never have held any favourable opinion of the Murchison (W. A.) Gold Syndicate or of the Lady Forrest (Murchison) Gold Mining Company, and I am not surprised that it should now be found necessary to reconstruct both concerns. The Murchison Syndicate undertook the promotion of the Lady Forrest Company, and does not appear to have been more successful in the other properties and options which it acquired. As regards the Lady Forrest, one cannot help endorsing the remarks made by a shareholder, Mr. Hays, who stated that while in the prospectus it was represented that the mine was a proved and developed property, two and a half years afterwards, after £25,000 had been expended on the property, the Directors should now state that the property had not been properly opened up. I see that consulting committees have been appointed in connection with both the Lady Forrest and the Murchison Gold Syndicate, and it seems to me that as better management is undoubtedly required, the boards should be reconstructed. From the Hannan's Main Reef the following cablegram has been received: "The western crosscut 200 ft. level passed through West Reef, 5 ft. thick, 100 ft. west of the shaft. Will only average 2 dwt. per ton." The experience of our countrymen across the border has not, upon the whole, been a satisfactory one. I need not refer to the various other ventures with which they have been connected, but I cannot refrain from calling attention to the Glasgow Westralian Gold Mines. This concern, whose property is situated in the White Flag district, near Coolgardie, has been in existence for three years, but it has not apparently got hold of any quantity of gold. In this case, too, it has been a case of utterly unreliable reports made by experts.

Indian, Australasian, and British Columbian Mines.

The war clouds have also caused depression in the other mining departments, the Indian section having suffered to a considerable extent. Mysore West, Mysore Wynaad, and Balaghat are lower, and the only improvement has taken place in Ooregum Ordinary and Prefs., which are $\frac{1}{4}$ better. In Australian mines, other than Westralian, Mount Lyell and Mount Lyell North have improved, and there has also been a rise in British Broken Hill to 10s., and in Broken Hill Proprietary to $2\frac{1}{4}$. Charters Towers shares have, however, been weak, and declines are marked in Day Dawn Block, Bonnie Dundee, and New Queen. Aladdin's Lamp are lower, and Mount Morgan have eased off. The death of Mr. Crotty, which was announced on Monday morning, has caused great weakness in the various Mount Lyell properties, Mount Lyell having given way to 13, Mount Lyell North to $2\frac{7}{8}$, Mount Lyell South to 12s., and Mount Lyell West to 11s. New Zealand mines have been very inactive, and shares are difficult to sell. Waitekauri and Taitapu have been more particularly weak. Some quiet buying of Hauraki Associated has taken place between 1s. and 1s. 6d. This is apparently founded on the circumstance that since the completion of the ten-stamp mill the mine has been earning £400 to £500 per month clear profit, which is a very fair return on the capital. According to a cable just received, 30 tons of ore have been crushed for a yield of 271 oz. of gold, of the value of £765, and the cablegram adds that there is a great improvement in the ore that is being exposed. In copper mines, Rio Tinto are distinctly lower at $27\frac{3}{16}$ on Paris sales, and smaller losses are marked in some of the other copper shares. An interesting stage has been reached, from the market point of view, in Utah Consolidated. On Tuesday, the 19th inst., the last payment was made on the new issue of 50,000 shares, and it is supposed that all those who wanted to sell their shares have now done so. Nothing seems to have occurred to justify the decline, and it would not be at all surprising to see a sharp rally. The yield of copper keeps up remarkably well, and I find that during February the return from eleven shipments of ore made to the smelters varied from 11·01 to 12·85 per cent., the amount of silver ranging from 2·2 to 3·25 oz. per ton. These shipments have realised altogether $11,401. As I stated once before, shipments are at present purposely being kept on a moderate scale, pending the erection of the company's own smelting plant. This, I learn, has now been decided upon, a suitable site having been selected. Amongst British Columbians a fair demand has been experienced for London and British Columbia Goldfields at $\frac{3}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ premium, while Whitewater Mines have been dealt in at $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{16}$ premium. Tangier shares have been dealt in at $1\frac{1}{4}$. In connection with the London and British Columbia Goldfields, I ought to correct the statement I made a fortnight ago. The capital of this company

is £100,000, in shares of £1 each, on which only 15s. per share has been paid, so that the capital over which the dividend was distributed was £75,000. By the way, the annual report of the Minister of Mines for British Columbia shows that during 1897 very considerable progress has been made in the production of gold. In 1897 the yield of gold was 131,817 oz., against 89,460 oz. in 1896. The production of placer gold has decreased to 25,676 oz. from 27,201 oz.; but, on the other hand, the lode gold has largely increased. Mr. T. R. Hardiman, a well-known resident of Vancouver, has just returned with important British Columbian information. The object of his visit to London is to consult with the Directors of the Associated Gold Mines of British Columbia on the development of something like a hundred mining properties secured for this Company in the districts of Rossland, Kootenay, Slocan, Lillooet, and Yale-Kamploops. It is satisfactory to learn that great importance is attached to the selection of high-class mining experts in British Columbia. Thus it appears that nearly the whole of these mines have been reported upon by Mr. W. Pellew-Harvey, of Vancouver, who has an excellent record, and whose sole services will probably be secured by the Associated Company. Mr. Hardiman is of opinion, which is confirmed by Mr. Harvey, that a number of the mines opened up in 1896 will be made to yield large results in a few months. Klondike and Columbian Goldfields have been firm at $1\frac{1}{4}$-$\frac{3}{8}$, and British America Corporation shares have been dealt in at 19s. 6d. to 20s. According to the Ymir correspondent of the *Financial News*, the British America Corporation has added to its numerous purchases the Columbia and Kootenay Mine, one of the best-known properties in the immediate vicinity of Rossland. He states that with the cheap smelting charges, which are liable to a further reduction, there is every reason to believe that the ore can be mined at a profit. The *British Columbia Mining Critic* has the following concerning the well-known Josie Mine, which is now the property of the British America Corporation:—

> Holders of shares in the Josie mine, Rossland, are suffering from disappointment. It was stated that this mine had been sold to the British America Corporation for $300,000, which would yield the shareholders 44 cents per share. However, a circular has been issued, signed by Mr. F. E. Snodgrass, secretary of the Company, stating that the price for which the mine was sold was $261,000. Of this sum, $148,500 have been received by the Company, which leaves a balance of $112,500 due from the British America Corporation. When the debts of the Josie Company are all paid, and the last-named sum is received, there will be $218,846 to be divided among the shareholders. It will net them 31 cents per share.

The *Mining Critic* adds that not a few Josie holders will receive several cents a share less than the amount of their original purchase-money, so that it is evident that the British America Corporation has been getting in cheap.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

Joseph Crossfield & Sons, Limited.—This is an issue of 20,000 (part of an authorised issue of 25,000) Five per Cent. Cumulative pre-Preference shares of £10 each at £11 per share. The Company was formed in 1896 to acquire and carry on the business of Messrs. Joseph Crossfield & Sons, Bank Quay Soap Works, Warrington. The present share capital is £300,000, and there is a Debenture stock issue of £290,000. The whole of the Preference and Ordinary share capital is held by the Directors and members of the Crossfield family.

The Klondike Goldfields, Limited.—The Goldfields of British Columbia, Limited, and the Klondike Mining, Trading, and Transport Corporation, Limited, invite subscriptions to a capital of £350,000 for the purpose of acquiring and developing various properties in the Klondike district, and to carry on business in connection with mining and other operations in the Dominion of Canada or elsewhere.

This issue is more likely to benefit the promoters than the investor. The district may be rich in gold, but it is expensive and difficult to recover. It would be as well to await the result of the developments of some of the other properties in the district.

St. Neots Water Company, Limited.—This Company is formed with a capital of £9,000 in shares of £10 each for the purpose of supplying water within the town of St. Neots, and the parishes of St. Neots Rural and Eynesbury Hardwicke.

Stevenson & Howell, Limited.—This Company takes over as a going concern from January 1, 1898, the business of Messrs. Stevenson & Howell, manufacturing chemists, distillers and importers of essential oils, &c. Share capital £200,000, in Preference and Ordinary shares. The present issue is of 80,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £1 each.

The Rhymney Iron Scandal.

Some time ago, viz., in October last, I commented upon the position of the Rhymney Iron Company, and on the endeavours of Mr. Samuel Hern, of Cardiff, chairman of the committee, to obtain the fullest information. Amongst the subjects raised at the time in the committee's circular was the erection of a modern steel plant at a cost of £250,000, which was subsequently abandoned. The view was then taken that the loss of this amount of money was due to the want of prescience on the part of Sir Henry Tyler and some of the other members of the Board. Unfortunately, the shareholders in the Rhymney Iron Company are difficult to move, and do not sufficiently look after their interests; and although it is urgent that the present board of directors should be removed, they have not hitherto given sufficient support to Mr. Hern and those who are connected with him. Several shareholders have now forwarded to me a circular issued by Mr. Hern on behalf of the committee, dated Cardiff, April 5, in which the statement is made that the general committee have decided to deal with the whole question at the annual general meeting, which, it is assumed, the directors will call at an earlier date than usual. This course will spare the shareholders the trouble of completing two sets of proxies or the expense of attending additional meetings. Some small subscription of 10s. 6d. per 100 shares is suggested by the committee in order to defray its expenses, and it appears to me that it is well worth the shareholders' while to support their committee in this manner. The business of the Company is, I believe, one which could be made to pay well under able management. The shareholders have, moreover, been treated particularly badly, as at the meeting held on October 8, 1897, Sir Henry Tyler specially stated that he had warded off a call on the partly-paid shares, and suggested that the first step any new Directors would take would be to make a call; but before the committee had time to go to work, Sir Henry Tyler subsequently took great care to call up the balance of 15s. on all the new shares without even taking the trouble to inform them of the committee's step. It is evident that nothing but a radical change in the *personnel* of the Board can help the shareholders of the Rhymney Iron Company.

Artificial Rubies.

I am not going to argue now whether artificial rubies are as good as natural stones, but I should like to say a few words with regard to a Company entitled Maiche, Limited, for which subscriptions are at present being invited privately, and which chiefly deals with artificial rubies. The Industrial Inventions Development Company, Limited, of Brook House, 10, Walbrook, London, E.C., is sending out the prospectuses of Maiche, Limited, to shareholders of the Welsbach Incandescent Gas Light Company, with the remark that one of their directors, having been largely interested in the Welsbach Company, has informed them that they (the Welsbach Company) are just returning a considerable amount in cash to their shareholders, who, it was suggested, might wish to invest in this concern. I consider the Welsbach Company a very different enterprise to the one which has been started to exploit an invention for manufacturing rubies, which may or may not prove successful, and I do not con-

Old False Teeth Bought.—Many ladies and gentlemen have by them old or disused false teeth, which might as well be turned into money. Messrs. R. D. & J. B. Fraser, of Princes-street, Ipswich (established since 1833), buy old false teeth. If you send your teeth to them they will remit you by return post the utmost value; or, if preferred, they will make you the best offer, and hold the teeth over for your reply. If reference necessary, apply to Messrs. Bacon & Co., Bankers, Ipswich.

sider that the director in question is rendering the Welsbach shareholders any service in thus tempting them to go into a highly speculative undertaking. The prospectus is accompanied by a report by Mr. William Crookes, which is to some extent satisfactory. But when it comes to a question of starting a Company with a capital of £360,000 under the auspices of a Board of Directors who are not well known in this country, it is time to advise caution. I must, of course, also mention that all the other inventions of Mr. Maichie are thrown in as regards this Company, such as dealing with steam, purification of alcohol, sterilisation of water, &c. The chief attraction is, however, evidently the manufacture of rubies, and from my point of view I consider that such an enterprise should not be started until complete commercial success is fully demonstrated to would-be investors.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

County Club, Cork.—The mistake was to buy Brazilians when they were so high up. After the heavy fall it seems advisable to hold now.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Menapia.—These German lotteries are bonâ-fide enough, but the money generally sticks to the fingers of the intermediaries, who are of a shady character, and I advise you to have nothing whatever to do with them. *Quastor.*—Your are quite wrong in your assumption. It depends, of course, upon the articles of association; but generally shareholders in a mining company, for instance, on reconstruction, cannot claim to retain a portion of their interest in such a company, and a proportionate share of the assets. You will find that in such cases the interest can only be retained on the payment of calls, and that if these are not paid, or only partly paid, such interest would be forfeited. *Verax.*—I really cannot give you the information you require. If you want to interest yourself in Monte Carlo you had better apply direct to the Administration. *Ignorant.*—1 and 2. If the stocks were bought and sold during the same account, only one brokerage should be charged, viz., that for buying. 3. Yes, there would certainly be the contract stamps. As to whether any other stamps would be charged, that would depend upon whether the stocks are to be taken up, in which case stamp and fees would be charged. *Darlington.*—Skinner's "Mining Manual" is published by Mr. Walter R. Skinner, of 26, Nicholas-lane, Lombard-street, London, E.C., and is the best book of the kind published. *R. B.*—I am sorry I cannot recommend you the financial firm in question. As a matter of principle I cannot act as an intermediary. I cannot reply by letter.

Home Rails.

Demos.—What you require has been forwarded in your envelope. *E. Z.*—Great Central 1894 Ordinary stock will rank with the others on completion of the extension to London. *Malta.*—Security such as you require you cannot after all obtain in both Great Central 1894 Ordinary (1) and Central London fully-paid Ordinary (2), which are somewhat speculative in a way. In your position you ought to place the money in some securities which return immediate dividends, and you should be able to make a good selection from the lists of home industrial and brewery debentures which I gave in last week's issue. Great Central Ordinary (1894) and Central London fully-paid Ordinary are excellent lock-up of the kind, but they have not the security you look for.

American and Foreign Rails.

W. C. W.—No; I do not consider it wise to sell these Brazilian Railway shares after the heavy fall. *Keen.*—1. Yes, you should certainly hold your Baltimore and Ohio bonds, as the reorganisation is now being arranged. 2. If you have to sell out it really does not matter which of the two debenture stocks you dispose of, as both are equally promising. *Harboro'.*—Nos. 1 to 4 are fair American Railroad bonds of the kind. No reason to sell No. 5. *D. W. R.*—Fair investments of the kind, which, moreover, are cheap now.

Mining Shares.

Spes.—No particular reason for buying these Westralian shares. Lady Shenton or Ivanhoe would be far preferable. *Card.*—If you are a holder of Nos. 1 to 3 I see no particular reason for selling, but I should not advise you to select these for a purchase now. The same applies to Nos. 4 to 6, amongst which Block B (5) are the most promising. *P. K. Z.*—I have always held an unfavourable opinion of this West Australian Corporation, and do so still. The same applies to its sub-companies. *Greenhead, Glasgow.*—1. The London and Globe Finance Corporation paid an interim dividend of 10 per cent. in October last, not 10s. per share, and a further balance dividend for the past year is expected. 2. The Ivanhoe Company is doing well, but additional machinery is being erected, and you must not look for a dividend until this has been in operation for some time. 3. Yes, London and Globes, Lady Shentons, and Randfonteins are amongst the best purchases in the Mining Market. *Ireland.*—I have repeatedly warned my readers against the Welsh Mining Corporation, and I strongly advise you not to join this reconstruction. It would be simply throwing good money after very bad. *Sim.*—Rio Tinto Preference shares are now in receipt of 5 per cent. dividends, and should be suitable as an investment. *Yarg.*—Yes, these are very cheap now, and you might as well average. *Glen B.*—I do not see how you can get out of the payment of the call on these Quicksilver shares. If you can, do so. *A. W. Z., Bury.*—No option but to hold these shares for the present, there being no market for them. *Alice Isabella.*—I should say that London and Globe Finance (2) would be preferable, or you might distribute the investment over Nos. 1 and 2. *T. W.*—Prospects of the Holcomb Valley seem to be improving, and you had better hold. *A. B., Cork.*—1. No; I would not advise a purchase of these shares. 2. Doubtful.

Industrial Shares.

W. J. H.—I am sorry I cannot give you the price at which these shares are quoted on the Birmingham Stock Exchange, but you might as well make the exchange you propose. *Hermes.*—1. I should not buy these Tube shares at present, although you should risk holding now after the heavy fall. 2. An outside concern; deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. 3. After having had so much patience, you had better exercise a little more. *F. J. B.*—I consider this gunpowder concern as highly speculative, and do not advise the investment. The documents are returned. *Care.*—The secretary of the Universal Motor Carriage and Cycle Company ought certainly to reply to your questions. 1. You cannot obtain 5 per cent. with perfect safety; please to tell me what class of investments you require. 2. No particular reason for selling Louise & Co. Preference shares at present. *T. S.*—1. I would not advise a purchase just now of these American Breweries in view of the threatened war. 2. In last week's issue I gave lists of home Industrial Debenture and Preference stocks. Why not make your selection from these? 3. I should advise you to keep your Midland Preferred and Deferred for the present. *Blackwood.*—I only mentioned the debentures of this industrial concern, as the shares are, of course, speculative. I do not prefer the other stock mentioned. *Circle.*—The London office is at 20, Threadneedle-street, E.C., and the interest on the debentures is being punctually paid. *Pilot.*—There seems to be no chance yet of a revival in these cycle shares. *F. R.*—Yes, J. & J. Yardley & Co. Brewery Five and a Half per Cent. Preference shares are suitable for your small brewery trust, and they are still obtainable at about 5 or a little over. *Forrests.*—The Davies' Karri Company is doing fairly well, and the shares stand at 1⅝; but the rumours of an amalgamation with the Millars' Company, which was the first-started undertaking of the kind—and one of greater merit—have proved unfounded.

Mixed Investments.

J. W. G.—With regard to your list of proposed investments, you cannot do much better amongst Westralians than to buy Lady Shenton (1) and Florence (2). No. 3 is a fair but speculative investment of the kind, and Nos. 4 and 5 look promising. I cannot reply by letter. *F. L. V.*—Argentines of 1886 (1) are a good investment, and there is nothing against Nos. 2, 3, and 4. Nos. 5 and 6 are fair speculative investments, and the new Chinese loan (7) is a fair investment, suitable for those who do not mind a little nervousness now and then. *T. W. H.*—1. A fair investment of the kind. 2. Peruvian Corporation debentures should be held. 3. As you are a shareholder you can obtain a list of the shareholders of the company from the secretary on payment of a small charge. I am afraid that if your account is correct, this hosiery company is most unpromising. *H. E. B.*—1. The fall in Guatemala was due to the reduction of the duty on coffee to $1, which was a breach of faith on the part of the Government of that Republic, and of which certain people appear to have had early inside knowledge. The matter is evidently doubtful. 2. I have already stated that I do not advise throwing good money after bad in the case of the Sam's Wealth, but if you do not join the reconstruction your shares will be forfeited. *Richmond.*—1. Yes, a fair investment of the kind. 2. Speculative, but not unpromising. 3. Lady Shenton, Florence, Randfontein, Hannan's Brownhill, Sons of Gwalia, and Rand Mines. 4. Not at present. *Tom.*—Some of the mining shares mentioned by you are promising, for instance Nos. 1 and 5. The others are not tempting just now, and it would be preferable to put the money into Lady Shenton, Ivanhoe, or London and Globe. I do not think that undertakings like No. 6 will prosper if war breaks out between the United States and Cuba. *F. F. F.*—1. Yes; whenever the market generally improves. 2. If you do not wish to forfeit your shares there seems to be no option but to join the reconstruction. 3. Yes. 4. Perhaps some day. 5. Yes, the Lady Shenton is doing remarkably well, and a dividend is, no doubt, on the point of being announced. I know nothing of the circumstance mentioned by you, which is, moreover, trifling. 6. Yes. *Picton.*—1. At 50 the proportion of Union Pacific Preference shares received by the Union Pacific Ordinary shareholders works out to 7·50, so that the price of 20 ex rights would be equal to 27½ with rights. The price of the Prefs. is, however, somewhat higher to-day, viz., 53, so that you can get a little more. 2. Central London Railway shares are a steady market, but the more important improvement in these will doubtless not take place until the opening of the line. This line will in no way affect the Metropolitan district. 3. There might

easily be a rise of ½ in these brewery shares. 4 There is no difficulty in buying Lady Shenton shares, and you had better do so at once, as any day may bring a rise. With reference to your subscription to TRUTH, you should apply to Mr. Reginald E. Booker, at the office. *C. J L.*—The only 'bus companies' shares in which you could invest are those of the London General Omnibus Company and the London Road Car Company, which have no Preference shares I should not advise you to go into tramway shares, as the trouble with the local authorities has not yet been settled. I gave last week lists of Home Industrial Debentures from which you could make a good selection. I cannot advise on the stability of financial firms. *E. O. J.*—1. Utah Consolidated are likely to take a start very shortly, as all the new shares have been absorbed 2. J. & J. Yardley & Co.'s Brewery Five and a Half per Cent. Prefs. are a good investment at the present price of 5 to 5⅛.

A Chapter on Industrial Stocks.

It is obvious that the war scares must also have their effect upon home industrial securities, and the more active the market has been for stocks in this department, the more severely will the depression doubtless be felt. There have not, however, been wanting a few improvements, and one of a somewhat sensational kind has occurred in Russian Oil shares. The curious feature about this was that rumours were at first put about that the Russian Petroleum Company had been refused the transfer of the property at Baku by the St. Petersburg Government, while it was also rumoured that no dividend was after all to be declared, and that an action was pending with the vendor to rescind the sale. This budget of rumours caused at one time a smart decline, from which, however, a strong recovery took place on the absolute contradiction of the whole story and the declaration of a dividend of £1 per share, and the shares are now up again at 23. Welsbach Incandescent stocks have been a weak market, very little support being extended to quotations, insiders apparently letting matters take their course. The Ordinary are consequently only quoted 107, the Preferred 98, the Deferred 18s. Glasgow has been on the warpath with sales of Coats shares, which have dropped to 58¼, and in Threads (English Sewing Cotton shares) hardly any business is passing, the nominal quotation being ⅝ premium. Lyons & Co.'s shares have improved to 4 5/16, on favourable dividend estimates which are stated at the rate of from 15 to 20 per cent. for the last six months of 1897. Of course, a good deal is made of the acquisition of the premises in Throgmorton-street, and of the rumour that the contract for the refreshment department of the new Crystal Palace Company has been secured. In Brewery shares a moderate business has been transacted, and Allsopp Ordinary are quoted 151, the new Deferred shares being nominally quoted ⅛ premium. J. & J. Yardley & Co.'s Preference shares have been in demand, and have improved to 5 to ⅛. This is not surprising as the shares carry a cumulative dividend of 5½ per cent., and the Brewery is a progressive one. The cycle section has again been comparatively neglected, and dealings are on a very small scale. Amongst Dunlops the Ordinary are quoted 14s. 6d., while the Deferred have further declined to 8s. Humber Ordinary are dull at 12s., ditto Extensions at 7s. Singers have hardened to 11s. 6d., but Cycle Components have eased off to 1¼. Swifts remain at 11s. 3d., while Amalgamated Tyres are again lower at 6s. Efforts have been made to raise the price of Daimler Motor shares, which are now quoted at 10, but I do not see how this advance can in any way be justified. In Lipton shares dealings have quieted down very much, and the price of the Ordinary is ⅞ premium, of the Preferred 3/16 premium, with the Debentures at 5½ premium. With reference to new flotations, it is reported that the old-established firm of Novello, Ewer, & Co. is about to be converted into a limited undertaking, under the style of Novello & Company, Limited. People are asking when Mr. E. T. Hooley's long-talked of Hydraulic Joint Company will appear, and, in the meantime, a rival Company is being talked about. Then, again, Mr. Hooley is stated, by the *Birmingham Daily Post*, to be preparing the issue of the Lee-Metford Small Arms and Ammunition Company, with a purchase consideration of some £300,000. Sir R. T. Goldsworthy, K.C.M.G., Mr. G. Allen, Captain Chaloner, M.P., Colonel Frederick Hill, Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. Nuttall, the Hon. W. F. B. Massey-Mainwaring, and the Hon. G. F. Parker, are mentioned as the Directors of the undertaking. Further information as regards the value of the inventions acquired must, of course, be awaited. The Directors of Bell's Asbestos Company, Limited, have just announced a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for the year ending December 31, 1897. Against former distributions, this is undoubtedly disappointing. National Explosives shares have been steadily dealt in at 1¼ to 1⅜, and, in view of the dividend of 11 per cent. recently paid, this must be considered a moderate price. Hudson's Bay shares have suffered from the war rumours, while the alleged gold discoveries on the Company's properties are contradicted. Under the circumstances, the present price of 20¾ seems quite high enough. Anglo "A" have been weak with the Yankee market, and will probably continue to fluctuate with it, although war news will doubtless be more in demand than ever and should thus provide a considerable source of income. By the way, some of the cables will, in case of war, be in danger of being cut, especially those connecting Cuba either with the States or with other cables serving Spain. West Australian Timber shares continue in fair request and Millars Karri are quoted at 3 5/16. In these shares quite a considerable speculative account has grown up, and at the last settlement the contangoes amounted to from 7 to 8 per cent. I hear that three new W.A. Timber Companies are about to be issued. Bovril Ordinary have been steady at ⅞-1, the Deferred at 9/16-11/16, but dealings have not been active as the Bovril season is drawing to a close. There should now be the turn of Schweppe, but dealings in these are also inactive, the Deferred at ½ to ⅝, Ordinary at 1⅛-¼, and Apollinaris and Johannis have altogether subsided into a very quiet way of business, the quotation being 11¼-11¾. The London Co-Operative Cab Company is still on the warpath with touting circulars inviting subscriptions. I have already expressed my opinion that it is a most risky undertaking, and that the heading of the prospectus, "an absolutely safe investment," is altogether false. Some preference shareholders in Hood & Moore's Stores, Limited, object to the proposal which has been made under which the preference shareholders are asked to give up their right to any surplus dividend that may be earned in future years for positively nothing at all. I am, therefore, somewhat surprised that they did not put forward their views in a more emphatic manner at the adjourned meeting which was held on March 28. The Sun Life Insurance Society's report and accounts for the year ending December 31, 1897, show gratifying progress. 2,329 new life policies, insuring £1,092,382, were issued in that period, during which time the total funds were raised from £3,672,755 to £3,957,198, being an increase of £284,443.—Your affectionate uncle,

MOSES.

P.S.—Tuesday Morning.—The fall of Spanish Fours to 38½ this morning indicates the market opinion that war is inevitable. I have taken this view for some time, and as soon as the resolutions of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have been brought into agreement, hostilities are expected to break out. The first shock may produce a moderate fall in the markets generally, from which there will doubtless be a rally. Spanish bonds would seem, however, to be bound for lower prices, and so would American rails be, if only temporarily.

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QUEER STORY.

THE PEERLESS PALMIST.

"I DISLIKE her," said Roland Keith, "I dislike her, and I distrust her."

"I wish," said his wife, "you would get me some more tea. Who is it you dislike and distrust, dear?"

"Mrs. Lorraine," answered Keith, as he took her cup obediently, "She's—she's—never mind what she is. I wish to Heaven Archie had never seen her. That's all."

Millicent Keith's eyes wandered over the room and its occupants till they rested on a woman's face. A face like a painter's day-dream, fair and pale, and clear as a cameo;

beautiful beyond words with the artistic beauty of dead-gold hair, and the marble regularity of chiselled features, and the dreamy glamour of almond-shaped eyes. Ah! those eyes—dark as night and soft as velvet beneath the long sweeping lashes that overshadowed them. To gaze into their lustrous depths was good for no man's peace of mind.

"She has a lovely face," said Millicent, with a little sigh, "and she seems awfully nice and charming and all the rest of it, but if you say she isn't good enough for Captain Lennox, why, of course, she isn't. You must know."

The Keiths had been married for two years, but Millicent still looked up to her husband as the best and wisest being in all the world. Which shows that she was a wonderful woman—or that he was a wonderful man.

Keith looked at her and smiled.

"Good girl," he said, indulgently; "you deserve some more tea."

As he sauntered across the room towards the tea-table everybody looked at him, not only because he was a very well-known and even famous man, and worthy as such to be looked at on every occasion, but also because he had a curious faculty of drawing all eyes to himself, and becoming instantly the central figure of any group that he might join. Yet there was nothing very remarkable about him. A dark clean-shaven face, keen, watchful grey eyes, a quiet reserved manner, a general air of suppressed power—that was all.

The men who had gathered round Mrs. Lorraine's chair gave way at his approach, and made room for him to enter the circle.

"Come and join the discussion, Keith," one of them called out, "We're talking about palmistry."

A slight smile crossed Keith's impassive face,

"Palmistry," he repeated, while his keen eyes wandered from one to another. "Does anybody believe in it?"

"Mrs Lorraine does," answered the man who had spoken before. "At least she says she does."

Again that slight smile flitted over Keith's face.

"Is that the weak spot in your armour of proof, Mrs. Lorraine?" he asked, in his cool, level tones. "I hardly fancied you had one. I thought——" He broke off abruptly.

The woman whom he addressed raised her eyes and flashed him a curious look from beneath her dark lashes. Was it fear, or defiance, or a strange mingling of both?

"What did you think?" she asked.

His eyes hardened as he looked down at her uplifted face, thrown into brilliant relief by the sombre back-ground of the dark plush pillow on which her head rested He hated her as she sat there—hated the indolent grace of her perfectly-poised figure, and the haunting beauty of her cameo-like face, and the nameless charm that attached itself to her lightest word or action and was as much a part of her being as its scent is a part of the rose. With all his heart and soul he hated the woman who had won his best friend's love, and whom he felt instinctively to be unworthy of that love.

He answered her question with another,

"Do you believe in palmistry?" he asked.

Again that curious look flashed into her eyes, but in a moment it was gone, and she was laughing lightly.

"How can I tell you what I believe?" she answered. "Sometimes I believe one thing, and sometimes another. I have no fixed creeds. Am I not a woman?"

The men standing round laughed too, but Keith's eyes grew harder, his face sterner.

"You do believe in it," he said, with quiet insistence, "I am rather good at reading between the lines, and I can read between the lines of that speech. You believe in it—and you are afraid of it."

She hesitated for a moment, looking at him in silence, then made an impatient movement.

"And if I do believe in it," she returned. "If I do believe in it, and if I have had good reason to believe in it—what then?"

"What then?" echoed Archie Lennox, her future husband and Keith's best friend, "What then, Keith? Why shouldn't she believe in it?"

Keith looked quietly from one to the other.

"I am very glad she does believe in it," he said, "I believe in it myself, and I know a good deal about it."

"You!" exclaimed Archie Lennox, and Millicent, who had joined the group, echoed the exclamation in even greater astonishment.

"You don't know all my secrets, Archie," said Keith, with a smile, "Neither do you, Millicent. Perhaps I have more surprises in store for you. Yes, I understand palmistry, and at one time, some years ago now, I took it up quite seriously. I was very successful with it, too, so successful that in certain circles I went by the nickname of the Peerless Palmist."

"By Jove!" said Archie.

Millicent said nothing; but, perhaps, like the oft-quoted parrot, she thought the more.

Keith turned once more to Mrs. Lorraine, and his keen eyes looked straight into hers as he moved nearer to her chair.

"Will you," he asked, "allow me the honour of reading your hand?"

But she shrank away from him, and Millicent, who was watching her more attentively than the others, saw that even her lips were white.

"No," she said, "no; I would rather not. I—I had it read once, and I don't care to have it done again. You can't tell me anything that I don't know."

Keith was still looking at her.

'But I might tell Archie something that he doesn't know," he said.

Archie burst out laughing.

"That's a good joke!" he cried. "I dare say you could tell me something that I don't know, old chap, considering how very little I do know. Come, Hildegarde, give him your hand, and let him tell me all your secrets. You ought to share your secrets with me now, you know, but I never had one to share with anybody, so you won't get much change out of me."

He smiled down at her with adoring eyes, and Keith frowned and drew in his breath sharply. The look on the handsome sunny boyish face expressed such perfect love and trust that it hurt him like a blow. How would it be, he wondered, when that love was dead and that trust broken?

Mrs. Lorraine laid her hand on her lover's arm with a light caressing gesture.

"Don't make me, Archie," she said; "I don't want to."

But Archie, still laughing, took her hand in his and held it out to Keith.

"It's only fun, dear," he said, "Let him show us what he can do. It isn't twice in a lifetime that you get the chance of having your fate foretold by a Peerless Palmist."

He laughed again irrepressibly, but Mrs. Lorraine did not laugh. Millicent could have sworn that she saw her shiver.

Keith took her unwilling hand and held it for a moment, gazing intently at the network of lines that crossed and recrossed the palm, then he dropped it and turned away.

"I never oppose a lady," he said. "It's all right, Archie. The day may come when Mrs. Lorraine will honour me with more confidence than she does now."

"Oh! but it isn't want of confidence, old chap," Archie said eagerly, fearful lest his friend's feelings should be hurt ever so little. "It isn't want of confidence, is it, Hildegarde? It's—it's——"

Keith looked back over his shoulder to interrupt him.

"Take my advice, Archie," he said, imperturbably, "Never try to explain a woman's actions. Life isn't long enough."

Archie turned once more to Mrs. Lorraine.

"Say something to him, Hildegarde," he urged. "Tell him——"

Keith interrupted him again.

"Mrs Lorraine is not going to tell me anything," he said. "Perhaps some day she may tell me something,

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and I may tell her something; but not now. Now I am going to write letters. Time and the post wait for no man."

* * * * *

She stood erect and graceful; motionless as if chiselled from marble. Her beauty might have moved the strongest man, yet he who stood facing her was not moved at all. His eyes expressed no admiration as they gazed down into hers; nothing but scorn and bitter hatred.

"You wanted to speak to me," said Hildegarde Lorraine, "and I have come."

Keith smiled.

"Shall I," he asked quietly, "tell you what I read in your hand?"

She smiled too, mockingly, and her eyes flashed defiance into his.

"As you like," she answered with cold disdain. "Tell me by all means if it amuses you."

He looked at her keenly for a moment, then turned away.

"I think," he said, "that on the whole it will amuse me more to tell Archie—and I like to amuse myself."

The smile deepened on her lips and her eyes still flashed defiance,

"Tell him," she cried; "tell him all you know—all you read. There is nothing that I should mind his knowing. There is nothing"——

Keith turned and looked at her. For a moment she returned his gaze in full, then the mocking smile died suddenly on her lips, and the light faded from her eyes. She sank down into a chair, and covered her face with her hands.

"Why do you defy me?" Keith asked quietly. "It is only waste of time, and time is too short to waste."

She raised her head and looked at him, and the misery and despair in her uplifted eyes might have touched a heart of stone.

"Why do you hate me?" she cried passionately. "Why do you hate me and persecute me? What have I done to you?"

"You have tricked and fooled my best friend," Keith answered sternly, and the words cut like a knife; "tricked and fooled him into loving you. Are you worthy of his love?"

She winced and shrank back as if he had struck her.

"I will be so," she cried desperately; "I will make myself so. I—I have never had a chance before, never one chance in all my life, but now—now——"

"Oh! spare me that old tale," he interrupted, with a bitter sneer. "I thought you were too clever a woman to bring forward such a threadbare excuse. Women have too many chances—far too many, in my humble opinion."

She looked at him again, then down at her fan, turning it over and over in her hands.

"You must," she said slowly, "be a very bad man. Only bad men are hard on women."

For a moment there was silence; then Keith laughed grimly.

"What I may be doesn't matter," he said; "the only thing that matters is what *you* are, and that wouldn't matter if you hadn't deceived my friend."

"Archie loves me," she said very softly, "and I—love him."

Keith laughed again with uplifted eyebrows.

"Love!" he echoed scornfully. "Women like you don't know what love means."

A sudden light flashed into her eyes—a wonderful light of passion and yearning and tenderness unspeakable.

"Don't they?" she returned quietly. "Well, of course you must know. You are a man, and men know everything."

Keith frowned. His self-confidence was practically boundless, yet he could not repress an uneasy feeling that it was possible—just possible—that this woman might prove his match if she were fairly put to it on a fair field. She was a foe of no ordinary calibre.

"We are only wasting time now," he said, "and any moment we might be interrupted. Don't you think we had better end this—er—unpleasant interview?"

"Certainly," Mrs. Lorraine answered in the same quiet tone. And then she raised her eyes and looked at him over the edge of her fan—the look of a trained fencer before he crosses swords with his adversary.

"I am going to place two alternatives before you," Keith went on, "and to give you your choice of two courses of action; which is, I think, generous on my part."

"Men are always generous," said Mrs. Lorraine.

"Your engagement," Keith went on, "must be broken off—that is the point from which we start—and it is for you to choose in what way it shall be broken off. If you like to take the affair into your own hands and carry it through in your own way, well and good. I will leave it to you, provided you do your work thoroughly."

Her eyes were still fixed on his face.

"And if," she said, "I decline to take the affair into my own hands; if I decline to move in the matter?"

He shrugged his shoulders.

"Oh! then," he said—"then I must speak to Archie myself."

Silence again, a strained, tense, breathless silence that neither cared to break. Mrs. Lorraine was the first to speak.

"I will," she said slowly, "take the affair into my own hands."

Keith started and drew a long, deep breath, as if he had passed safely through a dangerous crisis to relief unspeakable.

"I will," she said again, "take the affair into my own hands, and I will do my work thoroughly. You may trust me. If I did not love Archie I would defy you to the bitter end, and let you tell him the truth; but I do love him. And so—and so I want to keep the truth from him. I want—I want——"

At that moment Archie's voice came to them faintly through the curtains that divided the drawing-room from the room in which they were.

"Hildegarde, Hildegarde, where are you?"

Mrs. Lorraine started, and the words that she had been about to speak died on her lips. For a moment she stood as if turned to stone. Then she moved slowly forward to meet her lover.

* * * * *

"I suppose it was all your doing," said Millicent Keith; "I suppose you found out something against Mrs. Lorraine and used your knowledge to force her to give up Captain Lennox. You are a very clever man, Roland."

She looked admiringly at her husband, but he only sighed as he ran his fingers through his crisp dark hair.

"Poor old Archie!" was all he said.

Millicent sighed too.

"Yes, poor old Archie," she said, "He's fearfully cut up, isn't he? I don't think he will ever get over it. He was so fond of Mrs. Lorraine, and—and oh! Roland, are you sure it would not have been better to let him marry her? He might never have known the truth, and when people love like that——"

Keith made an impatient movement.

"Quite sure," he answered briefly.

Millicent was silent for a moment, pondering many things. There was a good deal in the affair that she did not understand.

"Why did you push Mrs. Lorraine forward?" she asked presently. "Why did you make her break off the engagement? Why didn't you speak to Captain Lennox yourself, and tell him the truth?"

Keith hesitated for a moment, looking curiously down at the puzzled face uplifted to his; then suddenly he burst out laughing.

"For the best of all reasons," he answered coolly; "I don't know the truth."

Millicent fell back a step, gazing at him in blank, bewildered amazement.

"You don't know the truth?" she repeated helplessly; "you don't know the truth? Then how—why——"

"I made Mrs. Lorraine believe that I knew it," Keith said grimly, "and that did just as well as if I had known it. I threatened her that I would tell the truth to Archie, and to save that she took the matter into her own hands,

and told him a lie. I thought she would. I know a little about women."

Millicent looked as she felt, more bewildered than ever.

"But—but—but her hand," she stammered. "You looked at her hand, and—and they called you the Peerless Palmist, you said."

He laughed again.

"Oh! as to that," he said, "that was a polite fiction on my part. I know nothing about palmistry, and I don't believe in it. But I found that Mrs. Lorraine did believe in it. Every nature, however strong, has its vulnerable point, and superstition is hers. She is a very clever woman, but she has that one small weakness, and I took advantage of it. She has a secret to guard—I suspected that from the first—but what it actually is I know no more than you do, though I made her believe that I knew everything. Do you see?"

Millicent fairly gasped.

"Oh!" she said, as soon as she could speak. "Then do you really mean that you know nothing about Mrs. Lorraine—absolutely nothing?"

He shrugged his shoulders.

"Absolutely nothing," he repeated with emphasis—"absolutely nothing. I played a game of bluff, and played it rather well. That is all."

ART NOTES.

THE NEW ENGLISH ART CLUB.

THIS is the twentieth exhibition of the Club. It would be too much, perhaps, to say that its members have sown all their artistic wild oats. But it is evident that the increasing tale of years of their Club's existence has brought with it an increasing sense of responsibility on the part of the exhibitors. Their Club is now out of its teens, and many signs of its approach to years of discretion may be seen upon the walls of the Dudley Gallery. The present exhibition is, in fact, one of much interest, and it is marred by few of those lapses into purposeless eccentricity and defiant mannerism which the visitor had learned to expect at the shows of this New English Art Club. Mr. Walter Sickert is a hardened offender in these respects, and he exhibits a portrait of Miss Hilda Spong as Imogen Parrot, in Mr. Pinero's "Trelawny of the 'Wells,'" which proves a very disturbing element on the wall where it is hung. The executive skill shown in painting this picture only aggravates the perverseness of the artist in choosing thus to place on record all that was most ugly and tasteless in the fashions of the early sixties. It is bad enough to catch even a fitful glance, at the Court Theatre, of the hideous enormities of dress of which we were then guilty. To have them perpetuated in a life-sized portrait, hung at a public picture exhibition, is nothing less than insufferable. Mr. P. Wilson Steer is another of the New-English-Art brotherhood, who seems determined to startle and surprise rather than to satisfy. He has been not inaptly termed "a Proteus of the brush." But, unfortunately, in his eagerness to shine as a Jack of many styles, he has made himself a master of none. It was an ill-advised act on the part of the Hanging Committee to accord the place of honour to the study of the female nude figure to which he has given the name "Sleep." True, the picture is painted with considerable force, and the colour scheme is not without clever, showy effects which one can admire. But what is to be said of the brown-skinned model, clad, or rather unclad, in a crimson-lined cloak, and lying on a buff-coloured sofa, save that she is unnecessarily nude and impossibly wooden? The pose is unspeakably awkward and constrained, especially for a woman who is supposed to be asleep, and as to her limbs, you could positively knock nails into them. Mr. Steer is seen to better advantage in his "Vista," an avenue of trees through the branches of which the effect of shimmering sunlight is shown with considerable ingenuity.

It is so seldom possible to speak with unreserved praise of what one sees at modern picture exhibitions, that I highly appreciate the chance offered me of doing so by Mr. C. H. Shannon. It had been my privilege to see his "Man with the Yellow Glove" before, at the gallery of Mr. Van Wesselingh, I think it was. It was this admirable portrait which gained for its artist a gold medal at the Munich International Exhibition last year; and it is certainly the best to be seen just now at the Dudley Gallery. Mr. C. W. Furse with his finely idealized "Portrait of a Lady," must be content to take a second place. The work of Mr. W. Strang seems oddly out of place in the Exhibition of a Club promoted to force the note of ultra modernity in Art. With his "Pieta" and "Diana," he takes us back several centuries, and suggests "Old Flemish" rather than "New English" Art. The "Vezelay Cathedral" of Mr. Will Rothenstein comes as a surprise. There is a true dignity and impressiveness in this picture which are all the more welcome, when one recalls the fact that Mr. Rothenstein has been sometimes content to secure attention for his work by other and more questionable displays of his undoubted talents.

Amongst many pictures that deserve attention, mention may be made of Mr. D. S. MacColl's "Hampton Court," an unexpectedly lucid drawing; Mr. Bernhard Sickert's "Pilchard Boats, St. Ives"; Mr. C. H. Shannon's masterly "Wounded Amazon"; Mr. Moffat Linder's "White Cloud, Dordrecht," and his delightfully Whistlerian nocturne, "After Sundown, St. Ives"; Mr. Graham Robertson's strikingly clever portrait of Mr. Arthur Melville; Mr. Wilson Steer's "Chinchilla"; Mr. Bertram Priestman's "Hot Day"; Mr. David Muirhead's "Elsie," and Mr. J. L. Henry's "Last of the Harvest." The sketch of an "Ironer," sent by Mons. E. Degas can hardly satisfy his most ardent admirers. The sooty-complexioned figure he has painted is not as nearly as suggestive of a laundress and clear starcher as of a sweep.

MUSIC.

LANSDOWNE COTTELL AND THE WORKING MAN.

THE following letter concerning Mr. Lansdowne Cottell, his "London Conservatoire of Music," and his alleged "free" scholarships, speaks for itself. The case seems a very heartless one, even harder, perhaps, than most of those which have been brought before the notice of the public in TRUTH in regard to this precious speculation during the past eighteen months. It is perfectly obvious that in the present instance the intended victim is little more than a working man, and that if he had fallen into the trap of "free" scholarships, he might have lost his hard earned wages. Even now he is out of his billet on the faith of Cottell's specious advertisements. This "free" scholarship business is, indeed, absolutely a myth. For many months past the conduct of the London Conservatoire and the proceedings of Mr. Lansdowne Cottell have been constantly before TRUTH, and I am bound to say that I have never in the course of my investigations come upon a single bonâ fide free scholar. In every case payment is required; a fact which ought to appeal strongly to newspapers which admit Cottell's advertisements, and particularly to a respectable and representative journal like the *Stage*, which has done splendid work in exposing theatrical abuses, and certainly is in no pecuniary need of the slender advertisement revenue obtained from such a source as Cottell. Here is the letter, which I give in my correspondent's own rugged language:—

47, Galbraith-street, Poplar, London, E.
Wednesday, April 6, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—I am afraid I may be encroaching on your valuable time, but I feel in duty bound to thank TRUTH for unearthing that trap laid (for simpletons such as I) by Mr. Lansdowne Cottell.

I'll unfold my story as briefly as I can. I possess an extra good tenor voice. Spent money on it in Glasgow. Anxious to get to London, but unable to get for want of means. Got situation in Southampton, expenses paid, &c. Remained in it three months, when I noticed Cottell's advertisement (offering "free scholarships") in the paper named *The Stage*. I wrote him (or, perhaps, I should say the "secretary," although I have never managed to discover his name on any of the circulars, &c.), and a syllabus and a "free scholarship" form were sent me. I filled in form; went

on appointed day and sung. Gained "free scholarship" right away, to commence first lesson on following night, Thursday, March 24. The day appointed to hear me was Wednesday the 23rd, as you will see by looking on front page of "free" form; still that does not prevent him from dating the "form" wrongly, viz., 21st (in red ink). He told me the "year" consisted of four terms of ten weeks each, and I would require to pay the sum of one guinea and the remainder of the two years would be free. He did not say anything about also paying a guinea in advance for library (and half yearly too, eh!) I only learned this to-day, when I read the rules which were sent me to-day along with the enclosed letter urging me to come on Thursday to commence lessons, and to bring the rules signed, &c.

I was naturally pleased to have gained a "free scholarship," knowing I would never be able to be thoroughly trained otherwise. I told him so, and that I hoped to be a credit to him, &c. I told him how I came to Southampton, and for what purpose; that I had mother, brother, and sisters younger than I, all depending on me, and that all the money I had in the world was my weekly wage. I told him I'd require to remove from Southampton to London and first of all find employment before commencing lessons (said lessons to take place in the evening, after business hours). He told me to make haste and commence on the following night, but I refused until I got properly removed and employment found. I did remove, and in my search for employment came across a musical gentleman who doesn't know Cottell, but referred me to a back number of TRUTH. (And I see TRUTH *does* know him.) I got TRUTH, July 1, 1897, and I've read enough to convince me that I have just escaped a leech. I also notice a paragraph in last week's TRUTH *re* Cottell. I received the enclosed rules and letter to-day (Wednesday). I have been foolishly done out of employment, but perhaps I'll yet "see day aboot wi' him" (as they say in Scotland).

I write this merely to show my sense of gratitude to TRUTH for saving me immense trouble, and for exposing such an impostor.—Yours truly, JAMES McLEAN.

P.S.—Please return letters, &c.

Cottell's documents are in the usual form. First came the printed circular as to "Resident and free scholarships," with its glorified and ridiculous picture of the "Conservatoire," in which — the handwriting is similar to that upon letters signed "L. Cottell"—the "Director" states that he will hear candidates on Wednesday 23rd from 4 to 7, candidates being required to bring music they can perform. A form was likewise enclosed which the candidate "must fill up previous to interview," and, curiously enough, this form is marked "free scholarship" and "Not transferable," although it seems the receiver of the circular may fill in the name. There is a note on the form that "all candidates entering this department receive instruction free of fees for two years." This, of course, is simply bosh. Free instruction, so far as I have ever discovered, is wholly unknown at the London Conservatoire of Music, and in the present instance Mr. Lansdowne Cottell, in his own writing and in blood-red ink has added the significant notification, "One term 21s. Free after. March 27, 1898. Director, Lansdowne Cottell." This done, there came a further letter enclosing the "Rules," the letter being as follows:—

London Conservatoire of Music,
Hyde Park, W., April 5, 1898.

Mr. J. Lean.

DEAR SIR,—I have passed you for "free" vocal tuition. You must sign the enclosed rules and pay 21s. for library fee. You can receive first lesson Thursday 12 to 9, or Wednesday 4 to 9 p.m. You might, if you attend then, bring the rules signed, &c.—Yours truly, L. COTTELL.

Mr. McLean, canny Scot that he is, refused to pay this further guinea. But, unfortunately, he had given up his work at Southampton on the faith that tuition at the "London Conservatoire" was "free," and accordingly he finds himself out of employment. Small wonder that, as a British working man, he wants to "see day aboot wi" Mr. Cottell. That day, if I know the Scottish working man aright, will, when it comes, be found by Mr. Cottell a remarkably warm one.

Last year I devoted a good deal of space to this subject, and as business seems again to be pushing with Mr. Lansdowne Cottell and his "London Conservatoire of Music," it may, perhaps, be as well to say a few further words about it. The game is now not played so much in London as in the provinces, and particularly at Manchester, Birmingham, York, and Leeds. It would seem strange that men so keen in business matters as Lancastrians and Yorkshiremen should swallow the bait so obviously dangled before them. But the "free" scholarship dodge seems to take, although it must be perfectly obvious after the first interview or, at any rate, after the first letter received from Mr. Cottell, that the word "free" is an abuse of terms, and that payment of some sort is in all cases insisted upon. So far as the pupils are concerned, some of the young people from the country may perhaps consider their "resident" scholarship at the London Conservatoire of Music as a species of trip to London at the cost of their friends; and we all know what that means to the average country girl. But I repeat that, so far as I have ever been able to discover, there are no "free" resident scholarships. Everybody has to pay, and, indeed, in one of the circulars dated March 14, 1898, now before me, there is, in Mr. Cottell's handwriting, under the heading "Free Scholarships," a note "Resident scholarship reduces the year's fee to sixty guineas."

It would seem that, although readers of TRUTH are perfectly familiar with Mr. Cottell's little ways, yet he still can find clients either among the non-resident aspirants for "free" scholarships in London or among "residents" from the provinces. Those who desire to read the whole history of "the London Conservatoire of Music" and the development of its director's name from George Cottle, who in 1853 was a student, until it blossomed forth into "Lansdowne Cottell," may be referred to TRUTH of November 12, 1896, where the whole thing was set out at length. The real facts concerning his "free" scholarships were then disclosed, and also the manner in which the revenues of the "Conservatoire" were enhanced by the premiums paid by "private secretaries" and residential "free" scholars. It is not a pretty story, and the fact that the game continues does not, I fear, say much for the common sense of the British public.

To the delight of everybody, except, I suppose, the inveterate musical "deadhead," the concert season this year promises to be much lighter than usual, so that we shall probably not have many more than twenty-five or thirty concerts a week in May. The summers of 1896 and 1897 proved a severe pill to some of our foreign visitors who believed that London at midsummer was a species of Tom Tiddler's ground, but who found that amidst the press of social, political, and business life they were overlooked, unless, indeed, they were able to command an audience by their rank or artistic celebrity. It is hard lines on the pianist, when, after going to the trouble of getting up a recital, he receives no notice from the more important papers, and is presented by his agent with a bill for £40 or £50 deficit. A year or two ago the confiding foreign piano maker used to pay the bill. But now he has become more sensible.

Last year the Jubilee knocked all sorts of recital and other minor concert-giving on the head for a good month in the height of the fashionable season. This year, accordingly, most of the eminent Continental perfomers are wisely giving England a wide berth in the summer. M. Paderewski has already announced his decision not to try any recitals this season. Herr Rosenthal has followed suit, and last Saturday was his final recital until the autumn. M. Gabrilowitsch has left for his native land, and will not be back until the new year, while the majority of other great instrumentalists now find it more profitable to visit us in the autumn or early spring than in June.

Indeed, according to the official lists issued from Queen's and St. James's Halls, there are at present, from mid-May to the end of June, only three afternoon concerts booked at the larger Queen's Hall, and only six evening concerts booked at St. James's Hall during a period of little over six weeks. This almost constitutes a "record," and although no doubt before May is well forward some of the vacant dates may be filled up, yet it is obvious that the fashionable season will, from a concert point of view, be much slacker than usual. The principal fixtures are the Philharmonic concerts, three of which are already over, two concerts for Herr Mottl, one for Herr Weingärtner,

THE GREATEST OF ALL PIANOFORTES.—THE STEINWAY PIANOFORTE New York and London.

four for Dr. Richter, two for M. Lamoureux, and recitals for Messrs. Friedheim, Ross and Moore, De Pachmann, Otto Hegner, and Bispham, Mesdames Pancera, Janotha, Zeisler, and others. Mme. Patti, who is now holiday making at Craig-y-Nos, will also be here early in June to sing at the Ganz Jubilee concert, besides at a concert at the Crystal Palace and at two concerts to be given at the Albert Hall by Messrs. Harrison.

Herr Felix Mottl has been chosen as conductor of the three cycles of "Der Ring des Nibelungen" at Covent Garden in June. Indeed, when Mr. Maurice Grau failed to come to an arrangement with Dr. Richter, it was perfectly obvious that Mottl was the next best man. Accordingly, it is extremely fortunate that (mainly thanks to the intervention of Mr. Alfred Schulz-Curtius) Herr Mottl has been secured for that which promises to be the most important series of Wagnerian representations ever given in this country. In regard to the other German performances, another conductor must be chosen. It may possibly be Mahler, who seems to have been making things "hum" in Vienna, but who wishes to pay another visit to London. At any rate, we must have a German conductor for Wagner. The Italians seems to labour under the impression that Wagner necessarily implies noise.

By the way, Tolstoi has run amuck against the Wagnerites, who no doubt will be ready enough to oblige him by treading upon the tail of his coat. Tolstoi saw "Siegfried" but remained unconvinced. He was told, he says, that Wagner's works could only be appreciated amid the darkness, the concealed orchestra, and other eccentricities of Bayreuth, which puny managers here affect to imitate. He, therefore, attributes the Wagner craze to a species of musical hypnotism. Spiritualists, he says, hold the same argument, for they aver that you are not able to give an opinion if you have not been present at séances and manifestations. "In other words," Tolstoi says, "you must pass some few hours in the company of people half mad, and repeat the experiment a dozen times, and you will see what they see. In such conditions as these one sees what one likes. But there is a much simpler method of arriving at the same results. You have only to drink alcohol or smoke opium."

Sir Arthur Sullivan is, I understand, expected in London this week from the Riviera. His new opera, "The Beauty Stone," which may or may not be seen at the Savoy one month from next Saturday, is not quite finished, as there is still some work to do on the last act, although the first act is already in rehearsal. Many will regret to learn that neither Miss Florence Perry nor Mr. Kenningham is a member of the cast, which, as I have already stated, will include two new Americans, namely, Mr. Devoll and Mr. Isham, the baritone. Miss Pauline Joran, who likewise joins the company from the Carl Rosa troupe, has been referred to as an American, although she was really born in Australia. She, however, as a juvenile prodigy, made her debut with two of her sisters in San Francisco in 1885, and when she joined the Carl Rosa Company five years ago to play Beppo in "L'Ami Fritz" (in which, it may be recollected, she not only sang but played the violin) she was announced as an American soprano. Miss Pauline Joran, some years since appeared at a Liverpool concert in the double rôle of violinist and vocalist, singing certain operatic songs, and likewise giving a very good performance of Mendelssohn's violin Concerto. Her younger sister Elise is a pianist and a pupil of Mr. Eugène d'Albert.

The rest of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's company for the new Pinero-Sullivan opera are better known to Savoy audiences. Miss Brandram will, I learn, have a good part in the new piece, while Mr. Lytton is a rejuvenated Faust, and Mr. Walter Passmore will again be principal comedian. Miss Emmie Owen, dancer and vocalist, will likewise have a strong rôle, that of an old woman made young by the Beauty Stone, while among the members of the company in the new cast will be Miss Ruth Vincent, Mr. Jones, Mr. Hewson, and one or two others.

There was again a small audience at the Crystal Palace on Saturday, and indeed the programne was not strong enough to attract people from the big football match in the grounds. As was anticipated, these spring concerts have not been very largely attended. This, however, was foreseen, and it is hoped that the result will be attributed to the correct cause, and not to any neglect of Sydenham on the part of the music-loving public. It has many times been demonstrated that when the great orchestral concerts are in full swing in London the Saturday Symphony Concerts are not needed at the Crystal Palace. On the other hand, the concerts before Christmas drew large houses. The chief item of interest last Saturday was the revival of one of Bach's violin concertos, this time according to the version prepared by M. Gevaert, the well-known composer of Brussels.

Herr Rosenthal fairly astonished the audience at his final recital at St. James's Hall on Saturday by one of the finest performances which has been heard for many years of Schumann's "Etudes Symphoniques," and a still more brilliant rendering of Liszt's enormously difficult fantasia on themes from Mozart's "Don Giovanni." That Rosenthal is something more than a mere virtuoso was, however, abundantly proved by an extremely classical and reverent reading of Beethoven's great sonata, Op. 109. In short, the German pianist demonstrated his surpassing ability in both schools—a rare combination of the talents, which this season seem to have made even M. Paderewski sit up. Rosenthal will, I believe, be back here in the autumn, before he sails for the United States.

The operatic rehearsals start at Covent Garden on Monday under Signor Mancinelli and M. Flon. Mr. Maurice Grau has recognised the justice of the criticisms passed of recent years upon the stage management and has appointed Herr Pohlig, of Bayreuth, for the German operas and M. Baudu for the ordinary repertory. One mistake I hope will not be repeated, namely, the turning out of the lights in the auditorium, except, of course, for the advanced Wagner operas, in which managers dearly like to play at Bayreuth. The fact must not be forgotten that ladies, who are the chief supporters of the opera, go not only to see but to be seen. There is no use in buying new frocks and wearing jewels if they have to sit in the dark. When once the ladies desert the opera, good-bye to the Syndicate. The opera should be a blaze of colour and luxury and brightness. It is a place of amusement and not a tomb.

Mortlock's (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "Mortlock's" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

My dear Mr. Wyndham,—I fear that after you have read Mr. Frederick Hovenden's "What is Life" (1) you will still hold with Mrs. Barbauld and all the rest of the world :—

> Life, I know not what thou art,
> But know that thou and I must part ;
> But when, or where, or how we met
> I own to me's a secret yet.

To me at least it seems that Mr. Hovenden incurs the rebuke of Job of "multiplying words without knowledge." You are prejudiced to begin with by the kind of cheap jack patter of his elaborate proof of what no one, not the smallest child, doubts—that time is as much a human invention as the clock which measures it. Nor, again, is his demonstration that space must be infinite, because we can-

(1) "What is Life?" Or "Where Are We?" "What are We?" "Whence Did We Come?" and "Whither Do We Go?" By Frederick Hovenden, F.L.S., F.G.S., F.R.M.S. With Cuts and Diagrams. (London: Chapman & Hall. Price 15s.)

(2) "The Londoners: An Absurdity." By Robert Hichens. (London: William Heinemann. Price 6s.)

(3) "American Wives and English Husbands." By Gertrude Atherton. (London: Service & Paton. Price 6s.)

(4) "The Consecration of Hetty Fleet." By A. St. John Adcock. With Frontispiece by Hal Ludlow. (London: Skeffington & Son. Price 3s. 6d.)

(5) "The Child Who Will Never Grow Old." By R. Douglas King. (London: John Lane. Price 5s.)

not conceive an abrupt limit to it, as triumphant as he appears to think it, since neither can we conceive infinity. As a matter of fact, the mind can conceive neither an antecedent eternity nor an infinity of space. However, the book is suggestive and interesting if only for the numberless and judicious scientific quotations contained in its notes. If you should need refreshment after your profound plunge into Mr. Hovenden's biological revelation, I strongly recommend you to take up and skim through Mr. Robert Hichens' roaring farce, "The Londoners" (2). You will resent occasionally his tumbling head over heels to catch "the loud laugh which speaks the vacant mind," and resent it all the more since it so often breaks in upon most excellent fooling; but you have only to skip the Bun Emperor, Bush and Harrison scenes, and confine yourself to those in which the masquerading American divorcee plays a part. In a word, the first half of the book is like the before-supper dancing at a tenants' ball, "merry within the limit of becoming mirth," and the last part, like the drunken after-supper romp, is forced, farcical, and occasionally foolish. While the silliness of English society is satirised in "The Londoners," its vulgarity is unconsciously exposed in "American Wives and English Husbands (3). It is a very clever novel indeed, illustrative of the difference between the ideas and ideals of the two countries. At the same time, it is hardly fair to contrast Yankee sordid absorption in the deteriorating pursuit of money with aristocratic British superiority to money-grubbing, when the plot turns upon Englishmen bartering their titles for the fortunes of American heiresses. However, the author is poetically just in blessing only the love-match between an American wife and an English husband, and cursing with ruin, disgrace, and suicide the mercenary marriage. Surely, to sell your soul for money in a country where wealth is the sole distinction is less sordid than to sell it, as Lord Barnstable sold it, to regild his coronet? The degrading effect of this money-worship is shown by the author, sometimes consciously, sometimes unconsciously, in the painful vulgarity of almost all her grand personages. I am greatly disappointed in Mr. St. John Adcock's "The Consecration of Hetty Fleet," which is far, indeed, from fulfilling the fine promise of his first book, "East End Idylls." The plot of "The Consecration of Hetty Fleet" (4) is a morbid conception, and the characters, which have, so to say, been poured into its mould, take unwholesome shape and shade from it. An illegitimate son kills his own father through jealousy of his sweetheart's intimacy with the older man; and the mother of the boy —the former mistress of the man—commits suicide in order that the murder may be laid at her door! This monstrous sacrifice is not made more natural or less revolting through being attributed to divine inspiration.

> Her duty had been made clear to her; without conscious volition she had grasped the great scheme of final retribution to the minutest detail, and with a grateful obedience readily submitted herself to its fulfilment. To her it was no sacrifice, no outcome of blind devotion to any human idol; she accepted the promptings of her own exceeding love as inspired revelations of the will of a righteously offended Deity.

Tragedy, or, rather, melodrama, of this sort is a cheap, crude way of bringing down the gallery, to which a writer of Mrs. R. Douglas King's lightness and deftness of touch need not have had resort. Yet some of the stories in her charming collection, "The Child Who Will Never Grow Old" (5), are too tragic and even too terrible for her pretty theme. The diary wherein the "Little Black Sheep" relieves his tortured soul of his long-pent-up rage and wretchedness reads like a transcript from a real document of the "Pet Marjory" kind. The tragic consequences to the Little Black Sheep of this frenzied outburst against his pious and fiendish aunt are narrated with thrilling power and pathos.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, very sincerely yours, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—"O to be in England, Now that April's there!" wrote Browning, and the odd thing is that the English all scramble out of it, if they can only manage to do so. Even in town it is a lovely month. It seems as if every one of the joys of summer are folded in with the tight little burgeons of the opening leaves, and that we can have a foretaste of them if we will only pay attention. First, we have April itself, with its exquisite greenness bursting forth from its brownness, and its dappled sky. Then we look mentally on into May, and behold the miracle of green spread forth on all the blackened stems of the patient trees, and the flowers that come in May and paint the earth with colour. Then June advances, radiant in our visionary forecast of her, the loveliest month in all the year. After June the freshness dies away. It is my darling month, and should be enjoyed in every hour of every day, as they too quickly pass us by. A rainy June is like a robbery, of so many dear delights does it cheat us.

I am so thankful that the Whitsuntide holidays come in June this year. We shall be able to get away from town for at least ten days to enjoy our pet month in her own home, down in the country, in the English lanes and hedges, in the woods and copses, and by the running brooks. You who live always in the country cannot imagine, even by trying hard, how we Londoners are thirsty for simple rural life. The very quiet of it is a medicine for our weary minds after the incessant listening that we involuntarily practise in this never-silent London. And the restful green of the trees and fields is solace for our jaded eyes. Blessed be the country! With our appreciation of its pleasures, it would be foolish to live in it. We might wreck our appetite for its sights and sounds by having them every day—which would be silly indeed.

We walked across Regent's Park last Wednesday, and were delighted with it. The great avenue of chestnuts is just sending out its millions of brown-green baby leaves, the mother calyx still tightly holding their tiny skirts as if unwilling to trust them to a biting world. The flower-beds are full of fragrant hyacinths in every colour, and at one especial little wild part there are bluebells, scilla, and daffodils growing up out of the grass just as they do in the heart of the woods. The whole of this part of the park is given over to the poor, and it is good that it should be so. Their enjoyment of it is in proportion to their lack of home comforts. Think of the sensations of a hard-worked mother of a family, after a week's washing, and cooking, and sewing in a tiny room, when she sits or walks under the trees, drinking in the pure air and enjoying her youngsters' joy in addition to her own, an agreeable kind of compound interest, far beyond the calculations of any ready reckoner.

We rambled round to the western side, where a strip of turf and a wide gravelled walk by the water were thrown open to the public a year or two since. Here happiness was queen of the day. Here the babies and others of tender age were enjoying themselves, with a concentration upon the moment of which we grown-ups are incapable. Their homes in dingy courts and back streets, in attics and cellars were forgotten, or only so far remembered as to heighten the joy of the hour by force of contrast. To get on the grass was their first desire, as they arrived in battalions upon the scene. "On 'e drass!" shouted a baby voice, and its proprietor immediately flung herself face downwards upon the low rail, and lifted one foot over as she lay, almost putting it into the mouth of her companion, another tiny tot, who was "climbing" the barrier behind her in similar undignified, but practical, fashion. Amidst all the happiness there was one little girl bathed in tears. This interfered with our Epicurean pleasure in the scene, and we asked what was the matter, with a view to stopping

Surgical Corsets.—A desideratum after an operation is a properly adjusted, light, and comfortable support. This can be obtained from Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., The Celebrated Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, Oxford-circus, London.

the tears if we could; but it was beyond our power. The child herself was too much overcome to speak, but her brother answered for her: "She's cryin' 'cos it's time to go 'ome." Small wonder!

A curious thing then happened. A small boy, who had heard our question and the reply, advanced into the centre of the path opposite where we were sitting, and favoured us with a flood of fiction about the little girl. Standing in the attitude of one who recites, he provided the absent child with a whole string of relatives, including a nurse and a baby sister, an angry mother and a most forbidding old grandmother, who kept a stick "up the back of her collar." He rattled all this out to us with the ease of a trained novelist, giving the minutest details of what there was to be for tea when the girl got home, and the furniture of the room she was to have the meal in. We listened in perfect silence. When he was tired, he returned to his post by the water. I wish we had asked his name. He is pretty sure to develop into a successful novelist or perhaps a statesman, part of whose business it is to have any number of statements ready for use at a moment's notice.

We noticed, by the way, that the prudent waterfowl had unanimously retreated to the island, from which safe distance they watched the crowd. Wise birds!

"A suburban tour" is the latest idea for theatrical companies. This will give you some idea of the great number of outlying theatres. "How London Lives" is going on a suburban tour, for the old Princess's is to be taken down and practically rebuilt. There are many memories clinging to the place. And fancy, dear, the old Prince of Wales's in Tottenham-street is also a thing of the past—the theatre where the Bancrofts worked such a revolution for the stage. Lady Bancroft, by the way, has been seriously ill at her house in Berkeley-square. We are hoping she will be better in time for her promised performance on Thursday, May 19, when she is to act in a play, written by herself, at the Comedy, in aid of the funds of the Royal School of Art Needlework.

We were fortunate enough to visit the Lyceum on the same evening as Dr. and Mrs. Nansen, and had a good opportunity of studying them both. The Doctor looked paler and thinner than when we heard him lecture a year ago, and we set this down to his longing for another arctic trip. These men who make geography are, like astronomers, never quite happy when not engaged in discovering something. Mrs. Nansen has a nice, girlish face, with a certain shrewdness in it. Rather serious she seemed, but that may have come from intentness upon a play in another language than her own. She wore a neat white silk blouse, and had her brown hair simply arranged and yet becomingly. We remembered, as we looked at her, that when every one began to despair of her husband's safety, she was firm in her conviction of his return. Of such stuff should heroes' wives be ever made.

We went on Friday afternoon to hear Maestro Boldi and his orchestra play at the Savoy Hotel. He is a Hungarian violinist who has quite lately played before the Queen at Cimiez. The musicians were embowered in flowers and evergreens, and their music was romantic enough to warrant this poetic environment. The amount of light and shade they got into the "Millenium" valse and a lovely thing called "Kisleany," by Nemethy, was marvellous. This is the perfect way to enjoy music—comfortably buried in luxurious chairs in a beautiful room like the White Salon, with its palms and flowers, instead of being planted out in rows like young turnips, after the fashion of the ordinary concert room.

Princess Christian is to distribute the medals and certificates won by competitors in connection with the National Health Society on Saturday afternoon, June 11, at Grosvenor House.

On Saturday last the members, associates, and graduates of the Children's Salon were at home at the Westminster Town Hall, and for the amusement and entertainment of their guests displayed those accomplishments in which they are encouraged to excel by the competitions for prizes. Some danced, others sang, or played on the piano and violin, some recited, and the needlework and drawings of numbers of the Salon young people were exhibited. By the way, there were some remarkably clever designs for posters. The gem of the occasion, however, was the reciting of a little girl of about six, whose excellent elocution, appropriate gesture, and suitable expression were wonderful in one so young. The manner in which she made her voice audible through the great hall, without raising it, was quite remarkable. The prizes were very pretty, consisting of necklaces of Orient pearls, feather fans, swallow brooches, silver-topped scent-bottles and silver-backed brushes, whilst some winners were made happy with pretty editions of Shakespeare and Tennyson in cases, and even those who won nothing had plenty of compensation in the merry, happy afternoon.

You cannot possibly deny yourself a new hat, though your trousseau is quite fresh. You, a bride, in a last year's hat! It would never do, and particularly as the fashion has radically altered this spring. I never encourage extravagance, as you well know; but that, my dear cousin, would be parsimony. We went on purpose for you to see the new hats and toques that Clematis has just brought home from Paris. A sweet one was in absinthe green straw, with an immense curve upwards of the rather wide brim at the left. It was trimmed with Malmaison roses and their foliage, happily imitated from nature. The brim was lined with black straw, which made it most becoming. It is not every complexion that can stand the proximity of green, you know. Another pretty hat was in porcelain grey straw, with fine lines of black chip, producing a good effect upon it. Under the brim the straw was plain blue, quite a turquoise tone. The trimming was quite flat, and consisted of feathers black chiffon, with a feather placed deftly under the brim, and a little pale blue introduced upon the hair—not too much, which is a frequent mistake.

A toque of the new hyacinth-blue straw sewn on chiffon and thus rendered as pliable as satin or velvet, was very wide indeed above the brow, and was trimmed with periwinkle blossoms and an upright aigrette of loops of the straw and its chiffon foundation. A large steel buckle brightened the back. Very attractive was a black jet toque trimmed with shaded periwinkle feathers and with a few flowers under the brim. A novelty in toques was made of pith and straw in cream-colour, the trimming consisting of blue feathers on spotted black chenille. Twisted sprays of blue orchids formed an aigrette, black velvet ribbon being run through the pith.

Bonnets are in again, after a couple of seasons' oblivion. We saw a pretty one made of fine green chip with blue forget-me-nots arranged in a garland round it. The shape was the sabot, or Olivia, and even at the back the straw rose in a sabot peak. One tall blue feather added its up-to-date note to the composition. A toque bonnet was in Malmaison pink straw tilted up at the left with three sequined wings, and held, as they were, by a great clump of roses. There were long black velvet strings to this toque-bonnet.

Clematis' capes are very light and dainty. They are lined with glacé silk, either cream-colour or in a decided tint contrasting with the grey or pale drab of the cloth itself. A fawn cloth was lined with emerald green glacé, the frills round it being pinked out and coming to the front, where they mingled with those of the cloth. Lace ruffles with long ends, chiffon ties in all pale colours, and fichus in point d'esprit, were other tempting novelties from which we tore ourselves away.

These chocolate sandwiches are quite new and very delicate for afternoon tea:—

Beat 6 oz. of butter and 6 oz. of glebe sugar together until they are creamy, add 3 oz. of grated chocolate, and 3 eggs, beating each one in separately; mix in 6 oz of bread-crumbs, spread the mixture on a greased and papered baking-sheet, and bake fifteen minutes in a moderate oven. Then turn the cake on to a sheet of paper, and cut it into rounds before it cools. Beat 4 oz. of

New Spring Fashions.—Messrs. Redfern have now on view in their Showrooms a unique display of Toilettes, illustrative of the latest London and Paris fashions, and to which they invite an inspection.—26, Conduit-street, London, W.

butter with 6 oz. of sifted icing sugar, adding a few drops of extract of coffee and 2 oz. of dissolved chocolate. Spread the icing between the rounds of cake, and pipe the surface of the sandwiches with white icing; sprinkle it with coarse grains of sugar that are coloured a pretty pink with a few drops of cochineal.

Fillets of sole à la Bellevue make a pretty dish for a cold collation:—

Trim the fillets of a large Torbay sole and the fillets of a fresh haddock. Put the bones and trimmings on to boil to make stock for the sauce. Pound the flesh of the haddock until it is smooth, adding 2 oz. of butter, pepper, salt, a pinch of cayenne pepper, and the yolks of three eggs. Pound the ingredients until they are thoroughly amalgamated; then rub them through a hair sieve. Spread the forcemeat on half of each of the fillets and fold the other half over. Place them on a buttered baking sheet, season them with pepper, salt, and lemon juice, cover them with a greased paper, moisten them with a little of the fish stock, and cook them about half an hour in a moderate oven; then drain the fish from the liquor. Now divide the fillets in halves lengthways, coat the thick part with white sauce and the smaller end with pink sauce. When the sauce is quite set, pour a little dissolved aspic jelly over them and arrange them on a silver dish with nicely shred salad and chopped aspic jelly.

To make the fish sauce:—Dissolve an ounce of butter in a stewpan, mix in a tablespoonful of flour, and the fish stock, which should be reduced to a gill and a half, stir all until it is boiling, simmer it fifteen minutes, then squeeze it through the tammy, return the sauce to the stewpan, stir in a gill of cream gradually, add pepper, salt, a teaspoonful of lemon juice, a sheet of soaked gelatine, and a tablespoonful of aspic jelly. Stir the sauce on the ice until it is cooling. Put a portion of the sauce into another stewpan, and colour it a pretty pink with a little carmine, and use at once to coat the fish.

Chocolate rock cakes are very good, and easy to make:

Beat 4 oz. of butter with 4 oz. of glebe sugar until it is creamy, add 2 oz. of grated chocolate, 2 eggs, 6 oz. of fine flour, and half a teaspoonful of baking powder. Drop the mixture in rocky form on to a greased baking sheet, and bake it about twenty minutes in a quick oven.

Stewed pears (Brighton way):—

Wash the pears, then peel very thin; put half the paring at the bottom of your stewing jar, then pack the pears; add sugar, a blade of cinnamon, a few shreds of lemon-peel, then pour over sufficient wine. Place in the rest of the paring, and put the lid on closely. Set in a moderate oven for six or seven hours. When ready, dish the pears whole and cold, between heaps of whipped cream. The pears should be of a pink shade.

Ever, dear, your loving cousin, MADGE.

P.S.—Another lecture and demonstration on Indian Cookery, by Chef Veerasawmy, is announced for Wednesday at Debenham & Freebody's. We are going, of course.

M.

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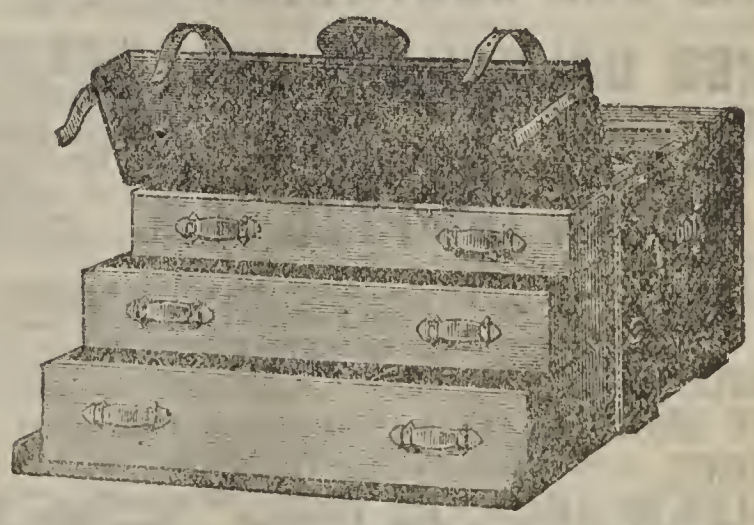

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Leathers, Wall Papers, Window Blinds, Paints.
Can be washed as they stand. Ask the Upholsterers and Decorators to show you Samples before furnishing or decorating; they are worth investigating. INSIST ON SEEING THEM.
Their Properties are Extraordinary and Unique, being
DIRT PROOF, ROT PROOF, GERM PROOF.

Applications from Trade only received by—
PEGAMOID Ltd., 144, Queen Victoria-st., LONDON,
OR HARPER TRADING SYNDICATE Ltd.,
LONDON, BIRMINGHAM, LIVERPOOL, GLASGOW, SOUTHAMPTON, BRISTOL, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

The Purest and the Nicest.

Hovis Bread

Perfectly Self Digestive.

Hovis Bread is baked and delivered daily by all good class Bakers in the British Isles; **Hovis Biscuits** are sold by most Grocers and Bakers; or 6d. and 1s. Samples of Bread and Biscuits will be sent on receipt of stamps by THE HOVIS-BREAD FLOUR CO., LTD., Millers, Macclesfield.

VINOLIA TOILET REQUISITES.

4d PREMIER VINOLIA SOAP

(For Family Use).

For Delicate, Sensitive, Irritable Skins.

The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST reports:

"An ideal soap, delightfully perfumed."

1/- per box of 3 Tablets.

6d FLORAL VINOLIA SOAP

(For Private Use).

Keeps the Skin as soft as Velvet.

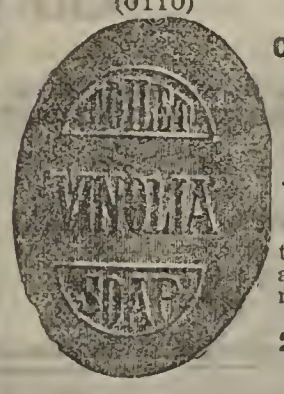
The MEDICAL NEWS reports:

"Beautifully emollient and softening to the skin."

1/6 per box of 3 Tablets.

10d TOILET VINOLIA SOAP

(OTTO)



Scented with Choice Otto of Rose Perfume.

Beautifies the Complexion.

The GENTLEWOMAN reports:

"Strongly recommended to keep the skin smooth and free from roughness."

2/6 per Box of 3 Tablets.

6d BLONDEAU PERFUMES

Concentrated, Delicate, Pure.

*Vinolia Bouquet,	Rondeletia,
*Marequil,	Hyacinth,
*Jequilla,	Ylang Ylang
*Losaria,	Stephanotis
Wood Violet,	Opoponax,
White Heliotrope,	Patchouli,
Ess. Bouquet,	Musk,
Franglpanni,	Ambergris,
Jockey Club,	Amaryllis.
Maréchal Niel,	White Lilac,
Millefleur,	Narcissus,
White Rose,	Chypre,
Jasmin,	Violette de Parme,
Musk Rose,	Mignonette,
Honeysuckle,	Clematis,
New Mown Hay,	Wallflower,
Lily of the Valley,	

Violet, | *Rhine Violets, | Peau d'Espagne.

6d., 1/-, 2/-, 3/-, and 5/- per bottle.

*These perfumes are not supplied in the 6d. quality.

1/- VINOLIA HAIR WASH

DRY. Freshens and cleanses the Hair, and preserves it free from any oily moist appearance.

MOIST. Imparts a natural gloss to the Hair.

1/- per Bottle.

Each in 3 odours: Portugal, Rose, and Violet.

1/1½ VINOLIA CREAM

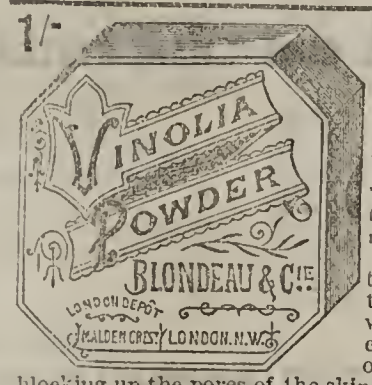
For Itching, Face Spots, Chaps, &c.

The LANCET reports:

"An emollient cream for the skin in eczema, rash, eruptions, &c."

1/1½, 1/9, 3/6, and 6/- per Box.

1/- VINOLIA POWDER



For Redness, Roughness, Toilet Nursery, &c.

The LADY'S PICTORIAL reports:

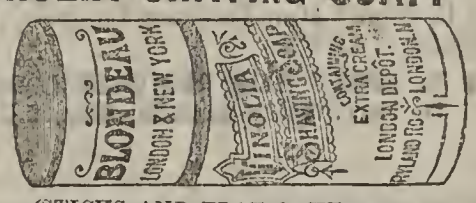
"Superseding the old-fashioned toilet powders which are apt to cause acne spots on the face by blocking up the pores of the skin."

In White, Pink, and Cream Tints.

1/-, 1/9, 3/6, and 6/- per Box.

VINOLIA SHAVING SOAP.

6d



(STICKS AND FLAT CAKES.)

Causes no Blotches.

STICKS: Premier 6d., Toilet 1/-, 1/6, 2/6, Vestal 2/-.

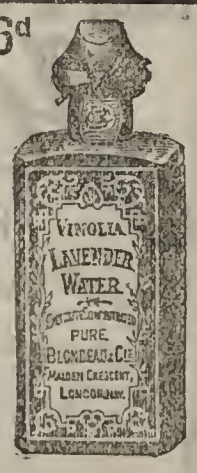
FLAT CAKES: Premier 1/-, Toilet 2/-, Vestal 2/6.

6d VIDAL

A Coralline Emollient for Dry, Rough, Cracked, or Pallid Lips.

In Rose-Red and White Tints, 6d. and 1/- a Tube.

6d VINOLIA LAVENDER WATER.



Natural and Very Lasting.

Contains the finest Essential Oils, Concentrated, therefore the Most Economical.

In 1-oz., 2-oz., 4-oz., and 8-oz. Bottles, 6d., 1/-, 2/-, and 3/6.

2/- VINOLIA TOILET WATER.

This is prepared with delicate refreshing perfumes, and is a most exquisite and delightful preparation to use either clear or in water for the Toilet or in the bath.

2s. per Bottle.

6d VINOLIA DENTIFRICE

Aromatic, Tonic, Refreshing, Preservative.

Keeps the Teeth Ivory White.

Premier, in Round Box and Glass Bottle, 6d.

English—2/6.

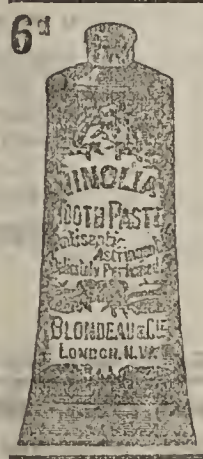
American—1/6.

6d VINOLIA TOOTH SOAP.

An exquisite preparation for the Teeth. Delightfully perfumed and free from any injurious ingredients.

In Round Metal Box, 6d.

6d VINOLIA TOOTH PASTE.



Delicately Perfumed.

Whitens and Cleanses the Teeth, without in any way injuriously affecting the dental structures.

In Collapsable Tube, 6d.

6d BLONDEAU INEXHAUSTIBLE LAVENDER SMELLING SALTS.

These Smelling Salts are of exceptional Strength and most Refreshing. They are agreeably scented, the pleasant odour of Lavender being very pronounced.

6d. per Bottle.

6d VINOLIA EAU DE COLOGNE.

Fragrant. Refreshing.

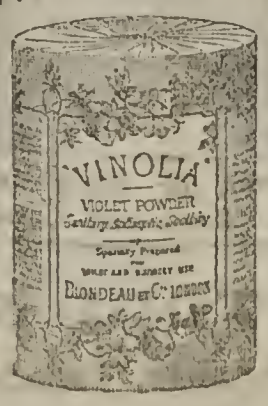
As fine as can possibly be made.

The "Court Circular" reports:

"Vinolia Eau de Cologne we consider is absolutely unequalled for strength, purity, and delicacy of aroma."

6d., 1/-, 2/-, 3/3, and 5/6.

3d per 2-oz. Packet. VINOLIA VIOLET POWDER.



Sanitary. Antiseptic. Soothing.

Specially prepared for Toilet and Nursery use.

In 2-oz. and ¼-lb. Packets, 3d. & 6d.

In ½-lb. Tins, 6d.

In ¼-lb. Tins, 9d.

POSITIVELY PRODUCES HAIR.

STOPS IT FALLING OUT.

KEEPS IT ITS NATURAL COLOUR.

PREVENTS IT GOING GREY.

BEST FOR BEARDS AND MOUSTACHES.

"TATCHO"

[THE "GEORGE R. SIMS" HAIR RESTORER.]

GROWS BEAUTIFUL BOUNTIFUL HAIR.

MAKES WOMEN'S TRESSES SOFT AND SILKEN.

A DELIGHTFUL HAIR WASH AND TONIC.

BEST FOR THE TOILET TABLE.

"TATCHO" is sold by all Chemists and Hairdressers throughout the World in Bottles, **2s. 9d.** and **5s.**, or can be had post-free direct from the office, 11, Farringdon-avenue, E.C., on receipt of Postal Order for **3s.** or **5s. 4d.** Cheques and P.O.'s should be made payable to the "George R. Sims" Hair Restorer Company, and crossed Union Bank.

"GEORGE R. SIMS" HAIR RESTORER COMPANY, Ltd., 11, Farringdon-avenue, City, E.C.

For Longhand, Shorthand, Pen-and-Ink Drawing, Music-Writing, indeed, whenever a Pen is necessary, use only

Adds immeasurably to Celerity and Comfort in writing. Of all Pens most famous.

Made in 3 sizes at
10s. 6d.
16s. 6d.
25s.
UP TO £18 18s.
POST FREE.

MABIE, TODD & BARD,
93, Cheapside, London, E.C.
95a, REGENT ST., W., and 3, EXCHANGE ST., MANCHESTER.

HAVE YOU TRIED
CEPHALIA
For HAY FEVER, NEURALGIC PAINS, & COLDS in the HEAD, &c.?
If not, send 13½d. for a Box to
REECE & CO., Medical Hall, Piccadilly, London.
Effect Simply Miraculous.

Best is Cheapest. Fixed prices.
Jaeger
PURE WOOL
UNDERWEAR, HOSE, PYJAMAS, RUGS, BLANKETS, CASHMERE SHEETS, DRESSING GOWNS, SHAWLS, CORSETS, BOOTS AND SHOES, HATS AND CAPS, etc., etc.
"Health Culture" & Jaeger Price List sent free.
3 & 4 PRINCES-ST., CAVENDISH-SQ. (nr. Regent-Circus).
126, REGENT-ST. | 30, SLOANE-ST
456, STRAND. | 85 & 86, CHEAPSIDE.
PURE WOOL TAILORS
42, CONDUIT STREET, NEW BOND ST, W.
The Jaeger goods are sold in many Towns. Address sent from Head Office, 95, Milton Street, London, E.C.
TRADE MARK.
Dr. Jaeger's Sanitary Woollen System Co. Ltd. Sole Concessionaires
Pure Wool Warranted

INDIAN COOKERY.

A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION of the METHODS of

MAKING INDIAN DISHES.

Messrs. DEBENHAM & FREEBODY beg to state that on WEDNESDAY NEXT, APRIL 27th, the Celebrated Indian Chef, Mr. Veerasawmy, of Madras, will give a Practical Demonstration of the Making of Indian Dishes in the Restaurant, at 90, Wimpole-street.

MENU.

Indian.	English.
Dhill Kasha Mulligatawny.	Mulligatawny Soup.
Kheema Hyderabadi.	Cold Meat Mince.
Unday Ka Salun.	Curried Eggs.
Khorma Madrassi aur Tharkari.	Mutton Curry with Vegetables.
Kicheree.	Yellow Rice.
Bhuttair Ka Korma aur Tharkari.	Stewed Quails with Vegetables.
Chundole Madrassi.	Madras Dry Curry (Cold Meat).
Bhat.	Riz a L'Indienne.
Bhugias.	Vegetable Pastry.
Meeta Pillau.	Indian Sweet Pillau.

Nizam Bombay Ducks, Nizam Pah-pahd, Nizam Chutneys.

Tickets for the Lecture will be 5s. each. For the convenience of ladies desirous of sending their cooks, a few tickets at 2s. 6d. will be issued.

The Lecture will commence at 3 o'clock.

The ingredients used in preparing the dishes can be obtained of Messrs. STUBBS & CO., 21, Wimpole-street, W.

DEBENHAM & FREEBODY,

Entrance to Restaurant,
90, WIMPOLE-ST. (Cavendish-square),
LONDON, W.

Note.—The Restaurant is **connected with** *the Main Building.*

Lewis and Allenby LTD.,

193, 195, & 197, REGENT ST.,
And
60, 61, 62, 63, 64, & 65, CONDUIT ST., W.

Silk Mercers, Costumiers, &c.

High reputation for 80 years for Ladies' Dress Requirements.

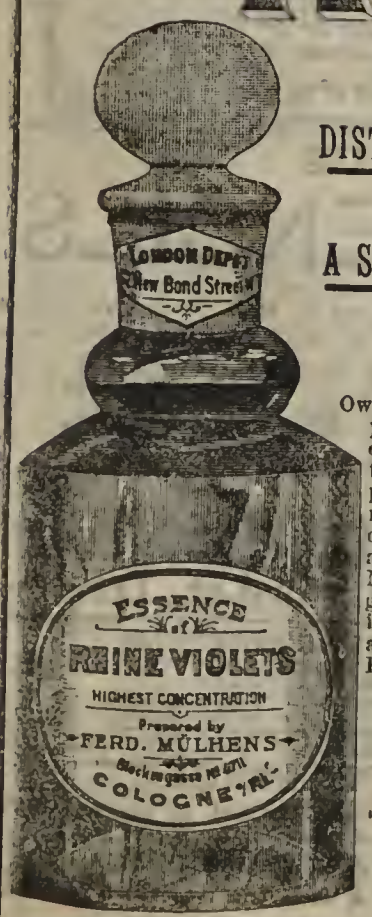
Unrivalled for GENUINE QUALITY and Moderate Prices.

SPECIAL SHOW THIS WEEK of the Latest Models in Mantles, Capes, Race and Theatre Coats.

Smart tailor-made Jackets, lined silk, from 52s. 6d.

Mülhens' "Rhine Violets"

4711 TRADE MARK.



DISTILLED FROM FRESHLY GATHERED RHINE VIOLETS.

A SCENT OF RARE FRAGRANCE.

A VERY ECHO OF NATURE.

CAUTION.

Owing to the phenomenal success of this popular Scent, some perfumers are offering essences of their own manufacture under the name of "RHINE VIOLETS." The public must not be deceived but insist upon "**MULHENS**'" brand, which is distilled from the flower itself. Don't accept any bottle not bearing Ferd. Mülhens' name. This alone ensures genuineness. Ferd. Mülhens, of Cologne, is the originator of this exquisite perfume, and was the first to introduce it into England.

The Fashionable Press of London are unanimous in praise of it.

3/-, 5/6, 9/-, 20/- *per bottle.*

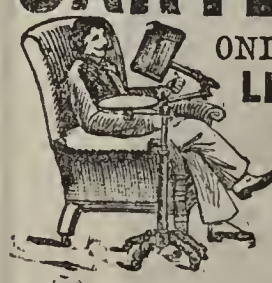
"Rhine Violet" Sachets, 2/6 each.
"Rhine Violet" Soap, 2/6 per tablet, or 7/- per box of 3 tablets.

Of most dealers in first-class Perfumes, or from

4711 Depot, 62, NEW BOND STREET, W.

CARTER 6A NEW CAVENDISH ST. PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON.

ONLY ADDRESS OF ORIGINAL CARTER **LITERARY MACHINE.**



For holding book, lamp, meals, &c., in any position over an easychair, bed, or sofa. Deliciously luxurious. A most useful gift. Prices from **17/6**

INVALID FURNITURE.
ADJUSTABLE COUCHES and BEDS from £1. 10/-

Bed Lift £3. 10/-
Reclining Boards, 25/-
Walking Machines
Portable W.C.'s.
Electric Bells, Urinals, &c.
Air & Water Beds.

Bed Rests 7/6
Leg Rests 10/-
Crutches 10/6
Bed Baths 12/6
Commodes, £1. 5/-

Carrying Chairs from £1.
Breakfast in Bed Tables from 30/-

Self-Propelling Chairs from £2

BATH CHAIRS FROM **£1. 5/-**

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES POST FREE.

JOHN CARTER. 6a, NEW CAVENDISH ST. Portland-pl. London, W.

'ONE PIECE' STUDS

PATENTED — Unbreakable.

Beautifully Formed. — AVOID IMITATIONS.

No one who appreciates a nice Stud wears any other

None Genuine Unless Stamped Patent.
Sold by all Leading Jewellers.
WHOLESALE ONLY, GAUNDERS & SHEPHERD, LONDON.

WATER ABSOLUTELY FREE FROM DISEASE GERMS, BY USING THE

BERKEFELD FILTER.

Full Illustrated Price List and Testimonials free on application.

FILTER H. AS SKETCH, 42s.

SMALLER SIZE, 25s.

Extract from the Special Report to the *British Medical Journal* on "The Relative Efficiency of Water Filters," by Drs. Sims Woodhead and Cartwright Wood, Jan. 22nd, 1898. "Experiments were carried out with the Filter H., an exceedingly good model which seems to subserve the functions of a Filter better than any we have yet seen described. . . . The output is so large that there is no reason why such Filters should not supply sufficient water for all household requirements. These Berkefeld Filters afford complete protection against the communication of waterborne disease."—Offices and Showrooms:—

THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO., Ltd., 121, Oxford-street, London, W.

City Depot: W. SCHACHT & CO., 26, Finsbury-pavement, London, E.C.

THE PATENT "RIGID-CURVE" STROP.

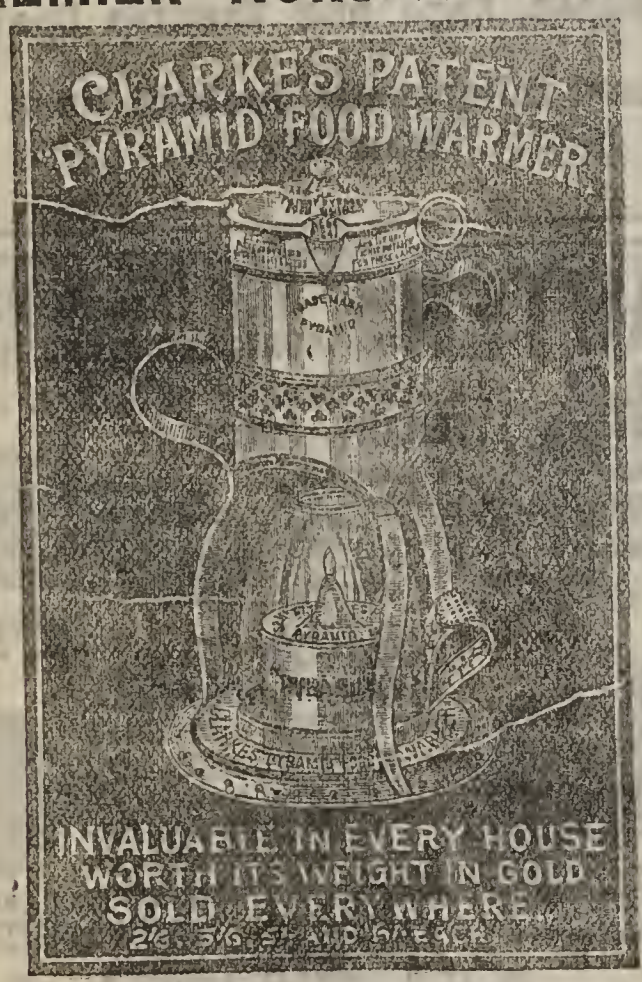
FOR THE HOLLOW GROUND RAZOR.

An indispensable addition to the dressing-bag of military men, clergymen, barristers, actors, men of business, and all whose professions render close, rapid, and repeated shaving a necessity. This Strop is quite different to all others, men to whom easy shaving is a boon can prove for themselves the delightful sense of comfort derived from shaving with a razor sharpened on the "Rigid-Curve" Strop which undoubtedly produces a finer cutting edge than has hitherto been possible by any known means. Price **3s. 6d.**, carriage paid. A month on trial. Money returned if not approved.

A. HOWARTH, 53, Penn-road, Wolverhampton.

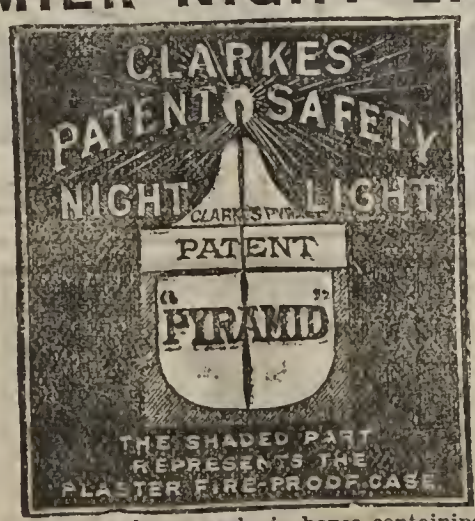
FOR UPWARDS OF FIFTY YEARS THE

PREMIER NURSERY LAMP.



FOR UPWARDS OF FORTY YEARS THE

PREMIER NIGHT LIGHT.



Single Wicks burn 9 hours each, in boxes containing 8 Lights.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Clarke's "Pyramid" & "Fairy" Light Co., Ltd., Cricklewood, London, N.W.

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BLAISDELL PENCILS

SELF-POINTING.

ALL COLOURS. ALL GRADES.

NO WASTE. BEST LEADS.

Black Lead 1d. & 2d. Coloured Crayons 2d. & 3d.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Sample Box of 5 Pencils 1s., Free by Post in the U.K.

BLAISDELL PENCILS, Ltd., 46, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

SALE OF

SILVER PENCILS.

Having purchased a huge Stock of 6s. 6d. and 8s. Solid Silver Hall Marked Pencils at an all-round price of 1s. 9½d. each, we are clearing them as follows:—

1,020 to be Sold at 9d. each.
750 to be Sold at 1s. 3d. each.
1,892 to be Sold at 2s. 11d. each.

WATCHMAKERS' ALLIANCE LTD.,

227, Regent-st., & 184, Oxford-st., London.

THE LATE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD,
SIR MORELL MACKENZIE,
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,
MISS EMILY FAITHFUL,
THE LATE GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,

and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of

Himrod's Cure for Asthma.

Established over a Quarter of a Century.

Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, LYNCH & CO., J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS, & CO., BUTLER & CRISPE, JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale Houses.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.

THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd. Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE

63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.

THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD

SUN FIRE OFFICE FOUNDED 1710

SUM INSURED IN 1896 - £388,952,800.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £30,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.

The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.

FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

REDEMPTION of CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND and PACIFIC EXTENSION AND COLLATERAL FIVE PER CENT. BONDS.

OFFICE OF THE CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND AND PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

Chicago, Ill., March 30th, 1898.

To the Holders of First Mortgage Extension and Collateral Bonds of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company, and to whom it may concern.

Notice is hereby given that The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company, in the pursuance of the provisions of Article IX. of that certain Mortgage, or Deed of Trust of the said The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company, to the United States Trust Company of New York, as Trustee, dated the fourth day of July, A.D. 1884, and known as the First Mortgage, Extension and Collateral of said Company, HAS SELECTED FOR REDEMPTION ALL OF THE OUTSTANDING FIRST MORTGAGE, EXTENSION AND COLLATERAL BONDS secured by said Mortgage, namely:—Such of the Coupon Bonds, numbered 1 to 40,712, both numbers inclusive, as are now outstanding, and Such of the Registered Bonds, numbered from 1 to 3,000, both numbers inclusive, as are now outstanding. Holders of said Bonds may present the same ON AND AFTER THE 30th DAY OF APRIL, A.D. 1898, at the Office of Central Trust Company of New York, No. 54, Wall-street, New York, N.Y., where the Railway Company will redeem the same by payment therefore par, five per centum premium and interest accrued up to APRIL 30th, 1898.—Notice is hereby further given that in pursuance of the provisions of said Article IX. of said Mortgage, interest will cease to accrue on the Bonds named herein, ON THE 30th DAY OF APRIL, A.D. 1898. By order of the Board of Directors,

W. G. PURDY, Secretary. R. R. CABLE, President.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

CLARKE'S

WORLD-FAMED

BLOOD MIXTURE

Warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from *whatever* cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it removes the *cause* from the blood and bones. Thousands of Wonderful Cures have been effected by it. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each, of Chemists everywhere.

BEWARE OF WORTHLESS IMITATIONS.

FOR COMPLAINTS of the STOMACH, LIVER, etc., DRINK

VICHY CELESTINS Spring

Caution: See that each bottle has a neck label with VICHY-ÉTAT & the name of the Sole Importers: INGRAM & ROYLE, Ltd, 26, Upper Thames Street, LONDON, E.C.

TWO MIGHTY SCORERS.

"RANJI" scores on the cricket field but GAMAGE scores in Holborn.

Best and Cheapest House in the World for all requisites for all SPORTS and GAMES.

Write or call to-day for 290-page Illustrated Catalogue post free anywhere.

Bats. Balls. Bags. Nets. Stumps.
Batting Gloves. Gauntlets. Leg-Guards. Cricket Shirts. Flannel Trousers. &c., &c.

A. W. GAMAGE, Ltd., Holborn, London, E.C.

The List will Open to-morrow (Thursday), the 21st day of April, 1898, and will Close at FOUR p.m. the following day for Town and Country.

STEVENSON & HOWELL, Limited.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

SHARE CAPITAL, £200,000, divided into 100,000 5 per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each, and 100,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

Issue of 80,000 5 per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each, ranking as to Capital and Dividend in priority to the Ordinary Shares of the Company.

Subscriptions are invited for the above-named Preference Shares at par, payable as follows:—2s. 6d. per Share on Application, 7s. 6d. per Share on Allotment, 10s. per Share on 31st May, 1898.

Dividends will be payable half-yearly, on the 31st March and the 30th September in each year; that on the 30th September, 1898, being calculated from the dates of payments upon the Shares.

No Debentures or Debenture Stock can be issued or created without the consent of a resolution passed by a majority of two-thirds of the Preference Shareholders present at a Meeting specially convened.

DIRECTORS.

William Stevenson, F.C.S.
Reginald Howell, F.C.S.,
James Hughesdon.
} Managing Directors.

BANKERS.—Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co., 67, Lombard-street, E.C.
BROKERS.—J. R. R. Godfrey & Son, 79, Cornhill, E.C.
SOLICITORS.—Neish, Howell, & Macfarlane, 66, Watling-street, E.C.
AUDITORS.—Jackson, Pixley, Browning, Husey & Co., 58, Coleman-street, E.C.
SECRETARY.—H. C. Clements.
OFFICES.—95A, Southwark-street, London, S.E.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to take over as a going concern as from the 1st of January, 1898, and to extend the business of Messrs. Stevenson & Howell, Manufacturing Chemists, Distillers and Importers of Essential Oils and Essences of all kinds, Manufacturers of Colours, Technical Chemicals, &c.

The customers of the business include leading firms in the following Wholesale and Manufacturing Trades:—Biscuit Manufacturers, Wholesale Grocers, Manufacturing Confectioners, Mineral Water Manufacturers, Wholesale Chemists and Druggists, Soap Makers and Perfumers, and other Manufacturers.

The business is carried on at the following premises, viz.:—Standard Works, 95A, Southwark-street, Old Paris Gardens, Southwark, Gravel-lane, Southwark, with Branch Offices at Manchester and Glasgow. There are also established Agencies in many parts of the world, including Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Sydney, and Melbourne.

The business premises in Southwark-street are held on long leases (the terms of years unexpired varying from 64 years to 75 years) at low ground rents.

The accounts of the firm have been made up to the 31st of December in each year, and the Balance Sheet dated 31st December, 1897, which can be seen by intending Subscribers at the Offices of the Auditors, shows that the assets of the firm amounted at that date to £72,926, subject to trade liabilities, which were only £3,738.

These assets are exclusive of the goodwill of the business, the value of which forms a large additional security for the Preference Shares.

The following is a copy of the Certificate of Messrs. Jackson, Pixley, & Co., of 58, Coleman-street, E.C., who have examined the books of the firm:—

58, Coleman-street, London, March 29th, 1898.

To the Directors of STEVENSON & HOWELL, Limited.

Gentlemen,—We have examined the Books and Accounts of Messrs. Stevenson & Howell for the three completed years ended at 31st December, 1897, and certify that the net profits of their business were as follows:—

For the year ending 31st December,	1895	... ...	£15,130
Do. do.	1896	... ...	£15,737
Do. do.	1897	... ...	£17,747

These profits have not been charged with interest on Capital, but adequate allowance has been made annually for depreciation of leaseholds and plant. We have also ascertained that the net profits of the last ten years have been continuously progressive.

We are, Gentlemen, your obedient Servants,
Jackson, Pixley, Browning, Husey, & Co., Chartered Accountants.

The average of the net profits for the years 1895, 1896, and 1897 amounts to £16,205; which amount is more than sufficient to pay the interest upon the present issue of Preference Capital four times over.

The net earnings of the business have for many years been steadily increasing; and the sales during the early months of 1898 largely exceed those of any corresponding period.

The assets acquired by the Company include an ample amount for present working capital, and the Vendors guarantee the book debts due to the firm on the 31st of December, 1897.

The price to be paid for the business, inclusive of the profits accrued since the 1st of January, 1898, is £160,000, payable as to £80,000 in cash and as to £80,000 in Ordinary Shares.

The balance of the Preference and Ordinary Share Capital, amounting to £40,000, is reserved to be issued from time to time to provide further Working Capital, such as will become necessary with the expansion of the business.

There will be no change in the management, the Board consisting of the partners in the present firm (who bind themselves to give their services to the business for a period of at least seven years) and their Head Manager in London.

The Vendors will pay all expenses connected with the formation of the Company, up to and including the first allotment of Shares, and the expenses of the transfer of the properties to the Company including all stamp duties.

No promotion money has been or will be paid, and no part of the issue has been underwritten or guaranteed. The only contract (other than current trade contracts) is dated the 13th day of April, 1898, and is made between the Vendors of the one part and R. G. Barnes, as Trustee for the Company, of the other part.

Application will be made in due course for an official quotation of the Preference Shares on the Stock Exchange.

Applications for Preference Shares should be made on the Form accompanying the Prospectus or that below, and be sent to the Company's Bankers with the amount payable on application.

If the full amount applied for be not allotted, the surplus paid on deposit will be applied towards payment of the amount due on allotment. Where no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full. Non-payment of the amount due on allotment will render the application money liable to forfeiture.

A print of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the original Certificate of Messrs. Jackson, Pixley & Co., and a copy of the above-mentioned contract of 13th April, 1898, may be seen at the offices of the Solicitors.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, Auditors, and Solicitors of the Company.

London, 20th April, 1898.

STEVENSON & HOWELL, Limited.

FORM OF APPLICATION.

This Form may be used.

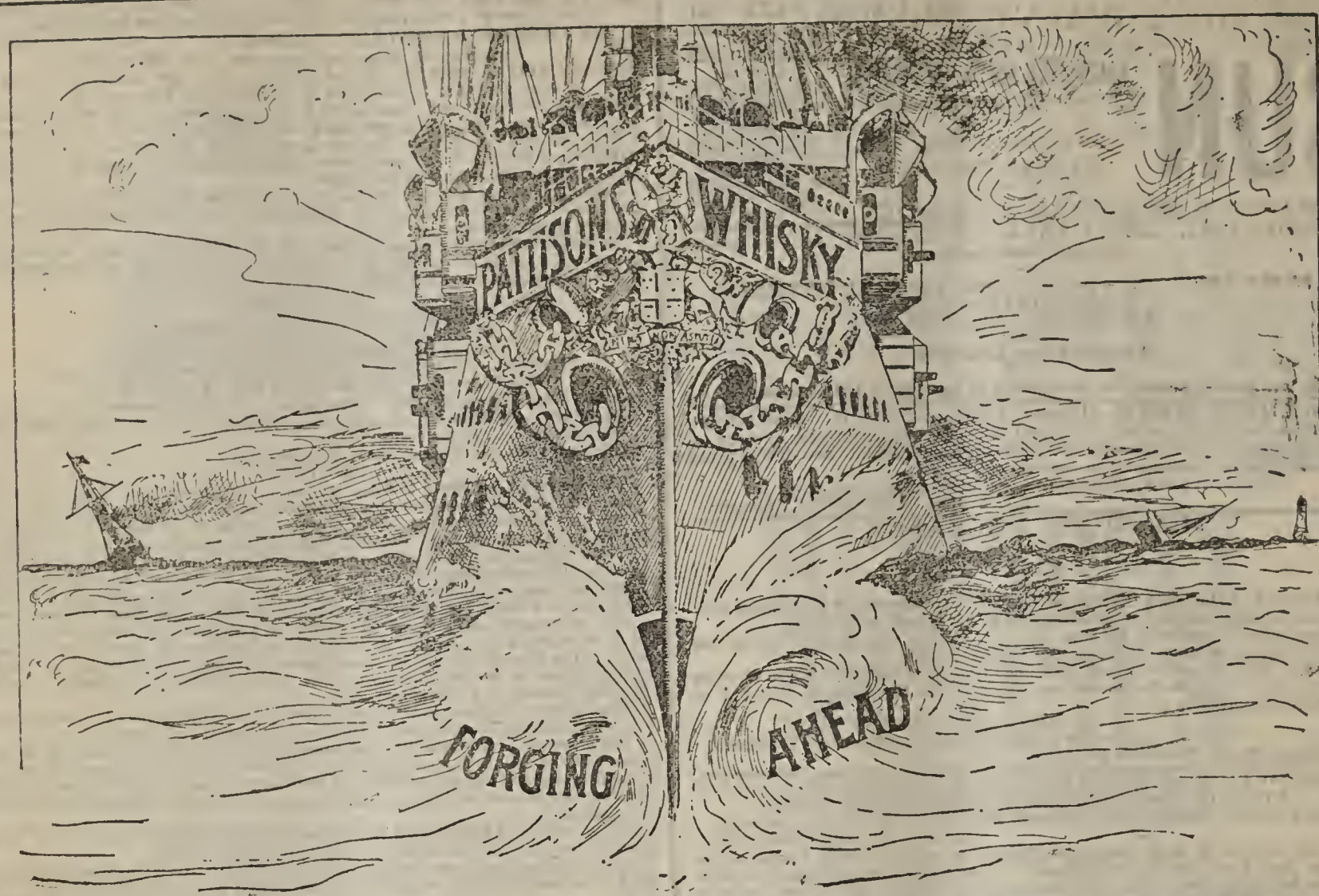
To the Directors of

STEVENSON & HOWELL, Limited.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your Bankers, Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co., the sum of £....., being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share on ..... Preference Shares of £1 each in the above-named Company, I request you to allot me that number of Preference Shares, upon the terms of the Company's Prospectus dated the 20th day of April, 1898, and I hereby agree to accept the same or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, and to pay the further instalments in accordance with the said Prospectus, and I authorise you to register me as the holder of the said Shares.

Name (in full).....
Address .....
.....
Description .....
Date .....April, 1898.
Signature .....
.....

Cheques should be made payable to Bearer and crossed "Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co."



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Ask for { **"PATTISONS'"** and Schweppe. **"PATTISONS'"** and Soda.

"PATTISONS'" and Apollinaris. **"PATTISONS'"** and St. Ronans.

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IMPORTANT NOVELTIES FOR 1898.

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Let your lungs be filled with the vapour of Norwegian Pine Tar, which they give off whilst dissolving in the mouth. The efficacy of Pine Tar in all affections of the Throat and Lungs is well known; the best mode of applying it is by inhalation, and the mouth makes the best inhaler.

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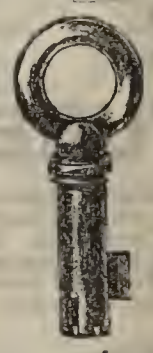

Can be made to open any number of Locks. Many Ladies and Gentlemen have the whole of their locks so arranged that **a MASTER KEY,** so small as to be worn in a finger-ring or locket, will open every lock they possess—from their Dressing Bags, Trunks, Jewel Cases, Despatch Boxes, &c., to the Front Door, Wine Cellar, Park Gates, &c. **Just think of the Convenience!** The locks are made in suites, each suite with its own key, so that the ladies' maid or valet can open the luggage, the butler the wine cellar, and so on, but the suite keys are of no use for any but their own series.

BRAMAH JEWEL SAFES,

BURGLAR AND FIRE RESISTING, SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR BED AND DRESSING ROOMS.

Specialities in fitted Suite Cases and Dressing Bags, Jewel Cases, Despatch and Deed Boxes, Bramah Street Door Latches, with small keys, Bramah Padlocks for Bicycles, with Leather-covered Chains, &c. &c.

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Bramah & Co.

Sole Manufacturers of the real Bramah Locks.

100, NEW BOND STREET,
LONDON, W.

A Master Key Signet Ring (Open).

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 993.—ENGLISH RENDERING OF FRENCH STANZAS FROM "TRILBY."

W. Nevermore (real name and address will be published in due course)... ... ... £2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 996.

The Prize in this competition has been awarded to Dombey, whose sentence in its incomplete and complete form appeared in Truth for March 17 and April 7 respectively.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 999.

I must admit that I did not realise what a troublesome task I was preparing for myself when I gave this competition. The examination of the lists of answers has been a very lengthy operation, owing to the fact that a large proportion of the competitors succeeded in completing most of the given combinations of consonants. It was only after a very close comparison and scrutiny, that certain small errors were discovered in some of the answers. Thus, by an exhaustive process, the number of lists was gradually reduced until only four remained, viz., those sent by Lyswys, Dinah, Carradabia, and Leila. These four are, to the best of my belief, equally correct, and the prize will therefore be divided equally between them. Amongst those who were within an ace of winning and were, to use a sporting expression, only beaten on the post, were Dagmar, Maria, M. J. W., Strix, Spot, Thomasina, Oceania, and Trouvère. Many others were only another point behind. It may be interesting to point out that the sentences in which most of the competitors made mistakes were Nos. 9, 12, 21. Thus in No. 9 not a few competitors failed to make the words "soft Oloroso" and "Corton"; in No. 12 comparatively few inserted the words "at far Atbara"; and in No. 21 the word "Standard" at the end of the sentence proved the stumbling block. It may be well, also, to explain that with regard to certain misprints which occurred in the publication of the consonants (such as at the end of Sentence 17, for example), all competitors were placed upon the same footing.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,000.

The prize in this competition has been awarded to Beaumont for the following Acrostic on Alfred the Great:—

A cross the gulf of full a thousand years
L ooks backward lovingly the Motherland,
F rom her old age of honour and command.
R emembering her springtime and its tears.
E nthroned in safety, she no longer hears
D eath-boding war-cry of the Viking band,
T hat often ravaged her ill-guarded strand—
H arassed the shore which now no danger fears.
E arly-begotten offspring of her youth,
G reat elder brother of our island race,
R uler and captain, law-giver and saint,
E stablisher of peace, and tongue of Truth—
A lfred! —thy story gratefully we trace
T hrough the far centuries, remote and faint.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,004.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

The Best Humorous Song of Four Eight-lined Verses, Each of which must End with the Words, "He was *such* a Methodical Man."

The words just given will make it clear to competitors what the subject of their song is to be. No song must exceed four verses of eight lines in length. The metre used is left to the choice of the competitors, though this choice should, of course, be governed to some extent by the fact that the refrain already given is to form the last line of each verse. All answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, May 2, at the latest.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the Puzzle Editor, Truth Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** The real name, with the address, of Lucia, winner of Prize No. 998, is Miss Lucilla Smith, Kirklisten, St. James'-street, Nottingham.

C. M. P.—Your "Acrostic" arrived too late to be printed with the others.

Svonok.—The inclusion in an anagram of any word to be found in the original sentence should certainly be avoided.

Alastor.—Your answer is not really an anagram at all.

E. Marshall.—The anagram should not have contained more than thirty-six letters.

Singeon.—Many thanks for your letter and the suggestion it contains. I hope to turn it to practical account before long.

Myrah.—I shall certainly do so.

Needle.—The point you raise in your letter has not been overlooked, and care has been taken to prevent any competitor obtaining an unfair advantage.

Gosling.—I am sorry that I am unable to use your verses on "April."

Guillaumette.—Thanks for your post-card. The second line in your acrostic should, as you say, have been "in happy moment," not "moments."

The Girl.—It was intended that the sentences should be original, and I am much obliged to you for your communication.

Aughnaskeagh and Sam Trimmer.—The Acrostics you sent in were not of the kind required for Competition No. 1,000.

Blackthorn.—By an unintentional omission your definition of "Smart Society" was not printed with the rest, I therefore print it here. "The Society for the realisation of petty aims by superhuman exertions."

*** Several Answers have been held over for another week.

The Puzzle Editor.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,001.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ORIGINAL ANAGRAMS FORMED OUT OF THE LETTERS IN THE WORDS "THE FRANCO-RUSSIAN ALLIANCE IN THE FAR EAST."

*** It may be well to state that the following Anagrams have not yet been checked.—The Puzzle Editor.

Rather an insane lust after a slice of China.—R. F.

Alas! China consents, after failure in heart.—Dry Monopole.

Each retains a taste for fallen China's ruin.—Almaviva.

China's last, an Oriental fate, ruin faces her.—Scorpio.

Thus steal an African frontier, lease China.—Eastbourne.

Fraternité, alias Nicholas, enchants Faure.—Jemima.

All treaties can hasten fear of China's ruin.—Nodding Violet

1. Haut Tsar! France à la fois! La Chine n'est rien. 2. Coreans can unseat all three in this affair. 3. Thus, Sara, all ancient inheritances are "off."—Rabelais.

Face it ere nations rush near at China's fall.—Wildcat.

Our neat cash interest in China fears a fall.—C. T. W.

Each hears of natural financial interests.—Malignant.

1. See, further financial loans stare at China. 2. A latent financial ruse for her (China's) teas. 3. Alas! China, their fort secures a tannin leaf.—Menar.

Result: Ah! China faces international fears.—Ginger.

1. Alas! rash interference in China, fatal to us. 2. I hate all French on States near us in Africa. 3. China feels a Christian State loan rare fun.—Woodlands.

1. China, faint, can't reason lief Arthur's lease 2. Can Chinese fail to feel it as an arrant rush? 3. None can tell fair China's fate—'tis a "rush" era. 4. China, near fief, can't last. Arthur is no *lease*. 5. A nice rush—a first taste—an inch afore an ell. 6. Li, France, Fate lease it—no China *sans* Arthur. 7. Faint China can fear "Arthur's Let" is no lease. (The lease's sunny side). 8. As for China, rate it a finance sent her—us—all!—La Plata.

Can this fine union create rash fears at all?—Svonok.

1. China's affairs are all rotten. Can she unite? 2. China tantalises France in lease of Arthur. 3. A Chinese loan. Arthur's rental is a fine fact. 4. A safer situation. All resent a French-China. 5. A tenser situation, as all fear French-China. 6. As all resent a French-China, fear situation.—A. N. P.

I see a real stern fatal nation crush China.—Toria.

China's internal states fear Nicholas-Faure.—Avis.

1. Fell fanatics in China threat near our seas. 2. Can she face all our intents in farther Asia? 3. Has China's tea an interest real or fanciful? 4. An earl farther enhances fiscal situation (N.B.—See Lord Selbourne's speech on March 29). 5. Free all in fact, Arthur's-seat-on-sea in China (N.B.—Port Arthur is here referred to).—Blackest Rose.

China, if left as she is, can run on a real treat.—Ajax.

All nations fret after a share in China's eue.—Beginner.

Shall China fear a strife? "Cute" uations hear.—Heathfield.

1. Alas, China! if a cruel strife threatens anon! 2. Loan us half China; strife certain, Até nears. 3. Lean on us, China, if that a clear strife nears.—Cestrian.

Alas! fair China's rule cannot resent a thief!—Myrah.

A rush at Lent—a slice off China (near in tears).—Scissors.

1. All nations fear this fuse, a recreant China. 2. China fears cannon as allies' threat—if true? 3. Fateful liaison threatens scare—China ran. 4. Let arrant liaison efface China—earth's sun. 5. Craft of allies can ruin a heathen it snares.—Bel Demonio.

1. Ha! artful alien, a rent frees coasts in China. 2. Affairs in China are not secure tall Thanes.—Echo.

1. Tact seen, after all, in a share for us in China. 2. Our "fists" charter a final "lease" anent China. 3. Let us, alone, starch stiff, a rare inane China. 4. Arrest false France in a lien at South China.—Robert Martin.

Learn—an affair to shatter China—silence us.—Excelsior.

1. Alien crash near to unsettle China's affair. 2. Annul China's rash treaties—one Celt affair. 3. China's affairs interest a real channel out.—Esperanza.

O Faure! the Tsar fain resents a call in China.—Nin Nln.

1. A Russian State train for fallen China. 2. Ha! a trial for the U.S.A. fleet is near.—Nota Bene.

1. These nations race, after China falls a ruin. 2. Alas! cheats run after frail Chinese nation.—Liberty.

A fat share in China for sale. Li can't sue rent.—Oxoniensis.

1. Alas! a fierce unrest eats China, torn in half.

2. Russia! France! Fear not these at all in China. —Kagnbe.

1. I, Tsar Nicholas, snare an ultra-effete China. 2. A fortunate Tsar creels half-asinine China.—Pump.

1. Chinese raise fraternal loan. Fact! Shun it. 2. See! All China fears such fine Tartar nation. 3. China falters, has ruin, cannot raise a fleet. 4. China falters in ruin. She creates a fat loan. 5. Frail China creates loan. Fate hastens ruin. 6. All Chinese chafe. Tartars ruin safe nation. 7. See! a frail loan. Tsar unites French at China. 8. China falters. Her union creates a fatal sin. 9. China creates a fresh loan. Fine ruin at last. 10. I can see China's thrift use a fraternal loan. 11. All Chinese see Tartars' chaff ruin a nation.—Mickey Doodle.

Lo! a tie China's affairs, a Herr can unsettle.—Chica.

1. A scare—this threatens a fall in our finance. 2. China can't resist her fateful rôle—Ananias. 3. China can't rest; her fateful rôle is Ananias.—Agelastes.

1. Sir, let China fear Faure—Nicholas as tenant. 2. China, fearful, re-tries Nicholas as a tenant. 3. Faure—Nicholas tenant trifles China's area. 4, Tsar—French attain false lease. O! ruin China.—Baba Jujube.

1. China calls, "Hasten near; ruin of State I fear." 2. Ha, a consent! I fear China's utter fall is near.—Poor Old Jeff.

1. A rash contract in fallen Asia—the fee's ruin. 2. Neither nation can steal such real affairs. 3. Neither furs nor tea can fail—a stench as all. 4. Ale can fail—neither furs nor tea stain cash.—Crock.

1. All run in a hot race after China's fair seats. 2. A foe taunts her; can China, all in fear, resist? 3. All in—snatches at a free seat—ruin for China!—Kynaston's Cave.

All can hear astute strife for insane China.—Cushion.

1. Fear in U.S.A.; the Lion, Tsar, France steal China. 2. In fine, Tsar can lease Arthur. Lo! China's fate. 3. (Tsar, loq.) "Ha! France has to enter a Russian net if I call."—Sahib.

1. China cannot trust her allies; a safe fear. 2. France has a faith in all Eastern countries. 3. Lunatic China fears treason in false heart. 4. China in ruins tells of France as a tea-hater. 5. I fear, alas! China turn to tease French as nil.—Coloniensis.

1. China leaf tea short in France, Russian late. 2. Asinine China can't lease Fort Arthur pleas. 3. France learns Russia left a hot tea in China. 4. If Russia eat China, then France learns a lot. 5. Lean, lean rats in China fetch tea for Russia. 6. China hates a Russian; let not Li fear France.—Cock Robin.

A real rant then insures a fat slice of China.—Selah.

For in near us is France; all China at the East.—Fir-tree.

1. Ah! fallen China, 'tis a race—an interest for us. 2. Their national race—fearful China assents.—Malignant.

Ah! fear fancies China's treaties all untorn.—Tan Tun.

1. Another fate rules China's financial rates. 2. The Insular-Nation fleet scares China afar. 3. An' this "account" fear a "fall." The "rise" is near. —Azile.

1. Farce! All see unfair intent to harass China. 2. So France an' Russia threaten China! Ill fate. 3. See! China learns their union's a fatal craft.—One Hand.

It is clear that the projected railway through China to Port Arthur is the main cause of China's despondency.—Morning paper. No, fear is fatal; can these trains rule China?—Rudolf Q.

1. England in the far East. Anticipation! A rush for China seen at last! It ne'er can fail! 2. Vexation! Alas! China's faith! Can fleet arrest ruin? 3. Expectation! Ah! a lion's feat. Fleet can arrest ruin. 4. Realisation! A turn. A real China finesse. China lets a fort. 5. Taxation! China lets a chief fort. An annual rate rises. 6. A turn. The financial lease. A China fortress.—Etak.

1. Chusan in fine terror at China's fatal lease. 2. China errs to lease Chusan, if a frail tenant. 3. Our fleet can nail China, if she start a snare. 4. A Teuton fist shall ensnare fair China race. 5. China has risen near Teuton fist, all a farce.—Miucing Lane.

1. There is no fear that Russia can finance all. 2. A fatal chance ruins these frailer nations. 3. Alas! That snare in our Chinese traffic. 4. In all these affairs chance not area runs it. 5. Satan-Heart nails our lean Chinese traffic. 6. Our Chinese traffic aslant, as in lean Herat. 7. Cairean craft hails these Nations' funeral. 8. Faint, feline, anarchic trash —salute reason! 9. Her last chance as a nurse—a fine flirtation. 10 Arch fate. Our Aslan-China interests fallen. 11. Steals our neat lean share in China traffic. 12. An alert Hainan steals our Chinese traffic. 13. These can fail—our neat China refrain lasts. 14. Can tea fail? Our last Chinese refrain shant. 15. Alien leases rant—hasten our China traffic.—Pyramid.

Oh, France, Russia enter China at last. Finale? —N. Igma.

Is rule in China near a fleet fast at anchor!—Sem.

1. A fall aei, no, a' can further China's interests. 2. A A aeon if all can further China's interests. 3. If one all can further China's A A A interests.—A. E. L.

1. A neat "sell" China's, if not a fair euchre Tsar N. 2. Tsar N., et cic sage in China. Ah! our star fallen. 3. Ah! uice sell for us. Ah, Sin, a neat facer, ain't it? 4. Nicholas ran in there. Faure steals in, a fact. 5. Scene China: Tsar hails Faure on a raft, let in. 6. St-a-tee craft runs China, "No, allee fair, ah Sin! 7. Sheer nous, each in an all fair in state craft. 8. Ah, Tsar! "entente" is a facer for us all in China. 9. The Tsar, Faure, China so safe in Ta Lieu, snail! 10. Affairs in China—here, Tsar can't let us alone. 11. "Heirs China" case, trial on (a fat 'un) after Lent. So!—Merle.

Let China alone in that France fears Russia.—Union Jack.

1. Fear allies of China at rest can so turn a hen. 2. Shall China fear at sea or cantineers unfit. 3. (Russia speaks): Nearer than France I use soft China as a till.—Llwslly.

1. Arn't these leases ruin for fanatical China? 2. Alas! aren't leases the ruin of frantic China? 3. Are not the R.F. leases fanatical China's ruin? 4. Ah! R.F. leases forecast a latent ruin in China. 5. Fear China, fear each later nation's insults. 6. A fanatical China! Sets ruin near to herself. 7. En fin! At last! Chinee on a rail-car 'e rush fast. 8. Oh, fuss inane, if all are e'en catchin Tartars! 9. Rascals re-unitin' cheat safer than if alone. 10. First U.C. a loan, then a searchin' after leasin'. 11. A Chinese Canaan to let. Furiners half-rates. 12. Unnat'ral leases! It is a facer for China then. 13. Leases natural? Isn't it a facer then for China.—Bengur.

1. If China fall, can Tartars see no use in Herat? 2. Can a Chinese still see a fan in a Fort Arthur?—Bon Marché.

1. All race, as one unfair "fist" threatens China. 2. Stiffen a China as a ruler; other aliens can't! 3. Attains for us, later, a French lease in China. 4. Let us snatch at a fair lease for inner China. 5. Attain for us a fresh lease in central China. 6. France starts a lien, a fourth lease in China. 7. Annul, erase, China's co-alien tariff threats! 8. Ere other aliens act, annul a China's tariffs! 9. Rule in far China's fate, as other aliens cant. 10. Let us snatch China for fear an alien sear it. 11. Can our tars' lean fists near, fail thee, China? 12. Lets to ursine France a fatal share in China. 13. Let us share fair entrance also in fat China. 14. Let us also snatch a fair fee in errant China. 15. A fatal unrest rife; a Nicholas enters China. 16. After all our fist intense can shear a China. 17. Harness self-reliance to a fat China in a rut. 18. Let us fare to a China the fair's inner canals. 19. A Teuton fist all fear, can siren China shear. 20. Ere an hour—a fist! a fallen China can't resist. 21. Rash! a chanticleer, anon, at us fits in a fleer. 22. No anti-tariff scare! let us lean China share.—Robert Martin.

THE MANCHESTER and LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY, Limited, Warrington, Manchester, Liverpool, London, and all their Branches, are authorised to receive Subscriptions for the undermentioned Issue of Pre-Preference Shares.

JOSEPH CROSFIELD & SONS, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

Proprietors of "Peerless Erasmic" Soap. Bank Quay Soap Works, Warrington (Established 1815), and Queen's Soap Works, Liverpool.

DEBENTURE STOCKS.

4½ per Cent. Irredeemable First Mortgage Debenture Stock £150,000
4½ per Cent. "A" Debenture Stock £140,000

SHARE CAPITAL.

25,000 £5 per Cent. Cumulative Pre-Preference Shares of £10 each (being the present authorised issue) £250,000
15,000 £5 per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each £150,000
15,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each £150,000

The whole of the Preference and Ordinary Shares are held by the Directors and members of the Crosfield Family.

ISSUE of 20,000 (part of an authorised Issue of 25,000) £5 PER CENT. CUMULATIVE PRE-PREFERENCE SHARES of £10 each, at £11 per Share.

Payable as follows—

On Application	£1	0	0	per Share.
On Allotment.....	£5	0	0	per Share (£1 being premium).
On 1st June, 1898 ...	£2	10	0	per Share.
On 1st July, 1898 ...	£2	10	0	per Share.
	£11	0	0	

Failure to pay any instalment when due will render the amount already paid liable to forfeiture. The Pre-Preference Shares will be entitled to a fixed Cumulative Preferential Dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum and the right to repayment of Capital (at the rate of £11 per Share) in priority to the Preference and Ordinary Shares, but will not be entitled to further participation in surplus assets. The Dividend on the Pre-Preference Shares will be payable half-yearly, on the 1st August and 1st February in each year, the first Dividend being calculated from the dates of payment of the several instalments.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE STOCKHOLDERS.
John Crosfield, Esq., Warrington.
Charles M. Holland, Esq., Wrexham.

DIRECTORS.—John Crosfield, A. H. Crosfield, J. J. Crosfield, Karl E. Markel, Ph.D.

SOLICITORS.—For the Trustees—Sale, Seddon, & Co., 29, Booth-street, Manchester
For the Company—Mellor, Smith, & May, 1, Moorgate-place, London, E.C.

BROKERS.—Henry Cooke & Son, 4, St. Ann's-churchyard, Manchester; Snell & Swatfield, 9 and 10, Tokenhouse-yard, London, E.C.; F. W. Bentley & Co., Estate Buildings, Huddersfield.

AUDITORS.—Voisey & Worthington, Chartered Accountants, Warrington.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE.—W. H. Robinson, Bank Quay Soap Works, Warrington.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company was formed in July, 1896, to acquire and carry on the well-known business of Messrs. Joseph Crosfield & Sons, Bank Quay Soap Works, Warrington, established in the year 1815, and now one of the largest and best-known Soap Manufacturing concerns in the world. In addition to the manufacture of soap, the Company are large manufacturers of caustic soda, silicate of soda, and chemically-pure glycerine. For the last-named article they are Contractors to Her Majesty's Government. During the past year the businesses of Messrs. D. C. Keeling & Co., and Messrs. Medley & Son, Soap Manufacturers, of Liverpool, have been purchased and absorbed by the Company. The Company's Works at Warrington are situated in an unique position. There are two railway sidings on the London & North-Western Railway (one on the main line, and the other on the Liverpool branch), both running through the works, and a quay on the River Mersey, which flows alongside and gives access to the Manchester Ship Canal, so that there is a double connection by water with Liverpool.

Messrs. Joseph Crosfield & Sons, Limited, are the proprietors and manufacturers of the well-known "Erasmic" Toilet Soap, and "Rainbow" and "Perfection" Household Soaps, in addition to a large number of other well-known brands, which have a good reputation both in the Home and Export markets. The Company has a large and steadily growing export trade with India, South Africa, Australia, and the Colonies generally, where their products, both soaps and chemicals, stand in high repute. The increasing demand for their specialities and the general expansion of the chemical branches of the business, have made it desirable to provide additional working capital for immediate extensions and additions to the Works and Plant, and the further development of the business both at home and abroad. The employes of the business number over 1,700, and there are upwards of 24,000 trade customers on the Books. It is proposed to make a judicious and liberal allotment to both classes of applicants.

The assets of the Company standing in the books at the date of the last stock-taking, together with additional Working Capital provided by this Issue, amount to £772,000, exclusive of the valuable goodwill of the business. Messrs. Voisey & Worthington, the Auditors to the Company, have given the following certificate:— 21, King-street, Warrington, 28th March, 1898.

To the Directors of Joseph Crosfield & Sons, Limited.

We have audited the Books of Messrs. Joseph Crosfield & Sons, Limited, since the incorporation of the Company, during which period extensive additions have been made to the Works and Plant. We certify that the net profits for the last 15 months, ended 28th February, 1898, without charging Debenture Interest or Directors' Fees, but after providing for depreciation and bad debts, amounted to over £60,000, or at the rate of over £48,000 per annum.

VOISEY & WORTHINGTON, Chartered Accountants.

The interest on the Debenture Stock requires	£12,675
The dividend upon the present issue of Pre-Preference Shares	10,000
	£22,675

whilst the present certified profits are at the rate of over £48,000 per annum. The holders of the Pre-Preference Shares will receive copies of the Annual Balance Sheet and Report of the Company, but have not the right to receive notice of or to attend or vote at general or other meetings except in cases directly affecting their interests.

The Company has entered into a contract, dated 23rd March, 1898, with Messrs. Williamson, Murray, & Co., relative to this issue. In addition to the said contract, there are also numerous agreements entered into by the Company since its incorporation, in the ordinary and usual course of its business, and Messrs. Williamson, Murray, & Co., have entered into sub-contracts, to which the Company is not a party, all of which may technically fall within Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867. Subscribers for Shares will be deemed to have had notice of all Contracts, and to have agreed with the Company (as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable), to waive any claims against them for not more fully complying with the requirements in the said section or otherwise, and allotments will only be made upon this basis.

If the whole amount applied for by any applicant be not allotted, the surplus amount paid on application will be appropriated to the sum due on allotment. Where no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full. Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Certificate of Messrs. Voisey & Worthington, and the Contract referred to can be inspected by applicants for Shares at the Registered Office of the Company. Applications will be made in due course for an official quotation of the present issue of Pre-Preference Shares on the London, Manchester, and Liverpool Stock Exchanges. Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, at the Registered Office of the Company, and from Messrs. Williamson, Murray, & Co., 1, Moorgate-place, London, E.C.—Warrington, 14th April, 1898. The Debenture Stocks of the Company are quoted in the official lists of the Manchester and Liverpool Stock Exchanges as follows, viz.:—

		Manchester.	Liverpool.
7th April,	4½ per Cent. Irredeemable First Mortgage Debenture Stock	118—119	116½—118½
	4½ per Cent. "A" Debenture Stock	109—110	108 —110

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

By the express command of the Queen, the Countess Erbach-Schönberg, sister of Prince Henry of Battenberg, who has been on a visit to her Majesty at Cimiez, is described in the official "Court Circular" as "Her Serene Highness." As a matter of fact, Countess Erbach has no more right to the "style" than to the rank of Imperial Majesty, and, of course, it is only at our own Court that she would be described as "Serene Highness;" and even in the Queen's own Palace she would not take precedence as "Serene Highness" on any full-dress occasion. The Queen can please herself at home in these matters, but such irregularities are not recognised at foreign Courts, as was discovered after Prince Albert had been made Prince Consort, and it turned out that abroad he gained nothing by the promotion.

There is no foundation for the report that the Emperor and Empress of Russia are to visit the Queen at Balmoral during the autumn. It is unlikely that the Emperor will leave Russia during the present year, but the Empress will probably go to Germany in the summer for some time, as she has been advised to take a course of waters at Schwalbach, and in this case she will spend the early autumn at Heiligenberg, near Darmstadt, with her eldest sister, Princess Louis of Battenberg.

I hear that the German Emperor will pay a brief visit to the Queen at Balmoral early in June. The Emperor is to come from Kiel to Aberdeen in the Imperial yacht, and after his trip to Balmoral he will proceed on a cruise to Norway.

The Prince of Wales, who is to return on Friday evening to Marlborough House from Newmarket, will be joined in town by the Princess and her daughters on Monday next, and the Royal party are to pay a visit to the Queen at Windsor Castle in the course of next week.

The Prince is to entertain the members of the Jockey Club at dinner at Marlborough House on Wednesday, May 25, being the evening of the Derby Day. H.R.H has accepted an invitation to dine with Lord Salisbury in Arlington-street on Saturday, May 21, at the Prime Minister's full-dress banquet, given to celebrate her Majesty's Birthday.

There is to be a special service next month in the St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, when the tomb of the late Duke of Clarence in the Albert Memorial Chapel is unveiled, at which the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and several other members of the Royal family will be present. The tomb will be completed when the recumbent effigy of the Duke has been placed upon the sarcophagus which contains his coffin.

Lords Clarendon, Harris, and Kintore are successively to be the Lords-in-Waiting on the Queen during May, while Captain Walter Campbell, Mr. Alexander Yorke, and Captain Malcolm Drummond will be the Grooms-in-Waiting, and Sir John McNeill and Major Legge are to be the Equerries on duty. Mr. Henniker Major and Mr. Festing will be the Pages-of-Honour in Waiting in the Throne Room at the two Drawing Rooms. Dowager Lady Ampthill, Dowager Lady Erroll, and Dowager Lady Churchill will be the Ladies-in-Waiting during the month.

I understand that the Duke of Bedford is to replace the late Lord Exeter in the ancient Crown office of Custos Rotulorum of the Soke or Liberty of Peterborough.

Lord Cadogan spent most of last week in England, and did not return to the Viceregal Lodge until Saturday morning. This week the possible Cabinet meetings will not have the benefit of his counsels, the Punchestown race meeting being an event of national importance in Ireland, demanding the appearance of the Lord Lieutenant in State. Leopardstown races, on Friday and Saturday in the same week, have rapidly grown in importance, and most of the Punchestown visitors have the two days at Leopardstown as well. The hotels in Dublin and the neighbourhood are crowded for the week. The Sunday before Punchestown is quite an important festival at

Kingstown, when crowds assemble on the piers to witness the influx of visitors brought by the mail boat from across the water in the afternoon.

Sir George Morris, the head of the Local Government Board in Ireland, has retired from the post owing to the age limit. The appointment of his successor, which has been deeply engaging the attention of the Chief Secretary, and all who have a voice in it, will, it is expected, be announced this week. Under the new Act, the importance of the place will be considerably increased. No narrowness of choice has created any difficulty in filling it, but rather an embarrassment of riches in the shape of those whose friends think them, or who themselves think that they are, fitted to fill the place. If an outsider of political importance is not selected, Mr. Henry Robinson, son of the late Sir H. Robinson, will succeed Sir G. Morris, Mr. Robinson being the senior official and next to Sir G. Morris on the Local Government Board.

Lord Oxenbridge was all his life a most staunch Liberal, and a devoted and unswerving supporter of Mr. Gladstone. He was a genial, hospitable, highly cultured man, and enjoyed a wide popularity. He was much liked in Lincolnshire, where for many years he took an active and a very useful part in County business, and he was a practical, sympathetic, and generous worker for the local charities, to which he gave most munificently down to the end of his life. Lord Oxenbridge was really killed by the collapse of the Liberator companies, with which he had allowed his name to be associated, with the very best motives, and with no idea whatever of obtaining any pecuniary benefit for himself. His health had been failing for several years, and he sustained a final crushing blow when his wife died a short time ago.

Mr. Alfred Cock, Q.C., was, like the late Sir Frank Lockwood, a burly and robust-looking man, and his voice and manner suggested that he had a constitution of iron. It is strange, indeed, that the two should have been suddenly and unexpectedly struck down within a few months of one another. Mr. Cock, though not in point of style an advocate of the first rank, worked his way to the front at an early age, partly by sheer force of character, and partly through the prevailing dearth of pre-eminent talent at the Bar. Now that he is gone, the litigant requiring the services of a first-rate common-law counsel will find his choice narrower than ever. Within the last three or four years the disappearance from the Bar of men like Lord Russell, Sir Frank Lockwood, Sir John Bigham, and Sir Arthur Channell, together with the renunciation of private practice by the Law Officers of the Crown, have given almost unprecedented openings to the rising generation of juniors; but up to the present it is difficult to find any individual who has availed himself of the opportunity.

The following case has been sent to me for ventilation:—

The other day a friend of mine found it needful to catch a train on the Underground Railway. The train was stationary on the platform, nevertheless the gate was barred. Naturally feeling that he had a duty to himself above red-tape regulations, and reasonably chafing against this most un-English restriction, he lightly leapt the offending obstacle. He was immediately seized upon by a guard of the usual incalculably stupid type, who tried to prevent his catching his most important train. Can any more flagrant specimen of bullying idiocy be conceived? Luckily my friend evaded this egregious functionary, and caught his train. For these circumstances he was prosecuted for assault, and fined by one of those sapient directors of the law who are such an ornament to the Bench.

This in itself was sufficient farce; but the best of the joke was a homily delivered in court on the subject of how gentlemen should behave on the Underground Railway, which emanated from the company's attorney—of all people in the world. The defendant might in return have delivered a counter oration on the duties of railway companies towards their passengers, and on the question whether perfectly peaceful citizens, like my friend, are to be browbeaten by official roughs, and then penalised as breakers of the peace. . . .

I publish this eloquent and vigorous statement of the rights of a free Briton, in order to oblige a friend, but it strikes me that my friend's case is not as strong as his language. Railway companies, I take it, have their rights as well as passengers, and one of their rights—I am not sure whether it is not a duty—is to make reasonable rules and regulations for the management of their traffic in the way which best suits their convenience and that of the public. A train on the Underground Railway stops in each station about twenty seconds, which is barely time—as many know to their cost—for those who are on the platform when the train pulls up to find seats. If the gates were not closed when the train draws up, people would risk their lives by entering trains in motion even more frequently than they do at present.

It may be said that a free Briton has a right to risk his life if he pleases. This is only true within certain limits. The Briton who, when travelling by rail, risks his life, and injures, without killing himself in so doing, is the first to turn round afterwards, and impute the whole blame to the company. Should the company retort that he is the only person to blame, he will probably take them before a jury to settle the question. The company on their side have therefore a right to place restrictions on the natural right of the free Briton to risk his own life.

Apart, however, from their own protection, I should say that the company have also a duty in this matter towards those passengers who have no desire to risk their own lives, and who have an objection to see other people risk their lives in their presence. As a passenger on the Underground Railway myself, I have the very strongest possible aversion to the individual who rushes at your carriage door just as the train is leaving the station, and horrifies half-a-dozen of his fellow creatures by forcing them to become spectators of his efforts at self-destruction. I have never disputed the right of every man to commit suicide, but I do contend in the strongest way that the man who wants to destroy himself should do it quietly and unostentatiously, and with every possible regard for the sensibilities of those who prefer to remain in this world. For these reasons I hold that the Metropolitan Railway Company are

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For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1074 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 1037.
For Amusements, see page 1075.
For Our Puzzles, see page 1085.

fully justified in closing their gates when a train arrives in the station, that their officials are justified in stopping anybody who breaks their wholesome regulations, and that magistrates are justified in fining those who break by-laws and assault officials in the attempt to enter trains in motion.

I am glad to find that there are plenty of people who share the views which I expressed the other day somewhat tentatively as to the cruelty of fattening poultry by machinery. The process seems to be carried out systematically in the principal poultry-growing district of Sussex, round Heathfield, and people who have had any experience of it are pretty well agreed that it is detestably cruel. However, there is no abuse which will not find defenders, and I have had one letter in defence of this system. Here it is :—

Sir,—I never did read such rot as your remarks about fattening poultry by machinery. Any one would think, to hear you talk, that it is a misfortune to be fat, or that taking a little more food than we have an appetite for was a kind of torture. Why does a man take a sherry and bitters before dinner? Why does he have spicy and dainty dishes put before him as dinner goes on? Why, so that he shall make the most of his time and chances when there is a good feed ready for him. You can't give a fowl sherry and bitters, but you can encourage his appetite with a little gentle pressure from a hand pump; and what's the difference—in principle? Torture, indeed! I call it doing a kindness.

Besides, where are the plump spring chickens to come from if no one's to assist Nature by putting them on the market early in the season? Are we to wait till the birds have fattened themselves at their leisure—maybe the middle of July, when the grouse are almost in sight? Perhaps you don't know either how much superior eating they are when fattened artificially. And who is going to compensate the poultry growers if they are to keep the birds for months before putting them on the market, perhaps miss the London season, and not get half the price for them even then?

You mind your own business, and don't go interfering with legitimate industry. And don't you make any mistake about its being a torture to have a good bellyful; take my word for that.—Yours obediently, Liveryman and Poulterer.

Heaven forbid that I should question the joy which any Liveryman derives from overfeeding himself. Neither do I grudge him this innocent enjoyment, which hurts nobody if it does not hurt himself. I question, however, whether a spring chicken derives the same satisfaction as a City Alderman from a sense of repletion, or whether his interior economy is equally fit to bear the strain. In the City of London—and in the West End also, for the matter of that—men get hardened to this process by years of practice. To bring the thing to a test, what I should like to do would be to take a fat Alderman after a City banquet, when he has begun with his "sherry and bitters," and gone through the whole series of "dainty and spicy dishes" until he could literally swallow no more, and then put an india-rubber tube down his throat, and force boiled mutton or beef steak pudding into him by hydraulic pressure. If after that he considered that I had done him an act of "kindness," and that there was no torture in a good bellyful, then I would abandon the cause of the Heathfield chicken.

A correspondent writes :—

I have just been informed, much to my surprise, that I am considered extremely mean for sending out invitations to dinner, and also to a wedding, with only a halfpenny stamp. I find from the Post Office that as the invitations are printed matter, they can be sent in unfastened envelopes at the postage of one halfpenny; and I do not quite see why I should pay the Post Office twice the amount they ask out of compliment to my guests, any more than I should expect my own correspondents to put twopence instead of a penny on their ordinary letters out of compliment to me. But perhaps I am wrong. What say you?

I am glad to take an opportunity of saying that I entirely agree with my correspondent, for people are continually asking me to gibbet others who have been guilty of this strange form of meanness. A more senseless complaint I have never heard. If it is a mark of meanness to send an invitation at the ordinary postal rate, where is the line to be drawn? If it is a compliment to your guest to use a penny instead of a halfpenny stamp, you will increase the compliment by putting on a twopenny, sixpenny, or shilling one. The requirements of hospitality already necessitate the throwing away of quite enough money on snobbish ostentation without this. Should friends of mine in sending invitations desire to pay me a compliment of this kind, I would ask them to kindly put the surplus stamps inside instead of outside the envelope.

I am asked to mention that the annual dinner of the Newsvendors' Benevolent and Provident Institution will take place at the Hotel Cecil on Wednesday, May 11, Mr. Cecil B. Harmsworth taking the chair.

In the meantime, perhaps Mr. Harmsworth and others connected with the production of newspapers may like to hear the following growl from the distributing branch of the industry. It comes from a well-known newsagent, apropos of the threatened publication of Sunday editions of various daily papers, with the view of satisfying the supposed public thirst for "war news":—

If, as we trust, you agree with us that the newsagent, being a human being and not a machine, requires *some* rest, we hope you will assist us against this new attempt to introduce seven-day-a-week journals. If one or two daily papers begin to publish Sunday editions, the rest will necessarily follow suit very quickly, when the newsagent, who already works from early morning till late in the evening, six days a week, and half-a-day on the seventh, and has been deprived of all share in Christmas, Easter, and other holidays, will get absolutely no rest at all on any day in the year. You will remember that when the *New York Herald* tried the seven days' plan with its London edition, the refusal of the trade to take it up settled the question. We had hoped it was settled for good.

If the public wants morning and evening papers on Sunday, it will get them, just as it gets its Sunday milk or its Sunday cabs. I am sorry for "the trade," but I fear that it will have to adapt its hours of business to the requirements of the public, or go to the wall. That is one of the laws of commercial enterprise and competition which I have no power to alter. Whether the public, however, wants any more Sunday papers than it is provided with already, I doubt. Certainly it does not want the streets of London paraded on Sunday afternoons and evenings by leather-lunged louts bawling sensational lies to sell "Speshul Edishuns," in the manner of which we had the first taste last Sunday. So far as I can judge, there is a growing feeling that the evening newspaper trade, as carried on in the streets, is developing into a public nuisance; and I have even met with similar opinions about the Sunday morning papers. If the latest editions of evening papers are to be cried

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round the residential districts of London all Sunday afternoon and evening, the more influential section of the public will speedily demand that the trade shall be placed under some restrictions.

The public must be mad indeed if they are prepared to go on for long disbursing halfpennies and pennies for such flimsy facts and palpable fictions as have been offered as "war news" during the last few days. Seldom have the compilers of contents bills and the imaginations of the street boys indulged in such a riotous saturnalia of mendacity as London was treated to on Saturday and Sunday. On Monday, again, every morning paper devoted whole pages to the absorbing theme, without, so far as I could discover, having a single incident of any interest to chronicle, beyond the capture or stoppage of one or two inoffensive trading steamers by American warships. One evening paper published itself on Sunday with the kindly intention of "alleviating public anxiety." With this view a stupid story was promulgated about the *Paris* (which had previously been chased by one newsagency into Totland Bay) having "passed through the Needles," which would do about as much to alleviate public anxiety as an announcement that the vessel had crossed the Brighton Downs. The *Paris* was seen "passing through the Needles" by a special correspondent who had been despatched *to Hurst Castle.* We shall have some enterprising journal announcing next that "in order to alleviate public anxiety" it has sent a special commissioner to Margate from Saturday to Monday. It strikes me that there is a great opening at the present moment for an editor who would have the courage to announce that his paper will contain no "war news" until something happens worth reporting.

My Paris correspondent the other day attributed to Henri IV. the *mot* that James I., "the British Solomon," was the son of David, meaning Rizzio. I am told by one of my readers that this robs the poet Milton of the only joke that has ever been attributed to him. The true version of the story is said to be that some one asked in Milton's presence why on earth so foolish a man should be called Solomon, to which Milton replied, "Because he was the son of David." What authority there may be for this I do not know. The idea of John Milton, of all men that ever lived, making a joke bordering on the risky, strikes me as incongruous; but, after all, I suppose that the Puritans were only human.

There is a strong feeling at Oxford against pluralities, and there has been some acrimonious comment in the University on the arrangement by which Mr. Pelham, the new President of Trinity, continues to hold the Camden Professorship of Ancient History, in spite of his election to a headship. The income of this chair is principally paid by another college, but the salary of the President of Trinity is reduced if he also holds a professorship, so that his college is practically saving a considerable sum of money every year at the expense of another foundation. It has therefore been decided to devote to the Bodleian and the Ashmolean Museums the greater part of the sum which is saved to the college by the President being a Professor, and it may be hoped that this precedent will be followed hereafter if a similar case occurs.

There are 240 names in the Mods. List at Oxford, which was issued last week, there being forty-four in the first class, 106 in the second, and seventy-seven in the third, while thirteen candidates were considered unworthy to be classed. There were also eleven females who were not notably successful. New College, which sent thirty-one candidates, had seven firsts, the same number with which Balliol last year headed the list. Balliol (which sent up twenty-one men) had five firsts, and so also had Trinity, and then came Brasenose and Magdalen with four each. No fewer than seven colleges failed to obtain any firsts at all. One college sent up twenty candidates, not one of whom was in the first class, and six of its men were unclassed!

It is stated at Cambridge that Dr. Kirkpatrick, who has been elected Master of Selwyn College, will retain the Regius Professorship of Hebrew, to which a Canonry in Ely Cathedral is annexed. Dr. Kirkpatrick was appointed to the Chair by Mr. Gladstone in 1882, on the death of Professor Jarrett.

Canon Dalton, of Windsor, who was private tutor for several years to the late Duke of Clarence and to the Duke of York, has replaced Dean Farrar as the Deputy Clerk of the Closet in Waiting on the Queen. The appointed preachers at the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, during May are:—1st, the Sub-Dean; 8th, Prebendary Daniel Moore; 15th, Canon Hervey, Rector of Sandringham; 22nd, Dr. Gee, Canon of Windsor; 29th, the Sub-Dean.

Canon Scott Holland is to be the Canon-in-residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral during May, succeeding Canon Newbolt; and at Westminster Abbey, Canon Gore, who has been on duty for two months, will be replaced by Canon Wilberforce.

There is not the slightest foundation for the statement of a contemporary that Mr. Balfour has offered the important Crown living of All Souls, Langham-place, to the Rev. Compton Reade, Vicar of Kenchester, and how such a report can ever have arisen it is impossible to conjecture. All Souls is worth about £700 a year, and this benefice has frequently proved a stepping-stone to much higher preferment. The incumbents have invariably been Low Churchmen.

The announcement of the appointment of the Rev. James MacArthur, Vicar of All Saints, South Acton, to the Bishopric of Bombay has been received in Church circles with unbounded surprise and extreme disapproval. Lord George Hamilton has obliged an influential constituent; but Mr. MacArthur is an ecclesiastic who is absolutely unknown outside the boundaries of his own parish, and it cannot be pretended that he possesses any special qualifications whatever for an Indian See, unless entire and absolute ignorance of India is a recommendation in the eyes of the Secretary of State. It would have

been very much better to appoint a divine who has had some experience of India, and who would therefore possess a certain amount of knowledge of the peculiar nature of the work which has to be done there.

There will be some fun shortly in the House of Lords, as Lord Grimthorpe is going to move a resolution on the subject of the Ritualistic practices which have now become so common, and it is said that he intends to give the Episcopal Bench a rare dressing, the Bishop of London coming in for specially caustic criticism

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The following letter has reference to the statistics given in TRUTH a fortnight ago respecting the proportion of income to inhabitants in some of the country parishes of the Church of England :—

SIR,—As a Dissenter (Unitarian) allow me to say that I think your attack on the Church of England for paying clergymen to minister to small and sparse populations is an injustice to that organisation. One of the virtues of the Establishment (heartily as I condemn the principle of the Establishment) is that it *covers the whole ground*, and leaves no district without its minister in religious things. None of the parishes mentioned has an excessive stipend for an educated man. . . . . It is much to the credit of the Church of England that it has a minister appointed to the most sparsely-populated districts.

This Nonconformist takes a much more kindly view of certain aspects of the Establishment than I, who am a Conformist. It is hardly accurate to say that the Church of England, which means the Church of to-day, "pays the country clergy." They are paid by the generosity of individuals deceased many centuries ago, who either gave land or imposed charges for this purpose. Neither does it seem to me a merit for the Church to "cover the whole ground," unless it also covers the whole population. The Church is concerned with the people, not with the land; and until the Church has the means to meet all the calls upon it in the large towns, it is an absurd waste of its strength and resources for single ministers to be detached for the purpose of ministering to a population of twenty or thirty people in a country parish. I did not, however, attack the Church for this. What I deprecated was its appealing for more money while the resources it possesses are thus wasted.

Again, a curate writes to point out that the same figures in TRUTH are fallacious, unless the area of each parish is given as well as the population. His argument is that, if a parish priest has a small flock scattered over an area of several square miles, they may occupy quite as much of his time as a much larger flock concentrated within a small radius. "Many a parish," he says, "in the mountainous districts of Cumberland or Wales, or in the now deserted country districts, may have a very small population, but in such cases the area to be traversed by the clergyman in the performance of his duties would be a more accurate criterion of the work to be done than the figures in TRUTH." There might be something in this argument if every clergyman spent the whole of his time in tramping from house to house, praying with or instructing his parishioners. But if my clerical correspondent intends to suggest that in any of the cases I gave, where a parish comprises less than twenty houses, the whole time of the vicar or rector is thus occupied, I can only recommend him to tell that story to the Marines. Take the most striking case in my list—an incumbent with an income of £230 and a house, and a flock of fifty-seven, contained in fourteen houses. How many times in the year does the vicar call at each of these fourteen houses? And how much of his time is spent in walking from one to the other?

Let us suppose that in the present day some pious millionaire proposed to endow the Church with a capital sum worth £300 a year. I put it to my friend the Unitarian, and my friend the curate, whether it would occur to any man of business to endow a priest and a church to minister, for all time to come, to some fifty or sixty people, including children. The mere suggestion is preposterous. Any man acting on ordinary business principles would employ his money where the largest number of people would get the benefit of it. All these local parochial endowments were created ages ago, when the social circumstances of the country were utterly different from what they are to-day. The parochial organisation in the country districts is, in fact, obsolete. The Church ought to recognise this fact, and take steps to put the endowments to better use.

I do not say that the scattered population of the country districts should be left without benefit of clergy. I appreciate my Unitarian friend's respect for the principle of "covering the whole ground." But if the ground is to be covered, it should be covered by itinerant priests. You do not require at this date a resident man in each parish in order to minister spiritually to the scattered residents of a parish in Wales or Cumberland. In these days of railways, not to mention bicycles, a travelling priest could without difficulty supply all the requirements of a dozen such parishes. To allocate one man to each, and to fix him down there with a house and two or three hundred a year, is a waste of strength and money. I would go further, and say that it is bad for the man himself.

All this has arisen out of my remarks on the appeals on behalf of the Queen Victoria Clergy Sustentation Fund. To go back to that subject, I hear from a clergyman in the diocese of Oxford that at the last Diocesan Conference the Bishop accepted from him a resolution pledging the Conference to the opinion that any Clergy Sustentation Fund which does not help the unbeneficed clergy, especially the elderly unbeneficed, would be inadequate and unsatisfactory; but the motion came on towards the end of the meeting, when there was no time left for discussion. Subsequently, the proposer wrote to Sir Charles Ryan, and received a reply to the effect that the case of curates would certainly be considered. This Vicar now remarks that he feels unwilling to comply with the request that had been made to him to devote offertories to the fund; and he says that he would rather have an offertory for the benefit of his own curates—a very sound view which I commend to other clerics.

From a paragraph in a local paper it seems that the amiable scheme of the Rector of St. James's, Colchester, for rendering his church agreeable to all sections of his

parishioners has miscarried. As mentioned in last week's TRUTH, the Rector offered to provide extra services in every style desired, if those dissatisfied with the existing ceremonial would meet him at a given time, and confer on the arrangements. At the time appointed for the purpose, however, not a single individual presented himself. It may be that the Rector cast his pearls before swine, and that they may yet turn again and rend him. Or it may be that every soul in the parish is perfectly satisfied with things as they are. But it is quite certain that a great opportunity for imparting an entirely novel character to the Church of England has been lost. What a chance it would offer to a modern Vicar of Bray if he could hold in succession every Sunday services to suit every taste, from that of the Roman Catholic to that of the Plymouth Brother!

Bishops are not alone in talking nonsense on Sunday cycling. Following on the speech of the Bishop of Oxford, discussed in last week's TRUTH, a reverend fanatic at Exeter has gone so far as deplore the depravity of members of his own profession, who actually ride to their places of worship on bicycles on the Sabbath! Now where does the difference between walking and cycling come in, except that the latter is pleasanter, perhaps, and certainly much quicker? Sunday is the one opportunity afforded to a large portion of the working community to take a modicum of healthful exercise, and obtain a glimpse of the green fields which year by year are retreating farther from London; and yet this reverend person would —if he had the power—put a stop to a really healthy and sensible entertainment, and drive its numerous votaries to much more questionable methods of disposing of their leisure.

Naturally my sporting correspondent has excited the wrath of many clerics by asserting that sermons do more than bicycles to empty churches. I cannot answer one quarter of those who have written to me on the subject; but I am much struck by the remark of one parson—who writes very sympathetically and reasonably on the cycle question—that to discourse to the same people on the same topic (however attractive in itself) 104 times in the year, and to continue at it year after year, "would tax even my versatility." I have never occupied a pulpit, and we none of us know what we can do till we try; but I admit that stated in this way the difficulty of making sermons attractive looks a formidable one.

At the same time, I must say that the sameness of the preacher and the sameness of the congregation and the sameness of the subject, do not entirely excuse the uniform flatness, staleness, and unprofitableness of the majority of sermons. It is my fate to have to produce fifty-two numbers of TRUTH every year. Every week we are the same writers. To the extent of 99 per cent, I should say that we have every week the same readers. And if you look through the files of this or any other paper you will find, taking one year with another, a surprising similarity in the subjects dealt with. The line between the parson and the journalist does not seem so very broad when you come to measure it closely. Yet somehow or other TRUTH manages to interest its readers week by week, as is proved by the infallible test that the number of copies of the paper bought and sold is ever on the increase; and the same thing may be said of every other successful journal. Why then the difference between the popularity of the parson's discourse and the journalist's? I must say that I think the fault must lie chiefly with the parson.

Perhaps it would be more just to say "misfortune" than "fault." An orator is born, not made, and parsons cannot be selected solely, or even chiefly, for his oratorical powers. It would probably be a misfortune for the Church if they were, for your pulpit orator is rarely of the stuff of which good parish priests are made. The best way, therefore, to improve sermons would be to abolish them as a regular and necessary adjunct to Divine Worship, and to employ a special order of clerics—preachers, and nothing else—to fill the pulpits on occasions when an original discourse was considered necessary.

In reference to a complaint, noticed in TRUTH of the 14th inst., respecting the management of the Dublin Branch of the Army and Navy Pensioners Employment Society, the Secretary of that Society informs me that the books show that out of 184 pensioners who have got employment through the Society 119 were Roman Catholics and 65 Protestants. This, I think, disposes sufficiently of the suggestion that Protestants have been unduly favoured. I still think, however, that it would be a good thing if there were a Committee on the spot to supervise the working of the office and hear any complaints from applicants. The Edinburgh office referred to in a subsequent paragraph of the same issue appears to have been that of the Association for Employment of Discharged and Reserve Soldiers—not the Pensioners' Employment Society.

I am asked to mention that a matinée in aid of the funds of the very poor parish of Holy Cross, St. Pancras, will be given by Mr. Charles Wyndham at the Criterion Theatre on Tuesday, May 10. On this occasion "Still Waters Run Deep" will be performed by a very strong company, including Mr. Charles Wyndham, Mr. Lewis Waller, Mrs. Bernard Beere, and Miss Mary Moore. Tickets may be obtained either at the theatre or of Mrs. Albert Moore, Holy Cross Vicarage.

Another forthcoming charity function claiming notice is the festival dinner in aid of the Royal Ophthalmic Hospital. This will take place at the Grand Hotel, Charing Cross, on Friday, May 6, the Duke of Cambridge presiding.

By a curious blunder *Ashore and Afloat* was referred to in last week's TRUTH as a publication of the Royal Humane Society, instead of the Royal Naval Temperance Society. As printers have enough sins of their own to answer for, I think it due to them to mention that this was not a printer's error, but arose in transcribing a shorthand note.

Attention has been called in the Press, and in Parliament, to the horrifying account of the action of the Dum Dum bullet given by a German doctor at the Wiesbaden Congress, on the strength of experiments which he had himself made with the bullets upon dead bodies. How he got the bullets, or the bodies, for the purpose is not explained. He says that the results of his experience were "fearful, and cannot be exaggerated." "Not only are the bones," he says, "but the flesh as well, torn and splintered in all directions. Even the skin at the point of contact shows long seams torn in all directions"; and he thinks that steps should be taken to restrict the use of anything but lead bullets in small-bore rifles.

It so happens that I have just received from the Frontier an eye-witness's account of the effect of the bullet upon five men who were shot on one occasion during the Frontier War. There is no doubt as to their having been Dum Dum bullets, for the reason which will be explained presently. Here is the report:—

No. 1.—Hit in head. Killed, but head not seriously smashed.
No. 2.—Hit in the chest close to heart. Walked with assistance one mile, where doolies were got; was all right in less than one month.
No. 3.—Hit in stomach. Walked part of the way back, but died in the night.
No. 4.—Hit sideways through posterior. Was able to walk afterwards, but apparently the bullet touched his spine, as he has since lost the use of his legs.
No. 5.—A native officer. Hit in the fleshy part of the thigh, bullet only just missing the bone. He doubled back for reinforcements, then walked into camp four miles over very rough ground, and was absolutely well and at duty again in about a fortnight.

This, it is true, does not give very specific information as to the action of the bullet on striking the body, but it seems quite inconsistent with the German medico's statements. The writer, it will be seen, makes no mention of the skin having "long seams torn in all directions at the point of contact," or of the flesh being "torn and splintered in all directions," and such statements are quite inconsistent with the case of No. 2, who was shot close to the heart, and was all right in a month, or No. 5, who was shot in the thigh, and seems to have experienced absolutely no inconvenience from the wound. It rather looks from this as if the effects of the bullet upon the dead body were different from those on the living subject.

I have said there is no doubt as to these being Dum Dum bullet wounds. The reason is singular. They were all wounds inflicted upon British soldiers by British soldiers. An officer with a detachment of six men of the 15th Sikhs was detailed to hold a house on the left flank during the advance on Saran Sar. When the retirement commenced, the Dorset Regiment were ordered to guard that flank, but they were not informed of the presence of the Sikhs in the house. The consequence was that as the detachment cleared out of the house, the Dorsetshire men opened fire on them at about five or six hundred yards, knocking over five out of the six, killing one man on the spot, and inflicting on the others the wounds above mentioned.

The incident is highly creditable to the shooting of the Dorsetshire Regiment, but it confirms the worst that has been said in regard to the slipshod and defective character of the Staff work throughout the campaign. On more than one occasion Gurkha scouts who had been sent out were fired at by our own troops under similar misapprehensions. I contradicted last week the statement that at the taking of the Sanpagha Pass, General Westmacott's Brigade had fired into General Gaselee's, and the officer who sent the contradiction appeared to think that it was a monstrous thing that such a report should be circulated. In regard to the incident above mentioned at Saran Sar, I take the responsibility of saying that there is no doubt whatever about the facts.

After reading Sir Bindon's Blood's despatch on the operations of the Buner Field Force, one can only conclude that the Commanders of the various Frontier forces have been engaged in a competition as to who shall compile the biggest list of officers for honourable mention. This may be an amusing game to the competitors, and highly gratifying to the officers who benefit by it, but the general result is to render "mention in despatches" a distinction devoid of all military value. Sir Bindon Blood's force, as no one will deny, did its work creditably and successfully; but it performed no exploit which has been heard of at home, except by a casual paragraph in the newspapers; its work was completed, as the covering letter of the Adjutant-General in India records, "*within twelve days from the commencement of operations*"; and the very name of the expedition will be forgotten in twelve months. Yet for this Sir Bindon Blood recommends to the notice of the Commander-in-Chief fifteen officers of the Divisional Staff, four in each of the Brigade Staffs, five on the line of communications, four at the base, sixteen officers of battalions and units, two medical officers, two officers of his personal staff, and three politicals—total, fifty-five names. Should we ever be engaged in a serious war, every soldier in the Army will have been "mentioned" before peace is concluded.

Sir William Lockhart may have been right in his criticism of the field hospital equipment for mountain warfare in India; but it would be well that we should lay the blame upon the right quarter. I believe I am right in saying that although many special committees have sat during the last twenty years for the purpose of reforming military hospital equipment in India, and fitting it to war conditions in that country, and although these committees have had before them the experience of innumerable frontier campaigns, no equipment adapted to mountain warfare has yet been arrived at. The fault here, as in so many other shortcomings brought to light during the recent campaign, seems to rest with the highest Indian military authorities, and with them only.

I continue to receive from India a great deal of correspondence bearing upon the Afridi war, and the articles on the subject that appeared in TRUTH earlier in this year.

MAJOR HOWE & CO., LTD.—Fashionable BOOTS and SHOES.—16, Coventry-st., W.; 60, Strand, W.C.; 81, Gracechurch-st; and 13, Queen Victoria-st., London. "Note Addresses." (Repairs.)

No doubt there are many points arising out of the campaign which require to be kept in mind, and which demand further discussion; but as regards the mere details of the fighting, the responsibility for incidents which took place on this, that, or the other occasion, and other matters of that kind, I think we must now regard the book as closed. The war is over, for the time at any rate, and many incidents which were of supreme importance three months ago, when a renewal of the fighting seemed probable, have now become matter for the historian rather than the journalist. I say this by way of apology to numerous correspondents with whose communications I do not now see my way to deal in detail.

An ugly story was told in the *Daily Mail* last Friday of the public degradation, à la Dreyfus, of a lance-corporal of the 2nd Grenadier Guards. The function took place on the parade ground at Wellington Barracks, in full view of the public in Birdcage-walk, and a considerable crowd assembled to witness the proceedings, the very carriage drive being thronged with spectators in carriages and on horseback. The corporal had been reduced to the ranks by sentence of a court-martial, which had also awarded him fourteen days' imprisonment. It will probably astonish every civilian reader to hear that this sentence was imposed for the simple offence of drunkenness, and the astonishment will not be lessened when the full facts of the case are understood. These I am able to give, as, having had an intimation from the regiment that the case was of some public interest, I sent a representative to watch the proceedings at the court-martial.

The case for the prosecution was that the prisoner, Lance-Corporal Simpson, was drunk in the roadway opposite Buckingham Palace at 11.30 p.m. on April 8. The principal witnesses to that effect were Colour-Sergeant Acreman, who made the charge, and one or two other N.C.O.s who had seen the prisoner outside the barracks, one of them being a lance-corporal on gate duty, who saw the prisoner come in. Acreman, although in company with another sergeant at the time, did not order the prisoner to be escorted to barracks, but went to the sergeant of the guard, and told him to notice Simpson when he came in, and if he was drunk to place him under arrest. The sergeant of the guard (Craddock) looked out for Simpson accordingly, did not consider him drunk, and did not place him under arrest. He gave evidence for the prisoner at the trial, and he also stated that when Simpson came into barracks the lance-corporal at the gate agreed with him (Craddock) that Simpson was not drunk. Other witnesses also testified to the prisoner's sobriety. On learning next morning that Simpson had not been arrested, Colour-Sergeant Acreman reported the matter to the sergeant-major. Simpson was brought before the Commanding Officer, and being confident of his case, claimed a court-martial, with the result above described. It should be mentioned, as a significant circumstance in the case, that Colour-Sergeant Acreman last year brought against Simpson a charge of felony, for which he was tried by court-martial and honourably acquitted.

In the first place, it will be seen that there was here a direct conflict of evidence, upon which any civil court of justice would have given the accused the benefit of the doubt. His right to that benefit is increased by the fact that substantial reason exists for suspecting animus against him on the part of the colour-sergeant, who had originated the charge and was the principal witness. No such principle of justice or equity, however, is recognised by the Court; and not only is the prisoner convicted, but he is sentenced to the exceptional punishment of fourteen days' imprisonment, together with reduction to the ranks and public degradation. Had the C.O. disposed of the case himself the punishment would probably have been a reprimand or a few days' "C.B." Why the difference, when the court-martial passes the sentence? Because it is the practice in the Army for courts-martial to impose extra heavy sentences as a punishment to men who dare to appeal from the C.O.'s jurisdiction, the object being to deter men by this means from so appealing. In other words, an unjust punishment is imposed in order to defeat the rights given to soldiers by Act of Parliament. The whole case is thoroughly discreditable to all concerned, and what object there could have been in advertising all the circumstances before a London crowd in Birdcage Walk, unless it was as a warning to any spectators who might be contemplating enlistment, I fail to perceive.

Have the War Office withdrawn the excellent order removing the designation "Army Pensioner" from the envelopes enclosing pensioners' quarterly payments? I ask in view of two envelopes before me, one of which enclosed the pension, while the other also contained a money-order. Both are inscribed "Army Pensioner," and on one the words are printed. There were the best possible reasons, quite apart from sentiment, for abandoning this practice, and I suspect that this relapse to the old form has occurred without Mr. Brodrick's knowledge.

An American National Guardsman seems to take the field prepared for every emergency. Here are the orders of the Colonel of the Ninth Regiment as to the kit to be provided for war service. I suppose military administrators are much of a muchness in all countries. Anyhow, this insistence on a tooth brush, a whisk brush, and two dozen pocket-handkerchiefs is quite in the style of our War Office:—

> Chiefs of sections will at once notify members of their section that if called out for service they must report at the armory with the least possible delay, and will bring the following articles with them:—One extra pair broad-toed shoes, two extra pairs of socks, one extra suit of underclothes, one extra blue flannel shirt, two dozen handkerchiefs, two towels, one cake of soap, one hair brush and comb, one tooth-brush, one whisk broom or brush.
>
> Members should also provide themselves with a pair of rubbers and should report with one day's rations. The uniform worn will be campaign hats, leggings and broad-toed shoes.—By order of
>
> Colonel Seward.

Norwich Canaries from the City of their Nativity. Handsome Drawing-room Songsters, from 10/6 and upwards, sent on approval. Write for detailed Price List.—Mackley Brothers, Eastern Counties' Aviaries, Norwich. Awarded 8,800 prizes.

The Oldest Glass and China Shop in London (Established 1760), provides Outfits for Palace or Cottage.—Alfred B. Pearce, 39, Ludgate-hill, London, E.C.

Although there has been a vast amount of discussion during the last few months as to the best way of making a military life agreeable to "Tommy Atkins," Tommy himself seems to have been the last man consulted on the point. As he is accustomed to take me into his confidence in a very flattering way, I have been favoured with many hints as to the kind of Army reforms which would be most acceptable to him. Some I fear are impracticable, but not all. For instance, a man writing to me a week or two ago gave it as his opinion that one of the chief objections to military service is the difficulty of getting home on furlough, and he contended that nothing would do more to stimulate recruiting than to give every soldier serving in the United Kingdom the opportunity of visiting his home once a year, at a railway fare sufficiently reduced to be easily within his means.

Unless I am mistaken, sailors when on leave on shore have the privilege of travelling half price. Some time ago certain railway companies agreed to issue return tickets to soldiers at single-journey fares, but I am told that this privilege has been withdrawn, at any rate by some lines. If the territorial system were logically carried out, and every home battalion quartered in its own county, this question would not arise. But as it seems to be the universal rule that every regiment shall be quartered as far as possible from its territorial headquarters, there can be little doubt that the majority of men would appreciate any increased facilities given to them of visiting their homes from time to time.

There is no doubt also that the popularity of the Service would be very much increased if more personal liberty could be given to soldiers, and in the case of men of thoroughly good character, who have qualified as efficient soldiers in every respect, there seems no good reason why this should not be done. For instance, one of my correspondents in the ranks suggests that every trained soldier who has been for a certain period clear of a regimental entry, should be allowed a permanent pass to stop out of barracks after tattoo, when off duty. Another makes similar suggestions with regard to a certain allowance of furlough every year to every man of good character. A third suggestion which I have before me is that sergeant-majors' drills in the afternoon for trained soldiers should be abolished. When a soldier has learnt all his duties thoroughly, and has shown that he is a man who can be trusted to behave himself properly, is there any real reason for keeping him all the year round more or less under lock and key in the barracks?

I put this with some confidence because not long since an officer of considerable experience went so far as to suggest in the columns of the *Times* that in regard to large numbers of soldiers we might abolish the barrack system altogether, and allow them to live out in their own homes and merely attend barracks at stated hours during the day. There can be no question that in the present day one of the chief objections against military service is the loss of personal liberty, and it is well worth the consideration of the military authorities whether greater liberty might not be given in a large number of cases without the slightest interference with military discipline.

At the same time, there is no doubt that a great deal might be done to make barrack life itself less unattractive. On this point also I have had many suggestions of late. One of the most practical of them is that every regiment should, as a matter of course, have a cricket club, and, where practicable, a boating club also, and that every encouragement should be given to the men to go in for these sports. It is also suggested that a dance club for the winter evenings should be a regular recognised institution. Many regiments have clubs of this kind already, but I fancy they are left too much to the initiative of individual C.O.'s or regimental officers. There is no reason why the regulations should not be as clear and definite on these points as they are in regard to the starting and management of canteens and reading rooms.

While on this subject, here is another suggestion from the ranks. I do not suppose that it is needed in every regiment, but it was no doubt prompted by the personal experience of the writer, and probably his experience is not absolutely unique in the Army:—

> When the orderly officer of the day is going his round at breakfast and dinner, I suggest that he should invariably come into the men's rooms and see for himself that the meals are properly cooked and served, and that the men get their proper quantity. He cannot do this by merely standing at the bottom of the stairs or in the passage and shouting, "Any complaints, there?"

I have no wish to prejudice Lord Lansdowne, Mr. Brodrick, Lord Wolseley, and other exalted functionaries in the criminal proceedings for fraud and conspiracy threatened by a tall, grey-bearded ex-cavalry pensioner in an application at the Westminster Police-court last week; but I certainly think that the case of this veteran calls for further notice, and some explanation on the part of the War Office. The man's own statement is that his pension has been stopped in consequence of a conviction before Sir John Bridge on a charge of being drunk and disorderly. No one will suspect Lord Lansdowne, Lord Wolseley, or any one else of a fraudulent intention to deprive the veteran of his pension, but it looks, on the face of it, as if, whatever the intention, some irregularity had been committed, for under ordinary circumstances I believe a pension is not liable to forfeiture upon such conviction.

Here is an Army grievance which will appeal to the sympathies of Sir John Gorst, who may, perhaps, feel inclined to remonstrate with Lord Lansdowne on the

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subject. At Warrington Depot the only schools available for the little Tommies and their sisters are two voluntary schools (Church of England and Roman Catholic) over two miles distant from the barracks, and all through the past winter the youngsters have had to tramp this distance and back, regardless of weather. Such a walk is too much for the strength of the smaller children, and is bad for any of them. The children get wet through on their way to school, and have to sit all day in their wet clothes; and it will surprise no one to hear that bad colds and serious sickness have resulted. Of course, if the children are kept at home, the C.O. gets a notification from the school, and the father gets a wigging. This is not the fault of the local military authorities, but of the War Office, who themselves appoint the schools which the children are to attend. If there are no schools nearer, one ought to be started at the Depot, and it would be of benefit to others besides the children, for I hear that the N.C.O.s there have at present very scanty facilities for preparing for educational examinations.

A young man named Enoch Walker was sentenced at Runcorn the other day for stealing a quantity of valuables from actors at the local theatre, and from other parties. Enoch is a Volunteer, and most of the articles were found packed up in his kit. When the sentence was passed, Superintendent O'Kell, according to the report, advised him to enlist. The Superintendent's notions of a desirable recruit for the Regular Army seem to be a little questionable, but possibly he thinks that in the present anxiety to increase our forces, all will be fish that comes into the recruiting-sergeant's net; or possibly that the discipline of a Line regiment would be better calculated to keep Enoch in the path of honesty than that of a Volunteer corps. At the same time, should this martial youth after his release from prison act upon the Superintendent's advice, it would be well that his antecedents should be known in whatever regiment he selects, in order that his comrades in arms may keep an eye on their kits, and on his.

The plans for the new Naval College at Dartmouth have been approved, and the work of building it is to be commenced next month. One of the Service papers points out that no room has been set aside as a library, which seems a decided mistake. It is also surely a blunder to build the College merely upon the basis of the number of cadets which are at present on board the *Britannia*; for the chances are that additional accommodation will be required in a few years, as the Navy is more likely to expand than to diminish, and then there will be a great waste of public money, which would be avoided if the authorities would now exhibit some little foresight and allow adequate room for growth.

The committee entrusted with the fund raised for the relief of the widows and orphans of the gallant fellows who lost their lives in the Margate surf-boat disaster last December seem bent upon pursuing the policy which has so often brought odium upon the administrators of similar trusts. It appears from the *Thanet Times* that they have invested the £9,000 subscribed by the public, and the income is to be doled out in allowances of 15s. a week to each widow, with 2s. 6d. for each child under seventeen years of age. These allowances do not err on the side of liberality, but the chief cause of the dissatisfaction that is being expressed is the apprehension that the capital is to be hoarded up until it can be finally diverted to some other object. The Mayor has shown that this fear is not unfounded. "It is quite possible," he says, "that the necessity for relief will disappear long before the capital is exhausted," and in that event "it has been suggested that we should build sailors' homes for the widows of men lost at sea." If anything of the kind is done it will be a scandalous misappropriation of the money. The money was given by the public for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the men who lost their lives in the Margate surf-boat disaster, and it is for that purpose alone that it ought to be applied.

My remarks on the Board of Trade sight-tests have incurred the rebuke of an optician, who insists that no man who cannot see half-inch type at sixteen feet is fit for the mercantile marine. He says:—

> Your assertion that persons who cannot see a half-inch object at sixteen feet can yet see larger objects at a considerable distance perfectly cannot possibly be correct. The eye would be either myopic or hypermetropic, and in both cases distant vision is defective.

I am much obliged to my correspondent for this information. I have been conducting a series of experiments on the subject, and I find that though I have not a man on my staff who can see a short black pin on the carpet at the other end of the room, which is a less distance than sixteen feet, they can all of them see the Clock Tower at Westminster from the door of the Royal Aquarium, which is, of course, "a considerable distance." It seems, therefore, that in this office we are all of us, including myself, either myopic or hypermetropic. I believe, however, that I can see quite as far through a brick wall as most people, and I think that I could distinguish a red or green light at sea at night as well as any officer who has passed the Board of Trade sight-tests.

I am doubly glad to see that the opening of Kew Gardens at 10 o'clock has at last been secured; first, because it is a valuable privilege, not only to residents in the vicinity, but to Londoners at large; and secondly, because it is an encouraging victory over the hide-bound traditions of officialism. There was never any good reason for keeping this most beautiful of our public

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pleasure-grounds closed till the afternoon, the official excuse that it was necessary for the benefit of the students being mere moonshine.

Within the last week or ten days the refreshment kiosk in Kensington Gardens, which has become such a popular resort during the last two or three years, has been enclosed by iron gates. There are three paths approaching the kiosk, and gates have been placed at the entrance to each. Why? They certainly are not necessary for the protection of the premises against thieves, for anybody can step over the railings, or, for the matter of that, over the gates, and the kiosk is already enclosed in the park railings. The ground thus enclosed is a portion of the Gardens, and the paths on which the gates are placed are public rights of way. Unless it is intended to stop up these rights of way, the gates can only have been placed there for the purpose of giving somebody a job.

Since it is apparently impossible to impress upon those who daily have to handle the various poisons employed in modern manufactures the absolute necessity of precautionary measures, it is satisfactory to learn from the Home Secretary that the services of two eminent scientific experts are being secured to test and report upon the various glazes used in the manufacture of pottery. When the knowledge of the modern chemist is taken into consideration, it certainly seems wonderful that, up to now, no substitute for lead has been discovered, more particularly as this deadly compound is employed in so many industrial preparations, and its effects are so horrible upon the unfortunate workpeople who are compelled to handle it. There is in this direction a splendid opportunity for the philanthropist who will offer a costly prize, either for the discovery of a substitute for lead in the manufacture, or a complete antidote to it, if perforce it must be employed.

The Sabbatarian Parish Council of South Stoke has had another nasty rebuff. Since the failure of their attempt to induce the magistrates to put in force an obsolete Act of Charles I., these egregious fanatics have passed a by-law to prohibit the playing of football, or any other games, on the village recreation ground on a Sunday. Before it could become effective, however, the by-law required the sanction of the Local Government Board, and this sanction has been refused. The Board is of opinion that, so far as any piece of ground awarded to the parish for the purpose of recreation is concerned, such a by-law cannot be made, as it would deprive the villagers, during one day of the week of the use of the ground for the purpose for which it was intended. Such a by-law, it is added, could only apply to unlawful games, among which football and cricket could certainly not be included. This decision is highly creditable to the authorities at Whitehall, and it may be usefully borne in mind in other parishes should any similarly narrow-minded bodies try to suppress healthy and rational methods of Sunday recreation.

The effort to retain the small open space in the City, contiguous to the General Post Office, which has come to be spoken of as "the Postmen's Park," has failed for want of a comparatively insignificant sum. The £12,000 required to buy the land has been collected, and of the £200 a year needed for its maintenance, £125 has been promised; but the want of the last £75 per annum has wrecked the whole scheme—unless the City Parochial Foundation can be induced to grant a small extension of time to enable a further and final appeal to be made to the benevolent. The object is a most deserving one, and could only a few of those in the habit of helping their poorer brethren obtain a glimpse of this spot at the hour of the mid-day meal, the money would be given over and over again. The loss of this bit of garden will be keenly felt by the postmen of St. Martin's-le-Grand, the nurses of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and the large population of teeming Aldersgate-street and Little Britain.

In a recent issue I gave some particulars showing the casual way in which the Post Office treats its customers who rent private telephones. It would seem to be a mistake to employ Post Office telephones at all for communication between private establishments. A gentleman who has a telephone between his two business places at the West End of London, only a few hundred yards apart, tells me that he applied a few years ago to the Post Office for an estimate for telephonic communication between them, and the price quoted was £13 per annum. He then got a tender from a private Telephone Company, who did the same work for 48s. per annum. He adds that the service is perfectly satisfactory, and the attention received from the Company exemplary. *Verbum sap.*

If the people of Hastings are wise, they will set their faces resolutely against any attempt to saddle the borough with financial liability in connection with the new harbour scheme. I hear from a friend in the town, that such an attempt is now being made, and that it is likely to take the form of asking the Corporation to guarantee the interest on a 3 per cent. loan of £100,000. If the Hastings ratepayers want to saddle themselves for an indefinite period with a payment of £3,000 a year interest, I would recommend them at least to spend the principal on themselves, rather than hand it over to a company for the purpose of being cast into the sea. Little or none of the capital so far raised has been subscribed in

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Hastings, which shows that the capitalists of Hastings have little faith in the scheme; and if further capital cannot be raised outside the town without a Corporation guarantee, that is a clear proof that capitalists outside Hastings have as little faith as those in the town. The attempt to get the town to guarantee interest where it refuses to subscribe the principal, and when outsiders will not risk the investment, is a piece of very cool impudence.

Common sense is entirely on the side of those, whether inhabitants of Hastings or outsiders, who hesitate to put money into this insane speculation. A harbour can never be a profitable commercial undertaking unless it is built to meet the requirements of an existing and growing trade; and all harbours at small ports like Hastings are worked at a loss, for the sake of indirect benefits rather than for the direct profits from the harbour itself. This may be seen from the experience of more than one South Coast port. To construct a harbour in the mere hope of creating a trade, which there is no solid reason to expect, is the wildest of speculations.

Even if there were any reasonable prospect of converting Hastings into a port with as much trade as Folkestone or Newhaven, the only profit that would be expected would be the indirect benefit to the railway and the town; and in a case like that of Hastings—which is first and foremost a pleasure resort—any indirect profit which might result from its conversion into a trading port would be more than balanced by the direct loss which would result to the town through the diminution of its attractions to visitors. If Manchester has made a bad bargain over the Ship Canal, built by a commercial community to supply an existing want, what good are the ratepayers of a seaside watering-place likely to do for themselves by sinking their money in the construction of a harbour where no trade exists, with the certainty that the capital will never earn a dividend, even if trade comes, and with a strong probability that, if trade comes, it will do the town quite as much harm as good? If the ratepayers of Hastings want to raise a loan of £100,000 for the benefit of the town, I will show them a dozen ways in which they could lay out the money to infinitely better advantage than this.

I hear from Great Yarmouth that a singular incident occurred in connection with the recent election of Guardians in that borough. It is alleged that at the counting of the votes, one particular ballot box was found to contain ninety-nine papers in excess of the number which, according to the presiding officer's return, it ought to have contained; and though some explanation was given, the agent of one of the candidates considered the circumstances so suspicious that he requested the Local Government Board to hold an inquiry. The Board replied that they had nothing to do with such a matter, and apparently it is only by means of an election petition or other legal proceedings that anything can be done. There seems to be an understanding now that the question shall be dropped, but in the public interest it is to be hoped that such a course will not be allowed. A Guardian speaking last week, casually remarked that "there might be scepticism on the part of some people as to how polls were built up." If such scepticism exists, it is all the more necessary that such an allegation as is made in this case should be properly investigated.

A very suggestive remark was made by a member of the Devonport Town Council during a discussion respecting the arrangement under which the Watch Committee arrogates to itself the discretion which the Chief Constable should exercise in regard to the institution of licensing prosecutions. The member in question argued in favour of the arrangement on the ground that while "it was easy for a licensed victualler to make an enemy of one individual, it was not so easy to make enemies of nine out of sixteen." Nine represented a majority of the Watch Committee, and "it required nine enemies to get a prosecution sent to the magistrates." Put the other way about, this means that a publican can secure himself from prosecution by making friends of a majority of the Committee. The Council approved of the system, but I trust the Home Secretary may be induced to use his authority to put an end to it. To permit a body constituted like a Watch Committee to discuss and decide in secret conclave whether an alleged offence against the law shall be followed by a public prosecution is certain to lead to scandals, more especially when it is offences affecting the liquor trade that are so dealt with. In practically every other class of offence, from pitch-and-toss to manslaughter, it rests with the head of the police to say whether a prosecution shall be undertaken, and there is no justification whatever for fettering his hands when it is a licensing offence.

There was a curious case before the Law Courts last week, which resulted in no verdict, owing to the disagreement of the jury. A gentleman had insured his furniture. He sent it to Maple's to be stored, and paid the extra insurance demanded. At Maple's there are a number of storing warehouses. The furniture was placed in warehouse E. But when the insurance company inquired at Maple's in which warehouse it was, the clerk accidently said that it was in warehouse C. But E and C were burnt down, the furniture being burnt in C. The company paid insurance to the owner of the furniture, and then sued Maple's for it, on the ground that although it was burnt in E, Maple's had stated that it was in C. The claim on Maple's seems to my non-legal mind an extraordinary one, indeed, and contrary to common sense. If admitted, it would seem that should a man insure his furniture and state in

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what room of his house each article is placed, he would lose his insurance if he had moved it from one room to another, and the house and furniture were burnt.

A correspondent puts forward a pertinent suggestion for the Solons who persist in sending people to prison for the so-called crime of sleeping out. It is that their worships should at least satisfy themselves whether there was decent shelter available for the offenders in the local casual ward. For instance, at the last meeting of the Kirbymoorside Guardians it was reported that there were only two beds in the female casual ward, and that, when seven or eight women sought admission, they had either to sleep three or four in a bed, or else one or two had to lie in the bath. It is not to be wondered at that tramps prefer to sleep under a hedge or in a barn rather than in a casual ward overcrowded in this disgraceful way, and to punish them for doing so is simply monstrous. The parties who ought to be punished are the Bumbles who neglect to provide the accommodation which the law requires them to provide for the destitute wayfarer.

The Cambridge Bench gave some strange reasons the other day for the dismissal of a summons against a cabman for driving his vehicle on the wrong side of the road. There does not appear to have been any question that the defendant went on his wrong side in order to pass a cart; and that in consequence he nearly came into collision with a little girl who was riding a bicycle. The Bench dismissed the summons, however, on the grounds (1) that cyclists habitually break the rule of the road themselves; (2) that the rule is not a hard-and-fast one; and (3) that on this occasion no damage was done! It would seem from this nonsense that because some cyclists break the rule, other cyclists are not entitled to its protection; also that drivers of vehicles in Cambridge can go on the wrong side of the road without incurring any penalty so long as no actual injury is caused to anybody. If they have the misfortune to maim or kill somebody, then it will be a different matter, and these worthy magistrates will doubtless reconsider their extraordinary pronouncement. Meanwhile, I should advise their worships to abstain from giving reasons for their decisions. It almost invariably happens that a magistrate's attempt to explain a foolish decision only makes it look more foolish.

A new and original reason for the imprisonment of a would-be suicide was given by Bailie Robertson at Edinburgh Police-court last week, in a case in which a young woman had nearly killed herself by drinking a quantity of laudanum. There was no question that she had suffered severely for her folly, but she had quite recovered, and it was not suggested that it was necessary to keep her in custody for her own safety. In these circumstances the most sensible and humane course would have been to let her go; but the Bailie, sapiently remarking that "the public and the friends of the accused must be protected from being alarmed by such conduct," committed her to gaol for ten days. The cry of "the protection of the public" has served as an excuse for many a harsh and stupid sentence, but never, I should think, for one more harsh and stupid than this.

The Recorder of Lynn must be sorry he spoke at the last Quarter Sessions. There was no prisoner for trial, and the Grand Jury were informed by circular that it would be unnecessary for them to attend. The Recorder, however, vetoed these notices, and summoned the Jury, in order that he might deliver a lecture upon a supposed dereliction of duty by the borough magistrates. It seems that he had jumped to the conclusion, from a newspaper report, that their worships had dealt summarily with a case which ought to have been committed for trial. He accordingly harangued the Grand Jury upon a provision of the Summary Jurisdiction Act of 1879 which directs magistrates to commit for trial any person charged with felony who in consequence of a previous conviction on indictment is liable to be punished with penal servitude; and expressed the hope that, in future, the Bench would do the duty that was laid upon them by the law. It must have been a nasty comedown for the Recorder, after taking all this trouble to set the magistrates right, to have to write a letter acknowledging that, so far as they were concerned, he was himself wrong, the fact being that the previous convictions against the prisoner to whom he referred were summary convictions only, not convictions on indictment. By holding the Court and insisting upon the attendance of the Grand Jury, the learned gentleman merely succeeded, in fact, in putting a number of worthy burgesses to unnecessary inconvenience and making himself ridiculous.

A Draco named Beaumont at Maritzburg has recently sentenced a private in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers to six months' imprisonment *and fifteen lashes* for shop-breaking. The imprisonment may have been deserved, but there was nothing whatever in the circumstances of the robbery to call for the flogging of the prisoner, and it is amazing to find that a Colonial magistrate has the power to inflict this brutal and degrading punishment in such a case. This Mr. Beaumont appears to have been passing such sentences pretty freely, and a severe dressing down which he received from a Judge of the Natal Supreme Court has failed to cure him of his predilection for the use of the lash. The sooner, therefore, the Natal Government relieves him of the power which he abuses the better it will be for the reputation of the Colony for humanity and justice.

In reference to two cases at Birmingham Police-court, which appeared in my Legal Pillory last week, I am informed that neither Mr. G. Tangye nor Dr. Warden was among the magistrates who adjudicated. The mistake arose from the slovenly practice of the *Daily Post* in lumping together under one heading the names of the magistrates sitting, and reports of the cases heard in three or four different courts.

Charing Cross Hospital, W.C., entirely dependent on voluntary support, urgently requires help. Liabilities, £11,000. No investments.

Magisterial views as to the relative heinousness of offences against the person and offences against property are again strikingly illustrated in my Legal Pillory this week. At Ashford, one month's imprisonment is deemed a fitting punishment for a man who deliberately runs down and nearly kills a cyclist; at Ayr and at Liverpool petty thefts are visited with sentences of five and six months' hard labour. In this Ashford case, at any rate, it cannot be said that the lightness of the sentence was attributable to the prisoner's good character, for he had twenty-eight previous convictions recorded against him. But as I have often remarked previous convictions do not seem to count in cases of violence and cruelty—a view of the matter which is further borne out by the decision reported from Keighley. Had the defendant at Keighley been guilty of poaching, or larceny, or vagrancy instead of a brutal assault, he would never have been let off with a fine on his fourteenth conviction. Among the remaining items in the following list I would particularly call attention to the example of judicial ferocity at Longford, and to the sentences at Ludlow for thefts of ferrets. The severity with which the defendants at the latter place were treated may possibly be explained by the fact that they were looked upon as potential poachers :—

Blofield Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. E. Gilbert, T. Slipper, G. W. D. Palmer Kerrison, and Major Jarey. George Harris, van driver, charged with working two horses in an unfit condition, and John Stanford, charged with causing them to be so worked. The horses were in poor condition, suffering from wounds, and quite unfit for work. Both fell down exhausted on the road, and one died there. Harris fined 5s. and costs, Stanford £1 and costs.

Warrington County Petty Sessions. Before Mr. G. Comber and Mr. Armitage. John Caldwell, farmer, charged with cruelty to a horse, by causing it to be worked when in an unfit state. The animal was an aged one, very lame, and suffering from a large raw wound, from which blood was oozing, under the collar. Owing to its wretched condition the animal was subsequently destroyed. This was defendant's second offence of the same kind. Fined £2 and costs.

Beith Sheriff Court. John Edmonstone convicted of assaulting his wife, by striking her with a pair of tongs, kicking her on the legs, and beating her with his fists. Fined £3.

Keighley Police-court. Before Messrs. B. S. Brigg and W. Clough. Joseph Heaton, farmer, charged with assaulting Greenwood Holdsworth. The evidence showed that defendant committed an unprovoked and brutal assault. There were thirteen previous convictions against the defendant, who did not appear. Fined £5 and costs, the Bench intimating that it was the last time they would inflict a monetary penalty.

Blofield Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. E. Gilbert, T. Slipper, and G. W. D. Palmer Kerrison. Wm. Lowe and George Fenn, labourers, charged with stealing eight fowls, and Stephen Curl charged with receiving the fowls. Six weeks each.

East Grinstead Police-court. Before Mr. C. H. Everard. John Mansfield, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Hartismere Petty Sessions. Before Mr. G. H. Wilson and other magistrates. George Ralfe, an aged man, charged with stealing two hens' eggs from a nest. Fourteen days.

Brierley Hill Police-court. Before the Stipendiary. Charles Round charged with sleeping out. Ten days.

Longford Quarter Sessions. Before County Court Judge Curran. Michael M'Manus convicted of stealing potatoes. Five years' penal servitude.

Ludlow Borough Police-court. Charles Leary, Edward Collier, and Stephen Wainwright, charged with stealing two ferrets from a garden. Six weeks each. At the County Police-court, Collier was also charged in company with George Baynham with stealing another ferret. In this case Baynham was sentenced to six weeks and Collier to three months' hard labour.

Ashford Police-court. Frank Simpson, convicted of an assault on a cyclist. Defendant and two other men chased the cyclist down a steep incline at a rate of seventeen miles an hour, finally running him down, smashing his machine, and badly injuring him. There were twenty-eight previous convictions against defendant for various offences. One month.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Thomson. James Nugent and John Nugent, charged with assaulting James Smith in a railway carriage. Because Smith refused to play cards with them, the accused violently assaulted him and threatened to throw him out of the window. The Bailie said it was a very serious offence. Fined 20s. each.

Greenock Police-court. James Doherty, convicted of assaulting his wife. He struck her on the face and knocked out two of her teeth. Fined 30s.

Ayr Sheriff-court. Thomas Banister, convicted of stealing a jacket from an hotel. He had been previously convicted. Five months.

Liverpool County Quarter Sessions. Before Sir W. Forwood and other magistrates. Charles Chester, charged with stealing 15 lb. of beef. Six months.

Tenterden Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Ellis Macc and J. Hay Edwards. Five boys, between 12 and 13 years of age, charged with stealing fourteen fowls' eggs. Fined in amounts ranging from £1 1s. including costs, to 11s. including costs, the total penalties being £3 15s.

Rugeley Petty Sessions. Before Sir Charles Forster and other magistrates. Elijah Dorie, charged with stealing twenty-seven eggs. Fined £1 and £1 7s. costs, or fourteen days.

A conviction of exceedingly questionable justice was recorded at the Dover County Petty Sessions last week against Mrs. Wells, the wife of a market-gardener. The prisoner was charged with stealing part of a broken hurdle, value threepence. The witnesses for the prosecution were a policeman and a labourer, who asserted that at twelve o'clock at night they saw Mrs. Wells leave her house, climb up a bank on the other side of the road, take part of a hurdle and bring it down and place it on the footpath. Both men were standing some little distance away, and it was a dark night. The defence was that Mrs. Wells—a perfectly respectable woman—was anxious about the return of her husband, who had been expected home earlier from a drive, and that, on going up the bank the better to see whether he was coming, the piece of hurdle became entangled in her dress, and she disentangled it and dropped it down on the path. The husband came up in his trap just after she was arrested, and it was proved that her skirt was torn and that a piece of braid was found on the bank. It further transpired that, instead of waiting to obtain a summons, the policeman insisted upon taking the prisoner the same night to the police station, four miles away—a most unnecessary and unwarrantable proceeding in such a case.

In view of the conflict of evidence, the position and character of the prisoner, and the extreme improbability of such a woman going out at midnight to commit so paltry a theft, one would have expected the charge to be dismissed. But the magistrates, Major R. B. Lawes and Mr. W. H. Burch Rosher, convicted Mrs. Wells and fined her £2. "Property," said these jolterheads, "must be protected." So sacred in their eyes is the cause of property—property in the form of a piece of wood valued at threepence—that it overrides the principle of giving the prisoner the benefit of the doubt, to say nothing of any consideration of mercy—assuming that she was really guilty—towards a first offender.

Some months ago reference was made in TRUTH to the practice which certain Chancery Taxing Masters, one of them in particular, had adopted of giving themselves extra

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holidays, long beyond the very ample allowance provided by the legal vacations. Subsequently, I had the gratification of learning that this hint had had the desired effect. It is to be feared, however, that the effect is now wearing off, for one of these functionaries took upon himself to begin his Easter holidays on April 2, five days before the commencement of the vacation, and he had not returned to his duties on Friday last—four days after the vacation had ended. It seems that these officials have no chief to look after them, the idea apparently being that, as they are so generously treated in the matter of holidays, they can be trusted as a matter of honour to be at their posts during the time for which they are paid. This idea is evidently fallacious, and they should, therefore, be treated on the footing of schoolboys who will play truant if they see the chance.

It has long been one of the tricks of the Spanish hidden-treasure swindler to represent himself as a victim of the insurrection in Cuba, and just now he seems to think that this tale will be particularly appropriate and effective. In some of the latest letters that I have seen he drops the explanation that the money came into his possession as treasurer of an insurrectionary fund, and merely mentions that he has a sum of £72,000—not buried, as usual, "in your neighbourhood," but deposited in "a great foreign bank." There is the customary rigmarole about the seizure of the prisoner's luggage for debt, and the customary request for the payment of the "necessary expense" for the redemption of a trunk containing, in a secret receptacle, an order on the bank for the payment of the £72,000. "As amends" to the friend who will recover the trunk and get the cash from the bank, the generous prisoner promises a third of his fortune of £72,000. And there are simpletons who swallow the story and remit the "necessary expense" to Barcelona!

By the way, some of the "prisoners"—there are, of course, several gangs engaged in working this venerable swindle—appear to be using a very much out-of-date London directory. One of their letters was sent the other day to a gentleman at a City address which he left twenty years ago.

From a communication just received I gather that a trick for unloading shoddy cloths and dress materials, against which I have often warned my lady readers, is still in active operation. As it seems that many are still in the dark about it, it may be as well to describe the *modus operandi* again. The game is opened by the delivery of a circular with reference to a bankrupt sale of goods, in the name of some firm at Manchester or elsewhere in the North. The circular is accompanied by samples of the very choicest materials in such lines as cambric handkerchiefs, damask table-napkins, linen towelling, glass-cloths, &c., all offered at phenomenally cheap prices. Then follow one or two individuals to take orders for the goods as per sample. If an order is booked, the traveller next announces that he has with him a length of black silk, or some other tempting dress material, which he is prepared to sell on the spot, and as the price is equally tempting, he frequently succeeds in disposing of a quantity for cash. The dress material is worthless rubbish, only made to sell, and the other choice goods, which have been ordered by sample, are, of course, never delivered. Recent circulars issued for this purpose bear the names of "W. G. Gant & Co., Manchester," and "M. G. Lewis, Glasgow." Of course, no such firms exist, and letters addressed to them come back through the Dead Letter Office.

Sir George Lewis wrote to the *Times* last week to make known the fact that "James W. Ryland" and "Robert Dean" are "aliases of that money-lending rascal Isaac Gordon." This will be no news to readers of Truth; but it has occurred to me that it might be useful and interesting at the present moment to print a fuller list of the names and addresses used by this most active and ubiquitous of bloodsuckers. In an action at Birmingham County Court on Friday he admitted that he "traded"—it is his word, not mine, for such vampirism—in thirteen different names, not one of them being his own, and if the truth were known I dare say this number would be increased. Gordon is such a quick change artist that it is almost impossible to say how many different disguises he assumes; and I do not pretend that the following is anything like a complete record. He has, however, employed all these names and addresses within a comparatively recent period:—

James W. Ryland, 6, Livery-street, Birmingham.
B. Edwards, ,, ,,
Edwards & Co. ,, ,,
Wm. Wallis, 66, Great Russell-street, London, W.C.
George J. Addison, 3, Holles-street, London, W.
Arthur A. Andrews, 6, High-street, Kingsland, London, N.
Robert Dean, 99, Withington-grove, Whalley Range, Manchester.
James Williamson, 44, Park-row, Bristol.
Henry Cookson, 518, Edge-lane, Liverpool.
Wm. Spencer, 1, Wellington-buildings, South, 2, Litherland-avenue, South Castle-street, Liverpool.
Thomas G. Allen, 34, Reservoir-street, Leeds.

In addition to the above, Gordon is also closely concerned in the usury shops run by a former manager of his named Levin in Ireland. Here are some of the names and addresses used in connection with these establishments:—

Henry Staples, 4, Nassau-street, Dublin.
James Cameron, 73, Harcourt-street, Dublin.
Arthur Graham, 3, Hume-street, Dublin.
A. Stevenson, 70, Woodhouse-street, Dublin.
A. Lucas, 124, Donegal-street, Belfast.
James Gardner, 51, South Mall, Cork.
W. Bennett, 2, Laurel Hill-avenue, Limerick.

It may be added that, in some instances, Gordon borrows the name and address of his clerk or agent, instead of adopting entirely fictitious ones.

In the course of a year, Gordon must spend a considerable sum in printing and posting circulars, and in newspaper advertising—for there are some newspapers, I am sorry to say, which, though his character is well known to them, still continue to hire out their columns to this disreputable scoundrel. Judging from the quantity of the circulars that are forwarded on to this office, much of his expenditure in that direction must be thrown away; and he doubtless gets a good many replies like the following, which was addressed to him a few days ago by a recipient of an offer of a loan from "Robert Dean":—

> I have sent your disgusting circular to the Editor of Truth. I hope he will castigate you literally as heartily as I should like to do bodily.

Still, notwithstanding these repeated rebuffs and incessant exposures, Gordon finds plenty of dupes, and I suppose he

will continue to do so until the law is altered to pare the claws of such birds of prey. This is sufficiently proved by the number of actions in which he figures every week, for it is probably within the mark to say that for one case which goes into court there are fifty in which his miserable victims are squeezed dry without the aid of the law.

One debtor at the London Bankruptcy Court last week attributed his failure directly to the extortion to which he had been subjected by Gordon. He had borrowed first from "Edwards & Co.," and then, with a view to getting out of the clutches of that firm, he borrowed from "Robert Dean," only to find that both the lenders were in reality the many-aliased Gordon. In the case at Birmingham, which I have already mentioned, Gordon lent a clergyman £30, and received back in one year £30 for interest on this sum. He has now sued the parson for another £40, and Judge Whitehorne, whilst condemning the terms as extortionate in the highest degree, has given judgment in his favour. This Judge would do well to take a leaf from the book of some of his colleagues in dealing with Gordon. In yet another case last week, the Edmonton County Court Judge refused to come to the usurer's assistance in enforcing a judgment summons, though Isaac had not in that instance got back all that he had lost. It was, his Honour observed, one of Mr. Gordon's unfortunate cases, and some of the good ones must be balanced against it—a very sensible view of the matter.

Three documents that have reached me from Southampton are of special interest while the question of money-lending is to the fore. No. 1 is an income-tax notice signed "Herbert B. Röhss, assessor of income-tax," who gives as his address Anglesea-terrace, Bevois-hill, Southampton. No. 2 is the following advertisement in a local paper:—

MONEY.

Do you want money?—If so, refuse to do business with any person who will not quote the rate of interest, or who demands exorbitant fees, but apply personally, or by letter, to Mr. H. B. Rohss, auctioneer and estate agent, 1, Anglesea-terrace, Bevois-hill, Southampton.

No. 3 is a report from the *Hampshire Advertiser* of February 9, of a case in which a Mr. J. E. Simmonds was charged with obtaining a cheque from the said H. B. Röhss by false pretences. It appeared in that case that Röhss traded as "The Southampton Loan Advance Company," which usually charged interest at about 27 per cent. The alleged "false pretences" were the statements made by Mr. Simmonds at the time of obtaining a loan from the prosecutor; and the jury stopped the case after hearing Röhss cross-examined. I should have thought it a strange thing at the best of times to have an advertising money-lender of this calibre acting as assessor of taxes for his district; but it is doubly strange at the present juncture. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue might well be interrogated on the subject.

I have received a letter from Mr. J. Harrison Brown, of 25, Bedford-row, W.C., in reference to a money-lending case which was dealt with in TRUTH a fortnight ago. Mr. Brown enters at some length into various minor details of the transaction; but the only points which seem to call for notice are (1) his denial that he accepted any instalment after it came to his knowledge that the goods included in the bill of sale had been removed, and (2) his statement that the goods were removed from the borrower's house, not to another house, but to a depository. The latter is a correction of a mistake which does not materially affect the case. As to the first point, I find that there is some conflict of evidence respecting the period at which Mr. Brown became aware of the removal of the goods, and I willingly give him the benefit of his denial. It does not strike me as being of much benefit to him, however, inasmuch as it simply shows that he determined from the very first to stand upon his rights under the bill of sale. Nor does the rest of his letter place any better complexion upon the affair. It leaves untouched the fact that four months after he had made an advance of £30 upon a bill of sale, and when he had already received back £7 10s. in instalments, this Bedford-row usurer still claimed that £37 3s. 7d. was due to him.

Here is a choice example of the unconscionable extortion that is practised by the usurer Jonas Wolfe, who styles himself James Wilton, and carries on his nefarious game at 215, Piccadilly. A correspondent received from Wolfe an advance of £60, of which sum he had to pay £20 to the tout to whom he was indebted for his introduction to the ravenous monster. In return for the £60 the borrower signed a promissory note for the payment back of £100 in five monthly instalments of £20 each; and Wolfe was also given as security two new five-guinea revolvers, a £45 Express rifle, and a quantity of mounted lion and panther skins. I hope the law will soon make such a bargain invalid, though at the same time I must add that I have very little sympathy with a simpleton who allows himself to be fleeced in this way. The borrower, in this instance, would have done far better for himself at a pawnshop.

At one London vicarage last week no fewer than four circulars addressed to past and present curates of the parish were received from J. Notley, of Rosedale House, Zetland-road, Redland, Bristol. This rascal poses as a philanthropic capitalist, full of sympathy for a profession whose incomes are "altogether inadequate to meet the many calls made upon them," and anxious to help impoverished clerics with an advance at "a very reasonable rate of interest." Notley's assumption of this character is, I hardly need say, a mere trick of the trade, the truth being that he is only a tout for a Bristol usurer named Abraham Lazarus.

Mr. Harlequin Smith's idea of devoting to charity the money offered to the soft-headed competitors for his prizes has been adopted by the individual styling himself the "Zuilia Perfumery Company." This impudent dodger has just announced that as 30,000 people have purchased his goods in hopes of getting a prize, and as it is impossible to divide the £50 offered into 30,000 parts, he has handed the money over to the Lifeboat Institution; but any applicant who prefers to have his share paid over can do so on forwarding a stamped envelope, *i.e.*, by paying twopence to

receive a farthing. These rascals seem to think that they can safely laugh at their victims to their faces, and I dare say they are right.

There is a pestilent quack trading as the "Rev. David Jones," or under other names, at Brighton and Lewes, whose advertisements I have repeatedly warned country newspapers against publishing. I am indebted to the Editor of the *Aldershot News* for an interesting piece of information as to the way in which these advertisements are foisted upon the Press. Jones, it seems, sends them round in the name of "Hawkins & Co., Advertisement Contractors," Kemp Town, Brighton, "Hawkins" being, in point of fact, one of his own aliases. Each offer of an advertisement is accompanied by a cheque in payment of thirteen insertions. The Editor of the *Aldershot News* states that, although he has repeatedly returned the advertisements and the cheques, they still arrive regularly once a quarter. Jones evidently trusts that the presentation of a cheque with the order will sooner or later have the desired result, or else that if he keeps on persistently enough, his advertisement may get smuggled in by accident. It might tend to stop Jones-Hawkins's little game if newspapers thus favoured were to refuse to return his cheques, which, of course, they are under no obligation to do, unless he forwards a stamped envelope for the purpose.

The free portrait trick is evidently flourishing in France. There is a new practitioner in this line in business at Bordeaux—one Desqueyroux, who calls himself Director of the "Association Artistique Bordelaise pour la réproduction de Portraits." Whether this is our old friend Tanquerey, or his former colleague, Schneider, under a new name, I do not know; but his *modus operandi* appears to be identical. Considering how smartly our police got rid of the free portrait gang in this country, it is evident that they do *not* order this matter better in France.

At last I have received, through the kindness of an Australian reader, some authentic information respecting the origin and development of the great Griffen snowball which has been rolling round the world for the last few years. It seems that the originator of this enterprise is a Miss Griffen, residing at a place called Mills-street, Carlton, Hurstville, a suburban district about nine miles from Sydney. The institution for the benefit of which the chain letter purports to have been started is the cottage hospital of St. George's District, in the same suburb. The new wing, on behalf of which the appeal in the letter is made, has been erected since the collection began, and a contribution towards it, the exact amount not being known, has been made by Miss Griffen. Notwithstanding the manner in which the lady's name and address have been mangled and transformed in the various reduplications of the chain letter, letters have been arriving at her address for years past, from every part of the inhabited globe, in incalculable quantities, the local letter-carriers sometimes delivering half-a-bushel at a time. At the commencement of the undertaking, Miss Griffen kept a small school for young children. She has long since given that up, and her whole time appears to be devoted, with the help of a paid assistant, to opening and sorting the letters and postage stamps which pour in upon her. It is stated that she has one room entirely devoted to the stamps taken from the letters, which are packed in big pillow-cases.

The case seems to be parallel to the similar one in the United States which attracted attention two or three years ago, and it is an equally striking monument of the folly of the people who assist in carrying on these insane collections. In view of the manner in which the address has been altered in the course of repetition—"U.S.A." having been substituted on many letters for "N.S.W."—it is quite certain that vast quantities of letters containing postage stamps sent off in answer to Miss Griffen's appeal have found their way into the dead letter offices of various countries. On the other hand, it is equally certain from the facts stated above that stamps to the number of millions must have reached this lady. Seeing that they come from all parts of Europe and America, as well as from India, China, Japan, and other remote countries, it may be safely assumed that among them are many stamps of considerable value, and the total collection which Miss Griffen has amassed must represent a very substantial sum of money.

Knowing nothing of this lady personally, it is not for me to make any imputation upon her bona-fides. No doubt she is duly accounting to the hospital for all the money she is receiving. My informant states that the hospital authorities have countenanced the appeal, and have benefited out of the proceeds. If it be true, however, that Miss Griffen was at the beginning of the undertaking earning her living in a small way by keeping a school, and that she has given this up in order to devote her time to the snowball-collection, it is to be presumed that the hospital authorities allow her some remuneration for her trouble, as well as for any assistance that she receives. If that is so, the hospital managers are absolutely responsible for the whole thing, and ought to issue to the public a proper account of the result of the collection, showing how much money has been realised, and how it has been spent. Apparently they have never thought of doing so down to the present moment.

About this time last year, when Diamond Jubilee advertising was the order of the day, I published the announcement of an enterprising dentist in the Edgware-road, Mr. V. C. Mallan, who was anxious to celebrate the occasion by presenting sixty necessitous old ladies with sets of teeth. The old ladies, needless to say, were soon forthcoming, and Mr. Mallan has now sent me a photograph showing the sixty patients before and after treatment. A more startling proof of the difference which the presence or absence of teeth makes in the human countenance, I have never seen. Among my acquaintance I number not a few ladies who own to having false teeth. Judging by this dentist's advertisement, every one of these ladies must be from ten to twenty years older than I had previously supposed her.

I am indebted to a gentleman in the waste-paper line of business for an explanation of the packing of gold leaf in the pages of Holy Writ, about which a question was recently asked in TRUTH. It seems that "Bible waste" is an article well known in the waste-paper trade, and that there is a large supply of it. The reason for this I take to be, partly that the Bibles are printed in enormous quantities, and partly because, owing to the special care taken to have the printing perfect, more than the usual proportion of sheets are rejected on account of imperfections in the printing. My informant states that Bible waste is sold in large quantities from the University Presses, and that it used to be in great demand among butchers, but is now chiefly used by the gold-leaf trade.

The seed thus dropped by the wayside is, I am told, believed in some cases to have fallen upon good ground, and to have sprung up and borne fruit. If the mere handling of the Scriptures in the course of business has such a good effect, those who print and sell Bibles should be better men than the generality of printers and booksellers. Whether experience proves this to be so, I do not know. I have always heard, however, that we have an exceptionally virtuous and intelligent class of men engaged in printing and publishing TRUTH.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer made the usual allusions in his Budget speech to the private correspondents who communicate plans for disposing of a Budget surplus. I have not a few correspondents of the same kind. One of them, a sympathetic lady, wrote to me from the country to suggest that some portion of the surplus should be devoted to superannuating National-school mistresses. The school teacher who gets past her work is such a genuine object for compassion that I cannot refuse to pass on this suggestion to Sir Michael Hicks-Beach for him to think over between now and next April. At the same time, there are other people who require superannuating besides school-mistresses. Among others I would suggest to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that some portion of his next surplus might well be devoted to the relief of deserving journalists.

Who would not be a governess? Look at the following noble offer made to educated ladies through the *Irish Times*:—

> Governess (Daily) wanted; English, rudimental French, music; one child; £2 per quarter.—D. W. E., &c.

The annual meeting of the Dundee Conservative Association was held last week, and a glowing speech was delivered by the enthusiastic chairman, who gave a roseate account of the party prospects in this constituency. The treasurer, however, had a grievously different tale to tell, for he reported the Association to be hopelessly in debt, and it was decided to endeavour to extricate it from a quagmire of difficulties by means of that last resort of respectable cadgers, a bazaar. The income aimed at to keep the Association on a sound financial basis is only £200 a year, which does not seem a large sum for the wealthy Tories of Dundee to provide, but they must know that the party prospects are absolutely hopeless in this constituency, and that they might just as well shovel their money into the Tay as waste it in supporting a Tory Association, which, of course, exists only for the benefit of its paid officials.

The China Blue-book clearly explains what has been going on in the Far East, and the course of action of Lord Salisbury in regard to these matters. The Premier regarded the possession by Russia of an ice-free terminus to the Siberian Railway, and its extension through Manchuria to the terminus, as legitimate. But he objected to Port Arthur as well as Ta-lien-wan being leased to Russia, because the former could be converted into a naval arsenal, which, he contended, would give to Russia in the Gulf of Pechili the same strategic advantage in regard to China as she already possesses by land.

Russia declined to renounce her contemplated lease of Port Arthur. Her contention was that all other great maritime Powers had a naval basis in Chinese waters; that of these Powers England alone objected to the lease; and that, as Port Arthur commands Ta-lien-wan, the latter without the former would be held by her at the good pleasure of any other maritime Power. Russia having thus acquired Ta-lien-wan and Port Arthur, Lord Salisbury secured to us Wei-hai-wei as "compensation," on precisely the same terms.

There has been a good deal of discussion as to the conditions under which foreign ships will have a right to the use of Ta-lien-wan and Port Arthur. The outcome is that Ta-lien-wan is to be an open port—*i.e.*, all goods may be imported to it, and through it, under the same tariff as exists in the Chinese Treaty ports, and that all foreign ships may use Port Arthur under precisely the same conditions as they did before it was leased to Russia.

With the exception of the lease of Wei-hai-wei, there is no great fault to find with Lord Salisbury's diplomacy. Although we might have preferred that Russia should not have obtained a lease of Port Arthur, it would have been madness on our part to engage in a war to hinder it, unsupported, as we should have been, by any other Power. Wei-hai-wei has been secured as a "compensation." It is a sop that Lord Salisbury had to throw to his Jingo supporters. I do not suppose that we shall fortify it, and, if not, the lease will simply mean that no other Power will be able to do so. I should have thought, however, that the better course would be to obtain an assurance from China that it should be leased to no one, for this would have been more in accordance with our policy of commercial rather than territorial expansion in China.

Manchuria, which is outside the area of China proper, is now admittedly under Russian influence. This is in accordance with the logic of geography, and if she civilises the country we shall commercially gain more than if it had been left uncivilised under the nominal rule of Chinese Mandarins. Corea, I suppose we may assume, is to be within the sphere of Japan. All China proper is to remain a free-trade preserve. Our interests are, therefore, in no way damnified.

AN APPROPRIATE ENDING FOR THE SURPLUS.

"It seems that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was at first undecided as to whether his proposed remission of taxation should benefit the tea drinkers or the smokers. After due consideration, however, he unhesitatingly decided that the tobacco duty should be reduced."—*Daily Paper.*

Of course, 'tis Tobacco Sir Michael selected,
His choice is the one we might all have expected;
Of course, 'tis Tobacco—'tis easy to see
Why *that* suits the Government better than Tea.
Of course, 'tis Tobacco on which they intend
The far larger part of their surplus to spend;
For thus (by a sly and a cynical stroke)
Their promised remission ends only in smoke!

Ends only in smoke! Come, you'll surely admit
That there could be no possible ending more fit.
For the things that our Ministers boldly essay
As a rule always end in a similar way.
Since first by the polls into office conveyed,
Professions and promises freely they've made,
But if their performances you would invoke,
You will find every promise has ended in smoke!

Where, where are their measures which want were to cure?
Where the pensions they promised the provident poor?
Where, where the new markets our trade was to gain?
Where the projects that swarmed in a Chamberlain's brain?
The widespread content we were soon to survey?
The new panaceas—oh! where, where are they?
For three years we have been 'neath the Unionists' yoke,
But their high-sounding schemes have all ended in smoke!

And their very big talk both to Turkey and Greece—
Did *that* serve to keep these two nations at peace?
Their fussy complaints and their purposeless threats,
Which Russia despises, but never forgets;
Their words of defiance, which nobody heeds,
Well knowing they never support them with deeds;
No wonder derision they tend to provoke,
For their threats, like their promises, all end in smoke.

The omen's a good one; for though still elate,
The Government boast a majority great.
Though they still on the votes of their slaves can depend,
However they blunder, however offend,
Yet this for its comfort the country may know—
As their millions have gone, so will Ministers go.
That majority vast they at present invoke—
That also will end, like their surplus, in smoke!

SCRUTATOR.

THE PRICE OF A CUBA.

I HAVE been entirely with President McKinley in this Americo-Spanish quarrel. The Spaniards have misgoverned Cuba, and there has been one long series of outbreaks against this misgovernment. The present Civil War has lasted for four years, and unquestionably under General Weyler the greatest atrocities against the "rebels" were of common occurrence. But after the recall of this General, an honest attempt seems to have been made by Spain to settle the relations between the Mother Country and the Island, on the basis of autonomy being secured to the latter. President McKinley's aim was only to interfere so far as would have secured to the Cubans this self government. But Congress, backed up by a wave of Jingoism, insisted upon Spain granting independence to Cuba, and, in the resolutions that it passed, it appears to have gone out of its way to render it impossible for Spain, even if she had been willing, to grant independence. As matters stand, it is desirable that the United States should achieve a decisive victory, for victorious she must be in the end, and the shorter the war, the better for all concerned. Cuba has proved a mine of wealth to the Spanish officials sent there, but a most expensive possession to Spain. By losing it, she will be the gainer, and the Cubans will be better off without her than with her.

I have never yet understood why any nation should deem it essential to its pride and happiness to have Colonies. I rejoice in being born an Englishman, but my pride in being so is not dependent upon England being possessed of territory outside the British Isles. This, I know, is contrary to the trend of public opinion just now, but it is nevertheless the true conception of patriotism. Were it not so, a Swiss or any other inhabitant of an independent, but self-contained, country could not be as much of a patriot as an Englishman.

The question of Colonial extension is to me merely one of business. Take India: I think that we are the gainers on the balance by possessing India, and the Indians themselves are not averse to our rule. Therefore, I should hold to India, but at the same time I should endeavour to make Indians rather our co-citizens than our subjects. Take Canada, or Australia: I am by no means clear that their possession adds to our strength. But they govern themselves, and the relation between us and them is rather in the nature of an alliance than that of Suzerain and subject. If ever they wish to leave us, I should not hinder them. So long as they wish to remain with us, I should not show them the door. But, were I a Canadian or an Australian, I should, I think, be inclined to decline to recognise any sort of British supremacy, and I should insist upon absolute equality as a condition of union. Take Africa: I should hold fast to a fortified coaling station at the Cape. The Cape Colony and Natal might—as in the case of Canada and Australia—remain with us, or withdraw from us, as they please; but I should not attempt to add to the Empire vast tracts of land inhabited by negroes, whether such tracts be called Uganda, Sokoto, Rhodesia, or the Soudan, for the plain and simple reason that the markets that we may acquire by such annexations are, on the balance, not worth the expenditure and responsibilities that we incur by securing them. These views may appear strange to the Jingo of to-day; but they are those which were entertained by every British statesman from the close of the Napoleonic wars to within the last few years. Concentration was, in their opinion, more essential than expansion for the well-being of a State, and, as Sir Robert Peel said, if we ever do extend the area of Empire, it ought only to be by the annexation of countries where English Colonists can live and thrive. Our present doctrine of perpetual expansion must in the end bring us into collision with other countries. As it is, all the world worth owning has a civilised owner. Already, we can only expand by laying hold of what is not worth grabbing. We have already pretty well reached the limit of even these worthless regions, so that we shall have soon to extend at the expense of civilised nations if we are to go on extending.

As for universal philanthropy, I am no believer in it. If a nation that is misgoverned seeks to throw off the yoke, it has my benevolent sympathy, but that sympathy

does not go to the extent of spending British money or British blood in aiding the insurgents. The business of an English statesman begins and ends with seeking to make Englishmen prosperous. As an Englishman, I would rather advance the well-being of Englishmen at home whose lot might be bettered, than waste British resources in civilising Uganda or any other such place; all the more as these endeavours usually are more productive of harm than of good.

What has been the outcome of this new policy? We are now spending more on armaments, exclusive of the Indian Budget, than any of the great military Powers of the Continent. Our own expenditure is about 44 millions per annum, that of India 20 millions, whilst the total expenditure of Germany on Army and Navy is about 30 millions. We have laid it down that we must have a fleet strong enough to be paramount on the high seas; and in pursuit of this aim we build war ships. Other Powers, too, build war ships, with the result that, although they and we have both built ships, their relative strength and ours remains very much as it was before this beggar-my-neighbour expenditure commenced. But, not content with the dominion of the seas, our policy of adventure in parts of Africa far from the seaboard makes it necessary that we should augment our land forces. This too, therefore, we have done. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget speech compared the number of square miles in the Empire with that of other Empires, in order to prove that our Empire costs less to defend than any other per square mile. Nothing could be more misleading. The area of Empire is one thing: the area of taxation another. It is the British taxpayer that has to pay for defending the former. The Chancellor then estimated the number of the inhabitants of our Empire against that of other Empires, to show that we pay less per head for armaments than others. But he included in this estimate Colonials who pay nothing, and Africans who can pay nothing.

We are, for the nonce, very prosperous. But this prosperity is somewhat artificial. Our exports, notwithstanding all this talk about acquiring new markets, have gone down. In past times we were a saving nation, and there is no industry more remunerative than economy. Our savings we invested in foreign loans, &c., and we still receive a good deal of interest from these loans. We continue to make large profits, but the individual Englishman, like the English collectively, has ceased to be economical. What he gains he, in great part, spends.

I am no believer in a country looking to its Government to force its manufactures on the outer world. Such a system saps all that individual energy and resource without which no nation can compete successfully. Still less do I believe in it when the system involves a war expenditure in peace times. The commercial education of England is far behind that of Germany. The Germans are more pushing, and more intelligently pushing, than we are, in selling the goods that we and they manufacture, and they are more careful to adapt the form of their goods to what pleases customers. They beat us in the field of commercial enterprise, and they will continue to do this until we recognise that commercial education, individual push and intelligence, are more potent factors in the prosperity of a manufacturing nation, than building battleships and annexing comparatively worthless territories. It is all very well for allied aristocrats and plutocrats to seek to divert attention from the democratic reforms that they dread at home by a wild and costly policy of adventure abroad. This is always how the advance of democracy has been met by its opponents. Until Radicals realise that it is far more important that the lot of the workers should be bettered at home, than that our resources should be fooled away in enlarging the area of Empire abroad, the democratic road will remain blocked, and that wretched sham Tory democracy will flourish. Tory democracy means that the classes are to rule, and that the masses are to rest and be thankful, so long as a few million negroes are added each year to the races that are subject to us.

MR. RHODES ASKING FOR MORE.

Mr. Rhodes has not increased his reputation by his speech last week at the meeting of the Chartered Company. After having had the honour to converse with him during the proceedings of the South Africa Committee last year, I came to the conclusion that he was little more than a Buffalo Bill so far as politics are concerned. At first I thought, when he professed ignorance of all details, that the ignorance was affected, but I soon found that it was real. I make no doubt that he has a wild, hazy ambition to annex all Africa, and I should say that, if ever he succeeded in this dream, his next step would be to make himself President or Emperor of this African Empire. There is a good deal more of the Boulanger about him than the Washington. I should have had more sympathy with him had he spent his own money on his political aspirations instead of using his professions of patriotism to acquire a huge fortune for himself. This, it has always been our boast, British statesmen have never done. After Mr. Rhodes' speech of last week I think that most persons will agree with me in my estimate of him, for wilder trash never was uttered.

The speech is differently reported in almost every newspaper, which leads me to suppose that the reporters were unable to make head or tail of a good deal that he said. If the *Times* report is to be taken as correct, he appears to contemplate an amicable race in railway making, at the cost of the British taxpayer, between himself and the British authorities in the Soudan. Each is to push forward until there is a railway from the Cape to Alexandria. The British Government is to provide him at once with the means (three millions I think is his present demand) to push the railroad forward beyond the Zambesi into Northern Rhodesia. This territory, he says, is mineralised, and the shareholders of the Company, if this be correct, would benefit by this railroad being made. He adduced, however, no real evidence to show that there is paying gold there. On Rhodesia south of the Zambesi he was vague but grandiloquent. He was certain that there is vast mineral wealth there, but whether this be the case or not, the shareholders have only to give him a free hand in order to get an excellent dividend on their investments, although

many have bought their shares at a premium of 1,000 per cent. *Credat Judæus, non ego*, although it seems to me that as most of the cosmopolitan financiers of Oriental origin connected with the Company have taken very good care already to sell their shares, and to privilege others to enjoy this dividend of the future, they share my scepticism. The Company, it would seem, has spent six millions. Mr. Rhodes proposes that, as a condition of the settlers being granted self-government, they are to take over this amount, leaving the Company with its land and mining rights. The greater portion of this expenditure is due to the native outbreak, which was caused, according to Sir Richard Martin, by the attempt to force them to work, and by the police having been withdrawn in order that they might be used to raid a neighbouring State. Be this, however, as it may, the land and mining rights were granted to the Company in consideration of their assuming all costs of opening out and administering the country; and the settlers are hardly likely to consent to leave the Company in possession of all land and mines, and to take upon themselves the burden that has been incurred in obtaining them. But whether they take over this outlay or not is a matter of very little practical importance, for unless the mines do prove a paying industry, the entire country will be as little able to pay interest on £6,000,000 as the island of Skye.

The position of things in regard to Rhodesia in its commercial aspect, seems to be this. There was a notion that in Rhodesia gold would be found in such quantities that those possessed of the mining rights would derive vast profits. The owners of these mining rights turned themselves into a Company, and secured a Royal Charter. They sold the greater number of the shares of which they became possessed at various premiums, to those who believed in this notion, and the Company has made a certain amount of money by selling town lots and mining claims to meet current expenditure. Success depended upon paying gold being discovered. It has not been discovered. At present the resources of the Company are exhausted. More money is required in order to keep the bubble going. Therefore, Mr. Rhodes falls back on wild and sanguine prognostications. If really the country proves a Klondike, the shares will possibly be worth their par value, or even more. But this, although humanly possible, is improbable. Assuming that paying gold will not be found, then everything goes by the board. There is land elsewhere better fitted for agricultural settlers, and if there are not a vast number of agricultural settlers, obviously town lots will not be saleable. The country will be inhabited by the natives and by sparse Boer farmers, who will just manage to make a living by squatting on large tracts of pastoral land. After a more or less brief period, the duration of which will depend upon the credulity of investors, the Company will be unable to meet costs of administration, and will disappear. Then we shall have to contribute to the costs of some sort of rough-and-ready administration. Thus the financiers will have made money out of investors, but they will be the only gainers.

The *Times* the other day pointed out that investors in shares will obtain a return for their shares in the conviction that their money has been patriotically spent. I doubt whether many of them bought shares at nearly 1,000 per cent. premium from any motive beyond the perfect legitimate one of getting a good monetary return. But whether they did or not, patriotism is one thing and the Company is another. Mr. Rhodes boasted that he and the shareholders had vastly increased the area of Empire. Neither he nor they have done this. South of the Zambesi the entire territory was brought by proclamation within the area of British influence long before Mr. Rhodes and his financial friends acquired a mining concession from Lobengula, and killed him to square accounts with him. North of the Zambesi, what is now called Northern Rhodesia, was within the area of British influence, when commercial rights belonged to the Lakes Company, and before this latter Company was absorbed by the Chartered Company. Had Mr. Rhodes and the Chartered Company not existed, the whole of Rhodesia would have been, as it now is, within the area of British influence, and neither Germany nor any other Power would have dreamt of disputing our claim to it. It is well that this should be understood. The Company was simply a speculative venture of certain persons, and if a speculation is to be judged by results, to its promoters it has been a fortunate one, for they have made a good deal of money by it. If it is to be judged by results to the investing public, it has not been a fortunate one, nor is it likely to prove so, for they have lost money by it, and will, according to all reasonable probability, lose whatever has not already been lost. My objections have been based on the Government having played into the hands of the promoters by indirectly implying, by the grant of a charter, that the speculation was a sound one to investors, and not interfering when the shares of the Chartered Company were converted into mere gambling counters. Otherwise I should not have troubled myself about the matter any more than about any other speculative mining Company. A share in a mining company is much like a lottery ticket. Sometimes it turns up a prize, generally it does not; and if a man likes to take one of these lottery tickets, it is his affair, not mine, whether it prove a prize or a blank.

THE LORDS AND THEIR LIBRARIAN.

In the Palace of Westminster the room of the House of Lords is better than their company. The distribution of space in the building is under the control of the Lord Great Chamberlain, an hereditary courtier. Commons and Lords each have a library, although there seems no sufficient reason why one library should not be used by both. The Lords have a Librarian, and this Librarian had for long a vast number of rooms, which were termed his house. In 1889 a Committee recommended that the salary of any future Librarian should be £800, and that the official residence should be continued to him on the express understanding that he should surrender it, if it were required at any time for the extension of the library, or for any other purpose, in which case his salary was to be £1,000 per annum. The post being vacant in 1897, Mr. Strong was appointed Librarian, and on April 23

of that year, he received the Lord Great Chamberlain's warrant of occupation of the Librarian's house. The house was then examined by the Board of Works, and it would seem that it was found that £600 would be necessary in order to paper and clean it, &c. Mr. Strong betook himself to the Board of Works with a view to having this sum expended, but the interview, he complains in a letter to Mr. Graham, the Clerk of the Parliaments, was "by no means satisfactory." On this, Mr. Graham called on the Chief Commissioner of the Board of Works to put it in repair. The reply was that the matter would be referred to the Treasury. Mr. Graham on this wrote to the Treasury. Mr. Hanbury replied that the Treasury hesitated to ask Parliament to vote a not inconsiderable sum of money, in order to prepare for residential occupation a part of the building which may shortly be required for public uses, and urged the advisability of giving Mr. Strong the extra £200 per annum in lieu of the house, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee of 1889. The Chief Commissioner of Works also wrote suggesting that certain Peers' Committee rooms should be handed over to the Commons, and that certain rooms in the Librarian's house should be converted into Peers' Committee rooms. Mr. Graham replied that it was impossible for the Lords to entertain the scheme, either wholly or in part, and that, after this explanation, their Lordships trusted that there would be no further delay in preparing the house for the reception of the Librarian, by doing such cleaning, papering, painting, and repairs as may be required on a transfer of occupation from one tenant to another.

The matter, therefore, stands thus: the Librarian is getting his £200 as compensation for the house. The house remains empty because the Lords will not agree to the proposal of the Treasury and the Board of Works, which would give the Commons rooms that they require in the Palace of Westminster for public uses, and would convert the house into Peers' Committee rooms. This state of things is a public scandal. The country pays the extra £200 per annum without any equivalent. The Peers, not content with blocking the way of legislative reform, have blocked the way to making the Palace of Westminster serviceable to the requirements of Parliament. The matter was under discussion last Friday, and the debate on the motion that the Librarian's salary be reduced from £1,000 to £800 has been adjourned. Technically, the proposed reduction is opposed by the Government, but, practically, it is moved and supported on the ground that the Treasury and the Chief Commissioner are in the right, and that the Lords are in the wrong. It is to be hoped that Conservatives and Liberals will alike rally to the defence of the House of Commons, and to the proposal of the Treasury and the Chief Commissioner in regard to the apportionment of space between the two Houses. The Librarian himself will not be damnified. He would—having the warrant of occupation of the Lord Great Chamberlain—be able to occupy the house; but it would not be papered and cleaned. If, however, his predecessor could live in it without this new outlay, so can he. As it is, the country is done out of £200 without any equivalent, owing to the obstructive tactics of the Lords. To the Chief Commissioner and to the Treasury, for their determined attitude in this dispute, thanks are due, and they ought to be supported.

A CO-OPERATIVE LIBEL ACTION.

The motives and objects of plaintiffs in libel actions are a curious study. My knowledge of the subject is extensive and peculiar. But when I try to understand why the Co-operative Union, Limited, and thirteen individual members of the United Board of the Union co-operated in an attack upon me before a Manchester Special Jury last week, I confess myself baffled.

The criticism which pierced the thin skin of this formidable array of plaintiffs, or stirred their appetite for the fruits of litigation, was contained in a harmless enough paragraph, in which I referred to a recent appointment of an official by the "Administrative Board" of the Union. This appointment, as I said, had been advertised, and out of forty candidates who came forward six were selected to appear before the Board. The paragraph continued in these words—"Two of these, as I am given to understand, were actually members of the Board itself, and one of these two was the successful candidate." I further said that "another allegation which deserves an answer is to the effect that, although the salary offered was nominally £150 a year, the Board proposed to immediately raise it to something like £200." On these two allegations, I made certain mild comments, which led the Co-operative Union in general and its United Board in particular to claim heavy compensation for an aspersion on their collective and individual characters.

The eloquent counsel employed by the plaintiffs declared, in accents of solemn indignation, that my statement that two of the selected candidates were members of the Board itself was "totally and absolutely false." But when the facts were gently elicited from the incorruptible officials of the Union in cross-examination, it appeared not only that the two candidates referred to were both members of the General Board of the Union, which consists of seventy members, but that one of them was actually a member of the United Board itself, the body charged with all appointments of officials of the Union, including the appointment in question, though naturally he took no part in the meetings while the appointment was pending. Further, the second of the two candidates, the successful candidate himself, had also very recently been a member of this same United Board, and had taken part in the meetings at which it had been determined to make the appointment in question, and at which the salary had been discussed. In view of these facts it appears to me that to describe my statement as "totally and absolutely false" denotes considerable hardihood on the part of those who instructed Sir Edward Clarke.

Other curious circumstances leaked out in the course of the cross-examination of the plaintiffs' witnesses. It appears that just before the examination of the six selected candidates by the United Board, two of the six, and two only, joined the examining Board in the sociable relaxation of "high tea." Oddly enough, these two were the past and present members of the Board, who thus renewed and con-

firmed their friendly relations with their old comrades. Then, again, the successful candidate himself admitted that he had left his previous position on the ground of serious ill-health. Surely all this, as my leading counsel, Mr. Shee, observed, gives a new meaning to the word "co-operation." At any rate, do not such circumstances call for inquiry and explanation, and justify some adverse comment? Is a public body which dispenses its patronage in this queer fashion quite in a position to make a fiery demand for reparation, and to follow up the demand post haste with a writ?

The question of the salary is a minor matter. I gathered from the answers of the Secretary of the Union in court that a successful man, enjoying the confidence of his old friends on the United Board, is not unlikely to find his salary presently raised beyond the £150 with which he sets out. And the gentleman appointed expressed a confident hope (which I share) that he would soon deserve and secure an increase. But, under the circumstances, it was impossible to prove any definite proposal by the Board to raise the salary immediately, and it is fair to assume that it was this technical failure of proof which induced the jury to give the plaintiffs their verdict for nominal damages.

Now I return to my original difficulty. Why did the Co-operative Union, in face of all these equivocal circumstances, make this ridiculous claim for damages? Why did the thirteen individual co-operators join in the action after it was started, and submit their reputations to this perilous test? Why, above all, did the plaintiffs bring the leader of the English Bar, Sir Edward Clarke, to Manchester to fight this trumpery case? I am credibly informed that a gentleman of Sir Edward Clarke's eminent position, that of ex-Law-Officer, is debarred by professional etiquette from appearing on circuit without a special retaining fee of 300 guineas, besides a further substantial fee "on the brief." That Sir Edward's services are cheap at that figure I do not question. That he earned his money well on this occasion all present at the trial will testify. He said some very nasty things about me; but, knowing the price which his clients paid for them, and entertaining a sincere regard for Sir Edward personally, I feel rather gratified than otherwise at being the humble instrument of his obtaining a fat brief. On the last occasion when I was in a law court, Sir Edward represented me, and I can well understand what a pang it cost him to have to go down to Manchester and say nasty things about me to a Lancashire jury. But he sacrificed himself nobly, as a lawyer does, at the call of professional duty, and with such an example before me, I am certainly not going to make any fuss about my own feelings. Without, however, questioning that Sir Edward Clarke was worthy of his hire, or complaining of his efforts on behalf of his clients, I should rather like to know on what ground the Co-operative plaintiffs felt themselves justified in paying 400 guineas for the services of one barrister. Under no circumstances could the unsuccessful defendant have been compelled to pay more than an insignificant portion of that amount—indeed, I understand that it would have been contrary to the usual practice even to enter a special fee like that paid to Sir Edward Clarke upon the bill of costs sent in for taxation. The thirteen plaintiffs were hardly men in a position to treat themselves to a forensic luxury of this kind at their own expense—even on co-operative principles. On the other hand, it seems rather a large order on the part of the management to commit a concern like the Co-operative Union to such an expenditure over a matter which in no way whatever affected the interests of the members, and which was essentially a private and personal affair of the individual defendants. Under these circumstances I am curious to know whether my friend Sir Edward Clarke's fees are to be paid by the thirteen members of the Board, or by the Co-operative Union. In the latter alternative, it is a matter which ought to have the attention of the auditors or shareholders when the next accounts are presented. I presume that Sir Edward was really retained in the expectation that his talents would secure a verdict for a substantial sum in favour of the plaintiffs. In that case, the thirteen individual plaintiffs would have received in hard cash the proceeds of Sir Edward's labours. That speculation was signally disappointed. Manchester jurymen—as I find, not for the first time—are a very level-headed and discriminating class of men, and in this case they estimated the collective damage done to the whole Co-operative Union by my remarks at 40s., and that of the individual Board-men at 20s. ahead. If these individuals would have shared the profit had the retention of Sir Edward Clarke yielded a substantial return on the investment, they are of course bound to share the loss when the speculation has proved a failure. No doubt they will recognise this, but it may be as well to put the matter clearly, in case there should be any misunderstanding.

I am no enemy to co-operation or to the Co-operative Union. Far from it. I hope that the movement will continue to flourish, and that its leaders will enjoy in the future as they have done in the past the bracing influence of fair criticism, and that they will carefully avoid even the semblance of conduct that shrinks from the light of day. And I bear no malice against the enterprising thirteen who have won a Pyrrhic victory against me. I fear that their pockets will suffer, if the costs are divided upon the equitable principle above indicated; but they may each of them take it from me that the experience which they have bought is well worth the price.

OUR MOCK MILITIA.

In support of my contention that the Government have blundered grievously in omitting the Auxiliary Forces from their Army programme, I gave the other day a striking example of the attitude of the War Office towards the Volunteers. Let us look now at one or two notable facts in regard to that even more important arm of the Service—the Militia. The annual Return of the Militia establishments for last year was issued a few weeks ago. From it one learns that the total Militia establishment of all ranks and all arms for England, Scotland, and Ireland was 133,502—not a very imposing total. But this is merely the strength of the Force on paper. The next column of the Return informs the reader that there were 18,914 of all ranks "wanting to complete the establishment," which reduces the total to

114,588. Out of these it further appears that 7,931 were "absent without leave" from the last annual training, and to include such men in the effective strength of the Force would clearly be delusive. We thus come down to 106,657. There were also absent from last year's training with leave 7,183, who can hardly be safely reckoned as effective at the present date; at any rate the fact is certain that the total number of men trained last year was only 99,474. We thus arrive at the astonishing result that at last year's training the Militia fell (in round numbers) 34,000, or close upon 25 per cent., short of its nominal establishment, 15,000 of these being absent with or without leave, while the remaining 19,000 had never been enlisted at all.

There is another important fact which has to be borne in mind in calculating the exact numerical value of the Militia. The above figures include the Militia Reserve, which, in the event of war, would at once be called up to fill the Line Battalions. The Militia Reserve numbered last year 31,049. After these men had been called up there would be left out of the 99,000 and odd men who trained last year only 68,425, in other words *barely one-half the nominal strength of the establishment.* Nor does that adequately convey the whole truth. I believe I am right in saying that the Militia Reserve comprises practically the whole of the *Militia* N.C.O.s—as distinguished from the Permanent Staff—as well as the pick of the men in the ranks. Without any non-commissioned officers but the handful of men on the Permanent Staff (many of them veterans of little use in active service), it is impossible to look upon the 68,000 men left as a force capable of taking the field independently for any purpose. This remnant can only be treated as a Reserve on which the Line regiments can draw to fill up their depleted ranks. Thus, little by little the whole establishment of 138,000 of all arms and all ranks—on paper a fully organised army—is whittled down to an item of the most insignificant proportions in our military system. For this Force, we paid last year, under the heading "Pay, &c.," alone £553,000.

In August and September last the efficiency of the Militia, as regards the *personnel* of the officers and rank and file, was discussed at some length in TRUTH. The discussion began with an uncompromising onslaught upon the Force by an officer of the Regular Army, and it ended with some very convincing testimony to the excellent physique, discipline, and training of the Militia generally by more than one officer who had gone to the Militia from the Line, as well as from experienced and trustworthy men on the Permanent Staff. The conclusion I arrived at was that although the officering of the Force leaves much to be desired, and the Permanent Staff may not be fully equal to the requirements of active service, the Militia (especially the Northern regiments) contains plenty of excellent material, and is on the whole as efficient as a mere auxiliary force can be expected to be. But if that conclusion be correct, it only strengthens the indictment conveyed by the figures cited above. When you have got a force capable of playing so important a part in our system of national defence, and involving so small a charge to the taxpayer, what excuse can there be for leaving it about 27,000 short of its proper strength, and making no effort whatever to fill up the deficiency? So far from acquiescing in this state of things, as the War Office has done, it seems to me that every effort should be made, not merely to keep up, but actually to enlarge, the present authorised establishment. Common sense suggests that the money of the taxpayer could be spent to far more advantage in this direction, and in improving the officering of the Force, than in multiplying Line battalions, and straining every nerve in the fatuous attempt to keep on our shores two Army Corps ready to invade the Continent (and find their graves there) at a moment's notice. As a taxpayer, I should uncommonly like to know whether the Commander-in-Chief, or the Secretary of State for War, or any other magnate in Whitehall or Pall Mall has ever attempted to investigate the reason why the Militia fell just on 19,000 short of its nominal strength last year; and why, out of the number enrolled, nearly 8,000 were absent from training without leave. These results are not due to some disease affecting the whole Force. A very cursory inspection of the Return will show that both the deficiency in strength and the percentage of absences from training, vary immensely in different regiments, even in the same parts of England. You will find several corps, artillery, engineer, and infantry, either full up, or less than a dozen men short of their complete establishment; while, in other cases, the numbers deficient run up to the three, four, and five hundred in one battalion. A C.O. of my acquaintance, whose regiment is practically up, to its full strength, tells me that he applied for permission to enlist supernumeraries beyond the limit at present allowed, well knowing that he could get the men; but permission was refused, notwithstanding the deficiency of 19,000 in the total strength of the Force. This is the sort of thing that makes one despair of the War Office. Has it ever occurred to the wise men at headquarters to inquire of Militia officers who could give information why in a single county one regiment is able, year after year, to enlist up to its full strength, while another is dozens, or hundreds, short of its establishment? Surely this is a matter worth some inquiry before enthusiastic ignoramuses are encouraged to agitate, as they were agitating a few months ago, for the Militia Ballot to be put in force. Lord Wolseley, speaking only about three weeks ago at the annual meeting of the Militia Rifle Association, informed his audience that in the event of war one of the first steps would be to call out the Militia, and send them to reinforce the principal foreign stations throughout the world. Had he, when he talked of this, the slightest conception of the bearing of the figures given above, or of the fact that by the time the Militia Reserve is called up to join the Line, there will be virtually no non-commissioned officers left but the men of the Permanent Staff? Have Lord Wolseley and those about him ever seriously discussed the organisation of the Militia with experienced Militia officers who know its shortcomings and requirements? Here you have an organisation which has proved in practice its ability to produce a hundred thousand disciplined soldiers of the best possible quality, at a cost to the country of about £5 per head per annum for all ranks, and which, with a little study and intelligence, might be made a perfect instrument for the defence of the

country. But not an effort is made to remedy its shortcomings, to improve its organisation, or to develop its capabilities, though year after year millions sterling are added to the cost of our Regular Army. The moral of it is that there is no hope that the taxpayer will ever get value for his money in military material, or ever reduce the present burden of military expenditure, until a root-and-branch reform has been carried out at the War Office.

THE NEW CARTON.

"Lord and Lady Algy" is capital fun. While most people have praised the piece, other voices are heard tearful and querulous because its author has not pursued his usual vein, because he is not sentimental here as becomes a good Dickensite. Mr. Carton has plenty of time to continue in that vogue. He has done good work in it, and will again, no doubt. But he is at liberty to make experiments. Before he wrote "Liberty Hall," he was part author of "The Pointsman" and "The Great Pink Pearl." He has served his apprenticeship to some purpose, he has acquired the playwright's "finger." I am glad, for one, that he has turned aside for a moment down a by-way of Sheridan and laughter.

Lord and Lady Algy were pleasant, foolish people. They liked one another, but not one another's taste in cigarettes; and they agreed to separate. Do not raise your eyebrows! Those cigarettes, perhaps, were symbolical. The pair had smoked themselves out of ready money: I suspect, too, that Lord Algy rather resented his wife's superiority. They seemed, at least, an incompatible pair. Lady Algy went to her aunt's, while her lord remained in their flat with his own cigarettes and the joint cook and butler. There he had visitors—a dun occasionally, his elder brother the Marquis, his father the Duke of Droneborough, and even, at times, his wife. They all arrived on Thursday morning—the dun and the Markiss first and together. The Markiss offered to sign cheques and get rid of the dun. Lord Algy's relief was tempered by his intuition. What, he asked, did his brother want? The Markiss (who was, in fact, Joseph Surface) wanted something quite unbecoming in a fat M.P. of character. He proposed that a married lady should meet him at his brother's flat at luncheon that very day. Here was her photograph, from which he might recognise her. Lord Algy agreed. He did not know that the lady was Mrs. Brabazon Tudway, the wife of a bone-boiler, and his friend; he did not divine that his father, the Duke, his wife, and Mr. Tudway would all visit him that morning. But, of course, they did. Tudway came to ask Lord Algy's good offices with his wife. She was insensible to Tudway's merits; would Algy come to her fancy ball the next night and reason with her? Then Tudway's eye fell on the photograph which the Markiss had left behind him. It was his wife's, and Tudway departed raving. Then the lady came, and Lady Algy came, and the Duke came, and the Markiss came again; and the lady, and the photograph, all went down to Lord Algernon Charles Surface's account. His proud spirit bent. It was his duty next night to go to Tudway's ball and take his jockey, who must be kept from drinking before a race next day. But he supplemented his part, which was that of Marlborough, with the disguise of drink, and leant on the arm of his jockey, who embodied the Young Pretender. Dreadful things happened to the Duke and the Young Pretender—dreadful things, most ingeniously contrived. The Duke turned up unbidden, Tudway turned up unexpected, and, crushing even to a sober man, the lady whom he had come to lecture on the duties of a Mrs. Tudway turned out to be the unknown fair who had assignated in his flat that day. The complications which ensued might have overturned the brain of Isaac Newton. Lord Algy's consultations with Mrs. Tudway were misconstrued by the Duke, his father, and by Tudway, his host. They denounced him in accordance with their several theories of good manners. The Duke privily rebuked him with comparisons, to the advantage of the Markiss; Mr. Tudway ordered him out of the house in the presence of his astonished guests. Fortunately, Lady Algy was on the spot. She had witnessed the loves of the Markiss and Madam Tudway. Algy was ignominiously expelled; but the admirable woman stepped forward and supported her intoxicated spouse to the nearest cab-stand.

Next night came more meetings in the flat. It was the screen scene from "The School for Scandal," with Mrs. Tudway for the little French milliner; but Lady Algy pulled them all through. The curtain fell on an elopement frustrated, on Mr. Tudway, his wife, and the Markiss departing in an unholy trinity, and on Lord and Lady Algy reconciled to a common flat and the same brand of cigarettes. It is an extremely neat little piece. The drama is the art of preparation, and Mr. Carton is a surprising adept in that art. Some of it is farcical—Mr. Eric Lewis's Marquis, for example. But for the most of the piece "light comedy" was the word. Miss Compton as Lady Algy is as good as only Miss Compton can be in such a part. Mr. Ford's Jockey is good enough to ride in the colours of Miss Lottie Venn. Mr. Kemble humorously presents a venerable nobleman ducally unhumorous. The whole team, in short, are good. As for Mr. Hawtrey's Algy, let Lady Algy keep an eye on him. We have known him ere this for an unexampled liar, and now his drunkenness is irresistible. Mr. Spurgeon would have said that Mr. Hawtrey is on the "down grade." Others will rejoice with the statesman who was glad that the reign of earnestness was over. The comic queen rules at the Comedy Theatre.

"THE MASTER" AT THE GLOBE.

Over the return of Miss Kate Terry to the stage, of which she was so memorable an ornament, I refuse to pipe my eye. It is a subject for congratulations, not for long faces. I shall be told by profound thinkers that Miss Terry is the last rose of summer, that all her blooming companions are faded and gone. The point to remember is that Miss Terry is still with us, and still charming. "Nothing is here for tears." If the names of those who have fallen out in the long interval is legion, so much the worse. But like the late Mr. Disraeli, I, too, am on the side of the angels. I entertain the harmless faith that, from their celestial stalls and boxes, they look down on

the Globe and are delighted. Even the youngest of mortal critics find that they have had something to learn. They discuss the theatre with their parents with diminished hauteur. I know one of them, who was hardly restrained from leaping on the stage to usurp the place of Mr. Gillmore.

It is true that Miss Terry appears in a bad play. Mr. Hare's virtues are justly familiar. His range as an actor may be limited, but within that range I do not know his equal. This does not mean, unhappily, that Mr. Hare is a good judge of a play. I fear that "The Master" is a miscalculation. If Miss Terry and Mr. Hare are both delightful, it is because they are master and mistress in a kingdom of which Mr. Stuart Ogilvy has not acquired his share.

What was the matter with the Master? He was rich, he had the best of wives, a delightful daughter, a fine fellow of a son. But a little Latin is a dangerous thing. He got it into his head that the *Patria Potestas* was the rule of life, that a man should be Cæsar in his own house. His son wanting to be a soldier was forthwith cast out. His daughter preferring an honest man to an obvious knave, his nephew, the Master disinherited her. His wife, being summoned to her daughter's sick bed, was forbidden to return. Consequently, the Master had gout and lost his money, speculating. As his wife had £100,000 in her own right, he very kindly forgave and permitted her to to return. His daughter, and even his son, by this time a V.C., were also pardoned. I think the Master had turned a trifle mad. How otherwise can we account for such a person having made money? Possibly his was a case of atheroma, that mysterious disease about which Dr. Lauder Brunton prelects. Quite early in the day his symptoms pointed to it. He told some very stiff stories of blockade running. Of course I know that suppressed gout can do some funny things with the brain. That bandaged foot may mean that Mr. Hare has got off this time. But otherwise I believe that Miss Terry and the rest of his delightful family ought to see an Alienist about him! It is atheroma or insanity.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

LYSIANE.

WIDOWS of a certain age who long to make fools of themselves will find encouragement in seeing "Lysiane." This drama in four acts is a mild one. We walk in green pastures and beside still waters. There is little in it all beyond literary cleverness and Sarah Bernhardt. Sarah as Lysiane de la Lauraye is a rich widow in the St. Martin's summer of her charms. Rare for a stage-mother, she has a grown-up and married son, Marcel. She has also a globe-trotter friend who gives good advice, Sylvain Brière, who might be at her feet were he not devoted to yachting.

Lysiane is, and has ever been, a *grande amoureuse*. Love makes the world go round. Without love where should we all be? To love is the first duty of a woman. If love is blind, he is covered with feelers. He does not *see*, but he divines. Woman's love is perspicuity itself. If the beloved one is a scamp, depend upon it he has redeeming qualities. At the point where the play begins, Lysiane is enamoured of a certain Emilien Gautier, a brilliant but most shady adventurer. Marcel cannot bring himself to step between his mother and the object of her passion. But he begs of Brière, who has just returned from a tour round the world, to inform her of his infamous life. Brière does not like to play the informer's part. However, he lets himself be persuaded.

We now come to the ball at Lysiane's villa. She runs from her crowded salons to a romantic terrace, to be alone for a few moments with Gautier. In this happy solitude she promises soon to legalise the tie binding her to him. Enter Brière, who is introduced to the *futur* as Lysiane's most valued friend. Brière, time running on, thinks the opportunity must be taken to unmask Gautier. He begins by showing up Gautier's confederate Rordin, a turfite up to every racecourse trick. The storm rises, and Brière then threatens to expose the confederates unless Gautier leaves Paris. A scene ensues, in which the latter bids farewell to Lysiane. She fancies he is forced by some woman to break with her, and melts into tears. Silvain, in another act, opens her eyes; but she refuses to see. Love has power to absolve. The son is married to a woman whom he worships. She has no other child. Surely, then, she has a right to marry Gautier. He may *seem* unworthy. But her heart declares his *essential* worthiness. Has he not that greatest gift, the power to win love?

Brière has no course now open but to declare himself captivated by Lysiane. He does so, and with a manly honesty that almost subjugates her. She accepts an invitation to make a short tour in his yacht, with Marcel and his wife. Of course she yields to the prayers of the old friend and of her children. The love of an honest man has its charms. A letter of dismissal is sent to Gautier. We anticipate the wedding, but do not see it. The bridal of a grandmother would not be interesting on the stage. Yet I wonder that Sarah Bernhardt, who can face everything, did not come forward as a bride with two generations of posterity round her.

The Queen of the Netherlands is seemingly *vouée au vert*. In leaving Paris she was in a tailor-made costume of Vert Nil cloth, with a flat skirt and a jacket quite unadorned, except by two rows of big stitching. The revers and waistcoat were in moire of the same tone. Her capote bonnet was of crinkled-up silk and Vert Nil. The trimming was a pair of wings, one white and the other black. The former was boldly, not to say aggressively conspicuous. The black one (being black) seemed trying to hide itself. There is no more unobtrusive colour, taken by itself, than black, unless white, when also alone. But black and white do make such a staring combination. A Queen who resembles the princess of a fairy tale has no need for feathers or light-green frocks when travelling. The eighteen-years' rosy freshness and blond hair could only be set off by, say, a tailor-made dark blue dress and

Hotel Albemarle, Piccadilly, London. Private Suite, Bath, Electric Light, Lift. Vermersch, Proprietor. Paris: Imperial Hotel, Champs Elysées. Boulogne S/M: Imperial Pavilion Hotel.

yachting hat. She dresses herself now as she dressed her dolls four or five years ago The Parisians remarked that she is fond of being always in Sunday clothes. This is natural enough at a quiet town like the Hague, where the only places for the display of pretty dresses are the public promenades. The youthful queen had a veil of white tulle drawn over her face. The Regent's toilette was simple—a corsage of black silk, a prune-coloured cloth skirt, a black jet bonnet and a thick veil The French Government, which was most attentive to the young Queen, and treated her as a pretty darling, told off a young Naval officer to accompany them to Cannes. A Princess of Waldeck-Pyrmont had joined their Majesties at the Continental, and accompanied them to Nice. This aunt of Wilhelmina shares the duties of chaperonship with Queen Emma. A charming trait of impatience marked the departure. Wilhelmina, the moment she entered the Royal train (it is her own train), hastily let down the windows to be able to bow the more freely to the sympathising throng on the platform.

The dress worn at the Elysée was pearl grey under tulle, covered with embroidered flowers, and a white hat and feather. The toilette was enriched by a necklace of a single row of very fine pearls. There were some brooches and clasps of large black pearls, to which the grey satin gave value. Gloves, white kid No bracelet.

What a change this must seem to all who remember the late King of the Netherlands and his two sons! There was no society journal during the Empire. If there had been, what a stock of anecdotes one might gather from it about the King and his heir! The former was constantly in Paris, and the latter hardly ever left it. Waiters and cabmen called him "Monsigneur" to his face, and "Citron" behind his back. He died of inflammation of the lungs, caught in returning to his *garni* from a *bal de l'Opéra.* It might be said of him that he had no enemy but himself, though his manner was more gruff than amiable. Prince Alexander, who inherited on Citron's death the title of Prince of Orange, hardly ever came to Paris. He passed through it, when given up by the doctors, to sun himself on the Riviera. Alexander was a colourless person, and had hair like tow. The Dutch liked and esteemed him. He was studious and conscientious, and wrote well.

The Queen is grammatically a King: she is Wilielmus IV. It may sweeten the remembrance of her visit to Paris to know that the soldier Jannin owes his life to it. He was to have been discharged from military service in a few days and married, when some old comrades took him to a wine-shop. On returning to barracks he had an altercation with a sergeant, whom he struck. The court-martial that tried him passed a capital sentence. M. Faure, in his anxiety to stand well with the officer class, refused to exercise the right to pardon or commute. But when the papers appealed to him as if speaking for the Queen of the Netherlands, his good nature took effect. How refuse a pardon asked for in her sweet name? Jannin has been saved from the firing party, and the horrid *coup de grâce,* but he is in for eight years.

I have known in my time a good many Spanish statesmen. Castelar, Sagasta, and Zorrilla were agreed on one point. It was that Cuba was a cause of permanent impoverishment to Spain. But how let it go with honour, each and all asked. It was as good as a rich gold mine to restless and corrupt Spaniards, who could bother the Government. Such men were got rid of by giving them posts in Cuba, where they could make fortunes. The Ministers who gave these posts not unfrequently drew the salaries. Spaniards despised Cubans. I recollect some beautiful Cubans coming to live in Paris, because looked down on at Madrid, in spite of loveliness, wealth, and good education. The Empress Eugénie rather cold-shouldered them. Serrano might have made himself a king, had not his wife been a Cuban. The Queen Regent was in too ticklish a situation to look well into any grievance. A foreigner and a born Archduchess, she had to be wary, reserved, and to avoid making enemies, no matter where. She was ignorant of human nature, unless as it flourishes at Courts. Though personally attached to Sagasta, she was too conservative in feeling not to favour Canovas del Castillo, who left her in the Cuban mess. She has often longed for a Gladstone since Canovas was assassinated. The Regent has good sense; but all she could do was to bring up her children carefully, save fortunes for them, and restore the dignity of the throne. She wore her widow's weeds becomingly. Though wanting in good looks, she presented a stately appearance in a pageant. Her Stockmar—a German doctor, too—was kept out of sight. He was sent with her to Spain, and left there by the Archduchess Elizabeth. The Madrid doctors protested, and King Alphonso XII. wanted to send him back to Vienna, but the Queen stood out and gained her point. The unexpected death of Mercedes was her excuse and justification. She has some enemies. One was a favourite of the late King, the mother of two sons. Her favour began in the lifetime of Mercedes, and only ended with that of Alphonso. She lives abroad. The other foes are members of the Royal Family.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE Duke of Cambridge, dear Lady Betty, dined on Wednesday last at the Mansion House, and, after dinner, in the course of a speech, he made the following remarks:—"We live in an age when everybody appears to think that change is beneficial. I am a very old man—perhaps the oldest in the room—and I do not hesitate to tell the people of this country that this love of change will be their ruin if they persist in it."

This is a very unfair charge to make against our generation. During the last half-century liberal legislation, the developments due to scientific discoveries, the improvements in mechanism, and the enormous increase in the wealth of the world have entirely changed the conditions of life, and have, therefore, rendered it necessary for those who live amidst altogether new surroundings to adapt themselves to the altered circumstances. Time after time it has been declared in these columns that the Duke of Cambridge is half a century behind the age, and that he does not recognise that circumstances are stronger than combinations; and time after time the Duke, when speaking

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in public, has denied the correctness of these criticisms. However, now, in an unguarded moment, he has revealed his secret sentiments, and the truth of the criticisms is made manifest.

This generation has, through the force of circumstances absolutely beyond its control, outgrown the last remnants of its mediæval clothing; just as a child, in the course of time, outgrows the last remnants of its nursery clothing. The present generation does not believe in the doctrine of the Divine right of kings; it does not believe that Royalty can do no wrong; it does not believe that one class is created to rule whilst the other classes are created to obey; and it does not believe that a few thousand fortunate people are destined from the beginning to enjoy privileges whilst millions of others are destined to suffer wrongs. Inequalities there must ever be: one man will be handsomer than another, or will be cleverer, or will be stronger. One woman will be more beautiful than another, or will be more fascinating, or will be more graceful. These are the natural inequalities which cannot be altered; but the whole tendency of modern progress is to remove the artificial inequalities which centuries of oppressive legislation have established. The Duke of Cambridge is still swathed in his mediæval baby-linen.

For instance, the conduct of the Duke as Ranger of the so-called Royal Parks is a proof of this assertion. When discussing the Civil Service Estimates in the House of Commons last week, Mr. Caldwell suggested that the cost of maintaining these parks should fall upon Londoners alone, as they more than any other members of the community derived the advantages which these parks afforded. To this argument it was very properly replied that the Royal Parks were equally open to all, and that all therefore should contribute towards their maintenance. But the Duke of Cambridge takes up an even more singular position than that adopted by Mr. Caldwell. According to him, the Royal Parks belong to the Royal family, which graciously permits them to be used by those who live in the neighbourhood, and that in the interests of these fortunate people the Duke, as Ranger, should do his utmost to discountenance these parks being used by others. Notwithstanding this, the entire nation must contribute towards their maintenance! These theories are mediæval. The so-called Royal Parks belong to the nation, are maintained by the nation, and should be made as beautiful, as convenient, and as agreeable as possible for the use of every well-behaved member of the community. In every other public park in London spaces are reserved for the children to play cricket and football. Every day in spring, summer, and autumn hundreds of children are turned out of Hyde Park, the Green Park, and St. James's Park for attempting to play either of these games, notwithstanding that in each of them there are large spaces where such games could be played without inconveniencing any one. In every other public park in London cycling is permitted. The cycle is a new contrivance, and, therefore, the Duke of Cambridge thinks it is his duty to discountenance it. Cyclists are debarred from using Hyde Park after noon. What possible harm could a cyclist do in Hyde Park after noon which he cannot do before noon? As for the argument, which may have been more or less correct some years ago, that the cycle frightens sensitive horses, this has lost much of its former force, for most horses now are no more frightened by a cycle than they are by a carriage. In every public park in London there is a refreshment kiosk, but in Hyde Park, the Green Park, and St. James's Park, the Duke absolutely refuses to permit such kiosks to be erected. Two years ago the House of Commons granted a substantial sum for the erection of a refreshment kiosk in Hyde Park. The Duke refused to use the money!

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It was reported in these columns several weeks ago that Sir Francis Clare Ford, the British Ambassador at Rome, was suffering from serious ill-health, which might compel him to retire from the service before he had completed his term of office. Sir Francis leaves Rome immediately, and already many rumours are current as to who will be appointed to succeed him, and as to what vacancies, if any, will occur in consequence of his retirement. There appears to be little doubt entertained that Sir Philip Currie will be removed from Constantinople to Rome. It is not at all so certain, however, who will be appointed to replace Sir Philip as Ambassador to the Porte. There are many who believe that Sir Nicholas O'Conor, the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, will be appointed to Constantinople, whilst others maintain that Sir Frank Lascelles, the British Ambassador to Berlin, will be transferred to that post. In either case this would create a vacancy, either at St. Petersburg or at Berlin, to which Sir Francis Plunkett would probably be promoted.

But the ghost of Lord Salisbury's past haunts the situation. Lord Salisbury is the Foreign Office cuckoo. He comes to the Foreign Office nest, turns out the Foreign Office offspring, and deposits his own egg—an egg which, by the way, frequently becomes addled. There is some fear, therefore, that he may deposit at the vacant Embassy some one foreign to the Foreign Office, which would be a very unjust proceeding, as it must inevitably ruin the careers of several able and experienced diplomatists by deferring promotion.

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The members of this generation have short memories, otherwise we should have been reminded before now of the celebrated Ostend Manifesto which was issued in 1857 by the various Ministers of the United States then accredited to Great Britain, France, and Spain. In that manifesto it was declared that "Cuba must belong to the United States."—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

Mortlock's (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "Mortlock's" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

SPORTING NOTES.

It would be interesting to learn how the wretched running of Diakka at Newmarket on the first day of the Craven Meeting (April 13) is to be accounted for after his very easy victory in the Esher Stakes at Sandown Park on Friday last. I suppose there *is* some explanation of the astounding improvement in the horse's form in the short period of nine days, and the Stewards of the Jockey Club ought most assuredly to investigate the case, if they ever again intend to exercise their judicial functions in such matters. There ought to be one weight and one measure for all owners, but, as a matter of fact, the Newmarket principle is that whereas one man is forbidden to gaze over the hedge, yet another may with impunity enter the field and abduct the steed from its pasture. At Newmarket Diakka started without a price in the betting for the Crawfurd Plate, and finished nowhere with 9 st. 7 lb. on his back. At Sandown Diakka carried 9 st. 2 lb., was heavily backed, and won in a common canter, running, moreover, against a better field of horses than at Newmarket. The *Sporting Times* describes the form as "perplexing," as well it may, while the *Sportsman* considers that Diakka "must have come on in an extraordinary degree since last week." As a matter of fact, the horse had his field well beaten a very long way from home, and never has a race been more easily won. If Diakka had belonged to some "little man," and was trained in an "obscure stable," there would have been an execrative howling from all quarters, and the Stewards would quickly have demanded explanations from owner, trainer, and jockey; but, as a matter of fact, the authorities looked on with stupid unconcern, and it may be hoped that, in common decency, they will not attempt to investigate any future cases of suspicious running. There may be satisfactory reasons for Diakka's change of form, but, if so, they ought to be made public at once. One writer, after stating (with perfect truth) that the horse "was backed for every available penny," describes his race as "a marvellous exhibition, and the exhibition was anticipated

in the market." It may be that Diakka is no use over six furlongs (the distance at Newmarket), although he is such a great horse over a mile. The numerous backers of Diakka for last year's Lincolnshire Handicap must feel disposed to cry aloud with woe when they remember that in that race (where he ran nowhere) Winkfield's Pride was giving him 16 lb., and the American horse had only 4 lb. the worst of the weights with Bridegroom, who finished third.

When the weights for the City and Suburban were published, I expressed the opinion that Bay Ronald was one of the best handicapped horses in the race, and every one knows that he was very unlucky in being beaten by Balsamo last year. It must be confessed, however, that Bay Ronald was very fortunate indeed to win last Wednesday, and it will not do to pay much attention to the form of this race. If the Australian horse, Newhaven II., had got off well he would have won in a canter, and his performance was a marvellous one, not only from the manner in which he made up his ground, but also because he was manifestly very backward. If he had been in front when the flag fell, and then had come along at his best pace, he would have won by fifty lengths. The tactics adopted with this horse seem to have been thoroughly asinine. Even with all the disadvantages of a very bad start, I believe that Newhaven II. would have won easily if he had been vigorously ridden throughout the race. Under the circumstances, it was desperate fatuity to wait with a horse of this class, and particularly over such a course as Epsom. Why the owner did not accept with him for the Chester Cup it is impossible to conjecture. He seems to be making no moves but false ones in the management (with an additional syllable) of this horse. Newhaven II. simply could not have lost at Chester with 9 st. The best course to adopt will be to run this horse for the Queen's Vase at Ascot, which he will win if he starts, and then to let him go for the Gold Cup. If Newhaven II. can stay the course, he ought to be able to defeat Galtee More, whom he is absolutely certain to beat for speed at the finish, and I do not see how a strong pace is to be arranged for unless Galtee More makes his own running, which is usually a suicidal policy when running against a horse of the class of Newhaven II. Knight of the Thistle was very seriously interfered with at Epsom, and if Mr. McCalmont's horse had been favoured with a clear course, he would certainly have finished either first or second. Sandia was another victim of the numerous mishaps for which this race will be dismally remembered by the backers of some of the beaten horses. I never had any belief in Kilcock, whose trial was all fiddle-faddle and rubbish, and some time ago I predicted that Sandia would represent the American stable instead of Berzak, who was then being sedulously written up; but the rational policy to adopt was manifestly to reserve this horse for Kempton Park, where the course will exactly suit him, and he is remarkably well in. I will deal next week with the Jubilee Handicap, which is evidently going to be a post-betting race. At the finish last Wednesday Nunsuch was decidedly favourite, but I fancy this mare is not yet at her best, and she will probably improve on her Epsom form later on in the season. It would have been funny, indeed, if, after having sold Nunsuch to the Prince of Wales, Lord William Beresford's stable had still won the race with Sandia, and this animal was regarded as a certainty, as well he might be if it is true that he was tried last year (by the time test) to be better than Diakka, when that horse was at his best. Sandia is sure to win a good handicap before long.

History was the great Newmarket tip for the Metropolitan, and he won cleverly at the finish, the favourite, Bird-on-the-Wing, being nowhere. History is a very useful horse, as he can stay well and has fair speed besides. He was thoroughly fit at Epsom, as he had undergone a special preparation for this engagement.

The three-year-olds are collapsing terribly one after the other. At Newmarket Cyllene disgraced himself, and at Sandown it was the turn of Hermiston, who, however, did not look particularly well, nor was he fancied by the Kingsclere party. The Newmarket Stakes now appears to be a very open race, and backers may congratulate themselves that Hermiston did not go for the City and Suburban.

Galtee More will not run at Newmarket this week, as Mr. Gubbins has wisely decided to reserve his horse for the Ascot Cup. The March Stakes appears to be a certainty for Newhaven II.

The Duke of Devonshire ought to win the May Plate on Friday with the filly by Morion out of Lady Yardley (dam of Buckingham and Disraeli), for which he gave 680 gs at Doncaster last September. Sixteen two-year-olds have accepted for the May Plate, for which race Heir Male and The Convict finished first and second twelve months ago.

There will be a large field for the One Thousand, which seems to be a very open race, being in this respect a great contrast to the state of affairs last year, when this event was justifiably regarded as a good thing for Chelandry, who won in a canter. It is probable that Sir Blundell Maple will start both Royal Footstep and Nun Nicer, and the latter will probably turn out to be the better for Friday's race, although her stable companion, who wants time, may beat her at Epsom a month later on. My own opinion is that neither St. Ia nor Ayah will stay the course, and La Veine, the daughter of Morion and La Flèche, does not appear to have much chance of success; but she will run for Egerton Lodge, which carried off this race two years ago with the Prince of Wales's Thais. Simylla, by St. Simon out of Palmflower, has won her trial, but she had not much to beat in the gallop. Ebba, the sister to Ladas, will (as I stated last week) be Lord Rosebery's best, but her prospects of victory are not very bright. Mr. W. Johnstone's Airosa has grown into a very nice filly, and she is expected to run well. The Duke of Westminster is to start Lowood, by St. Serf out of Rydal, but the Kingsclere people do not appear to fancy her much. The Duke of Portland may start Elizabeth Hardwicke just on the off chance; but she is not likely to stay the course. I see that Orpah is mentioned as likely to run forward, but I hear that this filly is backward, and that she will be kept for the Oaks. Lord Derby's Alt Mark has been going remarkably well in her gallops at Newmarket, and she is likely to prove a formidable outsider if she comes fit and well to the post. Her owner will be back from Egypt in time to see her run. It is dangerous to venture a prediction on this race several days in advance, and with a number of gallops pending; but if I were obliged to select one now it would be Nun Nicer, and Alt Mark for a place.

There will be racing next week at Chester and at Kempton Park, and some excellent sport is expected at both meetings. The Duke of Westminster intends to patronise Chester, and there will be a party at Eaton for the meeting. Not a bet has yet been laid on the Chester Cup, for which forty horses accepted, and there will probably be a much larger field than there was last year, when there were only twelve starters, as Count Schomberg and Shaddock frightened away so many horses, but the race proved no good thing for the former, who only won by a neck from Piety. Labrador has been undergoing a special preparation for this race, and he ought to run well on his best form with 8 st. 6 lb. on his back. The Rush and Piety are both going well at Newmarket, where it is believed that the mare will represent Mr. Dobell, and she is expected to run well, but on last year's form here she signifies Count Schomberg at 9 st. 12 lb., which seems scarcely good enough. Asterie and Villiers, and Limasol are all intended to run, and Chelandry and Nunsuch may possibly start. I fancy, however, that Merman will now prove the best of the Newmarket lot, and whatever beats the Australian horse will win, if he comes fit and well to the post. Labrador and Laughing Girl may turn out to be the most formidable opponents of Merman.

It is impossible to deal with the two-year old stakes at Chester. The colours of the Duke of Westminster may be worth following in the Mostyn Plate, but the juvenile events at this meeting are not of sufficient value to induce owners to start anything that is really smart. There are thirteen acceptances for the Dee Stakes, the entry including

Dunlop, who has to carry 6 lb. extra, and I should doubt his ability to stay the course. The Duke of Westminster will probably win with Calveley or Collar, each colt having the advantage of a 7 lb. maiden allowance.

The Royal Plate of £2,000 at Kempton Park is the most valuable two-year-old race of the season, excepting only the £5,000 stake at Sandown Park in July. It is a much richer event than either the Coventry Stakes or the New Stakes at Ascot, where the programme ought to be strengthened by the addition of a far more valuable two-year-old race than it at present contains. There were 107 entries when the Royal Plate closed just about twelve months ago, and now that the final forfeit has been declared, thirty-three two-year-olds are left in. The Prince of Wales has accepted with Eventail, by Ayrshire out of Fanchette, who is a racing-like filly, and she will doubtless be galloped this week. H.R.H. has withdrawn Sandringham, the very promising own brother to Persimmon, and he will probably be reserved for Ascot, where he is entered for both the Coventry Stakes and the New Stakes. Lord Rosebery has left in Corposant (half-sister, by Sheen, to Ladas and Chelandry), and Sejanus, by Royal Hampton out of Floridiana. The Duke of Portland, who had three entries, has accepted only with Manners, own brother to Amiable, who was considered last autumn to be the best-looking of all the Welbeck yearlings. The Duke of Westminster is now represented only by Orme's Head, by Orme out of Ruth, dam of Tarporley, and if this colt starts and is backed he will be near winning, for in that case it may be taken for granted that he has been well galloped, although the Kingsclere two-year-olds do not often distinguish themselves so early in the season, being usually in reserve for Ascot. Porter, moreover, has a second string in Mr. Low's colt by Rightaway out of Hall Mark, of whose looks I have heard a great account, but he has not been galloped in any sort of way. Lord Crewe has accepted with Cup of Assay, the colt by Royal Hampton out of Assay, for which he paid 1,300 gs. at Doncaster last September. This animal is nominated for this race by his breeder, Mr. Best. Mr. T. Cannon, who had two entries, has accepted with North Britain, by Melanion out of Elspeth. Mr. Combe is represented by No Trumps, by Orvieto out of Electric Light. The Duke of Devonshire has left in both his entries, a half-brother, by Melanion, to Balsamo, and a colt by Morion out of Balornock. These animals will no doubt be galloped with Eventail, and the winner of the trial will represent the Egerton Lodge stable. Melito, by Melton out of Jeannette, a colt bred in Italy by Prince Doria, was purchased at Newmarket last July for 800 gs. by Mr. Rutherford. Mr. Fairie has Galliott, by Galopin out of Agave; and Ryan's stable is also represented by Mr. Houldsworth's Carbiston, by Donovan out of Caserta. Mr. Lawrence, who had three entries, will presumably start Dalby, by Hampton out of Exning Lass. M. Lebaudy's Sinopi, by Marcion out of Simonetta, was bought by Mr. A. James at the Newmarket December sale, for 860 gs., and he has been left in here. Sir B. Maple has St. Kenelm, by St. Simon out of Kenegie, who has thirty-four engagements. Mr. de Rothschild has accepted with four, but the supposed "crack," St. Gris, the half-brother, by Galopin, to St. Frusquin, was beaten in his trial the other day, and probably he is not yet anything like really fit. San Carlo is by St. Simon out of Biserta, dam of Goletta. Prince Soltykoff, who had three entries, has left in only Aylstone, by Sheen out of Dorothy Vernon, who has a large number of engagements. I shall make an attempt next week to predict the winner of this stake, which will be far and away the most important two-year-old race during the spring meetings.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ATHLETICS.

Last year at Stamford Bridge the London Athletic Club organised an athletic meeting for Public Schools. The club was induced to take this step chiefly by the growing interest that was taken in the public school quarter, a race which has been held since 1890. Most of the public schools had at one time or another competed for this event, and when a few years ago Fremantle, of Eton, and now President of the O.U.A.C., ran in an open two miles' handicap, it was felt that the time had come to take a further step. The members came forward and challenge cups were offered for all the events in the University programme, except the three miles, weight, and hammer, and for these a half and a three-quarter mile steeplechase were substituted. The proposed meeting met with opposition. A rival meeting was threatened by the Queen's Club, and the head masters of several schools did not view the proposal favourably. Fortunately these objections are not so strong as they were. Schools that were not allowed to send representatives last year had their boys running this year. If any head masters think there is betting and all that sort of thing at Stamford Bridge, I can assure them this is not the case. The meetings of the L.A.C. are conducted in precisely the same way as the Inter-University meeting. The open events are practically limited to members, and if there is such a good support given by the schools next year, some of the members' events will have to be cut out or else the races must be run while the high and long jumps are being brought off. The meeting last Saturday was rather too long. But to return to the schoolmasters. I believe a formal public school championship gathering would be too much of an organisation. This meeting fulfils all the essentials of such a gathering. If a schoolboy is particularly good in any event he can enter and bring credit to himself and to his school. The L.A.C. is now more strongly supported than ever by the Universities. Amongst those running in the club events last Saturday were two old Cambridge Presidents, the Rev. W. E. Lutyens and Fitz-Herbert, the old Oxford miler Munroe, and Davidson and Monro, who have done well at sprinting in both Universities. Amongst the officials on the ground were Chinnery, the President of the club, Lees Knowles, M.P., the old Cambridge miler and ex-president, and the Earl of Jersey, who with Sir Richard Webster, started the Inter-University sports, and who was president of the O.U.A.C. There were several other old Blues present. These represented all the public schools, and their opinions were unanimous that no headmaster need have the slighest hesitation in letting a boy run at such a meeting. At the conclusion of the sports, Lord Jersey distributed the prizes and strongly supported the objects of the meeting. Amongst the competitors were Apcher, the son of the old University quarter-miler, and Garnier, son of an old Oxford hurdler. No old Blue would hesitate about letting his son run at this meeting.

I hope next year some of the other big schools will be represented, and that headmasters will give the meeting their genuine support. It will be as well for them to bear in mind that it is no good letting a boy come up unless he has some real pretensions to first-class form. Now with regard to the boys themselves, this meeting affords them an opportunity of meeting the representatives of other schools as they do in cricket and football. Unless a runner goes to the University he can never get this chance. For instance, Ward, who did the phenomenal mile, is not going up to either Oxford or Cambridge. He would never have been heard of had he not run at Stamford Bridge. This meeting helps to bring together those who will represent the genuine amateur class. These are the runners whose support alone the London Athletic Club desires, and whose assistance it is now getting. The Universities are supporting the old club, which should hold in athletics the same position as the M.C.C. in cricket.

As years go on the standard of education at public schools has developed enormously. Boys now babble classics before they can walk, and revel in higher mathematics before they can run. With the progress in education their physical development has not suffered. A bigger and healthier set of boys than the winners and runners-up in the several events on Saturday it would be difficult to find. Nor could the exertions of the afternoon do them any harm. So far as book work is concerned, one at least has some pretensions to form, as good as that which he showed on the path. For Cornish has gained an open scholarship at Lincoln, Oxford—bad luck to Cambridge.

The performances were so remarkable that for the convenience of reference I have given them in tabulated form:—

Cornish, 100 yds., 10⅘, Merchant Taylors.
Cornish, 440 yds., 52⅘, Merchant Taylors.
Barry, 880 yds., 2·4⅘, St. Paul's.
Bailey, hurdles, 17⅘, St. Paul's.
Gilman, long jump, 19 ft. 8¼ in., St. Paul's.
Gilman, ¾-mile steeplechase, 4 min. 8 sec., St. Paul's.
Lascelles, high jump, 5 ft. 5¼ in., Brighton College.
Ward, one mile, 4 min. 32⅘ sec., Rossall.

With the exception of the quarter, where Whitaker, Charterhouse, did the same time in 1891; the long jump, which was won last year by Harrison, Haileybury, with 20 ft. 11 in.; the hurdles, where the time equals the previous best by Pilkington, Clifton; and the steeplechase, which was 4 secs. slower than last year, the times given above created records. A few words as to the style of the boys. Lascelles is a neat jumper with not too much weight. He goes to Cambridge this year, and should be certain of his blue. Cornish is a fine sprinter. He gets off well, but in the final hundred seemed to finish a bit weakly. Massey, of Tonbridge, came with a fine burst. He is short but squarely built, and if he practises starting he will be good. He was only just beaten by a quarter of an inch in the long jump. He ought to have beaten Gilman, but he is afraid to go as hard as he can at the take off, and he does not jump high enough. With proper coaching he should get up to 20 ft. easily. He had bad luck in not scoring a first. Gilman is a strong-built fellow with any amount of endurance and not much pace. If he is going to the University he should make a useful oar. It is doubtful if he will ever be first class on the track. Bailey has decidedly promising form over the hurdles. It is said Shaw, the ex-champion, has been coaching him. Young Garnier, Sherborne, also flew well, but could not stay the distance. The half-mile was a splendid race, and Barry showed good judgment. He is undoubtedly likely to come on. He only just beat Draper, Rossall, who has the prettier style but ran with bad judgment, and let the winner get too far away, two hundred yards from home. Both quarters in this race were run at the same pace. In the quarter, Cornish made the pace all through. He has a long, low stride, but will have to take care not to let himself down on his heels. The mile was won by Ward. He cut out the pace from the beginning, and was never headed. People wondered if he could last when the first quarter was done in 64 sec., and the half in 2 min. 13 sec., but he came home in strong style. He is a short, broad-shouldered, lightly-built youth, with a very easy style, spoilt by a tendency to sprawl out his elbows and turn out his toes. Kinsman, of Lancing, was second. He did 4 min. 38 sec., a very fine performance. He is not so filled out as Ward, but with age and experience, which he sadly lacks, he should make a first-class miler. In speaking of the sprinters I forgot to mention Rhys, of Aldenham. He has a very graceful style, and if he grows a bit bigger and stronger he will come on a good deal. Dickinson, of Repton, ran pluckily in the steeplechase.

There were too many other events. In the open hundred Palmer, the champion, failed by two yards in his heat, which was won in 10½, and Jupp, who made his first public appearance, had 1¾ yards start and won the final performance. Cornish's time makes him better than either, with Massey close up. But then last year the sprinting champions were platers. The mile handicap was beautifully arranged by Parker, and Lutyens and Munro ran through from scratch and were first and second respectively, young Dixon just being third. Old Dixon, the father, was running. He would be consulting his own dignity and the interests of sport by not turning out. It is not an exhilarating sight to see a middle-aged man toddling along with a long limit. He is just as much a nuisance to the handicapper as the boy runners of a few years back. Monro who is up at Oxford, won the 220 yards challenge cup, just beating Davison, who was running for Cambridge a year ago. Fitzherbert cameled well for half distance, but being out of condition, failed to last. I do hope this brilliant runner will put in some hard work and show what he really can do. Wilkins won the steeplechase challenge cup from Munro.

What the London Athletic Club is doing for running, the Amateur Cycling Association will try to do for cycling. The association has recently been inaugurated in order to provide racing for the gentleman amateur. The class of men one meets as a rule in the amateur ranks are not the sort with whom every one cares to associate, although some of them are no doubt very decent fellows. The definition of an amateur as laid down by the association is practically the Henley definition, except that, instead of the proviso about being engaged in boats, the word bicycles is substituted, and certain other verbal alterations are made to suit the circumstances of the case. The club will be run by a committee consisting of two members each, or one —I forget which—from Oxford, Cambridge, the United Hospitals, Sheen House, and the London Bicycle Club, and two others elected annually by the club. Everybody seeking election must be known personally to two club members, who will submit the name for election to the committee, when two black-balls will exclude.

Properly worked this association should do a lot of good. It should not only provide races for members, but it should be enabled to authorise racing at cycling gymkhanas, where some genuine racing, instead of mere fancy events, would be most interesting. Already this association has received a great deal of support, and I have no doubt cyclists will appreciate its efforts. The association will be affiliated to the National Cyclists' Union. This was done because the Union was recognised by the association as having done its best for amateurism. Circumstances have prevented the Union from making a gentleman amateur class, and the formation of this association is the right way out of the difficulty. The N.C.U is to be congratulated on the fight it has waged against the makers' amateur. This was a rider in the secret pay of a company who posed as an amateur. The Dunlop Company has climbed down, and given an undertaking not to continue these tactics. Other cycling companies are being tackled, and the results will, no doubt, be as satisfactory as in the Dunlop case.

Judging by the enthusiasm shown at the Queen's Club during the covered court lawn tennis championships, the popularity of the game is not diminishing. In the ladies' competition, Miss Leigh, who is very steady at the back of the court, to most people's surprise beat Miss Cooper, but, in turn, she was defeated by the holder, Miss Austin, who was just a bit better all round. The final of the gentlemen's singles was disappointing. H. L. Doherty, the challenger, had played a brilliant game against Greville. When he met Eaves he was off colour and never looked like winning, while the champion was in his best form. However, the loser and R. F. Doherty played a great game in the doubles, the elder brother playing at the back of the court and his partner at the net. They were much too good for the holders of the title, Greville and Nesbit. Miss Cooper and R. F. Doherty won the new competition, the mixed doubles, after a splendid match with Greville and Miss Austin. Doherty's volleying was splendid.

There will be a strong contingent of old cricketing Blues available at both 'Varsities this term. Oxford lose Hartley, Bardswell, and Waddy, of whom the first-named will, of course, be a loss, which the Cambridge men will regret, but the other two, on last year's form, will not be so badly missed. From Cambridge Druce, Mitchell, and Bray retire after four years' residence, and as both Marriott and Shine are schoolmasters, it is more than probable that there will be five vacancies to be filled. The Oxford men will have a strong batting side. Those who, from nervousness, failed last year, should do much better. Foster, Champain, Bromley Martin, Fane, and Eccles are all good batsmen, and two of them have had some experience of county cricket. There are plenty of candidates as batsmen. Amongst the seniors, Parkes, Rowe, and Page

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are the best, and I shall be very much surprised if Rowe does not get a sound trial. As a schoolboy he was in the first flight, and cannot surely have lost his form in a single season. But there is a freshman in Collins of Marlborough that may cut out all the seniors. Unless I am mistaken, he is certain to get his blue. Crawford of Merchant Taylors, is another promising bat. Two bowlers will be necessary to replace Hartley and Waddy. Stocks will be tried, and as he was unlucky to be left out last year, will doubtless get a place; but he is very much the same style as Cunliffe, and on a good wicket never does much damage. His reputation has been made on one or two performances, and never in any season has he had even a moderately good record. Lee, who was tried for Hampshire, will be a far more useful man, as he is an all-round player. He bowls right hand, and can go on all day. Another bowler with a good reputation is More of Westminster. One old Blue, E. C. Wright, will have to work hard to keep his place. After making a fair start last year he fell off tremendously, and was hardly worth his place at the time of the University match. The three places vacant will probably be filled by Lee, Collins, and Stocks, while Rowe might get a place. The eleven will be a strong one, but will need a fast bowler.

The Cambridge men lose their wicket-keeper, three batsmen, and a bowler. To take Bray's place there is a first-class man in Taylor, who, as a batsman, averaged over 80 at Uppingham. He failed as a bat last year. There is a reserve man in L. J. Moon, who is almost worth a place as a batsman if he would conquer his desire to hit every ball for four. Another senior, A. T. Coode, is well worth a trial. He has made so many runs that he must have some first class ability in him. These three are the only seniors likely to do any good. Amongst the Freshmen there are three who may turn out first class. Cole, of Harrow, is a tried performer, and can bowl what one often hears described as "tolerable stuff of the rubbish order." With practice he should improve a lot. Hind, of Uppingham, is a good left hand bowler; he can make the ball do a little both ways, and, in addition, he is a good bat. In Campbell, Scotchmen declare they have trained a first-class cricketer. The last Scotch boy to gain his blue was Jardine, who scored a century for Oxford, and it is said that Campbell, who, by the way, is a Rugby blue, is quite the equal of the old Oxford captain. In bowling, Spencer, of Rugby, is a likely man, while of the old bowlers Fernie may have some trouble in keeping his place. He certainly makes the batsman wait a long time for the ball, but there is not much sting in it when it arrives. Shine will be missed. Burnup, as a bat, is invaluable. He will be up again. It is said that Jessop is ill. It would be a fearful loss if he could not play, but perhaps there is nothing in the rumour. On the whole, I think Cambridge will probably not be so strong as last year, whilst their opponents will be better.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—War has at last broken out between the United States and Spain, and to judge from the fluctuations which have taken place during the last few days, the state of extreme panic which prevailed at one time has been surmounted. In fact, it is not improbable that the old Stock Exchange saying, of which I reminded my readers a few weeks ago, will be borne out in the present instance, that in case of an impending war you can safely buy stocks.

After the First Shot is Fired.

The first shot, which makes history in this instance, was that fired across the bows of the *Buena Ventura* by the American cruiser *Nashville*. On Friday morning the lowest quotations of American Rails, so far received from New York, came to hand, and from that time an important recovery set in, which was not by any means confined to the American department, but spread to the various favourites of the Paris Bourse which have of late shown such exceptional weakness, viz., De Beers, Rio Tinto, and Spanish. At one time Spanish bonds dropped to 30½, but a recovery to 34¾ has since been established, and while I should not care to prophesy too much on this stock, I yet fancy that the weight of the fall has now been broken. Another circumstance which has had a favourable effect upon all the markets has been the comparatively satisfactory statement of the Bank of England, and the maintenance of the 4 per cent. Bank rate. This put Home Rails into better humour, especially when it was announced that further arrivals of gold were expected from Germany, and Consols, too, finally braced up. The fact is, that in the present range of values a state of war has been fully discounted. For weeks far-sighted men have looked upon war between the two nations as inevitable, and every preparation was made for the evil day. Not only had engagements been reduced to the utmost possible extent, but a very considerable "Bear" account had grown up. When the first shot was fired and the above-mentioned more favourable circumstances transpired, the ursine party commenced to cover, and thus contributed to the general advance. There is no doubt that the "Bears" have taken great liberties with nearly all the departments, but more especially with Spanish and those French favourites already referred to, as well as the South African and West Australian mining sections. In the Kaffir Circus so small a speculative account existed, that the covering movement now commenced is likely to have far-reaching consequences, provided only that we get no further immediate rise in the Bank rate. As regards the temporary collapse in the Westralian department, it was as unreasonable as most of such movements are, and the recovery which has commenced should develop into a sharp rebound. It is for investors who can keep their heads cool to avail themselves of the opportunities thus supplied. A sharp decline also occurred in Argentine Government and Railway stocks, while South Americans generally were flat. But the set back was apparently altogether exaggerated, and holders will do well not to be frightened into selling. Apart from the Spanish-American war, the political horizon is clearer than it has been for a long time, and both the Far Eastern and West African questions seem for the time to be forgotten.

Money and Gilt-Edged Investments.

At the commencement of last week the view generally prevailed that with the outbreak of war an advance in the Bank Rate to 5 per cent. would at once take place, and this has been one of the strongest points urged by the "Bears." The Bank return, however, did not prove so unsatisfactory as had been looked for, and the fact that German gold to a considerable amount was sent in to the Bank of England must be considered encouraging. These shipments are made in connection with the last Chinese Loan, and have been greatly facilitated by the Bank of England making advances without charging interest, on the condition that gold was remitted. As far as I can learn, about one million has been contracted for, of which up to the present about a quarter has arrived here. There are several millions on the way from other quarters, and unless the American demand for gold should assume very large proportions, there is just the possibility of our squeezing through the state of war with a four or five per cent. Bank rate. I should think that the Americans are not likely to take any steps which would unduly raise the value of money here, as it would at once react upon their own Money Market. The United States Government is apparently raising an internal loan through the post-offices, which would not affect the European markets at all. But it will be some time before we return again to easy money, and it is this consideration chiefly which is causing the selling of certain gilt-edged investments, especially of prior lien, debenture, and other home railway prior charges, to which I have repeatedly drawn

attention, and which is best illustrated by the following little table:—

	Highest 1897.	This Week.	Fall.
	£.	£.	£.
Great Western 5 per cent. Pref.	189½	176	13½
London and North-Western 4 per cent. Pref.	154¾	142½	12¼
North-Eastern 4 per cent. Pref. ...	153½	141½	12
Great Eastern 4 per cent. Pref. ...	150¾	139½	11¼
Caledonian 4 per cent. Pref.	152	140½	11½
London and North-Western 3 per cent. Debs.	122	112½	9½
Caledonian 4 per cent. Debs.... ...	156	147½	8½
Great Western 4 per cent. Debs. ...	158¾	147½	11¼
Great Eastern 4 per cent. Debs. ...	152¾	144½	8¼
North-Eastern 3 per cent. Debs. ...	119½	111½	8

I have more than once drawn attention to the almost prohibitive prices of these securities, and I am not surprised that values should at last have given way. Investors and bankers who hold these stocks evidently are parting with them, as they have better use for the money. Consols reached their highest point last year, when 113⅞ was touched. This week they fell to 109¾, and are now up again at 110⅜, leaving a decline of 3½ from the top figure. It cannot be said that Consols at 110 indicate any very great alarm in financial quarters. In other high-class investment stocks there have also been falls ranging from six to ten points. Thus, representative British Corporation stocks are from eight to ten lower, Manchester Three per Cent. stock distinguishing itself by a loss of 12½. The relapse in Colonial bonds extends in the case of New South Wales Four per Cents. to ten points from the top price in 1897, while Canadian Three and a Half per Cents. have given way 8½, Victoria Three and a Half per Cents. 8, Tasmania 5. India Stock is from 7 to 8 per cent. lower, but other influences have been at work in this instance. There is a fashion in all things, and I suppose that gilt-edged stocks will be out of favour for a little while, especially as bargains are now to be picked up in second and third-class and more speculative securities. The new Chinese loan has not altogether maintained the recent improvement, being quoted 1⅞ discount; but the other Chinese loans have remained steady. Japanese Scrip is quoted 100¼. Silver is firmer at 25$\frac{15}{16}$d., while the quotation for forward delivery is 25$\frac{13}{16}$d.

Home Rails—A Recovery.

When rumours were rife of a further immediate advance in the Bank rate the "Bear" contingent in the Home Railway department naturally pricked up their ears and sold down stocks. I do not here refer to the gilt-edged descriptions, to which I have just devoted some attention, and in which sales by real holders were effected or attempted. I am dealing with the Ordinary and Deferred stocks of the active list, in which the ursine party have always taken a lively interest. Their argument, of course, is that with a Bank rate at 4 or possibly 5 per cent. securities yielding from 3 to 4 per cent. are no catch. Against this line of argument there has to be set the probability that the war will not be of long duration, and that as soon as the end is in sight the value of money will fall smartly. Again the leading Home Railways are doing exceedingly well, and while the comparison is somewhat complicated through the different dates on which the Easter holidays fell, the fact that for the first fifteen weeks of the present year a traffic increase of £557,000 is shown is certainly encouraging. To some extent the war will no doubt interfere with the shipment of goods to the United States, but this will, no doubt, be counterbalanced by the supplies of arms, ammunition, &c., which are being so heavily drawn from here. The most important point, however, is that there is absolutely no stock in the market here, and not only are real holders disinclined to sell, but investors have already commenced to pick up further small amounts on the decline. This, together with repurchases by "Bears," is causing a substantial recovery. Brighton "A" at one time receded to 173½, and have since rallied to 175. Dover "A" touched 105¾, and recovered to 107½. Great Eastern are quoted 119, after touching 118¼. The stocks of the Heavy division had dropped a couple of points, of which about half has been regained. South-Western Ordinary experienced the heaviest fall, having dropped to 217½, from which there was a rally to 219½, which compares with 222½ a week ago. Great Centrals have hardly moved, and the stocks of the underground lines, after a slight reaction, are improving, Metropolitan Districts being quoted 27⅜. In the Scotch section Caledonian Deferred Ordinary and North British Deferred receded at one time to 55 and 41¾ respectively, and have now risen again to 55¼ and 42¼. In the shares of the Central London Railway a moderate business has been passing in the fully-paid Ordinary at 10¼.

The Yankee Market—A Rally on the Actual Outbreak of War.

From the point of view of the Stock Markets, nothing is more depressing than a state of uncertainty, such as has prevailed during the last month, as to whether war would break out or not. In order to be able to face the worst, operators, large and small, no doubt, threw overboard big blocks of American Railroad stock, while again the "Bears" committed themselves to a considerable extent on the short side. All things considered, the Yankee market has stood the adverse influences remarkably well, and only on Thursday was a real slump in progress in Wall-street, during which the low prices were again touched which prevailed about a month ago, when on the rumours that Spain had declared war against the United States, Milwaukee dropped to 88¼, Louisville to 46¼. I said last week that at anything like these figures purchases to a moderate extent should be fairly safe, and on Friday morning my readers had an opportunity of buying Milwaukee at 86 and Louisville at 45¾, which they could have sold a day after at 88¼ and 48⅛ respectively. I should think that there will be a good many fluctuations in the near future, according to any incidents in the war operations, which may at one time or other favour this or that side. Any one who has a wish to go in for a little gamble should therefore buy on declines, viz., when the market is flat, and sell on recoveries, when the market is good. Milwaukee, Louisville, Union Pacific Ordinary and Prefs., are perhaps some of the most suitable securities to deal in, and care should be taken not to go into stocks for which there is very little market. The Louisville is expected to benefit very largely from the movement of the United States' troops to Florida, while the Milwaukee has got the strong Standard Oil group at its back. I dare say, however, that there will also be a considerable market in Norfolk Prefs., Northern Pacific Prefs., and Atchison Prefs. Whether there will be a good old-fashioned panic in the American department must, of course, depend upon the possibility of a United States defeat at sea, and any one speculating in American Rails must count the cost of this possibility. It may be as well to refer to some of the former panics which Wall-street has experienced, and concerning which the following extract from the *New York Times* will be of interest:—

> It was in 1873 that Wall-street had the greatest money panic in its history. Conditions had been growing more and more unfavourable, and the nervousness of the Stock Market steadily increased. Although high rates for money obtained early in 1873, it was not until April that their influence was severely felt. In this month as high as ¾ of 1 per cent. per day was paid for call loans, and thereupon began a decline in Stock Market values which continued all summer and culminated in the great panic of September, when many houses were forced to suspend. The extent of the decline in stock prices has been given heretofore, but they are important enough to bear repetition. St. Paul declined from 62¼ to 21½, Rock Island from 117⅝ to 80½, Northwest from 85 to 31½, Erie from 69¼ to 35⅝, Lake Shore from 97¾ to 57¼, Lackawanna from 106 to 79½, Union Pacific from 39½ to 14¾, and Western Union from 94½ to 43¼.

So far, the falls from the highest points touched this year do not exceed $16. The next great scare was the Baring panic in November, 1880, when Burlington and Quincy fell from 108⅝ to 80, Milwaukee from 78¾ to 44, and Rock Island from 98⅝ to 61½. A year of panic was also 1893, when a financial crisis was rampant in the United States, and more recently we have had the Venezuela panic. With the lessons of former violent scares in New York in our minds, it will, undoubtedly, be wise not to operate too largely, and to go for short turns until the upshot of the

war can be pretty well foreseen. A period will doubtless arrive when peace rumours will commence to influence the markets, and then we may look for jumps in quotations; but until the Spanish and American fleets have measured their strength, it would be dangerous to come to conclusions. Some day "Bull" points will be cropping up in all directions, and one of these will doubtless be the excellent outlook for the winter wheat which is reported from the States. I suppose that the Baltimore and Ohio reorganisation will be delayed by the outbreak of hostilities, but this will, no doubt, be undertaken sooner or later, and the following extract from the *Wall-street Daily Financial News* gives an account of the present position of the matter:—

> The Bill which recently passed the Maryland Legislature, and which has just been signed by Governor Lawndes, was the creation of Mr. Cowen, President of the road and one of the receivers, and Mr. Bacon, of the firm of P. J. Morgan & Co., and is entirely in the Morgan interest in reorganisation. The efforts in Baltimore to get an association of the bankers there to place the bonds for a reorganisation, under Maryland auspices, were futile, and were met, on the Morgan side, by placing various bankers and bank Directors of Baltimore on the Committee in order to give the Bill a Baltimore look. Mr. Morgan has carried every point he wished to make, and this is the beginning of a reorganisation of the soft coal roads and the bringing of the hard and soft coal roads and interests of the country into harmonious interest. Mr. Morgan regarded the Baltimore and Ohio as the key to the entire coal situation, and for this reason great care was taken to so form the Bill as to promote the most rapid and unobstructed progress in reorganising the Baltimore and Ohio, in order that its effect might be immediate, wide spread, and lasting on the values of Reading securities and other coal interests in which Mr. Morgan and his clients in this country and Europe are so largely interested.

Canadian Pacifics have attracted a great deal of attention during the past week, and fluctuations have been very wild. At first a strong selling movement took place, which seemed to emanate from Berlin, and has since been ascertained to have originated in the forced closing of a large account. The lowest price touched was 75, from which a very sharp recovery has occurred to 78¾. Even at this level this stock is exceedingly cheap. Not only are earnings still on a large scale, but it is absolutely certain that this road will obtain a very large accession of traffic both in passengers and goods, from the fact that steamers formerly calling at United States Atlantic ports will be diverted to those of Canada, and it is stated that the Canadian Pacific has facilities for handling four times the traffic at Montreal that it is at present carrying. Canadian Pacifics are, therefore, at the present quotation, a very promising, progressive investment, in which the danger to United States railroad stocks of an American defeat is absent. Grand Trunks have been supported by the same circumstance, but in this instance there has not been such a heavy relapse as in Canadian Pacifics. Those who are acting as sponsors of the speculation in Grand Trunks are predicting very much higher values for these stocks than those at present ruling of 72 for the Guaranteed and 65¾ for the First Prefs.

Foreigners and South Americans.

The outbreak of war at one time caused a complete collapse on the Paris Bourse, the further heavy decline in Spanish, which took place during the week, and amounted to no less than 10 points, bringing about a scare in the French capital. A week ago Spanish stood at 40½, and during the last few days they touched 30½. This very sharp fall exercised a most depressing effect upon other interbourse securities, De Beers, South African gold shares, Rio Tinto, and other favourites being thrown overboard wholesale. At last the turning-point was reached, and under the influence of big purchases by leading Paris houses a general improvement set in, Spanish being now up again at 34⅛. Italians are also firmer. The chief weakness is now in Portuguese, the fall in the exchange at Lisbon being given as a reason, and this is doubtless due to the war trouble in the neighbouring kingdom. I used to say that whoever bought Spanish at 60 to hold was sleeping on a volcano, and the recent relapse to half the value of Spanish Fours has certainly borne out my repeated warnings. Spain will now have an excuse for at least partial default. Yet at 30 Spanish are a dangerous "Bear," as they must certainly be considered superior to Greeks. The South American department market has also been affected by the outbreak of war and fears of dear money. This has brought about a good deal of liquidation in Argentine Government and Railway stocks, and the position is no doubt sounder after the shake-out, although it will be unwise to buy too heavily of these stocks until the outlook is clearer. The Argentine Funding Loan now stands at 84½, the 1886 Loan at 86¾. Amongst the railway issues Buenos Ayres Great Southern are quoted 139 x.d., Buenos Ayres and Rosario 68 x d., Central Argentine 76½, Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debenture stock 43. An internal loan is at present being issued in Argentina, and if that should prove successful, the position will be considerably improved. It appears, however, that the participation of the various London banks dealing with South America is invited. The "Bears" did their best to depress Mexican Sixes at one time by spreading rumours that trouble between Mexico and the States was probable. But it appears that President Diaz is absolutely opposed to any such foolish action, and, after dropping to 90, the old Mexican Six per Cent. loan has recovered to 93. Uruguay bonds have been fairly steady, the Old Loan at 44¾, the New Loan at 54. Great weakness has again been shown by Brazilians, on a further drop in the exchange, the 1889 loan now having declined to 42½. Peruvian Corporation stocks, after giving way, are bracing up again.

The Kaffir Circus—A Scare and a Recovery.

During the past week the Kaffir Circus has felt the full weight of the war scare, a fresh blow having been given to quotations by a semi-panic on the Paris Bourse. It is not at the first blush quite intelligible why South African mines, producing increasing quantities of gold, and yielding at the present level of prices of the shares large returns, should be affected by the outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Spain. Yet all the Paris favourites were thrown overboard last week, with the result of heavy declines. French operators in Spanish, De Beers, Rio Tinto, &c., seeing values fall lower and lower, were obliged to sell other stocks to provide for their losses. In the case of De Beers the false rumour was circulated that the syndicate, which has contracted for the 1898 output of diamonds, would, by the war between the United States and Spain, be relieved of its contract. The old tale of "give a lie a start" is applicable to the continued set-back which occurred in De Beers to 23½, and it was only after the report had been contradicted, and the Paris Bourse had pulled itself together again, that the quotation rallied to 24$\frac{15}{16}$. Rio Tinto, were also sold down on the tale that an export duty would be put on copper by Spain, and a heavy fall was thus occasioned. Now, however, with the rise in Spanish and in De Beers comes also an advance in Rio Tinto Deferred to 26$\frac{5}{16}$, and unless any very adverse circumstance should happen, there is every prospect of a further rally not only in these shares but also in South African mining and finance shares, which have been so heavily attacked by ursine operators, while at the same time suffering by realisations for Paris account. Prices were more particularly depressed in the case of the speculative stocks, such as Rand Mines, which fell at one time to 25⅛, in East Rands, which touched 3⅝, and in Consolidated Goldfields, which were down to 3$\frac{9}{16}$. But the relapse extended to the whole list. To show how important the decline was which took place at one time, I have drawn up a table of the highest prices touched in 1897, the panic

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figures reached last week, and the present quotations, which show already a material recovery :—

—	Price a Year Ago.	Highest Price in 1897.	Price April 21 and 22	Present Price.
	£	£	£	£
Angelo	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$5\frac{11}{16}$	$4\frac{5}{8}$	$4\frac{11}{16}$
Bonanza	$3\frac{9}{16}$	$4\frac{9}{16}$	$3\frac{11}{16}$	$3\frac{13}{16}$
Buffelsdoorn	1	2	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{5}{8}$
Barnato Consols	$1\frac{1}{8}$	$2\frac{5}{8}$	$1\frac{5}{8}$	$1\frac{5}{8}$
City and Suburban (£4)	$3\frac{9}{16}$	$6\frac{5}{16}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Cons, Deep Level	$3\frac{1}{8}$	6	$3\frac{1}{8}$	$3\frac{1}{8}$
Cons. Goldfields Det.	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$9\frac{11}{16}$	$3\frac{9}{16}$	$3\frac{13}{16}$
Crown Deep	$9\frac{1}{2}$	$14\frac{3}{4}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$
Crown Reef	$10\frac{3}{8}$	$12\frac{1}{4}$	12	12
Durban-Roodepoort	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{3}{4}$	$5\frac{7}{8}$
East Rand	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$5\frac{9}{16}$	$3\frac{5}{8}$	$3\frac{11}{16}$
Ferreira	$16\frac{1}{2}$	$24\frac{1}{4}$	22	$22\frac{3}{4}$
Geldenhuis Deep	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$7\frac{1}{8}$	$6\frac{3}{8}$	$6\frac{5}{8}$
Do. Estate	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{7}{8}$	5	$5\frac{1}{16}$
Glencairn	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$2\frac{5}{16}$	$1\frac{13}{16}$	$1\frac{13}{16}$
Goldfields Deep	$5\frac{1}{4}$	$10\frac{3}{8}$	$7\frac{5}{8}$	$7\frac{5}{8}$
Henry Nourse	$5\frac{9}{16}$	$9\frac{3}{4}$	$8\frac{1}{4}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Heriot	$7\frac{1}{16}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{3}{8}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Joh. Con. Invest.	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{5}{8}$	$1\frac{7}{16}$	$1\frac{7}{16}$
Joh. Pioneer	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{4}$	$9\frac{1}{2}$	$9\frac{1}{2}$
Jubilee	6	$8\frac{1}{4}$	$7\frac{5}{8}$	$7\frac{5}{8}$
Jumper's	3	6	$4\frac{5}{8}$	$4\frac{3}{4}$
Knight's	$2\frac{13}{16}$	$5\frac{13}{16}$	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{7}{8}$
Langlaagte Estate	$3\frac{3}{4}$	$4\frac{3}{4}$	3	$2\frac{7}{8}$
May Consolidated	$1\frac{11}{16}$	$2\frac{9}{8}$	$2\frac{5}{16}$	$2\frac{3}{8}$
Meyer and Charlton	$4\frac{3}{8}$	$6\frac{1}{8}$	4	4
Modderfontein (£4)	$1\frac{7}{8}$	$5\frac{1}{16}$	$3\frac{3}{8}$	$3\frac{5}{8}$
Nigel	$1\frac{9}{16}$	$3\frac{1}{16}$	$1\frac{7}{16}$	$1\frac{7}{16}$
Primrose (New)	$3\frac{1}{8}$	$4\frac{7}{8}$	$3\frac{3}{8}$	$3\frac{3}{8}$
Princess Estate	$2\frac{1}{8}$	$2\frac{13}{16}$	$1\frac{11}{16}$	$1\frac{11}{16}$
Rand Mines	18	$34\frac{7}{8}$	25	$26\frac{1}{4}$
Robinson (£5)	$7\frac{1}{4}$	$8\frac{3}{4}$	$7\frac{3}{8}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Roodepoort United	3	$5\frac{1}{8}$	$3\frac{5}{8}$	$3\frac{5}{8}$
Simmer and Jack (£5)	$2\frac{3}{4}$	5	$2\frac{11}{16}$	$2\frac{5}{8}$
Treasury	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$3\frac{3}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{16}$	$3\frac{1}{16}$
Village Main Reef	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$6\frac{3}{8}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$
Wemmer	$6\frac{1}{4}$	$6\frac{7}{8}$	$8\frac{5}{8}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Wolhuter	$3\frac{7}{8}$	$6\frac{13}{16}$	$5\frac{3}{8}$	$5\frac{3}{8}$

According to all accounts received from the mines the position in the Witwatersrand district is satisfactory, and, unless money should get dearer, the improvement in quotations here will doubtless make further progress. The mail reports with regard to the Rand Mines meeting are now to hand, and are in every respect encouraging. The news with reference to the East Rand and its subsidiary undertakings is also of a favourable character, and the Transvaal Goldfields has declared a dividend of 5 per cent. for the year. The various Deep Level properties are doing well, and the fall in prices which occurred last week is being recovered again. Under ordinary circumstances the enthusiastic meeting of the Chartered shareholders last Thursday would probably have had a favourable effect upon quotations of Kaffir shares, but it came precisely on the day when the panic in Paris was at its worst, and thus its bearing upon the general market was infinitesimal, although the latter also braced up next day. Rarely has such a crowd been attracted to the Cannon-street Terminus Hotel, and those present were apparently well satisfied with what Mr. Rhodes had to tell them. Personally I do not share his views as regards the agricultural value of Rhodesia, but think rather that the future of the country will depend upon the prospect of gold being won on a remunerative scale. A few months will decide this question, as the Geelong and several other mines will then be crushing. In the meantime I have no doubt that the shareholders will take up the further 250,000 shares now offered to them, as the price is being "pegged" at $2\frac{3}{8}$—$\frac{7}{16}$, so as to secure to them, at least for the time being, a tempting profit on the issue price of 2. In view of the present depression in De Beers it would almost, on the face of it, appear to show an excess of courage on the part of the directors of the New Bultfontein Company to invite subscriptions for an issue of £50,000 Six per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures at par, repayable at 103 by September 1, 1905. But the issue is undoubtedly well secured, and has besides the advantage of being convertible, as to one moiety, into Ordinary shares at the rate of £1 5s. per share, thus giving the Debenture holders the chance of benefiting by an advance in the shares, which have been at a very much higher quotation, and will doubtless again improve, as the position of the Company is shown to be excellent.

Golden West Australia.—A Severe Spasm.

One of the severest and most dangerous spasms that has ever visited the West Australian department occurred last week, when somewhat unexpectedly the South African market gave way to a panic, and a strong "Bear" raid was executed upon "Kangaroos." Various rumours had for some time been current, which were calculated to prevent investors from making purchases in this section, the downward tendency of the Market Trust group having given rise to all kinds of tales. It is satisfactory to learn that an arrangement has been come to which will obviate all difficulties, and the strong combination which appears to have been formed is already forcing prices up again, Northern Territories leading the recovery. Another damaging report was that concerning the Great Boulder Proprietary, to which I have already referred last week. I then stated that the rumours which were given out were false, but it apparently required further intelligence to break the power of the "Bear" attack which was made. This has now been furnished by the following cablegram of the manager, which in view of the importance of the matter, I herewith reproduce in full :—

Assays from borings in face of drift west cross-cut main shaft 400 ft. level 1 ft. sections, assay value per ton, 4 dwt., 3 oz. 2 dwt., 12 dwt., 10 oz. 7 dwt., 4 oz. Have driven a cross-cut to the lode under the slide in the bottom of winze 300 ft. level; assays 1 ft. sections assay value per ton, 3 oz. 15 dwt., 1 oz. 9 dwt, 9 dwt., 12 dwt., 55 oz., 9 oz. 3 dwt. Further information by cable later. Have driven a cross-cut to the lode to the west of 300 ft. level 100 ft. to the north or Edwards Shaft; the width of the lode is 1 ft. 6 in.; assay value, 2 oz. 5 dwt. Doolette Shaft cross-cut to the west 200 ft. level; the width of the lode is 4 ft.; assay value per ton, 14 dwt. Have driven upon the vein a distance of 10 ft.; ore in the drift has an average assay of 1 oz. 2 dwt." Office note: "The assays above given average at the 300 ft. level 11 oz. 14 dwt. and at the 400 ft. level 3 oz. 13 dwt."

The Great Boulder was the first mine which made the reputation of the West Australian goldfields, and it would indeed be a misfortune for the Colony if the rich ore were to give out. Fortunately, the above cablegram shows conclusively that such is not the case, while further confirmatory cablegrams have come to hand since. Another satisfactory fortnightly crushing is also announced. The price of the new shares dropped at one time to 17s., from which there was a rally to 18s. 6d., and it is within my knowledge that those most intimately connected with the mine have bought the shares very heavily, thus showing their confidence in the position. The "Bear" attack was, however, not confined to the Great Boulder, but all the high-class shares were raided with equal zest. Lake View Consols dropped at one time to $7\frac{1}{2}$, Ivanhoe to $4\frac{1}{4}$, Hannan's Brownhill to $6\frac{1}{2}$. From these figures there has been a very important recovery, Lake View Consols being again up at $8\frac{3}{16}$, Ivanhoe at $4\frac{7}{8}$, and Hannan's Brownhill at $7\frac{1}{16}$. Absolutely nothing has occurred to justify the slightest fall in these high-class shares, and investors who can afford to buy them now have an excellent opportunity of reaping handsome profits. An effort was also made to put down London and Globe Finance shares, but these promptly rallied to $1\frac{7}{16}$, and now that the scare has passed off, we shall probably see a more active business than for some time past. The following is a list of the crushings announced during the week :—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per ton.
Ivanhoe	993	1,500	13 dwt.
North Boulder	447	401	—
Yalgoo Proprietary	23	24	—
Golden Arrow	25	50	7 dwt.
Lake View South	1,300	321	—
Stray Shot and Excelsior	23	34	—
W.A. Gold Concessions—Meteor	90	81	—
Central Wealth Consolidated	14 lb.	54	—
,, ,, ,, (Dolhed)	—	65	—
Princess Royal (Cue)	295	232	—
Great Boulder Proprietary	1,465	3,319	—
Consolidated Murchison	278	286	—
Meteor (Black Flag)	90	81	—

The Ivanhoe crushing is satisfactory, and the Golden Arrow

return suggests an improvement in the mine. From the Sons of Gwalia some favourable news is to hand by a *British Australasian* cablegram, according to which the south drive at the 200-ft. level is now in 44 ft. The ore has been taken out for a width of 6 ft. along the entire distance, and averages 4 oz. of free gold to the ton. Fire assays give a return of 11 oz. The winze is down 70 ft. below the 100-ft. level. The ore right across the winze shows a width of 5 ft., worth 4 oz. of free gold to the ton. The Hannan's Brownhill mill is obtaining a splendid extraction equal to nearly 90 per cent. In the Great Boulder Main Reef the western lode is opening up splendidly at the 170 and 270 ft. levels, the telluride being very rich. The battery and cyanide plant are running well. The April yield will be a record one One of the most unjustifiable movements was a temporary decline in Lady Shenton shares, apparently owing to a small "Bear" raid, and on sales by some necessitous holders who were compelled to sell in order to provide money for paying differences on other shares. The fall was, however, promptly recovered, the quotation rebounding to 2⅛. It is hardly necessary to state that the news from the mine continues excellent, and while 20 per cent. was paid in dividends last year, the returns on the present scale foreshadow dividends of from 30 to 40 per cent. for 1898, and arrangements are in progress which are likely to cause a sharp rise in the shares. Two adjoining mines are the Florence (into which the Lady Shenton lode dips, and the shares of which are well worth picking up at ⅝) and the Queensland Gold Mining Company. The latter is a Colonial-owned Company, and the shares are not held to any extent on this side. It may, however, be interesting to state on the authority of the London agents, Messrs. R. Clayton & Co., that the crushings to the end of June, 1898, were 4,309 tons of ore for 17,203 ounces of gold, an average of 33 19.8 dwt. per ton. In February, 1898, 237 tons returned 957 oz., an average of 4.4 oz., while in March, 1898, 190 tons were crushed for 953 oz., an average of 5.2 oz. Up to January, 1898, dividends of 80 per cent. were paid, and distributions of 10 per cent. each were paid in January and April, 1898, so that up-to-date dividends to the amount of 100 per cent. have been paid. There is, in addition, a large sum retained in hand for the purpose of completing the sinking of the main shaft, which was commenced on February 2, 1898. I mention these particulars as showing how very rich this portion of the Menzies district is. A sharp decline has taken place in Golden Horseshoes, which has been but partly recovered at 6¼. West Australian Goldfields have been flat at 1⅜, and Hampton Plains have also given way, although hardening slightly at the last to $\frac{11}{16}$. The circular dated the 28th inst. concerning latest developments on the various blocks of this property are considered very favourable. By the way, a very useful booklet of travels through the goldfields of Western Australia and New Zealand, entitled "Wealth and Wild Cats," by Raymond Radclyffe, is published by Downey & Co., Limited, 12, York-street, Covent Garden, W.C. Some very interesting data may be gathered from this little volume of travels.

Indian, Australasian, and British Columbian Mines.

While all the departments of the Mining Market are in a state of depression, it is not likely that any of the outside sections would show strength. Thus, Indian gold mines have been neglected. Ooregum Ordinary and Prefs. are lower, and there have been declines in Mysore Gold, Nundydroog, Mysore Reefs, Balaghat, and Goldfields of Mysore. Amongst Australian mines, other than West Australian, Mount Lyells have again been the weak point on fears that the late Mr. Crotty's shares may come on the market. A further fall has therefore taken place in Mount Lyell to 11¼ x.d., Mount Lyell North to 2¼, Mount Lyell South to ½. From these points Mount Lyells rallied to 12¼, Mount Lyell North to $2\frac{9}{16}$, Mount Lyell South to $\frac{9}{16}$. Mount Morgan have also been dull at $4\frac{1}{16}$ x.d. New Zealand Mines, too, have displayed weakness, Waitekauri, Waihi, and Woodstock all being lower. There is just one little piece of news of an encouraging character, viz., a cablegram has been received from the joint manager of the Australian Gold Trust and New Zealand Pioneers, according to which on Block 3 of the Taitapu Gold Estate, 20 tons of ore crushed from the No. 1 level yielded 65 oz. of gold. In the general foreign section, Frontino and St. John del Rey are lower. Copper shares have been adversely affected by the collapse of Rio Tinto on the Paris Bourse, but with the recovery in these they are picking up again. In British Columbian mines a few moderate declines are shown, but there has been a rally at the last, and I should also think that British America Corporation would improve. It is understood that the special settlement will be granted for the end of May. A reader of Truth in Victoria, B.C., sends me copies of the *Victoria Daily Colonist*, in one of which the Lake Bennett and Klondike Steam Navigation Company, Limited (to which I referred in Truth of March 10 in adverse terms), is subjected to some chaffing comment. Among the London Directors were the Earl of Dunmore, Messrs. R. Byron Johnson, Henry McDowell, Arthur J. Sanderson, and The O'Clery, and the local Advisory Board was stated to comprise the Hon. David W. Higgins and Mr. J. W. Powell. In the following issue of the *Victoria Daily Colonist*, however, Mr. Higgins, who is the Speaker of the B.C. Legislative Assembly, makes the announcement that the use of his name on the prospectus of the Lake Bennett and Klondike Navigation Company, Limited, was entirely unauthorised by him, and that he never heard of the Company until he read the prospectus in a London paper. Mr. Higgins added that the statements in the prospectus were glaringly false. I am not at all sure that the Company has floated, but in any case it seems to me that the London Directors above-mentioned should render an explanation of these extraordinary allegations.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Tasmanian Tin Dredging Company, Limited.—This Company is formed with a capital of £50,000, divided into 15,000 10 per cent. cumulative preference shares and 35,000 ordinary shares of £1 each for the purpose of developing and working six Crown dredging leases, of about three miles in extent, of the bed and channel of the Ringarooma River, Tasmania. Ten thousand preference shares are reserved for working capital, and have been subscribed and allotted.

The New Bultfontein Mining Company, Limited.—This is an issue of £50,000 Six per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures in bonds of £50 each, secured on the landed property, buildings, plant, &c., of the Company. The debentures are issued at par, and repayable at £103 by five annual drawings of £10,000 each, commencing in 1901. The Company was incorporated in 1895 to work fifty-eight claims in the Bultfontein Diamond Mines, and by subsequent amalgamation with other mines the area was increased to 148 claims. The property is well equipped with machinery, and is now in work.

The security for these debentures appears to be ample, and, moreover, the holders have the option for two years of converting a moiety of their holding into Ordinary shares at the rate of £1 5s. per share.

Brooks & Doxey, Limited.—With a share capital of £200,000 and an issue of £100,000 Debenture stock, this Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring and working the business of textile machinists, carried on by Messrs. Brooks & Doxey, at West Gorton and Miles Platting, Manchester.

The United Excelsior Mines, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire 900 gold claims in Mashonaland, British South Africa. The capital is fixed at £250,000 in £1 shares.

It is stated that the requisite capital has been privately subscribed. This is lucky for the promoters, as in the present uncertain state of affairs in South Africa there would not be much chance of their getting it from the public.

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

Operating across the Border.

It is interesting to note that London outside brokers are now extending their operations across the Border. A correspondent sends me some advertisements which recently appeared in the columns of the *North British Advertiser*, of Edinburgh, one of which refers to the London Equitable Exchange, stock and share brokers and dealers and investment advisers, 18, Eldon-street, London, E.C. They advertise their "investment, cover, deposit, three-monthly, and special operations," which they maintain is "the only safe way of making profits on the London Stock Exchange." It is hardly necessary to impress upon my canny Scot friends that this is not the only safe way of making profits; but, on the contrary, a certain way of losing one's money, and under the circumstances I must consider the address of this concern, "Elopement, London," as very significant. Another advertisement in the *North British Advertiser* emanates from the Prudential Bank of London, capital £150,000, which offers advances on bills of exchange, promissory notes, and other securities. It also invites cash deposits at rates of interest varying from 6 to 10 per cent. per annum. It is, perhaps, needless to remind my readers across the Border that the Prudential Bank of London, the offices of which are stated to be at Finsbury-circus Buildings, London, E.C., does not rank with the leading London banking institutions, and that deposits with it are therefore not quite so safe as money deposited, say, with the London and Westminster or Union Banks.

The Foreign Lottery Nuisance.

I have been asked by numerous readers of Truth to comment upon the German lottery nuisance. Some of my correspondents are receiving these missives two or three times a week, and they maintain that they quite spoil their breakfasts. These are mostly circulars from touts offering tickets in the great money lottery held under the guarantee of the Government of Hamburg; but there are also amongst others Brunswick and Vienna lotteries. The Hamburg touts have, however, been the most active of late. Now, I do not wish to imply that the Hamburg lottery is not carried on in a *bonâ fide* manner, but the great objection is that these tickets are taken through shady touts, whose chief endeavour is to get all the money they can from the foreigner, and to stick to the prizes whenever possible, for which they have an excellent opportunity, as the drawings are spread over a certain period. Add to this the fact that lotteries are illegal in this country, and it will be readily seen that the Englishman who gambles in them stands very little chance of getting a prize, and if he did draw one he would be unable to recover it according to British law. One of my correspondents specially mentions that several friends of his held winning numbers, but received no prizes, being put off with the excuse that some one else had already produced those numbers. I certainly advise my readers to give these touts, who are trading on the gambling propensities of the Britisher, a wide berth.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

J. R. X.—I certainly think that if Spanish go to the price you name they would be a fair purchase. That is really the quotation to which Greeks dropped, and Spanish on their merits are better than Greeks any day. *F. E. S.*—There is every prospect of the United States coming off victorious, and I should think that it would be advisable not to sell now. *S. E. C.*—1. Uruguay Bonds should be held. 2. No reason to sell Argentine Railway stocks now. You might rather consider the question of making an investment at the present level. *R. P.*—Hold Mexican Sixes, and disregard the talk about Mexico joining in the Spanish-American war.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Hill-street.—You must tell me what kind of investment you require. *Novice, Maidstone.*—As a matter of principle I do not supply information about stockbrokers. *Emma.*—1. No; Government annuities are bought through the Post Office. 2. No. 3. I do not think there will be such a limit. 4. London and Liverpool and Globe, Northern Insurance, Sun Life, Scottish Widows' Fund, and Provident Life Office. *Paolo.*—Banking shares of this kind are promising, as the higher rates of interest current will increase profits. *Rosario.*—No reason to sell Bank of England stocks. The Central Institution is doing well, and is now following a progressive policy. *Unfortunate Shareholder.*—I have repeatedly commented upon the disgraceful working of the National Bank of Wales. Unfortunately, there is no limit to the time in which the liquidator must complete the winding-up. As you say, three of the directors were a short time ago sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. If two of these were, as you state, permitted to retire some time ago from the Third Battalion of the Welsh Regiment retaining their rank, I should think that their subsequent conviction would nullify this.

Home Rails.

T. W. L.—1. This is a bad time for selling railway stocks such as Taff Vale, and I think it would be better to hold. 2. As a reorganisation of the Baltimore and Ohio is to be carried out shortly, my advice is to hold. *Flora.*—Hold your Dover "A" and Coras, and rather add to them than otherwise. *Rampollo.*—Great Central 1894 Ordinary should be picked up as a promising "lock-up," also Metropolitan Districts.

American and Foreign Rails.

Santa Fe.—There is nothing new in this matter. *A Widow.*—It is impossible to obtain any reliable information as to whether Brazil will maintain her payments, and you must really take your own course. I never advised purchase of this Brazilian Railway stock. *G.W.*—No reason to sell Mexican Central Gold Bonds now. *Jumbo.*—Nothing about the terms of the assessment is settled yet. *Bushmills.*—Yes, the bonds Nos. 1 and 2 are gilt-edged and promising. 3. Both can be bought on the London Stock Exchange. Nos. 4 and 9 are good second-class. *P.O.*—Yes, Canadian Pacifics are a most promising investment, and any protraction of the Spanish-American War would bring them large traffic additions. *Alfonso.*—If you want to speculate in American Rails go for short turns, buy when the market is flat, and sell when it is strong. Always select shares for which there is a large market, such as Milwaukee, Louisville, Union Pacifics, &c.

Mining Shares.

Xmas.—It is quite true that this is a most disappointing property, and I must really leave you to take your own decision in the matter. *Anxious, Bilston.*—No option but to hold until the Mining market returns to its normal condition. *Loch Creran.*—1. Not just now. 2. Yes. 3. Londonderry are preferable. *A. W., Chelsea.*—It is quite correct. Two crushing returns came to hand during the same week, the first being for the whole of March, the second for a portion of April. *Florence.*—The returns of this Australian Mine are somewhat uncertain, but if you are a holder you should keep the shares. *A. F.*—Do not allow yourself to be frightened by "Bear" raids, and buy as many as you can afford to take up of Ivanhoe, Lady Shenton, and Florence. This is the investor's opportunity. *A. McR.*—I do not see how I can help you. The mines in question (in Rhodesia) have now been floated into Companies here, and your friend should employ some agent in Bulawayo to make inquiries. Perhaps if he wrote to the Secretary of the British Chartered Company they would obtain some information for him. *G. C.*—I will try to obtain some information such as you desire. The melancholy death of the late Mr. Woolf Joel has, unfortunately, interrupted all these matters. *Sceptic*—You must be aware that I condemned the Sapphire and Ruby Company of Montana from its inception. Why do you not apply to the liquidator? Personally, I do not think that anything will come of it. *Spalding.*—Glen Deeps may be worth purchasing, but I should prefer Goldfields Deep to the others. *W. T., Bradford.*—I do not think much of the Mining shares Nos. 1-3, and think you could do much better in Randfontein, Glencairn, Lady Shenton, and Ivanhoe. *T. L., Cork.*—There is no market for either of these shares. *Slump.*—Certainly hold the shares Nos. 1-3; this is not the time to sell. *Anxious, Stockport.*—As soon as certain matters are settled a rise is expected. Hold. I will tell you when to buy more. *Nodrog.*—The present settlement will decide the matter about which you inquire. *Ivan.*—Certainly hold British America Corporation, and buy more to average if you can afford to do so. *Dunedin.*—1. A special settlement of the British America Corporation is expected by the end of May. You cannot obtain any earlier settlement. The Company is stated to be doing well. 2. I do not think well of this concern. *J. P.*—You must be aware that sharp "Bear" attacks have been made upon West Australian shares, including London Globe Finance, and the price has since risen considerably above that mentioned in your telegram. Hold for a rise. *C. S.*—After recent events I have not much confidence in this mine and the men connected with it, yet the reports seem all very favourable. I am doubtful as to what course you should pursue.

London and Paris Exchange, Ltd., 24, Throgmorton-street, London, E.C. This Corporation is prepared to make Advances on Mining Shares, at 6 per cent. per annum, subject to a deposit of 20 per cent. Clients by this system save the heavy contangoes usually charged.

Industrial Shares.

Exe.—The issue was very badly subscribed, and I do not advise a purchase. *Country Cousin.*—Paquin Ordinary are a fair purchase at present price, and there is no reason to sell Lyons now. *S. McW.*—I cannot reply by letter. While the shares in question are not a bad investment, it might be as well for you to clear your profit. *Madrasi.*—I have no information about this concern, and do not think favourably of it. *Caragh.*—No, I cannot advise you to sell these shares after the heavy fall. Better wait. *B. O. D.*—I cannot give you any reason of the continual delay in the payment on the Preference shares of Clement, Gladiator, and Humber (France) except the state of collapse of the cycle market. *Cyclist.*—1. Hold for a recovery. 2. I have always expressed an unfavourable opinion respecting Simpson's Lever Chains, and I expect no improvement. *A. C. P.*—1. No market in London. 2 Sell if you can. 3. No. *Mrs. M. A. L.*—I am sorry to say that I cannot help you much in this matter. Holland & Co., Limited, distillers, was formed in 1887, the authorised capital being £250,000, in shares of £10 each—£100,000 Seven per Cent. Cumulative Preferred, and £120,000 Ordinary, with power to issue debentures for £100,000. The vendor surrendered a considerable number of Ordinary and Preferred shares and debentures in 1889-91, but the undertaking has never been brought to a profit-earning basis. For four years only the debenture interest was paid, and it is reported that during recent years the bulk of the profits has been applied against bad debts. The management appears to be bad, and I regret to say that there is very little prospect for your Preferred shares, but you should certainly not agree to any such arrangement as has now been proposed to you.

Mixed Investments.

B. R., Todmorden.—I cannot recommend individual stockbrokers, and you had better act through your former channels. I do not think there is much money to be made by speculation in the various Industrials Nos. 1 to 5, and amongst the mines Nos. 7, 10, and 17 are the most promising. *City W.*—1. I certainly advise you to keep your Great Central Prefs. now. 2. No reason to sell these shares. 3. London and South-Western (a) are at present being subjected to forced realisations, and it would be better to wait until these have been concluded. I should prefer B just now. *Constant Reader, Eastbourne.*—Your investments are so widely distributed that they are not affected to any extent by the war. Hold Nos. 1-7 The Industrial shares No. 8 are high enough. No option but to hold No. 9. I do not hold a very high opinion of the shares Nos. 10 and 11, or of Nos 13-15. No reason to sell Nos. 16 and 17. *E.N.*—Yes, the Industrial shares No. 1 are worth holding. I do not consider No. 2 promising. Certainly hold the Chinese Loan (3). No reason to sell Hannan's Props. or Randfontein (4 and 5). Hold Woodstock Transvaal (6). No option but to keep No. 7. As regards the war its effect upon stocks like No. 8. is passing away. *Denbigh*—1. Why not take your handsome profit in these Industrial shares. 2. Amongst mines, I think that Rand Mines, East Rands, Randfontein, Lady Shenton, Ivanhoe, and London and Globe Finance would make up a good private Trust. *A Widow.*—Yes, there is a price for Rhymney Iron Ordinary shares, which are quoted 1⅜-1⅝. Yes, Canadian Pacifics, De Beers and Buenos Ayres Great Southern are worth buying.

A Chapter on Industrial Stocks.

The market for Industrial shares has not been exempt from the effects of the slump which came over the Stock Exchange on Thursday and Friday. In fact, at one time on Friday some of the leading Industrial shares were extremely difficult to sell, and buyers were altogether absent. Fears of dear money, on the war scare, of course, chiefly account for the weakness, but it has to be considered too that an excessive number of flotations have been made, in many cases with hugely inflated capitals, so that bad times take more effect upon this department than on others. A sharp spasm was experienced by Welsbach, amongst which the Ordinary stock at one time dropped considerably below par, although finally a rally took place to 107½, while the Preferred were quoted 96½, the Deferred 19s., after considerably lower prices had been current. Of course, the fact that the settlement had been fixed for as early as May 5 was a disagreeable revelation to the "Bull" speculators, and was, no doubt, in part responsible for the promiscuous selling. Hudson's Bay shares have been very weak of late, and a fresh drop to 19¼ has occurred. Oil shares have been fairly steady, Russian Petroleum at 23½ for the Ordinary and 10½ for the Preferred, while Schibaieff were dull at $\frac{1}{16}$ premium. The dividend on Schweppe Deferred at the rate of 2 per cent. only was considered very disappointing, and the Ordinary fell to 22s. 6d., the Preferred to 22s. 6d., the Deferred to 8s. Bovrils have been dull, the Ordinary at $\frac{15}{16}$, the Deferred at ⅝. Lyons have displayed weakness, and dropped below 4, notwithstanding the "Bull" points about the Crystal Palace restaurant and the Throgmorton-street premises. Apollinaris have been quite neglected, a set-back to 11½ taking place, while Pears Ordinary are quiet at 1½. Bryant & May have also been the turn easier at 19¾, and Coats have been sold very heavily from Glasgow, the Ordinary receding at one time to 52¾, from which there has been a recovery to 56. As to English Sewing Cotton (Threads) these have now fallen to ⅜ premium, while the premium on the Prefs. is quite nominal at 1s. The various Westralian timber shares have eased off, Millars to 3⅛, Davies to 1⅜. The prospectuses of the new Companies, of which there are three, dealing with West Australian timber, are being kept for better times, especially as the Millars Karri dividend, at the rate of 20 per cent, proved disappointing to the sanguine ones. Cycle shares have moved very irregularly, but a little more activity was displayed. Dunlops have further given way, the Ordinary to 13s.; the Deferred to 7s. 3d. The extraordinary slipping-away in the price of Dunlop Deferred is attracting a great deal of attention, and people are asking whether the insiders are clearing out. It seems to me quite time that those prominently connected with the Company should make a clear statement as to the reasons for this heavy decline, and the real position of the concern. Humbers have been stagnant at 12s. 3d. for the Ordinary, and 7s. for the Extensions. Cycle Components are unaltered at 1¼, while Swifts are firmer at 12s. Singers, however, are easier at 11s., and Amalgamated Tyres are down to 5s. Amongst Brewery shares Allsopp Ordinary have shown weakness at 145 xd, but amongst the substantial Preference and Ordinary brewery stocks, suitable for investment, there has been a fair business. Yardley Prefs. at 5 have been in some request, and the Ordinary stock has also been dealt in. Septimus Parsonage & Co.'s Ordinary shares are now quoted at a premium on the proceedings at the meeting of shareholders, at which Mr. Joseph Barker, J.P., the Chairman, announced a further dividend, making 8 per cent. for the year 1897, after placing £4,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £2,567. It is the directors' intention to issue at an early date the balance of the unallotted shares at a premium; and, with such capital, pay the vendors the amount still due to them on the purchase price, provide ample working capital for the Highland Eske Distillery now approaching completion—which will be one of the most modern and best-equipped distilleries in Scotland; and, with the balance, further develop the Company's business. This Company owns, amongst other monopolies, that of Theophile Roederer & Co.'s Champagne, and Max Greger & Co.'s Hungarian Wines. I have repeatedly advised my readers not to have anything to do with Norton & Co., Limited, who acquired, some eighteen months ago, a furniture and cabinet-manufacturer's business, with offices at 19, Corporation-street, Birmingham. Those who cleared out of the shares when I advised them to do so will be able to congratulate themselves, as the proceedings at the first annual meeting, held on Saturday, show that the position is by no means satisfactory. Amongst the minor points raised was the fact that the Company had had six successive secretaries. Mr. Thompson, one of the shareholders, maintained that, while in the prospectus they were led to expect a profit of £9,600, they found as a result of the first year's working a doubtful profit of between £3,000 and £4,000. In the end an advisory committee was appointed to examine and inquire into the affairs of the Company, and submit a report to the shareholders, which should be of considerable interest. With reference to a remark which I made about Fish Oil shares a correspondent, who is evidently a supporter of the concern, wishes to make it clear to me that through the reconstruction of the Company five of the present new shares, which stand at 6½ each, are equal to one old share. This, after all, still shows a considerable decline on the boom price of 37½, and, personally, I should be sorry to hold the new shares even at their present reduced level. A correspondent sends me some circulars which he has received from Mr. A. E. Ward, 30, Moorgate-street, E.C., in which this gentleman, as the promoter of a syndicate, invites subscriptions for the purpose of forming "a parent company for the acquirement and extension of the business of Messrs. R. A. Smith & Co., investment, insurance, and financial agents, established

1889, in Old Broad-street, London, E.C." I wonder where these conversions into Companies are going to end?—Your affectionate uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

THE CHAIRMAN OF CROWDIES'.

WHEN his numerous City acquaintances heard that Sir Jahnbock Crowdie, that most hard-headed of men, had fallen in love with—and was, in fact, engaged to—Miss Dorothy Rampion, they received the intelligence with smiles of amused wonder. Miss Rampion was not only thirty years Sir Jahnbock's junior, but she was the demure and extremely religious daughter of that well-known Nonconformist preacher, who holds forth every Sabbath-day at the Finsbury Tabernacle, and enunciates the most severe views on all moral and social questions of any preacher in London.

"Fancy a typical City man like Sir Jahnbock bestowing his affections in such a quarter" (such were the prevailing comments); "a fellow who's been wedded to money-making all his life, and never cared a twopenny damn for religion!"

"The girl is pretty, of course?" "Deuced pretty, but frightfully pious." "Don't you believe it; she's wickeder than she looks—all those little Quakeresses are!" "I thought at one time that Sir Jahnbock's young cousin, Tom, would have cut him out in that quarter." "Never had a chance; the girl is under the papa's thumb, and his reverence considered Tom much too frivolous." "Tom is a gay dog, to be sure; but he is by no means the mere dilettante man of pleasure that many people fancy him." "No?" "I can assure you that, behind his lounging and lazy exterior, he conceals as shrewd a business intelligence as any man in the City." "In amatorial shrewdness, at any rate, he is behind Sir Jahnbock." "How do you mean?" "Why, Sir J. has had the nous to pretend to the little Quakeress and her papa that he has been converted and experienced the New Birth. That is what has won him the day there," &c. Loud guffaws greeted this statement. To those who knew him in business, the mere notion of Sir Jahnbock's having experienced the new birth was too exquisitely absurd.

Sir Jahnbock Crowdie, as every one knows, was (and is still, for that matter) Chairman of Crowdies', Limited. Crowdies' is a private Company, with, perhaps, the largest wholesale leather and saddlery business in London. At the time of which we write they had not long gone Limited. The sole management, however, still remained in the same hands; two or three dummy shareholders being brought in, to comply with the requirements of the Act. In fact, the directors, four in number, held all the shares themselves, except three, and ran the new Company just as completely as they had done the old firm.

These four directors were Sir Jahnbock Crowdie, his brother, Peter Crowdie, his cousin, Tom Crowdie, and a gentleman named Perkins, who was very much under strong-minded Sir Jahnbock's influence, and always voted, at Board meetings, as the latter told him.

Now, wealthy as the Company was, and large as were the dividends which it brought in annually, it was somewhat grasping in its financial dealings, and was by no means in the habit of being liberal to those whom it employed to do its work. To its solicitors, Messrs. Cobling & Co., it had been particularly niggardly; so much so, that a squabble had arisen, which resulted in the said solicitors throwing up all Crowdies' work. Nor was that the end of it, for very bad blood, in private and personal relations, was at the same time excited between Sir Jahnbock and Mr. Cobling, the head of the solicitorial firm. This latter gentleman had a caustic tongue, and, when he was annoyed, made no bones about using it. He now uttered some particularly pungent remarks about Sir Jahnbock, which, coming to the ears of the Chairman of Crowdies', as they were meant to do, rankled in his bosom exceedingly. He affected to despise them, indeed; but he did not forget them, and he determined, if he ever had the opportunity, to make Mr. Cobling smart.

One morning, about this time, Tom Crowdie happened to stroll into Sir Jahnbock's office for a chat with his chief. Tom was a young fellow who was somewhat averse from desk-work, and generally allowed himself an easy or two in the course of the morning. Sir Jahnbock did not welcome him with much cordiality; for he did not relish having his time wasted by his frivolous co-director. But Tom was not easily put off, when he wanted to do a bit of gossiping; and he settled himself on the hearthrug, with his shoulders against the mantel-piece, and began to talk.

"I say, Jahnbock," he said, with a half-amused grin—it was one of Tom's failings that he could never take anything quite seriously—"I say, our friend Cobling has been indulging in some more spiteful remarks about us; about you, in particular."

"Has he?" snarled Sir Jahnbock, laying down his pen, and looking up. "What has he been saying now, Tom?"

"He has been exercising his facetious wit, I'm told, in throwing new lights on old phrases. He bet some feller at at the club that he'd give an exact definition of 'The Golden Mean,' in one word. When challenged, he answered, 'Crowdies'.' Confounded cheek—wasn't it?"

"If he doesn't look out, we'll make him repent it."

"And he went on to refer to the Chairman of Crowdies' as a niggardly nigger driver."

"Ha! I'll have a knock at him, yet."

"Do you know, Jahnbock," said Charles, beginning to chuckle, "I've thought of a way in which we might make Cobling sit up!"

"Have you? How?"

"Well, it's this way. It would only be for fun, of course. Just to give him a good fright and make him eat humble pie to us. I don't suggest that we should really go through with it. But last evening I happened, quite by chance, to be looking over our Memorandum and Articles."

"Yes?"

"And I noticed a rather remarkable omission."

"Indeed. What is that, pray?"

"Why, the usual clause authorising the Company to pay promotion expenses out of capital has not been inserted."

"Umph!. I had never observed that. But how can we use that as a handle against Cobling? Do you suggest that we should sue him for damages, on the ground that he has drawn our Articles imperfectly?"

"Oh, no! But, unless I am mistaken, he is liable to refund the Company something like three thou!"

"Pish, my dear fellow. How do you make that out?"

"Well, you see, Coblings' bill for promotion expenses was paid out of our capital. It amounted, as you are aware, to some three thousand odd. Now we had no right" (Tom chuckled) "to use the shareholders' money for that purpose. I believe we can, if we like, have the whole amount refunded."

"But how, Tom?"

"Well, suppose we get leave to tax the bill. Practically all of it would be bound to come off on taxation."

"Would it?"

"I do not see how it could be otherwise."

"But then," said Jahnbock, with a knowing shake of the head. "Even if it were disallowed as a payment out of capital, the money would still be due to Coblings'; and we should probably have to pay it out of our own pockets."

"I don't think so."

"Why not?"

"Because Coblings' bill is made out to the Company; and, in fact, all their transactions with us have been with us *quâ* Company, not *quâ* individuals. Of course, I might be wrong. But I don't think I am. At any rate, you can easily settle the point by taking legal advice."

"It seems inconceivable that smart City solicitors should have given themselves away so fatuously as you suggest."

"The smartest men are occasionally guilty of oversights," said Tom; "and it would be fun to give Cobling a good fright—wouldn't it?"

"Um," replied Sir Jahnbock, "that part of it would be all right enough—if it could be effected. You have raised an ingenious point, Tom; but I don't myself believe, for one moment, that it can be sustained. However," he added, "I shall be seeing Chatwells'" (naming the Company's new solicitors) "this afternoon. I'll ask them what they think about it."

"So do, Jahnbock, then. Ta-ta!"

And Tom lounged gracefully out of the chairman's office.

Next morning, on arriving late at business, as he usually did, Tom received a message from one of the clerks that Sir Jahnbock would like to see him. He repaired at once to the latter's office.

"Ha! Tom!" said the chairman, whose face wore an unusually excited expression, and who was evidently in his blandest humour, "I congratulate you, sir, upon your acute and profound knowledge of company law."

"Eh?" exclaimed Tom, grinning. "Chatwells' bore me out then—did they?"

"They did. I saw Chatwell himself. At first, he was rather taken aback by the point raised. Said he had never, in all his experience, come across a question of the kind before. Didn't see how we could make out a case. But on going into the matter and looking up the authorities, he changed his opinion altogether, and admitted that, if Coblings' bill were presented for taxation, the Master would be bound to disallow nearly the whole of it."

"Just so. And what did he say about our personal liability in the matter?"

"He advised me that, taking into account the manner in which the bill was drawn, we are under no personal liability to pay it; nor did he see that it could be charged against any other of the Company's funds."

"In fact, that if we chose to press the matter home, Coblings' would have to lose the money."

"Why do you say 'if'?" exclaimed Sir Jahnbock, with a keen, hasty glance at the younger man. "It would be absurd not to press the matter home, in my opinion."

"Eh!" cried Tom sharply, his expression undergoing a sudden change. "You don't mean that seriously, Jahnbock?"

"I do, though. Coblings' have been devilish nasty all along. We owe them no consideration. Why should we show them any?"

"But we do owe them the money."

"Bless us, my dear fellow, what a turneock—I mean weathercock—you are! You yourself were the first to suggest that we did not owe them the money, and Chatwells' have borne you out in your views. Now you veer round, and——"

"Rot!" interrupted Tom, with some warmth. "This isn't playing fair with me, Jahnbock. You know very well what my suggestion was—namely, that we should go just far enough to give Coblings' a good fright—for a lark, as I said—and make them eat humble pie; but I never proposed really to cheat them on purely technical grounds of money which they have fairly earned, and for which we are morally liable. It would be too beastly low."

Sir Jahnbock smiled.

"My dear Tom," he said, in a suave, withal bantering, tone, "it seems that you are disposed to introduce an altogether novel factor into City ethics. Legal liability we know, and limited liability we know; but moral liability!"

"I'm not more squeamish than other people," answered Tom. "But I like to play the game. And this isn't cricket, Jahnbock; not by any manner of means."

"Do you call it cricket," retorted Sir Jahnbock, sarcastically, "to suggest a bit of sharp practice to the captain of your side, for example, and then to blackguard him for proposing to act upon it?"

"I never suggested the sharp practice itself; I only suggested a pretence of it, to frighten the other side. You know that very well, Jahnbock!"

"My maxim is: 'When you get a chance to hit your enemy, hit him hard,'" said the other.

"Hard; yes! But above the belt," protested Tom.

"Hit him anywhere!" cried Sir Jahnbock, with a vindictive twinkle in his keen grey eyes.

* * * * *

The next board meeting of Crowdies' was a memorable one. Sir Jahnbock lost no time in raising the question of Coblings' account, about which he had already conferred with his brother and Perkins, and had assured himself of their support in the line he meant to take.

"It would seem to me, gentlemen," he said, with a queer side-way look at his cousin, "that having had this serious informality pointed out to us by our esteemed colleague, Thomas Crowdie, we, as responsible business men, have no option in the course to be pursued. The money has been improperly paid; and we must see that it is made good by those who committed the error."

"Most decidedly," said Peter Crowdie.

"Beyond a doubt," added the amenable Perkins.

"Gentlemen," protested Tom, with unwonted earnestness, "will you be good enough to let me say a few words? When I pointed out the informality in question to Sir Jahnbock, I never intended or supposed that it would result in this line of action being seriously adopted. My suggestion (as Sir Jahnbock is well aware) was that we should go just far enough to frighten Coblings' into apologising for their rude and hostile behaviour towards us. In fact, I wanted to play a sort of practical joke upon them. But any proposal to press the matter against them, and to make them refund money which virtually, if not technically, belongs to them, and for which they have given a full equivalent in work and disbursements, I shall most strenuously oppose."

The chairman, confident of his majority, smiled a superior, and rather irritating, smile at Tom.

"The matter is in your hands, gentlemen," he said, with a shrug of his shoulders. "You will, of course, decide as you think best. I, for my part, am bound to say that my cousin Thomas's proposal to go only far enough with the matter to frighten Coblings'—a sort of practical joke, as he put it—seems to me both puerile and fatuous. Puerile, because it is unworthy of intelligent business men; fatuous, because we should thereby bar ourselves from any future remedy. Supposing, for instance, any of the shares now held by us were to pass, either by death or sale, into other hands. It would be competent for the new shareholder to insist on the deficiency in our capital being made up, and we should then have to do it out of our own pockets. For, having once commenced proceedings against Coblings' and dropped them, it would be practically impossible ever to proceed against them in the same matter again."

"Quite so," assented Peter Crowdie.

"Hear, hear!" cried Perkins, drumming a fat fist on the table.

"Well, gentlemen," pursued Sir Jahnbock, "I do not think that anything is to be gained by further discussion. The resolution before the Board is: That the Company's solicitors be instructed to take the necessary steps to tax Messrs. Coblings' account—improperly paid out of the Company's capital—without delay. Those in favour?" (Peter Crowdie and Perkins each held up a hand). "Will you withdraw your opposition, Cousin Thomas?" asked the Chairman, banteringly.

"No, I will not!" cried out the young man, hotly. "I protest against the action of the Board; I assert that it is a piece of flagrant dishonesty. And I insist" (turning to the secretary) "that my protest be recorded on the minutes."

"As you please," said Sir Jahnbock. "But it will do no earthly good, you know."

"Not a ha'porth," added Peter.

"It will show that I refuse to identify myself with a disgraceful swindle," exclaimed Tom, who was clearly in a great state of wrath and indignation. "And I wish to Heaven I'd never been fool enough to point out this flaw to you at all."

"It is too late to wish that now," replied Sir Jahnboch, smiling maliciously at his fiery young cousin. "Gentlemen, the resolution is carried, with one dissentient."

No time was lost in putting the Board's resolution into effect; and the result of their proceedings against their

late solicitors was all that even the vindictive Sir Jahnbock himself could desire. The taxing-master, before whom the matter came, found himself obliged—though with obvious reluctance—to sustain Crowdies' objection, and to disallow nearly the whole account. In fact, out of a total of £3,400, only £250 was allowed to stand. Cobling was in a state of positive frenzy, as well he might be. Sir Jahnbock enjoyed his malicious triumph to the utmost. But it was short-lived, after all. For at the same Board meeting at which the complete discomfiture of Coblings' was announced, a further announcement was made, which, so to speak, took all the taste out of the other.

Tom Crowdie made it.

"Gentlemen," he said, quietly addressing the Board at large, though his eyes were fixed on the chairman, "you may as well know that Coblings' have lost nothing by these scandalous proceedings. I feel that, in a sense, I am responsible; and I am standing the damage. I have this morning handed to our late solicitors my private cheque for £3,150!"

"You have?" cried Sir Jahnbock, starting up in a rage.

"I have," said Tom, smiling.

"Then, by Tartarus!" stormed the other, oblivious of all etiquette in his wrath and mortification, "you're the damnedest idiot that ever disgraced a Board!"

* * * * *

"Don't, Tom, don't. I'm not engaged to you yet you know."

Miss Dorothy Rampion, daughter of the Rev. Silas Rampion, was the speaker.

"All right, Doll! But you are as good as engaged to me, you know; we're only waiting for the sake of appearances."

And the audacious Tom Crowdie made no sign of removing his arm from her shapely waist.

"I'm afraid it's no good talking to you, Tom," she said, with a resigned little sigh, "you're full of the old Adam."

"Choke full," admitted Tom, with undiminished cheerfulness. "Bubbling over with that ancient Johnny, dontcherknow. You don't want me to sham the New Birth, as Sir J. did, do you? By the way, was he awfully sick when you gave him his congé?"

"Indeed, he was; but papa insisted. When those articles about your company were published in the *Microscope*, papa was quite in a fury of indignation. He said that Sir Jahnbock should never speak to me again. Of course I had to obey papa, and——"

"Sly little puss! Of course you never told your father that——"

"Hush! hush! Tom. Don't speak of it. If papa ever were to find out, I——"

"He never shall find out, Doll. No one knows the truth, except you and me."

"It has been dreadfully wicked of us both. Of—of you to do it; and of me to consent."

"Has it? I demur, Miss Dorothy. Seeing that you loved me from the first, and that I loved you to distraction; seeing, also, that your father favoured that hypocritical Jahnbock, and that you were afraid to go against his wishes; seeing, in fact, that the happiness of a most deserving young man and a most angelic young woman were at stake, I dared a Machiavellian scheme (founded on a most extraordinary, though opportune, flaw in our Articles) for discrediting Jahnbock and crediting myself in your father's eyes. For my part, I think that it has been rather a virtuous act, and that success has declared on the side of those who thoroughly deserve it."

"It has cost you a huge sum of money, Tom."

"Ah! Doll darling, I have not told you this; and, of course, you will not breathe a word. The truth is that I compounded with Coblings'. They saw that they were in for a heavy loss, and they were glad enough to take from me 5s. in the £ on what they had dropped, and to do me, in return, the little favour I had requested."

"What favour, Tom?"

"Why, to allow me to hand them my cheque for the whole sum, £3,150—so that my banking account would bear out my supposed generosity, in case of any investigation arising—and to hand me in return cash for £2,362 10s. Therefore, you see, Doll ——"

"Then," she interposed, pouting, and suddenly falling into an ill-used tone, that, in the circumstances, was truly feminine, "you—you—only—sacrificed for my sake—a quarter of what I thought. In—in—fact, you compounded for me at 5s. in the £. I suppose you didn't think me worth more?"

"On the contrary, Doll," replied Tom. "I think you worth untold millions. But I compounded with Coblings' in order to have the more to spend on you. With part of that £2,362 10s. I shall furnish for you the prettiest little house that ever was furnished. With part we will enjoy the sweetest honeymoon that ever was enjoyed. And with the rest," concluded Tom, producing a little leather case from his waistcoat pocket, "I have bought this."

She took the case and opened it. As she saw the contents, her eyes sparkled and her face flushed with delight.

"Oh!" she gasped, "Oh! what splendid diamonds! I—I—Oh! Tom! Tom!"

"You like them, pet?"

She did not answer him directly. But, laying her head upon his shoulder, and looking demurely downwards, she whispered, just audibly,

"I'm glad you compounded, Tom!"

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ART NOTES.

THE NEW GALLERY.

THE private view at the New Gallery was on Saturday, and Saturday, as it happens, was St. George's Day. Now, by a curious coincidence, it is a large upright canvas purporting to represent St. George that is Sir Edward Burne-Jones's chief contribution to the exhibition and, as such, hung in the place of honour in the West Room. Our patron saint has been painted a good many times, but never before, I venture to say, has he been so cruelly misrepresented as in Sir Edward's picture of him. This feeble-looking, woe-begone, anæmic, knock-kneed warrior the patron saint of "Merrie England" forsooth? Go to! He is not even a worthy representative of the "Greenery-Yallery, Grosvenor-Gallery, foot-in-the-grave" young men of whom we used to see and hear too much a decade or so ago. This lank and haggard martyr to dyspepsia and melancholy the gallant Cappodocian adventurer who slew the Lybian dragon and rescued a beautiful maiden, quotha? Why, at best, he is but a lily-lunching mediæval Maudle masquerading in studio armour, a prehistoric Postlethwaite who has not pluck and determination enough even to "live up to" a blue china teapot! No, no, Sir Edward, emphatically this St. George of yours will not do. As was once observed by the Lady Saphir in a well-remembered comic opera: "He is not Empyrean; he is not Della Cruscan; he is not even Early English!" You might have called him "St. Epicene," or "St. Spavin," or "St. Vitus," and one would have been ready to accept your picture as "a motive for mural adornment of the higher class"; but by dubbing him "St. George" you call forth the latent Philistinism which lurks in the breasts of even the most æsthetic and devoted of your admirers, and make them forget the excellencies of your armour in the pallid and morbid unwholesomeness of your man.

But if Sir Edward Burne-Jones falls below his usual level in the present exhibition, the veteran Mr. G. F. Watts surely rises above his in the delightful picture entitled "Early Spring," which hangs on the south wall of the West Room. It is long since Mr. Watts has given us anything so truly delightful, so exquisitely charming, as this picture of a sturdy little boy of five or six standing barefoot in the lush grass with his hand full of the blossoms of spring. As the work of an octogenarian artist it is simply marvellous in its freshness and vigour. Rarely

have the innocence, the wonderment, the fascination of childhood been more masterfully expressed upon canvas It is, indeed, difficult to think that the artist who has painted this masterpiece is also answerable for the curious and enigmatic jumble represented in his picture hung at the other end of the same room, and catalogued as "Can these Bones Live?" I scrutinised this puzzling composition with considerable care, but wholly failed to make out what the artist means by his curious medley of skulls, old rags and bones, cog-wheels, empty goblets, workmen's tools, and all the rest of it. There is also a half-obliterated inscription on the trunk of a tree which only makes the mystery the more maddening. No doubt it is meant as a painted homily, and may be full of deep allegorical meaning, but, oh! the pity of it that an artist who can paint such a picture of childhood as "Early Spring" should waste his time and talent over the purposeless obscurity and intricate symbolism of such canvases as "Can these Bones Live?"

Need I say that there are several portraits by Mr. John S. Sargent at the New Gallery? Visitors have learned to expect these as a matter of course. The place of honour in the North Room, which Mr Sargent has filled for several successive seasons, is occupied this spring by his portrait of Mrs. Thursby. In this picture the artist has adopted what is with him a very frequent custom, and has painted his subject at a moment of arrested action. As you look at the lady, she seems in the act of rising from the arm-chair in which she is sitting. With one foot she has pushed away the footstool she has been using, and her lips are parted, as though she were greeting the guest she is apparently advancing to welcome. The term "a speaking likeness" is invested with a new meaning as we look at her. The portrait is a veritable *tour de force*, painted with that rapid yet unerring decision which the spectator feels must be characteristic of Mr. Sargent's method. That it will be popular with the public is certain. I am not at all sure, however, that there is not better work in his portrait of Mrs. Anstruther Thomson, which is hung in a corner of the same room. But there is another portrait on the wall of the North Room, which I predict will be more talked about than any of Mr. John S. Sargent's. It is quite true that the talk about it is not likely to be complimentary, but that Mr. Arthur Melville has achieved a tremendous *succès pour rire* for his large portrait, numbered 207 in the catalogue, is already past all "possible doubt whatever." It is, perhaps, the most astounding piece of portraiture ever exhibited in a public exhibition. At a little distance it looked to me like a life-size pattern for a patchwork counterpane, or what is, I believe, known as a crazy quilt. Seen closer, it resolved itself into a vast grey crinoline surmounted by—but, no! Silence in such a case is the best as well as the kindest policy. But perhaps one may be allowed to sympathise, in all sincerity, with the lady who has been thus pilloried; and to wonder, too, whether a case for the issue of a legal injunction against the further exhibition of this astonishing feat of "modernity" in portraiture might not even now be obtained.

Mrs. Adrian Stokes's picture of "Aucassin and Nicolette" is as apropos as it is charming. A year ago it would have needed detailed explanation, but now, thanks to the prolific Mr. Andrew Lang's translation of the original romance and to Mr. Le Gallienne's allusion to it in his "Quest of the Golden Girl," most of us know enough about the history of this quaint old thirteenth-century love affair to appreciate Mrs. Stokes's pictorial rendering of one of its most touching incidents. She shows us with a naïve simplicity that is in all ways suitable the faithful Aucassin folding his fair Nicolette in his arms at last beneath the trees of a frankly decorative forest. The picture is happily inspired, and is painted with much skill, both as to its design and its *technique*. Mr. Adrian Stokes, with a result that cannot be considered quite so happy, has apparently laid the scene of his picture in the same forest. But his mail-clad knight kneeling in prayer before a crucifix nailed to a tree is not very convincing or impressive. Somehow or another one does not believe in him as one believes in Mrs. Stokes's mediæval lovers a yard or so away. Near to her picture will be found a small but brilliantly painted portrait of Lady Waterlow, by Mr. Alma Tadema, R.A. It is his only contribution to the New Gallery, and should therefore be appreciated all the more. M. Fernand Khnopff grows more and more cryptic in his paintings. I defy even a practised solver of double acrostics to guess what "Une Aile Bleue" really means. In the foreground of the picture is a white marble bust of a woman with one ear tolerably normal in size and shape, but the other developed into a hideous sort of flap which is suggestive of the necessity of an immediate visit to an aural surgeon rather than of any more recondite meaning. The lady in the background, who apparently has a blue mouth, only serves to make the mystery more insoluble. Equally cryptic, but much better painted, is M. Khnopff's other symbolic picture which he calls "L'Encens."

Yet another version of the Perseus and Andromeda myth has been attempted by Mr. Herbert J. Draper. The only novelty he has introduced into the treatment is the clothing of Andromeda in a vesture apparently made of rusty sheet-iron and her endowment with a fine head of tow hair. I am getting rather tired of those Arcadian pictures in which beautiful Chloes and Daphnes wander about weaving garlands of flowers and putting their arms round the necks of unnaturally clean cows. So, I am afraid, I fail to appreciate the charm of the innocent damsels who are embracing a number of idyllic calves in Mr. George Wetherbee's "Spring Phantasy." Moreover, it seems to me that the said calves are of an Arcadian breed that would be promptly disqualified if entered for exhibition at the Agricultural Hall Cattle Show. For some seasons, too, our picture exhibitions have been rather overdone with what I may call "Bathing Idylls." Possibly it may be a tribute to the pervading influence of that very smart institution, "The Bath Club," in Dover-street; but at all events there has been quite an epidemic of late of pictures in which nude nymphs and naiads are seen engaged in paddling in secluded pools, or taking *al fresco* dips in lily-starred backwaters in defiance of the by-laws. The New Gallery is this year full of sad pictures. Look at Mr. Alfred Withers's "Woodland Pool," for example, Mr. Frank Spenlove-Spenlove's "Seclusion," Mr. Leslie Thomson's "Arcadia," and Mr. Alfred East's "Mystic Pool." Even Mrs. H. M. Stanley has thought it well to be in the fashion, and so gives us, instead of one of her delightful glimpses of street-arab life, a study of the conventional nude model taking a bath in that highly inconvenient and uncomfortable way which is supposed to be general in Arcadia. My notes of other notable pictures must be reserved for a future article; but I cannot close this one without calling attention to the two glowing landscapes by Mr. Edward Stott in the South Room. "The Watering Place" and "The Gleaners," as they are called, are steeped in air and bathed in light. It would seem, indeed, that Mr. Stott has found it hard to decide between the claims made on his artistic discipleship by Claude Monet and George Mason, and, by way of "compromise," has shown himself a follower of them both.

MUSIC.

THE NEW OPERA SEASON.

EVERYTHING seems now prepared for the opening on Monday week of the new season of the Royal Opera, which for the second time will be under the direction of Earl de Grey, Messrs. Grau, Faber, and Higgins. Mr. J. H. Mapleson likewise hopes to open the New Olympic Theatre on Monday, May 23, the day before the Queen's birthday, when it may be recollected the projected "Imperial Opera House," which died stillborn, was to have been inaugurated two years ago on the Pall Mall site adjacent to the new Her Majesty's Theatre. That scheme was preceded by an equally abortive enterprise on the Thames Embankment, but after Titiens had laid the "first brick" and the Duke of Coburg the "first stone,"

the eligible building site became a police station. The more modest and promising scheme of the "New Italian Opera Syndicate," with a capital of £30,000, the signatories being Messrs. P. Purvis, J. W. H. Williams, and J. H. Mapleson, gentlemen; Mr. A. Blake, wine merchant; Mr. D. W. Pentecost, restaurateur; Mr. H. Wilson, merchant; and Mr. J. S. Fleming, secretary, was registered on the 4th inst. Mr. Mapleson's plans are, I believe, not yet perfected, but he has recently been travelling in Italy, where I am told he has made several engagements, among others that of the band and chorus which have been associated with Signor Sonzogno's Italian operatic enterprise in Milan during the past winter. The Covent Garden scheme is now becoming so thoroughly French and German, that there may possibly be an opening for genuine Italian opera, always providing that an adequate company and an interesting repertory can be secured. Mr. Mapleson's scheme, it is understood, provides for opera at half cost, or, in other words, all the seats except the private boxes are to be sold at the prices usually charged for ordinary theatrical entertainments.

The interest in the season of the Royal Opera, which commences at Covent Garden on May 9, will lie partly in the artists, partly in the "Nibelungen" cyclus. There are to be three cycles of the "Ring" with many of the Bayreuth vocalists under Mottl's conductorship. The available seats — only 600 seats per night, I believe, were available, although it has since been resolved to number and reserve the gallery — were sold out long ago, but the librarians have, of course, subscribed for other tickets, which doubtless will be sold at a considerable premium. Also it would not surprise me if some of the subscribers to the Royal Opera placed their boxes at the disposal of the public after one experience of sitting in a darkened theatre listening to the Meister's hypnotic music from four o'clock in the afternoon till eleven at night. With Mottl at the conductor's desk, Herr Pöhlig, of Bayreuth and Hamburg, behind the scenes, and Frau Cosima Wagner looking on approvingly from the stalls, "Der Ring des Nibelungen" will probably be given in a manner thoroughly satisfactory to the most ardent Wagnerite.

To those who cannot pretend to be of the Elect, the ordinary repertory at Covent Garden will probably be of even superior interest to the four-day tetralogy. The Royal Opera Syndicate have not again fallen into the mistake—if mistake it be—of dispensing with the services of eminent *prime donne*. Indeed, the list of artists this year is stronger, perhaps, than we have had for a good many years past. It includes the following vocalists:—

Sopranos and contraltos: Mesdames Calvé, Eames, Nordica, Melba, Ternina, Héglon, Ella Russell, De Lussan, Von Artner, Adams, Gadsky, Reid, Rondés, Frances Saville, Thiery, Lowentz, Dugazon, Brema, Meisslinger, Bauermeister, and Schumann-Heinck. Tenors: MM. Jean de Reszke, Van Dyck, Saléza, Dippel, Bonnard, Simon, Cazeneuve, Vanni, and Breuer. Baritones: MM. Defries, Renaud, Albers, Dufriche, Van Rooy, Dufrane, Meux, Gillibert, Bars, Campanari, Soulacroix, Milde, Feinholz, and Nebe. Basses: MM. Edouard de Reszke, Plançon, Journet, Lempriere Pringle, Carbone, Isnardon, Vaschetti, and Wittekopf.

Mme. Calvé, now thoroughly restored to health, hopes to be here during the first week, and will give her so-called "vaudeville" reading of Marguerite in "Faust," besides also appearing as Ophelia in Thomas's "Hamlet," as Margaret and Helen of Troy in "Mefistofele," as well, perhaps, as in "Carmen," "La Navarraise," and "Cavalleria Rusticana." Mme. Melba will be heard as Juliette, and also in a projected revival of some of the lighter Italian operas, parts which, twenty years ago, were in the repertory of the florid sopranos, a race which latterly has threatened to become almost extinct. For Frau Ternina, the eminent prima donna of Munich, who has already appeared at Mr. Schultz-Curtius' concerts, "Fidelio" will be revived, and the lady will also appear in the "Ring" cycles. For Mme. Brema also we are promised a revival of Gluck's "Orfeo," an opera which with Mlle. Giulia Ravogli as the hero was, a few years ago, played at first with success, but latterly rather too frequently. Massenet's "Sapho," which had provisionally been accepted, will now not be done, as it is said the proprietors of the copyright put a higher value upon the work than the Royal Opera Syndicate are willing to adopt. It will, however, not be missed, as the repertory, which consists of twenty-nine operas, is already a very full one.

The only novelty will accordingly be Dr. Saint-Saëns' "Henry VIII.," a work which promises to delight musicians and rather to astonish students of the history of Bluff King Hal. The opera is produced mainly for the sake of M. Renaud, who made so successful a début last year. Queen Katherine will, I believe, fall to Mme. Eames; but for the far superior part of Anne Boleyn Mme. Héglon, the distinguished mezzo-soprano of the Paris Grand Opéra, has been expressly engaged. Mancinelli's "Ero e Leandro" is also once more promised, besides a good many of the stock works of Mozart, Verdi, Rossini, Donizetti, Meyerbeer, and others. "Die Meistersinger" will again be given in Italian, although this essentially German work would certainly be better in its original tongue. In all fifteen operas will be performed in Italian, ten in French and four (besides the "Ring") namely, "Lohengrin," "Tannhäuser," "Tristan," and "Fidelio," in German. M. Flon will conduct the French works, Signor Mancinelli the Italian operas, and Mottl the "Ring," while the rest of the German operas will be directed by Herr Zumpe, a gentleman who began musical life by playing that modest instrument the triangle at the Leipsic opera house in the early seventies, and who with Mottl, Seidl, and one or two others, was occupied for two years in correcting and writing out the band parts for the original production of "Der Ring des Nibelungen" at Bayreuth.

It has been stated in some quarters that the difficulty in the projected engagement of Dr. Richter for the "Ring" cycle at Covent Garden was a question of terms, and it has been asserted that the distinguished Viennese conductor demanded three times the fee of Seidl. Herr Seidl was paid £60 a week in the United States and, I believe, the same fee in London. Richter certainly never asked £180 a week, or anything like it. He—or, rather, his London manager, Mr. Vert, for him—asked a lump sum (never mind what) for the entire season; but the difficulty was not so much one of money as of certain stipulations which the great conductor desired to insist upon, but which were not found convenient in the hurry of a London season. Fortunately, Mottl, the next best man, was available, and a splendid series of performances may be expected.

I have received a batch of correspondence concerning the College of Violinists, about whose proposal to issue degrees or diplomas to teachers I had something to say a few weeks ago. The particular point in question now seems to be the advertising of the name of Herr (or Professor) Wilhelmj as one of the teachers. A gentleman, it seems, wrote to Herr Wilhelmj asking his terms for lessons to a professional pupil. Herr Wilhelmj replied, under date March 16, that his terms for professionals were two guineas for a single lesson, or twelve guineas for twelve consecutive lessons within twelve weeks. The gentleman thereupon wrote, pointing out that the terms were rather high, and saying, "Would you have time to take me at one of your classes at the College of Violinists, where I understand you are a Professor?" Herr Wilhelmj was then at his father's vineyard at Hattenheim, but he replied on a postcard as follows:—

Professor Wilhelmj does not teach at the Violinists' College, and gives only full hours' lessons at his residence.

Nevertheless, in reply to an application from this same gentleman, Mr. G. Foucher, hon. sec., wrote:—"Professor Wilhelmj gives lessons in the special section of not less than thirty minutes' duration; the terms for these are eight guineas for twelve lessons. Professor Wilhelmj does not give class tuition." This was on March 28. On April 7, in a letter to another would-be pupil, Mr. G. Foucher wrote:—"At present it is vacation time at the College, and I cannot say what days Professor Wilhelmj will be

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here next term. If you will suggest one or two suitable days and hours for your attendance, I will try, if possible, to arrange with Professor Wilhelmj to suit your other arrangements." There certainly seems to be some mistake here, for the letters of Mr. Foucher and Herr Wilhelmj are diametrically opposed. Perhaps Herr Wilhelmj may care to clear the matter up.

On Thursday the Philharmonic Concerts will be resumed after the holidays, and the distinguished pianist, Mme. Boomfield-Zeisler, will then make her London début. This clever lady was to have appeared at the Crystal Palace in 1893, but owing to illness she was unable to come to England. She now returns fresh from a series of triumphs in the United States. Mme. Zeisler, like so many other great pianists, was originally a juvenile prodigy. She is thirty-two and a native of Austrian Silesia. She, however, studied in Chicago, and for five years under Leschetizky, at Vienna. She has been before the public as an adult since 1884. Mme. Zeisler proposes, besides playing at the Philharmonic, to give two or more pianoforte recitals before she leaves.

Mr. Arthur Friedheim gave the first of his recitals on Saturday. This gentleman has erroneously been described as a débutant, but he really appeared here nine years ago. He is a brilliant performer of the school of Liszt, and again thoroughly substantiated his celebrity in a well diversified programme M. Lamoureux introduced at his final afternoon concert a new pianoforte concerto in F by M. Dubois, who succeeded Ambroise Thomas as conductor of the Paris Conservatoire. The concerto, which was produced in Paris as recently as last January, is rather poor stuff, although the two middle movements—for the work is in four movements—are simple and pretty. It is curious that French composers never seem to shine in the classical style. At the Crystal Palace there was for St. George's Day a programme partly devoted to English music. Miss Oakley, a fifteen-year-old soprano, who appeared at Queen's Hall on Saturday, should be recommended to continue her studies. She is promising, but her voice is necessarily not yet matured. On Tuesday, Herr Mottl made his re-appearance at Queen's Hall. Altogether thirty concerts are announced for this week, so that the season may be considered to have commenced in good earnest.

Signor Joseph Li Calsi died last week in London, at the age of seventy-two. Latterly he has been known chiefly as a teacher, but twenty years ago he was a popular and most painstaking opera conductor. Mme. Emilie Ambre, who during one season achieved some success as a prima donna at Her Majesty's Opera, likewise died last week. She was originally attached to the Court of Holland, but latterly she, with her husband, a well-known organist, has devoted herself to the direction of a successful school of music in Paris.

I have once or twice referred to Miss Pauline Joran, one of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's accessions to the Savoy company, as "formerly of the Carl Rosa troupe." The lady, however, desires to be known as "late of the Royal Opera," which, I fear, is rather a left-handed compliment to the Rosa Company, by whom she was first brought out. As a matter of fact, Miss Joran came to Covent Garden in 1893, then appearing for the first time in London as Beppe in "L'Amico Fritz," on the night that the composer, Signor Mascagni, made his début in England as a conductor. Miss Joran had until then been a member of the Carl Rosa troupe, and had played the same part of Beppe with them in the provinces. Nevertheless, if she prefers to drop the Carl Rosa and to fly her flag from Covent Garden, I am sure I am willing enough to oblige the lady in so small a matter.

Every one will regret to learn of the death of Miss Nanette Kuhe, the amiable and accomplished daughter of the well-known pianist, conductor, and teacher, Mr. Wilhelm Kuhe. Miss Nanette was herself an excellent pianist, and both in Brighton and London she had a large circle of admirers and pupils. She was also a hard-working teacher, a good musician, and in every sense of the word a most popular lady.

All sorts of reports have come over here as to the succession to Seidl as conductor in the United States. As a matter of fact Seidl held many posts which are likely now to be divided. A permanent orchestra was about to be organised especially for him, and it is possible the scheme may now be abandoned. There are also in New York the Philharmonic and various other appointments, the most important being the post of conductor of the Wagnerian works at the Metropolitan House. It would not surprise many people here if some arrangement were made with Mr. Damrosch, who is director of a rival scheme and, moreover, is son-in-law of the wealthy Mr. Carnegie. If the Damrosch and Grau operatic enterprises could be amalgamated, it might be all the better for both.

Mr. Robert Newman will on Saturday afternoon next take his well-deserved benefit at Queen's Hall. Mr. Newman has been referred to in certain quarters as the inventor of the Sunday concerts, although, as a matter of fact, Sunday musical performances were given under the auspices of the Sunday League, and also at the Albert Hall, while Mr. Newman was still a student. But it is nevertheless a fact that the Sunday concert movement received an enormous impetus thanks to Mr. Newman's enterprise. At his own cost and risk he organised a first-rate series of Sunday afternoon orchestral concerts at Queen's Hall, bearding the bigots who threatened him with actions for penalties—though they eventually proved too chicken-livered to issue a writ—and giving bored Londoners during the winter a Sunday afternoon entertainment of a refining and elevating sort. Success has now crowned his efforts, and the benefit concert next Saturday may be ascribed partly as a compliment to him for his services on behalf of a rational Sunday, partly as a recognition of his work in support of British, Russian, and French music, and in the foundation of a permanent orchestra at Queen's Hall. Madame Ella Russell has volunteered to sing on Saturday, and the programme is an enormously strong one, comprising some of the most popular excerpts from Wagner's operas.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—"Of all aprons," says Teufelsdröckh, "the most puzzling to me hitherto has been the Episcopal. Wherein consists the usefulness of this apron? The Overseer (*Episcopus*) of Souls, I notice, has tucked in the corner of it, as if his day's work were done. What does he shadow forth thereby?" That his day's work *is* done. In reading Dr. Carr's "Life Work of Archbishop Benson" (1) you cannot help feeling the conviction that such dignitaries are as much mediæval survivals as their cathedrals. Only a man who belonged essentially to the Middle Ages could have used the fine opportunity Archbishop Benson had a few days before his death in addressing an audience of 3,000 people in Belfast, to urge upon them only the imperative need of—a cathedral! Even an English Archbishop might have recognised the fact that cathedrals are out of date in a day when the appeal is made to the ear and not to the eye, and when the sacrifice is offered for, and not by, the worshippers. No less characteristic of an Anglican Archbishop was his Grace's compromise on the subject of the Sunday opening of museums. He approved of it—gave it his "moral" support—but opposed the measure in the Lords on the ground that it would lead to increased work on Sundays—ground that would shut up every church, chapel, and cathedral in England. Surely purgatory must have been invented for the accommodation of the Anglican Church, which would naturally object to

(1) "The Life-Work of Edward White Benson, D.D." Sometime Archbishop of Canterbury. By J. A. Carr, LL.D. (London: Elliott Stock & Co.)
(2) "The Rev. Annabel Lee." A Tale of To-morrow. By Robert Buchanan. (London: C. Arthur Pearson, Limited.) Price 6s.
(3) "Tales of Trail and Town." By Bret Harte. With a Frontispiece by G. P. Jacomb Hood (London: Chatto & Windus.) Price 2s. 6d.
(4) "The Spanish Wine." By Frank Mathew. (London: John Lane.) Price 3s. 6d.
(5) "Shrewsbury." A Romance. By Stanley J. Weyman. With twenty-four illustrations by Claude A. Shepperson. (London: Longmans, Green, & Co.) Price 6s.

Heaven and to Hell as extremes and prefer the compromise of an intermediate state. Whether we shall be better off in the day which Mr. Robert Buchanan foreshadows in his "Rev. Annabel Lee" (2) is another question. Our Anglican clergy, like all other Anglican things, are compromises—compromises between the two sexes—but I should prefer an epicene priesthood to such hysterical lady-preachers as the Rev. Annabel Lee. Mr. Buchanan should have laid to heart the discreet counsel of the judge, "Give your verdict, sentence or opinion, but *never* give your reasons for it." It was fatal to give a glowing description of the marvellous "scholarship, eloquence, and magnetic charm" of the lady preacher, and follow it up with a twaddling specimen sermon from her lips. Heredity, which is the pivot of the plot of "The Rev. Annabel Lee," is the pivot also of the plot of the first story in Bret Harte's new volume, "Tales of Trail and Town" (3). Its moral, however, is the usual Yankee one, which Artemus Ward thus humorously expressed :—

> I hear the poor Injin is being driven nearer and nearer to the setting sun. It's raythor rough on the setting sun; but I am rejiced to hear it. Injins is pison, wherever found."

"The Ancestors of Peter Atherly" is a very striking story, but it isn't the most striking in this admirable collection. Better still is "The Strange Appearance of Alkali Dick," and still better "The Judgment of Bolinas Plain." I turn to salute a rising star in Mr. Frank Mathew, whose "Spanish Wine" (4) assures me and will assure you of a great future. It is a perfect gem, a Greek tragedy set in Celtic scenes and lit by

> The light that never was on sea or land;
> The consecration, and the poet's dream.

When you open upon a passage like this you know what you are to expect, and you are not disappointed :—

> Still her dreams sought for a magnificent lover coming over the sea. Some fine morning a galleon would sail out of the sunrise with a glory of banners and ramparted and firing salutes. The sea was now her companion and its moods had an echo in her heart, and she was sore when the waves were charging with monotonous cheers, and was quieted if she heard them below, murmuring like a varying rain, or like the regular sweeping of a brush, when they sidled up to the beach with whispers, as if making amends for old irrational anger.

All the separate scenes in the story are exquisitely painted, but they are rather mosaics than coherent parts of an integral whole. The vivid incidents flash upon you like lightning from wide apart and unlooked-for quarters of the heavens. There is no lack of coherence in Mr. Stanley Weyman's "Shrewsbury" (5), but in other ways, and relatively to the author's other work, it is a poor story. Mere roguery is not sympathetic, and much besides roguery goes to the making of a "Barry Lyndon," and the autobiographer of "Shrewsbury" is far indeed from being a Barry Lyndon. There are, however, many stirring scenes in the story, which, besides, is admirably written.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—London is getting very interesting, now that the season is so close at hand, for we can hardly count it as really the season just yet, when so many people have not yet returned after the Easter holidays. There was a most diversified and fascinating crowd at the private view at the New Gallery. I had thought private views played out until Saturday, but the occasion proved that they have experienced quite a rejuvenescence—at least, it seemed so, for it is hardly logical to say that one swallow makes a summer. Literature and the drama were well represented, and we enjoyed the opportunity of studying many persons in the flesh who had before been known to us only through their hooks or behind the footlights. The wife of an actor was the most gorgeously attired individual there. She had carried out to the uttermost the decorative possibilities contained in the new way of wearing the cape—half on and half off the shoulders. It opens up a vista for the display of jewellery and bright colour that must deeply gratify the ornate-minded. The rich simplicity of Lady Hood's black satin lightly relieved with white was restful after a study of effects in coral-pink, brick-red, and the peculiarly livid and trying "new colour," periwinkle blue. I begin to detest it. A wonderfully courageous old lady walked about in a copious grass-green mantle trimmed with Turkish table-centres. In her bonnet she had two babyish bunches of cowslips. A pretty actress in black had turquoise velvet revers on her well-fitting coat, sewn with jet and turquoise. Two Chinese gentlemen looked rather lonely and left early. It must be rather sad to be in England without understanding English. Languages are not our strong point as a nation. I believe there are only two members of the Cabinet who speak French quite fluently. And French is the diplomatic language of Europe.

A brave young lady appeared in fancy dress, period Henry VIII. She wore black, with white slashings on the sleeves, and her hat was of the shape associated with Edward VI., the flat crown being a network of black lines, crossed with white. Two sisters proved, by dressing exactly alike, how fatal is such a practice to the less effective of the twain. Lady Coleridge looked very young and pretty in black, with a rose-pink straw hat and a chemisette of paler pink. Lady Carew, in brown, was for once without her sister, Mrs. Clifford Cory. Sir Squire Bancroft talked of Monte Carlo and its joys. Miss Violet Hunt may have been seeking inspiration for another novel in the pictures. Perhaps she found it in No. 209!

An apricot satin blouse was in itself a beautiful bit of colour, but was also absolutely destructive to the complexion of the wearer. A little lady in black had put on far too much rouge for probability. She was impossibly pink. Complexions, like churches, are often spoiled by being restored. The ruins are more picturesque than the repaired article.

I know a charming face on which the *teint fatigué* is almost as pleasing as youthful bloom, and certainly very much prettier than any arrangement of paint and powder.

We have heard so much about green shoes being worn this summer that we hied us to the American Shoe Company in Regent-street to ask if it is true. They are not doing much in that way, they told us, though they, too, had heard that green kid was considerably to the fore. One of their novelties is a pretty grey suède shoe, Langtry shape, with a large steel buckle. The steel looks particularly well with the soft tone of grey in the kid. The white glacé kid Langtry shoes are sometimes made with a mother-o'-pearl buckle, and this too has a very good effect. The brown glacé kids are in five different tones of colour. One of these is in the exact tint of a cigar, and goes well with beige and sand-coloured gowns, as well as those in white and cream colour. The kid is, in every case, very soft and flexible. Their Russia leather Burlington shoe is very dainty, as well as the red in the same shape. For boating a white canvas shoe is to be the thing. "Blanco," I believe, is the best stuff to clean them with. And for cycling there is a combination of shoe and gaiter which is as workmanlike as it is ornamental. The gaiter portion looks like a brown silk openwork stocking, and is lined with stout stone-coloured canvas. The shoe is in brown kid.

I am wondering what sort of hat you bought yourself in your country town after all the excellent advice I lavished on you. I wished so much that you had been with us in Clifford-street at Madame Yorke's the other day, when we were looking at her new hats and toques fresh from Paris. The turban is one of the novelties of the season. It is not in the least alarming, as you might perhaps fancy, from the name. Soft folds of point-d'esprit net, with tiny black dots strewn over it, are twisted round a circular frame of wired net, and in front just above the brow, a few folds are carried up in a slightly diagonal direction. Two round jet pins of unusually large size fasten, or appear to fasten, a wide black

New Spring Fashions.—Messrs. Redfern have now on view in their Showrooms a unique display of Toilettes, illustrative of the latest London and Paris fashions, and to which they invite an inspection.—26, Conduit-street, London, W.

velvet bow on the top of the turban. The very newest hats are sharply turned up in front, and suit some faces admirably well. One of these, in black straw, was trimmed with shaded cherries, that looked as if the stem had been twisted in and out of the straw of which the hat was composed. Two high jetted plumes completed the composition. When we were shown a little boat-shaped hat in black straw lined with white, it never occurred to us that it was intended to be worn in any way but the usual, with the peak to the front. The correct way, however, is with the two points at the sides. So worn it was highly becoming, with its large white tulle rosettes and two black ibis feathers sequined over in jet. These large rosettes of tulle are very fashionable just now in millinery. A bonnet—I told you they were coming in again—had one of these in white thrust through with a pair of pearl pins, the rest of the structure consisting of very light-looking wings of wired black net. At the back one of the new large tortoiseshell combs was so arranged as to form part of the bonnet and to fasten it to the hair. This is quite a new idea.

All pink and all red hats seem to be in great favour. We saw a large pink straw one with the brim bending down over the eyes. It would be admirable for bridesmaids. It was entirely outlined with roses in the exact tone of pink as that of the straw. The rest of the trimming consisted of a long pink chiffon scarf, tied in a delicious bow on the top of the crown and edged with pretty cream-tinted lace. At the back the brim was turned up with a *cache-peigne* of green rose-foliage. In the same way a mauve straw toque had a market bunch of cowslips at the back and two feathers in front for finish. A cardinal straw toque was made with the crown like a large straw bow. It had wide ibis feathers, also red, and a twist of red chiffon. Another very up-to-date straw toque was in two shades of cornflower, one dark blue, the other periwinkle. They combined very well. Cherries were the trimming.

To suit the new hats and toques the hair must be dressed very high, and it is still wide dispread at the sides. I see that many of the smart people have it waved over the ears, so that it is not surprising that the new toques are extremely wide.

A most attractive concert is announced to take place at Stafford House, by permission of the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, on the afternoon of May 11. It is to be in aid of the funds of the Charing Cross Hospital, and is to be a smart affair. Mrs. Arthur Paget is the hon. sec. On the committee are several Duchesses, and a score or so of Countesses, and the programme for the entertainment promises to be an interesting one, well worth the guinea to be charged for tickets. Among the artists who have generously promised their services are Miss Marie Tempest, Miss Clara Butt, Miss Cissie Loftus, Miss Letty Lind, Miss Louie Freear, Mr. Norman Salmond, Mrs. Brown Potter, and M. Johannes Wolff. Gunter is to supply light refreshments for the benefit of the Fund, visitors being charged 1s. each for these—a plan that must work out well for the charity.

We went to the Vegetarian Banquet at the Holborn Restaurant that I told you about some time ago. If you remember, I wondered what dishes they could collect together of sufficient importance, without fish, flesh, or fowl, to be dignified by the title of banquet. Well, dear, we had an excellent meal, the only fault to be found with it, from the outsider's point of view, being the beverages, for vegetarians are, it appears, total abstainers to a man. No mention of beverages was made on the menu, but there were "loving-cups" of lemonade, "Julien" composed of sugar and fruit, and lime-juice cordials, in addition to plain water—the best of all, if we could only get it pure. Each guest found a buttonhole of dainty flowers tied to the menu card at the side of every cover, and there were plenty of flowers on the tables.

It seemed odd to begin dinner with cream-cheese, but it was regarded as a *hors-d'œuvre*. The one soup was excellent, being composed chiefly of tomatoes, and very pleasantly flavoured. The first entrée was potatoes with peas, not apples, as you might imagine from the incorrect wording of the menu. The haricots were mixed with fresh French beans.

The cutlets, really composed of mashed potatoes, looked extremely like the real things, with a little twist of fringed paper indicating where the bone of the meat, conspicuous by its absence, should have been. Fried of a delicate brown, and served with green peas and white sauce, they were most appetising.

Perhaps the nicest of the different entrées were the stuffed baked tomatoes, which quite deluded one into the idea that minced meats of some kind, seasoned and flavoured with vegetables and condiments, must be one of the chief constituents of the stuffing. As pretty as they were appetising were the hearts of artichokes, piled up in pyramidal fashion, with carefully cooked spinach. Another delicate entrée was composed of endive cooked with cream. It was served with what appeared to be quarters of potatoes, fried a pale golden brown colour, but these were really pieces of fried pastry. The menu was further varied with asparagus, served with oil, and haricot beans of the palest golden colour, cooked in butter, each one separate and unbroken. Scattered among them were shred French beans.

Sweets were well represented by jelly, in which there were various kinds of fruits; custard pudding, and caramel; pretty white balls, each one composed of boiled rice and half an apple, surrounded with apple syrup, partly jellied, and of a pretty pink colour; finishing up with ice pudding.

The chairman, Dr. Josiah Oldfield, is not only a lover of vegetarians, but a lively hater of what he virulently called "the carnivorous and omnivorous class." He spoke most censoriously and bitterly. Perhaps he would, like Mahomet, make converts by fire and the sword. We had always heard that one of the great advantages of vegetarianism was that it encouraged gentleness and peaceful sentiments, but the Society's chosen spokesman disproved this for us. He would have done better to have ignored, for the moment, Sir Henry Thompson's article in the *Nineteenth Century*, recommending meat eating, for his mention of it was the first intimation that many present had had of the publication of such an article, and the thought of it seemed to rouse the speaker to fury. His sarcasms gave a good opportunity to Mr. Candy, Q.C., to respond in terms of cultured raillery in an amiable and friendly way. He handsomely admitted that if he were sure of having as good a dinner every day as on that occasion, he would not mind becoming a teetotaller for a year. Everything was well cooked and daintily served, and, as Richard remarked, with a glass of good English beer, or, as a vis-à-vis of ours said, "If the Julien had been the real thing," the banquet would have been most satisfactory. We noticed that the voices of the vegetarian speakers were much thinner and weaker than those of the meat-eating gentlemen, and we wondered if vegetarianism alone would have this effect, or if it were not assisted by what they call their "Temperance" principles.

All of the speakers were keenly alive to the advantage of girls belonging to the School Board having lessons in cooking and preparing vegetables, cereals, and every kind of vegetarian food. Canon Ingram spoke strongly on the subject, and is anxious that boys should be also taught the art of such cookery, particularly useful to the many who go to sea and into the army.

Seeing an advertisement of a penny cookery book of the Society in a daily paper, we sent the necessary stamp and duly received the little book. But vain were our hopes of finding in it instructions to produce the excellent dishes we had tasted at the banquet. The Society's worst enemy could not have done it a worse turn than by distributing this pamphlet, with its absurd recipes, which must have been compiled by some one destitute of the smallest knowledge of cookery. Instead of attracting disciples to the cause, these dreadful recipes would repel them. Take the first, Caledonian Soup, or what we call Scotch Broth, only without meat. We are desired to cook 4 tablespoonfuls of Scotch barley in a pint of water,

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with 3 good-sized onions, 2 small turnips, a carrot, and a head of celery. Where would the one pint of water be under this mass of vegetable and barley? The result would not be soup, but pudding. Directions are given for baking haricot beans without soaking them, the time for the baking being given as two hours. Haricots, as we all know, will not cook without having been soaked twelve hours at least, and even then two hours are the minimum time for cooking them. The recipe has a note appended: "Haricots cook more easily if soaked in water for a few hours." In the same way instructions are given to stew lentils without previously having soaked them.

The recipe for "savoury pie" is most remarkable. The list of ingredients begins with "cold omelet," and runs on with tapioca and eggs. The tapioca and omelet are laid in a pie dish in layers and covered with paste. Then come the following directions: "Add the eggs when the pie is nearly done. Supply water as needed to keep the tapioca at the bottom from burning." Is the cook to take off the top of the pie to add water and eggs? If she does not, the pie will very certainly burn, for a quarter of a pint of water is the only liquid in which the cold omelet, three eggs, and two tablespoonfuls of tapioca are to cook.

In a recipe for "bread-crumb omelet" a *teacupful* of dried marjoram and a *large handful* of parsley are the quantities given for flavouring one pint of breadcrumbs. In the recipes dealing with macaroni, the cook is always desired to soak it for an hour or an hour and a half. The effect of this would be to reduce it to a paste when cooked.

Can you imagine any one sending out such a book as this without at least having the recipes tested? Even in those that seem to be fairly practicable the wording of them is so vague that it is difficult to understand what is meant. But most of them are thoroughly impracticable. In "Cherry Ratafia" there are 20 lb. of fruit and 2½ of sugar. This is to be bottled after thirty days. There would be about a pint, if so much, to bottle, and even that would not keep with so little sugar in it! Any misguided housewife who should lay out her money on 20 lb. of fruit would feel very angry with that recipe. The sooner the Vegetarian Society withdraw their penny book, the better for the promulgation of their gospel.

Do you see that all the cows in Belgium are to wear earrings? Does it not sound strange? But it is not intended as a decoration. It is a hygienic measure, intended to prevent the introduction into Belgium of animals suffering from tuberculosis. But will it not be easy for persons who wish their cows to visit Belgium to provide the animals with earrings for the trip?

I want some member of Parliament to inquire into the working of the penny-in-the-slot way of supplying gas to persons in humble neighbourhoods. I am told that when the agent of the gas Companies goes round to collect the pence out of the slots, he almost invariably makes a further charge against his customers. Now surely he has no right to do this, for if the Company contracts to purvey gas in pennyworths measured out by themselves, they cannot have any excuse for exacting other pence. That this has been done I know for a fact, and as the poor are so long-suffering and so patient under all sorts of injustice, I want to find some one who will look into the matter for them. Their pennies are precious to them, but even if they were not, there is here a wrong to be set right.

Christabel writes from Paris:—

Three pretty dresses are worn by Mdlle. Béry in "Mon Enfant," at the Odéon. The first was beige cloth with a wide band of guipure round the skirt about half way up; the bodice was entirely of guipure, with gold galon in front and a waistband of the same, but wider; then there was a little cloth bolero without sleeves to be taken on or off at will, and, of course, showing the guipure sleeves.

The second gown was grey crêpe de chine; the skirt, made with small pleats, was very flat, and the bodice had similar small pleats and a yellow satin yoke, the front opening over full silk muslin of the same shade as the crêpe de chine.

The third was cloth in the shade of Parma violets; the skirt richly embroidered with applications of cloth and guipure; the bolero bodice and sleeves were embroidered to match, and underneath was a silk muslin chemisette. These pretty toilettes were made at Laferrière's, and would serve as useful ideas for spring dresses.

Beige, sand colour, dove, and all those soft shades are much in vogue, especially in a light make of summer cloth, whether for costumes, capes, or jackets, and also the last new thing in redingotes. These are shaped at the back, though in front rather easy, and ornamented with one or two flounces of the cloth, which fall in cascades from the neck down the front and go round the redingote. It is ground-length at the back but rounds off towards the front in order to show a glimpse of the under skirt. The flounces are neither hemmed, bound, or scalloped, just the cloth edge cut very straight. The sleeves have cuffs falling over the hands and opening out very wide. One I saw was plain on the shoulders, another had a short coachman's cape. It is a novelty, but I do not see the utility of the garment, as the effect is rather of the dressing-gown style.

A beautiful evening dress made for Comtesse de la Bouillerie, lady-in-waiting on the Duchesse d'Orléans, has the white satin skirt made very long behind with several flounces of Brussels lace at the back, which, coming to the front, formed a drapery mixed with wild roses and foliage. The low bodice was draped with similar lace, with a corselet of white satin covered with pearls, gold beads, and spangles. To wear with this dress was a very pretty neck-ruff of green satin, sown with rose leaves covered with diamonds.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—The idea of war turns our thoughts from our own everyday ordinary lives. Although it may not touch us, at least we shall be spectators, as it were, of the dreadful tragedy. And the pity of it! To think of the horrible deaths, the sufferings, the pain and heartbreaking to which so many human beings like ourselves are now doomed. As if there is not enough sorrow in the world without adding to it with deliberate intent. What a contradiction to the theory of the survival of the fittest war is—the method of the primeval savage. One would think that civilisation, to say nothing of Christianity, ought to have swept it away. We have progressed to the extent that individuals do not settle their quarrels through means of the sword; why, then, the sum of these individuals, that is, nations, should still continue to do so is hard to understand.

If only imagination were a more universal gift surely war would be impossible. A vivid realisation of its full and awful meaning could not but prevent all who had even the most elementary feelings of humanity from adopting any such barbarous method. Every judge feels acutely in sentencing a man to death, and declaration of war is the sentence of death to hundreds of thousands of men. Yet how little this seems to be realised. Perhaps because the idea of deaths by thousands becomes somewhat of an abstract one to us, we, who might faint and sicken to see even one man die, read almost with indifference of the deaths of thousands. Not from hardness of heart or inhumanity, but just because we fail to realise that the thousands are made up of units. As for the Jingoes who shout for war but never go into it themselves, who, from the security of a comfortable home or office, urge others to destruction, are they not too contemptible for words? Was there ever a woman more to be pitied just now than the Queen of Spain, though she has risen so heroically to the occasion? No matter what one's sympathies otherwise may be, as a woman one must sympathise with her.

Meanwhile our world not being called on to be either heroic or serious at present goes on its ordinary course, whilst contemplating from a distance the more solemn aspects of life. For thus runs the world away. Lord Cadogan unexpectedly remained in England all last week, leaving Lady Cadogan to fulfil his social engagements. She alone dined with the Lord Chancellor and Lady Ashbourne, who, after dinner, held a big reception in their house in Merrion-square. In addition to the usual elect of society, many of the chief luminaries and others of the Irish Protestant Church, assembled in Dublin for the annual synod meeting were present. Lady Cadogan, as usual, was handsomely dressed and resplendent in diamonds, the display of which

Sports.—By having recourse to a scientific Corsetière a graceful and becoming figure is the result, for the proportions are harmoniously delineated. Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., The Celebrated Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-st., Oxford-circus, London.

by those of our sex in high place is generally numbered amongst the duties that they owe to society. Her Excellency did all that she could by energetic agreeability to make up for the absence of his Excellency. What a dull form of entertainment an evening reception is without music, or anything to make a break or stir in it. One does indeed take one's pleasure at it very sadly, and this rule being universal, the wonder is that this special form of entertainment survives. A curious thing, too, though every one grumbles, every one goes. "Receptions" are amongst the most crowded of evening parties. One knows that there are many who like to grumble, and one can only suppose that there are many, as well, who like to be bored.

During the week we were much occupied with Punchestown toilets—that is, in having them prepared—and in making up parties for the races. The weather has been very April like, nothing but samples, day after day. We have had some most exquisite days of sunshine that summer could not surpass; it made the cold wind pleasantly refreshing rather than chill. Then, as a change, downpours and leaden skies have had their turn. One can hope anything for Punchestown and fear everything as well. On Friday Col. Crichton had a perfect day for his gymkhana at Mullaboden. Lady Cadogan, with a Viceregal suit, went by special train from Dublin, Lord Cadogan who had been expected, was detained in London by the superior attractions of a Cabinet Council. Kildare mustered in great strength, many of the Punchestown visitors having already arrived. Amongst the assemblage were Lord and Lady Mayo, Lord Enniskillen, Lord and Lady Settrington, Lady Albreda Bourke, pretty Miss Crichton, and many other pretty and prettily-dressed matrons and maidens. The weather allowed winter garb to be cast aside and spring dresses to appear in light variety. The "variety entertainment" of the day was enthusiastically enjoyed. Lady Cadogan, at the end, presented the prizes to the winners.

What a pity that long dresses should now have established their dominion! They do not suit our changing weather, or modern active habits. What can be more trying to the temper and wearying to the spirit than the effort to hold up a long, wide skirt in wet and muddy places? And, on the other hand, the awful alternative of not holding it up! What a case of the d——l and the deep sea. And to think that we deliberately place ourselves in the unpleasant position!—Yours ever,

Clare.

I shall have some nice recipes for you next week.—Ever your loving cousin, MADGE.

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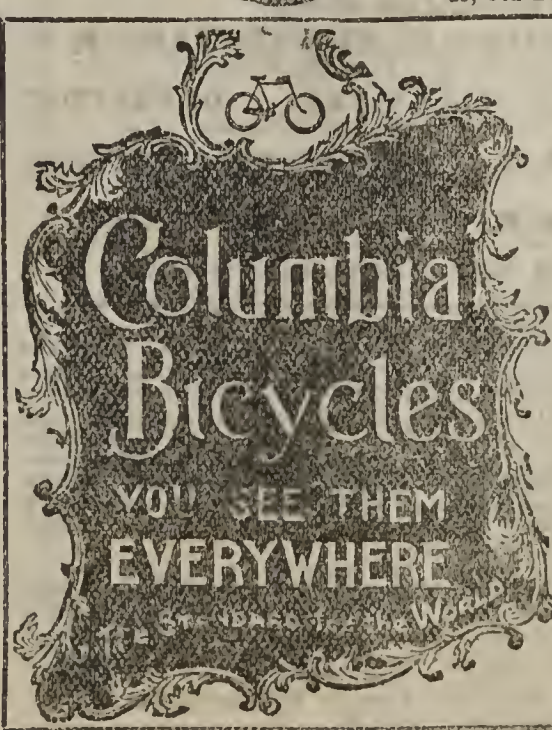

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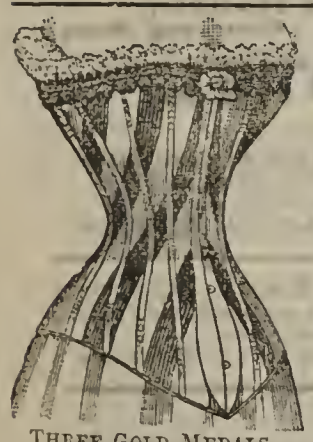

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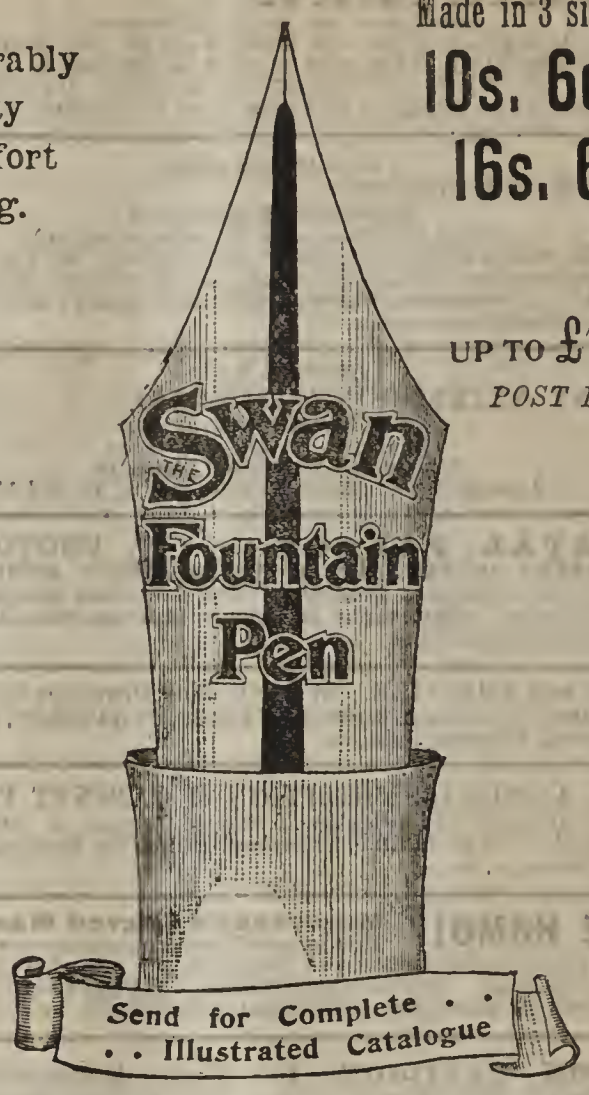

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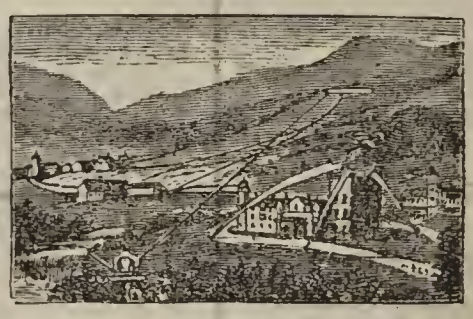
Fig. A.—This Ram lifts part of the same water that works it. (Engraved from photo. of Ram which raises 250,000 gallons per day of 24 hours to medium heights, with good working fall.)



This view represents a Ram worked by impure river water, whilst pumping pure water from a well or spring and forcing it to a small reservoir on the hill, at an elevation of 532 ft. and a distance of one mile, from which reservoir the water is gravitated for fire extinguishing and general requirements of mansion, stables, farm, and village.

Fig. B.—This Ram, whilst worked by a stream of impure water, will pump clean water from a well or spring.

TESTIMONIALS.

From A. FIDLER, Esq., Assoc.M.Inst.C.E., Engineer to the Corporation of Blackburn.

Municipal Offices, Blackburn, July 2nd, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—After having had the New Hydraulic Rams at Guide working without intermission for over six months, I am now able to give you the results of the test. A pair of your Rams which we fixed in 1886 to force 16,000 gallons of water per day for the supply of the district of Guide, above our highest reservoir, pumped up much more than that quantity, and worked well until six months ago, when the consumption of water in the district having largely increased, they were superseded by a pair of your latest Patent Rams to raise 50,000 gallons per day. From a test I have recently made, I find their maximum lifting power exceeds 84,000 GALLONS PER DAY, forced through 1,295 yards of delivery pipe, against a head of 190 feet (including pipe friction). From another test made I found that both Rams supplied with 327,816 gallons per day, with a working fall of 32 feet 3 inches, pumped 47,188 gallons per day to a height of 175 feet (including pipe friction), giving 78 PER CENT. OF EFFICIENCY. The new Rams have worked well and continuously, and, having NO METALLIC CLACKS OR VALVES, their action is smooth and without shock. They are extremely simple, and readily adjusted to vary their lifting power. It requires no skill to keep them in order, or put in new working parts, when that comes to be necessary. Considering that the waste driving water from the Rams flows into a lower service reservoir, a very cheap system of supplying the high-level district is thus utilised. The work done by you is of high-class, and very creditable to you.

From COLONEL A. EGERTON, Comptroller and Treasurer of the Household of H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught.

Buckingham Palace, May 14th, 1897.

COLONEL ALFRED EGERTON has much pleasure in acquainting Mr. John Blake that the Hydraulic Ram which he supplied to the Duke of Connaught, at Bagshot Park, two years ago, has continued to work most satisfactorily.

From Messrs. WINTERTON & SONS, Estate Agents, Walton Warren, Burton-on-Trent.

May 25th, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—We are pleased to report as highly satisfactory the working of the Patent "B" Ram which you fixed, to our order, in 1895, at Oaklands Farm, Walton-on-Trent, for Richard Ratcliffe, Esq., of Stanford Hall. The Ram is worked by a small stream of impure water, and forces spring water through 1,267 yards of delivery pipe to a storage tank, 102 feet above the Ram, from which tank you laid a gravitation main and branches, having a total length of 3,645 yards; also 14 cattle troughs, and supply pipe to farm yard, with various draw-off cocks, ball valves, and other fittings. We are pleased to say that you carried out the work to our entire satisfaction, and the Ram has gone well without any cost for repairs. The Ram works very well, and we are perfectly satisfied with the work.

Yours truly, WINTERTON & SONS.

JOHN BLAKE, Limited, Oxford-street Works, ACCRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.

VINOLIA TOILET REQUISITES.

4d PREMIER VINOLIA SOAP
(For Family Use).

For Delicate, Sensitive, Irritable Skins.

The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST reports:
"An ideal soap, delightfully perfumed."

1/- per box of 3 Tablets.

6d FLORAL VINOLIA SOAP
(For Private Use).

Keeps the Skin as soft as Velvet.

The MEDICAL NEWS reports:
"Beautifully emollient and softening to the skin."

1/6 per box of 3 Tablets.

10d TOILET VINOLIA SOAP
(OTTO)

Scented with Choice Otto of Rose Perfume.

Beautifies the Complexion.

The GENTLEWOMAN reports:
"Strongly recommended to keep the skin smooth and free from roughness."

2/6 per Box of 3 Tablets.

6d BLONDEAU PERFUMES
Concentrated, Delicate, Pure.

*Vinolia Bouquet,	Rondeletia,
*Marequil,	Hyacinth,
*Jequilla,	Ylang Ylang
*Losaria,	Stephanotis
Wood Violet,	Opoponax,
White Heliotrope,	Patchouli,
Ess. Bouquet,	Musk,
Frangipanni,	Ambergris,
Jockey Club,	Amaryllis,
Maréchal Niel,	White Lilac,
Millefleur,	Narcissus,
White Rose,	Chypre,
Jasmin,	Violette de Parme,
Musk Rose,	Mignonette,
Honeysuckle,	Clematis,
New Mown Hay,	Wallflower,
Lily of the Valley,	

Violet, | *Rhine Violets, | Peau d'Espagne.

6d., 1/-, 2/-, 3/-, and 5/- per bottle.

*These perfumes are not supplied in the 6d. quality.

1/- VINOLIA HAIR WASH

DRY. Freshens and cleanses the Hair, and preserves it free from any oily moist appearance.

MOIST. Imparts a natural gloss to the Hair.

1/- per Bottle.

Each in 3 odours: Portugal, Rose, and Violet.

1/1½ VINOLIA CREAM

For Itching, Face Spots, Sunburn, &c.

The LANCET reports:
"An emollient cream for the skin in eczema, rash, eruptions, &c."

1/1½, 1/9, 3/6, and 6/- per Box.

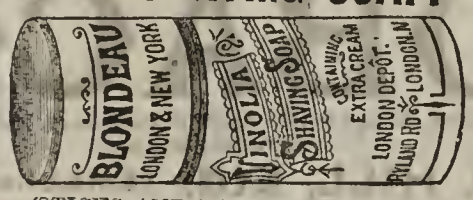
1/- VINOLIA POWDER

For Redness, Roughness, Toilet Nursery, &c.

The LADY'S PICTORIAL reports:
"Superseding the old-fashioned toilet powders which are apt to cause acne spots on the face by blocking up the pores of the skin."

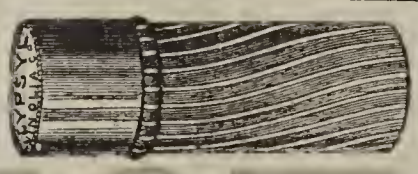
In White, Pink, and Cream Tints.
1/-, 1/9, 3/6, and 6/- per Box.

VINOLIA SHAVING SOAP.
6d



(STICKS AND FLAT CAKES.)
Causes no Blotches.
STICKS: Premier 6d., Toilet 1/-, 1/6, 2/6, Vestal 2/-.
FLAT CAKES: Premier 1/-, Toilet 2/-, Vestal 2/6.

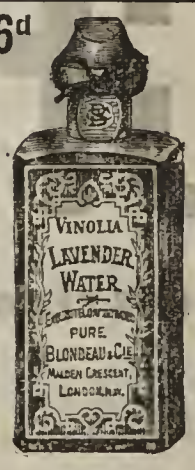
6d LYPSYL.



A Coralline Emollient for Dry, Rough, Cracked, or Pallid Lips.

In Rose-Red and White Tints, 6d. and 1/- a Tube.

6d VINOLIA LAVENDER WATER.



Natural and Very Lasting.

Contains the finest Essential Oils, Concentrated, therefore the Most Economical.

In 1-oz., 2-oz., 4-oz., and 8-oz. Bottles, 6d., 1/-, 2/-. and 3/6.

2/- VINOLIA TOILET WATER.

This is prepared with delicate refreshing perfumes, and is a most exquisite and delightful preparation to use either clear or in water for the Toilet or in the bath.

2s. per Bottle.

6d VINOLIA DENTIFRICE

Aromatic, Tonic, Refreshing, Preservative.

Keeps the Teeth Ivory White.

Premier, in Round Box and Glass Bottle, 6d.

English—2/6.

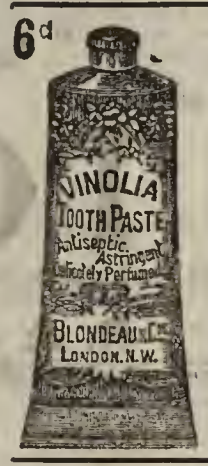
American—1/6.

6d VINOLIA TOOTH SOAP.

An exquisite preparation for the Teeth. Delightfully perfumed and free from any injurious ingredients.

In Round Metal Box, 6d.

6d VINOLIA TOOTH PASTE.



Delicately Perfumed.

Whitens and Cleanses the Teeth, without in any way injuriously affecting the dental structures.

In Collapsable Tube, 6d.

6d BLONDEAU INEXHAUSTIBLE LAVENDER SMELLING SALTS.

These Smelling Salts are of exceptional Strength and most Refreshing. They are agreeably scented, the pleasant odour of Lavender being very pronounced.

6d. per Bottle.

6d VINOLIA EAU DE COLOGNE.

Fragrant. Refreshing.
As fine as can possibly be made.

The "Court Circular" reports:
"Vinolia Eau de Cologne we consider is absolutely unequalled for strength, purity, and delicacy of aroma."

6d., 1/-, 2/-. 3/3, and 5/6.

3d per 2-oz. Packet. VINOLIA VIOLET POWDER.

Sanitary. Antiseptic. Soothing.

Specially prepared for Toilet and Nursery use.

In 2-oz. and ¼-lb. Packets, 3d. & 6d.
In ¼-lb. Tins, 6d.
In ½-lb. Tins, 9d.

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Can be obtained from all leading Tobacconists, including:

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Louis Coen, 88, Piccadilly, W.; 458, Oxford-street, W.; 44, Lombard-street, E.C.
A. H. Cornish & Co., Cigar Merchants, Streatham, S.W.
E. Grahnert, 20, Sussex-place; 167, Earl's Court-road; and Station Buildings, South Kensington.
J. Kevis, 263, Portobello-road, W.
Koppenhagen Bros., 4, Queen-st. Cheapside, E.C.
U. A. Mabille, 53, High-street, Lewisham, S.E.
Litsica Marx & Co., 174, High Holborn, W.C.; 21, Piccadilly, W.; 82, Strand, W.C.
J. & S. Oppenheim, 7, Angel-court, E.C.; 29, Throgmorton-street and Warnford-court, E.C.; 3B, New Broad-street, E.C.; 37A, Walbrook, E.C.; 66, Westbourne-grove, W.; 5, Porchester-road, W.
James Quinton, 64, Moorgate-street, E.C., 25, Royal Exchange, E.C.
C. Ransford, 238, Great Portland-street, W.
W. Seymour, 198, Stroud Green-road; and 6, Crouch-hill, N.
Smith & Co., 30, Chancery-lane, E.C.
F. Smith & Co., 1, Sherwood-street, Piccadilly-circus.
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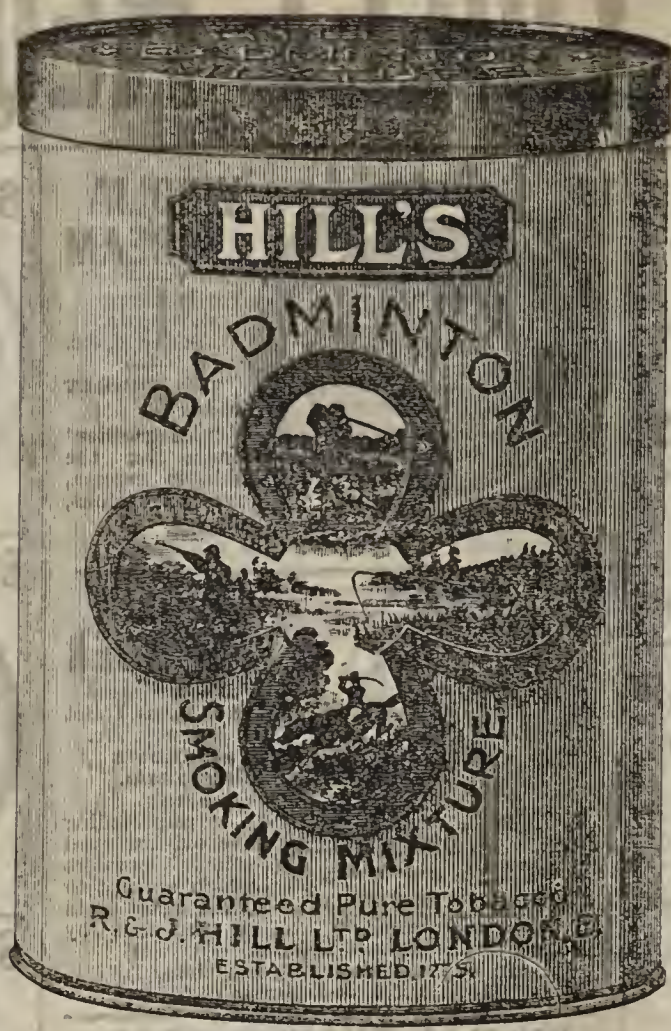
S. Weingott & Son, 83, Fleet-street; and Royal Hotel Buildings, Victoria Embankment, E.C.

In Tins only. ¼-lb. 2/3, post free.



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Bath—**Fredk. Wright**, 17, Northgate-street.
Bournemouth—**E. Offer**, 7, Arcade.
Brighton—**Louis Coen**, 55, East-street. **Whale & Co.**, 73, Queen's-road.
Cambridge—**T. W. Harris**, 40, Petty Cury.
Chatham.—**Owen J. Carter & Co.**, 41, High-st.
Cheltenham—**Fredk. Wright**, High-street and Montpellier.
Chichester.—**T. C. Willis**, 27, East-street.
Cirencester—**Joseph Matthews**, 16, Market-place.
Coventry—**D. Cooke**, Smithford-street and Cross Cheaping.
Dorking.—**C. Wilkins**, 65, High-street.
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Isle of Wight—**H. Cresham**, Union-st., Ryde. **Dear & Morgan**, High-street, Cowes. **W. Rugg**, Newport.
Melton Mowbray—**R. Jordan**, 28, Nottingham-street.
Nantwich.—**E. C. Gilbert**, 13, High-street.
Oxford.—**J. H. Lewis**, 5, Market-street.
Putney—**J. H. Custance**, High-street, and Station Buildings.
Redhill—**W. Rowland**, Station-road.
Reigate—**J. R. Miller**, High-street.
Southampton—**W. J. Pitt**, 60, Above Bar.
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In Tins only. ½-lb. 4/3, post free.

TOBACCO

Is composed of Tobaccos of the highest quality, delightfully cool in smoking, free from any added matter, and prepared with scrupulous care.

And Wholesale only from the Manufacturers, **R. & J. HILL, Ltd. (Established 1775), LONDON, E.**

POSITIVELY PRODUCES HAIR.

STOPS IT FALLING OUT.

KEEPS IT ITS NATURAL COLOUR.

PREVENTS IT GOING GREY.

BEST FOR BEARDS AND MOUSTACHES.

"TATCHO"

[THE "GEORGE R. SIMS" HAIR RESTORER.

GROWS BEAUTIFUL COUNTIFUL HAIR.

MAKES WOMEN'S TRESSES SOFT AND SILKEN.

A DELIGHTFUL HAIR WASH AND TONIC.

BEST FOR THE TOILET TABLE.

"TATCHO" is sold by all Chemists and Hairdressers throughout the World in Bottles, **2s. 9d.** and **5s.**, or can be had post-free direct from the office, 11, Farringdon-avenue, E.C., on receipt of Postal Order for **3s.** or **5s. 4d.** Cheques and P.O.'s should be made payable to the "George R. Sims" Hair Restorer Company, and crossed Union Bank.

"GEORGE R. SIMS" HAIR RESTORER COMPANY, Ltd., 11, Farringdon-avenue, City, E.C.

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GREAT EXHIBITION AND SALE

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THIS DAY and DAILY,

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The most complete and comprehensive collection of the kind ever exhibited, comprising some of the Finest Examples of the

BEST KNOWN FRENCH PERIODS

and many pieces absolutely unique.

ANTIQUE CABINETS

including pair painted by

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In very fine Tapestries; rarely seen except in Museums or Private Collections.

GILT CHAIRS, SETTEES, BERGÈRES,

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Limited,

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New Designs

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A Cup of Chocolat Suchard

accurately prepared, contains all the delicious, soothing, and restorative properties known to exist in Cocoa. Cup for cup, "Chocolat Suchard" is noted for its superiority of flavour and aroma over all other like preparations.

Chocolat Suchard

owes these characteristics not only to the choice materials it is made of, but equally so, perhaps, to the clean and careful methods by which it is uniformly prepared. The recognition of these sterling qualities has led to a largely increased consumption of Chocolat Suchard all over the world.

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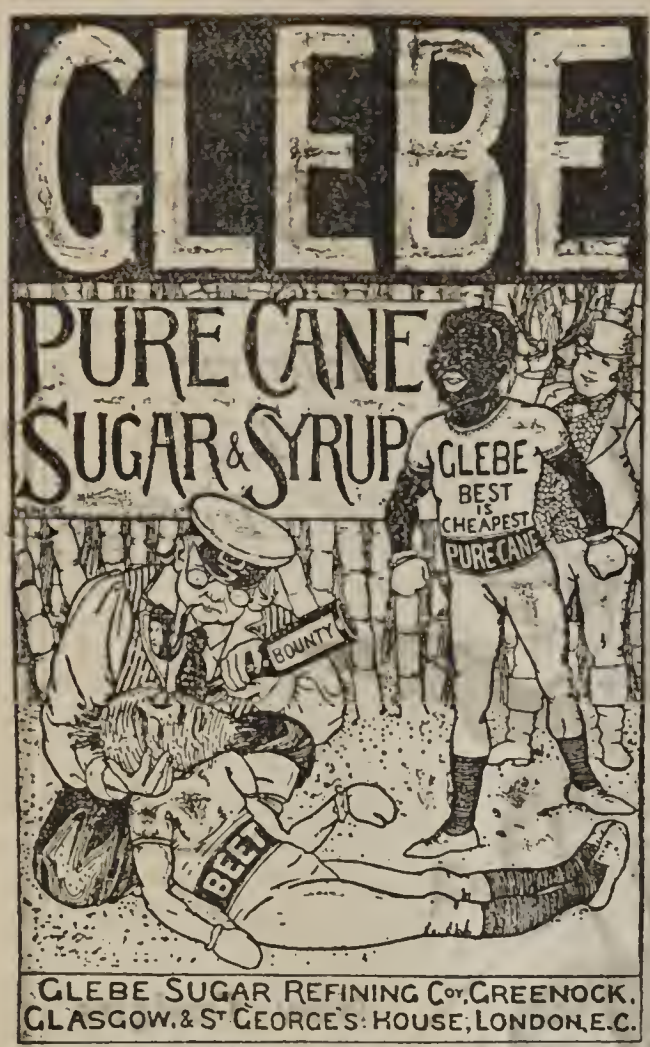
All Chocolates, Cocoas and Bonbons bearing the name of Suchard are of the highest quality only.

70 YEARS' REPUTATION.



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Single Wicks burn 9 hours each, in boxes containing 8 Lights.

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For Cleaning

ARTIFICIAL TEETH,

EITHER

Gold, Platinum, or Vulcanite,

Deodorizing, Disinfecting, removing **Grease,** keeping them **Bright** and **Clean** as when new.

ALL WEARERS SHOULD TRY IT.

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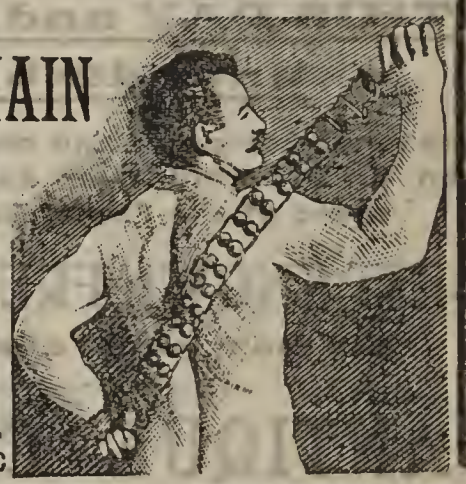

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Recommended by the Medical Profession.

For Liver Complaints, Rheumatism, and all Nervous Disorders. Prevents Obesity.

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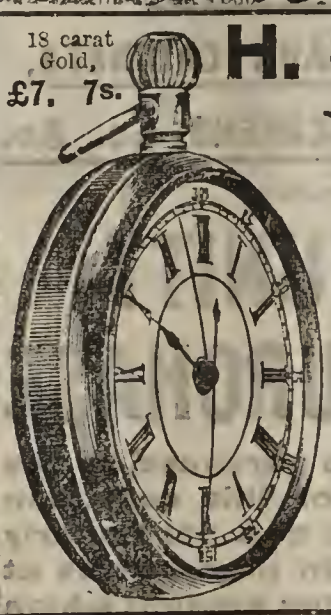
18 carat Gold, £7. 7s.



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A large saving in price as compared with usual London charges. Stamped 18 carat gold, keyless, centre seconds chronograph, lever movement, extra jewelled, chronometer balance, ten years' warranty.

H. SAMUEL'S Price, £7. 7s.

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SOLD BY ALL CHEMISTS AND PERFUMERS IN ELEGANT CRYSTAL TOILET CASKET

PRICE 2/6.

ALSO IN PATENT METALLIC BOX

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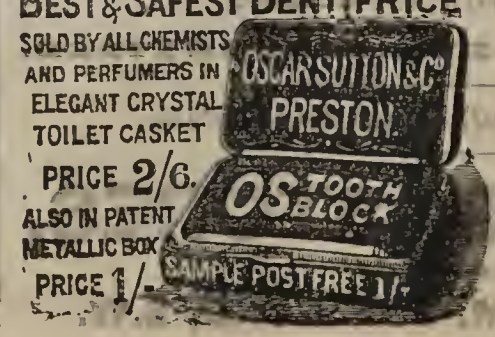

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Perfectly Self Digestive.

Hovis Bread is baked and delivered daily by all good class Bakers in the British Isles; **Hovis Biscuits** are sold by most Grocers and Bakers; or 6d. and 1s. Samples of Bread and Biscuits will be sent on receipt of stamps by THE HOVIS-BREAD FLOUR Co., Ltd., Millers, Macclesfield.

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FAMOUS OLD SCOTCH	39/-
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LIGHTNESS with STRENGTH.
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HIGH CLASS DYER AND CLEANER,
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THE MOST ELABORATE COSTUME CLEANED WHOLE.
ALL COUNTRY ORDERS TO BE SENT TO
Works: White Post Lane, Hackney Wick, London E.
WRITE FOR PRICE LIST.
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FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH

Is the BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE in the WORLD.

PREVENTS THE DECAY OF THE TEETH.
Renders the Teeth Pearly White.
IS PERFECTLY HARMLESS AND DELICIOUS TO THE TASTE.
Is Partly Composed of Honey, and Extracts from Sweet Herbs and Plants.
Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World.
2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER,
Only put in Glass Jars, Price 1s.

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from Falling off.

Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.

Being delicately perfumed, it leaves no Unpleasant Odour.

IS NOT A DYE.

Should be in every House where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.

ASK YOUR CHEMIST OR HAIRDRESSER FOR

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per bottle.

CLARKE'S "CRICKLITE" LAMPS

For burning Clarke's Patent Double Wick Wax Lights.

The Cricklite Lamp and Light Co.

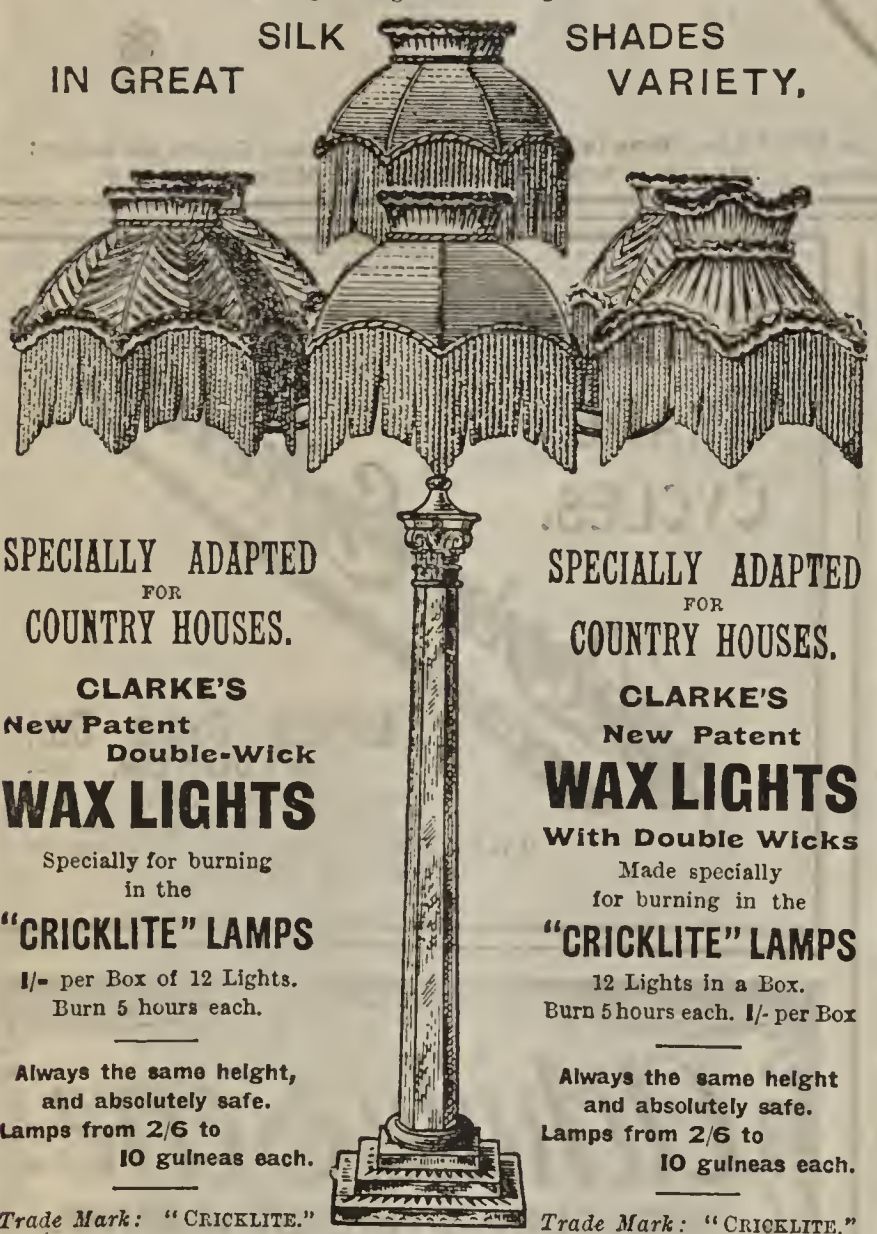
Respectfully invite the attention of Visitors to London to the beautiful

EXHIBIT OF THEIR NEW "CRICKLITE" LAMPS

AT 75, Regent Street (Next door to St. James's Hall)

now attracting so much attention as the Light of the Future for Decoratively Lighting Dining and Drawing Rooms.

SILK SHADES IN GREAT VARIETY.



SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR COUNTRY HOUSES.

CLARKE'S New Patent Double-Wick WAX LIGHTS

Specially for burning in the "CRICKLITE" LAMPS

1/- per Box of 12 Lights. Burn 5 hours each.

Always the same height, and absolutely safe. Lamps from 2/6 to 10 guineas each.

Trade Mark: "CRICKLITE."

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CLARKE'S New Patent WAX LIGHTS With Double Wicks

Made specially for burning in the "CRICKLITE" LAMPS

12 Lights in a Box. Burn 5 hours each. 1/- per Box

Always the same height and absolutely safe. Lamps from 2/6 to 10 guineas each.

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Two to Seven Lamps on One Standard, 18 in. high, in richly cut Glass or Silver-plated, with beautiful Silk Shades. No trouble in trimming. They are absolutely safe, may be left burning without any attention the whole time, are very economical in use, and take up very little space on the table.

All Letters should be addressed to **75, Regent St., W.,** or the Manufacturers,

CLARKE'S PYRAMID AND FAIRY LIGHT COMPANY, LTD.
CRICKLEWOOD, LONDON, N.W.

Notice. A Supplementary Show Room is Open until the end of October at **156, Regent St.** (corner of Beak St.)

N.B.—SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR USE IN COUNTRY HOUSES AND ABROAD.

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ALL COLOURS. ALL GRADES.
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Black Lead 1d. & 2d. Coloured Crayons 2d. & 3d.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Sample Box of 5 Pencils 1s., Free by Post in the U.K.

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SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.

THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd. Capital, £1,200,000 Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £30,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.

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Palmerston Buildings,
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Business in Stocks and Shares at close prices.

Dealings reported by wire if required.

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Lists of Closing Prices gratis.

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THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

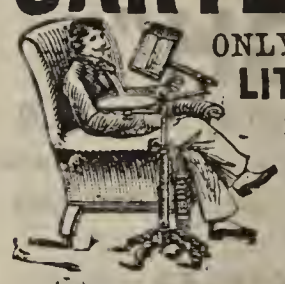
EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

CARTER 6A NEW CAVENDISH ST. PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON.

ONLY ADDRESS OF ORIGINAL CARTER.

LITERARY MACHINE.



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INVALID FURNITURE.
ADJUSTABLE COUCHES and BEDS from £1. 10/-

Bed Lift £3. 10/-
Reclining Boards, 25/-
Walking Machines
Portable W.C.'s.
Electric Bells,
Urinals, &c.
Air & Water Beds.

Bed Rests 7/6
Leg Rests 10/-
Crutches 10/6
Bed Baths 12/6
Commodes, £1. 5/-

Carrying Chairs from **£1.**
Breakfast in Bed Tables from **30/-**

Self-Propelling Chairs from **£2**

BATH CHAIRS FROM **£1. 5/-**

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BEST AND SAFEST NATURAL APERIENT.

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"The Prototype of all Bitter Waters."
THE LANCET.

CAUTION.

Every Bottle bears the Signature of the Proprietor, ANDREAS SAXLEHNER.

THE TASMANIAN TIN DREDGING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The whole of the Working Capital of 10,000 Preference Shares has been subscribed and allotted, and dredging machinery and plant are now under construction.

Tin production for 1897 was 2,500 tons short of consumption, Straits supplies falling off from greater cost of working, the profit estimate of this Company is based at £3 per ton under current rates, the difference representing the rise in price since the formation of the Company.

Mr. C. K. Sheard, M.Inst.C.E., late Government Superintending Engineer Public Works Department, N.W. Coast, Tasmania, who has agreed to act as Managing Director of the Company in Tasmania, in a letter accompanying his report, writes: "I have not the slightest hesitation in strongly recommending this investment, and, if required, can obtain dozens of reports from experts supporting my views, for none other can be reported."

Mr. J. G. Stitt, Memb. Metallurgical Society, a well-known authority on mining matters in Tasmania, states in his report: "I have every confidence in recommending this property to capitalists and investors, if worked on the scale and by the method proposed by Mr. Sheard in his report, for I find he considerably under-estimated the probable results, the experiments giving very much larger returns than his calculations are based upon. This proposed method for working these immense deposits, in my opinion, is the best that can be adopted. The capital required should not exceed £10,000 to £11,000, and this will soon be returned to the investors in dividends when work is commenced and preliminary dead work done. I consider this the best mining investment and unworked property in Tasmania, and one of the soundest projects put before the public."

THE TASMANIAN TIN DREDGING CO.

Limited.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890, whereby the liability of Shareholders is limited to the amount of their Shares.

SHARE CAPITAL - - £50,000

Divided into 15,000 TEN PER CENT. CUMULATIVE PREFERENCE SHARES, and 35,000 ORDINARY SHARES of £1 each,

of which 10,000 PREFERENCE SHARES are reserved for Working Capital, and have been subscribed and allotted, the remaining 5,000 Preference Shares, and all the Ordinary Shares have been allotted to the Vendor Syndicate in payment of the properties.

After payment of the Dividend on Preference Shares, the Ordinary Shares are to receive 10 per cent., and both Preference and Ordinary Shares are to rank rateably for surplus profits.

When 100 per cent. in dividends has been paid on the Preference Shares issued they are to be converted into Ordinary Shares.

ADVISORY DIRECTORS IN TASMANIA.

Hon Nicholas Brown, Member Legislative Assembly, late Minister of Lands, Hobart, and Agent in Tasmania for the Mount Lyell Railway and Mining Company, Limited.

D. C. Urquhart, Esq., Member Legislative Assembly, Montague, Zeehan.

DIRECTORS.

T. F. Veasey, Esq., Member Inst. Mining Engineers, Associate Member Inst. C.E., 5, Copthall Buildings, E.C., Chairman.

L. E. Wilson, Esq., Member Inst. C.E., 8, Delahay-street, Westminster, S.W.

J. Free, Esq., Associate Member Inst. Mining Engineers, Moorgate Station Chambers, E.C.

C. Mercier, Esq., Southend, Catford, S.E.

C. K. Sheard, Esq., Member Inst. C.E., late Government Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department, N.W. Coast, Derby, Tasmania, Managing Director in Tasmania.

BANKERS.

London—London and County Banking Company, Limited, 21, Lombard-st., E.C.
Tasmania—Bank of Australasia, Launceston.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Ingoldby & Adkin, 4, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry, E.C.
Messrs. Urquhart & Omant, Hobart and Zeehan, Tasmania.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Ball, Baker, Deed, Cornish, & Co., Chartered Accountants, 1, Gresham Buildings, Basinghall-street, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—Mr. E. P. Chambers, 5, Copthall Buildings, E.C.

The Company was incorporated in November, 1897, the whole of the Working Capital of 10,000 Preference Shares being subscribed and allotted.

The Company owns six Crown dredging leases, granted by the Tasmanian Government, and comprising 237½ chains or about three miles of the bed and channel of the Ringarooma River, with the tin drift and tailings therein, estimated at about 1,000,000 cubic yards, at a part where the river has for the last twenty years formed the sole discharge and sludge channel for the tin wash and tailings of the leading tin sluicing mines of the Ringarooma Tin-field in the North-east Mineral Field of Tasmania, passing through and adjoining the Triangle, the North Brothers' Home, the Krushkas, the Krushkas Brothers' Home, the Brothers' Home No. 1, the New Brothers' Home Amalgamated Lease, the Briseis, and other tin mines on the Cascade and Main Creeks, and receiving the lost tin from the sluicing of the Arba, Ormuz, Ruby Flat, Ringarooma Valley, and other mines, collected and held in this part of the river by the rocky bed and the natural bars running across the river near the Brothers' Home and the Main Creek.

The properties and tailings have been reported upon by Mr. J. G. Stitt, M.M.S.; Mr. C. K. Sheard, Memb.Inst.C.E., late Government Superintending Engineer Public Works Department, Tasmania; Mr. C. E. Riley, Manager East Hercules Gold Mining Company, Mount Reid; Messrs. John Campbell and J. Kennelly, Mining Engineers, Zeehan; and reference is made to the Tasmanian Government Geological Reports of A. Montgomery, Esq., M.A., and G. Thurean, Esq., F.G.S., Government Geological Surveyors, published by order of the Minister of Mines.

Particulars of an issue of fully-paid Ten per Cent. Preference Shares, by arrangement with the Vendor Syndicate, to cover costs of purchase options upon additional dredging properties recommended by Mr. Sheard can be obtained from the Secretary.

The NEW BULTFONTEIN MINING COMPANY,

Limited.

Registered as a Limited Liability Company under Act 25, 1892, of the Cape Colony.

CAPITAL £275,000,
in 275,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.
ISSUED CAPITAL ... ... £242,500.
Issue of
£50,000 Six Per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures in Bonds of £50 each.
To be secured by first mortgage of all the landed property, buildings, plant and machinery of the Company.

The Debentures will be issued at par, and be repayable at 103 in five annual drawings of £10,000 each and the premium of 3 per cent., commencing on September 1st, 1901, and terminating on September 1st, 1905, or by purchases in the market if below par, or by giving six months' notice at any time after the expiration of two years from date hereof the Company may repay the then outstanding Debentures at 105. Holders of Debentures will have the option until 26th April, 1900, on giving seven days' notice, of converting one moiety of their holding at their nominal value, into Ordinary Shares, at the rate of £1 5s. per Share, that is to say, a holder of Debentures to the value of £100 would be entitled to exchange £50 of such Debentures for 50 Ordinary Shares on payment of an additional £12 10s. Should this option be exercised the amount of the annual drawings will be correspondingly reduced.

In the event of the Company going into voluntary liquidation before the 25th of April, 1900, the Debentures will be repayable at 103.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE HOLDERS.

Mr. Sidney Mendelssohn, 105, Hatton-garden, London, E.C.
" Henry C. Bucknall, 22, Crutched-friars, London, E.C.
" Henry Walter, 62, Finchley-road, London, N.W.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. Sidney Mendelssohn (Chairman). Mr. B. Klisser (Deputy Chairman).

Mr. H. Abrahams.	Mr. H. J. Krauss.	Mr. A. J. Swaab.
" W. T. Anderson.	" P. W. Mallet, J.P.	" J. T. Vigne.
" Henry C. Bucknall.	" M. Mendelssohn.	" Henry Walter.
" W. T. Donelly.	" B. Reed.	

HEAD OFFICE.—Cheapside, Kimberley. Secretary, C. F. Beaton.
LONDON OFFICE.—6½, Austin-friars, E.C. Secretary, F. Marshall.

BANKERS.

In London—The Union Bank of London, 2, Princes-street, London, E.C.
In Kimberley—The Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited.

The Directors invite applications for the above issue at par, payable as follows:—

20 per cent. on Application;
30 per cent. on Allotment;
25 per cent. on 14th June;
25 per cent. on 14th July.

The issue will be secured by a first mortgage bond in favour of the Trustees, and duly registered in the Deeds Registry Office in Cape Colony, upon all the landed property, mining claims and water rights, dams and reservoirs, buildings, machinery and fixed plant of every description belonging to the Company. These are all in good working order, and the buildings and surface works in good repair. There will also be a floating charge over the whole of the undertaking and assets of the Company.

The Debentures will bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly on 1st September and 1st March, and the first coupon will be payable 1st March, 1899.

Interest on payments, calculated from date of allotment and the dates of subsequent instalments, will accrue at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum to the 31st August, and will be paid when the provisional scrip is exchanged for definitive bonds on or about 1st September, 1898.

The Debentures will be to bearer, with coupons attached, which will be paid at the Offices of the Company in Kimberley, or at the London Office, 6½, Austin Friars, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

The New Bultfontein Mining Company was incorporated in 1895, under the Laws of the Cape Colony, to purchase and work 58 claims in the Bultfontein Diamond Mine. By subsequent amalgamation with the Bultfontein Central Mines and the Bultfontein Premier Diamond Mining Company an additional 90 claims were acquired, making a total of 148 claims or thereabouts. These claims form a compact block in the Bultfontein Diamond Mine, adjoining claims belonging to the Consolidated Bultfontein Mine and the De Beers Consolidated Mines, Limited.

In June, 1896, it was decided to adopt the underground system of working, whereby the danger of stoppage and damage from falls of reef and ground under the old open-air method would be done away with, and £75,000 was provided by the Shareholders for that purpose. These works have comprised the sinking of a main shaft 648½ feet deep, the driving of a main tunnel, 11 feet wide by 8 feet high, at the 600 feet level from the shaft to the blue ground, a distance of 823 feet through solid quartzite rock, the erection of a 60 feet steel lattice head-gear over the main shaft and a 120-h.p. winding engine, guaranteed capable of hoisting 3,000 loads of blue ground per day of 12 hours, as well as the necessary boilers, buildings, pumps, and other plant and gear, in addition to the general development of the Mine at the various levels down to the 600 feet.

The above works are now all complete and paid for. According to cable advice received from the Head Office in Kimberley, the new machinery started running on the 11th instant and is working well, and the Company is now in a position to do large and regular work, and it is with a view to depositing on the floors an adequate reserve stock of blue ground that the Directors have recommended, and the Shareholders have sanctioned, this issue of Debentures.

During the year 1896 dividends amounting to 20 per cent. were paid, but during 1897, owing to a heavy fall of reef and the hindrances arising therefrom, and the interference caused by the laying out and preparation for the execution of the new works, the hauling and washing was only on a small scale. Production has, however, commenced from blue ground taken out of the mine during the course of development, and the results obtained go to prove the value of the underground system as compared with the open-air method, the yield from this ground for the past three months having been about 28 carats per 100 loads, as against 19 or 20 carats under the old system. The Company has, during the same period, only been working about 5,000 loads per week, which shows a fair ratio of profit, and with the completion of the shaft and machinery it is estimated that the quantity washed can be gradually increased to three times the present output. This production should, it is calculated, enable the Company to earn profits sufficing to provide interest on, and a Sinking Fund for the redemption of, the present issue of Debentures, and leave a handsome balance for Dividends on the Ordinary Share Capital and the provision of Reserve and Depreciation Funds.

A copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company and the draft Trust Deed securing the Debentures can be seen at the Offices of the Company, 6½, Austin-friars, London, E.C., where the Prospectus and Forms of Application can be obtained.

Applications for Debentures on the enclosed Form may be sent to to Company's Bankers, together with cheque for the application money.

Failure to pay any instalment will render previous payments liable to forfeiture.

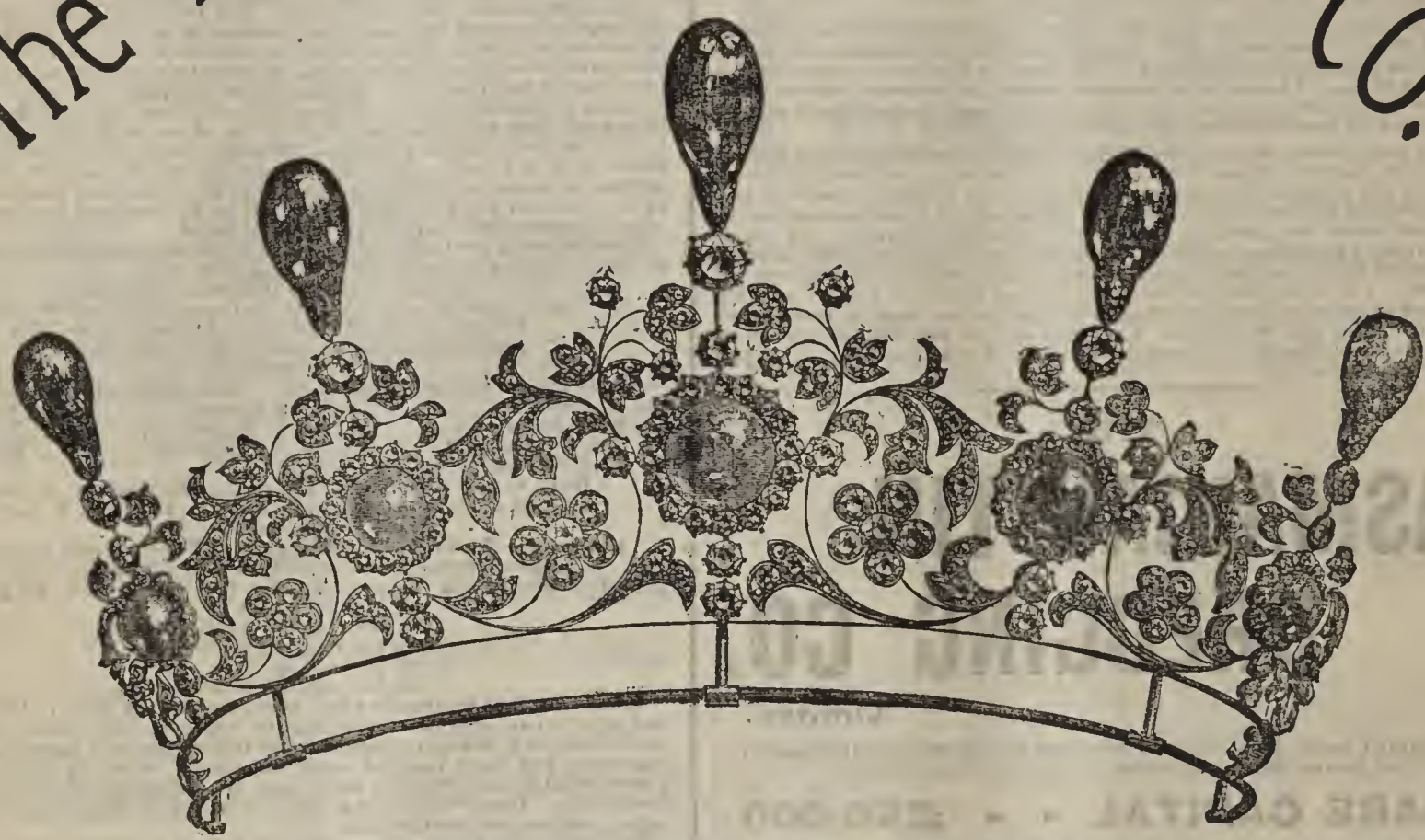
Provisional scrip will be issued against letters of allotment and cash receipts, and will be exchanged for definitive Debentures on and after 1st September, 1898.

Where no allotment is made, the application money will be returned in full; and when the number of Debentures allotted is less than those applied for, the surplus will be credited to the account of future payments.

Application will be made to the Stock Exchange for a quotation in their Official List.

22nd April, 1898.

The PARISIAN DIAMOND CO.



"ORIENT" PEARL and DIAMOND CROWN.
A very exquisitely executed piece of Diamond work. Price £80 0 0.

THE
"Orient" Pearls.
THE COMPANY'S GREAT SPECIALITÉ.

143, Regent St., W,
THE COMPANY'S NEW BRANCH
(Opposite Liberty's, Chesham House).

GOLD MEDAL,
PARIS, 1889.

ILLUSTRATED
CATALOGUE
POST FREE.

DIAMOND TIARA.
New Design. Set *à jour* in Real Diamond Mounts.
Price £27 0 0.

143, Regent St., W.
43, Burlington Arcade, W.
85, New Bond St., W.
And in Paris.

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 996.—COMBINATIONS OF CONSONANTS TO BE EXPANDED INTO SENTENCES.

DOMBEY (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 999.—EXPANSION INTO SENTENCES OF CERTAIN COMBINATIONS OF CONSONANTS.

LYSWYS (real name and address will be published in due course) £0 10 6
DINAH (" " " " ") 0 10 6
CARRADABIA (" " " " ") 0 10 6
LEILA (" " " " ") 0 10 6

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,000.—RHYMED ACROSTIC ON KING ALFRED THE GREAT.

BEAUMONT (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,001.

The Prize in this competition will be divided between DRY MONOPOLE and "R. F." for the best original anagrams made out of the letters in the words, "THE FRANCO-RUSSIAN ALLIANCE IN THE FAR EAST."

PRIZE ANAGRAMS.

Alas! China consents—after failure in heart.—DRY MONOPOLE.
Rather an insane lust after a slice of China.—R. F.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,005.

As the *Pall Mall Gazette* truly remarked in a recent paragraph:—

"There have been many definitions of a gentleman. Among them was a famous one by a celebrated actress, 'A man who can wear a clean collar without looking conspicuous;' but the latest which the Marylebone County Court gave us yesterday deserves, says the *Telegraph*, to rank among the best. At the hearing of a judgment summons, the judge asked what trade the defendant followed. His Honour was informed that he was a builder. 'But on my copy of the summons,' said the judge, 'he is described as a butcher.' Hereupon the Registrar said that on his copy the defendant was described as a tailor. Then came the definition, which deserves to live, given by the plaintiff: 'He is more like a gentleman than anything else. He walks about all day doing nothing, going from public-house to public-house.'"

It has been suggested to me that an interesting competition may be secured by asking the readers of TRUTH to try their hands at defining, in a similar way, what a gentleman is. The usual weekly prize of Two Guineas is therefore offered for

THE BEST HUMOROUS DEFINITION OF A GENTLEMAN.

Competitors may send in more than one definition if they please; and all answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, May 9, at the latest.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The winners of Prizes Nos. 986 and 989 have not yet made formal application for the Prizes awarded to them. As it is necessary for this formal application to be made before cheques can be sent, I shall be glad to hear from ROUGHTY and SCOTUS VIATOR at their earliest convenience.

*** The real name, with the address, of W. NEVERMORE, winner of Prize No. 993, is Morton Luce, Esq., 45, Upper Belgrave-road, Clifton, Bristol.

*** The real name, with the address, of ROSALYS, winner of Prize No. 997, is Mrs. R. A. Knox, 28, Bisham-gardens, Highgate, N.

*** The real name, with the address, of CRERAN, winner of Prize No. 995, is G. K. Webster, Esq., 6, Pembridge-crescent, Bayswater, W.

W. NEVERMORE.—Many thanks for your suggestion.

J. W. ST. G. H.—I am much obliged to you for your letter. As you will have seen, I placed all competitors on a similar footing with regard to the misprints which occurred.

JANET H.—Many thanks for the trouble you took, and for the list you sent me.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,002.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

THE SIX HANDSOMEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN LONDON.

*** The following Lists have been taken, without any attempt at selection, from the answers received.—THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

The Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral Church, Westminster Abbey, the Imperial Institute, the Brompton Popish Oratory, the Albert Hall.—H. J. St. B. C.

Houses of Parliament, the Abbey, the Tower, St. Paul's, the Temple, the Exchange.—E. H. K.

Natural History Museum, the Tate Gallery, St. Paul's Cathedral, St. Pancras Station, Houses of Parliament, Queen's Hall.—Bach.

Natural History Museum, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, National Gallery, Horse Guards.—B. B.

Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Midland Hotel, St. Pancras, Foreign Office, Imperial Institute.—Medicus.

Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Law Courts, St. Paul's Cathedral, Tower of London, Guildhall.—Robert Martin.

Tate Gallery, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Somerset House, Houses of Parliament, the Tower.—Bythorpe.

Houses of Parliament, New Law Courts (Strand), Somerset House, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's, Imperial Institute.—Hope.

Imperial Institute, Westminster Abbey, Somerset House, Law Courts, Houses of Parliament, Natural History Museum.—Blossom.

Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's, Imperial Institute, Law Courts, St. Thomas's Hospital.—Pyramid.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, Royal Exchange, South Kensington, Natural History Museum, British Museum.—Ajax.

Houses of Parliament, Royal Courts of Justice, Royal Exchange, Somerset House, Burlington House, Foreign Office.—C. F. Reid.

St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, the Law Courts, the Temple Church.—The Hen.

The Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, India Office, &c., Horse Guards (Whitehall), Royal Exchange, Tower of London.—A. M. A.

Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Law Courts, Imperial Institute, British Museum.—B. A. F.

St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London, Somerset House, the Law Courts, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey.—Jemina.

Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Houses of Parliament, Tower of London, British Museum, Natural History Museum.—Psyche.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Somerset House, the Mansion House, Natural History Museum, British Museum.—M. W.

Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's, Somerset House, Royal Exchange, Buckingham Palace.—Cadzow.

Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, the National Gallery, the Imperial Institute.—Bel Demonio.

Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Museum of Natural History, British Museum, the Law Courts.—Forget-Me-Not.

St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, Royal Courts of Justice, Imperial Institute, South Kensington Museum.—Thomasina.

Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's, Somerset House, Albert Hall, Tower Bridge.—Ivy Leaves.

The Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's, Natural History Museum, the Tower of London, The Tower Bridge.—Liverpudlian.

Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower, Somerset House, Royal Exchange.—Lancastrian.

Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's, Tower of London, Somerset House, the Tower Bridge.—Pépin le Bret.

Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's, Houses of Parliament, Albert Hall, Imperial Institute, South Kensington Museum.—Geisha.

Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral, Kensington Museum, Imperial Institute, National Gallery.—Bobboker.

St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, Law Courts, Albert Hall, South Kensington Museum.—Warrambeen.

Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Law Courts, Tower of London, Royal Exchange.—Sinensis.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, the Tower, Royal Exchange, Houses of Parliament, New Law Courts.—A. Pownall.

Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral, New Law Courts, Mansion House, Royal Exchange, Westminster Abbey.—Fish.

Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Houses of Parliament, Royal Courts of Justice, Buckingham Palace, Albert Memorial.—Scorpio.

St. Paul's Cathedral, the Royal Courts of Justice, Westminster Abbey, Her Majesty's Theatre, the Royal Exchange, New Scotland Yard.—Leaf Rule.

Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, St. Paul's Cathedral, Law Courts, South Kensington Museum.—Rudolf Q.

Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Imperial Institute, St. Pancras Station, the Tower Bridge.—Nurse.

Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, Imperial Institute, St. Paul's Cathedral, Kensington Museum, National Gallery.—Nippers.

The Tower, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's, The Horse Guards, Somerset House, Houses of Parliament.—Do-me-réjane.

St. Paul's Cathedral, the Houses of Parliament, Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, National Gallery, Stock Exchange.—Two Pounds Two.

The Imperial Institute, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Royal Courts of Justice, Midland Railway Hotel, St. Pancras.—Stonas.

Houses of Parliament, New Law Courts, Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, the Royal Exchange, St. Paul's Cathedral.—C. M. P.

Westminster Abbey, St. Saviour's Church, Southwark, Somerset House, St Paul's Cathedral, Law Courts, Houses of Parliament.—Cock Robin.

Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral, Tower of London, Law Courts, Imperial Institute, Natural History Museum.—C.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, Imperial Institute, Natural History Museum, Albert Hall.—Oliver.

Imperial Institute, St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey, Crystal Palace, Royal Exchange, Royal Academy.—Vieux Kittey.

The Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, the National Gallery, the British Museum, Somerset House.—Aldgarn.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Midland Hotel and Terminus, St. Pancras, Imperial Institute, Hotel Cecil.—R. F.

Houses of Parliament, National Gallery, Natural History Museum, Tate Gallery, St. Thomas' Hospital, Imperial Institute.—Pickles.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, Imperial Institute, The New Law Courts, Buckingham Palace.—Ecossaise.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, The Tower, Buckingham Palace, New Law Courts.—Cestrian.

Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, St. Thomas's Hospital, Westminster Abbey, Natural History Museum, The Imperial Institute.—Yaigogrin.

Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Law Courts, St. Paul's Cathedral, Natural History Museum (South Kensington), Record Office (Chancery-lane).—N. Igma.

Westminster Abbey, St. Thomas's Hospital, Houses of Parliament, Imperial Institute, Natural History Museum, Buckingham Palace.—Wyaiong.

Buckingham Palace, St. Paul's Cathedral, The Tower, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, British Museum.—Solomon.

Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, Royal Courts of Justice, Royal Albert Hall, Midland Grand Hotel, Her Majesty's Theatre.—A. E. L.

Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Imperial Institute, the National Gallery, the Law Courts (East Strand).—La Plata.

British Museum, Natural History Museum, St. Paul's Cathedral, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace.—Islay.

Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral, Tower of London, National Gallery, Royal Exchange.—S. W. F.

Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Guildhall, St. Pancras Station, Tower Bridge.—Slim.

The British Museum, the Albert Hall, the National Gallery, the Mansion House, the Crystal Palace, the Imperial Institute.—Spex.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Houses of Parliament, Natural History Museum, Foreign Office, New Scotland Yard, Royal Courts of Justice.—Notgere.

Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral, Law Courts, British Museum, National Gallery.—Eve.

Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Imperial Institute, Royal Exchange, Somerset House.—Risk.

Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Museum of Natural History, Buckingham Palace, British Museum.—Rex.

Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's, National Gallery, Westminster Abbey, Stock Exchange, Tower of London.—Salt.

Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral, Tower of London, Natural History Museum (S. Kensington), Law Courts.—Louise.

Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower, Royal Exchange, Natural History Museum, Imperial Institute.—Clodingh.

Houses of Parliament, the Law Courts, Natural History Museum, India Offices, British Museum, Albert Hall.—Sams.

Imperial Institute, Guildhall, National Gallery, Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey.—The Pig Lady.

Houses of Parliament, Foreign Office, Burlington House, Tower of London, Colonial Office, Imperial Institute.—Pseudonym.

St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, Crystal Palace, Royal Exchange, Imperial Institute.—Tossa-Wassa.

Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London, the Natural History Museum, the Houses of Parliament, the National Gallery.—Engineer.

Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London, the Tower Bridge, Albert Hall.—Morton Green.

Houses of Parliament, the Law Courts, Natural History Museum, St. Pancras Railway Station, Foreign and India Offices, British Museum.—Fiddle.

The Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Imperial Institute, National Gallery, British Museum.—A Northern Light.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Charing Cross Hotel, Madame Tussaud's, Hotel Metropole.—Auntie.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, Law Courts, Imperial Institute, Natural History Museum.—Pendarley.

Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London, the Royal Exchange, the British Museum.—Niobe.

Natural History Museum, St. Paul's Cathedral, Mansion House, Royal Exchange, South Kensington Museum, Houses of Parliament.—Yram.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, the Royal Exchange, the Albert Hall, Burlington House.—Poofy.

Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Royal Courts of Justice, the Houses of Parliament, the Mansion House, the Tower of London.—Golloywog.

Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Law Courts, Natural History Museum, the Tower of London.—Lookins.

St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey, St. Stephen's, the Tower, National Gallery, Buckingham Palace.—Beginner.

St. Paul's Cathedral, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, New Law Courts, Albert Hall, National Gallery.—Scotus Viator.

Westminster Abbey, Westminster Hall, Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral, Royal Exchange, St. Thomas's Hospital.—Penguin.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, Tower of London, National Gallery, Imperial Institute.—Duff.

Houses of Parliament, Royal Exchange, British Museum, Guildhall, Somerset House, Law Courts.—Risington.

Natural History Museum, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Hotel Cecil, St. Thomas' Hospital, St. Paul's Cathedral.—Avis.

Houses of Parliament, Law Courts, Royal Exchange, National Gallery, Guildhall, British Museum.—Jan.

Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, National Gallery, Buckingham Palace, the Oratory, Law Courts.—Sweetums.

The Tower, St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey, Westminster Palace, Somerset House, New Scotland Yard.—Gerardinus.

Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Somerset House, the Houses of Parliament, St. Thomas's Hospital, Natural History Museum (South Kensington).—Ardchoile.

Parliament Houses, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, the Law Courts, St. Thomas's Hospital, Tate's Gallery.—Ivy Bank.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, the New Law Courts, the Houses of Parliament, the Tower, the British Museum.—Dorothy S.

Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, British Museum, Houses of Parliament, the Tower Bridge, the Tower of London.—Whig.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, the New Foreign Office, the Natural History Museum at Kensington, the Tower Bridge.—Hammonia.

Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower Bridge, the Natural History Museum, British Museum.—Whig's Wife.

St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey, Albert Hall, Houses of Parliament, Tower Bridge, Law Courts.—Yung-Ya.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, St. Thomas's Hospital, the British Museum, Somerset House.—Echo.

Imperial Institute, Somerset House, Natural History Museum, Guildhall, Houses of Parliament, Albert Hall.—Dumnorix.

Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Houses of Parliament, the Law Courts, the Tower of London, the Royal Exchange.—Rosa.

Law Courts, Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's, Buckingham Palace, Bank of England.—Perro.

Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's, Houses of Parliament, British Museum, Somerset House (River front), Law Courts.—Wig and Gown.

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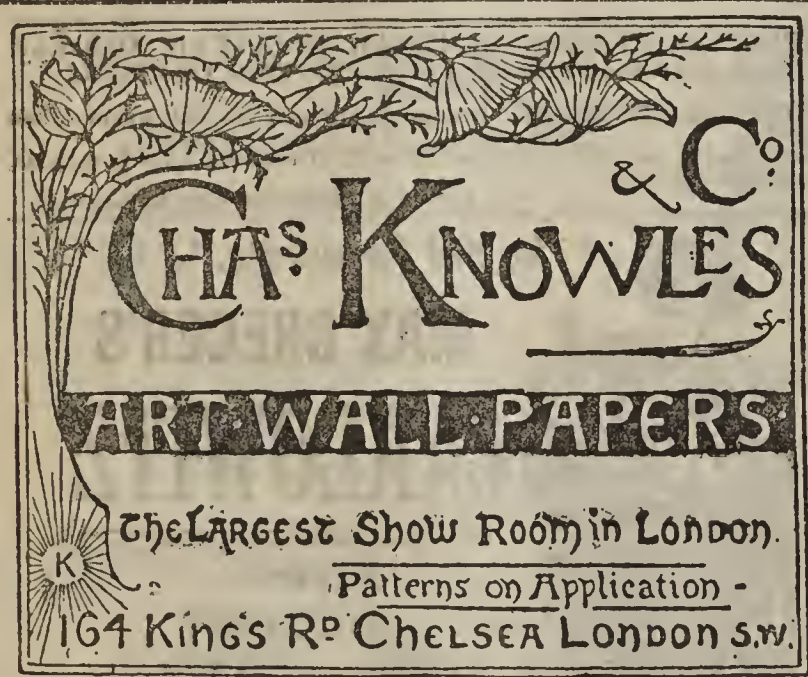

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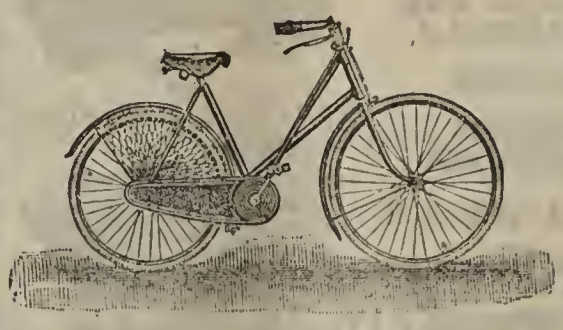

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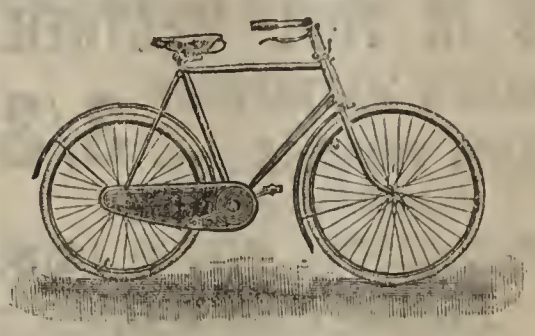

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• TRUTH •

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen comes to town on Monday next, and her Majesty will spend two or three nights at Buckingham Palace. This will probably be the Queen's last visit to London during the present year.

Some of the papers appear to have been made uneasy by the informality of the visit of President Faure to the Queen at Cimiez, both as to the etiquette of the meeting, and in the matter of his costume. These journals do not appear to understand that the Queen maintained a strict incognita all the time she was on the Continent, being everywhere known as Countess of Balmoral. If the Queen had not been incognita, all the Imperial and Royal personages who came to see her would have been obliged to appear in full uniforms, with stars and ribbons, and their visits must have been returned with all the formalities which etiquette requires from a travelling Sovereign.

There will be a State Ball and a State Concert at Buckingham Palace shortly before Whitsuntide, according to present arrangements, but the dates of these functions will not be fixed until after the Prince of Wales has conferred with the Queen on the subject. The second Ball and the second Concert will not take place until the beginning of July. These are to be the only Palace entertainments for this year, as the Queen does not intend to give a garden party, and there is not likely to be one at Marlborough House.

A paragraph has gone round the papers which states that at next week's Drawing Room the number of débutantes will be restricted to two hundred. This is nonsense. It is the number of presentations which is restricted to two hundred, and there is no reference whatever to "débutantes" in the Lord Chamberlain's new regulations. Any one who may in future make an "irregular" presentation will *ipso facto* be permanently banished from Court, and a similar penalty will be inflicted for the offence (which has been scandalously common) of receiving payment for presenting a person.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to make Marlborough House their headquarters until Saturday, the 28th, when they will go to Sandringham for about ten days.

Princess Henry of Prussia has left her residence at Kiel for an absence of several months. Princess Henry, who is now on a visit to the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Hesse at Darmstadt, is to arrive at Windsor Castle from Germany on Wednesday, May 18, and two days later she will accompany the Queen to Balmoral. With her two children she will probably spend the months of July and August in the Isle of Wight, in which case they are to occupy Osborne Cottage, which will be lent to them by the Queen.

An evening paper states that Lord Strafford "has resigned his position as Equerry to the Queen." This is incorrect. On becoming a Peer, Sir Henry Byng ceased *ipso facto* to hold the office of Equerry-in-Ordinary to her Majesty, to which he was appointed in February, 1874 having previously been for several years one of the Grooms-in-Waiting to the Queen. Lord Strafford's career in the Household commenced when he was a boy, as he was appointed a Page-of-Honour through the interest of his mother, Lady Agnes Byng, who was one of "the favoured Pagets," being a daughter of F.M. Lord Anglesey, who lost a leg at Waterloo. It is expected that Lord William Cecil will replace Sir Henry Byng as Equerry. He has been a Groom-in-Waiting to the Queen for several years past, and is also Equerry to Princess Beatrice.

A very good set of apartments in Hampton Court Palace has been placed at the disposal of the Queen by the death of the Dowager Lady Desart, who had resided there for many years. She was formerly a Lady of the Bedchamber to her Majesty for a long time. It is very probable that this apartment will be offered by the Queen to Lady Granville, who now has rooms at Kensington Palace.

Lord and Lady Cadogan entertained a large party of visitors, including most of the members of their family, at the Viceregal Lodge during Punchestown week. On Tuesday and Wednesday their Excellencies, their guests, and a Viceregal suit attended the national race meeting in State, driving up the course to the grand-stand enclosure, escorted by the Master of the Kildare Hunt and others on horseback. On Friday and Saturday the Leopardstown Races encountered disastrous weather, notwithstanding which the Viceroy heroically attended them with a party. On Thursday night a dance was given at the Viceregal Lodge, to which the elect of Society were invited. Lady Cadogan was put into mourning owing to the sudden death of her relative, Lord Caledon. In addition to the Punchestown party, Lord Enniskillen and Lord and Lady Rossmore joined the visitors at the Viceregal Lodge on Thursday.

Sir Valentine Knightley, who died last week, inherited the baronetcy and the estates of his cousin, Lord Knightley. He was a very popular country clergyman in Northamptonshire, and held two family livings in that county for more than sixty years. The Knightleys were long the leaders of the Tory Party in Northamptonshire, and Fawsley was to that party what Althorp was to the Whigs.

Sir Frederick Milbank was one of Mr. Gladstone's oldest friends, and never had any statesman a more enthusiastic and unswerving supporter. Where Mr. Gladstone led the way Sir Frederick was quite content to follow, and he was a staunch Liberal down to the end of his life, although his son sits for Radnorshire as a Tory. He represented the North Riding for twenty-one years, and was very popular in the House of Commons among men of all parties.

Sir Frederick was a country gentleman of the very best type, being a generous and considerate landlord, a kindly and hospitable neighbour, and a good friend to the poor in all ways. He was universally beloved and respected in the North Riding, and was an immense favourite, among the dalesmen in particular. Ten years ago some of Sir Frederick's tenants complained of the high rates which they were obliged to pay, whereupon he decided to pay them himself, which meant a loss to him of over £1,000 a year. He was a keen sportsman, and took a hearty delight in the moorland country round Barningham Park, where he died. Sir Frederick was one of the finest shots ever known, and he may be said to have invented the art of grouse driving. Some of his shooting feats are unparalleled in the annals of gunnery, notably his famous day on Wemmergill Moor, in August, 1872, when he himself killed 728 grouse in eight drives, using three guns.

The Richmond Horse Show, an event which is every year growing in popularity, is to be held on June 10 and 11, in the Old Deer Park. The Committee announce a very handsome list of prizes, the total value being about £1,100.

The advent of the lady gardener has naturally been received with some misgivings by the sons of Adam, and certain members of the aggrieved class have asked me to voice their misgivings. Experience causes me to fear and tremble when expressing anything like a doubt about the fitness of women for any work or duty that she has a fancy to take up; but I must say that there seems to me to be some common sense on the side of the man gardeners in this matter. A certain Horticultural Association put their case as follows, apropos of statements that have appeared in the Press with reference to the employment of ladies passing out of the women's branch of the Horticultural College, Swanley:—

If it were a question of the young lady in the florist's shop or any similar position, we should not attempt to lodge the protest which we ask your permission to do, but when it is reported that a woman has been sent out from a particular college where she has in the space of three years or so acquired all the knowledge necessary to take charge of a well-kept public or private garden in all its cultural details, we confess we wonder whether this is a fact or a fiction going the round of the Press. It seems to us ridiculous to suppose that, after training received at this establishment, half of which amounts to theory, any person can be capable of adjudicating upon the work of a veteran grower in a private garden, say a kitchen gardener, or a fruit foreman, who, during his long experience, has had to plant, transplant, and handle in cultural detail, more plants, trees, or shrubs than some of the students in such a college have ever seen. To make a practical gardener it is necessary for the individual to pass through all the various stages of work, including digging, trenching, and other laborious items, and no one can be a competent and qualified judge of good workmanship, and the time required for each operation and other details, without such experience. If the women students that have been sent out to occupy positions in the country tell us that they have passed through such a training, all we say is that they must be very exceptional representatives of their sex. The work of a gardener is most heavy and laborious. He has to work in the open air under all sorts of climatic conditions, and he has to endure frequent changes of temperature from the hot-house to outside departments, which we find require a constitution of iron to stand.

In our opinion the time has arrived when it behoves every gardener to make himself heard individually and by organisation in defence of his profession. In conclusion, we would add that it seems to us a just grievance that a college for producing such results should be promoted, and I think we are right in saying that it is so, under the combined management of three County Councils. If technical education grants are to become the means whereby hard-working gardeners, after spending years in their business, are to be supplanted by a youthful feminine population, the money thus granted had far better be diverted to other channels where the working men, who, as British taxpayers, help to find the money, will receive a share of the benefit.

Not being a gardener, I hesitate to identify myself with all the sentiments above expressed. I confess, however, that I should hesitate to engage as a head gardener a young lady who had only qualified by three years' training in some horticultural college. No doubt she would have her advantages in some respects over the traditional head-gardener. I should expect her, for instance, to be a little more ready than that functionary to recognise my proprietary rights in the produce of my own ground and hot-houses. But I should not expect from her the same knowledge of all the practical details of gardening work, I should not expect her to be up to all the tricks of the gardening trade, and I should not expect the under-gardeners to take very kindly to her in the position of a foreman or forewoman. If this applies to a private establishment, it would seem to apply equally to a public

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1142 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 1137.
For Amusements, see page 1143.
For Our Puzzles, see page 1153.

one; and if it is true that ladies have been appointed to such positions in public gardens, I can only say that those public authorities who have taken this step are bold men.

A correspondent writes :—

Surely in your remarks in your issue of the 28th as to sending invitations with a halfpenny stamp, both you and your correspondent miss the point.

It is not that a penny stamp is a greater compliment to the guest than a halfpenny one, but to send an invitation fastened up so as to be read only by the addressee is more seemly than to send one in an open envelope, so that any one may read it.

I did not miss this point, but I did not think it worth noticing. Judging by what I see in my friends' houses—especially in bachelors' quarters—the first desire of those who receive invitations is that all their acquaintance should read them. Many people literally paper their mantel-shelves, looking-glasses, and picture frames with their invitations, especially when the hosts or hostesses are blessed with titles. In making the invitation as public as possible, therefore, the host would seem to be consulting his guests' probable wishes. And even if the guest is ashamed of the invitation, is it for the host to assume that he will be? If not, why is it "more seemly" of him to seal up the envelope?

There was no abatement in the newsboy nuisance in London last Sunday afternoon. Notwithstanding the complete absence of anything in the shape of news, and the deserted condition of the streets owing to the continuous rain, ruffians of all ages were bawling evening papers about all parts of the West End from mid-day to 9 or 10 p.m. It may be some encouragement to those who suffer from this annoyance to know that they are very strong in numbers, as is shown by the quantity of letters that I have received—all in the same indignant strain. I recommend all those who feel strongly on the subject to communicate with Sir Edward Bradford, who would, no doubt, be ready to deliver London from this plague if he felt that there was a demand for his intervention.

It would not be quite fair, perhaps, to point to the prices realised at the recent sale of the Renton Collection at Messrs. Christie's as an evidence of the increasing value of British art work; but, however exceptional the circumstances may have been, there is no getting away from the fact that five pictures by the late Sir John Millais changed hands for the by no means inconsiderable sum of 10,600 guineas. One of these, "The Order of Release," which in 1879 was sold by Messrs. Christie at the Arden auction for £2,835, now realised 5,000 guineas, whilst the equally well-known "Black Brunswicker," sold in the Plint sale in 1852 for £819, was not knocked down until the biddings had reached 2,650 guineas. Of late years it has become the custom to hold an important art sale at Messrs. Christie's rooms on the day of the Royal Academy banquet; and this circumstance, coupled with the fact that four of the pictures in question had been exhibited in the recent Millais Exhibition at Burlington House, may, to some extent, have accounted for these record prices.

Of course the "biograph" is to follow in the wake of the war correspondent, and I see that the patrons of the Palace Theatre are soon to be regaled with living pictures of the naval operations off Cuba, taken from a special yacht which is following the American fleet. No doubt we shall see very striking developments in this direction before long. I suppose that when British troops next take the field we shall have their battles fought over again by the cinematograph at the music halls, and possibly we may yet have some adaptation of the electrophone which will enable us to sit at home and listen to the noises of the battlefield, the firing of the guns, and the groans of the wounded. Could anything be more fascinating?

The London Stereoscopic Company have made me an offer which will, I am sure, be greatly appreciated by all those kind-hearted ladies among my readers who are good enough to make up scrap-books in connection with the TRUTH Toy Distribution. The Stereoscopic Company offer to present sufficient photographs and photographic prints to fill 200 scrap-books, and if sufficient ladies are forthcoming, the Company hold out a hope that they may be able to find even more materials. The books should be foolscap size, with fifty leaves in each, or less. A number of small books will be more useful than a few large ones, as many of the photographs are duplicates, while some are printed in sheets containing six or eight all alike. It is early yet to speak of the next TRUTH Toy Show, but I feel sure there are many ladies who would be glad to take in hand a job of this kind at any time of the year; and if any who are prepared to fill books will communicate with me at once, I will arrange to have the photographs forwarded to them. Such books, I may say, are not intended to be presented to individual children, but will be given to the wards of the hospitals and workhouse infirmaries for the general use of the occupants.

The newly-published volumes of Sir M. E. Grant-Duff's "Notes from a Diary," are very much more interesting and lively than the earlier ones. The pages are full of good stories and bright sayings, but it is a pity that the author did not give more of such extracts, and omit his account of foreign towns. There is a capital story (1880) of a conversation between Lord Beaconsfield and a member of his Party who had expressed disappointment at being only knighted. "I assure you," said the Premier, "you altogether underrate the honour of knighthood. It satisfied Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Isaac Newton."

In Mrs. Ritchie's interesting preface to the excellent new edition of "Vanity Fair" she gives an astonishing instance of ineptitude and bathos in a quotation from a

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letter received by Thackeray in 1848 from a lady who had just lost a child :—"If anything can console his father it is this heavenly weather!!"

It is just fifty years since the foundation of Queen's College, London, the first college open to women in this country. I have been asked to mention that in commemoration of this Jubilee a volume of "Records and Memories" has been published under the title of "The First College for Women," and that it is on sale for the benefit of the building extension fund. The book has been edited by Mrs. Alec Tweedie, and in addition to a reprint of the lecture in which the Rev. F. O. Maurice, one of the founders, described the objects and methods of the institution, it contains a résumé by Miss Croudace of the work that has been accomplished, and papers on a variety of topics by Mrs. Beerbohm Tree, Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake, Miss Adeline Sergeant, and many other former students.

There have been an extraordinary number of failures in the First Year Examinations at Durham University, which were held a fortnight ago. Fifty per cent. of the candidates in theology were rejected, while in arts the failures were about sixty per cent.

Lord Leven and Melville has been appointed Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and much consternation has been excited among the ministers and elders of the Kirk by the announcement in one of the Edinburgh newspapers that he is going to discontinue the large dinner parties which have been given every night at Holyrood during the session of the Assembly to the members thereof. For these dinners it is stated that Lord Leven and Melville proposes to substitute a series of firework displays, and several large garden parties are to be given besides. This will be a most unpopular "innovation," and the attendance of the "fathers and brethren" of the Kirk is likely to be considerably diminished during the approaching Assembly. The Holyrood dinners have been (as a Scotch paper puts it) "among the chief joys of Zion," and the prospect of sitting at a semi-Royal table has attracted to Edinburgh a large number of members who otherwise would have remained in their own homes.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is to be in Edinburgh for a day or two during the session of the Assembly, and it is stated that Dr. Temple will be the first Anglican prelate who has attended the debate. This is nonsense. Archbishop Tait was present at one or two meetings of the Assembly about twenty years ago, and in 1890 Bishop Thorold attended on more than one occasion, and was in the hall during the delivery of the Moderator's closing address.

It may be hoped that Lord George Hamilton will make a worthy appointment to the See of Calcutta, for Bishop Johnson will be a difficult man to succeed, as he has shown exceptional ability and tact in his government of this important See, and has been eminently discreet in his dealings with the other Anglican prelates in India. After the Secretary of State's eccentric selection for the See of Bombay, my hopes and my expectations certainly do not run together; but possibly Lord Salisbury may now have something to say in the matter.

Two exceptionally good preachers, who are not often heard in London, will occupy the pulpit of Westminster Abbey next Sunday; Dr. Ince, Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford, and Canon of Christ Church, preaching in the morning, and the Bishop of Winchester in the evening.

Canon Scott, Vicar of St. John's, Leeds, has accepted the important living of Wanstead, Essex, which is of the net value of over £700 a year, with house. Wanstead is in the gift of Lord Cowley, but it is understood that the presentation for this turn was sold some time ago. Canon Scott has been beneficed in Yorkshire for more than thirty years, and he is widely known in the north as a most active and popular parish clergyman, who has enjoyed the esteem of all classes, parties, and sects. He will be sorely missed at Leeds, where he came from Hull in 1883.

By way of rejoinder to the report of the Committee of Canterbury Convocation on the grievances of curates, Dr. Thackeray has worked out some elaborate statistics in justification of his original estimate of the number of unemployed clergymen. There are great difficulties in the way of arriving at a correct figure, but the statistics given by Dr. Thackeray certainly point to the conclusion that the number of unemployed clerics in the Southern Province is considerably in excess of the 2,000 mentioned by the Committee. The report is to be discussed when Convocation meets next week. Perhaps more light may then be thrown upon this point, and also upon the methods by which the Committee satisfied themselves that there are only seventy-three unemployed clergymen in the Southern Province who desire work as assistant curates.

A reader, who has been studying the recent remarks in these columns on the misapplication of parochial Church revenues, has written to point out that it is not only in thinly-populated country parishes that incumbents are paid out of all proportion to their work; the same thing may be seen in the City of London. True. We must, of course, not forget the City churches whenever it comes to "pooling" the endowments.

The Vicar of Hurley, near Marlow, has explained why he refused to vote for the Tory candidate at the recent election in East Berks. It was solely in consequence of Captain Young's "views on marriage." Says his reverence:—

If England were sinking in mid-ocean, and only the election of an advocate of the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill could save her, I *couldn't* (not only *wouldn't*) vote for any man who might declare

himself in favour of that terrible measure. We had last month no candidate for whom any one in favour of maintaining the marriage laws could, *with decency*, vote at all.

The Deceased Wife's Sister Bill has been responsible for many wild outbursts of stupid bigotry, but none, I should think, wilder than this.

The Vicar of All Souls', Clive Vale, Hastings, has somewhat strange ideas of the influence that he ought to exercise over those who have the right to vote for the people's churchwarden. At a recent meeting of the Vestry, a gentleman said that people would not go to the poll because they were afraid of the crack of the priest's whip. He replied that he was glad to know that there were still some people who follow the teaching of the Prayer Book, and carry themselves humbly before their spiritual pastors and masters.

The world is so large that it is only fair that every one should have an opportunity of expressing his opinion; but what always strikes me as so singular is the large-hearted toleration of the majority, as compared with the meddlesome insistence of the minority. For instance, an organisation, which styles itself the Lord's Day Observance Society, has recently held its sixty-seventh annual meeting; its numbers may be gathered from the fact that, after all those years, its subscriptions amount to the important sum of £215, whilst the result of a special appeal for funds, sent out at the beginning of the present year, realised exactly £128. Yet this handful of people, presumably free from any inclinations to avail themselves of Sunday relaxation, would stop all Sunday trains—excursion or otherwise; would have all national museums, &c., rigorously closed; and "learns with thankfulness that Lord Hobhouse's Sunday Bill was again defeated in the House of Lords." What martyrs they would become were the great majority to clamour for a Bill insisting that they should visit at least one national museum every Sunday of their lives! And yet the converse of this is what *they* seek.

It is indeed disheartening to find that after all that has been shown of the folly and mischief of snowball collections, a clergyman of the Established Church and his churchwardens should resort to this means of raising money. The cleric who has been guilty of this enormity is the Rev. S. J. McNulty, Vicar of Quarry Bank, Brierley-hill, Staffordshire. The chain letter is written in the name of the Vicar and churchwardens, and the money is to be sent to the Vicar. Each recipient of the letter is asked to forward two or three stamps and to forward three copies of the letter to friends. As I remarked the other day, it seems high time that it was made a criminal offence to originate and carry on a snowball collection, for no milder measure seems likely to have the slightest effect upon the idiots who engage in these schemes.

The current number of the *Hospital* contains a crushing indictment of the Queen's Jubilee Hospital in the shape of a report upon the premises and working arrangements by Dr. Solomon Smith. Sir Henry Burdett long ago pronounced the building to be utterly unfit for the purpose of a hospital, and declared that the local sanitary authorities ought to deal with it. The answer to this on behalf of the hospital was, if I remember rightly, that Sir Henry Burdett knows nothing about hospitals. It remains to be seen whether the same argument will be applied to Dr. Solomon Smith; but as the Doctor's report is chiefly a plain statement of facts and figures, and as such opinions as he expresses are studiously cautious and moderate, it will require something more than personalities to refute his verdict. This is how he sums up the case:—

> Is it right that patients should be taken for serious surgical treatment into a house which only offers in one of its wards between four and five hundred cubic feet of space per bed, and in another between five and six hundred—in both cases below the minimum enforced in every barrack in the country, and far below what is provided in many workhouse infirmaries? And I would further ask, Is it right that such an institution as I have, I hope, honestly and fairly described should go before the public as a hospital, and should as such ask for support, when the standard of the provision it makes for its patients differs in so striking a degree from that which obtains in those great institutions to which the giving public rightly attaches the honoured name of "Hospital?" . . . . To any one accustomed to the wards of our great hospitals, or even of many of our workhouse infirmaries, there is something positively shocking in calling this squalid little house a hospital. . . . .

As mentioned in TRUTH some months back, I have entered into a sort of armistice, through the kind offices of the Editor of *Lloyd's Newspaper*, with the present management of the Jubilee Hospital. I am, therefore, under some difficulty in offering any remarks of my own upon the subject. The compact, however, only goes to this: that, in consideration of the Editor of *Lloyd's* having undertaken to keep his editorial eye on the management, and gone bail for the good behaviour of the managers, I agreed to draw a veil over the past, and let the charity stand on its own merits for the future. Judging from Dr. Solomon Smith's statements, if its own merits are all that the hospital has to stand on, its downfall must be at hand, and no one will suffer thereby—unless it is Mr. Benham. In all seriousness, I would point out to the Editor of *Lloyd's*, and every one else connected with the concern, that it is quite impossible to wink at the continued existence of such a state of things as the *Hospital* describes. The Jubilee Hospital must be either mended or ended.

One of the most attractive charity entertainments of the season is to be given at Stafford House, on Wednesday afternoon next (11th inst.), on behalf of the Charing Cross Hospital Special Appeal. Among the contributors to the programme will be Madame Ella Russell, and Miss Clara Butt, Miss Marie Tempest, Miss Cissy Loftus, Miss Letty Lind, and Miss Louie Freear, Mrs. Brown Potter, Miss Ellaline Terriss, and Mr. Seymour Hicks, M. Johannes Wolff, and other distinguished lights of the musical and dramatic professions. The tickets are on sale at all the principal libraries. It is to be hoped that the result of the concert will be to finally extinguish the debt under which the Charing Cross Hospital has been labouring.

It is reported that at the present time there are not more than sixty Militia candidates preparing to enter the Army. The results of the last competitive examination of Militia subalterns were exceedingly unsatisfactory, and there are actually more vacancies than qualified candidates.

The insufficient supply of these Militia candidates is probably an unavoidable result of the shortness of the Militia establishments in respect of officers. I discussed last week the defective establishment of the Militia generally, but the deficiency is even more marked when one comes to look into the statistics of officers. The total establishment of the Militia below the commissioned ranks was for last year 130,095; the nominal establishment of officers was 3,487. The number below the commissioned ranks "wanting to complete the establishment" was 19,202, while the number of officers wanting to complete the establishment was 739. It will be seen from this that whereas the percentage of N.C.O.s and men short of the establishment was about 14·76, the percentage of officers short was 21·19. There were also 379 officers absent from last year's training, 364 with leave, 15 without.

As with the rank and file, so with the officers, the number short of the establishment varies enormously in different regiments. There are some few regiments only one, two, or three officers short of their proper complement, while in other cases the number runs up to 14 or 15. The 4th Lancashire Fusiliers were actually 15 officers short of their proper establishment of 23; that is to say, the battalion had only eight officers to over 800 men. The 3rd Battalion of the same regiment was 14 officers short on an establishment of 28, and the total strength of this battalion is about 200 above that of the 4th. The 3rd Battalion Manchester Regiment was 13 officers short on an establishment of 23. The 3rd Battalion Welsh Regiment (a battalion nominally 1,347 strong) was short of 16 officers on an establishment of 33; and so on. These figures are ugly enough, looking only at the question of the efficiency of the Militia; but they become very much more serious when one remembers the extent to which the Regular Army depends upon the Militia for its supply of officers.

In regard to the Permanent Staffs, I remarked last week that many of them are "veterans of little use in active service." A good instance in support of this is to be found at Beverley, where there are at present two sergeants, each with about forty-five years' service to his credit. Presumably both these warriors must be upwards of sixty years of age. On what principle men of this age can be reckoned as "on the strength" of any military force, I fail to understand.

Recently the battalion to which the above-mentioned veterans belong (the 3rd East Yorkshire) has been reduced by two companies, leaving two colour-sergeants and two sergeants to be absorbed into other battalions. These men have now been all disposed of in different directions. One of them, a married sergeant with two children, was sent to join the 2nd Battalion at Tipperary. But it never seems to have occurred to anybody in authority to create vacancies at the Depot by eliminating the two old warriors who began their soldiering about the time of the Crimean War.

I hear that the latest sartorial freak at Headquarters is a decision to abolish the Staff forage cap, and substitute for it what is described as "a hideous hybrid between the German forage cap and the cap of a Naval Officer." I believe I am right in saying that the old cap was a general favourite, and that the change is as unpopular as it is unnecessary. The only result of protests against these incessant changes of uniform is to make the War Office multiply their number. So delighted, apparently, is the head tailor with his decision to make artillery colonels wear red coats, while all under them continue to wear blue, that he is now going to make the Carabineers wear red in the field. We may expect to hear next that the Grenadiers are going to be dressed in grey, and that the "Blues" are to be turned into "Greens." There is a growing feeling of irritation and disgust at these changes, which have lately succeeded one another with such rapidity that no man in the Army knows what he will have to wear in a week's time; while it is generally agreed that every recent change that has been made is a change for the worse, and apparently designed in the interest of nobody but the military tailors, who profit by these changes at the expense of officers.

Is it not entirely contrary to the Regulations for an officer on full pay to be undertaking any other kind of work of a remunerative character? I ask in view of the fact that the Adjutant of a Militia battalion in the Channel Islands, being an officer on full pay of a Line regiment, appears to be practically carrying on a military coaching establishment at Guernsey. The objections to this are manifold. It is not right from the taxpayer's point of view that an officer on full pay should be spending several hours a day as a private coach. There are obvious objections to an officer who has to sign qualification certificates for candidates going before a Promotion Board, and who is also qualified to be a member of a Board of Examination, being actively engaged in the work of preparing candidates. Civilian coaches are also placed at a great disadvantage in competition with an officer occupying this position. Whether the thing is irregular or not, it ought to be stopped at once.

A question was asked in TRUTH of March 3 as to why a certain medical officer in Crete was occupying a portion of a house which does duty as a field hospital, while patients

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had on certain occasions been sleeping and treated in a corridor. Since the arrival in Crete of the number of TRUTH containing this question, I understand that the officer referred to has had a tent erected. He has not, however, removed his quarters. Does this by any chance point to the fact that he is supposed to be living under canvas?

It would be well, I think, if the Medical Staff arrangements at Canea were looked into by some superior military authority. For instance, the officer above referred to has, as his personal servant, a first-class orderly. The Medical Staff Corps Regulations forbid first-class orderlies to be employed in such billets, and very properly, for in this very case the result of a first-class orderly being thus employed is that patients in the hospital are in charge of second and third-class men. Again, the Royal Warrant for Pay distinctly says that corps pay shall not be issued to any N.C.O. or man while employed as an officer's servant. Nevertheless, the officer's servant above mentioned is, or was up to a recent date, in receipt of his ordinary corps pay.

Behind the question asked in Parliament last Friday as to the arrangements for enabling members to view the trooping of the colour on the Queen's Birthday there lies a curious little story. The Office of Works made the usual arrangements to erect a stand for the occasion on the Horse Guards Parade, and for the seats to be disposed of by the officers of the Brigade of Guards, who carry out the ceremony. No official communication, however, was made in the first instance to the War Office on the subject. In due course seats were offered by the Guards' officers in charge of the arrangements to members of both Houses of Parliament, and also to the War Office. In the latter case the reply came, through the Adjutant-General, that no such stand would be allowed to be erected. From the answer given in the House, I infer that the wrath of the exalted dignitary—whoever he may have been—whose wounded dignity thus asserted itself, has now been appeased. But is it not surprising that such very big people should give way to such very petty tempers?

Here is an incident which throws some light upon the frequent complaints of N.C.O.s respecting eccentricities in promotion. A man in a company of Royal Artillery at Quetta, who had duly qualified for promotion to bombardier and corporal, found two men had been promoted over his head, and interviewed his C.O. to inquire as to the reason for it. The C.O. replied that he acted solely on the information supplied to him — presumably by the sergeant-major. He then referred to the qualification returns, where he found against the complainant's name, under dates October, 1897, to February, 1898, the entry "Not smart enough on parade." In point of fact, during the whole of this time the complainant had been employed in the regimental institute, and had never been on parade at all. In a sense, of course, a man who had not been on parade might be described as "not smart enough on parade"; but if men are to be promoted solely on the sergeant-major's estimate of their qualifications, that functionary ought to record their qualifications with a little more accuracy than this.

One untoward result of the new messing allowance in the Army is to aggravate the grievance of the sergeant-major, Army Pay Corps. As warrant officers do not get the allowance, the quartermaster-sergeant's total pay is now brought up to 5s. 3d., or only 3d. less than the warrant officer's. This is a less difference than can be found between any other two grades, and it naturally causes the sergeant-major to feel that he is being unfairly treated as compared with the N.C.O.s below him. I would suggest that the best way to get over this would be to grant to warrant officers, Army Pay Corps, an increase of pay after one or two years' service, such as is already given in the case of corporals, sergeants, and quartermaster-sergeants. It is the more anomalous that a sergeant-major's pay in the Army Pay Corps does not increase with length of service, seeing that in this corps alone, out of all others in the Army, is the warrant officer denied any prospect of a commission.

A certain company of Royal Artillery at Bermuda is blessed with a sergeant-major who is inspired with a praiseworthy desire to improve the tone of Army conversation. He recently issued a company order directing N.C.O.s to suppress all cursing, swearing, and obscene language, and notifying that any man brought up for such an offence would be severely dealt with. A week or two afterwards, however, on parade the sergeant-major himself addressed the company in terms which I regret I cannot reproduce, with the result that there was an explosion of laughter in the ranks, and, according to a credible witness, a young lieutenant who was on parade "blushed up to the ears." The blushing subaltern should have reminded the sergeant-major that example is better than precept.

It has been suggested by a military correspondent that the extra dose of imprisonment and degradation awarded to Corporal Simpson for his alleged insobriety in St James's Park, may have been due to the fact that TRUTH sent a representative to the court-martial. I should be sorry to think this myself, but the author of the suggestion knows the Army better than I do. There is no doubt, I fear, that many men do suffer unjustly in the Service on mere suspicion, and wrongful suspicion, of communicating with the Press.

Of this I have lately had one or two striking instances. A paragraph appeared in TRUTH the other day which had reference to an order dealing with the case of a particular officer. The facts were sent to me by a correspondent in

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India, but the officer whose case was referred to happened to be in England, and he at once wrote, apparently in some alarm, to ask me for the name of my informant, for the purpose, as he explained afterwards, of defending himself in case he should ever subsequently be accused of having communicated the facts to TRUTH. Again, a paragraph having appeared in TRUTH respecting a particular military station, an officer formerly stationed there, but now retired, wrote to me expressing his delight to see that TRUTH still had a correspondent at that particular place, as he had been accused, while in the Service, of supplying me with information. He had never been able to clear himself of the suspicion, and he seemed to think that he had suffered in consequence of it. He remarked that if a return could be compiled of all the men who suffered every year through being unjustly suspected of communicating with TRUTH, it would form a large and melancholy record.

Of course, it is not in my power, or that of any other editor to prevent this; but I must say that it reflects very little credit either on the common sense or the good feeling of those occupying positions of authority in the Army. Some worthy people seem to have an idea that TRUTH possesses an authorised representative in every corner of the British Empire, and every department of the Service. That idea is quite erroneous. It is not for me to divulge the secrets of the editor's room, but I don't mind going so far as to say that I doubt if a dozen men in the British Army have written to me a dozen times in the last twenty years; and if any one thinks that he has spotted a regular correspondent of TRUTH in any branch of the Service, he may take it from me that he is deluding himself.

As a general rule, I should advise any one desirous of discovering a correspondent of TRUTH to look in the most unlikely place he can possibly think of. Once I had a second-in-command who came in a great flurry to this office to obtain a disclaimer from me of having given certain information, he being convinced that the Colonel suspected him of communicating with me. As a matter of fact, my information had come from the Colonel himself, who had not left the office five minutes when the Major arrived. I have had one of the ornaments of the Headquarter Staff (not the *present* Commander-in-Chief) and another head of a War Office department, both in my office at the same time, each coming with some story about the other, each completely at a loss to know how I had found out certain facts about his particular branch, and each firmly convinced that some unfortunate subordinate had been giving him away. I had to get them into separate rooms, and manœuvre them out through different doors—mercifully, I have no to this office.

This sort of Box and Cox episode is an agreeable diversion in the otherwise monotonous life of an editor. If I were of an unprincipled disposition I might publish in a memoir—posthumous, of course—a catalogue of all the exalted personages who have at different times furnished information that has appeared in TRUTH. I do not know that it would do so much harm, for so many would be implicated that there would hardly be an innocent party left to complain. But do not be alarmed, my very good friends. I have no such intention. Your confidences are safe—at any rate, till the time comes when all secrets are revealed. I cannot help smiling, however, when I hear that some harmless and innocent individual has been identified as "a correspondent of TRUTH."

Here are a few more of Tommy's grievances which seem to merit a small place in the Military Pillory:—

2nd Battalion, Durham Light Infantry, Poona.—About 300 N.C.O.s and men of this regiment who have been engaged for some time on plague duty have, on returning to barracks, been ordered two, if not three, extra parades per day. They had been kept at these extra parades all through March. On what principle this order is made does not appear, but considering the dangerous and offensive character of much of the duty which the men have had to perform, it would have been more reasonable to have let them off a few parades on rejoining than to have given them extra work. No similar order has, I believe, been made in the case of other regiments which have had men on plague duty.

2nd Battalion, Highland Light Infantry, Karachi.—When this battalion went on service with the Malakand Field Force in August last, all the kits not taken on active service were packed and left behind at headquarters. When, after the campaign, they were sent on to the regiment at Karachi and to a detachment at Hyderabad (Sindh), it was found that the kits had been opened, and everything of value either abstracted or spoilt. The men have thus been robbed wholesale of large quantities of clothing, as well as letters, photographs, and other articles of no value to any one but the owners, but of considerable value to them. There has clearly been gross negligence on the part of those who had charge of the baggage, and whoever is responsible for it ought to be called to account. It would also seem that the men have a fair claim to compensation.

21st Lancers, Cairo.—A squadron of this regiment went last autumn on a march to Alexandria, a certain amount of clothing, such as overalls, jack-boots, &c., being packed and sent by train. It has since transpired that a sum of £33, representing the cost of sending this baggage to and from Alexandria, has been debited to the messing account. I would ask on what principle can the men's mess funds be charged with such an expenditure as this? As well might the cost of sending the regiment to the front on a campaign be charged to the same account.

Clare Artillery, Ennis.—The whole of the men assembled for preliminary drill (about 130) were on Saturday last ordered by the C.O. to go to confession, and were actually paraded and marched to chapel for the purpose, including the men of the Permanent Staff. This seems to have been done with a view to their receiving the Sacrament on Sunday, and possibly the C.O., looking at it in that light, considers that confession is in itself a form of "preliminary drill." The men, however, do not seem to have appreciated the C.O.s kindly interest in their spiritual welfare, and it would seem desirable that this officer should be informed that he wields merely a military, and not an ecclesiastical authority.

2nd Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Canea, Crete.—The two following punishments, awarded by a C.O. on the same morning, bear a striking resemblance to some of the inscrutable performances of the Great Unpaid:—(1) A party of N.C.O.s (four sergeants and one corporal) charged with breaking out of camp, remaining absent till 12.45 a.m., being in a public-house out of bounds, and refusing to quit when ordered by the International Police. Punishment: Severely reprimanded. (2) A private charged with a simple "drunk." Punishment: fined 2s. 6d., deprived of good conduct badge, confined to camp for ten days, and pass stopped for three months. With the loss of 1d. per day with good conduct badge for six months, this punishment involves a pecuniary penalty alone of at least 17s. 6d.

A few weeks back I asked a question with regard to the price of canteen stores charged to troops in the Soudan Expeditionary Force. A similar question may be asked with regard to the charges at a camp of exercise at the Pyramids to which all the troops in Egypt were recently

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sent. For instance, at this camp the price of beer was raised one halfpenny per quart, as compared with what it is at Cairo, and cigarettes one halfpenny per packet. Now, I am credibly informed that any native carrier would cart three barrels of beer to the camp for 5s., while thousands of cigarettes could have been carried for a few shillings, so that the additional prices charged are out of all proportion to the cost of carriage to the camp. I do not suppose that the extra profits thus made on the sales ever find their way back into Mr. Atkins' pocket; and it is therefore an utterly unjustifiable thing that he should be mulcted in this extent when he is sent out either to fight the foe or to exercise in a camp.

I referred last week to the suggestion of a police superintendent to a convicted thief that, as soon as he came out of prison, he should join the Army. Judging from a communication just received from an Infantry regiment in India, I should imagine that this advice has already been acted upon in not a few instances. The writer states a whole series of facts such as the following:—(1) A man who had just bought a new shirt and placed it in his box at 7 p.m., found on returning to the barrack-room at 9 p.m. that the box had been forced, and that the shirt was gone; (2) a man from a cavalry regiment drinking with certain men from the same infantry regiment found, on leaving his comrades, that he had been robbed of Rs. 80; (3) another man in the same regiment was robbed of Rs. 35 during the night. And so on. Does the C.O. of this battalion know anything of these facts? If not, they ought to be brought before him, for habitual thieving of this kind tends more than anything else to disgust respectable men with army life. For the comfort of our fellow-subjects North of the Tweed, I may mention that these incidents occurred in a Scotch battalion. It will no doubt serve to prove to Scotchmen that the Scotch regiments must be largely leavened with Englishmen and Irishmen.

Why is there not some general and uniform rule throughout the Army as to the terms on which permanent passes to stop out after tattoo shall be granted? A visitor to the theatre at Limerick the other day noticed one of three soldiers leaving about 9.30 p.m., and making a considerable disturbance in so doing. Subsequent inquiry showed that whereas the other two men belonged respectively to the Cavalry and Artillery, and had earned permanent passes by being three months clear of an entry, the third man, being in the Infantry, could only get a similar pass by keeping for twelve months clear of an entry, and consequently had to be back in barracks by 9.30. It was only last week that I gave some evidence as to the value that soldiers set upon small liberties of this kind, and I think it would be a good thing if the three months' qualification for a permanent pass were made universal.

There was some discussion in Parliament the other day about the accommodation for British troops at Ladysmith, Natal; and I may remark in passing that I have heard complaints on the same subject from a cavalry regiment stationed there. Judging, however, from some recent correspondence in the *Cape Times* respecting the condition of the camp of the cavalry force at Idutywa, the Imperial troops do not fare much worse in South Africa than the local forces. The truth is, I suppose, that there is no adequate camp and barrack accommodation in the South African colonies for such a large military force as is at present assembled there; and unless the garrison is speedily to be reduced—a consummation which I fear cannot be looked for while Mr. Chamberlain remains in office—measures ought to be taken at once to provide proper accommodation on an adequate scale.

The military authorities might with advantage look into the circumstances of the meat supply to the permanent staff of the Clare Artillery at Ennis. Some singular statements are made with reference to the inferiority of the meat, the insufficient quantity, and the vast amount of bone delivered. On a recent occasion it is alleged that there were less than three ounces of meat for each man. I confess that I always look upon complaints of this kind with a certain amount of distrust; but in this case the facts are peculiar, as it is alleged that the meat supply was perfectly satisfactory up to a recent date, when the butcher was changed; and it is also stated that the former butcher gave up the contract because he could not continue to supply the meat under certain conditions which were imposed upon him. More than this I cannot say without sending a representative to Ennis to collect the necessary evidence; and I think it is only fair to the War Office to give them an opportunity of looking into the matter first for themselves.

Some two months back reference was made in TRUTH to an extraordinary story sent home by a soldier who had gone out to Ceylon with a draft of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. The story was contained in a letter written by this man to his friends in Lancashire, and it was sent to me by a gentleman in the neighbourhood who vouched for the truthfulness of the writer. These facts I stated in my paragraph, at the same time pointing out that the statements were of a nature to call for some sort of inquiry. They were to the effect that during the voyage of the ship, which turns out to have been the *Borneo*, a number of soldiers, irritated by the paucity and inferiority of the rations, broke into the bread-locker and seized 300 loaves; that some sort of riot followed, which ended in a number of the men being arrested and locked up for the rest of the voyage. I have now had a letter from an N.C.O. who went out with the draft, and who states that "the story is false in every particular." On the other hand, it appears that the matter has been inquired into by the *Times of Ceylon*, and the result, as shown in the issue of that paper for April 5, is far from

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establishing that the story was "false in every particular." On the contrary, it shows that there was some considerable foundation for the story, and that the facts are still far from clear.

The statement in the *Times of Ceylon* is that the rations were very scanty, and that the cook and baker of the first saloon did a thriving trade by selling sandwiches to the soldiers every evening. After the ship had been sixteen or seventeen days at sea, the cook reported that the bread locker had been broken open, and 300 loaves stolen. On the matter being reported to the officer commanding the troops, Major Jeffries, R.E., he threatened to put the troops on half rations until the value of the bread was made up. The troops retaliated by reporting the sale of sandwiches by the cook, and other irregularities, and the C.O., after having inquired further into the facts, expressed himself satisfied that the troops had not stolen the bread. This version of the facts appears to have been obtained by the *Times of Ceylon* from inquiries in the regiment, and the allegation of the soldiers is that the cook trumped up the story about the bread locker being broken into in order to hide the deficiency in the bread due to his own sales to the troops.

Now, I am not going to pronounce, on the very imperfect evidence to hand, which version of the facts is correct. But it is a curious fact that while the cook reported that the bread locker had been broken into and 300 loaves stolen, a soldier going out by the ship should have written home and given his friends a detailed account of the facts of the robbery. It may be that this young man is of an imaginative turn, and has added a little embroidery to the historical portion of his narrative. But it is not easy to see why he should have reported as true a statement which is now alleged to have been trumped up by the cook for the purpose of exonerating himself at the expense of the troops. This much, at any rate, is pretty clear, viz., that the rations were insufficient, and the provisions were sold to the troops to make up the deficiency. This was the chief point to which I called attention in my original paragraph. This alone would furnish sufficient ground for some inquiry, and such inquiry is the more called for in view of the charge made by the cook and its confirmation by one of the soldiers on board.

It may or may not be desirable that Irish sailors should decorate themselves with shamrock leaves on St. Patrick's Day—though common sense suggests that far more harm is likely to be done by forbidding the practice than can possibly result from permitting it. But whether the practice is desirable or not, nothing could be more calculated to create a bad impression throughout the Service than Mr. Goschen's answers in Parliament respecting the case of the man Pilkington. To say that this man was punished, not for wearing the shamrock, but for disobeying an order to remove it, is a pettifogging quibble unworthy of the shadiest attorney; and Mr. Goschen's request last Friday night that M.P.s shall abstain from asking questions on matters of discipline implies that, in the opinion of the First Lord and his colleagues, a man who takes service in the Navy thereby forfeits the protection of Parliament, as well as every other privilege of a free subject.

Whatever faults the War Office may possess—and it is my painful duty now and then to admit that it possesses some—it compares most favourably with the Admiralty in its amenability to public and Parliamentary opinion. "My Lords" do not merely claim infallibility and impeccability for themselves, but for all who are set in authority under them; and whenever a question is raised as to the rights of any individual in the Service you will find at the Admiralty nothing but resentment of outside criticism and determination to uphold official decrees through thick and thin. Never has this attitude been more conspicuous than under Mr. Goschen. His latest protest against the asking of questions in Parliament in relation to the maintenance of discipline is a most impudent extension of the new doctrine of the supremacy of Officialdom, and I trust there are not many M.P.s so weakminded as to heed it.

I hear that the whole of the signalling staff of H.M.S. *Magnificent*, some thirty petty officers, men, and boys, have had their leave stopped for upwards of a month in consequence of one man having made a mistake in reporting an evolution signal. The punishment was awarded by the Commander, who issued a decree that the leave should be stopped until the whole staff had passed an examination by him, which they seem to have had no opportunity of doing. This practice of imposing punishment indiscriminately on a large number of men on account of the act or default of one, seems to be only too common in the Navy. There is no more efficacious means of rendering men discontented or causing them to leave the Service at the earliest opportunity.

The decision of the Admiralty to waste nearly £8,000 in refitting the second-class composite-built cruiser *Active*, at Portsmouth, is severely criticised in Service circles, and with much justice, for she is a vessel of a quite obsolete type, and perfectly useless for all practical purposes. The *Active* has been a terribly expensive ship for the taxpayer. She was built on the Thames in 1867 for £132,100, and nearly £176,000 has since been expended in altering her and generally patching her up.

It will astonish people at home to hear that the Indian Government is still muddling about with the exchange compensation regulations. A recent letter in the *Pioneer* from "One of the Fleeced" states that people who were presumably intended to have the benefit of the new rules propagated last year have not yet been allowed to draw the allowance, "pending the preparation of certain lists." To show the muddle which exists at present, I have a case before me of two brothers, both born and brought up under exactly the same circumstances, but employed in different departments, one of whom has been for some time drawing the exchange compensation allowance without question, while the other has not yet been able to obtain it. Other cases of a

similar kind have before now been mentioned in TRUTH. The cheeseparing niggardliness with which the Indian Government treats its employees is only equalled by the reckless extravagance with which it incurs huge expenditure on frontier aggressions and similar fatuities. There is probably no other Government which has ever so distinguished itself for penny wisdom and pound foolishness.

A truly enormous difference of judgment between two tribunals as to the punishment which would fit one and the same crime has been revealed in a recent appeal to the Madras High Court. The prisoners were two native officers, who were convicted of unnecessarily and recklessly firing at some coolies during a trumpery quarrel, with the result that one man was killed. At the original trial before the Sessions Judge at Tinnevelly the officer who gave the order to fire was awarded one year's imprisonment, and the constable who carried out the order one day's imprisonment. These sentences were appealed against by the Public Prosecutor on the ground of their inadequacy, and the High Court has now increased the one year's imprisonment to ten years' penal servitude and the one day's imprisonment to seven years' penal servitude! The wantonness and gravity of the crime seem to have fully warranted these substantial additions to the punishment, and the case is a decidedly interesting illustration of the value of a system of criminal appeal for the revision of unduly lenient as well as of unduly severe sentences.

I was walking by a post-box when I remembered that I had a letter to post, so I slipped it through the slit. Just then the postman came up to clear the pillar. When he opened it I remarked that there were no letters in it, and I called his attention to the fact that I had just posted one. After poking sticks through the slit, a shower of letters fell down below, something inside the pillar having been out of order. The postman said that he would report this at once, but it struck me that the fact may account for the delay that sometimes takes place in the delivery of a letter.

Mr. Henniker Heaton raised a question in the House the other day as to the need for increased postal facilities at railway stations. A friend of mine recently brought me a genuine grievance which comes under this head. He made a hurried journey to Waterloo Station in order to post a letter by the late box on the night mail, but found it impossible to obtain in the station the necessary additional halfpenny stamp, and, consequently, had his journey for nothing. He would have had a similar difficulty, I believe, at other termini. It seems absurd to give people an opportunity of mailing late letters at railway stations without also providing an opportunity of purchasing stamps, and the deficiency could easily be supplied. There can certainly be no reason why stamps should not be sold in the Post Office vans on mail trains.

Yet another growl comes from Aldeburgh-on-Sea in reference to the water supply. The quality of the water has been more or less unsatisfactory for three years past, and latterly it has gone from bad to worse, until now it is described as so foul and evil-smelling as to be positively undrinkable. This explains the refusal of the authorities to publish the analysis which was made some time ago, and at the same time it renders their failure to adopt any effectual remedial measures all the more amazing and reprehensible. The present condition of the water imperils the health of the inhabitants and bodes ill for the prospects of the town during the summer season, but both the Corporation and the Water Company remain fast asleep, and the local public are apparently too polite, or themselves too lethargic, to disturb the slumberers.

In connection with the coal strike in South Wales, I have received information from Blaenavon of a most high-handed proceeding on the part of a local colliery company. A number of colliers occupy houses belonging to the company, and when these men stopped work, in accordance with the notices they had given, a month's rent in advance was deducted from the wages due to them. Possibly it is hoped in this way to help to starve the men into submission, and the course adopted is certainly a pretty commentary on the appeal which persons prominently connected with the company have made for the establishment of a relief fund. It is hardly necessary to point out, however, that such a confiscation of the wages the men had earned was a gross and impudent illegality. The company had no right whatever to deduct rent in advance, and the men should at once take action for the recovery of the money.

During an appeal the other day against a poor-rate assessment in the Prescot Union it came out that the valuers employed by the Union were paid 15s. per cent. upon the rateable value as fixed by the Assessment Committee. In the case in question the committee, in accordance with the report of the valuers, assessed the annual value of certain glass works at £5,047; but the appeal ended in the reduction of this amount to £2,721. I should have thought myself that the method of remunerating the valuers was, on the face of it, manifestly undesirable, but if there has been any doubt on the point, the outcome of this appeal should surely remove it.

Apropos of the criticism of the Hastings Harbour scheme in last week's TRUTH, I have received from Hastings a melancholy account of the condition of the harbour works, so far as they have yet been carried. The writer describes the masonry as having been undermined by the sea, through the defective character of the foundations, and as being full of cracks and gaps. He estimates that £200,000 would not make a satisfactory job of it, although upwards of £41,000 has already been spent, and the original cost was estimated at £204,000. What the cost will be, however, is a secondary consideration. The primary fact for the Hastings people to consider is that if the harbour were completed, it could never possibly earn a dividend on its capital, nor render any indirect advantage to the town the prospect of which might warrant the ratepayers in coming to the rescue of the company.

A Parliamentary return is now in course of preparation of the officials in the Four Courts, Dublin, drawing duplicate pay. It might be very usefully supplemented by a return of those drawing "personal salaries," and the manner in which such officials are at present employed. A "personal salary," I understand, is one which does not pass to the next official who succeeds the present occupant of the berth. There are a number of such officials in connection with the Four Courts; but, for reasons best known to the big-wigs of the Irish legal profession, they have recently been in several conspicuous cases passed over for promotion, and outsiders have been preferred before them. The taxpayer has a right to know why the services of such officials are not utilised in preference to those of outsiders; or, if they are considered unfit for promotion, why they are not retired, in order that the economies which have been more than once suggested by Parliament may be carried out. The Irish law offices and judicature appear to be a hot-bed of jobbery, and I wonder that the Irish members do not agitate for a complete reorganisation.

Rather a nice point was raised by a prosecution at Kingstown last week against the holder of a licence for the sale of intoxicating liquors for consumption off the premises. It was proved that a man left the premises with a half-gallon can of liquor, and that he proceeded to drink the liquor as soon as he got into the road. On these facts the Magistrate convicted the defendant and fined her £2. In any such case the off-licence holder is undoubtedly responsible if the liquor is drunk not only on his premises but on any highway adjoining or near such premises, provided it is so drunk with his "privity or consent." The defendant on this occasion affirmed that she did not know the man was going to consume the liquor immediately outside her shop; and it would be interesting to hear by what process of reasoning the magistrate came to the conclusion that she did know. Unless the natives of the district are an exceptionally thirsty race, the fact that the liquor was fetched in a half-gallon can would surely suggest that it was to be taken away for consumption. To simply assume that there was "privity or consent," as seems to have been done at Kingstown, is to place an off-licence holder at the mercy of every impatient customer who takes a pull at a jug of beer on the way home.

At Romsey there is a public house kept by a man of the name of King, which belongs to Messrs. Strong & Co., brewers. King took into his service a woman of bad character, named Fanny Tubb. When King applied for his licence, the fact of this woman Tubb being on the premises was brought to the knowledge of the Licensing Magistrates by the Superintendent of the Romsey police, when the licence was granted on the assurance, both by King and by the representative of Messrs. Strong, that the woman was not to remain on the premises. A sergeant of the police subsequently found the woman on the premises at 11.25 p.m. The Superintendent, therefore, summoned the woman for being on licensed premises during prohibited hours, and the summons was dismissed. On the Bench were the brewer and the manager of Messrs. Strong & Co., and they took an active part in the dismissal. On this the Chief Constable of Hants applied to the Attorney-General to bring a Crown action against these two Justices for the penalties that they had incurred, having first obtained Counsel's opinion that they had rendered themselves liable to them. This the Attorney General has refused to do. It seems desirable that he should be called upon to explain the refusal, as he has been notified by the Chief Constable of Hants that it is necessary in the public interest, and as a matter of law the action can only be brought by the Crown. Most persons will agree with the Chief Constable that the action of the two Justices deserves not only public reprobation, but punishment.

A very questionable step was taken by certain J.P.s at Grantown-on-Spey the other day, when two Licensing Courts were held for the neighbouring districts of Inverness-shire and Elginshire. The Inverness-shire Court was summoned for noon and the Elginshire Court for 12.30. Some of the magistrates are qualified for both counties, and the business of the first Court having been disposed of in about ten minutes, these gentlemen insisted upon going on at once with the business of the second Court. This was also concluded before 12.30, and consequently magistrates and others who only attended at the time fixed for the Elginshire Court found that the Court was over. Whether this haste was due to mere excess of zeal or to some less creditable motive, I should think that the proceedings would, if challenged, be held to be invalid. There would be an opening for all sorts of sharp and undesirable practices if Justices were permitted to rush through licensing business in this unceremonious way before the hour appointed for the sitting of the Court.

Bryant & May is a limited liability company, concerned with the making of matches, and, I believe, it pays its shareholders a large dividend. An inquest took place last Saturday upon the body of a youth employed by the company as a dipper. The facts elicited were startling. Phossy-jaw is a disease produced by the handling of phosphorus. But if red instead of yellow phosphorus is used, the disease very rarely occurs. The Company, it is stated in the evidence without any contradiction, used some yellow phosphorus. The youth, Cornelius Lean, who died, complained to his mother of a swollen face. His sister was sent to the works to obtain a medical order. This was first given, then torn up, and the sister came back with the information that the youth must get out of bed and go to the office. He did so, when the manager saw him, and later on the factory medical man called to see him and attended to the case. On the death of the youth, this factory medical officer returned the cause of death as cellulitis, and, had it not been for the Registrar, who seems to have had his suspicions that it was due to phosphorous necrosis, the case would never

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have come before the coroner. Dr. Oliver, who made an autopsy, swore that death was due to exhaustion following blood poisoning set up by necrosis of the jaw, and the factory medical officer admitted that he now agreed with him. The coroner remarked that what he did not like about the case was the apparent desire to hush up the whole thing.

Apart from this desire, it seems evident that Bryant & May do use a mixture of phosphorus which produces phossy-jaw, the injurious results of which to their dippers are admitted. Some action on the part of the authorities should at once be taken to stop this. The mother of the youth said that she had wished to have another doctor, but was afraid to, as she understood that her son's sick pay would be stopped if she did. She had been told this by her daughter and others who worked at the factory. The representatives of the Company declared this idea to be unfounded. They would, therefore, do well to disabuse their employees of the idea, for clearly it prevails widely and is acted upon.

This is not the first time that Bryant & May have shown that an eye should be kept on them. Some years ago I called attention to the wages that they pay, and to their refusal to join other firms in the East End in putting them up. They employed—and, I presume, still employ—a number of women in making match-boxes. The price, I think, was 2½d. the gross. Out of this the worker had to pay for paste and string, and to keep up a large fire in the living room to dry them. An exceptionally good worker could make—provided that she had children to help her—about twelve shillings a week by working fourteen hours per diem, but the ordinary amount that could be gained by a fair day's work was about one shilling. I have no reason to believe that the lot of these women has been bettered. Bryant & May advertise on their boxes and on hoardings that they ought to be supported because their goods are made in England. I hardly think they are to be thanked for giving Englishwomen work at such a wage. But, as a matter of fact, they have a large factory in Sweden, where a considerable portion of their wares are made.

Last week a small boy was haled before Mr. Plowden at Marylebone Police-court on a charge of sleeping out, and having no visible means of subsistence. As it transpired that the little fellow had the sum of three farthings in his possession the magistrate at once discharged him. "Where money is found on a person, even if it is only three farthings, that is evidence," said Mr. Plowden, "of visible means of subsistence, and the charge fails." This is true enough if the charge happens to be heard by a magistrate who not only knows the law, but administers it with a due regard to the dictates of common sense and humanity. Unfortunately the vast majority of these charges come before country Shallows, who are apparently destitute of these qualifications. Persons accused of this so-called crime are punished, not only without mercy, but not infrequently without reference to the condition as to the absence of "visible means of subsistence."

On another charge under the Vagrancy Act, a London Stipendiary last week gave a decision which stands out in startling contrast to the constant practice of the Great Unpaid. Dealing with a case of begging, Mr. Cluer remarked that "for a person to ask for and receive a penny was not an offence. It only became an offence when that person begged habitually, with the deliberate object of living by begging." The Andover Borough Justices are evidently of an entirely different opinion. The other day they heard a case in which a man was charged with placing himself in a position to beg, the fact being that he had touched his hat to a local solicitor and said something to him with the object, it was presumed, of obtaining alms. The solicitor himself was not called to prove what took place, and the police testified that the prisoner was in regular employment. But the latter fact seems to have been brought forward only as an aggravation of the offence, and the magistrates convicted the man and imposed a fine, warning him that the next time he would be sent to prison. Judging from these two contradictory interpretations of it, the law for the repression of mendicancy must be amazingly ambiguous.

A sentence of two months' hard labour which was passed upon a young fellow named Smith, at King's Heath, last week, calls for the attention of the Home Secretary. Needless to say, it was not for a gross assault that Smith received this punishment. The offence charged against him was that he maliciously damaged a tree planted in a public road, and it is in the nature of Justices' justice to deal more severely with an outrage on a tree than with an outrage on a man or woman or child. I trust an effort will be made to obtain a reduction of a sentence which was rendered the more monstrous by the fact that the prisoner had never previously been in trouble.

Among the Justices who took part in the St. Andrew's District Licensing Court a few days ago were two solicitors who practise in the Fifeshire Courts. Both were very much down upon the Board of Inland Revenue for having, as they asserted, over-ridden an Act of Parliament. In turn these learned gentlemen are now themselves accused of over-riding an Act of Parliament by acting as Justices, a statute passed in 1825 being said to disqualify any solicitor from so acting in any county in Scotland. There are obvious objections to solicitors in practice sitting as Justices in licensing or any other courts, and if they are legally disqualified, it should be somebody's duty to see that the law on the matter is obeyed.

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My Legal Pillory this week contains two more noteworthy examples—one from Derby and the other from Barnsley—of the friendly indulgence with which the old offender is regarded so long as his law-breaking is confined to mere outbursts of brutal violence. One might almost suppose, indeed, that in cases of this kind it is an advantage rather than otherwise to have a record of previous convictions, for the fines inflicted for the assaults at Derby and at Barnsley would have been extremely lenient even if the defendants had been making their first appearance in Court. When the magistrates come to deal with a charge of vagrancy or a trampery theft, it is quite another story. Then the law is enforced with Draconic rigour, and the culprit goes to gaol for a certainty when he is an old hand, and not infrequently when he is a new one. The only other feature of the following list to which I need call attention is the inclusion of three cases in which men were convicted of starving dumb animals. More merciful to the defendants than the defendants were to their beasts, the magistrates in each case permitted these animal-torturers to escape with totally inadequate pecuniary penalties:—

Derby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Henry Harrison, convicted of assaulting his brother, Walter Harrison. Defendant struck his brother violently in the face, and subsequently knocked him down and kicked him in the mouth as he lay on the ground. There were seven previous convictions. Fined 10s. and costs.

Belper Petty Sessions. Before Mr. J. H. Woolley and other magistrates. Francis Gargaro, John Henry Smith, and Frederick George Castor, charged with cruelty, by leaving three horses in a field without proper food. The animals would have starved to death had it not been for the kindness of people living in the locality. Fined £1 each and costs.

Barnsley West Riding Police-court. Before Messrs. H. Pigott, M. Stanhope, W. Ewart, J. Brownhill, and Colonel Neville. Thomas Allan, miner, charged with assaulting a lad named Randle. The lad, who worked in the mine, was brutally knocked about by the defendant, who was described as an old offender. Fined 20s. and costs.

Isle of Ely Police-court, Wisbech. Before Mr. H. Sharpe, and other Justices. George Wm. Ingram, charged with starving a mare and gelding. The animals were described as in a shocking condition. Fined £1 and costs.

Redditch Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. E. W. Haywood, E. S. Cope, W. H. Yeomans, and T. Haines. George Newman, charged with assaulting Edward Shakspeare, an old man. Defendant struck the complainant a heavy blow on the temple, knocking him down, breaking his nose, and rendering him insensible. The Bench characterised it as a most unprovoked and cowardly assault. Fined £1 and 18s. costs.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. W. Hill and J. A. Arnold. Wm. Sadler, charged with wandering abroad and lodging in the open air. Seven days.

Kirkcudbright Sheriff Court. Before Mr. Dudgeon. Mary Smith, charged with stealing an apronful of meal. Three weeks.

Oundle Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. H. Capron C. Winter, and W. Lenton. Walter Gamble, charged with trespassing in search of conies. Fined £2 6s.

Somerton Police-court. Geo. Webb pleaded guilty to stealing a turkey's egg. Fined £1s. 8s.

Wolverhampton Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Lees, W. H. Jones, and S. Craddock. George Baugh, convicted of stealing two fowls. Two months.

Devonport Police-court. Charles Prout, charged with vagrancy by sleeping in an outbuilding. Ten days.

Beccles Police-court. Before Messrs. E. T. Dowson, R. G. Freeland, and J. E. Crisp. David Beckett, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of a hare. Fined £1 17s.

Eckington Petty Sessions. Before Mr. J. F. Swallow, Major L. B. Bowdon, and Mr. Cockayne. Thomas Hill, charged with stealing a pair of goloshes. One month.

Exeter Police-court. Before Mr. Mark Farrant. Wm. Atkins, charged with sleeping in an outhouse, and being without visible means of subsistence. Committed for two days.

Brierley Hill Police-court. Before Mr. N. C. A. Neville. John Richardson, charged with assaulting Elizabeth Warr. He struck her a blow which felled her, and also struck her other blows, besides scarring her face with a knife. Fined £1 and costs.

Old Hill Police-court. John Capewell, convicted of assaulting his mother, a woman sixty-four years of age and blind. He struck her in the face and knocked her down, inflicting serious injuries. Fined £2 12s.

Paisley Police-court. Before Bailie Robertson. Alexander Malcolm, charged with stealing a linen handkerchief. Ten days.

Oswestry County Police-court. Before Mr. Rowland G. Venables. Thomas Cooper, charged with sleeping out. Ten days.

Carlisle Police-Court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. G. A. Main and N. Palmer. Fred. Rubmann and Wm. Jaeger, charged with cruelty to a pig by failing to supply it with food and water from April 4 to April 9. The Mayor said the Bench considered it a very gross case. There had been frequent warnings to the defendants respecting the pig, but they persisted in starving the animal. Fined £1 1s. each and costs.

No. I respectfully decline to pillory the Cheltenham Bench on account of certain recent convictions of parents for neglecting their children. The cases in question seem to have evoked considerable discussion, and I have had two or three letters protesting against the punishment inflicted upon the defendants. The writers are gentlemen who, though they doubtless enjoy the advantages of cleanliness in their own homes, cannot see that filthiness is a hardship to the children of the poor. In these prosecutions by the N.S.P.C.C. the little ones, some of them mere babies, were found in a shockingly dirty and verminous state, and living and sleeping amid the most loathsome surroundings; but, apparently because they were not starved or beaten, the critics of the magistrates consider that the summonses should have been dismissed. In my humble opinion, however, wilful neglect of this kind—and the prosecution has to prove that it has caused "unnecessary suffering and injury to health"—is fully as criminal as cruelty by actual violence, and often far worse for the child. If it be unfortunately true, as is alleged, that Cheltenham possesses plenty more parents as bad as those lately fined, the N.S.P.C.C. will do a humane work by at once bringing them to book.

The abduction of a child seems to be a venial offence in the eyes of Sheriff Spens of Glasgow. Last week he had to deal with a woman for stealing a girl three years of age, from the custody of her parents, who were kept for two years in absolute ignorance of the little one's whereabouts. The Sheriff pointed out that this was a very cruel thing for the parents, but he thought there was little real intention of criminality on the part of the accused, and she was let off with a sentence of thirty days' imprisonment. If the woman had taken away the baby's clothes and left the baby, no doubt as to her criminality would have arisen, and the punishment would probably have been twice as heavy, for, in the eyes of all orthodox administrators of the law, any trumpery bit of property is, of course, far more sacred than any mere human being.

It may interest Scotland Yard to know that our old friend the Spanish prisoner is, or was within the last few weeks, to be found in London. Letters have actually been

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written from London to residents in Warsaw telling the old story of the buried treasure, which is for this occasion described as hidden in the neighbourhood of that city, and requesting that replies may be sent to one Geronimo Peylaio, at No. 10, Melton-street. Full particulars of the letters appeared in the *Warsaw Journal* (an official publication) of April 24. The only Melton-street which I can find in London is in the neighbourhood of the Euston-road. At No. 10 in that street is a baker's shop, which was until a few weeks back in the occupation of one Herman Philipowitz. Philipowitz departed recently, leaving some amount of rent unpaid, and his landlord is now in possession. The landlord knows nothing of Geronimo Peylaio, nor have any letters in that name been received at the premises. It is also only fair to state that the landlord gives the departed Herman Philipowitz a good character, except in regard to his ability to discharge his financial obligations. Beyond this I am not able to carry the matter, but it seems to me that, with these facts before him, an intelligent police functionary ought to be able to discover Señor Geronimo, and to convert the Spanish prisoner into an English one.

A gentleman writing from the West of England describes how his gardener recently fell a victim to the "free ear-drum" swindle. The old man had seen the advertisement of J. H. Nicholson, or Nicholson's Aural Institute, describing how a charitable lady has given £1,000 in order to extend the benefits of the Institute to the necessitous poor; and he had solemnly accepted this as a piece of authentic news and swallowed the bait. No doubt hundreds of more or less illiterate people do the same. It is no credit to the Press that so many newspapers should still continue to publish this advertisement. The trick was fully exposed in TRUTH early in 1897, and, even if proprietors of country journals plead that they do not read TRUTH, they must know very well that the money bequeathed by the charitable lady cannot possibly have lasted all this time, after having been advertised in half the journals of the United Kingdom for a year and a half.

Nicholson is now carrying on his business from 17, Bury-street, Bloomsbury. By way, presumably, of keeping up the idea that he is an independent medical practitioner, he sends out to those who apply for the free ear-drums a prescription which the recipient is directed to send to "Richardson Brothers, manufacturing chemists, 9, Great Russell-street, London, W.C." The name of Richardson Brothers appears on the first floor of this address, but, as will be seen presently, there is every reason to suppose that the name is simply another alias of the gang running the "free ear-drum" and other tricks. Attached to Nicholson's prescription is a notice that, "Should the fund given by the lady not be exhausted at the time you reply to this, you will receive the ear-drums free of charge, if not, money will be returned." As already mentioned in TRUTH, the ear-drums are sent "free of charge" to every simpleton who forwards 13s. 6d. for making up the prescription, and 6d. for postage of the parcel; and as long as these sums of money are forthcoming there is, of course, not the slightest prospect of the charitable lady's fund being exhausted.

It has already been mentioned in TRUTH that a paper called *Golden Sovereigns* was being run from the same office as Nicholson's free ear-drum trick. The chief features of this publication are bogus competitions of the usual character, and advertisements of various quack remedies, hair restorers, and similar goods sold by Richardson Brothers, 9, Great Russell-street. There has also made its appearance lately a publication called *The Woman's World*, issued from Imperial Buildings, Ludgate-circus, which is freely adorned with the advertisements of Richardson Brothers, Nicholson's ear-drums, and of various goods, including "a watch free" (to examine), sold at *Golden Sovereigns* Office, 20, St. Bride-street. It also offers for competition a picture puzzle which has already done duty in *Golden Sovereigns*, It is obvious, therefore, that the *Woman's World* and *Golden Sovereigns* are run by the same gang; and a pretty gang they must be.

One of the features in the *Woman's World*, which has only been in existence a couple of months, was "a grand £5,000 ornithological contest," £5,000 being apparently the amount which the proprietors were prepared to give in prizes. The prizes were offered to those who could make the largest number of names of birds out of a number of letters which were given, prizes ranging from £100 downwards being offered to any one who could send in a list of twenty-five names of birds, and the only condition of entry being that the competitor was to subscribe to the *Woman's World* for one year. A lady in the country tells me that her daughter, after very hard work, actually sent in a list of 300 names of birds, together with her 4s. 4d. subscription to the paper. The paper came for two weeks, and then stopped. On writing to know the reason, she was informed that the prize list would be sent to her on April 19, together with the paper, but neither of them has made its appearance. This is precisely the *Golden Sovereigns* trick over again, as may be seen by reference to TRUTH of the 21st ult.

It is always entertaining to see a money-lender overreach himself, and that is what W. Nevill (otherwise Furnival), of 31, Cockspur-street, appears to have done in a case tried last week in the Queen's Bench. A young man named Hedger, who is entitled to a reversion after four lives of £20,000, applied to the Reversionary Purchase and Mortgage Agency for a loan. What connection there is between the Agency and Nevill was not explained, but it transpired that it was through his application to the

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former that Hedger was introduced to the latter, who agreed to lend him £150 for fourteen days at 10 per cent. Hedger says he signed a mortgage or charge for £150 upon his reversionary interest in favour of Nevill, but that the latter, after making out a cheque for the full amount, finally put him off with an immediate advance of £10 and a letter undertaking that the balance should be handed over four days later. Before the four days elapsed, an actuary's valuation was obtained, showing that as a security the reversionary interest was worth less, and Nevill thereupon refused to complete his bargain.

In these very curious circumstances Hedger sued Nevill for the balance of the loan of £150. The defence was that the whole arrangement was conditional upon the valuation proving satisfactory, and in the witness-box Nevill positively denied that he had ever obtained from Hedger any charge or mortgage upon his reversionary interest as security for the £150. On the other hand, the plaintiff swore that he executed such a deed at Nevill's office, and this was corroborated by his wife, who was present at the time. The jury accepted this evidence, and gave a verdict for the plaintiff for the amount claimed. Nevill is consequently compelled to make an advance of £150, for which, according to his own story, he possesses no security whatever. Moreover, if he really does possess such security as the jury believed, and it should hereafter become of value, he will still be unable to act upon it without running the risk of an indictment for perjury, for he has sworn that he never took it. Nobody is likely to feel any sympathy for Mr. Nevill in the truly Shylockian dilemma in which he finds himself. At the same time the story of this transaction, though he has got the worst of it, should serve to show that he is a dangerous man to have any dealings with.

A new light in the world of usury has arisen at Brighton. His office is at 23, Albert-road, and he adopts the alias of Jackson, his real name being Manham. It was only in August last that Manham started in this line of business, but, young practitioner though he is, he has already shown that he is up to some of the shadiest tricks of the trade. At Worthing County Court last week he was plaintiff in an action against two ladies named Skinner for the recovery of the sum of £61, and for detinue. These ladies were caught by Manham's advertisement offering loans at "reasonable interest." He made them three advances, amounting altogether to £36. 8s., and the "reasonable interest" was 100 per cent. per annum, with a proviso for "default interest" which worked out to 1,200 per cent. Manham also got from the defendants a document providing for the sale to him, for £25, of cattle worth £100, unless the animals were "redeemed" within three months. In connection with this transaction, he swore that he paid one of the defendants the further sum of £25 in gold, and this was corroborated by his brother, Lionel Manham.

The defence was that the signatures of the ladies to what was practically a bill of sale were obtained by trickery and misrepresentations. Both defendants stated that they signed the paper without reading it, the defendant telling them that it was "simply a security," and keeping his hand over the contents. Both also denied that anything was ever said about the sale of the cattle, and the lady to whom the £25 was said to have been handed swore that she never received the money. The gravity of this direct conflict of evidence was indicated by a remark of the plaintiff's counsel upon the improbability of the plaintiff and his brother "so deliberately acting as to render themselves liable to criminal proceedings for perjury and conspiracy." Nevertheless, the Deputy-Judge said he was quite satisfied that the £25 for the cattle never was paid, and he gave judgment for the plaintiff only for the exact amount he had admittedly advanced and without costs. His Honour expressed the opinion that when Manham took the document respecting the cattle he did not intend to make an "unrighteous use" of it; but that at a later period "he had seen his way to make an attempt to say that he paid this sum of £25 in gold." Whatever his original intention may have been, Manham not only attempted to say, but said on oath, that he paid the money to Miss Skinner; and in view of the Judge's finding, I shall be curious to hear whether there are any further proceedings of the kind contemplated by the plaintiff's counsel. It is assuredly a case which ought not to terminate in the County Court.

Here is a sample of a money-lender's letter somewhat less obsequiously polite than the usual run of such communications. The gentleman to whom it was addressed had received a touting circular from "Jackson" (whose real name is Abrahams), and had written in reply to refer Jackson to TRUTH of October 28, which seems to have aroused Jackson's wrath. Scratch a money-lender, and this is what you find:—

23, Duke-street, St. James's, S.W.

Mr. Jackson in reply to Mr. ——'s disgraceful letter of the 22nd inst. begs *most distinctly* to state Mr. —— is not only an ass and a blackguard but also a LIAR.

April 25, 1898.

The profession of palmistry, occult science—or to give it its more homely and straight-forward title—fortune-telling, is evidently a paying one, for nearly every week a fresh "wonder" advertises himself or herself at the West End. Quite recently one of the Parcæ, or three Fates, has become materialised, and places her services at the disposal of fortunate mortals under her name of Mme. Lachesis; and if it turns out that there is money in it—and of that there appears little doubt—Mmes. Clotho and Atropos will no

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doubt follow. I am daily expecting to see one of the more adventurous, advertising himself or herself as "under the patronage of the police," so openly and recklessly is this defiance of the law carried on in the neighbourhood of Bond-street. Justice, indeed, seems to have slipped the bandage off her own eyes to blindfold Sir Edward Bradford with it, and now that the arrant jade can see, she makes up for her lenience to "the Professor" by extra severity to the unfortunate gipsy.

With reference to the trade of Batoum, a gentleman with special knowledge of the commerce of that part of the world points out to me that the trade to the port is principally mineral oil from Baku, that is to say, an entirely new trade which has sprung up during the last few years, and which is practically monopolised by British tank steamers. The British ships take the oil from Batoum to all the principal Mediterranean ports, and also to Bombay, Calcutta, and Singapore. My correspondent estimates that the gross earnings of shipowners in 806,000 registered tons (the maximum amount as yet credited to British shipping in one year) would be considerably over a million sterling. Such is the result to us of the passing of one port from Turkish into Russian hands. Yet against this transfer our Jingoes fought with tooth and nail, and they have scarcely ceased to deplore it down to the present day.

It has been stated in some of the newspapers that a dinner given by Sir James Kitson last week, at which Lord Rosebery was a guest, was a political manifestation in favour of his resuming the Leadership of the Liberal Party. What may have been the intention of Sir James Kitson, I, of course, do not know, but judging by the manner in which the list of guests was paraded in the newspapers, it looks as though some such object may have been at the bottom of the festivity. But this intention —if it existed—was not confided to the guests, who consisted in the main, like Sir James himself, of Liberals who have blossomed into "Sirs," and a few representatives of Liberal officialdom. It was generally supposed that it was a social gathering of titled Liberals to mutually congratulate each other on having attained the object of their ambition, and to show their gratitude to officialdom for having enabled them to achieve it.

I have not heard of late any discussion about the Leadership of the Liberal Party. Sir William Harcourt is the Leader, and no one seems inclined to question the fact. Were the Party to be successful at the next General Election, the Queen would send for Sir William to form a Cabinet, unless she were to depart from the Constitutional principles which have actuated her during her reign. Practically the Sovereign does not select the Premier. If a Peer is the Leader of the Party that has the majority, she, of course, sends for him. If there be no such Peer, she sends for the Leader of the House of Commons, because he is the *de facto* Leader of the Party. Were it not so, the Party Leader would be made by the Queen, and this would open the door to all sorts of Court and wirepulling intrigues.

To do Lord Rosebery justice, I do not think that he can be charged with intriguing to become our Leader, although I always doubt the sincerity of his resignation. I suspect that Cincinnatus, when he betook himself to his rural retreat, had an eye to being asked to return to office. He probably did not plough every day, but kept a look out for a deputation on the way to his farm, and when he heard that one was coming, had out his plough, and took care to be found ploughing.

As I have said, the situation of the Leader of the Liberal Party does not happen to be vacant. When it is, it will be time enough to consider who shall occupy it. The programme is, in truth, far more important than who is to be entrusted with carrying it out. Amongst those in the running for the succession there is no man who has any large personal following in the country, as was the case with Mr. Gladstone. What Radicals will have to insist on, whenever a vacancy does occur, is that no man shall lead them who will not pledge himself to a stalwart Radical programme. Otherwise it will be the old story—they will be jockeyed by the Whigs.

The Government Front Bench was watched with much curiosity by the Opposition during the China debate of last week. For a considerable time Mr. Chamberlain made notes, then he went away, but on his return continued to make notes. Mr. Balfour was sitting between him and Mr. Goschen, who also, like Mr. Chamberlain, seemed by his attitude to intend to speak. Eventually Mr. Balfour got up to close the debate. Whether he wanted one or other of his colleagues to speak, and they objected to doing so, or whether they wanted to speak, and he objected, no one could make out.

The allegation of bad faith on the part of Russia made by the Jingo critics of the Anglo-Russian negotiations leads me to suppose, either that they never read the published despatches, or that, having read them, their antipathies outrun their intelligence. The allegation is based upon the discussions as to whether Port Arthur was to be a commercial port, as well as a naval base. Now, what are the facts? On March 16 Sir N. O'Conor writes that Count Muravieff authorised him to inform her Majesty's Government that if China granted a lease

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of Port Arthur and Ta-lien-wan, "foreign trade shall have free access to both, similarly to the trade in other ports in the Chinese Empire." On March 21 Sir N. O'Conor informs Lord Salisbury, that Count Muravieff explains, that his words applied to Ta-lien-wan, and that he had never given any assurances that Port Arthur would also be open to trade. "I said," observes Sir N. O'Conor, "I would not deny this." On March 27, Sir N. O'Conor reports that Count Muravieff had given him the assurance that both Port Arthur and Ta-lien-wan would be open to foreign trade like other Chinese ports. On April 1, Lord Salisbury informs Sir N. O'Conor that Port Arthur is "useless for commercial purposes," and two days later he further writes that it "has no importance or significance except as a military stronghold," and four days still later he—or rather Mr. Balfour—writes that "Port Arthur is not a commercial harbour," and it is doubtful whether it could be converted into one.

Now, let any one look closely at these facts, remembering that Sir N. O'Conor raised the question of Port Arthur being a commercial port without any instructions from Lord Salisbury. After stating that Count Muravieff had assured him that it would be a commercial port, he admits that he misunderstood him. As, however, Count Muravieff supposed that the British Ambassador, in asking for it to be one, was acting on instructions from his Government, the Count says that it shall be a commercial port. On this, Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour both reply that it is useless as one, and that it is not, and cannot be made one. Thus they decline the offer, which Count Muravieff naturally does not repeat. As a matter of fact, if Ta-lien-wan and Port Arthur are to be included in one great naval station, it cannot signify to us one jot whether there be a custom-house at both, or a custom-house at one alone.

THE FIGHT AT TERRAFIRM SCHOOL.

There were good boys and bad boys, boys big and boys small,
Boys of all sorts and sizes at Terrafirm Hall.
For this ancient academy, world-wide in fame,
A most varied collection of scholars could claim.
From the north and the south, from the east, from the west,
For a place in its classes boys eagerly press'd,
Resolved to get on and impatient of rule,
Just like men in the world were these urchins at school.

There was rough English John, fairly high in the lists,
And exceedingly handy at doubling his fists;
There was Nicky, inclined over-grown to become,
And "Froggie" his fag—though he *called* him his chum;
There was Wilhelm, a bumptious young spitfire at best,
Who alternately toadied and bullied the rest;
There was Francis, good-tempered and loath to annoy,
And Abdul—a regular Turk of a boy.

There was also Umberto, with nothing to spend,
And entirely unable himself to defend;
There was Georgie the Greek, a poor, weak little chap,
The victim of bullies, the child of mishap;
There was Jonathan, too, second cousin of John;
And Pedro, nicknamed by his comrades "The Don:"
These, with others, whose names we may later recall,
For supremacy struggled at Terrafirm Hall.

Now, since boys will be boys, 'twill at once be inferred,
That "ructions" at Terrafirm often occurred.
The bullies, be sure, a good chance never miss'd
Of giving the arm of a junior a twist;
Notwithstanding the monitors' caution and care,
There was often a scuffle, a scamper, and scare,
Some bad case of "fagging," some cowardly assault,
And 'twas Abdul who was, as a rule, most at fault.

In vain did the monitors coax and coerce,
From bad, Master Abdul proceeded to worse.
When caught in the act first he whined, next he lied,
Then again, shortly after, his censors defied;
He twisted, he wriggled, feigned penitent tears
And his monitors set, all the time, by the ears;
Then, whilst they disputed what fate his should be,
He laughed in their faces and got off scot free.

And this isn't all: what he did, sad to tell,
Affected the monitors' conduct as well;
Instead of combining to bullies prevent
They themselves upon bullying soon were intent
Instead of protecting the boys who were weak
They themselves for a victim proceeded to seek,
And, profuse in excuses distressingly thin,
With a sort of wild glee went for feeble Ah Sin.

Poor feeble Ah Sin, not too bright, though no fool,
Was in the last form of the Terrafirm School;
Though hopelessly backward, and openly mocked,
He still had a play-box, both large and well-stocked;
And when, one fine day, Wilhelm stole up behind
And twisted his pigtail in manner unkind,
He was only too glad, with a timorous squall,
To buy off that bully—so gave him his ball.

Next day up came Nicky, and, crying out "Stop!"
Seized the neck of Ah Sin, and demanded his top;
Whilst "Froggie" (quite safe whilst big Nicky was nigh)
Stood on tiptoe, and blew several peas in his eye;
And even rough John, who at first had cried "Shame!"
Soon altered his tone and took part in the game;
The conduct of Nicky, he vowed, wasn't right,
All the same he would trouble Ah Sin for his kite.

But worse still remains: whilst the monitors made
On defenceless Ah Sin their most cowardly raid,
The Lower-School boys, left unwatched and unchecked,
Behaved in the way one might fairly expect.
They also adopted a bullying tone,
And arranged for a fight, very soon, of their own—
A fight between Jonathan, cousin of John,
And Pedro, nicknamed, as we've mentioned, "The Don."

A pretext to find was a labour quite slight,
When Jonathan once had determined to fight;
For "The Don" more than once, with a merciless grin,
Had been caught sticking cockchafers through with a pin;
He'd been seen to hunt cats, he'd been known to devise
Ingenious tortures for innocent flies;
So Jonathan, glad of a reason so pat,
Declared he would fight Master Pedro for that.

So the battle began; and already "The Don"
Has been hit in the wind, though he's still fighting on;
Whilst Jonathan, always of brag far too fond,
Now threatens young Pedro to duck in the pond.
So the battle goes on—whilst the monitors still
Make no effort at all to their duties fulfil;
So the battle goes on—midst a horrible din,
Whilst the monitors still are defrauding Ah Sin.

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Meanwhile, need we say, that this purposeless brawl
Is producing mere chaos at Terrafirm Hall?
The class-rooms are empty, professors are "guyed,"
Books and discipline equally thrown on one side;
The progress the pupils were making is stopped,
And even the semblance of study is dropped;
Whilst out in the play-ground, from morning to night,
The boys are discussing the next likely fight.

Is it too much to ask, then, that some kind of rule
May be soon re-established in Terrafirm School?
Is it too much to ask that the fight may be stayed,
Which tends that Academy's tone to degrade?
'Tis the monitors' fault 'twas allowed to commence
On so very transparent and weak a pretence;
And surely all sensible men will agree
That the sooner they stop it the better 'twill be.

SCRUTATOR.

LORD SALISBURY AND SOMEONE ELSE.

PRESIDENT McKINLEY and Lord Salisbury are both level-headed men. The former found himself obliged to yield to the war fever of his countrymen; the latter has successfully resisted that of some of his countrymen. That Lord Salisbury's negotiations with Russia are open to criticism is obvious. But that he effected all that we could reasonably hope for is equally obvious. Russia is rapidly civilising Siberia. Her Government may not, according to our ideas, be a good one. But it is far better than that of China, and we shall commercially be gainers, notwithstanding the Russian protective tariff, by her replacing China in Manchuria. She has secured a commercial port and a naval base on the Pacific. This is right and proper. Under similar circumstances we should have insisted on them. Our interest in China, as Lord Salisbury said, is commercial rather than territorial. We want to be able to trade with China on the same terms as all other Powers. This right Lord Salisbury has maintained. The area of Free Trade in China has not been reduced by one mile. In the debate of last Friday, Lord Charles Beresford and Sir Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett were the exponents of Jingoism. What the latter wanted I do not know, but so far as I could gather, it was to drive the Russians out of Asia, a task which seemed to me likely to be a difficult one, even if that doughty knight headed our forces. Lord Charles wished us to establish ourselves in the central provinces of China, kindly to undertake to look after the finances of these provinces, and to organise an army of Chinese under British officers to defend them against the world in arms. We were not otherwise to interfere with Chinese rule, and thus we should have made ourselves responsible for all its iniquities. Of course, our Chinese Army would have had—as is the case with the Indian Army—to be stiffened by British regiments. We should thus have had a Chino-British Empire, peopled by one or two hundred million Chinese, added to our responsibilities. Unlike our Indian Empire, it would not have had a natural frontier. France, Germany, and Russia would have at once divided up the rest of China. Our system is free trade, theirs is protection. German goods and those of all other countries would have had access into our share of the spoil; our goods would have been excluded from theirs. Apart, therefore, from the cost and risk of this modest grab, we should have actually lost commercially by it.

The Jingoes who did not go quite so far as Lord Charles complained that Lord Salisbury had not assumed a firm tone with Russia. As far as I could understand them, they were under the impression that, had he taken this tone, something would have been gained as against Russia; but what that something was, and whether it was worth gaining, not one of them explained. Assuming, however, that this something was worth the getting, I see no reason to suppose that we should have obtained it by this "firm tone." The Emperor of Russia is not a potentate like the Emperor of Sokoto, or the King of Uganda. He is the head of the greatest military Empire in the world. It may, therefore, reasonably be supposed that he also would have assumed a "firm tone," with the result that there would have been war between the two firm-toned countries, in which case, be the result what it might have been, the Chinese Empire, that we are desirous to keep on its legs, would have been split up into fragments. My complaint against Lord Salisbury is that he had nagged at Russia unnecessarily. But I hold that, taking a large view of all the occurrences connected with the recent Chinese "question," his action deserves commendation rather than blame. His colleagues were roaming about the country making inconsiderate and compromising speeches. His followers in Parliament were every day examining and cross-examining his representative in the House of Commons, with a view to force him to tread the Jingo path of damnation. The Conservative Press was every day suggesting that he ought to be replaced as Foreign Secretary by someone else. Indeed, so persistent was this Press campaign, that it looks to me as though the "someone else" by whom he was to be replaced was at the bottom of it. That the Premier managed to secure for us all that we really needed, and that he did not plunge us into war, are services that, whether we are Tories or Radicals, ought, in my humble judgment, to be recognised.

A nation afflicted with the Jingo craze is like a person given to drink, who, if he cannot get brandy, falls back on some other intoxicant. As the Chinese "question" is closed, at least for the moment, we shall, I anticipate, soon have a Boussa "question," and as we have been prevented from going to war with Russia on account of Port Arthur, we shall be called upon to go to war with France on account of Boussa. This interesting village has never, probably, been visited by more than twenty Europeans. It is situated in the centre of Africa, and to get to it a fever-stricken zone of some 300 miles must be traversed. We and France both claim it, each alleging a prior treaty with some negro, who asserts that he may bestow it on whom he pleases. A less desirable possession for a European country the mind of man cannot well conceive. Unfortunately, however, Boussa, if ours, comes within the area of Mr.

Chamberlain's dominions. He has been blustering and swaggering for a considerable time about what he will do, if not allowed to include it in these dominions, and he has managed to get together a negro force officered by Englishmen in its neighbourhood. Fortunately Lord Salisbury has returned to England, and I trust that he will keep a wary eye on Mr. Chamberlain's doings. A Commission has been sitting in Paris to decide to whom Boussa and the adjacent country really belongs. It is composed of French and English, and they differ. If they cannot agree, then let the question, in the name of common sense, be referred to the President of the Swiss Confederation, or some such independent arbitrator. One essential is that there should be a clear line of frontier between our sphere of influence in the interior of Western Africa and that of France; and provided that this line be traced, it matters very little whether the line be a few miles one way or the other. That two civilised nations like France and England should go to war to decide to which of them a few square miles in Central Africa belongs would be a crime. Apart from the harm that would be done elsewhere, the war in Africa would be a horrible one. Each country would enlist savages, and, having armed them, turn them loose on the other. Once armed, it would be impossible to prevent atrocities of the most hideous character taking place on both sides. This seems hardly the way to introduce civilisation and Christianity into Central Africa. I used to hear a good deal about the Nonconformist conscience. It was moved to its innermost depths by the episode of Mr. Parnell and Mrs. O'Shea. It has slept fast ever since. Is it not time that it should wake up? Those, too, who are not Nonconformist used to have something that they were pleased to call a conscience. Have they come to the conclusion that its promptings ought to be ignored? Surely even those who deem that a certain number of negroes ought periodically to be sacrificed on the Jingo altar, should feel that—what with Matabele and Ugandese—we have of late offered up a sufficiently heavy sacrifice to gratify the Jingo divinity, and that it is not absolutely necessary for us and France to go to war about a wretched negro village, in order that more negroes may be killed. I really do not know to whom Boussa belongs. The only thing that seems certain is that it does not—as one would naturally have supposed—belong to its inhabitants. I do not care one brass farthing whether its destiny is to belong to us or to France. What I do care is, that we and France do not go to war over this paltry bone of contention—a war into which we may be pushed by Mr. Chamberlain for his own ends, unless Lord Salisbury is well on his guard. This is why I think that the moment is ill-timed for Radicals to attack Lord Salisbury on account of his foreign policy.

When I first went into Parliament—some thirty years ago—I was a follower of Mr. Bright. Often I followed him into the lobby with half a dozen others against Tories and Liberal officialdom on matters concerning our Foreign relations. He became a Minister.. But no sooner did he hear of the bombardment of Alexandria, than he shook the official dust from his feet. When I have any doubt now how I ought to vote on armaments and on "firm attitudes" towards Foreign Powers, I ask myself how Mr. Bright would have voted, and as he would have voted, so do I.

OUR COUSINS ON THE WAR PATH.

The President of the United States is, we are told by the *Times* Correspondent in America, surprised to hear that British opinion is veering towards Spain, and that it is a question whether the majority in Parliament is not now Spanish in sympathy. Can this, he asks, be true? There is a certain amount of truth in the report that has reached the President. The attitude of the majority of Members of Parliament, so far as I can gather it, is somewhat as follows. They had no sympathy with Spain in her Cuban misrule, and they were shocked at the cruel mode in which the civil war in that island was carried on by General Weyler. Their sympathies were entirely with President McKinley in his endeavours to end the war, and to secure to Cuba an autonomous government. Nor do they blame him for not, as head of the Executive, having put himself in antagonism to Congress. But they consider that the resources of diplomacy had not been exhausted, when Congress insisted upon an ultimatum being sent to Spain which no self-respecting country, whatever its errors, would have accepted. This was all the more objectionable, as a Liberal Government, far more inclined to grant acceptable terms to Cuba, had succeeded the Government of Señor Canovas, and the Queen-Regent, being a foreigner, would have ruined the prospects of her son had she not met the ultimatum with a point-blank refusal. Members of the House of Commons do not question that the war is, in the minds of many inhabitants of America, waged on grounds of humanity, nor do they question the right—indeed, the duty—of America to interfere to secure good government to Cuba. But they are inclined to think that the ultimatum was rather a political move on the part of Silverite and Republican Senators against President McKinley, than the result of any real desire to settle matters in Cuba. Moreover, when there is a fight between a big and a little man, there is always a sort of sympathy for the little man, irrespective of merits and demerits. The war having commenced, and it being obvious that victory must ultimately rest with the United States, such M.P.'s hope that the latter will be speedily successful. Nor do they doubt that this result will be of advantage to Cuba, which will be better off if divorced from all connection with Spain.

In these views I in the main agree. I have always been the strongest advocate of a thoroughly good understanding between us and the United States, because I have never seen any reason why the two countries should not be the best of friends. But I am no great believer in the twaddle that is written about ties of blood, &c. Countries act from an enlightened view of their own interests, not from sentiment. This is wise, for sentiment is the most dangerous of guides If one country is at war with another, it always looks for aid from its racial cousin, but very seldom gets it. Cousins are left to paddle their own canoe. Just now the Americans

are in a very cousinly mood, and some of our newspapers suggest that we should meet this disposition half-way, because, if we do, and if we ourselves subsequently get into any difficulty, the United States will help us to get out of it from a sense of cousinly gratitude. Thus we ought to be speculatively affectionate. All this is outside the area of practical politics. When two men, or two countries, are fighting, the result depends upon hard blows, and not upon the sympathy felt for one or other of the combatants by a looker-on. In this Cuban quarrel we are—as a nation—neutral. Being neutral, we are bound to fulfil the international obligations involved in neutrality fairly. We have a right to express the hope that the outcome will be that the Cubans are freed from their connection with Spain, or that, if the connection be maintained, it will be a merely nominal one. But the expression of this hope is of no material aid to the United States, and it is not based upon cousinship. Our newspaper gentlemen on both sides of the Atlantic are too much inclined to imagine that their articles are potent in all things. The pen, they say, is mightier than the sword. Mightier it may be, but it is not stronger when swords are drawn. For my part, if England were seriously attacked, I would rather have an additional ironclad than the warmest and most sympathetic of newspaper articles. I fully recognise that President McKinley is most anxious—irrespective of this war—to live on terms of cordial friendship with us. I entirely reciprocate this aspiration. And it is because I do, that I would have our friendship based upon something more practical than cousinly cant. Only a very little while ago, we and our "cousins" were at each other, hammer and tongs, respecting the ownership of some worthless and pestiferous forest in Venezuela. Our cousinship was as much forgotten, as was the fraternal tie that united Cain and Abel when Cain cut the bond by killing Abel. I like America, I like the Americans, and I like their Government. But in these feelings, I am not actuated by the fact that they and I read Shakespeare, or that we ask for mutton or beef in the same language.

Apart from the merits or demerits of the war in which they are now engaged, I regret to be obliged to recognise that the Jingo microbe, whose insidious attacks are so harmful in Europe, has crossed the ocean, and is playing havoc with the sound, practical common sense that used to be an American characteristic. Americans welcome war as though it were a national blessing. If the accounts that come over to us are correct, the entire nation is engaged in drilling, volunteering, and ghost-dancing after the manner of Red Indians. War may sometimes be a dire necessity, but where the pleasure comes in I do not see. Soldiers may like it, for it is their profession. But what enjoyment can a decent civilian find in arraying himself in a coloured coat, girding a knife to his side, carrying a gun over his shoulder, and betaking himself to an island, where, if not shot, he will probably die of the yellow fever? Nor can it be pleasurable to pay the bill. Unless the Americans are far less intelligent than I take them to be, their war craze will be a brief one, and they will soon regret that they did not leave President McKinley to work out Cuban salvation from misgovernment without recourse to arms. War is like matrimony—enter upon it in haste, repent at leisure.

LEIGH SAMPSON ANNOUNCES HIS DEATH.

It will surprise no one to hear that Leigh Sampson is dead at last. It will be remembered that when last heard of he was lying seriously ill at Boulogne, in the character of "Henry Travers." From that town his wife wrote giving a sad account of his sufferings from brain fever, and soliciting the purchase of one of his pictures to relieve his deplorable condition. The tender-hearted recipient of the letter sent the English Chaplain at Boulogne to relieve the distressed couple, and on his arrival the Chaplain found Travers, *alias* Sampson, walking about in the best of health, and so robust that he gratuitously insulted the cleric almost as soon as he saw him. There can be no doubt that the letter of the supposed wife was really in Sampson's own handwriting, and it is also quite certain that Sampson's wife was not with him at Boulogne, as he has been separated from that lady for some years.

The publication in TRUTH of the story about the brain fever and the Chaplain's visit caused Sampson's feelings to get the better of him, and he proceeded to indite certain post-cards, which led to his expulsion from Boulogne by the police. He seems to have gone on to Brussels, where fresh misfortunes overtook him—not brain fever this time, but phthisis, induced by privation. At last he died. The melancholy particulars may be learned from the following curious letter addressed to a gentleman in the suburbs of London. The date of Sampson's demise is not stated in so many words, but as the letter is dated April 22, the expression "three weeks ago" fixes it on the First of April—a most appropriate occasion:—

Consultations
de midi
à
2 heures.

35, Rue de la Tourelle, 35,
Etterbeek, Bruxelles, La Belgique,
April 22, 1898.

MONSIEUR,—I must apologise for this writing to you, the more so because I do not have the pleasure to know you, but I do so on the behalf of the young widow and child of a Scottish painter, a Monsieur Donald Sampson, of whose work, I understand, Monsieur, you have been a patron.

This young Scotsman came to this town some time ago, and because I speak English he has consulted me concerning his health.

I have found upon examination that he was much injured by phthisis, and this was originated by privation of long standing.

I prescribed for him, but quite without effect, and he died here three weeks ago.

He was interred by charity, which is now exhausted, and left his widow quite penniless. She is a young lady of the highest character.

She has made me aware of your name, sir, and has said that if I will write to you declaring the facts, it will be thus possible that you shall consent to aid this unfortunate person by purchasing the last and only picture her husband has left behind him.

The purchase will enable the two (the widow and child) to make a return to Scotland, and as the widow does not speak French it is the better she should return to her own land, where she may possibly obtain proper employment.

The picture I will venture to send with this letter for you to approve of.

The price is £10 sterling (or francs 250) and it is called "Anvers, La Belgique."

I can assure you I am sorry to intrude upon a gentleman whom I do not know, but, all the same, the circumstances compel some one to help this young Scottish widow and her child, so that upon her appeal to me to write to you I could not refuse.

Receive, sir, the assurance of my highest consideration,

CHARLES VAN BUREN.

Let me at once beg the reader to dry any tears which

may have been evoked by this melancholy story. There is, happily, not the slightest room for doubt that it is Leigh Sampson himself who thus chronicles his own decease. The rascal is not much of a hand at disguising his penmanship. In the character of "Charles Van Buren" he makes a feeble attempt to adopt a foreign hand at the beginning of the letter, but the disguise drops off before he has written many lines, and Leigh Sampson stands plainly revealed. Those, however, who are not as familiar as I am with Sampson's handwriting, may easily be imposed upon by the letter, for the rascal has actually got the heading, including the delightful touch, "consultations de midi à 2 heures," printed. Either this means that Sampson is living in the house of a Belgian physician whose notepaper he has purloined, or it means that he has gone to the expense of having this heading printed for the express purpose of this novel fraud. In the latter event, it may be assumed that more people than one have been favoured with a similar letter, and with replicas of "the last and only picture he has left behind him." I trust that none of them has risen to the bait.

I would respectfully suggest to the authorities at Scotland Yard that they should call the attention of the Brussels police to No. 35, Rue de la Tourelle, and Monsieur Charles Van Buren, or whatever the name may be under which Sampson is at present masquerading. As soon as the Belgian police know that he has been turned out of France, and that he has only come to Brussels for the purpose of embarking in a purely criminal undertaking, he will probably be compelled to move on and die again somewhere else. Seeing that he has, by his own account, been born in at least a dozen different places, it would be only in accordance with the fitness of things that he should die and be buried in an equal number. Anyhow, he is a thorough-paced swindler, and it is quite clear that he has now cast aside all scruples and will stick at no fraud for the purpose of obtaining money. Under these circumstances the best thing that can happen is that he should be hunted out of the Continent and driven back here, where our own police can now very soon make a case against him.

A JUDGE ON AREA-GATE TOUTS.

I am now in a position to throw a good deal of useful light on the firm of "Hibbins & Co., Manufacturers, Publishers, and Importers," of 4, Eton-street, Richmond, a characteristic letter from whom was published in TRUTH of the 21st ult. In the first place it turns out that No. 4, Eton-street, is the address of my old friends, E. Pike & Sons, who achieved notoriety in the area-gate-touting business two or three years back. Moreover, it also appears that the same business is carried on from the same address in the names of "J. Barker & Co." and "Clark & Co.," the latter of whom have also come under notice in TRUTH, and from the perfect similarity of their style of business, I take it there can be very little doubt that Pike, Hibbins, Barker, and Clark are all aliases of the same individual or gang.

In their character of Clark & Co., this gang got a well-deserved dressing at Wandsworth County-court on the 25th ult. One of their representatives had endeavoured to sell a book on farriery to a gentleman's groom at Blackheath, and failing to get an order from the man, he had resorted to the common trick of leaving the book for the man to look at, and afterwards insisting that he had ordered it, upon which Clark & Co. forwarded their thanks for the order, together with an instalment payment card. The man's master, on being consulted, sent the book back to Clark & Co. by registered post, repudiating any order, and Clark & Co. then commenced proceedings against the man in Wandsworth County-court, claiming the sum of £1, notwithstanding that £2 5s. was the price at which they had invoiced the book to the customer. It may be that the reduced amount of the claim was due to Clark & Co.'s consciousness that they had no chance of recovering the nominal sale price of the book; or it may be that they thought thus to tempt the man into some offer by way of compromise. At any rate the case came on for trial, and the groom was defended by counsel; but no plaintiff appeared. An application being then made for a special order for costs, it transpired that some ten other cases of a similar character, in which Clark & Co. were plaintiffs, were down for hearing before the Registrar, where, strange to relate, a representative of Clark & Co. was in attendance—I suppose for the purpose of going through the simple form of obtaining judgment by default against defendants who had not appeared. Judge Lushington had the whole of these cases brought into his court, and thus got Clark & Co.'s representative before him. In eight out of the ten cases the Judge held, in the absence of the defendants, that the production of orders purporting to be signed by the defendant was not sufficient, and struck the cases out. In the course of these proceedings the order purporting to be signed by the groom was produced by Clark & Co.'s representative, and on the groom denying his signature and supplying the Judge with his authentic autograph, his Honour at once pronounced the signature to be a forgery. In giving judgment, the Judge delivered some scathing remarks upon the character of Clark & Co.'s business, which he said constantly tended to promote dishonesty, and which, in the case before him, had led to forgery, while in another case, where the defendant appeared, it had led to perjury.

In this estimate of the area-gate touting business the Judge was probably under, rather than over, the mark. This class of trade is carried on by systematic roguery on the part of the agents, who employ every kind of trick and misrepresentation in order to get orders, and (as has been repeatedly shown) have no scruples about forging a servant's signature when all other means fail. On the other hand, where the girls have been gammoned or bluffed into giving an order, they find themselves saddled for months with a liability which will swallow up the greater part of their wages, and if they are too honest to repudiate the contract, or too timid to apply to their employers for advice or help, they go on paying over their hard-earned money to their victimisers for shoddy goods which they probably do not want, and which are always sold to them at three or four times their market value. After denouncing this "vile business" last week, Judge

Lushington cynically remarked that it would probably be resumed the next day. No doubt it will, but there is no reason whatever why it should not be stopped. All that is necessary for that purpose is to compel all the "travellers" and "agents" engaged in the business to take out hawker's licences, and to make such licences voidable on the first proof of dishonesty or sharp practice on the part either of the holder or his employer.

PASTOR JONES UNDER THE HARROW.

There are some interesting disclosures in the report of a firm of accountants at Chester upon the cadging operations which have been carried on in connection with the Bridge-street Baptist Mission in that city. The Mission is run by Pastor W. S. Jones, a pious humbug whose doings have been noticed in TRUTH on several occasions. Mr. Jones formerly traded as a wholesale stationer in Chester, and acted as pastor of a local Baptist Church. In his character of pastor he earned some notoriety by reason of his widely-distributed appeals for subscriptions. A couple of years or so ago he became a bankrupt with large liabilities and small assets, and about the same time differences with the officers and congregation led to his withdrawal from the Baptist Church. In his public examination at the Bankruptcy Court a good deal of time was devoted to an attempt to elucidate the debtor's dealings with the finances of the chapel and an institution associated with it, but he shuffled and prevaricated to such an extent that the Registrar ultimately closed the proceedings without, he said, getting "anything satisfactory" out of him. Jones still remains an undischarged bankrupt. Nothing daunted, however, by censures from the Court or cold-shouldering from his old flock, this undischarged bankrupt at once created a new sphere for his spiritual and social labours. He started the Bridge-street Mission in a building rented at a few shillings a week, and solicited support by means of unctuously-worded circulars from people in all parts of the country. The attention his efforts received in TRUTH, and later on in the *Chester Chronicle*, led him a month or two back to submit the accounts of the Mission to a well-known local firm of accountants, Messrs. Edwards, Son, and Warmsley. It is their report which has now been published, and if Pastor Jones expected an auditorial blessing of his enterprise, such as his namesake John James Jones was fortunate enough to obtain from *his* auditors, then he has been most grievously disappointed. The report is an unequivocal condemnation of the methods to which Jones has resorted for procuring funds.

It is clear from the auditors' report that the so-called treasurer of the Mission was a mere ornamental figure-head so far as the receipt of subscriptions from the outside public was concerned. His name appeared on the circulars, but it was to "E. H. Jones," the wife of the pastor, that money had to be sent, and the pastor himself "has exercised absolute control over the financial affairs of the Mission." The printer's bills show that 9,000 circulars have been supplied. Jones states that only 1,300 have been sent out, but the auditors remark that they have "no means of verifying the figure." According to the books kept by Jones, which the auditors have accepted as substantially correct, the sum of £188 0s. 7d. has been received in answer to these circulars. Of this sum no less than £120 has been swallowed up by postal and printing expenses, so that the cost of collection has been over 13s. in the £. Its wastefulness, however, is the least objectionable feature of Pastor Jones's system of raising money for the Mission. He has habitually distributed circulars "so worded as to imply that funds were urgently required to wipe off heavy deficits *which, in fact, did not exist.*" One circular stated that certain expenditure on the mission building had exceeded the estimate by £30. It appears from the report that this was untrue. Last June there was a special appeal "to clear off the balance of £150." At that time the indebtedness of the Mission was only £50. In January last help was besought "to clear off the balance of our expenses (of over £300) during the next fourteen days." The deficit was then only £25. The report of the auditors proves, in short, that the needs and position of the Mission were described in these circulars in terms which were grossly misleading, if not deliberately mendacious. It concludes with the observation that "there is nothing in the circumstances of the Mission calling for the continued issue of circulars of appeal to the general public." Whether Pastor W. S. Jones will have the impudence to resume his appeals after the auditors scathing exposure remains to be seen.

I have referred to this case principally because it is a typical one. There are many similarly self-constituted religious and philanthropic prophets, who, being more or less without honour in their own neighbourhood, prey upon the benevolence of people at a distance. Some do the trick by means of touting circulars; others prefer the aid of salaried collectors. The public are greatly to blame, of course, for responding to such importunities without any inquiry as to the nature and necessities of the concern or the character of the parties handling the cash. Those who administer the law are, however, also to blame for their lack of vigilance and stringency in dealing with this form of mendicancy. Many of these appeals emanate from purely local institutions, which, even if they are honestly conducted, ought not to be allowed to cadge all over the country for support. But though the police might have a difficulty in cases of that kind, they could, at any rate, take action for the protection of the public and the punishment of the offender when it is known that cash is being solicited by circulars or canvassers upon the strength of gross misrepresentations either as to the nature and extent of the work or the financial position of the undertaking. The law is enforced often enough against poor wretches who ask a passer-by for a copper or a crust of bread. It can surely cope as effectively with the more sturdy beggars who obtain money by false religious or charitable pretences.

CANVASSING THE GREAT UNPAID.

Certain startling statements as to the canvassing of magistrates in licensing cases, which were lately made by District Inspector Ball before the Licensing Commission, have evoked a good deal of discussion in Ireland. A few J.P.s, conscious perhaps of their own virtue, have

denounced the witness's evidence as a foul and baseless libel upon the honour and integrity of the Bench. In other quarters he is held to have understated rather than exaggerated the facts of a serious scandal. It is affirmed that the practice of canvassing magistrates is far more common than the general public have hitherto supposed, and that it is not by any means restricted to licensing matters. On this point the *Kerry News* makes some remarkable allegations as to the prevalence of the system in the Tralee district, and quotes the testimony of a local magistrate to the effect that, on the morning of a Court day, his place of business is besieged with litigants eager to give him accounts of their cases in advance. At Tralee it has been noted that magistrates frequently attend the Court only to hear one particular case, and to check this a plan has been adopted for indicating in the reports the entrances and exits of each member of the Bench.

There may be differences of opinion respecting the extent of this evil; but in the face of the facts that leak out from time to time, it is simply idle to deny that magistrates ever allow themselves to be canvassed, or ever come to Court with minds biassed by an *ex parte* version of the case they have to decide. Only a week or two back I described an instructive incident at Kilmainham Quarter Sessions, where the marked zeal with which some of the magistrates were backing up an application for a licence aroused the misgivings of the Recorder. The applicant was interrogated by the Recorder as to whether he had canvassed any of the gentlemen on the Bench, and though he showed a strong inclination to fence with the question, he eventually admitted that he had spoken, first to "one or two," next to "not more than three," and then to "three or four" of them. It seemed probable that the number would be still further increased under the pressure of the Recorder's examination, but at that point the applicant's counsel prudently advised him to close his mouth, and the case was adjourned. Anybody who has watched the manner in which the Licensing Laws are administered must know that what happened on this occasion is what not infrequently happens in such cases. It is notorious, indeed, that when it is a question of granting or cancelling a licence, magistrates are whipped up by interested parties to support one side or the other.

Nor is it in Ireland alone that this is done. The same thing sometimes occurs here, and here, as in Ireland, the canvassing of magistrates is not always confined to licensing business. I do not for a moment suggest that it is done systematically, or that the majority of magistrates countenance it, and above all I do not wish to insinuate that there is anything in the nature of a sordid corruption of the sources of justice. To give Shallow his due, he is an honourable man, though deplorably wooden-headed. It stands to reason, however, that among a body selected as our amateur magistrates are, there must be many with an imperfect appreciation of the duties and responsibilities of a judicial office. This is nowhere shown more forcibly than in the travesties of justice which occur under the Game Laws. The ardent game preserver does not hesitate to adjudicate in a charge of poaching, though his prejudice almost inevitably sways his judgment. In the same way magistrates constantly act in other cases, to which, whatever their intention may be, they cannot bring the open mind which is required if impartial justice is to be meted out. The canvassing that goes on takes the form of a complainant, or defendant, or some intermediary, waiting upon a magistrate to beget his sympathy with a one-sided story of the rights and wrongs of the affair. If he knows his duty, the magistrate, of course, refuses to listen. But he does not always know his duty, and even if he is careful to make no promise, he goes to the Court with his mind influenced, though insensibly, by the statements he has already heard. To say this is to take the most charitable view of the result which must follow when a magistrate allows himself to be approached in this way, and discusses and considers beforehand a case which he has to judicially hear and determine. Occasionally the result is worse, and from time to time I have noticed in TRUTH instances in which it was manifest that the Bench had made up their minds before the evidence was given. I have had to notice, too, not a few cases in which magistrates have persisted in adjudicating upon matters in which they were more or less personally or pecuniarily interested, or in which they were known to be affected by ties of friendship or relationship to parties before the Court.

In proportion to the whole number of magistrates, those who are guilty of these irregularities and improprieties are doubtless an insignificant minority; but there are sufficient of them, and the scandals that arise are frequent enough to account in a great measure for the discredit and distrust in which Justices' justice is widely held. Such a state of things is practically unavoidable so long as men are placed on the Commission of the Peace on social or political grounds, regardless of their lack of training or qualifications for judicial work. It is, in fact, one of the penalties we pay for an honorary and amateur magistracy.

TWO BABY SHOWS.

"A babe in a house," says the late Mr. Tupper, "is a well-spring of pleasure." I begin to understand the popularity of the poet. *He* understood his public. There are two babes in the London playhouses at present, one at the Avenue and one at Terry's; and no words may exaggerate the pleasure of which they are the well-spring. The theme is the same in either case. A baby is left on the steps of a club or in the purlieus of a private house. Who are the parents? Suspicion falls on every one in any way connected with the place. Wives suspect their husbands, servants their master, fiancés and fiancées one another; suspicion is universal. The grounds of so much distrust are negative; it is only by incredible folly that any one is implicated. But the wise public roars.

The Avenue baby had two nights' start of Mr. Terry's. The Corkscrew Club was the scene of its adventure. The members were summoned to consider its career. Mr. Sidney Brough was a member, and proposed to join an even more famous club at Westminster. In other words, he was a candidate for Imperial Parliament, and practised his eloquence on his wife (Miss Vane Featherstone), her sister, her father (Mr. Lal Brough), and his friend (Mr. W. T. Lovell). By a series of accidents more improbable than even farce permits, Madame was led to suspect her Sidney. Her

father arriving on the scene with two suits of dress clothes, what more natural than that she and her sister should follow him to the club, disguised as youths? Two ladies in trousers naturally offer a great opening for time-honoured jest; Mr. William O'Brien deprived of his natural covering was not a richer mine. Meanwhile, Mr. Lal is at the club before them. He, too, suspects his Sidney, and must attend the meeting in a false beard. Unhappy Lal! For certain reasons, the members take him for the baby's mother. Of what badinage, what persiflage is he the centre! The baby is raffled and falls to his share. He hurries home to a merciful dénouement. The baby's mother proves to be a mysterious advocate of Woman's Rights. She accepts her own, and the others cease from being suspect. Before that culmination the ladies have visited the club, and conversed with their respective husband and fiancé. One of them has been made to smoke a cigar, the other has fainted and dropped her garter; but they have not been recognised. The club scenes are unconsciously the most diverting. The regulations are amiable. You do not sit in your cab outside the Corkscrew till they make you a member, but another member gives you a sufficing card of admission. It seems "a shy place for a sucking member," as Mr. Wagg said of Fairoaks when he visited Pendennis's mamma. If I were Mr. Sidney Brough, I should not rashly bring my best constituents there of nights. The Corkscrews are genial, and address one another collectively as "Boys." They talk rather loudly and some of them wear very odd whiskers. The acting is vivacious. Mr. Brough and his son, Miss Susie Vaughan and Miss Featherstone, Miss Beatrice Ferrar, and Miss Alice Beet, whose excellent maid-servant deserves an especial good mark—to all these cheery persons may Messrs. Sterner and Knoblauch, the authors, well be thankful. But the baby remained mute among the members of the Corkscrew. Perhaps he shared my amazement upon one point: what could such a dear old gentleman as Mr. Robert Soutar be doing in that *galère?*

If they work hard in Northumberland-avenue, I can promise you they have to bestir them in the Strand. The weight of their improbabilities seems even heavier. The Terry baby came on Friday night. The Professor was in his laboratory. His wife—of *secondes noces*—and her mother were away; he was on the eve of vast discoveries. A lady drove up to the house. The Professor did not know her, but her features, handsome and prominent, resembled those of Miss Vera Beringer. She left the baby in the laboratory. The Professor might have rung and given the baby to a servant. But we should have had no farce. The Professor knew his business—which was to be mysterious. He retained the baby and let his shadow on the blind, with the babe in his arms, inform the household. When his wife and mother-in-law returned, the case against the Professor was of a nature to repay his efforts. Nor was this enough. He went about talking in such a manner that his maid-servant was alarmed. It was clear that he meant to vivisect the child. The maid-servant withdrew the babe, and the suspicion of the Professor's man-servant, her affianced, fell on her. The mother-in-law now entered the ring. She was engaged to one Captain Sandy, of the Merchant Service. A large, red Scotsman came upon the scene. He carried a bag marked "Sandy;" he answered, among his familiars, to that name. Plainly this was mamma-in-law's fiancé. The Professor greeted him as Captain Sandy. The real Sandy arrived. He was informed about the baby, and saw in it a pledge of his fiancée's treachery. More excursions, more alarums, more misunderstandings; Need I enumerate them? The first Sandy was the baby's grandfather. Another grand-parent was the Professor. The parents of the child were the Professor's son and the Scotsman's daughter, secretly married.

The whole thing is, of course, quite nebulous and foolish. Farce has its privileges, but Mr. Terry's babe exceeds them. Even farce must have some basis of the plausible, and "Shadows on the Blind" has none. There is a certain skill in the mechanism as in some clock-work toy; a certain sense of the theatre is evident in both these pieces. People come on and go off when they are wanted to. I confess I saw them go off with greater pleasure, and I am in no hurry to see the club baby or the professor's any more. Here again the skill and energy of the actors do much. Mr. Terry still is Mr. Terry, Mr. Hubert Willis has the authentic accent of the north, Miss Fanny Coleman adorns the mother-in-law, Mr. Guyton Heath is an effective servant. Authors, however, are warned that we have had enough of stage babies.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

PICTURES IN PARIS.

THE *vernissage* at the Salon was always a *cohue.* But it was a mob made up of all sorts, and the ladies did their utmost to be *strikingly* elegant. As there was a war of toilettes, these two jarring words are admissible, for true elegance should never in ordinary circumstances hit the eye. The authentic millionaire or billionaire, Duchesse, Marquise, Comtesse, or Baronne borrowed her weapons for the nonce from the emancipated demoiselle or actress, who laid herself out to triumph over the combination of aristocracy and wealth. Chic was the sovereign lord as represented by the Prince now Duc de Sagan. He made and unmade reputations in the *monde où l'on s'amuse.* To be distinguished by him for a few moments at a *vernissage* was to rise in that monde to the pinnacle of distinction, and to have at once a court of heavy-swell admirers in the Salon and at lunch at Ledoyen's. The mob has remained; but the *monde élégant,* except so far as it represents officialdom, has deserted it. Great actresses will go if their portraits are exhibited. But they affect only to attend in the forenoon, and then they slip off to lunch, not at the grand new buffet or the Eiffel Tower, but, as of old, at Ledoyen's. Of course, they do not return. The mob go to the buffet, which can lunch 1,000, and to the Tower.

M. Faure's private view has this year been more public than any such previous ceremony. He has quick perceptions. In the three days he spent at St. Petersburg he saw that the Czar did not isolate himself from his people. The public could approach him. This example was not

thrown away on the President. The usual official gathering, including Premier, Ministers, Ambassadors, Generals, and so on, awaited him at the Machines Galleries, where the two Salons are now installed. He had begged that the special public which had come in the morning to write about the works of art should not be turned away. After his arrival he further requested that it should not be excluded from the rooms he was to pass through. The President came in a carriage with a General of Division. His wife and daughter were in another carriage, they having no Protocol rank.

When he got down they joined him, and he named the personage who was to give each lady his arm. Premier Méline, the incarnation of the lean kine, had the honour of conducting Mme. Félix Faure, a lady of dark complexion and fairly stout figure, who stands well on her dignity. She was in a dress and bonnet of the fashionable electric blue—a revival of a blue that was called, when I was a child, thunder and lightning. Mademoiselle was in white and pale lilac. The combination was not unpleasing. She, too, stands seriously on her dignity. And why should she not? The Foreign Minister was chosen to serve as her escort. M. Berge, the son-in-law, was not in the family party. He holds himself a good deal in reserve, a proof of discretion. M. Détaille had the honour of taking round Mme. Berge, the President's youngest daughter.

The two Salons are in temporary wooden structures roofed with an awning in the Machines Gallery. The halves of each are to right and left of a central garden. From a wholesome fear of fire the exits are numerous. The Salon exiled from the Champs Elysées is nearest to the chief entrance to the Machines Gallery; that driven from the Champ de Mars is at the upper end. A big restaurant divides the rival shows. The centre of the gallery is arranged as a garden and given over to sculpture. It also has an awning, so that the glass and girders overhead are hidden, and the sun's rays tempered. The corners are cut off all the rooms in both Salons—a great improvement.

The number of young painters is endless. The show is not the better for this. So few of them send good works. The work of works in the Champs Elysées Salon—as we still call it—is Détaille's military painting. It is, in a way, a nocturne in daylight. The subject is the Emperor and Empress of Russia going from the camp of Chalons to the railway station; time, an afternoon—say five in the evening—in October. The sky is stormy, but brightened towards the west by the sunset. The road is heavy and sloppy after the rain. It runs between two banks, one higher than the other. Cavalry, light and heavy, are massed on both, and behind them, as far as one can see. The Imperial carriage, turning a sharp curve, advances. It has its back to the setting sun, which gives strong relief to a group of cuirassiers on the highest roadside bank. It takes almost the value of a headland crowned with cavalry, with glinting helmets and cuirasses, but otherwise in shade, for they are in profile, and the sunset is on their far side. The foremost cuirassier salutes the party in the carriage, and M. Faure, who sits back to the horses, has taken off his hat. The painter has caught the expression of beaming happiness that he wears in Royal or Imperial company. The Czar is observant and silent, the Czarina haughtily indifferent. Détaille went to the Chalons review for his impressions. He painted in water colours the Imperial guests on the review ground for a New Year's gift-album for the Empress. I think in the painting now on view he has surpassed himself. Those night effects in the daytime have been carped at, but they only show how well he observed the effects of sunset towards the end of October. The sunset that followed the review was between two downpours of rain. The Imperial carriage is drawn by eight Artillery horses. Four untidy Artillerymen serve as postilions. The French Artillery has not the neat look of the English. Two Tartar servants of the Czar sit in the rumble. H.I.M. prefers Tartar to Russian servants. They are very honest and attentive to their duties, and do not drink. All the Tartars in the Imperial household are sons of the Prophet.

France is a Pandora. Somehow, Détaille's painting gives rise to dark forebodings. One wonders in gazing at it what fresh evils are going to take wings and fly out of Pandora's box. It does seem a picture of evil omen and a presage of a gathering of great forces to battle. Not that Détaille thought to prophesy in painting it. Not that he knows aught of Gog and Magog, unless as he saw them at the Guildhall. It never occurred to him to look for their representatives in the pseudo-democracy incarnate in M. Faure, and the *gentil* Autocrat of All the Russias

Benjamin Constant sends two portraits. One is of M. Sohège, of fencing celebrity, who stands with legs apart and arms folded, as if in an attitude of defiance. His cane might be a foil. The painter has lent him the Duc d'Aumale's leggings. Have you seen the portrait of the Duc d'Aumale, exhibited two years ago by Benjamin Constant? M. Sohège's short knickers (they only come to the knee) and jacket are dark drab. The portrait by the same artist, of M. Hanotaux, is one to study. M. Hanotaux is full-face, and stands leaning against the back of a chair, of which we see the top. He wears his lightly-set glasses, behind which the keen, bright eyes glint. The face is full and nearly square, and yet rather a clever than a strong face. The Foreign Minister does not come from a race of country lawyers for nothing. His sharpness is instinctive. He is (in the portrait) self-satisfied and happy, and will always be Vicar of Bray. The nose is too pinched and is straight, and not long. Neither is it very short. He appears to be making some explanation. M. Hanotaux has greatly smartened up in diplomacy. Still, Benjamin Constant detects an indescribable provincial something. This reminds me that the Foreign Minister speaks not only with a Picardy accent, but the accents of his native burg in Picardy. Flameng's portrait of a young lady in white satin and a much-frilled cape in white *crêpe lisse*, is deservedly admired. The model has beauty of a southern character, and a lovely figure, which her Princesse robe moulds at waist and hips like a glove. The frilled pelerine is thrown over one shoulder, and painted with virtuosity. It is a splendid fantasia in white.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

LORD SALISBURY, dear Lady Betty, is now known as "The Little Minister."

* * * * *

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A COLOSSAL JOKE.

(Through Reuter's Agency.)

WASHINGTON, April 14.

Senator Hoare, speaking in the Senate, said, "If this country is to do a great act of international justice, let us do it calmly and deliberately."

(From Our Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, April 21.

A state of war now exists between this country and Spain, but just how and when the first blow will be struck is, of course, merely conjectural.

THE BLOCKADE OF CUBA PROCLAIMED.

Times leader, April 23.—War has at last begun in deadly earnest, but as yet no shot has been fired. It is universally felt that there is a break in the history of the world.

BOMBARDMENT OF MATANZAS.

(By Anglo-American cables.)

April 27.

The bombardment of Matanzas, the first important hostile act of war, began half-an-hour ago, at five minutes past one in the afternoon. This is the first time one of our great warships has gone into action, and it has been interesting to note the perfect discipline which prevailed. The officers gave their orders in voices hardly raised above the pitch of every day.

KEY WEST, Later.

Rear-Admiral Sampson, in reply to a question as to whether he was satisfied with the result of the bombardment, said, "Yes, I am—I expected to be."

OFF HAVANA, April 28.

The engagement has had a good moral effect on the men. To-night they are contented. They have done something, if not very much, to revenge their comrades who perished on the *Maine*.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BOMBARDMENT.

MADRID, April 29.

The American ships bombarded Matanzas. There were no losses amongst the Spanish troops, but one mule was killed.

* * * * *

Oh, that infidel mule! The spirit of Cervantes must assuredly have inspired the brain which evolved that monumental joke! America may blow the Spanish fleet into splinters; her soldiers may sweep the Spanish forces from the face of the earth, and the United States may exterminate the Spanish race; but it will take centuries to wipe out the memory of the Matanzas mule, a beast which is destined to live in history as one of the celebrated animals.

. . . . .

I have received the following letter:—

"SIR,—At great expense I have secured the remains of the now historical Matanzas mule. Will you be so good as to announce to the public that I propose shortly to exhibit this memorable beast in London, when I feel convinced that the entire population will visit the remains of an animal which must for ever rank as an equal with the Geese of the Capitol, Jonah's Whale, and Balaam's Ass?—Yours faithfully,

A SHOWMAN."

. . . . .

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.—No, it would not be right to add the Battle of Matanzas to Creasy's "Decisive Battles of the World."

. . . .

A war between Great Britain and the United States could scarcely occur, for public feeling in this country would be so much opposed to such a conflict. On the other hand, a war against any combination of European Powers, with the English and the Americans fighting as allies, would rouse the enthusiasm of the nation to the utmost pitch. Nevertheless, there is throughout Great Britain a strong dislike of one section of the American public, a section which is not by any means the most numerous, but is, necessarily, the most noisy. That section is composed of adventurers and adventuresses, and has many representatives in politics, in society, and in the Press. The men who belong to it are unscrupulous, boastful, pushing, and unrefined; and the women possess the same feelings. This explains much of the unsympathetic attitude assumed in many quarters—especially in the West End—towards America at the present crisis. Great Britain is with the United States hand, heart, and soul, but the noisy, flashy section of Americans rubs the English the wrong way at every turn, and irritates them. There are millions of straightforward, noble-minded, and cultivated American men, and there are millions of gentle and refined American women, but it is not these, obviously, who push themselves to the front and attain notoriety. As for our liking Spain, the English like no foreign country; and that is why no foreign country likes Great Britain. But we admire the dignity and the chivalry of the Spaniards, just as we admire the industry and the indomitable courage of the Americans.

. . . . .

I met General Blanco, who is in command of the Spanish forces in Cuba, in the seventies. At the close of the Carlist war, two days after Don Carlos had fled over the border into France, together with the late Captain Barton of the Guards, the late Sir George Home, and the late Duc di San Lucar (whose original name was O'Shea), I accompanied an elderly Infanta on a visit to the troops commanded by General Blanco. The visit was the more interesting, as it was the first occasion that any member of the Royal House had entered Spain since the revolution. A regiment was drawn up to receive the Infanta, and it must be admitted that her arrival did not evoke the slightest sign of welcome. A moment later General Blanco, at the head of the cavalry, which had been engaged only the night before, was seen trotting down a zig-zag path through the hills; and a more picturesque scene I have never beheld: it was worthy of the Opera. General Blanco alighted at once on reaching our party, and apologised profusely for the somewhat dishevelled appearance of himself and his men, which was due to their having ridden practically straight from the battlefield. One of our party distinguished himself. Having scrutinised the General's horse carefully, without more ado Captain Barton leapt into the saddle, and putting the horse to the trot, and then to the gallop, tried its paces. This altogether unconventional and unexpected incident charmed the troops, who cheered him lustily, and General Blanco himself was delighted. The General, in answer to a question put by myself asking why Don Carlos had been permitted to escape, replied, "He would have been more inconvenient as a prisoner than he even was as a pretender." Indeed, every facility was carefully afforded him to escape.

* * * * *

The Exhibition of the Royal Academy this year (or any other) may be described as an exhibition of excellent mediocrity. There is very little that is especially good, and very little that is especially bad. On this occasion poppies and palettes abound, and the portraits are mostly those of Lord Mayors, Mayors, and company directors. The majority of pictures resemble oleographs more than they do paintings.

The following deserve attention:—

59. Lord Halsbury in an "encore."

63. Oh! my collar!

220. Miss Irene Blair. Excellent. *Luke Fildes, R.A.*

229. Moorland Quietude. Magnificent. *Peter Graham, R.A.*

266. A Phantom Procession.

305. Poppies and Potations.

314. The Silver Sea. Very good. *B. W. Leader, R.A. Elect.*

342. A Villainous Attack upon TRUTH.

403. The City Cherub.

418. Our Pea-green First Parents.

420. "The Grass-crowned Headland of a Rocky Shore." Excellent. *Peter Graham, R.A.*

552. The Matanzas Mule.

649. Mr. Pickering Pick Picking his own Pocket.

977. After the Battle. Admirable colouring. *Sir Harry H. Johnston.*

Believe me to be, very truly yours,
MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

FUTURE running will probably demonstrate that the Two Thousand horses were an exceedingly moderate lot, and that most of them are not stayers. Disraeli won cleverly enough at the finish, and I was always of the opinion that he would turn out to be the best of the Newmarket lot, but no competent judge believes this colt to be anything approaching to a first-class horse, and I quite expect that Dieudonné will defeat him at Epsom. One wiseacre announces that Disraeli is "almost certain" to win both Derby and Grand Prix, but the merest tyro in racing affairs knows that a victory in the Two Thousand, however easily gained, cannot be regarded as a satisfactory trial for the Paris race, the distance of that event being one mile and three quarters, over a very tiring course. I would be vastly surprised to hear of Disraeli ever staying the distance at Longchamps if there were a decent pace. Wantage would have been all the better for a few more gallops, but I fancy his trainer had to prepare him very tenderly while the ground was hard, for fear of his breaking down. His trial with Chancery was all moonshine, but the Duke of Portland (who was salmon-fishing in the Garry last week, in the depths of Inverness-shire) had so poor an opinion of the three-year-olds that he quite expected that Wantage would finish in the first three. I have never believed in Ninus, who started favourite. His trials, about which such a preposterous noise was raised, were all nonsense and rubbish, as I pointed out three weeks ago. Ninus can be made more fit than he was on Wednesday, but he has no chance for the Derby, as he manifestly lacks stamina. Prince Soltykoff's colt showed fine speed for three-quarters of a mile, and then he utterly collapsed. The infatuated backers of St. Evox deserved to lose their money, and the large sums for which he was supported for the Derby are gone, as he has been scratched, and very sensibly, for he obviously had not a 5,000 to 1 chance. When ridiculing the trial of Ninus, I also pointed out the fatuity and absurdity of the idea (then prevalent) that Brio (who was second favourite for some days) had been galloped in any sort of conclusive way. Mr. Baird's colt utterly failed to stay the course. I predicted that Batt would carry off the Two Thousand if he won his trial, and, as a matter of fact, he was not successful in the gallop at Kingsclere, so his defeat in the race did not surprise me. There was no excuse whatever for Batt, as he was perfectly fit and well, and the same may be said of Hawfinch, in whose prospects I never believed in the very least degree. Of the beaten lot in the Two Thousand, Wantage (if he can be trained), Wildfowler, and the colt by Bend Or out of Jenny Howlet, will probably do best in the future. I feel sure that the Malton colt will win a big race (very probably a handicap) in the course of the season, and he must on no account be lost sight of. Jeddah greatly disappointed his friends, and he ran a perfect wretch, but how any sane person could believe in this colt's ability to win the Two Thousand after his slovenly display in the Craven Stakes it is impossible to understand. Jeddah was undoubtedly backed by some people only because he had won a mile race in public, and was therefore sure at least to stay, but the pace was apparently too fast for this colt, as he was never fairly in the race.

The addleheads who had backed Heir Male for the Derby were grievously disconcerted by his hollow defeat in the Chippenham Stakes by Santhia, and he is not likely to run at Epsom. The real truth is that Heir Male cannot stay a yard beyond five furlongs.

Florio Rubattino wants time, as he was very backward, but he will never be above the handicap class, and the same may be said of M.D. and Schönberg. Wildfowler will do better in the future, and I fancy this colt will ultimately turn out to be a long way the best stayer of the lot.

I stated last week that Galtee More would not run at Newmarket, but would be reserved for Ascot, but some of the sporting papers persisted in "going for" Mr. Gubbins' horse for the March Stakes. The race was won, in accordance with my prediction, by Newhaven II., who made a perfect hack of Bridegroom II. It is a pity the Australian horse has been so egregiously messed about. He ought to have won the City and Suburban in a canter, and the Chester Cup would have been a certainty for him if he had been left in for that handicap. The running of Newhaven II. shows clearly enough that the Ascot Cup will be no certainty for Galtee More.

When writing last week about the One Thousand, I predicted that Nun Nicer would win, and that Alt Mark would get a place, and I may, therefore, congratulate myself on the result of the race. Nun Nicer won very easily, and if she goes on all right she ought certainly to secure the Oaks, as she appears to stay well, and she has nice speed. Royal Footstep will do better later on in the season. Airs and Graces, who astonished every one by finishing second, was bred by the Duke of Portland, who sold her as a yearling for 430 gs. She had been going remarkably well in her gallops, but nobody ever thought of her seriously in connection with this race. St. Ia, who started an equal favourite with Nun Nicer, entirely failed to stay the course, as I expected would be the case; and the extravagant absurdity of the romance, by which many fatheads were gulled, about the private superiority of Airosa to Disraeli was plainly demonstrated. Mr. W. Johnstone's filly was very heavily backed by the public, and so was Simylla, whose trial did not justify the expectation that she would win this race. Ayah is another filly that lacks stamina, and Ebba ran very badly; but, as I pointed out, her gallop with Mauchline told one nothing, and the trial filly had been beaten on the first day of the meeting. Of the defeated lot on Friday, I expect that Lowood will improve on this form, and she is very likely, indeed, to win the Coronation Stakes at Ascot for the Duke of Westminster, who paid one of his now rare visits to Newmarket last week.

Ravensdale again showed himself to be a woeful impostor by his ignominious show in the Ely Plate, Ugly giving him 36 lb. and literally walking away from him. It may be hoped that the last has been seen of this beast on the turf. He has cost backers a pretty penny since the season commenced.

I predicted last week that the Duke of Westminster will win the Dee Stakes at Chester to-morrow, and the race ought to be a good thing for Calveley.

Mr. Brassey may just as well scratch Orzil out of the Derby, and if he is wise he will enter this colt for the Fernhill Stakes at Ascot—a race which he would probably win, as he goes a terrific pace for about five furlongs, and then suddenly stops. Mr. Brassey has a grand two-year-old in Boniface, half-brother, by St. Simon, to Orzil, who, I hear, will make his début in the Woodcote Stakes at Epsom.

There are any number of tips for the Royal Plate at Kempton Park on Friday, but I know for a certainty that some of the animals mentioned for this event are nothing like fit as yet. Mr. Fairie's Galliot, by Galopin out of Agave, is said to have been specially prepared for this race, and to have been well tried. One of the papers mentions Dieudonné as having won last year's Royal Plate, which, as a matter of fact, was secured by Chon Kina, and the

Duke of Devonshire's colt did not run his first race in public until five months afterwards, when he made a successful début in the Imperial Produce Stakes at the Kempton Park October meeting.

There has been practically no betting on the Jubilee Handicap, but there will be plenty of speculation on Saturday, and wise people will not meddle with this race until the numbers are up. Berzak, who has been specially reserved for this handicap, will be just suited by the course, and he is very well just now. It does not seem possible that the stable can make a mistake in any trial for a mile race when Diakka is known to be in form. Crestfallen is not yet at his best, and Dunlop will be an awkward horse for a boy to ride, while The Convict (who is a very smart colt) has quite enough weight to carry on Saturday. Eager will not run, and I do not fancy Minstrel. Alt Mark is well in, but the One Thousand form was probably very poor. Dinna Forget and General Peace will both be backed by clever people. For the winner I shall look to Bridegroom or Berzak.

Lord Rosebery's filly, Corposant, by Sheen out of Illuminata, dam of Ladas and Chelandry, is the "big letter" selection of several papers for the Royal Plate at Kempton Park, but she has been beaten in her trial. It is probable that she wants time. Lord Rosebery's Apennine, sister to Velasquez, is a beautiful racing-like filly, and she may possibly be seen out at the Epsom Meeting; but it is more likely that she will be reserved for the £5,000 stake at the Sandown Park July Meeting, as she is still backward.

Another much-talked-of two-year-old that palpably wants time is the Duke of Portland's Manners, own brother to Amiable; but he is a highly promising colt.

There will be racing next week at Newmarket, Ripon, Thirsk, Newton, and Gatwick. There ought to be some interesting sport at Newmarket, where the programme is principally made up of two-year-old races.

The Newmarket Stakes, which will be worth about £4,700, has 169 three-year-olds left in, but there are not likely to be more than about a dozen runners, including Disraeli (who is nominated by his breeder, Sir Tatton Sykes, who will receive £300 out of the stakes if the colt wins), Orzil, Elfin, Heir Male, Locarno, Jeddah, The Wyvern, Nun Nicer, Wantage, Cyllene, Ayah, Ninus, Schönberg, and either Batt, Ameer, or St. Maur, the Duke of Westminster having accepted with half a dozen. There are neither penalties nor allowances in this race, so that the Two Thousand horses will meet on precisely the same terms as in last Wednesday's race. Dieudonné has been left in for the Newmarket Stakes, but I understand that the Duke of Devonshire has quite decided to reserve his colt for the Derby. Hermiston is lame, and will not run, and Cyllene appears to be hopelessly out of form, and he can have no earthly chance of winning this race if his miserable exhibition during the Craven meeting signifies his true running. It was thought that Mr. Rose's colt had been chopped at the start in the race for the Column Stakes, but good judges who have since seen him at Newmarket are of the opinion that this excuse is all fiddle faddle, and that he is "all to pieces" just now. Wantage is capable of much improvement, and he ought to have come on considerably by Wednesday next now that rain has fallen. It will be good policy to get a race out of this colt as soon as possible, for his fore legs are desperately groggy, and he will have to be thrown up directly the ground gets hard. I am not sure that the extra distance will quite suit Disraeli, and shall expect the Newmarket Stakes to be won by either Wantage or Elfin. By the way, this race is not a costly event for the Newmarket fund; £2,000 is nominally added, but the owners who have subscribed contribute £1,822 towards this sum. The Burwell Stakes, on Tuesday, has a wretched lot of animals engaged, and The Reeve may be able to win, in spite of his bad running in the Hastings Plate last week. There are sixty-nine entries for the Payne Stakes, which was formerly the most important three-year-old race of this meeting. The entry includes Orzil, Dieudonné, Neish, St. Ia, Dunlop, Ninus, Schönberg, and Batt. A prediction on this event cannot reasonably be attempted until after the race for the Newmarket Stakes.

Sixty-eight two year-olds were originally entered for the Exning Plate of £500, and no fewer than forty have been left in. Lord Rosebery's Peterero is the best representative of public form, but one of the dark lot will probably win. The Somerville Stakes, which has forty-eight entries, may fall to Amurath, unless Sweet Marjorie, by Vandal out of St. Marguerite, makes her début in the race. There are nineteen acceptances for the Spring Stakes, but it is utterly impossible to deal with this race, the animals engaged being nearly all dark. The Prince of Wales' filly Eventail will probably win any race she starts for at this meeting, and she is entered in the Exning Plate and in the Dyke Plate. Fifty-four animals have accepted for the Bedford Plate of £800, which is the richest two-year-old event of the week. It is quite likely that the Kempton Park race on Friday will discover some smart animals. The entry for the Bedford Plate includes Sibola, an American-bred filly of Mr. Lorillard's, who has a great reputation at Newmarket. Sir B. Maple has four engaged, including Nun Royal, half-sister, by Royal Hampton, to Nun Nicer. The Breeders' Plate of £500 has no fewer than sixty-eight two-year-olds left in, and this event may be won by Mr. Gubbins' St. Valentine II., by St. Florian out of Aigill, if she goes for it. I hear she is a decidedly smart filly. Up to the present time the only two-year-old we have seen out that has any approach to good form is Amurath, and I do not believe he has any real pretensions to be regarded as a flyer.

The Lawn Tennis Club de Paris has certainly been doing its best to encourage and develop the game. M. Lecaron, the President, and MM. Spiers, Masson, and Fontaine have worked together to bring off a series of professional matches on the club's covered court. The Frenchmen are no less generous in the inducements that they offer to the paid player than they are in the hospitality that they show to English amateurs. For this competition, Fleming, of the Queen's Club, London, Kerr, of the Fitzwilliam, Dublin, and Burke, also an Irishman, of the Paris Club, competed. Burke and Kerr fought out the final. It was a splendid game, and the strategy of Burke in the end proved too much for his opponent. Kerr has had but little experience of covered-court play. He is nearly forty, but plays a tremendously hard and fast game. He is very strong and well developed, with extraordinarily large hands. He serves with terrific force, and his returns never lack pace. In the last set he had four games to one, and Burke crept up in a wonderful way and just won. He deserves every credit for his victory, for he played with his head all through, never losing himself for a moment and gradually out-manœuvred his opponent. Naturally, the Frenchmen were very enthusiastic over their own man's success. Indeed, during the game the linesmen at times were so keen that they gave their decisions and applauded. This naturally was rather disconcerting to the players, but the action was so well meant that no one could take offence. No doubt these gentlemen will endeavour on another occasion to cultivate the stolidity of an English linesman. These professional games were a sequel to the matches at Easter when both English and French players were competing. The latter have certainly come on since last year, and the best players amongst them were Aymée and Durand. The open singles went to G. M. Simond, and the doubles to R. B. Hough and Flavelle. The Englishmen thoroughly enjoyed their trip.

At last the football season is to all intents and purposes at an end. The chief feature in Association football has been the development of the professional game in the South. Already rumours are heard of the leading players in League teams coming down South. The popularity of the game now enables club promoters to offer players in the North and Midlands such terms that the League teams will have to put up their prices if they wish to retain the men's services. The League managers will soon regard the South with as little affection as the Scotch clubs regard the League. But the improvement in the game is not confined to the South. The play in the Asso-

ciation Cup-ties revealed the fact that in other parts of the country the hierarchy of the Football League was being seriously assailed. The clubs that compose this League no longer claim a monopoly of first-class players. The Football League and its managers have dominated the Association game for too long a period. The public has learnt that other teams can play a game not one atom inferior to that which the leaguers show. The consequence is that these clubs, finding they can get good gates, no longer hanker after admission to that select circle. Public interest is much better sustained when opponents in the neighbourhood are met than when the visiting teams come from the other end of the kingdom. Just as the professional game has developed, so also have the numbers of amateur clubs of all sorts and conditions increased. No doubt many of these clubs will act as feeders for professional clubs, even if they do not join the paid ranks themselves. There is not the least doubt that in a few years there will be a host of paid players with small salaries. Nor is there any harm in such a system. It is better for people to watch football than to loaf about and do nothing. As for the players, if they find it worth their while to train and keep fit for a few extra shillings a week neither their health nor their morals suffer, and their play is probably an improvement on that which they would have indulged in had they played as amateurs.

It is much better to have this open professionalism than the veiled system that prevails in the Rugby Union. The class of players is not materially different, and the secession of clubs in the north shows that professionalism is making headway. A club will win a county cup and then "'vert" to the paid ranks. This is the consequence of the Union's pig-headed obstinacy in dealing with the matter. These rulers seem to think they can restrain a movement which is gathering strength every season. Anybody can see that it is not professionalism that has harmed the Association game, but the fact that those who run the paid clubs control the game, and naturally they do so in the trade interest. But then it is impossible to expect any sense in a body which so stultified itself over the Gould case. These officials seem utterly unable to take a broad or reasonable view of the situation. The consequence is that not only does veiled professionalism still flourish, but the game has been spoiled by the hybrid innovations of the professional body that styles itself the Northern Union.

At the Horley Athletic Sports, in a scratch hundred, Jupp showed that he was improving. He ought to have been placed second instead of third; Wadsley was first and Palmer, the champion, was fourth. Nothing particularly good was done in the handicaps, in which the finishes were very close. At Ewell there was some serious racing, and H. N. Coltart won the Coates Cup, scoring the most points in the different events.

At Oxford Gold, who has thrice stroked the crew, has been elected president, and Herbert secretary. The crews are being got together for the eights week, but it is too early at present to criticise them. It is just as well that the American Press is otherwise occupied, or there would have been a terrible row over the rejection of Ten Eyck's entry for the Diamond Sculls by the Henley Committee. No doubt many people would rather that this young sculler's qualifications had not entitled him to row as an amateur. From all one can gather he has never done anything to infringe the A.R.A. definition. Some say the secret trial he rowed was the cause of his rejection. His conduct was wrong as measured by our English standards of sport. But this is dangerous ground, and the same test of unsportsmanlike conduct might now be a fatal bar to a certain competitor last year whose conduct has been referred to by a University journal in very stringent terms. There is a big beam in the domestic eye.

The Surrey Cycling Club in consequence of the alterations in progress at the Oval, had to hold their spring meeting at the Crystal Palace, where the wretched weather kept a lot of people away. In the half-mile Amateur Scratch Race Davies was first. There was a terrible amount of loafing in the final heat. It is a pity that amateurs indulge in such tactics over such a short distance. It will be always necessary to have a time limit. The ten mile challenge cup was won by Callaghan, after a close finish with McBourke. The winner has only to be successful on another occasion to secure the cup, having won this event in April of last year.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—Last week I commented upon the fact that recent events had emphasised the old Stock Exchange saying "that you can safely buy stocks after the first shot is fired." Of course, a great deal depends upon the state of affairs preceding the outbreak of war, and, in the present instance, the actual commencement of hostilities had been so much discounted by previous depression that "the first shot" found the markets prepared for a recovery. During the past week a further important improvement has taken place, which was due chiefly to the disappearance of fears of a further advance in the Money Market.

The Golden Current to the Bank.

I stated some weeks ago that the Bank of England had made arrangements, by granting advances without charging interest, to attract about a million sterling from Germany, the condition being that these advances were repayable in the precious metal. As Germany was a debtor on account of the new Chinese loan, the transaction was greatly facilitated, and I really must congratulate the Old Lady of Threadneedle-street upon the adoption of modern methods of finance, instead of the old-fashioned policy hitherto pursued. The result has been a very large influx of gold at the Bank of England, and the golden current is still flowing in the same direction. It would be rash to conclude that we shall have much cheaper money, but the change which has taken place will doubtless enable the London market to face the consequences of the Spanish-American war with comparative equanamity. The only dark spot which has not yet been eliminated is the collapse in the West Australian Market Trust group. Complications arose which it was impossible to remedy, and unfortunately a number of firms of jobbers and brokers interested in the West Australian Market have been declared defaulters. It is hoped now that some reconstruction of the Trust will finally adjust the matter. In the meantime, the other sections of the West Australian department have recovered from a serious reaction, and the high-class shares have been in demand. A very satisfactory feature has been a strong rally in the Kaffir Circus. That some such improvement would occur has been apparent for some time. There was hardly any floating stock in this market, and when the welcome news came to hand that the Transvaal Government had reduced the price of dynamite by 10s. per case, South African shares advanced all round, Rand Mines leading with a rise of three points. More concessions are talked of, and there seems now to be a prospect of the South African Market being re-established in public favour. The advances were not, however, confined to the Mining department. The greater ease in the Money Market caused an improvement in Home Railway stocks, South American Government and Railway stocks came into demand, and the Paris Bourse at one time developed a very optimistic tendency. Unfortunately, Paris operators are at present so much affected by any adverse movement in Spanish bonds, that a firm tone on the Paris Bourse can hardly be expected to prevail for any length of time. Yankee Rails have shown great strength. Our American cousins seem to have gathered unbounded confidence from the result of their first warlike operations, and their sweeping victory at Manila is certainly calculated to greatly encourage them. Notwithstanding the lukewarmness of European operators, Wall-street has succeeded in putting up values; and if the next naval engagement should have a similar

result, a further rise would doubtless follow. A very satisfactory feature has been the sharp rise in Canadian Pacifics, concerning which I may take some credit, having recommended their purchase since they fell to 76, while they have now gone ahead to 84. The Industrial market has also suffered from the fears of dear money, and is now bracing up again; but there is little disposition on the part of promoters to launch new undertakings, for the very good reason no doubt that recent flotations have not met with any substantial support on the part of the public.

MONEY AND GILT-EDGED INVESTMENTS.

Rarely has the golden current to the Bank of England set in so suddenly, and in such volume, as in the last week or two. During the last ten days something like £2,700,000 has been received at the Bank, chiefly in German, French, and Austrian coin, with a few Japanese yens thrown in, and some arrivals of bar-gold, which have of late been quite scarce at the Bank of England. Further amounts of the precious metal are expected, and it is undoubtedly excellent policy to thus reinforce our stock of gold, so as to place the central institution in a position to face the autumn demands. Most of the gold is remitted against the proceeds of the new Chinese loan, and although it is hardly likely that this amount will be locked up by Japan, to whom it will eventually revert, there is yet no certainty that some of these sums may not eventually be withdrawn. The American demand for gold has for the time come to an end, but should the New York exchange continue to fall, it may again make its appearance. Under all the circumstances there is, therefore, little prospect of any reduction in the Bank rate, even though the discount for three months' Bank bills has dropped to 3½ per cent. In the meantime, gilt-edged investment stocks have naturally benefited by the change in the Money Market. Consols at 111⅛ are ⅞ higher for the week, and there has been a general rally in Home Railway Debentures and Preferences, while British Corporation stocks and Colonial Government bonds are also firmer. The Chinese loans have hardened, and the new loan is quoted 1½ discount, while Japanese bonds have improved to 101¾. Silver has advanced ⅜ to 26 5/16d., and the quotation for forward delivery is 26 3/16d.

HOME RAILS—A STRONG TONE.

Easy rates at the carry-over testified to the continued scarcity of stock in the Home Railway department, and this was before the large flow of gold to the Bank had developed. When it was seen that the supplies of the precious metal were assuming yet larger proportions, the "Bears" in this market took fright, and a further improvement was established. Thus we have Brighton "A" at 176¼, Dover "A" at 109½, while most other active stocks mark similar advances of from 1 to 2 points. Great Eastern, almost alone, are hanging back, owing to a delivery of real stock. The Heavy division has also experienced a moderate recovery, and South Western have gained a couple of points more. Great Centrals hardly moved throughout the depression, and are now very firm, the 1894 Ordinary at 39½, Great Central "A" at 21½. Metropolitan have risen to 128½, and Districts are very steady at 27⅜. A rally of nearly a point has occurred in Caledonian Deferred at 56¼, and in North British Deferred at 43. Central London Railway shares have been quiet, the fully-paid Ordinary remaining at 10¼.

THE YANKEE MARKET—LONDON LUKEWARM—WALL-STREET CONFIDENT.

It cannot be said that much change had occurred in the American department until the last day or two. The few slight engagements with the Spaniards in Cuba which had been reported were altogether unimportant, and although our Yankee cousins made a good deal of their success in the bombardment of the Matanzas forts, Spanish advices altogether belittled the supposed achievement, and reported the now historic mule as the only victim of the cannonade. The fight appears, however, to have given considerable encouragement to the American people, and Wall-street considered it worth a rise of a couple of dollars. On the London market there was at first a total disinclination to operate until some serious fighting should give an indication of the probable course of the conflict. This, it was expected, would be supplied by collisions between the United States and Spanish fleets off Manila, and between the flying squadron from Key West and the Spanish fleet now *en route* from the Cape Verde Islands. As a matter of fact, the decided victory of the American fleet at Manila which has just been announced has given quite a different turn to affairs, and it is permitted to look for a shorter campaign than seemed hitherto likely. In the meantime, those who took on my advice short turns by buying on declines and selling on recoveries have been able to secure fair profits. Milwaukee have fluctuated between 88½ and 90½, Louisville between 46½ and 49, the highest prices being now quoted. A good demand has been experienced for Northern Pacific Prefs. on favourable dividend rumours, the quotation being 60½, while the Common stock stands at 20½. Norfolk and Western Prefs. have been supported by good traffics, and are quoted 46½. Erie Prefs. were firm at one time, but have reacted again to 43. Union Pacifics have been a fairly active market, the Common at 19¾, the Prefs. at 53½. With reference to Louisville, a great deal depends upon the decision of the directors as to when they will commence paying dividends. I mentioned last week how the road will doubtless benefit for a time from the movement of troops; but then, on the other hand, it is not at all impossible that the yellow fever will again make its appearance in the south this season. If the outbreak assumes large proportions in Cuba this might easily aggravate the epidemic in the United States. With reference to pending reorganisations, an American contemporary remarks that every day some new feature of the Baltimore and Ohio reorganisation plan is discovered. The last is that the assessment on the stock is to be $20 a share, with a Preferred stock equivalent. It is further reported that the Pittsburg and Western is not treated in the plan, but is left for an independent reorganisation. The Union Pacific, Denver and Gulf plan makes no great headway, although it is practically decided that the stock shall get a good equivalent for a small assessment. On the other hand, the following is an extract from the *Wall-street Journal* concerning the Baltimore and Ohio:—

> We are told that the leading banking interests most closely connected with the reorganisation of Baltimore and Ohio control by purchase a clear majority of Baltimore and Ohio stock here and abroad. These interests have been steady buyers, as the stock has come to market in the last six months. The aim appears to be to control, by ownership or in trust, most of the issues likely to be affected in reorganisation, so that when the time comes to issue the plan there will be no delay in reorganisation. Mr. Little's investigations have been brought up to December 31 last, so that the reorganising interests are in possession of all the facts up to date. While it is true in one sense that the plan has been prepared by the reorganisation committee, that committee has had constant and valuable advice from the banking interests particularly involved, and they have, of course, been kept informed of all important developments as the work went along.

On the subject of the Central Pacific the *San Francisco Examiner* has the following:—"The fact that Mr. I. E. Gates was not made a Director of Central Pacific at the recent meeting is considered an indication of increased friction between Mr. Huntington and the Bretherton English syndicate. Mr. Huntington resigned as a Director last July and was not re-elected. The English stockholders have wanted Southern Pacific interests in the Central Pacific Board reduced. The Banbury Committee represents a majority of the London stock and the Bretherton Syndicate a minority. The results of the last election indicate that the Banbury Committee has made concessions to Bretherton. Mr. Huntington's idea is believed to be that if Central Pacific can remain in control

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of the Banbury majority, it may be kept in harmony with Southern Pacific. Otherwise there is a possibility that it may fall into the hands of the Union Pacific combination."

I have already referred to the excellent condition of the winter wheat, as stated by the U.S. Government and other reports. One of these days it will, of course, be a "Bull" point for the Grangers, and in connection with this subject, the following extract from the *Wall-street Daily News* will be read with interest:—

For the moment, of course, this has no bearing worth mentioning in influencing prices for the granger shares, but when tranquility is once more resumed and normal conditions obtain—provided they come within a reasonable time—these facts are bound to tell, and that in no uncertain manner. Winter wheat is raised in important quantities in six States, viz., California, Kansas, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri. The principal roads in these States, excepting California, are:—

Burlington and Quincy	St. Paul
Rock Island	North Western
Missouri Pacific	Chicago Great Western
Atchison	Chicago and Alton
Union Pacific	Kansas and Texas

The Government crop report on winter wheat indicates that the yield for 1898, based on the same acreage as that of last year, together with the detail yield for the two previous years, is as follows:—

	Indicated, 1898. Bushels.	Yield, 1897. Bushels.	Yield, 1896. Bushels.
California	22,600,000	32,394,020	45,097,195
Kansas	53,400,000	47,998,152	30,794,452
Ohio.....	31,100,000	38,049,133	21,800,016
Indiana	34,700,000	32,675,201	20,647,440
Illinois	19,300,000	11,578,003	28,668,146
Missouri	19,300,000	14,104,458	16,594,473
Total	180,400,000	176,799,057	163,601,822

By the way, the figures of American trade with Spain and her colonies are attracting some attention now. It appears that in 1897 America imported $3,631,000 from Spain, and exported $10,912,000 of goods; but this is already a very considerable falling off from former figures. The American import trade to Cuba last year was $18,400,000, and the exports were $8,200,000. This is stated to be a decrease of $60,000,000 in the import trade from the highest in former years, and of $16,000,000 from the highest exports. It is evident that even from this point of view alone the acquisition or control of the Pearl of the Antilles is a somewhat tempting bait for the United States, as no doubt the bulk of the trade would be got hold of by our Yankee cousins. American imports from the Philippine Islands in 1897 amounted to $4,300,000, and the exports to only $94,000. But it is hardly likely that if the United States were to conquer the Philippine Islands, the European Powers would allow her to retain possession of the same, even if so minded.

The Advance in Canadian Pacifics.

For some time I have expressed a very favourable view of the position of the Canadian Pacific road, and I have explained how the war between the United States and Spain, instead of damaging the Canadian Pacific, would, on the contrary, benefit it. Latest cablegrams from Montreal fully confirm this view, as large quantities of goods are being diverted from American roads to Canadian lines for export to Europe viâ Canadian ports, so as not to incur the risk of capture by Spanish vessels. Again, goods from Europe will, no doubt, be sent by the Canadian route in preference, and passengers will also prefer to land in or start from Canadian ports, rather than travel from the Atlantic ports of the United States, which are now mostly mined, while other inconveniences would probably be incurred. Finally, the Montreal correspondent of the *Standard* states that instead of going to their own seaside resorts, or taking their usual trip to Europe, many American families propose to spend the summer months on the Canadian seaboard, so as to avoid the troubles connected with the war. Here, then, are a number of "Bull" points, shared, of course, in a measure by the Grand Trunk, while the chief drawback has been of late the war of rates which threatened to prevent the two Canadian roads from enjoying to the full the advantages enumerated above. During the last week reports were received in usually well-informed quarters, which pointed to a settlement of the rate war, chiefly through the Canadian Pacific making concessions, and the fact that considerable purchases were made for Montreal account, resulting in an advance from 76 to 84, was taken to mean that the inner circle were aware of the fact that a definite decision to give way had been taken. Until, however, some official statement is made, it is impossible to be certain on this point. In the meantime, the following latest mail news from the *Wall-street Journal* is not encouraging:—

The defeat of the Kettle River Valley Bill in the Ottawa Parliament is regarded as a defeat, not merely for Mr. Corbin but for the Grand Trunk and the American roads interested with the Grand Trunk. It is supposed that one of the principal factors in bringing about the defeat was the North-Western passenger rate war and particularly the action of the Inter-State Commerce Commission in helping the American roads by suspending the long and short haul clause. Public opinion in many parts of the dominion was apparently in favour of Mr. Corbin getting his charter, but the Canadian Pacific influence at Ottawa proved too strong. The indications are that the defeat of this Bill will have the effect of making the fight between Canadian Pacific and the American roads with the Grand Trunk more bitter than ever. The suggestion has been made in some quarters that as a means of bringing a fight to the end the matter should be left in the hands of the executive officers of the various roads. In so far as this suggestion may convey the idea that the policy of the American Roads has not been clearly laid down by the principal officers of those roads, it is a mistake. It is understood that President Hill of the Great Northern is steadfast in his determination that under no circumstances shall Canadian Pacific demands be acceded to by the North-West roads.

Notwithstanding the war of rates, the Canadian Pacific is doing excellent business, the last weekly traffic return showing an increase of $87,000; while the working statement for March shows a gross increase of $550,000, and a net increase of $233,000. It is evident, therefore, that the Canadian Pacific is not suffering much from the rate war, whatever effect it may have on the other roads concerned. The Grand Trunk weekly traffic showed an increase of only £2,733, and it remains to be seen whether the next returns will be more favourable. The Grand Trunk statement for March is very satisfactory, a gross increase of £50,014 working out to a net gain of £25,897. In the meantime Grand Trunks have hardened in sympathy with Canadian Pacifics, the Guaranteed to 74½, the First Prefs. to 69⅛.

The Foreign Market—Paris Troubles—Rally in South Americans.

The Paris Bourse is not happy, and although it now and then rouses itself to put prices up, the upward movements are not sustained. One reason of the inherent weakness is, of course, the trouble of the Coulisse, to which I have already drawn attention. Another drawback is the fact that French investors and operators are very largely interested in Spanish bonds, and the heavy fall which has taken place is being severely felt. The recovery to 34 in Spanish has not, unfortunately, been maintained, as the financial outlook in Madrid is being viewed with grave concern. The War Budget has created a disagreeable impression, and shows to what shifts Spain is driven to pay for her armaments. It is hardly likely that the internal loan will yield much, and none of the French or English financiers care to look at the Almaden Quicksilver Mines as security for further borrowing. The chronic want of cash experienced by Spain is, in fact, likely to have a more powerful influence upon the fortunes of that country than the Yankee fleet. Every now and then rumours are rife that the Spanish Government may in some way interfere with the Rio Tinto Mines by taxing copper, or by some other impost, and as Rio Tintos are the favourites of the Paris Bourse, this is another source of weakness. Thus it has come to pass that Paris had to throw overboard sound South African mining shares, such as De Beers, East Rands, &c., although this movement has now almost come to an end. The Greek loan is to be issued on the 10th inst., and will doubtless be well received, especially as the money market shows greater ease. The South American department has braced up, and important advances were established ever since the fears of an advance in the Bank rate passed away. The Argentine Funding

Loan has risen two points during the week to 86½, while the 1886 Loan has gained a point at 88, and Buenos Ayres Water and Drainage bonds have improved to 69. Argentine railway stocks, too, have hardened, Buenos Ayres Great Southern having risen five points to 144, while Buenos Ayres and Rosario have gained two at 70, Central Argentine improving to a like extent at 77½ xd. Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debenture stock has at last moved up to 48, as the last traffic return shows a smaller decrease, which is considered a hopeful sign. Strong efforts have been made to engineer a recovery in Brazilians, and the 1889 Loan has rallied to 46½, and the Western of Minas to 47½. Hopes are entertained that the Vice-President Elect of Brazil, who is coming to London in order to try his hand at improving the financial position, may succeed in his mission. Mexican Sixes have gone ahead further, the Old Loan to 94½. Uruguay bonds are much stronger, the Old Loan at 44⅜x.d., the New Loan to 54½. The news from Monte Video is to the effect that President Cuestas is gradually introducing suitable reforms. Peruvian Corporation stocks were flat at one time, but they have since recovered to 39 for the Debentures, and to 9 for the Prefs. It is reported that the protocol with Chili regarding the *plébiscite* on the question of returning the provinces of Tacna and Arica to Peru was signed on April 22, and that the terms are favourable to Peru.

The Kaffir Circus—A Sharp Advance.

Although the week opened dull, and the carry-over in South African mining shares took place at a very low level, a sharp recovery set in almost immediately after the make-up. The speculative account was shown to be exceedingly moderate, and in fact there was evidence of considerable "Bear" commitments; while on the other hand contangoes were easy, notwithstanding the prediction of dear money which were then still current. Active buying for influential firms followed on advices from Pretoria, according to which the Transvaal Government has decided to reduce the price of dynamite by 10s. per case. Of this reduction, 5s. is to be deducted from the Government's share of the profits, and 5s. from the share of the Dynamite Company. It was stated, moreover, that further concessions would be made, and it is evident that Oom Paul has at last realised that in order to obtain a loan from European financiers he will have to put himself right with the mining industry. Such a loan is a necessity for the Transvaal, and it will not even be granted by the Transvaal's former dear friends, the Germans, as they have fully realised that the policy of obstruction adopted by the Transvaal Government is inimical to the interests of the large number of German investors who are holding South African mining shares. The articles which recently appeared in the *Cologne Gazette*, and to which I drew attention at the time, have no doubt had their share in the change of front executed by President Kruger, and as it will also be in the interest of the South African Republic itself, this fresh turn in the kaleidoscope of Boer politics is to be welcomed. It is believed that the next step will be a reduction in railway freights, and that suitable measures for the enforcement of the liquor law, and for providing a satisfactory supply of water for the mines, will follow. So far, of course, the upward movement has been only professional, but when further concessions are granted, public buying will also be induced. It will be remembered that the public have for a long time been told that in order to place the mining industry on a proper footing, such concessions must be made by the Transvaal Government. So strongly has this been impressed upon investors in Europe, that the big South African financiers finally discovered that they could not expect any support from the public until it pleased the Transvaal Executive to give way. This was a somewhat unrehearsed effect, and it was hardly justified by the position, as the rich mines were already producing large profits, and the concessions demanded would only to a moderate extent increase their yield. On the other hand, these reductions will be important for the low grade mines, many of which, if further suitable concessions are granted, would become profitable propositions. But it should again be pointed out at this juncture that the Transvaal mining industry is already making splendid progress. The March crushings of the Witwatersrand mines provided another record, and from the report for the year 1897, issued by the Chamber of Mines, the production of the Transvaal for that year amounted to 3,034,678 oz. of gold, of a value of £10,583,616, this figure representing one-fifth of the gold production of the world. No less than 753,785 oz. were in 1897 added to the output of 1896, and thus £2,719,275 more were obtained from Transvaal gold mines in 1897 than in 1896, while the amount of dividends distributed last year reached £2,713,580. Looking at these magnificent figures, and taking into consideration the reductions in working cost which are now to be made, one cannot help anticipating a very considerable further improvement in the values of sound South African mining and finance shares. Rand Mines were carried over on April 26 at 26⅜. They have since advanced to 29¾, reacting to 29⅛. East Rands, which carried over at 3$\frac{15}{16}$, have risen to 4⅜, and Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa from 3$\frac{13}{16}$ have improved to 4$\frac{3}{16}$. Randfontein from the make-up price of 1$\frac{5}{16}$ have gone to 1$\frac{9}{16}$, and a number of other shares show similar advances. One of the shares which has moved up to a considerable extent is Simmer and Jack, which carried over at 2⅝, and are now at 3$\frac{1}{16}$. Some weeks ago I foreshadowed the figures of the Simmer and Jack report for the year 1897. The report has now arrived by mail, and fully confirms my remarks. £259,705 of gold was won at an expense of £193,130, and the working costs have been reduced from 26s. 9·77d. in 1896 to 23s. 6·51d. in 1897. This is all the more favourable in view of the change which has taken place from the old 100-stamp mill to the new 280-stamps. The net profit for the year, derived from gold, &c., showed a balance to credit of £57,134, while the net profit on sales of investments reached £353,120, a total of £410,254. The proceeds of the sale of investments are being devoted to the further redemption of the debenture debt and to capital expenditure requirements. Of the issue of £500,000 debentures which was made in June, 1896, there had been redeemed during the year 1897 debentures amounting to £191,400, leaving outstanding at December 31, 1897, £308,600. The shareholdings realised consisted chiefly of Rose Deep, Simmer and Jack East, and Simmer and Jack West. The Company now also holds, free from all liability, the freehold estate Elandsfontein, including 859 claims, and the following shares:—Rand Victoria Mines, 93,070 shares (£1 each fully paid up, with right to subscribe 40,611 shares at £2 each); General Electric Power Company, 64,000 shares (£1 each, nothing paid up at December 31, 1897); Simmer and Jack West, 411 shares (£1 each, fully paid up); Rand Mutual Assurance, 133 shares (£10 each, £5 paid up). The prospects of the Company are, under all the circumstances, and as matters in South Africa are brightening, of a very satisfactory character. Goldfields Deep, which made up at 7⅝, have since risen to 8$\frac{9}{16}$, and advances have generally taken place in the Deep Level mines. The firmer tone for diamond shares has continued, and De Beers have improved to 26.

Golden West Australia.—Further Rally After Renewed Weakness.

Contrary to the hope which had been entertained a week ago, that the affairs connected with the speculative account of the West Australian Market Trust would be arranged, this trouble at one time assumed serious proportions, and has, unfortunately, led to a number of failures of jobbers and brokers. Of the total number of eight firms which defaulted, however, no more than six were directly brought to the ground by the West Australian trouble, and should further difficulties be prevented, the mischief done would prove smaller than had been at one time anticipated, when the rumour-mongers talked of a score of failures coming off. It is proposed to reconstruct the Market Trust with a liability per share, and if this measure can be carried out, it will doubtless place matters on a better footing, and prevent any further serious difficulty. Amidst this

unfortunate speculative collapse, it is a matter for congratulation that the general West Australian market has held up remarkably well, smart recoveries occurring in several instances. In the first instance, Great Boulder Proprietary, on large inside buying, and on cablegrams advising satisfactory developments on the property, rose to 20s. Lake View Consols have gone ahead sharply to 8⅛ x.d., the dividend of 10s. per share just having been despatched to the shareholders. As this is equal to 8⅝ cum dividend, it is evident that Lake View Consols have resumed their place as a leader of the market. Ivanhoe, of the same group, have improved to 5, and London and Globe Finance have recovered to 1½. Mr. Whitaker Wright has now returned from the Riviera, and will shortly bring out the Standard Exploration Company, which is to be formed for the purpose of taking over the subcompanies, which have now all agreed to the amalgamation. The following is the list of crushings for the week:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per ton.
Lady Evelyn	146	277	—
Middlesex Gold Mines	70	75	—
North-West Australian Goldfields	150	223	—
Bayley's United	179 lb.	202	—
,, ,, (Tailings)	894	808	—
Belle Vue Proprietary	196	417	—
Weld-Hercules	237	198	6 dwt.
Londonderry	320	582	—
North Burgess	35	232	—
Rose Hill United	100	47	6 dwt.
,, ,,	100	37	14¼ dwt.
,, ,,	100	45	4 dwt.
White Feather Main Reef	820	1,050	—
Cuddingwarra	334	288	20 dwt.

One of the most interesting items in the above list is the crushing of the North-West Australian Goldfields. This mine has hitherto been considered a dark horse, but the following cablegram from Mr. Isdell, the Manager of the Company's Nullagine property, is distinctly promising:—"All telegraphic communication stopped on account of breakage since April 2; commenced crushing April 5; cleaned up April 15 150 tons; result, 223 (oz.) smelted gold; mill working splendidly." If crushings were to continue at the rate of 1½ oz. of gold per ton, the shareholders might have the satisfaction of seeing the price of the shares, which is now nominally ½ to ⅝, improve considerably. Hannan's Brownhill are firm at 7⅛. According to a cablegram received by the London and Hamburg Gold Recovery Company, the new plant on this mine is getting into working order, and the engines are running well. This should foreshadow the commencement of gold extraction on a large scale on the Hannan's Brownhill. Sons of Gwalia, of the same group, have been firm throughout at 2 1/16. The underlay has been driven on for a distance of 60 ft., and according to a *British Australasian* cablegram the lode is still 5 ft. wide, and averages 3 oz. per ton. 8,000 tons of tailings, worth over 1 oz. to the ton, are awaiting treatment. According to a cablegram from the same source, the East Murchison United at the 170 ft. level have cut a new lode, 2 ft. wide, assaying 2 oz. of gold to the ton. 17,000 tons of tailings, worth 12 dwt. per ton, are stated to be awaiting treatment, while the Directors have just declared another dividend of 1s. per share. From the Great Boulder Main Reef property it is reported that rich telluride is being raised from the winze below the 170 ft. level. Lady Shenton shares have improved to 2 3/16. Mail advices are now to hand concerning the inspection of this mine by the Governor and Sir John Forrest, on the occasion of the opening of the railway to Menzies. It is stated that on this occasion most attention was directed to the winze from which the last rich crushing was obtained, and which gives evidence of its ability to render many more thousands of ore of equal quality. The lode at this point is described as fully 6 ft. wide, of an average value of from 3 to 4 oz. The mine has so far turned out over £100,000 in gold, and paid £32,000 in dividends, while another distribution is about to be made. Mr. Rayfield, the manager, mentioned that they had been satisfied with treating the low-grade ore, while opening up the deeper levels, which are now turning out so well. Leading mining men have, according to Mr. Rayfield, expressed the view that the lower levels in the Lady Shenton Mine were equal to anything outside Kalgoorlie, and he added that at the present time there was eight months' supply of rich ore in sight, without counting future developments. He believed that the Lady Shenton, like Menzies itself, was still in its infancy, and that the rich sulphide lodes discovered were sure to be met with in other properties on the same line, and the workings throughout, as far as they had gone, gave every indication of permanence. This emphatic statement is also of importance to the Florence, which adjoins the Lady Shenton, and in which the Shenton Lode has been struck. At anything like their present price Florence shares would appear promising. According to mail advices a sulphide ore lode has been struck on the Golden Pike Mine, in a crosscut at the 400 ft. level, which is estimated to be worth 1 oz. per ton. The Secretary of the Northern Territories Goldfields of Australia has issued the following statement:—

A sample of ore taken from Brock's Creek, and recently sent over by the general manager for assay, having been submitted to a leading firm of metallurgists in London for treatment, the following report has just been received:—"The sample lot of ore which we received from you on the 18th inst. was all ground to a coarse powder, quartered down to a few pounds, finally ground to pass through a very fine sieve, and assayed with the following results: Gold, 6 oz. 20 gr. per ton; silver, 15 dwt. 16 gr. per ton."

An important rally in Golden Horseshoes to 6 15/16 appears to have been due to repurchases by "Bears," who had imprudently taken liberties with these shares. A marked recovery has also taken place in Associated Gold Mines, which are up again at 3⅛, while Northern Territories are quoted 1, West Australian Joint Stock Trust are quoted ⅞, the Founders having improved to ⅜-½. The letter concerning Gladiators, Limited, which appeared in TRUTH of April 21, has brought me several other communications from shareholders in this Company, who are strongly of opinion that some statement should at once be made as regards the number of shares taken up in the reconstructed undertaking, and the action of the vendors in the matter, who, it is believed, still hold a large number of the shares. The Directors are Mr. N. Brown (Chairman), Messrs. M. T. Brown, C. J. Buckland, J. C. Jesson, J. McDonald, and F. Major, and I herewith call upon them to make an official statement in this matter. The questions asked are whether the vendors have taken up all their shares in the new Company, and what are the latest developments on the mine. I am not surprised that shareholders in the Great Fingall Reefs, Limited, should suggest that the concern be wound up. The property acquired seems to be altogether hopeless, and as there is from £30,000 to £40,000 of cash, it would be as well to wind up and distribute the money to the holders of the 110,000 shares. With reference to the Menzies Golden Rhine, a very favourable impression has been created by the action of Mr. John Waddington, the vendor, in providing the Company with a new property, free of charge, in a very good position, and favourably reported upon by the experts. I hope that Mr. Waddington's example will be followed by other promoters, most of whom are unfortunately very thick-skinned, and have very little regard for their shareholders. At Thursday's meeting of shareholders of the Hill End Consols particulars were given of the new property acquired, viz., the Pride of Arrow, and it would appear that the Company has now a fair chance of success, subject always, of course, to the uncertainties of mining. Concerning the alluvial difficulty at Peak Hill, some contradictory news is to hand. The decision in the Supreme Court appears to be to the effect that the alluvial miners are entitled to enter in search of gold, and while the warden at Peak Hill has decided that cement is not alluvial, and has issued notices to prevent the mines from entering the leases, the Government geologist states that

cement is alluvial. This is a case of "doctors differing." The gold exports of the colony for April have been cabled as 84,083 oz., of the value of £319,517, which compares with the total of 83,776 oz. exported in March, and with 39,660 oz., of the value of £150,709 exported during April, 1897. On the other hand, the revenue for the past month amounted to only £209,859, as compared with £237,961 for the corresponding month of last year.

Indian, Australasian, and British Columbian Mines.

A somewhat firmer tone has also prevailed in the other departments of the mining market, and Indian shares are somewhat better. Ooregum Ordinary and Prefs., Balaghat, and Mysore Gold have improved; but there are a few declines, notably in Nundydroog and Mysore Reefs. In Australian shares, other than West Australian, Mount Lyells have improved on statements that the late Mr. Crotty's shares will not come on the market. Mount Lyell have thereupon recovered to 12⅞, Mount Lyell North, however, being quoted 2 7/16 only. Mount Morgan are firmer at 4⅛. In Croydon shares Croydon Consols are somewhat firmer on the last news from the property, which is to the effect that very promising quartz is now being extracted, showing gold in the pan. It is therefore possible that the reef will be struck again soon. According to the same cable a body of water has been struck draining the workings of the No. 7 Golden Gate; 227 tons have been cyanided for 254 oz. of bullion. The Aladdin's Lamp have obtained a return of 465 oz. of gold in four weeks, which is not satisfactory. In Charters Towers Mines, Day Dawn Block have improved. British Broken Hill are dull, and Broken Hill Proprietary are steady at 2 3/16. In the general foreign section, Linares have dropped heavily, but Frontino have improved. In British Columbian Mines movements have been irregular, but the better-class mines are somewhat firmer. Klondike and Columbian Goldfields have improved to 1⅛-¼, while London and British Columbian Goldfields and Whitewater Mines have been fairly steady. On the other hand, a reaction has occurred in Vancouver and British Columbia General Exploration and in Lilooet, Fraser River, and Cariboo Goldfields, while Dawson City (Klondike) Dominion Trading, New Golden Twins, and Alf Gold are also the turn easier. British America Corporation have been fairly well maintained at 19s. 6d. The Corporation is putting its shoulders to the wheel, and good results seem to be a foregone conclusion. According to the Rossland (B.C.) correspondent of the *Financial News*, the Hon. C. H. Mackintosh, of the British America Corporation, left Ottawa on April 9 *en route* for Rossland, and Mr. W. A. Carlyle will arrive there in a few days to commence extensive mining operations for the Corporation. The last issue to hand of the *British Columbia Mining Critic* also states that Mr. D. J. Macdonald, provincial inspector of mines, has resigned his Government appointment and followed Mr. Carlyle's example in accepting a position at Rossland under the British America Corporation. The corporation's policy is evidently to secure good practical aides to the Hon. Mr. Mackintosh and his director colleagues. Golden River Quesnelle have been dealt in at 5s. The following cablegram has just been received from the managing director at Victoria:—"Have just returned from dam. Mr. Loveridge (the company's manager) washed 336 cubic yards in several places; only one clean-up bedrock; rich spots on purpose were not selected; result, over 38 oz. of gold." In copper shares Rio Tinto showed a marked advance at 27, and most other copper shares are firmer, Utah being quoted 1⅞. According to the manager's report of the Utah Consolidated Mines, nine shipments were made during March containing from 9·65 to 11·3 per cent. of copper, besides small quantities of gold and silver.

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The North Mount Lyell Copper Company, Limited.—This is an issue of £200,000 Five per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures at par, redeemable at £105 in 1908, or at any date during their currency on six months' notice at £110. The debentures will be secured by a trust deed upon the entire undertaking and property of the Company. The capital is £500,000, in £1 shares, of which 465,000 have been issued fully paid, and 35,000 are reserved for future issue.

Mellin's Food Company for Australia and New Zealand, Limited.—With a share capital of £125,000, divided into 100,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference, and 25,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each, this company has been formed to acquire the business as now carried on with the Australian and New Zealand Colonies by Mellin's Food, Limited, proprietors of Mellin's Food for Infants and Invalids.

Furness, Withy, & Company, Limited.—This is an issue of 30,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £10 each, at a premium of 20s. per share. The Company was incorporated in 1891 with a capital of £1,000,000 to acquire the business of the Christopher Furness line of steamers, and that of Edward Withy & Company, shipbuilders and repairers, and graving dock proprietors, West Hartlepool.

The North of England Theatre Corporation, Limited.—This Corporation was incorporated in 1897 to acquire the Theatre Royal, Rotherham; the Theatre Royal, Chesterfield; the Theatre Royal (Attercliffe) Sheffield, and to undertake theatrical, music-hall, and entertainment business generally, the share capital being fixed at £50,000, of which 13,352 have been issued. The present issue is of £12,500 Six per Cent. £1 Preference shares at par, and 14,148 Ordinary shares of £1 each at a premium of 2s. 6d. per share.

The Provincial issues that have been floated for the purpose of catering for public amusement have not, up to now, been much of a success, and there is nothing in this one to recommend.

The New Italian Opera Syndicate Limited.—With a share capital of £30,000 in shares of £1 each, and an issue of £20,000 in 400 Mortgage Debenture bonds of £50 each, this Syndicate has been formed to exploit a new operatic enterprise for the purpose of popularising high-class music.

Syndicate Touts on the War-Path.

The syndicate touts seem to have been scotched but not killed, for they are now raising their heads again. Even Alexander Baring & Co., stock and share dealers, 11, Bridge-street, Bath, continue to disseminate their impudent circulars, inviting participation in their "co-operative system of successful Stock Exchange dealing." I have repeatedly warned my readers against these people, and I would again urge them to give these touts a wide berth. It stands to reason that being located in Bath such a firm, even if it carried on a serious business, would be at a great disadvantage as compared with stockbrokers located in London, and the promised weekly profits of £5 per £100, which are held out as a bait, are really too absurd. Another firm which is resuming work is Davenport & Co., stockbrokers, head offices, 18a, London-street, London, E.C., and at Wall-street, New York. These are the touts who are working the "double operation guaranteed system," opening a "Bull" and "Bear" at the same time. I have repeatedly explained how this system is absolutely fallacious. Finally, I have received from a reader of Truth a circular which had been sent to him by the British and Foreign Investment Association, stock and share dealers, 4, Featherstone Buildings, Holborn, London. The secretary of this concern, Mr. J. J. Bevington, invites participation in what he calls "amalgamations," which offer "a means whereby very large profits may be made combined with the smallest amount of risk." These "amalgamations" are deals for which shares of £5 each are taken, and which are not to run longer than twenty-one days. But the following is the most important paragraph of the circular:—

> At the same time, we would call the attention of many of our clients, who prefer to know the exact amount of profit they can expect on an outlay of capital, that we pay a guaranteed income of £5 weekly on each £100 deposited with us for our discretionary investments, and larger or smaller amounts in proportion, and at the same time the capital can always be withdrawn by giving a few days' notice.

The fact that an income of £5 per week is promised, or rather guaranteed, on each £100, being at the rate of 260 per cent. per annum, obviously constitutes the most serious danger signal.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

F. J.—1. The Argentine 1886 and Funding Loans are fair purchases at present quotations. 2. Uruguay bonds should certainly be held for a substantial improvement. *Neptune.*—No reason to sell Peruvian Corporation stocks. The Republic appears to be on good terms with Chili, and the proposed arrangements with regard to the occupied provinces should prove satisfactory.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Argentine.—I cannot give you any information on this point. You should apply to the liquidator of the New English Bank of the River Plate. *J. E. M.*—Yes, this is a high-class London bank, and there is no reason why you should not deposit the trust money with it. *Worried, Connaught.*—I really cannot undertake to act as arbitrator between your solicitor and yourself. This is a matter which lies entirely within your own decision, but I should think that a respectable practitioner would not endeavour to take advantage of you.

Home Rails.

Red Rover.—Thanks. It is quite correct that the rise in Brighton "A" and Dover "A" was duly predicted by me, and I am glad that you have benefited by my advice.

American and Foreign Rails.

Katharine.—I can only again advise you to hold your American Rails. You will be sure to come out all right, although you may have to wait for some time. *C. I. P.*—Although you have gone into American Rails slightly above the present level of prices, I think you are quite right in your intention to keep the same, as an important improvement is quite on the cards. *Nemo, Glasgow.*—Nothing fresh has transpired with regard to this Argentine Railway, but as soon as advices come to hand I will not fail to fully refer to the matter. *South Norwood.*—1. No dividend has yet been paid on Union Pacific Prefs., but there is every prospect of a distribution within the next few months, and they are a fair purchase. I think you are quite misinformed as to my action with regard to the Bill in question. Will you please to refer me to the remarks to which you take exception. *Inquirer, Hanover-square.*—Yes, I still consider these American Railroad bonds a good investment.

Mining Shares.

M. J. D., Leeds.—South African shares have taken a turn for the better, and prospects appear so much improved, that I advise you to hold your shares. *Wilts.*—You had better not buy any of the shares, Nos. 1 to 5, until the present difficulties in this group have been arranged. Then they will be a good purchase. London and Globes (6) are very promising. *Spec.*—I would not advise you to buy any of these shares until matters have settled down, when you will doubtless be able to do a satisfactory deal. *W. G.*—1. A recovery is probable. 2. No market. 3. Lady Shentons have never fallen to 1½, and are now quoted 2⅛, with every prospect of a rise. The latest information is very satisfactory. *Spes.*—No reason to sell your Great Boulder Proprietary; hold for a recovery. Latest advices from the mine are satisfactory. *Greenhorn.*—1. Londonderry are not improving in the first instance, because no decision has yet been given with reference to the money due from the late Colonel North's estate. Secondly, because the West Australian market is very dull just now. 2. I do not hold a favourable view of the Para Rubber Company, recently floated. *D. C. L.*—Randfontein and Buffelsdoorn should be held, and if you can afford it you should average these now. Prospects are becoming much more favourable. *Yukon.*—If you want to invest in British Columbian or in Yukon enterprises you will have to be very careful in your selections, and the Yukon Company mentioned by you is not promising. British America Corporation, on the other hand, are one of the best purchases, and Klondike and Columbian Goldfields, London and British Columbia Goldfields, and Whitewater Mines are also very promising. *J. P.*—1. I really cannot advise you with regard to this matter. As soon as the worst is over I should say that the group would rally. 2. You must be guided by the events which are at present in progress. *Pioneer.*—Yes, Lady Shenton and Ivanhoe are a good purchase, and you might add Hannan's Brownhill, Florence, and Sons of Gwalia. *Ndjole.*—After the decline it would not be wise to sell. Hold London and Globe, and average if you can afford to do so. *Robertus.*—This has been a very disappointing mine, but it may come right all the same. *M. F. E.*—There is no option but to hold these shares, which are at present at the very lowest, and hope for a rally. *Holywell.*—No, I do not think it would be preferable to throw good money after bad in the case of the Achilles Mine. *Cork.*—1. Possibly, but not at once. 2. A fair investment, but in the present condition of the West Australian market you must not expect any startling advances. 3. It is too late now to clear out; you must await a recovery. *B. H. W.*—1. All depends upon further developments at the mine, and the possibility of obtaining some money in return. 2. There was absolutely no reason for the recent decline in Lake View Consols, and they have now recovered to 8¼x.d. You will, however, remember that when they rose to 12 I advised my readers to clear their profits. 3. These are promising, and so are British America Corporation shares. *M.*—I sincerely sympathise with you. It is a pity that you should have committed yourself so largely, but there is still a prospect of the matter being put right, and I would strongly advise you to see the man himself, and to place the matter before him. I should think that he would act fairly. With reference to London and Globe and British America Corporation shares, these should certainly be held for an improvement. In fact, most of the markets are likely to further rally now, including the West Australian department.

Industrial Shares.

Zero.—I think you had better hold Welsbach Ordinary for the present, especially as the insiders are again supporting the stock. *Mother.*—There was a very severe decline in Welsbach stocks at one time, but this is being partly recovered, and I would not advise you to be frightened out at present. *Wheelman.*—I quite agree with you that the fall in Cycle shares has been very heavy, but it was a craze at the time, and a reaction followed. I am afraid that no important improvement is probable just yet. *Knock.*—I quite agree with you that these pneumatic tyre shares have experienced a sharp decline, but I do not think that the time to buy has yet come. *O. D., Manchester.*—Your list of Industrial shares, Nos. 1 to 8, over which you propose to divide a portion of the amount, seems to be a suitable one, with the exception perhaps of No. 7, which is very speculative. Great Central, 1894, Ordinary, are certainly a promising lock-up. *Investor, Athenæum.*—No fresh information is available. *Caution.*—I am afraid that if you undertook to pay for these shares you will be compelled to pay up. This is, of course, entirely against my repeated warnings. *Stoke.*—The Preference shares No. 1 seem to be a fair investment. With regard to No. 2, so much depends upon arrangements to be made with the local authorities, that I should not advise you to incur the liability. 3. No catch. *Desirous.*—I gave a full list of Home Brewery and Industrial Debentures in TRUTH of April 14, amongst which the following should suit you, as yielding from 4 to 6 per cent.:—Northampton Brewery Five per Cent. Debenture stock at 126, Watney & Co.'s Five per Cent. Debenture stock at 115, Brush Electric Four and a Half per Cent. Debenture stock at 112, Welford & Sons' Four and a Half per Cent. Redeemable debentures at 108, and Savoy Hotel Five per Cent. Debenture stock at 102½. To these may be added J. and J. Yardley & Company's Five and a Half per Cent. Cumulative Prefs. at 5, Buckley's Brewery Five and a Quarter per Cent. Cumulative Prefs. at 10¾, and Manchester Brewery Seven per Cent. Cumulative Prefs. at 17. *Constant Reader, Sheffield.*—1. I really cannot supply information about wine merchants. 2. The British Drying Company is a very speculative concern, and I do not advise a purchase of the shares. 3. A fair investment. *Archimedes.*—1. Both these Companies are speculative, but not bad of their kind. 2. Impossible to tell.

Mixed Investments.

Yat Sikh.—1. I will inquire whether this Ottoman Bond has been drawn. 2. No particular reason to sell now. *M. S. R.*—A. No reason to sell these Brewery shares now. B. No catch. C. No option but to hold. There is a possibility of this company coming right. D. I should not like to offer an opinion. *Optimist.*—1. Lake View Consols are now quoted 8⅛ ex. the dividend of 10s. per share, and will doubtless further recover. Do not forget, however, that I advised realising profits in these shares when quoted at £12. 2. I do not like this Dairy Company. 3. A fair industrial investment, although somewhat speculative. *Ruby.*—Certainly hold the Home Railway stocks Nos. 1 and 2; also Randfontein (3). Of the latter you might now buy more to average. I do not like the Music Hall shares No. 4. With reference to the last question, I must refer you to "A Chapter on Industrial Stocks." *S. N. P.*—The dividend warrants of Yardley Brewery Prefs. have just been posted. The shares yield 5½ per cent., and are a good investment. *Argentine.*—1. No catch. 2. Impossible to tell. 3. You must supply fuller particulars. 4. Your best plan is to go to the Life Office itself and obtain the surrender value. *Monkey.*—1. No, I do not advise

Old False Teeth Bought.—Many ladies and gentlemen have by them old or disused false teeth, which might as well be turned into money. Messrs. R. D. & J. B. Fraser, of Princes-street, Ipswich (established since 1833), buy old false teeth. If you send your teeth to them they will remit you by return post the utmost value; or, if preferred, they will make you the best offer, and hold the teeth over for your reply. If reference necessary, apply to Messrs. Bacon & Co., Bankers, Ipswich.

Fire Protection on Country Houses.—Merryweathers' system. Economy, convenience, efficiency. Illustrated particulars post free.—Write Merryweathers, 63, Long-acre, London.

investment in this Kootenay concern. 2. A fair investment of the kind, but no catch. *Heather Bell.*—1. You have a good deal to learn yet if you think that every mining share pays dividends, and that a fall of 10 per cent. in such a share is an enormity. The Consolidated Murchison is doing well, and, having been recently reconstructed, has got ample working capital. 2. The shares of the daily financial paper in question are a good investment, but for particulars you had better apply to the secretary. The shares of Nos. 3 and 4 are not in the market, and No. 5 is very speculative. Apply to Mr. Effingham Wilson, Royal Exchange, London, E.C., for books on Stock Exchange matters. *Doverian.*—Brighton "A," Dover "A," and Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras) would be suitable for the investment of the £3,000 in question. I am glad to learn that you have often invested money satisfactorily on my advice. *Victoria X.*—Yes, Nos. 1–3 are good investments. *Kinsale.*—1. Not as far as I know. 2. A good investment of the kind. *Disgusted.*—You are not the only man who has been disappointed in the course of Stock Exchange prices during recent months. But what can you expect when a great war upsets all calculations? The trouble in the West Australian market, of course, fully explains the weakness in some of the shares mentioned by you, which should, of course, prove temporary only. 1. Hold Chilians. 2. Certainly hold Johnnies. A recovery seems now on the cards. 3. No option but to hold.

A Chapter on Industrial Stocks.

Although a good deal of nervousness has been experienced during the past week in Industrial stocks, and strong "Bear" attacks were directed against several shares, the tendency has improved somewhat. The war between the United States and Spain is really benefiting this department, as it is evidently inducing investors to place their money into Home securities, instead of going further afield. One of these days, of course, these very same investors will leave Industrials to take care of themselves, but as the end of the conflict is not yet in sight, it is of no use to speculate on that prospect. After recent declines a rally has taken place in Lipton Ordinary to $\frac{15}{16}$ premium, while the Prefs. stand at $\frac{1}{8}$ premium, and the Debentures are quoted 4 to 5 premium. The latest rumour is that Liptons will go in for the wine and spirit business in some prominent form. The latest development is the somewhat doubtful rumour that Gilbey's will add a tea branch to their business. In the meantime, Liptons and Mazzawattee Tea are running very close in the matter of payment of big cheques for tea duty. At present the Mazzawattee Tea Company appears to be in the ascendant with regard to this. Welsbach Incandescent Gas shares have not given rise to much business during the week, and the Ordinary have dropped to 102, the Preferred to 92, the Deferred to 18s., notwithstanding the successful exhibition of the new burner. Coats' shares have been bought for Glasgow, and are firmer at 57 x.d. Threads (English Sewing Cottons) are slightly higher at $\frac{1}{2}$-$\frac{9}{16}$ premium. Salt Union Prefs. are firmer at 6, on the hope that the new directorate may succeed in pulling the concern round. Allsopp Ordinary have been weaker at 144, but other home brewery stocks have been a steady market. Guinness Five per Cent. Debenture stock has been dealt in as high as $118\frac{3}{4}$ x.d., while the Ordinary are quoted 570, and Lion Brewery have improved to 50. Warrants for the Preference dividend of J. & J. Yardley & Co., at the rate of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum for the period ended January 30, have been posted, and these prefs. are now quoted ex the dividend, which has been promptly recovered. Millars' Karri shares are slightly firmer at $3\frac{1}{8}$, but the promised new Australian timber companies have not yet made their appearance. Hudson's Bay shares are only slightly better at $20\frac{1}{2}$, and there is little prospect of any immediate rally. Electric Light shares have been in some demand, more especially City of London Electric, which are higher at $26\frac{1}{2}$, and there has also been an improvement in Metropolitan and Charing Cross. Lyons' shares have been steady at $4\frac{1}{8}$, but people are somewhat anxious to learn whether the promised new developments will come off. Of new Companies on the board there is, in the first instance, Vinolia, Limited; and a contemporary is responsible for the statement that another proprietary medicine, which has been well advertised during the past eight months, and originated, like most others, in the States, is to be floated into a company. Then there is being made another issue of Preference shares of Furness, Withy, & Co. The report of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company is looked forward to with much interest, especially as the price of the Deferred has now fallen to 6s. 6d., while the Ordinary stand at 13s. 6d. Humbers have remained dull at 12s. 3d. for the Ordinary and 7s. for the Extensions, while Cycle Components are unaltered at $1\frac{1}{4}$. In Swifts hardly any business is passing at 12s., and Singers have again declined to 10s. 3d., while Amalgamated Tyres are nominally quoted 5s. It is difficult to account for the weakness of the Cycle share market, except that most of the big men connected with it have through unsuccessful speculations been relegated to the category of "lame ducks." The shares in some of the respectable concerns would certainly be worth picking up, if it were not for that circumstance. John Barker & Co., Limited, have done an excellent business in 1897, and have fully borne out the remarks which I made in the earlier history of the Company. Dividends of not less than 11 per cent. have always been paid, and during the last two years $13\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. was paid on the Ordinary shares. The price of these shares is now $2\frac{3}{4}$ x.d. The fall in Hotel Cecil Prefs. to $3\frac{1}{4}$ is not at all surprising, in view of the passing of the Preference dividend, as soon as ever the vendors were quit of their obligation. The management of the Hotel has evidently left a good deal to be desired. The report of Schweppes, Limited, is not a very encouraging document, and, after payment of the Preference and Ordinary dividends, a distribution at the rate of 2 per cent. only was left for the Deferred shares, viz., £3,947, the amount carried forward being £1,616. The question is asked why Schweppe Ordinary shares stand at $1\frac{1}{8}$, and Bovril Ordinary at $\frac{15}{16}$ only, although the Bovril Deferred Dividend was 5 per cent. as against 2 per cent. on Schweppe Deferred. I dare say this is, to a great extent, a question of future competition, and I should not like to decide whether Bovril or Schweppe will have more competitors. Palace Theatre shares have been run up from 20s. to 25s., and there are rumours of a good dividend coming. It was also reported that a strong American Syndicate has made a substantial bid for the building. This, however, so far is only talk. Russian Petroleum and Schibaieff have been steady, but suffered a little from the general fall. The Preference shares of these concerns seem quite neglected, but may deserve some attention. Fish oils, however, have now declined to 5 to $5\frac{1}{4}$. Amongst the new enterprises which will shortly be issued is the Volanite Company, which will have a capital of £80,000, and will be offered to the shareholders of the Fish Oil Company. Volanite is an article lately discovered by Mr. F. Lamplough, C.E., and which is apparently to be used for making railway-sleepers and other wooden appliances imperishable.
—Your affectionate uncle, MOSES.

P.S., Tuesday Morning—The Spanish defeat at Manila proves to have been so crushing that it must exercise a considerable influence upon the duration of the Spanish-American War. People are beginning to say that if the same state of unpreparedness exists in other sections of the Spanish army and navy, the whole fabric will crumble to pieces on the next serious attack by the Yankee forces. Wall-street has put up prices hand over fist during yesterday's Stock Exchange holiday here, and London is following suit, Milwaukee opening at $94\frac{1}{4}$, Louisville at 52, Union Pacific Common at $21\frac{1}{2}$, &c. The view that the conflict will terminate at an early date is, moreover, beginning to prevail on the Stock Exchange, and all the markets this morning were buoyant. The South African department opened very strong, with Rand Mines at $29\frac{7}{8}$, East Rands at $4\frac{7}{16}$-$\frac{1}{2}$, Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa at $4\frac{1}{4}$, and De Beers at $26\frac{3}{4}$. Home Rails were firmer, and even West Australians shared in the improvement, Lake View Consols rising to $8\frac{7}{16}$ x.d. Spanish were quoted lower at $32\frac{1}{2}$ "ex the fleet," as the jobbers humorously put it.

Brandauer's Circular-Pointed Pens. Neither scratch nor spurt. Glide over the roughest paper with the ease of a soft lead pencil. Assorted sample box, 7 stamps, from the Works, Birmingham.

Mortlock's (Oxford-st.), Estd. a.d. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "Mortlock's" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

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QUEER STORY.

THE THEFT OF A SECRET TREATY.

[This story has been communicated to me by a well-known politician, who, in his youth, was for some time a junior clerk in the F.O.—Ed. TRUTH.]

IT is not, I believe, known to more than two or three people, that a good many years ago, there occurred a sort of miniature Dreyfus affair in one of our own Government offices in Downing-street. And when I use the phrase, "Dreyfus affair," in reference to the occurrence, I must be careful to explain myself, lest I should convey a wrong impression. For the case alluded to only resembles the Dreyfus case in the one particular, that an official person was accused, on strong circumstantial evidence, of communicating an important Government secret to a foreign Power. With this general feature, in fact, all similarity between the two cases begins and ends.

Stay! There is one other point of resemblance to the Dreyfus case, which, for the moment, I had overlooked. It has been alleged that an affair of the heart had some intimate connection with the unhappy Hebrew's treachery, and that he might even now be holding his commission in the French Army if it had not been for a woman. Well; there was a woman in this Downing-street case—a young woman—a very charming maiden. And she was the only daughter of a Cabinet Minister. I may as well state, at once, without more ado, that I myself am the man against whom the accusation was brought. I then occupied the post of private secretary to the Right Hon. the Earl of Blank, at that time Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. It was in the exercise of this capacity that I made the acquaintance of my chief's only daughter, Lady Helen Dashleigh, a very pretty and charming girl of scarcely twenty summers. I myself was only twenty-six. My own personal attractions were not inconsiderable. I had a susceptible heart. What more natural than that I should fall in love with this delicious damsel? What more natural—after all these years I can put the question, I think, without immodesty—that she should reciprocate my sentiments? At any rate, she did reciprocate them. We bound ourselves by a secret engagement.

And the reason we kept the engagement secret was this; that, well born and well connected as I am, I had at that time very little money—to wit, a paltry income of but £800 a year; and we knew that Helen's father, though an immensely rich man, who could have endowed us with £10,000 a year and not have missed it, would have set his face ruthlessly against her engagement to impecunious me, and have sent me about my business at a day's notice, had he been aware of the truth.

But these little secrets have an unfortunate habit of leaking out, and before I had been engaged to his daughter six months my Right Honourable employer happened to discover our engagement. He was greatly incensed, and having rated me, in no measured terms, for my dishonourable conduct, and having ridiculed my absurd pretensions, as he was pleased to call them, with extreme virulence, he forbade me his private house from that time forward I was neither to communicate with, nor make any attempt to see, Helen, and if he discovered me doing so, he would dismiss me from his employment altogether. As such a result would have seriously impaired, if not ruined, my prospects in life, I could not afford to take the bold line and defy him. So, without giving any promise—indeed, in the excitement of his wrath he did not ask me for any—I appeared to acquiesce in the conditions imposed. I had a shrewd suspicion, indeed, that but for the fact that I was an excellent linguist (my mother having passed much of her girlhood on the Continent, and speaking French, German, and Italian with equal fluency—a faculty which she had transmitted to me), my chief would have dismissed me altogether, as it was. But my powers in this direction were of great use to the Right Honourable gentleman, who was himself a linguist of very limited capacity; and more for that reason, I believe, than because he had any desire to be lenient, I was permitted to retain my seat in his private room at the Foreign Office.

I have not yet described Helen's father, and I think I must spend a few sentences in doing so. He was an elderly gentleman, short and pudgy, with a fat, solemn face, and a bald pate. Although he was a tenth earl and a fourteenth baron in the direct line, his best friends could not have called his appearance aristocratic. Had you met him in the street without knowing him, you would probably have set him down as a respectable shop-keeper. And, in fact, respectability (if I may be permitted a musical metaphor) was the sonata of his character. Everything about him was respectable, from his abilities downwards. But if you had expected brilliancy, originality, or statesmanship from this worthy earl, you might have expected till doomsday. Perhaps it was to the absence of these qualities, as much as to his high rank and his vast territorial influence, that he owed his position as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; for the then Prime Minister was notoriously a man of the old Whig school of non-intervention in European politics; and certainly he could not have delegated the management of Foreign Affairs to any Minister who was more certain to tread the cautious path of Whig traditions, and less likely to embroil this country in a dispute with any Continental Power.

The disrespectful juniors at the Foreign Office were wont to dub him an old wife. With them he was not popular, being uncommonly fussy and meddlesome, and in the habit of poking his nose into all sorts of matters of the most trivial detail. He was a man who carried method in trifles to the verge of a mania; and I used to notice, with much inward amusement, into what a state of irritation it put him if, for instance, any one of the articles on his writing table had been moved an inch from its proper position. There they always stood (except when the caretaker had been rashly officious in her dusting, for which she got finely jobated, I promise you)—the inkstand exactly in the centre; the paste-pot five and a half inches to the right; the sealing-wax tray precisely equidistant on the left; and everything else upon the table on its own particular spot, from which it could not be shifted a hair's breadth but the methodical Minister would notice it. There was one thing more—a living thing—which had its own especial place on the Earl's table, where it lay curled up nearly all day, and added not a little to the old-wifely character of his surroundings. This was a favourite black cat named Pesarsi* (I never saw the name written, so have spelt it phonetically), which slumbered peacefully enough when left to itself, but if stirred up with a penholder or a stick of sealing-wax (instruments wherewith I and other juniors occasionally prodded it, in the Earl's absence), was one of the wickedest devils to swear and bite and scratch that I ever saw.

But to give an idea of how fussy and old-womanly the Earl was in other things also, I may mention a certain little personal matter, in which this quality of my chief's was very absurdly exemplified. I have said above that my mother had passed much of her girlhood on the Continent. The consequence was she numbered many foreigners among her friends. And it so happened that the son of almost her most intimate friend, a Parisian, was then attached to the French Embassy in London. Naturally we showed him as much hospitality as we could; and he, being a very decent and companionable young fellow, soon became quite a pal of mine, and we often went out together to functions, theatres, and various places of amusement. This very innocent circumstance, coming to the knowledge of my cautious chief, exercised him greatly. And if you'll believe me, he took me to task, with great seriousness, for my intimacy with the young French *attaché*

"Consider," he said, with a grave frown on his solemn face, "how undesirable it is that a young man in your position should be constantly seen about with a member of the French Embassy."

* I have been informed by a member of my staff (who, however, is as ignorant as my contributor about the proper spelling of the name) that Pesarsi is the Tamil for Satan, and is the common designation for black cats in Ceylon. I find on reference to Colonial records that the Earl of Blank, the Minister evidently here referred to, was for some years Governor of that island; which no doubt accounts for his having selected this rather shocking name for his feline favourite.—[Ed. TRUTH.]

"Do you suspect me, my lord, of communicating official secrets to him?" I could not help inquiring, at the same time choking down a strong disposition to laugh.

"Tut, tut! Of course I suspect nothing of the kind. But others may take a different view. And think how bad it looks."

"I should have thought, my lord," I said, "that I was too insignificant a person for my friendships to attract any notice."

"Your modesty does you credit," answered the Earl, with ponderous sarcasm. "All the same, I am not in the habit of arguing with my juniors, sir. And I would strongly recommend you to take this hint, which I have given you as a friend, before I find it necessary to expostulate with you in another capacity."

When my chief took that line with me, of course I had no option but to promise compliance with his wishes, absurd as they were. However, all that I did in the way of carrying my promise out was merely to shun the Frenchman's company in those places where there was a likelihood of meeting the Earl. In reality, we remained just as intimate as we had been before.

It was not long ere I discovered a special reason for my chief's anxiety that I should discontinue my intimacy with the French *attaché*. I made the discovery by piecing together various little scraps of information that came under my notice, whereby I was able to infer with tolerable certainty, that the Earl was negotiating a secret treaty with the Prussian Government—not altogether to the advantage of France. And doubtless he was afraid lest, in the event of my getting to know about this, I might incautiously let drop some remark in the hearing of the Frenchman which would give away this important State secret. For I am sure he did not then suspect me of any intentional treachery.

And now—having done with these necessary descriptions—I will revert to that more interesting matter, my affair of the heart with Lady Helen. I think I have said already that, while appearing to acquiesce in my chief's conditions that I should neither see nor hold communication with his daughter, I had distinctly given him no promise on the subject; and I did not feel myself bound to abstain from doing either, if I could see my chance—without risk of discovery. As to stolen interviews, indeed, these soon showed themselves to be outside the range of possibility, for Helen had been relegated to the charge of the most wideawake old lynx of a chaperon that ever frustrated the dodges of a detrimental. But written communications were easier to negotiate; and the venal compliance of a certain maid-servant in the Earl's household enabled us lovers to carry on a sweet and comforting correspondence.

One afternoon — a memorable afternoon — my chief having gone to attend a Cabinet Council, and I myself having nothing particular to do until he came back, yet being unable to leave the office because the hour of his return was uncertain, I took the opportunity to pen a long and loving letter to Helen. Before I had finished, I heard the Earl's ponderous step in the passage outside, and only just had time to thrust my letter between the sheets of my blotting-pad before he entered. He carried with him a large bundle of papers, which, as he informed me, required immediate attention; and in working upon which I was kept busy for three or four hours. I was not particularly well pleased at this; for, as it happened, I had an appointment with my friend, the Frenchman, to dine with him that evening at 7.30, and afterwards proceed to the Alhambra. But I put my shoulder to the wheel, and working as hard and as rapidly as I could, I had my task completed in time to hurry away from the Foreign Office shortly after seven o'clock.

We dined—the Frenchman and I—cosily at my club, a little later than the hour fixed. And then we chartered a cab to drive us to Leicester-square. It was not until we were half-way there that a certain recollection suddenly flashed across my mind. I had left that unfinished letter to Helen in my blotting-pad at the Foreign Office! Was it safe to let it remain there till next morning? Probably it was. Yet somehow (more for Helen's sake than my own) I did not like to run the risk. And almost in an instant I had made up my mind that I had better proceed to Downing-street at once and gain possession of it. A word or two of explanation to my friend; a shout through the trap-door to cabby; and we were soon in full career for Downing-street.

When we reached the Foreign Office, I jumped out of the cab, rang the bell, which was answered by the custodian, to whom I explained that I had come to fetch some papers. Of course, he let me in without demur, and I hastened at once to my chief's room, which, at this hour, had only one occupant—the inevitable Pesarsi, who lay curled up and slumbering peacefully in his usual place on the Earl's table. As I passed him, on my way out, having duly possessed myself of my letter, the spirit moved me to prod him in the ribs with the ferule of my umbrella—a proceeding which caused him to spring up and spit and swear and rampage with his usual ferocity. The incident was trivial enough. But I record it because, as is often the way with trivial incidents, it had an important bearing on subsequent events.

We spent a pleasant evening at the Alhambra; and, proceeding homewards, reached my rooms about midnight. I invited my friend to come in and have a brandy and soda; but he declined, being tired, he said, and quite ready for his downy. So I bade him good-night, and let myself in with my latch-key, alone. I entered my room, whistling an air from the music of the ballet we had just witnessed; but suddenly I left off and gave a violent start of surprise. Which, considering the circumstances, was hardly to be wondered at. For that an insignificant youngster, like myself, should return home at midnight to find two Cabinet Ministers in his rooms, awaiting him, was (to say the least of it) an unprecedented and extraordinary occurrence. Yet this was what actually confronted me on that never-to-be-forgotten occasion. Side by side, with their backs to the fire, both regarding me, as I entered, with looks of portentous and awful gravity, stood the Prime Minister of England and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Yes, this is the solemn fact. There these two great men were, standing shoulder to shoulder upon my humble hearthrug!

I have no space—I wish I had—to describe to you in detail all that happened at this amazing interview. Suffice it to say that, no sooner had I entered the room than I was instantly set upon and attacked, in most scathing terms, by my chief, the Earl. He had discovered my treacherous theft of that important draft from his table! What theft? What draft? Ah, I knew very well, villain that I was. What had taken me to the Foreign Office at nine o'clock that night? Why had I been accompanied by that scoundrel of a French spy? Yes, I needn't pretend innocence. The caretaker had told him everything. Perhaps I hadn't disturbed Persarsi—who was slumbering on the draft, by pulling it from under him—and made him spit and swear loud enough to be heard all over the building. And if that wasn't enough to make me own my guilt, how came it that the cat, who was always quiet enough, except when rudely aroused, had overturned a pen tray and upset the contents of the paste pot all over the table, as the result of my visit? Oh, yes! He saw my game. I meant to let my French friend copy this draft, and then to replace it early next day, so that the theft should remain undiscovered. But, fortunately, he, himself, had had occasion to go to Downing-street soon after I had left; and so my treachery was exposed.

It was so grave a matter that he had felt compelled to consult his chief, the Prime Minister, at once. And it was by the latter's suggestion that they were both here. Now, then—what had I done with that paper? Had I got it on my person? No? Pshaw! What was the value of a traitor's denial? Would I prove that I had not got it about me by turning out the contents of my pockets before them, then and there?

Conscious of complete innocence, I said, "Yes!" unhesitatingly, and at once suited the action to the word.

But I had forgotten, at the moment, my unfinished letter to Helen, which was in my breast pocket with my other papers. And only when I had thrown them out in a heap upon the table, did I remember it. But it was then

too late. The letter fell upon the top of the heap, and the Earl had it in his hand and was reading it before I could interpose.

His face grew darker and angrier than ever as he perused it. At last he broke out:

"This—this—explains everything It—it—supplies the last damning link in the chain of evidence against you, you scoundrel. See!" he cried, excitedly, turning to the Prime Minister, and pointing his finger to a passage in my letter. "Listen to this. Hear what this fellow, who calls himself a gentleman, has written clandestinely to my daughter:—'My own, I will make money quickly—somehow, so that we can marry whether your father consents or not.' What do you make of that? Do we need any further evidence against this fellow? Had we not better hand him over to the police at once?"

"It is, indeed, a black case," replied the Prime Minister, shaking his head gravely.

The Earl, in his wrath and excitement, began to pace up and down the room; and, as his manner was, when so doing, he gathered the flowing tails of his frock coat, one over either arm. It was to this circumstance that the sudden and speedy termination of this little affair was due, and that my escape from spending the night in a police cell must be ascribed. For as, in his perambulations, my chief turned his back upon us, striding towards the window, there in the—the—space between his coat tails, a very striking and extraordinary object loomed obtrusively visible.

I stared. The Prime Minister stared; fixing his eye-glass in his left eye, and puckering his ample forehead into a frown of perplexed astonishment.

"Hem! Excuse me, Blank," coughed the Right Honourable gentleman. "Hem—do you—are you—may I ask, in the habit of walking about with a folio of foolscap attached to your—hem—inexpressibles?"

"Eh? What? What do you mean?" cried the Earl.

For reply, the Prime Minister took two paces forward, and plucked the sheet of paper with his forefinger and thumb. It was not easily dislodged; in fact, it offered some considerable resistance; and when it came away, quite a considerable fragment was still left adhering to the Foreign Secretary's trousers.

"H'-m! This is very adhesive foolscap," said the Prime Minister. "It—it seems to have been gummed. Ha! There goes! I was afraid I should tear it. Some one has been playing a trick upon you, Blank. . . . Why, damn it, if this isn't the—the——"

"The what?" cried my chief, snatching the torn fragment from his grasp, and anxiously scanning it. "By Jehoshaphat! You are right. It is indeed the—the——"

At that point I burst into a roar of laughter, which I could not restrain. I saw exactly what had happened. When I prodded Pesarsi with my umbrella, that rampageous Tom had upset the paste-pot on to the draft, and in his further scrambles, had caused the foolscap to flutter from the table into the Ministerial chair. Further, I could picture to myself the Foreign Secretary coming in, and lifting his coat tails with his usual pompous deliberation, and finally depositing himself, with complacent unconsciousness, atop of the paste-bespattered paper.

* * * * *

The following is all the material part of an interview which subsequently took place between myself and the Earl.

"Ha! ha! ha! You'll excuse my laughing, my lord; but the whole thing has been so unspeakably funny that——"

"Ha! ha! So it has. Splendid joke—splendid," said my chief, putting the best face he could on the matter, and laughing like a man who laughs with the tooth-ache.

"It would make glorious copy for the papers," I remarked.

"Eh? What? This must never get into the papers. I—I—but I can rely upon your discretion," replied the Earl, pretending confidence. But he had turned pale at my words, and was eyeing me with nervous anxiety, all the same.

"To be frank, my lord," I retorted, looking him full in the face, "you have not treated me so well in this affair that I feel under any obligation of silence; but," I added, with unmistakable meaning, "you can lay me under an obligation that will tie my tongue effectually. That is the price of my silence. What do you say?"

He said much—storming, expostulating, appealing. But I stuck to my point and gained it. Next afternoon, in the broad light of day, I walked up to the front door of the Earl's residence; rang the bell, boldly; and was admitted, unquestioned, by an obsequious butler into the presence of the Lady Helen.

ART NOTES.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY—FIRST ARTICLE.

I HAD a curious dream the night before the Academy opened. I found myself an unnoticed spectator in the Council Chamber at Burlington House, surrounded by a comprehensive gathering of R.A.s and Associates. They had apparently been in session some time, for there were visible signs of great excitement in the meeting, and loud cheering called my attention to the fact that a veteran Academician had stepped into the rostrum and was about "to take the word," as the French say. "Mr. Sidney Cooper!" exclaimed the President with a rap of his chairman's gavel, and the artist thus announced proceeded to speak as follows:—"Dear Brethren and Associates," he began, "I, too, like my excellent friend and comrade, Mr. Hook, who has just addressed you, have decided that the time for self-renunciation has come. My pictures have been hung upon the line for more years than I care to remember. My sheep and my cows, grouped in every possible position in the meadows along the bank of my beloved Stour, have become as familiar to the public as the allegories of Mr. Watts. Season after season have I been sated with praise; the crinkly wooliness of my Southdown ewes and the dappled sleekness of my immaculate oxen have been repeatedly acknowledged. Why, then, should I pine for further panegyric? The artist who has painted, in all, say, 21,000 sheep of the same pattern may well rest and be thankful. Henceforward, then, I voluntarily resign my places upon the line to younger and as yet unknown exhibitors. I will take my flocks and herds higher up the mountain side. In more prosaic language, I will be content to have my pictures 'skied.'"

Scarcely had the loud applause called forth by this unselfish declaration come to an end when I saw in my dream that Mr. Peter Graham, R.A., was occupying the place just vacated by the last speaker. "Brother Sidney Cooper is right!" he emphatically exclaimed. "His is a noble example, and I am prepared to follow it. I flatter myself that my shaggy Scotch oxen, bathed in mist and otherwise, have become almost as familiar to visitors to our annual Exhibitions as what I may call the 'Cooperian' cow. My seagulls, too, have now been flying round 'the grass-crowned headlands of a rugged shore' for some years. The time has come when they shall take a higher flight (cheers). My seamew-haunted rocky bastions, 'lashed by the wild and wasteful ocean,' shall henceforth be always located in what—to employ an allowable pleasantry—I may call the Isle of 'Sky' (laughter). Mr. President and Gentlemen, I beg formally to place such part of the line as I have a right to occupy at the disposal of the meritorious outsider" (loud applause). By this time the excitement of the assembly had considerably increased, and it seemed to me in my vision that several Academicians rushed simultaneously to the rostrum and eagerly combated for its possession. It was, indeed, somewhat difficult for me to identify all who took part in the *mêlée*, but I distinctly remember seeing the faces of Mr. Marcus Stone, Mr. MacWhirter, Mr. Sant, Mr. Wells, and Mr. Benjamin Williams Leader. The last-named had, in fact, almost secured the coign of vantage from which to address the meeting, when there were loud shouts of "Herkomer! Herkomer!" and I saw in my dream that the Bushey Professor, by a determined flank movement, had carried the rostrum. "You may wonder, comrades," he shouted, "at seeing me in this position; but the fact is that I, like those of our brethren who have already spoken, am

prepared to take my pictures and 'go up higher.' The paintings I exhibit are, as you know, fine and large. I flatter myself that the life-size Bavarian Parish Council in session which I exhibited two seasons ago, established a record. My board-room portraits have achieved a wide reputation in company-promoting circles. In short, I have drained the cup of praise to its dregs. Moreover, my severest critics would not call me a subtle painter. I underline the points I make with a directness that 'the way-faring man, though a fool' cannot well fail to see. Why, then, should I object to go aloft, like the Thomas Bowling of your nautical ballad? I love the free, pure air of the mountain top. Therefore, I, too, am willing, nay, eager, to be 'skied.' Besides, I not only maintain a large annual output of pictures, I also manufacture young artists by the score. I will help make room for them upon 'the line.' It is but just that Bavaria should give place to Bushey!"

As the Professor struggled back to his seat the excitement of the meeting culminated. Every one present appeared to be inspired by the same enthusiasm for self-effacement. Associates vied with Royal Academicians in shouts of "Sky me!" "I renounce my rights!" "Give the outsider a chance!" and other such self-renunciatory expressions. It was a field day of altruism, a very saturnalia of self-denial. Artists but lately admitted within the Academic circle clamoured for their pictures to be hung as high as Haman. Mr. Solomon J. Solomon positively hustled Mr. Hacker in his rush for the rostrum, and I heard Mr. Orchardson assuring Mr. Stanhope Forbes in a loud voice that he had really grown weary of being called the Incomparable, and that he would gladly take refuge in higher altitudes where he could not be pelted quite so freely with commendatory adjectives. But this, I believe, was the last coherent remark which reached me, for the President now wholly failed in securing even the semblance of order; and as a consequence not one word of what Messrs. Ouless and Crofts were simultaneously shouting could I understand. I distinctly saw Sir Edward Poynter, however, making minatory passes with his hammer, and his last despairing "rap, rap," merged curiously enough into the knocking of the servant at my chamber door and the announcement of my shaving water.

"Then I knew that I'd been dreaming," as the song puts it, and any lingering doubts I may have had on the subject were entirely dispersed when, a few hours later, I entered Burlington House and made the usual preliminary canter through the galleries. It was the same old Academy. There was no sign of the rearrangement of pictures foreshadowed in my dream. The same old repetitions, the same old imbecilities, the same old fatuities, the same old absurdities, occupied the places in which we have grown accustomed to look for them. But here and there, fortunately, amongst the fourteen hundred pictures on the walls, one came on works of real merit—plums in a pudding of mediocrity, prizes in a wilderness of blanks. These compensatory pictures are not very numerous, perhaps, but they occur with sufficient frequency to lead one on through the eleven galleries.

Yes, there are canvases in front of which one may rest and take fresh courage for the onward journey. But all this time I well know I am only fencing with the question which every art critic is expected to answer each recurring May. Sooner or later in this article it is imperative that I should stand and deliver my opinion of this year's Academy. So let me accept the inevitable and get it over as quickly as possible. My opinion of this exhibition, then, is that it is a fairly good one, quite up to the average of recent years. That it will be a very popular one I do not for a moment suppose. Of the pictures which tell stories such as the public love there are exceptionally few. It is, in fact, interesting to notice how our younger artists are straying from the fixed ways of British art. Be it for good or be it for evil, they are certainly repudiating the influences which are supposed to be paramount at Burlington House, and seem to be inclining more and more to the manner and methods of alien masters. The distinctive British note is now rarely struck, and an examination of the canvases of the artists of the younger generation serves to emphasise the fact that the British School has now virtually no scholars.

It is not difficult to name the picture which will be the most popular of the season. In that sense it will undoubtedly be "Herkomer's Year." His Jubilee picture in the Great Gallery will always be surrounded by the greatest crowd. As every one by this time knows, he has painted the group of Crimean veterans who were drawn up at the foot of the Guards' Monument in Waterloo-place as the Queen went by on her way to St. Paul's. Of the procession there is no palpable evidence in the picture, but as you look at the old soldiers cheering and waving their caps you know that the Queen is passing. Of course the painter of "The Last Muster" has found no difficulty in depicting the group of veterans. Every one of their faces is a portrait, painted with that literal truth which Professor Herkomer usually employs. But the pathos of the scene is of the obvious order, the sentiment is cruder even than the colour, and it seems to me that the thoughtful observer will be struck more by the subtle points which the artist has missed than by the superficial opportunities he has turned to such effective account.

In the first room the visitor will certainly make a halt in front of "The Temptation in the Wilderness," by Mr. Briton Riviere (No. 22). It is the most impressive work this veteran Academician has painted for years and narrowly escapes being a great picture. The members of most Hanging Committees are fond of their little jokes, we know, and this year it has seemed good to these merry gentlemen to sandwich Mr. Riviere's picture between portraits of a gentleman in a fur coat and of one of her Majesty's counsel learned in the law. But even this environment cannot take away the pathos of the divine figure sitting, clad in white, on that waste of stony tableland, as the setting sun paints the horizon in orange and red. There is, unfortunately, one false note in the picture. The fox stealing craftily away on the left is a mistake. Nearly opposite Mr. Briton Riviere's picture is a delightful painting by Mr. J. W. Waterhouse, "Flora and the Zephyrs" (No. 64). It is a feast of sweet and harmonious colours. Never has the story of this breezy courtship been painted with more delicacy and refinement, with more gracefulness and charm. To pass Mr. Edwin A. Abbey's large Shakesperian painting, founded on the first scene of "King Lear" (No. 138), is well-nigh impossible. It calls aloud to you from the wall in the over-opulence of its rich colouring. It has been ambitiously designed; its accessories have been studied with elaborate care; it has been painted with evident pains; but yet it fails to convince, to charm, to satisfy. It smells of the studio lamp, it seems to want the glare of the footlights to properly show off its masses of positive colour. When looking at it I found myself thinking that, after all, Cordelia was only Miss Ellen Terry dressed up, and that the decrepit Lear and his attendants were in reality Sir Henry Irving making an effective exit with a number of well-trained supers. It will be noticed that there has been a new system of hanging the pictures in the Great Gallery. The full-length portraits recur at intervals to the great enhancement of the decorative effect of the room as a whole. Of the really great pictures of the year, not one is to be found in the Great Gallery. The President and Mr. Alma Tadema are represented, but only by conscientious repetitions of subjects they have painted equally well many times before.

It is in Room No. IV. that one experiences the most pleasant surprise. There are to be found at least four pictures of the very highest merit. There, for example, is Mr. Orchardson's great portrait of the ex-Speaker, Viscount Peel. There is only one adjective that can be fittingly applied to this masterful piece of portraiture—it is superb. There is only one other portrait in the Academy worthy to be named in the same breath with it—Mr. John Sargent's "Mr. Asher Wertheimer," of which I shall have more to say when I come to Gallery No. VIII. The two may fairly be bracketed as *the* portraits of the year. In Room No. IV. is to be seen the "Love Triumphant" of Mr. Watts (No. 310), a really marvellous *tour de force* for so aged a painter. It would be easy to find faults in it. The titanic

figures lying prone on the bare ground are far from right anatomically. Time's shoulder looks hopelessly out of drawing, and Love's legs are at best imperfectly realised, but there is something unspeakably noble in the conception of the winged figure rising triumphantly from the earth it is spurning. This picture, with all its imperfections, seems to tower head and shoulders amongst the other figure-subjects which one finds at Burlington House. Another picture of rare merit is Mr. John M. Swan's "Fortune and the Boy" (No. 331). It is a small picture, and may easily be overlooked amongst its commonplace, flash, and it must, alas, be said, often paltry surroundings, but to pass it unnoticed is to miss one of the most charming imaginative pictures of the year. By the side of the enchanted fountain in which he has just bathed, a graceful boy has flung himself down in the lush grass to build castles in the air and dream those day dreams which only come at the magic touch of youth. As he gazes abstractedly before him, the opalescent mist rising from the fountain shapes itself into a fair and pleasant figure of Fortune, which looks on him with smiling face. The delicacy, the reticence, the charming fancy shown in painting this delightful little masterpiece cannot easily be overpraised. A picture of an entirely different character but of equally marked merit is Mr. Byam Shaw's "Truth" (No. 342). I have on former occasions had to qualify my praise of this artist's work. But this year it is pleasant to be able to congratulate him unreservedly on a really brilliant and humorous work of imagination. That the picture is not more favourably hung is much to be regretted; that it will, notwithstanding this, achieve a wide popularity may be safely predicted. The "Truth" he has depicted with such genuine humour, with such playful satire, with such a blazing splendour of colour, has fallen upon evil times. She has been captured and brought to court, and the artist shows us the steps that are being taken to adapt her to continued residence in her new *milieu*. The wicked old king has himself undertaken the task of blindfolding her eyes; her wrists have been already secured with silken thongs; an obsequious page is busily engaged in dipping her white robe into a copper bowl of scarlet dye; several merry ladies-in-waiting are bringing up a resplendent velvet mantle to put about her shapely shoulders, whilst the Court Fool—a delightful touch this—is essaying—need I say in vain?—to blow out the tell-tale flame of her magic lamp! It is an allegory not very deep nor subtle, perhaps, but exceedingly effective; and will be remembered, thanks to its saving salt of humour, when much more pretentious canvases of the year are wholly forgotten.

And here, for the present, I must break off, leaving until next week the completion of this discursive ramble through the galleries of Burlington House.

MUSIC.

WAR-MUSIC UP TO DATE.

ALTHOUGH there happily may be no reason to doubt the present popularity of the British in the United States, yet the cablegrams which speak of the enthusiasm with which our National Anthem has been received by popular audiences in New York must be accepted with some reserve. Special correspondents may not be aware that the tune of "God Save the Queen" under the title of "America" (and set to far more sensible words than those of our own "Illiterate National Anthem"), is a National Anthem of the States. It is, perhaps, more to the purpose that popular audiences throughout the Union are receiving with enthusiasm such genuine British Jingo tunes as "The Red, White, and Blue," and "Columbia the Gem of the Ocean," under which title it is not difficult to recognise our old friend of Crimean days, "Britannia the Pride of the Ocean." "Rally round the Flag, Boys" is at the present time one of the most popular tunes of the United States, together with "The Girl I left behind me," "The Star-Spangled Banner," and "Yankee Doodle." "Yankee Doodle," although popularly supposed to be American, is really a British tune, and it is alleged to be derived from the melody "The Roundheads and Cavaliers," of the time of Charles II. Also in another form it is said to be identical with "Kitty Fisher's Jig," and in another, "Lucy Locket Lost her Pocket." Its American history dates from 1775, when Abercrombie's army lay encamped on the east bank of the Hudson, and the raw American levies aroused the derision of the British troops. The music of the "Star Spangled Banner" is English, although it does not date back further than 1812, the American words being written by Francis Scott Key, who died in 1846. Perhaps the best and most American of Transatlantic National Anthems is "Hail Columbia," written by Judge Hopkinson in 1798 to the melody of "The President's March." The Spanish war has brought forward a large number of new patriotic songs, such as "Johnny, Get your Gun," "Take Back your Gold," and "Uncle Sam, Why are You Waiting?" At the present time, however, perhaps the most popular patriotic song in the United States is "Dixie," and both words and music are genuinely American.

In the educational department of the advertisement columns of the *Stratford Express* on the 23rd ultimo appeared the following startler:—

> 3d. per Pianoforte Lesson at Ladies' own House. Careful Teaching. Address ——.

This, I should imagine, is the bottom price for professional work of such a character. I am unaware whether the usual sixty minutes are given for the nimble threepence, but, at any rate, the fee would, I should imagine, hardly pay the price of the shoe leather worn in going to and returning from the task. The figure—half the docker's humble "tanner"—certainly beats the previous record, namely, 6d. per lesson for violin teaching, "including a glass of milk and a bun."

A few years ago a gentleman who knew so little about music that he might almost have been a diploma holder of one of the Limited Liability Examination Colleges, struck out the brilliant idea of giving music lessons (or pretending to do so) during Church time on Sundays. He would give you a fiddle lesson and a glass of Scotch whisky for a shilling. His class had grown to be a large one, when those wretched Excise officers intervened, and the musician's trade was over.

M. Lamoureux will give his final concert at Queen's Hall on Wednesday of this week. Whether he and Mr. Robert Newman will care to further carry on the enterprise remains, of course, to be seen. It is tolerably certain that M. Lamoureux has not succeeded in gaining a clientèle, such, for example, as Mottl and Richter have done; though the fact is beyond question that his performances have a *cachet* of their own, and, at any rate for delicacy of performance, that they are almost unsurpassed in this country. M. Lamoureux was at his best when he brought his own band over from Paris; but the cost was too great, and the necessity of giving six concerts in a single week necessarily injured the enterprise. Since then M. Lamoureux has been a little unfortunate in having to rely for his novelties mainly on the works of the French composers of the present day, who may be good men at light opera and the drawing-room song, but who certainly are not great composers of symphonic and other classical music.

An extraordinary robbery took place recently on the premises of Messrs. Beare & Son, the well-known violin experts and importers of Rathbone-place. At Easter their premises were visited by the enterprising burglar. The thieves must have been taking lessons at one of our numerous Schools of Music, or, at any rate, they had with them an expert, for they left most of the "shop" violins, and burgled an assortment of valuable instruments, which had been preserved in a glass case. Among them were several specimens by J. B. Vuillaume, worth probably £100 apiece, at any rate for retail, if not

The Greatest of all Pianofortes.—The Steinway Pianoforte New York and London.

for trade purposes. There were also some old Italian models, a yellow violin by Kloz, and one by Perry, of Dublin. These fiddles are all known, and, in fact, bear the firm's number, so that the thieves will in all probability have a good deal of difficulty in disposing of them. Indeed, a stolen violin is almost as troublesome to part with at auction, or otherwise for value, as a picture by an old master. The Beare fiddles have certainly not yet been offered in the trade, or they would have been recognised at once; and in all probability they are uselessly stored somewhere, no doubt to the immense chagrin of the thieves. If the burglars had stolen the ordinary fiddles of commerce, worth perhaps half a guinea apiece, they might have found a ready sale for them.

Sir Frederick Bridge is continuing his excellent Gresham music lectures, which will next week be delivered in the Great Hall of the City of London School on the Victoria Embankment. The Gresham trustees grant an extra £100 a year for the vocal and other musical illustrations to these lectures, but I rather fancy Sir Frederick Bridge does not get much change out of his own salary after he has paid the music bills. His lectures, however, are interesting, not only to the ordinary amateur, who crowds the room at every lecture, but also to the genuine student of music. Next Monday the subjects chosen are "Chopin's Songs;" on Tuesday the Professor will deal with the organ music of the English school; on Wednesday with the "Development of the Oratorio;" and at the last lecture, on Friday, with the marvellous collection of Elizabethan madrigals known as the "Triumph of Oriana." These lectures are free, and only last an hour; so small wonder that they are popular.

The irrepressible Mr. J. H. Mapleson is to the fore again, and for his projected season at the new Olympic Theatre he declares he has purchased two new operas. One of them is the "Manon Lescaut" of Leoncavallo, which has been played at many Continental opera houses. We have already two "Manons," one by M. Massenet, in which Mme. Marie Rose made so charming a representative of Manon, and the other the opera bearing the same title by Puccini which the Carl Rosa troupe gave last year at Covent Garden. The "Andrea Chenier" of Giordano, which was to have been given at Covent Garden a year or two ago is also on Mr. Mapleson's list. He produced this work last year in the United States, and the scenery and dresses are still available.

The police arrangements for the setting down of carriages at Queen's Hall again collapsed at the Mottl Concert last week, and certain of the daily papers had some very strong remarks upon the subject. Towards the end of the week two musical critics were requested to confer with Sir Edward Bradford at Scotland Yard. Whether this is the best method of devising a reform I am not prepared to say. Musical critics constantly attend Queen's Hall, and know perfectly well the defects of the police arrangements, although, whether they are qualified to suggest a remedy may be altogether another matter. If I were on board a ship which foundered, I might reasonably be allowed to grumble, without pretending to be competent to sail the ship in more seamanlike fashion. Mr. Rubinstein, the energetic solicitor to Queen's Hall, also had an interview with the police authorities some time ago, when they were understood to declare that to devise better arrangements was impossible. I, however, prefer to believe that the police have formed too modest an estimate of their capabilities in a very simple matter. They are able at the opera to control two lines of traffic in different directions, and the task ought to be far more easy in so wide a thoroughfare as north Regent-street. One difficulty, perhaps, lies in the fact that, by official stupidity, a great part of the roadway in front of Queen's Hall and St. George's Hall, two largely patronised places of public amusement, is taken up by a cab rank, which might just as well be in Portland-place.

The return of Herr Felix Mottl to Queen's Hall last week was made the occasion of a genuine demonstration. Herr Mottl, who was on Monday appointed Hermann Levi's successor at Munich, the blue ribband of German operatic life, has recently accepted the post of conductor of "Der Ring des Nibelungen" at Covent Garden next month, and the Wagnerites mustered in force to congratulate him. The audience would doubtless have been even larger if the programme had contained a little more of the master's advanced works. The truly Elect turn up their noses at the "Flying Dutchman," of which the Wagner programme last week was mainly composed. Moreover the performance of the "Siegfried Idyll" was certainly not so good as that to which we are accustomed under Richter. The finest performance of the evening was that of the "Jupiter" symphony of Mozart. Mozart of recent years has been more or less neglected, and it seems curious that its revival should be left to an avowed adherent of Wagner.

By the way, I learn that there can be no question of Dr. Richter's engagement for the United States next year. Whether the position was offered to him or not, he could not accept it, as he has yet one year to serve at Vienna in order to secure his retiring pension. Afterwards he will be a free man, and, doubtless, will be willing to take his share of the American dollars. The whole situation in the United States is now more or less a matter of doubt. The effect of the war upon public amusements will be carefully watched, for it would be a risky experiment to take over an expensive party with M. Jean de Reszke at its head unless matters were tolerably settled. At the same time, Mme. Melba seems to be doing very well in the Western States, although it is true that she tours with a small troupe, with works of the "Lucia" and "Rigoletto" species. The lady, like a true prima donna, travels in a private car, with a private chef at £10 a week to cook her private chop, a private waiter, a private conductor, and a private porter to move her luggage. The baggage of a great prima donna must not be touched by profane hands.

Mrs. Bloomfield Zeisler, who has now twice appeared, must have proved a disappointment to those who believed she would be a slap-dash player of the modern school Not even this clever pianist was able to make interesting the D Minor concerto of Rubinstein, although at her recital on Saturday she did far better. Why, however, at her recital she should have relied so greatly upon pianoforte transcriptions instead of original pianoforte works is not quite clear, though she plays them with much skill.

There have been a large number of concerts during the week, many of them given by new comers. Among them were Mr. Tew, an American baritone, who needs further study; Mrs. Landon Ronald, who, if I am rightly informed, is a Colonial vocalist who has studied in Germany, and who is an artist of promise; Dr. Pudor, a violoncellist, who began life as a boy in a quartet party with such now eminent performers as M. Johannes Wolff and Mr. Maurice Sons, but who has more recently been principal violoncellist of the Scottish orchestra; Mme. Clara Poole-King, an American vocalist, who needs further experience, and numerous others. Indeed, the noble army of recital-givers are now strongly in evidence, and for the next two months we promise to have quite enough of them.

Professor Niecks, who some few years ago gave us a masterly "Life of Chopin," is now engaged upon a biography of Schumann. The professor, as I understand, has had access to a large number of private memoranda and letters left by Mme. Clara Schumann.

Many people will regret to learn of the death at the early age of thirty-nine of Mr. Burgon, the English baritone, who both in English opera and at concerts, fairly made his mark. Mr. Burgon, who studied under the veteran Manuel Garcia, made his *début* seventeen years ago at a performance of Bach's Mass in B Minor given by the Bach Choir. He afterwards joined the Carl Rosa troupe, and subsequently the English opera company formed by Mr. D'Oyly Carte to produce Sullivan's "Ivanhoe." Mr. Burgon shared with Mr. Frangcon Davies the part of Cedric the Saxon, in Sir Arthur Sullivan's "Ivanhoe," and he likewise created the parts of Louis XII. in Messager's "La Basoche," the Count de Grieux in the English version of Massenet's "Manon" and the part of Ostap in the late Goring Thomas's opera, "Nadeshda."

I learn that after the run of the new Sullivan and Pinero piece, we may expect at the Savoy a new light opera from the pen of Mr. Ivan Caryll. This gentleman, although better known perhaps by his dances and other works in musical comedy, has already essayed higher things, particularly in an opera entitled "The Lily of Leoville," produced in London some years ago. Sir Arthur Sullivan, by the way, started his own rehearsals of "The Beauty Stone" at the Savoy on Monday. Mr. Passmore, as the Devil *in propriâ personâ*, has, I learn, a fine part. Also, by the way, the two American recruits, Messrs. Devoll and Isham, are not, after all, débutants. They have already sung in London at concerts under Mr. Cavour's management.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—I should have thought that a gentleman of Dr. Nikola's experience of murder as a fine art would have known better than to condemn a railway-carriage as an unsafe slaughter-house:—

> A railway train has been repeatedly tried, but never with success; you are bound to be discovered sooner or later.

What of the Wandsworth murder, where the artist slew his victim, hid the corpse beneath the seat, and disappeared into trackless space within three minutes? Neither De Quincey nor Dr. Nikola, however, would rank this summary slaughter among artistic murders, which *ex vi termini* should show design, refinement, and finish. These pre-eminently are the characteristics of Dr. Nikola's latest murder patent described in "The Lust of Hate" (1). This is a hansom cab, whose pneumatic cushions are charged with an asphyxiating gas, and the artist, in the guise of a cabby, has but to lower the glass in front, thus making the interior air-tight, and then, by the pressure of a spring, to free the gas, in order to dispose of his victim almost instantaneously. But how dispose of the corpse? By the pressure of another spring the seat is made to revolve and to drop the body through the cab on to the road. The artist has but to choose a dark night and a deserted street to dispose of the body and disappear like a flash; "ere a man hath power to say 'Behold!' the jaws of darkness have devoured him up." This is an original idea unquestionably, and hardly less original is the idea of making the hero Dr. Nikola's pupil in the art of thus painlessly and irretraceably disposing of your enemy. Those who enjoyed Dr. Nikola's former achievements of this artistic kind will not be much disappointed in "The Lust of Hate." They will also enjoy Mr. Guy Boothby's shorter flights in "Billy Binks, Hero," (2) a collection of stirring stories in the same vein. What strikes you most perhaps in these adventure stories, which carry all before them to-day, is a worship of the Almighty Dollar so aborbing as to drown not conscience only, but all human affection. When, for example, the hero of "The Millionaire of Hornibrook Island," an ideally altruistic adventurer, hears of his father's death, he says:—"I have been expecting this for some time; but it comes upon me as rather a shock." But the shock was a shock of joy to find himself "one of the richest men in the whole scheme of the universe!" By the way, as this phrase will suggest to you, Mr. Guy Boothby's English is at times something terrible. It is the humour of another stirring story, Mr. Burgin's "The Cattle Man" (3), which is terrible. The boy Jecks, who has emetics forced down his throat continually as antidotes against poison, is the most trying attempt at a humorous creation I have ever come across in fiction. Indeed, all the author's jokes—"and many a joke has he"—are trying. When the hungry hero sits down to a good meal, he "forgot that the world was a little out of joint, although his own jaws nearly became so in his efforts to eat slowly and as a gentleman should." When he suggests, after the meal, that he had hoped as an artist "to set the Thames on fire," one of the two heroines—an admirably drawn character, by the way—retorts with a sneer:—

> It would take a good deal to set the Thames on fire in this weather. You might, perhaps, do it with a pile of your own pencils.

As all the sarcasm of the book is of this subtle kind, it is a pity that Mr. Burgin does not eschew humour altogether and stick to his metier—the invention and construction of a stirring story. Very different is the metier of Mr. Henry Harland, who charms, and at times even enchants, you with his wit and humour, and the dainty delicacy and grace of his portraiture, in "Comedies and Errors" (4). It is not so long since that Englishmen were supposed incapable of miniature painting of the exquisite kind for which France and even America was famous; but few Americans or even Frenchmen could put on the stage characters

> Apparelled in more precious habit,
> More moving-delicate and full of life,

than those of Mr. Harland's "Comedies and Errors." While Mr. Harland surprises you by his advance in his art, "Z. Z." astonishes you by the well-nigh incredible falling off in power shown by "Cleo the Magnificent" (5). There is really nothing to be said for this maundering pot-boiler, or only what uncle Toby said of the first work composed in his infancy by the learned Lipsius. I cannot honestly say that Miss Adeline Sergeant has surpassed herself in "Miss Betty's Mistake" (6), but it is a very pretty and pure story of a quaint old maid, whose goodness led her into the mistake which breaks her heart. She marries, in admiration rather of his work than of himself, a broken-down novelist, whose first wife was still alive and in an asylum, and the discovery of the bigamy is made by the appearance of this afflicted lady herself upon the scene. "Miss Betty" tends her till she dies, and then follows her to the grave, brought to it by the agony of her shame and of her disillusion. The younger heroine of the story has her happiness apparently wrecked also by the mad lady's escape from the asylum, since—as the lunatic was presumably her mother—she cannot allow the hero to link his lot with hers. He gets engaged to another girl, who jilts him, and is thus set free to marry the heroine, who turns out to have been only the adopted daughter of the mad woman. It is a very pretty story and very pleasantly told. The new edition of Thackeray, in which "Vanity Fair" (7) forms the first volume, is sure of a warm welcome from all admirers of the great novelist. Thackeray was, you know, most anxious that no biography of himself should be written. Without disrespect to his wishes, however, Mrs. Richmond Ritchie has thought herself at liberty to contribute to each volume of this edition a "biographical introduction," containing reminiscences of her father and extracts from his letters and diary. Judging from the first instalment, this series of introductions will be as interesting as any set biography could be, and it certainly adds a unique attraction to what is in all respects a handsome edition of Thackeray. In conclusion, I hope I may be permitted to chronicle the appearance of another book, "A Word to Women" (8), from the pen of a talented colleague of mine. In it Mrs. Humphry discourses brightly, sensibly, and helpfully upon a hundred and one matters of interest to her sex—indeed, to both sexes. The excellent advice she tenders to wives in the chapter on "Our Debts" is alone sufficient to commend the little volume to every husband.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

(1) "The Lust of Hate." By Guy Boothby. Illustrated by Stanley L. Wood. (London: Ward, Lock, & Co., Limited Price 5s.)
(2) "Billy Binks, Hero." By Guy Boothby. With Frontispiece and Title by W. H. C. Groome. (London: W. & R. Chambers. Price 3s. 6d.)
(3) "The Cattle Man." By G. B. Burgin. (London: Grant Richards. Price 6s.)
(4) "Comedies and Errors." By Henry Harland. (London: John Lane. Price 6s.)
(5) "Cleo the Magnificent; or, The Muse of the Real." By Z. Z. (London: William Heinemann. Price 6s.)
(6) "Miss Betty's Mistake." By Adeline Sergeant. (London: Hurst & Blackett, Limited. Price 6s.)
(7) "The Works of William Makepeace Thackeray." With Biographical Introductions by his Daughter, Anne Ritchie. In Thirteen Volumes. Vol. I.: "Vanity Fair." (London: Smith, Elder, & Co. Price 6s.)
(8) "A Word to Women." By Mrs. Humphry ("Madge" of TRUTH.) (London: James Bowden. Price 1s.)

HOTEL ALBEMARLE, Piccadilly, London. Private Suite, Bath, Electric Light, Lift. VERMERSCH, Proprietor. Paris: Imperial Hotel, Champs Elysées. Boulogne S/M: Imperial Pavilion Hotel.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—The most interesting of our experiences this week was a visit to the Hôtel Cecil to meet the widow of General Tom Thumb, her present husband, Count Magri, his brother, Baron Magri, and Mr. and Mrs. Maible, the Comedy Company of little ladies and gentlemen who are to be one of the attractions at Earl's Court this season. They are a most interesting group of cultivated, amiable, and agreeable men and women, and we very much enjoyed half an hour's conversation with them. We were more annoyed than surprised to see people approach them with grins on their faces and an air of condescending curiosity, which was extremely out of place. With the exception of lack of inches, the members of the party are on a par with most of us and very superior to many. Their good breeding is at once evident, and they converse freely on all the topics of the day. The Contessa Magri deplores the war, as all women must do, and says that American women detest the idea of it. She is delighted with the progress made of late years in the woman movement, and said something that I thought remarkably true, but that had never occurred to me before—viz., that women have more time to think over things than men, because men's work absorbs them and occupies all their thoughts, whereas women's work leaves their thoughts free to scan all that has presented itself for consideration.

We asked her if she liked England, and she said that for some things she liked it very much, and that she certainly prefers the railway travelling here to that in the States, for though the latter is much more comfortable, it is impossible for a party over there to be alone in the cars. Count Magri conversed on politics and the war with Richard, while we talked with the ladies. He is immensely patriotic for his adopted country—his native land by marriage, as it were. He and his brothers are natives of Bologna. The other little lady, Mrs. Maible, is, like all the rest of the party, perfectly well-proportioned. She is very sprightly, and shows her dimples in a bright smile when she talks. She has been married three years to Mr. Maible, the fifth member of the group, who dresses with very great care, and with evident cultivation of the latest fashion in ties, collars, and every other item of the wardrobe. He, too, has a very happy face. They are the gayest and most good-humoured looking couple I have seen for some time. They live with her parents when at home, which is very rarely, for "we are so constantly on the road," she explained, "that it is not worth while to keep house." Their present visit to England is for six months certain. Mrs. Maible is very fond of flowers, so the Englishwomen she meets will have an easy way of showing their appreciation of her.

The little Countess has genuine dignity, and a quiet self-possession of manner. She needs it, for there are many silly persons who speak to her in a foolish way. Fancy, dear, one of the men present at their reception, asked her which of her two husbands she liked the best! Why should people address to her questions and remarks that they would not dream of making to fully grown women? With all our boasted civilisation I fear we are a very uncultured nation.

The piece in which they are to appear at Earl's Court is "Two Strings to Her Bow." I am sure you would like to know the exact height of some of the performers. Countess Magri is 34 inches high, her husband 37 inches, his brother 38½ inches.

It has been a wonderful week of weddings, every one who was bent on matrimony speeding to have the nuptial knot tied before the arrival of May, the unlucky hymeneal month. On Saturday afternoon the Hon. Elaine Guest, daughter of Lord and Lady Wimborne, was married at St. George's to Mr. Ernest Villiers, and the dear old church, which has seen so many happy weddings, looked its very best, the chancel being decorated with palms and hothouse flowers. The singing of the choir has immensely improved, and in the lovely "He, watching over Israel," their voices and training were most agreeably shown. The bride, a very handsome girl, tall and stately, looked serene and fair in her bridal gown. The church was filled with friends, among whom were the Duchess of Roxburghe, in black and white, the Duke and Duchess of Somerset, the Danish Minister and Mme. de Falbe, Lady Galway and her pretty daughter, Lady Erne and a charming daughter, Lady Randolph Churchill, in grey, and Lady Féo Sturt, the prettiest and best-dressed woman there. Lady Ridley also looked charming.

The wedding of Miss Sambourne, daughter of Mr. Linley Sambourne, the well-known artist on *Punch*, attracted a number of artistic and literary men, with their wives and daughters, to St. Mary Abbot's on Thursday afternoon, and the reception at the Empress Rooms, Palace Hotel. The wedding gifts were displayed in the spacious and beautiful ground-floor room, and the refreshment buffet lined the walls, whose pink panelling proved a most becoming background for the pretty dresses of the guests. I believe there are equally large rooms upstairs. It is at this hotel that the De Reszkes and other celebrated operatic artists always put up, and in fact the De Reszkes are expected there this week.

I am sending you *The World of Dress*, in the pages of which new periodical you will find all the information you can possibly require upon the important subject. Please note the clinginess of evening dress in the coloured plate. Is not the pink one sweet? A specialty of the publication is a summary of the modes of Paris, New York, and Vienna, with notes of the fashions worn upon the stage in those cities. Fashions for elderly women and for children are not forgotten in this excellent shillingsworth.

I am glad you asked me to go to Redfern's for you, for it gave us the opportunity of seeing the smartest frocks we have seen this season. They have new showrooms open on the first floor for the display of evening and elaborate visiting and reception dresses, and these are of the most chic and up-to-date description. London has seen nothing like them, so far. Fancy a white silk muslin made over pink muslin, the effect ineffably pale and soft. The skirt is trimmed with incrustations of the finest and most transparent Chantilly, arranged in lappet-like panels. These are cut out from piece-lace, each spray being carefully freed from the net so as to stand out clear and well-defined on the tender pink. The bodice is lovely, but I cannot describe it with the hope of conveying any idea of its perfections to your mind. It had revers edged with the black lace and bands of lace down the back, from the shoulders, and a long sash of the lace fell to the hem. I have never seen lace so exquisitely fine and soft. It had quite a filmy look upon the pink silk muslin.

A very handsome grey taffetas reception dress was trimmed tablier-shape with a frill of black chiffon lined with white and headed with a band of guipure, cut out from the piece, and consequently finished at either side with an undulating outline which is much more graceful than the ordinary straight-edged band. On the bodice was a boléro of grey mirror velvet with appliqués of embroidery in willow green, grey, and black, intricately interwoven and highly effective. A band of the green velvet encircled neck and waist, and a cascade of black chiffon and guipure fell from the neck at either side. It is a sweet gown, and essentially a gentlewoman's, smart and chic as it is. A blue gauze race or visiting dress was trimmed *en tablier*, with rufflings of its own material, edged with a deep frill of blue gauze spotted with white—these round spots are a perfect rage in Paris. The spotted gauze formed the sleeves and front, and there was a deep lace collar.

We saw some of the materials for smart summer gowns, and oh, Amy, dear! they are only too tempting. Some are muslin of the softest and silkiest, embroidered in lightest fashion with deep cream-tinted lines of lace laid on or let in. Shaped skirts are embroidered in openwork, and drawn in with seams close to the figure at the waist

NEW SPRING FASHIONS.—Messrs. REDFERN have now on view in their Showrooms a unique display of Toilettes, illustrative of the latest London and Paris fashions, and to which they invite an inspection.—26, Conduit-street, London, W.

and below it. Flowing out at the feet a deep trimming of embroidery appears, with pointed lines running upwards. For evening wear there was a design in black fern leaves—another craze of the moment—on white muslin, the sprays running upwards, so that a stout figure would look quite slight in it. These are all to be made up over silks of any colour. Downstairs among the tailor-mades, which grow smarter and smarter with every season, I fixed my affections on a blue serge with five rows of stitching carried round the skirt and up at the back at regular intervals. The coat was tight-fitting and fastened with the new glass buttons. It can be worn open or shut, in the latter case showing a front of tucked white or cream-coloured satin, the tucks arranged perpendicularly, and each one sewn down with a thin cream-coloured cord. It was a particularly smart gown, though my description may not have enabled you to realise the fact. The collar and cuffs were in Oriental embroidery. The skirt hung so beautifully that it alone would have "made" the dress. A good cut is of more importance than quality of material.

Not that the latter can be ignored, as we noticed in a red cloth gown, the folds of which fell with a gracefulness that cut alone could never have achieved, though it was an important factor in producing the admirable result. The cloth was sumptuously soft and yet of sufficient substance to cling to the figure in the regulation manner, flowing out below the knees in many folds of fulness. The dainty little coat was cut away in front and had large steel buttons on either side. The collar was turned back with cream-coloured satin sewn with beads and otherwise embroidered in a telling way. There were two vests, one of white satin and cream-coloured guipure, and the other of silk muslin, also in a creamy tint, and finished with lace-edged frills. A lovely hat in straw of a lighter shade of red and trimmed with red flowers and quills was shown with this.

With your admiration for grey you would have fallen very deeply in love with a dress in cloth of that colour, the shade being sympathetically pale, not one of the ugly, hard, slate tints that I quite abhor. It is so middle-aged, slate colour! This pretty frock was trimmed at each side of the front with pine-shaped appliqués of the cloth slightly in relief and showing a lining of red—quite a novel trimming. The collar and epaulettes were carried out in the same way, and most effective they were. The fronts were open, and had a lining of quilted red silk bordered with red velvet, the vest between being perpendicularly-tucked white satin. The collar, made of the same, was of the stand-up order. To be worn with this there was a cream-coloured satin straw toque trimmed with gold-sequined lace, white glacé silk, and white wings. A spray of cerise roses was tucked under the brim at the back.

I wish I had time to tell you of a sweet coat and skirt of black cloth, with sac front to the bodice and deep collar of white cloth, all embroidered in clematis and leaves; of a race-coat of cream-coloured cloth with deep velvet collar, the edges shaped out on inward curves; and of a toque in tones of lavender and mauve, with one of the new fern-leaves laid over the flowers, and softening them admirably. But I must haste away to other things.

Do you want to know something about the newest designs in jewellery? What woman does not? We saw some lovely things last week at the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company 112, Regent-street. It seems that small aigrettes are in greater favour at present than tiaras. A perfectly sweet one was in what's-o'clocks, deftly imitated in diamonds, the stems rising from a true lover's knot, also in diamonds. Seven of the flowers made a graceful group. Another aigrette was formed of two half-opened cornflowers carried out in diamonds. There were many others, all marked with the price in plain figures, as is everything in the establishment. It is such a comfort, when prowling round, to be able to see the price of all the sweet things that engage one's affections without having to ask. We were shown something unique, a set of diamonds, ten in number, each one of which was in a different colour from the rest. They ranged from the purest white to black, grading through straw-colour, yellow, light brown, &c. Opals are as much in favour as ever, and we saw a lovely necklace composed of five specimen opals—that is, selected for their beauty—set in diamond clusters arranged within a series of elliptical loops intertwined with each other. A beautiful diamond necklace can be taken apart to form two bracelets, a pendant, and a brooch. A very costly diamond necklace was in solitaire stones, three rows of them in the front, one at the back. Pearl necklaces and dog-collars were there in profusion and in every variety of design, also jewelled muff-chains, now no longer to be accurately so called, since they are worn purely as ornaments, quite apart from any pretence at muff-holding. They are in gold and enamel without jewels, and others are in pearl and enamel, while the more costly have rondelles of opal and crystal, cabochon ruby, and crystal or diamonds and pearls alternately. Clear-set rubies decorate some of them.

A pair of wings on a comb form a desirable hair ornament, especially as the wings are in fine diamonds. Other combs have Louis XV. designs, also in diamonds. We very much admired a large comb in pierced work with three diamond-shaped interludes let in and filled in with fine network in brilliants.

Do not all these pretty things sound tempting?

You asked me about blouses, so I went to Lee's and applied for answers to all your questions. They have all the new shapes and the latest trimmings, so the information is up to date. The very prettiest are made of printed chiffon to be worn over a separate silk lining in any colour. These are inexpensive, a guinea covering the cost of some of them. The washing muslins are also dainty and fresh-looking. One of the sweetest of the blouses was in rucked black chiffon, with a trimming of turquoise and silver lace so disposed as to simulate a low bodice with the upper part filled in. The long sleeves were in rucked chiffon. White muslin blouses over colour had a tempting appearance, being hand-made and exquisitely finished. And there was one with lace trimmings crossing the front diagonally, and yet another with insertions carried all round, tucks filling in the intervals between them.

The silk petticoats there are made with the new skirt, the fulness rising at the back and serving to throw out the dress skirt effectually. Made of shot silk, with accordioned flounces, they are light as well as smart. Shirts of every description are to be worn, and among the prettiest were some with a trimming of frills curving upwards from the centre in front. They were in the new blue, green, pink, heliotrope, mauve, yellow, and every colour you can think of. They can be made to measure, which is always a great comfort.

I got the two Royal Crescent veils for you, and send them with this. They fit so comfortably on the hat or toque that they are the only ones we ever use. The newest are finely dotted with black on white. They are also made in blue, mauve, grey, and so on, to match the colour of the headgear.

In my last letter I spoke to you of hats at "Mme. Yorke's," Clifford-street. I am now asked to state that the name of the firm is "E. Yorke, Limited," only Mme. Yorke, of Conduit-street, having the right to use that name.

Christabel writes from Paris:—

Varnishing day at the Salon is looked to as setting a certain key-note to the fashions, so I will endeavour to give you an idea of the different styles. Cloth and foulard seemed to predominate. A very charming costume of silver-grey cloth had a plain round skirt and a chemisette of turquoise-blue fleur de velours under a long bolero of the grey cloth, entirely covered with narrow grey braid of the same tint. The bolero had large revers of the blue fleur de velours edged with a frilling of grey chiffon. The hat worn with this had a small crown of blue straw twisted round with blue tulle, and a blue paradise feather, and was raised on one side with a half-wreath of white roses. A young girl looked very well in navy blue foulard with white spots, made with a plain skirt, the foulard bodice covered with a bolero of Irish

"MADGE'S" advice for smart and original Shirts, Blouses, Veils, Hosiery, Gloves, &c., "LEE, of Wigmore-street has no equal."

guipure over a full front of white silk muslin; the sleeves were foulard with epaulettes of Irish guipure, the neck and waistband of white soft silk. The toque matched, consisting of dark blue straw with two blue wings.

A black foulard with a white pattern in it was most tastefully made. The bodice had a kind of rounded yoke of Venetian guipure over white satin, with a high neck-band and a ruche of white satin and guipure at the back. Round the foot of the skirt and also below the yoke on the bodice were three rows of white satin ribbon. The hat worn with this was straw-coloured *crin*, or horse hair, with pale green aigrettes and a half-wreath of variegated roses. Another dress I admired was white silk with a black satin stripe about half-an-inch wide. The skirt was plain, but over the bodice was a smart little cape of black silk muslin, coming round the shoulders and leaving the arms and slim waist quite free; a black capote with pink roses finished this charming costume. A rather curious combination was a heliotrope foulard with small white pattern in front, a tablier of white taffetas with five rows of Chantilly insertion going across it. The bodice was a tight-fitting coat of green cloth with large cut steel buttons; under this a waistcoat of striped mauve and green glacé with smaller steel buttons; the mauve straw hat was loaded with cherries.

There were some rather nice mantles in cashmere, of the same colour as the dress, in what they call the 1840 shape, edged with frills of silk muslin; but these are most suitable for middle-aged people (if there are any such nowadays). Jackets of all makes and descriptions were to be seen, and long boléros, embroidered, braided, and ornamented in every way. What I admire most this season is the pale shade of cloth so much in vogue; not mastic, but more the colour of new leather. This, trimmed with guipure of a creamy tint is exquisite, especially for young girls and young women, but the material must be cloth or cashmere to succeed. Silk does not take the same hue. A plain skirt, with guipure on the bodice, is lovely, either as yoke or revers over white satin, and on the cuffs; and remember, if you are bent on economy, the same material will dye with a darker shade when you are tired of it. I must not forget to add, as the result of my observations in this varied crowd, that blouses seem on the decline. The bodices had still waistbands of different styles, satin, and jewelled; but the backs were all plain and tight, and the fronts, though not fitting closely with seams, and pleats, and darts, were not baggy or pouchy.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—Last week little did we heed how the great world was spinning down the ringing grooves of change; it was our National Race Meeting week, Punchestown, in the first place, and Leopardstown, a little way after, claimed our whole attention. We had to go to Punchestown on Tuesday and Wednesday, and to Leopardstown on Friday and Saturday—enough, in all conscience, to occupy an average mind. Of course, we all do not do the four days, but we prepare for and talk of doing them, and do nothing else, so that it comes to much the same thing in the end. And then all of us who are advanced enough to be betting women—no inconsiderable number—faithfully attend every day. A matter of necessity when the object is to "spot winners," for, to judge by Fred, who works on the same lines, the business of spotting winners seems to have a way of getting postponed from day to day; in fact, like hope, it is principally distinguished by the possession of a great future. What an advance our sex have made since the days—not so very long ago—when our wagering was, in a comparatively innocent way, confined to gloves, parasols, &c. Then we advanced to having our men manage a little business for us with the bookmakers, and behold us now—so easy of descent is the slope—doing the whole thing for ourselves. But the women being, as Mrs. Poyser says, made to match the men, our progress was bound to take other, as well as serious, directions. I wonder if the modern débutante condescends to "chocolate cream" wagers, as we used to do. It depends, no doubt, on the extent of her modernity. Some girls "come out" now finished women of the world, not only willing to teach their grandmothers, but capable of teaching them too.

The first day of Punchestown was a real good day's outing in the sense of allowing one to feel happy out of doors. Grumblers took exception to the cold wind, and without it, no doubt, would have grumbled at the heat of the sunshine. Lord and Lady Cadogan, with their visitors and a Viceregal suite, drove up the course in the State carriages just before the first race. Lord Londonderry, who, with his daughter, Lady Helen Stewart, was one of the party, was received with great friendliness. He had his arm in a sling, as also had another Viceregal guest, Lady Gerard. The Punchestown "house party" was not so large as usual at the Viceregal Lodge. It included several members of Lord Cadogan's family, Lord and Lady Chelsea, lately returned from abroad, Lady Lurgan, Lady Sophie Scott, and the Honourables Gerald, E., and A. Cadogan.

Lord and Lady Mayo brought a large party from Palmerston, Lord Coventry, Mr. C. Coventry, Lord and Lady Huntingdon, Lord Connemara, Lord and Lady Rossmore, Mr. Gerald and Lady Maria Ponsonby. Colonel Crichton's guests included Lady Annesley and Lord Enniskillen—whose daughter, Lady Kathleen Cole, was with the Viceregal party. Lord and Lady Downe, with their daughters, came from the Curragh, and the Lord Chief Justice, Sir Peter O'Brien, with a number of visitors from Castletown. Sir Peter is quite a Kildare and hunting man now; at Punchestown the dread chief administrator of law and order in Ireland was completely merged in the smiling and genial Steward of the National Races. Other representatives of the Irish Bench were also to be seen, including Mr. Justice Ross and Mr. Justice Madden. Lord Roberts chaperoned his daughters, and headed the list of stewards of the military races.

The enclosure was a brilliant sight in the sunshine, when wraps were in abeyance—a regular spring costume garden. Every one gets new frocks, and, above all, new headgear—the most discriminating eye cannot differentiate more closely on the latter subject—for Punchestown. The season forbids the airy extravagances of Ascot, and what is called the fullest dress, the general dress impression being of the tailor-made kind—with extra elaboration, however. Lady Cadogan wore brown cloth, trimmed with black braid, with an elaborate black and blue toque, or was it a bonnet? On the second day her costume was prettier, pink roses and green leaves on her head, a fawn cloth dress, with a short jacket with wide white and black revers. The amount of mixed costumes of blue and violet in every variety of shade was quite remarkable on Wednesday. They were worn by Ladies Lurgan, Sophie Scott, Helen Stewart, Huntingdon, and many others. One only caught occasional glimpses of them, however, as the showery weather of that day brought macintoshes and tweed capes greatly in evidence. It was quite different from Tuesday. One of the most distinguished-looking toilets was Lady Chelsea's, very pale grey, with a Russian blouse of astrachan and a mauve hat. Lady Milton looked youthful in a black moiré velours dress and big hat; Lady Annesley wore grey, as also did Lady Fingall, Lady Lettrington, and Lady Aline Beaumont. Lady Blake seemed to enjoy revisiting her native land, and was, no doubt, able to give a good deal of information regarding the Cuban question, after all her West Indian experiences. Much needed, too. What an insight one gets into the ignorance of "society" when any new "question" arises. How few know any geography even, except what one might call that of their own set. Military hospitality was, as usual, dispensed with much prodigality, and luncheons and teas were given by several of the leading Dublin Clubs. We were guilty of more than one tea. Is there any more seductive meal for a day out? Does not the Queen show an excellent example to her subjects in her patronage of it? Apropos of Royalty, the courtiers in the enclosure were quite enthusiastic when the horse of the Prince of Wales came in a winner in one of the races.

The Leopardstown days were most dreadful, especially Saturday. April could not have been more spiteful, even renouncing its fickle character in favour of unmitigated bad weather. And yet the army of martyrs of both sexes who attended the race meeting was very large.—Yours ever, CLARE.

Here are the recipes that I promised to send you. You will find this a simple way of dressing soles a

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

HUNTING.—An elegant and graceful up-to-date figure is created by the easy and perfect fit of the ingenious and appropriate Stays built by Mesdames SYKES, JOSEPHINE, & Co., The Celebrated Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-st., Oxford-circus, London, W.

la Cardinal. The prawns make it a very attractive dish :—

Fillet a pair of nice soles and put the bones on to make stock for the sauce. Trim the fillets, season them with pepper, salt, and lemon juice, fold the fillets over and place them, with the ends curved to the centre, on a saucepan, season them with pepper, salt, and lemon juice, moisten them with a little stock from the bones, cover them with a greased paper and cook them in a moderate oven for twenty minutes. Remove the shells from the body, but not from the heads, of a dozen fine prawns and warm them in a little stock in the oven. Arrange the fillets in a circle, pour the pink sauce over all and stick a prawn, in an upright position, on each one. The sauce is made in this way :—Dissolve an ounce of butter in a stewpan, mix in a dessertspoon of flour and the fish stock, stir it until boiling and strain. Return the sauce to the stewpan, season with pepper, salt, and lemon juice, add the yolk of an egg, a little cream, and a teaspoonful of lobster spawn previously passed through a hair sieve.

Bouchées à l'aspic are a charming cold entrée :—

Pound the breast of a chicken, or half a pound of white veal, add the yolk of an egg and two tablespoonfuls of white sauce, season it with salt and pepper, and rub through a fine wire sieve. Now work the forcemeat in a basin with a wooden spoon, adding half a pint of thick cream gradually, mix in a tablespoonful of chopped tongue and a teaspoonful of chopped truffle. Steam it in small, buttered bouchée moulds, which may be decorated with diamond-shaped pieces of truffle and tongue. When they are quite cold cover each one with cold, liquid aspic, and allow them to set. Meanwhile, cut some cold carrots, beetroot, and potatoes, with a pea-shaped cutter, mix them with thick mayonnaise sauce, adding a few green peas, season them with salt and cayenne pepper. Now form the vegetables into a dome in the centre of a dish, make a border of chopped aspic, and arrange the creams, the round side upwards, all over the top, garnish the interstices with chopped aspic and sprigs of watercress.

You will find these little puddings à la Princess Maud very delicate :—

Rub two tablespoonfuls of apricot jam through a wire sieve and put it with 3 whole eggs and a tablespoonful of vanilla sugar into an egg-bowl. Whisk it over a stewpan of boiling water on the stove for twenty minutes, add 5 sheets of dissolved gelatine, and continue whisking it until it is cold. Then add ½ pint of whipped cream, and pour it at once into small, wetted moulds. Turn it out and serve apricot sauce round it. For which :—Mix two tablespoonfuls of apricot jam with a wineglass of sherry and a few drops of vanilla essence, then rub it through a hair sieve.

Ever your loving cousin, MADGE.

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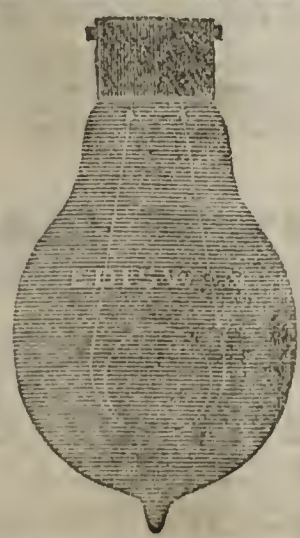

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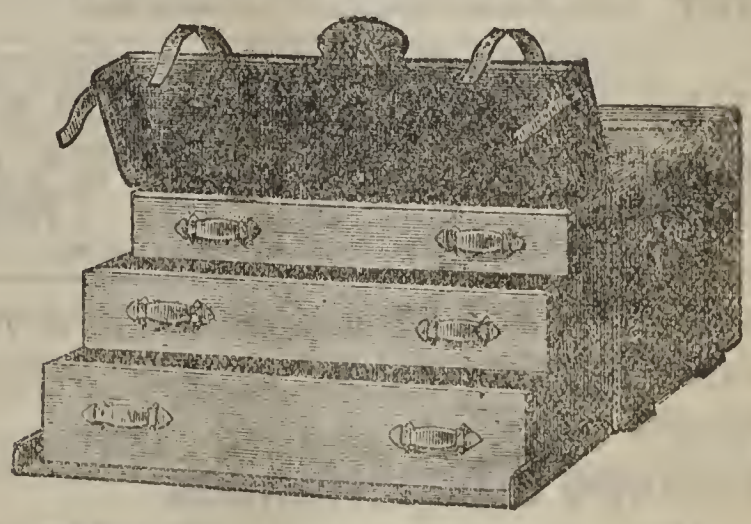

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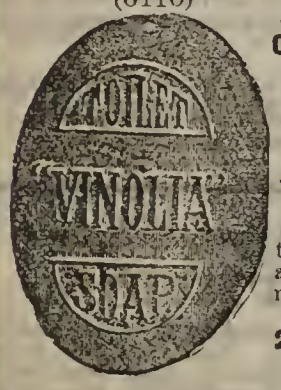

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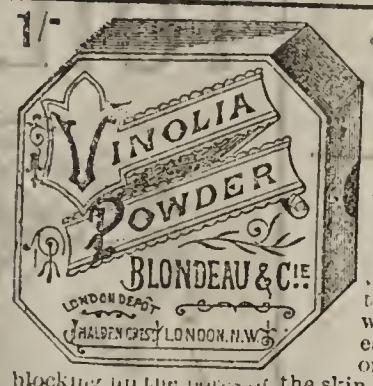

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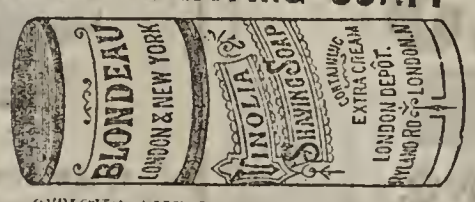

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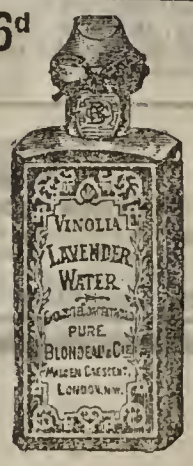

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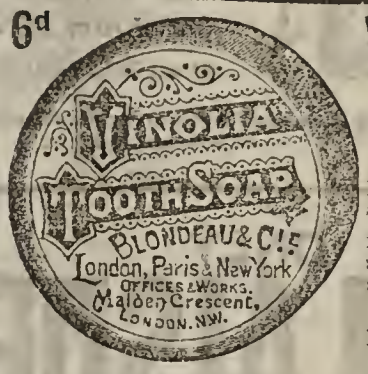

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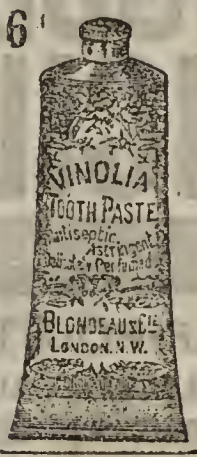

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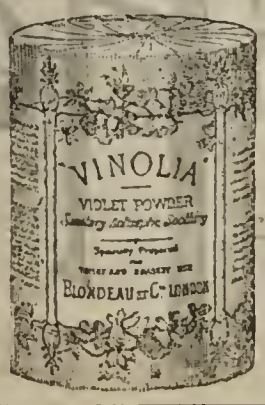

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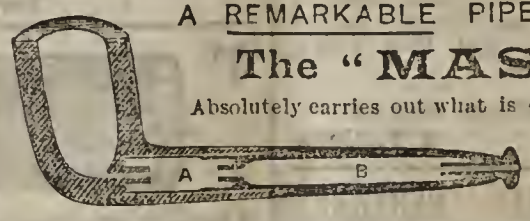

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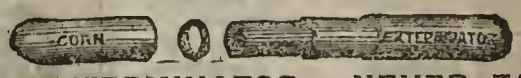

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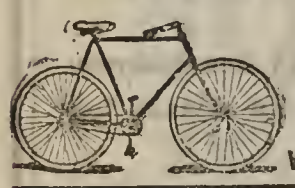

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SAML. J. PIPKIN
Secretary.

The Central London Throat and Ear Hospital,
Gray's Inn-road, W.C.,
December 14, 1891.

I have much pleasure in testifying to the excellence of the principle of the Homacoustic Speaking Tube Instruments, as well as to the perfect workmanship of the tubes fitted at this Hospital.

Quite independently of sanitary reasons it is decidedly more agreeable to have a Speaking Tube by which all blowing and breathing into the face are avoided. There is no difficulty whatever in its employment.

LENNOX-BROWNE, F.R.C.S.E.,
Senior Surgeon to the Hospital.

Beware of Fraudulent Imitations. Infringers will be prosecuted. Send for Explanatory Pamphlet and Price List Free by Post.

THE HOMACOUSTIC COMPANY, Head Offices and Showroom, 6, Bruton-street, New Bond-street, W.

POSITIVELY
PRODUCES
HAIR.

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OUSTACHES.

"TATCHO"

THE "GEORGE R. SIMS" HAIR RESTORER.]

GROWS
BEAUTIFUL
BOUNTIFUL
HAIR.

MAKES
WOMEN'S
TRESSES
SOFT
AND
SILKEN.

A
DELIGHTFUL
HAIR
WASH
AND
TONIC.

BEST
FOR
THE
TOILET
TABLE.

"TATCHO" is sold by all Chemists and Hairdressers throughout the World in Bottles, **2s. 9d.** and **5s.**, or can be had post-free direct from the office, 11, Farringdon-avenue, E.C., on receipt of Postal Order for **3s.** or **5s. 4d.** Cheques and P.O.'s should be made payable to the "George R. Sims" Hair Restorer Company, and crossed Union Bank.

"GEORGE R. SIMS" HAIR RESTORER COMPANY, Ltd., 11, Farringdon-avenue, City, E.C.

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OVER 8,000,000 BOTTLES SOLD IN ONE YEAR.

YORKSHIRE RELISH

THE MOST DELICIOUS SAUCE IN THE WORLD.
Makes the Plainest Viands Palatable, and the Daintiest Dishes more Delicious.
Enriches Soups, Stews, Chops, Steaks, Fish, etc.
Sold in Bottles, 6d., 1s., and 2s. each.
Sole Proprietors: GOODALL, BACKHOUSE, & CO., LEEDS.

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HAIR RENEWER

ts the Hair from falling off.
es Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL
LOUR.
delicately perfumed it leaves no unpleasant
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a dye, and therefore does not stain the
in or even white linen.
be in every house where a HAIR RENEWER
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ur Chemist or Hairdresser for

E MEXICAN HAIR
RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per large Bottle.
Prepared only by the
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FARRINGDON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.

IS THE BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE IN THE WORLD.

Prevents the Decay of Teeth.
Renders the Teeth Pearly White.
Is perfectly Harmless and
Delicious to the Taste.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World
2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER
Put up in Glass Jars, price 1s.

The List will CLOSE on WEDNESDAY, 4th MAY prox., at 12 o'clock noon.

THE

North Mount Lyell Copper Co. Ltd.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL - - - - - £500,000,

IN 500,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH, OF WHICH

465,000 SHARES HAVE BEEN ISSUED AND ARE FULLY PAID, AND THE REMAINING 35,000 SHARES ARE RESERVED FOR FUTURE ISSUE.

Issue of £200,000 Five per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures at par, redeemable by the Company at £105 on 30th June, 1908, or at any previous date during their currency, on six months' notice, at £110 per £100.

The Debentures will be secured by a Trust Deed, creating in favour of the Trustees a first charge upon the entire undertaking and property of the Company, including the Company's Railway from the Mount Lyell Mines to Macquarie Harbour. The Trust Deed will provide for the creation of a sinking fund of £20,000 out of the profits of the Company in each year for redemption of the issue by drawings or by purchase in the market commencing on 1st July, 1900, also that the sum of £20,000 shall be deposited with the Trustees to meet the first two years' interest. Debenture holders will have the option, to be exercised before 1st July, 1900, of exchanging their Debentures for fully-paid Shares of the Company at the rate of 17½ Shares for each £100 of Debentures, or as nearly as may be, any fractional difference being adjusted in cash. The 35,000 Shares now unissued are reserved for this purpose.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE HOLDERS.

General Sir Hugh Gough, V.C., G.C.B., I.S.C.
Williams Jacks, Esq., D.L., J.P.

DIRECTORS.

William Jacks, Glasgow, and 23, Leadenhall-street, E.C., *Deputy Chairman.*
Leonard R. Higgins, 9, Drapers'-gardens, E.C.
John S. MacArthur, Glasgow, and 56, New Broad-street, E.C.
D. J. Mackay, 133, Leadenhall-street, E.C.

AUSTRALIAN BOARD.

J. P. Lonergan, *Chairman.* | George Moore.
Hector MacDonald. | C. E. Packer.

ENGINEER IN CHIEF AND GENERAL MANAGER.—Alfred Clayton, M.Inst.C
BANKERS.—The British Linen Company Bank, 41, Lombard-street, E.C.; H Office, Edinburgh, and Branches in Scotland.
BROKERS.—Messrs. Derenburg & Co., 9, Drapers'-gardens, E.C.
SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Renshaw, Kekewich, & Smith, 2, Suffolk-lane, E.C.
SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—Thomas Urquhart, 153-155, Leadenhall-street, E

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

THE NORTH MOUNT LYELL COPPER COMPANY, LIMITED, offer the above 5 per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures, payable at the Company's Bankers as follows:—£5 per Cent. on Application; £20 per Cent. on Allotment; £25 per Cent. on 1st July, 1898; £25 per Cent. on 1st October, 1898; £25 per Cent. on 1st January, 1899.

The whole amount may be paid up on Allotment, or with any instalment, under discount at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

The Debentures will be issued in amounts of £100, £50, and £10, payable to bearer, with coupons attached for the half-yearly payment of interest, which shall be due and payable in London on each 1st May and 1st November. The first payment of interest, calculated from the dates of payment of the respective instalments, will be made on 1st November, 1898. Provision will be made for registration of Bonds by holders who so desire.

The North Mount Lyell Copper Company, Limited, was established on the 20th September, 1897, for the purpose of acquiring and working on an extended scale the remarkable copper mine owned by the North Mount Lyell Mining Company, in the Colony of Tasmania, and for the construction of a mining tramway from the mine to Macquarie Harbour, and the building of a wharf there, for the erection of smelters on the line of tramway, and for the other purposes specified in the Company's Memorandum of Association.

Since the incorporation of the Company, and in response to an application then pending, the Parliament of Tasmania passed an Act empowering the North Mount Lyell Mining Company, to construct and work a public railway instead of the mining tramway for which that Company, along with other companies, already held easements, and thus the North Mount Lyell Copper Company is now a railway and public carrying company as well as a mine-owning Company.

The cash capital of the Company at the time of incorporation only provided funds for the construction of its share of the mining tramway and a limited smelting plant. As, however, the public railway must be constructed and equipped on a scale sufficient for public requirements, and the service closely connected by swift steamer with Australia as a necessary adjunct to the railway, and the discovery of the new ore body having rendered much larger smelting works necessary, it is now incumbent on the Company to provide sufficient capital for these purposes.

The Company's property now consists of—

(1) Three contiguous blocks of ten acres each, held under mining leases from the Crown, which carry the right not only to the copper, but also to the gold and silver which are an important part of the mineral wealth of the Mine;

(2) Eighteen acres or thereabouts, being the site of the smelting and reduction works;

(3) Water rights, forest rights, and sundry other reservations and easements;

(4) A concession from the Parliament of Tasmania to construct a railway from the Company's Mines to Macquarie Harbour, a distance of about thirty miles.

EXTENT AND VALUE OF THE ORE BODIES.—The ore bodies owned by the Company are now proved to be of vast extent and richness. They consist of what is known as the Eastern Ore Body, the Western Ore Body, and the New Development, more properly described as the Main Ore Body. These several ore bodies are expected as the result of further exploration and at depth to develop into one vast continuous deposit.

The Eastern Ore Body so far has been explored to a length of 123 feet, an average width of 45 feet, and to a depth of 225 feet, giving approximately 138,375 tons of ore of an average assay value of £11 19s. per ton or £1,591,313. The Western Ore Body has now been explored for a length of 100 feet, an average width of 30 feet, a depth of 165 feet, and has an average assay value of £9 14s. per ton, in all £533,500. The Main Ore Body outcrop has a length of 205 feet, average width of 95 feet, and has been struck by No 3 Tunnel at a depth of 120 feet. The indications are that the mass widens in depth, but assuming the boundaries to be only the same at 120 feet as at the surface, the value of this ore—copper glance and erubescite—set down at £15 per ton, is £3,894,990.

The total value of the ore, according to above estimate, is	£6,019,803
Allow 20 per cent. for unforeseen contingencies (£1,203,960), and deduct cost of production, taking smelting at 15s. per ton, transport and mining, freight of copper, refining and other charges, 15s., in all 30s. per ton of ore, or on 453,041 tons (£679,561) ...	1,883,522
Leaving estimated profit	£4,136,281

In view of the facts that these ore bodies have increased in magnitude and value as depth has been attained, and that no account is taken of the large quantities of low grade, though nevertheless good paying ore passed through, the above estimate of the ore actually in sight, and which will be available for treatment when the works are complete, must be regarded as extremely safe. It will be noted that reference is only made to ore bodies exposed, but it is confidently expected that as developments progress an infinitely larger ore body will be proved. The above figures are based on the recent average price of copper, say £50 per ton.

RAILWAY.—The North Mount Lyell and Macquarie Harbour Railway Act requires the Railway to be completed within four years from 15th December, 1897, the date of the passing of the Act, and also provides that the Government can, with the consent of Parliament, purchase the railway and rolling stock after the completion of 21 years from the date of the Act upon the terms and compensation therein set out. Although this right of purchase will not arise within the currency of the present Debentures, the Trust Deed will be so framed as to include any monies payable in respect of such purchase compensation as part of the Debenture Holder's security.

At the time the present Company was formed, the ore deposits of the Mount Lyell mineral field, including those of this Company were not so well assured either as to magnitude or value as has since been proved. Other mining properties of considerable promise have also recently been discovered on the route of the Company's railway. A greatly increased demand for railway and smelting facilities is therefore now created, and the Directors consider it necessary to construct a railway and provide all other facilities capable of coping with the altered conditions as to traffic and smelting requirements. The route of the Company's Railway being on the eastern side of the range of mountains through which the lode formation runs may be expected to command the traffic of the Tasman Lyell, and the Mount Lyell Comstock Company situated to the north of this Company's property, and of the Mount Lyell Consols, Mount Lyell Extended, Mount Lyell Mining and Railway, and Sc Mount Lyell Mining Companies to the south.

The mining and smelting operations to be carried on in this district and subsidiary industries necessarily following thereon will demand the labour of a large population whose ordinary necessaries of life must of themselves constitute a large railway traffic. In addition to this the local passenger traffic is likely to be a good source of revenue. There is already an Abt or rack railway belonging to the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company, Limited, which passes down the Queen River valley, from that Company's smelters to Teepakana, about eight miles from the sea. This railway is already overworked, and cannot carry more traffic than is necessary for the requirements of its own line. The North Mount Lyell Railway cannot, therefore, be regarded as a competitor but will serve the field on its own route—the King River valley—which is quite distinct and apart from that of the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company's line.

The Directors have considered it advisable to submit the estimates of cost of the new works and of probable traffic, to Messrs. P. W. and C. S. Meik, M.M.I.C.E., of London and Edinburgh, and on the information laid before them these gentlemen estimate the probable total cost to provide and equip the railway, steamer, smelting plant, and wharf accommodation at Port Macquarie at the sum of £220,000. It will be obvious that the railway when completed will constitute a highly important asset of the Company, and would of itself be adequate security for the present issue of Debentures. Messrs. Meik estimate the net revenue of the Railway alone at £25,000 per annum. Their report may be seen at the offices of the Company.

The construction of the Railway is already in progress, and as far as constructed, has been paid for, so that the cash capital already expended and in hand, with the proceeds of this issue of debentures, amply provides for the completion of the Works.

The quotation of the Company's Shares may be considered to justify the expectation that the Company might have sold "en bloc" the 35,000 Shares in reserve at a price that might command the bulk of the further capital required. In view, however, of the enormous increase in extent and value of the Company's ore bodies, and the greatly enhanced importance of the Company's railway, the Directors feel that by selling the reserved Shares at the present time they would not so truly conserve the interests of the Shareholders as by negotiating the present temporary Debenture issue, and redeeming it after the mine and railway are in full and efficient working, when it may be reasonably expected that the market price of the Company's Shares will more closely approximate the value of the Company's assets. With the object, however, of ensuring that the Shareholders shall have the first opportunity of securing the benefits accruing to participants in this Debenture issue, prospectuses will only be sent to Shareholders. Applications from Shareholders, lodged at the London Office of the British Linen Company Bank, not later than noon, on Wednesday, the 4th May prox., will be preferentially considered, but no application will be entertained for a less sum than £100.

Applications on the form enclosed with this Prospectus and accompanied by the stipulated deposit on the amount of Stock applied for, will be received by the Bankers of the Company.

Full Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Bankers and Brokers, and at the offices of the Company.

London, April 29th, 1898.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE

63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.

THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD

SUN FIRE OFFICE FOUNDED 1710

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EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

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The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

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THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd. Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

H. HALFORD and COMPANY,

70 and 71, Palmerston Buildings, Old Broad Street, London.

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Business in Stocks and Shares at close prices.

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NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.
Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.
A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

ALFRED CARTER, LIMITED

47, HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON, E.C.

New and Extensive SHOWROOMS 31 and 32, SHOE LANE, E.C. (Midway between Holborn-circus and Ludgate-circus). (*ONLY ADDRESSES*)

INVALIDS' MECHANICAL FURNITURE, BATH CHAIRS, &c.
Maker and Inventor of VIADUCT AMBULANCE LITTER, *used all over the World.*

BRIGHTON BATH CHAIR

SPINAL AND BATH CHAIR COMBINED.

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BATH CHAIR.

SELF-PROPELLING AND CARRYING CHAIR COMBINED

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FOR COMPLAINTS of the STOMACH, LIVER, etc., DRINK

VICHY CELESTINS Spring

Caution: See that each bottle has a neck label with VICHY-ÉTAT & the name of the Sole Importers: INGRAM & ROYLE, Ltd, 26, Upper Thames Street, LONDON, E.C.

FOR UPWARDS OF FIFTY YEARS THE

PREMIER NURSERY LAMP.

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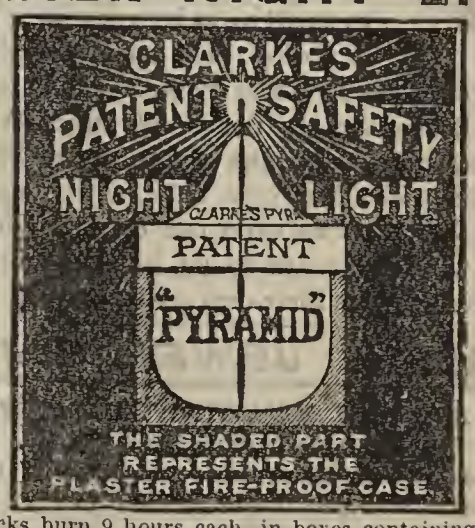
PREMIER NIGHT LIGHT.



Single Wicks burn 9 hours each, in boxes containing 8 Lights.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Clarke's "Pyramid" & "Fairy" Light Co., Ltd., Cricklewood, London, N.W.

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OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,
MISS EMILY FAITHFUL,
THE LATE GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,

and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of

Himrod's Cure for Asthma.

Established over a Quarter of a Century.

Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, LYNCH & CO., J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS, & CO., BUTLER & CRISPE, JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale Houses.

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WORLD-FAMED

BLOOD MIXTURE

Warranted to cleanse the blood from all Impurities from *whatever* cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it removes the *cause* from the Blood and bones. Thousands of Wonderful Cures have been effected by it. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each, of Chemists everywhere.

BEWARE OF WORTHLESS IMITATIONS.

Cadbury's cocoa

"The Standard of Highest Purity."—*The Lancet.*

"The favourite Cocoa of the day. For Nourishment there is nothing superior to be found."—*MEDICAL MAGAZINE.*

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of this SIZE

Can be made to open any number of Locks. Many Ladies and Gentlemen have the whole of their locks so arranged that **a MASTER KEY,** so small as to be worn in a finger-ring or locket, will open every lock they possess—from their Dressing Bags, Trunks, Jewel Cases, Despatch Boxes, &c., to the Front Door, Wine Cellar, Park Gates, &c. **Just think of the Convenience!** The locks are made in suites, each suite with its own key, so that the ladies' maid or valet can open the luggage, the butler the wine cellar, and so on, but the suite keys are of no use for any but their own series.

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BURGLAR AND FIRE RESISTING, SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR BED AND DRESSING ROOMS.

Specialities in fitted Suite Cases and Dressing Bags, Jewel Cases, Despatch and Deed Boxes, Bramah Street Door Latches, with small keys, Bramah Padlocks for Bicycles, with Leather-covered Chains, &c. &c.

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Sole Manufacturers of the real Bramah Locks.

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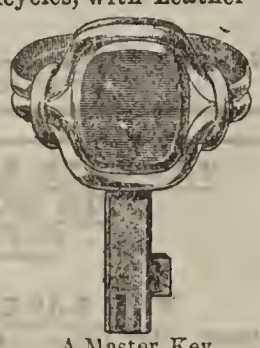

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Is the unfailing resource of every Lady of the House and successful Housekeeper, affording a constant variation in the daily menu.

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THE PINK OF PERFECTION.

A Wholesome and Agreeable Stimulant of Unrivalled Quality and Flavour.

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Sold Everywhere.

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OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,001.—ANAGRAM ON "THE FRANCO-RUSSIAN ALLIANCE IN THE FAR EAST."

DRY MONOPOLE (real name and address will be found published below) £1 1 0
R. F. (real name and address will be published in due course) £1 1 0

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,002.

I have not yet been able to collate the contents of the numerous lists of Public Buildings received; but hope to be in a position to announce the result of this competition next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,006.

A question has been asked by Mr. G. R. Sims in the *Referee*, which it may interest the readers of TRUTH to try and answer. Is it possible, he inquired, to designate in one word the offence which is usually described as "riding-in-a-railway-carriage-of-a-superior-class-to-that-for-which-the-fare-has-been-paid." The usual prize of Two Guineas is offered to the competitor who proves most successful

IN SUGGESTING SUCH A WORD AS WILL SERVE FOR THE ABOVE PURPOSE.

It is very doubtful whether there is any word now existing in the language which will be available. Probably, therefore, competitors will have themselves to invent the words they suggest. Each competitor may send in as many suggestions as he pleases. All answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, May 16, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of ROUGHTY, winner of Prize No. 986, is Philip A. McCarthy, Esq., Ballyre, Killeagh, co. Cork.

*** The real name, with the address, of SCOTUS VIATOR, winner of Prize No. 989, is J. S. Shepard, Esq., 31, Billing-road, Northampton.

*** The real name, with the address, of DOMBEY, winner of Prize No. 996, is George Cuttle, Esq., 4, Gordon-road, Wanstead.

*** The real name, with the address, of CARRADABIA, winner of a fourth part of Prize No. 999, is Miss Irene G. Poyser, Burniston, Sydenham.

*** The real name, with the address, of LYSWYS, winner of a fourth part of Prize No. 999, is E. Arblaster, Esq., Glovers-road, Small Heath, Birmingham.

*** The real name, with the address, of LEILA, winner of a fourth part of Prize No. 999, is Mrs. Donaldson, Eastmere, Tottington, Thetford.

*** The real name, with the address, of DINAH, winner of a fourth part of Prize No. 999, is Captain Lennox, R.A., Aldershot.

*** The real name, with the address, of BEAUMONT, winner of Prize No. 1,000 is John G. Welch, Esq., Hillsborough, Kidderminster.

*** The real name, with the address, of DRY MONOPOLE, winner of half of Prize 1,001, is H. P. Hubbard, Esq., Crowhurst, Campden-road, South Croydon.

SCOTUS VIATOR.—Many thanks for your suggestion.

W. NEVERMORE.—I will substitute your amended answer for that first sent by you. For your suggestion I am very much obliged.

NIN NIN.—It has given me much pleasure to comply with your very reasonable wish.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,003.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

STANZAS CONTAINING RHYMES TO THE WORDS "JONATHAN" AND "MEXICO."

The landsman was no sooner wrecked on Cape Colonna than
His former pangs were all forgotten; he was deck-sick, oh!
This moral may commend itself to Brother Jonathan,
If Spain from Cuba driven yields its rule to Mexico. Canute.

"Spain's cruel," by those she has tried to annex; Echo
Answers, "Spain's cruel, remember poor Mexico."
Now she cannot regain her prestige with more honour than
By resisting the claims of importunate Jonathan. Nodding Violet.

Too late to remember when thou'rt of wrecks sick, O
Spain, that 'twere better t'invoke the Madonna than
Follow the example of Impudent Mexico,
Trying conclusions with bold Brother Jonathan. Koddeldok.

Better for Spain to remember her honour than
Truckle obsequiously to Friend Jonathan.
Let Spain attack; very soon of his wrecks sick, oh,
Won't he wish himself banished to Mexico! Koddeldok.

In Isle of Thanet you may con a "than"
With "th" hard like end of Jonathan:
But graphers with the prefix "lexico"
Provide no perfect rhyme to Mexico. Eboracum.

To seek the sprightliest of her sex I go
Not to the U. S. A., but Mexico;
I'd rather woo a Spanish donna than
A relative of cousin Jonathan. Eboracum.

When things and persons are compared, all hinges, sure, upon a than;
For instance, there's no bigger Boss—in his esteem—than "Jonathan,"
Who flaunts his dollars, from New York, throughout the States, to Mexico,
Drinks "cocktails," and supports the trade of each "French Champagne (sec) Cie." (Co.).*
La Plata.

* Explanatory English of the French "Cie."

Amongst our learned, there are some who write as graphers (Lexico),
And some who tell us all about such distant lands as Mexico,
And some when to compare with "more," and how it hangs upon a than,
And how our spelling differs much from that of cousin Jonathan. La Plata.

My name's Ap Rhys Ap Jenkyns, an' I comes from Merioneth, an'
I'm coin' to the colden lant, the lant of Cousin Jonathan;
An', please us, when I've peen through California an' Mexico,
To Tawson City, Klondyke, an' the Yukon River nex' I eo. Burgage.

A Spaniard who sought a divorce in far Mexico,
Cried, as he seized his wife's paramour, "Ecce Co'!"*
The culprit was Yankee; and therefore the Don hath an
Obvious grievance against Cousin Jonathan. Harpsichord.

* Behold the co-respondent!

Calm down your wrath; keep your hair on, old Jonathan,
Under your vest let there not be a speck sick. O,
Better that Spain should be still prima donna than
Angry notes ruffle the Gulf Stream of Mexico. Rabelais.

A Welshman, christened Jonathan,
Once joined a Middlesexy "Co.,"
Which worked from Merioneth an
Electric wire to Mexico. Rabelais.

The Spaniard now with deadly hatred conneth 'un
That's known as Uncle Sam or Brother Jonathan;
Let's hope war's dogs, that yelping co., that yexy co.,
Will soon be silenced in the Gulf of Mexico. Cestrian.

It was calm, and he breathed deeper love for the donna than
The proverbial affection of David and Jonathan;
Till "Caramba!" she cried, as she lay on the deck sick, "O
Madre di Dios! why did we leave Mexico?" Whig.

Your girls are fair, friend Jonathan,
Their praise the rougher sex echo,
And say they're far more bonny than
The dusky belles of Mexico. Apemantus.

I'd rather be, good Jonathan,
(You'll find my words in lexico),
A help in Arizona than
A heavy swell in Mexico. Newton.

A little, lithping girl upon a Than
Fwanthithco farm, out in a very pecksy co.,
Came to be cured by Dr Jonathan,
And now pronounces quite distinctly "Mexico." Newton.

You're not a bad hand at a lexico—
Graphical word-slinging combat, friend Jonathan,
But you're entered, remember, upon a than-
Atological bout with a stronger than Mexico. Sterne.

Can you be thinking of "grab," brother Jonathan;
Under the spell of the World's Great "Annexy" Co.;
Bringing more terror to sweet Spanish Donna than
Apaché hordes to her sisters of Mexico! Tom Nissed.

Last year a Spanish Don, who was escorting a great Donna then,
About whose loveliness men raved, toured in the land of Jonathan;
And really it was the strangest thing to hear the softer sex echo
The male opinion of her charms, whose fame spread clean to Mexico. Ooloo.

When the husband heard the verdict he'd a fit of apoplexy. Co-
Respondent and the lady went to "live it down" in Mexico.
'Twas an error, for there's no more a stickler for your honour than
The prudish so-called moralist that's known as Brother Jonathan. Cabbage.

Bellona rampant in the States, for war wi' all her sex i' co;
And all about the Cuban Isle that blocks the Gulf of Mexico.
Yet few or none have more to gain from constant peace with honour than,
The gay "mixed pickles" who reside beneath the sway of Jonathan. Scrivener.

Seeking a thief who had collared some cheques I co—
Acted with Jules, a detective from Mexico;
In figure and face he was more like a donna than
Anything; he didn't like Brother Jonathan. W. W.

The war-clouds roll on every side—grim grows the face of Jonathan;
No doubt he feels his country will the praises of his sex echo;
But don't you think he'd rather meet a handsome, gentle Dona than
A warlike Don, who'd yield his life to save an inch of Mexico? Felixicus.

Let boom of guns from Spanish decks echo
Along the coast from Maine to Mexico;
Yet time will prove the haughty Don hath an
Unequal match with Brother Jonathan. Scissors.

There was a loud explosion, sharp as on a thunnery day, and woe it brought to brother Jonathan,
For 'twas his ship, the *Maine*, blown up—her decks echo
The shock that shivered her in Gulf of Mexico. Esperanza.

This Cuban affair is a hard nut for Jonathan,
Harder than Venezuela or Mexico;
How can he banish Don Blanco or Don Athanasius?.. Is it by means of an Annexy Co.? Excelsior.

He gave to me a lovelier Madonna than
Was ever painted by our clever Jonathan:
Therewith a weed of well-known brand of Mexico,
Alas, the day, it made me such a wreck, sick, O! N. Igma.

JONATHAN (IM)POSING AS DON QUIXOTE.

Thought wily, acute, warlike Brother Jonathan:
"I guess I'll get Cuba—himeby Mexico"—
The uncertain issue calculate—Con, ah then,
What wealth that wild whirlpool war's costly checks suck O! J. McGrigor Allan.

In vain I sit, and search throughout the "Lexico,"
To try and find a rhyming word with Jonathan;
And as for finding one to rhyme with Mexico,
I'd just as soon expect to find Johnson-athan. Ubique.

More extreme than the love of a David and Jonathan;
Than a Spaniard's for pretty gitana or donna, than
The American Eagle's for Cuba or Mexico,
Will that bird's record be, if from screamings to pecks he go. Robert Martin.

"VARIUM ET MUTABILE."

Uncertain counsels sway our brother Jonathan
Neath April sky *nec humido nec sicco*;
When Congress disagreed there shone a thin
Ray of bright hope o'er Gulf of Mexico.
B.H.P.

A Scotchman who voyaged to Mexico
Cried, while lying one day on the deck, sick, "O
Gie me some whuskey if aiblens a man hath an
Ounce." It was furnished him by brother Jonathan. Singeon.

You will find that the most democratic republic of Jonathan
Is no less jealous of all that affects its national honour than
The neighbouring proud oligarchic republic of Mexico,
Whose Cabinet well might adopt the appropriate title of "Rex y Co." Singeon.

Better welcome once more Spain's sweet prima donna than
Humble her country and race Brother Jonathan!
Let fresh vivas and homage to her and her sex echo,
Not the roar of great guns from Havana to Mexico.
Lyom Poore.

*** It is understood that Madame Patti contemplated making her very last appearance in the United States.

He sailed away upon a thun
D'ry day on board the *Mexico*,
But never went on deck, sick, O,
So sea-sick was poor Jonathan!
Pulchrior.

There's a metal when coined which is fated to vex eco-
Nomists, who wrangle like clergy upon Athan-
Asius; for while it's in favour in Mexico,
In the States it perplexes our dear Brother Jonathan. Creran.

Contentedly I'd live twelve months in Mexico,
And even rack my brains; to write a sonnet then,
Could I first hear the Spanish war-ships' decks echo
With the bold battle-cry of "Brother Jonathan."
Ooloo.

When I embark for Margate on a Than-
Et steamer, on her sunny decks I co-
Sy sit, with fragrant weed of Mexico,
Or cigarette from land of Jonathan.
Beaumont.

The harassed Dons of threatened raid and sack-sick owe
A heavy debt of hate to Brother Jonathan,
Will it be now as once before with Mexico?
Wait must we till the question new light dawneth on. Baritone.

This Cuban "snarl" McKinley sadly conneth in
Its various phases, even as erstwhile Mexico
Did furnish food for thought to Brother Jonathan
What wonder it should make the White House hack-sick O!
Baritone.

Hands off! the warning voice of Jonathan
Sends up to heaven against the don a thun-
-Der cry from Canada to Mexico;
Shouts every man, and the fair sex echo.
Daleth.

A blustering fellow is Jonathan,
Says he: "Would those Spanish dons vex I co';"
Then feathers and war-paint he donneth on,
Claims Cuba and casts eyes on Mexico.
Almaviva.

If you must go, here's success to you, Jonathan.
I shall prefer to be busy with lexico-
-Graphical toil, or to flirt with a donna, than
Fight with the Don and his warships off Mexico.
Mos.

You'll bet a sov.! you're on Nathan;
I'll baffle you and Jonathan;
To beat you both and vex Ike, oh,
I'd gladly sail to Mexico. Rose Leaf.

Whither away, O brother Jonathan?
Is it fair Cuba, to annex, ye go,
To stir the stew the Spanish don hath on?
Or are ye bound for golden Mexico?
Fishy.

Playing bully at Cuba pharisaical Jonathan,
Will acquire not a little more glory or honour than
He did when he played the same brutal game up in Mexico:
Let his ships open fire, then with groans may their decks echo. Impisi.

A famous Yank-e lexico-
-Grapher exclaimed in Mexico:
"Find me a fairer donna than
The Antilles' Queen for Jonathan!"
Pyramid.

A cute old chap is Jonathan!
He bests 'em all down Mexico;
He even tried it on Nathan,
That one-er to perplex a co. Pyramid.

A youngster would lisp out "astonathan!"
Should I show him the peas grown in Mexico;
I mean those grown by gardener Jonathan;
To send you some home, in for pecks I go.
Toria.

I am a partner, and my name is Jonathan,
On business oft I go to Mexico;
When there they shout to me, "On, Nathan!"
And isn't that enough to vex a co?
Mushroom.

Just my friends to vex I go
Once a year to Mexico;
When my incog.'s Mona, than
Which know you fitter, Jonathan?
Mona.

Says Spain to Uncle Jonathan:
"You made no fuss in Mexico,
When *I m* engaged upon a than-
-Kless task you rant and vex! I go."
Gadfly.

Hullo! I say, here is a vexy go,
I've got to find a rhyme for Mexico;
I'll ask my girl: she is a cuter donna than
Many a lynx-eyed lass of Brother Jonathan.
Loddiswell.

From Canada to Mexico
The Jingoes' yells did vex echo;
McKinley wav'd his bonnet then.
And cried, "Have at 'em, Jonathan."
Sahib.

Wars, battles, murders, horrors, wrecks, I co'
Ha' thought them petty states by Mexico.
Peace, peace, my lads! though honest John a'than-
—Kful 'd be to help his brother Jonathan.
Bathyllus.

In maddened rage, with outstretched necks, ico-
-Noclastic hands, like hordes of Mexico;
They break each cherished type — Luke, John, Nathan-
—Iel fall; then Moses, David, Jonathan.
Bathyllus.

Fer Cuba's folk I sympcrthise—wi' luv the luv of Jonathan,
An' Cuba's tyrint bold must quit, spech'ly when I warn'th un;
But should 'e not respec' the note, which shouts frem Maine ter Mexico,
Wall, then I mus' advance a pace, an' show him whar I 'spec's 'e go. J. B. Pope.

"No colonies," quoth Jonathan,
"Want I in Gulf of Mexico;
Though Cuba, p'rhaps, the don hath an
Idea to annex I go."
R. F.

Spain hath no lovelier "donna" than
The child of Brother Jonathan!
In vain from Middlesex I go
To find her peer in Mexico.
A. J. W.

Take warning, ere too late, brave cousin Jonathan,
Lest, Jingo-driven, Cuba to annex ye go;
For there are signs the Spanish don hath an
Alliance formed with far-off Mexico.
Scorpio.

Jonathan goes to Mexico!
But fairer what forth gone hath than
From all men those they vex sick go?
Or Mexico from Jonathan! S'pup.
The noble Spanish don hath an
Opponent strong in Jonathan;
I would help his cause, and vex his foe,
Should he beg aid from Mexico. Janet.

The Yankees dictate unto Spain, and want it at their beck, sick. Oh!
How they all flaunt the Stars and Stripes from New York State to Mexico!
"Than me there is no bigger Boss," says humble cousin Jonathan,
Whose grammar's bad, as in such phrase, an "I" should follow on a "than." La Plata.

Much more deadly the shafts of fond eyes, Brother Jonathan,
Be they lustrous with health or the dread bella-donna, than
Are the missiles of foemen in Cuba or Mexico,
Unless armed at all points 'gainst the failings of sex ye go. Robert Martin.

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To accept the Pope's aid, would not more, Brother Jonathan,
Tend to show your belief in the Papal Madonna, than
It would seem to imply that forthwith to annex ye go
(Being regions Papistical) Cuba or Mexico.
Robert Martin.

"Honor is poor, I know, said Jonathan;
"But I would rather marry Honor than
Be rich. If she says 'no,' 'twill vex me so,
I'll run away and live in Mexico."
Risk.

A sprightly young coster nam d Jonathan
Fell out one day with his dear donah, Fan;
He straightway shipped off for far Mexico,
And, winking, cried, "'Tis her to vex I go!"
Myrah.

Answers have also been received from Singelet, Cambridge, Hiriart, Zwartkop, Scotus Viator, Gwilt Gwalia, Beta, Wee John, Kasihan, Felixicus, Jemima, Tea Eye, Gadfly, Belle Majorky, Pseudonym, Culpepper, Gryphon, Sol, Hanworth, Don Quixote, Mat, O. P. Q., N. Igma, One Hand, A. P., Roseland, Ibycus, Candide, Hope, Omar Khayyam, T. I., Bel Demonio, A. P. L., Bridge, Adam Elmas, Ooloo, Cock Robin, Arron, Allspice, Creran, Sceptic, Warrington, Wayuflete, Floretta, Quatrebras, Guillaumette, Hejakes, G. F., Number Nine, Echo, Highwayman, Fleda, Sinona, Sissie, Mignon, E. M., Glenrosa, Nin Nin, Musafir, The Ram Rabbit, Lincoln, Cock Robin, Bangor, Ediora, Idiotes, Pyramid, and Aunt Isa.

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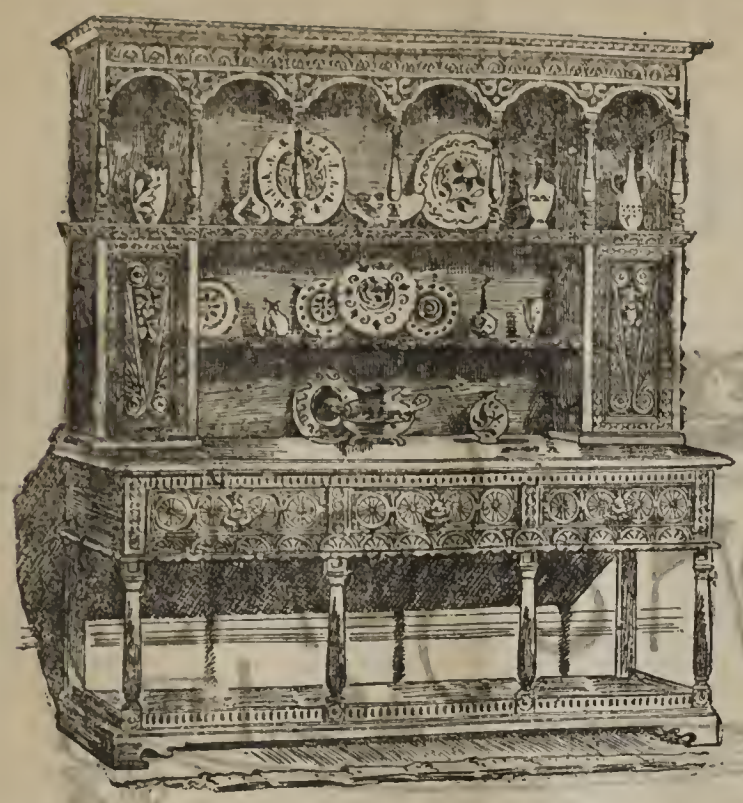

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TRUTH

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen will hold an Investiture at Windsor Castle before the departure of the Court for Balmoral. This will be only a small function, as there is to be another Investiture at Windsor early in July.

Her Majesty is to arrive at Balmoral on the afternoon of Saturday, the 21st, and she will return to Windsor Castle on the morning of Tuesday, June 21. The summer residence of the Court at Windsor will last for between three and four weeks, after which the Queen is going to Osborne until the end of August.

An evening journal announced on Thursday that during the Queen's stay in town this week dinner-parties will be given each night by her Majesty in the State rooms of Buckingham Palace. The Queen never uses the State rooms for her small dinner-parties. The same journal states that "the Queen, as usual, will only appear after the actual dinner is over, and will receive the principal guests in the Withdrawing-room." It is wonderful that any sane person can be found to print such crazy nonsense. The Queen always dines with her guests, and a person must have indeed a queer notion of Court customs who supposes that only the "principal" people who have dined at the Palace would be received by her Majesty afterwards, if she was not able to appear at table. For whom is such insane gibberish provided?

Another contemporary, grievously given to romancing, states that the Queen was much occupied at Cimiez with "the Schaumburg-Lippe dispute," with which affair, as a matter of fact, her Majesty has no more concern than with the domestic affairs of the Emperor of China. It happens, moreover, that the Lippe-Detmold dispute (to which my contemporary evidently means to refer) has been finally settled for nearly a year past, for, after the decision of the Dresden tribunal, the Emperor William wisely acquiesced in its decision, but with a very bad grace. The Queen certainly does not hold "views on this subject diametrically opposed to those of the German Emperor," for, if his Majesty's plans had been carried out, his sister would have become the reigning Princess of Lippe-Detmold, with immense and very valuable estates, and the Queen is naturally anxious for her granddaughter to obtain such desirable promotion. However, this house of cards has now been finally shattered. As to the nonsense about the German Crown Prince being "hopelessly illegitimate" this is a fairy tale, or, rather, a maniac chattering in his sleep.

The Prince of Wales goes next Tuesday to Garswood Park, near Warrington, on a visit to Lord and Lady Gerard, and on Wednesday H.R.H. will proceed by special train to Southport, where he is to inspect the Royal Lancashire Hussars. The Prince will return to Marlborough House on the evening of Friday, the 20th, after having inspected the Bucks Yeomanry in Stone Park, near Buckingham.

H.R.H. is to pay a visit next September to Hungary (where he has not been for twelve years), and he will be the guest of the Archduke Frederick, at his splendid domain of Bellye, when there is to be a grand hunt, and the Emperor Francis Joseph, the King of Saxony, and the Duke of Cumberland will be included in the party.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught, who are now at Aldershot, will entertain a large party at Bagshot Park during Ascot race week, when the Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha will probably be among their guests.

The Duke of Teck is going to Germany for the summer, and he will stay for some time at Stuttgart, where the King of Wurtemberg has placed one of the Royal villas in the suburbs at his disposal.

Several papers have stated that the Queen is going to place a monument to the Duchess of Teck in the nave of St. George's Chapel, "beneath which the remains of the late Princess repose." As a matter of fact, the Duchess is not buried under the nave or the choir of St. George's, or beneath any part of that chapel. Her coffin has been

placed in the Royal vault of George III., which is underneath the Wolsey (now called the Albert Memorial) Chapel.

Dublin is fast emptying, according to its usual custom in May, when Irish society betakes itself to the greater capital across the water, or to the country and seaside resorts. The Viceregal establishment will not be broken up at the Viceregal Lodge until after the Queen's birthday, which will be kept in Ireland, in the customary way, on May 24. A review will be held and a State banquet given by Lord Cadogan at the Viceregal Lodge, the guests being the leading officials and heads of departments in Ireland. Lady Cadogan has not yet left the Viceregal Lodge and will probably not go to England until the end of the month. The Phœnix Park is at its best in the month of May, and especially when the "May" is in bloom, the hawthorns of the "Phœnix" being as renowned in their way as the chestnuts of Bushey.

The privilege of making Knights belongs to the office of the Irish Viceroy. He can, like a Prince, make a "belted Knight," his powers of ennobling, however, going no further. Needless to say that the making of an honest man is no more a Viceregal than a Royal privilege; nor, indeed, would Dublin Castle have much use for any such special creation. Lord Cadogan seems to have a well-developed taste for giving the accolade, and no Lord-Lieutenant of late years has added so many names to the order. Last week another addition was made to the roll, when Sir R. Stokes was knighted by Lord Cadogan at the Viceregal Lodge.

The present Government in Ireland have a curious way of alternating between making sudden "surprise" appointments and taking an undue length of time to fill vacant places. Mr. Justice Meredith was appointed to succeed Sir Edmund Bewley before the public, or even Sir E. Bewley's colleagues, knew that he had resigned. The opposite course has been pursued with regard to Sir George Morris's place, and also regarding the Lord Lieutenancy of the County of Dublin, vacant since the death of Lord Holmpatrick some months ago. Lord Ardilaun's appointment to fill the latter place would be popular, but Lord Ardilaun has a way of giving honest expression to his views, even when not flattering to officials in high place, which takes from his favour with his party.

Dr. Hamilton Kinglake, who died at Taunton on Saturday, was for many years a tower of strength to the Liberal Party at Taunton and in West Somersetshire. He was a politician of the same school as his distinguished brother, the author of "Eothen." Dr. Kinglake was held in the highest esteem by all classes of his neighbours, and he was one of the most popular men in the county.

Lord Spencer's term of office as President of the Royal Agricultural Society will expire on June 22, being Wednesday in the Birmingham show week, and he is to be succeeded by Lord Coventry. Next year's show is to be held at Maidstone, while in 1900 the "Royal" will meet at York.

It is a rule of the Royal Agricultural Society that if a member of the Council has not attended at least two of the meetings in each of the two years for which he was elected, he becomes *ipso facto* ineligible for re-election. The Duke of Devonshire has just fallen a victim to this very sensible regulation, and his nephew, Mr. Victor Cavendish, was unanimously chosen to be his successor on the Council. This is an excellent selection, for Mr. Cavendish takes a great interest in agricultural affairs, and he has a large farm at Holker, with a choice herd of shorthorns, and a fine stud of shire horses.

A FORTUNATE FAMINE.

[The vast amount of "extras" issued every hour of the twenty-four by sensational "Yellow" journals throughout the United States has about used up the reserve supply of paper held by the various mills, and a paper famine is said to be imminent.—*Dalziel.*]

Well, seeing what a lot of lies
These "Yellow" journals daily cram in,
With warmly sympathetic cries
Americans should hail this famine;
Welcome indeed a dearth should be
Which stays the ceaseless incubation
Of *canards*, monstrous from their birth,
And claps a gag upon sensation!

Welcome indeed should be a dearth
That stops each morning's crop of fables,
"Cabled" from places on the earth
Whence there, at present, *are* no cables;
That checks the too profuse parade
Of those magniloquent dispatches,
Dated from distant spots, but "made
Upon the premises"—in batches.

So let the threatened famine come,
To end such journalistic capers;
The only folks who need look glum
Are those who run the "Yellow" papers.
And no one need *their* fate deplore,
Or shed a single tear about them;
For if their prints appeared no more
The States would better be without them!

But we have "Yellow" journals, too,
Upon *this* side of the Atlantic,
Quite reckless what it is they do
To crowd a page with headlines frantic;
Journals which idlest rumours take,
Prepared, if needs be, to augment some;
And which, if there's no news to "fake,"
Are ready to at once invent some.

If, then, these prints of little worth,
Which with their falsehoods crude depress us,
Could also feel the threatened dearth,
We'll own their fate would not distress us.
In short, we feel inclined to say,
As we their recent files examine:
"America, without delay
Please send us on that Paper Famine!"

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1208 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 1209.
For Amusements, see page 1207.
For Our Puzzles, see page 1221.

It is proposed, in connection with the intended and very necessary enlargements of the South Kensington Museum, to incorporate the science buildings with the art galleries, which seems a most unwise arrangement, as there would inevitably be a very much increased risk of fire. A building which will be in a great measure devoted to experimental purposes certainly ought not to be joined with an art museum.

Artists send their pictures to the Royal Academy exhibitions. Many are rejected, but many are accepted. Of these latter, however, very few are sold. These find their way back to the studios of the artists, or drift into the hands of speculators, who take them on sale or return, open an empty shop in some provincial town, and sell them —if they are sold—for what they will fetch. I would therefore suggest that there should be each year an auction at the Academy, without reserve, of all pictures which have not already been sold, and that every exhibitor should pledge himself neither directly nor indirectly to buy in his picture or pictures. Thus the stock of each year would be cleared off at market value.

For the sake of the uninitiated I must explain what a "knock out" is. Often when a sale by auction takes place, the dealers attending it agree that they will not bid against each other, but that if any outsider bids they will frighten him off by running up the price against him. When the public auction is over, the dealers have a private auction amongst themselves, when each article purchased is again put up for sale. The difference between the price paid at the public and at the private auction is then divided amongst the confederates.

About a fortnight ago a sale by auction took place, in the Isle of Wight, of goods belonging to the widow of one of the Queen's cooks. Amongst these goods were two pictures, one an undoubted Frank Holl, the other probably by him, but possibly by a pupil and touched up by him. At the public sale the two pictures realised £16. At the private sale they realised above £1,500, the difference between the two sums going to the knockers-out. One of the pictures has been since sold to a dealer for above £2 500, who, of course, has purchased it with a view to reselling it at a higher price.

I am asked to mention that the Clergy House that has just been built at the Eton Mission at Hackney Wick will be opened by Princess Christian to-morrow (Thursday). Dr. Warre will preside at the meeting, at four p.m., and the Bishops of London and Stepney will be among the speakers.

Some of the evening papers have been raising as much noise over the appointment of Dr. Barlow, Vicar of Islington, to a prebendal stall in St. Paul's Cathedral as if he had been promoted to a bishopric. A Prebendary of St. Paul's has a seat in the choir on all occasions, and he preaches the morning service in his turn, and receives, I believe, a fee of five guineas for each discourse. He also has a place in the Great Chapter, but this is all moonshine, for all real business is transacted by the Little Chapter, which means the Dean and the four Canons-residentiary. In the old days, a prebendal stall in St. Paul's meant a large income, which sometimes reached £5,000 a year. Bishop Percy, who held the stall of Finsbury along with the See of Carlisle, received some £86,000, in consequence of the leases on the prebendal estate falling in, only a few weeks before his death in 1856.

The Primate has made a very good appointment to the See of Victoria (Hong Kong), as the Rev. Joseph Charles Hoare (a son of the late Canon Hoare) is a man of great experience in mission work, full of zeal, and having, at the same time, much tact and discretion. Mr. Hoare, whose name had been much talked of in connection with this vacancy, is a man of moderate Church views, and his promotion will give general satisfaction, while the clergy in his Chinese diocese may consider themselves fortunate in obtaining a divine who is so admirably fitted for this particular post.

Prebendary Turner vacates the office of Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen on being appointed a Bishop Suffragan, and he will be succeeded by Archdeacon Lawrance, of St. Albans. The next vacancy among the Queen's Chaplains will be filled by Dr. Ryle, President of Queens' College, Cambridge, and Hulsean Professor of Divinity.

The appointment of the Rev. A. S. U. Blunt, son of the Bishop of Hull, to the living of Ham can only be fitly characterised as a gross abuse of ecclesiastical patronage. Mr. Blunt was ordained deacon in 1894—not, as stated in some of the papers, in 1892—so that he has been in full orders only three years. He is doubtless a very estimable and promising young man. Whatever his personal merits may be, however, the selection of a cleric of his standing for this piece of preferment is a manifest injustice to the scores and hundreds of more experienced clergymen who after years of devoted service to the Church are still toiling in ill-paid curacies. The fact that the living is in the gift, not of a private patron, but of King's College, Cambridge, renders such an appointment all the more reprehensible. It is absurd to suppose that among the graduates of the College there was no cleric with a better claim to promotion—though probably there was not another who had the advantage of being the son of a Suffragan Bishop.

The Rector of Hilperton, Wilts, appears to have been horrified by the awful way in which Good Friday was desecrated in his neighbourhood, there having been tea

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meetings of Baptists, Wesleyans, and Methodists at several places, besides a Band of Hope gathering at one village. If these harmless and sober functions fill the soul of this ecclesiastic with dismay and indignation, it would be interesting to learn how he views the annual dinner and smoking concert of railway men which takes place at Trowbridge on Good Friday, and at which entertainment Mr. Walter Long, Tory Cabinet Minister, and patron of the living of Hilperton, is usually a guest.

The statement in TRUTH that there would be some fun shortly in the House of Lords when Lord Grimthorpe tackled the Bishops on the Kensit question appears to have given umbrage to his lordship, who has written to the *Times* to contradict the aspersion. I hasten to say that I never for a moment credited his lordship with the intention of making fun of anything. It is, however, the fate of some people to create fun unintentionally.

For reasons unexplained, his lordship refers to the paragraph in TRUTH as "a fine piece of penny-a-lining." I don't know on what scale Lord Grimthorpe may be paid for a letter in the *Times*; but I will answer for it that in an ordinary newspaper office a penny-a-liner would have a very short life if he penned many such sentences as the following:—

> It seems that TRUTH has got so deep into my secret as to be able to promise "some fun" because I am going specially to castigate a Bishop, who will not soon be forgotten as the writer of two wonderful letters of the firework order advising Mr. Kensit not to go to his own parish church, where the Bishop himself admitted that the curate was doing wrong, but was going away, and to look out for and frequent one where the law is obeyed, if he can find one near enough; a thing by no means easy to do in many towns now; an odd-looking way of governing a diocese and keeping his own consecration vows, as Mr. Kensit told him.

This terse and neatly-moulded period is by no means the most wonderful in the epistle; indeed, the concluding sentence is a veritable curiosity of literature. After such an example of his lordship's method of "castigating a Bishop," I admit that I was indeed wide of the mark in predicting that the operation would be either "funny" or "caustic."

The repairs to the spire and tower of Salisbury Cathedral have been completed, and £14,000 has been expended, the whole sum having been subscribed except about £600. There is to be a thanksgiving sermon in the Cathedral on the afternoon of Monday, July 11, when the sermon will be preached by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Chapter of Sarum is suffering severely from agricultural depression, and the Dean's stipend is consequently reduced from £1,000 a year to £600, while each of the four canons is cut down from £500 to £300. A stall at Salisbury can now be held only by an ecclesiastic possessing adequate private means, and, indeed, this is the case at many other Cathedrals.

A subscriber to the London Orphan Asylum, Watford, recently called my attention to certain features in the expenditure of that Charity. The London Orphan Asylum is an admirable charity, and no one would wish to pass any unfair criticism upon the management; but it certainly appears from the figures furnished that the working and office expenses show an undue tendency to increase. The last report gives an analysis of the expenditure under different heads for the last ten years. This statement shows, on the one hand, that the cost per child for provisions, fuel, and washing, which was £9 17s. in 1888, and has been over £10 in later years, has declined to £8 13s. 9d. in 1897, the number of children remaining virtually the same throughout that period. The expenditure on clothing, although it fluctuates from year to year, shows on the whole no disposition to rise.

On the other hand, the item "working and office expenses" has been gradually growing almost every year throughout that period, with the result that, starting in 1888 at £3 19s., it has reached £5 6s. in 1897. There has also been a very considerable increase under the somewhat mysterious item of "educational and administrative expenses." That educational expenses may have risen under the influence of the general raising of the educational standard during the last ten years one can understand, but it is not clear what "administrative expenses"—other than the working and office expenses, which are given separately—are included under this particular head, nor why these particular administrative expenses should have increased. Anyhow, it is mainly owing to the increase in these two items that the total expense per child per annum in the institution has grown from £29 in 1889 to £32 3s. 8d. in 1897; and I think that under these circumstances the increase is legitimate matter for comment, and one which the subscribers would do well to inquire into. An increased expenditure of £3 per head on about five hundred children means an aggregate increase of £1,500 a year, without any extension of the benefits of the institution.

The Secretary of the Lord's Day Observance Society has been at the trouble to write to forward me the information that the income of £215 mentioned in last week's TRUTH, is only that received direct by the London office, and does not include subscriptions received through the branch associations. He does not tell me, however, what the total income, including these items, amounts to, and if it were ten times £215 my argument would apply equally well. I call it an impudent thing for an organisation of such contemptible dimensions as these figures indicate to attempt—not by persuasion or argument, but by appealing to the State for help—to enforce its own ideas of Sunday observance upon the whole community, regardless of their religious views. The Secretary thinks that I should "have some difficulty in naming any Society which does a larger amount of the work committed to it, in proportion to the means at its disposal." I admit that the Society makes plenty of noise in the world for its £215 a year, or whatever the sum may be. But what work it does more than this I have not the slightest idea. The only result of its operations, so far as I have seen, is to make the name of "Lord's Day Observance" odious and ridiculous.

Much unfavourable comment has been provoked in India by the recent appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel Jerrard as A.A.G. in the Madras command. The *Madras Mail*—a journal certainly not given to unfair criticism of Government proceedings—gives the following account of Colonel Jerrard's recent career. He was placed on half-pay on the completion of his time in the appointment of Staff Officer at Hong Kong, and he then went to reside at Simla. There, according to the *Madras Mail*, he devoted much of his spare time to private theatricals, and cultivated the personal friendship of the Adjutant-General and Commander-in-Chief. He was then given a job on the revision of the Indian Army Regulations, Volume II. From that he was pitchforked, first into a vacancy on the Army Staff at Simla, and then into the officiating command of the Umballa district. From this he becomes A.A.G., Madras. Considering that this officer is not borne on the strength of the Indian Army, and has no claim whatever upon the Indian Government, these appointments are probably without precedent even in the history of Simla jobbery.

Now that all the troublesome questions of Army reform and reorganisation that arise out of the Estimates have been got rid of for another twelve months, our military administrators are, happily, left free to devote themselves to questions concerning the practical efficiency of the Army. I hear that a most important question is now under consideration, namely, whether all buttons distinctive of individual corps shall be abolished, and a single button introduced for the whole Army. It is very likely that this momentous question will cause as much dissension in the Service as the feud between the Big-Endians and the Little-Endians, for there are not a few who cling religiously to the existing buttons, and, knowing what soldiers' prejudices are in matters of this kind, I should think there is just as much to be said in favour of retaining distinctive buttons as in favour of abolishing them.

I believe all these fiddle-faddling changes of uniform that have lately caused so much irritation in the Service are due to one particular officer at headquarters, and if he is not speedily superannuated, muzzled, or otherwise suppressed, the chances are that we shall have to face a serious mutiny. I am told that among other recent exploits this officer has introduced an aiguillette for Staff officers which costs £7 10s., and gets shabby after the wearer has been out in it half a dozen times. It is he, too, who has put Artillery colonels to the expense of providing red tunics and a new set of accoutrements; and he has made Artillery officers wear their gold dress-belts for church parades, which means, as the shine is taken out of them by a single shower of rain, that they must keep a second set for Levees and other dress occasions. The same functionary is now abolishing the buttons on the Staff undress frock, and making officers replace them by new buttons, which cost three shillings each instead of sixpence. He must be a very clever man in his own line; but he would clearly be more in his element in the neighbourhood of Savile-row or Conduit-street than at the War Office.

Among the civilian portion of the medical profession, Lord Lansdowne's speech at the Mansion House has created a very favourable impression, and if the Army doctors are not equally satisfied with it they must be very hard to please. After the first announcement of the intention to form the doctors into a Medical Corps, an Army surgeon told me that the only thing that remained to be desired was that the new Corps should be entitled "Royal." This, I confess, struck me as childish, if not snobbish. However, the military medicos are now to be a Royal Medical Corps, so even that wish is gratified.

No doubt the name has a certain practical value. There never was a better example of the consequences of giving a dog a bad name than is afforded by the recent history of the Army Medical Department. A certain school of combatant officers, with Lord Wolseley at their head, have done their best to deny the Army surgeon the status of an officer, and have amused themselves by blackballing medical officers at the Service clubs, and abusing and snubbing them at every opportunity. The leaders of the civil branch of the profession have naturally retorted by preaching that the Army was no place for a doctor possessed of any self-respect. This process could only have the effect of making the Department as bad as its worst detractors alleged. If calling the doctors a Royal Corps, and exalting their rank and dignity, will stop the blackballing on the one hand and the boycotting on the other, everybody will have cause to be thankful. It is quite certain that the Army cannot get on without doctors, and recent events have also made it pretty certain that the better the Army treats its doctors, the better it will be treated itself when the time for medical treatment arrives.

A Volunteer C.O. sends me a sample of circulars addressed to all the subalterns of his regiment at headquarters—not the senior officers, however—by a betting tout, and asks whether the practice is not illegal. I am afraid that the law has not yet gone so far as to protect grown men from any temptations of this kind that may be put in their way, and I suppose that we may consider even the subalterns of a Volunteer battalion to be grown men. I can only advise Commanding Officers who feel anxious on this point to use their own paternal influence with their subalterns in order to keep them out of temptation.

I hear that as a sequel to the case of Lance-Corporal Simpson of the 2nd Grenadier Guards, which has lately been referred to in the Press, Lance-Sergeant Craddock, the sergeant of the guard at the time when Simpson returned to barracks, has now been deprived of the sergeant's stripe and reverted to the rank of corporal for not confining Simpson on his return. It may be

Challis's Royal Hotel, Rupert-street, Piccadilly-circus.—The new Louis XV. Dining-room now open for Luncheons and Dinners. Table d'Hôte Luncheon, 2/-, from 12.30 to 3 p.m.; Table d'Hôte Dinner, 3/6, from 6.30 to 9 p.m., served at separate tables. Open to non-residents.

remembered that there was a direct conflict of evidence between Craddock and the witnesses for the prosecution. The colour-sergeant who charged Simpson with being drunk went to the sergeant of the guard, and warned him that he would probably find Simpson drunk when he returned to barracks. Craddock took the liberty of using his independent judgment, and decided for himself that Simpson was not drunk, giving evidence to this effect at the court-martial. Of course, if Simpson was drunk, Craddock was guilty of a neglect of duty in not putting him under arrest, and he is rightly punished. But, as there was a direct conflict of evidence in regard to Simpson's condition, and as there were many witnesses besides Craddock who swore at the trial their belief in his sobriety, it seems every bit as unjust to punish Craddock for thinking the man sober as it was to punish Simpson when there was a strong doubt as to the facts—of which doubt he ought to have had the benefit. If the authorities are going to work in this spirit, they ought now to punish every single man who came forward at the court-martial and swore that Simpson was sober.

In regard to this case, an officer, writing from the Army and Navy Club, remarks "that the fact of a parade-ground being within sight of a public road would not constitute the reading out of the finding of a court-martial a public degradation." It may not make it so in law, but it makes it so in fact, as is sufficiently proved by the account which appeared in the *Daily Mail* of the scene which took place in Birdcage-walk on this occasion. What I contend in regard to the case is that if a non-commissioned officer is going to be solemnly degraded on parade, it is at least desirable that the outside public should not be witnesses of the ceremony. In regard to the severity of the sentence the same officer remarks that, "if a man claims a court-martial he must take the consequences." He has to take the consequences, I know, but it is against that that I protest. If the law gives the man a certain right, no military authority has any business to punish him for availing himself of that right. Military authorities may not like the law, but, like the rest of us, they must take it as they find it. By the way, in the account of the sentence given in Truth, I find that its severity was actually understated, for, in addition to reduction to the ranks and fourteen days' imprisonment with hard labour, Simpson was sentenced to a fine of ten shillings.

With regard to the Dum-Dum bullet, a sporting friend of mine suggests that the War Office would do well to consult a few deer-stalkers as to the effect of bullets fired from the latest types of rifle, and the best projectile for use with the Lee-Metford. "The stalkers," says my friend, "have been going through changes of weapon *pari passu* with the armies," and he goes on to describe the various experiments that have been made, some of them with bullets which appear to differ very little, at any rate in principle, from the Dum-Dum. The result seems to bear out my suggestion that the recent experiments of a German medico on dead bodies were entirely fallacious, and my friend entirely ridicules the story about the skin at the point of impact being "torn into long seams." There are doubtless many Scotch sportsmen who would be only too glad to give the War Office an opportunity of experimenting with bullets upon live animals, and I can understand that the idea of a deer-stalking expedition for scientific and patriotic purposes might be highly acceptable at the headquarters of the Army.

There ought to be some official investigation into the practice of allowing Indian natives to run regimental canteens and coffee-shops. Many growls on this subject have from time to time appeared in Truth, the most conspicuous case being that of the 1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment. I now hear that a very similar state of things prevails in the 2nd Battalion Inniskilling Fusiliers, from which quarter there are similar complaints as to the consequences to the men in increased prices of all provisions. As an example of the abuses to which this practice leads, the 2nd Inniskillings have a soda-water plant which cost the regiment a handsome sum, and which is now stowed away and left out of use, presumably in order that somebody else may have the benefit of supplying the men with soda-water, at about double the price which they paid for the article when made in their own factory.

I also have a growl from the 2nd South Lancashire at Kamptee respecting the canteen prices, which are certainly extravagant, owing apparently to the fact that the goods are supplied by a native contractor, though I do not know whether he actually runs the concern. I say that this matter requires thorough investigation by the military authorities, because it would seem that the practice is more or less veiled by having a sergeant nominally in charge, while the native is the real manager, so that a General casually inquiring into the matter would not detect any irregularity. It seems no use appealing to the Indian Government to look into abuses of this kind on its own initiative. Its sympathies are probably all on the side of such jobbery. The matter should be taken up by the War Office at home, who have a perfect right to insist that the regulations made in the interest of soldiers in the British Army shall be observed when the regiments are in India.

The new arrangements with regard to the messing allowances for soldiers are, as was to be expected, causing a good many anomalies which the War Office will have to deal with before long. Here is a case in point, just placed before me. A and B are in hospital for a month under precisely the same circumstances, but A is under the old arrangement, B under the new. A receives in pay and deferred pay £1 16s. 2d., which, subject to a hospital stoppage of 7d. per day, leaves his net pay for the period 18s. 1d. B receives pay at the same rate, but no

Hotel Albemarle, Piccadilly, London. Private Suite, Bath, Electric Light, Lift. Vermersch, Proprietor. Paris: Imperial Hotel, Champs Elysées. Boulogne S/M: Imperial Pavilion Hotel.

deferred pay and no messing allowance in lieu of it during the time he is in hospital, so that, after deducting the hospital stoppage, his pay for the month is only 12s. 11d Clearly, if the deferred pay is not to be stopped during the time a man is in hospital, the messing allowance which is given in lieu of it ought not to be stopped either.

A complaint respecting the meat ration was recently made by certain soldiers at Deolali Depot, and the Principal Medical Officer, having inspected the meat, wrote officially to the Adjutant of the Depot on the subject. Judging by the evidence, the meat must have been in an advanced stage of decomposition. The only result, however, of the complaint was an answer from the Adjutant to the effect that it had been made in an informal manner, and that the P.M.O. should have called his attention to the matter privately, instead of by an official communication. This irregularity seems to have been, in the Adjutant's eyes, of so much more consequence than the condition of the meat that no further action was taken in regard to the original grievance.

Has not the time arrived when Army pensions ought to be paid more frequently than once a quarter? I recently had a very sensible communication on this point from an old pensioner, who is at present an inmate of one of the metropolitan workhouses. He maintains that, if he had his pension once a month, he could keep out of the workhouse, but under the present conditions to keep out is impossible; and he asserts that there are hundreds of pensioners at present in the workhouses to whom the same remark applies. Although gentlemen in receipt of large incomes may not appreciate the difficulty, there is no doubt that in the case of small incomes, whether in the shape of pay or pension, the shorter the intervals at which the payments are made, the more convenient is it to the recipients, who, it must be remembered, are generally people who cannot get credit. I believe that the Post Office pensioners can draw their allowance weekly if they wish it, and there is no reason why the same rule should not be applied to Army pensioners, except the extra trouble which it would involve to the Department. This extra trouble would be well worth taking, not only for the sake of the men, but for the sake of the Service, for it is common knowledge that the number of old soldiers to be found in the workhouses does much to render military service unpopular with the working classes.

I have always been shy of endorsing Mr. Atkins' protests against route-marching, but the following case seems one where a growl may be forgiven. A company of Royal Engineers at the Curragh had been ordered to parade in mobilisation order for a route march, when it came on to rain heavily. The rain got heavier and heavier, but, after standing in it for twenty minutes, the company were started off on a three and a half hours' march. The rain, which never slackened during the whole time, was phenomenally heavy, every man was wet to the skin by the time he had been ten minutes on the road, and in some places the road was flooded ankle-deep. It is all very well to teach men to march, but for carrying out marching practice under these conditions there can be no reason or excuse.

Some of my friend Tommy Atkins's grievances are small, others big. Here is one of the big ones. I have it on the authority of certain N.C.O.s of an infantry battalion that the blankets served out to troops at manœuvres, musketry camps, and so on, are frequently infested with vermin. The corps from which this statement comes had an experience of this kind during the manœuvres under General Butler last year, and later on in the musketry camp, Landguard. The men got into such a filthy condition during the manœuvres that one company left their red clothing behind them at the camp, and my informants state that it was weeks before some of the men were able to get clean again. This is a filthy and disgusting state of things, and points to gross negligence somewhere. I suppose it is inevitable that the Army should contain a sprinkling of "verminous persons," and as long as this is so all blankets for use on such occasions as the above should be scrupulously washed when they are returned to store. Soldiering under canvas involves quite enough inconveniences without this.

It is greatly to the discredit of the officials in charge of the issue of Jubilee medals that the complete set has never yet been produced. I heard the other day of two men who paid the price of two bronze medals (four shillings each) in June last to the Bank of England branch at Manchester, it having been announced that the medals would be ready for delivery on June 14. Repeated inquiries made since have only elicited the response that the medals are not yet ready. There are, I suppose, people waiting in the same way all over the country. If it were desired to make these loyal subjects look on the medal as a fraud, better means for that purpose could hardly have been adopted.

It is a common remark that the British officials in India tend to become Orientalised under the influence of their surroundings. Here is a conspicuous example of this process of degeneration. A few weeks back, at the busiest season of the year, upwards of ninety pair of Tonga ponies were taken off the Simla-Kalka road for the purpose of drawing the Viceroy's carriages during a pleasure trip in the Kangra Valley. The result was absolutely to stop all the ordinary traffic on the road; and I hear that numbers of delicate ladies and children have been kept waiting at the rail-head for periods ranging from one to three weeks, totally unable to find conveyances. Officers who were compelled to be in Simla on duty by a certain date have

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actually in some instances been compelled to trudge the distance—some fifty-eight miles—on foot. For the sake of the Viceroy, who is by way of being a Liberal in politics, it may be hoped that this proceeding is due to the officiousness of some subordinate Jack-in-office; but the Viceroy is certainly to blame for not inquiring more closely into the way in which his ponies are provided. What would be thought if all the engines and rolling-stock of the Great Western Railway were suddenly requisitioned in the name of the Queen, and the ordinary traffic between London and Windsor blocked for a fortnight or more?

The case of Mr. H. B. Röhss, of Southampton, lately referred to in TRUTH, was brought before Parliament last week in a question by Mr. Harry Marks, and it is satisfactory to know that the Board of Inland Revenue do not approve of the combination in one person of the functions of an advertising usurer and an Assessor of Income Tax. The Board, through the mouth of Mr. Hanbury, placed the sole responsibility for this strange conjunction upon the local Income Tax Commissioners. After what Mr. Hanbury said, it is to be hoped that the local Commissioners will lose no time in purging themselves of this association with Shylockism. If not, the Board of Inland Revenue will certainly have to face some responsibility in the matter, and in any case the Board will do well to inquire how Mr. Röhss ever came to occupy his present position.

Much of the recent discussion in reference to the open space near St. Martin's-le-Grand, known as "the Postmen's Park," seems to have been based upon a misconception of the facts. There has never been any danger of the loss of this most valuable recreation ground, and its maintenance for the public use is assured by the £200 per annum devoted to that purpose by the City Central Parochial Foundation. What has fallen through was a movement to purchase and add to the "Park" a vacant building site of about 300 square yards, and it is unfortunate that this could not be accomplished.

It seems that my paragraph last week on the Hastings Harbour question was unduly favourable to the Company. The £41,000 which I gave the Company credit for having expended upon the harbour works is, I am assured, actually the amount which was expended on "preliminary expenses" before a single day's work was done on the harbour. What amount of money has been sunk (a most appropriate word) on the works up to the present time I do not know; but it seems that out of £204,000 at which the cost was originally estimated, £120,000 was raised according to the published announcements. Out of this £41,914 was expended in preliminary expenses, and as the Company appears to have now reached the end of its tether, I suppose we may conclude that the balance has been dropped into the sea, with the highly gratifying results described in last week's TRUTH. Now what were these preliminary expenses, and into whose pockets did the £41,914 go? The fact that one-fifth of the proposed capital has been squandered in this manner should be sufficient in itself to make the public hesitate about contributing further to the undertaking.

There is much useful information in the volume just published at the instance of the Metropolitan Boards of Guardians under the title of "Our London Poor Law Schools," but as a defence of these institutions it is more courageous than convincing. I see that the authors claim that those engaged in the government of the schools "have consistently displayed an earnest disposition to promote the welfare of the children." Nobody denies the Guardians the merit of good intentions. In Bumbledom, as elsewhere, however, the worst mistakes are often made with the best motives, and this has been the case with the barrack schools. The scandals that have occurred from time to time show that the organisation of these establishments, however beautiful in theory, is liable to ugly breakdowns in practice. It appears impossible to prevent them from becoming seed-plots for ophthalmia and other contagious diseases, and grave abuses have crept into the management of more than one institution, in spite of the strictest precautions of the Guardians. But even if the machinery could be relied upon to work perfectly, it would never turn out satisfactory human products. The children cannot be successfully dealt with as mere automata. The great object in view is to free them from the taint of pauperism and fit them to take their places in the world as useful and intelligent members of society; and this is far more likely to be accomplished by the humblest home training under a system of boarding out, than by the most admirably-devised regulations of the barrack schools. The plan of massing pauper children together in these monster institutions has, in fact, been tried and found wanting, and it is a pity the Poor Law authorities should seek to perpetuate it.

And so we are not to have a tramway across Westminster Bridge and along the Embankment. On æsthetic grounds, one M.P. said, a dirty country lane is more pleasing to an æsthete than a well-paved road. But where human beings congregate, æsthetic lanes are out of place. Why a tram-car should be deemed more ugly than an omnibus, I have never understood. Certainly the former is less dangerous to the foot passenger. In traversing a road he knows exactly where the tram-car will come, whereas an omnibus wobbles about.

In the matter of trams we are behind the age. In most great Continental towns, there are electric trams. The current is carried along a wire rope overhead. Posts are needed, and posts are ugly, it will be said. The same objection might be taken against street lamps. I have seen in many Continental towns posts which are themselves things of beauty. An electric tram is much cheaper than a horse tram. How do I know this? Because in the last few years many persons have made money by buying up horse trams, converting them into electric trams, doubling the capital, and paying the same dividend as before this doubling process took place.

The St. James's Vestry has sent to the Home Secretary a number of suggestions for a Bill to regulate massage establishments. They go a good deal too far. No one is to be allowed to assist in such establishments who has not a certificate of proficiency. But who is to issue such certificates, and what is to be the test of proficiency? Ordinary massage can, I should imagine, be learnt in a few lessons. Swedish or scientific massage demands a thorough knowledge of anatomy. If two of the suggestions be adopted, all the others are needless. These two are that all massage establishments be registered, and that they be inspected from time to time by the Medical Officer of Health.

It may be true in theory that there is no wrong without a legal remedy, but for any good the legal remedy is it might in many cases as well be non-existent. For instance, some years ago a maiden lady died, and left by her will, among other bequests, the sum of £1,000 in trust to pay her personal debts, erect a monument over her grave, and place a stained-glass window in the church of Stoke Damerel, Devonport, in memory of her deceased sister. The executor, a gentleman named Fulke Hartshorne, paid the debts, which only seem to have amounted to about £340, and erected the monument, but though there was an ample margin left to provide a handsome stained-glass window, he has never put it up to this day, and all efforts to compel him to do so have failed. Allowing that he spent £50 on the monument, this gentleman remains in possession of a sum of upwards of £600, to the retention of which he possesses no shadow of right, but which he cannot be made to disgorge.

Now, what is the legal remedy for this undeniable wrong? So far as I can make out, it rests entirely with the Crown, which has some sort of right to the unexpended portion of the bequest, if the trustee fails to apply it in accordance with the terms of the trust. No subject seems to have any *locus standi* to challenge the trustee's proceedings. The rector of the parish is held not to be an interested party. The residuary legatees under the will, contending that they were entitled to any residue left over after the debts, the monument, and the stained-glass window had been provided, commenced proceedings in Chancery to bring Mr. Hartshorne to account; but they seem to have been in a difficulty, owing to the fact that they had previously given Hartshorne a release on the settlement of accounts as between them and the estate outside the specific legacy of £1,000 — there having been a dispute in consequence of Hartshorne attempting to charge against the residuary account some of the debts which ought to have been paid out of the £1,000. The action of the residuary legatees came before Mr. Justice Stirling. The judge seems to have been unable to help the residuary legatees, and undesirous of helping Mr. Hartshorne, so what he did was to adjourn the proceedings *sine die*, in order that an attempt might be made to put the Attorney-General in motion. Communications were duly made for that purpose, but the Attorney-General remains motionless. He gives no reason, but he has absolutely declined to intervene in the matter on behalf of the Crown.

This is a matter of some public interest, and I think the public are entitled to know what has led Sir Richard Webster to take up this attitude. Mr. B. F. Hartshorne is a lucky individual. He was formerly an auditor in the service of the Local Government Board. A charge was made against him by his own clerk of having rendered fictitious accounts of his expenditure, thereby obtaining payments to which he was not entitled, and after a lengthy investigation of these charges he was requested to resign his position—a singularly lenient punishment if the charges were held to be established. He was subsequently sued by the same clerk for a sum of £156, salary and expenses, which the clerk alleged that Hartshorne had received from the Local Government Board, and failed to pay over to him. The clerk recovered judgment for the amount of his claim, but I believe he has never yet got his money. Here again, therefore, it appears that Hartshorne has pocketed a substantial sum to which he had no right, without suffering any inconvenience. Finally, the Attorney-General declines to take any action against him in a case where he is in default to the amount of about £600 in the character of a trustee.

What is the meaning of this strange official tenderness for Mr. Hartshorne? This gentleman for a long time occupied a conspicuous position in Chelsea. He used to live in apparent affluence in Elm Park-gardens; and although he has removed thence, he is still in comfortable quarters in another part of Chelsea. I mention that, because it has been suggested that Sir Richard Webster declined to intervene on the ground that the prospect of the Crown recovering the money was, in any case, doubtful. At the best that would be a poor reason for winking at a gross misappropriation of trust funds; but in point of fact there seems—at least to the outward eye—no reason why the money should not be extracted from Mr. Hartshorne. The whole case is mysterious, and the mystery ought to be cleared up.

From a decision given by the Borough Magistrates at Kingston the other day one might almost suppose that the liberty of a dog is more precious in their eyes than the comfort and safety of the burgesses. There was a summons against an owner for not keeping under proper control a dog, which appeared to have become a perfect nuisance and terror to the locality, and to have long since exhausted the canine privilege of the first bite. Four witnesses testified from personal observation and experience to the unusually pugnacious character of the brute, and to the fact that it was not kept under proper control; but, though no attempt was made to refute this evidence, the Bench nevertheless dismissed the summons. The poet's explanation of dogs' delight to bark and bite seems also the only one that can account for some of the vagaries of the magistracy: "God hath made them so."

One of the most notable cases in my Legal Pillory this week comes from Bournemouth, where an unfortunate woman has been committed to gaol for three weeks for sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. There does not seem to have been any exceptional reason for this unusually hard sentence; but I suppose the crime of poverty is particularly obnoxious to the well-to-do gentry who administer justice without mercy at Bournemouth. Another example of Draconic severity is supplied by Mr. Wall, a Dublin Stipendiary, who gives a man three months for the theft of three eggs—a sentence which makes one wonder what he would think a fitting punishment for the theft, say, of three hens. It would evidently be something very much heavier than the sentences passed for thefts of fowls at Ilkeston and at Leamington, which, considered in conjunction with this case at Dublin, make a really interesting illustration of the irregularities and uncertainties of justice. Turning to the other side of the following list, it will be observed the rigour with which the law is enforced against the vagrant and the petty thief is counter-balanced by the indulgence which is extended to offenders guilty of savage and cowardly assaults or atrocious cruelty to dumb animals. In cases of the latter class a moderate pecuniary penalty is generally all that the culprit has to fear, and even for that he is often allowed to pay at his leisure:—

Derby County Police-court. Thomas Whewell, convicted of assaulting his step-daughter. He gave her a number of violent blows, one of which drove a hair-pin into her head. She had to go to a doctor to have the pin extracted. Fined 10s. and costs.

Ross Police-court. George Jones, farmer, charged with cruelty by starving a number of sheep. The case was a very bad one, some of the sheep having been absolutely starved to death. Fined £1, and £1 10s. costs, and allowed a fortnight to pay.

Chester Castle Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. H. D. Trelawny, B. C. Roberts, J. Pover, and W. H. Nightingale. Lewis Edwards and George Edwards, charged with assaulting John Bennett. The defendants savagely belaboured Bennett with a hayfork, knocking him down, severely wounding him on the head, and leaving him unconscious and bleeding in a ditch at the roadside. The Bench considered that it was a most unprovoked assault. Fined 20s. each and costs.

Reading Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. C. G. Field and W. Ferguson. Wm. Tucker pleaded guilty to assaulting Albert Baker by striking him across the head with a piece of iron. A doctor said the prosecutor had one wound on his head which was two inches long, another wound three-quarters of an inch long, in which the bone was exposed; and a third wound over the right eye. Fined 40s. and costs.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. A. F. Longdon and A. Butterworth. Henry Lacey, charged with sleeping out in the market-place, and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Alcester Police-court. John Higgins, charged with absconding from the workhouse before completing his task as a casual inmate. He said the place was open, and so he walked out. Fourteen days.

Matlock Petty Sessions. Before Mr. R. Wildgoose and other magistrates. John, Samuel, and George Knowles, summoned for trespassing in pursuit of game. John fined 30s. and costs; the others 20s. each and costs.

Spalding Police-court. Before the Rev. J. Russell Jackson and other Justices. George Cobb, charged with stealing a razor. Fourteen days.

Bournemouth Police-court. Before Captain Elwes, Major-General Galloway, Colonel Garrett, Dr. Hosker, Messrs. T. J. Hankinson, and Corbin Harris. Isabella Kemp, a middle-aged woman, convicted of sleeping out near St. Peter's Church. Twenty-one days.

Ilkeston Petty Sessions. Before Mr. J. Ball and other magistrates. Wm. Andrews, charged with stealing three fowls. Two months.

Willenhall Police-court. James Smith, convicted of assaulting Isaiah Rutter. The assault was of a serious character, defendant using a poker and injuring complainant's eye. Fined 20s. and costs.

Kilmarnock Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Hall, Wm. Shields, gamekeeper, convicted of assaulting John Russell. The accused gave Russell about twenty blows on the face, arms, and hands with a stick. Russell lost the sight of an eye for several days, his arms were black and blue, and his hand had to be stitched owing to an injury the accused inflicted. Fined £3.

Abingdon County Petty Sessions. Before Mr. A. F. Blandy, Major-General Bailie, Captain W. R. Clutterbuck, and Mr. W. Docker-Drysdale. Aubrey Frain, and Alexander Wynn, convicted of cruelty to a pony by overdriving it. The animal, which was hired for the day, was driven a distance of about thirty miles, and though it was in a very distressed condition, defendants persisted in beating it and urging it on. Ultimately the pony dropped dead on the road. Fined £5 each and costs, time being allowed for payment.

Dublin Northern Division Police-court. Before Mr. Wall, John Byrne charged with stealing three eggs from a stand at a provision-shop. Three months.

Hanley Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Charlesworth, T. Taylor, and J. R. Cooke. Sarah Wagstaffe, a married woman, charged with stealing a piece of pork. The woman, who had been drinking heavily, was caught in the act of taking the meat from a butcher's window. One month.

Blackpool Police-court. Before Messrs. H. Fisher, T. H. Smiler, Dr. L. Whittaker, and Dr. Hardman. George Taylor, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Leamington Police-court. Before Alderman Wackrill and other magistates. George Griffin, charged with stealing two hens. One month.

Bedford Borough Police-court. Before Mr. R. B. Stafford and Dr. Coombs. George Kent, an old sailor, charged with maliciously cutting some plants in the grounds at a school. He said he was going away from Bedford and wanted some flowers to lay on his mother's grave. Fourteen days.

Apropos of a paragraph in last week's TRUTH, a correspondent directs my attention to an inquest at Worcester where the jury found that the death of a woman had been hastened by the indescribably filthy state in which she lived. The coroner stated that the sanitary inspector had no power to interfere unless a nuisance was caused, and this, I believe, is correct. In the cases at Cheltenham to which I referred last week children had been kept in such a dirty condition as to cause them unnecessary suffering, and the parents were rightly held amenable to the law for their negligence. But with adults it is a different matter. Ours is a free country, and if a grown-up person chooses to wallow in the mire like a pig, there is nothing to prevent him gratifying his taste, so long as he does not become a nuisance or danger to his neighbours.

Nevertheless, one cannot help sometimes wishing that cleanliness could be made compulsory, for, however careful one may be, one is bound now and then to come in contact with people whose acquaintance would be all the pleasanter if they regarded a bath as a necessity rather than a luxury. Nor is the aversion to soap and water entirely confined to one class of society. I know a real live baronet who is as dirty an old man as Sir Pitt Crawley. It would certainly be all the better for some persons, and make the world pleasanter for others, if washing were obligatory; but to enforce it would probably produce a revolution, and I tremble to think what an effect it would have on Lord Wemyss.

Subscriptions greatly needed by THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.—6,929 convictions this year; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

For *Truth*, and all other Newspapers, Magazines, and Periodicals, send your Subscriptions to WM. DAWSON & SONS, Ltd., Cannon House, Bream's-bldgs., London. (Estab. 1809.) Catalogue gratis.

A delightful sample of the wisdom of the Great Unpaid was given in a case at Oxford the other day, when a man was summoned by a cabman for non-payment of a fare. The claimant asserted that the defendant raised his hand to signal to him and then entered a house, where he remained three-quarters of an hour. Drawing up at the door, the claimant waited for this period, but when the defendant came out, he hailed another cab and drove away in it. In these circumstances the first cabman, whose story that he was hailed was vouched for by two fellow Jehus, sued for 1s. 6d., as fare for the time he was kept waiting. On the other hand, the defendant said that he did not require a cab before he went to the house, where he was going to dine, and that he certainly never noticed or hailed the claimant or any other driver. The Bench held that the defendant had hailed the cab, *whether intentionally or not they could not say*, and they ordered him to pay the 1s. 6d. and 17s. 6d. costs. This is indeed a remarkable decision. It is clear from their own words that the magistrates were not satisfied that the defendant ever meant to hail the cab; yet they compel him to pay for what may admittedly have been a misunderstanding on the part of the driver. After this, Oxford men will have to be extremely careful how they move their hands when a cab is in sight. The simple act of waving a greeting to a friend across the street may possibly cost a cab fare.

In exposures of the evils of usury, vampires like Isaac Gordon naturally attract most notice; but the humbler bloodsuckers are, in their limited sphere, quite as rapacious and mischievous. There was an instance of this at Stoke-on-Trent County Court the other day, when a poor man, earning 18s. a week, applied for an administration order so that he might be released from the clutches of an unconsionable extortioner named W. Jackson, who calls himself the Crewe and District Loan Company. Jackson had lent this man £16; he had received back £20, and he still claimed £43! Judge Jordan made some strong comments on the case, and granted an order which will enable the debtor to discharge his liabilities by the payment of a composition of 2s. in the £ in instalments of 2s. a month. Shylock Jackson will therefore get only a minute portion of his pound of flesh, and have to wait a long time even for that.

The recent experiences of a clerical correspondent of mine throw an interesting light on the wiles of the circularising money-lender. For some years this clergyman, more fortunate than most of his brethren, had been left unmolested by these gentry. A short time back he gave notice to the clerk to the Dean and Chapter of Durham of his intention to apply for a vacant living in the gift of that body. A few days afterwards he was favoured with a circular from Shuckburgh, alias the Clerical and Medical Bank, in which a passage offering loans to clergymen entering on livings had been specially underlined. Since then the clergyman in question has accepted another incumbency in the diocese of York, and the legal document making the presentation was sent in to the office of the Archbishop's secretary on Monday week. Three days later my correspondent got a second offer of financial assistance, this time from Herbert Grunwell, otherwise Jonas Wolfe, of 4, Oxford-place, Leeds. In each instance, the arrival of the usurer's circular immediately after the communication to the ecclesiastical authorities may have been a pure coincidence. The coincidence, however, is so curious that the clerk to the Dean and Chapter at Durham and the secretary to the Archbishop of York would do well to inquire whether it is not possible that somebody in their offices is surreptitiously supplying names to such harpies as Shuckburgh and Grunwell.

During the last few months residents in all parts of London have been favoured with copies of a "Diamond Jubilee Polka," composed by one Arthur King, of 463, Holloway-road, and offered for sale at the price of sixpence. Youths leave copies of this precious work at people's doors, accompanied by a circular, and subsequently call either for the money or the music. A friend of mine in the West End tells me that he has had two Jubilee polkas left at his door since Christmas. Mr. Arthur King's excuse for bothering people in this way, as expressed in the course of his circular, is that he is by profession a medical electrician, but has been disabled by paralysis, and has accordingly had to turn to musical composition as a means of livelihood. His appeal is fortified with a testimonial from Dr. Archibald Keightley, of 62, Queen Anne-street. Mr. Keightley is presumably a good judge of spinal disease, and we may take his word for it that King is really suffering from this complaint. When, however, he goes on to add that King is "making a praiseworthy attempt to support himself" I join issue altogether. So far from being praiseworthy, the practice of leaving goods at people's houses in this manner is a most objectionable one, and becomes the more so when the parties who call resort to abuse and impudence, as I hear that King's representatives have done when from any reason the music is not forthcoming at their demand. It is quite certain that if everybody attacked with paralysis were to get his living in this "praiseworthy" manner, life in London would soon become intolerable for those who are not paralysed.

A new phase of Miss Griffen's Great Australian snowball has just come to hand in the shape of a French version of the chain letter, signed by one "Alexandre Radkevitch," and addressed from 17, Voskresensky, St. Petersburg. One of my readers in St. Petersburg happened to see the letter in the house of some Russian ladies to whom it had been sent, and who were about to copy it and continue the chain. Whether the French edition of the letter was started by Miss Griffen herself, or by some enthusiastic idiot who has picked up

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the chain, the fact of its being passed from hand to hand by Russians in St. Petersburg shows very clearly the extent to which the appeal has been circulated, as well as the value of the results which must be coming to hand. Stamps that come from such countries as Russia are worth money, and are very different contributions from the used penny postage stamps which Miss Griffen's original appeal asked for.

Let me warn my readers, especially those who have housekeeping responsibilities on their hands, against certain advertisements that have lately appeared in the papers, offering Welsh mutton on tempting terms direct from farms in North Wales. Some of these advertisements have appeared in the name of "H. A. Rook, Coed-y-brain Farm, Nannerch, North Wales," and they have found their way into the *Times* and several other papers. I hear from a gentleman in Yorkshire that his housekeeper sent a remittance to this address, and received the goods ordered, which were satisfactory; but, on forwarding the cash for a further supply, no result followed, and letters of inquiry remained unanswered. The Superintendent of Police at Holywell, on being interrogated, subsequently informed the victim that no such person as H. A. Rook resided at Coed-y-brain, and that the fraud had been worked from Liverpool, numbers of people having been victimised in the same way. The Liverpool operator, however, must have had some confederate at Coed-y-brain to receive and forward letters, and one would think that the police could have no difficulty in laying their hands on the swindler.

In consequence of the announcement of the sad death of Leigh Sampson in last week's TRUTH, one of my readers residing at Brussels has very kindly undertaken a pilgrimage to No. 35, Rue de la Tourelle, to make inquiries after the deceased artist. He rang the bell, but though he heard someone moving about inside, the door was not opened. He then made inquiries at adjoining premises, where he was told that there was a gentleman who called himself Van Buren residing at No. 35, but that he was not a medical man, but an "artiste peintre." So I supposed.

It will be highly interesting to see what line Sampson tries next. He has worked the distressed artist fiction for all it was worth, under half a dozen different aliases. He has smitten himself down with brain fever, and written in the name of his own wife to implore charity. Finally he has killed himself, and written in the name of his medical attendant to beg charity for his widow and orphan. If it were any ordinary swindler, I shou'd have expected this to have about exhausted his resources. But Leigh Sampson is no ordinary swindler.

H. L. SAVORY & Co.'s CIGARETTES.—By Special Warrants of Appointments to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, H.S.H. the Duke of Teck, and the Houses of Lords and Commons. To be obtained of all the leading Houses in the trade.—Sole address, 59, Piccadilly, London, W. Specimen case of samples, containing all sizes, 2s. 6d., with price list.

I have received the following letter, which appears to have reference to the article in last week's TRUTH, entitled "A Judge on Area-Gate Touts":—

Telegraphic Address,
Enelsee, London.

National Liberal Club,
Whitehall-place, S.W.
May 6, 1898.

The Editor of TRUTH.

SIR,—I have just read the paragraph in this week's TRUTH in which you mention the name of E. Pike & Son, Limited, and presume that the firms you named are one and the same. I beg to inform you that E. Pike & Son, Limited, have no more interest in or control over the firms you refer to than the Editor of TRUTH has except as wholesale customers and tenants.—I am, sir, yours obediently,

E. PIKE.

The firms which I mentioned call themselves "J. Barker & Co.," "Clark & Co.," and "Hibbins & Co." The common address of them all is 4, Eton-street, Richmond, Surrey. From that address they all carry on the identical business of gammoning servant-girls into buying goods on the instalment system at exorbitant prices, through the agency of touts, who hang about area-gates and back-doors, and stick at no trickery in order to effect their purpose. A similar business was formerly carried on from the same address in the name of E. Pike & Son. To this day the premises, No. 4, Eton-street, Richmond, bear the name of "E. Pike & Son, Limited," and no other. I have made inquiries on the spot, with the result that no other parties than E. Pike & Son, Limited, can be discovered as occupiers of these or any other premises in the neighbourhood. Mr. E. Pike now comes forward and asserts that the firm of E. Pike & Son, Limited, have no connection with the other firms trading from this address, "except as wholesale customers and tenants." How this statement is to be reconciled with the fact that no other name than Pike & Son appears on the premises, I do not know, and if Mr. Pike wishes to relieve Pike & Son, Limited, from responsibility for the proceedings of Clark, Hibbins, Barker, & Co., he will have to make his explanation a good deal more explicit and intelligible than it is at present.

The last time that Mr. Pike favoured me with a communication, he dated his letter from an imposing address, apparently that of a country mansion in Kent. On that occasion it was Pike & Son, Limited, in their own name, who had incurred obloquy through shady proceedings of their agents. This time, it will be noted, Mr. Pike does not write from his business address, but from the National Liberal Club. Mr. Pike seems to be a very recent recruit of that honourable institution, as his name does not appear in the club list for 1897. In view of his use of the club address for his present purpose, I feel sure that my desire to see Mr. Pike exonerated from all association with Clark, Hibbins, Barker, & Co. will be shared by all our fellow-members of the N.L.C.

From two circulars sent to me I learn that "Klene & Co.," of Great Portland-street, are now looking in Ireland for subscribers to their forthcoming "important biographical work," "Our Contemporaries," and that they have an agent touting around in that country in search of orders. Klene & Co. are careful now to refrain from giving any indication in advance of the price of the work, and very

possibly the agent is instructed simply to ask for what he finds he can get. But I would warn Irishmen who may be favoured with his visits that the "important biographical work" is a mere subscription trap, and would be dear at any price.

Besides flooding the country with circulars, the foreign betting touts are now working upon the gambling propensities of the British public through the medium of newspaper advertisements. Hitherto I have been under the impression that the Lottery Acts render these advertisements illegal in England. It is evident that either I am mistaken or else the law is ignored, for the *Leamington Advertiser* of last week boldly publishes a glowing prospectus respecting a Hamburg lottery from a so-called "banker" in that city. Whether such advertisements be legal or not, however, it is extremely foolish of people here to have anything whatever to do with these affairs unless they have money to throw away. The circularising and advertising intermediaries are nearly always shady characters, and they can generally be depended upon to confiscate any prizes that are drawn through their agency.

At least one of my provincial contemporaries has, I am glad to hear, dealt with the advertisements of the man Hawkins *alias* Jones, of Brighton, in the manner recently suggested in TRUTH. The editor of the *South Eastern Gazette* tells me that he has been favoured with an order from Hawkins accompanied by a cheque, the cheque representing the munificent payment of 7s. 6d. for thirteen insertions. He simply put the cheque and the accompanying block on one side until such time as Hawkins should forward the necessary postage for their return. Subsequently Hawkins forwarded a form of receipt to be filled up, and returned, but still no postage for reply, so this communication also was put aside with the others, unanswered. I would recommend all journalists who receive this pestilent rascal's favours to treat them in the same manner.

I have to thank several gentlemen connected with the Co-operative movement for very kind letters which I have received from them with reference to the recent action against TRUTH tried at Manchester. There seems to be a widespread feeling among Co-operators that the thirteen Co-operative plaintiffs in that action showed themselves far too sensitive to criticism; and, reading between the lines, I infer that the official element in the Co-operative movement is not unduly loved by the rank and file.

One of my Co-operative correspondents forwards a copy of the *Co-operative News*, containing a report of a conference at Exeter, in which the following passage occurs in the course of a discussion on educational work:—

> Mr. Adams (Central Board) thought the question of a paid secretary for this work meant the making of a position for some one, and was not altogether complimentary to those who had been doing the work in the past.

These words, if they mean anything, impute to somebody connected with the Co-operative Union an intention of making an appointment for the benefit of an individual, not for that of the Society—a clear imputation of jobbery. I presume we shall hear that the parties against whom this imputation is levelled have brought an action against Mr. Adams. As he is a member of the Central Board, and must be well behind the scenes in Co-operative business, an imputation of jobbery from him is far more significant than if made in the columns of TRUTH.

Here is a valuable piece of information for all those residents in London who suffer from the newspaper-boy nuisance. A gentleman who believes in the principle that union is strength offers through me the sum of £25 to the war-chest of any league which may be formed to suppress the nuisance. Beyond making this offer public, I do not see my way to give any further assistance; but if any gentleman who feels sufficiently strongly on the subject to take steps towards forming an association will apply to me, I shall be happy to put him in communication with the anonymous benefactor who offers the £25.

From several quarters I have been taken to task for the remark in last week's TRUTH that Sir Edward Bradford would probably be ready to deliver London from the newsboy if assured that there was a sufficient demand for his intervention. "Do you not know," asks one critic after another, "that as the law stands at present the police have no power to interfere with newsboys?" I know it perfectly. As I have mentioned on a former occasion, I am intimately associated with the enemy of the human race who first let boys loose on the streets to sell evening papers; and he successfully fought this point in the police-courts over and over again, and won. I, therefore, know all about the law. What I meant by my reference to Sir Edward Bradford was that that functionary can easily get the law altered if he considers it necessary; and I would add that an opportunity for amending the law is offered at this moment by the Street Noises Bill now before Parliament. The Home Secretary should be pressed to take advantage of this opportunity. If the sporting offer published above leads to the formation of an Anti-Newsboy League, this will be the direction in which the League will have to go to work.

The London and North-Western Railway Company ask me to make public the fact that they have made arrangements to collect and forward to its destination the personal luggage of all travellers proceeding to North Wales, the Lake District, and other Northern tourist resorts on their line. I am very glad to make public the announcement, not only for the benefit of travellers by the North-Western line, but also for the instruction and enlightenment of other railway boards. There is no doubt that it would be an immense convenience to many travellers to be able to obtain their tickets and book their luggage to its destina

SAVOY HOTEL, Savoy Restaurant, London. Large reception-rooms for fashionable réunions. Orchestra plays daily during dinner and opera supper.

tion in advance, so that when the time of departure arrives they have nothing to do but go to the station and take their seats in the train; and there is not the slightest reason why such a system should not be universally adopted. It is comforting to think that some of the seed recently sown in these columns for the benefit of railway managers has fallen upon good ground, and is already bringing forth a harvest.

When I published last week the bitter cry of the man-gardener against the woman who is being given to him as a helpmeet, I knew that there would be some spirited replies, and I have not been disappointed. Want of space and time forbid me to deal here with all the letters I have received on this subject, but I feel bound to notice one of them—a detailed rejoinder from Miss Goodrich-Freer, Hon. Secretary of the Women's Branch of the Swanley Horticultural College. Miss Freer states at the outset that no woman, or man either, has ever been sent out from Swanley in the capacity of a head gardener; and while that disposes of the statement which provoked the letter published in last week's TRUTH, it also puts the whole question outside the range of practical politics.

In regard to the other points, I may briefly mention that Miss Freer quotes passages from the Regulations of the College showing that there is no distinction between the work done by men and women students (except that in wet weather the women are to be given indoor work, *i.e.*, under glass); and that the work of all students is "practical" except for two hours' lectures a day. As to my previous correspondents' misgivings about the physique of the women who go through this training, and the suggestion that those who stand it must be "very exceptional representatives of their sex," Miss Freer writes:—

> There are thirty-five of these representatives to be seen at work every day at Swanley, besides others in the Royal Gardens at Kew, Edinburgh, and Dublin, and there is nothing super-normal about them so far as one can discover, nor in the hundred or more who, during the last six years, have passed out of the College into positions, public or private, of various kinds. . . .

Without quoting more, I hope I have given enough to reassure my male horticultural friends. If after this we find the male gardener disappearing before a race of "stout daughters of the plough," from Swanley and elsewhere, I fear we must reconcile ourselves to it as a case of the survival of the fittest.

I think, though, I must publish this letter:—

> SIR,—I see that with your usual *manly politeness* you sneer at the "lady gardener"—who is probably trying to earn her living to support some drunken brute of a husband—and take up the cudgels for what you call "the sons of Adam." Pray, may I ask, do you think that the lady gardeners are not the daughters of Adam? And if there is any virtue in being a *son* of anybody, are not Adam's sons equally the sons of Eve? Of course you think that Adam did all the gardening, and that his sons—but not, of course, his daughters; oh, dear no!—are to inherit the business. But I will venture to assert that, if we knew the whole truth, we should find that "the helpmeet" did all the hardest and dirtiest part of the work, and that my Lord Adam only put his hand to a spade when he felt in the humour, contenting himself at other times with giving his orders, and using filthy and profane language when things were not done to his liking.
>
> I don't ask you to put this in your paper. I know you have not the courage to.—PARTHENOPE.

My dear lady (although I have not the slightest idea what it has to do with the case), I would not doubt for a moment that all the daughters of Eve are also the daughters of Adam. To say nothing of the respect which we must all feel for the Mother of Mankind (in spite of the trouble she brought on her family), if the children were not Adam's, whose could they have been? As to the gardening, you may be right or you may not. But one thing is quite certain. Whatever work our mother Eve did in the garden, she undoubtedly stole the fruit. And I may add that she seems to have transmitted this failing to many of her sons who have gone into the gardening line.

There is a popular superstition that the children of the present day take their pleasures much more seriously than their parents did before them, and were never as thoroughly childish as their progenitors were. There would really seem to be some truth in the allegation when the threatened fate of the Lowther Arcade is taken into consideration. The glories of that covered thoroughfare are not, presumably, the sucesses of fifty years ago, when a journey from one end to the other was a blissful progress, involving much loss of time and many youthful wanderings from the tenets of the tenth commandment. The Lowther Arcade has, in fact, already been offered for sale, and though it has not yet found a purchaser, there seems to be every reason to fear that it is destined soon to disappear as Exeter Change did before it, to make room for the more serious occupations of this feverish money-making age. Reflecting upon my annual indebtedness to the attractions of the doll community, I had serious thoughts of putting this journal into mourning upon such a melancholy occasion.

In a letter despatched from the Chilcoot Pass, a correspondent on his way to Klondike makes sundry complaints against the Canadian Government, in reference to the issue of miners' licences and the collection of Customs duties. The burden of his story is that, owing to the absence of supervision over subordinate officials, unfair advantages are obtained by parties in a position to pay backsheesh; and that in spite of an announcement made many weeks previously that miners' outfits not exceeding 1,000 lb. in quantity were admitted free, duties were still being levied on such outfits at the end of March. These grievances have, however, less interest for me than the authorship of the letter. It comes from an old acquaintance of mine and my readers, of the name of Pointing, and he says he sends it to me because "he has no doubt that TRUTH is still the best medium for justice as it was when he left England last October."

THE HOTEL CECIL RESTAURANT.—Orchestra daily during Luncheon, Dinner, and Supper. M. François, Chef de Restaurant, from the Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo.

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This is gratifying, indeed, for Mr. Pointing speaks from the personal experience of a man who has frequently received justice at my hands. His first tastes of it were in the summer of 1894, when he was styling himself "Managing Director" of the "Universal Agency (London), Limited." The concern dignified with this title was, in fact, nothing more than a bogus registry office, by means of which Pointing perpetrated most impudent and heartless frauds upon the necessitous and the unemployed. My exposures of the business and hints to the police had the effect of inducing Pointing to abandon the "Universal Agency"; but soon afterwards he turned up again in connection with a Canadian farm pupil and emigration swindle. This enterprise was also relinquished in consequence of the justice which was administered to it in Truth. But Pointing was seemingly incapable of running straight, and he next came out as a vendor of certain so-called "invisible elevators" and quack productions which he palmed off upon gullible people by various tricks and lies. This time he foolishly disregarded the repeated warnings I gave him, with the result that his devices for the sale of the "invisible elevators" ultimately attracted the attention of the police, and landed him in the dock at the Old Bailey. Thanks to the niceties of the law with regard to false pretences, he escaped a conviction; and I had not since heard of him until the arrival of the above-mentioned letter. It will be seen from this that Pointing has had a good deal of "justice" meted out to him in these columns. I hope he has now resolved to profit by it, and that the enterprise and resourcefulness which he misapplied to the bogus employment and emigration agency and "invisible elevator" lines of business will for the future be turned to better account.

Why an employer of labour should consider it the duty of his customers to provide funds to give his employees a treat, I do not at all understand. From time to time, however, one receives evidence that some employers hold this view and have no diffidence about acting on it. Here is a case in point. It is a printed circular, so it is evidently intended for distribution. One of the recipients sends it to me as a piece of impudence which deserves gibbeting, and I entirely agree with him:—

Aston Printing Works.

Randall Bros, Aston Cross, Birmingham,
Printers and Paper Merchants. May, 1898.

Gentlemen,—Our employees intend to hold their annual picnic early in June next, and if you consider our account with you will warrant a donation on their behalf we shall be glad if you would kindly forward same to—Yours truly,

F. Randall, Hon. Treasurer.

If the natural flow of the water over Teddington Lock is to be reduced to less than one half, as proposed by the Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company, Londoners will soon realise that, just as they cannot eat their cake and have their cake, so they cannot drink their river and have their river. In a tidal river like the Thames, the incoming tide brings up mud and other impurities. The stream, if left to itself, sweeps them away when the tide ebbs. But if one half of the stream be diverted, the remaining half is too weak to perform this scouring process. Unless a firm stand is made against further abstraction of water, the river will become in its course through London as pestiferous as it used to be when polluted by drainage.

I am not myself a frequenter of public-houses, and I rarely taste alcoholic liquors, not because I have taken any pledge to eschew them, but because I do not like their taste. But it has often surprised me that those who consume these liquors allow themselves to be charged so highly for them in these days of large sales and small profits. These profits, as a rule, do not go into the pocket of the working publican, but into that of the real holder of the licence, and the real holder very often has had to pay an enormous sum for it to the original holder.

A case before the London Sheriffs' Court, in which the proprietor of the Nightingale Hotel, St. John's Wood, claimed £9,000 as compensation for compulsory acquirement by a railway company, reveals what profits are obtained from consumers. Port wine bought as low as 3s. per gallon was retailed at £1 1s. per gallon; champagne bought at 32s. per dozen brought in 7s. per bottle; on brandy the profit was 200 per cent., on whisky 100 per cent., on gin and rum 50 per cent., and on beer 33 per cent. A cigar costing 1½d. was sold for 4d. The average taking was £416 per month, and the net profit was £1,200 per annum. The claimant, having thus frankly stated his profits, explained that most of his customers were young ladies, and that their special tipple was champagne. I would seriously urge these lady residents in what the late Jacob Omnium once described as "the shady groves of the best-loved Evangelist," to remember, even if they insist upon imbibing alcohol in some form, that no stomach, male or female, can stand a long course of champagne which a wine merchant is able profitably to sell at 32s. per dozen.

We import about 28 million of quarters of wheat and flour per annum, and on an average we have on hand enough to feed us for about six weeks. I should have no particular objection to our buying and storing 10 million quarters, provided that it were distinctly understood that the amount expended were taken from that which we now spend on armaments. But I do not clearly see how we could buy these 10 million quarters without sending up the price of wheat enormously.

I do not myself believe that—dealing with reasonable probabilities—there is any combination likely to occur by which we should be starved into surrender. Of course, if there were an effective blockade of the British Islands, this would be possible. But to assume this, is to assume that our navy would be driven off the ocean, in which

Major Howe & Co., Ltd.—Fashionable Boots and Shoes.—16, Coventry-st., W.; 60, Strand, W.C.; 81, Gracechurch-st.; and 13, Queen Victoria-st., London. "Note Addresses." (Repairs.)

case we should be so thoroughly beaten, that we should have to surrender, irrespective of the question of starvation. Were there no effective blockade, we should always obtain food supplies by neutrals bringing it to our shores, unless we were at war not only with every great naval Power in Europe but also in America. Still, as this illusion that we might be starved in the event of war is often trotted out in order to encourage excessive armaments, it might be well—if it were possible—to have in hand a store of wheat to last us for several months, although, as a matter of fact, however, we depend on foreign countries as much for our meat as for our food supply.

Why has wheat gone up now, in consequence of the war between Spain and the United States? For this there is no economic reason The amount of wheat in the world cannot have altered. The roadway from the producer to the consumer is as open as it was before. I suppose, therefore, that it is due to some sort of combination amongst capitalists, who had bought up wheat and who held it for a rise. Already before the war there was such a "corner" in Chicago, based upon the volume of last year's harvest being less than that of the previous year. Each small purchaser thought that the rise might be greater than it is, and at once bought. In this sense only was the war the reason for the rise.

I should be sorry did breadstuffs not go up in the event of our being at war with some Great Power. The fear of this result should bid us pause before engaging in some foolish war, and, if we go to war, it will tend to make us ready to make peace on fair terms. It is a mistake, as the late John Stuart Mill always said, to make war a rose-water affair. Its evils should be brought home to all, so that all may realise them. If, for instance, it were enacted that, in the event of our being at war, every editor should be placed in the forefront of the battle, this would have a very calming effect on our belligerent editors. If the same law were applied to M.P.'s, they would put a good deal of water in their Jingo speeches. If it were decreed that all Primrose ladies should be sent to the front as *vivandières*, arrayed in hideous clothes, and with their heads shaved, they would not be so apt to applaud Jingo orations.

There is a good deal of force in what Sir Wilfrid Lawson once said:—

> If you go to war with a stronger foe, you are a fool; if you go to war with a weaker foe, you are a coward; if you quarrel with a foe of equal strength, you would do better to toss up for the bone.

I do not suppose that any European Great Power would oppose the retention of the Philippines by the United States. Why should they? Each objects to the other having the islands. None objects to the United States acquiring them. On the contrary, all would be glad to see one more Power, which is interested in China remaining a free-trade area, becoming possessed of territory in Eastern waters. But that the United States should be so foolish as to retain the islands seems to me almost incredible. It may be that they want a coaling station; possibly a naval station. If so, they might secure one, and then their wisest course would be to restore all else to Spain. Colonies, unless the mother country has an overwhelming navy, are hostages given to fortune. Up to now the United States have eschewed them, and, in view of their prosperity, the system cannot be said to have been a bad one. It is doubtful whether the Philippines could govern themselves, nor do I suppose would it be possible for them to be represented in Congress. Their tenure, therefore, would involve a departure from the whole scheme of Statecraft that prevails in the United States. There is a good deal to be said for the Monroe doctrine, which is, putting it broadly, that the American continent should belong to the Americans without let or hindrance from Europe. But there is still more to be said for the Americans sticking to their continent and holding no possessions outside of it.

My sympathies with those who during the last few years have been engaged in killing Matabele, Bechuanas, and other natives of South Africa are somewhat limited. At the same time when a Government engages men for work of this kind, it ought to keep faith with them. I heard the other day from a man who volunteered for service in last year's Bechuana campaign, that a promise was made that all those who gave up berths in order to serve would have employment found for them on sending in their names to headquarters. Several of the volunteers had given up very good situations. At the conclusion of the campaign they were kept a whole week without money or even rations, but they have never heard anything to this day about the promised billets that were to be found for them. The Bechuanaland business does not fill a very bright page in our history, but that does not justify the Cape Government in such shabby treatment of the men who fought for it.

There has been a good deal of discussion in the form of questions and answers in the House of Commons as to whether the director of a Company should vote in the House of Commons on issues affecting his Company. The rule should, I think, be against such voting. It would be outrageous if the division were so close that the Company were to win by the votes of its own directors, and this might occur. That a great Company should be able to state its case through a director is reasonable. But voting is a different matter. It may place the director-M.P. between his allegiance to the country and that to his shareholders.

Speaking generally, I should say that the fewer directorships that an M.P. has the better, especially in companies in regard to which there may be discussion in the House of Commons. Probably, were there no directors in Parlia-

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ment, the public interests would not suffer. Still, if a man be in want of income, and is of good business capacity, it can hardly be said that he may not sell his time because he is a Member of Parliament. In this category, however, I do not include gentlemen who, with no special business capacity, get on directorates because the letters M.P. are appended to their names. This is using the position for the sake of guinea-pigging. The entire question, however, seems rather to concern the respective constituencies than the House of Commons, for it is they who elect their representatives, and if they object to guinea-pigging, they have the remedy in their own hands.

Mr. Gladstone established a rule that no member of his Government should be a director. This was a very proper one. Lord Salisbury has not followed his example, and it is to be regretted that he has not.

I am glad that Sir William Harcourt, Mr. Morley, and Mr. Courtney took occasion last week to accentuate the fact, that the Liberal Party—or at least that portion of it which holds to the doctrine of Free Trade—is not in favour of a discriminatory duty being imposed by our Colonies as between the goods imported from the Mother Country and those imported from Foreign Countries. The idea of Free Trade is that there ought to be no duties of any kind upon imports, no matter from whence they proceed, unless it be for revenue purposes, because it is to the advantage of the importing country that all goods should be as cheap as possible to the consumer. Take the case of Canada. The import duty on our goods is to be less than that on the same goods imported from foreign countries. Competition is thus reduced, and the Canadian consumer pays more for the goods that he buys than he otherwise would have done. Canada is, therefore, doing what we, as Free Traders, believe is an economic mistake.

Mr. Chamberlain holds that we ought to encourage the Colonies to make this discrimination in our favour. At the same time, he denies that it in any way involves reciprocity on our part. It is, however, difficult to suppose that we shall for long enjoy a preferential duty on our goods in Canada, if we do not reciprocate by giving a like advantage in our home market to Canadian products.

I suspect that Sir Wilfred Laurier, in announcing this discrimination, was merely making use of us against the United States, and that he hopes, by excluding United States goods, under the guise of a discrimination in favour of our goods, to force the American hand, and to secure the United States market for Canadian produce, in consideration of the Canadian market being open to the States. The Dominion is rather a country allied with us than one for whose fiscal system we are responsible. Therefore we did not, and could not, object to what was to our advantage, though it was to the disadvantage of the Dominion.

The case of Rhodesia is different. We are responsible for its fiscal policy towards other nations. And so long as this is the case, we ought no more to allow these discriminatory duties between British goods and those of foreign nations than to adopt such a system ourselves. Our policy is the open door. On this we have insisted in China. We cannot, therefore, reverse it in Africa, and there establish the closed door. We tell foreign nations that they ought to adopt Free Trade, not from any affection towards us, but because they will find it to their advantage. So far as we can, we should carry out this view ourselves, for example is better than precept.

For some cause or other, Mr. Rhodes seems to hold the Secretary for the Colonies in the hollow of his hand. Mr. Chamberlain's laudations of him, and his excuses for any little "error" that he may have made, are simply astounding, considering that he himself agreed to the finding of the South Africa Committee, which in the clearest language declared Mr. Rhodes guilty of the basest and the most dishonourable conduct. Whether this finding was justified or not, Mr. Chamberlain is one of those responsible for it. If he would confine himself to laudation and excuse, his utterances would do no direct harm, except so far that they compromise us in the opinion of foreign countries. What I object to is, that this subserviency should take the form of giving Mr. Rhodes any money of the British taxpayer in order to bolster up his Company.

Mr. Rhodes' aim is clear enough, and *quoad* Mr. Rhodes, as Director and Promoter of the Chartered Company, it is a sound one. He and his brother Directors have made large sums by obtaining the shares of the Company for concessions which cost them next to nothing, and selling them at a premium, which was the result of statements that Rhodesia was an El Dorado. Rhodesia does not pay its cost, and therefore the shares do not pay a dividend. There is an off chance of gold being found there under such conditions that a large mining population would be attracted, and that such an amount would be earned from the mines, and from the influx of a mining population, as would leave a margin of profit to the Company, sufficient to pay such dividends on the shares as would justify the premium at which most of the investors in them have bought them. This chance, however, is the only tangible asset of the Company.

Probably Mr. Rhodes himself is not sanguine that gold under these conditions will be found. He therefore seeks to force us into such connection with the Company as will form the basis of a demand on us to recoup the shareholders. From the directorial and promotorial standpoint, this is adroit. But from the tax-payers' standpoint, all participation, direct or indirect, in the finances of the Company ought to be avoided. It must not be heads the Company wins, tails the taxpayer loses. The Company obtained a charter securing to it certain land and mining rights. The *quid pro quo* was that it should take upon itself all charges involved in the development of the country, and all costs of government. So long as it meets these charges, it retains those land and mining

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rights. If it fails to meet them, and throws the charges on us, then it loses the right either to mines or land. But the Company claims that we ought to make railroads in order to enable it to develop the country; that somebody else should pay for all the money that it has squandered in rebellions caused by its misdeeds, and in development, and that if it cannot make two ends meet, somebody else should make them meet: but that it should retain the fee simple of the territory!

The only plea for this extraordinary proposal is that the Company consists of patriots. "Patriotism," some cynic has observed, "is the last refuge of a scoundrel." Be this as it may, it certainly seems to me that every company promoter should profess it in order to play the game of speculation without risk of loss.

That Mr. Chamberlain—still an ardent Radical, according to his own professions—is in a false position as the member of a Tory Government with Lord Salisbury at its head, may be a reason for his wishing to turn our attention from the domestic reforms which he has so ably advocated in times past, by sinking our money for us in projects for developing colonies that do not pay their way. But, with all respect to him, it is no reason for our furnishing him with the money. He is an ambitious man—and I find no fault with him for being ambitious. He probably would not be averse to becoming the Leader and the autocrat of the Party in which he now serves. This would be impossible, if the country did not have its attention distracted from domestic issues. That Party consists in the main of Tories. Supposing that he were its Leader, and that Disestablishment were to come to the forefront. What would the Tory Party think of their Leader explaining that he himself was in favour of it, but that for some special reason he did not consider that the moment was opportune for giving effect to it? Assuming that he does wish to lead where he now serves, his sole chance of doing so is either in a war or in this absurd scheme of colonial development. Mr. Rhodes for other causes is an Empire-expander, and probably he is more popular with the Tories than Mr. Chamberlain. The latter, therefore, cannot afford to quarrel with him. As a militant Jingo, the necessities of his position oblige him to out-Rhodes Rhodes. Were these Arcadians to fall out, Mr. Rhodes would carry the Tory Jingoes with him.

AFTER THE PRIMROSE LEAGUE MEETING AT THE ALBERT HALL:

LORD SALISBURY AND THE INQUISITIVE YOUNG MAN.

"You are old, my Lord Marquis," the young man cried,
"You're reported sagacious to be,
And yet your last speech at the Royal Albert Hall
You have pitched in this Jingo-ish key.
It is hard when one reads all the things that you said
To understand what you were at.
In fact, you've completely turned round on yourself,
Pray what is the reason of that?"

"Young man," said the Marquis, "you seem to forget,
Or, at least, you omit to recall,
What the audience was that I had to address,
When I spoke at the Royal Albert Hall.
'Twas a meeting, young man, of our great Primrose League—
Quite ready poor me to impeach—
So I suited my words to my company, *that*
Will suffice to explain my strange speech.

"The Knights and the Dames of the Primrose were there.
'Convened in the Empire's defence,'
So of course, as I well from experience knew,
It was useless to talk commonsense.
Words of prudence, of justice, of wisdom? Oh, no!
They'd at best but induce vain fatigue;
Words of passion and prejudice—that's what you want
When addressing our great Primrose League!"

"I am glad, my Lord Marquis," replied the young man,
"To be told what you're pleased to impart;
I'm exceedingly glad that, whatever you *say*,
You still are no Jingo at heart.
And I venture to hope that, however your 'friends'
In the Press may your 'prudence' abuse,
You will still be determined to give full effect
To what are your actual views!"

"Your counsel, young man," said the Marquis on this,
"I shall be but too glad to regard,
But you must not forget that the task I essay
Is often uncommonly hard.
And if I at times seem, in spite of my past,
A bit of a Jingo to be,
Let me add this significant piece of advice—
Blame the Primrose League—do not blame me!"

DUYSEN PIANOS are the most superb of all modern Instruments. They stand absolutely unrivalled for beauty of tone, touch, & finish. A consummate success in small grands.—LLOYD'S, 24, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, W.

SCRUTATOR.

A CARNIVAL OF VULTURES.

IN foreign policy I have a higher opinion of Lord Salisbury's acts than of his mode of doing them, and a very much higher opinion of his acts than of his utterances. What consummate trash he did talk last week to the Primrose ladies! He began by telling them that future history will regard Lord Cromer, Sir Herbert Kitchener, Sir Gerald Portal, Sir William Lockhart, and Mr. Rhodes as heroes. With all respect for these gentlemen, I doubt whether, if history occupies itself with them, this will be its estimate of all of them. In regard to his Chinese negotiations, Lord Salisbury very rightly said that we must judge by the results. But why hint that Russia has lied to us? Even supposing that it were the fact, surely this is hardly the way to conduce to an amicable feeling between the two countries. Diplomats and Statesmen never lie; they only change their minds. We pledged ourselves to Europe only temporarily to occupy Egypt. Lord Cromer has just announced, after our occupation of fifteen years, that "for the present our departure would appear to be distant." In diplomatic language, we have changed our minds. Then Lord Salisbury went on to explain to the ladies that there are living countries and dying countries, and that it is in the nature of things that the living should devour the dying. We, therefore, he continued, must be ready to join in this carnival of vultures. The ladies loudly applauded

these ghoulish sentiments. Pretty darlings! Thus does the *St. James's Gazette* point the moral:—

> The old Party issues, Party cries, Party fetishes are dead. Voices may cry in the wilderness about Disestablishment, Local Veto, and Home Rule. No one heeds them. We have only two Parties—the living and the dead.

Need I observe that by the living is meant the Conservatives, and by the dead the Radicals? I agree with the *St. James's Gazette*. Radicals will cry in the wilderness for reforms so long as they are such idiots as to dance to the Tory tune of arming to the teeth—not for purposes of defence, but to place us in a position to secure the lion's share in the dismemberment of the weak. Rome, said Scipio, is to be defended by carrying the war into Africa. The privileges of the classes at home are to be defended by carrying the war into Africa, Asia, and everywhere else where something can be grabbed. In order effectively to carry out this grab policy we are to build such a number of ships that we can sweep all other navies from the sea, and thus become masters of the ocean-ways to all parts of the earth. The commerce and the colonies of foreign nations are to exist by our good pleasure, and when it comes to taking more territory, we are to have the pick, and only leave to others what we do not want. Napoleon, in his dreams of universal empire, never imagined such an Empire as this. He sought to establish his supremacy in Europe. We would establish ours over the world. The European Powers combined against Napoleon; can we be surprised if the world, outside our Empire, combines against us? What is called the balance of power is such a distribution of force that no one Power can dictate the law to all, and this balance of power is the surest guarantee for peace. Fortunately, Lord Salisbury does not act on these principles, and more than once has he sneered at those of his colleagues who profess them. But I suppose that he knew his audience, and thought that it was needless for him to cast pearls of wisdom before the ladies, most of whom, I read in a Tory organ, were arrayed in "becoming costumes!"

Unfortunately, however, foreign nations do not quite realise the difference between the Statesman and the Orator of the Primrose League. They may be inclined to take his tea-table chatter to Primrose dames and Primrose maidens as a responsible utterance of the Statesman. If they do, will it not be an incitement to arm also? If the nations of the earth—the living nations—are told that we are arming in order to be masters at the battle of Armageddon which Lord Salisbury cheerfully prophesies, will not they be fools if they do not arm too? Should they not, they will not only get nothing, but they will find themselves amongst the dying whom the living are to devour.

When a man's coat is long enough, the only advantage that he can derive from perpetually adding to its length is that the tails draggle in the mud. So it is with a nation. Our coat is quite long enough for our cloth, and it covers our body amply. We have the greatest Empire that the world has ever known. The inhabitants of the British Isles have to pay for defending it, for the area of Empire is not the area of taxation. If it be augmented, the cost of defending must increase. We pay forty-four millions for defence at present, and we find it difficult to keep the number of our Army up to our present requirements. We are like the proverbial greedy boy whose eyes are bigger than his belly. President McKinley, the newspapers tell us, contemplates selling the Philippine Islands to us. He has the sense to see that the United States—a commercial and manufacturing Power, as we are—would rather lose than gain by retaining them. But he has remarked our insatiate earth-hunger, and he fancies that we shall be ready to pay handsomely for this white elephant. The American President is so far right that, were he to offer to make over the animal to us, our Jingo Press would do its best to shriek us into accepting it. In the present crack-brained temper of the nation there is no knowing what folly it would not commit, were it told by its journalistic pastors and masters that the folly is wisdom, and that all who do not agree with them are as contemptible "Little Englanders" as were Sir Robert Peel, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Bright, and pretty well every other British statesman who was not privileged to live under the new gospel that they preach with such pernicious zeal.

That Tories, and that those Liberals who have gone over to the Tory camp bag and baggage, should seek to convert us into a nation of buccaneers abroad, rejoicing to be ruled at home by the aristocracy of birth and wealth, is not surprising. To save the Church and the House of Lords from destruction; to stave off all drastic changes in the land laws; to defend the throne of King Bung, they hold that all is lawful. And, with these views, their conduct is logical. But what sickens me is that Radicals should be hoodwinked by so transparent a plan of campaign aimed against themselves. They are more foolish than the sheep who are led to the slaughter. They run bleating with joy along the road, and if the butcher lags behind, they urge him to quicken his pace, and sharpen his knife.

Strange, indeed, are our ways just now. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer collects in taxes more money than any of his predecessors, we glory in this as proof that we are flourishing. If he spends the greater portion of this money in armaments, we hail him as a patriot. If he devotes a further portion to doles to the classes, we rejoice that the many have to pay these doles to the few. Although men in these Isles grown old in manual labour are left to the tender mercies of the workhouse when they are past work, and children are forced into schools, famished and ill-clad, we decline to better the lot of either. If we spend millions in slaying Africans, we declare that this is done to civilise and to Christianise them. If we vanquish ill-armed savages we celebrate the exploit as though we had done something that throws Leonidas and his Spartans into the shade.

But if other countries seek to follow our example, we explain to them that we are so good and so noble, that Providence has given over the whole world to us, as He gave over the Canaanites to the Israelites, and that what is right in us is wrong in them. If any independent tribes like the Afridis dare to question our right to reduce them to subjection, we burn their villages,

destroy their crops, ruin their fruit trees, and treat them as these Israelites did the Hivites and the Hittites. But if any other nation commits like barbarities, we shudder with indignant horror.

All this may be proper and patriotic. But whether it be or not, it must be admitted that it is a new code of ethics and of politics. The Tories have a huge Parliamentary majority. How did they get it? By Liberals aiding them to stir up belligerent greed. How are they to be deprived of this majority? By Radicals reverting to the principles that they professed before this belligerent greed was dubbed patriotism.

According to the majority of the Tory newspapers, the views that were almost universally held a little time ago are now only entertained by a small and scattered remnant, hardly worthy of a contemptuous sneer. So thought the Tories of those who differed from them, when they restored Charles II. to the throne of his "martyred" father. But they lived to learn that the triumph of the boastful, swaggering Cavaliers was but a passing phase, and that the men who they imagined were but a remnant were the nation. So it will be again.

PARTIES AND THEIR LEADERS.

The *Standard* and the *St. James's Gazette* announce the return of Lord Rosebery as Leader of the Liberal Party, and, says the former, "the movement in favour of recalling him to the Leadership, which has been going on for some time, is likely soon to take a more definite form." That there are a few Whigs and personal friends of Lord Rosebery eager for him to reassume the Leadership is very possible, and it may be that they are lobbying and intriguing. But were they to give a definite form to their aspirations, they would find themselves in a hopeless minority. I therefore fail to see how this "return from Elba" could take place. "The discontent," observes the *St. James's Gazette*, "with Sir William Harcourt's leading in the House of Commons has become more and more marked during the Session." This discontent, if it be felt by any, is confined to some of the members of the Front Opposition Bench, and is due to their differing from Sir William on foreign politics. The only complaint of the Radicals is that he allows himself to be too much influenced by a desire not to break entirely with these gentlemen. Radicals would have him assert his leadership over them, and make it clear to them that, if they are not prepared to yield, their room is better than their company. Were Lord Rosebery to become Leader of the Party on account of dissatisfaction with Sir William's leading in the Commons, it is clear that this would be followed by the deposition of Sir William. Who, then, is it proposed should replace him? The entire story is mere moonshine, as the Lobby rumours set about by one Party respecting the other generally are.

The Unionists naturally would like to bring about a split in the enemy's camp. They are further desirous that we should go back to the good old days when Whigs and Tories were the alternate holders of office, and thus the Radicals were kept in proper subordination. They wish it all the more because, could they bring it about, the Tories would be almost always in office, as without the Radicals the Whigs' chance of Downing-street would be small. So long as I can remember, the Whigs intrigued against Mr. Gladstone, for in their hearts they hated the great reforms which he was always pressing to the front. Mr. Gladstone was too popular to be crushed by base intriguers. The same game is going on now. A dead set is made against Sir William Harcourt, because he is not their man. It must not, however, be supposed that, even on the Front Opposition Bench, this intrigue finds favour with the majority.

Where you have a man in a Party whose personal influence is so great that it carries all before him, and whose aim is to give effect, so far as he can, to the aspirations of the Party, as was the case with Mr. Gladstone, he is the natural Leader. But when there is no such man in a Party, then the Leadership becomes a question of minor importance, the door is open to intrigue, and the friends of each Brentford king try to give him the rose. No sooner does one king get it, than the friends of the other endeavour to get it away from him. Sir William's crime at present is that he has the rose. But in order to displace him, there must be something more than mere back-stair intrigues. His opponents must come out into the open and produce a man more in unison with the aspirations of the Party, and more likely to give practical effect to them. I confess that amongst the Brentford kings who would—or perhaps it would be fairer to say, whose over-zealous friends would—put their particular king on the throne, I see no one who more frankly accepts the Party aspirations, or who can make a better fight for them.

When I desire a thing I perhaps take a broader view of what is justifiable in seeking to attain it than some persons. But I do hold to this: If I take an oar in a boat, I keep stroke, and do not try to upset it by designedly catching crabs. If the proverb that there is honour among thieves be true, then I can only say that the ethics of some politicians are not up to those of thieves. Any man has a right to separate himself from his Party, if he does not agree with its policy. But if he be a fair-minded man he will do so openly. To publicly accept allegiance to a man, and privately to endeavour to upset him; to try to score against him by back-stair intrigue, and secretly to inspire journals to attack him, is too much like the kiss of Judas to commend itself to most men. Yet what do we see? On the Liberal side there is an underhand intrigue against the Liberal Leader, and on the Unionist side a like intrigue against the Unionist Leader. And unless I am greatly mistaken the vast majority both of Unionists and Liberals view these intrigues with disgust.

THE CASE OF SERGEANT GIBBS.

In TRUTH of December 2 (page 1417) reference was made to the case of a sergeant in N Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, at Meerut, who had been the victim of some very singular proceedings in the course of an apparent attempt to oust him from the Service on the ground of medical unfitness. The attempt has since reached a successful issue, and I am able to give some fuller particulars of the circumstances through the kindness of a friend, an officer in India, who has come across the man, Sergeant Gibbs,

since he left the Service. There seems to be no room whatever for doubt as to any of the facts, and the case is undoubtedly a very bad one, calling urgently for further notice.

On August 4, 1896, in consequence of an accident in a steeplechase at Meerut, Sergeant Gibbs went to hospital with slight concussion of the brain. On August 21 a court of inquiry was held into the accident, and Surgeon-Major Rennie (Medical Officer No. 1), subsequently entered the opinion on Gibbs' medical history sheet that the accident "is not likely to interfere with his duties as a soldier." On November 1 in the same year Gibbs was marked by the P.M.O. (Medical Officer No. 2) "Medicine and duty," and returned to duty accordingly. He remained at duty for six months—*i.e.* until May, 1897, when he applied for re-engagement on completion of his twelve years' service, and was passed and certified fit by Medical Officer No. 3. He was at this time acting as pay-sergeant of No. 2 Section Battery, near Simla. The re-engagement paper was sent up to the acting C.O., Major Dunlop, at Meerut, who returned it with a note that he would not sanction or recommend the re-engagement till he saw Sergeant Gibbs again, as the man could not speak properly or walk when he left Meerut. The Lieutenant in charge of Sergeant Gibbs' section wrote in reply that the sergeant had quite recovered from his accident, and could both speak and walk. No further steps, however, with regard to his re-engagement were taken by Sergeant Gibbs for some months; but in August last, at the beginning of the Frontier outbreak, he was, in common with other men, examined and passed for active service by another medical officer (Medical Officer No. 4). On August 24, in consequence of a junior sergeant being ordered to act as battery-sergeant-major, Sergeant Gibbs, seeing that there was some prejudice or grudge against him, asked the C.O. to sanction his re-engagement and also his exchange into another battery; and on September 16 Major Dunlop gave Gibbs a re-engagement paper, and told him to be re-examined by the doctor. The examination was made on the same date by another doctor (Medical Officer No. 5), who certified "I have carefully examined this man, and in my opinion he does not suffer from any disability or ailment likely to interfere with the efficient performance of his duties, either at home or abroad." On the paper being returned to the Major for signature, he took the extraordinary course, already detailed in TRUTH, of ordering Gibbs to go before the doctor again. Gibbs accordingly went again before Medical Officer No. 5, who two days before had certified him fit. The doctor does not seem to have examined him again, but inquired of him whether he had ever been paralysed, to which Gibbs replied in the negative. He was then ordered to go before the P.M.O. (Medical Officer No. 2), which he did on September 19. He was then again examined, and the doctor asked him whether he got tired when riding, to which he replied "No." It was after this examination that Gibbs was ordered (I believe by Major Dunlop), as already mentioned in TRUTH, to give up the papers that he held certifying that he was medically fit. Gibbs refused to do so, and in view of the irregular and suspicious character of all the procedings up to this point, few will question that he was justified in refusing. He was then placed under arrest, and remanded for a district court-martial (September 20). On September 25, being informed that the General had sent an order that he was to give up the papers, he handed them over to Major Dunlop, after taking a copy. No court-martial was ever held, but on September 29 Gibbs was taken before the R.A. officer and given a severe reprimand. He was at the same time told that a report about his fitness for re-engagement would be sent in in January. On October 5 he addressed a complaint to the Commander-in-Chief asking for investigation into his treatment, and a few weeks later he was ordered to appear again before Medical Officer No. 2, and subsequently before a board. The result of these proceedings was not communicated to him. On December 28 he was ordered to sign another re-engagement paper—the fourth. On January 26 he was ordered to hand over his sub-division, and given furlough pending discharge, and on February 16 he was formally discharged "in consequence of having been found medically unfit for further service. Character: Very good."

Now, these proceedings, which I should imagine must be without precedent in the history of the British Army, speak for themselves, and it seems a mere waste of time to draw specifically all the inferences which they suggest at every step. The reason officially given for Gibbs' discharge is a false pretence on the face of it, and stultifies the medical officers who gave it. Here we have a man returned to duty by a P.M.O., and within twelve months three times examined and certified by three other doctors as fit either for re-engagement or for active service in the Frontier war. In the face of this the final declaration that he was medically unfit can only be regarded as a fictitious pretext trumped up for the purpose of getting the man out of the Service. The motive and the means are so transparent that one may almost say that there is no disguise about them.

As to the reasons which inspired this obvious hostility on the part of one or other of Gibbs's superior officers, my informant has questioned the man, and elicited the following facts. In the first place, it appears that some time ago, under the auspices of Major, then Captain, Dunlop, the battery coffee-shop got heavily into debt, and on Captain Dunlop going for a time to the Depot, sergeant Gibbs was ordered to look after the concern, with the result that he succeeded in wiping out the debt and showing a handsome balance to credit at the end of nine months. It also appears that he had refused to countenance the prevailing system of payments by sergeants for the privilege of holding office in the canteen, and had refused to pay this form of backsheesh himself, thus presumably incurring the ill-will of some higher authority. If any one wishes to know more about the practice here referred to, he may turn to a paragraph published in TRUTH of April 14, page 902. It is also possible that the C.O. was annoyed at Gibbs's attempt to exchange into another battery, he being a smart soldier and an excellent rough rider. Whether these facts will afford

sufficient explanation of the animus shown against him, the reader must judge for himself; but I find that people who know the Service better than I do have no difficulty in accepting this explanation of Gibbs's discharge.

However, be the explanation what it may, there can be no doubt that the man has been treated with the most gross injustice, and that the interests of the Service and the terms of the Army Regulations have been unscrupulously overridden to gratify personal feeling. Sergeant Gibbs is a man just thirty years of age, and by universal admission one of the best riders and smartest soldiers in his battery. He is discharged with a "very good" character, and the most serious blot upon his record appears to be the "severe reprimand" administered to him last September under the circumstances mentioned. In addition to his official character, he possesses a testimonial from the chaplain, stating that "his moral character for honesty, truthfulness, and steadiness is beyond all praise." I may say that Gibbs himself has never communicated with me; My knowledge of the case in the first instance was derived from others who were familiar with the facts, and my latest information comes from an officer who is not even in the Royal Artillery, but who has accidentally had the case brought under his notice, and was so disgusted at the whole story that he sent it to me as a matter which ought to be brought before the House of Commons. I deal with it here, because experience has taught me that the military authorities are more ready to pay attention to facts laid before them in the Press than when they are raised in a more or less hostile manner in Parliament. Speaking as a taxpayer, and at a time when we hear so much about the necessity of strengthening our forces, and the difficulty of getting suitable men, I ask every one who reads these lines whether it is a tolerable thing that smart and efficient soldiers of excellent character should be hounded out of the Service as Sergeant Gibbs has been merely to gratify private grudges. It is the duty of the rulers of the Army, both in India and at home, to protect not merely individual soldiers or N.C.O.s, but also the public Service against abuses of this kind; and they ought to make, after due inquiry, an example in this case which will do something to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future.

A MORAL FROM EARL'S COURT.

What I like about the Earl's Court Exhibition is that the exhibits are not conspicuous. No doubt they are there, and no doubt they are all that the most exacting connoisseur could desire. But if exhibited, they are not exhibited obtrusively. If you want to see them, I suppose you can. I do not want to see them, and I spent three hours at Earl's Court on Saturday without seeing a single one. Consequently, I regard this as an ideal exhibition.

An exhibition where you see no exhibits may seem to lack *raison d'être*. It certainly is not so at Earl's Court. The exhibition there has the best possible *raison d'être*. It is a place of amusement, and amusement is what it provides—in practically inexhaustible quantities, and for every variety of taste. To my taste—and to that apparently of many hundreds of thousands of my fellow-citizens—the most precious of all these amusements is that of sitting with a cigarette in the open air and doing nothing, to the accompaniment of the best of bands, with a waiter somewhere at hand ready to take your order, if you feel disposed to give it, and with an endless procession of your fellow-creatures of all ages, sorts, and conditions passing before you as food for observation and reflection. Till within the last few years the lack of this particular form of amusement has spoiled London for pleasure purposes, and made the most conspicuous distinction between life here and on the Continent. The idea had gradually grown up that in this respect we are differently constituted from our European neighbours; that the life of the Parisian boulevard or the German beer-garden was incompatible with the British climate or the British temperament, or some other occult influence. This was an utter delusion, as a very slight acquaintance with the habits of our ancestors before the Victorian era would have shown. The delusion is now dispelled. The success of the "Fisheries" and subsequent exhibitions at South Kensington first undermined it, and the subsequent growth of the Earl's Court undertaking, and the imitations of it in other quarters, have shown that the London public are just as delighted to sit about and listen to music in a public garden as the inhabitants of any town in the Fatherland. Nor is this taste confined to any one class. One of the pleasantest features of the Earl's Court show is its frankly democratic character. You see the smartest elements of West End society rubbing shoulders with the proletariat, and all parties apparently well satisfied with their company. This alone is an achievement of which the promoters have a right to be proud.

Do not, however, let me do these worthy gentlemen the injustice of suggesting, even unintentionally, that there is no amusement at Earl's Court but to sit and listen to the band. It has not been so hitherto, and it certainly is not so this year. On the contrary, the entertainments and side shows have increased and multiplied. The Naval Display in particular is a novelty of extraordinary cleverness and interest, calculated to make the heart of the Jingo leap for joy, and even to make a Little Englander hum his "Rule Britannia." There are American midgets and Hungarian minstrels, a panorama and a realistic Alpine excursion, baby incubators and electrophones, a captive balloon for those who cannot get high enough in the Great Wheel, and 'rickshaws drawn by live Japs to provide a new sensation for those who prefer locomotion on terra firma. In a word, you have here all the fun of the Greenwich or Bartholomew Fairs of the olden time, before ruffianism captured and destroyed them, and when all classes patronised them as freely as they patronise Earl's Court to-day.

It is something to have revived in London the taste for all these harmless amusements, and to have provided London with the means of gratifying it. But it is something still more astonishing to have done it on this particular site. In the midst of the palatial buildings, the lake and the canals, and the clever scenery surrounding it

all, stop and think for a moment what it was before the genius of Imré Kiralfy set to work on it—three plots of derelict land in the midst of a wilderness of railway lines, coal wharves, and goods sheds! When a little taste, ingenuity, enterprise, and capital can thus make the wilderness rejoice and blossom, does it not seem that we are criminally neglectful of the possibilities presented by the parks and gardens that lie open to the public on every hand? When the people show such an appreciation of amusements of a purely harmless and wholesome nature, and when you see that such amusements can be easily made not only self-supporting but profitable, surely no further argument is needed in favour of multiplying such opportunities of recreation wherever practicable. To my mind there is no direction in which more can be done for promoting the happiness and morality of the people. If you want to repress wickedness and vice, and maintain religion and virtue, encourage your people to enjoy the simplest pleasures. Teach them to take tea with their wives in the Parks, to sit there and read their newspapers, listen to the bands, and play with the children, and you will do more than all the preachers and lecturers to keep them out of the public-houses and the police-courts—not to mention worse places. When the cost is so small, isn't the experiment worth trying?

THE MEDICINE MAN.

His name was Tregenna; as a specialist on the brain his prowess was applauded in the East End and in the West. We met him first in Whitechapel, at one of Canon Slade Smith's "Evenings for the people." That popular preacher, whose manner resembles Launcelot Gobbo's at the Lyceum, spoke on the power of the human will. The audience was not attentive. The speaker now would offer an instance of the "works" a good man's will might do: he would mention the honoured name of—Dr. Tregenna! The audience was disagreeably stirred. Plainly, Dr. Tregenna was somebody—and sinister. There was interruption. Why, it was asked, do the Doctor's patients die so soon after leaving his Home at Hampstead? The Canon defended that Retreat. Mrs. Bill Burge expressed a wish that the Doctor would take in hand her husband. The audience was amused: its general opinion seemed that Bill Burge would be one too many for the Doctor. Mr. Burge now raised an awful head from the bench where it reposed. He resented his wife's idea, and indicated his resentment. The door opened, and Dr. Tregenna entered. There was a conflict of eye and will. The wife-beater quailed, and then Burge broke from the Doctor and ran. The people left. The Doctor sat down by the fire. To the Canon's remark on Bill's evasion, he said quietly that his beasts often returned to him—*tamen usque recurrent.* The Canon busied himself with the lights, and still the Doctor sat before the fire. Then the door was flung open. A man entered and came cringing to the Doctor's chair. It was Burge. The beast had come back from the jungle.

We met Tregenna next at Lord Belhurst's ball. He came late, and in conversation with a colleague revealed a dark passage in his life. He had loved some one called Edith, who had jilted him. She was dead; but if ever he over-took the man who had robbed him, that person, he darkly hinted, should suffer. He knew things about the brain which made him a deadly foe. Again, he desired a certain type of patient. Such a one he would lead gradually to the border-line of madness, and observe the process. Just then the Doctor seemed to have a vision. He saw before him the lost love of his youth. Had Edith returned from the grave? No, explained the colleague, this was a mortal maid, the girl of the house. Does the reader guess what Tregenna now perceived? This was Edith the second, christened Sylvia, the lost love's daughter, and Lord Belhurst was his rival. Presently that rival came forward and confided in the Doctor. His wife had died melancholy mad, and he was uneasy for his daughter. She was well and dancing with her fiancé, a V.C. fresh from exploits. Still her father wanted a good opinion on her case. Would the Doctor see her? The Doctor saw her. Yes; this should be his ideal patient. He drew her aside, he hypnotised her with a look. The V.C. vigorously protested. Lord Belhurst declared that the marriage was off. Sylvia must exchange the altar for Hampstead. The curtain fell on Sylvia in a swoon.

We have followed our Medicine Man from East to West; the postal direction is henceforth N.W. We are at Hampstead. There is Nurse (comic relief) who wants men only for her patients, and those gentlemen. There is Burge, now in the Doctor's hands, and growing horribly more brute-like daily. In him the Doctor is developing homicidal mania. Sylvia, on the other hand, is floating in dreams to insanity. The poison grows. She breaks with her father and her V.C., and only lives for her Doctor. Finally there is a party at Tregenna's and an explosion. The Doctor, his colleague of the first act, the father, and the V.C. meet to argue it out. As they dispute, Lord Belhurst accidentally discloses that, so far from robbing a ship's doctor of his bride, he had never heard of Tregenna's existence. For so keen a man, the Doctor's scent was bad. No sooner does Tregenna hear this than he relents. A few hypnotic passes suffice to bring back Miss Sylvia's reason, and she goes off with her people. As she goes, the Doctor begs her to say farewell to her gaoler—"Your gaoler who loved you." He then sat down at his table and was murdered shortly after by Bill Burge.

It is melodrama, and not good melodrama. The construction is artless. The authors have not told a plain tale. Even from an abstract which aims at simplifying their argument, and is, in fact, much simpler than the stage presentment, you will see that the piece is prolix and obscure. There are irrelevancies of which this abstract takes no account. There are foibles which an expert hand would have avoided.

There are five acts of "The Medicine Man," but that was no reason why on the opening night eleven should have struck before the curtain had risen on the fifth. But time—and the management—may put this right, and make the odds more even. From its very length, we are apt at present to discount the merits of the evening. Miss Maude Valérie White's music is admirable. So is the mounting of the piece. The Doctor's garden, with the blue night pierced with fairy lamps, is

beautiful. In the piece itself some of the dialogue is witty. The atmosphere of the Belhurst ball is reproduced. The great lady, full of Lady Bountiful airs about nothing, as she steps from the East End party to her carriage where the big footmen wait, and the nurse already described, make pleasant satire. The clergyman with his inattentive hearers is observed, and if he is made farcical that effect is deliberate. These points explain the "melodramatic comedy" of the playbill. But they do not compensate for so obscure a story. The hypnotism is weak. Here is the method neither of Nancy nor of the Salpêtrière; it is not even a convincing brand of good old penny-novel mesmerism. Charcot brought patients as much under his control as Tregenna's. But these were epileptics, and Charcot had need of time, process, and the revolving mirror. Tregenna hardly needed contact with his victims. On other grounds the Doctor is a puzzle. For a man of superhuman powers he had a fine task in platitude; his theories of cruelty, &c., were not impressive. A man all brain, he devoted himself to revenge on defective evidence, and relinquished his purpose on feeble grounds. The knot is tamely loosed. But what were the "Medicine Man's" motives? Love of the girl, revenge, or love of science? I do not know, and I do not think the Doctor knew. Even the authors throw down their motives and leave you, who have paid, to take your choice.

The acting could hardly have been better. Other parts than a girl's in her teens may now become Miss Terry, yet her Sylvia, sane and happy at the ball, insane and reconciled at Hampstead, was remarkably suggested. In lesser characters, Miss Rose Leclerc and Mr. Fuller Mellish perhaps excelled where all were adequate. The bestial gradations of Bill Burge are an extraordinary feat. Mr. MacIntosh, I cannot think, has ever had his due. Recollect his Solicitor at the Court, his William III., his German adventurer in an Adelphi melodrama of Messrs. Carr and Chambers. It is difficult to name a more essential actor than the inventor of types so diverse. "I have no commands for futurity," but among the younger men it is on Mr. MacIntosh I should bet were I a tipster. Sir Henry Irving's Tregenna was bound to be an eerie masterpiece. No doubt it suffered from the weaknesses of the character, yet the spell is there. I may not believe in the Doctor's mannerism; I quail before the actor's.

At the close of the evening Sir Henry told the audience that the "Medicine Man" would run till the end of the season. Against hope, I hope that it may. But if it doesn't, I trust Sir Henry will not be discouraged. The "Medicine Man" may not be a great physician, but his treatment is on proper lines. Opinions vary about Sir Henry in Shakespearean characters. No one doubts his pre-eminence in melodrama. I have watched and cordially admired his disinterested efforts on behalf of the pictorial side of Shakespeare. But there are other kingdoms to reconquer. Sir Henry has earned the right to condescend on a great popular success. The boxes and stalls have had it all their way. Here is our leading actor—a national possession. The pit—yea, the gods—have a right to be considered in his triumphs.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE CHARCOT-HUGO FRACAS.

HOW touch a subject so delicate, even with the daintiest pair of sugar-tongs? I should not touch it at all but for the blaze of publicity and the fumes of exaggeration and falsehood that have sprung up about it. Endless tales are told, all of which are more true than false. Each one tries to seek into remote causes in a manner suggestive of raking a rubbish-heap. The remote causes were small causes, as I hope to show.

I cannot separate in imagination "Georges et Jeanne," the darling grandchildren of Victor Hugo. Their names are welded together in imperishable verse. The loving adoration in which their grandfather held them was one of the sweetest features of his old age. It was generous as sunshine and of a piece with his last letters to Ste. Beuve—letters no English critic has rightly understood. Who that was admitted to Victor Hugo's inner circle does not remember the granddaughter, when a child, being drawn towards him as a needle to a magnet? Who could fail to admire the contrasting apple-blossom rosiness of Jeanne with the weather-beaten, hoary, and majestic head of Victor Hugo? She stood beside his chair, and he laid her face against his shoulder muttering, perhaps, "My angel; my darling—the joy of my poor old heart." The grandson, less spontaneous and more reflective, also made his way over to the grandfather to share the caresses. An arm was then thrown round each grandchild, and both fell into place by seating themselves on his knees.

Victor Hugo was under the influence of the childish beauty of Georges and Jeanne when he wrote "La Grand'-Mère," a strange drama in one act and seven scenes, brought out for the first time last week at the Odéon. And it was on the occasion of the first representation that the husband of "Jeanne" (Dr. Jean Charcot) boxed "Georges" in the face. Who can blame Georges for striking back with a cane? It would have been better had he wiped away the "claret" from his nose, and said, "One cannot call out a pugilist." Talleyrand had more presence of mind when assaulted by De Maubreuil, M. Lockroy, who was with Dr. Jean Charcot, went between the combatants. Thereupon the one who wanted to be quits called him (the cleverest man in Paris) a dotard.

There has long been slumbering animosity between "Georges" and "Jeanne's" present husband. Georges, after his sister and her first husband, M. Léon Daudet, decided on divorce, remained faithful to his ex-brother-in-law. Not satisfied with being merely his friend, he gave his friendship in the most conspicuous manner. It might have been better to have been less demonstrative. M. Jules Simon felt this deeply. Hence the trouble he took to have the fact stated in the papers that the divorce was given in favour of Victor Hugo's granddaughter.

But it would be a mistake to suppose that M. Léon Daudet was guilty of aught but faults of temper. He is, perhaps, more impressionable than his illustrious father, whose nerves were in early life held down and disciplined by hard lines. Mme. Jeanne Charcot-Hugo is a kind, amiable, unaffected woman. She is also a friendly person,

and greatly attached to her old schoolmates. Need I say that being adored in childhood did not strengthen the virtues of patience and forbearance? She is no Griselda—a character rather out of date in this *fin de siècle*. I should say she is a person to be led, but not driven. If her first husband's nerves led him to claim the mastery at home, her old habits of a darling grandchild prompted her to revolt. The Daudet family are, when they sift their thoughts, Freethinkers; but in feeling they are profoundly Catholic. They are hostile to the Jews. Zola was deeply impressed by the fact that Drumont was one of the pall-bearers at Alphonse Daudet's funeral.

As I have said, there is a cloud of misleading exaggeration round the whole Daudet-Hugo-Charcot affair; I shall therefore, though with fear and trembling, attempt to disperse it. A mere trifle led to much friction and misunderstanding in the Daudet-Hugo *ménage*. The most intimate friends of Victor Hugo's granddaughter were Jewesses of her own age. Her first husband complained of their familiarity. They made themselves too much at home. They irritated him with their practical jokes, one of which was to lock him out of the room where they and his wife were. English people grow easily familiar. French never do, and hate familiarity. *Les petites Juives* had the excuse of being schoolfellows of Madame. None the less, they rasped his nerves, and he thought them a serious grievance. This was resented. He then began to imagine that he was the victim of a Jewish intrigue, in view of a divorce. He must have seen in the *Libre Parole* that his wife's stepfather was a Jew. Drumont detects Jewish blood nearly everywhere. The idea of the conspiracy became a settled one. The wife was too proud to explain it away or to humour any fancy. Divorce became the only issue from a marriage that ought to have been happy and brilliant, but that had proved most unhappy. There was no serious fault on either side.

M. Léon Daudet seems to have felt that his divorced wife would choose a doctor for her second husband. He bitterly attacked the medical profession in "Morticolis." A good deal of the vitriol was said to be aimed at the late Dr. Charcot's pretensions. That light of science prescribed hanging as a remedy for the locomotor ataxia of Alphonse Daudet, with very bad results.

The feud has rather widened than tended to heal. An influence analogous to that of *La Libre Parole* seems at work on one side. Jewesses are discovered on the other side. Mme. Charcot (the great doctor's widow) is charged with being of Jewish birth. Her daughter, Mme. Waldeck-Rousseau, formerly the wife of the late Deputy and Doctor Lionville, is the image of Sarah Bernhardt, and imitates her gait, dress, and make-up. As the child of the Daudet-Hugo marriage is exclusively under maternal care, such connections are thought a grievance. Society and the literary and artistic world sympathise with M. Léon Daudet. People go a good deal in herds in Paris. To put it otherwise, "Birds of a feather flock together." As Mme. Jeanne Hugo has married a doctor, she is expected to go with the medical flock.

There does not seem to be anything to fight about in the situation I have been stating. But I do think it would be in better taste for M. Georges Hugo not to be so prominently in the camp opposed to his sister. When time has softened M. Léon Daudet's sense of grievance, he will be, I am sure, of the same opinion. M. Georges Hugo himself will regret that he did not, under all circumstances, consult his grandfather as an oracle. On the first nights of "La Grand'-Mère" Victor Hugo's grandchildren, with attendant family parties, occupied contiguous boxes. M. Léon Daudet showed himself in the grandson's. This was enough to draw Society, the artists, and the *gens de lettres* there in the *entr'-actes*. There was also the attraction of the known wealth of the Menard Dorian family and the beauty of its ladies. But this could not have led to the aggression on M. Georges Hugo behind the scenes. Dr. Jean Charcot may have nerves, too, and the sight of his brother-in-law embracing Mme. Marie Laurent may have ruffled them. The merest trifle will act on excitable nerves like an electrical spark on an explosive. But having given a fist-blow in the face to M. Hugo, he should give the satisfaction demanded by the seconds. This he refuses to do on the grounds that the near relationship prevents him. Draw what inferences you please from the refusal.

"La Grand'-Mère" is Hugoesque in its beauties and defects. It is lyrical; it has passages the very soul of music. They are fresh as a dewy morning. Among the defects are frequent alliteration. One feels that it is on purpose. What do you think of a heroine—and a German, too — named Emma Gemma? The taste of the poet for the high-sounding and pompous often breaks out. He voices his own ideas through his personages. The plot is at once simple and extravagant. Duke Charles—a philosopher and admirer of Rousseau, and the heir to a Sovereign German house—has withdrawn stealthily from the Court of his mother, the Margravine (Marie Laurent). For ten years he gives no sign. All the searches made for him are fruitless. But he is living as a cottager on one of his father's estates. He has abandoned rank, fortune, family, to marry a peasant girl, Emma Gemma (Mme. Segond Weber). Six children are in existence when the Margravine discovers her son's retreat. She comes with her Chief Justice to throw Duke Charles into prison, and Emma into a convent. But she does not reckon on a fortuitous meeting with three lovely little cherubs with flaxen hair and rosy cheeks. She has been saying what blood she would like to flow in her grandchild's veins. The mother's should be a Wittelsbach, with a Hapsburg grandsire. The children play and sing. They enchant the severe old lady. When she finds they are pledges of love given by Emma Gemma to Duke Charles, her heart melts, and she adopts all the nestlings and accepts the morganatic wife.

We had any number of fashionable masses last week. It does vex me to see how Fashion meddles with that gruesome tragedy of the Charity Bazaar. Its intervention is sacrilegious. Many of the masses were for the souls of those who passed a year ago through the fiery furnace of the Rue Jean Goujon. M. Faure, who delights in the

Kinahan's LL Whisky.—"The Cream of Old Irish Whiskies." Kinahan's LL Whisky. Gold Medal Paris Exhibition, 1878. Kinahan's Glenisle Whisky. The Finest Scotch Whisky sold.

pomps and vanities, had also a mass celebrated at the Elysée. He and his family attended. Piety of a certain sort is now a *genre*. The President would not have felt *dans le mouvement* had he not had his mass.

The Grand Duchess Wladimir attended the funeral ceremony at the Madeleine along with the most feather-headed of Franco-Belgian Comtesses. H.I.H. is a Protestant. But a number of her friends perished in the Charity Bazaar, and she wished to testify to the durability of her sorrow. But the mass that had the most prestige was in memory of the late Duc d'Aumale. It was celebrated at the Madeleine, his parish church. The Academy attended and, of course, magnates civil, military, naval, and all the Imperial and Royal Princes and Princesses in town.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

FELICIA HEMANS, dear Lady Betty, in "The Rhine Song" sings:—

"I had a hat. It was not all a hat—
Part of the brim was gone.
Yet still I wore it on."

This little verse should be sung by Lord Salisbury now, for even the petticoated politicians of the Primrose League are deserting the Minister who is prepared to surrender everything to the enemies of his country rather than surrender office to the opponents of his Party.

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The word "Conservatism" now no longer signifies tenacity to principles—or to prejudices—but tenacity to power. In this latter sense the present Ministry, which is a Tory Administration diluted with semi-detached Liberals and controlled by renegade Radicals, is exceptionally Conservative. This Cabinet is a veritable museum of mediæval mediocrities.

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Money was formerly made by saving money, not by spending it; but since the West End has migrated to the City this very old method has been reversed, for most men now imagine that money is to be made by spending money. This is, of course, absolutely erroneous, except in occasional circumstances. The fact is, money-making is an art which has to be learnt as laboriously as any. But West End men will not acknowledge that this is the case. They go to the City with a light heart and a heavy purse, and, sooner or later, they all return to the West End with a heavy heart and a light purse. Most West End men, it should be remembered, bear names which enable them to be identified in every hole and corner on the globe, and if they are concerned in a dishonest transaction there is no spot on the earth where they can begin life again unrecognised. A large number of City men, however, are merely obscure adventurers. They risk little to gain much, and if a disaster occurs to them, they have only to remove to another town or another country without fear of their reputation dogging them. Thus, a West End man who goes into the City is very much like an amateur who attempts, with his hands tied behind his back, to fight a professional pugilist. How can he then possibly expect to make money? Indeed, any West End man has only to recall the fate of his friends who have made the attempt, to perceive that the contention is correct, for almost all of them have been either ruined or seriously impoverished. Besides, when a West End man ventures into the City he seldom comes into contact with the leading and substantial men of the City, for these are as exclusive as are the leading men in the West End. But he comes into contact at once with the financial sharks who are lying in wait to devour him, and with the adventurers who conceive that they may utilise him. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that eventually ninety-nine out of every hundred regret having ventured into the City. Some few do succeed; but many of these are, or become, even more unprincipled than are the adventurers and the sharks. There is no animal in the world so dangerous as an unprincipled gentleman.

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The prices realised at the sale of the magnificent Heckscher collection, which took place at the auction-rooms of Messrs. Christie, Manson, & Woods last week, have astonished all but a few experts. Though money is exceptionally scarce, and the prosperous class, which generally purchases works of art, is suffering most from this cause, the average price of each object sold was £200; whilst at the Hamilton Palace sale the average was £180, and at the Magniac sale £70. Mr. Duveen, the well known art dealer of Old Bond-street, created a sensation by securing the Louis XV. enamelled snuff-box at the phenomenal price of £3,350. No snuff-box has ever changed hands at so high a figure, and there is every reason to believe—for it is the finest in the world—that it is destined at some future date to fetch considerably more.

The steady increase in the value of really fine works of art is, however, easily explained. The number of these is limited; the wealth of the world has recently enormously increased, and it may be expected to continue to increase, markets for works of art have been established in America, Africa, and Australia; and the number of those who appreciate such works has been multiplied beyond reckoning. Any man sinking some hundreds or thousands in purchasing veritable masterpieces of art now may, therefore, confidently look forward to doubling and even to trebling the capital so invested, if he can afford to wait.

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Sir Philip Currie, the British Ambassador at Constantinople, has been appointed to replace Sir Francis Clare Ford as British Ambassador at Rome. Over a year ago it was predicted in these columns that Sir Philip would succeed Sir Francis at Rome, and the prediction was ridiculed. There are some who suggest that Sir Mortimer Durand, the British Ambassador at Teheran, should be appointed to Constantinople, but it is to be hoped that Lord Salisbury will not venture to make such a promotion. Sir Mortimer Durand has been imported into the Service, and is not, therefore, a trained diplomatist. Besides, it is not at all generally admitted that his career in the Service has been entirely successful. Others insist that Constantinople is reserved for Lord Cromer, which is even more ludicrous; for, in the first place, the Sultan would object to the appointment, as Lord Cromer has been the chief opponent of his projects as to Egypt. Secondly, if Lord Cromer does leave Egypt, it will be to assume the post of Viceroy of India, which is a far more probable appointment. Either Sir Frank Lascelles, Sir Nicholas O'Conor, or Sir Arthur Nicolson should succeed Sir Philip Currie, and they are all trained and successful diplomatists.

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The following paragraphs which occurred in the telegraphic message from the *Times* "Our Correspondent" on Monday appear to have escaped the attention of journalists: "What was wanting in Admiral Dewey's brief and businesslike account of the victory: [the American naval victory at Manila] to satisfy the public interest is supplied by a narrative from the *New York Herald* correspondent. He alone among journalists shared the dangers and opportunities of the combat by Admiral Dewey's side on the bridge of the flagship." This is indeed amazing. Imagine Nelson fighting at Trafalgar with a newspaper correspondent by his side; Napoleon at Waterloo, with a reporter next to him taking shorthand notes; the Queen on Jubilee Day, accompanied in her State chariot by a journalist; and Mr. Justice Hawkins trying a notorious criminal, with the Lord Mayor on his right hand and "Our Own Correspondent" on the left. Let us abolish the House of Lords, and establish the House of Journalists in its stead. It would be an altogether admirable reform.—Believe me, to be very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE utter and hopeless collapse of the three-year-old form seems to place the £10,000 stakes of the season at the mercy of Velasquez if he goes on all right, and there is not a finer or a more improved horse now in training. He will not run at Ascot, and his first race as a four-year-old is to be the Princess of Wales' Stakes of £10,000, which is decided on June 30 at the Newmarket First July Meeting. There were forty-two acceptances for this race when the final forfeit was declared on January 4, and a subscription of £115 has to be paid on each of these entries. The race will not cost the fund a shilling this year, and there will, indeed, be a considerable surplus for the winner. Last year there was a surplus of £82, which went to Velasquez, but in 1896, when St. Frusquin defeated Persimmon, there was actually a deficiency of £1,994. Velasquez (9 lb. extra) can beat all the four-year-olds easily enough, the best of them being Vesuvian (who cannot be trained again), Chelandry (3 lb. extra), Goletta (9 lb. extra), Berzak (3 lb. extra), St. Cloud II., and Minstrel (6 lb. extra), and surely Lord Rosebery's horse holds all of them quite safe. Dieudonné will have to give Velasquez 3 lb. if he wins the Derby, and if he is beaten at Epsom then he can have no chance here, as he has already incurred a penalty of 6 lb. Brio and Ninus cannot stay the course, and there remain only Collar and Wantage, each at present being entitled to a 5 lb. maiden allowance; but I do not believe that either the one colt or the other could beat Velasquez over this course. Perhaps The Wyvern may be kept for this race, and he also has a maiden allowance, but Mr. Leigh's colt is now more likely to run for the Derby if he is supposed to be worth keeping in training, and if beaten at Epsom he can have but little chance for the Newmarket event, while, if he wins the Derby, then his penalty would settle his chance for the £10,000 race. Margaux, who was at one time expected to turn out a very smart colt, is believed to be very moderate, and St. Evox can have no earthly chance of success.

There are thirty-nine acceptances for the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park (run July 15), and Velasquez will have to carry 10 lb. extra, while Chelandry is not entered. The three-year-olds include Batt, Collar, Goletta, St. Evox, Santhea, The Wyvern, Dieudonné, Margaux, and Sangrado. There is no maiden allowance in this race. St. Cloud II. and Berzak are the best of the four-year-olds, of which there are only sixteen altogether. There ought to be a good surplus over the Eclipse Stakes this year. Last season, when Persimmon won, there was a deficiency of £1,701, and in 1896, when St. Frusquin was successful, the fund had to contribute £1,782.

Sixty-eight animals are left in for the National Breeders' Produce Stakes of £5,000 at Sandown Park, which is run on July 16, and it will be a long way the richest two-year-old race of the season. The Prince of Wales has accepted with Sandringham, Lord Alington's pair are withdrawn, and the Duke of Westminster has taken out Orme's Head and Sark, leaving Frontier, by Orme out of Quetta, as the only representative of his stud; but the Kingsclere stable also has a colt by Royal Hampton out of Thistle, dam of Common. Mr. Brassey has left in both Boniface, by St. Simon out of Merry Miser, dam of Orzil and Palmira, by Amphion out of Palisandre. The Duke of Devonshire has left in four out of five, his lot including Claque, by Marden out of Marvel's dam, and a half-brother, by Melanion, to Balsamo. Mr. Baird's two entries (both grandly bred animals) have gone, and so have all Mr. Cooper's, five in number. Desmond has accepted. The purchasers of Captain Greville's yearlings of last season are presumably satisfied with them, as they are all left in for this race. Mr. Larnach has accepted with his filly by St. Simon out of Hampton Rose, winner of the Mostyn Plate at Chester. This filly is nominated here by her breeder, Mr. J. C. Harrison, who sold her at Doncaster last September for 1,300 gs. Sir J. B. Maple's lot of three includes Regent, by Royal Hampton out of Superba, and Nun Royal, by Royal Hampton out of Priestess, dam of Nun Nicer. All Mr. Platt's lot are left in, including Sir R. W. Griffith's 3,000 gs. filly by Kendal out of St. Marguerite, who is expected to turn out a veritable flyer; Mr. Miller's 1,100 gs. filly by Kendal out of Lucy Ashton, and the 1,650 gs. colt by Kendal out of Pixie, that was bought by the late Mr. Bass, and he will be sold to-day at Newmarket. Mr. Rose, who had five entries, has left in Peoria, by Bona Vista out of Distant Shore. Lord Rosebery has accepted with Corposant (who wants time) and Apennine, sister to Velasquez. Mr. Sneyd has a colt by Blue Green out of Grecian Bend. Mr. W. G. Stevens has left in a colt by Grey Friars out of The Sunbeam, that will have the benefit of a 10 lb. breeding allowance. The Prince of Wales's original entry for this race included an own sister to Thais, but the filly unluckily died when a foal.

The result of the One Thousand is eulogised by some addleheads as "a complete triumph of last year's form." As a matter of fact, it was really a most complete upset of last year's form, according to which neither Nun Nicer, Airs and Graces, nor Alt Mark would have finished in the first three. It is all silly nonsense, moreover, about the Oaks being "at the mercy" of Nun Nicer, remembering how often the Newmarket running has been utterly revolutionised at Epsom, and Sir Blundell Maple's victory was nothing so very brilliant after all. The less said the better about the Oaks being a certainty for the One Thousand winner after the upsets of Thais in 1896 and of Chelandry last year. It would not surprise me to see Lowood or Orpah win the Oaks. I certainly have no prejudice against Nun Nicer, having given a plumper for her when all the sporting papers were "going for" Royal Footstep or Ebba.

I hear that there will be two French candidates for the Ascot Cup — M. de Brémond's Elf II., who won the Prix Rainbow at Longchamps the other day, and M. E. Blanc's Masqué II., about whom there was so much trumpeting last year, after he had won the Ascot Stakes for M. Halbroun. Masqué II. ran very badly in France the other day, and if the Cup is to be taken across the Channel it is Elf II. that will be the winner. This horse is a really good stayer, and he has nice speed, so that he ought to have an excellent chance of winning the Alexandra Plate, whatever he may achieve in the race for the Gold Cup. I should fancy that Elf II. will be entered for the Queen's Vase.

Entries close next Tuesday for the Royal Hunt Cup and the Fernhill Stakes at Ascot. The Hunt Cup is the most richly endowed handicap of the year, as there is £1,500 of added money, besides a piece of plate value £500, and all the sweepstakes (£20 each, half ft.), also go to the winner. The Fernhill Stakes is a five furlong race for twos and threes, running at weight-for-age, there being neither penalties nor allowances. The added money to this event is only £300, and the managers of the meeting would be well advised if they made it £1,000. The folly and absurdity of wasting £1,500 on the Alexandra Plate has over and over again been pointed out, and the Ascot Stakes would be quite as successful with £1,000 of added money instead of £2,000 being squandered upon this handicap.

Lord Dunraven's Desmond (by St. Simon out of L'Abbesse de Jouarre), who ran well at Lincoln when capable of much improvement, is in reserve for the Woodcote Stakes at Epsom. It will be remembered that Desmond finished second to Amurath for the Brocklesby Stakes, the third place being filled by Sister Angela. This pair have since run well, and Desmond is sure to be a great public fancy if he comes to the post at Epsom fit and well on the 24th.

I hear that Wantage is a doubtful starter for the Derby, as the Duke of Portland is of the opinion (in which most competent judges will agree) that this horse would not show to advantage over the Epsom course. The best plan would be to reserve Wantage (if beaten this afternoon) either for his Ascot engagements, which are very good ones (Prince of Wales's Stakes, Ascot Derby, and St. James's Palace Stakes), or to keep him for the £10,000 race at the Newmarket First July Meeting. The great object, however, will be to get a race out of him before the ground becomes hard, for his forelegs are direfully groggy.

I hear from Newmarket that Disraeli will not run for the Newmarket Stakes this afternoon, as he is to be reserved for the Derby, and it is intended to start him for the Grand Prix de Paris, for which race Ninus, Perthshire, Dunlop, and Bridegroom II. have also accepted, but I shall be vastly surprised if any English horse is successful at Longchamps on June 5. Disraeli was principally indebted for his victory at Newmarket in the Two Thousand to the undeniable fact that he was the best trained horse on the field. It will be as well not to attach too much importance to the form of this race, and my own decided opinion is that Dieudonné will defeat Disraeli at Epsom. On the two-year-old running the Duke of Devonshire's colt holds Disraeli safe enough, as in the Middle Park Plate they met at even weights, and Dieudonné won in a common canter. If ever there was a colt "made to order" for the Epsom gradients it is Dieudonné, and his action at the present time is perfect, while the story of his being a roarer is all moonshine and rubbish.

Cyllene has come on wonderfully during the last three weeks, and has been greatly improved by some rattling gallops. Mr. Rose's colt has cantered away from The Convict in a trial over the R.M., so I fully expect that he will finish either first or second for the Newmarket Stakes, and Wantage, who has done well since his race for the Two Thousand, ought to prove his most dangerous opponent. Dunlop has been prepared to run for the Payne Stakes to-morrow, and he ought to win that race if he is worth only a quarter of the sum which was paid for him at the sale of Mr. Rucker's horses. I fancy that he will be more distinguished for speed than for stamina, but there is likely to be a very bad field for to-morrow's race, in the certain absence of Dieudonné.

Perthshire is mentioned as a promising outsider for the Derby, but this colt will certainly prove to be deficient in stamina.

Several weeks ago I mentioned The Wyvern as likely to turn out a good Derby outsider. Mr. Leigh's colt is still backward, and he will scarcely be thoroughly fit at Epsom, in which case he must be noted as sure to win a race at Ascot if he runs at that meeting; but, in the event of his missing the Derby, I fancy The Wyvern will be kept for the Princess of Wales's Stakes. It is decidedly odd that Mr. Leigh's colt should have been withdrawn from the £2,000 stake at Sandown Park on June 28, for which race he would have possessed a great chance, with a maiden allowance of 7 lb., and all the best horses in the entry having extra weight to carry.

Prince Soltykoff's three-year-olds are evidently very moderate. Ninus is a non-stayer, and Leisure Hour (of whom great things were expected) was badly beaten last week in a trial with Sati.

Sandringham, as I have already stated, is to make his début at Ascot, either in the Coventry Stakes (which was the first race of Persimmon) or in the New Stakes, and the Prince of Wales has withdrawn the colt from the Woodcote Stakes at Epsom.

I see it is stated that Angus, the stable companion of Disraeli, who was well backed for the Derby during the winter, is again in work. Be this as it may, there is not the slightest prospect of his standing a preparation. He is another Ormathwaite.

There was a great deal of betting on the Chester Cup, and the result of the race was a real crash for backers. Up Guards, who had won some hurdle races, was never mentioned seriously in connection with the race, and his clever victory was a complete surprise. There was a very good field, including several animals which were justifiably regarded as certain to stay the course. After the excellent performance of The Rush (for whom I gave a plumper when he won the same handicap two years ago), it is clear that he ought to have won Merman's Cesarewitch. Laughing Girl will carry off a nice handicap before long, but she could not stay this distance. As to the quibbling objection to Up Guards, it is a very good thing that it has been most properly overruled. If the Jockey Club were more alert in really important matters, and less fond of trumpery technicalities, it would be a great advantage for the turf. What benefit does any one derive from the innumerable and utterly confusing rules about sales and partnerships?

The field for the Royal Plate at Kempton Park was very moderate. I have mentioned Eventail as being a smart filly, and she was recommended by me last week as being certain to win any race at Newmarket that she started for. Her form, however, is nothing remarkable, as she only scrambled home a short head in front of No Trumps, who was beaten the other day. Sibola will probably turn out to be the best of the lot as time goes on.

I predicted that either Berzak or Bridegroom would win the Jubilee Handicap, and Mr. Jersey's steed was beaten by only a head, having started at the generous price of 25 to 1. The race has excited very little interest this year. There was a tremendous run on Dinna Forget at the last, but Berzak went very badly indeed in the betting. Dinna Forget was astonishingly well in on his best form, and I remarked last week that he "will be backed by clever people."

There ought to be some capital racing at Gatwick on Friday and Saturday, as there are large entries for the weight-for-age stakes, and the principal handicap has obtained an excellent acceptance of thirty out of an original entry of fifty-eight. Twenty-five two-year-olds are left in for the Worth Stakes of £1,000, and Saint Vaast may be able to win this race for Lord Durham. Pheon ought to secure the Marlborough Stakes if he starts, and in the absence of Lord Ellesmere's colt, Bonnebosq might be successful. The Prince's Handicap of £1,000 looks well for The Reeve.

Next week there will be racing at Bath, Salisbury, and Harpenden in the south, and at York and Doncaster in the north. The best sport will be seen at the Yorkshire meetings, but there is not likely to be any race of the slightest general interest during the week. Bath and Salisbury have sunk into utter contempt, and Harpenden is only the ghost of the shadow of the meeting which it was twenty-five or thirty years ago.

Lord Hawke has taken a very strong line with regard to the way in which representative teams are to be selected to meet the Australians when they next visit us. He proposes that the players are to get £20 each for their matches, and the M.C.C. is to have the selection of the teams and of the grounds where the games are to be played. The Yorkshire captain plainly intimates that his men will not be available, except when the M.C.C. selects the team. Not a few cricketers will approve the attitude which Lord Hawke has taken up. It will be remembered that just prior to the last test match at the Oval, certain of the selected team demanded the very terms on which Lord Hawke now insists. The cricketers were met with such a howl of indignation by a section of the Press that all but Lohmann and Gunn climbed down. Cricket with these men is a business, and they carry it on in a thoroughly honourable way. They cannot be blind to the profits that the Australians, and in this case also the Oval authorities (the Surrey Club), were making over the game. All they asked was a fair share of profits. Now that Lord Hawke has spoken out I have no doubt the alteration will come about On the other point that has been raised it will be clear that there is no more *primâ facie* reason why the Lancashire and Surrey Committees should be entrusted with the selection of an International team than Yorkshire or Essex. Yorkshire, so far as grounds are concerned, can offer equal facilities with either of these counties, and yet her rulers have no say either in the selection of team or ground. There is undoubtedly a feeling, due perhaps to the keenness of the struggle for the County Championship, that when counties select a team there is favouritism. On what basis this feeling is formed I do not wish to inquire. The fact that such friction exists renders any reasonable proposition that will cause it to cease desirable. There is clearly only one way in which this can be done. The M.C.C. is not only an independent body, but it is a representative body as well. It will have under its auspices the next team of

Australian cricketers, and if the visitors show anything like the form in this country which they have recently displayed against Stoddart's team, they will have to be met with our full cricketing strength. Lord Hawke's suggestion is not only reasonable, but it is likely to be very beneficial to English cricket. It will secure the supremacy of the M.C.C., and quiet all county heart-burnings and jealousies.

At both Universities the Seniors'and Freshmen's matches have been played to such an extent as the weather would permit. At Oxford, the only feature of the Seniors' match was that Montmorency took four wickets for three runs. The Freshmen's match was more interesting, but the bowling on both sides proved rather weak. Follett (Lancing) was useful with bat and ball, and Mitchell (Eton), Joyce (Bedford), and Roberts did well for Champain's side, while Collins (Marlborough), Hollins (Eton), and Crawford (Merchant Taylors) batted in good style for Cunliffe's team. Collins is sure of another trial. At Cambridge the Freshmen showed some promise in bowling. Norman (Oakham), Penn (Eton), and Clarke (Canterbury) bowled consistently and took several wickets. Of the batsmen, Cole has a pretty style, and Robertson (Blackheath) rattled up a lot of runs in fine form, but the must successful were Prest (Marlborough), and Kirgwin (St. Paul's). In the Seniors' match Taylor and Worthington put on good scores, and Norman was useful. The bowling was better than had been expected. Hawkins was the most successful bowler, while Barker and Peers both had decent averages. Everybody was delighted to see W. G. Grace in quite his old form at Lord's. Sewell also put on runs, and he will be useful to Gloucestershire when he has got used again to fielding. Hearne and Trott were far too good for the Sussex batsmen, who look like doing badly without Ranji.

The annual meeting of the M.C.C. has disclosed the fact that the club is going in for extensive building operations. The tennis-court is to be shifted, stands are to be erected, and the ground is to be widened, so it really seems as though in a few years time the average British public will have an opportunity of seeing something of the University match. The M.C.C. must bear in mind that as it is recognised as supreme by the cricketing public, that public expects a little more consideration than has hitherto been shown at the University match.

A cycling league is to be formed, at a small subscription, to protect and further the interest of cyclists. Formed on a business basis and carried on on business lines, such an organisation should be invaluable. The Cyclist Tourist Club ought to carry out these functions. But it is worked on such absurdly rotten lines and through its journal talks such a lot of claptrap nonsense that one wonders people are such fools as to join it. It makes a lot of fuss about the privileges it has secured in foreign countries. But I cannot understand why foreign nations are so unbusiness-like as to grant privileges to such a club. Their own customs might just as well take the benefit of a tax instead of driving the Englishman to join such a silly institution. At present the Englishman pays his import due to the C.T.C. instead of to the country in which he intends to ride.

The meeting of the Catford Cycling Club was rather disappointing. There was the usual crawl, and the mile race between Chinn and Osborne was a perfect farce. The time was 4 min. 5 secs., and until three hundred yards from home the men dawdled along to the accompaniment by the spectators of "we won't go home till morning." This sort of thing kills the sport. Then the pacing was so bad that Cordang at the end of three miles gave up his attempt on the ten miles record. His pacers simply left him. In the ten miles international race there was a fine race with twenty entries. There were twenty riders and Gascoyne won by barely a length from Osborne. In the second heat of the mile handicap there was a lot of crawling, but it produced a pretty finish, as Moore, who was last, coming down with a rush from the top of the bank, caught the others napping and won easily.

There was a good meeting at the Essex Beagles' sports. The chief event was the three miles invitation race. A dozen turned out, and nine of them were championship holders, either on the path or across country. The result was a popular surprise, for Dr. Munro, who is now well over thirty, came right away in the tenth lap and was never caught, winning by fifteen yards after leading for the last half mile. Robinson, the ten miles champion, was second, and Bennett, the four miles champion, third. It was a splendid piece of running on the part of the winner. His judgment was excellent and his performance shows to what age a man who takes care of himself can go on running. The Doctor simply goes in for running to keep himself fit. It must be ten years ago since he ran as second string for Oxford in the three miles. No runner has ever had a greater reception than he received from the crowd. It is to be hoped that he will again win the four miles championship at Stamford Hill. At Merchant Taylors' School, Cornish, who did so well at the public school championship, cut the school quarter record. He did the distance in fifty-four seconds, a fine performance on an asphalte course with five corners, and old Nat Perry timing. Tincler and Bacon, the ex-amateur miler, ran a fine race over a mile course. The former held his own in the final burst, and won easily.

In consequence of the suggestions made by Oxford as to the alterations in the University sports programme with regard to the inclusion of the half mile and the exclusion of the hammer and weight, an interesting correspondence has arisen in the *Field*. Mr. G. S. Robertson, who won the hammer thrice for Oxford a few years ago, urges its retention. He is not only a classical divinity and legal scholar of no mean order, but he is a humourist as well. He says that, like the House of Lords, these events want not abolishing but reforming. The A.A.A. rules should be followed. The large circle enables the hammer to throw the man instead of the man throwing the hammer. He himself forcibly introduced an iron handle instead of the mop or swab handle. He considers this innovation renders the hammer less dangerous. But the gem of his argument is that the hammer is a perfect panacea for the muscles of the stomach. "In fact, you know nothing about the capabilities of your stomach till you have tried throwing the hammer." Cambridge men may be happy. The hammer is saved. Dyspeptic, livery, middle-aged men will throw away all physic and hurl the hammer in the London parks and squares. The worn-out gourmand, in view of new stomachic sensations, will go in for the sport. And if the stomach does develop, well it will not be good living but the hammer that is to blame. The hammer does not tend to a delicate waist. It is really too bad of Mr. Robertson to have kept the secret of his jovial health and spirit, and the mystery of all these stomachic joys to himself for so long. But seriously a good many athletes would like to see such a standard race as the half-mile introduced into the University programme.

The tennis match between Latham and Pettitt, the American, will no doubt be shortly arranged. The stake will be £1,000. At present the court on which the match is to be played has not been settled. Of course Latham has had to get back into form after devoting his attention to racquets. Judging by his play in a match with Sir E. Grey, who has just got back his title as amateur champion by defeating Mr. Gribble, it looks as though Latham will soon be in his best form. He gave the amateur half thirty and won by three sets to love. Sir E. Grey was at first nervous, but he pulled himself together in the second set, although he was meeting a man who plays the game in his own way to perfection. By the way, a mistake was made in giving the winners of the doubles in covered lawn tennis at Paris. The brothers Vacherots were the successful pair.

Books on all kinds of sports now flow from the press in an incessant stream, which bears unmistakeable testimony to the enormous growth of popular interest in all sporting subjects. It is futile to attempt to keep abreast of this literary current, and I make no pretence at doing so; but among recent publications I have come across a few which may be appropriately brought to the notice of my readers in this column. First of all I would bespeak a hearty

welcome for an old and valued friend in a new and handsome garb, "The Chase, the Road, and the Turf" (1) by the inimitable "Nimrod," which forms the latest addition to the admirable series of "The Sportsman's Library." "Nimrod's" vivid and picturesque papers on hunting, coaching, and racing have become classics of sporting literature, and though more than sixty years have passed since he wrote, much that he had to say, at least on the first and the last of the three topics, is as true to-day as it was then. Although it is not, of course, to be compared with "Nimrod's" famous work, the volume of "Hunting Reminiscences" (2), by Mr. Alfred E. Pease, M.P., is very readable, and the illustrations include two characteristically humorous sketches by the late Sir Frank Lockwood. Of "The Salmon" (3) it is only necessary to say that it contains everything that the average angler can desire to know about this king of fishes, and that Mr. Gathorne Hardy and his collaborators worthily sustain the high reputation the "Fur, Feather, and Fin" series has acquired under the editorship of Mr. Alfred Watson. Golfers cannot, of course, be overlooked in any reference to the sporting books of the moment; and in "The Golfing Pilgrim" (4) there is not only useful information for them, but plenty of good stories and entertaining matter for the general reader as well. Finally, I may call attention to a little volume on "Cricket" (5), which has opportunely made its appearance at the opening of the season. Mr. R. H. Lyttelton always writes authoritatively and interestingly on the game, and his remarks upon the questions of amateurism and professionalism are especially worthy of consideration at the present juncture.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—The dominating features in the stock markets are just now the temporary stringency caused by the transfer of the huge sum representing the final payment of the Chinese indemnity to Japan, and the course of the war now in progress between the United States and Spain. The former has been an unfavourable point, and has tended to cause dulness during the last few days on a revival of the fears of dearer money; and as at the same time doubts arose with respect to the position of Admiral Dewey at Manila, there has again been a disposition to refrain from entering into any further commitments.

Stock Exchange Prospects—Politics and Finance.

The position at Manila is, however, cleared up now by the despatches received from Admiral Dewey. His victory appears to have been complete, and although he does not seem to have taken possession of the City of Manila, owing to lack of troops, he has the Bay at his mercy, and can await reinforcements. As considerable anxiety had prevailed, owing to the inordinate delay in the arrival of the despatches, American Rails had in the meantime been subjected to periodical "Bear" raids; but yesterday a strong upward movement occurred in Wall-street, which put quotations higher than they have been since the outbreak of the war, and it is probable that the strength of the Yankee Market will favourably affect the rest of the departments of the Stock Exchange. Yankee Rails just now form the key to the situation. Further American victories would be interpreted as favouring a speedy termination of the war, just as Spanish successes would be viewed as prolonging it. Gold shipments to the United States, moreover, would also be affected by the course of the conflict, so that politics have an important bearing upon the financial position, while both react upon the Stock Exchange. As regards the monetary outlook, this has been further improved by the continued influx of gold into the Bank of England, but during the last few days the fact that a large sum has been transferred to Japan has caused stringency, and a renewal of the predictions of dear money. Barring accidents, I do not look for any such thing, and unless the war takes a totally different turn, I anticipate a gradual easing off of rates. This is the only disturbing factor in the Stock Markets, and should it be removed, we may look for a general rally and more active business. Home Railway stocks so far have kept up pretty well, although the hardening of rates caused fractional declines towards the last. There have not, however, been wanting upward movements such as in Great Centrals, Metropolitans, and Districts. Canadian Rails have moved in sympathy with American Rails, a preference being shown for Canadian Pacifics, which have the best traffics. Spanish have displayed great weakness, but whenever they go below 30 support seems to be forthcoming. Foreigners generally have been depressed, and amongst South Americans a renewed fall has taken place in Brazilians, while most others, including Argentines, have been a steady market. The Kaffir Circus has been strong throughout, the recent advance being fully maintained, and as there is every reason to anticipate further concessions to the mining industry in the Transvaal, the outlook is hopeful. The West Australian department still shows weakness, owing to the collapse in the West Australia Market Trust group, but in view of the satisfactory result of Thursday's meeting, this trouble will probably be adjusted in the near future, when the shares in the numerous sound properties in this section will doubtless improve. The Industrial Market has displayed considerable fluctuations, and it has shown a great deal of rallying power apart from the Cycle section, which has been in a state of semi-collapse. The prospectuses of a number of new industrial undertakings are about to be issued, and from all I can learn they will have to be scanned with exceptional care.

Money and Gilt-edged Investments.

The golden current to the Bank of England is still flowing, and in addition to the sums received during the last few days, I understand that another half a million will go into the Bank from Germany. But a fall in the New York Exchange has caused a renewed inquiry for gold in the open market for shipment to the United States, and much will depend upon the extent of this demand. As the New York Exchange is again hardening, the demand for America may slacken, but in view of the large shipments of grain, and the high price which has to be paid for them by Europe, there is always the contingency of large gold shipments for the same destination. Fortunately, the Bank of England has, by the important influx of gold, been placed into a very strong position, and although the transfer of something like thirteen millions of gold from China to Japan has caused much stringency, I expect rates to ease off again shortly. First of all Japan has to make very considerable payments in this country for ships, war material, &c. It has also taken two millions of the Chinese loan, and, finally, a rate of from 3 to 3½ per cent. is tempting enough to induce that country to loan the money in the market, instead of allowing it to remain idle at the Bank of England. I am not, therefore, inclined to adopt the view of the pessimists who are predicting dear money, and rather hold the contrary opinion, which is also expressed by my youthful contemporary the *Sunday Special*, which has been particularly correct in its forecasts of the gold movements. The influx of gold to the Bank of England has had the effect of steadying high-class investment stocks, and further improvements are marked in Colonial Government bonds and British Corporation stocks. Personally, I cannot help thinking that these are high enough at present, although when the war is over and money rates decline, investors may be tempted to buy even at the present level. But I do not suppose that Home Railway prior charges

(1) The Sportsman's Library. Edited by Sir Herbert Maxwell, M.P. "The Chase, the Road, and the Turf." By Nimrod. With Illustrations. (London: Edward Arnold. Price 15s.)

(2) "Hunting Reminiscences." By Alfred E. Pease, M.P. (London: W. Thacker & Co.)

(3) "Fur, Feather, and Fin" Series. Edited by Alfred E. T. Watson. "The Salmon." By the Hon. A. E. Gathorne Hardy. With chapters on the Law of Salmon Fishing, by C. D. Pennant; and on Cookery, by A. I. Shand. (London: Longmans & Co. Price 5s.)

(4) "The Golfing Pilgrim on Many Links." By Horace G. Hutchinson (London: Methuen & Co. Price 6s.)

(5) "Cricket." By the Hon. R. H. Lyttelton. (London: Duckworth & Co. Price 1s. 6d.)

will ever attain their former giddy height again. The cheque for the Chinese indemnity, passed on Saturday at the Bank of England, is said to be the largest ever drawn, the exact amount being £11,008,857, some two millions sterling more being settled in account. It is a big amount for Japan to receive, but from all accounts a large portion of it is already earmarked. The Chinese loans have been a steady market, and the new loan has now an official quotation, and stands at 88½, this being still 1½ discount. The Japanese loan is firm at 103½, but Consols have given way to 111 1/16 for the account, after touching 110¾ and 111⅜. The hardening of the Money Market is, of course, the chief reason for this decline, although the issue of the new Greek loan may also have contributed to it. This loan being guaranteed by England, France, and Russia, is, of course, a gilt-edged security, but the price fixed of 100½ for a 2½ per cent. stock is quite high enough, and, while it will probably be absorbed, there is not likely to be a rush for it, the premium so far being quite nominal at ½.

HOME RAILS—THE GREAT CENTRAL COMING TO LONDON.

With moderate fluctuations Home Railway stocks have been by no means active during the week, and on the hardening of rates in the Money Market quotations have eased off fractionally. The prominent exception was furnished by the Great Central and the stocks of the underground lines. The extension to London of the Great Central will be open for goods traffic by July 1, and while it is, of course, impossible to predict how much the new line will bring to the Company, great hopes are entertained in inside circles of a very satisfactory result. Purchases have thereupon been resumed, especially of the 1894 Ordinary up to 40¾, and of the Preferred Ordinary up to 65. A rise in Metropolitan to 131½ is partly due to the anticipation of a considerable accession of traffic from the Great Central; but hopes of large traffics from the Earl's Court Exhibition, which has just been opened, have helped the improvement, and have also been instrumental in putting up Districts to 28⅛. I maintain the view that the latter are an excellent lock-up, in view of the important extensions which are in progress. Present traffics, moreover, show satisfactory increases. For the seventeen weeks of the present year the District has an increase of £4,591, which is proportionally better than the gain of £5,780 of the Metropolitan, which carries double the traffic. Traffics generally for the week ending May 1 for all the lines were £46,313 better than last year, bringing up the total increase for the seventeen weeks to £552,000. The stocks of the Heavy division have been generally steady, and show practically no change for the week, while Brighton "A" are slightly below the best at 176¾, and Dover "A" at 109¾ are well supported. Great Eastern are slightly firmer on satisfactory traffics, but this stock was in large supply at the last settlement, and may be so again this week. In most other stocks, however, renewed scarcity will doubtless be shown again at the settlement, and any favourable developments in the Money Market and in the war outlook would doubtless cause fresh buying. The Scotch stocks at one time improved, but have since dropped back to the prices of a week ago, although business prospects in the North are most encouraging.

THE YANKEE MARKET—ANOTHER ADVANCE ON MANILA DESPATCHES.

The Yankee market is entirely swayed by the course of the war with Spain, and our American cousins have become altogether reassured by the news of the victory at Manila. At one time the great delay in the arrival of Admiral Dewey's despatches gave rise to ugly rumours, which were, however, chiefly propagated in Europe, and did not find any credence in New York. Still they had the effect of stopping any further rise in American Rails, and London operators several times took liberties with the market, and ventured upon sales considerably below Wall-street parity. These stocks were promptly absorbed by New York, and when yesterday news came to hand confirming the United States victory, they were put up hand over fist. Unless some American reverse should be experienced in the Atlantic, the improvement will doubtless make further progress, although as shown by the following comparative table it is already considerable :—

—	Price, Jan. 3, 1898.	Highest in 1898.	Lowest in 1898.	April 29, 1898.	May 9, 1898.
Atchison	13⅛	14 5/16	10⅜	11	12½
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	31⅝	33¾	23⅝	25⅞	30½
Canadian Pacifics	84⅜	92⅞	74	84⅛	86
Central Pacific	11⅞	15⅞	11	11½	12⅝
Denver	11⅞	14¾	10	11	12⅛
Do. Pref.	47¼	54⅜	41⅛	43¼	48¼
Erie	15	16⅝	11¼	12¼	13¼
Do. First Pref.	39½	44⅞	29½	33⅜	35⅞
Grand Trunk 1st Pref.	57⅛	69⅞	57⅛	66⅛	68⅛
Do. Guaranteed	70	78¾	70	73¾	73¾
Lake Shore	176	198⅞	177¾	190	188
Louisville	58½	62½	45¼	49	55¼
Milwaukee	97½	99¾	85½	90	98
Missouri, Kansas, and Texas	13⅛	14½	9 15/16	10⅜	11⅝
Norfolk Adjust. Pref.	48¾	57	42⅞	46⅜	51½
North. Pacific Pref., New	61⅛	70⅞	59	64	68½
New York Central	110¼	122¾	108½	113	118½
Ontario	16⅜	19 1/16	13⅜	14⅛	15⅝
Reading	11½	12⅛	7 13/16	8½	9¾
Southern Ordinary	9½	10½	7	7⅞	8¾
Do. Pref.	32¼	34½	24 9/16	26¼	29⅝
Union Pacific	26⅝	24	18½	19⅞	24
Wabash Pref.	18½	20 3/16	14¾	16	19¾

Milwaukee have moved most sharply, for the very good reason that this stock is very well held on the other side, having been mopped up by the strong Standard Oil group. There is, moreover, a prospect of the road paying a further dividend of 3 per cent., in addition to the 2½ per cent, already distributed, which would make 5½ per cent. for the year, and even that payment would leave a large surplus. It may also be anticipated pretty confidently that a good dividend will be paid, as all the insiders are "Bulls." Next to the Milwaukee the Louisville and Nashville deserves attention. The freight earnings of that road have gone up very considerably, and those for the second week of April were the largest in the history of the Company. Passenger earnings have hitherto been rather sparse, but the road is one of those which will benefit most by the carriage of troops to the seaboard, and the resumption of dividends should not be far off now, especially as there are indications of the war drawing to a speedy end. Union Pacific Prefs. have been a very strong market on a statement that a first dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum will be paid in July. Should this prove to be the case the common stock ought also to experience an important advance, and both are amongst the best purchases in this department. Atchison Prefs. are also fairly promising, but I do not think that they will receive a dividend just yet; while on the other hand, the Adjustment bonds are certain of their full dividend. The Northern Pacific is doing exceedingly well, as shown by the net earnings of $383,000 in March, following upon similar previous monthly increases. The full 4 per cent. Preference dividend is of course assured, but whether the Common stock will get anything out of the considerable surplus earnings is doubtful. The Norfolk and Western is doing well, and the Prefs. are worth buying. With reference to the Baltimore and Ohio it is stated that the reorganisation is making progress, but a considerable assessment is being talked of. If this, however, should be at the rate of $20 on the Ordinary stock, with an equivalent in Preferred stock, it may eventually work out very satisfactorily, as is now the case with the Union Pacific. From the point of view of a

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"Bull," there is nothing so contagious as the news of great victories, and if our American cousins should beat the Spanish squadron in the West Indies, Wall-street may be expected to put up stocks sky high. If that should happen, my readers who have, I trust, acquired stock considerably below the present level, will have an excellent opportunity of clearing profits, which should not be neglected, as, after all, a fresh opportunity for making purchases may present itself. The stocks of the Canadian roads have moved in sympathy with the Yankee market, but the highest prices have not so far been maintained. As a matter of choice, I still consider Canadian Pacific the best purchase, as showing the largest traffics, the last weekly return being $106,000 above that of 1897, which in turn showed a considerable increase over the corresponding week of 1896. This proves that the rate war has had no effect upon the takes, and, considering the large amount available for distribution, a considerable increase in the dividend is looked for. In fact, no less than 5 per cent. is expected in future, so that the present quotation of 86, considering the progressiveness of the road, is still moderate. The last weekly traffic increase of £4,629 was a disappointment to the market, and ever since these stocks have moved slowly, the Guaranteed being quoted 73¾, the First Prefs. 68⅛. A reader of TRUTH in Toronto writes to inform me that a Railway Company, bearing the pretentious name of The Cobourg Northumberland and Pacific Railway Company, to which municipal bonuses and a subsidy from the Dominion Government have been granted upon the fulfilment by the Company of certain conditions, are now striving to sell their bonds in England, although no part of their railway has been built, and my correspondent desires to warn the public through TRUTH against buying the said bonds without first ascertaining the probability of the principal and interest thereon ever being paid. Personally, I have not yet heard of any touting letters with regard to this Company having been sent out.

INSURANCE OF WAR RISKS.

I suppose that the underwriters at Lloyds are making a good thing out of the insurance of war risks, although they must now and then be badly caught, and more especially must they have suffered in the case of certain members of the Stock Exchange insuring against the outbreak of war between the United States and Spain, a transaction which was quite fashionable before the outbreak of hostilities, the premiums being, of course, very high. Will it be believed, however, that members of the Stock Exchange are nervous enough to pay substantial premiums to insure against the possibility of war between France and England, or between France and the United States? This is, however, not worse than the cases of the bombardment insurance which are reported from New York. The President of an American insurance office expresses himself as follows on this subject:—

> I am informed that millions upon millions of bombardment insurance have been placed with English companies. The charters of companies organised under the laws of the State of New York prohibit their accepting bombardment insurance. Commissioner of Insurance Payn has served notice upon New York State companies, cautioning them against taking this class of business. I believe this to be a wise move. I do not consider bombardment insurance of any value, as Spain would not in any case destroy New York. She would instead exact tribute, and this the foreign companies do not provide against.

This is, of course, mail news, and I suppose that since the victory at Manila bombardment insurance is at a discount. It seems, however, to be a fact that a good deal of business has been transacted by owners of house property in New York, at rates ranging from 2 to 3 per cent., and that such policies also covered loss against enforced tribute.

FOREIGNERS AND SOUTH AMERICANS—SPANISH BELOW 30—BREAD RIOTS IN ITALY.

The Paris Bourse is not to be comforted, and no wonder, when it is considered how large the holdings of French investors are in Spanish Government and railway securities. The victory at Manila suggests further disasters in view of the unpreparedness of Spain, as practically admitted by Señor Moret in the Cortes. Lord Salisbury's speech concerning moribund nations, moreover, has given a shock to France, especially as Spain fitted the cap. The question of ways and means is a serious one in Spain, and the time cannot be far distant when she comes to the end of her tether, while any further defeats may at any time precipitate a revolution in Madrid. No wonder, therefore, that Spanish Fours at one time dropped to below 30, being the lowest quotation touched during recent years. This, of course, points to fears of partial or complete default, and that must necessarily depend upon the course of the conflict. The payment of the coupon in pesetas is, however, the best that could be expected in any case. The recovery to 32 is apparently due to the fact that Spain has, after all, succeeded in obtaining a further advance in Paris. Rio Tinto have again suffered from fears of a taxation of copper. Turks have improved on the prospect of the payment of the indemnity, now that the Greek Loan has been launched, but this amount will not last long in view of the rotten state of the finances of the Porte. I suppose that Lord Salisbury comprised in the category of dying nations also Turkey and China. Italians have been flat on the bread riots, and these certainly are disquieting, and show the amount of poverty which exists in Italy. The rise in grain is hitting European countries hard, especially the poor ones, amongst which Italy as well as Spain must be reckoned. On the other hand, the producing countries are reaping a golden harvest. A fresh important rise has taken place in wheat on the abolition of duties in France and Italy, and people are wondering whether Mr. Joseph Leiter, of wheat-corner fame, has got much of his huge accumulations left, the quotation having jumped in Chicago to 1·70. When the rise first came dollar wheat was considered something enormous, and now it is more than a dollar and a half. Besides the United States, Argentina and Uruguay will benefit greatly by the advance in wheat, and India will, too, now reap considerable advantage from her good wheat crop. As regards Argentina, shipments of wheat are now being hurried forward, and a significant circumstance was the fall of about seven points to 156¼, which took place in the Buenos Ayres gold premium during the last few days. Argentine Government bonds were at one time somewhat depressed by renewed rumours of coming trouble with Chili. The Chilian Press appears to have adopted a very uncompromising tone with regard to the frontier question, but it is to be hoped that the martial ardour of the Chilians will be curbed. For the week the Argentine 1886 and Funding Loans show little change at 88½ and 86 respectively. After a further improvement Argentine Railway stocks have eased off. Buenos Ayres Great Southern are lower at 138, while Buenos Ayres and Rosario are steady at 71, Central Argentine at 78. The quotation of Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debenture stock is varying with the traffics. Unfortunately, the last traffic for the week ended May 1 showed again a decrease of $12,900, and the quotation has fallen to 46½. Brazilians have had another fit of nervousness, and the 1889 Loan fell at one time 3½ to 43, Western of Minas dropping 3 to 44½, from which there has since been a smart rebound. It is now being argued that the President and Vice-President Elect of Brazil cannot do much good in London, as they cannot deal with the present position, and could not act for the government at present actually in power. Mexican Sixes have been firm, the Old Loan being quoted 96. Uruguay bonds were at one time very strong, and are now but little lower at 44¾ for the Old Loan, and 55 for the New Loan. A steady tone prevails for Peruvian Corporation stocks. Nitrate Rails have gone ahead to 5¾ on favourable dividend rumours, reacting to 5½.

THE KAFFIR CIRCUS—A CONFIDENT TONE—OOM PAUL GETTING AMIABLE.

At last there seems to be a prospect of a more permanent improvement in the South African Market, and although there are still many who scoff at the possibility of such a change, and consider the present revival merely a flash in the pan, there are undoubtedly this time circumstances which are making for a more lasting recovery. The influence is, of course, chiefly the improved political out-

look in the Transvaal. Amongst the straws which show the way the wind blows is the studiously moderate tenour of Oom Paul's speech at the opening of the Volksraad. The fact is that President Kruger has at last come to the conclusion that his best policy is to be amiable. The outspoken articles in the German Press have doubtless made a considerable impression upon him, and his attempts to obtain a loan in Germany and France have failed, as he was everywhere met with the argument that no loan could be granted unless concessions were made to the mining industry, and as the Transvaal must have money, the issue cannot be doubted. I do not go so far as to state, as some of my confrères have done, that a loan is already arranged with this proviso with Messrs. Rothschild and the Deutsche Bank, but I do not think that it is far off. From all I can gather, the first concession of 10s. per case on dynamite is to be improved upon, and the total reduction will amount to from 20s. to 25s. per case. Again, considerable reductions in railway rates are promised, and these can be fixed up as soon as a basis can be found staving off the expropriation of the Netherlands Railway. It is urged by men well acquainted with the position that the purchase of the Netherlands Railway by the Transvaal would not be at all advisable, and that Boer management would be distinctly worse than Hollander management. Provided that suitable concessions are made, the outlook for the mining industry in the Transvaal is distinctly encouraging, and although the increasing output of the mines has not created any impression on the market, this is, after all, a factor to be reckoned with. At present it is believed that President Kruger will make further reference to the concessions on his being sworn in as President next Thursday. The advance in Rand Mines has been fully maintained, and the quotation has risen to 30⅜. East Rands and Consolidated Goldfields have gone further ahead, and Simmer and Jack have been buoyant on the report, extracts of which I gave last week. Randfonteins have also been strong at times, and it looks almost as if Mr. J. B. Robinson were about to support his stocks again. The changes in the leading shares will be gathered from the following comparative table:—

—	Price a Year Ago	Highest Price in 1897.	Price April 22.	Present Price.
	£	£	£	£
Angelo	3¼	5 11/16	4⅝	5 5/16
Bonanza	3 1/16	4 9/16	3 5/16	4 3/16
Buffelsdoorn	1	2	⅜	⅜
Barnato Consols	1¼	2⅝	1⅝	1 15/16
City and Suburban (£4)	3 9/16	6 5/16	5½	5 13/16
Cons. Deep Level	3⅛	6	3½	3⅜
Cons. Goldfields Det.	6½	9 11/16	3 9/16	4 7/16
Crown Deep	9½	14¾	10½	11⅛
Crown Reef	10⅝	12¾	12	12⅝
Durban-Roodepoort	5½	7½	5¾	6⅜
East Rand	2¾	5 9/16	3⅝	4 13/16
Ferreira	16½	24¼	22	24⅜
Geldenhuis Deep	3¼	7 1/16	6⅝	7 1/8
Do. Estate	2½	4⅞	5	5½
Glencairn	1¾	2 15/16	1 13/16	1⅞
Goldfields Deep	5¼	10⅜	7⅜	8⅝
Henry Nourse	5 9/16	9¾	8½	9
Henry Nourse Deep	...	...	...	5
Heriot	7 1/16	8⅞	7⅜	7⅝
Joh. Con. Invest.	1⅝	2⅝	1 7/16	1½
Joh. Pioneer	10⅓	11¼	9⅓	10
Jubilee	6	8¼	7⅝	9⅜
Jumper's	3	6	4⅝	5⅜
Knight's	2 13/16	5 13/16	2¾	3 5/16
Langlaagte Estate	3¾	4¾	3	3⅛
May Consolidated	1 11/16	2⅝	2 9/16	2 7/16
Meyer and Charlton	4⅜	6⅛	4	4
Modderfontein (£4)	1⅞	5 1/16	3⅜	3⅞
Nigel	1 9/16	3 1/16	1 7/16	1⅝
Primrose (New)	3⅛	4⅞	3⅜	3¾
Princess Estate	2⅛	2 13/16	1 11/16	2
Rand Mines	18	34 7/16	25	30⅜
Robinson (£5)	7¼	8¾	7⅜	8
Roodepoort United	3	5⅛	3⅝	3 13/16
Simmer and Jack (£5)	2¾	5	2 11/16	3 7/16
Treasury	1½	3¾	3 1/16	3¼
Village Main Reef	3½	6⅝	5¼	5⅞
Wemmer	6¼	6⅞	8⅞	9½
Wolhuter	3⅞	6 1/16	5⅝	5 13/16

It will be seen that the advance has been considerable, and that the Deep Levels have also generally braced up. Chartered shares have been firm at 2 9/16, on the announcement that the new issue had been over-subscribed. With reference to the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Corporation, some interest has been aroused by the announcement of the resignation of Sir W. A. Young and Sir Charles Jessel from the Board. This step appears to have been taken owing to a clause in the Articles of Association to which these gentlemen objected, and according to which the Directors can only hold their position subject to the approval of Messrs. Barnato Bros. It is not quite clear why these two gentlemen have only discovered this fact now, but from all I can gather the change will in no way affect the progress of the Company, and when two of the leading Directors, Messrs. John Stroyan and Isaac Lewis, who are now on their way back here, have arrived, some announcement will be made. It must not, however, be understood that Messrs. Barnato Bros. insist upon the retention of this clause, but on the contrary I am informed that they will withdraw the same. From the property of the Ferreira Deep, which is partly owned by the Barnato Consols, news is to hand of a rich strike. The cablegram states that the south reef has been cut in No. 1 shaft at a depth of 1,240 ft. The reef, it is stated, is 4 ft. wide, and though no assays have yet been taken, it promises to give a high yield. The Ferreira Deep is owned by the Rand Mines, Limited, and the Barnato Consols. The foundations for the mill are now nearly complete, and the erection of the battery will then be taken in hand, so that somewhere in the middle of next year crushing should commence. I may mention that Mr. Joel at the Barnato Consols meeting on September 28, 1897, expressed the view that the reef would be struck in April or May at about the depth at which it has really been cut. At this meeting full particulars were also given, from which I gather that the interest which this Company held in the Schweitzer's Township Block, or the Ferreira Deep Level, has been included in the Rand Exploring Syndicate, Limited. The property is a compact block of 142 claims, situate on the immediate dip of the Ferreira, Wemmer, and Worcester Gold Mining Companies. The value of the reefs being worked upon these properties has been demonstrated in the most satisfactory manner by the profits which have been earned by their operations. The position of the reef upon the property may be taken as very definitely settled, as it is understood that in the present workings on the incline on the Ferreira property the reef has been opened up to within 150 feet of the northern boundary of the claims. It may be added that it has been computed that the total width of the reefs is not less than six feet. In the Ferreira mine the average dip is 43 degrees, and on this basis there are at the very least 35,000 tons of ore per claim, and, taking a very conservative figure, the value of the ore per ton is, according to the actual result, 80s., and allowing a very liberal figure for working costs, a profit of from 45s. to 50s. per ton should be realisable. This would give, on a basis of 142 claims, the whole of which may be considered as reef-bearing, a profit of from £78,000 to £88,000 per claim, or a total of from £11,000,000 to £12,000,000. These figures are, no doubt, large, but the profits per claim and per ton of such outcrop mines as the Ferreira are known, and the figures quoted are based upon the returns actually given by the very mine (the Ferreira), of which the Rand Exploring Syndicate's claims are the immediate deep level. New Jagersfontein are quoted 7⅝, New Bultfontein 1 1/16. The May Consolidated has worked into a better financial position, having at the end of March paid off its liability of £32,000 to the National Bank, while retaining a balance of £7,000 in its coffers. The question of dividends will now arise, and I suppose that for the quarter ending June 30 these will commence at the rate of, say, 10 per cent. The Deep Level shares have been in good request on various favourable developments, amongst which the striking of the reef in the Roodepoort Central Deep is one. The first crushing of the Robinson Deep is shortly to be announced, but although there are rumours that it is going to prove exceptionally good, it would be strange if this were to prove the case, as first crushings

generally are small. Other Deep Level shares are quoted as follows:—Crown Deep 11⅛, Durban Roodepoort Deep 3⅜, Geldenhuis Deep 7⅛, Goldfields Deep 8 11/16, Knight's Deep 2, Nourse Deep 5, Robinson Deep 9¾, Roodepoort Central Deep 1⅜, Rose Deep 6⅜, Nigel Deep 1½. The Mozambique Company has received the following cable from the Governor of the territory in Beira:—"Great animation Macequece; new reefs discovered. Bridges, roads, and works progressing satisfactorily; also the work of the mining department. Large number of claims being marked out." De Beers have shown a firm front at 27 1/16, the weakness of the Paris Bourse apparently not affecting these shares any longer. A sensation has been caused by the report that the diamond discoveries at Hope Town have proved valueless, no proper mine existing there. It appears that no blue ground has been struck, and the view is generally entertained that no regular output can be expected.

Golden West Australia—Still Nervous, but a Brighter Outlook.

After a severe spasm, such as has occurred in the West Australian department, there remains a good deal of weakness in certain quarters, and until that has been eliminated there must prevail some nervousness, with occasional set-backs. This is precisely what occurred during the past week, although but few of the failures on the Stock Exchange have taken place through this trouble, and several of the firms largely interested in the Market Trust difficulty have been able to arrange their accounts. The result of the Market Trust meeting on Thursday was the appointment of a committee of inspection, and a virtual adoption of Mr. Horatio Bottomley's proposal to reconstruct the Trust with an assessment of 3s. or 4s. per share. This result was distinctly a triumph of Mr. Bottomley's eloquence, and a curious feature was that the numerous members of the Stock Exchange who were present all supported him, while many of those who came to curse remained to bless. Some stock of the various companies of this group has apparently been thrown on the market from some of the defaulting accounts. When this has been absorbed, there should be a recovery, provided that the proposed arrangement be carried out. In the meantime, there is no earthly reason why the various high-class shares in this section should suffer. Not only is the growth in the output of the West Australian goldfields, as stated last week, most encouraging, but the news from the mines themselves is very satisfactory, and the best proof of all is that crushings continue to arrive in large numbers, and of a very satisfactory character. The following is a list for the past week:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Ounces of Gold	Assay of Tailings per Ton
Lady Shenton	600	1,760¾	—
Great Boulder Main Reef (tailings)	750	£1,700	—
Mount Yagahong	800	780	—
Champion Extended and Home Rule	1,050	821	6 dwt.
Sons of Gwalia	960	1,328	—
North Boulder	342	324	—
Hannan's Oroya	990	498	—
Burbank's Birthday Gift	450	635	—
,, ,, (Concentrates)	50	142	—
Australia United	265	538	—
Menzies Consolidated	434	473	—
Britannia	580	583	1 oz.
Golden Valley of W. A.	230	108	6 dwt.
Premier	550	221	—
Mount Malcolm Prop.	590	368	5 dwt.
Wealth of Nations	650	433	—
Norseman	861	826	—
Cuddingwarra	334	287	16 dwt.
Ivanhoe	909	1,476	16 dwt.
Golden Arrow	64	62	—
Princess Royal (Cue)	220	163	—
Menzies Crusoe (tailings)	900	534	—
Menzies Gold Reefs Prop.	70	75	8 dwt.
Gt. Boulder Proprietary	1,425	3,157	—
Gt. Boulder Perseverance	800	1,044	—

The Great Boulder Proprietary meeting, which was held on Thursday, furnished an opportunity to the Chairman and to Mr. Edgar Taylor to make satisfactory statements concerning the mine. But it was considered strange that so little mention was made of the name of Mr. Zebina Lane, which was formerly in evidence at all the meetings of this Company. Great Boulder Proprietary shares are now quoted 19s. 6d. Lake View Consols, after improving to 8½ xd., have receded to 8⅛ for no particular reason, and I understand that a very large crushing for April is to be announced almost immediately. Still less justified appears to be the reaction in Ivanhoe to 45, as the news from the mine is encouraging, and the crushing—as mentioned in the above list—is very satisfactory. London and Globe, after improving to 1 9/16, have eased off again to 1⅜, notwithstanding the fact that the various undertakings of the Company are looking very promising, and more particularly the British America Corporation, concerning which an important announcement is made. The news from the Lady Shenton is again exceptionally good. Not only, as shown in the above list, has a crushing of 600 tons of ore yielded 1,760 oz. of gold, while a dividend of one shilling per share is declared, payable on the 19th inst., but a cablegram from Mr. Rayfield, the consulting engineer, reports developments in the lower levels as looking splendid. Both in the north drift of level No. 4 and in the winze the vein is fully 4 ft. in width, and good gold can be seen at each breakdown, while the stopes above level No. 4 show the reef to be about 8 ft. wide, heavily mineralised. With regard to the No. 2 parallel reef south, the report states that the vein is also 4 ft. wide, with free milling ore, and this development is most important, as this part of the mine had previously been thought to be barren. In the south rise the vein is quite 3 ft. wide, and a large body of ore has been opened up there. If the winze level No. 4 continues as at present, the manager advises the erection of another ten stamps, in addition to the twenty head now working. It is also good news to hear that the machinery is in good order, and is working well. The shares stand at only 2¼, but they may take a jump at any time, as the mine is equal to any of the very best in the Hannan's field. The shares in the adjoining Florence mine are still to be obtained at a moderate price, although a cablegram has also been received from this property, according to which the manager has commenced sinking a winze 113 ft. past the Lady Shenton boundary, being the continuation level No. 3 Lady Shenton. The winze was down 11 ft., and already showed 10 in. stone carrying good, coarse gold, and the manager feels sure that this is likely to improve as he sinks on the vein. At the meeting of shareholders of the Sons of Gwalia, held on Wednesday last, the chairman, Mr. Cyril Wanklyn, was able to furnish very satisfactory particulars with regard to the progress made on the mine. He stated that the development so far carried out seems to indicate that there was hardly a point in the property where gold in large or small quantities was not found. Both assays and results range from a few pennyweights to some ounces per ton, and as any ore exceeding 8 dwts. per ton can be worked at a profit, the future is very promising. Messrs. Bewick, Moreing & Co. estimate the probable average milling value of the ore at 2 oz. 2 dwt. per ton from ore of both grades treated impartially. So far, the returns since November 17, 1897, have been 4,850 tons crushed for 6,163 oz. of gold, with an average assay of tailings of 29 dwt., so that the average return, including the tailings, is nearly 2¾ oz. per ton. The last crushing just received was 1,328 oz. from 960 tons. It is probable that a further 50-stamp mill will be erected, so that eventually the mine will doubtless become a very large producer. Although the previous cablegram from Mr. C. S. Stafford, the new manager of the Hannan's Golden Pike, was disappointing, he has evidently seen fit to alter his opinion, for he has now cabled as follows:—"Started driving north and south; have struck a seam of quartz, small, carrying rich, free gold, south face." This looks very promising, and the probability of finding the Great Boulder Perseverance lode is evident. The Wealth of Nations have had a decent crushing, 650 tons of ore having produced 433 oz. of Gold. Kalgurli rose at one time to

5½, but have since reacted to 5⅜. East Murchison United have improved to 1 on the announcement of the dividend. Golden Horseshoes have gone ahead to 8⅛ on "Bear" closing. Since publishing some of the communications which I had received concerning the Gladiators, Limited, I have discovered, in a financial paper, a short account of what is called the first ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Gladiators, Limited, held last Wednesday at the offices, 43, Threadneedle-street, E.C., Mr. Nicol Brown presiding. This meeting, by the way, was not advertised, and many of the shareholders received no notice of the same. It appears, however, from this scanty report that the Chairman stated that the reconstruction had been very successful, and that the Directors' determination not to underwrite the shares had been justified by the result. In the old Company there were 110,000 shares issued, while in the new Company 86,035 were applied for and issued, and after allowing for reconstruction expenses and some few debts of the old Company, there was a net sum of £11,700 available. I presume that the 24,000 shares which have not been applied for in the reconstruction belonged to the outside public, and not to the vendors! It would have been as well, especially after the questions that had been asked in the Press, if Mr. Nicol Brown had positively stated that the vendors had taken up all their shares in the new Company. It appears that instructions to go ahead with the completion of the machinery and with the other work have been cabled out to the property some time ago, and the Chairman announced the receipt of a cablegram according to which milling operations were to have started on Monday last. It is to be hoped that in future the Secretary will send communications to the Press regularly as regards the progress made at the mine, and that the reports will not merely be kept at the office. As crushing started on May 2, a fortnight's return is due on the 16th inst. A nice little squabble has arisen between the Mount Yagahong Gold Mining and Exploration Company and the Star of the East Company which had leased its mine to the former for a term commencing June 24, 1897. The Star of the East directors assert that the lessee company has neglected to expend the £500 per year stipulated for on the property and apparently wish to terminate the lease, the mine turning out better than had been anticipated. The matter is now subject to arbitration.

Indian, Australasian, and British Columbian Mines.

In the Indian mining section there has been comparative steadiness, although Ooregum Ordinary and Balaghat are lower. On the other hand, Nundydroog and Road Blocks are better, and there has been an improvement in Mysore Gold and Champion Reefs. In Australian mines, other than West Australian, the feature has been a rise in Mount Morgan to 4$\frac{5}{16}$. New Australian Broken Hill are also firmer on a rich return, and Gibraltar have hardened to 1. Mount Lyell, however, are easier at 12¾, Mount Lyell North at 2½. In New Zealand mines business has been stagnant, and although Waihi have improved, most other changes were in the downward direction, Woodstock and Kauri more particularly having declined. In the general foreign section no special movement calls for notice. Amongst copper shares Rio Tinto Deferred are pretty steady at 26$\frac{1}{16}$xd., but this is of course very much below the highest point touched recently. Cape Copper and Namaqua are slightly firmer. British Columbian shares have been fairly steady, and there has been a tendency to improvement. Klondike and Columbian Goldfields have been steady at 1⅛, and London and British Columbia Goldfields and Whitewater mines have both been well maintained at $\frac{1}{16}$ premium. Declines are, however, marked in British Columbia Development Association, New Goldfields of British Columbia, and Klondike Bonanza. British America Corporation shares have experienced a very strong revival, and while the other day they were offered at from 18s. to 19s., they have since improved to 20s. 6d. The special settlement has now been fixed for the 25th inst. There is good reason to believe that a number of "Bear" sales have been made on all the irresponsible talk recently indulged in, and the ursine party will probably find themselves in a tight place, as the Directors of the Corporation have not been idle, and the sudden departure of the Hon. C. H. Mackintosh was of much significance. It now turns out that the final acquisition of the Le Roi Mine was then being negotiated, and this matter has been at last arranged at a price considerably below that at which this wonderfully rich property was under option to the British America Corporation. This will altogether take the wind out of the sails of those who have been blaming the management for not acquiring this mine, in accordance with the statements made in the prospectus. The purchase is probably made as to one half for the British America Corporation, and as to the other half for account of the London and Globe.

Operating across the Border—the Sequel.

A fortnight ago I referred to the efforts which were being made by London outside brokers and other touts to extend their operations across the Border, and I drew attention more particularly to some advertisements which had appeared in the *North British Advertiser*, of Edinburgh, of the London Equitable Exchange, stock and share brokers and dealers, and investment advisers, 18, Eldon-street, London, E.C., and of the Prudential Bank of London, Finsbury Circus Buildings, E.C. I have since received a communication from the proprietors of the *North British Advertiser and Ladies' Journal*, of Edinburgh, in which they inform me that having made inquiries in London, even before my article had appeared, they decided to refuse to insert these two advertisements in their paper any longer. This is as it should be, as the assertion of the Equitable Exchange (whoever may be the people trading behind this name) that their "investment, cover, deposit, three-monthly, and special operations are the only safe way of making profits on the London Stock Exchange" is an absolute misstatement. With reference to the Prudential Bank of London, which had also advertised in the columns of my contemporary, a correspondent has forwarded to me the circulars issued by this "institution," in which the high rates of interest allowed by it, viz., from 6 to 10 per cent., are explained. This is what the circular says :—

> The above rates of interest may appear to be high as compared with those allowed by other banks—namely, 2 to 3 per cent.—but if one considers for an instant the immense profits divided amongst the shareholders, of which the depositor, although helping considerably to make, receives not a halfpenny, it will be seen we are easily enabled to safely pay these rates.

This is quite a novel banking principle, and I should like to know whether any of our high-class banks could pay any dividends to its shareholders, if they were to allow interest to their depositors at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum? Again, one is inclined to ask whether the Prudential Bank of London is a philanthropic institution, started chiefly to benefit depositors? I am also somewhat curious as to whether the various country journals from which the newspaper puffs published in the circulars were taken, really know what they are writing about. Amongst these are the *Isle of Wight Times, Weston-super-Mare Gazette, Monmouth Guardian, Farmers' Herald, Buteman, Ayr Observer and Galloway Chronicle, Scottish Referee, Auckland Times and Herald*, and several others.

Retribution.

On Saturday the men connected with that arrant swindle, T. E. Brinsmead & Sons, Limited, were sentenced at the Central Criminal Court; and while some of the defendants, who were, perhaps, more sinned against than sinning, were let off with lighter sentences, Albert Harrison Ainsworth and Henry Peter Bernard were each sentenced to five years' penal servitude. The Brinsmead frauds are so fresh in the memory of the public that it is unnecessary for me to explain their nature. The promotion was conceived and carried out in fraud, there being really no business for which the public was induced to subscribe £40,000. I should like, however, to add here a few remarks with regard to the career

of Harrison Ainsworth. He has for years been mixed up with the most shady promotions, and was one of the chief actors in the flotation of that notorious swindle, the Bread Union. At the time of the issue of this Company I entered an emphatic protest against it, and warned my readers against subscribing to the same, mentioning also the identity of Harrison Ainsworth, and of four other men who were connected with him in this scandalous transaction. I again and again repeated my warning, and if the deluded shareholders in the Bread Union had listened to me they would at least have reduced their loss, even if they were unable to escape it altogether. The partners of Ainsworth in the Bread Union scandal appear to have mended their ways to some extent, but he persisted in his fatal course, and I have had occasion at various times to expose the different concerns which he puffed in a paper called *The Investor*. Amongst the so-called "securities" therein recommended were the utterly worthless debentures in various slate quarries. It is not surprising that retribution has at last overtaken this man.

"Of Particular Importance."

Under this heading a circular is being sent out by Mr. Charles Turner, who hails from the Outer Temple, 222, Strand. The notice, "Agency for the New York Life Insurance Company" appears in very small type at the top of the sheet of note-paper. In this communication the offer is made of loans to such persons as are in receipt of private incomes, annuities from land, house, or shop property of any description, &c. On referring back to the issue of Truth, dated September 23, 1897, my readers will find that I then drew attention to a similar letter which was being circulated by Mr. John T. Higgins, the notepaper being headed "New York Life Company, the Outer Temple, 222, Strand." At the time, I stated that a correspondent wished to know whether it was not going beyond legitimate efforts to obtain business by offering loans in such a manner. I came to the conclusion that while there is a good deal of competition in insurance business, so that agents for life offices have to grant all kinds of facilities in order that they should continue in the race, Mr. Higgins was going a little too far in his anxiety to push business. Although the letter of Mr. Charles Turner is also issued from 222, Strand, his connection with the New York Life Office appears to be slighter, to judge from the small type in which the reference to the agency of the Company is printed. Yet I should like to know whether Mr. Turner is the successor of Mr. Higgins in pushing this class of business, the rates of interest being very much the same as those quoted by the latter, viz., 6 per cent. per annum up to £100; 5 per cent. per annum up to £500; 4½ per cent. per annum up to £1,000; 4 per cent. per annum up to £5,000; £5,000 and upwards special terms down to 3½ per cent. The most remarkable paragraph in the circular is, however, one which states that "interest and principal in approved cases may remain for any period up to twenty years, or until applicants inherit, or repayments can be made to suit each individual case." Finally, I should like to protest against the use of the name of Truth in connection with this circular, which commences as follows:—"Doubtless you have perused the many articles published in Truth regarding money-lenders with their extortionate rates of interest." My articles on this subject cannot in any case be construed into a recommendation of the system of Mr. Charles Turner.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association, Limited.—This Association is formed for the purpose of amalgamating into one concern thirty-one companies and firms engaged in spinning fine (Sea Island) cotton, or in doubling yarns made from this and other staples of cotton, and carrying on the business of fine spinners and doublers hitherto carried on by them separately. The share capital is fixed at £4,000,000, equally divided into Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference and Ordinary shares of £1 each, and an issue of a Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture stock of £2,000,000.

The Spiral Globe, Limited.—This Company has been formed as a parent company to purchase the British, Foreign, and Colonial patents with the rights thereto of Messrs. Dunlap & Quain for their spiral glass cover for electric incandescent lamps. The share capital is £150,000 in shares of £1 each.

The capital asked is excessive, and this Company will have to meet with strong competition in the new improvements in the Welsbach burner. The large returns expected from the granting of licences, &c., are very much in the future.

The Lee-Metford Small Arms and Ammunition Company, Limited.—With a capital of £350,000 in shares of £1 each, and a Debenture issue of £50,000 in 4½ per cent. bonds of £100 each, this Company is formed to acquire fifty-seven patents and applications for patents for the Lee-Metford magazine rifle, the Lee Arms Company's turnbolt rifle, the Lee straight-pull rifle, and improvements in cartridge clips, &c., and also to purchase suitable and extensive freehold works in Birmingham, and equip the same as a first-class small arms factory.

Manchester Liners, Limited.—This Company has been formed as a Manchester Steamship Company for the purpose of establishing and working lines of steamers of large cargo capacity for trading to and from the port of Manchester. The share capital is fixed at £1,000,000, divided into Preference and Ordinary shares of £10 each.

The Manchester Canal has not yet paid its way, and at present I do not see much chance of success for this venture. It is something now for intending investors to have their names published, but the promoters wisely refrain from stating the number of shares which the persons named propose to subscribe for.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

Amateur.—I see no reason why you should not invest in New South Wales Three and a Half per Cent. stock at 106; and, as regards Corporation stocks, the following should also suit you:—Middlesbrough and Southampton Corporation stocks. *P. F. O.*—Yes, Uruguay bonds and Mexican Sixes are a fair investment of the kind. *Glen Rosa.*—My remarks as to the Hamburg and other State lotteries, and the shady touts who are trying to obtain subscriptions for the same, were of a general nature, and I cannot possibly give any information about particular firms. Neither do I choose to advise you on the subject of your taking any further part in these gambles. *Querist.*—You put the case too strongly. I dare say you would be able to obtain the prizes in question, but it remains to be seen whether you would be informed of the same having been drawn. *T. J. S.*—I note what you say with regard to the foreign lottery nuisance. As regards the other firm, repeated references have been made to it in the columns of Truth, and I do not advise you to deal with them. *X. Y. Z.*—The chance of drawing a prize is remote, and I should advise you to sell the bonds through the people of whom you purchased them.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Alpha.—I strongly advise you, if you can do so, to drop this insurance and go to a better office. It is never worth while to insure with a doubtful concern. *P. J. F.*—You had better send me a prospectus of this concern, and I may then be able to advise you. *E. M. P.*—I strongly advise you not to touch this Canadian Company, which is being recommended by Howard, Marshall, & Co., of 4, Copthall Chambers, E.C. *Constant Reader, Carlisle.*—Have nothing whatever to do with these syndicate touts. *G. M. G.*—Sanford & Co., stock and share dealers, 20, Bishopsgate-street Without, E.C., are merely syndicate touts, and their so-called "special individual accounts" should be left severely alone.

Home Rails.

Lanark.—I see no reason why you should not buy Great Central 1894 Five per Cent. Prefs. *T. P. O.*—The pick of the market for investment are Brighton "A," Dover "A," and Coras. For a lock-up I consider Great Central 1894 Ordinary and Metropolitan Districts the best purchase.

American and Foreign Rails.

Perplexed, Caterham.—You should certainly deposit the West Virginia and Pittsburg Mortgage bonds with Messrs. Brown,

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores

Shipley, & Co., as a reorganisation is now in sight. They will doubtless recover again. *Fleet.*—If you want to make a Canadian investment you cannot do better than buy Canadian Pacifics at 85½. No option but to hold the Leopoldina shares. *F Z. P.*—With reference to American Rails the best selection that can be made is one of the actively dealt in stocks of inherent merit, such as Milwaukee, Louisville, Union Pacific Prefs. and Ordinary, Norfolk and Western, &c. But you should also not forget Canadian Pacifics, that road doing exceedingly well. *Harboro'.*—The charge made by your broker is a fair one, but it would, of course, have been smaller if you had bought a larger quantity of the stock.

MINING SHARES.

Cleveland.—1. London and West Australian Exploration shares are a good purchase. 2. It is impossible to say when they will improve. That will depend very much upon the movements of the shares in the subsidiary companies. *Siddals.*—The Achilles Goldfields has been so frequently reconstructed that I should say the best thing would be not to throw any more good money after bad. *A. D. L Z.*—No; I do not advise you to join the reconstruction of the new Achilles Company. *Ireland.*—If you join the reconstruction of No. 1, the call can be enforced by law. 2. With regard to the Londonderry, everything depends upon future developments. 3. A fair Charters Towers mine. *Major-General.*—Yes, I consider that Simmer and Jack (1), Ivanhoe (2), Lady Shenton (3), and East Rands (4) would, as you suggest, form an excellent little mining trust, likely to pay good dividends. *Exe.*—Yes, Waterfall Estates are exceedingly cheap, and should now be bought on the improvement in the South African market. The Company is quite solvent, and pays dividends of 5 per cent. per annum from royalties alone. *Clapham.*—There does not appear to be any option but to join the reconstruction, by which the money will probably be eventually recovered for you. *Quærens.*—I have not a favourable opinion of any of the concerns mentioned by you. *Author.*—Hannan's Props (1) and Florence (5) are the best amongst the shares mentioned by you, and No. 2 may also have a chance; but you had better not touch the others just now. *M., Westmoreland.*—There may be a fair chance of an improvement in these shares eventually. *T. T.*—I have no special information about this Klondike concern, and do not advise the investment. As regards a map, Effingham Wilson, of the Royal Exchange, may be able to supply you with this. Florence shares are promising at their present price, and latest information is very favourable. *H., Carlisle.*—The South African shares you mention appear to be promising. *Mermaid.*—The position of the Company is good, and "Bear" sales have evidently been made. There is nothing for it but to hold for a recovery, which is already in progress. *Como.*—Yes, now that the Kaffir Circus is reviving, you will do well to buy Waterfall Estates. *Westralia.*—No; I do not consider Golden Links a good purchase at present. *A New Subscriber.*—1. £1 per share. 2. You must have seen what the recent trouble was. 3. Yes, at present the shares are a good purchase. *S. G. T.*—There is every prospect of these shares recovering again now that the South African market generally is improving, and you should hold. *Rajputana.*—I must leave it to you whether to take up these debentures or not. *Scot.*—1. Not as far as I know. 2, 3, and 4.—You must be aware that a full explanation was given at the meetings of shareholders. 5. These meetings have all been held, and have been fully reported in the financial Press.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

Ceres.—The American breweries should be held, but you should not buy more until the duration of the war can be fairly gauged. *B. J. T.*—Your selections of Brewery debentures and prefs., Nos. 1 to 9, is a good one, and there is nothing to say against the Industrial debentures Nos. 10 to 15. *Virgo.*—No particular reason to sell any of your Industrial shares Nos. 1 to 6; but I consider No. 1 quite high enough, and have always held an unfavourable opinion of No. 3. *T. M. W.*—I have always stated that National Explosives are a promising investment in view of the large dividend paid. *A Widow.*—These shares appear to be quite high enough. *P. F., Belfast.*—I certainly consider that the promotion of the Great Horseless Carriage Company has been a most objectionable one, and I have from the outset warned my readers against this concern; but nothing can be done unless the shareholders stand together. Mr. Hunter, solicitor, 16, Finsbury-square, once acted for the dissentients. *Mrs. A. C. C.*—1. What you require has been forwarded in your envelope. 2. I am afraid that a further decline in cycle shares will come before any lasting rally can take place. *H. P., Reading.*—You will have an opportunity of investing in some of the new Australian timber companies which are on the board, and as you will be able to get in at par, this will be a better opportunity than investing in the older undertakings.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

K. S., Bournemouth.—1. There is not much fear of Consols experiencing a material decline for the present. 2. Guinness shares are high enough, but I do not think there is much prospect of any serious fall. *Tasmania.*—I am afraid there is very little prospect of an improvement in Dumont Coffee shares. I still advise holding the South Africans, Nos. 2 to 6, and an improvement is already in progress. *Caveat Emptor.*—1. If I were you I should still leave Spanish bonds alone. 2. The Cordoba Central seems to be preferable under the circumstances. 3. There is every prospect of an arrangement being made, which will greatly enhance the price of these shares; hold. 4. This is not the time to sell. 5. You should certainly hold Johnnies Investment. 6. Hold Sheba, although they are not exactly the pick of the market for an investment. *Wat.*—1. The Japanese loan is a fair investment, but no catch. 2. I am afraid that just now American breweries are not looking up. *Sparticus.*—1. The shares are cheap, and after the heavy fall they look promising. 2. I cannot advise you on this stock. 3. When the line is opened, more will no doubt be heard of it. *Tere.*—It is difficult to form an opinion as to the immediate outlook for Eastman shares. Erie Prefs. stand at 35, and the various bonds mentioned by you should be held. They are quoted in the official list. *Simplex.*—An improvement in the Mining Market is now in progress, and under these circumstances you should hold Nos. 1 to 11. Also hold North British Deferred (12). *Tregenza.*—1. The Jarrah Timber and Wood Paving Corporation is a promising undertaking, and although there is no market for the shares at present, this will probably follow in due time. 2. The Lady Shenton pays a quarterly dividend of 1s. per share for the first quarter of 1898, although the machinery had not been at work for a considerable portion of that time, having undergone overhauling. The distributions are expected to increase. 3. Canadian Pacifics should be held for a further advance. *R. D. N.*—1. Hold, and average if you can afford to do so. 2. I have never heard of this concern. 3. Yes, Union Pacifics are a good investment, and since you wrote have risen 2½ dols.

A CHAPTER ON INDUSTRIAL STOCKS.

The special settlements which are being fixed for the various new Companies started in this department are providing mild excitement now and then. In the first instance, the Welsbach settlement disclosed a certain "Bull" account, as shown by somewhat high contangoes, but I am informed that large blocks will be taken up next account, and that the rate will then be much lower. The new burner is winning golden opinions from experts and others, and I should strongly advise holders not to part with their stocks. There has been a better market, and Welsbach Ordinary is now quoted 108, ditto Preferred 96, ditto Deferred 18s. 6d. The English Sewing Cotton settlement has been put off, much to the chagrin of the market; but, on the other hand, the special settlements has been fixed for Vickers, Sons, & Maxim, for the 18th inst. Quite a strong demand has been experienced for Anglo "A" and "B," which is not surprising considering the enormous increase in cable work as a consequence of the war. Anglo "A" are now quoted 15⅞, ditto "B" 113¼, and they are likely to go ahead in sympathy with the Yankee market. Coats Ordinary have been a weak market on continued Glasgow sales, and are lower at 58½ xd. I do not see much temptation to go into the Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association, Limited. The estimates in the prospectus are incomplete in several respects, notably in the absence of any allowance for depreciation of stock, while the leasehold properties will naturally in time decrease in value. An improvement in Hammond's Meat Preference shares to 3 is apparently due chiefly to the rise in meat caused by the war. Liptons have become a very tired market, and hardly any dealings have taken place of late, the quotation of the Ordinary being $\frac{15}{16}$ premium. The Lipton settlement is expected at about the end of May. The tea fight is continuing, but it is supposed that it will take Liptons some time before they can beat the Mazzawattee Company, which has just paid the enormous sum of £63,147 in one cheque for duty. It was partly this circumstance that has caused an improvement in Mazzawattee Tea shares to 1½. Lyons are firmer at $4\frac{3}{16}$, and there has been an advance in Salmon and Gluckstein to 31s. 6d. Russian Oil shares have been steady at 23½, the special settlement for these shares and for Schiabieff Petroleum has been fixed for the 18th inst. By the way, another Russian Oil Company is on the board, although the capital will not be extensive, and I have heard it stated as £50,000. Fish oil shares were a little depressed on the settlement, and were thrown overboard by weak holders, the price falling to 4¾, from which there has been a recovery to 5. The carry-over rate in

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Dublin was much higher at from 10d. to 1s. than in London, where the contango was only from 4d. to 5d., and it is expected that there will be a much freer market here in future. As regards Volanite, Limited, to which I referred last week, and which is to be brought out under the auspices of the Fish Oil and Guano Company, I hear that the issue will be made in the course of the present week. The capital is fixed at £80,000 in £1 shares, but only 21,250 shares will be offered for subscription to the shareholders of the Fish Oil and Guano Company at par. As I have already stated, Volanite is an article lately discovered by Mr. F. Lamplough, C.E., who is an industrial chemist and Board of Trade engineer, and who, in co-operation with Mr. Shipton, has perfected a wonderful invention for the treatment of fish and fish offal. Mr. Lamplough has been experimenting with the oil produced by the Stanley process of the Fish Oil Company for some time, and has discovered Volanite, for which it is claimed that it will make railway sleepers, railway carriage wheels, brake blocks, carriage panels, embossed panels for decoration, and many other articles, imperishable. In fact, the numerous uses claimed for this new substance are remarkable, and if the anticipations are borne out by results, the Company should have a great future before it. Insiders are already speaking of a very high premium for the £1 shares. Bovrils have been distinctly firmer at 18s. 6d. for the Ordinary and at 11s. 9d. for the Deferred, while Schweppe Ordinary remain at $1\frac{1}{8}$, the Deferred dropping to 9s. I had anticipated some such movement, as, in view of the dividend paid on the Deferred, Bovril Ordinary ought really to stand higher than Schweppe Ordinary. Natal Steam Coal shares have improved to $1\frac{1}{4}$-$\frac{3}{8}$, partly in sympathy with the rise in Dundee Coal and Estate shares, which are being puffed to a considerable extent, and are now quoted $1\frac{9}{16}$. The Natal shares are really as good as the Dundee (Natal), although the latter Company has had the advantage of starting earlier. In Cycle shares depression continues to prevail, and every slight rally is followed by a fresh decline. Dunlop Deferred at one time fell to 5s. 3d., from which they have recovered to 5s. 6d., but a sharp decline of 8 points to 70 has taken place in the Debentures; while Singer Prefs. have also given way to 15s. Starley Brothers moved down to 4s. 6d., on the cutting down of the capital; but there have been active dealings at about this price. Swifts are unaltered at 12s., and Singer Ordinary are slightly firmer at 10s. 6d. Amalgamated Tyres have further declined 6d. to 4s. 6d., and Cycle Components are easier at $1\frac{3}{16}$. I hear that an improvement in Trent Cycle shares, now quoted 5s., may be looked for. By the way, I have received a communication from the Secretary of Welford & Sons, Limited, with regard to the debentures which were quoted in the list I gave a few weeks ago, and in which they are classed as redeemable. The Secretary wishes me to point out that although these debentures are redeemable, the redemption cannot take place until 1910 or 1915, and then at £105. Many of the other debentures mentioned in the same list are, however, in a similar position. Palace Theatre shares have experienced a slight set-back, but the knowing contingent are still buying, and talk about a big dividend. Music-hall shares generally are steady, and the public are once more investing in them, notwithstanding Mr. G. Adney Payne's recent stir-up. Drury Lane shares have received a fair amount of attention, the profits made by the "White Heather" and the pantomime pointing to a good dividend. Cambridge shares are quite neglected, and the £5 shares are only quoted at $2\frac{1}{2}$. I hear that a wonderful umbrella flotation is on the board. The Civil, Naval, and Military Outfitters, Limited, which was started in August last with a nominal capital of £80,000, has passed into the haven of liquidation, and the first meeting of the contributories is to be held on the 11th inst. This concern has certainly had a very short and inglorious career, and the proceedings at the meeting should prove interesting.—Your affectionate uncle,

MOSES.

Mortlock's (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "Mortlock's" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

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QUEER STORY.

SIR JOHN DEACLE'S AILMENT.

[During the past six months Truth office has suffered from quite an epidemic of true "Queer Stories," sent in by outside contributors. The larger number I have had to reject altogether; some on the ground of their moral impropriety, others because their veracity seemed to be their one and only merit. But a dozen or so have survived the editorial scrutiny, of which about half have appeared already, and the rest will do so in due course. I think that this one, printed below, will be considered sufficiently out of the common to justify its selection. It was sent to me by a young West End doctor, now rapidly rising into eminence for his successful treatment of mental and nervous disorders.—Ed. Truth.]

"WHAT is my practice worth? Oh! come now. That is rather a personal question. You must really excuse my answering it. But I don't mind telling you this, that I pay my way very comfortably, in addition to putting by a nice little sum every year; and you know that a man cannot live in one of the best streets in the West End and do that upon nothing. Rather unpleasant work? Dear me, no! Far too interesting to be unpleasant. Besides, it is a mistake to suppose that all cases of mental or nervous disorder are painful cases. I have come across not a few in which the comic has been the distinctly prevailing element. And the story which I now propose to tell you relates to a case of this character.

"I may say at once that it all arose out of golf. I have been a keen golfer ever since I was a lad; for, you see, I was educated at Loretto, and when I first went there, I had the honour to be golf-fag to the captain of the school, whose doughty performances, while yet a schoolboy, against the best professional talent of Musselburgh, roused in me a burning desire some day to attain like proficiency and renown. I made friends with every one who was likely to help me on in my ambition—especially with Tam Farquharson, at that time a prince amongst professional players. Good old Tam! Never have I met one who 'knew' more in the matter of golf. A shilling's worth off Tam—such was his modest fee for a brief instruction—was (as I often used to say) worth a sovereign's worth off anybody else. Perhaps I am prejudiced. The heroes of our boyhood have a way of looming large. But such was then my opinion. Such is my opinion still.

"And then what a dry humour had Farquharson—the dog! If I am not mistaken, 'twas he that christened the little bunker, so well known to Musselburgh golfers as 'Lord Blank'—the bunker which lies just in front of a certain tee, at the east corner of the course, and into which his lordship, an amiable and distinguished Judge of Session, but scarcely a distinguished golfer, was wont invariably to top his drive. I myself was once in hearing, when this same legal luminary, having to play a thirty yards approach to the hole, said to Tam, who was carrying for him,

"'I think I'll take my putter, Far-r-r-quharson.'

"'Nae, nae, my lord,' was the response, given with unexampled gravity. "Tak your driver, and lie well oop!'

"And, again——but I will spare you further anecdotes, and get under way with my story.

"It was five years ago that I set up in practice in London—at the age of twenty-eight; and being still as keen as ever on the royal and ancient game, I looked about for some good golf club in the neighbourhood of the Metropolis, to which to attach myself. A friend of mine, who was a member of Prince's, advised me to join Prince's, and kindly offered to put me up. I accepted his offer. In due course I was elected.

"Now, I have an uncle, a distinguished physician, and a man of the strictest old-fashioned ideas, who was quite horrified when he heard what I had done.

"'Good God!' said the old gentleman to me, 'you, a young doctor, with your way to make, wasting your

time trapesing down to Mitcham to play—golf! It's professional suicide, sir."

"'I shan't go often,' I said. 'Probably only about one afternoon a week.'

"'Quite enough to ruin you, sir, even if you stick to your one afternoon. But you won't. I know what young men are when they go off playing golf.'

"'The air and exercise will keep me in health,' I answered. 'Besides, I shall make the acquaintance of a number of men well worth knowing, who may help to give me a lift, professionally. Nay! some of them, perhaps, may themselves develop into lucrative patients. Who can tell?'

"'Bosh!' retorted my uncle, 'you'll get no patients that way. Men who go tramping round a common all day in the fresh air, jogging up their livers and exercising their chest-muscles, aren't the sort to want a doctor, I'm sure. However, take your own line, sir. You won't listen to me, of course. You never do. But when you've ruined yourself with your senseless golf—as you will inevitably do if you don't give it up—you may, perhaps, remember my warning, and realise that I'm not quite the fool and the fogey that you are now evidently pleased to consider me!'

"So said my avuncular relative. But I did not take his advice; and I soon had every reason to be thankful that I did not; as you shall now hear.

"It all came about this way. On the occasion of my third or fourth visit to Mitcham, having played a round, and finding that I still had nearly an hour to spare for my train, I took out a club and a couple of balls, and indulged in a bit of driving practice on the wide open expanse in front of the club-house. While I was thus engaged, my attention was attracted to a tall, cadaverous man, of aristocratic appearance, who was also occupied in the same diversion, but who, despite his most persistent efforts, seemed unable to bring off anything longer than a forty-yard shot, and an unqualified daisy-cropper at that. I should not, indeed, have taken any particular notice of him—would-be golfers of this calibre being sufficiently common at Mitcham as elsewhere—but that, happening to pass him at close quarters in pursuit of a sliced ball, I was greatly struck by the expression of his face. In fact, I never recollected to have seen any one (except, possibly, a few patients whom I had attended for acute melancholia) whose countenance bespoke more evidently the deep dejection of an unutterable misery.

"His gait and bearing were entirely in accord with the expression of his face. He carried his head drooping forward on his breast. His shoulders were rounded. He slouched along with quick, shuffling steps, as one in whom the energy of self-respect was wholly wanting. I also noticed that he kept muttering to himself; a circumstance which, in conjunction with the others, struck me as rather significant.

"'By Jove!' I thought, 'if that fellow isn't badly hypped I never saw one who was. He looks to me like a man who wants taking care of.'

"I watched him address his ball and attempt another drive. No wonder he was making such execrable shots. He was doing everything that a golfer should not do; lifting his arms in taking back the club; pressing for all he was worth at the beginning of the swing; turning over his wrists at the end. Then, as the inevitable result followed, and his topped ball trickled its two score paces along the grass, I heard him exclaim, with a weary groan:

"'I never shall! I know I never shall!' And off he slouched after his ball, and repeated the performance.

"When I returned to the club-house, I saw the steward standing in the doorway, and asked him who the melancholy golfer was.

"'Oh!' he said. 'That's Sir John Deacle. He is down here every day, practising his drive; but he never gets any better. Seems to have no heart in him, either. Never speaks to any one. Some of the members say he's a little—a little——'

"Here the steward tapped his forehead, meaningly.

"'He must be awfully keen on golf to go on like that,' I observed.

"'Ah!' replied the steward. 'Golf's the subject on which they say he's touched. And I must say it looks uncommonly like it. However, it's a harmless mania, after all. There's your train just signalled, sir.'

"I went down to Mitcham again about a week later. This time I had not a match, and there was no one at the club disengaged to play with me. But hearing that another train was due from Victoria in less than an hour, I decided to wait about till then on the chance of getting a game. As I strolled out on to the course to while away the time in practising approaches with my mashie, I at once caught sight of Sir John Deacle, shuffling along after his ball. I watched him make a few drives—all the same feeble, forty-yard futilities, and then, acting on a sudden impulse, I made so bold as to approach him and address him; for, indeed, to a golfing enthusiast like myself it seemed intolerable to see a man persisting in such elementary faults without giving him a friendly hint.

"'Pardon me, sir,' I said. 'But you are lifting your arms, and pressing, and turning over your wrists every time.'

"He did not resent my words, in the least. He only turned towards me a face full of utter despondency, and answered, sighing deeply:

"'I know it—I know it, only too well.'

"'Excuse the liberty I am taking,' I said. 'But I have been a golfer ever since I could walk; and I believe that, if you will allow me, I can show you how to correct those faults.'

"He smiled at me, sadly, and shook his head.

"'Young man,' he replied, 'you do not know to whom you are talking. If it were merely a matter of being shown how to swing properly, I should drive as well as most; for I have had lessons from all the best professionals in the Three Kingdoms. I tell you, I know exactly what to do. But' (with an audible groan) 'I can't do it—I can't do it!'

"'May I suggest,' I said, 'that you should take a trial swing now—with no ball there, I mean.'

"'Ah!' he cried, quickly. 'That is the strange part of it. When there is no ball there, I can swing to perfection. See! Watch me crop off this daisy head! . . . There now! Was there much wrong with that?'

"'Very little indeed,' I answered, truthfully enough. It was a long, slow, steady, sweeping swing, with as good a final carry-through as any one need wish to achieve.

"'But,' I added, 'Why do you not do that when the ball's there?'

"He heaved a deep sigh, and his face again became clouded with dejected hopelessness.

"'Simply,' he said, 'Because, when the ball is there, it—it—utterly paralyses me! and—and—puts me into that state in which, if my very life depended on my swinging correctly, I could not do it. I don't suppose you can in the least understand the feeling, but——

"'Indeed,' I answered, 'I can understand it—up to a certain point. But surely, with a little determination——'

"'That is what everybody tells me,' he interposed, with a weary sigh. '"You've just got to make up your mind," they say, '"that you will swing as if there was no ball there—and the thing's done." "Make up your mind that you will?" Easy enough advice to give. But how am I to do what I can't? That's what I want to know?'

"'I imagine that you can—if you like,' I ventured to say.

"He laughed, hysterically.

"'If I like! If I like! Good God, man, isn't it the aim of my life to be a good golfer? Haven't I spent a small fortune on instructors? Wouldn't I pay almost any sum to a man who could teach me to drive? And you say to me: "If you like!"'

"'Perhaps,' I said, apologetically, noting the excited energy with which he had spoken, 'I ought rather to have said, if you will set about it in the right way.'

"'No way will make a man do what he can't,' replied Sir John, gloomily, 'I know I—I—am doomed to disappointment. It is the—the—darling wish of my heart to drive a long ball. But' (with unutterable melancholy) 'I never shall—I never shall!'

"I regarded him thoughtfully for some seconds. Then, making up my mind to a certain course of action, I said, boldly, 'Sir John, you are a rich man, I believe?'

"'So I am. I have twenty thousand a year. But what's the good of twenty thousand a year, when you can't drive?' he added, bitterly.

"'You expressed your willingness just now,' I went on, 'to pay almost any sum to a man who could teach you to do so.'

"'So I would!' he cried, earnestly. 'If such a man were to be found, I would gladly pay him—a thousand pounds!'

"'You mean that?'

"'I do.'

"'Well, then,' I said, looking him full in the face, 'with your permission, I will do my best to earn the money.'

"'You?' he ejaculated, with a half-contemptuous and wholly astonished air. 'Are you likely to succeed, think you, where all the best professionals have failed?'

"'I believe so,' I replied, with confidence. 'And for this reason. Your failure is not due to want of knowledge, but simply to want of nerve. In other words, you are suffering from a bad breakdown of your golfing nervous system. Now, I am a medical man as well as a golfer, and I believe I can cure you. I would willingly do so gratis; only I am a young man, with my way to make, and money is an object to me. Will you let me undertake your case on these terms: one thousand pounds if I cure you; if I fail—nothing?'

"'Very well,' he answered. 'I will place myself in your hands. It can do no harm, if you fail. And if you should succeed—— But psha!' (falling back into his most despondent and lugubrious tone). 'You won't succeed. For I shall never make a golfer—I never shall—I never shall!'

"'That remains to be seen,' I replied, cheerfully. 'And now you are under my directions, I must ask you to cease your practice for to-day. To go on in that faulty way only does harm. But will you meet me here to-morrow morning at a quarter past eleven? And then we can start upon our work in good earnest.'

"'I will be here,' he said, in his sad, hollow voice.

"Next morning, having carefully thought out Sir John's case and the best method of treating it, I repaired to Mitcham by the 10.43 train from Victoria. The baronet, as it happened, went by the same train, and we travelled together. He was terribly dejected and depressed, and he talked to me about himself and his golfing incapacity in the most melancholy manner.

"'I fear we are embarked on a useless attempt,' he remarked, slowly shaking his head and sighing. 'I have never hit a drive yet, and I never shall—I feel I never shall. Oh! how I envy other players who seem to send their ball two hundred yards with scarcely an effort. And I, who slave, and slave, and slave, can never bring off a shot. Why is Fate so cruel? Why did my mother ever bring forth such a miserable wretch—me, to whom is denied the one thing on earth that can make life tolerable?'

"These and other similar remarks, which he made in the course of the journey, and of which I affected to take little notice, served to confirm me in my opinion of what was the matter with him; and when we reached Mitcham, I proceeded to put into practice the scheme of treatment to which I had made up my mind.

"Sir John brought out his driver and half-a-dozen balls. One of these he teed and began to address. I immediately stopped him.

"'Pardon me,' I said. 'We must begin at the beginning. I wish you first to practise your swing thoroughly—with no ball there.'

"'Oh! but that is waste of time,' he expostulated. 'You know I can swing as well as any one, when there is no ball. You have seen me!'

"'Perhaps,' I replied. 'Nevertheless, Sir John, if you wish me to cure you, you must allow me to do so in my own way. Now! See this worm-cast here. Let me see you swing at that. That's right. Arms down—slow back—carry through. Hem! Very good!'

"'Yes! yes! I can do it every time when there is no ball there!'

"'Let me see you do it ten times running!'

"He did so. And certainly there was little fault to find with any of the ten performances.

"'The fact is,' I explained to him, 'I wish that swing to become a sort of second nature to you. I think, as you say, that you can do it well enough when you are aiming at some definite object, other than a golf ball. Supposing, therefore, you try whether you have sufficient confidence for the next stage; that is, to practise the swing, still with no ball there, but—with your eyes shut.'

"'With my eyes shut!' he ejaculated, greatly astonished. 'Why with my eyes shut?'

"'Because you must get into the way of making your swing absolutely mechanical; and there is no other such good method of attaining that result. For, as you can easily see, when you have once taken your stand and placed your club in position, it will, if swung with mechanical correctness, follow precisely the same line, though your eyes are shut, as it would if you were watching the point of impact, with your eyes open. Now let me see you try. Here, address this daisy head. Right. Now shut your eyes. Now—swing.'

"He shut his eyes and swung—only moderately well. But I kept him at it for nearly twenty minutes, until at last he was cropping off the daisy head or worm-cast, or whatever the object happened to be, nearly every time.

"Then I thought the time ripe for my great *coup*. When he had shut his eyes and was taking his club slowly back, I stooped and hastily deposited a Silvertown on the worm-cast which he had made his point of address. Round came the club in a long, steady, sweeping, powerful swing. It met the Silvertown full on the face, and sent it flying—a beautiful long, straight ball of which no golfer need have been ashamed. My heart bounded for joy as I watched it. For it was on the success of this experiment that my whole scheme had depended

"The effect on Sir John was extraordinary.

"'What was that?' he exclaimed, opening his eyes in great astonishment. 'I hit something hard. I—I—hit something fair—there was such a delicious feeling. I—I——'

"'Yes,' I said, quietly. 'You hit a Silvertown, which I teed for you. A fine long ball, too. No wonder it felt delicious. See! There it is just landing now, straight ahead, and just short of the bunker.'

"'What?' he cried, with intense, but half-incredulous, excitement. 'I—drove—that—ball? I—drove—that—ball?'

"I assured him that he, and nobody else, had done so. His eyes sparkled with delight. He shook and trembled for very triumphant eagerness. This fine long ball that had flown so deliciously from his club—this, the first drive he had ever hit—had worked an even more marvellous change in him than I had dared to expect. The hopeless despondency had vanished from his face. He looked positively alert and energetic.

"'Come!' he cried, with keen enthusiasm. 'Tee me another ball! Let—let—me—see if I can do that again!' . . . .

"That was the turning-point—the crisis—in Sir John Deacle's case. I need not weary you by detailing the assiduous practice at which I kept him for the next fortnight, first with eyes shut, lastly with eyes open, until (if I may be allowed the metaphor) I had fairly completed that structure whereof the episode of the Silvertown had been the foundation-stone.

"Suffice it to say that, at the end of that period, Sir John, a changed man and a transmogrified golfer, handed me his cheque for £1,000, with many expressions of pleasure and gratitude.

"'You have made life a new thing for me' he said, shaking me warmly by the hand. 'I—I—played a match yesterday, and—and—I went round in ninety-eight!'

"'I am delighted to hear it,' I answered. 'And you will soon improve on that, Sir John. You are quite cured of your complaint. I do not think it is in the least likely to recur.'

"'My complaint?' he exclaimed.

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"'Yes; your complaint. You were simply suffering from quite a common ailment, though, to be sure, it had in your case taken a novel and exceptional form. You had, in fact, an acute attack of—golfer's hysteria.'"

ART NOTES.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY—SECOND ARTICLE.

ARISTIDES, as we all of us know, grew very tired of being called "the Just." But what about the people who used to speak of him in this appreciative way? I am inclined to think that they must have grown as weary of applying the adjective as Aristides did of having it applied. But what else could they do? Whilst Aristides persisted in distinguishing himself by his exceptional impartiality and uprightness, to hail him as "the Just" was a necessity of the situation. There was, in fact, no getting out of it. It seems to me very much the same in the case of Mr. John S. Sargent, R.A. We may grow a little tired of calling him "the marvellous," and of applying such adjectives as "powerful," and "magnificent," and "amazing" to his pictures, but so long as he continues to paint portraits so superlatively fine, what else, let me ask, is it possible for us to do? Look, for example, at his portrait of Mr. Asher Wertheimer (No. 603), surely the most remarkable picture of the year. If ever the soul of a man were expressed in his painted portrait, Mr. Sargent has succeeded in expressing it here. The face, as has been well said, almost thinks as we gaze at it. One positively waits expectantly for the ironical eye to wink. Every inch of the canvas is palpitating with character and actuality. The panting black poodle lying at its master's feet, with its moist, red tongue hanging from its mouth, is an invaluable accessory to an *ensemble* well-nigh staggering in its force and strength. If there is more than a hint of Mephistopheles in the man there is certainly a suggestion of *diablerie* in the dog. There is something distinctly uncanny in the odd fascination this portrait exercises on the spectator. It was a cruel thing of the Hanging Committee to place in such proximity to this masterpiece of Mr. Sargent's the portrait of Mr. Herbert Spencer, painted by Professor Herkomer (No. 601). I had intended to say some hard things about this picture, but the explanatory letter sent to the *Times* by Mr. Spencer to a great extent disarms criticism. The fact that the portrait had to be painted to so great an extent from photographs certainly explains the artist's comparative failure to do justice to his eminent subject; but it none the less surely makes its presence on the line nothing less than deplorable.

Mr. George H. Boughton, R.A., has been well advised in seeking inspiration for his principal picture in "The Lady of Shalott." "The Road to Camelot," as he calls it (No. 216), is one of those mediæval subjects which he paints with such suave grace and decorative charm. He shows us the moving panoramic scene that the ill-fated lady saw in her mirror; the "shadows of the world" that used to appear to her as she wove her magic web. By the side of "the river winding clearly down to tower'd Camelot" we see the picturesque procession pass—the troop of glad damsels, the Abbot on his ambling pad, the long haired page clad in crimson and cloth of gold, and the knights that rode by with their pennoned lances, two and two. Mr. Boughton has revelled in the opportunities afforded him of dealing with the quaint and bizarre fashions of the middle ages, and has turned them to delightful account in a picture that cannot fail to please. Of his two portraits I prefer "Dorothy" (No. 374), a most graceful realisation of a young and pretty girl, with a fountain coolly plashing in the background; though his "Katharine" (No. 346) is another graceful presentation of the charm of innocent girlhood. This year's Academy is in fact very strong in portraiture, though, unfortunately, there is a *per contra* side to the balance-sheet, and against the successes of a Sargent and an Orchardson, a Boughton and a Carolus Duran have to be set the usual tale of ineptitudes and commonplaces, the uninteresting mayors, the wearisome M.F.H.'s, the all-prevailing major-generals, in aggressively new uniforms of scarlet and gold. I certainly think, however, that we owe a debt of gratitude to Lord Middleton for having commissioned Mr. Walter Urwick to paint him in what I may call the full paraphernalia of a peer of the realm (No. 258). In the colloquial words of a once popular comic song, his lordship has most decidedly "got 'em on"—coronet, ermine-trimmed robes, silk stockings, velvet cape, lace "fal-lals"—nothing has been forgotten. Whether a large cavalry sabre is a portion of the constitutional outfit of a British Peer I am not sufficiently well up in the mysterious details of a baronial wardrobe to be aware. But certainly Lord Middleton is grasping one in this memorable portrait, and as we see him standing defiant on the terrace of his lordly mansion, with a bare-headed retainer in attendance and a gilded coach and pair waiting for him in the background, it is impossible not to be struck at the audacity of those bold reformers who would attempt to "mend or end" a House consisting of five hundred and eighty-four such gorgeously-arrayed hereditary legislators as this. By one of those little ironies of which life is so full, the picture I have attempted thus feebly to describe, was, on the day of the Press-view, numbered 237 and 237 in the catalogue was described as a portrait of the Mayor of Middlesbrough! But though his worship would be one of the first to admit that even in his robes and chain of office he could hardly aspire to the sartorial magnificence of a genuine British lord, there is one municipal magnate in the Academy who is certainly able to put even Lord Middleton into the shade. I allude, of course, to the ex-Lord Mayor of London, who, in Mr. Solomon Solomon's, "On the Threshold of the City, June 22, 1897" (No. 625), is seen arrayed in a costume which the other Solomon, in all his glory, was never able to put on. Off the stage of an opéra-bouffe theatre I doubt if such a resplendent figure as that cut by the popular and urbane Sir George Faudel Phillips, Bart., on the Diamond Jubilee Day, was ever seen. The whole picture in which he appears is, in fact, a kind of apotheosis of the Corporation of the City of London; and should irreverent iconoclasts again advance to attack it, I would suggest that the City Fathers should have Mr. Solomon's glowing canvas carried before them as a banner when they muster for the defence of the Mansion House. If that does not strike consternation into the hearts of the Corporation's foes, I don't know what will. By the way, the ex-Lord Mayor enjoys what must be an almost unique distinction of having two life-size portraits of himself in the same Academy. In addition to the equestrian portrait I have mentioned, he is also to be seen in a less flamboyant costume on the wall of Gallery No. V. (No. 403).

It is pleasant to find Mr. Luke Fildes painting with much more force and distinction than he has shown in several recent Academies. His "Miss Irene Blair" (No. 220) is painted in his old manner. Professor Herkomer's Sir George Taubman-Goldie (No. 567) will not escape attention. It is painted with wonderful strength and directness; indeed, the realistic note in it is forced to cracking point. One positively feels inclined to resent the strenuous aggressiveness of the demand for notice made by this remarkable portrait. There is such a thing as brow-beating the public even with paint on a piece of canvas. Much to be preferred as a work of art is the Professor's portrait of Mr. Henry Tate (No. 572), a public benefactor whose face visitors to the Academy will be specially interested to see. Another excellent portrait is Mr. Hugh Riviere's likeness of his father, the Academician (No 399). Admirable, too, though in a perversely unimaginative way, is Mr. William Carter's portrait of his mother (No. 409). Mr. John Collier's full-length portrait of the Earl of Halsbury (No. 59) gives us an imposing presentment of his lordship's full dress robes, but the artist has not been so successful with his lordship's face and features. It is tantalising to think what a portrait the painter of Mr. Asher Wertheimer might have given us of our genial Lord High Jobber. A very cleverly arranged portrait group by Mr. F. H. Lorimer, full of refined colour and dexterous composition, should on no account be missed.

"Shelling 'Honesty,'" as it is called (No. 467), is a delightful picture. Amongst the younger portrait painters Mr. R. Jack, Mr. Ralph Peacock, and Mr. Charles Sims distinguish themselves, and I note again with pleasure the continued advance made by Mr. H. Harris Brown. I had noted for approval a military portrait of his which is favourably hung at the New Gallery, but at Burlington House he has achieved an even greater success with his "Bishop of Emmaus" (No. 592), which is hung in the centre of a side-wall on the portrait line of Gallery No. VIII. His portrait of Miss Dillon (No. 648) may be seen in the same room, and he has a third portrait in Gallery IV. (No. 339). Close to this last picture is a portrait of that prolific and protean writer Mr. H. Schutz-Wilson (No. 341). It is perhaps only a piece of poetic justice that the "Hill-top" novelist should find himself thus mercilessly "skied." But there is surely no justice, poetic or otherwise, in the "skying" of the landscape by the famous Dutch painter, Mynheer James Maris, in Gallery No. VIII. This seems to be not only a piece of churlish inhospitality, but a lamentable aberration of artistic taste and judgment.

It is high time that I should have mentioned the name of Mr. H. H. La Thangue, one of the newer Associates who continues amply to justify his election. He is still content to interpret those simple scenes from everyday rural life which he has so long painted with such rare insight and sympathy. He does for the English peasantry very much what Josef Israels does for the Dutch fisherfolk; he shows us the labour, the burden, the pathos of their lot, though without that insistence on grey skies and depressing cottage interiors in which the Dutch artist delights. Mr. La Thangue is essentially an "open airist," and revels in the light and atmosphere in which he steeps his painted annals of the poor. Look, for instance, at his "Bracken" (No. 123), a canvas positively vibrating with light and air! The strong afternoon sunlight which strikes on the faces of the girl and her mother, who are walking down an upland path with huge sheaves of newly-cut fern on their bowed backs, positively dazzles your eyes as you look at it. But Mr. La Thangue's most important work is "Harvesters at Supper" (No 608), which is to be found in gallery No. VIII. Here the effects of firelight and moonlight are most skilfully portrayed. Still, with all his cleverness, Mr. La Thangueis showing a tendency to mannerism, against which he would do well to guard. He should beware of a certain streakiness of technique, which he is inclined to overdo, and which detracts from the merits of at least two of his pictures at this season's Academy. But I have again outrun my space, and the fact that I still have to mention several pictures of exceptional interest, as well as some striking items in the Sculpture Gallery, tends, I think, to confirm what I stated last week—that the present exhibition of the Royal Academy is a better one than we have had for several seasons.

MUSIC.

OPENING OF THE OPERA SEASON.

THE Opera Syndicate, who again have control of Covent Garden this year, have certainly no reason to be dissatisfied with the opening of their season on Monday. Their delight would, perhaps, be the more unalloyed if M. Jean de Reszke were willing to relinquish his £200 a night, and to sing for the £40 per week which only eleven years ago Señor Lago refused him. Again they might have a surer idea of Paradise on earth if prime donne would only accept all the parts which Mr. Grau thinks best for them, and at the managers' own price. Happily all singers are not ambitions in money matters, but it is a fact of which the treasurer of the syndicate is painfully aware, that the salaries of great vocalists continuously go up, while as the walls of the opera house are not elastic, the receipts cannot proportionately increase. However, there is little to complain of, for the prospects are good and the subscription is a record one. It may be true that on Monday the relentless Wagner party would have preferred a German to an Italian conductor for "Lohengrin," but out of the four conductors engaged at the Royal Opera this season Signor Mancinelli has, it seems, the widest and most complete knowledge of "God Save the Queen," which preceded the opera, and, perhaps, partly for this reason, partly on the doctrine of *seniores priores*, he was chosen as the first conductor of the new season. The performance in which such well-known artists as M. Van Dyck took part in the titular rôle, Mme. Eames being the Elsa, Mme. Brema the Ortrud, M. E. de Reszke the King, and Herr Feinhals (a German high baritone and a promising recruit) the Telramund, need not, of course, be criticised in detail. On Tuesday there were some new comers, namely, M. Saleza, a native of Bruges, and chief tenor of the Paris Opéra Comique as Roméo, with the American soprano, Miss Adams, as Juliette, but of these I must speak next week.

It is early days to talk of the reforms which have been instituted this season. One of them, a more intelligent stage management, was greatly needed. The inadequate stage machinery of Covent Garden is against any new Continental *régisseur*, but when the season becomes a little older we shall doubtless find many much-needed improvements. M. Baudu has experience of stage direction abroad, and is also a linguist, so that, unlike those who only speak English, he is able to make himself understood by his forces. The orchestra has been slightly changed, some new-comers replacing those who insisted upon the supposed right to send deputies whenever they had a concert engagement, so that the band at Covent Garden is now exclusively engaged for the opera. The players are placed slightly lower than usual, with the brass concealed under the stage, while the conductor takes his place in the Italian fashion, near the audience, instead of at the footlights.

Next week, as I understand, we are to have revivals of "Die Meistersinger" and "Tannhäuser," and, indeed, before the close of the season the whole of the Wagner operas, from "Tannhäuser" to the "Ring" will be heard. M. Jean de Reszke and Mme. Nordica, who have both arrived, make their reappearance on Saturday in "Tristan," and on Monday week Mme. Calvé is expected to sing, for the first time here, Margaret, in Boïto's "Mefistofele," a part in which she achieved much success two years ago in the United States. In the same week we are to have Mancinelli's long contemplated opera-cantata, "Hero and Leander." June will see the return of Mme. Melba, and also the three cycles of "Der Ring des Nibelungen," which "dashed tomfoolery every night from four to twelve" in the dark it is hoped the subscribers will appreciate. The production of Dr. Saint Saëns' "Henry VIII." will probably be postponed until July. There will be no "gala" performance at the opera this year, for even if the Kaiser comes to England at all, it will only be for the yachting at Cowes in July. By the way, there seems to be some idea that the Wagner craze will be allowed to entirely place Italian music on the shelf. This, I am assured, is an absurdity; and, indeed, some of the older Italian operas will be expressly revived for Mme. Melba. New Italian singers have not been engaged this year because there are none up to the high standard of Covent Garden. You can secure plenty of Italian tenors and sopranos of a sort, at £10 a week upwards; but the British public insist upon the best, so that the Covent Garden syndicate have endeavoured to choose the finest singers available, irrespective of nationality or tongue.

We have heard a good deal about the iniquity of engaging an Italian band for the Imperial Institute; and at the meeting the other day it was admitted that the foreign article came cheaper than an orchestra of British taxpayers. So far as the public are concerned, they probably do not care a pin whether the band comes from the Sandwich Islands or Stratford-atte-Bow, providing that the players are adequate. I am not going to say that the Scala orchestra, who, in the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales and half-a-dozen other royalties, made their first appearance on Monday afternoon, are in any way the equals of some of our own bands. It is, however, pretty

certain that first-rate British orchestras—for example, those of Herr Mottl and Dr. Richter—would not play in the open air, and even the Italians at the last moment raised some demur to doing so, they being an opera and concert, and not a garden orchestra. They were distinctly handicapped under the circumstances, and it was also vastly absurd to expect them to play in the middle of a huge garden a work which required such delicacy of treatment as Cowen's "Scandinavian" Symphony, in the two middle movements of which the orchestral details were almost inaudible. I believe that the Scala orchestra will be found at its best in Italian music; and, in fact, an intermezzo and a ballet from Ponchielli's "Prodigal Son" were on Monday emphatically the most effective items of a programme which was devoted otherwise to the music of Berlioz, Reinecke, and Goldmark.

Sir Edward Bradford, I am happy to say, has lost no time in putting a stop to the cab block at Queen's Hall. As I mentioned last week, some strong though perfectly justifiable criticisms upon the police muddle had appeared in the London papers, and two musical critics were invited by Sir Edward Bradford to consult with him upon the point. The difficulty arose in the fact that the police insisted that all carriages setting down at Queen's Hall should come from the north, whereas the large majority of the traffic comes from the south, namely, from Piccadilly, Regent-street, and Oxford-street. Under the old police arrangements these carriages and cabs had to take up in a long rank, which frequently extended up Portland-place and nearly to the Regent's Park. Mr. Rubinstein, the energetic solicitor to the Queen's Hall Company, had in vain expostulated with the police, and had an unsuccessful interview with one of the chiefs at Scotland Yard, who, it seems, laid down the axiom that to introduce any reform was impossible. Last week I expressed a belief that the police took too modest a view of their own capabilities. The result proves that I was right. Whether he was convinced by the eloquence of the musical critics, or whether (which is much more likely) he recognised the absurdity of the situation, Sir Edward Bradford at once put his foot down, and the reform was immediate. At the Lamoureux Concert on the very day that the TRUTH article appeared the traffic regulations were entirely altered, the vehicles coming from the south being lined up Regent-street from Oxford-street, and, when emptied, being sent home along Portland-place. In consequence people were set down without a hitch, and the necessity was avoided of spending something like half an hour upon a long rank on a wet night, and losing the first, and, perhaps, the best portion of the concert.

On Sunday, the veteran Dr. Hopkins played for the last time at the Temple, where, as Canon Ainger, in an eloquent sermon, reminded us, he was the first, in 1843, to introduce into an ordinary church the so-called "Cathedral" service now almost universal. On the previous day Hopkins had completed fifty-five years of service at the Temple—almost a "record" so far as London is concerned—and as he has been granted by the Benchers an ample pension he now takes his well-earned rest. His successor, as I have announced, has already been appointed. Hopkins, who next June will attain the ripe old age of 80, was a choir boy of the Chapel Royal seventy-two years ago, and he is, perhaps, the only man living who sang at the Coronation of William IV. in Westminster Abbey in 1831, and on the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral on the occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, a span of sixty-six years. Dr. Hopkins, although retiring from the organ loft, will still have plenty of work to do, for he has undertaken a new and complete revision of the famous "History of the Organ," which he originally wrote in collaboration with Dr. Rimbault in 1855. Since that time, of course, the construction of the instrument has almost entirely altered.

A young British composer, the clever conductor of a suburban choir, has taken St. James's Hall on Wednesday, for the purpose of producing a new Mass in D from his own pen. It would be interesting to know whether the young gentleman is acting under the advice of anybody having experience in London concert life. A Mass by a British composer is never a particularly exhilarating entertainment; but on the third night of the opera season its chances of adequate notice are small indeed. The affection of young British composers for the Roman Catholic office is inexplicable, for I do not recollect a solitary instance in which such a work has attained lasting popularity. It is, of course, all very well in church, but not the wildest stretch of imagination can convert a Mass into an after-dinner entertainment.

That popular young Welsh singer, Miss Maggie Davies, has had to leave England for the benefit of her health, and she is now on a voyage to the Cape. Miss Maud Danks, another promising young vocalist, proposes in a few weeks to leave for the Continent, and in Paris and elsewhere to devote herself to study. Let us hope this implies a study of the languages rather than of the continental methods of singing which, in Miss Danks' case, as indeed it has more than once proved in even more celebrated instances, would be mere deterioration. Miss Macintyre, the Scottish soprano, and Mr. Ben Davies, the Welsh tenor, disdaining the terrors of the Spanish fleet, sail to-day (Wednesday) by the North German Lloyd steamer fo America where towards the end of the month they will take part in the Cincinnati Musical Festival. They will be back in June, and so too will Mme. Albani, who is now successfully touring in Australasia.

Verdi's new sacred works produced in Paris last Holy Thursday, namely, a "Stabat Mater" for chorus and orchestra, a "Te Deum" for double choir and orchestra, and a "Hymn to the Virgin" for female voices unaccompanied, will be produced for the first time in England at the Gloucester Festival next September. They will there take the place of Brahms' "German Requiem," which would probably prove rather a tough nut for the Gloucester Festival Choir to crack.

Mr. Bispham, I understand, proposes during the London season to play Beethoven in a performance of the dramatic piece entitled "Adelaide," in which he has already appeared in New York. The drama is an historical absurdity, and perhaps its most remarkable feature is that Mr. Bispham has nothing whatever to sing in it, "Adelaide" being given to another vocalist.

The bands of the London County Council gave a dress rehearsal at the Queen's Hall last Thursday. They certainly showed that the orchestras engaged for the present season which, by the way, commences next Monday, comprise some capital performers, who have obviously been well trained. On the other hand, there is no improvement at all in the programmes, which consist for the most part of trashy selections based upon music-hall and variety-piece ditties. It has been proved over and over again that miscellaneous audiences fully appreciate the best music, and they would certainly prefer something very much better than the stuff now set before them by the musical chiefs of the London County Council. In this respect it is not the people but the conductors who urgently require education. There need be no fear of going over the heads of the populace, and, at any rate, ratepayers who ungrudgingly pay large sums for these County Council bands, have a right to expect something much better than some of the music now put before them.

Saturday the 28th is at present fixed for the production of "The Beauty Stone" at the Savoy, and accordingly "The Gondoliers" will cease its run next Saturday week. Mr. D'Oyly Carte seems fated to have to withdraw his Gilbert and Sullivan revivals in the height of their success. "The Mikado" was thus taken off the bills in favour of Sir Alexander Mackenzie's comic opera, and now, despite the fact that it still draws large audiences, "The Gondoliers" has to disappear for the new Sullivan and Pinero opera. Indeed, if the new work had not been produced before June, it would have stood little or no chance of a run before August, notoriously a dull time

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for theatres. Messrs. Devoll and Isham are still announced as making "their first appearance in London," but as I have already stated they have more than once appeared here at concerts under the management of Mr. Cavour.

A rumour has appeared in print that Mme. Patti is likely to be engaged by Mr. Mapleson. There is not the slightest truth in this report, for which I do not suppose Mr. Mapleson himself is in any way responsible. In all probability it is evolved from the inner consciousness of the writer of the paragraph. At any rate, Mme. Patti does not intend to sing at all in London this summer except at two concerts at the Albert Hall managed by Messrs. Harrison, a concert at Queen's Hall for Mr. Ganz's jubilee, and the Festival concert at the Crystal Palace.

I fear that the Crystal Palace people have not had much luck this spring in their Saturday concerts. Nevertheless the autumn performances attracted large audiences, and accordingly they are to be tried again this year commencing on August 8. Herr Rosenthal will then make his reappearance, and on November 5, M. Paderewski, who will be fulfilling some engagements in London and the provinces, will be the chief attraction. Last Saturday Mr. Manns took his benefit before a large audience. The chief items of a long programme were Saint Saëns' fourth pianoforte concerto, well played by Mme. Zeisler, and airs for Mme. Russell and Mr. Lloyd. The British tenor has discovered two songs to add to his repertory, which had now become a little hackneyed. It is possible to have even too much of "Wake from thy grave, Giselle," and "Lend me your aid." The two new songs in question are a pretty air "In the Springtime," described as a "madrigal" from Gounod's "Pet Dove," and the "Song of Happiness," from Berlioz's "Lelio."

The concerts of the week have been very numerous, and I can only deal briefly with a few of them. The final performance at the Albert Hall on Thursday brought a repetition of Sir Frederick Bridge's stirring setting of Kipling's Jingo lines, "The Flag of England," and Sullivan's "Golden Legend." Mme. Grimaldi, a clever pianist though not a star, has introduced a pianoforte quartet in E flat by an Austrian composer, Herr Rabl, a gentleman who seems to have assimilated music of widely different schools. The Strolling players, under Mr. Norfolk Megone, at their Queen's Hall concert last Thursday, gave a capital performance of Dvorak's symphony in D; M. Lamoureux at his last concert drew so unexpectedly a large audience, that another concert was at once arranged for the benefit of that enterprising manager, Mr. Robert Newman, while clever Mme. Mathis and about a quarter of a hundred others have announced pianoforte and various recitals.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—The Grand Bazaar at the Empress Rooms, Kensington, was a grand success, if crowds of visitors can make such things successes. We went on the opening day, and saw the dainty little Duchess of Fife preside on the occasion, her husband saying the necessary words for her. She was dressed with her usual delicate simplicity, wearing a striped grey silk gown, the front of it white veiled with spotted black net, embroidered in steel. H.R.H. keeps her lovely little figure, and is as scrupulously neat in every way as her mother. Her headgear, a toast-coloured toque, was trimmed with a little bright pink, and she wore a white veil. I noticed that while the speeches were going on the Duchess watched with evident disapproval the rather heroic measures adopted by some of the stewards to clear a way for the Royal party to pass round the stalls. It would have been better, surely, to have put up the barriers at first, instead of allowing people to stand for half an hour where they could have a good view of the opening ceremony, and then, at the last moment, making them retreat into the background. Lady Bective, in a very simple black gown and her white muslin saleswoman apron, looked queenly and very handsome, throwing all the younger women into the shade. About three-fourths of them wore grey. There is a wonderful unanimity about that colour just now. Miss Marion Terry looked quite charming in a pale tone of this fashionable tint. Lady Annesley's beautiful face and fine figure were set forth to advantage by a well-fitting blue toilette. Lady Samuelson was all in white, a curious mixture of serge and silk. She wore a picturesque black hat. Most of the younger women had their collars cut away, and wore pearls. It is a pretty fashion when the throat is white and round. Mrs. Alfred Harmsworth had a sweet gown of striped grey silk bordered with chinchilla, the bodice being folded over at the back with a large steel buckle. Lady Maitland was as ornamental an item on the platform as her small boy in his military dress. He was balanced by the youthful son of Mrs. Macnaughten, in Highland costume.

Upstairs there were entertainments going on all the afternoon and evening. We mounted many stairs and attended the first. They were dealt out in half-hours, a very wise proceeding. Our share was a pleasant one, including a serenade sung by Mrs. Carl Meyer, who looked charming in creamy white, with a touch of pale blue in her black hat and a row of pearls round her neck. Mr. Maurice Farkoa sang most sympathetically, not to say coaxingly, a plea for charity composed by "Lambert" and dedicated to the Duchess of Fife. The Earl of Rosslyn was hovering about, arranging for his duologue with Miss Irene Vanbrugh, but we were too tired to wait for it—to say nothing of having to climb the stairs again. At the moment it seemed an undertaking far beyond mortal strength.

I hear of dresses in Paris made entirely of point lace over satin. Does it not sound sumptuous enough for fairy tales? I went to interview Hayward on the subject, and found that they had removed from their old quarters to 11, Old Bond-street. There we heard that real lace is to be tremendously in vogue this season, not only in the usual large pieces, but also as trimmings and in cravats, fichus, and sleeves. You cannot imagine, without having seen them, how intensely becoming these real lace sleeves are to the arms. The prettiest are those made of point Duchess and real Brussels. They are also made of chiffon and insertions of real lace. We were shown a perfectly exquisite specimen of point d'Argentan, the property, at one time, of Queen Marie Louise, Napoleon having presented it to his second wife. The whole history of the lace is attested by documents sealed and signed by various notaries, whose addresses and titles are all given. There are four yards of it, and the design is of an unique character. There are birds and flowers, all executed in an infinity of varied stitches, the whole having an effect of indescribable richness and refinement. Another lovely and inimitable piece, which some wealthy American is sure to pick up, is pillow lace, a long and perfect piece which once belonged to the Doge Grimani of Venice. Juno is represented seated under a canopy, rendered in the finest possible stitches, with her peacock by her.

You will like to hear of some of the modern ways of using old lace in dress. Very tempting they are to the purchaser. There are cravats with square ends like a Cavalier's tie, the lace having chiffon under it, a touch which is highly effective. Others, in which short ends of good lace have been utilised, have a bow of chiffon at one side and a deftly-arranged piece of lace at the other. The contrast between the pure white of the chiffon and the mellow tone of the lace is good. Made up in similar ways was some Lisle lace, the design of which was copied from the antique. Fichus of India muslin, bordered with point d'Alençon appliqué round the edge, were very taking. Others had small knots strewn over with baby ribbon, sewn on in the form of true-lover's knots. One of the prettiest, as well as simplest, was

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in spotted Alençon with frills round the edge. A sweet little border of narrow white gauze ribbon edged each frill. In a week or two the first floor is to be occupied by models of the newest designs in Charavel's well-known lingerie, skirts, and teagowns. Frequenters of Paris know this house and will be glad to have the models brought over here, freshly every month, for their choice.

We sauntered up Bond-street, and came to the conclusion that it grows narrower and narrower every season, by which I mean that the traffic in this thoroughfare increases every year. We turned into Oliver Holmes' to see about your evening gown, and found it progressing satisfactorily. We saw a lovely evening dress, which I must endeavour to describe to you. It was palest green satin of richest and softest texture, and made with a long over-skirt with rounded edges, the whole trimmed with ruches of chiffon in the same tone of green and with lace in a warm tint of yellowish biscuit. It is a beautiful combination. There was a long sash, and it, too, was trimmed with ruches of green chiffon. The bodice was trimmed with lace and chiffon and embroideries in pearl, brilliants, and rubies, taking lines such as make the figure look its very best. This would be a lovely dress in white or orchid-mauve satin, on either of which the yellowish lace would be delicious. A pink tea-gown in rich, wide-ribbed Irish poplin, had incrustations of cream-coloured lace laid on over it. The front was filled in with pink chiffon, on which was laid a deep flounce of the creamy lace. At neck and waist the poplin was gathered in the centre. The sleeves were in soft pink chiffon, with a couple of rosettes in front of each just above the wrist.

Among the high-bodiced gowns we liked a blue China silk, the skirt made with a series of frills, while the bodice had Cluny lace very cleverly put on, revers of it in front being edged with frills of the blue chiffon. The sleeves were soft and hung in folds that had the look of arranging themselves, the very highest quality in draperies, as you know.

Printed muslins are to be worn this year again, and we saw one in a mixture of pink and yellow, a combination that may sound crude, but which is far from being so in reality. There were square revers in front edged with rucked chiffon in yellow, like the little folded chemisette. Over these revers fell others made of creamy lace, edged with chiffon frills. There is a dreadful quantity of work in the dresses this season. This sweet gown was finished at the waist with folds of bright pink glacé ribbon ending in a bow at the left side.

A nice afternoon dress was in hyacinth-blue taffetas with a little pattern on it in white. The only trimming on the skirt consisted of ends of rather wide black velvet caught with a steel buckle at the back. The bodice was black lace over white silk, the sleeves being made of the taffetas. The chemisette and collar were in folded chiffon of the hyacinth colour, and a large chiffon bow that finished the front was in the two shades. You would certainly have fallen in love with a Granny mantle in blue satin edged all round with frills of the same and of chiffon, also blue, and showing the white satin lining. The corners were rounded and cut away, and the frills followed the curve, coming up to the neck, which had a high collar lined with white satin edged with blue chiffon. The capes were very tempting. One, quite short, was in white silk covered with a veil of Chantilly over an intermediate one of black spotted net bordered with a ruche of the same. Much elaboration went to the making of this covetable little garment. The yoke was a series of small tucks over white, and there was a high collar with a couple of thousand stitches in it, at the very least.

I see that arrangements are being made for a military tournament, gymkhanas, polo pony races, a horse and pony show, with driving and coaching competitions, at the Ranelagh Club, Barnes, which must be looking quite lovely just now. It is by far the prettiest club near London. Herr Moritz Wurms' Blue Viennese band is to play there every Sunday afternoon and evening during the season, and his Drawing Room band—discoursing what may be described as mitigated music—will perform in the new dining gallery every evening. On Saturday afternoons the full band of the 15th Hussars will play, and on Saturday evenings the string band of the same regiment. Among the fixtures announced for this month are two polo matches for next Saturday, the Aldershot Division and the Royal Horse Guards against the Club; and on the 21st a meet of the Coaching Club. This will certainly be a smart occasion, and a good opportunity for displaying and reviewing summer toilettes.

There are to be some wonderful fireworks at the Crystal Palace on Thursday of next week. A battle-piece is to be the leading feature, in which all the modern appliances of war that now form part of a naval engagement will be introduced, and the blowing up and sinking of a large battleship will be depicted.

What a long time it takes to send out cards for a ball, reception, or at home! An admirable idea has been acted upon by the Belgrave Ladies' Agency, 83, Ebury-street, in arranging to supply, at a moment's notice, ladies who will take all this trouble off the hands of the hostess. I feel sure that this branch of their business will be as highly appreciated as their excellent House and Servant Agency.

The Women-writers' Dinner is fixed for the 20th of next month, at the usual place, the Criterion Restaurant. Mrs. Craigie (John Oliver Hobbes) is to be chairwoman of the dinner this year.

I wish I could properly depict for you the marvellous snake-suggesting gown that Miss Ellen Terry wears in the garden scene of "The Medicine Man" at the Lyceum. It is purple, green, and blue, all shoaling into each other in a kind of lividly lurid fantasy, the more striking as the outlines are of the most up-to-date description. The green combs in the hair, the blue and green necklace, and the sinuosity of the train, all carry out the serpent idea. Dr. Tregenna must himself have suggested the idea of this dress, which should subtly convey to the wearer the weird cast of thought his mesmerism is intended to produce. In the matter of mere effectiveness it quite casts into the shade the elaborately beautiful ball gown in the first act and the simple loveliness of the soft grey dress in the second. Miss Rose Leclercq and Miss Maud Milton also wear lovely clothes.

Half London was at the Earl's Court Exhibition on the opening day—last Saturday. Representatives of every class were to be seen mingling together in the grounds, round the band stands, riding in the Japanese 'rickshaw, viewing the Naval Engagement, listening to the Hungarian minstrels, and crowding round the entrance to the hall where the Lilliputian Comedy Company performed. This seemed to be the great attraction of the day. Earl's Court does not lack variety in the matter of amusement. There are the great wheel, the Belvedere tower, the switchback, and a score of side-shows, all of which would take about a week to explore with thoroughness. A shilling is not a high price for "twelve hours' unalloyed happiness," is it?

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Put ½ lb. of "Glebe" pure cane sugar into a stewpan with a

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gill of cold water and allow it to dissolve before boiling, then simmer until it turns a golden colour. Test it by dipping a wooden spoon in the syrup, and then into cold water; if the sugar snaps it is ready, but if at all sticky it must be boiled a little longer. Meanwhile, oil the marble slab and the blade of the palette knife, place the stewpan containing the syrup on the right hand, hold the knife in the left hand and proceed to throw the sugar over the knife, when it will be found to fall into clear, bright threads of gold.

This is a pretty dish of oranges, not difficult to make when the art of boiling sugar is mastered :—

Put ½ lb. of pure cane sugar into a stewpan with a gill of cold water, when it is dissolved, boil to the snap. Have a dozen, or more, sections of Jaffa oranges ready drained on a cloth. Take each one separately on a skewer, dip them in the syrup and place them on an oiled baking-sheet, or slab. When the oranges are all coated, warm the syrup and proceed to dip them again, arranging them in a circle on a silver dish. Put whipped cream in the centre and garnish with spun sugar.

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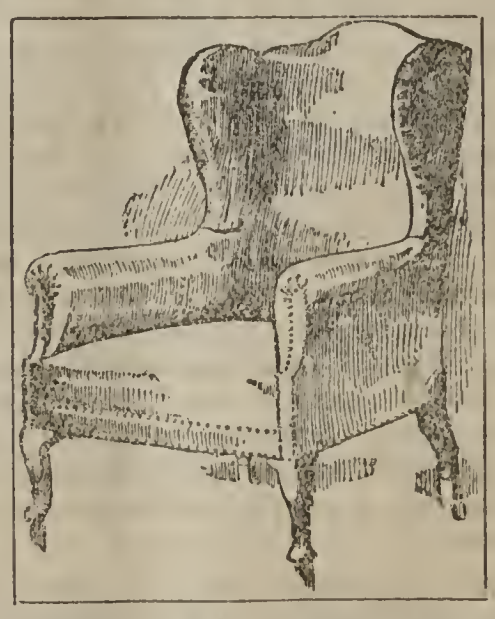
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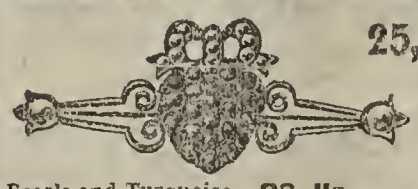

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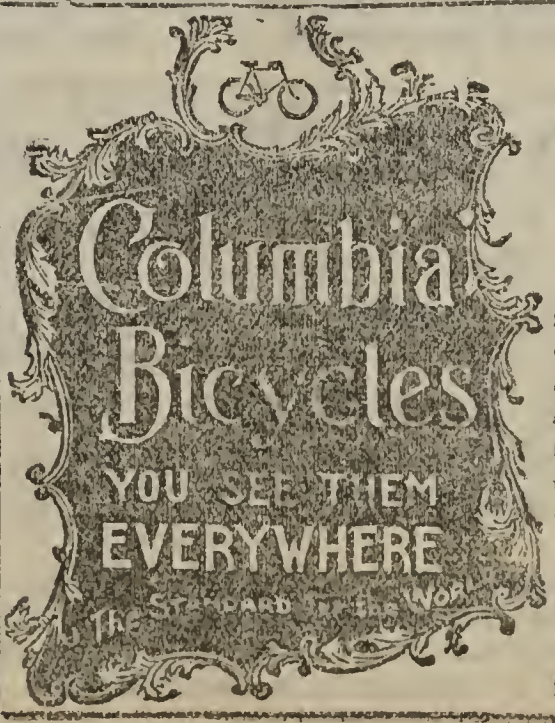

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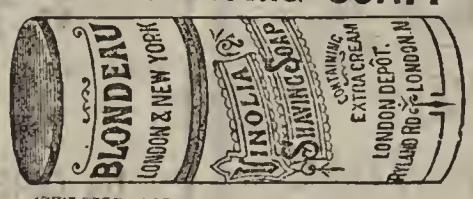

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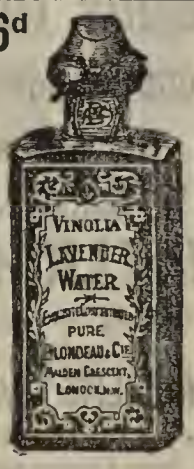

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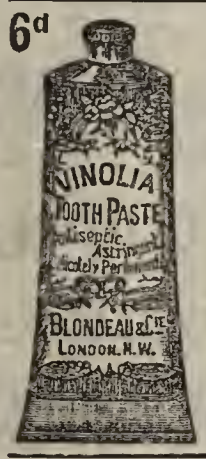

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Fig. A.—This Ram lifts part of the same water that works it. (Engraved from photo. of Ram which raises 250,000 gallons per day of 24 hours to medium heights, with good working fall.)

This View represents Fig. A Ram forcing up a part of the same water that works it, which is supplied from a spring. Special Rams of A make can be supplied to force to a height of 800 feet.

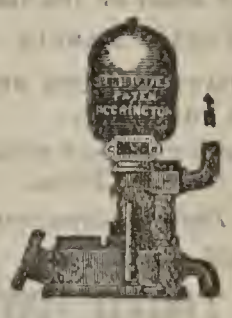

Fig. B.—This Ram, whilst worked by a stream of impure water, will pump clean water from a well or spring.

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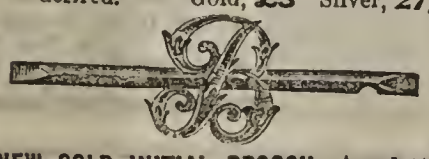

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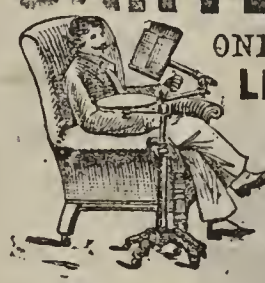

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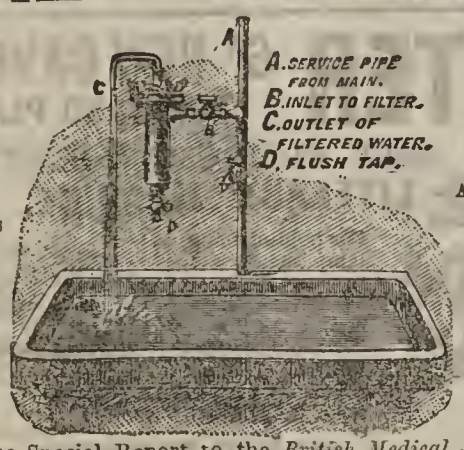

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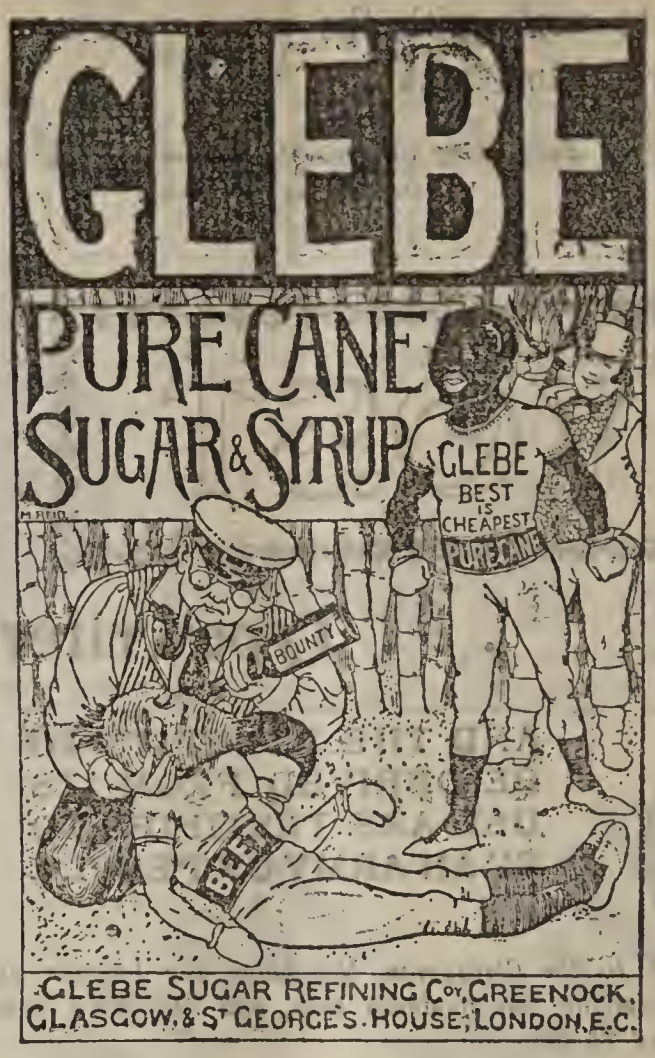

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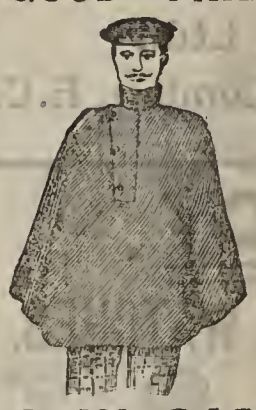

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No Licences have been issued in respect of the Lee Turnbolt or the Lee Straight Pull Rifles.

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Suitable works in Adderley-street, Birmingham, will be acquired by the Company, and the most eminent makers of small arms machinery in the world are prepared to equip the factory within six months with the best and most approved machinery, capable of producing 360 rifles every ten hours, as well as machinery for manufacturing large quantities of clips and cartridge cases.

Working at full time in the manufacture of the Lee Turnbolt Rifle, or of the Lee Straight Pull Rifle, and realising for either of those rifles the present contract price of the Lee-Metford Rifle to the British Government, and for cartridge clips the price paid by the United States Government (with Royalty), it is estimated that the Company would make a profit of at least 50 per cent. per annum upon the entire Share capital after providing for all charges.

An output of only 30,000 rifles per annum would, upon this basis, provide a dividend of at least 10 per cent. per annum.

Copies of the Prospectus, with Forms of Application for Shares and Debentures, can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, or from the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, or Auditors.

The following BANKS are authorised to RECEIVE APPLICATIONS for the DEBENTURE STOCK and PREFERENCE SHARES and ORDINARY SHARES, as undermentioned :—

WILLIAMS DEACON AND MANCHESTER AND SALFORD BANK, LIMITED, Mosley-street, Manchester; 20, Birchin-lane, London; or any other of its Branches.
The MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED, Spring-gardens, Manchester; 75, Cornhill, London; or any other of its Branches.
The NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and any other of its Branches.
The COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and any other of its Branches.
The BELFAST BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED, Belfast, Dublin, and any other of its Branches.
CRAVEN BANK, LIMITED, Skipton, Bradford, and any other of its Branches.
SAMUEL SMITH & CO., Nottingham, and any of its Branches.

The Lists will OPEN on TUESDAY, MAY 10, at TEN o'clock a.m., and will be CLOSED the following day (WEDNESDAY) at FOUR o'clock in the Afternoon, or earlier, for Town and Country.

THE . .

Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers'

ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

SHARE CAPITAL	£4,000,000
FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCK	£2,000,000
	£6,000,000

THE SHARE CAPITAL IS DIVIDED INTO—

2,000,000 5 PER CENT. CUMULATIVE PREFERENCE SHARES of £1 each	£2,000,000
AND	
2,000,000 ORDINARY SHARES of £1 each	£2,000,000

PRESENT ISSUE—

4 PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCK, part of the £2,000,000 Debenture Stock mentioned above	£1,333 300
1,333,350 5 PER CENT. CUMULATIVE PREFERENCE SHARES of £1 each	£1,333,350
1,333,350 ORDINARY SHARES of £1 each	£1,333,350
	£4,000,000

Of this issue one-third of each class will be reserved for issue to the Vendors in part payment of purchase money, and the balance is now offered for subscription at par.

Payable as follows, viz.:—	Preference Shares. s. d.	Ordinary Shares. s. d.	Debenture Stock.
On Application	2 6	2 6	10 per cent.
On Allotment	7 6	7 6	40 per cent.
On the 15th day of July, 1898	5 0	5 0	25 per cent.
On the 15th day of August, 1898	5 0	5 0	25 per cent.
	20 0	20 0	100 per cent.

The interest on the debenture stock will be paid half-yearly, on the 31st March and on the 30th September in each year, the first payment (calculated from the due dates of payment of the several instalments) being made on the 30th day of September, 1898.

The debenture stock will be redeemable at the option of the Association on or after the 30th day of September, 1918, at par, or before that date at a premium of 10 per cent., six months' notice being required in either case, and the principal and interest thereon will be secured by a trust deed, constituting a specific first mortgage upon the freehold, leasehold, and copyhold properties now purchased by the Association, and a floating first charge upon all the other assets of the Association, but not including its capital for the time being uncalled.

The debenture stock will be issued, and will be transferable when fully paid, in multiples of £10.
The preference shares are cumulative and preferential as to dividend, and preferential as to capital.
The Directors will proceed to allotment without delay after the closing of the lists.
The Association will pay no promotion money or underwriting commission.

Trustees for the Debenture Stock Holders:

ANDREW BENNIE, Esq., Manager, Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company, Limited.
GEORGE HERVEY WOOD, Esq., Joint Manager, Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank, Limited.

DIRECTORS.

Sir WM. HY. HOULDSWORTH, Bart., M.P. (Messrs. Thomas Houldsworth & Co., Limited, Manchester), *Chairman.*

W. H. HOLLAND (Messrs. W. Holland & Sons, Manchester),
HECTOR CHRISTIE (Hector Christie, Settle, Yorkshire), } Vice-Chairmen.
A. H. DIXON (Messrs. A. & G. Murray, Limited, Manchester),
SCOTT LINGS (Reddish Spinning Company, Limited, Reddish),
VERNON BELLHOUSE (Messrs. James & Wainwright Bellhouse, Limited, Manchester),
LOUIS RIVETT (Messrs. Thomas Rivett, Limited, Stockport). } Executive Directors.

(The above Directors form the Executive Board.)

MAURICE G. BELLHOUSE (James & Wainwright Bellhouse, Limited, Manchester).
F. W. D. BOUTH (F. W. Bouth & Company, Limited, Leigh, Lancashire).
M. G. BRADLEY (M. G. & A. Bradley, Nottingham).
SAMUEL HOLLAND (W. Holland & Sons, Manchester)
JOSEPH HIGGINSON (T. Houldsworth & Company, Limited, Manchester).
GERALD PEEL (Jackson-street Spinning Company, Manchester).
HERBERT KNOTT (John Knott & Sons, Ashton-under-Lyne).
HERBERT W. LEE (H. W. Lee & Company, Salford).
H. J. MARSLAND (Robert Marsland & Company, Manchester).
J. W. M'CONNEL (M'Connel & Company, Limited, Manchester).
S. H. MOORHOUSE (Samuel Moorhouse, Stockport).
GEORGE R. MURRAY (A. & G. Murray, Limited, Manchester).
WM. FORREST (Ormrod, Hardcastle, & Company, Limited, Bolton).
DOUGLAS PHILLIPS (Reddish Spinning Company, Limtd., Reddish, Stockport).
JOHN R. OLIVER (Shaw, Jardine, & Company, Limited, Manchester).
EDWIN OLIVER (Shaw, Jardine, & Co., Limited, Manchester).
GEO. C. SWINDELLS (G. Swindells & Son, Limited, Bollington, Macclesfield).
A. E. RAHR (Thomas Taylor & Sons, Limited, Bolton).
H. WOLFENDEN (Wolfenden & Son, Limited, Bolton).

Bankers.

MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.
WILLIAMS DEACON AND MANCHESTER AND SALFORD BANK, LIMITED.

Brokers.

London—COATES, SONS, & CO., 99, Gresham-street, E.C.
Manchester—JONES, MURRAY, & FRYER, 26, Pall Mall.
Glasgow—AITKEN, MACKENZIE, & CLAPPERTON, 68, St. Vincent-street.
Dublin—J. D. CARNEGIE & CO., 48, Dame-street.
Belfast—OSBORNE & BARR, 13, Waring-street.
Bradford—KNIGHT & BARNES, 39, Swan Arcade.
Nottingham—BROMLEY, CUNLIFFE, & CO., Prudential Buildings, Queen-st.

Solicitors.—Messrs. ADDLESHAW, WARBURTON, & CO., 15, Norfolk-street, Manchester.

Auditors.—Messrs. EDWIN GUTHRIE & CO., 71, King-street, Manchester; and 10, Tokenhouse Yard, London, E.C.

Secretary.—FRANK WHITWORTH.

Registered Offices.—TEMPLE CHAMBERS, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, MANCHESTER.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be had on application at the Offices of the Association, or from their Bankers, Brokers, Auditors, or Solicitors.

FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL (ABRIDGED) REPORT

OF THE

Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York

RICHARD A. McCURDY, President.

Head Office for the United Kingdom—17 and 18, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

Bankers—THE BANK OF ENGLAND. THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND. THE BANK OF SCOTLAND. THE BANK OF IRELAND. THE GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY.

Solicitors—FRESHFIELDS & WILLIAMS. *General Manager*—D. C. HALDEMAN.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE BRITISH POLICYHOLDERS.

It is my privilege to submit to you the following Report (abridged) of the Company for the year 1897, which shows continued and increased prosperity in every department.

FUNDS.

On December 31st, 1897, the Funds of the Company stood at £51,823,593, an increase of £3,933,138 over the previous year.

INCOME.

The Life Premium Income during the year amounted to £8,029,813, an increase over the previous year of £172,222. The total income for the year amounts to £11,312,833, an increase over that of 1896 of no less than £891,474.

OUTGO.

The amount paid for claims, £3,122,012, is £7,090 less than that for last year; and while other payments to Policyholders show an increase of £61,529 the expenses were reduced by £44,652. This result, which of course involves a corresponding reduction in the expense ratio, will be seen to be specially satisfactory when viewed in connection with the large increase in

THE NEW BUSINESS.

The number of Policies issued and paid for was 55,870, assuring £27,879,046, a total only once exceeded by the Company. The number of Policies in force at the end of the year was 342,642, assuring £192,115,478. The

SURPLUS OVER LIABILITIES

amounts to £7,291,210, an addition of no less than £1,185,766, the largest amount of surplus ever accumulated in a single year.

THE BRITISH BRANCH.

The progress of the Company in the United Kingdom has been phenomenal. Although the London Office was opened so recently as 1887, we are able to present the following statement of the business transacted in the United Kingdom :—

3,645 Proposals were received during the year for	£2,084,176	0	0
Of which 3,074 were completed for	1,675,337	0	0
On which the New Premiums received amounted to	71,011	8	0
Consideration for Annuities	145,378	10	8
Total Premium Income for the year, excluding consideration for Annuities	380,930	2	7

The character of this business is shown by the fact that the Annual discontinuance from all causes, including termination by death, maturity, completion of Limited Payments, and surrenders, is only Five per cent. Such a record on British soil, accomplished in the space of eleven years, may be safely accepted as good evidence of the claims of the Office.

The firm hold thus established in Great Britain is no doubt largely due to its remarkable Bonus results, which may be illustrated by reference to some of the Policies still on the books.

The largest of the older Policies, No. 57 for £2.000, was issued in the year 1843. The present value of this Policy as a Death Claim, including Bonus additions, is £6,534. Or, to take another way of illustrating the results on Policies in the Mutual Life :—

On 23 Policies issued in 1843 and 1844, amounting to ...	£12,230
The Bonus additions declared amount to	26,467
Raising the total value of them to...	38,697

It will be seen that the original average amount of each Policy has been more than trebled by the bonus addition in 55 years.

These results show the position of Policies issued in the United States. After eleven years' work in Great Britain, the Company is able to show what it has done for its British Policyholders. Speaking generally, the Reversionary Bonus additions on WHOLE LIFE, Ten-Year Distribution Policies, range from £1 13s. 6d. to £5 5s. 1d. per cent. per annum, according to age of the assured. But the

VALUABLE OPTIONS

offered to the assured in connection with these results are even more striking than the actual amount of the Bonus itself. Under the options given on completion of the Distribution Period, a man may adapt the Policy to his changed circumstances. If he wants money, he can convert the Policy which has hitherto protected his family or Estate into an Endowment immediately payable to himself. Illustrations of this will be seen on reference to the

LIBERAL SURRENDER VALUES.

The Cash Surrender Value of Life Policies recently completing their first Ten-Year Distribution period is equal to the return of nearly the whole of the premiums paid. For example, Life Policy No. 323,635, with a bonus of £2 10s. 2d. per cent. per annum, carries a Cash Surrender of 92 per cent. of the premiums paid, of which 78 per cent. was guaranteed. Another Life Policy, No. 326,801, with a bonus of £2 13s. 8d. per cent. per annum, bears a Cash Value of 95 per cent. If, on the other hand, a man still needing Life Insurance protection finds himself unable to continue his payments, he may take the full value of the Policy in Extended Insurance free of further charge. This may be illustrated by Whole Life Policy No. 391,455 for £250, issued at the London Office. After this Policy had been nine years in force, the insured desired to discontinue it, having paid in premiums £58 13s. 9d. Although the first distribution period had not been completed, the Company offered the following options :—

Extended insurance for a further 20 years for £250 (the full amount of the Policy), without any further payment of premium; or, a fully paid up Policy payable at death for £112 10s.; or, a Pure Endowment payable at age 54 for £112 10s.

These illustrations will serve to show the constant endeavour of the Company so as to safeguard the Policyholder that whatever change may occur in his circumstances he shall be secured the full value of his Policy in the form best adapted to his needs.

LOCAL ADVANTAGES.

The Company has done everything necessary to secure British Policyholders all the local advantages and conveniences obtainable from an Insurance Company. Every Policy is issued subject to British Law. Income Tax is allowed off the Premiums. Special policies are issued providing for payment of Estate Duty where required before probate is granted. Claims are paid in sterling at the London Office immediately upon acceptance of proof of death and title; indeed, nothing is left undone to facilitate the business of the Company in the United Kingdom

INVESTMENT INSURANCE.

The Company has introduced two Policies in which special prominence is given to the Investment feature. One of these, known as the Five per cent. Bond, becomes, at maturity, a negotiable instrument payable to bearer, carrying guaranteed interest, payable half-yearly on January 1st and July 1st each year, at the rate of Five per cent. per annum, for Twenty years, at the end of which time the Bond is redeemed by the Company at its Face value. The other Policy is known as the Five per cent. Bond Endowment, under which, at completion of the Endowment period selected, Five per cent. per annum is guaranteed to the investor himself, or, if he pre-decease, to the Holder of the Bond, for Twenty years, with payment thereafter, of the Face value.

VALUATION BASIS.

The rate of interest hitherto assumed in valuing the liabilities of the Company has been 4 per cent. The Company have decided that on all business received on and after January 1st, 1898, the rate assumed shall be 3½ per cent. The *guaranteed Surrender Value* on Policies will be *increased*, while any advance in the rate of interest will augment the surplus payable. The premium rates have been adjusted to correspond with the new valuation rate.

D. C. HALDEMAN, General Manager.

Copies of the full report, of which this is an abridgment, can be had on application to any of the Company's Branch Offices, or from the Head Office for the United Kingdom, 17 and 18, Cornhill, E.C.

HITCHINGS' GOLD MEDAL BABY STORES.

Under Royal Patronage. The Emporium of Baby Carriages and Baby Cars par excellence.

HITCHINGS, LIMITED, have recently had the honour of building the Baby Carriage for the Baby Prince Edward of York, having previously executed orders for H.M. the Queen, H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg, H.R.H. the Duchess of Fife, H.R.H. Princess Henry of Prussia, &c. Also the Royal and Imperial families of Russia, Germany, Denmark, Portugal, and Sweden.

Hitchings' Baby Carriages from 2 to 25 Guineas, and **Baby Cars** from 15/6 to 10 Guineas, are not only the **Best**, but also 25 per cent. *cheaper* than those sold by dealers and stores. A carriage should always be purchased from the actual manufacturer. Enquiries receive prompt and courteous attention. Illustrations free. Correspondence solicited. 300 varieties in stock.

LONDON { 198, Oxford Street, W.
19-21, Ludgate Hill, E.C.
28, St. George's Place (Hyde Park Corner).

LIVERPOOL; 74, Bold Street,

Bankers: CITY BANK, LTD., CAPITAL & COUNTIES BANK. *Telegram Address:* "HITCHINGS, LONDON."
Works: DUKE STREET, LIVERPOOL; LUDGATE SQUARE, LONDON. *Boston (U.S.A.) Agency:* 92, WASHINGTON STREET.

HITCHINGS' "PRINCESS MAY" BABY CARRIAGE IS MOST SUITABLE FOR A CHRISTENING PRESENT, BEING RECHERCHE & UNPROCURABLE ELSEWHERE.

Before going elsewhere send for Hitchings' Pictorial Price Book free on mentioning "TRUTH."

THE "TROUVILLE" BABY-CAR.

Is equally adapted for use as a Sleeping Car for a young baby, or a Mail Car for an older child.

1. New registered design.
2. Runs on four silent wheels.
3. Small light front wheels.
4. Very safe, centre of gravity being very low.
5. Hitchings' Patent Cee Springs. Very easy.
6. Occupies small space.
7. Has deep well for legs and feet. No cramping.
8. Hitchings' Patent "Any Position Hood."
9. Half the weight of a wood body. Fine wicker and grass.
10. Cool in summer.
11. Artistically painted.
12. Beautifully upholstered in pale blue or art green.

Price as drawn **£4. 4s.** nett.

Enormous Demand.

There can be no surer sign of popularity than the enormous demand all over the country for

LIPTONS' DELICIOUS TEAS

They are appreciated everywhere for their delicate flavour and exquisite aroma, and undoubtedly have attained the pinnacle of fame.

LIPTONS CONTROL THE TEA MARKET.

LIPTONS' TEAS HAVE THE **LARGEST SALE IN THE WORLD**

ROYAL APPOINTMENT
LIPTON,
Tea Merchant by Special Appointment To Her Majesty The Queen.

BUY FROM THE GROWERS
The Finest Tea the World can produce.
PER **1/7** LB.
NO HIGHER PRICE.
RICH, PURE, AND FRAGRANT.
PER **1/-** AND **1/4** LB.

LIPTON LTD., TEA, COFFEE, AND COCOA PLANTERS, CEYLON, THE LARGEST TEA, COFFEE, AND PROVISION DEALERS IN THE WORLD.

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PATENT FAST DYED KHAKI MATERIALS.

Absolutely Fast to Washing.
Stand any amount of wear.

Most useful for all kinds of wear by Ladies, Gentlemen, and Children.

WOOL.
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LEG BANDAGES.

Contractors to H.M. WAR OFFICE and INDIA OFFICE.

COTTON.
DRILLS.
SERGE.
CORDS.

Price List and Patterns Free on application to

E. SPINNER & CO., MANCHESTER AND BOMBAY, Sole Agents.

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,002.

After going through the whole of the lists received (a selection from them was published in TRUTH for April 28) I find that the six London Buildings which received most votes were:—1. The Houses of Parliament. 2. Westminster Abbey. 3. The Tower of London. 4. St. Paul's Cathedral. 5. The Royal Courts of Justice. 6. Somerset House. These, then, are, in the collective opinions of the competitors, "The Six Handsomest and most Effective Public Buildings in London." So far as I have been able to discover only one competitor, JEMIMA, gave the whole of these in her list. To JEMIMA, therefore, the prize of Two Guineas will be awarded.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,007.

In the interesting volume of Notes from his Diary, lately published by Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff, the following incident is to be found:—"Lady Wallace," he states, "on an occasion gave him an exceeding clever acrostic written by her granddaughter, Miss Milbank." Some one in the presence of that young lady had read the following lines on Gladstone:—

G was the Great man, mountain of mind,
L a Logician, expert and refined;
A was an Adept in rhetoric's art,
D was the Dark spot he had in his heart;
S was the Subtlety led him astray,
T was the Truth which he bartered away!
O was the Cipher his conscience became,
N the New light which enlightened the same;
E was the Evil one shouting with joy:
At it and down with it, Gladstone, my boy!

Without leaving the room Miss Milbank went to a table and wrote as follows:

G is the Genius that governs the nation,
L is the Lords who require education;
A is the Animus raised by the great,
D is the Donkeys who fear for the State;
S is the Standard that Liberals raise,
T is the Tories who howl in dispraise;
O 's Opposition, wanting a head,
N is the Nation, not driven but led;
E is old England shouting for joy:
Stick to the Government, Gladstone, my boy!

Without attempting to decide which of these sets of lines is the better one, it is proposed to make the writing of similar Acrostics the subject of this week's Competition. The usual prize of Two Guineas is offered, that is to say, to the competitor who is most successful

IN WRITING TWO RHYMED ACROSTICS ON LORD SALISBURY IN THE METRE OF THE LINES QUOTED ABOVE.

The word "Salisbury" only is to be taken, and each Acrostic is to consist of ten lines as in the given examples. Each of the first nine lines must begin with one of the letters S-A-L-I-S-B-U-R-Y, the tenth and last line being used to complete the stanza. Each competitor, let it be understood, is to send in two Acrostics, one eulogistic and the other critical. All answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, May 23, at the latest.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,003.

I hope to be able to announce the result of this competition next week.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of "R. F.," winner of a half of Prize No. 1,001, is R. Fright, Esq., 35, Ferndale-road, Leytonstone, E.

IMPISI.—I will take care that the misprint in no way affects your chance in the competition.

CLAYSHIRE.—Thanks for your letter.

NODDING VIOLET.—The necessary correction shall be made.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,004.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

HUMOROUS SONGS WITH THE REFRAIN, "HE WAS SUCH A METHODICAL MAN."

A child was once born, in a free land, a slave;
For method's own martyr was he.
From the first he resolved that from cradle to grave,
One should go by due stage and degree.
He stuck to his point, all his friends to annoy;
And so, before manhood began,
He insisted on being a hobbledehoy—
He was such a methodical man.

In methods of dress he was firm as a rock,
A stickler right down to his foot;
Made a point of invariably donning a sock
Before he would put on a boot.
His hobby ruled even his meal-times; in fine,
Throughout his terrestrial span,
He, ere he had breakfasted, never would dine—
He was such a methodical man.

Not even could love, undermining his whim,
Break down his tyranical sway.
Could ever punctilious person like him
To rites hymeneal find way?
Before to the altar with any he went—
'Twas thus that his mania ran—
The lady had first to bestow her consent—
He was such a methodical man.

He ended his pilgrimage steadfast in soul,
And true to his principle still.
There exists not his like from the Pole to the Pole—
'Tis doubtful if ever there will.
In vain might mankind have unitedly tried
To change his deliberate plan;
For he would not be buried till first he had died—
He was such a methodical man.

Mos.

On identical days in the year
Fires were lit or left off in the grate.
Let the weather be mild or severe,
Or the summer come early or late,
For the almanac told him, he said,
When each of the seasons began
(This he could not get out of his head,
He was such a methodical man).

When the holiday season came round
In his registered watering-place,
As before he was sure to be found,
With him there was no change of base.
He always left by the same train
(The one that gets there when it can),
And arrived in the same shower of rain—
He was such a methodical man.

If a book was misplaced by mischance,
In putting it back on the shelf
He would note the mistake at a glance,
And for weeks would not be himself.
His razor of turns a fixed scale,
O'er the strop he most carefully ran,
Never one more or less without fail—
He was such a methodical man.

By some, with the wisdom of youth,
He was dubbed a mere fussy old fool,
And for no better reason, forsooth,
Than that he did all things by rule.
But neither sarcasm or chaff
Could induce him to alter his plan;
He gave all full freedom to laugh—
He was such a methodical man.

Marplot.

'Twas his way from his birth: In his first days on earth
He showed what a man he would be,
Never cried for the moon, nor, by supping too soon,
Burnt his mouth with his porridge—not he!
In his whole time at school ne'er caught breaking a rule,
Through his course of instruction he ran;
Never joined in a lark, which might bring a bad mark—
He was such a methodical man.

He became a young swell, at whom many a belle
Would cast glances admiring and shy;
No one's feelings to hurt, with each one he would flirt,
And make love to them all on the sly
Until when, the amount of their banking account
Opportunity finding to scan,
The most wealthy he took, and the rest he forsook—
He was such a methodical man.

In a bank he obtained a chief clerkship, and gained
So much trust by methodical ways,
That in handling their gold he contrived to withhold
The excess over "average days."
Not too much would he take, fearing lest he should wake
Any doubts of his nice little plan
By proceedings too rash in securing the cash—
He was such a methodical man

But unluckily he one fine day failed to see
That a keen eye was watching his hand;
And he tried to explain (but his efforts were vain)
The affair they could not understand;
So he paid for his shot, for hard labour he got
At the crank, yet, believe it who can,
Such monotonous work could his spirit ne'er irk—
He was such a methodical man.

Ludwig B.

Mr. Prim was a scholar, you bet your last dollar,
And O, it would fill up your cup
Of delight to the brim just to gaze upon him
When he'd had a long day's tidy-up.
He'd praise order in Greek or some language antique,
He would draw out from Euclid a plan;
Then, the whole of next day, all his things went astray—
He was such a methodical man.

He would always turn surly unless he was early
By full thirty minutes for trains;
And agonies suffer, because the old duffer
Went poking his nose into drains.
He wouldn't ask favours of porters or shavers
Belonging to any low clan;
So he always went wrong, as he fumbled along—
He was such a methodical man.

Mr. Prim's little kid couldn't do as 'twas bid—
(That's not grammar, I know, but it's his);
It did just what it chose, and, as you may suppose,
The kiddy thought that was good "biz."
"Spare the rod, spoil the child!" Mr. P. only smiled,
Ticklebody was laid under ban.
Prim was not to be foiled; he preferred children spoiled—
He was such a methodical man.

But old P. died at last; and his wife stood aghast,
For his method abode by him still.
Though he'd drawn it with care, yet I vow and declare
He had not signed his name to his will.
There were uncles and cousins and aunts by the dozens,
Each coming arrayed spick and span
For a share in the game; and they all said the same—
"He was such a methodical man!"

Rabelais.

Titus Tomkins might never have added his name
To the scroll of illustrious men
Had he sought for a niche in the temple of fame
By the aid of a sword or a pen;
But a feeling of awe overtook those who saw
How he lived by symmetrical plan;
And some hundreds of eyes gazed on him with surprise,
He was such a methodical man!

In his earliest infancy Titus betrayed
A profound mathematical mind;
He would not eat his pap until it had been weighed,
So this had to be done ere he dined.
When the era of bibs and innocuous fibs
Had departed, and manhood began,
He had grown most exact in his habits, in fact,
He was such a methodical man!

When he courted a lady of sweet seventeen,
She besought him, in vain, to relax,
And to cultivate habits less like a machine,
But her patience he sadly would tax
By the punctilious style of his love-making smile,
As he said, while she lowered her fan,
"Tuesday week, my dear Miss, I will ask for a kiss"—
He was such a methodical man!

By the aid of a compass he parted his hair,
With a marksman's precision, 'twas said,
He computed the puffs from his pipe with much care,
And laid always one way in his bed.
He arose with the lark, in the daylight or dark,
Walked half way to the station—then ran,
Read the news backwards first, to prepare for the worst;
He was such a methodical man!

Enaed.

Ebenezer was one in a hundred,
Or at least, you can guess what I mean,
For he never by any means blundered,
(As he thought) in his daily routine.
He believed in a system for all things
Since to toddle in life he began.
And he paid great attention to small things—
He was such a methodical man.

You could see by the tags of his laces
What a lover of order was he,
For he put all his things in their places
To a most conscientious degree.
But whenever he wanted to use them,
And his optics in search of them ran,
You may bet what you like he would lose them—
He was such a methodical man.

Now, he dealt very freely with tradesmen,
And he kept their accounts on a file
(It's a method that certainly aids men
To remember what's owing—don't smile!)
But although he was careful to lay them
In the order in which they began,
He was always forgetting to pay them—
He was such a methodical man.

He had even a system in drinking,
For of whiskey he knew all the blends,
And he went where the glasses were chinking,
As a rule, at the cost of his friends.
In a word, he was never erratic,
For he did everything on a plan,
And they called him by name Automatic—
He was such a methodical man. Walfred.

Why should any one try to be good or be great?
He can make himself readily known
By a study of trifles, and, smiling at Fate,
He can get quite a name of his own;
For although he may be more than half off his head,
He need only stick fast to one plan;
Then, whatever his faults, it will always be said,
"He was such a methodical man."

In the case of a Bishop; if livings so fat
He bestows on his relatives near,
And consistently holds that, in matters like that,
Worth and learning are counted small beer;
Though incumbents may growl and poor curates be sad,
And abuse in the papers we scan,
Yet, no doubt, 'twill be said that he can't have been bad,
"He was such a methodical man."

A Commander-in-Chief may employ all his time
In designing new buttons and coats,
And may think lack of ornament almost a crime,
While his talents to braid he devotes;
Though the officers curse and for uniforms pay,
While they bear up as well as they can,
Yet the future will show there are hundreds will say,
"He was such a methodical man."

Then, hold Britons, let's follow our insular ways.
What though foreigners' markets forestall;
What though times may be changed; we shall still have the praise,
Which can compensate fully for all;
For of each 'twill be said when he turns up his toes,
And has fully completed life's span,
"Though he never could see but an inch from his nose.
He was such a methodical man." Almaviva.

Although some might esteem him a fool,
He was such a methodical man
That he lived altogether by rule
On a regular pre-arranged plan.
Gi' me summer for flirting, he said,
And the winter for draining the can;
Then he never went sober to bed:
He was such a methodical man!

'Twas in summer he first saw Rosette,
And a captive was made by her charms;
For six months that audacious coquette
Led him, oh! such a life of alarms!
But he, then, to requite the fair maid,
In accord with his notable plan,
Called on winter to come to his aid
He was such a methodical man!

For in summer the cup he eschewed,
And felt little regret for the can,
Though the beer was the best ever brewed
While he flirted with Betty and Ann.
But if one of them, rosy or pale,
In the winter to visit him ran,
He'd prefer a good flagon of ale:
He was such a methodical man

But a damsel there was who, alas!
Could demolish his plans at her will;
In the summer she'd bring him a glass,
And his beer in the winter she'd spill.
For the sex is the mischief and all
To knock over a young fellow's plan,
And exclaim, with a laugh at his fall,
He was such a methodical man! Béranger.

At seven o'clock, without one turn or stretch,
From his neatly-made bed he arose;
And ere from the door his hot water he'd fetch,
He carefully turned down the clothes.
So much time was allowed for each bit of his laving,
The rubbing, the dressing, the brushing, the shaving;
In his bedroom, as elsewhere, he stuck to a plan;
He was such a methodical man!

His servant would shake in her neat, noiseless shoes
When she heard him descending the stair.
Was the salt the wrong side of his plate, or the news-Paper cutter, in spite of her care?
Had she put in the right place the scales used for weighing,
His butter and bacon—oh dear! 'twas no playing
To serve him, for well she knew, poor Mary Anne,
He was such a methodical man!

One morning the breakfast was three minutes late;
Says he, "Mary Anne, you must go
This day week, and exactly three minutes past eight;
My ways of precision you know."
Then calmly he drew from his ne'er-too-fat pocket
His pencil and neat memorandum, to stock it
With one entry more for the 29th Jan.:
He was such a methodical man!

He knew a young lady—well, not very young—
Whose ways much resembled his own;
Whose praise by her former preceptress was sung,
Her darning and book-keeping shown.
Thought he, "what a clock we should make if we married!"
But his neat plan of courtship and conquest miscarried;
The fair fish was caught ere his angling began:
He was such a methodical man! Sissie.

Now little Cis Timm, who was dapper and prim,
Was the son of a conjuring lot,
Who, from mouth all agape, produced yards of red-tape,
After eating red sealing-wax hot.
And as Cis was the pet of a Methodist set,
And was bred on a red-tapey plan,
The whole of his days were summed up in this phrase—
"He was such a methodical man!"

As a Government clerk he rose, after the lark,
Every morning to eggs and hot roll,
And a tongue with his tea (he was married, you see),
But on Sunday he wrestled with sole.
With self-satisfied smirk he arrived at his work
As the stroke of eleven began,
And then studied the *Times* till the two o'clock chimes:
He was such a methodical man!

For lunch he relied on a ham "cut and dried,"
After which he attended the "biz"
Of the public who cursed as they sadly traversed
Every room till they got back to his.
At a minute past four his work knew him no more,
And he finished his every-day plan
With his home and cigar—his Villar y Villar:
He was such a methodical man!

He expired by degrees: a long-winded disease
Undermined his poor system, may be;
But he died very game, saying "Timm is my name;
I'll be pigeon-holed, please, under 'T.'"
So, labelled like that, he, to Tophet, went pat,
Where the whole demoniacal clan
Sang out, might and main, this sarcastic refrain:
"He was such a methodical man!"
Oom Paul.

Mr. Clarke was a clerk with a moderate "screw,"
He was one of a type not by any means new;
He had daughters thirteen—which was more than a few—
And he named ev'ry one of them "Ann."
You may wonder how he could distinguish between
The short and the tall, or the fat and the lean,
Well, he numbered the lot up from one to thirteen:
He was such a methodical man!

Once at midnight, as he was about to retire
To the rest that "all sorts and conditions" require,
There were shouts and alarms that the house was on fire,
And his wife said, "Let's fly while we can!
Come along, for I've really no wish to be fried,
As we shall be unless we get quickly outside."
"I will come when I've wound up my watch," he replied:
He was such a methodical man!

Now, he went with some friends to a swell music-hall,
Where he very soon tired of the comic man's drawl,
And, in fact, once or twice fell asleep in his stall,
And to wish himself home he began.
But anon when appeared a smart girl in a frock
Of the kind that would give Mrs. Grundy a shock,
He declared it was fast—he, no doubt, meant the clock:
He was such a methodical man!

Though at steering his way through the City a dab
On a day when the fog was unusually drab,
He was knocked down and very near killed by a cab,
And the people to pick him up ran.
They inquired who he was, where he lived, and all that;
He was covered with mud, and though smashed pretty flat,
He replied, "You will find my address in my hat":
He was such a methodical man!
R. F.

He's born, and the world in its wonderment learns
What an orderly infant can do;
When his bottle was empty, he made it by turns
A plaything, a doll, a chew-chew;
He crowed with the cock, and he blubbered by rule,
As the days of his babyhood ran,
Cut his teeth by a timepiece—but never cut school:
He was such a methodical man!

Yet in schooltime his methods were equally smart,
For he wrote Latin lines by the score,
As penal prepayment, or learnt them by heart,
To be kept for correction in store;
At college, of course, he took infinite pains,
And crammed on an up-to-date plan,
For he filled up his head, and he emptied his brains:
He was such a methodical man!

He becomes an M.D., and his method exalts—
Cure-by-rule—as his patients well knew;
If they had influenza, 'twas senna and salts,
Salts and senna if tic-doloureux;
When manhood and fortune both urged him to choose
A wife, and love symptoms began,
He wired to the *Matrimonial News*:
He was such a methodical man!

For mortal mischances he cared not a rap,
To regular ways he was born;
Though the next door was blazing, he finished his nap,
And gazed on the ruins at morn;
For his funeral rites precise orders he gave,
When threescore-and-ten was his span,
And he held a rehearsal (full dress) at his grave:
He was such a methodical man! W. Nevermore.

He was such a methodical man!
They gave him command of the fleet;
He'd a new and original plan
For always avoiding defeat.
When the foeman roared, "Come, if you dare,"
And glory and carnage began,
He arranged that his fleet—wasn't there:
He was such a methodical man!

He was such a methodical chap!
They gave him command of the troops;
For tactics he cared not a rap,
But indulged in extensive war-whoops.
When the enemy bawled, "Can't you fight?
Ain't it time that the scrimmage began?"
The chief and his troops weren't in sight:
He was such a methodical man!

He was such a methodical cove!
When they said, "Where on earth can he be?"
He promptly and deftly arrove,
Then—vanished again, silently.
They lauded the courage and skill
He showed in concerting this plan;
Some even believe in him still:
He was such a methodical man!

He was such a methodical bloke!
When peace was concluded at last
(There had never been war—that's the joke!)
His colours he nailed to the mast.
The tars and the troops were distressed—
War was over before it began;
On his laurels we'll leave him to rest:
He was such a methodical man! Scrivener.

This world is a scene that is void of routine,
For no sense of a system we're got;
So Mr. Paul Prim said his ways should be trim,
And that method should lighten his lot.
He joined the vast ranks of the army of cranks,
And they made him the king of the clan;
For all pipes were put out when his fame got about:
He was such a methodical man!

With method sublime he apportioned his time,
All his fads were the latest new shape;
With method he stepped, 'tis reported he slept
With his pillows adorned with red tape.
And, what d'you think? why, he measured his drink,
And his food was weighed out from the pan!
For tender, for tough, thirty bites were enough:
He was such a methodical man!

His ways were the same when he courted a dame—
The prudent and peerless Miss Straight.
He met her one eve; at her ma's, I believe,
And his train was the 8.58.
At parting our Miss asked her beau for a kiss,
But he found, on consulting his plan,
That the next was at 9, so he had to decline:
He was such a methodical man!

But he's vanished from us, and he went in a fuss,
For a most systematical "tec."
Late called at his place with intentions to trace
An affair of a name on a cheque.
Yes, he's gone where routine breathes a calm o'er the scene,
Where thin skilly is sipped from a can;
All the court was in tears when the Judge said,
"Ten years":
He was such a methodical man! Cestrian.

Songs have also been received from Sol, Tea Eye, Gertrude, W. N., Viola, Effie, Peach Blossom, Laddie, A. Elmas, W. Fawcett, W. B., Nous, Cutter, Penguin, T. Mayinhan, Quis, Hen-a-Penny, Cockdolim, Meerschaum, Georgina, Simm Ciuque, Silver, Charlwood.

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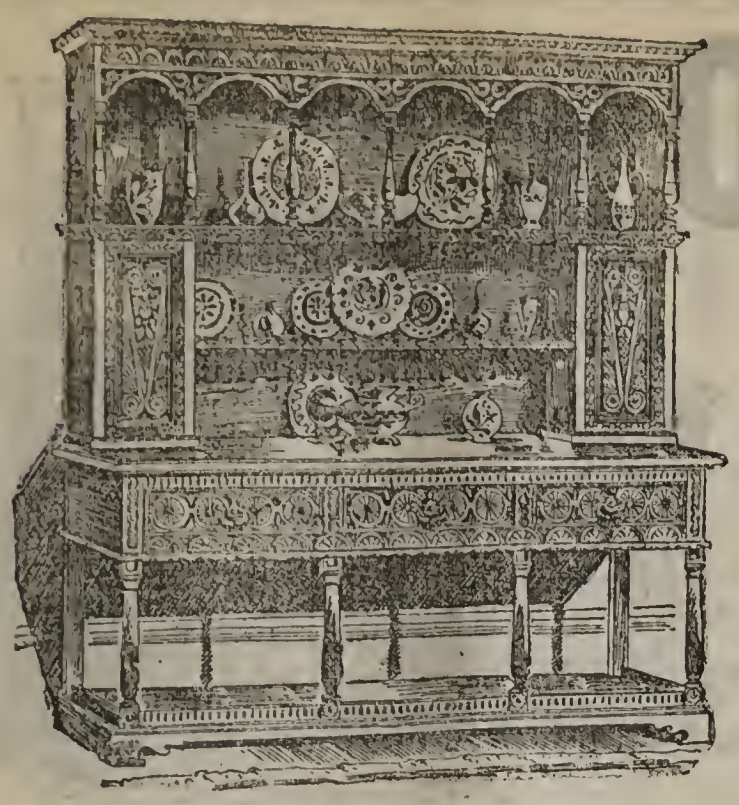

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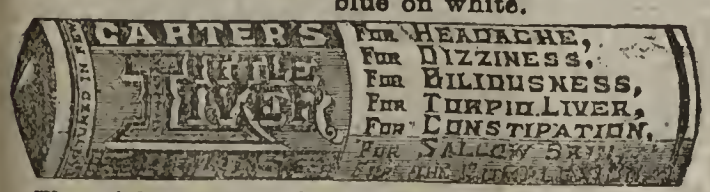

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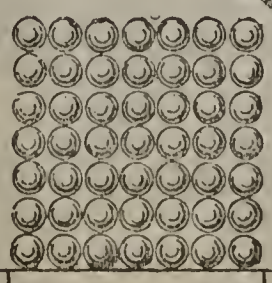

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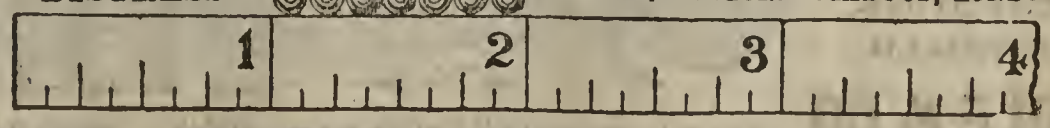

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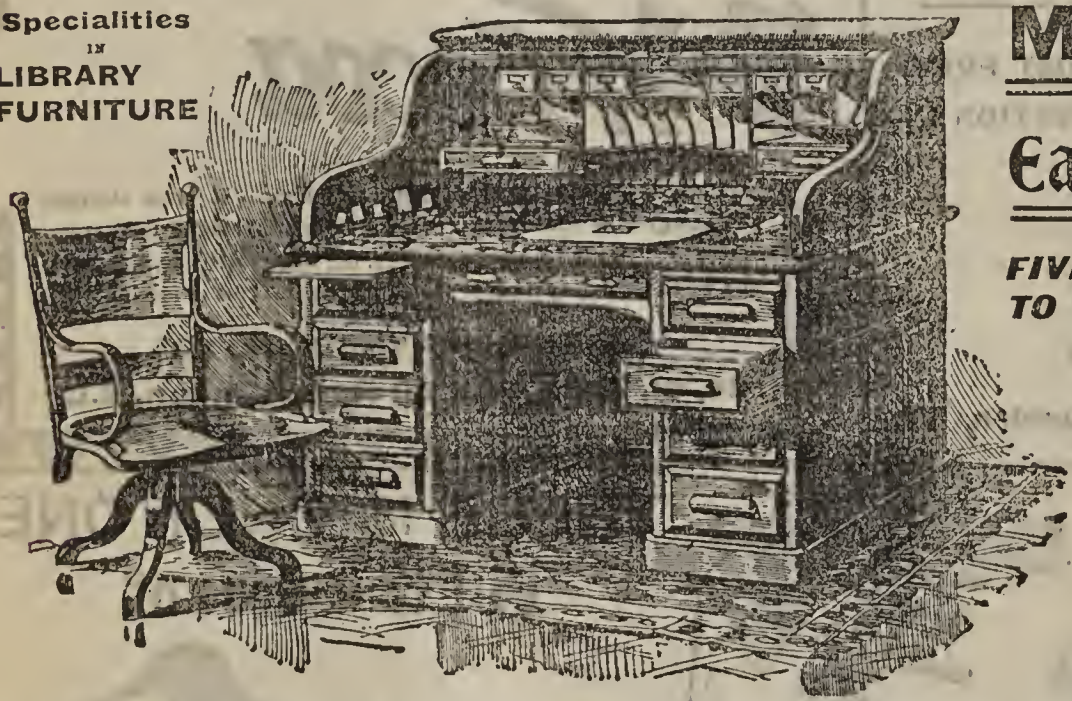

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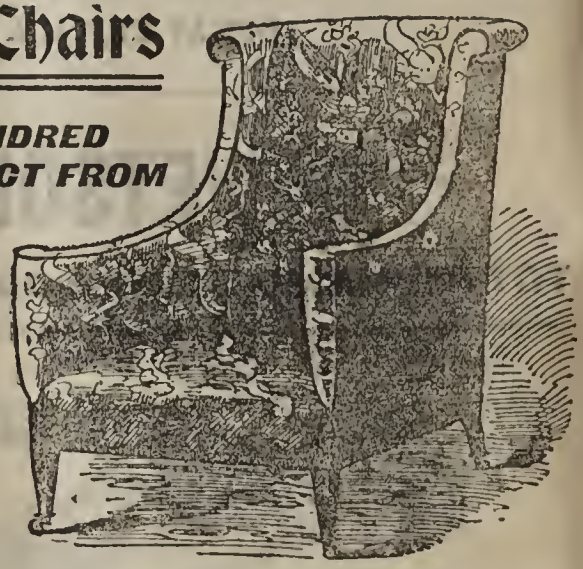

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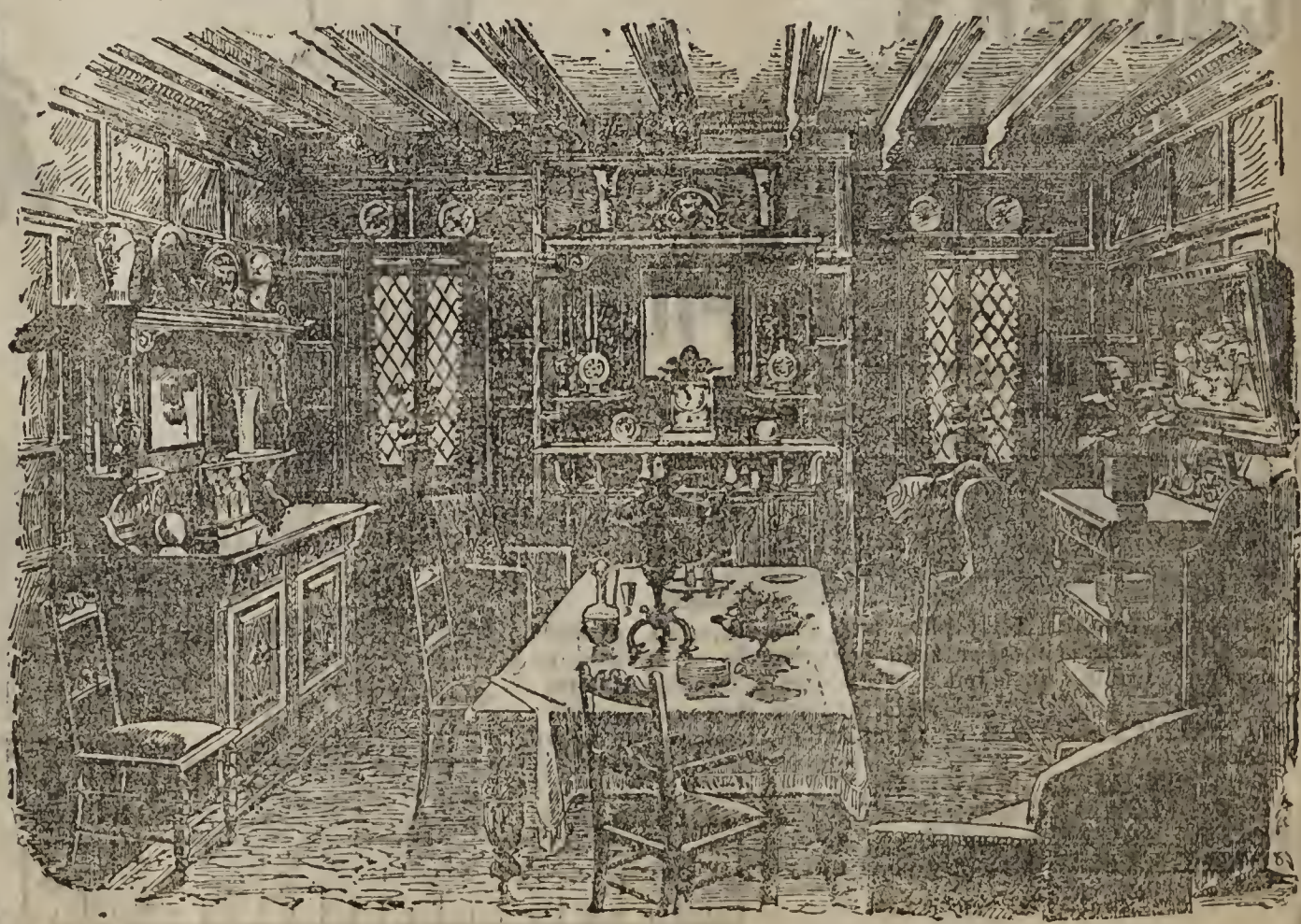

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TRUTH

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen's Drawing Room, on Tuesday, was a very brilliant function, but terribly crowded. There was a very full diplomatic circle, an overwhelming *entrée*, and so vast an attendance of general company that all the State Rooms were quite crowded long before three o'clock, and there were some stormy scenes at the barriers, in consequence of the frantic eagerness of loyal females to reach the Throne Room before the departure of the Queen, but her Majesty went away directly after the *entrée* people had passed, and very few indeed of the outsiders had the gratification of beholding her.

The Queen, who looked very well indeed, was punctual in entering the Throne Room, and the Duchess of Devonshire stood on the right of her Majesty to introduce the Ambassadresses as they passed. The Queen spoke a few words to each one of them, and then came the general *entrée*, for which there had been several special grants to individuals who are not entitled to that privilege. Consequently the first part of the Drawing Room occupied more time than usual, and it was nearly four o'clock before the general presentations commenced. The Princess of Wales, who literally blazed with diamonds, wore cream and silver. It was observed that the Queen wore both the Prussian and Russian orders.

There is a shocking lot of nonsense in the descriptive accounts of the function, with which several journals regaled their readers, the details being manifestly evolved out of some fertile and ingenious imagination. The Queen is stated to have been standing without fatigue for an hour, whereas she was all the time seated in a low chair. It is also utterly untrue that the privilege of appearing at the function was "balloted for," and it is difficult to understand how any sane person can print such crazy fiction. Then we are told that the Duchess of Bedford has not "claimed the honour" of the *entrée*, but she could not "claim" it, for this privilege is restricted to past and present Cabinet Ministers, great officers, ambassadors, and a number of high official and Court personages, with their wives and unmarried daughters. It is quite a mistake to suppose that a Duchess is, *ipso facto*, entitled to the *entrée*.

The Duchess of Manchester obtained a special grant for herself and her daughter for this function through the interest of her mother-in-law, the Duchess of Devonshire. If the Duchess of Bedford had applied for a similar ticket, the Queen would certainly have granted the request, as the late Duchess Dowager was one of her Majesty's oldest and most intimate friends. Lady Warwick is included among the *entrée* company, which is incorrect. She was received quite late in the afternoon by the Princess of Wales, and nearly all the members of the Royal circle shook hands with her.

The Princess of Wales was dreadfully fatigued after the Drawing Room, as well she might be, having been standing in the Throne Room all the time in a full dress and "attention" attitude, for more than two hours. It was past six before the Palace was clear of company.

The Prince of Wales is to dine at the Hôtel Cecil with the Prime Minister on Saturday night at his full dress banquet to celebrate the Queen's birthday; and H.R.H. and the Princess, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, the Duke and Duchess of York, the Duke of Cambridge, and other members of the Royal Family, will afterwards attend the Birthday reception at the Foreign Office, when the guests are to be received (in the absence of Lady Salisbury) by Lady Cranborne, Lady Selborne, and Lady Gwendolen Cecil.

There is not the slightest foundation for the statement, which has been going round the papers, that the Prince and Princess of Wales will pay a visit during the summer to the Emperor and Empress of Russia. Another fiction, which appeared in several journals last week, is the

announcement that the Emperor and Empress of Russia are coming to England in July.

The Duke of York, during his summer cruise on H.M.S. *Crescent*, will visit Copenhagen, Stockholm, and St. Petersburg, where he is to be entertained by the Emperor and Empress of Russia, at Peterhof, their magnificent summer palace in the Gulf of Finland, where they were visited last August by President Faure.

Princess Henry of Battenberg is going to Germany next Thursday, and she will be absent from England for about five weeks. The Princess is to pay visits to the Empress Frederick at Kronberg, to Princess Louis of Battenberg at Heiligenberg, and to Count and Countess Erbach at Schönberg.

Princess Charles of Denmark, who returned to Copenhagen last week, after a very brief visit to England, will come back to this country in October for a stay of several months, as Prince Charles is then going for a long cruise about the Mediterranean in the Danish warship *Fyn*, which is commanded by his uncle Prince Waldemar.

In whatever other way Lord Cadogan may have surpassed, or fallen short of the records of Irish Viceroys, there is no doubt that he has beaten them all with regard to the number of Royal salutes fired at Kingstown in his honour. No Lord Lieutenant was ever so indefatigable in his journeyings across the Irish Channel, and no formalities are remitted, which, according to custom, attend them. Constant though the swearing-in of Deputy Governors at the Castle is, the "Turk, Jew, or Atheist, but not a Papist" principle is never deviated from. The fact stands out with additional prominence, because the Deputy Governors are for the most part taken from the Irish judiciary. The Catholic judges, however, are rigorously excluded, the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland and the Chief Baron among the rest. As all Churches in Ireland are on an equality, and the Irish Protestant is no more a State Church than the Irish Catholic, it is hard to understand on what principle Irish Protestants are legally more entitled to be Deputy Governors of Ireland during the Lord Lieutenant's absence than Irish Catholics. Irish grievances are said to be things of the past. No one now denies that Protestant ascendancy was a grievance in Ireland. It can hardly be said to have come to an end at Dublin Castle.

The announcement that Lord Lucan was to receive the vacant ribbon of St. Patrick caused some surprise in Ireland, where it had not been generally known that there was an Irish nobleman of the name. What a farce to make peers who are absolutely unknown in Ireland knights of a national Irish order, to bestow the ribbon on courtiers and those who are in the inner circles in English society! Personal distinction is not to be looked for in all Irish peers, but there are many noblemen in Ireland who identify themselves with their country and its interests. Surely the ribbon of St. Patrick ought to be for them rather than for those who, in addition to having distinguished themselves publicly in no way, are, for the most part, absentees from Ireland.

The late Duke of St. Albans was a remarkably intellectual-looking man, with a strong likeness to the Stuarts. He was somewhat shy and retiring in disposition, and had no inclination for the bustle and turmoil of an active political career, or he would assuredly have made a great figure in public life. The Duke had a fine and well-cultivated taste in art and literature, and his talk was always very good indeed. A better man of business never lived, and he was a most generous and considerate landlord, and exceedingly popular with his tenants, and among all classes of his neighbours.

For many years the Duke took an active and a very useful part in Notts county business, and in local affairs generally, and he occupied a number of important public positions in Nottingham, and did good work for the borough in many ways. He was a pithy, sensible, and forcible speaker, and his oration in support of the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, in 1886, was warmly praised by many competent critics, including the late Archbishop Magee. He was most warmly interested in all educational questions. He had been slowly dying from cancer for a long time past, and he bore his most painful illness with all possible fortitude. In politics he was a most decided Liberal until 1886, and so great was his admiration for Mr. Gladstone that it is probable that he would then have followed him in his Home Rule policy but for domestic influences. He was such a genial, bright, and hospitable man, and so universally liked and esteemed by all who knew him, that his death will be sincerely and widely lamented.

The Duke himself created the domain of Bestwood, near Nottingham, where he principally resided. He built the stately house, which has replaced an old Royal hunting lodge, and himself superintended the elaborate decoration of the interior, and personally arranged the fine gallery of pictures and the vast and valuable collection of old furniture, Stuart relics, china, jewels, and general bric-à-brac with which the rooms are crammed. He also planned the beautiful gardens which are the great outdoor feature at Bestwood, and he much improved the grounds, which contain a famous cricket ground, besides planting extensively on his estates. The late Duke had absolute

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For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1274 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 1268.
For Amusements, see page 1272.
For Our Puzzles, see page 1285.

power over his family property in Lincolnshire and Notts, none of it being entailed, and the Bestwood estate is now of great value. He also possessed a very large fortune.

The death of the Duke of St. Albans vacates the office of Lord Lieutenant of Notts, and there is likely to be a bitter fight between the Tories and the Liberal Unionists over the new appointment. The Duke of Portland is the Tory nominee, while the other lot are in favour of Lord Belper, on whom any sagacious man would be disposed to bet odds, as in every patronage conflict which has taken place during the last three years the Devonshire-Chamberlain party have gained the victory.

The Duke of St. Albans had been a member of the R.Y.S. for thirty-six years, having been elected to the club shortly after he came of age. He was very fond of yachting, and he always had a large vessel in commission, but he was very seldom at Cowes during the regatta week.

A Yorkshire correspondent writes:—

It was stated in last week's *World* that Sir Frederick Milbank made "the largest bag of grouse on record," and that a few months ago he said, "Not beat yet." I am quite sure that Sir Frederick can never have made any such ridiculous remark, as he must have been perfectly well aware that his bag has twice been "beaten." On the Blubberhouse Moor, in Yorkshire, Lord Walsingham killed 844 grouse in one day during the season of 1872, and on a day in August, 1888, the same sportsman's own bag amounted to 1,044 birds!

The Hean Castle Estates near Tenby, which are to be offered at the Mart at the end of June, comprise the property of the late Mr. Charles Ranken Vickerman, who was in his day one of the best-known sportsmen in Essex. Mr. Vickerman lived for many years at Thoby Priory, near Brentwood, and was for twenty years Secretary to the Essex Staghounds, during the Mastership of the late Lord Petre. He is said to have hunted for about sixty years with no less than fifty different packs of hounds. Extracts from his sporting diaries, which date from the year 1846, are to be published shortly.

Another gratifying illustration of the increased appreciation of British art was afforded by the record price obtained for a picture by George Morland, at the Rankin sale at Messrs. Christie & Manson's last week. The work in question, "Evening, or the Postboy's Return," realised the large sum of 1,250 guineas, as against 710 guineas, the price at which it was knocked down ten years ago upon the occasion of the Fish sale. Up to the present date the highest sum paid for a Morland picture was 1,100 guineas in the year 1895. This liberal patronage did not, however, extend to the bulk of the collection offered for sale at the same time, and in the case of many of the works of artists who are still with us only very moderate sums were secured.

I am grieved to learn that "Sir John Deacle's Ailment,"—the subject of last week's Queer Story—is widely prevalent in the golfing world. Until that story reached me I had never even heard of "golf hysteria"—though I have heard of golf mania, golfer's elbow, and other diseases connected with this seductive pastime. Within the last few days, however, I have had inquiries from all quarters respecting Sir John Deacle and his physician, and I have been implored by several would-be golfers to put them in communication with the latter gentleman, or the author of the story. One correspondent, who signs himself "Foozler," declares his willingness to pay double Sir John Deacle's fee to any physician who will cure him of the foozling habit.

In the face of so much affliction, it grieves me not to be able to render any assistance. But, unfortunately, the history of Sir John Deacle and his ailment was communicated in confidence, and editorial etiquette forbids me to disclose, even indirectly, the true names of the parties concerned, even if I knew them—which I don't. All I can do is to beg the medical profession to turn their attention at once to "golf hysteria," for, they may take my word for it, a huge fortune awaits the first specialist who makes a name in this line.

Perhaps I had better add, to save misapprehension, that when referring to Sir John Deacle's case as one of several "true Queer Stories" which had been sent to me lately, I had no intention of guaranteeing on my own account that the story really was true. All that I answer for is that the author says it is true. You may believe him or you may not; but, so far as I am concerned, I only offer it as fiction. This applies to all the Queer Stories in TRUTH. They are, however, the only part of the paper which is not true.

I am not of the opinion of the lady who, on being arrested for stealing and discharged "without a stain on her character," because she was rich, and consequently a kleptomaniac, said, "Thank Heaven that we live where there is one law for the rich and another for the poor!" Catherine Stevens was charged last week at the Bedford Police-court with fortune-telling. After a servant girl had deposed that she had paid 1s. for learning that she had two young men in love with her, the girl's admirer, who was a policeman, tried his luck with the cards. Having been told that there was a fair young woman who thought much of him, he at once arrested the fortune-teller, who was sentenced to twenty-one days' hard labour.

If this humble prophetess had so erred that this sentence was only her due, why is not some action taken against the palmists, and other seers, who openly practise

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"HÔTEL BURLINGTON," AT SUNNY BOSCOMBE. (200 rooms). Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

their ridiculous calling in London, and advertise it in the newspapers? To tell the future by the lines on a person's hand is as much cheating as to tell it by the pips on a card, if money be taken. I would arrest neither the card-sharper nor the hand-sharper. But if one, why not the other?

A heartrending wail reaches me from a commercial traveller, enforced for his sins to pass a night at Andover. It has occasionally been the pleasant custom of the gentlemen of the road to beguile the tedium of an evening in that unlively town by playing penny whist at their hotel. Now they are dismayed to learn that, owing to the vigilant attentions of the police, this harmless diversion cannot be indulged in without bringing down upon the landlord divers pains and penalties under the Licensing Acts. My sympathies go out to the aggrieved whist-players. This grandmotherly solicitude for the well-being of grown-up guests at an hotel, whether commercial or uncommercial travellers, is, to say the least, supremely ridiculous; and the police must be terribly hard up for a job if they can find nothing better to do.

A barrister in the Temple sends me some interesting statistics with reference to the quantity of circulars, especially charitable appeals, which are delivered in the locality. Among other things he states that, having recently kept a record of the amount spent in postage on the appeals which he himself received, he found that in the course of ten days it represented one-third of his own rent for the corresponding period. The matter is well worth the attention of hospital secretaries and others, who discharge circulars wholesale into chambers at the Inns of Court and similar places. No doubt these gentlemen know their own business best, and I suppose that among the legal profession there are plenty of well-to-do and charitably disposed persons who pay for circularising. But when one reflects on the number of briefless and often impecunious barristers, and the still larger number who merely have their names upon doors at the Inns of Court, and whose circulars are, of course, never sent on to them, one cannot help thinking that more discrimination might be exercised in sending appeals in that direction.

It is a significant fact, which my Temple friend points out, that the money-lenders' circulars are nearly as numerous as the charitable appeals. So that while one class regards the Temple as a place where money is wanted, another regards it as a place where it is to be had for the asking. Both clearly cannot be right.

Judging from the number of complaints I receive from my lady readers in the course of a year, I should say there is more trickery in connection with registry offices than in any other line of business. Here is a recent case which shows rather a new phase of it. A lady answers what purports to be a parlourmaid's advertisement in the *Morning Post*, and gets a reply from a registry office in the suburbs, giving her the names and addresses of certain girls upon the agency's books. This is, of course, a trick universally adopted, and thoroughly understood by every experienced housekeeper. But on telegraphing to the first name on the agent's list the lady gets the telegram returned through the Post Office, the girl having removed from the address given; and on writing to the girl she gets a letter from her explaining that she had never put her name on the agency books, or authorised the agent to advertise for her, her only communication with the agency having been that she had, when looking for a place, answered what she took to be a lady's advertisement, but which proved to be an advertisement emanating from the said agency. It will be seen from this that not only do these agents humbug employers by advertising in the character of servants, but that they also humbug the servants by advertising in the character of employers, and thus get the girls' names upon their books.

In the *Financial News* the other day there was a letter from a land-agent referring to the high premiums charged by the Law Fire Insurance Society, and suggesting that the prices are kept up for the benefit of the solicitors and surveyors throughout the country who act as agents for that society, and more or less monopolise the insurance of landed estates. The letter has inspired another landowner to write on the same subject to TRUTH. He states that one insurance company, to his knowledge, pays £80,000 a year to its agents as commissions, calculated at the rate of 15 per cent. on the premiums. He has discovered that he can escape this charge by insuring direct with the company, and by so doing he saves £5 a year. In these days of agricultural depression, it seems desirable that these facts should be appreciated by landowners. There is no earthly reason at the present date why any one should insure through an agent rather than directly with the office; and if the employment of an agent merely means that 15 per cent. is to be added to the premium for the benefit of a solicitor or surveyor, there seems to be a strong reason for *not* insuring through an agent.

There are certainly plenty of claims of long descent from "the grand old gardener and his wife" to smile at in the new edition of the late Sir Bernard Burke's "Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland," brought up to date by his son, Mr. A. P. Burke, and just published by Messrs. Harrison & Sons. These two massive

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

and handsome volumes must contain altogether some thousands of pedigrees; and I should be sorry for the editor if he had to make himself responsible for the accuracy of all of them. It would be too heavy a burden for one conscience to sustain, for in preparing their genealogies for such a publication some people gratify a harmless vanity by resorting to their imagination for their facts. Still this voluminous collection of the pedigrees and arms of the "untitled county gentlemen of these realms" is, doubtless, as correct as it can possibly be made, and the book undoubtedly forms a valuable work of reference. I have, by the way, to acknowledge the receipt of the usual May edition of another less pretentious but indispensable work—Kelly's "Royal Blue Book." In the street section of this fashionable directory the editor has indicated by italics tenancies of houses which are for the season only. The information so conveyed is often very useful.

The spring has an effect on the art publishers as well as on the "wanton lapwing" and the "young man's fancy." There is usually great activity amongst them about the time the Royal Academy opens. Mr. McLean, in the Haymarket, for example, has just issued an excellent reproduction of Mr. J. W. Godward's "Venus Binding her Hair," a highly-finished picture of the nude which was exhibited at Burlington House last year. This photogravure forms an appropriate pendant for the same artist's "Campaspe," another elaborate study of the nude, which was at the Academy two years ago. Another print recently published by Mr. McLean is "Hunters at Rest," after a picture by J. F. Herring. Amongst the newest reproductions issued by Messrs. Frost & Reed, of Clare-street, Bristol, is one engraved in mezzotint, by Skrimshire, of "A Wet Road," by Mr. E. M. Wimperis, of the Royal Institute. Mezzotint serves admirably for the reproduction of this artist's well-known landscapes. The same publishers have just issued a most successful etching by Mr. David Law, after a picture by Mr. E. W. Waite, called "A Flower-fringed Path," a delightful and typical bit of English rural scenery. I am glad to see, too, that Messrs. Frost and Reed are continuing the publication of their important illustrated work on the Church Towers of Somersetshire. This bids fair to be in all respects a monumental book.

I do not know what the ratepayers of Glasgow will say to the proposal of the Corporation that no less a sum than £15,000 "at least" should be spent in adorning the front of their new Art Galleries with sculptures. Mr. Aumonier is to have a trifle of £12,000 for carving, and the commissions to Mr. Frampton will amount to £4,400, while Messrs. Shannon & Young are down for £2,450, and Mr. Lawson will get £2,800. If some "millionaire" (of whom there are plenty in and around Glasgow) would present these works of art to the city it would be all very well to go to work on such a lavish scale, but it is quite another matter thus to fleece the ratepayers, who are constantly groaning under their burdens.

The Rev. William Ralph Inge, Fellow of Hertford College, has been elected Bampton lecturer for 1899, and he is to preach on "Christian Mysticism." There are no Bamptons this year, nor will there be any election in 1900, owing to the large reduction in the income from the endowment.

When Dr. Kirkpatrick was elected to the Mastership of Selwyn College, in the place of the late Bishop John Selwyn, it was generally expected that he would resign the Regius Professorship of Hebrew, to which he was appointed by Mr. Gladstone in 1882, on the death of Dr. Jarrett. It seems, however, that Dr. Kirkpatrick is to retain this chair. He will have quite enough to do, what with his Selwyn College work, his Hebrew lectures and general University business, and his duties at Ely, for a stall in that Cathedral is annexed by Act of Parliament to the Chair, which involves an annual residence there of between two and three months. There seems to be an increasing tendency to encourage pluralitics of offices both at Cambridge and at Oxford.

Many old Etonians will have heard with regret of the death of the Rev. William Wayte, who was for nearly a quarter of a century one of the most popular of the assistant masters. Mr. Wayte, who was educated at Eton and at King's College, gained both the Craven Scholarship and the Bronze Medal in 1850. He was a most accomplished scholar, and the few works which he published were highly prized by competent critics, and proved most successful. He was a very fine chess player, and had been for many years a recognised authority on the game. Few men have been more utterly devoid of ambition, for Mr. Wayte might have achieved a considerable and a wide reputation if he had at all cared to do so.

The premature death of the Rev. George Gent is a serious loss to the Anglican Church. He was a man of great ability, and was plainly marked out for the highest promotion. It is less than a year since Mr. Gent replaced the Bishop of St. David's as Principal of Lampeter College, and he was mainly indebted for his appointment to the efforts of his staunch friend the Bishop of St. Asaph.

"Kronenquelle" Water.—The famous Natural Mineral Water of Salzbrunn, Silesia. Imported since 1884. A specific against Gout, Rheumatism, and Diabetes. Prices: 1 dozen bottles, 10/6; original cases of 50 bottles, 40/-.—Sole Importers, W. Schacht & Co., 26, Finsbury-pavement, London, E.C. Pamphlet by eminent medical specialists post free on application.

For Beautifying and Preserving the Teeth nothing equals Rowland's Odonto, which removes tartar, and imparts a pearl-like whiteness to the enamelled surface. Use Rowland's Odonto for keeping your teeth sound and white. Of Stores and Chemists.

Mr. Gent's work at Lampeter had already justified the hopes of his admirers, and both the intellectual and spiritual tone of the Welsh clergy would assuredly have been greatly raised by his zealous and judicious efforts. He was for eleven years Principal of St. Mark's College, Chelsea, and he did excellent work there. On all questions connected with elementary education Mr. Gent was a recognised authority. Indeed, he was one of the very best educationists of the day, and admirably free from all fads. When the career of such a man is cut short at so early an age one is reminded of the remark of Archbishop Whateley when a divine, whom he had placed in a great office, died suddenly a few months afterwards and while still a young man:—"His predecessor ate, drank, and slept for forty years."

As a further illustration of my recent remarks on the absurdity of the present apportionment of the parochial endowments of the Church, a correspondent mentions the living of Higham Gobion, Bedfordshire. The value of this benefice is £247 per annum, with twenty-six acres of land, and the parish contains exactly six houses, including the vicarage! At the last census the population was seventy-one. In this instance, at any rate, it cannot be pleaded that though the flock is small the shepherd has a lot of ground to cover in looking after them, for the hamlet is so compact that were his reverence to preach on the church door-step, all his parishioners could hear him by standing at their own doors.

Another incumbent in the same neighbourhood, whose stipend is only a little larger, is charged with the spiritual guardianship of a population of upwards of 1,800, widely scattered over a parish of enormous area. The contrast between these two cases is only one of many—some still more striking—that could be adduced to show the need for a thorough overhauling and redistribution of the parochial organisation and revenues of the Church. The wastefulness of the existing arrangement, which allows the work in populous parishes to languish for lack of funds, and at the same time permits scores of clergymen to draw comfortable incomes for ministering to the inhabitants of half a dozen or a dozen houses, is self-evident; and nowhere else than in the Church of England would it have been tolerated so long.

The bump of bigotry must be abnormally developed in the Rector of Prestwich, Canon Jones. A field is leased from this reverend gentleman by the Prestwich District Council, and the members of that body lately granted the use of the ground for a meeting in connection with the Wesleyan Church. To this the Rector has objected. As the lessor, his sanction is necessary to any such arrangement, and he declines to allow the loan of the field for a gathering of Wesleyans. In the eyes of this narrow-minded priest the presence of Dissenters in his field would desecrate the sanctified soil, and no doubt, if he could have his way, none but Churchmen would be permitted to set foot anywhere within the bounds of the parish of Prestwich. It is gratifying to see that, at the meeting of the Council last week, the strongest protests against this pitiful exhibition of religious intolerance came from Churchmen.

I am told that the statement as to Bishop Percy, who held the stall of Finsbury at St. Paul's, having "received some £86,000, in consequence of the leases on the prebendal estate falling in, only a few weeks before his death in 1856," is not strictly accurate, the truth being that the leases fell in a few weeks *after*, and not before, the Bishop's death. My informant adds, however, that Bishop Percy had put on paper what he intended to do with the £86,000 in case he got it, namely, one half to go in augmentation of poor livings, &c., in the diocese of London, and the other half to similar purposes in the diocese of Carlisle. The paper was found after his death.

The most rabid anti-Ritualist could hardly, I should think, object to the use of incense in St. George's Parish Church, Southwark. I do not know whether incense ever is actually used there, but assuredly even to the ultra-Protestant nostrils of the doughty Kensit himself its perfume would be pleasanter than the noisome odour which, it is said, at present pervades the church. From the reports recently made to the Vestry, it seems that the crypt beneath the church contains something like 2,000 bodies, and that, owing to a fracture of a wall, the whole building is now filled with an effluvium from this charnel house which is not only offensive, but, in the opinion of the Medical Officer (Dr. Waldo) positively dangerous to health.

Up to the present the local sanitary authorities appear to be disinclined to take any action in the matter, and it is therefore satisfactory to learn that the Home Secretary has now decided to have the church examined by the Inspector of Burial Grounds with a view to the issue, if necessary, of an Order in Council for the removal and reburial of the remains now in the crypt. Meanwhile, one can only marvel at the rare devotion the congregation of St. George's show to their church by continuing to worship in such an atmosphere—that is, if it is really so bad as is represented.

In referring once or twice to the begging letters of the Rev. H. E. Smith, Vicar of Weston, near Crewe, I have treated him somewhat tenderly on account of the fact that

Duysen Pianos are the most superb of all modern Instruments. They stand absolutely unrivalled for beauty of tone, touch, & finish. A consummate success in small grands.—Lloyd's, 24, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, W.

St. Ronan's, the Scottish Natural Mineral Water, as supplied to the House of Commons. Superior to, and cheaper than, any of the foreign mineral waters. Sold everywhere. Proprietors, "St. Ronan's Wells" Company, Limited, Innerleithen, N.B.

his living is one of the leanest in the Church, though at the same time I have hinted that he makes a little too much of his domestic troubles. In view, however, of some information that has reached me from Weston, I am beginning to doubt whether Mr. Smith's pecuniary position can be—or, rather, need be—quite so desperate as has been supposed. It inclines me to wonder, moreover, whether he goes the right way to work to secure the sympathy and support of his neighbours—indeed, if an incident lately commented upon in the local Press is to be accepted as characteristic of his conduct, one can at once understand why he has to seek assistance from strangers. The case of this reverend mendicant seems to be altogether deserving of the attention of the Bishop of the diocese.

By a strange error of judgment, just when public opinion is setting against street collections, and the Hospital Saturday Fund has decided to abandon the practice, the National Lifeboat Institution has come upon the streets with a "Lifeboat Saturday" collection. It is a pity that the management should go out of their way to tar the Institution with this particular brush just after it has been newly whitewashed, at so much expense. The street-collecting business is thoroughly discredited for every purpose, and in the case of the National Lifeboat Institution there is no excuse for resorting to it, for the charity has enjoyed for many years past a revenue far in excess of its current needs, and possesses now a handsome amount of invested capital, the result of systematic hoarding. If the officials of the Institution devoted as much thought to improving the lifeboat service as they do to raising cash, the charity would stand much higher than it does in the public estimation.

I see, by the way, that Dr. Barnardo is appealing for voluntary workers who will "give up one day" next month to helping in his street collection. Let me in turn appeal to Dr. Barnardo to give up the street collection itself. We have had our little differences in the past, but it is in all friendliness that I make this request. It may seem at first sight a heavy sacrifice, but I do not think that the interests of any deserving charity will suffer, in the long run, from the abandonment of this much-abused form of mendicancy.

The following amounts have reached me towards Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund for Poor and Sickly London Children:—Dorothy, Charlie, and Teddy, £6 6s.; E. F. C., £3; the Proprietors of Scrubbs' Cloudy Fluid Ammonia, £5; E. B. £2 2s.

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Various explanations are offered of the dearth of Militia officers pointed out in these columns a fortnight ago. One of them is that the regulation requiring an officer in his first year to serve for sixty days at a Depot, in addition to twenty-eight days' training, is a fatal obstacle in the way of many men of the class from whom Militia officers might be drawn. As one of my correspondents points out, a man who can devote three months to Militia service in the year must be a man of independent means, who might just as well be in the Army as in the Militia. No man engaged in a profession or business can devote this amount of time to soldiering without serious loss and inconvenience. One of my witnesses on this point is a Militia officer, who states that he has got hold of many men able and willing to do their month's training every year, but who backed out when they found themselves faced with the necessity of putting in sixty days at the Depot.

The general opinion, however, seems to be that the strongest reason for the depletion of the commissioned ranks in the Militia is the system of using the Militia as a stepping-stone to the Regular Army. I am told that a more detailed return would show that the Militia is plentifully supplied with subalterns, but that the deficiency of officers occurs in the ranks of Captain and upwards. I confess I do not quite see why greater inducements should be offered, as they are at present, to men to enter the Army through the Militia than through the Military Academies. While this may have the effect of bringing men temporarily into the Militia for the purpose of passing thence into the Army, it also seems to have the effect of tempting men to transfer to the Line, who would, under other circumstances, have remained permanently in the Militia. The truth is, of course, that the Militia is at present treated by the War Office as a mere feeder and reserve to the Line; and this is the chief cause at the bottom of its numerical weakness, both in the commissioned and lower ranks.

One correspondent writing to me on this subject suggests that the age rule for retirement of Militia officers might be relaxed with advantage. This is a reasonable suggestion. There is not the same necessity in the Militia as there is in the Line for pushing men out while they are still fit for further service merely to facilitate promotion; and also a man's health and constitution are less likely to break down under service in the Militia than in the Line. My correspondent points out that there are plenty of Militia majors of fifty years of age who are perfectly fit to put in another five or ten years' service; and where there is no question as to their medical fitness, I fail myself to see why we should not retain their services.

I do not know whether the question of £ s. d. has any effect in restricting the supply of officers in the Militia, as it undoubtedly has in the Volunteers. Judging, however, from the following figures furnished to me by a

Militia C.O., of an officer's expenses in training, it is pretty clear that a Militia officer has to pay substantially for the privilege of serving his country :—

Messing at 6s. per day	£8	14	2
Wine, including share of mess guests, band-beer, &c.	5	0	7½
Subscriptions (week's pay to band, athletic sports, reading-room, postman, cooks, servants, &c.) ...	12	17	4
Mess bill	£26	12	1½
Two servants (groom and other)	£2	15	0
Hire of furniture	1	5	0
Expenses to and fro...	5	5	0
Hire of horse...	10	0	0
Stabling and keep of horse for twenty-seven days ...	3	15	0
Washing	1	0	0
	£50	12	1½
Net cash received (including 1s. 6d. per day for keep of horse)	£34	9	6
Out of pocket in twenty-seven days	£16	2	7½

To this total a substantial addition has to be made for private subscriptions and other calls upon officers. From what I hear I fancy it will be found that these demands upon officers' purses are the heaviest in those battalions which make the best show on paper. In other words, the popularity of a battalion and the supply of recruits is largely dependent upon the readiness of the C.O. and his brother officers to put their hands in their pockets for the benefit of the rank and file.

The appointment of Major A. C. T. Boileau as Secretary of the Royal Artillery Institution is a curious incident. Only in September last Major Boileau exchanged—of course, on the usual terms—from a company in England to one in India. In applying for permission to do so, he must have declared, in the usual course, "on his honour, as an officer and a gentleman," that it was his bonâ-fide intention to do duty for at least a period of twelve months. Previous to the election of a Secretary of the Royal Artillery Institution, the names of candidates have to be sent to the War Office, presumably for the purpose of being approved by the authorities there.

Now it is, of course, in no way inconsistent with the bona fides of Major Boileau's intention last September to serve in India at least twelve months, that he should within six months abandon that intention and form another equally bonâ-fide intention of returning to England provided he obtained the Secretaryship of the Royal Artillery Institution. I should have thought, however, that it would be the obvious duty of the War Office to veto this second intention and insist upon the first one being carried out. All the more does this seem to be the duty of the War Office, seeing that some other officer will now have to be sent out to India to take Major Boileau's place, for which he will not receive (as the Major did) compensation in cash; and seeing that this officer will have to be sent out, and probably also Major Boileau be brought home, at the public expense. At the least, equity demands that whatever consideration Major Boileau originally received for his brief trip to India should now be divided between his successor and the British taxpayer.

FASHIONABLE STATIONERY.—LATEST DESIGNS.—Invitation Cards, Ball Programmes, Menus, Visiting Cards, &c.—PARKINS & GOTTO, Court Stationers, Oxford-street, London, W. Patterns free.

It appears that I did not by any means exhaust last week the performances of the sartorial genius who has lately had such a free hand in reconstructing the clothing and accoutrements of the Army. He is also responsible for the abolition of the saddle-cloths, shabracks, and bearskin flounces of mounted officers, other than those of the Household Brigade. These changes have saved officers little or nothing in pocket, as the saddle-cloth wore almost for ever, and the loss in appearance is conspicuous and is generally deplored—particularly in the substitution of a piece of rope round the horse's neck in place of the smart and inexpensive collar-chain, also abolished by the same individual. I am told, such is the craze for changes of costume at present, that it was proposed recently to abolish the bearskins of the Foot Guards, and to encase the nether limbs of the Blues and Life Guards in ankle boots and gaiters or "putties;" but these changes were promptly vetoed by a still higher authority with equally strong views on military uniform.

Apropos of the incessant changes of uniform in the British Army, my attention has been called to the following passage in a report on the manœuvres of the 14th German Army Corps, 1897, by Colonel Turner, A.A.G., R.A. :—

> The uniform of the German soldier is remarkably serviceable and simple. With the exception of the canvas frock and trousers for rough work, he has only a tunic (waffenrock) and cloth trousers or pantaloons. His dress is not subject to constant changes and experiments, and, with the exception of a great coat, his dress (both officer and man) is practically the same as that worn fifty years ago.

I suppose there is not a single corps in the whole of our Army of which this last remark could be made. Whether, however, a single one of them is better dressed, for military purposes, than it was fifty years ago is probably very doubtful. It may be safely said that of all the changes that have been made in uniform since the days of Marlborough, nine-tenths have been mere useless waste of money.

I was glad to hear Mr. Brodrick announce the other day that his Department had under consideration "the question of giving an improved status to some of the warrant officers of the Army Pay Corps." The improved status presumably means the removal of the bar which at present separates warrant officers of this Corps from all others in the Service—namely, their ineligibility for commissions. If the War Office are really thinking at last of introducing "commissions from the ranks" into the Army Pay Corps, I can only say that when they carry out that idea, they will be removing one of the most genuine grievances in the Army.

It also gives me pleasure to find that I am not the first in the field with the suggestion that Army pensioners should be paid weekly, or, at any rate, at shorter intervals

than once a quarter. A movement is now on foot, initiated by the Guardians of St. George's (Hanover-square), to promote a simultaneous petition to Parliament on this subject from all the Boards of Guardians in the Kingdom. The Guardians have found by experience the truth of what was stated by a pensioner in last week's TRUTH, namely, that the present system tends to throw pensioners into the workhouse. It is, therefore, to be hoped—in the interest of the ratepayers as much as that of the pensioners themselves—that the attempt to get the present system altered will be general and successful.

Strange to say, I have had a letter from an N.C.O. in the Marines, who deprecates the change, and he tells me that the same objection is entertained and has been expressed by the Naval Pensioners' Protection Association. As to the grounds on which this objection is based, however, he tells me nothing, and I am at a loss to see what intelligible ground of objection there can be, except on the part of the Government department, which would have to undertake the additional work. On the other hand, my Marine friend reminds me of one point, which I had overlooked, and which goes far to meet any difficulty on the score of expense. Pensions are at present paid in advance. If, therefore, they were paid weekly, instead of quarterly, the Government would have the money in hand very much longer, and the interest which would accrue on it would go far towards meeting the increased cost of distribution.

Through the agency of Mr. Arnold Forster and Sir Charles Dilke a great deal was heard earlier in the year about the lamentable condition of our Artillery. That these statements were not exaggerated is pretty well shown by some particulars that I have before me with regard to the Garrison Artillery in the Southern District. One company which is now undergoing its annual course under the School of Gunnery can barely muster four gun squads instead of eight. Out of 130 men at one particular station ninety are mere boys in their teens, not one of them with more than four months' service. Last summer a new company was formed, and in order to do it, about a dozen gunners, with their complement of N.C.O.s, were taken from each company at home; and I believe it is a fact that down to the present moment their places have never been filled up. What may be the value of a new company formed on this principle is a mystery known only to the wiseacres of Whitehall. Of course I shall be told that all this will soon be put right by the additional men voted this year. That may or may not be, but there are no signs of its being put right yet.

For some years past the married N.C.O.s stationed at the Defensible Barracks, Pembroke Dock, have been patiently waiting for new quarters, the old ones having been condemned long ago on account of the insufficient accommodation for women and children. The site and plans for the buildings have long since been approved, but the commencement of building operations has been again and again postponed. At the end of last year it was understood that building would commence in the spring; but the tenant of the land has since had notice that no start will be made this year. It would be interesting to know who is responsible for this delay, and what is the excuse for it. There are about thirty families on the married establishment of the Royal Artillery at these barracks, all of them living in lodgings at great expense and inconvenience; for in places where lodgings are scarce, and the lodging-house keepers have more or less of a monopoly, they are always able to put up their prices to something in excess of the regulation lodging allowance; and, even at any price, lodgings are often not obtainable within a mile or so of barracks. Considering the amount of money that has been voted for barrack building of late years, it is inexcusable that at a station like Pembroke such a state of things should exist.

In TRUTH of March 31 reference was made to a recent appointment of a pension-paymaster at Vizagapatam, the complaint being that a civilian had been appointed in preference to a retired warrant officer, who, it was suggested, should have had the preference under the order governing such appointments. I have had a letter pointing out (1) that the order equally provides for the appointment of uncovenanted civilians and retired warrant officers; and (2) that the civilian in this case, although a retired Conservator of Forests, was a Chelsea Pensioner, having formerly been an N.C.O. in the 60th Rifles. It would seem from this that the complaint was unfounded, and I have no doubt that this information is correct, as it comes from Captain Formby, Superintendent of Pensions under the Government of Madras at Fort St. George. Captain Formby is good enough to give me, at the same time, his views as to the duties of Editors, and the best manner of conducting a newspaper. But though this advice is, no doubt, well meant, the gallant officer must excuse my saying that I hardly consider him as good an authority on these points as on matters relating to his own department.

A great deal has been said about the increasing prevalence of typhoid fever, euphemistically called enteric, among British troops in India, but up to the present time no light seems to have been thrown upon the source of this scourge. I would suggest to the military authorities that they should look for it in the regimental kitchens. Here is a hint in that direction from a non-commissioned officer in India who seems to know what he is talking about:—

> It would be one of the greatest benefits that could be conferred on soldiers in India if, instead of the employment of the filthy and inexperienced native cooks who at present prepare the meals for British troops, a corps of cooks, enlisted as soldiers and kept under military discipline, were formed, in the same way as the cooks in the hospitals are. There is a great deal more sickness caused through the uncleanliness of the natives employed by British troops in India than by all other causes put together. It

MAJOR HOWE & CO., LTD.—Fashionable BOOTS and SHOES.—16, Coventry-st., W.; 60, Strand, W.C.; 81, Gracechurch-st.; and 13, Queen Victoria-st., London. "Note Addresses." (Repairs.)

is not only the cooks; for the native sweepers do not do their work anything like it should be done, and do not understand how the work should be done according to European ideas.

I would impress upon the authorities responsible for the condition of the Army that if all the natives employed by British troops in India were formed into a corps properly trained and disciplined, the amount of sickness among the troops would be greatly reduced. At the present time in Lucknow the number of deaths from enteric fever is something terrible. People at home would be shocked if they only knew the whole truth about it. I assert that it is almost wholly due to the uncleanliness of the native cooks, sweepers, and others employed in such domestic work.

Since the Aldershot School of Cookery has been at work complaints from soldiers at home on the subject of cooking have decreased in a gratifying manner; but I notice no similar tendency among our troops in India. On the contrary, almost every mail brings some growl on the subject. From what I can see, the native cooks must be in all cases dirty, in most incompetent, and in too many dishonest. If there is, as seems highly probable, reason to credit them with an important share in the dissemination of typhoid, the time has clearly come when Army cooking ought to be reformed in India as it has been in England

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Here are a few more little growls from Mr. Atkins. It is much to be desired that some one in authority would take in hand the Medical Officer in Crete who figures in one paragraph, for he causes as much correspondence as all the rest of the Medical Staff put together—which is a considerable amount:—

1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment.—The officer commanding a detachment of this regiment at Fort Ferozepore has just issued an order with reference to articles to be supplied to the detachment by the master cook, which contains the following clause:—

"Under the above conditions the master cook will be allowed to take for himself the surplus rations of rice and coffee not required by the men."

It is calculated that there is a surplus of 2½ lb. of coffee per day, and something like 25 lb. of rice, the fact being that rice is only cooked for about fifteen men out of a detachment 115 strong. Is it a proper or satisfactory arrangement that surplus goods to this extent should be handed over to the cook as his perquisites?

Telegraph Battalion, Aldershot.—A detachment of this battalion was engaged recently in putting up a wire to Barossa Camp, on which work the men started out at six a.m. As it was not expected that they would be back till late in the afternoon, bread and cheese were issued to them and taken on one of the waggons. For some reason, however, the men were not allowed to eat their lunch, and it was brought back with them into camp, they having been about nine hours without food when they returned. Why on earth the men should take food with them if they are not to be allowed to eat it is a mystery known only to the officer in charge.

Army Medical Staff, Canea.—Here are two more eccentric punishments imposed by a Medical Officer at Canea, whose decisions have already been referred to in TRUTH:—(1) A prisoner charged with drunkenness is dealt with summarily, after having been remanded for district court-martial, which the General refused to sanction. Punishment: Fourteen days' hard labour and five shillings fine. (2) Another man is charged with the same offence, being found drunk in the afternoon after having been warned for duty. Punishment: Two days' C.B. There are certain personal considerations which may explain the difference between the punishment of these two men, but no others.

Depot, Royal West Kent Regiment, Maidstone.—In the barracks at Maidstone is a piece of ground used as a playground by the young Atkinses of the garrison, and separated by a high wall from a private road leading to a paper mill. In consequence of complaints that the children have been in the habit of throwing stones over the wall on to the road, all the fathers of children in the barracks have been put on sentry-go at the playground. The order is enforced regardless of rank, some of the men thus punished being staff and colour-sergeants. The author of this order has apparently been reading the Decalogue backwards, and has decided that the sins of the children must be visited upon the fathers. He has even gone beyond this, for, as there has been no inquiry for the purpose of identifying the offenders, it would seem that the sins of some children have been visited upon the fathers of other children. Apart from the indiscriminate and vexatious character of the punishment, it is open to question whether, under the regulations, such a punishment can be lawfully imposed upon non-commissioned officers.

2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, Kilworth Camp.—This battalion has been for a week or two past under canvas at Kilworth, but up to the end of last week, although three marquees had been erected for the officers and two for the sergeants, no marquee for use as a library and recreation tent had been provided for the men. The latter had, in consequence, no other place to resort to outside their tents than the garrison canteen, which is described as anything but an attractive or well-managed place. Why should not a marquee be available for the men at the same time as the officers and N.C.O.s?

Lord Charles Beresford has, I believe, moved for returns of results of gunnery practice in the Navy with a view to showing the present state of proficiency in shooting in that branch of the Service. The idea is an excellent one, but, if I am accurately informed by some of my Service friends, too much faith ought not to be placed in the return when it appears, for there is some reason to suspect that the target practice returns are very often "cooked." I even hear of such practices as throwing overboard ammunition to avoid the trouble of gun practice, and then subsequently reporting it as expended. What truth there may be in this I cannot say, but it comes to me from a quarter likely to be well-informed. The question is a very important one, and too much attention cannot possibly be bestowed upon it. The best guns in the world are useless unless you can shoot straight with them. The recent fighting in the West Indies and Manila has shown that, whatever the American Navy may or may not be, its men are splendid gunners, and the boasted naval pre-eminence, to attain which we have made such enormous sacrifices, will be worth very little unless our shooting is as good as the best that is ever likely to be brought against us.

A traveller sends me the following notice, which he saw posted upon the P. and O. steamer *Britannia*, while on a recent outward voyage:—

NOTICE.

Choir Practice for the Purser's department will be held in the first saloon at 3 p.m., to-day, Friday. The Commander desires all hands to attend; those not attending will be found other work.

BY ORDER.

In accordance with this notice, those hands who did not attend were put to work cleaning the brass and scrubbing rubber matting, while their shipmates were training for Divine worship. It will no doubt be a great comfort to passengers by the P. and O. Line to know that they can rely on having a thoroughly good choral service on Sundays. But if any of the ship's company do not feel a calling for a chorister's vocation, or happen to have different religious opinions, why should they have punishment tasks imposed upon them in default of choir practice?

CHALLIS'S ROYAL HOTEL, Rupert-street, Piccadilly-circus.—The new Louis XV. Dining-room now open for Luncheons and Dinners. Table d'Hôte Luncheon, 2/-, from 12.30 to 3 p.m.: Table d'Hôte Dinner, 3/6, from 6.30 to 9 p.m., served at separate tables. Open to non-residents.

WAYGOOD LIFTS for Hotels, Mansions, Clubs, Flats, &c. These can be worked by hydraulic, hand or engine power, and electricity. R. WAYGOOD & CO., LTD., Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

The proprietors of a provincial newspaper having recently had occasion to register a publication at Stationers' Hall, and finding that the entry was made a day later than they con sidered itonght to have been, wrote to the Registrar asking the reason. For reply they received back their own letter, with a line scrawled in pencil at the foot, and for signature the stamp "Registrar, Copyright Office, Stationers' Hall." I am curious to know whether this is the usual method of conducting correspondence at the Copyright Office, for a more unbusinesslike and discourteous course of procedure it is difficult to imagine.

Since the Postmaster-General gave his attention last year, under the guidance of TRUTH, to the nuisance caused by the delivery in England of the circulars of Parisian vendors of obscenity in various shapes, there has been a marked diminution in the traffic. But I have received within the last week samples of circulars from Paris, delivered in different parts of England, one of which surpasses in offensiveness anything in this line that I have ever come across. I take the opportunity, therefore, of reminding any persons who may receive filth of this kind by post that it is the express desire of the Postmaster-General that all such circulars, accompanied by the envelopes, should at once be sent on to him; and I am quite confident that if this is done the English Post Office will do all that it can to stop further annoyance of the same description. The most objectionable of the last consignment of advertisements has the name and address of the senders stamped on the outside of the envelope, so that the postal authorities can have no difficulty in identifying it.

A question in Parliament last week elicited the curious information that in the first eight years of the existence of postal-orders, the Treasury came into a windfall of nearly £40,000—the proceeds of orders purchased and never presented for payment. The annual profit from this same source is at present estimated at £10,000. The other day a West End firm sent me as a curiosity a postal-order for 1s., which they had received—and unfortunately accepted—in payment of an account. Only on presenting it for payment was it discovered that the order had been issued in October, 1887, so that the payees could only obtain the shilling on paying the Post Office arrears of commission to the amount of 1s. 7½d. Seeing the vast quantity of old postal-orders which must be accumulated in one quarter and another, people will do well to look carefully at the dates of these instruments before accepting them as worth their face value.

During the last week the interesting fact has been made public that various officials in the service of the City Corporation have been in the habit of receiving substantial cash payments from contractors working for their Department. During the course of 1896 and 1897 four inspectors of pavements each received sums amounting to £60 and £70; a stoneyard foreman received £80, and a minor functionary £35. I do not notice that these revelations have been followed by any outcry against the Corporation on the part of those Conservative editors whose souls were filled with wrath and indignation when it was discovered, a couple of years ago, that officials of the London County Council had falsified certain accounts, with no worse intention than that of minimising the loss on the working of their Department. The scandal, however, certainly ought not to be allowed to drop at the present point, for though the officials above mentioned have been dismissed after an inquiry by a special committee, the committee has not yet got to the bottom of the reasons for these payments. As I understand it, the contractors allege that they paid about £375 to six officials in two years for no improper motive, but out of pure love and admiration for the honest fellows who look after the pavements, stoneyards, and underground conveniences of the City. My experience of contractors would not lead me to accept this generosity without further inquiry. In matters of business *quid pro quo* is the accepted doctrine, and 375 *quids* should represent a considerable number of *quos*.

There is something very comic in the cackling of the Court of Common Council over the premature publication in *London* of the "confidential" official report on this scandal. Mr. Turner, Chairman of the Streets Committee, has put on record his opinion that it is scarcely respectable on the part of a newspaper to print a report marked "Private and Confidential." Sir John Monckton, in the tenderness of his heart, expressed commiseration for the feelings of the party who gave the private and confidential document to the Press, and of the editors who printed it. Really, these City Fathers behave more like a party of civic grandmothers. The report is a document which concerns the public before anybody else, and anybody into whose hands it came was only discharging a public duty in making it public. You cannot give such a document a "private and confidential" character by merely writing those words across it; and the futile attempt to do so merely indicates a desire to hush up what ought to be made known. For these reasons, I should recommend the Common Councillors, now that the thing has come out, to accept the fact with a good grace, rather than make themselves ridiculous by publicly manifesting their discomfiture.

In one particular I think that I can make a little contribution to the latest civic scandal. One of the Inspectors of Pavements who received his £70 from Messrs. Clarke & Sons, was a Mr. F. B. Nicholson. This Nicholson was formerly in some position under the Army Works Department at Woolwich. It may be remembered that attention was recently called in TRUTH to the fact that a civilian, who had been concerned with certain work for the War Office at Woolwich, laid before the War Office last year various charges of dishonest practices between a local

WATER SUPPLY TO COUNTRY HOUSES.—Read "Water Supply to Mansions." The *Times* says, "a practical pamphlet." Post free.—MERRYWEATHERS, 63, Long-acre, W.C., and Greenwich, S.E.

contractor and officials of the Army Works Department. All that the War Office did was to impound the informant's documents, and stick to them for six months, under pretence of making an investigation. Upon being stirred up in TRUTH they hurriedly returned the documents, but did nothing else. The F. B. Nicholson above referred to was implicated in some of those charges. As to his culpability or otherwise I express no opinion, for the matter has never been properly threshed out. It is, however, strange, to say the least of it, that having passed into the service of the Commissioners of Sewers, this individual should be detected in something bearing a decided resemblance to the transactions imputed to him at Woolwich; and I think that the City authorities in the course of their further inquiries would do well to look up Nicholson's record.

By way of fortifying the appeal to the Hastings ratepayers to assist the Harbour Company out of its present difficulties by guaranteeing the interest on a new issue of Debentures, the Harbour Commissioners recently called in Sir Douglas Fox to examine and report upon the works so far as they have gone. Sir Douglas Fox's report has just been issued, and his utterances are in the same spirit as those of the prophet Balaam, for he passes various serious criticisms upon the work so far as at present carried, and makes various suggestions, all of which will involve increased expenditure. Indeed, he estimates that the total expenditure required will amount to £270,000, though he endeavours to soften the blow by suggesting that work to the amount of £25,000 might be postponed for the present.

The Commissioners have issued with Sir Douglas Fox's report certain observations in reply by the engineer-in-chief, who, needless to say, differs materially from Sir Douglas. In the face of Sir Douglas Fox's opinion, however, it would be absurd to suppose that the £245,000 will be forthcoming for this fatuous enterprise, unless the interest is to be guaranteed by the Hastings ratepayers. And if the Hastings ratepayers show any desire to give the necessary guarantee, they must differ very much from the ratepayers of other localities with whom I am acquainted. At any rate, I would recommend them, before accepting any such liability, to obtain fuller information than has yet been offered respecting the mysterious disappearance of £41,000 in preliminary expenses.

Until a day or two since, I was not aware that I had been instrumental in obtaining the reconstruction of the Great Western station at Reading, so that the up and down trains no longer cross one another at that point in order to reach their respective platforms. But as I have had a letter complimenting me on this achievement, I conclude that I may take credit for it. As often happens, the gratitude of my correspondent is allied to a sense of favours to come. He thinks that having done so much for Reading, I might do the same for Cambridge. When I knew Cambridge, the up and down trains each had a platform on its own side; but it seems that there is now only one platform, inconveniently long, very crowded, and, I should imagine, dangerous. The wise men in railway matters have lately hailed from the East rather than the West; but in this instance the Great Western directors have been progressing in the right direction while the Great Eastern have been moving backwards. I invite the latter to study what TRUTH has done at Reading, and to relieve me from the necessity of taking Cambridge in hand also.

One or two of my readers at Aldershot have also asked me to say a word in favour of a movement for a quicker train service to and from London. It is a request that can be complied with the more hopefully since, whatever it may have been formerly, the management of the South Western Railway of late years has been creditably progressive and always ready to redress, if practicable, any reasonable grievance. The Aldershot people complain of the fact that something like an hour and a quarter is generally taken to cover the thirty-three miles to Waterloo, the only exceptions being one comparatively fast train down, which does the journey in sixty-two minutes, and one up, which does it in sixty-six minutes. Considering what an exceptionally large passenger traffic there is from Aldershot, and what is accomplished for other towns a similar distance from London, this service certainly seems open to improvement; and now that the matter is being brought under the notice of the Company by means of a memorial from the inhabitants, I have little doubt that an improvement will be effected.

The Home Secretary has done well to order the prosecution of Bryant & May, Limited, or the representative of the firm who was responsible for the failure to report the recent case of "phossy jaw." It is clear from the facts which have been brought to light in the columns of the *Star*, that the recent death from this cause is far from being the first that has occurred, or the first that has not been reported, and the whole matter demands thorough investigation. Sir Mathew White Ridley promises an inquiry which will go beyond this particular case, and it is to be hoped that it will be an inquiry of such a nature that the whole question of the use of yellow phosphorus in the match-making trade may be thoroughly investigated, with a view to such legislation as may be necessary either to stop it, or to place it under restrictions which will render it innocuous.

Lawyers who have business before the Official Referees are complaining very strongly at present about the irritating manners and eccentric behaviour of one member of that body; indeed, I have been told by one learned friend that it is virtually impossible to conduct a case before this particular functionary. The suitors have to ballot, I understand, as to which Referee their cases shall go before; and the fear of being allotted to the obnoxious official introduces an element of stirring excitement into the lottery. It seems desirable that the Lord Chancellor should cast his august eye upon the particular corner of the Courts where the Official Referees disport themselves.

In my Legal Pillory this week the Bristol County Court Judge, sitting at the Police Court as a J.P., is given a place with the Great Unpaid on account of a sentence on a first offender. The first offender in question was a pauper who had been detected in the act of walking off with some workhouse soap, and as he has reached the age of 76, he was undoubtedly old enough to know better. Still, seeing that the old fellow has borne a good character all his life, it appears hard that he should have to go to gaol at his great age for so trivial an offence, and I do not think that any serious injury would have been done to the interests of justice or the morality of Bumbledom if he had been mercifully let off this time with a reprimand. As usual at this season of the year the game-preserving magistrates of East Anglia are distinguishing themselves by the severity of the penalties they inflict upon persons found in possession of eggs of the sacred birds; and the past week has also been marked by a notable increase in the number of sentences for sleeping out. The failure of the charge at Cheadle, owing to the fact that the accused had the sum of threepence in his pocket, is, of course, recorded, not as a reflection upon the judgment of the magistrates, but as an illustration of the arrant absurdity of the law on the subject of sleeping out. With regard to the cases on the other side of the list, it is scarcely necessary to do more than point out the remarkable leniency of the various penalties for assaults and cruelty :—

Bridgwater Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor and Mr. T. Manchip. John Coombs, charged with cruelty to a horse. The animal, which was about 20 years old, and in an emaciated condition, was employed in hauling stones and was put to draw a load weighing 32 cwt., but fell down exhausted. Fined 5s. and costs.

Warrington Police-court. Wm. Salt, charged with an aggravated assault upon his wife. He struck her behind the head with his clenched fist, kicked her in the back, and then tried to strangle her, causing blood to flow from her ear. The woman had previously complained of the conduct of the defendant, and a separation order was granted. Fined £2 and costs.

Smethwick Police-court. Joseph Bird charged with assaulting Richard Green. Defendant struck complainant a violent blow in the face, knocked him into a coal box, and banged his head against the coal, disfiguring his face. Fined 15s., including costs.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Peebles. James Neaves, charged (1) with assaulting his wife by striking her a severe blow on the forehead, (2) with assaulting John Bisset by striking him a blow on the mouth to the effusion of blood, and (3) with committing a breach of the peace. Fined 30s.

Honiton Borough Police-court. Before Mr. H. Banfield. James Hooper and Charles Hooper, charged with vagrancy by sleeping in an outhouse and having no visible means of subsistence. Fined 5s. each, and in default of payment committed for seven days.

Bristol Police-court. Before Judge Austin and Mr. J. W. S. Dix. James Bond, aged 76, charged with stealing a quantity of soap, &c., the property of the Guardians. Prisoner was an inmate of the workhouse, and on being searched before leaving the house for a day the soap was found in his possession. A police inspector mentioned that the old man had never previously been before the court. Seven days.

Harleston Petty Sessions. Before Rev. Spencer Fellowes, Captain Meade, Messrs. A. Taylor and J. Piper. Wm. Sturman charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of four pheasants' eggs. Fined £1 17s.

East Dereham Petty Sessions. Before Colonel H. E. Hyde and other justices. Henry Robinson, charged with being found in possession of sixteen game eggs. Fined £5, including costs.

Aldershot Police-court. Before Major Barton and other justices. James Wilson and Frederick Cooper, charged with sleeping out. Seven days each.

Troon Police-court. George Blythe charged with assaulting his wife. A doctor's evidence showed that the assault was of a very brutal character, the woman, who was a helpless invalid, being severely marked all over the body. Fined £1 10s.

Reading County Police-court. Before Captain Cobham and other magistrates. Charles Beasley, charged with cruelty by causing a pony to be worked whilst in an unfit state. The animal was very aged, in very poor condition, lame in both hind legs, and totally unfit for work. Defendant persisted in working it, and drove it out again an hour after he had been warned by the inspector. Fined £1 and costs.

Alfreton Petty Sessions. Before Mr. J. Roberts, Colonel Pearson, and the Rev. E. E. Morris. George Lumley, charged with assaulting Lewis Blore. Defendant struck complainant a violent blow on the head, causing him to fall, and then knelt upon him and beat him about the head. Fined 10s. and costs.

Sleaford Police-court. Before Captain Reeve-King, Lieutenants J. S. Reeve and J. A. Cole, Messrs. H. Smith, G. W. Lloyd, and C. Smith. George Bellairs charged with stealing a piece of mutton. He pleaded guilty, saying he was in drink at the time. Twenty-eight days.

Wenlock Petty Sessions. Before Mr. R. E. Anstree, Colonel H. Wayne, Messrs. J. Bodenham, and T. Cooke. Henry Potts, charged with trespassing in search of game. Fined £2 and costs, or twenty-eight days.

Brixham Police-court. Before Mr. W. J. Sanders. John Williams, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Ormskirk Police-court. Before Messrs. C. P. Symonds and R. Ainscough. John Lea, charged with stealing ½ lb. of butter. It appeared to be the prisoner's first offence, and he pleaded for leniency for the sake of his eleven children. Fourteen days.

Cheadle Petty Sessions. Before Sir Morton E. M. Buller and Mr. A. S. Bolton. Wm. Brady, charged with vagrancy by sleeping in a brickshed It appeared that he had the sum of threepence in his possession, and as he was not, therefore, without "visible means of subsistence," the case failed and he was discharged.

I erred in speaking last week of a "Parliamentary return" of certain officials in the Four Courts, Dublin, as being in course of preparation. The return to which I referred is a Departmental one. As an example of the jobbery that goes on in this department, here is a case of recent occurrence. Some few months back the Accountant-General was retired, and the vacancy filled by the promotion of the Chief Clerk of the department, at a reduction of one-sixth on the salary. The vacancy in the Chief Clerkship, however, was filled by the appointment of a gentleman of mature age, pitchforked in from some distant District-Registry over the heads of the rest of the staff. This is one of those objectionable appointments which necessitate the appointee being instructed in his work by a junior (or else leaving his work to juniors), while, the Department being one thrown open to public competition, the appointment is an injustice not only to the existing staff, but to all the men who have duly passed examinations and are waiting for employment. It is a sample of what is continually occurring in the Irish legal departments.

Once more a bill of sale in favour of the usurer Shuckburgh, alias the Clerical and Medical Bank, has been set aside on the ground that it was obtained by fraudulent misrepresentation. The case was tried at Exeter County Court last week, and the facts were of the usual character. A farmer named Prowse applied to the so-called Bank for a loan of £30, and he understood both from Shuckburgh's agent, Stone, and from Shuckburgh himself that the interest would be at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. He was also deluded into the belief that the

Subscriptions greatly needed by The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—6,929 convictions this year; 7,320 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

document he signed was not a bill of sale, but a sort of mortgage, and that it would not be mentioned in the *Gazette*. He afterwards found, of course, that it was an ordinary bill of sale that he had given, and that the interest was 5 per cent. per month, not per annum. Shuckburgh's counsel pointed out that if the verdict went against his client "it would convict him of deceit and almost fraud." Of "deceit and almost fraud" Shuckburgh was duly convicted, for Judge Woodfall believed the evidence of the plaintiff Prowse in preference to that of the defendant and his tool, Stone, and made an order setting aside the bill, of sale on payment of the £30 with interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. It is a matter of satisfaction to know that Shuckburgh will also have to pay costs on the higher scale.

In the course of his cross-examination, Shuckburgh was asked whether TRUTH had not called him a "financial wolf" and a "rapacious shark." He admitted the soft impeachment, and in reply to a further question as to why he did not take proceedings against me, he said his solicitor had advised him that my remarks were "simply abuse and not libel." This, if true, is a serious reflection on the intelligence of the solicitor in question. But Shuckburgh himself is too astute a rascal to be deceived by such nonsensical advice, even if it were given. He knows very well that it would be futile to bring an action against me, simply and solely because I am prepared to justify every word I have written respecting him during the past five or six years. Once, in 1893, his solicitor did favour me with a letter, threatening "proceedings without further notice," unless I immediately published an apology for certain statements that I had made in these columns. Of course, I published no apology, and equally of course I never heard anything more of the promised "proceedings."

If Shuckburgh is ever disposed to try a bout with me in a Court of Law I am always at his service. It would be a pleasure to me to sum up before a Judge and jury the exposures I have made week after week of one who is not only an unconscionable extortioner, but an unscrupulous scoundrel. I should begin with the action at Bristol Assizes, in which the verdict of the jury morally, if not legally, convicted Shuckburgh of attempting to rob his own brother and of perjuring himself in pursuance of that project. From that I should go on to the cases, too numerous to mention, in which he and his agents have been guilty of what his counsel calls "almost fraud," and what I call actual fraud. But Shuckburgh will never, I feel sure, give me such an opportunity of unfolding the record of his shady career as a bloodsucker. He is too sharp to be caught in that way.

My friend Mr. Harlequin Smith has just concluded another of his entertaining competitions, with the following highly amusing results. (1) 17,000 competitors succeeded in solving all three words propounded, and are, therefore, entitled among them to the first prize of £20. As this would allow less than a half-penny apiece, and there is, as Mr. Harlequin truthfully remarks, no postage stamp for less than a half-penny, he has very considerately added £15 to the first prize, in order to give himself the pleasure of forwarding a half-penny to each successful competitor. (2) The second prize of £10, offered to those who succeeded in solving two out of the three words, has been won by 220 competitors, who consequently get one shilling each, £1 having been added to the sum offered. (3) The third prize of £5, offered to those who only solved one word correctly, is divided among 53 competitors, who consequently get two shillings each. So the last shall be first, and the first last.

Far be it from me to detract in any way from Mr. Harlequin Smith's peculiar form of humour. Until, however, ocular evidence to the contrary is forthcoming, I decline to believe that there are now at large in this country 220 fools of such phenomenal calibre that they could only solve two out of the three words in Smith's anagram, and still less that there are fifty-three in such an alarming mental condition that they could only succeed in deciphering one of the three words. For this reason I take it that Smith's announcement that he is offering 1s. to each of the winners of the second prize, and 2s. to each of the winners of the third prize, is a mere fiction, concocted for Smith's own purposes. I question also whether 17,000 persons have successfully competed for the first prize. Assuming, however, that they have, as each competitor has paid 1s. 3d., Smith has, by his own account, bagged the sum of £1,079 11s. 3d., less the trifle distributed in prizes. I can only say once more that I look upon anybody who publishes Smith's advertisements after this as morally indistinguishable from the Harlequin himself.

Nearly two years ago I introduced my readers to Miss Mary L. Eyres, of 97, Newark-road, Lincoln. Miss Eyres is a granddaughter, so she says, of a late Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, and a great-granddaughter, so she says, of another Colonel who was an M.P. According to Miss Eyres, the late Colonel of the Grenadier Guards left his widow and four children in such a deplorable condition that the mother is now obliged to earn her living by making widows' mourning, which she sends out "on appro."; and the daughter is obliged to write begging letters, appealing to the tender-hearted to purchase the goods and thereby relieve the family affliction. The peculiar line of operations adopted by Mrs. and Miss Eyres is to select freshly-bereaved widows by means of advertisements of deaths in the newspapers, and send to them letters of condolence, accompanied by these offers of suitable mourning. It is a very annoying thing that notices of births, marriages, and deaths cannot be inserted

SURPLICE SHIRTS for evening wear, with pique fronts, 9/6, 10/6 each, made to measure.—SAMPSON & Co., Shirt Tailors, 268, 270, Oxford-street, London, W. Price lists forwarded.

in the papers without exposing families to the attentions of shoals of people like Mrs. and Miss Eyres, who come bothering with requests for orders; and the few weak-minded people who encourage this kind of business are very much to blame. I should uncommonly like to know whether the genealogy of the Eyres family as given by Miss Mary is an authentic one.

I have been favoured with the following letter with reference to a circular of the same firm published in last week's TRUTH:—

Aston Cross, Birmingham,
May 12, 1898.

Randall Bros.,
Printers and Paper Merchants.

The Editor of TRUTH.

DEAR SIR,—You publish in this week's TRUTH a paragraph respecting our employees' picnic, which some spiteful and mean individual, too miserly to live, has inspired. We are constantly giving donations to similar funds on behalf of our customers' employees, and why those to whom we may be paying hundreds of pounds in a year should not do the same we fail to comprehend.

Perhaps you will kindly favour us with their name and address for publication, or publish it in TRUTH. As you have given us a very wide notoriety, we do not see why these objectionable individuals should not be "gibbeted" in your columns.

We enclose stamped envelope for the address asked for.—Yours truly,

RANDALL BROTHERS.

Messrs. Randall Brothers can scarcely be so simple as to make this request seriously. They issued a circular to persons with whom they deal, inviting such persons to subscribe to a treat for their employees. One of the recipients forwarded the circular to me as a sample of a form of impudence which deserves gibbeting. I agreed with him, and published the circular. If, therefore, my correspondent was "spiteful and mean," and "too miserly to live," I am equally spiteful, mean, and miserly. Not admitting this, however, I feel under no obligation to oblige Messrs. Randall, or to enable them to get at my other correspondent.

The Hispano-American war has been obligingly brought off at the right moment for the appearance of the map showing the world's telegraphic system which Mr. Charles Bright is publishing in connection with his work on "Submarine Telegraphs." A glance at the map enables one to see both the existing girdles round the earth and those which it is proposed to lay for the benefit and protection of the British Empire. Whether all the latter are really needed is a debateable question; but current events are at any rate proving what an important instrument the cable is in modern naval warfare. Moreover, it is not merely the fate of a fleet or the capture of a fort which may depend upon the cable; it is also indispensable for the due gratification of the appetite of the public for news. How would the daily papers get on without those long cablegrams, which not only record in minutest detail all the facts of the war, but—equally important—when there are no facts (which seems to be generally the case) transmit appetising fictions?

If you want to entirely Furnish your House or select any article of Furniture or Carpet, &c., send for HEWETSONS' Illustrated Priced Catalogue.—HEWETSONS, Tottenham Court-road, London.

The American newspapers are wasting a good deal of ink in discussing the question whether any of the European Great Powers are likely to interfere in their war with Spain, and speculating on what would be our attitude were this the case. They may rest certain that no European Power has ever had the remotest intention to interfere, or has ever dreamt of imposing terms of accommodation on one or other of the belligerents, whilst all or any would be ready, if asked, to act as a medium of negotiation with a view to peace. The object of modern diplomacy, when a war arises between two great nations, is to localise it, and thus to prevent its spreading. In the first Italian war between France and Italy, which resulted in the loss to the latter of Lombardy, in the Austro-German war, and in the Franco-Prussian war, the struggle was localised by neutrals acting on this principle of non-interference. All that is written about some Powers wanting to interfere on behalf of Spain, and our insisting that such interference must not take place, is mere journalistic myth.

Very aptly has a French newspaper described Mr. Chamberlain as a civilian Boulanger. The General was not wanting in parts, and he had a laudable ambition to rise in the service of his country. But the means that he adopted to rise were not so laudable. He started as a Republican, and, having as such become Minister of War, he proceeded to intrigue against his ministerial colleagues. He perpetually issued proclamations to attract attention to himself, and he managed to get the Press to boom him. The President of the Republic dismissed him from the War Ministry. On this, he turned Orleanist, and managed to convince these French Conservatives that a better Conservative than himself never lived. In order to win the hearts of both Republicans and Conservatives, he preached a crusade against all nations, and he rode about on a white charger. The music-hall echoed with his praise in bad verse. The mention of his name at these assemblages of festive gentlemen and ladies elicited the wildest applause. Up to this point the parallel holds closely. Mr. Chamberlain has reached the white-horse stage, except that, as befits a civilian, his white-horse is the Birmingham rostrum. Will the parallel still continue?

West Norfolk is an agricultural constituency, and the candidate who can secure the vote of the agricultural labourers wins. It used to be a safe Liberal seat; then it veered round, and now it has come back to its old love. The London newspapers seem to ascribe this last change to Norfolk Hodge being indignant with Lord Salisbury, for having allowed Russia to get hold of Port Arthur and Ta-lien-wan. Few of them probably knew whether these are the names of men or of places; and, if the latter, where the places are. The Tory Press in revolt against the Premier explains that the rebuke is personal to him,

and trusts that he will realise, now that the great heart of the Tory Party has sadly but sternly administered this rebuke to him, that he must obey his journalistic masters. One of these infatuated organs opines that if he would do something desperate in Yunnan, this might possibly pacify Hodge.

I should rather have thought that Hodge is displeased at the dole which has been vouchsafed to the agricultural interest having gone into the landlords' pockets and not into his, and to his having been kept out of the Workmen's Compensation Act, because his gain would have been the farmer's loss. Probably the rise in the price of bread also tended to lead him to express his disapproval of Tory rule; for though dear wheat may benefit farmers and landlords, it is the reverse of a gain to the man whose wage does not go up, but whose bread does. Hodge is not quite the fool that the Tories take him to be, and he is inclined to judge of politics and politicians from a domestic standpoint. His affection for parson, squire, and farmer is not strong, and for a candidate to have them on his side is generally to have him on the other.

When a man earns some 14s. a week, and has to keep his family out of it, with the prospect of ultimately retiring to the happy home provided by a beneficent State for the veterans of toil, he is quite right to make his political allegiance subordinate to his desire that his lot should be bettered. His politics begin at home, and end there. When he is told we ought to go to war to prevent Russia getting Port Arthur, or that we possibly may go to war to get an African village called Boussa for ourselves, he does not clearly see his advantage. His plain, practical common-sense has no sympathy with Jingoism in its aggressive aspect. If he hears of one of his neighbours having enlisted in the Army, he shakes his head over him, and instead of honouring him as a hero, regards him as a fool, or something worse.

We Liberals lost the agricultural labourer's vote by promising him three acres and a cow, and not giving him even a rood of land, or a sheep's trotter. To regain it, we must counter Mr. Chamberlain's forward policy abroad, by a forward policy at home, that will convert our labourer from a struggling serf into a free man, able, if he works, to live in decent comfort. In the House of Commons about fifty members have formed themselves into an Association to promote expenditure on the Army and Navy. There should be an Association of Members to promote the welfare of those who till the soil on the *sic vos non vobis* scheme of economy.

The Anarchists may have been ready to turn the Italian discontent, culminating as it has in riots, to their advantage. But the discontent has its origin in the taxation that has converted Italy into a country of paupers. When a trader or a manufacturer has to pay 50 per cent. of his income to the tax collector, he finds it difficult to make two ends meet. When a labourer with a wage of one shilling per diem has to pay half in taxes, he finds it still more difficult, and the slightest rise in the price of necessaries means starvation. Far from being surprised at the riots, I am surprised that they have not occurred sooner.

The King of Italy is not popular, nor is the Chamber that meets at Rome. Between them they divide the unpopularity resulting from over-taxation. An Italian looks to his own Province as his country. Unity will only succeed in Italy provided that each Province is as independent of the other as is a Swiss Canton in all matters that locally concern it. The Italian as thoroughly distrusts a meddling central Government as does an Irish Nationalist the Castle. If there is no decentralisation there is little hope for Italy. I have at various times lived in Italy. I have known it under Austrian Archdukes and Bourbons, and I have seen it under one King. Better material than an Italian working man I do not know. He is honest, sober, and most industrious. But against a state of things that reduces him to starvation he rightly rises, all the more if he suspects that his rulers rob and plunder him in order to fill their own pockets.

To meet this almost universal uprising, the *Times* correspondent suggests a remedy. It is: "Ruthless repression of political insurrection, and sounder administration under a practical dictatorship, if the Chamber shows the white feather. The King must dare to do his duty. He, like the Queen and his soldiers, must cry '*Avanti Savoja.*'" My remedy would be to leave each of the Provinces that once were separate States to work out its own salvation under a federal bond, such as exists in Switzerland; to reduce the army, which is only maintained at its present strength to enable the country to fulfil its obligations as a member of the Triple Alliance; to clear out of the Public Departments all employees in excess of their needs; and, boldly admitting that Italy cannot pay full interest on its Public Debt, to reduce that interest by one-half. If this be not done, the creditors of Italy will lose, not half their interest, but all of it, the King will lose his throne, all industrial undertakings will be blighted, and thousands on thousands of the labourers will slowly starve to death.

From the terrible condition of Italy we should learn a lesson, or what has befallen her will ultimately befall us. We should give Home Rule to Ireland, and thus put an end to the discontent there; we should reduce and not increase taxation; what we do levy in taxes should be spent for the welfare of the community, instead of being squandered in buccaneering and in the armaments that are rendered necessary by our predatory habits. Peace, economy, and reform are scouted nowadays as not fitted for this enlightened age. We should revert to them.

For *Truth*, and all other Newspapers, Magazines, and Periodicals, send your Subscriptions to WM. DAWSON & SONS, Ltd., Cannon House, Bream's-bldngs., London. (Estab. 1809.) Catalogue gratis.

Periodically it is asserted that we have an alliance with Italy, and with other Continental Powers, in regard to the maintenance of the *status quo* in the Mediterranean. What happened was this: When Crispi went to Berlin, Bismarck urged him to join in an alliance (subsequently called the Triple Alliance) with Germany and Austria. He pleaded that France, in case of war, would be master of the Italian coasts. On this Bismarck applied to Lord Salisbury to express an opinion that England was interested in maintaining the *status quo* in the Mediterranean. This Lord Salisbury did in a quasi-private letter. Later on, Lord Salisbury sent a letter to our Ambassadors at some of the European Courts, suggesting that there should be a general agreement to maintain this *status quo*. The Great Powers applied to, replied that, so far as Morocco was concerned, they were ready to enter with us into a declaration that it should not be annexed, in whole or in part, by any European Power, but further they were not prepared to go. Thus the matter rests.

MUZZLES FOR MINISTERS:

WRITTEN AFTER READING MR. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN'S RECENT SPEECH AT BIRMINGHAM.

Mr. Long, as we know,
For some two years or so,
In a way that has often been puzzling,
Has, with little excuse,
Played, now fast and now loose,
With the question of dogs and their muzzling.
He disgusts with his plan
Every dog-owning man,
And the wrath of that man's kith and kin he stirs,
But his fault we'd condone
If he'd leave dogs alone
And go in for the muzzling of Ministers!

Yes, here is a chance,
A good work to advance,
Which would cause scarce one protest divergent:
Ay, here is a field
Which a harvest would yield;
And here is a need that is urgent.
So, come, Mr. Long,
Show yourself to be strong,
Assume a most resolute attitude!
Though your colleagues may squall,
Take and muzzle them all!
And England will hail you with gratitude.

The Marquis, be sure,
You'd do well to secure
With a muzzle that cannot be *un*done;
For you know how he made
That attempt to degrade
The new County Council of London;
You know how his bark
Was the cause of remark,
How the hopes of the Jingoes in *him* rose,
When he uttered such rash
And such purposeless trash
In the ears of the Dames of the Primrose!

Arthur Balfour, alas!
Is in much the same pass;
You should muzzle him, too, without quarter,
Seeing how his own side
Have had reason to chide
His remarks about ports—with hot water!
And Gerald as well,
He could hardly rebel,
If a muzzle *his* chatter arrested;
For 'twould serve to restrain
Gibes about free champagne
For the starving in districts congested!

Curzon, too, and Hicks-Beach,
Clap a muzzle on each!
For recent experience teaches
What risks we still run
From the harm that was done
By their maladroit "open-door" speeches.
Muzzle all the small fry,
Who, with fire in their eye,
Like Bobadils prate about fighting!
For those dogs are at best
But a nuisance and pest,
Who bark with no notion of biting.

But whatever you do
With this mischievous crew
To stifle their snarling corrosive,
A muzzle, if wise,
Of exceptional size,
You'll reserve, Mr. Long, for your Joseph.
Of the snarlers the worst
He has been from the first,
Of the snappers by far most outrageous;
Then muzzle him, pray,
And no longer delay,
For even his bark is contagious.

P'rhaps his Brummagem breed,
'Tis that makes him exceed
All the rest of the pack in malignity;
P'rhaps the cross in his strain,
Makes him spiteful and vain,
And wholly deficient in dignity;
But be that as it may,
There is only one way
To solve the political puzzle—
For the good of our land,
Some predominant hand
On Joseph should fasten a muzzle!

SCRUTATOR.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN HAS ANOTHER PLAN.

ONE of the peculiarities of Mr. Chamberlain is that he always has a plan. No sooner does his house of cards fall to pieces than he proceeds to build up another, which meets with the same fate. During the active phase of Irish Home Rule, he must have submitted to the unappreciative public at least one hundred of these card erections As Colonial Secretary, he has, of course, had plans. He placed the first of them before the Colonial Premiers, and they laughed it out of existence. His present plan in regard to our Colonies is, apparently, to give large sums of our money to bolster up those of them that cannot pay their own way. Although not Foreign Secretary, it is almost needless to say that he considers that he knows a good deal more of foreign affairs than Lord Salisbury, and last week,

H. L. SAVORY & CO.'S CIGARETTES.—By Special Warrants of Appointments to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, H.S.H. the Duke of Teck, and the Houses of Lords and Commons. To be obtained of all the leading Houses in the trade.—Sole address, 59, Piccadilly, London, W. Specimen case of samples, containing all sizes, 2s. 6d., with price list.

at Birmingham, he submitted his plan to his chief, under the guise of a speech to the Birmingham Liberal Unionists. The speech is to be ascribed to his restless desire to attract attention to himself. So potent is this desire, that if he had been born in a humbler sphere, I believe that, rather than pass unnoticed in the crowd, he would have walked every day round the West End with his cheeks blackened, his nose painted blue, and a green hat on his head. Fate having made him a Cabinet Minister, he must be the one man in the Cabinet about whom the public talk. No Premier, no colleague, must come between the sun and him. If the Cabinet has taken any action which does not find popular favour, he must make it clear that if it had acted on his advice the result would have been different. As an opponent he is a weighty one, owing to his push and his debating abilities. But I am inclined to think that he is still more dangerous as a colleague. This relation barbs the arrow that the candid friend discharges from his bow.

His plan is this: we are to renounce in future that isolation which Mr. Goschen boasted was our strength, and that concerted action with Europe which a few short months ago Lord Salisbury lauded to the skies as the perfection of wisdom is henceforward to be eschewed. In order to meet any European combination against us, we are to form an alliance with some great Continental Power that has a large army, and by this means maintain our commercial supremacy throughout the globe. Which Power our ally is to be Mr. Chamberlain does not especially state. It is not Russia, because he reviles Russia, and suggests that we must have a long spoon if we wish to sup with the Russian devil. It is hardly complimentary of Mr. Chamberlain to describe Mr. Curzon as a spoon; but for a Minister of the Crown to allude to the sovereign of a country with which we are at peace as the Devil, is language unknown to diplomacy before the Birmingham era. Again, our proposed ally cannot be France, because Mr. Chamberlain has of late been doing his utmost to involve us in war with that Power about some worthless village in the interior of Africa. Is it Turkey, Austria, Italy, or Germany? Against an alliance with Turkey the nation would with one voice protest. Austria would not, and could not, enter into such an alliance with us; Italy has renounced foreign adventure after a disastrous experience of it, and she must reduce her Army rather then augment it for the purpose of furnishing us with two or three *corps d'armée* to aid us in the Far East. Remains alone Germany. We are, it would seem, to go hat in hand to her, and entreat her to join us in an alliance, in order that we may maintain our naval supremacy, and be able to dictate terms to Europe in respect to the Far East. That Mr. Chamberlain should suppose such an alliance posssible shows abysmal ignorance of the existing relations between Continental Powers.

The main aim of Germany is to hinder a joint attack from France and Russia. This is the keystone of her policy. France has a general alliance with Russia. So long as Germany keeps on good terms with that Power, she is safe from this joint attack. She, therefore, is not likely to join us in an alliance aimed against Russia and France. Were we to go to war with the latter, it is probable that Russia would make common cause with her; but this probability would become a certainty if Germany were to join us. Is it, then, within the bounds of reasonable probability that Germany would come to our aid if we went to war with France, or that she would send her troops to the Far East to help us if we went to war with Russia, thus denuding herself of her troops at the very moment when she would be attacked by the forces of France and Russia? *Do ut des* is the sound German principle; we have no *des* that would induce her to give us the *do*. What would be the object of an alliance between us and her? That we might maintain our supremacy over the sea roads of the globe. Is Germany likely to place her Army at our disposal for any such object? She is becoming every day more of a manufacturing centre, and she aspires to the possession of Colonies. More than any other Power she must be averse to our absolute rule of the seas. More than any other Power she must wish that the system of balance of power should be applied to the ocean. Even if Germany were to consent to this *felo de se*, a German alliance would be unpopular in England, particularly if aimed against France. We may occasionally have our tiffs with France, but between Englishmen and Frenchmen there is a warm friendship. In regard to Germans this does not exist. A German alliance has always been the aim of the Court, and Lord Palmerston had the nation with him when he successfully struggled against it. Cordial amity with France has always been the aim of the English people. Germany has now become our commercial competitor in all parts of the earth. The "made in Germany" has not tended to increase our love for the "Fatherland."

I have heard it suggested that, in thus tendering our alliance to some Power unknown, Mr. Chamberlain had Japan in his eye. This, however, is hardly credible. Japan is not yet a great military Power, and having obtained a paramount influence in Corea by a friendly arrangement with Russia, she is hardly likely to imperil this influence by entering into an alliance against Russia, from which she has absolutely nothing to gain.

Mr. Chamberlain's proposal, that we should look here, there, and everywhere to find some great Military Power ready to join us in an alliance against all other European Continental Powers, in order to make the Eastern commercial relations of all Powers, including those of our ally, dependent on our good will, is, therefore, about as practical as the "dilly, dilly, come and be killed" of the old woman to the ducks. It would be convenient, no doubt, to us, but how about the ducks? So long as we declare it to be our fixed policy to build and maintain such a fleet as places the commerce and the distant dependencies of all European Powers at our mercy, not only cannot we have an ally in Europe, but, in the very nature of things, those who are menaced with this scheme of maritime supremacy must be drawn together in opposition to it. I am not now discussing whether the scheme be sound or the reverse, I am only pointing to the

The Maximum of Effect at the Minimum of Cost.—An Object Lesson in Decorating and Furnishing can be obtained by inspecting Messrs. WARING'S Suites of furnished rooms at 175-181, Oxford-st. W.

consequences that are involved in it in respect to our relations with foreign Powers. The dual alliance between us and some great military Empire, from which we are to derive all the profit, and our ally to incur all the risks, is not likely ever to occur, for the plain and simple reason, that it can be to the interest of no European military Power to join us in any such alliance. Why, then, suggest it? The suggestion is practically an admission that our plan of absolute maritime supremacy must fail, unless we find some Great Power ready to join us in fighting for it.

Having thus implored some European Power to come to our aid, Mr. Chamberlain proceeded to advocate an Anglo-Saxon alliance between us and the United States. A war, he said, would be cheaply purchased if the Stars and the Union Jack waved over an Anglo-Saxon alliance in a great and holy cause. Our wars never have been, and are never likely to be, undertaken in a great and holy cause. It may be desirable that the integrity of the Chinese Empire should be maintained, and that all the nations of the world should be able to import freely goods (including opium) into China. But this is hardly a great and holy cause, for the Empire that we would maintain is as badly governed a one as it is possible to conceive. Nor can our endeavour to grab African territory and to prevent others from following our example be termed a great and holy cause, whatever may be said of its expediency. The Americans have become a great, powerful, and prosperous nation because they have kept clear of alliances with us or any European Power, and it is not the least likely that they will alter this policy to please us. They are far too practical a nation to be led into drawing the chestnuts out of the fire for us by a little cheap claptrap about our common parentage and the greater thickness of blood than water. We may be, and I trust we always shall be, the best of friends, but each has its own axe to grind. We are, it is true, of the same race with a large number of Americans; but I have never perceived that the "man and brother" talk has ever prevented men and brothers from killing each other. The "man and the cousin" talk will not hinder cousins from quarrelling if the two cousins are after the same bone.

The only importance that I attach to Mr. Chamberlain's present utterances is that they show a dawning consciousness on his part that the Jingo policy of brag, bluster, and grab is breaking down. Our threat to outbuild the world in ships has been taken up by the world, with the result that the relative strength of our Navy and that of other Powers is much about the same, notwithstanding our heavy expenditure. We have grabbed, and they have grabbed. And now Mr. Chamberlain admits that we have made a mistake in thus throwing down the gauntlet to the world, cringes to the United States, like a poor relation asking for assistance—although a little while ago we were urged by the Jingoes to go to war with our dear cousin about some Venezuelan bog—and piteously implores some European Great Power to aid us with its soldiers against any combination of the Great European Powers. I am not a Jingo; but I feel ashamed at the country being thus rendered contemptible.

I am amused at the Colonial Secretary administering aid and comfort to the Liberal Unionists by assuring them that the Liberal Party is prepared to kill a fatted calf for their consumption, if only they will return to the fold. We are prepared to receive any who, renouncing the errors of their ways, ask to be received back into grace; but if Mr. Chamberlain imagines that we are longing for his return as our shepherd he is under a singular illusion. A Radical who enters a Tory Cabinet bids adieu to the Liberal fold. Our policy is not, as he imagines, that of the open door to such a gentleman. So far as we are concerned, the notice that was inscribed over Dante's hell is written over the Tory Cabinet door, "Ye who enter, leave all hope behind." He has made his election between the narrow Radical path and the broad Tory path, and he must abide by it. Fully acknowledging his abilities as a debater, we shall never seek to avail ourselves of them, for with us consistency and principle rank more highly than debating ability. So long as he remains in public life he must defend Tory principles, however much he may despise them. He must be the galley slave, chained to the Tory oar. If he can lead the Tories, by all means let him. But I doubt whether he ever will. Some of the Tories may complain of Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour not being sufficiently Jingo to suit them. But Mr. Chamberlain's endeavour to win them over to him by outjingoing his colleagues will not succeed. They do not trust him; indeed, it is no exaggeration to say they thoroughly distrust him. Whatever may be their cause of complaint against Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour, and however Mr. Chamberlain may flatter their Jingo propensities, they will not desert their own leaders in order to replace them by the leadership of a clever renegade, whose presence in the Salisbury Cabinet is a cause of offence to many of them. Rightly or wrongly, they are under the impression that Mr. Chamberlain is not entirely unconnected with the Press campaign against the Premier, and this hardly tends to increase their confidence in their Colonial Secretary.

IS MR. RAYNER'S CONDUCT DISGRACEFUL?

Since the exposure of the true character of the Inventions Competition trick in TRUTH of April 14 and 21, I have thought it fair to all parties concerned to keep silence for a time and await "developments." Such developments might have occurred in several directions. In the first place it was possible that Mr. G. H. Rayner, of Chancery-lane, might have taken exception to articles in which he was accused of "an unscrupulous attempt to humbug ignorant people into parting with their money" and of carrying out "a raid upon a peculiarly simple and gullible portion of the public" by a process characterised throughout "by deception and trickery." At an earlier stage of my criticism, Mr. Rayner felt it necessary to write and correct a statement which he thought he had an answer to; and it was therefore reasonable to expect that when the case against his firm was presented with so much more force and completeness, he would have thought it even more necessary to make a reply. Four weeks have elapsed, however, without any sign of a desire on Mr. Rayner's part to continue the controversy, and it may be now presumed that he has definitely decided to hold his

peace. There was also a possibility, when I last wrote on the subject, that some of the victims of the various competitions organised by Rayner & Co. would have taken combined action against the newspapers through which they had been led into the trap. Not having heard of any such proceedings, I conclude that there is no longer much hope in that direction. The question, therefore, now arises whether the matter is to stop where it stands at present. It certainly will not do so if TRUTH can prevent it; and for that reason I now return to the subject.

The first point to which I would call attention is that a patent agent is not an irresponsible practitioner, subject to no control in the conduct of his business but that of the general law of the land. On the contrary, he belongs, like a lawyer or a doctor, to a profession which is recognised and controlled by statutory authority. The point was mooted in my last article whether the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents has power to deal with abuses such as the Inventions Competitions have brought to light. As far as I can learn, the Institute has no disciplinary powers over the profession; but the Board of Trade has, and the Board of Trade is a much more efficient and likely authority for the purpose than any mere professional organisation. The Board of Trade gets its power from the Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks Act, 1888, under which it makes rules for the registration of patent agents and other cognate purposes. The Rules at present in force contain the following clause:—

> 16. If any registered person shall be convicted in Her Majesty's dominions or elsewhere of an offence which, if committed in England, would be a felony or misdemeanour, or after due inquiry, is proved to the satisfaction of the Board of Trade to have been guilty of disgraceful professional conduct . . . . the Board of Trade may order the Registrar to erase from the Register the name of such person. Provided that no person shall be adjudged by the Board of Trade to have been guilty of disgraceful professional conduct unless such person has received notice of, and had an opportunity of defending himself from, any charge brought against him.

If these words have any bearing upon the present case, it is under the phrase "disgraceful professional conduct." The term "disgraceful" in such a connection is a vague one. What is or is not disgraceful must, in any case, be more or less a matter of opinion; and what is or is not disgraceful in a professional sense must be a matter primarily for the opinion of the profession concerned. Not having the slightest knowledge of the recognised standard of ethics among patent agents, I have no means of even conjecturing whether the conduct of Mr. Rayner and his partners (if he has any on the register) is such as would be considered by his profession becoming or the reverse in one of their number. But as it is important that some qualified authority should pronounce upon this point, it may conduce to a correct decision if I explain precisely what the conduct of Mr. Rayner, or Messrs. Rayner & Co., has been.

1. Mr. Rayner (or his firm) induces various newspapers—presumably by paying for the privilege—to appoint him as "Patent Editor," with the power of acting in that capacity in the name of each paper. 2. Mr. Rayner (or his firm) induces newspapers, in the same way, to publish the prospectuses of competitions, in which pecuniary prizes, medals, and diplomas are offered for the invention of the greatest merit, subject to the condition that every invention submitted must first be protected. 3. The prospectus announces that the proprietors of the newspaper have made arrangements by which the competitors can take out such protection through them (*i.e.*, through Rayner & Co., in their character of "Patent Editors") on specially reduced terms. 4. The competitions, though announced as enterprises started by each newspaper for the purpose of encouraging inventive genius among its readers, and to give them an opportunity of earning vast sums by obtaining valuable patents, are in reality originated and managed throughout by Rayner & Co., and Rayner & Co. alone; Rayner & Co. act as judges, and actually themselves provide the prizes, medals, and diplomas. 5. The competition is announced simultaneously in numbers of different papers, and represented in each one as a special enterprise of that paper; whereas there is only one set of prizes for all the papers running the competition at the same time, and, in fact, only one competition among the readers of half-a-dozen or more papers. 6. The papers selected as the medium of these competitions are chiefly the weekly editions of Provincial journals, which circulate largely among the working class—*i.e.*, among the people most likely to produce small mechanical inventions, and least capable of estimating their commercial value, or detecting the true character of the so-called competition. 7. By these means Mr. Rayner (or his firm) has during the last twelve months induced hundreds upon hundreds of working men and other inexperienced and imperfectly educated people to pay to him sums ranging from three and half to eleven guineas, for the purpose of taking out provisional protection or complete patents for inventions which have no commercial value whatever. The game was started by inviting the readers of the *Western Mail* (Cardiff) to compete for prizes which the proprietors of the paper were represented as offering by way of commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The competition was limited to improvements in window-sash fasteners, and no less than 148 prizes, medals, and diplomas were awarded to competitors, forty-five extra diplomas beyond the number originally offered being given, owing (presumably) to the unexpected display of merit in the inventions submitted. Within six months or so of this Mr. Rayner started a second series of competitions in other papers, in which no particular subject for invention was suggested; but in the prospectuses of this competition Mr. Rayner expressly specified a window-fastener as a promising line of experiment in which no satisfactory invention had yet been produced. A County Court action being brought against the *Leeds Mercury* by one of the competitors, who impeached the bona fides of this second competition, an application was made for the removal of the action to the High Court, and in support of it Mr. Rayner made an affidavit to the effect that if the plaintiff succeeded, the *Leeds Mercury* would be liable to upwards of 200 similar actions. At least 350 competitors, therefore, took out protection through the *Western Mail* and the *Leeds Mercury* alone. The total number of papers in which these competitions have been advertised at the present time is more than twenty.

Such are the plain facts, stated in the briefest form.

What is the conclusion from them? First, that these competitions are an elaborate piece of trickery, calculated at every stage to mislead and deceive simple and unsuspecting people; secondly, that this trick is simply devised and carried out by a firm of patent agents for the purpose of putting money into their own pockets; thirdly, that by this trick Mr. Rayner (or his firm) has obtained some thousands of pounds, chiefly from men in very humble circumstances, well knowing that the majority of them are throwing away their money without the slighest prospect of any return. That this would amount to "disgraceful conduct" in any ordinary acceptation of the term, there cannot, I take it, be any question. Whether it amounts to "disgraceful professional conduct" on the part of a registered patent agent, is a technical question to be decided by the Board of Trade. I will only make two observations upon it: (1) that in the United States (as shown by the extract given in my last article on the subject) very similar conduct on the part of a patent agent has been pronounced fraudulent, and has been punished by a sentence of disqualification for further practice; (2) that if such conduct is not deemed professionally disgraceful in this country, it will be the duty of the Board of Trade to insert in its Rules without loss of time some other form of words which will bring such conduct within the reach of proper punishment.

That, however, is a question for the future. The immediate necessity of the situation is that the Board of Trade should be moved to inquire into the conduct of Mr., or Messrs., Rayner, under the rules cited above, and to deal with it according to the result of the inquiry. How the Board is to be set in motion I do not precisely know. If it takes cognizance of newspaper articles I hereby call upon it to exercise its powers upon Mr. Rayner. If it requires an aggrieved party to apply to it, let it only give the hint, and I will undertake that a hundred shall send in their applications forthwith. If it requires the profession to take the initiative, then I call upon the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents to take this matter up without delay. But let it be clearly understood that either by the Board of Trade or the Institute action of some kind must be taken.

THE STAFF COLLEGE IN 1898.

During the last few weeks a good deal of correspondence has reached me respecting the shortcomings of the Staff College. Attention was first called to the subject by the criticism which the Staff incurred during the Afridi campaign, and further remark was provoked by the appointment of the new Commandant—an officer who, whatever his qualifications for the post, is totally without experience of practical warfare in any shape. On the one hand, it has been alleged that much of the blundering which marked the late campaign was due to the exclusion of Staff College officers from Staff appointments in India. On the other hand, we have been told that in India Staff College officers are considered to be a fraud, and that the Indian Army can get on better without them. It is significant that this view is not confined to India, for I have before me many similar expressions of opinion from English officers, all of them men who have had practical experience of the working of the College. The work of the Staff College is purely technical. It is, therefore, a subject which an outsider is hardly qualified to criticise in detail. All that a humble civilian can attempt is to reflect the opinions of judges more competent than himself, and I think it may be to the interest of the public if I offer a few reflections of this kind at the present moment.

It is alleged against the Staff College that the teaching is defective, and that jobbery, favouritism, and toadyism reign supreme there, with the result that success is due to many other causes than professional ability or industry. An officer, who I think may be acquitted of any personal animus in the matter, writes:—

> You, Sir, had much to say respecting the management of the Staff College two or three years ago. Much of what you said was true, and it was written in time to prevent the establishment of a complete reign of terror there. But notwithstanding this the College remains a fraud. It is utterly absurd to regard it as an institution in which the best men come to the front. Nominally entrance is gained by means of a competitive examination. As a matter of fact, a great proportion of the vacancies are filled by Commander-in-Chief's nominees, who are "selected" on the same principle as that on which officers are "selected" for most things in the Army—*i.e.*, because they are who they are, or because their fathers are who they are. It is not an exaggeration to say that a large proportion of them are men who before being selected have failed once or twice in the open competition. To those who know them it is a mystery how the majority succeed in passing the qualifying examination and the examinations that take place during the two years' course. Again, in the College the personal element is everything. The lord, or the son of a lord, the rich or influential man's son, may be as idle as he likes, just performing the compulsory course and no more. But he is certain of his billet when he leaves; whilst the hardworking individual who has taken up all the extra subjects waits in vain for employment. . . .

All this is in close corroboration of what was said in TRUTH in October, 1894. At that time four Staff College officers had been returned to their regiments, nominally in consequent of their failure at one of the periodical examinations; but it was alleged that there were other motives at work, and evidence of this was supplied by the fact that, whereas seven officers had failed at the same examination, only these four were dismissed from the College, the three whose failure was overlooked being nominees of the Commander-in-Chief. The following were among the remarks which I made at that time upon the case:—

> The truth seems to be that the Commandant and his staff are by no means so closely in touch as they ought to be with the men on whom they have to report, while among the men there prevails to a considerable extent a want of faith in the capacity of the College authorities and the value of the teaching. The men consequently who stand highest in the official estimation are those who are most astute at ingratiating themselves with the Commandant and the professors, personally and socially, or who have the most potent influences at their backs. Conversely, the man who does not bow down to the ruling authorities and worship them, or who does not convey with sufficient unction his sense of the supreme wisdom and learning of the professors at whose feet he sits, is liable to get a very unfavourable experience of that deadly official weapon, the confidential report.

At the same time the fact was noted in TRUTH that there prevailed among the students at the Staff College by no means that amount of reverence for the qualifications of their teachers which ought to prevail in an educational institution. That this also is as true in 1898 as it was in 1894 is shown by the following extract from a recent letter on the subject.—

> Most officers who have completed a Staff College course are of opinion that there are not many professors from whom it is pos-

sible to learn anything. To this there is one brilliant exception, as will be universally admitted, but surely in such an establishment there should be more than one professor who is recognised as a highly successful teacher. I have myself come across more than one officer who has stated that on leaving the College he felt that he knew less than when he went in. In short, the College under present conditions is less an educational institution than a stepping-stone to preferment for those who have the necessary means of getting it. . . .

Good reasons for this state of things were given in my articles in 1894. It was then pointed out that one of the professors when at the Staff College himself had failed to pass in mathematics, that two others had never passed the Staff College at all, and one of them had actually failed to pass the entrance examination for the College. On the other hand, many of the students at the College—those, at any rate, who were not Commander-in-Chief's nominees—are men who, in order to obtain admission, have obtained the highest possible personal testimonials from their regimental officers, and have qualified by passing a severe examination under the Civil Service Commissioners. It stands to reason that if the qualifying standard is properly kept up among the students, the Commandant and the professors ought to be men of the very highest possible qualifications. What new appointments have been made among the teaching staff at the College since 1894 I do not know. But judging by the recent appointment as Commandant of an officer who has never done a day's soldiering on active service in his life, it would hardly seem that the War Office is yet alive to the qualifications that are required in the staff of an institution of this character.

It would seem, too, that toadyism and personal favouritism are not the only influences which have a prejudicial effect upon Staff College training. Here is another count of the indictment:—

The cant of sport rules supreme at the Staff College. To be master of the drag hunt or captain of the cricket team is held far more honourable, and is far more likely to serve the individual who achieves that position, than to take the foremost place in the work of the course. In recent times an officer whose every scheme, even his examination sketch, had to be executed for him by a comrade—a fact well known to the professors—was appointed a garrison instructor merely on the strength of his riding, and because he "talked horse" incessantly, in default of other ideas.

Now I should certainly be the last to deny the value of sport—that is to say, sport of the athletic kind—in military training. But it is quite certain that by the time an officer goes to the Staff College he has passed that period of life at which physical training is a matter of primary importance. Unless he were a man of sound physique and well-developed nerve and muscle, he could hardly get into the Staff College at all. When he is once there, he has other things to think about than cricket and hunting. He must keep himself in condition—of course every officer ought to do that until he retires, though to the outward eye it would not seem that all of them do. But there cannot be any excuse for giving proficiency in athletics a definite place in the Staff College curriculum.

If the foregoing allegations are well founded—and on that point there seems very little room for doubt—I am not surprised to be told by an Indian officer that the "Indian Army does not want Staff College officers," or that "whenever a vacancy on the Staff occurs a hope is universally expressed that it will not be filled by one of them." The Staff College costs the country a handsome sum of money every year. It is also a very expensive place for the officers who go there—so much so that we have been told that the officers of the Indian Army cannot, as a rule, afford to undertake a course at Camberley. It is of importance to all parties, therefore, that the money spent upon the institution should be expended to advantage. Over and above this, the proper education of the Staff is a matter of vital importance to the country. *Cœteris paribus*, the army which has the best Staff is the army which will win in any campaign. The Prussians learnt this long ago, and their readiness to learn the lesson contributed as much as anything else to the successes of 1866 and 1870. A thoroughly efficient Staff College should serve a double purpose. It should train officers for the most important and responsible work that has to be performed when an army takes the field, and it should serve as a guarantee to the country against jobbery and favouritism in connection with appointments upon which the safety of the Army and country may depend. There seems the best reason to doubt whether the Camberley institution fulfils these purposes in any degree. If men are jobbed into it, and jobbed out of it, and go out no better qualified for Staff work than they went in, the place may as well be abolished to-morrow, and the money saved which the country and the Service at present spend there.

"MY INNOCENT BOY" AT THE ROYALTY.

Round the central idea of an early indiscretion, Mr. George R Sims and Mr. Leonard Merrick have arranged the material of their "farcical comedy." They are to be congratulated upon the deftness of their workmanship as upon the discreetness of their indiscretion. For their hero, Mr. Valentine Smith, who is thirty-six when we are first introduced to him, had secretly loved, married, and lost a charming girl before he came of age. But she has left behind her a daughter, now seventeen; and it is out of the widower's attempts to conceal the existence of this daughter alike from his irate father, the Commodore, for whom he is still merely an innocent boy, and from his *fiancée*, Hypatia, that the fun is manufactured. The preliminary explanations fill up a good part of the first act, but once well under way, we are carried, on the light ripple of school-girls' laughter, to the inevitable happy conclusion.

Complications there are, of course, and very ingeniously do Messrs. Sims and Merrick dovetail in the lisping idiotcy of the curate—so helplessly a curate, and so excellently parodied by Mr. Harry Farmer—and the absurd affectations of the French dancing-master, rendered to the life by Mr. H. de Lange, with the prim posing of the schoolmistress, well given by Miss Helena Rous. For in the second act we find ourselves at a girls' school, whither Felix Jellicoe, friend of Valentine Smith, and secretly in love with his daughter Dulcie, an inmate of the school, has betaken himself, with a view to stealing a march upon the curate betrothed to the same young lady. We find Mr. Jellicoe installed as drawing-master, and dominating, from his raised desk in a corner of the room, a rosebed of real schoolgirls. *Le vrai seul est aimable*, says some Frenchman, and there can certainly be no doubt that these

are real schoolgirls, fresh and charming, who follow the leading of Miss Dora Barton through the windings and alightings, the laughter and the comical supplications of the second act. Nothing could be prettier than their decision *en masse*, like the chirping of decided linnets, that they will never allow their comrade Dulcie to be married to the anæmic curate, and the way that, fluttering up to him like a swarm of meadow-whites, they finally alight in circle round the astonished parent—for Valentine, now married to Hypatia, has come to pay a secret visit to his child—and plead that Dulcie may be spared the curate. These are suddenly joined by Jellicoe, and when he also falls upon his knees and asks for the dismissal of his rival, the whole house applauds an amusing and ingenious situation.

To follow all the turns and twists of the action through this act and the following would give little of the amusement they afford the audience. Suffice it to say that after a marvellous imbroglio, where slammed doors, Gladstone-bags, irate wives and aunts, school-girls, the curate, and the Commodore are but part of the ingredients that go to the making us laugh, we find in the last act peace and kisses.

As has already been remarked, the play is ingeniously constructed, with here and there a bright repartee, in a dialogue that is everywhere adequate, though, perhaps, the joke about the Commodore's collars—not very brilliant at the first saying—is insisted upon a little too often not to be tiring, and those faint suggestions from the "Circus Girl" might be dispensed with where there is so much else to amuse us.

The acting throughout was satisfactory, though Mr. Charles Rock, as the Commodore, is inclined to force the fury of that personage a little too monotonously upon the audience. Miss Doris Templeton also makes rather less than the most of Dulcie Smith, giving the impression of being years younger than the sweet seventeen of the authors. Mr. Sidney Drew is a great acquisition, playing the part of Valentine with tact and humour. He is sure of his effects and often reminded me of his talented brother. May he long remain on this side of the Atlantic. Among the smaller parts Miss Dora Barton shows great promise as the leader of the school-girls, and Mr. J. Brabourne was excellent as the servant Crump.

"TERESA."

This new play by Mr. George Bancroft, given at the Métropole Theatre, Camberwell, on Monday, was well received by a large audience, by no means drawn altogether from the neighbourhood. Mr. Bancroft's theme is not new, and his treatment is upon traditional lines. We have for heroine a charming Italian girl, who is beloved by the virtuous Englishman, Valentine Elsbrooke, and by her evil compatriot, Count Caprile. To detail the machinations of this latter fiend (no exaggeration when Mr. Laurence Irving's impersonation is taken into account), how Teresa's father, an aristocratic socialist, is implicated in treasonable dealings, of which Caprile has the secret, how he tries to force her to marry him, with the threat of vengeance upon her father in case of refusal; how, when all is arranged for her wedding with Valentine, it is discovered that his brother, the ne'er-do-weel Claude Elsbrooke, has been murdered—all this would steal beyond my limits. The ending is sad, for Teresa, through a complicated fatality, is the murderess, and she finds herself obliged to choose between Caprile and death. Her choice is soon made, and the curtain falls upon her last breath, with the *stillo*, Valentine's gift, plunged into her side. Here, and in the last scene with her *fiancé*, Valentine, where her love for him struggles with horror at her involuntary crime, Miss Violet Vanbrugh shows a thorough grasp of this character, so emotional in all its phases. Certain moments of her final interview with Caprile were, indeed, within the domain of tragedy. Mr. Laurence Irving, although he certainly looked sufficiently sinister as her detested admirer, seems to lack distinction, and, above all, coherency; for his accent was not always Italian, and his utterance on more than one occasion appeared confused—though this was, no doubt, intentional. As Valentine Elsbrooke, Mr. Arthur Bourchier was natural and easy in a somewhat trying part. Whenever he was on the stage one felt that life was being lived, one listened and looked with increased attention. This is a rare quality in an actor, and one that Mr. Bourchier has always possessed in common with Mr. Wyndham. In conclusion, a word may be said for Mr. Aubrey Smith, who acquitted himself well as the Ambassador, and for Mr. Charles Troode's Geoffrey Ward, the typical American.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE LATE MARQUIS DE CHERVILLE.

We have lost in the course of the week the Marquis de Cherville—a sweet, indeed a matchless, writer on rustic subjects. He began life as a rich young nobleman, and spent the best part of his fortune in supplanting an Orleans prince in Mlle. Ozy's boudoir. This obliged him to bestir himself for a livelihood, and he became a *collaborateur* of old Dumas. Dumas was to write the plot, and De Cherville to fill in; but when the former sat down to write, the fount of inspiration overflowed. He wrote on and on until the novel or play was finished, or nearly so. From a feeling of delicacy he left the young assistant something to do at the end.

De Cherville lived, as long as I remember him, in the country near Versailles. He farmed there a small estate, and sent regularly to the *Temps* his weekly *chronique*, "La Vie à la Campagne." There was not a word about his billionaire or trillionaire neighbours, the Heines, the Hirschs, the Blancs (of Monaco), *et tutti quanti*. But what insight he gave you into the ways of the robin and the wren, the snipe, woodcock, bittern, weasel, ferret, and other denizens of the woods and fields! Birds, he believed, conveyed the news of the country that concerned them to each other. Did I say he believed? He was sure of it. It was the same with ants. The Marquis had endless anecdotes to illustrate his theories. They were as sparkling as if invented, but were the fruit of close and sympathetic observation. Sympathy is the only door through which we can have access to the mind of bird, beast, or insect.

De Cherville set his face against the mole-catcher. The mole, he found, was the farmer's best friend. It scented a wireworm as a hound scents a fox.

The Marquis de Cherville was thus first driven to write his weekly contribution, "La Vie à la Campagne," to the *Temps*. He had, in fearfully wet weather, a friend staying on a visit at his country-place. The friend liked gambling, but there were no cards in the house. How send a servant in such a downpour to buy them? But the host was resourceful. He proposed pitch and toss, and lost 80,000 francs. The money not being at hand, he wrote to his notary to raise it at once. On receiving the sum, he remitted it to the winner, who refused it. The Marquis sent it back, but this time with two seconds. Their message was that he was particular in paying gambling debts, especially when he lost. He found himself hard up in consequence of this honourable behaviour. One day, as he walked in the woods near his place he met the *Temps* book-critic. They fell into chat. De Cherville was in a blouse and leggings, like a gamekeeper in slop clothes; but he was very much the gentleman notwithstanding. His conversation was more than engaging. It was full, fluent, fresh, and original; and it was all about the objects they saw in the forest walk. An acquaintance thus began. The Marquis told his new friend of his pecuniary troubles. Said the latter: "Put into writing what you said to me in the forest the other day, and send it to the *Temps*. They will be delighted to pay handsomely for it. You have the knack of the literary man, and a freshness of observation and raciness given to very few. Head your article 'La Vie à la Campagne.'" So said so done. The *Temps* took the contribution, and asked for more. De Cherville regularly filled several columns once a week. If one sifted everything he wrote during twenty-seven years, one would not find a sentence of mere "copy." "La Vie à la Campagne" may secure him permanent renown.

The Hispano-American war does not take from the sociable animation of American society here. One only hears of dinners, dances, concerts, receptions. That inimitable hostess, Mrs. Harris Phelps, after an after-Easter series of fêtes, has issued cards for theatricals and a dance. She will have no mouthing amateurs on her drawing-room stage, but the pick of the theatres. The Austrian Ambassador is her next-door neighbour. Their gardens are contiguous. He and the Ambassadress and staff are sure to drop in. If Corneille filled the play-bill, the Nuncio might honour the fête with his presence. To go to see a tragedy of Corneille used to be thought an exercise of Lenten devotion. Mrs. Henry Drake, another delightful hostess, has been giving afternoon parties on Tuesdays, and has issued cards for two others. Her company is generally cosmopolitan. She goes in for distinction in making up her list—distinction of mind, weight of purse, brilliancy of situation, beauty, grace—but will not have dull nobodies round her. You may dress as plainly as you please, if you have reputation. A lady distinguished by her talents would be made more of than the mere wifely satellite of a great man. Last Tuesday Mme. Drake had for the delectation of her guests Mmes. Achté and Bartot, of the Opéra; Mlle. Lainé, a very finished singer, and Fugère, of the Opéra Comique; and Mrs. Homer (what a name for the lyric stage!), who is to sing through the season at Vichy. Mrs. Homer is fine-looking, quite unaffected, and has a clear voice, *bien timbré*, which she throws out with the freedom of the true song-bird.

Dr. Evans has at length had Christian burial. After lying in a vault somewhere for three months, his remains were fetched back to his residence in the Avenue du Bois de Boulogne. Invitations, as if to an undeferred funeral, were issued, and a religious service was performed. The body was then transported to Philadelphia, and now lies in the same vault with the remains of Mrs. Evans.

Relic worshippers may like to hear of the fate of an old carriage of Dr. Evans. It is the one in which he took the Empress out of Paris on September 5, 1870. The executors of the will thought, because of its shabbiness, of selling it for what it might fetch. But they were dissuaded, and it is to be placed in the proposed Evans Museum at Philadelphia. Meanwhile, it will remain in the custody of François, the stableman of Dr. Evans. It was François who drove the Empress—dressed in clothes of Mrs. Evans—Mme. Lebreton, Dr. Evans, and his secretary to Trouville. They were three days on the road, but they obtained another carriage and fresh horses at Evreux. The Empress, in the hurry of running away, only took the one pocket-handkerchief in her pocket. She wept often on the road. The Doctor alighted several times to wash it in roadside brooks, and dried it in the sun. The Empress and Mme. Lebreton sat back to the horses to avoid being noticed, and, if noticed, to pass for humble relatives of Dr. Evans.

The Emperor Frederick's entourage are disappointed at their Imperial mistress not having a line in the will of Doctor Evans. At one time he thought of leaving her £100,000 or so—"like the Duchess of Galliera." But that was before she lost influence over her son, and ceased to be backed up against him by popularity. Evans was a worshipper of success.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

A FORTNIGHT ago, dear Lady Betty, it was maintained in these columns that "A war between Great Britain and the United States could scarcely occur, for public feeling in this country would be so much opposed to such a conflict. On the other hand, a war against any combination of European Powers, with the English and the Americans fighting as allies, would rouse the enthusiasm of the nation to the utmost pitch." That this view is correct has been perceived by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain. In his speech at Birmingham last Friday, however, Mr. Chamberlain could not—very unfortunately, as most people think—resist an oratorical temptation to exaggerate this simple statement of an undoubted fact into the following outburst of flamboyant rhetoric: "And I even go so far as to say that, terrible as war may be, even war itself would be cheaply purchased if in a great and noble cause the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack should wave together over an Anglo-Saxon alliance. (Loud and prolonged cheers)."

. . . . .

This is the Age of Transition, and the acute stage in the

transitionary period is approaching. The Press, steam, electricity and education are working together to remove oppression and to dispel superstition; and the former must conquer, for circumstances are stronger than combination. The nations are divided into two classes; the commercial and the mediæval. The former are rich, enjoy free institutions, and are little troubled by internal disorder. The latter are mostly bankrupt, are cramped by mediæval restrictions, and are exposed to internal trouble. Obviously, it is only with countries of the former class that Great Britain can form any true alliance—if any alliance whatever is desirable.

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By the way, it is curious that the countries whose population, are clothed in distinctive costumes are all on the down grade, whilst those that have adopted modern dress are prospering.

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Meanwhile, the Lion of Liberty is fast fading into history at Hawarden. It is the common rule that the nearer an object is the greater its size seems to be; but in estimating the magnitude of our fellow-creatures the further they are removed from us the greater do they appear. In the natural course of events, the time cannot now be far distant when the attention of the whole world will be directed upon the career of Mr. Gladstone, and then many will realise for the first time what a magnificent figure he has been in the history of the past half-century. His main aim has been throughout his life to promote liberty, and a nation which enjoys freedom not only enjoys the best of gifts but is enabled to increase in prosperity and in strength. It is not only a memorable orator who is passing away at Hawarden, but one of the greatest apostles of progress that the world has ever seen. The Empire craze turned the trend of popularity for a moment in the direction of the Court and of the official classes, and as popularity nowadays is power, these classes used it to overthrow Mr. Gladstone. When the end comes there will be a tremendous reaction, a reaction which will be all the more accentuated by the danger of war that overshadows the nation. It is the politicians who make war; the people are for peace, prosperity, and progress.

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Don Carlos is one of the feeblest pretenders to a throne that the world has ever seen. It is only in the Basque Provinces that he has any adherents, and the Basque people would not fight for Don Carlos, but to recover certain privileges which they formerly possessed. If a revolution occurs in Spain, not Don Carlos but a Republic will be established, and, as the Republicans in Spain are far more socialistic than are those in France, it is inevitable that such an event would influence France very materially. The French Government is aware of this, and is therefore very apprehensive of a Spanish Republic.

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It is understood that the system of sixpenny cab fares is to be tried again in London almost immediately. The announcement that this is to be, has frightened the drivers, who cannot be made to understand that it will greatly benefit them. There are thousands of people who would willingly be driven a short distance and pay sixpence, but who prefer to walk rather than pay a shilling. In the West End, where men and women are being moulded to modern ways by the scarcity of money, many now use the omnibus who only a few years ago would have scorned to do so. Any evening during the season, well-known men may now be met in these vehicles, going either to their club or to the place which is nearest to where they are to dine. Say what they will, the inside of a London omnibus, especially at night, is not agreeable, and to those to whom I have referred the sixpenny cab fare would be a material boon.

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One feature of the Exhibition at Earl's Court this year is not only excellent in itself, but comes at an opportune moment. For some not altogether explicable reason the public has in recent years lost its appetite for the monster and magnificent ballets which were at one time so popular at Olympia, and therefore the great theatre at Earl's Court, which was designed for that kind of entertainment, became somewhat of a white elephant. This year it has been flooded with water, and on this artificial sea is represented first a naval review, and second the bombardment of a fortified town by ships. These last were all built in Germany, and are models of British ships. It may be added that in Berlin the entertainment achieved a big success. It has already done the same here. The manœuvres are very skilfully carried out, and the bombardment gives an excellent idea of how terrible a real conflict of the sort must be. The firing of torpedoes, the explosion of the mines, the din of the guns, and the final collapse of the forts together present an especially exciting scene, and one which is well worth witnessing.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE Duke of St. Albans was an owner of racehorses for about thirty-five years, but he never kept a large stud, and during the greater part of that period he had only two or three animals in training. The Duke was elected to the Jockey Club in 1863, and he did much good work as a member of that body in a quiet way, and exercised a considerable, but unobtrusive, influence. He was distinguished for his strong, shrewd common sense, and was always most sagacious and judicious in his advice when consulted by friends, as very often happened. The Duke was a great favourite with the late Lord Falmouth, and his close intimacy with him and with Matthew Dawson gave him the "first run" with Heath House horses in the palmy days of that establishment. I see it is stated that the best horse owned by the Duke was Lord Clive; but the writers who express this view are presumably ignorant of the fact that his Grace was, for a short time, the owner of Thunder. The Duke was a great friend of Prince Batthyany, and he was one of the syndicate that bought Galopin in 1883 for 8,000 gs., the others (I believe) being the present Duke of Devonshire, the late Lord Granville, and Mr. Henry Chaplin. The Duke of St. Albans was principally known in early life in connection with very high whist, and, being an exceptionally good player, he won largely, both at home and abroad. The Duke betted very heavily for many years whenever he had come to the conclusion that a plunge was justifiable, and he was a really consummate judge of horses and racing, and rarely made a mistake. He was probably the biggest winner over all Lord Falmouth's horses from the days of Queen Bertha, and he netted very large sums over Silvio's Derby and Leger, and Jannette's Leger. In 1875 the Duke was far and away the heaviest winner when Camballo won the Two Thousand, but, with rare good sense, he declined to follow Mr. Vyner's horse at Epsom, and was again the largest winner over the Derby, which Galopin won. Another of his great wins was over Thunder's City and Suburban.

Captain Machell's Blackwing, by Gallinule, is probably the smartest two-year-old by a long way that has run this season. Blackwing, who was bred in Ireland, had been so highly tried that he missed his Newmarket engagement on Wednesday in order that he might be kept fresh for the more valuable Worth Stakes at Gatwick, and he won that race in a common canter, literally all the way. He was all the week a strong tip at Newmarket for these Stakes, and he started a great favourite. This colt has very few engagements, and his next race will be the Coventry Stakes at Ascot, in which event he has no extra weight to carry. He is a very fine colt.

I hear that Ninus will not be sent to Paris for the Grand Prix on June 5, but that he is to be reserved for Ascot, when he will probably be started for either the Biennial or the St James's Palace Stakes, or very likely for both

those races if the going there is good. Be this as it may, however, Ninus can have no earthly chance for the Grand Prix, as he is clearly deficient in stamina, and if he could not stay the R.M., he most assuredly is not likely to distinguish himself over the much longer distance at Longchamps.

Mr. Gubbins would have been a most infatuated simpleton if he had refused the insanely extravagant bid of 20,000 gs. from the Russian Government for Galtee More. The horse has been sold with his engagements, and if he goes on all right he will, no doubt, start for the Gold Cup at Ascot, and for the Goodwood Cup. The sporting papers announce that Galtee More has been bought in the name of "Prince Dimitri, who is aide-de-camp to the Czar." As a matter of fact, the Czar has several hundreds of aides-de-camp, so that this appointment practically has no significance whatever. I suppose the personage intended to be indicated is the Emperor's cousin, the Grand Duke Dimitri, youngest son of the late Grand Duke Constantine Nicolaievitch, and first cousin of the Duke of Cumberland. It would be very appropriate for the Emperor Nicholas II. (for Galtee More is *de facto* his Majesty's own property if bought by the Government) to win the Gold Cup, as for ten years from 1844 that piece of plate was given every year by his great-grandfather, the Emperor Nicholas I., in memory of his visit to Ascot, with the late King of Saxony and Prince Albert, in 1844.

I was amused to read last week that Mr. Cassel may be congratulated upon having bought Love Wisely for 5,000 gs., because that horse will probably win the Ascot Cup now that Galtee More is out of the way. Such jubilation over the withdrawal of last year's Derby winner is decidedly premature, but the writer of this trash must be an oaf of most infantile ingenuousness not to be aware that Love Wisely's entry for the Ascot Cup has become void by the death of Mr. Bass. Of course, Love Wisely will go for the Vase at Ascot, but his prospects of success in that race are not very bright with a penalty of 14 lb. to carry.

The racing at Newmarket was not of much general interest, apart from the three-year-old events. I do not believe that a single two-year-old was seen out at the meeting that has any pretensions to first-class form, and some much-fancied animals have grievously disappointed their friends of late, both in public and in private. Mr. Baird's filly, Musa, by Martagon out of Palmflower, who had been well galloped, won the Breeders' Plate in a canter, and she ran as if she can stay. She is well-bred enough for anything, and it is unlucky for Mr. Baird that, as she is very fit and well just now, she has no other engagement until the Coventry Stakes at Ascot, when it is probable that she will find the company much too good for her, and also in the New Stakes. Musa appears to have a temper of her own, which is not likely to improve as time goes on.

The three-year-olds keep on beating each other in a most perplexing manner, and they are no doubt a very moderate lot, their recent running affording proof of the correctness of the old saying that "it is impossible to handicap cocktails." The official handicap of the three-year-olds, which is to be published in this week's *Calendar*, is awaited with considerable curiosity, but Cyllene, Disraeli, and Dieudonné will no doubt be the top weights. Mr. Rose's colt won the Newmarket Stakes very easily, as I had anticipated would be the case after hearing how well he had been going in his gallops. It was an idiotic blunder to start Cyllene during the Craven week, when he was not properly fit; but I suspect that in the race for the Column Stakes he was fairly "chopped" at the start, and never properly got into his stride until it was too late. Cyllene's next race will be the Ascot Cup, and after the very hollow fashion in which he won the Newmarket Stakes he may be a most dangerous candidate; but, of course, we have yet to learn that he can stay the distance.

Weeks ago, when there was a great deal of laudatory cackling about Dunlop, I expressed the opinion that this colt would certainly be found deficient in stamina, and his running at Newmarket on Thursday proves this view to be correct. I had quite expected, however, that he would be able to win the Payne Stakes, with such a bad field of horses opposing him, and he had been a great tip at Newmarket for several days, as he had performed to the satisfaction of his trainer in a rough gallop. Batt appeared to be quite fit when he ran so badly in the Two Thousand, and in that race he performed like a non-stayer, but in the Payne Stakes he clearly won only through stamina, as he palpably outstayed Succoth, who was very much fancied. Elfin, who cantered away with the Burwell Stakes on Tuesday, ran miserably in the Newmarket Stakes, and he need no longer be thought of in connection with any classic race. Mr. Leigh's colt, The Wyvern, must be a rogue, as, according to his private form, he ought to have lost Argosy in the race for the Newmarket Stakes, whereas the despised stable companion beat him a long way. The Wyvern disappointed the Bedford Cottage stable just in the same fashion when he made his début last year in the Coventry Stakes at Ascot. Of the beaten lot in the Newmarket Stakes I am disposed to think best of The Virginian, by Ayrshire out of Virginia Shore, dam of Whittier, who made his début in this race, and he is altogether a most promising colt, and still capable of much improvement. The Virginian will be worth looking after at the Newcastle meeting in June, where he has accepted for the North Derby of £1,500, which race he will probably win if he goes on all right. Wantage requires a lot more work, and his ignominious exhibition in the Newmarket Stakes need not be seriously regarded. If Wantage can be kept on his legs he ought to win a race at Ascot, but he has no chance for the Derby, and the Duke of Portland will act wisely if he withdraws his colt from that event, as he is not the stamp of horse to show to advantage over the Epsom gradients.

There ought to be a large field for the Derby, as, after the recent running, there is every reason for the owner of any horse that can raise a gallop to start his steed just on the off chance. Disraeli has done well since he won the Two Thousand, but he has never yet been galloped over the Derby distance. With this colt it is a case of he who runs may read. Under the circumstances, however much I fancied him, the present price would not tempt me to back him. Dieudonné has gone back somewhat in the betting since his trial over the R.M. ground with Minstrel and Glentilt. It was thought that the Duke of Devonshire's colt tired ominously towards the end of this gallop, but it must be remembered that the ground was very heavy indeed, and that the pace was a cracker throughout. Dieudonné will be admirably suited by the up and down hill course at Epsom, and it is silly and absurd for people to shrug their shoulders because the colt missed the Two Thousand, for he certainly would not have been anything like fit to run for that race, and the same stable pursued the same tactics with Persimmon two years ago, the result being that the Prince of Wales's colt won the Derby and St. Leger, races which he probably would have lost if he had been prematurely bustled about during the spring. As to Batt, there is nothing in his Newmarket victory to justify the expectation that he will be able to beat Disraeli at Epsom, considering the great distance by which the Duke of Westminster's colt was defeated in the Two Thousand. The American colt, Archduke II., is being prepared to run for the Derby, and he looks well and goes well, but I do not believe that anything tangible is known about his present form, although he has been backed down to 20 to 1. Wildfowler figures in the betting at 20 to 1, but this colt was doing no work last week, and I should fancy that he is a doubtful starter at Epsom. He will probably carry off a big handicap in the course of the season. Perthshire is said to be a certain starter, but he is more likely to distinguish himself in T.Y.C. races. Jeddah again disgraced himself last week, and The Wyvern evidently cannot be trusted. It would be waste of time and space to wade any further through the list of probable starters—the most fancied of the outsiders being Craftsman, who has been much backed for a place. I shall expect to see Dieudonné win the Derby if the going at Epsom is good.

There are forty-three acceptances for the Woodcote

Stakes of £1,000, and Desmond, Lord Dunraven's colt by St. Simon out of L'Abbesse de Jouarre, will no doubt prove to be the best of the public lot, which includes Fascination, Saint Vaast, and the Hampton Rose filly. The Duke of Portland has left in Manners, own brother to Amiable, who has a great reputation, but he has never yet been galloped in any way whatever. The Kingsclere stable may be represented by Mr. Low's colt by Rightaway out of Hall Mark, who is expected presently to turn out a smart animal. I shall give a plumper for Mr. Brassey's Boniface, by St Simon out of Merry Miser, dam of Orzil, who won a good trial at Newmarket last week. Boniface was mentioned by me early in the spring as being one of the finest and most racing-like two-year-olds at Newmarket.

The other two-year-old events at Epsom will be dealt with next week, but I may now remark that the Caterham Plate will be a most interesting race if it brings out both Eventail and Sister Angela. The Prince of Wales's filly has also accepted for the Acorn Stakes on Friday.

I see that Lord Rosebery's mare Chelandry is mentioned as likely to run well for the Epsom Cup, but it is most improbable that she will start for that race, as she has been doing no work for some time, and I should not fancy that she will be seen in winning form before the autumn. The Cup, which is not likely to bring out a large field, may fall to Champ de Mars or Newhaven II.

I shall attempt next week to predict the winner of the Oaks, for which race Nun Nicer is sure to start a great favourite if she is all right. Lord Rosebery will run Mauchline, in preference to Ebba, who did badly in the One Thousand, and this filly is believed to have come on considerably during the last fortnight. It is clear that the Newmarket form was exceedingly moderate, but it is difficult to see where a filly likely to beat Nun Nicer is to come from unless from Kingsclere, as the Duke of Westminster's Lowood may have made the necessary improvement during the intervening month. She was the best looking filly that ran for the One Thousand, but was somewhat backward. The Duke also has Orpah left in.

Some people who are interested in horse racing are agitating for a better method of identifying horses in the paddock. Compared with other branches of sport, the Jockey Club may be behind the time. But even in other branches there is room for improvement. Some day, perhaps, on the football card the players will be numbered and figures will be hoisted to show who gets a try or kicks a goal. Then in cricket, how thankful one would be for a small concession to the natural curiosity of human nature. Of course, the present scoring boards on county grounds are an immense convenience. The game can be followed with much greater comfort than in the old days, and the information gratuitously given by these boards has certainly not tended to lessen the number of "correct cards down to the last wicket" that are sold. On the contrary, each man buys a card, and he can fill it up as each wicket falls by the score on the board, which shows him who are the bowlers and the batsmen. Is it too much to ask that the number of the fieldsman who catches a man out should be hoisted as well? A big capital F over the number would clearly indicate what was meant. The convenience of the public should be studied. The fieldsman is surely quite as worthy of identification as the batsman or the bowler. If on one county ground the innovation is introduced the rest will soon follow suit.

The weather pretty well spoilt cricket last week. The opening of the County Championship resulted in the matches that were played ending in drawn games. Hants started their season against Lancashire, and it looks as though the southern team would feel the need of bowlers badly. Wynyard and Hill were both in capital form with the bat. For the northern team Tyldesley again showed complete indifference to tricky wickets. Earlier in the week he was the only player able to stand up at Lords to the bowling of Mead and Hearne. He scored sixty-three in just over the hour, every hit being beautifully timed. His batting was not free, but resolute, and he did not potter with the bowling as the other men did. Hallows looks like making a useful bat and bowler for the northern team. For the M.C.C. Sewell scored the first century of the season in first-class cricket, and Captain Poore, who has been running up big scores for several seasons out at the Cape where he has been on duty, also did well. He will help Hants, I believe, this season. There was some interesting cricket between the M.C.C. and Yorkshire. Hearne and Trott bowled well, and the county victory was due to a fine innings by Wainwright and the bowling of Jackson and Rhodes, who is a left-hand bowler with a break both ways. Stocks bowled for Leicester against Warwick, while King and Lilley were the chief scorers.

It is very satisfactory to find Hearne and Richardson bowling so well. This shows that it was simply the condition of the Australian wickets that spoilt them. The state of the wicket last week helped them a lot, but still Hearne's thirty-three wickets for 265 runs is remarkable.

At Oxford the only interest in the match between the first twelve and the next sixteen was a brilliant innings by Champain, who scored 73 without a chance. The Cambridge men have every reason to be satisfied with the good fight they made against C. I. Thornton's team, which included Trott, Richardson, Hayward, and Storer. The old Cantab, F. S. Jackson, was Captain. The Light Blues were without Jessop and Fernie, while De Zoete hurt his foot during the game. This weakened the bowling, but it gave a chance to Hind, who took seven wickets in the first innings for 30 runs. He is a slow, left-hand bowler, with a break both ways. He keeps an excellent length, and uses his head. He should be certain of his blue, as in addition he can bat well. Last year at Uppingham he had a good bowling average, and a boy who can do well on that wicket is sure to have a future before him. This was one find. Then Worthington, a senior from Caius, showed strong defence with undoubted hitting powers. He will certainly be in the running for his blue. Burnup was in excellent form. In the second innings he was over two hours making 59. He was never in difficulties, at the same time he never took any liberties with the bowling. The prospects of Cambridge look decidedly rosy.

Athletic and cycling meetings do not seem to attract the public to any great extent. At Catford Bridge the Blackheath Harriers had a poor attendance, and the gathering to see the Polytechnic sports at Kensal Rise was scarcely satisfactory. As against the attendance at these events there were a good number present to see the Sutton Football Club sports. The public will generally come to see crack runners perform. There is, however, little pleasure in watching a crowded handicap with a lot of nobodies trying to carry off a pot, or to get put on a better mark next time. Local sports with one or two good invitation races are much more likely to create interest. The runners are known to the spectators, who welcome the opportunity of a pleasant social gathering. Now that bicycling is so popular, there should be little difficulty in organising sports of this description, if only the leading local football and cricket clubs will make the effort.

At Catford Bridge the chief item on the programme was a mile and a half scratch race. On this occasion Bennett, the four-mile champion, beat Munro rather easily, and the latter will have to take care that he does not run himself stale before the championships. The sprint handicap was won by H. N. Coltart, L.A.C., while Jupp, who was practically on the scratch mark, was close up. This runner should have a try at longer distances. Shepherd, of the Blackheath H., gave a very promising display in the quarter. The Polytechnic Cycling Club provided some good racing. The mile amateur scratch race was won by Ingram, while Bourke, who was fourth, did not show good judgment. There was a road-skating competition, but, judging by the times, this method of getting along does not seem to create flyers. At Cardiff, Roberts did a fine performance in the sprint.

At Cambridge rowing men have been busy. There was a great race for the pairs. It resulted in a dead heat, Etheringon Smith and Goldie holding their own with

Howell and Bell. The same couple meet in the Lowe sculls. The practice for these events has kept the Hall crew back. They will no doubt soon get together. First have the making of a good crew, and look like being the best on the river. Emmanuel lack strength and length, while Lady Margaret are not so good as one would wish. There seems to be no doubt that Hall will keep head. Nor is it likely that the headship at Oxford will be changed. New are on their day a decidedly good crew, but they vary in their work. Magdalen are improving, and they are rowing longer. Both Trinity and Balliol are powerful crews, and if they can acquire better leg work they should do well. The rowing looks like being well up to the standard of recent years.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS,

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—The transition from optimism to pessimism is easy enough in the Stock Markets, especially when the disturbing influences are foreign politics. Of the latter we have had enough and to spare during the week, for in addition to the war in full progress between the United States and Spain, we have had disturbing pronouncements from leading statesmen, which were calculated to send a shiver through the Stock Exchanges and Bourses. The markets kept up a bold front at first, but finally gave way when Mr. Chamberlain followed up the statements made by the Marquis of Salisbury with his own version of the position. Far be it from me to wish to minimise the importance of these utterances, but it will be as well if the public do not jump at once to the conclusion that a great foreign war is imminent.

Clouds on the Political Horizon.

In the City I have heard a good many people express the opinion that Lord Salisbury, by representing the political position in so ominous a fashion, was really trying to cover up the non-success of his dealings with Russia, and amongst the "Bulls" on the Stock Exchange a good deal of irritation prevails at what is called the needless alarm created by our statesmen. But I have no doubt that there is some substratum which justified the warnings so emphatically given, and possibly the rattling of the sword in the scabbard may even avert any explosion in the near future, although Mr. Chamberlain's language must be characterised as most incautious. The isolation of this country, as compared with the various Continental alliances, is, however, an undoubted fact, and, on the other hand, an alliance with the United States—as suggested by Mr. Chamberlain — would, if practicable, be a re-assuring feature. American sentiment as regards Great Britain has certainly undergone a momentous change since the Venezuelan incident, and it is chiefly the possibility of a recurrence of such action as was then taken by President Cleveland which prevents one from accepting the suggestion unreservedly. Unless any immediate result of friction between this country and Russia or France were to appear, however, the Stock Markets will probably right themselves again gradually, especially if the news of some American success should cause a recovery in Yankee Rails, as that department at present furnishes the key to all the other sections, and anything tending to shorten the conflict would naturally be looked upon as a "Bull" point. American and Canadian Rails during the past week reached the highest prices touched since the outbreak of the war, but the latest warlike operations created the impression that the struggle would last longer than had been anticipated, and thus a distinct reaction set in. Home Railway stocks were at one time buoyant, but they have also been affected by the political scare, almost the only exceptions being Great Centrals and Metropolitan, which retained an important advance in view of the early opening of the Great Central extension to London for traffic. The Foreign market was at times quite strong under the lead of Spanish, but the Bourses were quick to take alarm at Mr. Chamberlain's remarks. South and Central American securities, after improving, have also reacted for the same reason. The Kaffir Circus was not much affected by President Kruger's idiotic speech, which was chiefly manufactured for home consumption; but the political rumours caused a setback, notwithstanding the splendid record crushings for April. South Africans have of late moved very much with American Rails, and will probably continue to do so in the future. The West Australian section has held up much better than the South African and it appears that the recent severe shake-out has placed this department in a much sounder position. The Industrial market shows signs of reviving animation, and should the political tension relax we may look for active dealings in the shares of some of the more important Companies, notably Welsbachs.

Money and Gilt-Edged Investments.

After temporary stringency in the Money Market, owing to the transfer of the large sum forming the balance of the Chinese indemnity to Japan, there has been a slightly easier tendency. Some of the Japanese money appears to have been released, and more will probably be loaned in the market. The demand for gold for the United States, moreover, has slackened, partly in consequence of considerable sales of American securities on this side. The golden current to the Bank of England is still flowing, although the amounts are becoming smaller. The fact, however, that something like £5,000,000 sterling have now come to strengthen the stock of gold at the central institution is distinctly favourable. All the same, it would be foolish to anticipate very easy money for the present, and rates of discount will probably remain for some time in the neighbourhood of 3¾ per cent., even though short money is only worth from 2 to 2½ per cent. A Russian loan of some importance is on the tapis, and will probably mop up surplus funds on the Continent, and although it is now authoritively stated that no new Japanese Loan is in sight, there must be at no distant date a new Transvaal loan. President Kruger will, however, have to trim sails considerably before he can get it. High-class investment securities have been affected by the political scare, and Consols have now declined to 110⅝, while British Corporation stocks are also lower, and Colonial Government Bonds are more or less nominal. The new Greek loan, which was at first quoted at ½ premium, has now dropped to ¼ discount, and all the Chinese loans are lower, the new Four and a Half per Cent. Gold Loan having fallen to 87¼, the Seven per Cent. Silver Loan to 96½, and the Six and Five per Cent. Gold Loans to 106½ and 97¾ respectively. Japanese Scrip, after improving to 103½, has given way to 103, and India Stock is 1 down.

Home Rails—Great Centrals and Metropolitan to the Front.

Quite a "Bullish" feeling prevailed in Home Railway stocks at the commencement of the week, after the carry-over had again shown that stock generally continued scarce. There is, in fact, no indication yet of a "Bull" account, and rates were generally easy. Brighton "A" at one time rose to 177, and the political rumours alone are responsible for a reaction to 174½. Dover "A" have for some time been favourites of mine, and they rose very sharply to 111¼ on the talk that the considerable increases in traffics foreshadowed an improvement of at least ¼ in the dividend, but Mr. Chamberlain's lucubrations caused a fresh relapse to 108¾. They had a similar effect upon Chatham and Great Eastern, while the stocks of the Heavy Lines are fractionally lower all round, after also having experienced a little spurt. The same changes are in evidence amongst the Scotch Deferred stocks, which, after a temporary improvement, have dropped back below the quotations of a week ago. Had it not been for the political scare, Great Centrals would doubtless have marked a more important advance, as there is a strong disposition in well-informed circles to pick these up at present values, in anti-

cipation of the opening of the extension to London. The favourites have been the 1894 Ordinary, which have rose at one time to 42¾, reacting, however, to 41½, and the Preferred Ordinary which are quoted 66. It is, of course, impossible to say how the traffics will turn out during the first few months, but it is not at all improbable that the history of the Midland will repeat itself, in which case these stocks would, undoubtedly, turn out one of the best locks-up in the market, while the risk at present prices is not great. Metropolitan also went ahead to 133, as the new extension must naturally bring a good deal of additional traffic to it, but the political scare has caused a reaction to 131. Metropolitan Districts, at one time improved to 28¼, from which there has been a set-back. These are also, as I have already stated, a promising speculative lock-up.

THE YANKEE MARKET.—AN ADVANCE FOLLOWED BY A REACTION.

While the collapse of the Spanish fleet at Manila had created the belief that the war would prove a walk-over for the United States, subsequent events tend to show that there is, after all, some life left in the Spanish navy and army. It is true that the skirmishes at Cardenas and Cienfuegos can only be looked upon as reconnoitring expeditions, and that the landing of the Americans in force in Cuba would doubtless lead to different results. But everything now depends upon the issue of the naval battle which may shortly be expected. The Spanish Admiral has shown considerable astuteness in misleading his adversaries as to his whereabouts, and although he could not withstand the united American squadrons, he might yet lead them a lively dance. London has throughout the week been selling, and there was evidence of a good deal of real stock coming out at the higher prices. At all events, most mornings' quotations here were from ½ to 1 dols. below Wall-street parity, although the latter generally put up values again in the afternoon. The highest prices were reached in Wall-street on Tuesday night, when Milwaukee touched parity of 100¼, Louisville parity of 57¼. London, however, the next morning opened at 99½ and at 56½ respectively, and quotations have been slipping away since, although the decline is by no means important. An American reverse would naturally cause a smart relapse, just as a victory would be followed by an immediate important advance. Apart from the war, conditions in the United States are distinctly favourable. The important rise in grain is filling the pockets of the American farmers to an extent that must favourably react upon business generally. Wheat in the neighbourhood of 1·50 must spell prosperity for the large producing countries, and the great scarcity in Europe will, of course, cause large quantities to be hurried forward, thus increasing the railroad traffics. Should the conflict come to an end there will be a reaction, but we shall not see anything like the old prices again. As the accounts of the growing crops in the States are exceedingly favourable, the outlook is promising, and, apart from the war, a continuance of large profits seems to be assured to the farmers. Traffics, moreover, in spite of the war, continue on a large scale, the conflict having actually stimulated passenger and goods traffic. With reference to "bombardment assurance," I find further remarks in the New York papers just to hand. The statement of Insurance-Commissioner Payn to the effect that it is illegal for New York State Insurance Companies or underwriters to accept risks against bombardment has caused much comment, and, according to the *New York Journal of Commerce*, one of the leading underwriters says that bombardment policies are being taken out daily, and adds:—

> While it is true that companies doing business in this State are not permitted to accept risks of this class, it will continue to be taken by foreign and American companies outside of Mr. Payn's ban. In England there are no restrictions placed by law against bombardment risks, as the law recognises the fact that insurance companies are as able to define risks in the insurance business as bankers in theirs. The argument raised by Mr. Payn that the element of risk is so great, should there be bombardment, that insurance companies would be hopelessly ruined, has no force, as the element of risk against destruction is comparatively small, and fully discounted in the rates quoted. The business men of the State of Massachusetts have recently secured the passage of a bill through the State legislature abrogating the prohibition against bombardment business. This branch of the insurance business is just as legitimate as any other, and there is no doubt of the ability of any reliable company to liquidate any losses which may come.

Should the Spanish fleet by any chance achieve a success, there will doubtless be quite a rush for "bombardment insurance" along the American coast. The present policy for those who wish to take a hand in Yankee Rails should be to buy on reactions and sell on recoveries. Those who followed my advice on this point during the last few weeks could easily have made profits of from $2 to $3, without running much risk. The stocks most actively dealt in on this side are still Milwaukee and Louisville, but Union Pacifics should not be neglected, as it is now stated in well-informed circles that the payment of dividends on the Preferred stock will commence in July. Should this come about, we may see considerable advances both in the Preferred and Ordinary stocks. Northern Pacifics are also very much in favour owing to recent phenomenal traffics, a large amount of increase being retained in the shape of net earnings. There is no doubt that, after paying the full Preference dividend of 4 per cent., a surplus of at least 2 per cent. for the Common stock will be shown, but whether anything will be paid is another question. The rate war has not yet been settled between the Canadian Pacific on the one side, and the Grand Trunk and American north-western roads on the other. It is quite time, however, that a final effort should be made to restore tariffs. With reference to the proposed Baltimore and Ohio reorganisation, the statement has been reiterated that an assessment of 20 dols. is to be exacted from the common stockholders, but that they are to receive in exchange a security representing half that assessment, in which case the net amount to be paid by them would be 10 dols. Canadian Pacifics and Grand Trunks were buoyant at one time, in sympathy with the American market, on the traffic increases, that of the Canadian Pacifics being 82,000 dols., and that of the Grand Trunk £8,483. This shows, after all, that the war of rates does not hurt these companies much, least of all the Canadian Pacific. The latter stock at one time touched 87, reacting to 84⅜, and the Grand Trunk First Prefs., after rising to 69⅛ are down to 67¼. Any advance in Yankee Rails would cause a fresh improvement in these stocks, while any reverse to the United States arms would not hurt them so much as American Rails.

FOREIGNERS AND SOUTH AMERICANS—CHAMBERLAIN SCARES THE BOURSES.

The Bourses did not like the gloomy pronouncement of Mr. Chamberlain, coming as it did close upon the heels of Lord Salisbury's mysterious warnings, and it was really the general drop on the Paris Bourse which caused jobbers in London to put prices down generally. I suppose that some of the mysteries will be cleared up during the present week, but the London Stock Exchange is not now so easily scared. First of all, the speculative account is fortunately very much reduced, and secondly, we have become so used to these periodical warnings from high places, that we are getting somewhat callous in the City. The best proof that the apprehension has not grown very severe is the fact that Consols still stand at 110⅝. At one time the Foreign market was quite buoyant on Paris advices, which foreshadowed an early conclusion of peace through Spain caving in. At the same time Spanish were put up to 35, from which there has been a fresh reaction to 33⅛. It transpired afterwards that the rise was due to an advance of 100,000,000 francs made to Spain by the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas on Bank of Spain notes or bills. I suppose the Banque de Paris had good reason for lending this money, but it seems to be a drop in the ocean, in view of the war in which that country is engaged. The payment of the July coupon is now again being foreshadowed by "Bulls" of Spanish. Of the latter, however, there are very few here, operators in London being mostly "Bears" of Spanish. The extraordinary extent of the upheaval in Italy has created quite a sen-

sation. It seems to show that the population is actually groaning under the heavy taxes, caused in part, by the maintenance of a large army and navy. Italy, in fact, has not money enough to act the *rôle* of a great Power. There would have been a much heavier fall in Italian *Rentes* had not the Italian Government stepped in by making large purchases. Those favourites of the Paris Bourse, Rio Tintos, were at one time very buoyant, but have since reacted again to $25\frac{7}{16}$. Greeks and Turks are lower, but Russians remain remarkably firm. South Americans also displayed strength at one time, but the political scare too has caused a reaction in these. Argentines, for instance, are more than a point below the best. The reason for the dulness in these securities, by the way, is partly due to the fact that the Argentine Government is experiencing considerable difficulty in keeping to its promise to return to the payment of the full interest on the National loans. The 1886 and Funding Loans at 87 and 85 respectively show a further decline for the week. Argentine Rails have also improved, although not maintaining top figures. Buenos Ayres Great Southern are quoted 135, while Buenos Ayres and Rosario are steady at 71, Central Argentine at 77. It is stated with reference to the Cordoba Central that the Argentine Government is now prepared to settle with the guarantee, and a considerable advance has thereupon taken place, Cordoba Central First Prefs. being up at 82, and the Central Northern Section Income Debenture stock at $50\frac{1}{2}$. Brazilian bonds have not altogether maintained the recent recovery, but Chilians have been steady, as it now appears that the boundary difficulty with Argentina is likely to be amicably settled. Mexican Sixes, after improving, are about unchanged for the week, and Uruguay bonds have been steady at $44\frac{1}{2}$ for the Old Loan, and $54\frac{1}{2}$ for the New Loan. Peruvian Corporation stocks have been steady; but Nitrate Rails have dropped back to 5, and Mexican Rails have been adversely affected by the political scare, the First Prefs. falling to $71\frac{1}{2}$, after touching 74.

The Kaffir Circus—Oom Paul Plays to the Gallery.

It is a thousand pities that the Kaffir Circus is not sufficiently affected by the progress which the mining industry in the Transvaal is making and by the actual results of the different mines, but rather by whatever announcements may be made by President Kruger The April crushings marked another record at the figure of 353,243 oz., of which the Witwatersrand district contributed as much as 335,925 oz. The respective figures for March were 347,643 oz. and 325,907 oz., so that last month's figures for the Witwatersrand mines show an increase of nearly 10,000 oz. over March, while as compared with April, 1897, when the output was 235,698 oz., the increase is as much as 100,000 oz. Yet these splendid crushings did not cause a further rise in the shares even of the Companies which have large outputs to show. The reason of the indifference displayed by the market was partly the speech made by President Kruger on his being sworn in. But the political scare produced by Salisbury, Chamberlain, & Co. also counted for something in the fresh important reaction which has set in. Oom Paul's speech was undoubteldy more especially intended for the consumption of the burghers, and he played to the gallery with a vengeance. Some of his remarks were simply absurd, and expose him to ridicule in Europe. What the market was disappointed in is that it did not discover any definite pronouncements with regard to concessions to the mining industry; but there were again some indefinite promises, which should make it easy for the Transvaal Government—when they cannot put off borrowing any longer—to grant reductions in consideration of their getting a loan in Europe. According to the cabled extracts, Oom Paul stated that the Government was doing all in its power by reductions in the railway tariffs, in the duties on the necessaries of life in the dynamite charges, and by assistance in obtaining an increased supply of native labour, to assist the mining industry, and that he was endeavouring to obtain a further reduction in the price of dynamite, and would not rest until he had secured it. His argument against ex-Chief Justice Kotze—viz., that if the latter's opinion was right it would mean the opening of the whole boundary question, and perhaps drawing the sword against England—is altogether obscure, and no importance need be attributed to it. I dare say that if the political clouds clear away, South African gold mining shares will again recover, especially as the much-wanted rain has fallen. There are indications that fresh "Bear" sales have been made, and these will no doubt have to eventually be bought back again at higher prices, unless our statesmen send another shiver through the markets. Turning to individual mines, I find that the Simmer and Jack has done particularly well by obtaining an output of 14,351 oz., against 11,420 oz. in March. Again, the Ferreira yielded 13,516 oz, against 12,299 oz. in March; the Langlaagte Estate 11,191 oz., against 10,191 oz.; the Village Main Reef 8,030 oz., against 5,964 oz.; the Crown Deep 12,632 oz., against 12,020 oz. Satisfactory increases are also shown by the Angelo, Geldenhuis Deep, Jumpers Deep, New Primrose, Nigel, and Worcester; but, on the other hand, the Crown Reef, Geldenhuis Estate, Buffelsdoorn, Langlaagte Block B, Langlaagte Star, Transvaal Estates, and several others, show decreases. The full reports of the Rand Mines, Limited, received by mail have now confirmed the statement of the results which I gave on the receipt of cable information. Basing its calculations on these figures, the *African Review* publishes an article containing a forecast of the probable dividends, and it summarises these results and estimates, and thus arrives at the following figures as representing the income of Rand Mines, Limited, from its subsidiaries during 1898:—

Name of Company.	Probable Average Monthly Earnings in 1898.	Percentage [illegible] taken by Rand Mine Limited.	[illegible] Limited, [illegible]	[illegible] Limited, in 1898.
	£		£	£
Crown Deep.....	15,000	77·6	11,640	140,000
Geldenhuis Deep...	20,000	40·8	8,160	98,000
Rose Deep	17,000	35·9	6,103	73,000
Jumpers Deep	10,000	66·4	6,640	80,000
Nourse Deep	5,000	71·5	3,575	43,000
Wolhuter	9,000	18·76	1,688	20,000
Paarl Central	3,000	50	1,500	18,000
Glen Deep (six months)	5,000	45·83	2,290	27,000
Durban - Roodepoort Deep	5,000	20·27	1,013	12,000
	89,000		42,609	511,000

My contemporary thus anticipates an income of half a million for the Rand Mines, Limited, during 1898. This, of course, leaves out of the calculation many other properties which have not yet arrived at the producing stage. Rand Mines, after rising to $30\frac{3}{4}$, have receded to $28\frac{1}{8}$, chiefly on the political speeches, but they may easily rebound again on any favourable development East Rands have moved down to $4\frac{1}{4}$, Consolidated Goldfields Deferred to $3\frac{15}{16}$, Chartered to $2\frac{1}{4}$; but unless any unforseen trouble should arise, a recovery is probable, especially if the American department should improve. The shares of the Robinson and Barnato groups have also given way slightly, and the Deep Level shares—although showing a firm front at first—have since eased off, Goldfields Deep being quoted $8\frac{5}{16}$, Crown Deep 11, Geldenhuis Deep $7\frac{1}{8}$, Robinson Deep $9\frac{5}{8}$, Henry Nourse Deep $4\frac{7}{8}$, Durban Roodepoot Deep $3\frac{1}{4}$, Knight's Deep $1\frac{13}{16}$, Rose Deep $5\frac{7}{8}$, Roodepoort Central Deep $1\frac{1}{4}$, Nigel Deep $\frac{15}{16}$. De Beers have fluctuated with gold mining shares, and are down to $25\frac{9}{16}$, after touching much higher prices, while New Jagersfontein are quoted $7\frac{1}{2}$.

London and Paris Exchange, Ltd., 24, Throgmorton-street, London, E.C. This Corporation is prepared to make Advances on Mining Shares, at 6 per cent. per annum, subject to a deposit of 20 per cent. Clients by this system save the heavy contangoes usually charged.

GOLDEN WEST AUSTRALIA.

A firmer tone prevailed in the West Australian department during the week, and even the political scares did not affect these shares so much as the Kaffir Circus, this being no doubt due to the shake-out which has recently taken place. Of course, a certain reaction was inevitable, but most of the weak holders have evidently now been eliminated, and the position of the W.A. Market Trust group, moreover, has improved, as there is a fair prospect of this Company being reconstructed, in view of rumours that the committee are satisfied with their examination of the assets. An improvement has thereupon taken place in the various shares of this group. Lake View Consols have not maintained their recent rise, having receded to $8\frac{5}{16}$, after having touched $9\frac{1}{4}$. The crushing shows a very considerable increase, and is, in fact, as will be seen from the figures contained in the following list of crushings, very good :—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per ton.
Hannan's Brownhill—			
Sands	450 }	2,300	—
Slimes	565 }		
Associated Gold Mines	500	3,250	—
Westralia and East Extension.	1,732	1,192	—
Belle Vue Proprietary	192	402	—
Weld-Hercules	265	367	—
Sheriaw's	220	194	—
Kalgoorlie Mint and Iron King	110	49	
Lake View Consols	5,670	5,955¼	19¾ dwt.
Do. Cyanide...	3,498	2,804½	4 dwt.
Cuddingwarra.....	902	818	—
Cons. Gold Mines of W.A. (Yellow Aster).....	30	59¼	—
Burbank's Thursday Gift.....	465	635	—
Robinson (W A.)	135	72	—
Lady Montefiore United	69	67½	4 oz.

The returns from the Associated Mines are also exceptionally favourable, and the Hannan's Brownhill, too, yields substantial returns. The shares of this Company have been fairly steady at $7\frac{7}{16}$. They are likely to rise to a much higher level, as I have frequently foreshadowed, and as a reader of TRUTH has favoured me with an estimate of the position of the mine and of its future, I will give herewith some extracts from his letter :—

I am at a loss to understand why the shares of this very promising Company are not in stronger demand. The new machinery to treat all kind of ores we are told is ready, if not actually running. The contractors say that the trial crushing extracted 94 per cent., and that the machinery can crush 150 tons per day. Taking past returns of crushings at about 2 oz. per ton, and telluride at from 4 oz. to 7 oz., or higher, an average of these would not be high at 3 oz. per ton, and 150 tons per day means 900 per week, or a weekly return of 2,700 oz., which, at £4 per oz., is equal to £10,800, and for one month to £43,200, less expenses. The capital issued is only £85,000 out of £110,000, and the new machinery is to be paid not by cash but by delivery of the unissued shares, viz., £25,000. We have, therefore, to pay dividend upon £110,000, which at 5s. per share would take £22,000. It will thus be seen that there is a clear monthly dividend in sight of 5s. per share, and if the average goes another 1 oz. or more to the ton it may be 7s. 6d., or even 10s. The Company has already paid two 5s. dividends this year, 50 per cent., and I should think they must have cash in hand to pay another very soon.

I quite agree with my correspondent that the Hannan's Brownhill has an excellent future before it, and the reason why the shares have not so far risen to a higher level must be chiefly sought in the present unpropitious times, and the severe troubles through which the West Australian Market has of late had to pass. Ivanhoe improved to $5\frac{5}{8}$ on satisfactory advices from the mine, but have since reacted to $5\frac{3}{8}$ on the political scare, while London and Globe have been dull, reacting to $1\frac{1}{4}$. For Lady Shenton shares a strong demand has been experienced up to $2\frac{7}{16}$, which is not surprising in view of the excellent position of the mine, as shown to exist by recent cablegrams. In this case, however, the political rumours have also forced a reaction to $2\frac{1}{4}$. Florence shares have been steady at about $\frac{1}{2}$, and a more favourable tone has prevailed for Hannan's Golden Pike, which are also quoted about $\frac{1}{2}$. Sons of Gwalia have been easier at $1\frac{3}{4}$, while Golden Horseshoes, after an important recovery, have reacted again to $7\frac{5}{8}$. Great Boulder Proprietary stand at 18s. x.d., while West Australian Goldfields and Hampton Plains have been dull at $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ respectively. From the Hill End Consols a cablegram has been received stating that the shaft has reached a depth of 203 ft., and that they are cross-cutting towards the reef.

INDIAN, AUSTRALASIAN, AND BRITISH COLUMBIAN MINES.

The Indian mining section has been altogether neglected during the week, with the exception, chiefly, of Nundydroog, which have advanced to $3\frac{13}{16}$. On the other hand, Coromandel, Mysore West, Mysore Wynaad, and Goldfields of Mysore are all lower. Champion Reefs are fairly steady at $4\frac{13}{16}$ x.d. In Australian mines, other than West Australian, Mount Morgan are again better at $4\frac{15}{16}$ x.d., while Gibraltar have been dealt in at $\frac{15}{16}$ x.d., and Broken Hill Proprietary have declined to $2\frac{3}{16}$. New Australian Broken Hill are somewhat dull, and Mount Lyell are lower at $12\frac{1}{8}$. In New Zealand shares declines are marked in Woodstock, Kauri, and Waitekauri Extended. Waihi have improved. A cablegram has been received from the Moanatairi Mine reporting the result of the crushing for the month of April as follows :—"Cleaned up on April 30. Result is over the plates 302 oz. of gold from 1,010 tons crushed. Assay value of concentrates, £433." This is rather a low yield. From the New Zealand Talisman the following cablegram has been received :—"Mill has worked stamps twenty-four days, Krupp mill four days, crushed 491 tons of ore; yielded 1,655 oz. of bullion of the total value of £1,160. Average assay value of output for past month, £3 5s. Low extraction due to excessive percentage of sulphide of silver." I have to make a correction with regard to the Achilles Goldfields, concerning which I mentioned in my letter-box that they had been frequently reconstructed. This, as Messrs. Hays, Schmettau, and Acrum, the solicitors of the Achilles Goldfields, inform me, is not correct, and the present reconstruction is the only one that has ever taken place. I have much pleasure in giving prominence to this correction, and there is, therefore, nothing to prevent the shareholders of the Achilles Goldfields, Limited, from joining the reconstruction, if they should feel inclined to do so. The Company was started in 1893 with an authorised capital of £100,000, of which 80,307 shares were issued and fully paid, but a resolution to subdivide these shares into eight shares of 2s. 6d. each was passed in June, 1894, and this change was apparently in my mind when replying to my correspondent. I should be sorry if any of my former remarks were to prevent shareholders from joining this reconstruction. In British Columbian mines dealings have been on a fairly large scale, although movements have been irregular. British Columbia Development Association have improved, and Klondyke Bonanza are also slightly better. London and British Columbia Goldfields are steady at $\frac{1}{16}$ premium, and Whitewater Mines are also fairly well maintained at $\frac{1}{32}$ premium, while Klondike and Columbian Goldfields close unchanged at $1\frac{1}{16}$. On the other hand, a decline has taken place in New Goldfields of British Columbia, Klondike Mining, Trading, and Transport, and Fairview, Tangier being also the turn lower. Mr. T. R. Hardiman, of Vancouver, who has been engaged in London for the past month in arranging for the issue of the Associated Gold Mines of British Columbia, sailed by the *Umbria* to-day, and will at once proceed with the active development of the various properties of the Company. The prospectus is to be issued early next week. I stated last week that the Le Roi Mine had been acquired by the British America Corporation, and I am now enabled to confirm this statement, and to mention that the purchase price is only £600,000, as against the £1,000,000 at which it was originally under option to the Company. The purchase has been made for account of the British America Corporation and the London and Globe Finance Corporation, and should prove valuable to both. The average output of the mine is about 200 tons daily, the total since the beginning of the year having amounted to 16,891 tons.

Three classes of ore are shipped from the mine for smelting, the lowest class producing about 16 dwt. to 17 dwt., the second class 1½ oz., and the first class from 3 oz. to 4 oz. The total dividends so far paid amount to $825,000; and the twenty-fourth dividend, amounting to $50,000, was declared a few weeks ago. The British America Corporation is also acquiring properties in other parts of British Columbia, and work on the other mines already acquired is proceeding actively. The shares are quoted 19s. to 19s. 6d., and should rise to a much higher level, more particularly when the special settlement has been completed.

NEW ENTERPRISES AND ISSUES.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Kent Coast Mineral Water Company, Limited.—This Company is formed with a share capital of £60,000, in £1 shares, and a Four and a Half per Cent. Debenture issue of £15,000 in debentures of £50 each, for the purpose of acquiring and carrying on, under one management, eight mineral water manufactories now carried on at Folkestone, Dover, and elsewhere.

It is difficult to understand the reason for this amalgamation, as it will not create a monopoly. There is, and always will be, competition in this business, which makes a concern like this a rather speculative venture.

Harvey Yoker Distillery, Limited, Glasgow.—This Company is formed to acquire and carry on, as a going concern, a distillery at Yoker, near Glasgow (late Messrs. J. & W. Harvey & Co.), with the premises, properties, &c., attached thereto. The share capital is fixed at £90,000 in £1 shares, and a Four per Cent. Debenture issue of £40,000.

The profits given in the prospectus for 1896 amounted to £9,792, and for 1897, to £8,271, or double what they were for the previous four years. Should anything occur to cause a reaction to the former profits (last year they were £1,500 less than 1896), there would be barely enough to pay the Preference dividend and Debenture interest.

MY LETTER BOX.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

GOVERNMENT, &C., BONDS.

Red Dragon.—I really do not think it is worth your while to sell the Brazilians, Nos. 1 and 2, now, as efforts are apparently being made to place the finances of the Republic on a sounder footing. 3. I should think that an ultimate improvement is probable. 4. Most likely. *Beaulieu.*—1. I do not consider a purchase of Spanish advisable at present, as everything depends upon the length of the war, and the contingency of the Paris bankers supporting the country. The price, by the way, is now 33⅛. 2. I should say that in the worst case a portion, at least, of the interest will be paid.

BANKS, TRUSTS, AND FINANCIAL.

Edinburgensis.—It is a great pity that the Debenture-holders in this American concern do not work together, as otherwise it would have been possible to obtain some redress. I have for a long time advocated strong measures, but the Debenture-holders have not seen fit to support me. *J. E. P.*—You really cannot expect me to advise you on a benefit association in Manchester, which is of very small importance, and concerning which it is impossible to learn anything in London. Personally, I should think it would be advisable not to have anything to do with such small concerns. *M. S., Liverpool.*—I am much afraid that the creditors of Gregory, the outside broker, will get very little, as the Gambling Act is being pleaded by the liquidator. *E. C. P.*—You must really tell me what kind of investment you require—whether industrial or Home Railways. Perhaps you can gather the information from my leter. An improving investment is undoubtedly Welsbach Ordinary, which are at present quoted about 108. *A Wiser Man.*—An utter swindle, against which I have repeatedly warned my readers. It is a great pity that you ever had anything to do with this concern, but I do not see how I can help you.

HOME RAILS.

Paddy.—I do not think it advisable to sell North-Western now, as an improvement is probable. You got in far too high, though, but I suppose you have since received a dividend. *Glen B.*—It is impossible to say how long you will have to hold Districts, but these have their chance every year, and will doubtless experience an important improvement during the present year. The traffic returns are excellent, and the prospects are equally so. *E. G.*—Thanks. I am glad to learn that you have benefited by the rise in Dover "A." I have expressed a favourable opinion of this stock ever since the recent decline, and there is now a three-point rise. TRUTH *Reader, Bristol.*—Yes, Great Central 1894 Ordinary are an excellent purchase. You ought to have bought the stock when I recommended it at 40, but even at 41½ it is promising in view of the opening of the extension to London on June 30.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN RAILS.

A. K., Manchester.—In the long run American Rails should improve considerably, even on present prices, as the war must terminate in favour of the United States; but you might sell when the market is strong, and repurchase on reactions. *Curious.*—There is every prospect of the companies Nos. 1 to 4 paying the dividend mentioned for a considerable time to come, but it would be a fallacy to say permanently. Nos. 5 and 6 are fair purchases, but I prefer Milwaukee, Louisville, and Union Pacific Ordinary and Prefs. With regard to No. 6 there is no combination, and I do not think much chance of an advance on the present quotations. *L. J. D.*—There is nothing against your investing the small amount in Grand Trunk Four per Cent. Guaranteed, which are certain to eventually improve in value. *R. H. B.*—Yes, you would do well to deposit your Baltimore and Ohio bonds with Messrs. Brown, Shipley & Co. The reorganisation is about to be taken in hand. I cannot reply by letter. *K., Magherafelt.*—Kindly not expect me to again telegraph to you. I have done so this time as an exception. I look for a considerable improvement in American Rails, more especially in Milwaukee and Louisville. *Medicus, Northumberland-avenue.*—I quite agree with you, that these debentures are at a very low level, and there is every prospect of an improvement, although this will not come about until some of the big firms are agreeable to it.

MINING SHARES.

Aaron.—I am very pleased to hear that you "had a nice win over my tip of Lady Shentons," and that you have bought them back again at 2. You will see them much higher again. Hold Brownhill Central for the present. *X. Y. Z.*—Certainly; Hannan's Brownhill are an excellent purchase, and may be expected to go considerably above the present price of 7 1/16. *Lex.*—I do not recommend investment in Klondike and North-West Territories. You can do better in the shares mentioned in my letter under "Indian, Australasian, and British Columbian Mines." *Madeline, Madeira.*—I do not know any good of the Finance Corporation in question, and advise you to leave it severely alone. *Aurelius.*—I do not see how you can refuse to accept an allotment of the shares, if you applied for them. *Worcester.*—The mine is doing very well, but there are rumours that it will not have a long life. *Replica.*—You might put the money into Hannan's Brownhill, Ivanhoe, and Lake View Consols. *C. J. B.*—If the Croydon Consols strike the reef again, as is expected, the shares will rise rapidly. The other mines should have a fair chance. *Kildare Patty.*—If the W. A. Market Trust arranges its affairs, the other Companies should be all right. *Veritas, Hawick.*—I quite agree with you as to the excellent position of Hannan's Brownhills, and you will see that I am making use of your remarks under "Golden West Australia." *Nero, Bantry.*—The best thing is to hold and to join the reconstruction. *W. Y.*—Yes, you should hold Johnnies and Hampton Plains (1 and 2). You are quite right as to the insiders not having got out. As soon as definite information is available, I will state it. 3. A fair proposition. I should also hold Nos. 4 and 5. *Yorks.*—Yes, the Debentures are well secured. *Glen Rosa.*—No option but to hold Nos. 1-4 and to join the reconstruction of No. 3. Hold also the other shares. *J. McI.*—Ivanhoe have now recovered to 5⅜, and with some patience you will see them higher. Yes, the new plant has been ordered. *C. W. H.*—Unfortunately, the shareholders in the Umtoli and Abercorn Reefs did not take the matter in hand when I urged them to do so, and there is no hope left now. *Leamington.*—1. Waterfalls are promising, and you should average if you can afford to do so. 2. The same applies to Woodstock Transvaal. 3. Yes. *B. H. W.*—1. The legal decision concerning the Londonderry and Colonel North's estate has not been rendered yet. The news from the mine is distinctly more favourable. 2. Quite so. *Bob.*—1. Yes, the Sons of Gwalia deal was a good one, and should benefit the promoting Company. 2. Hold. *Waipero.*—This mine may come right, and you had better hold. *Fern.*—Yes, W.A. Joint Stock Founders are very cheap, and should be bought to average. The dividend is in course of preparation. *Kingsroad.*—Yes, prospects of the London and Globe Finance Corporation are good. The South African shares should be held. *Robert.*—The best course appears to be to join the reconstruction, which, if successful, should place matters on a much better footing generally. I cannot reply by letter. *R. P. I.*—1. There is still a prospect of the Company retrieving its fortunes. 2. A fair investment of the kind. Nos. 3-5 should be held, and more especially No. 6 (British America Corporation). See remarks in my letter. *Common.*—Rand Mines or Barnato Consols. *Furnessia.*—1. It is a fair gamble. 2. The Associated Gold Mines is the best. 3. No, Messrs. W. & A. Gilbey are not going into the tea trade. *Argus.*—1. I have no further information about the distribution. 2. The mine is a promising one, but the management is bad. *A. L.*—If the W. A. Market Trust arranges its affairs sua-

CHINA AND GLASS. — Messrs. GOODE, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

cessfully, there will doubtless be a recovery, but the position has been fully explained at the meetings.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

Cigars.—Welsbach Ordinary shares should suit you. Amongst brewery stocks J. & J. Yardley's & Co.'s 5½ per Cent. Prefs. at 5 to 5¼ should also suit you. 2. The American Brewery Company No. 2 has fallen on bad times, owing to the Raine Prohibition Bill having been passed. The Company may eventually recover, but it must naturally suffer through the closing of the drinking saloons. The same applies to Nos. 1 and 3. I do not advise averaging now, although the time may come when this will be advisable. *Geo. Rex.*—I have no special information on this point with regard to the Rudge-Whitworth Company (Foreign), but the Secretary ought at your request to furnish you with the fullest information. *A.T.C.*—1. I hold an unfavourable opinion of this Music-hall Company, and have always stated this. I do not see how I can advise you in the matter. 2. This Company seems to have a fair future before it, but the market is overloaded with vendor shares. *Tunbridge Wells.*—No; I do not advise a purchase of these American brewery shares, as the Company is doing badly. *F. C. Plymouth.*—Yes, there is every prospect of Welsbach Ordinary and Prefs. advancing, and the rise will probably extend to 5 or 10 points. The Deferred will probably follow more slowly. *S. A.*—1. Yes, Yardley Five and a Half per Cent. Prefs. are a fair purchase at their present price of 5¼. 2. Trent Cycle shares are exceedingly cheap at their present quotation of 5s. You may expect a considerable advance, as the market shares have nearly all been concentrated in one hand, and the assets of the Company are stated to exceed 10s. per share, apart from the fact that a good business is being done. *S. G., Brighton.*—I think you might hold these brewery shares now, as after the war—which cannot last long—things will doubtless go better. *E. A. T.*—I do not think the shares Nos. 1 and 2 are any catch. You would do far better to place the money into Welsbach Ordinary and Preferred at 109 and 99 respectively. See remarks in my letter. *Verax, Dublin.*—I quite agree with your tirade about the Component Tubes latest scandal, but do not forget that Irish investors went mad over Cycle shares and thus facilitated such transactions. *W. C.*—There has been far too much reckless promotion of Dairy Companies and I do not advise you to join the reconstruction of the Southampton Dairy Company. It looks like throwing good money after bad. *Tyrone.*—I am afraid that Ordinary shareholders would receive very little in that case and it seems advisable to agree to a reorganisation. *Theta.*—As you are aware, I expressed a very unfavourable view of the Patent Double Pick Loom Company. Get out if you can. *Nemo, Watford.*—I do not think much of this concern. *Roland.*—Yes, Welsbach stocks are in the ascendant. See remarks under "Welsbach Prospects." *F. O.*—Yes, there appears to be every reason for a rise in Trent Cycle shares, as the present price is unduly depressed. See remarks under "My Chapter on the Industrial Market." *J. P. S.*—No reason to sell the Store shares, and the Karri shares should certainly go better. *East Sutton.*—1. Apollinaris and Johannis Ordinary are fair value at present price, but no catch. 2. Welsbach Ordinary and Deferred should be held for a rise. 3. British Tea Table are quite high enough. 4. A fair speculative investment.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Perplexed, Brighton.—Why not sell some of the Egyptians, Nos. 2 and 3 and the Bank shares, No. 4, which are not likely to improve just now, and keep the rest. *E. H.*—1. With regard to the Central Pacific, some arrangement has yet to be come to with the U.S. Government, and it is impossible to say on what terms that will be made. 2. I do not think that Portuguese are a particularly promising investment, in view of the troubles in Spain, but the country will probably endeavour to maintain the 1 per cent. dividend. 3. Certainly not; I advise you to hold Johnnies Investment shares, and to a moderate extent you should average Nos. 4 and 5. *Ubique.*—1. No reason to sell Chilian bonds. Latest advices from Santiago are to the effect that reasonable progress has been made with the adjustment of the boundary dispute. 2. A fair mining proposition. 3. You cannot, of course, get Home Railway Debentures to yield anything like this, but Buenos Ayres Great Southern Four per Cent. Debentures at 117 would yield 3¾ per cent., and Buenos Ayres Western Four per Cent. Debenture stock at 108½ would give a somewhat higher yield. *Pharao.*—1. Yes, Welsbach Ordinary at 109 are a promising investment, and Welsbach Prefs. at 99 may almost be called a gilt-edged industrial stock, equal to some Debentures, as there are no debentures before it. See remarks under "Welsbach Prospects." 2. Yardley Brewery Prefs. should suit you. *An Inquirer.*—The delay in the issue of this Cycling balance-sheet is certainly not creditable, but after all you must not forget that it is a semi-foreign concern. 2. I should think that if the affairs of the W.A. Market Trust are arranged the other stocks of this group will recover. *Tregenza.*—1. I quite agree with you that you would get a better chance in West Australian shares than in the Cycle market, and you might exchange into Lady Shenton which paid 20 per cent. dividend in 1897, and is likely to pay 30 per cent. at least in 1898 at 2¼, and into the shares in the adjoining Florence. 2. Ten per cent. interim dividend paid, and a further dividend due in a few months. *Senior.*—1. The results of this Brewery has fallen off, but I really should not like to prophesy on the future of Allsopps. 2. Great Northern Deferred shares are depressed owing to the coming competition of the extension to London of the Great Central. 3. Yes, every prospect, as soon as the Spanish-American War is ended. *Poor Paddy.*—Yes, a fair purchase. 2. No, I do not like this British Columbian concern. British America Corporation shares are far more promising, and will, doubtless, after the settlement, experience an important rise. 3. Not yet, wait for the end of the war. *Perplexed.*—A. Yes, you should hold Johannesburg Consolidated Investment shares, and I fully stated the reason for the resignation of the two Directors in last week's issue. Better hold A and B for an improvement. D. I do not anticipate any special effect of this Act upon Home Rails.

WELSBACH PROSPECTS.

Last week I made some remarks concerning the market position of the stocks of the Welsbach Incandescent Gas Light Company, and I strongly advised my readers not to part with their holdings. The Ordinary then stood at 108, the Preferred at 96, the Deferred at 18s. 6d. A considerable advance has since taken place; but owing to the political scare, an improvement in the Ordinary to 111, the Preferred to 99, and the Deferred to 19s. 6d., has since been lost again. I referred last week to the excellence of the new burner of which an exhibition was recently given at Niagara Hall, both in its application for street lighting and for domestic use. What was more particularly noticed was that in a specially fitted-up suite of rooms an old-fashioned gasalier with these new burners consumed 12 cubic feet of gas per hour, while in an adjoining room was shown a gasalier fitted with sixteen ordinary burners which consumed the same amount of gas per hour, and the wonderful difference in the light was remarkable. I understand that the Company has lately concluded contracts with several towns for street lighting, and some other large firms are also adopting the new light in preference to electricity. The Preference stock carries 5 per cent. dividend, and at the present price is tempting even for trustee investments, as there is no debenture debt before it, while the authority of the Preference stockholders will be necessary before any can be created. The Ordinary stock carries 7 per cent. dividend, and it is reported in usually well-informed quarters that the Preference and Ordinary dividends for the whole year have already been earned during the short period in which the new Company has been in existence, so that a very considerable amount, viz., the results of seven months' working, remains as a surplus, out of which a substantial distribution on the Deferred could be made. The latter are entitled to a 7 per cent. dividend before the Ordinary receive any further distribution. Unless, therefore, the political position should change for the worse, we may look for a considerable improvement in all the classes of these stocks, in view of the lighter contangoes which may be anticipated next settlement as a consequence of the large take-up which I have already foreshadowed.

MY CHAPTER ON INDUSTRIAL STOCKS.

Had it not been for the political scare the Industrial department would doubtless have continued the more active course upon which it has of late entered. One of the features has been a revival in Welsbach Incandescent Gas shares, to which I refer above. Special settlements in some of the other important undertakings are also approaching, and will doubtless cause renewed activity. In the first instance, the special settlement in Liptons has been fixed for June 2, and on the same day the long-expected English Sewing Cotton settlement will take place, with the exception of the debentures, for which a settlement has not yet been fixed. Liptons have obviously been very much more prompt with the settlement than the English Sewing Cotton Company, in connection with which interminable delays have all along been the order of the day. "Threads" are now quoted $\frac{3}{8}$-$\frac{7}{16}$ premium. The flotation of the Fine Spinners' Company cannot be said to have been a success, which is proved by the fact that there is practically no premium on the shares. Lipton shares have been fairly steady, the Ordinary at ¾ premium,

MORTLOCK'S (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "MORTLOCK'S" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

the Prefs. at $\frac{1}{8}$ premium Cycle shares have moved very irregularly, but there is at last an improvement in some instances. Thus, a strong recovery is marked in the various Dunlop issues. Dunlop Deferred, which at one time fell as low as 5s. 3d., have rebounded to 8s, reacting again to 7s., while the Ordinary have improved to 13s., the Debentures alone hanging fire at 70. Another share to which a good deal of attention has been directed is Trent Cycle, which has hardened to 5s. This Company is said to be doing a good business and earning fair profits, while the assets are reported to amount to at least double the present price of the shares. The total nominal capital amounts to £100,000 in £1 shares, and there seems to be a prospect of a sharp improvement. The weakest stocks in this section have been Humbers, which, apparently on forced sales, have declined to 8s. for the Ordinary and to 13s. 6d. for the Prefs. Some rumours were about as to the passing of the dividend, and these have now been confirmed. Starley Bros. remain at the low price of 4s. 6d., and Swifts have receded 2s. to 10s., while Singer Ordinary are also down to 3s. Amalgamated Tyres have not yet improved upon their price of 4s. 6d., and Cycle Components remain at $1\frac{1}{8}$, notwithstanding the increasing agitation as regards the promotion of the Company. The Volenite Company, although not introduced publicly until Friday next, has already caught on with the public, and the £1 shares have been dealt in at $7\frac{5}{8}$ premium in the London market, where there is a freer market than in Dublin but a reaction to $7\frac{1}{4}$ premium has since taken place. Fish Oil shares remain steady at about 5 to $5\frac{1}{4}$, and several hundred shares have been bought by a knowing clique during the last ten days. Russian Oils were also quoted $24\frac{3}{4}$ at one time, declining to 23, and Schibaieff are dull at $\frac{1}{16}$ premium. The highest prices touched during the week have hardly in any instance been maintained, owing chiefly to the political scare. In the case of Anglo "A" and "B" the weaker tone of the American department has been a depressing feature, and the former after touching $16\frac{7}{16}$ are down to $14\frac{7}{8}$, while Anglo "B" from $113\frac{7}{8}$ have receded to 113. Lyons, on various favourable developments, rose at one time to $4\frac{1}{4}$, and then dropped again to 4, but Salmon & Gluckstein have been very steady all the week at $1\frac{9}{16}$. British Tea-Table shares have been very jumpy, and after touching $2\frac{11}{16}$ have fallen again to $2\frac{1}{2}$. With reference to the rumour which I mentioned last week as having been current, that Messrs. Gilbey were going into the tea trade, I am informed that there is no truth in this report. The Directors of the Liebig's Extract of Meat Company, Limited, have resolved to recommend at the next ordinary general meeting of the Company, to be held on June 7 next, the distribution of a final dividend for the year 1897 of 15 per cent., free of income-tax, making with the interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid on February 15 last, 20 per cent. for the year, being the same dividend as paid last year. Amongst brewery stocks Allsopp Ordinary, after being up at $146\frac{1}{4}$, have reacted again to 143. Hudson's Bay shares were also affected by the easier tone of the Yankee market, and instead of $22\frac{1}{4}$—the highest price touched—they are quoted now only $20\frac{3}{4}$. The weakness has also extended to theatre and music-hall shares. Palace Theatre touched $1\frac{3}{16}$ and dropped to $1\frac{1}{16}$; Drury Lane, 15s. paid, fell from $1\frac{1}{4}$ ($\frac{1}{2}$ premium) to $1\frac{1}{8}$ ($\frac{3}{8}$ premium). Natal Steam Coal shares have been steady at $1\frac{3}{16}$ to $1\frac{5}{16}$. With the Hispano-American war going on, the eyes of all good politicians are looking about to see where good coal can be obtained in different parts of the world, and this Company's Managing Director recently announced that this coal is equal to the Cardiff steam coal so sought after in the two hemispheres. Concerning my remarks as to the conversion of Vinolia Soap, I have received a communication from the Secretary informing me that none of the capital will be offered to the public, the business having been converted into a limited liability Company for purely private reasons. The Millars' Karri and Jarrah Forests, Limited, have decided to issue the 50,000 Ordinary shares held in reserve at a premium of £1 per share to existing shareholders. This would really constitute a bonus, notwithstanding which the price has reacted to $2\frac{7}{8}$. The Lagunas litigation has terminated in favour of the Lagunas Nitrate Syndicate, and thus the Lagunas Nitrate Company has a big law bill to pay and nothing to show for it. The shares in the Syndicate have consequently improved to $1\frac{1}{4}$, while the shares in the Company are down to 1.—Your affectionate Uncle,

MOSES.

WHITEHALL COURT, S.W.—To Let, Bachelor and other Suites, Electric Light, Service, Bath-rooms. Meals in public or tenants' own rooms.—Apply, Manager.

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QUEER STORY.

DOWLER'S DOUBLE.

A DINGY public-house in the Commercial-road, known as the "Three Feathers," was the haunt of the very shadiest section of racing men—welshers, nobblers, exponents of the three-card trick, in fact, swindlers of all kinds If a particularly nefarious "plant" there projected, the landlord had no difficulty in finding among his customers the very men, qualified by previous training, to carry it through successfully. It was a dirty, untidily-kept hole, and the liquors were vile; yet the long, semi-elliptical counter was rarely without a frowsy crowd standing three-deep about it. A row of wooden benches lined the walls, with small, white-topped tables at intervals; but these luxuries were not often used save when matters of a very confidential nature had to be discussed.

At one of these tables, on a muggy afternoon in late November, a couple of worthies, known among their intimates as "Nosey" and "Smiler," were seated. It is supposed that at some remote period of their previous history these individuals were possessed of names and surnames like other people; but it was so long ago that they had quite forgotten them; at all events, they were never used. The distinctive appellations were obviously derived from personal peculiarities. Nosey was a biggish man, inclined to corpulence, with a red face, and a proboscis of the most approved "grog-blossom" type. His companion, a lean, little fellow, with a bright, alert look, was noted for taking the hardest knocks of fortune with unruffled serenity, and was for ever on the broad grin.

This estimable pair posed as bookmakers, which perhaps they were—of a sort. When there was nothing more profitable in the way, they "stood up" in the shilling-ring at some of the more easily accessible race meetings. The standing position was not usually maintained for any lengthened period; not, in fact, after the first favourite had got home. As soon as that occurred the occasional fielders made a hasty exit from the enclosure; in their own classic language, they "did a bunk." Nosey and Smiler had a rooted aversion against the ceremony known as "paying out," and never, if they could help it, demeaned themselves by resorting to a proceeding only fit for those despised beings termed "jay," or "mugs."

Their glasses were very low—about half-an inch of liquid in each—and there were no present means of getting them replenished, for the funds of the partnership were at the lowest ebb. As they put it, they were "on the rocks—stony." Persistent ill-luck had dogged their footsteps during the season now drawing near its close, and the winter's keep, which every follower of the turf looks upon as his inalienable right, was as far off as ever. Fortunately for the two, as for many other scamps, they were blessed with thrifty and industrious wives, who somehow contrived in the worst of times to keep the family pot a-boiling, and even to provide their lords with a daily modicum of the twin necessaries of life, beer and tobacco. Under these circumstances, it is needless to mention that Nosey and Smiler were ripe for anything, good, bad, or indifferent, that had money in it.

The fiery-nosed one knocked the ashes out of his pipe and turned to his friend.

"Got any 'bacca?"

"Not a crumb."

"No more 'ave I; let's take our 'ook."

He rose, stretched himself with a yawn, and was moving

out, when he stopped short at sight of Smiler, who was gazing in open-mouthed astonishment at a young man who had just taken his place behind the counter. Nosey's glance, following the direction of his companion's, rested upon this person, and instantly Smiler's amazed expression was repeated upon his own rubicund countenance.

"Well, I'm dashed!" he exclaimed.

The word he used was not "dashed," nor anything like it; but, as every sentence uttered by these gentry was freely interlarded with blasphemous or revolting adjectives, it is necessary to dilute their language considerably.

He reseated himself, looking extremely bewildered, and turned his eyes from the barman to Smiler, and then back again, as if mutely asking what this portent might mean.

"'Struth!" ejaculated the latter, under his breath, "if 'e ain't as like 'im as two peas!'

"Might be 'is twin brother," Nosey muttered, in a tone of astonishment, mingled with awe.

It was certainly not the good looks of the new barman that had called forth these excited comments from the self-styled bookmakers, for he was a sallow-faced young fellow, with dark hair, a snub nose, prominent cheek-bones, and a wide mouth, from which several unsightly, discoloured teeth projected. But he bore the most extraordinary resemblance to Jack Dowler, the crack jockey of the day, and it was this, as Nosey said, that knocked him silly.

"Lor' love me! did y'ear that?" he whispered.

The barman had just replied to some casual remark of a customer with a sharp "No, no!" delivered in a high-pitched, nasal tone

"His ackshal voice!" he went on; "just as you might 'ear 'im yell 'No, no!' to the starter when 'e wasn't ready to sneak a few lengths. Blow me, if I ever 'eard o' the like since the Siamese twins!"

When he had got over his first feelings of amazement, Nosey sat for a long time unconsciously sucking at his empty pipe, with eyes half closed, and to all appearance lost in thought

Smiler fidgeted a good deal, but made no attempt to interrupt his partner's profound cogitations. The big man, it was admitted, carried the brains of the firm, and the lesser rogue was well satisfied to leave the thinking part of the business to him.

He waited in silent suspense for a considerable time, and it was only when he could endure it no longer that he broke out:

"Wot is it, old pal? Got somethink in your noddle, eh?"

Not even a look was vouchsafed him in reply, but out of the corner of Nosey's mouth a savage—"Shut up, will you!" was jerked.

After that there was nothing for Smiler to do but possess his soul in patience till such time as the leading spirit thought fit to unburthen himself.

When, at last, Nosey spoke, his opening remarks mystified his friend more than ever. "Look 'ere, old chap," he said in a cautious undertone, "you must get all the coin you can lay 'ands on by to-morrow. Don't matter a button 'ow you manage it—pop, sell, crib—anyhow, it's got to be done. I'll do my little bit as well, and we'll meet 'ere to-morrer at ten. I must 'ave a jaw with that there cove be'ind the counter."

"But I'm all in the dark," grumbled Smiler. "Wot's it about? Out with it!"

"It ain't fixed altogether to my likin' yet," was the reply. "I must sleep on it fust; but I think I can see my way to a winter's keep for both on us. Oh, it's a lovely plant! A real hay-woner!"

And with this meagre information Smiler had to be content.

Nosey spent many hours of the night in the perfecting of his scheme, which was a project of remarkable audacity, and not unattended with risk to the principal actor in it. However, as that part was to be allotted to the barman at the Feathers, the consideration of danger was not allowed to weigh unduly. The undertaking, as confided to Smiler on the following morning, may be thus briefly summarised: A certain bookmaker, well known to both of them, who was possessed of ample means and troubled with less than the average of scruples, would most probably be found at his house, in the neighbourhood of Brompton, on the evening of the next day (Wednesday), when he was expected to return from the Warwick meeting. The other Metropolitan pencillers as a rule went on to Manchester from the Midland town, but this one, Nosey had ascertained beyond doubt, would come home before proceeding to Cottonopolis. Nosey's idea was to send the new barman —"Dowler's double," as he called him—to the abode of Steve Flitterby, the bookmaker, between ten and eleven at night. Dressed with as near an approach to the style usually affected by the crack jockey as the funds of the confederacy would permit, there was little doubt that he could easily pass himself off upon Flitterby as the real Simon Pure. He was to say that he, Dowler, was in pressing need of a thousand pounds—in fact, he must have that sum at once, and, if the bookmaker would lend it to him, he would, in return, render Flitterby a most important service, one which would enable him to recoup himself many times over. The nature of this service will be understood when it is explained that the Manchester November Handicap had that year dwindled down to what is generally called a "one-horse" race. In fact, it was the universal belief that, bar accident, the favourite, Fireaway, could not lose. The horse was nominally at two to one in the betting, but it was impossible to get the odds to money; the layers were all full. Now, Dowler (the real one) was engaged to ride Fireaway, and his impersonator had simply to offer to pull the horse, in return for a thousand pounds down, and a similar amount to be paid after the race. The latter contingency, of course, would come to nothing, but Nosey considered it a particularly happy stroke in order to avert suspicion. It was very unlikely that the proposal would be declined, as Flitterby's unscrupulous greed was well known. It was a dazzling bait to dangle before the bookmaker's eyes, for an immense haul might be made without risk by the fielder who knew that he was dealing with "dead meat."

Such was the result of Nosey's inspiration, and as the details were imparted to Smiler, the little man could only give vent to his feelings in broken gasps of wonder and delight.

"It'll go like winkin'," he said, with profound conviction.

"Well, it ought," said Nosey, with an air of modest pride. "'Tain't everybody as could ha' planned a fake like it."

"There ain't another livin' as could touch it," rejoined Smiler; "but," he added hesitatingly, "don't you think a thou's a bit too hot?"

"Not it," returned Nosey, firmly. "When the idee fust come in my 'ead, I thought of three 'undred, or five at the outside. But d'ye suppose Dowler 'ud pull an hoss for five 'undred? Not 'e. The bigger the money, the less doubts Flitterby'll 'ave. And now, about our little bank; 'ow much 'ave you got?"

Smiler produced twenty shillings in silver, with a look that said plainly, "Beat that, if you can."

But Nosey easily went one better; he exhibited one pound ten in bright gold. "That licks you," he said triumphantly. "The old 'oman 'ad got it put by for Chris'mas, an' didn't want to part; but I said I'd wring 'er bloomin' neck for 'er, if she didn't fork out, an' that soon settled the matter. A man's got to be master in 'is own 'ouse."

The next move was to scrape acquaintance with the barman, and this proved a matter of small difficulty. Business at the "Feathers" was usually slack in a morning, and Jem, as he was called, had no objection whatever to the "pony" of bitter which Nosey generously proffered. By degrees the talk turned upon the young man's marvellous resemblance to the great jockey, and it soon became evident that Jem was quite aware of the fact, and not a little proud of it.

"Ho, yes," he said, with a gratified smile, "at my larst place all the chaps used to call me Dowler, an' arst me wot was a-goin' to win."

But when Nosey, cautiously and by slow degrees, put forth his project, Jem's lank hair almost stood on end with horror. "Ho, no," he said, with prompt decision, "not for me; I ain't a-takin' any. That's a laggin' job, that is."

But the arch conspirator was not to be dismayed by a single refusal. He plied his oily tongue so eloquently and persistently that before long the barman wavered.

"'Ow if Dowler's gone on to Manchester, and this 'ere Flitterby knows it?" he objected. The difficulty was obviously raised only for Nosey to smooth away.

"That's all right," replied the latter. "Dowler ain't bin ridin' at Warwick. 'E'd a spill larst Satu'day, an' got a bad shakin', so 'e's savin' 'isself for the 'andicap. I tell yer," he went on, impressively, "the 'ole thing's as safe as 'ouses. W'y shouldn't Dowler be up in town? an' w'y shouldn't 'e want a thousan'? 'E's bin specilatin', that's wot 'e's bin a-doin' of, an' got 'ard 'it. So the oof's to be found at once—see?"

"I see," returned Jem, thoughtfully. "Yes," he added, after a pause, "I begin to think it might be done."

"Might!" repeated Nosey; "s'elp me Bob, there never was a softer thing! All you've got to do is to put on one of them long coats as racin' toffs wear—you've seen 'em?"

Jem nodded.

"You can pick 'em up dirt cheap at some o' the second-'and shops, an' that'll look more nateral-like than a bran' noo one. Then off you goes in a 'ansom—proper style, you know—'ave a quarter-of-an-hour's jaw with old Flitterby, and away you comes with yer pockets loaded fit to bust. But no bloomin' cheques, mind. Yaller boys or Bank of England's your ticket."

"You think 'e'll bite then?"

"Bite like an 'ungry jack, 'e will. knows 'im. Can't you see wot a thing it'd be for 'im to 'ave Dowler under 'is thumb? Lor' love me! 'e'd give any money for it a'most."

Then came the important question of how the prospective spoil was to be divided Nosey proposed that in consideration of his extra risk the barman should receive £400, the remainder to be shared equally between the partners. But to this arrangement Jem demurred, contending—which was indeed the fact—that neither Nosey nor Smiler ran any risk at all, and stood out stoutly for half the plunder.

Greatly to Smiler's astonishment, the senior partner agreed with scarcely a protest. "Well, dash it!" he cried, in a burst of generosity, "you shall 'ave five 'undred. You've got the job to do, an' it's on'y right you should 'ave most o' the swag. Me an' Smiler 'll do very well with two-fifty apiece."

So the matter was settled. The necessary outfit was purchased, Jem freely contributing towards the cost, and by an arrangement with one of his fellows the barman managed to get off for a few hours on the Wednesday evening. Accompanied by his friends, he made his way to the neighbourhood of Flitterby's house, and, shortly before eleven o'clock, chartered a hansom, so as to arrive "in style," as Nosey said. The partners were to await his return at a convenient public-house, and they watched the disappearing vehicle with hopeful anxiety.

"Nosey," remarked Smiler, thoughtfully, "you ain't never a-goin' to let that blitherin' Juggins 'ave five 'undred all to 'is own bloomin' cheek, are you?"

Nosey turned on him with withering contempt. "Think I've gone dotty all of a suddent, eh? Five 'undred! 'E may think 'isself jolly lucky if 'o gets a tenner out 'n it."

* * * * *

When the numbers went up for the November Handicap on the following Saturday, it was seen that there were only half-a-dozen runners; and immediately there was a wild rush to get on Fireaway. In a couple of minutes he was an odds-on chance, and soon the majority of the bookmakers declined to deal at any price, contenting themselves with offering "10 to 1 bar one!"

A marked exception to this rule was noticeable in Steve Flitterby, who took 6 to 4 from all comers right up to the fall of the flag. His brothers of the pencil looked at each other in amazement, and the questions went round, "What's it all about? Does he know anything?"

Apparently Steve was "in the know," for when the bell rang to announce the start he shut up his book, took out his field glass, and proceeded to watch the race with the air of a man who has no uneasiness whatever about the result.

It was not till the horses were nearly home that a look of horrified amazement overspread his countenance, and his jaw fell. For at that moment a horse shot out from the ruck, leaving the others as if standing still; and instantly a jubilant roar of "Fireaway! Fireaway!" proclaimed the victory of the favourite. Flitterby grew purple with rage, and from between his clenched teeth came the muttered words:

"By ——, the scoundrel has sold me!"

For a moment he stood as if paralysed, then a mad impulse of homicidal mania took possession of him, and he tore through the ring like a wild bull, heedless of the threats and curses called forth by his headlong charge. In the course of a few seconds he was in the paddock, and reached the weighing-room door just as the rider of the winner was coming out. With the cry of a hungry tiger the bookmaker threw himself upon the jockey, and seized him by the throat.

"My money, you thief, my money!" he roared. "Out with it!" And at each word he shook Dowler as a terrier might a rat.

The bystanders surrounded Flitterby, and succeeded, though not without difficulty, in freeing the jockey from his murderous grip. By that time he was almost black in the face, and completely breathless.

"W-what's it all about?" he stammered, as soon as he was able to speak.

"What's it about?" yelled Flitterby. "Fraud, and lies, and thievery—that's what it's about. Give me back my thousand pounds, you——." And he burst into a torrent of profanity which the most case-hardened "comp." on earth dare not set in type.

"Oh, he's mad," said Dowler, "mad as a hatter."

"No, but I was mad to let you bleed me!" retorted Flitterby. "A thousand pound he's had out of me!" he shouted to the crowd that had quickly assembled. "And put me in the cart as well!"

This aspersion on his character roused Dowler thoroughly. He faced the angry man, and in steadfast tones rejoined:

"If you say I ever had £1,000 from you, or 1,000 farthings, you lie, and you know it."

At this juncture one of the stewards appeared upon the scene, and heard some of the jockey's words. "What does this mean, Dowler?" he asked.

But Flitterby, eager to seize the opportunity, broke in: "I'll tell you that, sir. This incorruptible jockey, this 'honest Jack,' came to my house at Brompton on Wednesday night last, and told me he was in pressing need of £1,000; so I lent it to him on the spot. And he promised me faithful he'd ——" and Steve paused in confusion.

"Yes," said the steward, suavely; "and what was he to do in return for that large sum of money?"

Steve couldn't blush, but his face took on a deeper shade of purple as he rejoined: "He promised to pull Fireaway."

The gentleman whistled. "Whew! A very pretty arrangement! Now, Dowler, what have you to say to this most damaging statement?"

"I can prove there isn't a word of truth in it, sir," returned the jockey, with the utmost coolness. He called to an elderly man on the outskirts of the crowd: "Mr. Rawson! a moment, please."

The person thus addressed, one of the most respected trainers at Newmarket, came forward. Then Dowler turned to Flitterby.

"I think you said last Wednesday night?"

"Yes, about eleven o'clock."

"You hear that, Mr. Rawson? Perhaps you'll tell this—this lunatic where I was last Wednesday night."

"Certainly; in your own house at Newmarket. I spent the evening with him," he said, turning to the steward, "and didn't leave till after eleven."

"I think that settles the question, sir," said Dowler, addressing the man in authority. "I couldn't very well have been at Brompton and in Newmarket at the same hour—could I? More than that, I can prove by scores of witnesses, if necessary, that I never left Newmarket all the week, till to-day."

"I don't doubt it for a moment," returned the steward;

"there must be some mistake," and he turned back to the weighing-room.

"If there's any truth in your story," said the jockey to Flitterby, "you've been had properly. But it serves you right. I'd willingly die on the roadside before I'd ask you for a penny," and he walked off with his head in the air.

Then the idea dawned upon the unhappy bookmaker that he had been most cleverly and cruelly duped.

* * * * *

Nosey and Smiler waited for their friend, the barman, till they were turned out at closing time, and then proceeded slowly in the direction of Flitterby's, expecting every moment to meet Jem returning triumphant with the spoils. But they saw nothing of him that night, and next day he was missing from the Three Feathers. Then were the minds of the partners racked with horrible doubts. Had Jem been discovered, and handed over to justice? Or, more fearful still to contemplate, had he succeeded in obtaining the money, and, basely oblivious of the time-worn maxim concerning honour among thieves, levanted with it, leaving not a solitary "skiv" behind him? They could neither eat nor sleep; drink was impossible—for lack of funds; and when, on the following day, hoping against hope, they presented themselves at the Feathers, their faces were pale, drawn, and haggard with gnawing anxiety.

"Do they call you 'Nosey'?" inquired one of the barmen.

"Mostly," was the meek reply.

"Then, 'ere's a letter for you."

The envelope was addressed, "Mr. Nosey & Co., Three Feathers," &c. Eagerly tearing it open, he read:—

Deer frend,—yu will bee pleesed to no that i got the stuf all rite, but I thot it a pity to devoid it, so im hof with the lot.—yours trewly, Jem.

Nosey staggered, and would have fallen, but for the sustaining arm of Smiler, who had read the letter over his partner's shoulder.

"Bear up, old pal; bear up!" he whispered, tremulously.

"Nosey pulled himself together, and the pair walked slowly and sadly away, their bright dreams of affluence shattered in the dust. When they had gone a little way, Nosey turned to his friend, and, in a voice broken with grief, he said:—

"I wouldn't ha' cared if the bloomer 'ad done us out'n 'is own nut; but to go and take a mean advantage of another cove's brains, an' never even leave us the price of a drink—it's 'art-breakin', that's wot it is, 'art-breakin'! Come on, Smiler," he added, desperately, "let's go and 'ire ourselves out for blanky sangwich men! It's all we're bally well fit for!"

ART NOTES.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY—CONCLUDING ARTICLE.

THIS year's Academy is somewhat rich in pictorial coincidences. To Mr. La Thangue's "Bringing Home the Bracken" I alluded last week; Mr. Colin Hunter, it will be seen, deals with an identical subject in No. 380. Mr. Orchardson and Mr. John Collier both have *genre* pictures depicting a domestic incident to which they have given the same name—"Trouble" (Nos. 243 and 657). That there are two ex-Lord Mayors in the field I have already pointed out, and it is not strange, perhaps, that two Piper Findlaters are to be seen upon the walls at Burlington House. Mr. Vereker M. Hamilton and Mr. Caton Woodville have both painted the charge of the Gordon Highlanders at Dargai (Nos. 237 and 899). I have now seen four oil paintings of this recent military event, and it has been rather bewildering to find that each differs in essential details from the others. Piper Findlater playing his historical pipes has already been painted in four diametrically different positions. It only remains for a fifth artist to paint this resolute Highlander standing on his head as he pipes his comrades on to victory, and the pictorial possibilities of the incident, I should imagine, will be virtually exhausted. But fancy the perplexity of the future historian when, in writing at some distant date the story of the Dargai charge, he consults the pictorial annals of the present year of grace! Small wonder if, after many vain attempts to reconcile the conflicting authorities, he should feel inclined to regard Private Findlater as a mythical hero, a sort of military Pied Piper of Hamelin.

As I have previously hinted, there must have been at least one gentleman with a facetious turn of mind on the Hanging Committee this year. The "skying" of James Maris is, of course, going too far—or should I say too high?—even for a joke; but there is certainly humour of a sort in commencing the Academy Catalogue with "When the Heart is Young" (No. 1), and finishing it with "The Crash of Doom" (No. 1,967). In these two extremes the experience of many visitors to Burlington House is only too significantly expressed. Who, indeed, has not gone through the experience for himself? It is with buoyant step and head erect that one enters the first room. Of course, one does not exactly whistle or sing, but there is the expectancy of hope in the eye, and all the sanguineness of youth in the heart. But oh! what a change has come over one when one issues some hours later from the Lecture Room: "The Crash of Doom" has too surely done its fell work; and if one's heart ever felt young, one forgets it as limp, and listless, and despondent one steals down the steps and totters into Piccadilly. And yet, as I have said, there is much to cheer one on in a progress that is really too long for even the most assiduous art pilgrim. M. Fantin Latour, for example, has never painted still life better than in his "Grapes and Peaches" (No. 111), and Mr. Spenlove Spenlove's "Avenues of Gold" (No. 117) would, I am sure, be worth closer attention if the "hangers" had only placed it where it could be properly seen. Mr. J. W. Godward's "Nymph of the Chase" (No. 128) is only his now familiar nude model under a new name. Take away her bow and arrows, and give her a laurel branch, and she would do equally well for Daphne, or, with a swan flapping its wings in the background, might be as appropriately named Leda. So, too, might the painting in of a pharos be made to justify the appellation Hero; or the addition of long back hair and a gaily-caparisoned steed turn her into a comely Lady Godiva. "The 'properties' may vary, the model is the same," as a modern bardlet once wrote. The scoffer may feel inclined to wonder why Miss Lily Wrangel gives such prominence to the thumb in her "Portrait of the Artist" (No. 131), but I shall be much surprised if a general verdict of approval does not greet Mr. Edward G. Hobley's "Shaft of Light" (No. 149), a picture of undoubted and effective cleverness. Mr. John Brett is getting more geologic than ever in his "Trevose Head" (No. 194). This seems a picture that would be more in place in the Museum of Geology in Jermyn-street than in its present position at Burlington House. I should like Mr. George Joy's work (No. 223) better if the central figure were not quite so reminiscent of Mr. Hall Caine. Perfection of flower painting is to be seen in M. Fantin Latour's "Summer Chrysanthemums (No. 251), and Mr. Ralph Peacock's "Ethel" (No. 256) is well worth attention. Then there is Mr. John S. Sargent's "Portrait of a Lady" (a sister, I believe, of Mrs. George Curzon), another of those amazing impressionistic portraits of his which are almost literally "monuments of a moment;" and Mr. Alma Tadema's unusually dramatic "Conversion of Paula" (No. 286). So dramatic, indeed, is this picture that there is said to be an impression amongst visitors to Burlington House that it depicts some hitherto unrecorded incident in the life of "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray." Lady Butler's "On the Morrow of Talavera" (No. 303) is not a large picture, but she has managed very cleverly to express in it the chill air of the early dawn. Mr. Laurence Koe's "Sappho" (No. 307) is lying in perhaps the most uncomfortable position that a classical model has ever been called upon to assume. If it was in this position that Sappho

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wrote her odes, the wonder is not that the odes have not survived, but that the poetess herself lived long enough to have ever written any. In Mr. John Da Costa's "Idleness" (No. 360) the limbs of the figures are somewhat puzzlingly mixed up; and it is, alas, "Ichabod!" that one murmurs as one looks at Mr. George Leslie's landscape (No. 369). Mr. Seymour Lucas's painting of "William the Conqueror Granting a Charter" (No. 449) is much too large to be overlooked. But it need not delay the visitor long. It will be seen to more advantage, I think, when it reaches its destination on the walls of the Royal Exchange. The longer I looked at Mr. T. C. Gotch's "Awakening" (No. 511) the more I wondered how the young lady in the picture ever managed to sleep in the bedstead from which she has arisen. Short of doubling herself up, or of having the rough and ready method of Procrustes applied to her, I fail to see how she could ever have sought repose on such an inadequate couch. Mr. George Clausen's "The Harrow" (No. 552) might have been more appropriately called "The Horse," whilst Mr. J. W. North's picture (No. 571) shows only too clearly that though manners may make the man, mannerism may only too surely mar the master.

It will be remembered that Miss Lucy E. Kemp-Welch woke up one morning last May to find herself famous in the world of art. Not only had her large picture of "Colts in the New Forest" been well hung at Burlington House, but it had also been purchased by the Trustees of the Chantrey Bequest. An equally large picture by Miss Kemp-Welch is hung in Gallery No. VII. at this year's Academy, but it fails to fulfil the promise of last year's work. "To Arms," as it is called (No. 570), represents early morning in the camp of the Duke of York's army before the first battle of the Roses at St. Albans. It is an ambitious subject for this clever young lady to have attempted, and it must be said that the result is only a qualified success. The horses on which the Knights of the White Rose are mounted are admirably painted, but the rest of the picture —the horsemen and their armour, the tents, the banners, and all the paraphernalia of the camp, lack the necessary air of reality. It is an artificial, well stage-managed group that is shown us rather than an actual camp of real warriors. The scene, if I may so put it, is a little too "Astleyan" to be convincing. It would be better, I think, were Miss Kemp Welch to stick to nature. Not far from "To Arms" is a remarkable picture by Mr. William Stott, entitled "Autumn" (No. 566). Countless attempts have been made to personify autumn on canvas, but I doubt if any more poetic, original, and delightful result has been achieved than that obtained by Mr. William Stott. To this and the same artist's landscape in the next gallery, "The Happy Valley" (No. 614), I am inclined to give a very high place amongst the pictures of the year. "Smart" society finds its painter in Mr. Robert W. Macbeth, whose "Sparklets" (No. 644) is a not unsuccessful attempt to realise the glitter and kaleidoscopic colour of a costume ball at a fashionable skating rink Much more likely to be generally popular is Mr. John R. Reid's "Hiding the Deserter" (No. 470), one of those stories told on canvas in which the British public continues to delight. This picture, which looks like an illustration to one of Mr. Thomas Hardy's earlier novels, tells its own tale so clearly as to need no explanation, and this is what the shilling public hugely like. But was it not an unnecessary underlining of his point for Mr. Reid to have painted his deserter in a scarlet tunic? Soldiers do not, as a rule, desert in the full uniform of the regiments to which they belong.

In the last Gallery, attention may be called to Mr. Spottiswood Duthie's "Alone" (No. 943), and Mr. Eugène Burnand's "Group of Lansquenets" (No. 953). There is also a remarkably clever painting by Sir Harry H. Johnston, a sort of up-to-date Admirable Crichton who seems to explore continents, annex provinces, organise protectorates, adorn the Consular Service, write books and paint pictures with equal facility. His "After the Battle" (No. 977), is a strikingly effective rendering of an incident of warfare in "Darkest Africa."

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LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Southern interest in Mr. Crockett's "The Standard Bearer" (1) will be somewhat damped by a sense of the priggishness of its hero and of the Bombastes Furioso bathos of his heroism. When the charming heroine adjures him, on pain of the loss of her love, to forego his lecture to her father upon his drunkenness, he insists upon delivering the twaddling message at the risk of his life and at the cost of her wrath. Indeed, to Southerners, or at any rate to Southerners of to-day, the whole last-century crusade of this Scotch minister seems bathetic, and surprising

> Strange all this difference should be
> 'Twixt Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

It is edifying to note how extremes meet, and how a Scotch Covenanter can curse as vigorously as Uncle Toby's Papist, who outswore even the British troops in Flanders:—

> Cast into the deepest hell, Lord, if any power is left in Thee, the whole Presbytery of Kirkcudbright! Set the dogs upon them, O Satan, Prince of Evil, for they have worked ill-will and mischief upon earth. Specially and particularly gie Andrew Cameron his paiks! Rub the fiery brimstone flame into his bones, like salt into a new-killed swine. Scowder him with irons heated white hot. Tear his inward parts with twice-barbed fishing-hooks. Give William Boyd his bellyful of curses. Turn him as often on thy roasting-spit as he has turned his coat on the earth. Frighten wee Telfair wi' the uncanniest o' a' thy deils' imps. And as for the rest of them, may they burn back and front, ingate and outgate, hide, hair, and harrigals, till there is nocht left o' them but a wee pluff o' ash, that I shall hold like snuff between my fingers and thumb and blaw away like the white head o' a dandelion.

I ought to say that the ministers cursed with such edifying gusto, richly earned, by their Machiavellian subtlety and malignity, the rancorous hatred of this outburst. The most unfortunate effect, perhaps, of making the hero a Peter the Hermit of such a crusade is its rendering his two courtships incongruous. You hardly expect him to have the heart to make love at all in his circumstances, while you certainly do not expect him to have the heart to make the high-born heroine a partner of the sufferings, privations, perils, and hardships of his dangerous shepherding of the few sheep in the wilderness.

"Outcast of the Islands" made a sudden and just reputation for its author which "Tales of Unrest" (2) will sustain without enhancing. Mr. Conrad's descriptions of Malayan scenes and scenery are as vivid and vigorous in his latest as in his earliest venture; but when he comes to London and attempts to describe with the same subtlety and elaboration the emotions of a smug City man upon the discovery of his wife's infidelity, he overdoes the psychology. You can see that he is laboriously pumping up profundity, and you get weary of the strain and operoseness of the futile process. For instance, no man that ever had such an injury done him by a friend who owed to him everything would feel thus towards the ingrate and traitor:—

> He did not feel the slightest pang of jealousy or indignation. That one was ready to give up everything he had for that woman, who did not come, who had not the faith, the love, the courage

(1) "The Standard Bearer." By S. R. Crockett. (London: Methuen & Co Price 6s.)
(2) "Tales of Unrest." By Joseph Conrad. (London: T. Fisher Unwin Price 6s.)
(3) "The Open Boat, and Other Stories." By Stephen Crane. (London: William Heinemann. Price 6s.)
(4) "The Romance of Zion Chapel." By Richard Le Gallienne. (London John Lane. Price 6s.)
(5) "Complete Prose Works by Walt Whitman." (London: G. P. Putnam's Sons.)
(6) "The Egoist." By George Meredith. Revised edition. (London: A. Constable & Co. Price 6s.)
(7) "The History of the Holy Graal." Two Volumes of the Temple Classics. (London: J. M. Dent & Co.)
(8) "By Virtue of his Office." By Rowland Grey. (London: Jarrold & Sons Price 3s. 6d.)

to come. What did that man expect, what did he hope, what did he want? The woman—or the certitude, immaterial and precious? The first unselfish thought he had ever given to any human being was for that man who had tried to do him a terrible wrong. He was not angry. He was saddened by an impersonal sorrow, by a vast melancholy, as of all mankind longing for what cannot be attained. He felt his fellowship with every man—even with that man—especially with that man.

This kind of psychology is what Sam Johnson would call "milking the bull" with a vengeance. On the other hand, in such Malayan scenes, incidents, and characters as are described in "Karain" and "An Outpost of Progress," Mr. Conrad shows the hand of a master. Mr. Stephen Crane's reputation, which also was suddenly and justly made, will be decidedly enhanced by the striking collection of short stories, "The Open Boat" (3). Mr. Crane's sea tales are his best, and of his sea tales the best is "Flanagan" and his Cuban filibustering adventure. "An Open Boat" also is a finely told story of the sea, where your interest in the monotonous and prolonged peril of the shipwrecked crew is kept as alive and lively as though their dangers were of the most varied and melodramatic kind. Mr. Stephen Crane, however, was ill-advised in publishing such inane pot-boilers as "A Great Mistake," "An Ominous Baby," and some other of his "Midnight Sketches," which are as infantile as their subjects.

Mr. Le Gallienne's "Romance of Zion Chapel" (4) is high-fantastical to morbidity. The Methodist minister of a Little Bethel in a dingy slum of a Philistine town, who lectures on Walt Whitman to the intensely respectable and Bœotian audience of its Lyceum, is startlingly consistent throughout. He adores and is adored by two women equally, one of whom dies from the shock of the discovery of his love for her rival, while the other commits suicide, and induces him on his deathbed to commit suicide! To say the whole truth about this autobiographical volume, it is as hysterical as it is clever. If one must

> Peep and botanise
> Upon his mother's grave,

it should be done with more scientific self-control. The story opens with such promise that you resent all the more the preposterous impossibilities of the hero's relations to his two lady-loves, and of their even less credible acceptance of these relations. The morbid climax of this hysterical tale is naturally reserved for its last page, where the surviving lady-love proposes to hasten his death and procure her own by poison.

> "Oh, Isabel—to die!" he moaned one night, as she sat by his side. "But think, dear," she answered, with her head turned away, "think of Jenny." "Perhaps there is no Jenny." "No Jenny!" Isabel's heart gave a little cry. No Jenny! Then there could be no harm. . . .

No harm, that is, in suicide. Accordingly she suggests a double suicide, and the shining light of the New Zion accepts her suggestion;

Apropos of the Rev. Theophilus Londonderry's lecture on Walt Whitman, I ought to advertise you of a new edition of "The Complete Prose Works" of that poet of the future (5), which has just been published here by G. P. Putnam's Sons. "The Egoist" (6) has appeared in the admirable revised edition of Meredith; and "The History of the Holy Graal" (7), translated from the old French by Dr. Sebastian Evans, and embellished with frontispieces and title-pages by Sir Edward Burne Jones, forms, in two volumes, the latest addition to the dainty series of the Temple classics. Finally, I can recommend to you a pleasant novel, "By Virtue of his Office" (8), where the sin of the father against a good woman is atoned for by the marriage of his son to her daughter.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

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MUSIC.

BOGUS "REGISTERED" TEACHERS.

However honestly, and with whatever apparent care, a set of rules may be drawn up, it seems that there are people clever enough to circumvent them. The examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music were expressly devised by some of our leading musicians and music lovers, with the Prince of Wales at their head, in the hope of enabling school mistresses and parents to submit pupils to a genuine musical examination, instead of to the unofficial and sometimes vastly absurd diploma tests of mushroom limited liability concerns. Numerous rules have been promulgated by the Associated Board, and it was doubtless thought that all due precautions had been taken to prevent any improper use being made of the examinations. A loophole, however, has been discovered, and hopelessly unqualified persons may, and do, now blossom forth as "Registered Teachers R.A.M. and R.C.M."

The Associated Board, it seems, made a rule that the school (or teacher) which desired to avail itself of the examinations of the Board, should send in an application, and on that application being accepted, should pay an annual registration fee of a guinea, and thereby, instead of sending the young people to London, should acquire the privilege of presenting its pupils for examination in its own locality at a specified scale of fees. The reason why this regulation was made is perfectly obvious. The ordinary examinations are held either in London or at some big centre, such as Birmingham, Manchester, or Liverpool. It is, nevertheless, sometimes inconvenient for schoolmistresses and teachers to send pupils any long distance for examination, and the system of registration was introduced, so that if a certain number of pupils in any locality were available, the Associated Board could send down an examiner and hold a special examination. To meet this some sort of extra charge was thought necessary, but it was announced that the registration fee of one guinea would be returned to every registered school which presented a dozen or more pupils for examination during the year. This rule would to the plain man appear to be a very innocent, and indeed a very proper one.

Sir John Stainer and others have for many years past been agitating to secure an Act of Parliament for the registration of teachers, so that the duly qualified musician may be separated from the charlatan and the humbug. It is a very important part of Sir John's plan that after a certain time no one shall be registered as a music teacher except after passing an examination to show his qualifications for the office. Indeed, I believe (though I am not sure) the Associated Board itself has a special examination for teachers, as a test of their capacity to impart tuition to others. It seems, however, that in various parts of the country the innocent scheme of the Associated Board in the matter of extra local examinations has been taken up by a certain number of adventurers as an excellent opportunity of securing their so-called "registration" without the expense or suspense of prior examination. In all, it is said there are 741 schools, or teachers, who paid the Associated Board the guinea fee last year. A proportion (a small one, I trust) of these people, it is alleged, now announce themselves as "Registered Teacher, R.A.M. and R.C.M.," that is to say, as "registered" by the Associated Board under the auspices of the Prince of Wales. It is perfectly obvious that the Associated Board never intended anything of the sort.

Indeed, although I believe the Board reserves the right of refusing or accepting the application of any teacher, yet, as a matter of practice, almost every application for registration is granted. In fact, the registration is merely a subscription towards the expenses of the local examination of pupils, while the teacher or schoolmistress (who very possibly does not pretend to know anything at all about music) has nothing to do with the matter further than to send pupils up. Yet not only have certain real or pretended musicians held themselves out as

"Registered Teachers" under this rule, but also I am informed some of the teachers at the "registered" schools have adopted this wholly authorised title even after they have left the school, and have set up business on their own account.

This clearly constitutes a scandal, and one which, I am sure, both the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music will be anxious at once to put a stop to. In the case of schools, indeed, teachers are so frequently changed that it is quite impossible to determine whether the instructor is competent or not, short of an examination to test his fitness. That these people should be allowed to go through the country and describe themselves as "Registered Teachers" under the Associated Board merely because they once belonged to a "registered" boarding school is, of course, a gross absurdity. There can be no doubt that it is the unfortunate use of the word "registered" which (combined with the guinea subscription) has done the mischief. The Associated Board indeed makes quite enough profit (several thousands a year) out of the examinations to drop both the term "registered" and the consequent guinea.

A country correspondent of mine sends me the latest development of the "Incorporated Society of Professional Musicians." It is in the form of a printed circular, announcing a "Musician's Prayer Union," with a president whose name is left blank, a committee of two, an hon. treasurer (without which no such society would be complete), and an hon. secretary who rejoices in the name of "Livesey Carrott, Esq." My correspondent thinks the new Union a most useful thing for musicians, and expresses a hope that it may also be open to musical critics, who, he appears to believe, are more addicted to commination than prayer. My own rather wide experience of such circulars, however, coupled with the mention of an "hon. treasurer," led me to look for the inevitable "subscription." It is moderate enough, namely, half-a-crown for professional musicians, and three and sixpence for non-professionals—a typical professional separation of the sheep from the goats. For this, by Rule 5, every member is to be entitled to make prayer "at least one day a week." I trust I shall not be held guilty of irreverence if I ask whether the average Christian, who prays twice a day, is to be charged pro ratâ, or whether, as is, indeed, only meet and just, there will be a reduction upon taking a quantity?

During the first fortnight of the Covent Garden season, Mr. Maurice Grau will have produced no fewer than ten works, a fact which shows that operatic enterprise was not exhausted by the death of Sir Augustus Harris. Moreover, he has, during the first fortnight of the season, introduced many of his new singers and several of his leading artists: among them, M. Jean de Reszke and Mme. Nordica, who on Saturday proved to be a rather matured, though vocally almost perfect, Tristan and Isolde. Many of the new-comers are distinctly above the average, although none of them perhaps at present may be of "star" rank. The best of them beyond much doubt is M. Saleza, an extremely promising young tenor, who comes from the Paris Opéra Comique. M. Saleza is slim, has good stage presence, has a fresh voice, entirely free from the tremolo, and sings well in tune. It is, in fact, at once a pleasure and a novelty to see a Romeo and a Don José turning the scale at something under fifteen stone, for the majority of tenors nowadays run to fleshiness, if not to actual obesity. As Don José, too, the new tenor proved that he could be dramatic and even melodramatic when he chooses. Miss Adams was rather a tame Micaela, but her Juliette (in which part she was on Monday succeeded by Mme. Eames) was an agreeable surprise. This young American lady's voice may not be particularly powerful, but she is pretty, she is a girlish and graceful actress, and she has evidently mastered the Marchesi style. The nightingale duet, and the balcony scene in "Romeo" were really well done by both artists. Miss Fanchon Thompson, who played the page Stephano, had never before appeared upon the stage. She, like Miss Adams, is an American, and she promises well, although the page's song is no particularly strong test.

Wednesday was a night for the Germans, for "Die Walküre" was given with almost an entirely new cast. We have heard a great deal about the improvements in the stage management, but they were not greatly apparent in "Die Walküre." The great reform it appears is reserved for the "Ring" cycle, when we are to have fresh scenery instead of that ridiculous back cloth in Hunding's hut, and something better than the switchback railway business in the ride of Walkyries, an arrangement which last week nearly resulted in a collision between two immortals. It had originally been intended that Miss Ella Russell should play the part of Sieglinde, but that lady had not studied it in German, and accordingly at short notice it was entrusted to Frau Cziuk, a soprano from Mayence, and the bride of the tenor Herr Costa, who sang the part of Siegmund. The pair were only married last month, and, like other busy people, they have no time for a full honeymoon. Herr Costa, although distinctly a vocalist of the German school, and occasionally lapsing into essentially Teutonic intonation, is one of the best German tenors we have had here for some time. That he is so fine an actor may be due to the fact that before he joined the operatic stage he was a star of the German drama. The lady also acts well, and has an agreeable voice, although she is not free from the vibrato. The best thing done by both was in the much abbreviated scene immediately before the appearance of Brünnhilde, a role now played forcibly, though without undue exaggeration, by Mme. Brema. The best of the new comers in "Die Walküre" was Herr Van Rooy, the famous Bayreuth Wotan. This gentleman has already appeared at the Schulz-Curtius concerts, but he is of course far better upon the stage, almost making interesting the character of the lugubrious Wanderer. On Saturday again his rendering of Kurwenal in "Tristan" was quite the finest we have yet seen here. Neither in "Die Walküre" nor in "Tristan" did the new conductor, Herr Zumpe, do himself justice. At times he was fussy, thereby apparently perplexing the band, while at others he was tameness itself. It is very possible he was nervous, and indeed in a new theatre, and with an English band, many of whom do not understand a word of German, his task was sufficiently arduous. Still, he is anything but a strong successor to poor Anton Seidl.

Mme. Wagner, I learn, will not after all come to London for the "Ring" cycle at Covent Garden, next month. I suppose it would be considered *infra dig.* for this lady to appear outside of Bayreuth, the fortunes of which theatre also are of pecuniary consequence to the Wagner family. It is a pity, for Mme. Cosima Wagner will never have heard her husband's music sung by so fine a cast as will be accorded to it by Mr. Grau and Mr. Schulz-Curtius at Covent Garden.

I have received from Matlock a long correspondence which has appeared in the local papers concerning musical diplomas in general, and those granted by the so-called College of Violinists in particular. Mr. Foucher, who combines with the duties of secretary of the College of Violinists the sale of musical instruments of the violin family, has, I see, written a letter in which he challenges anybody to come to the examinations (of which, by the way, I may shortly have something further to say), which he declares are "unlike many others (whether Chartered or Limited Companies) not held behind closed doors, not even the teacher of the candidate being allowed to be present (possibly to guard against a too prominent display of the utter want of capacity and knowledge of some of their examiners)." The Chartered institutions may be trusted to defend themselves, though I am bound to say there are many and obvious objections to the presence of the teacher at examinations. I have already, in TRUTH on June 3 last, dealt with this College of Violinists, and also with the College of Pianists (owned chiefly by the family of a plumber), and other speculations. The College of Violinists, as I pointed out, was an enterprise carried on by a musical instrument dealer, his wife and two daughters, his son (a law student), besides a newspaper proprietor, a commercial clerk, and a solitary professor of music, the whole company

boasting a total cash paid-up capital of £17 10s. If any one cares to pay his money for the diplomas of such a concern it will, I imagine, only afford further proof that the axiom of Carlyle still holds good.

Miss Clara Butt has had a carriage accident; and, therefore, may now I hope be included in the census among great prime donne. The usual programme is something like this. The vocalist studies in England and learns here practically all she ever knows. Then she goes abroad, forgets some of the most useful of her knowledge, but acquires acquaintance with foreign tongues. Perhaps she may even have money enough to appear at a Continental opera-house, for abroad these things are not done without cost. Then she returns to England as a full-blown prima donna. But the finishing touch is invariably put to the matter by either a jewel robbery or a carriage accident. The former is more expensive, the latter more painful. Miss Butt's accident, however, I am sorry to say, is a real one, resulting in a mild attack of concussion of the brain, and, although the patient is progressing favourably, the incident will deprive us of the pleasure of hearing her for something like a couple of months.

Dr. Moritz Moszkowski, who made his début as a pianist at the Philharmonic Concert last week, was unwise to restrict himself to his own works. He is doubtless a sound musician, but he is not a great composer, and his merits as a pianist would have been far more effectively demonstrated if he had chosen some classic for his début. His Concerto in E which he produced at Queen's Hall last week is, I believe, entirely new. Dr. Moszkowski, it appears, wrote a pianoforte concerto some years ago, but is now dissatisfied with it and has consequently withdrawn it. The Concerto in E was designed for the Gewandhaus Concerts at Leipzig, where it is to be produced next winter by Herr Nikisch. Before this is done, the composer may be counselled to rewrite the first movement, which at present is fragmentary, not to say diffuse. The second or slow movement is better; while the third, a bright scherzo almost recalling the gipsy music of Liszt, is the best of all. The finale, however, like the rest of the concerto, has some extremely brilliant work for the solo part. Indeed, in this composition, the orchestra play quite a secondary rôle, and the work is, beyond question, one written by a pianist for pianists. Moszkowski likewise played three shorter pieces of no particular interest. The audience was again not a very large one, and the Philharmonic people this year do not seem to be having much luck. Perhaps they would do better if they could only make up their minds to relinquish those unfortunate Thursdays. The old Philharmonic days were Monday, or Wednesday, and either evening is more convenient for concert goers than Thursday.

Since six years ago, when M. de Pachmann made his last appearance in London, he has shaved off that wonderful beard; but "the great Chopinzee," as he used to be called, proved on Saturday at St. James's Hall that he could play the music of Chopin as delightfully as ever. The major part of his programme was, indeed, devoted to the Polish master's works, and the Study in Thirds, the Berceuse (which he played for an encore), and the Valse in D flat could hardly have been better. M. de Pachmann's little eccentricities even added to the interest of his performance, but no pianist now before the public has a more beautiful touch nor a greater command over the gradations of tone in the pianoforte. This was the most important of about five and twenty recitals given in London during the week. Why performers should thus always hasten to crowd an already overcrowded season is not exactly clear. It is perfectly certain that some of these young ladies and gentlemen might enjoy proper recognition if they reserved themselves for a less busy time of the year. Some of the great pianists have already recognised this fact, and M. Paderewski, Herr Rosenthal and others now refuse to come to us in the summer, though both will be back in London in the autumn.

Hotel Albemarle, Piccadilly, London. Private Suite, Bath, Electric Light, Lift. Vermersch, Proprietor. Paris: Imperial Hotel, Champs Elysées. Boulogne S/M: Imperial Pavilion Hotel.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

Dearest Amy,—London has got through her week of two Drawing Rooms, and is fervently hoping that such a concatenation of circumstances may never occur again. Who shall estimate what the double event has cost thousands in nervous energy, temper, and last, and perhaps not least, profit? When things are huddled on the top of each other in this hasty way, it is impossible for the unfortunate, ill-used West-End tradesmen to derive the full amount of benefit from them. There is something undignified, too, about this rush and scramble. And the next Drawing Room is fixed for a Monday, a most inconvenient day for those very necessary people, dressmakers and florists. How can bonquets made on Saturday be fresh on Monday? And when empty-headed women will insist on putting off ordering their gowns till the very last moment, the work-girls and many others must lose their Saturday afternoon holiday. Court milliners are allowed to keep their work-girls late three or four times in the year, and probably June 4 will be one of these. The Queen is so considerate and kind to every one whose case is intelligently brought under her notice, that it seems a pity that no intelligent individual has seen fit to put the case of the loyal tradesmen in its true light before her Majesty.

And the quantity of work in this season's dresses is appalling. There is an infinity of stitches in the gaugings, gatherings, quillings, and ruching of chiffon and silk muslin. I do not suppose that I call them by their right names, but you will know what I mean. Some of the Court trains were trimmed all round with a ruching of chiffon, the edges of which were bordered on both sides with Liliputian ruches of gauze about an inch wide. On a smart bodice that Lilla bought herself the other day, I counted seventeen rows of tucks, about seven of which went to the inch. The sleeves were tucked in the same way from shoulder to wrist, so you may imagine what a time it would take to make the dress. No one but a dressmaker could realise the amount of work in such a garment, so it is not surprising that fashionable women order elaborate gowns and expect them to be built in a day.

The sensation of the Drawing Room on Tuesday was the number of Duchesses present. We counted no fewer than eight. Some of them were beautiful women. The Duchess of Portland is looking very handsome just now. She wore a modified Empire dress with high Josephine collar of lace, all a-glitter with strass diamonds. A pale blue sash was twisted gracefully round her waist, the ends falling to the hem. Her train was lovely lace that had once belonged to the Empress Josephine. It was lined with blue chiffon. The Duchess of Bedford, sympathetic with the worker in every line of life, had ordered some lovely Honiton to be made for her Court gown. There is a beautiful suitability in this, that English workers should benefit by our English Court. I only wish that all the ladies who attend the Drawing Rooms would take the same view. What a marvellous difference it would make in the prosperity of our country! There is no reckoning it up. Spitalfields would flourish again, and the looms of Macclesfield, Leek, and Essex would spread ease and comfort among thousands of humble homes. Coventry and Nottingham would rejoice in sunny prosperity, and the lacemakers of Buckinghamshire, Limerick, and Devonshire would be happy again with heaps of work to do.

But there is no use in contemplating this millennial might-have-been, for Englishwomen run after everything foreign in dress matters. Just a few of them, like the Duchess of Abercorn, the Duchess of Bedford, the Marchioness of Londonderry, and Lady Bective, are really patriotic and do all they can to encourage home manufactures and native handiwork. Every one who saw the Duchess of Bedford's lovely lace must have admired it. It

New Spring Fashions.—Messrs. Redfern have now on view in their Showrooms a unique display of Toilettes, illustrative of the latest London and Paris fashions, and to which they invite an inspection.—26, Conduit-street, London, W.

was like a cobweb in texture, and the colour of it was delicious. It may be hoped that some of the ladies who admired it may order some and pay for it.

I am forgetting, however, to describe the dress itself. It was white satin embroidered in relief in silks of the most delicate tones of the violet, the design being clusters of those flowers, with dewdrops in the form of diamonds resting upon the leaves, and the inevitable Louis Seize trellis wrought in gold and pointed with diamonds. A wide belt of the latticework made a becoming finish to the bodice with its folds of satin and berthe of exquisite Honiton. The train was pansy-tinted velvet lined with white satin. The historic Bedford pearls were worn by the Duchess on this occasion, as well as fine diamonds.

The Duchess of Devonshire wore pale green and white satin most artistically combined, with train of cloth of silver lined and turned up with willow-green satin and trimmed with orchids. At the second Drawing Room her Grace was in black and white, which sounds nothing without a longer description than I am able to give you. The black was relieved with diamonds and folds of palest yellow, and the train was lined with yellow.

Among the Duchesses at the first Drawing Room were her Grace of Rutland, who presented her youngest daughter, Lady Elizabeth Manners; the Duchesses of Buccleuch and Roxburghe, in attendance on her Majesty; the Duchess of Manchester, presenting her pretty daughter, Lady Alice Montagu; and the wonderful Duchess of Cleveland, who, with Lord Rosebery and Lady Leconfield made up an interesting family party to watch the presentation of the Ladies Primrose. The elder, Lady Sybil, had technically been presented to the Queen before, at Windsor, but, like her sister, she wore pure white satin and chiffon, the dresses being charming compositions to the theme of girlish innocence and the high hopes of youthful hearts. A pathetic touch was imparted to Lady Sybil's toilette, the flowers in her bouquet including Hannah Rothschild roses. Lady Peggy's Arcade bouquet was composed of white orchids and white roses, and was of the new bow shape, which is so graceful and does not hide the front of the dress.

The flowers at both Drawing Rooms were lovely, the arrangement being much lighter and looser than of old. Several ladies carried loose branches of their favourite flowers. Lady Algernon Gordon-Lennox's sprays of gardenias looked lovely with her sweet gown of white satin, veiled with gold-embroidered silk muslin, and worn with a train which was an inspired fugue in tones of peach and pink. Lady Warwick had the prettiest dress to be seen at the first Drawing Room. It was made of fine old lace over white satin, above the hem of which two very large and full ostrich feathers were laid, the stems being concealed by a spray of white and cream-tinted roses. This unique arrangement was most successful. The beautiful Countess's train was white satin embroidered in graduated circles of pearls filled in with diamonds, gold, and seed pearls. She carried a Goodyear bouquet of glorious white orchids. The Ladies Helena and Flora Douglas-Hamilton, sisters of the young Duke of Hamilton, were at the Drawing Room, the elder in white and turquoise, and carrying an Arcade bouquet of lily-of-the-valley and white roses, and Lady Flora in a clinging gown of palest green chiffon, over which hung soft panels of creamy lace. The train, in white satin, was lined with green chiffon. The Marchioness of Breadalbane's dress was English brocade draped with Flanders point, and her train was green velvet in a sweet shade lined with blue satin.

Among other pretty dresses seen at this Drawing Room were Lady Harriet Cavendish's rose and silver, Lady Carysfort's white and pink brocade and cherry-coloured train, Lady Herschell's pink and silver, with train of rich brocade, Lady Aylesford's dahlia mauve with yellow satin and yellow orchids (she presented her daughter, Lady Violet Finch), Lady De La Warr's quite exquisite Empire gown in shades of violet satin and chiffon, with train in violet satin trimmed with white Chantilly, and Lady Tweeddale's splendidly effective yellow satin with velvet, diamond and pearl embroidery in relief, and yellow velvet train. Scatter over this in your imagination quantities of old Brussels lace, and add emerald and diamond ornaments, and you will have before your mind's eye a perfect toilette for a handsome brunette. Lady Waldegrave was like an ideal April day in her soft mauve and green. Lady Seale had a pretty mingling of grey, petunia and pansies with beautiful old lace. Lady Faudel-Phillips was in white and gold satin, embroidered with silver and diamonds, her daughter in white and palest green.

Lady Esther Smith's cherry-velvet and white satin was a distinct success. The embroidery on Lady Hutton's ivory satin was worthy of the lovely Brussels lace with which it was trimmed. She wore diamond and ruby ornaments and carried a bouquet of shaded roses. Her daughter, Miss Constance May Hutton, whose portrait appears in the Academy this year, wore white satin embroidered with silver and pearls. The train was trimmed with pale pink roses and heather, and the bouquet consisted of roses and heather. Mrs. Reginald Bingham wore Nile-green watered silk with real silver embroidery in relief, the train being in shot moire antique brocaded in a design of rose-sprays. It was lined with hedge-rose satin and trimmed with roses and lily of the valley. Mrs. Ernest Hutton (presented on her marriage) wore white satin and old Brussels point, trimmed with white lilies and narcissi. Her ornaments were pearls and turquoises. A lovely combination of tints was to be seen in Mrs. Herbert Alderson's dress of palest green satin and train of green brocade lined with shell-pink, and trimmed with apple-blossom. Her bouquet was composed of pink roses and apple-blossoms.

At the second Drawing Room there were some very pretty dresses. Lady Fitzwygram was in pale blue and mauve over yellow satin, with steel and jet embroideries. The Countess of Huntingdon presented her two sisters-in-law, the Ladies Rowena and Doreen Hastings, both wearing presentation white, and carrying loosely tied clusters of little Banksia roses. Lady Angela Forbes was in a white satin Empire costume, elaborately embroidered in silver. Her train was pink China crêpe, lined with white satin, and bordered with a ruching of white tulle. The Duchess of Abercorn presented Lady Clodagh Beresford, and also the Lady Mayoress of Belfast. Lady Marshall's white satin, with chiffon relieved with black satin rouleautés and lace, proved what can be done by skill and taste to render a half-mourning gown artistic. Miss Joan Wilson was much observed, as you may imagine, owing to the announcement of her engagement to the Duke of Manchester. She was presented by her mother, Mrs. Charles Wilson, and was dressed exactly like her sister, Miss Enid Wilson, in white tulle over satin, very gracefully draped, and train of white glacé velvet, trimmed all round with laurel leaves laid on over each other. Festoons and loops of pearls trimmed the bodices of the dresses, and a triple row of pearls hung over the arms, under the high-draped sleeves. Mrs. Wilson wore pale blue brocade and satin, and carried a bouquet of roses. Her daughters had each a sheaf of Madonna lilies.

Lady George Gordon-Lennox wore a grey gown and ruby velvet train, and had a lovely Arcade bouquet of Malmaison carnations and white orchids. Mrs. Cyril Cunard, in a toilette in which mauve and blue were skilfully combined, carried sprays of shaded lilac, matching the trimming on her train. Mrs. Arthur A'Beckett's beautiful yellow brocade, in a laburnum shade, was trimmed with a quantity of Honiton lace. Her bouquet was red roses mingled with Maréchal Niels. Mrs. Crompton Roberts' rose-pink dress, with pink velvet train, was sweetly pretty. The tulle skirt was strewn with pink petals, and the train bordered with them. Lady Brunner,

"MADGE'S" advice for smart and original Shirts, Blouses, Veils, Hosiery, Gloves, &c., "LEE, of Wigmore-street, has no equal."

OBESITY.—The happy knack of forming a symmetrical contour and a perfect foundation for a well-setting gown is the especial art of Mesdames SYKES, JOSEPHINE, & Co., Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, Oxford-circus, London, W.

in green and white brocade trimmed with very fine old point, had a green velvet train. Lady Wilson, of Archer Hall, Sheffield, had lovely steel embroideries on her steel-grey satin, and her point d'Alençon was worth a King's ransom. Sir Evelyn Wood's daughter was in a charming dress of cream-tinted satin and écru lace, the trimming of both dress and train consisting of ivy leaves and pink roses. Mrs. Paris Singer's pale blue train was lined with biscuit colour, and she carried a bouquet of red roses.

"And what of the Royal ladies?" you will ask. "Are we to hear nothing about their frocks?" I must begin, of course, with that of the Queen herself. It was in quite the latest murmur of the fashion, being black ribbed silk trimmed with ruches and gatherings of chiffon. The skirt was embroidered with jet sequins and trimmed with lace. Her headdress and veil were Brussels point, and her diadem was of diamonds. The ornaments included amethysts. Her Majesty wore seven Orders, in addition to the Garter. The Princess of Wales was in cream colour, her satin dress being embroidered with lace and silver. Her velvet train was embroidered to correspond and trimmed with sprays of gardenia. At the second Drawing Room the most observed lady of the Royal Circle was the Duchess of York, whose first appearance it was since the death of the Duchess of Teck. The Duchess was dressed entirely in black, the material being English moire antique (all honour to her Royal Highness!) embroidered with jet and trimmed with plumes, also black. Her jewels were diamonds only. Princess Victoria was in pale green, and looked quite recovered from the terrible fright she had had the previous day when the carriage accident happened at Aldershot.

Are you not glad that the Duke of Manchester is going to marry an English girl? Everybody thought that he was going to marry an American. Charming as are the ladies of that nation, it seems slightly unfair that they should have a monopoly of our dukes—and it is really threatening to come to that.

The smartest concert of the season was given at Stafford House, in aid of the funds of the Charing Cross Hospital, on Wednesday afternoon. The odd thing about it was that so very many ladies wore black. The Duchess of York sat between Blanche Lady Rosslyn and the Duchess of Portland, both of whom wore black. Others who wore it were Lady Cynthia Graham, the Marchioness of Hastings, Lady Hartopp, and Mrs. Menzies. Almost all the rest of the ladies present wore grey, including Lady Rossmore, Lady Helen Vincent, Mrs. George Keppel, Lady Savile, Miss Chetwynd, and Miss Muriel Wilson. Miss Louie Freear was the success of the day.

London has been extremely full, as you may guess, with so much going on. And yet one hears little about the dinners, the dances, the balls, that used to be such a prominent feature of the London season at its very height. I wonder why it is?

To turn to utilitarian matters, have you seen that the Hackney Vestry has appointed Miss Alice Trebay a sanitary inspector? She was trained by the National Health Society.

Viscountess Duncannon held an exhibition on Saturday afternoon at 20, Brook-street, of the beautiful embroidered tablecloths, dinner napkins, d'oyleys, table-centres, tea-cloths, toilet-covers, quilts, handkerchiefs, and so on, worked by the girls and women of the Garry Hill Cottage Industry. There were some beautiful dress trimmings in spangle and jewel work, most attractive, and by no means dear. It is a capital place to go for useful and beautiful wedding presents.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—Only a poet could have yearningly sung, "Oh, that we two were Maying," and only because he was a poet, and had created a May out of his own poetic imagination. How widely and sadly different from the real one! Who, with any pretensions to average sanity, would have sighed to go a-Maying during this month so far as it has gone? Even the strongest constitutions, fortified by umbrellas and macintoshes, could not possibly have got, unscathed, through the ordeal. How the ideal would have been lost in the painful reality of influenza, rheumatism, and the innumerable ills inflicted on those who dare to fight against a weather of fierce and sullen mood. Perhaps the weather has not been so bad with you as with us in the more narrow limits of our sea-girt land. The sun has been keeping himself terribly aloof from us, just to show that we cannot get on without him. And it is difficult, don't you think so? One has so much more courage, hope, and pleasant feelings of all kinds in the glow and brightness of sunshine. The "May" has been so discouraged that it is not out yet, though it has long been trembling on the brink. So mild was the winter that we feared a blooming of the "May" before this month, a thing of evil omen according to one of our many superstitions. Whatever else may bring us ill-luck—at present it looks as if many things would, at all ends of the earth—the flowering hawthorns will have no share in the guilt this year.

The "season" in Dublin is definitely over, and those who remain—no inconsiderable number—in and about the town solace themselves, when the weather does not malignantly interfere, with polo, cricket, golf, cycling, and such like active forms of amusement. The Phœnix Park affords a great playground for all the sports but golf. Excellent "links," however, abound in many directions; for since the days of Mr. A. Balfour the game has been taken up with much enthusiasm in Ireland. Did he foresee the zealous way in which his lead would be followed, and hope that the sober, calm, game of his native land might have a soothing and moderating effect on our excitable temperaments? Lawn tennis has been a severe sufferer from golf and cycling. It has certainly gone the way of all the glories of the world; and if not absolutely fallen has had a terrible come down from its former high estate. Even croquet is taking away some of its votaries. As nothing succeeds like success, so nothing fails like failure, or even suspected failure; when falling away begins, every one hurries to desert. The Fitzwilliam Club in Dublin are nevertheless having their usual Lawn Tennis Tournament in Fitzwilliam-square next week, costly prizes are offered in the contests, and the Irish Championship will be fought for. The best players in the kingdom will no doubt, as usual, take part in the contests, though the excitement and enthusiasm which the Renshaws used to cause in the palmiest season of lawn tennis are never likely to be evoked by it again through any players, however skilful.

The review in the Phœnix Park and the Viceregal Birthday dinner will finish the duties of Viceroyalty for some time, and allow Lord and Lady Cadogan, if so minded, to repair as usual to London for the season. What a pity that we are not further apart from your seductive big capital, since we cannot be nearer which might be still better. How mixed are all things connected with Ireland! We are too far from England for Royalty and too near—most of us think—for Viceroyalty. Our Viceroys never seem to settle down in the country, as the Viceroys of the more distant India and Canada do in the lands which they respectively govern. It is generally not only a case of "can't be aisy" with an Irish Viceroy, he never even seems to "be as aisy as he can"; never at home in Ireland, though "reigning" over the country.

Mr. Henry Robinson has at last been appointed to succeed Sir G. Morris as Vice-President of the Local Government Board, Mr. Robinson's father having been Sir George's predecessor. The Robinson family seem marked for high official place in an unusual degree; as they show no very special brilliancy to the world in general, one supposes they must possess sound business capabilities and discretion. Sir Henry Robinson, the former head of the Local Government Board, was Lord Rosmead's brother, and the brothers were married to two sisters, the daughters of Lord Valentia. Mr. H. Robinson and his wife (a daughter of Sir H. and Lady Harriet Lynch-Blosse) are well known in Dublin Society, Mrs. Robinson being a lady of great personal attractions.—Yours ever,

Clare.

Just a few recipes. Fillets of beef with purée of horse-radish are excellent and a favourite dish with gentlemen:—

Cut the fillets into nice round pieces, half an inch thick, and lard on one side with strips of fat bacon. Dip the fillets in salad oil and grill them over a clear fire, placing the larded side to the fire first, and only turning them once. Arrange the fillets

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around the purée of horseradish, put a circle of very small slices of fried potato around the outside, and serve tomato sauce in a boat.

To make purée of horseradish.—Thicken half a gill of milk with a teaspoonful of potato flour, when boiling, add a gill of cream, a tablespoonful of vinegar, a squeeze of lemon juice, pepper and salt to taste, and a large, thick stick of grated horseradish. Make the purée quite hot, and if not thick enough add a few bread crumbs.

Have you a bombe mould? If so, try this lovely ice pudding:—

Make a teacupful of milk and the yolks of 3 eggs into a custard. When it is cold, blend it with a gill and a half of whipped cream, flavour it with essence of vanilla and freeze it in the ice machine. Put the ice cream into the bombe mould, and put on the cover with the sunk centre, which presses the cream to the sides. Embed it in ice and salt. Meanwhile, make and freeze a good chocolate cream. Take the bombe from the ice, remove the lid and fill the cavity with the chocolate ice, put on the plain cover and again embed the mould in ice and salt for an hour. Turn the bombe on to a dish and sprinkle the top with grated chocolate.

Have you tried purée of rhubarb leaves as a vegetable?:—

Wash the leaves, which must be young and delicate, and put them with a handful of salt into a saucepan of boiling water. Boil quickly for ten minutes, strain, and allow cold water to flow on them until cold. Squeeze dry in a cloth and rub through a wire sieve. Put the purée into a stewpan to warm, adding ½ oz. of butter, a small piece of glaze, and half a gill of cream; at intervals season with salt, pepper, and a pinch of castor sugar. Arrange the purée in the centre of the dish and garnish with crescent-shaped croutons of fried bread.

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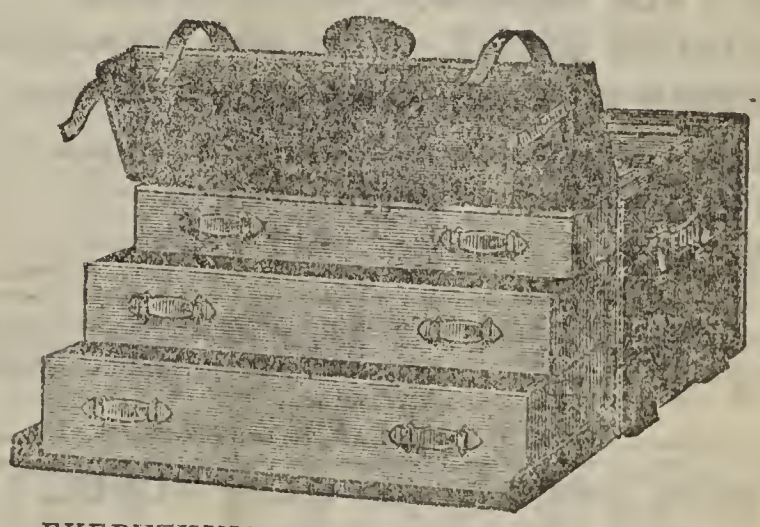

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For ILLUSTRATED GUIDE, with Tariffs of the leading Hotels, Hydropathics, Boarding and Lodging Houses, send postage-stamp to THE CLERK, COUNCIL OFFICES, TOWN HALL, BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE.

AVONDALE HOTEL & RESTAURANT

(Corner of Dover-street and Piccadilly).
MAGNIFICENT SUITES of ROOMS, including Ladies' Reception-room.
POLIAKIN'S renowned STRING BAND (three years at the Savoy) plays nightly during Dinner and Supper.
LUNCHEON, 4s.; DINNER, 10s. 6d.; SUPPER, 4s.
A SPECIAL ROYAL ACADEMY LUNCHEON at 2s. 6d. served daily.
The Wines have been most carefully selected by connoisseurs.
Manager: Mons. GARIN. } late of the Savoy Hotel.
Chef de Cuisine: Mons. DUTRU. }

AND

HATCHETT'S RESTAURANT.

UNDER AVONDALE HOTEL.

Under entirely new management. First-class Cuisine and Unrivalled Cellar of Wines. Moderate Prices. Luncheons, Dinners, and Suppers, Table d'Hôte, Grill-room, and à la Carte. Arrangements are being made for a String Band to play nightly during Dinner and Supper.
Manager: Mons. EUGENE.

ILFRACOMBE.

ILFRACOMBE HOTEL.

Famous for its high-class Cuisine and general comfort.
The PRINCIPAL and ONLY HOTEL on the SEASHORE.
An ideal position. 250 rooms. Grounds five acres. Tennis, Croquet. Splendid Swimming Bath. Elegant Lounge Hall. Moderate tariff. Terms "en pension."
H. R. GROVER, Manager.

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THE GRANVILLE.

A FINE HOTEL] **DOVER** [IN DOVER BAY

Accommodates 400 guests. Is superbly appointed, with all the comforts of a well-arranged mansion, at moderate cost. Perfect cuisine. The Dover Golf Links for use of Hotel Burlington visitors. The finest coast hotel in England. Brochure and Tariff free.

Facing the Pleasure Pier and in centre of Dover Bay.

HOTEL BURLINGTON

HASTINGS. Due South, Facing Sea.

QUEEN'S HOTEL,

LARGEST AND BEST APPOINTED.
Sunny, and most sheltered position in Hastings and St. Leonards.
ELECTRIC LIGHT. PASSENGER ELEVATOR.
Moderate Tariff. Hotel Flys attend the trains.
WILLIAM GLADE, Manager.

FOLKESTONE.

WEST CLIFF HOTEL.

(180 Apartments)

Now opened for the reception of Visitors.
Important Structural Alterations and Additions have been made since October last.
The Hotel is under the personal superintendence of the Proprietor, to whom all communications should be addressed.
Electric Light and Passenger Lift.

CLARENDON HOTEL, Princes-street, Edinburgh.—First-class Family Hotel. Opposite Castle, and overlooking the gardens. Kitchen lately fitted up on top of Hotel. Recommended to American visitors. Under the personal management of the new Proprietor.

BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE PALACE HOTEL.

200 rooms. Finest position. Own grounds. American elevator. Tariff, with plan of rooms and sketch map of Buxton, on application. A. CROSS, Manager.

FURNESS ABBEY HOTEL

SPACIOUS COFFEE, DRAWING, AND SMOKE ROOMS. WELL-APPOINTED BILLIARD ROOM.

IN THE CENTRE OF LAKELAND.

SPIERS & POND, Ltd.

MARGATE.—WHITE HART HOTEL.
Sixty Bedrooms, many commanding magnificent sea views. Famous for its perfect English cooking and choice cellar. Most invigorating sea air in England. Under supervision of Proprietor—G. MARSHALL.

LOWESTOFT GRAND HOTEL.

Rooms may now be engaged for Whitsuntide. Special Terms for May, June, and July (Whitsuntide excepted).

SUFFOLK AGRICULTURAL SHOW, June 2nd and 3rd.

LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.

CHANNEL ISLANDS, HAVRE, St. MALO, and CHERBOURG (via Southampton).

DAYLIGHT TRIP TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.—CHEAP THIRD CLASS RETURN TICKETS will be issued to GUERNSEY and JERSEY, on SATURDAY, 28th of MAY, from Waterloo, Vauxhall, Kensington (Addison-road), and Clapham Junction, by the 8.55 a.m. and 9.45 p.m. Trains from Waterloo.

Also to ST. MALO, on FRIDAY, 27th MAY, and CHERBOURG, SATURDAY, 28th MAY, by the 6.0 p.m. Train from Waterloo, and to HAVRE on FRIDAY, 27th, and SATURDAY, 28th MAY, by the 9.45 p.m. Train from Waterloo.

SPECIAL EXTRA FAST TRAINS will leave WATERLOO as follows:—

ON FRIDAY, 27th, and SATURDAY, 28th MAY.

At 2.5 p.m. EXPRESS for CHRISTCHURCH and BOURNEMOUTH.

ON SATURDAY, 28th MAY.

At 3.0 p.m. for CAMELFORD, DELABOLE, WADEBRIDGE, and BODMIN.

At 5.50 p.m for BARNSTAPLE, ILFRACOMBE, BIDEFORD, and other NORTH DEVON STATIONS; also to stations on the SIDMOUTH and BUDLEIGH SALTERTON BRANCHES.

CHEAP PERIOD EXCURSIONS will run from Waterloo as under, calling at the principal Stations:—

ON THURSDAY, 26th MAY.

At 7.40 a.m. to PLYMOUTH, DEVONPORT, EXETER, TAVISTOCK, LAUNCESTON, CAMELFORD, WADEBRIDGE, BODMIN, OKEHAMPTON, HOLDSWORTHY, BARNSTAPLE, ILFRACOMBE, BIDEFORD, (for Clovelly), YEOVIL, EXMOUTH, TEMPLECOMBE, &c.

At 8.5 a.m. to ANDOVER, SALISBURY, AXMINSTER, HONITON, SEATON, SIDMOUTH, BUDLEIGH, SALTERTON, and all Stations between Salisbury and Exeter inclusive. also MARLBOROUGH, SWINDON, CIRENCESTER, CHELTENHAM, BATH, BURNHAM, BRIDGWATER, SHEPTON MALLET, RADSTOCK, WINCANTON, &c.

At 9.15 a.m. to LYNTON, GUNNISLAKE, CALLINGTON, and LISKEARD.

At 10.10 a.m. and 1.0 p.m. to WINCHESTER, SOUTHAMPTON (West), BROCKENHURST, CHRISTCHURCH, and BOURNEMOUTH.

At 11.0 a.m. to LYNTON, BUDE, PADSTOW, ST. COLUMB and NEWQUAY.

At 1.0 p.m. to WEYMOUTH, DORCHESTER, WIMBORNE, WAREHAM, CORFE CASTLE, SWANAGE, &c.

ON FRIDAY, 27th MAY.

At 10.35 p.m. for EXETER, OKEHAMPTON, DEVONPORT, PLYMOUTH, BARNSTAPLE, ILFRACOMBE, BIDEFORD, TORRINGTON, &c.

ON SATURDAY, 28th MAY.

FOUR DAYS' EXCURSIONS as follows:—

At 1.10 p.m. to WINCHESTER, SOUTHAMPTON, GOSPORT, ROMSEY, SALISBURY, LYMINGTON, NEWPORT, COWES, YARMOUTH, &c.

At 1.15 p.m. to PETERSFIELD, ROWLAND'S CASTLE and PORTSMOUTH and STATIONS in the ISLE of WIGHT.

Long period Tickets will also be issued to Stations in the Isle of Wight.

For additional accommodation to the Isle of Wight, Excursions on Whit-Sunday and Monday to Southampton, Portsmouth, Isle of Wight, Bournemouth, &c., see Handbills and Excursion Programmes, which can be obtained at any of the Company's Stations or London Receiving Houses, or from G. T. White, Superintendent of the Line, Waterloo Station, S.E.

CHAS. J. OWENS, General Manager.

LONDON & SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

EPSOM SUMMER RACES.—THE SHORTEST ROUTE.
ON TUESDAY, MAY 24th, WEDNESDAY, 25th (Derby), THURSDAY, 26th, and FRIDAY, 27th (Oaks).

CHEAP TRAINS from WATERLOO, Vauxhall, Hammersmith, Kensington (Addison Road), West Brompton, Chelsea, Battersea, Clapham Junction, and Wimbledon Stations to EPSOM, on Tuesday and Thursday, up to 11.20 a.m., and SPECIAL FAST TRAINS from 11.30 a.m. to 1.35 p.m., CHEAP TRAINS on Wednesday (the Derby) and Friday (the Oaks) up to 9.5 a.m., and SPECIAL FAST TRAINS from 9.30 a.m. till 1.35 p.m.

A SPECIAL DIRECT TRAIN will leave WATERLOO, stopping at Vauxhall only, at 1.30 p.m. on each of the Race Days, arriving at EPSOM 2.0 p.m.

KENSINGTON LINE.—Trains leave Kensington for Clapham Junction (calling at West Brompton two and Chelsea five minutes later) at 6.58, 7.20, 8.29, 8.40, 9.12, 9.33, 10.13, 10.40, 11.10, 11.40 a.m., 12.9, 12.49, and 1.26 p.m.

For the convenience of Passengers from the Northern and Midland Counties, arrangements have been made with the various Railway Companies to issue Through Tickets to Epsom which will be available from Waterloo, Kensington, Ludgate Hill, Vauxhall, and Clapham Junction.

A SPECIAL FAST TRAIN (1st Class only) for WATERLOO will leave EPSOM at 4.0 p.m. each day, calling only at WIMBLEDON, CLAPHAM JUNCTION, and VAUXHALL.

The Company's West End Office, 30, Regent-street, Piccadilly Circus, and the Central Office, 9, Grand Hotel-buildings, Charing Cross, and Messrs. Lavington Bros., 69, Old Bailey, E.C., will remain open until 10.0 p.m. on May 23rd, 24th, 25th, and 26th, for the sale of Tickets and giving general information.

The Cheap Excursion Tickets from LONDON to Ewell, Epsom, Ashstead, and Leatherhead will not be issued on May 24th, 25th, 26th, and 27th.

NOTE.—Tickets taken by the Brighton Company's line to Epsom are not available to return by the London and South Western short quick route.

CHAS. J. OWENS, General Manager.

LONDON & NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

COLLECTION, CONVEYANCE, AND DELIVERY OF PASSENGERS' LUGGAGE IN ADVANCE.

The Personal Luggage of Passengers will, on application, be COLLECTED, FORWARDED IN ADVANCE, AND DELIVERED at residence or hotel in **North Wales, the English Lake District,** Blackpool, Morecambe, and other Tourist Resorts at the

NOMINAL CHARGE OF **6d.** PER PACKAGE,

which must be paid when the luggage is collected. No package must exceed **112** lbs. in weight.

Tickets dated beforehand to suit the convenience of passengers can be obtained at any of the Company's Stations and at the Receiving Offices, where also orders can be given for Collection of Luggage.

By availing themselves of this arrangement, passengers will be relieved of the trouble and inconvenience of looking after their luggage when travelling. In cases where apartments at destination have not been secured beforehand, the luggage can be addressed, "To be called for," at the Cloak Room of the arrival station.

FRED. HARRISON, General Manager.

SPA.—Grand Fêtes during the Summer Season. Return Fare, 42s. 2d. The Ardennes (Cheapest Continental Holiday), Brussels (for Waterloo), Spa, Switzerland, &c., viâ Harwich-Antwerp, every week-day.

ROYAL MAIL ROUTE TO HOLLAND.

HARWICH-HOOK Route to the CONTINENT daily (Sundays included) by the G.E.R. Co.'s twin-screw steamers. Cheapest route to Germany and quickest to Holland. To Amsterdam, 11 hours.

Passengers leave London (Liverpool Street Station) at 8.30 p.m. for the Hook of Holland, and at 8.40 p.m. for Antwerp. Direct service to Harwich from Scotland, the North, and Midlands. Restaurant car from York. HAMBURG by G.S.N. Co.'s steamers, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Cheap tickets and tours to all parts of the Continent. Read "Walks in Belgium," price 6d., post 8d. Particulars at the G.E.R. Co.'s American Rendezvous, 2, Cockspur-street, S.W.; or of the Continental Manager, Liverpool Street Station, E.C.

ORIENT COMPANY'S PLEASURE CRUISE

by their

Steamship "LUSITANIA," 3,912 tons register.

From London 15th June, Leith 17th June.
To the finest FIORDS in NORWAY
and the NORTH CAPE (for Midnight Sun),
arriving back in London 11th July.
Other Cruises to follow.

High-class Cuisine, String Band, Electric Light, &c.

Managers { F. GREEN & CO. / ANDERSON, ANDERSON, & CO. } Head Offices: Fenchurch-avenue.

For passage apply to the latter firm at 5, Fenchurch-avenue, London, E.C.; or to the West End Branch Office, 16, Cockspur-street, S.W.

JAPAN, CHINA, AUSTRALIA, HONOLULU, FIJI, NEW ZEALAND, and ROUND THE WORLD.

CANADIAN PACIFIC ROUTE,

For berths or descriptive pamphlets, apply CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY, 67 and 68, King William-street, London Bridge, or 30, Cockspur-street, Trafalgar-square, S.W.

SIX GUINEAS.—GENEVA TOUR, nine days, extensions to Chamounix (Mont Blanc), Zermatt (Matterhorn), St. Gothard, Oberland, &c. Lecturers, Sir Robert Ball, Mr. Edward Whymper, Dr. Lunn. Departures weekly from May 10.—Details from Secretary, 5, Endsleigh-gardens, Euston, N.W.; 32, Piccadilly, W.; 47, St. Paul's-churchyard, E.C.; 3, Charing-cross, S.W.

HOLIDAYS ABROAD.

DIEPPE.

AN IDEAL SEASIDE RESORT FOR ENGLISH VISITORS.

ONLY FIVE HOURS FROM LONDON.

Two English Churches. Superb cycling roads. Excellent Golf Links (Sunday play). Best Casino in Europe (June to October). Dancing, &c.

Information free from L. BRAU, 140, Grand Rue, Dieppe, France.

NORWAY AND BALTIC CRUISES.

The S.Y. VICTORIA sails JULY 2nd, for 25 days, to NORTH CAPE and NORWEGIAN FIORDS.

To be followed by other cruises on July 30th, and August 18th.

The only modern pleasure cruiser with large airy cabins.

For particulars, apply Manager, 4, Regent-street; GRINDLAY & CO., 55, Parliament-street; or any of THOS. COOK & SONS' Offices.

12 GUINEA NORWAY CRUISES from NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE—FORTNIGHTLY.

"MIDNIGHT SUN," 3,178 Tons, 3,500 H.P.

Finest YACHTING STEAMER afloat. NO UPPER BERTHS.

Sailings:—May 28; June 11, 25; July 9, 23; and August 6, 20.

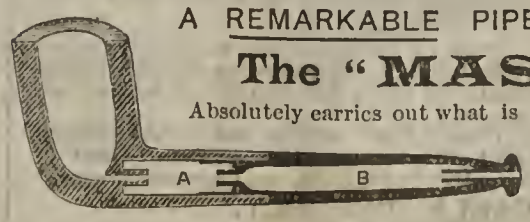
Special Cruises, September 3rd and 17th.

Fares from 12 Guineas, including first-class table.

For itinerary, &c., apply to the PASSENGER AGENT, ALBION S.S. Co., Ltd., Mercantile Chambers, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

A REMARKABLE PIPE! Why? Because

The "MASTA" Pipe



Absolutely carries out what is claimed for it—viz., Simplicity of Construction, Perfect Freedom from Nicotine, No Choking, Cool, Dry, Sweet, Clean, & Healthful Smoking.

Prices from **1/6, 2/6, 3/6.** Your Tobacconist will supply it. If any delay, write The "Masta" Patent Pipe Co., 153, Fleet-street, London, E.C.

What Smokers say:—C. A. HAYWARD, Melville House, Quarry-crescent, Hastings, writes—"I have hitherto tried nearly all the patent pipes introduced, but your 'Masta' Pipe eclipses them all."

A RECORD IN SAUCE.

OVER 8,000,000 BOTTLES SOLD IN ONE YEAR.

YORKSHIRE RELISH

THE MOST DELICIOUS SAUCE IN THE WORLD.

Makes the Plainest Viands Palatable, and the Daintiest Dishes more Delicious.

Enriches Soups, Stews, Chops, Steaks, Fish, etc.

Sold in Bottles, 6d., 1s., and 2s. each.

Sole Proprietors: GOODALL, BACKHOUSE, & CO., LEEDS.

A Cup of Chocolat Suchard

accurately prepared, contains all the delicious, soothing, and restorative properties known to exist in Cocoa. Cup for cup, "Chocolat Suchard" is noted for its superiority of flavour and aroma over all other like preparations.

Chocolat Suchard

owes these characteristics not only to the choice materials it is made of, but equally so, perhaps, to the clean and careful methods by which it is uniformly prepared. The recognition of these sterling qualities has led to a largely increased consumption of Chocolat Suchard all over the world.

BEWARE OF IMITATIONS

All Chocolates, Cocoas and Bonbons bearing the name of Suchard are of the highest quality only.

70 YEARS' REPUTATION.

For Longhand, Shorthand, Pen-and-Ink Drawing, Music-Writing, indeed, whenever a Pen is necessary, use only a "SWAN."

Adds immeasurably to Celerity and Comfort in writing. Of all Pens most famous.

Made in 3 sizes at

10s. 6d.

16s. 6d.

25s.

UP TO £18 18s.

POST FREE.

MABIE, TODD & BARD,

DEPT. C. I.

93, Cheapside, London, E.C.

95a, RECENT ST., W., and 3, EXCHANGE ST., MANCHESTER.

THE "PATTISSON" HYGIENIC CYCLE SADDLE.

REMOVES THE ONE GREAT DRAWBACK OF CYCLING—viz., PERINEAL PRESSURE, AND GIVES COMFORT, HEALTH, and EASE.

ADOPTED AS STANDARD BY
HUMBER & CO., Ltd.
ELSWICK CYCLES CO., Ltd.
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JOHN GRIFFITHS CYCLE CORPORATION, Ltd.

"PATTISSON" HYGIENIC SADDLE.

FROM AN AGENT.—"The saddle suits splendidly; in fact, the gentleman WOULD HAVE HAD TO GIVE UP RIDING if he had not got it!"

FROM A LADY.—"The Saddle has enabled me to ride very much farther than I could on any other I have tried, and I have tried many."

ANATOMICALLY PERFECT.

THE BRITISH "PATTISSON" HYGIENIC CYCLE SADDLE CO., LTD.,

WEST-END AGENCY FOR

HUMBER & CO., LIMITED,

86, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.

REPAIRING AND ENAMELLING WORKS, 8, BLENHEIM ST., BOND ST., W

Toilet "Lanoline" For Delicate and Sensitive Skins. 6d. and 1s.

"LANOLINE" Toilet Preparations "LANOLINE"

Dorting Brand. from all Chemists.

Wholesale Depôt:—67 HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON.

"Lanoline" Toilet Soap For Health and Beauty of the Skin. 6d. PER TABLET. 3 IN A BOX 1s. 6d.

HAVE YOU TRIED . . .

CEPHALIA

For HAY FEVER, NEURALGIC PAINS, & COLDS in the HEAD, &c.?

If not, send 13½d. for a Box to

REECE & CO., Medical Hall, Piccadilly, London.

EFFECT SIMPLY MIRACULOUS.

VINOLIA TOILET REQUISITES.

4d PREMIER VINOLIA SOAP
(For Family Use).

For Delicate, Sensitive, Irritable Skins.

The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST reports:
"An ideal soap, delightfully perfumed."

1/- per box of 3 Tablets.

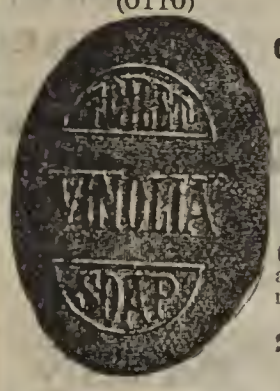
6d FLORAL VINOLIA SOAP
(For Private Use).

Keeps the Skin as soft as Velvet.

The MEDICAL NEWS reports:
"Beautifully emollient and softening to the skin."

1/6 per box of 3 Tablets.

10d TOILET VINOLIA SOAP
(OTTO)



Scented with Choice Otto of Rose Perfume.

Beautifies the Complexion.

The GENTLEWOMAN reports:
"Strongly recommended to keep the skin smooth and free from roughness."

2/6 per Box of 3 Tablets.

6d BLONDEAU PERFUMES
Concentrated, Delicate, Pure.

*Vinolia Bouquet, *Marequil, *Jequilla, *Losaria, Wood Violet, White Heliotrope, Ess. Bouquet, Frangipanni, Jockey Club, Maréchal Niel, Millefleur, White Rose, Jasmin, Musk Rose, Honeysuckle, New Mown Hay, Lily of the Valley, Violet, | Rondeletia, Hyacinth, Ylang Ylang, Stephanotis, Opoponax, Patchouli, Musk, Ambergris, Amaryllis, White Lilac, Narcissus, Chypre, Violette de Parme, Mignonette, Clematis, Wallflower, *Rhine Violets, | Peau d'Espagne.

6d., 1/-, 2/-, 3/-, and 5/- per bottle.
*These perfumes are not supplied in the 6d. quality.

1/- VINOLIA HAIR WASH

DRY. Freshens and cleanses the Hair, and preserves it free from any oily moist appearance.

MOIST. Imparts a natural gloss to the Hair

1/- per Bottle.

Each in 3 odours: Portugal, Rose, and Violet.

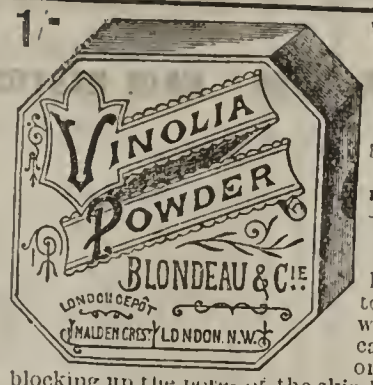
1/1½ VINOLIA CREAM

For Itching, Face Spots, Sunburn, &c.

The LANCET reports:
"An emollient cream for the skin in eczema, rash, eruptions, &c."

1/1½, 1/9, 3/6, and 6/- per Box.

1/- VINOLIA POWDER

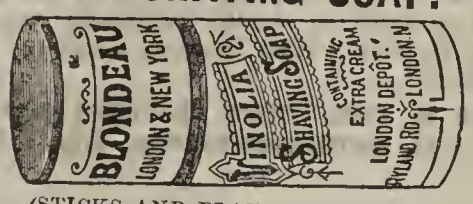


For Redness, Roughness, Toilet Nursery, &c.

The LADY'S PICTORIAL reports:
"Superseding the old-fashioned toilet powders which are apt to cause acne spots on the face by blocking up the pores of the skin."

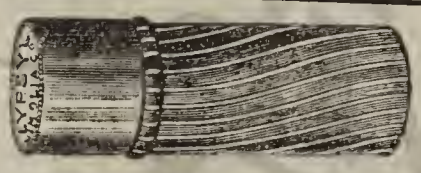
In White, Pink, and Cream Tints.
1/-, 1/9, 3/6, and 6/- per Box.

VINOLIA SHAVING SOAP.
6d



(STICKS AND FLAT CAKES.)
Causes no Blotches.
STICKS: Premier 6d., Toilet 1/-, 1/6, 2/6, Vestal 2/-.
FLAT CAKES: Premier 1/-, Toilet 2/-, Vestal 2/6.

6d LYPSYL.



A Coralline Emollient for Dry, Rough, Cracked, or Pallid Lips.
In Rose-Red and White Tints, 6d. and 1/- a Tube

6d VINOLIA LAVENDER WATER.

Natural and Very Lasting.

Contains the finest Essential Oils, Concentrated, therefore the Most Economical.

6d., 1/-, 2/-, and 3/6.

2/- VINOLIA TOILET WATER.

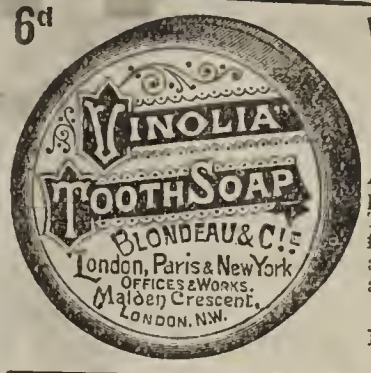
This is prepared with delicate, refreshing perfumes, and is a most exquisite and delightful preparation to use either clear or in water for the Toilet or in the bath.

2s. per Bottle.

6d PREMIER VINOLIA DENTIFRICE

Aromatic, Tonic, Refreshing, Preservative.
Keeps the Teeth Ivory White.
Premier in Round Box and Glass Bottle, 6d.
English—2/6.
American—1/6.

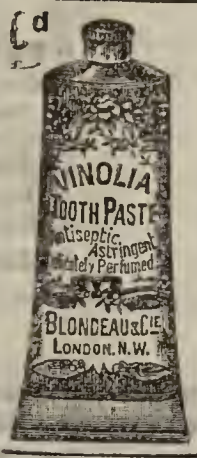
6d VINOLIA TOOTH SOAP.



An exquisite preparation for the Teeth. Delightfully perfumed and free from any injurious ingredients.

In Round Metal Box, 6d.

6d VINOLIA TOOTH PASTE.



Delicately Perfumed.

Whitens and Cleanses the Teeth, without in any way injuriously affecting the dental structures.

In Collapsable Tube, 6d.

6d BLONDEAU Inexhaustible Lavender SMELLING SALTS.

These Smelling Salts are of exceptional Strength and most Refreshing. They are agreeably scented, the pleasant odour of Lavender being very pronounced.

6d. per Bottle.

6d VINOLIA EAU DE COLOGNE.

Fragrant. Refreshing.
As fine as can possibly be made.

The "Court Circular" reports:
"Vinolia Eau de Cologne we consider is absolutely unequalled for strength, purity, and delicacy of aroma."

6d., 1/-, 2/-, 3/3, and 5/6.

3d per 2-oz. Packet. VINOLIA VIOLET POWDER.

Sanitary. Antiseptic. Soothing.

Specially prepared for Toilet and Nursery use.

In 2-oz. and ¼-lb. Packets, 3d. & 6d.
In ¼-lb. Tins, 6d.
In ½-lb. Tins, 9d.

VINOLIA COMPANY, Ltd., MALDEN CRESCENT, LONDON, N.W.

POSITIVELY PRODUCES HAIR.

STOPS IT FALLING OUT.

KEEPS IT ITS NATURAL COLOUR.

PREVENTS IT GOING GREY.

BEST FOR BEARDS AND MOUSTACHES.

"TATCHO"

[THE "GEORGE R. SIMS" HAIR RESTORER.]

GROWS BEAUTIFUL BOUNTIFUL HAIR.

MAKES WOMEN'S TRESSES SOFT AND SILKEN.

A DELIGHTFUL HAIR WASH AND TONIC.

BEST FOR THE TOILET TABLE.

"TATCHO" is sold by all Chemists and Hairdressers throughout the World in Bottles, **2s. 9d.** and **5s.**, or can be had post-free direct from the office, 11, Farringdon-avenue, E.C., on receipt of Postal Order for **3s.** or **5s. 4d.** Cheques and P.O.'s should be made payable to the "George R. Sims" Hair Restorer Company, and crossed Union Bank.

"GEORGE R. SIMS" HAIR RESTORER COMPANY, Ltd., 11, Farringdon-avenue, City, E.C.

The Purest and the Nicest.

Hovis Bread

Perfectly Self Digestive.

Hovis Bread is baked and delivered daily by all good class Bakers in the British Isles; **Hovis Biscuits** are sold by most Grocers and Bakers; or 6d. and 1s. Samples of Bread and Biscuits will be sent on receipt of stamps by THE HOVIS-BREAD FLOUR Co., Ltd., Millers, Macclesfield.

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from falling off.
Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.
Being delicately perfumed it leaves no unpleasant odour.
IS NOT a dye, and therefore does not stain the skin or even white linen.
Should be in every house where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.
Ask your Chemist or Hairdresser for

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per large Bottle.

Prepared only by the

ANGLO-AMERICAN DRUG COMPANY, Ltd.,
33, FARRINGDON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.

IS THE BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE IN THE WORLD.

Prevents the Decay of Teeth.
Renders the Teeth Pearly White.
Is perfectly Harmless and Delicious to the Taste.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World **2s. 6d.** per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER.

Put up in Glass Jars, price 1s.

Buy the 4711 Eau de Cologne

IT IS THE
BEST, GENUINE,
STRONGEST,
MOST LASTING,
MOST REFRESHING
AND
INVIGORATING.

Insist upon the "4711" Brand.
REFUSE ALL SUBSTITUTES.

Of most Dealers in First-class Perfumes. Case of 6 Bottles, carriage paid, for 12/6; or Sample Bottle, 2/3 post free.

THE 4711 DEPOT, 62, NEW BOND ST., LONDON, W.

FARADAY & SON's

Electric Light Fittings

New Designs
(in Classic and Renaissance)
for Season '98

2 & 3 BERNERS ST. LONDON W

Lewis and Allenby

REGENT STREET and CONDUIT STREET,

Invite the honour of a visit to inspect an unrivalled collection of exclusive Novelties and Original Conceptions for the present season now on view in their Costume, Mantle, Millinery, Outfitting, Sunshade, Glove, and Lace Departments.

Silk Department.

A special display of English and Foreign Silks, Taffeta, Glacé Silks in Stripes, Checks, Bayadère, and fancy designs from 3s. per yard. Foulards and Satin Oriental in the newest colourings and exclusive designs from 2s. 9d. per yard. Rich Silks for Court Gowns and Evening wear, made specially for Lewis & Allenby, from 7s. 9d. per yard.

Dress Department.

All the newest fabrics and colourings from 1s. 11d. per yard.

Patterns and Estimates Post Free on Application.

LEWIS & ALLENBY, Ltd.
REGENT STREET and CONDUIT STREET, W.

MAPLE & CO
Direct Importers
FINEST
TURKEY CARPETS
TURKEY CARPETS
TURKEY CARPETS

From Five Pounds
The Largest Stock in the World
From Five Pounds

FINEST
TURKEY CARPETS
TURKEY CARPETS
TURKEY CARPETS

Direct Importers
LONDON PARIS SMYRNA
MAPLE & CO

MELLIN'S FOOD

is known

Throughout the World

as a perfect diet for children, but

MELLIN'S EMULSION

COD LIVER OIL

is unknown to

Hundreds of Thousands

who are troubled with Coughs, Colds, Loss of Flesh, and General Malnutrition, and who would benefit by using it.

MELLIN'S FOOD WORKS, PECKHAM, S.E.

COLEMAN'S

WINCARNIS

Is a delicious beverage and tonic made from Port Wine, Liebig's Extract of Meat and Extract of Malt.

OVER FIVE THOUSAND

Unsolicited Testimonials have been received from Medical Men.

The following Important Testimonial has been received from Dr. FLETCHER.

Applecross, Rosshire, N.B., July 2nd, 1897.

Dear Sirs,—Please forward quarter of a dozen "Wincarnis" immediately as my patient's supply is about done.

I trust there will be no delay, as he takes no other nourishment, and has been sustained and gained strength by "Wincarnis" for twelve weeks. Yours faithfully, DUNCAN FLETCHER, L.R.C.P.

Sole Proprietors and Manufacturers of the above,

COLEMAN & CO., Ltd.,

NORWICH and LONDON.

Sample Bottle may be had, free of charge, on receipt of full postal address. Sold in Bottles, 2/9 and 4/6.

SANITARY & DECORATIVE

RYLAND'S

"THE OLD ORIGINAL"

IMITATES ELIZABETHAN OAK.

FLOOR VARNISH

AT ALL PRINCIPAL STORES.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ARCHITECTS.

AN IMPORTANT INVENTION.

The HOMACOUSTIC APPARATUS (Cutmore's System).

A REVOLUTION IN SPEAKING TUBES.

Patented throughout the World. The Telephone superseded for Short Distances. The Homacoustic System is being universally adopted, and is a Leading Feature in all New Buildings.

THOUSANDS ARE IN USE.

The following are a few of the large establishments where the Homacoustic Speaking Tubes are in use:—

W. & A. GILBEY, Pantheon, Oxford-street.
JAMES WILLING, Junr., 125, Strand.
GAZE & SONS, Tourists' Bureau, Strand.
B. A. MOORE, "Cheshire Cheese," Fleet-st.
"TRUTH" Offices, Westminster.
SPIERS & POND, Limited, Head Offices.
ROBERTS & LEETE, 19 to 25, Bermondsey-street, S.E.
R. WAYGOOD & CO., Falmouth-road, S.E.
E. P. SAUNDERS & SON, 81 to 83, Cannon-street.
ALLIANCE ASSURANCE CO., Bartholomew-lane, E.C.
LONDON ASSURANCE, Royal Exchange.
OETZMANN & CO., 67 to 79, Hampstead-road, N.W.
LLOYD'S BANK, Limited, 189 Fleet-street.
— LITHGOE, Esq., 39a, Wimpole-street Oxford-street.
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK, Threadneedle-street, E.C.
STRAITS INSURANCE, Change-alley, Cornhill.
KELLY & CO., London Directory. Holborn.
LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM AND SOUTH WALES BANK, Gracechurch-street, E.C.

TESTIMONIALS.

Atlas Assurance Company, Fire and Life,
92, Cheapside, London, E.C.

Dear Sir,—I have pleasure in stating that I have had one of your Homacoustic Speaking Tube Commutators and Instruments in my room, communicating with seven departments in this office, and that I find the same to work admirably. It is a vast improvement on the old method of a separate mouthpiece for each tube, and it is an invention which I think needs only to be known to command very wide adoption.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

SAML. J. PIPKIN
Secretary.

The Central London Throat and Ear Hospital,
Gray's Inn-road, W.C.,
December 14, 1891.

I have much pleasure in testifying to the excellence of the principle of the Homacoustic Speaking Tube Instruments, as well as to the perfect workmanship of the tubes fitted at this Hospital.

Quite independently of sanitary reasons it is decidedly more agreeable to have a Speaking Tube by which all blowing and breathing into the face are avoided. There is no difficulty whatever in its employment.

LENNOX BROWNE, F.R.C.S.E.,
Senior Surgeon to the Hospital.

Beware of Fraudulent Imitations. Infringers will be prosecuted. Send for Explanatory Pamphlet and Price List Free by Post.

THE HOMACOUSTIC COMPANY, Head Offices and Showroom. **6, Bruton-street, New Bond-street, W.**

Bulmer's Cider

Guaranteed Pure Juice of the Apple.

Price Lists and Testimonials from

H. P. BULMER & CO., Hereford

or of Wine Merchants Everywhere.

Madame Marie Mathieu,

Who has been privately patronised by the highest ladies in England and abroad, begs to state that **BY THEIR DESIRE** she has now taken additional rooms at

23, CONDUIT STREET, W.

She wishes it to be known that she is the **SOLE OWNER and IMPORTER** of the **OIL** which she uses in her treatment for the removal of wrinkles and in all her preparations for the skin.

Prices: Derma Paste, 10/6; Crême Roma, 5/-; Avoinine Powder, 3/6.
All these preparations are harmless, healthy, and most beneficial to the skin.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"COOPER" CYCLES.

From £5 10. Competition Defied.

Latest design Frame, large Weldless Steel Tubes, Ball Bearings, Tangent Wheels, Brake, and Mud-guards, Cushion Tyres, **£5 10**; Pneumatic, **£7 10**; Ladies', with Dress and Gear Guards, from **£6**. Twelve months' warranty. Lists free. AGENTS WANTED

Wm. Cooper, 753, Old Kent Rd., London, S.E.

USE ONLY

BLAISDELL PENCILS

SELF-POINTING.

ALL COLOURS. ALL GRADES.
NO WASTE. BEST LEADS.

Black Lead 1d. & 2d. Coloured Crayons 2d. & 3d.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Sample Box of 5 Pencils 1s., Free by Post in the U.K.

BLAISDELL PENCILS, Ltd., 46, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

WATER ABSOLUTELY FREE FROM DISEASE GERMS, BY USING THE

BERKEFELD FILTER.

Full Illustrated Price List and Testimonials free on application.

FILTER H. AS SKETCH, **42s.**

SMALLER SIZE, **30s.**

Extract from the Special Report to the *British Medical Journal* on "The Relative Efficiency of Water Filters," by Drs. Sims Woodhead and Cartwright Wood, Jan. 22nd, 1893. "Experiments were carried out with the Filter H., an exceedingly good model which seems to subserve the functions of a Filter better than any we have yet seen described. . . . The output is so large that there is no reason why such Filters should not supply sufficient water for all household requirements. These Berkefeld Filters afford complete protection against the communication of waterborne disease."—Offices and Showrooms:—

THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO., Ltd., 121, Oxford-street, London, W.

City Depot: W. SCHACHT & CO., 26, Finsbury-pavement, London, E.C.

Solid Silver, **£4 4s.**

Substantially made afternoon tea set on approval. If you decide within two weeks that you do not want it, the money will be returned. Every piece is the highest strength consistent with neatness, and will last a life-time. English Hall Marked.

Delivered safe and secure on receipt of

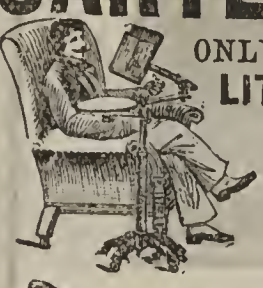
£4 4s.

WATCHMAKERS' ALLIANCE LTD.,
227, Regent-st., & 184, Oxford-st., London

CARTER 6A NEW CAVENDISH ST. PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON.

ONLY ADDRESS OF ORIGINAL CARTER

LITERARY MACHINE.



For holding book, lamp, meals, &c., in any position over an easychair, bed, or sofa. Deliciously luxurious. A most useful gift. Prices from **17/6**

INVALID FURNITURE.
ADJUSTABLE COUCHES and BEDS from £1. 10/-

Bed Lift **£3. 10/-** Reclining Boards, **25/-** Walking Machines Portable W.C.'s. Electric Bells, Urinals, &c. Air & Water Beds.

Bed Rests **7/6** Leg Rests **10/-** Crutches **10/6** Bed Baths **12 6** Commodes, **£1. 5/-**

Carrying Chairs from £1.
Breakfast in Bed Tables from 30/-

Self-Propelling Chairs from £2

BATH CHAIRS FROM **£1. 5/-**

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES POST FREE.

JOHN CARTER, 6a, NEW CAVENDISH ST. Portland-pl. London, W.

SERVANTS! SERVANTS!! SERVANTS!!!

FOR THOROUGHLY RELIABLE SERVANTS,

With personal characters for London or country, also foreign servants. Apply to the BELGRAVE LADIES' AGENCY.

SOLE OFFICES,
83, EBURY-STREET.

Also job servants with references taken up before recommendation can be had on the shortest notice.

MADAME M. ROWLEY'S

TOILET MASK.

(or FACE GLOVE)

Is a natural beautifier for bleaching and preserving the skin, and removing complexional imperfections.

It is soft and flexible in form, and can be easily applied and worn without discomfort or inconvenience.

It is recommended by eminent physicians and scientists as a substitute for injurious cosmetics.

COMPLEXION BLEMISHES

may be hidden imperfectly by cosmetics and powders, but can only be removed permanently by the Toilet Mask. By its use every kind of spots, impurities, roughness, &c., vanish from the skin, leaving it soft, clear, brilliant, and beautiful. It is harmless, costs little, and saves pounds uselessly expended for cosmetics, powders, lotions, &c. It prevents and removes wrinkles, and is both a complexion preserver and beautifier.

To be WORN THREE TIMES in the WEEK.

Illustrated Treatise for two stamps. Address, and kindly mention this paper,

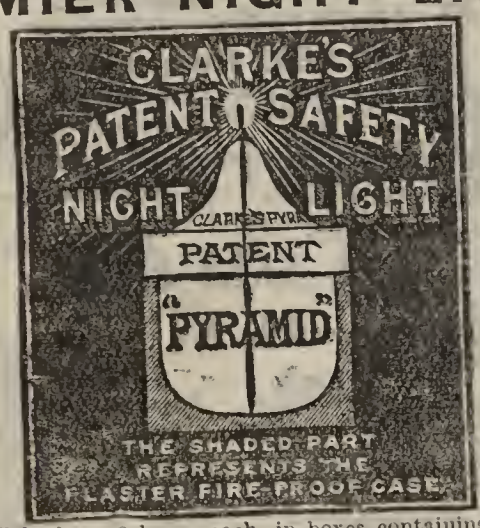
Mrs. M. ROWLEY, THE TOILET MASK CO.,
Berwick House, 139, Oxford Street, London, W.

FOR UPWARDS OF FIFTY YEARS THE

PREMIER NURSERY LAMP.

FOR UPWARDS OF FORTY YEARS THE

PREMIER NIGHT LIGHT.

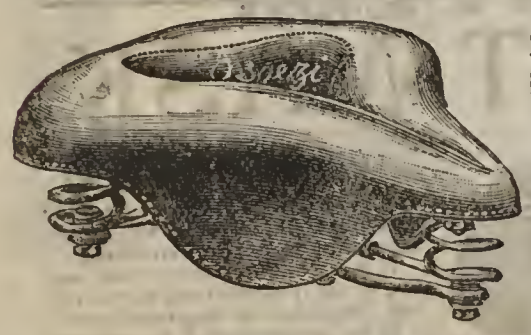


Single Wicks burn 9 hours each, in boxes containing 8 Lights.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Clarke's "Pyramid" & "Fairy" Light Co., Ltd., Cricklewood, London, N.W.

21/- Post Free **The "Osoezi" Saddle** **21/-** Post Free



Is at once hygienic, anatomically correct, and pressure upon the perineum is avoided. No Saddle-Soreness, even after the hardest and most continuous riding.

Suitable for Ladies or Gentlemen. Easily adaptable to any Machine.

A. W. GAMAGE, LTD.,

126 to 129, Holborn, E.C.

Goddard's Plate Powder

SIX GOLD MEDALS.

Non-Mercurial.

THE BEST and SAFEST article for CLEANING SILVER and ELECTRO PLATE. Sold in Boxes, 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. each, by Grocers, Oilmen, Chemists, &c., everywhere.

GOUT AND RHEUMATISM.

All Pain, Swelling, and Inflammation disappear after two to three doses of Dr. LIND'S (M.D.) Specific

"LINDINE."

GUARANTEED HARMLESS. NEVER FAILS. Price **5s.** per Bottle, with full directions and Advice, from the

Sole Proprietor: **O. E. HORN, D.Sc., Bournemouth.**

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.

THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd. Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £30,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE

63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.

THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD

SUN FIRE OFFICE FOUNDED 1710.

SUM INSURED IN 1897 EXCEEDS £425,000,000.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.

The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.

FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

H. HALFORD and COMPANY,

70 and 71, Palmerston Buildings, Old Broad Street, London.

ESTABLISHED 1869.

Business in Stocks and Shares at close prices.

Dealings reported by wire if required.

Prompt Settlements.

Thousands of Testimonials from Clients.

Americans and Canadians a Speciality. Also Westralians and Kaffirs.

Lists of Closing Prices gratis.

Telegrams: "Moniter, London."

NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER FIRM.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

THE LATE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD,
SIR MORELL MACKENZIE,
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,
MISS EMILY FAITHFUL,
THE LATE GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,

and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of

Himrod's Cure for Asthma.

Established over a Quarter of a Century.

Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s., 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, LYNCH & CO., J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS, & CO., BUTLER & CRISPE, JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale Houses.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

CLARKE'S

WORLD-FAMED

BLOOD MIXTURE

Warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from *whatever* cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it removes the *cause* from the blood and bones. Thousands of Wonderful Cures have been effected by it. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each, of Chemists everywhere.

BEWARE OF WORTHLESS IMITATIONS.

FOR COMPLAINTS of the STOMACH, LIVER, etc., DRIN

VICHY CELESTINS Sprin

Caution: See that each bottle has a neck label with VICHY-ÉTAT & the name of t

Sole Importers: INGRAM & ROYLE, Ltd, 26, Upper Thames Street, LONDON, E.C

SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE

National Provincial Bank of England

12th MAY, 1898. LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - £15,900,000.

CAPITAL—Paid	£3,000,000
Uncalled	2,300,000
Reserve Liability	10,600,000
	£15,900,000

RESERVE FUND (invested in English Government Securities), **£2,000,000.**

Number of Shareholders, 13,187.

DIRECTORS.

CHARLES BARCLAY, ESQ.
GEORGE HANBURY FIELD, ESQ.
MAURICE OTHO FITZGERALD, ESQ.
JOHN OLIVER HANSON, ESQ.
CLAUDE VILLIERS EMILIUS LAURIE, ESQ.
FRANCIS CHARLES LE MARCHANT, ESQ.
GEORGE FORBES MALCOLMSON, ESQ.
WILLIAM ROBERT MOBERLY, ESQ.
HENRY PAULL, ESQ.
ROBERT WIGRAM, ESQ.
THOMAS GEORGE ROBINSON, ESQ., *Honorary Director.*

JOINT GENERAL MANAGERS.

FREDERICK CHURCHWARD, ESQ., WILLIAM FIDGEON, ESQ., AND ROBERT THOMAS HAINES, ESQ.

SOLICITORS.

ERNEST JAMES WILDE, ESQ. WALTER EDWARD MOORE, ESQ.

HENRY PAULL, Esq., in the Chair.

The Directors have the pleasure to submit the Balance-Sheet for the year 1897, and to report that after making ample provision for all bad and doubtful debts, and for the rebate of discount on current bills, the profits, including £67,007 19s. 0d. brought forward, amount to £714,649 9s. 5d.

In addition to the dividends and bonus already paid, a further bonus of 7 per cent. will be paid, free of Income Tax, in July next (making 20 per cent. for the year), after payment of which, and the transfer of £40,000 to the Bank Premises Account, and £5,000 to the Provident Fund, there will remain a balance of £69,649 9s. 5d. to be carried to the profits of 1898.

The Directors report with deep regret the loss through death of two of their colleagues, viz.:—RICHARD BLANEY WADE, Esq., the senior member of the Board, and DUNCAN MACDONALD, Esq., who for 42 and 33 years respectively, rendered most important and valuable services to the Bank.

To fill the vacancies thus caused, the following duly qualified Candidates offer themselves for election, viz.:—

THOMAS GEORGE ROBINSON, Esq., of Woodford Green, Essex.
SELWYN ROBERT PRYOR, Esq., of 148, Leadenhall-street, E.C.

The Directors retiring by rotation are:—

HENRY PAULL, Esq.
FRANCIS CHARLES LE MARCHANT, Esq.

both of whom, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Since the last Annual Meeting, Mr. Robinson has retired from the position of Joint General Manager, which he occupied for more than twenty years with great ability and zeal. On his retirement he was appointed an Honorary Member of the Board, and is now, as already mentioned, a Candidate for election as a Director. Mr. Robert Thomas Haines, who has had considerable experience as an Inspector of Branches, and for some years as manager of the Leeds Branch has been appointed a Joint General Manager.

New Branches will shortly be opened near Lancaster Gate, Hyde Park, and at Brixton.

The Directors, after careful consideration, have prepared a scheme for the establishment of a Provident Fund, to be maintained by subscriptions from members of the Staff, for the purpose of securing Annuities for their widows and orphans, and to take the place of the Benevolent Fund which was founded in 1871. With the view of affording encouragement to the adoption of the scheme, the Directors have granted £5,000 as a contribution to the Fund.

In conformity with the Act of Parliament, the Shareholders are required to elect the Auditors and fix their remuneration. Mr. Edwin Waterhouse (of Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co.), and Mr. William Barclay Peat (of Messrs. W. B. Peat & Co.), the retiring Auditors, offer themselves for re-election.

BALANCE-SHEET, *31st December, 1897.*

LIABILITIES.

		£ s. d.
CAPITAL:—		
40,000 Shares of £75 each, £10 10s. paid		420,000 0 0
215,000 ,, £60 ,, £12 ,, ...		2,580,000 0 0
		3,000,000 0 0
RESERVE FUND		2,000,000 0 0
AMOUNT due by Bank on DEPOSITS, &c.		48,810 556 3 11
ACCEPTANCES and ENDORSEMENTS of FOREIGN BILLS on Account of Customers		563,996 7 0
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT:—		
Balance of Profit and Loss Account including £67,007 19s. brought from year 1896	£714,649 9 5	
ess Dividend and Bonus for half-year ending 30th June (9 per cent.)	£270,000 0 0	
Do. for half-year ending 31st December (11 per cent.)	330,000 0 0	
	600,000 0 0	
ransferred to Bank Premises Account	40,000 0 0	
Do. to Provident Fund ...	5,000 0 0	
		645,000 0 0
		69,649 9 5
		£54,444,202 0 4

ASSETS.

		£ s. d.
CASH:—		
At Bank of England and at Head Office and Branches		6,459,139 17 4
,, Call and Short Notice		4,482,272 3 2
		10,941,412 0 6
INVESTMENTS:—	£ s. d.	
English Government Securities	8,132,103 17 8	
Indian and Colonial Government, Railway Debenture, and other Securities	8,599,210 14 1	
		16,731,314 11 9
CUSTOMERS for ACCEPTANCES and ENDORSEMENTS of FOREIGN BILLS per Contra		563,996 7 0
BILLS DISCOUNTED, LOANS, &c.		25,709,146 19 5
BANKING PREMISES in London and Country		498,332 1 8
		£54,444,202 0 4

CHAS. BARCLAY,
G. F. MALCOLMSON,
ROBT. WIGRAM, } *Directors.*

F. CHURCHWARD,
W. FIDGEON,
R. T. HAINES, } *Joint General Managers.*

We beg to report that we have ascertained the correctness of the Cash Balances and of the Money at Call and Short Notice as entered in the above Balance eet, and have inspected the securities representing the investments of the Bank, and found them in order. We have also examined the Balance Sheet in detail th the books at the Head Office and with the certified returns from each Branch, and in our opinion such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a e and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs as shown by such books and returns.

EDWIN WATERHOUSE,
WILLIAM BARCLAY PEAT, } *Auditors.*

At the Annual General meeting the above Report was adopted, the retiring Directors were re-elected, Thomas George Robinson, Esq., and Selwyn Robert Pryor, q., were elected Directors in place of Richard Blaney Wade, Esq., and Duncan Macdonald, Esq, deceased, and Mr. Edwin Waterhouse, and Mr. William Barclay t, were re-appointed Auditors for the current year.

Regret was expressed at the loss the Bank had sustained by the death of Richard Blaney Wade, Esq., and Duncan Macdonald, Esq., the sincere sympathy of the pprietors being offered to the members of their respective families.

The best thanks of the proprietors were given to the Directors, General Managers, Branch Managers, and other Officers of the Bank, for their efficient services, d to the Chairman for his able conduct in the chair.

The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, having numerous Branches in England and Wales, as well as Agents and Correspondents at home l abroad, affords great facilities to its customers, who may have money transmitted to the credit of their Accounts through any of the Branches free charge.

Current Accounts are conducted at the Head Office and Metropolitan Branches, and Deposits are received and interest allowed thereon at the rates ertised by the Bank in the London newspapers from time to time.

The Bank undertakes the Agency of Private and Joint Stock Banks, also the Purchase and Sale of all British and Foreign Stocks and Shares, and the ection of Dividends, Annuities, &c.

Circular Notes and Letters of Credit, payable at the principal towns abroad, are issued for the use of Travellers.

At the Country Branches Current Accounts are opened, Deposits received, and all other Banking business conducted.

The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy as regards the transactions of its customers.

Copies of the Annual Report of the Bank Lists of Branches, Agents, and Correspondents, may be had on application at the Head Office, and at any of Bank's Branches.

12th May, 1898.

By order of the Directors,
F. CHURCHWARD,
W. FIDGEON,
R. T. HAINES, } Joint General Managers.

STOP THAT WAR!

WHAT WE WANT IS PEACE AND PLENTY OF **PATTISONS' WHISKY.**

SINGER

MODÈLE DE LUXE

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OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,002.—THE SIX HANDSOMEST PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN LONDON.

JEMIMA (real name and address will be printed in due course) £2 2 0

'TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW, 1898.

I have received letters from a number of ladies in which they promise to avail themselves of the kind offer of the London Stereoscopic Company and engage to make scrap-books for the TRUTH Show that is to be held next Christmas. The supply of photographic scraps is by no means exhausted, however, and the Editor of TRUTH will be pleased to receive the names of other ladies who will be willing to make scrap-books with the photographs which the London Stereoscopic Company has so generously offered to supply.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,003.

The Prize in this competition has been divided between HARPSICHORD and SINGEON for the following stanzas containing rhymes to the words "Jonathan" and "Mexico":—

A Spaniard who sought a divorce in far Mexico,
Cried, as he seized his wife's paramour, "Ecce Co'!" *
The culprit was Yankee; and therefore the Don hath an
Obvious grievance against Cousin Jonathan. Harpsichord.
* Behold the co-respondent!

A Scotchman who voyaged to Mexico
Cried, while lying one day on the deck, sick, "O
Gie me some whuskey if aiblens a mon hath an
Ounce." It was furnished him by brother Jonathan.
Singeon.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,004.

The Prize in this competition has been awarded to MOS, whose Humorous Song, with the refrain "He was such a methodical man," was printed in TRUTH for May 12.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,008.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered to the competitor who is most successful

IN NAMING THE SOURCES OF THE FOLLOWING QUOTATIONS, ALL OF WHICH ARE TO BE FOUND IN THE ROYAL ACADEMY CATALOGUE FOR THIS YEAR.

These are the Quotations:—

1. "Thou shalt not lack the flower that's like thy face, pale primrose."
2. "And here will sigh thine alder tree
   And here thine aspen shiver."
3. "How can a bird that is born for joy
   Sit in a cage and sing?"
4. "At sixteen years she had no care,
   How should she, sweet, and pure and fair?
   And there pursued her everywhere
   Butterflies all white."
5. "Its colours changing when from clouds and sun
   Shades after shades upon its surface run."
6. "Then blinded Death could steal about unheeded,
   For in those fields the scythe is never needed."
7. "Of Truth doth here this truth appeare
   Withouten al disgyse,
   How men do stryve wych are y-lyve
   To shutte her from thir eyes."
8. "He to the lowly soul doth still Himself impart."
9. "Page and monarch forth they went,
   Forth they went together,
   Through the rude wind's wild lament,
   And the bitter weather."
10. "For, though encircled round by winding coils of sin,
    The soul of innocence doth take no taint within."
11. "Man made me, and my will Is to my maker still,
    Whom now the currents con, the rollers steer—
    Lifting forlorn to spy Trailed smoke along the sky,
    Falling afraid lest any keel come near."
12. "Motus doceri gaudet Ionicos
    Matura virgo; et fingitur artibus
    Jam nunc."

Competitors should as far as possible name the authors of the above lines and also the poems or other compositions from which they are taken. Should a number of competitors prove equally successful in sending in the required particulars, a special competition of a similar character will be given in order to decide to whom the Prize shall be awarded. All answers for this competition must reach me by the morning of Monday May 30, at the latest.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WAYNFLETE.—There is a trite piece of advice to the effect that one should always verify one's quotations. Had you done so, you would have found that I did *not*, in giving Puzzle No. 928, state that *words* rhyming with the words "syringe" and "pick-axe" had to be supplied. Your conclusion that my award of Prize No. 928 was not in accordance with the conditions is, accordingly, based on a false premiss. For your criticisms on the answers to Puzzle No. 1,003, I am obliged to you.

PYRAMID.—Strictly speaking, you are quite correct. I feel sure, however, that my meaning will be generally understood. Many thanks to you for writing.

BACH.—On several occasions such a puzzle as you suggest has been given in TRUTH. I am none the less obliged to you for your letter.

EBORACUM.—The "o" in the word lexicographers being pronounced short, I do not think it permissible to make it long in "lexico." I, therefore, do not consider "lexicò" a good rhyme for Mexico.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,005.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

HUMOROUS DEFINITIONS OF A GENTLEMAN.

'E s a genelman, 'e is. A bloke as 'as a bloomin Bank 'Oliday all to iself, whenever 'e wants one.—Alpha.

A first-class misdemeanant.—R. F.

A man as never says "no" to nobody.—Aunt Isa.

1. Well tubbed, well scrubbed, well rubbed. 2. A man is a gentleman who does not try to be one.—Bad Luck.

One who would scorn to leave a gambling debt unpaid for an hour after it was due, but who would not hesitate to contract it with money which he has owed his tailor for years.—Knarf.

A freak of nature.—Echo.

One who strolls about with his hands in his pockets, with nothing to do but find fault with everything he sees.—Necky.

1. A man who can wear a diamond without looking a cad. 2. A man who never seems to wear new clothes, yet always looks neat. 3. A man who can come out of a pawnshop without being embarrassed.—Red Rat.

Such as 'im does 'ave luck. Folks don't go marchin' into 'is 'ouse with tracts and sermons.—Mos.

1. Does nothing sees everything, goes everywhere. 2. Gentleness and manliness blended into one harmonious whole.—Tan Tun.

The best waltzer at a ball.—Ibrox.

A refined mind, blessed by unlimited tact.—Crosspatch.

The man who can put studs in a clean shirt without swearing.—Poppæa.

A fashionable jockey's under footman.—C. F. Reid.

One who can wear a fur-trimmed overcoat without looking like a music-hall proprietor.—Leaf Rule.

A gentleman is one who does not wear his hat on one side and who reads and speaks the Truth.—Bons.

1. A man that has ideas that he is other than a man. 2. The title most adult 'males' claim for themselves, yet few comprehend its meaning.—Beginner.

A man who politely replies "granted," should you have occasion to beg his pardon.—La Plata.

One who wears his "best Sunday clothes" and his "best Sunday manners" every day in the week.—Hounsnitch.

1. A man who has no business in the world. 2. A man who does nothing nicely.—Bridge.

If one may borrow from Charles Dickens, his remarks on Mrs. Pocket seem to me to describe a gentleman: "Highly ornamental, but perfectly helpless and useless."—Spup.

1. A man who could spend ten thousand a year, if he had it, without making himself ridiculous. 2. A man who can without ostentation wear a top hat on week days.—Almaviva.

1. One who flings his money about freely, and is not above treating an old pal when he is down on his luck. 2. A man who has a fine haughty way with him, and makes people fly around when he shows himself.—Excelsior.

1. One who, fairly polite to his equals, thinks it befits his dignity to treat with insolence all women of an inferior (?) rank to himself. 2. An individual made by his tailor, whose claims to consideration depend mainly on his exterior advantages.—Esperanza.

One who does a bare little, whose father has done less, and whose grandfather never did anything at all.—Edgcome.

Call yoosef a genalhum? Yah! A genalhum 'e don't sneak a ipeny bloater for a farden from a pore lone widder.—Pyramid.

Ever courteous and considerate, he says and does the right thing at the right time and in the right way.—Maia.

1. Aspiration without an aspirate. 2. The man who gets outside to oblige a lady. 3. First favourite in the human race. 4. The man who does not pick up the penny he drops. 5. He who says, "Never mind the change."—Cestrian.

One who would ignore the equality of man.—Blackest Rose.

The true gentleman is he who can stand the longest time upon one leg unsupported, and without shifting his position.—Quantock.

1. One who will (can) refrain from taking a snapshot of a lady in her bathing costume. 2. The Hidalgo, in contradistinction to the Yankee. 3. A man who is ready to serve a lady in every way consistent with his own honour—and hers.—Pax Vobiscum.

One who loves truth, speaks truth, and takes in TRUTH.—Ludwig B.

A man who has nothing to do, and does it well.—W. Nevermore.

One who can wear a top-hat without looking like a commercial.—Max Murphy.

1. One whose morals are as spotless as his linen. 2. One who can (but does not) boast of his ancestors coming over with the Conqueror. 3. One who presses his mother-in-law to prolong her visit. 4. One who likes paying his wife's milliner's bills.—Twickenham Ferry.

1. One who can do what a cad tries to do, without looking like one. 2. Masculine gender, singular number, possessing a plurality of trowsers.—Georgina.

A man who is careful to ignore all debts, except those incurred by gambling.—Briony.

He who can afford to clean his own boots without loss of dignity.—Chee Foo.

A man who can wear a dirty collar and make it look incongruous.—Scissors.

1. A gentleman is a man who thinks he has a right to patronise everybody, and no one has a right to patronise him.
2. A gentleman is a man who no man dares offend,
While to his pride and villainy no man can find an end.
3. A gentleman is a man who can get almost everything, and pay for nothing.—E. S. C.

1. A man who condescends to borrow money from you and forget it. 2. A man who can always wear a pot hat without attracting notice. 3. A man who never raises his voice. 4. A man who is never in a hurry. 5. A man who can do dirty work without soiling his hands. 6. A man who always allows you to pay for drinks.—Mona.

1. A triumph of repressed (or masked) nature. 2. The unattainable ideal, to which even women now aspire. 3. The Laodicean product of civilisation; neither cold nor hot. 4. An orchid; splendid but parasitic.—Robert Martin.

1. A gentleman is a man who, though he may not own a manor, must have manners. 2. A gentleman is a man who is highly polished; he mirrors class-reflections, which are often untrue and distorted.—Ooloo.

1. One whose name invariably figures in at least one of the following courts:—The Breach of Promise, the Divorce, the Bankruptcy. 2. A servant girl's definition of a gentleman is worthy of note. After the departure from the house of a friend of her master's who had been there on a few days' visit, she remarked to the cook that Mr. —— was a real gentleman. "How can you tell that?" queried the cook. "Because when he said good-bye he kissed me," replied the girl, blushing.—Phyllis.

1. A juryman, until discharged. 2. A courtesy title bestowed on a man who dresses well and has nothing to do. 3. A man who is never seen in a public-house except in the compartment where no liquors are sold under 3d. a glass. 4. A man for whom a judgment summons has no terrors.—Merle.

No Jew—a Jew cannot be a Gentile-man.—Ransch.

A rational animal who does not feel it necessary to parade his rationality by assuming "too much Johnson."—Rabelais.

Oftentimes a misnomer, and applicable in many cases when, like the Old Gentleman, he has the full equipage of horns, hoof, and tail.—Go-ahead.

A brutal father, for he "hates creation."—Eblana.

As a judge of good liquor and books that can't bore you,
He keeps a selection of both on each shelf;
He invitingly points to the samples before you,
And looks out on the street when you're helping yourself. Eblana.

1. One who looks well and smart, living on his friends. 2. One who does nothing to earn the title. Irma Lee.

1. A man in words, in acts, in style, far above the poor, the low, the vile. 2. An actor that represents on the stage of life the well-born, the well-bred, the well-to-do. 3. A man with his coat turned inside out, showing outwardly what (he) must be within. 4. A man having all the qualities of a sweep, a scamp, and a beggar. Take his negative. Colonicusis.

A gentleman is easily recognised; his clothes seldom fit, and he never demands change for a bob. Scorpio.

One who can read his name as a magistrate in TRUTH'S "Legal Pillory," read, mark, and learn, and inwardly digest remarks, and for future act up to same. Experto Crede.

A fellow that hath had losses; and one that hath two gowns, and everything handsome about him.—Nurse.

1. An interesting specimen of a bygone age. 2. Head up; hands clean; heart right.

3. He does the good that nearest,
Though it's dull at whiles;
Helping, when he meets them,
Lame dogs over stiles. Mat.

1. A man who has nothing to do, and knows how to do it. 2. One who looks it.—Homnis.

1. A man who preserves his equanimity when a shirt-button comes off. 2. A man who gives chase to a runaway hat without appearing ridiculous. 3. A man who does not explode when you tread on his particular corn. 4. A man who pays his bills with composure. 5. A man who presents a good appearance without constraint. 6. A man who succeeds best in doing nothing. 7. A man who exists only in imagination. 8. A man who feels at ease under conventionality.—A. E. L.

1. One who keeps his own boots clean, and does not make other's dirty by treading on their toes. 2. One who shuns dirty water like poison. 3. A clean man—inside and out.—M. Janson.

A note of admiration; an honourable addition granted to any man of whose manners or social behaviour the speaker is pleased to approve.—Yorick.

One with a clean shirt on, who can appear in public, not only as if he felt comfortable, but able to make those about him at ease in his company.—Allspice.

A superior person. He obtains an article of superior quality to that which is his due. Similarly, certain other superior persons get credit (from the casual observer) for being first-class statesmen, when they are only second or even third-class politicians.—Hyle.

A gentleman is one who will loan you a large sum of money and not expect you to pay it back again.—Finnart.

A man with manners. People's ideas as to what constitutes a gentleman vary vastly. To some, a gentleman is a man with money.—Cubra.

DEFINITION OF A GENTLEMAN—BY ONE WHOSE SPIRIT HAS BEEN "BROKEN ON THE WHEEL."

Any man who can ride a bicycle without looking like a cad.—Henry IX.

Take a large quantity of cleanliness and its weight in godliness, hospitality, and honesty. Add equal quantities of refinement and courtesy. Mix all well together. Turn out and serve. Seasonable at any time.—Tracy Tupman.

1. The most perfect gentleman is he whose expenditure of time and money is most remarked by others and least by himself. 2. One who wears a new tie every day.—Hyle.

1. One who never bows too low. 2. One who, unlike a servant, is never out of place. 3. One who can cough, sneeze, or blow his nose in apparent unconsciousness anywhere.—Crcran.

One who spends his life in riotous living.—Nika.

1. Alphabetically considered: A man who can afford to dispense with H provided he has acquired sufficient £ s. d. 2. A man who is able to wear large checks without looking as if unable to write small ones.—Quilp.

A gentleman is a man who cannot be ranked as noble, and yet who scorns the idea of anything common; and who likes to be described as of no occupation, barring, perhaps, that which the capital letters J.P. are supposed to embrace, and is not a bit ashamed to admit that he lives entirely on the fruit of some other body's labour.—Commoner.

1. A man who can take a lady in to dinner without the lady feeling she has got him. When witty, each one must rejoice. When wise, the wisest has no choice.—Josephine.

A Satyr up to date.—Molly Bawn.

Mars, Apollo, Cupid, Dandy Dan,
In one—behold! my gentleman.
Molly Bawn.

He just is a gentleman! Why, when we meet and he asks me to come and have a drink, he always says, he has nothing less than a "tenner," and so I pay!—La Plata.

What a savage would be if outwardly clothed in silk hat and frock coat; what some grumbling and disappointed competitors think a prize editor is not; and what a lord of creation who will lift his hat to a female inferior undoubtedly is.—Aldbarn.

1. A gentleman is described as a man of good birth, the good berth being obtained for him by the influence of his friends. 2. Gentlemen are the well-considered rests in life's resounding music, without them the multitudinous human hymn would be too overpowering and oppressive. 3. The term especially applied to a gentleman is "high bred"; to-day bakers are very gentlemanly on account of their close connection with the same, viz., "high bread." 4. A gentleman is a man who is highly polished, hence he is apt to mirror class opinions, often fantastical and absurd.—Ooloo.

1. John Dorey ("Johnnie" doré, "fin" de siecle). 2. One who can indulge in ancient ports—tire and side-on (Tyre and Sidon). 3. Society's weed—dandelion. 4. Like a ship who trusses "stays"—grounds at the "bar" and heels over to "port." 5. He of studied appearance (studded). 6. A mass of conceit, "mas" (latin.) 7. The bastard product of Herald's College, with its inevitable "bar" sinister. 8. He who has an hereditary call to the bar.—Bredon.

1. One who has taken the bird after another has beaten the bush. 2. One who endeavours to live on 90 per cent. of profits earned by another. 3. One who is dressed in England but not Dresden China. 4. One who is independent of everyone except the working man. 5. One who lives on his men(lal)s, (means). 6. One who partakes of that which he dislikes—hates labour yet cannot live without. 7. Labour's foe and luxury's friend. 8. The new woman. 9. A luxurious labourer. 10. Luxury's slave. 11. One who loves exertion so long as it is not called work. 12. Not the one who beats the bush but the one who takes the bird. 13. One who looks after No. 1. 14. One who is never satisfied—the more he gets the more he wants. 15. One who spends another person's money in a good cause. 16. One who is charitable with another's money, but miserly with his own. 17. One who fools others more often than he fools himself. 18. One whose "liabilities" are more than his "assets."—Felixicus.

* What is a gentleman? One who hath yearnings
To live without work on other men's earnings,
Who in dress, taste, and fashion, attempts to excel
This notorious prototype gay Beau Brummell.

* The above verse is in the same metre as "What is a Communist?" and bears a similarity thereto. f

Briefly a gentleman may be defined as the idol o the ignorant, the envy of the foolish, and the abhorred of the wise.—Neptune.

He should be gentle, courteous, refined
To woman, and all helpless creatures kind.
Not one who loves blood-sports, and thinks it joy
To hurt, shoot, angle, mangle, maim, destroy;
Consorts with jockeys, touts, raffs, blacklegs, grooms;
In gambling his inheritance consumes;
Betrays too-trusting woman, swindles friends;
Whose wasted life has worthless, wicked ends.
This "gentleman" 's sought after by the town,
Match-making mothers, misses hunt him down
If rich or noble—though the worst of rakes—
Of modest merit he precedence takes!
J. McGrigor Allan.

"A BLOATED ARISTOCRAT."

How suggestive is this slang phrase! A gentleman should be fat. In Central Africa this is, or was, the outward and visible sign of the highest rank. At the Court of Bornou "a huge abdomen is considered the primary requisite of a fine gentleman, or of one fit to wait on the Sultan; and where feeding and cramming will not produce this elegant feature, the part is cushioned and stuffed out till it appears to possess the required dimensions. The honour attached to this form must arise, seemingly, from its being considered a type of abundance and luxury" (*Edin. Review*, vol. xliv., p. 187). The Sultan of Bornou liked plump courtiers; so did Julius Cæsar:—

"Let me have men about me that are fat."

Fat men are harmless; lean men mischievous. The idea is philosophical, and agrees with popular prejudice. A gentleman's duties are eating, drinking, sleeping, and pleasure; no work, but elegant leisure, vulgarly called idleness. This gentlemanly life is summed up in three Italian words, *Dolce far niente*, and in three Latin words, *Fruges consumere nati*. He is orthodox, too fat to work, an emblem of man's sinless state, before woman's curiosity imposed the curse of labour. The Bornou courtier, not satisfied with a private reputation, claimed public recognition as a gentleman by displaying a protuberant proof that he passed his life in eating, drinking, sleeping, and idleness. At the same time, George IV., similarly occupied, weighed 20 st., and was "the first gentleman in Europe," while the Sultan of Bornou was the first gentleman in Africa.—J. McGrigor Allan.

A man who needn't do anything and has plenty of time to do it in.—Comp.

The irreducible minimum of human nature in man.—Robert Martin.

1. Manners and man. 2. What everybody thinks himself but nobody thinks his neighbour. 3. Man, transformed by cultivation from a necessity to a luxury.—Cushion.

1. A gentleman may be defined as the unfortunate victim of a false system of economics combined with a false system of education, who makes an instinctive effort to atone for the sinful parsimoniousness of ancestors or friends, and generally has his revenge upon society by the pernicious ways afforded for the distribution of wealth, and who not unfrequently sacrifices such health and reputation as he may have inherited, and finally confers a benefit upon an ungrateful world by an early exit. 2. A gentleman is a man whose respectability is wholly personal and inherent, not dependent on birth, purse, or even genius, and who, by his just and gentle conduct, is worthily entitled to the esteem and admiration of all rational beings.—Commoner.

EPSOM RACES, May 24th, 25th, 26th, and 27th.
The only route to the Epsom Downs Race Course Station, and the quickest route to the Races, is by the BRIGHTON RAILWAY from London Bridge, Victoria, Kensington (Addison-road), West Brompton, Chelsea, Clapham Junction, New Cross, &c.

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The Trains of the above Railway Companies all run either to the Victoria or Kensington (Addison Road) Stations in connection with the above Special Trains to the Epsom Downs Station.

EPSOM TOWN STATION.—Express and Cheap Trains to Epsom Town Station will also run as required from London Bridge, Victoria, Kensington (Addison Road), and Clapham Junction.

SPECIAL EXPRESS TICKETS may be obtained on and from Saturday, May 21st, at the Company's Offices, 28, Regent-street, 8, Grand Hotel-buildings, and 6, Arthur-street East, which offices will remain open until 10.0 p.m., May 23rd, 24th, 25th, and 26th.

These Tickets may also be obtained at Hays', 26, Old Bond-street and Cornhill; Cook's, Ludgate Circus, and Gaze, 142, Strand.

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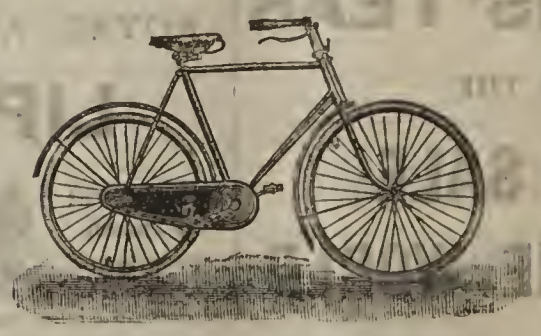

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

No. 1117. Vol. XLIII. Thursday, May 26, 1898. Price Sixpence.

In Memoriam.

WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE. Born, December 29, 1809. Died, May 19, 1898.

QUENCHED is the beacon-fire that flamed so clearly on the hill;
The strong, the strenuous heart that beat so steadfastly is still:
The golden light had lingered long—the sky is radiant yet,
But down behind the purple hills at last the sun has set.

The fight is done; the fighter's sword no foe could break or bend,
Has been surrendered but to Death—so oft the brave man's friend;
And from the home he loved so well the lightning flash has sped
To tell the world that watched so long—to weep, for Gladstone's dead!

All we have lost full time will show when grief has grown less keen,
'Tis but a vision, blurred and marred, that can through tears be seen;
But even now, whilst sorrow's mist still gathers round the tomb,
Like beams of sunlight, memories flash to dissipate the gloom.

Even whilst mourning we recall how true he was, how great,
How earnest in the cause of Right, how zealous for the State;
How pure his aims, how strong his arm, how grand the deeds he wrought,
As, bravest of Knights-errant, he for Freedom fiercely fought.

We see him struggling for the truth, we watch him in the fray—
Each morning an encounter new, a triumph new each day.
We see him towering high above his comrades and his foes;
We see him as "from strength to strength" exultingly he goes.

And then we see him leave the field where long his flag has flown,
Where his high courage found its match in his good faith alone;
We see him turn t'wards home and rest, and all the world draws nigh,
That he who taught it how to live may teach it how to die.

And what a lesson it has been to watch beside his bed,
To see in his bright, trustful eyes no sign of mortal dread;
To hear from those poor fevered lips that murmur for release
No word that does not breathe of love, no message but of peace!

So is he conqueror to the end, this friend for whom we mourn;
This Christian Statesman by the stress of life so overborne;
When weakest he has strongest proved, for he has overcome
The rabid hosts of Prejudice, and Rancour has made dumb.

When he came back to his own roof, stricken by Fate's fell darts,
'Twas then our splendid countryman came home to all our hearts;
Censors and critics then forgot their censure and their spleen;
All they remembered was how great an Englishman he'd been!

The winds of Controversy dropped that had around him rushed,
To a great silence all the cries of party strife were hushed;
The smoke of battle disappeared, the mists dispersed afar,
And from its firmament of faith his soul shone like a star.

And so the close came slowly on till, at the dawn of day,
His spirit, faithful unto death, passed peacefully away;
And he, whom some had feared and some had hated in the past,
Died, as became so pure a soul, beloved by all at last.

Died, as became the people's guide and champion and friend,
A plain, untitled Englishman, unchanging to the end;
Assured of this proud epitaph—what nobler can we pen?—
"He only lived to labour for and help his fellow-men."

ENTRE NOUS.

THE first State Ball, which the Queen commanded the Lord Chamberlain to postpone, in consequence of the death of Mr. Gladstone, will probably take place on Friday, June 10, or else it will be put off until after Ascot race-week, when the first concert is to be given at Buckingham Palace.

Some of my contemporaries certainly do contrive to publish the most hopelessly idiotic nonsense about Court affairs. I read in one journal that the Lord Chamberlain was last week to submit to the Queen the invitation list for the first State Ball. Now, inasmuch as the ball was to have been given on Monday night, and as the invitations were issued three weeks ago, these statements are obviously sheer inventions. The fact is, that the Buckingham Palace invitation list was looked over by the Queen when she was at Cimiez. The delusion that attendance at a Drawing Room will bring forth its reward, in the shape of an invitation to a State function still prevails among many infatuated simpletons. The fact is that, you may attend Drawing Rooms with praiseworthy regularity for a score of years, and yet be no nearer to receiving the coveted invitation to the Palace than you were at the beginning of your "Society" career.

The same journal stated that Princess Henry of Prussia would be present at the State Ball, which was another piece of romance, as it was all along settled that she would accompany the Queen to Balmoral. The presence of Princess Henry at a State Ball in London, her husband being away, would be a breach of the very strict etiquette of the Court of Berlin.

The Princess of Wales will probably stay at Richmond with the Duke and Duchess of Fife over Whitsuntide, unless H.R.H. goes down to Scotland to spend a few days with the Queen at Balmoral, where Princess Victoria of Wales is on a visit to her Majesty. The Prince remains in town, and it is unlikely that he will go again to Sandringham (except for a mere flying visit) until the beginning of November. H.R.H. is to pay Saturday-till-Monday visits shortly to Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild at Waddesdon Manor, and to Lord Curzon and Lady Georgiana Curzon at Woodlands, near Uxbridge.

The Duke of Coburg has been ordered to the baths of Kissingen, and his intended visit to London is abandoned. The Duke will spend the summer at Reinhardsbrunn, his hunting seat in the Thuringian Forest, where the Prince of Wales is to pay him a visit in August. It is now very unlikely that the Duchess of Coburg, or any member of her family, will come to England this year.

Whenever the Queen holds a Council some of the papers invariably print a lot of trash of the most insane kind about the function. Last week the *St. James's Gazette* announced that the Council, which was held at Windsor Castle on Thursday, would be "of more than usual importance," and that "one of the most important matters will be the final signature of the Birthday Honours." These crass fictions are founded on the most intense ignorance. A Council is the most purely formal function that can possibly be imagined. The Sovereign simply signs the papers which are put before her by the Clerk, or reads, "like a parrot" (as Mr. Greville said), any declaration which is placed in her hands. The idea of the list of Birthday Honours being signed by the Queen at a Council is extravagantly silly and absurd. I wonder we were not told that each name which that list contained would be discussed by the Queen and the Privy Councillors present!

It seems to be generally supposed that members of the Cabinet attend a Council *ipso facto*, but, as a matter of fact, only those Privy Councillors go to Court who have been specially summoned; and it would be troublesome and inconvenient if the hard-working chief of one of the great departments were obliged to waste half a day in going to Windsor for absolutely routine business which could be perfectly well transacted in his absence. The *St. James's* also blunders in stating that the Privy Councillors would lunch with the Queen. They lunch at the Castle, and usually with the members of the Household-in-Waiting; for it is a part of the etiquette of the Court that only Royal personages ever sit at the Queen's own luncheon table.

There is a perplexing circumstance in connection with the Birthday honours list which admits of either of two interpretations, and the difficulty is to determine which is likely to be the correct one. Either the more junior officers of the Royal Navy are so averse to being distinguished by honours and distinctions that, in consideration for their feelings, their names are carefully left out of the awards, or the persons whose duty it is to call to her Majesty's notice the names of deserving recipients shamefully neglect their duty, with the result that the Navy portion of the C.B.s and D.S.O.s gets transferred to the sister Service. Upon the present occasion the extent to which the Royal Navy has been left out in the cold is accentuated by the honours list for the Tirah campaign, published almost at the same time. As regards this latter I have tried to calculate what the honours list would be if this country were to be again so unfortunate as to have to fight a battle of the magnitude of Waterloo; but the problem is so vast that I have not yet worked it out.

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 1334 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 1328.
For AMUSEMENTS, see pages 1331-3.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 1349.

Sir Arthur Fremantle, who appears in the Birthday honours, has been for some years the popular and amiable Governor of Malta. He and Lady Fremantle have made the Palace a great social centre. The season at Malta is now definitely ended, though many visitors yet remain owing to the crowded state of the homeward-bound ships at this season when all the winter resorts empty themselves. Admiral Sir John Hopkins and the Mediterranean Squadron have not yet left the island on their summer cruise.

During June the Lords-in-Waiting on the Queen will be Lords Lawrence, Kintore, and Bridport, while Captain Drummond of Megginch, Colonel Browne, and Sir Edmund Commerell are to be the Grooms-in-Waiting; and Colonel Davidson and Lieutenant Ponsonby (taking the place of Lord Strafford) the Equerries on duty. The Ladies-in-Waiting are to be the Dowager Lady Ampthill, Dowager Lady Erroll, and Dowager Lady Churchill. Mr. J. S. Egerton and Mr. T. J. L. Hay will be the Pages-of-Honour on duty, and they are to be in attendance in the Throne Room at the Drawing Room (the last of the season) which the Princess of Wales intends to hold at Buckingham Palace on June 8.

One of the papers gives reasons why Captain Malcolm Drummond was selected to represent the Queen at the funeral of the late Duke of St. Albans, which reasons are purely imaginative. Captain Drummond is a Groom-in-Waiting to the Queen, and, as the Groom then on duty could not himself go to the funeral, because he was in attendance on her Majesty at Windsor Castle, the duty fell to Captain Drummond, as the Groom-next-in-Waiting. Some years ago there was a tiresome difficulty upon more than one occasion in obtaining the services of any member of the Household duly qualified to represent the Queen at funerals, so her Majesty made a new regulation, which applies to the lords, grooms, and equerries: that in the event of any extra duty arising which cannot be taken by the functionary in waiting, it will devolve on the official of the same class who is next in waiting.

The Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz will spend the holidays at Kew, where the Duke of Cambridge is to entertain a small family party at Cambridge Cottage.

Lord and Lady Cadogan devoted last week to various Viceregal duties, of the kind that are always in season, whatever the season may be. Lord Cadogan opened a new wing at St. Columba's School, honouring the occasion with a speech. Lady Cadogan did the same thing for a bazaar, but without the speech. In Ireland the display of oratorical powers is not looked for—to put it mildly—from women, no matter how highly placed. In a land supposed to have a special gift of eloquence, men retain in their own hands the monopoly of practising the art "of deceiving wherein men find pleasure to be deceived." The pity of it is, not that they gag the women, but that they stop there. And the grievance is not only an Irish one.

The wet and windy May which is supposed to suit the farmers, but decidedly disturbs the pastimes and arrangements of Society, has persistently held its course in Ireland. Nevertheless, the Irish Lawn Tennis week has been fixed as usual, and is being held this week in Dublin, in Fitzwilliam-square. The Birthday Review and Lord Cadogan's State dinner at the Viceregal Lodge finished the duties of the Viceroy for the season. The end of the month will see the shutters put up at the Viceregal Lodge, and Lord and Lady Cadogan will leave Ireland for what may be called the Viceregal long vacation. This year there is no Royal visit to look forward to; the annual visits of Royalty are not for Ireland as they are for Scotland, and the more distant Riviera. The idea of the Royal residence so prominently brought forward before the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York to Ireland is never mentioned now.

Lord Ardilaun's refusal to accept the Lieutenancy of the County of Dublin—then given to Lord Meath—was based on peculiar views, which, if true, would make the acceptance of all honours dishonourable and degrading. Surely an official place or title can be accepted without forfeiting freedom of opinion and the right to call one's soul one's own. If a Party chooses to treat as bribes all the honours it bestows, an independent man should make it his business to accept—if he gets the chance—a place, and then show that he has not taken it as a bribe. Public spirit should dictate this course, too, as it would be hard on the public that only those who take bribes should be placed in high positions.

A paragraph in the *Ross-shire Journal* of last week reports that Mr. Meyrick Bankes of Balconie entertained on the Castle policies a party of local shots, who, after being regaled with cake and wine, killed several hundreds of black game. This statement has somewhat perturbed one of my sporting readers, who points out that the close time for black game lasts from December 11 to August 19, inclusive. I do not think he need worry himself, however. The statement is probably the outcome of an artless reporter's notion that rooks are game.

None of the papers has referred to Mr. Gladstone's keen interest in the affairs of the British Museum, where he spent a great deal of his spare time. He was appointed an elected trustee of the Museum in 1856, mainly through the influence of Lord Palmerston, and he held his place on the Board until 1881, when he resigned, in order to make

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way for his friend the late Dean Liddell. Mr. Gladstone's resignation did not remove him from the Governing Body, as he was then an official trustee, being Prime Minister. He took a most active part in the management of the Museum, and it has been said that no other Prime Minister has done such good administrative work there, with the exception of Sir Robert Peel, who may have communicated his own zeal for the institution to his friend.

The most remarkable transaction during the Ashburnham sale was the running up of an uncut copy of the first edition of "Waverley" to the astounding price of £78! What would this copy have fetched if it had been produced in its original boards? The highest price hitherto obtained for an uncut copy of the 1814 edition was ten guineas, which was realised about twenty years ago at the Gibson Cray sale. When the greater part of the MS. of "Waverley" was sold in London, about a year before Sir Walter's death, it fetched only £18! The early editions of the "Waverley" series are mere literary curiosities, as they do not contain the very interesting notes with which Scott afterwards enriched each of the novels.

The new volume of Sir M. E. Grant-Duff's diary, to which I referred recently, contains a number of very good House of Commons stories; such as the anecdote of Joseph Hume saying during a debate: "The right hon. gentleman alleges such and such, but I can tell the right hon. allegator. . . ." Quite as good was Sir George Balfour's observation in more recent days: "The pale face of the British soldier is the backbone of the Indian Army."

There is a surprising statement by Mr. Oswald Crawfurd—surprising to me at least—in the current number of the *London Review*, the bright and interesting paper which he has just successfully launched. Humorously discussing the business side of literature in the language of commerce, he observes that novels are depressed, except in the case of five or six special favourite brands; that travel books are at a discount, and biographies dull in more senses than one; but that, on the other hand, "there is a firm market for poetry, minor as well as major." It is the latter part of the report, strengthened as it is by the additional information that the versifiers make considerable profits, that has astonished me. I had supposed the minor poets' wares to be an absolute drug in the book market. Considering the quality of most of these goods, it seems, indeed, an unkind reflection upon the taste of the public to suppose that they have a sale. However, Mr. Crawfurd speaks with the knowledge of an expert. It is too bad of him, though, not to have kept his knowledge to himself. The disclosure of it will infallibly bring limping into the public arena many a Pegasus who has hitherto been content to be put through his paces in the modest obscurity of a private edition. Surely there are enough already.

The Ruston sale at Christie's last week bids fair to claim pre-eminence, so far as the present season is concerned, inasmuch as the collection realised no less a sum than £43,000. Towards this large total the works of Sir Edward Burne-Jones and Messrs. G. F. Watts and Rossetti mainly contributed; the former master's "Mirror of Venus" fetching the record price of 5,450 gs.—a noticeable advance upon 3,400 gs., for which it changed hands in 1892. This was not only a record price for any picture painted by this artist, but exceeds any previous bid at Messrs. Christie's for a work disposed of during the lifetime of the painter, with one exception—that being the 6,300 gs. paid for the "Babylonian Marriage Market," the work of Edwin Long. The three Rossettis went for 1,550 gs., 3,000 gs., and 3,000 gs. respectively, each of the two latter realising 2,000 gs. more than the previous prices paid for them, and establishing a Rossetti record. The three pictures by Watts were also knocked down at prices considerably in excess of those paid for them in 1887.

"Perhaps it was right to dissemble your love,
But—why did you kick me downstairs?"

asked J. P. Kemble nearly a century ago. I can imagine the rejected artists addressing the Royal Academy in a paraphrase of the above well-known couplet, and exclaiming "Perhaps you were right to our pictures reject, But—why did you ruin our frames?" For I am assured that the damage done to the often valuable gold frames of pictures which are not hung at Burlington House is getting more extensive every year. Aggrieved artists have even been known to protest that the servants of the Academy must be in the pay of the frame-makers. Of course, it is not really so; but it is easy to see what an annoying, and often serious, matter it must be for a struggling artist to find the water-gilt mat-gold frame of his picture defaced by the marks of dirty and perspiring fingers, even if it is not actually mutilated by rough usage.

The use of care and soft leather gloves by the porters would do much perhaps to mitigate the evil; though I think that a better way of preventing the mischief complained of would be to rescind the rule which requires all pictures intended for the Academy to be submitted in gilt frames. Why, indeed, insist on anything but the roughest and cheapest sort of frame, seeing, that after all, the picture is *the* thing. But this would probably bring about something like a revolution at Burlington House, for, so far as my casual observations go, it must be for the sake of their frames that

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many of the pictures seen upon the walls there year after year are hung.

The University of Oxford has done well to reject the crazy proposal to establish a Final Honours School of Agricultural Science. It was well said by one of the opponents of this absurd and foolish scheme that the University might just as well start a Final Honours School of Brewing. There is just now a mania at both the Universities for all kinds of fads, most of them of the most eccentric description, and the ignominious failure at Cambridge of many such experiments ought to have taught Oxford a lesson. It is no part of the business of such a University as Oxford to examine upon subjects which it does not teach, and there is quite enough of legitimate work to be done there without introducing atuities of this kind. The Dean of Christ Church is espectable as an ecclesiastic, but as the head of a great ducational foundation he has proved a dreary disappointment, and his support of this silly scheme is not likely to nprove his position in the University.

It seems incredible that in these enlightened days a roposal to close the Glasgow University grounds on nday should be extensively supported in that city. irely even the most austere of Presbyterian fanatics nnot be so stupidly bigoted as to object to these ounds being opened simply for walking to many who are ad to find in them a quiet retreat on Sunday afternoons. nder an ancient charter, the University grounds are a peculiar," the Civic authorities having no jurisdiction natever within their boundaries. Of late, however, the nators have foolishly abandoned their exclusive power of vernment by requesting the Civic authorities to provide em with two policemen, instead of establishing a stodian of their own. The effort to stop "Sabbath secration" by closing the grounds meets with the approval of all rational Glaswegians, and it may be ped that it will be vigorously opposed.

The Lord Chancellor has presented the Rev. Robert nes, curate of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, to the rectory Barham, Norfolk, vacant by the death of Canon rnier, who had held this benefice for only a few years. rham was until recently one of the richest livings in the t of the Chancellor, but agricultural depression has cut wn the net stipend from over twelve hundred a year to ween three and four hundred, with a good house and den, which, indeed, are on somewhat too extensive a le for the reduced income, unless the Rector is possessed adequate private means.

The rectory of Wrotham, Kent, which is believed to be best piece of preferment in the gift of the Primate, been given by Dr. Temple to the Rev. Leslie Goodwin, a son of the late Bishop of Carlisle, who has been beneficed in Kent for many years, and he has earned preferment by really good work in the diocese. Mr. Goodwin was for a long time rector of St. Martin's, and vicar of St. Paul's, Canterbury, and Archbishop Benson gave him the living of Aldington, near Hythe, which he is now leaving. The net income at Wrotham is over £800 a year, with a capital residence, while Aldington is worth about £350, reduced by agricultural depression from upwards of £700 a year.

Canon Ainger, Master of the Temple, is to be the special preacher at Westminster Abbey next Sunday evening.

The ladies of a Yorkshire parish are, I am given to understand, much exercised in mind at the change that the new Vicar has unaccountably wrought in his personal appearance. Before the Archbishop of York appointed him to the living he rejoiced in the possession of a luxuriant moustache. On his appointment, this becoming adornment mysteriously disappeared, and he no longer looks the same man. Strange to say, a similar phenomenon was noticed when his predecessor was presented to the living three or four years ago, only in that case a beard as well as a moustache vanished. The coincidence has given rise to a suspicion that the reverend gentlemen were impelled to offer up their moustaches as a sacrifice to the prejudices of a superior ecclesiastical authority concerning such hirsute appendages for the clergy. It *is* a singular coincidence, but I feel sure it can be nothing more. If a shaving ordinance were in force in the diocese, we should have heard about it from the lady friends of the clergy, if not from the latter, long before this.

It seems necessary to remind the overseers and churchwardens of the parish of Lillington, near Leamington, that ecclesiastical rates were abolished some years ago. At present the overseers permit the churchwardens' demand note for a church rate at twopence in the pound to be delivered with the demand note for the half-yearly poor rate, and both documents bear the name and address of the same collector. There is nothing whatever to indicate that payment of the Church rate is purely optional, and even if there were, its collection in conjunction with the poor rate would still be improper and objectionable. It is quite conceivable that ignorant persons are deluded into the belief that payment in the one case is as obligatory as

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in the other, and now that the attention of the Local Government Board is drawn to the matter they will doubtless put a stop to the practice.

Nearly a year ago I referred approvingly to the appeal of the London Playing Fields Committee for funds for the purchase of Prince George's ground, near Raynes Park Station. Owing to the many demands upon the purses of the public during the Jubilee, the contributions received fell a long way short of the amount required, but I am glad to find that the movement has not been dropped, and I hope that this year it will be carried to a successful conclusion. The ground, which contains about twenty-five acres and provides twenty-four cricket pitches and seven football grounds, is at present rented by the committee, and the option for the purchase of the freehold, at the price of £10,000 remains open only till Christmas next. Unless the money can be raised by that date, the land will fall into the maw of the all-devouring builder, and the youthful population of London will be deprived of another place of healthy recreation—places already sadly too few. I may add that donations to the fund can be sent to the Hon. Chandos Leigh, Q.C., 45, Upper Grosvenor-street, W.

A friend of mine in Athens writes:—

Karditz was executed to-day for his attempt on the King's life. He was justly punished. But he left two sisters. They are orphans, and the one relative they have in Athens has declared his intention to turn them out of his house to save himself from the disgrace of sheltering the sisters of a would-be regicide. One of the girls has been a teacher in a Government school, and she has been dismissed; the other is scarcely more than a child. No one here would be likely to give either of them employment, or to take up the case of these orphans, owing to the black cloud that rests over them, although they bear the best of characters, and knew no more of the intentions of their brother than any two girls in England. Can you start a subscription for them in your newspaper, or do anything else which you think would be to their advantage?

I will readily transmit any money that any one may be desirous to send to Athens for their benefit. Their lot must be a very sad one.

Lady Jeune once more appeals to the public to provide her with the means to secure to London children a holiday in the country. Last year she received £1,107 and sent 1,041 children to the country, besides repaying an overdraft of £220, due to the subscriptions having fallen short of outlay in 1896. Each pound subscribed enables her to send a child into the country for three weeks, and provides for its journey, as well as clothes when needed. The money, therefore, confided to her is well and economically used. The readers of TRUTH have always enabled me to hand her over a considerable sum. I trust that they will do this again. A pound is not much to give, if it ensures to some little child a change from slum life in a town to a country holiday of three weeks.

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Reference was recently made in TRUTH to the enormous and ever-increasing bulk of the Indian Army Regulations. The matter was specially referred to by one of my military correspondents in connection with the corresponding volume of clerical work thrown upon commanding officers and adjutants. The evil, however, does not end with these authorities. A quartermaster-sergeant in an Infantry battalion sends the following interesting particulars of the regulations under which he has to work, and I presume that all battalions are alike in this respect. It will be seen that there are at least four volumes of the Indian Army Regulations omitted from this list, and I presume that my correspondent has only given those volumes which concern his own office work:—

Vol.	Subject.	Paragraphs.	Pages.	Pages of Appendix.	Total.	Date of Printing.
1 pt. 1 ..	Pay and Allowances ..	1,610	383	24	407	'93
1 ,, 2 ..	Do. do.	639	189	—	189	'93
2 pts. 1 & 2	Discipline	2,880	738	—	738	'87
3	Equipment	933	192	276	468	'92
5	Commissariat	2,176	489	239	728	'91
7	Dress	—	176	—	176	'91
10 pt. 1 } 10 ,, 2 }	Passages by Sea and Land.. ..	567 720	125 316	37 99	162 415	'89 '89
11	Clothing, *Provisional Issue*	—	144	124	268	'94
1	Bengal Barrack Reg...	819	138	101	239	'78
1 pt. VIII.	Field Service Table ..	—	86	—	86	'97
1	Field Service Manual..	—	411	—	411	'95
1	Equipment Tables ..	—	41	—	41	'96
1	Price List of Stores ..	—	475	—	475	'96
1	Instructions for Pay, &c.	536	258	—	258	'92
1	Commission Voucher and Store Accounts	—	144	—	144	'91
1	Encampments	—	70	—	70	'72
1	Transport and Loading	—	100	—	100	'86
		10,880	4,475	900	5,375	

It may be added that this list is by no means exhaustive, as there are other volumes relating to Ordnance, Hospitals, and Volunteers, not to mention the Queen's Regulations and Royal Warrants bearing on daily regimental work. And over and above all this there are circulars and Army Orders issued, as my correspondent says, "by cartloads."

Now, every administrative system must, of course, have a definite code of regulations to work by, but the best system ever devised would be strangled under such measure less lengths of red tape as the above. It will be noted that one or two of the volumes specified date back upwards of twenty years. Many of them are said to be utterly out of date, and it stands to reason that they must be so. I would seriously suggest to the Indian military authorities whether the time has not come for them to overhaul and condense this preposterous mass of literature. Red tape is not unknown at the War Office but that Department manages to embody all the more important of its standing ordinances in a twentieth part of the space occupied by the various Indian military regulations. A comprehensive code in a couple of volumes

CHALLIS'S ROYAL HOTEL, Rupert-street, Piccadilly-circus.—The new Louis XV. Dining-room now open for Luncheons and Dinners. Table d'Hôte Luncheon, 2/-, from 12.30 to 3 p.m.; Table d'Hôte Dinner, 3/6, from 6.30 to 9 p.m., served at separate tables. Open to non-residents.

brought up to date and re-issued every year, would probably serve every practical administrative purpose.

In the May number of the *Practitioner* attention is called to the impossibility of providing medical officers for the two Army Corps which Lord Wolseley insists are ready for foreign service. In a battle there is a loss in wounded of about 20 per cent., taking the average of wounded in the German and French Armies in each of the great battles fought. The regulations lay down that 118 medical officers are required in the front or fighting line of an Army Corps; about fifty on the line of communications, with ten per cent. added to the total for casualties. Thus 400 medical men would be needed for the two Corps. There are 800 medical officers on the active list, or thereabouts. Of these 550 are serving in India and foreign stations, leaving only 250 available for service with Lord Wolseley's two Army Corps. In addition to these 250 there are about 120 retired medical officers under fifty-five years of age liable to recall to service, but of these one third are estimated to be unfit for foreign service. Therefore, even if all the military hospital establishments in the United Kingdom were denuded, the number of medical officers that could be obtained for service with the two Army Corps abroad would not be more than 330. There is, it is true, the Army Medical Reserve of Officers. It consists of about 200 medical men, most of them officers of Volunteer Regiments, and in the event of some great war, involving an expedition abroad consisting of two Army Corps, they would have to stay at home. The *Practitioner* enjoys a high reputation as a medical journal. Its figures are remarkable. They may be correct, or the reverse, but, in any case, they need consideration.

I do not quite understand why there should be any objection on the part of pensioners to payment of their pensions at shorter intervals, but some objection there certainly seems to be, and I have received two or three letters giving expression to it. For instance, one pensioner writes from Dublin :—

> In your issue of last week you state that pensioners cannot get credit, and have to go to the workhouse. Allow me to inform you that such is not the case. There are a number of houses here who give them three months' credit, and weekly money according to the rate of pension. Other houses give them lodgings, and money weekly to buy food. Instead of doing that, they fly to the public-house, then go begging, and from that they go to the unions, and in a number of cases do that under false pretences.

I confess I do not follow the argument. If a man has a tendency to intemperance and improvidence, the best plan would seem to be to let him have his money in the smallest possible quantities at the most frequent intervals, and the worst possible plan that of giving him his money in large lumps at long intervals. I quite understand that when such a man gets paid once a quarter he spends all his money in riotous living during the first week, and is then reduced to begging and the workhouse, and this fact is so well-known to all the Guardians in the country that they are agitating for a change in the system. How such a change would hurt a provident and temperate man, I confess I fail altogether to see.

After listening to so many Jeremiads on the condition of the Home Army, I found my mind immensely relieved by a visit to the Military Tournament. I expected, after studying Mr. Arnold Forster and other authorities, to see squads of sickly schoolboys making pitiful attempts to go through military drill and evolutions; and I was prepared to see bearer companies busily at work carrying out of the arena those whose strength failed them under their arduous exertions. Nothing of the sort. Somehow or other, we seem to have plenty of regiments left in the country who can supply a good show of stalwart, smart, and well-trained soldiers. Though the Army is going to the dogs, the display at the Agricultural Hall shows not the slightest falling-off in quality or in public interest. And I doubt very much whether any Army in the world could give a better exhibition of its kind—to say nothing of the admirable contribution which is made to the show by the Navy and the Reserve Forces.

Only last week I hazarded the remark that "of all the changes that have been made in uniform since the days of Marlborough, nine-tenths have been mere useless waste of money." An interesting opportunity of testing this assertion is afforded at the Military Tournament, for the "pageant" this year gives samples of uniforms in the Army and the Navy during the last three centuries. Looking critically at the procession, it struck me that, while the changes are sometimes for the worse, and sometimes for the better, on the whole we have advanced a little. Comparing the soldier of the present day with his predecessor under the Stuarts and the Restoration, I should say that trousers and Northampton boots are an advance on shoes and knee-breeches; and that our own "Tommy's" natural head of hair—cut however short and plastered however greasily over the forehead—would suit the exigencies of campaigning better than any wig. From Marlborough's time to Wellington's all the changes made seem to have been in the wrong direction; and the whole idea of the rulers of the Army down to the time of the Crimean War seems to have been to encase a soldier in the stiffest, hardest, awkwardest, and ugliest garments that ingenuity could devise. During the last forty years there has certainly been a change for the better.

The most rational and certainly not the least picturesque dress in the whole of her Majesty's Service is unquestionably the British Tar's of the present

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Charing Cross Hospital, W.C., entirely dependent on voluntary support, urgently requires help. Liabilities, £11,000. No investments.

day. Here the Agricultural Hall pageant shows a real advance—more especially as compared with the era of pigtails and glazed hats. A more businesslike fighting dress was never devised, I imagine, than that of "Jack" landed for shore work, with his brown belt, boots, and gaiters. Among Military uniforms, the one which impresses me as most serviceable and sensible is the khaki clothing, whether for Infantry or Cavalry. I am told that you must have a showy uniform for recruiting purposes. Then I would have one uniform for show and recruiting purposes, and a totally different one for active service, designed solely with an eye to business.

Since the last reference in TRUTH to the alleged mutinous disturbance on board the *Borneo* on her last passage out, I have received a further communication on the subject from a non-commissioned officer who travelled by the ship. His statements entirely bear out the explanation already given in TRUTH as to the alleged robbery of bread, and he entirely denies that anything in the nature of a riot took place. If it be really true, as the bulk of the evidence seems to suggest, that the cook made an unfounded charge against the troops of robbing the bread locker, in order to conceal deficiencies in his own stores, arising from causes for which he was responsible, it would certainly seem that there ought to be some further inquiry into this cook's conduct. In the meantime, I would recommend my correspondents in Lancashire who sent me the letter from a soldier which first called attention to this matter, to be a little circumspect in future in accepting the statements of their young friend. A certain amount of foundation for his story he no doubt had, but he seems to have reared upon that foundation a decidedly fanciful superstructure.

What on earth is the meaning of the following question, set in the mathematical paper at the last March examination for the *Britannia*?—

Mr. Gladstone was born in the year A.D. 1809. In the year A.D. x he was $x-3$ years old. Find x.

If in the year A.D. x Mr. Gladstone was $x-3$ years old, Mr. Gladstone must have been born in the year A.D. 3. One would think that there must have been some misprint in the question, but no notice to that effect was given to the candidates. It would be interesting to know how many boys came to grief in the examination through wasting their time in puzzling over this nonsensical problem.

In alluding recently to Mr. H. B. Röhss' incongruous combination of the business of an advertising usurer with the position of an assessor of income-tax at Southampton, I incidentally mentioned the unsuccessful charge of fraud which he brought against one Simmons. There was an interesting sequel to this case at Bournemouth County Court last week, when Simmons sued Röhss for damages for malicious prosecution. It transpired that Röhss, who calls himself the Southampton Loan and Advance Company, lent Simmons £10 on terms which made the interest work out at from 40 to 50 per cent.; and that he only put the criminal law in motion when he had failed to recover his money by civil process. Judge Philbrick stigmatised the usurer's conduct as odious and monstrous, wrongful and malicious, and awarded Simmons eighty guineas damages.

I do not know whether the Income Tax Commissioners at Southampton have yet dispensed with Mr. Röhss's services as an assessor. If they have not done so, the observations of the Judge at this trial make it imperative upon the Board of Inland Revenue to take steps at once for terminating the scandal.

It will probably interest—possibly it will amuse—the experts of sanitary science to hear, on the authority of the Bristol Medical Officer, that the ventilation of sewers is a mistake. At Bristol the sewers are unventilated, and in a discussion last week the Medical Officer admitted that in this respect the city is an exception to the general rule. The Local Government Board advocates, and sometimes insists upon, the ventilation of sewers, and the system is adopted in London and in almost every other town throughout the country. In the opinion, however, of the Bristol Medical Officer the wise men of Whitehall and all the rest of them are utterly wrong. He considers that the ventilation of the public sewers is unnecessary and dangerous, and he is strongly opposed to any interference with the present state of things in Bristol. This worthy Doctor shows a good deal of courage in setting up his own views in opposition to those of the great majority of sanitarians both here and on the Continent. Perhaps he is right, after all; but in the face of what is done everywhere else, the people of Bristol would be rash to accept his *ipse dixit* on a question of such importance to the health of the city.

During the last week I have been receiving from the offices of all the railways running out of London particulars of the train arrangements for the Whitsuntide holidays, from which I gather that every possible facility will be offered to the weary Londoner of spending his Whitsuntide in any other part of the kingdom for which he has a fancy. It is really astonishing to see the opportunities of travel which are offered to holiday-makers nowadays. One thing only is still needful—that the railway managers should be able to control the weather.

By the way, I mentioned the other day that the North-Western management have made arrangements for collect-

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ing in advance the luggage of passengers leaving town, and forwarding it to its destination at a merely nominal charge independently of the travellers themselves. I have since been asked to mention that the Great Western have made similar arrangements, and I dare say that other companies have done the same. If any company has not done so, I should recommend it to hurry up.

The many readers and correspondents of TRUTH who are suffering under the newsboy nuisance will rejoice to hear that a society is in process of incubation for combating street nuisances of all sorts and sizes. I wish it every success; but surely if there is one matter more than another which ought to be dealt with by public authority, rather than voluntary agency, it is this. The law on this subject is no doubt in an unsatisfactory state, and requires some amendment; but, on the other hand, some of the local authorities of the metropolis seem to possess powers which are not at present fully used. Of this, the following letter from the London County Council affords clear proof:—

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

Spring-gardens, S.W., January 14, 1898.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 12th inst. as to street noises, I have to inform you that by-laws for the good rule and government of the County, under section 16 of the Local Government Act, 1888, have been drafted and will shortly be submitted to the Council for approval. Among the subjects dealt with by the by-laws is that of street shouting.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. J. STEWART,
Clerk of the Council.

Doubtless the dissolution of the Council since this date and the election of a new one accounts in some measure for the fact that these promised by-laws have not yet been passed. The time seems to have arrived, however, when the new Council may be reasonably asked to pick up the threads dropped by its predecessor.

From the Naval and Military Club, of all places in the world, I have had an anonymous letter reproving me for my attitude in this matter. The writer asks how London could get on without the yelling of newspaper vendors, more particularly on Sundays, and reproves generally those who object to street noises as selfish and inconsiderate curmudgeons, who would make life intolerable if they had their way. He even anticipates that if repressive measures are adopted, the eventual result will be a Revolution and a Reign of Terror. Heaven forbid that I should do or say anything which might check the growth of a struggling sprig of democratic feeling in such unpromising soil as the Naval and Military Club. But as one not devoid of democratic sympathies, and decidedly in favour of the sale of newspapers, I feel bound to tell my anonymous friend that his sentiments and misgivings are a trifle extravagant. Everybody who wants a newspaper could easily have his wants supplied without a horde of urchins yelling from morning to night throughout the principal thoroughfares; and the worst nuisance of all, the gangs of blatant roughs who invade quiet neighbourhoods at 9, 10, or 11 p.m., bawling items of generally fictitious news, ministers to the needs of no human being but themselves. There are other necessities of life besides newspapers, and they are for the most part sold without causing annoyance to those who do not want them. No alarm need be felt, therefore, about the consequences of placing this particular industry under reasonable restrictions.

I am not myself afflicted with nerves. Piano organs do not vex my soul, nor impede the flow of my ideas. The street in which I perform my editorial labours (being what is known as a "quiet thoroughfare") is the playground of a large section of the juvenile population of Westminster, whose voices cease not between breakfast and bed-time; but I manage to put up with the noise, and if a misprint occasionally mars the literary perfection of these columns, I don't think it is the fault of the children. At the same time, I prefer quiet to noise—at any rate needless and discordant noise; and I doubt not that for an overwhelming majority of people the multiplication of irritating noises—whether noticed or not—adds appreciably to the wear and tear of town life.

The liberty of the subject does not require that one individual should have the right to shout in the ears of a hundred who don't want to hear him; on the contrary, the liberty of the subject is invaded when a hundred are thus tyrannised over by one. Neither does social progress necessarily involve the multiplication of noises—rather the reverse. The machine that works most quietly is usually the machine that works best. As far as I have had an opportunity of judging, the same thing is true of men and nations. Depend upon it, my Naval and Military friend, as civilisation advances noise must diminish. You have been brought up amid the blare of trumpets and the thunder of cannon, and, as usually happens, they have warped your judgment.

People who object to the registration of midwives should read the report of an inquest held at Northwich last week. It was on the body of a woman whose life had been lost—"frittered away" as the coroner put it—solely through the want of care and skill on the part of a midwife. The case is typical of dozens in which poor creatures are either killed outright or else subjected to horrible suffering and perhaps maimed for life through the bungling administrations of unqualified attendants. I have had some strong testimony on this point from a lady whose association with the work of a large women's

DUYSEN PIANOS are the most superb of all modern Instruments. They stand absolutely unrivalled for beauty of tone, touch, & finish. Consummate success in small grands.—LLOYD'S, 24, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, W.

The luxury of a bath is incomplete without the addition of SCRUBB'S CLOUDY FLUID AMMONIA, which refreshes and invigorates. Sold everywhere, but avoid injurious imitations.

hospital brings her into contact with many such victims of negligence and ignorance; but the mischief still being done every day by descendants of Mrs. Gamp is too well known to require demonstration. At present any woman is at liberty to practise as a midwife, no matter how unfitted she may be for the work. The law should surely make it illegal for any one to pursue this calling without proper training and without a certificate of competence.

Some interesting particulars as to the profits on the "area-gate touting" business came out last week in the course of an action before Judge Addison at Southwark. The action was brought by one Todd, trading at Twickenham as "Lester & Co.," under a guarantee which had been given for the honesty of one of his touts. The said tout had been employed to sell watches, chains, Bibles, and sewing-machines among domestic servants and others, and, like others of his class, he had sent in bogus orders and drawn commission on them, not to mention having handed over eight of his watches to the landlady with whom he lodged in settlement of his account. The delinquent was called as a witness, and it appeared from his evidence that he sold watches which cost from 10s. to 15s. at 40s. and 50s., "or as much more as he could get," and sewing-machines which cost 37s. 6d. at £5. Evidence was also given as to his having sent in a bogus order to his principal, which he had obtained by inducing a servant-girl, after she had refused to give an order, to write down her name and address so that his firm might send her their next catalogue. Judge Addison nonsuited the worthy employer of this rascal, and no one will regret it. The trade is a fraudulent one from beginning to end, and the principals in it are far more to blame than the agents.

The following statement, published in Monday's *Daily Chronicle*, is not only amusing in itself, but supplies a convincing justification of much of my criticism of Petty Sessions justice. It is given on the authority of a clergyman who has been conducting a prison mission, and who took this statement from an elderly prisoner. With such sentences as these is the TRUTH "Pillory" filled, and this man's experience shows well the folly and cruelty of them:—

I have been locked up three times. As long as I was in work I was never in trouble; then I got out of work, and everybody preferred putting on younger men. I was hungry—did you ever know, sir, what it was to be downright hungry? Well, I begged at a door. I knew it was wrong; but I begged, and I got locked up for it. When I came out, I said, "I won't do *that* again." So I got some leather, and cut out a pair of boot laces, and tried to sell them. Then I got run in again for hawking without a licence. When I came out, I said, "I won't do *that* again." And I walked, and I walked, and could get no work, nor find food either. I was dead beat, and I lay down under a hedge—then I got locked up for sleeping out of doors.

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

Among all the aberrations of judgment in my Legal Pillory this week the performance of the Dewsbury Borough J.P.s stands out as the most grotesque and lamentable. No doubt this failure of justice was simply due to sheer stupid incapacity to fit the punishment to the crime. But though the shallow-pates responsible for it were doubtless innocent of any intention to encourage cruelty to children, the infliction of a trumpery fine for barbarous and unnatural brutality such as was proved against the man Garside is only too likely to have that result. The decision treats this ruffian's offence as about equal in enormity to the offence of permitting an unmuzzled puppy to wander into the street, and I am not surprised to hear that it has excited a storm of indignation among the local public. The other cases in the following list scarcely call for any special comment. It will be seen, however, that the magistracy generally continue to display their customary leniency in dealing with acts of violence and cruelty, while at the same time coming down heavily on the vagrant, the poacher, and the petty thief:—

Abergavenny Police-court. Before Major C. Morgan and Dr. S. H. Steel. Evan Powell, charged with assaulting his wife. They had only been married a couple of months, and defendant began to ill-treat her two days after the wedding. On the occasion for which he was summoned he held her by the shoulder with one hand and beat her with the other, giving her a black eye and badly bruising her face. Fined £1 and bound over.

Plymouth Police-court. Samuel Gibbons, charged with assaulting a police constable by kicking him. He had been previously convicted of a similar offence. Fined 40s.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor and Mr. W. Legge. Frederick Lewis Busher, brewer's traveller, charged with assaulting his wife, who said he kicked her, knocked her down, and struck her across the face and on the head. Several of her teeth were knocked out, her eyes blackened and lumps caused on her head. This was the fourth pair of black eyes she had had since Christmas, and the Bench granted a separation order. For the assault defendant was fined £3 and costs.

Dewsbury Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. R. Spedding, G. Day, E. Kilburn, and J. J. Barstow. Edward Garside, charged with assaulting his son, aged five years. On going home, defendant, who was drunk, found the child on the doorstep, and without a word he seized him by the hair and flung him from him. He then called the child back and struck him on the face with his fist, making both eyes black. In the house defendant again beat the child, in spite of the protests of the mother, whom he also assaulted, and he was only made to desist by the arrival of some neighbours. Defendant was "cautioned," and fined 5s. and costs.

Abergavenny Police-court. Before the same magistrates. John Taylor, charged with poaching. One month.

Steyning Police-court. Before Colonel Ingram. Jane Carcass, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Colchester Police-court. Before Messrs. W. Buck and L. J. Watts. James Hurrell, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Blackburn Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. Henry Higson and R. Leeming. John McLeavy, aged seventy-six, charged with stealing a pair of boots from a shop. Fourteen days.

Downham Market Petty Sessions. Before Sir Alfred Bagge, Messrs. E. Hawkins, N. Booth and F. Wood. Charles Vincent, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

East Harling Petty Sessions. Before Sir E. C. Nugent, and other Magistrates. Edward Perfitt, charged with taking three game eggs, and Fred Allen, charged with aiding and abetting him. Fined £1 2s. 6d. each.

Birmingham Quarter Sessions. Before the Recorder. Wm. Kennedy, charged with stealing 3 lb. of mutton. Prisoner, who was drunk at the time, took the meat from a shop window, carried it a dozen yards, and then threw it down. Two months.

Subscriptions greatly needed by THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.—2,876 convictions this year; 7,545 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Church Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. W. Appleby, W. Lee, L. Wilkinson, and other magistrates. James Lomax, charged with assaulting his wife. He kicked her with his clogs. Fined 10s. and costs.

Bootle Police-court. Before Mr. C. Wells and Alderman Webster. William Bertrand, charged with being drunk and disorderly, and also with assaulting Stephen Charles Andrews and a policeman. Without the slightest provocation, defendant committed a brutal assault on Andrews, and he also struck the policeman, who asked him for his name and address. Fined £3 for the assault on Andrews, and 10s. for the other offences.

Rushall Police-court. Before Messrs. F. James, J. Clare, R. H. Holden, and A. W. Greatrex. William Bates charged with assaulting George Stokes by striking him on the arm with a red-hot file. The complainant received injuries which kept him away from his work for some time. Fined 20s. and costs.

Northallerton Police-court. Before Messrs. W. Brown, C. Palliser, M. H. Horsfall, and . Hird. Alfred Heselwood, charged with cruelty to a mare by working her whilst in an unfit state. The animal had four large wounds on her shoulders, all raw, and discharging blood and matter. Fined £1 6s. 6d. and costs.

Hadleigh Police-court. Before Mr. J. F. T. Dipnall and other magistrates. David Elmer, charged with taking three partridges' eggs. Fined £1, including costs.

Birmingham Police-court. Before Mr. T. M. Colmore and other magistrates. Jacob Weston, charged with stealing a pair of boots. Six weeks.

Southampton Police-court. Before Mr. G. P. Perkins and other magistrates. Wm. Watson, charged with vagrancy by sleeping on the Phœnix Wharf. Four days.

Wellingborough Police-court. Before Messrs. C. J. K. Woolston, W. Brown, E. Sharman, and O. Parker. Herbert Freeman, John Tebbutt, George Perkins, and George Stephenson charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £1 10s. each.

Grimsby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. E. Bannister and J. C. Wright. Laura Butcher, charged with absconding from the workhouse. Seven days.

Prescot Police-court. George Griffiths, charged with using a dog for taking game. Fined £2 and costs.

Although the usurer Woolfe Jackson, of Crewe, pursues his nefarious calling in a comparatively obscure and humble way, he is evidently the equal in rapacity of the most notorious members of his pestilent tribe. Here is an example of his extortion which eclipses the case I gave the other week, and that was bad enough in all conscience. This wolf, in the sheep's clothing of the Crewe and District Loan Company, lent £20 to a poor working man, received back £50, and then alleged that a further £75 was still owing. The interest charged was at the rate of 1000 per cent. per annum, which, I believe, almost beats Isaac Gordon's fine record. To bring the matter within the jurisdiction of the County Court, Jackson reduced his claim to £50, and I am sorry to say that he last week obtained judgment for this amount, payable by instalments of 4s. a month. It is a shameful thing that the law should help the bloodsucker to squeeze more money from his unfortunate victim even in these homœopathic doses.

I hear that Chubb Jackson at present has a canvasser at work in the neighbourhood of Winchfield, Hants. I mention this fact not only as a warning to residents in that neighbourhood who may receive calls, but also to the police, who should keep an eye on the lady in question. The police need not be discouraged by the recent failure of the prosecution of Chubb Jackson at Shaftesbury. All magistrates do not take similar views upon cases of this kind, and even if a conviction is not recorded, it would do much to stop Chubb Jackson's little game if he were systematically arrested and brought before the nearest J.P. at every town where he shows a collecting book. By the way, I see that Jackson has now changed the name of his concern, and calls it "The United Gospel Army Homes, Country and Seaside." This new name is another indication of his fraudulent intentions; for, needless to say, even if there is such an organisation as the Gospel Army in existence, which I doubt, it has certainly nothing to do with Chubb Jackson's homes—unless, of course, Chubb Jackson is the Gospel Army.

From a remote corner of County Tipperary a lady sends me a delectable booklet, forwarded to her daughter aged thirteen, by a London dealer in penny dreadfuls and other literary garbage. The book is nothing very bad in itself, though not the sort of reading that a judicious parent would select for a girl of thirteen, but it contains all sorts of advertisements of a worse complexion, and is presumably forwarded for advertising purposes. Now, how did this dealer—one March, of St. James's-walk, E.C.—get hold of the name of a little girl living with her parents in Co. Tipperary? Probably through its publication in some newspaper in connection with a prize competition or something of that kind. If parents take my advice, they will keep their children from participating in any game of this description when it involves the publication of names and addresses.

Any number of circulars have reached me during the last week or two issued by "The South Kensington Fine Art Association," 8, Exhibition-road. The circulars afford an amusing example of the tricks resorted to in these days for unloading shoddy goods upon the public. The shoddy goods in this case are, of course, pictures. They are described as "by various artists, including, among others, Adams, Horton, C. Hunt, Herbert, Cook, Hill, . . . Turner," the initials of the artists being discreetly omitted. The reader is informed that at the close of a very successful season the S.K.F.A. Association have decided to give their patrons the opportunity of participating in a special distribution of "genuine original oil paintings" by these artists, and each recipient of a circular is told that his name has been selected for this favour, and that a certificate entitling him to participate is enclosed. The certificate is in itself a wondrous work of art—whether by Adams, Horton, C. Hunt, Herbert, Cook, Hill, . . . Turner, is not stated; but it is headed by a striking picture of the National Gallery, with two artists, male and female, for supporters. The certificate certifies

The Oldest Glass and China Shop in London (Established 1760), provides Outfits for Palace or Cottage.—Alfred B. Pearce, 39, Ludgate-hill, London, E.C.

Surplice Shirts for evening wear, with pique fronts, 9/6, 10/6 each, made to measure.—Sampson & Co., Shirt Tailors, 268, 270, Oxford-street, London, W. Price lists forwarded.

that the holder will receive one of the genuine oil paintings above referred to on payment of 9s. 6d. for one and 18s. 6d. for a couple; and in order to encourage him in incurring this outlay, a guarantee is offered that every picture is "hand painted." If any patron is unable to call and select his nine-and-sixpenny masterpiece for himself, the managing director undertakes to make a selection for him, if he will state the class of subject which he prefers. The South Kensington Fine Art Association is a little shop on a first floor in Exhibition-road, and I suppose that if the proprietor offered a valuable collection of oil paintings at 9s. 6d. each in the ordinary way he would have to wait long for customers. If he finds that he can dispose of his rubbish by sending out these certificates, he is certainly entitled to all credit for his discovery.

This last remark applies equally to the various advertising dodges of Ernest Goode, who is *facile princeps* in this particular line. Goode's latest dodge is to induce people to start a snowball advertisement for him by offering them cheques for £10, £20, or £60 according to their choice. The party who wants a £10 cheque must first order 10s. worth of goods from the Watchmakers' Alliance, Limited, and he must then start a snowball or chain letter to try and induce other people to purchase their ten-shillings-worth in turn. He will then receive his £10 cheque, but he cannot cash it until a thousand customers have likewise paid 10s. as the result of his snowball. To put it plainly, Goode offers a commission of 2 per cent. on every £500 of business done through the medium of the snowball. People have lately been sending me in his circulars by dozens, but I do not know what more there is to be said about them than that they show Mr. Goode to be a very intelligent gentleman, and the public generally to be unmitigated fools.

The old trick for disposing of shoddy plated goods and other articles by means of advertisements purporting to emanate from private individuals compelled to make an alarming sacrifice for immediate cash must be very successful in Glasgow, judging from the long array of such advertisements in the local papers. There may be a genuine offer now and then, but the inquiries I made when dealing with the dodge three or four years ago showed that ninety-nine times out of a hundred these seductive announcements come from parties who carry on the business systematically. In the papers they assume scores of different characters—that of a clergyman's wife or widow is, though, the favourite—and by professing that urgent necessity obliges them to sell at a great reduction they manage to unload vast quantities of rubbish upon a credulous public. To warn people against these so-called bargains is more or less futile. Newspapers might, however, do something for the protection of their readers by refusing to insert advertisements of this kind which are manifestly mendacious.

Is it not about time that the law interfered to stop the practice of leading performing bears about the public thoroughfares? At a recent inquest it was elicited that a horse attached to a carriage took fright at a bear being led along the Marylebone-road, with the result that the vehicle came into collision with a waggon, and a little boy of four years old was killed. That highly sensitive animal the horse is only too apt to develop a sudden madness at the smell of wild beasts; and for every reason, the streets of London at the present day are not the place for performing animals.

Apropos of a paragraph in last week's TRUTH, I have been asked what difference there is between the conduct of an old woman who tells fortunes in the old-fashioned way and the conduct of the editor of *Pearson's Weekly*, who offers an interpretation of dreams by a professor of "the laws of oneirology," on payment of a fee of sixpence per dream. There is no moral or practical difference, so far as I can see, for Mr. Pearson's oneirologist makes a special feature of "dreams of a prophetic character," which, with her valuable assistance, will enable one for the sum of sixpence "to avoid events." Perhaps, however, there is some subtle legal distinction between the two cases, which saves the professional diviner of dreams from being dealt with under the Vagrancy Act as a rogue and a vagabond.

In whatever light the eye of the law may look upon this new departure in journalism, it does not strike me as very creditable to a respectable journal. But nowadays respectable papers do very queer things. Perhaps I have been dreaming, but I have an impression that only a short time since a weekly contemporary, for the respectability of which Mr. Pearson will vouch, was beguiling its readers by specious puffs into the payment of 7s. 6d. each for "exquisitely coloured miniatures (hand painted)," which turned out to be not miniatures at all in the ordinary acceptation of the term, but mere tinted photographs which would have been dear at half the price. Mr. Pearson's Sibyl can, presumably, look backward as well as forward. Will she say whether this was a dream or reality, and in any event expound the meaning of such trickery on the part of the paper in question?

The office of public chimney-sweeper at a town in the Grisons district of Switzerland is now vacant, with a salary of 800 francs a year. Among the candidates are three highly-educated Italian schoolmasters. One of the Italian papers, commenting on this fact, bewails the melancholy condition of affairs in that country, and declares that matters have now come to such a pass that it is more lucrative to be a sweep in Switzerland than a schoolmaster in Italy, where nobody cares a snap about either education or any other good or useful subject.

For *Truth*, and all other Newspapers, Magazines, and Periodicals, send your Subscriptions to Wm. Dawson & Sons, Ltd., Cannon House, Bream's-bldngs., London. (Estab. 1809.) Catalogue gratis.

I wonder greatly that Lord Wemyss and his fellow enthusiasts for the rights of property have never taken up the cudgels on behalf of the lodging-house keeper and the small owner of weekly house-property. Probably it is because large property, not small, is what appeals most to the Liberty and Property Defence Leaguers. As a rule, my sympathies are rather on the side of tenants than of landlords, but undoubtedly the law as it stands is all in favour of the lodger and the weekly tenant as against the landlord, and the tendency of the law seems to be aggravated by a bias on the part of many magistrates in the same direction.

Here is a case in point, which I give because I am quite sure it is typical of many hundreds :—

> I am a clerk, and having, after many years of hard work, scraped together a few hundred pounds, I unfortunately invested the sum in a "weekly" house property.
>
> On coming into possession I found that I was quite unable to get any rent from one of the tenants. At the end of three weeks I offered to forgive him his rent if he would go out, but he refused. I then served him with a notice to leave, and I was informed that after this I must not accept or distrain for any rent.
>
> The tenant simply ignored my notice and stopped on, and as a last resource I took out a summons for ejectment. This had no effect on him. He told another of my tenants that he did not care for ejectment summonses, as Judge French always gave the tenant as long as he wanted. Long experience had no doubt enabled him to form a correct estimate of that learned judge. On the summons coming on for hearing before Judge French, he, although informed of all the circumstances of the case, and knowing that I had received no rent for over nine weeks past, and had vainly been endeavouring to get rid of my tenant, actually made an order giving the tenant one month more to vacate the premises. I am therefore condemned to allow this man the use of my house for another four weeks, and during that time I am absolutely forbidden to collect any rent whatever, otherwise the proceedings fall through and I lose my right to eject him. The order of the judge, therefore, comes to this, that, having already lost nine weeks' rent, I must submit to lose four weeks' more before I am able to resume possession of my house.

If I were to ask the author of the above statement why he did not distrain in the first instance, he would probably answer that he did not wish to appropriate the whole of his tenant's goods and turn him penniless into the street. There are, at any rate, many landlords who have a sentimental weakness of that kind; and, besides, even after the tenant's goods have been sold up, there still remains the same difficulty about getting rid of him. It would be better for all parties if the right of distraint were taken away altogether, and a short and sharp ejectment process substituted; and I certainly think that magistrates should be deprived of the power to give time at discretion to tenants whose inability to pay any rent is absolutely proved. Why on earth should a magistrate be empowered to confer on a man, as Judge French did in the above case, the right to inhabit another man's house rent free for the space of four weeks? If the magistrate feels charitably disposed towards the tenant, let him pay the four weeks' rent himself. This kind of vicarious tender-heartedness is not a thing to be encouraged.

Frances Moore has now on view the latest Models from Paris in Hats, Bonnets, &c. Special and exclusive designs in Toques.—8, Maddox-street, Regent-street, W.

There are, as I have said, hundreds of small owners of weekly property who will endorse the complaint published above—all of them men or women of limited means, who can as ill afford to lose their rent as the tenant can to pay it. There are, moreover, thousands of lodging-house keepers in all parts of London, but especially in the working-class quarters, who have a similar grievance. It is not only that the tenants do not pay their rent, but they are very often dirty or destructive in their habits, or they pack a family of half a dozen children into a couple of rooms, after having taken possession, on the representation that they had no families. I have heard innumerable stories of this kind from people familiar with the management of the smaller class of house property. I am not without sympathy for the tenants in such cases. Their position is often hard enough. But, as I have said, in the case of the magistrate, sympathy with the tenant does not justify us in compelling landlords to provide them with accommodation gratis.

I am sorry to hear that Mr. Balfour will probably have to take at least a month's holiday, if he is to thoroughly recover his health. It is to be hoped, therefore, that he will not attempt to over-tax his strength by coming back to the House of Commons before he is fit for the work. The duties thrown on him during the absence of Lord Salisbury from England, added to those of the Leadership of the House, must have tried any man's constitution. Mr. Balfour is a man of far too good a kind—politics apart—for him to sacrifice his entire recovery to any abridgment of his holiday. The best thing would be for him to take a cruise in some ship for a month, so as to be away from all business.

To imitate the Primrose League, with its Knights and its Dames, and its Habitations, would not be a proper course on the part of Liberals. But it has been suggested that the death of Mr. Gladstone should be commemorated by the establishment of a Gladstone League, in order to perpetuate the principles that he championed. If this be deemed desirable, a thoroughly representative Committee of Liberals should be formed to knock the idea into practical shape. There might be meetings held annually all over the country on the anniversary of Mr. Gladstone's funeral. The white hawthorn might be the floral emblem, for he died in the month of May. Qualification for membership should be that the members are pledged to peace, economy, and reform, for these words are the best epitome of Gladstone's public labours. Subscription on the part of members should be so small that the poorest could join the League. Each member might receive a medal, with Mr. Gladstone and the watchwords of the League on one side, and the date of membership on the other. Such an organisation could be made most useful as a rallying centre for Liberals, and as an organisation for electoral purposes, provided that it be taken up by the rank and file, and be independent of all cliques and coteries.

SCRUTATOR.

MR. GLADSTONE:

A RADICAL APPRECIATION.

I DO not think that any one who was not in the House of Commons when Mr. Gladstone withdrew from public life can realise the void that was created in that assembly. It did not seem the same place, so all-pervading was his personality. This was not the case when Mr. Disraeli left the Commons for the Peers. As a Parliamentary tactician Mr. Disraeli was singularly able. He seldom spoke in debate, but rarely was absent. When he rose to wind up a debate he rarely did more than indulge in a few taunts and a little magniloquent clap-trap. Mr. Gladstone, on the other hand, could be drawn at any moment, and in winding up a debate he was often too diffuse. Nevertheless, he was a better Parliamentary leader than Mr. Disraeli. He never failed to raise the tone of a debate; Mr. Disraeli never succeeded. No one felt certain that the Tory Leader was in earnest; no one ever doubted that Mr. Gladstone was.

And how Mr. Gladstone fought! When he had to pass some great measure his tenacity of purpose was astounding as was his fertility of resource. He never lost sight of the goal, but, like a skilful general, was always ready to alter the line of attack and defence to counter the moves of his opponents. Never did he hesitate to attack an obstacle when once he had convinced himself that it blocked the way of progress. When, at the end, his strength beginning to fail, he perceived that the Liberal Party must succumb so long as the Tories could fall back on their permanent majority in the Lords when beaten at the poll, his last speech was a trumpet call to Liberals to unite in sweeping aside the obstacle in its path. Had his bold advice been followed, the result of the last General Election would have been very different.

I have sometimes heard it said that he was not fair in debate, drawing distinctions where there was no difference, falling back on the subtleties of rhetoric when logic would not avail him, and involving himself in a cloud of lofty language when he wished to evade the consequences of some previous admission. This is hardly correct. Undoubtedly he had all the resources of rhetoric at his fingers' ends, and he did not disdain to use them. But in his distinctions there always was a difference, and, although I have seen hundreds of attempts to convict him of a contradiction, I never saw one that succeeded, so accurate was his memory, and so guarded was he in his language, even when it appeared to the superficial listener the most unguarded. And how patiently did he himself listen! I have sometimes been in an almost empty house, with some speaker droning on without facility of expression, argumentative power, or knowledge of his subject. All except one man would be dozing or talking to his neighbour. That one man was Mr. Gladstone. But why did he listen? That I often asked myself, but never ventured to ask him. If he was not pleased with the speaker, he had a habit of taking up a pad, and beginning to write a letter. But even then he never missed a word of what was being said, as he often showed by some interjection.

Mr. Gladstone rather gave voice and expression to the aspirations for the reforms with which his name was connected, than was the source of these aspirations. The natural tendency of his mind was conservative, but when he had convinced himself that the demand for a Liberal reform was legitimate, duty got the better inclination, and he became its exponent. Thus he kept pace with the development of the Liberal Party into a Radical Party. With the old Party watchwords, peace, economy, and reform, he was thoroughly in accord, and he detested that policy of foreign adventure and foreign aggrandisement which is the craze of the hour, and which militates against everything implied in these watchwords. In the jargon of Jingoism, he was termed when alive a Little Englander. Now that he is dead he is admitted by all to have been a great Englishman. He had a sincere sympathy with all who were oppressed, but although heartily sympathising with all peoples struggling to be free, he never forgot that his first duty was towards his countrymen, and that an English statesman should make the welfare of England his primary aim. An impractical statesman he was called! Never was there a more practical one. No one can imagine him with a Parliamentary majority at his back ploughing the sands of the seashore. Ambitious he was. But it was not the ambition for office. Office was with him but the means to give effect to his convictions, and place, power, and popularity he was always ready to risk for the attainment of his high aims. Grateful as we Radicals are that those who honestly opposed him when alive now join us in doing honour to his memory, we must not forget that for long years he devoted the great gifts vouchsafed to him to the triumph of our principles, and that if he did promote the welfare of the country, it was because he again and again led the Liberals to victory. Thanks mainly to him, the Government is no longer the appanage of the aristocracy; the middle classes have increased in wealth and intelligence; the working classes can command more of the comforts for decent existence, and are no longer political pariahs. If we are to-day able to bear the taxation that is imposed upon us, to provide means for excessive armaments and doles to the classes, it is because of his far-reaching economic reforms. Had he not given practical effect to what were mere inarticulate aspirations, England would have been a very different country from what it is. Never did we fully realise what we owed to him until he withdrew from the Leadership of our Party. Since then there seems to be no fight left in us. The sheep are without a shepherd. Reforms, we are told, are no longer needed. Economy is sneered at as contemptible parsimony. Abroad we bluster and we cringe, at one moment eager for war, at another trembling at the consequences that might result from war. Patriotism with some is but a cloak to cover sordid greed; with others, a pedestal for egotism; with others, a paltry ambition for the spoils of office.

Gillow & Company.—The largest Stock of Furniture, of exclusively the best quality, although widely varying in cost. Designs and estimates free of cost.—406, Oxford-street, London, W.

High aims are replaced by petty intrigues. Vainly the Radicals protest, and would march forward on the path that Mr. Gladstone firmly trod. They have lost their champion, the man whom they trusted, and who trusted them.

It is difficult to draw the line that divides genius from ability of the highest order. Although many have sought to define genius, no one has succeeded. I can only explain where the distinction comes in by citing two men—Lord Chatham was a genius, Sir Robert Peel was not. In this sense, Mr. Gladstone was rather a man of the greatest mental capacity than a genius. This probably will be the verdict of history. It will be impossible to convey to future generations the personality that raised him above all his contemporaries, and invested him with a Royalty, by the side of which kings and such like accidents of birth were mere pigmies. The good that he did was accomplished by persistent effort, and covered a world-wide field. Such effort does not so much appeal to the popular imagination of posterity, as does some one great and heroic action, or a devotion to one single aim to the exclusion of all others.

But what is the value of posthumous fame? This planet is but an insignificant spot in the universe—so small, indeed, that it cannot even be seen by the inhabitants of the millions on millions of globes that environ it. Its very existence counts but a second in the eternity of time. We know that, as it had a beginning, it is destined to have an end, and then the human race will be a thing of the past. What the French preacher said when pronouncing an oration over the dead "Grand Monarque," is applicable to the greatest and the noblest of all that ever have lived or ever will live: "God alone is great, my brothers."

A FRIENDLY WORD TO AMERICA.

Have the Americans temporarily taken leave of that acuteness that is one of their characteristics? The correspondent of the *Times* in America tells us that they are in a state of ecstatic admiration of our Conservatives, because Mr. Chamberlain has advocated an alliance between us and them, and indignant with the Radicals for venturing to object to the speech in which he made this suggestion.

Is the past entirely blotted out? The Radicals have always been for the warmest and most cordial amity between America and Great Britain. The Conservatives have not. Only the other day the present Conservative Government wanted to drag us into a war with the United States, rather than admit that the Americans had any right to insist on our frontier dispute with Venezuela being submitted to arbitration.

What we Radicals complain of in Mr. Chamberlain's speech is, that his suggestion for an Anglo-American alliance was merely used as a means to gain the end that he has in view. That end is a war with France or Russia, or with both. We do not believe that America would ever agree to be used as a catspaw to extract the chestnuts from the fire for us; nor do we hold that the interests of either country would be served by the American and English flags waving on the same battlefield, in defence of a "great and noble cause." This, to our minds, is much like a proposal to establish friendship between two men by a joint attack upon a third. We know of no "great and noble cause" for which we are to join in a crusade; and, knowing Mr. Chamberlain, we do not regard him as a Peter the Hermit, but rather as a business man, ready to use us and all others for his personal advancement.

What is really the position of things? In the Far East Lord Salisbury admitted that Russia had a perfect right to a commercial and naval basis in Manchuria, and that that territory must fall under Russian influence. Having admitted this, he proceeded to nag at Russia for doing what he had admitted she had a right to do. Then Mr. Chamberlain appeared on the scene. He told us that, unless we can induce some great military Power to join us, our interests in China must go to the wall. By our interests he means, presumably, the China market, which he insists Russia will close to us and others. Even if Russia could do this, there is no evidence of the intention. It is a pure assumption.

The great military Power which Mr. Chamberlain had in his eye was not the United States, but Germany. That Power would not be likely to incur the risk of an invasion by France and Russia, to please us, and she has met the proposal with contemptuous ridicule. Not content, however, with this invitation to a crusade against Russia, Mr. Chamberlain went out of his way to accuse the Russian Government of bad faith in her recent negotiations, and compared its ruler to the devil. Although no friends of the Russian scheme of government, English Radicals do not approve of such insults being levelled against a Power with which we are at peace, and with which we are desirous to remain at peace.

The United States are at war with Spain. As friends of peace we regret any war; but we fully recognise that, if the United States put an end to Spanish misrule in Cuba, this will be a gain to humanity, and we heartily wish the United States success. Neither we, nor any other European Power, have the remotest intention to interfere on behalf of Spain.

I have always had a special and particular admiration for the United States. If I might venture to tender a word of advice to them, it would be this: (1) Do not annex any territory that does not form part of the North American Continent, and rest satisfied with the vast territory that you have on that Continent. Colonies are hostages that a country gives to fortune. Take warning by us. We are two small islands, and we have been obliged to spread ourselves elsewhere. Not satisfied with colonies, we have taken upon our shoulders the destinies of above four hundred millions of black and yellow men. This is a source of weakness rather than of strength to us. But instead of recognising this, we seem only desirous to rule over more and more black and yellow men. Sixty-four millions per annum is the cost of the armaments that we and our Indian subjects have to maintain, and each year this expenditure goes up by leaps and bounds. (2) Keep friends so far as possible with all European Powers; ally yourself with none, for an alliance with one is an alliance against others. You have become great and prosperous

by keeping your breath to cool your own porridge. This has been your traditional policy; allow no one to induce you to alter it in favour of a belligerent Imperialism embracing the entire globe. (3) Recognise that sufficient for the day are the dangers thereof. Your job on hand is to vanquish Spain; when you have done this, and when her colonies are at your disposal, no one is likely to hinder you from keeping them if you be so minded. Why I advise you not to do so, is because I do not believe that it would be to your interest. Once reverse your wise policy of no foreign annexation outside the American Continent, and you are certain to go from annexation to annexation, until you will finish by proclaiming, with Mr. Chamberlain, that no Empire can maintain itself that does not eternally expand its area. (4) Do not waste money on needless armaments. Have a reasonable number of warships for defence, and distrust all who urge you to increase beyond absolute requirements your Regular Army. Otherwise you will find that your Army will, sooner or later, be used against your own liberties.

MR. HARTSHORNE'S EXECUTORSHIP.

Circumstances have made it necessary for me to trouble my readers somewhat more in detail with the affairs of Mr. Bertram Fulke Hartshorne, of Chelsea, to which allusion was made in TRUTH of May 12. The facts alleged on that occasion were, briefly, these: (1) that Mr. Hartshorne had been left executor of a lady, deceased several years ago, who had, among other bequests, left a sum of £1,000 to pay her personal debts, erect a monument over her grave, and place a stained-glass window in memory of herself and a sister in the church of Stoke Damerel, Devonport; (2) that, although the debts amounted to less than £340, Mr. Hartshorne had failed to erect the window as directed; (3) that all attempts to compel him to expend or account for the residue of the legacy, which, allowing about £50 for the monument, I estimated at about £600, had failed. I called attention to the facts as illustrating a case in which there appeared to be no legal remedy for a wrong, the Attorney-General, who had been officially moved in the matter, having declined to take action against Mr. Hartshorne.

These statements appeared on Wednesday, May 11. On the following Tuesday, May 17, Mr. Hartshorne appeared in person at this office, between 12 and 1 o'clock, made statements to the effect that all that had been said about him was erroneous, and requested that a correction should be published in the forthcoming issue of TRUTH. He was informed that the paper for the current week had already gone to press, and that nothing further could be inserted; but I made arrangements to see him and discuss his case later in the day.

I saw him. He then informed me that every portion of the statements in TRUTH that reflected on his conduct was false. He asserted that he had expended the whole of the £1,000 in accordance with the terms of the will, and gave the items of expenditure thus:—(1) Personal debts, £339; (2) paid on account of dilapidations of testatrix's house, £206 11s.; (3) paid to contractor for erection of monument and stained-glass window, £400; total, £945 11s.; and he added that there were other items chargeable against the legacy, and that in point of fact he had expended more than the £1,000, and was considerably out of pocket over the transaction. He explained that the stained-glass window had not been erected because the vicar of the parish objected to its being placed in the church, which was about to be pulled down, and desired it to be placed in the new church, which he (Hartshorne) declined to do; but he added that the window was not only designed and paid for, but was actually lying on the contractor's premises waiting to be put up. Incidentally, he also denied other statements which appeared in TRUTH, as to his having been dismissed from the Local Government Board (where he was formerly an auditor) in consequence of charges having been made against him of presenting fictitious accounts; as to his having failed to hand over to his clerk payments to the amount of £156 which he had drawn from the Local Government Board on his clerk's account; and as to his clerk having failed to recover all that was due to him even when he had sued Hartshorne and obtained judgment. Every material portion of this statement (except the fact of his clerk having sued him) he categorically denied.

Having told the original story on what appeared unimpeachable evidence, supported by legal documents and evidence given in court, I naturally received these assertions with some incredulity, and asked Mr. Hartshorne what evidence he had to support what he said. He replied that he had then in his pocket the actual cheques for the £400 which he had paid for the monument and the stained-glass window. He produced them, and read out the dates of each. I asked to be allowed to inspect them. He declined, and replaced them in his pocket. A few minutes later, however, in consequence of a remark which fell from me, he altered his mind and handed over the documents. There were four cheques for a total amount of £300, drawn in favour of a Mr. Belch, carrying on business near Uxbridge, and a bill of exchange for £100. The cheques bore Belch's endorsement and had been duly paid. The bill of exchange, having come back into Hartshorne's possession, had presumably been paid also.

Seldom have I been more taken aback than I was by the production of these documents, which, if representing payments to Belch, established Hartshorne's contention up to the hilt. I asked Mr. Hartshorne—putting it as a matter of form—whether he had ever received back any cash from Mr. Belch on account of those instruments, and he replied firmly that he had received nothing. I asked him whether the bill of exchange had been honoured at maturity, and he replied that it had been once renewed and then paid. I told him that I must make some further inquiries, and that if I found no reason to doubt that he had been wrongfully accused of a breach of trust, he might rely on the fullest justice being done to him in TRUTH.

Well, I have made all possible inquiries, and, having done so, I have no hesitation in saying that, with two exceptions in regard to the amounts actually paid by him, every statement originally made in TRUTH

respecting Mr. Hartshorne was substantially accurate, and that the explanations offered to me by this gentleman on May 17 were a tissue of impudent falsehoods. The first exception is the item of £206 for dilapidations. In regard to this, it appears that Mr. Hartshorne originally endeavoured to charge the amount against the residuary legatees. They objected to this and various other items, and it was then agreed that the amount should be divided, the bulk (£175) being charged as personal debts against the £1,000 bequest, and the balance against the residuary legatees. To the extent of this £175, therefore, Mr. Hartshorne is entitled to credit. He is also entitled to credit for a sum of £140, which appears to be the actual amount charged for the monument over the testatrix's grave. This item was estimated in my previous calculation at £50, so that Mr. Hartshorne gets a further credit of £90 here. For the rest, the simple truth is that out of every one of the cheques handed to him by Hartshorne, Mr. Belch returned to that gentleman substantial sums, and that on the bill of exchange for £100 he actually paid Hartshorne £50, and never received one penny, the bill being eventually dishonoured, and Belch having to make good the whole amount to his bankers, who had discounted it. The net amount which Mr. Belch received on all the documents which Mr. Hartshorne handed to me with so much assurance was, not £400, but £140, this being the amount of his charge for the monument erected over the testatrix's grave. The stained glass window is not, as Mr. Hartshorne told me, lying ready to be put up, and I take it that Mr. Belch has no intention of putting it up until Hartshorne pays for it. The story about a difference of opinion with the Vicar as to the erection of the window in the existing church may possibly have had at one time some slender foundation of fact; but I have letters before me written by the present Vicar of Stoke Damerel in January and February, 1896, which show conclusively that that gentleman was at that time strongly desirous of having the window erected, and had personally interested himself in the plans and the choice of the glass; and although I have not communicated with him personally, I feel confident that he will repudiate absolutely the suggestion that he has vetoed the erection of the window in the present church.

I would add that after the further inquiries that I have made during the last week, I absolutely maintain the accuracy of every statement made in TRUTH of May 12 respecting Hartshorne's relations with his clerk, and the reasons for his retirement from the Local Government Board. On the trial of the action brought by the clerk for the sum of £156, it was conclusively proved that the money was due, and Hartshorne's defence was virtually abandoned before the case was concluded. He subsequently paid into Court the amount of the claim, but he has never to this day paid the plaintiff's costs, which were included in the judgment. An execution was accordingly put in to Mr. Hartshorne's house, when the goods seized were claimed by Mrs. Hartshorne, and an interpleader issue to determine the ownership of the goods is now in process of trial at Brompton County Court.

On Monday evening last Mr. Hartshorne paid me another visit. Not having yet fully taken the measure of his audacity, I asked him if he adhered to his statement that Mr. Belch had received from him the full amount represented by the cheques and bill for £400, and he replied that he did. I asked him what he would say if Mr. Belch alleged that he had never received a penny for the bill, and was actually £50 out of pocket on it, and had handed back to him (Hartshorne) the larger half of the amount represented by the four cheques. Mr. Hartshorne replied that if Mr. Belch said that, it was false. I then told him that I did not believe him, and that I intended to accuse him in TRUTH of endeavouring to impose on me, and through me upon the public, with an utterly false story concerning this payment of £400 to Mr. Belch. I now make my accusation accordingly.

I accuse him, not only of endeavouring to impose upon me, but of imposing upon others by similar falsehoods. In the *West London Press* of Friday last appeared a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Josselyn, purporting to vindicate Mr. Hartshorne from the reflections contained in the TRUTH paragraphs. The letter has been reprinted—I presume by Mr. Hartshorne—and he has furnished me with a copy of it. After stating that Mr. Hartshorne has submitted various documents to him, Lieutenant-Colonel Josselyn writes:—

> From these documents it is proved to my satisfaction that of the outstanding debts the rent amounted to £153 or thereabouts, dilapidations to £206 11s., and that £300 at least has been paid to the contractor employed by Mr. Hartshorne to erect the monument and window. Adding the £340 which TRUTH states to have been paid for other debts—and Mr. Hartshorne tells me that this is a correct statement—the sum of £999 11s. is accounted for, and I have Mr. Hartshorne's assurance that the sums I have mentioned have been actually paid out of the amount in question, and that so far from £600 being left in his hands unexpended (as stated in TRUTH), he has spent a considerable sum for personal expenses out of his own pocket, which might fairly have been charged against this specific legacy.—Yours truly,
>
> FREDK. JOSSELYN.

It may be noted incidentally that this account differs materially from that which Mr. Hartshorne had given me a few days earlier. The £400 alleged to have been paid to Mr. Belch has here become "£300 at least." On the other hand, a new item makes its appearance in the shape of £153 for rent, respecting which Mr. Hartshorne had said not a word when I saw him. From this I conclude either that he is so imperfectly versed in his own story that he gives two different versions of it within two or three days; or else that after his interview with me, he perceived the risk of representing as a payment made by himself, a dishonoured bill of exchange on which he had himself received £50 in cash; and that, accordingly, he dropped this item in his account to Colonel Josselyn, and substituted for it an entirely new one in the shape of £153 paid by him for rent. With regard to this new item, I find on further inquiry, that the testatrix died in April, 1893, and that all rent due up to date was paid on March 28. Any rent which accrued after her death could not possibly be included in her personal debts, but would be chargeable against the estate generally; and I am told that, as a

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matter of fact, the payment of £206 to the landlord under the head of "dilapidations" included the outstanding rent and all other matters. The point, however, is of no great consequence, for, apart from this item for rent, Colonel Josselyn is still crediting Hartshorne with £300 paid to the contractor, £160 of which is a pure fiction. So much for this letter of Colonel Josselyn's. This gentleman is well-known and highly-respected in Chelsea, and is connected with Mr. Hartshorne in politics. His motives in thus coming forward to whitewash his friend are entitled to all praise; and the fact that he has been imposed upon by Hartshorne by means of the same misleading documents which were offered to me, only makes Hartshorne's conduct the more despicable.

There are other matters in regard to Hartshorne's conduct in this executorship, which show him to have been utterly reckless and unscrupulous in his dealings with the estate; and he appears to have been only saved from disaster at an earlier date by the intervention of relatives. But I have said enough for the present purpose. Except in regard to the points which I put forward in my previous reference to him, Mr. Hartshorne's affairs are of no public interest, unless to his immediate neighbours and acquaintance; and it is purely by his own impudent action that I have been compelled to devote to him so much of my time and space. But the point which I previously raised is, undoubtedly, accentuated by what has happened since. It is absolutely certain that Mr. Hartshorne has not erected the memorial window, and that there is no immediate likelihood of his doing so. He has received the money for the purpose, and several hundred pounds—whether it is a hundred more or less is utterly immaterial—remain unaccounted for by him, although in view of what is passing at Brompton at the present time, it seems doubtful whether the money can actually be said to remain "in his possession." I understand that this is a matter in which the Attorney-General has a jurisdiction to interfere; and in the case of a charitable bequest of this kind some explanation ought to be given why that jurisdiction is not exercised. But, perhaps, now that I have more fully informed him about Hartshorne's proceedings, the Attorney-General may change his mind.

VAN BUREN OF BRUSSELS.

Those who have followed the exposure of the innumerable tricks and changes of character of Leigh, or Levi, Sampson—one of the most versatile and accomplished swindlers that have ever been before the public—will remember the latest phase of his operations, described in TRUTH of May 5. Having made Boulogne too hot to hold him, Sampson had betaken himself to Brussels, and from an address in the suburbs of that city was writing, in the name of Charles Van Buren and the character of a Belgian physician, to announce his own decease. The letter was written to a former purchaser of one of Sampson's (alleged) pictures—as I have already shown, he has never himself painted a picture in his life—and stated that this "young Scottish painter" had died of phthisis, and had left a widow and orphan in a destitute condition. In order to provide them with the means of returning home, the benevolent Dr. Van Buren forwarded the very last picture which the deceased artist had left behind him, and begged the recipient to purchase it out of charity at the price of £10.

As was to be expected, many people have been favoured by Sampson Van Buren with similar appeals, each appeal accompanied by the very last work of the departed—a different picture in each case. Here is a specimen appeal, sent to me by one of our Ambassadors on the Continent. It is virtually in the same terms as the letter already published in TRUTH, but as he is in this case writing to an Englishman, the deceased artist becomes this time, not a Scottish, but an English painter. Even in the grave, Leigh Sampson retains his gift of changing his birth-place and nationality at will. The Ambassador describes the accompanying picture as "a miserable aquarelle, worth about thirty shillings at the outside," and he adds that "the Brussels Police should certainly look up Charles van Buren." This is the letter:—

Consultations
de midi
à
2 heures.

35, Rue de la Tourelle, 35
Etterbeck,
Bruxelles,
La Belgique.
6 Mai, 1898.

MONSEIGNEUR,—I write your Excellency to say that I am doing so on the behalf of the widow and child of a young English artist, a Monsieur Travers.

He came to this city some months ago from Boulogne-sur-Mer, and I found him in an advanced state of phthisis.

His case was quite hopeless from the first, and he died here a fortnight ago, and was buried by some charitable persons.

His widow has asked me to write to your Excellency respecting these facts, and has begged me to ask you, Monseigneur, to purchase the last aquarelle this unfortunate young English painter possessed, and which is now all the widow and her child have to depend upon.

She is quite penniless and is almost destitute. She has asked me (and I could not refuse her request) to write to your Excellency, and to ask you to purchase the aquarelle, which is a view of Windsor Castle from the "Great Park," for 250 francs—the equivalent of £10.

Your Excellency, I understand, once before patronised this painter, and the widow would be sincerely thankful did you kindly consent to retain the present aquarelle.

I tender you a humble apology for the intrusion of which I feel I am guilty.—Receive, Monseigneur, the assurance of my profound consideration, CHARLES VAN BUREN.

The Consular as well as the Diplomatic Service is being treated to Sampson Van Buren's favours. One of the choicest specimens of this individual's impudence that I have yet come across was addressed a few weeks back to the Consul-General for Algeria. In this case the Consul himself was not expected to buy the deceased artist's last work; but he was requested to kindly forward it to an English gentleman, who was at the moment staying in Algeria. The English gentleman in question had previously purchased no less than four of Leigh Sampson's pretended paintings—a fact which indicates the extent to which confiding art patrons have been victimised by this rascal. Happily he was prevented from purchasing a fifth. The Consul-General had read his TRUTH, and, in complying with Dr. Van Buren's request, he took the opportunity of enlightening the patron as to the artist's record. The warning had the desired effect. It is interesting to note that, while in the first letters written in the name of Van Buren, Sampson made some attempt to disguise his handwriting, that pretence seems to have now been entirely abandoned. Van Buren's letter to Algeria is

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in the familiar hand of Leigh Sampson, plain and undisguised.

I invite the attention of the Brussels police to these plain facts. The two letters published in TRUTH are in themselves sufficient to show that the alleged Van Buren is a swindler, for not only do they tell two different tales —the one representing the deceased as a Scottish and the other as an English artist—but there is, as the Brussels authorities can at once ascertain for themselves, no physician of the name of Van Buren residing at 35, Rue de la Tourelle. The man who is passing by that name has been carrying on in England for years past a fraudulent trade in pictures, and, having migrated, for greater safety, to the Continent, has been turned out of Boulogne by the French police on various grounds. He is not a painter, and has never produced a picture of his own in his life, and he has no means of livelihood except obtaining money by false pretences. Unless Brussels is to be regarded as a haven of refuge for such characters, the police there should follow the example of their *confrères* at Boulogne.

"A MODERN DON QUIXOTE."

A Russian peasant was once asked which of the two he considered the greater: God or the Czar? "God is great and the Czar is great," was his reply, "and, then, the Czar is so young." This anecdote was recalled to my mind by the performance at the Lyric Theatre on Saturday evening. To make clear the connection between the story and the play, it will not be necessary to dwell upon the complications of the intrigue; suffice it to touch lightly upon the more salient points, in the spirit and style of the conscientious critic.

First, then, I will say that Messrs. Dance and Crook are to be congratulated on an able interpretation of their musical drama. A stronger cast, or one displaying greater unity, it would be difficult to imagine. We are introduced at an early period to Don Quixote, impersonated by Mr. Arthur Roberts. He renders this part, so exactly suited to his romantic, Castilian temperament, with that gentle dignity and affectionate simplicity which have always distinguished him in similar creations. In the great windmill scene, for instance, where the knight, wearing the helmet of Mambrino, makes his famous assault upon those wooden Saracens, the pathos and dignity of his gestures in the hopeless contest go straight to the heart of the audience. I must not omit to mention that the windmills (may their airy vanity be pleased with this slender meed of praise!) were ably represented by Mr. Arthur Roberts. Throughout the play, the knight is accompanied by his devoted attendant, Sancho Panza, and the author is to be congratulated upon the able manner in which he has preserved the spirit of his great original in the homely humour of the knight's obese attendant. True, he is at times a trifle coarse in his language, but allowance must be made for the period at which Cervantes wrote, so lacking in our present refinement; and Mr. Arthur Roberts must not be blamed for the indiscretions of the character he so ably represents. The feminine interest is well sustained, that combination of great dignity and love of amusement which characterises the behaviour of the Duchess being rendered with tact and precision by Mr. Arthur Roberts. The same gentleman also scored a legitimate success as Dulcinea del Toboso, mistress of the moon-struck knight. The chorus went through their fantastic evolutions with ease and grace. Were a fault of any kind to be found with this branch of the entertainment, it would be the striking resemblance that these ladies bore, each to another, and all to a certain well-known artist. (But no, it could never be worth his while to play the chorus.)

At the conclusion of the performance, I asked for my coat. This was handed to me by the attendant, with the mysterious inquiry: Did I play spoof? Could it be he? Here also? I seized the garment and fled, for God is great, and the Czar is great—and then, Mr. Arthur Roberts is comparatively young.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

A FRENCH APPRECIATION OF MR. GLADSTONE.

VICTOR HUGO educated France up to the worship of Grand Old Men. When he died there was no Frenchman to replace him, and France for a few weeks idolised General Boulanger—who was young. It was a case of, Welcome trumpery for the sake of company. One might have said, "*Ca-y-est!*" when Gladstone appeared at the Universal Exhibition of 1889. He was just the sort of Grand Old Man the French wanted. Nominally, he was an Englishman. But he had written to a French author who wanted some information about him: "I am of Scotch race, and the son of Scotch parents, but born and brought up by them in England; among, however, Scotch relatives and friends. My education otherwise was English. A branch of my family emigrated to England. Its head served under Gustavus Adolphus in the Thirty Years' War."

This, getting-out, put a new face on Gladstone's nationality. Scotland was the ancient ally of France. Whenever a Valois attacked England, a Stuart helped him by invading her. Gustavus Adolphus was Richelieu's ally. And so Gladstone came to be regarded as an old friend. Still, there was an old grudge against him. He had not helped France in 1870. Granville, who under him held the seals of Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, formed the League of Neutrals *against* the French. Idolaters asked whether there was not something to be said on the other side. Gladstone thought the Orleans family and Guizot better than they were, and the Coup d'État worse than it was. The Prussian invasion seemed to him a scourge sent by Providence to chastise the perjured Emperor. This view coincided with the Queen's maternal anxiety for the future of the Prussian monarchy. The Queen went further than Gladstone. She had forgiven the Emperor his Coup d'État perjury and other crimes, but accepted Dr. MacLeod's opinion that Paris was a modern Babylon. Granville was a courtier. He was glad to take advantage of the resonant phrase uttered at Ferrières by Jules Favre. If not a stone of the French fortresses, nor an inch of French territory would be surrendered, where could mediation come in?

This was the excuse for forming the League of Neutrals. Gladstone gave Granville a free hand in his Department, to which he was also new.

Another grudge was due to the fact that Alexandria was bombarded when Gladstone was Prime Minister. M. Clémenceau harbours it to this hour. The bombardment may be entirely due to Lord Charles Beresford's initiative. I believe he claims the honour. But it took place so soon after the Bulgarian atrocities agitation as to expose the Gladstone Government to the charge of inconsistency. The only discordant note in the concert of praise has been in reference to Alexandria. However, M. Clémenceau is one of the few who now remember. He has a good reason for doing so, since it was he who prevented France "for the benefit of cent. per cent. usurers," joining in the bombardment. The fact that he did so has left him stranded as a political man. It brought on him the charge of being sold to England, though he only wanted to prevent atrocities at the mouth of the Nile.

Gladstone enjoyed the amiable cult of which he found himself the object in France. He felt that he was valued for his best qualities and highest faculties. He had so often reason to see in England that there was a gross element in the Gladstonian worship: he was the "Grand Old Man" of his Party because he won so many seats in Parliament for mediocrities.

Gladstone studied French under the tutelage of an early governess of his children. She was the daughter of a sub-Prefect of Louis Philippe. Though nominally a Catholic, she was brought up with the ambition of entering the household of the Duchesse d'Orléans, who was a Protestant. Nothing bored her more than to have to go on Sundays five miles' distance to a Catholic chapel. Gladstone insisted on her setting an example of religious observance. She read with him the French edition of the "De Imitatione," Pascal's "Pensées" and "Lettres Provinciales," Ste. Beuve's "Port Royal," Bossuet's "Sermons," and the "Histoire Universelle." He had not learned much French in youth, but he was an apt pupil, and became a master of the language. Few persons had any idea of his proficiency until he was entertained at a public dinner at the Hôtel Continental. I was at that banquet. Gladstone did me the honour of asking me in what language—French or English—he ought to speak. I said it would be more flattering to the company if he spoke in the former, but the French were so artistic that those at all understanding English would prefer to hear him in the tongue he most thoroughly possessed. "But," he asked, "who among the principal guests know English? Does M. Jules Simon?" "No." "Well, that settles the matter," said Gladstone, with a wave of the hand and a wheel round of the body towards a group who were waiting to be presented. He was on the verge of eighty, but did not look it. The conditions of age seemed to drop from him as he was speaking. But though in his French speech he never hesitated for a word, and was well inspired from first to last, the countenance was of terrible earnestness and severity. Not harshness, mind. He was often severe, but, I should imagine, never harsh. Certainly not then. The severe aspect was due, no doubt, to the mental strain of making a grand speech in a strange tongue. He managed not to mix the genders, or commit other solecisms allowable in a foreigner. The astonishment of the company enhanced their delight. Of course he was applauded; of course tears rushed to eyes; of course there was general *attendrissement* and admiration without end. But nobody rushed to stand near his chair while he was speaking, a thing that often happens in France. Nobody ran up to embrace him, or to wring his hand. He was too reverend, too venerable, too majestic for that. Truly, he was a kind of intellectual and sovereign Pontiff.

But Mr. Gladstone was not without a spice of coquetry, such as ladies are supposed to feel. It was an amiable trait. Did he remember what I had said about the artistic sensibilities of the French? After he sat down the American Consul proposed "a sentiment." It conveyed a compliment to the guest of the evening. Gladstone's face beamed. Here was the opportunity to speak in the tongue in which he was quite at home. Taking the ball on the hop, he at once—and out of the programme—rose and delivered a gracefully-turned and entrancing speech. He meant it to be an artistic treat. He was like a pianist who possesses his keyboard, and wakes it up from end to end. The face enhanced what the tongue uttered. One was equal to the other in eloquence. In speaking French the eyes seemed bent inwards. Concentration of thought or close attention to his genders made the facial lines rigid. But in speaking English his eyes met the eyes of all. What man ever had more splendid eyes? The sweetest courtesy tempered his majesty. The bloodless face was lighted up from within, and the wish to please gave it charming radiance.

This French banquet was given in 1889. Gladstone had come over to see the Universal Exhibition, held to celebrate the centenary of the Revolution. The British Government then in office had rather looked down on that show. It sent no Royal Commission. Gladstone as *the* representative Englishman eclipsed the regal visitors. Not that he gave himself airs. He was above that. But he was a Grand Old Man, far and away more beautifully picturesque than Victor Hugo. His head was one to tempt the pencil of a great painter. His air was noble, and because his whole life, public and private, was a great and good life. There was no wrong side to Mr. Gladstone. People felt this. The Philemon and Baucis companionship of Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone went to the hearts of all the decent people. He walked fast from point to point of interest. She managed to keep pace with him. It did not strike any one that she was nearly as old as he was, so active was she in looking after him. They had come to Paris late in October. Mr. Gladstone hated to be burdened with the weight of heavy clothes. If the weather threatened, Mrs. Gladstone slyly

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took an overcoat on her arm and carried it about. When it was fine she had an extra wrap or pelerine that she slipped on his shoulders when the afternoon chill came on. Influenza was raging. But Mr. Gladstone, thanks perhaps to her good care, did not catch it. Was there ever such a good wife as Mrs. Gladstone? His guileless simplicity and true greatness enabled her to play well the wifely part. A conceited man, sensitive to petty sneers or smart remarks, would not have allowed her.

M. Filon speaks of Gladstone as looking like a lay monk. He looked like a monk, but of some noble fighting order, such as Colatrava. The monks of Colatrava headed the secular fight of Spaniards against Moors.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

"THE Duke of Wellington has left to this country a great legacy, a greater even than his fame; he has left to his fellow-countrymen the contemplation of his character." Those words, dear Lady Betty, were spoken by Benjamin Disraeli in the House of Commons on the occasion of the funeral of the Duke of Wellington; they may be repeated on the occasion of the funeral of Mr. Gladstone.

The last English classic is dead! We deplore to-day the death of the Monarch of the House, whose dignity of mind, of motive, of manner, and of diction were the admiration of mankind. Born to be Primate, he became Premier.

His influence survives; it has moulded not only that which is best in Great Britain, but that which is best throughout the civilised world; it has cast it in the mould of righteousness, of temperance, of duty, of dignity, and of humanity. He was a loyal and a royal man.

"Reform or Revolution" is the watchword of the century. In England revolutions never grow upward; they grow downward, for, in this country, when a revolutionary movement attains importance, prominent and responsible politicians assume the leadership of that movement and make it constitutional. Mr. Gladstone met Freedom at the dividing line at which she ceased to be treasonable and commenced to be constitutional, and, taking her hand, led her peaceably, prudently, and perseveringly towards her destiny. Goethe has said that "Men are to be regarded as organs of their century, whose movements are mostly automatic." Mr. Gladstone was pre-eminently the "Organ" of his century. Progress was irresistible—and is irresistible—but it was mainly owing to him that the advance of progress in Great Britain has been peaceable. Time is a Radical.

* * *

From the four quarters of the globe there come pouring in expressions of admiration for the character and career of the dead statesman, but it would be dishonest to pretend that his political achievements are regarded with equal favour in the West End. Mr. Gladstone was essentially "The People's William." His control over, and direction of, the progressive movement may have saved the titled and proprietary class from many evils, but as the outward and visible leader of the Constitutional Revolution, it is inevitable that he should bear the blame for some of its consequences. Some of these have been disastrous to the class in question. Until Mr. Gladstone introduced the system of competitive examinations for official appointments, the younger sons of well-connected families could generally be provided for out of the public funds. They could be—and generally were—appointed to some office in the Army or Navy, or in the Civil Service, in which, if they conducted themselves reasonably, they had the prospect of rising, and of eventually retiring with a pension. When Mr. Gladstone opened the public service to competition, this method of providing for younger sons was practically closed, and, as the alteration came with scarcely any warning, it has done incalculable mischief to many. They soon turned their attention to the City, where, in the majority of cases, they have not only completed their own ruin, but have caused the ruin of many of their connections and friends. When the transitionary period has been passed, things will no doubt become equalised; but, until they are, it would be unreasonable to expect those who have suffered by the change to honour him who has directed the change.

* * * * *

On all sides astonishment is being expressed at the universality and the magnitude of the outburst to do honour to the memory of the late Mr. Gladstone. It has arisen like a monstrous tidal wave, sweeping everything before it; even the Conservative Press, not to be overwhelmed, has ridden on the very crest. Conservative politicians will soon realise that the events of the past week have materially altered the condition of things. The people are educated, and they will inevitably observe and compare. They will say, for instance: "This man, you told us, was ruining his country. You said that he was not to be relied upon; that he was unscrupulous; that he was 'An old Parliamentary hand;' that he was immeasurably inferior to his former rival, Benjamin Disraeli, Lord Beaconsfield. Some of you even hinted that he exerted a pernicious influence over his countrymen. Were all these assertions false? If they were not, how are we to account for the praises of his character and career which come pouring in from every land; from most of the Royal rulers and statesmen; which are sounded by you yourselves, and are published in your own newspapers? Have you been deceiving us for your own purposes, or are you deceiving us now? Did not Mr. Disraeli once say in the House of Commons: 'For me there remains this at least—the opportunity of expressing thus publicly my belief that a Conservative Government is an organised hypocrisy'? Did he then, when he assumed the leadership of the Conservative Party, assist this 'organised hypocrisy' to our detriment? And if all the works of the Radicals are evil, how does it come about that it is true to say that the Radicals agitate and the Conservatives legislate?—in other words, how is it that whenever a Conservative Government is in power, it adopts the principles which it denounced when in Opposition? We had only eyes and ears before; now we have education, which enables us to read between the lines. Besides, you told us that the management of foreign affairs by Mr. Gladstone was perilously weak. Is yours firmer?" When Lord Beaconsfield died, his name was used to conjure with; immeasurably more potent to conjure with must now be the name of Mr. Gladstone. How will the Primrose League contend against the Popular League?

* * * * *

The late Mr. Gladstone has especially directed that no flowers should be laid upon his coffin—a direction which has frequently been advocated in these columns. It is the more remarkable that Mr. Gladstone should have done this, as he was notoriously fond of flowers. As a matter of fact, the abuse of an admirable custom is leading to the inevitable reaction. Nothing can be more charming than that a few cut flowers should be laid on the grave of one we liked, but the abuse of this custom is as ridiculous as it is wasteful. Over a thousand pounds' worth of flowers was recently deposited by the coffin of one who, when alive, was generally and rightly esteemed, and numerous pretentious nonentities seized the occasion to advertise themselves by presenting expensive wreaths. The little anonymous bunch of flowers is sure to rest upon the grave of the late Mr. Gladstone in Westminster Abbey, notwithstanding his most stringent directions to the contrary; and its presence there will not be objected to by any, even by those who most desire that the wishes of the deceased statesman should be respected to the letter.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

It is now stated that Galtee More is not to start for the Ascot Cup if there is the slightest risk of his being beaten, which practically signifies that he will not run again. How anybody in possession of reason can suppose that the victory of Galtee More can be predicted with absolute certainty, it is impossible to understand; but there has lately been a great deal too much of delirious gasconading about this horse, and that of a fatefully dubious description. No sane person can seriously expect such a state of affairs at Ascot that the trainer would be justified in assuring the persons who have the management of the horse that "defeat is out of the question." We have yet to learn that Galtee More can stay the course, and there is no line whatever between this horse and Cyllene, Newhaven II., and Winkfield's Pride. If Galtee More ran and were beaten, it would be a terrible crash for the individuals who are responsible for his purchase. His market value would be infinitely diminished, and his screeching admirers would have no futher pretext of eulogising him as being a really good horse. There is evidently no real intention to run the horse at Ascot, and all the hare-brained talk on the subject is mere moonshine and fiddle-faddle. The sooner Galtee More goes off to Russia the better, and a better sold horse has never left England. By the way, how awkward it would have been if Galtee More had run for and won the Gold Cup, and then been objected to, and this tragical issue was on the cards, as the horse is now the property of the Emperor of Russia, but he would not have run in his name.

A writer in one of the morning papers of Saturday wasted space in discussing the prospects of Sandringham for the Woodcote Stakes, being ignorant of the fact that the Prince of Wales's colt was withdrawn from that race on March 29, when the minor forfeit was declared. It has always been the Prince's intention to start the brother to Persimmon for the Coventry Stakes at Ascot, but if Sandringham should not be quite ready for racing so early in the season, he will be reserved for the £5,000 stake at Sandown Park on July 16, and will afterwards "go for" the Prince of Wales's Post Sweepstakes of £2,610 at Goodwood. The entry for this rich race includes Musa, who won one of the principal events at the Newmarket Second Spring Meeting, and Boniface. There are no penalties for previous winners in this race.

Considering that the Royal Hunt Cup is run over the most popular distance, and that it is the most richly endowed handicap of the year, having £1,500 added money and a piece of plate worth £500, with all the sweepstakes going also to the winner, it is strange that there should not be a much larger number of entries than fifty-five, which compares with sixty-one last year, and with sixty-five in 1896. The best of the older horses in the list are St. Cloud II. (a very likely animal to win this race), Bridegroom, Eager, Knight of the Thistle (who won last year), Chelandry, Crestfallen, Prince Barcaldine, Goletta, Sandia, Berzak, Diakka, Minstrel, and Kilcock. There are an unusually large number of three-year-olds, including Dunlop, Succoth, Heir Male, Yester Year, Ayah, Bridegroom II., Needlecase, Archduke II. (the American candidate for the Derby), Jeddah, King's Messenger, Hermiston, and Calveley.

The Wokingham Stakes, with only £500 added, has obtained sixty-nine entries, a significant token of the preference of owners and trainers for short courses, the distance here being six furlongs, instead of a mile. Most of the horses engaged in the Hunt Cup are in this race as well, the only notable additions being The Convict, Ameer, Lucknow, Titare, Suppliant, St. Ia, Red Heart, Galashiels, Wishard, Florio Rubattino, Clwyd, Voter, Northern Farmer, and King Hampton, who will probably win if he is favourably handicapped.

There are twenty-two entries for the Fernhill Stakes, including eleven three-year-olds, of which the best known are Orzil, Elfin, The Convict, Lucknow, Archduke II., Galashiels, and Gay Lothair. The fact of Archduke II. being engaged in this race may lead some people to fancy that he is deficient in stamina. The best of the two-year-olds are Blackwing and Amurath, and if they both start this will be one of the most interesting races of the week, and particularly if they are opposed by Orzil.

Entries close next Tuesday for several races at Ascot, including the Queen's Stand Plate of £800 and the Gold Vase.

I see it is stated that Mr. Cassel has purchased Love Wisely with the object of winning the Prix du Conseil Municipal of £4,000, which is run at Longchamps on the Sunday before the Cesarewitch. It so happens that this stake has just closed, and the name of Love Wisely does not appear in the list, for the excellent reason that the entries were made before the sale of Mr. Bass' stud. There is a very large entry, including a considerable number of English horses, the best of them being Disraeli, Winkfield's Pride, Merman, The Baker, and Dinna Forget. Alt Mark and Knight of the Thistle have been engaged, but neither animal has any pretensions to stay this course. Newhaven II. is the only American horse in the list.

Entries close next Tuesday for the Goodwood Plate of £800, a handicap which will, I suppose, take the place of the old Goodwood Stakes, the distance being two miles and a half.

The folly and absurdity of throwing away £2,000 on the Ascot Stakes has often been pointed out, but I don't know how a greater number than thirty-five could reasonably be expected, considering that not one horse in fifty can really stay two miles with a fast pace throughout. There are only seven three-year-olds in this handicap, Jeddah being the best known of them. By the way, Limasol figures in the entry as a three-year-old.

The Northumberland Plate of only £1,000 has done nearly as well as the Ascot Stakes, having obtained thirty-one entries, including The Rush, Piety, Carlton Grange, and Bradwardine. Mr. Perkin's colt by Bend Or out of Jenny Howlet has been engaged. This animal will not run for the Derby, but he must not be lost sight of, for if he goes on all right he is sure to win a big handicap in the course of the season.

A writer in an evening paper laments that Kilcock should be set tasks that are beyond his power, and thinks the horse's owner would be well advised to confine his efforts to weight-for-age races of six furlongs or under, such as the Fernhill Stakes at Ascot. This advice is founded on a zeal which is certainly not according to knowledge, for Kilcock, being six years old, is not qualified for the Fernhill Stakes, a race which is confined to twos and threes. We shall hear next that, as Ninus lacks stamina, Prince Soltykoff will be well advised to reserve him for the Middle Park Plate.

Winkfield's Pride is reported to be very well indeed, and quite fit, so he ought to be able to win the Epsom Cup this afternoon if he runs, but it may be decided to reserve him for the Ascot Cup.

I hear that Mr. Arthur James has a very nice filly in Needlecase, by Common out of Needles, and it is believed that she could have been near winning the One Thousand and Oaks if she had been engaged in those stakes. Needlecase never was entered for the One Thousand, and she was unluckily withdrawn from the Oaks when the minor forfeit was declared in January, 1897. The filly is being prepared for the Coronation Stakes at Ascot, and she will very likely win that race if she is fit and well. She ran only twice last year. At the Manchester Whitsuntide Meeting she finished second to M.D. for the Whitsuntide Plate, having started favourite for that race. At Liverpool, in July, Needlecase beat Bittern (with 8 lb. the best of the weights) for the £2,000 stake, for which race, in the previous year, Galtee More had been defeated by Brigg.

Mr. Gubbins has sustained a great loss by the death of St. Florian, a horse whose young stock are remarkably promising, and he bid fair to make a most successful sire. St. Florian, by St. Simon out of Palmflower (dam of Musa and many other winners), was bred by Mr. Douglas Baird

in 1891, and his best race was the Duke of York Handicap in 1894. He was a difficult animal to train during the early part of his career. Mr. Gubbins paid 3,500 gs. for this horse.

There was the usual plethora of racing last week, but the sport was everywhere most uninteresting, and the only event worth notice was the Doncaster Spring Handicap, which was regarded as a certainty for Minstrel, but the Duke of Devonshire's horse ran very badly indeed, and I fancy he must be something of a rogue. Sardis, who won cleverly at the finish from Clipstone, has over and over again been heavily backed for more important handicaps, and now, when at last he wins a race, all the public money is on something else. How often, moreover, has Lord Hervey been backed? A lot of money must have been lost over this horse at Doncaster.

The most valuable two-year-old stake at Epsom is the Great Surrey Breeders' Foal Plate of £1,200, which is run to-morrow, and forty animals are left in, out of an original entry of 138. The best representative of public form is the Duke of Devonshire's colt Roundel, by Donovan out of Ronaldina, winner of the Zetland Plate at Doncaster; but although he had no difficulty in securing that event, there is no reason to believe that he is particularly smart. I dare say that Boniface will win if he runs.

Thirty-six fillies are left in for the Acorn Stakes on Friday, including the Prince of Wales's Eventail, winner of the Royal Plate at Kempton Park, but I shall be surprised if she can give 5 lb. to No Trumps, who ought to win this race for Mr. Combe.

There should be a large field for the Oaks. Every one admits that this year's colts are a bad lot, but the fillies are very much worse, and the Keeper of the Match Book estimates Nun Nicer to be 12 lb. behind Cyllene, and 8 lb. worse than Disraeli. Nun Nicer won the One Thousand easily enough, and I gave her a plumper for that race, but there was very little merit about her performance, judging from the running in that race of Airs and Graces and Alt Mark. The fact is that Nun Nicer was very well and quite fit, and some of her opponents were so palpably backward that they might just as well have remained at home. Royal Footstep has been doing very little work, and is not likely to run. Airs and Graces is touched in her wind, and will not show to advantage over the Epsom Course, besides which she is held quite safe by Nun Nicer on the Newmarket running. Ayah and St. Ia were proved by the One Thousand running to be deficient in stamina. Alt Mark and Simylla do not seem to have much chance of winning. Wildfowler, who is half-sister, by Gallinule, to Galtee More, may represent the Beckhampton stable, unless Darling has a better filly in La Fortune, whom he purchased last autumn at the sale of Lord Zetland's stud. Petty France, by St. Simon out of Dart, who was praised in the most glowing terms by some of the reporters of the sporting papers when Mr. Cresswell was so infatuated as to pay the monstrous price of 5,100 gs. for her in July, 1896, has never yet won a race, and she is not likely to compensate her owner for past disappointments on Friday. Another dismal failure in the high-priced line is the 3,100 gs. filly by Morion out of La Flèche. Lord Rosebery will run Manchine, and this filly has come on very much during the last month, and she went uncommonly well on Thursday in a gallop with Velasquez over the Oaks distance. Airosa, Mousme, and Elf have no chance of winning on public form. A great tip is Mr. Chaplin's Yester Year, who has not run for nearly a year. This filly, who is by Melanion out of Yesterling, ran Champ de Mars to a head for last year's First Spring Stakes at Newmaket, but she had 11 lb. the best of the weights. A week later Yester Year cantered away for the Mostyn Plate at Chester, and at Manchester, in June, she finished behind Nun Nicer and Longtown. Nun Nicer has been tipped in large type by every paper I have seen, just as was Chelandry last year, and Thais in 1896. I know nothing as to the present form of Yester Year, but if she has any pretensions to be really smart she must have an excellent chance.

There will be racing next week at Hurst Park, Redcar, Wolverhampton, Kempton Park, and Manchester. Three of these meetings are holiday orgies, and the only place at which there is likely to be any sport of general interest is Manchester, but it is simply preposterous that this fixture should continue to be dragged over four days, when there is no justification for allowing it to extend over even three days.

It must be remembered that this year there is an interval of a fortnight between Epsom and Ascot, instead of only a week as usual. It would be a good thing if this arrangement was to be made permanent.

The Summer Breeders' Foal Plate of £1,000 is the principal two-year-old event at Manchester, now that the Whitsuntide Plate has fallen into contempt, owing to the unpardonably stupid parsimony of the leather-headed managers of the meeting. No fewer than seventy-two horses are left in, and this will not be an expensive event for the fund, inasmuch as the owners' entrances amount to £808. Desmond may very likely win this race for Lord Dunraven. Fascination has also accepted. The John o' Gaunt Plate of £500 may fall to Morgante, by Bend Or out of Molly Morgan, if this race is thought to be good enough for him. I believe the colt has been well galloped. Fascination is also in this race. Lord Durham may win the Whitsuntide Plate with St. Vaast, and for this race Eventail is also left in, but the Prince of Wales's filly will probably be stopped by her 10 lb. penalty. Of course, I should expect the Duke of Portland's Manners to win this race if he runs.

The Derby Plate of £500 is a race for three-year-olds and upwards (one mile), for which thirty horses are left in, out of an original entry of forty-six. Berzak ought to win this race if he goes for it. The acceptance also includes Neish, Fosco, Alt Mark, and Maluma.

There are very poor entries for all the handicaps at Manchester. Only twenty-five horses have been engaged in the Salford Borough Handicap of £1,000, and a miserable entry of forty-one for the Manchester Cup of £2,000 has resulted in an acceptance of fifteen! The Rush seems to me to be overweighted with 9 st. 7 lb., and I do not believe he would beat the best from Kingsclere, which will probably be Labrador (8 st. 5 lb.), who has to give 2 lb. to St. Bris. Telescope ran badly at Chester. The Australian mare, Acmena, is well in, but it is probable that she will not be at her best for some time yet. Tyro, who ran well for a long way in the Chester Cup, is thrown in. Northallerton is not overweighted with 8 st. 5. lb., and this horse is best over a distance of ground. I am inclined to think that the Manchester Cup will prove a good thing for the Prince of Wales's Nunsuch, who was not really fit when she ran for the City and Suburban, and she has come on fast since the Epsom Spring Meeting.

The other week I ventured to point out, in answer to an attack by the Lord Bishop of Oxford on Sunday cyclists, that if Sunday cycling was bad Sunday sermons were worse. I also suggested that if the City churches were to make provision for cyclists it would not be long before a ride to church on Sunday along the wooden and asphalte streets would be welcomed by many. The Rev. W. Carlile has now arranged for a cycling service at nine a.m. on Sundays. There is to be a sermon of five minutes only, and all will be over by a quarter to ten. This service is held at St. Mary-at-Hill, a minute from the Bank and Mansion House. I hope this admirable innovation will meet with the support it deserves. A good many people would ride out on Sundays to church if they felt they would be certain of being able to put up their machines. Clergy in country places round provincial towns would do well to take note of what is being done in the City.

At the meeting of the Football League the other day, there was some very plain speaking on the part of more than one of the chief officials. The improvement that the South has made in the game is not viewed with complacency. One gentleman is reported to have remarked that they welcomed the development of the game in the South, but this development must not be allowed to interfere with

the League's position. Of course, it is not very nice for a clique that has run a game for its own benefit to find its superiority being threatened. These persons have dominated all sorts of matches, whether friendly, League, or Cup ties. They allocate to themselves the privilege of not playing in the earlier rounds of the Cup Tie. And the South is not to interfere with this position. Unless I am much mistaken not only the South, but a good many other clubs as well, will unite to force the League to abandon its "boss" position in the councils of those who control Association football. Now the League has been extended, and there will be practically no dates for friendly games. Only the richest clubs will be able to stand the wear and tear of such a heavy season. The competition of the South for players will tend to raise wages, and the rise will not be hindered by the fact that the players have to play a lot more League matches. There will be no holiday jaunts for friendly games with Southern clubs. It will be all stern business. The South will have to advance by itself, and as it has done so in the past there is no doubt it will do so in the future.

Cricketers are very conservative. It takes a long time for the cricketing public to realise that a new county is really any good. The success of Essex last season, although it was most consistent, was yet regarded by many people as being something in the nature of a flash in the pan. That idea has been knocked on the head by the brilliant start the Essex men made against Surrey. Turner's batting was admirable. He was slow for his first fifty, but afterwards he and Mead made fours as frequently as there have been April showers in May. On the losing side Hayward played two most consistent innings. It was very satisfactory to find Lockwood back in the Surrey team, and taking wickets, too. Rhodes has already done well for Yorkshire this season as a bowler. Against Somerset, who were completely outclassed, he did better than he has ever done before, and he quite makes up for the loss of Peel. Profiting by the lessons of the Australian tour, Derbyshire are using Storer to some effect as a bowler. He scored a century against Notts, who looked like being beaten, only rain stopped the play. Notts practically owed its score to Shrewsbury and Dench. Leicestershire made an excellent start against Lancashire, Tomlin and Woodcock both scoring heavily, while Ward also batted admirably for the champions. At Cambridge, Coode followed up a faultless century for the first twelve against the next sixteen with some very steady play on a difficult wicket against Middlesex, the county team losing three wickets "run out."

Bacon, the ex-amateur mile champion, has certainly met a runner better than himself in Tincler, who recently beat him in fast time over a mile. The second of the series of matches was over two miles. The wretched weather had made the track at Ashton-under-Lyme anything but fast. Tincler jumped off with the lead, and held it all through. Bacon gave up three hundred yards from home. The winner's time was a fifth less than nine minutes twenty seconds. There was an interesting amateur six-mile race at Northampton between Robinson, the ten miles champion, a local man, and Harrison of the Manchester Harriers. The track was heavy. The local man cut out the running, and won a grand race by twenty yards. It is said that the loser has won a thousand pounds worth of prizes in the last seven years. This shows not merely that he is a fine runner, but also that it is desirable that the A.A.A. should cut down the prize value limit. The majority of runners are of a class to whom the prize is of very great moment. They have but little money of their own. The articles that are offered as prizes are utterly unsuited for persons in their class of life. That the prizes remain long in the possession of winners is improbable. No doubt there is a difficulty in legislating for this class of runners; but when a man can amass a small fortune in seven years from amateur running, it shows that there is an opportunity for many to run, not for the sake of the sport, but with an eye on the pot. The greater the value of the prize the less will be the love of the sport for its own sake. It would be as well if the Amateur Athletic Association started by reducing the ten pounds limit to five pounds, and making this value the limit, both in handicap and scratch races.

At the London Athletic Club Sports Lutyens was in splendid form. He had no difficulty in winning the 600 Yards Challenge Cup, and in the Half-Mile he did very fair time from scratch, but he could only get second to Kirby (65 yards), who finished strongly. For the Three Miles Walking Challenge Cup there was a splendid race. Two yards always covered the two competitors, and in the end Baker beat Watson by inches. Munro ran admirably in the Mile-and-a-Half Handicap, but he could not catch Sawyer (190 yards) or the aged Dixon, who had the ridiculously long start of 340 yards, and was second. If middle-aged men run they are entitled, I suppose, to a long start; but the spectacle is not exhilarating, and although no one would grudge such a good sportsman as Dixon his success, it is to be hoped that no other ancient athlete will follow his example. At this meeting the two visitors from South Africa, Blignaut and Mockel, were competing. They were not successful in the sprint handicap. In the 300 yards the former was at scratch, but he was beaten by a yard by Mayne (8 yards). He will no doubt improve, but one can scarcely credit the times he has done in South Africa. Mockel is really a hurdler, and now that he has learnt how to fly he will do some remarkably good performances, as he is just the right build. There was an interesting walking handicap at the Polytechnic Sports, which was won by Kennedy after an excellent finish with Butler; Sturgess, the champion, was a long way behind.

The question of the hammer and the weight and the half-mile in the Inter-University programme is not yet settled. An old weight-putter says its all nonsense to think the hammer is the only thing for stomachic ills. So long as he sticks to the weight his liver is never out of order. The exercise takes less room than the hammer and is not so dangerous to the spectators. I can see no reason why both events should not be kept and the half be added. True, there will be ten events and the sports might be drawn. But if the athletic abilities of the two Universities as fairly represented by these ten standard events are equal, why should not there be a draw? The half-miler is as much a distinct class of athlete as the sprinter or the long-distance man. Not many years ago, just before the era of Lutyens, there was a singular dearth of milers at the University, and yet both Wilson and Roughton, who ran in the mile and were no class, could do a half inside two minutes. Whatever happens it is to be hoped that the rules of the Inter-University sports for the weight and hammer will be made to conform to those of the A.A.A.

For the Lowe Double Sculls at Cambridge there was a race almost equal in excitement to that between the same two pairs of oarsmen for the Magdalene pairs. The only difference was the fifteen yards by which Etherington Smith and Goldie beat Howell and Bell. Both for the pairs and sculls record time was done. Those who are interested in the relative value for the purposes of pace between sculls and oars will gather what information they can from the fact that the time for the sculls was twenty-three seconds faster than that done by the oars.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—For once the pessimists have to take a back-seat, as recent developments—both political and monetary—point to a more general recovery on the Stock Exchange, notwithstanding the series of dismal utterances which has fallen to our lot of late. The past week has been one of slow improvement. Gradually it dawned upon professional operators that political speech-making has been very much overdone, while on the other hand, the public—although prevented from doing any fresh business—have wisely refrained from throwing overboard their holdings.

The Political Sky Clearing.

Far be it from me to assert that all the political clouds have now disappeared, and that adverse rumours will no longer trouble the markets. That state of felicity is altogether impossible, as we have to reckon with panic-mongers and "Bear" manipulators. But it is permitted to say that the outlook has greatly improved. Lord Salisbury's statements in the House of Lords on the Chinese question created a very favourable impression in the City, as it defined the Cabinet's policy, and was free from all alarmist tendencies. The City is gradually getting over Mr. Chamberlain's sensational remarks, and, although they are partly regarded as having been specially designed as a *ballon d'essai* concerning a possible American alliance, business men generally begin to look upon the Colonial Secretary more than ever as the *enfant terrible* of the Cabinet. In fact, after his previous West African speech the public will probably, in the absence of his dismal predictions being fulfilled, attach little value to any future lucubrations emanating from him. Another adverse rumour has, moreover, now been explained away by the statement made by Sir John Lubbock, the chairman at the recent bankers' dinner, at which Lord Salisbury was the guest, to a representative of the *Manchester Evening News*. Sir John expressed himself to the effect that the alarmist rumours current give an entirely wrong impression of the tenour of the speech. He feels satisfied that Lord Salisbury had not the slightest intention of making an alarmist speech, or hinting at the existence of any immediate difficulty threatening this country, which involved a prospect of war. His remarks appear to have turned chiefly on the increasing naval and military estimates and money matters, and no reference whatever was made to any difficulties with France in West Africa or elsewhere. Sir John Lubbock's objections to the latter-day sensationalism, as practised by a portion of the Press, are certainly fully justified. I have, by the way, been told in a usually well-informed quarter that Lord Salisbury also referred to the efforts of Russia in endeavouring to float another loan of £20,000,000, but this was certainly quite a legitimate subject to discuss at a bankers' dinner. In the meantime, persistent reports are coming from Paris that the relations between this country and France have improved, while the concession for the construction of a railway in the Yang-tze Valley to an English syndicate is undoubtedly a hopeful development, likely to militate against future Russian encroachments in China, while going a long way to open up the latter country. The recovery in the Stock Markets has been greatly assisted by the growing ease of the Money Market, which has in fact led to quite a drastic change within the last day or two. The depression fostered by the adverse rumours has caused a considerable "Bear" account to be piled up in every department, which may be expected to give considerable support to quotations. The rise in Consols, the improvement in Home Rails, and the much stronger tendency of the Mining Markets, furnish indications of this movement. The war between Spain and the United States is almost disregarded in the other departments, and American Rails have maintained a firm tone, as there is a strong backing in Wall-street, which would step in should an American reverse occur, while, of course, a Yankee victory would put prices up sky-high. A favourable circumstance is the growing probability of a settlement of the Pacific rate-war. The Industrial section has more than any felt the effect of the alarmist rumours, but should now to respond freely to the improved condition of affairs, and I shall be much surprised if Welsbach stocks do not as leaders in the near future.

Money and Gilt-Edged Investments.—A Disappointment for Pessimists and "Bears."

A fortnight ago I spoke very strongly against the view of the pessimists, who were then predicting dear money, and I stated that I rather held the contrary opinion, as also expressed by the *Sunday Special*, which had been particularly correct in its forecast of the gold movements. One of the points I made was that Japan would certainly let out some of the money transferred to her by China in payment of ships and war material, in this country, while I also took the view that Japan would lend out some of her millions in the market, a rate of from 3 to 3½ per cent. being tempting enough. Most other financial writers expressed the opinion that Japan would bottle the money up, and in this they were disappointed; while, on the other hand, the golden current is still flowing to the Bank of England, and something like £6,500,000 sterling in gold has now reached the Central institution, thus placing the same in a very strong position—stronger, indeed, than it was a year ago, when money rates were quite nominal. A fortnight back, when I ventured to predict that money would ease off, the rate of discount for three months' bank bills was 4 per cent. It has now dropped to 3-3⅛ per cent., while short money is to be had at 2 per cent. No wonder that Consols have advanced from 110¼ (to which the political rumours knocked them down), to 111⅜ for the account! The fact is, there has been a good deal of selling of our premier security as a hedge against other commitments, and some large French operators gave for the "put" of important blocks, against which the option dealers sold. Thus it is quite on the cards that, barring accidents, there will be a further advance in Consols. In the meantime other high-class investments are also improving, and there has been a rise in British Corporation stocks and in Home Railway prior charges. The Chinese loans, too, are firmer, especially the new Four and a Half per Cent. Loan, which has risen to 88. Japanese scrip has also recovered to 103½, and India stock is better. The new Greek loan has rallied to par.

Home Rails—An Incipient Improvement.

Considering the surrounding circumstances, and the steady downpour during the last few days, it is really surprising that the Home Railway department has kept up as well as it did, especially as it had to stand the shock of an unexpected announcement by the Great Western of a new capital issue to the amount of £2,500,000. This Company used to place its new stock through the market, and did not offer it to the existing shareholders, and this new departure has, therefore, not proved very popular, especially as it was taken at a very unpropitious moment. It put down Great Western stock to 165, a fall of 3½ points, from which there has been a moderate improvement to 166½, but the other stocks remain firm, and there has since been a hardening movement in other Heavies, notably Midland and North-Western. Even the stocks of the passenger lines did not give way on the execrable weather, and the "Bulls" of Dover "A" were courageous enough to take the price up again to 111, while Brighton "A" are firm at 176. Both these stocks, by the way, are tempting purchases in this department. Great Centrals have also well maintained their quotations, the 1894 Ordinary at 41½, the Preferred Ordinary at 66. A correspondent of the *Railway News* indulges in a somewhat sanguine forecast of the probable results of the London extension. He reminds us that when the Bill for the extension was under the consideration of Parliament, the general manager expressed the opinion that when completed the whole system of the Great Central Company would earn sufficient to pay 4¾ per cent. dividend on the whole of the Ordinary stock of the Company, including, of course, the cost of the extension, which would then stand at £8,592,000. The general manager's estimate was that the new line would give net earnings of £525,000 per annum, as compared with £127,000 on the existing line on a previous average of five years. The correspondent in question draws attention to the fact that a very large proportion of the Great Central capital has proved to be all but unremunerative, as over £4,000,000 has been expended upon the Grimsby Docks, which provided last year only £20,000 of net revenue. What is in

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

favour of the Ordinary stock is also that the capital of the extension will be charged with Four and a Half per Cent. debentures, and that, contrary to former capitalisation, there will be equal proportions of Preference and Ordinary. My contemporary's correspondent concludes that "it would be strange indeed if a line of railway traversing some of the most prosperous portions of the country between London and the North should not be able to provide at least some substantial addition for its Ordinary stock, allowing for the additional capital." Without wishing to indulge in sanguine predictions, I think that the present values of the 1894 Ordinary and Preferred Ordinary are so low that the new extension need do only moderately well to justify a rise of ten points, and these stocks should therefore be very suitable for a lock-up. Metropolitans have shown great strength at 133, in anticipation of the benefits to accrue from the Great Central extension, and Metropolitan Districts have improved to 27⅞, and as other stocks are recovering fom the effects of the slump, Districts should also further advance. At a special general meeting held on Tuesday the clauses affecting the District Railway in the Bill for the adoption of electricity by the Metropolitan were authorised. The District, of course, has already power to adopt electric traction, but the present Bill empowers the Metropolitan and District Companies to enter into agreements with regard to working by, and the supply of, electric power. Mr. J. S. Forbes, the Chairman, stated that they were instructed by very eminent authorities that the financial burden cast upon the two Companies would be extremely moderate in comparison with the advantages to be secured, not only by getting rid of many of the offensive qualities of the air in the tunnels, but also in the saving of cost of traction, which they were advised would be considerable. The Scotch Deferred stocks, after declining, are also firming up again, and Great Northern Deferred have recovered, although the approach of the Great Central competition must necessarily prove an unfavourable factor in the future of that line.

YANKEE RAILS—ADMIRAL CERVERA DODGES THE MARKET.

Although latest developments point to the protraction of the Spanish-American war beyond the period originally contemplated by our Yankee cousins, Wall-street has held up prices pretty well, and it has undoubtedly some grounds for its sanguine views, considering the remarkable manner in which trade is still improving, the railroads benefiting to a great extent. Thus, the *Financial Chronicle* reports the earnings of sixty-three railroads in the second week of May as $6,557,366, an increase of $896,197, and of eight roads in the first week of May as $7,339,065, an increase of $747,027. These figures are remarkable as showing that the war is not as yet interfering with the expansion of trade, although obviously the great rise in wheat has a good deal to do with the large traffic returns, as enormous quantities are being hurried forward by the farmers. On the other hand, the farmers are getting very prosperous by obtaining big prices for their produce, and thus are able to purchase large supplies of necessaries and luxuries. Nor is the appreciation confined to wheat, for maize has also had an immense rise, which represents an enormous amount of money for the railroads, merchants, and farmers in the maize-growing sections of the United States. The *Wall-street Daily News* reminds its readers that July maize, selling at 37·8 cents, is about 13 cents higher than what was obtained a year ago. Considering the fact that the maize crop is, according to my contemporary, about four times larger than that of wheat, the advance in price would on that basis work out to 52 cents a bushel. Owners of maize are naturally hurrying forward their stocks, and, as with wheat and maize, so it is with flour and oats, the quantities carried being very largely in excess of last year. This is shown by the following statement of grain receipts at Chicago for the week ending May 7 and the corresponding week last year, as published by the *Wall-street Daily News*:—

		Flour, bbls.	Wheat, bush.	Corn, bush.	Oats, bush.
North-Western,	1898...	27,912	43,600	687,200	555,650
,,	1897...	12,250	14,000	53,200	345,400
Rock Island,	1898...	10,050	14,000	621,600	382,875
,,	1897...	4,900	3,500	54,600	190,300
Bur. & Quincey,	1898...	3,100	79,800	769,300	417,400
,,	1897...	875	1,400	143,900	172,700
St. Paul,	1898...	22,750	14,700	250,600	397,100
,,	1897...	16,450	2,800	18,900	314,600
Atchison,	1898...	900	22,400	102,900	93,500
,,	1897...	.....	700	47,600	117,700

It is not unnatural under these circumstances that New York operators should be encouraged to maintain values, as after all the war must sooner or later come to an end. At present Admiral Cervera, with his phantom fleet, is causing the American squadrons a good deal of vexation. He has so far succeeded in dodging the American fleet very cleverly, and the Yankee market does not obviously like this dodging; but it looks, after all, as if the Spanish Admiral had realised that he is not strong enough to fight a naval battle. The United States authorities, on the other hand, are evidently making sure that they will gain a victory in case they can only catch the Spaniards. Future naval developments must to a great extent guide operations in Wall-street; but there can hardly be any prospect of a great disaster to the Yankees, and any minor incident would probably not prevent manipulators in Wall-street from supporting their market. Americans have certainly shown remarkable confidence in their own future by mopping up large quantities of stock on this side. London and the provinces have been selling heavily during the last fortnight, and all the stock has been taken in New York. This has been more particularly the case with Milwaukee, and I should think that a great change has come about in the respective holdings in this Company of European and American capitalists, as by far the larger proportion must be in American hands. In fact, a good deal of "Bear" selling has been indulged in on this side, the comparatively high price of 99⅞ being tempting, although in times of peace 99⅞ for a stock likely to pay a dividend of 5½ per cent. would hardly be considered excessive. Louisville have with Milwaukee shown the greatest activity. The road is doing well, and dividends will doubtless be resumed as soon as the prospect becomes more peaceful. Under the circumstances the quotation of about 55 is moderate, especially as the road is benefiting very considerably by the transport of troops and warlike material. This being a London favourite, any development foreshadowing early peace will lead to heavy purchases on this side. At last there seems to be a prospect of the rate war being settled between the Pacific roads and the Grand Trunk. Whenever that desirable event comes about we shall see an improvement not only in the Canadian stocks, but also in Union Pacifics and Northern Pacifics. In Union Pacifics there has been a good deal of realising of late, and it is said that a line of $2,000,000 of Four per Cent. Mortgage bonds has just been liquidated in New York. The stocks appear, however, to be well taken, and now that a settlement of the ill-advised struggle with the Grand Trunk is in sight, they are likely to further rally. Several of my Wall-street contemporaries are indulging in the most sanguine forecasts with regard to the Union Pacific. It will be of interest to quote the following paragraph from the *New York Journal of Commerce*:—

> The first quarter's business for 1898 under the new management gives evidence of a great future for Union Pacific, the earnings for that period showing a comparative increase of $471,000, which averages $157,000 a month for the three months ending March 31. The operating expenses have been much reduced, so that even if gross earnings do not amount to more than the gross of last year, the net must be much larger. If only an increase of $150,000 a month in net earnings should result for the present year, the grand total of net increases in earnings would amount to $1,800,000. The newly acquired branch lines are expected to show at least $600,000 above taxes, and increase from other sources will at least equal that of last year, namely $500,000, so that the total net income for the new system will equal $8,500,000.

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sufficient to pay charges and dividends on Preferred stock with a balance of about 3 per cent. applicable to the common stock. We see no reason to doubt the expectations of Preferred stockholders, who claim that the Preferred stock will sell nearly up to the present market price of the 4 per cent. bonds.

The Northern Pacific has already commenced to pay dividends on its Preferred stock, and as the management is very progressive, there is little doubt but that the road will do exceedingly well. One of its latest acquisitions appears to be very promising, to judge from the following extract from the *Wall-street Journal*:—

In acquiring ownership of Montana Union, Seattle and International, and Washington and Columbia River—nearly 385 miles altogether—Northern Pacific has greatly improved its strategic locations, besides adding to its mileage tracks that penetrate some of the richest territory available, and control most of the local traffic therefrom. Great Northern officials' hearts were broken to see the W. & C. R. get away from them without a struggle, but Hill said he did not want it, and that settled it. He was advised by Newman to get it, but would not listen. It would seem that these lines were as valuable to a through line as well-built forts, completely equipped, would be to the enemy in war; but Hill either did not see it that way or did not care.

Whenever the progress of the war justifies it, the rise will, however, no doubt, be general, and also extend to Norfolk, Atchison, and Denver stocks, while even Wabash are entering upon a brighter future. Special attention has been directed during the last few days to Canadian Pacifics, which, after touching 84⅜, have improved to 86¼, and seem well on the road to their recent price of 87 again. In fact, the road is doing so remarkably well that an improved dividend is in sight, and there is no reason why the stock should not stand at the same quotation as Milwaukee. The last weekly traffic increase amounted to $55,000, a total gain of $1,576,000 from January 1 up to the present—truly an excellent showing. The Grand Trunk, too, has had an excellent traffic, showing an increase of £16,807, and the First Prefs. have recovered to 69⅝, the Guaranteed to 75⅞. On the settlement of the rate war both Canadian Pacifics and Grand Trunks will probably take a jump. By the way, I have received a copy of "King's Views of the New York Stock Exchange," which contains 1,061 portraits and illustrations, and is presented with the compliments of Messrs. Clark, Ward, and Co., bankers and brokers, of New York and Boston. This book contains a very interesting history of the New York Stock Exchange, and any one who is fond of character study may be able to gather plenty of interest from the faces of some of the cute Yankee brokers and others connected with the Exchange, which appear in this compilation. Wall-street has so often got the better of London in previous transactions in American Rails, that the lights of the New York Stock Exchange ought decidedly to be of a different kind from our own brokers and jobbers.

FOREIGNERS AND SOUTH AMERICANS—THE BOURSES RALLY—AN EX-PRESIDENT ON ARGENTINE FINANCE—NEW COURT TO THE RESCUE OF BRAZIL.

I have already explained in my introductory remarks how Lord Salisbury's speech to the bankers had been distorted by sensational newspaper paragraphs. It is now shown that he made absolutely no reference to any trouble with France, and latest advices from Paris state that a settlement of the West African question has practically been arrived at. Under the circumstances, the Continental Bourses look upon Mr. Chamberlain with much suspicion, and they seem to consider him a kind of firebrand who wants to bring about a general European war. I suppose, however, that it was really the mysterious manner of the Colonial Secretary which caused all these apprehensions, and now that no bad effects are apparent, the Bourses are rallying again. Paris has put up all its specialities, such as Rio Tintos and Turks, and last, but not least, Spanish. I do not suppose that the recovery in Spanish Fours is due to Admiral Cervera's success in dodging the American Fleet, as really nothing more favourable for Spanish finance could happen than that the war were brought to a speedy close. But it seems that there is now a rumour that the next coupon will be paid less a tax of 20 per cent. I dare say, however, that we shall have a good many more rumours before the time arrives for the final decision concerning that much talked-of coupon. Yet it would pay the Paris *haute finance* best to facilitate the payment of the coupon again. Matters in Italy have fortunately taken a more favourable turn, but the sooner Italy reduces her army and her expenditure generally, the better will it be for its much-taxed population, and for the future stability of the State. The severe spasms which have of late occurred in the Foreign market, however, fully corroborate my often-repeated warning to leave the old-world government securities alone. South Americans, after a period of depression, have shown greater strength, and there has been more particularly a sharp advance in Brazilians, the 1889 Loan having recovered to 51, Western of Minas to 53½. Negotiations are reported to have taken a favourable turn with New Court for the funding of the coupons for a few years, thus giving time for the exchange to right itself. While in some quarters the Central Railway was stated to be the basis of the new loan which will be required, others anticipate that the latter will be secured on the Customs. At all events, it is quite time that the Rio exchange should in some way be steadied. With reference to Argentine affairs we have now the report of an interview with Dr. Pelligrini, ex-President of Argentina, by a representative of the *Financial Times*. Dr. Pelligrini is at present in England, it appears, chiefly for the benefit of his health, and he obviously would speak in an optimistic manner of the finances of his country. With reference to the Chilian war scare his utterance is reassuring. Concerning the provincial debts he says that the British and French railways have not yet been settled with, and that this causes a difficulty with regard to the Santa Fé debt. Respecting Cordoba he considers a settlement difficult, as it is a very poor province. The chief interest, however, centres in his remarks on the consolidation of the national debt, and Dr. Pelligrini appears to be of opinion that as long as the market price of the present Four per Cent. (Rescission) bonds is so much lower than that of the Five and Six per Cents., there is no possibility of the Consolidation on a basis of Four per Cent. bonds. In fact, Dr. Pelligrini waxed quite excited on the difference in the Four per Cent. at 56, and the Five per Cents. at nearly 90, but he leaves altogether out of calculation the special security which both the 1886 and Funding Loans have on the Customs revenue. I suppose he now considers that Argentine finance is so safe that it does not require any special hypothecation, but this is not the view of investors and bankers on this side. Respecting the resumption of the payment of the full interest on the National Debt, Dr. Pelligrini appears to have no misgivings, although he seems to blame Dr. Escalante—the Minister of Finance—for want of foresight in not preparing for this event. Argentine railway stocks have been steady, and a rise of 5 points is shown in Buenos Ayres Great Southern Ordinary at 140, while Buenos Ayres and Rosario have improved to 73½, Central Argentine to 79. Cordoba Central First Prefs. stand at 83, and the Central Northern Section Income Debenture stock at 54. Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Four and a Half per Cent. Second Debenture stock at 92, including a half-year's interest, is a distinctly good investment, giving a return of about 5 per cent. upon a well covered security. Owing to the almost complete failure of last year's wheat and maize crops there has been a set-back in the Company's traffic returns for 1897-8, but that is only a temporary matter, and already a turn in the tide has taken place, the last few weeks' traffics having shown considerable improvement. The excellent maize crop just coming in, and the sharp rise in the price of wheat, must give an impetus to the grain trade generally, and greatly benefit the districts served by the Pacific Company, and cause increased areas to be sown for the ensuing season. The Pacific Railway is a property capable of immense developments with very encouraging prospects, and the market price of its Four and a Half per Cent. Second Debenture stock ought to be at, or over par, at which it was quoted last year. Bondholders of the Western Railway of Santa Fé will be pleased to learn that the traffics are at last beginning to show remarkable increases as compared with last year. The

aggregate receipts for nineteen weeks to May 14, 1898, were $789,707 (£59,724), while for the nineteen weeks to May 15, 1897, they amounted to $479,650 (£31,930), an increase of £27,786. Urugnay bonds have been steady at 44⅝, and the fact that no political news is coming to hand by cable from that country seems to indicate that there is no political trouble. Chilians are steady, and Mexican Sixes, although no higher, have shown a firm front. Peruvian Corporation stocks have maintained previous quotations, while Nitrate Rails are but a dull market, and all the gambling spirit seems to have left Mexican Rails, the First Prefs. being quoted 72.

THE KAFFIR CIRCUS.—"BEAR" RE-PURCHASES AND A WATER DISCOVERY CAUSE A RISE.

It cannot be said that the South African department was affected to a very marked extent by the political scare, but in these days of impressionable markets, the fear that a European conflagration was at hand—during which President Kruger might throw up the suzerainty and generally disport himself in an objectionable manner—naturally had some influence on quotations. There are always a number of operators in the Kaffir Circus ready to sell "Bears" on the slightest provocation, and they select Rand Mines, East Rands, and Consolidated Goldfields as most easily dealable. They succeeded at one time in putting down Rand Mines below 28, while East Rands were sold down to 4⅛, Consolidated Goldfields to 3$\frac{15}{16}$. From these figures there has already come about a very considerable rally, Rand Mines being up at 29$\frac{11}{16}$, East Rands at 4$\frac{11}{16}$, Consolidated Goldfields at 4$\frac{5}{16}$. The remarkable change in the Money Market, and the practical disappearance of all the political rumours, are likely to still further affect this market, and I have good reason for saying that when Rand Mines dropped to 28 a great many "Bear" sales were effected, which have not yet been covered. To sell Rand Mines at that figure is distinctly giving hostages to fortune, as the leading firm connected with the Company could easily put up the price three or four points. Another favourable influence has been the discovery of a huge cavern, 40 ft. deep, full of water, while sinking the second well by the Zuurbekom Water Company. According to the *Standard and Diggers' News*, the estimate of the yield of water is between eight and fifteen million gallons per day, and it is stated that this discovery will solve the water problem both for the town of Johannesburg and for the mines, when the huge plant ample for all purposes shall have been laid down. It is calculated that it will be possible to supply the mines with water up to 15,000,000 gallons per day. In view of the ever-recurring scarcity of water in the Witwatersrand district, this is a most important announcement which is fraught with favourable results for the whole of the mines, while the Barnato group, with which the Zuurbekom Company is connected, should naturally benefit. The rest of the market has strengthened, as a result of the more favourable outlook. Randfontein have recovered to 1$\frac{9}{16}$, Barnato Consols are again quoted 1¾, New Primrose 3½, Langlaagte Estate 3⅛, and the various Deep Level shares are higher all round, the prices being as follows:—Crown Deep 11, Goldfields Deep 8$\frac{7}{16}$, Robinson Deep 9⅜, Geldenhuis Deep 7⅜, Rose Deep 6⅛, Henry Nourse Deep 5, Durban Roodepoort Deep 3⅜, Knight's Deep 1⅞, Roodepoort Central Deep 1$\frac{5}{16}$, Nigel Deep 1. With reference to the projected Transvaal loan, all the rumours that President Kruger has succeeded in obtaining this are obviously false, and it is quite clear that he will not get any such advance in Europe unless suitable reductions are made to the mining industry. It is reported from the Niekerk that development has been resumed, and the management have secured a plant comprising two Gates' crushers, eight cyanide tanks, and other machinery. De Beers have been strong on French purchases, a rise having taken place to 26⅞. Just as Paris was chiefly the cause of the recent large sales, so it is now assisting in putting the value up again. New Jagersfontein have been firm at 7½.

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GOLDEN WEST AUSTRALIA—A GENERAL RECOVERY.

The number of crushings this week is not large, but some of those which are announced are distinctly favourable, more especially that of the Associated Gold Mines of Western Australia, 700 tons of telluride ore having yielded 3,000 oz. of gold. This is in addition to a crushing of 1,700 tons for 1,325 oz. of gold. The cablegram adds that the average assay of ore is 6 oz., and that the extension plant is making good progress. The other crushings will be gathered from the following list:—

	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings Per Ton.
Associated Gold Mines (Telluride)	700	3,000	—
,, ,,	1,700	1,325	—
Queensland Menzies	227	673	—
North Boulder	343	363	—
Lady Evelyn	127	125	—
Rose Hill United	65	37	5 dwt.
Bayley's United (Arsenical Pyrites)	2	770	—
Weld-Hercules	258	260	4 dwt.
Golden Ridge	6¾	129	—
Great Boulder Proprietary	1,070	2,385	—

A very favourable result is again shown by the Queensland Menzies, the ore going 3 oz. to the ton, which is, curiously enough, about the same yield as has of late been obtained by the adjoining Lady Shenton Mine. By the way, warrants for the fifth dividend (one shilling per share) were posted to the shareholders on Friday, and the shares have rallied to 2⅜. A favourable cablegram is also to hand from the Florence, which adjoins the Lady Shenton, from which it is evident that the Florence Mine will prove nearly equal in value to the latter. The following is the cablegram:—"Rayfield (Mine Manager reports): 'Winze has been sunk on reef, our own property; in workings from the No. 3 level Lady Shenton has reached a depth of 18 ft.; the width of reef is 2 ft.; making more solid; gold can be seen as far as we have gone down.'" From the Hannan's Excelsior a cablegram is to hand stating that the assay results are very satisfactory, those of the green lode being 5 oz. 18 dwt., and of the main lode 2 oz. 15 dwt. From the Mount Charlotte it is stated that the battery has been started, and that the supply of water has been arranged for. On the Hannan's Star the vein appears to have been cut at a depth of 259 ft., containing visible gold, and from the Golden Ridge an improvement in the quality of the ore on the 165 ft. level is reported. It is not surprising that the excellent results from the Associated Gold Mines have caused a rise in these shares which are now quoted 3½, but this recovery has by no means been singular, the improvement having extended over all the better-class mines. Thus, Ivanhoe have risen to 5¾. From this mine it is understood that the developments are very satisfactory, and when the remaining twenty stamps are at work the yield will be greatly increased. Golden Horseshoe have been put up in sympathy with Ivanhoe to 8¼, and Lake View Consols have been a strong market at 8¾. The May crushing of the last-mentioned mine is expected to show a further important increase. Great Boulder Proprietary have given way to 17s. 3d. xd. With reference to the West Australian Market Trust the report has now been issued by the committee to the shareholders. They state that after very careful inquiry, they have arrived at the conclusion that reconstruction is desirable in the interests of the shareholders. "They have been agreeably surprised at the present position of the Company's assets, with regard to the principal of which they have satisfied themselves that they are of intrinsic value, and likely, if carefully conserved, to yield considerable profits to the Trust." This is what they say with regard to the Northern Territories Goldfields:—

In particular, your committee attaches great importance to the holding of the Trust in the Northern Territories Goldfields of Australia, Limited, the committee being satisfied, by personal inquiry and independent expert advice, that the properties owned

by the Northern Territories Company, judged by results already obtained and present developments, are of great value.

The committee propose an assessment of 5s. per share, and also that a proportion of the new capital of the Company should consist of Preference shares to be handed over to the creditors as a substantial portion of their claims. The fact that arrangements have been made for the convenience of smaller shareholders to take no steps to enforce the payment of more than 2s. 6d. per share before October 1 next will no doubt facilitate an arrangement, and a meeting has now been called for the shareholders to pass the reconstruction scheme, which will probably be carried. W.A. Market Trust shares are now quoted 2s. to 2s. 6d., and Northern Territories at $\frac{13}{16}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$. London and Globes have shown unaccountable weakness, and when it is considered that most of the shares of the subsidiary enterprises have improved in value, it is quite clear that eventually the "Bears," who have raided this Company, will have to buy back at considerably higher quotations. I am informed on the best authority, moreover, that the Corporation has £500,000 invested in Consols, which it is stated are to be credited to the reserve fund, thus placing the Company into a very strong position. The news from the Paddington Consols is much more favourable, and it appears that after all there is plenty of pay ore there. Hannan's Brownhill have fluctuated within narrow limits, and finally are quoted $7\frac{9}{16}$. But there is a growing impression that these shares are likely to experience a very important advance in view of the progress which is being made with the new plant. In fact, the London and Hamburg Gold Recovery—who are in charge of the machinery—have received a cablegram to the effect that the shafting is running well. Important results are, therefore, now in sight. West Australian Goldfields have been a dull market at $1\frac{1}{4}$, while Hampton Plains have been steady at $\frac{11}{16}$. A public meeting of the West Australian Chamber of Mines has been called for the purpose of urging upon the Government of Western Australia the necessity of protecting the interests of holders of gold-mining leases against the unjust demands of alluvial diggers. The following resolution is to be submitted:—"This meeting is of opinion that a dual title to one lease is most undesirable, and requests the Government to so amend the mining laws that a leaseholder shall have exclusive right to all minerals existing within the boundaries of his lease." This is an important movement, which is fully justified, and I trust that the mining industry will back up the Chamber in every respect.

Indian, Australasian, and British Columbian Mines.—Sharp Recovery in British America Corporation.

Indian gold mining shares have moved irregularly, but most of the changes have been adverse, more particularly in Ooregum and Nundydroog. Coromandel and Mysore Wynaad are also lower; but Mysore Gold and Road Block have improved, the latter on a cablegram from the mine stating that the average width of the lode in No. 2 shaft is 5 ft., assaying 2 oz. to the ton. In Australian mines, other than Westralian, the chief feature has been a break in Mount Lyell to $10\frac{5}{8}$, on the unfavourable nature of the report, sales being pressed from the colony. The various other Mount Lyell shares are also down, and Mount Morgan have reacted to $4\frac{5}{16}$ x.d. Broken Hill Proprietary are quoted $2\frac{3}{16}$, British Broken Hill 10s. 6d. In New Zealand mines very little business has been transacted, and Woodstock, Waihi, Waitekauri, and Waitekauri Extended are all lower. Hauraki Associated, on the other hand, are firmer at 9d. to 1s. 3d. In British Columbian mines business has been restricted. The feature in this section has been a sharp advance in British America Corporation, which had been sold down by "Bears" to 17s., and have recovered to 19s. 6d. The following circular confirms the statement which I have already made with regard to the purchase of the rich Le Roi Mine:—

> I have pleasure in informing you that this Corporation, after prolonged negotiation, has now purchased for cash the famous Le Roi Mine, situate at Rossland, in British Columbia, upon much more favourable terms than were demanded when the option was originally acquired. I may also state that since that date we are informed that the mine has greatly improved in value by reason of recent developments at a depth of 700 ft. It is also gratifying to announce that we are advised by our experts and others that the acquisition of the Le Roi Mine, together with the other properties already purchased, ensure that this Corporation will be a dividend-paying concern for many years to come, without taking into consideration the profits that may accrue from our transportation arrangements, trading posts, and mining operations in the Yukon.

I should think that shareholders would do well to stick tight to their holdings, and those who may have been frightened out by the recent "Bear" clamour should hasten to buy back again, as, once the special settlement is completed, a further important improvement is looked for.

"Of Particular Importance."

Under this heading I published some remarks in Truth of the 12th inst. upon a circular which was being sent out by Mr. Charles Turner, hailing from the Outer Temple, 222, Strand, W.C., in which he offers loans to all kinds of persons, notably those in receipt of private incomes, annuities from land, house, or shop property of any description, &c. I was more particularly induced to pass this comment owing to the fact that the name of Truth had been used in these circulars, which commenced in the following manner:—"Doubtless you have perused the many articles published in Truth regarding money-lenders, with their extortionate rates of interest?" I protested that my articles on this subject could not be construed into a recommendation of the system of Mr. Charles Turner. I also drew attention to the fact that while Mr. Turner's circulars were headed with the notice "Agency for the New York Life Insurance Company" in very small type, the circulars which were being sent out some six months ago by Mr. John T. Higgins were headed "New York Life Company, the Outer Temple, 222, Strand." To the last-mentioned circulars I referred in Truth of September 23, 1897, and with regard to both I came to the conclusion that, while there is a good deal of competition in insurance business, so that agents for life offices have to offer all sorts of inducements to attract business, these two gentlemen were going a little too far in their anxiety to obtain clients. My last paragraph brought me two letters, one from Mr. John T. Higgins, informing me that he is conducting the business for Mr. Charles Turner, and expressing the view that as most of our Insurance Companies are actively competing for loans and purchases of reversions and life interests, he failed to see why I should become so excited in (*sic*) his attempt to do the same. He informs me at the same time that he is not only an agent for the New York Life Office, but also acts in a similar capacity for some of the English offices, and fully maintains the terms which were mentioned in both Mr. Charles Turner's and his own touting letters. The paper on which this communication is written is headed "Mr. Charles Turner," without any reference whatever to the New York Life Company, while Mr. Higgins' first circular was printed on paper headed "New York Life Company, the Outer Temple, 222, Strand." The second letter that I have received is from Mr. Charles Turner, written on his own note-paper, the same as that used by Mr. Higgins in his last letter, and in this communication Mr. Turner states that, as apparently I feel deeply interested in his business, he sends me a copy of a circular letter which he is sending to the "nobility," and he suggests that I should favour him by devoting a leader to it, as he has no doubt that there are many amongst subscribers to Truth who would be glad of a channel through which they could re-arrange their financial transactions on the terms named in the circular letter. I cannot exactly compliment Mr. Charles Turner on his circular letter, addressed to the "nobility, landed gentry, and others," for the chief reason that it is

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drawn up precisely in the same style as an ordinary money-lender's touting circular, and of these Mr. Turner will allow that I have had very considerable experience. Mr. Turner, in his circular, offers to arrange loans at, say, 3½ to 3¾ per cent. per annum, according to amount and security. What I cannot quite understand is the relationship existing between Mr. Charles Turner and Mr. John T. Higgins and the New York Life Insurance Company. In the first instance Mr. Higgins wrote on the note-paper headed "New York Life Insurance Company." Then he writes to me stating that he is conducting the business for Mr. Charles Turner, who, I gather from the name painted on the door of his office at 222, Strand, is connected with the Life Interest and Reversionary Securities Corporation? What, then, is the connection of both these gentlemen with the New York Life Insurance Company?

NEW ENTERPRISES AND ISSUES.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

Kalantaroff (Baku) Oil Company, Limited.—With a capital of £50,000, in £1 shares this Company is formed to acquire and work a leasehold property in the district of Sabunchi, in the oilfields of Baku, Russia.

The British Hydraulic Jointing Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring the letters patent and provisional or other protection for the United Kingdom and Ireland, France and Belgium, in or relating to improvements in tubular joints and frame joints, jointing of tubular frames, wheel hubs, &c., granted to the inventor, Charles Thomas Crowden, of Beeston, Notts, and other subsidiary patents subsequently acquired by the Hydraulic Syndicate, Limited. The Company will be entitled to the benefit of all future inventions, improvements, &c., relating to the above processes made or to be made by the inventor, and by Messrs. Johnson & Phillips. The capital is fixed at £1,200,000 in Ordinary shares of £1 each, the present issue being of 800,000 shares.

J. Tylor & Sons, Limited, is a Company formed to acquire the business of J. Tylor & Sons, Limited, hydraulic and sanitary engineers, of 2, Newgate-street, London, and elsewhere. The capital is fixed at £200,000, in Preference and Ordinary shares of £10 each.

As in the case of many of the recent conversions, this Company is over-capitalised, and the business does not appear to have made much progress during the past few years.

The Electric Railway and Tramway Carriage Works, Limited.—This Company is formed with a capital of £150,000 in shares of £5 each, for the purpose of manufacturing all classes of cars, railway carriages, and tramway cars for horse, electric and cable roads, and vehicles for light railways.

There is an undoubted scope for a concern of this description, but it must not be forgotten that there are already established English and American Companies competing for this class of work, and there seems to be no special advantages in this venture.

Australia Hardwoods (Jarrah), Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring a government licence to fell and remove timber over 47,000 acres of the Jarrah Forest in the Murray District, Western Australia. The capital is fixed at £250,000, in Ordinary and Preference shares.

We are getting too many of these Timber Companies. The pioneers enterprises have been very successful, and have occupied the most valuable part of the field. I understand there is another half dozen more to be issued, and the above seems the least desirable.

Chance & Hunt, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire the businesses of the Oldbury Alkali Company, Limited (formerly Messrs. Chance Brothers), chemical and cement manufacturers, of Oldbury, near Birmingham; and of Messrs. Hunt & Sons, chemical manufacturers, Leabrook, Wednesbury. The share capital is £280,000 in shares of £10 each, and the present is an issue of £120,000 Four per Cent. Debentures of £100 each, at £102 per £100.

The United Alkali Company has not been a success, and it is doubtful whether this one will be. The debentures are not a desirable investment, especially as such Companies are always subject to competition from new processes.

The British Dyewood and Chemical Company, Limited.—With a capital of £570,000 in shares of £10 each, this Company has been formed for the purpose of amalgamating the businesses of E. D. Milnes Bros., Lumn Mills, Bury; Mucklow & Co., of Bury and Glasgow; John Dawson & Co., Eglinton Dyewood Mills, Alloa; and W. R. Scott, Carntyne Dyewood Mills, Parkhead, Glasgow, importers of dyewood and tanning materials, manufacturers, and general drysalters.

This is an amalgamation on the model of the recent cotton combinations, with this difference, that the four firms cannot in any way monopolise the trade.

George Hodgson, Limited—This Company has been formed to acquire and carry on the business of George Hodgson of Bradford, power loom maker, general engineer, and ironfounder. The share capital is fixed at £90,000 and a 4 per cent. debenture issue of £50,000.

The profit given is for the last two and a half years, only; it would have been as well if they had been given separately for the past five years, say, so that it could be seen whether any progress has been made. There is nothing to recommend in this issue.

Volenite, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire the patent for the United Kingdom of Mr. Frederick Lamplough, in respect of a method and apparatus for saturating, vulcanising, and oxydising fibrous materials in the production of material to be used for insulating and other purposes, and which has been designated Volenite. The Company also acquire a non-exclusive licence for Great Britain, to manufacture fish oil in accordance with Mr. Stanley's patents, and the improvements in the treatment of fish and fish offal, the factory and works of the Fish Oil and Guano Company at Gorleston, near Great Yarmouth, and the plant and machinery lately erected at Myddelton-street, London. The capital is fixed at £80,000, in shares of £1 each. As the whole of the capital has been subscribed this announcement is made for public information only.

MY LETTER BOX.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

GOVERNMENT, &C., BONDS.

Ivor.—There seems to be no fear of any serious trouble between Chili and Argentina, and Argentine Government bonds are under the circumstances a fair investment. *Briton.*—Uruguay bonds have now shown steadiness for some time, but everything must depend upon the political outlook in Urugnay.

BANKS, TRUSTS, AND FINANCIAL.

G.—What you require has been forwarded in your envelope as an exceptional matter. *Constant Reader, Montrose.*—I cannot possibly answer your question as regards commission without your giving me full particulars of the amounts and of the stocks bought. *P. Q. P.*—This is really a question for a solicitor, whom I should advise you to consult. *Caveat Emptor.*—I really cannot answer this question. You can easily gather the information you require by reading my letter. *E. J. B.*—I cannot answer by post, and with regard to the £350 you wish to invest you must tell me whether you would place the same in gilt-edged securities—such as British Corporation stocks—to yield about 3 per cent., or whether you would run a little more risk and place the money in debentures of sound and prosperous industrial companies, which yield from 4 to 5 per cent. When you have answered these questions I will further advise you.

HOME RAILS.

Hero.—I see no particular reason for selling this Scotch railway stock at present, although Canadian Pacifics will probably move sooner. *Mammon.*—1. I should not for a moment like to predict that Home Railway Prior Charges will fall further, all this must depend upon the course of the Money Market. 2 That is a question which you must decide for yourself. 3. Probably not, as these were exceptionally high. I would answer with a hackneyed phrase, "Never, or hardly ever."

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN RAILS.

Katharine.—I strongly advise you to hold your Union Pacifics for an important improvement. As you have taken up the shares you can afford to await developments. As soon as the war is over, and perhaps before, there will be a general advance. *D. J. W.*—After the heavy fall I should advise you to hold. I cannot reply by letter. *Ravenscourt.*—I certainly advise you to hold all your Baltimore and Ohio stocks and bonds, as a reorganisation is now being arranged for.

MAJOR HOWE & CO., LTD.—Fashionable BOOTS and SHOES.—16, Coventry-st., W.; 60, Strand, W.C.; 81, Gracechurch-st.; and 13, Queen Victoria st., London. "Note Addresses." (Repairs.)

SAVOY HOTEL, Savoy Restaurant, London. Large reception-rooms for fashionable réunions. Orchestra plays daily during dinner and opera supper.

MINING SHARES.

A Subscriber.—No option but to hold and join the reconstruction. *Gnoll.*—I am afraid that there is no option for you but to take up the allotment. *Enquirer, Birmingham.*—1. These shares stand at ¾ discount, and I really know nothing in their favour. 2. I think it would be better to await the chance of a recovery, although that seems to be remote. The South Africans Nos. 3 and 4 should be held on the chance of an improvement, and this applies also to No. 5. I have the worst possible opinion of No. 6, and there seems to be no option but to hold Nos. 7 and 8. *Carlos.*—1. Yes, Ivanhoe, Hannan's Brownhill, Lady Shenton, and Florence would make a promising trust of West Australian Mining shares. You should certainly hold British America Corporation for a further important improvement. *Torrington.*—There is no market at present, and all will depend upon developments at the mine. *T. T., Rhonda Valley.*—Subject to certain arrangements now being completed, these South African shares will improve shortly. The mine is most promising, and can be worked very cheaply. *Irex.*—1. Yes, the present time is favourable. As to terms, see remarks under "Golden West Australia." 2. These shares declined with the rest of the group, and should improve again. *Rollo.*—Yes, West Australian Joint Stock Founders' shares are at a very low price now, and should improve again. *Prince.*—No reason why you should not invest in Village Main Reefs or Henry Nourse. You might add Rand Mines, Randfontein, New Primrose, Glencairn, and Langlaagte Estate. *Coston.*—Some settlement about the Londonderry is still pending. The Lagunas Nitrate litigation has ended in favour of the Lagunas Nitrate Syndicate, and therefore in favour of the North estate. *Nervous.*—London and Globe will doubtless recover again. *Homo.*—As far as I can learn, there is no reason for the depreciation in London and Globe beyond the recent political rumours, and the general weakness of the American market. *Perplexed, I. of W.*—I do not see how you can refuse to pay future calls, but I will inquire into the position. *A Friend.*—If you wish to invest in British Columbian Mines, you will do best to buy British America Corporation, which holds some of the best mines, including the high dividend payer, Le Roi. There is no market for the shares named by you. *York House.*—I quite agree with you that London and Globe should stand at a very different price, and there is no reason for the decline. *S. S. L. B.*—The Company is being reconstructed, and you had better buy after reconstruction than before. 1. New Zealand. 2. Yes. 3. No dividend has ever been paid. *Ceres.*—I am afraid that prospects are not very favourable; but it may be worth while joining the reconstruction.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

Verax.—No; I advise you to hold Humber shares now, the interim dividend having just been declared. *Plymouthian.*—I will make inquiries, and refer again to the matter. *Rover.*—Notwithstanding the set-back, Welsbach Ordinary and Prefs. are very promising, and a rise is expected after the carry over. *J. R. X.*—Quite high enough. *Bucks.*—No, I do not like this concern as an investment. You can do better nearer home. *J. P. B.*—Far too speculative. *C. O.*—You will have to go into industrial stocks to obtain the yield you want. I have of late given several lists of industrial debentures, from which you might have made a selection. You might, for instance, spread the money over A. & S. Henry Four and a Quarter per Cent. (£50) Debentures at 53, J. W. Benson Four per Cent. Perpetual Mortgage Debenture stock at 101, J. Lyons & Co.'s Four and a Half per Cent. Debenture stock at 111½, and add Welsbach Prefs., which have no debentures before them, and such Brewery Prefs. as Yardley Five and a Half per Cent. at 5 to 5¼ to improve the yield.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

B. A. W.—1. I do not think this is a very promising electric company, but I cannot verify the statements. 2. I do not think much of this company. *Alexander.*—I really cannot tell you anything with regard to Nos. 1 and 2. Everything depends upon the arrangement going through, in which case, there will no doubt be a considerable improvement. Nos. 3 and 4 should be held. *A Golfer.*—Your mining shares are for the time under a cloud. It would, therefore, be advisable to sell No. 7 in preference. *Briton.*—There is no option but to hold the Brewery shares No. 1-4 until the end of the war. No reason to sell No. 5-9 now. Sell No. 10 if you can. I am afraid prospects of No. 11 are not favourable. *S. D.*—Yes, May's Consolidated and the other South African shares are fair value at present price. The Industrial shares mentioned are very speculative. *C.*—No reason to sell Grand Trunk Debentures; but the exchange may be useful in your case. 2. No. 3. The liability on these Insurance shares is £4 10s. per £5 share. *Kynance.*—No, you cannot get 4 per cent. with safety elsewhere, and these deposits are not absolutely safe. You can get 3 per cent. in British Corporation stock. The Drapery shares seem too speculative in your case. *Neophyte.*—A. London and Globe should improve considerably again, and now is your time to average. B. No reason to sell Block B. C. Somewhat too speculative. This stock is altogether dependent upon the movements of American Rails.

WHITEHALL COURT, S.W.—To Let. Bachelor and other Suites. Electric Light. Service. Bath-rooms. Meals in public or tenants' own rooms. Apply, Manager.

THE LONDON CO-OPERATIVE CAB COMPANY.

I have repeatedly commented upon the attempts of the London Cab Co-operative Company, of 4, Bloomsbury-street, W.C., to obtain money from the public for the purpose of carrying on a cab proprietor's business. As I stated some time ago, the circulars issued by this concern are headed, "An absolutely safe investment. Capital withdrawable on demand. No risk or liability"; and after extolling the huge profits continually being made by cab proprietors, the circulars go on to invite subscriptions from the investing public in sums of £10 and upwards, upon which the Company is prepared to pay interest at the rate of 52 per cent. per annum, the regular payment of interest being promised every week, while repayment of the full amount can be had on demand. It is difficult to see how any company or enterprise can carry on business for any length of time in a satisfactory manner on such conditions, and even the estimate given of the weekly revenue and expenditure on every £120 expended on a hansom cab, horse, harness, &c., is not convincing. The average weekly amount received from a cab driver for hire of horse and cab is stated as £4 4s., and after deducting forage, stabling, company's commission for management, &c., a balance of £1 4s. is set out as depositor's interest on £120, at the rate of 52 per cent. per annum. I see that at the top of the circular R. F. Hardinge, 4, Bloomsbury-street, W.C., figures as secretary and general manager, while Parr's Bank, Limited, Bloomsbury Branch, are stated to be the bankers. I am also told that the Company was started some time ago by a man named Stanley Evans. What I should more especially like to know is the exact location of the Company's stables, how many horses and cabs they are controlling, and where these are kept? From a reply received from the Acting Chief-Clerk at New Scotland Yard by a reader of TRUTH, dated April 11, 1898, it appears that the London Cab Co-operative Company was not then registered in the books of the Public Carriage Office. Will Mr. Hardinge explain this omission, unless it has been remedied since, and will he also inform me as to where the Company's stock-in-trade is to be found? Recent circulars issued by the Company also contain the statement that the subscription list will be closed to the general public on the subscribed capital amounting to £12,000, when they will have the control of 100 cabs. I should also much like to know what amount of capital has been subscribed up to the present, and how many cabs they are running?

WHO IS F. CHARLES, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER?

Who is F. Charles, stock and share dealer, 89, London Wall, London, E.C.? I have been asked this question by several readers of TRUTH, in view of a host of typewritten letters which this person is sending about, and which he begins with the sentence, "I have not written you for some time because I have not had any good information to impart," although my readers do not appear to have heard of him before. He goes on to say that he has now some good information, and that it is in fact so good that he will guarantee people against any loss whatever. It is quite refreshing to read on "Send me £5, £10, or £20, and per return of post I will forward you contract not only giving full particulars, but also bearing my signed guarantee." He adds that the shares "will" rise, and that on that point he is confident, or otherwise he would not give a guarantee. To emphasise his recommendation F. Charles states that every £5 sent will procure about £32 10s. profit, and "you cannot lose your money." Under the circumstances it becomes more particularly important to know who F. Charles really is, and what is the value of his guarantee. Is he a philanthropist, and why does he not make these splendid profits for himself instead of inviting strangers to participate in the same with him? What, finally, is the particular share which will yield so handsome a profit? Until these questions are answered, I should advise my readers to give F. Charles a wide berth.

My Chapter on Industrial Stocks.

The Industrial department has suffered quite as much as any other from the crop of political rumours which have been so much in evidence of late. There has, in fact, been a considerable shake-out in speculative securities, and now that the "Bull" account has been considerably reduced, there should be every prospect of a sharp recovery. There are indications that Welsbach Incandescent Gas stocks will lead the improvement. The Ordinary, after declining, is up again to 109, and the Preference stock has been largely dealt in at 97, the Deferred at 19s. 6d. The demand for the Preferred was, perhaps, partly due to the advantages which they possess as a trustee investment, having no debentures before them; but the more important advance will doubtless take place in the Ordinary—which some time ago touched 122—so that there is ample room for a further upward movement. The new burner, it appears, will be on sale in June, and large orders have already been booked. As the special settlement, on June 2, approaches, English Sewing Cottons ("Threads") are giving way, the price now having dropped to $\frac{5}{16}$ premium. "Fine Spinners" have never yet reached a decent premium, although attempts are made to establish one of $\frac{1}{16}$. A relapse in Coats to 58 has to be recorded. Lipton shares, on the other hand, are not so much affected by the impending special settlement on June 2, and the quotation is $\frac{7}{8}$ premium, while the Preference shares stand at $\frac{1}{4}$ premium. One of the "Bull" points which is being mentioned is that the list of shareholders is larger than that of any other Company. Electric lighting shares were very flat at one time, and although they are rallying slightly, previous quotations have not been recovered. City of London stand at $2\frac{1}{2}$, South London at $2\frac{1}{4}$, Charing Cross at $12\frac{1}{2}$. It is expected that the new Welsbach burner will bring great competition to the electric lighting companies, as many instances are being named in which electric light is to be replaced by Welsbach gas. In cycle shares more activity has prevailed, and it looks as if more business may be expected in the near future. Dunlop Deferred have not, however, fully maintained the recent improvement, being now quoted 6s. 9d. Dunlop Ordinary have hardened to 13s. 6d., the Debentures, however, still showing weakness at 70. In Trent Cycles a fair business appears to have been transacted at 5s. Humbers have recovered, the Ordinary to 10s., the Extensions to 5s., on the announcement of an interim dividend of 5 per cent., which was altogether contrary to market expectations. Starley Bros. have improved to 5s. 6d., while Swifts are quoted 9s. 6d., Singers 8s. 6d. Amalgamated Tyres stand at 3s. 6d., and Cycle Components at $1\frac{1}{8}$ are slightly easier. The accounts just issued by J. W. Benson, Limited, fully confirm the favourable opinion I expressed of the Company on its formation. In its first year the Company has earned a net profit of £56,139. After providing for debenture interest, and the dividend on the Five per Cent. Preference shares, a dividend of 10 per cent. is paid on the Ordinary shares, including the interim dividend already distributed, and £4,959 is placed to the general reserve account. This brings the general reserve and the reserve up to £27,325. The interest per annum on Preference and Debentures amounts to £22,500, so that there is over a year's interest in reserve for both. Septimus Parsonage & Co., Limited, are now issuing the balance of their capital, viz., 31,436 Preference and 34,297 Ordinary shares of £1 each. The Preference shares are cumulative, and carry a dividend of 6 per cent., and the net profits up to December 31 are stated to have been £14,840, which is an increase of nearly £1,000 over the previous year. The Ordinary shares (which have been largely dealt in at 1 to $1\frac{1}{4}$) are in receipt of an 8 per cent. dividend, and the small premium of 2s. 6d. per share, at which the new shares are offered, is not excessive. Allsopp Ordinary have shown weakness, but are again recovering, while other Home Breweries suitable for investment are steady. West Australian timber shares have been dull, Millars' Karri and Jarrah being quoted $2\frac{7}{8}$, while Davies are lower at $1\frac{1}{4}$. The latter shares are dull, partly owing to the hopes of an amalgamation with Millars having fizzled out, but also on the impending issue of half-a-dozen similar enterprises, the prospectuses of which should be scanned with the greatest care, as some are absolutely unripe for flotation, and are likely to prove traps for the unwary. Oil shares have been quiet, Russian Petroleum being quoted $21\frac{3}{4}$, while Schiebaieff at $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{3}{16}$ premium have received very little attention. More new oil companies are on the tapis. Natal Steam Coal shares are firm at $1\frac{1}{4}$. Salmon & Gluckstein are steady at 31s. 6d., while Lyons are quoted $4\frac{1}{4}$. There is a talk of a $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. dividend on Lyons. The Anglo "A" market, after the shake-out, seems now pretty clear of stock. Fish Oil and Guano, after improving to $5\frac{1}{4}$, are dull at $4\frac{7}{8}$ on a line of shares coming on a small market, but with the flotation of Volenite, Limited, these shares are promising, as they carry the rights of Volenite equal to one Volenite share in every ten Fish Oil and Guano Company shares. Volenites are quoted at 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ premium per £1 share. The invention is, doubtless, a valuable one, especially as the uses of the preparation are so numerous. Although quite in its infancy, I hear of some very good applications by large firms for its use. By the way, Coward's Directory of Secretaries for 1898 has just been published, and will be found a most useful booklet for all connected with public companies. It is compiled by the genial editor of the *Rialto*, Mr. Edward Coward.—Your affectionate Uncle,

MOSES.

P.S., Tuesday Morning.—The mining settlement yesterday has shown but a small speculative account to be in existence, and rates have eased off all round. There is thus the prospect of a considerable advance in South African and West Australian mining shares. The political news continues satisfactory, and it is evident that the Anglo-French commission in Paris has practically arrived at a settlement of the West African difficulty. American Rails have again been put up in Wall-street under the lead of Milwaukee, and there are ever-recurring peace rumours about. It would not be at all surprising if well-informed politicians were already buying in anticipation of some settlement, for our Yankee cousins are getting heartily tired of the war. With the growing ease of money, and in the absence of any further political complications, the markets look like experiencing an important advance.

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QUEER STORY.

THE DERBY DEVILS.

THOSE who can carry their minds back a couple of decades, and were familiar with the sights and sounds of the Epsom Road on Derby Day in the middle seventies, will not fail to remember those notorious individuals, the Derby Devils. They made their début (so far as I recollect, but dates were never my strong point) in the year 1876, and created quite a sensation by their startling appearance and ribald conduct; a circumstance which, in days when fantastic disguises and uproarious behaviour on the road were common features, implied something unusually sensational in that line.

This was, in fact, the case. The Derby Devils, ten in number, drove down to Epsom on the top of a coach painted red and orange, to represent forked and fiery flames. They themselves were all got up as fiends, of the stagey type, with long ears, leering faces, tails, and cloven hoofs. And ever and anon, all the way there and back, they set themselves by their songs, their shouted repartees, their ribald chaff, to eclipse all previous records in what may be euphemistically styled the "language of the road."

Disguised as they were, it was impossible to recognise any of them. But rumour (which afterwards proved to have been correct) said that they were all young men of good family, some of them actually peers of high rank, who were already conspicuous in the faster walks of fast London Society, and who made it the constant aim of their

The Hotel Cecil Restaurant.—Orchestra daily during Luncheon, Dinner, and Supper. M. François, Chef de Restaurant, from the Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo.

existence to live up to, aye and as far beyond as might be, the reputation for rowdiness which they had already achieved.

It was, as I have said, on Derby Day, 1876—to the best of my recollection—that this coachful of Devils made its first appearance on the Epsom Road. But the episode which I wish now to relate is an occurrence that befell them on their way to the Derby the following year (1877). On this occasion, their behaviour was even more profane than it had been in the previous year. It really seemed as if they must have spent a great part of the intervening twelve months in concocting special efforts in the way of ribaldry. And many of their songs were such as caused shocks in the breasts of hearers by no means easily shocked.

But to come to the particular occurrence which I wish to relate. About half-way to Epsom—measuring the distance from Charing Cross—lies the little village of Morden; and in the middle of Morden, hard by the church and just on the top of the hill, stands, and has stood for many years, a wayside public, known as the George Inn. This "George" has always been a favourite house of call for drouthy Derby-goers. Even nowadays, when fewer people go by road to Epsom than formerly, you will always find a great stoppage of vehicles there, morning and evening, during Epsom races. But twenty years ago the stoppage was still greater. And when, about twelve noon on Derby Day, 1877, the fiery coach of Devils drew up here on their way down, they found, and were pleased to find, themselves attracting the attention of a large and noisy crowd of bibulous Britons. A spirited exchange of phrases ensued. The crowd chaffed the Devils; the Devils replied with salvoes of rowdy repartee, some of which, by their sheer outrageousness, took away the breath even of a contingent of costers from Camberwell, whose powers of respiration then, as now, were not easily affected by anything in the shape of profane expression.

While this edifying little scene was in progress, there happened to come along, on foot, one who seemed peculiarly out of place amid such surroundings; a quiet, prim-looking old fellow, of serious aspect, evidently, by his dress, a clergyman of the Established Church. It was clear that he did not realise, at first, that anything worse was occurring than a bout of harmless chaff; for he stopped, with an indulgent smile, as of one who, "while all his serious thoughts were fixed on Heaven," yet wished to show that he saw no sin in a little innocent uproariousness on Derby Day. But when, adjusting his glasses on his clerical old nose, he saw the Devils in all the profanity of their get-up, still more when he heard the blasphemous language in which they were indulging, his whole expression underwent a sudden and complete change, and he showed unmistakably by his looks the horror with which he regarded them.

For a few seconds, he seemed uncertain whether to hurry away, as quickly as possible, from this scene of profanity, or whether boldly to reprove the ribald men for their wicked behaviour. His mind was soon made up. The brave old minister took three steps forward, lifted his hand, and, in a voice of stern rebuke, cried:

"Stop!"

The Devils, who had not till now observed him, were momentarily taken aback; perhaps some of them had sufficient grace to feel a trifle ashamed and disconcerted. But one of them, their coachman, the most reckless spirit of them all, whom they had styled Beelzebub, recovered his effrontery in an instant:

"Hilloa, Jeremiah?" he retorted, with a string of profanities not to be reproduced. "What's up with you, old cock?"

"I charge you—I command you in my Master's name—to desist from this wickedness!" said the old clergyman, in solemn, denunciatory tones.

"We can't help it; it is our nature to!" was the mocking retort. "We're all Devils, don't you know."

"O wicked, reckless fools! How do you dare to make these awful matters a subject for your sport and jest? Surely you shall be punished for it!"

"Shall we, my prophetic Jerry? Shall we, indeed?"

"Ah! you may scoff; you may——"

"Dry up. Life's too short to be wasted in listening to your Jeremiads," cried one.

"Hark to him. Just hark to him," cried another.

"Hold thy peace, Jerry!" added a third.

"Sinner!" cried out the old man, with flashing eye. "I will NOT hold my peace. As long as you are within hearing, so long——"

"Well, look here, old cock," retorted Beelzebub, mounting the box and gathering up the reins, "if you have any more to say, you'll have to follow us to Epsom, for we're just off."

"It would be rather a joke, sir, to take him with us to Epsom," suggested one of the grooms on the Devils' coach. "Then he could preach to us all the way."

The idea tickled Beelzebub. He laid down his whip and burst out laughing.

"By ——," he exclaimed. "A —— fine suggestion. Saul was among the prophets. Why not Jeremiah among the Devils? Fellow Devils, what do you say?"

The other Devils took up the suggestion with loud shouts of approval.

"Here you are, old cock," cried one; "jump up behind."

"Shall I give the gentleman a leg-up?" exclaimed the groom, swinging himself down from the coach, and seizing the old clergyman by the arm.

"Unhand me, minion—let me go!" protested the old fellow, indignantly, trying in vain to shake his arm free. "How dare you, I say?"

"Come, don't be coy, old sky-pilot—make haste!" cried Beelzebub. "These wheelers 'll be kicking over the traces if we keep 'em waiting. Hi! Another of you, lend a hand with his Reverence!"

A second groom jumped down and seized the helpless old man by the other arm. He exclaimed, protested, looked appealingly round. Some of the crowd declared that it was a shame to treat him so, but none showed any disposition to render him active assistance.

"Let me go, you flunkeys!" cried the old fellow, angrily.

"Up with him!" laughed Beelzebub, from the box. "Now then—one—two—three—away!"

Nothing loth, the two young fellows responded to their master's command, and in almost less time than it takes to describe, they had hoisted the parson up behind, being assisted by two or three of the Devils who hauled at him vigorously from above. A moment later, Beelzebub whipped up the horses and away they went down the hill at a hard gallop.

It was some while before their victim, breathless and exhausted by the struggle, was able to speak.

Then he burst out in tones of panting indignation:—

"You—you—you cowards; you shall answer for this!"

"Shall we, your prophetship?" laughed one of the Devils.

"I can promise you, you shall," was the response.

"Bah!" laughed another. "We'll risk that—won't we, fellow Devils?"

"Preach us a sermon, Jeremiah!" said one.

"Prophesy us a prophecy!" said another.

"Sing us a hymn, old 'un," added another. "Come! tootle up!"

And in this manner they contrived to "roast" their unwilling passenger all the way to Epsom. The old fellow bore it, however, without seeming to mind it so much as might have been expected. Doubtless, he had sufficient sense to see the uselessness of further protest, and to realise that the less he betrayed his annoyance and indignation, the sooner they would cease their obnoxious chaff. And by the time they reached the Downs his demeanour towards the Devils had changed from an open and indignant hostility to a mild and martyr-like resignation.

"Guess this is your reverence's début at this sort of thing!" remarked Beelzebub to the parson, as they drove on to the course.

"Your surmise is correct," was the cold response.

"Ah! well! You'll see some life to-day!"

"It seems probable," replied the minister, looking round

For Mosquito Bites nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia, and it is an immediate remedy for Wasp or Bee Stings.

with unwilling interest, as it were, upon the vast, seething crowd of humanity that surged all around them. And then he added spontaneously, with an air of mild surprise:—

"They don't all look such villains!"

Beelzebub laughed.

"A mixed lot," he said. "Much like your Sunday congregations."

The old clergyman made no reply to that. He was thinking of something else. "Sir," he said, suddenly, to Beelzebub, "I have had occasion, in the exercise of my duty, to say some hard things to you and to your friends. Perhaps I scarcely took into sufficient account the thoughtlessness of youth, and spoke more severely than—than——"

"Pray don't mention it. We liked it, I assure you!"

"But I may say I believe you to be a gentleman."

"Sir, you do me proud!" laughed Beelzebub, with an exaggerated bow.

"And I appeal to you as such," continued the old clergyman, "to save me from the gibes and insults to which I shall be subjected if my clerical attire remains exposed to view. I am in your hands, sir. You have brought me here against my will. I rely upon you to see me safely through the experience into which you have dragged me."

"I have no wish, I can assure you," replied Beelzebub, "that you should be subjected to contumely at the hands of race-course roughs" (for, in spite of his levity and recklessness, this Devil was at heart a gentleman) "and, perhaps, it was rather too bad of us to bring you here, as we did. But how am I to conceal your clerical attire for you?"

"I saw an Inverness cape on the coach," answered the other (they had by this time alighted, and were waiting while the servants got out the luncheon). "Might I borrow that?"

"It belongs to one of the others, but I'm sure he'll lend it to you with pleasure. Hi, you there!" (addressing a groom), "bring us that Inverness off the coach, will you?"

The man touched his hat and fetched the cape. Beelzebub handed it to the old parson, who slipped into it with alacrity and evident relief. When he had turned up the collar, his clerical dress was effectually concealed; all the more so as the Inverness was of a loudish check and distinctly sporting pattern.

"There is still my hat," said the old parson. "I'm afraid it is very obviously clerical. But if there was a spare cloth cap about now——"

Fortunately there was a spare cloth cap, which was duly produced and placed at the clergyman's disposal. He quickly put it on his venerable head, bundling up his wide-awake and stuffing it into an inside pocket. The cap, also, was of a sporting pattern. And altogether the parson's transformation was complete.

By this time luncheon was ready, and they sat down to it. A very good luncheon it was, too. The champagne particularly was unexceptionable—Bollinger '84. The old parson's eye twinkled when he caught sight of the label on the bottles. Like many another righteous and God-fearing minister, he liked his liquor good. He had evidently now quite made up his mind to put the best possible face on his position; and you may be sure that a glass or two of the Bollinger did not serve to render it any the more intolerable to him.

"Gentlemen," he said to the Devils, as the waiter filled his glass for the fourth time, his face beginning to beam with Christian forgiveness and tolerance, "I was hasty in denouncing you quite so severely as I did."

"Of no consequence."

"Not at all."

"Don't mention it, old boy."

"I was hasty, I say," repeated the old clergyman. "I should have made more allowance for the levity of youth. And while I cannot, of course, do otherwise than condemn your behaviour, I am disposed to take a less uncompromising view than I did at first. At any rate, you have behaved as gentlemen in doing your best to save me from the most unpleasant consequences of this, your practical joke at my expense, and for that, my friends, I return you my hearty thanks."

"Quite welcome."

"Glad to oblige you, Jerry."

Then Beelzebub arose. He had already imbibed quite as much Bollinger as was good for him, and his speech was not free from a suspicion of thickness.

"Mr. the Prophet Jeremiah," he said, "and fellow Devils. I can't but regard this as a most 'spicious 'casion. Seems to me must be beginning of the m'lennium, when the forces of light and darkness meet together like this at the conviv'l board—when the lion and the lamb, to quote Scripture, thus lie down together. Gen'l'men—Devils, I should say—they talk of the milk of human kindness. Milk of human kindness. There's no milk of human kindness like this" (he held up his brimming glass of Bollinger as he spoke)—"and I propose, devlemen—genvils, I mean—that we all drink his Rev'rence's health in it. Gen'l'men, the Prophet Jeremiah's health in Bollinger's patent milk of human kindness, and no heeltaps."

Hear, hear! and loud shouts of applause. Then, "The Prophet Jeremiah," "The Prophet Jeremiah," and so on, all round, followed by the complete emptying of all glasses.

That ceremony concluded, one of the Devils—a waggish spirit—shouted:—

"Let's drink our own health."

The suggestion met with uproarious approval. And another round of glasses was emptied, with musical honours: "For we are jolly good devils, &c." Jeremiah looked on, positively beaming. Perchance, he too, like the others, was thoroughly permeated with Bollinger's patent milk of human kindness.

A hilarious lunch was followed by a hilarious afternoon. When the time came for the return journey, every one of the Devils was obviously fuddled; Beelzebub, indeed, so much so that he insisted on taking off his boots and holding the reins between his toes. Failing thereat, he fell, in a limp heap, off the box, and was finally picked up and deposited on the back seat between Jeremiah and a more or less sober groom. The other groom took Beelzebub's place and the ribbons, and off they went.

The coach pulled up at the "George" at Morden to set his Reverence down. When he bade the Devils good-bye, several of them insisted on embracing him, and Beelzebub, falling on his neck in an ecstasy of drunken fondness, exclaimed:

"G'd bless yer, Jerry! G'd dam yer, mean. Yer best pars'n ever met."

* * * * *

In the course of the evening, when the effects of Bollinger's patent milk had partially worn off, the Devils, first one and then another, made some unpleasant discoveries. Seven out of the ten had been entirely relieved of their cash. There were also three gold watches and two diamond pins missing. Nor were they left in any doubt as to the humiliating truth about the loss of these articles. The thief was clearly a man of waggish temperament; for, in the place of the stolen property, in each pocket from which it had been abstracted, he had deposited a fragment of pasteboard bearing this inscription: "With the Prophet Jeremiah's compliments and thanks!"

There is a further little fact to record, which may help to explain the working of the plant. One of the grooms—a new hand, the man who had suggested taking Jeremiah to Epsom—did not return to his work on the following day, and was never seen by any of the Derby Devils again.

MORTLOCK'S (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "MORTLOCK'S" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

ART NOTES.

INTERNATIONAL ART AT KNIGHTSBRIDGE.

I TAKE off my hat to Miss Cecilia Beaux. So little do I know of this clever lady that I am not at all sure that I am correct in writing of her as "Miss." Even her nationality is unknown to me. Possibly she is not a Miss but a Matron. She may be Mademoiselle or Madame, Signora or Senorita; French, American, Italian, Spanish, who can say? But this I *do* know, that she is a remarkably fine portrait-painter. If the Exhibition of International Art at Knightsbridge does nothing else, it has served to introduce to us a new artist of exceptional cleverness. The three pictures exhibited by Miss Beaux are all to be found in the North Gallery, and the finest of them is undoubtedly "Sita and Sarita" (No. 60). Sarita, I take it, is the black cat on the shoulder of the lady whose portrait is presented with such masterful force. The picture should be closely studied, for it is full of excellent work. Note, for instance, the way the blue and white cushion is painted, and the effective manner in which the face of the sitter is put upon the canvas. It was indeed a pleasant surprise to come upon this admirable portrait amongst the many nebulous conceptions and morbid experiments that are to be seen in other parts of the show. Two other portraits by Miss Beaux (Nos. 28 and 32) serve to accentuate one's hope that much more of her work will now be seen in London.

And now, what of the Exhibition generally? To begin with, I have nothing but praise for the way in which it has been arranged. Prince's Rink makes an admirable picture gallery. It has been divided into three spacious rooms, the walls of which have been covered with rough green canvas, whilst the light that comes from the glazed roof filters, so to speak, through the white sheets that are stretched overhead. The Exhibition itself recalls the earlier exhibitions of the New English Art Club. It contains some very good pictures and some very bad ones; but inasmuch as it is representative of all the curious by-ways into which modern art has strayed, it is decidedly interesting. There are, of course, those who will not have it at any price. I heard it spoken of as a pictorial Pandemonium, whilst one censor of strong Academic instincts described it as a Galerie Wiertz tempered by Whistler. It is certainly a curious collection of artistic jetsam and flotsam which has been brought together; and pleasing originality is, unfortunately, not so common as eccentric new-fangledness. But, if variety be charming, there is charm indeed at Prince's Rink, where, amongst the wildest efforts of the "Instinctives" and the "Primitives," the "Symbolists" and the "Hallucinatists," the "Malignants" and the "Mystics," the "Decadents" and the "Degenerates," one comes upon lucid intervals in the shape of delightfully suave and ingratiating canvases from the brushes of such artists as Mr. Robert Brough and Mr. Fritz Thaulow, Mr. George Henry and Mr. Bertram Priestman, Mr. Sauter and Mr. Furse. But if you want to sound at once the depths of the eclecticism of the Executive Council, you need only pass from an inspection of the cryptic extravagances of Van Toorop (puzzles in paint as bewildering as the prose problems of Mallarmé or the poetic enigmas of Verlaine) to such a landscape as the "Hawthorn in Brecknockshire" (No. 80), of Mr. H. W. B. Davis, the Royal Academician. The catholicity of the Council which includes the works of both these artists in the same exhibition is unquestionable.

It is to be wished, however, that the Executive Members of the Council, on whose shoulders the burden of selection rested, had resolutely excluded two pastels by M. F. Toulouse de Lautrec, which are in the North Room. The real truth about the relations of art with morality lies probably about halfway between the almost Puritanic principles just laid down by M. Brunetière in his lecture, and the baneful heresies of the "Art for Art" doctrine which has been so sedulously preached of late in certain quarters. But one need be no purist to apply the term disgusting to M. de Lautrec's vulgar scenes from Parisian low life, which are coarse blots on an exhibition which, with all its faults, must be regarded as entertaining and stimulating, and which is certainly well worth a visit from those who are interested in what I may call the development of artistic modernity.

Messrs. Cassell & Co.'s Black and White Exhibition has now attained to the position of a hardy annual. This is the sixteenth year it has been held, and it will be open to the public daily, until June 7, at the Cutlers' Hall, in Warwick-lane, Newgate-street. The drawings exhibited are by well-known artists in black and white, and a number from the pencil of the late Fred Barnard, make the present show exceptionally interesting. The Hall will not be open on Whit Monday.

MUSIC.

A HALF-GUINEA "DIPLOMA" EXAMINER.

OWING, no doubt, to the fact that the demand has created a less limited supply, the fees of examiners for Limited Liability "Diplomas" seem to have fallen almost to starvation point. Formerly your examiner wanted a share of the "swag," in the form of a pecuniary interest in the company. Now, however, although an enterprising tradesman (the so-called "College of Pianists" was started by a plumber) may run the show, and sell his "Associateships" and "Fellowships" at various rates to suit all purses; yet the pay of the qualified examiner seems to have dropped to ten and sixpence. Last week I dealt with a discussion in progress in Derbyshire in regard to the "College of Violinists, Limited," and their "diplomas." I promised then shortly to say something else concerning the examinations, and I think I can now fulfil that engagement. In his communication to the *High Peak News*, dated May 2, Mr. Foucher, who combines the duties of secretary, and practical "boss" of the "College of Violinists, Limited," with the sale of music and "old violins from £3 3s. upwards," declared that his examinations were not, "like many others, whether chartered or limited liability companies, held behind closed doors, not even the teachers of the candidates being allowed to be present, possibly owing to a too prominent display of the utter want of capacity and knowledge of some of their examiners as regards the instruments for which they examine." Capacity or not, the "College" of Violinists, with its cash paid-up capital of £17 10s., at any rate does not appear to be too reckless with its money, for the remuneration of its examiners. The following letter, written to an eminent English violinist, speaks for itself:—

College of Violinists, Limited,
34, Mortimer-street, Cavendish-square,
London, W., April 19, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—It has been decided to hold the London examinations of this college at this address on June 20, 21, 22, and 23, beginning at 10 a.m each day. I should be glad to know whether we could have your services for one hour from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on June 23. Should you be able to do so, I should esteem it a great favour if you would let me know at your earliest convenience.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully, G. FOUCHER,
Hon. Sec.

P.S.—The fee placed at my disposal by the Board is half-a-guinea for the hour.

I need hardly say that the violinist in question, whose name will, of course, be known to Mr. Foucher, as that gentleman evidently does not throw about indiscriminately half-guineas out of the £17 10s. cash paid-up capital of his "Board," refused this tempting offer. Indeed, if I may judge from the very lengthy, and I am bound to say extremely indignant, letter he has sent me, his refusal was not prompted solely by pecuniary considerations. He writes, *inter alia*:—

The one exam. I did attend the previous season taught me quite sufficient of their methods to satisfy me that it was no place for a conscientious musician to have his name mixed up with. There were others present besides myself who looked on at the farcical proceedings

The English violinist in question certainly does not speak too severely of this nonsense. It is pretty clear that the "College," Limited, chiefly wanted his name. To offer to engage an eminent man for one hour out of a four days' examination, is an expedient which will be perfectly obvious to the public at large. Indeed, it seems that the "College" did not even wait for a reply, but in their haste advertised in their official organ: "The following gentlemen have been asked to attend the London examinations," the name of the violinist, who has definitely refused being included—with that of Wilhelmj and various others—in the list. This sort of thing is quite on a par with the announcement in the current official "Prospectus and Syllabus of Examinations" of this "College," in which a large number of distinguished names are lumped together as "Patrons, Presidents, Vice-presidents, and Examiners since the Foundation of the College," although several of these gentlemen are dead, or have withdrawn from the speculation.

There is, I think, no need to enter again at length into the proceedings of this "College of Violinists" and its examinations. On June 10 last and on other dates I gave a pretty full account of how the "College" was worked. On August 26 again, when the "College" appealed to the public for debenture subscriptions, I again dealt with the matter at length. At that date it will be recollected although eighty-seven shares of £5 each had been allotted, yet the "total amount of calls received, including payments on application and allotment," was only £17 10s. Of these paid-up shares Mr. Foucher, the violin dealer (who also is hon. sec.), held one, besides sixty "agreed to be considered" as paid, while one more was held by his wife, one each by his two unmarried daughters, and one by his son, a "law student." A gentleman, formerly described as a "commercial clerk" but now a "journalist," held another, and Mr. Polonaski, editor of a monthly violin paper, another, while the balance of the shares "agreed to be considered as paid," fell to him and to Mr. Lavender, a newspaper manager. At that time Mr. Foucher, the honorary secretary, in a circular letter appealed for debentures, "£1 deposit upon application and the balance by four half-yearly instalments," adding in the type-written circular then issued to the public:—

> As soon as may be deemed advisable after the subscription to these debentures has been completed, we shall ask the debenture holders to sign a petition to the Queen's Privy Council praying for a Royal Charter.

I then ventured to express the opinion that however ardently Mr., Mrs., the Misses, and Master Foucher might "pray" to that hard-hearted body, the "Queen's Privy Council," yet the College of Violinists, Limited, had no more chance of obtaining a Royal Charter than I had of becoming Pope of Rome. My prophecy has been fulfilled, although in this matter the rôle of prophet was, I freely confess, not a particularly risky one.

I have no doubt that the College of Violinists is neither better nor worse than many other limited liability speculations of its sort. As I have frequently pointed out, there is, unfortunately, no law against the conferring of diplomas (with or without examination) by any limited liability institution or individual. The crossing sweeper round the corner, or the potman at the nearest public-house, has precisely the same rights as, and no more than, Mr. Foucher and his "College." It is true that Mr. Foucher's limited liability company charges a guinea to "graduates," one and a half to two guineas for the privilege of writing "A.C.V." after the name, and two to two and a half guineas to licentiates ("L.C.V."), while full-blown "Fellows" (F.C.V.) pay two and a half to three and a half guineas for the honour thus conferred upon them. It is possible that the diploma "F.C.S." or "Friend of the Crossing Sweeper" might come a little cheaper. The two are, at any rate, equally legal.

About a year ago in TRUTH there was an interesting correspondence respecting the value of violins, which stood so much higher in the catalogues of experts than at sales in the auction-room. We occasionally still hear of a violin being worth—at any rate, in the estimation of its possessor—£3,000 or £4,000. From this to 2s. 9d. is a big drop. Nevertheless, Mr. Lowenthal, the well-known manufacturer of Berlin, claims to make playable instruments at this latter figure, and rejoices in the fact that he does so. Indeed, recently in Berlin he defended a law case in which the artistic value of these implements of music was called into question, and he subpœnaed Dr. Joachim as a witness. That eminent performer could not conscientiously I fear pretend that he did not prefer a "Strad," but, at any rate, he proved conclusively to the satisfaction of the Berlin judges that the two-and-ninepenny article was a playable instrument, for, to the immense delight of the Court, he performed upon one of the fiddles the well-known "Deutschland, Deutschland, über Alles." Mr. Lowenthal admits that 2s. 9d. is the trade price for these violins, the bows being 9d. extra, making 3s. 6d. for the lot. But personally I should like to know what the public are expected to pay for them. He, indeed, declares, and is proud of the fact, that he has sold "hundreds of dozens of this class of violin in England and the United States," and he claims that he has "never received any complaints about them from his numerous customers." He does not pretend that they are suitable for Monday Popular Concerts, but he avers that they are quite up to the mark for amateurs and pupils. It would be interesting to know how these things are distributed to the general public. We constantly read in the newspapers, advertisements of violins and bows to be sent "on appro." at 15s. and upwards, and it is shrewdly suspected that some of them are the trade fiddles of Berlin. After all, perhaps, it is only a matter of taste. Any violin must inevitably be an ear-torture in the hands of the amateur, whether the fiddle be valued at two-and-ninepence or a couple of thousand pounds.

They are still hovering about Wagner at the Opera. Subscribers may grumble, and perhaps not altogether without reason, but while the management have a succession of full (or fairly full) houses, no serious complaints are likely. The representations of "Tannhäuser" on Friday, and "Die Meistersinger" on Saturday were both well attended, although these, with "Die Walküre" on Monday and "Tristan" on Tuesday, and with three whole cycles of "Der Ring des Nibelungen" to come, form a pretty good dose. The French version of "Tannhäuser" was employed on Friday, and Madame Pacary, who hitherto played Venus, now sang Elizabeth, the more showy character falling to Mdlle. Ganne, a tremulous but pretty French lady. M. Jean de Reszke appeared, of course, in "Die Meistersinger" and "Tristan," and also on the previous Wednesday in "Lohengrin." In the last he was quite the star of the cast, for Mme. Nordica, who sang Elsa, was fatigued of voice, although she acted the character with great dramatic force. In "Die Meistersinger" M. Edouard de Reszke made his reappearance as Hans Sachs. He sings the music better than M. Lassalle, although he makes the good-natured mastersinger a very dull dog. It, indeed, seems a pity that the rôle is not yet to be undertaken by Herr Van Rooy, whose voice it ought to suit splendidly.

M. Jean de Reszke, by the way, has now officially stated his intention of singing the part of Parsifal at Bayreuth next summer. Whether this will interfere with his engagement at Covent Garden remains, of course, to be seen. It probably will depend upon whether the war will put a stop to the proposed American season, and whether the Opera Syndicate will next summer direct the house. The appearance of the De Reszkes at Bayreuth will, of course, draw crowds to the Bavarian Mountain Theatre.

Advertisements are now appearing in the daily papers asking ten to twelve guineas for stalls for the first cycle of "Der Ring des Nibelungen." If this be an expedient it is not a new one, for as Mr. Mapleson has candidly explained, he adopted it originally in order to popularise "Faust." But there is reason to believe the present advertisements are genuine, and, if so, this, at any rate, shows that there is a big demand for seats, so that the "dashed tomfoolery every night from four to twelve" is not without its commercial side.

Lord Dysart, by the way, will now have his wish. **For**

the "Ring" cycles the stipulation as to gentlemen's evening dress will not be insisted upon. Accordingly, Lord Dysart can come clad either in knee breeches and frilled shirt front, or in the Sunday clothes of a bricklayer, as he chooses. Indeed, it is pretended that it is mainly owing to the extraordinary costumes that are likely to be seen that the theatre is to be plunged into the blackest of possible darkness. Mme. Wagner is humorously credited with the saying that the reason why Richard Wagner insisted upon the darkening of the Bayreuth Theatre was his artistic horror of the extraordinary parti-coloured costumes adopted by the average English and American lady enthusiast on a Continental tour. The Elect, even now, dress no better.

There must always be a good deal of make-believe in operatic matters. But why the Herald in summoning Elsa should have appealed to the upper row of boxes instead of the path from which it was known that Mme. Nordica would arrive is a mystery. Also eminent tenors have a tendency to fleshiness, accumulating as their days are prolonged in the land. M. Jean de Reszke is not physically so robust as some of his contemporaries, but a time will certainly arrive when the S.P.C.A. should insist upon a team, instead of a single swan, to draw him in the magic boat along the waters of the Scheldt. Recently, I believe, in Germany a manager with realism on the brain insisted upon the employment of a real swan, which flapped about a mimic pond, constructed at the back of the stage. All went well until the appearance of Obesity in silver armour (in the person of a well-known German tenor as Lohengrin) frightened the bird, which pecked so viciously at the understandings of the gallant knight, that he fled incontinently from the scene. In "Tannhäuser" again M. Van Dyck on emerging from the Venusberg at Covent Garden, and shuddering at the chorus of the pilgrims, deliberately turned his back upon the crucifix, and spoke his touching prayer to the musical critics seated in the first row of stalls: while afterwards, Mme. Pacary as Elizabeth, addressed her greeting to the Halls of Song to the same noble army. Both artists, possibly, had in view a sense of favours to come.

I am asked to direct attention to the afternoon concert announced at Bridgewater House, on Thursday, by the Hon. Margaret Henniker. The bénéficiare, who is, I believe, a daughter of the Governor of the Isle of Man, is one of the very few lady members of titled families who have entered the profession under their own name.

Concerning the "Bogus Registered Teachers," about whom I published an article last week, I have received several letters which I hope to deal with next week.

The concerts of the week must again be dismissed briefly. They were upwards of sixty, although at this time of the year recital givers and others can hardly expect adequate notice. There was, however, on Saturday a big audience for M. Lamoureux, who returned from Paris to direct an extra concert with a strong programme. On the other hand, on Monday, at St. James's Hall, owing, doubtless, to the fact that this year Wagner is almost banished from the enterprise, the stalls were by no means well attended at the first of the Richter Concerts, when the programme included the "Meistersinger" and "Egmont" overtures, Brahms' first symphony, and that curious piece of "programme" music "Scheherazade," by Rimsky Korsakoff, which Mr. Wood has already conducted at the Promenade Concerts. M. Slivinski has reappeared, his programme, however, being a familiar one. Mme. Carreño had, on Monday, a large attendance at St. James's Hall for an interesting concert, and Mr. Otto Hegner has likewise given a recital, whilst amongst the new comers have been Miss Agnes Miles, a young American pupil of Moszkowski, who needs some further study; the Cerasoli's, who once came out as "prodigies," but who are now almost finished pianists, Miss Irene Fletcher, a promising young Australian pupil of Miss Fanny Davies and Miss Maud MacCarthy, a young violinist still in her teens, but who, since she was exploited as a prodigy, has vastly improved both in tone and technique.

KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY.—"The Cream of Old Irish Whiskies." Kinahan's LL Whisky. Gold Medal Paris Exhibition, 1878. Kinahan's Glenisle Whisky. The Finest Scotch Whisky sold.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM.—I remember years ago being struck by the suggestiveness of a disclosure made in the papers of the passion of Marwood, the hangman, for flowers. All the time he could spare from the painless extinction of man he gave to the cultivation of flowers. Could you have suspected the co-existence of two such consuming passions? And does not their co-existence suggest to you that novelists by, as Tennyson says, "mimicking this raw fool, the world, in painting us all either black or white," are false to nature? In truth we are all different shades of grey, and the novelist who recognises this as Mr. E. W. Hornung recognises it in his fine story, "Young Blood" (1), deserves no little praise. Indeed, his portrait of Gordon Lowndes is nothing less than masterly. It is the best thing of its kind that I have come upon for many a day. Lowndes is a company-promoting rascal of an altogether lovable sort. Jack Falstaff himself was not more genial, jovial, alert, unscrupulous, and natural. But the plot of the book is quite as interesting as its characters, and I can warmly recommend it to you as one of the cleverest novels of the season. Exceedingly clever also is Mr. William O'Brien's historical novel, "A Queen of Men" (2), a story of the wars of Graun'ya Uaile, and of the loves of Ca'hal and the Lady Nu'ala. If Mr. O'Brien's incidents, personages, and speeches are all rather melodramatically coloured, at least he atones for the liberties he takes with history and with English by a singularly stirring romance of love and war, most eloquently told. From the Homeric figure of Graun'ya Uaile to a mild nineteenth century Irish heroine, "Miss Erin" (3) is a wide leap over centuries, and from sublime heights to a modern and a lowly level; but it is the same old battle that is fought between wrong and robbery and loyalty and righteousness. Miss Erin is a young lady who is moved by a sense of pity and a horror of injustice to take with passionate enthusiasm the tenants' side in a desperate Irish agrarian quarrel, and she sacrifices her love for her sweetheart to her love for her country. When, however, her lover is badly beaten in his political battle, the same divine pity which had estranged her from him draws her towards him, and they agree to differ in politics, but to be one in all else. "Miss Erin" is as pretty and Irish as its title, and all its scenes, incidents, and characters are so life-like as to seem drawn direct from life. The author of "Bijli the Dancer" (4) is far, indeed, from being as much at home in India as "M. E. Francis" is in Ireland; and, indeed, and in a word, this Indian novel is as silly and dull as "Miss Erin" is bright and interesting. Having with difficulty got through "Bijli the Dancer," I renounced novels with disgust and turned to my favourite reading, biography, and to a fair specimen of the species, Sir Herbert Maxwell's memoir of "Sir Charles Murray, K.C.B." (5). It covers, or, rather, skims, an immense field, beginning with letters (not, by the way, very clever, witty, amusing, or interesting), of Sam Rogers written in 1807. Here is an amusing and suggestive story from it:—

Emile de Girardin, having written a story in the style of Rousseau which failed, was trudging off to the banks of the Seine, when he met Latou-Mezerai. "Où allez-vous?" asked

(1) "Young Blood." By E. W. Hornung. (London: Cassell & Co., Limited. Price 6s.)
(2) "A Queen of Men." By William O'Brien. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. Price 6s.).
(3) "Miss Erin." By M. E. Francis. (Mrs. Francis Blundell.) (London: Methuen & Co. Price 6s.)
(4) "Bijli the Dancer." By James Blythe Patton. (London: Methuen & Co. Price 6s.)
(5) "The Honourable Sir Charles Murray, K.C.B." A Memoir. By the Right Honourable Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., M.P., F.R.S. (London: William Blackwood & Sons. Price 18s.)
(6) "A Mingled Yarn." The Autobiography of Edward Spencer Mott. (Nathaniel Gubbins.) (London: Edward Arnold. Price 12s. 6d.).

Mezerai. "Me noyer," replied Emile. "Sérieusement?" "Oui; très sérieusement." "Tiens! Nous allons fonder un journal." "Avec quoi?" asked Girardin. "Avec rien." "Sans le sou?" "Oui, sans le sou." "Qui l'écrira?" "Personne et tout le monde." "Et comment s'appellera-t-il?" "*Le Voleur!*" And thus with sharp wits and scissors did this audacious couple hunt up and cut out extracts from recent publications of every kind, and republish them in a cheap journal bearing the above name, which became a great success, and Girardin, following it up by others of a better stamp, became the greatest journalist in France.

Even more interesting is the bright Bohemian autobiography of Mr. Edward Spencer Mott ("Nathaniel Gubbins"), "A Mingled Yarn" (6), which is far from justifying its author's severe criticism:—"The story of a wasted life, of neglected duties and opportunities, of dissipation, self-indulgence, sordid ambition, and unmitigated folly." Anyway, it is most interesting reading, and gives you glimpses of many strange by-ways of life, and of all sorts and conditions of men. Of course, the sporting scenes and stories are the best, but all are good, and are told with admirable gusto.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—I have often wondered, as you know, whether continuous rain is more endurable in town or country. I speculated on the same subject at intervals during the two consecutive days' rain that we had last week, and came to the conclusion that it must be better in the country, because it could not possibly be worse than it is in town. Is this logic, or sophistry? I wish I knew. Do you ever come to a turning in your thoughts where you long for a sign-post to show you where you are? It is frequently my case. Perhaps, if I had had a man's education, I should never be at a loss in this way.

And yet, when one talks to some men, one feels that even their education occasionally leaves something lacking. Perhaps we grow more critical as we grow older; but however that may be, I often find myself wondering if men are really superior to women in intellect. I suppose they must be; and the reason they do not appear so is that they carefully veil away their superiority, lest they might hurt our feelings by displaying it. It is exquisitely courteous, if so. But we shall never be raised very much towards their heights if they always talk down to us, shall we?

Take, for instance, the men one meets at dinner parties. After the first few words they say, one gives them up, as a rule, as perfectly hopeless, knowing that it is vain to expect anything sensible from them. If they are amusing, one is thankful for small mercies, and laughs through the courses contentedly enough. If a solemn sort of idiot happen to take one into dinner, then there is an hour or so of stoical endurance to be gone through, for the very solemn man is nearly sure to be a conceited man. Have you not found it so? Now and then, however, one comes across a man who is neither solemn, conceited, nor silly, and half an hour of his company restores one's faith in male humanity. But how often does that experience occur? I fear that men are greatly over-rated. A terrible confession, is it not? And women are so foolish! That is what they say of us, and it is often true enough.

Have you seen the new willow-pattern blouse? It would be quite sweet if it did not suggest a dish so very strongly. The tone of blue in some of them is most becoming. There are some really delicious blues about. One of my nicest friends came to see me the other day in a cornflower hat wreathed round with tulle in two tones of the colour, and when I complimented her upon her appearance, she breathed the enigmatical words:—"Three and elevenpence three-farthings." I will not tell you who she is, lest she should lose your respect for ever for wearing anything so cheap, for the sum named was the price she gave for the hat! It was a lovely blue and she had trimmed it with a few yards of tulle in two tones of the same key of blue. It was a most successful achievement, I assure you, and one might do worse than millinerise at home if one had the right sort of fingers. But home millinery is generally a wretched business, loudly advertising itself to be non-professional. I remember a Royal Duchess of the German persuasion once wearing a palpably home-made bonnet at a wedding. It was not so successful as my friend's hat!

By the way, dear, the prettiest hat I have seen for a long time was one I immediately christened "The basket of roses." I saw it at Hancock & James', 42, New Bond-street, and found that its price is only a guinea, the firm making a specialty of a hat at that humble price. It was of a round shape, in rose-pink satin straw, the crown surrounded by a tiny rampart consisting of a single row of straw, thus forming a flat basket for roses shaded pink and damask. The brim had two rows of the straw turned up, and here again the roses lay, nestling around the crown. The rest of the trimming consisted of two great loops of glacé silk in the tints of the roses, standing erect, and a couple of jetted black quills. A few folds of the silk formed a cache-peigne. The passion for grey still continues. It is a sweet colour. We saw a hat made of grey satin straw, with a high trimming surrounding the crown, and consisting of drawn chiffon in a slightly paler tone of grey. Along the brim lay soft cloudy folds of white tulle, mixed with grey. These were continued in a sort of ascent at the left side, meeting two lovely ostrich feathers shaded from white to silver grey. The ends of the feathers fell over the brim at the back. Very up-to date was a hat made of mauve chip and trimmed with large loop bows of glacé silk shot pale blue and periwinkle. Long garlands of forget-me-nots, exquisitely imitated from nature, with their foliage, lay over these loops, and in front there was a little bunch of forget-me-nots and heartsease, the tiny little pansy that grows in cottage gardens.

We were also shown a sweet gown of the summery kind that no one has yet had a chance to wear. It will come in delightfully soon, when a little sunshine with real warmth shines out. The material is ganze, in a wistaria tone of mauve, crossed by checks of satin in the same shade. The skirt was trimmed with ruchings of satin ribbon, exactly matched to the tint of the ganze, carried up from the front in the orthodox fashion. The bodice was very sweet, being all soft in the front, but not floppy, in chiffon of the mauve colour relieved with bands of creamy guipure. The collar and epaulettes were edged with similar ruches, and the sleeves were finished to match them. There was a high collar of the guipure arranged in folds edged with chiffon, and at the waist was a cream-coloured ribbon tied in a bow at the back, and matching the guipure in tone. They had, too, the prettiest blouse I have ever seen, and that is saying something, for I have seen many very covetable ones. It was in pink glacé silk, veiled with black net sewn with silver, steel, and jet, in a light and graceful design. A short basque of the same ended at the sides, leaving the front plain, with a black satin ribbon for waistband. The collar was black lace edged with pink chiffon, lightly ruched, and there was a stand-up ruffle of the chiffon at the back. The whole front consisted of ruffles of the pink chiffon. You cannot think how pretty it was, so soft and full without being loose. The sleeves were veiled with black lace,

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GOWNS FOR ASCOT.—Messrs. REDFERN are now making a Special Show of Ascot Gowns in their new Conduit-street Salon. The Exhibition contains a number of exquisite Toilettes, to which a visit of inspection is cordially invited.—REDFERN, 26, Conduit-street, W.

striped with black satin ribbon bordered with black chiffon. Part of the charm of this blouse lay in the fact of the underlying pink not being choked over with too much black. We admired, too, a bright coral surah blouse with such quantities of work in it, Amy dear! The whole body of it was tucked perpendicularly in groups of five a-piece, the groups being separated by an open lace stitch, also wrought by hand. A double frill of the surah trimmed the centre of the front, and the belt consisted of nine tucks, horizontal this time. The sleeves were tucked at regular intervals the whole way down, and the neck was finished with folds of surah and a little upstanding frill of the same.

Blouses, you see, have by no means disappeared from the scene. They are much too useful to be dispensed with, and so long as the fashion of coat and skirt endures, so long will blouses be worn. And the fashion of coat and skirt will last as long as cycling attracts the crowd.

Are you still philanthropic, now that having married a clergyman makes it a part of the business of your life? It makes such a difference in your liking for things when they are part of one's duty. One likes them still, of course, but it is the liking of married life, not the glamour of early love. You are probably still philanthropic, but with a difference. Clergymen reduce philanthropy to a science, and their wives soon learn that it is a mistake, as Talleyrand taught, to show too much zeal. There is a philanthropic exhibition being held now, and for an indefinite period, at Liberty's East India House, Regent-street, consisting of the embroideries of Greek refugees at the Thessalian School of Embroidery established in Athens by Lady Egerton, wife of her Majesty's Minister at the British Legation at Athens. This lady was deeply touched by the distress caused by the war between Greece and Turkey, and, finding that the women and girls had some skill in needlework, she adopted the most practical means of getting them employment. The results have already been excellent, over 200 of the refugees having been provided with permanent employment. The embroideries are done on coarse, handwoven linen, and they are practically everlasting, so conscientious is the stitchery. The colours are well chosen, and are, in some instances, of great beauty. The piece bought by the Queen of Greece is all soft, pale old rose, and another piece is worked in the most delightfully dreamy tones of soft sea-blue. The articles to which the work is adapted consist of chair and cushion covers, sideboard cloths, boot-bags, table-centres, mantel-borders, sofa-covers, and cases for music and large books.

We have been laughing over some brightly-written passages in *Fashion*, the new magazine edited by "Beau Brummel, jun.," for the edification of men on the subject of their dress. I see that in one article complaint is made that men "have in these days so few garments to choose from." Save the mark! When have they ever had so many in the whole history of the world? A capital portrait of Mr. Maurice Farkoa illustrates the Actors' page, and I am sending you the magazine that you may read about Sir Henry Irving as a tailor! By this it is only meant that he shows his individuality and his originality in the coats he wears in his different parts. I believe the same could be said of his dramatic partner, Miss Ellen Terry.

The new American hat is described as a pork-pie felt with a brim round it like a roof-gutter! This is strong language, is it not? And so is that in connection with the trimming. Listen! "Stuck in the band in front is a thing that looks like, and might in an emergency be used as, a shaving brush." To crown the whole, the colour is green, and the Americans have christened it "The Prince of Wales!"

Richard has just read out an account of the Coaching Club's annual meeting. This is what it says, being headed "A Melancholy Meet":—

A row of elderly and young persons lined the sides of the road to see twenty-eight coaches file solemnly on. It was a damp, dull affair, attended by a damp, dull crowd.

Maud, when she heard this read, declared her belief that the middle-aged people had wisely stayed at home, knowing that "restored" complexions would not stand the weather.

If you want a lovely yellowish-green palm that looks like sunshine on a dull day, get the Latania aurea. We saw it at Goodyear's, and dearly loved it all in a moment. By the way, the dinner and dance given at the Savoy last Wednesday quite dazzled London with their brilliancy. Each of the tables at the dinner was done in a different colour. The table at which the Duchess of Devonshire and Lord Rosebery sat was decorated with red roses. Two more Duchesses, their Graces (Lily) of Marlborough and Manchester, sat at the pink table, all roses and sweet peas; and at the green table, orchids and foliage, sat the Duchess of Leeds, Lady Hartopp, and Lord Granby. I enclose the menu.

Christabel writes from Paris:—

The Chantilly races are now going on, and some very pretty dresses have been made for the occasion. A rich American wore a back and white striped silk, the skirt trimmed with flounces of black silk muslin; the bodice fastened quite under the arm, and was finished in front with a jabot of black silk muslin, veiled with white lace, and a large white satin bow on one side. With this was worn a small black lace hat or toque, with white aigrette and just a few shaded roses at the side.

A charming gown worn by a young girl was of sky-blue alpaca, with three graduated bands of Irish guipure round the skirt, each band finished with a narrow beading of crosscut taffetas. The bodice was covered with guipure, with bands of alpaca going round it, each edged with similar silk frilling. The hat was white straw with blue feathers.

Countesse de Divonne wore a black taffetas embroidered with small white spots, on the bodice a little silver embroidery edging galons put on crossways.

Mlle. Sorel, the well-known actress, who is always well-dressed, wore a pale beige cloth, made with a boléro bodice and double Louis XVI. pelerine. On the skirt were small flounces, and the waistband was white leather with gold buckle and monogram. Her black tulle hat was veiled with white tulle and black feathers.

A most lovely ball-dress has just been made up by a large firm in the Rue de la Paix; it is of white moire hand-painted with pink and yellow roses and dark and pale green foliage. The design is exquisite, consequently the skirt is quite plain, there being no frilling or nonsense to hide the painting. The bodice is of pink silk muslin plissé cut open heart-shaped, with a transparent yoke of fine Irish guipure. Similar lace is used as epaulettes over the short sleeves. At the side of the bodice are sprays of sweet little pompon roses, with a jabot of lace falling from them, the whole finished with a pink satin sash and long ends, with roses on the side.

A dinner dress for a middle-aged lady was of green velvet broché with flowers in a paler shade. The front of the skirt had a half long tablier of Irish guipure, and the high bodice, slightly open in front, was filled in with Irish guipure; the long sleeves had points of similar lace going up the arm.

From this you will see that Irish lace is very much to the fore here at this moment. Very pretty cravats are much worn, either in plain tulle or spotted with muslin, the latter edged with two frills bordered with black velvet or a very narrow coloured ribbon. These are tied in immense bows, and are very becoming, but very fragile.

After chiffons plats for you. These "Cheese Balls" make a nice savoury. They must be quite small:—

Mix 2 oz. of butter with 2 oz. of bread crumbs and 2 oz. of grated cheese; add a pinch of cayenne pepper, a little salt, and the yolks of 2 eggs. Form the mixture into balls, dip them in egg and bread crumbs, and fry them in hot lard. Arrange the balls in a pyramid, sprinkle them with grated Parmesan cheese, and pour round them some good tomato sauce, to which is added a spoonful of grated cheese.

"Fruit Soups" are not very popular in England, but

Invalid Corsets.—Ladies in search of that gentle support, so essential at this period, should have a Surgical Corset Belt shaped by the experts, Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., The Celebrated Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, Oxford-circus, London, W.

"Madge's advice—The "most up-to-date shop" for original Specialities in Shirts, Veils, Gloves, &c., is Lee, 100, Wigmore-st.

once the taste for them is acquired, they make an agreeable change in our menu. I should like you to try "Strawberry Soup":—

Take 2 punnets of ripe strawberries, pick about 2 dozen of the best into a basin, sprinkle them with pounded sugar, and place them aside. Mash and boil the remainder, and while they are warm add 3 or 4 rusks, sugar to taste, and a pint of light wine. Bring the soup to the boil and rub it through the tammy, if necessary thicken it with a little potato flour. Make the soup hot and add the picked strawberries at the moment of serving.

Cold asparagus makes an excellent salad for second course:—

Cut it into inch-long pieces, mix the points with good mayonnaise sauce, made with lemon juice instead of vinegar, and with a little cream added. Pile the asparagus in the centre of a silver dish, put a few points on the top, and garnish the base with tiny, Julienne-shaped pieces of cold, cooked, young carrots, which must also be dressed with oil, vinegar, salt, and pepper.

Try this "Strawberry Kalteschale." It is a modified German dish and quite delicious:—

Take two punnets of ripe strawberries, pick a third of the best into a basin, sprinkle them with 2 oz. of pounded sugar and put them away in a cool place. Mash the remainder of the strawberries with a large glass of light claret, the juice of a lemon and 8 oz. of pounded sugar. Allow the fruit to stand for an hour then rub it through a hair sieve. Mix the purée with the whole strawberries and three-parts fill half-a-dozen tall syllabub glasses. Put a little whipped and sweetened cream on the top of each and serve them with sponge fingers or wafers on a separate plate.

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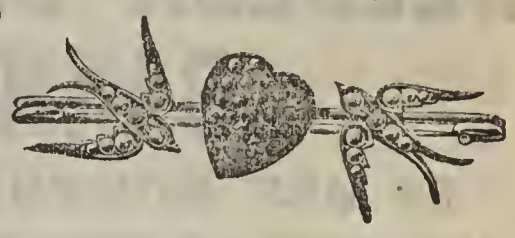

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SANDGATE.—ROYAL KENT HOTEL, a favourite resort of Ruskin. An ideal summer and winter residence, delightfully situated in its own grounds, facing the sea. Redecorated and refurnished. New Coffee-room, Smoking-room, and Conservatory have recently been added. Fifteen minutes from Folkestone. Omnibus meets all trains Sandgate Station.—J. E. TANARE, Prop.

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POLIAKIN'S renowned STRING BAND (three years at the Savoy) plays nightly during Dinner and Supper.
LUNCHEON, 4s.; DINNER, 10s. 6d.; SUPPER, 4s.
A SPECIAL ROYAL ACADEMY LUNCHEON at 2s. 6d. served daily.
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Manager: Mons. GARIN. } late of the Savoy Hotel.
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Sheltered, yet close to the sea and the Boulogne Steamboat and Promenade Piers and beautiful Undercliffe private road. Celebrated for its home-like comforts, cuisine, and wines. Lighted throughout by electricity. Spacious winter garden, affording a delightful lounge amidst sub-tropical plants. Private dairy, farm, and gardens, insuring fresh milk, butter, eggs, vegetables. Private laundry. Hotel omnibus meets all trains at Folkestone Central. The New and Handsome additional buildings will be opened in July.

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A FINE HOTEL] **DOVER** [IN DOVER BAY

Accommodates 400 guests. Is superbly appointed, with all the comforts of a well-arranged mansion, at moderate cost. Perfect cuisine. The Dover Golf Links for use of Hotel Burlington visitors. The finest coast hotel in England. Brochure and Tariff free.

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(180 Apartments)

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Important Structural Alterations and Additions have been made since October last.

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Sixty Bedrooms, many commanding magnificent sea views. Famous for its perfect English cooking and choice cellar. Most invigorating sea air in England. Under supervision of Proprietor—G. MARSHALL.

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THE PALACE HOTEL.

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EXMOUTH, DEVON.—IMPERIAL HOTEL. Private gardens, facing sea; beautiful views; lovely climate; billiard and smoking rooms; ladies' drawing-rooms; excellent cuisine; good stabling; perfect sanitation; sea bathing; trout and sea fishing; boating, yachting, steam launch, tennis golf.—Under entirely new Management.
H. W. HAYWARD, Proprietor.

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WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.

CHEAP DAY EXCURSIONS.

Charing Cross, Waterloo, Cannon Street, London Bridge and New Cross to	WHIT SUNDAY. Train.	WHIT SUNDAY. Return Fares 3rd Class.	WHIT MONDAY. Train.	WHIT MONDAY. Return Fares 3rd Class.
	a.m.		a.m.	
TUNBRIDGE WELLS	—	—	8 15	4/-
HASTINGS	—	—	8 15	5/-
ASHFORD	9 0*	3/-	7 10	3/6
CANTERBURY	7 55	4/-	7 5	5/-
DEAL	7 55	4/-	7 5	5/-
WALMER	7 55	4/-	7 5	5/-
RAMSGATE	7 55	4/-	7 5	5/-
MARGATE	7 55	4/-	7 5	5/-
HYTHE	9 0*	3/-	7 10	4/-
SANDGATE	0 0*	3/-	7 10	4/-
FOLKESTONE	9 0*	4/-	7 10	5/-
DOVER	9 0*	4/-	7 10	5/-
†ALDERSHOT	7 20 & 10 15	3/-	7 0 & 9 28	3/-
GRAVESEND	Any Train	1/6	Any Train	1/6
ROCHESTER	8 10	2/6	8 0 & 9 45	2/6
CHATHAM	8 12	2/6	8 0 & 9 45	2/6

* From Charing Cross and Cannon-street only. † Not calling at New Cross.

SPECIAL TRAINS for HAYES, BLACKHEATH, GREENWICH, GRAVESEND (for ROSHERVILLE GARDENS), &c.

SPECIAL NOTE.—The CHEAP FRIDAY, SATURDAY, or SUNDAY to MONDAY TICKETS to and from the SEA-SIDE, issued on May 27th, 28th, and 29th, will be available for the Return Journey on Wednesday, June 1st.

CHEAP RETURN TICKETS, available by CERTAIN Trains, are issued every SATURDAY from LONDON STATIONS to HASTINGS, ST. LEONARDS, HYTHE, and SANDGATE, and Holders may Return by certain Trains on 8th, 10th, 15th, or 17th day. Return Fare, 7s. (3rd Class).

CHEAP CONTINENTAL EXCURSIONS.

BOULOGNE.—Charing Cross, dep. 2.45 p.m., Cannon-street, 2.50 p.m. and London Bridge 2.53 p.m., Saturday, May 28th, 21s. (1st Cl.), 12s. 6d. (3rd Cl.). Returning at 4.30 p.m. on Whit Monday. Cheap Tickets will also be issued on May 27th, 28th, and 29th from Charing Cross and Cannon-street, 30s. (1st Cl.), 25s. (2nd Cl.), 19s. (3rd Cl.). These Tickets are available until June 2nd, and by certain Services only. On WHIT MONDAY, leaving Charing Cross at 10.0 a.m. Returning from Boulogne at 7.50 p.m. same day, or 12.30 a.m. following morning, 14s. (1st Cl.), 9s. (3rd Cl.).

PARIS.—Charing Cross and Cannon-street, dep. 9.0 a.m. and 10.0 a.m. from Charing Cross only, SATURDAY, May 28th, 1st and 2nd Cl. only. Charing Cross and Cannon-street, dep. 2.45 p.m. and 9.0 p.m., May 26th to 30th, 58s. 4d. (1st Cl.), 37s. 6d. (2nd Cl.), 30s. (3rd Cl.). Tickets available for 14 days.

CALAIS.—Charing Cross and Cannon-street, dep. 9.0 a.m., WHIT MONDAY, 15s. (1st Cl.), 10s. (3rd Cl.). Returning same day at 1.10 p.m. and 3.45 p.m., or 1.35 a.m. following morning. Cheap Tickets will also be issued from Charing Cross and Cannon-street, 31s. (1st Cl.), 26s. (2nd Cl.), 20s. (3rd Cl.). These Tickets are available until June 2nd, and by certain Services only. Cheap Tickets will also be issued on Saturday, May 28th, Charing Cross and Cannon-street, dep. 9.0 a.m. Returning at 1.30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 31st, 22s. (1st Cl.), 13s. 6d. (3rd Cl.).

BRUSSELS, viâ Calais or viâ Boulogne.—Charing Cross and Cannon-street, dep. 9.0 a.m. (viâ Calais), 2.45 p.m. (viâ Boulogne), or 9.0 p.m. (viâ Calais), 47s. 6d. (1st Cl.), 33s. 5d. (2nd Cl.), 22s. 2d. (3rd Cl., and by 2.45 or 9.0 p.m. Trains only), May 26th to 30th. Tickets available for 8 days.

BRUSSELS, viâ Ostend.—Charing Cross and Cannon-street, dep. 9.0 a.m., 5.35 p.m., and 9.0 p.m., 37s. 5d. (1st Cl.), 26s. 8d. (2nd Cl.), 19s. 11d. (3rd Cl., and by 9.0 p.m. Train only), May 26th to 30th. Tickets available for 8 days.

OSTEND. Charing Cross and Cannon-street, dep. 9.0 a.m., 5.35 p.m., and 9.0 p.m., 28s. 3d. (1st Cl.), 19s. 9d. (2nd Cl.), May 26th to 30th. Tickets available for 8 days.

The Continental Services will be as usual.

For full Particulars of the Return Times of the above Excursions, Alterations in Train Services, &c., see Bills and Holiday Programme.

ALFRED WILLIS,
Manager (Passenger Department).

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Tickets for all parts of **Great Britain** issued in advance over North Western, South Western, South Eastern, Brighton, Great Eastern, and other Railways; also **Scotch** and **Irish Tours.**

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Pleasure Cruises: Scotland, Norwegian Fjords, &c.

Seaside Trips, including Travel and Hotel Expenses.

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Two Special Express Services (Week-days and Sundays).

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		a.m.	p.m.			a.m.	p.m.
Victoria ...	dep.	10.0	8.50	Paris	dep.	10.0	9.0
London Bridge...	,,	10.0	9.0			p.m.	a.m.
		p.m.	a.m.	London Bridge...	arr.	7.0	7.40
Paris	arr.	6.55	7.15	Victoria ...	,,	7.0	7.50

Fares—Single: First, 34s. 7d.; Second, 25s. 7d.; Third, 18s. 7d.
Return: First, 58s. 3d.; Second, 42s. 3d.; Third, 33s. 3d.

PARIS at WHITSUNTIDE.—SPECIAL CHEAP 14-DAY EXCURSION (1st and 2nd Class only), SATURDAY, May 28th, by the Day Service.—Leaving London Bridge and Victoria 10.0 a.m., and (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class) by the Night Service, leaving Victoria 8.50 p.m., London Bridge 9.0 p.m. and Kensington (Addison-road), 8.5 p.m., on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 26th to 30th.

Fares, First, 39s. 3d.; Second, 30s. 3d.; Third, 26s.

For full particulars see handbills, or address Continental Manager, L. B. & S. C. Ry., London Bridge, S.E.

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By availing themselves of this arrangement, passengers will be relieved of the trouble and inconvenience of looking after their luggage when travelling. In cases where apartments at destination have not been secured beforehand, the luggage can be addressed, "To be called for," at the Cloak Room of the arrival station.

FRED. HARRISON, General Manager.

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY.

WHITSUNTIDE ARRANGEMENTS.—The Week-End Cheap Tickets issued on May 27th, 28th, and 29th, to and from London and the Seaside, will be available for return up to Wednesday, June 1st.

Special cheap 8, 10, 15, or 17 days' Return Tickets are issued every Saturday from London to the Seaside.

Extra Trains for the Isle of Wight. The 4.55 p.m. from Victoria and 5.0 p.m. from London Bridge will convey Passengers for the Isle of Wight on May 26th, 27th, and 28th.

Extra Late Train to Portsmouth from Victoria and London Bridge 9.20 p.m. on May 28th and 31st.

SPECIAL CHEAP RETURN TICKETS.—TO BRIGHTON.—EVERY SUNDAY 1st Class Day Tickets from Victoria at 10.45 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Fare, 10s., or Pullman Car, 12s.

TO WORTHING.—EVERY SUNDAY 1st Class Day Tickets from Victoria, 10.45 a.m. Fare 11s., or including Pullman Car to Brighton, 13s

TO PORTSMOUTH AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT.—EVERY SATURDAY, from Victoria 1.0 p.m., Clapham Junction 1.5 p.m., Kensington (Addison-road) 12.45 p.m., and London Bridge 2.30 p.m. Returning the following Tuesday.

TO HASTINGS, ST. LEONARDS, BEXHILL, and EASTBOURNE.—EVERY WEEK-DAY. From Victoria 9.50 a.m., London Bridge 9.45 a.m., New Cross 9.50 a.m.; Kensington 9.10 a.m.; Clapham Junction 9.35 a.m. Fares 12s., 8s. 6d., 6s.

The Eastbourne Tickets are available for return the same or following day, and from Friday or Saturday to Monday.

TO EASTBOURNE.—EVERY SUNDAY Cheap Day Tickets from Victoria 11.0 a.m. Fare 13s. 6d., including Pullman Car.

SPECIAL CHEAP DAY EXCURSIONS.—WHIT-SUNDAY and MONDAY. From London Bridge and Victoria to Brighton, Worthing, Portsmouth, Isle of Wight, Tunbridge Wells, Seaford, Eastbourne, Bexhill, and Hastings; and on WHIT-TUESDAY to Brighton and Worthing.

For full Particulars of all above arrangements see Whitsuntide Programmes, or address Superintendent of the Line, L.B. & S.C. Ry., London Bridge, S.E.

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To the finest FIORDS in NORWAY
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Other Cruises to follow.

High-class Cuisine, String Band, Electric Light, &c.

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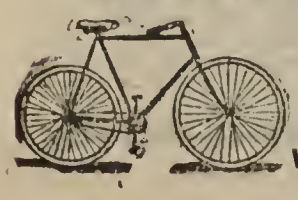

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The S.Y. VICTORIA sails JULY 2nd, for 25 days, to NORTH CAPE and NORWEGIAN FIORDS.

To be followed by other cruises on July 30th, and August 18th.
The only modern pleasure cruiser with large airy cabins.

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Fares from 12 Guineas, including first-class table.

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6d FLORAL VINOLIA SOAP
(For Private Use).

Keeps the Skin as soft as Velvet.

The MEDICAL NEWS reports:
"Beautifully emollient and softening to the skin."

1/6 per box of 3 Tablets.

10d TOILET VINOLIA SOAP
(OTTO)

Scented with Choice Otto of Rose Perfume.

Beautifies the Complexion.

The GENTLEWOMAN reports:
"Strongly recommended to keep the skin smooth and free from roughness."

2/6 per Box of 3 Tablets.

6d BLONDEAU PERFUMES

Concentrated, Delicate, Pure.

*Vinolia Bouquet,	Rondeletia,
*Marequil,	Hyacinth,
*Jequilla,	Ylang Ylang
*Losaria,	Stephanotis
Wood Violet,	Opoponax,
White Heliotrope,	Patchouli,
Ess. Bouquet,	Musk,
Frangipanni,	Ambergris,
Jockey Club,	Amaryllis,
Maréchal Niel,	White Lilac,
Millefleur,	Narcissus,
White Rose,	Chypre,
Jasmin,	Violette de Parme,
Musk Rose,	Mignonette,
Honeysuckle,	Clematis,
New Mown Hay,	Wallflower,
Lily of the Valley,	

Violet, | *Rhine Violets, | Peau d'Espagne.

6d., 1/-, 2/-, 3/-, and 5/- per bottle.

*These perfumes are not supplied in the 6d. quality.

1/- VINOLIA HAIR WASH

DRY. Freshens and cleanses the Hair, and preserves it free from any oily moist appearance.

MOIST. Imparts a natural gloss to the Hair

1/- per Bottle.

Each in 3 odours: Portugal, Rose, and Violet.

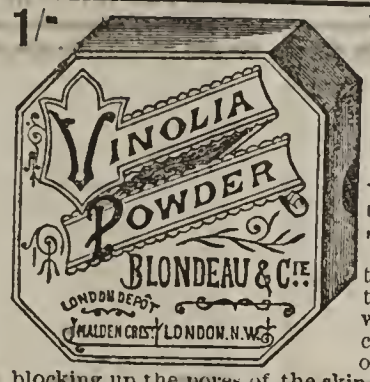
1/1½ VINOLIA CREAM

For Itching, Face Spots, Sunburn, &c.

The LANCET reports:
"An emollient cream for the skin in eczema, rash, eruptions, &c."

1/1½, 1/9, 3/6, and 6/- per Box.

1/- VINOLIA POWDER

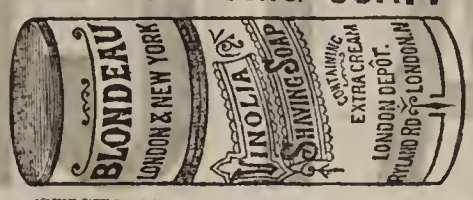


For Redness, Roughness, Toilet Nursery, &c.

The LADY'S PICTORIAL reports:
"Superseding the old-fashioned toilet powders which are apt to cause acne spots on the face by blocking up the pores of the skin."

In White, Pink, and Cream Tints.
1/-, 1/9, 3/6, and 6/- per Box.

VINOLIA SHAVING SOAP.
6d



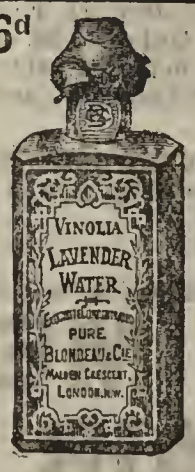
(STICKS AND FLAT CAKES.)
Causes no Blotches.
STICKS: Premier 6d., Toilet 1/-, 1/6, 2/6, Vestal 2/-.
FLAT CAKES: Premier 1/-, Toilet 2/-, Vestal 2/6.

6d LYPSYL.

A Coralline Emollient for Dry, Rough, Cracked, or Pallid Lips.

In Rose-Red and White Tints, 6d. and 1/- a Tube.

6d VINOLIA LAVENDER WATER.



Natural and Very Lasting.

Contains the finest Essential Oils, Concentrated, therefore the Most Economical.

6d., 1/-, 2/-, and 3/6.

2/- VINOLIA TOILET WATER.

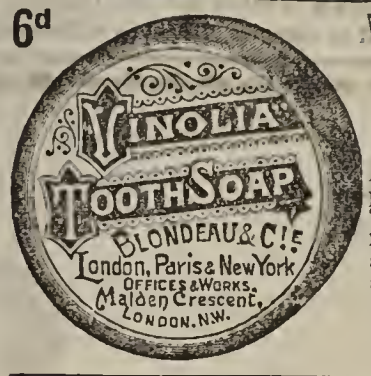
This is prepared with delicate, refreshing perfumes, and is a most exquisite and delightful preparation to use either clear or in water for the Toilet or in the bath.

2s. per Bottle.

6d PREMIER VINOLIA DENTIFRICE

Aromatic, Tonic, Refreshing, Preservative.
Keeps the Teeth Ivory White.
Premier in Round Box and Glass Bottle, 6d.
English—2/6.
American—1/6.

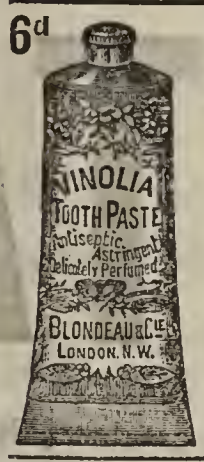
6d VINOLIA TOOTH SOAP.



An exquisite preparation for the Teeth. Delightfully perfumed and free from any injurious ingredients.

In Round Metal Box, 6d.

6d VINOLIA TOOTH PASTE.



Delicately Perfumed.

Whitens and Cleanses the Teeth, without in any way injuriously affecting the dental structures.

In Collapsable Tube, 6d.

6d BLONDEAU Inexhaustible Lavender SMELLING SALTS.

These Smelling Salts are of exceptional Strength and most Refreshing. They are agreeably scented, the pleasant odour of Lavender being very pronounced.

6d. and 9d. per Bottle.

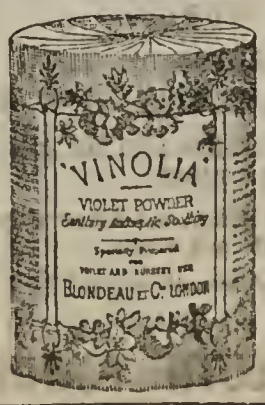
6d VINOLIA EAU DE COLOGNE.

Fragrant. Refreshing.
As fine as can possibly be made.

The "Court Circular" reports:
"Vinolia Eau de Cologne we consider is absolutely unequalled for strength, purity, and delicacy of aroma."

6d., 1/-, 2/-, 3/3, and 5/6.

3d per 2-oz. Packet. VINOLIA VIOLET POWDER.



Sanitary. Antiseptic. Soothing.

Specially prepared for Toilet and Nursery use.

In 2-oz. and ¼-lb. Packets, 3d. & 6d.
In ¼-lb. Tins, 6d.
In ½-lb. Tins, 9d.

VINOLIA COMPANY, Ltd., MALDEN CRESCENT, LONDON, N.W.

The Purest and the Nicest.

Hovis Bread

Perfectly Self Digestive.

Hovis Bread is baked and delivered daily by all good class Bakers in the British Isles; **Hovis Biscuits** are sold by most Grocers and Bakers; or 6d. and 1s. Samples of Bread and Biscuits will be sent on receipt of stamps by THE HOVIS-BREAD FLOUR CO., LTD., Millers, Macclesfield.

POSITIVELY PRODUCES HAIR.

STOPS IT FALLING OUT.

KEEPS IT ITS NATURAL COLOUR.

PREVENTS IT GOING GREY.

BEST FOR BEARDS AND MOUSTACHES.

"TATCHO"

[THE "GEORGE R. SIMS" HAIR RESTORER.]

"TATCHO" is sold by all Chemists and Hairdressers throughout the World in Bottles, **2s. 9d.** and **5s.**, or can be had post-free direct from the office, 11, Farringdon-avenue, E.C., on receipt of Postal Order for **3s.** or **5s. 4d.** Cheques and P.O.'s should be made payable to the "George R. Sims" Hair Restorer Company, and crossed Union Bank.

"GEORGE R. SIMS" HAIR RESTORER COMPANY, Ltd., 11, Farringdon-avenue, City, E.C.

GROWS BEAUTIFUL BOUNTIFUL HAIR.

MAKES WOMEN'S TRESSES SOFT AND SILKEN.

A DELIGHTFUL HAIR WASH AND TONIC.

BEST FOR THE TOILET TABLE.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH

Is the BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE in the WORLD.

PREVENTS THE DECAY OF THE TEETH.

Renders the Teeth Pearly White.

IS PERFECTLY HARMLESS AND DELICIOUS TO THE TASTE.

Is Partly Composed of Honey, and Extracts from Sweet Herbs and Plants.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World.

2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER,

only put in Glass Jars, Price 1s.

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from Falling off.

Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.

Being delicately perfumed, it leaves no Unpleasant Odour.

IS NOT A DYE.

Should be in every House where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.

ASK YOUR CHEMIST OR HAIRDRESSER FOR

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per bottle.

Mülhens' "Rhine Violets"

4711 TRADE MARK.

READ THIS From the "ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS."

. . . One cannot but feel eternally indebted to Mr. Ferd. Mülhens for having invented so altogether delicious and delightful a perfume as the "Rhine Violets." . . . Little wonder indeed that this king of scents should be imitated as widely and piratically as it assuredly is, for no essence of modern times has approached its well-merited fame and favour. . . . Rhine Violets perfume is one thing and Mülhens' "Rhine Violets" (as sold by all good Chemists) is another, and if all who have tested the fragrant and delicious essences which bear this inventor's name would insist on seeing it on the labels, there would be fewer ensuing disillusionments. . . . Mülhens has, in fact, discovered and perfected the following special perfume of "Rhine Violets" — "Maréchal Niel," "Rhine Gold," and "Malmaison," and without the magic prefix of his name, it may be taken that all such so-called scents are but "base-born counterfeits." . . .

3/-, 5/6, 9/-, 20/- *per bottle.*

"Rhine Violet" Sachets, 2/6 each. "Rhine Violet" Soap, 2/6 per tablet, or 7/- per box of 3 tablets.

Of most dealers in first-class Perfumes, or from

4711 Depot, 62, NEW BOND STREET, W.

FARADAY & SON's

Electric Light Fittings

New Designs

(in Classic and Renaissance) for Season '98

2 & 3 BERNERS ST. LONDON W

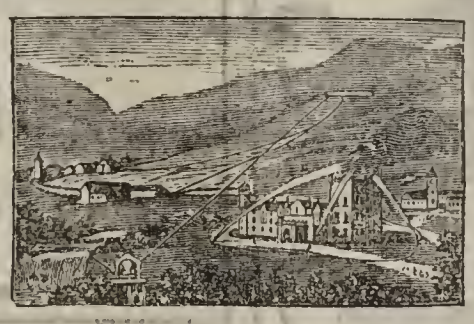
WATER SUPPLY.

Send for Illustrated List, No. 49, of

JOHN BLAKE'S Patent Self-Acting HYDRAULIC RAMS

For Raising Water for the Supply of Towns, Villages, Irrigation, Railway Stations, Mansions, Fountains, Farms, &c.
No cost for Motive Power, which is obtained from a Stream of Water passing through the Ram. No Oiling or Packing required. Made in Sizes to raise from **300 to 400,000 gallons per day.** Will force to a Height of 800 feet.

Fig. A.—This Ram lifts part of the same water that works it. (Engraved from photo. of Ram which raises 250,000 gallons per day of 24 hours to medium heights, with good working fall.)



This view represents a Ram worked by impure river water, whilst pumping pure water from a well or spring and forcing it to a small reservoir on the hill, at an elevation of 532 ft. and a distance of one mile, from which reservoir the water is gravitated for fire extinguishing and general requirements of mansion, stables, farm, and village.

Fig. B.—This Ram, whilst worked by a stream of impure water, will pump clean water from a well or spring.

TESTIMONIALS.

From A. FIDLER, Esq., Assoc.M.Inst.C.E., Engineer to the Corporation of Blackburn.

Municipal Offices, Blackburn, July 2nd, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—After having had the New Hydraulic Rams at Guide working without intermission for over six months, I am now able to give you the results of the test. A pair of your Rams which we fixed in 1886 to force 16,000 gallons of water per day for the supply of the district of Guide, above our highest reservoir, pumped up much more than that quantity, and worked well until six months ago, when the consumption of water in the district having largely increased, they were superseded by a pair of your latest Patent Rams to raise 50,000 gallons per day. From a test I have recently made, I find their maximum lifting power exceeds 84,000 GALLONS PER DAY, forced through 1,295 yards of delivery pipe, against a head of 190 feet (including pipe friction). From another test made I found that both Rams supplied with 327,816 gallons per day, with a working fall of 32 feet 3 inches, pumped 47,188 gallons per day to a height of 175 feet (including pipe friction), giving 78 PER CENT. OF EFFICIENCY. The new Rams have worked well and continuously, and, having NO METALLIC CLACKS OR VALVES, their action is smooth and without shock. They are extremely simple, and readily adjusted to vary their lifting power. It requires no skill to keep them in order, or put in new working parts, when that comes to be necessary. Considering that the waste driving water from the Rams flows into a lower service reservoir, a very cheap system of supplying the high-level district is thus utilised. The work done by you is of high-class, and very creditable to you.

From COLONEL A. EGERTON, Comptroller and Treasurer of the Household of H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught.

Buckingham Palace, May 14th, 1897.

COLONEL ALFRED EGERTON has much pleasure in acquainting Mr. John Blake that the Hydraulic Ram which he supplied to the Duke of Connaught, at Bagshot Park, two years ago, has continued to work most satisfactorily.

From Messrs. WINTERTON & SONS, Estate Agents, Walton Warren, Burton-on-Trent.

May 25th, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—We are pleased to report as highly satisfactory the working of the Patent "B" Ram which you fixed, to our order, in 1895, at Oaklands Farm, Walton-on-Trent, for Richard Ratcliffe, Esq., of Stanford Hall. The Ram is worked by a small stream of impure water, and forces spring water through 1,267 yards of delivery pipe to a storage tank, 102 feet above the Ram, from which tank you laid a gravitation main and branches, having a total length of 3,645 yards; also 14 cattle troughs, and supply pipe to farm yard, with various draw-off cocks, ball valves, and other fittings. We are pleased to say that you carried out the work to our entire satisfaction, and the Ram has gone well without any cost for repairs. The Ram works very well, and we are perfectly satisfied with the work.

Yours truly, WINTERTON & SONS.

JOHN BLAKE, Limited, Oxford-street Works, ACCRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.

Bulmer's Cider

Guaranteed Pure Juice of the Apple.

Price Lists and Testimonials from

H. P. BULMER & CO., Hereford

or of Wine Merchants Everywhere.

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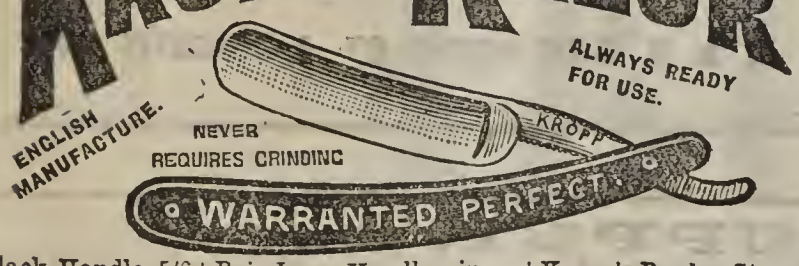
Is the greatest novelty of the age. It plays *to perfection* any selections of secular or sacred music desired. It is not a toy but a delightful musical instrument. All Dealers, or write for No. 50 Catalogue, post free. **From 16s. 6d. to 50 Guineas.**

NICOLE FRÈRES Ltd., 21, Ely Place London, E.C. Established 1815.

REAL GERMAN HOLLOW GROUND

KROPP RAZOR



Black Handle 5/6 | Pair, Ivory Handles, in Russia Leather Case, 21/- | Kropp's Duplex Strop 7/6
Ivory Handle 7/6 | Kropp's Strop Paste ...6d.

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Solid Silver, **£4 4s.**

Substantially made afternoon tea set on approval. If you decide within two weeks that you do not want it, the money will be returned. Every piece is the highest strength consistent with neatness, and will last a life-time. English Hall Marked.

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PURELY VEGETABLE, Perfectly Harmless. Will reduce from two to five pounds per week: acts on the food in the stomach, preventing its conversion into Fat. Sold by Chemists. Send stamp for pamphlet.

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These delicious Liqueurs, which have come so much into public favour on account of their wonderful properties of aiding Digestion and preventing Dyspepsia, can now be had of all the principal Wine and Spirit Merchants, and all good Hotels and Restaurants throughout the Kingdom.
Sole Consignee: W. DOYLE, 35, Crutched Friars, London, E.C.

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In Wear all over the World.

A large saving in price as compared with usual London charges. Stamped 18 carat gold, keyless, centre seconds chronograph, lever movement, extra jewelled, chronometer balance, ten years' warranty.

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ALL COLOURS. ALL GRADES.
NO WASTE. BEST LEADS.

Black Lead 1d. & 2d. Coloured Crayons 2d. & 3d.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Sample Box of 5 Pencils 1s., Free by Post in the U.K.

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For Cleaning

ARTIFICIAL TEETH,

EITHER

Gold, Platinum, or Vulcanite,

Deodorizing, Disinfecting, removing **Grease,** keeping them **Bright** and **Clean** as when new.

ALL WEARERS SHOULD TRY IT.

Recommended by many eminent Dentists.

In Boxes, 1s. 6d., *through any Chemist, or Post free from Maker,*

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£20 TOBACCONISTS COMMENCING. Illd. guide (259 pgs.), 3d., "How to open respectably £20 to £2,000." Tobacconists' Outfitting Co., Euston-rd., Ldn. Hairdressers fitted.—H. MYERS.

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A NEW BRANCH has been opened by

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HIGH-CLASS DYER & CLEANER,

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Works: WHITE POST LANE, HACKNEY WICK, E.

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For burning Clarke's Patent Double Wick Wax Lights.

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Respectfully invite the attention of Visitors to London to the beautiful

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AT 75, Regent Street (Next door to St. James's Hall)

now attracting so much attention as the Light of the Future for Decoratively Lighting Dining and Drawing Rooms.

SILK SHADES IN GREAT VARIETY.

SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR COUNTRY HOUSES.

CLARKE'S New Patent Double-Wick

WAX LIGHTS

Specially for burning in the

"CRICKLITE" LAMPS

1/- per Box of 12 Lights. Burn 5 hours each.

Always the same height, and absolutely safe. Lamps from 2/6 to 10 guineas each.

Trade Mark: "CRICKLITE."

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With Double Wicks

Made specially for burning in the

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12 Lights in a Box. Burn 5 hours each. 1/- per Box

Always the same height and absolutely safe. Lamps from 2/6 to 10 guineas each.

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"Quality and price being equal it behoves all patriotic Englishmen to buy the produce of their own Colonies, rather than that of Foreign Countries."

Joshua's

PURE

Australian Brandy

The LANCET says:—"It is sound and honest, and of a fragrance, purity, and quality ***second to none.***"

	Bottle.
JOSHUA'S "ONE STAR" ...	4/-
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OF STORES, GROCERS, AND WINE MERCHANTS.

JOSHUA'S "SPECIAL," bottled in Melbourne, bears the Stamp of H.M. Government of Victoria, guaranteeing it the PURE PRODUCT OF THE GRAPE.

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THE PATENT "RIGID-CURVE" STROP.

FOR THE HOLLOW GROUND RAZOR.

An indispensable addition to the dressing-bag of military men, clergymen, barristers, actors, men of business, and all whose professions render close, rapid, and repeated shaving a necessity. This Strop is quite different to all others, men to whom easy shaving is a boon are astonished at the solid comfort to be got out of shaving with a razor sharpened on the "Rigid-Curve," a Strop which invariably produces a keener edge than has hitherto been possible by any known means.

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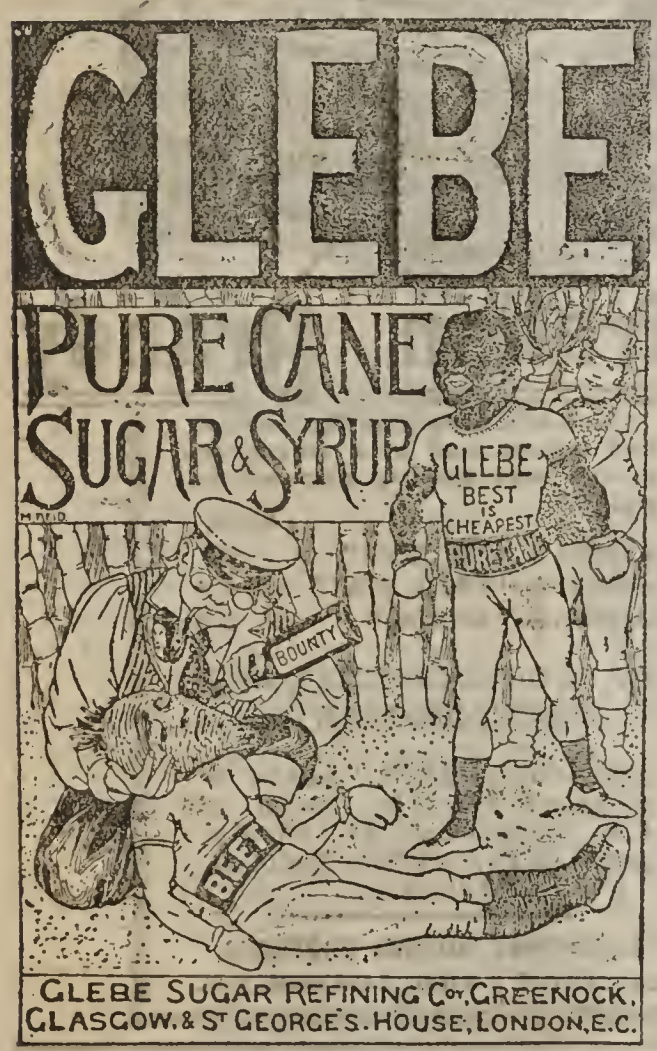

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ADJUSTABLE COUCHES and BEDS from £1. 10/-

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Sole Proprietor: **O. E. HORN, D.Sc., Bournemouth.**

BEST & SAFEST DENTIFRICE
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PRESERVE YOUR TEETH
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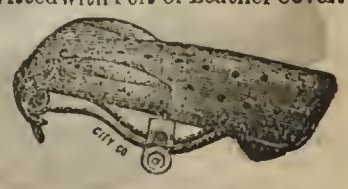

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ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to acquire and work the leasehold property (marked "Kalantaroff," in the plan accompanying prospectus) in the district of Sabunchi, in the oil fields of Baku, Russia, forming part of the plot marked 68 in the official plan, and having an area of about four acres. It lies near the centre of a productive and famous oil field, and is in the vicinity of wells giving a large production. On its boundaries are properties having productive wells belonging to the well-known firm of Messrs. Nobels, and Messrs. Rothschilds (Caspian Naptha Company). The property is within a few hundred yards of the Sabunchi Railway Station.

KALANTAROFF (BAKU) OIL COMPANY, Limited.

Mr. A. Klein, Sworn Broker, of Baku, writes from Baku, January 8th, 1898:—

"The Russian Naptha Company, whose property is immediately adjoining this, have a well not more than 35 sagens (81 yards) from where our No. 2 is being commenced, and at a depth of 100 sagens (233 yards) it spouted yesterday unexpectedly about 5,000 poods, and this afternoon it was expected every moment to spout again. They were preparing to pump it, and expect to get at least 5,000 poods, perhaps more. They have also another well under boring between this and our No. 2, which at 154 sagens (357 yards) has reached the productive naptha sands, presumably the second strata, with much gas, and it is expected to be ready shortly. I believe this property will prove most valuable, and it is also the general opinion here."

The engines, boilers, and derricks, necessary for boring the first two wells (No. 1 and No. 2) having already been provided and erected, the work of boring well No. 2 is being carried on night and day, and it is expected that the first productive oil strata will be reached in about three months' time.

From a report of the Superintendent of the Works dated 31st March, the first layer of naptha sand was struck in well No. 2 at a depth of 275 ft., and at a depth of 289 ft the grey sand strata was entered upon, and on April 14th at a depth of 330 feet in the grey sand there were appearances of gas, which is considered a very favourable indication. The boring at that depth was 2 ft. in diameter.

KALANTAROFF (BAKU) OIL COMPANY, Limited.

Mr. Boverton Redwood, F.R.S.E., F.I.C., Assoc.Inst.C.E., has reported upon the property (see full prospectus) and says:—

"The property is very favourably situated, being surrounded by good oil lands, and in my opinion is practically certain to furnish good results on development. I therefore think highly of it, and confidently recommend it as a desirable acquisition."

Taking the production of the average of the existing oil wells of the whole of the Baku territory at 3,000 poods per well per day or 1,095,000 poods per well per annum, equal to about 17,700 tons and the cost of production at 1½ kopeeks per pood, or 2s. a ton, and a price at 8 kopecks per pood (the present price being 9 kopecks per pood), the profits of each successful well would be about £7,000 per annum. By the terms of the lease one fourth of the output will be paid to the lessor as a royalty, which Mr. Boverton Redwood states, "is moderate considering the position of the land;" (some of the wells of the district pay 30 to 50 per cent. royalty) so that three-fourths of the output would belong to the Company.

On this basis, if the Company should sink twenty wells, which Mr. Boverton Redwood estimates within the probable number, the profits which should accrue would admit of the payment of large dividends.

It is reported that on one of the Arafeloff properties in the same district one well has produced 13,000 poods daily, or more than four times the above estimate for one well, and that another property in the same district, of only 1,280 square sagens in extent, has produced for the last three years an average of 4,000,000 poods a year, or about 64,000 tons.

The petroleum industry in Russia has greatly developed of late years largely owing to the extension and constantly increasing demand for astatki or petroleum residuum, which, from 3¼ kopecks per pood in 1891 has risen to its present price of 9 kopecks, being used as fuel for railways, ironworks, factories, and steamers.

The following contract has been entered into:—An Agreement dated 19th May, 1898, between the said John William Hughes of the one part, and this Company of the other part. This agreement provides for the payment to the Vendor of the sum of £30,000 as purchase money, payable wholly in fully paid Shares of the Company, and for the repayment to him out of working capital of the amount expended by him in the installation of machinery and the prosecution of development work since the date of the lease (7th June, 1897), and of a sum advanced as a prepayment on account of royalties to the Lessor, and of other expenses he has paid in Russia, all which sums do not at the date hereof exceed the sum of £4,200.

Mr. Boverton Redwood's report on this property, and copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the agreement referred to in the full prospectus can be inspected at the Offices of the Company, and full prospectuses and forms of application can be obtained at the Bankers' and at the Offices of the Company.

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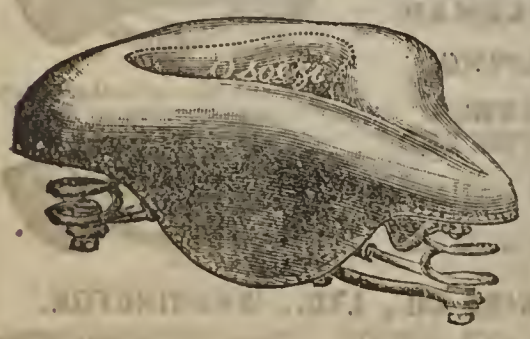

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ENGINEER.—Chas. Thomas Crowden.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICES.—Thos. W. Mills, F.I.S., 9, Pall Mall, London, S.W.

BRITISH HYDRAULIC JOINTING COMPANY, LIMITED.—Schedule of Patents.

C. T. CROWDEN'S BRITISH PATENTS.

No. 22,721. Nov. 27, 1895.—Improvements in or relating to tubular joints.
No. 7,158. April 1, 1896.—Improvements in frame joints for cycles and other tubular constructions.
No. 13,577. June 10, 1896.—Improvements in or relating to the manufacture of wheel hubs and similar tubular articles.
No. 6,540. March 12, 1897.—Improvements in or relating to the making of tubular joints.
No. 27,350. Nov. 22, 1897.—Tube joints.
No. 503. Jan. 7, 1898.—Tube expanders.

W. C. JOHNSON'S BRITISH PATENTS.

No. 4,449. 1897.—Joining together tubes and tubular bodies.
No. 6,664. 1897.—Means and apparatus for joining together tubes or tubular bodies.
No. 9,014. 1897.—(Johnson and Pearson). Cycle frames.
No. 13,339. 1897.—Tube joints made by fluid pressure.
No. 13,340. 1897.—Screw clamping press.
No. 20,451. 1897.—Combined press and fluid pressure intensifying apparatus.
No. 20,452. 1897.—Packing appliances for use in making tube joints by fluid pressure.
No. 21,840. 1897.—Generating fluid pressure for tube jointing or embossing, stamping of sheet metals, and such like operations.

FOREIGN PATENTS.

C. T. CROWDEN'S "TUBULAR JOINT."

FRANCE ... ... No. 260,681. Dated October 24, 1896. Issued.
BELGIUM ... ... No. 124,210. ,, October 26, 1896. ,,

C. T. CROWDEN'S "PRESS."

BELGIUM ... ... No. 134,281. Dated March 8, 1898. Issued.
FRANCE ... ... Serial No. 263,513. Filed March 8, 1898. Pending.

In addition to the above, Patents have been applied for in FRANCE and BELGIUM on Mr. W. C. Johnson's inventions.

THE HYDRAULIC JOINT SYNDICATE, LIMITED.—List of Shareholders.

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Swiney, Colonel Geo. C., United Service Club, S.W.
Seton, Sir Bruce Maxwell, Bart., care of Lloyds Bank, 222, Strand, W.C.
Teage, William Roope, 8, West Chapel-street, Mayfair, W.
Thirlwell, F., South Shields
Thornton, John Harry, Eagle house, Hornsey, N.
Tollemache, The Hon. Stanhope, North Leigh, Ipswich, Suffolk
Tufnell, Colonel Edward, 34, Chester-square, W.
Tufnell, Henry, The Grove, Wimbledon Park, S.W.
Turner, George Henry, Littleover, Derby
Turney, Sir John, Alexander Park, Nottingham
Turner, Lewis, E. V., Lloyds, E.C.
Vavasseur, Josiah, Rothbury, Blackheath Park, S.E.
Villiers, Noel, 8, Grosvenor-square, W.
Vyvyan, Capt. George R., Forest Lodge, Shooter's Hill, Kent
Wadham, Arthur, 60, Jermyn-street, S.W.
Wadham, Edward, Milkwood-rd., Dalton-in-Furness
Ward, Capt. L. H., 5a, New Burlington-street, W.
Watson, Robert Fraser, Leaburn, Hawick, N.B.
Watson, Thomas Lindsay, Leaburn, Hawick, N.B.
Weldon, W. H., F.S.A., College of Arms, E.C.
Westmacott, John, The Woodlands, Mitcham
Wheler, Edward Galton, Swansfield House, Alnwick
Williamson, David Arnot, 28, Percy-gardens, Tynemouth
Wilson, Lady Margaret, Chillingham Barns, Bedford, Northumberland
Wilson, John Straker, 23, Gray-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne
Wright, William, Wollaton Hall, Nottingham
Younger, George, Alloa, N.B.

Copies of the Prospectus, with Form of Application, can be obtained at the Office of the Company, or from their Bankers, Brokers, or Solicitors.

As the whole of this issue has been already arranged for, this announcement is made for public information only, and to comply with the rules of the Stock Exchange. Copies of the Prospectus will be sent to the Shareholders of The Fish Oil and Guano Co., Ltd., immediately, with an intimation as to the number of Shares each Shareholder will be entitled to apply for. Shareholders in the Fish Oil and Guano Co., Ltd., who intend to avail themselves of the right to apply for Shares in this Company on the terms of this Prospectus, must send in their applications to the Company's Bankers in London or Dublin on or before SATURDAY, the 4th day of JUNE, 1898, at 1 o'clock p m.

VOLENITE, Limited.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL - £80,000, Divided into 80,000 Shares of £1 each. 45,000 Shares will be allotted as fully-paid to the Vendor in discharge of the purchase price, whereof 40,000 Shares go to the Fish Oil and Guano Company, Limited, in discharge of the purchase price payable to that Company. **Issue at par of 35,000 Shares,** being the balance of the Capital, of which, pursuant to the terms of the contract between the Vendor and this Company, 21,250 Shares are now offered for subscription to the Shareholders of the Fish Oil and Guano Company, Limited, in proportion to their holdings in that Company, and the remaining 13,750 to the discoverer of Volenite, and others as hereinafter mentioned, as nominees of the Vendor. Payment to be made as follows:—On Application, 10s. per Share. On Allotment, 10s. per Share.

DIRECTORS.

The Right Hon. The Lord Lurgan, *Chairman*, 21, Lowndes-square, S.W.
Francis Bellingham Jameson, Esq., 29, Kildare-street, Dublin, and The Albany, Piccadilly, London, W.
George V. Sims, Esq., 14, Pembridge-villas, London, W.
Directors & Members of the Fish Oil & Guano Coy., Ltd.
Major J. Roper Parkington, J.P. (Messrs. J. R. Parkington & Co.), 24, Crutched Friars, E.C., and 6, Devonshire-place, London, W.

BANKERS.

Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co., Lombard-street, London, E.C.
The Royal Bank of Ireland, Limited, Foster-place, Dublin.

SOLICITORS.

H. Percy Becher, Esq., 26, Bedford-row, London, W.C.
Messrs. T. W. Hardman & Sons, 14, Molesworth-street, Dublin.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Mellors, Basden, & Co., 33, St. Swithin's-lane, London, E.C.
CONSULTING CHEMIST.—F. Lamplough, Esq., C.E., Industrial Chemist and Board of Trade Engineer, 5, Green-terrace, Rosebery-avenue, London, E.C.
BROKERS.—Messrs. Millar & Llewellyn, 24, Austin Friars, London, E.C. Messrs. Perry & Cairnes, 30, College Green, Dublin.
REGISTERED OFFICE,—16, St. Helens-place, London, E.C.
SECRETARY.—J. Kendall Rigby, Esq.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire:—

(*a.*) The benefit of the application made by Mr. Frederick Lamplough for Letters Patent for the United Kingdom in respect of a method and apparatus for saturating, vulcanising, and oxydising fibrous materials in the production of material to be used for insulating and other purposes, which material has been designated "Volenite," and is more particularly referred to in the Report of Mr. Lamplough hereinafter set out, together with the right to apply for the Patents throughout the world in respect of the said invention.

(*b.*) The Registered Trade Mark "Volenite," and the exclusive right thereto.

(*c*) A non-exclusive licence for Great Britain to manufacture Fish Oil in accordance with Mr. Stanley's Patents for "Improvements in or relating to the treatment of Fish and Fish Offal and in apparatus therefor" for the purpose only of the manufacture of "Volenite."

(*d*) The Factory and Works of the Fish Oil and Guano Company, Limited, located at Gorleston, near Great Yarmouth, which works have recently been completed and are now in complete working order. The Contract of Tenancy under which these works are held contains a proviso authorising the tenant to acquire the freehold of the ground upon which they stand, and also certain cottages adjoining let at about £30 per annum, for a sum of £1,300.

(*e*) The plant and machinery lately erected at Myddleton-street, London, E.C., under the direction and advice of Mr. Lamplough, and the benefit of the tenancy under which the premises on which same are erected are occupied.

For some time past Mr. Lamplough had been experimenting with the oils produced by the Stanley process from fish and fish offal, with the result appearing from his reports, of which the following are copies:—

5, Green-terrace, Rosebery-avenue, London, E.C., October 9th, 1897.

To the Directors of THE FISH OIL AND GUANO SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—In accordance with your request I beg to report that I have carefully gone into the uses to which your fish oil produce can be put with profit, and from experiments I have made with your oils, I find that they can be utilised to formulate an entirely new industry, which I believe will cause as great a revolution as did the Bessemer steel process, with all its attendant profits.

I have sent you two or three pulley wheels manufactured by me from your Fish Oil product. These pulleys can transmit 40 per cent. more power than ordinary pulleys, while the cost of production is 75 per cent. less. The same remarks apply to friction hoists of every description, elevators, &c.

Taking the oil as a whole I should propose to utilise the more volatile portion for making high-class machinery oils, and the middle class, which has a very high flashing point, I should use for making a compound I propose to call "Volenite." This material is quite unaffected by heat. Vulcanite will commence to soften at a temperature slightly under 100 degrees Centigrade, while our material will remain unaffected at double that temperature, without being in any way injured.

The following are a few of the uses to be found for this material, which, I may say, can be produced, at a very trifling cost, and sold at a large profit.

Imperishable railway sleepers, railway carriage wheels, pulley wheels, friction wheels for hoists, and clutch couplings, brake blocks, carriage panels, embossed panels for artistic internal and external decoration. Electrical switch-boards, fuse bases, electric bell bases, magnet ends for dynamos, electric motors, and insulating material capable of resisting up to and above 70,000 volts pressure of electricity according to thickness. Accumulator cells, dry cells, Declanche cells, plating cells and vats, and many other articles.

I have also sent you specimens of transposed fibre which you will note are soft. These would be for ornamental embossing and for electrical purposes, while other specimens have been hardened, and they can, for different purposes, be made almost as hard as flint.

The material you can manufacture for electrical purposes is, in my judgment, vastly superior to any vulcanised fibre; and as it is an admitted fact that ever since the growth of electricity engineers have been anxiously seeking for a substitute for Vulcanite and vulcanised fibre, the former being too expensive and the latter non-effective and unsuitable for their purposes in many respects, this should cause a very large demand indeed for your manufacture.

The material I have sent you, although only $\frac{1}{16}$th inch thick, is capable of resisting up to 70,000 volts pressure of electricity, which makes it invaluable for insulating purposes. The best vulcanite this thickness breaks down at 10,000 volts.

I strongly advise you to arrange for the immediate erection of works capable of producing a minimum of 500 tons of Volenite per annum to commence with. The machinery and plant already erected by you can be utilised in the new works when the latter have been completed.

In regard to the cost of the material; after charging £15 a ton for your oil, and say £10 a ton for other materials, maximum price, the Volenite will only cost a small sum per ton. It can be readily sold in large quantities for electrical and other purposes, at prices ranges from 1s. 6d. per lb. upwards, representing at least £170 a ton, and I do not think that I am over sanguine in saying that you can, the first year, sell 500 tons of this material. Allowing for liberal trade commissions I think there would be no doubt that your Company could earn £30,000 a year from the starting of the works, and I am confident that once the uses for this material become known its sale would be more than doubled in the second year; but even if you divide my figures by two you will see that the results will justify the immediate erection of the necessary plant, which will take a few months to construct.

The machinery will be entirely automatic and regulated by specially designed automatic regulators, which will do away with considerable labour, and in respect of which a patent has been applied for in the interest of your Company.

I have not gone into technical details as to the treatment of the material; but I may state that the manufacture requires a treatment of only seven hours.

Yours faithfully, F. LAMPLOUGH, C.E.
Industrial Chemist and Board of Trade Engineer.

The following Supplemental Report having reference more particularly to pliable Volenite, was subsequently furnished by Mr. Lamplough:—

5, Green-terrace, Rosebery-avenue, London, E.C.
4th February, 1898.

To the Directors of THE FISH OIL AND GUANO SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—Since your statutory meeting, held on August 28th last, Volenite has been brought from a state of embryo to a perfected article, ready for the market, and now only awaits the erection of the necessary machinery for turning it out in large quantities. When I first commenced my experiments and reported to you accordingly, I had only discovered the method of manufacturing a hard Volenite which is of great value on account of the many uses it can be put to, and the result of actual experiment with better appliances since August last has only been to more strongly confirm my original opinion as to its immense value in the markets of the world. I understand this opinion has also been confirmed in the report of the expert you have independently employed. Notwithstanding the immense commercial value of the hard material, you suggested that it would greatly enhance the value of Volenite if a soft and pliable material could be produced, and, as a matter of fact, you gave me no rest until I consented to experiment in that direction. You will be pleased to hear that my efforts have been attended with success far greater than I anticipated, insomuch that I have produced an article that is not only flexible, but that can be worked almost identically the same as indiarubber; that is to say, it can be moulded into any shape, and either vulcanised hard as ordinary ebonite, or left in a cured, flexible condition, similar to indiarubber sheeting, possessing qualities in some cases far superior to the indiarubber, which becomes quite useless for making high-pressure steam joints, whereas the flexible Volenite will do this, and remain quite unaffected at 400 deg. Fahr. This particular use, putting aside its many other applications, is of great value on account of the pressing demand for a jointing to withstand the intense heat of our modern high-pressure steam machinery, and although there are many steam packings on the market made for this purpose, none appear to have answered, and in making high-pressure joints we are still forced to revert to the days of Watt & Stevenson and red-lead putty, and this, as those who have used it will testify, leaves much to be desired. Either of the materials would in itself be sufficient to ensure the success of any company you may think fit to form for the purpose of working it, and the soft material being something like three or four times the value of the hard, the delay of the last few months has simply served to enhance the value of the discovery.

Yours faithfully, F. LAMPLOUGH, C.E.,
Industrial Chemist and Board of Trade Engineer.

Samples of both the hard and pliable Volenite furnished by Mr. Lamplough have been submitted to electrical and other engineers for their opinion, and Reports have been made by them, copies of which are enclosed herewith, and to which the attention of intending Shareholders is called.

It is proposed at once to erect the necessary plant and machinery in or near London—as advised by Mr. Lamplough—for carrying on the new manufacture; in the meantime utilizing the existing works at Myddleton-street, and in order to insure a continuous supply of the oil needed in the manufacturing department (for which purpose only oil obtained in accordance with the Stanley process, as the Directors are advised, is suitable), the works at Gorleston have been acquired.

The Directors believe that there is a practically unlimited market for Volenite in respect of many of the articles mentioned in Mr. Lamplough's Reports, especially for those connected with the electrical business, and for steam jointings and pulleys. They cannot, of course, bind themselves to any estimate of the profits which may be realised when the Company is at work; but, having regard to the low price at which, according to Mr. Lamplough's Report, Volenite can be produced, as compared with rubber, ebonite, and mica, now so largely used in the electrical trade, and which, it is expected, Volenite will largely supersede, they confidently anticipate a very large annual profit, and they have no reason to doubt the correctness of Mr. Lamplough's estimate as given in his report above set out.

The Vendor (who is the Vendor to and the Promoter of this Company and re-sells at a profit) agrees to satisfy all claims by the discoverer of Volenite and other persons for services rendered in connection with such discovery and otherwise, prior to the registration of this Company, to satisfy the commissions payable to the Directors of the Fish Oil and Guano Company, Limited, under Article 94 of that Company's Articles of Association upon this sale, and to indemnify the Fish Oil and Guano Company, Limited, against the same, to indemnify this Company against any claim for special remuneration by any Directors of this Company, under Article 96 of the Articles of Association of this Company, and also to bear and pay all the costs and expenses of and in reference to the promotion and registration of the Company, including legal expenses, printing, stamp duties and registration fees, and the issue and advertising of this Prospectus down to the first allotment of Shares, and also guarantees the subscription at par of the entire issue of 35,000 Shares hereinafter referred to.

The Vendor has fixed the purchase price at the sum of £45,000, payable, as to the entire amount thereof, in fully-paid Shares. Of the balance of the Capital, 13,750 Shares have been applied for, and will be allotted to the discoverer of Volenite and others at par, and 21,250 Shares are offered to the Shareholders of the Fish Oil and Guano Company, Limited. The subscriptions from these Shares will produce a sum of £35,000 cash, which sum the Directors believe will be amply sufficient for working capital and for the erection of the factory and works above referred to, and for all other requirements.

The following contracts have been entered into:—

1. Agreement dated the 20th day of May, 1898, and made between the Fish Oil and Guano Company, Limited, of the one part, and Harry Bennett of the other part.
2. Agreement dated the 20th day of May, 1898, and made between Frederick Lamplough of the one part, and Harry Bennett of the other part.
3. Agreement dated the 20th day of May, 1898, and made between Harry Bennett of the one part, and this Company of the other part.
4. Agreement dated the 20th day of May, 1898, between this Company of the one part, and the said Frederick Lamplough of the other part.

Agreements may also have been entered into with various parties in connection with the expenses and other matters, to none of which the Company is a party, but which may be technically within Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867. Applicants for Shares shall be deemed to have had notice of these agreements (if any), and to have waived all right to any particulars thereof, whether under the said Section or otherwise, and applications for Shares will only be accepted subject to this provision.

The contracts above specified, also the original Reports hereinbefore referred to, and copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association may be seen at the Offices of the Solicitor to the Company in London, and copies thereof may be seen at the offices of the Solicitors to the Company in Dublin.

The three first-named Directors of this Company are also Directors and Members of the Fish Oil and Guano Company, Limited, and as such are interested in the promotion of this Company.

Applications for Shares should be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus, and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company, together with a remittance for the amount payable on application.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application for Shares may be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, and Secretary of the Company.

London, 21st May, 1898.

THE BRITISH WESTRALIA SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

DIRECTORS.

FRANK GARDNER, Chairman. E. S. REVETT, Deputy Chairman.
J. B. JOEL. H. WALTER. A. R. STEPHENSON.

Australian Manager.—ZEBINA LANE, Perth.

Solicitors.—ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP, & CO., 17, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C.

Bankers.

GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE, & CO., 67, Lombard-street, E.C.
THE BANK OF AUSTRALASIA, 4, Threadneedle-street, E.C.

Auditors.—CHATTERIS, NICHOLS, & CO., 1, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.

Secretary.—WALTER BRAMALL.

Registered Offices.—32, OLD JEWRY.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS TO THE SHAREHOLDERS,

To be submitted at the Fourth Ordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders, to be held at the Company's Registered Offices, 32, Old Jewry, E.C., on the 27th day of May, 1898.

The Directors beg to present to the Shareholders the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet for the year ended 28th February, 1898, which have been duly audited.

The last year's working shows a realised cash profit of £77,871 7s. 2d. which the Directors consider extremely satisfactory. Adding to this sum the balance brought forward from last year's account there is a total to the credit of the Profit and Loss Account of £177,951 15s. 6d.

In pursuance of the policy followed hitherto, the Directors propose to continue the maintenance of a large cash reserve, and they recommend a dividend at the rate of 50 per cent. (10s. per share) payable free of Income Tax to all Shareholders registered on the 20th May, 1898. This will absorb £40,000 leaving to be carried forward £137,951 15s. 6d.

In accordance with the practice of previous years, the Syndicate's holdings and investments have been taken in the Balance Sheet at strictly cost prices. Two only of the investments showed any market depreciation and in these cases they have been written down to the price of the day; if the securities were taken at current prices, a further very large profit would be shown.

In October, 1897, Lease 986, at Kalgoorlie, was sold to the Boulder Bonanza Gold Mining Company, Limited, and the purchase consideration having been received, the property has been transferred to that Company.

Various interests have been acquired in the Colony of Western Australia during the past year, from which the Directors anticipate satisfactory returns.

The Board have again to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered by Mr. Zebina Lane, their Australian Manager.

The Board have sustained a great loss by the untimely death of their colleague and Chairman, the late Mr. Woolf Joel. The vacancy in the Directorate has been filled by the election of his brother Mr. J. B. Joel, and Mr. Frank Gardner has been appointed Chairman of the Company.

The Auditors, Messrs. Chatteris, Nichols & Co., retire, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

FRANK GARDNER,
Chairman.

32, Old Jewry, E.C.
16th May, 1898.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, *12 Months ended February 28th, 1898.*

(Incorporating Australian Accounts to January 31st, 1898.)

DR.	£	s.	d.
To Australian Expenses:—			
Prospecting, Salaries, Cablegrams, and General Expenses, and Australian Manager's Commission	9,266	15	8
,, London Expenses:—			
Rent, Office Salaries, Directors' Fees, Cablegrams, Legal Expenses, &c.	3,145	16	0
,, Depreciation written off Investments and Furniture and Fittings	3,221	18	11
,, Balance carried down	77,871	7	2
	£93,505	17	9
To Balance carried to Balance Sheet	177,951	15	6
	£177,951	15	6

CR.				£	s.	d.
By Profit on Sale of Properties and Shares				89,982	9	1
,, Interest, Commission, &c.				3,505	1	2
,, Transfer Fees				18	7	6
				£93,505	17	9
By Balance from last account				141,239	10	8
Less Dividend, March, 1897	£40,000	0	0			
Income Tax	1,132	17	4			
Audit Fee	26	5	0			
				41,159	2	4
				£100,080	8	4
,, Balance 1897-8 brought down				77,871	7	2
				£177,951	15	6

BALANCE-SHEET, *February 28th, 1898.*

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
To Capital authorised and issued—			
80,000 Shares of £1 each...	80,000	0	0
,, Sundry Creditors	11,230	12	2
,, Profit and Loss Account—Balance	177,951	15	6
	£269,182	7	8

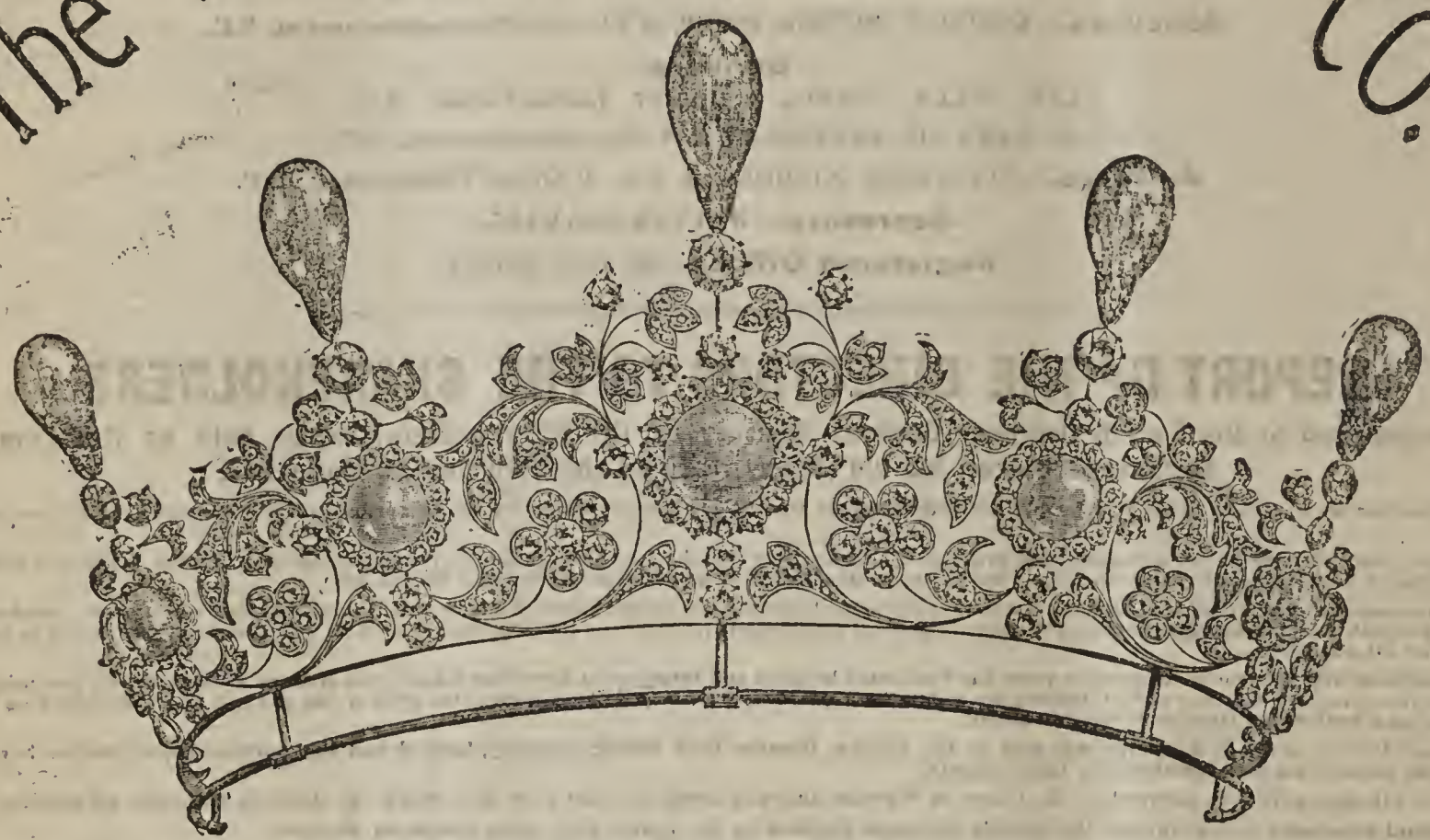
ASSETS.							£	s.	d.
By Australian Properties Account:—									
Amount expended for purchase and development to date ...							9,955	14	7
,, Freehold Building Estate, Perth							21,639	2	3
,, Sundry, Stocks, Shares, Interests, &c., at cost							122,006	4	0
,, Sundry Debtors							2,350	18	8
,, Furniture and Fittings							875	15	4
,, Cash at Bankers, &c., and on Loan:—									
Cash at Bankers and in hand				£3,502	6	2			
,, Loans fully secured:—									
Stock Exchange Account to Account	£40,478	1	6						
At 7 days' Call	62,374	5	2						
Other Loans	1,000	0	0						
				103,852	6	8			
							112,354	12	10
							£269,182	7	8

We have audited the above Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account and certify them to be correct. We have verified the Stocks and Shares in hand, the Securities held against loans and the amount of cash at the Bankers.

CHATTERIS, NICHOLS & CO., Chartered Accountants,
Auditors.

London, 16th May, 1898.

The PARISIAN DIAMOND CO.



"ORIENT" PEARL and DIAMOND CROWN.
A very exquisitely executed piece of Diamond work. Price £80 0 0.

THE
"Orient" Pearls.
THE COMPANY'S GREAT SPÉCIALITÉ.

143, Regent St., W,
THE COMPANY'S NEW BRANCH (Opposite Liberty's, Chesham House).

GOLD MEDAL,
PARIS, 1889.

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE POST FREE.

DIAMOND TIARA.
New Design. Set *à jour* in Real Diamond Mounts.
Price £27 0 0.

143, Regent St., W.
43, Burlington Arcade, W.
85, New Bond St., W.
And in Paris.

OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2. 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.
2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.
3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and, for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.
4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.
5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.
6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.
7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.
8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.
9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THEIR NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.
10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.
11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S-GATE, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,003.—RHYMES TO "JONATHAN" AND "MEXICO."

HARPSICHORD (real name and address will be printed in due course)	£1 1 0
SINGEON (,, ,, ... ,, ,,)	1 1 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,004.—HUMOROUS SONG WITH REFRAIN.

MOS (real name and address will be printed in due course)	£2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,009.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

THE BEST "IN MEMORIAM" VERSE, CONTAINING EIGHT RHYMED LINES, ON THE LATE MR. GLADSTONE.

The verses may be written in any metre which is in ordinary use; and each line must rhyme with some other line in the stanza. All answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, June 6, at the latest.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,005.

Many of the Definitions of a Gentleman were of a cynical or satirical character rather than humorous. Some of the best of them were in fact not humorous at all. It was only a small proportion of the definitions received that was eligible for a prize. In these circumstances the prize has been divided between ALPHA and LEAF-RULE for the following definitions:—

A bloke as 'as a bloomin' Bank 'Oliday all to 'iself, whenever 'e wants one.—ALPHA.

One who can wear a fur-trimmed overcoat without looking like a music-hall proprietor.—LEAF-RULE.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

META.—It was given about two years ago.

W. W.—The subject is not one of sufficient general interest to justify its use in the manner you suggest.

BINNS.—The character you refer to is to be found in "Martin Chuzzlewit."

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,006.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

WORDS SUGGESTED AS SUITABLE FOR DESIGNATING THE OFFENCE OF RIDING IN A CLASS OF CARRIAGE SUPERIOR TO THAT FOR WHICH THE FARE HAS BEEN PAID.

Classhopping, Classlifting, Classiflying.—R. F.

Malfaresation or Malfareousness, Nonfaresation Nonfareousness.—Dodger.

Journey-faking.*—F. J. B.

* "Fake," slang term for taking what you have no right to.

To defare.—Ados.

Brevet-Pullmaning, Parly-pirating.—Cochrane Field.

Hyperfaring, Superiding, Hyperiding.—Leaf Rule.

Supertravlocate.—Zen.

Unfairing or Unfareing, Unfairwelling or Unfarewelling.—Mimyarrah.

Super-carrailery, Super-farailery.—Pulchrios.

Supercargoing (superior carriage going).—Aunt Ida.

Farebilking, Farescalping, Raildefrauding, Classdodling, Fareswindling, Farechiseling.—Chelsea.

Philopropriority.—Beginner.

Fraud is the general term, Bilking comes near it, but it is not specific enough. Transclassing, as an attempt at a new word, might do as a makeshift, until the proper term is evolved, probably on the Boycott system of evolution. Tresclassing may also be suggested. Indeed the word trespassing is not far off the mark. The terms tresclassing and tresclasser doubtless would imply as much of the offence as the question, as the other form trans.—Commoner.

Ananiasing. It will be remembered that Ananias took what he thought was a ticket to heaven and got back part of the price—*i.e.*, paid for a third-class ticket and tried to travel in the first-class.—Barf.

Railway-bulling ("Bull"-ing means buying for a rise).—Natprobanian.

Superclassition.—Davham.

Over-riding.—C. F. Reid.

To Thudfust; derivation: Third-first ("second" eliminated, as the major offence is almost universal among offenders), vulgarised to suit porters, &c., as: "E's a reg'lar Thudfuster," &c. The criminal: Thudfuster; the act: Thudfusting. An habitual criminal: Thudfustic, sometimes used as an adjective. The art of Thudfusting supremely well: Thudfusticism, &c. 2. To Superclass: obvious, but covers the ground, regular verb; Superclassing, Superclasser, &c. 3. To Underfare: Underfarer, Underfaring, &c.—Mallaby.

Locopoaching. Locopoachery, Locomopoach, Primotertianism, Malfareism, Slygoism, Kleptoveyance, Kleptoclass, Kleptostyle.—La Plata.

The best word (coined) for riding in a railway carriage, &c., seems to be Supratenancy, since the offence is really the occupation of a superior carriage, whether such is stationary or on the move.—Poor old Jeff.

Classifarailty, Classnobbery, Rasclasscality, Classifarefakery, Neclassfariousness, Subclassfaritude, Compartmendacity.—Wordsworth.

Classbilk, Overtravel, Overclass, Overfare, Classcheat.—Etona.

Trick-riding, Overfareance, Cross-classing, Surreptrainery, Defaulticketing, Malafareance.—Aidee.

Overfaring.—Cestrian.

Farefrauding.—O. P. Q.

Excessimism.*—Rabelais.

* Etymology: *Excedo* and *imum* (the lowest place), with reference, of course, to the common phrase "Excessing."

Viaferricextravasation.—Classico-Medico.

Classbilk, Ticketbilk.—Nocerb.

Illustrious Sir,—Many centuries ago, two miserable fellows, named Horatius C. Flaccus and Vergilius Maro, used to travel by the railway from Roma to Antium. They had only third-class season tickets, but they were often seen in the first-class Pulmanus smoking cars. After frequent warnings, they were had up before the Beakini and fined, and at all the stations along the route, placards giving their names and offence were posted. This line being very prominent—"Primo pro tertio ibat."* The school boys contracted the sentence into, "Pri-pro-ter-ibat," and would shout it at the culprits. In time it was further contracted to "Pri-ter-ibat." If this were Anglicised it would be "Pritcribation."—Yours comfortably warm, Albius Tibullus, Hades (first turning to the left), Svonok.

* By first instead of third he used to go.

Excelsiorism.—Twee.

Ticketicide. Morphiamunnery (moreforyourmoneyry).—Wildcat.

Classbreaking, or overclassing, or overclassriding. Henry ix.

Carbilking.—Scotus Viator.

Onebettermanning, Secondaryfirsting.—Bad Luck.

Excelsioriding, Superiding.—Frinez.

Trickriding.—Addie.

Trespassfraud, Travelfraud, Classfraud, Classfranding.—Trinkie.

Hautevoléevoyaging.—Alastor.

Superclassification.—Scorpio.

Farefraud, Payevasion, Sneakpassage, Suismuggling, Rapriding (from Rapio).—Cock Robin.

Fraud-de-fray.—Necky.

Counterficeting, Fraud-faring.—Robert Martin.

Twiklasraling.—Pound.

Train-fraud. *e.g.*, X was charged with "train-fraud" at Bow-street, the prisoner was found guilty of "train-fraud."—Kela Mela.

Underbook. This word is now one that railway men understand the meaning of, and is on a par with other booking-office terms (compare undercharge, overcharge).—Clay.

Slyfaring. Travelincog. 'Emalgomating. Railoofing. Goingnap.—Pigtail.

Stolnluxurailing.—Homnis.

Locofraud.—Nemo.

Superclassity, Superclassation, Sinepatuperclassation, Superclassinepatrickery, Superchery, Meandaring (mean, darling, and devions), Superclassineparidity, Showswindlery.—Pyramid.

Classalienation.—Tan Tun.

Anticomania.—Eblana.

Ameanfrauditis.—Eblana.

Firstclassmisdemeanour, Wayfarefraud, Too easy going.—Excelsior.

Supercargoing, Expatriation, Expay.—Esperanza.

Classtrespass, Superclassing, Classcheating, Under-booking.—Ludwig B.

Rug-er-mer-ing: This was a name invented by me when a girl to imply anything that was mean, shabby, and dirty, each of which epithets will, I think, describe the "railway cheat."—Otter

Super-travelling.—Blackest Rose.

Fare-lifting.—Chess Vale.

Bestcrail, Besterailer, Bestcrailing; Poacherail, Poacherailer, Poacherailing; Grabbcrail, Grabberailer, Grabbcrailing.—Sinona.

Non-par-rail-ing, Unfrankedtraining, Pirailunfaring.—V. C.

Seat-sneaking, Seat-sneaker, Classomania.—Neptune.

Bluffing.—Frosch.

Rail Cheap-Jacking, Stowaway Wheeling, Booking Unionist for Salisbury Junction, Sly Entraining for Sad Detraining, China-ticketing, Underbooking, False-faring.—Cassim.

Class-trespass, Subfaring, Class-jumping.—Hailey burian.

Superclassing.—Almavlva.

To Surcar, to Supcar.—Conail.

Fraudrailance, Cheaticketing, Supercarology, Noroominthirdiness, Sinepayearluxurism.—Fishy.

Trainceadding, Tricketonier, Trainkidding, Ticketkiddling, Ticketfraud.—Risk.

Underfaring.—Echo.

Noun; Overtravelling. Verb: To Overtravel.—Ulis.

Fare-docking.—Siln.

Railbilking, Bookfoiling, Classjumping, Rocketing, Highlevelling, Telescoping, Malticketing, Ticketsharping, Shortfaring, Misfaring.—A. E. L.

Supercargoing, Superimposition.—Sahib.

Overjoggling, Upriding, Overclassing, Farechiselling.—Avis.

Superfaring, Superclassing, Overclassing Ultraclassing, Overfaring, Swindlefaring, Underbooking, Classexcessing, Underticketing.—Gingernut.

Ticket Trickomania. It is sufficiently practised to be known as the ticket trick, and irresistible enough to be a mania, and the above fully expresses the whole thing. If it were not too long, perhaps Traintickettrickomania would be more specific.—T. Waddle.

Superclassing.—Fad.

Underbooking or farecheating.—Manuscript.

Railwaypoaching.—Alpha.

Trainsharping, Classdefaulting, Class-sharping.—M. E.

Setcheting, derived from seat and cheating.—Sissie.

To Misrail, Mistravel, Misbook, Passclass, Misfare, Thirdfirst, Firstthird, Falsifare, Overrail, Overclass, Underfare, Underbook, Supertravel, Superclass, Superrail, Pluseclass.—Aldbarn.

Farebilking, Classkleptomeani, Fare-shirking, Class kleptomania, Ticket-raising, Rail-change-ringing.—Merle.

Cheatingsnobbonrail, Meancheatonrail, Gentlicheatonrail, Gentilcheaterail, Cheatingrailsnobb, Gentilrailcheat, Snobbyrailcheat.—Jack Cade.

Excelmania or Ultramania, Seatcompounding, Trainticking.—Myrak.

Riderpest, Overriding, Underbooking.—Bardolph.

Hieroclassites, Classforgetfulness, Classomatism.—Creran.

Locozening ("loco," contraction of locomotive, "cozen," to cheat). Rail-jumping ("jumper," slang term for ticket-inspector on tramway routes.—Djalfi.

Non-parveknewism.—de Brisi.

To Superfare.—Oxoniensis.

Train-bilking, Un-fared, Classkleptomania, Foul-Priding.—Mincing Lane.

Masque-railing, Fare-faking, Felon-fareing, Megalgo-mania, Cheat-seating, Higher-class-than-pass-omania, Tripped-tripping, Trick-tripping.—Robert Martin.

A sitting *im*-posture, Misplaced confidence trick, Railway bilker, Artful dodger, One who will have the best of everything—and the cost.—Edgcome.

Pay low—ride high, Go one better, Go up higher, Excelsiorism or Excelsior-riding, Company-defrauding-riding, Class-confounding, Class-dodging, Class-jumping, Railway-guard-dodging, Guard's-eye-opening, Class-levelling, Carriage-swindling, Carriage-climbing.—J. McGrigor Allan.

Lapprobi, from lapsus—a slip, and probi—of honesty. Conbonmores, from contra bonos mores—against good morals. Ultravir, from ultra vires—beyond the powers possessed.—Stiggins.

Defrauding, Cheating, Fraudulent, Dishonest, Unfair, Niggardly, Stingy, Mean, Shaver, Sharper, Stealer, Underhand, Deceiver.—Fir-tree.

Snapperee, Snapperfunk, Highlows. Snapper being the sobriquet of the railway company's officials, who are employed to detect persons riding in a superior class to that for which they have taken their tickets. Snapperee—if they are caught. Snapperfunk—if they run the risk of being so.—Xit.

The prefix, over, sometimes expresses an excess in our doings, as in the words overbearing, overdo, overcharge, &c. The act spoken of in our case is that of taking a place, of seating oneself. Therefore a suitable term to denote a sort of excess in that act might be to overseat oneself (to oversit). Of course it is then required that the expression be adopted by the general public, and that, by common consent and by custom, a specific meaning be attached to the novel term as to the above words.—Coloniensis.

*** Some competitors have suggested a word which describes the offender rather than the offence.

A ticket without leave man, a man of no class.—Ransch.

Snekril, Classhopper, Cheatril, Class-cadger.—Kintyra.

Highflyers, Flitting-sneaks, Underpayeads.—Allspice.

Noclass, Encroachman, Thirdrate, Railsnipe, Cheaptick.—How Nice.

Nicker, Fraudist, Nickelass, Fraudclassist, Rollclassist, Compthief, Defrauder, Trainfrauder, Wrongseater, Railsneak.—Penguin.

Higherchislefares, Classrisers, Farecheaters, Unfareclassdeflers, Higherclassists, Travelcheatfarers, Chislefarists, Higherfarefrauds.—Dagmar.

Ticket-offender, Under-payer, Under-charger, Class-invader, Class-intruder, Class-wrongdoer, Class-misleader, Wrong-classer, Company-defrauder, Class-violater, Compartement-invader, Railway-intriguer, Class-interloper, Class-miscalmer, Rail-underpayer, Railway-underpayer, Rail-offender, Railway-offender, Ticket-implicater, Class-implicater, Rail-implicater, Railway-implicater, Class-defrauder, Class-swindler, Rail-swindler, Railway-swindler, Suspicious-classer, Suspicious-fare, Fabulous-fare, Fictitious fare, Bombaster, Puffer, Car-puffer, Buffer, Ticket-poacher, Car-paradox, Car-deluder, Unsound-ticketholder, Ticket-rover, Seat-rover, Car-pirate, Class-rifler, Place-rifler, Outplacer, Misseater, Misplacer, Ticket-illuser, Ticket-illusioner, Class-illusioner, Class-cheater, Chargeable-tripper, Ticket-tricker, Car-tricker, Class-tricker, Soft-seater, Stuffer, Whiffler, Shuffler.—Sweetums.

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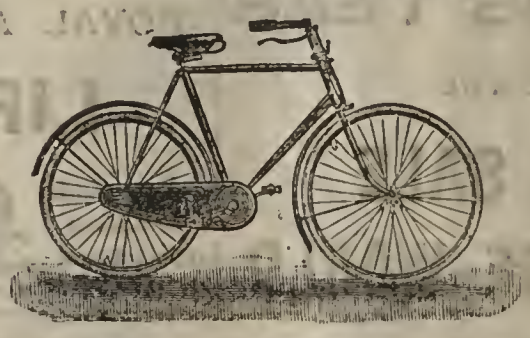

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ENTRE NOUS.

THERE is no foundation for the report that the Queen has forbidden the Royal Procession at Ascot, in consequence of the death of the Duchess of Teck, and that the Royal Stand is to remain closed with drawn blinds. Everything is to be as usual this year. There will be the customary "semi-State" procession up the course on the Tuesday and on the Thursday, when the Princess of Wales, the Princess Christian, the Duchess of Connaught, and other Royal ladies will attend the meeting; and the Prince of Wales, Prince Christian, the Duke of Connaught, and the Duke of Cambridge will come to the races privately on the Wednesday and the Friday.

It is probable that the Prince and Princess of Wales will travel by special train from Paddington to Windsor on Tuesday and on Thursday, and then drive through the Great Park to the course, being joined at the New Mile Gates by the carriages from Bagshot Park and Cumberland Lodge. All departments of the Household are concerned with the Royal visit to Ascot on Tuesday and Thursday, these being the only days on which the Court officials are responsible for the arrangements. The Master of the Horse manages the procession, the Lord Chamberlain controls the Royal Stand, and the Lord Steward provides the luncheon, which is served in the dining-room behind that edifice, everything being brought from Windsor Castle.

The Queen and the Empress Frederick have at last succeeded in bringing about a reconciliation between the Emperor William and the Duchess of Sparta, who was a favourite sister until she joined the Greek Orthodox Church, after which he declined all intercourse with her. The Duke and Duchess of Sparta, who have been staying for a month at Friedrichshof, near Homburg, with the Empress Frederick, were last week the guests of the German Emperor and Empress for a couple of days at Berlin. They will visit Denmark and England later on in the summer.

The Prince of Wales is prevented by other engagements from going down to North Wales next month for the Royal National Eisteddfod, but the Duke of Cambridge has promised to attend this function, and H.R.H. will be the guest of Lord and Lady Carrington at Gwydyr Castle, near Llanrwst, during the week of the fêtes.

The Duke of York, who now gets £220 a year half-pay, will receive £830 a year while he is in command of the *Crescent.* Sir Charles Cust, who is one of the Duke's equerries, has been appointed First-Lieutenant of the *Crescent.* His service paths have run in pleasant places, as he was for three years in the Royal Yacht *Osborne,* and previously in the *Alexandra,* when she was the Duke of Coburg's flagship in the Mediterranean. The Duke of York will be well "dry-nursed" on board the *Crescent,* as Commander Campbell and Lieutenants Greatorex and Phillpotts are three of the cleverest and most promising officers in the service. Lieutenants Rucke-Keene and Cecil Raikes were both special promotions out of the Royal Yacht, and they were pitchforked over the heads of between seventy and eighty senior officers of the same rank.

Prince Nicholas of Montenegro is said to have been much disappointed because the Queen did not give him the Order of the Garter during his visit to Windsor. It is unreasonable of the Prince to expect a blue ribbon, as this decoration has always been reserved for Sovereigns of what may be defined as the first class, excepting only such minor potentates as are nearly related to the Queen and the Royal Family. The Queen has already conferred the first class of the Royal Victorian Order (G.C.V.O.) upon Prince Nicholas, and the other day his eldest son, Prince Danilo, was given the second class (K.C.V.O.), but the decoration is not held in high esteem upon the Continent.

Prince and Princess Christian will entertain a large house party during Ascot race week at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, where Princess Aribert of Anhalt-Dessau and Prince Albert of Schleswig-Holstein are expected to arrive shortly from Germany.

The Empress Eugénie has been staying for a week at the Hôtel Continental, Paris, in the strictest incognito, on her

way back to England from the Riviera. The Empress will spend the next month at Farnborough, after which she is going for a cruise in her yacht *Thistle*, which is now at Cowes. It is possible that the Empress may visit Strathpeffer this summer, in order to take a course of the waters for rheumatism.

The Queen herself selected Lord Pembroke to represent her at Mr. Gladstone's funeral, not so much because he is Lord Steward, but rather on account of the long, affectionate, and unbroken friendship which existed between his father, Sidney Herbert, Lord Herbert of Lea, and Mr. Gladstone. They were intimates at Eton and at Oxford, and were most closely associated together in public life. Mr. Gladstone and Sidney Herbert were Sir Robert Peel's prime favourites among the younger statesmen whom he introduced to public life, and they gave a hearty and unswerving support to his policy, both during his life and after his death. If there had been no such excellent reasons for choosing Lord Pembroke, her Majesty would probably have been represented by Lord Breadalbane or Lord Carrington.

A very different funeral I should have devised for Mr. Gladstone. It was an official ceremony, under the direction of the Earl Marshal. The people for whom Mr. Gladstone had laboured and toiled were absent from the procession and from the Abbey. In the Abbey space is limited. But surely there could have been a procession through the streets in which the people might have joined. Peers and Court officials were the chief mourners at the funeral. When he lived they were not his most ardent admirers.

I trust that we shall show our respect for Mr. Gladstone in something more than mere words. We speak of him as the greatest statesman of the age. We laud him as the greatest of patriots. We glory in all that he did for us. And yet, as it seems to me, many of us are inclined to undo his work, and to pursue a course in direct opposition to the principles that he advocated and practised. Peace, Retrenchment, and Reform, were his watchwords. They should be inscribed beneath the statue that is to be raised to his memory in Westminster Abbey. But even this will be of little avail, if we regard them as the expression of a paltry and exploded superstition.

Amid the universal mourning of the past fortnight I have heard of only one discordant note—one feeble splutter of political rancour. On Thursday week a certain landowner and magistrate in the Midlands, distinguished for nothing but the rabidness of his Toryism, hoisted the Union Jack as a public token of his rejoicing that "Gladstone was dead at last;" and on the following Sunday the same individual ostentatiously stalked out of the parish church during the service, rather than listen to a tribute to the dead statesman. To give the name of this ornament of the squirearchy would simply gratify his craving for notoriety. It is better to leave him to the judgment of his neighbours, who from long experience have learned to appraise the poor creature at his proper value.

Last week much surprise was caused in Ireland by the unexplained absence of the Lord-Lieutenant from the Birthday Review in the Phœnix Park. Unless under very special circumstances, which prevent his attendance, it is according to Viceregal usage that the Irish Viceroy attends the Review. A salute is fired as he comes on the ground, and he takes his place at the flagstaff, surrounded by his household and staff in full dress, for the march past. Lord and Lady Cadogan only left the Viceregal Lodge on the day before the Review, which, shorn of State glories, and with an unusually small number of military, was a very poor affair.

Another and greater surprise in connection with Viceroyalty was the occurrence at the Theatre Royal on Saturday evening, when Lord Cadogan gave his banquet at the Viceregal Lodge. Lady Cadogan attended the theatre, the band playing "God save the Queen" on her entrance, as if she were the Sovereign's representative. No doubt she was not responsible in any way for this breach of etiquette, which was an example of the over-zeal of courtiers and toadies. The counter-demonstration which it provoked should be a warning to toadies—if they ever take one—that zeal in servility ought not to outrun discretion. The wife of the Lord Lieutenant is not the Lady Lieutenant, but "Her Excellency" like the wife of an Ambassador. Royal honours for her are a breach of etiquette, with regard to which Royalty is specially severe.

The sudden death of Sir John Gilbert has deprived Ireland of an able, learned, and painstaking scholar and historian, who devoted his talents to research into the past of his country. He and Lady Gilbert, though fond of seclusion, were well known in literary and cultured society and lived in the neighbourhood of Dublin. Lady Gilbert—the poetic and clever authoress known as Rosa Mulholland—is the sister of Lady Russell of Killowen. Much sympathy is felt in the sudden affliction which has fallen upon her.

From various quarters exception has been taken to the comments in TRUTH of the 19th ult. on the bestowal of the ribbon of St. Patrick upon Lord Lucan. I have been reminded by one reader that Lord Lucan owns 60,000 acres in Co. Mayo, and is an Irish Representative Peer; another tells me that Lord Lucan is a good and considerate landlord, and that Lady Lucan has done valuable work in encouraging cottage industries upon the estate and so on. All these facts I gladly record, and if to be a representative peer, to own 60,000 acres, to look after

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For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 1400 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 1398.
For AMUSEMENTS, see pages 1398-9.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 1409.

your estate properly, and to be the husband of a Countess who encourages home industries, are qualifications for the Order of St. Patrick, I give way at once. I have no idea myself what the qualifications for such a distinction really are. At the same time, my authority for the statement that Lord Lucan has hitherto been "unknown in Ireland" (Ireland meaning, I take it, something more than County Mayo), is an authority not usually at fault; and there seems reason in the view that the Order of St. Patrick ought by rights to be reserved for Irishmen who have distinguished themselves in Ireland.

Apropos of the last Queen's Birthday *Gazette*, I have been asked how it is that, while Royal honours are freely bestowed upon all sorts and conditions of public officials, it is almost unprecedented for a coroner to be thus favoured. The gentleman who makes the inquiry points out that coroners are among the hardest worked, and certainly not the least useful, of our public functionaries, and he asserts, probably with reason, that "the fear of the coroner is one of the greatest safeguards to human life." The distribution of titles and Royal honours is a sacred mystery, which it is not for a profane mortal like myself to pry into; but, judging from the annual lists, I should say that hard-working and useful officials are the last people likely to find a place there.

The Master of the Buckhounds and Lady Coventry are to stay, during Ascot week, with their relatives, Mr. and Lady Emily Van de Weyer, at New Lodge, near Windsor, where the house party will also include the Lord-Lieutenant and Lady Cadogan.

The Duke and Duchess of Portland, who are spending the holidays at Welbeck Abbey, will entertain a large party during Ascot races at Harewood Lodge, Colonel Hay's place at Sunninghill, which they have taken for the week. Harewood Lodge was rented once or twice by the Prince and Princess of Wales for Ascot week.

The appointment of the Duke of Portland to be Lord Lieutenant of Notts is a distinct and severe snub to the Liberal Unionists, who were entitled to expect that the office would go to their party. As a matter of fact, even the Tories do not like the appointment, as Lord Belper is unquestionably the individual best qualified in every way for the post. If, however, a Tory was to be selected, it is thought that the post should have gone to Lord Newark. The Duke of Portland's services to his party are somewhat phantasmal, and they have already been most generously recognised by the Lord Lieutenancy of Caithness and the office of Master of the Horse, which means over £3,000 a year, excluding the perquisites; and his Grace has now held the post for nine years. It has not been usual for Ministers thus to pile favours upon one supporter, but Lord Salisbury is splendidly indifferent to all those unwritten laws which usually regulate the dispensation of Crown patronage. The Duke is popular in Notts, but he now lives very little at Welbeck, and his qualifications for the Lord Lieutenancy are simply nil. Lord Belper constantly resides in the county, and he is thoroughly acquainted with all the duties of the post; for it is well known that he has done most of the work during the long illness of the Duke of St. Albans. His appointment was regarded in Notts as certain to take place, and it would have given universal satisfaction, whereas the choice that has been made pleases no party.

Mr. Harbottle Estcourt, who died last week at Carisbrook Castle, where he resided in his official capacity as Deputy-Governor of the Isle of Wight, was certainly the best known and the most popular resident in the island. He had for many years been prominently associated with most of the local institutions, and he held many important public offices. He was an immense favourite among all classes, parties, and sects, and his death is deeply and universally lamented. Mr. Estcourt was appointed Deputy-Governor of the Isle of Wight in 1866 by Lord Eversley. He was highly esteemed by the Queen and the Royal family.

By the death of Mr. Spencer Walpole a first-class ex-Minister's pension of £2,000 a year has fallen in. Mr. Walpole was certainly well rewarded by his grateful country for his public services in the period of thirty-three months during which he held the office of Home Secretary, as he drew the pension for more than thirty-one years. Mr. Walpole was both nephew and son-in-law of Spencer Perceval, who was murdered by Bellingham in the lobby of the House of Commons in May, 1812, when he filled the office of Prime Minister. He sat in Parliament for thirty-six years, representing Midhurst for ten years, and Cambridge University for the remainder of his public life, which terminated when he resigned his seat in 1882.

My worthy Lieutenant of the *Globe*, I told you only a few weeks back that when you next misbehaved yourself I would, out of deference for your tender susceptibilities, hand you over to a lady member of my staff for correction. I see that you have once more been indulging in some feeble personalities, so I have asked the lady in question to write a nice little paragraph for your benefit. This is what she says in reply:—

Is it worth while to take any notice of this little man? He seems to have picked out one of the mildest paragraphs that ever appeared in TRUTH, and, not having understood it, he applies to it a silly impertinence about your getting more irritable as you get older. The retort which I should like to make to this is that, as the Globular Lieutenant gets fatter, he is getting stupider. But I suppose if one said that, he would cry out that

SCOTT ADIE, 115, Regent-st., London, for Shooting Suits, Golf Suits, Travelling Coats, Inverness Capes, Carriage Rugs from 10/9, Shawls, hand-knit Hose, Scotch Cheviots, and Harris Homespuns.

SAVOY HOTEL, Savoy Restaurant, London. Large reception-rooms for fashionable réunions. Orchestra plays daily during dinner and opera supper.

your staff are vulgar and illiterate persons, and appeal to you again to keep us in order. I would rather have nothing to say to him.

On the whole, perhaps, the lady is right. Though I may be getting irritable in my old age, I certainly could not allow any one to suggest in TRUTH, my dear Lieutenant, either that your waist is increasing in size, or that your head is increasing in thickness. The first allegation would hardly be polite, and the second would hardly be credible.

The latest idea for advertising an hotel. People in all parts of the country have just been favoured with an epistle beginning thus:—

——— Hotel,
———, W.
May 18, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—May I call your attention to this hotel, in which I am staying, and which is in an admirable neighbourhood for those who wish to spend a few weeks in London during the season?

The hotel has only been recently opened, and is charmingly situated, &c.

This is written, or rather lithographed, on note-paper, stamped with a crest, and a riverside address. The writer frankly states, a little later on, that he is interested in the hotel. He must be. And judging by the number of his circulars which have found their way to TRUTH Office, with more or less sarcastic comments, he has succeeded in interesting a good many other people in it, too—though probably not quite in the way he intended.

A weekly paper, announcing that the Duchess of Hamilton is going to compile a history of her first husband's family (which is probably a pure fiction), states that she may have inherited literary tastes and talents from her father, the late Duke of Manchester, who wrote an interesting work entitled "Court and Society from Elizabeth to Anne." The book in question, which was published about thirty-four years ago, was worked up out of the family papers at Kimbolton Castle by Hepworth Dixon, and the Duke of Manchester never really wrote a single line of it, although his name appeared on the title-page as the author. An adequate account of the Hamilton family would be a hard task even for a writer profoundly acquainted with Scotch history, and it certainly could not be successfully achieved by any amateur.

The Bradfield College play this year is to be the "Antigone," and the performances will take place on Monday, June 20, Thursday, June 23, Saturday, June 25, and Tuesday, June 28—subject always to the views of the clerk of the weather. It is a bold experiment to give a Greek play in England, even in June, under exact classical conditions in an open-air theatre. But the Bradfield authorities have made arrangements by which, if the play is postponed, all intending visitors can ascertain the fact before their arrival. I much impressed by the following notice in the programme, which denotes more courage than any London theatrical manager has yet shown in dealing with the Matinée Hat question:—

It is requested that all visitors should wear low hats, and that lady visitors should bring fans and not sunshades, as the latter impede the view of those who sit above them.

All visitors, be it noted; not gentlemen only.

The master of a Voluntary School recently applied to the Association of Voluntary Schools in his district for an "occasional monitor." The letter was referred to the General Council, and some discussion arose as to what was meant by an "occasional monitor." The Bishop of Oxford suggested that the Nonconformist Conscience was probably intended.

A good example of the arbitrary manner in which elementary school teachers are dealt with by voluntary school managers has just been given at St. Ann's, South Tottenham. Last August Miss Jane Evans was engaged as head mistress of St. Ann's Infant School, and the report of the Government Inspector shows that she has done her work efficiently and satisfactorily. In her agreement no condition was laid down as to her place of residence, but she took lodgings which had been recommended to her by the managers. Recently, however, her parents decided to take a house at South Tottenham, just outside the bounds of the Parish of St. Ann's, and Miss Evans intimated that she intended to live with them. There is no pretence that this change of residence would interfere in any way with her work at the school, but the managers object to her living "out of the parish," and on this ground they have now given her three months' notice of dismissal. Considering that these voluntary schools are almost wholly maintained by grants from the State, a teacher should surely be afforded the protection of an appeal to the Education Department against such harsh and unreasonable treatment.

I owe an apology to the examiners at the last March examination for the *Britannia*. The mysterious algebraical problem about Mr. Gladstone's age was not printed, it appears, as given in last week's TRUTH. My version of it came from the official reprint of the papers, regulations, and marks. The original problem was as follows:—

Mr. Gladstone was born in the year A.D. 1809. In the year A.D. x^2 he was $x-3$ years old. Find x.

In the reprint x^2 became x, and the problem was reduced to the nonsensical form in which I found it.

Mr. Balfour has presented the Rev F. S. Webster, Rector of St. Thomas's, Birmingham, to the important Crown living of All Souls', Langham-place, which is worth about £700 a year. Mr. Webster, who is an Evangelical, is a nephew of the Attorney-General. The vacant living of St. Thomas's, which is worth about £500 a year, is in the gift of a body of Low Church trustees.

FOR BEAUTIFYING AND PRESERVING THE TEETH nothing equals ROWLAND'S ODONTO, which removes tartar, and imparts a pearl-like whiteness to the enamelled surface. Use ROWLAND'S ODONTO for keeping your teeth sound and white. Of Stores and Chemists.

"HÔTEL BURLINGTON," AT SUNNY BOSCOMBE. (200 rooms). Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

The Bishop Suffragan of Stepney is to be the Canon in residence and Sunday afternoon preacher during the month at St. Paul's Cathedral, replacing Canon Scott Holland; while at Westminster Abbey Canon Wilberforce is succeeded by Archdeacon Furse.

The appointed preachers at the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, during the month are: on the 5th, the Sub-Dean; 12th, the Rev. J. E. C. Welldon, Head Master of Harrow; 19th, the Rev. F. J. Holland, Canon Residentiary of Canterbury Cathedral; and on the 26th, Canon Ellison.

The Archdeacon of London is *ex-officio* patron of the vicarage of St. John's, Hoxton, which is worth about £600 a year, with residence. Any one would suppose that Archdeacon Sinclair would make a point of presenting a clergyman who has earned such preferment by good work in the diocese of London. The Archdeacon, however, as is the scandalously common practice of clerical patrons, has perpetrated a gross and most discreditable job, by pitchforking the Rev. Eric Farrar into the living. Mr. Farrar has no claim whatever upon the Diocese of London, but he is recommended to Archdeacon Sinclair's favour by the fact that he is a son of his old friend, the Dean of Canterbury. The Rev. Eric Farrar is quite a young man, and in no way distinguished. A few years ago there was a great and most justifiable clamour because the Bishop of Worcester presented this fortunate ecclesiastic to the living of St. Thomas's, Coventry, which he now holds. Bishop Perowne had no valid defence, and he could only attempt to excuse himself, with a truly infantile ingenuousness, by pleading that he was under obligation to Dr. Farrar (his nominee's father), who had done a good deal of work for him as examining chaplain, and he felt bound to testify his gratitude. The working clergy of the Diocese of Worcester were not, however, satisfied with this sophistical twaddle, and the Bishop has never recovered the ground which he then lost.

I am told that in the neighbourhood of Higham Gobion, Bedfordshire, four other parishes can be found exemplifying scarcely less conspicuously than the instances I have already given of the disparity between clerical incomes and clerical work in some of the country parishes. My informant adds that they also exemplify the deterioration of parsons under the influences of isolation and idleness. Without wishing to identify myself with the last statement, I can certainly say this: that if parsons do not deteriorate under such conditions they must be very exceptional beings. For an ordinary mortal, I can imagine nothing worse than to plant him, say at five-and-forty years of age, in a remote country village, with a living secured to him for the rest of his life, hardly a couple of real days' work to do in the whole week, no one to criticise him, and nearly all his neighbours ready to fawn upon and truckle to him. Few men could save their own souls under such conditions, let alone the souls of others.

By the way, talking of Higham Gobion, it is worthy of note that this strangely-named parish had for its patrons and rectors during nearly a century and a half the family which has produced in the last two generations Sir Henry Hawkins, the Vicar of St. Bride's, Fleet-street, and his son, Mr. Anthony Hope Hawkins.

The Church of England has an enlightened, charitable, and courteous representative in the Vicar of Castle Cary. In the ordinary course of things this reverend gentleman allows the doors of the parish church to remain open all night and all day. On the occasion, however, of a recent Wesleyan funeral in the churchyard the doors of the church were locked, and from a letter the Vicar has written it appears that this precaution was taken in order that "persons opposed to the Church" might not "stray" into the sacred edifice. What would have happened if a Nonconformist had perchance set foot in the building is not quite clear. But I think the Liberation Society ought in common gratitude to award a medal to this Vicar. A cleric of his type must render it invaluable service.

A pious lady asks me whether I appreciate the fact that in asking for the suppression of the "area-gate tout" I may be checking the blessed work of the Christian Colportage Association for England. I never heard before of the C.C.A.F.E., but from a pamphlet which my correspondent encloses I gather that it is an agency which has a staff of 130 colporteurs, and has circulated more than sixteen millions of Bibles, Testaments, and evangelical publications; that the colporteurs "travel every month more than 20,000 miles, and knock at about 150,000 doors, selling their wares and seizing opportunities of speaking to people personally about salvation." It is added that "the blessing is untold." Very probably. I should think that a person knocking at 150,000 doors in order to speak to people personally about salvation would hear something very different from blessing at 999 doors out of every thousand.

Here is an edifying anecdote illustrative of the Christian Colporteur's *modus operandi*. The evangelist is describing his visit to a large country house, where he had often called before, but without effect:—

> This day the cook again appeared at the door, and asked me to come in, as she wanted to speak to me.
>
> She then took me into the servants' hall, and calling the housemaid, told me of the trouble they were in about their souls.
>
> Both women had tears in their eyes; so I sat down, and taking out my Bible, began to read a few texts. I told them also the story of my own conversion, and while doing so, the footman, a young man of about two-and-twenty, entered and sat down with us.
>
> He also seemed troubled, and I learned that all three had been reading "Heavenly Love," and were deeply convicted of sin.

The Association states that it uses the greatest care in finding suitable men; so I suppose we must take this narrative as authentic. But I confess that, before accepting the edifying record of conversion, I should uncommonly like to know where this penitent cook, housemaid, and footman are to be found.

News of the erratic career of Miss Griffen's Australian snowball continues to arrive from all parts of the world. I have had two copies of the letter in French sent to me

during the last week from Surinam, and two from different parts of France. One of the latter has been found in the possession of a demoiselle in a young ladies' school at Neuilly. Doubtless school children have played an important part in disseminating this historic begging-letter. It is perfectly clear from the fact of the letter having been translated into foreign languages that the original pretence of collecting old English stamps for the benefit of the cottage hospital of St. George's District, Hurstville, was all bunkum, and that Miss Griffen is now amassing postage-stamps from all countries in the world, that is to say, articles which have a very considerable commercial value. It is quite time that the authorities of this hospital at Sydney, or the neighbourhood, who originally gave their countenance to this questionable enterprise, should wash their hands of it. To stop it is, of course, entirely beyond their power, but they can at least enlighten the public as to the amount they have received from Miss Griffen, and the use which it is to be put to.

Apropos of snowball collections, I wonder that Commissary-General Hamley does not adopt this method for obtaining members for the Junior Conservative Club. I see that the gallant officer is still circularising the public as busily and as indiscriminately as ever, numerous well-known Liberals having been informed during the last two or three weeks that they can be admitted to the advantages of membership, "prior to the entrance fee being introduced," on payment of their modest guinea. Why not offer this precious privilege to everybody who will write three copies of the Commissary-General's circular and send them to his tailor, bootmaker, and pawnbroker, with instructions to continue the chain in the usual way? In this manner the whole population of these islands, and probably the Colonies, too, would in time receive an invitation to join the Junior Conservative Club, without the Committee spending another halfpenny on postage-stamps.

I ought to have mentioned last week, but was prevented by pressure of other matters, that I had received a letter from the Chairman of the Board of Management of the London Orphan Asylum, and also a visit from the Secretary, with reference to comments in TRUTH of the 12th ult., upon the last report of the institution. It may be remembered that the point of my remarks was that the comparative table of expenditure per head for the last ten years showed that, while the cost of feeding and clothing the children had been greatly reduced of late years, the office and working expenses had increased, as had also the item "Educational and Administrative Expenses;" the result being that, in spite of the reduction under the first head, the total cost per child had increased in ten years to the amount of nearly £3 per annum.

What the Chairman and Secretary say in reply to this is, first, that the increased cost under the head of educational and administrative expenses is entirely due to increased outlay on education, owing to the cause which was suggested in my paragraph; secondly, that the reduced cost of the actual keep of the children is due to more advantageous contracts having been concluded; and, thirdly, that the increased "Working and Office Expenses" are mainly due to unavoidable increase in advertising and other expenditure for raising money. The Secretary assures me that the children are better fed and clothed now, in spite of the reduction in cost, than they were ten years ago; but I understand from him, on the other hand, that every year it becomes harder to keep up the income—owing, I suppose, to increased competition among charitable agencies.

I have so high an opinion of the work of the London Orphan Asylum that I am only too ready to accept these explanations, though I would certainly suggest to the managers that it behoves them to keep a tight hand upon the office expenses. The real moral of the whole thing, however, seems to be that the more freely and readily the public gives, the greater is the value of their gifts. If charity were what it ought to be, the subscribers would look for the charities. As it is, the charities have to look for the subscribers, and the cost of looking for and finding them swallows up a very substantial percentage of the proceeds. The motto for those who have money to give in charity should be *bis dat qui dat—sponte.*

A further supply of photographic and other scraps has been generously placed at my disposal by Messrs. Charles Goodall & Son, for the manufacture of scrap-books for the TRUTH Toy Show. Although Christmas is still some time off, the time is none too long if all the little pictures I now have to dispose of are to be made up into books by the date of the next Show; and I know that there are many good ladies among my readers who are ready to take up work of this kind at any season of the year. If any such will kindly communicate with me, I will forward them parcels of Messrs. Goodall & Son's scraps at the earliest opportunity.

I am asked to state that a ball will be given in the Empress Rooms, Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington, on Monday, June 20, in aid of the Distressed Gentlefolk Association.

A concert, in aid of the South London District Nursing Association, will be given at Stafford House on the afternoon of Thursday, June 9, under the patronage of H.R.H. Princess Christian. Miss Esther Palliser, Miss Fanny Davies, and a large number of other eminent artistes have promised their services for the occasion. For tickets and further information I may refer the reader to Mr. F. Holland Schwann, Oakfield, Wimbledon Common.

The following amounts have reached me towards Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund for poor and sickly London children:—W. M., £1 1s.; Gladys and Karin, £2 2s; J. P. M., £2 2s.; Anon., £5.

I have perused with much interest a memorandum just issued from the War Office upon the duty of officers in regard to the morals of their men. The memorandum specially lays stress upon the duty of company officers, who are to inculcate upon the men under their control, particularly the juniors, the disastrous effects, moral, physical, and professional, of intemperance and vice of all kinds. After perusing the document, I cannot help feeling that a shining light was lost to the Church when the present Commander-in-Chief joined the Army. Far be it from me to say one word to minimise the effect of this discourse from the War Office pulpit. On the contrary, I think that the discourse only fails in one respect, and that is that it lays a little too much stress upon the importance of precept, and not enough upon that of practice. No doubt officers can effect almost unlimited good in raising the moral tone of their men; but they are more likely to do this by example than by verbal exhortation.

There is one form of misconduct on the part of soldiers which appears to be somewhat rife, but it is not even glanced at in Lord Wolseley's memorandum. The other day I gave publicity to a complaint from a soldier respecting the amount of petty larceny perpetrated in an Infantry battalion in India. Here is an extract from an officer's letter which throws further light on this subject:—

> If I might suggest an opening for your further influence, I would beg you to continue to point out the enormous number of desertions and thefts among soldiers. Men are allowed to enlist into the Army with practically no character at all. The result is that a young blackguard enlists for a week, gets a free kit, value perhaps £3 to £5, and so many days' good grub; then sells the kit, and moves on to the next military station. The number of petty barrack-room thefts is positively appalling. A man dare not leave any article of property lying about. Even a trifle like a forage cap, if left unguarded, will have the chin-strap stolen, the cap itself being numbered. Not a day passes without something disappearing, and to detect the thief, or rather to conclusively prove his guilt, seems impossible.

This is written by an officer in the Royal Artillery. I trust that his experience is a little exceptional. When, however, we see, as we not infrequently do, magistrates and police officers recommending men who have fallen into the clutches of the law to take an early opportunity of enlisting, it is not surprising that dishonesty should be prevalent in the ranks.

Why should men be enlisted into the Army, as the writer of the above puts it, "practically with no character at all"? Only the other day I was told that, at any rate in the north of England, no Militia recruit is accepted until his character has been investigated and reported upon by the police. If I were to suggest that the same rule should be applied to the Army, I suppose it would be answered that the difficulty of obtaining recruits is great enough already, without aggravating it by requiring a character qualification. It occurs to me, however, that the fact that recruits are accepted in this indiscriminate way may in itself operate as a check on recruiting, for it undoubtedly tends to keep really respectable lads out of the Army.

The private soldier who wrote to me on this subject the other day, remarked that few lads of decent character know what class of men they will have to associate with until they get into the Army, and that many of them, when enlighted by experience, take the earliest opportunity of leaving for that reason. When I hear of recruits being rejected because they have one or two decayed teeth, I cannot help thinking that it might be to the interest of the Service if an equal amount of care were paid to blemishes on their moral character.

I do not mean, of course, that you should only enlist the goody-goody. Heaven forbid! I have not forgotten Lord Charles Beresford's scallywag, and I am not going to suggest that a boy who has robbed an orchard or a hen-roost may not make as good and honourable a soldier as the country could wish for. But between Lord Charles Beresford's scallywag and the type of irreclaimable blackguard described by the officer whom I have just quoted, there is all the difference in life. It ought not to be impossible to keep the one and yet reject the other.

A table was given in TRUTH a week or two back showing the amount to which a Militia officer is out of pocket on his training, the total coming to £16 2s. 7½d. for twenty-seven days. It has been pointed out to me that there is something fallacious about these figures, which I confess I overlooked in publishing my Militia friend's letter. A Militia officer has to live at his own expense during the eleven months in the year when he is not in training, and he could hardly do this at the rate of £16 2s. 7½d. for twenty-seven days, including food, wine, lodging, washing, two menservants, and a horse. His Militia training, therefore, ought to save him something in pocket at the same time that it affords him a month's change of air and occupation, for which most men would be prepared to pay something extra. This seems a reasonable view of the case, which, I presume, most Militia officers will accept.

I have also been favoured with a curious explanation of the dearth of officers in Lancashire Militia regiments, to which attention was called in TRUTH the other day. In bygone days there was a very hostile feeling between the commercial and manufacturing plutocracy of Lancashire and the local military element, and my informant states that traces of the feeling still survive, and that there is a great absence of hospitality to officers on the part of the

CHALLIS'S ROYAL HOTEL, Rupert-street, Piccadilly-circus.—The new Louis XV. Dining-room now open for Luncheons and Dinners. Table d'Hôte Luncheon, 2/-, from 12.30 to 3 p.m.; Table d'Hôte Dinner, 3/6, from 6.30 to 9 p.m., served at separate tables. Open to non-residents.

"KRONENQUELLE" WATER.—The famous specific against GOUT, RHEUMATISM, and DIABETES. Prices: 1 dozen bottles, 10/6; original cases of 50 bottles, 40/-.—Sole Importers, W. SCHACHT & Co., 26, Finsbury-pavement, London, E.C. Pamphlet by eminent medical specialists post free on application.

wealthy manufacturing people who occupy houses in the county. The consequence is that Lancashire men with a taste for soldiering join southern Militia regiments, while the southerners who join Lancashire regiments, finding themselves cold-shouldered, do not encourage their friends in the south to follow their example. My correspondent asserts that the majority of officers in the Lancashire Militia battalions have usually been southern men, who have strayed in more or less by accident, and that officers from Lancashire are mostly to be found in the southern counties. If this be true, I suppose it is a survival from the long bygone time when Manchester was the headquarters of peace-at-any-price. Now that Lancashire is the stronghold of Toryism—not to say Jingoism—we may hope to see a development of martial instinct among the manufacturing and trading classes.

I have no doubt that one of my Militia correspondents is right when he says that the strength and efficiency of a Militia regiment depend primarily upon the Commanding Officer, and that a C.O. can never keep his regiment up to the mark unless he is a local man, spending the best part of his time in the county. This was just the point to which I desired to direct attention in my first article on the numerical weakness of the Militia. When you see two county regiments side by side, one up to its full strength both in officers and men, and the other several hundred short, the cause must be looked for entirely in the regiment itself, and *primâ facie* the responsibility must rest on the Colonel. It seems to me that this is the point to which attention should be directed at the War Office and that where a regiment falls conspicuously below its proper strength the experiment of finding a new C.O. should be tried. One of my correspondents refers to a regiment which was in first-rate trim under a late Colonel, a local man, but which has now become "an Adjutant's Regiment," with results which are conspicuously unsatisfactory, and he goes on to refer to another battalion which threatens to become "a Sergeant-Majors' Regiment." I fancy there are in the Militia a good many Adjutants' Regiments and Sergeant-Majors' regiments. The aim of the War Office should be to convert them all into Colonels' Regiments.

Mr. Brodrick confided to a questioner in Parliament last week that the War Office has under consideration the desirability of taking steps to prevent any future buying and selling of Volunteer colonelcies. This was apropos of a recent notorious case, which has been more than once referred to in TRUTH. The best way to stop such practices would be for the War Office to provide the funds which at present have to come out of the pockets of officers. As has been fully proved by at least one recent case, the War Office itself imposes a cash qualification for commissions by refusing to do its duty in regard to the financing of Volunteer regiments, and leaving officers either to supply the deficiency themselves, or let their regiments go to the dogs. Let the War Office relieve Volunteer officers of this burden, and we shall hear no more of wealthy men being smuggled into honorary colonelcies merely for the sake of their contributions to the regimental funds.

It seems doubtful whether jobbery and personal favouritism have ever been more rampant and undisguised than under the present régime at the War Office. Only in August last I called attention to a rank job in the appointment of Colonel Hutchinson, R.A., as Deputy-Adjutant-General at Headquarters, to qualify him for which appointment he was made a temporary Major-General, though there were several Major-Generals with infinitely superior claims to employment. This job has now been aggravated by the promotion of the same officer to Major-General, the senior Artillery Colonel (Colonel Holley) being superseded in order to carry the transaction into effect. While Major-General Hutchinson has absolutely no war service, Colonel Holley in 1884 commanded a battery in action in the Soudan, was mentioned in despatches, and was given a step of rank for his services. He is well known as a most capable and energetic officer. These, however, are not the qualifications which commend themselves to the present rulers of the Army.

I heard the other day incidentally from a Marine officer abroad that a recent Admiralty circular has redressed a long-standing grievance of officers of the Royal Marines. Majors R.M. are now placed on the same footing as Majors in the Army in that they receive the higher rate of pay at 16s. a day after two years' service, instead of after three years' service as heretofore. It is noteworthy that this is one of the points which were brought before the First Lord by Major Brittan, and doubtless many of my readers will remember that Major Brittan fell into disgrace and was heavily punished by the Admiralty in consequence of making this, among other representations. It is highly interesting, therefore, to note that within two years of Major Brittan's punishment one of the points for which he contended has been conceded. As a matter of fact, it was really conceded in less time than that, for the concession was promised in the Navy Estimates last year, and the Admiralty circular on the subject was approved by an Order in Council of August 3 last, although not actually issued from the Admiralty till a few weeks back.

In this connection I note that Mr. Goschen was questioned by Sir John Colomb the other day respecting another anomaly, against which Major Brittan had protested—namely, the rule which places any Marine officer, of whatever seniority, when landed for shore operations,

WHITEHALL COURT, S.W.:—To Let, Bachelor and other Suites. Electric Light, Service, Bath-rooms. Meals in public or tenants own rooms.—Apply, Manager.

THE HOTEL CECIL RESTAURANT.—Orchestra daily during Luncheon, Dinner, and Supper. M. François, Chef de Restaurant, from the Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo.

under the command of any Naval officer, however junior, landed at the same time. Sir John Colomb's question suggested that Regulations should be issued to place operations on shore under the command of officers who are specially trained for that purpose. The only answer he got, however, was that "the Board does not propose to issue any Regulations." Of course the Board does not, and never will until the Royal Marines are represented as they ought to be at the headquarters of the Navy.

Mr. Goschen went on to say on this occasion that, "the responsibility of making arrangements for the successful accomplishment of any operations they may be directed to undertake must necessarily be left to the Commanders-in-Chief, or senior officers in command." Mr. Goschen must surely know that this is not the point. The question is whether officers who are specially trained to conduct land operations should, in conducting such operations, be placed under the authority and control of officers who have had no such training. The present state of things is an absurdity on the face of it, and would not be tolerated for a moment, but for the fact that the Service is entirely ruled by Naval officers who are jealous of the Marines, and lose no opportunity of sitting upon them.

I am glad to hear that since attention was called to the matter in TRUTH of the 19th ult., a marquee has been erected for the purpose of a library and recreation-room for the men of the 2nd Leicestershire Regiment at Kilworth. I congratulate the authority responsible, whoever he may be, on this prompt response to my remarks, but at the same time the fact remains that the regiment was under canvas from April 30 until May 24 without any convenience of this kind for the benefit of the men, although the needs of the officers and N.C.O.s have been properly looked after from the first. This ought not to be.

Owing to the Whitsuntide holidays, I am compelled to hold over a large mass of Army correspondence for future treatment. Here, however, are just a couple of little matters that will be out of date next week:—

2nd Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment, Aldershot.—There is a regulation to the effect that orderly-room sergeants shall only be promoted to the rank of colour-sergeant after serving three years in the rank of sergeant. A sergeant of this battalion, however, a man who joined the battalion after purchasing his discharge from another, was only promoted sergeant in November last, and has been employed in the orderly-room ever since he joined, has just been promoted to colour-sergeant and appointed on the same day orderly-room sergeant, passing over the heads of about twenty sergeants senior to himself. Surely this is not in accordance with the regulations, and, in any case, it would seem to show very unfair favouritism.

No. 1 Company, Medical Staff Corps, Aldershot.—The men of this company appear to have been the only men in camp who got nothing in the shape of a holiday to celebrate the Queen's Birthday. They were kept on duty at the Cambridge Hospital till 5 p.m., without any visible reason for it except the personal fancy of the sergeant-major. On occasions of this kind should there not be one rule for all branches of the Service?

In a recent letter from India I am told that the prejudice against admitting soldiers in uniform to the better-class hotels and restaurants is even stronger there than it is at home. The writer states as an example that one hot afternoon he saw a soldier come into the bar of the York Hotel at Calcutta and ask for a drink, which was refused. The man then asked if he might have a glass of water, and this also was refused. There is, as my correspondent points out, no difficulty in the way of soldiers being served with any amount of poisonous liquor in drink shops kept by natives, and they are merely driven to these places by refusing them refreshments in decent licensed houses. In India, where the military element is so much more powerful and influential than in England, there ought to be no difficulty in impressing this consideration upon the licensing authorities, and bringing pressure through them upon the publicans.

The Mediterranean Squadron has left Malta for a cruise in the Levant, and will be away until the middle of July There are only five battleships with the squadron, so that the fleet evolutions during this cruise are likely to be on a very limited scale, and there cannot be much battle training. There are not even any heavy cruisers, which might replace battleships in fleet manœuvres.

Pretty nearly every one nowadays regards himself as a strategist and an expert in naval matters. I do not so regard myself, nor do I accept the amateur strategists and experts around me at their own valuation. But to the strategy-less and in-expert mind, one or two things occur in view of the operations of the Spanish and American navies. Quality rather than quantity of ships must win the day in a naval encounter. One ship, equipped with the strongest armour and the most powerful guns, can not only bid defiance to a dozen less strongly armoured and less powerful when it comes to a fight, but destroy them; and one ship that can steam faster than others can choose when and where the fight is to take place. The only qualification to these propositions is that possibly the big ship can be blown up by a torpedo launched from a boat. This is the risk that has to be run. It may be that science will find means to hinder the torpedo boat blowing up the ship of war; it may be that it will render the ship of war as little able to defend itself against the boat as a whale is to escape from a swordfish. The whole naval art is reduced to a question of having the best scientific machines of attack and defence. But unfortunately every year some new machine is discovered which renders all existing machines practically as useless as Noah's Ark would be against a storm in the Atlantic. One thing alone is certain—these naval machines require coal, and therefore if any naval Power hopes to hold its own on the ocean, it must have coaling stations well distributed over the globe.

I have been asked to ventilate a queer grievance from Haulbowline Island. The island is divided into the

FASHIONABLE STATIONERY.—LATEST DESIGNS.—Invitation Cards, Ball Programmes, Menus, Visiting Cards, &c.—PARKINS & GOTTO, Court Stationers, Oxford-street, London, W. Patterns free.

Ordnance side and the Naval side, with a gate leading from one department to the other. Lately a regulation has been issued that none of the Naval people are to enter the Ordnance side, and *vice versâ*, and a lock has been placed on the gate, with policemen on duty to see that each department keeps to its own side. This proceeding has caused much inconvenience on both sides, and as the ukase is understood to have been issued by the naval storekeeper on his own sole responsibility, the inconvenience is accompanied by a good deal of irritation.

The Postmaster-General will have to face a serious drop in his revenue when the law puts a stop—as I hope it will do—to the pernicious enterprise of the circularising usurers. The aggregate expenditure of these harpies on stationery and stamps must be something enormous, judging from the volume in which their rejected addresses continue to pour into this office. As an instance of their activity, one gentleman mentions that, having lately, upon his marriage, executed and registered a settlement of property in favour of his wife, he was, within a day or two, besieged with offers of financial assistance from about fifty money-lenders or touts. There is, however, nothing surprising in the fact that these vultures swoop down upon a newly-married man. Nowadays they gather together in the same way at a birth or a funeral, or any other event which appears likely to afford an opening for business. From the cradle to the grave every likely victim is pursued by these birds of prey.

In the way of impudence I have not come across anything lately to beat an exploit of S. Albert, of 47, Albemarle-street, W. This individual had the assurance to send his circular to a young man, addressed to the care of his father at the latter's club. But young men whose names figure in "Burke" or the "Landed Gentry"—particularly those who have just come of age—have always been the sort of pigeons whom Albert prefers to pluck, or, more correctly, to have a hand in plucking. As a matter of fact, he is not a money-lender himself, but a mere tout. He is, or was, chief jackal to a well-known usurer named Henry Jacobs, the father of the man "Jay" (otherwise "Jacobs") who was examined before the Parliamentary Committee.

A word of warning to people who think they will score off Isaac Gordon, otherwise James W. Ryland, of 6, Livery-street, Birmingham (and other aliases and addresses too numerous to mention), by sending back his circulars with more or less uncomplimentary remarks in unstamped envelopes. Isaac is too sharp to be caught in that way. He simply refuses to take in the unstamped letter, and if there is any address inside, it is returned through the Dead Letter Office to the sender, who has to pay a fee of twopence before he can ascertain what letter it is. By the way, as an illustration of the persistence with which Gordon pesters people with his attentions, a correspondent states that within a recent period this rascal, under his alias of "Robert Dean," of 99, Withington-grove, Manchester, has sent him no fewer than five different circulars.

As a postal pest, the racing tipster makes a good second to the money-lender's tout, and in the former case, as in the latter, a considerable section of the public seems to consider it a matter of duty to send the circulars to Carteret-street, with indignant letters about the gentry from whom they emanate. I should like to point out that it would be at once simpler and cheaper for the unappreciative recipients to consign such circulars to their own waste-paper baskets. It would, too, be a vast relief to mine, which is always overflowing. As a rule—there are, of course, exceptions—the individual tipster is not worth any special notice, and sensible people do not need to be warned against the fraternity generally. As for those who are foolish enough to listen to the voice of the turf charmer and pay for his prophecies, they gain an experience which should teach them better.

One of the exceptions to the rule has, by the way, just turned up, in the shape of a circular issued by a certain H. Hodges, from Coromandel House, Lovel-road, Winkfield, Berks. This individual introduces himself as "not an ordinary advertising tipster," but a gentleman who, through the loss of "nearly the whole of his fortune," is obliged "to do something to maintain his position." He proceeds to state how he does it:—

> I am a member of the principal London clubs. The stables I am immediately connected with are Hornsby's, at Wantage, Berks; W. G. Stevens', at Compton, Berks; C. Peck's, at Ogbourne, Wilts; and Peace's, at Lambourne. Whenever a horse is running from these particular stables, and they are fancied, I know all about them. . . . . You would be in possession of stable secrets of the greatest importance, comprising the real and final intentions of the interested parties, such as could by no other means be obtained. . . . .

It has struck me that the trainers named might like to hear of Mr. Hodges' pretensions to the possession of their "stable secrets." I dare say the information will astonish as well as interest them.

Not many weeks back, a minor poet, whose lays I am sometimes privileged to publish, foretold, in an inspired vision, various developments of penny-in-the-slot mechanism, including an automatic tipster, which would supply names of winners for every coin placed in the slot. It seems to have been one of those prophecies which owe their success to their being uttered after the event, for I have since heard that automatic racing-tip machines have been on the streets for a long time past. On learning this, I sent one of my staff to invest a few coppers for me in selections for events at Epsom. We were too late for the

TRAINS DE LUXE.—LUCHON EXPRESS, every Tuesday and Thursday, direct to Luchon. ENGADINE EXPRESS, to Coire and Lucerne. CARLSBAD EXPRESS, daily to Bayreuth, Carlsbad, &c. Tickets and all particulars from INTERNATIONAL SLEEPING CAR Co., 14, Cockspur-street, London, S.W.

DUYSEN PIANOS are the most superb of all modern Instruments. They stand absolutely unrivalled for beauty of tone, touch, & finish. A consummate success in small grands.—LLOYD'S, 24, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, W.

Derby, but we got a pennyworth for the day following with these results: One winner (at 13 to 8), one second, one third (at 6 to 5 *on*), one loser, and two non-starters. You might spend a good deal more than a penny on tips and do worse than this. But heaven forbid that I should offer it as a sample of the penny-in-the-slot tipster's usual form.

That the "Queer Stories" in TRUTH are popular, I have long known; but never till this last week had I the slightest idea of the critical acumen with which they are studied by all classes. Last week's story had reference to a bygone Derby, and in it was mentioned the vintage of champagne which a party were drinking. About twenty of my contemporaries in the Press, and some scores of readers of TRUTH, have discovered with immense delight that at the Derby of 1877, "the Derby Devils" were drinking 1884 Bollinger. Everybody wants to know how they did it. Well, everybody who goes to a race meeting is a prophet; and I suppose these festive devils, being connoisseurs, foresaw what a good vintage there was going to be in 1884 and made good use of this knowledge. There is another explanation, comparatively prosaic, which does not seem to have occurred to anybody. It is that the author wrote "'64," and that in the vicissitudes of printing and editing the figures got altered.

The neighbourhood known as Child's Hill, Hendon, bears a painfully inappropriate name. It would be more accurately called Child's Grave, for it has an infant mortality which has now reached the appalling rate of 341 per 1,000, whereas in Hendon itself the infant mortality is only 82 per 1,000. The population of Child's Hill is almost entirely of a working-class character, and in his report to the District Council the Medical Officer partly attributes the high infant mortality to the overcrowding which occurs, owing to the insufficiency of the house accommodation. The state of things which causes this frightful massacre of innocents should surely be the subject of a public inquiry, with a view to drastic measures for its abatement.

Many lawyers object strongly to any alteration of the present limit of County Court jurisdiction, and in doing so they are not by any means defending the interests of their own profession only. The County Court is primarily an instrument for the recovery of small debts and the summary determination of small disputes, and every attempt to convert it into a local branch of the High Court must impair its usefulness for its primary purpose. A barrister writes on this point:—

> The result of sending big cases to the County Court, as shown already by the Employers' Liability cases tried there, is this: A big case is called on, with counsel on both sides, expert witnesses, and all the usual paraphernalia. Result: All the small cases are adjourned to next Court day, with the usual disastrous consequences of costs and delay to all parties concerned. You have repeatedly commented on the block of business in County Courts, particularly Wandsworth. What would it be if really heavy cases were habitually tried in the County Courts? I recollect a recent case, which was really a High Court action, but tried by consent in the County Court. We began at 11 a.m. and went on till 7 p.m. The consequence was that all the little disputes were adjourned to next Court day, which was, perhaps, a month distant. The *summum bonum* is to get rid of the small cases in the High Court, not to send big ones into the County Court.

Many amazing replies have at different times been put into the mouths of Ministers when information has been sought through the House of Commons; but I doubt whether a more astonishing utterance has ever been made than that which the Home Secretary made last week in reply to a question by Mr. Lough, M.P. Mr. Lough asked whether Mr. Bartle, storekeeper at Leeds Gaol, was recommended by the Commissioners of Prisons for promotion to Deputy-Governor on the ground of opening up a fresh channel of promotion for members of the clerical staff, and whether any other promotions of members of that staff to the rank of Deputy-Governor had been made. To this Sir Matthew White-Ridley replied as follows:—

> Yes, the promotion was made on the grounds stated, and nine similar promotions have since been made.

Mr. Bartle was promoted in May, 1895. Nine Deputy-Governorships have since been filled up; but how far they can be described as "similar promotions" the following list will show:—

1. Major Campbell (Army).
2. Mr. Farewell (Colonial Service).
3. Mr. Mitchell Innes (Colonial Service).
4. Captain Farrant (Army).
5. Mr. Basil Thompson (son of late Archbishop of York).
6. Mr. Northey (Colonial Service).
7. Major Dundas (Army).
8. Captain Guyon (Army).
9. Major Marryat (Army).

On reflection, I should think that Sir Matthew White-Ridley will feel it desirable to interrogate the subordinate functionary who informed him that nine similar promotions to Mr. Bartle's have since been made.

It is not often that a magistrate lays himself open to criticism on the score of undue leniency in dealing with an offence against property. The Cardiff Stipendiary, however, certainly seems to have done this in a recent case. The defendant, Mr. John Storrie, is described as "the well-known local sage and antiquary," and in his methods of interfering with a neighbour's business he is decidedly antiquated, if not sagacious. Mr. Storrie objected to the proposed establishment of a club next door to his own house, and by way of enforcing his objection he tore down some woodwork at the front of the premises. This brought him a solicitor's letter, to which he replied by taking a hammer and smashing the plate-glass window of the intended club. The damage was estimated by the owner at £9, and if it had been committed by a local working man in a drunken freak the stipendiary would probably have sent him to prison. The "local sage," however, was let off with the payment of £2 15s. damages and a fine of one shilling—a penalty which, in view of the deliberate nature of the offence, was preposterously inadequate.

The Maximum of Effect at the Minimum of Cost.—An Object Lesson in Decorating and Furnishing can be obtained by inspecting Messrs. WARING'S Suites of furnished rooms at 175-181, Oxford-st. W.

SURPLICE SHIRTS for evening wear, with pique fronts, 9/6, 10/6 each, made to measure.—SAMPSON & Co., Shirt Tailors, 268, 270, Oxford-street, London, W. Price lists forwarded.

It will be seen from my Legal Pillory that penalties for offences of violence and cruelty have ruled exceptionally low during the past week. At Halesowen a wife can be beaten for the modest fee of 18s., and at Spittlegate the same pastime can be indulged in absolutely free of expense, the defendant being merely bound over to keep the peace. The Newbury Bench charge 25s. for what they themselves characterise as a very serious assault; at St. Helen's the cost of a kicking outrage, in which the complainant's shoulder was fractured, is only 20s.; and at Bolton 10s. is the ridiculously cheap price asked for inflicting five wounds on a man's head, one of them a gash six inches long. As for cases of cruelty to animals, 10s. will pay for starving a calf at Newark, and £1 for deliberately burying a pig alive at Llanfyllin, or working a horse to death at Winchester. On the other hand, very much heavier pecuniary penalties are exacted for the simplest offences against the Game Laws, while sentences of hard labour are mercilessly inflicted for acts of vagrancy or trumpery little thefts:—

Halesowen Police-court. Before Messrs. H. Howard and A. H. Wiggin. George Hackett, charged with an aggravated assault upon his wife. He struck her several blows on the face and head, and he had frequently ill-treated her. Fined 18s., including costs.

Newbury County Police-court. Before Messrs. A. R. Tull, A. Southby, A. J. Bingham, and other magistrates. Five men named Rosier, Shuttle, Crook, Taylor, and Hearne, charged with assaulting Charles Rodd. The defendants, who were drunk, committed a brutal and unprovoked assault upon complainant. The Chairman said it was a very serious case. Fined 25s. each, including costs.

Newark County Police-court. Before Colonel Craig, Dr. Broadbent, and Mr. J. Hole. Edward Smith, charged with illtreating a calf by keeping it in an outhouse for a week without food. When found the animal was still alive though very thin and emaciated. Fined 10s.

Bolton Borough Police-court. Before Dr. Livy and Mr. E. P. Piller. Francis Patterson, charged with occasioning actual bodily harm to Stonewall Jackson. Defendant struck complainant on the head with a glass, causing a gash six inches long and extending to the bone. There were five other wounds. The Bench reduced the charge to one of common assault and fined defendant 10s. and costs.

Spittlegate Police-court. Before Mr. G. Neville, Major Longstaffe, Colonel Parker, and other magistrates. Henry Collin charged with assaulting his wife. It was stated that he had several times seriously assaulted her, and that on the last occasion he struck her a violent blow, knocked her down and attempted to strangle her. He had previously been bound over to keep the peace. The magistrates now again bound him over.

Oundle Police-court. Before Messrs. Bigge, Leaton, and Capron. George Hull and Frederick Hull, charged with trespassing in search of game. Frederick fined £1 16s.; George, £3 6s., or in default a month each.

Dunmow Petty Sessions. Before the Rev. E. F. Gepp, Messrs. E. T. Foakes, and J. B. Frankham. Arthur Thorogood, labourer, charged with taking seven partridges' eggs. Fined £2 7s. 6d. The defendant said he had no money. The Chairman: Then you must go to hard labour for a month.

East Grinstead Police-court. Before Mr. C. H. Everard. Wm. Edward Mitchell, charged with lodging in the open air and being without visible means of subsistence. Four days.

Bedford Divisional Petty Sessions. Before Major Higgins and other Magistrates. Henry Crisp, charged with stealing twenty hens' and ducks' eggs. Three months.

Middlesex County Sessions. Wm. Temple, charged with stealing a fowl at Tottenham. Twelve months.

Holt Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. E. Bowyer Sparke, C. W. H. Cozens-Hardy, J. H. Tooke, C. Temple Lynes, and Sir A. Jodrell. John Nurse, labourer, charged with taking partridge eggs; and Freeman Large charged with aiding and abetting him. Nurse fined £5; Large £3 5s., or twenty-eight days each.

Bridlington Police-court. Before Mr. R. Medforth. John Cameron, charged with begging. Fourteen days.

Llanfyllin Petty Sessions. Edward Owen pleaded guilty to a charge of cruelty to a pig. He was employed to kill and bury a pig infected with swine fever, but, instead of first killing the animal, he buried it alive. Fined £1 and costs.

Winchester City Police-court. Before the Mayor, Colonel F. A. Dickins, Messrs. W. H. Jacob and S. H. Frampton. Frank Polkinghorne, charged with causing a horse to be worked while in an unfit state. Owing to the bad condition of its mouth, the horse had got into a wretched, starved condition, and defendant received several warnings respecting it. He persisted in working the animal, and at last it fell down dead in the road. Fined £1 and costs.

St. Helen's Police-court. Wm. Simms and Joseph Simms, charged with assaulting Peter White. They knocked him down and kicked him so badly that he had to be carried into his house. His shoulder was fractured, one eye nearly knocked out, and four of his teeth broken. Fined 20s. each and costs.

Tipton Police-court. Jane Goode, Hannah Birch, and Charlotte Attewell, charged with stealing coal, value tenpence, from a canal boat. One month.

Wolverhampton Borough Police-court. Before Mr. A. M'Bean and other Justices. Marian Hill Jameson, charged with stealing shoes from a shop-door. One month.

Totnes County Police-court. Before Messrs. F. Cornish-Bowden and B. W. Hayman. Thomas Salsby, charged with damaging a fence to the amount of 2s. 6d. Fined £1 15s., and in default of payment committed for fourteen days.

Rotherham Police-court. Wm. Sunman and George Buckle, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found on the highway in possession of a couple of rabbits and poaching implements. Buckle fined 20s. and costs; Sunman, £5 and costs.

Leeds Police-court. Before the Stipendiary. Harry Almond and his wife, charged with neglecting their two sons, aged five and seven years respectively. The children were badly neglected, and more than once locked out of the house and left to wander about the streets all night. Bound over.

There is a philanthropist of the first water, Claud Byng by name, at Victoria-grove, Folkestone. He is the lucky discoverer of an infallible method of amassing wealth; but instead of keeping it to himself, as a more selfish man would do, he is eager to divide his good fortune with others. About a month ago he advertised as follows in the *Daily Telegraph*, the favourite medium for such benevolent offers:—

Immediate. Partner wanted at once (active or sleeping). £50 or upwards. Join gentleman with similar amount. £100 turned into over £1,300 monthly. Proof afforded. Also suit ladies.—Z., 1, Victoria-grove, Folkestone.

It will hardly surprise my readers to learn that this gold mine was to be worked at a gaming table. To a request for further particulars, Mr. Byng (otherwise "Z") replied that for the previous month he had been playing roulette at the Kursaal Private Club at Ostend, "both his wife and himself being members." There he had hit upon "a wonderful system," under which losing was an impossibility, and the profits were enormous. These profits were, indeed, under-estimated in his advertisement, for he had proved by subsequent calculations that "from March 26 to April 24 he could have turned £100 into £2,279 10s." In case his correspondent might be inclined to hesitate and lose his chance, Mr. Byng thoughtfully added:—

I have a number of likely answers, so that if you wish to share in this "El Dorado" it must be settled without delay.

And by way of inspiring confidence, he appended to his

Subscriptions greatly needed by The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—2,876 convictions this year; 7,545 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

H. L. Savory & Co.'s Cigarettes.—By Special Warrants of Appointments to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, H.S.H. the Duke of Teck, and the Houses of Lords and Commons. To be obtained of all the leading Houses in the trade.—Sole address, 59, Piccadilly, London, W. Specimen case of samples, containing all sizes, 2s. 6d., with price list.

name the letters "R.A.M.," and enclosed the programme of a sacred concert he had given.

This first seductive proposal not being accepted or even acknowledged, Mr. Byng, a few days later, tried another upon the same party. If the latter did not care to invest so much as £50 or £100, would he be disposed to take one or more £5 shares in a syndicate, Mr. Byng "paying back out of profits £25 for each £5"? Or would he be willing to advance Mr. Byng a loan of £50 or £100 at 60 per cent. per annum on the security of the copyrights and plates of "five splendid and valuable popular songs"? The gentleman thus addressed failed to swallow even this tempting bait, and no further attempt has been made to hook him. Last week, however, Mr. Byng blossomed forth in the *D.T.* with the following more flowery advertisement :—

A Klondike.—Thousands risk their lives on a fruitless errand to Klondike or invest in a Company which pays no dividend. Why do either when a fortune lays at your very door? Professional gentleman has solved a problem which has hitherto been deemed an impossibility; nothing to do with turf or stocks. People may be sceptical, but it can be proved a positive fact that a capital of £200 would have made . . . . £4,396 clear profit in less than a month, and this can be done again and infinitely more. Wanted to form syndicate, capital £200 to £7,000 in £1 shares; £100 already subscribed. Honest treatment absolutely guaranteed. . . . . Only want your support to make you wealthy.—Z., 1, Victoria-grove, Folkestone.

Mr. Byng's scheme, it will be observed, is extremely expansive. Originally he wanted one partner and a capital of £100. He has obtained them—at least he says so—and he might now be piling up riches beyond the dreams of avarice. Yet so anxious is he to benefit his fellow-men that he now invites 7,000 of them to put down £7,000 and share in his "El Dorado." To my mind it would be a shame to take advantage of his good nature—indeed, I shall think very poorly of anybody who does so.

There is a newcomer among West End Shylocks—his quarters are in Suffolk-street—who baits his hook with the attractive announcement that "the terms do not exceed 10 per cent. per annum (not per month)." The parenthesis is a nasty cut at some rival practitioners, but I would not advise anybody to place too much faith in the statement which precedes it. The would-be borrower who expects to get money from this individual at 10 per cent. will, I suspect, be egregiously disappointed.

Judging from the number of Ernest Day's circulars flying about, this individual still finds customers for the valuable family portraits of which he continues to come into possession through the death of a relative. The customers, however, must be extremely simple people, independently of the fact that they are not readers of Truth, for it is quite obvious in Day's recent letters that the name of the portrait and the references to the person depicted are written in at a later date than the body of the letter, which should be a sufficient indication to any one who can read between the lines that the letters are written in bulk and the names filled in afterwards, as occasion arises, to fit each particular portrait. Ernest Day has now been carrying on this game for the last six or eight years, and it is indeed a marvellous thing that he has not yet exhausted either the supply of old prints or the supply of fools to purchase them.

It does not appear to be generally understood that "Bernard Beaumont, Author," who is soliciting orders for a "New high-class County Work" from an address at Kingston-on-Thames, is our old friend Manning Press, author of so many high-class county works that have been in bygone times noticed in Truth. I mention this in order to preclude any doubt on the point in future. Press, if I remember rightly, changed his name in consequence of the attention he received in these columns—a compliment which I much appreciate, but which only inspires me with a desire to demolish "Bernard Beaumont" as effectually as I have demolished Manning Press.

This worthy has always maintained that his method of bookmaking is a perfectly legitimate one. If it is, nothing that has ever been said in Truth can ever do him the slightest harm, for I have always stated with the most scrupulous accuracy that his aim is to induce nobodies to imagine themselves somebodies by providing them with niches in his biographical temple at so many guineas per head. By advertising this fact I should have thought that I was helping to find him customers. Yet, instead of thanking me, he responds by changing his name. Surely this is an admission that too much publicity does not suit his particular line of business.

Mrs. and Miss Eyres, of Lincoln, whose letters soliciting orders for widows' mourning were referred to in a recent issue of Truth, are fortunate in possessing friends in different parts of the country who have come forward to answer for the genuineness of their case and the truthfulness of their statements. In the face of what they say, I have no desire to comment further on the widows' mourning business; but if anything would lead me to do so, it is a letter that I have had from one indiscreet friend of the family, who, after reminding me of some information which I am said to have received two years ago, proceeds to lecture me in this strain :—

Colonel Eyres did not leave his wife and children unprovided for. It was Colonel Eyres' son who lost all his money and made an improvident marriage, and since his death his wife has been trying to earn an honest living by making widows' collars and cuffs. It is a perfectly genuine case; and it is very hard on her that you should try to injure her honest endeavours to keep a home for herself and children. I hope you will not interfere any further in this business.

If I do not "interfere any further in this business" it will only be because I am too tender-hearted to deal out justice impartially. It is quite certain that the people

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who seize on announcements in the *Times* as a pretext for forwarding samples of goods, or begging-letters, are an intolerable nuisance, and the nuisance is in no way mitigated by the fact that the people who act so are "genuine cases." It is equally certain that if every one endeavouring to make an honest living were to adopt Mrs. Eyres' tactics, life would soon become intolerable for the rest of us, unless Parliament should legislate for the suppression of such nuisances. I have always waged war on this method of getting "an honest living," and if, out of mere sentimental consideration, I make an exception in favour of Mrs. Eyres, people will say that I am as bad as the Great Unpaid, who have one law for one class and another for another. It seems to me a pity that the many people who take an interest in this good lady do not start her in business in some place where she can "earn an honest living" on the same lines as any other tradeswoman.

As was only to be expected, the revolver craze is gradually spreading from London and the larger towns to the more rural districts. For the matter of that, the ways of boys are very much the same all the country through, and the possession of a sword or a pistol confers a temporary distinction upon the proprietor, which renders him at once the envy and admiration of his fellows. It has come to the knowledge of the Norfolk magistrates that an advertising firm are distributing circulars broadcast offering boys revolvers for the sum of three shillings and sixpence each. The result, it is needless to say, has been that a brisk sale has already been established, and reckless shooting is being carried on in various parts of the county. It is only a matter of time for the extension of this dangerous traffic to every part of the country, more especially if no steps are taken to repress it, and as it is an evil which requires no very elaborate amount of legislation, it surely ought to be dealt with without delay.

It would seem that there is practically no limit to the various directions in which paper is likely to be employed in time to come. An ingenious inventor has recently produced a shoe for horses made from this material. It is to be fitted to the hoof with a strong glue, and it is claimed for it that it will be found much more lasting than the iron article it is intended to replace; whilst its lightness and the absence of all danger from nails in shoeing, will render it, if it proves serviceable in other respects, an inestimable benefit to horses and their owners. Moreover, it is announced that the new underground wires about to be laid from London to Birmingham are to be insulated by means of specially prepared paper, and should this invention answer, another large field for the employment of paper will have been opened up. At this rate, Japan will soon lose its monopoly of paper-made goods.

I suppose that the Home Secretary is making progress with his promised "phossy jaw" prosecution and inquiry, although I have not noticed any visible results yet from his promise on this subject. Assuming, however, that the matter is to be fully investigated, I would call attention to suggestions which I have received from more than one quarter that half the evils of handling phosphorus may be overcome by a thorough ventilation of the rooms where the work is done. Here is a very striking piece of testimony on this point from a working man employed in a match factory at Leeds :—

> I think if all places were properly ventilated there would be no cases of death from phossy jaw, or they would be very rare. I have worked at Seanor & Sons for thirty-five years, and I have never been under the doctor for one week, that is, for bodily sickness, and I might say there has never been a case of phossy jaw at these works. There is one woman that works with me who has been filling boxes of matches for twenty-five years which are all mixed with yellow phoss. Nearly all the girls arrange (Qy. average) from eight to ten years, which proves to me that where there is plenty of room for the smell to go away there is not much danger. I should think that I have mixed and dipped tons of yellow phoss, as I have done nothing else for twenty years out of thirty-five that I have worked at these works.

This is the testimony of a practical man, and deserves consideration. If a man can go on working yellow phosphorus at Leeds for twenty or thirty years without injury, there is no reason why the same thing should not be done in London.

The Home Secretary's utterance in Parliament last week on the subject of palmistry is as obscure and incomprehensible as any deliverance of a professor of occult science. According to the official doctrine thus laid down, a palmist—which I suppose includes any fortune-teller—can only be convicted when there is an intention to deceive. On this principle the Home Secretary appears to draw a distinction between the gipsy who tells fortunes for servant-girls and the Bond-street palmist who tells fortunes for the nobility and gentry. The argument would seem to be that the aristocratic professor of occult science does not intend his utterances to be believed, whereas the gipsy is a conscious impostor. More utter rubbish I never heard, and it is astonishing to find it delivered from such a quarter.

All women, whether Duchesses or shop-girls, go to a fortune-teller in precisely the same frame of mind. Very possibly they accept the responses of the oracle with a certain amount of mental reservation; and very possibly the oracle does not expect all his (or her) utterances to be believed implicitly. But to assume that a guinea fee indicates a less fraudulent intention than a sixpenny one, is merely to lay down one law for the rich and another for the poor. Sir Matthew White-Ridley went on to say that "suspicious cases were watched by the police, and whenever there was evidence that fraud or imposition was being practised they prosecuted the offender." If the Home Secretary will kindly explain how a police officer decides for himself that one fortune-teller is a fraud and that another is not, he will confer very valuable information upon the public.

Frances Moore has now on view the latest Models from Paris in Hats, Bonnets, &c. Special and exclusive designs in Toques.—8, Maddox-street, Regent-street, W.

Mortlock's (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "Mortlock's" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

Unless the lesson of the Sierra Leone rebellion is taken to heart at the Colonial Office, it is quite on the cards that we shall shortly be confronted with a similar trouble in the Gold Coast Protectorate. The cause of the mischief, too, will be very much the same in the latter case as in the former. The Government of the colony is proposing to pass a Lands Bill, which fundamentally alters the conditions on which the Protectorate exists, and, moreover, imposes a tax which is sure to be resisted. In justification of this measure, it is said that it is necessary to protect the forests from injury by the reckless felling of timber, and to prevent waste and forest lands and minerals from being improvidently dealt with. The native kings and chiefs admit that some legislation in this direction is desirable; but contend that the Bill goes a long way beyond the requirements of the case.

One portion of the Bill vests in the Governor the ultimate and paramount title to all unoccupied or waste lands, and empowers him to lease or sell them to any person on any terms he pleases. These are lands which have never been ceded to us, which are within the domains of the recognised kings and chiefs, and which in native eyes are their inalienable property. Other parts of the Bill make important changes in regard to the devolution and descent of immovable property, and deal in an iconoclastic spirit with sundry tribal rights and native customs. To clinch these confiscatory and revolutionary proposals, there is, finally, a provision for the establishment of what is called a perpetual quit rent, but what is in effect a land-tax. Such a tax could not be effectively or profitably collected if its collection were opposed, and there is little doubt that it would be opposed in the most vigorous way.

So strong is the native feeling against the Bill, that a number of kings and chiefs of the western province of the Protectorate are this month coming to England to support in person the protests they have already made in a petition asking her Majesty not to sanction the measure. It is understood that they are anxious to come to some reasonable arrangement, and that in the matter of taxation they would not object to contribute to the necessary revenue for the development of the Protectorate if their contribution were levied in the form of a percentage based upon the rentals paid and the value of the services rendered by occupiers and natives within their domains. On the other hand, it is practically certain that if any attempt is made to enforce the Bill in its present form the discontent now smouldering throughout the colony will break out into open rebellion. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Colonial Secretary will give a friendly hearing to his dusky visitors. The little war that we still have on hand in Sierra Leone should be a sufficient warning of the danger of contemptuously disregarding native opinion and gratuitously provoking native resentment.

It is a curious fact that while Dr. Sun Yat Sen has been banished from Hong Kong out of deference to the wishes of the Chinese Government, a committee of refugees from the Philippines has been, according to the statements of the news-agencies, sitting at Hong Kong to organise and direct the insurrection against the Spanish Government in those islands. It is also certain that the Spanish Revolutionary Committee has been acting in concert with the American Admiral. In view of our duties as neutrals, there would seem to be much more reason for interfering with the operations of the Philippine rebels than for persecuting Dr. Sun Yat Sen, whose revolutionary designs were to all appearance of a more or less academic character. Nobody, so far as I know, has ever suggested that an active revolution in China was being fomented in Hong Kong, and the action of the Colonial Government in that case seems to have been a gross violation of our traditional policy towards political refugees, merely for the purpose of obliging the corrupt and rotten Chinese Government. If the Hong Kong authorities can wink at the proceedings of the Philippine Junta, they have not a shadow of justification for their proceedings in Sun Yat Sen's case.

SCRUTATOR.

LEYDS *V.* CHAMBERLAIN.

DR. LEYDS has conclusively shown in his lengthy despatch, that, whether it was wise or not, we deliberately gave up British suzerainty over the Transvaal, by the Convention of 1884. In that year a deputation came to London from the Transvaal, openly and avowedly to induce her Majesty's Government to abrogate the suzerainty asserted in the Convention of 1881. Lord Derby, then Colonial Secretary, met the demand by striking his pen through all allusions or claims to the suzerainty contained in the old Convention, and both Liberal and Conservative Ministers declared that our relations with the Republic were such as this latter Convention established.

Suzerainty is a vague word. The Convention of 1884 specifically lays down the reservations, outside of which the South African Republic is independent. Why, then, raise the question whether suzerainty is a proper definition of the relations established by the Convention? The assertion of suzerainty seems to have been made by Mr. Chamberlain to strengthen his case for a refusal to agree to arbitration in regard to any matters in dispute between us and the Republic. Suzerainty, according to him, vests the interpretation of the Convention with us. But this hardly holds water, in view of the fact that what is called the "Coolie Question," in its relation to the Convention of 1884, was referred to the arbitration of the President of the Orange Free State, the award setting forth in its preamble:

Whereas certain questions have arisen between the Government of the South African Republic and the Government of H.M. the Queen with reference to the fourteenth Article of a certain

Fire Protection on Country Houses.—Merryweathers' system. Economy, convenience, efficiency. Illustrated particulars post free.—Write Merryweathers, 63, Long-acre, London.

Convention entered into in London, February 25, 1884, by the representatives of the said Governments . . . .

After this, if Mr. Chamberlain's argument that suzerainty precludes arbitration be correct, it exposes us to the reply, that the suzerainty has already been admitted not to exist by the fact of arbitration having been already agreed to.

Assuredly if we wish to establish harmonious relations with the South African Republic, it would be well to consent to arbitration whenever we and the Republic differ in respect to the scope and meaning of any Article in the Convention. If one party to a convention may interpret it as he pleases, the Convention, so far as regards the other party, might as well never have existed. We have already done the Transvaal grievous wrong. Mr. Rhodes, the Administrator of Rhodesia, and the Cape Premier, Sir Graham Bower, the Secretary of the High Commissioner, and others for whom we are directly responsible, entered into a conspiracy to subvert the Government of the Republic, and the former induced British officers to join in a raid against that Republic by assuring them that H.M. Government approved of it. When the question how far the Colonial Office was cognisant of this plot was submitted to a Select Committee of the House of Commons, Mr. Chamberlain deliberately suppressed documentary evidence in his possession, which the Solicitor of Mr. Rhodes and of the Chartered Company asserts would have proved such cognisance; and since then Mr. Chamberlain has never ceased to laud Mr. Rhodes, and he has even assented to the Chartered Company replacing that gentleman in the position that he occupied before the raid in Rhodesia. Under these circumstances, to vest in Mr. Chamberlain the right to interpret the Convention between H.M. Government and the Republic is about as fair as it would be to leave this to Mr. Rhodes.

It by no means follows that we ought to consent to submit any issue between us and the Republic to the arbitration of a foreign Power. Against this there are, I think, valid objections. The arbitrators should be the Chief Justices of the two British Colonies and of the two Republics in South Africa, and if three of these Chief Justices cannot agree, the matter in question should be referred to the Committee of the Privy Council. I do not believe that the Transvaal would suffer from the composition of the ultimate Court of Appeal being British, for Judges are seldom actuated by anything beyond the legalities of an issue submitted to them. To refer the question whether the relations existing between us and the Republic constitute a British suzerainty would be to raise an academic issue, serving no useful purpose. Such reference should only take place in respect to specific differences arising from any action on our part or on the part of the Republic, which either party may consider to conflict with the Convention regulating the relations of the two States.

Our aim should be to establish a friendly feeling between us and the Republic. For Mr. Chamberlain to go out of his way to term our relation to the Republic a suzerainty, after Lord Derby had struck the word out of the Convention that regulates this relation, and although the word had never been used after this Convention had been signed and ratified, was a deliberate attempt to wound the feelings of the Boers in a matter more sentimental than practical. President Kruger had got the better of him in their epistolary encounters. He knew that the President plumed himself on having induced Lord Derby to give up the claim of suzerainty. It was because he thought that its reassertion would be specially disagreeable to the President that he reasserted it.

HOTEL ALBEMARLE, Piccadilly, London. Private Suite, Bath, Electric Light, Lift. VERMERSCH, Proprietor. Paris: Imperial Hotel, Champs Elysées. Boulogne S/M: Imperial Pavilion Hotel.

AMERICA AND HER FRIENDS.

Dr. Johnson said that he did not believe that an earthquake had taken place in Lisbon for many months after full details had been given of it in the newspapers. Were the Doctor now living, he would not place implicit faith in the news that is conveyed to us each day in regard to all and everything connected with the Hispano American War. We are treated every morning to the latest information as to what the rival naval commanders have done during the last twenty-four hours, and their most secret intentions in the future, but all this valuable information is usually contradicted the next day, when fresh fictions are vouchsafed to us. One thing alone is certain: if the struggle be fought out to the bitter end, the victory will rest with the Americans, because they are far stronger than the Spaniards.

The relations and sympathies of neutrals towards the belligerents afford a further field for imaginative "facts." As the United States are strong and powerful, the journals of each European Power seek to show, not only that their own nation is animated by the most friendly dispositions towards America, but that other Powers are tainted with Spanish sympathies. Seldom a day passes without our newspapers containing a full and veracious account of French negotiations and intrigues on behalf of Spain, and they contrast this with our warm love and affection for our cousins. The truth is that no European country has meddled in the quarrel, nor is it likely to meddle, for the plain but practical reason that there is nothing to be gained by siding with Spain. With respect to our position, we believe that the sooner Spain is cleared, bag and baggage, out of Cuba, the better it will be for the Cubans in particular, and the cause of humanity in general. We, therefore, heartily wish our cousins success, and speedy success, in their endeavour to attain this end. The vast majority of the people of this country have always been for the maintenance of the most cordial relations with the United States, and they have proved this in past times. But these have not been the views of the classes. The war against American Independence continued long after the people had declared themselves desirous to recognise that independence, and King George III. had to be coerced into submission to the popular will. During the Civil War the people alone prevented the governing classes from dragging us into an alliance with the party of disintegration. Only a year or two ago the outspoken declarations of

the people obliged the present Government to adopt a conciliatory attitude in respect to the Venezuela dispute. The affectionate gush of our "yellow journals" just now is not based on any special love for the United States, but on a desire to secure her alliance, in case they can manage to force us into a war in order to carry out that expansion of Empire which is their craze. What, indeed, Mr. Chamberlain means by an alliance between the two countries to be cemented on some battle-field, he probably hardly knows himself. Where is this Anglo-Saxon battle-field to be? What is to be the "great and noble cause" for which we and the Americans are jointly to fight? Against whom are we to fight? Where does the advantage of the United States come in? Is the alliance to be general? If so, is it to be an offensive and a defensive one? What gain would it be to the United States for us to guarantee to them the integrity of their possessions? No European Power has ever dreamt of endeavouring to assail that integrity. Are the United States prepared, in return, to guarantee to us the integrity of our Asiatic and African dominions, and all further accessions to these dominions that it may please us to make? Does any one in his senses suppose that either the American President or the American Senate would assent to such an alliance? Such suggestions are not within the area of practical politics, they are only put forward as sops to fool the unwary.

What I should like to see is a treaty of arbitration in respect to all disputes that may arise between this country and the United States. This would be worth all the vapid, sentimental, cousinly twaddle that is being aired. If later on there arises some particular issue, which both countries regard as of paramount importance to their well being, and which can only be obtained by a war, it will be time enough to join forces in order to attain it. I confess, however, that I greatly doubt whether there ever will be such an issue, for friendly as we may feel towards the United States, we are entirely at variance in respect to the commercial policy which we consider essential to our welfare. Countries are actuated in their policy by regard for their interests. Our interest in the policy of the United States is to keep on terms of cordial friendship, and if it happens that we do not quite agree upon some matter, to refer the decision to some third party, instead of having recourse to arms. America is now at war with Spain. She has too much self-respect to ask us to come to her aid, not holding Mr. Chamberlain's view that it is consistent with the dignity of a great country to run about, hat in hand, begging and imploring foreign nations to enter into alliances.

The following would be reasonable terms on which to end the war now raging. Cuba should be handed over to the United States, Spain being freed of all guarantee in respect to the Cuban public debt. Spain should be left in possession of Porto Rico and of the Philippines. Each side should pay its own costs. The war was undertaken to free Cuba. That island has been so thoroughly misgoverned by Spain, that she deserves to be deprived of it; but as it belonged to Spain, I hardly think that it would be consistent with fair play to oblige her to pay the cost of depriving her of it, or to punish her by the loss of other territory for not having accepted without a struggle the loss of her most important colony. The United States, having thus acquired Cuba, might deal with it as they please. If wise, they would leave it to the Cubans. This is, however, a matter for their consideration alone.

What I would respectfully impress upon the Americans is, that they will make a terrible mistake if they seize the occasion of this war to acquire territories outside the area of their legitimate influence, such as the Philippine Islands. That they are, like Russia, a self-contained country, is their strength. The whole scheme of American polity would be shattered, were the globe to be dotted over with American islands, neither States nor Territories, held under subjection. In all probability the inhabitants of the Philippines, of Porto Rico, and of Cuba would be considerable gainers by America annexing them; nor do I think that we, or, indeed, any other European Power, would be in any way damnified. But the question to the Americans should be whether they themselves will, on a balance of advantages or disadvantages, profit by the annexation. We used to glory that we were a non-military nation. We have drifted into the position of a nation with larger armaments than any other. No matter what we spend on armaments, we are called on to spend more. We hold a larger portion of the globe than any other nation. So absorbing becomes earth-hunger when once indulged, that we are every year adding new territories to our Empire. And what is the result? All domestic reforms are put aside as unworthy to occupy our Imperial minds. If a poor man asks for bread, he is told joyfully to starve, with the comforting reflection that he is the citizen of an expansive and expanding Empire. It is with us as it is with a silly landowner who allows the tares and weeds to flourish in his fields, and bends all his efforts to his useless rocks and swamps. We who hold to the wise policy of Mr. Gladstone and of other of our departed leaders are sneeringly called "Little Englanders." Be warned, therefore, by the example of this country, my American friends. Be ready, as I know you are, to defend the vast heritage that has accrued to you. But rest satisfied with it. Remain an example to the world that it is possible to be great and prosperous without grabbing, now on one pretext, now on another, territory that is a source of weakness rather than of strength, and without wasting your substance in armaments designed to defend and to increase these unremunerative acquisitions.

MR. ROOKE'S WELSH MUTTON.

On the 12th ult. a paragraph appeared in Truth warning housekeepers and others against an advertisement offering Welsh mutton direct on application to H. A. Rooke, Coed-y-brain Farm, Nannerch, North Wales. In support of the warning, it was mentioned that the housekeeper to a gentleman in Yorkshire sent an order accompanied by a remittance to the said address,

Spa, Belgium.—Summer Season.—Casino, Concerts, Racing, Pigeon Shooting, Theatre. Delightful situation. Excellent Hotels. For details apply to Jules Crehay, Secretary, Casino.

and had been unable to obtain the goods or any answer to subsequent letters—although a previous order had been duly executed. Further, on communicating with the local police, the Yorkshire gentleman was informed by the Superintendent that no such person as H. A. Rooke was to be found at Nannerch, that several other people had been defrauded in the same way, and that the author of the advertisement appeared to reside in Liverpool.

I felt fully justified in publishing this paragraph, having before me the statements of the Yorkshire gentleman whose money had been sent to Mr. Rooke, and also the statement of the police officer in answer to this gentleman's inquiry. However, a week later I received the following letter:—

12, Commerce chambers,
16, Harrington-street,
Liverpool, May 18, 1898.

Sir,—I have been consulted by Mr. H. A. Rook with regard to a paragraph appearing on page 1168 of your issue of 12th inst.

I am informed that the paragraph in question, so far as it reflects upon the character of my client, is entirely untrue and misleading, and my instructions are to ask you for a retraction and apology, or a reference to your solicitors.—Yours respectfully,

Jno. C. Wilson.

The Editor of Truth,
The Editorial Offices,
Carteret-street, Westminster, S.W.

It would be impossible for any newspaper to be carried on for a week, if every statement made in it in good faith and on authentic information were to be contradicted in the next issue, whenever a lawyer made a demand for such contradiction accompanied by a threat of litigation. Moreover, it will be seen that Mr. Wilson's curt epistle is framed in very guarded language. He does not state that the paragraph is wholly untrue, but only that it is untrue and misleading "so far as it reflects upon the character of his client." Yet he demands "a retraction and apology" without limitation or qualification of any kind. Had such a "retraction and apology" been published, it might conceivably have been quite as "untrue and misleading" as the original paragraph, or possibly more so. The facts stated in the paragraph are undoubtedly true. There can be no question that Mr. Rooke's advertisement was answered with the result stated, and that the police were consulted with the result stated. The original statement was, in fact, very much within the truth, for I can now point to upwards of a dozen parties in all parts of the kingdom who have sent money to Mr. Rooke with precisely the same result as the original "gentleman in Yorkshire." No correction, therefore, will convey the whole truth to the public which does not explain precisely the nature of Mr. Rooke's connection with the advertisement, and the reason why persons who have forwarded cash in answer to the advertisement have been unable to obtain either the goods they ordered or a return of the money, or even an answer to letters.

On these grounds, before complying with Mr. Wilson's request, I wrote and requested from him further particulars. I inquired whether I was to understand that he denied the statements of the gentleman in Yorkshire and the Police Superintendent at Holywell; and I told him that if he would furnish me with proofs of the accuracy of such denial, I should then be willing to give publicity to it, as I had certainly no wish to do injustice to his client or any one else. The reply was as follows:—

12, Commerce-chambers,
16, Harrington-street,
Liverpool, May 25, 1898.

Sir,—Referring to your letter of yesterday's date, if you will look at mine of the 18th inst., you will see that my informant was Mr. Rooke himself, whose statements (as far as any criminal intent is concerned) I prefer to those of "a gentleman in Yorkshire" or even a policeman.

As you have neither apologised nor referred me to your solicitor, as requested, and the annoyance caused to my client through your article daily increases, he has commenced proceedings to-day.—Yours respectfully,

Jno. C. Wilson.

This letter, it will be seen, does not carry the matter a step further than the previous communication. Mr. Wilson, of course, believes his client's statements in preference to those of any third party. He is paid to believe them, and, if I understand the etiquette of the profession rightly, he would be guilty of an irregularity if he stated in public that he did not believe them. For this reason, however, Mr. Wilson's belief in his client's statement does not afford a particle of corroboration of the statement itself (whatever it may have been) and cannot possibly be accepted in place of the kind of evidence for which I asked. I cannot help, too, being struck by the fact that Mr. Wilson qualifies his belief in his client by introducing the singular phrase, "as far as criminal intent is concerned." Am I to understand from this that, except in regard to criminal intent, Mr. Wilson would not accept his client's statement against that of two other witnesses? If so, the issue is narrowed very considerably, and comes down to this: that while what "the gentleman in Yorkshire" says may be true and what "the policeman" says may be true, Mr. Wilson will answer for it that his client has no criminal intentions.

I cannot help thinking that Mr. Wilson would have done much better for his client had he accepted my invitation and given me for publication his client's version of the facts, and his explanation of whatever looks awkward in them, instead of refusing both, and taking refuge in the very ambiguous disclaimer, backed by the scarcely less ambiguous remedy of a libel action. I have not accused Mr. Rooke (if that is the correct spelling of his name) of any "criminal intent." I have merely stated facts, and left the public, to whom the advertisements are addressed, to form their own conclusions. If Mr. Rooke is in a position to show that it is a mere accident that money has been received without value being given in return and that inquiries after the advertiser at Nannerch have been unsuccessful, or if he can offer any explanation which puts a different complexion on the facts, all this could have been done at once through the columns of Truth; and the increasing annoyance which, according to Mr. Wilson, his client is experiencing, would have been stopped at once. As it is, Mr. Rooke and I will appear some months hence before a judge and jury in Liverpool or elsewhere; Mr. Rooke will then say, before a very limited audience, what he has to say, and the jury may, or may not, accept his version and explanation of the

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facts. In the meantime, those who are interested in the facts merely know that Mr. Rooke, through his solicitor, asserts the paragraph to be "untrue and misleading," but declines to say what portion of it is untrue, or in what way it is misleading, and prefers the chances of a libel trial in a few months' time to the opportunity that has been offered to him of correcting the mistake at once through the columns of TRUTH. Assuming everything in his favour, and admitting—as I am quite ready to do when reason is shown for it—that Mr. Rooke has been the innocent victim of a mistake, I hardly think he has chosen the best way of vindicating himself.

THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF TESTATORS.

A brief reference was recently made in TRUTH to the testamentary dispositions of the late Rev. E. N. Pochin, a clergyman of the Church of England, who, having for many years led a disreputable life and treated his wife and children vilely, consummated his iniquities by bequeathing the whole of his property, amounting to the considerable sum of £109,000, to a religious society, and leaving his family destitute. It was subsequently pointed out to me by one of my readers that this case exemplifies a very serious defect in the English law with reference to the powers of testators—a defect which probably does not exist in the law of any other civilised country. I have made certain inquiries with a view to verifying this last statement, and I find it perfectly accurate. It seems desirable that public attention should now be further directed to this point, with the view of bringing the English law into harmony with what appears to have been the general rule in civilised countries from the time of the Roman jurists.

Without professing to have exhausted the subject, I find that the power of a testator to bequeath the whole of his possessions away from those *primâ facie* entitled to look to him for support is not recognised in any part of Germany, in France, or, what brings it more closely home to us, north of the Tweed in this island. I think it may almost be taken for granted that no such right is recognised in any country the legal system of which is based upon Roman law, and it certainly would not be recognised in any country in which the legal system was based upon common sense. My personal knowledge of Roman law is a little hazy, but I am credibly informed that for at least 500 years before the time of Justinian the principle was recognised that a child disinherited by a parent could bring an action to set aside the will; and this principle had been extended before Justinian's time in two ways: first, by allowing a corresponding right to parents disinherited by children, and to others in the ascending and descending scale whose claims upon the testator were set aside by the will; secondly, by allowing to these parties, even where they had not been entirely passed over in the will, the right to claim a share of the inheritance not exceeding one-quarter of the amount to which they would have been entitled upon intestacy. Roman law, therefore, foresaw and provided against the testamentary designs of such individuals as the late Mr. Pochin. The same remark applies to the law of France, where a testator cannot alienate from his descendants more than half of his estate if he leaves one legitimate child at his death, one-third if he leaves two children, or one-quarter if he leaves three or a greater number. Under Scottish law I understand that a man cannot under any circumstances alienate from his lawful wife and children more than one-third of his estate. In Germany the law has hitherto varied in different States, but a new code, which will unify the law of the whole Empire, has recently been passed, and will come into force in the year 1900. The effect of it upon the point we are now discussing seems to be this—that any person, either in the ascending or descending scale, who would have been entitled to a share of the estate on the intestacy of the deceased, can claim half of that share, notwithstanding any testamentary disposition to the contrary. In all these countries the testator's relatives may forfeit their rights by misconducting themselves towards him during his life; but that is a branch of the subject with which we are not now concerned.

I only refer to the foreign law on these points in order to show that the English law is as opposed to the practice of other nations as it is repugnant to justice and common-sense. It is repugnant to common-sense, because, as things stand, a man of ample means may upon his death, either from spitefulness or mere caprice, leave the whole of his property, as Mr. Pochin did, away from his dependants, and saddle the community with the responsibility of providing after his death for those whom he has beggared. Every ratepayer has the best possible right to object to this. We may not be able to prevent a man from beggaring himself and his family either by his idleness or his vices during his lifetime; but, at least, when he dies, and when the law regulates and supervises the disposition of his effects, the law can make its own terms as to the power of a testator to impose charges upon the rates. We already compel every member of the community who departs this life to hand over to the State in the form of death duties a certain portion of his effects, and the tendency of recent legislation has been to increase rather than to diminish this portion. It is a foolish inconsistency to permit at the same time a man of means to say through his will, "I decline to make provision out of my estate for the support of my wife and children, and I will leave them to be provided for by the workhouse and the relieving officer, or by the charity of their neighbours."

Moreover, it may happen that the possession by a testator of the power to take this course inflicts the greatest injustice upon his surviving dependents. The worst feature in the case of the Rev. Mr. Pochin was that he had possessed himself while alive of the whole of his wife's property; and I believe I am right in saying that it was by means of the money thus placed at his disposal that he amassed a large part of his wealth. Yet the whole of the property which he thus owed directly or indirectly to his wife he alienated from her by his death—a piece of undisguised, though legalised, robbery. In spite of Married Women's Property Acts, the line of demarcation between the property of wife and husband is often hard to maintain intact, and it is a monstrous thing that a husband should be able to obtain money

from his wife during her life and bestow it in other directions when he dies. Nor must it be forgotten that the power to commit this wrong gives to every paterfamilias a terrible hold over his wife and family during his life. By holding over them *in terrorem* the threat to reduce them to beggary by his will, there is scarcely any indignity or cruelty which an unscrupulous man might not force his wife and children to submit to. I am not an enthusiast on the subject of woman's rights, nor do I hold with the extreme advocates of the emancipation of married women. But I think that justice requires that every wife who duly performs her part of the marriage contract should for her own protection be given an inalienable right to a certain proportion of her husband's estate upon his death. Nor is there any apparent reason why, if the law compels a man to maintain his offspring during his life, it should not enforce the same obligations upon him when he is disposing of his property at his death. An amendment of the English law in these directions is urgently needed, and I trust that it will not be long before we see some attempt to carry it.

FRIVOLITY AT THE GAIETY.

Théodore de Banville, the Parisian poet of dance and song, has placed a clown among the constellations, by the side of Andromeda and Perseus. For him the great point was that the heart should remain at rest, the soul untroubled. It was always fête-day with him; he was always embarking for Cythera, or just returned from the "Closerie des Lilas." I am sure Banville would have naturally gravitated to the Gaiety, had he lived this side of the Channel. He would have been the historian of its rise and progress to the present triumphal dimensions. Kate Vaughan's unforgetable elegance would have been preserved for coming generations in some scented lyric; his Muse would have fitted on the shoes of Letty Lind and danced in them across the centuries.

Yes, I can imagine nothing more likely to stimulate the interest of the times to come than the discovery of one of these Gaiety plays—one of those mosaic manuscripts tied together with a girl's hair—Venetian girl, Circus girl, or some other rose girl.

These plays have all the elements of permanence, and chief among them an absolute concentration on the most trivial side of actual English life. True, we may find ourselves in Corsica or Venice, and the scenery and accessories be quite perfect, as on the present occasion. Yet we know that wherever Miss Ethel Haydon goes Mr. Edmund Payne is sure to follow, and that the exquisite elegance of Miss Katie Seymour will be pirouetting close by. We know, in fact, that we are safe in the Strand, and to my mind that is as interesting as the Venice of Tiepolo. All this will charm posterity, as we are charmed rather by the mimes of Herondas than the flints of Demosthenes. Then a Gaiety play is so illogical, so like life itself. There is no horrible sequence of events, little attempt at dovetailing situations. Suffice it that our authors occasionally deign to connect two scenes with some rose-garland or the silver thread of Mr. Harry Greenbank's lyrics. Here also, no straining after foreign models; Miss Connie Ediss, for instance, so bright in song and repartee, may be said with but slight risk of error to have been born within hearing of Bow Bells.

Should Mr. Edwardes ever reach this point in my criticism, he will certainly exclaim with great truth and reason: "But what does posterity matter to me? I work for the present." How true and how right he is! It is just through this complete absorption in the spirit of the moment, in the not very lofty pre-occupations of insular England, that the "Runaway Girl" has a chance of distancing married women like Mrs. Tanqueray. But enough of the year 2000, and let me tell you the story of "The Runaway Girl." I have looked, but cannot find it. The poor thing is smothered beneath the frills and furbelows of the chorus; let us not deprive it of so delicious a death.

This Gaiety broth is the better for its many cooks. Mr. Lionel Monckton and Mr. Ivan Caryll made the music, Mr. Hopwood and Mr. Greenbank the lyrics, Mr. Hicks and Mr. Nicholls the words, while Mr. Willie Ward arranged the dances with his usual unerring instinct and intelligence—and Clarkson supplied some beautiful blonde wigs. Suddenly, as I am told, the *chef* appeared in the shape of Mr. George Edwardes. The broth would not do. Throw it away! Everybody had to set to work again, and the play we applauded on Saturday is the result of their rapid labours. And this young "Runaway Girl," like her sisters, will grow all the time she runs. Already I hear of a new dance for the twinkling toes of Miss Katie Seymour; and the stress of his various avatars—as jockey and courier—will certainly elicit some spontaneous fun from Mr. Edmund Payne. Of the Gaiety may be said what Miss Ellaline Terriss so charmingly sings in the first act of this new play:—

> Oh, sly cigarette!
> Oh, fie cigarette!
> Why did you teach me to love you so,
> When I have to pretend that I don't, you know?

This is, perhaps, not very solid nourishment; but some of us prefer cigarettes to cigars.

SERIOUSNESS AT THE SAVOY.

We have temporarily done, it seems, at the Savoy, with the quips and cranks of the old partnership. The merriment of the two jolly Savoyards no longer attracts in sufficient force to cover the heavy salaries of ever increasingly paid artists for a long run. The Gilbert and Sullivan opera has, by a paradox which ought to delight Mr. Gilbert, been killed by its own excellence. Everybody persists in comparisons, and contrasts a new work with the funniest of its predecessors. No one takes into consideration the self-evident fact that the wit is apt to run less freely as the jester approaches middle age. It is perfectly true that the feeblest of Gilbert and Sullivan is superior to the best of any other author and composer. It is also true that both Gilbert and Sullivan have temporarily sampled other partners without any better luck. So now, after a not very successful dip into French opéra bouffe, Mr. D'Oyly Carte is trying the experiment of a totally different form of entertainment,

and the Savoy has become a serious play-house. It seems strange at first, though doubtless we shall get used to it. There were, indeed, times on Saturday night when we were all sorry that Mr. Pinero, who may be a born dramatist, but who certainly is not a heaven-sent librettist, had not provided himself with a ruthless sub-editor armed with a plentiful supply of blue pencils. There were other times on Saturday when Mr. Passmore must have literally yearned for permission to "gag" or dance a jig, and when his audience would have been delighted had he broken loose. But the fun was never permitted to be more than mediæval; the artists, with Mr. Pinero's eye upon them, stuck pluckily to the text; and when, in the course of hours, the audience turned over the last of nearly ten dozen of pages—the heaviest libretto, from the point of view of avoirdupois, that the Savoy has yet offered us—they may have been delighted by charming music and a pretty spectacle, but they could not conscientiously pretend that they had enjoyed a merry evening.

It seems to me almost a pity that Mr. Pinero was so fearful of treading in the footsteps of Mr. Gilbert. Satire and paradox are well-nigh obligatory in this form of entertainment; and yet, although the subject frequently suggested both, Mr. Pinero would have none of them. Even Satan, in the person of Mr. Passmore, was limited in his jokes to mediæval specimens anent the monotonous warmth of his residence and the fall which he, like the crippled weaver's daughter, sustained in early life. There is distinct topsyturvydom in the notion of "The Beauty Stone," which impels a Prince, although fascinated by an Eastern houri, to fall in love with a cripple, while an Oriental Delilah, in turn the possessor of the talisman, finds it useless when the victorious War Lord at whom she is setting her cap, is stricken blind. The cheerless demeanour of the Lord of Mirlemont himself was perhaps not the fault of the author. The new American tenor, Mr. Devoll, for some occult reason, elected that the ardent lover should be a smileless Prince. Even when, encased in solid brass armour, he was hoisted upon the shoulders of two staggering attendants, the sardonic side of the situation scarcely seemed to occur to him, and the expression of his face, as he led his gallant knights to victory, was that of a man about to have his tooth out. Even Mr. Isham as his despondent squire was more jovial, and less given to asides and tragedy airs. But the ladies fairly carried off the honours. Miss Pauline Joran, as the Eastern houri, who enacts the rôle of a Delilah, sang like a true artist and acted with veritable dramatic feeling; while Miss Ruth Vincent made a pathetic figure as the crippled girl; Mr. Lytton and Miss Brandram did what they could with the conventional parts of her aged parents; and Miss Emmie Owen a saucy wench, who eventually turns good when she honestly falls head-over-ears in love with the Devil, was at her brightest and archest.

Sir Arthur Sullivan, although a little hampered by the humourless manner in which the story has been treated, has fortunately been provided by Mr. Comyns Carr with some scholarly lyrics, and he makes the most of his opportunities. Sir Arthur, in short, declines to be dull, and has evidently made up his mind that seriousness may, after all, be allied with melody and brightness. We have, it is true, one or two reminiscences, some of the composer himself, and at one point, funnily enough, a phrase of the comic song which suggests that the police best know the time has hovered about his memory. Also it may be true that the composer has refrained from any excessive display of ambition in the more dramatic situations, albeit they always show refined fancy and sound musicianship. Sir Arthur employs representative themes—a frequently heard motive for the moody Lord of Mirlemont, a bell song for the Devil (who, however, for the most part, is surrounded by music of mediæval cut), and a delicious prayer motive for the crippled heroine. There is also an effective touch of local colour in the Oriental dance and chorus of Saida and her maidens, while there are plenty of *ensembles* and concerted pieces of a pattern which would have been the delight of the musical folk of the last generation. To my mind, however, Sir Arthur is most successful when he is most natural, and when he allows his melodic genius to have the fullest play. There are, fortunately, numerous examples, among the best being the delicious opening duet, the cripple's prayer, the Devil's legend of the "Beauty Stone," and his duet and dance with the pretty page, the Song Tournament, the Eastern dance, the love duet, the Squire's martial ballad, the duet of the old folks, the song, "with a burden," of the cripple, which permeates the third act, and the page's delicious little ditty, with pizzicato accompaniment. The music, in fact, is much better than the libretto, which, in its turn, would be better still if an hour's dialogue were remorselessly cut out of it.

Mr. D'Oyly Carte, when he undertakes a thing does it thoroughly, and he and his staff have spared neither pains nor money to properly mount the "Beauty Stone." The quaint dresses of the peasants and the more opulent ladies have been faithfully copied from originals in Flemish pictures, while the male costumes and armour are exact replicas of the real article. The effect is most picturesque, and as a spectacle the new opera is one of the best ever seen at the Savoy. The audience were quick to recognise and appreciate these facts, and hence the more than usual heartiness of Mr. Carte's "call" on the final fall of the curtain.

DANGERFIELD 95.

Miss Annie Russell has youth and good looks on her side, and has brought these across the Atlantic to conquer us. She could not have chosen a better weapon than this cleverly conceived though not very well written play, of Miss Mildred Dowling. In little more than half an hour Miss Russell has swept the keyboard of the emotions, reproducing with startling fidelity the habits of disreputable Bohemia, and passing from these back to proper young-ladyhood as to both manners born. Her motions and gestures are natural and always easy, and her diction is for the most part good. But why does she say "minnyature" for miniature and pronounce medicine as a trisyllable? This, perhaps, forms part of "America's system for the improvement and correction of Grandmother's English."

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE LATE DUC DE BASSANO.

THE Duc de Bassano, who died last week, was five years older than Mr. Gladstone. In regard to vitality, he was a grand old man, but otherwise commonplace. The most that can be said of him was that he ever conducted himself like a highly respectable bourgeois. This is no small praise when one considers what a dissipated sphere he lived in during the eighteen years of the Empire. He was a first cousin twice or thrice removed of M. Henri Maret. Madame de Rémusat is worth reading about his immediate ancestor, the first Duc de Bassano. That interesting writer sometimes twisted the truth, but there were never scales on her eyes.

The late Duc de Bassano had manners that matched with his resonant title. He entered the diplomacy of Louis Philippe, and adopted the tone of the second-rate diplomats of his time. This tone was a little pompous. Guizot, Comte de St. Aulaire, Corsican Sebastiani (who was more a rough diplomat than a soldier), and Comte de Jarnac were free from the defect. But they were, intellectually speaking, first-rates. There is nothing safer in diplomacy than a little pompous reserve when one has not a ready wit. A hauteur that shows not so much pride as a care for professional dignity is also a safeguard.

The late Duc de Bassano was chiefly accredited by Louis Philippe to small Rhineland Courts. He learned at Turin what etiquette meant. The lesson proved useful after the Coup d'État. He was made Grand Chamberlain directly the Empire was restored. Practically he chose the guests of the Emperor and Empress when they did not send lists to him. This gave him many opportunities to oblige. He used his power with careful discretion. The lists sometimes sent down to him were enough to startle him out of his propriety. One too well-known lady, whose husband was connected with the London Press, had the privilege of presenting names. But she was herself excluded. This compromise was hit upon by Macquard, when he feared the matter might lead to a divided *ménage*. The Duc liked to oblige whenever he could safely do so. The rush on his office and the piles of scented letters he received were fearful. But his calm dignity remained unruffled. His sense was sound. As a godson of Napoleon and Josephine, he was dear to the Emperor. His impeccable correctness was prized by the Empress. She was sensitive on points that touched on her Imperial dignity. When she was in exile, the Duc went to pay her and the Emperor his duty. He remained a sort of honorary Grand Chamberlain up to the time of the Prince Imperial's death. Through his sister, Lady Ashburton, he had a large circle of English friends. The Duchesse de Bassano had an imposing presence. She looked well in a court procession. So did he.

The Duc de Bassano was twelve years old when Waterloo was fought—for the future benefit of Hopes, Barings, and Rothschilds. He therefore had recollections of Napoleon, who was helped by his father to draw up the Code. Napoleon was the busiest man alive; but he found time to visit some of the beauties with whom Josephine surrounded herself. Madame Maret was one of those he liked to call on. The late Duc remembered his being announced one day when his mother was surrounded by her nestlings. It was the fashion to have one's quiver full of them. The children, perhaps, heard that he was an ogre, for they rushed to hide under the loo table. He heard the pattering of the little feet, and asked the Duchesse where her whelps were? After searching in the corners, he saw a little foot sticking out from under the table cover, and seizing it, drew it towards him. It was that of his nephew's future Grand Chamberlain. There was something of the beast of prey in all Napoleon's caresses. His native savagery was never more apparent than when he was playful.

A Napoleonic Prince or Duke living to a ripe age is exceptional. The nobility of the Empire were *jouisseurs*. They died young, and their families generally became extinct. The revival of the Empire drove nails into most of their coffins. Morny then led the dance. He had the hard head and the refined but overweening sensuality of Disraeli's heroes. I could understand that author admiring him. But the fascination he exercised over women puzzled me. He was dissipated without spirit. He must have been worn out before he was born. Queen Hortense *était si farceuse!* Though in the Morny monde, Bassano was not of it. Length of days and a healthy posterity rewarded his regular habits and sobriety.

The death of the Comtesse Ducos also revives some recollections of the Empire. Though a great beauty in her prime, she was free from airs and assumption. The Comtesse remained young in feeling. One saw this in her dress and in her very pleasing face. I used often to see her at the parties of Mme. Magnin at the Bank of France. Her late husband, whom she long outlived, was Minister of Marine throughout the Crimean War. The post was then no easy one, but he filled it ably. His wife's beauty was no advantage to him. It excited too much jealousy. Wearing her heart on her sleeve, she was undefended. She belonged to the circle of the late Mrs. Ayers. The Comtesse could not live without society, and enjoyed it in the most harmless way. I am glad to see that the Empress Eugénie has recognised her lovable qualities in a letter to her son—written by her secretary, M. Piétri.

The actual Comte Ducos is in diplomacy. He has many friends. It would surprise me to hear he had enemies. His standing amusement is to turn the ruins of an abbey into a dwelling-house. The abbey is somewhere near Rheims. All his spare time is spent in effecting the transformation. The hobby is an expensive one. Converting ruined abbeys into modern residences was made the fashion by Baroness Nathaniel de Roth-

Walking, Cycling, Shooting, Yachting Dresses, &c.—John Busvine & Co., Tailors and Riding Habit Makers to H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, the Princess Victoria of Wales, the Duchess of Fife, the Princess Charles of Denmark, the Marchioness of Lorne, the Princess Henry of Battenberg, the Duchess of Connaught, the Duchess of Albany, the Empress of Austria, the Empress of Russia, the Empress of Germany, the Princess Henry of Prussia, the Princess Victoria of Prussia, the Infanta Eulalia of Spain, the Countess de Paris, the Duchess d'Aosta.—4, Brook-street, London, W.

schild. She has restored that of Vaux Cernay, and lives in it in summer.

"L'Exposition de l'Art de la Femme" does not mean a display of feminine arts, but of arts appropriated to woman's use. I dare say that our great-grandfathers were delighted with the belongings of our great-grandmothers. But for comfort one would hardly select the eighteenth-century strait-laced corset. Above it was a corsage all lined with buckram and whalebone. The hoop-expanded skirt was garlanded with artificial flowers or other falbalas. It was hard to sit down properly in it. When once the wearer sat down, she liked to remain seated. A bolt-upright position was obligatory. The hair was expected to remain undisturbed for several days. Hence the necessity, when one retired for the night, to be propped up with pillows. There was really no other way of enjoying a little comfort. The coverlets and pillow-cases were considered adjuncts of the bedgown, a most luxurious object for the time. There were bath coverlets of embroidered flannel, for visitors might be received in the bath-room. Fashionable people under all circumstances lived in a glass house, unless when at *les petits châteaux*. The children were early trained to bear ennui and to behave like little stoics. I really do not see the harm. Thus trained, they died "game" on the guillotine. The only woman who made a row was La Dubarry. She was a low-born person.

The snuff-box belonged properly to *l'art de la femme*. What skill was lavished on it! One showed one's rings in taking a pinch of snuff. The taste for scents was not much developed. How could it be when nostrils were filled with snuff? But I can imagine the snuff box as being indispensable. Snuff was the only deodoriser. Ladies quite gave it up after the Revolution. It was on the wane before. La Nouvelle Héloïse did not take snuff, nor did Marie Antoinette.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

"Where shall we lay the man whom we deplore?
Here, in streaming London's central roar.
Let the sound of those he wrought for,
And the feet of those he fought for,
Echo round his bones for evermore."

Tennyson.

We have buried, dear Lady Betty, our great dead with great dignity and with great simplicity, as befits a great nation. William Ewart Gladstone has cut his name deep on the records of the race; we have filled the letters in with gold.

. . . . .

Descriptive writing is a fine art; not an exact science. The descriptive writers have contributed very picturesque accounts of the lying in state of the remains of Mr. Gladstone in Westminster Hall; and, according to them, this was an especially impressive ceremony, which was rendered the more striking by the simplicity of the surroundings. As a matter of fact, a less solemn and a less impressive scene could scarcely be devised. When Westminster Hall was the centre of the political life of the nation many memorable events occurred within its walls. It has long ceased to be useful, and, practically, it has for years been closed to the public. This huge, bare hall terminates with a flight of steps which are apparently purposeless, but incidentally lead to a passage on the left that is altogether out of proportion with the hall and with the steps, and to a doorway on the right that is some few feet wide. In the centre of this vast hall was the coffin, raised several feet above the ground, and dwarfed by the magnitude of the setting. It wanted a blaze of light to give prominence to the coffin, and a background, however slight, might have heightened the effect. As it was, only four candles, which looked like tapers in the immense building, had been provided. On either side of the coffin there passed two thin streams of sightseers, raising a thick cloud of dust as they tramped over the wooden gangways, whilst the monotonous "Move on, please," uttered every half-second by the police, jarred on the nerves of all who had made the pilgrimage in the hope of obtaining inspiration. The Koh-i-noor set in the dome of St. Paul's would not be more completely lost than was the coffin of Mr. Gladstone set in the centre of Westminster Hall.

* * * * *

Piper Findlater, whose heroic conduct at the battle of Dargai has excited general admiration, has recently had the Victoria Cross attached to his breast by her Majesty in person. The piper has been disabled by his wounds, and has, therefore, been retired from the Service. He is a poor man, and the pension which the Government confers upon him is altogether out of proportion with the heroism of his act, and with the consequences of his injuries. Tempted by circumstances, Private Findlater accepted an offer to reproduce on a music-hall stage the incident which has made him famous. Every excuse can be made for the piper, but it would be difficult to express adequate contempt for the spirit of the day which is prepared to vulgarise even heroism.

It is with the highest appreciation of this spirit that I announce with pleasure the following forthcoming performances:—

Lord S*l*sb*ry has consented to appear at the —— throughout the month of June, when he will each evening reproduce the memorable ceremony of kissing the hand of the Queen on being appointed Prime Minister of Great Britain.

. . . . .

The members of the Cabinet have been engaged to appear for a limited number of nights at the —— at immense salaries, when they will give representations of Cabinet Councils as they are held in the Council Room at Downing-street.

. . . . .

The services of the Archbishop of Ca*t*rb*ry have been secured by the directors of the ——, and during the period of his engagement his Grace will every evening reproduce the ceremony of his enthronement. This magnificent spectacle is certain to attain exceptional popularity with the patrons of the ——.

. . . . .

Mr. J*s*ph Ch*mb*rl**n will repeat his celebrated B*rm*ngh*m speech every night until further notice at the ——. The performance is sure to appeal to the best instincts of the ladies who frequent the —— Hall.

. . . . .

Rear Admiral S*mps*n, with the officers and men under his command, have consented to appear at the ——, when they will, for a few nights only, give accurate representations of the historical combat between the Am*r*c*n Fleet and the Matanzas mule. This series of performances will be delayed until Rear-Admiral S*mps*n has discovered and destroyed the Sp*n*sh Squadron.

. . . . .

It should be made a condition when the Victoria Cross is conferred that the decoration and the act which is associated with its bestowal should never be employed in such a way as to bring these into disrepute. Moreover, a rich nation, such as Great Britain is, can well afford to grant substantial pensions to those who distinguish themselves by heroism on the field of battle, all the more so that

thousands of unimportant officials retire from the public service after a few years of not arduous labour with pensions of several hundreds of pounds.

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It was noticed at the funeral of Mr. Gladstone that most of the mourners who followed the remains of the great statesman wore their hats. A piercing north-east wind prevailed at the time, and the day might be described as a summer morning iced. When will the very unreasonable custom of following the dead bare-headed be abandoned? Every year hundreds of men are driven to their deaths because they have not sufficient strength of character to run counter to custom in this respect. To stand bare-headed by the side of a grave in a bitter east wind whilst the funeral service is being read is no real mark of respect for the remains of the one who is dead, and it is an especially dangerous practice.

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It had frequently been foreshadowed in these columns that in the event of Sir Philip Currie being transferred to Rome, Sir Nicholas O'Conor would be appointed to be British Ambassador at Constantinople. This forecast has been verified. It is probable now that Sir Francis Plunkett, the British Minister at Brussels, will be promoted to be British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, or to be Ambassador at some post which may become vacant by transferring an Ambassador to the Embassy vacated by Sir Nicholas O'Conor.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

IT is odd that any one should be surprised at the Derby having ended in such a veritable crash for backers, for it was universally admitted that the three-year-olds are a very bad lot, and I pointed out a fortnight ago that the melancholy fashion in which they have gone on beating each other has afforded additional evidence of the absolute truth of the saying, "It is impossible to handicap cocktails." What, however, was astonishing in connection with the Derby was the utterly idiotic price which feather-brained backers were so infatuated as to accept about Disraeli, than whom no horse has ever been so vigorously written up on such very slight grounds. I never fancied Disraeli for the Derby, partly because he was obviously held safe by Dieudonné on the two-year-old running, and also because it seemed to me that the merits of his Two Thousand victory had been extravagantly and preposterously over-estimated. The fact is that at Newmarket Disraeli was nearly the only horse in the field that was thoroughly fit. After the ignominious collapse of Wantage in the Newmarket Stakes it was not easy to see how Disraeli could be regarded as a good thing for the Derby, and if the favourite had started for the Newmarket Stakes it would have been a blessing for his later backers, as he would certainly have been defeated by Cyllene. It is a fact, moreover, that Disraeli was never properly galloped over the Derby distance. There was no excuse whatever for him. He got well away, and for some time held a prominent position in the field, but, once having dropped back, he was never seen again. Dieudonné, who had gone badly in the market for some days, was heavily backed at the finish, and the Duke of Devonshire's colt ran well, but, as was feared, he proved deficient in stamina. He was placed fourth, but I fancy he was really third best. An evening paper stated on Thursday that after the first hundred yards Dieudonné "was never seen in front," which is idiotic nonsense. Elfin made the running for a long way, but was "all out" when they came down the hill. Batt looked all over like winning easily, until about a hundred yards from home, when Jeddah overhauled him, and, running on well, Mr. Larnach's colt won very cleverly at the finish.

Of course, Jeddah is now described as "a really grand horse" by some mooncalves, who could see no merit in this colt until after his victory at Epsom; but this crazy jargoning is always the rule after a big race. I feel quite convinced that it is a case of "heads and tails" with the whole lot, and that if the race was run again this afternoon over the same course, the issue would be some equally astounding and disastrous turn-up. At least, let all rational people be most careful in their operations on the three-year-old races at Ascot. Months ago I expressed the opinion that Jeddah would probably turn out to be the best of the Egerton House lot for the classic stakes, as he appeared to be more likely to prove a stayer than any of his stable companions. He, moreover, had displayed more stamina in public than any other starter for the Derby, as the An.M., over which he won the Craven Stakes when he was palpably backward, is a more severe course than the R.M., over which the Two Thousand was run. Of course, after Jeddah's ghastly exhibitions in the Two Thousand and Newmarket Stakes it was simply impossible to conceive that he would come out and win the Derby, and there have been some sinister hints (founded on intense ignorance) that he was having a day to himself when he was beaten at Newmarket. The boundless and bottomless folly and absurdity of these sour drivellings are proved by the fact that Jeddah was well backed when he was defeated, whereas nobody could be flogged into supporting him at Epsom. If he had gone badly in the betting at Newmarket, and then had been heavily backed at Epsom, there would have been some reason in such criticisms, but under the circumstances they are manifestly baseless and muddy-minded.

The credit of breeding Jeddah belongs to the late Duchess-Dowager of Montrose, and his dam Pilgrimage was in foal with this colt when she was purchased for a small sum by Mr. Larnach at Newmarket in July, 1894, at the sale of her Grace's stud. The winners over Jeddah form an exceedingly select band, consisting simply of people who backed him before and after he had carried off the Craven Stakes, and after his defeat in the Two Thousand he was knocked out to a forlorn price, so that there never was any opportunity of hedging. Wantage ran creditably enough, considering that he is certainly not a horse shaped for such a course as Epsom, and if the going is good at Ascot he ought to win a race there.

It was a fearful disaster for the "1, 2, 3" backers that Dunlop should have been placed third, as Dieudonné probably carried their money for a situation more than any other horse in the race. Considering that Dunlop had been beaten off in the Payne Stakes when much fancied for that race, such a resurrection was no more to be expected in his case than in that of Jeddah. I advise my speculative readers, however, to attach no importance to this horse's position in the Derby, as for some distance from home the race was practically a match between Jeddah and Batt, and it is highly probable that several of the runners were eased when it was found that all chance of winning was gone. Heir Male carried a great deal of money, because he had managed to scramble into second place for the Newmarket States, but his backers might have considered that Cyllene won with such consummate ease that probably 21 lb. would not have brought the pair together.

The Virginian is a nice colt, but he is not yet quite in proper racing trim. The half brother to Whittier will be winning some race wherein he has the benefit of a maiden allowance, and he must not be forgotten. Batt was my winter selection for the Derby at a time when long odds were offered against him, and my original conviction that he would ultimately prove to be the best of the Kingsclere three-year-olds was much strengthened when Hawfinch was sold out of the stable, and for this animal I never had any fancy whatever. Batt is still "coming on" apparently, and I dare say he will win the Leger. Perthshire was last year exalted by gushing simpletons into a wonder well worth £10,000, on the strength of his having beaten some platers at the Epsom Spring Meeting, but he soon lost his reputation, and if his owner had been well advised this colt would not have been trained for the Derby as his preparation has no doubt affected the speed which he undoubtedly possessed last year. Mr. Brassey,

who is very sagacious in the management of his stud, wisely withdrew Orzil, who cannot get a yard beyond five furlongs, and I hear this colt is in reserve for the Fernhill Stakes at Ascot. An enormous amount of money was invested on Wednesday on the American horse Archduke II., who was regarded as a certainty for a place, on the strength of a good trial with History. He was galloped over the full Derby distance, whereas Disraeli had never been sent beyond a mile and a quarter. Archduke II. may be trusted to win a good handicap before the season is much further advanced. The Wyvern has been outrageously overrated, or else he is an arrant rogue. Mr. Leigh's colt was well beaten by Argosy on the Saturday before the Derby in a gallop over the D. M. The great Newmarket tip at the finish was Pheon for a place, but Lord Ellesmere's colt never even "flattered" his over-sanguine friends. However, Pheon will be winning a race presently, and he is a colt that must not be forgotten. With respect to Disraeli, I see that it is stated that his half-brother, Bullingham, was considered "for a time" by Captain Machell "to be fully the equal of Isinglass." This is all moonshine. Captain Machell may have been under some such delusion before the colts had been galloped or raced, but never afterwards. It would not have been the first time of Captain Machell being egregiously mistaken as to the comparative merits of horses in the Bedford Cottage stable. His firm faith in the superlative excellence of a long since forgotten beast named Fevre, was something pathetic, and cost him dear, as on more than one occasion that animal was actually preferred by him to King Lud.

Jeddah has several engagements at Ascot, and I am told that Mr. Larnach will probably decide to start the colt for the St. James's Palace Stakes, in which he would meet Batt and Dieudonné at even weights. It is a pity that he is not in the Princess of Wales' Stakes at the Newmarket first July meeting, as it would have been most interesting to see the result of his meeting with Velasquez, and he would have had to run against Lord Rosebery's horse with 3 lb. the worst of the weights. After the Derby running it will be strange if Lord Rosebery does not carry off both the Princess of Wales' Stakes and the Eclipse Stakes, but Velasquez will have a more difficult task in the Jockey Club Stakes, as Cyllene is entered for that race, and they will meet at weight for age (9 lb.) if Velasquez does win the first of the Newmarket £10,000 races.

Boniface was a hot favourite for the Great Surrey Breeders' Foal Plate on Thursday but it is a pity that the colt had not been kept for Ascot, as he wanted a few more gallops, and the Epsom course evidently does not suit him. He did not get off well, and he ran very green at the finish, but his jockey was in no way to blame for his defeat. I shall expect Boniface to do better at Ascot, where he is engaged in both the Coventry Stakes and the New Stakes. The money of the "sharps" was dashed down on Mr. Merry's Sir Hercules, half-brother to Surefoot, by Sir Hugo, who is a grand colt, but very backward, and it was a blunder to race him in his present condition. The Hampton Rose filly, who won the Mostyn Plate at Chester, just beat Boniface, and she was a lucky winner. Sir Hercules will run next at Ascot, either for the Biennial or for the Coventry Stakes. Boniface, not being a starter for the Woodcote Stakes, Desmond was made a great favourite, but was cleverly defeated by Fairy Gold, by Bend Or out of Dame Masham, another winner at Chester. Desmond, however, ought to win any race at Manchester this week that he may be started for.

People who had lost over the Derby thought they had a fine chance to get their money back by plunging on Winkfield's Pride for the Epsom Cup. The horse was very heavily backed, and it was said that the stable commission was £5,000, defeat being regarded as impossible. Winkfield's Pride, however, was beaten a long way from home, and the reputation of the Australian horse, Newhaven II., about whom there has been so much trumpeting, was lamentably shattered, for Bay Ronald won very easily indeed, running at even weights. In the City and Suburban, when it was recklessly asserted that Mr. Brassey's horse ought to have been beaten by Newhaven II., it will be remembered that Bay Ronald had 10 lb. the best of the weights. It is, indeed, a true saying that the best policy, as a rule, is to follow winners, instead of being gulled by fairy-tales about what ought to have happened. Of course, there are exceptions, and I think that if Boniface again meets the Hampton Rose filly he will beat her, while later on in the season I shall expect Sir Hercules to defeat them both if he goes on all right. Winkfield's Pride was not fit, and he will do better presently.

The victory of Airs and Graces for the Oaks is surely the final consummation of the extraordinary ill-luck which has pursued the Duke of Portland for some years past. Of course, the Welbeck colours had an amazing run of good fortune for several seasons, but of late years some malicious spirit appears to have been working against them. Airs and Graces was purchased by the Duke as a yearling, but he thought she would never be of any value on the turf, and as he did not require her for the stud, she was weeded out at Newmarket last December for 480 gs., a truly tragical transaction. I suppose the Duke will get the £400 which is payable to the nominator of the winner. Nun Nicer, as I pointed out last week, was the only filly which ran for the Two Thousand that was then thoroughly fit, and her defeat on Friday did not surprise me; but I certainly did not expect Airs and Graces to win, as she is touched in her wind, which was much against her over this course. If the colts are a bad lot, it is highly probable that the fillies are even worse.

The Duke of Westminster's filly Lowood, who was much fancied for the Oaks, was struck out of that race, and she is in reserve for the rich Coronation Stakes at Ascot, which event she will probably win. Lowood has accepted for the three-year-old Free Handicap, with 7 st. 2 lb.; but if I now had to give the name of the winner of that race in two attempts, I would be disposed to select Pheon or Schonberg.

There are positively only thirty-two entries for the Duchess of York Handicap of £1,500—a race which is run at the Hurst Park Summer Meeting. Mile handicaps are dreadfully overdone at present, but owners move in mysterious ways, for a £500 race at Kempton Park has obtained twenty-nine entries. Some years ago there would have been at least a hundred subscriptions for a £1,500 handicap over a mile course.

There will be racing next week at Brighton, Beverley, Lewes, and Lingfield, and there will no doubt be large fields at the Sussex fixtures, but there is not likely to be any sport of general interest, all the best horses being now in reserve for Ascot and for the Newmarket July Meetings. The principal event of the week will be the £1,000 two-year-old stake at Lingfield on Wednesday, for which there are thirty acceptances, including the filly by St. Simon out of Hampton Rose, who will have 7 lb. the worst of the weights with maidens, but this penalty ought not to stop her.

I shall not attempt a definite prediction on the Grand Prix, except to express a confident opinion that no English horse has any chance for the Longchamps race. Gardefeu (winner of the Prix du Jockey Club) and Cazabat ought to prove the best of the French lot.

Neither of the Universities did well in their earlier matches last week. Essex, without its full strength, outplayed Oxford, and Yorkshire simply overwhelmed Cambridge, for whom Hind again proved his value as a bowler. Judging by the success of Winter with his lobs against A. J. Webbe's team, it looks as though he would be just one of those sort of bowlers who would come off at Lord's. But unless he proves himself useful as a bat it will be rather risky to give a place in the team to one who is only a lob bowler. A few years ago Wood bowled lobs with great success for Oxford, but then he was a hitter as well. Surrey have really had bad luck.

Major Howe & Co., Ltd.—Fashionable Boots and Shoes.—16, Coventry-st., W.; 60, Strand, W.C.; 81, Gracechurch-st.; and 13, Queen Victoria-st., London. "Note Addresses." (Repairs.)

After their beating by Essex they have had no chance of retrieving their position against either Derby or Warwick. To be engaged in two consecutive matches in which not a ball is bowled is a record experience for a county. Lockwood again bowled well against Gloucestershire. At one time Sussex looked like making an end of Notts at Brighton. But on going in a second time, Gunn and Shrewsbury played in quite their old form, and a draw was the result. In Montezuma, Sussex have a bat who will undoubtedly make a reputation for himself. Mason and Hearne were chiefly responsible for the success of Kent over the M.C.C. After the comparative failure of the young Kent captain in the Australian tour, it is very gratifying to find him in such good form with bat and ball. Small scoring was the rule in the Lancashire and Derbyshire match, Cuttell and Briggs both improving their averages.

With reference to the Warwick county ground at Edgbaston, Birmingham, it must be borne in mind that it lies low, and has a clay subsoil. A correspondent says the county authorities should take the question of drainage into their immediate consideration. Probably the question of money is very material. Surely Birmingham will see that there is nothing wanting in that respect.

In the amateur golfing championship more reputations are generally lost than made. The heroes of local links go forth to conquer, and, as a rule, unless they be Scotchmen, prematurely demise. Tait and Mure-Fergusson met in the final; but, only after a great struggle, for the latter only beat Robb by one hole, and Low did not succumb to Tait until the twenty-second hole was played. Truly a battle of giants, and this was done with two thousand spectators following at Hoylake. As a further incentive to beginners, it is as well to mention that Robb missed a two-foot put on the home green, and so lost the match.

The Cycling League is said to be securing a large number of members. There is substantial work for such an organisation to undertake. It will not devote its valuable energies to the serious task of providing cycling brass buttons, notepaper, and trinkets, but it will endeavour to really protect the interests of riders. The amount of money saved and expended and the volume of labour employed is out of all proportion to the miserable results produced by that remarkable body calling itself the C.T.C.

In the Eights at Oxford last week New College retained the headship of the river for the third successive year. A week before the races began they were the best crew on the river by a long way, and there seemed to be more than a possibility of their sending a crew to Henley capable of retaining the Grand Challenge Cup. At the last moment, however, they were deprived of the services of G. O. C. Edwards, who has been forbidden by his doctor to row for the rest of the season. In spite of the fact that they were thus compelled to row an untrained man, they maintained their position without much difficulty, although Magdalen on one night got within a third of a length. The pace attained by the Magdalen crew is to be attributed to their pluck and dash, rather than to their form. They were not a good crew, and the rowing of the Blues, Gold and Burnell, stood out in marked contrast to that of the others. Balliol rather disappointed their supporters. They had plenty of good material, but were unlucky in being unable to find a suitable stroke. F. Warre, who eventually set the work for them, performed very creditably for one who has had little or no experience in that position. Trinity were very rough at the beginning of the term, but, under the tuition of the Rev. M. B. Furse, they were eventually transformed into a very fair College crew. The rowing of the other crews was rather above than below the average of the last few years. Merton alone call for special mention. They rowed in good style and with plenty of life, and thoroughly deserved their seven bumps. It is to be hoped they will try their luck at Henley.

The ups and downs of Brasenose were rather remarkable. On Saturday one of the crew broke a slide or a stretcher, and they were bumped by Hertford, and on Monday they rebumped them. On Tuesday they met with another accident, and were again bumped by Hertford; and on Wednesday they again asserted their superiority, a performance which, from a spectator's point of view, added considerable interest to what might otherwise have been a somewhat uninteresting procession.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—Such a succession of holidays as we are now having is not calculated to improve business. Epsom Races naturally claimed the attention of the Stock Exchange and of the public, and with the Saturday and Monday Stock Exchange holidays transactions have, as a consequence, been on a limited scale. Yet the tone has been distinctly firm, and at times there has been a speculative outburst in one or the other department.

The Position on the Stock Exchange—A Brighter Outlook.

The view is generally taken that during the current broken week very little business will be transacted. Yet the unexpected frequently happens, and the outlook is so much brighter that it is quite on the cards that the public will at last enter the markets to some extent again. From Paris comes the news that the Niger Convention will be signed almost immediately, and there certainly does not appear to be the slightest hitch in the negotiations. People are wondering more and more what Mr. Chamberlain could have meant by his extraordinary Birmingham lucubration. The Chinese question has entered a quiet phase, and the transfer of Wei-hai-wei is proceeding satisfactorily. Apart from the construction of railways in the Yang-tsze Valley, I hear that several industrial concessions have been granted which will all tend to open up the Celestial Empire. As regards the Spanish-American war, it has come to a point where news really unfavourable to the United States side is extremely unlikely. As American successes really mean the shortening of the conflict, the news of any important victory of the Yankee fleet, which appears to have Admiral Cervera at its mercy, would send up American Rails very considerably, and cause all the other markets to brace up, with the exception perhaps of Spanish. But then it is being argued that even Spanish will eventually improve, should peace be dictated to Spain. The monetary position is distinctly encouraging, and with the present much lower rates in the money market speculation will doubtless revive, while gilt-edged investment securities should also receive greater attention. Home Railway stocks are being picked up again by investors, and showed remarkable scarcity at the settlement. American Rails have maintained a moderate advance, and are strongly backed by Wall-street wire-pullers. South Americans have been distinctly more active, although a temporary reaction took place in Brazilians owing to adverse rumours. The Kaffir Circus has been but slightly affected by the publication of the contents of President Kruger's despatch on the suzerainty question, the substance of which was known weeks ago, so that it has been fully discounted. The slight reaction which occurred after the carry-over should be recovered again, especially as the May crushings are expected to prove very satisfactory. In West Australians a much firmer tone has prevailed, and a good demand has again been experienced for Adelaide account for all the high-class shares, especially those in the Hannan's district. The Industrial department is also rallying from the depression caused by the political scare.

Money and Gilt-Edged Investments—Where are the Dear-Money Prophets Now?

Where are the dear-money prophets now? Three weeks ago, when the rate of discount for three months' Bank bills was 4 per cent., they were predicting a rise to

4½ or 5 per cent., and were at the same time anticipating all kinds of evils. Within a few weeks' time their prophecies have come to naught, and on Thursday last the Bank of England reduced its rate to 3½ per cent., while rates of discount in the open market are as low as 2⅜ per cent. for three and six months' Bank bills, and short money is to be had for the asking in the neighbourhood of 2 per cent. This furnishes another illustration of the curious tendency of the ordinary financial writer to anticipate dear money, and I am surprised that my confrères of the leading dailies, with the facilities they have at their command for interviewing the *haute finance*, cannot keep up to date. Of course, the Japanese lock-up caused some stringency, but this was to the well-informed only a temporary incident; and it had, in fact, been arranged beforehand that no lasting inconvenience to the Money Market should arise from the Japanese transaction. The American demand for gold is altogether in abeyance, and with the exception of some small purchases for India, there is at present no call upon the stock of gold of the Bank of England, which has now been raised to £34,835,205. Our central institution has thus been placed into a very strong position, and will not easily let go its hold on the market. It has had to reduce its rate to 3½ per cent., and may have to further put it down to 3 per cent.; but the political outlook has improved so much, that it is safe to prophesy that we shall not have any dear money during the next three months. The unsophisticated persons who have been selling Consols as a hedge against commitments in other stocks, and on the predictions of dear money, will, I am afraid, feel sadly disappointed now that Consols are quoted at 112 for the account. I grant that the position is somewhat strange in view of the fact that a great war is in progress—that between the United States and Spain; but that struggle has been localised so much, that it is now possible to judge of the extent which it may reach, and everything points to an American success, which will probably bring the conflict to a termination in the near future. Other high-class investment securities have so far recovered but slightly, and they have not, of course, risen yet to anything like the top price touched during 1897, as will be gathered from the following list of prices:—

—	Highest in 1897.	Present Price.
	£	£
Consols, 2¾ per cent. till 1903 (for the account)	114	112
Do. 2½ per cent. till 1905	107	105
Local Loans Stock	115	110
Bank of England Stock	351½	347½
India Sterling 3½ per cent.	119⅛	114
Do. Do. 3 per cent.	112½	107
Do. Do. 3½ per cent. Rupee	64⅛	62⅛
Metropolitan 3½ per cent.	125	117
Do. 2½ per cent.	103⅝	99xd
Birmingham 3½ per cent.	127	118
Leeds 2½ per cent.	100	98
Liverpool 3½ per cent.	138½	131½
Manchester 3 per cent.	112⅝	106½
Nottingham 3 per cent.	119	112½
Caledonian 4 per cent. Debs.	156	148
Do. 4 per cent. Pref. No. 1	153⅞	142
Great Central 4½ per cent. Debs.	163½	156
Great Eastern 4 per cent. Debs.	152¾	144xd
Do. 4 per cent. Con. Pref.	150¾	141½
Great Northern 3 per cent. Debs.	120¼	112
Do. 4 per cent. Perp. Pref.	153½	143
Great Western 4 per cent. Debs.	158¾	149
Do. 5 per cent. Con. Pref.	191½	181
London and North-Western 3 per cent. Debs.	122	115
Do. Do. 4 per cent. Con. Pref.	154¾	146
London and South-Western 3 per cent. Debs.	121	114
Do. Do. 4 per cent. Con. Pref.	154	145
London, Brighton, and South Coast 4½ per cent. Debs.	173¾	165½
Do. 5 per cent. Pref.	189¾	179½
North-Eastern 3 per cent. Debs.	119½	113
Do. 4 per. cent. Pref.	153½	144
South-Eastern 5 per cent. Debs.	193¼	183½
Do. 5 per cent. Con. Pref.	188	179

There is but little doubt that in the near future we shall see a further recovery in these securities, but it should always be borne in mind that political accidents of an adverse character may recur, and it is not wise to pay for even gilt-edged stocks the high prices ruling during last year. Rupee Paper is firmer at 62⅛, and India Stock has advanced a point. The Chinese loans have been well maintained, the Seven per Cent. Silver Loan at 97, the Six per Cent. Gold Loan at 107½, the Five per Cent. Gold Loan and the Four and a Half per Cent. Gold Loan at 99 and 88¼ respectively. Japanese Scrip, too, is steady at 104. The new Greek Loan is quoted at ¼ premium.

HOME RAILS.

On looking back a year ago to Whitsuntide, one cannot help being struck with the absence of any improvement in Home Railway stocks since that period. Yet, for instance, all the Heavy lines have shown considerable increases in traffics, and the larger returns have not by any means been confined to them. The South-Eastern traffic increase has been considerable, and the Scotch Companies, too, are showing very favourably. To show the progress which has been made in traffics even during the present year, I have compiled the following little table, from which it will be seen that further improvement has been marked even on the big takes of last year:—

GROSS RECEIPTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1 TO MAY 15.

—	Gross Receipts in 1897.	Gross Receipts in 1898.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Great Eastern	1,476,801	1,520,726	42,087
Great Central (Sheffield)	814,013	837,010	22,997
Great Northern	1,825,738	1,881,613	55,875
Great Western	3,304,530	3,299 830	– 4,700
London and Brighton	936,476	966,819	30,343
London, Chatham, & Dover	509,284	522,287	13,003
London and North Western	4,255,056	4,354,348	99,292
London and South Western	1,267,010	1,310,944	43,934
Metropolitan District	155,747	160,936	5,189
Metropolitan	306,622	313,122	6,500
Midland	3,619,177	3,676,365	57,188
North Eastern	2,689,371	2,731,034	41,663
South Eastern	782,423	821,729	39,306
*Caledonian	1,065,767	1,092,653	26,886
*Glasgow and South Western	403,000	418,118	15,118
*North British	1,041,730	1,070,421	28,691

* Returns from February 1 only.

Here, then, is a substantial increase in the receipts which should point to higher values, and would, doubtless, have caused the same, had we not been troubled with all kinds of political rumours, and had not, too, the labour outlook become more involved, so that the Railway Companies generally have had to increase wages. Another depressing feature has been the Spanish-American war, and the temporary rise in the value of money; but as money is now getting much easier, this adverse influence is passing away. Under all the circumstances there appears to be little reason why London and North Western, for instance, which were twelve months ago quoted at 206¾, should now stand at only 198½, while North Eastern last Whitsuntide stood at 178¼ as against the present price of 175¼. Of course, we all know the reason for the fall in Great Western, which at 164 compare with 177¼ a year ago; but this decline is only partly due to the recent unexpected issue of capital, a previous relapse having been caused by the coal strike in South Wales. Brighton "A" are but two points lower than the price of a year ago, but Dover "A" stand at 112 as compared with 116⅞ twelve months ago. They dropped during the political scare to 105½, but are now again strongly on the upgrade, being chiefly in favour owing to the very progressive policy adopted by the South Eastern Railway Company. London and Chatham First Prefs. are at about the same price as they were quoted a year ago, but Great Eastern have not recovered their former popularity, being about a point below the price ruling last Whitsuntide. Great Northern Deferred have sustained a heavy fall, and the present quotation of 55 compares with 68 a year ago.

The reason for this downward movement is, of course, the coming Great Central competition, and from the point of view that Great Northern Deferred have fallen so heavily, one would think that Great Central Ordinary and Preferred Ordinary should deserve all the more attention at their present low values. Metropolitan have advanced nearly 10 points during the last twelve months, and Metropolitan District Prefs. are 9 up. Yet District Ordinary are still quoted only 29, and should therefore deserve special attention. The Scotch Deferred stocks have passed through many fluctuations during the past twelve months, but even now show little change as compared with the prices ruling at last Whitsuntide. In fact, while North British Deferred are a couple of points higher, Caledonian Deferred Ordinary have declined. Should the present more favourable atmospheric conditions continue to prevail, our Home Railways will greatly benefit, more especially the passenger lines, and under these circumstances it will be useful to show the present quotations and comparative yields of the different stocks :—

—	1893. H'gh'st.	1893. Low'st.	Present Price.	Div. p.c. 1897.	Yield p.c.
London and North Western ...	205½	196½	198½	7⅛	3 9/16
Great Western	179⅛	165½	164	6	3⅝
Midland Preferred	88¾	82¼	85¼	2½	2⅝
Do. Deferred	95⅞	84½	88¼	3⅜	3¾
North-Eastern	181¾	172¾	175¼	6⅜	3⅝
London, Brighton Ord.	191½	183	186	6½	3½
Do. "A"	186¼	172½	177¼	7	4
London & South-Western Ord.	236	217	225½	7	3
Do. Deferred...	98¾	87	93½	3	3½
South Eastern Ord.	157	148	151	4 15/16	3¼
Do. "A"	117⅛	105½	112	3⅞	3½
London, Chatham 1st Pref.....	138¾	133½	136½	4⅓	3¼
Lancashire & Yorkshire Ord...	149¼	145	146	5⅛	3½
Great Eastern	124⅝	118	120⅛	3½	2⅞
Great Northern "A"	58	48	52	2¼	4 1/4
,, Deferred	61⅜	50¾	55	2¼	4⅛
Great Central Pref. Ord.	77	62	66	1½	2¼
Do. (1894) Ord.	—	—	41½	3*	7
Metropolitan	136⅞	127¼	133	3¾	2¾
Metropolitan District Pref. ...	113½	108	110	3⅜	3 1/16
Caledonian Ord	161¾	150	155	5⅛	3 7/16
Do. Deferred (Coras)...	59⅜	54⅛	57	2⅛	3 11/16
North British Deferred	47⅝	41¾	44	1⅛	2½
Do. Preferred	93⅜	86¾	89½	3	3⅓
Central London Ordinary	10 15/16	9 13/16	10¼	3*	3
Rhymney Ordinary	278	265	265½	10½	4

* Payable until completion of lines.

Of all the stocks above referred to, it will be seen that, apart from Midland Deferred, Brighton "A" and Caledonian Deferred Ordinary give the best yield, apart from Great Northern "A," which yield 4 1/16 per cent. on the basis of last year's profits, which cannot, however, any longer be taken as a guide. In the Heavy division a yield of about 3⅝ per cent. can be obtained. The rise which has just taken place in Dover "A" to 112, and in Districts to 29, confirms the view which I have for some time expressed; and there remains yet to be fulfilled my anticipation of a sharp advance in Great Central 1894 Ordinary, now quoted 41½.

YANKEE RAILS—WALL-STREET VERY CONFIDENT—LONDON "BEARS" NERVOUS.

Fluctuations in the Yankee market have been comparatively small during the week, and whenever prices here fell below parity Wall-street came in a buyer, so much so that the "Bears" on this side are getting very fidgety. They had already a taste at the last carry-over of what may befall them, the rate of Milwaukee going off to ⅛ back to even, while contangoes on the other stocks of the active list were also very light. In New York there is a tale about that London is short of 40,000 Milwaukee shares, but this is doubtless an exaggeration. It is, however, a fact that there are no Milwaukee to spare in this market, and the price was at one time as high as 102¼, and even now is but little lower. The course of prices of the whole of the active list will be gathered from the following comparative table :—

—	Price, Jan. 3, 1898.	Highest in 1898.	Lowest in 1898.	May 20, 1898.	Opening Prices, May 31.
Atchison	13⅜	14 3/16	10⅜	12⅜	12⅞
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	31⅝	33¾	23⅝	31⅝	32¾
Canadian Pacifics ...	84⅝	92¼	74	85¼	86¾
Central Pacific	11⅞	15¾	11	12⅝	14¼
Denver	11⅞	14⅜	10	11⅝	12¼
Do. Pref.	47¼	54⅜	41½	46⅝	48½
Erie	15	16⅝	11¼	12¾	13⅜
Do. First Pref.	39½	44⅞	29½	35⅝	36½
Grand Trunk 1st Pref.	57⅛	69⅞	57⅛	68½	73⅜
Do. Guaranteed ...	70	78¾	70	74¾	78¼
Lake Shore	176	198⅞	177¾	190	192
Louisville	58½	62½	45¼	55¼	57
Milwaukee	97½	102¼	85½	99⅝	101⅞
Missouri, Kansas, and Texas	13⅛	14½	9 15/16	11¼	11⅝
Norfolk Adjust. Pref.	48¾	57	42⅞	51⅝	53
North. Pacific Pref., New	61⅛	70⅞	59	66⅞	68
New York Central ...	110¼	122¾	108½	118	120
Ontario	16⅜	19 1/16	13⅜	15¼	15½
Reading	11½	12⅛	7 13/16	9¼	9½
Southern Ordinary ...	9½	10½	7	8⅝	9
Do. Pref.	32¼	34½	24 3/16	29⅞	31½
Union Pacific	26⅝	36¾	18½	23	23¾
Wabash Pref.	18½	20 3/16	14¾	19¾	20½

It will be seen that quotations have been hardening in all directions, Milwaukee, however, taking a front seat. Any startling development with reference to the war would of course exercise an important influence upon values, and more especially would an American victory probably bring an all-round advance of from $2 to $5. This is one reason why the "Bears" have of late been exceedingly nervous. The war, however, is not the only influence, as the prosperous condition of the farmers in view of the high prices ruling for grain naturally improves business. Good times, moreover, still seem to be in store for the farmers, as the acreage under wheat, for instance, is now being figured out as 26,200,000 acres, and the official statistician estimates the probable yield per acre at 13.3 bushels. On this basis a winter wheat crop of 348,460,000 bushels is looked for, as compared with 332,701,105 bushels a year ago. I still keep to my opinion that Louisville and Nashville is one of the best stocks to buy in the American department, and that Union Pacific Preferred and Common will also be well in the running. The present price of the Common of 24 is, of course, with all the assessments paid, and the deduction made of the Preference stock given in lieu of the assessment—which worked out at the time to about $8. This brings the price up to 32, but it has touched 36 during the present year, and there is every prospect of a smart improvement, and whenever the announcement is made that dividends on the Preferred have commenced, Union Pacifics will doubtless move. With reference to the Baltimore and Ohio, it is stated in some quarters that the reorganisation scheme will not be brought forward until the war is over, but it seems to be to all intents and purposes cut and dried, and the impression prevails that an assessment of $20 will have to be paid on the Common stock, against which new securities worth $10 per share will be given. Nothing definite has yet been announced with reference to the Pacific rate-war, but the impression still continues that it is on the point of settlement. Canadian Pacifics have shown strength, and have, as I anticipated, improved to 87. The last traffic return showed an increase of $42,000, and a further rise is looked for. Grand Trunks have moved somewhat irregularly. The "Bulls" took an exaggerated view of the coming last weekly traffic increase, and were going for one of £16,000. When only a gain of £8,145 was announced, there was a good deal of disappointment, heavy sales following. A

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recovery has, however, since set in, and a very strong opinion is prevailing that we shall see a further sharp rise. The Guaranteed are quoted 78, the First Prefs. 73, and the Second Prefs. have now come into favour at 53⅛, and look like going better.

Foreigners and South Americans—Spanish Vagaries—The Brazilian Problem.

The reduction in the Bank rate here has greatly pleased the Paris Bourse, just as the danger signals which were hoisted some weeks ago were equally unwelcome there. The Paris Bourse at present wants fair weather, especially as the Coulisse trouble is by no means at an end, but on the contrary there is now a prospect of a complete rupture with the Parquet, and of the migration of the Coulissiers to Brussels. I dare say that finally some arrangement will be come to, but the uncertainty must for some time longer deprive the Bourse of any strong initiative. Much, of course, depends upon the duration of the Spanish-American war. The sooner that is ended the better it will be for Spain and Spanish finance, in which French financiers are so heavily interested. In fact, while an American victory would probably at first depress Spanish Fours, any subsequent peace rumours would doubtless counteract this influence and put the bonds up again. As to the independence of Cuba, it would from the financial point of view be considered rather a gain than a loss to Spain. After declining to 33½, Spanish Fours have improved to 34⅜ and reacted to 33¾, but there is every prospect of a fresh recovery whatever may happen, as it is evident that the French financiers are determined to see Spain through her difficulties. Whenever the time comes for peace-making these financiers will doubtless wield a strong influence in opposition to the warriors in Madrid. I am glad to see that affairs in Italy have settled down now, and this has exercised a favourable influence upon Italians, while most other foreign securities have improved in sympathy with Spanish. Rio Tinto, of course, are in a somewhat anomalous position. The Company is doing well, and the shares are favourites of the Paris Bourse, but everything depends upon the extent to which minerals will be taxed by the Spanish Government in order to defray the expenses of the war. Amongst South Americans, Argentines have further improved, the 1886 Loan being quoted 90¾, the Funding Loan 89¼. Argentine Railway stocks have also shown strength, and Buenos Ayres and Pacific Four and a Half per Cent. Second Debenture stock, to which I drew attention last week, have been well maintained at 92, while Western Railway of Santa Fé bonds, to which I also referred, have been steady at 41. On the other hand, after a further improvement there has been a partial set-back in Brazilian Government issues, as the financial reorganisation is evidently not going through quite smoothly. That a solution will eventually be found, however, I do not doubt. In fact, the Rio Exchange has already improved to 6⅞. There seems to be a tacit understanding that Uruguay bonds should remain at about the present level until some reasonable estimate can be formed as to what will be the future political and financial conditions in that Republic. Chilians have been firm, and Mexican Sixes have hardened, while Peruvian Corporation stocks have also displayed a more favourable tendency. Mexican Rails have at last aroused from their lethargy, the First Prefs. having been put up to 73½, but these are a dangerous gamble.

The Kaffir Circus.—Dr. Leyds' Diplomatic Despatch.—Politics *v.* Crushings.

We have now the full text of the despatch from the Transvaal Government to Mr. Chamberlain concerning the question of the suzerainty of Great Britain over the Transvaal, and although Dr. Leyds has evidently expended all his ingenuity upon the compilation of this document, it has fallen very flat. Six months ago, when our French and German neighbours were still somewhat favourably disposed to the South African Republic, the despatch might have met with some approval in those quarters; but the non-progressive character of the Transvaal Government has been so fully demonstrated to France and Germany by the refusal of Oom Paul to act upon the recommendations of the Gold Industry Commission, that an appeal to the Continental gallery is now doomed to failure. Personally, I think it does not matter one jot whether the Transvaal acknowledges the Queen's Suzerainty or not, as long as they are determined to uphold the London Convention of 1884, and this the despatch emphatically states. I have no doubt that Mr. Chamberlain will reply in a similar diplomatic strain, and that this little correspondence will go on for some time until finally it fizzles out again. But the contents of this much-discussed communication, which was to show the world that President Kruger and his colleagues "were a Government" have been known weeks ago, and its effect has been fully discounted. What is more important as regards the South African market is that rates at the settlement were very much easier, the contango on Chartered easing off to 1d., Randfontein to 5 per cent., East Rands to 5 per cent., Simmer and Jack to 4 per cent., while Johannesburg Consolidated Investment and Barnato Consols were at last arranged at even. This shows that the account is of very small dimensions, and this position—in view especially of the falling tendency of the Money Market—must eventually act as a strong support to the Kaffir Circus, should the other departments revive sufficiently to impart renewed animation also to South Africans. Quotations braced up considerably for the carry-over, owing to repurchases by "Bears," thus fully bearing out the view which I had taken, that covering on the part of the ursine party would support this market. A few sales have since been prompted by the publication of the despatch, and, these coming upon an inactive market in view of Epsom races, and the protracted holidays, caused a moderate relapse in Rand Mines to 29 1/16, in East Rands to 4½, in Consolidated Goldfields to 4⅛. With the reopening of the markets this week, however, it is quite on the cards that we shall see a stronger tendency, especially if—as is generally expected—the May crushings prove satisfactory. Although fluctuations in the South African market have of late been of moderate dimensions only, it will be useful to glance back at the highest prices ruling during the past year, as compared with present prices:—

——	Highest 1897.	Highest in 1898.	Lowest in 1898.	Price May 27, 1898.
Angelo	5 11/16	6	4½	5⅛
Bonanza	4 9/16	4	3⅝	4 5/16
Buffelsdoorn	2	⅞	⅜	5/16
Barnato Consols	2⅝	2½	1¼	1 11/16
City and Suburban (£4)	6 5/16	6 5/16	4 5/16	5½
Cons. Deep Level	6	6⅛	3⅛	3⅛
Cons. Goldfields Def.	9 11/16	5½	3¾	3 15/16
Crown Deep	14¾	14⅜	10¾	11
Crown Reef	12¾	12½	11¼	12½
Durban-Roodepoort	7½	6⅝	5⅜	6¼
East Rand	5 9/16	5½	3 9/16	4 7/16
Ferreira	24¼	26⅞	22¾	24
Geldenhuis Deep	7⅛	7⅛	6	7¼
Do. Estate	4⅞	5¼	4⅛	5⅜
Glencairn	2 13/16	2 9/16	1⅝	1¾
Goldfields Deep	10⅜	10¾	7	8 1/16
Henry Nourse	9¾	9¾	8⅜	9
Heriot	8⅞	8¼	6⅞	7¼xd
Joh. Con. Invest.	2⅝	2 3/16	1 9/16	1 5/16
Joh. Pioneer	11¼	12½	9½	9¼
Jubilee	8¼	9⅜	6¾	9⅝
Jumpers	6	5 15/16	4⅜	4⅞
Knight's	5 13/16	4½	2 13/16	3⅛
Langlaagte Estate	4¾	4¼	2⅞	3⅛
May Consolidated	2⅝	2½	2	2 7/16
Meyer and Charlton	6⅛	4 15/16	4	3 15/16
Modderfontein (£4)	5 1/16	3 15/16	3⅛	3⅜
Nigel	3 1/16	2 3/16	1 5/16	1 11/16
Primrose (New)	4⅞	4 11/16	3 1/16	3½
Princess Estate	2 13/16	2 9/16	1½	1 15/16
Rand Mines	34⅞	34⅞	26	29
Robinson (£5)	8¾	9	7½	7⅞
Roodepoort United	5⅛	4½	3½	3⅞
Simmer and Jack	5	4⅛	2 13/16	3⅜

The Barnato stocks have been comparatively firm, and cer-

tainly the reports of the annual meetings of the New Primrose and Glencairn Companies—which were held in Johannesburg on the 25th inst.—are of a very favourable character. I gather from the report of the Glencairn meeting, at which Mr. Harold F. Strange presided, in the absence of Mr. S. B. Joel, who is at present recruiting his health on the Continent, that the report and accounts show that since crushing was resumed at the end of July last 84,938 tons have been milled by the 110 stamps running. The profits amounted to £44,167 to the end of the financial year in December last, and are equal to 10s. 3d. per ton. The costs are the lowest on the Rand. All the machinery is running smoothly. Development had increased to 293,000 tons. The successful debenture issue had released profits, which would be distributed in due course. He anticipated an increase in the profits by 50 per cent. on starting an additional fifty stamps as soon as labour could be procured. He referred to the water supply, and stated that the strike of a stream of water in the western shaft covered all present requirements, leaving the dam untouched. At the New Primrose meeting the same Chairman stated that the report and accounts presented showed a gross profit for the financial year ending December of £151,353, equal to 10s. 9d. per ton crushed. The principal increases were due to reduced costs of working and better extraction by the cyanide process. Development had been maintained at 30,700 tons; the mine workings and all the plant were in good order. Ample provision had been made for depreciation. He referred specially to the dyke difficulty between levels 11 and 12 having been overcome; the overlap fully compensated for the break, and no loss of the reef had been caused. He confirmed the forecast of continued dividends made by Mr. S. B. Joel, the Chairman of the Company. In Deep Level shares a fair business is being transacted, and although every now and then there is a set-back, this section is undoubtedly most promising. Flotations of new ventures are even being entered upon, and my Johannesburg correspondent informs me that the most recent of the latter is the Village Deep, formed to take up over 117 claims known as Ingram's, being on the dip of the Village Main Reef Company. The capital of the new Company will be £300,000, in £1 shares, of which 180,000 will be issued to the vendors of the 117 claims, and 60,000 are taken up by them at £2 each, thus providing a working capital of £120,000 cash; 60,000 shares will be held in reserve, and will not be issued at a lower price than £2 per share. It is intended to acquire more claims to the east of Qugramsburg, and thus increase the total claim area to about 195 claims. This new flotation has an important bearing upon the position of the Goldfields Deep, which owns a 25 per cent. interest in Qugramsburg, and will thus receive for its holding 45,000 Village Deep shares, which should be worth not less than £5 each, or £225,000. The obligation to subscribe working capital will be fulfilled, according to agreement between the two companies by the Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa. The Goldfields Deep has also recently acquired another mynpacht, or mining lease, on Booysen's estate, equal to thirty-four claims, in addition to the mynpacht already held, whose area is equal to thirty-three and a half claims. I cannot help thinking that as soon as any recovery takes place in the market Goldfields Deep will reach a much higher price. London operators are not very sanguine just now with regard to further concessions to the mining industry by the Transvaal Government, and such news, for instance, as came to hand with regard to Mr. Esselen's attack upon Mr. Chamberlain, and Mr. Kruger's despatch, is not exactly of a hopeful character. Yet my Johannesburg correspondent seems to anticipate that more reductions will be granted. He, of course, admits that the recent reduction of 10s. per case in the price of dynamite is no great concession in itself, as it only reduces the working costs by about 3d. per ton. But he still thinks that there is a more reasonable and conciliatory spirit on the part of the Transvaal Government towards the mining industry, and he mentions, at the same time, that it is confidently expected in well-informed quarters in Pretoria that further concessions of a more substantial nature will be granted. Diamond shares have been firm. A slight reaction in De Beers was promptly recovered again, and the quotation is now 26⅝, while New Jagersfontein are steady at 7½.

SIMMER AND JACK DEVELOPMENTS—A RECORD OF SHAFT-SINKING.

It has been noticeable of late that even during the weaker intervals of the South African market Simmer and Jack shares show a firm front. This is no doubt due to the fact that the position of the mine is very favourable. The shares at the present price of 3 5/16, however, are still at a very low level, and whenever a fresh revival takes place in the Kaffir Circus, they should move more rapidly than the rest. My Johannesburg correspondent draws special attention to the steady increase in the output of the mine for 1898, the following being the figures for the last four months: — January 10,163 oz.; February 8,881 oz; March 11,419 oz.; April 14,351 oz. The falling-off in February was due to a breakdown in the machinery, but the April figures are excellent, as only the same number of stamps—viz., 240—were at work as during February and March. The lower levels of this mine are opening up so well that further increases may be confidently expected. In the Simmer West and Jupiter excellent progress is being made, for the Simmer West shaft is down 1,207 ft., and the Jupiter 1,347 ft. The reef should be struck in these properties at a depth of 2,500 ft. to 3,000 ft., and as sinking is progressing at the rate of about 140 ft. per month, it will not be so long before definite news is to hand. At the Simmer East, development is being actively proceeded with on the reef in the Hammond and Clement shafts, and the Lohse shaft—in which the reef was cut by a diamond drill at 1,850 ft.—has attained a depth of 1,280 ft. It is worthy of notice that a "record" in shaft-sinking has been accomplished in this shaft during the month of April, the footage completed being no less than 165 ft.; in March the shaft was sunk 150 ft., or a total for the two months of 315 ft. I remember the time, not so long ago, when a total of 65 ft. or 70 ft. per month was considered quite satisfactory; but the present rate of progress has so completely changed former conditions, that a Deep Level property can be brought to the producing stage in a comparatively short period. A few years ago experts used to calculate on a basis of five to six years. Now they can reduce that time by one-half, and it is unnecessary to point out the importance of such a reduction to the holders of Deep Level shares.

WEST AUSTRALIAN AND OTHER MINES.

The West Australian Market has exhibited a much firmer tendency than that for South African mines, and more especially the higher-class shares are again coming into favour. This is not surprising considering that results are distinctly satisfactory and crushings continue to show improvements. A favourable feature is also the promised legislation of the West Australian Government with regard to mining leases and to the alluvial difficulty. The Royal Commission which had been appointed has now reported in favour of future holders of leases for claims being entitled to all the gold within their boundaries; no leases to be granted over alluvial ground—except under certain circumstances; no lease to be granted within twelve months from the passing of the proposed Amendments Act at the present goldfields where alluvial gold is known to exist; and, finally, that alluvial gold be defined as "all gold" except that found in a seam, lode, dyke, vein, or quartz reef. The strongest market has been that for Lake View Consols, which are quoted 9, and for Ivanhoe,

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which have improved to 6. But Hannan's Brownhill have also come into favour at 7⅝, and, after declining, Great Boulder Proprietary have improved to 17s. 6d. The following is the list of crushings for the week, which is somewhat short :—

	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings Per Ton.
Champion Extended & Home Rule	700	600	—
Princess Royal (Cue)	250	178	—
East Murchison United :			
Great Eastern	1,620	1,100	8 dwt.
Donegal Leases...	390	356	3 dwt.
Bayley's United (Tailings) ..	887	892	—
Central Wealth Consol	25	855	—
Golden Ridge	7½	7¾	8 dwt.
Lady Evelyn	101	111	—

It will be useful to now again consider the fluctuations which have taken place in West Australian shares during the past twelve months, and I herewith publish a comparative table of prices giving the highest figures touched in 1897, the highest and lowest in 1898, and the present quotations :—

Names.	Highest, 1897.	Highest in 1898.	Lowest in 1898.	Price May 27, 1898.
Associated Gold Mines ...	5 5/16	4 9/16	2⅜	3½
Belle Vue Prop.	1⅝	—	—	1⅛
Burbank's Birthday Gift ...	2 1/16	1 15/16	⅞	1⅓
Central Boulder	1⅝	1⅜	11/16	½
East Murchison United ...	1 3/16	1¼	⅞	⅞xd
Florence	13/16	⅞	⅓	9/16
Golden Horseshoe	9	9 1/16	6½	9 1/16
Golden Links	1 7/16	1 7/16	½	11/16
Great Boulder Proprietary ...	27/-	25/6	18/0	18/0
,, ,, Perseverance	5¼	4 9/16	2⅝	2¾
,, ,, Main Reef ...	2	1 13/16	1 1/16	1¼
Hampton Plains	3	1 7/16	½	11/16
Hannan's Brownhill	7½	8 5/16	6½	7¾
,, Proprietary ...	1⅛	22/6	13/0	10/6
Ivanhoe	7 3/16	6½	4 11/16	6 3/16
Kalgurli	7¼	6 15/16	4 3/16	5 7/16
Lady Shenton...	2 5/16	3 11/16	1½	2 5/16xd
Lake View Consols	12⅝	11 5/16	7½	9
London & Globe Finance ...	2	2 11/16	1¼	1 5/16
Londonderry	7/0	¾	⅓	3/0
Mainland Consols	2 3/16	¾	¼	5/16
Northern Territories... ...	—	4 15/16	1⅛	1
Princess Royal (Cue) ...	—	—	—	2/9
W. A. Goldfields	6	2⅝	1⅛	1⅛
W. A. Joint Stock Trust ...	3 5/16	2¾	⅞	9/16

There have been a good many disappointments in the West Australian market, and the uncertainties of mining have been fully illustrated in their case. But, all the same, there remains the fact that some of the leading mines, and especially most of those to which I have always directed attention, are doing excellently, and maintain fair quotations, although even the latter do not represent their full value. Amongst these are specially to be numbered Great Boulder Proprietary, Hannan's Brownhill, Ivanhoe, and Lake View Consols; but amongst the favourites are also Associated Gold Mines, Golden Horseshoe, Sons of Gwalia, Lady Shenton, and Kalgurli. It is reported by cable from the Hannan's Brownhill that the new mill has been completed. It is the finest in the colony, and with the old plant it will treat 200 tons of ore daily. This means a very large output in the near future. A strong demand has set in for London and Globe Finance shares, which have advanced to 1⅜ with a rising tendency. An improvement in Great Boulder Main Reef, on favourable advices from the mine, has been a feature, and there has been a better demand for Lady Shentons up to 2⅜ x.d., and according to a cablegram just received from Perth, W.A., a new make of stone has been struck in the hanging wall at the side of the main reef; the average of vein, including new make, is 11 ft.; the new make is 12 in. wide, showing gold quite equal to 3 oz. per ton, which greatly improves that part of level No. 4 lying to the South; and the manager adds that some very fine specimens will be forwarded by the next mail. Florence have improved to 9/16 on a cablegram stating that at 30 ft. solid mineralised stone is shown 2 ft. 6 in. wide, going quite 1 oz. to the ton, and that there is every appearance of improvement in a few feet. Developments on the Golden Pike are favourable, and it is expected that richer stone will be met with shortly as a result of the recent discovery. East Murchison United have been dealt in to a fair extent, and Kalgurli have been a feature of strength. An improvement has taken place in the W.A. Market Trust group. The reconstruction of the Market Trust appears to be fully assured, as it is understood that a large proportion of the assessment has been guaranteed. Northern Territories have been a strong market up to 1¼, and Joint Stock Trusts have been firmer. Under these circumstances it is probable that Joint Stock Founders, which have fallen from ⅞ to 5/16, will also improve again, especially as a considerable dividend will shortly be paid on them. As regards other Australian mines, Mount Morgan have been firm, but Mount Lyell have shown great weakness, this market being altogether disorganised. In Indian mines, movements have been unimportant, and with few exceptions prices have eased off. Copper shares have been dull, and in New Zealand mines hardly any business has been transacted. British Columbian shares have also suffered a slight reaction, while British America made up at the special settlement at 19s. 6d. After reacting to 18s., these shares have recovered again to 18s. 9d. In view of the very important deal of the Corporation with reference to the acquisition of the Le Roi mine, a smart improvement may come about at any time.

THE SYNDICATE-TOUTS AGAIN.

Some time ago I had occasion to draw attention to the renewed efforts of the syndicate-touts to entice country investors into their nets. I then referred more especially to F. Charles, 89, London Wall, London; Alexander Baring & Co., 11, Bridge-street, Bath; and Davenport & Co., 18A, London-street, London, E.C. I have now before me circulars issued by George Armstrong & Co., 106, High Holborn, London, who are distributing these broadcast over the country. They are headed "success without liability or risk," and are on all fours with the missives which used to emanate from the offices of the syndicate-touts which were brought to book by the City Solicitor during the past year. Thus George Armstrong & Co., commence their circular, "It is with great pleasure that we have to inform you of the success of our last joint deal, the magnificent profit of 375 per cent., being the highly satisfactory result." In addition they mention profits of from 300 to 520 per cent. realised in six recent deals, and boast that these "grand profits" "have not been the result of a blind gamble, but the natural outcome of special information and experience." The dodge of guaranteeing new subscribers to their joint deals against any loss whatever is also resorted to. Need I again point out that if George Armstrong & Co., or the people who trade under this name, were actually making the huge profits of which they boast, they would undoubtedly prefer to keep them for themselves instead of offering to enrich complete strangers by offering to share the same with them? A reader of TRUTH has recently been staying at a farm in the country, and to his great surprise the farmer's wife showed him some circulars which had been sent to her by Kynnaston, Son, & Co., stock and share dealers, 114, Fenchurch-street, E.C., in which the suggestion is made to operate in Great Western Railway Ordinary stock at once. The letter was dated May 17, and a profit of £70 on each £10 was promised. My readers, of course, know that Great Western was on that date quoted at 169½, and that, through the unexpected issue of new capital stock and the continuation of the Welsh coal strike, the price has since dropped to 164. That transaction, therefore, would have caused a heavy loss instead of the promised profit. Another very curious circumstance is that Kynnastons enclose printed circulars headed "Kynnaston's Accumulative System," in which particulars are given of

transactions which have been carried out by them in Home Railway stocks. The extraordinary part about this effusion is that altogether impossible prices are mentioned. Thus they state that a client bought £1,000 Brighton "A" at 119 and sold it at 120¼, while their other transactions are also embellished by quotations such as Caledonians at 32½, Great Eastern at 71, &c. It is a long time, indeed since Brighton "A" were quoted 119, and I do not think that Kynnaston's accumulative system was then in existence. The prices mentioned of Caledonian and Great Eastern were also quoted many years ago, and altogether it looks as if the circular had been drawn up by some one absolutely ignorant of present conditions and prices on the Stock Exchange. In view of these extraordinary discrepancies, it is particularly advisable to give Kynnaston, Son, & Co. a wide berth.

The London Co-operative Cab Company—A Disclaimer.

I have received a communication from Mr. Stanley Evans, solicitor, of 20, Theobalds-road, Bedford-row, W.C., taking objection to the statement which I made in Truth of May 26 that I had been told that the London Co-operative Cab Company had been "started some time ago by a man named Stanley Evans." Mr. Stanley Evans, of 20, Theobalds-road, states most positively that he never started such a Company, and, in fact, never heard of it until his attention was called to my article. It is quite clear, therefore, that Mr. Stanley Evans of Theobalds-road was not meant by the report that reached me, and which was referred to in Truth, and I have much pleasure in giving this disclaimer every publicity, while expressing my regret that the reference should have caused any inconvenience to Mr. Stanley Evans, a highly-respectable solicitor, and partner in the firm of Stanley Evans & Co., of 20, Theobalds-road, Bedford-row, W.C. Mr. Stanley Evans states that there is no other person of the same name in the London Post Office Directory, but, although that directory is very comprehensive, everybody's name is not in it, and there is some evidence that a Mr. Evans is connected with the London Co-operative Cab Company. This information I have obtained altogether apart from the report above referred to, as in a written communication from a gentleman who was given as reference for the Company by the secretary (Mr. Hardinge), as one of their oldest and largest depositors, the statement is made that "he [the depositor] has known the principal, Mr. Evans [christian name not given] for many years." I now propose to institute the strictest inquiry into the above report, which reached me from a usually reliable quarter, and if I should succeed in unearthing another Mr. Stanley Evans, or a person going by that name, whether connected with the Company in question or not, I shall consider that I shall have rendered an important service to Mr. Stanley Evans, solicitor, of 20, Theobalds-road.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Anglo-French Textile, Company, Limited.—The business of this Company will be the manufacture of Cotton Yarns and Cloth, in a cotton spinning and weaving mill, to be erected by the Company at Pondicherry, in French India. The capital is fixed at £200,000 in 10,000 Preference shares of £10 each and 100,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each.

A recital of the possibilities of this venture occupies the greater portion of this prospectus, but they are very much in the future. There is also a clause which provides that half the surplus profits, after paying the Preference dividend and 10 per cent. on the Ordinary shares, shall be paid to the Directors in addition to their fixed remuneration. Why should they have this extra remuneration?

The Anglo-Norwegian Kieselguhr Company, Limited.—With a capital of £100,000 in shares of £1 each, this Company has been formed to acquire 100 lakes and waterfalls in South Norway, which are said to contain immense deposits of infusorial earth, known as "Kieselguhr" or "fossil meal."

This prospectus is full of the many advantages and uses to which this earth or "fossil meal" can be applied; but these have yet to be proved. It is extremely doubtful whether the estimated profit of £45,000 per annum will ever be realised.

My Letter Box.

As several of my conditions are not adhered to by many of my correspondents, I take this opportunity of reminding them that I can only reply to communications which are accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers, not, of course, for publication, but as a token of good faith. All anonymous letters will be consigned to the waste-paper basket. Some delay must necessarily occur in answering questions which entail special inquiries, and it is, as a rule, not possible to attend in the current issues to communications which arrive after Friday. My correspondents will also greatly simplify my task by reading my weekly letters carefully through, as these frequently contain remarks on the very subject on which information is sought. Their letters should also be plainly written, and to the point, and it is necessary that the different stocks or shares on which information is asked should be numbered. I again repeat that I can accept no fees for my replies in my "Letter Box," and that I cannot undertake to answer by letter or telegram. I must also absolutely decline to execute any orders for stocks or shares, or to act as an intermediary in any way. The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

Tyro.—Yes, you should hold your Uruguay bonds. It looks as if this country will gradually work into a prosperous position again. *F. T.*—Prospects of Argentines are favourable, and there is nothing against an investment in the Customs loans. *K. K.*—These lottery-bonds yield very small returns only, and for the rest depend upon the drawings. There is no objection to this investment, if you care for that kind of thing. *Orient.*—The office of this concern is quite a small one, and there are only one or two persons in it. It is not at all an important association, but merely a touting concern, and you should have nothing to do with it. Certainly do not pay any more money.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

W. C. M.—The various quotations are the buying and selling figures, and most mining shares are of a denomination of £1, but there are also exceptions. When, for instance, a pound share is quoted ½ to ⅝, this means that at ⅝ or thereabouts you can buy, the difference being the jobber's turn. Sometimes, of course, it is possible to buy at the price between the cabled "middle" price. *P. J. F.*—There would be no objection to your buying a house on this Company's terms, but I do not recommend investment or deposits with it. *N. B.*—The question of what is the duty, if any, upon silk into Morocco is too far afield for me to reply to. *F. J. C.*—You can do better by applying to a respectable building society. Concerns such as that you refer to are not to be recommended. *Meta Colqhoun*, and *A. J. C.*—I published in last week's issue a paragraph on this Syndicate-tout under the heading "Who is F. Charles?" and I advise you not to listen to his blandishments.

Home Rails.

H. S.—The exchange into Great Central 1894 Ordinary might be advisable. *Tyro, Edinburgh.*—Obviously, there is much less margin for a rise in the Preference stock No. 1 than in the Ordinary No. 2, but there is no reason to sell the former at a loss. *Anxious, Macclesfield.*—1. Gordon Hotels Four and a Half per Cent. Debenture stock at 139½, and Courage & Co. Four per Cent. Debenture stock at 124½, should suit your purpose. 2. I can see no reason for selling now. *Harold.*—Last year's dividend on Vestas amounted to 17s. 7d. per share, so that at the present price of 20 they yield about 4¼ per cent. I should prefer Coras to the other stocks mentioned by you. The advice given by other contemporaries to wait before buying Home Railway stocks has proved very misleading, as prices have already jumped up. To some extent, you have already missed your market.

American and Foreign Rails.

Writer, Liverpool.—Certainly hold your American Rails for an improvement. In due time they will doubtless go higher, even if there should be fluctuations. *Nestor.*—Canadian Pacifics should be held for a much higher price.

Mining Shares.

E. L. B.—Certainly hold Glencairn (1) and Oceana (2), this is not the time to sell South African shares. You should also hold No. 3 for an improvement. *Market Trust, Surrey.*—Yes, I think your best plan is to join the reconstruction, as this will un-

doubtedly improve the value of the shares. *Hotspur.*—You have been very unwise in parting with your money before receiving the transfer of these mining shares, and you should certainly not pay up the rest of the money until the shares have been actually transferred to you. *W. G. L.*—You have been most foolish in allowing yourself to be frightened out of your shares by the political rumours. If you had consulted TRUTH you would not have done so. How could you sell Ivanhoe at 5¼, and Lake View Consols at 8 15/16? They have since improved to 6 3/16 and 9⅛ respectively. As regards Randfontein you should also buy these back, which you can do at present without much loss. *Globes Ellara.*—You should certainly stick to all your mining shares, and more especially to London and Globes and British America Corporation. These in fact might be averaged, with at least two of the other shares. *Vere.*—You have omitted to enclose the list of your South African holdings, and I am therefore unable to give you advice on this subject. The life office in question is one of the wealthiest American insurance companies. *Eventide.*—Sons of Gwalia dropped at one time to 1¾, from which there was a rebound, and your broker no doubt has bought as cheaply as he could. *Highlander.*—I think your only course is to hold these South African shares. I have never advised their purchase, but this is not the time to sell. The same applies to the other shares. *Alfred J. A.*—London and Globes have already recovered to 1⅜, and should go considerably better. You should buy more to average. *A Clicker.*—The news from this mine has of late been unfavourable. *Disappointed.*—It may be advisable to join the reconstruction, as otherwise it is possible that you will forfeit your shares. *Balshagray.*—Cable information concerning the Driefontein is expected shortly. *C. M.*—All your mining shares are again recovering, and you should distinctly hold for a further rise. 1. Certainly do not sell now. 2. Most decidedly hold. 3. You might average Randfontein and London and Globes now. *B. A. C.*—British America Corporation shares are undoubtedly a good purchase at the present price. *A. R.*—I should think that under the circumstances it would be advisable to join the reconstruction and sell after. *W. N., Northwich.*—There is a quarrel between the liquidator in Edinburgh and the receiver in London, and in the meantime you had better do nothing. *Geranium.*—After the reconstruction the W. A. Market Trust will probably recover again. British America Corporations and London and Globes are both improving, especially the latter, and there is nothing the matter with either.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

Gratitude.—Unless there was misrepresentation, I do not see how you can insist upon having your application for debentures in this Company cancelled; but I may be able to advise you more definitely if you tell me the name of the brewery. *Lancashire.*—No doubt dividends will be paid half-yearly, but you cannot expect any announcement for some months yet. *C. Mc.D.*—It is a great pity that at the outset you did not heed my repeated warnings against the Great Horseless Carriage Company. I really cannot help you now that the cart is in the mud. Legal proceedings would only be of use if they were taken in conjunction with other shareholders. *Clementina.*—Prospects of this brewery Company do not seem to be favourable, and the management is evidently indifferent.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Nice.—I cannot say that I am particularly in favour of either Nos. 2 or 3, or of the Coal Company, No. 5; but the other stocks in which you propose to invest seem to be suitable. *Roker.*—With regard to American Rails, I certainly consider Union Pacific Prior Lien bonds and Preference shares as most promising. I stated the position of the Union Pacific last week, and there is every prospect of a dividend being paid on the Prefs. As regards a lock-up in mining shares, I should prefer Randfontein and East Rands (3 and 4) to the Indian shares (1 and 2). Nos. 5 and 6 are less promising. Amongst the Industrials, No. 4 is very speculative; No. 5 is not in a satisfactory position; and Nos. 6 and 7 had best be left alone until the Spanish-American war is over. Nos. 1 and 3 are fair investments, but no catch. *Tregenza.*—1. No option but to hold for the present, Brazilians are on the upgrade. 2. This also applies to these stocks. 3. Prospects of the British America Corporation are very favourable. 4. No reason to sell. *Alexis.*—Yes, this is a good time to buy Hannan's Brownhill and London and Globe Finance. None of the bonds mentioned, viz., Russian Internals, Canal de Panama, and Bons de l'Exposition de 1900, have yet been drawn. *Spades*—Amongst the Industrial stocks mentioned by you Nos. 1 and 4 are the most promising, but you will find something to suit you in my letter under "My Chapter on Industrial Stocks." Welsbach Ordinary and Preferred are an excellent purchase, and there is nothing against the bonds Nos. 9 and 10. *Lee.*—1. Yes, you should average London and Globes at once, they are already on the upgrade. 2. You may as well clear your profit. 3. No. 4. Not particularly; I should think that Welsbach Ordinary or Deferred would be preferable. 5. There seems to be no option but to join the reconstruction. 6. A fair investment of the kind, but no catch.

CHINA AND GLASS. — Messrs. GOODE, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

MY CHAPTER ON INDUSTRIAL STOCKS.

Should foreign politics continue to take the more favourable course which they have adopted of late, the Industrial department will doubtless be greatly benefited, and we may see some of the old animated times again. No one can possibly say whether popular fancy will turn towards oil, gas (Welsbach), or cotton shares, but I should think that the last-mentioned gamble had pretty well fizzled out. At all events, English Sewing Cottons are now quoted 5/16 premium only, and some of the "Bulls" seem to be very much afraid of the special settlement which is about to commence. Coats' Ordinary are dull at 58½, and Fine Spinners are quoted 3/32 premium; but at this price there are only sellers. An American Thread Company is now on the tapis to take in fifteen Companies, and, of course, our Yankee cousins are relying upon this Company for half the capital. Welsbachs have upon the whole been a very good market, and, as I anticipated, rates proved very light at the settlement, the Ordinary and Preferred being carried over at from 4 to 6 per cent., the Deferred at from 6 to 10 per cent. The fact is, that stocks have passed into stronger hands, and I fully anticipate an early advance, more especially in the Ordinary now quoted 111, while the Preferred stand at 97, the Deferred at 18s. 9d. The various exhibitions of the new burner, which are being held in the City and elsewhere, are evidently popularising this new invention. Russian Oil shares have declined to 21½, the Preferred to 10⅛, on the scare about the title; while Schibaieff are quoted par to ⅛ premium. Volenite shares have temporarily eased off to 4½ premium. West Australian timber shares have shown dulness, chiefly in view of the coming competition, and Millars' Karri and Jarrah are quoted 2¾, Davies 1¼. It is understood that the response to the appeal to the public of the Australian Hardwoods Company has been very indifferent, and this should act as a warning to the promoters of the new Jarrah Companies now on the tapis. It is quite absurd to bring out with large capitals Companies to acquire leasehold properties, which can be obtained for a mere song. Liptons have been steady, the Ordinary at ⅞ to 15/16 premium, the Preferred to ¼ premium. In brewery shares Allsopp Ordinary have been firmer at 147. Lyons have been firm at 4⅛ on the issue of the report, which confirms the payment of a balance dividend at the rate of 17½ per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year. After placing £5,000 to reserve, and writing off sundry amounts, the directors propose to carry forward to next account the sum of £1,315. Salmon & Gluckstein have been steady at 32s., Natal Steam Coal at 1⅛ to ¼. I am not surprised that Pegamoid have now fallen to 5s. 6d. I always warned my readers not to put their money into this concern. In cycle shares dealings have been small, and prices have not yet taken a turn for the better. Dunlop Ordinary are quoted 13s., the Deferred at 7s., and the Debentures have again dropped 5 to 65, while Humber Ordinary stand at 9s. 9d. x.d., the Extensions at 5s. Cycle Components are quiet at 1 3/32, Swifts at 9s. 6d., Singers at 8s. 9d., Amalgamated Tyres at 3s. 3d. Amongst new issues which are on the tapis is a debenture issue of a leading brewery Company, the conversion of the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company of Regent-street—which is attracting much attention—half a dozen Karri and Jarrah Companies of very varying merits, an engineering Company, Hooley, Limited, &c. There is every prospect of the issue of Five per Cent. Preference shares to be made by the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company to customers and the public proving a considerable success. The business is one of the largest and most prosperous of its kind, and the amount required to pay the preference dividend on the basis of the average profits for the last three years is covered several times over. The whole of the ordinary shares will be held by the vendors, Messrs. W. Gibson and J. L. Langman, who will continue to manage the business. Owing to the progress made in electric traction, electric tramways are meeting with much favour, and several of those constructed in the colonies and now working are achieving excellent results. Take, for instance, the Cape Electric Tramways, Limited, which was started in 1897, and owns all the

shares of the Companies composing the tramways of Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. The net profits from both systems amounted in November, 1897, to £4,517; December, £6,479; January, 1898, £6,913; February, £6,254; March, £6,594; April, £6,275; a total of £37,032, which is a very satisfactory result. Assuming that the next six months' profits were on the same scale, the profits for the year would amount to £74,064, and deducting debenture interest at 5 and 6 per cent. on the two issues made (£24,650), there would be a surplus of £49,414 available for the dividends on the capital of £400,000 in shares of £1 each (the Debenture debt amounting to £430,000). It takes £40,000 to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. on the Ordinary shares, so that they may already be considered to be on a 10 per cent basis. The present price of 25s. per £1 share is under the circumstances extremely moderate, and the shares would not be dear at 30s.—Your affectionate Uncle,

MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

A COSTLY GIFT.

Part I.

FRANKLYN VAVASOUR was a miser up to date. His clothes were not ragged, nor did he deny himself the necessaries of life. On the contrary, he moved in good society, lived luxuriantly, and even indulged in what might be called personal extravagance. This may sound paradoxical, but the simple explanation is that Franklyn Vavasour had such a supreme regard for his own comfort and well being, that he grudged no expenditure on that account. But, outside this purely selfish limit, no wretched half-starved monomaniac that ever shivered in a garret hoarded his money more zealously than this highly-polished, fashionably-attired young gentleman. While contenting himself with exacting the uttermost farthing of value for every pound he spent upon himself and his pleasures, Franklyn Vavasour rigidly drew the line at generosity to others in any shape or form. He had probably never bestowed a halfpenny in charity in his life; he did not know the meaning of hospitality in a reciprocal sense; and if he gave a dinner at his club, or lent a friend his horse to ride, it was always from sordid and calculating motives.

It is truly astonishing, considering that Franklyn Vavasour's idiosyncrasies were pretty generally known, that he contrived to maintain a sort of lukewarm popularity among his friends and acquaintances. He was what is called a "jobber" on the Stock Exchange; and, by many years of patient assiduity and obsequious time-serving, he had established a lucrative business, and when a man is well-to-do and successful, a very little commonplace amiability will hide a multitude of shortcomings. He was a man of about thirty-five and a bachelor. Nor did he seem in any hurry to turn Benedick, though he went a good deal into society. He found this a cheap form of amusement, for in these days a bachelor and a dancing man is a privileged being, who is eagerly sought after, and from whom no return for kindness shown is expected. For the rest he was not a bad-looking fellow, and though his tall, slim figure, sharp features, and steely blue eyes afforded some index to his character, he was naturally regarded as a highly eligible *parti*.

One evening Franklyn Vavasour descended the steps of a friend's house in the neighbourhood of Portman-square in a very gloomy and depressed frame of mind. He had quitted the ball-room early, for a little incident had occurred which had affected his spirits. A short time previously he had been invited to the wedding of a daughter of a Stock Exchange friend named Pyecroft. Franklyn was not fond of weddings, because they were associated with the giving of presents. He thought wedding presents a hateful and degrading institution, and he decidedly set his face against them. Therefore he had refused the Pyecroft invitation, feeling that his business relations with the father would render it a little awkward for him to attend the wedding without making the customary offering.

But old Tom Pyecroft was one of those bluff, outspoken products of Stock Exchange culture, who are devoid alike of sensitiveness and delicacy. He was a broker in a large way of business, and he had been in the habit for a good many years of dealing with Franklyn, who had found these transactions very profitable. It appeared that Tom Pyecroft (as he was universally called, even by lads young enough to be his grandsons) had not been made aware till that evening of Franklyn's polite refusal of the wedding invitation, and meeting him at the ball, he had taken him to task about it, with his usual engaging frankness.

"Frank, I call it confounded shabby behaviour," he said, using, however, a considerably stronger adjective than is here set down, "and I didn't think it of you."

"The fact is, I've given up weddings," Franklyn had replied, lamely.

"It is all tommy-rot," returned the other, "you must come, and that is the long and short of it. You and I ain't going to quarrel, Frank, over a trifle like this, eh?"

"Oh, no! Certainly not!" answered Franklyn, uneasily, fancying he detected a latent significance in his friend's words, "I'll come by all means."

"That is right, I knew you would," cried Tom Pyecroft, slapping him vigorously on the back. "You can bring your present with you, my boy."

It is probable that the old gentleman's concluding words were only uttered in jest, for he was an inveterate buffoon, and he loved to rally people on their weak points. But poor Franklyn groaned in spirit, for he would almost as soon have parted with his heart's blood as spend money in this way. Thus meditating, he hailed a hansom, when he got within a shilling cab fare of his chambers, and gave himself up to bitter reflections. But the situation had to be faced, for the wedding day was close at hand, and he began to consider seriously what was the smallest sum that he could decently spend. While turning over this important problem in his mind, Franklyn's attention was attracted by something which glittered at his elbow, and putting forth his hand absently, he was amazed to find a small brooch in the form of a star, hanging loosely by its pin from the cushion of the cab.

He examined his treasure-trove with curiosity, and perceived at once that it was a valuable diamond ornament. No doubt the last occupant of the cab had been a lady, who, having removed the brooch while adjusting her wraps, had stuck it into the cushion of the cab, and carelessly forgotten it. This conjecture was confirmed by the conduct of the driver of the cab, who suddenly pulled up, and descended to examine his horse's knee by the light of a gas-lamp.

"What is the matter?" inquired Franklyn, involuntarily closing his hand over the brooch.

"He has gone lame. I must get home when I've put you down, sir," grumbled the man.

"Had an accident?" asked Franklyn, noticing that the harness of the animal seemed disarranged.

"Yes, sir, collision in Baker-street."

"Anybody hurt?"

"No, sir. There was a lady inside at the time. She screamed and jumped out in a fright, and wouldn't get in again, and I lost my fare," grumbled the man as he re-ascended his perch.

This explanation cleared up the mystery. The accident had probably occurred at the moment when the lady had removed the brooch, and her terror and agitation had caused her to leave it behind. Franklyn's first impulse was to inquire of the cabman where the lady had entered the cab, in view of restoring her property. Unhappily the idea suddenly flashed across his mind that this diamond brooch was just the sort of article that would be suitable for a wedding present, and without any definite dishonesty of purpose, Franklyn put the brooch into his pocket, and said nothing to the driver about it.

That individual was inclined to be garrulous on the

subject of his recent misadventure, when Franklyn alighted at his own door; but if his object was to excite sympathy in the bosom of his fare, he was speedily disillusioned by receiving a very hard-earned shilling and a curt good night. The man whipped up his patient horse and departed with curses, while Franklyn let himself in with his latch-key, feeling strangely elated at having kept silent about his find.

It is a singular fact that from the moment he reached his own room, and closed the door behind him, Franklyn Vavasour regarded the brooch as his own private property. The moral aspect did not enter into his calculations at all. He could not resist the temptation of availing himself of what he regarded as a pure stroke of luck; and as he turned the brooch over in his hands, he remembered with a thrill of satisfaction that Miss Pyecroft's future husband was a young officer, who was under orders to rejoin his regiment in India immediately, whither the bride and bridegroom were to depart from Brindisi, after a brief honeymoon on the Continent. When this important fact occurred to him, Franklyn Vavasour made up his mind on the spot that the brooch would be his wedding gift. The only thing that troubled him was that it was almost too valuable for his purpose. Though no judge of stones, Franklyn realised that the diamonds were large and of the purest water. It seemed probable that the owner would advertise her loss in the newspapers, and the resemblance between the missing article and his gift to the bride might attract attention. To obviate this as much as possible, Franklyn decided to obey literally Tom Pyecroft's injunction, and to take his present with him to the wedding. By presenting it at the moment of the bride's departure he would show becoming modesty, and would ensure its not being exhibited to the public gaze among the other gifts. He also had the brilliant idea of purchasing a case for the brooch at the United Co-operative Stores, of which he was a member, thus naturally conveying the impression that he had purchased his present there.

His scheme succeeded as completely as such unhallowed projects frequently do at the outset. He went to the wedding, and, waiting until the bride appeared in her travelling dress on the eve of departure, he slipped the case into her hand. He had hoped that the young lady, in her natural agitation, would have refrained from opening it before others, but Tom Pycroft's daughter had her emotions well under control, and was able to manifest the most flattering appreciation of Franklyn's generosity.

"Oh, look, every one! Look, father! It is beautiful!" cried the bride, rapturously, handing the brooch round to be duly admired. "Mr. Vavasour, you are a perfect dear. I must kiss you for it—I really must."

Franklyn's passing annoyance at the public demonstration was more than compensated by the chorus of admiration and approval which his gift elicited, especially when Tom Pyecroft, who was slightly maudlin and decidedly intoxicated, clasped him warmly by the hand, and said:

"Frank, dear boy! You've done us proud. I didn't expect it of you, but it is an agreeable surprise. I shan't forget, old chap, its—hic—devilish good o' yer."

It was a new sensation for Franklyn to be commended for generosity, and he experienced a pleasant glow of virtuous satisfaction as he wended his way to his club when the wedding party broke up.

Nevertheless, he kept a watchful eye on the second column of the *Times* and other newspapers, for when the excitement of the affair had passed he began to be troubled with vague misgivings. Whenever an announcement caught his eye with the ominous heading "Lost," Franklyn felt a cold shiver, but the owner of the brooch made no sign, and after a day or two he began to feel quite happy and comfortable.

One evening, about a fortnight later, Franklyn Vavasour, returning to his chambers to dress for a dinner party, was accosted on the door-step outside by a dingy-looking individual, who smelt of stables and also of liquor.

"Beg pardon, sir," said the man, touching his hat, "might I speak to you a minute?"

"I've nothing for you," said Franklyn, adopting his usual formula.

"You are the gent, sir; now I hear your voice I'm sure of it," was the unexpected rejoinder.

"What do you mean?" inquired Franklyn, to whom the other's face suddenly seemed familiar.

"It was you as I drove home here on Tuesday night, the 10th of this month," said the man with conviction.

Tuesday night, the 10th? Franklyn Vavasour, though taken aback, was for a few moments entirely unsuspicious, while he endeavoured to recall that particular date to mind. Then, all of a sudden, it flashed across him that the occasion referred to was the momentous evening on which he had found the diamond star, and that the man was the driver of the hansom cab!

Franklyn flushed crimson, and with the man's eye fixed upon him he could not for the life of him deny the assertion.

"Well, what then?" he inquired, sharply.

"An unpleasant thing has happened," said the man, "a lady swears she left a brooch in my keb, and they say——"

"They! Who?" interrupted Franklyn, with a paroxysm of apprehension.

"The p'lice!"

"The police! Oh, nonsense! I mean," added Franklyn, checking himself. "What have the police got to do with it, and what has it all got to do with me?"

"Well, sir, it's this way," began the man.

"Come inside," said Franklyn, abruptly.

The police! This unpleasantly suggestive word rang in Franklyn's ears, and rendered him so nervous and uncomfortable that he felt he would rather hear what the man had to say in the privacy of his own room. He therefore led him upstairs, and during the interval he had time to recover his composure.

"Well, my man, what is it?" he inquired, briskly.

The man's story was soon told, for it had the merit of simplicity, and Franklyn's private knowledge enabled him to grasp it readily. It appeared that the owner of the brooch was convinced that she had left it stuck into the lining of the hansom cab from which she had alighted at the moment of the accident. The police had been communicated with, and the driver had been readily found. Suspicion rested upon him and upon the helper at the yard who had cleaned the cab the next morning, but each, naturally, stoutly denied the accusation. The matter was complicated, as regarded the cabman, by his having been unable to remember where he had driven his subsequent fare. He had been suspended by his employer, and for some days past he had been frantically endeavouring to refresh his memory as his only chance of rehabilitating himself.

"It come on me, sir," he said, in conclusion, "all of a flash. I was takin' a glass at the 'ouse opposite, when I seed this building—Monarch Chambers—and, by Jove! I says, says I, dash my buttons, that's it, and I'd just stepped over to make inquiries, when you came along promiscuous."

"Oh, that's it, is it?" said Franklyn, inwardly cursing his ill-luck.

"I suppose you didn't find the article, sir," said the man, confidentially.

"Certainly not," replied Franklyn, with desperation.

"I believe it's a plant, and that the lady never lost no brooch at all," grumbled the man; "least wise, not in my keb!"

"You are right, no doubt," exclaimed Franklyn, eagerly.

"Yes, sir, the p'lice think theirselves precious clever," said the man, turning to depart, "just because I'd 'ad a drop that night after the accident and couldn't remember where I'd drove you to, they think I'm a thief, but it'll be all right now."

BRANDAUER'S CIRCULAR-POINTED PENS. Neither scratch nor spurt. Glide over the roughest paper with the ease of a soft lead pencil. Assorted sample box, 7 stamps, from the Works, Birmingham.

"Stay!" exclaimed Franklyn, turning a shade paler. "What do you mean by that?"

"Well, sir, of course, I shall put 'em on to you," said the man.

"Confound it!" cried Franklyn; "I've got nothing to do with it."

"No doubt, sir; but the p'lice will make inquiries. Good day, sir," said the man.

"Ahem! My man, this is a very unpleasant affair, as you say," gasped Franklyn. "I—I don't want to be mixed up in it."

"No more didn't I, sir," said the man, doggedly.

"Really, my friend," said Franklyn, putting his hand insinuatingly into his waistcoat pocket, "you have been very badly used. But I wonder, now, whether it is absolutely necessary for you to tell them about me? You are absolutely innocent. There is nothing whatever against you."

He reluctantly produced a sovereign as he spoke, and placed it in the man's ready palm. The fellow glanced at the coin, and then lifted his eyes to Franklyn's with a very cunning and significant expression.

"I'm afraid I can't do it, sir, not at that price," he said, lowering his voice.

"How much would you—ahem—expect?" asked Franklyn, unguardedly.

"I've been suspended for more than a week. I've a living to make, and, if the p'lice will let me go, I must leave London," said the man, slowly. "If you will make it a tenner, guv'nor——"

"Stop!" exclaimed Franklyn, startled by the man's tone and manner, "you misunderstand me. I know nothing about the brooch."

'No, sir; very likely not—but——"

"Look here, my man," interposed Franklyn, frantic at having given the man cause to suspect him, "you seem to think I wish to bribe you. Why should I? It is simply that I don't want the police to come bothering here if I can help it. I'm sorry I gave you that sovereign now."

"Beg pardon, sir, but I meant no harm," said the man, evidently abashed by Franklyn's virtuous indignation, "you see how I'm placed?"

"Yes, yes," returned Franklyn, hurriedly, at the same time producing his card—"My request was thoughtless, unreasonable. Here is my card. Give it to the police. I am dining out this evening, but I shall be back at 11 o'clock. You can tell the police that."

"Very well, sir," said the man, completely humbled—"Thanking you, sir, for your kindness."

Franklyn showed the fellow out, feeling hot and cold by turns at his narrow escape of having placed himself in his power. Luckily, he had realised, just in time, the extreme foolishness of such a proceeding, and that the wisest and safest course was to brave the thing out. His hand trembled somewhat, however, as he tied his white tie that evening, nor did he particularly enjoy his dinner-party. It was disagreeable to think that he was an object of solicitude on the part of the police, and though he took the precaution to fortify himself for the interview by a few extra glasses of his host's claret, he felt a little uncomfortable, when, on returning to his chambers, he found himself confronted by an inspector in uniform.

The officer was a stout, heavy-featured individual, whose aspect was not calculated to excite alarm. He rose stolidly from his seat when Franklyn appeared, and addressed him with respectful deference.

"Beg pardon, sir," he said, gravely, "I took the liberty of calling to corroborate the story of a cab-driver, James Partlett."

"I don't know his name," said Franklyn, maintaining a very tolerable composure, "but I guess who you refer to. The man called here earlier in the evening"

"Yes, sir. Says he drove you home in his cab, a hansom, from the neighbourhood of Baker-street on the evening of the 10th," said the Inspector.

"Quite right, he did," replied Franklyn, emboldened by the fact that the Inspector was staring stolidly around the room while he spoke.

"Was he drunk, sir?"

"He says so, I suppose he ought to know," said Franklyn, feeling quite facetious, "I didn't notice him particularly. Of course, I don't want to get the man into trouble," he added magnanimously.

"It isn't that, sir," said the officer. "It is about a diamond brooch that is said to have been left in his cab. I suppose you saw nothing of it?"

"Nothing," said Franklyn, calmly. "You are welcome to search my rooms if it is your duty," he continued, laughingly.

"No occasion for that, sir. Your word is sufficient," replied the Inspector, who had probably previously satisfied himself of Franklyn's good repute. "I only wanted to verify the cabman's story."

"Will anything happen to the man?" asked Franklyn, with a little natural anxiety.

"There's no evidence against him. I expect the lady was mistaken," said the Inspector. "Good evening, sir. Sorry for having troubled you."

"Won't you take something, Inspector?" inquired Franklyn, producing the whisky decanter and a glass in the fulness of his heart.

"You're very good, sir. Your good health," said the officer, tossing off a dram.

"Supposing now that this driver had found the brooch—which I don't the least believe," said Franklyn, rather quickly, "but supposing he had, what then?"

"Six months' hard," said the Inspector, laconically.

"What! for simply finding it," exclaimed Franklyn, aghast for private reasons.

"Finding and keeping," corrected the Inspector, "unlawful possession and converting to his own use."

"I see. But it seems rather severe, doesn't it? It is not quite the same as stealing," said Franklyn, feeling rather faint.

"There ain't much difference, sir, and it is the law, anyway," replied the Inspector, with becoming gravity. "It is just a question of intention. If a person finds a thing and appropriates it to his own use, he commits a criminal offence."

"I fancy a good many people don't quite realise that, Inspector," said Franklyn, with an uneasy laugh.

"All the worse for them, sir, if ever they get found out," was the significant reply. "Good night, sir, and thank you."

(To be continued.)

ART NOTES.

As Messrs. Cassell's "Black and White" Exhibition at the Cutlers' Hall, in Warwick-lane, Newgate-street, is only open until the 7th of this month, intending visitors have no time to lose. I can promise them that they will find an interesting show, embracing drawings from many of the prominent black and white men of the day, from Mr. H. M. Paget to Mr. Caton Woodville, from Mr. C. W. Wyllie to Mr. Hatherell. Most of the drawings by the numerous popular draughtsmen represented are the originals of illustrations which have appeared in the countless books and magazines which are issued from La Belle Sauvage-yard, and they can be purchased at prices which seem to me remarkably cheap. The most expensive drawings in this Exhibition (one of them by a real R.A., Mr. J. MacWhirter) are valued at eight guineas, whilst there are sketches by the late Mr. Fred Barnard and others to be had for half-a-guinea. There are some delightful little landscapes by Mr. Alfred East; and Mr. Herbert Railton contributes some more of those architectural subjects which he is able to invest with so pleasant a spirit of poetry and romance. Admirers of Thackeray will, if I mistake not, approve of Mr. H. M. Brock's illustrations of that great novelist's ballads. For, fortunately, Mr. Brock is not only a good draughtsman, but he also has that sense of humour which is so indispensable to any artist who would satisfactorily illustrate Thackeray. Look, for instance, at the drawing made for the

ballad of "The Mahogany Tree," and you will see at once that Mr. Brock is a humourist as well as an artist. Mr. H. B. Nelson's quaint drawings, in which animals are invested with the tastes and foibles of human beings, would serve admirably for the decoration of nursery walls; whilst Fairyland, so little believed in, there is reason to fear, by the century-end child, finds a sympathetic interpreter in Miss Marie Miles. For further details I have no space, but I would repeat that the exhibition as a whole is one which should not be missed by those who take an interest in the current development of "black and white" art.

Of the many visits I have paid recently to the galleries of the Fine Art Society none has afforded me more entertainment than that made to the drawings of M. Caran d'Ache, now on view at 148, New Bond-street. It has always seemed to me that Caran d'Ache as a caricaturist stands entirely alone. To say he has not the deep insight into human nature of Willette, nor the modernity of Forain, nor the ultra-realism of Steinlen, is not very much to the point. To hail him as a marvellously effective draughtsman, endowed with a never-failing fund of graphic humour, is only to give him his due. The comic swing and dash of his drawings, the humorous *verve* of his cartoons, are not more remarkable than the care and finish of his draughtsmanship; and having been tickled and entertained by his irresistible pictorial jokes, you can derive a purely artistic pleasure by examining the details of his sketches, where every accessory of the costumes and the *mise en scène* is so wonderfully accurate, so scrupulously complete. Take, as a sample of the grotesque and laughable details he can crowd into one drawing, his "Taking of Jericho" (No. 104). I venture to say that no one who looks at the Jewish Army marching so proudly round the walls of that city, headed by their delightfully Hebraic drum-major, walking backward and pompously manipulating his staff in the well-known drum-majorish manner, will be able to refrain from a protracted internal chuckle—if, indeed, his feelings do not find vent in an audible guffaw. It is, in fact, as an illustrator of the humours of military life that M. Emmanuel Poiré (for Caran d'Ache is but a *nom de plume*) is seen at his very best. He is as much at home with the French linesman as Rudyard Kipling is with our own Tommy Atkins, and it is not too much to say that he has done as much to popularise soldier life in France as the author of "Soldiers Three" has in this country. It was as a military painter that Caran d'Ache commenced his artistic career; and it was at the studio of M. Detaille that he first presented himself when he arrived in Paris from St. Petersburg with a portfolio of drawings under his arm to serve as his introduction. When, in due course, he served his five years in the army, he passed most of his time in drawing uniforms for the Ministry of War, an experience which has since been of the utmost value to him. But it was his drawings in the *Figaro* which first made him known in England, and he is, as I know to my intense satisfaction, every week still a regular contributor to that journal. All who have made his acquaintance in its pages will, I feel certain, hasten to improve it by a visit to the Fine Art Society's Galleries; and those who have not yet had the pleasure of enjoying his humour should on no account miss the present opportunity of adding to the pleasures of life by becoming acquainted with it.

MUSIC.

MORE ABOUT BOGUS "REGISTERED" TEACHERS.

A FORTNIGHT ago I printed an article upon bogus "Registered R.A.M. and R.C.M." teachers, a subject which, if I may judge from the correspondence I have received, is of enormous interest to a large number of professional musicians, particularly in the provinces, where the bogus "registered" teacher is rampant. Some of my correspondents, I am bound to say, seem very much inclined to run off the track and to enter into more or less valuable dissertations upon school examinations generally, and the proceedings of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music in particular. The question, however, so far at any rate as I have at present discussed it, really lies in a nut-shell.

The Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College have instituted a system by which teachers and schools have to be registered and to pay a fee of a guinea a year before their pupils can be examined in their own localities. Whether this hunger for stray guineas is quite worthy of the "Associated Board," who notoriously make enormous profits on their examinations, may legitimately be open to question. That the unlucky use of the word "registered" is a mistake, there unfortunately can be no question at all. The guinea subscription merely entitles provincial schoolmistresses and teachers to be placed upon the register of schools situate away from the great centres, and to examine whose pupils a special examiner must be sent from London. It clearly does not confer any diploma upon the registered school or person, for school proprietors, although usually people of business or versed in mathematics and the classics, often do not even claim to have the slightest knowledge of musical matters. It was, indeed, very largely to protect the schoolmistress who may be strong in Greek and logarithms, but weak in counterpoint; and for the defence of parents and guardians having no means of knowing whether their children are being properly taught music, that these school examinations were founded by the Associated Board.

Certain unscrupulous persons have, however, found in this very innocent system an excuse for placing after their names "Registered R.A.M. and R.C.M." As one of my correspondents very fairly puts it, "the public are led thereby to believe that the advertiser holds a diploma from these two eminent institutions which we in the musical profession know is not the case." Nobody, of course, blames the Associated Board for the fraud which has been practised upon them, and if the business arrangements of the Board had still been in the hands of the late Mr. Watson, thanks mainly to whose keenness of judgment and good sense, the Board so quickly attained to the high position it now holds in musical life, the matter would, I think, have been dealt with in a very simple, speedy, and straightforward fashion; the names of the offending parties would have been ruthlessly struck off the roll, and the obnoxious word "registered" would have been dropped altogether.

So far, however, as I am aware, the present authorities of the Associated Board have taken no step whatever in the matter, except that their hon. secretary, Mr. Samuel Aitken, has written a long and rambling epistle to the *Daily Guardian* of Nottingham—a town in which it seems a very brisk discussion upon this grievance has been for some little time in progress. Mr. Aitken's letter would occupy about a page of my space, and I am bound to express an opinion that the greater portion of it will not be endorsed by such sensible men of the world as Sir Charles Parry and Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the heads of the two institutions named. Mr. Aitken, in fact, offers no excuse for the muddle which this guinea "registration" has caused, nor does his letter appear to give the slightest indication that he sees any ground for a reform, the necessity for which I venture to believe his equally conscientious though more level-headed colleagues on the Associated Board will recognise as imperative and urgent. Mr. Aitken prefers, quite *à propos de bottes*, to attack some rival institution (which, with curious lack of courage, he does not name), saying that, during a recent visit to Australia, "I was aghast at the publication of the results of an examination which had been held there by an English body, in which out of 619 passes in all grades 254 were awarded honours." He also makes a special point of the fact that, as hon. secretary, he is unpaid. It matters nothing to the public, nor, indeed, to any one, save those by whom he is employed, whether he is paid or not. Nobody for a single moment supposes that he has acted upon mercenary, or, indeed, upon any but the most conscientious motives. Indeed, in

my own rather wide experience of men and matters, I have found that honorary officers can, unwittingly, do even more harm by their lack of experience and authority than those who are paid for their labour. Still less is it to the point, though Mr. Aitken appears to think it is, that at the Royal Academy of Music instruction costs about £16 a year per pupil more than the pupil pays. If it be the fact, there must be some bad management somewhere. At the Guildhall School of Music the fees of pupils are lower than at the Royal Academy, although the teachers are certainly paid at a good deal higher rate. Yet despite occasional dippings into the school bags by peculatory clerks (a race not altogether unknown at the R.A.M.) and other little matters which need not now be discussed, the Guildhall people manage to make both ends meet; and, indeed, the fees of the pupils practically cover the whole of the expenses of the institution, less the salary of the principal. What, however, all this has to do with the silly system of the Associated Board in "registering" teachers at a guinea a head nobody, I fear, but Mr. Aitken can quite understand.

The whole point is this. Thanks to the absurd use of the word "registered" the public are given to understand by unscrupulous persons that this guinea subscription carries with it some sort of diploma or qualification. It is only in professional circles that it is known the very reverse is the fact. It is, therefore, perfectly obvious that the course to pursue is to drop the word "Registered" and to strike the offending teachers off the Associated Board's lists. If the word "Registered" is not used at all for the future, there will be no temptation to the teacher, whether at a school or in private practice, to adopt a title to which he has no sort of claim. Indeed, as it appears, there are only something like 700 schools and persons on the entire list. Even if each paid a guinea—and it is acknowledged that the fee is returned where more than twelve pupils are examined—the net income derived from this source is not sufficient to warrant the danger of foisting upon the public as "registered" teachers, a set of people who possibly may not be musicians at all. Arrangements can surely be made for the local examination of schools without this machinery of registration, or, at any rate, without the guinea imposition and the use of the word "registered." I believe, indeed, that the Associated Board have a special examination for teachers although I am not quite certain upon the point, as an application to the Associated Board for their current List of Regulations has, perhaps owing to the forgetfulness of an "hon." clerk or the neglect of some "hon." postman, not been answered. At any rate, there should be no difficulty at all in fixing upon some method which would inform the public whether a teacher is qualified or not, after due examination or some other proper test. Instead of suggesting some such course, Mr. Aitken complains bitterly that five leading musicians in Nottingham who were educated at the Royal Academy of Music do not join his precious "registered" party and pay their annual guinea. They are, I think, quite right to refuse to do so, or to risk their professional reputation by mixing themselves up with the bogus "registered" teachers. Indeed, until the combined intellects of the two institutions can devise some means of protecting bonâ-fide teachers from being confounded with these guinea bogus people, the leading musicians of the provinces would do well to avoid the undesirable repute which "registered" frauds are likely to earn. But the whole matter would seem to be a very simple one, and by the exercise of a little common sense could be easily put right.

At the opera, after the extreme activity of the first fortnight, when he produced ten works within twelve nights, Mr. Maurice Grau has been indulging in a rest. Last week, indeed, the only addition to the repertory was Boïto's "Mefistofele," which was given on Thursday for the first appearance this season of Mme. Calvé. The French prima donna has not been here for a couple of years, but since her last appearance at Covent Garden she has sung abroad in a variety of new parts, such as Ophelia in Thomas's opera, Selika in "L'Africaine," Marguerite in "Faust," and the heroine in "Mefistofele." Boïto's opera hardly suits her so well as her more dramatic rôles in "Carmen" and "La Navarraise"; and, indeed, except as to the prison scene, Margaret in "Mefistofele" has little to do save to look pretty and to sing delightfully. Whether Mme. Calvé's style has become more developed since she was last here—a fact which is insisted upon in America—remains, therefore, to be seen. M. Plançon was the protagonist—a rôle associated with the name of that great artist Signor Nanetti. On Wednesday, also, after an interlude in which Mme. Bauermeister frightened M. Edouard de Reszke out of his wits by fainting on the stage, the curtain being rung down with almost amazing alacrity, we had a new Margaret in the person of Miss Suzanne Adams. The character of Juliette, in which she made her début here, is, however, much better suited to this promising young American prima donna. On Saturday "Roméo" was again announced, but not, unfortunately, with M. Jean de Reszke, who, down to date, at any rate, has confined his appearances in London to the Wagner operas. It is hoped before he goes that he will give us an opportunity of hearing him in more vocal parts.

Next Monday we begin the three cycles of "Der Ring des Nibelungen," operas to be performed strictly in the dark, and with many another attempt to imitate Bayreuth. The nonsense about closing the doors, and not allowing anybody in or out, has, however, been put a stop to, so far, at any rate, as the subscribers are concerned. Box-holders can go in or out as they please, while the proposition to close the stall doorways has been promptly settled in the negative by the management, who have carted the doors bodily away. The great lager-beer question remains in abeyance. But a sham Bayreuth without lager-beer would be a sham indeed.

Madame Patti is back again in town, and on Thursday she appeared at the first of Messrs. Harrison's concerts at the Albert Hall. The great artist was in luxuriant voice, and apparently in the best of health. She was announced to sing three songs, but, as usual, also gave a similar number of encores. Madame Patti, next Tuesday, will make her first appearance at a miscellaneous concert at Queen's Hall at the Jubilee performance in honour of her friend and old associate, Herr Wilhelm Ganz. That popular musician settled in this country in 1848, and has therefore resided with us half a century. He was a member of the orchestra at Her Majesty's, and as a youth he frequently conducted opera for his father in Germany. Herr Ganz likewise, years ago, conducted the concerts of the new Philharmonic Society and his own orchestral concerts; but during the past few years he has devoted himself mainly to teaching at the Guildhall School of Music and elsewhere.

Dr. Dvoràk will, after all, not appear at the Philharmonic Concerts this season. No reason is assigned for his absence, so that it is assumed that it did not pay the eminent Bohemian to return during the summer. M. Moszkowski took his place at the Philharmonic Concert on Thursday, but the programme contained no novelties. There have been nearly fifty concerts during the week, but the number dropped off for Whitsuntide, and, indeed, during the whole of the present week both of the Queen's Halls have been let for the Medical and Surgical Exhibition. Among the concerts of the week may be mentioned that given by Miss Christie, when Herr Hellmesberger, a son of the famous Viennese composer, who adapted the popular Handel's "Largo," made his début as a violoncellist. He should have selected something better than a transcription of the slow movement of Spohr's violin concerto. Mrs. Julian Marshall conducted on the 24th the thirteenth annual concert of the South Hampstead orchestra. The chief item of the programme was Tschaïkowski's fifth symphony in E minor, of which a very good account was given. Mr. Eben Jackson, at a concert at Steinway Hall last week, also introduced several new ballads, and gave a first appearance to Miss Edith Kirkwood, a promising young singer, who is a granddaughter of the late General Pottinger, and has been studying for the past three years at the Berlin Conservatoire. Mr.

Farkoa; Miss Peppercorn and Mr. Antonietti (two promising young Royal Academy students, who should choose a less busy period of the year for their performances), and Mr. Chevalier, who sang at St. James's Hall on Thursday some of the most familiar of his coster and other songs, have been among the concert-givers.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—I have learned to distrust the judgment of those "friends" by whom every amateur author is besieged to print his lucubrations, and to wonder whether another pressure than that of their advice has not been the *vera causa* of publication. "Obliged by hunger and request of friends"—the hunger being that of an insatiable vanity. Hence I augured ill of Mr. Aubyn Trevor-Battye's "A Northern Highway of the Tsar" (1) when I came upon in its preface this time-worn apology for its appearance. For once, however, these friends have been justified, and more than justified, by the outcome of their judicious pressure, since this account of an insane expedition undertaken and carried through triumphantly "in defiance of all tradition, custom, and common sense" is most interesting reading. Not the least interesting part of the book is Mr. Trevor-Battye's opportune account of the Tsar, on whom the eyes of all England are fixed at present. Allowing due discount for "A Northern Highway of the Tsar" being dedicated by permission to His Imperial Majesty, Mr. Trevor-Battye's account of the Emperor Nicholas is reassuring.

> In his simple domestic life, in his filial treatment of his revered mother, his manly bearing towards the friends of his boyhood, no less than by his general "level-headedness" he has shown himself worthy of the great position he has been called upon to fill while still so young.

As for the Russian peasantry, their loyalty to the Tsar, according to Mr. Trevor-Battye, is so passionate and profound that it can be shaken by nothing but universal and free education, and only partially and lightly skaken even by that. At present the Russian peasant is an overgrown child "in the simplicity of his enjoyments, in his wonder at new things, in his improvidence and *insouciance*, in his dumb obedience to the strong arm of physical power, in his very faiths and very superstitions he is a child; he has the child's obstinacy, the child's inability to weigh conditions, and the child's want of self-control." And this, be it remembered, is the partial judgment of an enthusiastic philo-Russian. Colonel Alderson's "With the Mounted Infantry and the Mashonaland Field Force" (2) is written with much more spirit than elegance. The following sentence should be set to a Sandhurst cadet to parse:—

> Through the troublesome early days of the rising, when questions of whether this or that patrol could be sent out—questions of life and death for some, in fact—had to be decided; through the times when food was short and people said the Government (*i.e.*, the Company) ought to feed them; settling this big or that little question in a kindly, gentlemanly manner—while he saw every one, no matter who, and listened to their story; authorising this or that expenditure—through all this the Judge steered the ship.

The Colonel, however, can wield a sword, if not a pen, brilliantly, and would have done no doubt even more execution among the natives but for their unconscionable objection to expose themselves to be slaughtered like sheep.

> Many kraals had been taken and burnt, and some 100 head of cattle captured; but I doubt if the enemy had lost many men, they took such precious good care to keep under cover!

They must, however, have been more accommodating in other engagements to judge by the proportion of killed on each side. Take, for example, the big battle in which Mr. Rhodes himself was engaged, to the breathless admiration of Colonel Alderson. "It was characteristic of the man (Rhodes) to go and risk his own life at the head of thirty Dutchmen in taking a cluster of straw huts." But what was the risk in this Armageddon? "One man, named Swart, was wounded, and some thirty rebels killed." "*Si pugna est ubi tu pulsas, ego vapulo tantum.*" Should you be in the mood for novels I can most strongly recommend to you Mr. Vincent Brown's "Ordeal by Compassion" (3), if indeed it may be called a novel. The story is slightness itself, and is concerned with a "wastrel" who murdered his wife; but it is to the telling of it and to its teller that you owe the depth of your interest. The narrator is a quaint old bachelor uncle of the criminal, who discloses naïvely his own beautiful character in the simple but exquisite English of the narrative. Its style, indeed, is so exquisite that you find yourself wondering where an English mechanic had picked it up. "Harry gave a sigh that was like years of his life departed in a breath" is not the style of an uneducated mechanic, nor for that matter, of any but a born poet. Yet the style of "Ordeal by Compassion" does not strike you as affected, as does that of Mr. Marriott Watson's "The Heart of Miranda" (4), which seems to move with the self-conscious stiffness of Malvolio in his cross-gartered yellow-stockings, and not without his sublime self-complacency. But the stories are nearly all interesting, while some of them, "En Route," for example, are strikingly original and dramatic. Mrs. Murray Hickson's "Shadows of Life" (5) are very prettily told stories, but so dismal that they might have been the work of Miss Julia Mills in her forlornest hours. Life itself is not so bright as to make you welcome the shuddering shade of these "Shadows." As a pick-me-up after such depressing reading I should advise recourse to "Her Ladyship's Elephant" (6), which might be dramatised with "roaring" effect as a farcical comedy. The curtain, however, ought to be rung down upon a less hurried and huddled-up ending than that which disappoints you in the tale. In conclusion, I have only to apprise you of the appearance of "Pendennis" (7), in the new edition of Thackeray—an edition which derives exceptional charm and interest from Mrs. Richmond Ritchie's biographical introductions to each volume.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

P.S.—To the making of books about Mr. Gladstone there will probably be no end for many a year to come, so vast and varied is the material his long and many-sided career presents to the biographer. Already such publications, good, bad, and indifferent, are rushing from the press in a perfect torrent. To name only a few. Mr. W. T. Stead is, of course, early in the field with a "Character Sketch," the substance of which has previously appeared in various magazines and reviews; Mr. James Bowden has published a little work which, under the title of "Gladstone: the Man," deals pleasantly with non-political phases of his life; Messrs. W. H. Allen & Co. have issued a new edition of the admirable monograph that Mr. H. W. Lucy wrote in 1895 for "The Statesmen Series;" and Messrs. Routledge have brought out "A Popular Biography." More ambitious than any of these will be the "Life of Mr. Gladstone" which Sir Wemyss Reid has edited for Messrs. Cassell & Co., and which is to be published in twelve monthly parts. It is to contain many letters and documents never hitherto published, and it will be profusely illustrated.

(1) "A Northern Highway of the Tsar." By Aubyn Trevor-Battye. With Map and Illustrated by the Author. (Westminster: Archibald Constable & Co. Price 6s.)

(2) "With the Mounted Infantry and the Mashonaland Field Force." 1896. By Brevet-Lieut.-Colonel E. A. H. Alderson. With Map and Numerous Illustrations and Diagrams. (London: Methuen & Co.)

(3) "Ordeal by Compassion." By Vincent Brown. (London: John Lane. Price 3s. 6d.).

(4) "The Heart of Miranda," and other Stories, being mostly Winter Tales. By H. B. Marriott Watson. (London: John Lane. Price 6s.)

(5) "Shadows of Life." By Mrs. Murray Hickson. (London: John Lane. Price 3s. 6d.)

(6) "Her Ladyship's Elephant." By David Dwight Wells. (London: William Heinemann. Price 6s.)

(7) "The Works of William Makepeace Thackeray." With Biographical Introductions by his daughter, Mrs. Ritchie. Vol. II. "The History of Pendennis. (London: Smith, Elder, & Co. Price 6s.)

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GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—It was curious to see the coincidence of flags half-mast high last week for the great dead statesman with the preparations for illuminations for the Queen's Birthday. And then the Derby day in the midst of the solemn arrangements for the funeral! I suppose the sharp contrasts of life are never so clearly to be seen anywhere as in great cities. There are so many worlds represented in them. The world of politics is stirred to its depths by recent events. The thoughtful world looks on with sympathetic interest. The smart world rushes feverishly after its pleasures, resenting anything that interferes with them. The working world has but little leisure for contemplation of either the sorrows or the joys of the rest, and when it folds its newspaper after breakfast devotes itself to the great business of earning its living. A glimpse outwards from the self-centre comes with the evening paper, as the City man returns from his day's work, but his life is in £ s. d.

Almost all the various worlds are off for Whitsuntide. The Drawing-Room is now fixed for Wednesday, the 8th, a much better day than Monday. I am afraid the season is not going to be a very brilliant one. The weather has been so dreadfully naughty, you see, that all enterprise has been taken out of people. If there is a fine June, this will improve. It is remarkable how dependent we are upon the weather. After some centuries' experience of the climate, we ought to be comparatively independent of and accustomed to it. But we are not a bit!

Lilla is sending her little Pom to the Ladies' Kennel Show on June 23 and 24 at the Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park, and Ethel is going to show her lovely Russian cat. We are all going to see the dear things in their captivity. They will be visited by relays of friends during the two days. Lilla and Ethel are to tell us exactly at what hour we are to relieve each other. Is it not funny?

I heard last week that some of the little jewelled tortoises that Christabel wrote us about some months ago from Paris were to be seen at Elfrida's pretty bonnet-shop in Sloane-street. The very morning I heard it I started off full of curiosity, and found that all had been sold except one. You may fancy what a demand there was for them The one remaining had a coat of mail composed of diamonds and sapphires, and for tethering purposes a long chain of finest gold workmanship. The length of the little beastie was about an inch and a quarter. The jewelling is clipped on by means of small clasps, and has to be removed when the baby tortoise has its bath. It resides, when off duty, in a box supplied with damp moss and small lettuce leaves. The left shoulder seems to be the orthodox place for wearing this peculiar decoration. The specimen I saw was lively enough, wriggling its small black legs when turned upside down, and evidently having will enough to object to the inverted position. Its eyes were bright and staring. I wished I knew its age, and what it thinks of a mode of life so different from all its family traditions.

At Miss Frances Moore's we saw the jewelled tortoise imitated in tortoise-shell and strass on some very tempting hats, among which we particularly admired the Trelawney, resembling that worn by Miss Irene Vanbrugh, in the play at the Court Theatre; it is most becoming in shape, and not in the least exaggerated. We went with Lilla, who wanted one of their cycling toques, made entirely of straw, and consequently impervious to weather injuries. Even the aigrette is in straw, and the whole thing is as light as it is sensible, and becoming withal. Its business-like air was in strong contrast with a lovely picture hat, all black tulle and feathers. We dearly loved a lavender straw hat trimmed with long sprays of lavender, imitated just as they grow on the bush, and with a little market bunch of small pink roses in the front. There was a suggestion of rustic innocence and artlessness in it that we found extremely pleasing. Lady Teazle might have worn such a hat when first she came to town. Already sold for Ascot was a cherry-pink straw, trimmed with velvet and chiffon of the same tint. The brim was tilted very high at the left side, with a cluster of shaded roses tucked in beneath. Another bunch nestled among the folds of chiffon.

You would have admired a toque compact of turquoise tulle and black velvet, the crown having silver appliqué on net, the blue showing shyly through. A tall blue feather, held down with a bow of black velvet, composed the trimming. As you are aware, the newest hats turn up in front, and one of this shape was in yellow straw trimmed with yellow silk muslin and many bows of white glacé ribbon. A pair of yellow wings hung out at the left side in the latest phase of dishevelment, for, you must know, an air of wildness is indispensable to the correct disposal of the fashionable feather. The thing to be avoided, apparently, is any suggestion of regularity. We saw two or three attractive hats made of grey plateaux twisted up into undulations. One of these had green and brown and white feathers held in with the little imitation tortoises I told you of.

Is it not refreshing, in these days of fret and bustle and rush, to think that there are people who actually have time for knitting stockings? It gives one a feeling of repose to dwell on the idea. To reflect that there are at this moment some hundreds of quiet folk sitting in sunny rooms calmly turning the heel or finishing the toe of a stocking, is to restore one's faith in a possible leisure, lost to sight, it is true, but perhaps to be attained some day. "But how do I know," you will ask, "that there are persons so blessed as to be able to devote themselves to such a reposeful avocation?" I infer it from the fact that a little "Complete Guide to Stocking Knitting," by "Andrewetta" has reached its third edition. It is published by the Women's Printing Society, 66, Whitcomb-street, W.C. I am not qualified to judge of the aptness of the directions given, but the ready sale of the little sixpenny book seems to guarantee its excellence. I see that the authoress says in her preface that in knitting "the young find delight and the aged solace."

I know how you delight in old furniture, and I wished most heartily that you had been with me when I inspected a very interesting collection of French cabinets, suites, settees, tables, screens, and bureaux at Harrod's Stores. Many of the specimens are already sold, which is not surprising, as the prices are unusually low, offering an excellent opportunity for collectors to add to their list. There was a fine piece of tapestry, which was hung against the light, and gained much in colour and even expression by being thus "set clear" as it were. Seen with the light merely on it, instead of richly filtering through it, it was not half so effective. The most important pieces in the collection are two cabinets painted by Van Neen, the artist who taught Rubens. They were both in possession of the family of Beavis, Clyst House, Exeter, in 1766. Since then their history is clear. The highest experts have pronounced them to have been painted by Van Neen. One of them is decorated with classic subjects; the other with scenes from Old Testament history. Enlarged duplicates of most of the pictures are in the Vatican at Rome, and one, purchased about a hundred years ago, is at Grosvenor House. The bright red wood, with all this quantity of decoration, makes them very attractive, and you cannot imagine what a quantity of detail has been lavished upon them by the cabinet maker, apart from the artist. A central door opens and reveals a little pillared space, the floor of which is decorated with costly marbles, and the walls with inlaid woods. The little shaped drawers, like those of all the numerous bureaux and secrétaires in the collection, are perfectly adapted to their purpose, and

GOWNS FOR ASCOT.—Messrs. REDFERN are now making a Special Show of Ascot Gowns in their new Conduit-street Salon. The Exhibition contains a number of exquisite Toilettes, to which a visit of inspection is cordially invited.—REDFERN, 26, Conduit-street, W.

Beautiful Gowns, both Day and Evening; Tea Gowns, Mantles, Lingerie, and Millinery, are to be seen at Madame OLIVER HOLMES', Court Dressmaker, 61, New Bond-street, London, W.

open and shut with the greatest ease. There are whole suites of furniture, in Louis XV., Louis XVI., and Empire styles, the latter looking more severe than ever when in such close proximity to the more decorative periods. By means of this furniture the self-consciousness of the "Little Corporal" will be handed down through another century or two. His initial "N.," his bee, and his fleur-de-lys appear on everything.

Some of the little Louis XV. bureaux are of so quaint a shape as to make them almost lovable, and I can quite imagine myself loving one of them if it were my own. That one small fact, possession, makes such a difference, does it not? One finds a charm in even ordinary things when they become one's own.

Lilla has gone to Dieppe for Whitsuntide. She loves the Casino there, and the excitement of the little horses, and her passion for riding can be gratified in long excursions round the country, to the Forêt d'Arques, to the woods of Varengeville, and the picturesque Manoir d'Ango. My own impression is that she is on the look-out for a bit of freehold about Dieppe whereon she may build a bungalow. She always says she is afraid to say anything about her plans, for there seems to be an infectiousness in them, and she does not wish to be anticipated. I wish she would build there, for she would let us hire her bungalow pretty cheap, and we love Dieppe. The air is so velvety soft, and the old town so quaint and interesting.

Princess Christian will open and preside over the annual sale at the Royal School of Art Needlework this year on June 7, 8, and 9. Admission on the first day will be, as usual, 2s. 6d., and on the following days 1s. 3d., this charge including tea. And the latter function is made so delightful that it is worth far more than an ordinary tea. The walls are hung with young beech boughs, and the gas brackets are wreathed with ivy and smilax, and there is always such delicious butter and cream. I wonder if they come from Cumberland Lodge. I hear that the arrangements are to be different from those of former years.

We have taken a little cottage by the river for a month or so, and go down to-morrow. If only Jupiter Pluvius will take a holiday like the rest of the world, we shall be happy enough. There is always an element of uncertainty, however, about a fresh house, and the first twenty-four hours spent in one are almost painfully interesting. The discoveries made are not invariably agreeable. The songs of innumerable larks and the waving boughs of freshness make up, however, for much, and, even if it rains, we shall at least have rest from the strain of constant, involuntary hearing and seeing, both of which are such a fatigue to the brain, inseparable from town life.

What different ideas of pleasure in a holiday people have! By the way, I am sure I have read and heard that remark some score of times. There is nothing original in the discovery. But just think how thousands of our fellow creatures rush about in a constant turmoil, finding enjoyment in it, when perfect rest is all that other thousands crave. The first set are the happiest, for one can always find noise and bustle, but how often can one find real rest? Lilla's mother told me the other day that the only real rest she had ever had was when she had broken her leg very badly and had to keep her room for six weeks. She read dozens of books in the six weeks and was perfectly happy. The recipe might not answer for all, though. So do not pass it on. It would rather resemble the Chinese method of obtaining roast pork. The plan consisted in burning down the house.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—To those whose days are, in a way, all holidays, Whitsuntide, and every season of the kind, is more or less of a disturbance and something to grumble at. When one is doing just what one likes one does not want to do anything different. At a critical time for toilets, it becomes a positive grievance to have the shops shut for several days, though one bears it heroically, through consideration for those in whose lives holidays are the exception, not the rule. To them Whitsuntide is the best holiday time of the year. It has so many possibilities. When the weather is good it is very good; the country and the seaside offer real and healthful delights, short-lived though they be. But even a few days of sunshine, fresh air, and idleness, are, to the toilers of the world, things of beauty, which, if not joys for ever, have wonderfully lasting effects. If only the "people" would not take their pleasure so tumultuously—just as we do ourselves in our own way, for the matter of that. One can only hope that they do not feel what they look like feeling. Lookers-on see more of the game than the players, and so it may be that the holiday rush and crush seem more to us, more strenuous and terrible than they really are. One could solve the question by going and doing likewise; personal experience of, say, a popular excursion on a Bank Holiday would no doubt give an impressive lesson, which would instruct one's whole life.

Last week the usual Lawn Tennis Tournament was held in Fitzwilliam-square, and though fickle fashion did not favour the occasion, as in the halcyon days when tennis held the first place as a popular pastime, the playing was excellent, the prizes valuable, and the number of competitors great. As usual, the leading players from across the water took part in the contests. A military band discoursed music every afternoon and all the afternoon. The square was daily a gay sight, with Nature, as well as humanity, in full dress, the lilacs, and hawthorns, and laburnums being in full bloom. The first opportunity which the season has afforded for the display of light costumes, whether spring or summer ones, was fully availed of; the number of pretty faces and figures in connection with pretty dresses was remarkable enough to brings to one's mind forcibly the tradition of Irish beauty, which is amongst the most harmless and charming of our traditions; though, probably, the mothers of eligible sons would not always agree in the harmlessness. The dollars of American heiresses have not carried off more "partis" than the beauty—generally penniless—of Irish maidens.

No Viceregal patronage was extended to the Tennis Tournament this year, which was rather unkind. Every Lord-Lieutenant, until Lord Cadogan's time, used to attend it in state. With him we have the feeling more and more each year that his heart is not in the duties of his Viceregal state. In the variety of parts which he is called on to play, the English nobleman predominates over the Irish Viceroy. What a pity that in all the legislation our country is favoured with our viceregal institution is not brought more into touch with common sense. Could any Lord-Lieutenant help getting "mixed" in all the parts he has to play?

At the end of this month the flitting from Dublin becomes general; to the country, the seaside, and across the Channel. Especially the latter, for with every year the attractions of the great capital of the Kingdom seem to draw us to it more and more. In fact, every one who possibly can goes every year to London for some weeks, or months, as the case may be. When not for Society, for the theatres, the pictures, the shops, and, last not least, the study of life at high pressure. If only you Londoners would reciprocate, and come to us for peace and quiet! Perhaps you may think that these things are not the special products of our country. But the unexpected always happens, and many who come here for excitement find themselves, to their surprise, in a Sleepy Hollow. Even the torchlight procession to celebrate '98, which took place one night last week, was conducted most peaceably. The authorities are wise enough now to let national feeling have open expression in marching and singing. Don't you know the relief of a good outbreak against a person with whom one is angry? How quickly anger dies out after it, whereas if pent up it goes on smouldering. It is the same way with national feeling in Ireland—it only grows dangerous if suppressed.—Yours, ever,

CLARE.

Here, by the way, are a few recipes for you. Be sure to let me know how you like the results of having them tried.

This is a delicious sauté of young pigeons:—

Halve the pigeons and fry them briskly with a minced shalot

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and 2 oz. of butter in a stewpan, sprinkle them with flour, toss them over the fire until the flour is slightly brown, then add a slice of bacon, finely minced, cover all again till the bacon is done, then put in the livers of the birds, salt, pepper, a little lemon juice, a blade of mace, a tablespoonful of thick tomato purée, and stock to cover the whole. Bring it to the boil and simmer it until the pigeons are tender. Serve it with boiled rice in a separate dish.

This dish is called "Polish sraszy." It is really excellent:—

Cut and trim some fillets of beef about ¾ in. thick. Sauté them quickly with hot butter in a stewpan, seasoning them with salt, pepper, and a pinch of pounded cloves. Meanwhile a minced Spanish onion and a clove of garlic should be steamed with an ounce of butter in a separate stewpan until done, but not brown. Then add the onion to the browned steak, cover the pan, and allow them to steam until the steaks are done, basting frequently with their own liquor, and adding a little stock as it dries away. When the meat is quite done pour off the gravy, remove the fat, and thicken it with a little potato flour, boil up and return it to the meat. Serve the fillets garnished with crisp slices of fried potato.

This is a new entrée of veal and cucumber:—

Cut 6 cutlets from a nice piece of fillet of veal, about ¾ of an inch thick and three inches in diameter. Lard them through with strips of fat bacon, wrap each one in a thin slice of bacon, put them into a stewpan with a blade of mace, 6 peppercorns, an onion, a piece of carrot, and a bouquet of herbs. Cover with stock, bring slowly to the boil, place the stewpan in the oven to simmer very slowly for two hours, than place the stewpan in the larder until cold. After which, drain the cutlets free from moisture, trim them, egg, bread crumb, and fry them in hot salad oil. Arrange the cutlets in a circle on a border of forcemeat. Meanwhile, cut an equal number of scollops of cucumber in thick slices, slantways (this will make them longer), pare, and remove seeds with a round cutter. Blanch the cucumber in salted boiling water for ten minutes, drain the scollops on a cloth, and place them on a buttered santèpan. Fill the centre, from which the seeds were taken, with forcemeat that is made with the trimmings of veal, sprinkle with chopped truffle, cover with a greased paper, moisten with a little boiling stock, and cook them in a gentle oven until the forcemeat is set. Arrange the scollops between the veal cutlets, pour tomato round, and garnish the centre with small scollops of boiled cucumber and points of asparagus.

Ever, dear, your loving cousin, MADGE.

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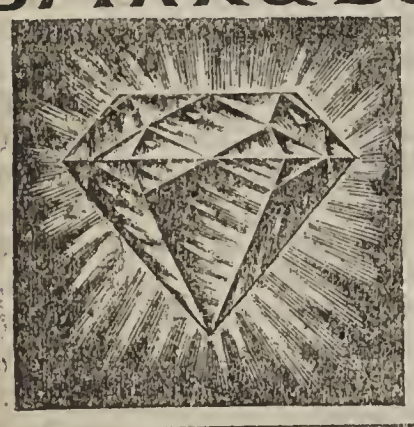

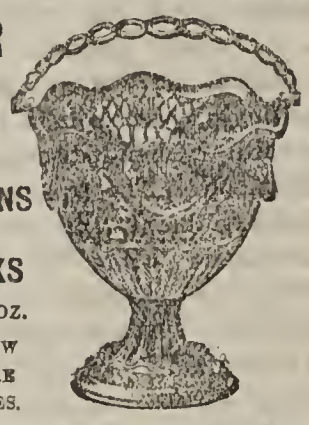

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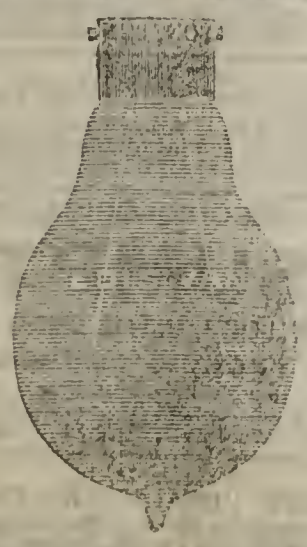

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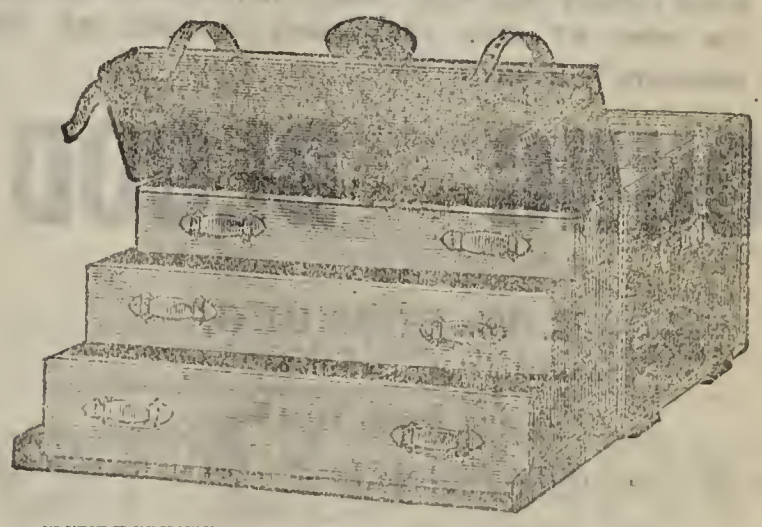

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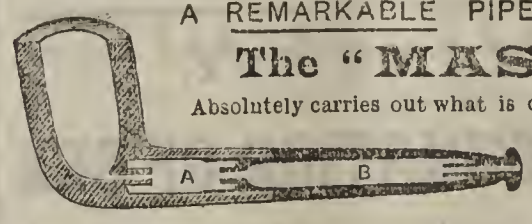

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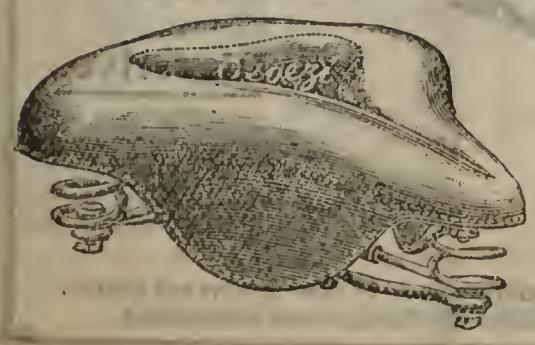

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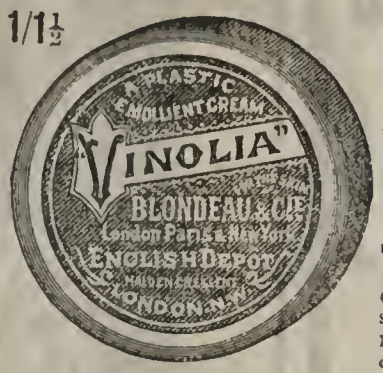

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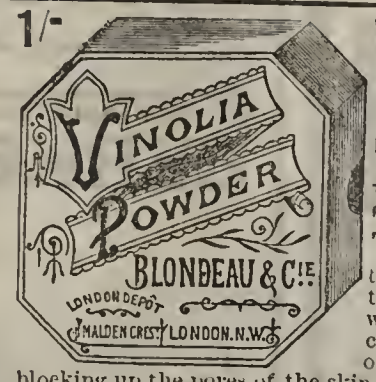

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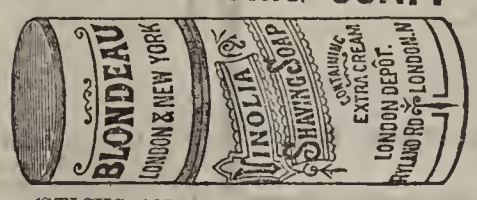

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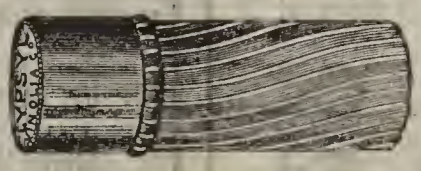

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In Rose-Red and White Tints, 6d. and 1/- a Tube

6d VINOLIA LAVENDER WATER.

Natural and Very Lasting.

Contains the finest Essential Oils, Concentrated, therefore the Most Economical.

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This is prepared with delicate, refreshing perfumes, and is a most exquisite and delightful preparation to use either clear or in water for the Toilet or in the bath.

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Aromatic, Tonic, Refreshing, Preservative.
Keeps the Teeth Ivory White.
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These Smelling Salts are of exceptional Strength and most Refreshing. They are agreeably scented, the pleasant odour of Lavender being very pronounced.

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As fine as can possibly be made.

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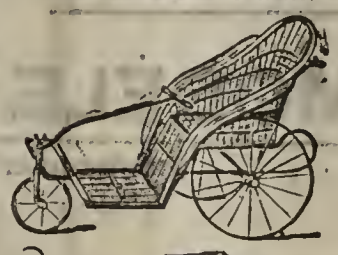

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GUARANTEED HARMLESS. NEVER FAILS. Price 5s. per Bottle, with full directions and Advice, from the
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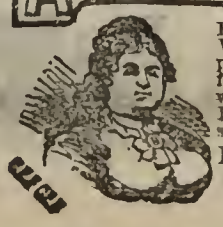

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OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,005.—HUMOROUS DEFINITION OF A GENTLEMAN.

ALPHA	(real name and address will be printed in due course)	£1 1 0
LEAF RULE	(" " " ")	1 1 0

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,010.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week to the competitor who succeeds best in composing

AN ALPHABETICAL ACROSTIC SENTENCE OF TWENTY-SIX WORDS—THAT IS TO SAY, A SENTENCE IN WHICH THE WORDS SHALL HAVE AS THEIR INITIALS THE TWENTY-SIX LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET IN THEIR PROPER ORDER.

The sentences may be on any subject, and the object of the competitor should be, as far as possible, to so construct them as to make them read like an ordinary combination of words. The first word of the sentence must commence with "A," the second with "B," the third with "C," and so on. All answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, June 13, at the latest.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,006.

The result of this Competition will be announced in the next number of TRUTH.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

HYDE.—It is not too late to rectify the mistake which you have pointed out.

QUIDFILIUS.—Your suggestion of "Billet doux," or "Billy-do" as an answer to Puzzle No. 1,006, arrived too late for publication with the other suggested names.

GLENROSA.—Your answer to Puzzle No. 1,006 also arrived too late for publication.

NEMO NOMEN.—The letter in which you suggested the word "class-jumping" as an answer to Puzzle No. 1,006 did not reach TRUTH Office until after the first post on Monday, the 16th inst.

WAYNFLETE.—Your points are very ingeniously urged, but I still think that my decision was a perfectly fair one.

LUDWIG B.—Many thanks for your suggestions.

IMPISI.—As a matter of fact, "heart" is a perfect rhyme to "art."

LEAF RULE.—It will be better, I think, to let the competition go on.

PYRAMID.—I am much obliged to you for your letter.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,007.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ACROSTICS ON LORD SALISBURY, EULOGISTIC AND CRITICAL.

CHEMIST AND LITTERATEUR.

S was the Scientist ruined by fate,
A was the Author who might have been great;
L was his Logic, on politics wasted,
I his deep joy as Inventor, searee tasted;
S is our Sorrow for Science restrained,
B all the Brilliant research unattained;
U was the Usefulness lost to mankind,
R the Routine that has clogged Cecil's mind;
Y oung men of genius be warned by me,
Shun Party politics—strive to be free!

STATESMAN AND BUFFOON.

S for the Sweets that a Statesman await,
A the Allurement of endless debate;
L for the Laughter when sad wit is strained,
I the Illusion that some good is gained;
S for the Speeches, reported verbatim,
B for poor Big-wig,* Lord! how he must hate 'em; †
U for the Unionists, product amazing,
R the Rad-Leaders—they won't set Thames blazing
Y 's are the Tories (hem!) Cecil can lead 'em,
Stick to 'em, Bully boy, banter 'em, bleed 'em!

* Lord Chancellor or Speaker, whichever you like—or both. † i.e., the speeches. Pyramid.

S is a Statesman unequalled in power,
A his Assurance in danger's dark hour;
L was the Largeness and breadth of his view,
I was the Intellect governing his crew,
S was the Sense of his country's just aims,
B was his Brilliance in urging her claims,
U was the United opinion all round,
R of the Rest to be under him found;
Y is the Yoke which all of us dread,
Can it ever be ours with this Chief at our head
S was the Sign that our triumphs were done,
A our Alliances lost one by one;
L the Last legs upon which England stands,
I in Importance among other lands;
S the Seant courtesy foreigners show,
B is their B R A V A D O;
U the Uncertainty where it may end,
R our Requirement to find a firm friend;
Y is the Yoke that we fear may be ours,
If England is bested by all foreign powers.

Flexible.

S is the Statesman, courageous and sane;
A the Alarmist, with "keys" on the brain;
L the Large map that a Jingo requires,
I the Imperial growth he desires;
S is for Speeches, sarcastic or witty,
B for a Banquet enjoyed in the City;
U for the Unionists, loyal and true,
R for the Rads—a discredited crew;
Y for their Yell, when a Salisbury bold,
Cares for the realm, like the Cecils of old.

S is the Strong man, whose zenith is past,
A "the Assassin," who laughs to the last;
L is the L.C.C.'s threatened impasse,
I is the Irish Bill, bribing a class;
S is the Sphinx lady leaguers adore,
B is "the Black man" and blunders galore;
U is Untold diplomatic defeats,
R is for Russia's unholy deceits;
Y is the Year when we backed the wrong horse,
Cause of the Cyprus Convention—and worse.

Orlando.

S is the Sense, which you've shown that you lack;
A 's your Activity—would you hold back?
L is the Landlord, who grumbles through you,
I is for India, whose wars you will rue;
S is your Speeches, so very diffuse,
B is your Battles, *sans* honour or use;
U is the Unionists—thorn in your side,
R is your Rule—you're a very poor guide;
Y is the Yearning we have for your fall,
Throw up the sponge and be thanked by us all.

S is the Sense you have always displayed,
A 's your Activity naught has delayed;
L is the Landlord whose rights you upheld,
I is for India with war-clouds dispelled;
S is your Speeches, so terse and so neat,
B is your Battles, with ne'er a defeat;
U is the Unionists—foes turned to friends,
R is your Rule, which, we hope, never ends;
Y is the Yearning we have for the Tories,
Go on, old boy, nor heed Radical stories.

Almaviva.

S is the Statesmen whose Stratagems fail,
A is the Arts which his blundering veil;
L is the Lies they "diplomacy" call,
I, Idiot jingoes, who swallow them all;
S is the Stupid, who follow like Sheep,
B, Britain's Birthright, he sells very cheap;
U is his Useless Unpractical game,
R the Reproach it will bring on our name;
Y is the Yell of derision which hails,
S alisbury, when all see his policy fails.

S is the Statesman, Sagacious and Strong,
A his Abhorrence of falsehood and wrong;
L is his Loyalty, Lasting through Life,
I his Instinctive avoidance of strife;
S is his Stedfast Support of our cause,
B is his Bills for improving our laws;
U is the Union he helped us to keep,
R is the Righteous Reward he will Reap;
Y is the Yielding of well-earned renown,
To Salisbury, mainstay of empire and crown.

Ludwig B.

S is the Statesman, whose equals are few;
A is his Arguments, weighty and true;
L is his Life-work, a record of fame;
I our own Islands, proud of his name;
S is the Sovereign, he loyally serves;
B is Beaulieu, which for rest he reserves;
U the Urbanity shown to his foes;
R the Respect for him each of them knows:
Y is the Youth, in his footsteps who treads.
To Salisbury and Balfour let all bare their heads.

S is the Statesman, believed in by few;
A is his Arguments, mostly untrue;
L is the Laugh, Russia gives at his name;
I our lov'd Islands, by him robbed of fame;
S is the Sample we've had how he falls;
B is the Bounce, at which no one quails;
U is the Utterance, from which he now swerves;
R the Royal frown, that the richly deserves;
Y the Young man, to his uncle who sticks.
Salisbury and Balfour, we see through your tricks.

James.

S is a Statesman, one quite "up to date,"
A, his Ambition to safeguard the State;
L is his Level head, calm, clear, and cool,
I, an Intuitive aptness for rule;
S is Sharp practice, abhorrent to us,
B is our Boss, with his eye on the Russ;
U is for Union, the true Briton's creed,
R is the Radical's pestilent breed;
Y is the Yankee, who'll join us with joy,
So stick to your colours, Solly, my boy!

S is our Specially-gifted First Minister,
A is his Aspect some people think sinister;
L is his Liberal-Unionist show,
I is his Ill-concealed distrust of Joe;
S is a Shallow pretence of statecraft,
B is his Blunders all round, fore and aft;
U 's "Unfit for the place," writ in large letters,
R, "Right about face, make way for your betters;"
Y is the Jingo Yoke cast off with joy,
Up sticks and off with you, Solly, my boy!

Baritone.

S is the Science he ever displays,
A the Acumen that marks all his ways;
L denotes Leader's and Lawgiver's art,
I shows Imperial Interests at heart;
S is his Skill in diplomacy's fight,
B stands for Boldness in guarding the right;
U his Uprightness at all times and hours,
R the revering respect of the Powers;
Y is his Youthfulness, 'spite of his years,
Sum up the total, "Salisbury" appears.

S is Salisbury, easily caught,
A the Abundance of harm he has wrought;
L points to liberal Licking of boots,
I means Inaction whenever it suits;
S Shilly-shally—"We won't!" "No, we will!"
B the Belief some folks have in him still!
U is the Unction that cloaks inability,
R the Reverse after boasted stability;
Y suggests Yielding to any demand:
Here you have "Salisbury" ready to hand.

King Hal.

1894.

S for the Strong Man, the prop of the realm;
A the Acumen displayed at the helm;
L for the Landlords, who wildly hoorayed;
I for the Impetus given to trade;
S for the Safety his ægis afforded;
B the Blank Cheque that the country awarded;
U the Unique coalition on view;
R for the Rout of the Radical crew;
Y for the Yildiz Kiosk and the Yamen,
Anxious to add to his dicta their Amen.

1898.

S for the Seathing remarks in the Press;
A the Alarm o'er the Far-Eastern mess;
L for the Legend* that went down so well;
I for the Inches that made up the ell;
S for South Norfolk, that glory of glories;
B the Blaspheming it caused to the Tories;
U for that "Usufruct": What's in a name?
R for the Russians, who collared the same;
Y for the Yarns that got rid of our ships.
Pity the woes of the Government whips!

* Talienwan. Scissors.

S is a Statesman, whose wisdom some doubt,
A his Address, which made a great rout ;
L is the League where he spoke out his mind,
I Indignation coming swiftly behind ;
S is for Spain, who he says is nigh sped,
B is for Balfour, who acts in his stead ;
U Uncle Sam, who he'd like for a friend,
R is for Russia, he fears to offend ;
Y is the Yell of popular glee,
On seeing the last of Lord Salisbur ee.

S for the Statesman at the head of the realm,
A his Adroitness in guiding the helm ;
L his friends' Love his policy gains,
I his foes' Ire he rightly disdains ;
S for his Speeches, with wisdom they're fraught,
B for the Benefits to England he's brought ;
U for the Unionists, staunchest of friends,
R for the Rads, whom he often offends ;
Y for the Yankees, with whom we shall be
Soon firmly allied through Lord Salisbur-ee.
Sheila.

S is the Savant, reserved, but not grim,
A the Affairs that seem foreign to him ;
L is the Loss of our prestige and fame,
I Indecision, the cause of the same ;
S is the Speech, with assurance replete,
B is the Bluster preceding retreat ;
U is the Useless, paraded as gain,
R our just Rights that he fails to maintain ;
Y is his Yelp, which the Russians pooh-pooh :
Act with some dignity, Salisbury, do !

S is the Stroke, the best Government oar,
A is his Action which keeps us from war ;
L is his Loathing for public caress,
I his "Insouciance" baffling the Press ;
S his sweet Speech where he praised the dead foe,
B is a "Brum," his worst rival, you know ;
U is his Use in a dangerous race,
R for the Russophobes urging the pace ;
Y is for You, Cecil : "steady your crew ;"
Set a slow stroke, boy, and pull it well through !
Oom Paul.

S is the Statesman, far-seeing and wise,
A 's the Admiring gaze of all eyes ;
L is the Loyalty, true and unswerving,
I is the Intellect : never time-serving ;
S is the Strength, both of will and of deed,
B is the Broadness of purpose and creed ;
U 's the Unanimous respect that he gains,
R is the Ruler who holds tight the reins ;
Y is the Yellow League dames he addressed :
Salisbury, we greet thee with honour and zest !

S is the Slave to Conservative greed,
A Is the Ally to red-tape and its breed ;
L 's the Longshoreman of foreign relations,
I is the Imbecile trifler with nations ;
S is the slowness in seizing a chance,
B is the Braggart who ne'er broke a lance ;
U the Ubiquitous squire of dames,
R is the Ranter who our respect (?) claims ;
Y is the Yellow Press he pats on the back :
Salisbury, in politics you're nought but a quack !
Flamingo.

S is the Statesman—the first to my mind,
A is the Answer he always can find ;
L is the Logic and Law that he teaches,
I the Irony that flavours his speeches ;
S is the Sense that keeps war from our shores,
B is the "Bunkum" he calmly ignores ;
U is the Union dear to his heart,
R, Radical foes, without captain or chart ;
Y is his Yea to reforms that are right :
Long live Salisbury and old England's might !

S is a Statesman—not quite a success,
A his Arguments that fail to impress ;
L is the Liberals, whose bills he annexes,
I the poor Irish whose soul he so vexes ;
S is the Sultan, who set him at naught,
B, By-elections he's lost (as he ought) ;
U is the Union he upholds by much "gab,"
R is the Russian that beat him at "grab" ;
Y is the Yarns that the Tories must tell :
Down with Lord Salisbury and Tories as well !
Mem-sahib.

S is the Steersman—the pilot of State,
A the Admirers his actions create ;
L is his Language—his verbal facility,
I his complete Indefatigability ;
S is his Strength, where he needs to be strong,
B is the Britain he guards against wrong ;
U is the Union he fought to maintain,
R is his Record—one worthy the reign ;
Y is his Yearning for what's right and true.
Well done, my lord ! England needs men like you.

S is the Sneersman—the Pilate of State,
A is the Anger his actions create ;
L is his Language—oft marred by scurrility,
I is his obvious Incapability ;
S is his Shuffling where he should be strong,
B is the Britain he puts in the wrong ;
U is his Usefulness, not yet begun,
R is his Record—a second-rate one ;
Y is his Yielding all over the world
Wherever the foreigner's flag is unfurled.
Vox.

"Laudatur ab his ; culpatur ab illis."—Horace

EULOGISTIC.

S is the Safety he gives to the State,
A the Alliance with Yankees first-rate ;*
L is the Lords, the support of the Crown,†
I Idiots who try to pull them both down ;
S Strictures of those who don't know his game,
B Babel of tongues in praise and in blame ;
U Usury laws receiving reform,
R is Religion still braving the storm ;‡
Y Yellow-Press sneers—he still holds the helm :
While Salisbury steers, no seas will o'erwhelm.

CRITICAL.

"But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us ?"—1 Samuel x., 27.

S is the Slav'ry he's brought on the State,
A the Alliance which comes rather late ;
L Ladies and League, landlords and land-laws,
I Ignorant persons shouting applause ;
S the Surrender of claim after claim,
B for the Bullies who laugh at our shame ;
U is the Ukase we're forc d to obey,
R Russia ord'ring our warships away ;
Y is the Yell of the coming Jack Cade :
Rise, Britons degraded, deceived, and betrayed !
J. McGrigor Allan.

* But for Lord Salisbury, we might be at war with Germany and Russia.

† "Thank God we have still a House of Lords."—Palmerston.

‡ "Religion, blushing, veils her sacred fires,
And unawares Morality expires."
"The Dunciad."

Answers have been received from : Flexible, Sissie, Bel Demonio, Opinion, Oom Paul, Baritone, Agile, Scissors, Flamingo, Mrs. Toogood, Hope, Sheila, Yorick, Dumnorix, Vox, Beta, Cadwallader, Creran, Highwayman, Singcon, Esperanza, Salisbury, Crock, Echo, Almaviva, Lyswys, Dido, Mrs. Arthur, Gadfly, Arabella, Alastor, Orlando, Omar Khayyam, Fir Tree, Mona, Laureston, R. F., J. McGrigor Allan, Lydia, Scorpio, Natal, Max, Leverite, King Hal, E. W. S. B., Coalheaver, Troy, James Dungarvan, Eleda, Commoner, V. C., Ludwig B., Edgcome, R. Martin, Béranger, Avonside, Pyramid.

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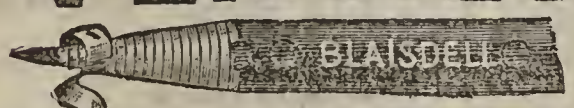

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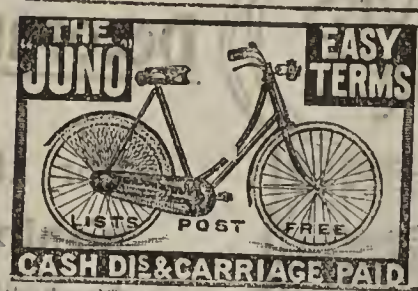

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TRUTH

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen has two big functions in prospect during the summer residence of the Court at Windsor Castle, which will be from the 22nd until about July 15. There is to be a great review at Aldershot on Laffan's Plain early in July, which will be attended by the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and other members of the Royal family. There will also be a visit to London, as her Majesty has decided that she will herself lay the foundation stone of the new buildings of the South Kensington Museum. This will be a semi-State ceremonial, and, according to present arrangements, the Queen is to come up from Windsor in the afternoon, drive from Paddington to South Kensington, and then return to Windsor directly afterwards. I hear that in future the South Kensington Museum is to be named the Victoria and Albert Museum, a designation which the Queen will formally announce when she lays the foundation stone of the new buildings.

Her Majesty will hold an Investiture for the Birthday Honours at Windsor Castle about a week after the return of the Court from Scotland, which is fixed for Tuesday, the 21st.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to be the guests of Lord and Lady Wantage at Lockinge Park, Berkshire, from next Saturday evening until Monday morning. The Prince is to visit Reading, when on his way to Lockinge, on Saturday, accompanied by Prince Christian, where he is to formally open the University Extension College, and Lord Wantage will afterwards give a luncheon in the Queen's Hall to nearly 600 guests. The Prince of Wales is to propose the toast of "Reading College," and Lord Spencer will give "The University of Oxford and the House of Christ Church." The Prince of Wales goes on from Reading to Wantage at 4.45 by special train, and the Princess will travel there direct from Paddington in the afternoon.

The Prince of Wales is to visit the show of the Royal Agricultural Society in Four Oaks Park, near Birmingham, on Wednesday, the 22nd, and he will be present at the annual meeting of the members also. Lord Coventry is to replace Lord Spencer in the Presidency. The Prince is to be the guest of Lord and Lady Warwick at Warwick Castle, where he is to arrive on the evening of Tuesday, the 21st, and he will return to town on Thursday, the 23rd.

H.R.H. and the Princess could have been lodged at Windsor Castle during Ascot race week, but they did not care to stay there. The Queen was quite willing to place apartments at their disposal for the week.

The usual Royal picnic at Virginia Water on the Saturday in Ascot week will not take place this year, according to present arrangements. The Princess of Wales will be in town, and the Prince is going on that day to Wellington College, to be present at the speeches.

Princess Beatrice, who is taking the waters at Kissingen, is to leave that place on Saturday, the 18th, when H.R.H. goes to Schloss Rosenau, near Coburg, on a brief visit to the Duke and Duchess of Coburg; and afterwards to the Château of Heiligenberg, on the Bergstrasse, near Darmstadt, where she will spend a week with Princess Louis of Battenberg.

The Empress Frederick will come to England next month for a week or two on a visit to the Queen, accompanied by her eldest daughter, the Hereditary Princess of Saxe-Meiningen, and her granddaughter, Princess Feodore, whose marriage with Prince Henry XXX. of Reuss is to take place at Breslau on September 24, and the Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Coburg, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and Prince and Princess Christian will be present, as well as the German Emperor and Empress, and a host of Hohenzollerns. The wedding is not to take place at Meiningen, because there would be all kinds of botherations about etiquette and precedence, in consequence of the Grand Duke of Saxe-Meiningen (grandfather of the bride) having a morganatic wife, the Baroness Heldburg.

The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Hesse, who are staying at Laxenburg, near Vienna, with the Archduchess

Stephanie, are to pay a visit to the Queen at Osborne at the end of July or early in August.

A large sum of money—£2,000 at the lowest estimate—is about to be spent on altering the barracks at Hampton Court Palace, so that they may face to the south instead of to the north. It is generally understood that the only reason for this alteration is that the lady residents at Hampton Court may be relieved of the sight of the straw from the stables drying in front of the present barracks. If no better reason than this can be given, and no other is apparent, the proposed expenditure is about as monstrous and unjustifiable a waste of public money as any Government has committed. To begin with, it will be impossible to dry the stable straw on the other side of the barracks during at least six months of the year, as it must be laid out in the sun, so that the supposed annoyance at present caused by it will still be experienced, though in a mitigated form. On the other hand, there are good reasons, well understood by those on the spot familiar with the circumstances, against secluding the back of the barracks from all observation. If any lady at Hampton Court is dissatisfied with the apartments at present given to her rent free, she is always at liberty to remove elsewhere, and it would even be to the interest of the taxpayer to provide her with a few shillings a week for the purpose, instead of spending some thousands of pounds on the alterations now proposed.

The standard floats neither over Dublin Castle nor the Viceregal Lodge. The Lord-Lieutenant is away on the long vacation, or rather Lord Cadogan, for at a particular point in the Irish Channel the Viceroy goes through one of those quick changes peculiar to the office, and becomes shorn of Viceregal attributes. His glories pale, as the fabled Cinderella's did at midnight. A Lord-Lieutenant may receive a Viceregal salute at Kingstown but never at Holyhead; his dignities disappear on the passage. The position of a Lord-Lieutenant, in its varieties and intricacies, compares only with the Irish Question itself. In Lord Cadogan's playing of the Viceroy's varied rôles, the English nobleman holds a very prominent—even predominant—part. The Viceroy for almost the first time on record left Dublin on the day preceding the one on which the Birthday Review was held in the Phœnix Park. On the next day Lord Cadogan attended the Derby.

Lord and Lady Cadogan will as usual return to the Viceregal Lodge in August, after the London season and the Goodwood week. During that month, at the end of it, the annual Horse Show will be held in the grounds and buildings of the Royal Dublin Society at Ball's Bridge. There will be a Horse Show party at the Viceregal Lodge, for the week, which always draws crowds of visitors from the country and other countries to the Irish capital. The common platform of the horse brings all parties together in Ireland, both those who "fear to speak of '98" and those who do not.

The Kingstown Regatta will be held this year during July, under the auspices of the St. George's Yacht Club, of which the Duke of York is Commodore. A Queen's Cup has been given to the club for the occasion. The weather has kept back the yachting season at Kingstown, a wintry temperature, with high winds and rain, not even yielding to the approach of June.

The Duchess of St. Albans arrived last week in Ireland to stay at Newtown Anner, her residence near Clonmel, in the county of Tipperary. The Duchess is very popular amongst the people, who have known her since her earliest days. The friendship of Irish tenants is not hard to gain when the landlord conforms to the principle of live and let live, of give and take. Unfortunately it was all "take" on the part of the majority of the Irish landlords, a fact to which the innumerable Land Acts of comparatively late years bear witness. The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire spent Whitsuntide at Lismore Castle, their picturesque residence on the banks of the Blackwater. The rumour of a Royal visit to Lismore in the autumn is current in Ireland. The country would have no need to complain of Royal neglect, however, did all the rumoured visits of Royalty take place.

Lord Elgin leaves India in October, and he hopes to arrive at Broomhall, his place in Fifeshire, about the middle of November. Lord Cromer is said to have declined the Viceroyalty, and Lord Balfour of Burleigh will probably succeed Lord Elgin at Calcutta.

The Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly was requested this year to "receive" Parish Councillors at Holyrood Palace in their official capacity. Lord Leven and Melville was willing to "receive" as many Parish Councillors at his Levee as liked to attend, but the number of persons who must be asked to dine at the Palace is so overwhelming that only four could be invited to dinner. An appeal was actually made to Lord Balfour of Burleigh for better terms, but it was not an affair in which the Secretary of State could interfere, and the four tickets were sulkily accepted. The Parish Councillors expected that these tickets would be balloted for, but the four conveners who had conducted the negotiations thought that the best course would be for them to take the tickets for their own use.

Lord Playfair was a clever man and remarkably versatile. He was distinguished as a chemist, as a writer, and as a politician, but he will be remembered more as a highly successful man than for any special eminence in life. When quite young Lord Playfair held the Chair of Chemistry in the Manchester Royal Institution, and he was then lucky enough to marry a rich wife. His second piece of good fortune occurred a few years later, when he was made a Special Commissioner of the 1851 Exhibition, and he there attracted the attention of Prince Albert, with whom he became a great favourite, the result being that he received an important post at South Kensington,

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1468 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 1466.
For Amusements, see pages 1466-7.
For Our Puzzles, see page 1477.

and in 1856 Lord Palmerston (anxious to please the Court) created the office of Inspector-General of Government Museums for the benefit of Mr. Playfair. This lucrative sinecure was abolished when it no longer suited Mr. Playfair to hold it. He was for some years Professor of Chemistry at Edinburgh, and his lectures were most popular. Mr. Playfair entered Parliament in 1868, and sat in the House of Commons until Mr. Gladstone made him a peer in 1892. His best public work was achieved as Chairman of the Civil Service Commission. In the House of Lords he rarely spoke, except on educational questions, in which he always took a keen interest. He was a hearty and unswerving supporter of Mr. Gladstone throughout his public life.

Colonel Pinney, who died last week at the age of ninety-one, was the active leader of the Liberal Party in Somersetshire for many years, and his energy and popularity much contributed to our former successes in that county. Colonel Pinney sat in Parliament for many years, and to the end of his life he was as zealous a Liberal as when he first entered the House of Commons in 1831. He owned large estates in the West of England, and he was a most popular landlord. He passed most of his life at his house in Berkeley-square, where he died, but he paid frequent visits to Somerton, his place in Somersetshire. Colonel Pinney at one time took a prominent part in County business, and he was widely known as an enthusiastic and very learned archæologist.

The death of the veteran swimmer, Beckwith, which took place recently whilst professionally engaged at Uppingham School, induces the reflection that, notwithstanding the exertions of the Amateur Swimming Association and the Life Saving Society, this healthy and necessary art is not yet cultivated to the extent it should be. In spite of the uncongenial weather experienced this year up to now, the deaths already recorded from drowning have been sadly numerous, and although it is too much to expect that we shall ever see the day when the youth of both sexes are compulsorily required to attain a certain standard of proficiency in swimming, it may be accepted as a certainty that either bathing or boating lose the greater portion of their risk to those who have acquired a tolerable knowledge of the art. Headmasters of schools—both public and private—might do much to forward the matter, but the Lords of the Admiralty might do more if swimming were made a necessity throughout the Service.

Sir Thomas Acland, who was a life-long friend of Mr. Gladstone, with whom he was at Christ Church, commenced his career as a Tory, as was almost inevitable with his father's son; but he soon became a Free Trader and Liberal, and ultimately he was a zealous Radical and Home Ruler, and for many years the life and soul of the Liberal Party in Devonshire and West Somersetshire. Sir Thomas was a fine scholar and a clever, energetic, and industrious man. His absorbing object in public life was to advance the cause of education, and he was an ardent promoter of the University Extension movement. Sir Thomas was regarded as being very much of a *doctrinaire*, and he was always tremendously serious in his views of life, both in great affairs and in merely trifling matters.

Sir Thomas was a very precise man, but his charities of all kinds were munificent, and there never lived a more generous and considerate landlord. A deserving tenant having fallen into difficulties, was sure to obtain both cordial sympathy and substantial assistance from Sir Thomas, and very few people were aware of his many acts of generosity in connection with his tenantry. He owned large family estates in Cornwall, Devonshire, and Somersetshire, and the property was admirably managed under his own supervision. He never was so happy as at Killerton, his beautiful place near Exeter, where he had lived entirely of late years.

The Aclands, like the Wynns, have over and over again refused peerages. "Old Sir Thomas" more than once declined a coronet when he was one of the most popular and influential of the county members. "Young Sir Thomas" is said to have been offered a peerage by Mr. Gladstone in July, 1886, in August, 1892, and again in March, 1894.

There is a story that, some years ago, when Mr. Gladstone was staying in Scotland, he attended service in the Presbyterian church of the parish, and was infinitely disgusted at the references to his presence which were made by the officiating minister. In the course of the "eloquent and impressive" extempore prayer with which that ecclesiastic led the worship of his congregation, he thus delivered himself: "We pray Thee, Lord, of Thy goodness, to bless the Prime Minister of this great nation, who is now worshipping under this roof in the third pew from the pulpit. Lord, we feel ourselves to be the richer for the privilege of his company."

The extempore prayers of Presbyterian divines are apt to be eccentric to the verge of extravagance. A certain minister of high repute was opening an outdoor function with prayer on an occasion when a great personage had failed to keep an engagement to be present; and he thus commenced his supplications: "In consequence of the rain, O Lord! and by reason of the regretted absence of the Princess of Lochnagar, caused, doubtless, by the stormy weather, I do not purpose to address Thee at any length!"

In some of the laudatory obituaries of Mr. Gladstone, I have seen it said that he had a keen sense of humour. I venture to question this. I have heard him make playful speeches, but they were the play of a cat with a mouse. He was too terribly in earnest to see the humour of any situation. There are men who—earnest as they may be to attain their ends—yet never lose sight of the humorous side even of their own earnestness. Mr. Gladstone, I

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should imagine, was not one of these. Had he been led out to execution, it would never have occurred to him, as it did to Sir Thomas More, to console himself by a humorous view of the impending axe.

I remember two scenes between Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli in the House of Commons which illustrate what I mean. When the Reform Bill of the latter was in Committee in 1866, a discussion raged for days about compound householders. Mr. Gladstone and the Liberals denounced the refusal to give a vote to the compounders as a thing almost too wicked for words, and it was thought that the Ministry must be defeated on it. One evening, Member after Member rose from the Ministerial benches to declare that the Government, collectively and individually, would prefer death rather than that compound householders should have votes. The House, as usual, emptied with the approach of the dinner hour. At about nine o'clock Mr. Disraeli got up, when there were not above twenty or thirty members present. There seemed, he said, to be a difference of opinion about compound householders having votes. He himself had no strong views on the subject. The Opposition appeared to have strong views. The question was of very little importance, and, in order to expedite the Bill, he would be quite ready for them to have votes. A messenger was at once despatched to Mr. Gladstone, who had gone home to dinner. A little after ten the House filled up, and Mr. Gladstone reappeared. Almost every one was tickled at the joke of Mr. Disraeli having in a few brief words thrown over his colleagues, and at their having to eat their own words. Not so Mr. Gladstone. He thundered against Mr. Disraeli, at his ignorance of his own Bill, at his levity, and so on.

The other occasion was this. Mr. Gladstone was in the midst of a scathing denunciation of Mr. Disraeli. The latter sat like a sphinx, immovable and imperturbable. Then he put up his eyeglass and looked at the clock, slowly rose, shrugged his shoulders, as he usually did on getting up in order to get his coat into the right position, and slowly walked out of the House. It never seemed to occur to Mr. Gladstone that all this was done in order to irritate him. He stopped short in his speech, he clutched at the table, and only after a minute or two resumed his speech.

I regard a sense of humour as one of the most precious gifts that can be vouchsafed to a human being. He is not necessarily a better man for having it, but he is a happier one. It renders him indifferent to good or bad fortune. It enables him to enjoy his own discomfiture. Blessed with this sense, he is never unduly elated or cast down. No one can ruffle his temper. No abuse disturbs his equanimity. Bores do not bore him. Humbugs do not humbug him. Solemn airs do not impose on him. Sentimental gush does not influence him. The follies of the moment have no hold on him. Titles and decorations are but childish baubles in his eyes. Prejudice does not warp his judgment. He is never in conceit or out of conceit with himself. He abhors all dogmatism. The world is a stage on which actors strut and fret for his edification and amusement, and he pursues the even current of his way, invulnerable, doing what is right and proper according to his lights, but utterly indifferent whether what he does finds approval or disapproval from others. If Hamlet had had any sense of humour, he would not have been a nuisance to himself and to all surrounding him.

There is, of course, to be a memorial to Mr. Gladstone at Oxford, where his features will be rendered familiar to future generations through the admirable portrait by Millais, which hangs in the hall of Christ Church. My own opinion is that the best compliment which the University could pay to Mr. Gladstone, and the one which he himself would have preferred, would be to forthwith restore Bishop Butler's "Analogy" to its old place among the books to be taken up. Butler's immortal work was injudiciously removed from the list thirty or forty years ago, and, although Mark Pattison supported this change at the time, yet, in his "Memoirs," he expresses the opinion that, for solid logic and powerful argument, the "Analogy" surpasses any other book in the English language. Mr. Gladstone said, more than once in his life, "I do not know where I should have been without Butler."

An extraordinary incident has lately occurred at Durham in connection with the Chapter Library. More than fifty years ago a splendid and very valuable copy of the Sarum Missal of 1514, which had been printed in Paris, was mysteriously stolen from a locked case in Bishop Cosin's library. Great efforts were made by the Dean and Chapter to trace the volume, but they proved fruitless. The other day a parcel arrived by post at the Chapter Library, which, on being opened, was found to contain the long-lost treasure, including the bookplate. The volume was returned in perfect condition, but by whom, or whence it was sent back remains a mystery, which is not at all likely to be solved. Is it a case of awakened conscience on the part of the heir of an unscrupulous "collector"?

Among the many art collections of one kind and another on view in London at the present moment, not the least interesting is the collection of Royal and historical china and glass belonging to Mr. C. Wentworth Wass, now being exhibited by Messrs. Thomas Goode & Co., at their galleries in South Audley-street. There is much in the collection which will appeal to connoisseurs; but the finest portion of it is, not the fragments of Royal and historical services, but the Worcester enamels by the late Thomas Bolt. Several of these are works of art of the very highest quality; and the beautiful chalice in the centre of the collection, or the two large vases with designs after Flaxman, would alone repay a visit to South Audley-street.

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After looking through the Wass Collection, I wondered why Royal and noble personages should choose to have their arms on their dinner plates. Beautiful as are many of the designs in other respects, and cleverly though the subject has been treated in many cases, it passes the ability of the cleverest artist to make the Royal arms—or, for the matter of that, any other heraldic device—a thing of beauty for decorative purposes. However, I suppose the truth is that monarchs, like humbler mortals, think more about their plates when full than when empty. After all, the *chef* is the artist who plays the most important part for most people in designing decorations for dinner services.

From the letter of an aggrieved correspondent (dated Sunday evening last), I gather that certain daily papers continue to publish Sunday editions, thus persisting in their determination—arrived at when the war between America and Spain broke out — "to alleviate public anxiety" at all costs. "In the absence of war news of any kind," adds my correspondent, "it must sometimes prove rather difficult for your highly considerate contemporaries to do what they promised, and my experience during to-day has suggested to me that the following verses may not improbably represent what took place at more than one newspaper office this (Sunday) morning":—

"THE ALLEVIATION OF BACKERS."

The Publisher sat in his office chair,
And he said to the Sub, said he,
"Of important news from the Seat of War
Not a par. there seems to be.
For the Sunday Edition that we bring out
Not a head-line good we've got;
Is there anything known to *you*, my friend?"
And the Sub replied, "There's not!"

"No telegram, eh! that will serve our turn?
No rumour that we can 'fake'?
No new sensation?" The puzzled Sub
Gave his head a gloomy shake.
"No Spanish vessel that we can sink,
As we've sometimes done before?"
Said the Sub, "There isn't a Spanish ship
That we've *not* sunk—twice or more!"

"Come, think again!" cried the Publisher,
"And just look your 'flimsy' through;
There must be something on which to hang
A bogus battle or two;
Something to fill a column up
Which the newspaper boys can shout."
"I don't see how," said the Sub, "we can bring
Our Sunday edition out."

"What's *that?*" the Publisher almost screamed,
"What's that which you dare to say?
Don't you know how the whole of London waits
In a state of suppressed dismay?
Don't you know that the heart of London thrills
With anxiety sorely great?
An anxiety *we* have guaranteed,
Recollect, to alleviate.

"They're sitting in thousands—think of that—
From Brompton away to Bow;
On Hornsey's heights and in Clapham's vales
They are yearning the news to know.
With bated breath they await the sound
Of our paper-boys' raucous cry,
And yet you suggest we should not come out—
Oh, fie on you, Sub, oh, fie!

"Come out we must, and come out we will,
For, look you, our word we've pledged;
Yes, though there's never 'a fact' to hand,
Nor even a fight 'alleged.'
Come out we must, and come out we will,
Ere we eat our Sunday dinners!"
"Then there's only one thing," said the Sub, "to do,
To fall back on 'All the Winners!'"

And so they did; and throughout the streets
Of this city of ours so vast,
A howling, yelling, offensive crowd
Of leather-lunged newsboys pass'd.
And thus was the Publisher justified;
For this horde of persistent clackers,
Without a doubt, *did* serve to allay
The anxiety of—backers!

* * * * *

But, perhaps—if the truth were fully known—
This zeal for the public sake
Would another, and much more selfish, form,
On investigation, take.
This grave concern for the public's nerve—
Lest continued suspense hould shock it—
May be but anxiety, after all,
For the newspaper owner's pocket.

There seems to be a good deal of force in a complaint I have had respecting one of the regulations of the Oxford Local Examinations, which provides that "no fee can be returned under any circumstances, nor carried to the credit of a candidate at a subsequent examination." The latter portion of the rule is surely unnecessary and unreasonable. A candidate has to be entered and the fee of 25s. to be paid more than two months before the date of the examination. If he is prevented by accident or illness from appearing on that date, why should not the fee be carried forward to the next examination? I understand that this privilege is granted to candidates at the Cambridge Local Examinations, and it is difficult to understand on what grounds the Oxford Delegates object to it.

Yet another illustration of the arbitrary and unjust treatment of teachers in Church schools has occurred at Aston, near Stone. The master of the school there, Mr. J. Plant, has held that position for the long period of forty-two years, and no complaint whatever has been made against him on the score of efficiency. The school earns the highest possible grant, and was last year excused the annual examination on account of its high efficiency. There seems, however, to have long been some friction between the Vicar and the schoolmaster, owing, in the first place, to differences respecting the musical services at the church, where Mr. Plant was choirmaster. A month or so ago the Vicar and his fellow-managers, without assigning any reason for their action, intimated that they intended to dispense with Mr. Plant's services, and to apply to the Education Department for a pension for him.

The schoolmaster thereupon wrote to the managers, respectfully appealing to them, in view of his forty-two years' service, to allow him to retain his post a few months longer, as the Superannuation Bill, which is likely to be passed this year, will enable him to obtain a pension of

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£45 instead of the £25 to which he is at present entitled. The reply of the managers to this reasonable request was a three months' notice of dismissal. Friendly influences are at work to secure, if possible, a withdrawal of this notice, and it is to be hoped that such a settlement may be arrived at. If the managers should persist in the dismissal, the case will assuredly furnish another strong argument in favour of legislation to give Voluntary school-teachers some security of tenure.

I have received the following letter from Archdeacon Sinclair in reference to some comments in last week's TRUTH upon the appointment of the Rev. Eric Farrar to the living of St. John's, Hoxton :—

The Chapter House,
St. Paul's Cathedral, E.C.

SIR,—The Rev. Eric Farrar was ordained nine years ago by the Bishop of London (Dr. Temple) to the curacy of St. George's-in-the-East, where he worked with conspicuous earnestness under the new Bishop of Islington, Prebendary Turner (then Rector), till 1891. He then worked for three years amongst the poor of St. Margaret's, Westminster. I regarded his acceptance of a Vicarage at Coventry as a mistake at the time, and have always been wishing to have him back in London. St. John's, Hoxton, is one of the most difficult parishes in the Diocese. There are upwards of 18,000 inhabitants, all poor; and some of the streets are marked in the blackest colours in Mr. Charles Booth the statician's "Life and Labour in London." The income, £500 a year (not £600), is gross, not net, and the outgoings are very heavy. The Vicar who has just resigned will, moreover, take with him a third of the income as pension, so that there will be very little for the new Vicar to live upon. Under these circumstances it is eminently necessary that he should be a man of energy and hopefulness. There are many such to be found; but it is unreasonable to consider that four years' absence from London debars me from recalling one whom I examined both as Deacon and Priest, whose work in the East End as well as in the West I valued highly, and who, in my opinion, owed his ripest energies and best years to the Diocese in which he was originally commissioned. In notifying the appointment to the newspapers, I mentioned some of these facts; but they omitted them. Interchange with country work, far from being unfortunate, is often very desirable for London clergymen whose duties lie amongst the poor. Those who know me are well aware of the intense interest I have in the promotion of the London curates; and Mr. Farrar's successful and devoted life as one of them should not be forgotten, because he has been working no less zealously in a poor parish in Coventry.

WILLIAM SINCLAIR,
Archdeacon of London.

The facts in question certainly put a different complexion upon the appointment, and it is to be regretted that the newspapers which originally dealt with the matter omitted to mention them. I trust, however, that the Archdeacon's letter will be the means of removing some of the misconceptions to which this omission has given rise. For my own part, at any rate, I feel bound to say that in view of his statements the preferment of Mr. Farrar to St. John's no longer appears open to the somewhat strong criticism which has been applied to it.

Over a month ago the Vicarage of Chidham, near Chichester, became vacant, and it has been announced that the vacancy has been filled up. In the interim relays of clerics have officiated; but on the last Sunday in May, although the bell was tolled and the congregation duly assembled, no parson made his appearance. The afternoon and evening services also had to be abandoned. This suggests either negligence or very bad management somewhere, and one would like to know what the Bishop has to say to it.

The unexpected deaths of Archdeacons Palmes and Scott will be widely lamented. They were both most admirable clergymen, and had worked hard all their lives, the one in Yorkshire and the other in the diocese of Lichfield. They were popular among both clergy and laity, and were most highly esteemed by all classes and parties. They were both High Churchmen, Archdeacon Palmes being of the school of Dean Hook, under whom he was curate at Leeds for seven years after his ordination.

Some good patronage falls in by the deaths of Archdeacon Scott and Archdeacon Palmes. The Bishop of Lichfield has the disposal of both the Archdeaconry of Stafford (£200 a year), and the Canonry of Lichfield Cathedral (£500 a year, with an excellent residence), and both preferments will probably be given to the same ecclesiastic. The Archbishop of York will appoint the new Archdeacon of the East Riding, whose stipend is £200 a year, and the rectory of Burton Agnes (which was long held by Archdeacon Wilberforce, brother of the Bishop) is worth about £700 a year, and is in the gift of the Dean's family.

The latest report on the state of St. George's Parish Church, Southwark, is decidedly interesting. Owing to the condition of the crypt, in which there are some 2,000 corpses, the church is filled with an effluvium which the Medical Officer to St. George's Vestry has pronounced dangerous to health as well as offensive. The Vestry, being disinclined to deal with the nuisance, have now obtained an analysis of a sample of the air in the church; and it is to the comforting effect that the atmosphere of St. George's "is of normal quality *as compared with other metropolitan churches.*" This suggests that an injustice has sometimes been done to the preachers in attempts to account for the beggarly array of empty benches in so many of these places of worship. The smallness of the congregations may be due as much to a wholesome dread of the prevalent microbes as to an irreverent horror of the sermons.

I have received the following amounts towards Lady Jeune's Fund :—Ed. F. Chance, £5; B. A., £1 (also £2 towards the deficit of the Toy Fund); A. C., £2; Anon., £25; S. W., £5; A Friend, Windermere, 10s.; O. G., £1; Mount Park Crescent, £1 1s.

May I particularly call the attention of my readers to the contribution, acknowledged above, towards the deficit in the TRUTH Toy Fund? I do so in the hope that others may be induced to follow the generous and thoughtful example of "B. A." For the sake of the thousands of children in the London hospitals and workhouses, I am most anxious that this deficit should be wiped out before I have to make any appeal in connection with the next distribution of toys. It is always so much more satisfactory and encouraging to start the preparations for a fresh Toy Show with a clean sheet.

In response to the recent appeal published in TRUTH on behalf of the family of Karditz, I have received £2 2s. from Mr. Henry Ablitt and a postal order for £1 from an anonymous donor.

As Sir Evelyn Wood has justly observed, it is not "in accordance with the traditions of the Army" that a hero who has gained the Victoria Cross should get his living by appearing for so much a night on the stage of a variety theatre. It is far more in accordance with those traditions, as Mr. Bernard Shaw has also justly observed, that the hero should make his appearance in the workhouse, at the expense of the ratepayers. At the same time, if the public are so anxious to behold their heroes in the flesh that a board of directors will pay a hero £25 a night to do a five minutes' "turn," I do not precisely see how the traditions of the Army give anybody a right to object to that hero accepting such an engagement—at any rate without offering a cash equivalent as compensation. Something purporting to be an equivalent was offered to Piper Findlater, and he has declined it, holding, I suppose, that it was not good enough. The moral seems to be that, in future, the Victoria Cross should carry with it a sufficient gratuity in cash to relieve the recipient from the necessity of violating "the traditions of the Army" by exhibiting himself at a public entertainment. In thus demonstrating the value of the decoration as a realisable asset, Findlater has rendered a service only second to his performance at Dargai—and quite as Scotch.

I cannot help thinking that there are others besides those who have been mentioned in despatches and have won Victoria Crosses who might profit by Findlater's example. Look at all the unemployed military men about the West-End and elsewhere. Many of them, I know, are anxious to find light employment, provided it is sufficiently light; and in these days of stage realism there must surely be plentiful openings for real officers in real uniforms, and possibly real medals, either as supers at the theatres or in dumb-show at the music-halls. If the War Office interfered on the ground that it is contrary to the traditions of the Army for real half-pay officers to display themselves on the stage, then the Findlater precedent would come in at once. The half-pay brigade could reply:—"Find us snug berths in the Royal Household, or give us the equivalent in cash for our present salaries, and we will retire from the stage at once." I would suggest that a meeting be called at once at one of the military clubs to consider this proposal.

After all, what is the difference between the Piper earning his bawbees by means of his bagpipes and some General on half-pay earning his guineas by acting as the Director of some rotten Company? So far as I can see, the difference is all in favour of the Piper. So is his refusal of the Queen's offer—kind as it was—of a place among her domestics. To many the position of a Royal flunkey is the most glorious to which mortal can aspire. To others it is not.

A military correspondent points out that the promotion of Major-General Hutchinson, referred to in last week's TRUTH, is by no means a unique instance of recent War Office procedure, but rather an example of what is always going on. For instance, last autumn Colonel Marshall was appointed to the command of the Royal Artillery at Aldershot, and made a temporary Major-General for the purpose, he being at that time about twentieth on the list of Colonels R.A., and devoid of any service distinction, while above him were many unemployed Major-Generals and Colonels, who had been mentioned in despatches, or promoted specially for service in the field. By every appointment of a Colonel to the temporary rank of Major-General, while there are officers of the latter rank unemployed, the taxpayer is virtually saddled with a needless charge of £500; and where the men whose claims are thus set aside have been judged fit for promotion, and the man preferred to them has no special claims of any kind, the taxpayer is being robbed, and the interests of the Service and of other officers sacrificed, merely to enrich the friend of some exalted functionary at headquarters.

I hear that the Indian Government has objected to the return of Major Boileau to England to take up the Secretaryship of the Royal Artillery Institution, under the circumstances already noted in TRUTH. It might have been supposed that this rebuff would have put an end to the proposed job; but the jobbers who now rule the Army are cast in no ordinary mould. Being unable to get Major Boileau back at once, instead of abandoning their nefarious intentions, they have fallen back on the expedient of keeping open the appointment until the Major has completed the minimum term of one year which he virtually contracted to serve in India; and in the meantime the duties are to be carried on by the present Secretary, who has already held the post two years longer than he was lawfully entitled to! So the last state of the job is worse than the first.

A professional journal calls attention to the fact that the post of President of the Army Sanitary Committee has been vacant for at least four months past, and goes on to suggest that the vacancy should be filled, either by the Director-General of the Army Medical Staff, or a Surgeon-Major-General on full pay. The idea is to give the Medical Department the casting vote on any question of military sanitation; and there can be no question that there is much in the suggestion. I do not know that one can look upon every Army medical officer as an expert in sanitation, but at least he may be presumed to have more practical knowledge of the subject than a combatant officer, or even a representative of any other Departmental corps.

The Birmingham papers have published an account of certain performances of the officers of the Warwickshire Yeomanry during their recent training at Warwick, which rival the historic performance of the gallant 4th Hussars in the case of Mr. Hodge. The story is to the effect that an officer just joined, who had retired to his lodgings while other members of the mess were carousing in the County Hall, was, about midnight, hunted out of his bedroom,

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overpowered, after knocking down one or two of his assailants, and carried back through the streets in his night clothes to the mess-room, where undescribed —possibly indescribable—indignities were perpetrated upon him. Incidentally, he was so injured by the rough usage he received, that he was laid up for some days afterwards. I give these statements as they appear in the Birmingham papers. Whether true or not, they call for investigation, if only for the sake of the credit of the regiment. And if they are true, they call for rigorous punishment—though whether that result will follow is a matter on which those who remember the history of the 4th Hussars scandals will not be too sanguine.

I fear that the officer commanding the troops at Spike Island is not only deficient in a sense of humour, but also very slow at taking a hint. Some weeks back reference was made in TRUTH to a strange order issued by this officer appointing a certain lady as official midwife to the garrison, declaring her, in the C.O.'s opinion, perfectly qualified for the purpose of her delicate duties, and fixing the scale of remuneration. I pointed out then that for an officer — more especially when he happens, as in this case, to be a single man — to interfere in matters of this kind is a somewhat risky proceeding; and that the wives and mothers of the garrison, as well as their husbands, could not be expected to accept without question his judgment upon the qualifications of the lady. The O.C. does not seem to have accepted this view, and the official Mrs. Gamp still monopolises the practice at Fort Westmoreland. A great deal of needless dissatisfaction and ill-feeling are thereby caused, and I think the time has now come when some higher authority should look into this extraordinary state of things.

A reason has at last been forthcoming for the objection which some of the Army and Navy pensioners entertain to the proposed payment of pensions at shorter intervals than at present. It is this: a pension being paid quarterly in advance, if a pensioner dies early in the quarter his widow or representatives have the benefit of the unexpended portion of it; and it is feared that this benefit, would be lost if the payment were made weekly or monthly. There is reason in this, for the pension is earned and granted on the condition that it shall be paid on the present system, so that every man has a vested interest in his pension for one quarter in advance. But this could be easily met by laying down that, on the death of a pensioner, his pension, up to the end of the quarter, should be paid to his widow or representatives.

On the Queen's Birthday parade at Hamilton Depot, after the usual salutes and cheers had been gone through, a sergeant of the Permanent Staff of the 4th Highland Light Infantry was summoned to the front, and formally presented with an Army Temperance Association medal, the ceremony concluding with an address by the officer in command on the virtues of temperance. No doubt this function was designed with the best objects, but I hear that the result of it has been to expose the sergeant to unlimited chaff, and generally to make the cause of temperance ridiculous in the eyes of the Depot, which seems natural enough. The incident shows how easy it is to defeat your own purpose by doing the right thing in the wrong way.

I have been having some correspondence on a point of military law arising out of the recent case of Private, late Corporal, Simpson, of the 2nd Grenadier Guards. Simpson, it will be remembered, was court-martialled on a charge of drunkenness, and, in spite of a direct conflict of evidence, was sentenced to imprisonment, reduction to the ranks, and a fine of 10s. The Regulations and the Army Act seem to lay down clearly that a man cannot be fined for drunkenness at all until his third offence, and not for the third or any subsequent offence unless it is within nine months of the last previous entry; otherwise he may be fined from 2s. 6d. to 7s. 6d., according to the time he has been clear of an entry. He can only be fined an additional half-crown where he has been previously convicted four times within twelve months. Now, at the time of his last conviction, Simpson had no previous entry against him since April, 1896, very nearly two years. The fine of 10s. would, therefore, appear to have been utterly illegal. It seems an extraordinary thing that this point should have been overlooked by the court which tried the man, and still more extraordinary that it should not have been brought to the notice of the General, or the Judge Advocate-General, before the sentence was confirmed. Unless my view of the law is wrong, I would respectfully suggest to the Colonel of the Regiment that the commonest justice requires that this should be put right, and the amount of the fine be refunded.

A well-informed correspondent tells me, with reference to the refusal to serve soldiers in hotels in India, that it is actually a condition of every licence, enforced by the Excise authorities and printed on the licence, that soldiers in uniform are not to be served. So far from the exclusion of soldiers being peculiar to the better class hotels, it is said to be in these that a soldier has the best chance of being served, owing to their having less fear of imperilling their licences. All this only adds force to what I said, last week, namely, that the military powers should take the matter up. My present correspondent asserts that there is no prejudice against soldiers among Europeans in India. There ought not to be, for civilians in India must feel their dependence on the military much more than in England, seeing that if the military were withdrawn there would probably not be a European left in India in twelve months' time. But this only makes it more discreditable that the Indian Excise authorities should take up an attitude towards soldiers in uniform which only a few short-sighted and ill-conditioned publicans think it necessary to adopt in England.

The late Frontier Campaign has already brought forth a good deal of literature, and I have been occupied during the last few weeks in looking through several bulky volumes on the subject. Among these I find the most readable and intelligible to be Captain Shadwell's "Lockhart's Advance through Tirah," published by

Messrs. Thacker & Co., of London and Calcutta. Captain Shadwell represented the *Daily News* and the *Pioneer* with the invading army, and he enjoyed exceptional opportunities of studying the whole of the operations, of which he seems to have made very good use. Military works by soldiers are not infrequently so encumbered with technicalities as to be unintelligible to the general reader, but Captain Shadwell gives not only a vivid description of the fighting, but succeeds in making the plan of campaign and the details of the operations clear to even the most unmilitary civilian.

Having referred to Captain Shadwell's book, I ought perhaps to make special mention also of Mr. Lionel James's volume, "The Indian Frontier War," published by Mr. Heinemann. This is a larger book, reproducing Mr. James's correspondence as Reuter's representative, both in the Mohmund and the Tirah Expeditions, and it has the merits as well as the defects of all such work. It gives a vivid and exciting narrative of events, but in his unstinted laudation of the skill, sagacity, and valour of all concerned in the operations, from the highest to the lowest, Mr. James hardly shows himself a judicious critic.

I am bound to confess, however, that in reading detailed accounts of the march through Tirah, especially when accompanied with photographic views of the country, it seems impossible to over-estimate the difficulty of the operations, or the enormous credit which is due to our troops for having surmounted them as they did. The policy which underlay the whole campaign, the blunders which marked the earlier operations before Tirah was invaded, and the administrative shortcomings that came to light during the course of the war, offer undoubtedly legitimate matter for criticism. But when all is said and done, I feel, as one of the critics, bound to confess that the march through Tirah—a country absolutely unknown up till that moment, never before penetrated by a hostile army, and inhabited by some of the most warlike races on the face of the globe, all thoroughly well armed and thoroughly expert in utilising their natural defensive resources—is one of the most creditable achievements that the British Army has ever performed.

The death of Lieutenant Bellairs, late commanding H.M.S. *Jackdaw* on the Niger, is a fresh proof of the perils of that region to Europeans compelled to serve in that pestilential quarter of the globe. Naval officers have little cause to bless the policy of aggression and expansion which now compels us to have two gunboats permanently stationed up the Niger. The hardships of Naval service in such climates are greatly aggravated by the harsh and unjust Admiralty rules on the subject of invalids. An officer invalided home from a foreign station is placed on half-pay after he has been six weeks in hospital, so that in those ranks where promotion depends on full-pay service, the unfortunate man who has lost his health in the service of his country suffers doubly in consequence—indeed, he suffers trebly, for he loses in pension as well as in present pay and prospective promotion. Not only ought the rule as to placing invalids on half-pay to be modified, but there ought to be a higher scale of pay for service in notoriously dangerous climates. It is time that some attempt was made to equalise the distribution of kicks and halfpence in the Navy.

The officers of the Channel Squadron who went to Lisbon for the national fêtes in honour of Vasco da Gama were ordered by the Admiralty to illuminate their ships just as was done at Spithead during the Jubilee Review last year. The authorities at Whitehall had apparently forgotten that the whole of the electrical gear, which was specially made for the Jubilee Review, was returned by all the ships directly after that function. Of course, the Admiralty order could not be carried out, as no ship carries a sufficient supply of electrical gear to completely decorate the hull, masts, funnels, and so forth, with incandescent lamps.

With reference to an article in TRUTH a month or two back concerning the relations between the Executive Government and the magistrates and District Judges in Ceylon, I have been favoured with an interesting letter from a high authority in the colony. The writer denies that the magistrates are in any way under the surveillance and control of the Inspector-General of Police, and he also contradicts the statement that the Governor apologised to the military authorities for the language used by a District Judge in a case in which they were concerned. I am assured, moreover, that the Supreme Court would be prompt to take notice of any improper interference by the Executive with the minor judiciary. Were I at liberty to mention the name of my correspondent, the value of this assurance would at once be recognised. I can, however, confidently recommend that in future any supposed cases of interference with the discretion of the magistracy should be forthwith brought before the Supreme Court. Quite independently of the two points mentioned above, there undoubtedly is an impression in Ceylon that the minor judiciary is too much under the thumb of the Executive Government, and the Supreme Court will render a valuable public service if it will do something to dissipate this idea.

It appears from a communication subsequent to that published in TRUTH a fortnight ago as to the action of the London County Council in the matter of street noises, that the reason for the delay in bringing forward the by-laws prepared under the last County Council is that the Council has been waiting for the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench on the validity of the by-laws made by the Kent County Council. This was doubtless a sufficient reason for the delay, but the decision of the Court having been given, there is no longer any reason why the by-laws should not be passed, and I trust that we shall hear before long that this has been done.

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In the meantime, I continue to receive a great many letters which show how strong is the feeling in favour of some regulation of street cries. For instance, a doctor writes:—

As one of the medical profession practising in the West-end of London, I am delighted at your protests against the needless street noises in what ought to be the quietest districts of the town. Not only do such noises rack the brain when engaged in the daily business of life, but they are specially trying at the close of a busy day's work, when brain exhaustion and nervous irritability are too often experienced, and when rest and quiet are essential to health.

As one who suffers personally from these pests of London life, the newspaper screamers, I would gladly contribute substantially towards their suppression, and I am sure you will have the thanks of every medical man for your antagonism to the nuisance.

I quote this letter because the testimony is specially valuable coming from such a quarter. Whatever is bad for health is presumably to the interest of the doctors. If, therefore, a doctor is willing to pay towards the suppression of a nuisance, the nuisance must certainly be a very serious one.

Although defeated on the great suet-pudding question, the Local Government Board has nailed its colours to the mast, so far as the remainder of its dietary table for workhouses is concerned. It follows, therefore, that, although Board after Board of Guardians has pointed out the direful waste, and unnecessary expense to the ratepayer, incurred by adhering to the issue of bread on the scale laid down in the aforesaid table, Mr. Chaplin declines to allow them a free hand in the matter, and sternly insists on adherence to the scale. If the pauper were unable to take care of himself, there might be some reason for this obstinacy; but as, in the present day, any attempt to starve the inmates of a workhouse would result in an immediate uproar, it seems ridiculous that the head-quarters theory should override the various Guardians' practical knowledge, at the expense of the long-suffering ratepayer.

Somebody or other seems to have shown a monstrous lack of common sense, not to say common humanity, in dealing with an injured man at Burnley the other day. The man was taken to the Victoria Hospital suffering from a compound fracture of the kneecap. As there had been a case of scarlet fever in the hospital, the authorities advised that the man should be removed to the workhouse infirmary, and an order of admission to that institution was procured. The patient, however, never got to the workhouse infirmary. The two establishments are only a stone's throw apart, but apparently the workhouse authorities would not fetch the man from the hospital and the hospital authorities would not take him to the workhouse. In these circumstances the sufferer was kept for a day and a half at the hospital, and then he was sent back to his own home with a necessary operation still unperformed. Finally, he had to be removed to Manchester Royal Infirmary, where he died a week later. It is to be hoped that the inquiry which is to be held will be followed by the summary dismissal of the pig-headed officials, whether at the hospital or the workhouse, who are responsible for this scandalous affair.

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Here is a synopsis of a little tragi-comedy which has lately caused some excitement in the village of Queensbury, near Bradford. Act i.: Mr. Stephen Holroyd is an old, valued, and faithful servant of the firm of John Foster & Son, Limited, of the Black Dike Mills. He started work with them as a boy of ten, he has remained with them for forty-nine years, and for the last twenty-two years he has occupied the position of head of the weaving department, apparently to the complete satisfaction of his employers. Act ii.: Mr. Holroyd is elected a member of the Queensbury District Council. Act iii.: Mr. Herbert Foster, managing director of John Foster & Son, Limited, is also elected a member of the same Council. Act iv.: A meeting of the District Council for the election of chairman. Mr. H. Foster is one of the two candidates proposed. Mr. Holroyd votes with his party against Mr. H. Foster, and the other candidate is elected by a majority of one. Act v.: A conference, two days later, in the directors' room at the mills. Mr. Holroyd is called in, and, in the presence of other members of the firm, Mr. H. Foster informs him that they have determined to dispense with his services. Mr. Holroyd's two sons, one of whom has been with the firm twenty-five years and the other fourteen years, are also dismissed on the same day. All three are asked to leave at once, and paid wages in lieu of notice, that being the usual practice of the firm.

The foregoing is the substance of a narrative given in the *Bradford Observer*. Although my contemporary is careful not to itself allege any relation of cause and effect between the defeat of Mr. Foster at the Council and the dismissal of Mr. Holroyd at the mills, it does not disguise the fact that some idea of this kind has taken root in the minds of the local public. No doubt the local public are mistaken, for it seems incredible that there can have been any real connection between the two events. Still, the sequence was so unfortunate that it might be as well for the firm themselves to offer some explanation. It is scarcely necessary to add that if they care to supply their version of the affair I shall be glad to give publicity to it.

Thus does a local paper describe the horses and the waggonettes of Hull:—

It is astonishing that this old town, which reared such a high pillar to commemorate the magnificent anti-slavery work of its great son, Wilberforce, should so disgrace itself as to permit its streets to be filled with the poorest specimens of horseflesh to be found anywhere in this country. This is an unenviable peculiarity of Hull. . . . . Penny rides in badly-appointed brakes and waggonettes appear to be the most popular means of moving about the town. There is no time-table arrangement, and you are dragged along, anywhere and anyhow, to the music of a jangling notice-board overhead and the clatter of half-a-dozen loose boards which form the bottom of the ricketty vehicle. Weak and aged animals, many of them thin and tottering ponies, are met with everywhere, qualifying for shipment to the Continent, viâ Goole. Their presence in the town is a disgrace, and constitutes a very bad case of legalised cruelty.

The description, I am told, is by no means an exaggerated one. The tram service broke down owing to bad management, and these waggonettes have taken their place. Why does not the municipality start electric trams? I have seen protests against such trams worked by overhead wires, on the ground that the supporting posts are ugly. This depends upon the posts. This means of traction is largely used in Continental towns. In some of them—

Rome, for instance—the posts are quite ornamental to the streets in which they are placed. The overhead system has the merit of being far cheaper than any other.

The Board of Trade will need to watch very carefully the attempts now being made in various suburban districts to construct street tramways under the Light Railways Act. One of the most conspicuous of these projects is the Hammersmith and Hampton Court Electric Railway. A Richmond correspondent points out that this line will pass through the higher part of Richmond and the most picturesque portions of both Richmond and Petersham hills. To this scheme many objections have been raised. The æsthetic are, of course, aghast at the threatened vulgarisation of a famous "beauty spot." Those, again —*quorum pars ego*—who regard the usefulness of a thing as its chief beauty, and might not object to a tramway merely as a tramway, are suspicious of an undertaking of this kind exempt from proper local control.

The Tramways Act was designed to cover the construc-ion of all street tramways; and it gives the local autho-ities concerned reasonable control over the owners of the ines, and the opportunity of eventually acquiring and vorking them for the public. The Light Railways Act vas passed primarily for the benefit of agricultural lisdistricts far from existing railroads; and it was never ntended by this measure to provide the promoters of uburban tramways with a means of evading their respon-ibilities under the older statute. Your suburban district f to-day will be urban by to-morrow, and while London nd many other towns are finding it to their advantage to un their trams municipally, what can be thought of thus ranting to private companies inalienable rights over public oads? A still more ambitious scheme than the Richmond nd Hampton Court one is, I believe, projected for North ondon, and the Board of Trade ought to see that no such ttempt to get round the Tramways Act is accomplished ithout the express consent of Parliament.

Dealing a few months back with the shortcomings of ritish railway management, I referred incidentally to ndry private and personal grievances of my own against e Brighton Company. I know the danger of *post hoc, go propter hoc*, but whether it is a case of *propter* or *post*, stice compels me to acknowledge publicly that since that te the Brighton Company has amended its ways in veral particulars. Day after day the morning train hich brings me to my labours has arrived at Victoria the minute, and on several occasions it has disconcerted ose familiar with its former habits by getting in a minute two before it was due—a conclusive proof that I was ght in saying that what is done at London Bridge could done at Victoria, if the Company chose to try. ightonians are now officially promised the long-desired on of an express down every night at 10.50; and so xious are the Company to oblige, that a new theatre in is to be put on on Thursdays—at 11.50 p.m. from ctoria. It only remains for us to hope that this liberality ll have its reward.

At the late Co-operative Congress at Peterborough, some reference was made to the recent Co-operative action against TRUTH. The available reports of what passed are extremely brief, but I gather that the Co-operative Union has been debited with a sum of £150 towards the costs of the action. If this meets with the approval of the Union at large, they must be a very mild and soft-hearted—not to say soft-headed—body of men. In response to a question on the subject, Mr. Brown, the Chairman of the United Board, which furnished the plaintiffs in the action, is reported to have delivered himself thus:—

> If they had not taken action, the conclusion to which any sensible man would have arrived was that they were a set of scoundrels, who had perpetrated a gross "job." As custodians of their own honour, and of the honour of the whole Co-operative movement, they felt bound to take action.

On this I would make two remarks:—1. If Mr. Brown is right, the jury who tried the case were not "sensible men," for they certainly did not read the alleged libel in any such sense as Mr. Brown attributes to it. Had they considered that my remarks suggested that the Board were "scoundrels," who had perpetrated a "gross job," they would certainly not have dismissed the plaintiffs with only a pound each as compensation for such an atrocious and unwarrantable imputation. Their verdict would rather seem to suggest that in their opinion, had the plaintiffs been sensible men, they would never have rushed into court on such trumpery grounds. 2. If the plaintiffs commenced this action "as the custodians of their own honour," on what principle is the Co-operative Union at large asked to pay £150 towards the costs? Under ordinary circumstances a man who, to vindicate his own honour, brings an action for libel, and only gets 20s. damages, has to pay for his pugnacity whatever he expends over and above the taxed costs awarded against the defendant; and there is no reason why a director of a co-operative society should escape this liability—unless co-operative principles have been so far developed at Manchester that whenever one co-operator embarks on a private quarrel, his brother co-operators are under an obligation to furnish him with the sinews of war.

True, Mr. Brown adds that the thirteen plaintiffs also went into this litigation as custodians "of the honour of the whole movement," and that, of course, is the ground on which "the whole movement" is asked to contribute to the costs. But Mr. Brown and his friends must excuse my remarking that this argument is all fudge. If the directors of a railway company were accused of perpetrating a job in the exercise of their patronage, and went to law to vindicate themselves, it would be a preposterous thing for them to pretend that they were impelled by the necessity of vindicating the honour of the company at large; and there would be some pretty vigorous protests at the next shareholders' meeting, if the company at large were charged with any of the costs of the action. In this case the jury estimated the damage done to the Co-opera-

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tive Union collectively at the sum of 40s., which is a pretty fair indication of the extent to which "the honour of the whole movement" was involved in the issue. For the satisfaction of obtaining this solatium to its honour, "the whole movement" is now asked to pay the trifle of £150.

Seeing that costs were awarded against me, some of the individual members of "the movement" may possibly wonder how this large sum comes to be payable at all. The answer is that the directors—in their zeal for the honour of the movement—thought it necessary to bring down to Manchester an ex-Law Officer of the Crown at a special fee of 300 guineas over and above the 100 guineas or so which would be paid to him in any case. To my mind, the fact of their incurring this monstrous expenditure, if there was any intention of charging it against the funds of the Union, reflects far more unfavourably upon the plaintiffs than anything in the very mild remarks which gave them such umbrage. Even if the members at large feel that the Union ought to pay something towards the cost of obtaining the magnificent sum of 40s. as a vindication of "the honour of the whole movement," they have still the best of rights to object to their share of the costs of the campaign being assessed at the outrageous sum of £150, over and above the taxed costs which I expect to have the pleasure of paying for them. That is why I say that their acquiescence in Mr. Brown's view of the matter implies some softness of head.

It is nothing new for Lord Halsbury's additions to the borough magistracy to evoke unfavourable comments; but one of three recent appointments to the Maidstone Bench is being criticised with somewhat unusual severity. I do not know the precise nature of the objections to the gentleman in question, but it is asserted that, though he is a Conservative, the Conservatives as a party repudiate all responsibility for his selection, and the Liberals, of course, had nothing to do with it. Some of the remarks on the subject in the *South Eastern Gazette* a fortnight ago were of a very curious character—so curious that the individual at whom they were aimed called at the office and, according to the editor, "promised to have a statement prepared and attested, vindicating himself." In last week's issue of the paper, however, it was announced that this promised "vindication" had not been received up to the time of going to press. Unless it is forthcoming without further delay, I think the Lord Chancellor would do well to make a few local inquiries in reference to the matter.

The estimation in which the Ceylon Government holds the office of magistrate has been exemplified in a recent appointment at Nuwara Eliya. A president of a village tribunal—a council for settling minor disputes among the villagers—has been made an additional police magistrate for Nuwara Eliya on the conditions that he is not to try important cases, nor cases in which Europeans are parties. For what the Government regards as inferior work he is to be paid the inferior salary of Rs. 1,000, the lowest salary of an ordinary police magistrate being Rs. 3,500. This appears to be an entirely new departure, and it is one which is likely to make a very unfortunate impression upon the native mind. It may be presumptuous on the part of the natives, but they cannot see why they should be put off with a cheaper and less competent administration of justice than Europeans.

Judging from the letters I have received, a recent summons against Mr. Jeffreys Allen-Jeffreys, J.P., at Ilminster, has attracted a good deal of attention. The defendant was charged with ill-treating a pony, and witnesses for the prosecution alleged that he thrashed the animal with cruel and excessive severity. On the other hand, witnesses for the defence stated that this evidence exaggerated the facts, and that Mr. Jeffreys only inflicted on the pony such punishment as was reasonably necessary in view of the viciousness it showed. In the face of this conflict of evidence, the Bench dismissed the summons, and I am not prepared myself to quarrel with their decision. At the same time, I very much doubt whether—putting aside other considerations—Mr. Jeffrey's method of correcting a vicious animal has even the merit of being effective. My horsey friends, at any rate, always tell me that in such a case gentle coaxing is in the long run more successful than violent coercion.

One communication in reference to this case comes to me from Mr. Jeffreys himself. The gist of it is a complaint respecting the presence on the Bench of Colonel Hoskyns, a gentleman who is closely associated with the local branch of the R.S.P.C.A., at whose instance the prosecution was instituted. Mr. Jeffreys states that Colonel Hoskyns is not in the habit of sitting with the Ilminster Bench, generally attending at another Court, but that he put in an appearance on the day first fixed for the hearing of this case, and that he was present again on the day to which it was adjourned. Nobody sympathises more strongly than I do with the work of the R.S.P.C.A., but if what Mr. Jeffreys says is correct, I certainly think the attendance of this particular magistrate to hear this particular case was ill-advised, and calculated to do the R.S.P.C.A. more harm than good.

Another case in which a magistrate was accused of cruelty to a horse has also been brought to my notice. On this occasion Mr. J. P. King, J.P., of North Stoke, was summoned before his colleagues at Caversham Petty Sessions for causing a horse to be worked whilst in an unfit state, and a lad in his employ was summoned for actually working the animal. There was no question that it was cruel to work the horse, which was in an emaciated condition and suffering from sores on the hip and shoulders; and a fine of £1 was inflicted on the lad but the summons against Mr. King was dismissed. The magistrates added that "they thought he placed too much responsibility on so young an employee," and this is a hint which Mr. King, J.P., would do well to bear in mind.

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Mr. King stated that the horse was at a farm three miles distant from his house, and I presume the Bench were not satisfied that he was aware of the sores from which the animal was suffering. But, as he is in the habit of visiting the farm, he could scarcely be ignorant of the fact that the horse was in an emaciated condition—a condition which does not arise all at once—and it was mentioned, moreover, that a second animal of his which was being worked was also old and weak, and suffering from a wound on the shoulder. It is, therefore, clearly desirable that Mr. King should give closer personal care to his farm horses.

Familiar as I am with the peculiar ways of the Royal Court of Guernsey, I have heard of nothing equal to the following extraordinary case. Some eight months ago, it is alleged, the Court deprived a resident in the island of his liberty, the use of his cash at the bank, and the delivery of letters by the post-office. There are circumstances in which all these things may be and are done, but the singular feature of this story is that, though the victim is not now, at any rate, confined in any institution, he is nevertheless still denied the use of his cash at the bank and the receipt of letters through the post. For the latter reason it is impossible for me to communicate with him, but I should much like to know from some of my readers in Guernsey under what circumstances and by what authority the Royal Court issues such an order to the post-office.

The warning I published recently against the Tradesmen's Trust, Limited, of Leeds, is abundantly justified by some revelations that were made in an action at Carlisle County Court last week. This concern, which is run by a certain J. Leslie Armstrong, comes forward with benevolent offers to save tradesmen who are in financial difficulties from the Bankruptcy Court. In the case at Carlisle, Armstrong induced a local saddler and his creditors to agree to a deed of assignment, under which he was the trustee, the instructive result being that out of £98 which was received by Armstrong, about £50 has been swallowed up in costs, and only £20 paid to the creditors. Some of the latter sued Armstrong for further amounts to make up a composition of 10s. in the £, and the Judge, in giving judgment in their favour, made some pretty plain-spoken comments upon the conduct of the defendant. Curiously enough, the circular sent out by the Tradesmen's Trust warns trades people against parties making "glowing offers," who "mostly extort fees," and are "best left alone." This applies admirably to the Tradesmen's Trust.

It must have been a pleasant change for the Lord Chief Justice to be able to congratulate the Wiltshire Magistrates on having made a liberal use of their discretionary power to admit prisoners to bail. As a rule the Judges on Circuit are compelled, with monotonous iteration, to lecture the Great Unpaid on the harshness and injustice of unnecessarily condemning accused persons to long periods of imprisonment before they are brought to trial. In Wiltshire these admonitions seem at last to have had the desired effect, and I trust the good example set in that county will be speedily followed elsewhere.

The result of the Bryant & May prosecution must be to make the law ridiculous in the eyes of all intelligent persons. Here we have a wealthy firm, who, by their own cool admission, have been for a long time past systematically defying an Act of Parliament—an Act passed for the protection of human life. Practically pleading guilty to a number of specific offences, they are fined for each, with the result that the total penalty only amounts to twenty-five pounds. The penalty is the maximum allowed by law, and it is simply childish. It will no more affect the shareholders of Bryant & May, or any one connected with the business, than would the loss of twenty-five match-boxes.

True, the business may possibly suffer through the discredit brought on it by this exposure. Many people will, no doubt, avoid as far as possible buying the goods of a firm which carries on its business under such conditions. But this is not enough. A sharp sentence of imprisonment would not have been too much for the officials of the company who were concerned in the violation of the Act—many men and women go to gaol every day for far less serious offences. And a fine of £100 for each offence would barely have been sufficient to teach the shareholders to exercise a little more circumspection in regard to the manner in which their workpeople are treated and their dividends earned. Gladly would I see the law altered, so that the punishments might be increased to this extent.

I do not quite understand the position of the company's doctor in relation to these offences. Has he no duty to report the occurrence of "phossy jaw," and no responsibility when it passes unreported? If not, when the law is tightened up, as I trust it will be, a duty in this respect should be fixed upon all medical men attending cases of phosphorus poisoning. As they would injure themselves professionally by becoming parties to a violation of the law, the prompt reporting of all such cases would thus be ensured.

The public who have been shocked to learn of the ravages of "phossy jaw" among the matchmakers, would be still more horrified if they could only see the appalling effects of lead poisoning among the potters. On the latter industrial scandal some valuable information is given by Dr. Dowling Prendergast, in a little book published under the title of "The Potter and Lead Poisoning," by Messrs. Marshall, Russell, & Company. The doctor writes from an experience of fifteen years' professional work in the Potteries, and the statistics he quotes show that the "special rules" formulated by the Home Office a few years ago have entirely failed to reduce the number of cases of lead poisoning; indeed, of late there has actually been an increase. In the interests of humanity and civilisation, the evil clearly calls for more drastic and thorough going treatment at the hands of the Home Secretary than has yet been attempted.

In my Legal Pillory this week, the case from Motherwell presents, on the whole, the most amazing and lamentable exhibition of magisterial incompetence. The accused had subjected four little children to exceptionally barbarous and inhuman treatment, and if the woodenheads of the Motherwell Bailies had contained the faintest glimmer of reason and justice substantial sentences of imprisonment without the option of a fine would have been passed. To allow such callous brutes to escape with mere pecuniary penalties was an absolute mockery of justice, and I am not surprised to read that it caused great astonishment and indignation in the town. With regard to the other cases in the following list, it will be observed that the wife beater still has many indulgent friends on the Bench. In all parts of the country a fine of from 10s. to a £1 seems to be regarded as a sufficient punishment for thrashing a woman. Any trivial offence against the Game Laws is considerably more expensive, while for acts of vagrancy or petty larceny a dose of hard labour is almost invariably prescribed:—

Colchester Police-court. Before Mr. W. Buck, Colonel Howard, and Captain Ind. Parker Appleby, convicted of assaulting his wife. He went home drunk, took hold of her by the hair of her head, threw her on the floor three times, and banged her head against the wall. Fined 10s. and 11s. costs.

Lisburn Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. T. D. Gibson, R.M., J. Rogers, M. B. Mackenzie, and W. Savage. Hugh Cairns, convicted of cruelty to a pony by savagely beating it with the butt end of a whip. It was a very bad case, and the Chairman was in favour of sending the accused to prison, but the other magistrates objected. Fined 5s. and costs.

Derby Police-court. Before Messrs. C. C. Bowring, R. Russell, E. Horne, W. J. Piper, W. Legge, and A. Butterworth. William Waite, convicted of an assault upon his wife. He struck her in the eye, knocking her down, and then kicked her. Fined 20s. and costs.

Derby Police-court. John Gallagher, charged with assaulting Sarah Ann M'Nally, with whom he had been living. Being dissatisfied with his dinner, he struck the woman on the head with a knife and steel which were wrapped in paper. She became unconscious, and the wound on her head had to be treated at the infirmary. Fined £1 and costs.

Axbridge Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. B. E. Somers and S. Hill and Major-General Harrison. Joseph Groves and Harry Spencer charged with cruelty to a bull by beating and overdriving it. The animal became exhausted, and the defendants beat it unmercifully with sticks, which were found to be covered with blood and hair. Fined 10s. each and costs.

Fakenham Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. C. A. Hamond and B. Le Neve Foster, and Captain F. R. Thackeray. Robert Frost, labourer, pleaded guilty to having in his possession five partridge's eggs. Fined £1 17s. 6d.; in default, one month.

Pontesbury Petty Sessions. Before the Rev. L. J. Lee, Messrs H. Jones, R. B. Phillips, and J. Whitaker. Henry Coles, charged with trespassing in pursuit of conies. Fined £2.

Ringwood Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. T. Turner, F. Veal, and other magistrates. John White, charged with sleeping out. Ten days.

Wellingborough Divisional Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. C. J. K. Woolston, W. Brown, J. Claridge, E. P. Sharman, Dr. J. Crew, and Rev. T. Richards. Edward Cox pleaded guilty to stealing cabbage sprouts, value 2s. 6d. One month.

Reading Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. C. Smith, J. W. Hounslow, W. Ferguson, and D. Rose. Ernest Streams and Wm. Wiltshire, lads, charged with stealing 8 oz. of horse hair. Streams, one month; Wiltshire, fourteen days.

Hove Petty Sessions. Before Alderman Eager and Lieut.-Col. Lloyd. John Wm. Steer and Richard Deadman, charged with stealing a canvas tent, valued at 5s. The tent, which was old and rotten, was lying on a piece of open land, and prisoners said they thought it had been thrown away. Deadman, seven days; Steer, twenty-one days.

Motherwell Police-court. Before Bailie Purdie and other Magistrates. James Philips and Elizabeth Russell, his housekeeper, charged with ill-treating the male prisoner's four children by beating them with a leather belt. One child, aged 11, had both her eyes blackened and the lower part of her body was "black and blue." A baby, aged 17 months, had a leg broken at the thigh, both temples were bruised, and the chest, back, arms, and legs were also a mass of bruises. Fined £5 each.

Blackburn Police-court. Before Dr. Morley, Messrs. J. W. Scones and W. Tattersall. John Kitchen, charged with assaulting his wife. He struck her in the face, giving her a black eye, and kicked her about the body with his clogs. Fined 20s. and costs.

Hamilton Police-court. Before Bailie M'Naughton. Charles Gallocher pleaded guilty to stealing a pair of trousers from a shop. Thirty days.

Linlithgow Police-court. Wm. Wright, charged with stealing a pair of trousers. Thirty days.

Weobley Police-court. Before Mr. G. Bray. James Bedford, charged with damaging a public-house door. He kicked in a panel after being ejected. Fourteen days.

Harwich Police-court. Before Mr. W. J. Nalborough. James Monk, charged with vagrancy by sleeping in a railway carriage and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

In order that the prisoners might not be kept waiting their trial longer than was necessary, Lord Russell, at the Wilts Assizes, dealt with a number of cases which had been committed to the Quarter Sessions. May I suggest to his lordship that he should hold a similar general gaol delivery at the Somerset Assizes this week? He will then have before him a prisoner named Graham Bennett, who on Thursday last was committed for trial at Bath Quarter Sessions. The Bath Shallows were aware that the Quarter Sessions will not take place till next month, and they were urged to send the accused for trial to the Assizes; but they preferred apparently that he should be detained in gaol for as long a period as possible—a display of wooden-headedness upon which the Lord Chief Justice will probably have something sharp to say to them.

A Swindon correspondent draws my attention to a strange story which the *North Wilts Herald* has published under the suggestive heading "Up Magisterial Backstairs." The substance of it is that a Swindon magistrate, after signing a summons for drunkenness, was induced by friends of the accused to "withdraw" his name from the document, with the result that the prosecution was dropped, and the case never came into court. This, if true, was a very improper interference with the course of justice, but it is of little use to denounce such a proceeding without exposing the parties concerned in it, and the local paper, unfortunately, omits to give any names. As the editor says he knows the names, and is sure of the facts, the best thing he can do is to repair this omission.

The metamorphoses of Leigh Sampson are so rapid that it is almost impossible to follow them. Only a fortnight ago I exhibited him in the character of "Charles Van Buren," a benevolent Brussels physician, who, having attended the "young English painter," Leigh Sampson upon his death-bed, was endeavouring to dispose of some of the deceased artist's pictures, in order to enable the widow and orphan to return to their native land

Subscriptions greatly needed by The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—2,876 convictions this year; 7,545 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

H. L. Savory & Co.'s Cigarettes.—By Special Warrants of Appointments to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, H.S.H. the Duke of Teck, and the Houses of Lords and Commons. To be obtained of all the leading Houses in the trade.—Sole address, 59, Piccadilly, London, W. Specimen case of samples, containing all sizes, 2s. 6d., with price list.

Scarcely has this account of him gone to press, when "Charles van Buren" appears on the scene in a new character. He is now no longer a doctor, but has become "a young American artist" desirous of returning to New York. In that character he appeals thus to an Englishman residing in Berlin :—

35, Rue de la Tourelle, 35
Etterbeek, Bruxelles,
La Belgique,
3 May, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—I must in the first place tender you a very humble apology for addressing you, but when in Berlin last I heard of your name as a most benevolent English gentleman and that you were interested in art.

I am a young American artist of good family, and I have been here some time practising at my profession.

I have been not so successful as I should desire, and consequently have not for several months sold a single picture.

In consequence I find myself in very straitened and unhappy circumstances, and it is to make a very humble appeal to you, Sir, to patronise my brush that I venture to respectfully address this letter to you.

For the fact is that, despairing of any great success in Europe, I have determined to return to New York, and I most respectfully ask you, Sir, to consider if you could honour me by purchasing the accompanying aquarelle and by so doing enable me to pay my passage to the States.

The picture is a view at early morning of
Peel Harbour in the Isle of Man
off the English Coast,
and the price is only Marks One Hundred and Fifty, or (in English currency) £7 10s.

I should be most truly grateful and obliged to you, Sir, if in the circumstances you could honour me by retaining the aquarelle.

I specially invite the valuation by an expert before purchasing, I know the price is a reasonable one.

It is as a last resource I venture to address you, and I tender a most humble apology for the intrusion. I beg to submit the aquarelle herewith and to remain, Dear Sir, with great respect,

Your very obedient Servant,
CHARLES VAN BUREN.

Not getting an immediate reply to this, he, as usual, follows it up with a further application. In this he again strikes new ground :—

The long depression in the art trade for American painters, caused by the prohibitive McKinley tariff upon European purchased products, has exhausted my savings and prevented me from selling my pictures.

This is a truly Sampsonian touch. He has appealed to Scotchmen as a young Scotch artist, to Irishmen as a young Irish artist, to Welshmen as a young Welsh artist, and to Englishmen as a young native of any county to which his correspondent happened to belong. This time, not knowing, probably, the exact portion of the British Isles from which the gentleman he is addressing has sprung, he comes out as a young American artist ruined by the McKinley tariff! I took the liberty of suggesting last week to the Brussels police that they should turn their attention to Mr. "Charles Van Buren," and when they see this further proof of the indiscriminate swindling in which this individual is engaged, I feel sure they will no longer delay their visit to 35, Rue de la Tourelle.

An enterprising gentleman who has been investigating the snares of matrimonial advertisements, sent me recently an instructive account of his experiences. He saw, and answered, the following advertisement in the *People* :—

SPINSTER, 26, possessing independent income, desires matrimony with a gentleman of middle-class parentage.—D., Box 11,040, "People," Arundel-street, Strand.

In return he received a type-written communication from "Campbell's Agency," 1, Tennyson-avenue, East Ham. A City address was also given (18a, London-street, E.C.), but all communications were to be addressed to the East Ham office :—

DEAR SIR,—After inserting her advt. Miss D. decided to place her affairs in my hands to shield herself from entering into correspondence with a gentleman whose object was merely amusement.

Miss D. informs me that your letter has met with her approval, she considers you are quite suitable to her and would like me to arrange an introduction between you, but in doing so I am to take the full responsibility of your intentions being honourable.

I am prepared to arrange an introduction between you and Miss D., providing you enrol as a member, my charge is £5 5s., and to ascertain enroling bons-fide members only I request payment of £1 5s. in advance, the remaining £4 being payable on marriage. (This sum to be sent conditional that your statements are true and correct, and to enable me to privately investigate the same should I deem this necessary. N.B.—No objection is made to nom-de-plume being used).

Should this meet your favour, upon receiving the above sum I will at once arrange the introduction, sending you Miss D.'s address that all communications may take place direct.

As each member is entitled to as many introductions as may prove necessary to effect a marriage, should this introduction not end successfully, I will introduce you to other lady members. —Trusting to be favoured with your patronage, I remain yours faithfully.

GEO. CAMPBELL.

The gentleman to whom this was addressed, having only a platonic interest in Miss D., and having suspicions as to whether the lady had any real existence, did not forward the preliminary fee of £1 5s. ; but waited a few days, and then inserted the following advertisement on his own account in the same paper :—

Will the gentleman who wrote Spinster D., 11,040, last week, and received agent's letter, kindly write again to M. D., Box 11,252, "People," Arundel-street, Strand.

This brought communications from no less than twenty-six Benedicks, each of whom had answered "Spinster's" original advertisement and had been favoured with replies from "Campbell's Agency" to the same effect as that above given. In one case—the aspirant to an alliance with Miss D. residing at some distance from London—it would seem that Campbell had suggested that Miss D. would come down to see her unknown suitor if, that individual would forward the railway fare in addition to the agency fee of 25s.

The fact of Campbell informing each of these six-and-twenty gentlemen, and possibly many besides, that Miss D. was prepared to be introduced to him on payment of the agency fees, is sufficient to show the swindle of the whole thing. But to carry the proof a step further, in addition to the letters from the twenty-six, the second *People* advertisement also brought the following letter from Campbell himself :—

Campbell's Agency,
18a, London-street, London, E.C.,
May 1, 1898.

MADAME,—I am surprised to note your advertisement in to-day's *People*, as, although I received your letter on Saturday requesting me not to proceed further on your behalf, I should have been pleased to have forwarded you the addresses of the few gentlemen I negotiated at your request.

If you have mislaid the originals I am prepared to forward you the addresses you sent me.

I sincerely regret not being able to have successfully negotiated with any of the gentlemen, and trust that as you have undertaken same on your own responsibility you will be satisfied, but it is my opinion that not one of the said gentlemen have honourable intentions towards you, as out of the number you requested me to write to I only received two replies, and these two objected to correspond with you owing to you having employed my services. These gentlemen being "Mr. ——" and the gentleman I have previously informed you of.—Yours faithfully,

GEO. CAMPBELL.

If such a person as Miss D. really existed, and if Camp-

MORTLOCK'S (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "MORTLOCK'S" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

AMERICAN SHOES of every description. Large consignment of newest designs and make of Summer goods just to hand. A visit solicited.—AMERICAN SHOE CO., 169, Regent-street, W.

bell had been acting on her instructions, as he said, it is pretty certain that on seeing her advertisement (or what purported to be her advertisement), he would have written to her at her own abode, instead of writing to her, as he does, under initials at a newspaper correspondence address. The truth seems to be that Campbell, seeing the second advertisement, and knowing that it did not emanate from him, guessed that an attempt was being made to obtain the evidence of the other parties he had corresponded with, and wrote this letter to cover himself. It is an extremely clever move, but just a trifle too clever. I should uncommonly like to know more of Mr. Campbell, of Tennyson-avenue, East Ham. It may be that his agency did not make a large profit on the "Spinster" advertisement—at any rate, twenty-six parties who had nibbled at the bait declined to swallow the hook—but it seems probable that so dodgy an angler must have been more successful in landing his fish upon other occasions.

One of my readers sends an account of some recent dealings with the South Kensington Fine Art Association apropos of the recent reference to that concern in TRUTH. It seems that 17s. 6d. was paid for what were represented as "engravings direct from plate." Instead of being engravings the pictures turned out to be only litho copies of engravings, with an imitation plate mark. My correspondent goes on to suggest that the Public Prosecutor ought to put a stop to such tricks. The Public Prosecutor, however, has no jurisdiction to enforce remedies for breach of contract. Every purchaser who finds that goods sold to him do not answer to the description under which they were offered has a civil remedy, and if he is too idle or indifferent to assert his own rights, he cannot expect other people to look after them for him.

The manager of the *Halifax Comet* writes :—

Referring to your remarks on Hawkins & Co., of Brighton, I may say that we have on several occasions received orders accompanied by cheques from this firm. The first we received we returned with an intimation that such "ads." were not accepted by us. Since then we have always torn up their cheques and orders immediately after arrival. If we are troubled again I propose to cash the cheque and make Hawkins pay for revenue stamp for a new cheque, as well as the postage, if he desires the return of the money.

I give this letter as an example to other provincial journals, many of which I see continue to publish this scoundrel's advertisements.

There is something delightfully ingenuous about the fierce tirade against the holiday visitors to Epping Forest, which a "Lover of Nature" addressed to a daily contemporary last week. It is, of course, very regrettable that the deer and the rabbits should be chased and pelted with stones by "organised bands of young ruffians from the East End"—"hordes of yelling fiends"—"young savages, uncouth in look and rough in language." But when a "Lover of Nature" proceeds to talk of "the desire to go forth and kill something" as if it were a peculiar characteristic of "the holiday-making East-ender," he becomes rather absurd.

After all, there are holiday-making West-enders who are animated by precisely the same primitive instinct as these Nimrods from the East End, and if it is barbaric in one case, it is equally so in the other. The only difference is that the former sportsmen hunt the deer on horses and with hounds, and shoot the rabbits with deadlier weapons than catapults. It is not a difference that the animals concerned are likely to appreciate.

Only the other day I was remarking on the facilities for travel afforded to every class of the public in the present day. All previous enterprises of this kind seem to have been eclipsed by Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son, who have just put forth a scheme for enabling working men and others of limited means to visit the next Paris Exhibition. For fifty weekly payments of one shilling a subscriber will be taken to Paris and back (3rd class), boarded and lodged there for three days, admitted to the Exhibition, and taken for a trip to Versailles; while for seventy shilling subscriptions he will get the same programme extended to five days. What next?

It appears that there is nothing in the nature of a novelty in the use of "paper insulation" for the new telephone and telegraph trunk cable between London and Birmingham, to which reference was made last week. The British Insulated Wire Company, Limited, who are making the cable, inform me that, so far from being in an experimental stage, this method of insulation has already been practically applied to thousands of miles of cable, both here and in America.

I have often wondered at the long list of Tories of high rank and station whose names appear as patrons of the Junior Conservative Club, which has been rendered so notorious by its wholesale touting for members. Possibly the following incident may explain the appearance of some of these distinguished names upon the list. A well-known Conservative M.P., finding himself enrolled among the Vice-Presidents of the Club, knowing that he had never subscribed, and having no recollection of authorising the use of his name, and not having even entered the premises, except on one occasion by invitation to preside at a smoking concert, wrote to the Secretary to ask for an explanation. This was the reply :—

43 and 44, Albemarle-street, Piccadilly, W.,
23. 5. 1898.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 20th, and I lose no time in bringing to your recollection your presiding at a concert given at this club in February, 1897, and at the same time accepting the invitation of the committee to become one of its Vice-Presidents.

Your letter has been laid before the committee, and I am instructed to inform you that, as your speech on the occasion referred to gave great offence to the members present, many of whom made very unpleasant remarks and complaints at the time, the committee have no hesitation in complying with your request to remove your name from the list, and you may be assured it will not appear in any of the documents of the club which may, after this date, be ordered to be printed.—Yours faithfully, J. O. Hamley, Comm.-General,
Secretary.

The M.P. in question tells me that the date of the smoking concert was February, 1896, not February, 1897. No objection was taken to his speech at the time, and he is alleged to have accepted the Vice-Presidency on the occasion when he delivered this speech. It has, therefore, taken the committee two years and three months to discover that they had any complaint against their Vice-President, and in the meantime they have been advertising his name broadcast all over the country. This must be the strangest club ever floated.

As the Press itself sits in judgment on the Press, it need hardly be said that its verdict is a favourable one. But the Press has its demerits as well as its merits. For the latter, those who read newspapers are more responsible than those who own them or write in them. Pressmen regard themselves as a priesthood, with a divine mission to guide and instruct their fellow-citizens in the way that they should go. This illusion would do no harm, were it not that they have managed to convince so many of their fellow-citizens that their estimate of themselves is a true one; though why any one should allow his opinions on men or things to be dictated to him by some anonymous scribe is difficult to understand, except on the ground that it is easier to spend a penny or two in buying an opinion than to form one.

One of the evils of our Press is, that it is forced by the law of its being to be ever on the look out for some sensational news, whilst the competition between newspapers for fresh intelligence renders them far too prone to accept the vaguest rumour as indisputable fact. It consequently often happens that not only are myths published, but articles are indited commenting on them. No sooner is one myth exploded than it is succeeded by a fresh one. Thus the entire country gets so accustomed to live on a diet of mendacity, that it acquires a craving for this sort of food. When, as is often the case, newspapers deal with the relations of one State to another, this mythical provender is often a positive danger, for it creates ill-feeling and irritation between nations. It used to be said that Statesmen cause wars, and that the peoples whose destinies they take under their wings suffer from them. We have altered all this. As a rule, Statesmen endeavour to maintain peace, and newspapers do their best to promote wars. If ever we ourselves drift into a great war, we shall have to thank our Press for this "crowning mercy."

When a country is involved in war—if we are to judge by what is taking place in America—its Press does its best to render victory difficult. Its aim seems to be to convey as much information to the enemy as possible. Events never go fast enough for Press requirements. It insists upon immediate action, and scoffs at waiting tactics, however desirable or necessary they may be. If there had been an influential Press at Rome in the days of Hannibal, the Senate would have been forced to cashier Fabius Cunctator within a week of his appointment to the command of an army. During a war no war news of any sort or kind should be permitted to be published, beyond the official statements of what has occurred. It is folly, when the fate of a nation is in the balance, to risk affording information to the enemy, in order that a newspaper may get off an edition or two, or that its readers' curiosity may be gratified.

"To lie like a war bulletin" is the expression in French that denotes the most absolute deviation from truth. We shall soon have to adopt in the same sense, "to lie like a newspaper." A week or two ago Mr. John Morley visited Mr. Gladstone. It was then stated in the newspapers, that he "invoked the divine blessing on the dying statesman." This was absolutely untrue. On Saturday last a second falsehood saw the light. Mr. Morley had been received into the Roman Catholic Church at the Brompton Oratory, and, as evidence of the fact, the first lie was repeated.

Lord Palmerston once sneeringly observed to Mr. Bright in the course of a discussion in the House of Commons, that, if a French Army were encamped round Manchester, he was so lost to all patriotism, that he would at once enter into negotiations with the invader to surrender the town. As Manchester is not a fortress, I remember thinking at the time that, had Mr. Bright adopted the course that Lord Palmerston thought probable, he would have acted with good sense. So it is with Spain, or, rather, there is more reason for Spain giving up Cuba than there would have been for Mr. Bright surrendering Manchester. The island is not only valueless to her, but is a drain on her. It is situated so far from the mother country, and so near to the United States, that it is indefensible unless Spain has the command of the sea, which she has not. The Cubans, in the main, object to any further connection with her. Even those who would prefer that the connection should be maintained, are not so anxious for it that they are ready to be shot or starved to death to prove their faith. The Spaniards fought at Manila with distinguished courage, and they seem disposed to do the same in Cuba. But they are fighting, as they must be aware, a losing game. Their navy seems to be in a wretched condition. The Americans, on the other hand, cannot, unless they are lunatics, wish to spend blood and money, provided that they can secure the real object of the war by means of an amicable arrangement with their opponents.

The aim of neutrals when a war takes place between two Powers is to keep out of it. Were any one of the Great Powers to interfere with a suggestion of terms of peace, this might be ill received by one or both of the belligerents, for each Great Power is always supposed to be desirous to further its own particular interests at the expense of its neighbours. But why should not Switzerland, or Sweden, or some such Power that is not open to such suspicions, offer to act as a friendly bottle-holder? An armistice might be agreed to on the general basis that Spain would give up Cuba, all minor differences as to mode and details of transfer being left to the decision of the bottle-holder, if the two parties concerned should not be able to agree in regard to any of them.

I really ask myself each succeeding day whether the intelligence of the human race has degenerated to a point, when any person may advertise himself successfully by the most flagrant clap-trap. Of course, we are desirous to live in cordial friendship with the United States. The Radicals have always urged this, and they have always deprecated the tone of Tory Statesmen and Tory newspapers towards that Republic. Mr. Chamberlain makes a silly speech, in which he suggests an alliance of the Anglo-Saxon race against the rest of the world, to be cemented

by Great Britain and America discovering some pretext to fight a joint battle and win a joint victory. Whom they are to fight, and what they are to fight for, he does not explain. But at once our newspapers discuss this foolish utterance as though it were the very perfection of human wisdom, and the Americans regard it as a proof that Mr. Chamberlain is the wisest and best of English Statesmen.

Such a "wild cat" alliance is entirely outside the area of practical politics. Why, then, propose it? For two reasons; the first was that Mr. Chamberlain had learnt that the United States were prepared to agree to the appointment of a Commission to settle any outstanding differences in regard to various minor matters between Washington and the Dominion, and he wished to convey the impression that his suggestion of an alliance had smoothed the way for the appointment of the Commission. We know the habit of our esteemed fellow-citizen. The second was that he was anxious to drag a red herring across the recent transactions in the Far East, which have hardly increased the confidence felt in the Government of which he is a member. The sum total of his speech was, in fact, this: matters went wrong in the Far East because they were entrusted to Lord Salisbury, and not to the Colonial Secretary. Matters are going smoothly in the West, and although this is really due to Lord Salisbury, yet it is desirable to create the impression that it is due to the Colonial Secretary. Mr. Chamberlain is not exactly the man with whom I should care to hunt a tiger. If I shot the animal, he would claim that he had killed it. If the tiger got away, he would ascribe the entire fault to me.

THE SINKING OF THE *MERRIMAC*.

A WORD IN SEASON.

Come, something has been done at last that's dashing,
brave, and cool;
Something more worthy of renown than killing that poor
mule.
In corners dark, Bellona for the time has ceased to
sulk—
The Spaniards, or Americans, or both, have sunk a
hulk!

How 'twas the *Merrimac* got swamped 'tis parlous hard to
tell;
But it is easy this to see—her crew behaved right
well;
About their courage there'll be heard no faint or doubtful
voice:
The world unites to loudly praise this latest "Hobson's
choice."

Even the Spaniards, as we've seen, to compliments were
moved,
And hailed with stately courtesy the gallantry thus
proved;
And surely foes have gone some way t'wards turning into
friends,
When chivalrous approval thus on bravery attends.

Then why fight on, when either side thus nobly has
behaved?
When pluck has been exhibited and honour has been
saved?
This timely sinking of the hulk, why should it not
portend
The sinking of those diff'rences which now two nations
rend?

SCRUTATOR.

AFTER GLADSTONE.

ALL concur in recognising that Mr. Gladstone was the greatest Englishman of the century. His patriotism, his services to his country, and his devotion to its interests, are the theme on every tongue. Resolutions honouring his memory are passed at home and abroad. He has had a national funeral, and a national memorial to him is proposed. But is all this mere lip-service? Are the principles for which he fought and battled during his long public life still to animate us, or are they to be buried in his grave—illusions which, however well intended, have been productive of harm rather than of good?

Mr. Gladstone was a strict economist. His aim was, not only to place our fiscal system on a sound basis, but to reduce the burden of taxation by the practice of a rigid economy. Whenever there was a surplus, he met it by taking off a tax. At present we glory in a vast public revenue, as though it were something to be proud of. If taxation yields more than was anticipated, means are at once found for spending the surplus. Not even satisfied with this, we add what has up to now been a sinking fund for the reduction of the National Debt to our spending revenue.

Mr. Gladstone always deprecated a policy of expansion and of foreign adventure. We recognise as the law of our being, perpetual extension of empire. We are to avenge Gordon, "basely sacrificed," by slaying the Soudanese—men, as Mr. Gladstone said, "rightly struggling to be free." We are seeking to trick the Boers out of that independence which he secured to them, in order to wipe out the "disgrace of Majuba Hill," for which he was responsible.

Mr. Gladstone believed that we ought only to act in concert with Europe when that concert was likely to promote the cause of liberty. In his eyes the rule of the Sultan over Christian subject races was the negation of all right. We have joined that concert in order to rivet the Turkish fetters on these suffering races.

Mr. Gladstone opposed entangling alliances with any Continental Power. We implore some great military Power to enter into an alliance with us, and to place her armies at our disposal, in consideration, presumably, of our guaranteeing to her all her possessions.

Mr. Gladstone, although no supporter of an autocratic form of Government, always laboured to establish friendly relations between us and Russia in Asia. We insult Russia, and declare that, so base and so mendacious are its statesmen, that it is impossible for us to enter into any such friendly relations with that country.

Mr. Gladstone was of the school of Sir Robert Peel in regard to armaments. With that eminent man, he held that a war expenditure in times of peace, far from being a security against war, is likely to conduce to it. Persistently he opposed the resources of the country being expended in deference to the alarmists, the amateur strategists, and the military Army and Navy experts, who deem that the chief aim of a nation should be to afford them opportunities to distinguish themselves in their trade of bloodshed. We are spending above sixty millions per

annum in armaments, and we contemplate a still higher expenditure.

Mr. Gladstone desired to give Home Rule to Ireland. He believed that this would end the centuries of wrong that we have done to that island, and would establish on a firm basis the unity of the United Kingdom. We refuse to Ireland what Mr. Gladstone said was Ireland's right.

Mr. Gladstone, when still Leader of the Liberal Party, declared that Liberal progress was impossible so long as the Tory Party was able, when beaten at the poll, to fall back upon its majority in the House of Lords, and thus set the declared will of the nation at defiance. In his last speech in the House of Commons, he urged us to put an end—once and for all—to the veto of the Lords. Are we in earnest in our determination to fight out this issue to the bitter end?

A paragraph went the round of the newspapers last week, announcing that a nobleman had withdrawn from the Leadership of the Liberal Party because he did not agree with Mr. Gladstone, but that, now that Mr. Gladstone is no longer with us, it is intended to recall this nobleman to the Leadership. The paragraph owed its origin probably to some obscure wirepuller. But what a comment it would be upon the fidelity of the Liberal Party to the man whose memory the Party professes to honour, were it to act on this suggestion!

A still stranger mode of showing our abiding faith in Mr. Gladstone's principles is suggested by a Scotch M.P. in a speech to his constituents. Between a principle and its application this northern casuist draws a distinction. In order to discover what Mr. Gladstone's principles were we must not look to his application of them. The first—properly explained—may have been sound, the latter was faulty. What Mr. Gladstone did, therefore, can be no guide to what we ought to do. Thus he sought to give Home Rule to Ireland. At first sight it may be supposed that this was due to his belief in the principle of Home Rule. This, however, is an error. To grant Home Rule to Ireland was a misapplication of the principle of Home Rule. Therefore we ought to prove our agreement with Mr. Gladstone's principles in regard to the proper Government of Ireland by throwing over Irish Home Rule. Having thus established a distinction between Mr. Gladstone's principles and his practice, the Scotch metaphysician descends from the lofty heights of philosophy to business. "We ought," he says, "to regain our majority, and we can only do this by making converts of those who have not been with him for some time." The mode of bringing back these erring sheep seems to be to allow them to convert us. It would have been more to the point had this teacher said in plain language that, as the measures and policy of Mr. Gladstone have landed us in a minority, and as the aim of a Party should be to obtain place and power, it becomes our duty, as practical men, to ignore his example and precepts.

In life, Mr. Gladstone was strong and powerful. He was able to give effect to his policy because he had the people behind him. They replied to his trust in them by trusting him. Again and again those who were but Liberals in name endeavoured to wrest from him the sceptre that the people's confidence had placed in his hands. But their intrigues were vain. Neither the Court, nor the aristocracy, nor the plutocracy loved him when alive. Now that he is dead, they are loud in their praises of him, but would reverse all for which he struggled and strove. But we who do believe that he was in the right, must stand by his principles, and make them our guide.

A LONDON SESSIONS TRAGEDY.

At Wormwood Scrubbs Prison, on Whitsun Monday, there was held an inquest concerning the death of a prisoner, aged twenty-four, who had committed suicide in his cell on the previous Thursday. The story of the death of this young man is of a most extraordinary nature. The brief reports of the inquest that have appeared in the Press convey but an imperfect impression of the gravity of the case, and I shall offer no apology for telling the story in detail from the beginning.

Daniel Collins was the son of a tailor living in Gunn-street, Spitalfields. He had been employed in one or two situations as a barman, and seems to have been in all respects a respectable and well-conducted young man. At the time when he got into trouble under the circumstances now to be described, he was able to adduce perfectly satisfactory evidence as to his previous character. From a medical point of view, however, his antecedents were less satisfactory. His mother is in a lunatic asylum, as are also two of her brothers. His doctor has testified that about two years ago he treated him for mental aberration. The lad himself had left his last situation, owing, as he stated, to pains in his head and inability to sleep. He was, I believe, out of work at the time when the story opens, and he was engaged to be married. His father states that he had been a little worried over his matrimonial prospects, but beyond this nothing amiss with him had been noticed recently.

Now, Mr. Collins the elder had had in his possession for many years a number of old share certificates or bonds of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada. They seem to have been left with him originally as security for a debt, and he himself had always believed them to be worthless. There is no question that they were his property. Young Collins seems to have formed the idea that the shares might be valuable; he got hold of a few of them, and determined to ascertain whether they could be realised. About the middle of April he somehow saw in the *Financial Times* an advertisement of a concern called The Investments Realisation Corporation, Limited—probably the following, which I find in the *Financial Times* of April 18:—

THE INVESTMENTS REALISATION CORPORATION, LIMITED.

19, Moorgate-street, London, E.C.

Deals in Stocks and Shares of Every Description.

Prompt delivery guaranteed.
Advances made on marketable securities.
Advice given to holders and intending investors.
Correspondence invited. All communications to be addressed to— The Secretary.

Given Away.—A high-grade New Hudson Gent's Cycle, fitted with "Ixion Tyres," for the best two or four lines of verse on the "Ixion Tyre." Lady's Cycle also given for lady competitors only. Five consolation prizes given in each competition. Further details of competition and "All about Ixion Tyres" sent, on application, free. Competition verses must be sent in before 31st July, with this advertisement attached, and must be marked "Competition" corner of envelope.—The New Ixion Tyre & Cycle Co., Ltd., 144, Holborn, London.

The character of the business which the Corporation undertakes is further indicated on its stationery in such terms as these :—

Stocks, shares, debentures, bonds, and other securities bought and sold.
Money advanced to any amount upon negotiable securities.
Inquiries made as to the position of any Company for an inclusive fee of five shillings.
Investors advised on all matters pertaining to finance.
Purchasers found for unquoted shares.

Nothing could be more natural, therefore, than that Collins should consult the Corporation as to the value of the aforesaid Grand Trunk shares. Accordingly, on April 19, Collins forwarded to the Corporation one of the certificates, with the following letter :—

26, Brushfield-street,
Bishopsgate, E.C.

Dear Sirs,—Having a number of these shares, and wishing to sell some, will you kindly inform me what price you will give for each one?—Yours truly, D. Collins.

It will be noted that this letter is not written from Collins's own address in Gunn-street. No. 26, Brushfield-street is a stationer's shop, where he had been in the habit of having letters addressed. The correspondence thus opened proceeded as follows :—

April 20, Corporation to Collins.

Re Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada,
No. 71,144.

Dear Sir,—We beg to acknowledge receipt of the one share forwarded to us, and shall be glad to hear from you how many shares you have for sale. If you can make it convenient to call any day between the hours of ten and four o'clock, one of the directors will be pleased to see you.—Yours truly,
William F. Johnston, Secretary.

April 20, Collins to Corporation.

Dear Sir,—Yours received. Enclosed nine shares, and one you have making a total of ten shares. Will you kindly sell at best price obtainable?—Yours truly,
D. Collins.

April 21, Corporation to Collins.

Re Grand Trunk Railway of Canada.

Dear Sir,—We have to acknowledge receipt of a further nine shares, £25 each, Nos. 70,248 to 70,257 inclusive. Will you kindly let us know the least price you will accept, and at the same time make an appointment to call here, so that we can settle the matter? We take it that the shares are your own property, and that they are perfectly in order.
Awaiting your reply.—Yours truly,
William F. Johnston, Secretary.

April 22, Collins to Corporation.

Dear Sir,—Yours of the 21st to hand. The lowest price I am willing to accept will be £1 12s. each share. Being an invalid, I cannot get to your office. The shares are absolutely my property, and any further information you may require I shall be most happy to acquaint you of.—Yours truly, Daniel Collins.

April 25, Corporation to Collins.

Dear Sir,—We have communicated with several of our clients, and the highest price offered has been £1 6s. 6d. per share, and at that price we could dispose of between seventy and eighty. If you conclude to accept the above offer let us know if you can possibly call here, and at what time you will call, or if you are too ill to come out kindly make appointment for one of the directors to call upon you.
From above price we shall deduct fivepence per share commission.—Awaiting your reply, &c.

April 27, Collins to Corporation.

Dear Sir,—I am most anxious you should act for me in reference to Grank Trunk shares. Cannot you do business by post, as a relative of mine is always in attendance upon me, and I do not want her to know on any account of my owning the shares? Will forward some more shares if you can manage to do business by post. Sorry to give you so much trouble, and willing to accept the price mentioned.—Yours, &c.

The Corporation seem to have replied to this last letter that they would like to see Collins, and Collins then took what was undoubtedly a very foolish step. He got a friend named Galvin to go down to the office of the Corporation in Moorgate-street, representing himself to be Collins. Galvin saw a Mr. Julius Jacobs, a Director of the Corporation, who was the principal witness for the prosecution in the proceedings which followed. It is not wholly immaterial to mention that Mr. Jacobs had only recently come out of gaol, after serving a term of twelve months' imprisonment on conviction upon a charge of blackmailing. According to Jacobs' evidence, Galvin told him that his name was Daniel Collins, that he lived on the first floor of 26, Brushfield-street, and produced thirty more bonds, stating that they had come into his possession on the death of his mother, and that interest had been paid on them. Jacobs then said that he should like to see him at his own house to transfer the shares, and made an appointment to meet him there at 4 p.m. It seems from Mr. Jacobs' evidence that on April 24—*i.e.*, before offering £1 6s. 6d. per share for the securities—he had been to Brushfield-street, had ascertained that Collins did not live there, and had communicated with the police. He states that when he offered to buy the bonds he knew them to be worthless, and that he had no intention of buying them at that time. He took two detectives with him when he went to keep his appointment on April 29. Collins himself then appeared, gave some excuse for having sent the friend to represent him, and executed the transfers under Jacobs' direction. Jacobs also presented to him an account purporting to show that the shares had been sold for £53, and that after deducting commission £52 3s. 4d., was due to Collins. Immediately afterwards the detectives came in and arrested Collins. He and Galvin were then prosecuted for obtaining a cheque, value one penny, and endeavouring to obtain £52 odd from Julius Jacobs by false pretences. They were in due course committed for trial, and the trial came on on May 20, at the London Sessions before Mr. Loveland-Loveland.

At the trial evidence of the above facts was given for the prosecution by Mr. Jacobs; and the London Registrar of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada was called to prove that the shares in question had never been issued to the public, and were the property of the company—though, so far as I can see, the evidence to the effect was, from a legal point of view, far from complete or conclusive. For the defence, evidence was given as to the taint of insanity in Collins' family. His counsel, however, told the jury expressly that he did not rely on the defence of insanity, but took his stand firmly on the ground that there was no evidence of criminal intent. He explained to the jury that an acquittal on the ground of insanity would expose Collins to detention in a criminal asylum, with every probability that he would become in consequence permanently insane, and that, in view of the evidence that the prisoner had been acting throughout in good faith, he could not take that responsibility, but should ask for an absolute acquittal. The only use, in fact, made of the evidence as to the prisoner's mental infirmity was to explain the otherwise inexplicable course which he took in

Hotel Albemarle, Piccadilly, London. Private Suite, Bath, Electric Light, Lift. Vermersch, Proprietor. Paris: Imperial Hotel, Champs Elysées. Boulogne S/M: Imperial Pavilion Hotel.

writing from an accommodation address, and sending his friend to personate him in the transaction. The Judge, however, notwithstanding the state of the evidence, summed up strongly against the prisoners, and both Collins and Galvin were found guilty. Collins' counsel then urged upon the Judge the evidence given as to his client's mental condition, with a view to mitigating the sentence. Notwithstanding this, Mr. Loveland-Loveland sentenced Collins to twelve months', and Galvin to nine months' imprisonment with hard labour, remarking that Collins would be well looked after where he was going to, or words to that effect.

Now mark the sequel. Collins was taken to Wormwood Scrubbs on May 20. According to the evidence of the Governor of the gaol, he was well conducted, and was placed on "second-class labour," which exempted him from the crank. On the 26th, six days after his admission, he seems to have been employed in hammock-making, or some similar work. At 5.40 he was given his supper, and part of the work was taken away, but some string and other materials were left in his cell. At 6.15 he was observed by the warder to be walking up and down in his cell. At 7.15 the warder went to take the remainder of the work, and found Collins dead, he having hanged or strangled himself by putting a noose of yarn round his neck and attaching it to his towel peg, which was only about 3½ ft. from the floor. The doctor stated that he had been dead half an hour when found. It was stated at the inquest by the Governor and by the prison doctor that no intimation of any kind had been conveyed to them that there was anything wrong with the mental condition of the deceased, and he was not placed in any way under special observation. The deceased's private doctor was called at the inquest, and repeated the evidence which he had given at the trial, and further deposed that he had heard the Judge say, in sentencing the prisoner, that, having regard to his antecedents, he would be well taken care of in prison. The jury returned a verdict of suicide during temporary insanity, and so ends the case of Daniel Collins.

Is it possible to imagine a more shocking story than this? To my mind, the conviction of this young fellow was a miscarriage of justice, the sentence passed upon him was a judicial atrocity, and the failure to notify to the prison authorities the evidence that had been given respecting his mental condition was a piece of negligence which makes those guilty of it virtually responsible for the prisoner's death. Look first at the conviction. Collins was convicted of obtaining and attempting to obtain money, or money's worth, by false pretences. What is the false pretence? I do not overlook the fact that he misrepresented his property in the goods, and sent a friend to personate him, who may have made other fictitious statements; but the only fraud upon Jacobs with which he could be charged was that of offering to that individual worthless securities, knowing them to be worthless, and falsely pretending that they were valuable. Whatever there may have been suspicious or clandestine in his conduct, this is the only false pretence which would amount to a fraud on Jacobs. Of such a false pretence what evidence is there? Only one solitary particle, namely, the alleged representation by Galvin that he had received the interest on the shares; and this rests solely on the unsupported testimony of Jacobs. What is Jacobs' position? He admits that after writing his second letter he was engaged in collusion with the police in an attempt to entrap Collins into committing a criminal offence. He admits more than this. In cross-examination before the magistrate, he stated that his company was a new one, and that "he was very anxious to catch these people: it would have been a good advertisement for his company." Seeing that Jacobs himself had at this time only been out of prison a few months (his original sentence would have expired on February 8), his company may well have been a new one. I ask any one whether he would hang a dog on the unsupported testimony of a man like this, admittedly engaged in a plot to convict these lads of a criminal offence for the purpose of advertising his precious company? For the rest, apart from Jacobs' statement as to what Galvin told him about the payment of interest on the shares, the whole evidence is utterly inconsistent with the charge that Collins offered these shares to the Corporation knowing them to be worthless, and falsely pretending that they were valuable. The lad was totally ignorant whether the shares were valuable or not, and, by way of ascertaining their value, he sends one to the Investments Realisation Corporation, in response to these people's own advertisement, asking them what they would give for such shares. The way in which the first ten certificates were sent was on the face of it as perfectly innocent a proceeding as would be my sending to my brokers any old share certificate in my possession which has ceased to be valuable—I am sorry to say that I have a good many such lying by—and asking whether they can get anything for it. The mere fact of the shares being sent in this way to a professed expert, with an inquiry as to their market value, should have been sufficient in itself to acquit this unfortunate youth of anything in the shape of a fraudulent intention. It is not for me to dogmatise upon legal technicalities, but I believe ninety-nine lawyers out of a hundred will agree with me that there was no evidence in this case on which a judge ought to have allowed a jury to convict, and that had an appeal been possible, the conviction must inevitably have been quashed.

If that is a just view of the conviction, what is to be thought of the sentence? Here we have a lad of hitherto unimpeachable character who, even if he has attempted a dishonest act, has been led into it by an *agent provocateur* acting in collusion with the police, for the purpose of advertising his own business. Parliament has wisely passed an Act for the Probation of First Offences, which should apply to such a case if it ever applied to any. Over and above that, there is definite and unimpeachable evidence of intellectual infirmity, which ought in the first place to have been accepted as a sufficient explanation of whatever was suspicious in the prisoner's conduct, and which, even if he were found guilty of a criminal intention, should

For the Decorating and Furnishing in best modern manner, or in any of the traditional styles, of a single room or an entire house, Hampton & Sons, Ltd., prepare, free of charge, suggestive schemes and competitive estimates.—Pall Mall East, S.W.

have gone far to extenuate the offence. Neither the one consideration nor the other, however, weighs with Mr. Loveland-Loveland, and this youthful first offender, convicted on the flimsiest evidence, and shown to be of very doubtful moral and intellectual responsibility, is mercilessly consigned to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour. The sentence is infamous, and, taken in conjunction with the other circumstances of the case, it makes one tremble to think that the lives and liberty of English men and women are almost every day at the mercy of a judge so utterly incapable of weighing the value of evidence, the culpability of offenders, or the probable consequences of his own decrees.

There remains the question, who is responsible for the failure to convey to the prison authorities any intimation of the prisoner's mental condition? It must be assumed that the Judge, having sent this wretched youth to twelve months' hard labour after hearing his personal and family antecedents, and having promised, when passing sentence, that he should be properly looked after, gave some kind of order that the prison authorities should be made acquainted with the medical evidence given at the trial. But if any such order was given, it was most certainly disobeyed, and the least Mr. Loveland-Loveland can now do is to inquire into the reason for this disobedience. Had proper notice of all the evidence been given, there is every probability that Daniel Collins would be alive to-day. For want of such notice he was a dead man within six days of his consignment to gaol. Looking at that tragic result, I can only say that I do not envy the feelings either of those who so unwarrantably and so mercilessly compassed this poor lad's conviction and imprisonment or of those, whoever they may have been, who, with such scandalous negligence, handed him over to the gaolers without a hint of the need for keeping him under close observation and treating him with special care.

Collins being dead and buried, it may, perhaps, be said that there is no good in agitating over his case. There I differ. If, for no other reason, I would call attention to the story as a fresh and unanswerable proof of the urgent necessity for a court of appeal in criminal cases. But, apart from that, I contend that there should be some inquiry into the practice with regard to communicating to prison authorities any evidence as to mental or other infirmity in the prisoner given at his trial; and that if there be any duty on the part of the officers of a criminal court to communicate such information, the reason why it was not communicated in Collins' case should be investigated, and the party responsible for the omission punished. Finally, there is one very practical consideration. Though poor Collins is dead, his fellow-conspirator, or fellow-victim, Galvin, is still alive, and serving the sentence of nine months' imprisonment imposed upon him at the same time. Except as to the defence of insanity, everything that can be urged against the conviction of Collins applies equally to him, and if it be held that there was no false pretence or fraudulent intent on Collins' part, *a fortiori* there was none on Galvin's. The Home Secretary should be moved with a view to obtaining his release, and I hope that no time will be lost in taking steps for that purpose.

Kinahan's LL Whisky.—"The Cream of Old Irish Whiskies." Kinahan's LL Whisky. Gold Medal Paris Exhibition, 1878. Kinahan's Glenisle Whisky. The Finest Scotch Whisky sold.

RÖHSS—MONEY-LENDER AND INCOME-TAX ASSESSOR.

In a letter to a Southampton paper Mr. Herbert B. Röhss attributes to the Board of Inland Revenue a decision which, if he correctly reports it, will be received with unbounded astonishment and general disapproval. Mr. Röhss is a gentleman of varied avocations—an auctioneer and a valuer, an estate agent and a commission agent, a mortgage broker and an advertising money-lender. In the last-named capacity, following the example of other members of the fraternity, he trades both in his own name and under the more impressive style of the Southampton Loan and Advance Company. With these private pursuits Mr. Röhss combines the public functions of an Assessor of Income-tax. The same office, 1, Anglesea-terrace, Bevois-hill, Southampton, is used alike for the purposes of usury and for the purposes of the income-tax. A month or so back I drew attention to this singular conjunction of callings, and pointed out that it was undesirable to have a professional money-lender acting as assessor of income-tax. The matter was then brought up in the House of Commons in the form of a question to the Secretary to the Treasury. Mr. Hanbury, in his reply, expressed his personal disapprobation of such an arrangement; implied that the Board of Inland Revenue were also opposed to it, and suggested that the local Commissioners of Income-tax at Southampton were alone to blame. He stated that the Board would communicate with the Commissioners, and, from the tone of his remarks, it was assumed that the result would be the abolition of an appointment open to grave and obvious objections.

Since this statement in Parliament, Mr. Röhss has figured as defendant in an action in the Bournemouth County Court for damages for wrongful and malicious prosecution. The plaintiff was a man to whom the defendant had lent £10 at 50 per cent. interest, and against whom he had preferred a charge of false pretences, with the result that the jury stopped the case after hearing the prosecutor cross-examined. For this prosecution Judge Philbrick, in the County Court, mulcted Röhss in eighty guineas damages; and it is in answer to a paragraph I published in reference to the action that the usurer has now written to the local Press. He remarks that, as he is appealing against the judgment, "he is is not at liberty to comment thereon beyond saying that the Bournemouth County Court Judge never for a moment stigmatised his conduct as odious and monstrous, as alleged in Truth." As the case is again *sub judice*, I am also precluded from further comment upon it at present. In the face, however, of Mr. Röhss's contradiction, I feel at liberty to reproduce the following from the report of Judge Philbrick's judgment. I may preface it by explaining that the charge of false pretences had been founded upon the borrower's answers to a list of questions submitted to him by Röhss

—questions which the Judge described as admitting of "every possible form of construction, not to say evasion," and as "likely to mislead a lawyer, not to say a layman":—

His Honour said it was an odious thing to set in force the criminal law for the recovery of a civil debt. The object of the criminal law was not to collect debts, and it was a prostitution of the law to apply it to such a purpose. . . . Passing on to the grounds on which the criminal action in the present case was based, his Honour said, if it were doubtful whether the furniture at Pine-avenue or the goods at the business premises were meant in answer to the questions on the paper which the plaintiff filled up, it was a monstrous thing to make a matter of doubt the subject of a criminal prosecution. . . He viewed with amazement that anybody in a doubtful thing of this kind should make it the foundation for a charge of false and fraudulent pretences. He had no doubt in this case that the goods having been held to be the plaintiff's wife's, was the real reason for the criminal proceedings, and the defendant himself had admitted that, if he had got his money, he would not have taken the criminal proceedings. After full consideration he had come to the conclusion that the defendant had established the prosecution wrongfully, maliciously, and without reasonable and probable cause.

I quote this simply to enable people to gauge the value of Mr. Röhss's denial that his conduct was stigmatised as odious and monstrous. Whether the judgment given in the County Court will be upheld on appeal remains to be seen; but, meanwhile, a more important question is whether Mr. Röhss is to retain his position as an Assessor of Income-tax? It is on this question that his letter makes such a surprising statement concerning the Board of Inland Revenue. He says:—

Regarding my appointment as Assessor of Income-tax, the Board of Inland Revenue, as foreshadowed in the House of Commons by the Secretary to the Treasury, instituted inquiries with the gratifying result to me that they were perfectly satisfied with my appointment, and my integrity and competence in the fulfilment of the office—an office, I need not tell you, I never sought, and which I would gladly renounce were it possible.

It would appear from this that a most extraordinary and incomprehensible change has been wrought in the opinions of the authorities at Somerset House since Mr. Hanbury acted as their mouthpiece in Parliament. Not only are they now "perfectly satisfied" with Mr. Röhss, but, according to his own story, the appointment was thrust upon him, and he is actually pressed to keep it. Röhss the money-lender (otherwise the Southampton Loan and Advance Company) is naturally gratified to think that the Board of Inland Revenue look upon his services as indispensable. The public, on the other hand, will be intensely disgusted at this official connection with Shylockism. Beyond the case mentioned above I know very little of the man's transactions, but there is the fact that he is an advertising usurer, and that in itself should be sufficient to disqualify him for the berth of Assessor of Income-tax. Merely as a matter of taste and propriety, it is intolerable that one of a tribe who do such incalculable mischief, and who are held in such universal odium and disrepute, should be officially concerned in the levying of the Queen's taxes. There is, however, a more substantial objection to the appointment. An Assessor of Income-tax is an inquisitor, at whose demand everybody in his district is compelled to disclose his pecuniary position. Is it right that information of this kind, obtained in this way, should be at the disposal of a person who makes a business of lending money at usurious interest? It is difficult to understand how the Board of Inland Revenue can have come to regard it as anything but wrong, and it will be interesting to learn what has induced them to alter the attitude they first took up towards Mr. Rohss. I hope, therefore, that an early opportunity will be taken to again interrogate Mr. Hanbury on the subject.

MR. RAYNER SUB JUDICE.

I have great pleasure in publishing the following communication with which I was favoured last week. The article referred to was, it may be remembered, the last of a series which appeared in Truth between February and May, dealing with the various "Inventions Competitions" that have been run during the last twelve months in provincial newspapers by Messrs. Rayner & Son, of Chancery-lane, in their character of "Patent Editors" of those journals:—

The Chartered Institute of Patent Agents,
19, Southampton-buildings, London, W.C.
June 1, 1898.

H. Howgrave Graham, Secretary and Registrar.

Dear Sir,—Adverting to your issue of May 19, relating to the Prize Competition for Inventions, I am directed to say for your information that the matter has for some time engaged the attention of this Institute, and that an application to the Board of Trade has been made by my Council to appoint a Committee under the Register of Patent Agents Rules, 1889-1891.—Yours faithfully, H. Howgrave Graham.

The Editor of Truth.

The application to the Board of Trade here referred to is, I presume, one such as was suggested in my last article for an inquiry into the conduct of Mr. Rayner or his firm, with a view to his removal, if found guilty of disgraceful professional conduct, from the official register of patent agents. That being so, an issue gravely affecting Mr. Rayner has been definitely raised, and is now *sub judice*; and until it is disposed of, any further comment upon the merits of the case would be improper. There are only two remarks, therefore, which I shall make at this stage. One is that all the evidence in my possession, which is of a very voluminous character, and throws much light upon the nature and effect of these competitions, is entirely at the service of the Institute of Patent Agents, or the Board of Trade Committee of Inquiry, if they care to avail themselves of it; and it will be a labour of love to me to do anything in my power to further the ends of justice in this case.

The second remark which I desire to make is that it behoves all those journals which have been allowing Messrs. Rayner & Son to operate through their columns in the character of "patent editors" to suspend their advertisements for that purpose pending the conclusion of the Board of Trade inquiry. I do not know whether any of Mr. Rayner's "Inventions Competitions" are being advertised in the provincial Press at the present moment. But in addition to the twenty or thirty papers which have co-operated in these competitions, there are many others, which have in each issue a standing announcement recommending readers of an inventive turn to communicate with the "patent editor" of the journal, or with some patent agent whom the editor recommends. Among the papers which have in this way "covered" Mr. Rayner's business at one time or another are such publications as *Answers*, *Pearson's Weekly*, *St. Paul's*, *Madame*, the *Weekly Sun*, the *People*, the *Weekly Telegraph* (Sheffield), and several others. As all of them have virtually been guaranteeing Mr. Rayner's bona fides and trustworthiness as a patent agent, it is clearly impossible for them to continue to do so while Mr. Rayner's professional

conduct is impeached by the Institute of Patent Agents, and is under investigation by the Board of Trade. Indeed, I hold a very strong opinion that no paper ever has any business to give a guarantee of this sort to its readers, and that a most dangerous responsibility is assumed when any patent agent is allowed to carry on his business in the disguise of a "Patent Department" of a newspaper office. This is a point, however, which can be more conveniently discussed hereafter, when the merits of Mr. Rayner's conduct have been adjudicated upon by the proper tribunal.

A BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO ST. JAMES'S.

Sir William Beauvedere, diplomatist and prig, has persuaded Alice Gainsborough to become engaged to him. This young lady is an orphan, under the care of Sir William's step-mother, Lady Beauvedere. We first make her acquaintance in the drawing-room of her ladyship's house in Paris, in the act of confessing to her sister, the nun, that she does not care for Sir William, and prefers to break off the match rather than make three people miserable. The third of these is Lady Gwendoline Marleaze, who really loves Sir William and is very jealous of Alice. Lady Gwendoline soon appears, and after her Lady Beauvedere, followed by a host of friends, who call to congratulate the latter upon the engagement, and have all brought their best dresses and epigrams. Among these is Lord St. Orbyn, British Ambassador at Rome. He is a suave diplomatist, rather young for what is so often something of a posthumous position. Besides this advantage his Excellency is the possessor of a perfect arsenal of epigram, which stands him in good stead upon this occasion. From what has been mentioned before his appearance, it is clear that at least two of the ladies would like to become his wife. The first of these is Lady Beauvedere. In a short skirmish he shows himself determined on remaining a bachelor, and transfixes his friend with epigrams, returned, it must be admitted, with considerable vigour by her ladyship. The second is a certain Princess Vendramini, a Roman lady of Ouidaesque extraction; that is, she has good looks, great wealth, and the control of European politics. But Lord St. Orbyn will none of them. They exchange epigrams. Suddenly Alice Gainsborough returns to the drawing-room, and in the space of one—epigram—the celibacy of a lifetime is ruined. Lord St. Orbyn is in love.

This fact is made still more clear to us four days afterwards, when we again meet Alice and the Ambassador in Lady Beauvedere's conservatory during a dance. He asks her to be his wife. But Alice has not time to do more than crumple her sash when they are interrupted by the advent of Sir William Beauvedere from Berlin. Alice leaves the two men together, and Sir William asks for his friend, St. Orbyn's, advice. The air positively bristles in this place with the points of the epigrams let fall by these distinguished diplomatists. After running through a short list of the ladies who adore him, Sir William makes it clear that he now prefers Lady Gwendoline Marleaze to Miss Gainsborough. Lord St. Orbyn naturally advises him to break off the match (Sir William has not yet received Alice's letter to that effect) and the two friends are epigramatising most happily together when in their turn they are interrupted by Vivian, Sir William's younger brother. Vivian draws Sir William aside and tells him how he has forged the endorsement to his mother's cheque for £500 and given it to a certain Major Lascelles in settlement of a gambling debt. This Major Lascelles is a friend of Lord St. Orbyn, but the terror of Lady Beauvedere, who has not asked him to her dance. He lives, however, just over the way, and has organised a small party of his own, perhaps as a set-off to his neighbour's. Young Vivian implores his wealthy brother to come to the rescue, and Sir William is so indignant at the proposal that he refuses in plain English without a single epigram. But Alice has overheard the conversation, and for the sake of her friend, Lady Beauvedere, promises Vivian, who tries to shoot himself, that she will do her best to recover the cheque from Major Lascelles that very evening—for the gallant Major is well known to be fond of fair ladies and an admirer of Miss Alice. Just as she leaves the house to cross the garden, Lady Beauvedere and Lady Gwendoline Marleaze catch sight of her dress among the trees. The next act finds us in Major Lascelles' rooms; his party consists of two very vulgar little Americans and their mother; they have nothing to do with the story, but one of them dances and the other throws down a plate, which is no doubt characteristic.

But let us return to our epigrams. Lord St. Orbyn comes in, and, when the young ladies have withdrawn, tells his friend the story of his rapid decline and fall. He is engaged in this pleasing task, when suddenly appears no less a person than Miss Alice, his captor, in quest of the cheque. After profound bows on both sides, St. Orbyn leaves them. Lascelles is soon informed of the reason of her visit, and while uncorking a few of those witticisms which I positively dare not mention again, produces the draft, and promises secrecy. Lady Beauvedere next enters, and Alice pluckily refuses to give the reason of her visit, though her position unexplained appears most compromising. Finally, however, the good sense of Lady Beauvedere triumphs, and she departs with Alice. And here is placed perhaps the happiest stroke of a clever play. St. Orbyn returns and asks Lascelles for an explanation of Alice's visit. Faithful to his promise, the Major says there is no explanation.

"That's all right," calls out St. Orbyn (I merely paraphrase the text); "if there had been anything to conceal, there would have been plenty of lies forthcoming," and, kissing the pink rosette fallen from Alice's shoe as she left the room, he hastens in search of his beloved.

The last act finds us in the garden at Lady Beauvedere's. Her dance is still going on, and Sir William, not without many epigrams, proposes to Lady Gwendoline, and is accepted. Soon afterwards the other pair of lovers appear, and Lady Beauvedere joins their hands with abnegation and an epigram, and the curtain falls upon three hours' felicity of phrase.

When we had finished applauding the actors and Mrs.

THE HOTEL CECIL RESTAURANT.—Orchestra daily. M. François, Chef de Restaurant, from the Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo. The new Grill Room is now open.

Craigie, my neighbour remarked, "It's really *too clever*; it has given me a headache." And although this may appear, indeed, a crumpled rose-leaf of a criticism, I think there is some truth in it, for there is too much head and too little heart in the play—too much cerebration, and not enough observation.

Unless, as in Congreve and Sheridan, and one or two other authors one might name, the epigram and paradox are cut in brilliants, one is apt to grow a little weary of the showman's wit and inclined to wish the puppets were stuffed with sense instead of fireworks which do not always go off. And what is more appalling than a Catherine wheel with a cold? But a great number of Mrs. Craigie's fireworks *do* go off, and I liked the display, though certainly with somewhat of a feeling of dread when, as frequently occurred, one of the characters remarked: "There are four ways of—doing something or other." I should have preferred to *know* he had chosen *one* of those ways and *see* him do that. And even the good example of Macaulay, who maintained that no writers had injured the Comedy of England so much as Congreve and Sheridan, "whose works bear the same relation to the legitimate drama which a transparency does to a painting," cannot convince me that I am wrong upon this point—with the difference above stated. The following scrap is culled from the waste-paper basket of the future:—

SCENE.—*Hall of the Duke of Middlesex's house in Grosvenor-square.*

HOUSEMAID (about to dust): There are three ways of sweeping the stairs.

FOOTMAN: You surprise me.

HOUSEMAID: With your skirts, like her Grace; on your knees, like me; or not at all. The latter is the most democratic, and therefore the best.

Enter his Grace.—HIS GRACE (to footman): Give me my coat, please.

FOOTMAN: Will your Grace wear the blue or the grey one?

HIS GRACE: Is it raining to-day?

FOOTMAN: Yes, your Grace.

HIS GRACE: Then I will wear the blue one, to encourage the sun. (*Cetera desunt.*)

The acting of this play attained a very high average and that is indeed rare praise for this side of the Channel. As Lord St. Orbyn, Mr. Alexander was dignified and impressive; if anything, he perhaps delivered some of his witticisms too much as if he meant them; but in the graver moments of the play, as, for instance, in the scene with young Vivian in the third act, his method was seen to the best advantage. Mr. H. V. Esmond's Vivian Beauvedere was an excellent piece of work. Here authoress and actor were at their best—Vivian is thinking too much about the cheque to have time for any verbal dalliance—and he touches every one's heart with his naive confession, delivered with a perfection of intonation I have very rarely heard equalled. Miss Violet Vanbrugh had a most difficult task in the rendering of the character of Lady Beauvedere, and her triumph was well deserved. The changing expressions of her face in the scenes with Alice Gainsborough and St. Orbyn are alone a study for an evening.

And Alice Gainsborough? Winsome Miss Fay Davis was the rosebud in this bouquet of art, with all the girlishness of eighteen, and the strength of character behind which enables her to throw over Sir William, recover the cheque, and reclaim her Ambassador from the paths of independence. Miss Granville was convincing as the Princess Vendramini, Miss Hilda Rivers excellent as Lady Gwendoline Marleaze, Miss Henrietta Leverett as the Housekeeper, and Miss Leila Repton as Lady Vauringham. I liked Mr. Fred Terry in his marvellous make-up as Major Lascelles, and Mrs. G. Kemmis is indeed a duchess. She has placed the type of that cynical lady beside those fixed stars of the theatrical firmament—the benevolent earl and the wicked baronet. Henceforward all duchesses must be fat: they must be cynical, and they must use a little slang. But must they say "bounder" when they have all the world of "beast" and "pig" to revel in? Please not, Mrs. Craigie.

There are one or two details which, I think, might be corrected. For instance, Sir William Beauvedere's rank and title a little perplexed me. His name stands in the programme without "Bart." after it, so presumably he is a Knight. But knighthood is not hereditary, and why should an attaché have been knighted, especially so foolish a one as Sir William? He must be a baronet. Then again as to his mysterious rank of "second attaché." This is the lowest position in the diplomatic service; the first is last and the last first among attachés, all being equally paid nothing till they become secretaries. But Mrs. Craigie is far too well informed to have been ignorant of this, and I imagine that from the point of view of dramatic optics she is right. For the great majority of people seem to think the attaché the only important member of the Embassy, the secretaries being presumably engaged to do any work the attachés may have for them. I once even knew a lady who carried this theory to the extreme of believing that the chargé d'affaires was a sort of diplomatic drudge, engaged to do the spring-cleaning in the absence of the Ambassador! But such simple faith is rare.

Then a word as to the orthography of St. Orbyn. Would it not be possible to choose a name which did not exist elsewhere, instead of mis-spelling one that does? And why Major Lascēlles? Surely the accent should come on the first syllable in *English*; at least, I never heard of a Lāscelles who was Lascēlles, or would have liked to be. Lascēlles is as unpleasant as Beaumōnt or Gerrārd. They all savour more of Brixton than of Belgravia.

"The Ambassador" was well received by a crowded house, and is certainly a creditable second attempt, the first being a one-act play produced in collaboration with Mr. George Moore, and entitled "Journeys end in Lovers' Meeting," suggested, I believe, by a French original, *Le Bougeoir*, in the repertory of the Théâtre Français.

"The Ambassador" was beautifully dressed. I do not refer to Lord St. Orbyn's red ribbon, but to the view from Lady Beauvedere's garden up the Champs Elysées to the Arc de Triomphe and to the lamplit conservatory—a joy to the eye. And the costumes? They haunt my dreams but fly my pen. In fact, "The Ambassador" and his epigrams are likely to remain a long while at their present post, and Sir Philip Currie, the new British Ambassador at Rome, will, perhaps, be retired before Lord St. Orbyn.

WHITEHALL COURT, S.W.—To Let, Bachelor and other Suites. Electric Light, Service, Bath-rooms. Meals in public or tenants' own rooms.—Apply, Manager.

"SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER," AT THE STRAND.

There was no necessity, Miss Kate Vaughan, that you should stoop, for most of us were conquered long ago. That, perhaps, made it all the more agreeable to see you bend so gracefully on Monday evening, behind the bouquets that reminded us of the Gaiety, and before Mr. Meyer Lutz who *was* the Gaiety, as he charmed back the years in his *revue mélodique* of your songs and dances, danced and sung, alas! And Miss Nellie Farren was smiling from a box to complete the illusion.

Mr. Nettlefold has, at any rate, been bold in opening his season with Goldsmith's comedy. Hardcastle and you his daughter, Tony Lumpkin, and the rest—we know them well and like them the better for being old friends. But with the exception of yourself they were not much alive. Hardcastle was underplayed, young Marlow and Hastings insignificant, and Tony too much Lumpkin. Your own passings from mistress to maid, from maid to mistress again, showed that you understood and sympathised with the humour of him who "wrote like an angel and talked like poor Poll." I was amused to hear some one remark, as we were going out, "I like the play; the dialogue is good." Yes, the dialogue *is* pretty good.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

A NEW HOTEL.

RITZ'S new hotel is on the site of the Crédit Immobilière, in the Place Vendôme. All but the shell of the house looking on the Place was pulled down and rebuilt as it now stands. The frontage gives no idea of the size of the hotel, which stretches far back into the garden, and contains 150 bedrooms each with its own bathroom. Were I afraid of catching tuberculosis—the most contagious of diseases—I should go to the Hôtel Ritz. Every bedroom faces south, and has wide high windows that solicit light. There are no bed curtains. The window curtains are of white muslin, so as to be often washed. The white walls would show the least speck of dust, so would the highly-polished furniture. I cannot think where a microbe could take refuge, unless in the carpets; and even there the oxygen from the great continuity of gardens and the southern sunlight must soon make short work of them.

The bath-rooms are roomy. One can walk about in any of them to bring on a reaction after a cold douche. The douche may be warm if one chooses. The bath is marble and the walls are faced with Dutch tiles. The whole room might be "scalded" with steam if a tuberculous patient had used it. Electric lights are everywhere. In the bedroom they are in sconces in the Regency style. The whole house is a mixture of the Louis XIV. style in regard to structure and that of the Regency in regard to decoration. A ground-floor corridor, or arched colonnade, promises to win wide-world fame. It is lofty, wide, has a noble air, and yet is extremely gay. Mirrors multiply the views on the garden, which is in full bloom. Outside the colonnade is a terrace under an awning, where small tables are set out. This is the restaurant. In winter the small tables will be in the colonnade, and the terrace will be arranged as a winter garden. Le Tout-Paris of the first theatrical representations went to Ritz's on the opening day. One might fancy one's-self at a garden party in one of the Royal châteaux. The buffets were perhaps too heavily garlanded with choice flowers. Mr. Chamberlain would have revelled in the orchids. It was remarked to me that ladies of a certain age still setting up to beauty would object to all the light and the universal snowiness of the walls. Perhaps. But what is to prevent the awning and window shades being lined with some tender colour, such as pink or light-blue? Light-green would be too trying to any but the young and blooming. There is a strong directorate, and M. Ritz will be assisted in the management of the hotel by M. Echenard late of the Savoy, and M. Escoffier, also late of the Savoy, will superintend the culinary arrangements.

As Ritz's opened, Cubat in the Champs Elysées shut up. A wandering Baronet wrote to me from Ouchy inviting me to dine there on Saturday. I went, to find doors and windows closed. After much knocking and ringing, a caretaker appeared. She said the premises would not re-open as a restaurant, and that perhaps they would be bought by the State to lodge Imperial and Royal visitors to the 1900 Exhibition.

Cubat's restaurant, as we have learned to call it, was built by Mathilde Hertz, when Comtesse de Paiva. The Comte de Paiva was never seen in this temple to his wife's beauty. I recollect hearing that it cost 9,000,000 francs. Seeing what the price of ground is in the Champs Elysées, this would be greatly within the truth were Mathilde Hertz (*amie* and cousin of Hertz the composer) anybody else. It was said literally to have cost *les yeux de la tête* of the famous artists employed to decorate it. Baudry painted different ceilings and door panels. Clesinger's chisel showed forth the potency of love on the marble chimney-pieces. The figures are life-size. Carpeaux furnished marble hymns to Venus, Flora, the Muses, and to Hebe the ever-young. These poets of the brush and chisel were to have been paid in coin; but poor Baudry, and, I believe, Carpeaux, did not press for their pecuniary rights. Clesinger, not being a sentimentalist, threatened to go before the Civil Tribunal and to send a masked nudity to the Salon. This answered.

You are not to look for any play of fancy or the spirit of revelry at the bower of Mme. de Paiva. The whole thing bears the stamp of mercantile feeling. All is cold, stiff, over-laden with ornament, and proclaims wealth—such wealth. Still, wealth is wealth, and Mme. de Paiva was proud of hers. These suggestions are made by the interior. The want of *envergure* speaks of a close heart. The marble stairs are not deficient in space, but they look cramped, and are in a penumbra. They are

Walking, Cycling, Shooting, Yachting Dresses, &c.—John Busvine & Co., Tailors and Riding Habit Makers to H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, the Princess Victoria of Wales, the Duchess of Fife, the Princess Charles of Denmark, the Marchioness of Lorne, the Princess Henry of Battenberg, the Duchess of Connaught, the Duchess of Albany, the Empress of Austria, the Empress of Russia, the Empress of Germany, the Princess Henry of Prussia, the Princess Victoria of Prussia, the Infanta Eulalia of Spain, the Countess de Paris, the Duchess d'Aosta.—4, Brook-street, London, W.

stairs which persons apprehensive of being recognised might hurry up and down with a sort of pleasure. The carriage-way is so close to the last step that one could jump from it into the vehicle in making a bolt. Most of the rooms are small. Were they not so overlaid with decorations in the style of the grand galleries at Versailles, one might call them poky. Their exiguous size suggests that Madame had so many visitors. When they made calls, she liked them to remain apart, if she could not receive them all directly. There is an air about the place which suggests that architect and decorators knew they were working for a harpy. This chilled them. Constraint oozes out everywhere. Finally, inordinate vanity is, I shall not say betrayed, but displayed. Each room was meant to advertise Madame's wealth and taste. Its business was not to please, but to *épater*, and to show what rich offerings the goddess of the temple expected of her votaries. Her expectations were realised far beyond her dreams. The richest nobleman of central Germany laid his silver mines, factories, woodlands, and pasturages at her feet. His coronet was superadded. To humour one of her costly whims, he built for her an exact copy of the Tuileries on a mountain side in Silesia, where it was as much out of place as she was.

This woman was cold and imperious. Her guests at her dinner parties were fearfully on their good behaviour. When they left her Agapes, they felt like boys just released from school. I recollect at a party given by a Protestant lady—Vicomtesse de P——seeing a band of eminent men enter together. Prevost-Paradol, who had become an Imperialist, and About were of it. They had all been dining with Mme. de Paiva. As they left her house, one of them heaved a sigh, and asked his companions whether they knew of any proper woman where, without intruding, they might go to thaw. Prevost-Paradol remembered that Vicomtesse de P——'s soirée was going forward. She was brought up in strict Protestant principles. "All the better," said About. "We can talk freely before her without seeming to throw stones."

The spirit of Mme. de Paiva seemed to linger in Cubat's restaurant. The only dinner I ever enjoyed there was one given by Mr. Edward Cooper, the novelist. He is a charming host. On the occasion I speak of he had good reason to be pleased with the reception of one of his turf novels by the British public. This cause of satisfaction, hospitable feeling, and a well-chosen company helping, gave *entrain* to his dinner party. Mr. Cooper has spent the winter and spring in the doctor's hands, an operation on his knee being found necessary. He is now in the convalescent stage, and enjoying Atlantic breezes at St. Marguerite on the Breton coast.

In this *rastaquouère* time one is glad to notice the good taste prevailing at the Vanderbilt-Dresser wedding. Bride and bridegroom are of Dutch descent. This in itself would explain the avoidance of display. The church where they were married remained a church, and not a flower show. Mr. George Vanderbilt has, to English eyes, a foreign look, but is quite unassuming. Perhaps he is taller than the Czar, the Duke of York, or M. Deschanel, the new President of the Chamber of Deputies. His bride would be the same height as the Czarina or the Duchess of York. She is slightly Marie-Stuartish in stature, features, and bearing, is decidedly handsome, and bore herself with composure and serenity.

The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough excited some curiosity. Had Disraeli been painting a Young Duke for one of those novels of his so dear to ladies' maids, he would not have chosen his Grace of Marlborough. That Duke has not the staginess required to please the vulgar. The Duchess is very peculiar, but pleasingly so. What can be stranger than the combination of a very tall figure, a swan-like neck, and the head of a Japanese belle? I think there is no prettier being than a Japanese beauty. But she is so tiny: her race never produced a tall woman. The Duchess wore a pale beige silk dress and pelerine. The hat showed the face well. It was black, had a broad leaf turned up in front, and was trimmed with black feathers and a large clasp of diamonds—or, perhaps, milliners' paste.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

GREAT movements, dear Lady Betty, and great moments make great men. The late Mr. Gladstone has been described in many newspapers as our last great man, which is only correct in so far as he is the last great man of a certain class. The race which has already produced so many eminent men and women that their remains, and the monuments erected to perpetuate their memory, fill Westminster Abbey, will certainly bring forth others; and the problem of the moment is to discover how the nation may best prepare a last home for its dead heroes. It is proposed to add to Westminster Abbey! It would be as wise to attempt to add to the plays of Shakespeare, to the "Paradise Lost" of Milton, or to Addison's "Spectator." Moreover, it must be borne in mind that the ashes of the three greatest members of the race—to wit, those of Shakespeare, of Wellington, and of Nelson—are buried elsewhere. This being so, the Abbey cannot be regarded as the official resting-place of our great dead.

But there have been times when burial in Westminster Abbey has been accorded much more freely than it has recently. Many are buried there who have little claim to be considered famous; and there are monuments erected to perpetuate the memory of comparatively insignificant personages. These might be reverently removed, so as to make room for those great men and women whom the race has still to produce.

Moreover, there is plenty of space around the Abbey to bury our illustrious dead, and, indeed, it would be pleasing to see this magnificent building, which has played so important a part in the history of the nation, surrounded by the graves of those who have earned renown in its service.

It is only in exceptional circumstances that burial in Westminster Abbey should be accorded. Had the remains of Mr. Gladstone been laid to rest in the church at Hawarden, thousands of men and women from the neighbouring towns would have, for generations to come, visited that village, and many of them would have been influenced by the example of the illustrious statesman. At Westminster Abbey there are the remains of so many great men buried, that the attention is not wholly directed to one well-spent life, to one successful career, or to one magnificent combination of qualities. Consequently, the ordinary mind

SAVOY HOTEL, Savoy Restaurant, London. Large reception-rooms for fashionable réunions. Orchestra plays daily during dinner and opera supper.

does not become so impressed as it might be. It is, therefore, for the good of the community that the majority of our great dead should be buried in the districts which are most closely associated with their names. To add a modern building to Westminster Abbey, to erect a national temple of fame in the immediate neighbourhood of that splendid building, would be an act of vandalism which cannot be too strongly opposed; the more so that, by judicious treatment, ample room can be secured in and around the Abbey to bury the most illustrious of our dead, and to erect monuments that shall testify to the gratitude of the community for the services which they have rendered to our race.

* * * * *

No public announcement has yet been made that the Queen has offered to confer the title of Countess on Mrs. Gladstone, though it is probable that her Majesty has done so, and that the offer has been refused. In that case, the dignity of an Earldom would be conferred upon the grandson of Mr. Gladstone, who is heir to the Hawarden estates. The Queen on more than one occasion offered to elevate the late Mr. Gladstone to an Earldom, but it has been said that he would not accept any but the extinct Earldom of Liverpool, and that the family which is associated with this title opposed his wishes in this respect.

* * * * *

In a leading article which appeared in the *Times*, on Tuesday last, on the subject of the funeral of Mr. Gladstone, the following sentence occurred:—"Not an offence has been recorded amongst the hundreds of thousands who assembled in the heart of the greatest capital of the world." Almost the same words were used on the occasion of the Jubilee procession of 1887, and with regard to that of 1897. This shows the progress which the nation has made towards civilised behaviour since Mr. Gladstone first took it by the hand, and, full of confidence in the people, enlarged the franchise, provided increased facilities for education, and threw the balance of power into the hands of the multitude. If the experiment has succeeded so splendidly up to the point which it has reached, why distrust its further legitimate and less drastic developments?

* * * * *

All the London daily newspapers, with the exception of one, published the following telegram on Monday last:—

"New York, June 4.

"The Washington correspondent of the *Herald* telegraphs that the American Government has sent a despatch to the Paraguayan Executive demanding that the Spanish torpedo-boat destroyer *Temerario*, which has been lying at Buenos Ayres for some time, should either be dismantled or be requested to leave Paraguayan waters."

It may be pointed out that Buenos Ayres is the capital of the Argentine Republic, and has nothing whatever to do with Paraguay. Newspaper correspondents and editors all the world over appear to have lost their heads over this serio-comic conflict between a nation which has an army that cannot fight and a nation with a navy that is in the same plight.

* * * * *

Polo cycling, which was first adopted by the Sheen House Club, has bounded into popularity, and is now being practised at the other leading suburban clubs. The committee of the Sheen House may, however, be congratulated on being the first to perceive the possibilities of the new game, and for having founded a Polo Cycling Association which is the representative institution of polo upon wheels. The Duke and Duchess of Fife are amongst the latest who have joined the Sheen House Club, and since cycling in the streets has decreased in the West End, the number of those who use the club and that portion of Richmond Park—the most secluded—has largely increased. It may be, too, that as the season is unusually quiet, more are able to spend the days and evenings out of town than in other years.—Believe me to be very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

Of late years the Ascot meeting has often been remarkable principally for the wretchedly small fields which have come out to run for rich stakes. Every one knows that the Ascot course is usually in very bad order, and that after a long period of dry weather its condition is simply atrocious. The hard ground is the excuse invariably put forth for the failure of race after race, and it is an undeniable fact that every year some horses are for ever "settled," so far as the turf is concerned, after running at this meeting. This season no such excuse can be advanced if Ascot fails to show the large fields which ought to be a matter of course with such an attractive programme, for the ground is quite soft, and if there is any more rain the going will be very heavy, in which case the meeting will probably be quite as disastrous to backers as was Epsom, which, indeed, turned out a veritable Moscow campaign. Owners cannot be afraid to run even the most "groggy" of their horses at Ascot next week.

There are 100 entries for the Coventry Stakes, which race will be worth £2,000. The best two-year-olds of the public lot are Mr. D. Baird's Musa, Mr. Brassey's Boniface, Mr. Merry's Sir Hercules, Lord Dunraven's Desmond, Marquis di Serramezzana's Musetta, and Captain Machell's Blackwing. There are no penalties in this race for previous winners. Among the dark two-year-olds in the entry which have been talked about are the Prince of Wales' Sandringham, own brother to Persimmon; Captain Greer's Birkenhead, by Orme out of Tragedy, dam of Wildfowler; Duke of Portland's Manners, own brother to Amiable; Lord Rosebery's Corposant, by Sheen out of Illuminata, dam of Ladas and Chelandry, and his Flambard, by Oriflamb out of Armorica; and the Duke of Westminster's Frontier, by Orme out of Quetta, and his Splendid, by Sheen out of Ornament, who is own sister to Labrador. Flambard will represent Lord Rosebery in this race, and he is expected to run well; but I shall predict the victory of either Blackwing or Boniface. Captain Machell's colt is thought to be now better than he was when he made his successful début at Gatwick, while Mr. Brassey's colt will also be more forward in condition, and he has been doing very well since he ran at Epsom. The more severe course at Ascot will be in favour of Boniface, who is believed to be a stayer. Mr. Brassey is to be strongly represented at Ascot, and he has been staying at Sefton Lodge during the holidays in order to see his horses gallop.

There are seventy-five entries for the Two-year-old Biennial on Tuesday, and the race will be worth £1,250. Among the public lot are Chloris II. (who beat Sister Angela at Epsom), Sir Hercules, Monopoly filly by St. Simon out of Hampton Rose (5 lb. extra), and Dark David; but I expect the winner will spring from the dark contingent, and shall predict the success of Mr. Rose's Messene, by Donovan out of Arcadia, dam of Cyllene, who is believed to be a smart filly.

There are forty-five entries for the Triennial on Wednesday, and the 5 lb. penalty of Fascination ought not to stop her, as the running of Mr. James's filly at Epsom showed that she is just now in good form.

The New Stakes, which is the richest two-year-old race of the week, will be worth £2,140. Several of the Coventry Stakes lot are in this race also, but not Blackwing. However, the Bedford Cottage stable will probably be dangerous with Mr. Leigh's dark filly, Clay Pigeon, by Common out of Flyaway, dam of The Wyvern, who is very racing-like, and she is said to be smart. Boniface will most likely turn out to be the best of the public lot if he starts for this race. The Duke of Westminster, whose colours are usually dangerous at Ascot in the two-year-old events, is represented by Flying Fox, by Orme out of Vampire, and by Frontier.

There are ninety-one entries for the Windsor Castle Stakes on Friday, including Eventail, Musetta, Blackwing, Flambard, and Amurath. This will be the most exciting two-year-old race of the week if Blackwing and Amurath both run, and I shall rely upon the winner of the

Brocklesby Stakes, but it will take Mr. Raphael's colt all his time to beat Blackwing.

With regard to the three-year-old events, they are likely to be startling in their results, and any backers who are such infatuated idiots as to pay the slightest attention to the records of "the book" will probably be brought to dire disaster. There are sixty-six entries for the Prince of Wales' Stakes, which will be worth about £2,900, and the field may include Jeddah (9 lb. extra), Succoth, Locarno, Disraeli (9 lb. extra), Hawfinch (5 lb. extra), Wantage (7 lb. allowed), Tom Cringle, Ninus, Schonberg, and Batt (3 lb. extra). I shall expect Wantage to win this race for the Duke of Portland, for he ran well in the Derby, and he will now be in something like proper racing condition. Dieudonné is engaged both in this race and in the Ascot Derby, but he is not likely to run for either race, the distances being too far for the Duke of Devonshire's colt. As to the Derby on Wednesday, Jeddah (10 lb. extra), Brio (7 lb. allowed), Disraeli (10 lb. extra), Wantage, Tom Cringle, Dunlop, Schonberg, Pheon (7 lb. allowed), and Batt are the best of the fifty-one entries for this race, which will be worth about £1,900, and I shall expect the finish to lie between Batt and Pheon. Sixty-two fillies are engaged in the Coronation Stakes, which will be worth £4,100 if ten start, and it is, indeed, the most valuable race of the week. The entry includes Nun Nicer (7 lb. extra), Royal Footstep, Simylla, Airs and Graces (7 lb. extra), La Veine, Needlecase, Airosa, Ebba, La Fortune, Lowood, and Orpah. I shall plump for the Duke of Westminster's candidate, which will probably be Lowood. There are seventy-nine entries for the Three-Year-Old Biennial of £1,290, which is run over the Old Mile. Cap Martin, Dieudonné, Pheon, Alt Mark, Jeddah, Elfin, Royal Footstep, Powderham, and Ninus, are all possible starters. Dieudonné is not likely to start, having the extreme penalty of 12 lb., as also has Jeddah. Pheon will win if he goes for this race, instead of running for the Ascot Derby. On Thursday there are fifty-four entries for the St. James's Palace Stakes of about £2,800, including Ninus, Schonberg, Batt, Wantage, Jeddah, Angus, Pheon, Cap Martin, and Dieudonné, and I shall give a plumper for the Duke of Devonshire's colt, as this race ought to be a good thing for him. I believe that before the Derby a trial over a mile showed Dieudonné to be "a good 7 lb." better than Jeddah. There are forty-nine entries for the three-year-old heat of the Triennial, which is run on Friday, and the race should be a certainty for Cyllene if he comes all right to the post.

The entry for the Fernhill Stakes includes Blackwing and Amurath, but I do not expect that either colt will start for this race, and, in any case, I should be disposed to predict the victory of Orzil, who was tried for speed at Newmarket on Thursday over the Rous Course with a most satisfactory result.

There are only nine entries for the Vase, and I expect this race will be won by either The Rush or History. These horses have several engagements at Ascot, but either the one or the other is tolerably sure to start for the Vase. It will be remembered that two years ago The Rush started a great favourite for this event, odds of 6 to 4 being freely betted on him, but Pride won, his price being 7 to 1 in a field of five. It was then thought that the racing career of The Rush had terminated, as he pulled up lame, but, unluckily for backers, Mr. Dobell's horse so quickly got right again that he was prepared for the Doncaster Cup, and started a hot favourite, but was easily beaten by Laodamia, who, thereupon, became a great public fancy for the Cesarewitch, in which race she was defeated tragically.

The field for the Gold Cup may include Cyllene, Limasol or Bay Ronald, Newhaven II., The Rush, Comfrey, Merman, St. Cloud II., St. Bris, History, Winkfield's Pride, Dinna Forget, and Labrador, besides three French horses, M. E. Blanc's Masque II. and Montegut, and M. de Bremond's Elf II. The Cup is a very open race, as the stamina of nearly all the English horses has to be taken upon trust. It is a pity that Mr. Larnach has not entered Jeddah, as this race would have afforded more information as to his racing merits than we at present possess. Cyllene has been doing very well at Newmarket, and I expect he will prove the best of the English lot; but my own opinion is that the French will win the Cup this year, and M. E. Blanc's trusted representative may be beaten by Elf II., who is a really good stayer, and with fair speed besides.

With regard to the other weight-for-age events, I should fancy that Goletta or Cortegar will win the four-year-old heat of the Triennial. There are sixty entries for the Rous Memorial Stakes of £1,000, and the field may include All Moonshine, Eager, St. Ia, Carhaix, Sandia, Argosy, Melfitana, Schonberg or The Reeve, and Calveley or Ameer. I fancy either Eager or Sandia, the former horse having won the same race last year. The Biennial (Old Mile) has forty-one entries, and I fancy Elfin or Melfitana. The Biennial (T.Y.C.) has thirty-five entries, and The Convict may be able to win if he can beat Mr. D. Baird's candidate, which will probably be Brio. The All Aged Stakes may be won by Musetta or by Bridegroom. The Hardwicke Stakes on Friday, which will be worth £2,650, looks well for Cortegar, or the best of the Duke of Westminster's. Bay Ronald, who won this race last year, will have run for the Gold Cup, and I do not suppose that Jeddah will start. The Alexandra Plate may be left to Masqué or Elf II. The Queen's Stand Plate of £800 should fall to Kilcock if his owner is wise enough to reserve him for this race. It will be observed that the same horses are engaged over and over again in most of the weight-for-age events at Ascot.

I am told that Sir R. Waldie Griffith's filly, Sweet Majorie, by Kendal out of St. Marguerite, who cost 3,000 gs. at Doncaster last September, will probably run at Ascot for the New Stakes. She is also engaged in the Coventry Stakes. Sweet Majorie is a splendid filly, and a beautiful mover, and if she has won her trial (probably she will be galloped with Desmond), as to the issue of which the market will afford some indication, she will be worth backing in any race at Ascot for which she starts. Sir Richard has a very nice, racing-like two-year-old in the colt by Kendal out of Adornment, for which he paid 510 gs. at Doncaster. He is engaged at Ascot in the same races as Sweet Majorie.

There are twenty-four acceptances for the Ascot Stakes, the list being headed by The Rush, who is decidedly over weighted with 9 st. 6 lb., but Waugh's stable will find a better candidate in Piety, who has 8 st. 4 lb. to carry, and this horse is sure to stay the course. Rapallo is thrown in with 6 st. 4 lb., but he will be an awkward horse for a boy to ride in such a long race as this. Limasol (7 st. 10 lb.) won a trial at Newmarket last week, which shows that she is in form, but the distance was only a mile and a quarter, so that the stamina of Mr. Brassey's mare must be taken upon trust. Marius II. is well in, but he may not be reserved for this race. The distance will be too far for Nunsuch. Jaquemart seems overweighted, and he must now be getting stale after all the work he has done since the opening of the season. Villiers has been going well at Newmarket, and he has a ridiculously light weight. This horse might canter away with the race if he took it into his head to do his best, but he cannot be trusted. St. Bris and Butter are the Kingsclere candidates, and both are fairly well handicapped. I shall give a plumper for Piety.

There will be plenty of betting on the Royal Hunt Cup during the next week, but all prudent people will leave this race alone until the day of running arrives, as the early speculation on such a handicap is mere fiddle-faddle, representing only the harum-scarum fancies of too impetuous backers. Kilcock cannot stay the course, and his owner will act wisely if he keeps this horse within his best distance during the remainder of his turf career. Kilcock has been very much mismanaged, for what is the use of repeatedly knocking a six-furlong horse about in mile races? Minstrel is very warmly recommended in some quarters, but I do not believe he will be the best of the Egerton Lodge lot of seven. Hermiston is well in, but I fancy Mr. Low's horse will not be seen at his best until later on in the season. Chelandry has been doing no work, and Eager has too much weight. Goletta ought to carry the Rothschild colours prominently. Sandia will be the best from the Lorillard-Beresford stable. I am told

that M. Menier's Valparaiso will win if he comes all right to the post. Of the home-trained lot, I have the most fancy for St. Cloud II. (who is in capital form just now, and looking remarkably fit and well) or Neish.

Desmond won the race at Manchester for which I predicted his success, but the great tip at the finish was Musetta, who came from Newmarket with a high reputation, as she had been well galloped. Desmond won cleverly, but Musetta ran very green, and she will do better next time. The Irish horses are always dangerous at Manchester when fancied, and both the other two-year-old stakes fell to Mr. Plunkett's Baldoyle, who was backed as if the race was over, in spite of a strong tip for Therese II., who was much fancied by all the Newmarket people.

I gave a plumper for Nunsuch a fortnight ago for the Manchester Cup, and the Prince of Wales' mare was very heavily backed at the finish, although St. Bris was greatly fancied by the Kingsclere stable; but they were both easily beaten by King Crow, who carried 5 lb. extra for his victory at York. Mr. Vyner's horse was believed to have come on considerably during the last fortnight. Northallerton was not likely to show to advantage over the course, and he had quite enough weight to carry.

Some of the sporting papers announced on May 28 that Love Wisely "is to go for the Vase at Ascot." Love Wisely has not been entered, and he is so backward in condition that there never has been any idea of running him at Ascot. He is not likely to be seen out until the Newmarket October Meetings, but it is exceedingly probable that he will fail to get through a thorough preparation. Even if Love Wisely had been fit and in his best form, I do not see how he could have any chance for the Vase, when giving 14 lb. to The Rush. If he could be trained for the Doncaster Cup, he would have to carry a penalty of 10 lb. in that race. It seems to me utterly foolish and absurd to inflict penalties in the Ascot Vase and Doncaster Cup merely for winners of weight-for-age stakes. In the Goodwood Cup the extra weight is carried by all winners of races of a mile or upwards, and this is a fair and sensible arrangement.

It is scarcely necessary to remind enthusiastic followers of Henley that this year's meeting is already looming on the horizon. The time has, in fact, arrived for putting forward applications, if positions are required for house-boats or launches. And here again it is necessary to remember that the bigger the cheque contributed, the better will be the berth allotted, only—as was announced last year—the licence when granted cannot be transferred, and the position will be forfeited if any attempt be made to re-let the boat after allotment. In the matter of sport, there is every promise of the usual excellence, and this year will see a German crew from the Mayence Rowing Club competing for the Stewards' Challenge Cup, and a Berlin pair for the Silver Goblets.

With regard to the May races at Cambridge there seems to be little doubt that Hall will retain their headship pretty easily. This result will be due not so much to any marked superiority of style, but to the fact that the crews behind this college are not really good. Just recently Mr. McKenna has been taking them in hand. Emmanuel are well together and neat but lack power. Third have only one decent oar, Goldie. The rest have been described as crocks, but for all that they are rowing together and get pace on their boat. The assumption that they would go down each night is not at all likely to be verified. First Trinity were quite the best boat on the river until ten days ago when they went off suddenly. This result has been due in all probability to too much hard work. At all events the annual shuffle has taken place. Lady Margaret are decidedly poor, although they have a fair stroke and seven. They are pretty sure to go down. Pembroke have a strong crew, and would be good if they did not bucket. Jesus have the same fault, which in their case is due to the fact that they tried to row too fast when first in training. Both crews have improved recently. Caius are neat but lack power. Of the second division crews, Peterhouse are the most promising. Taking the rowing all round there is a general improvement. There is no really good crew, and good individual college oars are almost in the same category as the Dodo. Photographs of this prehistoric race of undergraduates may be seen at Stearnes and elsewhere.

Mr. C. M. Steele, it will be remembered, was stroking the Cambridge crew last term. When at Bourne End, he was taken ill and forbidden to row. He was a Hall man, and he had, all through the civil war between a certain section of the Hall and the C.U.B.C., remained faithful to the University. The Cambridge correspondent of the *Field* a fortnight ago astonished the rowing world by stating that Steele had been getting rid of the faults that he displayed during the October and Lent terms. It was during these terms that he was under the tuition of Mr. Fletcher, the old Oxford President. This term the Hall boat, of which he is stroke, has been coached by that eminent oarsman, Mr. Trevor-Jones. The inference to be drawn from the remarks in the *Field* is that Mr. Trevor-Jones has eradicated faults either inculcated by Mr. Fletcher or else too deeply rooted to be effectually dealt with by that gentleman. Referring to these remarks in the *Field*, the *Granta* says:—"If, however, Steele is losing the style that he learnt in the October and Lent terms, we are afraid the Hall will not make a good impression if they appear at Henley. It is a pity that such misleading statements should appear in such a universally read paper as the *Field*." According to the *Granta*, Steele has not lost his form. This is highly gratifying. In rowing communication with the most moral men, if they be not really first-class coaches, has a tendency to spoil a good style. The *Granta* might also have added that it is a pity that the *Field* has lent itself to such a despicable and ill-concealed attempt to arouse again the ill-feeling that recently existed at Cambridge University. By no one should this wretched effort on the part of the rowing correspondent of the *Field* be more earnestly deprecated than by Mr. Trevor-Jones, whose efforts in the interest of peace are well known to all rowing men.

At a recent meeting of the C.U.B.C., the starting distance between the boats in the May races was reduced. Another suggestion that fifth year men should not row in the Mays was deferred. It would not seem to be wise to adopt any such rule so long as fifth year men can row in the University Boat Race.

It may be remembered that some weeks ago reference was made to the practice of entertaining players at lawn tennis tournaments. I pointed out that these competitors were foisted on unwilling hosts, and that the practice reflected as little credit upon the players as it did on the organisers of tournaments. I suggested that the Lawn Tennis Association should take the matter in hand. At a council meeting the subject was referred to, and, with a view of dealing thoroughly with the matter, notice of new rules has been given. The effect of these rules, if passed, would be not only to give the Council absolute power to prohibit any act or practice which, in the opinion of the Council, is contrary to the interests of the game, but it would also empower the Council to deal as it might think fit with any affiliated club, association, committee, or player, disregarding any such prohibition. Whether or not the members or affiliated clubs are prepared to give the Council such absolute discretion is a matter that rests with them. Provided they are willing to do so, the rules seem admirably fitted to effect this object. The Council would then be able to evolve a decalogue dealing with this question of players, as to which, I should have thought, the Amateur Athletic Association's rules might have afforded some useful precedents. Lawn tennis is more analogous to running than any other sport. If I might venture to make a few suggestions, these rules should contain provisions to the following effect. In club matches a club may pay its own players' travelling and hotel expenses. Any affiliated club may enter one or more players for the Championship at Wimbledon, and may pay the expenses of such players. A similar rule might apply to entries for closed county championships. In this way a poor player as the representative of his club would have an opportunity of showing what he was worth. Rules as to the amount

of such expenses, and the way in which accounts should be kept would have to be added. Then with regard to tournaments and all meetings, very stringent rules would have to be drawn forbidding committees or individuals from offering players their expenses (such offers have been made), or from offering them board and lodging by disguising the invitation under the specious phrase of hospitality. If the Council has the powers vested in it which the proposed rules will confer, there can be no difficulty in working out an effective scheme of legislation on these lines. The Council could not in common fairness act arbitrarily if such powers were conferred on it. It would have to indicate the lines on which it was prepared to proceed. Some such rules as those I have suggested would be sufficient for the purpose.

In spite of the wretched weather last week the western counties can look with some satisfaction on their tour in the east. Thanks to a regular stone-wall innings by Grace, and to some excellent bowling by Townsend, Gloucester gained an easy victory over Middlesex, for whom Stoddart played in quite his best form. His success was universally popular. A brilliant century by S. M. J. Woods enabled Somerset to beat Sussex. The match between Yorkshire and Essex showed the strength of the northern team, who, however, had all their work cut out to make the runs. Mead's bowling seemed scarcely to be used enough. But, then, it is very easy to captain a team from the pavilion, and the brilliant successes of the Essex team are the best answer to captious critics. Warwick are to be congratulated on the excellent draw they made with Yorkshire. Kent suffered a severe defeat from Derbyshire, for whom Storer and Chatterton batted splendidly. It looks as though there were some chance of decent weather and good cricket. The draws on account of the rain look like making the County Championship a farce

There was a very successful open amateur golf competition, organised by the Beckenham Golf Club. There were eighty-five competitors, and Messrs. Michie, Foster, and Jockel came out top of the list. Foster did a very fine round of 78. The prizes were very handsome. But whether such valuable prizes are desirable in the best interests of the game is doubtful. There is quite enough pot-hunting in golf already. It needs no encouragement. In a home and home match between Park and Fernie, the former finished seven up on his own links, at Musselburgh. On going to Troon he played superbly, and never gave his opponent a chance, winning in the end by thirteen up.

Mr. Mahoney and Miss C. Cooper are to be congratulated on the splendid form they are showing at lawn tennis. They were as successful at Chiswick Park as they had been at Dublin. In both instances they secured the championships. At Dublin, Eaves and Miss Martin were beaten, and at Chiswick Park, Greville and Miss Austin.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—While optimism, induced by the rapid fall in the value of money and by the absence of any further political rumours, has been the order of the day, the volume of business has not increased during the past week, and there are great complaints on the part of members of the Stock Exchange that the public are not yet entering the markets. It is true that there has been some nibbling, and there are indications that public support will shortly be extended to certain stocks; but the birds are still shy, and cannot quite forget the ominous warnings to which they were treated by the Marquis of Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain.

Will the Public Enter the Markets?

Jobbers and brokers are pretty well tired of skinning small profits out of each other, and the game of pig upon-pork is never a lasting one. What the public require generally to tempt them to operate is a lead, and this has been given in a small way by some of the jobbers, but in order to induce more extensive public purchases, it will be necessary for the big houses to take a hand in the game, and the absence of any such support is chiefly responsible for the dulness of the South African department. I daresay that sooner or later this section will wake up suddenly, especially if the output continues to improve. What should predispose investors to buy securities is the very low rate now obtainable on deposit. When a man can only get 1½ per cent. for his money, he naturally casts about for a way of increasing his income with comparative safety, and thus we have already an increased demand for gilt-edged securities. Home Rails, too, have hardened steadily, although there have been no sensational advances, to which the position, moreover, hardly lends itself. The American market has become more active, and at times when peace looked within measurable distance there has been some moderate "Bull" buying and a good deal of "Bear" closing. Every brief reaction is followed by a fresh recovery, and any important success of the American fleet at Santiago would bring about a further sharp improvement. Grand Trunks and Canadian Pacifics have moved with Yankee Rails, but the rise in Trunks has now been so persistent, that most of the good things of the future have been discounted. The Foreign department has taken quite a start since the Paris settlement has come to a successful close, and Spanish have received a fillip from the official announcement that the July coupon will be paid in full in gold. South Americans have been steady, and a feature has been the strength of Mexican Sixes on the growing prosperity of that country, and more especially a demand for Inter-Oceanic of Mexico stocks, which deserve every attention in view of the largely increasing returns. Westralian mining shares have been strong and active, the demand turning chiefly on the dividend-paying shares. In the Industrial department quite a revival of speculation has to be recorded, and important advances are marked, more especially in Welsbach and Russian Oil shares. The former are still a good purchase; the latter must be described as a dangerous gambling counter. A fresh rush of industrial prospectuses is impending, and I reiterate my warning to scan these most carefully before investing.

Money and Gilt-Edged Investments—Money Cheap, Consols Higher.

The past week has seen a further shrinkage in the value of money, and rates of discount for three and six months' Bank bills have dropped to 1¾ per cent., while short money is almost unlendable, rates ranging from ½ to 1½ per cent. Deposit rates have been lowered by the banking establishments to 1½ per cent., a movement which will doubtless cause the investment in the stock markets of considerable sums. Any further rushing-down of rates is, however, to be deprecated, for already the Continental exchanges have turned against London, and a demand has arisen for gold for Russian and Japanese account, which will probably absorb any further arrivals of the precious metal. The golden current to the Bank of England has naturally slackened, and there is just the possibility that the United States may require further gold shipments. At present the New York exchange is too high, partly owing to the important sales of real stock of American Rails, which have been effected by European holders, thus offsetting to some extent the large shipments of produce from the States to this side. But whenever the Spanish-American war comes to an end, there will be a rush of purchases of American Rails for English account, which might easily initiate fresh gold shipments to the States. Consols have been a strong market, "Bears" having been buying back, and the quotation at one time advanced to 111 7/16 x.d. for the account, from which there has been a reaction to 111 5/16 x.d., and as the settlement is over, it is not likely that there will be any immediate further upward movement. A rise in silver to 27½d. has been caused chiefly by a strong Spanish demand for coining purposes, and Rupee Paper has improved to 62¾, while India Three

and a Half per Cent. stock stands at 114 x.d. British Corporation stocks and Colonial Government bonds have hardened in many instances, and amongst the Chinese loans the last 4½ per cent. issue is slightly easier at 88, while the Seven per Cent. Silver Loan has risen to 97½. Japanese Five per Cent. bonds are firm at 102 x.d.

Home Rails.—A Steady Tone, but Little Business.

Business has been unusually quiet in the Home Railway department during the past week, although values have been well maintained. The Whitsun traffics did not prove particularly favourable, and showed, as far as can be calculated, a decrease of from four to five thousand pounds over the corresponding holiday week of last year. This result may be clearly set down to the unfavourable weather, and it has not prevented a further large addition to the traffic returns for the first twenty-one weeks of the half-year, which now show a gain of £729,679 over 1897. The stocks of the Heavy division have remained at about the same level, but Brighton "A" have not altogether maintained their recent improvement, being now quoted at 176¾. Dover "A" were at one time banged down to 111¼ by an enterprising jobber, but have since recovered to 112, and Great Eastern have remained in the neighbourhood of 120. Metropolitan have reacted to 131½ on rumours that the Great Central would by no means show a preference to the Metropolitan, but also run over the Great Western; but this is far-fetched, and it would certainly be premature to put Great Western up on this point. Great Centrals are hardening steadily in anticipation of the early opening of the extension to London, and the 1894 Ordinary have now improved to 42, the Preferred to 67. Both are worthy of attention. Metropolitan Districts at one time moved up to 29½, and my readers who bought this stock considerably below this price have therefore had an opportunity of securing a quick profit. Just now, whenever the quotation rises above 29, a tap seems to be turned on preventing any further advance. In the Scotch section there has been no further improvement, Caledonian Deferred Ordinary being quoted 57, North British Deferred, 43⅞. "Coras," however, still look cheap at their present level.

Yankee Rails.—Wall-street Gives Strong Support. London Nearly Sold Out.

The war news continues to govern the Wall-street market, and London operators merely follow New York movements. On balance, New York has again bought a good deal of stock, and London must nearly have sold out. The view taken on the other side of the Atlantic is that while a small percentage represented the sale of real holdings, the greater part was for the account of professional speculators, and consisted of "Bear" sales. The settlement is therefore expected to disclose a considerable shortage, more especially of Milwaukee. In Wall-street people are not at all disposed to commit themselves on the short side to any large extent, as the conditions generally are looked upon as favourable. Now and then, when the war news favours such action, a "Bear" raid is indulged in, such as took place on Friday last. But a recovery soon follows, and the latest advices from Santiago de Cuba suggests a battle within the next week, which may possibly lead to the conclusion of peace, especially as the Spanish newspapers very generally are beginning to advocate the ending of the struggle "with honour." Traffics of the American Railroads continue most satisfactory, and, instead of interfering with business, the war seems to stimulate it, as, according to the *Financial Chronicle*, eighty-two roads in the third week of May earned 7,755,665 dols., an increase of 1,011,236 dols. These increases have prevailed ever since the war broke out, and came on the top of excellent figures for the first quarter of the year, when, according to the *Wall-street Daily News*, net earnings based on the reports of 173 roads were as follows:—

January 1 to March 31.

	1898. dols.		1897. dols.		Changes. dols.
Gr. earn...	232,794,842	.....	207,023,623	.....	Inc. 25,771,219
Oper. ex...	163,918,891	.....	148,087,271	.....	Inc. 15,831,620
Net earn...	68,875,951		58,936,352		Inc. 9,939,599

The feature of last week's dealings has been the increasing favour shown to the stocks of the Pacific roads, notably Northern Pacifics and Union Pacifics, while there has also been a disposition to pick up all the stocks of the reconstructed roads, such as Reading, Atchison, Norfolk and Western, and Southern Railway. Thus Milwaukee and Louisville, in which the chief business on this side has hitherto centred, have been comparatively neglected, although both are hardening again, Milwaukee being quoted 104, Louisville 58¼. Recent statements that the directors of the Louisville were not yet inclined to resume dividends, notwithstanding the fact that a considerable surplus is available, have caused considerable surprise here. The Louisville has hitherto been considered as practically an English-managed road, and the English conception of a railway is that profits which are earned should be paid to the shareholders in dividends. It is to be hoped that it will not be necessary to teach the Board of the Louisville this lesson by a combination of the shareholders, and it would be a thousand pities if the action of these directors were to result in permanently forfeiting the good position which the Company had obtained on the London market. With reference to Union Pacifics the comparative dulness of these securities has at last made room for an improvement. All manner of rumours were cabled over from New York at one time, one of which was that one of the biggest houses connected with the reorganisation had been selling large blocks. With reference to this tale the *Wall-street Daily News* has the following interesting paragraph:—

> An effort is being made to have it appear that the heaviness of Union Pacific Preferred during the past week or two has been due to selling by parties who have been prominent in the Company's reorganisation, so as to prepare for the reorganisation of the Baltimore and Ohio, in which they will be interested with Messrs. Speyer & Co. This is intended to refer to Messrs. Kuhn, Loeb, & Co. We are in a position to say, as far as the last named firm is concerned, this has no basis in fact. The great financial strength of Messrs. Kuhn, Loeb, & Co. makes it entirely unnecessary for them to sacrifice one enterprise in order to obtain means to undertake another, and, therefore, the effort to make it appear that Union Pacific Preferred is heavy because of their alleged selling is decidedly weak. We believe the position of London on this market explains the lack of resiliency of not alone Union Pacific Preferred, but all the international shares.

Union Pacific Prefs. have now risen to 64½, and the Common stock at 26¼ is comparatively cheap, and offers a good opportunity for a turn. Northern Pacific Prefs. are now quoted at 71¼, a price at which the regular payment of dividends is not yet, perhaps, altogether discounted. Norfolk and Western Prefs at 55⅜, however, look cheaper, and more especially the Common stock at 16 is a good purchase. It should be remembered that the latter stock really took the place of the old Preferred, on which an assessment of $12½ was exacted, so that the present price works out to only about $3. Fixed charges, moreover, and the interest on the new Prefs. are something like $600,000 less than the annual charges which ranked before the Preferred stock of the old Company. Yet that preferred stock stood at over 50 at one time. The road is now doing well, and a rough calculation shows that the new Preference interest, which amounts to $920,000, is not only fully earned, but a balance is being obtained which should go towards a dividend on the common stock. I do not wish to say that a dividend will be paid this year, but it appears to be in sight, and in view of this position the present value is remarkably low. Reading First Prefs. have of late hardened to 24¾, and seem also a fair purchase. There is nothing new with regard to the rate war, but the general opinion appears to be that it is about to be settled. It certainly is advisable that an agreement should be come to, and this would also appear to be in the interest of the Canadian Pacific, which is the chief stumbling-block.

London and Paris Exchange, Ltd., 24, Throgmorton-street, London, E.C. This Corporation is prepared to make Advances on Mining Shares, at 6 per cent. per annum, subject to a deposit of 20 per cent. Clients by this system save the heavy contangoes usually charged.

At all events, the working statement for April, just published, shows that in view of the rate war a great deal more work has to be done to earn the same money, as a gross increase of $340,000, worked out to a net increase of only $90,000, and was therefore considerably worse than the preceding returns. The last weekly traffic, on the other hand, has been a favourable one, the increase being $102,000. Canadian Pacifics are now quoted 87⅝, but they would doubtless take a jump if the rate war were settled. Grand Trunk stockholders have had a mixed experience this week. First, the April working statement must have put them into excellent humour, as the net increase on the combined system was shown to amount to £23,038. Then came the weekly traffic return, showing a gain of only £710, which caused a moderate decline from the previous highest points; but quotations have since rallied on all manner of sanguine prophecies, the First Prefs. being quoted 76, the Guaranteed 79⅛. This does not now leave a great deal of margin for a further rise, and it must not be forgotten that a big "Bull" account has been piled up in these stocks, which might give trouble if any untoward event were to take place.

FOREIGNERS AND SOUTH AMERICANS—A RISE IN SPANISH—PARIS OPTIMISTIC.

The Paris Bourse is getting quite optimistic since it passed through its settlement. The Coulisse, it is true, will probably have to go, but this is no longer so much of a weakening factor, as large sales have been made by all the Coulissiers, who have thus reduced their liabilities to vanishing point. On the other hand, it has no doubt greatly pleased French holders of Spanish Fours that the official announcement is now made of the payment in full in gold of the coupon on July 1. I suppose that the French financiers still stand behind Spain in her efforts to keep faith with her foreign creditors. It may also be intended to catch some of the "Bears," of whom there are a good many on the London Stock Exchange, and it would not be surprising to find Spanish—which are now quoted 36⅜—rather scarce at Wednesday's carry-over. The Spanish Press, moreover, seems to be in favour of peace, whenever that can be concluded without too much sacrifice, but an American success would doubtless stimulate the negotiations. Paris has also put up Italians to 92⅛, and Rio Tinto have again come into favour with our French neighbours, while Greeks have risen all round, and Turks are again being gambled in. Argentine Government stocks have been creeping up of late, the 1886 Loan being quoted 91, the Funding Loan 89¾, notwithstanding the fact which has now oozed out that the Argentine Government has had to borrow £400,000 on Treasury Bills. A good many of my readers have at various times desired to know whether their Ottoman Railway bonds of 1870-1872 have yet been drawn. Under these circumstances, the following list of unclaimed premiums, communicated to me by Messrs. N. Keizer & Co., foreign bankers, 29, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C., will be of interest:—6 of 600,000 fr., 9 of 300,000 fr., 9 of 60,000 fr., 6 of 25,000 fr., 13 of 20,000 fr., 11 of 10,000 fr., 46 of 6,000 fr., 95 of 3,000 fr., 46 of 2,000 fr., 95 of 1,250 fr., 440 of 1,000 fr., and 9,990 of 400 fr. I may mention that payment will be forfeited if not presented within thirty years from the date of the drawings. Argentine railway stocks have been steady, Buenos Ayres Great Southern being quoted 141, Buenos Ayres and Rosario 73½, Central Argentine 82. Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debenture stock has now recovered to 54, and it will doubtless be benefited by the arrangement which has been made by the Argentine Government for serving the guarantee. But the traffics are still so wretched and show such large decreases, that I am afraid that the recovery will not last just yet. Buenos Ayres and Pacific Four and a Half per Cent. Second Debenture stock has improved to 93, and Western Railway of Santa Fé Seven per Cent. bonds have risen to 42 on the improved traffics. Brazilians have been firmer, the 1889 Loan being quoted 54, but the tendency is not strong, as the Rio exchange is not rising much—notwithstanding all the coaxing. The funding of the coupons, moreover, is not exactly a "Bull" point in every respect, and people are asking whether after the period of the funding of the coupons has expired cash payments will really be resumed. Uruguay bonds have been firm, although reacting at the last, the Old Loan falling to 45, and Peruvian Corporation stocks have been well maintained, the Debentures at 39½, the Prefs. at 9. The receipts of the railways worked by the Corporation for May were $272,400, against $260,725 for the same period of last year.

INTER-OCEANIC OF MEXICO—A CHEAP DEBENTURE.

Readers of TRUTH, to whom I gave the advice in December last to buy Inter-Oceanic of Mexico "A" and "B" Debentures, which were then quoted at 51 and 23 respectively, will, if they have acted upon this tip, be grateful to me, as the present quotations are 71 and 31 respectively. Since I gave this advice the position of the Company has greatly improved, as, in fact, everything connected with Mexico is progressing most favourably. Under the wise government of President Diaz, the great resources of the country are being developed in a masterly manner, while the prudent management of the finances is establishing the Republic's credit in a high position. Mexican Sixes are quoted close to par, viz., at 98, and sooner or later a conversion scheme will no doubt be carried out. But this will probably have to wait until the conclusion of the Spanish-American War. In the meantime, the railways are doing well, and the First Preference stock of the Mexican Railway (Vera Cruz Line), for instance, has advanced to 74½. Yet this stock is only in receipt of a dividend of 1⅞ per cent., while the "A" Debenture stock of the Inter-Oceanic Railway received in November last 2⅛ per cent., and is now in sight of much larger dividends, while being quoted lower than Mexican Railway First Prefs. A simple and rough calculation will show the position. The net profit for the financial year 1896-7 was $581,725. The gross increase to date for 1897-8 is $435,420. If we add to this an estimated increase of $40,000 for June, and deduct working expenses—viz., about $237,000—we obtain a net gain of $238,000, and a total net profit of $820,000, or at 23d., about £78,500. As it requires £44,000 to pay the 5 per cent. on the prior lien bonds (£400,000), and the interest on the Four per Cent. debentures (£600,000), there would be available for dividend on the "A" Debentures £34,500, which works out to upwards of 4⅝ per cent. on the £736,000 of this stock. When it is considered, moreover, that in about three months' time the schedule of freights will be raised, it is easy to see—especially in view of the progress being made in Mexico—that in the near future the "A" Debentures will receive their full 7 per cent. dividend. Investors who like to pick up a progressive debenture have therefore an opportunity to buy a security which must very considerably increase in capital value, while also yielding at once a decent dividend. A good many of these debentures have of late been mopped up, and the market is so bare of stock that a considerable rise may come about any day. The *Financial News* and *Financial Times* have done good service in drawing attention to the mysteries surrounding the proposed issue of bonds in connection with the Great Western Railway of Tasmania. The British public are scarcely likely to look favourably upon the issue, if it ever should be made.

THE KAFFIR CIRCUS—PRESIDENT KRUGER'S NEW ADVISER—WHY ARE THE BIG HOUSES INACTIVE?

The feature in the South African department has been the announcement that Mr. F. Reitz, formerly President of the Free State, has been appointed State Secretary of the Transvaal, he having been elected to this post by a large majority of the Volksraad. He is considered to be a man of education and of a broad mind, with mature experience and not given to quarrelling. It remains, of course, to be seen how far President Kruger may be influenced by association with Mr. Reitz, but one would think that just as Dr. Leyds has undoubtedly contributed towards making Oom Paul more cantankerous, so the new

State Secretary will be able to tone down the President's obstinacy to a more judicious exercise of statesmanship. At all events, several South Africans have expressed to me their sense of the importance of this choice. Not that I anticipate any immediate change of front on the part of the Transvaal Government. I dare say that President Kruger will await the result of Dr. Leyds' mission to Europe, but there is no prospect of the Transvaal doctor obtaining any big loan for the Boers, either in France or in Germany, unless due concessions are granted to the mining industry, and when that conviction has dawned upon the Transvaal Government Mr. Reitz's sound advice may possibly be listened to. In the meantime the May crushings, as far as they have come to hand, appear to be satisfactory, and the mining industry is evidently going ahead, producing increasing quantities of gold, and yielding in the case of the substantial undertakings good profits. Everything, in fact appears to be ready for a general improvement, but the public are still keeping out of the market, although they are at present able to obtain high-class shares at prices yielding an excellent return on the investment. It will apparently require the intervention of the big South African houses to bring fresh life into the Kaffir Circus, for without a strong lead the public never enter upon a "Bull" campaign. It is curious, therefore, that, for instance, the firm controlling the Rand Mines, Limited—in view of the excellent position and progress made—should not give the shares some support, especially as the ursine party have taken considerable liberties with them. It would merely have to show itself a buyer in the market to put the price—now 29$\frac{9}{16}$—up three or four points, and as Rand mines are now the leaders of the speculative shares, an improvement in the rest of the market would follow. East Rands have been strong, and in this case good support is being given, the quotation being firm at 4$\frac{3}{4}$, while the return of Mr. Sidney Farrar from South Africa will certainly tend rather to strengthen them. Consolidated Goldfields are not so well maintained, being quoted at 4$\frac{1}{16}$. Modderfontein, on the other hand, have been firm at 3$\frac{13}{16}$, and Simmer and Jack have been steady at 3$\frac{7}{16}$. Deep Level shares ought to stand higher than they do, especially Goldfields Deep, now quoted 8$\frac{1}{16}$. Other Deep Levels stand as follows:—Crown Deep 11$\frac{1}{2}$, Robinson Deep 9$\frac{1}{8}$, Geldenhuis Deep 7$\frac{3}{8}$, Rose Deep 6$\frac{1}{8}$, Henry Nourse Deep 5, Durban Roodepoort Deep 3$\frac{7}{16}$, Knight's Deep 1$\frac{7}{8}$, Roodepoort Central Deep 1$\frac{5}{16}$, Nigel Deep 1. According to a cablegram received by the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company from the Barnato Consolidated, the reef in shaft No. 2 on the Ferreira Deep is 8 in. wide, assaying by fire assay 9 oz. 5 dwt. per ton. A better demand has arisen for Paris account, and it looks as if our French neighbours were again likely to take a hand in the Kaffir Circus, and in that case the much-needed support might come from there. One thing is quite certain, viz., that French capitalists would this time enter it upon more favourable conditions than in the time of the boom, when they paid very high prices, and acquired a great deal of rubbish, instead of confining themselves to the better-class stocks. The falsification of the estimates concerning the yield of the ore in the Molyneux Mines is a disagreeable feature, which must react unfavourably upon the Heidelberg district generally. Instead of yielding 18 dwt. per ton, it is found from the trial crushings that the ore does not pay. I should like to know why the experts did not discover this long ago! The Klerksdorp Company is in the throes of reconstruction. I have always taken the view that it would be exceedingly difficult to make this concern a success, and my warnings will have been useful in keeping people out of an unremunerative enterprise. It is extremely doubtful whether further expenditure of capital on the property is advisable. The Graskop Company has resumed crushing, and the shares have hardened to 2s. 1$\frac{1}{2}$d. Amongst the batteries which have recently been erected is one of ten new stamps on the Princess Estate. De Beers have been strong, chiefly on Paris purchases, and have improved to 27$\frac{1}{4}$, but the firmer tone has not extended to New Jagersfontein, which are quoted only 7$\frac{1}{4}$. Another issue of "Skinner's Mining Manual" is to hand. It shows a further increase, containing 1,456 pages of information, and is in fact in every way more complete than its predecessors. The following is Mr. Skinner's table of the world's gold production:—

	1897 Oz.	1896 Oz.	1895 Oz.
Australasia ...	2,924,153	2,376,132	2,365,165
South Africa ...	3,034,675	2,286,084	2,287,773
United States ...	2,946,300	2,283,445	2,273,580
Russia	1,200,000	1,150,000	1,250,000
India	389,790	321,523	250,640
Other countries ...	1,860,000	1,747,000	1,798,000
	12,354,918	10,164,184	10,225,158
Value ...	£43,859,958	£36,082,653	£36,299,310

Although South Africa still ranks first, it is probable that in the course of the next few years Australasia will oust it from that position, owing to the progress which is being made more particularly in West Australian gold mining. The list of mining directors and secretaries, given in addition, is also very useful.

GOLDEN WEST AUSTRALIA—A LARGE OUTPUT—RISE IN HANNAN'S BROWNHILL AND GOLDEN HORSESHOE.

In contrast with the dulness of the Kaffir Circus there has been a good deal of animation in the West Australian department, and record prices have been established in several high-class shares, while the tendency generally has been favourable. This is not surprising, considering that every assistance is given to the mining industry by the Colonial Government, whereas in the Transvaal a great deal is done, apparently, on purpose to hamper the mines. I quite expect, moreover, that when the new Agent-General, the Hon. E. H. Wittenoom, late Minister of Mines, assumes his post at the end of the present month, he will be able and willing, by the ample information in his possession, to further popularise the West Australian goldfields, while he may also be able to warn the public against certain duffer properties. The May exports of gold from Western Australia are very encouraging, as they fully maintain the figures of the last two months, which were in themselves very gratifying. The March exports amounted to 83,776 oz. of gold, the April exports to 84,083 oz., and those for May to 83,346 oz. This is at the rate of 600,000 oz. per year, which would represent a value of nearly £4,000,000 sterling. There are, moreover, a number of batteries in course of erection, which should bring up the output to a much higher figure, and there is no doubt that in due time, and at the present rate of progress Western Australia will rival the South African gold production. The list of crushings for the week is a long one, and shows many favourable results:—

—	Tons of Ore.	Ounces of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per Ton.
Mount Malcolm Prop. ...	475	351	5 dwt.
Sherlaw's	215	195	10$\frac{1}{2}$ dwt.
Menzies' Mining and Exploration	284	193	—
Do.	100	169	—
Do. (Cyanide)	180	50	—
Londonderry	450	675	—
Premier	770	337	—
Do.	438	403	—
Britannia (Mt. Malcolm).	580	734	8 dwt.
Cuddingwarra	182	187	—
Burbank's Birthday Gift	445	605	—
Lady Shenton	600	1,650	17 dwt.
Princess Royal (Cue)	200	141	—
Central Boulder	320	487	—
North Boulder	433	383	—
Menzies Consolidated.....	554	725	—
Australia United.....	345	715	10 dwt.
Mount Yagahong	670	470	—
Norseman	715	1,015	—
Hannan's Oroya	891	544	—
Ivanhoe	1,751	2,823	13 dwt.
Menzies Gold Reefs.....	51	61	7 dwt.
Do. (Cyanide)	1,100	730	—
Sons of Gwalia	940	958	—
Menzies Golden Age (Tailings)	173	£520	—
Wealth of Nations	640	396	—
Paddington Consols	1,290	780	7 dwt.
Burbank's Birthday Gift	910	1,238	—

The Londonderry crushing is very satisfactory, and if it could only be followed regularly by similar results, it might make the mine a success after all. I wonder how the matter now stands concerning the claims of the Company upon the estate of the late Colonel North? The Directors might with advantage inform the shareholders on this point. The Lady Shenton crushing is exactly on all fours with the previous excellent return, 600 tons of ore having yielded 1,650 oz., which was precisely the return for April and March, 17 dwt. are, moreover, left in the tailings, so that the ore goes over 3 oz. to the ton. Rich discoveries are also being made in the mine, and according to a cablegram just received, the manager has struck a lode in level No. 4 south, looking very favourable, and showing coarse gold and galena. This property is evidently being developed in miner-like fashion, and steps should shortly be taken to put up a further battery. It is, therefore, surprising that the shares should stand at only 2¼d., but I suppose that one of these days not far off they will take a jump. From the Florence Mine very encouraging news has been received of late, and under these circumstances the shares should be worth much more than the present price of ½. An important advance has taken place in Golden Horseshoes to 10, which is a record figure. I do not know who is chiefly responsible for this movement. At various times both Mr. Whitaker Wright and Mr. Horatio Bottomley have had their flirtations with this mine; but, as far as I know, neither of them are interested in it now. Personally, I consider the Hannan's Brownhill Company's property a much more valuable mine, and it is, moreover, on the eve of a very large output, owing to the completion of the machinery by the London and Hamburg Gold Recovery Company. According to a cablegram dated Perth (W.A.), May 27, the new machinery with the old plant will treat 200 tons of ore daily, and according to statements made at the meeting in December last an average of 3 oz. per ton was looked for, and the working expenses were estimated not to exceed £2 per ton. It is easy to calculate on this basis that the annual yield would be about 180,000 oz., of an approximate value of £700,000. Deducting working expenses of £120,000, there would be a net profit of £600,000. But reckoning only half this amount, it would be a splendid return upon the very moderate capital of £110,000, and would warrant a much higher price than the present one of 8½. By the way, my correspondent, whose calculations I gave a fortnight ago, returns to the charge as follows:—

> I see that I have under-estimated the profits, for by wire we are told that with the old and new plant the Company will be able to treat 200 tons per day, which upon my former calculations means a gross profit of £14,400 per week, or £56,700 per month. This on a capital of £110,000 is equal to a dividend of 10s. per share per month and £6 per annum, equal to 600 per cent. Taking the mining shares as a 20 per cent. investment (and many people are content with 10 per cent.) this return should make these shares worth at least £30 each, and I quite expect to see them at this or higher before long. Rand Mines, which pay no dividend at all, have long stood at £30. The puzzle to me is that Hannan's Brownhill, Lake Views, and some other of the leading Westralian mines, are now to be picked up at such low prices. The public will no doubt wake up when too late.

There is undoubtedly a considerable margin for a rise in Hannan's Brownhill, and the same certainly applies also to Lake View Consols and Ivanhoe, which now stand at 9⅛ and 6 5/16 respectively. London and Globe shares have moved somewhat irregularly, and are now quoted 1 5/16. An official announcement has been made refuting all the rumours which have been put about by interested parties concerning an alleged intention of the Marquess of Dufferin to retire from the Chairmanship of the London and Globe Finance Corporation and of the British America Corporation. The letter from the solicitors is as follows:—

> We have been instructed, as the solicitors to the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, to ask permission to state through your columns that the reports which from time to time have been so persistently circulated to the effect that his lordship either had resigned or intended to resign the chairmanship of the above Companies have been entirely unfounded.
>
> We are further authorised to state that Lord Dufferin, as long as he is able to discharge his present duties with satisfaction to the shareholders, has not the slightest intention of severing his official connection as Chairman with either of these Companies.—We are, sir, yours faithfully, LEMAN & Co.,
>
> 51, Lincoln's Inn-fields, W.C.

I suppose that one of these days people will wake up to the value of these shares, and in the meantime I give the strong advice to my readers not to be frightened out of their holdings in both Companies. At Wednesday's meeting of shareholders of the West Australian Market Trust the reconstruction scheme was unanimously carried, and Mr. Horatio Bottomley evidently still has the confidence of the shareholders, as a hearty vote of thanks was passed with equal unanimity. It is to be hoped that he will now succeed in retrieving the fortunes of the Company, and that in his future encounters with the Stock Exchange he will exercise due care, for it is well known that a duel with the jobbers is an exceedingly risky proceeding, especially if there is bad faith somewhere. Great Boulder Proprietary have eased off to 18s. 6d., chiefly owing to criticisms of the contract with the Boulder Milling Company, which is attacked in no measured terms in some quarters. At the same time the discovery that the reef has been cut rich at the 400 ft. level is a very satisfactory circumstance, and points to the permanence of that mine and of the Hannan's district generally. The encroachments of the alluvial diggers on the Peak Hill property bring into strong relief the measures which were taken by the Hon. E. H. Wittenoom, in the absence of Sir John Forrest, in limiting the search for alluvial to 10 ft. The law has, unfortunately, since been repealed, and the alluvial diggers are again on the war path, so that all protection for the property of the Peak Hill has practically disappeared. It is imperative, therefore, that measures should at once be taken to amend the laws. Fortunately, none of the leading Hannan's or Menzies' mines are subject to the alluvial trouble. Hainault have been bought for Adelaide account, and are firmer at 3. Sons of Gwalia have eased off to 1 15/16 on a less favourable crushing, but this is probably only a temporary occurrence. West Australian Goldfields remain in the dumps at 1¼, while Hampton Plains are fairly steady at 11/16.

Indian, Australasian, and British Columbian Mines.

Indian mines have moved irregularly, the great feature having been the announcement for May by the Mysore Gold Company of the enormous yield of 17,892 oz. Of course, there is a reason for this jump in the output, as 5,270 oz. was obtained from the plates on the dismantling of the old mills and tailings machinery. Mysore Gold shares have thereupon risen to 5⅜; but the other shares in this department have been weak, and declines are marked in all the lower-priced descriptions, such as Mysore West, Mysore Wynaad, Mysore Reefs, Goldfields of Mysore, and Balaghat. In Australian shares, other than West Australian, Mount Lyell have recovered to 10¼, and there has been an improvement in New Australian Broken Hill and in Aladdin's Lamp; but British Broken Hill have given way. Why is not Mr. Warren's report to the Victory board published? It seems to be bad enough, but nothing is gained by keeping it back. In New Zealand mines hardly any business has been transacted, and changes are slight. Waihi, almost alone, have hardened. Utah shares have improved to 2⅝, as a leading firm has taken over a large block of shares which had been hanging over the market. It is probable that we shall see higher prices in the near future. British Columbian mines have moved irregularly. Slight improvements have taken place in Waverley, Klondike Bonanza, and War Eagle; but Klondike and Columbian Goldfields Deferred and Dawson City (Klondike) Dominion Trading are lower. British America Corporation shares have moved within narrow limits, and are quoted about 19s. This is, undoubtedly, below their real merits, especially as important developments are occurring on the Rossland properties belonging to this Company. Thus a cablegram states that a strike unprecedented in Rossland has been

Lérina.—Finest Liqueur. Made by the monks at the Abbey of St. Lérins, Isle St. Honorat, nr. Cannes, and well known to all visitors to the Riviera. From all Stores and Wine Merchants.

made on a mine belonging to this Company known as No. 1. The time is coming when we shall hear a good deal about the gold production of the Klondike district, and there is already a report from Victoria, B.C., according to which the Government Inspector of Mines reports that the yield from the winter's work in the Yukon district will exceed $20,000,000, but that a much greater amount is expected to be recovered by river dredging this summer. Mexican mining shares have been firm, more especially Grand Central, which have risen to $1\frac{13}{16}$ on a very satisfactory discovery on the mine. There are rumours about that the Almada and Tirito Company is to be liquidated, and, as yet, it is doubtful whether reconstruction will be proposed. On the other hand, the Dickens Custer reconstruction has been approved of by the shareholders. Reconstructions are, unfortunately, far too numerous nowadays, and in many cases they merely mean throwing good money after bad.

The Australian Mines Agency, Limited.

The shareholders of the Australian Mines Agency, Limited, are being circularised by the agent of the Company in London and by some of the shareholders. In the circular issued by the Company's London agent, Mr. H. Watkins, it is stated that the litigation which has been going on for some considerable time between the Company, the English underwriters, and the late advisory board has now been brought to a termination, and it furnishes information which might be considered encouraging. The circularising shareholders, however—viz., Mr. William Smith, J.P. (a holder of 3,100 shares), and Mr. Alfred Backhouse (a holder of 1,200 shares), both of 16 and 17, King-street, Leeds—are of a very different opinion. They state that it is now two years since the last meeting of the English shareholders in this Company was held in London to meet Mr. D. G. Macfie, the Managing Director, at which time it was promised that all the necessary steps would be taken to transfer the entire assets of the Company to a London-registered Company. They point out that a sum of no less than £120,000 in cash has been furnished by the shareholders of the Company, whilst the only additional assets which that money has provided are the Gympie Freehold, which did not cost more than £20,000, and the money received by the shareholders in dividends since that date does not amount to £30,000. I have no means of judging with regard to the other irregularities mentioned by these gentlemen, but under the circumstances I am not surprised that the shareholders should desire the Company to be transferred to England with an English board of Directors. The Company undoubtedly possesses very valuable properties, which under efficient management should provide good results.

The British and Foreign Investment Association.

When writing on May 5 under the heading "Syndicate-Touts on the War-path" I made reference amongst others to the British and Foreign Investment Association, stock and share dealers, 4, Featherstone-buildings, Holborn, London, W.C., and I stated at the time that the income of £5 per week promised, or rather guaranteed, on each £100, being at the rate of 260 per cent., obviously at once constituted a danger-signal. I have since received a number of communications from correspondents who do not apparently read their TRUTH carefully enough, and as it appears that the British and Foreign Investment Association, in circulars signed J. J. Bevington, secretary, continues to scatter these effusions broadcast over the country, I herewith wish again to put my readers on their guard against what is merely a syndicate-touting business carried on under the high-sounding name of the British and Foreign Association. The last circular is dated May 26, and announces to "customers generally" that the Association "have successfully closed three more amalgamations, namely, in Spanish-Louisvilles, Canadas, and Spanish-Illinois, with net profits of 100 per cent., $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent., and 25 per cent. respectively, with an average duration of thirty days." Mr. Bevington adds that "taking into consideration the very erratic course of prices lately, the Association feel sure their customers will agree with them that these profits are very satisfactory." Then follows an invitation to join an "amalgamation" in Berthas (Brighton "A"), which was to be opened on Saturday, May 28, and for which a large profit was anticipated. Saturday, May 28, was a Stock Exchange holiday, but Friday night's closing quotation was $177\frac{1}{4}$, and to-day the price is $176\frac{3}{4}$. So much for the speedy rise predicted by the Association! But what I have more particularly to find fault with in the case of this Association with the high-sounding name is that they offer "discretionary investments" to depositors at fixed and guaranteed deposits, viz., the £5 per week on each £100 deposited with them, as above referred to. I am sure that the syndicate-touts who hide their identity behind the name of this Association are not philanthropists, and how any concern can for any length of time guarantee profits at the rate of 260 per cent. per annum passes comprehension. The British and Foreign Investment Association attribute their alleged success to the close touch in which they say they are with the London and provincial Exchanges. I should think that a jobber on the Stock Exchange, who is always in the market, would stand a very much better chance than a concern located at Holborn; but every jobber will tell you that they cannot achieve anything like these results, and I would therefore suggest that the £5 per week on every £100 deposited will probably be paid only until the inevitable collapse comes. At all events, I should like to hear from some of the people who have been receiving this return for any length of time, and I should also like to hear from some of the persons who have actually received the profits alleged to have been made by the British and Foreign Investment Association of 100 per cent. in Spanish Louisvilles, $33\frac{1}{3}$ in Canadas, and 25 per cent. in Spanish-Illinois!

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company, Limited.—With a capital of £600,000 divided into 60,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £5 each and 300,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each. This Company has been formed to acquire and carry on the business of goldsmiths and silversmiths, diamond and gem merchants, watch and clock makers, founded in 1880, and carried on under the title of the Manufacturing Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company, 112 and 110, Regent-street; 48 and 49, Warwick-street, and 48, Glasshouse-street, W.

This business is a progressive one. In 1893 the Company acquired the business of the Goldsmiths' Alliance, Limited (A. B. Savory & Sons), late of Cornhill. The profits in 1894 amounted to over £31,000, and had increased to over £50,000 in 1898. A good feature in this venture is that the whole of the Ordinary shares are taken by the vendors.

The New Brighton Tower and Recreation Company, Limited.—This is an issue of £125,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each at a premium of 5s. per share. The capital of the Company consists of 175,000 Six per Cent. Preference shares at £1 each (issued in 1896), 125,000 Ordinary shares (the present issue) of £1 each, and an issue of Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures of £100,000.

New Brighton is an improving town; but the capital of this Company appears to be far too large to permit of its ultimate success.

Great Northern and City Railway Company.—This Company is incorporated with a share capital of £1,560,000 in Ordinary and Deferred shares of £10 each for the purpose of constructing an electric railway of about three miles in length between Finsbury Park Station, G.N.R., and Moorgate-street Station in the City of London.

George Gale & Co., Limited.—This is an issue of £60,000 Four per Cent First Mortgage Debentures of £100 each. The Company was formed in 1888 to take over the brewery and wine and spirit business by Mr. G. A. Gale, at Horndean, Southsea, and Newport, Isle of Wight. The capital is £75,000 in Preference and Ordinary shares of £10 each.

These Debentures are not over well secured. The property may, moreover, depreciate, and a bad season or two would soon alter the returns.

The Klondike Twenty-Mills Concession, Limited.—With a capital of £100,000 in shares of £1 each, this Company has been

formed to acquire four leases on the gold-bearing river beds of the Yukon, Lewes, Big Salmon, and Pelly Rivers, each of five miles in extent and all situated in the Klondike-Yukon gold zone. The leases are granted by the Dominion Government for a term of twenty years renewable on terms.

There have been so many issues for the purpose of exploiting properties in the Klondike and Yukon districts that it would be as well to wait for the result of some of these before subscribing to any more.

MY LETTER BOX.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

GOVERNMENT, &C., BONDS.

Ali Bux.—1. Neither bond has been drawn yet. 2. There is no particular reason for selling these bonds, but I am afraid you have paid a good deal too much for them. 3. I cannot answer this question. *Northern Faris.*—I should consider the British Corporation stock No. 1 the most advisable to invest in. *F. R.*—Yes; Uruguay bonds should be held, and I do not advise you to sell Brazilians now, as the financial scheme will doubtless tend to improve their value.

BANKS, TRUSTS, AND FINANCIAL.

Duke.—1. No; I advise you to leave these money-lending concerns alone. *Alpa.*—The Scottish Widows' Fund and the Sun are both excellent life offices. *Mona.*—These Eastern banks are comparatively safe, but, of course, there is always the possibility of some trouble arising in the Far East, and, personally, I should not advise the deposits in question. *St. Chad.*—A good second-class life office.

HOME RAILS.

E. N. O.—I am glad you bought Metropolitan Districts at 27¼ on my advice, and you have also done well in clearing your profit at 29. Eventually, no doubt, this stock will further improve. *Curriculum.*—As a lock-up, Great Central 1894 Ordinary, at about 41½ to 42, are an excellent purchase.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN RAILS.

C. B. H. H.—If you read my last week's letter you will have gathered from it that traffics of the Western Railway of Santa Fé are at last improving. In fact, the aggregate receipts for nineteen weeks to May 14, 1898, were $789,707 (£59,724), while for the nineteen weeks to May 15, 1897, they amounted to $479,650 (£31,930), an increase of no less than £27,786. Under these circumstances, I think there is every prospect of the bonds coming round again. *Sigma, Torquay.*—1. Impossible to say. The reorganisation scheme is now being elaborated, and eventually no doubt these Terminal Bonds will again get their dividend. 2. Yes, I consider Alabama Midland Five per Cent. Gold bonds a good investment of the kind. *Sigma.*—Hold your Baltimore and South Western bonds. Whenever the reorganisation plan has been arranged the price will improve. *Veritas.*—There is nothing against the various stocks A to E mentioned by you, over which you might usefully spread the investment in question.

MINING SHARES.

Alpha, Dorchester.—(I strongly advise my readers not to adopt the nom-de-plume "Alpha" too frequently, as already this week I have had to reply to three under this cognomen.) No option but to hold Buffelsdoorn, and there seems to be no objection to averaging at the present low quotations. *A. S. G.*—No option but to hold these South African shares; sooner or later they will improve again. *Perplexed.*—The Jameson raid and other unexpected troubles have caused the fall in these shares, which should, however, be held now for a recovery, as the various valuable assets of the Company are improving in value. *Terrors.*—I think you might fairly hold for a further rise. *H. A.*—You should hold London and Globe Finance and British America Corporation shares for a substantial rise, which is sure to come in time. *R. C. S.*—Yes, you might with advantage make the exchange into Hannan's Brownhill, which appear to be bound for much higher prices. *G. T., Handsworth.*—East Murchison United (1) are a promising purchase, and No. 2 should eventually go ahead, although not, perhaps, immediately; but Hannan's Brownhill and Sons of Gwalia are the best of this group. *E. R. T.*—1. Yes, the exchange into British America Corporation would be promising. 2. I am afraid there is no prospect of a dividend, but many of the Company's properties are developing well, and eventually, on the flotation of some of these, there should be good distributions. *T. W. G.*—1. This is a question very difficult to answer, and you had better consult your solicitor. 2. Yes. 3. Very prospect of a slow recovery. 4. Not exactly. *Infelix.*—You are correctly informed; it is a good mine, but the manager was grossly incompetent. The matter is waiting for some financial arrangement. When that is completed it will be safe to buy these shares for an important recovery. *Medicus, South Norwood.*—It seems to me highly desirable that the shareholders in the Australian Mines Agency, Limited, who are moving for the transfer to a London registered Company should be supported. See remarks in my letter. *J. E. G.*—There is no market for the shares, but it is reported that the Company is doing a good deal of profitable business. *T. S. E. M.*—1. A fair mining risk. Hold. 2. No. 3. Nothing is known against the mine. 4. Probably temporary want of water. *Medicus, Laurencekirk.*—1. I do not like to advise you, as the past history has been so disappointing. 2. Only if you can prove misrepresentation or get the other shareholders to join you.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

Alpha, Cheltenham.—I really should not like to advise you with regard to the Russian Petroleum Company. It is quite possible that sooner or later some trouble will arise on account of the title, and anyone buying these shares must bear this contingency in view. *B. E. L.*—1. I cannot advise you with regard to this photographic company. 2. The British Hydraulic Jointing Company has gone to allotment. *Lancashire Inquirer.*—1. I have repeatedly warned my readers not to invest their money in the London Co-operative Cab Company, and I devoted a special paragraph to the matter in TRUTH of May 26. 2. Have nothing to do with the British and Foreign Investment Association. If you were a regular reader of TRUTH, you would not have needed to send these inquiries. *E. L. B., Wimbledon.*—The newspaper Prefs. are a fair investment of the kind, but, of course, very speculative. For the investment of your £800 you might select Welsbach Prefs., Yardley Brewery Prefs., and Brighton "A," or you could make a selection from Home Brewery Debentures. *S. E.*—1. No, English Sewing Cotton shares are quite high enough and very speculative. 2. Yes, this new issue is promising. *E. J. E., Aldershot.*—Welsbach Incandescent Gas Prefs. at 98 should suit you, as they are well secured and have no debentures before them. *J. C. S.*—The time for buying in is ten days, and, unless there is some special difficulty or misunderstanding about the matter, you ought now to have your transfer. *L. A. B.*—Sell if you can. *Dog Otter.*—The issue seems to be promising, and I have already referred to it. *Holder of Stock.*—Full particulars ought to be furnished every year. The Debenture stock seems all right. *Bridge.*—The nitrate industry is in a bad way, and I should not advise the investment just now. A further falling off in the dividend is probable. *Llong.*—I. Bovril Deferred are a fair investment of the kind. II. Speculative, but a fair investment. *Albion.*—This appears to be some sort of private limited Company, and as the clauses in question are contained in the Articles of Association, you cannot object to them. But I suppose that any Liverpool friend of yours, to whom you were to give your proxy, would obtain the necessary information for you. These restrictions are most unusual and unfair.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Rusticus.—I see no objection to your putting your money into North-Western (1) or North-Eastern (2), but the first might be preferable. Welsbach Ordinary (3) are an excellent purchase, and certainly preferable as regards progressiveness to Nos. 4, 5, and 6. *B. W.*—Yes, Barnato Consols should be held for an improvement. Certainly keep Norfolk and Western Prefs., and see remarks under "The Yankee Market." The Lake View Consols mine should pay another dividend shortly, and the shares are fully worth present price. The answer to the last question is "no." *Care.*—1. You cannot get 5 per cent. in English Rails. Brighton "A" will pay you 4 per cent. Central London should eventually yield good returns. 2. I have already referred to the issue of the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company last week. 3. Uruguay and Mexican Bonds. 4. No, you had better make no change. *Roker.*—1. Amongst the copper mines mentioned, No. 1 should be the most progressive; also Utah. 2. The brokerage depends upon the class of stocks bought. *Carnation.*—No reason to sell the shares mentioned now, as a recovery is probable. *Lilbourne.*—You should hold London and Globe for a further improvement. 1. No. 2. Certainly not. *Jersey.*—There is no objection to the investments A, C, D, E, and F, but Cable property (B) is not nowadays progressive, and you had better substitute some Industrial stock, such as Welsbach Prefs., which have no debentures before them, and are therefore well secured.

MY CHAPTER ON INDUSTRIAL STOCKS.

As I anticipated, a much better tendency has set in for Industrial stocks, and although transactions are still restricted, there are indications that the public is entering this market again. Amongst the stocks which have received most favour were Welsbach Incandescent Gas, the Ordinary rising at one time to 114, the Preferred to 98, the Deferred to 19s. The fall in the value of money will doubtless reduce the contango on these shares, and, in view of the excellent profits which are being made, much higher values will probably rule before long. The Ordinary stood at 125 a little time ago, the Prefs. at 105, and the Deferred at 25s., and there is absolutely no reason why they should not again touch that figure. The

CHINA AND GLASS. — Messrs. GOODE, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

profits will doubtless be largely increased by the sale of the new burners which are about to be supplied to the trade, and for which a very large demand is expected. The Ordinary stock is an excellent speculative investment, and the Preferred—which has no debenture stock before it—can almost be called gilt-edged, and is certainly as good as many debentures. The temporary reaction of the Ordinary to 112 should therefore be taken advantage of by far-seeing investors, and they will do well to buy at once, as after the settlement a fresh rise is expected. By the way, in America the Welsbach Gaslight is also carrying all before it. I gather from one of my New York contemporaries that the April profits had considerably increased, and that for May still larger returns were expected. The Company is as successful in litigation in the States as is the English Company here, and I find that Judge Dallas of the United States Circuit Court has granted injunctions in the cases of the Welsbach Light Company against the Smith Mercantile Company, against the Crowell Incandescent Gas Lamp Company, and against the Columbia Gas Illuminating Company, all of Philadelphia, restraining and enjoining them, and each of them, from further infringement of the Welsbach Light Company's Rawson patent. The most active share has been Russian Oil, the Ordinary rising to 24, while the Preferred are quoted 10¼. The question of titles, however, must always be a doubtful point about such ventures. With reference to this subject, Mr. M. Landau, of 6, Drapers' Gardens, Throgmorton-street, London, E.C., sends me a letter which want of space prevents me from publishing in extenso. He states that many shareholders have invested their capital believing that the promoters and directors, whose names appeared on the prospectuses, might at least be trusted to secure for them as a Company the legal right to hold and work the properties which had been purchased with their money; but that the contrary is the case, as foreigners cannot do so legally in the Caucasus without first obtaining permission from the Russian Government. Mr. Landau states that Mr. James Coke, who has recently returned from Baku, and who is an expert on Russian petroleum properties, was so concerned for English investors that he recently gave an extract of the Russian law, and pointed out that no English Company can legally hold petroleum lands without the consent of the Russian Government. Mr. Landau appears to have placed himself in communication with Mr. Coke with a view of obtaining the best means of protecting the interests of investors in English Companies, and personally I should advise my readers to be extremely careful with regard to these Russian petroleum concerns. The Lipton meeting went off satisfactorily, and the Ordinary shares are firm at 2 3/16, the Prefs. at 1⅛, I suppose that the new wine and spirits branch will bring grist to the mill of this Company. Apollinaris-Johannis are firmer at 11¾, and Coats Ordinary are being worked up by orders from the north, the Ordinary advancing to 60½. Threads are also firmer at 1 7/16, while the preminm on Fine Spinners is quite nominal at 1/16 to ⅛. Jays are easier at 1½, and Harrods remain dull, while Lyons are firmer at 4¼, Salmon and Gluckstein at 32s. Amongst the Australian timber Companies Millars are steady at 2¾ to 3. The Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company met with a favourable reception on the part of the public, and the Ordinary shares are quoted ⅛ to ⅜ premium. But little business has been transacted in Hudson's Bay shares, which are quoted 21½. There seems to be no longer any doubt that Whiteley's will shortly be converted into a Company, and it is estimated that the capital will be about £1,500,000; but it is proposed to await the end of the financial year, viz., October, before bringing out the Company. In the Cycle section so far no revival has come about, this being no doubt chiefly due to the numerous cases of litigation which are at present going on. Dunlop Ordinary have advanced to 16s., the Deferred to 9s. 6d., the debentures to 68. I hear on good authority that the Dunlop report will be out in about a fortnight's time, and that, contrary to market expectation, it will show a profit large enough to pay a dividend on the Deferred shares. It is under the consideration of the Directors whether they will carry forward the balance or pay a dividend on the Deferred capital. Humber Ordinary are better at 10s. 3d., while the Extensions are quoted 4s. 6d. Cycle Components are dull at 1 1/16, and Swifts are easier at 9s. 6d., while Singers have improved to 9s. 6d. Amalgamated Tyres are the turn firmer at 3s. 6d. Trent Cycles at 4s. 6d. deserve attention, owing to the very considerable assets of the Company, and the profitable business which it is carrying on. Schweppes have been dull at 1 for the Ordinary and at ⅜ for the Deferred, while Bovril are a steady market at 1 for the Ordinary and ⅝ for the Deferred. Allsopps Ordinary have been a firm market at 149, while in other home brewery shares a steady business has been transacted. Yardley Prefs. are now officially quoted at 4¾ to 5¼ xd., and it is reported that some transactions are being carried out which should impart an additional value to these shares. As the English Sewing Cotton Company had been issued seven and a half months ago, the special settlement which was completed last week was a heavy one, the transactions amounting to many thousands of shares, especially as the Committee had fixed the same day for the Lipton settlement, in which the dealings were on even a larger scale than in "Threads." I am told that the Clearing House of the Stock Exchange settlement department cleared between seven and eight millions of shares in special settlements last week, and it is undoubtedly to the credit of the managers of this department that all went through smoothly. The work was increased by the large number of small transactions. I have heard that one purchaser of 250 Liptons had his shares delivered in forty transfers of five each and five transfers of ten each, entailing a loss to the dealers of between £5 and £6 for extra fees and stamps. Anglo "A" have been a good market, and, as there seems to be very little floating stock about, they look like touching higher prices before long. The "B" stock is always very difficult to procure in any quantity, and may, therefore, also improve. A.B.C. shares have been steady at 12½. The Sweetmeat Automatic Company's shares maintain themselves at 3⅞ x.d., at which they pay just over 5½ per cent. I hear favourable accounts of the Natal Steam Coal Company. The output is steadily increasing, and the excellent quality of its product secures it a ready sale. The £1 shares stand at 1¼, and as the capital (£105,000) issued is small, an advance is probable. The Dundee Coal Company is also a Natal concern, which is, however, situated some fifteen miles further inland from the port of Durban. These two Companies meet a long-felt want in supplying a good steam coal in that quarter of the globe. Pahangs have been inquired for of late, and the £1 shares have risen from 6s. 9d. to 12s.; but I should advise great caution as the climate is troublesome and the property can only be worked during certain months of the year. British Tea Tables at 2½ seem to be quite high enough. Fish Oil shares have been somewhat depressed on forced sales, and at one time fell to nearly 3½, but they are now firmer at about 4 to 4¼. The Company holds 25,000 Volenite shares, which now stand at £4 each. Volenites, by the way, fell in sympathy with Fish Oils, but a sharp rally is looked for shortly. It is stated that the issue of the balance of the Ordinary and Preference share capital of Septimus Parsonage & Co., Limited, has met with a favourable reception, and the shares are now quoted at a moderate premium, at which a steady business is being transacted. The market for theatre and music-hall shares is reviving, and Palace Theatres are being picked up again at 1 3/16 in anticipation of a satisfactory dividend. Drury Lane are dealt in at 1 1/16 to 1 3/16, and Empire 10s. paid are quoted 3¼, ditto 15s. paid at 5. Gaiety at 1⅜ seem to be quite high enough, but Grand Theatre, Islington, at "par" look cheap. Tivoli are firm at 12 and difficult to procure, while Pavilions at 6¼ seem to be as high as they ought to stand. A good deal of discussion has been caused by the issue of the report and balance-sheet of the Reservoir Hub and Components Company, Limited, which for the period from March 10, 1896, to March 31, 1898, shows an adverse balance on the profit-and-loss account of £3,255. When this is compared with the glowing statements made in the prospectus, in which a gross profit of £30,115 on 104,750 pairs of hubs was held out as an inducement.

and concerning which an increase of 33⅓ per cent. was estimated by the directors through the Company manufacturing the article themselves—it will be seen how great the disappointment of the shareholders must be, and how grossly exaggerated the estimates were. I should like to add that I warned my readers at the outset against this concern, and that in TRUTH of October 1, 1896, I threw very considerable doubt on the estimates of the experts, and described the hub as an untried invention. I wonder how many subscriptions were obtained by the private circulation of the prospectus of the Flower and Plant Preservation Company, Limited? This concern was started with a capital of £80,000 for the purpose of acquiring and working the inventions of certain German persons for the permanent preservation of plants, flowers, &c.; but I cannot conceive how any one in his right senses could possibly put money into such a concern.—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

A COSTLY GIFT.

PART II.

FRANKLYN VAVASOUR did not sleep very soundly that night, notwithstanding his relief at the satisfactory termination of his interview with the police inspector. He was much troubled in his mind, by the idea of having incurred the penalty of "six months' hard." He broke into a cold perspiration at the prospect, and registered a vow that he would never be such a fool as to give another wedding present. But it was obviously useless to worry himself, and he endeavoured to dismiss the subject from his mind. One day, however, he had an unpleasant reminder in the shape of a question from Tom Pyecroft. The old gentleman came up to him in the "House," and said with some excitement:—

"Frank, my boy, do you mind telling me how much you gave for my daughter's wedding present?"

"Do you mean the—the brooch?" said Franklyn, uneasily.

"Yes: I don't ask from curiosity."

"Why do you wish to know, then?" Franklyn naturally inquired.

"Well, the fact is, it is lost, and I want to declare its value."

"Lost!" repeated Franklyn.

"Yes, or stolen. It was in my daughter's handbag with other things."

"Did this happen abroad?" inquired Franklyn.

"No. On the railway coming from Dover to London."

"When?"

"Yesterday."

"Good gracious! Then has your daughter come back to England?" exclaimed Franklyn, aghast.

"Yes. Didn't I tell you my son-in-law got a chance of exchanging into a home battalion that is stationed at Hounslow. Lucky chap, isn't he?"

"Very," murmured Franklyn, with his heart in his boots. "Then your daughter will live at Hounslow?"

"Not yet. The young beggar has managed to get six months' leave of absence, so they have taken a furnished house in town, near us."

"The deuce!" ejaculated Franklyn, blankly.

"Hallo! What is the matter?" inquired Tom Pyecroft, staring at him.

"Nothing! nothing!" said Franklyn, hastily recovering himself. "You say the brooch is lost," he added, with a gleam of hope.

"I hope not. However, the valise has gone astray. You didn't answer my question, old chap."

"About the——"

"The value of the brooch. What did it cost?" said Tom Pyecroft, impatiently.

"Oh! 'Pon my word, I don't remember," returned Franklyn; having, in fact, not the slightest idea of the cost price of such an article.

"Bosh! You don't buy a present like that every day of your life, Frank. Came from the United Stores, didn't it?"

"Yes," said Franklyn, hurriedly.

"Well, what did you give for it?"

"I think about fifty pounds," said Franklyn, at a venture.

"What!" ejaculated Tom Pyecroft, incredulously.

"Eh? No, no! I mean twenty-five," said Franklyn, with desperation.

"Frank, don't be an ass. You never got that brooch for a farthing under a hundred, I know," said Tom Pyecroft, with conviction.

"A hundred! Well, perhaps you are right. It *was* a hundred now I come to think of it. A hundred guineas," added Franklyn, in order to appear precise.

Old Tom Pyecroft stared at him for a moment, puzzled as well he might be, at Franklyn's evident embarrassment. But the old gentleman apparently concluded that his young friend's demeanour was due to diffidence, for he gave him a hearty dig in the ribs and went his way laughing.

As for Franklyn, he was fairly startled out of his wits by the unexpected news he had heard. It seemed to bring the "six months' hard" within the region of practical contingencies, not to mention other disagreeable consequences. He was so upset that he gave a wrong price, which landed him with a cart-load of heavily "flopping" stock, and he went home at the end of the day with a whirling brain and a suicidal tendency.

He endeavoured to console himself with the possibility that the thief had fled with his booty abroad, but it did not avail him long, for the next morning Tom Pyecroft greeted him with the unwelcome intelligence that the brooch had been found.

"What! Has the valise turned up?" inquired Franklyn, quickly.

"No, but my daughter, to her great delight, has discovered that she packed the brooch in her trunk. It wasn't in the valise at all. Devilish lucky, wasn't it?" laughed Tom Pyecroft.

"Oh, very," replied Franklyn, with a sickly smile.

"We've got a few people dining to-night, and my daughter is coming. You must join us, my boy," cried Tom Pyecroft, heartily.

Franklyn eagerly accepted the invitation; not that he felt sociably inclined, but because he was seized with a frantic desire to get the brooch once more into his possession. He had a vague idea of borrowing it on some pretence or other, and of omitting to return it. How he should manage this he did not know, but he resolved at all hazards to prevent the bride from flaunting it before the eyes of the public. His morbid apprehensions had reached such a pitch that he was tortured by a presentiment, amounting almost to absolute conviction, that sooner or later the brooch would be recognised by its real owner.

The bride wore the ornament at her father's dinner table that evening out of compliment to the generous donor. The young lady's intentions were excellent, but she little imagined the anguish and consternation she caused Franklyn, especially as she pointedly drew attention to it. It was conspicuous enough without this, for with its sparkling scintillation, it seemed to Franklyn to resemble the evil eye of some mocking fiend. He gazed at it all the evening with a sort of terrified fascination, until he almost fancied he could discern upon its glittering surface the horrible legend "six months' hard." He hoped, though with misgivings, that his conduct escaped observation, but towards the end of dinner Tom Pyecroft shouted out in his most strident tones,

"Hallo! Frank. What is the matter? You are not drinking anything. You keep staring at Bella's brooch as though you wanted it back again!"

"Nothing of the kind," cried Franklyn, almost fiercely, turning as red as fire.

"Well, he won't get it; will he, Bella?" laughed Tom Pyecroft.

"No, indeed, papa," replied the bride. "I would not part with it on any account. I was mad with grief when I thought I had lost it."

"You must take care, my dear young lady," said a grave clergyman from the end of the table, in a horribly clear, grating voice, "a friend and parishioner of mine, poor Miss Bigg, has recently had a terrible misfortune."

"What was that? Fill your glass, Frank," cried Tom Pyecroft, cheerfully.

"*She* had a diamond brooch as valuable as yours, Mrs. Rosslyn," said the clergyman, solemnly, "but she was returning home a week or so back from a dinner party, and she lost it."

There was a slight pause after this announcement, which seemed to Franklyn to last for an hour. Probably the audience thought the anecdote a little dull and pointless, and were disappointed that there was no sequel. To Franklyn, however, this "plain, unvarnished tale" had the deepest and most thrilling interest; for he never doubted that the missing brooch was the one he had found. It seemed to foreshadow the fulfilment of his dreadful presentiment, and he sat rigidly in his chair, petrified with horror and alarm. But it had the effect, after a time, of stimulating his imagination, for when the men joined the ladies in the drawing-room after dinner he had formed a definite plan for obtaining the fateful ornament.

"Mrs. Rosslyn," he said to the bride, as soon as he could get an opportunity of speaking to her alone, "I want you to do me a favour."

"I can't refuse you anything, of course, Mr. Vavasour," was the reply.

"Will you be good enough to lend me your brooch for a little while?" inquired Franklyn, with suppressed agitation.

"My brooch!" exclaimed the bride.

"Yes. You see I have a cousin who is about to be married, and I want to give her for a present a brooch like yours," said Franklyn, lying glibly. "I—I—find I must get it made, and the jeweller requires to see yours for a pattern."

"Oh, Mr. Vavasour, how kind and good you are," exclaimed the bride, rapturously. "Why, of course I'll lend it to you with the greatest pleasure."

In fact little Mrs. Rosslyn was eager to oblige him, and at the end of the evening Franklyn took his departure, with the brooch snugly tucked away in his pocket.

He did not hesitate an instant as to what he should do with it. He was absolutely panic-stricken by the coincidence revealed by the clergyman's story, and he had at once decided that the owner of the brooch must have it back again without delay. This was the only sure way of averting the danger of detection, and he felt that he could not rest until restitution had been made.

He therefore hurried home, and carefully wrapping the brooch in paper, enclosed it in an envelope addressed in a disguised hand to the Manager of the lost Property Department of Scotland Yard, and finally posted his letter in a distant quarter of the town from that in which he resided.

Though his action was due to nothing higher than the instinct of self-preservation, Franklyn felt quite virtuous as he turned his steps homeward, and the delicious sense of freedom from responsibility, now that he had dispatched the accursed thing into the hands of the police, made him entirely oblivious for the moment of the awkward fact that he had to reckon with little Mrs. Rosslyn about her wedding present.

Franklyn's first step in this direction was to go, in a half-hearted manner to the United Stores, to inquire the cost of a brooch similar to the eventful one which he had now parted with for ever. The price asked completely took his breath away, and Franklyn honestly considered that it would be quite wicked to spend such a sum on a mere gew-gaw. Still he could hardly expect Mrs. Rosslyn to be satisfied with this excuse; indeed, it was not a question of excuses at all, what he had to do was simply to return the brooch which he had borrowed. But how was he to do this when he had sent away the ornament and could not bring himself to replace it?

At length he was driven—for want of an alternative plan—to the lame expedient of pretending he had lost the brooch. One thing he was firmly and heroically determined about, and that was that he would not be weak enough to offer to replace the brooch. He counted, moreover, on Tom Pyecroft's magnanimous sympathy, and hoped he might so work upon Tom's feelings—especially after lunch—as to induce him to pay for a new brooch for his daughter himself!

Franklyn felt that this would be a masterpiece of diplomacy if he could only accomplish it, and he anxiously watched for an opportunity. Unfortunately, he was a little hurried by a letter from Mrs. Rosslyn, who wrote one day to ask him to let her have her brooch back that evening, as she wished to wear it at a ball. He, therefore, had to seek out Tom Pyecroft at once, which he did after the luncheon hour, but, though the old gentleman's face looked like a rising sun in splendour, he was rather disappointingly sober.

"Tom, I've had a great misfortune," said Franklyn, drawing him aside, speaking with due solemnity.

"Have you, my boy? So have I," said Tom Pyecroft rather testily. "The Château Larose was off colour, bouquet quite gone."

"H'm! Mine is a more serious mishap," said Franklyn, looking very depressed. "Your daughter has written for her brooch."

"Ah! I think it is about time she had it back," returned Tom Pyecroft, who, to Franklyn's dismay, seemed unusually snappish.

"Yes. I borrowed it to—for a purpose. But I've had a sad accident, old friend. I—I've lost it," said Franklyn with a gulp.

"Lost it, eh?" exclaimed Tom Pyecroft, glancing up at Franklyn with a slightly wandering gaze. "Well, that is rum, too!"

"What is rum? I—I was bringing it home from the jeweller, in my coat-tail pocket, when I was robbed—or lost it; I don't, of course, know which. Anyhow, it had disappeared when I reached home," said Franklyn eagerly.

"You remember the story the parson was telling at my table," said Tom Pyecroft abruptly, "about the party who lost a brooch?"

"Yes," said Franklyn, with a start.

"My daughter met her the other day; she was wearing it," replied Tom Pyecroft.

"What—the—the," began Franklyn, frightened out of his wits, and wondering what Tom was driving at.

"The brooch that was lost. Parson introduced my daughter to the old girl. The lost brooch had turned up mysteriously and unexpectedly; sent by an unknown hand to Scotland Yard, after a long interval. Odd, wasn't it?" said Tom Pyecroft, with a glance and a grin which made Franklyn shiver.

"It was lucky," replied Franklyn, as composedly as he could, though he turned uncomfortably red. "What am I to do?"

"You don't mean to say, honour bright, that you've lost Bella's brooch," said Tom Pyecroft incredulously.

"Honour bright," exclaimed Franklyn, unable to decide whether the old gentleman's apparent dulness of comprehension was real or assumed.

"Oh, rot!" ejaculated Tom Pyecroft, with sudden energy.

"It's quite true," answered Franklyn. "I've been to the police and done everything I can, but without result. It was evidently stolen," he added, not very convincingly, for every moment he became more nervous and flustered.

"It's devilish queer," said Tom Pyecroft at length, speaking with strange deliberation. "I'm very sorry, Frank."

"Of course, I shall have to buy your daughter another brooch," replied Franklyn, quickly, impelled by a dreadful fear that the old gentleman suspected the truth.

"There is no time like the present," rejoined Tom Pyecroft, with a coarse laugh. "I'll come with you. The United Stores, wasn't it?"

To Franklyn's guilty conscience it seemed evident that he was found out, or, at least, that the old gentleman

was bent upon investigating the matter. The mention of the United Stores completed his discomfiture, and he said tremulously:

"It is no good going to the Stores, I've been there. They have nothing of the same pattern."

"Oh," said Tom Pyecroft, shortly.

"No, but we will go to Lazarus's in Bond-street," said Franklyn, driven to desperation by his companion's imperturbable aspect. "We'll take a cab at once."

"All right. Don't forget your cheque book, Frank," laughed Tom Pyecroft.

Franklyn had no time to consider what he was doing. Impelled by a frenzied dread of detection, he blindly sallied forth in a desperate frame of mind and accompanied Tom Pyecroft to the jewellers. Lazarus's was not a cheap shop; indeed, if Franklyn had had his wits about him he would never have suggested going there, and it happened that the jeweller had not, among his stock, a diamond brooch of the same size as Franklyn was seeking, but only larger and handsomer ones. But with Tom Pyecroft standing by, chuckling over his discomfiture as he undoubtedly was, Franklyn could not pluck up spirit to leave the shop, or even to attempt to haggle about the price. His only desire was to get through with the wretched business, so as to be free to rush away and drown himself; and he therefore bought and paid for a new diamond brooch like a person in a nightmare.

"Better give it to me to take charge of, Frank," said Tom Pyecroft, as they quitted the shop; "you might lose it, you know. Ha! ha! ha!"

Franklyn was too utterly crushed and dispirited to resent even this brutal allusion. He handed over the brooch meekly, and retired to his chambers to brood in secret tribulation over what had occurred. The sensations of a patient while undergoing torture at the hands of a dentist were hardly more piteous than those of Franklyn Vavasour, as he thought of this awful expenditure. It was the worst catastrophe that had ever happened to him, and it touched him on his tenderest point. He literally lay awake all that night, writhing with vexation and rage; and it may safely be averred that the death of his nearest relative would have affected him considerably less. The one solitary gleam of consolation which penetrated the gloom of his misery was the thought that he had rehabilitated himself in the eyes of Tom Pyecroft. His exaggerated notions of the sacrifice he had made rendered it impossible, to his mind, that the old gentleman could still suspect him. It only needed the prospect of losing Tom Pyecroft's business patronage to fill his cup of bitterness to overflowing.

On this point, however, he had no misgivings, and he did not doubt that Tom Pyecroft must feel that he had behaved handsomely. When, therefore, he was boisterously greeted by the old gentleman in the "House" the next day he unconsciously assumed an air of deprecating modesty.

"Hallo, Frank! you look precious yellow about the gills," was Tom Pyecroft's breezy salutation.

"I hope Mrs. Rosslyn liked her brooch," said Franklyn, gravely.

"Of course she did. I told her what it cost," replied Tom Pyecroft, with a peculiar grin. "By Jove, Frank, you've been going it lately. That makes the third diamond brooch you've bought in a month."

"The third?" repeated Franklyn, rather bewildered.

"Why, yes. The one that was lost, the one we got yesterday, and the one you had made for your cousin," said Tom Pyecroft.

"Oh, yes! I forgot my cousin," said Franklyn, regarding his companion with vague uneasiness.

"But you gave her the present you intended, I suppose?" said Tom Pyecroft.

"Oh, certainly," said Franklyn, suddenly remembering the excuse he had made for borrowing the brooch from Mrs. Rosslyn.

"Well, that makes three, doesn't it?" persisted Tom Pyecroft.

"Three, yes," said Franklyn.

Tom Pyecroft burst into a loud, vulgar, coarse laugh, which made Franklyn's blood curdle.

"By Jove, Frank," he said, with abrupt indignation, "you're a real first-class liar."

"Mr. Pyecroft!"

"Don't 'Mr.' me. You're a liar, Frank, and you know it, and a good many other fellows shall know it, too, before the day is out. You never bought but one brooch, and that I made you get yesterday. I wasn't going to have my daughter done out of her present by a mean, dirty trick," said Tom Pyecroft, scornfully.

"I really don't understand you," returned Franklyn, with all the spirit he could muster, though his knees trembled.

"Oh, yes, you do. You found the first brooch you gave my daughter. It belonged to Miss Biggs, of Portman-street, who lost it in a cab. Then you got in a funk and made a pretence of borrowing it from Bella in order to restore it to the owner. You sent it to the police with a note in a disguised hand."

"Really, Mr. Pyecroft," began Franklyn, with a poor attempt at bluster, "I wonder——"

"You wonder how I found you out, eh?" cried Tom Pyecroft, catching him up. "You told me yourself."

"I never——"

"Oh, no; not in words. But I could see by your manner yesterday that you had been up to some dirty trick or other," roared Tom Pyecroft, who was working himself into a white heat of indignation, to Franklyn's great alarm. "Putting two and two together, it occurred to me to call on Miss Biggs and ask to see the note which accompanied her brooch when it was sent to Scotland Yard. I recognised your writing in spite of the disguised hand, and I recognised the brooch."

"Suppose I deny it," murmured Franklyn, though he felt it would be quite useless.

"If you do, I'll knock your head off," exclaimed the old gentleman with sudden fierceness and looking uncommonly like suiting his actions to his words.

"I—I was only joking," returned Franklyn, considerably startled by this demonstration, which Tom Pyecroft—a noted bruiser in his day—was quite capable of carrying into practical effect. "Indeed, the whole affair was a joke."

"A joke!" echoed the old gentleman indignantly. "A nice kind of joke it would have been for my daughter if Miss Biggs had recognised the brooch when she was wearing it! It was stolen property, you—you thief!"

"Mr. Pyecroft, I can't stand any more of this," began Franklyn wincing.

"That is unfortunate for you, because you'll hear a good deal more about it. You were right, perhaps, in saying it was a joke. The 'House' will appreciate it, I can tell you," said Tom Pyecroft, turning away with a mischievous grin.

"Stay!" cried Franklyn with a start.

"Well?"

"You—you surely are not going to tell?" exclaimed Franklyn anxiously.

"Every one," said Tom Pyecroft with unmistakable emphasis.

Franklyn realised only too well the ominous significance of this threat. Not many men would care to encounter the boisterous badinage of the Stock Exchange, especially when guilty of some equivocal act. Franklyn was at heart a terrible coward, both physically and morally, and he trembled at the thought of the opprobrious treatment he would receive. Already he beheld himself in imagination surrounded by a howling mob of his colleagues, who would join hands in a circle, and dance and jibe and sing ribald songs at him. Tom Pyecroft was a prime inciter and organiser of such Stock Exchange amenities, and could render his life a burden to him. Above all, Franklyn

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was really ashamed, now that he had been found out, of what he had done, and he dreaded publicity, both on general and on business grounds. He therefore hastily decided that Tom Pyecroft must be induced to keep his secret at any cost.

"Look here, Tom," he said, very white and tremulous, "I've made a fool of myself, but don't be too hard on me, old man. If you'll hold your tongue I'll—I'll give you a subscription to the Benevolent Fund."

"H'm!" grunted Tom Pyecroft. "I'm a steward at the dinner to-night."

"I know; that is why I thought if I put my name down on your list, we might come to an arrangement," said Franklyn eagerly.

"I tell you what, Frank," said Tom Pyecroft, who was honestly enthusiastic in the cause of charity, and was evidently mollified by the suggestion, "If you'll give something handsome, something that will remind you not to make such a fool of yourself again," he added significantly, "we may do business. You've never given anything to the Fund yet—suppose we say five hundred——"

"Oh, oh, oh!" gasped Franklyn.

"Guineas," said Tom Pyecroft sharply, with a warning glance. "You'll find it cheaper in the end."

"Five hundred guineas," murmured Franklyn, nearly fainting.

"Is it a bargain—Yes or No?" inquired Tom Pyecroft, making a move.

"Yes," said Franklyn, in a low tone, looking very white about the lips.

Nobody ever knew the reason of Franklyn Vavasour's unexpected munificence; but whenever he was commended or congratulated upon it, he was observed to wince; perhaps because, in spite of it, Tom Pyecroft never did business with him afterwards.

ART NOTES.

IT has given me particular pleasure to see that Mr. F. Carruthers Gould is about to have an exhibition, at the Continental Gallery in New Bond-street, of his original Parliamentary and political cartoons. Readers of this journal will need no introduction to Mr. Gould, for his illustrations were to be found for many years in TRUTH'S Christmas Numbers. It was TRUTH, in fact, which served to make known to the public a talent for caricature that had previously been given up to Stock Exchange subjects, though so evidently "meant for mankind." No "black and white" artist has more thoroughly earned the honour of a "One-man Show," which in this case is certain to be entertaining and, if merit obtains its deserts, should assuredly be successful as well. Mr. Gould's Exhibition opens on Saturday next.

To the jaded and bewildered critic, surfeited with the ill-advised profusion of the big picture shows, such an Exhibition as that now to be seen at the French Gallery in Pall Mall comes as a blessed relief. To visit it is like steering into the clear, smooth water of a safe haven after buffeting and beating about in the seething breakers beyond the bar. There are only three score and ten pictures hung upon the walls, in itself a matter for felicitation. And so well selected have they been that there is scarcely one which does not repay examination. There is absolutely no padding. The Gallery is so far true to its name as to give a special prominence to artists of the French school. There are three luminous Corots, full of that silvery light and atmosphere in which this artist was able to steep his pictures. Never, perhaps, has the essential poetry of the close of day been more subtilely expressed than in Daubigny's "Evening" (No. 11), a poem in paint, if ever there was one. A place of honour is deservedly given to Rousseau's "Fisherman" (No. 8). Frère's "Picture Book" (No. 12) has all the most striking qualities of the master. Looking at it, one recalls what Ruskin once wrote of Frère's pictures, that he could find no words tender enough or reverent enough in which to speak of them. They, indeed, as the Sage of Coniston so admirably expresses it "are all beauty without consciousness; dignity without pride; lowliness without sorrow; and religion without fear." Two examples of L'Hermitte serve to remind one how much our Mr. Clausen and Mr. La Thangue owe to this great Frenchman. I said just now there was absolutely no padding in the Exhibition, but I am inclined to qualify this statement when I recall Professor Heffner's "Early Morning on the Chiem See" (No. 39). This seemed to me to repeat the chocolate-box-cover sort of landscape which this suave Professor is too fond of giving us. On the east wall of the Gallery is a large landscape by a deceased A.R.A. which will serve to revive pleasant memories of an artist whose very name is probably unknown to the present generation of visitors to the Academy. "The Fallow Field," by the late J. W. Oakes, A.R.A., was the very picture, I am told, which gained this artist his Associateship in the early seventies. It is certainly a very fine landscape, and will bear comparison with those which our Associates of to-day are exhibiting this season at Burlington House. Pictures by artists of such varied nationalities and styles as Mesdag and Leighton, Millet and Creswick, Mauve and Bonnington, Israels and Goodall serve to complete an exhibition of exceptional interest and charm.

Captain Adrian Jones fills a large room at Messrs. Graves's Galleries in Pall Mall with his pictures and statuettes illustrative of sporting, polo, hunting, and military life. The exhibition is a striking proof of his industry, facility, and versatility, and cannot fail to meet with the approval of those thorough sportsmen who enjoy looking at a portrait in oils of Persimmon, or a plaster effigy of Forager, a once famous hound, I am told, of the Pytchley pack. But it would be unfair to Captain Jones to suggest that his work appeals to sportsmen only. He makes a laudable and by no means unsuccessful effort to invest pictures of sporting subjects with artistic interest. As a sculptor, I think, he shows even more skill than as a painter. Visitors to the Academy will not have forgotten the spirited equestrian group—four horses abreast drawing a chariot—which he exhibited there some years since. It has been suggested that this "Quadriga" would look well on the Arch at the top of Constitution Hill. Would it not be possible, I wonder, to try the effect of it in this position? Mr. Akers-Douglas is an enterprising First Commissioner of Works: what does he say to making this interesting experiment?

MUSIC.

COVENT GARDEN PLAYING AT BAYREUTH.

THE present popularity of Wagner's music was largely won by the vituperation to which the composer and his operas were for some years subjected. In musical, as in religious, or any other propaganda, there is nothing like persecution to assure a healthy vitality. Wagnerism, however, now bids fair to be injured, if not definitely killed, by ridicule due to the absurdities of some of its professors. Music which its champions pretend can only properly be heard in the dark—Tolstoi says it is hypnotism or craziness, although the sweetheart or the pickpocket may have other views—and amid other uncomfortable surroundings, is not the sort of deliriously enjoyable entertainment destined for a long and healthy life, so far, at any rate, as this country is concerned. No doubt some of the early champions of Bayreuth had a bee in their bonnet, although I am bound to confess that in catering for the gold of Great Britain and the United States they have shown a remarkable degree of method in their madness. But to insist that British audiences shall be dragooned like those of Vienna is nonsense, and however much the extreme Wagnerites may not have liked it, Mr. Maurice Grau on Monday was wise to refuse to follow them in some of their follies.

Bayreuth may still be a force in the Wagnerian world, but at any rate, there is now no need to imitate its absurdities here. Twenty years ago it was necessary to found an artistic colony of this sort if only because opera

on the "star" system was triumphant elsewhere. Londoners paid a guinea to hear a robust (not to say obese) tenor sing an upper C from the chest, and the doctrine of Catalani's husband, that an opera company should consist of "*ma femme et cinq ou six poupées*" was in full swing. On the other hand, Bayreuth insisted upon proper preparation and rehearsal, and engaged a school of vocalists specially trained for their work. As Wagner's operas are unconscionably long, and Bayreuth itself boasted insufficient hotels and lodgings to accommodate the whole of the visitors, it was necessary to commence the performances early in the afternoon. Also, as a matter of course, it was essential to darken the theatre in order to keep out the Bavarian sunshine, while it was found desirable and, indeed, wise to make a break of an hour between each act, in order that the audience might refresh themselves with the air of the hills and quaff the beverage of the country.

At Covent Garden all these conditions are different, and the "playing at Bayreuth" which was demanded by the Elect, though it was only partially conceded by Mr. Grau, was a vast absurdity. There is no earthly reason why the performances should not commence at half-past six instead of at four or five in the afternoon, while the extreme care with which the theatre was to have been darkened, and the nonsensical regulations, which, it is true, were at the last hour abandoned, of closing the doors and preventing people from going in or out during a performance which lasted two and a half hours without a break, were unnecessary and absurd. At present, of course, I am able to write only of the performance of the first opera of the tetralogy, namely, "Das Rheingold," which was given on Monday. Hitherto this work has been performed in two or three acts, but because for some reason Bayreuth thought it best to play the whole opera without a break, this nonsense has been imitated in the building which was once the fashionable opera house of Europe. Consequently, on Monday we started at half-past eight in a gloomy though, thanks to Mr. Grau, not an absolutely dark theatre, and, without any sort of interval, Wagner's mellifluous music went on till about eleven at night. To-night (Wednesday) "Die Walküre" is announced under somewhat similar conditions, except that the opera starts at five, and the audience—many of them ladies in the gallery, who are compelled by the new operatic militarism to come without hats or bonnets, and are provided with no proper cloakroom for their headgear—are, rain or shine, ruthlessly to be turned out of the theatre between 6.15 and 7.15. This, of course, is to air the house, which, with closed ventilators, would otherwise be stifling. On Thursday again "Siegfried" is announced, and the audience are to be turned out between 6.25 and 7.15, while on Saturday we start at 4 o'clock and proceed with this "dashed tomfoolery" until some little time before the vendors of lager beer close for the night.

Now, at Bayreuth people necessarily would leave the playhouse in order to enjoy the sunshine, the fresh air, and the view. But to turn hatless ladies out of the Covent Garden gallery, perhaps in the pelting rain, for an hour and more to wander about the purlieus of Bow-street, Long Acre, or the Market, is about as stupendous a piece of absurdity as has ever been committed in operatic matters. It may, of course, be that the genuine Wagnerite (most of them are Germans) prefers this dragooning. But by the average Britisher it will, I fear, be considered a piece of impertinence. Moreover, not the slightest arrangements had been made to feed the masses. Whether the management laboured under the impression that the salesmen of comestibles in the classic regions of Drury-lane would rise to the occasion and repeat the miracle of the few small loaves eked out by fried fish is not quite clear. At any rate, except under the penalty of a walk along Drury-lane and Long-acre, the 2,500 people who are to be "fired" out of the doors will, according to the official circular, have to choose between 5s. 6d. at the Cecil or 7s. 6d. at the Savoy for a dinner without wine or attendance. These charges matter, of course, nothing to the wealthy members of the Syndicate; but to the average man (or woman) in the gallery, who pays four shillings a night for a ticket, and carries the economical flask and sandwiches, in the hope that he will be permitted to consume this modest meal in the seat for which he has paid, but who is to be bundled into the street in order that the opera house may be ventilated for the greater folks, it means a very great deal. I understand that some of the suburban Wagnerites laboured under the impression that the management would provide dinners in the theatre, and that Mr. Forsyth was bombarded with letters and telegrams requesting him to reserve tables, after the plan adopted at the fancy dress balls in the same building. It would, of course, be unreasonable to expect the opera management to provide meals, but the decision to turn the people out of the building will, if it be wet to-night, raise, I should imagine, something more than a protest, while in any case it must considerably add to the discomfort of the audience.

In regard to the musical portion of the "Nibelungen" cycle scheme certainly nothing could be better. Whether we are as anxious as some people suppose us all to be, to listen to the long-winded utterances of that champion bore, Wotan the Wanderer, unabridged, may perhaps be a question. But it will, at any rate, be interesting for once to see Wagner's greatest, not to say longest, operas in all their relentless proportions, and to hear them under a conductor and with artists trained in the Wagnerian School. Moreover, almost for the first time in the history of Wagner's tetralogy in London, some intelligent attempt has been made to mount these works in a proper and artistic manner. In "Das Rheingold" on Monday, thanks to new machinery or, at any rate, to some novel mechanical devices, the young ladies who are supposed to disport themselves under the Rhine no longer moved with the jerkiness of automata, nor leaped the absurd heights of Fantoccini in the mechanical doll shows. We may still, perhaps, smile at the eccentricities of Loki (with his "Loki motive") and at the antics of three small boys in the sandbag with electric eyes which did duty for the terrible dragon in the Nibelung's cave. But, at any rate, the cast is stronger than even Bayreuth can command, and the performance under Mottl on Monday was, as a whole, infinitely better than could by any possibility be secured under the more economical conditions in force at the mountain theatre in Bavaria. Herr Van Rooy, who last year achieved such great success as Wotan at Bayreuth, now assumed the same part here. M. Van Dyck as Loge might not perhaps cause old operagoers to forget Herr Vogl, the original representative of the rôle both at Bayreuth in 1876 and in London in 1882. But Mme. Brema was fortunately available to play the part of Fricka, while Herr Breuer was a capital Mime. Best of all was the orchestra which played with the attention to detail and the delicacy which we expect at a Mottl concert, but usually expect in vain at the opera. The ridiculous steam squirt, however, should be forthwith abolished. The Teutons like these childish things, but they are out of place at Covent Garden, especially when they are so poorly done.

A gentleman in Stanhope-street, Regent's Park, has kindly sent me the Articles of Association of the College of Violinists, which, he says, will show me that it "is a genuine College, and worked in a straightforward manner." The Articles of Association of this College are, of course, filed at Somerset House, and there is no secret whatever about them. I have already stated that the affair is a company limited by shares, with the stupendously extravagant cash paid-up capital of £17 10s., while there is nothing in the Articles of Association to contradict the statement which I have more than once made, that it was founded by a violin dealer and his family, together with a newspaper manager and printer, a teacher of music, and a commercial clerk. Whether this aggregation of trades and professions is of sufficient authority to warrant the sale and dissemination of musical certificates and diplomas, with initials and other titles, I think can be left to the judgment of any man of sense.

The Articles of Association of this "College of Violinists, Limited," are, however, I find in some respects of a very

unusual character. For example, Mr. George Charles Foucher, of Westbury Villas, Green-lanes, Wood Green, violin manufacturer, who practically is the founder of the affair, is appointed managing director for life, or until the company is wound up, and he is the chairman of the Board of Directors and also chairman of any extraordinary meetings of shareholders. He has the power to make all necessary contracts, and his remuneration is embodied in an (undisclosed) agreement with the company. All other directors hold their offices for three years only, or until a resolution of the company removes them. Also there is a peculiar clause that no dividend shall be declared or paid of an amount greater than that which shall be recommended by the managing director, a stipulation which I should imagine in company law is almost unique. I also find in these Articles of Association that there is an addition, which had escaped my notice, to the Board of Directors. This is in the person of Mr. Edward Hazelwood, who also resides at Westbury Villas, Green-lanes, and is described as a "Decorator." This gentleman, of course, may be an excellent judge of the whitewashing of ceilings or the painting of park railings, but whether he is an authority on the granting of diplomas in music is altogether another matter. The company, as I have already stated, had at the time I last searched the register at Somerset House, a total paid-up capital of £17 10s.

A correspondent writes me from Camden Town as follows:—

> You have done such service in musical matters that I invite your perusal of the enclosed list of successful candidates of the Musical International College, London, examinations, a list extracted from *The Cambrian*, the chief Swansea paper, of the 20th inst. You will observe that the principal states that he is a "Mus. Doc.," but with a modesty which becomes a great man he forgets to state his university. He may possibly have one of the same type that you so successfully showed up in the case of Messrs. F. J. Karn and Churchill Sibley.

The gentleman in question, "Mr. E. M. Lott, Mus. Doc.," holds no degree of Doctor of Music from any university in this country. Some years ago, I believe, he had the more or less valuable diploma of "Mus. Doc." (but without any sort of examination) from an affair called Trinity College, Toronto, an institution which was then disseminating degrees throughout the country. This traffic was put a stop to when the genuine heads of the universities of Great Britain protested to the Privy Council. Mr. Lott, however, is a well known and distinguished church organist, and certainly does not need these adventitious aids to distinction in his profession.

On Thursday we shall have to congratulate a charming lady, Miss Alba Fricker, of Beckenham, who, I believe, weds on her twenty-first birthday, and who has already won a reputation in the world of art, on her marriage to a wild Irishman known to his intimates as "Micky," to journalism as "Gauntlett," to Drury Lane audiences as J. M. Glover, and to those whom he has adversely criticised as—never mind what. Mr. Glover is a busy man, and his honeymoon must be short. But it has been so cleverly chosen that he will miss both "Siegfried" to-night, and the five dark hours with "Die Götterdämmerung" on Saturday.

Mr. Glover tells a good tale at his own expense. In Ireland some little time ago, as he happened to be a member of the congregation, he was asked by the priest to play a voluntary. He did so. Almost immediately afterwards the guileless priest mounted the pulpit and made an impassioned appeal for funds to repair the organ.

The Queen's-Birthday knighthood accepted by Sir Charles Hubert Parry has been noted with mixed feelings by the musical public, and, I should imagine, by the recipient himself. Indeed, it is rumoured that he more than once refused the honour, which is certainly better suited to a City Sheriff or to an organist of St. Paul's than to the son of Gambier Parry, the brother-in-law of the Lord High Steward and one of the foremost composers of England. But I assume that as chief of the Royal College of Music, pressure was put upon him, as it was upon Sir George Macfarren at the Royal Academy. Sir George (I trust I may be forgiven by the worthy man who, whenever I mention that august name, writes to me that I am wicked enough to sell my grandmother for a pat of butter) at first obstinately refused to accept the knighthood as chief of the Royal Academy of Music, on the very sensible ground that it cost £100 in fees, and the honour was not worth it. And Sir George himself never did pay that fee.

I have been shown an amusing letter addressed by the editor of a certain weekly paper to a well-known concert manager, as follows:—

> I have received the tickets for Mr. Vladimir de Pachmann's recitals, but I should prefer to have tickets for *better class* concerts: for those of Wagner. We have not sufficient space to notice *inferior* entertainments.

Unless the disposition of the "Great Chopinzee" has greatly modified of late years, that editor need not be surprised if he finds himself pursued by an infuriated pianist armed with something heavier than a tuning fork.

I recently referred in TRUTH to the Musicians' Prayer Union. I have since received a note from Mr. Livesey Carrott, hon. secretary of the affair, to say that the Union is not a development of the Incorporated Society of Musicians. The whole subject is a delicate one, and I do not care to further discuss it. If any musician, or number of musicians, labour under the impression that they are not at liberty to pray unless they pay somebody an annual subscription for the privilege, they are perfectly welcome to think so.

Mme. Calvé has recognised the mistake she made in choosing Boito's "Mefistofele" for her rentrée, and she has since appeared in her two famous parts of Carmen and Santuzza in "Cavalleria Rusticana." In these two characters she necessarily shines to infinitely greater advantage than in the colourless rôles of Margaret and Helen of Troy. As Carmen she was as uncompromising as ever; while as Santuzza she beyond question displayed a higher degree of dramatic force and finish than any other prima donna now upon the operatic stage. On Tuesday this week she was announced to play the so-called vaudeville version of Marguerite in "Faust," in which in America she astonished her audiences by enacting it quite in bourgeois fashion, dancing round the jewels in the Garden Scene just like a young and enthusiastic Gretchen of mediæval Leipsic would do. M. Jean de Reszke has still confined himself to Wagner's operas. We have also had revivals of "Tannhäuser," with Mme. Saville, one of last year's prime donne, as Elizabeth, Mme. Pacary exchanging that part for Venus, while on Friday Frau Ternina, who has already sung here at concerts and is reputed to be a great operatic prima donna, made her début as Isolde. Whether from modesty on the lady's part or economy on that of the management, the Press were not invited.

In some accounts which have been published of the visit of the Covent Garden vocalists to the Zoo, one detail has been missed. The Russian bears betrayed great excitement on the approach of M. Gillebert. That excellent artist, as everybody knows, is of healthy proportions, and it seems to have been imagined, by his operatic friends, that the Russian bears had visions of a good square meal. It was nothing of the sort. M. Gillebert is a patriotic Frenchman, and this was merely the *entente cordiale*. But M. Renand feeding the Polar bear with cherries must have been a sight for the gods.

The concerts of the week must again be dismissed with comparative brevity. Indeed, the concert season is pretty well over, and except as to a few desultory performances concerts will practically come to an end with the present month, the season, however, being resumed towards the end of September. The principal concert of the present week was the Jubilee performance of Mr. Ganz, at which Madame Patti promised to appear. This was on Tuesday, rather too late for notice in the present issue. Dr. Richter on Saturday tried an afternoon concert, with such encouraging results that we shall probably have more than one next season. An overture by Robert Fuchs based on the classic story of "Hero and Leander," proved to be rather uninteresting stuff, but a splendid performance was given of Tschaikowsky's "Nutcraker" Suite, in some

respects the finest rendering of this popular work we have yet heard. Signor Busoni played Liszt's orchestral version of the "Wanderer" Fantasia and other pieces. M. de Pachmann at his recital at St. James's Hall was chiefly successful in Weber's Sonata in A flat, romantic music which exactly suits him, and in the inevitable selection from the pianoforte works of his countryman, Chopin. Mlle. Pancera was obliged to cut short her pianoforte recital on Friday, owing to an accident to her finger; but Miss Olitzka of the opera volunteered to sing some songs to compensate for the disappointment. Among numerous other concerts, I may mention those of Miss Macdougall, who is about to leave us for a sojourn on the Continent; Miss Ethel Sharpe, who introduced a romance for viola by Mr. Ernest Walker (played by herself and Mr. Hobday); Mlle. Colla, an Italian, who needs a little further study; Mr. Hirwen Jones; Mr. Jack Robertson; Miss Stanley Lucas, a young lady who is rapidly rising in her profession; and Mr. Aramis, who sings Greek folk-songs so well.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Sir Martin Conway supplies in "With Ski and Sledge Over Arctic Glaciers" (1) an interesting sequel to his "First Crossing of Spitsbergen." Please note the "s" in the spelling, as Sir Martin inveighs with righteous wrath against the crass ignorance of the infamous spelling Spitzbergen. "May God confound you," screamed the German grammarian against a sin of this kind. "May God confound you for your theory of irregular verbs!" Among the services Sir Martin has done to science let not his banishment for ever of this pestilent "z" "from the official publications of the Royal Geographical Society" be forgotten. Seriously, Sir Martin has rendered science a great service at much cost and risk, and with much courage and fortitude, by this exploration of the interior of Spitsbergen. Only exceptional pluck and zeal could have carried him through all the dangers and difficulties he encountered, and only exceptional scientific enthusiasm could have found exciting and made interesting to you so dismal an expedition. Even in Mr. Garwood's excellent photographs the country looks Dantesquely dreary. At the same time, I must say that Sir Martin has done me an ill service in upsetting a theory which I was required in my youth to believe on pain of scientific damnation. Glaciers, so far from excavating their beds, preserve them.

The old theory that glaciers not only polish but systematically excavate their beds is practically abandoned. Its supporters naturally considered that the larger the mass of ice the more vigorous would be its excavating action. A great arctic ice-sheet was regarded as an extraordinarily powerful excavator. We now know that moving land ice does not so operate upon its bed, but, beyond polishing the surface of the rock it covers, has mainly a conservative effect upon it.

Sir Martin lays also immense, but, no doubt, not undue scientific stress upon the distinction between the conservative effect of the forces of an ice-sheet acting on a land surface and the formative effect of the forces of ice in a glacial region. You will be more than pleased by Admiral Montagu's "A Middy's Recollections" (2), written in an ideally sailor-like style and spirit—modest, breezy, frank, and free. The Admiral, indeed, shows the highest courage of all, that of confessing a lack of courage. Having served both on land and water, he notes a noteworthy distinction between the degrees of courage needed in a sailor and in a soldier. On ship-board where you are comparatively inert and stationary you need more nerve than on land, where you are constantly on the move, and in action. When, however, I read of the Admiral's confession of being on one occasion "in abject terror," I recalled the Spanish proverb, "He can afford to go on foot who leads his horse by the hand"—so long as men know you have a horse they will not respect you the less for walking. Admiral Montagu showed sufficient courage on countless occasions in the Crimean War, in the Mutiny, in the war with China, and in above all in the chase of Chinese pirates, to afford a confession of "abject terror." Anything more madly reckless than his attempt to overhaul and board in a little boat with ten men a great junk armed with 32-pounders, and manned by a desperate crew of sixty, I have seldom read. By the way, the Admiral has the courage even to pour a whole broadside into the Admiralty—more power to him! as they say in Ireland.

To enable me to refresh my memory with more correctness of detail, I applied to the blessed Board of Admiralty to allow me the use of the official report of our proceedings in the *Pearl's* Naval Brigade; but this was refused—on what grounds it is difficult to imagine. Either it is the cursed system of red tape that pervades the length and breadth of that building at Whitehall, or possibly some librarian and his associates find the book-ladder too heavy to trouble with; but there live the records of the doings of the *Pearl's* Naval Brigade in India, possibly rotting on some musty shelf, and one who served his country—to whom reference to these books would have been the greatest service—has been denied the privilege of referring to them.

As for novels I cannot say that I have been fortunate in my fiction this week. Having read through the horrors of the first story in the collection "The Ape, the Idiot, and Other People" (3) I glanced here and there into its successors in the vain hope of finding something less gruesome and morbid. It was hardly a relief to turn to the prologue of "The Looms of Time" (4), which records the devilish ingenuity of Indians in the invention of deaths of torture. The connection, however, between the prologue and the tale is so slight as to suggest that they were not intended originally to be welded together. As for the tale, only the unquestioning credulity of boyhood could accept its improbabilities, and even a boy must doubt the successful impersonation by Carlos of the man he murdered. The prologue of "A Woman's Privilege" (5) is sufficiently relative to the story, since it records a conditional engagement made by the heroine which she uses her "woman's privilege" to break. Between her making and breaking it intervene many stirring incidents and ingenious complications, and a secret—the key of the plot—which is well kept to the last. It is enough to say that the "impersonation" in "A Woman's Privilege" is incomparably more probable and ingenious than that in "The Looms of Time." The characters, incidents, and conversations of "Sowing the Sand" (6) are life-like but hardly interesting. The young gentleman who sows the sand is so pitifully poor a creature that he did not need such a Lamia as Mrs. Eden for his destruction. As for the too fascinating *cicisbeo*, the Major, he is but little more of a man than Charley himself, while the rest of the personages for the most part are negligible quantities. — Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

(1) "With Ski and Sledge Over Arctic Glaciers." By Sir Martin Conway. Illustrated from photographs taken by E. J. Garwood. (London: J. M. Dent.)
(2) "A Middy's Recollections." 1853-1860. By Rear-Admiral the Honourable Victor Alexander Montagu. (London: Adam & Charles Black.)
(3) "The Ape, The Idiot and Other People. By W. C. Morrow. (London: Grant Richards. Price 6s.)
(4) "The Looms of Time." By Mrs. Hugh Fraser. Illustrated by Lancelot Speed. (London: Isbister & Co. Price 6s.)
(5) "A Woman's Privilege." By Marguerite Bryant. (London: A. D. Innes & Co. Price 6s.)
(6) "Sowing the Sand." By Florence Henniker. (London: Harper Brothers. Price 3s. 6d.)

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Here we are in our country cottage enjoying the delights of nature—the sweet air, the larks' songs by day and the nightingales' by night, the golden glory of the buttercups in the meadows, and the snowy whiteness of the may blossom, which now covers the trees, leaving scarcely a green leaf to be seen. It is quite delightful to saunter down a country lane, with real hedgerows at either side, and reflect that we might be in the heat and dust of Regent-street, with the roar of the traffic in our ears! It is contrast that makes things enjoyable, is it not?

Beautiful Gowns, both Day and Evening; Tea Gowns, Mantles, Lingerie, and Millinery, are to be seen at Madame OLIVER HOLMES', Court Dressmaker, 61, New Bond-street, London, W.

We never had so much nightingale as we have had since we came down here. On warm nights they sing up to two o'clock in the morning, but when the weather is cold, they tuck themselves up for the night much earlier. At about eight they begin, and that is the moment chosen for the piano next door to commence. Everywhere there is a piano! In this out-of-the-world spot we had hoped to escape that awful instrument; but, alas, where can one go to be safe from the desecration of Saint Cecilia? A young man next door sings Sims Reeves' songs. All his high notes are flat and his low one's sharp. His accompaniments are played by some one with but little skill, and the false notes are tragic—for us! They do not seem to mind them next door. It is too cruel of them to begin just as the nightingales enter upon "the first fine, careless rapture," and we are all ear to listen. Last evening a girl began practising her scales, stumbling through them with a wild racket, just as the sweet "jug-jug" began. Our groans were sad to hear.

We went to Bray Church on Sunday. It was our first visit to that prettiest of villages. It is almost entirely composed of cottages, and we entered the churchyard through the quaintest and most picturesque old gateway I have ever seen. Small wonder that the Vicar of old was determined to remain vicar of so sweet a place, regardless of King and Parliament, and their politics. We had to come home by a newly-made road, all bristling with the most dreadful gravel I have ever seen, consisting chiefly of miniature boulders, in fact. There is a delightful path across the fields, which has been a right of way for a long, long time for the villagers, but a lady who has newly acquired the property has closed it against the public. There is great indignation about it, for the tired work-people have to walk about a mile and a half round when their long day's work is done. I am going to find out all about it, as I know you are interested about all such questions.

I see that in a case of right-of-way Mr. Justice Day has decided in favour of the ancient right. It was a ferry in this instance, and the case was brought to the notice of the Commons' Preservation Society by Mr. Kearley, M.P. for Devonport. The ferry is between Medmenham and Hurley.

We Londoners are making our usual arrangements for enjoying the summer season, with the assistance of the river. I see that the Argonauts' Club has devised a delightful programme for their summer dinner. It is fixed for Saturday, the 25th of this month, and the scene is to be the garden, if fine weather prevail, of an old Jacobean house belonging to one of the members at Hampton-on-Thames, the very house that was built by Nell Gwynne for her son, the first Duke of St. Albans. Should the day be wet, dinner will be served inside the house. Boating dress is to be the order of the day. It sounds lovely, does it not?

By the way, some one has at last written a book about Nelson which has attractions for readers other than old naval men. Mr. Douglas Sladen's "The Admiral" reads like a romance. The character of the great hero is delineated from his own letters and journals, till now unpublished, and the story of Lady Hamilton is told very fully. Do you know that August 1 will be the first Nelson Centenary? Englishwomen who admire valour should think out some appropriate badge for the occasion. Perhaps little lockets with miniatures, or small *Victory* flags.

Patriotism is not expensive in these matters. And I could point out some in which it is an actual saving, if people would only get out of the old grooves and see things as they are. We went one day last week to look at the English silks and brocades at Messrs. Warner & Sons' wholesale warehouse in Newgate-street, and were quite astonished at the great beauty of the various designs and the loveliness of the colouring. A great number of the brocades are made for upholstery purposes and they are all woven of pure silk without the smallest admixture of dress or weighting in them. This makes them extremely durable, in strong contrast with the heavily weighted silks that come to our markets from abroad. I fear that we are not very discriminating, as a nation, for many of these silks, rejected by America, are sent to the English market and sweetly accepted by us. Touching humility, is it not? But not very business-like.

I am going to try to describe to you a few of the beautiful furniture brocades we saw, all of which were manufactured either in Essex or at Spitalfields. The silk from which they are woven comes from Italy, France, and China, our climate being unfavourable to the silkworm and its mulberry trees. What a triumph of science it would be to establish in one corner of England a suitable climate for sericulture by means of electric light and high wall wherewith to ward off our enemy, the east wind.

The first thing we took to our hearts was a brocatelle in mauve, pale green, and gold. A boudoir hung with this would be good enough for the most beautiful woman in the world. This fabric has to have a little cotton in it, in order to give it the requisite stiffness. We were also much taken with a brocade in a design of pots of roses in white on a primrose ground, and the "Garvagh," also yellow and white, was lovely too, the yellow shining like gold, owing to the purity of the silk. Many of the designs were of the picturesque Louis XV. and XVI. periods, and with the waving lines and delicious curves of these the Empire patterns contrasted with much severity. Some of the prettiest designs were English, many of them copied from windows and traceries in old churches. We saw a bit of the lovely green brocade with which the House of Commons is upholstered; and we admired extremely the revived material, damasquette, like the old silk damask, the designs being large and bold. One had the pattern in gold on red of a deep, rich tone; another, gold on black, and so on. It is impossible to exaggerate the decorative effect of these damasquettes, especially for large rooms.

A great number of colours are used in some of the elaborate brocades, and we noticed that chenille is introduced into a few of them. It gives a curious softness, the more so as it is in relief. For the King of Siam an order had been executed in brocade, with a design consisting of trophies of music and gardening in at least a dozen colours on a deep, rich, red ground. We approved the King's grand taste. The fancy ground called armure in some of the brocades struck us as an agreeable variation upon the plain gros-grain. One of these was wrought in a Venetian design, with gros-grain introduced into some of the leaves. Every one of these beautiful silks is made upon the Jacquard hand-loom. It was interesting to hear that before this was invented by the Frenchman whose name it bears, the shuttles had to be thrown by boys, who stood round the weaver, each of them holding a shuttle on which was wound silk in one of the colours wanted for the brocade. How bored those boys must have been. But what a splendid technical training it was for them!

We speculated about the pretty thoughts woven into some of the designs with birds and flowers and smiling, chubby Cupids, Watteau figures in others, and, in fact, the whole material of the seventeenth century poets spread out before our eyes. There were few geometrical designs in those days, when sentiment was in full fashion, and a kind of poetry, not always of the highest sort, made a thin veneer for the commonplaces of daily life.

We were shown a piece of the wonderful blue and green and gold brocade woven for the Gaiety Theatre, the design shoaling and shifting in these tints upon a ground of the brightest pink. I am told that it is extremely effective in the theatre.

Lovely brocades for Court trains and dinner gowns were shown us. Try to fancy a meandering pattern in white on palest mauve, and resist coveting a dress-length of it if you can. Still prettier was a blue of a nemophila tone, with a little bright biscuit colour introduced. And you should have handled, as we did, a black brocade without the smallest atom of dress or weighting in it. How

GOWNS FOR ASCOT.—Messrs. REDFERN are now making a Special Show of Ascot Gowns in their new Conduit-street Salon. The Exhibition contains a number of exquisite Toilettes, to which a visit of inspection is cordially invited.—REDFERN, 26, Conduit-street, W.

FRANCES MOORE has now on view the latest Models from Paris in Hats, Bonnets, &c. Special and exclusive designs in Toques.—8, Maddox-street, Regent-street, W.

splendidly it will wear! Silks for waistcoats, both the masculine and feminine variety of that article, we also saw. The deep sapphire blue was the nicest, but we also admired a silver-grey and a sweet pale mauve.

I noticed that in one of Marshall & Snelgrove's windows there were silks labelled "British Manufacture," "English Production," "Dorsetshire Production," and "English Striped Taffetas." This is a step in the right direction, is it not?

According to the *Ladies' Kennel Journal* the Princess of Wales is going to exhibit a white collie from the Sandringham kennels at the forthcoming Summer Show at the Botanic. Her Royal Highness has expressed her intention of being present on the first day of it, June 23. The National Cat Club Show is to be held at the same place and time.

"Clubland" is again to the fore this year with plans for the comfort and convenience of its patrons at Ascot and Henley, providing a lawn with luncheon tents, ladies' drawing-room, and every necessary accommodation on all the days of the two meetings. The management recommends the route to Ascot by Paddington and Slough, where brakes will be in readiness for "Clubland" visitors. The charges seem very moderate, some of them including railway fare and all expenses, and one great advantage about the tickets is that they are undated and can be used on any day. The same arrangement holds good for Henley. Clubland Lawn will be on the Berks side of the river this year, as last, immediately opposite the Isthmian Enclosure. Members of the leading Clubs, and officers of the Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces can avail themselves of the Clubland arrangements. It is in contemplation to extend them this season to include Goodwood and Doncaster, but that will, of course, depend on the support the management receives. Goodwood Meeting is on July 26 to 29; and Doncaster is on September 6 to 9. Should you know any one who would like to benefit by the temporary home that Clubland offers, the address is 175, New Bond-street.

The Albany Club grounds were looking lovely when we had tea there on Sunday. A good band was playing, and the breezes blowing from the river were perfumed with may blossom. Next Saturday there are to be tennis, croquet, archery, and quoits handicaps; and on the following Saturday there will be a rose fête and floral cycle parade, prizes to be given for the best decorated machine and rider. On July 2, when the Kingston, Surbiton, and Teddington Lifeboat Carnival comes off, there is to be a café chantant in the grounds of the Albany Club, and an illuminated evening fête.

Linda has become a member, as she loves the river so much, and finds that she can live *en pension* at the Albany, enjoying the use of skiffs, punts and dinghies, and keep her bicycle in the stables without charge. And all for three guineas a week. Sounds idyllic, does it not?

Christabel, in her last from Paris, gossips about some gowns worn by duchesses and other great ladies at a big bazaar:—

The Duchesse de Mouchy wore an olive-green foulard with a kind of white ring pattern; the bodice had a small tabbed basque at the back, the front simulating a pointed bolero over a fulling of white chiffon. Three rows of narrow white satin ribbon went round a flounce at the foot of the skirt and edged the bolero front. The capote had a white pleated chiffon crown, rather raised, and black spangled tulle all round it. Her daughter-in-law, the young Princesse de Poix wore a very pretty blouse bodice of white washing silk, beautifully embroidered with sprays of cornflowers seemingly scattered here and here. The basque, collar and cuffs were embroidered in straw colour, or rather the shade of ripe corn; the effect was charming, and the beauty of the work is that the embroidery is hand-worked in a certain make of cotton, that stands washing or cleaning. With this bodice she wore a white striped silk and satin skirt and black hat with long white feather.

Comtesse Ayméry de La Rochefoucauld, presiding at the refreshment stall, looked very well in a dark mauve or violet gauze over silk in the same shade; the bodice was tight fitting, and ornamented with a little white guipure laid on flat. The bonnet was of spangled tulle, of the same shade as the dress. Two daughters of the Marquis d'Harcourt assisted her, both very pretty girls, who were dressed alike in bluish-grey and white narrow striped gowns, the bodices trimmed square in yoke shape with a falling berthe of white lace all round; their hats were coarse white straw with black velvet bows and outspreading grey wings. I remarked also Mlle. Pauline Murat, daughter of Comte Murat, and her sister, Mme. Paul Lebaudy; the latter was in red foulard with white spots, made quite plain, except a little white fulling in the front of the bodice. She wore a black rice-straw hat and black feathers; the former was in brick-red gauze over silk of the same colour; the trimming on the front of skirt and bodice was of narrow red satin ribbon gathered on each side. A long gauze sash fell at the back, edged with this ribbon trimming. The black straw hat with feathers had the under part of the brim entirely of coarse white straw. Princesse Lucien Murat, daughter of the Duc de Rohan, was also there, in a pea-green ribbed silk with Watteau pleat at the back; her pink straw hat, rather raised in front, was lined with white straw, and had a black feather outside.

I observed here, as at several weddings and other réunions, that all the ladies, young and old, still wore the becoming frizzed or curled fringe, in front, and the hair well drawn up to the top of the head at the back, notwithstanding several English papers announcing that these styles are out of date. I assure you the owl-in-ivy-bush style, and other vagaries, are only patronised by shop girls and servants here, and not seen in the best society. Englishwomen are more individual in their style, I admit; here, they all follow the same track, and seem to have their hair done by the same hair dresser, and have the same stereotyped smile, showing teeth that have been apparently arranged by the same dentist.

The Fête des Fleurs took place on Saturday. For a wonder the weather was fine. As to dresses I can tell you nothing, they were so hidden with flowers. One four-in-hand had the spokes of the wheels bound with variegated flowers and garlands hanging in festoons.

To-day begins the "Grande Semaine," as they call it, and there will be lots to mention in my next.

Richard was attracted to the Aquarium the other day to see the Art Metal Exhibition, which has been organised by a Council with the Duke of Westminster as President and Mr. J. Starkie Gardner as Honorary Secretary. It has the unusual charm of novelty, for, strange to say, in these days, when there are exhibitions for everybody and everything, this is actually the first that has been held in London in connection with the ancient craft of metal working. There is a large and representative industrial section which must make certain metal workers—chiefly at Birmingham—regret that they stood aloof from the exhibition. But more interesting, of course, than the modern exhibits for ecclesiastical, domestic, and other purposes, is the unique loan collection of ancient metal work, armour, and weapons, to which the Queen has liberally contributed. A chalice of Thomas à Becket, swords of Edward III., Sir Philip Sydney, and John Hampden, a flint-lock musket that belonged to James I., a helmet of Henry VII., and the richly-gilt and damascened suits of armour of Henry Prince of Wales and the Earl of Essex are only a few among a multitude of objects of historic interest and importance. Some of the pieces of ancient armour and weapons are exquisite specimens of handicraft, elaborately inlaid with precious metals. There were, you see, dandyish warriors in those days, as in these.

You may like to know of a good way of dressing trout for a cold collation. The pink forcemeat is effective:—

Procure two pink trout, and some sole bones to make stock to stew the trout in. These can easily be got from the fishmonger. Bone the two trout, keeping the skin and the head of one of them entire. Put the bones as well as the sole bones on to stew for three hours with sufficient water to cover them, adding a blade of mace, 6 peppercorns, a bouquet of herbs, a carrot, and an onion. Pound half a gill of lobster spawn with a piece of butter and rub

Stooping.—A remedy should be immediately sought for a young lady inclined to round shoulders and a contracted chest. Consult Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., The Celebrated Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, Oxford-circus, London.

"Madge's advice—The "most up-to-date shop" for original Specialities in Shirts, Veils, Gloves, &c., is Lee, 100, Wigmore-st.

it through a hair sieve. Scrape the flesh of the smaller of the two trout, pound it to a pulp, add 2 oz. of butter and 2 oz. of panada, which is made by boiling some bread crumbs in good stock until it is a stiff paste, add 1 egg and 3 yolks. Rub the forcemeat through the hair sieve that was used for the spawn, and work it in a basin, adding the spawn. Now season the inside of the trout and cover it with part of the forcemeat, sprinkle it with chopped parsley, capers, and truffles. Fold the fish over and sew it together. Tie the trout in a wetted and buttered cloth, fasten the side securely with pins, braise it very slowly for two hours in the strained fish broth, then remove it to cool in the liquor. Drain the fish, wipe it in a clean, soft cloth to absorb the moisture, draw out the string and take off the skin. Now spread the remainder of the forcemeat on the side of the fish, smooth it with a palette knife dipped in hot water, and decorate the surface in a nice design with diamond, crescent, or star-shaped pieces of truffle. Cover the fish with thin slices of fat bacon, then with a piece of buttered paper. Put the fish on a baking tin with a little of the fish stock and bake it in a cool oven long enough to set the forcemeat. When the trout is cold, pour a little dissolved aspic jelly over it, and arrange it on a dish on a thick croûte of fried bread that is spread with green butter. Garnish the dish with a border of croûtons of aspic and an outer border of chopped aspic jelly.

"Guss Torte" hails from Germany. You will find it an attractive luncheon sweet:—

Pick a punnet of ripe strawberries into a stewpan, sprinkle them with 6 oz. of pounded sugar, and stand the stewpan on the side of the stove, giving it an occasional shake, until the fruit is quite hot, but not broken, then turn it into a basin to cool. Line a French-tart tin with good short paste, pinch up the edges, and put the prepared strawberries in the bottom. Break 2 eggs into a basin, add 2 oz. of blanched and pounded almonds, 2 oz. of castor sugar, a pinch of cinnamon and half a teacupful of sour cream. Whisk the mixture until it is quite light, pour it upon the fruit, and bake the tart for an hour in a moderate oven, when it should be a delicate brown colour.

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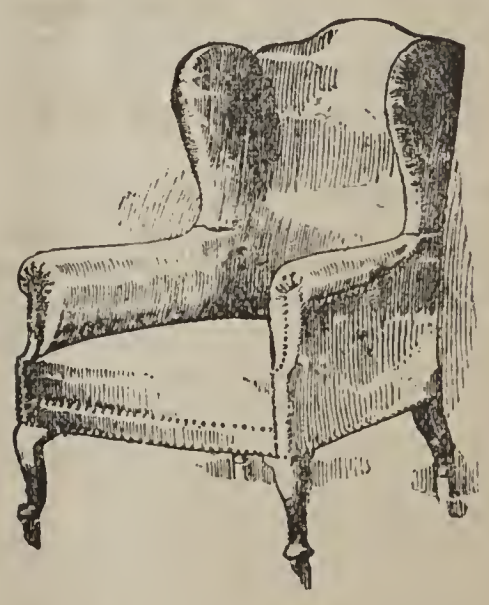

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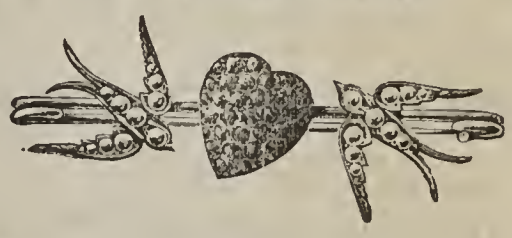

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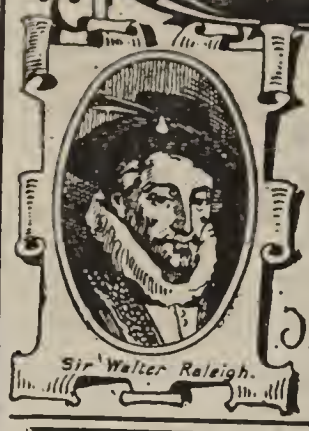

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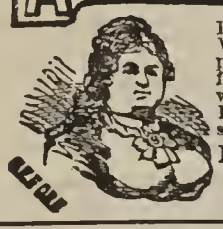

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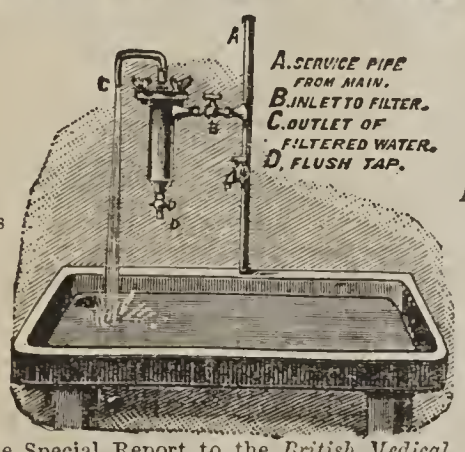

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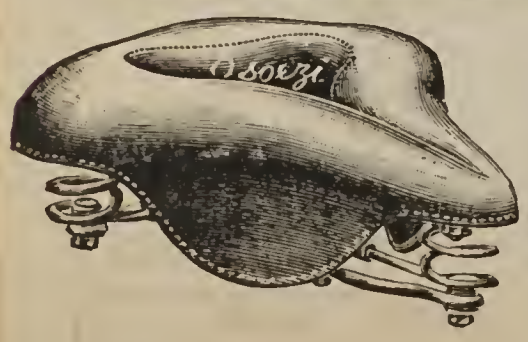

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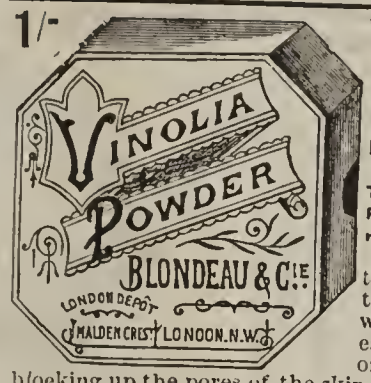

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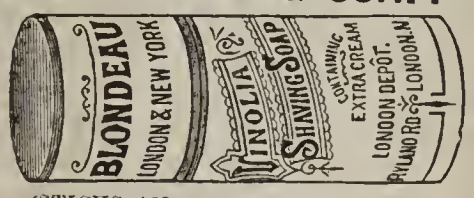

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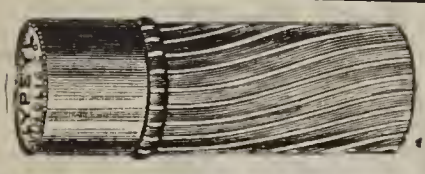

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"Vinolia Eau de Cologne we consider is absolutely unequalled for strength, purity, and delicacy of aroma."

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3d per 2-oz. Packet. VINOLIA VIOLET POWDER.

Sanitary. Antiseptic. Soothing.

Specially prepared for Toilet and Nursery use.

In 2-oz. and ¼-lb. Packets, 3d. & 6d.
In ¼-lb. Tins, 6d.
In ½-lb. Tins, 9d.

VINOLIA COMPANY, Ltd., MALDEN CRESCENT, LONDON, N.W.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH

Is the BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE in the WORLD.

PREVENTS THE DECAY OF THE TEETH.

Renders the Teeth Pearly White.

IS PERFECTLY HARMLESS AND DELICIOUS TO THE TASTE.

Is Partly Composed of Honey, and Extracts from Sweet Herbs and Plants.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World.

2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER,

Only put in Glass Jars, Price 1s.

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from Falling off.

Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.

Being delicately perfumed, it leaves no Unpleasant Odour.

IS NOT A DYE.

Should be in every House where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.

ASK YOUR CHEMIST OR HAIRDRESSER FOR

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per bottle.

A HEALTHY HOME

Is obtained by using "PEGAMOID" Brand Leathers, Wall Papers, Window Blinds, Paints, &c., throughout the same.

THE PEGAMOID BRAND.

LEATHER for Furniture, Carriages, &c., is cheaper than Morocco. Durable, Dirtproof, Scratchproof. Supplied in scores of designs. Easily cleaned with a damp sponge.

WINDOW BLINDS never need be sent to the cleaners, as they can be washed with soap and water by the housemaid, without removal.

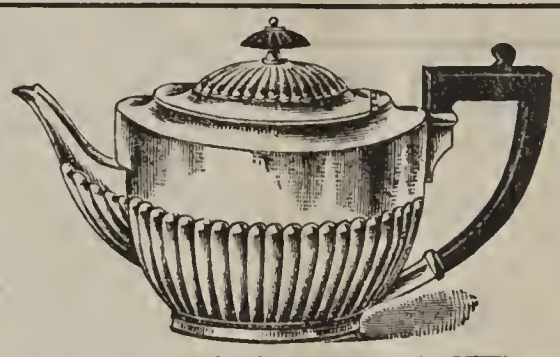
PAINTS, ENAMELS, &c., For Iron, Wood, and Stone Work, Artistic Decorations. Impervious to, and unaffected by Weather, Oils, Acids, and Gases. Germproof and Washable.

Apply to your Upholsterers and Decorators for Patterns and Prices. Applications from the trade only to

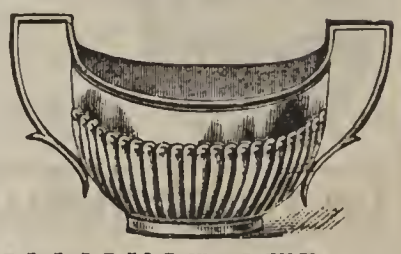
PEGAMOID LIMITED,

144, QUEEN VICTORIA ST., London, E.C.

Agencies in Manchester, Liverpool, Glasgow, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Birmingham, Bristol, and Southampton.



Solid Silver, £4 4s.



Substantially made afternoon tea set on approval. If you decide within two weeks that you do not want it, the money will be returned. Every piece is the highest strength consistent with neatness, and will last a life-time. English Hall Marked.

Delivered safe and secure on receipt of

£4 4s.

WATCHMAKERS' ALLIANCE LTD.,

227, Regent-st., & 184, Oxford-st., London.

The Purest and the Nicest.

Hovis Bread

Perfectly Self Digestive.

Hovis Bread is baked and delivered daily by all good class Bakers in the British Isles; **Hovis Biscuits** are sold by most Grocers and Bakers; or 6d. and 1s. Samples of Bread and Biscuits will be sent on receipt of stamps by THE HOVIS-BREAD FLOUR CO., LTD., Millers, Macclesfield.

The VICTORIA DATE CO., Ltd., Food and Condiment Specialists, beg to draw attention to the following preparations, for the purity and general excellence of which they have obtained numerous awards—Gold Medals, &c.

Victoria Date Vinegar.

The New Vinegar. This condiment is prepared exclusively from dates. It is absolutely pure. Culinary experts pronounce it far superior for Cooking and Pickling purposes to Malt or White Wine Vinegars, as, though of a similar flavour to these, it is non-injurious, and can therefore be used with impunity by the most dyspeptic. It is far and away the best for table use. The leading Pickle and Sauce Manufacturers use it exclusively, among others, POTTER'S PERFECT PICKLES are prepared in Victoria Date Vinegar.

Derby Sauce.

This new Sauce has rapidly taken the first place in popular favour. A trial is sufficient to give it a permanent place in the cruet. Prepared from a Persian recipe of wide reputation in the East, it is a delightful appetiser. It is intended for use with Cold Meats, Chops, Steaks, &c.

Worcester Sauce.

This resembles other sauces of the same name in flavour, but possesses the unique quality of absolute purity.

The VICTORIA DATE CO., Ltd., will have much pleasure in forwarding tasting samples, post free, to applicants who will write to them, mentioning this paper, to Victoria Works, 112, Belvedere Road, Lambeth, London, S.E.

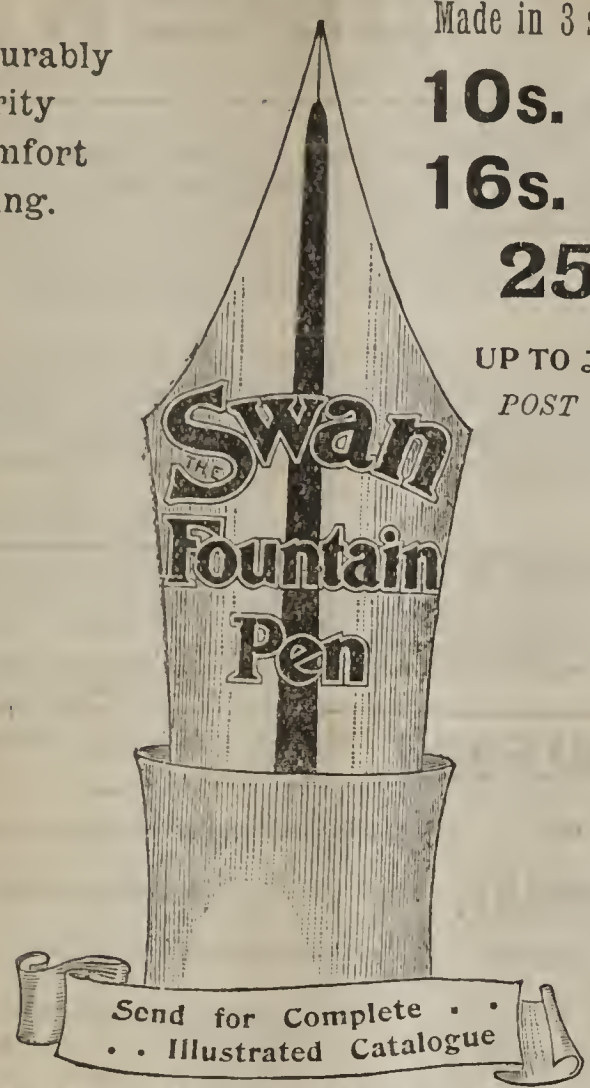
For Longhand, Shorthand, Pen-and-Ink Drawing, Music-Writing, indeed, whenever a Pen is necessary, use only a "SWAN."

Adds immeasurably to Celerity and Comfort in writing. Of all Pens most famous.

Made in 3 sizes at

10s. 6d.
16s. 6d.
25s.

UP TO £18 18s.
POST FREE.



MABIE, TODD & BARD,
DEPT. C. I.
93, Cheapside, London, E.C.
95a, REGENT ST., W., and 3, EXCHANGE ST., MANCHESTER.

Learning to write with the pen is a wearisome task. . .

But nothing can be simpler or more delightful than learning to manipulate

THE . . .

YOST

. . . Typewriter,

AND THE BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM ITS USE ARE TESTIFIED TO BY AN ARMY OF PEOPLE

INVALUABLE to the Clergyman, the Judge, the Lawyer, the Editor, the Physician, the Business Man, and ALL WHO HAVE MUCH WRITING TO DO.

Sent on One Month's Hire, or Free Trial for Seven Days.

The YOST Typewriter Co., Ltd.,
50, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

Achille Serre
HIGH CLASS DYER AND CLEANER,
263, OXFORD STREET,
& 10, NEW BOND STREET, W.
THE MOST ELABORATE COSTUME CLEANED WHOLE.
ALL COUNTRY ORDERS TO BE SENT TO
Works: White Post Lane, Hackney Wick, London, E.
WRITE FOR PRICE LIST.
CARRIAGE PAID ONE WAY ON ALL COUNTRY ORDERS.

NOTICE. THE NEW

"CRICKLITE" LAMPS

FOR DINNER TABLES AND DRAWING ROOMS.
Can be SEEN and purchased ONLY at
75, REGENT STREET, next door to St. James's Hall, and
156, REGENT STREET, AND NOWHERE ELSE.
A Special Set of CRICKLITE LAMPS expressly made for HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY the SULTAN of TURKEY is now on view.
N.B.—Please write for the new Book of Designs, Now Ready.

Mülhens' "Rhine Violets"

4711 TRADE MARK.

READ THIS

From the "ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS."

. . . One cannot but feel eternally indebted to Mr. Ferd. Mülhens for having invented so altogether delicious and delightful a perfume as the "Rhine Violets." . . Little wonder indeed that this king of scents should be imitated as widely and piratically as it assuredly is, for no essence of modern times has approached its well-merited fame and favour. . . . Rhine Violets perfume is one thing and Mülhens' "Rhine Violets" (as sold by all good Chemists) is another, and if all who have tested the fragrant and delicious essences which bear this inventor's name would insist on seeing it on the labels, there would be fewer ensuing disillusionments. . . . Mülhens has, in fact, discovered and perfected the following special perfume of "Rhine Violets" — "Maréchal Niel," "Rhine Gold," and "Malmaison," and without the magic prefix of his name, it may be taken that all such so-called scents are but "base-born counterfeits." . . .

3/-, 5/6, 9/-, 20/- *per bottle.*
"Rhine Violet" Sachets, 2/6 each.
"Rhine Violet" Soap, 2/6 per tablet, or 7/- per box of 3 tablets.
Of most dealers in first-class Perfumes, or from

4711 Depot, 62, NEW BOND STREET, W.

CARTER 6A NEW CAVENDISH ST. PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON.

ONLY ADDRESS OF ORIGINAL CARTER
LITERARY MACHINE.

For holding book, lamp, meals, &c., in any position over an easy chair, bed, or sofa.
Deliciously luxurious. A most useful gift. Prices from **17/6**

Carrying Chairs from £1.
Breakfast in Bed Tables from 30/-

INVALID FURNITURE.
ADJUSTABLE COUCHES and BEDS from £1. 10/-

Bed Lift £3. 10/-
Reclining Boards, 25/-
Walking Machines
Portable W.C.'s.
Electric Bells, Urinals, &c.
Air & Water Beds.

Bed Rests 7/6
Leg Rests 10/-
Crutches 10/6
Bed Baths 12 6
Commodes, £1. 5/-

Self-Propelling Chairs from £2

BATH CHAIRS FROM **£1. 5/-**

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES POST FREE.

JOHN CARTER, 6a, NEW CAVENDISH ST. Portland-pl. London, W.

REAL GERMAN HOLLOW GROUND

KROPP RAZOR

Black Handle 5/6 | Pair, Ivory Handles, in Russia Leather Case. 21/-
Ivory Handle 7/6 | Kropp's Duplex Strop 7/6
Kropp's Strop Paste ...6d.

☞ *Write for Pamphlet,* "Shaver's Kit and Outfit." *Post free.*

Wholesale: OSBORNE, GARRETT, & CO., LONDON, W.

MASSAGE AT HOME.

The MATTO CHAIN

Used by Sandow and all the leading Athletes, Cyclists, &c.
Recommended by the Medical Profession.
For Liver Complaints, Rheumatism, and all Nervous Disorders. Prevents Obesity.

Price 7s. 6d. each. By Post, 4d. extra. From all Chemists.

MATTO LIMITED, 32 & 34, Clerkenwell-rd. London, E.C.

BEST & SAFEST DENTIFRICE
SOLD BY ALL CHEMISTS AND PERFUMERS IN ELEGANT CRYSTAL TOILET CASKET
PRICE 2/6.
ALSO IN PATENT METALLIC BOX
PRICE 1/-

PRESERVE YOUR TEETH
BY USING THE
OS TOOTH BLOCK

Established 20 years
OVER 3000 TESTIMONIALS

BEST AND SAFEST NATURAL APERIENT.

Hunyadi János

"The Prototype of all Bitter Waters."
THE LANCET.

CAUTION.
Every Bottle bears the Signature of the Proprietor, ANDREAS SAXLEHNER.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—
Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £30,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.
THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd. Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

NEW YORK CENTRAL & HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD CO.
3½ PER CENT. GOLD MORTGAGE BONDS OF 1997.

London and New York,
1st June, 1898.

Referring to our Circular of 19th February, 1898, offering to exchange various New York Central & Hudson River Railroad Co. Bonds for the New 3½ per cent. Gold Mortgage Bonds of 1997 of the same Company, we hereby give notice that our offer to supply the New Bonds at 103½ and interest will be withdrawn on the 10th instant, after which date the rate will be 104 and interest.
New York Central 4 per cent. Debentures of 1905 will be received at 103$\frac{3}{8}$ ex coupon due 1st June.

J. S. MORGAN & Co.
J. P. MORGAN & Co.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

H. HALFORD and COMPANY,

70 and 71,
Palmerston Buildings,
Old Broad Street,
London.

ESTABLISHED 1869.

Business in Stocks and Shares at close prices.

Dealings reported by wire if required.

Prompt Settlements.

Thousands of Testimonials from Clients.

Americans and Canadians a Speciality. Also Westralians and Kaffirs.

Lists of Closing Prices gratis.

Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER FIRM.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.
Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.
A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

LIQUEURS OF THE GRANDE CHARTREUSE.

These delicious Liqueurs, which have come so much into public favour on account of their wonderful properties of aiding Digestion and preventing Dyspepsia, can now be had of all the principal Wine and Spirit Merchants, and all good Hotels and Restaurants throughout the Kingdom.
Sole Consignee: W. DOYLE, 35, Crutched Friars, London, E.C

DENTAKON

For Cleaning
ARTIFICIAL TEETH,
EITHER
Gold, Platinum, or Vulcanite,
Deodorizing, Disinfecting, removing **Grease,** keeping them **Bright** and **Clean** as when new.
ALL WEARERS SHOULD TRY IT.
Recommended by many eminent Dentists.
In Boxes, 1s. 6d., through any Chemist, or Post free from Maker,
C. LOWE, Chemist, Surbiton, S.W.

GOUT AND RHEUMATISM.

All Pain, Swelling, and Inflammation disappear after two to three doses of Dr. LIND'S (M.D.) Specific
"LINDINE."
GUARANTEED HARMLESS. NEVER FAILS. Price **5s.** per Bottle, with full directions and Advice, from the
Sole Proprietor: **O. E. HORN, D.Sc., Bournemouth.**

The Subscription List will close on or before Wednesday, June 8th, for Town and Country.

The Goldsmiths' & Silversmiths' Co.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893. **LIMITED.**

CAPITAL - - £600,000,

DIVIDED INTO

60,000 Five per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each	**£300,000**
300,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each	**300,000**
	£600,000

The Preference Shares will be entitled to a fixed Cumulative Preference Dividend of 5 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly in March and September in each year, and will also be entitled to rank in respect of Capital in priority to the Ordinary Shares.

The Preference Shares will be the first Capital Charge upon the undertaking, and no Debentures or Debenture Stock can be created without the sanction of a three-fourths majority of the Preference Shareholders present at a meeting specially convened.

No part of this issue has been underwritten or guaranteed, and no promotion money has been or will be paid.

There are no Founders' or Management Shares.

The whole of the Ordinary Shares will be taken by the Vendors in part payment of the purchase-money.

ISSUE OF 60,000 FIVE PER CENT. CUMULATIVE PREFERENCE SHARES OF £5 EACH AT PAR,

PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS :—	Per Share.
On Application	£0 10 0
On Allotment...	2 0 0
On July 12th	2 10 0
	£5 0 0

DIRECTORS.

WILLIAM GIBSON, 112, Regent-street, W.
JOHN L. LANGMAN, 112, Regent-street, W. } *The Founders of the Business.*
A. G. MAGINNIS, 112, Regent-street, W.
W. S. SALISBURY, 112, Regent-street, W.
C. E. NEWBEGIN, 112, Regent-street, W. } *Managers of Departments.*

Bankers.—BARCLAY & COMPANY, Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, S.W., 54, Lombard-street, E.C., and all Branches.

Brokers.—PANMURE GORDON, HILL, & CO., Hatton-court, Threadneedle-street, E.C.

Solicitors.—LUMLEY & LUMLEY, 37, Conduit-street, W., and 15, Old Jewry-chambers, E.C.

Auditors.—PRICE, WATERHOUSE, & CO., 44, Gresham-street, E.C.

Secretary (*pro tem.*),—J. W. RICE. **Registered Office.**—112, Regent-street, London, W.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire, carry on, and further develop the business of Goldsmiths and Silversmiths, Diamond and Gem Merchants, Watch and Clock Makers, &c., founded in 1880, and since carried on under the well-known title of The Manufacturing Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company, at 112 & 110, Regent-street; 48 & 49, Warwick-street; and 48, Glasshouse-street, W., these premises together forming one of the best arranged Show Rooms in London.

The great progress of the business, which is attributable to the admirable system upon which it is conducted, has been steady and continuous, and the valuable connection extends throughout the United Kingdom, the Colonies, India, and all parts of the world. In 1893 the valuable business of the Goldsmiths' Alliance, Limited (A. B. Savory & Sons), late of Cornhill, was purchased, and transferred to the above-mentioned premises in Regent-street.

The Directors have every confidence that the profits of t' : business will continue to increase, the capabilities of future expansion being estimated by the growth in the volume of trade, which has more than doubled during the last eight years.

The Assets to be acquired by the Company consist of :—

(a) The entire Stock-in-Trade; Cash in Bank, on Deposit, and in hand; Book Debts and Bills Receivable, both guaranteed by the Vendors; Fixtures, Fittings, Registered Designs, Trade Marks, Blocks, Dies, &c.; the valuable Goodwill of the Business and all other Property of every kind or description connected with the business as on 31st January, 1898.

(b) The Leasehold Properties, 112 and 110, Regent-street, 48 and 49, Warwick-street, and 48, Glasshouse-street, W.

The Assets thus taken over include, in the opinion of the Directors, ample Working Capital for present requirements and the future development of the Business.

The Business will be taken over by the Company as a going concern as from the 31st January, 1898, the date of the last stock-taking, the Vendors discharging all liabilities existing at that date, the Company having the benefit of all profit from that date, subject to the payment to the Vendors of interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the purchase-money to the date of the completion of the purchase.

Since the commencement of the business, the books and accounts have been regularly audited by Messrs. Johnston & Walsh, Chartered Accountants, Belfast, and have since been examined by Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, & Co., whose certificate is as under :—

44, Gresham-street, E.C., May 9th, 1898.

To the Manufacturing Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company,
GENTLEMEN, 112, Regent-street, W.

We have examined the Books and Accounts of the Manufacturing Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company as audited by Messrs. Johnston & Walsh, of Belfast.

Without charging Interest on Capital and Loans or Remuneration for Partners' Management, we find that the Profits of the Business have been as follows :—

Year ending January 31st,	1894	...	£31,095 14 2
,, ,,	1895	...	£31,840 0 6
,, ,,	1896	...	£39,896 11 5
,, ,,	1897	...	£43,010 1 5
,, ,,	1898	...	£50,788 6 3

Ample Depreciation on the value of the Leases and Fixtures as standing in the Books of the Firm, and the cost of all advertising, have been charged before arriving at these results.

We are, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,
PRICE, WATERHOUSE & CO.

The amount required to pay the Dividend on the Preference Shares being £15,000 per annum, it will be seen that, on the basis of the average profits of the last three years, such Dividend is covered nearly three times over.

The Preference Shareholders will be entitled to attend and vote at all meetings where the propositions to be submitted directly affect their rights or privileges.

Provision has been made in the Articles of Association, that the Dividend payable in any one year upon the Ordinary Shares shall not exceed 7½ per cent. until a Reserve Fund amounting to £50,000 has been provided out of profits.

The price to be paid by the Company for the Stock-in-Trade, Leases, Fixtures, Fittings, Cash in Bank, on deposit and in hand, Book Debts, Bills Receivable, Registered Designs, Trade Marks, Blocks, Dies, Goodwill, &c., &c., and all assets of the business as on 31st January, 1898, has been fixed by the Vendors at £600,000, payable as follows :—By the allotment as fully-paid of the whole of the Ordinary Shares of the Company, and as to the balance in cash.

The Vendors will pay all the costs, charges, and expenses of, and incidental to, the formation and registration of the Company up to and inclusive of the first allotment of shares.

Mr. William Gibson and Mr. John L. Langman, the founders of the business will, in accordance with the Articles of Association, act as Directors of the Company for a period of at least five years. The Directors associated with them on the Board have for many years held important positions in the practical management of the business, so that its continuity on the same successful lines is thus practically assured.

The following Contracts have been entered into :—

(1) An Agreement dated the 26th day of May, 1898, between William Gibson and John Lawrence Langman, the Vendors, of the one part, and John G. Johnston on behalf of the Company of the other part, for the sale of the property to be acquired by the Company.

(2) A Deed of Covenant dated the 1st day of June, 1898, between Alexander Gordon Maginnis, Walter Surmon Salisbury and Charles Edwin Newbegin of the one part, and the Company of the other part, being that referred to in Clause 77 of the Company's Articles of Association.

(3) Three Agreements dated the 26th day of May, 1898, respectively made between the said Alexander Gordon Maginnis, Walter Surmon Salisbury and Charles Edwin Newbegin of the one part, and James William Rice on behalf of the Company of the other part, relating to the Management of the Business.

There may be trading contracts and arrangements in connection with the business, some of which may be contracts within the meaning of the 38th Section of the Companies Act, 1867. Applicants for Shares will be deemed to have had notice of such contracts and to have agreed with the Company as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable to waive any claim they may have against them for not more fully complying with the requirements of the said section, and subscriptions will only be received and allotments made on that condition.

Application will be made in due course for a settlement and official quotation of the Preference Shares on the London Stock Exchange.

Applications for Preference Shares must be made on the accompanying form and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company with the amount of deposit. If no allotment be made the deposit will be returned in full, and if the number of Shares allotted be less than the number applied for, the balance will be applied towards the payment due on allotment, and any excess returned to the applicant.

Failure to pay an instalment on the due date will render all previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and of the above-named contracts, may be inspected at the offices of the Solicitors of the Company, No. 37, Conduit-street, London, W.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained at the Company's Offices, and of the Bankers, Brokers, and Solicitors.

112, Regent-street, London, W.
June 2nd, 1898.

This Application Form can be used.
Separate Cheques must accompany each Application.

THE GOLDSMITHS' & SILVERSMITHS' CO., Ltd.

Issue of
60,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each at Par.

FORM OF APPLICATION.

To the Directors of The Goldsmiths' & Silversmiths' Company, Limited.
GENTLEMEN,

Having paid to the Bankers of the Company the sum of £..... being a deposit of Ten Shillings per Share on.....Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each, of The Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company, Limited, I request you to allot to me that number of Shares upon the terms of the Prospectus; and I agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, and to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Shares as required by the terms of such Prospectus; and I authorise you to place my name on the Register of Members in respect of the Shares so allotted; and I also agree with the Company (as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable) to waive any claim I may have against them for not more fully complying in the said Prospectus with the requirements of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867.

Name (in full) .....
Address (in full) .....
.....
Occupation (if any) .....
Signature.....
Date ....., '898.

Please write these Particulars clearly.

THE "SAN REMO" BABY CAR.

Price as drawn £6 6s. nett.
Cheaper qualities from £3 3s

HITCHINGS' GOLD MEDAL BABY STORES

THIS elegant Baby Car is equally adapted for use as a Sleeping Car for a young baby, or a Mail Car for an older child.

1. Newest registered design.
2. Runs on four silent wheels.
3. Small light front wheels.
4. Very safe bed being lower than in any other Car.
5. Hitchings' "Versailles" Cee Springs. Very easy.
6. Occupies less space than any other.
7. Has deep well for legs and feet. No cramping.
8. Hitchings' Patent "Any Position Hood."
9. Half the weight of a wood body. Finest cane & rattan.
10. Cool in summer.
11. Artistically painted.
12. Beautifully upholstered in biscuit, biscuit and pale blue, mignonette green, &c.

Under Royal Patronage. The Emporium of Baby Carriages and Baby Cars par excellence:

HITCHINGS, LIMITED, have recently had the honour of building the Baby Carriage for the Baby Prince Edward of York, having previously executed orders for H.M. the Queen, H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg, H.R.H. the Duchess of Fife, H.R.H. Princess Henry of Prussia, &c. Also the Royal and Imperial families of Russia, Germany, Denmark, Portugal, and Sweden.

Hitchings' Baby Carriages from 2 to 25 Guineas, and **Baby Cars** from 15/6 to 10 Guineas, are not only the **Best**, but also 25 per cent. *cheaper* than those sold by dealers and stores. A carriage should always be purchased from the actual manufacturer. Enquiries receive prompt and courteous attention. Illustrations free. Correspondence solicited.

LONDON { 198, Oxford Street, W.
19-21, Ludgate Hill, E.C.
28, St. George's Place (Hyde Park Corner).

LIVERPOOL: 74, Bold Street,

Bankers: CITY BANK. LTD., CAPITAL & COUNTIES BANK. *Telegram Address:* "HITCHINGS LONDON. *Works:* DUKE STREET, LIVERPOOL; LUDGATE SQUARE, LONDON. *Boston (U.S.A.) Agency:* 92, WASHINGTON STREET.

HITCHINGS' "PRINCESS MAY" BABY CARRIAGE IS MOST SUITABLE FOR A CHRISTENING PRESENT, BEING RECHERCHE & UNPROCURABLE ELSEWHERE.

Before going elsewhere send for Hitchings' Pictorial Price Book free on mentioning "TRUTH."

Enormous Demand.

There can be no surer sign of popularity than the enormous demand all over the country for

LIPTONS' DELICIOUS TEAS

They are appreciated everywhere for their delicate flavour and exquisite aroma, and undoubtedly have attained the pinnacle of fame.

LIPTONS' DELICIOUS TEAS. Millions drink them daily.

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RULES.

1. The sum of £2. 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and, for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THEIR NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S-GATE, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,006.

I find it necessary to delay the announcement of the name of the winner of this Puzzle Prize until next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,007.

As a further selection of Acrostics is published this week the name of the successful competitor will not be given for another week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,008.

TO NAME THE AUTHORS OF TWELVE QUOTATIONS SERVING AS TITLES FOR PICTURES IN THIS YEAR'S EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

The following are the twelve Quotations which were given:—

1. "Thou shalt not lack the flower that's like thy face, pale primrose."

2. "And here will sigh thine alder tree
And here thine aspen shiver."

3. "How can a bird that is born for joy
Sit in a cage and sing?"

4. "At sixteen years she had no care,
How should she, sweet, and pure and fair?
And there pursued her everywhere
Butterflies all white."

5. "It's colours changing when from clouds and sun
Shades after shades upon its surface run."

6. "Then blinded Death could steal about unheeded,
For in those fields the scythe is never needed."

7. "Of Truth doth here this truth appeares,
Withouten al disgyse,
How men do stryve wych are y-lyve
To shutte her from thir eyes."

8. "He to the lowly soul doth still Himself impart."

9. "Page and monarch,
Forth they went together,
Through the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather."

10. "For, though encircled round by winding coils of sin,
The soul of innocence doth take no taint within."

11. "Man made me, and my will
Is to my maker still,
Whom now the currents con, the rollers steer—
Lifting forlorn to spy
Trailed smoke along the sky,
Falling afraid lest any keel come near."

12. "Motus doceri gaudet Ionicos
Matura virgo; et fingitur artubus
Jam nunc."

Let me at once admit that I am myself unable to trace the whole of the above quotations to their sources. The following are the authors and poems which I have ascertained up to the present time:—

The first quotation is from the second scene of the fourth act of Shakespeare's "Cymbeline." The second is to be found in "A Farewell," by the late Lord Tennyson. The lines in No. 3 occur in "The Schoolboy," by William Blake. The fourth quotation comes from Mr. John Davidson's "For the Crown," which was a translation, or perhaps I should say adaptation, made by him for Mr. Forbes Robertson of François Coppee's "Pour la Couronne." Quotation No. 5 is from the works of a now little-read poet, the Rev. George Crabbe. The lines are to be found in "The Borough, Letter I. Quotations Nos. 6 and 7, lines used by Mr. Herbert A. Olivier and Mr. Byam Shaw for their pictures, I cannot identify, and I should not be surprised if in each case the artist himself is responsible for the lines in question. The lines in quotation No. 8 come from the well-known "Christian Year" of Keble. The hymn of which they form part is headed "The Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin." The lines beginning "Page and Monarch, forth they went together" come from an old Christmas carol, "Good King Wenceslaus," translated from the German, I believe, by Dr. W. Neale. The quotation numbered 10 is another of those I am unable to trace. Here again it is quite possible that the couplet was composed by the exhibitor who uses it as a motto for his statue. The lines in quotation No. 11 are from Mr. Rudyard Kipling's "The Derelict," in the volume of his verses entitled "The Seven Seas." The Latin quotation used by the President of the Royal Academy for his picture is from the sixth ode in the third Book of the Odes of Horace. For the present I am unable to say who, of the competitors that have sent in lists in connection with this competition, has proved most successful. But I hope to have examined all the answers in time to announce the Prize-winner next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,011.

The usual prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

THE MOST AMUSING ORIGINAL ANECDOTE DEALING WITH GOLF AND GOLFERS.

"Original," as applied to the anecdotes asked for, must be taken to signify such as have not yet appeared in print; and I would appeal to all competitors to observe this condition most strictly. All anecdotes must reach me by the morning of Monday, June 20, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of JEMIMA, winner of Prize No. 1,002, is Mrs. Goodwyn, Ablelands, Merston, Chichester.

*** The real name, with the address, of MOS, winner of Prize No. 1,004, is W. H. J. Allin, Esq., 33, Ker-street, Devonport.

*** The real name, with the address, of LEAF RULE, winner of a half of Prize No. 1,005, is Ernest A. Fuller, Esq., 10, The Circus, Greenwich Park, S.E.

*** The real name, with the address, of HARPSICHORD, winner of a half of Prize No. 1,003, is Mrs. Reeve, Radley Cottage, Maidenhead.

JEMIMA.—Your prize cheque will be forwarded to you when the next batch is sent out.

PYRAMID.—Thanks for your note as to the misprint. I will substitute your amended "Acrostic" for that first sent by you.

BARITONE.—Certainly.

CROSS PATCH.—The omission of your name was quite unintentional.

KING HAL.—The corrections shall be made.

IMPISI.—You have made me curious to know how and when and where "the whole cult of legitimate poetry" (as you call it) decided that "art" was not a proper rhyme to "heart."

EDGCOMB.—Thanks for your letter. I have duly noted the correction.

WAVERLEY.—Your suggestion of "Excelsiorism," or "Excelsiomania," as an answer to Puzzle No. 1,006, arrived too late.

BIGSWEAR.—Your answer to Puzzle No. 1,006 was also too late.

SCRIVENER.—I fear that even the most ingenious of TRUTH Puzzle solvers would be unable to explain the anachronism to which you refer.

R. MARTIN.—It must not be supposed that the "Assorted Specimens—Good and Otherwise" are published in this page in the order of their merit. An attempt is made to select a number of representative answers from amongst those received, but the order in which they are printed is not intended to foreshadow the Puzzle Editor's judgment as to their relative excellence.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,007.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ACROSTICS ON LORD SALISBURY, WRITTEN IN AN EULOGISTIC AND A CRITICAL STRAIN.

*** Having some space at my disposal, I am able to print a further selection of the Acrostics received.—PUZZLE EDITOR.

CRITICAL.

S "Stramash" there is, and has been, in the East,
A Alarm thereat he has daily increased;
L Loss thereby of prestige and fame,
I Isolation we truly can claim;
S Submissions he's made from hour to hour,
B Bluster, he wrongly considers, shows power;
U Upset the next General Election will see,
R Rout of the Tories there then will be;
Y Yells that each true Liberal will raise
When Salisbury's Government's seen its last days.

COMMENDATORY.

S Statesman thus wisely controlling our fate,
A Atbara's victory—the Mahdi's checkmate;
L Line of battleships in squadrons arrayed,
I Income of nation from which they are paid;
S Soudan campaign, Egypt's land to restore,
B Benin, the home of Fetish no more;
U Uganda, protected by lake, land, and sea,
R Rhodesia, at peace with Matabele;
Y Yoicks! tally-ho!—this the cheer we will raise!
"Luck to Lord Salisbury! Long be his days!"
Beta.

S is a Statesman supreme in debate,
A the Achievements by which he grew great;
L is his Loyalty, steadfast and true,
I the Ideal kept ever in view;
S is the Shrewdness that bid him beware
B of the Bluff of the false Russian bear;
U is the Union, Great Britain's salvation,
R are the Rads that would work its damnation;
Y is each Year that adds greater renown,
Through Salisbury, to England her Church and her Crown.

S is a Statesman *Sero sed serio.* *
A is the Answer received to a query O;
L that this means "a bit late but d——d leery O,"
I his Intentions which help to pave Hades;
S are the Smiles of the fair Primrose ladies,
B are the Buffets of each bye-election;
U are the Unionists ripe for defection,
R is the Rout of Joe, Arthur, and Halsbury;
Y is the end of "the Rule of Lord Salisbury."
* *Sero sed serio* the Cecil motto. Singeon.

S is the Sultan, whom he failed to amend,
A the Armenian, whom he dared not defend;
L is the Laughter, which in Crete he provokes,
I the Insistence, which he always revokes;
S is our Strength, which he never dares use,
B is the "Black Man," whom he does dare abuse;
U the Union of Paper, on which he insists,
R is this Reed, which each foreigner twists;
Y "Yes," already roars the old British Lion,
"A lath is this Salisbury; yes, a lath painted iron!"

S stands for Spain, which he knows to be dying,
A the Port Arthur, lost but by Czar's lying;
L is the League of the Primrose, which knows,
I as the Insight he'll in office disclose;
S is Soudan, which he means to regain,
B is the Baffers in Crete he'll yet tame!
U is the Union he is staunch to uphold,
R are the Rads, whom he's put in the cold;
Y, Yes, for in spite of them, England is true,
Crying "Salisbury for England!" England's for you!
Avonside.

S his Surrenders, "polite" but depressing,
A our Amazement at some acquiescing;
L is the Legend of Talienwan,
I Indignation at finding it gone;
S are his Sneers at the critics who doubt,
B Curzon's Brave, whom events have found out;
U Bismarck's Utterance (true iron man!),
R "painted Rod," iron colours, that "ran;"
Y is a Yielding that all would approve,
Salisbury resigning before the next move.

S the Success that's substantially ours,
A the Assaults that his skill overpowers;
L are the Living, the dominant races,
I their Invasion, in peace, of good places;
S is the Statesman, sagacious to shun
B all Belligerent tactics for "fun;"
U is the Ugly, the Jingo's disease,
R are his Ravings in impotent wheeze;
Y is the Yearning that Salisbury keeps power,
Salisbury resigning! Heaven spare us that hour!
Robert Martin.

S was a Simpleton passing as wise,
A was an Animal wore a disguise;*
L is a Liberal view of the case,
I the Intrigues that his Party disgrace;
S the Stupidity, seldom excelled,
B of a Braggart by Jingoes propelled;
U Is a Ukase to cut him adrift,
R is a Rabble to give him short shrift;
Y is the Youth of this country so fine,
Lustily calling on him to resign.

S was a Statesman veracious and sage,
A 's the Activity him doth engage;
L is the Lion whose welfare he seeks;
I is the Ignorance 'gainst him that speaks;
S is the Signs of the times that he sees,
B is the Band he draws in by degrees;
U is the Urgency he has foretold,
R is the Rumour that he has been sold;†
Y is the Yokel would have him resign.
Go it, Lord Salisbury, victory 's thine!
Béranger.

* *Vide* fable of Ass in Lion's skin.
† *Vide* Daily Press for many rumours to that effect, all groundless.

S is a Statesman, famous and wise,
A is Ambition, which caused him to rise;
L is his Lordly appearance, you know,
I is for India, which worried him so;
S is the Sadness we all of us feel,
B alfour is the man we prefer at the wheel;
U is the Use he has been to our land,
R is for Russia, who forces his hand;
Y is the question we all of us cry
When Salisbury declines all our foes to defy.

S for the Statesman who stands at our head,
A for old Albion, whom he has led;
L for the Lies the Russians have told,
I for our Indignation twofold;
S for the Staunchness, alas, that we lack,
B for our Brag (but then we're so slack!)
U for the Upstarts, all in one band,
R for the Rude things said of our land;
Y for the Yells the warlike all cry.
"Fight for us Salisbury, fight 'til we die!"
Crosspatch.

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ON MONDAY, 13th JUNE, A SPECIAL TRAIN will leave WATERLOO Station for ASCOT at 4.20 p.m., and other SPECIAL TRAINS as the Traffic may require, also extra Trains for Horses and Carriages.

ON TUESDAY 14th, WEDNESDAY 15th, THURSDAY 16th, and FRIDAY, 17th JUNE,

SPECIAL FAST TRAINS at frequent intervals from WATERLOO' Vauxhall, Hammersmith, Kensington (Addison-road), West Brompton, Chelsea, Clapham Junction, Twickenham, and Staines to ASCOT.

ON THE RACE DAYS SEVERAL OF THE ORDINARY TRAINS WILL BE SUSPENDED and SPECIAL TRAINS will run at Special Fares as after-mentioned.

CHEAP SPECIAL TRAIN on 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th June, will leave WATERLOO Station for ASCOT, at 8.35 a.m., Hammersmith 8.18, Kensington (Addison-road) 8.29, West Brompton 8.32, Chelsea 8.34 a.m., returning from Ascot at 7.0 p.m., calling at Vauxhall, Clapham Junction, Richmond, Twickenham, Staines, and Virginia Water, both going and returning, at Single Journey, 3s. 6d.; Return, 5s. 6d.

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SPECIAL FARES ON ALL THE RACE DAYS after 9.30 a.m. by SPECIAL TRAINS TO ASCOT. Single Journey, first class, 7s. 6d.; second class, 6s. Return, first class, 12s. 6d.; second class, 10s. RETURN TICKETS, FIRST CLASS, AVAILABLE FOR ALL THE FOUR DAYS, 42s.

ADDITIONAL BOOKING OFFICES. Tickets may be procured and general information given on and after Saturday, June 11th, at the Company's West End Office, 30, Regent-street, Piccadilly-circus; the Central Office, 9, Grand Hotel-buildings, Charing Cross; the City Office, Exeter-buildings, Arthur-street West; Dun Horse Yard, High-street, Borough; Lime-house Office, 799, Commercial-road; Swan-with-Two-Necks, Gresham-street, City; Lavington's, 69, Old Bailey; Bolt-in-Tun, 64, Fleet-street; George and Blue Boar, Holborn; Kingston's, 37, and 39, Southampton-street, Fitzroy-square; First Avenue Hotel, Holborn; Red Cap, 6, Camden-road, N.W.; and 99, Leadenhall-street; Messrs. Ashton's Library, 38, Old Bond-street, W.; Empire Office, 30, Silver-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.; Myers' Offices, 343, Gray's Inn-road, and 1A, Pentonville-road, N.; and Messrs. T. Cook & Sons' Offices; also at Waterloo, Vauxhall, Clapham Junction, and Kensington (Addison-road) Stations. Tickets may also be procured at Messrs. Tattersall's, Albert Gate, on and after MONDAY, JUNE 13th.

The Company's West End Office, 30, Regent-street, Piccadilly Circus; the Central Office, 9, Grand Hotel Buildings, Charing Cross, the City Office, Arthur-street West; Swan-with-Two-Necks, Gresham-street, and Lavington's, 69, Old Bailey, E.C., will remain open until 10.0 p.m. on Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th, and Thursday 16th June, for the sale of Tickets and for giving general information.

ON TUESDAY 14th, WEDNESDAY 15th, THURSDAY 16th, and FRIDAY 17th JUNE, the Cheap Excursion Trains to Virginia Water, Windsor, Twickenham, Teddington, and Kingston, from Waterloo, Vauxhall, Clapham Junction, Kensington (Addison-road), West Brompton, Chelsea, and other Stations, *will not run.*

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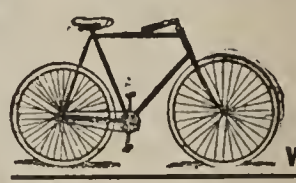

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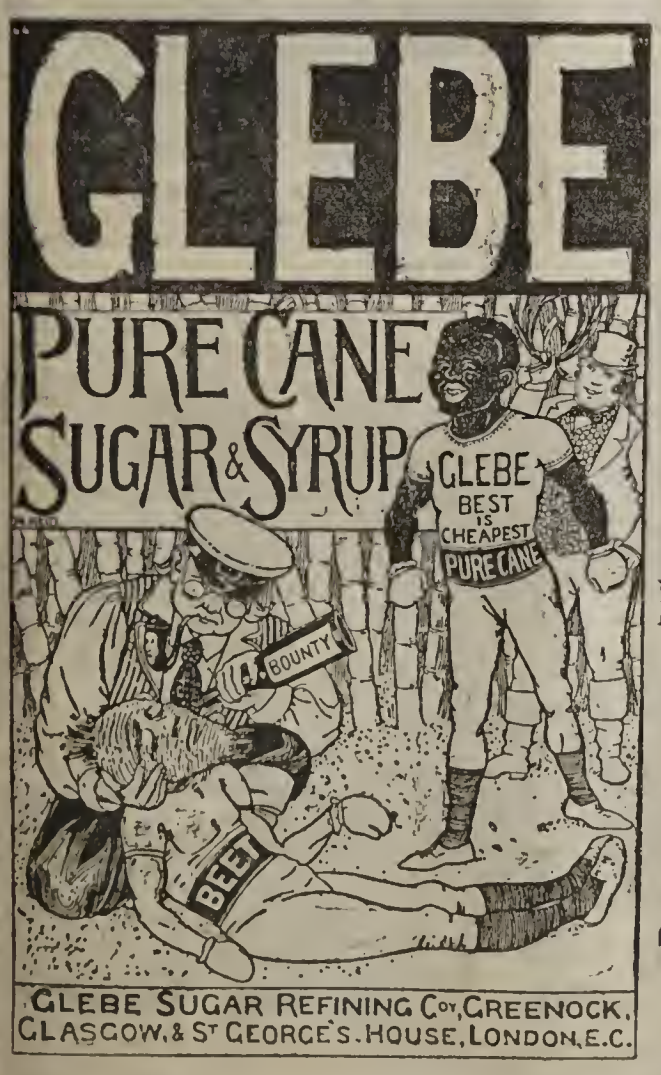

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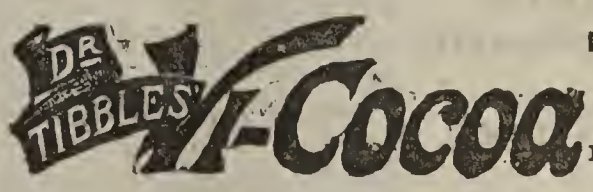

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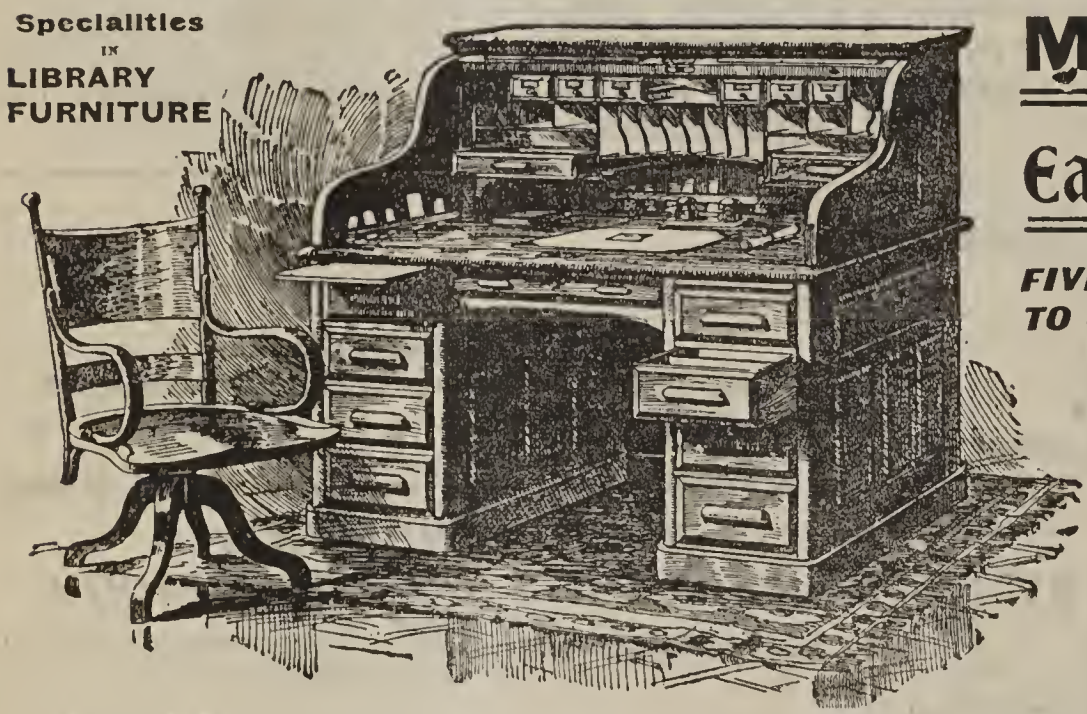

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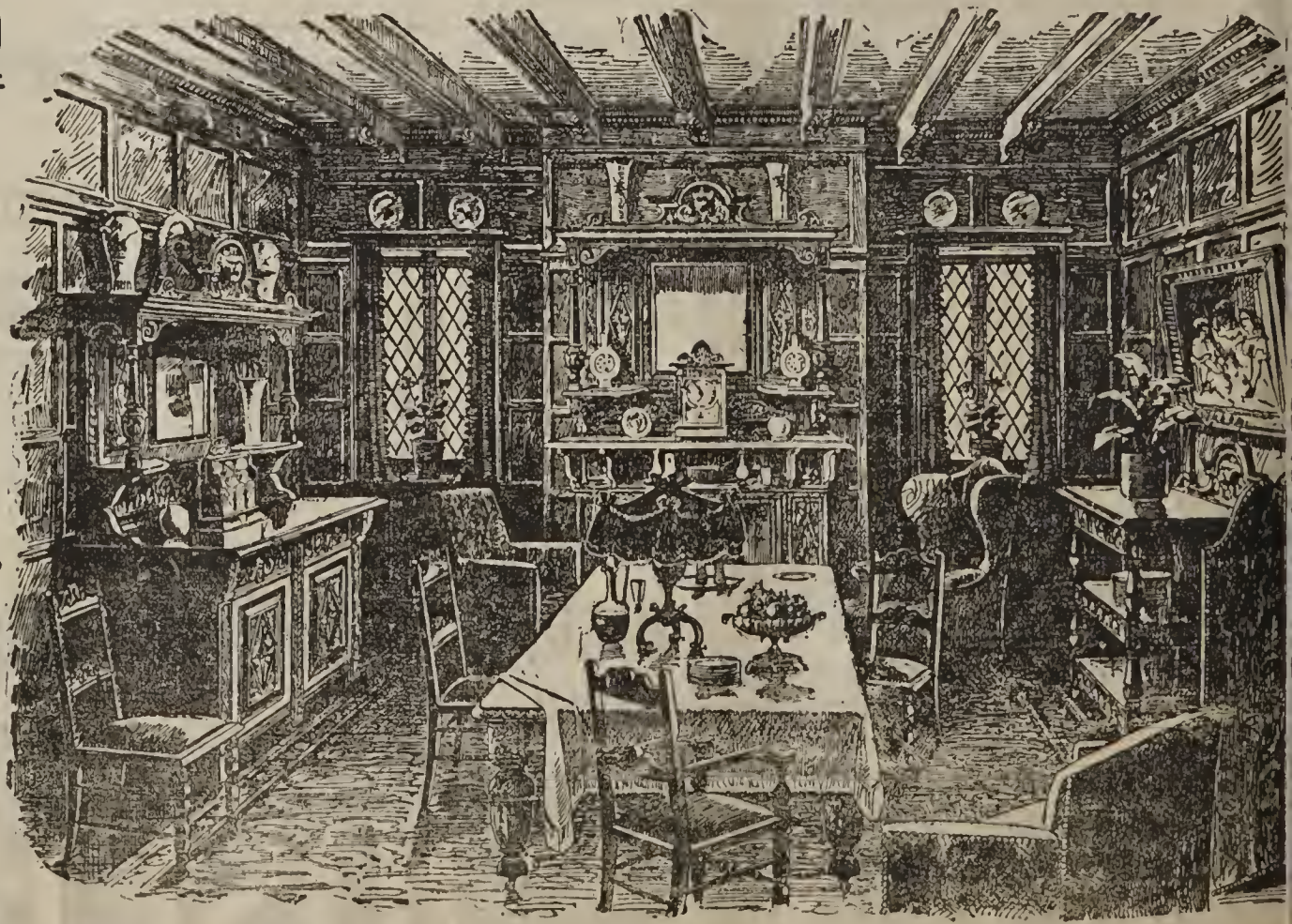

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen is to arrive at Windsor Castle next Wednesday morning from Balmoral, and her Majesty will go to Osborne about July 15. Lord Bridport and Sir Edmund Commerell will go to Windsor on Tuesday evening as the Lord and Groom in Waiting on duty.

It is rumoured at Cowes that the Queen will probably buy the Norris Castle estate, which is to be sold next week. Norris Castle is a very picturesque place, and the finely-wooded park adjoins the Osborne domain. Norris was built by Lord Henry Seymour, and the Queen (then Princess Victoria) and the Duchess of Kent once spent part of a summer there. In 1844 the Queen and Prince Albert were anxious to buy Norris (in preference to Osborne), but the place was not then in the market. The property was purchased about fifteen years ago by the late Duke of Bedford, who left it to his nephew, Lord Ampthill. Norris was occupied during two summers for some weeks by the late Emperor Frederick (when Crown Prince), and his wife and family, the place being lent to him by the Duke of Bedford.

The Prince and Princess of Wales will proceed at the end of next week to Windsor Castle, on a two days' visit to the Queen, and the Duke and Duchess of Connaught are to be her Majesty's guests from Saturday the 25th, until Monday the 27th.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught are to be the guests of the Queen at Osborne for ten days at the end of July, after which the Duke will be occupied for some time with the manœuvres, and the Duchess and Prince Arthur will probably go to France, and spend a month at La Bourboule-les-Bains, in Auvergne.

There would appear to be a job in the air with respect to the Duke of Connaught. Lord Wolseley is, we are told, to retire from the Command-in-Chief of the Army and to become Governor-General of Canada, and the Duke is to succeed him as Commander-in-Chief. Why, ask several newspapers, should the Duke be excluded from the highest prize in his profession, because he is the son of the Queen? Why, I would ask in reply, is he to be awarded the prize, because he is the son of the Queen? Why he should be excluded, is because we have other soldiers whose ability to fulfil the duties of the post is far superior. I need only mention the names of Lord Roberts, Sir Evelyn Wood, and Sir Redvers Buller. As Generals, they, and many other officers, are head and shoulders above the Duke. Does any human being suppose that, if the latter had been the son of Mrs. Jones instead of her Majesty, he would have attained his present position in the Army? He is, no doubt, a worthy and estimable gentleman, and he has honestly sought to do his duty in that state of life in which he has been born. But good intentions do not make a good General, and, from all that I am told by officers who have served under the Duke in the various commands that he has enjoyed, he does not happen to be a good General.

A paragraph has been going round the papers which states that next month the Duke of York is to be the guest of the Duke of Roxburghe, at Floors Castle, for the Highland Society's Show at Kelso. There is no truth whatever in this announcement, and, as a matter of fact, the Duke of York will be absent from England on a cruise in H.M.S. *Crescent* when this show takes place. What *is* true is that the Prince of Wales has accepted the Presidency of the Highland Society for next year, when the annual exhibition is to be at Edinburgh, and H.R.H. will be the guest of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch at Dalkeith House during the Show week. It is quite possible that the Princess of Wales may also visit Edinburgh on the occasion.

Princess Henry of Prussia and her two children are to arrive at Buckingham Palace on Saturday from visiting the Queen at Balmoral, and early next week they will return to Germany. Princess Henry goes to visit her sister, Princess Louis of Battenberg, at Heiligenberg, near Darmstadt, where she will meet Princess Beatrice.

The Emperor and Empress of Russia are to spend a fortnight in Denmark in August, after which they will go to Germany for several weeks, most of the time being passed at or near Darmstadt. It is probable that the

Empress will come to England for a short time in September, in the very strictest incognita, in order that she may pay an entirely private visit to the Queen at Balmoral. The Empress of Russia was greatly benefited some years ago by a course of waters at Harrogate, and there has been some talk of her paying another visit to that place, as she has been very much out of health for the last six months.

The Duke of Teck has gone to Stuttgart for the summer, and is the guest of his cousin, the King of Würtemberg.

The Duke of Cambridge is to arrive at Homburg from London on July 31, for a stay of three weeks, after which H.R.H. will return to England, and on August 24 he is going to Wynyard Park, on a visit to Lord and Lady Londonderry, proceeding afterwards to Scotland.

There were a full number of presentations at last week's Drawing Room, but a small entrée, and a very limited attendance of the Corps Diplomatique, so that the general company were admitted to the Throne Room ten minutes after the Royal Circle had been formed. It took an hour and a quarter to dispose of the ordinary presentations, but there was most vexatious bungling with many of the ladies' trains, which caused constant delays.

The floral decorations at Buckingham Palace on the night of the State Ball were very beautiful and were much admired. The Ball was by no means crowded, so many people being still out of town, and it was a strange *bêtise* to have the function so soon after Whitsuntide. The second Ball will take place next month, and the dates of the two State Concerts have not yet been fixed.

Lady Mary Byng is to be replaced as Maid of Honour to the Queen by Miss Susan Baring, daughter of the late Lord Revelstoke, and sister of Lady Castlerosse and Mrs. Robert Spencer. Miss Baring is a niece of Lady Ponsonby, and a grand-daughter of Lady Elizabeth Bulteel, daughter of Lord Grey, the Reform Bill Minister.

The apartments in Hampton Court Palace which were occupied for many years by the late Dowager Lady Desart have been given by the Queen to Lady Augustus Hervey, sister-in-law of Lord Bristol. I understand that these apartments were offered by the Queen both to the Dowager Lady Churchill and Lady Granville.

The *St. James's Gazette* is astonished and scandalised at the refusal of "a post in her Majesty's Household" by Piper Findlater, for whom "personal attendance on the Queen" would surely be "a fitting reward." This is all vastly fine, but no such post has ever been offered to Piper Findlater. He could have obtained an outdoor place at Balmoral, with very small wages (18s. per week), but if he is a man of much "simplicity of character," as stated by the *St. James's Gazette*, I am disposed to think that he has done well to avoid the perils of a menial situation at Balmoral—a domain which (like most other Royal Palaces) is a hotbed of jealousies, intrigues, backbitings, and toad-devouring.

Sir William MacGregor, Governor of British New Guinea, is to replace Lord Gormanston as Governor of Tasmania. This is an excellent appointment, being a recognition of many years of thoroughly good and useful public work. It will be exceedingly difficult to replace Sir William in the post which he has filled so admirably for the last ten years.

Mr. Godson, M.P., seems to have nearly escaped his knighthood. According to the diverting story that is being told, the Hon. Member left town about the middle of last month, and gave strict orders at his house that no circulars were to be forwarded to him. There presently arrived an unstamped letter, which the servant laid aside with a pile of circulars, and it there remained until Mr. Godson returned to town. He was just about to pitch the whole lot of papers into a waste-paper basket, when he observed the mystical word "Salisbury" inscribed on the corner of the envelope of one of the bundle, and, lo and behold! it turned out to be the Prime Minister's offer of the knighthood which afterwards made such a belated appearance among the Birthday Honours.

"TO JUNE, THE SUMMER'S CROWN":

BY A CHILLY BARDLET.

Sweet, sunny June! Thou jocund month
  Of picnics and of posies!
I too, like other bards, would sing
  Thy revels and thy roses!
I'd sing thy blossoms and thy birds,
  Thy sunny hours that bring them—
But stay! I must poke up the fire
  Ere I proceed to sing them.

Gladly, O June! I'd add to all
  The idylls bards have written;
But, on my word, I'm half afraid
  My thumbs by frost are bitten.
I'd praise the sun-steeped summer scenes
  Thou morn by morn unfoldest,
Were I but sure the longest day
  Were not to be the coldest!

Come, Amaryllis, let us haste
  On some sweet sylvan ramble!
'Tis June! the meadows call to us
  To 'mongst the hay-cocks gambol!
Come, Daphne! and coy Chloe, come!
  Does not the sun your pulse stir?—
One moment though, I'll first put on
  My very warmest ulster!

On second thoughts, O jocund June!
  I do not think I'll bother
To pen a brand-new ode to thee:
  I'll save myself the pother:
I'll in my chimney corner sit,
  And merely send the printer
Those verses, with the heading changed,
  I wrote last March to Winter!

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 1532 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 1534.
For AMUSEMENTS, see pages 1530-1.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 1541.

I wish that the scribes, male and female, who furnish newspapers with descriptions of the toilettes of ladies in the Park and at parties would give us a little variety in their style and their subjects. Why do the chroniclers always tell us what the same ladies wore? What can it signify to any one except their maids and their adorers, whether they looked beautiful in red, white, yellow, or blue? Equally unimportant is it how many dresses a silly woman orders for the Ascot week. In the *Daily Mail* I observed the other day that one lady had ordered thirty, and another even more. I breathed a silent thanksgiving to Providence that I was not one of their husbands, or connected with them in any other way, which might involve the necessity of paying for these varied vestments.

Loveliness is also always ascribed to the same ladies. Some of them I seem to think have been beautiful as long as I can remember. Once let a woman's beauty be established on a good solid advertising basis, and she goes on being beautiful for ever in spite of time. Nature has very little to do with it, nor, indeed, art. Let half-a-dozen newspapers persistently allude to her as the beautiful Lady —— or Mrs. ——, and then every one takes her beauty for granted. Not to accept it is to own oneself as much out of the fashion as not to accept Wagner as the only true musician that ever lived. Once accepted, the lady remains for good and all in the beauty pew. Some of these advertised ladies are really good-looking, some of them have been; but some of them neither are, nor by any possibility short of a miracle, can ever have been.

I think it helps a woman anxious to enter the ranks of the beautiful, or of the well-dressed, to be known amongst her intimates as Lady Jim So-and-So, or Mrs. Jenny So-and-So, or some such *petit nom*. The chroniclers like this. It gives a sort of air of being in the "right set" to allude to her in this apparently familiar manner.

The smart men, like the smart women, are also perennials. Here, too, it is an advantage to be a Tommy or a Bobby or an Algie. How it can interest any one to learn that one or other of these battered relics condescended to stroll in the Park on Sunday, to dine at some restaurant on Monday, or attend a garden-party on Tuesday, or a ball on Wednesday, surpasses my understanding. But I suppose that it does, otherwise why should these important movements be registered in the newspapers? Many of these gay young dogs I knew as gay young dogs forty years ago.

I am assured that the reason why we are told so much about these people is that there is a great craving for this sort of information in suburban circles. At a dinner party a gentleman is expected to be at least on newspaper acquaintance with them. There is much discussion during the repast between the guests whether Lady —— "is looking really as nice as I see that the —— says she did at Lady —— party;" whether "the dress that Mrs. —— wore really suited her so well as the —— pretends it did;" and whether "Mr. —— is as attentive to Mrs. —— as one would suppose by what one reads." All this is thoroughly gone into, and a guest who can throw some new light on the subject is in a good deal of request as a diner out—the funny part of the whole thing being, that probably not one of the persons present ever saw any of those about whom they are all talking.

It is curious how few of the men who suddenly make millions retain their money. The desire for it seems to increase with what they acquire. Mr. Hooley is one more instance of this. A few years ago he seems to have had little more than nothing. Then he made millions, bought estates, started a yacht, took one floor of a huge hotel as his place of business, was elected a member of the Carlton Club against a handsome subscription to the Tory chest, and was eagerly run after by flatterers and toadies who hoped to get money out of him. It is always bankruptcy or a baronetcy with these gentlemen. The former fate has overtaken Mr. Hooley, and, according to him, it is due to his having been persistently blackmailed by journalists. The *St. James's Gazette* professes to know that he has been plundered in this fashion of nearly a million, and that in one instance a newspaper got £200,000 out of him, and in another he paid £10,000 for one article.

These sums strike me as somewhat exaggerated, although I make no doubt that Mr. Hooley has paid through the nose for many of the puffs in newspapers. There are a vast number of little financial papers in the City, whose very names are unknown to the general public. Their mode of procedure is this: they threaten to attack an individual or a company unless they are bought off. It may be said, Why pay them, when their circulation is practically nil? They meet this by sending the paper gratis all over the country. Whenever a person receives a newspaper gratis with a puff or an attack on a company or an individual in it, he may take it for pretty certain that the newspaper is a blackmailer. One dodge is this: an abusive article is written and sent in proof to the person attacked. If he pays, it does not appear; if he takes no notice of the hint, it does. Mr. Hooley would do a great service to the Press if he would give chapter and verse for his assertions. These blackmailing newspapers are a reproach to journalism. They should be hunted down like vermin. I would point out to him that it is hardly fair to make a general accusation of this kind, without specifying who are the black sheep.

It is not, however, with the newspapers alone that Mr. Hooley must deal. If he is prepared to make revelations, he must do this without favour, and include all individuals, whether in the City or in the West End, whether City magnates or West End cadgers—no one omitting and no one setting down in malice. We must have a full and complete list of the guilty, otherwise it will be of no real value. Amongst the guilty I include those of the directors of the Hooley companies who took large

Scott Adie, 115, Regent-st., London, for Shooting Suits, Golf Suits, Travelling Coats, Inverness Capes, Carriage Rugs from 10/9, Shawls, hand-knit Hose, Scotch Cheviots, and Harris Homespuns.

sums for allowing their names to appear on the boards of these companies, exclusive of their qualifications as directors. Such moneys, as any directors who may have been induced to sell their names must have been aware, came out of the pockets of the shareholders of the companies, and were received from them by the very persons who were by way of being the moral guarantors that the capital was a legitimate one.

For my part, I am no worshipper of golden calves when throned on high, but I do not like to rend one of these calves when in the dust, "deserted in his utmost need by those his former bounty fed." All that I know of Mr. Hooley's mode of procedure in bringing out companies is derived from what I have seen in print, and there is a certain amount of point in his statement that he simply bought to sell at a profit, and did sell at one, openly stating what it was. The cycle industry suddenly assumed large proportions. The demand for cycles exceeded the supply, and the profits on sales were enormous. Mr. Hooley stepped in, bought a Cycle Company, and resold it on an estimate of its value based upon the profits of the moment. The public—being mainly composed of those fools between whom and their money there is a natural tendency towards severance—fought for the shares. They were idiots not to see that competition would very soon reduce profits. Personally, therefore, I have exceedingly little pity for them if they have lost their money.

If really this be all, then I am bound to say that Mr. Hooley's scheme of making money by promoting companies compares advantageously with that of the South African Gold Kings. What was theirs? They bought a mine. Then they converted it into a company by selling it to themselves at a heavy profit under the Transvaal limited liability laws. The next step was to arrange for dealings in the shares of the company on the London Stock Exchange at a high premium, the dealings being purely fictitious. This brought in the public. Put in figures, the plan worked out thus:—A would buy a "claim" for £10,000. He would convert it into a company at Johannesburg by selling it to himself as a company for £200,000. Then he would agree with some stockbrokers in London to make dealings at £4 for each £1 share. This he did by giving them the right to sell a certain number of the shares at £4, and to purchase them for £3; and in order to induce them to push the shares up to a higher figure, they were further given options for fresh shares at £4 and at £5 per share. If all the shares could be disposed of in this fashion at an average premium of £3, it is obvious that the worthy A, by an outlay of £10,000, managed to make £600,000. The whole speculation was based on the fact that the public buys on a rising market, their hope being that the rise will continue so as to enable them to sell at a profit to some one else the shares that they themselves have acquired. Moreover, there is this to be said of Mr. Hooley—he did not profess to be a patriot. To my thinking, the patriot promoter, who fills his pockets by pretending to be influenced by Imperial instincts, is the veriest humbug that ever was palmed off on a credulous public by the Press.

What does the Carlton Club contemplate doing with Mr. Hooley's little cheque for the privilege of membership? Is it to be devoted towards showing that the great heart of the nation is still true to its Tory love? We are fond of talking of the corruption in the United States. We shudder with horror when we hear of the Party funds that are expended there by each candidate for the Presidency. But what do we do ourselves? No General Election can be fought without each Party having a war chest. And how is it filled? By selling what the Party has to give to rich men ready to purchase the wares. A Peerage, of course, commands the highest price. What homilies should we read the Americans if we were to learn that, having made Senatorships hereditary instead of elective, they were sold to any brewer or successful financialist ready to pay the price!

Heaven forbid! One of my readers, who has been impressed by the recent celebrations of Nelson's memory, wants to know why nothing is done for Wellington, and thinks that, with Waterloo Day so close at hand, now is the time to agitate on the subject. If my correspondent will go and look at Apsley House and one or two other places that I could name, I think he will agree, on reflection, that Wellington's services have not been altogether forgotten by his grateful countrymen. If a craze for commemorating defunct warriors is once started, goodness knows where it will end. If Wellington, why not Marlborough? If Nelson, why not Blake? If Marlborough and Blake, why not the conquerors of the Spanish Armada, or the victors of Agincourt and Crecy?

I am asked to notice a new attraction that is being provided for visitors to the North Wales coast. Llandudno Junction, as many of my readers know, is a station on the right bank of the Conway, and a central point from which fine views are obtained both up and down the river, and from which branch lines run along the valley of the Conway in one direction, and in the other to Deganwy and Llandudno. Just opposite the station is the ancient castle of Conway. To merely feast the eye of the tourist with these sights is apparently deemed insufficient. For the future the nose of the tourist is likewise to be delighted with perfumes from certain chemical works, which, thanks to the Holyhead and North Wales Gas and Water Corporation, are now in course of erection at the Junction. Strange to say, this enterprise is not appreciated in some quarters. It seems to be doubted whether the chemical works will be an agreeable and popular addition to the amenities of a district which is largely dependent for its prosperity upon the beautiful scenery and pure air.

The compassion of one of my lady readers has been excited by the sad case of a poor widow who was summoned at Southwark for allowing an unmuzzled dog to be at large. The widow's own story was that her child found the dog starving on the doorstep and gave it a night's shelter, and the next morning the ungrateful and

"HÔTEL BURLINGTON," AT SUNNY BOSCOMBE. (200 rooms). Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

ravenous brute chewed up a bonnet, and then ran into the street, where it was pounced upon by a constable. As a final reward for her hospitality, the poor woman had to pay a penalty of 14s. This seems decidedly hard, and as my lady friend remarks, scarcely calculated to encourage such acts of kindness to animals. It need not, however, prevent anybody from handing over a lost and famishing cur to the police for removal to the Dogs' Home, and that, after all, is the best thing that can be done with it.

There are 2,323 entries of stock for the Birmingham Show of the Royal Agricultural Society next week, as compared with 2,688 at Manchester last year, 1,883 at Leicester in 1896, and 1,703 at Darlington in 1895. The Prince of Wales will attend the annual meeting of the members on Wednesday, at which Lord Coventry is to replace Lord Spencer as President of the Society.

I have seen it stated in some provincial papers that when the excavation in the north transept of Westminster Abbey was made for the grave of Mr. Gladstone, a coffin containing the remains of Lady Rich, the sister of Devereux, Earl of Essex, was discovered, and that it is believed that some bones which were also discovered were those of the latter. This is an entire mistake. The coffin found was that of a Lady Rich who died in 1773, and who was the wife of a baronet. It was left where found. The name and date were on the coffin, and the burial, with the name, is entered in the Abbey register as having taken place "in the North Cross," and that is the precise spot where the coffin was found. The registers only begin with 1607; but it seems probable that the Lady Rich who was sister to the Earl of Essex was buried in St. John the Baptist's Chapel, where her brother and many of her relatives are known to have been buried in a vault, which is full of decayed coffins and remains.

Apropos of my remarks on the Wass Collection, Sir Charles Isham writes:—

> I entirely agree with Truth that a coat of arms is not an ornamental appendage to a dinner service. There are, however, a few appropriate mottoes for the purpose. I myself designed, in prominent characters around the plates, the Isham motto, "In things transitory resteth no glory"—a sentiment equally applicable to the crockery and the viands. I did one for my son-in-law, E. Corbett, with his family motto, "Deus pascit corvos," and the crest, a raven.

Undoubtedly a very happy idea, and one which may commend itself to many families owning suitable mottoes. The "Bis vivit qui bene" of the Becher family would look well placed on a dinner plate. "Semper paratus," a motto which many families have adopted, has a peculiar significance at meal times, and no doubt there are many others equally to the point. Earl Fitzwilliam, of all men, ought to have his motto on his dinner service, "Appetitus rationi pareat."

By the way, my printers are solely responsible for the statement that Messrs. Goode & Co. are at present showing a collection of Worcester enamels by "the late Thomas Bolt." The works to which I endeavoured to call attention are those of the late Thomas Bott.

Suburban and provincial audiences are to share with London the opportunity of seeing Sarah Bernhardt during her approaching visit. For the first week, in addition to nine performances at the Lyric Theatre, Mr. Abud has arranged for her to play Camille on Thursday, June 23, at the Grand Theatre, Croydon. During the second week of her stay, besides eight performances in town, she will act on the 28th at Deptford, and at Brighton on the 30th.

"THE MOST UNKINDEST CUT OF ALL."

> The members of the London Wagner Society's Committee have protested in the most emphatic way against the grave breach of faith committed by the Covent Garden management in mutilating "Siegfried" last Thursday night. "One single cut," they declare, would have been enough "to constitute a breach of faith," but, in fact, "the most deplorable excisions were made."—*Daily News.*

Unhappy Management! What charge against you could
be graver?
You promised "Siegfried" quite complete, without one
missing quaver;
Seven hours of Wagner 'twas to be, and not one minute
shorter,
And yet you've put your patrons off with seven—less a
quarter!

Faults of commission there have been, but these they
might have pardoned,
But those omitted bars—'tis these their hearts t'wards you
have hardened;
More discords they'd have gladly borne, but oh! 'twas
rankest treason
For you to make the number less—and spoil the Wagner
season.

The Wagnerites have much endured; its almost past
explaining
What they have suffered in the course of their protracted
training;
But now their ears they *have* inured to vocal incoherence,
They court the most exacting test of their grim perseverance.

Know, then, irreverent Management! these Wagnerites
are furious
At conduct they insulting deem, as well as most
injurious;
And that, if you again omit those bars, you'll court
disaster,
For they will certainly cut you if you still "cut" their
Master!

On my table the other day I found a new book of reference, which I feel it a duty to commend to the notice of my Service readers and others interested in naval and military affairs. The book in question is "Whitaker's Naval and Military Directory." What I chiefly welcome in it is the complete alphabetical index of all the officers of the Army and Navy on the active list, with brief particulars of their service. The want of an index of this kind has been the greatest defect in all the Army and Navy lists with which I am familiar, and it is only one out of several useful new features in this directory.

The office of Principal of Glasgow University, which will become vacant at the beginning of August by the resignation of Dr. James Caird, who was appointed by

A Delightful Drink.—St. Ronan's Table Water, taken from the Natural Springs at Innerleithen. Supplied to the House of Commons and Leading Clubs. A Table Water of the finest quality, in splits, pints, and quarts. Sold everywhere.

Mr. Gladstone in 1873, is in the gift of the Crown, and it will probably be offered to Lord Kelvin. The salary is £1,100 a year, with residence. It is well known in the north that the Queen is anxious for the appointment of Dr. Story, but it may be hoped that a clergyman will not be selected. It would be an immense descent from Principal Caird to any conceivable ecclesiastic of the Presbyterian Church.

A gentleman travelling in Egypt last year fell in with a small native boy, who was being educated at the Government school at Edfou. The boy refused backsheesh for a small service or two which he rendered, but asked the Englishman to send him an English book on his return home. This was done; and here is the letter which the donor received in acknowledgement from the Egyptian youth. It is an instructive as well as amusing document, because it illustrates so well the results of teaching a language on purely theoretical principles :—

Edfou, May 18, 1898.

Dear Sir,—With politeness and respeetablity I offer to you my very best. I have the honour to inform you that I am the most humble scholar that trained up from Edfou school and have by my success obtained the book which "you" have send it to me and that I had thanked you very much for you are the best man in the world. I am 15th years old of a good healt and can render the function very well. I beg you sir to sent to me a dictionary from Arabic into English and a geography book that will be the best politeness to "you" my dear Sir.

May it pleases your Excelleney to aeeept the applieation of your servant. Gadees Sadaros.

Give all my compliments to all your parentes small or large. If you please Sir sent to me these books and also your pictour to see it because I am very fond to your bright face. Your son

Gadees Sadaros,
Edfou Government School, 1898.

Here is another sample of English as she is wrote in the East—the writer this time being a Baboo charity-monger, who issues this document as a printed appeal :—

The Remittance will Save You from Reading the Reminders and Me an Expence of Sending You.

Sir,—If you do not know of me before, know me now. My name is Jaising Rao Ramchandra. . . .

You remember the *last year* and the *famine.*

In order to save the *famine orphans and young widows* from starvation and from being eonverted into Christianity by the Missionaries I took to eollect Orphans and Widows. From December 1896 to September 1897 the number of the children is gone to 781 and the number of widows to 130.

In addition to the collection the income of A. J. R. P. and Co., was given toward the work and to fill up the Gap I had to sell all gold and silver in my house amounting to Rs. 7,000.

The effect of famine is over to the rich and able but not to the forlorn and distitute ehildren.

So is the Introductory Story.

And now davancing a paee or two nearer, I say that you are brought up in the belief of all suitable, religious doctrines—You have faith in the Almighty—I believe also that you have a soul, just as I myself have, to be lost or saved according to our deserts Sir, in the name of that God in whom you have faith—and by that Soul which must survive our moral existence and by all these I ask for *mercy*—Have mercy on famine Orphans and Widows—*A few Rupees* from your pocket will save them and the prayers of fervid gratitude shall night and morning ascend on your behalf from the lips of 781 Famine Orphans and 130 Widows young and from respeetable classes.

A, Sir! let me not implore you in vain, you have the power to alleviate the sufferings of innoeent children. *On my knees do I Implore you to send something* a few Rupees—a few annas &tc. *In the name of Heaven* and *in the name of all that you hold sacred,* do I ask to perform this act of mercy.

A Remittance by Return of Post Please.

Jaising Rao Ramchandra's literary style is marked by qualities of cool effrontery and flowery unctuousness which put to shame the feeble efforts of our own practitioners in the begging-letter line.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, June 28 and 29, there is to be a bazaar at the Hôtel Cecil on behalf of the London Hospital, which has more use for money than money to use. Each stall is to represent a separate newspaper, and each is to sell some special article; thus, at the *Morning Post* stall, flowers will be offered by the flowers of the aristocracy; at the *Daily Chronicle* stall china will be sold by attractive ladies of Liberal views; at the *Gentlewoman* stall, duchesses and minor titled lights will dispense—I forget exactly what, and so on. The bazaar will be opened at 2.30 by the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York; and during both days there will be many "side shows," at which the leading actors, actresses, singers, and dancers of the day will be on exhibition. The Hospital is really in want of funds, and the bazaar is got up to procure these funds, and not, as often happens, for purposes of self-advertisement, in which charity is only a pretext. The scheme of a Press Bazaar is, in the main, due to Mrs. Spender, the wife of the editor of the *Westminster Gazette*, who undertook the secretaryship of the committee of management; and a hard time, I need hardly say, she has had of it. So far as I can learn, the New Woman will shine by her absence, so Sir William Harcourt can go there without offence to his preference for those of the fair sex to whom he has been accustomed.

At the London Hospital, it cannot be said that money is wasted or squandered. But this is not the case with all Hospitals. In some there are sinecures that should be abolished, others are run for the glorification and benefit of some one medical man; at others, there is what practically amounts to robbery. When the Press has got through its collecting mission for the London Hospital, it would do well to look into the general management of Hospitals. If I had my way, I would pass a law vesting all the funds now possessed by London Hospitals in the County Council, and charging on the rates whatever is needed in excess of the interest obtainable on these funds. There might be a special rate of ten per cent. on all receipts from places of amusement, in which gate money at race meetings within a certain distance of London should be included, and a like rate on the takings of public houses in the Metropolitan area. The general fund would probably be increased by rich men, desirous to make themselves comfortable in the next world; for it is surprising how liberal a man of wealth is with his money when he has to separate himself from it.

In the new edition of his useful annual, "Hospitals and Charities," Sir Henry Burdett combats the idea that there is a certain limit to the aggregate amount which can be raised in a year in the shape of charity subscriptions, and that consequently a special effort made on behalf of one charity or group can only be made at the expense of others. If the experience of last year is to be accepted as conclusive of the point, Sir Henry certainly makes out a primâ facie case. Taking ninety-three Metropolitan hospitals, it appears that both the ordinary income and that from legacies and special donations increased very considerably last year, the total income being upwards of £150,000 in excess of the average for the three preceding

years. This is notwithstanding the public contribution of £227,000 in donations and subscriptions to the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund. It has also to be remembered that the enormous sum of £2,000,000 was also voluntarily contributed last year to the Indian Famine Relief Fund.

These figures do not in themselves absolutely establish Sir Henry Burdett's point, because for that purpose one ought to have the whole of the charity statistics of the year. The hospitals got the lion's share of last year's boom in collections. Many other charities and groups of charities allege that they suffered heavily, and if this is true, it goes to show that some part of the money given to the hospitals and the Famine Fund was diverted from other sources. Sir Henry Burdett gives particulars of the incomes of all charities for 1896, but I cannot find any for 1897. However, it looks as if the Diamond Jubilee collections had certainly increased the aggregate amount of giving, for the time at least. It is also quite certain that the Prince of Wales's Fund, so far from having impaired the ordinary revenue of the hospitals, has substantially increased it; while it is also pretty certain that the Fund has attained to a considerable extent the end with which it was started—that of roping in a new class of subscribers to the Metropolitan hospitals.

On the other hand, the returns of hospital income for last year seem to establish one point which was made in TRUTH when the Prince of Wales's Fund was started. The basis of the Prince of Wales's appeal was that an additional revenue of about £150,000 was required to equalise the income and expenditure of the London hospitals. In reference to this, it was said in TRUTH that if the deficit were wiped out at once, it would grow again very quickly. What do we now find? An additional income of £150,000 was actually raised last year, independently of about £227,000 contributed to the Prince of Wales's Fund. The deficit which the Prince desired to wipe out ought, therefore, to have disappeared at the end of last year. Has it? I shall be greatly surprised to hear that it has. My impression is that, however much the income be increased, the expenditure will always outrun it. And I have a suspicion that your charity financier, as a rule, would prefer to show a deficit than a surplus on his year's accounts. This deficit plays the part of the bunch of carrots held before the donkey's nose.

I am asked to say that at 3.30 on Thursday, June 30, there is to be a concert at 1, Holland Park-road, on behalf of the Hammersmith Branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and that tickets are to be obtained from Mrs. Val Prinsep at the above address.

The following amounts have reached me towards Lady Jeune's fund for sending poor and sickly London children into the country for a holiday:—Lady M., £2; W. S., a ten-rouble note; A. F., 5s.; J. M., £1 1s.; A. E., £1. I have also received £5 from Mrs. S. Darling on behalf of the sisters of the man Karditz.

A military friend of mine makes the remarkable statement—which I repeat with all reserve—that not a single gun is ready or has ever been ordered to arm the fortifications and batteries which have been constructed at vast expense during the past three years at coaling stations and other places on the coasts of the United Kingdom where additional defences were required. The new batteries in the Isle of Wight, for instance, have been completed for more than twelve months, but have not up to the present received a solitary gun. My friend's explanation of this singular state of things is that when Parliament was called upon to vote the money for the fortifications, the Artillery Branch of the War Office unfortunately forgot to ask for the money for the guns, and so far it has neglected to repair the omission. I should like to hear whether there is any foundation for this story. It will sound wholly incredible to some people, but not to those who know the ways of the War Office.

Much has been said, or suggested, I should say, respecting the reasons for the withdrawal of the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment from the North-West Frontier. It seems only fair, therefore, to that battalion that further publicity should be given to the following extract which has just been published in Brigade, District, Depot, and Regimental Orders in Ireland. As the rumours that have been current have been propagated all over the English-speaking globe, the official contradiction of them certainly ought not to be confined to Ireland.

EXTRACT

From a letter from the Adjutant-General to the Commander-in-Chief in India, dated May 23, 1898.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to inform you that a perusal of the papers connected with the withdrawal of the 2nd Battalion the Royal Irish Regiment from the Field Force on the North-West Frontier has satisfied the Commander-in-Chief that a grave injustice was done to the 2nd Battalion the Royal Irish Regiment when it was recalled from Field Service.

I hear that the officers of the Native Army in the Madras Command have been rendered extremely uneasy by a report that Major Currie is seeking reappointment as Commandant of a native regiment. This officer was some years ago gazetted to the command of his regiment, but he elected not to accept the appointment, and remained on as private secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. He had previously acted for some years as A.D.C. to the Viceroy. On a change in the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, a new private secretary appeared on the scene, and Major Currie was straightway reappointed from the civil department to the Army Staff, regardless of the fact that he had not put in any regimental service. It would seem incredible under these circumstances that Major Currie should be allowed to obtain again the regimental command which he has once refused. On the principle, however, that it is better to protest against a job before it is perpetrated than afterwards, it seems justifiable to express a hope that no such appointment will be allowed to take place.

CHALLIS'S ROYAL HOTEL, Rupert-street, Piccadilly-circus.—The new Louis XV. Dining-room now open for Luncheons and Dinners. Table d'Hôte Luncheon, 2/-, from 12.30 to 3 p.m.; Table d'Hôte Dinner, 3/6, from 6.30 to 9 p.m., served at separate tables. Open to non-residents.

In regard to the recent article in TRUTH on the Staff College, it is my duty to mention that I have received from an officer who has been through the College a letter categorically denying, in the most plausible and genial manner, every single statement and suggestion in that article. Wherever others have cursed the College, this officer cordially blesses it, and he speaks all round in the highest terms of the teachers and the teaching, and the general tone and spirit of the place. After giving this general summary, I trust that I may be excused for not publishing the letter, which is very long, and really does not carry the matter any further than my general statement. It is of course impossible for any stranger to the College to profess to decide upon a conflict of evidence like this. Neither can I withdraw anything that has been said merely because some one else says something different. But I am glad to know that some at least of the officers who have been through the College tell a different tale.

If I am cut off prematurely before the completion of my due span of three score years and ten, this calamity will be in a great measure attributable to the draftsmen of the Army Act and the Queen's Regulations. There is nothing else in legal and official literature to equal the complications of these documents. Some time ago, apropos of the case of Private Simpson, of the Grenadier Guards, a gentleman laying claim to considerable experience of military life and martial law wrote to me from a West End Club asserting that Simpson could not legally be fined more than 10s. in any case, and not even as much as that, unless he had incurred three previous convictions in the last twelve months. Not feeling sure on the point, I consulted an expert of my acquaintance, and then referred again to my correspondent for his authority. In reply he sent me the terms of the Regulations on which he relied. I turned them up, digested some pages of elaborate provisions bearing on the point, and then felt sufficiently sure of the ground to insert the paragraph which appeared in last week's TRUTH. Forthwith come letters in shoals from all branches of the Army, informing me that the Regulation referred to only applies to summary punishment by a C.O., and has no bearing on the sentence of a court-martial. It may be so. There is nothing whatever in the Regulation to show whether it is or whether it isn't. But I am quite willing to admit that this is merely one of the pitfalls prepared by the draftsmen for the discomfiture of the unwary; and I lose no time in withdrawing the doubt suggested as to the legality of Simpson's punishment. I don't wonder, though, that soldiers, when they take to looking into the ordinances under which they serve, get a little confused as to their legal rights.

I heard last week that a detachment who had been at Lydd Camp for musketry training for a whole month—about three times the usual period—had only fired during that time twenty-one rounds per man. This is solely owing to the men being employed on fatigues of one kind or another in lieu of the training for which they are sent to the Camp. To make matters worse, the fatigues are fixed for the morning and the musketry for the afternoon, and, as any one can see for himself, it is a mere waste of time and money to set about teaching a man to shoot when he is tired out and his hands are shaking after several hours' heavy labour—*e.g.*, lifting 7 cwt. rails, which is the form which the fatigue work has taken in some cases. It is true that the men thus employed were Engineers, but I presume that a man is put through a musketry course for the purpose of learning to shoot, whether he is an Engineer, or an Infantry man, or a Horse-marine; and if this is the way the course is gone through, the country might just as well be spared the expense of sending men to Lydd for the purpose.

Since referring to the subject a few weeks back, I have received from many quarters corroborative evidence as to the filthy condition in which bedding is too often served out to soldiers when going under canvas. A gentleman who has had some personal experience in the ranks told me the other day that the most disagreeable experience of a soldier's life, so far as he was concerned, arose from this cause. Obviously it is a preventable cause, and one which ought to be prevented. It is important to notice that mere washing is insufficient for this purpose. Referring to this point a medical correspondent writes :—

> I should just like to remark that even boiling water will not kill them, and the best way to destroy them is to put the bedding in a slow oven overnight, as they cannot stand dry heat, but go off pop. This was told me many years ago by a man who kept a lodging house for tramps, when I was in practice in the country.

"They" are, I believe, equally susceptible to the fumes of sulphur, though I cannot say whether this treatment causes them to "go off pop." There ought to be a strict rule that all bedding when returned into store should be either fumigated or treated with "dry heat."

There is a good deal of force in the War Office answer to the memorial of Boards of Guardians in favour of the payment of pensions at shorter intervals than once a quarter. It is, of course, true that more frequent payment would involve considerable extra trouble, and in some cases expense, to the men in attending to draw their pensions, and they ought not to be exposed to this unless there is a general and strong desire for the change. According to Mr. Powell Williams' letter, the pensioners who become chargeable to the rates through spending the whole quarter's pension before the quarter runs out, are only an insignificant proportion of the 75,000 pensioners in the United Kingdom, and in this state of things it becomes more easy to understand why the pensioners as a body are averse to the change. The Guardians, of course, look at the matter from the ratepayers' point of view, and they are right in doing so. But it does not seem at all certain at

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GIVEN AWAY.—A high-grade New Hudson Gent's Cycle, fitted with "IXION TYRES," for the best two or four lines of verse on the "Ixion Tyre." Lady's Cycle also given for lady competitors only. Five consolation prizes given in each competition. Further details of competition and "All about Ixion Tyres" sent, on application, free. Competition verses must be sent in before 31st July, with this advertisement attached, and must be marked "Competition" corner of envelope.—The New Ixion Tyre & Cycle Co., Ltd., 144, Holborn, London.

present that what the ratepayers would save by keeping a few spendthrifts out of the workhouse would be equal to what the taxpayers would have to spend owing to the increased cost of paying the pensions.

Here are two cases which help to show how good soldiers are lost to the Service: (1) A man in a field battery in Natal, having upwards of six years' service, is willing to re-engage to complete his twelve years, if he can be transferred into a Hussar regiment in the same colony. He is fully qualified for the Cavalry, and the Hussar Colonel is willing to take him. His own C.O., however, declines to sanction any transfers, apparently from mere reluctance to lose his men. The natural result is that the gunner, not being allowed an opportunity of bettering himself, declines to re-engage, and the country loses his services altogether. (2) A company sergeant-major of ten years' service in the Yorkshire Artillery goes away on pass to visit his wife in her confinement. The wife being very ill, he telegraphs for an extension of leave, and receives a telegram in reply granting the extension, but ordering him to bring back a medical certificate. He is unable to catch the doctor who is attending his wife, and consequently returns without the certificate. On this being reported to the C.O., he is placed under arrest for disobedience of orders. Eventually he is released without punishment, but in disgust at the way he is treated he proceeds to purchase his discharge, and I believe has now left the Service.

Some time ago I called attention to the recent record of the Buffs on the Indian frontier, by way of showing what a very large proportion of kicks and what a very small proportion of ha'pence had been meted out to this gallant regiment since the beginning of the Chitral Campaign. The Buffs are now at a camp in the Swat Valley, and a recent letter from the regiment gives an impressive picture of some of the discomforts and hardships they are enduring. The heat appears to be terrific, and the men have only field service tents, as many as eighteen men being, in some instances, crammed into one tent. The Buffs have done their duty gallantly during the last three years, and no doubt they are ready to do it still, but it really seems time that they were allowed a change.

I continue to receive a great deal of correspondence with reference to the anomalies that have been created by the new messing allowance regulations. Some of the complaints are trivial; but there are three which I think the War Office should look into. They are: (1) the stoppage of the allowance when a man is in hospital, which means practically the addition of threepence a day to the existing hospital stoppage; (2) the exclusion of warrant officers from the allowance; and (3) the proviso that sergeants serving beyond twelve years, if they elect to accept the messing allowance, shall forfeit their deferred pay, which means that, while a private soldier gains threepence a day from the new concession, a sergeant of twelve years' service or upwards only gains a penny. I hope it will not be long before some further regulation is issued dealing with all these points.

Here is a story sent to me by an old soldier, apropos of what was said in TRUTH the other day about the dishonesty of native cooks in India:—

> The native cooks in my time always had tea and coffee to sell, and though we felt no doubt that the stuff was stolen from us, it was very difficult to bring the theft home. At one station the tea in the sergeants' mess used to be so wretchedly thin and watery that we at last insisted on the caterer himself seeing the tea made. This he did, not only going into the gloomy oven of a cook-house himself in the evening, but with his own hands throwing the tea into the boiling copper. Strange to say no improvement resulted. Everybody was at a loss to explain the mystery, until one day a happy thought occurred to the caterer, and after wetting the tea he had the copper carried outside into the light, and lo! on the surface of the water was found floating a shallow tin dish in which, of course, lay the greater part of the tea which the caterer imagined he had thrown into the boiler. Things were better after that, and the cook a day or two later paid a forced visit to the triangles at the police station.

It does not look as if the recent concessions to Mr. Atkins had produced as yet the expected effect on recruiting. In the *Times* the other day I saw some statements about the reduction of the standard for Guardsmen enlisted for service at Gibraltar, pointing to the conclusion that the supply of men is deficient. In conversation with an officer of a Line regiment I received a still more significant piece of information. He tells me that by a recent order Medical Officers on recruiting duty are enjoined to pass "flat-foots."

Flat-footed men have hitherto been excluded from the Army because they are practically useless for marching, except on perfectly level ground; and I rather fancy that a flat instep is regarded by experts as a sign of constitutional weakness. A flat-footed man would not have been much use for hunting the wily Pathan over his native hills in Tirah. The "flat-foots" now being enlisted are sent to the gymnasium, apparently under some vague idea that the shape of their feet can be altered by exercise on the trapeze or the horizontal bar, which is about as practical as the beadle's notion that little Jellaby's skull was compressible by pulling at his legs, when he had got his head stuck through the area railings. Up to the present I hear that the flat-foots remain as flat-footed as ever. If the War Office must have these gallant fellows, I would suggest that they should be formed into a flat-footed corps or brigade, and stationed permanently in the Fen country or central London. They probably go well enough over pavement, and would be quite at home on sentry-go at Buckingham Palace.

Below I pillory a few more minor military grievances. I have heard more than once about the defective accommodation at the Army Pay Corps Offices, Aldershot, and,

FOR BEAUTIFYING AND PRESERVING THE TEETH nothing equals ROWLAND'S ODONTO, which removes tartar, and imparts a pearl-like whiteness to the enamelled surface. Use ROWLAND'S ODONTO for keeping your teeth sound and white. Of Stores and Chemists.

THE HOTEL CECIL RESTAURANT.—Orchestra daily. M. François, Chef de Restaurant, from the Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo. The new Grill Room is now open.

considering the amount of money voted of late years for Army works and buildings, it is a scandal that better premises are not by this time available :—

Herbert Hospital, Woolwich.—Until a recent date patients in this hospital were allowed to receive friends on visiting days in the patients' library. This privilege has recently been stopped on one of the visiting days, Thursday, owing to the room being used as a lecture hall for the men of the M.S.C. This necessitates patients seeing their visitors in the corridors, which have no sitting accommodation, and are quite unfit for the purpose, unless they can go into the grounds, which is, of course, not possible for all patients, and is impossible for all in bad weather. This inconvenient state of things appears to have arisen from the fact of the dining hall, which was formerly used for M.S.C. lectures, having been closed and blocked up since certain recent references to it in TRUTH. Those in command at the Herbert Hospital seem to think very much more of their own dignity and convenience than of the comfort and well-being of patients.

Army Pay Corps, Aldershot.—The Army Pay Corps offices at Aldershot consist of seven rooms. Four of these are occupied by six officers, and the remaining three by twenty clerks—seven clerks each in two rooms and six in the third. The dimensions of these rooms are, roughly, 16 ft. by 16 ft. by 10 ft., but a considerable space is taken up by cupboards and shelves loaded with books and papers. The provision for ventilation is of the slightest, and when it is necessary to keep the windows closed the atmosphere of the rooms quickly becomes intolerably foul. Is it not a disgrace to the authorities that important work at the chief military station should have to be performed under such conditions?

1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, Gibraltar.—Since this battalion has been at Gibraltar it has had to find certain working parties, in which three sergeants are included, the members of the working party drawing extra pay and attending no drills and parades. Naturally this employment is much sought after, and it is supposed to be distributed in turn among the sergeants of the battalion in periods of two months at a time. A recent complaint, however, points to a good deal of favouritism in the distribution of this privilege, many sergeants being reappointed for a further spell of duty at the conclusion of their two months, while others are passed over altogether. Probably this is done without the knowledge or approval of the Colonel, and when his attention is called to it it will no doubt be remedied.

1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment, Peshawur. — A number of men of this battalion were recently brought up for sitting at dinner with their collars unhooked or their coats unbuttoned, and punishments of five and seven days' C.B. were awarded. It seems that there is an order in force with regard to the buttoning of coats and the hooking of collars at meal times, but with the thermometer at 108 deg. in the shade—which was the temperature recorded on the above occasion—the order seems anything but a sensible or considerate one. Surely in tropical climates some licence might be allowed to soldiers in regard to dress when not actually on parade.

4th Battalion Connaught Rangers, Galway.—Attention was called in TRUTH earlier in the year to the fact that colour-sergeants of this battalion were being employed on such duties as regimental guards, canteen duty, orderly sergeant, and even orderly corporal, while the Depot colour-sergeants were entirely exempted, and various Depot N.C.O.s were employed in berths to which they seem to have had very little claim. No attempt has been made up to the present time to redistribute the duties at Galway Depot, and it seems time that some higher authority looked into the question. In one instance a sergeant acting schoolmaster, drawing 1s. a day extra pay in that capacity, has been allowed to take over a Depot company, for which he receives a further 1s. a day extra pay, which seems to be an irregularity in itself, to say nothing of the fact that the sergeant has under him two colour-sergeants.

In the *Strand Magazine* for June there is an account of a submarine boat, which has been tried successfully in Baltimore Harbour. It can go, I gather, for twenty miles at any depth under water, without coming to the surface. If this be so, maritime war will be revolutionised; for, of course, such a boat could approach a battle-ship without being detected, and could then affix a torpedo to it. Whether this boat really does all that is asserted or not, it is pretty clear that it will not be very long before such a war engine is invented; indeed, given electricity as a motor and compressed air, it is a wonder that it has been so long in being invented. The matter is a very serious one to us, for such a boat would render all the sea monsters of war, in the building of which we are spending so much of our money, as much out of date as Noah's Ark.

I fear that an injustice was done to Lieutenant Ruck-Keene by a recent paragraph in TRUTH which stated that he had been promoted out of the Royal Yacht over the heads of seventy or eighty officers of the same rank. As a matter of fact, Lieutenant Ruck-Keene had already three years and five months' seniority as a sub-lieutenant when he was appointed to the *Victoria and Albert* in May, 1890, and he would in the ordinary course of things have been appointed at the end of June in that year. As he was not promoted until the end of August, he certainly does not seem to have gained anything by his appointment to the Royal Yacht; and, indeed, it would appear that the delay in his promotion cost him six places on the list.

The new Castle liner, *Carisbrooke Castle*, is, in every respect, a magnificent vessel, equipped from stem to stern in a manner befitting a line which carries as many millionaires as some lines do bagmen. But in one respect the vessel is unique. Her engines are fixed on a new principle—I understand that they are balanced or slung in some mysterious manner—with the result that the vibration, which to many of those who go down to the sea in ships is the worst affliction of the voyage, is to all intents and purposes got rid of. In other respects also the noise and rattle of machinery have been very much reduced. I suppose that one of these days Mr. Rhodes will be constructing a through electric railway from Cornhill to Cape Town. But for the present the Castle Line would seem to have done about as much as is humanly possible to make a voyage to South Africa as luxurious as a fortnight up the river in a houseboat.

The Assistants of Customs seem to be in a perennial state of grievance, and generally with very good reason. Their latest complaint is that the existing staff are excluded from the benefit of the improved condition. which are to be enjoyed by future members of the services New comers, for instance, will attain a salary of £85 after three years' service, while the most fortunate of the present Assistants have to wait twice as long to reach the same position. The Secretary to the Treasury is said to have addressed comforting words to a deputation which waited upon him two or three months ago, but there is an uneasy feeling among the Assistants that the matter is being quietly dropped, and it might therefore be as well to have it revived on the Estimates.

A good example of the ubiquitous operations of the Spanish Prisoner is sent to me from Burma, a letter of the usual type having been addressed to an English gentleman at Prowe, a town on the Irrawaddy about 200 miles up from Rangoon. It is a striking proof of the estimate which these buried-treasure swindlers place upon the intelligence of those whom they approach that they

LÉRINA.—Finest Liqueur. Made by the monks at the Abbey of St. Lérins, Isle St. Honorat, nr. Cannes, and well known to all visitors to the Riviera. From all Stores and Wine Merchants.

should seriously address to such a place a cock-and-bull story about a fraudulent deserter from a Spanish Cavalry regiment who has absconded with the regimental chest, and buried it at some spot unknown 200 miles up the Irrawaddy. But, as if this were not enough, the letter in which this highly plausible story is set forth is obviously and undisguisedly a lithographed form!

The truth seems to be that there is a certain class of people who, in the presence of a sufficiently seductive appeal to their cupidity lose all common sense and regard for probability. I had the other day an inquiry about the Spanish Prisoner from a worthy farmer in Essex, who had been favoured with one of the letters. The farmer himself was cautious and sceptical—there is, I believe, a considerable Scotch element at present farming in the Eastern Counties. The farmer's wife, however, was of a different opinion, and felt convinced that her spouse was throwing away a chance of a fortune when he proposed to put the letter behind the fire, so I was appealed to to settle the differences of this worthy pair. When the farmer's wife learns that the Spanish Prisoner has secreted his stolen property not only in Essex, but also at a remote spot in Upper Burma—not to mention most other places upon the face of the habitable globe—she may begin to feel that her husband was right in not at once remitting cash to Valencia for the purpose of securing a share in these ill-gotten gains.

Lord George Hamilton alluded in his Indian Budget speech to the comparative smallness of the expenditure in connection with the Plague. The expenditure may well be small, if it is characterised all through by the flint-skinning parsimony which is displayed towards the nurses who have gone out to India from this country. Their pay is supposed to be Rs. 175 a month, which, even if they got all of it, would be little enough, considering that out of this sum they have to maintain themselves, to keep necessary servants, and to pay their laundry expenses. It appears, however, that this pay is frequently sweated down by a variety of stoppages, until in some instances next to nothing is left for the nurses to draw. What is due is usually not forthcoming for some weeks after the proper date, and several ladies have been kept waiting for six months for the repayment of expenses which they incurred in going out to Bombay. The value of such work as the nurses undertake cannot be estimated in rupees, but in common gratitude the Plague Committee ought, at any rate, to treat them with more generosity and consideration.

To the recent Jeremiad of the coroners at the exclusion of their ancient order from the Honours list must now be added a plaintive cry from the Mofussil Bench. The District Judge who voices it avows his disagreement with me on many points—I may perchance have fallen foul of his Honour at some time or other—but he seems to think that on this question I can do the Indian Judicial Departments some service. He says that with the very rare exception of a High Court Judge the members of the judiciary in India are entirely ignored in the distribution of decorations. Young secretaries, junior revenue officers, even missionaries, are glorified by the bestowal of C.S.I.s and C.I.E.s; but the man who presides over the administration of justice in the Mofussil, no matter how long and how successfully, is seemingly never deemed worthy of such a reward. As the grievance is taken to heart by these functionaries, I hope it will be redressed in the next list. At the same time I wonder that they should hanker after honours which are notoriously dispensed more by favour than by merit.

The following rule appears among the regulations for open competitive examinations for sorters in the London Post Office:—

> 5. No candidate will be admitted to examination who does not, at such time as may be fixed by the Civil Service Commissioners, produce an undertaking, signed by his parent or guardian, that he will, if successful, reside either with his parents or guardians, or with relations or friends approved by such parents or guardians.

The justice and expediency of this regulation are certainly open to question. The candidates for whose benefit the rule is laid down are between eighteen and twenty-one years of age, and if fit for employment in the public service at all, they ought to be fit to live in lodgings on their own account without supervision. It may often be extremely difficult for candidates from the country to live either with parents or guardians, or with relations or friends approved by such parents or guardians. Nor will it always be possible for London youths whose parents or guardians happen to reside at some distance from the place where they have to be employed. Consequently, the regulation must operate in many cases as a disqualification. If the Postmaster-General is so anxious about the welfare of his employees when not engaged at the office, he had better employ a few qualified dames to board and lodge them and look after their shirt-buttons, their socks, and their morals.

Do the regulations of the Post Office service permit the postmaster of a "head office" to engage in trade? A correspondent mentions a case in which the postmaster of a provincial town carries on one business on his own account and is interested as a more or less active partner in two others. It is urged that this is unfair to other tradesmen in the same line, particularly when they have to send business messages through the telegraph office; and it appears to me that there is considerable force in the objection.

About three months ago a communication was addressed to the Home Secretary in reference to the condition of the churchyard at Wedmore, Somerset. The churchyard has been used as a burying ground for the past four hundred years, and it has become so overcrowded that almost every time a fresh grave is dug old coffins are broken and human remains disturbed. Not long ago some dogs were found munching the bones of

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one of the rude forefathers of the hamlet, which the sexton had thrown out in excavating for a fresh interment. The Home Secretary promised on March 24 that the matter should receive his attention; but he has apparently forgotten it, and I am now requested to jog his memory. It certainly seems desirable that an inspector should be sent down to Wedmore, with a view to an order being issued for closing the graveyard.

A striking exposition of municipal mismanagement and muddle-headedness has just been given by the Vestry of St. George, Hanover-square. These worthies were addressed by a householder in Grosvenor-street, W., in reference to the inopportuneness of the visits of the parochial dustmen. In well-regulated districts the unpleasant though necessary business of carting away the contents of the dustbins is accomplished as early as possible in the morning; but in St. George's the time is left to the caprice of the contractor and his men, and it pleases them to put in an appearance in Grosvenor-street and the neighbourhood at some hour in the afternoon, when they can be pretty certain that plenty of people will be leaving and entering the houses. It was pointed out to the Vestry that it was a source of great annoyance to have the dustmen arriving at the door simultaneously with guests for luncheon or afternoon callers; and a request was made that the carts should be sent during the early hours of the morning. The Vestry replied that it was unable to comply with the request, and added:—

> The dustmen are the servants of the contractor, who employs his men to suit his convenience, though where he can do so he is always willing to meet the wishes of the ratepayers.

Then it was suggested that a clause might be inserted in the contract providing for the clearance of the dustbins before a certain hour in the morning, but the Vestry refused to entertain such a proposal. Their view is that it is the duty of the ratepayers to submit to the convenience of the contractor, not of the contractor to consult the convenience of the ratepayers. The afternoon visits of the dustmen may be an intolerable nuisance to everybody living in the street and everybody going there. The Gallios of St. George's, however, care for none of these things. All they think about is the interests, or supposed interests, of their friend the contractor.

It would be a relief—even if a melancholy one—could it be definitely stated how many young children are to be sacrificed to the Italian ice-cream industry before the responsible authorities consider it their duty to take any action in the matter. Another coroner's jury—assembled to inquire into the death of a child poisoned in the London streets through eating ice-cream obtained from a barrow-man—has "directed the attention of the local sanitary authorities" to the case, and, having thus conscientiously performed its duty and passed the matter on, have again retired into private life; whilst, of course, the local sanitary authorities, foreseeing a troublesome question in store for them, will quietly ignore the meddlesome jury's representation. And the unclean Italian will go on poisoning these unfortunate little children because it is, apparently, nobody's duty to commence a crusade against the death-dealing nastiness to be found in those brightly painted barrows. No—we certainly are not a consistent people.

The accounts and finances of the Borough of Sudbury must be in a delightful muddle, judging from the report of the auditors. They call attention to various irregularities and discrepancies in the accounts, but what will most keenly interest the ratepayers who feel compelled to pay their rates is the discovery that some of their neighbours are allowed to escape that painful ordeal. It appears that there is a large accumulation of outstanding rates, owing to the fact that arrears are not "brought forward" in the rate-books; and that in various instances no charge whatever has been made against persons liable to pay the water-rate. Clearly a few elementary lessons in book-keeping would be useful in the municipal offices at Sudbury.

A rather interesting point was raised in a discussion by the Southampton Town Council on the vexed question of deputation expenses. It seems that the Town Clerk has a free pass over the London and South-Western Railway, but that when he comes to town with a deputation on municipal business, he nevertheless charges the Corporation with his railway fare. Is he justified in making such a charge? He contends that he is; for one reason, because he looks upon the complimentary ticket as a personal arrangement between himself and the Railway Company, and for another, because he has to pay "various expenses" incurred by members of the deputation, "which must be charged in some way." The precise nature of these "various expenses" did not transpire, but apparently they cannot be put down in the bill in the usual way.

There would be no doubt about the Town Clerk's right to charge the Corporation with the fare for each journey, if he travelled with an ordinary season ticket purchased at his own cost. It is, however, a little difficult to see how he can be entitled to do this when he is using the free pass—unless, of course, it is quite clear that the railway company presents the pass to him as a private individual and not as Town Clerk. Some of the members appeared to think that the "personal arrangement" to which he referred was entirely dependent upon his public position, and it seems probable that this is the case. If it were not, the shareholders of the railway company would have a right to complain.

The Portsea Guardians were last week asked to perpetuate a peculiarly audacious piece of jobbery. The post of house clerk was vacant, and a committee recommended that it should be filled for the next three months by an assistant in the office at a salary of 20s. per week and part rations. To this they coolly added a further recommendation that an outsider should be brought in to

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act as assistant at a salary of 30s. per week and part rations, the object obviously being to give this outsider an opportunity of learning the work from the temporary house clerk and then to degrade the latter to the second, and promote the former to the first place. Recently, the Portsea Guardians have got into bad odour on account of certain jobs, but this proposal was too outrageous even for their taste, and after a lively debate the recommendation of the committee was rejected.

My belief in the advantages of boarding out pauper children is not to be shaken, as a correspondent seems to think it may be, by the occurrence of an isolated case of cruelty. In a recent case at Scarborough a child was severely thrashed by its foster mother, who was forthwith prosecuted by the Guardians and fined by the magistrates. This is submitted for my consideration as an example of the defects of the system; but, so far as I know, nobody has ever been foolish enough to suppose that boarding out is an absolute safeguard against the ill-treatment of a child. What the advocates of boarding out assert is that with proper care in the choice of foster parents and reasonable vigilance in looking after them, the chance of the children being ill-treated is exceedingly small. Experience has shown that this is true, and if there is now and then an unfortunate exception to the rule, it is, after all, nothing in comparison with the deep and widespread evils of the barrack-school system.

There might, perhaps, be some reason for misgivings with regard to the boarding out system if all poor law medical officers performed their duties in the perfunctory fashion which seems to have been adopted by Dr. Vassalli in this Scarborough case. He had, for instance, stated in a certificate that the child was suffering from debility. Asked why he did so, he replied, "I had to fill up the space with something, and so I put debility!" It is satisfactory to learn that the Guardians have expressed their "strong disapproval" of the doctor's conduct.

The following letter from a legal correspondent, apropos of the article in a recent number of Truth on the rights and duties of testators in regard to their dependants, is extremely interesting:—

I am very glad to see that you have vigorously attacked that iniquitous part of our law by which a man may leave his wife and children destitute and bequeath all his property to a religious society.

It is material to point out that by a still unrepealed clause of Magna Charta every man's wife and children in this country are entitled to "their reasonable parts" of his personal property at his death, and that he has a disposing power over one-third of it only. Nor has any judicial decision laid down that the effect of the general words of the Wills Act of 1837 is to work an implied repeal of this particular express provision.

Three or four years ago, in a Consolidating Bill, an express repeal of the clause in Magna Charta was proposed by the Government, but the Bill was soon abandoned, and has not since been reintroduced. If this clause of Magna Charta was already impliedly repealed by the Wills Act, why has it not been expressly repealed by one of the very numerous Statute Law Revision Acts which have been annually passed during the last twenty years?

The answer seems to be that the Statute Law revisors considered that the Magna Charta clause could be read together with the Wills Act (as, with considerable straining, it can), and is *still in force*.

Be this as it may, the fact that, to remedy the gross injustice which you so properly attack, it would merely be necessary to revive a disused clause of Magna Charta, seems to afford no slight ground for proceeding at once to remedy it, now that Mr. Pochin's exquisitely disgraceful will has drawn public attention to the subject.

In assuming that under the present law a testator has the power to dispose of the whole of his estate without restriction, I followed the authority of the learned author of "Williams on Personal Property," who lays down, without qualification, that the Wills Act "expressly" empowers every person of full age "to bequeath by his will . . . *all personal estate* to which he shall be entitled, either at law or in equity, at the time of his death." If I understand the author of the above letter aright—and I have every respect for his authority—it is open to question whether this power covers more than the one-third part of the estate, in respect of which a disposing power was given by Magna Charta. It is strange that no one has ever tested this point, but I suppose the truth is that cases in which testators have willed away their whole estate from their wives and children have been very rare. Even in the Pochin case, however, the widow and children would have been entitled under the rule laid down in Magna Charta to nearly double the amount which they actually obtained by the favour of the Bible Society. Anyhow, the fact that a legal doubt may exist on the point strengthens the case for legislation; and, in place of a Government Bill expressly repealing the clause of Magna Charta, what seems to be required is a Bill reaffirming this just and wholesome provision, and limiting accordingly the disposing power given in the Wills Act.

In 1893 a debtor became bankrupt, estimating his assets at £26,250. In 1898 the trustee has issued a report showing that the estate has only realised 35s., the proceeds of the sale of the pawnticket of the debtor's watch! The cost of this operation has amounted to £10 10s. 4d., distributed in the usual way. Why it should cost all that to realise one pawnticket I fail to understand, nor why the operation should take five years. This case is probably unique, even in the annals of bankruptcy administration.

I cannot say as much for all the bankruptcy cases to which my attention is called. For instance, a disappointed creditor forwards from Bristol the Official Receiver's final statement in a case where the assets were estimated at £62, and actually realised £46. The costs came to £28, and when the landlord and another preferential creditor had been satisfied, there remained £2 12s. 3d. for the unsecured creditors, whose claims amounted to £209. What else could be expected? One cannot say that £28 is an extortionate sum for costs. There is much room for improvement in bankruptcy administration no doubt, but the best bankruptcy system ever devised cannot work for nothing, nor can it get blood out of a stone. It is idle for creditors to expect to gain anything by making a man bankrupt who even on his own valuation is only worth £62.

Ought not touts selling the wares of quacks from door to door to possess hawkers' licences? I ask the

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question in view of an experience sent to me by a lady at Chester, who describes how an individual of this class, perceptibly the worse for drink, forced his way into a cottage to the great annoyance of the woman of the house, who would probably have had difficulty in getting rid of him had not the lady happened to be present at the time. The lady subsequently found that the agent, in company with another man, had entered other neighbouring cottages in the same way, much to the indignation of their occupants. These men represent a firm of quacks at Leicester. Both carried bags containing their wares, and they are therefore presumably within the category of hawkers. Many of the articles which they offer for sale are of an objectionable character, even if they were not offered in an offensive manner, and any powers which the law gives the police for restricting the operations of such gentry should be enforced.

A tradesman is concerned to know whether it is legal for him to dun his debtors with a certain printed form headed, "Final notice before proceeding in the County Court (as per Act of Parliament)," and ending, "If you think it advisable to pay before going into Court bring this notice with you." These forms are bought at half a crown a hundred—a price at which the publishers must make an exceedingly handsome profit—and I believe they are used pretty extensively. The wording and get-up of the notice are, of course, intended to frighten people into the belief that it is issued under the sanction of the County Court; but so far as I know, there is nothing illegal about this method of intimidation. Whether it is a trick which a respectable tradesman ought to employ is quite another question.

In an action in the Inverness County Court the other day it was stated that the defender, James Cameron, had during the past two or three years carried on business under about half-a-dozen different names—a fresh name being assumed as soon as the old one became too well-known—and obtained goods on credit from tradesmen in various parts of the country, who never, or hardly ever, succeeded in getting any money from him. The local agents of Stubbs & Co. said that they had innumerable inquiries respecting Cameron, and that they generally replied that it was useless to spend good money in trying to recover debts from him. A Scotch correspondent asks me to warn confiding tradesmen against this individual, but in view of his Protean capacity for disguising his identity, such a warning is not of much good. Nor is it of much good, I am afraid, to point out to tradesmen the wisdom of making their inquiries before instead of after giving credit to unknown customers.

One interesting question arises out of the above case. An official witness proved that this man Cameron is an undischarged bankrupt. Does the law in Scotland allow undischarged bankrupts to trade at all, to say nothing of carrying on such a game as Cameron appears to have played?

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In my Legal Pillory this week the parallel cases from Eccleshall make a particularly effective object-lesson in Justices' justice. On the one side a defendant is fined a shilling for being drunk in charge of a horse and cart—a serious offence inasmuch as it endangers the lives and limbs of the lieges—and £2 for assaulting a constable by biting, striking, and kicking him. On the other, three defendants are mulcted in penalties to the monstrous amount of £16 18s. 8d., simply for being found on the highway with a couple of poaching nets in their possession. The Eccleshall Solons evidently look upon the safety of the public and the protection of the police as matters of no importance whatever in comparison with the preservation of game from the raids of unauthorised sportsmen. The following list also contains a series of instructive contrasts between the terms of hard labour which are unhesitatingly meted out for acts of vagrancy and petty larceny, and the pecuniary penalties which a muddy-minded magistracy deem sufficient punishment for the most outrageous assaults:—

Eccleshall Police-court. Before Messrs. B. Fitzherbert and H. Vyle. Wm. Jones, charged with being drunk while in charge of a horse and cart, and with assaulting a policeman. Defendant was very drunk, and the policeman took possession of the horse and cart, whereupon Jones kicked and bit him and dealt him a blow on the back of the head. Fined £2 for the assault and 1s. for the drunkenness, with 9s. 6d. costs.

Eccleshall Police-court. Before the same magistrates. John Wright and Frank Wright, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act, with being found in possession of two rabbit nets on the highway; and George Charles, charged with aiding and abetting them. The Wrights find £5 11s. 4d. each; Charles, £5 16s., or two months each in default.

Thorpe Petty Sessions. Before Rev. Canon Norman, Messrs. T. H. Baker and J. Woodgate. Joseph Phillips, farmer, charged with cruelty to a horse by working it while in an unfit state. The animal was very lame owing to a deformity of the foot, and it had two large raw wounds on the shoulders, one 3½ in. long. Fined £1 9s. 6d.

Thorpe Petty Sessions. Before the same magistrates. Samuel Rose and Arthur Rose, charged with stealing one-and-a-half bushels of watercress. Twenty-one days each.

Nuneaton Police-court. Annie Jones, charged with stealing a sheet. One month.

Newtownenningham Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Tynte, R.M. W. A. M'Candless and John Huston, charged with assaulting James Stevenson, and occasioning him actual bodily harm. Defendants inveigled complainant into a shed where he was savagely assaulted. Owing to his injuries he was confined to his bed for six days. Fined £2 each and costs.

Ballygowley Police-court. John Wilson, charged with stealing a coat and a pair of boots. Six months.

Newmarket (Suffolk) Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. R. W. King and C. H. Hammond. Wm. Langham, a stableman, charged with sleeping in a stable and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Paisley Police-court. Before Bailie Robertson. Alexander McMillan, charged with assaulting his wife. The woman and her child were shut out of the house for some hours in the rain. The accused then dragged them inside, pulled his wife about by the hair of her head, and struck her several times on the face. He also struck the child. Fined 21s.

Newport (Salop) Police-court. Before Messrs. C. C. Cotes, S. T. H. Burne, and C. E. Morris. Mary Hayward, aged 75, charged with stealing twopenny worth of coal from the railway. Fined £1.

Glasgow Western Police-court. Before Bailie Dick. John Russell, charged with assaulting a young woman. As she was going home the accused seized her and tried to drag her into a close. Her screams brought a man to her assistance, and Russell then gave her a blow on the face. Fined £3 3s.

Leyland Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Whittaker and J. Stanning. Matthew Cross, labourer, charged with stealing ten hens' eggs from a farm building. Fourteen days.

Wigan Police-court. John Bethell, charged with poaching. One month.

Subscriptions greatly needed by The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—2,876 convictions this year; 7,545 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Blackpool Police - court. Jonathan McQuirk pleaded guilty to assaulting his wife. He went home drunk, and his wife put him on the sofa. At four o'clock in the morning he awoke, went upstairs, pulled his wife out of bed, gave her two black eyes, and severely injured her breast. For two years she had been treated with systematic cruelty and brutality. Fined 20s. and costs, and bound over.

Northwich Police-court. John Connor, charged with violently assaulting Martha Willett, aged 79. Defendant lodged with the old woman, and he assaulted her because he was dissatisfied with the dinner she provided for him. Her arms were covered with bruises, and he struck her twice in the eye, which was blackened. Fined 40s.

Dunfermline Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Gillespie. Thomas Sneddon and George Sneddon pleaded guilty to seriously assaulting Thomas Duffy by striking him with their clenched fists, knocking him down three times, and kicking him. Duffy's injuries confined him to his bed, and the Sheriff characterised the assault as a very brutal one. Fined £4 each.

Ashby Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. G. Moore, J. B. Joyce, P. Hastings, Rev. C. T. Moore, Canon Beaumont and Major Hatchett. Caleb Boonham, labourer, charged with taking seventeen pheasants' eggs. Fined £1 19s. 6d.

Rotherham Police-court. Before Messrs. Hickmott and Wragg. John Wray, charged with stealing a pair of clogs. One month.

Swainsthorpe Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. C. A. Fellowes and R. H. Denny. John Thrower, labourer, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being in unlawful possession of seventeen partridges' eggs when searched on the highway. Fined £3; in default one month.

Spilsby Police-court. Before Messrs. W. D. Gainsford, H. Walker, and H. Mackinder. John Wm. Cole, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Old Hill Police-court. Wm. Powell and Margaret Higgins, charged with stealing a shirt from a clothes line. One month each.

The special jury entrusted with the task of deciding whether the New York Mutual Life Insurance Company were justified in refusing to pay a claim for £10,000, made by the brother of one of their policy-holders, took only eighteen minutes to arrive at the conclusion that the company were acting within their rights. From the few facts reported in the papers during the course of the trial it is difficult to see how they could have come to any other conclusion. What I am curious to know is whether the case is going to end here.

It is satisfactory to find that the prisoner Graham Bennett was, as I suggested last week, tried before the Lord Chief Justice at Somerset Assizes instead of being kept in gaol until the Quarter Sessions at Bath a month hence. The evidence against Bennett, who was charged with an assault, turned out to be of so flimsy a character that the Judge stopped the case and directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty. It would have been, his Lordship said, utterly unsafe to convict on such slight evidence. This puts in a still worse light the conduct of the Bath J.P.'s in insisting upon the committal of the man to the Quarter Sessions, though the Assizes were to be held much earlier, and in fixing the bail at an amount which, to the prisoner, was practically prohibitive. If these dunderheads had had their way, Bennett would have suffered five or six weeks' imprisonment before his innocence could be established.

At Llandilo Petty Sessions the other day a somewhat strange distinction was made between two cases of trespassing in pursuit of rabbits. The first defendant was a collier who is on strike, and who pleaded that he was, in consequence, very poor and hungry. He was fined £1. In the second case two colliers who are not on strike, but working at advanced wages, were the defendants. They were only fined 9s. 6d. each. Do the Bench regard poverty as an aggravation of the offence of poaching? Or is this a method of showing their disapproval of strikes?

I am glad to observe that the Irish judges follow in the footsteps of the English Bench in dealing with Shylockism. Last week the usurer Levin, *alias* "H. Staples," of 4, Nassau-street, Dublin, applied to the Queen's Bench for judgment against one of his victims who had fallen into arrear with the repayment of a loan and interest. Levin contended that, under the terms of the promissory note on which he sued, the whole amount of the loan and the interest—which was at the modest rate of from 500 to 600 per cent.—became due the moment default occurred in the payment of a single monthly instalment; but the Judges showed a strong disinclination to assist him with the machinery of the Court in enforcing such a monstrous claim, and the motion for judgment was ultimately struck out. This man Levin, who runs nearly a dozen usury-shops under different aliases in Dublin and other towns, is a Polish Jew, and as great a pest to Ireland as his more notorious compatriot Isaac Gordon, of 6, Livery-street, Birmingham, is to this country. Levin, indeed, learnt the tricks of the trade from Gordon, and the latter is still closely concerned in the former's enterprises.

A usurer calling himself James Bell, and hailing from 26, Brown-street, Manchester, tries to impress people with a sense of his respectability by adding to his circular a postscript in which he says he will be glad to give bankers' and solicitors' references, if desired. Bell was asked for these references by a recent would-be borrower, but it is almost superfluous to say that they were not forthcoming—indeed, the usurer declined to give any information whatever as to his terms until he had paid a visit to the applicant's house, though he states in his circular that "all particulars" can be furnished and the business be completed by post. I shall not be at all surprised to find that James Bell is the very latest alias of the ubiquitous Isaac Gordon. If it is not, this Manchester worthy at any rate imitates Isaac's methods to the extent of copying his well-known circular almost word for word. The postscript is the only new feature in it.

Mr. "Moses Moss" warned his readers last month against the circulars of "Alexander Baring & Co., stock and share dealers, 11, Bridge-street, Bath." It may be remembered that Baring & Co. came under my notice a year or so back, when the firm was shown to consist of an unknown individual renting a small room in a side street, and merely calling there occasionally to take away letters. At that time "Baring & Co." was advertising a promising appointment as private secretary, and endeavouring to extract fees from those who responded. He represented also that his head office was in London, but declined to disclose the exact site. Since Mr. "Moses Moss's" reference to him, he seems

WATER SUPPLY TO COUNTRY HOUSES.—Read "Water Supply to Mansions." The *Times* says, "a practical pamphlet." Post free.—MERRYWEATHERS, 63, Long-acre, W.C., and Greenwich, S.E.

to have finally decamped. A gentleman calling the other day at 11, Bridge-street, found the door locked and Baring & Co.'s name removed. "Baring" had left no address, and the landlady had orders to return all letters to the Post Office—a pretty certain indication that the late tenant was ready to risk some loss rather than have his present whereabouts traced. The landlady stated that in "Baring & Co.'s" absence she had frequently signed for registered letters delivered at his office, and no doubt money to any amount has been sent for investment in Baring's "co-operative system of successful Stock Exchange dealing."

Another item of information which may be of interest is that on the floor of Baring's late office, after his departure, were found several envelopes addressed to "Ajax," together with the following advertisement from the *Daily Telegraph* :—

A REALLY GENUINE and SAFE INVESTMENT for amounts from £5 to £100. No gambling. A permanent income of £5 per week guaranteed on each £100 invested, and £1 per week on each £20; other amounts in exact proportion. References may be had from over a thousand investors in all parts.—For full particulars address Ajax, Box 7,945, Postal Department, *Daily Telegraph*, Fleet-street, E.C.

Evidently another phase of "Baring & Co.'s" operations. I shall be glad to hear of any one who may have had dealings with "Ajax." In the meantime, it seems desirable that people who have been sending their money to "Baring & Co." should communicate with the police, who ought to hunt up this rascal, and be prepared to lay their hands on him when wanted.

An old trick is being worked anew by some party who has christened himself "The Anglo-American Agency," 196, St. Vincent-street, Glasgow. The trick is done by means of an advertisement, so ingeniously worded as to lead gullible people to imagine that "£21 bicycles" are being "given away" by the Agency. All that the Agency literally promises, however, is to forward, for the sum of eighteenpence, a "gent's epingle-de-cravate or ladies' broché (*sic*), together with our offer, and on your complying with offer the bicycle is forwarded free of charge." The "epingle-de-cravate" or "broché" consists of a paltry bit of Brummagem jewellery, which would be dear at sixpence, and the "offer" is to send a bicycle to anybody who induces twelve persons to buy twelve watches at 30s. apiece from the Agency. If the offer is taken a very handsome profit can, of course, be made on the sale of the twelve watches and the "gift" of the bicycle for £18; and in any event the Agency has a rich harvest in the eighteenpences it rakes in from a foolish public. It is an artful dodge, but I cannot say that I have much sympathy for those who are covetous and credulous enough to succumb to it.

By the way, in reply to one or two inquiries recently received, I should certainly not advise any prize-winner in the competitions of the A.B. Cycle Company, Limited, 59 and 60, Chancery-lane, to pay £9 or upwards in cash for the cycles offered by way of prizes. This dodge for selling bicycles was dealt with in TRUTH some months back. It was then being worked by a firm calling themselves the Windsor Cycle Company, who advertised some simple puzzle for solution, and then informed the successful competitors—which probably meant all who entered—that they had won a second or third prize, or whatever it might be, entitling them to buy one of the company's cycles at an alleged reduced price. The first prize is to be given free, but of course there is only one first prize winner, while there may be any number whose prize takes the form of the privilege of buying a bicycle—at a price. I believe that the A.B. Cycle Company above-mentioned is merely the Windsor Cycle Company under a new name, and it carries on business on precisely the same lines.

Poor Monsieur Emile Solomiac, of Bordeaux, is still in deep mourning for his "beau père," but he is now adopting a new dodge for unloading the "Grand crû La Générale" upon the British public. Apparently the four cases of La Générale, 1888, are at last exhausted, and he asks you to buy "deux barriques d'excellent vin rouge de mon Domaine Grand crû La Générale année 1892, étampé au Domaine," at the reduced price of 200 francs per barrique of 300 bottles. He explains that he has been for some time past one of a syndicate of wine growers who, in consequence of the difficulty in disposing of their wines through the middlemen, have determined to deal direct with the consumer. He has now been offered the post of manager of the syndicate, but it is necessary for him, in the first place, to dispose of the whole of his own stock. Hence the alarming sacrifice of "Grand crû La Générale." He is a persistent gentleman, too, this Monsieur Solomiac, for, not having had an answer to one application which he made at the end of March, he follows it up a few weeks later with another, laying stress upon the great personal obligation which will be conferred upon him by sending an order. In this last letter he announces that the syndicate contemplate sending him shortly on "un voyage dans votre belle et noble patrie." If he will kindly name the date of his arrival, I think that our "belle et noble patrie" will do well to have a policeman waiting for him when he lands.

Let me again warn those whom it may concern against the insinuating appeals of Mr.—self-styled the "Reverend"—Robert Macmillan. I hear that this gentleman is once again busily touting about the City, going from office to office in search of cash, the immediate object of his appeal being a bazaar which he proposes to hold in the hall of his church at Southwark at the end of July. There must really be a great deal more benevolence and a good deal less intelligence in the City of London than one would at first sight suppose, when a man like Macmillan can pick up in this way the means of carrying on his questionable enterprises. I know that people have short memories, and it is more than three years since Macmillan's character was fully exposed in the course of the libel action which he brought against TRUTH. But even within the last six months the fact has been made public that Macmillan, having brought a shady action in a County Court, was sternly rebuked by the judge, described as a "notorious scoundrel" by counsel, and declined an invitation to go into the witness-box and deny this soft impeachment.

Some information has reached me respecting H. Hodges, the individual who issues circulars from Coromandel House, Lovel-road, Winkfield, Berks, in the character of a sportsman and gentleman compelled by reverses of fortune to maintain his position by disposing of stable secrets. Hodges says he is not "an ordinary advertising tipster," but that, of course, is just what he is. "Coromandel House" is one of a row of small cottages, and Hodges only uses it as an accommodation address. As to his statement that he is a member of the principal clubs, I am advised that if he belongs to any club at all it is probably a Sparrow or Quoit Club. Recipients of his circular will be able to judge from this the value of the invitation Mr. Hodges holds out to them.

As one interested in the cause of international peace and arbitration, I would warn those of similar views against the appeal circulated by Mr. Lewis Appleton, in his capacity of Secretary of the British and Foreign Arbitration Society, 1, Queen-street, Westminster. This is not the first time that Mr. Appleton has been referred to in TRUTH. Some years ago he came under my notice in connection with appeals to raise a sum of £55, in order, as he alleged, to release certain books of his from the publishers, who had a lien on them; and investigation showed at that time that his statements were far from accurate. In July of last year I noticed the interesting fact that this apostle of peace had been convicted at a police-court of a violent assault upon a housemaid, and on two other occasions a woman, in whose house he was living, has applied for protection against him.

In the appeals which he is now circulating among persons supposed to be interested in the cause of international arbitration, Appleton states that he is personally responsible for liabilities of the Association to the amount of £192, of which £146 is due to himself for disbursements. He also lays stress upon the fact that he has been associated with the movement for upwards of thirty-five years, that he has been entirely without remuneration for the last seventeen years, and that he has devoted the whole of his resources, amounting to upwards of £3,000, to the promotion of the cause. Appeals of this kind have been circulated for many months past, and in one of them, written last October, Appleton intimated that he was contemplating suicide, owing to the severe mental torture that he was suffering, apparently from the embarrassments of himself and the Association. For his allegations respecting his expenditure there is no evidence beyond Mr. Appleton's own assertions, as the British and Foreign Association has published no accounts for many years past. As to Mr. Appleton's previous services to the cause of peace, the fact is that he was originally Secretary of the London Peace Society, and gave up that office owing to financial irregularities. He then founded the International Arbitration Society, and after some years his connection with that body was terminated for similar reasons. These circumstances cannot be regarded as corroborative evidence of Appleton's pecuniary sacrifices on behalf of the cause. Seeing that this individual is now an undischarged bankrupt, and that the British and Foreign Arbitration Society publishes no accounts, his appeals should certainly be disregarded, and I think that even the prospect of his making away with himself may be regarded with equanimity.

In last week's TRUTH it was stated that a gentleman, who had ordered engravings direct from the plate from the South Kensington Fine Art Society, had received in return for his payment what were merely "litho copies of engravings with an imitation plate mark." I have received from Messrs. Willett & Sandford, solicitors of Arundel-street, a letter informing me that the foregoing statement is absolutely without foundation, offering me, on behalf of the South Kensington Fine Art Society, every facility for satisfying myself as to the untruth of the statement, and asking me to withdraw it with suitable apology. It is not necessary for me to avail myself of the invitation to satisfy myself by inquiring of Messrs. Willett & Sandford's clients. On receiving this letter, I at once communicated with the gentleman who had made the statement impugned, and it turns out that he has made a complete mistake, and that the plates to which he referred were not purchased of the Kensington Fine Art Society at all. I lose no time, therefore, in contradicting the statement made in last week's TRUTH about the engravings, and I must apologise to the Kensington Fine Art Society for having given currency to it. Perhaps the Society may also be disposed to give me an opportunity of inquiring further into their advertisements of pictures by various masters (including "Turner") noticed in TRUTH of the 26th ult., as I shall be equally prompt in correcting and apologising for anything erroneous in my remarks on that matter, if the Society think that it is due to them.

John Barleycorn blessing Temperance would make a pretty companion picture to Satan rebuking Sin. Not altogether a fanciful picture, however, as the following document will show. It is a perfectly authentic document, being a printed circular issued to "the Trade" by a leading wine and spirit merchant at Newcastle:—

DEAR SIRS,—As you will doubtless be aware, the Temperance Festival Committee require £250 to meet the deficiency of last year caused by the bad weather.

I have been approached with a view of soliciting a little assistance from the Trade, and as the object is a worthy one, and a means of bringing a large number of people to the city, I shall be pleased if you will send me a small contribution which will be duly acknowledged in the *Daily Chronicle*.—I am, yours faithfully, JOHN FITZGERALD.

This is, indeed, heaping coals of fire on the heads of the more rabid enemies of the drink traffic. I only trust that some of them will remember it to the credit of "the Trade," and not attribute it to any sordid motive—such as catching the Temperance vote. There is, however, something a little suggestive about the reference to the large number of people who will be brought into the city by the Temperance Festival. Does the worthy Councillor anticipate that any of these will stray into the "long bars" of Newcastle? After all, I suppose that even the most enthusiastic Temperance man in the liquor trade must look with an indulgent eye upon "moderate drinking."

For *Truth*, and all other Newspapers, Magazines, and Periodicals, send your Subscriptions to WM. DAWSON & SONS, Ltd., Cannon House, Bream's-bldngs., London. (Estab. 1809.) Catalogue gratis.

DEATH AT A HALFPENNY A GLASS!

Another London lad has just fallen a victim to the deadly fascination of "hokey-pokey," sold by an itinerant Italian ice-cream vendor. Another child is lying ill from the same cause.—*St. James's Gazette.*

How is it, in the face of facts
But too unpleasantly existent,
We seem to take a kind of pride
In being grossly inconsistent?
Why is it that our legal net,
Framed for enmeshing most rascallions,
Is wholly powerless to catch
These death-distributing Italians?

Woe to the grocers who embark
On an adulterating mission!
Woe to the London dairymen
Whose milk is not above suspicion!
Woe to the butchers, British born,
Who sell unwholesome legs and shoulders!
Such men are promptly pilloried,
The scoff and scorn of all beholders.

But any unwashed immigrant
Who cares to start an ice-cream barrow,
To hamper *him* with stern restraint
Is deemed pedantically narrow;
He, quite unchecked, may cater death
In glasses, daily, for the million,
And microbes of putridity
Distribute simply by the billion!

Vainly the analysts attempt
With horrible reports to shock us;
All vainly of *bac. coli* tell,
And colonies of *streptococcus!*
The law has not a word to say
Against the pestilential brewage
Of "a soft, frothy, yellow paste"
That's virtually "the same as sewage"!*

And so, though endless sums we spend
On what should be complete inspection,
We are most foolishly content
With sanitation by selection;
We fall with a most crushing force
Upon more venial offenders,
Yet calmly those Italians brook
Who are persistent poison vendors.

Must London, then, much longer wait
For some protection from the dangers
Which, from their lairs off Saffron Hill,
Are spread by hordes of filthy strangers?
Free Trade by all means—we have oft
Enlarged its benefits and joys on—
But, in the name of common sense,
Don't let us have free trade in poison

A lady writes:—

Having two sons in the —th Middlesex Rifles, I have been much alarmed at reading in the *Standard* that the South Eastern Railway "will convey bodies of Volunteers on the Saturdays in July, August, and September." What is the meaning of these ominous preparations for dealing with the dead?

Of course, this poor lady is under a misapprehension. But her anxiety shows the effect on nervous people of all the war scares that have lately been propagated.

The concession of extra pay for Sunday work has just been granted by the directors of the London and South-Western Railway to all clerks of ten years' service and upwards. This is such a good step in the right direction, and goes so far towards redressing a substantial grievance, that one does not altogether like to find fault with the decision; but still it seems to me a pity that the directors did not, while they were about it, extend the principle of Sunday pay for Sunday work—already enjoyed by every other class of their servants—to the whole of the clerical staff without any limitation. Of course, it is right and proper that senior members of the staff should be specially considered; but there are plenty of ways in which their claims can be recognised without making their junior work on Sundays without extra pay.

My most humble apologies are due to the editor of a paper called the *Southern Echo*, published at Southampton, whose feelings have been deeply hurt by reason of his journal having been referred to in TRUTH as a "Southampton paper," without further indication of its identity. So keenly does the Southampton editor—I regret deeply that I cannot give his Christian and family names in full, but I have not the slightest idea what they are—resent this omission that upwards of thirty lines of his valuable space are devoted to the ventilation of his wrongs. I beg him to believe that the omission was solely due to the fact that the correspondent who sent me the letter of Mr. Rohss, which was the cause of this outrage, neglected to state the name of the paper in which it appeared. It will comfort my contemporary to know that I have given orders in future that when the SOUTHERN ECHO is referred to in TRUTH it shall appear in the largest capitals my printers can find room for, and if the editor will forward his name, I will see whether I can advertise that for him, too, on the same scale.

Intending explorers of the Klondyke goldfields, and those who have friends already there or on the road, would do well to pay a visit just now to the Royal Aquarium. Under the personal direction of Mr. Keast, himself a practical miner, an exhibition has been arranged showing the methods of placer (or surface) and quartz mining. After being drawn on a pony sledge to the mine, the visitor is conducted through all the processes of surface mining from the "puddling-tub" to the "pan." The apparatus used is not only genuine, but is handled by practical and experienced men who are perfectly competent to explain every detail. The quartz or reef mining model is an accurate representation of underground gold seeking, and here the explanations of Mr. Keast are accompanied by a reference to many interesting specimens of gold bearing quartz.

It is stated in a recent advertisement in the *Times* that the Colonial Secretary has allotted a number of vacancies in the British South Africa Police to a certain college, where men can receive "special training . . . . to fit them for early or ultimate settlement as colonists." "Ex-public schoolmen preferred," says the advertisement; "good character and strong physique indispensable." I hope that ex-public schoolmen, or any other young men who are attracted by the glamour of this announcement, with its imposing allusion to "The Right Hon. the Secretary of State," will take the precaution of ascertaining what a policeman's lot really is, and what a settler's prospects really are, in Rhodesia. The number and persistency of the complaints that come to hand show that many police recruits, as well as other emigrants, pass through a painful process of disenchantment when they reach that much-puffed country.

* Dr. Klein, the great bacteriologist, found one of the samples of ice-cream submitted to him to be so full of putrid decomposition as to be "practically the same as sewage."

One of the latest growls that I have heard is from a trooper in the B.S.A. Police at Bulawayo Camp, who writes very scornfully and strongly of the paucity and poorness of the diet on which he is expected to maintain the health and strength required for the service. For breakfast the allowance is 1 lb. of bread, 1½ oz. of coffee or tea, and 3 oz. of sugar, but no butter or milk. Dinner consists of bread and meat—the latter a small plate of stewed stuff, "mostly fat and bone." For his remaining meal, the trooper is expected to be content with the bread and tea (if any) left from breakfast. The deficiencies in quantity and quality of the rations have, of course, to be made up by purchases at the trooper's own expense; and at the lowest estimate every man spends at least 10s. a week in that direction. Provisions are so dear that even for that sum he gets very little.

Without expecting an epicurean table, a man may still be reasonably dissatisfied with this sparse and inferior diet. There are, moreover, other grievances in regard to the supply of the promised full kit, the accommodation and equipment of the troopers' quarters, and, above all, the exorbitant stoppages that are made from their pay on all sorts of trivial pretexts. On such grounds as these, men who were quite prepared to put up with merely unavoidable discomforts and hardships, have become disgusted with the Service; and I hardly think that any "special training" at a college would reconcile them to it. To all who contemplate joining the Rhodesian Police I would, therefore, repeat the advice I have given before: Don't.

In view of the congestion of Private Bill business in the House of Commons, the triviality of many of the objects for which people seek legislation is matter for surprise. A number of worthy persons have assumed the title of the "Association for the Prevention of Premature Burial," and are at present advocating an elaborate scheme to safeguard themselves and their fellow mortals against the horrors of burial alive. Among other things they desire that the sanitary authorities should establish "waiting mortuaries," properly warmed and lighted, for the comfortable reception of supposed corpses, and that the death shall be verified by two independent officers before interment. Since dead men tell no tales, there is no saying whether there is any real case for invoking the Legislature and laying new burdens on the ratepayers in the interests of those wrongfully suspected of being dead; but it is worth while to bear in mind that any one apprehensive of a mistake on this point can guard against it on his own account by giving the necessary instructions to his doctor and his executor. Premature burial is a nasty idea. But the idea of keeping the departed for an indefinite period in comfortably-warmed and well-lighted apartments at the public expense is not exactly a nice one.

Regularly every morning I wade through the war news in my paper. Each morning I learn on what terms President McKinley is prepared to make peace, and to what terms the Spaniards are ready to assent; where Admiral Sampson is, and what Admiral Cervera is doing; what troops have been embarked for Cuba, and how many have landed; what is the condition of the Santiago fortifications in American opinion, and what it is in Spanish opinion; what new exploit Admiral Dewey has performed at Manila, and how he has done nothing new; how a Spanish ship has been destroyed, and how it has not been destroyed. One day I read of a great battle; the next day I find that it was only a thunderstorm. One day the European Powers are, I am told, determined at once to interfere, and the next day I am told that they never have contemplated doing so. This is occasionally varied by one of "our own correspondents" sending a conversation to his newspaper that he has had, or says that he has had, with an eminent diplomatist, who garrulously discourses on the situation, but seems to know no more about it than I do. I still religiously peruse these valuable and varied items of news. But I am inclined to think that few have my long-suffering patience—notwithstanding the startling head-lines that draw attention to all this contradictory information.

A friend of mine recently had a conversation with President McKinley. He describes him as one of the most level-headed men that he ever came across. Surely, if so, the President might indirectly find out on what terms peace might be brought about. The Spaniards are thoroughly over-weighted. They must perceive that, come what may, they will lose Cuba, and the more intelligent amongst them must be aware that the loss is really a gain. Why, then, should not the United States convey to Spain that, if she evacuates Cuba, or Cuba and Porto Rico, the war may end at once? A coaling station on the Philippine Islands might be thrown in, if America wants one. It really is not worth while going on with the war to decide who is to pay costs. This would not be worthy of the Americans, neither would it be any benefit to them to become the possessors of the Philippines.

This advice is well meant. I do not, like Mr. Chamberlain, denounce the United States one day, and the next day; finding that I want them to protect me, beslaver them with professions of affection. I am a fair-weather and a foul-weather friend. I am not anxious to cement my friendship for Americans by joining with them in a battle for some great and noble cause, against foes who are as mythical as the great and noble cause itself. I regard this sort of stuff as the lowest form of rhetorical claptrap. I would have each fight her own battles if inclined to fight, but neither fight with the other on any issue. If we do happen to differ on any point, then let us refer it to arbitration. "Happy thought! Let us swear eternal friendship" is all nonsense; and it is not thus that friendships and cordial relations between countries are brought about. A friendship to be

"Kronenquelle" Water.—The famous Natural Mineral Water for Gout, Rheumatism, and Diabetes Prices: 1 dozen bottles, 10/6; case of 50 bottles, 40/-.—Sole Importers, W. Schacht & Co., 26, Finsbury-pavement, London, E.C. Pamphlet by eminent medical specialists post free on application.

Trains de Luxe.—Luchon Express, every Tuesday and Thursday, direct to Luchon. Engadine Express, to Coire and Lucerne. Carlsbad Express, daily to Bayreuth, Carlsbad, &c. Tickets and all particulars from International Sleeping Car Co., 14, Cockspur-street, London, S.W.

inaugurated, as Mr. Chamberlain suggests, by the two friends kicking some third party, generally ends in the friends, having kicked the life out of the third party, fighting like demons over the corpse. Great and noble cause, indeed! Show me one great and noble cause for which two nations have fought in the last three centuries. Wars used to be dynastic; then they were waged for conquest. At present they are waged for markets. We may reasonably aspire to supply China with our goods, but to call the maintenance of the integrity of China a great and noble cause is mere hypocrisy.

So profound is the ignorance of the Conservatives in regard to public opinion in America, that a Conservative member recently quoted Mr. Smalley as one of its authorised exponents, and this was cheered by his brother Conservatives. Their notion is that, now that a Conservative Minister has condescended to address some friendly words to the United States, all Americans must be in such an ecstasy of gratitude, that they are eager to show it by pulling our chestnuts out of the fire for us. Mr. Smalley, in one of his lucubrations in the *Times*, had fallen foul of Mr. John Morley for objecting to an alliance between British and American Jingoes. This, it would seem, is evidence that the Radicals are the enemies of the United States, and it has consequently excited the indignation of all Americans. Mr. Smalley is, as is well known, a gentleman of such aristocratic instincts, that a Radical stinks in his nostrils. Never was a more unfounded charge made than this of his. Probably the heartiest supporters of amity between the two nations in this country have been for years Mr. John Morley and Sir William Harcourt; and in this feeling they have represented what has always been an article of the Radical faith.

We Radicals, who still hold to the political school of Mr. Bright and Mr. Gladstone, have always looked to the United States as furnishing proof that a country may become great and powerful without being imbued with a spirit of militarism; without joining in the scramble for territory in all parts of the globe, and without meddling in the quarrels of other Powers. We would have America, therefore, remain a living evidence of the folly of such courses. If she renounces these sound principles, we shall expect her next to convert her President into an hereditary Monarch with all the antiquated tomfooleries of a Court, and her millionaires into Dukes and Earls. She will have an Established Church richly endowed, and a landed aristocracy transmitting its estates from father to son, and leaving its younger sons to be provided for by the State. Her farmers will become tenants, instead of owning the farms that they cultivate, and she will regard her present form of government as a dark spot in her history.

For all mercies let us be thankful. The peace party in the Cabinet has secured a victory in the Cabinet. The Foreign Office has once more vanquished the Colonial Office. Our dispute with France in regard to certain territories in the centre of Africa has been decided peacefully, and the two countries are not to be dragged into war in order to decide to whom a few collections of mud huts and a few square miles of jungle and forest are to belong —a matter which is almost as important as whether we or France shall have an exclusive right to shoot bears at the North Pole. The essential was that there should be a line of delimitation between the right of grabbing claimed by both countries, and this line has fortunately been drawn, thanks to the common sense of the Foreign Office and to the exertions of our Ambassador in Paris.

In times past Africa was left as a field of missionary labour. Associations sought to Christianise the natives. But this attempt soon became a mere pretext for robbing them of their earthly possessions. "Look up to Heaven," said a missionary once to an intelligent black chief. "Yes," replied the chief, "in order that whilst my eyes may be raised to Heaven, you may steal my land." Nowadays we seem to have given up even the pretence of spreading Christianity in the Dark Continent. We openly and avowedly want its inhabitants to buy our goods, and to work for us or to give place to us. If these unfortunates inhabit a district where Europeans can live, we extirpate them by means of spirituous liquor and the diseases that we drag in our train. If they inhabit a part of the continent where Europeans cannot live, we send punitive expeditions to force them to receive our goods. In either case, we call upon Providence to bless us for our civilising efforts.

A Sea Bath in your own room. Bracing and refreshing is Brill's Sea Salt. A safeguard against colds and rheumatism. Invaluable in the nursery.

SCRUTATOR.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN AND FOREIGN POLITICS.

When a clever advocate has a bad case, he makes the best of it. Mr. Chamberlain's case last Friday was so bad that, remarkable as are his powers of debate, he could make positively nothing out of it. He had attacked the Russian Foreign Minister and the Russian Emperor at Birmingham in the language of a fish fag, accusing the former of being a liar, and comparing the latter to the devil, and having thus contributed to the peace and amity that ought to exist in Asia between us and Russia, he had explained that we must throw up the sponge, and allow Russia to overrun China, unless we could find some great military Power to enter into an alliance with us, and kindly lend us her troops to defend our interests in that part of the world.

When questioned in the House of Lords as to this speech, Lord Salisbury replied that he had not read it, and he almost implied that he hardly remembered that Mr. Chamberlain was a member of his Cabinet. In the House of Commons, Mr. Curzon, speaking as Lord Salisbury's representative, declined to say whether the Foreign Office was responsible for the speech, and left it to the Colonial Secretary to explain it.

Mr. Chamberlain, on rising, asserted that he himself agreed with his own speech, and then attempted to show that Lord Salisbury agreed with it. If not, why, he asked, had the Premier not turned him out of his Cabinet? He might as well have sought to show an

agreement between himself and a man into whose house he had managed to get a footing, because the owner had not kicked him downstairs. After this he endeavoured to explain away his speech. It was, he suggested, a sort of philosophic essay, in which he put forward alternative schemes of policy, without binding himself to any one of them in particular. This absurd attempt to evade the meaning of his own words was received with jeers from the Liberal side of the House, and dismayed silence from the Conservative side.

The real truth of the matter is, that Mr. Chamberlain had, as usual, sought to attract attention to himself by putting forward an unauthorised programme, and this impudent attempt to score against his own colleagues had been met by a snub. His attitude was that of isolation, but the isolation can hardly be described as "splendid." Another member would, under the circumstances, have resigned. Mr. Chamberlain has not done this, and he dares Lord Salisbury to eject him from his Cabinet. Probably nothing would please the Premier more than to do this, and I fail to see why he should not. Mr. Chamberlain has burnt his ships. Ejected from the Liberal Party, he found salvation in a Tory Cabinet. If ejected from that Cabinet, he is lost, for the Liberals are not likely to take him back into grace.

In the division that took place, some of the Liberals voted for a reduction of Lord Salisbury's salary because he is not Jingo enough to please them; for the Jingo microbe has its victims amongst Liberals. The majority of Liberals voted for it because Lord Salisbury had not had the courage to repudiate in words Mr. Chamberlain's scheme of foreign policy. Lord Salisbury, no doubt, made mistakes in the Chinese discussions with Russia; but in the main, as it seems to me, he brought about a result of which we have no reason to complain. He had his aims, they were reasonable, and he attained them. But every now and then he allowed himself to be temporarily diverted from them by the War Party amongst his supporters in the Press, in his Cabinet, and in the House of Commons. His most serious mistake was to throw these blusterers Wei-hai-wei as a sop; but, provided he does not waste money in erecting fortifications there, and the lease merely means that it is not to be leased to any other Power, no great harm is done.

In Asia there is room for Russia and for us. The former is opening out Manchuria to civilisation. This will be a gain to the world, and, incidentally, to us, for our trade with Russia is large, whilst our trade at present with Manchuria is small. That Russia should have a port and a naval basis there is only reasonable. What we should do is to endeavour to establish friendly relations with Russia, recognising the fact that she is a great and powerful Empire, and that such an arrangement is only possible on the give and take principle. As regards China proper, with its hundreds of millions of inhabitants, we ought to seek to secure a general accord, that it shall remain a free trade area, where each foreign country will be able to compete for a market on equal terms.

What is Mr. Chamberlain's scheme? Russia, he says, cannot be trusted to keep any engagement; we ought, therefore, to come to no arrangement with her, but to live in perpetual antagonism, much as Carthage lived with Rome. As we are ourselves powerless to prevent her doing what she pleases in China, we must seek an alliance with a great military Power, to aid us in holding our own against the Czar, who is the devil, and consequently devilish in wickedness and ability. France is the ally of Russia. The only military Power to which we can appeal to help us is Germany, therefore with Germany we ought to enter into an alliance. Assuming that this be a sound policy, the primary difficulty in its way is, that Germany has not the remotest intention to enter into any such alliance with us. The keystone of her policy is to keep on good terms with Russia, and thus to secure herself against a joint attack by Russia and France. Were such an attack to take place, our alliance would not help her, and she certainly would not select the moment of attack to denude herself of troops by sending them to China to look after our chestnuts, for she would need them all at home. There is no country which practises the *do ut des* more than Germany. Supposing that she were prepared to enter into such an alliance, what would she claim for it? We should have to guarantee to her her European dominions, including Alsace and Lorraine. We should have to aid her in securing coaling stations, fortresses, and colonies all over the world, in order to enable her to compete with us commercially. The suggestion is a ridiculous one, and the only result of Mr. Chamberlain making it has been that Germany has declined it without thanks.

Since the fall of Napoleon in 1815 we have refused to enter into any permanent alliance with one or more of the Continental Powers against others. The only war alliance which we have joined since then was with France against Russia. This was for certain specific ends, and there is no British Statesman who does not now admit that the Crimean war, which was the outcome of this temporary alliance, was a mistake.

No man was more opposed to our taking sides in the alliances of Continental States against each other than Mr. Gladstone. Although the warmest of friends to Italy, he denounced even any indirect approval of the Triple Alliance to which she was a party. His doctrine ever was that, if something can be gained for liberty in any part of the world by general concert, we should be a party to that concert, but that beyond this we should carefully eschew all alliances. Never did I more regret his loss than last Friday. He would have skinned Mr. Chamberlain alive, and left him without a shred of flesh to cover his mangled bones.

At present we assert a right to absolute supremacy on the high seas. European Powers have colonies and they have foreign commerce. Our supremacy necessarily places both at our good pleasure. Such a claim may be wise or foolish; but there is no question that its tendency is to lead other nations, if they do not combine against us, to be unwilling to enter into an alliance with us in order to make us supreme on the seas. Isolation, therefore, is the consequence of our policy. Mr. Chamberlain fails to realise this, and he actually pointed out in his speech how useful it would be if we could induce some one great Continental Power to place her navy at our

disposal, in order that we may be saved the necessity of outbuilding the navies of the entire world! To this claim to naval supremacy we have lately added the doctrine of expansion. This expansion, we are told, is the law of our being. It may be, but the doctrine is hardly likely to secure to us allies. Mr. Chamberlain's error is in supposing that the Great Powers are as simple as the Liberal-Unionists of Birmingham, and that he can humbug European Statesmen as he has humbugged Birmingham electors.

What struck me as the most clap-trappy of the clap-trap in Mr. Chamberlain's Birmingham speech was his declaration that he is in favour of cordial relations with the United States. One would really suppose that no one had desired this before he announced that he was in favour of it. As a nation we have been for the most cordial relations with the Americans for many a year. As a nation we have insisted on these cordial relations being maintained, whenever any of our rulers sought to weaken them. In the Confederate war, it was the people of England that prevented the recognition of the Confederacy. It was the people that insisted on the *Alabama* claims being referred to arbitration, and the Conservatives have for years denounced Mr. Gladstone for having agreed to this "surrender." Only the other day the Jingoes were howling for war with America rather than agree to arbitration in the Venezuela matter. The present Government sided with the Jingoes, and we should have been dragged into war, had it not been that the people made it clear that no such war would be permitted. Mr. Powell Williams—one of the Birmingham gang which affectionately and submissively regards Mr. Chamberlain as almost a divinity, and whose mission is to inculcate this cult—only a few days ago informed his Birmingham constituents that Mr. Chamberlain, by asserting that we ought to maintain cordial amity with the United States, has done as much for the well-being of the United Kingdom as Mr. Gladstone effected in his lifetime. Mr. Curzon, on the other hand, in his speech, met this statement by saying that, if we are on better terms with America than heretofore, it is entirely due to Lord Salisbury—the fact really being that it is due to neither, but to the action of the great mass of men which collectively makes "public opinion."

On the whole, though fully recognising Mr. Chamberlain's talents as a debater, I am glad that he has gone over to the Tories. I wish them joy of him. What he has always failed to understand is that, when men agree to row in the same boat, they ought to keep stroke. He is always trying to score off his brother oarsmen. If the Cabinet of which he is a member finds favour with the country, he tries to take all the credit to himself; if on any particular matter it does not find favour, he tries to separate himself from his colleagues, and to induce a belief that his counsels have been overruled. In the Press he has his organs, which puff him as though he were a pill, or a hair wash. A gentleman of this habit I would rather see in the camp of the enemy than in ours. He wants to be the head of the Party in which he now serves, just as he wanted to be the head of the Liberal Party in times past. He knows that his only chance is to divert attention from home politics, and to drag us into a war. He tried his best to force on a war against France about a frontier dispute in Western Africa. Lord Salisbury has prevented the success of this endeavour. For this I am grateful to Lord Salisbury. Foiled in this, Mr. Chamberlain wants to drag us into a war with Russia, and he implores Germany to aid us. Lord Salisbury, on the other hand, seeks no such entangling alliance, and, as he has said, he sees no reason why we should not come to some arrangement with Russia in regard to Asia to our mutual advantage. For this also I am thankful to Lord Salisbury. The Tories have a majority. They, not the Radicals, have the destinies of the country on their hands. It is Hobson's choice with us. We have to choose between Lord Salisbury, whose aim is peace, and Mr. Chamberlain, whose aim is war. Under these circumstances I stand by Lord Salisbury against Mr. Chamberlain, although I should be glad to see them both replaced by men more in accord with the political views of Radicals in respect to home politics, and less prone to expend all our resources on armaments. In Lord Salisbury I recognise a man endowed with many Statesmanlike qualities, who is not a Liberal, but who would not sacrifice what he honestly believes is to the interest of his country in order to serve his own personal ends. In Mr. Chamberlain I recognise a pushful, wire-pulling politician, ever subordinating the interests of his country to his own, and ready to be Tory, Unionist, Liberal, or Radical as it suits the exigencies of his ambition. Differing from the Tories on almost everything, I can respect an honest, conscientious Tory, however misguided I may think him. But for Mr. Chamberlain and politicians of that kidney I have no more respect than I should have, were I an American, for a Tammany Hall Boss. I like consistency, and I think that in this view I am not peculiar. A man who first gets into a Liberal Cabinet by the profession of ultra-Radical opinions, and who then gets into a Tory Cabinet by the profession of ultra-Tory opinions, and who, whether a Liberal or a Tory Minister, intrigues against his chief, may be puffed by his immediate followers as the noblest of patriots; but he has lost the confidence of the country, and can never regain it.

I think that it was Mr. Morley who the other day urged the reading of newspapers. I am not prepared to say that the advice should be discarded, but I would recommend those who follow it never to believe anything in a newspaper on a controversial issue, which is not proved in the clearest manner, and to distinguish between argument and mere dogmatic assertion. Otherwise he will find himself often fooled. He should not surrender his own judgment to the newspaper, nor make its views his own because these views appear in print. If he does, he becomes a mere sheep, baa-baaing as the newspaper that he affects tells him. For instance, I have seen it alleged again and again that Russia, in the recent China negotiation, was guilty of bad faith. This has been asserted and re-asserted in newspapers, and Mr. Chamberlain has translated it into the coarsest and most vulgar abuse. Now, these negotiations—or all that we know about them—are contained in a Blue Book. I like to go to the fountain head. Therefore I read and re-read the Blue

Book. I could not see a vestige of evidence to support the charge. In regard to the lease of Port Arthur, Russia had again and again distinctly stated her intentions, and they were received by us without protest. When the lease was granted, Lord Salisbury made no complaint, but only asked to be assured that the stipulations in regard to foreign commerce contained in the Treaty of Tientsin would not be abrogated. Only fifteen days after the lease had been notified, did he protest on strategical grounds. The Russians can hardly, in this matter, be charged with bad faith, nor did Lord Salisbury make that charge against them. So, too, as to Port Arthur being made a port of entry. Lord Salisbury never even asked for this. Our Ambassador at St. Petersburg did so, as he admits, without instructions. Count Mouravieff assented. When this was communicated to Lord Salisbury, he replied that he did not want Port Arthur to be a port of entry, because it is entirely unfitted for commercial purposes, and is only important as a fortress. So persistent were the assertions as to bad faith in the newspapers, that I thought that I might be mistaken. I consulted one of the ablest lawyers in the House of Commons, and begged him carefully to peruse the Blue Book. He did so, and came to the same conclusion as I had. This, therefore, is an instance of how public opinion can be prejudiced by bold, reckless assertions in newspapers.

THE CASE OF DANIEL COLLINS.

Much interest, I am glad to know, has been aroused by the story of the conviction and death of Daniel Collins, narrated in last week's TRUTH; and there is every hope of some further inquiry being held into the case, and of an attempt being made to obtain the release of Galvin, Collins' fellow prisoner. It may conduce to these ends if I dot one or two of the *i's* and cross a few of the *t's* in my last article.

To begin with, it is important to note the part which Mr. Loveland-Loveland, the presiding magistrate, played in bringing about the conviction. It has already been mentioned that Dr. Counsel, who defended Collins, expressly put it to the jury that he refrained from relying on the defence of insanity, first, because he considered his client entitled to an absolute acquittal on the evidence; and, secondly, because, under those circumstances, he could not take the responsibility of asking for a verdict which would have the effect of consigning the prisoner to a criminal lunatic asylum—with the probable further consequence that he would become permanently insane. In putting his case thus, Dr. Counsel said that he felt confident of the approval of the Bench—as well he might, seeing the flimsy character of the case for the prosecution. The point was not left in doubt, for, in charging the jury, Mr. Loveland-Loveland emphatically expressed his approval of the course which the prisoner's counsel had taken, remarking that the committal of the prisoner to a criminal lunatic asylum would probably bring about the result which Collins' friends must be most anxious to avoid. Yet having made this declaration, the judge proceeded to sum up dead against the prisoner, and there can be little doubt, in view of the character of the evidence against the prisoners, that it was the judge's undisguised indication of his own opinion which, more than anything else, led the jury to convict. Is this a fair attitude towards the prisoner on the part of a judge presiding at a criminal trial? Admitting, as he does, that there was evidence on which the jury might have found the young man mentally irresponsible, admitting also, as he does, that the state of Collins' mind was so precarious that committal to a criminal lunatic asylum might have the effect of permanently deranging him, he yet acquiesces in and approves of the virtual withdrawal of the defence of insanity, only to sum up in favour of a conviction, and, the conviction obtained, to pass a sentence of twelve months' hard labour! Does this learned magistrate, presiding regularly at one of the busiest criminal courts in the kingdom, seriously suppose that a youth who has already been under treatment for mental derangement, and whose intellect is admittedly in a precarious condition, is likely to fare better as a convict under sentence of hard labour than in an institution designed for the reception and treatment of the insane? It would really seem that he does, for, in passing sentence, after the prisoner's counsel had put forward the medical evidence as a reason for mitigating punishment, Mr. Loveland-Loveland dismissed this plea with an off-hand remark that the prisoner would be very well looked after where he was going to. It can only be inferred from this that in Mr. Loveland-Loveland's opinion the discipline of a convict prison is more suitable to one in danger of becoming permanently insane than that of a criminal lunatic asylum. An agreeable thought, considering the number of prisoners of doubtful sanity who must be tried at London Sessions in the course of a year!

How young Collins was really looked after where he went to, the sequel sufficiently shows. In consigning him to a gaol as a more suitable place than a lunatic asylum for a man whose reason was tottering, Mr. Loveland-Loveland in fact consigned him to death in six days' time. The prison authorities are in no way responsible for that tragic result, no notice having been given to them that any evidence of insanity had been given at the trial. The responsibility for the lad's death rests solely upon those who failed to give this warning when he was handed over to the gaolers. Who may be in fault for this remains to be seen; but seeing that Mr. Loveland-Loveland stands committed to the view that a sentence of hard labour was the most suitable treatment for a youth of Collins' antecedents, and that he would be properly looked after in the gaol, this gentleman may well be asked to explain what steps he took to ensure that Collins would be looked after in any different manner from any other prisoner consigned to Wormwood Scrubbs from London Sessions. It behoves the Home Secretary to put this question to Mr. Loveland-Loveland, and if the Deputy-Chairman replies that he gave proper and suitable instructions, then it will be for the Home Secretary to ascertain why and by whose default such instructions were not carried out.

So far as Mr. Loveland-Loveland is concerned, this is the most serious feature in the case. But I cannot refrain from commenting upon the part he played in inducing the jury to convict. I have already argued at length that the verdict was utterly against the weight of evidence, and that had the conviction gone before a court of appeal it

could not possibly have stood. Without going over that ground again, it is yet necessary to refer to the way in which Mr. Loveland-Loveland dealt with the one scintilla of evidence of false pretences or criminal intent which can be found in the case for the prosecution. This was the evidence of Julius Jacobs as to what was said to him by Galvin in regard to the value of the shares offered for sale to Jacobs' Company. This Jacobs, as already mentioned, had in February last completed a sentence of twelve months' hard labour for an attempt at blackmailing, and he was cross-examined upon that fact in Collins' case. The charge against Jacobs will be in the recollection of many of my readers. It was that of attempting to blackmail a Mr. Bebro by the threat of publishing a libel upon him in a financial journal. In the Collins case Jacobs, as already stated, admitted that he put himself into communication with the police after Collins had asked him to quote a price for the shares, and before he had himself made any offer for them. He admitted before the magistrate that he "wanted to catch" Collins, and that "it would have been a good advertisement for his Company." In plain English, he set a trap for Collins, in conjunction with the police, with an eye to business for himself. The statements of a man of such antecedents, acting from such motives, would hardly weigh heavily with the majority of jurymen. Apparently, that was what Mr. Loveland-Loveland thought, for what did he do? In his summing-up, he actually went out of his way to reassure the jury as to Jacobs' value as a witness by giving him a testimonial on his own account, stating that to his own knowledge he (Jacobs) had been instrumental in exposing certain serious financial frauds in the City! In any case, these remarks would be grossly irregular. A judge has no more business than anybody else in Court to put to the jury on his own responsibility facts which have not been formally proved in evidence, and which would not be admissible as evidence even if proof of them were tendered. But what is to be thought of a judge who resorts to a gratuitous irregularity of this kind for the purpose of gaining a conviction, or with the view of removing from the minds of the jury a doubt of which the prisoner would otherwise have got the benefit? It is a course directly opposed to the principles of English justice, and, I am thankful to add, to the traditions of the English Bench in criminal cases.

And what a fatuous misapprehension of the whole merits of the case does this judicial testimonial to the virtues of Jacobs imply! Upon the face of this earth there is no more odious creature than the blackmailer—the man who attempts to make money for himself by trading upon the misconduct or the timidity of another. It would seem that Jacobs, having been convicted and punished for this vile offence, and having very possibly, as the result of his imprisonment, got into confidential relations with the police, was now minded to rehabilitate himself by posing as a vindicator of the law, and thereby giving "a good advertisement" to his Company. How does he set about realising this public-spirited design? By setting a trap to lure a youth of weak intellect into a breach of the criminal law. There is no evidence of a shadow of criminal intention on Collins' part in the first instance. He simply saw the advertisement of Jacobs' Company, and sent them a sample share asking what price it would fetch—an act far more consistent with a belief that the share was marketable than that it was worthless. Jacobs gives an evasive reply, comes to the conclusion that there is something wrong, communicates with the police, tempts Collins to put a selling price on the shares, and then, himself believing the shares to be valueless, offers a fictitious price for them. Then, and not till then, does Collins send a friend, who states (according to Jacobs) that the interest on the shares has been paid—the one solitary indication of a false pretence as to the value of the shares, and even this resting solely on Jacobs' testimony. What can this be called but setting a trap? And what view would any average man take of a witness, only four months out of gaol, who lays a trap of this kind for the avowed purpose of advertising his own business? Yet this is the witness whom Mr. Loveland-Loveland, in his desire to secure a conviction, goes out of his way to rehabilitate from the Bench.

Again, how does this view of Jacobs' conduct affect the merits of the case? Surely, it shows that if Collins and his friend eventually committed anything in the nature of a false pretence (which I deny), they were led into it entirely by Jacobs' own false pretence as to the value of the shares. An offence committed in this way—criminal intent absent in the first instance, and only developed by the instigation of the *agent provocateur*—is of all offences the most venial, and, in the opinion of most men who have given the matter any thought, reflects discredit only upon those who instigate and procure it. Not so thinks Mr. Loveland-Loveland. In proportion to his admiration of the virtuous and public-spirited Jacobs is his abhorence of the nefarious designs of the villain Collins, who had dared to ask so good a man to quote a price for an unmarketable stock. So Mr. Loveland-Loveland, regardless of the lad's previous good character, regardless also of the beneficent provisions of the First Offences Act for such cases made and provided, consigns Collins to twelve months' hard labour, fortified in this righteous decision by the thought that, as the lad is of doubtful sanity, this will be a much more wise and merciful course than sending him to a lunatic asylum. The case is such a topsy-turvy mockery of justice from beginning to end that, but for the coffin and the grave in the background, one would laugh at it as one laughs at some travesty of judicial procedure in an opéra bouffe.

I trust that the other prisoner, Galvin, will be released without delay. No time should be lost by his friends in taking the proper steps for that purpose. His position is solely that of an accomplice of Collins, and if poor Collins was wrongfully condemned and mercilessly punished—as to which, among those qualified to judge there can hardly be a difference of opinion—Galvin ought not to be kept in gaol a day longer. But the case ought not to rest there. At every stage it reflects upon the fitness of the Deputy-Chairman of the London Sessions for the position which he fills, and it requires to be carefully investigated and considered by the Home Secretary from that point of view. If by the fault of any judge or magistrate such a

miscarriage of justice occurs as the facts of this case suggest—a miscarriage aggravated a thousandfold by the death of the victim—it is necessary for the protection of all innocent persons that effectual steps should be taken to prevent the same judge making the same mistake again.

A KLONDYKE PROSPECTOR'S PROSPECTS.

A strange tale of Klondyke company-promoting reached me the other day from Vancouver. The writer was a Mr. David T. Evans, who found himself stranded in Vancouver under the following circumstances. A few months ago Mr. Evans, being then in London, saw advertised in a London daily the prospectus of the Klondyke-Yukon Gold Mining Company, Limited. He sent for a copy of the prospectus, put himself in communication with the secretary, and found that by taking 200 shares he could be appointed as a member of the prospecting expedition which the Company proposed to send out to Klondyke. The Company does not appear to have possessed anything in the shape of property, either in Klondyke or elsewhere, unless "options" can be so described. The purposes for which it was formed were thus indicated in the prospectus :—

> This Company has been formed for the purpose of despatching within the next few weeks a trading, mining, and exploring company for prospecting and acquiring auriferous lands in the Klondyke and Yukon districts, to which the attention of the world has been directed by the published and proved reports of enormous gold discoveries.
>
> The Company has secured the services of thoroughly skilled, practical and experienced gold mining experts and prospectors, and the expedition will be despatched viâ Wrangel and Telegraph Creek to take up claims on behalf of the Company, and to proceed with their immediate development.
>
> Several valuable options for the purchase on favourable terms of proved rich properties have been received, and the Company has a reliable and responsible manager in British Columbia, who is looking after the Company's interests in obtaining options of desirable claims and concessions, and who is making arrangements for trading junctions and depots.
>
> The capital of the Company has been made moderate so as to permit of each shareholder having a large interest in the heavy profits anticipated, instead of a large capital which causes the profits to be attenuated.
>
> No expedition will leave for these goldfields better prepared, and so calculated to meet with success, as the one despatched by this Company.

These statements were seasoned with the usual highly-coloured representations of the wealth of the Klondyke and Yukon districts, and the usual promoter's anticipations of the wealth awaiting those who joined the Company in good time. The Directors were :—

> J. D. Robertson, Esq. (late Coolgardie Goldfields), 8, Ruskin Mansions, W.
> Montague Manning, Esq. (late Peak Hill Goldfields), Laverstock, Salisbury.
> S. H. Reed, Esq. (late Gympie Goldfields), 1, Onslow-place, S.W.
> E. H. Wasser, Esq. (Messrs. Bartels & Co.), 8, Hanover-street, W.
>
> *(With power to add to their number.)*

Messrs. Sydney Reed & Co., of 20, Great Marlborough-street, were the solicitors, Mr. R. L. Sewell was stated to be the Company's manager in Dawson City, and the registered offices were at 20, Great Marlborough-street, the offices of Messrs. Sydney Reed & Co.

Now Mr. Evans was a practical miner, with some years' experience both in coal and quartz mining. He was favourably impressed with the prospectus, and he entered into an agreement with the Company to become one of the prospectors on the following terms. He was to apply and pay for 200 shares, and to serve the Company for three years at a salary of £200 a year, payable quarterly; the Company on their side undertaking to provide him with an outfit suitable for the Klondyke region, to convey him to the gold fields, and "to provide all necessary provisions and travelling expenses" during the engagement. Mr. Evans accordingly applied for the 200 shares, and paid for them £140 in cash, giving some kind of charge as security for the balance. He was taken by Mr. Reed, the Company's solicitor, with whom his negotiations seem to have been conducted, to an outfitter, and provided with certain clothes; and he was ultimately conducted by Mr. Reed to Liverpool to sail to Halifax by the steamship *Gallia*, having been previously offered a passage to Alaska *viâ* Cape Horn by a sailing ship, which he declined. Another gentleman, who was to be a member of the expedition, accompanied them from London, Mr. Reed explaining (according to Evans' version of the story) that the rest of the party would be found at Liverpool. The other members were not visible at Liverpool, and when the landing stage was reached, Mr. Reed explained that they were engaged in saying farewell to their friends. The farewell seems to have been so protracted as to prevent their catching the boat, for they never put in an appearance, and Mr. Evans and his solitary companion departed alone. It is only fair, however, to mention here that Mr. Reed denies this part of the story *in toto*. Mr. Reed provided the two prospectors with their tickets to Vancouver, and gave them £3 or £4 in cash to cover their incidental expenses, informing them (I am still following Evans' statement) that they would be met at Montreal by a representative of the Company, and that, when they arrived at Vancouver, they would join Mr. Robertson, apparently the commander of the expedition, who had left for New York on the previous Tuesday by the *Lucania*. They did not find any representative of the Company at Montreal, nor did they find Mr. Robertson at Vancouver. They made inquiries for him in every direction, but with as little success as though Mr. Robertson had never existed. The small amount of money which they had brought with them was soon exhausted, and at the end of the first week in May they were in a more or less destitute and hopeless condition at Vancouver, when Mr. Evans communicated his story to me, for the purpose of obtaining any information he could as to the position of the Company which had played him this trick.

Naturally the first thing I did was to send round to Mr. Reed, the solicitor of the Company, in Great Marlborough-street, to make inquiries as to the accuracy of the facts. I fully expected that Mr. Reed would be able either to contradict some of the statements, or to mention other circumstances which would put a different complexion upon them. But so far as I can find he is not in a position to do either the one or the other. He says that Mr. Evans joined the Company of his own free will, and denies that any persuasion was used on the Company's side; but that is really not very material. He also denies, as already mentioned, that he said anything about the rest of the party joining at Liverpool; and he repudiates any mention of a representative who was to meet them at Montreal

For the rest, he explains that out of the Company's proposed capital of £20,000, only £285 was subscribed, out of which £180 had been handed in cash to a gentleman named Power (not Robertson) who was to take charge of the expedition at Vancouver. Power sailed some time ago by the *Majestic* for New York, and has not been heard of since. Concerning Mr. Power's antecedents, Mr. Reed's knowledge seems to be strangely defective. All that he can tell is that Mr. Power was formerly connected with the gold mining industry in West Australia, and that he came to the Klondyke Company with an introduction from some one in that part of the world. On the strength of this introduction the Company seem to have appointed him to the command of their operations in the Klondyke-Yukon district, and to have handed over to him the bulk of their available assets. Mr. Reed appears to sympathise with the position of Mr. Evans and his fellow prospector at Vancouver, but he has not yet abandoned hope of Mr. Power and the £180 ultimately coming to their rescue. Under these circumstances I fear that the prospect before these unfortunate prospectors is a poor one.

This story is not very creditable to the representatives in London of this precious Company. Mr. Evans has paid to the Company £140 in cash, in return for which he has received a passage to Vancouver worth about £16, a few pounds' worth of clothes, and a share of £4 in cash handed over to himself and his comrade; and against this he is left in a destitute condition on the other side of the globe with no immediate hope of getting back or of finding a living where he is. From Mr. Reed's statement of the case it would appear that the Company never had the means of sending a properly equipped expedition to Klondyke, and that the statements in the prospectus as to the intention of sending out such an expedition were either purely imaginative, or contingent upon the British public providing the necessary funds for the purpose. Even if the extraordinary story of £180 having been handed to an unknown gentleman from West Australia, for the purpose of enabling him to take command of the expedition at Vancouver, and conduct it to the goldfields, is to be accepted, it does not place the intelligence and forethought of the directors in a much more favourable light. To have taken from a working man the whole of his available wealth under such circumstances as these is an utterly unjustifiable proceeding, and I suggest to the four directors above named, and to their solicitor who took the principal part in their transactions, that their plain duty to Mr. Evans is to provide him at once with the means of returning to England, even if they have to find the money out of their own pockets. The whole story should be a warning to sanguine and inexperienced people against the folly of investing their cash and prospects in wild-cat schemes of this kind.

A FLOWER-BED OF PROCRUSTES.

Events theatrical have followed one another so rapidly this week that, to give a clear impression of them all would require the talent of a Japanese landscape-gardener—that marvellous faculty of working in little, of making a pool of water into the sea, of oak trees not six inches high a forest, and a tempest with a feather fan. But so admirable a gift is denied to me, and I must remain discontented with pruning or lopping off my favourite trailers, with being, in fact, a Western gardener, and arranging at the best but a flower-bed of Procrustes.

This classical allusion takes me at once to the villa of Mr. Owen Hall's necromancer upon the heights of Rome, and at the same time suggests the torments devised by the Prefect of the City for Mr. Necromancer Wright. "To be bitten in the stomach by wild monkeys," for instance, is a form of punishment that would certainly have received the approval of Caligula. He would probably have made Mr. Owen Hall master of the revels as a reward, unless, indeed —and this hypothesis is not improbable—he had first desired personal proof of its value from the inventor. I am all for transferring this and other curious classicisms —as, for instance, the expletive d——n, as used by Marcus Pomponius when annoyed—from the ingenious pages of Mr. Owen Hall to the more careless chronicle of Suetonius.

Seriously, the Romans must have lived—and sworn—in somewhat similar terms, and I am not convinced that Mr. Owen Hall's story is not more near the Roman world than those pretty lyrics after Herrick of Messrs. Harry Greenbank and Adrian Ross, and the dancing music of Mr. Sidney Jones. But fortunately this question asks no reply; or, if it does, the answer is lost on the silvery heights of Miss Marie Tempest's singing, choked in the diamond coils of that marvellous snake she wears about her arm, and danced victoriously off the stage by sweet Miss Letty Lind. Iris, Maia, Antonia, Heliodorus, Archias, Manlius! Delightful names! And what an amusing story is wound about them in the most lovely of environments! For the necromancer's villa is worthy the times of the Cæsars, and of Mr. George Edwardes—the alcove, especially, where, dressed in black gauze and diamonds, and seated on a raised daïs backed with glittering golden mosaic, and with wings of Egyptian scarabs in precious stones, Maia, the sorceress, gives the oracle to the Lady Antonia, come in her gilded litter with all the pomp of the "ladies of old time" to consult her. This and that moment in the play are exquisite. And Antonia's villa at Baiæ in the second act; a revel of colour and proportion. And Antonia herself! How fresh and bright she is! Antonia (Miss Hilda Moody) in her marvellous robe, cloth of gold upon gold, with masses of heavy hair about her shoulders and a voice like Philomela's. But alas, there is Procrustes—or Lampsacus, perhaps?—hastening up under the peach-blossoms with his shears, and I must cease. I think the fruit-trees of Antonia's villa will blossom all the year.

MR. BRET HARTE'S "SUE" AT THE GARRICK.

Mr. Bret Harte took Sue by the hand and led her forth from the pages of the "Judgment of Bolinas Plain." Miss Annie Russell was waiting at the stage-door, and like a good little fairy (for she has much of the wizardry of art) she has lent to her life and youth and infinite sympathy, so that now Sue lives for us indeed. But Sue did not come empty-handed to her fairy. She had a fine wardrobe: the wayward innocence of girlhood that loves the cows best, the sense of the incomplete when she is married to the man she does not love, that utter ignorance of the outer world which does not even know

what a circus is, the sudden bursting into blossom when she meets the acrobat, her flight with love, her repentance and return (by what strange accident of life!) to her husband.

But not only did Miss Annie Russell wait at the stage-door; a band of excellent artists was with her, and without exception, the disembooked souls (if I may dare the expression) have flitted into marvellous lodgings. Ira Beasley slouches convincingly about in Mr. Edward Morgan; Mr. W. Sampson permits Sue's father, Silas Prescott, to swear and deal in crops or daughters to the very life; Mr. Lionel Adams and Re—ligion are one as Parson Adams; Mr. Joseph Brennan is the Sheriff himself, with his bovine admiration for Sue, his rustic brutality, and his crude humour; Mr. Samuel Reed as Judge Lynch of the Vigilance and General Hanging Committee made one feel just a little nervous for my neck in the front row of the stalls; and the acrobat was very Hyde of very Hyde in Mr. (Jekyll) Mills. I do not name the minor avatars, though I never saw a better fit of souls and bodies. The manager, Mr. Charles Frohman, is the best of psychical tailors, the Poole of the spiritual world.

The play is dramatic and imaginative, replete with observation, and teeming with wit and humour—that rare quality. The witticisms, moreover, are born naturally of the dialogue, and while they make us laugh, each adds its little touch towards the finishing of the complete picture; they are not hauled from the depths of the unexperienced and put indifferently into the mouths of rococo diplomatists, waiters, or schoolgirls of seventeen.

Yes, Bolinas Plain is a curious place, far distant indeed from our refinement and convention. And yet how real are those uncouth shapes, with their angular minds, rendered to the life by these excellent comedians! If I were to make any suggestion, it would be that the second act, where sheriff, acrobat, husband, and wife play at a grim sort of hide-and-seek, might allow of considerable compression. We are fully conscious of the situation, and to wait while tea is being prepared and drunk—so slowly—is trying. The action is also too long delayed when the Sheriff comes to himself, while he binds up his wound and staggers about the stage. Let us know he is badly wounded, and then the sooner he hobbles off to vengeance the better. This American play is well worth seeing, *as played by Americans*, but do not let our actors forget that the Atlantic lies between us in life and art.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE FRENCH "MR. SPEAKER."

WE have a new President of the Chamber. He is worthy to lave himself in the silver bath of De Morny, and to act the part of host in the tapestried Salle des Fêtes. The pink and sky-blue boudoir of the Duchesse de Morny has rendered yet more elegant by Gambetta. He placed the Petit Bourbon on its present footing of delicious luxuriousity. As "La Princesse" paid for it, no expense was spared. Be it known that "La Princesse" means the Exchequer. "Elle est si bonne Princesse!" M. Deschanel is fully sensible of the delectable side of his office. He is a hard worker, and more serious than he looks. What was bad in his election was the way in which the Government managed it. The support it gave Deschanel was an open vengeance. And against whom? Against Brisson, whose private and public life had no wrong side, and whose Republicanism was tried and sincere. The reason of the vengeance was this: Brisson—and with too good reason—denounced *coup d'état* intentions and flabby resistance to them. The Ralliés were preparing to strike the blow, and the Government were their passive tools. The country half-believed Brisson before the first ballot, and entirely believed him before the second. He was sent back by greatly increased votes to the Chamber, and upset the plan on which he had thrown light. Brisson is anything but the bore the *Gaulois* and other such papers represent him. His conversation can be playful and brightened with wit. He is very simple in habits and manners, though he has an air of dignity. Mme. Brisson is a dear, good woman, his worthy companion in all respects. She rose to her high situation at the Palais Bourbon, without losing simplicity or giving herself airs. She is an accomplished musician, and has fine mental gifts. Living all her life with great artists, orators, authors, these gifts have been well nurtured. She has no children, but adopted the orphans of Albert Joby, an advocate of great promise and fine character, who died young. He was no relation of the Brissons, who have brought up his children.

Méline is the man of monopolies and monopolists—that is to say, of the rich as against the rest. He would not be a party to a *coup d'état*, but he would connive at one for the benefit of his wealthy friends. I dare say he has let himself be persuaded that such an event is inevitable, and has wished to be on the side of the broom-handle. M. Faure may think that if a clean sweep were made, he would come out of the crisis life-President. This would explain his love for Sovereigns, Ducs, Duchesses, and other aristocrats, and the regal part he played at a recent aristocratic carousal. The Mass at the Elysée for the victims of the Charity Bazaar should be mentioned in this connection. Why are there not Masses there for the victims of colliery explosions?

Deschanel has those social gifts and talents for which some women are remarkable. No woman could have more tact, charm, quick repartee, or a keener feeling for what is elegant, *distingué*, refined. He dances to perfection, has an elegant figure, and a face that would be of feminine beauty were the forehead not so virile. The well-cut profile is one for Sèvres, alabaster, or cameo. It looks delicate, but if you examine it you will find it strong. He was nursed on Greek and Latin, but took most kindly to Greek. I suspect him of a weakness for Alcibiades, Pericles, Aspasia, and the society that gathered round them. Nobody talks of love at an Epicurean banquet with more Anacreontic feeling than the new "Mr. Speaker." Now that I think of it, he is in some respects a kinsman of Moore, but

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received a better education, and has a harder head. Had he been born to wealth, he might have grown up a dandy; but he was born the son of a proscript of the *coup d'état* at Brussels (1856), and was reared in honourable poverty. As it is, his dress is merely elegant, and a good deal of the elegance is thrown into it by the wearer. There is no better drawing-room actor. He is a very clever orator, though his speeches are over-studied. But he is a first-rate lecturer, as his father was before him. Such a man must have aristocratic leanings. He would have been in Athens with Alexander and Aristotle as against the disciples of Demosthenes. But I do not think he realises what a vast distance lay between Athens and Corinth, though they were but thirty miles or so apart. A Corinthian Republic, perhaps, would suit him better than an Athenian.

M. Emile Deschanel, the Speaker's father, was also an Athenian in education and feeling, but had no particular taste for elegance, except in literature. He went in, as a professor of classic literature, for analysis of the feminine heart. I have somewhere two little keepsakes he once upon a time gave me on "Le Bien qu'on dit des Femmes," and "Le Mal qu'on dit des Femmes." He was a worshipper of Racine, and discovered endless keys to his tragedies. They turned in the rusty old locks, and were wonders of ingenuity. Throughout the Empire Professor Deschanel had a black mark against him. He nearly caused the interdiction of certain courses of lectures in the Rue de la Paix by his expositions of Shakespeare. Poor Badinguet had just been holding out the olive branch to the Bishop of Orleans and patronising Darboy, Archbishop of Paris—the future martyrs of the Commune. Deschanel *père* found in this a parallel with Richard III. between the two bishops. It was seized by the audience. I never heard anything more spirited and more amusing than the lecture. The passages relating to Richard and the bishops were admirably read. He also gave a lecture on Juliet's love affairs, which brought pockethandkerchiefs to eyes. Romeo he thought a poor creature. But love is blind, and all the interest of the play was centred in Juliet. Professor Deschanel has now a chair at the Sorbonne and a seat in the Senate.

It is usual for the President to send his aide-de-camp to the weighing-ground immediately after the Grand Prix race to congratulate the winner. That fortunate goes to the State tribune to return thanks for the distinguished attention. He is congratulated afresh. If he enjoys being stared at by a mob of well-dressed people, he should be the happiest man alive. Mlle. Marsy was a winner at Longchamps last year. At once an aide-de-camp was sent to present her M. Faure's congratulations. As he approached, she was surrounded by a cheering throng. One would think she personated patriotism. The officer had difficulty in reaching her, but at last succeeded. Mlle. Marsy had thrown off her weeds for Max Lebaudy. She was in high spirits, and was delighted anew with Longchamps. It was so like the theatre, and particularly in the obligation she was placed under of receiving the President's compliments from his own mouth. As the aide-de-camp had not been instructed to take her to the State tribune, his face fell. But it was a case of Greek meeting Greek. The lady took his proffered arm. He led her through the thickest throngs, and thereby lost so much time that the company at the State tribune were moving to their carriages before the aide-de-camp and the lady came up. In the name of military discipline the aide-de-camp dropped his fair companion's arm. With a low bow he left her, and bounded forward to stand at M. Faure's elbow. A cause of embarrassment was surmounted; but congratulations were later presented in the Bois. Mlle. Marsy takes morning rides there, and so does M. Félix Faure.

At the last Grand Prix, Rothschild's Roi Soleil was the winner. It is not possible that such a lover of Sovereigns as our President could have thought ill of the horse bearing that name. But M. Méline may have said, "If you congratulate the owner, Drumont will vote for Brisson. My candidate for the Presidency of the Chamber will, in that case, be beaten. Please spare me the humiliation, and yourself the pain of having to call Bourgeois to replace me." At any rate, no aide de-camp, or even civil secretary, was sent to felicitate Rothschild. He waited, as in politeness bound, for the officer to come forward. But when he saw the Presidential party on the move, he modestly remarked that, after all, he was as good as Mlle. Marie Louise Marsy. A cold wind has since blown between the Rue Lafitte and the Elysée. But Brisson has been defeated and Méline can still hang on.

None of the Paris senior Rothschilds has any taste for horses or the Turf. But as the Turf has become such a power in the world, they think well to have a well-jewelled finger in that pie. The money that Roi Soleil won could have brought them little satisfaction. Baron Alphonse de Rothschild is indifferent to the admiration of the crew that gathers to Longchamps on the Grand Prix day, and makes it one of the ulcerous spots of the earth.

They have given up having ordinary balls at the Hôtel de Ville, and have arranged to give fêtes in honour of the arts, sciences, and great industries. But the Invitations Committee find it would never do to issue 6,000 cards only for each fête. They have stretched the list to 8,000. The last fête was in honour of the arts. All the grand artists of France appeared on a platform. There was a concert in honour of music, a dance in honour of dancing, a theatrical show in honour of the drama. Endless were the models. They were each and all dressed with *chic*, but not with fashionable style. J. P. Laurens presided on the artists' platform.

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LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE return of Ascot Week, dear Lady Betty, recalls a story which may suitably be applied to the present situation. A singularly stout lady was staying in the neighbourhood of Ascot for the race-week. On the first morning of her visit a hip bath was provided for her use, but unfortunately, when the lady sat down in this, all the water overflowed, thus creating a vacuum. Obviously, the lady could not extricate herself from the bath, so crawling upon all fours, with the bath on her back, she steered for the nearest bell. The maids pulled the bath and pulled the lady, but there was no separating the two. At last the village blacksmith was called in, who, punching a hole in the bath, let in the air, thus destroying the vacuum, and the lady was released.

The astonishing speech which Mr. Joseph Chamberlain recently delivered at Birmingham has placed the Cabinet in a position very similar to that occupied by the lady whose adventure has been described in the previous paragraph. The supporters of the Government may pull this way and they may pull that way as they will, but a hole must be made in the Cabinet before the Government and the speech can be separated. Is this hole to be made by the retirement of Lord Salisbury or by the resignation of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain?

* * * * *

The following letter has been addressed to me:—

"Mayfair, Saturday, June 11.

"Sir,—I am a Dowager, and I have daughters. Every morning I take them to the Park; every afternoon I take them to tea-parties; every night I expose them in the best ball-rooms. Notwithstanding all these exertions, no young men can be prevailed upon to propose. I have read in a book that 'the Australian savage, when he has fixed his affections on a girl, on the earliest convenient day steals up behind her and deals her a violent blow on the head with his club. The girl is stunned, and, before she recovers her senses, he carries her off to his home.' As the eligible young men of to-day refuse to propose in the ordinary manner, I foresee that the time is approaching when the marriageable girls will have to imitate the Australian savage. It is only by imposing the severest restraint upon my daughters that I am able to prevent them from doing this as it is; and it is plain to me that very shortly the marriageable girls will combine, and, armed with clubs, will provide themselves with husbands on the same system as the Australian savages procure their wives. Marriage, which is man's pleasure, is woman's business.—Yours faithfully, Dowager."

It is to be hoped that these good ladies will not inaugurate the system in the Royal Enclosure at Ascot. But the New Woman does not inspire confidence, for the New Woman is the Old Woman demoralised.

* * * * *

The appointment of Sir Charles Scott to succeed Sir Nicholas O'Conor as British Ambassador at St. Petersburg is supposed to be mainly due to the intervention of the Czar. Sir Charles, as British Minister at Copenhagen, had several opportunities of discussing current events with the Czar when the latter visited that capital. Sir Charles Scott is an especially amiable diplomatist, and there is very little doubt that he will be both successful and popular at St. Petersburg. The vacancy created at Copenhagen by his promotion will probably be filled by the appointment of Sir Henry Dering, Sir Edmund Fane, or Mr. Phipps to that post. In all probability the names of these three diplomatists will be submitted to the Queen, with whom the choice rests, as Copenhagen is essentially a Family post. It is especially gratifying to perceive that, notwithstanding all rumours to the contrary, Lord Salisbury has appointed members of the Diplomatic Service to the vacant Embassies, and it is to be hoped, therefore, that he has at last realised the folly and the injustice of presenting the prizes to friends of his own who have no experience of foreign politics.

* * * * *

"A meeting was held yesterday at Stafford House, under the presidency of the Duchess of Sutherland, in aid of the work of the National Association for Promoting the Welfare of the Feeble-Minded." The Association has much excellent work to do. For instance, it should direct its labours towards converting those feeble-minded men and women who are convinced that the only way of enjoying Ascot Races is by herding together in their thousands in a sheep-pen which can only comfortably accommodate as many hundreds. The Association might, moreover, give some attention to those feeble-minded persons who imagine that they increase in importance by associating with those who bear titles. A man betrays the small opinion which he has of himself when he supposes that he attains additional importance by contact with others who are more socially distinguished than he is. Another section of the community which deserves to be attended to by the Association is composed of those feeble-minded individuals who conceive that money is to be made not by saving money but by spending money. The latter method, which is essentially the new method, generally leads to the Bankruptcy Court and frequently to the Criminal Court. Another branch of the feeble-minded class attaches itself to the latest millionaires, imagining that the latter will reward their undignified advances by giving them valuable information as regards Stock Exchange transactions. Millionaires amass wealth not by possessing generous instincts or by exercising benevolent qualities; they become rich generally by over-reaching those who come into contact with them, and by holding fast to their money bags. "The National Association for Promoting the Welfare of the Feeble-Minded" has an especially splendid field of action in this country, and therefore it is worthy of the heartiest support. Lord Herschell moved the first resolution at the recent meeting, which commenced with the following clause:—"The existence of large classes of feeble-minded persons is a danger to the moral and physical welfare of society." This is absolutely correct, only unfortunately "society" was not spelt with a capital "s."—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE annual London meeting of the members of the Jockey Club is to be held next Monday at the Duke of Richmond and Gordon's house in Belgrave-square, and it may be hoped that there will be a large attendance, and that several matters of practical importance, which have been too long neglected, will at last receive attention. In the first place, it would be well if some influential member would call attention to the pernicious policy now followed by the Stewards in allowing the number of race meetings to be increased, whereas the interests of sport call urgently for an extensive cutting down of the List of Fixtures. Week after week there is racing from Monday morning until Saturday night, and the whole thing is preposterously overdone, for the class of sport now provided at most meetings is beneath contempt. It is the same thing over and over again, with the same horses running over the same distances. There is a deal of touting and jobbery in connection with the licensing of meetings, for the vested interests are very powerful, and no Stewards appear strong enough to stand up against them. The fact is that any one would suppose that, instead of the turf existing for

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the improvement of the breed of horses, its object is to pay exorbitant dividends to the shareholders of grand stands (as at Epsom) or of gate-money meetings. However, the Newmarket authorities watch the chaos which their fatuous policy has produced with stupid unconcern.

It is also disgraceful that the Derby, Leger, and other great weight-for-age stakes should still be open to geldings, and this is a flagrant scandal, which ought to be stopped before the entries for any of the events of 1900 are made.

There has been a great deal of most insane nonsense both talked and written about Count Schomberg's defeat at Auteuil. The fact is, that this very much overrated horse was fairly and squarely beaten simply because he has not yet learnt the business of jumping over such a steeple-chase course as that of Auteuil. It is now said that Count Schomberg is to win the Goodwood Cup, but the fact has probably been overlooked that he has earned a 12 lb. penalty for his Chester Cup victory last year, which will effectually settle his chance unless there is a complete collapse in the field. The *Sportsman* announced the other day that £15,000 had been offered and refused for Count Schomberg, but the flim-flam was rather too strong for the other sporting papers, none of which referred to the trash except in terms of derision. Most people are sick and tired of these wondrous tales of sensational offers which some papers are so fond of recording, and in nine cases out of ten it will be found on investigation that no bonâ fide offer has ever been made. A gasconading owner exclaims that he would not take some monstrous price for his steed, whereupon some parasite declares that the animal is well worth the sum mentioned, and then we are informed next day that the amount has been "offered and refused." The tale about Count Schomberg was obviously the production of some vigorous and mendacious imagination. Here we have a horse that was thought to be very well sold when his present owner gave 5,100 gs. for him at the Newmarket sales last December. Count Schomberg has done nothing since he then changed hands, and it seems highly probable that he has won his last race, while his value as a sire is very small. Who, then, can for a moment believe that £15,000 was offered and refused for him?

Some of the papers regularly publish the most insane nonsense about racing affairs. The *Daily Mail* has informed its readers that the price of 100 to 1 stated to have been laid against Jeddah for the Derby at Epsom "is a merely mythical one, and such a price was never laid." What is the object of printing such trash? 1,000 to 10 was being offered all over the ring during the hour before the start for the Derby, and at least one bet of 1,000 to 8 was laid then. Even more flagrantly idiotic is the assertion of the *Daily Mail* that, "as a fact, 33 to 1 is the most ever actually offered against any horse!" This information will astonish both layers and backers, and the writer manifestly knows no more about turf matters than a baby does about astronomy.

Galtee More has been despatched to Russia, and a better sold horse never left this country. Twenty thousand guineas is a truly exorbitant price for a horse of no very splendid pedigree, who owes far more to his luck than to his merits. Galtee More had the good fortune to be raced in a miserably moderate season. One of the sporting papers has been indulging in the most extravagant rhapsodies about the horse, but the object of such nonsensical heroics is perfectly apparent. It is utterly impossible to make Galtee More out to be a flyer by even the most astute manipulation of his running. He won the Two Thousand very easily indeed, but he beat nothing better than Berzak, who is a bad animal, as Velasquez was evidently out of form, and he was never in the race for a single yard. It took Galtee More all his time to defeat Velasquez in the Derby and Chelandry in the Leger, and that Lord Rosebery's pair are far from being wonders has long been universally acknowledged. The fact of Velasquez having been so easily beaten for the Jockey Club Stakes by Love Wisely is sufficient evidence to prove that he is a moderate horse; but he is said to have been more or less amiss all last year. Galtee More had nothing better to beat than Cortegar at Sandown Park. Indeed, Mr. Gubbins' steed never met a good horse in any of his weight-for-age races. As to handicaps, he was beaten badly for the Cambridgeshire, having 9 st. 6 lb. on his back, and he started favourite for that race, so it is clear that there was no excuse for his defeat on the score of condition. It cannot be said that the form of this Cambridgeshire was exceptionally good, for of the nine horses which finished in front of Galtee More, Sandia is the only one which has since won a race. Considering all the fulsome praise which has been lavished on Galtee More by jobbers who have a "best horse of the century" regularly every season, he might have been expected to make a better show in the Cambridgeshire, for the field was a very poor one from the class point of view. Galtee More has proved himself to be the best of an exceedingly moderate lot of three-year-olds, but he has never achieved anything which justifies his claim to a place in the equine temple of fame. If he had been foaled a year sooner he would have been simply lost over any distance by St. Frusquin and Persimmon. As to the romance about Galtee More giving Kilcock a stone and a beating, he could not have beaten the old horse at weight-for-age over six furlongs, and a gallop over a mile or upwards with a proved non-stayer would be a fatuous farce. However, such are the fiddle-faddle fairy tales with which some infatuated buyers are easily humbugged by mendacious imaginations. It is simple lunacy for any one seriously to compare Galtee More with Ormonde. The Duke of Westminster's horse easily defeated the best of his own year, of the previous year, and of the following year whenever he met them, and in either 1885 or in 1886 Galtee More would have been nowhere. Ormonde easily defeated Minting more than once; and let it be remembered that Mr. Vyner's horse won the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap with 10 st. on his back, and having behind him an infinitely superior field to that which ran for last year's Cambridgeshire. Bendigo, moreover, who had won the Jubilee Handicap from a good field with 9 st. 7 lb. on his back, had no chance with Ormonde. Galtee More is a very lucky horse, and his late owner has been so prodigiously favoured by fortune in connection with last year's Derby winner, both in his turf career and by his sale for such a monstrous price, that he will do well to take leave of the turf, lest he should experience the lean time, which is certain to arrive after such a flood tide of good luck.

I pointed out a fortnight ago that it would be prudent to ignore the placings in the Derby, so far as regarded Dunlop, as Dieudonné could certainly have beaten this horse if he had been ridden out, and so, probably, could some others in the field. The bad running of Dunlop in the Grand Prix last week proved that my view was correct, and the utter collapse of all the English horses shows that our three-year-olds are a deplorable lot. Some of them may have fair speed, but they are not real stayers.

Mr. Rose has a very nice two-year-old in Santa Paula, by Common out of Penitent, dam of Ravensbury, and if this filly goes on all right she is sure to distinguish herself on the turf. Santa Paula wants time, and she is not likely to start for any race before the Imperial Produce Stakes of £3,000 at Kempton Park, which is run on October 7.

Cap Martin has done well in a trial at Newmarket, and he will most likely win the Ascot Derby this afternoon, while to-morrow Dieudonné will have to do his best in order to beat Mr. Baird's colt for the rich St. James's Palace Stakes. Cap Martin is now probably in much better form than ever he was as a two-year-old. He was galloped over the Bunbury Mile.

I hear that the Duke of Westminster's best two-year-old for Ascot will be Flying Fox, by Orme out of Vampire, and he is very likely to win the New Stakes.

The sporting papers "go for" either The Rush or Newhaven II. for the Gold Cup. My own opinion is that one of the French horses will win the Cup this year, either Masque II. or Elf II. Masque II. has been showing excellent form in

France, and he is believed to be a very much improved horse. Elf II. has won many of the principal long-distance races in his own country. Both horses are thorough stayers, and they also have nice speed.

Kilcock may win the Wokingham Stakes on Friday, but this race is always a dangerous event to meddle with. Hermiston and Altesse are both well in among the light-weights.

It is most unfortunate that Baron de Rothschild's Le Roi Soleil, winner of the Grand Prix, should have been struck out of the Sandown Foal Stakes of £2,000, which is run at the October meeting, as this race would have been a good thing for him, and it was his only engagement in England. Le Roi Soleil was withdrawn from this race when he was a yearling. I daresay that Baron de Rothschild's colt will be entered for the Jockey Club Cup at the Newmarket Houghton Meeting, which event closes next Tuesday.

There will be racing next week at Newcastle, Windsor, Gatwick, and Sandown Park. The North Derby of £1,500 at Newcastle has no fewer than sixty-three horses left in, and the best known animal in the list is the colt by Bend Or out of Jenny Howlet, who, however, is more likely to win a good handicap. I shall plump for The Virginian, who is half brother, by Ayrshire, to Whittier. There are actually only thirteen acceptances for the Northumberland Plate out of an original entry of thirty-one. What an ignominious collapse for a race which, at one time, was one of the heaviest betting handicaps of the summer! I should fancy that King Crow will win for Mr. Vyner. Seventy-eight two-year-olds have accepted for the Seaton Delaval Plate of £1,200, and Simonside may win. This colt is nominated by his breeder, Lord Londonderry.

At Sandown Park the great race will be the Sandringham Foal Stakes of £2,000 for three-year-olds, of which forty-five are left in. The week after Ascot is an absurd date to fix for a three-year-old race, considering the number of events for animals of this age at that meeting. Disraeli, Dieudonné, Wantage, and Nun Nicer are all engaged, but it is impossible to attempt a prediction on this race until after the Ascot events have been decided. If Wantage is still a maiden next week, he certainly ought to win, having 21 lb. the best of the weights with both Disraeli and Dieudonné.

After a lapse of three years, another sale of Sir Walter Gilbey's hackneys—for the breeding of which he has won such a high reputation—is to be held by Messrs. Sexton, Grimwade, & Beck, at Elsenham Paddocks, on July 8. The sale will include some well-known prize-winning mares, and, in fact, with four exceptions, every hackney filly bred by Sir Walter since 1895.

Cambridge men have been lucky in that their boat-races ended in a blaze of glorious summer sunshine, the first there has been this year. How bright Ditton Corner looked after the wretched wet weather, and what enthusiasm there was when on Saturday evening First Trinity for the first time in the last quarter of a century paddled down head of the river. Not only were First men proud, but all the other colleges, save one, rejoiced at their success. Their victory meant more than going head. It meant that the overwhelming power of Trinity Hall, which had been so scandalously abused in its use, was at last at any end. It was on the strength of an eight years' headship that certain members of Trinity Hall, in the Lent and October terms, had openly revolted against the University Boat Club. Never before had a Trinity Hall First boat captain set the University President at defiance. Can any sane man believe for one moment that the Hall would have acted as it did if Mr. Trevor Jones, "their representative on the river," had exercised his influence for the honour of the University? It is somewhat singular if his efforts had, in fact, been directed to helping Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Dudley Ward, that he and Mr. Fletcher should have found themselves at daggers drawn. He has been coaching the Hall first boat. So far from endeavouring to impress on the men the necessity for acting upon the advice of Mr. Fletcher, he has succeeded in eradicating from Mr. Steele's rowing the faults he had acquired during the Lent and October terms, when Mr. Fletcher was coach. At least, so says the correspondent of the *Field*. The correspondent and the coach are probably not unknown to one another. It really looks as though the *Granta* in its anger had made a mistake in ridiculing the suggestion of the *Field* as to the effects of the coaching of Mr. Trevor Jones on Mr. Steele. The material that this eminent coach had at his disposal was, including Steele, four trial eight men, another of whom, Bullard, had to leave the University crew through a strain, two Blues in Bell and Howell, and the bows of the winning clinker and coxwainless fours. On paper, a good enough combination, but when the obvious object of the coach has been to eradicate the efforts of Mr. Fletcher, the result is at once apparent. The composition of this crew had not been changed during training. It was bumped by a crew that had, as usual, shuffled its men ten days before the race. Fortunately, the coach, Mr. Close, had loyally carried on the work Mr. Fletcher had begun. His efforts have been rewarded. A bubble reputation has been burst. Mr. Trevor-Jones and Mr. Howell, the First boat captain, are, I hope, satisfied with their year's work at Trinity Hall. The theory that the king can do no wrong cost King Charles the head of his body. The same theory with regard to Mr. Trevor-Jones has cost the Hall the head of the river. If he ceases to be the representative of the Hall on the river it will be better for the credit of his College and the peace of the University. No wonder the victory of First in which the new University president, Mr. Etherington Smith, had rowed stroke for one week only, was popular, while the Hall boat passed Ditton in chilling silence. Their coach, Mr. Close, will no doubt have too much good sense to endeavour to occupy in Cambridge rowing the position that Mr. Trevor-Jones attempted to assume. By the way, Mr. Close, an old University president, rowed for First the last time it was head, and that was in 1874. A slightly better rowing record than that of the Hall coach.

Of course, the shortening of the distance between the boats led to many more bumps taking place. After all, the object of the races is for such events to occur. Under the old rule, a really good boat could beat a really bad one. That was all. The gentle gibe of the *Field* correspondent to Third that, had not the distance been altered, First would not have bumped them, and the sneer about dying for one's University, being a pleasant method of demise, have probably come home to roost. Now, First are head, and Third have regained their place. First stayed head with ridiculous ease, thus showing that if the distance had been longer Hall would not have been within miles of them. Third, as usual, improved, and ran into Emmanuel at Grassy. Christ made five bumps, and Peterhouse and Emmanuel II. also did well, each going up four places. The alteration in the starting distance was undoubtedly a success.

At Oxford there has been, owing to illness, some excellent racing for the University sculls and pairs. C. K. Phillips was a certainty for the sculls, but he was ill, and so Burnell and Tinnie had a great race in the final, which the former just won. He has great strength, but not much form. As Phillips could not row, Pitman (New) had Thorpe as a partner in the Pairs, and for a like reason F. Warre (Balliol) had Herbert instead of his brother. The consequence was a Trinity pair—Beale and Prideaux—went very near indeed to winning. After beating the Balliol pair, New only just beat them by a length.

With regard to my remarks last week on the position of houseboats at Henley, a correspondent says that, in effect, these positions are put up to auction, and that Henley is in fact a gate-money meeting. I do not see that this can be helped. He suggests, however, that houseboats should be entirely excluded from the Henley reach during the race week. The fancy prices that are charged for the boats make them the privilege of the wealthy, who entertain their friends in lavish manner. For the most part, neither host nor guest care one rap about the racing. If they and their hotels were done away with and the course chained off so that no boats could get on to it, the racing

would be better, and those who desired to look on would have a chance of seeing the crews. There is a good deal in this suggestion. If the Committee, or some other authority, have power to allocate the position of houseboats and to keep them off the course as at present, there should be no difficulty in getting further powers which would enable these suggestions to be carried out, and in addition there should be power to put a tax on all boats using the course. It would not be difficult to float a boom across the river and charge a fee for passing it.

Once again Vardon secured the Open Golf Championship. There was but a stroke between him and W. Park, who was only a stroke ahead of Mr. Hilton. Then came Taylor and Mr. Tait. The match was played at Prestwick. Hilton's score on his second round was spoilt by an eight at the Himalayas. Park missed a four-foot putt on the last green, and so failed to tie. Vardon, Park, and Mr. Tait each went round in 75, the lowest score that was done. The second hole was thrice done in two by the six leading players, Taylor doing it twice. Taking the lowest scores by each of the first six players at the different holes, the total would be 30 out and 31 home. What one of these players can do another can do, and therefore it follows that the best return was fourteen worse than the best possible. This example from the score sheet is the best possible instance one could have of the almost human impossibility of anything like perfection at golf.

So far as Oxford is concerned, there has been no cricket, and by the time the Dark Blues meet Surrey three weeks will have elapsed without a representative match having been played. They play Surrey on June 20. With such a small card, the men have not a chance of being fairly tried. At Cambridge things are very different. All last week there was cricket, and the upshot of their matches has been to make at least two new players certain of their places. By his batting against both the M.C.C. and Surrey, Winter has practically assured himself of his place, as, in addition, he bowled his lobs most successfully against the club. He had no chance given him in the second innings against Surrey. This was a mistake. But then the Cambridge men threw their chances away by bad fielding. Catches are meant to be held. Hawkins also bowled admirably, and with Hind, Jessop, and De Zoete as bowlers, and, if needs be, himself and Fernie, Wilson will be able to captain a good side, provided a sprain, from which he is suffering, allows him to play. Burnup's patient batting has been simply invaluable. Taylor, the wicket-keeper, looks like regaining his old form with the bat. Stogdon has yet to do some really good work. The prospects of Cambridge are certainly good. In county cricket, Yorkshire has been having a grand time. The stand by Hirst and Haigh for the ninth wicket was as phenomenal as the utter collapse of Surrey before the bowling of Wainwright and Rhodes. The Gloucester team had a lively time against Notts. But their batsmen were so busy in making centuries that they left the bowlers no chance of getting rid of the Notts men, who played a regular stonewall game. Similar steady play, especially on the part of Brann, saved Sussex from a beating by Kent, who have secured Thomson the Northampton bowler.

As usual, the Civil Service sports were in every way a success, and the scratch men had a good time, but then they had to show their best form. Blignaut, the South African, was at scratch in the quarter and just won in fifty-one seconds. If Fitzherbert settles down to hard work he will beat him. Coltart ran finely in the hurdles, Mockel, the South African, going to pieces. In the sprint, Jupp and Blignaut did even time, but in the final King was the winner. In the closed events Edwards was very promising in the sprint, and Perry's high jump was very good. The two miles walking handicap rested between the veterans Jackett (410 yards) and Callow (470 yards). Their ages are somewhat over fifty and sixty respectively, and the younger man won by a hundred yards.

In the Trinity College, Dublin, sports, Dickenson and Meredith showed excellent form in the quarter. In the half, Martelli, a freshman, looks like making a runner, and Barbor's long jump was good. It is a pity that a meeting with Cambridge was not arranged. However the team is to be pulled by a team of Old Blues before the Inter-University sports.

What will the Bishop of Oxford say to this? Not only are cyclists specially invited to the nine o'clock morning service on Sundays at St. Mary-at-Hill, Monument, but after the service, which lasts three-quarters of an hour, the Rev. W. Carlile provides tea and bread and butter in the rectory, at a nominal charge of threepence, for the convenience of those who cannot get breakfast otherwise. A clergyman welcoming cyclists to church and supplying breakfasts for them in the rectory! The very thought must horrify the anti-Sunday-cycling Bishop. It will rejoice more sensible people.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—It cannot be said that business has been at all active during the past week, and it is evident that the public are still to a very large extent keeping out of the Stock Markets. The fortnightly settlement, moreover, diverted attention a good deal, and there were fears that Mr. Chamberlain might introduce in his speech in the House of Commons some further disquieting observations bearing on foreign politics. This, however, proved not to be the case, and even the most timid could hardly be frightened by his line of defence of the Government's policy.

The Political Horizon Clearing.

In fact, the various political anxieties have now almost altogether disappeared, and one cannot help wondering not only that Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain uttered their serious warnings, but also that the public at large took fright at them. In China, further advantages have been conceded to this country at Hong Kong, and active steps are being taken in many quarters for the development of the resources of the Chinese Empire. Advices from Paris are to the effect that the West African question has practically been settled, and, beyond the Spanish-American war, there is really no serious trouble. There seems to be a prospect that a decisive blow will be struck in Cuba during the next few weeks, and then perhaps the peace-makers may have a chance, although at present the Spanish people would evidently not be prepared to accept the severe conditions which the Americans would insist upon. The Yankee department has been subjected to "Bear" raids on the part of leading operators in Wall-street who are anxious to get in at a lower level, but so far every reaction has been followed by a recovery, the market being intrinsically very strong. Grand Trunks, too, have suffered from occasional breaks, which is not surprising, as a big "Bull" account has been piled up. Home Rails have experienced a considerable advance, and precisely those stocks to which I have so frequently directed attention, viz., Dover "A" and Coras, have been in most request, and the tone generally has been much stronger. The Foreign Market has at times shown weakness on a fresh fall in Spanish Fours, but the "Bears" are now again buying back, and Paris appears to be in a better mood. Amongst South Americans there has been a good deal of irregularity, and the mistaken policy adopted by Chili in placing her Treasury Bills behind the back of her usual agents caused a fall in these bonds, while Brazilians are see-sawing according to the movements of the Rio Exchange. Argentines, however, have been firm. In the Mining department South African shares, after dulness, have firmed up somewhat on another record crushing for May, but the largest business has been transacted in West Australians, which at one time were very active and strong, and although the highest points have not been retained, a considerable portion of the improvement has remained. In the Industrial section the great success of the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company issue has been a feature,

and now the market is again being threatened with all manner of industrial prospectuses, amongst which the bad and indifferent ones distinctly predominate.

MONEY AND GILT-EDGED INVESTMENTS—THE DANGER OF LOW RATES—CONSOLS FIRM.

A variety of circumstances has contributed to a further easing-off in rates of discount, amongst which the release of further Japanese funds has been the principal influence. At one time the rate for three months' bank bills fell to $1\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., and it is even now only $1\frac{7}{16}$ per cent. This demoralisation of rates is very much to be regretted, as all the Continental exchanges have moved against London, and gold is already being mopped up in the open market for Japan, India, and Russia, while as much as £768,000 has been withdrawn from the Bank of England in Japanese yen. I quite expect that rates will further stiffen, and it would, indeed, be most salutary if, by such a movement, our stock of gold could be protected. Unfortunately, next month dividend payments will again flood the market with surplus balances, but before this happens we shall probably have a hardening of rates at the turn of the half-year. The new Indian loan, too, will absorb large sums, and it is this consideration chiefly, perhaps, which has kept Consols from moving higher. The top quotation recently touched was $112\frac{1}{8}$ cum dividend, while now the price for the account is $111\frac{3}{8}$ xd. Silver has reacted, the Spanish demand having been satisfied, and the price is now $\frac{3}{4}$ lower at $26\frac{3}{4}$d. Rupee Paper has hardened to $62\frac{1}{2}$, and British Corporation stocks and Colonial Government bonds have been firm. The last Four and a Half per Cent. Chinese Gold Loan has improved to $88\frac{1}{4}$, the Seven per Cent. Silver Loan to $98\frac{1}{2}$. Japanese bonds are unchanged at 102.

HOME RAILS FIRM—SHARP ADVANCES IN CHATHAMS, DOVER "A," AND CORAS.

For a considerable time I have taken a favourable view of Dover "A," and I am pleased to find that the market is beginning to adopt the same opinion. Dover "A," which I recommended from 108 upwards, have risen to $113\frac{3}{4}$, reacting to $113\frac{3}{8}$, the report that important negotiations are in progress between the South Eastern and Chatham Companies having helped the advance. Many a time have I broken a lance in favour of the fusion of the two companies, and it may, after all, come to this, although it is generally believed that the new arrangement will stop short of that. The pooling arrangement now in existence, however, between the two Companies distinctly requires revision. By any such measure the Chatham Company would certainly benefit, and it is not, therefore, surprising that Chatham Ordinary should have moved up to $22\frac{7}{8}$, the Arbitration Prefs. to $137\frac{1}{2}$, the Second Prefs. to 99. The Ordinary, however, has since reacted to $22\frac{1}{8}$ on realisations. Brighton "A" have eased off to $176\frac{3}{4}$, but most of the Heavy stocks are firmer. Traffic returns during the past week showed a decrease of £60,000, the comparison being with the week before Whitsuntide week of last year, but a total traffic increase for the current half year of £690,000 remains, which must be considered very satisfactory. Great Eastern have also improved to $121\frac{5}{8}$, but Great Centrals have been kept back by adverse criticisms, which must, however, be characterised as greatly biassed. Metropolitans and Districts have been steady, and the improvement has made no further progress owing to large sellers coming on the market. The strength of the Scotch section has been a feature, Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras) rising at one time to $58\frac{3}{8}$, North British Deferred to $45\frac{1}{8}$, but there has since been a relapse to $57\frac{3}{4}$ and $44\frac{7}{8}$ respectively. The improvement is precisely in accordance with my repeated predictions.

YANKEE RAILS—SHARP FLUCTUATIONS—A YELLOW FEVER SCARE.

The war news does not at present appear to affect the course of prices of Yankee rails to any extent. The struggle has reached a point at which the final defeat of Spain at a comparatively early date seems a foregone conclusion, while the blocking-up of Admiral Cervera's fleet in Santiago harbour seems to have been carried out most effectually. There is, moreover, very little prospect of the reserve fleet ever seriously starting from Cadiz, and if the American troops effect a landing in force near Santiago de Cuba during the next fortnight the fall of that city seems to be inevitable. In the meantime, business in the United States is progressing very favourably, and the outlook for the grain crop is so excellent that a very buoyant feeling is making itself felt for the Granger stocks. According to the Government crop report, the winter wheat yield will be 366,800,000 bushels, and that of spring wheat 270,500,000 bushels, a total of 637,300,000 bushels, against 513,000,000 bushels last harvest. The previous record figure was for 1891, when 611,000,000 bushels were harvested, according to official estimates, but, according to other sources of information, the yield really exceeded 650,000,000 bushels. It is believed that the actual acreage under wheat this year is 3,600,000 acres larger than that of the bumper year 1891, and thus it is quite on the cards that, all things being favourable, the 1898 crop may reach 700,000,000 bushels of wheat. During the last few days a "Bear" raid has been in progress in Wall-street, apparently originating with some of the recent "Bulls," notably James Keene, who wanted to depress values to a lower level so as to buy more. The movement was, however, short-lived, and they did not succeed in getting down Milwaukee to below $102\frac{3}{4}$ here, from which there has been a rebound on the very favourable crop news. Union Pacifics, Union Pacific Prefs., and Norfolk and Western, after similar declines, are also firmer again, and the only weak spot has been in southern railway stocks, which have been put down on reports that yellow fever has broken out in the Mississippi Valley. Louisville and Nashville have suffered most from the yellow fever scare, and there has also been a set-back in Southern Prefs. and Ordinary. This decline appears to be altogether overdone, and any reassuring news would doubtless cause a sharp recovery. As regards the Norfolk and Western, it is reported that for the present dividends will be semi-annual, presumably in February and August. The earnings of the Company would justify the regular payment of 4 per cent. per annum on the Preferred, but this has not yet been decided upon. The recent buying of the stock, however, suggests that the next dividend will be larger than the last. I consider both Norfolk Prefs. and Common a good purchase at the present level. The recent improvement in Wabash "B" bonds has been due to a rumour that a dividend would be paid. While this is apparently premature, there is no doubt that the position of the road has greatly improved. As the *Wall-street Journal* mentions, the Company is operating to greater advantage, its Buffalo extension is proving profitable, and its local business is ensuring a steady and healthful growth. The Denver and Rio Grande is also working into a good position, and the following remarks in the *Wall-street Journal*, on the authority of a railway official, are interesting:—

> It seems to me that one of the most desirable of the cheap securities is Denver and Rio Grande Preferred. Since 1896, the Company has paid 2 per cent. dividends on the Preferred stock, besides maintaining a high state of efficiency and retaining a considerable surplus. Earnings for the nine months ended March 31 show an increase of 21 per cent. over the corresponding period in the previous year, and increases since that time continue large. If it had not been for the blow to silver mining, gold mines of Colorado, which promise to produce this year $40,000,000, might still be undeveloped. Coal, iron, and farming industries are receiving the attention which they deserve, and are adding materially to the wealth of the state. Denver and Rio Grande is feeling this condition. The opening of the Ogden gateway to Rio Grande Western, making that road and its connections integral parts of a trans-continental system, is of great advantage to Denver and Rio Grande, and explains, in part, the increases in earnings.

Under all the circumstances, I should think that those who wish to operate in American Rails cannot do better than select, say, Milwaukee on a reaction, Louisville on the present decline, and also Union Pacific Prefs. and Ordinary, Norfolk Prefs. and Common, Atchison Prefs., and Denver Prefs. and Common. While the prospects of Northern Pacific securities are doubtless favourable, it looks almost as if the

rise had gone far enough for the moment. As regards Louisville, it may be said that they have always been a good purchase when they have been depressed by the yellow fever rumours, neither did that scourge in the long run interfere with the earnings of the road for instance in 1897. Canadian Pacifics have at times been very strong, and touched 89⅜, from which there has been a relapse to 88¾; but traffics of this road keep up better than those of the Grand Trunk, and again show an increase of $43,000 for the week ended June 7, while the last Grand Trunk traffic for the same week showed a gain of only £383. This came as a great disappointment to the many "Bulls" in this market, and caused a break of three points in the various quotations, from which there has been but a moderate recovery to 73½ for the First Prefs. and 77⅛ for the Guaranteed. Only a week ago I wrote, as it now turns out, somewhat prophetically, that "it must not be forgotten that a big 'Bull' account has been piled up in these stocks, which might give trouble if any untoward event took place."

Foreigners and South Americans—Paris Irregular—Spanish Fluctuate.

The tendency of the Paris Bourse has been less optimistic during the past week, partly, no doubt, owing to the heavy sales effected from Madrid of Spanish Fours, which at one time put down the price to 33¾, from which there has been a rally to 34¼. The run upon the Bank of Spain for silver made a disagreeable impression, but this demand has now apparently been met, and the rumours of coming trouble in the Spanish capital have not so far been realised. Italians have kept up pretty well, and Turks have been bought for Paris account. The Coulisse trouble, however, still interferes with business on the Paris Bourse, and the majority of the Coulissiers are still contemplating a migration to Brussels. Argentine Government stocks, after reacting on fresh rumours of impending trouble with Chili over the boundary question, have improved again, the 1886 Loan being quoted at 90¾, the Funding Loan at 88¾. For the hundredth time the statement is now made that the boundary question is in course of peaceful settlement. Chilians, on the other hand, have experienced a sharp decline, the 1886 Loan to 73, the 1892 Loan to 83. Here, too, there has been borrowing on Treasury bills, and it is rumoured that the leading firm here, who have always acted as agents for Chili, only received information concerning this financial measure by having the bills offered to them from another quarter. If this report is correct, it shows a most injudicious action on the part of the Chilian Government. Brazilians have fluctuated within narrow limits, and are fairly steady, the Rio exchange having improved. Argentine Railway stocks have been dull, Buenos Ayres Great Southern easing off to 140, Buenos Ayres and Rosario to 73, Central Argentine to 82. Mexican Sixes have shown strength at 98¼, and Mexican Rails have improved, the first Prefs. advancing to 76. Under these circumstances, Inter-Oceanic of Mexico "A" Debentures at 70, the position of which I fully explained in last week's issue, look remarkably cheap. Peruvian Corporation stocks have been firmer.

The Kaffir Circus—Another Record Crushing.

There has been an absence of political rumours concerning the Transvaal during the past week. Matters have apparently settled down in Pretoria, and the next event will probably be an attempt of the Boer Government to borrow. Possibly Dr. Leyds will try his luck on the Continent first, as he would not meet with much encouragement here; but there is little doubt that further concessions to the mining industry must precede any important loan. In the full text of President Kruger's speech on being sworn in, a further reduction in the price of dynamite is, morever, emphatically promised. This is what he said on this point: "We all know that when the dynamite contract was entered into in 1893 the price of dynamite was £6 per case. The Government had brought it down to £5, and later to 85s., and now they had succeeded in reducing it to 75s. per case. I will do my utmost to bring the price still lower, until it suits the requirements of the mining industry. . . . . I promised the mining industry that I would not leave the matter until I had reduced the price of dynamite still further." Crushings for May have proved most satisfactory, and again show a large increase, and a record both for the Witwatersrand district and for the total production. In April the Witwatersrand district produced 335,125 oz., while for May the output was 344,160 oz. Again, for April the total output, including the outside districts, was 353,243 oz., while in May it had risen to 365,016 oz. I notice that the Angelo shows very well with a crushing of 6,561 oz., as against 6,120 oz. in April. The Jumpers has produced 6,009 oz. in May, as against 5,398 oz. in April; the Jumpers Deep 6,517 oz. in May, as against 6,170 oz. in April. The Knight's showed 6,511 oz., against 5,656 oz. The New Primrose showed well with a yield of 9,967 oz., against 9,653 oz., but the Glencairn return was smaller, viz., 6,430 oz., against 6,747 oz. Some of the mines of the Robinson group showed declines owing to a scarcity of native labour. The Simmer and Jack, as I anticipated, makes an excellent showing with a yield of 15,536 oz. for May, against 14,351 oz. in April. The record output has not affected the market to any extent, although Rand Mines are firmer at 29 9/16, after touching 29 and 29⅝. Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa are steady at 4 1/16, and East Rands have shown a firm front at 4 11/16. Simmer and Jack at 3 7/16 are well supported, although a much higher quotation would be justified. New Primrose have been steady at 3⅜, Glencairn at 1¾. Randfontein are being dealt in at 1 5/16, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment at 1⅛, Barnato Consols at 1½. It is to be hoped that when Mr. Sol. Joel returns from his visit to the Continent the Barnato group will revive again. The various Deep Level shares have hardened, Goldfields Deep being quoted 8 5/16, Crown Deep 11⅝, Robinson Deep 9¼, Geldenhuis Deep 7⅜, Rose Deep 6¼, Henry Nourse Deep 5, Durban Roodepoort Deep 3⅝, Knight's Deep 1⅞, Roodepoort Central Deep 1 5/16, Nigel Deep 15/16. De Beers have been pretty well supported from Paris, and are quoted at 27¼, while New Jagersfontein stand at 7⅛xd.

Golden West Australia—High-class Hannans' Mines to the Front.

The feature of last week's business in the "Kangaroo" department has been the further and accentuated strength of the high-class mines in the Hannan's district, which have for some time been in favour with the public. In all cases the improvement appears to have been justified, although I would much rather buy Hannan's Brownhill at their present price of 8⅜, Lake View Consols at 9¼, or Ivanhoe at 6 9/16, than, for instance, Golden Horseshoe at 9½. Against the merits of the last-mentioned property I have nothing to say, but developments so far do not appear to justify the present quotation. The May output of the Lake View Consols is fully up to expectations, the return being 9,169 oz. 18 dwt., against 8,759 oz. 14 dwt. for April, an increase of over 410 oz. As regards the Hannan's Brownhill another crushing is now to hand, but this has no reference to the new machinery which has been erected, and which is expected to yield phenomenal results, as fully set forth by me in last week's issue. These shares at one time touched 8¾, and all those connected with the Company are predicting a much higher value. Crushings have not been so numerous this week, but those that came to hand

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were satisfactory, as will be gathered from the following list:—

	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings Per Ton.
Great Boulder Proprietary ...	1,410	3,076	—
Consolidated Murchison ...	505	503	—
Westralia and East Extension...	1,417	1,271	—
Golden Arrow	70	35	—
Yalgoo Proprietary	40	34	—
Bellevue Proprietary	241	492	—
Hannan's Brownhill { Sands ...	615	2,600	—
Hannan's Brownhill { Slimes ..	450		
Diorite King	100	154	—
Burbank's Grand Junction ...	103	312	12 dwt.
Lake View Consols	5,526	4,867¾	17 dwt.
Do. Tailings ...	3,370	2,668	3⅜ dwt.
Do. Slimes ...	2,045	717	3 dwt.
Do. Concentrates	25	624	—
Do. Sulphides ...	95	293	—
Great Boulder Main Reef ...	800	1,200	—
Burbank's Birthday Gift ...	372	505	—
Australian Champion Reef ...	125	130	5 dwt.

According to a *British Australasian* cablegram, the Hannan's Brownhill mill has had a successful trial, and the Boulder No. 1 Company's battery is running on Great Boulder ore, which suggests the question as to why this should be so? According to the same cablegram the Ivanhoe continues to open up large reserves of oxidised ore. The Great Boulder Main Reef Company have driven at the 275 ft. level for eight days through a rich shoot of ore averaging over 4 oz. to the ton, which will be good news for the shareholders in this property, which at one time was very disappointing. From the Hainault Mine there is also good news. For some reason or other Burbank's Birthday Gift shares have been dull of late, although crushing is going on steadily. Mail advices from the Golden Pike state that in prospecting at the 400 ft. level on the lode recently discovered, a vein carrying heavy oxidised gold has been cut. Though it is small at present, the occurrence of oxidised gold at the depth and in conjunction with sulphides makes the find an important one. Should the vein widen out on driving it will have an important bearing on the value of the lode. As regards the Londonderry, one of my Western Australian contemporaries states that the shareholders should congratulate themselves on their newly-acquired property, now known as the Kalgoorlie Prince. The Company's engineer is said to have taken unpicked samples from the shaft at a depth of 73 ft. (where a leader has been struck about 6 in. in width), which have assayed 20 oz. per ton. It is hoped that on deeper sinking the lode will widen out considerably. Of course it would be absurd to expect 20 oz. as a regular output, but if the general average should be about 2 oz. per ton, there will be reason for congratulation. London and Globe Finance shares have improved to 1⅜ on dividend anticipations, after suffering a temporary relapse. The W.A. Market Trust group has been steady, although Market Trusts have eased off to 2s. 1½d. Northern Territories are quoted ⅞–1, and the shares of the Joint Stock Trust and the W.A. Loan and Finance have hardened to ¾, while W.A. Joint Stock Founders have gain ⅛ at ⅜. It is expected that a dividend on the latter will be paid shortly. Associated Gold Mines have also improved to 3⅞ on the declaration of a dividend of 2s. per share. Lady Shentons have been a steady market at 2 3/16 x.d., and the news from the property continues very satisfactory. Great Boulder Proprietary have been steady at 18s. 6d. The proposed amalgamation of the Central Boulder and West Boulder Companies is meeting with some opposition. West Australian Goldfields have been the turn firmer at 1 5/16, and Hampton Plains are quiet at 11/16. Considering the alluvial troubles, Peak Hill Goldfields are keeping remarkably firm, and are quoted 2½.

INDIAN, AUSTRALASIAN, AND BRITISH COLUMBIAN MINES.

Quite an active demand has been experienced in the Indian section, mostly for the lower-priced shares. Mysore Gold have, however, also risen to 5 7/16, and Road Blocks are ¼ higher, while Mysore West and Wynaad have improved after their recent decline, notwithstanding the fact that they are in sight of reconstruction. Coromandel and Champion Reefs have also moved up. The Nine Reefs Company is about to issue Preference shares in order to obtain more capital. In Australian mines, other than West Australian, Aladdin's Lamp are quoted 1 7/16, and there has been a hardening tendency in Mount Lyell North and Mount Morgan; but British Broken Hill are easier at 9, and Mount Lyell have given way to 10, while Broken Hill Proprietary are steady at 2 3/16. Croydon Consols are still quiet at 3s., although the news from the mine is distinctly more favourable, 245 tons having yielded 360 oz. of bullion by cyanide treatment, and the last mail news mentions the discovery of several leaders showing fine prospects of gold. It now remains to be seen when cable news confirming the further discoveries may come to hand. In New Zealand mines movements have been irregular but chiefly in the downward direction. Komata Reefs and Hauraki are lower, and there have also been declines in United New Zealand, Taitapu, and Waihi. My correspondent at New Plymouth (N.Z.), whose warnings against oil flotations to be expected in London I mentioned some time ago, returns to the charge. He states that a promoter has left for San Francisco, taking with him a drum of oil obtained from one of the springs, which is bonâ-fide enough, so far as quality is concerned; but the oil, according to my correspondent, is not to be had in payable quantities. He mentions that thousands of pounds have been expended without any adequate return having been obtained, and on the east coast of New Zealand large sums have been spent in boring for oil, but these attempts have not been successful either. In British Columbian mines, Hall Mines, Whitewater, and Klondyke Bonanza are easier; but Dawson City (Klondike) Dominion Trading are firmer. As regards the British America Corporation, the tone has been somewhat dull during best part of the week, but an improvement to 19s. has since set in. It must be admitted that the prospects of the Company are distinctly improving. In addition to the strike in the Rossland property of this Corporation known as Mine No. 1, it appears that Mr. W. A. Carlyle (Engineer-in-Chief of the Corporation) has made much progress with the various other properties. The plant on the Nickel Plate is now being reconstructed. One drill is in operation in the drifts and another will be started shortly. The overhauling of the Josie has been completed, and active work is now proceeding. Three drills are at work cross-cutting in the workings at the 300-ft. level. Work is also well under way in the Le Roi, Columbia, Kootenay, and Great Western. There are indications of an improvement in the Mexican section. Grand Central have risen to 1⅞ on excellent news from the property, and Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico are hardening at ⅞ to 1. It is reported that the cyanide extraction is rapidly improving, 72½ per cent. having been saved during the week to which this report refers. This Company should not be confounded with the Goldfields of Mexico, the shares in which stand at only 11/16.

THE SYNDICATE TOUTS.

A new prophet has arisen amongst the syndicate touts under the name of Wilkinson, Jones & Co., stock and share dealers, 10, Featherstone-buildings, High Holborn, London, W.C. Although I have not hitherto heard of this firm, they maintain in their circulars that they have already had six deals in Lake Shore, New York Central, Northern Pacific, Union Pacific, Denver and Rio Grande, and Milwaukee, and that these have realised enormous profits. The last profit they boast of is one of £70 on each £10 invested in Milwaukee. This is really a little bit too thick, and I should very much like to hear from any one in the flesh who has really obtained this splendid profit. Of course, this announcement is intended as a bait to tempt further subscriptions to an operation in "a certain stock concerning which they (Wilkinson, Jones & Co.) have received some very special information." They go so far as to say that the £10 shares in this syndicate will return

MAJOR HOWE & CO., LTD.—Fashionable BOOTS and SHOES.—16, Coventry-st., W.; 60, Strand, W.C.; 81, Gracechurch-st.; and 13 Queen Victoria-st., London. "Note Addresses." (Repairs)

a profit of not less than £50 to £60 each. It seems remarkable that, instead of making money in this "certain stock" for their own account, Wilkinson, Jones & Co. should be philanthropic enough to offer to share the enormous profits with complete strangers, and from every point of view I think it most advisable to give their syndicates a wide berth.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

Victoria-street Properties, Limited.—This is an issue at par of £87,500 Four and a Half per Cent. First Mortgage debentures of £100 each, being part of a total authorised debenture issue of £120,000 of the Victoria-street Properties Company, Limited. These debentures will form the first and only mortgage on the properties of the Company. The share capital of the Company is £100,000 in Preference and Ordinary shares of £5 each.

Cobourg, Northumberland, and Pacific Railway Company invite subscriptions to an issue of £151,200 Five per Cent. Perpetual First Mortgage debentures of £100 each, at the issue price of £102. The debentures will be secured by a first mortgage of the railway to the Toronto General Trusts Company, as trustees for the debenture-holders, and will form a first charge upon the railway now in course of construction from the port of Cobourg, on Lake Ontario, to a junction with the Ontario and Quebec section of the Canadian Pacific Railway at the Central Ontario Junction. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company have contracted to lease, maintain, and work the line for 999 years from completion.

The Gill McDowell Jarrah Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring the extensive freehold and leasehold forest estates, timber yard, railway, rolling stock, saw-mills, &c., now held by Messrs. Gill & Co. and Messrs. McDowell & Co., at Perth and other places, Western Australia. The capital of the Company is £250,000, divided into 125,000 Six per Cent. Preference and 125,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each. The present issue is of 83,334 Preference and 83,334 Ordinary shares, out of which 50,000 shares will be appropriated to provide working capital.

The British Wall Paper Company, Limited.—With a nominal share capital of £300,000 and a Debenture stock of £100,000, this Company has been established to amalgamate some of the principal British firms and companies now engaged in the manufacture of wall papers, and with that object agreements have been entered into for the purchase of the businesses and works of Messrs. Mitchell, Arnott, & Co., Limited, Golborne, Lancashire; Wilkins & Co., Limited, Derby; Walker, Carver, & Co., Limited, Pendleton; David Walker, Middleton; and Heywood Paper Staining Company, Heywood.

The average of profits stated in the prospectus of the various businesses acquired is based upon two years' working only. As they are represented as established concerns, it seems strange that the returns should be taken for so short a period. Competition in this business is also very keen and this does not, therefore, appear a promising undertaking.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

Flora.—I think you may disregard the rumours as to the boundary troubles between Chili and Argentina. *T. C. N.*—Spanish will hardly fall so low as you seem to think, and they are close to the point when they might be picked up.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

W. W.—Outside brokers; have nothing to do with them, but follow my advice to deal only with members of the Stock Exchange. *Miss M. C.*—I have repeatedly warned my readers not to be tempted by the circulars of the British and Foreign Investment Association, and I specially referred to that concern again in last week's issue. *J. D. J.*—I always advise my readers to have nothing to do with foreign lotteries, whether the circulars emanate from Valentine & Co., bankers, of Hamburg, or from other touting intermediaries. *A. S. S.*—I am inclined to look upon this concern with suspicion. The objects would be useful enough, but I question whether they would be properly carried out. The document is returned in your envelope. *L. S. O.*—Write to Messrs. Effingham Wilson, Royal Exchange, London, E.C., who are publishers of this kind of literature. *Birkbeck.*—It is not advisable to put too many eggs into one basket, and you had better put your further savings into high-class securities. *A Nurse, Brighton.*—You will have to tell me what kind of security you require. You can get nearly 3 per cent. in British Corporation stocks. Is that enough, or will you prefer 4 per cent. in Industrial debentures, or 5 per cent. in ditto Preference stocks?

Home Rails.

C. N. P.—1. Thanks. I am glad you are doing so well in "Doras" and "Coras" on my advice. 2. Great Central, 1894, Ordinary are worth buying. They are still in receipt of 3 per cent. interest during construction of the extension to London. *Exmoor.*—The exchange under the circumstances would appear to be useful.

American and Foreign Rails.

P. N. R.—I am glad to hear you made money several times on my advice in Union Pacific Prefs. and Ordinary. The last time you got in rather high, but you should hold for a rise of a couple of dollars on your price. *O. P.*—Take the rumours about the yellow fever *cum grano*, and do not throw your Louisville away. In the matter of American rails it is advisable to spread an investment, so as to form a small kind of trust. You might, for instance, buy Milwaukee, Norfolk Common, Atchison Prefs., Louisville, Reading First Prefs., and Union Pacifics. *Carolus.*—Yes, the A Debentures of the Interoceanic of Mexico are a good purchase at 70. They are earning 4¾ per cent. of their dividend, and will doubtless in time get their full dividend of 7 per cent. *Manchester.*—You may safely hold your Northern Pacific Prefs. and Common (1 and 2) for a rise. No reason to sell Central Pacifics (3). Yes, you may as well exchange from the Four per Cent. Grand Trunk Debentures, which leave you so large a profit, into the American Railroad Bonds. 5. Certainly hold your Great Central 1894 Prefs., and buy more to average.

Mining Shares.

Brodrick.—I should not advise you to act further concerning New Crœsus yet. But hold all your South African shares. *Norfolk Enquirer.*—With reference to the West Australian mines mentioned, No. 1 is a good property, although troubled by the alluvial miners; No. 2 is no catch, but No. 3 (Londonderry) looks much more promising, and the shares should advance. Instead of No. 4 I should advise you to buy Lady Shenton, one of the best mines in Western Australia, and a dividend-payer. Hold the last-mentioned shares, too. *H. H.*—Very doubtful. *Great Malvern.*—There are too many of these British Columbian concerns, and the only course is to wait until results are attained. *J. P.*—There is much truth in your argument, but do not forget how bad the times have been, and how easy market attacks knock down prices without rhyme or reason. Just now there is an improvement again, and matters look more promising. The British America Corporation should come right in the near future, and whenever the amalgamation proves a success, you will probably reap the reward of your patience. *Sicily.*—1 No catch. 2. Await further developments. If certain financial arrangements are carried through, there will be a sharp advance, but it all depends upon that. 3. The London office address of the Modderfontein B is 28, Austin Friars, E.C.; and of Knights, 22, Bury-street, St. Mary Axe, E.C. *U. X. Y. Z.*—Temporarily neglected; should recover again. *W. F., Glasgow.*—If the negotiations in question succeed, these shares should recover again. *Beta.*—Yes, I think it would be wise to join the reconstruction. *J. T. M.*—1. London and Globe are promising, and should be held for a rise. 2. Florence are likely to improve. *Constant Reader, Constantinople.*—I cannot tell the probable life; it is a fair mining risk. *G. G.*—Yes, the reinvestment would probably bring you profit on Nos. 1 4. I am not so sure about No. 5. As regards No. 6, I know no more than you do from the published reports. *Nagpur.*—No, I do not advise this purchase. *Ajax.*—1. High enough. 2. Too high. Amongst high class West Australian mines, Hannan's Brownhill, Lake View Consols, Ivanhoe, Lady Shenton, and Sons of Gwalia are a good selection. 3. No. *J. M.*—No, this concern has been too often reconstructed, and I would not advise you to throw good money after bad. *East Haugh.*—No option but to hold these shares. *Laurel.*—Very disappointing, and I really should not like to advise you. *T. W. D.*—No, I should advise you to hold. *Jona.*—A. Florence are very promising. B No catch. *J. T., Gateshead.*—De Beers (1) and London and Globe (2) are fair investments; also No. 3. No option but to hold No. 4, and certainly No. 5 (Johannesburg Cons. Investment). *Sabretache.*—Yes, I still consider that an improvement will come in time. Look at the splendid crushings.

Industrial Companies.

Basilisk.—I am afraid there is no market for these shares, so there is no option but to wait. *Dog Otter.*—Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Prefs. are now quoted at a considerable premium. *Nil Desperandum.*—I am afraid there is no prospect of an early dividend, and you might as well take the advice given to you. *Stafford.*—You really must decide yourself whether to join the reconstruction. I have never said a word in favour of this concern. You cannot expect the information referred to. *Colombo.*—Yes, Welsbach Ordinary are an excellent purchase as a sound speculative investment. *Gratitude.*—I should think that the whole of the property must remain as security for the debentures. *Stuart.*—All the stocks in question are more or less speculative, but, in view of the fair return now obtained on them, there is no reason why you should not invest in them. Personally, I should prefer the various Welsbach stocks. *Woodland.*—A fair investment, but no catch. *Lancashire Lad.*—Yes, Nos. 1 to 3 are fair investment securities, and No. 3 (J. W. Benson Ordinary shares) are distinctly progressive. *Anxious, Longford.*—A local Birmingham concern, with respect to which no conclusive information is to be obtained here.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Frederick.—1. It will be advisable to hold the Railway stock. 2. There is no business in the market in Wireless Telegraph shares, and the insiders have it all their own way. *Pater.*—You might put the money into the "A" Debentures of the Interoceanic Railway of Mexico, earning 4¾ per cent. of their 7 per cent. dividend at 70, and in Welsbach Incandescent Gas Ordinary at 113. Both are progressive stocks. *Malta.*—I am glad you bought Canadian Pacifics (1) and Grand Trunk Guaranteed (2) low down on my advice. On the next improvement you might take your profit. 3. Certainly hold Lady Shenton and Florence for a marked improvement, which may come about any day. *Vere.*—1. The penalty of not joining a reconstruction is generally the forfeiture of the shares. 2. These two South African shares should come right in time. 3. It all depends when you bought the "old" Union Pacific shares. There has been an assessment of $15, and a bonus in new Prefs. which worked out to $8 per share. *Walpole.*—The Hotel shares No. 1 will probably improve, and there is no reason to sell Nos. 3, 4, or 6. Mexican First Prefs. (7) might with advantage be exchanged for the "A" Debentures of the Interoceanic of Mexico at 71. No. 2 may turn out all right; I do not think much of No. 5, and the Company No. 8 is too young for a conclusive opinion to be stated. *Elf.*—1. There has been no reason for the weakness of London and Globe Finance shares beyond rumours, all of which have been contradicted. The shares are now again on the up-grade, and should go considerably higher. 2. Perhaps by employing a sharp solicitor. 3. I do not know anything special about the Stroud Water Company or about the circular in question. *Stonehenge.*—1. Yes, Septimus Parsonage & Company is a progressive business, likely to yield further good results. I do not consider Nos. 2 and 3 to be tempting at present prices. 4. No option but to hold. *Hastings.*—You might sell your Grand Trunks on the next improvement. No option but to hold your Mining shares, Nos. 1—5. *E. M., Devon.*—1. Yes, both Cape Three per Cent. or Canada Three per Cent. would be a good choice. 2. No catch. 3. The official list of the Stock Exchange. *Mrs. P., Ipswich.*—1. No, I do not think much of the Bread shares. 2. Not yet. 3. A fair investment. 4. No reason to sell these South African shares now. On the contrary, Nos. 1, 3, 4, 7, 9 should be averaged. You had better do so at once. *Stornaby-on-Tees.*—I do not know enough of the Tea Estates Company to offer any advice, and you can find the necessary information about South African and West Australian mines in my letter. *An Anxious Mother.*—1. The Industrial Company in question is a fair investment of the kind. 2. Mexican Sixes are promising, but perhaps it would suit you better to buy Inter-Oceanic Railway of Mexico Seven per Cent. "A" Bonds at 71, which are at present earning at the rate of 4¾ per cent. per annum. No reason to sell the other stocks referred to.

MY CHAPTER ON INDUSTRIAL STOCKS.

Rates at the settlement were easy in the Industrial department, and quotations have been well maintained, while a few advances were not wanting. Thus, there has been a rise in Welsbach Incandescent Gas stocks, the Ordinary to 113, the Preferred to 98 xd., the Deferred to 18s. 6d. The new burner is now being sold in the provinces, and it is stated to have made an excellent impression in Manchester where it was on view last week. In fact, the difficulty will be to obtain a sufficient supply as enormous orders have already been placed. Russian oil shares have been strong on the splitting arrangement, and the new £1 shares are quoted 2⅜-½. It is to be hoped that the directors' efforts to obtain a new title to the property will be successful. Fish Oils are firmer, being quoted 3⅞ ex. rights representing the Volenite shares. When writing last week on Volenite shares, then quoted at £4, I expressed the view that a jump was to be expected shortly, and these shares have now risen to 6¼. Coats' Ordinary are firmer at 60½, and English Sewing Cottons have been in some demand at 1½ to ⅝. Fine Spinners, however, remain dull and neglected. In Lyons shares there have been dealings at 4, ex. the dividend of 1s. 9d. per share, and ex. rights on the new shares, which are considered as representing a bonus of 5s. per share. The new Lyons shares are quoted $\frac{5}{16}$ premium. Apollinaris are slightly easier at 11¼, and Schweppe Deferred stand at ⅜, the Ordinary at 1. Bovril Ordinary are quoted $\frac{15}{16}$, the Deferred $\frac{11}{16}$. In the Cycle section there has been a better tendency during the last few days, and an improvement is marked in Dunlop Deferred to 9s., the Ordinary to 15s., French Dunlops to 3s. 6d. Humber Ordinary have improved to 11s., the Preferred being quoted 14s. Singers stand at 8s. 9d. xd., the Prefs. at 12s. 6d. xd., Swifts at 10s., the Prefs. at 16s. Cycle Components are easier at 1⅛, but Rudge-Whitworth Prefs. have put on $\frac{3}{16}$ to 4¼. The failure of Mr. E. T. Hooley has not affected Cycle shares to any extent, and whatever holdings he has of these will certainly not be thrown on the market, as according to the various public statements shed, there is a surplus of about £400,000 over liabilities. Mr. Hooley mentioned in an interview with a representative of the *Daily Telegraph* that he still held shares in some of the good cycle Companies, and expressed the opinion that there were half-a-dozen good Companies which had been depreciated because the shady promoters had brought out ninety-four rotten ones. Allsopp Ordinary have now risen from 148½ to 154½, but a slight setback to 153 occurred on Saturday. There was hardly any contango on this stock at the settlement, so that it is evidently in short supply. Other Home Breweries have been fairly steady, and Anglo "A" and "B" remain firm, and have improved to 16¼ and 116 respectively. Asbestos-Asbestic have been freely offered, and fell from £8 to £4 on a very small seller showing his hand. Bryant & May have not been so much sought after lately, and have fallen from 19¾ to 18¾. The Hudson's Bay dividend of 13s. per share for the year was not liked at first by the market, but on finding out that the period was only up to May, 1897, and that this Company's improved prospects only commenced in July, 1897, the market looked more favourably on the announcement, and after being as low as 20½, the shares are now slightly firmer at 20¾. Music Hall shares have been quiet, but Palace Theatres have been steadily bought on prospects of an increased dividend, 25 per cent. for the year being talked of. Empire shares 15s. paid have been inquired for up to 5⅜, but are inclined to be easier again, as at about 5 many shares seem to come on the market. Drury-lane shares continue to be inquired for round about 22s. 6d. for the £1 shares, 15s. paid. The Oxford has just paid a good dividend of 6s. per share, with a bonus of 2s., and the shares stand at 6¾ ex all. The statement made by Sir Walter Hely Hutchinson at Skinners' Hall, last week, with regard to the coal industry in Natal, appears very favourable. I hear of another coal Company from that quarter, the "Natal Navigation Collieries Company," but this must not be mistaken for the Natal Steam Coal Company, which is in working trim, and which I have already mentioned to my readers. For the month of May there was a large increase in its output of coal over April, and by September it is expected that from 5,000 to 6,000 tons of coal will be raised monthly, so that considerable dividends are looked for. The price of the shares is still firm at 1¼-⅜. I see that Mr. W. Hunt, 116, Earlsfield-road, Wandsworth, London, S.W., is sending about circulars in which he praises up "The Smoke Prevention and Engineering Syndicate, Limited," with a capital of £35,000. This is not an investment which I should care to put any money into. By the way, an amalgamation is imminent of the well-known firm of Cooper, Cooper, & Co. with Messrs. John Dodds & Co., who are doing a very large tea trade in the north, and with a Ceylon Estates Company.—Your affectionate Uncle,

MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

THE CURSE OF TIDDLEYWINKS.

I WAS interesting myself just then in the subject of cab men's shelters, which was attracting the notice of the public, and which seemed to me to afford good scope for the production of likely journalistic copy. With such an idea in view, I determined to make the acquaintance of some of these places by a tour of personal inspection, and there to interview the attendants, and certain of the frequenting cabbies, and see what interesting information I could elicit from them. It was whilst thus engaged that I was put in possession of the following story. Beyond the fact that it was told me by a cabman whom I met in one of these shelters, it cannot be said to have any connection whatever with the special object of my mission. But that, of course, does not impair its interest, which seemed to me sufficiently great, and out of the common, to warrant

my offering it for publication in the "Queer Story" columns of TRUTH. It has been satisfactory to me to find that the Editor has endorsed my opinion.

The shelter to which I have alluded is situate not very far from Victoria Station. I happened to go there on a wet night, when it was nearly full of cabmen; and having stated that I was a member of the Press, who had come to gather information with a view to throwing light on the shelter question, which was then being much discussed in the papers, I was at once made welcome, and became the recipient of some very strongly expressed opinions on the villainy of Railway Companies and the iniquity of blacklegs—every man present being evidently a staunch Unionist. A particularly truculent cabby had just buttonholed me, and with his face bent forward, about a foot from mine, was, as it were, firing his views into me at short range, to the accompaniment of much play with his clenched fists, and some really shocking language; and I was just casting about in my mind how I should disengage myself from his attentions, not, however, seeing any immediate chance of doing so, when a merciful interruption came to my relief.

Another cabman entered the shelter, to whom the attention of all present was instantly turned.

"He-e-em! 'Ere comes 'is lordship."

"Bill, remove them big feet o' yours out of the gangway, and mike room for the Dook ter pars."

"Wot yer thinking of, mites, not standin' up and payin' yer respects to 'is grice?"

"Don't he look prahd, just? See 'ow 'is lip curl. Aristocrat every inch—ain't he?"

"Wonder the lid of this 'umble shanty don't blow orf at contynin' 'im!"

Of these, and other such facetious observations, the new comer took no notice, but made his way to a quiet corner, ordered some tea of the attendant, and sat down to discuss it. He was a tall, gaunt individual, about fifty, apparently, dressed in a tight-fitting, very shabby Newmarket, and a low-crowned napless top hat. His weather-beaten face was haggard and extremely melancholy, and his dark eyes were so deep-set as to be half hidden from view in the shadow of his overhanging brows. These points were obvious to any one at half a glance. And there was something else also that must have been obvious, even to the most careless observer. I knew in an instant (and should have known equally, without the chaffing allusions of the other cabbies) that this, their mate, was a man who had been born and bred in a very different station of life from that wherein circumstances had now placed him. This of itself, of course, did not go for much. In all sorts of humble occupations, down to that of tramps or street-loafers, one is constantly coming across men who have seen better days. But these usually are individuals in whom the vice and drunkenness that have reduced them to what they are have stamped out every vestige of what can make them interesting; leaving them mere contemptible specimens of the degradation to which man—the man, may reduce himself by yielding unchecked indulgence to man—the animal.

The present object of my attentions, however, did not appear to be a person of this kind. His face showed none of the coarsening marks of vicious excess. Rather did it appear to wear the expression of one who was oppressed by some dark cloud of mental anxiety. He interested me from the first moment I looked at him, and I thought at once as I did so, "I should like to hear that man's story." When a journalist, *idem* a professional interviewer, experiences this feeling, it will go hard but he will find means to gratify this his curiosity. I began to cast about in my mind for such means then.

I had already escaped from my truculent Unionist and his short-range volleys—a deafer, if a wiser, man. I strolled across to the attendant to question him.

"Who's that?" I inquired in a low voice, indicating by a gesture the subject of my inquiry, who, I saw, was still buried in his meditations and his tea.

"Drives a 'ansom. None on us know 'is nime," said the attendant, with a mysterious wink. "We gen'rally corls 'im 'The Dook.'"

"Why do you call him that?"

"Oh, cos he's a bloke oo've bin 'igher up in the world and carn't forgit it."

"Holds his head high, I suppose?"

"Well, 'tyn't so much that e's orty, rather that e's so reserve. Won't tell no one nuthink about isself. It's b'leeved, 'owever, that 'e is really a lord, and that 'e come to grief through 'orse-ricin'. My be, nor myn't be. Carn't sy. You might arst 'im."

"Not much use, from what you tell me," I observed.

"Not much, I think," replied the attendant, turning away to serve some customers.

Now I flatter myself that I am a man of resource in my own line, and that few interviewers have been more successful than I have in extracting information from unwilling subjects. I soon made up my mind how I would set about dealing with this reticent cabdriver. I would play a little game of bluff, and see what came of it. If what I desired, so much the better. If not, it did not much matter, after all. There was a vacant seat beside him. I occupied it. I wished him good evening, assuming a recognisant smile as I did so.

"Good evening," he returned, with some gruffness. Then, noticing my smile, and being evidently puzzled by it, he asked, quickly: "You are not one of us. Who are you? What brings you here?"

"I'm doing the cabmen's shelter question for the papers," I told him; and dropping my voice to a confidential pitch, I added, "I must say it is a great surprise to me to find you here."

"You know me, then?" he demanded, frowning annoyance.

"Considering that I was a sporting correspondent in those days, when you were on the turf, and that I then had to attend every race meeting in the country, you can hardly wonder at my being sufficiently familiar with your features to recognise them again, in spite of the changes that time and circumstance have wrought in you."

"Hush! hush!" he exclaimed, hurriedly in a low voice. "Not so loud. I have kept my identity secret from these fellows. I don't want them to know who I am."

"Right," I whispered, with a comprehensive wink, feeling extremely elated to see how well my game of bluff was succeeding. "You may rely on my discretion. By-the-way, though, there are just one or two little questions, which I and others who used to be interested in your turf career——"

"I know what you're going to ask," he interposed, with nervous quickness; "you're going to ask me to tell you the truth about Tiddleywinks."

"How clever of you to guess! That's precisely what I was going to ask—the truth about Tiddleywinks," I answered promptly, wondering inwardly who, or what, Tiddleywinks might be.

"I can't tell you here, before all these fellows. But, look here! Go and wait for me outside. If we leave this place together, it will attract attention. I will join you in a few minutes. And there's a public handy, where we shall be able to converse in peace. I can get one of the men on the rank to look after my cab. Good evening," he concluded, in a loud voice.

"Good evening!" I replied, and sauntered out.

I was by no means sure that this was not a little dodge of his to get rid of me; but I had no intention of letting him do so, if he had that design. I waited close at hand, in a place that commanded a good view of the exit from the shelter. In two or three minutes he came out. I joined him, and, after he had spoken a few words about his cab to one of the men on the rank, we proceeded to an adjacent public and seated ourselves in the tap-room. I ordered liquors and cigars. They were produced. We lighted up. We sipped preliminary sips. And I was ready to hear the truth about Tiddleywinks.

"Devil knows what's come over me to-day," said my companion, at the outset. "I've always been one to keep my own counsel, and, if it hadn't been for the curious

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feeling that's on me, you might have asked me for the truth about Tiddleywinks till you were black in the face, and you wouldn't have got it. But somehow, there's a sort of sensation in me just now that impels me to unburden myself of this secret. You don't know what it is to be under a curse, I suppose?"

"No, I don't. I should have imagined that in these *fin-de-siècle* days curses were out of date."

"Ah! So I used to imagine," he exclaimed bitterly. "And I acted on the belief. I wish to God I hadn't! You recollect my uncle from whom I inherited the title?"

"Perfectly," I asserted, with the air of one whose answer was a foregone conclusion.

"Well, it was his curse, and nothing else—I swear solemnly it was nothing else—" (he spoke with energy and excitement) "that explains the truth about Tiddleywinks."

"What made your uncle"—"curse you" I was going to say; but being uncertain, from his words, whether the malediction referred to himself or to the indeterminate Tiddleywinks, I altered it into "pronounce that curse?"

"I am going to tell you. I do not suppose you are aware that my uncle had another nephew, my own first cousin, who was a much greater favourite with the old gentleman than I, the heir, was."

I shook my head. As I was not expected to know this, there was no object in my appearing to do so. Indeed, I might easily (as I saw) give myself away, if I pretended to know too much.

"But my uncle was a just man," he continued. "And—in spite of his predilection for my cousin—he felt it his duty to let the bulk of his property go with the title, although, of course, it was in his power to devise the whole of his personalty as he pleased. But then, if he had left it away from me, I should not have been able to sustain my position—still less to carry on his large stud of racers, which he had constantly expressed his wish that I should do after his death—on the same scale as he had been accustomed to do during his life. However, he wished to leave his favourite nephew something; and that something he proposed should be the sum of twenty thousand pounds. Most testators, under the circumstances, would have put him down in the will for the amount and have said nothing about it to the prospective legatee. But my uncle, being somewhat eccentric, and never making any secret whatever of his testamentary intentions, confided to my cousin what he proposed to do.

"My cousin, on becoming the recipient of this confidence, did a rather extraordinary thing. He said that though it was awfully kind of uncle to leave him so handsome a sum of money, he should like something else better. Had his uncle not spoken of his intention to mention him substantially in his will, he should not, of course, have presumed to say anything on the subject. And if the proposed bequest had been less valuable than the legacy he wished substituted for it, he would, equally, have been silent. But the fact was—[I should say that my uncle's life was then, as he himself knew, in a very precarious state, and the doctors considered it improbable that he could live for more than a year at the outside]—that if he was to succeed to any of the old fellow's possessions at all, it was the darling wish of his heart that he should succeed to—Tiddleywinks!"

So then Tiddleywinks was something capable of being devised and bequeathed—some good or chattel; probably, I surmised, a house or a small estate. However, I was soon enlightened on the point.

"My cousin—I must tell you—was quite mad on horse-racing. I don't believe he really cared a twopenny damn for anything else; and Tiddleywinks was then in the zenith of his two-year-old career, in which you, no doubt, recollect he achieved an undefeated record."

I nodded and looked, as I flattered myself, sapiently recollective. The fact, of course, was that only at this moment had I discovered what Tiddleywinks was. But I am sure that, from my expression, any one would have inferred that I was vividly recalling to my mind's eye the well-remembered triumphs of this undefeated two-year-old.

"Tiddleywinks, in fact, was the best horse of his year," he continued, "which is as good as saying that, if he went on all right, he had every chance of winning next year's classic races, for all of which he was entered. And people were already backing him, at no extravagant odds, for the Guineas and the Derby; which, considering that the former was some seven months ahead, shows the high esteem in which Tiddleywinks was held. And my cousin being, as I say, quite mad on the subject of horse-racing, told the old gentleman, in so many words, that if it was a choice between inheriting Tiddleywinks on the one hand, and the entire residue of his property on the other, he should unhesitatingly choose Tiddleywinks.

"Now, my uncle, himself a keen sportsman and a turf enthusiast, was quite delighted with the sporting spirit which my cousin's request showed; and he at once gave him his promise to bequeath him Tiddleywinks. I heard of it; and I ventured a mild remonstrance with uncle; for I did think it rather hard that I should be compelled (as I knew I was, by the terms of his will) to carry on his expensive racing establishment after his death, and yet be deprived of the only first-class horse and certain money-maker in the whole stables. But the old man put aside my remonstrance testily. Was I not satisfied with all the rest of his property, that I must grudge my cousin this one horse? No! He should certainly have the colt. He should add a codicil to his will to that effect without delay.

"And so he would have done; and now I wish to God he had!" ejaculated my informer excitedly. "But he postponed the matter for a day or two; and, during that time, his chronic complaint suddenly assumed an acute form, and he died within a few hours of the seizure. I was with him alone (my cousin being in Scotland at the time) during his last moments; and just before the end came, he addressed me in these words—it is eighteen years ago, but they are branded on my memory in burning letters:—

"'Jack,' he said, 'I have not been able to alter my will about Tiddleywinks. But I charge you, my lad—I charge you solemnly—to give him to your cousin Charlie when I am gone. And if," he added, after I had promised acquiescence, suspecting (as I now think) that I had it in me to be scoundrel enough to go back upon my pledged word to a dying man, 'if you fail to do so—if you keep the colt for yourself—may the possession of Tiddleywinks be a curse to you—a blighting curse—that shall haunt you with evil and ruin to the end of your days!'"

Here the cabman paused and wiped off the sweat which I saw standing in large drops on his forehead. Then he swallowed his toddy at a gulp; and after that, proceeded:

"Now comes the shameful part of my conduct, which you have already guessed. I will hurry over it. I will only say that I did break my promise to my dying uncle—I did keep Tiddleywinks. You remember his subsequent performance in the Guineas; how he started a hot favourite with the odds on; how queerly he ran; what a rumpus there was; how I and Jack White, the jockey, were actually called before the Stewards. Of course, there was nothing against either of us. Indeed, no one was more astounded and dismayed by the colt's running than I was, and I had dropped many thousands over the race. The Stewards acquitted us, absolutely. But the mob hooted us; and all the papers said nasty things. You see, people couldn't believe that Tiddleywinks had been fairly defeated by a colt to which, as a two-year-old, he had more than once given a stone and a beating.

"That was the beginning. It went on in the same way. People were compelled to change their opinion, and to admit that their suspicions of foul riding in the Guineas received no confirmation from Tiddleywinks' subsequent performances, and the papers—but, no doubt, you remember all this, having been yourself a turf correspondent—were soon ascribing Tiddleywinks' miserable failure in his third year to his having been over-raced as a two-year-old; which was more rational, but equally untrue. For I know, as well as I know my own face in the glass, that the hopelessness of his subsequent career—and you will remember that he never again won a race—was due to my uncle's curse, and to that alone.

"In everything I undertook, also, bad luck dogged me. After a few years I came a financial smash. All my

property, including my horses, was sold in Bankruptcy. Being thus left without a penny-piece in the world, and my connection with Tiddleywinks being severed, I thought that the curse had perhaps expended itself. I was mistaken. I fell lower and lower. At last I came to cabdriving. And then—and then—come outside a minute," he exclaimed, rising suddenly. "I have something to show you."

He led the way into the street. In some surprise, I followed him. He stopped at the end of the cab-rank, and laid his hand on the withers of a broken-kneed screw that stood there, spiritless and dejected, between the shafts of a hansom.

"Look," he said. "Perhaps you've thought that my ideas about the curse have been a bit fanciful. Listen, now. A year ago, when I first sunk to cab-driving, I was supplied with this horse and this hansom by the proprietor to whom I applied. I knew the old beast again in an instant, I tell you, and he knew me. A sort of shudder came over me, and I felt faint and queer; for I saw the curse was still dogging me, with relentless steps. . . . . You can guess? Yes; you're quite right. This broken-down old crock is—Tiddleywinks!"

A few minutes later, having thanked him for his interesting story, I wished him good-night. I had now the necessary data for identifying him, which, by reference to certain turf records I easily did. I will not say more here than that he was a baronet, once very well known both in racing and social circles, whose brief career on the turf is still remembered as phenomenally disastrous in a calendar whereof its long list of striking and sensational disasters is not the least phenomenal feature.

But there were certain points which I wished to elucidate, and information about which I was unable to obtain in any records. I determined, therefore, again to seek out my cabman-baronet, and ask him if he would enlighten me on these uncertain matters. Not knowing where he lived, I repaired to the shelter where I had first met him, hoping I might find him there, or on the adjacent rank. I was disappointed; so questioned the attendant at the shelter as to whether "the Dook" was still plying from that cab stand.

"Bless us," answered the functionary. "No, 'e yn't. M'r'over, 'e yn't plyin' from any keb stand now—unless they runs keb stands in Kin'dom Come, wich the Bible don't s'y, as I knows on."

"Do you mean he's dead?"

"Yes; didn't yer see? It wos in the pipers."

"I never saw it."

"I did. Read orl abaout it. Haccident in Trafalgar-square. Oss cum daown on the incline; bein' slippery arter rine; killed itself—pore ole crock wich orter hev gone to the knackers a yeer ago—an' pitched 'the Dook' agynst a lamp-post, fracturin' 'is skell. 'E wos tiken to Charin' Crorse 'Orspital, and died without recoverin' consciousness. The keb was orl smashed, an' the fare, a lidy, was lucky to escipe as easy as she did, with a sprined wrist, and three teeth through 'er top lip."

"Now you mention it," I said, "I do remember reading about that accident. But I had no idea that the poor fellow who was killed was 'the Dook.'"

"Aye, but 'e wos, though. Funny thing abaout it, too. I think 'e ad a sorter presentiment that e'd ave a haccident with that 'oss of 'is. 'E wos in 'eer only the night afore, and some of 'em got charfin' 'im abaout that ole skeleton of a moke of 'is, an' arskin' 'im wy 'e didn't insist on the boss lettin' 'im 'ave another. Well gen'rally, yer know, he didn't never arnser their charf—being that reserve. But on this occision, 'e surprise us orl by noddin' 'is 'ead in a gloomy wy and syin':

'The fack is, mites, I seem sorter tied to the ole beast. 'E won't larst much longer, nor'll I, and I shouldn't wonder if we didn't both go to glory together!'"

"Funny 'e should 'ave sed that the dy before, wosn't it? And wot did 'e mean by bein' 'sorter tied to the ole beast?' But there! There never was no understandin' 'im—being that reserve. P'raps they'll be ible to mike more of 'im upstairs!"

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ART NOTES.

It was pleasant to move about at the Continental Gallery on Friday last, as well as the crowd would allow one, and listen to the audible chuckles with which many of Mr. Gould's cartoons were being greeted. Rarely have I seen a party of private viewers enjoy themselves more thoroughly. For once they were not busily engaged in looking at each other and talking of anything but the show they had come to see, but were actually examining the pictures upon the walls, and sharing with evident relish in the veritable feast of fun which had been provided. Mr. Gould's cartoons have many excellent qualities, but one of the chief reasons for their popularity is their intelligibility. There is nothing recondite or ultra-subtle about them; no unnecessary beating about the bush, but a direct emphasis of the political point to be made, a straightforward accentuation of the situation caricatured. The nail that is to be driven in is hit upon the head with a really refreshing vigour and directness. Mr. Gould's humour is essentially of a popular description. It is a humour we can all of us appreciate; a humour, moreover, which is good humoured, and which requires for its elucidation neither commentary nor key. Take, for example, one of Mr. Gould's most popular cartoons, "The Old Lady of Niger and the Tiger," drawn by him as "A Forecast of the Unionist Alliance of 1895." Here we see a political adaptation of the well-known nonsense verse:—

There was an old lady of Niger
Who smiled as she rode on a tiger;
When she came from that ride
The dame was inside,
And the smile—on the face of the tiger.

Lord Salisbury is, of course, the old lady, and Mr. Chamberlain the tiger. The smile of the Marquis is delightful in its serene fatuousness as he rides out gaily on the back of his Colonial Secretary; but even more delicious is the triumphant leer of the Chamberlainic tiger as it returns from that fateful ride, increased in bulk to an extent that only too clearly suggests the absorbing incident that has happened. "The Family 'Bus," another of Mr. Gould's most successful cartoons, is, unfortunately, not included in the present Exhibition. Who does not remember that irresistibly funny scene—the Colonial Secretary running after the already well-laden Salisbury 'bus, and insisting that room shall be found in it for himself and the old lady (Mr Jesse Collins) and the two little boys (Messrs. Austen Chamberlain and Powell Williams)? It is in this turning of the ordinary and well-known incidents of daily life to account in his cartoons that Mr. Gould is so very happy.

Of his good humour I have already spoken. His cartoons prove with pleasant clearness that he does not put too much gall in the ink he uses for his caricatures. As he himself says in his amusing preface to his catalogue, whilst extenuating nothing which he attacks, he certainly does not set down aught "in malice." It is, indeed, a long cry from the method of Gilray to the method of Gould. The blows of the bludgeon have given place to the tickling of the rapier. Were a proof of this needed it would be found in the fact that Mr. Gould's victims positively enjoy the punishment he so genially administers to them. He caricatures no one more frequently than the Colonial Secretary; his most successful hits are at the expense of that pushful member of the Ministry, and yet Mr. Joseph Chamberlain is one of his most ardent admirers. It is an open secret, too, that Mr. Gladstone was much interested in Mr. Gould's talent; and that the original of one of the latter's most striking Gladstonian cartoons some time ago found a place upon the walls at Hawarden Castle. In the present exhibition a special screen has been devoted to cartoons of the deceased statesman, and these, I noticed, had nearly all of them a little red star on them, when I was at the Continental Gallery, showing that they had already found purchasers. There has also been a run on the Chamberlain caricatures. There is one fact in connection with the majority of the exhibited drawings which will, I think, lend them an additional interest in the eyes

of visitors to the Continental Gallery. Nearly all the cartoons have been drawn as comments on passing political events from day to day for the columns of an evening newspaper. This implies, of course, great rapidity in production, and it is not the least notable of Mr. Gould's qualities that he is able to thus invent and produce a cartoon in a space of time not much greater than that taken by the average political journalist to produce a leading article. Altogether the exhibition is a great success, and can be cordially recommended to all who take an interest in current politics.

MUSIC.

EXIT THE CARL ROSA COMPANY.

BUSINESS with the Carl Rosa Company has notoriously been going from bad to worse, and a meeting of shareholders is called for to-day (Wednesday) to decide whether another attempt shall be made next autumn to carry on the enterprise with a cheaper troupe, or whether the affair shall go into liquidation. Beyond much doubt liquidation will be the preferable course, and thus this once celebrated enterprise will be at an end. Those who have followed the series of articles which have during the past few years been published in TRUTH upon the Carl Rosa Company, will be by no means surprised at what is now likely to happen. Last year's losses it seems were greater than ever, and as by the sale of the lease of the Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool, the company has lost its last really valuable asset, there seems very little more to be done. The losses shown in the balance-sheet last year amount to no less than £6,607. This, however, only carries the account to December 31, and it is, I believe, a fact that since then the tale of woe has continued, and misfortune has indeed set in with even still greater severity. The directors' report candidly states that the trivial amount which it had been intended to pay back to the luckless shareholders on the reduction of their capital, agreed to last winter, has been lost, and the "return of capital contemplated, will, therefore, have to be abandoned." On this point I have received from a shareholder, whose name is extremely familiar in the musical world, a letter as follows:—

> What do you think of the enclosed? I am inclined to think that the shareholders can bring an action for the recovery of the money which legally was assigned to the shareholders, in consideration of their consenting to *the reduction* of their shares. However, you know more about this than I do.

My correspondent, however, really credits me with much greater knowledge of the law than I can presume to possess. Moreover, no one personally blames the directors, now, by resignations—a fresh example I fear of the rodents and the sinking ship—reduced to four, namely, Mr. Bruce, formerly local manager of the Liverpool Theatre, Mrs. Carl Rosa, Herr Ganz, and Mr. Vert. The directors may not have been wise, but they have, at least, been honest. Indeed, Mrs. Carl Rosa is known to be a very serious loser indeed by the impending break up, and there is hardly a shareholder who will not extend to her his pity at the misfortunes due to the mismanagement of others. The subordinates had far too much of the upper hand, and I have more than once enjoyed the sardonic pleasure of informing individual directors of arrangements and engagements of which they themselves were wholly ignorant. It is quite possible, therefore, that Mr. Vert and some of his colleagues may not have known that the money passed by resolution to be returned to the shareholders was being spent in an obviously losing game. Perhaps at the meeting to-day some explanation may be forthcoming upon this point, although, as the chairman, Mr. Nicholson (who a year or two ago spoke so scornfully of any allowance for depreciation of operatic costumes), and Mr. Friend, the company's manager, have both resigned, there may be some difficulty about speaking with authority.

At any rate, it is significant that the general meeting to confirm the resolution to reduce the capital and to return a portion of the money to the shareholders took place as recently as December 10 last. Yet twenty-one days later, when the balance-sheet was made up, it showed that during the year there had been a loss of £6,600. Either therefore the directors were ignorant of this desperate state of affairs, or the resolution of December 10 must have been a silly piece of empty form, or (which is far more likely) the severe losses which have swallowed up the small amount of money the shareholders expected to be returned to them have occurred since the new year. In any event, liquidation is a by far more sensible step than the inevitable loss of more money which must ensue if the company resolve to continue "with operas that do not entail such a large expenditure as has been the case during the past." Provincial managers let their theatres to the Carl Rosa Company, and give that body a very large percentage of the gross receipts, only upon condition that the troupe and the repertory shall be maintained as far as possible upon the highest class. If the Carl Rosa Company decide to take round a cheaper troupe, it is inevitable that the provincial managers will revise their contracts. Indeed, the directors themselves seem to have recognised the fact that liquidation is the wiser course. They have called a second meeting later on to-day to confirm any resolution for liquidation passed at the meeting called at noon. Should, as is most likely, the resolution to liquidate be carried, it is the intention of the company to "endeavour to sell its remaining assets, and, after satisfying the liabilities, to divide what remains among the shareholders." Thus will pass into the shadows the most promising operatic enterprise that Great Britain has boasted within the memory of the present generation.

Once more to indicate the reasons which have reduced the company to its present state would be a task analogous to thrashing a dead horse. The mistakes made have been plainly stated in these columns year by year, and with an iteration which would have been tedious had not the question been of such primary importance to the welfare of music in England. Down to the time of the death of Carl Rosa matters went swimmingly enough. Rosa himself was not only a shrewd man of business, but was also an excellent musician—a combination of the greatest rarity. His policy, as everybody is aware, was to confine his repertory to operas within the means of his troupe. He also sagaciously kept down expenses, allowing himself the luxury of only one very costly leading artist, and training up the junior members of the company eventually to take the place of the "star" at a more modest salary. Among other things, although sorely tempted, he refused (his unmusical successors have rushed in where he feared to tread) to mount "Die Meistersinger" in the provinces, on the very proper and most artistic ground that a travelling orchestra was unfit to perform the accompaniments, without resorting to shifts which make Wagner's music ridiculous. Also he regularly had a London season which, although it might not have been particularly profitable, yet served as an admirable advertisement for his provincial business. But the great point of his policy was to pass through the ranks of his company a number of fresh voiced and promising young artists, whom he trained personally, and who, under his guidance, contributed largely to that excellent ensemble which was once the pride and glory of the Carl Rosa troupe. In the result, as we all know, he earned a large fortune for himself, and after he converted his business into a limited liability company he paid a regular and highly satisfactory dividend of 7 per cent. on the Preference and 8 per cent. on the Ordinary shares.

No sooner, however, had Carl Rosa died than troubles began. His successors as managers of the company were not men of music, while, although they may have imagined themselves to be men of business, yet the proof of the pudding must be sought in the eating, and it is significant that from the year following Rosa's death the dividends have wholly ceased. It is true that the directors' reports from year to year gave the most roseate excuses, and hopes that were not fulfilled. In 1890, at the first meeting of the company after Carl Rosa's death, Sir George Grove resigned, and his example was afterwards followed by Earl

de Grey, the Earl of Radnor, the late Sir Augustus Harris, Mr. Gardiner, Sir Frederick Bridge, and others. During the year 1889 (when Carl Rosa really had been responsible for the policy of the company) the profits were close upon £10,000, plus nearly £3,000 written off for depreciation. In the following year ending December 31, 1890, the profits dropped down to £4,400, and no depreciation was written off. In the third year, 1891, there was a loss of nearly £1,500; in 1892 a loss of £1,300; in 1893 a profit of £1,200; in 1894 a profit of £1,100; in 1895 a loss of £2,200; in 1896 a nominal profit of £188; and in 1897 a loss of £6,607. Since 1890, however, there really has been an almost continuous loss, for the asset of £27,000, the value of the Court Theatre loan, has disappeared from the accounts, while, instead of £3,000 a year, for eight years nothing has been written off for depreciation, and accordingly we have in the accounts the very ridiculous feature that the value of the scenery and dresses is placed at the exact amount which was originally paid for them, although operatic costumes, unlike old port and the voices of eminent prime donne, do not become more valuable with age.

Indeed, as the company will probably now go into liquidation, the real value of these assets becomes to the shareholders, and to others interested in the future of opera in English, a matter of special importance. In the new balance-sheet it is true it is rather difficult at first sight to understand what amount is really fixed as the value of the stock-in-trade. In 1896 the value of the scenery, properties, and furniture was fixed at £26,746, whereas it now figures at £32,254, "after deduction of purchase money of the Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool." To suppose, however, that the Carl Rosa scenery, properties, wardrobes, and music will fetch anything like this amount will be laughed at by any one who has the slightest experience in matters theatrical. The "goodwill," which (after deducting certain deferred Ordinary shares) is now fixed at £6,474, is another absurd item. Can any one suppose that the goodwill of a company which has been a failure for years past, and now is in imminent danger of liquidation, can be worth £6,700, or anything like it? The value of the "opera rights" is fixed at £9,100, they apparently having gone up nearly £200 since last year. It is true that on December 31 the company had £8,000 cash in hand, besides £1,000 invested, but, as a paragraph in the Directors' report warns us to expect, much of this money has since disappeared, most probably in the losses which have been sustained since the New Year. Indeed, it would have been much better, when a proposal for liquidation was before it, if the company had made up their balance-sheet to the present time, and, above everything, had caused an independent valuation to be made of the stock-in-trade. If this had been done, the shareholders would, I think, have had an eye-opener.

Of course, the question remains whether, even after many years of no dividends and a period of serious loss, the company could have continued. There is no doubt that there are some operatic troupes still going round the provinces which make good profits out of performances of opera in English. As a rule, they are strictly modest concerns, paying very small salaries, and giving performances still more modest. Nevertheless, from a commercial point of view, they undoubtedly do make money, and it is a question whether it is worth the while of the Carl Rosa troupe to imitate their policy. There are two strong reasons against it. In the first place the Carl Rosa Company, whatever may be its financial condition, has always retained its high celebrity as an art enterprise. For the troupe to go upon the lines of some of its smaller competitors would, with resultant loss of prestige, in all probability end in still further disasters. It is perhaps more important that the company have not the proper staff to carry out any such policy. In nearly all cases the managers of opera troupes who make money in the provinces are themselves musicians with long operatic experience, and are thereby enabled to train their new artists in much the same way as Carl Rosa himself did. This, indeed, is the crux of the whole situation. An opera company may perhaps be made to pay, providing the head of the whole concern is a practical man, conversant with his work both from a musical and a business point of view. The lack of musical knowledge or of business capacity is, in almost every case, fatal.

THE PUNCTURED WAGNER CYCLE.

The first cycle of "Der Ring des Nibelungen" came to an end on Saturday amidst alarums and excursions, followed by furious Wagner protests, vocalists' indispositions, newspaper chaff at the stage management, and a general suspicion that "Wagner in Bow-street," was a punctured cycle. It is reported that the profits of the first four night performances have been something like £1,400, which, if true, induces a comfortable reflection that opera after all can be made to pay. Indeed, it is likely to raise the ire of the professed Wagnerites to boiling point. That "Siegfried" on Thursday was plentifully "cut," perhaps provoked less dissatisfaction among the subscribers and the public than in the minds of the Elect, who, after a musical gorge extending from five to half-past ten (including dinner time), wanted more. So we have had "protests" by the Wagner Society, "interviews" with Mr. Schultz-Curtius (who has missed the one opportunity in his life of holding his peace), and the rest of it. Defects beyond question developed themselves during the week, and, as I ventured to predict, some of the absurdities of "Playing at Bayreuth" had to be abandoned. But it is nevertheless a fact, and one upon which Mr. Schultz-Curtius, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Maurice Grau are entitled to sincere congratulations that, despite defects, last week's performances of "Der Ring des Nibelungen" were by far the finest that we have ever before seen in England, and in some respects were vastly superior to those at Bayreuth itself. Of course, with its out-of-date machinery, Covent Garden cannot hope to compete in stage effects with such well-appointed theatres as those of Munich and Vienna. But, from an orchestral point of view, the Royal Opera performances have been inferior to none, while vocally they have been superior to almost anything that Bayreuth has ever given us. This much, at any rate, is to our credit.

It was foreseen by people experienced in the ways of operatic audiences in London that some of the "dragooning" proposed during the cycle would not work. The darkened theatre really never was tried at all. It would, of course, have been quite possible to have followed the system adopted by the late Sir Augustus Harris, who, at each performance of the "Ring," caused the whole of the gas to be put out and not again to be relighted during the entire evening. The electric light, under Harris's régime, also went out, and then the theatre, except as to the stage, was in thorough darkness, the electric lamps only being re-illuminated during the entr'actes. At Covent Garden, instead, the gas in the great chandelier, and also round the circles, was kept alight throughout the performance, and, although it was lowered, it was generally possible to read fairly large print. This would have been an advantage had it not been for the fact that the gas caused the upper circles to be made inconveniently hot. Accordingly, the scheme of closing the windows and ventilators next had been abandoned. On the first night of the cycle the good folks in the amphitheatre were nearly stifled, and their anathemas of the "dashed tomfoolery" of Bayreuth caused an alteration of policy, and a restoration of such ventilation as Covent Garden affords. Also the proposal to keep people out during the progress of the music had to be abandoned at the outset, and although the bulk of the audience came splendidly up to time, late comers were admitted when they liked. On Thursday evening the system of playing the opera in its entirety and without "cuts" had to be set aside. This, it seems, was due to two of the principal artists, who, whether the opera be by Wagner or not, invariably hold the key of the situation. MM. Jean and Edouard de Reszke had learnt their parts in "Siegfried" last year, in accordance with the reduced version used at Covent Garden and at many of the German theatres. For the "cuts" to have been restored would have necessitated their forgetting their former studies and relearning their parts afresh. M. Edouard

de Reszke is known to be a slow "study," and accordingly it was, I believe, proposed that he should be replaced by Herr van Rooy. This, if I am correctly informed, very nearly set the fat into the fire. A hint was dropped, though not of course from the great tenor himself, that if his brother did not sing, it was highly probable that M. Jean himself would postpone his appearance. Accordingly, on Thursday the "cuts" were observed, and the performance closed before half-past ten. Since then we have had protests and indispositions and interviews galore. But the growls all emanate from a small minority. Only 600 seats in the whole house were allotted to the Wagner party, some of whom rather rejoice than otherwise that the loquacity of Wotan the Wanderer was cut short. The cranks are bound to grumble. If there had been no "cuts," they would probably have "protested" at M. Jean de Reszke wearing a beard.

The dinner arrangements worked fairly well. Fortunately the weather was fine, for otherwise the spectacle of ladies in evening dress wandering down Bow-street to the Strand restaurants at a quarter past six in the evening might have been less picturesque than it actually was. On this head, by the way, I am bound in justice to the Covent Garden authorities to correct an error made last week. Relying upon a complaint which I had received from a lady correspondent, I mentioned that there was no apartment in which the ladies in the gallery could place their bonnets or other head coverings. This seems to be an entire mistake, and one which, as a mere male, I clearly could not be supposed to discover for myself. There are ladies' cloak-rooms in all parts of the house, and in the gallery and amphitheatre alone there are, I am assured, two huge rooms capable of holding 8,000 or 10,000 bonnets. Indeed, I am bound to say that from first to last the Covent Garden staff, with Mr. Neill Forsyth at their head, did everything in their power for the comfort of the audience, and to alleviate the inconvenience which people were put to in coming so early and in being forced to clear out of the house during the dinner interval.

The orchestra under Herr Mottl was certainly by far the finest feature of the "Nibelung" performances last week. The band parts, indeed, have never before in this country been played with so much delicacy and refinement, and with such nice observance of all the details of expression, while the voices were supported instead of being drowned, and the various "leading motives" were brought out with the utmost clearness. In short, the performance was such as we usually expect in the concert-room under Mottl, Levi, or Richter, rather than in the opera-house. I have already dealt with "Das Rheingold." "Die Walküre" went even better. Here Mme. Eames proved to be the finest singing Sieglinde we have yet had in this country. From an acting point of view she was rather tame, but that possibly was due to her Italian training. Precisely the same fault was found with M. Jean de Reszke, who appeared as Siegfried on the following day; but here, as elsewhere, we have a choice between the declamatory and youthful German and a poetic, though vocal, tenor trained in the more refined school. The engagement of M. Edouard de Reszke for the Wanderer in "Siegfried" was a musical mistake. The part does not suit him, and it lies indeed beyond the range of his voice, so that the notes in many cases had to be altered. Herr van Rooy would have been much better. Miss Brema in "Die Walküre" was a magnificent Brünnhilde, although the absurdity was committed of putting her in this part to sleep in the last scene of "Die Walküre" and awakening her as Mme. Nordica in "Siegfried" on the following night. Mme. Nordica as Brünnhilde, in the great scene at the close of "Siegfried," with M. Jean de Reszke, absurdly enough wandered down to the footlights in the approved fashion of Romeo and Juliet. She did much the same on Saturday night, turning her back upon Gutrun's warriors, and singing to the gods aloft. It is, however, only fair to say that Mme. Nordica at short notice replaced Mlle. Ternina, who has had hard luck at Covent Garden, for she on Thursday was ill. In "Götterdämmerung" the artists were on less familiar ground, but the performance was on the whole a very good one, particularly the splendid Waltraute of Frau Schumann-Heink. It is true that M. Jean de Reszke was indisposed (suffering, according to one writer, from that novel disease, nervous rheumatism of the liver) and was replaced by Herr Dippel. This, according to the Wagner Society, is what they wanted. It is hoped the rest of the audience were equally satisfied.

Sir Arthur Sullivan has been obliged to relinquish his idea of composing a new cantata for the Leeds Festival, and a work by Mr. Cowen will be accepted instead. The delay in the announcement of the subject of Sullivan's new choral work most probably prepared the public for the fact that the production of the successor to the "Golden Legend" must again be postponed. Ill-health is assigned as the reason, but Sir Arthur's friends need not be unduly alarmed at the seriousness of his illness. Indeed, no one would, in fact, be surprised to find Gilbert and Sullivan in collaboration again at the Savoy before the year is out.

I have received further communications concerning the "Registered" teachers of the Associated Board, but consideration of this and other matters must for this week be postponed.

The concerts of the week have again been numerous, and some of them have been really interesting. Among the most attractive was the Jubilee of Mr. Ganz, in which Mme. Patti took part, singing a couple of songs and the same number of encores. Her rendering of Lotti's once familiar air, "Pur dicesti," was a perfect marvel of genuinely artistic vocalisation. Mme. Patti had, I believe, not before sung "Pur dicesti," but her rendering of this fine old Italian aria was a lesson to a good many younger singers. At the Philharmonic Concert on Thursday, the cream of the programme was given up to Mr. Eugene D'Albert, who gave a fine interpretation of Beethoven's E flat Concerto, and likewise conducted his Symphony in F, op. 4. This had been announced as a novelty, although, as a matter of fact, it was played under Richter at St. James's Hall twelve years ago. It does not much improve with acquaintance, and the scherzo is certainly its best number. Frau Hermine D'Albert sang a dramatic though somewhat lugubrious solo, entitled "The Little Mermaid's Death and Transfiguration," besides two of her husband's other songs. This accomplished lady is already well-known here under her maiden name of Fräulein Hermine Spies, and some years ago she was famous as a singer of Brahms's Lieder. Mr. D'Albert gave the only recital on Monday with an exacting programme comprising no fewer than five pianoforte sonatas, rather a dose in the summer season. On Monday night also Dr. Richter resumed his evening performances. A piece of Svendsen's, already tried at the Crystal Palace, was produced, but the audience would have been much better pleased if it had been replaced by some more Wagner pieces. The only Wagner work in the programme was the "Tannhäuser" overture employed to play the people out. The great attraction, however, was the "Symphony Pathétique" of Tschaikowsky, a work which Richter was the first to make popular here, although he was certainly not the first to produce it. A large number of other concerts I cannot now refer to.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—You will want to hear something about the Drawing Room, the last of the present season. One of the sensations was a train composed of aluminium. Fancy, dear! I remember reading about an evening gown made of spun glass that was worn in America by the Infanta Eulalie of Spain; and Sir Thomas Wardle tells us that silk is adulterated on the Continent with salts of tin, and silver and gold are by no means extraordinary ingredients of silk or brocade; so there is perhaps less reason for surprise about an aluminium train than at first sight there appears to be. One pictures, however, a rather frying-pan effect, very opposite to the reality, which glitters like silver and is entirely soft and supple. It does not

tarnish like silver. The train in question was worn by Mrs. Crawshay, of Cyfarthfa, and was woven in Bond-street by a young girl who, up to the beginning of this year, had no knowledge of weaving. I believe she threw her first shuttle on February 28. It will thus be seen that weaving is not an impossible or uncongenial task for ladies, and if our English noblesse could be persuaded to patronise English hand-made goods, they would bring gladness to many a home where young girls could in a good old fashion help to support themselves and others by a recognised industry. This is the second order for aluminium cloth received by the Bond-street School, or, as it is more correctly called, the British and Irish Weaving School. The first was woven by a deaf and dumb pupil who began work on January 22, and her achievement is therefore equally praiseworthy. The second order took eight days to make, and a third pupil wove the aluminium braids which were used with it.

The Countess of Uxbridge, presented on her marriage by her mother, the Marchioness of Hastings, wore her poetic wedding gown, all softly falling Brussels point, under a train of lily brocade put on with a hood of chiffon and snowy plumes. Lady Hastings looked beautiful in steel and silver-sewn net over white satin, appliqués of Chantilly lace being introduced effectively among the glittering sequins. The Marchioness also presented Princess Victor Duleep Singh on her marriage. The Duchess of Westminster wore lovely diamonds. She was sweetly dressed in white satin, flounced with Mechlin run on silk muslin, and trimmed with pink roses and white lilac, the latter matching the design upon the white brocade of which her Grace's train was made. It was lined with pale green, and this tender note of colour was repeated in a sash of chiffon. The Marchioness of Ailesbury, presenting her younger daughter, Lady Marjory Brudenell-Bruce, wore black and mauve, and carried a Goodyear bow-bouquet of lovely mauve and white orchids. Lady Powis wore white and pale green trimmed with carnations, and carried an Arcade bouquet of Malmaison carnations and lily of the valley. Lady Freake, in a pretty lilac and grey shot satin, had a train of striped black gauze trimmed with orchids, and lined with orchid-mauve satin. Miss Freake was in white and pink. Lady Van-Notten-Pole's shepherdess dress was very quaint and pretty. Mrs. "Ronnie" Greville looked very nice in pale blue. Lady Brassey had a princess gown in bright Malmaison pink and train of pansy-purple velvet, the whole softened with lovely old lace. Mrs. Ismay wore an artistic mingling of black and white and silver, and carried a splendid bouquet of white orchids and pink roses. Mrs. Bruce Ismay was in pink satin veiled with cream-tinted lace embroidered in gold, silver, and pearls. Lady Jerningham's turquoise-velvet train, trimmed with shaded tulips worn over white satin and lace, was much admired, as was her bouquet of parrot tulips. Baroness Gray had a delicious Joyce dress of ivory and green shot satin, with Chartreuse velvet train embroidered with pearls and brilliants. Mrs. Edward Powell wore white satin trimmed with lace and chiffon, and a train of rich brocade, one corner turned back and embroidered with turquoise and silver. She carried a beautiful bouquet. The exquisite Irish embroidery on Mrs. Geo. Scott's lovely gown and train was much admired; and so was the cream-coloured brocade woven at Macclesfield and given as a wedding present to Mrs. Kinloch by the constituents of her brother, Mr. Bromley Davenport, M.P.

Madame Kato, wife of the Japanese Minister, was much observed in her exquisite white satin dress, embroidered in turquoise, paste, and silver, and trimmed with sprays of laburnum. The train was in blue and yellow brocade lined with pale blue and trimmed with laburnum.

Lady Eden wore a lovely Paquin gown in white satin, veiled with tulle and silk muslin, and trimmed with bands of lace embroidered with geraniums composed of pink ribbon. The train was also satin, trimmed with the ribbon-petalled geraniums and profusely studded with paste. Lady Ermyntrude Malet wore silver brocade, with pearl embroidery and priceless point d'Alençon. The Countess De La Warr's apricot crêpe-de-chine was trimmed with white Chantilly.

The dresses in the new piece at the Gaiety are quite lovely and most effective, without being in the least "stagey"—a word that is losing its meaning, by the way, since the revolution in theatrical costume. The Gaiety gowns were made by Louise et Cie., who made their name in bonnets, and have now added dressmaking to their business in Regent-street. They will probably achieve equally great things in this department as they have hitherto done in headgear.

The gay world is intent on Ascot and its gowns, its hats, its sunshades, and its endless etceteras. I expect to have oceans to tell you about it next week.

What extraordinary positions people sometimes choose to be photographed in! We have been looking at the brides and bridegrooms depicted in some weekly papers, and could not help noticing how much more naturally the men pose than the brides. Some of the latter appear to be intently examining the ceiling, as though they fear that it is about to give way. Others have their backs to the spectator, their heads twisted round at a most extraordinary angle in order to show a profile or three-quarter face. A few are photographed with their eyes cast down, so that one suspects them of chronic squints. Almost all are in evening dress, a style that is becoming to very few in a photograph, especially when the area of the latter is so small that no clothes whatever are visible. The effect of an elaborately crimped coiffure and a necklace of more or less importance, combined with an apparent total absence of garmenture, is rather funny.

One bride and bridegroom have their backs to each other. If they behave like that so early in married life, where will they end?

A real, old-fashioned honeymoon is rarely seen now. Three days of retirement from the world and its excitements are as much as the married couples of this restless age can afford. In some ways it is well that the "moon" should be reduced to something under a week. To be bored with each other is such a sad commencement. It establishes a precedent, and that is often a fatal thing to do.

The girls have been cycling a great deal lately, and they are highly delighted with a charming afternoon-tea house called "The May Trees," which they have found in Fox-lane, Cowley, between Uxbridge and West Drayton. The place has been started by some enterprising ladies, who, being cyclists themselves, have had practical experience of the difficulty ladies have in finding decent places to get tea during long country rambles. A party of our friends had a picnic at "The May Trees" the other day, ordering their lunch in advance. It sounds an excellent idea both for the proprietors and the customers, and I shall expect to hear soon that other ladies are starting similar ventures round about London.

Mrs. Fourstars made her annual pilgrimage with the children to the Crystal Palace on Thursday to see the fireworks. We joined the happy little party, and came back delighted with the evening's entertainment. The fireworks are always good, and this year the great Brock has excelled himself. The battle of Manila is a terrific blazing, deafening affair; but the youngsters were still more pleased with a comic piece—a fireworks cow milked by a pyrotechnic milkmaid, who finally carries her glowing pail to a fiery pump, from which it is filled up with flaming "water." But there are newer attractions at the Palace this season. A very good variety entertainment, beginning with a clever play without words and ending

Costumes for Henley Regatta.—Messrs. Redfern have now on view in their Showrooms some very pretty and effective Costumes for Henley, to which a visit of inspection is invited. Very moderate in price.—Redfern, 26, Conduit-street, W.

Surgical Corsets.—A desideratum after an operation is a properly adjusted, light, and comfortable support. This can be obtained from Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., The Celebrated Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, Oxford-circus, London.

with a really brilliant ballet imported from Paris, is given in the theatre. In the open air, on the terrace below the North Tower Gardens, a "café chantant" entertainment is provided each afternoon and evening, and here again a ballet is one of the principal items in the programme. By these and other enterprises the management is making a bold bid for increased support. Everybody hopes that it will succeed, for nobody would like to see the Palace overtaken by the fate which was said to threaten it some time ago.

Christabel writes from Paris :—

I send you some toilettes seen during what is called here "La Grande Semaine," comprising Auteuil, the Grand Prix at Longchamps, the réunion of the mail coaches, &c. . . . The Grand Prix is no longer the exhibition of costumes it used to be, but there were some wonderful toilettes. A most beautiful hand-painted muslin had an artistic garland of flowers round the foot of the skirt and coming up in tablier fashion in front. Around and mixed in among the flowers were tiny ruches of narrow pink ribbon. The bodice had a little painting to match mixed with ribbon ruches and lace, and the waist was encircled with a sash of silk muslin, the whole made up over pale pink silk. The hat worn with this was the shape called bergère, of white rice straw, trimmed with white tulle and marguerite daisies.

A white muslin skirt was ornamented with real Valenciennes insertion in a sort of lozenge pattern, and finished with a wide shaped flounce; the bodice had a wide pink moiré ribbon coming from the shoulders, forming bows in front, and then turning round towards the waist and under the arms, ending in long sash ends at the back. The sleeves were muslin and lace over pink silk, like the skirt and bodice. Foulard was much patronised also, and the new make called foulard satiné is very pretty, having a more brilliant surface than the ordinary sort. I saw a very nice one in deep rose shade, with small white pattern, made with a plain skirt and wide shaped flounce. The bodice was extremely taking, with a deep falling collar at the back, coming over the top of the sleeves, and then forming full revers in front, all edged with wide écru Cluny lace, which is coming up again very much. Round the waist was a black velvet band, edged on each side with gold galon. The hat worn with this was white straw, with a wreath and aigrette of wild convolvolus. A mauve foulard had two wide pleated flounces placed one above the other, and headed with a small ruche of the same material arranged to form a lozenge pattern. The bodice, gathered in at the waist, had a wide insertion of embroidered muslin, edged with a plissé of foulard, forming a deep square trimming in front like a yoke, the middle of which was filled in with white chiffon. With this a white straw hat was worn, ornamented with violets, and a very pretty costume it was.

White cotton embroidery is very much to the fore; it is to be seen on blue lawn or cambric, or, in fact, anything. At the Grand Prix a well-known Russian lady wore a princess robe of white muslin embroidered thus.

A picturesque gown was of blue muslin enhanced with old Venetian point, the hat turned up in front, with tea roses mixed with pinks and their green leaves.

A well-known actress wore a very pretty costume of blue silk muslin, covered with Irish guipure, with black velvet round the neck and end of sleeves. A Lamballe hat in Manila straw, with plenty of pink roses, veiled with pink tulle, completed this elegant dress.

I must not forget to mention that Mme. Faure was dressed in mauve taffetas, with silk muslin of the same shade in front. Her white and black bonnet had a white aigrette. Her married daughter, Mme. Berge, wore white crêpon, and a white hat with long white feathers.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin :—

DEAREST MADGE,—Nothing is more quaint or curious in its ways than Fashion. It is called a tyrant, yet does it not seem somewhat of a contradiction, thus to style a power which is voluntarily and eagerly obeyed? And not alone that, but even in an age which questions everything in Heaven and earth and all the philosophies, its decrees are never questioned. Cheerful, ready obedience is the rule, no matter at what cost of personal self-denial and self-sacrifice. The benighted beings who make the exception can hardly be called rebels, since rebellion loses its meaning where obedience is voluntarily. Fashion has no punishment for them, the act of disobedience to its decrees brings its own punishment. So much the worse for those who will not follow fashion; let them go into the outer social darkness, for there is no other alternative. Into the regions where dowdies and those melancholy beings who are not up-to-date wander in hopeless, pitiful obscurity. One shudders to think of their condition, and can only hope, poor things, that they are happy in their own sorry way. They may enjoy peace and satisfaction, though doing the wrong things at the wrong times, or the right things at the wrong times, which comes to the same thing; and their hearts may be light, though their skirts are wrongly cut, and their sleeves of an obsolete pattern. But how can they do it? And how pitiable to see those who ought to know better in impossible materials and last year's headgear.

Perhaps one of Fashion's most curious decrees, is the law which has established your "season" in town in the very heart of summer. Though it is accepted without question, and heroically obeyed, what June longings must just now be stifled in many hearts, and the secret preference of real to artificial roses. There may be even some to whom the noise of "hidden brooks" would be more grateful and soothing than that of the roar of the mighty city. Here we abandon our capital in the summer, many of us, it must be said, in favour of yours, which ought in a manner—if we carried out Unionist ideas to the full—to be ours also. But having gone through a "season" in the winter, only the ultra fashion, which is not for all of us, requires another. We may with clear consciences go abroad, or to the seaside, or into the heart of the country, if so minded.

Last week June came to us in full splendour, abruptly following the wintry May. How difficult dressing has been this year! One's ingenuity has been taxed to its fullest in working winter and summer clothes together, alternating their wear not only daily but sometimes hourly.

Leopardstown race meeting on Friday and Saturday gave summer toilettes their first opportunity. Every one seemed to seize it eagerly, the dressing was so brilliant and worthy of the sunshine. The scene was very pretty in the enclosure, where a band played the background of hills and trees set it off effectively. On Saturday a rival attraction was the garden-party given at St. Ann's, Clontarf, by Lord and Lady Ardilaun. Lord Ardilaun has developed the house, which was the residence of his father, Sir Benjamin Guinness, into a palatial structure, and suitably extended the gardens and pleasure-grounds. The sea—an inlet which stretches to Clontarf—is at the gates, and the sandy ridges on which the golf links of Dolly Mount lie, are close by. Lady Ardilaun is a charming hostess; she looked very well in a green brocade costume, her hat being in harmony with it. The band of the Rifle Brigade played under the trees, where tea and all sorts of refreshments were also dispensed. Lord and Lady Ardilaun, the heads of the Guinness family, are—in Ireland—its popular members. Lord Ardilaun has resisted all temptations and remained an Irishman, unlike his younger brother, Lord Iveagh. The bestowal of the Ribbon of St. Patrick on the younger, instead of the elder, brother was warmly resented in Ireland. To say the least of it, it was an outrage on good taste. Whether Royalty or Vice-royalty were most answerable for it, who can say?

The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire spent some days at Lismore Castle, and gave many dinners to the neighbours in an informal way. The rumour now runs that they are to receive a Royal visit at Lismore in the autumn, but it hardly seems likely. Another rumour with regard to Royalty relates to the Duke of Connaught as Commander of the Forces in Ireland instead of Lord Roberts, and in residence, of course, at the Royal Hospital. But rumours regarding Royal visits to Ireland are in inverse ratio to the visits.—Yours ever,

CLARE.

To turn to things culinary. Banana cream with strawberries is an entirely new dish :—

Cut three or four ripe bananas into halves lengthways, then cut them across and lay them on a soup plate; dust them with pounded sugar, pour over them a liqueur glass of maraschino and the juice of half a lemon. Make a gill of milk and the yolks of two eggs into a custard, in which dissolve ½ oz. of soaked gelatine; flavour with vanilla, and when it is quite cold mix it with 1½ gill of whipped cream. Now place some of the bananas

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in a pipe mould, pour in a portion of the cream, and let it set; repeat the layers of banana and cream until the mould is full. Pick 1 lb. of ripe strawberries into a basin, sprinkle them with fine sugar, and pour over them a tablespoonful of maraschino. When they are required for table turn the cream out on a dish, fill the centre with the strawberries, which must be mixed with 1½ gill of whipped cream. Put the remainder of the strawberries and cream in little groups round the dish, with a fresh strawberry here and there for garnish.

Mayonnaise of sweetbread is a delightful dish. The principal point to be observed is, to have the sweetbreads properly braised:—

Soak a couple of calf's sweetbreads in cold water for two hours, put them on the stove in fresh cold water; when nearly boiling, strain them, and put them on again in fresh cold water. Then drain, wrap each sweetbread in a slice of fat bacon, put them into a stewpan with veal or chicken broth to cover them. Add 6 peppercorns, a blade of mace, a shalot and a bouquet of herbs, cover them with a buttered paper, replace the lid and simmer the sweetbreads in the oven for an hour and a half. Allow them to cool in the liquor; after which, drain them free from moisture, cut them into slices, dip each one in thick mayonnaise sauce, decorate the surface with leaves of tarragon and coralline pepper and arrange them in a pyramid on a bed of crisp lettuce, and garnish them with chopped aspic and sprigs of tarragon and chervil.

Loin of veal dressed in the following way makes an excellent cold dish for a lunch party:—

Take a nice square piece of the loin of veal without the chump end. Remove the bones and all the sinew. Lard through the lean part with strips of fat bacon. Lay the meat, back downwards, on the board, and cover the inner part with a thick layer of the forcemeat; garnish it with strips of truffle, chopped parsley, and the kidney of the loin sliced and slightly fried. Roll the veal tightly, keeping the fillet well to the centre, and bind it with tape. Put the meat into a buttered cloth, tie the ends, and sew up the length to keep it in a bolster shape. Now braise the meat with stock, herbs, vegetables, a blade of mace, and 6 or 8 peppercorns; if possible, add a pint of light wine. When the veal is done remove it to cool in the braise, then drain it, remove the cloth and string, wipe the meat free from moisture, and brush it over with good clear glaze. Place the veal on a dish and decorate tastefully with aspic jelly and sprigs of parsley.

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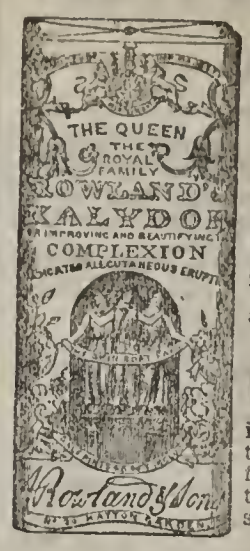

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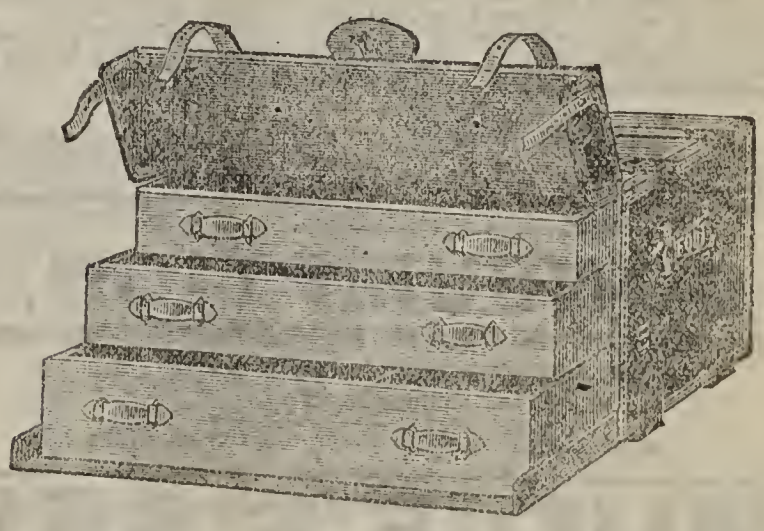

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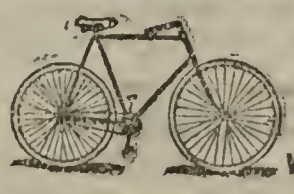

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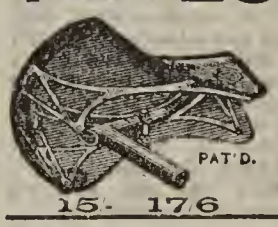

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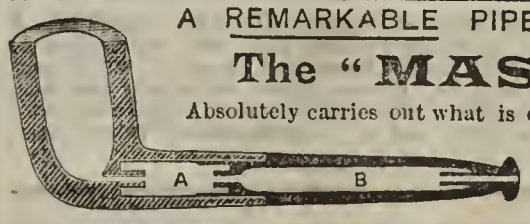

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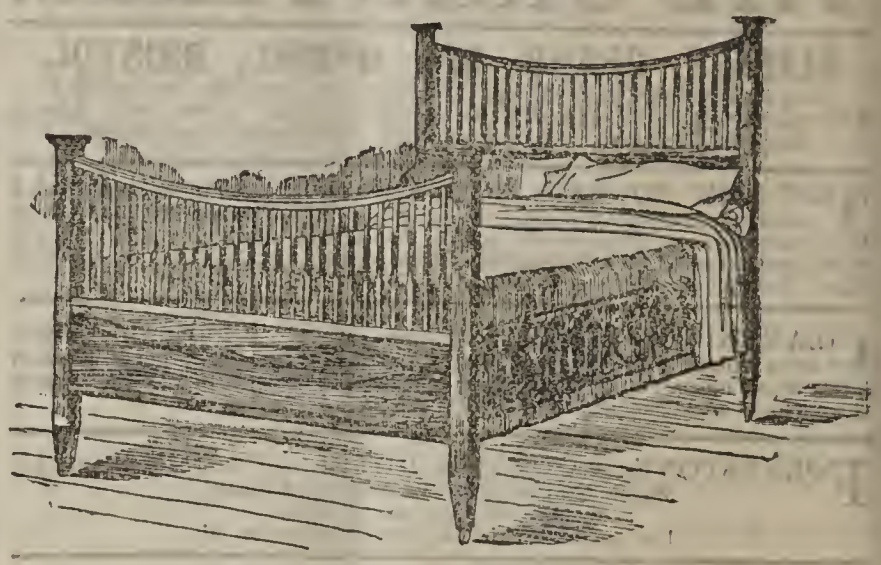

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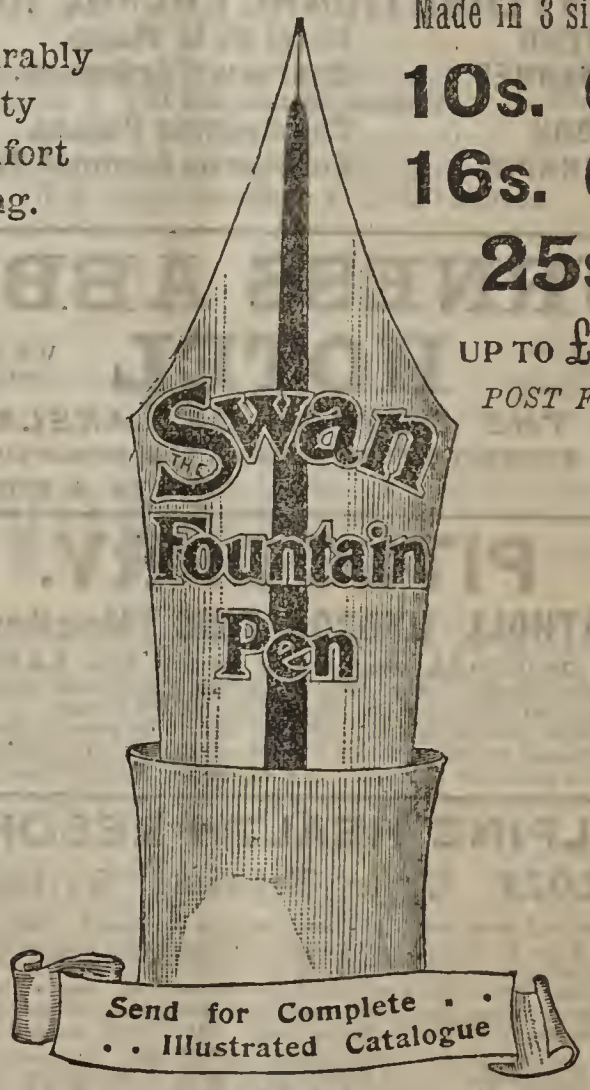

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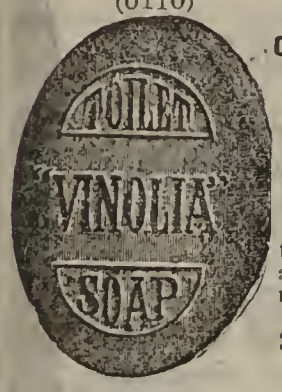

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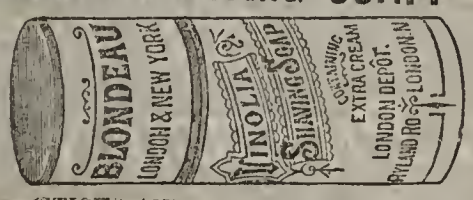

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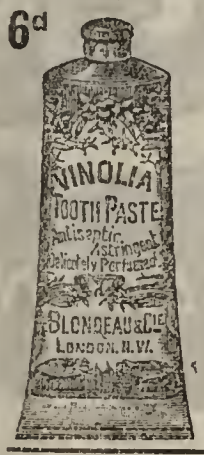

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Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, LYNCH & CO., J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS, & CO., BUTLER & CRISPE, JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale Houses.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

CLARKE'S

WORLD-FAMED

BLOOD MIXTURE

Warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from *whatever* cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it removes the *cause* from the blood and bones. Thousands of Wonderful Cures have been effected by it. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each, of Chemists everywhere.

BEWARE OF WORTHLESS IMITATIONS.

The Lists will close on or before Four p.m. on Thursday, the 16th June, for Town, and on the following day for the Country.

VICTORIA-STREET PROPERTIES, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893. Share Capital, £100,000, in 10,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference and 10,000 Ordinary Shares, all of £5 each. 8,000 Preference and 8,000 Ordinary Shares are taken at par in part payment of the purchase consideration for the Properties; the balance is reserved for future issue.

ISSUE at par of £87,500 FOUR-AND-A-QUARTER PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES of £100 each (part of a total authorised Debenture Issue of £120,000. The remaining £32,500 will only be issued for the purpose of adding to the Debenture-holders' security, in the manner stated in the Prospectus, and, if issued, will in the first instance be offered to existing Debenture-holders). The Interest is payable half-yearly on the 1st May and 1st November. The full Half-year's Interest on the Debentures now offered will be paid on the 1st November, 1898.

The Debentures are payable as follows:—

£20 on Application,	£25 one month after Allotment.
£30 on Allotment,	£25 two months after Allotment.

Payment in full may be made under rebate at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. These First Mortgage Debentures are redeemable at par by means of a Sinking Fund as hereinafter mentioned. They will be secured by a First Mortgage over the whole of the property of the Company in favour of the Trustees for the Debenture-holders. The Debentures will be issued with half-yearly interest coupons attached, or, at the option of any Debenture-holder, the interest may be made payable by warrants.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE-HOLDERS.—The City Safe Deposit and Agency Company, Limited.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Hon. Reginald Brougham, Chairman London United Laundries, Limited.
Lieut.-Colonel R. P. Hare, Director Grosvenor Mansions Company, Limited.
James Inman, Esq., 29, Stanley-Gardens, W.

BANKERS.—The Capital and Counties Bank, Limited, 39, Threadneedle-street, E.C., and Branches.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, Crisp & Co., 17, Throgmorton-avenue, London, E.C.

SECRETARY and OFFICES (pro. tem.)—Mr. J. J. Truran, 183, Gresham House, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED DEBENTURE PROSPECTUS.

These Debentures will form the first and only Mortgage on the valuable and long Leasehold Properties, comprising a large number of sets of Flats and Offices, Business Premises, and Shops, known as Albert Mansions, Victoria-street, Westminster.

Albert Mansions occupy one of the most prominent positions in the above favourite locality, being in close proximity to Victoria Station, and having an imposing frontage of about 380 feet to Victoria-street, the total superficial area being 33,300 square feet, or about three-quarters of an acre. These Mansions, comprising 15 buildings, are numbered 96, 96A, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, and 122, and are held as follows:—Nos. 96 to 104 up to 25th December, 1984 (86 years unexpired); Nos. 106 to 112 up to 25th March, 1970 (71 years unexpired); and Nos. 114 to 122 up to 25th December, 1985 (87 years unexpired).

A portion of the Flats had been originally planned for the accommodation of large families, but, by subdividing them into smaller residences, far higher rentals can be obtained for a given area, and this course of subdivision of part of the vacant portions is being gradually carried out with the desired result. Thus large flats valued at £200 to £250, have not lately been offered for occupation in that condition, but are, at a small expenditure, being divided into three smaller flats readily letting at about £125 each. The ground floors not already let as business premises are altered for the latter purpose as occasion offers, commanding high rentals, there being a great and increasing demand for accommodation of this kind in that important thoroughfare. It is proposed to extend the frontages of the ground-floors to the extent of 5 ft.; this extension can be accomplished at a moderate outlay, and will largely increase their letting values.

It is contemplated hereafter to add two or three further floors to the existing buildings, which course is expected to meet with no difficulty, as Albert Mansions are substantially constructed edifices; by means of this addition a large further revenue may be expected to accrue, which has not been taken into consideration in the statement below. The cost of constructing the additional floor-space will probably not exceed £20,000 to £25,000. The £32,500 additional Debentures will only be issued hereafter with the object of providing the necessary funds for this purpose, and will in the first instance be offered to existing Debenture-holders in proportion to their holdings.

In nearly every case the rentals of the occupied tenancies, as they are falling in, are capable of being considerably raised, and no difficulty is expected in letting them at increased figures.

The properties have been valued at £128,000 by Messrs. Douglas, Young & Co. the well-known surveyors and valuers. Attention is drawn to their full Report which is annexed to the Prospectus, as is the certificate of Messrs. Jackson, Pixley, & Co., chartered accountants.

As will be seen from these two documents:—

The actual rentals from flats, offices, and shops, and value of unoccupied suites, now being prepared for letting, amount to	£12,860	7	0
The estimated increased rental value obtainable on termination of many of the existing tenancies is	4,489	13	0
Making a gross rental income of	£17,350	0	0

The total annual sum necessary for the service of the £87,600 Debentures now issued, including the fund for their redemption, is under £4,000.

There is probably no kind of Home Investment which, while yielding the comparatively high return of 4¼ per cent. per annum, can compare in safety with long leasehold property in the central part of the metropolis in which this Company's property is situated.

Attention is drawn to the present prices of similar Debentures, taken from the Official List of the 1st June, 1898:—

Name of Company.	Stock.	Present Price.
Ashley Gardens Properties, Ltd., Victoria-street, Westminster	4¼ p.c. Debenture Stock	112—115
City Offices Company, Limited	3½ p.c. Mortgage Debenture Stock	107—110
De Keyser's Royal Hotel, Limited	4 p.c. Mortgage Debenture Stock	109—111
Gordon Hotels Company, Limited	4 p.c. Debenture Stock	121—124
Middle Class Dwellings Company, Limited	4½ p.c. Mortgage Debenture Stock	118—123
Savoy Hotel, Limited	4 p.c. First Mortgage Stock	110—113

The Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Trust Deed securing the First Mortgage Debentures now offered, and the above-mentioned Reports, may be seen at the Offices of the Solicitors to the Company.

Where no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full; and in case of partial allotment, the balance of deposit will be applied towards payment of the first instalment. Any further surplus will be returned. If default be made in the payment of any instalment at the due date, the deposit and instalment previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

Scrip will be issued in exchange for the letters of allotment and Bankers' receipt in due course, and notice will be given when the Debentures are ready for delivery.

Applications for Debentures, made on the form accompanying the Prospectus, are to be sent, together with the required deposit, to the Bankers, the Capital and Counties Bank, Limited, or to the Secretary of the Company.

Forms of application for Debentures can be obtained from the Bankers, Solicitors, and at the Offices of the Company.

Application for a quotation for the Debentures on the London Stock Exchange will be made in due course.

London, June 8th, 1898.

The List of Applications will be OPENED on MONDAY, the 13th, and CLOSED on or before WEDNESDAY, the 15th day of JUNE, 1898.

THE GILL McDOWELL JARRAH CO. LTD.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

Freehold Depôt, Forests, Saw Mills, Railway, &c., Perth, Waigerup, and St. John's Brook, W.A.

CAPITAL - - £250,000,

divided into

125,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each, and
125,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

The Preference Shares are preferential both as to Capital and Dividend.

THERE ARE NOW OFFERED FOR SUBSCRIPTION, AT PAR:

83,334 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares, and
83,334 Ordinary Shares.

Payable:—2s. 6d. on Application; 7s. 6d. on Allotment; 5s. One Month after Allotment; and the Balance Two Months after Allotment.

WORKING CAPITAL.—50,000 Shares will be appropriated out of the above issue to provide working capital and funds for the purchase and erection of additional plant.

DIRECTORS,

The Right Hon. Lord Lurgan, D.L, J.P., 21, Lowndes-square, S.W. (Chairman of the Fish, Oil, and Guano Co.), Chairman.
The Hon. George E. Hill-Trevor, 14, Onslow-square, S.W.
Sir Roger T. Goldsworthy, K.C.M.G. (formerly Colonial Secretary for Western Australia, and late Governor of the Falkland Islands).
Percy Hoar (Messrs. Hoar & Brown, Timber Merchants, West India Docks, E.)
James Priestley, J.P., Huddersfield (Director of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Co.)
Henry Ward, M.I.C.E., London County Council.

LOCAL DIRECTORS.

Frederick D. Good (Member of the firms of Messrs. Gill & Co. and Messrs. McDowell & Co.), Managing Director.
E. G. Lacey (formerly of Messrs. Gill & Co.)
The Hon. H. B. Lefroy, L.M.A., Minister of Education.
} Perth, Western Australia.

BANKERS.—Parr's Bank, Limited, Bartholomew-lane, London; the National Bank of Australasia, Limited, 123, Bishopsgate-street Within, E.C., and Perth, W.A.

BROKERS.—P. Buchan & Co., 15, Copthall-avenue, and Stock Exchange, London, E.C.; Oliver & Verity, 8, Mansfield Chambers, 17, St. Ann's-square, Manchester; W. & F. Cuthbert, 103, Colmore-row, Birmingham; Mellor & Wimpenny, 3, Cloth Hall-street, Huddersfield.

SOLICITORS.—Burn & Berridge, 11, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Ford, Rhodes, & Ford, Chartered Accountants, 81, Cannon-street, London, E.C.; Ford, Rhodes, Ford, & Co., Perth, Western Australia.

SECRETARY & OFFICES.—William E. McGowan, Cannon-st. House, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring the extensive freehold and leasehold forest estates, freehold timber yard, railway, rolling stock, livestock, saw mills, &c., now held by Messrs. Gill & Co., and Messrs. McDowell & Co., at Perth, Sawyer's Valley, Mahogany Creek, Drake's Brook (Waigerup), and St. John's Brook (Vasse), Western Australia, and to take over as going concerns as from the 1st October, 1897, the timber businesses now carried on by them. This issue is intended to provide £50,000 working capital to increase the number of saw mills so as to meet the demand being experienced locally and for export, and generally to extend the businesses.

THE PROPERTIES AND ASSETS TO BE ACQUIRED.

Sawyer's Valley.—3,740 acres of well-timbered land.

Mahogany Creek.—2,560 acres of good jarrah forest land.

Drake's Brook.—20,860 acres of forest land, thickly covered with Jarrah of the best quality.

St. John's Brook and Balinup.—76,120 acres of forest lands, heavily timbered with jarrah of the finest quality.

Perth.—Freehold timber yard and premises in centre of City, abutting on Main Eastern Railway, and leasehold yard and premises in Wellington-street.

Timber Rights.—In all the company will acquire 1,144 acres of freehold land, timber rights over 103,280 acres of leasehold land, and exercise forestry rights of cutting timber over 50,000 acres.

Plant and Railway.—Four sawmills, with complete plant, machinery, workshops, cottages, stabling for 240 horses and bullocks, livestock, railway sidings, 43 timber trucks, &c.

Stock.—All the stock-in-trade and goodwill of established successful businesses, together with the benefit of all contracts held by them.

VALUATION.

Mr. Ednie-Brown, it will be seen from his cablegram, values the timber at the Drake's Brook, St. John's Brook, and Balinup Estates at over £2, 718,000.

Mr. Deakin's report shows a valuation of £59,800 for the existing mills, plant, railways, and all other property to be acquired; but exclusive of the timber, on which he estimates a profit of over £870,000, being at the rate of 20s. per load.

MANAGEMENT.

Arrangements have been made with Mr. F. D. Good, the managing partner of Messrs. Gill & Co., and partner in the firm of Messrs. McDowell & Co., under terms whereby his remuneration is partly fixed and partly dependent upon profits, to take over the management of the Company in Western Australia, and it is proposed to take over the existing staff there; the continuity of successful management being thereby secured.

PROFITS.

Messrs. Ford, Rhodes, Ford, & Co., accountants of Perth, Western Australia, have examined the accounts of the businesses, and have furnished, through their London house the following certificate:—

"81, Cannon-street, London, E.C., June 7th, 1898.

"To the Directors of the Gill McDowell Jarrah Company, Limited.

"Gentlemen—In accordance with instructions, we have examined the books of Messrs. Gill & Co., of Perth, Western Australia, for the three years ended July 31st, 1897, and after making allowance for depreciation, certify that the profits are as under.

"We have also examined the books of the timber business of Messrs. McDowell & Co., of Perth, Western Australia, for the 12 months ended 31st October last (the business having only been carried on by the existing partners since November 1st, 1896), and after making allowance for depreciation, certify that the profits for this period are as under:—

Gill & Co., 1895		£4,555
Gill & Co., 1896		£6,333
Gill & Co., 1897	£7,667	
McDowell & Co., 1897 ...	£10,194	
		£17,861

"We are, Gentlemen, yours faithfully, FORD, RHODES, FORD, & CO."

Inasmuch as the business of Messrs. McDowell & Co. has only been carried on by the existing partners since 1st November, 1896, the accounts of that business are limited to this period.

It will be seen from the foregoing certificate that the profits of the combined businesses for the last completed year are £17,861.

These profits are the result of the one mill working at Sawyer's Valley; one at Mahogany Creek; and three at Drake's Brook, of which two have been dismantled and replaced by one large mill, making two large mills now in full work there.

On the erection of the six additional mills as intended, at St. John's Brook and Balinup, and based on an output per mill considerably less than that referred to in Mr. Deakin's report, it is estimated that the total output will be at least 43,500 loads per annum.

The profit based upon the experience not only of these businesses, but of other West Australian timber businesses, viz., Messrs. C. & G. Millar and Messrs. M. C. Davies & Co., may be safely taken at 20s. per load after allowing for management of expenses. This would yield a profit on the estimate of output, of £43,500 per annum.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application for Shares may be obtained at the Offices of the Company, and of the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, and Auditors.

London, 9th June, 1898.

A Proposal to every Lady—

—to make delicious Custard with

BIRD'S CUSTARD POWDER

A DAILY LUXURY.

Numerous are the uses for BIRD'S Custard Powder :—Dainties in endless variety, the choicest Dishes, and the richest Custard.

NO EGGS! NO RISK! NO TROUBLE!

SINGER

MODÈLE DE LUXE

(Registered Trade Mark)

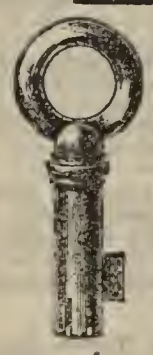
SEND TO-DAY FOR SPECIAL CLEARANCE LISTS, FREE.

CYCLES

SINGER CYCLE CO. LTD. COVENTRY
LONDON: 17, HOLBORN VIADUCT.

A MASTER KEY

of this SIZE



Can be made to open any number of Locks. Many Ladies and Gentlemen have the whole of their locks so arranged that **a MASTER KEY,** so small as to be worn in a finger-ring or locket, will open every lock they possess—from their Dressing Bags, Trunks, Jewel Cases, Despatch Boxes, &c., to the Front Door, Wine Cellar, Park Gates, &c. **Just think of the Convenience!** The locks are made in suites, each suite with its own key, so that the ladies' maid or valet can open the luggage, the butler the wine cellar, and so on, but the suite keys are of no use for any but their own series.

BRAMAH JEWEL SAFES,

BURGLAR AND FIRE RESISTING, SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR BED AND DRESSING ROOMS.

Specialities in fitted Suite Cases and Dressing Bags, Jewel Cases, Despatch and Deed Boxes, Bramah Street Door Latches, with small keys, Bramah Padlocks for Bicycles, with Leather-covered Chains, &c. &c.

New Illustrated Catalogues Post Free.

For Prices and Particulars apply to

NEEDS & CO. *Late*

Bramah & Co.

Sole Manufacturers of the real Bramah Locks.

100, NEW BOND STREET,
LONDON, W.

A Master Key Signet Ring (Open).

PIPING THE PRAISES OF

PATTISONS' WHISKY.

SCOTLAND'S BEST.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Sole Proprietors, **PATTISONS, LTD.**
Highland Distillers,
LEITH, BALLINDALLOCH, LONDON.
Head Office—CONSTITUTION ST., LEITH.

OUR PUZZLES.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,006.

The best suggested word for expressing the offence of "Riding-in-a-superior-class-of-carriage-to-that-for-which-the-fare has-been-paid" is "Superclassing." It happens, however, that this word, or its equivalent, was suggested by no less than seven competitors, viz., Almaviva, Gingernut, Pad, Aldbarn, Ludwig B., Mallaby, and Davham. This would imply the division of the available Two Guineas into such small parts that it has occurred to me that the successful competitors would probably prefer to have a special competition of a somewhat similar kind arranged for them, to decide who shall have the Two Guineas. Should this suggestion meet their approval I shall be pleased to hear from them to that effect.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,007.

The result of this competition will be announced next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,008.

No competitor succeeded in identifying all the quotations taken from the Royal Academy Catalogue. But no less than five competitors were able to name the source of seven of them, and amongst these five competitors therefore the prize of Two Guineas will be divided. The names of the five are Harriet March, Knight's Pawn, Babs, Erin, and Chutney.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,012.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

THE QUOTATION FROM SHAKESPEARE, NOT EXCEEDING FOUR LINES IN LENGTH, WHICH MIGHT BE MOST APPROPRIATELY PLACED OVER THE ENTRANCE TO THE ROYAL ENCLOSURE AT ASCOT.

Readers of TRUTH are well aware of the way in which the Master of the Royal Buckhounds is pestered with applications for tickets for the Royal Enclosure. They must have often read, too, the criticisms and comments made on the composition of the crowd that ultimately gains admission. In case a prose quotation is selected, it must not consist of more than thirty-six words. Competitors must not send in more than one quotation; and all answers should reach me at the latest by the morning of Monday, June 27.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MARAH.—Your "In Memoriam" verses exceed the prescribed limit of eight lines.

MAISON BLANC.—I regret to say that the available space had been exhausted before your lines reached me.

J. F. HALL.—Your lines arrived too late for the current competition.

NEMO.—The announcement is made this week.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,009.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

"IN MEMORIAM" VERSES ON THE LATE MR. GLADSTONE.

'hrough Life's long battle, bravely to the fore,
He nobly played a manful Briton's part;
nd he is dead, yet lives for evermore
Enshrined in ev'ry honest British heart.
nd to the scroll of Fame, in letters bright,
His mighty name shall added lustre lend;
ritannia weeps, but dries her tears to write
Upon his tomb, "Here lies the people's friend!"
R. F.

ather rejoice, dear friends, nor waste a tear,
or one so great and good, so kind and dear;
eep for the base, the broken-hearted, they
hat scarce pay back to earth her own poor clay.
eep not for him; to friend, and child, and wife,
e leaves the blessing of a blameless life;
o England leaves new freedom, power, fame,
nd to a grateful world his grand, immortal name.
W. Nevermore.

A nation's eyes with tears are dim
For silver speech to silence brought—
The noblest of her sons is nought,
And none comes after like to him.

Vain toil if one be diligent
To compass dirge or elegy!
Himself and his great life must be
His most enduring monument.
J. W.

e giant brain that forged such weighty thought,
The voice that held its hearers in a spell,
e dauntless spirit that for freedom fought,
Will ever live in memory. The mere shell
at held within it such a spirit force,
nks back once more unto its earthly source;
t, from the Nation's self till life departs,
adstone will "lie in State" in English hearts.
Henry IX.

e mark the man who climbs Fame's envied hill,
And proudly stands upon its glorious height,
mired by all beholding eyes until
Some other climber comes before our sight.
t he who climbs beyond the hill of fame
To that high mount, a nation's fervent love,
all never be forgotten, and his name
Shall be inscribed all other names above.
Chess Vale.

e loss is ours who stay. The gain is thine,
Who, single-eyed, trod where thy Master trod—
e earthly fades, but that which is divine
Is surely garnered in the stores of God
ll when at last, in earth's great golden year,
Thy Master shall begin His righteous reign,
ou, with all souls to whom the right was dear,
Shalt come with Him to rule this world again.
Buzzard.

ll and farewell! The tender accents break
Right from our hearts, that may do naught but weep;
r knowing till the last dread trump shall wake,
Our God hath given His belovéd sleep.
ough we should joy to know Thy suffering o'er,
Thy days of anguish and Thy nights of pain;
t, wailing children at a closéd door,
In selfish grief we cry, "Come back again!"
Criterion.

The voices hush—the music dies—
We feel the calm of Paradise.
Farewell! Thy guerdon more than fame!
The peace that changeth never.
Farewell! we breathe an hallowed name.
Grant us, O Lord, our trials past,
To share with him true peace at last,
Within thy courts for ever.
Scrivener.

Low lies the aged head, so calm, so grand,
Hushed is the voice that Death was loth to still;
Closed is the fearless eye, and cold the hand
That but obeyed the forces of his will.

Welded with all he wrought for England's weal,
His name and mem'ry will be held secure
In England's heart—as due to one whose zeal
Was never tiring, and whose life was pure.
Georgina.

Like lonely lighthouse 'mid the seething wave,
Majestic, towering, radiant, strong to save;
Firm planted on the rock, all steadfast, sure,
That storm-tossed men might to the end endure.

Quenched now that ray, to gleam on farther shore.
Who, worthy, left, its splendour to restore?
Man's need, incessant, urgent, calls for light.
God grant that like, if less, still rule our night!
Robert Martin.

A cloud is resting on our land this day,
For England's noblest son has passed away;
Where wrong would menace, tyranny enthrall,
His voice went ringing like a clarion's call.
Justice and truth he held in high control,
The master passions of his mighty soul;
He held them sacred, as a trust from God,
And duty led in every path he trod.
Daniel.

Through thundering storms of loud debate,
With right hand firm upon the helm,
A pilot steered the ship of state
O'er proud Britannia's realm.
Then, as a fairer shore he neared,
Left on her waves a trail of light,
That Britain's ships might o'er be steered
In safety through the night.
Chantry Owl.

Now, laid to rest with hymns and solemn roll
Of organ, sleeps among our mighty dead
The trumpet-tongued, the vehement strong soul,
That thro' long years his country served and led.

Victor in many a fight, the sound of fray
Is hushed; the world suspends its party strife,
While friend and foe, with one accord, to-day
Praise God for such a man—and such a life.
Norfolk.

What shall we say above his sacred grave?
What need of epitaph or dirge is there
To show our reverent sorrow, when we gave
A people's prayer?

How could we sing his worth, his wisdom, how
Record the splendid service of his years?
Enough the requiem that we hear even now,
A world in tears!
Penserosa.

The tears have risen to our eyes, and yet
Our hearts are kindled—death, that brings eclipse,
Is great as life! Never may we forget
This lasting memory. Eloquent lips
Are hushed—but noble service, done from youth,
Pleads eloquently still! The garnered years—
The "Record Life" of service—speak in truth,
And in high memories we forget our tears.
Addie.

Hushed though thy voice—ever "a thing of beauty"—
And closed the eyes that flashed at freedom's name;
"Champion of truth, love, liberty, and duty,"
Is deeply graven on the shield of fame.

No tears need fall, thy earthly work had ended,
Huge though the task, ceased was the restless strife,
Calmly and bravely, life with death had blended,
When death's awakening brought immortal life.
Bird, Swansea.

Who could forget who once had heard
That sweet-toned silver tongue.
Whose wondrous web of woven word
In faultless form was strung?
To stem the stream of strife he sought,
And free the toil-opprest;
Freedom and peace, his end and thought,
They shroud him in his rest.
Creran.

Lost though his form is we joy in the knowing
All cannot pass with his labouring breath;
Death slays the sower—the fruit of his sowing
Time will reveal to be stronger than Death.
Foremost of fighters, thy foemen have vanished,
Friends in thy death are the foes in thy life.
Here, where the echoes of battle are banished,
Sleep in the deep after-silence of strife.
Twins.

Our "Grand old Man" has slowly sunk to rest.
May peace be given her he loved the best!
And may the nation keep within its heart
The name of one who played so great a part;
God and the people loved him, for they knew
How he kept truth and righteousness in view,
Lover of peace, yet strong to brave the storm
The name of Gladstone echoes back "Reform!"
Risk.

The voice is still, the axe is laid aside,
Life's evil forests quake not as before:
The sweet mouth joins a nation's tears, the tide
Of Death moves soundless to the further shore.
Millions of men did in that soul confide,
And ever as it fadeth, more and more
A light grows stronger till it bursts in flame—
The unstained splendour of a noble name,
Felix.

Among the mighty, who, when life's brief fire
And force have failed them, then are mightiest;
Among the eloquent, who most inspire
When Death has touched their lips to final rest;
Among the loved, for whom, when the shades part,
Flows deeper love than when we saw their face;
He, too, at death new born in England's heart,
Has won him there an everlasting place.
Auita.

Fallen asleep, he is released from pain.
Those fiery eyes are closed, no more again
Will they flash forth, in wrath imperial,
Glorious magnificence of high disdain.
The deep pulsations of that mighty soul
Have ceased; no more the burning tears will roll,
Roused by the golden voice's trumpet call.
The race is run, and he has reached the goal.
H. E.

Not dead. He sleepeth in his well-earned rest,
And his great spirit doth ascend on high.
Though hushed that silver voice, it never will die,
But ever echo in a freeman's breast.

Mourn, then, in hope. Though taken from our sight,
His words and works through distant time will live.
What he has given his mem'ry still will give—
The will for truth and justice still to fight.
Mahmut.

"Requiescat in pace!" Thy great work accomplished,
"Friend of the People," and of all distrest;
Victor in many fights, thy last foe vanquished—
A glorious passing, now a quiet rest.

Yes, rest, true heart, and when thy life's grand story
Is told by those who watched thee in the strife,
It will be said, "This was his crowning glory—
He for the People lived a selfless life!"
Natal.

Not for the genius of the master mind,
Not for the eloquence that all might feel,
But for the heart that felt for all mankind,
That had no thought for self, and true as steel,
Is the world moved to hear that he is gone.
More lasting than its greatest warrior's fame?
Where'er in freedom's cause the sword is drawn,
Shall be the memory of Gladstone's name.

Marplot.

Should Britain from her giddy height
Ignore the weak oppress;
"Gladstone," the word of magic might,
Shall put her heart to test.
Above the nation's mighty cheer—
"Britannia rules the waves!"
A clarion voice will echo clear—
"Let Britons ne'er be slaves!"

Ora.

Now take thy rest with England's mighty great,
While hearts of friends and foes alike are rent;
Erst peerless helmsman of the ship of State,
The greatest pillar of our Parliament!

There is a deathless halo round thy name—
The glow of manly deeds in mortal strife;
And through the ages man in words of flame
Shall read the record of a noble life!

Felixicus.

There are tears on England's Rose, and her head is hanging low,
E'en Scotland's Thistle, strong and brave, is bending 'neath its woe;
But of all the three, the Shamrock, poor Erin's little flower,
Droops lowest far, for she has lost her friend in sorrow's hour.

Let the Rose and let the Thistle, the powerful and the strong,
Give freedom to their sister; O! let them right the wrong,
And rear to him who loved her the tomb he best would love—
Fair Freedom's flag, the Star of Hope, and Peace's heav'nly dove!

Scotswoman.

The dead are like the stars by day,
Withdrawn from mortal eye,
But, not extinct, they hold their way
In glory through the sky.
But now his radiant course is run—
For Gladstone's course was bright;
His soul was like the glorious sun,
A matchless, heavenly light.

Theology.

Near three-score years of pure wedded life,
Midst homely delights and party strife;
For well upon three score years and ten
His best he gave to his fellow men;
Four-score and ten, save one, when at last,
With mind undimmed, to the end he passed;
In years and honour excelled by few—
A Christian gentleman through and through.

Pyramid.

Answers have been received from J. H. Jackson, Stephanotis, Neak, Natal, William Jones, Georgina, H. E., Commoner, Mecca, Samos, Chanting Owl, Mahomet, Almaviva, Myrah, Addie, Chess Vale, Dreyfoo, Penserosa, Marplot, Pen, Pro Archia, Ivy Leaves, Toph, January, Felixleus, Theology, Ore Cross, Rugeley, Fide et Opera, Criterion, Vox, Nella, Snowdrop, O. P. Q., Taffy, Norfolk, Bird Swansea, Grimalkin, Homms, Effie, Salt, J. McGrigor Allan, Scotswoman, Oxoniensis, Rosetta, Lenten Lily, Zeua, Aidee, Quilp, Spook, Sol, Creran, Twins, Excelsior, Esperanza, Otter, Felsberg, A. E. L., Ivanhoe, Threnody, Risk, Miss Gourlay, Cuca, Dualwor, Job, Auntie, Felix, R. F., Nevermore, Tea Eye, Alastor, J. W., R. Martin, Buzzard, Minnyarrah, Alicia, Daniel, Scrivener, Pyramid, Béranger, Petruchio, Paddy, Scorpio, Edgeome.

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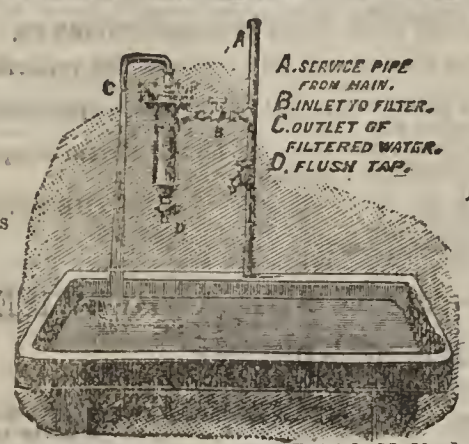

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• TRUTH •

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen returns to-day (Wednesday) to Windsor Castle from Balmoral, for a stay of between three and four weeks, before going to Osborne, where her Majesty will reside until August 22, and then the Court goes back to Scotland for nearly three months. It is probable that the Queen will visit Edinburgh on her way from Osborne to Balmoral, in which case her Majesty is to stay at Holyrood from Tuesday morning, August 23, until Wednesday night, the 24th, when she will proceed north.

The Royal yacht *Osborne* has completed a refit at Portsmouth, and her cabins have been re-decorated. The Prince of Wales is to join the *Osborne* at Portsmouth Harbour on Friday, July 29, and he will live on board the yacht during his few days' stay at Cowes. It is possible that the Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Fife, and Princess Victoria may go for a week's cruise in the *Osborne* next month, running down the coast to Mount's Bay, and paying a visit to the Channel Islands.

The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge are to be at Newmarket next week for the First July Meeting, arriving in time for the races on Tuesday. They all stay at the Jockey Club.

Sandringham is now closed for the summer, as the Prince and Princess are not expected to return to the Hall until quite the end of October, and York Cottage will also be deserted for several months to come.

The Prince leaves town this (Wednesday) morning for Sutton Coldfield, to visit the Show of the Royal Agricultural Society in Four Oaks Park. H.R.H. proceeds late in the afternoon to Warwick Castle, where he will be the guest of Lord and Lady Warwick until Friday morning, when he goes to Broughton Castle, near Banbury, to pay a short visit to Lord and Lady Algernon Gordon Lennox on his way back to town.

The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Hesse are to pay a visit to the Queen at Osborne towards the end of next month, and they will be the guests of her Majesty during the Cowes Regatta week. The Grand Duke Ernest will very likely accompany the Duke of Connaught from Osborne to Goodwood on the Cup Day.

The laws of Prussia provide that if an article is lost, the finder can claim one-tenth of its value when he restores it to the owner. The German Empress recently lost her insignia of the Royal Order of Victoria and Albert, which includes medallions of the Queen and Prince Albert, surrounded by brilliants. This jewel was found by a porter, who received a reward of a hundred marks, but he contends that the article is worth considerably more than a thousand marks (£50), and he has brought an action against the Cabinet of the Empress in order to obtain a larger sum.

With reference to the opera performance which is to take place in the Waterloo Gallery at Windsor Castle, next Monday night, by command of the Queen, I see in the daily papers a statement as to the arrangements of the Lord Chamberlain. As a matter of fact, the Lord Chamberlain is no more concerned with the affair than is the Archbishop of Canterbury. Everything in connection with the Queen's private entertainments is entirely managed by the Master of the Household, who also sends out the invitations, if any are issued.

Mr. March, who was just going to resign his office of Secretary to the Board of Green Cloth at Buckingham Palace (the Lord Steward's Department), died last week, after sixty-three years' service in the Household. In 1835 Mr. March was appointed to a clerkship in the Lord Chamberlain's Office, through the interest of his relative Sir Thomas March, who then held the place which Sir Spencer Ponsonby Fane has filled for more than forty years past. The Queen gets some good patronage by the death of Mr. March, who received over £1,000 a year as Secretary to the Board of Green Cloth, and he was also Receiver of Fees of Honour (a post with a considerable stipend), and a Serjeant-at-Arms, which means £70 a year for doing nothing whatever.

The Lord-Lieutenancy of Middlesex would have been given to a Tory Peer but for the vigorous, not to say furious, remonstrance of some of the Liberal Unionists, who are very savage about the appointment of the Duke of Portland to the Lieutenancy of Notts. I believe that

the Duke of Bedford enjoys the distinction of being the only notable personage on the Ministerial side who refused a place in 1895, nor has he ever asked for anything. He declined to be Master of the Horse when the present Government was formed, and the Duke of Portland then snapped up that easy and lucrative post.

The Viceroyalty of Ireland is one of the most curious institutions that any State, outside the realms of romance, exhibits to a wondering world, or rather to a world that would inevitably wonder if it gave consideration to the subject. Unfortunately, the same clear light that beats upon a Royal Throne does not beat upon a Viceregal one. No wholesome public opinion has kept Dublin Castle in check under the long succession of English noblemen who have "reigned" there, and the most curious and wonderful of State institutions has been developed. Lord Cadogan's Viceroyalty most forcibly illustrates the incongruities of the place. Ireland, which gives the Legislature so much occupation, apparently allows very ample leisure to the nobleman who fills the Viceroy's place. A return of the number of days during which, of late years, the country was under the government of the Lords Justices, who are sworn in "Governors-General of Ireland" during the Lord-Lieutenant's absence, would be instructive and interesting.

It has brought very prominently before the public the rigorous exclusion of Catholics—in a country, too, which has no State Church, and where all religions are equal according to the law—from filling the posts of Governors-General. An oath which no Catholic can conscientiously take stands, or rather is deliberately placed, in the way of the Catholic Privy Councillors. It frequently happens—what does not happen at Dublin Castle?—that the Catholic Privy Councillors are called on to administer this oath which they could not themselves take. In the face of the assertion that Irish grievances are things of the past, this example of aggressive Protestant ascendency has been most noticeable during the Viceroyalty of Lord Cadogan, in whom the English nobleman rather than the Viceroy or Cabinet Minister is perhaps the predominant partner. Lord Cadogan has missed no London season since his reign at Dublin Castle began.

A very well-known figure in Irish society has passed away by the death of Lady Fanny Lambart at Beauparc, Co. Meath. Her husband, Mr. Gustavus Lambart, held a place for many years in the Viceregal household, and her son, Major Lambart, was Chamberlain during the Duke of Marlborough's Viceroyalty. Lady Fanny Lambart was very popular in Dublin society and in Meath, where, of late, she was a constant resident. She was the sister of Lady Churchill, so well known at the Royal Court, and the mother of many charming daughters, two of whom were appointed maids-of-honour to the Queen, one still holding the courtly post, the other having resigned on her marriage to Major Legge. Lady Fanny was a handsome woman, and, even of late years, she was slight, active, and young-looking.

The huge party which is usually given at the Foreign Office on the night of the Queen's Birthday, and which was postponed this year in consequence of the death of Mr. Gladstone, will not take place. Lord and Lady Salisbury are going to give a garden party at Hatfield House instead, at which there will be a large muster of Royalties, including the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and Prince and Princess Christian.

The Duke of Westminster was made a Duke by Mr. Gladstone, and on several occasions his modest income was augmented by a salary secured to him by Mr. Gladstone for performing certain useless functions in Court ceremonies. How did the Duke of Westminster show his gratitude? He deserted him, and went over, bag and baggage, to the Tory camp, and to mark his attitude he turned Mr. Gladstone's picture out of his house. Now that Mr. Gladstone is dead he puts himself at the head of a scheme to provide a national memorial to him, and Tories join him. That he and they should repent of their persistent abuse of this great man whilst he was alive is to their credit. But why should Liberals take part in this tardy reparation? They need no repentance.

A Liberal Memorial has been proposed, and a meeting was held on Monday last to consider the form that it should take. There was a strong opposition to any such recognition by Liberals of Mr. Gladstone's service to the Liberal cause, and the form that the memorial took was to adjourn the discussion for a fortnight.

What I should like to see is not a Liberal Memorial, but a People's Memorial. A statue should be erected to Mr. Gladstone by the People, and no subscriptions of more than a shilling should be accepted. What would such a memorial cost? About £2,000. And surely there are 40,000 Liberals ready each to subscribe a shilling to do honour to the memory of the man to whom they owe so much.

The death of Mr. Matthew Fowler is deeply lamented at Durham by all classes and parties, for he was universally beloved and esteemed. Mr. Fowler's father carried on a large business at Durham, and obtained great popularity in the north by giving credit for goods to all his customers during the great strike of 1845. Mr. Fowler and his son, the late member for Durham, were for many years the heart and soul of the Liberal Party in that city, and their munificence in all political affairs was as remarkable as their unbounded generosity to charities. They both took an active part in all local affairs, and the father was five times Mayor of Durham. Mr. Matthew Fowler was a staunch Liberal throughout his life, and he

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For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 1598 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 1597.
For AMUSEMENTS, see pages 1599-1600.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 1613.

was certainly the only candidate who could have won the seat for Durham in 1895.

Two or three weeks back I received a letter from a relative of the late Rev. E. N. Pochin, taking exception to the statement that Mr. Pochin had led a disreputable life, and that he owed his wealth to the use of his wife's money. Speaking from personal knowledge, the writer asserted that Mr. Pochin led a perfectly blameless life in every respect, except that he was almost morbidly avaricious; and he also stated that he believed that the deceased gentleman, like most misers, had no appreciation of his own wealthy condition. Incidentally the writer remarked that it might be better to "let sleeping dogs lie,' and thinking this view most applicable to the case I excused myself from noticing the letter. I should be the last to desire to wrong the character of a dead man. On the other hand, I should desire still less to become involved in a controversy on such a subject—doubtless a controversy embittered by family quarrels. The original statement in TRUTH was made on good authority, and those who gave the information would doubtless be ready to support it if it were challenged. However, Mr. Pochin's relative now repeats his request that I will notice his communication, and I think I have no alternative but to record the fact that the imputations on the deceased gentleman have been absolutely contradicted by those who knew him. There, I think, the matter must drop. The only material question is whether Mr. Pochin's will was one which ought to be allowed by law, and the testator's private character has only an indirect bearing on that point.

I find that I was misinformed as to the intelligence in the papers respecting the doings and dresses of advertising beauties being purveyed for the benefit of suburban dinner-parties. A Suburban Matron, writing from the neighbourhood of the Crystal Palace, tells me, on the strength of twenty-three years' experience, that she has never heard anything but local scandal talked at a suburban dinner-party, and that the residents in the suburbs require something much more startling than the pattern of a gown to arouse their interest. "I have always understood," she says, "that the paragraphs you refer to are paid for either by 'Lady Jim So-and-so,' or the lady's maid, or the dressmaker." They are evidently not so ignorant of West End affairs out Sydenham way as this lady would wish me to believe.

The *Westminster Gazette* announced last week that Mr. Leiter is going to buy Tintern Abbey, which is described as "this ancient residence, which is one of the finest historical houses in the country." This is the most extraordinary nonsense. There is no "family residence" of any sort or kind at Tintern Abbey, which is merely a ruin, and there has not been a roof on it for centuries. Troy House, near Monmouth, is the Welsh seat of the Somerset family. The *Westminster Gazette* is also quite wrong in stating that Americans "are gradually buying up the historical family residences in this country." I should vastly like to know what places of this character have been "bought up" by Americans. Mr. Astor has bought Cliveden, but that is scarcely a "historical family residence," as the property has changed hands a dozen times, and the present house is less than fifty years old.

I suppose that young ladies in the upper classes have swains, and occasionally write to them in terms of affection. They may learn from servant maids. A swain was last week before a magistrate on a charge of stealing. On his lodgings being searched, much correspondence was discovered. The damsel who had secured his affections signed herself, "Ever your little piece of sweet-stuff."

There were sixteen Lords amongst the Directors of Mr. Hooley's Companies. With one or two exceptions, none of them seem to have been what in the ordinary acceptance of the term can be called men of business. The object of getting them on the Boards was obviously to use them as decoys. But how astounding is the nature of the snob, when the fact of an industrial Company having on its Board a Lord, serves as a means to extract money from the snob's pocket! Can any sane human being regret that the snob has lost his money?

What I should like to know is the aggregate amount that Mr. Hooley paid these Lords for the use of their noble names. This is as important as it is to know what newspapers blackmailed him, although I confess that, as a Pressman, I personally am more interested in the latter matter. A blackmailer is a greater scoundrel than a Lord who sells his name to attract subscriptions to a company with an excessive capital, but one is as mean as the other. I am no great believer in "noblesse oblige" as any security that noblemen have a higher standard of honour than other people. Translated from theory into practice, it means that noblesse—when not as rich as it would be—must be provided with the means to support its "dignity" at the expense either of the State, or of that portion of the inhabitants of the State which is prepared to fulfil this duty.

I have received a letter from a lady asking me to agitate in favour of female shop assistants being secured the facility to sit down when they are not serving a customer. My good lady, you do not really suppose that any man would object to the girls having seats? I have protested again and again against the cruelty of making them stand, as though they were Court flunkeys in the presence of Royalty. The question is one that concerns women, and they should establish some sort of league to boycott shops where seats are neither provided, nor, if provided, allowed to be used. No employer has ever yet explained why this standing order prevails.

A lady who had been making a purchase at a draper's shop in the suburbs the other day, noticed that, in the course of her walk home, she was an object of considerable

SCOTT ADIE, 115, Regent-street, London, for Shooting Gowns, Cawdor Capes, Travelling Ulsters, Jackets, Racing Coats, Carriage Rugs from 10/9, Shawls, and Scotch Tweeds. Catalogue post free.

A BEAUTIFUL HOTEL AT BOURNEMOUTH.—The "ROYAL BATH." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Sea frontage, 1,000 ft.; grounds, 5 acres. Due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.* Moderate fixed tariff.

interest, not to say amusement, to the crowd in the streets. She had observed on leaving the shop that her hat had come into contact with some object overhead, but did not take any further notice of the occurrence until she got before a looking-glass in her own house. She then discovered, to her joy, that she had walked home with a large card on her head bearing the announcement—"Very Special, 2s. 3½d." This story, unlike one or two others on similar lines, is historically accurate.

If I were ill, and required a nurse to look after me, I certainly should prefer that she be fairly good-looking, because—all things else being equal—a good-looking young woman is a more pleasing object than one whose virtues are entirely internal. I, therefore, agree with the hospital committee-man, who observed, according to the statement of a matron at the recent Annual Conference of Matrons of Hospitals and Infirmaries, "For pity's sake let the nurses you choose be good-looking." The "New Woman," of course, will regard this as a monstrous suggestion. But I, like Sir William Harcourt, have no particular admiration of this new product. I hold fast by the low and degrading heresy, that looks go a long way in the appreciation of men for women.

Apropos of a recent note in TRUTH, a lady has presented me with a pair of gloves. They are housemaid's gloves, made of a well-advertised material, and the lady offers them with the suggestion that similar gloves might be most usefully worn by the underlings of the Royal Academy, whose rough handling of the gilt frames of rejected pictures—frames that are often more valuable than the pictures—adds injury to the insult of rejection. "I think," the lady ingenuously adds, "that all articles manufactured of ——— are excellent." Very likely, but as I am sure, my dear madam, that you do not desire, any more than I do, to puff this particular stuff, I think it best to suppress the name.

I am asked to mention that, by permission of the Duke and Duchess of Newcastle, a concert will be given at 11, Hill-street, Berkeley-square, on Tuesday afternoon, June 28, in aid of the Victoria Convalescent Home for Children, Margate. The entertainment is under the patronage of the Duchess of York and the Duchess of Fife, and among the artists will be Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, who has for this charitable purpose kindly given up her proposed matinée at Deptford.

The Trustees of the British Museum will shortly have to appoint a new Keeper of Printed Books, in the place of Dr. Garnett, who retires on a pension. This is the best and most important post in the Museum, excepting only the office of Principal Librarian and Secretary. The salary is £750 a year, which is certainly not an excessive sum, considering the vast amount of special knowledge which the Keeper of Printed Books at the British Museum must possess. The Trustees will presumably appoint Mr. Fortescue, who is now one of the Assistant Keepers of Printed Books, and he is widely known through his admirable and valuable "Subject Index to the Museum Library."

Mr. Philip Lyttelton Gell, of Balliol College, has resigned the office of General Secretary to the Clarendon Press, which he has filled most efficiently since he succeeded the present Master of Pembroke College in this post in 1884.

The late Mr. J. G. Allen has bequeathed £10,000 to Trinity College, Cambridge, for the purpose of founding a fellowship or some scholarship as a memorial of his grandfather, Bishop Allen, who held the See of Ely during the first eight years of the Queen's reign. Bishop Allen, who was translated from Bristol, replaced Bishop Sparke, who was the last occupant of the See of Ely who enjoyed the whole of its very large revenues, and he was also the last prelate who was *ex officio* Custos Rotulorum of the Isle of Ely. It is a pity that Mr. Allen did not leave the form of the memorial to the discretion of the authorities of Trinity College, which is in no need of additional fellowships or scholarships, but there are other excellent ways of employing the money if the testator had not been so precise in his directions.

I would suggest to schoolmasters that in their prospectuses they should definitely state the number of days per annum, or per term, for which their schools will be kept open. They might even with advantage go the length of guaranteeing that the fees paid for each term will cover a specified number of hours' instruction. In this way they would relieve themselves of the suspicion—too often incurred at present—of taking an unfair advantage of parents by granting their pupils unnecessary holidays. I offer this suggestion in view of a letter I received from a gentleman who is, not unnaturally, indignant that, without any notice, his children were given a Whitsuntide holiday extending from the Friday night to the following Thursday morning, which, after even allowing for the ordinary holiday on Whitsun Monday, and the two weekly half holidays included in the period, still left an extra stoppage of schooling for one whole and two half days. The aggrieved parent asks why, after paying his fees, and having his children returned on his hands without his consent, he should not have the same remedy against the schoolmaster as he would have against a tradesman who sells short measure. The two cases would be precisely parallel if the schoolmaster undertook to give a fixed amount of instruction for a fixed payment in cash. But, as a rule, he does not. I think he should.

The Home Secretary has now come to the conclusion that the state of affairs at the Church of St. George the Martyr, Southwark, constitutes a sanitary danger, and he has accordingly issued an order under the Burial Act for the removal from the crypt of the human remains which have given rise to so much controversy. The St. George's Vestry have hitherto ridiculed the idea that any danger

TRAINS DE LUXE.—LUCHON EXPRESS, every Tuesday and Thursday, direct to Luchon. ENGADINE EXPRESS, to Coire and Lucerne. CARLSBAD EXPRESS, daily to Bayreuth, Carlsbad, &c. Tickets and all particulars from INTERNATIONAL SLEEPING CAR Co., 14, Cockspur-street, London, S.W.

existed from the presence of these remains in the crypt, and only a week or two ago they got a distinguished analyst to analyse a sample of the air in the church, and triumphantly produced a report from him to the effect that it was of "normal quality as compared with other metropolitan churches." In view of Sir Matthew Ridley's decision, one of two things seems certain. Either the verdict of the distinguished analyst was wrong, or else there must be other metropolitan churches in which the quality of the atmosphere is a sanitary danger. If the analyst abides by his opinion, he ought in fairness to the worshippers to let us know the names of the "other churches" to which he referred.

Both among the clergy and the laity in India there seems to prevail a strong dissatisfaction at the manner in which ecclesiastics from home are foisted upon the Church in India. I gather this from several letters received in reference to the recent appointment to the Bishopric of Bombay. Here is the clerical view of the matter:—

> You say that "Mr. MacArthur is an ecclesiastic who is absolutely unknown outside the boundaries of his own parish, and it cannot be pretended that he possesses any special qualifications for an Indian See, unless entire and absolute ignorance of India is a recommendation in the eyes of the Secretary of State." Those familiar with the facts know only too well that entire and absolute ignorance of India is the chief recommendation for such appointments. This is a crying scandal, and I have long wished that TRUTH would take it up. It is no more than the simple truth to say that a man applying from some curacy at home has a very much better chance of a Government appointment out here than one who has acquired a knowledge of the peculiar nature of the work by long experience in India. After years of hard work here, we are told that if we want to improve our position, we can go home. When we get home, we are told that we have no claim on the Church at home. "You choose to leave England for work abroad, your place is filled up, and you must be thankful if at your age you get anything at all." Thus, after good work for the Indian Church a man can only go home to begin life again at the bottom of the tree. This is not always the fault of the Secretary of State, but, as often as not, that of the Indian Bishops, who take no interest whatever in the welfare of any of the clergy in India, except those on the Government staff.

Expressions to much the same effect reach me from at least one well-known layman in India. I suppose there can be no doubt that Church work in India is of a very peculiar nature, and that it must take a cleric going fresh to the country a long time to familiarise himself with all the local conditions. It would seem, therefore, foolish and unpractical, as well as unfair to the local clergy, to fill up all the best appointments with men fresh from England. This grievance, however, is not confined to India; we see the same thing in the Colonies. It will only be stopped when Churchmen in India and the Colonies speak out loudly and forcibly on the subject.

The Children's Happy Evenings Association desires me to acknowledge, in accordance with the donor's request, its receipt of a cheque for £2 2s. from "Exile." It was one of the subscriptions sent to the Association in response to an appeal by my contributor "Madge."

I am also glad to acknowledge £1 1s. from D. W. G, and £20 from An Uitlander, towards the deficit of the Toy Fund.

The following amounts have reached me towards Lady Jeune's Fund:—H. D., £2; Mrs. S. Darling, £5; E. B. G., £2 2s.; A. V., £1 1s.; P. M., £3 3s.; L. C. M., £1; F. Gorringe, £10 10s.; Astræ, £1.

Some of my military friends are at issue with me as to the desirability of the Duke of Connaught becoming Commander-in-Chief. Their line of argument appears to be that, in view of the favouritism and jobbery that have marked the present régime, the appointment of the Duke of Connaught must be a change for the better. This is all very well, but I would point out to military men that there is no reason for supposing that the introduction of direct Court influence into the War Office would be fatal to jobbery—rather the reverse, though the jobs might be of a different character from those under which the Army is at present groaning.

Can this be true? I am told in a recent letter from India that Brigadier-General Spragge, C.R.A. with the Tirah Field Force, took with him as orderly officer Major Mercer, R.A., an officer who would be commanding a battery were he not Assistant Military Secretary to his father-in-law, General Nairne. In any case, the appointment of orderly officer is more in the nature of a subaltern's billet than a field officer's; but in this instance the anomaly was heightened by the fact that General Spragge's Brigade-Major was a captain, and therefore junior to his General's galloper. If this statement is authentic, and I can hardly suppose the officer from whom I have it has invented the facts, it may, I think, be taken as a record in the annals of medal-hunting. How can the Indian Government sanction such irregularities?

I have had a communication from India which suggests another possible origin for typhoid or enteric fever. The writer refers specially to the amount of enteric in the station hospital at Furzepore, and he notes as a significant circumstance that many men sent to hospital originally with one or other of the diseases peculiar to soldiers develop typhoid after two or three weeks in the hospital for no discoverable reason. He suggests that the source of the disease is to be found in the *chatties*, or earthenware drinking-water vessels, in the wards of the hospital. These vessels, having long narrow necks, cannot be cleaned. As a rule in India they are only kept in use for a few weeks, whereas in this particular hospital they have been unchanged for months, if not years, their age being sufficiently indicated by the fact that the outsides are overgrown with moss. It is a very remarkable thing that enteric fever does not prevail among civilians in India to anything like the extent that it does among soldiers.

The following letter from a non-commissioned officer in India seems worth quoting, apropos of what has been said lately on the dishonesty of natives attached in various capacities to British regiments in India:—

> A man goes up to our pay-sergeant for a "chit" for two shirts from the tailor's shop. Instead of the shirts the native tailor of the regiment gives him Rs. 5, at the same time entering a charge against the man of Rs. 7, the balance being the profit of the master-tailor. A man can get "chits" for kakhi, red, and other articles of clothing, but it is all the same to the master-tailor.
>
> Another thing he will do. A man goes to him and asks him to buy his kit. The master-tailor is always ready to deal, and gene-

WHITEHALL COURT, S.W.—To Let, Bachelor and other Suites. Electric Light, Service, Bath-rooms. Meals in public or tenants' own rooms. Apply, Manager.

rally buys at about a quarter the value of the article. Result: At kit inspection the man is found deficient in kit, and gets made a prisoner. This does not trouble him, as it is part of the price he pays for his cash. He also has to make good the deficiencies, which puts him in debt for a couple of months or more.

I should like to know why we have native tailors at all. There are men in this regiment who were tailors before enlisting, and men who enlisted as boys and have learnt the work in the Army. Why not give the work to them and throw the natives out of it altogether?

Why not, indeed? We are actually going to the expense now of providing technical instruction for soldiers, in order to fit them for employment on leaving the Army. Yet when a regiment goes to India, natives displace soldiers who might otherwise be working at their trades, and take advantage of their position to rob the regiment right and left. It is years ago since attention was first called in TRUTH to the practice of native tailors and others doing a money-lending business with soldiers under cover of bogus orders for clothing and other goods; but the above letter shows that, in spite of exposure, the trade still goes on as merrily as ever. It is high time that the Indian military authorities put a stop to it. Why should not kakhi, shirts, &c., be issued to the men from the quartermaster's stores?

How is it that the pay of the men who give the gymnastic display at the Military Tournament has been cut down this year? I understand that in former years it has been 28s. 6d. and 30s. per man per week. This year it was reduced to 25s. This represents about 1s. 4¾d. for each performance, and as the odd 4¾d. is all but swallowed up by the washing bill for each performance, the net profit each time is reduced to 1s. Again, the sergeants engaged in the pageant were paid 2s. 6d. for each performance. Why this distinction between the two? The Military Tournament, of course, is a charitable undertaking, but the charity ought not to come out of the pocket of Mr. Atkins.

My remarks upon Piper Findlater have greatly outraged a gentleman named Fletcher, who rebukes me thus from the Junior United Service Club:—

It is a pity that you should have indulged in remarks quite unworthy of any one claiming to be an "*English gentleman.*" You are greatly mistaken in thinking that "others besides those who have won V.C.s or been mentioned in despatches might profit by Findlater's example." Such ideas are quite *foreign* to the feelings of the Army, I am happy to say.

I do not waste time by discussing the *absurdity* of your comparing the earnings of Findlater by appearing as he did on the variety stage with those of any officer acting as director of a company. Probably, judging by the article in question, you are incapable of feeling or entering into those principles of honour which actuate the Army!—Your obedient servant,

G. FLETCHER.

I hope that Mr. Fletcher will be happier in his mind after his feelings have been relieved by the publication of these remarks. I am sorry, however, that he did not explain in what way Findlater's conduct in turning his military exploits to account on the stage differs from that of retired officers who trade on their rank and titles by hiring themselves out as directors of companies. *Primâ facie* the two things are identical, although the comparison strikes Mr. Fletcher as an absurdity. Another point which Mr. Fletcher would have done well to explain, is why it is inconsistent with the honour of a soldier to appear at the Alhambra, while the military authorities themselves were not above obtaining the services of Findlater as an addition to their own show at the Agricultural Hall. It seems to me a pity that the traditions of the Army, feelings of honour, &c., &c., cannot be tempered with a little consistency and common sense.

That the spectacle of the winner of a Victoria Cross exhibiting himself as a raree show at a variety theatre is a pretty one, or likely to be pleasing to the Army, I have never suggested. But neither is the spectacle of a man who has been disabled in the service of his country entering a workhouse or begging his bread at a street corner. The point of my remarks, which the writer of the above silly effusion is unable to perceive, is that, if a poor man can earn a large sum of money in this way, and the "traditions of the Army" preclude his doing so, then the traditions of the Army ought also to provide him with some other equivalent in cash.

By the way, one of my military readers tells me that, shortly after Rorke's Drift, "more than one V.C. went round the country lecturing." I do not remember the circumstances, but, if it is true, such V.C. men were presumably trading upon their military distinctions. Was this contrary to "the traditions of the Army"?

In view of the attempts that have lately been made in some quarters to prove that the climate of Sierra Leone is not so black as it is painted, a correspondent gives me the experiences of the expeditionary force which has been engaged in the suppression of the hut tax disturbances in the Karene district. The force was a comparatively small one; but in the course of two months or so one officer died of malarial fever, five were invalided home for the same cause, and thirty or forty per cent. of the men of the West India Regiment were also stricken down with fever. My informant does not say what the mortality was among the men; but it is quite certain that the force found the climate a worse foe than the native insurgents. It is only necessary to add that Karene is looked upon as one of the healthiest districts in the Sierra Leone Protectorate.

Here is a case which points to rather sharp practice on the part of the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital. Under the Royal Warrant for Pay, as my Service readers are aware, service on the West Coast of Africa is reckoned as double service for pension as well as other purposes. A man who recently took his discharge to pension after twenty-one years' service had ten years and four months' service as sergeant. Having served two years at Sierra Leone, he contended that he was entitled to credit for another two years' service as sergeant, or twelve years and four months altogether. *Primâ facie* this looks reasonable. The Chelsea Commissioners, however, reply that, as he could only have twenty-one years service altogether, and as he had ten years and eight months below the rank of sergeant, he could not possibly

KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY.—"The Cream of Old Irish Whiskies." Kinahan's LL Whisky. Gold Medal Paris Exhibition, 1878. Kinahan's Glenisle Whisky. The Finest Scotch Whisky sold.

have more than ten years and four months in the higher rank, no matter where he had served. This contention seems to drive a coach-and-four through the Royal Warrant; for it amounts to this, that if a man has had twenty-one years' service altogether, he cannot have the benefit of a double allowance for his service on the West Coast. It may be technically and logically correct, but it is more worthy of a pettifogging attorney than of a public Department dealing with a soldier who has served his twenty-one years; and whether legally right or not, I think the Chelsea Commissioners ought to be ashamed to take refuge in such subtlety.

I have been much touched by a letter from a gallant N.C.O. at one of the Depots, who asks me to give vent to his strong disapproval of "that useless subject English History" as an item in the education of a soldier. Judging from his patronymic the complainant hails from the sister island, and he points out that not only is English History "far too spacious," and a subject presenting many intrinsic difficulties, but these difficulties are enhanced when you do not happen to be an Englishman yourself. "If you are not belonging to the country," he says, "you cannot seem to follow the various characters and to sympathise with their acts like those who have been brought up to think about these things during their juvenile days." This is very natural, and, perhaps, when they come to think about it, the authorities at Headquarters may see their way to let Irish soldiers take up Irish History in place of English. Failing that, it would not be a bad idea to reduce the "spaciousness" of the subject by limiting it to, say, the last 150 years. Surely that period covers every event which there is the slightest occasion to expect a soldier to know, whether he is English, Irish, or Scotch.

At the recent Dorchester Assizes, Mr. William Hall, late canteen steward in the R.A. Depot at Dorchester, recovered £5 damages for slander against Major Watkin, his late Commanding Officer, the slander complained of having been uttered in connection with his dismissal under circumstances which were noticed in TRUTH last December. The result seems to show that the jury took much the same view as I did of the incident in question. The chief point in Hall's case was that, having failed to make a profit of 7½ per cent. on every gallon of beer sold, which could only be done by selling short measure, he was virtually accused of dishonesty, and turned out of his appointment at a moment's notice. In connection with this case, several officers wrote to TRUTH, pointing out the advantages of the locked-till system, and it may be that they were right; but, at least, where this system is in force the canteen steward ought as a matter of justice to be present at the counting of the cash and the ganging of the beer, otherwise he has no protection against such mistakes as are now shown to have been made in Hall's case.

CHALLIS'S ROYAL HOTEL, Rupert-street, Piccadilly-circus.—The new Louis XV. Dining-room now open for Luncheons and Dinners. Table d'Hôte Luncheon, 2/-, from 12.30 to 3 p.m.; Table d'Hôte Dinner, 3/6, from 6.30 to 9 p.m., served at separate tables. Open to non-residents.

The Lord Chief Justice, who tried this action, seems to have been filled with amazement at the evidence given that a canteen steward is required to account not only for the retail price of the quantity of beer sold, but for a profit of 7½ per cent. in addition, it being admitted that this profit can only be made by selling short measure. Every one unfamiliar with the customs and traditions of the Army must share Lord Russell's astonishment. It is a system of legalised cheating, only palliated by the fact of the customers being interested in the canteen fund which profits by the fraud. Surely it is high time that this system was abandoned. If the quantity of beer drawn is properly ganged, and if men are forbidden to pay for beer except by putting their cash into a locked till, the steward ought to be required to sell full measure, and the customers ought to be allowed, and, indeed, encouraged, to complain if they do not get what they pay for. The canteen steward would be then under a system of checks all round, which it would be very difficult for him to break through. The only improvement on this arrangement which I can suggest would be the introduction of a penny-in-the-slot arrangement, by which the amount of beer paid for could be drawn automatically.

It would be interesting to learn why the Lords of the Admiralty have quietly raised the salary of the Director of Victualling from £1,000 a year to £1,200, and decided that, when the time arrives for this functionary to retire, he is to receive a pension of £800 a year. Only last year it was decided that the Director of Victualling should receive £850 a year, rising to £1,000, with a retiring pension of £666 13s. 4d.

Probably the majority of people who send articles by registered post overlook the fact that the Postmaster-General expressly disclaims any liability in respect of damage, unless the cover of the packet is marked with the words, "fragile—with care." A few days ago a plate for artificial teeth, despatched by registered post, packed in a wooden box, was broken in transit. In reply to an inquiry the Postmaster-General expressed his regret for the damage, and explained that it was done during the transfer of a mail bag from a train in motion, but stated that as the packet in question did not bear the caution prescribed by the regulations, he was unable to entertain any claim for compensation.

In the face of the condition laid down in the regulations I do not think that any exception can reasonably be taken to this decision. At the same time, it would be interesting to have the Post Office definition of fragility. In this instance, the wooden box that was smashed was one of a kind strong enough to bear the dead weight of a man of 10 st. 10 lb. To class it as a "fragile" packet seems therefore somewhat unfair.

Since the matter was last referred to in TRUTH, the case of the unqualified assistants to medical practitioners has been laid before the General Medical Council in an influential memorial, signed by upwards of one hundred general practitioners. The memorial pointed out that the

recent action of the Council would deprive many practitioners of assistants whose places could not be readily supplied, and that qualified men could not, according to the experience of the memorialists, be found to undertake many of the duties which assistants have hitherto performed. Reference was also made to the uncertainty prevailing as to what duties may legitimately be entrusted to unqualified assistants; and a strong appeal was made on the grounds of the hardship which the recent decision of the Council inflicted upon a large number of men who have spent the best part of their lives in the position they have filled, and, although technically unqualified, are perfectly competent to perform the work in which they have been for the most part employed. The General Medical Council appointed a committee to inquire into the matter, and the committee made certain recommendations, which have now been adopted by the Council.

The result thus arrived at puts a somewhat new complexion on the matter, and I am not prepared to say that the decisions are unreasonable. The suggestion seems to have been made to the committee that special examinations should be instituted for the benefit of the unqualified assistant. This, the committee answer, there is no power to do. It was next suggested that the resolution of the Council of November last should be temporarily suspended, in order to give an opportunity of supplying the places of the unqualified assistants who would have to be discharged under that resolution. The committee answer to this, in substance, that if there is a difficulty in finding qualified men to act as assistants, the difficulty probably arises from the insufficiency of the pay, and they anticipate that it will be got over before very long under the influence of the economic law of supply and demand. The committee also considered the point whether any detailed definitions or explanations should be issued respecting the extent to which unqualified persons may be legitimately employed by registered practitioners; and their findings under this head are the most important part of the document.

I understand it to be now laid down that the employment of unqualified "dressers, midwives, dispensers, and surgery attendants" may be legitimate, provided that it is carried out "under the immediate personal supervision of a registered practitioner," and provided also: (*a*) that such unqualified persons are not allowed "to attend or treat patients in respect of matters requiring professional discretion or skill"; (*b*) that there is no "substitution of the services of an unqualified person" which is "in its nature fraudulent, and dangerous to the public health"; and (*c*) that no unqualified or unregistered person is enabled to treat a patient, procure or issue a certificate, or otherwise engage in practice as if he were duly registered. It comes really to this, that an assistant must be an assistant pure and simple. He or she may be employed as a dresser, midwife, or dispenser under the personal superintendence of his or her employer; but he or she must not take the employer's place in any matter requiring professional discretion or skill; that is to say, he or she must exercise no initiative of his or her own, and everything in the nature of "covering" is rigidly proscribed. In this I cannot see that there is much which either the general practitioner or the unqualified assistant has to complain of, and still less do I see that it would be to the interest of the public to endorse such a complaint. Assuming, as we must, that it is to the public interest that the practice of medicine and surgery should be limited to persons qualified in accordance with the Acts of Parliament, the employment of unqualified assistants clearly must be kept within certain well-understood limits. It is not clear how such employment could be extended beyond the limits indicated above without jeopardising the interests of the public and also of the profession.

AT LAST!

Six definite by-laws dealing with the suppression of certain street noises have been framed by the Local Government Committee of the London County Council. The by-laws are specially aimed against street newspaper vendors, showmen's roundabouts, and steam organs, crowing cocks, and yelping curs.—*Evening Paper.*

Can it be so? Is sweet relief
  At last within an easy distance?
Are Londoners, indeed, to get
  A chance of quieter existence?
Hope has, 'tis true, been long deferred,
  But now again for flight she poises,
And whispers we shall shortly lose
  Some few unnecessary noises.

The screeching newsboy is to go,
  And all his tribe whose lungs of leather
Emit those shrill, mendacious cries
  Whate'er the season or the weather;
The ragged urchin, innocent
  Of manners and of soap and water,
Will crack our tympanums no more
  With raucous yells of "Orful slaughter!"

The Showman, careless how he gains
  His almost always noisy living,
He, too, has reason to await
  The future with extreme misgiving;
For silence is to be decreed
  On his steam-organ and his shouting,
And by-laws have been framed to stop
  His roundabouts from "round-abouting!"

And better still, the crowing cock,
  Deaf hitherto to plea or warning,
That wakes whene'er a cab goes by,
  And all night long "salutes the morning—"
This baleful bird that has till now
  The gardens of Suburbia cumbered,
How many a Londoner will dance
  With joy to know *its* days are numbered!

The news, too, that the yelping cur
  Has also had its day—or nearly—
Will carry balm to many a home
  Where placid sleep is treasured dearly;
In short, a countless host of folks
  Who have for quietness contended,
Will welcome with a keen delight
  The by-laws new just recommended.

Then pass them! Pass them, L.C.C.!
  And see you act upon them quickly,
Lest Hope, revived in London's heart,
  Again deferred, again grow sickly.
Pass them! and then at once prepare,
  Since quiet one of life's chief joys is,
To deal with half a dozen more
  Unnecessary London noises!

British prejudices die hard. To this reason principally must be attributed the sustained opposition in this country to the universally-sanctioned custom abroad of mixed bathing. The objection had perhaps some foundation in bygone days when women were accustomed to prepare themselves for a dip in the sea by assuming an exaggerated description of night attire, and men reverted to the condition of our first parents when indulging in this recreation. But nowadays we have changed all that; the woman's costume for the water is becoming every day more elaborate, and, for public bathing, the men are quite as much clad as when taking part in athletic competitions on land, in the face of admiring crowds. Sensible people, therefore, will learn with much satisfaction that the Hastings Town Council have decided to instruct a committee to draw up by-laws providing for mixed bathing under proper regulations. Once established, the innovation will rapidly spread all round the coast, and we shall see whole families enjoying themselves together in the water, as in Continental seaside resorts.

The dismal croakings in reference to the water supply at Aldeburgh have lately been relieved by a truly comic episode—comic, at least to people viewing it from a distance. The quality of the water has long been very unsatisfactory, and a few weeks since, as noted in TRUTH at the time, it suddenly and mysteriously became so foul as to be absolutely undrinkable. This descent from bad to worse was, I now learn, the result of a well-meant but misguided experiment on the part of the Water Company. The water is derived from springs at the bottom of a tank about 12 ft. deep and about a quarter of a mile from the sea-shore. At its best, the water contains a considerable quantity of chlorine—something like 20 grains to the gallon—and is very hard. It seems to have occurred to the ingenious mind of a person in authority that the water would be rendered softer and more palatable if a cartload of quicklime was thrown into the tank, and this brilliant idea was actually carried out. The consequence was that the lime—it was not, by the way, pure lime from limestone, but lime made by burning chalk—settled in a putty-like mass on the bottom of the tank, and for a fortnight or more the taste of the water was positively atrocious. One curious chemical effect of the lime is said to have been the reduction of all the nitrates in the water to nitrites.

Droll as it may seem to outsiders, this egregious performance with the cartload of lime is, of course, anything but a laughing matter to the long-suffering customers of the Aldeburgh Water Company. The condition of the water has become a serious danger to the health and prosperity of the town; and this incident is a pretty conclusive proof of the hopelessness of looking to the present monopolists for its removal. Representations on the subject were recently made to the company by a property owner, who lost a tenant for a house through the appearance of a paragraph in these columns respecting the water supply. The reply of the company was that they had "come to the conclusion that it was better for them to keep quiet and out of the controversy." After the affair of the quicklime, the desire of the company to lie low and say nothing is natural enough. The ratepayers, however, ought to have a good deal to say, and they will be exceedingly ill-advised if they do not make their voices heard with a view to the deliverance of Aldeburgh from the hands of this muddy-minded company.

A further interesting proof has just come to hand of the prevalence of the practice of people in business dunning those with whom they deal for subscriptions to their employees' treats. A single firm forwards to me no less than three appeals of this kind received within a week or two, and they remark in regard to them that they are practically compelled to respond to the invitations, or their travellers would be unable to obtain orders, and their goods would be systematically boycotted. In another case a request for a contribution is made by a firm whose custom is only worth about £2 or £3 per annum. Of course, no employer can prevent his employees obtaining tips from those with whom he has dealings; but it is astonishing that any respectable employer should stoop to the practice of himself begging for such gratuities. If my tradespeople like to give my cook Christmas boxes, that is their affair, and I do not know that I have any right to object, although, when I know of the practice, I may feel suspicious of the tradesman who resorts to it. But what would be thought if I were to send round a circular at Christmas time to my tradesmen soliciting in my own name tips for my cook? If I did it, I should expect the amount given to be smuggled into the tradesmen's bills; and no one who resorts to such a practice can complain if the money is ultimately got out of his pocket in this way.

As another instance of the more or less impudent demands with which people in business are pestered nowadays, a London tradesman sends me a letter from the Midland Counties Hairdressers' Association, of Bilston, soliciting the gift of a prize for their "large annual prize draw." The association seem to think that this promiscuous cadging for prizes is justified by an offer to advertise the donor's name on the tickets. It has apparently not occurred to them that they thus propose to add injury to insult by making the donor *particeps criminis* in the illegal act of running a lottery. The latter aspect of the business is one upon which the local police might usefully give a word of advice to these Midland Figaros.

Given Away.—A high-grade New Hudson Gent's Cycle, fitted with "Ixion Tyres," for the best two or four lines of verse on the "Ixion Tyre." Lady's Cycle also given for lady competitors only. Five consolation prizes given in each competition. Further details of competition and "All about Ixion Tyres" sent, on application, free. Competition verses must be sent in before 31st July, with this advertisement attached, and must be marked "Competition" corner of envelope.—The New Ixion Tyre & Cycle Co., Ltd., 14, Holborn, London.

Gout Cure.—Bishop's Lithia Varalettes.—One of these Varalettes added to a little water, whisky and soda, or other liquid, immediately dissolves with effervescence. Is a most pleasant drink and effective remedy for the cure and prevention of this painful complaint. Easily prepared anywhere at a moment's notice. In vials and small boxes (sufficient for four days) to carry in the waistcoat pocket. Sold by all Chemists, at 1s., or, post free, 1s. 1d. —Alfred Bishop, Ltd., Manufacturing Chemists (discoverers of the Varalette form of preparation), Mile End New Town, London.

As one who is frequently compelled for his sins to pass a day in the Law Courts, I congratulate Mr. Justice Barnes on his decision to extend the luncheon interval by fifteen minutes, and to make up the time by rising a quarter of an hour later in the afternoon. I trust that before I next make an unwilling appearance in the Courts this example will have been followed in the Queen's Bench Division. There are so many inevitable annoyances connected with an appearance before a judge and jury, that at least they should not be added to where it can be avoided. The luncheon arrangements in the Courts are anything but satisfactory, and a suitor, witness, or a juryman can only run outside in search of lunch at his own peril. What is most important of all is that, even when he has swallowed a hasty snack, he has no time for the still necessary cigarette.

I feel so sure that Mr. Justice Barnes must be a cigarette smoker, and that his cigarette, rather than his chop, is at the bottom of his extension of the luncheon interval, that I should like to try and enlist him on my side in agitating for permission to smoke in the Central Hall. Many people have wondered why the architect planned the Central Hall of the Law Courts. It seems to me obvious that his intention was that those having business in the Courts might be able in all weathers to walk up and down and smoke a cigarette in comfort while waiting. This view of the matter could not possibly have been overlooked, but for the fact that all the Judges and Law Officers have private rooms, where, doubtless, they take their tobacco at their convenience. I would earnestly appeal to the Judges, in the name of that freemasonry which exists among smokers, to extend this privilege to all who have to appear before them.

The free-and-easy way in which the strange vanity of sporting a coat-of-arms is sometimes gratified has been amusingly shown by a case in the Court of Chancery. A worthy gentleman, named Colonel John Joicey, inserted in his will a clause requiring every tenant for life and the husband of any female tenant for life of his extensive estates in Northumberland to take the surname of "Joicey," and to quarter the arms of Joicey with his or her own family arms. The present tenant for life married Lord John Pakenham Cecil and they have adopted the surname of Joicey-Cecil. But a difficulty arose about the quartering of the arms, for it was found that those used by the testator did not belong to him. It seemed that they were conferred upon him by a seal engraver who got them from a book in which they were attributed to a family of the name of "Joice." On reference to the College of Arms, however, it turned out that no person of that name was entitled to bear these or any other arms, but that those assumed by Colonel Joicey really belonged to a family named "Ince." The name in the book was clearly a misprint.

In these singular circumstances the Court of Chancery was asked to say that the condition in the will as to quartering the arms of "Joicey" was incapable of taking effect; and the court did so. The testator was evidently proud of the arms which he fondly supposed to be his, and this decision is almost enough to make him turn in his grave. The case should, however, be a good stroke of business to the Heralds' College. It will show people who hanker after the luxury of a coat-of-arms that it may be, after all, better to go to the proper establishment for that article.

An old friend made his appearance in the Bankruptcy Court last week in the person of Mr. "Charles Montague," alias "Napoleon Hirschfeld," alias "Charles Ashley," "specialist in rheumatism." So far back as February, 1893, I had the honour of first introducing this individual to the notice of the public, he being engaged at that time in vending his rheumatic specialties by means of the familiar bogus advertisement of a party who has experienced a wonderful cure, and is desirous of communicating the particulars to a suffering world on receipt of a stamped envelope. His correspondence at that date showed Montague to be an impudent humbug, and he does not seem to have changed for the better since, for he had absconded and committed other offences under the Debtors Act, and in spite of his urgent entreaties, the Registrar absolutely refused him his discharge. As this will suspend indefinitely the trade in Montague's specialties, there seems reason to hope that the specialist's loss may be the public's gain.

At Machynlleth the other day the proprietors of a local hotel applied to two magistrates at the Police-court for an extension of an hour on the occasion of a public banquet. The police raised the objection that the time appointed for the feast, from seven till ten o'clock, was "long enough for any reasonable purpose," and the magistrates, agreeing with the police, refused the application. But the magistrates themselves were present at the banquet—one of them being, indeed, in the chair—and amid the genial influences of the festive board the time seemed shorter than it had done in the cold light of the judgment-place—at any rate, when ten o'clock arrived their worships hastily constituted a licensing court and granted the hour's extension. In doing this, they were fortified with the approval of a couple of M.P.s, who were, perhaps, anxious to get rid of speeches which, without the extension, would have had to remain undelivered. Still, the precedent is a somewhat dangerous one. There is no knowing what would happen if magistrates took to revising over the dinner table the decisions which they give on the Bench.

There was another example at the Thames Police-court last week of the horrible cruelty that goes on in connection with the traffic in old and broken-down horses for the Continent. One of three worn-out animals which were being driven to the docks for shipment to Rotterdam was found to be suffering from a dislocated leg, and the lad in charge of them was summoned by the R.S.P.C.A. The penalty of 5s. which the magistrate imposed seems ridiculously inadequate, but no doubt his worship considered that it would be unfair to punish heavily a mere youthful

servant of the real offender. The latter was the lad's employer, a knacker at Enfield, and if he had been before the Court a sentence of imprisonment without the option of a fine might have been rightly passed.

This detestable traffic calls, however, for something more than the prosecution of such of the animal-torturers as the R.S.P.C.A. is able to catch on the road to the docks. There ought to be an official inspection of the animals before they are shipped, and regulations to ensure proper accommodation and treatment on the voyage for those that can be exported without cruelty. The atrocities that occur at present are a disgrace to a civilised country, and it is trifling with the matter to suggest, as the President of the Board of Agriculture has done, that the evil should be dealt with by the authorities of the foreign ports to which these wretched, broken-down horses are sent. It is on this country that the responsibility rests and the shame falls.

A laugh was caused in the case at the Thames Police-court by the defendant's statement that the horses were going abroad to be made into sausages. It is a fact that the horses shipped from British ports to Holland and Belgium are largely used for human consumption; and, what is more, it is by no means clear that the benighted foreigners are the only consumers—indeed, Sir Howard Vincent, who has lately been making inquiries in Antwerp and Rotterdam, says there is no doubt that many of the horses that are shipped from this country come back to us in the shape of Belgian and Dutch made "Bologna" and "Lyons" sausages, "German" smoked meat, &c. Our insular prejudice on the subject is so strong that this information will probably cause a shock of disgust to lovers of the dainties in question. But, after all, they may console themselves with the reflection that there are often worse things than horseflesh in home-made sausages.

By the way, the use of horseflesh as an article of diet is increasingly popular in Paris. To such an extent has the demand for this food grown, that last year no less than 15,137 animals—including 257 donkeys—were killed for human consumption, and it has become necessary to take steps for providing a special abattoir for the purpose. Horse-meat is, of course, cheap, and is principally purchased by the poor; and it is said to be fairly nourishing, notwithstanding the fact that the animals from which the flesh is obtained are ancient and worn-out hacks. In this country, however, few people would eat horseflesh, knowing it to be horseflesh, even if it were given away.

A man charged with being a wandering lunatic was set at liberty by the Huddersfield Bench the other day under somewhat peculiar circumstances. The medical officer at the workhouse, who had had the prisoner under observation for a week, said he had come to the conclusion that the man was insane, and that he ought to be detained under supervision; but he added that he was not prepared to give a certificate to that effect "as he had been intimidated by the prisoner's brother, who threatened him with an action at law." The Bench considered that it was "an outrageous thing" to threaten the medical officer; but nevertheless they discharged the prisoner. A more extraordinary farce in a magistrate's court I never heard of. What seems to be an utterly empty threat deters this public officer from fulfilling the duty laid upon him by the law, and in deference to his childish terrors the Bench allow the lunatic to be let loose on society! After this nobody, however insane, need fear committal to an asylum from Huddersfield, so long as he can count upon a pugnacious relative or friend to frighten the doctor and the justices with the bogey of "an action at law."

It is always gratifying to see a biter like Isaac Gordon bitten, as he was in a case before Mr. Justice Ridley last week. The evidence showed that, in answer to a circular from one of Isaac's London offices, a tradesman at Bishop Auckland wrote asking his terms for an advance of £100 for six months. The application was sent on to the head usury-shop, 6, Livery-street, Birmingham, and the blood-sucker, scenting a likely victim, at once forwarded to the tradesman £100 in Bank of England notes, and a promissory note for that amount and interest at about 300 per cent. per annum, together with a letter requesting either the return of the money or the execution of the security for the loan. Gordon, however, got back neither the promissory note nor the bank notes, and accordingly he sued the tradesman to recover the £100.

As the bank notes were sent without any request from the defendant, it was clear that they were at the plaintiff's own risk till he traced them into the hands of the defendant. This Gordon was unable to do. The registered packet containing the bank notes was delivered at the defendant's shop, and the receipt was signed by a lad in his employ, but the defendant himself was not there at the time, and he denied that the letter ever came into his possession, and the theory of the defence was that the precious envelope had been accidentally thrown into the fire. There was certainly no trace whatever of the notes after the delivery of the letter, and in these circumstances judgment was given for the defendant with costs against Gordon. Unfortunately, however, an occasional reverse like this is of no importance to him. He frequently practises this trick of remitting cash without waiting for the usual preliminary formalities, and the gains far outweigh the losses, the handling of the money impelling many borrowers to assent to terms which they would otherwise reject.

It came out in the above case that a worthy named Solomon Aarons is the manager of the nefarious business which Gordon carries on in the names of "George J. Addison," at 3, Holles-street, W., and "William Wallis," at 66, Great Russell-street, W.C. Isaac himself was a witness, and he was asked in cross-examination whether he thought it fair to charge a man 300 per cent. for a loan. "Oh yes," he replied, "why not?" This rapacious rascal would in fact charge 1,300 per cent. if he thought there was any chance of getting it—indeed, he has sometimes managed by most unscrupulous means to obtain as much, or more.

The sentence for sleeping out at Bilston which figures in my Legal Pillory this week was the subject of a question in the House of Commons on Thursday, and in reply the Home Secretary expressed the opinion that it was not a case in which his intervention would be desirable, inasmuch as there were some thirty convictions against the prisoner for such offences as being drunk and disorderly and assaulting the police. This is the sort of reasoning one would expect from the shallowest of Shallows. In the mouth of the Home Secretary, it is surprising and disappointing. The prisoner had previously committed sundry offences, and he had been punished for them. But how in the name of common sense can this justify his committal to gaol for a month simply because he indulges in a nap on the steps of the Town Hall at Bilston? That such a heavy sentence, or any sentence at all, should be passed on such a preposterous charge, no matter what the character of the accused may be, is to my mind a monstrous travesty of justice; and the cruelty and absurdity of it are heightened by the fact that if the man had chanced to have a few pence in his pocket, it would have been out of the power of the magistrates to convict him. With regard to the rest of the following list, the contrasts between the sentences speak for themselves:—

Ashbourn Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. R. Knowles and W. Davenport. Joseph Sellers, convicted of assaulting Wm. Wood by striking him in the face, knocking him down, and kicking him. Fined £1 2s. 6d., including costs.

Ashbourn Petty Sessions. Before the same magistrates. John Edwin Shaw, charged with sleeping in a railway carriage and being without visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Southampton Police-court. Before the Mayor and other Justices. John Calendar, a powerfully-built negro, charged with assaulting Edwin M'Donald. The assault was of a brutal character, and entirely unprovoked. Fined 10s. and costs.

Wymondham Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. H. W. Edwards and E. W. R. Clarke. Henry Elvin, labourer, charged with being in possession of four partridge's eggs. Fined £1 10s., or twenty-one days.

Folkestone Borough Police-court. James Rumsey, charged with cruelty to a mare by working her whilst in an unfit state. The animal was in an emaciated condition, suffering from raw wounds, and totally unfit for work. Fined 10s. and costs.

Bourne Police-court. Before Messrs. W. E. Welby and R. A. Gardner. Richard Bland, a drover, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. He was found asleep in a cab in a public-house yard. One month.

Bradford West Riding Police-court. Before Mr. E. P. Arnold Forster and other magistrates. Hartley Richmond, charged with cruelty to a horse. The animal was unable to pull a cart owing to the wheels having become embedded in a heap of sand, and defendant then beat it unmercifully about the head and the legs with the butt end of his whip. There were several wounds on the animal and it was in an emaciated condition, being really unfit for work. Fined 20s. and costs.

Swansea County Police-court. Before Messrs. W. Walters, D. Owen, J. E. Round, and R. Woollscott. Frank Loworthy, an elderly seaman, charged with stealing a piece of wood valued at 2s., from a railway yard. He said that he had an invalid wife and was himself half-starved. A police-inspector said he had known the man for twenty years and he bore a good character. The prisoner, who was penniless, was fined £2; in default, one month.

Mansfield Petty Sessions. Before the Mayor, Messrs. R. M. E. W. Dodsley, and W. M. Oates. Charles Watts, charged with assaulting his father-in-law, John Freeman, an aged man. On being requested to leave his father-in-law's house defendant picked up a fender and struck the old man with it, and afterwards kicked him. Fined 40s.

Bilston Police-court. Isaac Doughty, charged with sleeping out and being without visible means of subsistence. He was found sleeping on the steps of the Town Hall. One month.

Wellingborough Divisional Petty Sessions. Before Mr. C. J. K. Woolston and other magistrates. Mary Crane, charged with stealing a piece of pork value 1s. 4d. Three weeks.

Dunfermline Sheriff-court. Three men, named Muir, Miller, and Adamson, pleaded guilty to assaulting a cyclist on the highway. They seized the cyclist, caused him to dismount, and took his machine from him, and one of them struck him a blow on the face. Adamson fined 50s.; the others 30s. each.

St. Ives Police-court. Before Messrs. H. Goodman, C. P. Tebbutt, F. Warren, R. J. Lindsell, and W. W. Warner. James Wheaton, charged with stealing some food, value fourpence. One month.

Liverpool Police-court. Before Messrs. T. O. Easton and A. S. Hanway. Patrick Moran, charged with assaulting John Bartle by throwing him down and kicking him. The Bench said it was a very brutal assault. Fined 40s. and costs.

Derby Police-court. Abraham Woodhouse and John Allen, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of a net and four rabbits. Fined £3 each and costs.

Even persons who believe most firmly in the virtues of corporal punishment for school children would hesitate, I should think, to approve of such an outrageous application of the cane as was revealed in a case before the Mistley Bench last week. The victim was a little girl, six years of age, and the mistress of the Horsley Cross Schools had caned her so severely that her back and legs were "one mass of dark weals," and more than a fortnight afterwards some twenty marks of ill-treatment were still visible. Magistrates are usually indisposed to convict in cases of this kind, but the chastisement of this poor little mite of six was too cruel and excessive to be passed over, and the school mistress was very properly fined, and admonished to be more careful. The lady was, I see, given an excellent character for her treatment of the children, and it was stated that no previous complaint had been made against her during her fifteen years' work as a teacher. I can only say that if after fifteen years' experience she has not learnt to apply the rod more sparingly than she did on this occasion she would do better to abandon its use altogether.

Mr. Campbell, of 1, Tennyson-avenue, East Ham, proprietor of the matrimonial agency which came under notice in TRUTH a fortnight ago, has favoured me with a letter complaining of certain inaccuracies in the statement of facts. The number of letters he had written on behalf of "M.D.," he states, was twenty-one not twenty-six, and he denies that in any of them he asked for a railway fare. He is right. I had twenty-six letters in my possession from parties who responded to the second advertisement, but on closer examination it appears that five of them were written by parties who had not responded to the original "M.D." advertisement, and one of these was the gentleman who had been asked to pay the railway fare for an interview. Mr. Campbell, therefore, stands absolved from the imputation of having asked for a railway fare. On the other hand, he stands guilty on his own admission of having asked twenty-one gentlemen each to pay him a fee of twenty-five shillings for an introduction to one lady, and whether it was twenty-one or twenty-six makes no difference whatever to the character of that proceeding.

A more important question still, which Mr. Campbell has so far failed to satisfy me about, is whether this one lady, to whom all the twenty-one clients were to be

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introduced, ever had any real existence. As it turned out that Mr. Campbell's address at 18a, London-street, was simply an "accommodation" address, I sent a representative down to look into the agency itself at 1, Tennyson-avenue. Here, in one of a diminutive row of new cottages, Mr. George Campbell was found. He told my representative a cock-and-bull story in explanation of the first "Spinster" advertisement, the gist of it being that a lady, previously unknown to him, had called on him, bringing with her letters received in answer to an advertisement she had inserted in the *People*; that she instructed him to negotiate a marriage for her with one or other of the writers; that she had paid him £2 10s in cash for his services; and that, after bringing and sending more letters, she wrote dispensing with his services, and that he has never seen or heard of her since. Having found that she too had used an accommodation address, he has been unable to trace her; and that was how it was that he responded when a bogus advertisement in the lady's name appeared in the same paper.

Not wishing to do Mr. Campbell any injustice, I give this "explanation," on the chance that among the readers of TRUTH there may be individuals who will believe it. With the best intentions, I cannot quite swallow it myself, and the difficulty I feel is enhanced by the fact that while he gave my representative (in confidence) a name purporting to belong to the Vanishing Lady, together with a description of her personal appearance, Mr. Campbell absolutely declined to show, even in confidence, the letter she had written to him. That, he said, would be a breach of professional etiquette which no matrimonial agent dare commit. It is unfortunate that "the arbitrary rule of etiquette" prevents Mr. Campbell giving the public the only conclusive piece of evidence he could possibly have offered that the Vanishing Lady ever had a real existence. He complains that the previous paragraphs in TRUTH have injured the business. I fear that this endeavour to mend matters may only make matters worse, for the knowledge that Campbell's agency is apt to be haunted by a ghostly spinster of such eccentric habits is hardly likely to restore confidence in amatory bachelors, or to induce them to pay their twenty-five shillings for an introduction to this fleeting phantom.

In reference to the article "A Klondyke Prospector's Prospects" in last week's TRUTH, Mr. Ernest H. Wasser writes to me from Warwick House, Warwick-place, N.W., that, although he consented to join the board in the first instance, he sent in his resignation almost directly after, and the same was duly accepted. Mr. Wasser states that he never met any of the directors or attended a meeting, and knows nothing of the business of the company, and he asks me to make this fact known, which I have much pleasure in doing. From what I can make out, the history of the company is not a creditable one to anybody concerned, and I am making inquiries in the hope of being able to throw some further light upon its doings at a future date.

There has been a good deal of correspondence in the *Bradford Observer* in reference to the case of Mr. Stephen Holroyd, whose dismissal from the service of Messrs. John Foster & Son, Limited, of the Black Dike Mills, Queensbury, was referred to in TRUTH a fortnight ago. Mr. Holroyd was the head of the weaving department at the mills, he worked there for forty-nine years, and he was dismissed, together with his two sons, immediately after he had voted against the election of Mr. Herbert A. Foster, the managing director of the firm, to the chairmanship of the Queensbury District Council. Mr. H. A. Foster has contributed two letters to the correspondence in the *Observer*, but he says he does not consider it necessary to give any explanation as to the reasons for the dismissal—indeed, he considers any allusion to the question "a gross abuse of the powers of the Press."

Mr. Foster must, of course, judge for himself; but if his firm have any regard for the opinion of their neighbours and the public at large it is a pity they adopt this high-and-mighty tone towards the Press. It may possibly cause a wrong impression to be formed in reference to the merits of the case. Since the question has been discussed in the Press, John Foster & Son, Limited, might surely, without any serious loss of dignity and self-respect, condescend to explain whether there were any other reasons for the dismissal of Mr. Holroyd beyond the reason that has been pretty plainly suggested.

I am asked to mention that Lewis Appleton, whose career was noticed in last week's TRUTH, was never secretary of the Peace Society. The post he held was that of a collector. During the whole period of his connection with the Peace Society Mr. Henry Richard was the secretary.

It is perfectly true, as Mr. Ritchie informed a questioner last week, that "there is nothing in the Light Railways Act to prevent the consideration of light railways in Urban Districts." It may also be true that the Board of Trade and the Light Railway Commissioners have power to impose on promoters of such lines the terms of the Tramways Act. But the Tramways Act is now reduced to the position of an Act which tramway promoters need not avail themselves of unless they choose, and the provisions of which can be dispensed with or enforced absolutely at the discretion of the Board of Trade and the Light Railway Commissioners. This result can hardly have been intended when the Light Railways Act was passed, and the Act ought to be amended so as to exclude urban and suburban districts from its operation. The Richmond and Hampton Court scheme has now been withdrawn in

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deference to the protests of the residents along the proposed line, but others remain, and others are likely to make their appearance.

Mr. Arthur Chamberlain has come forward to the aid of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain in the war between the Cecils and the Chamberlains. Lord Salisbury consigned the speech of Mr. Joseph to the waste-paper basket without reading it. I fear that the same basket will receive the speech of Mr. Arthur, who plaintively complains that the Premier is "nothing if not sarcastic." The grievance of Mr. Arthur, as the chairman of Kynochs, Limited, is that Lord Salisbury is hindering the firm from selling guns to foreign Powers, and thus its shareholders have to put up with a beggarly 10 per cent. What a pair! The one tries to drag us into war with foreign Powers, the other wants to sell guns to them in order that they may be in a position to fight us. Fraternal union is always a pleasing sight. But whether the country will benefit by this touching accord is not quite so clear.

It is hardly fair to look too closely into the strict accuracy of a well-turned generalisation in a complimentary speech, and of such speeches Lord Rosebery is a past master, otherwise I should venture to contest Lord Rosebery's dictum that hard work is the road to success, to happiness, and to long life. This can only be asserted, even of the first, in the sense that a man is not likely to win a race unless he exercises the muscles of his legs. There is a good deal of haphazard in success or failure. But I should say that the former is mainly due, if achieved, to tenacity of purpose, subordination of everything else to the one aim, quickness and resolution in seizing every opportunity, and—I am afraid that I must add—a determination to walk over all who stand in the way, and who cannot be flattered or cajoled into getting out of it. Whether happiness is the result of this perpetual contest to attain and to retain is doubtful, nor should I imagine that, as a rule, it is conducive to long life.

I have always held that we are engaged in a ruinous contest in seeking to outbuild any two naval Powers, because outbuilding is followed by other Powers, with the result that, although we and they may have more warships, the relative proportion of the two competitors remains the same. The event proves that I have been correct, if we look into figures. All ships built before 1880 may be regarded as valueless. The figures of the ships launched and to be launched between 1881 and 1900 stand thus:—England, forty-five battleships, fifty-four cruisers; France and Russia, fifty battleships and thirty-one cruisers; France, Russia, and Germany, fifty-nine battleships and thirty-seven cruisers. We, therefore, have ninety-nine battleships and cruisers; France and Russia eighty-one; and France, Russia, and Germany, ninety-six. But against this numerical superiority, France and Russia have five battleships more than us, and France, Russia, and Germany fourteen more, as against our superiority in the number of cruisers.

Now, supposing that we were at war with France and Russia, it is by no means clear that we could blockade all their ports, and thus sweep the seas of their fleets. Certainly, we could not so hermetically seal the ports that our commerce would pursue its avocations as though there were no war. Yet this is our avowed aim. The entire scheme, therefore, of absolute maritime supremacy in all parts of the world as against any two great naval Powers has broken down, so far as it is dependent on having a force so much larger than those of these two Powers that we can treat them as almost non-existent.

But, assuming the doctrine to be sound, I have never yet understood why we should limit our object to a supremacy over two Powers, for this would make any third Power possessed of a Fleet the arbiter of victory. The truth is that this idea of a numerical superiority of ships over two Powers is one to which we never can attain. It is much as though France, Russia, and Germany were each to endeavour to have an army that would be equal to those of the other two combined. No sooner do we build more ships than other Powers do the same.

France and Russia are for the nonce allies. Mr. Chamberlain, therefore, suggests that we should secure our naval supremacy against them by entering into an alliance with Germany. But Germany is by no means disposed to abet us in this aim. From her standpoint, she would be foolish if she did. She would expose herself to a joint attack by the armies of France and Russia, in order that we might become absolute masters of the seas, whereas her interest seems to lie rather in hindering this supremacy on the part of any one Power.

Mr. Goschen announces that he intends to ask for money to build more ships than he deemed necessary when the Naval Estimates were prepared for the current year. This, I gather, is because he has learnt that Russia is building more ships than he then supposed. But supposing that this be met by Russia or France again increasing their naval outlay, are we again to increase ours? A Tory newspaper expresses a hope that this Supplementary Estimate will be a large one, in order to convince all other Powers how hopeless it is to compete with us. But will it have this effect? I doubt it.

In the last few years our expenditure on the Army and Navy has increased by 70 per cent. During this period of expansion in spending, the value of our export trade has remained practically stationary; and our import trade has increased by 30 per cent. But of what advantage

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is this latter increase to our workers? It neither provides them with work, nor does it augment their wages, nor does it reduce the cost of necessaries.

The Spaniards seem to be in a yielding mood, having realised that their fleet is no match for that of the United States. Under these circumstances, it is a pity that the latter, as the stronger Power, does not take some unofficial means to indicate to Spain on what terms peace might be made. What would be reasonable would be that Cuba and, if it be deemed by the United States desirable, Porto Rico should cease to be connected with Spain, and that a coaling station—should this be considered desirable—in the Philippines should be given to the United States, the question of annexation of Cuba and Porto Rico to the latter country, or their independence, being left to future consideration, as it must be indifferent to Spain, should she lose these islands, which alternative is the outcome. Thus the United States would secure the object for which she went to war without further outlay of blood and money.

But if the war is to be continued, the United States should act with more energy, for in wars it is cruel to be kind. I should have thought it doubtful policy to land an Army in Cuba at the very moment when the yellow fever makes the island unfit for such an operation. But if an Army is to be landed, why at Santiago? The western portion of Cuba, in which Santiago is the chief town, is not the point to strike at. The Army should be landed at some place near to Havana, and it should advance at once on the capital. If Havana falls, the Spanish rule on the island is, for all practical purposes, at an end.

TO THE AMERICAN "YELLOW JOURNAL" WAR SPECIAL:

A WARNING.

Mr. "Special," Mr. "Special," has it not occurred to you,
As you daily overdo your gassy mission,
That, if a big engagement were to presently ensue,
You'd be in a very difficult position?
For of adjectives and adverbs of a laudatory kind,
Suggesting brilliant dash or courage steady,
There's not one that we are able in our "Ogilvie" to find
That you haven't used repeatedly already.

You've transformed into "a fearful and a furious fusillade"
A mere affair of outposts' rifle-rattle;
You have cabled us descriptions of a futile cannonade
As a terrible and splendid naval battle.
The very smallest skirmish has appeared to you to lead
To colossal loss of life and awful panic;
And a hurried reconnaisance, if your telegrams we read,
Becomes an operation quite Titanic.

You, in fact, have dealt so freely with such adjectives as "grand,"
And "appalling," and "heroic," and "stupendous,"
That you will not find it easy graphic phrases to command,
Should the war assume proportions more tremendous;
And it very well may happen, should fierce fighting come to pass,
Of coherence you will find it has bereft you,
And for speech you will be gasping with no epithets, alas!
Of any special force or fitness left you.

SCRUTATOR.

EDUCATION AND EMPIRE.

WHAT is the use, observes Sir John Gorst, of opening doors for our commerce abroad, if our system of public education at home is the negation of common sense? Candid, indeed, are the criticisms of Sir John on this system. The present Government has sought to foster the Voluntary Schools at the expense of the Board Schools. The former, both in town and country, are far inferior to the latter. In country districts any excuse is allowed by the school local authorities for the boys not attending, whilst by the general rule in regard to the years that a child must attend, he is taken away before he has arrived at an age when he can retain the little that he has learnt. On this precious system the State spends eleven millions and a half annually. Not only a more efficient system, but more money to render it possible is needed. This money is not forthcoming, because it all goes in battleships, and in raising our army to a sufficient strength to enable us to send expeditions here, there, and everywhere, to force naked savages to buy our cotton and German spirits.

That the Conservative Party, under the teaching of a Radical renegade, should foster the delusion that this is how the Empire is to hold its own against the world is not surprising, for this Party well knows that the first thing that an educated England would do, would be to emancipate itself from the class Government, with its injustices and its privileges, which is dear to the Conservative heart. What I protest against, and have always protested against, is that the Liberals should be so lost to all their principles as to aid and abet the Conservatives. In Hertfordshire, there is an election going on. A Liberal placard, apparently issued by the wirepullers of Parliament-street who are conducting the Liberal campaign, calls on the electors to "avenge England's dishonour, and to remember Lord Salisbury's surrender of territory and sacrifice of British interests in every part of the world." If this means anything, it means that the Liberal Party supports Mr. Chamberlain against Lord Salisbury, and would have our policy still more "spirited" and our armaments still greater in order to render this possible.

For "all parts of the world," presumably "China" is to be read. Sir William Harcourt, Mr. Morley, and Lord Kimberley, all of whom may be supposed to know something of what has been going on, and to have some weight on the Liberal councils, have, whilst criticising some of Lord Salisbury's utterances, declared that the outcome of his China policy has been all that could be desired, except in respect to the annexation of Wei-hai-wei, which they deem useless and impolitic, but which, according to the Hertfordshire placard, is the only one bright spot in Lord Salisbury's foreign policy. Is there a

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more clear proof that the Party, as represented not only by its leaders, but by the great mass of Radicals, is at odds with its wirepullers? The latter regard the only aim of the Party to be to get back into office. They see that the Jingo craze has assumed large proportions. They therefore seek to curry a momentary favour by out-Jingoing their opponents, and by sacrificing every principle for which the Party under Mr. Gladstone fought. I do not believe that these silly tactics will succeed, for electors see through this masquerading in Tory clothes, and Radicals—except those of the baser sort—are not prepared to sacrifice principle to opportunism. But, were it to succeed, I see no advantage to the Party, except that a few self-seeking politicians would enjoy for a brief period the spoils of office.

It is clear to me that a desperate effort is being made by the Whigs or Moderates—or whatever the gentlemen may call themselves who are with us, but not of us—to trick the Radicals out of all influence in the Party. They oppose alike the men in whom the Party has confidence, and the aspirations of the Radical rank and file throughout the country. Lord Rosebery is their figure-head, and their plan just now is to gain adherents by assuring M.P.s that, whoever may be the Leader in the Lords or the Commons, as the Queen will send for Lord Rosebery in the event of the Liberals securing a majority at the next General Election, he will be the dispenser of office and able to reward those who come over to him. I really care very little who is Leader, provided that he be a thorough Radical, and that he be in the House of Commons. But I protest against this use of the Sovereign's name. With all respect to her Majesty, she cannot make our Leader; nor, indeed, do I believe that any such assurance has been given. To do Lord Rosebery justice, he does not seem to have any part in this intrigue. His friends probably are more anxious for the loaves and fishes than he is. They wish to establish a personal claim on him, whilst they are ready to grasp at any straw to stave off the advent of a democratic Government.

One of the reasons why I have always urged that we should have a definite electoral programme—short and drastic—for the next General Election is, that the absence of one leaves the field open to the intrigues of Whigs and wirepullers. If the Liberal Party declines to pin itself to such a programme, then it is full time that the Radicals should themselves organise, and impose it on all who desire their support. I am a Gladstonian, and if the Liberal Party, whilst professing admiration and respect for that great man, really intends to throw over every Gladstonian principle, then I am not one of these new-fangled Liberals. I prefer democratic reform to a route from the Cape to Cairo. I want our money to be spent in properly educating our children at home, instead of introducing Christianity amongst African savages by robbing and slaying them. Instead of building battleships, with the result of forcing other countries to build them, I would concentrate our attack on that citadel of Toryism, the House of Lords. To end it will be of more advantage to the country than to acquire swamps and jungles in Africa.

Individual human nature is much the same as it always was. Speaking broadly, a person who goes into Parliament, although he may sincerely desire to secure what he believes would be to the good of the community, also has his own axe to grind. If he wants office, he tries to get it. If he wants a title, he angles for it. If he wants social recognition, he aims to secure it. So long as his Party is in Opposition, he knows that his aspirations cannot be realised. The tendency of his mind is, therefore, to make electoral success the primary object. Should he consider that the active profession of any particular opinion militates against this success, it becomes a mere pious opinion. Hence it is that no great reform has ever been carried by a Party in Parliament, unless those out of Parliament have insisted on it. Parliamentary Liberals want to convert themselves from the "outs" into the "ins," and so to manage matters that, if this be effected, they may be in the gang amongst which the spoil is distributed. But this is not precisely the object for which a Party ought to exist.

No doubt there are many Liberals in Parliament who are prepared to stand or fall on the principles that they have professed. But there are men to whom the arts of intrigue are unknown. The intriguers, therefore, have it all their way. This always has been so when there has been no man at the head of the Party sufficiently popular to ignore them, or no great issue before the electorate. In default of the man, then, let us rally to an issue. Fads that command the support of one portion of Radicals and not of all Radicals, mere geographical reforms that one section of the country would push to the forefront, divide but do not unite. They hand us over bound hand and foot to the intriguers. What, then, is the issue on which we might unite? I say—and have said so in season and out of season—that it is to be found in a reform which would make Parliament the Representative Council of the entire nation, and would put an end once and for all to any person having a right to vote in Parliament without having been elected thereto. Without this reform, the Liberal Party has as much chance to carry any real democratic reforms as a cat without claws to catch mice. We are attempting to make bricks without straw, and speculating upon the kind of edifices we shall build of these bricks when they are made.

THE STORY OF A NEW ZEALAND ESTATE.

In the beginning of 1893 there came to London a gentleman who had rendered invaluable services to the Colony of New Zealand, and had been rewarded by the Colony with a Parliamentary grant of rights over a rich estate, comprising upwards of 50,000 acres. His object in coming to England was to get rid of certain small encumbrances, and realise the property by floating companies or otherwise. For this purpose he placed himself in the hands of a most respectable firm of London solicitors. Within three months the whole of his estate passed into the hands of the senior partner in that firm, in conjunction with a gentleman who had joined him in advancing money to pay

The Hotel Cecil Restaurant.—Orchestra daily. M. François, Chef de Restaurant, from the Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo. The new Grill Room is now open.

off the aforesaid encumbrances; and in the hands of these gentlemen it has remained to this day. In the following year the gentleman from New Zealand was made a bankrupt. From bankruptcy he passed into Chancery. From Chancery he passed to the Old Bailey, where he was tried and found guilty of defaming the new owners of his property. From the Old Bailey he passed into one of the London hospitals, and from the hospital he passed out, penniless and hopeless, into the streets of London. In all this time he had contributed nothing to his own misfortunes, beyond one solitary error of judgment. In all this time he had received from the new owners not one penny in respect of his property beyond a sum of £76 advanced to him on paying off the first mortgage. These statements may be received with incredulity. They are, however, but a concise summary of an authentic story, resting at every point upon documentary evidence. The story is so extraordinary in itself, and it involves so monstrous a wrong to the gentleman concerned in it, that I shall offer no apology for now telling it at full length.

How the Estate was Acquired.

The hero of this story is Mr. Joshua Jones. With his history and antecedents we are not here much concerned, but for the due appreciation of what follows it should be understood at the outset that Mr. Jones is a man who has spent the best part of his life in the rough work of colonisation at the Antipodes—essentially a pioneer and a frontier-man, and one, therefore, who would hardly be in his element in lawyers' offices and financial circles in the City of London. He is a man well known both in Australia and New Zealand. The property on which the story turns is an estate of upwards of 50,000 acres, situated near Taranaki, New Zealand, having a frontage of about thirty-five miles to the Mokau and Mohakatino Rivers, and popularly described as the Mokau Estate.

The property has a history both interesting in itself and bearing to some extent upon the story of Mr. Joshua Jones' adventures in London. At the conclusion of the Maori War, 1862-8, an area of about fourteen million acres in the North Island, known as the King Country, and lying between the settled districts of Wellington and Taranaki on the south, and Auckland on the north, remained in the possession of the natives, who absolutely closed it, and allowed no white men to cross the boundary. Various Europeans who attempted to penetrate into this region during the years 1869-70, were immediately shot. The Colonial Government were extremely anxious to have this territority opened up without further bloodshed, but all efforts in that direction were frustrated by the resolute attitude of the natives, and their refusal to hold any communication with the Government. In 1875, Mr. Joshua Jones, acting with the knowledge and approval of the Government, chartered a steamer at New Plymouth at his own risk and expense, and steamed up the Mokau River into the King Country, with the view of establishing friendly relations with the Maories. He took with him nothing but a cargo of flour, tea, sugar, blankets, and other similar articles of commerce, spirits and gunpowder being excluded, and by means of presents of these he proceeded to cultivate the goodwill and confidence of the natives. He was so far successful that in 1877 he induced the head chiefs to come in and meet the Government of Sir George Grey in New Plymouth. The result of the negotiation was most satisfactory. The Maories laid down their arms, and gave permission to the Government and to Europeans to enter their country. Settlers quickly entered; roads, railways, and trade followed; and the whole of the vast area was in the course of a few years converted, without further fighting or bloodshed, into a peaceful and civilised portion of her Majesty's dominions. Mr. Jones' services in bringing about this result were publicly and cordially acknowledged by Sir George Grey and other leading statesmen in New Zealand. The Maories, on their side, had granted him a lease of the district now known as the Mokau Estate. In recognition of his services, the Government waived their pre-emptive right over the property, and Mr. Jones' title was recognised and regulated by a special Act of the New Zealand Parliament, passed in August, 1888.

Mr. Jones comes to London.

About four years later Mr. Jones came to London for the purpose of making arrangements for the development of the property. He had every reason to believe (and there can be no doubt that he was right) that it was of the greatest value, containing extensive deposits of coal and other minerals. He had, in fact, refused an offer of £160,000, made by an Australian company, for the coal only, his chief reason for the refusal being that he wished to let the working of the coal upon royalties for the benefit of his children. Before coming to London, he had raised certain amounts upon two mortgages of the property, the first for £7,600, and the other for £1,550. The second mortgagee was pressing for payment, and Mr. Jones had been endeavouring to raise money in Australia, but found it impossible, owing to the severe financial crisis prevailing in the Colonies at that time. The Mokau property being advertised for sale by the second mortgagee while Mr. Jones was in Sydney, he determined to come to London to raise money there. He arrived in London early in January, 1893, with an introduction from his solicitor at Wellington, Mr. Travers, to a firm of London solicitors, Messrs. Flower & Nussey, of 1, Great Winchester-street, E.C., who were Mr. Travers' London agents. To Flower & Nussey he accordingly went, as soon as he arrived in London, to obtain assistance in raising the money he required. It would appear that, independently of Mr. Jones, Messrs. Flower & Nussey had had information about the Mokau property from Mr. Travers. The firm consisted at that time of two partners, the senior, Mr. Wickham Flower, being the one with whom Jones had dealings. Mr. Nussey appears to have taken no personal part in any of the transactions which follow. The terms on which the firm undertook Jones' business are clearly set forth in the following letter, written to them on January 26, 1893:—

To Messrs. W. and J. Flower & Nussey,
1, Great Winchester-street, London.
Solicitors.

[Stamp, 6d.]

GENTLEMEN,—In consideration of your having undertaken either to form a company or get a company formed, or find a purchaser or lessee, if possible, for the purpose of taking over and working my property in New Zealand, known as the Mokau property, upon terms of royalties to be paid to me, I hereby undertake and agree that out of any royalties I may receive from any company or purchaser, or lessee who may take over and work my said property, I will pay you the sum of one thousand and fifty pounds, as a bonus for your services, in addition to your reasonable and proper charges as between solicitor and client for any business that may be transacted by you for me in connection with the said property or the sale or letting thereof.—I am, yours faithfully,

JOSHUA JONES.

This agreement applies to the coal measures only.

It will be generally agreed, I think, that the terms of remuneration here fixed are sufficiently reasonable. Now let us see how Messrs. Flower & Nussey proceeded to discharge the duty which they thus undertook.

How the Estate was Sold.

In the first instance, Mr. Flower arranged with a Mr. C. C. Hopkinson, a financier carrying on business in Regent-street, to advance to Mr. Jones, on the security of a second charge on the estate, a sum of £1,800 to pay

SAVOY HOTEL, Savoy Restaurant, London. Large reception-rooms for fashionable réunions. Orchestra plays daily during dinner and opera supper.

MORTLOCK'S (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "MORTLOCK'S" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

off the second mortgage. The balance left after providing for the mortgage debt and interest, and Mr. Hopkinson's charges, was handed over to Messrs. Flower & Nussey for Mr. Jones' private use. No sooner was the money paid, however, than the first mortgagee began to agitate for his money, and shortly after he, too, took steps to enforce his power of sale. It consequently became necessary for Messrs. Flower & Nussey, who were at this time in negotiation with various parties for the formation of companies, to raise the amount necessary to satisfy the first mortgagee. The sale being advertised for April 8, and none of the negotiations with third parties being near completion at that date, it was agreed, after various verbal discussions between Jones and his solicitors, that Mr. Flower should bid for the estate in his own name up to £10,000. Instructions to this effect were telegraphed to Travers in New Zealand on April 6. Mr. Flower would then seem to have asked Mr. Hopkinson to provide a portion of the purchase money, and to this Mr. Hopkinson assented on April 7 in the following letter :—

3, Regent-street,
April 7, 1893.

MOKAU PROPERTY, NEW ZEALAND.

DEAR SIR,—I hereby agree that, inasmuch as my firm has advanced eighteen hundred pounds (£1,800) on second mortgage of this property, I will agree to join with you in protecting the property at public auction up to £10,000, on condition that I do not advance for that purpose more than £4,100.

It is understood that, in the event of the property being bought for less than £10,000, then Messrs. C. Hopkinson & Son's mortgage for £1,800, or the balance of it, remains as a first charge on the property.

The property so bought to be held in equal shares by you and me.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully, C. C. HOPKINSON.

Wickham Flower, Esq.

The sale took place on April 8, and, in accordance with the instructions telegraphed to Travers, the property was bought in the name of Mr. Wickham Flower for the sum of £7,600. The low figure at which it was bought is explained by the fact that it was generally understood in the colony that Mr. Travers, in bidding for Mr. Flower, was acting for Mr. Jones, whose solicitor he was known to have been, and there was consequently no opposition bidding.

In this way the legal estate in the Mokau property passed from Mr. Jones to Mr. Flower, in whose hands, conjointly with Mr. Hopkinson, it has remained to this day. Mr. Hopkinson's interest appears to have been secured by a declaration of trust executed in his favour by Mr. Flower. It is contended by Mr. Jones that this transaction was carried through by Mr. Flower as his solicitor, solely for the purpose of protecting the property from the mortgagee, pending the completion of the other arrangements which Mr. Flower's firm were then negotiating, and that, consequently, Mr. Flower could merely hold the property as a trustee for him (Jones), or as a mortgagee, subject to Jones' equity of redemption. Mr. Jones asserts that a verbal agreement to this effect was concluded between them before the sale, and that Mr. Flower promised to re-convey the property to him upon repayment by Jones of the advances, together with the costs of the firm, and the agreed bonus. Not only is any such promise denied by Mr. Flower, but he asserts, if I understand his position correctly, that in the transactions relating to the purchase of the estate on April 8, he was not acting as Jones' solicitor at all, but as an independent speculator, buying on his own account and for his own sole benefit.

FLOWER & NUSSEY'S POSITION AT THE TIME OF THE SALE.

Upon this question depend to a great extent the merits of all the subsequent proceedings, and the position as between the various parties at the present day. It may, therefore, be convenient at this point to look briefly at the evidence on each side. To begin with, the fact is undeniable that Jones had retained Flower & Nussey as his solicitors for the purpose of raising money to develop his property, and that Flower & Nussey had been in negotiation with parties for that purpose up to the date of the sale. Not only this, but it is equally certain that they continued to carry on such negotiations *in the express character of Jones' solicitors* after the date of the sale. In their correspondence with various parties in reference to loans on the property after that date they speak of their "client," Mr. Joshua Jones, and refer to instructions which they have received from him. In one letter written to Mr. Hopkinson's firm on June 16, 1893, they actually speak of the formation of a syndicate to which Mr. Jones is "to contract to grant a lease if called upon to do so," and in another they allude to him as the "mortgagor"—expressions extremely difficult to explain if, as has since been alleged by the firm, all Jones' interest in the property had at this time ceased. But there is more than correspondence to establish the facts. Messrs. Flower & Nussey have delivered in the course of subsequent proceedings a very handsome bill of costs. The bill is in a somewhat unusual form, the individual items not being priced in the ordinary way, but a round sum of £1,000 being stated by way of total on the last page. In this bill of costs *there are actually entered items having relation to the sale of the Mokau property on April 8.* If the purchase was effected purely as an independent speculation on Mr. Flower's part, how comes it that the firm did not charge Mr. Flower with the costs? If, on the other hand, they have debited all the expenses to Jones, how can it be open to the firm to contend that in the matter of the purchase they were not acting as Jones' solicitors? If the contention is untenable as regards the firm, it must, I presume, be equally untenable as regards every individual member of the firm. The proposition that while a firm collectively are acting as solicitors to one particular client, each individual partner is not also that client's solicitor, is one which can hardly be argued seriously—though in the witness-box, in certain proceedings hereafter to be described, Mr. Flower gave an account of his position which seems almost to go to this length.

Nor is this all the evidence upon the point. On April 14—after receiving by cable intimation that the estate had been purchased—Flower & Nussey write as follows to Mr. Travers :—

As regards Mr. Jones, we have told him that though the property has been purchased in Mr. Flower's name, *it is not Mr. Flower's intention, nor Mr. Hopkinson's, that he should be deprived of his property*; but that some arrangement will have to be made for the development and realisation of the property *upon terms which will secure to him a very substantial interest in the property.* At the moment we hardly know what to propose to him, as we are still in uncertainty upon many points that will require most careful consideration; but we shall endeavour to draw up a working agreement with Mr. Jones as soon as possible. We will forward you a copy of any agreement, if an agreement is come to, as soon as it is made.

We need hardly say that we shall wait with much anxiety your reply to this letter . . .—We are, dear sir,

W. & J. FLOWER & NUSSEY.

W. T. L. Travers, Esq., solicitor, Wellington, New Zealand.

P.S.—Mr. Jones appears to think that the property has been bought by you on his behalf, but we have little doubt that our instructions were acted on, and that the transaction has been carried out in accordance with our cable of 6th inst., and the property purchased in the name of Mr. W. Flower.

We sent you a further cable to-day on the subject, a copy of which is included in the copy cablegrams sent herewith. *It is not the intention of the purchasers to deprive Mr. Jones of his property, and an arrangement is now in course of consideration by Mr. Jones, Mr. Hopkinson, and Mr. Flower.*

This letter—written, mark, within a week of the sale—puts the true position of affairs beyond all question. If, as here stated, Mr. Flower purchased the estate without any intention of depriving Mr. Jones of his property, it is clearly not open to him to contend that he purchased, like any ordinary purchaser, with the intention of transferring the property to himself. But now, setting aside all question of the original intention, let us see how the purchasers of the Mokau property proceeded to deal with Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES EDGED OUT.

It will be noted that in the postscript to their letter to Travers, of April 14, Flower & Nussey speak of an arrangement then "in course of consideration." There is in existence a draft "Memorandum of Proposed Arrange-

ment" which no doubt embodies the terms referred to in the letter to Travers. The agreement was never executed, but it was drawn up in Messrs. Flower & Nussey's office, and transmitted to Mr. Jones, and is therefore conclusive evidence of the terms which Mr. Flower and Mr. Hopkinson were offering to Jones at this time. The date Mr. Jones assigns to it is April 16, two days after the above letter to Travers. The reason it was not signed was simply that Mr. Jones declined to assent to the proposed terms. What were those terms? The first clause is as follows:—

(1) If Mr. Joshua Jones elects to pay Messrs. Flower & Hopkinson £10,000 within one calendar month from April 8 inst., together with a bonus of £1,000 each, for protecting his property, and 10 per cent. interest for one month on the £10,000, Messrs. Flower & Hopkinson will reconvey the entire property to Mr. Jones absolutely—he paying Messrs. Flower & Nussey's costs and charges for work done with reference to his property and affairs since January, 1893, and all costs and expenses of and in connection with the sale by Plimmer and the subsequent conveyance and reconveyance of the property.

Clause 2 provides that in the event of the payments not being made within one calendar month from April 8, but being made one clear week before the completion of the purchase (June 8) Flower & Nussey will re-convey on payment of an additional bonus of £1,000 each—*i.e.*, £4,000 altogether. Clause 3 provides that failing payment as provided by the last clause, the property shall be "developed and realised on the joint account and for the joint benefit of Messrs. Joshua Jones, Charles Hopkinson, and Wickham Flower," Jones giving his personal assistance and receiving a third part of the net profits of realisation.

I invite special attention to this document, which is the starting-point in a long series of negotiations. At the time when the document was drawn up, only a deposit of £1,950 had been paid by Messrs. Flower & Hopkinson on the purchase of the estate, about a week previously. The balance of £5,700 had to be paid two months later (June 8). The bonus, therefore, which Messrs. Flower & Hopkinson asked for as the terms of re-conveyance of the property to Jones, within one month from April 8, is a bonus of £2,000 for the advance of £1,950 for that period. The alternative bonus, which they asked for as the price of reconveyance by June 8, is a bonus of £4,000 for the same advance for two months, and this bonus is in addition to interest at the rate of 10 per cent.

Now, what is to be thought of this proposal? Not only are the terms monstrously extortionate, but they acquire an altogether exceptional character from the fact that they are proposed to Mr. Jones by his own solicitors. Here is a gentleman who comes to Messrs. Flower & Nussey for the purpose of raising money through them to pay off a comparatively trifling mortgage and develop a property of immense value. At the end of three months he finds that his solicitors, under an arrangement for temporarily "protecting" the property against the existing mortgagees, have got the whole estate into their hands; that they are actually calling upon him to redeem it from them within a couple of months by paying this huge bonus in addition to the purchase-money; and that, failing this, they propose to realise the property themselves, allowing him only a one-third interest in it. I think it will be agreed that Mr. Flower's notions of "protecting" a client's property for him are, to say the least, peculiar. It will surprise no one to hear that Mr. Jones absolutely declined to accept this proposal. Even if he had been in a position to find the money elsewhere at a few weeks' notice, he would have been justified in his refusal. But as a point of fact, in the position in which he had now been placed, he had little or no chance of finding the money, except with the co-operation of Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson; and by signing the agreement he would have placed himself utterly at the mercy of these gentlemen, for he would virtually have signed away for ever two-thirds of his interest in the Mokau property, unless Flower & Nussey provided him within two months with funds of £14,000 for the purpose of redeeming, and paying the bonus, interest, and costs.

Side by side with this agreement it is interesting to read the following letter from Mr. Hopkinson to Mr. Flower, written apparently the day before the draft memorandum was dispatched to Jones for his signature. It would seem that a copy of Flower & Nussey's letter to Travers of April 14 (quoted above) had been sent to Mr. Hopkinson, who replies thus:—

3, Regent-street, St. James', London, S.W.,
April 15, 1893.

MOKAU PROPERTY.

DEAR SIR,—I have this morning received from your firm copy of a letter written to Mr. Travers dated 14th instant.

I regret to say that I consider one part of it very injudicious, and I think you will, on reflection, agree with me. We may have very good intentions towards Joshua Jones, but circumstances are very likely to arise which may compel us to part with the property at a sacrifice of his interest, and I think it most unwise on our part to have practically undertaken to his solicitor not to do so.

I have no desire to obtain half of his property, but I object to binding myself not to dispose of my interest in such a way as I may think fit, it being mine, and obtained by me at great personal inconvenience and sorely against my will, and the same thing applies to you. I send you the copy referred to with the parts referred to marked in pencil.—I am, dear sir, yours truly,

C. C. HOPKINSON.

P.S.—My name is Charles Cæsar Hopkinson, not Charles only.

Wickham Flower, Esq.

This letter, passing between the two other parties behind Mr. Jones' back, is decidedly significant. Mr. Hopkinson "may have"—like Mr. Flower—the best of intentions towards Mr. Jones; but he thinks it "very injudicious" to commit these good intentions to writing. He recognises that Jones has interests in the property. But he anticipates that circumstances may arise which will necessitate the interests of Charles Cæsar Hopkinson taking precedence of the interests of Joshua Jones, and he hints ingenuously to his correspondent that the same argument may apply to the interests of Wickham Flower.

Whether it was in consequence of this very straight hint that Flower & Nussey drew up and transmitted to Jones the "memorandum of arrangement" already described, is a matter for conjecture; but it is clear enough that Mr. Flower was not long in coming round to Mr. Hopkinson's view as to the desirability of providing for the possible necessity of disposing of the property at a sacrifice of Jones' interest. On June 5, apparently after some marked difference of opinion had developed between Jones and his solicitors, Flower & Nussey wrote him a letter defining their position clearly. This letter recites the history of the relations of the firm with Jones from the beginning, but seems to leave something to be desired as an accurate narrative of what had passed. After giving their version of the facts, Flower & Nussey express themselves thus:—

In these circumstances the purchasers wish it to be clearly understood between you and them that after the completion of the purchase they must be looked upon as the absolute owners of the property, and that they have the undoubted right to realise and dispose of the property in such manner as they and their advisers in the colony may think best. And they propose shortly to send out to Mr. Travers at Wellington a general power of attorney to act for them in the management and realisation of the property. They wish us to add, however, that in the event of the property realising hereafter more than sufficient money to repay the money which has been advanced, and the £1,800, and any past and future interest and expenses connected with the property, they will be willing to share such profits with you in such proportion as may be mutually agreed upon hereafter, if and so long as you give them and their agent such assistance as may be requisite for making the best of the property; and they would be glad to meet you, so soon as a meeting can be arranged, for the purpose of considering this point with you and coming to some definite understanding upon it. It must, of course, be considered that what we have been authorised to suggest as to a division of profits will not entitle you to any legal claim, but is a matter of concession by the owners. And the suggestion must be considered as wholly without prejudice to legal rights, unless and until a binding agreement in writing is come to on the subject.—We are, dear Sir, Yours truly,

W. and J. FLOWER & NUSSEY.

Joshua Jones, Esq., &c.

It will be noted that there is here no suggestion that after the completion of the purchase by Flower and Hopkinson, Jones has any rights whatever, legal or equitable, in the

property. There is no admission that the purchasers' rights were limited to the extent of their advances, costs, and reasonable profits, or that Jones had any equity of redemption upon a payment of these amounts. The most that is suggested—"suggestion" is their own word—is that in the event of the property realising more than the amount of the advances, interest, and expenses, the purchasers will be willing on certain conditions to share the profits in a proportion to be subsequently agreed upon, this "suggestion" being thrown out "without prejudice," and with an express proviso that it is not to create any legal claim, but merely to be looked upon as a gratuitous concession. This position, taken up in June, 1893, is the one to which Mr. Flower, though he has on at least two occasions temporarily withdrawn from it, has practically adhered down to the present moment, except that the talk of a gratuitous concession to Mr. Jones has never come to anything at all. It seems to me, therefore, an accurate description of the transaction to say that Mr. Jones has been "edged out."

WHAT PASSED BETWEEN MESSRS. HOPKINSON AND FLOWER.

Before going to the next stage in Mr. Jones' career, I will refer to one or two other letters which passed at this period behind his back. The first of them is interesting, not only as illustrating the private sentiments of the purchasers, but also as showing that Jones was already seriously straitened for want of money, and was almost dependent upon the benevolence of Messrs. Hopkinson and Flower for the means of subsistence—certainly not a position in which a man is at an advantage in fighting a battle. The Mr. Fellowes herein referred to was originally managing clerk to Flower & Nussey, and in that capacity conducted a great deal of the business connected with the Mokau property. A characteristic incident in the case is that, within a few days of his first introduction to Flower & Nussey's office, Mr. Jones wrote Mr. Fellowes a letter thanking him for services rendered, and promising to give him £500 when the estate was realised, which letter Mr. Fellowes, with business-like promptitude, immediately had stamped. Shortly after the conclusion of the sale Mr. Fellowes was taken into partnership, and the firm became Flower, Nussey, & Fellowes :—

Junior Carlton Club,
June 7, 1893.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have seen Mr. Fellowes this evening, who says that you think it advisable to pay a small sum to Jones to enable him to pay his hotel bill (£16 odd), and to remain in London beyond the 16th for the purpose of giving assistance in raising a loan on the property. For my part I do not believe in raising the said loan in London, and I think that, if it were possible, it could be done better without Jones' presence than with it. I do not feel disposed to pay any part of Jones' passage out, as I feel sure he could get that advance elsewhere, but he will not try so long as he thinks he can get money from your firm. If you think it necessary to advance more money to him I will pay one moiety up to £20, and no more; but I feel sure that the sooner he is off the better, and we must get out by gradual sales of parts of the property.—Yours truly, C. C. HOPKINSON.

W. Flower, Esq.

The desire here expressed to get Jones out of the way was no doubt a prudent one. In the language, however, which he uses in this letter, and the next, respecting Jones' applications for funds, Mr. Hopkinson shows himself ignorant, or oblivious, of important facts. As mentioned above, when Hopkinson made his first advance of £1,800, a handsome sum—upwards of £100—not required for immediate use, was handed over to Messrs. Flower & Co. to meet Jones' future necessities, and all that Mr. Jones ever applied for or received in cash was by way of advances out of this fund. So far as I can find, the most that has ever been alleged to have been paid to Jones personally in cash by the new owners of his estate from beginning to end of the transaction is about *seventy-six pounds*, and that money actually came out of Hopkinson's first advance! To represent Mr. Jones, therefore, as sponging on his kind friends, Flower & Co., merely to save himself the trouble of getting money elsewhere, looks, to put it mildly, a little unfair on the part of Mr. Hopkinson.

Another month elapses, and we come to another proposal from Mr. Hopkinson to Mr. Flower for dealing with the property :—

3, Regent-street,
July 8, 1893.

DEAR MR. FLOWER,—Fellowes tells me that Jones is asking for £15 more, and also that he is remaining here because he does not trust us.

I wish to inform you that I am firmly resolved not to pay any more money to Jones, as I disapprove of his remaining here, especially as he is doing so in my opinion against our interests.

We have given Fellowes a short memo. of our idea of what we ought to have, now that the two months have elapsed during which we would have taken £1,000 each bonus, plus 10 per cent. interest.

It is roughly, first, that £10,500 or thereabouts, which consists of mortgage £1,800 and £8,400 paid by you and me, sundry sums to Jones, and interest having been repaid us, we shall take £5,000 (£2,500 each), cash bonus and one-sixteenth each of profit, or one-third between us, giving Jones the other two-thirds; that all rents, royalties, shall go towards interest on £1,800 mortgage and on, say, £8,500 or thereabouts which you and I have paid, before Jones gets anything.—Yours truly,
C. C. HOPKINSON.

W. Flower, Esq.

To do Mr. Hopkinson justice, this proposal is a modest one by comparison with that embodied in the draft memorandum of April. That provided that unless Jones redeemed by June 8, and paid a bonus of £4,000, he was only to retain an interest of one-third. Now, although the bonus is raised to £5,000, Jones is to be allowed a two-thirds share in the estate. Look now at Mr. Wickham Flower's reply to this proposal—one of the most edifying documents in the case. For its due appreciation, it must be remembered that at the time it was written Mr. Flower's firm were still, by their own statements and admissions, acting as Mr. Jones' solicitors. This is the letter :—

1, Great Winchester-street, London,
July 10, 1893.

DEAR MR. HOPKINSON,—I received your letter at Tangley yesterday, and Mr. Fellowes has shown me the draft memo. you gave him.

I entirely agree with you that there is no use in Mr. Jones remaining in England any longer, and I shall do my best to get him off to New Zealand as soon as possible. I think that Mr. Fellowes now agrees with us as to the desirability of this. At the same time I think we should first come to a definite understanding with Mr. Jones, if possible, upon the matters referred to in your letter, and that the arrangement should be reduced into writing and signed before he leaves; but this need not occupy many days, and I will do my best to get it through as quickly as possible.

I have considered your suggestion, and considering the large amount at stake and the risk we run, and the great personal trouble and uncertainty that attaches to the business, and the bother we shall in all probability have with it for some time to come, and considering also that if either Plimmer or Johnson had bought the property they would in all probability not have allowed Mr. Jones any portion of the profits, if any were made ultimately, I really do not think that Mr. Jones has any claim on us for more than, say, one-third of any net profits that may ultimately be realised. It seems to me that he ought to consider any such allowance as that as a very handsome one under the circumstances; but I shall be guided very much by your views and opinion. . . .—I am, yours very truly, W. FLOWER.

C. C. Hopkinson, Esq.

Rarely has the mutability of human resolutions—especially good resolutions—been more strikingly displayed than here. On April 14 neither Mr. Flower nor his co-purchaser has the slightest intention of depriving Mr. Jones of his property. By April 16 they will not deprive him of it, provided he can repurchase it from them, and pay them the aforesaid bonus and interest within a couple of months. On June 6 they notify him that on completion of the purchase, they will recognise no rights on his part at all, but will, as a favour, give him some undefined share of the profits, if any are realised. On July 8 Hopkinson thinks that two-thirds of any such profits would be a fair share for Jones. Mr. Flower, on his side, is of opinion that this would be extravagant generosity, and that Jones ought to consider himself handsomely treated if he gets one-third.

THE NEXT TERMS OFFERED.

Matters remained very much as above described, no arrangement being arrived at, Flower & Co. failing to raise

money on the property, and Jones' distrust of their intentions daily deepening, until some time in August, 1893, when the two parties seem to have come to an open breach. Mr. Jones was now in a position of great difficulty, for whatever his rights might be, he was without means to assert them, and until they were asserted he was hardly in a position to raise money upon them. Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson were in the meantime engaged in forming a syndicate to deal with the property, as will be shown presently. On his side, Mr. Jones found at least one party who was willing to take it over. This was Mr. C. G. Jellicoe, a New Zealand barrister, who knew both Mr. Jones and the Mokau property. He was in England in the summer of 1894, and was prepared to come to Mr. Jones' rescue by advancing a sum of £12,000 to pay off the advances, costs, and charges of Messrs. Hopkinson & Flower. He made the offer, and it was refused. In order that there might be no mistake about it, he put the offer to Mr. Flower in writing, and the following correspondence records all that passed :—

The Langland Bay Hotel, Langland,
near Swansea,
August 10, 1894.

Re Joshua Jones.

DEAR SIR,—There seems to be some misunderstanding on the part of Mr. Jones's advisers as to the position you took up regarding this matter. At the interview I had the pleasure of having with you last week I told Mr. Jones that you denied that he has any interest whatever in the Mokau property, but that, without prejudice, you were willing to reconvey on payment of £30,000, and that it was useless to offer you anything less than that sum, as you had definitely stated you would not accept it. Kindly let me hear whether I am correct in my recollection of the position, and whether you will accept a sum equal to the amount you have actually paid plus your costs, if I tender it. I have said that I am certain you will waive a tender of the latter sum if Mr. Jones can establish a right to a transfer, as I am prepared to pay a sum not exceeding £12,000 for the property at any moment.—Yours truly, (Signed) C. G. JELLICOE.

1, Great Winchester-street,
London, E.C.
August 13, 1894.

Re J. JONES.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of 10th instant, we beg to say that there can be no real misunderstanding on the part of Mr. Jones's advisers as to the position we have taken up if they have read the correspondence in which the position is clearly explained.

Since the sale by auction in New Zealand in April, 1893, Mr. Jones has had no interest whatever in the Mokau property, which was conveyed by his mortgagees, acting under the direction of the Court, to our clients, and so became their absolute property, and all that has happened since then has been that our clients have, at Mr. Jones's request, on various occasions offered to resell the entire property to him on certain conditions which he has never been able to carry out, and these negociations came entirely to an end in November last, when our clients entered into an agreement for the disposal of their entire interest in a great bulk of the property to a syndicate formed by Messrs. Scrimgeour.

As matters now stand, our clients will certainly not accept any such sum as £12,000, which would not nearly cover our clients' outlay and expenses for their interest in the property and the expenses they have incurred.

If Mr. Jones or his friends are prepared to offer £30,000 cash down, or half that amount with ample security for the balance, it is not improbable that we might be able to arrange a sale of the property on these terms; but the matter cannot long remain open, as already arrangements are under consideration for surveying and lotting out the entire property for sale in New Zealand, under the direction of Mr. Travers, of Wellington, and certain parties who are acting there with him, and the completion of this arrangement is not likely to be much longer delayed.

Under this arrangement, if carried out, the whole of the surface lands will be disposed of, leaving the question as to the minerals to be dealt with later on.—We are, yours faithfully,
(Signed) FLOWER, NUSSEY, & FELLOWES.

C. G. Jellicoe, Esq., Langland Bay Hotel, near Swansea.

It will be seen that Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson's valuation of their own rights was advancing by leaps and bounds. In July, 1893, they were disposed to settle with Jones on the basis of repayment of their advances plus a bonus of £5,000 in cash, and a share of the profits of realisation. In August, 1894, they will not reconvey for anything under £30,000 in cash. The terms were virtually prohibitive. Mr. Jellicoe was not prepared to bid that amount, and the negotiation collapsed.

MR. JONES MADE BANKRUPT.

After this attempt, Mr. Jones had recourse to other measures. He placed himself in the hands of Messrs. Lewis & Lewis, and in September, 1894, he commenced a Chancery action against Messrs. Flower & Hopkinson to assert his equitable claim to the property. Then followed a very curious development, in order to understand which it is necessary to retrace the story a little.

During the twelve months succeeding his breach with Flower, Mr. Jones had to raise money as best he could, in order to meet his personal necessities, and it appears that in March, 1894, he gave to a Mr. Robert Colley a bill of exchange for £450, representing various advances and interest. He also gave to the same gentleman a few weeks later, by way, I presume, of collateral security, an equitable charge for £450 upon the Mokau property, subject to two prior charges, which were expressly stated as amounting to not more than £12,000, thus clearly pointing to Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson's claim on the estate. It may be mentioned, as further showing the perfect bona-fides of Mr. Jones' conduct in this matter, that he acted under the advice of his new solicitors, Messrs. Lewis & Lewis. Notice of this charge in favour of Mr. Colley was given to Messrs. Flower, Nussey, & Fellowes by Mr. Colley's solicitor, Mr. J. M. R. Todd. Letters then passed between Mr. Todd and Messrs. Flower, Nussey, & Fellowes. In one of them, dated May 15, 1894, Mr. Flower's firm wrote as follows :—

Mr. Jones has purported to charge in your client's favour property in which he has no interest whatever, as the property was sold by his New Zealand mortgagees to our clients under their powers of sale. . . . It seems to us that *it now merely remains for your client to consider whether or not it is worth his while to prosecute Mr. Jones for obtaining money under false pretences.*

An amiable suggestion this! True, on the view which the firm had already put forward, that Jones had ceased to have any interest, legal or equitable, in the property, Jones had nothing on which he could give a charge. But no one knew better than Mr. Flower's firm that Jones did not accept that view, and as lawyers they must have known that it was a view open to question. Knowing that, however, they charge Mr. Jones behind his back with a criminal intention, and gratuitously suggest to a third party the desirability of prosecuting him.

This disinterested attempt of Messrs. Flower & Co. to instigate a criminal prosecution against Mr. Jones did not succeed; and Mr. Colley's claims were still outstanding (the bill having been dishonoured) at the time when Mr. Jones, as already mentioned, commenced his Chancery action against Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson. By an unexplained coincidence, within a few days of the issue of the writ in that action, Mr. Colley presented a bankruptcy petition on the dishonoured bill, and very shortly afterwards the unfortunate Jones was adjudicated bankrupt. About the time of the commencement of the bankruptcy proceedings, or very shortly after, the defendants in the Chancery application applied for and obtained an order for security for costs, or, in default of that, a stay of proceedings. In Jones' position, the effect of this was, of course, to put a stop for the time to the Chancery action, and to all further attempts on Jones' part to assert his claims against Flower and Hopkinson. He did not obtain his discharge until November, 1895, but the order for his discharge was then made with the assent of the whole of the London creditors, and without conditions.

MR. JONES IN CHANCERY.

In the meantime, Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson were making every effort to realise the Mokau property, with the result that it was once more announced for sale in New Zealand on July 17, 1895. Mr. Jones, on his side, had found a friend in Mr. G. T. Bean, a gentleman who had known him in the colonies, and who had advised and consulted with him on previous occasions in regard to the Mokau estate. On July 9, 1895, Mr. Bean purchased from the Official

Receiver in Bankruptcy for the sum of £50 all Jones' rights against Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson. An action was then commenced in the Chancery Division by Mr. Bean against Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson, and immediately after the issue of the writ a motion was made for an injunction to stop the sale. On the other side an application was made to dismiss the action as frivolous and vexatious. These two motions were disposed of in the Court of Appeal on July 15, 1895, when the Court refused to stay the action as frivolous and vexatious, but also refused to grant the injunction. The view of the case taken by the Court at this stage, though not a final judgment in the action, and only based, apparently, upon a very cursory examination of the facts, is of considerable importance, for it seems to bear out entirely Mr. Jones' view of his own rights, and it negatives in the most direct and emphatic manner the contention put forward by Mr. Flower and his firm, that all Jones' rights and interest in the property had absolutely ceased when the purchase was completed. The judgment was delivered by the present Master of the Rolls, then Lord Justice Lindley, who summed up the legal position thus:—

> Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson, under some arrangement between them, seem to have bought it (the property) for something like £10,000, and the property has been conveyed to them, or one of them. The legal estate is in them, or one of them. The plaintiff talks about their having this [? his] property. What are the plaintiff's rights? His rights are simply that he has an equitable interest in the estate, subject to the payment to the defendants of what is due to them for their large outlays. Those are his rights, and nothing more, and nothing less.

That seems to put the rights of the parties clearly enough. As I understand it, Flower and Hopkinson are held to be virtually in the position of mortgagees, holding the legal estate subject to Jones' equity of redemption on paying what is due to them for their advances.

In spite of the refusal of an injunction to stop the sale, the Mokau property never was sold on July 17, 1895. This was probably due to an advertisement published by Jones in the local newspapers, warning all whom it might concern that an action was proceeding between him and Messrs. Flower & Hopkinson, and that purchasers from them would buy at their own risk. The notice had the desired effect of preventing any one from bidding at the sale. I may remark here that the New Zealand Act which settled Jones' title appears to make his consent necessary to the registration of any subsequent title to the property. This is a strong point in Mr. Jones' position, and probably goes far to explain the fact that down to the present day the estate never has been disposed of, in spite of all the efforts made by Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson and their agents in the colony.

To return to Mr. Bean's Chancery action, which, of course, had not been finally terminated by the abortive application for an injunction in July. After the Long Vacation of 1895 the case seems to have dragged on in the usual course of such cases, voluminous pleadings being delivered, the plaintiff claiming the right to redeem the property, and the defendants, notwithstanding the interlocutory judgment of the Court of Appeal in July, boldly denying once more that Jones had any right or interest whatever in the property. By the end of the year the case was ready to be set down for trial, when the defendants suddenly executed a very striking change of front. After discovery of documents had been obtained, an intimation was given to Messrs. Lewis & Lewis, that the defendants had no desire to retain the property, and were willing to give it up on payment of their advances and charges. In other words, they absolutely abandoned the position taken up in Flower & Co.'s letter to Jones of June 5, 1893, and maintained in the letter to Jellicoe in August, 1894, as well as in their suggestion that Jones had committed a criminal offence in giving a further charge on his interest in the property, and generally throughout their proceedings down to the delivery of the pleadings in the Chancery action. This change of attitude left nothing in issue but the amount due from Jones. An agreement on every point was arrived at between Messrs. Lewis & Lewis and Messrs. Flower & Co., except as to the amount of the bonus to be paid, and this point was referred to the counsel who had been instructed on each side. Eventually the total amount due to Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson was settled at £14,500, and the terms were embodied by consent in an order of Court, under which Jones was declared to be entitled to a re-conveyance of the estate to him on payment of the £14,500, £5,000 to be paid on June 16, 1896, and the balance of £9,500 in January, 1897.

For the moment this made things look very much better for Mr. Jones. It is true that the amount found due from him seems somewhat excessive, especially in view of the fact that the defendants now admitted that they had taken up an unjustifiable attitude towards Jones, and that, consequently, it was primarily their fault that the advance had been outstanding so long. Mr. Jones contends that the lawyers, in assessing the amount, charged against him an item of upwards of £3,000 expended by the defendants in surveying and lotting out the property for sale; and as this expenditure seems to have been incurred after the refusal of Jellicoe's offer of £12,000 in August, 1894, it would not appear to be justly chargeable to Mr. Jones. However, though the result might not be everything that could be desired, it yet opened to Mr. Jones a way out of his troubles.

An Order of Foreclosure.

A means of providing the money required for redemption under the Chancery order at once presented itself. Mr. Bean, the nominal plaintiff in the Chancery action, was the Chairman of a company called the West Australian Mining Company. In that capacity he had already introduced the Mokau property to the notice of his Board. The company's solicitor, Mr. Williams, had reported favourably upon it, and before the compromise of the Chancery action the Board had actually passed a resolution to purchase the property, provided that Mr. Jones could give a good title. Accordingly, after the amount required to free the property had been fixed by the order in the Chancery action, it was settled that this amount would be found by the West Australian Mining Company.

Then followed another of the many remarkable incidents in this remarkable case. Some time in 1896, before the date fixed for the payment of the first instalment, Mr. C. C. Hopkinson communicated to Mr. Williams, solicitor to the West Australian Mining Company, who had referred to him on the subject, a report of a most damaging character upon the Mokau property. This report was one prepared by a gentleman named Wales, and it figures conspicuously at later stages of this case. For the present I will only say that this report is now admitted, even by Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson themselves, to have been an utterly untrustworthy and misleading one. That one of the vendors of the property should have communicated such a report to intending purchasers is certainly curious, and points either to an affectionate regard on Mr. Hopkinson's part for the interests of the West Australian Mining Company, or to a generally philanthropic disposition not usually met with in business transactions. The result of the communication was what might have been expected. Mr. Williams promptly advised the Board of the West Australian Mining Company that in the face of this report he must withdraw his recommendation of the Mokau property, the resolution of the Board was dropped, the £5,000 was not forthcoming by June 16, and Mr. Jones was prevented from complying with the terms of the award in Chancery. After the time had elapsed for the payment of the first instalment of £5,000, application was made to the Court by Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson for an order of foreclosure, which was obtained on June 23, 1896. The order was subsequently published in the New Zealand papers, and the door was once more shut against poor Mr. Jones.

Before leaving the foreclosure, it will be convenient to state the history of Mr. Wales' report, which played such an important part in bringing about this unexpected catastrophe. In the autumn of 1893, soon after Jones

had quarrelled with Flower & Nussey, a syndicate seems to have been formed under the auspices of Mr. Flower for the purpose of acquiring the Mokau property, on which it obtained an option for one year. The syndicate is referred to in the case as "the Scrimgeour Syndicate," from the fact that a Stock Exchange firm of that name took a part in it. It may be mentioned that negotiations with Messrs. Scrimgeour were originally opened by Mr. Jones himself. There were seven members of the syndicate, one of them being Mr. Wickham Flower. It was this syndicate which sent out Mr. Wales to report. He went out in November, 1893, and returned in May, 1894. His report, which will be referred to more in detail later on, was entirely unfavourable, the coal in particular being condemned. The Scrimgeour Syndicate naturally did nothing more, and no more is heard of the report until it reappears in the hands of Mr. Hopkinson in 1896, just in time to defeat the proposed offer of the West Australian Mining Company. In considering the part which this report plays in the case, it is not immaterial to note that although Wales came back with his report in May, 1894, and although this report has at least twice been used by Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson for the purpose of showing that the property was comparatively worthless, yet three months after Wales' return, namely, in August, 1894, Messrs. Flower & Co. flatly refused Mr. Jellicoe's offer of £12,000, and replied that they would not re-convey to Jones for anything under £30,000. It would appear that Mr. Wales was only on the property for something under ten days, an obviously inadequate period for ascertaining the value of an estate of 50,000 acres, the wealth of which lies chiefly in minerals; and the fee paid to him was certainly modest in comparison with what highly-skilled experts are accustomed to demand for such work.

Mr. Jones Tries the Incorporated Law Society.

The Chancery order in his favour having been thus frustrated, Mr. Jones next tried a remedy in a new direction. He is fortunate in the possession of several influential friends, and from one of these he obtained an introduction to the Attorney-General, Sir Richard Webster, with whom he had interviews in October, 1896. Sir Richard Webster seems to have taken an interest in the case, and had all the papers before him. The result was that he advised Jones to lay the papers before the Incorporated Law Society, with an affidavit in support of them, and it would appear that he subsequently communicated to the Society a written intimation of his opinion that the case was one calling for inquiry.

At an earlier stage of the case Mr. Jones had made an application to the Incorporated Law Society, but had been met with the reply that as litigation was pending, the Society could not move in the matter. He now acted at once on Sir Richard Webster's advice, and the papers were laid before the Incorporated Law Society (November, 1896). In January of 1897 they were returned with an intimation that the Law Society did not consider the case one in which an inquiry by them was called for. From this it will be seen that no formal inquiry into the facts was undertaken by the Law Society. As this is a matter on which I shall have to comment in detail hereafter, I will only remark upon it here that the opinion thus formed, *primâ facie*, by the officers of the Law Society was obviously opposed diametrically to the opinion formed, *primâ facie*, by the Attorney-General.

Mr. Jones at the Old Bailey.

It may be that the failure of his application to the Law Society rendered Mr. Jones desperate. No one could be surprised if it were so. From what I have myself seen of him, I conclude that Mr. Jones is by nature a man of somewhat excitable temperament, and he had gone through during four years in London enough to exhaust the patience of the most self-possessed mortal. At any rate, shortly after the Law Society incident, he committed the only serious mistake which can, I think, be imputed to him in the whole course of his long and desperate fight. He penned in March, 1897, a violent and uncompromising attack on Mr. Flower, Mr. Fellowes, and Mr. Hopkinson, and had two or three copies of it made, one of which he imprudently communicated to a third party, who, in his turn, kindly communicated it to Mr. Hopkinson. It was a reckless libel, for it made unequivocal charges of fraud and conspiracy which Mr. Jones had no means of proving; and it was as foolish as it was reckless, for it put for the time a man who had hitherto had right on his side hopelessly in the wrong. The parties attacked were not slow to seize the advantage thus given them. Mr. Jones was at once brought before a magistrate, and committed for trial on charges of criminal libel.

The story of the trial at the Old Bailey, which followed, is soon told. After having been adjourned from the April Sessions, the case was to have come on in May before Mr. Justice Grantham. The prosecution at first assented to a further adjournment for the convenience of Mr. Carson, Q.C., who was leading for the defence, but the consent was subsequently withdrawn, with the double result that Mr. Carson had to hand his brief, at very short notice to Mr. Darling, Q.C.—now Mr. Justice Darling—and that the case came before the Common Serjeant. This learned Judge seems to have taken anything but an unfavourable view of the conduct of Mr. Jones' first solicitors, and he certainly was not unduly impressed with the wrongs of Mr. Jones himself. The trial extended over four days. For the defence a justification was pleaded. The general line taken by the prosecution was that Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson had never desired more than to recoup themselves for their outlay, risk, and services; that they had never been able to obtain this; and that the property was not worth anything like the value put upon it by Mr. Jones. In support of this case the prosecutors and various other gentlemen connected with the transactions went into the box, and Mr. Wales himself was called in support of his report, his evidence being to the effect that the coal was valueless either for steam or house purposes; that the workings were liable to be flooded by the river; and that, so far as Mr. Wales had seen, there was no "magnetic sand"—a deposit carrying large quantities of iron. Mr. Jones gave evidence in his defence at considerable length. He was then cross-examined by Sir Edward Clarke, who very speedily induced him to withdraw some of the most reckless expressions in the libel, such as that the prosecutors were capable of committing any fraud and swearing any false oath. As the cross-examination proceeded, Mr. Jones was also induced to withdraw an allegation which had been put on the plea, but does not appear in the libel, that the prosecutors had conspired with Messrs. Scrimgeour to obtain a false report as to the value of the property. Thereupon Mr. Darling was obliged to admit that in the face of these withdrawals, it being necessary for the purpose of an acquittal to justify the whole of the libel, he could not carry the case further. The Judge then told the jury that, as the defendant had to prove the whole of his justification, it was for them to say whether they wished, after the withdrawals, to hear any more evidence. The jury on their side showed some hesitation, remarking that the withdrawal of the charges had taken them by surprise, and that they would like to recommend the prisoner to mercy; to which the Judge replied that any recommendation they made could be dealt with after the verdict. A verdict of guilty was then returned, accompanied by a strong and unanimous recommendation to mercy, and the Common Serjeant discharged Mr. Jones upon his own recognisances to come up for judgment when called upon.

Seeing that Mr. Jones had been compelled to withdraw the more reckless of his expressions after only a few minutes' cross-examination, it is obvious that the charges which he had formulated were unjustifiable from the first, and that a conviction was inevitable. At the same time, the fact that in the face of the seriousness of the libel, and the complete failure of the defence, the verdict was accompanied by a unanimous recommendation to mercy, is a clear proof that the jury to a man sympathised with Mr. Jones, though obliged to find that he had said more than he could prove. The only ground, indeed, which I can see for a recommendation to mercy in such a case is that the defendant had acted under strong provocation.

While, therefore, the result of this trial is to show that the prosecutors certainly could not be charged with fraud and conspiracy, it certainly does not show that the jury thought that Mr. Jones had no ground for complaining of the way he had been treated by these gentlemen—rather the reverse.

There is only one other point to be noted in connection with the case. In cross-examination Mr. Flower declared that he was then ready to take for the property whatever he and Mr. Hopkinson were out of pocket over the business, and that he would be "very glad to get it." He estimated the amount which they were out of pocket at £17,000 or £18,000. Considering that in the previous year the amount due to him and Mr. Hopkinson had been fixed, by a consent order in Chancery, at £14,500, it would be interesting to know how the amount had risen to £17,000 or £18,000 in another twelve months; and equally interesting would it be to know why, if Mr. Flower only wanted £17,000 or £18,000 in May, 1897, he had mentioned £30,000 as the lowest offer that would be entertained in August, 1894—after he had received Wales' report. He was pressed in the witness-box as to the time within which he would accept the amount he had named, and replied that he would take it within a week or a month, or a reasonable time, but would not give six months.

The Mokau Property to-day.

The libel trial is the last incident of note in Mr. Jones' history down to the present day. Shortly after it was over, the unfortunate gentleman had a serious and protracted illness, which incapacitated him for further action for some months; and on his recovery his next step was to obtain an introduction to me, through certain influential people who had known him in Australia, in the hope that the full publication of the facts may yet assist his cause. What delay has taken place since then is simply due to the time which it has taken me to get to the bottom of this long and complicated series of transactions.

So much for the history of Mr. Jones' adventures. It only remains to deal with one other matter of fact, namely, the actual value of the Mokau property—the only point on which a doubt may possibly have arisen in the mind of the reader in perusing the foregoing narrative. It appears that during the last few months Messrs. Hopkinson and Flower have been negotiating in more than one direction for the realisation of the estate. To one party with whom he was in correspondence Mr. Hopkinson gave, on April 7 last, the following particulars of the property:—

1. 55,000 acres or thereabouts lying between the Mokau and Mohakatino Rivers in the Province of Taranaki, North Island, about forty miles from Port of New Plymouth, New Zealand.

2. 30,000 acres or thereabouts of coal; a brown, rather soft coal, good for household but not for steam purposes. Possible that lower levels will show hard coal.

3. Our Wellington agent thinks highly of the limestone. Not sufficiently expert to say whether it is hydraulic. Have let a few acres to people commencing lime-burning.

4. Am not aware whether there is iron ore, but understand that there is any amount of magnetic sand on seashore belonging to us.

5. Abundance of timber, but cannot say whether it is valuable for sale, but it is suitable for local purposes.

6. Coal lies principally along banks of Mokau. That worked on opposite bank is taken down the river.

7. Land held under leases for about forty years from natives, confirmed by New Zealand Government.

This estimate would be sufficient in itself to dispose of the expert's report on which Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson relied to prove the worthlessness of the property at the Old Bailey trial twelve months ago. Every material statement in that report is here repudiated by Mr. Hopkinson; and not only does he contradict his own expert as to the value of the coal and the presence of magnetic sand, but he adds that there is valuable limestone and abundance of timber. Mr. Hopkinson may fairly be asked what fresh advice he has received which has caused him to change his opinion so completely since the trial in 1897. I cannot find that any fresh survey or valuation of the Mokau property has been made by any expert in the interval. On what ground, then, does Mr. Hopkinson repudiate to-day the evidence of Mr. Wales, which he offered to the Court on the prosecution of Mr. Jones? Again, in a recent interview with the vendors, another intending purchaser was informed that the evidence given at the Old Bailey trial was incorrect, and had been made without a sufficient examination. Further, in the course of negotiations which have been in progress within the last few weeks, Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson have been treating on the basis of a sale for £25,000 in cash, plus one-fifth of the share capital of any companies formed to work the property. I do not impute to Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson that they are now misrepresenting the value of the property, but I ask them both, assuming that they believed the evidence which they used at the Old Bailey against Jones, what causes them to disbelieve it now?

All accessible evidence goes to show that the property is of immense value. The Government surveys estimate the area of coal at 30,000 acres, with over 35,000 tons to the acre. The outcrop of the seams is visible in the river banks, from which the coal can be worked by adits, and discharged directly on to the decks of vessels lying in the stream, thus avoiding sinking, winding, and pumping; and the coal can be put on the markets of Wellington, Auckland, and other neighbouring towns within twenty-four hours. From this it will be seen that Mr. Jones did not over-estimate the value of his property when in 1890 he refused an offer of £160,000 for the coal alone; and in further confirmation of this I may add that in August, 1894, he obtained an offer for working the coal on a royalty basis, with the right of future purchase at £180,000. In addition to this coal there is a vast quantity of limestone, deposits of magnetic sand of almost unlimited extent, and a large area of timber. It will be seen that Mr. Hopkinson states that a few acres of limestone have been let. The lessees are working on a royalty of eightpence per yard. The limestone in question lies in cliffs many hundred feet high, and on the basis of the above royalty the capital value of the limestone alone must work out at a very high figure. Further, apart altogether from the minerals, the surface value of the land is considerable. Let the reader who knows anything of such matters calculate for himself the figure at which the capital value of a property such as this would be put, even by a modest and conscientious company promoter, and he will be able to estimate the probable profits of Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson should they succeed in disposing of the estate for £25,000 in cash, and one-fifth of the share capital of every company to be hereafter floated out of the property.

The Merits of the Case.

Such being the value of the Mokau property, what is to be thought of the series of transactions by which this property passed into and has remained in the possession of Messrs. Hopkinson and Flower? This is a matter upon which every reader can form an opinion for himself, but there are certain aspects of the case on which I think it a duty to express my own judgment. In doing so I would draw a clear distinction between the position of Mr. Hopkinson and that of Mr. Flower. Mr. Hopkinson is a financier advancing money in the ordinary course of business; and he is entitled in the ordinary course of business to make the best bargain he can for himself. If a gentleman in this line of business by advancing four or five thousand pounds at a critical moment can obtain a substantial share in a property worth fifty or a hundred times that amount, he is within his legal rights, and is doing no more than men do every day, whatever prejudice there may be in some quarters against this method of acquiring wealth. It has been pointed out in the course of the foregoing narrative that, in the earlier stages of their dealings with Mr. Jones, Mr. Hopkinson seems to have been disposed to offer more favourable terms than Mr. Flower, his partner in the transaction. There is, however, one incident in the case which has an unfortunate appearance so far as Mr. Hopkinson is concerned, and that is the use made of Wales' report in 1896 to frustrate the proposed advance by the West Australian Mining Company

and thereby to prevent the estate being redeemed from Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson within the time allowed by the Chancery order. It has already been pointed out that, three months after Wales' report had been delivered, Messrs. Flower & Co., on behalf of Mr. Wickham Flower and Mr. Hopkinson, rejected an offer of £12,000 for the property, and declined to entertain anything less than an offer of £30,000. In the witness-box at the Old Bailey, Mr. Hopkinson denied any knowledge of this offer of £12,000, but it can hardly be supposed that Flower & Co. would have named £30,000 as the lowest price that would be accepted, without having some knowledge of Mr. Hopkinson's views on that point; nor is it credible that if Mr. Flower, or his firm, had at this time good reasons for believing Wales' report to be erroneous, those reasons would not have been communicated to Mr. Hopkinson. Under these circumstances, the communication of Wales' report to the West Australian Mining Company is certainly an incident calling for explanation on Mr. Hopkinson's part.

The position, however, of the firm of solicitors to whom Mr. Jones entrusted his interests when he came to London is a totally different one from Mr. Hopkinson's; and the way in which the solicitors have acted in this case raises questions of great public importance, quite apart from the personal interest of Mr. Jones in the matter. The public importance of the case is only enhanced by the fact that the papers have been laid before the Incorporated Law Society, and that the Law Society have decided that it is not a case even calling for investigation by them. It is of the very utmost consequence to all who may place themselves in the hands of solicitors for the purpose of raising money that the full effect and significance of this decision of the Law Society should be made known. It has hitherto been understood by the public that a solicitor is bound to consider the interests of his client before all others. His remuneration for his services is regulated by a fixed scale, and, beyond the remuneration so fixed, he can have no right whatever to payment. If he even incurs unnecessary costs for his own benefit at his client's expense, the client can have the bill taxed down by the prescribed authority. That a solicitor should indirectly make, or seek to make, profits for himself out of his client's estate, or that he should place himself in a position where his interest is directly antagonistic to that of his client, is irreconcilable with the first principles that should govern the relations of the two. The relation is a fiduciary one, and the man who stands in a fiduciary relation to another should be precluded from accepting any interest, whether for himself or a third party, which may by any possibility conflict with his fiduciary duty.

That is the ordinarily accepted view of the relation of solicitor and client. Is it or is it not the legal view? I ask, because not only is the conduct of Messrs. Flower & Co. at variance with that view, but Mr. Wickham Flower himself has openly and expressly repudiated it. Take the acts of the firm first. They originally came upon the scene as Mr. Jones' solicitors. In that capacity, they undertook to act for him, on terms reduced to writing, in realising his estate by promoting a company or otherwise. They clearly occupied the position of his solicitors at the time of the purchase of the property and for some months afterwards. Their own letters and their bill of costs against Mr. Jones leave no doubt whatever on this point. Mr. Wickham Flower, the senior partner in the firm, purchases the client's estate in his own name, for the avowed purpose of "protecting it," which, on the principles laid down above, could only mean protecting his client's interest in it. His firm state in writing that arrangements are to be made for adequately securing all their client's interests—the plain duty of the firm. Yet within a few days of the sale what do we find? In the name of Mr. Flower, his solicitor, and Mr. Hopkinson, Flower's partner in the transaction, Mr. Jones is called upon by his own solicitors to redeem his estate within two months by payment of a bonus double what Flower & Co. had previously agreed to accept as remuneration, and failing such redemption, he is to be allowed to retain nothing more than an interest of one-third in any profits which Flower and Hopkinson may make out of his property. In other words, Mr. Flower has suddenly taken up a position totally adverse to that of his client, and is actually dictating terms to that client on behalf of himself and a third party. This attitude is presently accentuated. On the eve of completing the purchase, Mr. Flower, through his firm, informs his client that, the property not having been redeemed within the time which has been allowed him for the purpose, the purchasers will, on completion, recognise no further right whatever on Jones' part in the property, although they will ("without prejudice") make him a present of some share undefined in the profits, as an act of grace or charity. Are we to take it that, in the opinion of the Incorporated Law Society, this attitude is consistent with the professional duty of a solicitor towards a client who has come to him for assistance in raising money?

Again, look at the position a few weeks later in the story. The purchase has been completed by Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson, and these gentlemen are considering between themselves the amount of the charitable donation which they shall make to Mr. Jones, as promised in Flower & Co.'s letter of June 5. Mr. Hopkinson thinks that it would be only fair to allow Jones two-thirds of any profits that are made out of the estate after satisfying their own claims for advances, interest, costs, and bonus. What says Mr. Flower to this? He deprecates any such excessive generosity. He reminds his partner in the transaction that they have between them rescued Jones from his mortgagees (that being, in point of fact, the very purpose for which Jones had placed himself in the hands of a solicitor), and contends that Jones ought to think himself uncommonly lucky if he is allowed to retain one-third of the profits arising out of this salvage operation. Alike by their bill of costs and their communications with third parties, Mr. Flower's firm are shown to have regarded Jones as their client at the time when this letter to Mr. Hopkinson was written (July 10). Are we to take it that, in the opinion of the Incorporated Law Society, this letter of Flower to Hopkinson is fully consistent with the duty of a solicitor towards his firm's client?

Let it be clearly understood that this is no academic question which I am raising. Mr. Wickham Flower, as already stated, has expressly admitted that he occupied during these negotiations a position adverse to that of his client, and apparently he considers that he was entitled to do so. His account of the matter is that he had "two capacities," and the inference is that he was entitled to have these two capacities. The question arose at the Old Bailey trial of last year, in cross-examination upon some of the correspondence which passed between Mr. Flower and Mr. Hopkinson in 1893, immediately after the sale. Mr. Darling asks Mr. Flower whether, as Jones' solicitor, he sent Jones a copy of Hopkinson's letter of April 15. The evidence proceeds thus:—

> Mr. Flower: I do not suppose so. I do not think it is likely.
>
> Mr. Darling: You were his solicitor.
>
> Sir Edward Clarke: Not in that matter.
>
> Mr. Darling: Were you or not Mr. Jones' solicitor at that time?
>
> Mr. Flower: Not at that time.
>
> Sir Edward Clarke: Surely my friend is wrong. You were his solicitor in one sense, but not in respect of the purchase, and it is inconceivable why he should send a copy of Mr. Hopkinson's letter to Mr. Jones.

This is a characteristic interruption. Sir Edward Clarke does not quite like Mr. Flower's answer that he was not Jones' solicitor at that time (April 16). He interposes with the remark, "Surely my friend is wrong," meaning that his client is wrong; and then he suggests to the witness that he was Jones's solicitor "in one sense," but not in another. Note how Mr. Flower at once adopts this suggestion:—

> Mr. Darling: You were his solicitor at that time?
>
> Mr. Flower: I did not receive that letter as his solicitor. It was written to me in another capacity altogether, obviously.

So Mr. Flower, in his dealings with Jones and Hopkinson has two capacities—"obviously." A little further on the

idea is elaborated even more frankly. Mr. Darling again asks whether Mr. Flower ought not to have sent the same letter to his "client":—

Mr. Flower: It was certainly not written to me in my capacity as Mr. Jones' solicitor at that time.

Mr. Darling: Am I to understand you had then two capacities?

A.: Certainly.

Q.: And in the one, as Mr. Jones' solicitor, you would take the greatest care of Mr. Jones' interests?

A.: Yes.

Q.: And in another, in which you were not Mr. Jones' solicitor, you were entitled to view the matter in a light absolutely against his interest?

A.: Certainly.

Q.: Can you refer me to any authority which entitles a solicitor to act in these two capacities?

Sir Edward Clarke: My lord, I object.

The Common Serjeant: I think you cannot ask that question. How is it relevant to the inquiry upon the plea? That is a question of law.

Mr. Darling: I thought as a lawyer he might be so indulgent as to answer it.

Mr. Darling might not be entitled to ask the question at the Old Bailey, but I think I am entitled to ask it here, and I think that any member of the public is entitled to ask it. Mr. Flower may say that in his capacity of Mr. Jones' solicitor he would take the best care of Mr. Jones' interests; but it is perfectly clear upon the facts that the other interests which he considered himself equally entitled to take care of (including Mr. Wickham Flower's), prevailed over the interests of Mr. Jones; and there is abundant room for doubt whether they would so have prevailed had not Mr. Flower accepted those divided and conflicting duties. It should be remembered in this connection that, when Mr. Jones was in the hands of another firm, who only acted in the one capacity of his solicitors, all difficulty about adjusting the conflicting interests very quickly disappeared; Mr. Flower consented, under the gentle pressure of a Chancery action, to withdraw everything but the claim for advances, costs, and bonus; and the proposal to appropriate two-thirds of Mr. Jones' interest in the estate over and above these costs and charges, disappeared altogether. This shows very forcibly the advantage of having a solicitor who only acts in one capacity. On the face of it this contention of Mr. Flower's strikes at the very root of the relation of solicitor and client. I should have scouted it as preposterous, but for the fact that it passed without notice or repudiation from the Bench, and that the Common Serjeant never indicated, from beginning to end, the slightest disapproval of the conduct of Mr. Flower or his firm. In view of this startling state of things, I ask again the question which Sir Edward Clarke objected to when put by Mr. Darling: What authority is there for Mr. Flower's contention that a solicitor is entitled to act in two capacities, one favourable to his client and one adverse? I ask the Incorporated Law Society whether they endorse that proposition; and whether they approve of the conduct of Mr. Flower in his two capacities in this instance, having regard to the admitted fact that the interest adverse to his client which he assumed was in a great measure his own personal interest; and that the result of the conflict of interests has been that Mr. Jones was reduced to bankruptcy, while his property remained in the hands of his solicitor and a third party.

Let us look at one other point in the case. The formal relation of solicitor and client terminates, as has already been pointed out, some time in August, 1893. We next find Flower & Co. suggesting to a third party in May, 1894, that Jones should be prosecuted for having given a charge upon his interest in the property. It is true that they contended at the time that all Jones' interest in the property had ceased and determined. But a firm of solicitors must know well enough that this was a very questionable contention, and, as a matter of fact, after having raised this contention on the pleadings in the Chancery action, Mr. Flower decided not to go into Court to uphold it, but abandoned all claim to the estate on condition of being paid his advances and charges. Bearing all this in mind, can any justification or excuse be pleaded for the action of Flower, Nussey, & Fellowes in suggesting to Mr. Colley's solicitor that he should prosecute Jones for giving a charge on his equity of redemption? I should like to know whether the Incorporated Law Society hold that this act was a proper and becoming one on the part of any firm of professional gentlemen, under all the circumstances of the case, and especially in view of the fact that the alleged criminal was a former client of their own whose property had passed into the hands of one of the partners in the firm.

Finally, I would ask, does not the very conduct of these gentlemen show a consciousness that Mr. Flower has gone beyond his professional and equitable rights in his dealings with Mr. Jones? Is it not obvious that their attitude has varied at different periods? Have they not themselves virtually admitted that the pretensions which they advanced immediately after the sale in 1893, and which first placed Mr. Flower in antagonism to his client, are untenable pretensions? Look first at the draft terms submitted to Jones after the purchase, and then at the letter of June 5, 1893, informing Jones that after the completion of the purchase Flower and Hopkinson will consider all his interest in the estate at an end, and that anything further allowed him must be looked upon as a gratuitous concession. Note the same attitude in the suggestion that Jones has committed a fraud in giving a further charge upon his interest, and again in the letter to Jellicoe a few months later. With all this compare the surprising change of front when the Chancery action is ready for trial, and Flower and Hopkinson suddenly declare their readiness to give up the estate subject to a friendly agreement as to what sum is due to them from Jones. How can this be explained, if Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson believed themselves entitled to all that they had previously asked for, even down to the time when they delivered their defence in the Chancery action? Or look again at the declaration of Mr. Flower in the witness-box at the Old Bailey, that all that he and Hopkinson wanted to get was their "expenses out of pocket." Extravagant as was his estimate then of these out-of-pocket expenses, it obviously falls far short of what had been asked for in 1893 and 1894, and in the Chancery pleadings of 1895, and even of what Mr. Flower agreed to accept in the final order in the Chancery action. How can anybody, in the face of the documents, credit that all that Mr. Flower was trying to get in the three months succeeding the purchase was his "expenses out of pocket?" or who can doubt that had his original demands been limited to this, the estate would very speedily have been re-conveyed to Mr. Jones? It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that, although these gentlemen have, in correspondence and private negotiations, and even in the pleadings in a law suit, claimed the absolute and unlimited ownership of the property, and have denied that Mr. Jones retains any right or interest in it, legal or equitable, yet they have receded from that position when there has been a question of maintaining it in a Court of Justice. If that is so, then the contention that they have never desired to obtain more than their advances and a reasonable return upon them is not true, and was only put forward to disguise the fact that they have endeavoured to obtain what they would never have been allowed in a Court of Equity. At any rate, this much is certain, that if this contention is put forward on behalf of Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson to-day, then it will speedily be the duty of these gentlemen to hand over to Mr. Jones all but a small portion of the price which they have recently been asking for the Mokau property. If they have any intention of doing that, I would suggest that no time should be lost in communicating the intention to Mr. Jones and the public.

At the outset of this article I said that a great wrong has been done to Mr. Jones. To that view I adhere. The extent of the wrong is but inadequately measured by the money value of the estate which he has lost. His home has been broken up; his large family has been scattered: his daughters have had to earn their bread by

any drudgery they can find. He himself has passed through five years of incalculable anxiety and suffering, with the result that he is to-day impaired in health as well as bankrupt in fortune. Whatever the future may have in store for him, the experience of those five years must embitter and poison the rest of his life; while, unless the wrong can be redressed, he is left to end his days in hardship and penury. In the meantime, those into whose hands his property has passed—a property bestowed on him by the State, in acknowledgment of valuable services to one of the greatest Colonies of the Empire—are on the eve of realising from it a magnificent fortune. That he should have been thus beggared without contributing in any degree towards his misfortune, would be deplorable enough in any case. But that the chief instrument in bringing about his ruin should be the members of a firm of honourable professional men in the City of London, to whose guidance and control he entrusted his fortunes, seems to me a reproach to the profession to which those gentlemen belong. I publish this statement of his case in the hope that, by one means or another, that reproach may be wiped out. In 1897 the twelve Englishmen who had heard the story of Mr. Jones' misfortunes, strongly and unanimously recommended him to mercy. What I would ask for now on his behalf is not mercy but justice.

MILLIONAIRES AND MILLINERS AT ASCOT.

I asked a French journalist to tell me his general impressions of Ascot. He said he found the course very dirty. He could not understand why the ground on which the horses ran should be absolutely uncared for. It was not that there was insufficient herbage, or that the racecourse had been neglected up to the beginning of the week, but he wondered at and lamented that when once the saddling bell had sounded for the first race everything was given over to the mob, to the detriment of the horses. By the second day the whole course was littered with scraps of paper, disused baskets, bits of rag—in fact, everything that betokened picnic and stood in the way of racing. He pointed out that in France the holiday folk are looked after quite as well as they are in England, but that upon a racecourse, racing is regarded as the first consideration. If people desired to cross from one side to another, a bridge of boards or of matting is laid down; on no account are the crowds allowed to assemble to tread down the grass and turn the course into the consistency of a turnpike road. Yet at Ascot by Thursday afternoon the course was as smooth as a glass skating-rink, and that no serious accidents occurred to valuable horses was the result of luck, not management. This is, of course, merely the opinion of a Frenchman, and as such not likely at all to influence our insular magnates who manage Newmarket for horses and Ascot for dressmakers.

Having approached our visitor, who, with many confrères, had come over to see the victory of the French horse, he seemed to feel that I was henceforth to be his expositor, to show him the ropes, and explain the "whys and wherefores" of a Royal meeting.

I am not a vain man. I do not swagger about our colonial possessions, nor do I boast of our Navy, or believe that one Englishman can thrash twenty foreigners. But still I must admit a feeling of pride, a conscious, high-souled patriotic sentiment, when I was able to point out to an inquisitive Frenchman the glories of a Royal Procession. As the thin, red line broadened itself into a row of landaus adorned with scarlet and purple-coated postilions; as some of the spectators discontinued their luncheons; as the servants seized the opportunity and helped themselves to their masters' champagne; as others picked pockets and stole scarf pins; as many raised their hats and most shouted "Hooray," my heart beat fast for love of country, and I said, as calmly as I could, "Voilà le Prince de Galles!" "Ah oui," replied my friend, as unconcernedly as though they had all these things abroad; "mais où est le Lord Maire?" It was a shock; but with, I venture to think, commendable self-possession, I evaded the question and pointed out the Master of the Buckhounds, whose green livery distinguished him from the grooms and outriders.

But my difficulties were only commencing. To explain to a foreigner the *raison d'être* of a Master of the Buckhounds was beyond me. For years I myself have been wondering what he was used for, and now I was forced from honest patriotism to find some solid excuse for his existence. I did not like to give away our national secret about hunting tame deer; my French friend might be a rabid humanitarian, and write a sneering letter on the subject to *L'Etoile* when he returned to Paris. Nor dared I admit that Lord Coventry received every year a considerable income from the British public merely for riding in front of the Prince's carriages at Ascot racecourse. It was a dilemma, and I sought deliverance by referring to the Royal Enclosure. My ignorant friend, hailing from a Republican country, had some difficulty in appreciating the state of affairs. "Why not," said he, "employ policemen to keep undesirable people away from that hallowed enclosure? It was not nice work for a Milord." And with my heart sinking in my bosom as I surveyed the heterogeneous crowd within the rails, I had to admit the paradoxical position. It is the business of a Master of the Buckhounds to invite undesirable people to desirable places.

How otherwise could I account for the "off-coloured" mob who, neither of Society nor in Society, had this year successfully schemed to appear in public under Society's shadow? An enclosure such as we have at Kempton Park and Sandown, and even now at Alexandra Park, is a boon to be participated in practically by all who pay. But at Ascot the enclosure is termed "Royal," and admissions should be as sparingly granted as they are eagerly sought after. On previous occasions I have been delighted to see Society's iceberg thaw under the melting sun of the bogus millionaire. So many nobodies derive exquisite pleasure from being "within the rails," that it would be churlish to deny them the privilege. But on previous occasions I have not had to explain to a foreigner the whys and wherefores of a Royal Enclosure. For the sake of our aristocracy, of whom we Britons are so justly proud,

Major Howe & Co., Ltd.—Fashionable Boots and Shoes.—16, Coventry-st., W.; 60, Strand, W.C.; 81, Gracechurch-st.; and 13, Queen Victoria-st., London. "Note Addresses." (Repairs)

I would not reveal the fact that my Lady Clothesbasket let her cottage near the course for a thousand guineas for the week on condition that she obtained for her tenant a Royal Enclosure ticket. Nor did I tell that a certain lady dressmaker was running an unremunerative business at the expense of a wealthy stockbroker, who, instead of security for capital and interest on investments, was content with a presentation at Court for his wife and Royal Enclosure tickets as a makeweight. My French pupil would not have understood why financial journalism was honoured in the sainted circle, and the higher grades of literature left to languish outside. How could he appreciate the niceties of class which enabled impoverished scions of noble houses to bask in luxury at the expense of stockbrokers, with the concurrent admission of stockbrokers to an enclosure called "Royal"? Even Royalty's well-known partiality for the German nation seemed a little too conspicuous this year, when the teutonic Max hailed his compatriot Ludwig from one side of the place to the other, and the nasal "Na, na's" and gutteral "Hochs" of Frankfort betokened the satisfaction or otherwise as this horse or that "came in alone." I can imagine the gratification of the Master of the Buckhounds when he witnessed the success of his work. He has provided for months to come for the wants of many an extravagant lady and of many a penniless good fellow of good family. We live in a world of compensation. Some give, others take. And what is the advantage of having a cousin who is related to some one in authority, if you don't utilise the relationship, by pandering to a millionaire's vanity and giving him what he most wants—an admission to the Royal Enclosure at Ascot?

To have pointed out all the celebrities to the Sandford or Merton to whom I was playing Barlow would have confused him and distressed me. Great judges were hemmed in with great swindlers; great and good ladies jogged shoulder to shoulder with those who were neither; financiers who had found the distance between Petticoat-lane and Park-lane a short and easy road hobnobbed with eminent politicians, and all the Courts of Europe, including the Bankruptcy Court, had their representative. It was a grand and instructive assembly. From Princes of the Blood to prisoners from the Old Bailey, no class was without its delegate. It savoured of Republicanism, and spoke well for the equality which reigns on the Turf; it was the apotheosis of sporting England. But it should not have been a Royal Enclosure.

I think my friend from France enjoyed the paddock walk more than anything. Here he felt as comfortable as at Longchamps. Here the Royal Enclosure ticket-holders, abandoning for the time their pride of place, condescended to acknowledge their less favoured acquaintances. Here they saluted jockeys and asked stable-boys for tips. Here the ladies criticised each other's gowns, and generally remarked that the upper circles had given up the old-fashioned style of over-dressing at Ascot. The gowns which are ball dresses with high bodies were conspicuous by their absence, and were worn only by actresses and those who dine persistently at public restaurants. Brocade was voted bad style, and gaudy attire was out of season. But my gallant Gaul admired them all, remarking, "In England you have most beautiful women, but our French horses are better than yours." And so it proved to be.

That visitors to racecourses like betting is a fact pretty well ignored at Ascot. Even the Anti-Gambling League must approve of the difficulties in the way of would-be punters. To get from the paddock to Tattersall's ring is a feat worthy of Mr. Nansen. You must be not only a traveller with the bump of location strongly developed, but you want a smart secretary as well to sort your tickets and present them at the right gates. In France one ticket admits everywhere. At Ascot you want half a dozen and a good temper besides unless you care for a fight with insolent janitors and thirsty policemen. Still, I am told that unless the system adopted were persevered with, all sorts and conditions of robbers would gain admission without payment. Frenchmen all bet when they go racing, and the fact that he was persistently cheated by the bookmaker, who returned him his winnings and adhered to the stake, did not deter my friend from competing with the Ring.

A great boon is the new "Geisha" tea-room, but there is not sufficient accommodation for lunch. The removal of the tables from the lawn still rankles with those who used to entertain there, and the Household Brigade complain bitterly that whereas they find in their club tents half the visitors to the Royal Enclosure, Lord Coventry is terribly sparing of his tickets to the officers. A few less millionaires and a few more soldiers would be welcome and just. But it can't be helped. Soldiers we have always with us; millionaires, even those who live but short financial lives, are scarce.

SARAH BERNHARDT.

The first burst of summer has brought with it Sarah Bernhardt. The play which we witnessed on Monday evening was written especially for the great actress by M. Romain Coolus, and shows us that it is still summer with her, in spite of her terrible illness and operation, and of the heavy hand of the years. We find her, in the play, the adored mother of a son whose wife also feels for her that strange attraction she has now wielded for so many years, both on and off the stage.

Gaudrey is an adventurer, who wooes her, not only on account of her great charm, but also for the riches which she possesses. We are led to believe that despite her son's and daughter-in-law's protecting affection, Lysiane (Sarah Bernhardt) will fall a victim to the lure of Gaudrey's love, when suddenly enters Sylvain Brière. Sylvain (admirably played by M. Lucien Guitry) has loved and lost, and has passed three years travelling round the world, hoping to leave his sorrow behind in some port of forgetfulness. He is an old friend of Lysiane's family, and to him her son appeals to save his mother. Through an accident, very clearly set forth in the play, Sylvain has obtained command of some papers which enable him to force Gaudrey to leave Paris and desist from his suit. The great act of the play is the third, where, Gaudrey having departed, and the feelings of Lysiane having been worked upon by his friends, Sylvain refuses to give her an explanation, having pledged his

honour to complete silence as to the causes of Gaudrey's sudden desertion. He tells her simply that Gaudrey is not worthy of her love. But this does not satisfy the imperious Lysiane. She accuses him of wantonly interfering with her destiny, and says that she will meet Gaudrey in Vienna. Here M. Guitry as Sylvain and Madame Sarah Bernhardt are at their best. Sylvain declares that if she does so, she will never see him again. She persists, and the curtain falls on her calling, "Sylvain!" But he has already departed. In the last act we are on Sylvain's yacht. Lysiane is won over by the love of Sylvain, of her son and of her daughter-in-law, and as soon as they are alone reads aloud to the former a beautiful letter of farewell to Gaudrey. Sylvain was its inspiration and to him belongs her future.

Rather than discuss in detail the merits and disadvantages of this play by M. Romain Coolus (certainly not one of his best), it may perhaps be more profitable to ask again, and again attempt to answer, that difficult question, What is the peculiar power through which for more than a generation Sarah Bernhardt has fascinated the world? And, without stopping to discuss the point of view of the setters-up of Duse and other admirable artists, there can be no doubt that among the hundreds of thousands of men and women of all degrees of intelligence who have seen her act, for the immense majority (and that majority includes the extremes of intelligence and simplicity) Sarah Bernhardt remains a supreme revelation. That she seizes and renders with the utmost histrionic skill all the indications afforded by the author whose thought she is interpreting is a faculty which, perhaps, she shares in some degree with other great actresses. But she gives us more than that, gives more than that to all who contemplate her with sincerity and attention. What, then, does she give? I should say, at the risk of any protest, that it was the sensation which the great monuments of the other arts—painting, literature, and music—convey in their best moments: the sensation of the beyond, of the veil raised. Yes, consciously or unconsciously she raises the veil, becomes an interpretess of "things unseen;" and this independently of the amount of original thought in the lines she may be reciting. They serve her but as a spring-board to the infinite. By their means she penetrates into the recesses of human nature, and gets into harmony with the mysteries that lie beyond those visible mysteries of character and will. To have heard her give that line of Phèdre for instance (which, by the way, she will do at the matinée on Saturday, June 25) "*On ne voit pas deux fois le rivage des morts*" is for some more than a "liberal education," and would have taught Racine.

For this reason, then, I should counsel those who have the opportunity of seeing Sarah Bernhardt in any of her parts, by no means to miss making use of it. And an imperfect knowledge of French should not be allowed to act as a deterrent; for, as I have attempted to suggest in these few lines, it is not only by speech, but also by gesture, by intonation, by silence, that she is an "evidence of things unseen" as well as a bestower of supreme sensations and the mirror of the visible world.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE PRODIGAL PRINCESS.

ENDLESS stones have been thrown at the Prodigal Princess. But are there not endless extenuating circumstances to be pleaded for her? She was married at eighteen, without any experience of life. What is more, the husband they chose for her was a double first cousin. Can you conceive anything more flat than such a marriage? It kept the young wife in the same old groove. What could she do but mope? How glad we all are to enjoy a complete change of scene and society! What a delightful experience is that of a young girl who goes from home on a visit, and finds herself among utter strangers! It is so stimulating to see faces that do not remind her of those she has been always seeing, to hear new notions, new turns of speech, new ways of looking at familiar subjects, and, in short, novelty *sur toute la ligne.* The visitor appears quite a new being. In marrying a double first cousin one is condemned for the rest of one's life to the same humdrum one has passed through. As the mother in-law is an aunt, one has no good reason for hating her. There can be no healthy antagonism, no conflict of opposing prejudices, no sharply picturesque contrasts. Life becomes too material for ideas not to flag. The babies, though twenty of them come in succession, are as like as peas. The monotony of their faces would depress the fondest mother. They cannot be standing puzzles to her, for she knows too well about those whom they must take after. The chains of original sin are so riveted as to leave them no free will. Being so much alike, they break out in the same place. Those double first cousins' marriages are more dismal perhaps in Courts than in cottages. The Church of Rome gave dispensations for them; but in the interest of the race, she winked at the frailty of the wife. Anne of Austria, in spite of her affairs with Buckingham and Mazarin, was almost regarded by Mme. de Motteville as a saint. And Mme. de Motteville respected all the proprieties, and was on the best terms with her confessor.

The unfortunate Princess Philip of Saxe-Coburg can now go back to live in Belgium. Her husband has paid all the bills drawn in the name of the Archduchess Stéphanie and repudiated by her. Why did he not do so sooner? His fortune is a great one. A settlement with his wife's creditors would not have materially reduced it. The Croatian officer with whose name hers was bandied is still in durance. The French papers say he tried to commit suicide.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has been a bone of contention during the Cabinet crisis. M. Faure had learned that the head of the State in monarchical countries makes foreign affairs the peculiar object of his care. The example

WALKING, CYCLING, SHOOTING, YACHTING DRESSES, &c.—JOHN BUSVINE & CO., Tailors and Riding Habit Makers to H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, the Princess Victoria of Wales, the Duchess of Fife, the Princess Charles of Denmark, the Marchioness of Lorne, the Princess Henry of Battenberg, the Duchess of Connaught, the Duchess of Albany, the Empress of Austria, the Empress of Russia, the Empress of Germany, the Princess Henry of Prussia, the Princess Victoria of Prussia, the Infanta Eulalia of Spain, the Countess de Paris, the Duchess d'Aosta.—4, Brook-street, London, W.

was not thrown away on him. He has become attached to Hanotaux, who is a young bachelor, and may become a son-in-law. It was through Presidential patronage that Hanotaux entered the Academy. The President also wants to have young men in the foremost places during the fêtes of 1900. This is to give brilliancy to the Elysée, and a good deal to please the Empress of Russia. It is supposed that she would feel *ennuyée* if surrounded by grey beards and bald heads. When it was found that M. Ribot thought of returning to the Foreign Office as Prime Minister, spokes were put in his wheels. The papers who have been receiving secret service funds at once tackled M. Ribot about Dreyfus. They charged him with being a Dreyfusard, and with black designs on certain secret papers at the War Office. Joseph Reinach is the head of the "syndicate." Used not the eminent statesman above-named go to shoot with the late Baron von Reinach? Mme. Ribot was not a Jewess, but she was a Protestant, and that was as bad. She used to subscribe to English mission funds to evangelise Madagascar. M. Ribot is sensitive. This mode of warfare disgusted him. Being unable to obtain the support of Bourgeois and his friends without going a long way to meet them, he determined to stop short. I am very sorry. He looked thoroughly in his place at the Foreign Office. Mme. Ribot was an admirable hostess there.

The Comtesse de Montebello presented the Empress of Russia with the Chantilly scarf M. Hanotaux sent her. It was embroidered in coloured silks, three yards long, and of great beauty. But is it not a little risky for a bachelor Foreign Minister to be sending lovely presents to a young Empress?

A double or cross suit for divorce has been an interesting topic on the Boulevards. The suitors were M. Porel and Mme. Réjane, his wife. Porel is a self-made man. He knows a play that will take, from hearing it read. Nobody understands stage upholstery better. He is a little rough-and-ready, and his speech shows him to have risen from the people. As he keeps a secretary, his want of scholarship hardly matters. The wife has found him an excellent Barnum; but she thought that he took the lion's share of profits. There were also mutual jealousies and reproaches. Réjane likes handsome surroundings. M. Porel hardly saw their use. They have two children, in whom each of them is wrapped up. A number of distinguished Press friends grieved at the quarrel. They agreed to earn the peace-maker's blessing, and succeeded. The cross suits are withdrawn, and Réjane and Porel seem to have renewed their honeymoon. Porel was in love with Sarah Bernhardt before he devoted himself to the actress who is now his wife. He proposed for Sarah, who turned her back on him and wondered at his impudence. The way in which she met his proposal mortified Réjane deeply, when, not long ago, all the circumstances came to her knowledge.

Another daughter has been added to the Rothschild clan. The infant has received the name of Nathalie, after her great-grandfather, the late Baron Nathaniel de Rothschild. She will be called Nadine, as a concession to modern taste. The naming of her was left to Baroness Nathaniel. It was thought that her father, Baron Henri de Rothschild, would have preferred the name of Louise, which was that of the Frankfort great-grandmother on the maternal side. The French Rothschilds observe the old-fashioned Jewish rule of calling their children after deceased ancestors only.

The name of Louise is dear to Baroness James de Rothschild, mother of Baron Henri. It is that of her own mother, whom she passionately loved. The two great affections of her life, before her marriage, were for her mother and eldest sister, now Lady Rothschild. As she is a person of strong and warm character, she remains devoted to her sister and her mother's memory. Baroness Alphonse is said to be the best-looking of the Rothschilds, and the Baroness James the best-natured. She is one of the rare women filling a great situation who are satisfied to live out seriously their own lives. It is really a noble and a beneficent life. Her friends are well chosen, and rather for their eminent personal qualities than for position or wealth. She brought up her children to value the things of the mind, to be deferential, and to cultivate elevating tastes. Baron Henri is a doctor by profession, and a bibliophile by taste. M. Picou of the Institute advises him as to the purchases of books he ought to make. He put him a short time ago on a most valuable track. The Abbé Bossuet, collateral descendant of the famous Bishop of Meaux, had died. His library was for sale. It contained the Bishop's books, manuscripts, in his own handwriting, of his celebrated sermons, and his first editions. This treasure was at once bought. The sum paid was heavy, but it was a mere trifle compared with the conventional worth of the papers and books. Baron Henri started a review a few years ago. He took up the work of editorship with enthusiasm. He and his only sister, Baroness Leonine, were brought up by their mother in an English way.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

A CRIMINAL, dear Lady Betty, was condemned to be hanged. The chaplain of the gaol contrived to obtain a reprieve, and the sentence was commuted. "The gratitude of the man," said the clergyman, "knew no bounds. He called me his deliverer, and 'Here,' said he, as he grasped my hand, 'here is your Bible. I may as well return it to you, for I hope I shall never want it again.'"

The gratitude of the Conservatives to their Liberal Unionist allies knows no bounds; nevertheless, they are anxious to return the Liberal Unionist leaders to the Opposition. These leaders, however, refuse to separate themselves from their new allies, and this is not surprising, for they perceive that they can easily subdue them. The struggle between the superfluous and supercilious Salisbury, and the ideal commercial traveller, the "What-is-the-next-article?" politician, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, is especially entertaining.

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The courage of Americans is beyond dispute. Already in the present war the intrepid attack made by Admiral Dewey upon the Spanish fleet, and the sinking of the *Merrimac* at the mouth of the harbour of Santiago, have excited general admiration. But the progress of the war, so far, has betrayed the amazing weakness of the United States as regards organisation, naval and military administration, and fighting power. When Mme. de Staël was

asked whether she believed in ghosts, she replied, "No, I do not; but I am afraid of them." The Great Powers no longer "believe" in the United States, but they are nevertheless afraid of them. It is obvious that it is only a matter of time for America to become an enormously strong naval and even military Power, and the experiences of the present war must inevitably hasten the development in these directions.

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Mr. William Haggard, the British Minister at Caracas, has rendered an important service to this country by the exercise of courage and determination at a critical moment. Some weeks ago the Royal Mail steamer called at La Guayra, and, on her arrival, the British Consul boarded the vessel to receive the mail-bag of the Legation. A Custom House official, however, seized the bag, which was conveyed to the Post Office, where the Foreign Office seals were broken and the contents were inspected. The moment that Mr. Haggard was informed of this outrageous proceeding he applied to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and demanded the immediate delivery of the mail-bag and the dismissal of the Postmaster at La Guayra. Dr. Calcano Mathieu, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, acted with the utmost promptitude—his action being supported by his colleagues—the bag was handed over to Mr. Haggard without delay, and the Postmaster of La Guayra was instantly dismissed. When Mr. Haggard was appointed British Minister at Caracas, it was to resume diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Venezuela, which had for several years been interrupted, and it is the more gratifying, therefore, as showing the success which our Minister has achieved, to learn that the prompt action of the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the matter has given general satisfaction in Venezuela.

For some inscrutable reason the Foreign Office has neglected for over a year to appoint a First Secretary to the British Embassy at Madrid. This is especially unfair, as it delays promotion; and besides, it would appear that, at a critical period such as this is, it is especially important that the Embassy at Madrid should not be under-manned, the more so as the Ambassador, Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, is not in the best of health. It is to be hoped that Mr. Curzon will be asked in the House to explain the conduct of the Foreign Office in the matter.

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Sir Alfred Jephson has resigned the post of assistant-secretary to the Imperial Institute, and the Executive Council announces that his retirement is due to ill health. It may be, and it may not. Sir Alfred was the right man in the right place, and it is to be regretted that he has been compelled to resign. It would have been better for the Institute had other members of the staff been "compelled" to resign instead of Sir Alfred Jephson. It is an open secret that many people are opposed to the very existence of the Imperial Institute. On the other hand, there are many who are prepared to support it did those who are immediately responsible for its management show the slightest capacity for securing its success. As it is, the gloom of failure pervades the dreary galleries of the Institute and its dismal asphalted courts. There is little vitality in the concern, and the little that there is appears to be diminishing rapidly. If the Imperial Institute is to be saved, a resolute effort to do this should be made at once; if the Institute is to be permitted to die, the less money that is wasted upon it the better it will be for all concerned, except for those few who have their own selfish interests to serve. In the latter event the immense block of buildings might be utilised by the Science and Art Department while the alterations sanctioned by Parliament are being carried out at the South Kensington Museum.

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Many years ago Mr. Strickland Constable published an admirable volume entitled "Our Medicine Men." In this volume occurs the following passage: "A man in one of the colonies was driving a thousand sheep through a covered bridge over a river that ran 400 ft. below. When two-thirds across, the leading sheep saw light through a small open window on one side. It jumped through it and fell into the river below. The next sheep did the same, and the next, and the next. The downpour of sheep lasted an hour. Nothing could stop them. They went over every one of them." This "sheep spirit" prevails in London Society. The Royal Enclosure at Ascot is little better than a miniature sheep-pen, and it cannot be correctly considered as "Royal," for the members of the Royal Family do not control the issue of vouchers for admission. Nevertheless, the vast majority of those who have any pretensions to be included in that elastic and undefinable body, Society, insist upon claiming admission into this enclosure. Indeed, only comparatively few are strong-minded enough to attend Ascot Races unless fortified with the much-prized voucher. If the Royal Enclosure is to be continued, regulations should be framed controlling the issue of vouchers, and these regulations should be strictly adhered to. Let the vouchers be issued only to bankers, brewers, and brokers, and their families; or only to company promoters and their friends; or exclusively to those who have distinguished themselves in the Bankruptcy Court, Divorce Court, or Criminal Court. Let there be some method in the distribution of these vouchers. As it is, every year the Master of the Buckhounds is compelled to make several personal enemies by his inability to comply with the requests for admission through want of space; the Party which is in power loses numerous supporters; the Royal Family acquires considerable and unmerited unpopularity; and a vast amount of irritation is generated which could easily be avoided. This is the time to act decisively in the matter. —Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

About two months ago the fact was announced in Truth that Elf II. would be sent over from France to run at Ascot, and that he would be a dangerous candidate for the Gold Cup. Writing a fortnight ago, I expressed the opinion that M. de Bremond's horse would be the winner of the Cup. Why the sporting papers persisted in "going for" The Rush with such confidence it is impossible to understand, for Elf II. has won nearly all the most important long-distance races in France, and his public form is much better than that of Mr. Dobell's horse, whose victory in the Vase, however, was predicted by me, and he won very cleverly. Elf II. was bred by the Comte de Berteux, in whose colours he ran so badly that he was "weeded" for a small sum, when M. de Bremond was so fortunate as to buy him. This is the first victory of a French horse in the Cup for twenty years, their last success having been achieved when Verneuil won for Count Lagrange, defeating a great favourite in Silvio, who had no pretensions to stay the course. Elf II., as I wrote on the 9th, "is a really good stayer, and with fair speed besides," and I then gave him a plumper.

M. de Bremond's horse was not so much liked in the paddock as Masque II., who carried far more money than the winner, and for some time he was a decidedly better favourite than The Rush, M. E. Blanc having taken £7,500 to £3,000 in a bet. Mr. Brassey would have done better to reserve Bay Ronald for the Hardwicke Stakes, for the idea that he would stay the Cup course in a fast run race was utterly chimerical. The Rush ran a good horse, and the race was run from start to finish at an excellent pace. Masque II. ran badly, and is probably out of form, as he made no show in the Alexandra Plate on Friday, for which event he was again very heavily backed; but Piety won in a common trot. I plumped for this horse for the Ascot Stakes, but he could only get second to Herminius, over whom a very large stake was won. Lord Ellesmere made a grievous blunder when he let Herminius go out of his stable for the paltry price of 240 gs., after he had won a selling race. It is now the insane practice to regard horses as worthless if they are beaten in short distance races. Mr. Hammond wisely tried Herminius over two miles, and found he had got a thorough stayer.

I failed to appreciate the reasoning of the plungers on Batt for the Prince of Wales' Stakes, for it seemed to me that, Wantage being out of the way, Jeddah must win with only 6 lb. the worst of the weights. Mr. Larnach's

horse certainly had 6 lb. in hand when he won the Derby, and it was highly probable that the extra distance would suit Jeddah better than Batt, who did not look so well as at Epsom, although he was supposed to have "come on" during the last three weeks. That this latter theory was a complete delusion was decisively proved on Wednesday, when he again brought backers to dire grief in the Ascot Derby, but people who were so infatuated as again to trust the Duke of Westminster's colt deserved to lose their money, for he had manifestly done quite enough work for some time to come, and looked a truly lamentable object after his severe race on Tuesday. Batt is something of a rogue in all probability. I gave a plumper for Lowood for the Coronation Stakes, and she won easily. Nun Nicer was the general selection of the papers, but she could not be reasonably expected to give the Duke of Westminster's filly 14 lb., for Lowood ran well in the One Thousand when very backward. Lowood, indeed, is the best-looking filly of the season taken all round, and now that she has got into form she will be hard to beat for the £1,500 race at Lingfield on July 9, where she will meet Nun Nicer with 5 lb. the best of the weights. Dieudonné was regarded as a real good thing for the St. James's Palace Stakes, the Duke of Devonshire having decided to reserve his colt for this race directly after the Derby. I wrote last week that "Cap Martin has done well in a trial, and he will most likely win the Ascot Derby this afternoon, while Dieudonné will have to do his best in order to beat Mr. Baird's colt for the St. James's Palace Stakes. Cap Martin is now probably in much better form than ever he was as a two-year-old." Cap Martin would certainly have won the Ascot Derby if he had started, but Mr. Baird decided to keep him for the St. James's Palace Stakes, and he won in a common canter. It is now clear that Dieudonné cannot stay a yard beyond six furlongs, and if the rational course had been adopted of galloping the colt over the Derby distance before Epsom, all the money that was there lost on him would have been saved. Indeed, a large stake would have been won over Jeddah, who would have lost the Duke of Devonshire's colt over a mile and a half. Why will owners and trainers persist in the asinine practice of having trials over shorter distances than the horses have to run in their races? Can anything be more abjectly idiotic than to gallop a horse over a mile, and then back it freely for a race over a mile and a half? Nevertheless, this fatuity takes place every week of the season. Dieudonné was palpably third best in the Derby, and it may be justifiably concluded that the field was composed of non-stayers.

As to the two-year-old races, Desmond won the Coventry Stakes easily, Blackwing collapsing in a most ignominious fashion. Captain Machell's colt was stated to have improved vastly since his successful début at Gatwick, but he did not look well, and this running may be ignored, as he was dead amiss, and has been seriously ill since his return to Newmarket. Sir Hercules, who was made a great favourite for the Biennial, ran very badly, and Simonside won for Lord Carnarvon. This colt had been well tried by Captain Machell, and he was a great Newmarket tip, and was heavily backed, but Stage Villain was the general selection of the papers. Simonside, like Desmond, is a son of St. Simon, and he was bred by Lord Londonderry and cost 2,000 gs. as a yearling. He is a grand colt, and capable of much improvement. I stated last week that Flying Fox would be the Duke of Westminster's best two-year-old for Ascot, "and he is very likely to win the New Stakes." Flying Fox had been well tried with Ameer, and he was made a great favourite, and won very easily from Musa, while Boniface was behind them. Mr. Brassey's colt has clearly been overrated, or else he cannot stay beyond five furlongs. Flying Fox is no beauty, but he is evidently a very useful colt indeed, and racing-like in the greatest degree. His next appearance will be at Stockbridge. Dalby is a fine colt, and will win a race before long. The Adornment colt ought not to have been raced so soon, for he is backward in condition, and he wants a lot of time, while he is so big an animal that he may never stand a thorough preparation, especially if his legs are to be tested by his being knocked about on hard ground. There was a desperate plunge at ruinous odds on Amurath for the Windsor Castle Stakes, but the result was a crash, for he could not move on the hard ground, and Galopin Lassie won in a canter, the generous odds of 20 to 1 having been offered against her in a field of seven. A great deal of money was lost on Peoria, who will do better another time. This filly is grandly bred, being by Bona Vista out of Distant Shore.

Kilcock won the Queen's Stand Plate in accordance with my prediction. The horse was a great "pot" for the Trial Stakes, but he cannot really stay a mile, and Collar won easily, while on Friday the Duke of Westminster's colt carried off the Hardwicke Stakes, which was not "the richest race of the week," as stated by several papers. It was surpassed in value by the Coronation Stakes (which was worth £3,500) and by the Gold Cup. I mentioned Collar long ago as a colt to be remembered whenever he ran.

Knight of the Thistle and Hermiston were both recklessly backed for the Hunt Cup, but Jaquemart, who had been well tried over the B.M. at Newmarket, won very cleverly. Minstrel, who cannot stay, and who is a very uncertain beast, compensated the Duke of Devonshire for recent disappointments by winning the Wokingham Handicap on Friday. Tartar and Foston were great favourites, and the result was most disastrous to backers. Minstrel was given a bottle of whisky just before the start, and he ran in blinkers.

The Prince of Wales's colt Sandringham, who was to have made his début at Ascot, has met with a serious accident, and it is very unlikely that he will be in a condition to run this season, while it is quite probable that he will never stand a preparation. This is a most vexatious disappointment, as Sandringham was thought to be an even finer colt than was Persimmon at the same age, and he is very heavily engaged, having been entered for nearly forty races, including all the heavy stakes. If Sandringham cannot be trained, there will be some £600 to pay for his forfeits. Twenty of this colt's engagements are for next year and 1900.

The Newmarket Cup may be challenged for on Tuesday next, Lord Rosebery being the present holder. He challenged Prince Soltykoff last year with a sealed nomination, and the cup was surrendered. There have been only two races for the cup since 1773, and these took place in 1856, when the late Lord Zetland won with Fandango, and in 1886, when the Duke of Beaufort carried it off with Forio, and he retained it for nine years.

The Seaton Delaval Plate of £1,200 at Newcastle, which is run to-morrow, should be won by either Simonside or Mintstalk.

At Sandown Park, on Friday, there are forty-seven three-year-olds left in for the Sandringham Foal Stakes of £2,000. Disraeli will not run. Cauliflower has such an immense pull in the weights that she ought to be able to win if she is worth keeping in training. The Duke of Westminster's filly Orpah will be very dangerous if she is fancied by the Kingsclere people. Forty-nine two-year-olds have accepted for the British Dominion Plate of £1,000. Neither Desmond nor Amurath is likely to run, and Sir Hercules or Victoria May may be successful.

Messrs. Tattersall are to hold no fewer than eight sales at Newmarket next week, and their catalogue fills sixteen columns of the "Racing Calendar." Where purchasers are to come from for half the lots it is impossible to conjecture, especially as there are to be five more sales during the Second July Meeting.

The great race at Newmarket next week will be the Princess of Wales's Stakes of £10,000, on Thursday, which is run over the B.M., but I fear there is but a poor prospect of a repetition of the splendid finishes between Isinglass and Bullingdon in 1894 and between St. Frusquin and Persimmon in 1896. There were originally 250 entries for this race when it closed in September, 1895, and when the last forfeit was declared on January 4 more than forty horses were left in, which is a number considerably above the average, and the Jockey Club are not likely

to lose anything by this race, for the subscription will more than cover its advertised value. Each horse now left in pays a subscription of £105. Lord Rosebery has reserved Velasquez (10 st.) for this race, which he won last year. The next best four-year-old—*longo intervallo*—is St. Cloud II., but he does not seem to have much chance of defeating Velasquez after his bad running in the Hunt Cup, although he will have a considerable advantage in the weights. St. Cloud II. will no doubt carry off a good handicap before the season is over. Neither Minstrel nor Berzak can have any chance. Of the three-year-olds, Wantage (8 st. 2 lb.) ought to prove the best, and if the Duke of Portland's colt comes to the post fit and well he will be the most dangerous opponent of Velasquez. The Wyvern (8 st. 2 lb.) has repeatedly disappointed his stable when heavily backed, while Brio and Heir Male are non-stayers, and Ninus has a penalty of 6 lb., which puts him out of the race. Dieudonné also has 6 lb. extra, and I should doubt whether the Duke of Devonshire's colt can stay this course, as the finish is decidedly severe. Velasquez ought to win, and, if beaten, it will be by Wantage.

There are forty-nine entries for the July Stakes, and the continued success of this race is truly remarkable, inasmuch as not a farthing is added, and the liability on each entry is £30. The best public form is represented by Desmond, Boniface, Victoria May, and Eventail. There are no penalties for previous winners, and Desmond ought to be able to beat Boniface, who, however, will be well suited by this course, and Lord Dunraven's colt had a very moderate lot behind him at Ascot. There is a huge entry for the Stud Produce Stakes on Wednesday, and Mr. Rose's Santa Casa, winner of the Ascot Triennial, ought to be successful, as her penalty is more than removed by a 7 lb. breeding allowance. The Exeter Stakes, which will be worth about £800, looks well for Musa, or Dalby if Mr. Baird's filly does not run. Trident may be able to win the Fulbourne Stakes on Friday.

There are twenty-two entries for the July Cup of £300, which is run over an easy six furlongs. Several very speedy animals are engaged, and Kilcock or Eager may win.

It is said that the English turf career of Newhaven II. has terminated, and it has been a most inglorious campaign. The jobbing rhapsodies about the Australian horses with which one or two of the sporting papers have nauseated their unlucky readers appear to have utterly bewildered many fatheads, who were actually gulled into believing that Newhaven II. would win the Gold Cup, and he was extensively selected for that event. This horse showed good form in the City and Suburban, but his recent displays have been entirely beneath contempt, and it would appear that now he can neither stay nor go fast. His Ascot running was dreadfully bad in both races.

Referring to the comments I made last week on the downfall of the Trinity Hall Boat Club in the May Races, a correspondent points out that it is not the T.H.B.C., but the T.J.B.C. that is unpopular at the University. He is, no doubt, not altogether incorrect in his statement.

The German oarsmen will after all not be seen at Henley. The Mayence four and the Hellas pair have both been badly beaten at the Berlin Regatta. It is not likely under the circumstances that they would prove very dangerous at Henley. The Hall boat is going for the Grand, when they will, no doubt, have a chance of meeting First again. With proper coaching the former club should make amends for its disaster at Cambridge.

The University sports will be held next Wednesday, June 29, at the Queen's Club. Last week a fair opportunity was given of seeing what the two teams could do. Oxford met the London Athletic Club, and judging by the form shown Vassall and Adair have the long and high jump at their mercy. Garnier is simply a flier over the hurdles. He is going in beautiful style, and there is very little doubt that he will beat Maundrell. Then Fremantle is pretty sure of the three miles. Workman, the Cantab, could do nothing with the veteran Munro, who had also beaten the Oxford President easily in the two miles race. This gives four events to Oxford. The Cambridge team met a team of Old Blues from both Universities. Hunter, in the mile, was rather disappointing, but then Lutyens did a much faster time than he has done this year, and practically ran his own race from start to finish. It was gratifying to find Carter, the Cambridge President, quite back to form. He let Fitzherbert get too far away, but nearly caught him in the quarter. He should get inside 51 sec. In the hundred he ran well, while Harrison, who won in the Lent term, did not stay. With a good start, Carter will stand a fair chance of winning this event for Cambridge. Bulloch was not up for the weight, and the hammer was not good, but still Baines' 96 ft. has before now won the sports. Cambridge has only one certainty, in the mile, and so there seems every likelihood of the Oxford team winning the sports this year. At the same time, the finishes in several of the events promise to be so close that an upset of the favourites would be quite on the cards. By the way, I am asked to mention that tickets issued for the sports on March 25, when a postponement was found necessary, will not be available next Wednesday. Such tickets should be at once returned to the Secretary of the Queen's Club to be exchanged for new ones.

After the sports at Oxford, the L.A.C. were entertained at the Randolph, but where was Mr. Jackson? He was not even to be seen at the sports. The Scottish gathering was held at Stamford Bridge, where men purporting to come from the far side of the Tweed piped, danced, and tossed cabers to their hearts' content. In the sprint handicap, Wadsley, with a strong wind behind him, went very well. The Kildare A.C. is no longer one of the chief meetings in the metropolis. This year it was held in a quiet way at Acton, and the mile inter-club challenge cup was won by the Holborn-circus A.C.

The Northern Lawn Tennis Championships at Liverpool ended successfully last week. Owing to the absence of the Baddeleys, who held the Singles and Doubles Championships, the winners of the open events had a walk-over in the champion round. The event again fell to brothers. H. L. Doherty beat the American visitor, Hobart, in the Singles by three sets to love. In each of the first sets Hobart only scored a game, but then he played a stronger game, and advantage was played. In the Doubles the Dohertys beat Hillyard and Smith. After a hard tussle, Miss Martin, from Dublin, beat Miss C. Cooper, the holder of the Ladies' Championship. The entries for the Open Championships at Wimbledon are excellent, and, so far as one can judge, it does not look as though the game is losing popularity. C. Martin, the old Cambridge and Chiswick Park player, has just left England to take up an appointment in India.

The last wickets of the Yorkshire team are becoming a regular bugbear to county players. Against Kent the Northerners were doing none too well until Hunter and Lord Hawke came together, and then the score was doubled. Kent played a plucky uphill game, and Bannon showed such form that he ought to be certain of his blue for Oxford. Against Middlesex at Lord's they played in a similar way, and Rhodes showed great promise as a bat. The home team looked thoroughly fagged out after a long day's fielding. Subsequently Ford played a simply superb innings, and he and Warner nearly averted an innings defeat. Certainly Yorkshire looks like being the only county in the running for the headship. Poor Surrey is in a bad way. The fielding against Lancashire was anything but good. However, a brilliant stand by Abel and Holland saved them from disaster, and some good work at the finish enabled them to head the Northern total, and then rain stopped play. Grace and Murdoch have been showing excellent form with the bat, and the latter's century for Sussex against Notts was one of the best displays of recent years. Hampshire gained a well-deserved victory over Leicester. Heavy scoring by Quaife and Lilley gave Warwick all the best of a draw against Derbyshire.

No real interest was aroused by the Gentlemen and

Players match at the Oval. There were plenty of good players, but the teams were not in any sense representative. The Gentlemen's bowling was very weak, and the only members of the team to do anything with the ball were Turner and Stocks, who is likely to prove very dangerous in the University match. The Cambridge team wound up their home games by beating Hampshire, after allowing Jessop to do pretty nearly all the batting and bowling. It is very satisfactory to find him in form again. The Players seem still to have an unaccountable aversion to catching the ball. If they will only improve in this respect they ought to do well at Lord's.

MAMMON.

FROM MOSES MOSS *TO* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—Ascot week generally is a very dull one in the Stock Markets, and the past week was not an exception. The average stockbroker loves Ascot and likes to be seen there, especially if he is able to scrape acquaintance with some of the members of the aristocracy. There was, moreover, nothing in the general outlook to induce active business, and with the exception of some buying of Southern railway stocks, the public did very little.

STOCK EXCHANGE PROSPECTS—PROMISING CONDITIONS.

It must be admitted, however, that the outlook on the Stock Exchange is by no means unfavourable. To begin with, cheap money is assured for some months to come at least, and rates of deposit are so low that they must in the near future induce capitalists to invest some of their surplus funds. The political horizon has cleared altogether, and the news that the Niger Convention has been signed and sealed fully confirms the views which I have all along expressed. When it is considered that the rumours of possible grave complications between this country and France concerning the West African question caused quite a slump on the Stock Exchange only a month or two ago, it is surprising that a complete settlement of the vexed question should have been received with indifference; but the markets are in a state of transition, and whenever the time for action comes, the great improvement in the political position will doubtless be one of the "Bull" factors. There seems to be nothing to alarm business men in the present position in the Far East, where this country is evidently fully holding its own, even though all the wishes of the British community in China—which are very far-reaching—are not being fulfilled. The only important trouble which has still an unfavourable bearing upon the markets is the Spanish-American war, but there are indications that it is entering a phase which should bring decisive action. The American department has been drooping, and Wall-street operators have partly gone on the "Bear" tack, but important interests are watching their chance of raising values again, and it may be taken for granted that any favourable event near Santiago will at once be seized upon by the "Bulls." A relapse in Grand Trunks will not have surprised readers of TRUTH, as I practically foreshadowed this for some time. In the Foreign section Spanish Fours are rallying, but Paris generally has been ill at ease, partly owing to the Ministerial crisis. In South Americans the feature has been a sharp set-back in Brazilian Government and Railway stocks, owing to the great opposition which the funding scheme is meeting with, and to a fresh decline in the Rio exchange. Most other South American Government stocks have, on the other hand, displayed strength. There have been no further unpleasant pronouncements by President Kruger, and South African politics are considered more satisfactory. While there has been an absence of business in the Kaffir Circus, a very strong undercurrent is noticeable, and a somewhat sudden advance would not be at all surprising. A good many transactions have taken place in the West Australian department, more especially in the shares of the high-class mines, and although there has been a reaction, I anticipate a good deal of activity in this market for some time to come. There has been little animation in the Industrial section, but prices have been fairly well maintained.

MONEY AND GILT-EDGED INVESTMENTS—WILL MONEY REMAIN CHEAP?

Although the Directors of the Bank of England have not decreed a further reduction in the official minimum, which remains at 3 per cent., rates of discount in the open market have kept very low, and even the advent of a number of American bills has not put up the rate for three months' bills beyond 1½ per cent. Of these American bills further batches are expected here, partly drawn against produce shipped to Europe, and partly in connection with the war loan issued in the United States. This, combined with the usual demands at the end of the half-year, may cause a temporary rise in rates; but as soon as June is turned, interest and dividend payments will again become a weakening factor, and unless gold shipments to America should be made, or an important demand for the precious metal should arise in other quarters, we may look for continued ease for some months to come. Hence there is every prospect of gilt-edged investments at least maintaining present values. Consols have been unusually steady during the week, and show hardly any change at 111$\frac{3}{16}$ for the account. There has been an improvement in the price of silver, which is quoted 27⅛d. Rupee Paper is steady at 62½, but British Corporation stocks and Colonial Government bonds have been well supported. The last Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Chinese Gold Loan is about unaltered at 88¼, the Seven per Cent. Silver Loan at 98½.

HOME RAILS—SOUTH EASTERN AND CHATHAM AFFAIRS—INCREASED ACTIVITY.

Notwithstanding the weakening effect of Ascot Races, more business has been transacted in Home Rails than for some time past. The fact is that investors are realising that the dividend-period is drawing near, and some of the surplus funds still available are undoubtedly finding their way into these securities. Again, the influential purchases of South Eastern and Chatham stocks have produced a more hopeful feeling as regards a resurrection in the Home Railway department generally. That negotiations are going on between the two Southern Railway Companies already referred to is certain, but I fancy that the arrangement will stop short of an actual fusion, and that a closer working arrangement is chiefly contemplated, partly also in view of the coming Paris Exhibition. For years I have strongly urged such an agreement, and it is to be hoped that personal interests will not be allowed to prevent so useful a scheme from being passed. It is also highly desirable that some official announcement should be made as soon as possible. Concerning Dover "A" I have held a favourable opinion for a long time, owing to the progressiveness of the line, and I am not surprised to see the quotation up at 113¼, after having touched 115. Again, Chathams are rather easier after their recent improvement, the Ordinary at 22, the Arbitration Prefs. at 137½, the Second Prefs. at 98. Brighton "A" show little variation at 176¾, and movements in this stock, which is now quite an investment security, have been slight. A feature has been a revival of the investment demand for the Heavy stocks, which are generally firmer. The most important improvement occurred in London and North-Western to 199½. This is still 6½ below the figure of 206 touched a year ago, and as there is a traffic increase so far of £121,838, since January 1, a disposition is shown to discount an improved dividend, the only doubtful point being the possibility of a further increase in the working expenses. But it is more than likely that a rise of a few points in "Brums" will take place in the near future. Little interest has been shown in Great Eastern; but Great Centrals have been fairly firm, and the report has again cropped up that an alliance between this Company and the Great Western may be expected, which would undoubtedly prove of advantage to both lines. Great Central 1894 Ordinary at 41 are still attracting attention as a ver

promising lock-up. It is now officially stated that the new line to London will be opened for coal traffic on July 25 next. It has been suggested, now that the South-Eastern and Chatham Companies are drawing near to each other, that the Metropolitan and District Companies must be animated by similar sentiments. This, however, appears to be going in advance of events, and however desirable such an alliance may be, I do not anticipate any important steps in the near future. Districts were at one time put up to 29½ on the rumours, and reacted to 28½ on their contradiction. In the Scotch section Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras) have not maintained their recent advance, having reacted to 57¾, and North British Deferred have receded to 44⅜. In view of the good business falling to both these lines, a renewed rise, especially in Coras, is expected. The stock of the various London electric companies have shown increased weakness on the non-success of the issue of the Great Northern and City Railway. It appears that the public response was so small that the subscriptions are to be returned. Personally, I think that it would be just as well if the new schemes were not rushed out so precipitately. There are now at present two electric railways in active construction in the Metropolis, one of which—the Waterloo and City—will be opened next month, while another—the Central London Railway—a much more important undertaking, is expected to be completed in June next year. There is no such urgent need of a line from the Great Northern to the City, and the promoters of the same may fairly wait until the Central London is in operation, as if—as is expected—the Central London proves highly successful, it will not be difficult then to obtain the necessary capital from the public for the Great Northern scheme. In the meantime, the non-success of the latter issue has caused a fall in Waterloo and City to 118½, and Central London fully-paid shares have been dull at 10.

YANKEE RAILS—WAITING FOR THE TROOPS TO ATTACK SANTIAGO—THE WHEAT COLLAPSE.

A moderate decline in the American market is chiefly traceable to the effects of the Leiter collapse, which has caused considerable losses in wheat, and has apparently brought about some realisations of other American securities to pay for the same. Temporarily, too, the attention of investors in the States has been diverted to the War Loan, but according to latest advices this has been many times over-subscribed, and thus the millions intended for the purchase of Government bonds will be available for Yankee Rails. Both the circumstances mentioned are in any case merely temporary influences, and should presently pass away as far as the Stock Markets are concerned. There remains the position of the Spanish-American war. Preparations for the landing of large bodies of troops near Santiago de Cuba have taken much longer than had been anticipated, and thus the American public are somewhat disappointed by the absence of any important results. The latter, however, may be looked for during the next few days, and any decisive victory of the American arms will cause a sharp advance in Yankee Rails, which have been pretty heavily sold by the "Bears" in Wall-street. The capture of Manila by the United States troops is also an event which should occur in the near future, and thus our American cousins have several pleasant sensations to come. As regards the collapse of the wheat corner, it should prove a blessing in the end. Such daring manipulations always represent a danger which may burst upon the market at any time, and it was far preferable that the price of wheat should at once find its natural level than that the position should be rendered yet more unsound by continued inflation. The movement of grain in the States should, moreover, be stimulated by the occurrence, as it will be easier now for America to compete with other wheat-producing countries. There can be no doubt that the United States wheat crop will be a splendid one, and that it will bring large traffics to the railroads, so that the future of the Granger roads should be in every way assured. According to travellers from the West, such lines as the Milwaukee, Rock Island, and Atchison have to expect such large quantities of wheat, maize, and oats to carry, that all previous records will be surpassed. The farmers, of course, have now plenty of money, and cash is accumulating throughout the West at the banks. While Milwaukee have not maintained the highest point touched, there are indications that any upward movement will be led by this stock. Louisville appears to have pretty well touched bottom, and very little is heard now of the yellow fever scare. A sharp rally in this stock is, therefore, quite on the cards. Union Pacifics, after a decline, have shown a firm front on favourable dividend rumours. This is what the *Wall-street Daily News* has to say on the subject: "From sources we consider authoritative we learn that it is not the intention of the management to declare a dividend on the Preferred until next October. Then, undoubtedly, the distribution of profits will begin at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, and the outlook certainly warrants the belief that they will be continued indefinitely. The 'Bull' talk on the stock is as strong as ever, and it is expected that the shares will discount in price the declaration of the dividend long before the Board of Directors takes official action on the matter." The talk about a dividend on the common stock of the Northern Pacific is somewhat premature. Even if, as is stated, the Company is earning a small dividend on this stock, it is not likely that anything will be paid during the present year. Cable advices are to the effect that the Baltimore and Ohio reorganisation will shortly become an accomplished fact. This is what the same contemporary has to say on this subject:—

> The idea of withholding the reorganisation plan of the Company until the cessation of the war has evidently been abandoned. It comes from good sources that, inasmuch as practically all questions relating to the rehabilitation of the property have been amicably and satisfactorily adjusted, the scheme will be launched within a week or two. It is claimed the selling prices of the bonds and stock have already adjusted themselves to the conditions of the plan, and it is expected that when the terms are made public all the Baltimore and Ohio securities will appreciate in value. It is still generally believed that the assessment on the stock will be $20 a share, but in view of the fact that new Preferred stock, estimated to be worth 50 at least, will be given for one-half of the assessment, it materially cuts down the amount to be paid, and correspondingly improves the value of the present stock. The issuance of the reorganisation plan is expected to inaugurate lively speculation in Baltimore and Ohio shares, and already they are being bought and held in anticipation of a sharp rise in price in the near future.

The Denver and Rio Grande has just announced a dividend of 1½ per cent. on the Preferred, making, with the 1 per cent. paid in December, 2½ per cent. for the year. This will leave more than $300,000 surplus, and the conservative action of the Directors has created some disappointment, but there would appear to be every prospect of the December dividend being larger than last year, and the outlook is upon the whole satisfactory. The position of the Reading Company, and especially of the First Prefs., is a promising one, as is explained by the following extract from the *Wall-street Journal*:—

> A number of prominent houses, often identified with interests in the coal stocks, are bullish on Reading First Preferred. They argue that in a general revival of business the anthracite coal trade cannot continue to suffer, and be the only branch of general business to go backwards. Some of them claim that the price of coal will go up $1 or more per ton this year, because of increased demand. The Reading Company has, so far in 1898, marketed more coal than it did in 1897. There are others who believe that the anthracite coal trade has seen its best days and that substitution of soft coal and gas will increase more rapidly to the detriment of hard coal interests; but in spite of this it is a recognised fact that in a great "Bull" market it is practically impossible to separate one group from the "Bull" market and carry on a "Bear" campaign in it. It is a great deal easier to ignore bearish developments and keep the unfortunate group in the "Bull" ranks. So far as Reading First Preferred is concerned, there is reason for higher prices. Before the *Maine* was blown up, the stock sold up to 55 on buying, which seemed to come direct from Jersey Central interests. If the Company does no better in May and June than it did last year it will show 3½ per cent. earned on the First Preferred stock, after deducting $400,000 coal royalty from the surplus earnings. A dividend of 2 per cent. could be declared on the stock and be justified in every way. The First Preferred should sell much higher than it does now, if the common stock is worth anything like what it is selling for.

In the London market Reading First Prefs. are quoted at 23¾ for the $50 share, and, upon the whole, the reasoning in my contemporary's paragraph seems to be fully justified. Any one who wishes to take a hand in Yankee Rails would do well to spread his operations, say, over Milwaukee, Louisville, Union Pacific Common, Atchison Prefs., and Reading First Prefs. It will be preferable to go for short turns, buying on declines and selling on improvements. Some of my American contemporaries are discounting the control of Cuba with a vengeance. Thus I find from the *New York Journal of Finance* that Maine lumbermen are already speculating upon the prospects of extending commerce with Cuba as a result of the war. A Bangor firm has received from a New York house having large interests in the island an inquiry as to the prices at which certain kinds of building materials could be delivered at Havana, where it is proposed to erect two large factories. The *Lumberman's Review* goes so far as to speculate already on the timber to be obtained from Cuba, and explains the position as follows:—"Cuba still possesses 16,000,000 acres of virgin forest abounding in valuable timber, none of which is useful as coarse construction lumber, while nearly every foot would be saleable in the United States and bring high prices. Cuban mahogany and cedar are particularly well known in the United States. The mahogany is very hard and shows a handsome grain, and is preferred by many to any other variety in common use. The moment Spain drops the reins of government in Cuba, and trade relations are re-established with the States, there will be a movement, both inward and outward, of forest products which will have a beneficial effect upon the industry in both countries," to which I have to remark that you must not count your chickens before they are hatched, and that the hatching of these schemes will take a good deal of fighting first, although the final result cannot for a moment be doubted. I am asked to state that the London Committee of shareholders of the Central Pacific Railroad Company have called a meeting of the holders of the certificates issued by them for Tuesday, 28th inst., at 2 p.m., at Winchester House. They are pulling very long faces in the Grand Trunk market, in which the overflow of jobbers from all the other sections has of late collected. The last traffic returns, showing an increase of only £553, has proved very disappointing, and knocked down the first Prefs. to 71⅝, the Guaranteed to 76⅜. This is an occurrence which I have been foreshadowing for some time, and until the "Bull" account has been further reduced these stocks had better be left alone. The Canadian Pacific Railway has also treated its shareholders to an unfavourable traffic return for the second week of June, the increase being only $3,000, while previous increases had generally not been below $40,000, but investors in this road cannot really complain at a temporary falling-off when it is considered that the aggregate gross traffic from January 1 is $10,414,000 against $8,647,000 for the corresponding period of 1897, this being an increase of $1,767,000, and the present price of Canadian Pacifics of about 85 is upon the whole lower in proportion than the quotations of Grand Trunks, and leaves a considerable margin for a rise.

Foreigners and South Americans—Ministerial Crises—Will the Coulisse be Spared?

It would, indeed, be curious if the Coulisse of the Paris Bourse were to be spared in consequence of the Ministerial crisis which has just broken out in the French capital. There is a talk of a postponement of the action recently decided upon for six months, and if this should come about, affairs in Paris are likely to become exceedingly lively. Six months is a lifetime from the Bourse point of view, and would furnish opportunities for plenty of deals. In any case the Coulisse may be expected to die hard, and the migration to Brussels will probably be carried out all the same, so as to provide against eventualities. A Ministerial crisis has also broken out in Rome. Thus there are several disturbing features, as far as interbourse securities are concerned, and quotations have eased off, Italians to 92⅜, and Turks (Group II.) to 45¼. Spanish dropped at one time to 33⅜, but have since recovered to 34¼. With regard to the last-mentioned stock, there has been a good deal of "Bear" selling on the expected success of the American troops in Cuba, but, after all, an overwhelming success should bring peace within measurable distance, and nothing would be better for Spanish Fours than peace, be the terms what they may. A heavy fall has taken place in Brazilians, on the strong opposition which has been organised against the funding scheme, particulars of which have now been made public. It appears that the Council of Foreign Bondholders has refused its consent, and the Rio exchange—which had improved—has again fallen away on the attacks on the scheme. Assurances are now given by the coming President that everything will be done to safeguard the financial position in the future, and to effect large economies, but it is more than doubtful whether any Brazilian President will be powerful enough to achieve this object. At all events, Brazilians of 1889 dropped at one time to 50½, Western of Minas to 53, recovering on inside support to 51½ and 53½ respectively. Chilians, on the other hand, have hardened, the 1892 Loan to 83, the 1886 Loan to 74, the Chilian Government having to some extent disavowed the issue of the Treasury Bills. Argentine Government stocks have displayed a firm front, the 1886 Loan at 90, the Funding Loan at 87½. It is again stated that the negotiations with Chili concerning the boundary question are proceeding satisfactorily. Argentine Railway stocks have not been in demand, and prices are slightly easier, Buenos Ayres Great Southern at 139, Buenos Ayres and Rosario at 72, Central Argentine at 80. A heavy decline has taken place in Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debenture stock to 48, which was due to the publication of the directors' report. The line has done very badly last year, the decrease in net earnings on the Central Northern Section being as much as £77,356. This was chiefly owing to the great depression in the sugar industry, which is the chief source of income of the line. The traffic decreases are unfortunately still going on, and for some time I have pointed out to my readers that even in view of the settlement effected with regard to the railway guarantee, no improvement can be looked for in the quotation of the debentures until these decreases disappear. For the week ending June 12 the decrease on the Central Northern Section was again $17,320, making an aggregate decrease from January 1 to date of as much as $376,100. Mexican Sixes have shown a strong tone, and Peruvian Corporation stocks are distinctly firmer, advices from Lima pointing to a disposition on the part of the Government to come to some arrangement.

A Mexican Railway Comparison—Inter-Oceanic *v.* Vera Cruz.

On June 9 I discussed the promising position of Inter-Oceanic of Mexico "A" Debentures, in view of the important improvement shown in the traffics of the line, and of the excellent prospects of further progress in Mexico, the resources of which country are being developed in a masterly manner under the wise government of President Diaz. At the time I pointed out that Inter-Oceanic of Mexico "A" Debentures in the neighbourhood of 70, earning a dividend at the rate of 4⅝ per cent., were far more promising than Mexican Railway (Vera Cruz Line), then quoted 74½. I have now received a communication from a correspondent, who is usually well-informed on Mexican Railway matters, in which he contrasts the position of Mexican Railway securities and those of the Inter-Oceanic of Mexico:—

I.—Mexican Railway (Vera Cruz Line).

The present net earnings of the Mexican Railway amount to about £170,000 per annum, of which the interest on the Debenture stock requires £120,000 per annum, leaving about £50,000 per annum for the First Preference stock. The full interest on the £2,554,000 Eight per Cent. First Preference stock requires £204,000, and that on the £1,012,000 Six per Cent. Second Preference stock requires £60,000, so that the earnings must increase by about £154,000 before the Second Preference stock can earn any dividend, and by about £214,000 before the Ordinary stock can receive any dividend. Price of Second Preference stock, 34 per cent.; price of Ordinary stock, 21¼ per cent. Length of line, 321 miles.

II.—INTER-OCEANIC OF MEXICO RAILWAY.

The present net earnings of the Inter-Oceanic Railway of Mexico amount to about £70,000 per annum, of which the interest on the Four per Cent. Prior Lien bonds requires £20,000, and that on the Four per Cent. First Debenture stock £24,000—£44,000 per annum, leaving about £26,000 per annum for the Seven per Cent. "A" Debenture stock. The full interest on this stock requires £51,500, and that on the £470,000 Seven per Cent. "B" Debenture stock requires £33,000, so that the net earnings must increase by about £25,500 before the "B" Debenture stock can receive a dividend, and by about £58,500 before the Preference shares can receive a dividend. Price of the Seven per Cent. "B" Debenture stock 30 per cent.: Seven per Cent. Preference shares £1⅝ per £10 share, equal to 16½ per cent. Length of line 555 miles.

These figures speak for themselves, but while my correspondent has drawn attention more particularly to the comparison between the junior securities, I maintain that a far better purchase is that of the Inter-Oceanic of Mexico Seven per Cent. "A" Debenture stock, because it is less speculative and equally progressive. This stock is already earning over half the dividend, and should next year earn the whole dividend of 7 per cent. It is surprising, therefore, that it has not yet reached a higher price than 70.

THE KAFFIR CIRCUS—INVESTORS NIBBLING—A STRONG UNDERTONE.

The Kaffir Circus has been in a very puzzling condition during the past week. Business has been very much restricted, and the few buying orders which came upon the market were for investors, who are picking up dividend-paying shares. The Kaffir Circus was exceptionally well represented at Ascot, and the Stock Exchange was altogether deserted by this contingent. There would, therefore, have been an excellent opportunity for a "Bear" raid, and the fact that the ursine party refrained from any attack would appear to show that they are afraid to commit themselves any farther. As a matter of fact, the signing of the West African arrangement was a most favourable influence, and the position in the Transvaal as regards politics has improved, while the low rates in the Money Market are also promising. Quotations are more or less nominal in so far that is very difficult to buy at them, and the moment any large orders were to come on the market they would at once advance. While movements have therefore been very slight, the undertone has been strong, and, barring accidents, an early rise is on the tapis. No further progress has been made with the Transvaal loan, and Dr. Leyds is hardly likely to obtain any advance either here or on the continent, unless some concessions are made to the mining industry. In Paris the Ministerial crisis and a temporary fall in Spanish have been adverse features. Yet no sales of South African shares have been pressed, while on the contrary Mozambiques have been in demand. It appears that a debenture issue by the Mozambique Company of £250,000, to carry 5 per cent. interest, is on the tapis. The speculative leader has again been Rand Mines, Limited, which have fluctuated between 29⅛ and 29½. East Rands have been firm at 4$\frac{9}{16}$, Consolidated Goldfields Deferred at 4. Chartered have been quiet at 2$\frac{5}{16}$. The various Deep Level shares have been steady, the following being the latest quotations:—Goldfields Deep 8⅜, Crown Deep 11½, Robinson Deep 9⅝, Geldenhuis Deep 7¾, Rose Deep 6⅛, Henry Nourse Deep 5, Durban Roodepoort Deep 3$\frac{9}{16}$, Knight's Deep 1$\frac{15}{16}$, Roodepoort Central Deep 1¼, Nigel Deep $\frac{15}{16}$. Randfontein have been inclined to firmness at 1¼, but in the Barnato group unaccountable weakness has been shown by Johannesburg Consolidated Investment at 1$\frac{1}{16}$. Simmer and Jack have been steady at 3$\frac{7}{16}$. According to the *South African Mining Journal* the East Rand projects the flotation of another subsidiary Company, which is to include the Caisson Block and part of the Cinderella, and is to extend over one hundred reef claims with the necessary dip. The Transvaal Exploring Company have issued a circular to the shareholders, in which a scheme of reconstruction to produce £15,000 of fresh working capital is proposed. Diamond shares have been dull, De Beers being quoted 27⅛, New Jagersfontein 7¼ x.d.

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GOLDEN WEST AUSTRALIA—A STEADY BUSINESS—ADELAIDE STILL A BUYER.

Apart from some unfavourable rumours which have been spread concerning the Golden Horseshoe Company's mine, the news from Western Australia has in every instance been of a favourable character. Crushings are satisfactory, and fresh discoveries are being made on the high-class mines, the reputation of which has already been established. What could be more satisfactory than the news from the Ivanhoe, which, according to a *British Australasian* cablegram, is opening up splendidly, while at the 200 ft. level, near the Great Boulder boundary, the lode is described as 7 ft. wide, worth 3 oz. to the ton. It is further stated that at the 100 ft. level the lode has opened out to a width of 40 ft. of fair-grade ore, while at the 300 ft. level the lode shows rich telluride. Ivanhoe shares have been firm at 6$\frac{9}{16}$, and Lake View Consols are quoted 9$\frac{3}{16}$. A "Bear" attack has been made on London and Globe Finance shares, which at one time fell to 22s. 6d., from which there has been a recovery. As far as can be ascertained, the rumour that the final dividend will be passed by this Company is without foundation, but all manner of reports are nowadays circulated by interested parties, which ought to be disregarded. It is expected that the Standard Exploration Company, which, as my readers are aware, comprises the amalgamation of the sub-Companies, will shortly be issued now, all the Companies concerned having given their assent. Satisfactory crushings are announced by the Associated Gold Mines, as stated in my usual list for the week:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per ton.
Associated Gold Mines	2,300	1,838	—
Do.	500	2,250	—
Mount Charlotte	300	120	—
Central Boulder	135	151	—
Princess Royal (Cue)	260	176	—
Lady Evelyn	93	65	—
Weld-Hercules	233	140	—
Menzies Alpha Leases	44	228	—
North Boulder	390	366	—
Star of the East	564	508¼	—
Do.	800	784¼	—
Menzies Crusoe	80	184	20 dwt.
Florence (from plates)	—	131	—

Golden Horseshoe have fluctuated between 9½ and 9¾, and now stand at 9$\frac{11}{16}$. According to a *British Australasian* cablegram, the reported application for the forfeiture of the Golden Horseshoe lease was absolutely frivolous, as work at the mine has been uninterrupted. Verily, one does not know nowadays what to believe, and manipulators go to great lengths in spreading false news. I do not for a moment think that there is any fear of forfeiture, but at the same time, even granting that the property is a valuable one, the present price is quite high enough. A vigorous discussion is still going on with regard to the Great Boulder Proprietary and the new Milling Company, but if the shareholders in the Great Boulder Proprietary are satisfied, I do not quite see who has to complain. These shares are now quoted 18s. From the Hannan's Brownhill comes the news that they have commenced crushing with the new machinery erected by the London and Hamburg Gold Recovery Company, and that the buildings will be completed while it is working. This is important news, and if satisfactory results are reported, another marked advance on the present price of 8$\frac{9}{16}$ may be looked for. The news from the Belle Vue Proprietary and Hannan's Crœsus is satisfactory, and from the Lady Shenton further satisfactory advices have been received. Mr. Rayfield, the consulting engineer, reports as follows:—"Reef level No. 4 South leaves no doubt at all main ore body has been struck. The vein is fully 2 ft. in width, very rich. Additional 5 stamp-mill has been ordered to-day." After a temporary reaction,

due to a false impression created by a law suit which has nothing to do with the merits of the mine, Lady Shentons have improved to $2\frac{7}{16}$, and as the action in question has been decided in favour of those who have a large interest in the mine, an early improvement in the value of the shares is expected. Florence shares have been firm at $\frac{9}{16}$. From the Lady Loch a promising strike is reported, and the shares have hardened to 2s. 6d. In the Hannan's Oroya a strike of telluride sulphide is reported, assaying 1 oz. 10 dwt. per ton. The Golden Pike is concentrating attention on the 600 ft. level, and good work is being done in sinking. Improvements are marked in Peak Hill, Bayley's United, and Brownhill Central, while Sons of Gwalia have been steady at $1\frac{7}{8}$. In the West Australian Market Trust group business has been on a small scale pending the carrying out of the new arrangement. Market Trust shares are quoted 2s. $1\frac{1}{2}$d., Northern Territories $\frac{7}{8}$, West Australian Joint Stock Trust and West Australian Loan and General $\frac{11}{16}$, while West Australian Joint Stock Founders are firm at $\frac{3}{8}$. On Saturday the W.A. Market Trust held its confirmatory meeting, Mr. Horatio Bottomley, the chairman, presiding. The scheme of reconstruction was unanimously confirmed, and the chairman mentioned on this occasion that responsible and substantial guarantees for the underwriting of the whole of the new capital had been obtained. It was also stated that the underwriting commission would not exceed 6d. per share, and that the shareholders would be given the opportunity of applying for any shares not taken up by others. Mr. Bottomley further remarked that no danger surrounded the W.A. Joint Stock Trust or the W.A. Loan and General Finance Company, and that any claims they may have against the Market Trust would be satisfactorily adjusted in the reconstruction. Mr. Bottomley wound up with the characteristic remark that "the shareholders must exercise their own judgment as to the probable effect upon the quotations of the various shares of the group once the Market Trust was prepared to re-enter the market and prevent the shares being played with like cricket balls, as had been the case during the last few months." West Australian Gold Fields have been dull at $1\frac{1}{4}$, while Hampton Plains have been fairly steady at $\frac{11}{16}$, but business has been almost nominal, further advices from the properties being awaited. The reconstruction movement is still in full swing, and I understand that the next Company to undergo this process is the Hannan's Reward.

Indian, Australasian and British Columbian Mines—Progress of the British America Corporation.

The activity in the Indian section has been followed by dulness, and prices are easier, with the exception chiefly of Mysore Gold which are firm at $5\frac{9}{16}$, and of Ooregum Ordinary and Prefs. which have also moved up. The Mysore dividend, at the rate of 4s. 6d. per share, compares with 3s. per share last year, both being interim distributions. The news from the Coromandel mine has been satisfactory, although it has not helped the shares much. In Australian mines, other than West Australian, Broken Hill Proprietary have improved to $2\frac{1}{4}$, and Mount Morgan are firmer; but there has again been a heavy decline in Mount Lyell to $9\frac{5}{16}$ on rumours that an unfavourable report had been made by an expert connected with a leading London firm. Now we are promised a contradiction of the same, and so it goes on. In New Zealand mines business has again been very small. Woodstock and Komata Reefs are lower; but Taitapu have improved. Amongst British Columbian mines there has been a moderate improvement in New Goldfields of British Columbia and in Klondyke and Columbian Goldfields; but other shares in this section have hardly moved. British America Corporation shares have been very actively dealt in up to 19s. It appears that the Le Roi Gold Mining Company has now been registered with a capital of £1,000,000, and that it will acquire the Le Roi mine which was purchased at the price of £600,000 some time ago. But I gather from the objects stated that power is taken to search for gold and other metals in various districts. Another Company registered, apparently in the same interests, is the Alconquin Gold Mining Company, Limited. From a correspondence from Rossland (B.C.), published in the *Colonial Goldfields Gazette*, I gather that the Le Roi may largely increase the recent output of 200 tons of ore per day. The ore body in the mine is stated to have maintained its dimensions of 7 ft. of solid high-grade ore, with 15 ft. to 17 ft. of second-class ore to a depth of 750 ft. About 60,000 tons of ore are reported to be on the dump. On the Centre Star, located on the same lead as the Le Roi, the continuance of the Le Roi lead has been proved to a depth of 500 ft. The shaft on the Nickel Plate, now down to 200 ft., is reported in good ore, assays of which are stated to have gone as high as $300. The developments also on the Columbia and Kootenay, which is probably on the same lead as the Le Roi and Great Western, are all stated as promising. Altogether, it is evident that very energetic development is being prosecuted on all the properties of the British America Corporation. Mexican mines have been steady, Grand Central at $1\frac{13}{16}$, Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico at $\frac{7}{8}$-1.

More about the Syndicate Touts.

In view of the strong attempts which are being made by a new crop of syndicate touts to ensnare the public, it is necessary, to again remind my readers of the misdeeds of the older series of these touts, who were brought to justice through the interference of the City Solicitor. Of these the man Thomas Tarrant, trading under the name of Frank Tarrant & Co., was one of the most mischievous and daring. Last week a public inquiry was commenced at the London Bankruptcy Court into the formation of the swindling Commemoration Syndicates, in which Tarrant was also the moving spirit; but it appears now that he has found several imitators in his rôle as syndicate tout. I have already commented upon the extraordinary touting circulars which are being issued by George Armstrong & Co., of 106, High Holborn, W.C., and last week I mentioned that a new firm was on the warpath under the name of Wilkinson, Jones, & Co., of 10, Featherstone-buildings, High Holborn, W.C., that neighbourhood apparently being just now the favourite abode of these gentry. My contemporary, the *Financial Times*, has discovered an extraordinary similarity in the circulars of George Armstrong & Co., and those issued last year by Frank Tarrant & Co., and again the curious family likeness of both to Galbraith, Young & Co.'s. The last-mentioned firm flourished some time in July last year, but has since disappeared. Some of the paragraphs seem to have been transferred bodily from the documents elaborated by Frank Tarrant & Co. into those issued by the other firms mentioned, which certainly shows that there is not much originality in the later effusions. What is still more curious is that Galbraith, Young & Co., in July, 1897, boasted precisely of the same results of six deals which I recently mentioned as having been put forward in a circular dated June, 1898, by George Armstrong & Co. This document gives the profits in six deals as from 300 to 520 per cent., the only difference being that the profit on No. 6 deal is given as 375 per cent. in one case, instead of 450 per cent. in the other. It is quite clear that both George Armstrong & Co. and Wilkinson, Jones, & Co. are treading the same path as that pursued by Frank Tarrant & Co., and it is a thousand pities that their offices are not situated within the City boundaries, in which case the City Solicitor would doubtless have again directed his attention to them. I, however, strongly advise those of my readers who may have suffered any loss through these gentry to at once communicate with me, when I will use my best endeavours to help them to their own again, as I have been able to do in so many instances in the past, or to bring about the punishment of the offenders. Finally, one cannot help asking where are the police, and where is the Public Prosecutor?

For the Decorating and Furnishing in best modern manner, or in any of the traditional styles, of a single room or an entire house, Hampton & Sons, Ltd., prepare, free of charge, suggestive schemes and competitive estimates.—Pall Mall East, S.W.

NEW ENTERPRISES AND ISSUES.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Hydro-Incandescent Gas Light Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring the whole of the British, Indian, Australasian, South African, and Canadian patent rights, and all other rights incidental thereto, of the Hydro-Incandescent Gas Light, with the benefits of a licence with the Welsbach Incandescent Gas Light Company, whereby the latter undertakes for a minimum period of five years to manufacture and sell the apparatus, paying to this Company 50 per cent. of the gross profits. The capital is £200,000 in shares of £1 each.

Dominion of Canada, City of Quebec.—Messrs. Coates, Son, & Co. are authorised by the City of Quebec to invite holders of the outstanding Six, Five, and Four and a Half per Cent. Debenture issues to exchange their present holdings either for new Three and a Half per Cent. Consolidated Registered stock of the City of Quebec or for cash upon terms stated in the prospectus, which can be obtained, together with the forms for listing the debentures, from Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co., the Clydesdale Bank, or Messrs. Coates, Son, & Co.

Tyne Improvement Commission.—This is an issue of £500,000 Three and a Half per Cent. Tyne Improvement Redeemable stock at par, issued by the authority of the Tyne Improvement Acts 1850 to 1898. The stock is redeemable at par in July, 1952, or at the option of the Commissioners at any time after July, 1918. Messrs. Barclay & Company, Limited, of 54, Lombard-street, will receive tenders for the above stock at the head office or any of its branches.

United States of Brazil Funding Scheme.—The Government of Brazil having decided to fund for three years from July, 1898, to June, 1901, the interest on the external debt, and also on the Four and a Half Internal Gold Loan of 1879, as well as certain amounts payable annually for railway guarantees, Messrs. Rothschild & Sons are authorised by the Finance Minister to issue an amount not exceeding £10,000,000 nominal capital Five per Cent. Funding Bonds specially secured by the Customs Revenues. The bonds will be redeemable by an accumulative sinking fund which will commence at the end of ten years from June, 1901, but the Government reserves the right to pay off the loan at par at any time.

The Venice Hotels, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire the Hotel Royal, Danieli, and the Grand Hotel, Venice. It is also intended to take over the Hotel Beau Rivage and the Victoria Hotel, for the purpose of serving as dependencies or annexes to the first-named hotels. It is also proposed to acquire other hotels in Venice, as opportunity offers, and negotiations are now in progress for the acquisition of the Hotel de Rome and Pension Suisse. The capital is £200,000, divided into 28,000 Six per Cent. Preference shares of £5 each, and 60,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each.

The Hotel and Club Investment Company, Limited.—This is an issue of £150,000 Four and a Half per Cent. First Mortgage debentures at par. The debentures are issued in amounts of £50 each and interest will be payable half-yearly. The debentures will be redeemable after December, 1908, at the price of £52 10s. each on six months' notice, at the option of the Company. The debentures will be secured by a specific mortgage to the trustees of the freehold properties and by a floating charge on the furniture, plant, stores, effects, goodwill and all the other assets of the Company. The Ordinary share capital is fixed at £100,000 in £1 shares, none of which is offered, and it is not proposed to offer any, for public subscription.

MY LETTER BOX.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

GOVERNMENT, &C., BONDS.

Colonel.—Chinese bonds cannot be called "safe," but the loan in question is a fair investment of the kind, and, of course, returns a good yield. *Eltham.*—I see no reason why you should not place the sum of £2,000 in question in India Two and a Half per Cent. stock. *S. A. L., Dublin.*—Upon inquiry, I find that none of the various Panama bonds, Ottoman bonds, Canal Maritime de Suez bonds, Ville de Paris 1865 bonds, Ville de Paris 1871 bonds, or Exposition Universelle 1889 bonds, the numbers of which you mention, have yet been drawn.

BANKS, TRUSTS, AND FINANCIAL.

Constant Reader, Sheffield, and Excelsior.—I advise you to have nothing whatever to do with this insurance concern. *Bap.*—With reference to your proposed investment of £6,000, to yield 3½ to 4 per cent., you must really tell me what kind of investment you require—American railroad bonds, Canadian Railway debentures, South American debentures, or Industrial debentures. As you are aware, you cannot obtain anything like this return in connection with English Government securities or in British Corporation stocks and Colonial Government bonds. *Miss A. D.*—Under the circumstances I strongly advise your sister to be satisfied with the P.O. Annuities, as she ought not to run any risks. *Rector.*—I cannot see that you can do better with safety, and should advise you to leave the money where it is. *E. K. P.*—I am doing my utmost to carry on a campaign against the foreign betting and lottery touts, but unless the Postmaster-General assists me, I am afraid I shall be unable to achieve much. *P. A. H.*—All the German and other lottery circulars should be consigned to the waste-paper basket. *Tota.*—You cannot be a regular reader of TRUTH, or else you would know that Frank Tarrant & Co. have collapsed long ago, and that the men who carried on the concern are now in gaol. I warned my readers quite sufficiently beforehand against these rascals.

HOME RAILS.

R. I. M.—According to my information the statement is absolutely correct, but you can easily confirm it by writing to the Secretary of the Great Central Railway. *F. O.*—Yes, North Western stock is a good investment at present price.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN RAILS.

Medicus, Walsall.—Apply to Messrs. Brown, Shipley, & Co. for information. The Company is about to be reorganised. *L. P. C.*—1. Grand Trunks have been pushed up a little too fast, and will probably be a choppy market for some time to come, although eventually they will doubtless fully maintain their values. 2. The best Mexican railway stock to buy at present is the Seven per Cent. "A" Debenture stock of the Inter-Oceanic of Mexico at 70, concerning which I am publishing a full statement in my letter. 3. Yes, the reorganisation is coming on, and the present is a good time to buy. *Katharine.*—If you really bought them at this high price they will have cost you 43¾, and you should certainly hold for a considerable advance, although you cannot expect to get your money back just now. Erie Prefs. should be held for a rise, and there is no reason to sell Northern Pacific Prefs. yet. *Hastings.*—Grand Trunk Guaranteed have not received a dividend since May, 1894, but it is expected that dividends will be resumed in the course of the present year.

MINING SHARES.

W. C. W.—No option but to hold all these various South African shares for a recovery. *Avon.*—1. Yes, it is a fair opportunity to average now. 2. No. 3. Yes. *S. R.*—All the South African mining shares mentioned by you, Nos. 1–3, have practically touched bottom, and I think you might act upon the advice to average. *Bey.*—No option but to hold the shares Nos. 1–5 for an improvement. They have practically touched bottom. You should average Lady Shenton (4) and Florence (5) now. *G. L. H.*—1. Yes; I think the present time is a favourable one to buy Kaffirs, and you might buy more of East Rands and Randfontein to average. One of the best South African shares to buy as likely to move up sharply is Rand Mines, Limited. 2. Yes. They are convertible into shares on your giving the necessary notice. The address of the Graskop Company is 16A, Token-house-yard, E.C. *Grand.*—There seems to be a fair prospect of a further improvement. 2. Not yet. *A "Truth" Reader.*—A fair venture amongst the Deep Level shares; but I have already given full particulars of the most desirable Deep Levels, amongst which Goldfields Deep ranks first in my opinion. *Josephus.*—Write to the Secretary, at 15 and 16, George-street, Mansion House, E.C. *Universal.*—I should not like to take the responsibility of advising you to join the reconstruction of the Universal Corporation of Western Australia. I have never expressed a favourable opinion of this concern, and you must take your own course. The documents are returned. *J. F.*—I have not a favourable opinion of this Bulawayo concern, and the Westralian mine in question is not at present in a promising position. *M. G.*—You really must act upon your own responsibility. I have never recommended these West Australian shares, and do not think much of the property. *Nemo.*—There should be a prospect of this South African Company coming to the front again, but before averaging you had better await a turn in affairs. *E. C. V.*—You should certainly hold the West Australian mining shares mentioned, as there is every prospect of an improvement. The second mentioned is, of course, about to join the amalgamation of the Standard Exploration Company. *J. McI.*—1. No particular reason for selling Ivanhoes now. 2. Impossible to tell yet. 3. A dividend is expected, but nothing definite is known about this yet. *Mixture.*—1. In view of the position of the mine the price of the shares is low, but, apparently, those chiefly interested in the Company are allowing matters to slide. 2. I would not average yet. 3. No; these West Australian shares should be held now for a rise. 4. Ditto; see remarks made by the Chairman at Saturday's meeting of the West Australian Market Trust. 5. East Murchison United at anything like 1 are certainly very cheap, and in view of the dividends already paid they ought to stand much higher. 6. Yes. *Hotspur.*—1. Probably. 2. Lady Shentons were only temporarily depressed, and are now up again at 2$\frac{5}{16}$. 3. The two Burbank's Companies mentioned are separate undertakings, viz., the Burbank's Birthday Gift and the Burbank's Grand Junction. *J. P.*—I quite agree with you that the fluctuations in London and Globes have

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been extraordinary, but the shares seem to be a favourite speculation just now, and the "Bears" have been particularly active. There is every reason to suppose still that the news which will shortly be published will prove favourable. *Tipperary.*—No; I should not buy these Australian shares yet, and the South African concern mentioned may in time succeed.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

Circle.—I suppose the reason is because the Prefs. were not well placed. *J. H. C.*—1. No; I do not advise purchase of Electric Cab shares. 2. No catch. 3. Leave it alone; you can do much better in the shares mentioned in my letter. *Pique.*—1. Cable property is no longer progressive. 2. One of the best hotel companies. 3. No catch. 4. A fair investment of the kind. 5. No catch. *S. R.*—Yes, Welsbach Ordinary are a good purchase for an early rise. *Beaumont.*—Yes, this promises to be a satisfactory amalgamation. *W. F., Junior Constitutional Club.*—Yes, the shares are of a substantial kind, but the Ordinary are obviously speculative. *Walpole.*—I do not like the investments Nos. 1, 2, and 4. As to No. 3, it is doing well, but the price is quite high enough. *Dovorian.*—The Debentures are good value and should be held. *Harrogate.*—The shares of this local company are not known in this market, and in the absence of definite information I cannot advise you.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Anxious, Rugby.—I have repeatedly stated that New Zealand First Mortgage Debentures are a bad investment, and I am afraid it is not much use holding them any longer. 2. There is no fund for depreciation. *Usk.*—South African Mining shares have pretty well touched bottom, and I should certainly advise you to keep No. 6 and 7. The Industrial stocks, Nos. 1-3, 5, and 8 may also be held, but I am not so sure about No. 4 and 9. *W. W., Prescot.*—1. The issue of new stock is already discounted in the present price of Great Western, and there is no reason to sell. 2. A fair purchase. 3. Yes. 3a. As regards the Cycle Company mentioned by you, it is quite possible that it is still doing a good business, but it is difficult to ascertain particulars; yet there seems no reason to sell in a fright. 4. Quite so. *Lewis.*—Amongst the Heavy lines North Western is the best purchase for an investment. The industrial debentures, No. I., are safe enough. II. No particular catch. You can practically get four per cent. in Brighton "A." Why not put the money into them, and into North Western? *Tyro.*—It is advisable to hold both A and B, and there should even be a chance for C with some patience.

MY CHAPTER ON INDUSTRIAL STOCKS.

Transactions in the Industrial department have not yet attained larger dimensions. Ascot, of course, interfered with this section as with most others; but there is every prospect of renewed animation in view of the cheapness of money and the comparatively small extent of the speculative account. New companies, too, are on the board, and one of the most important coming amalgamations is one in the brewery world, viz., Watney, Coombe, Reid & Co., the capital being fixed at something like nine millions sterling in preferred and deferred stock. A debenture issue is, moreover, being made by the Hotel and Club Investment Company. Apollinaris shares are easier, the Ordinary at 10½, the Directors' report not being considered satisfactory. Welsbach have fluctuated within narrow limits. The Ordinary stock is easier at 110, but for no particular reason, as the position of the Company is most promising. The Preferred have remained at 98, and the Deferred at 17s. 6d. were easier. English Sewing Cottons have given way to 1$\frac{7}{16}$, Coats Ordinary to 60; but Salmon & Gluckstein have again improved to 33s. 9d. Lyons are easier at 3⅞, and Russian Oil have declined to 2⅜, Schibaieff being quoted $\frac{3}{16}$ premium. The statement which I made on June 9 concerning the holding of the Fish Oil and Guano Syndicate, Limited, in the Volenite Company, viz., that the former held 25,000 Volenite shares, which then stood at £4, has brought me the following communication from the secretary of the Fish Oil Syndicate:—

> The attention of my Directors has been called to a paragraph appearing in your issue of the 9th inst. in regard to the number of shares in Volenite, Limited, held by the Fish Oil & Guano Company, Limited, and I am instructed by my directors to inform you that the Fish Oil Company owns 40,000 shares in the Company above referred to. In other words, the Fish Oil Company holds one-half of the total capital of Volenite, Limited, as an investment.

I am glad to make this correction, which will no doubt interest many of my readers. Fish Oils, by the way, are quoted 3⅝, Volenite at 4½. Quite a strong tone has prevailed for Bovril shares, and it looks as if this Company would bear out the favourable opinion which I have of late expressed. The Prefs. have risen to 1$\frac{1}{16}$, the Ordinary to 19s. 6d., the Deferred to 14s. Quite a rush to get out of electric light shares followed upon the passing of the second reading of the Vestries' Electric Lighting Bill, and City of London Ordinary are down to 25, Charing Cross to 12, County of London Ordinary to 12½. Westminsters to 13½. Investors in such shares might with advantage turn their attention to companies like the Welsbach, concerning which there is no fear of competition by vestries or others. The Hydro-Incandescent Gas Light Company, which has been on the tapis for some weeks, has finally been issued. It is not exactly a sub-Company of the Welsbach, but has an arrangement with the same, which at all events appears to be favourable to the Welsbach as the new enterprise has entered into a contract with the older Company, in which it is stipulated that the latter shall manufacture and sell the article paying over to the Hydro Company 50 per cent. of the gross profits. Sir William Robinson is to act as Chairman of the new Company, and Mr. Augspurg (lately connected with the Welsbach) will be the general manager. Schweppes have been steady, the Ordinary at 1⅛, the Deferred at ⅜. Movements in cycle shares have been irregular. At one time an improvement was marked, more particularly in Dunlops and Humbers, but prices have again eased off, and close somewhat below last week's level. Amongst Dunlops, the Ordinary at 15s. show no change, but the Deferred are lower at 8s., and Humbers have also given way, the Preferred to 13s., the Ordinary to 10s. Cycle Components are about unchanged at 1$\frac{7}{32}$, and Singer Ordinary have reacted to 8s. x.d.; Swifts being unaltered at 10s.—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

SPOILING THE EGYPTIANS.

IN a certain part of England—I will not say what part—lies a certain well-known town, which I will designate Spaminster. And I may add, perhaps—without giving the town's identity away—that it was once a famous health-resort, to which all and sundry fashionables, whether whole or sick, used to deem it needful to repair (before the opening up of Continental Spas) for the benefit of their systems, in the spring and autumn of every year; and that it still has a pump-room, and waters of great efficacy, but unquestionable loathsomeness, which have been described to me by a famous London doctor as "the best but beastliest stomachic that ever bubbled up out of the bowels of the earth." While I remember that another acquaintance of mine, who has taken these waters often enough to be very intimately acquainted with them, delivered himself thus on the subject:—

"Take," he said, "the shoppiest shop egg that ever sent you shuddering from your breakfast table; keep it in a hot room for a month; then multiply its flavour by ten, and you'll have some idea of Spaminster waters."

Few invalids resort thither nowadays, when you can do your cure not much more expensively, and far more gaily, at Aix or Baden. But it has a large resident population, who have taken up their abode there rather for their wealth than their health—Spaminster being a cheap place to live in, and (as provincial towns go) of uncommon social respectability. There is a noticeable point about this population. It contains much more than its due proportion of the fair sex. Only about every fourth person in Spaminster is masculine. A social function in Spaminster is almost entirely a function of petticoats. Any decent looking bachelor under fifty can become a lion there. I was a lion myself once—in the days of my youth, when I was living at Spaminster. I should have been an even greater lion than I was, only I was to a certain extent eclipsed by our new Vicar.

The Vicar was a young man, not more than a few years older than I was. He was unmarried. He was handsome. He was High Church. Also he was well-connected and well-bred, besides being clever, pleasant, and agreeable. No wonder, then, the ladies ran after him. No wonder they worshipped, almost to a woman, under his auspices and at his church. He preached every Sunday morning to the largest and best assortment of millinery in all Spaminster. Not many uncovered heads, however, sat under him. His pulpit oratory was not of the sort to appeal to the stolid male intelligence. I remember once being dragged to church by my sister to hear him, and remarking to her on coming out, "Well! of all the gush and twaddle and tommy rot!" (which was my truthful opinion of the sermon). It was bravely, but not wisely, spoken. My sister flew at me fiercely.

"Of course," she cried. "You are too worldly, too wise in your own conceit, to be able to appreciate such touching and beautiful simplicity."

And then she proceeded to harangue me all the way home on the exaltation of intellectual pride, which came direct from the Devil, and would infallibly take me back to the same source, unless I exchanged it, without delay, for the spirit of a little child.

I could hardly blame my sister for being so absurd a devotee of the Vicar's. She was only doing what almost every other woman in Spaminster did. And, while their devotion confined itself to immaterial matters, I did not feel called upon to enter any serious protest. But when it came to cadging for money on behalf of the reverend gentleman, I was really obliged to expostulate. One day a young (by courtesy) lady of my acquaintance, a Miss Milliford, called upon me with a collecting card.

"I have come to ask you for a subscription," she said, with her most bewitching smile. "I am sure you will not refuse *me*."

"It would be hard to refuse you anything," I replied, being a polite man and always ready to say what is expected of me. "But may I venture to inquire for what object you are collecting?"

"Your sister is on our committee. Has she not told you of our scheme?"

"Not that I am aware of."

"Hem!" said my fair dun, "the fact is this. The dear Vicar——"

(I groaned in spirit at that. My constitutional good nature, which is always too much at the mercy of the importunate, had already let me in for contributing to a fund for sending the pastor to the sea for change of air—quite against my better judgment. For why shouldn't vicars pay for their own change of air like other people? And I wondered what was coming now. I was soon enlightened.)

"The dear Vicar," pursued Miss Milliford, "is at present obliged, as you are aware, to live in an extremely incommodious and inadequate vicarage, and——"

"It's small, of course," I interposed; "but I should have thought it contained ample accommodation for a bachelor."

"It is not to be supposed—hem—that he will always remain—hem—a bachelor," replied the lady, fixing her maiden eyes modestly upon the floor; "and, in any case, he ought to have a vicarage suitable to his position—in fact, we—that is to say, the ladies of the congregation—have decided that he *shall* have a vicarage suitable to his position. And—and——"

"You wish me, then, I presume, to subscribe to such an object. If so, I am very sorry, but I really——"

"Now, don't say No! Don't be such a cruel man as to say No! Here, let me show you the plans. We have been to an architect, and he has drawn us plans for the sweetest vicarage. See!" (as she spread out a roll of tracing paper upon my table) "isn't it quite too charming?"

"H—m! Seems rather elaborate," I said, glancing at the plan. "I don't know much about building. But I should imagine that a house of that style and description would cost a pretty penny to erect."

"Only two thousand five hundred," answered Miss Milliford.

"*Only* two thousand five hundred!" I ejaculated. "Don't you think that rather a tall order?"

"Dear me, no! Considering the wealth of the congregation and the object in view, we think it extremely moderate. I may add that we have already more than a thousand subscribed towards it, and a lady of the congregation has promised us an admirable site. Now what may I put you down for?"

"Really," I protested. "I'm extremely sorry, but I cannot afford——"

"Come, now; I won't take No! I positively refuse to take No! If you can't afford a big cheque, we shan't turn up our nose at a small one. Some people have already given us as little as ten guineas."

"You call ten guineas a little subscription?"

"Well, taking into account the object, you could not call it a big one, could you?"

"But why should I contribute towards building a house for another man?"

"Really, Mr. Pettiver; what a curious question? Do we not read that 'They which minister to the sacrifice must live by the altar'?"

"We do not read that we are expected to build them superfluous vicarages at a cost of two thousand five hundred pounds."

"Oh, come! I know you are only joking. And you said you couldn't refuse me—didn't you?"

I sighed, and pulled out my cheque-book. I saw I should have to pay ten guineas as the price of peace and quietness. And I did so. I wished she had been a male collector, in order that I might have expressed myself in language adequate to the occasion. As it was, I had to content myself with writing "Damn," in red ink, on the counterfoil, and underlining it twice.

The above is a good sample of the cadging that was indulged in by the ladies of the congregation during the next few months; by the end of which time they had collected the required amount; and then the work of building the new vicarage commenced. It was completed before the year was out; and a fine showy residence it made. They had an opening ceremony and a service, at which the key of the new abode was formally handed over to the Vicar by the chairwoman of the ladies' committee which had promoted the scheme; and the Vicar made a beautiful speech in reply—at least, so said my sister Blanche, who attended the interesting function, and came home perfectly enchanted with all that had happened thereat. Indeed, I had seldom seen her so excited and so radiant. She kissed me quite affectionately twice, and called me "Dear old Charlie!" from which unprecedented circumstance I felt sure that something was up. What this something was I learnt a few weeks later.

"Charlie," said my sister, suddenly, fumbling nervously with her handkerchief and looking out of the window. "Should—should you be surprised to—to hear something?"

"I believe," I replied, "that I have lived long enough in the world not to be surprised at hearing anything. What is it, my dear girl?"

"Well, Charlie, you see—I mean—we—that is—we can't—I mean we aren't likely always to live together like this—are we? That is—one—or—or both of us m-might some day—change our estate—mightn't we?"

"My dear Blanche, what do you mean? I have no intention of changing my estate. Do you think of changing yours?"

"It—it—might happen, Charlie," murmured my sister, in evident confusion.

"So ho, little puss! The wind blows that way, does it? Who is he, Blanche?"

"I—I—perhaps I oughtn't to say anything about it. He—he hasn't actually sp-spoken yet. But we understand one another. In fact, I have—have known from his manner for a long time that—that he means to propose to me?"

"But to whom are you referring, my dear sis?"

"Oh, Charlie, can't you guess?"

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"Not to the Vicar?" I exclaimed.

Blanche's murmured reply was inaudible. But the colour that mounted to her face at my question was a sufficiently plain affirmative."

"But I have just heard," I said, "that the Vicar is engaged to Miss Milliford.

"Miss Milliford? That made-up, simpering, old-young thing? What will people say next?" my sister laughed mockingly.

"Well, the rumour is all over the town," I said. "And I understand that Miss Milliford herself makes no secret of the fact that, when the plans of the new vicarage were submitted to the Vicar, he consulted her, in the most marked manner, as to what she thought of the arrangement of the rooms."

"What a canard! What a ridiculous canard!" scoffed Blanche. "Miss Milliford wants to catch the Vicar, of course. Every one has seen that for ages. And no doubt she has set this story afloat on purpose to try and compromise him—the artful old minx. Little does she guess that he really did consult some one else—in a most marked manner, as you say—about the proposed arrangements at the new vicarage—and——"

"He consulted you?" I queried.

"Yes, Charlie, he did. It was then I—I—first knew that he—well, cared for me. His manner, when he asked me how I liked the arrangements, said as—as—plainly as—as possible, that he—wished me some day to become its mistress."

"If he wished that, so many months ago, it is a wonder he has not said so explicitly before this."

"There—there has been no need for him to speak. We—we understand each, other as I told you, Charlie."

"Hm!" I replied. "I should have thought that in a matter of such importance——"

"There, that will do," my sister interrupted. "You have—have—never loved and been—loved, Charlie. You are incapable of comprehending the—subtle power of communication which——"

"Rather too subtle for me," I ejaculated, grimly. "I hope the Vicar is not playing fast and loose with you, Blanche. These High Church parsons are as slippery as the Old Man!"

"How dare you say that of him?" Blanche flashed out, furiously. "It's all because you hate him and are jealous of him—yes, jealous! And I won't listen to another word!"

Thereupon, with an imperious toss of her head and a fine colour flaming in her cheeks, my sister sailed majestically from the room.

The same afternoon I happened to go up to the club. Half-a-dozen members were gossiping in the smoke room. I joined myself to them as a seventh, and we had a real good tittle-tattle. It was not long before some one turned the conversation upon the Vicar.

"Heard about Jerry?" he said (I don't think I have remarked that the Vicar's christian name was Jerome; and we generally alluded to him at the Club by this abbreviation).

"What about him?"

"He's going to be matrimonified."

"Psha!" said some one else. "I have heard the rumour so often, and in relation to so many damsels, that I've ceased to pay much attention to it."

"Ah, my dear fellow, but I have this on unquestionable authority. The lady herself has confided the fact to my wife."

"What lady?"

"That charming but uncertain-aged and, I venture to think, uncertain-tempered widow, relict of the late Chasemate."

"What? The chairwoman of that confounded Vicarage building scheme?"

"Of course. It appears that when the plans were first submitted to the Reverend Jerry, he consulted the widow, in a very pointed manner, as to her approval of the arrangements. And ever since then, though he has not actually proposed point blank, he has——"

"What's that you're saying?" struck in a retired General, throwing down the paper he had been perusing and strolling up to our group, "were you discussing the Vicar's engagement to Miss Berryman?"

"Miss Berryman! No! To the widow Chasemate."

"The widow Chasemate! Pish! That's quite an exploded myth. The fact is, Miss Berryman herself has made a confidante of my daughter. And she told her only this morning that when the plans of the new vicarage were submitted to his reverence, he consulted her, in the most unmistakable manner, as to her approval of the proposed arrangements. And though he hasn't yet asked her to marry him in so many words, yet his demeanour has made his intentions so abundantly obvious that——"

"I say, you fellows!" exclaimed a new comer, bursting into the room at that minute, with an excited expression on his face, "Have you heard the latest? Jerry's been cotched!"

"Younger daughter of James II.—funeral obsequies!" murmured the wag of the party.

"You've heard it then?" said the other, evidently disappointed. "How devilish quick these things do get about! Miss Pringle had never breathed the secret to a soul until she told my mother, only last night."

"Miss Pringle!" we all exclaimed.

"Yes, Miss Pringle. Didn't you know it was Miss Pringle?" he cried, perking up again to find that he was a purveyor of news, after all. "She told my mother that when the plans of the new vicarage were submitted to Jerry, he consulted her so very pointedly about the arrangements that——"

"He hasn't actually proposed yet, has he?" I interrupted him.

"Now, how the devil did you know that? He has not, it is true, made Miss P. an offer in so many words. But he has shown his intentions so very plainly by his manner——"

The shout of our united laughter drowned the rest of his sentence.

"It's my belief," pronounced the General, when silence was restored, "that every member of the Building Committee is confident that Jerry means to make her the mistress of his new Vicarage!"

"And it's my belief," added I, "that he doesn't mean to confer that proud position on any one of 'em."

I was right. He didn't. But that wasn't the worst of his conduct. About a year later, when preferment to a better living caused his retirement from Spaminster, he dealt the cruellest and meanest blow to his lady admirers who had done so much for him. By a silly bungle (such as might have been expected from a parcel of foolish women, who would go their own way and do their own business for themselves), they had made over the fine, new house to the Vicar personally, not in his official capacity; and thus—there was no doubt on this score—it had legally become his own property. Of this he was cad enough to take advantage. He stuck to that house. Protests, reproaches, public obloquy could not move him. And he put the finishing touch to his scandalous behaviour, soon afterwards, when he married an outsider, sold the house, and settled the proceeds upon her. Even to this day, there are women in Spaminster who cannot hear the subject referred to without hot tears of indignation.

Of course, the Reverend Jerry had his own version of the affair. He asserted that the Spaminster ladies did mean to give him the house for his own, and that their extraordinary change of attitude, after making him the present, was simply the old story of *spretæ injuria formæ* over again. And as for his having affected tenderness for any of these damsels, the statement was grossly and ridiculously untrue. *Credat Judæus, non ego!* I myself have no doubt that he did artfully stimulate each lady member of the Building Committee to collect big subscriptions for the vicarage scheme by encouraging her to believe that he would make her its mistress; and while I would not go so far as to say that he had meant all along to have the house conveyed to him personally (for such a result he could scarcely have controlled), I do assert that

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he knew he had to deal with a parcel of infatuated women, and that he kept his eyes wide open to take any advantage of them that their folly might offer.

This is a hard thing to say of a parson. But I am backed up in my opinion by one who is a distinguished wearer of the cloth himself—no less a person, indeed, than an Archbishop.

'Twas he who, at a Convocation lunch, made Jerry squirm with the retort, which has since become historic, and has earned for his Grace the undying gratitude of the ladies of Spaminster.

Jerry, happening to sit opposite the Archbishop, had been foolish enough to start abusing his former congregation at Spaminster with all the venom of one who had done them a great wrong. In the course of his remarks, he likened his departure from that place to the escape of the Israelites from Egypt.

This gave the Archbishop his opportunity.

"An apt comparison," said his Grace, with a bland smile. "For truly, like Israel of old, you—spoiled the Egyptians."

ART NOTES.

It happens that a portion of the Continental Gallery is occupied just now by a collection of pictures by M. Eugène Carrière, a French artist as unconventional and full of modernity in his way as his much talked about compatriot, M. Rodin, the sculptor. This has resulted in much bewilderment to many of the visitors to the exhibition of Mr. Gould's, of which I wrote last week. Entering the gallery whither they had gone to see "F.C.G.'s" good-humoured and laughable caricatures, they had found themselves surrounded by what at first appeared to be pictorial representations of grey mist and a fog of a rather lighter tint than we are accustomed to note in London. Could these hazy mysteries be the political skits they had come to inspect? Fortunately a reference to their catalogues served to dispel their bewilderment. Mr. Gould's drawings were at the further end of the gallery, whilst the enigmatic canvases they had come upon as they entered were the works of the M. Carrière already mentioned. Those who had time enough to linger amongst the hazy emanations of M. Carrière's genius found that in due course they began to take vague form and shape. To those who had leisure to calmly and patiently sit down in front of them and wait, uncanny eyes gradually became visible, staring out of colourless, corpse-like faces, and what had appeared to be impressionistic studies of mist resolved themselves into wraith-like portraits, suggesting spirit photographs rather than the presentment of sitters with material flesh and blood.

It will be gathered from what I have said that the style in which M. Carrière paints is eccentric and decadent enough to move his admirers to an almost incoherent superlative of eulogy. The average individual with sufficient mental balance and common-sense to refuse to bow the knee to this newest artistic Baal is, as usual, denounced as the blindest and densest of Philistines. He is upbraided for failing to see that M. Carrière is a transcendent genius. He is derided for not appreciating a painter who "draws like a sculptor"; though why a painter who draws like a sculptor is better than a sculptor who sculpts like a painter, or a novelist who writes like an architect, or a musician who composes like a civil engineer, I, for one, utterly fail to see. He is reproached for daring to think that it matters one jot in what form an artist seeks to convey to us the thought that it is in his mind to express. In short, he is exposed to the most violent verbal vituperation, for which, however, he is fortunately not a penny the worse; and he has the satisfaction, morever, of knowing that the canons of art in which he believes will remain in force long after the heresies of Mr. Carrière and his disciples are forgotten.

For my own part, I by no means deny that M. Carrière has talent of a certain order. But I do maintain that he wilfully does his utmost to obscure what is best in his method by his straining after sensational originality of *technique*. Thus skill which, properly directed, might command unqualified admiration, degenerates into an aggressive mannerism which is positively irritating. It is little to the purpose for his apologists to assure us that he models his portraits out of the fog of his background just as a sculptor creates his forms out of a shapeless block of marble or a lump of clay. In that case it seems to me that without doubt M. Carrière has mistaken his *carrière*, and that he should be working with a hammer and chisel rather than with a paint-brush. That he cannot be accepted as a wholly satisfactory painter may be seen by comparing his two portraits of E. de Goncourt at the Continental Gallery. The first of them was painted by him when this well-known French writer was alive and well, the last after he was dead, and yet, in both cases, the flesh is treated in the same manner. One of his sitters has put it on record that "he seemed to pump out my very life as he fixed me with his penetrating glance." Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner" was able to do a great deal with his "glittering" eye, as the Wedding-Guest found to his sorrow, but clearly M. Carrière is able to go one better than that loquacious old salt. I doubt if a portrait-painter with a glance of such exceptional dynamic power would ever be the rage in fashionable London Society. Smart ladies, especially those with a past, would hardly care to have their lives pumped out when they have their portraits painted. It would be unfair not to admit that M. Carrière paints hands with wonderful skill. He is said to have a passion for drawing them, and it will be noticed that in most of his portraits he insists on the expression of the hand as much as on that of the face of his subject. He prides himself, however, chiefly on being a painter of the mind, and it is not surprising, perhaps, that in striving to be too metaphysical an artist he sometimes makes himself unintelligibly misty.

MUSIC.

THE BOGUS "REGISTERED" TEACHER SQUELCHED.

I AM happy to say that the bogus "Registered Teacher R.A.M. and R.C.M." is no more. Three weeks ago I directed attention to the unscrupulous manner in which certain impostors in the provinces were misusing the word "Registered" in connection with the examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music. Their little span has now run, and last Tuesday by a resolution of the Board they were abolished. I heartily wish every other Board of honest men were as straightforward and as speedy.

The facts, it may be recollected, briefly, were these. The Associated Board was formed by the leaders of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music, with the Prince of Wales at their head, for the purpose of offering schools and others a proper examination in music, in place of the "diplomas" sold by the mushroom and "Limited Liability" enterprises. Examinations are held in the Metropolis and at various provincial centres; but it frequently happens that it is inconvenient for school pupils to go long distances to the county town, and accordingly, in such instances, the Associated Board have been in the habit of sending down special examiners. The cost necessarily is thereby increased, for sometimes long distances have to be traversed and railway and other expenses have to be incurred to examine, perhaps, only four or five pupils. One example will suffice. An eminent musician (Sir George Martin, if I recollect rightly) was sent from Exeter to Oakhampton by train, and thence fifteen miles to a school and back by road. He examined one 15s. candidate and a singing-class, and the fees received were £1 16s. The travelling expenses were more, and as the examiner could not return till the afternoon, the transaction was a dead loss. Accordingly, where special examiners are sent to examine fewer than twelve candidates from schools or private pupils in the country, it has hitherto

been the custom to demand a "registration" fee of a guinea a year.

The best intentioned of schemes are liable to misuse at the hands of unscrupulous people. The word "Registered" was at once seized upon as a very convenient advertisement by certain teachers and others in the provinces, who had passed no examination by the Associated Board, or by any one else, and who very possibly were charlatans and humbugs. Primarily, as I pointed out on June 2, the mistake arose in the use of the word "Registered." The guinea subscription clearly did not confer any diploma upon the registered school or teacher, but unprincipled persons found in this very innocent system an excuse for placing after their names "Registered R.A.M. and R.C.M." I believed, and plainly expressed my belief, that, as soon as the scandal was brought to the notice of the Associated Board, it would be stopped. I am happy to say this has been done. Men like Sir Arthur Sullivan, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Sir Charles Parry, Sir George Grove, Professor Dewar, Mr. Charles Morley, and the rest of the Board, would be the last in the world to tolerate such an abuse of a system, honestly conceived, but put by scamps to wrong uses. It is, indeed, only fair it should be known that the question had been brought before the Associated Board by its energetic hon. secretary, Mr. Samuel Aitken, a week or two before my article appeared. Nothing practical, however, was then done, and it is more than possible that the attention drawn to the matter in TRUTH may have expedited matters. At any rate, at the meeting of the Board on Tuesday last week the resolution was passed that "registration" should be absolutely abolished, and also that the registration fee should no longer be imposed. As, of course, the expenses must be covered, a slight extra charge will be made for each pupil examined at small schools, an increase which will hardly be felt, but which will enable the Associated Board to do away with a practice which had become a source of scandal. Accordingly, any person who, on the faith that he once belonged to an affiliated school, now advertises himself as "Registered Teacher R.A.M. and R.C.M." may be known as a fraud, and can be treated accordingly.

I may here point out that the local representatives of the Associated Board all work without fee. It is, also, I think, the only institution of its sort where teachers who send up pupils do not share in the swag. I am credibly informed that Trinity College, London, allows its members 6s. out of each guinea, and the Incorporated Society of Musicians and the London College of Music 20 per cent. of the fees paid by the unfortunate pupils. To this system, the objections to which are obvious, I may again refer on a future occasion.

Although the point only incidentally arose in the course of the discussion concerning the alleged "Registered" teachers, it is perhaps only fair to say that the Associated Board does not make the large profits it is popularly supposed to do. The authorities, as is usually the case where honorable men are concerned, offered me every facility to investigate matters for myself. As a matter of fact, down to two or three years ago, when Mr. Aitken became honorary secretary, the accounts did not fairly show the annual profits, as certain expenses for printing, and so forth, did not appear amongst the figures, and were, indeed, merely carried over from year to year. Recently, however, Mr. Aitken has adopted a far more satisfactory method, and the expenses of each year are balanced against the profits. Accordingly, last year the net profit was only about £500 each, and as during the first three years, from 1889 to 1891, there were no profits at all, the total, as I understand, for nine years for each institution was £3,650, or an average of a little over £400 a year for each. Prior, however, to 1889 the Royal Academy of Music had local examinations of its own, and these for the three years 1886 to 1888 averaged a profit of £1,100 a year. Consequently the Royal Academy actually loses part of its income by these Associated Board examinations. As to the Royal College, it had no local examinations at all before the Associated Board was formed. Also, as I am informed, the "registration," now abolished, mounted from £190 in 1891 to £883 during the present year, so that this loss of income must be covered by increased fees. Among other reforms and improvements instituted by Mr. Aitken since he first joined the Board are that details of the marks gained are now furnished to each candidate free (instead of at a half-a-crown fee), at a cost of nearly £250 a year, while the Board has instituted a general school examination and a singing-class examination; the local examination fees for harmony and counterpoint have been reduced from two to one guinea, and an elementary examination at a fee of half-a-guinea has been instituted. Colonial examinations have also been organised at a loss of £700; two free exhibitions at the Royal Academy or Royal College were last year given to certain candidates who showed special aptitude for music, and this year these exhibitions have been increased to six; while, finally, and, to my mind, best of all, the objectionable word "Registered" has definitely been abolished. Mr. Aitken, I may add, is a gentleman of means and of undoubted business capacity, and being an enthusiast in such matters, he generously devotes a large amount of time and labour gratuitously to the cause of musical education. I had, a few weeks ago, to criticise one of Mr. Aitken's letters to a provincial newspaper, and with the opinions I then expressed I still thoroughly agree. It was, I think, not a wise letter, but as the object I aimed at has been gained, there is no need to say anything more about it. It is, however, only just to acknowledge the extreme value of the work Mr. Aitken has done for the Associated Board, and not the least valuable of his successes has, I am sure, been the abolition of the bogus "registered" teacher.

As I anticipated, the Carl Rosa Company, at their meeting last Wednesday, resolved to go into voluntary liquidation. An unwise notice has since been issued that contracts have been entered into for the autumn tour. I am quite certain that any one who does buy the goodwill will not require many of these contracts, and will, indeed, prefer to cut himself loose at once from the present system of management, thanks to which something like £10,000 has been lost since January last year. That there is a chance of the business being transferred to a more successful direction will of course be welcome news to everybody.

I mentioned some time ago that a subscription was to be organised for Mr. Sims Reeves, and, under the auspices of four dukes and numerous knights and persons of lower degree, it has now been floated. These well-intentioned gentlemen propose to purchase the aged tenor an annuity, which, as Mr. Reeves will on September 26th next be eighty years of age, ought not to cost much. It would, however, be interesting to know whether the class which he threw up at the Guildhall School of Music, on the ground that it did not pay him, is still open to him. He then had special fees, so that his class was small, but he would, if he wanted work, doubtless readily get the 15s. an hour which the senior professors receive. Some provision, also, will, I suppose, be expected for his young wife, whom he married three years ago, and by whom the veteran tenor has two infant children.

There will be a change of management at the opera next year. The Syndicate, after a couple of successful seasons, will go out, and Mr. George Faber, the wealthy heir of Mr. Montague, and ground lessee of the theatre will take the whole of the risks and profits upon his own shoulders. Mr. Maurice Grau will still be general manager, but there will be an important change of policy and our leading opera house will thenceforward not be exclusively given up to the works of Richard Wagner. During the recent "dashed tomfoolery" of opera in the dark, there has been much grumbling, while at any rate at "Das Rheingold" and "Die Walküre" last week, many of the boxes have remained empty pretty well all the evening. The ladies clearly did not care to sport jewels and costly frocks in a

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tomb-like house where they could not see or be seen. People do not pay large subscriptions for a darkened theatre and a dismal entertainment "without cuts," and the present régime, profitable as it may be from a commercial point of view, is almost as tiresome as the policy of old, which relied mainly upon the trivialities of Bellini and Donizetti.

Next year, accordingly, Italian opera is not to be wholly neglected, and I should not be surprised to hear Tamagno, and perhaps even Masini, in some of the old and modern works of the genuine Italian repertory. Wagner will not be entirely dispensed with, but will take its turn with the rest of the repertory. At present Covent Garden is given up almost exclusively to the Germans and the Frenchmen.

M. Jean de Reszke will not be a member of the opera company next season. This, of course, is a pity, but the great Polish tenor is bitten by the Wagner fever, or, perhaps, as Count Tolstoi would say, he has been hypnotised by "mole" opera played in the dark. If the war allows, he will sing Wagner roles in the United States with Mr. Maurice Grau in the winter, returning to Europe at the end of April. May and a portion of June he will devote to the final studies of the part of Parsifal, the rehearsals for which will start at the end of June. M. Jean will play Parsifal and perhaps Siegfried, at Bayreuth in the late summer. M. Edouard de Reszke will be a member of the Covent Garden troupe, as the baritone's views, unlike those of his elder brother, do not extend to the complete elimination of all operas save Wagner.

The difficulty with M. Jean and the "cuts" was rectified by the capitulation of the eminent tenor. M. Jean, in point of fact, relearnt Siegfried without cuts, and the Elect are, I hope, duly satisfied. By a curious freak, however, last Thursday Mr. Schultz-Curtius and Herr Mottl gave a "Parsifal" selection at Queen's Hall with numerous cuts, "in deference," they officially stated, "to a desire emanating from Bayreuth." So what is sauce for the operatic goose is not sauce for the concert gander. Last week, also, Mme. Wagner heard M. Jean in the shortened version of "Tristan," and expressed her high approval of it. M. Jean de Reszke was to play Siegfried in its entirety on Tuesday, too late for notice this week, and on Friday he will sing for the first time in "Götterdämmerung." M. Edouard, who either is not so rapid a study or not so great an enthusiast, preferred to take things more leisurely, and accordingly the Wanderer on Tuesday was assigned to Herr Van Rooy.

Mme. Wagner has been strongly in evidence during the week. She has attended a Mottl and a Richter concert, besides three of the performances of the "Ring" at the opera. The daughter of Liszt is, however, by no means a one-sided woman, and she takes great interest in concert work and even in pictorial art. She has, I understand, been the round of some of our galleries, and I believe she will also attend the banquet to be given to-night (Wednesday) by the Wagner party to Herr Mottl. Whether she is able to stop for "Götterdämmerung" on Friday is not yet certain, but after that, at any rate, she will return to Bayreuth.

Mme. Calvé has at last added Gounod's Marguerite to her repertory, and on Wednesday of this week she proposes also to sing for the first time Ophelia in Thomas's "Hamlet." Every part she undertakes is made more or less interesting by many an original touch, although no character in the ordinary repertory suits her so well as her own peculiar line of parts, such as Santuzza, Carmen, and the Navarraise. Nevertheless, her Marguerite was full of interest, as the reading was entirely new. From a vocal point of view, perhaps, it left something to be desired, for Mme. Calvé dragged the tempi and indulged in the rubato to such an extent as to recall Mme. Melba's famous saying, that "The orchestra follows the conductor, and the conductor follows us." But her pretty by-play when she first sees the jewels, and the girlishness of her acting in the love business in the garden scene, were in striking contrast to the dramatic reading of the scene in the church (where the ridiculous prie-dieu was dispensed with), the deep tragedy of the death of Valentine, and the prison scene.

Mme. Melba comes next Tuesday. The Australian prima donna, at any rate, has discarded Wagner. A couple of years ago she had one shot at Brünnhilde in America, but the music, of course, did not suit her, and she has now cast in her lot with the melodious school. Accordingly, on Tuesday she will sing our old friend the consumptive heroine in "La Traviata;" on July 7, the even more welcome part of Rosina in the merry "Barber," and on July 15 the thoroughly sympathetic rôle of Juliette, of which she is now perhaps the best interpretress. Whether M. Jean de Reszke will sing Romeo this season is not yet certain. It is, however, very significant that for the Royal performance before the Queen at Windsor Castle, M. Jean, the typical lover of the operatic stage, has, by the Queen's special wish, selected Romeo, instead of the more heroic Wagnerian characters.

The scheme for building a Wagner theatre on Richmond Hill seems to have been dropped, and the newest suggestion is that a special theatre shall be designed for the Wagner party in the grounds of the Crystal Palace. In England, of course, we should not permit a wooden erection for public performances, at any rate, anywhere outside the Imperial Institute. The Crystal Palace Wagner theatre would have to be of a more substantial character, and the estimate of £25,000 for its erection and furnishing is grotesquely inadequate. It would probably cost thrice that amount, and how it is to be made to pay after the present passing fever is at an end remains to be considered. The theatre, "far from the madding crowd," would, of course, be useless except for Wagner performances, unless, indeed, it was afterwards converted into a stable for the Wagner menagerie.

The concerts of the week have been more important than usual. The final Richter and Mottl concerts have been given, both with strong programmes. Mottl offered a splendid performance of the C minor symphony, and the prelude to the second act of Mr. D'Albert's opera "Gernot," dull music enough, was also performed. Richter interpolated in his programme "Les Preludes" by Liszt, out of compliment to Liszt's daughter, Frau Cosima Wagner, who was present. The chief item of Richter's programme was, however, Beethoven's Choral Symphony and the Prelude and closing scene from "Tristan." There have also been some capital chamber concerts. On Friday, for example, for a charity, Lady Randolph Churchill, John Oliver Hobbes (Mrs. Craigie), and Miss Janotha played Bach's triple concerto in the presence of a brilliant audience, which included the Princess of Wales. Miss Janotha is, of course, well known as a distinguished pianist, and although her two associates were amateurs, yet both Lady Randolph Churchill and Mrs. Cragie have already proved their capacity as executants. The Countess Valda Gleichen, Mme. Ella Russell, and M. Wolff took part as vocalists. At Mr. Bispham's concert on Thursday, some of Mr. Kipling's poems, set to music by American composers, were sung, and the two recently-discovered songs by Beethoven were given for the first time. The "Hedge Rose" was less interesting than the "Erl King," of which Beethoven himself left a sketch for the accompaniment. M. de Pachmann, still one of the greatest Chopin players of his time, gave a Chopin recital on Saturday; and on Monday at St. George's Hall there was a Beethoven concert followed by a performance of an Anglo-German drama, entitled "Adelaïde," a curious mixture of anachronisms, for the period is 1815, whereas "Adelaïde" was produced some twenty years earlier, and Beethoven is supposed in the play to be composing one of Clärchen's songs which had been produced five years before. Mr. Bispham had nothing to sing; but in the part of Beethoven he again proved himself a capital actor.

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GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—What a wonderful Ascot we have had! On Tuesday every one was in furs and velvets, and on Wednesday Redferns were the order of the day. Then the temperature gradually went up, so that on Friday, the last day of the meeting, the heat was almost torrid. We reserved ourselves for the finest day, as it turned out. Never again will I visit Ascot on Cup day, as we did in previous years. The crowd and heat are generally most trying. On the Friday there is usually the best racing, and the company is what the daily papers call "select," meaning scanty. It could be hardly described as exactly scanty last Friday; but the Royal Enclosure was not inconveniently full, there was no rush for the trains, and at luncheon time no one had to wait. These things go far to make a day pleasant, do they not?

It was curious to notice how very lucky yellow was on the course. Almost, if not quite, every horse that won was ridden by a jockey in a yellow jacket. Some of the races were extremely pretty, the field keeping well together, and the riders' orange, yellow, and vermilion jackets shining in the sun. Ascot is a wonderful sight, even on an off day. It is pretty to see the ladies stream down the paddock between the races, their sunshades looking like sea anemones, as a poetically-minded young man put it. As to the dresses, I never saw anything like it in previous seasons. The lightness of the lace, embroideried net, and silk muslins sewn with Chantilly, were the predominant characteristics. Though all this would have been reserved for evening dress until a season or two ago, the toilettes looked well suited to the weather of Friday, for the heat of the sun was intense, though tempered by a cool breeze.

We went by Slough, the Clubland brakes meeting the trains there, and taking passengers through the Windsor Home Park and Eton and Windsor, a delightful drive of an hour or so. It is much the pleasantest way of getting to Ascot, and we should not think of trying the other route again.

Of all the gowns we saw, I think the very prettiest was a beige muslin, all softly falling and trimmed with rows of creamy lace. It was worn with a toque trimmed with shaded pink and damask roses. The greater number of the dresses were black and white, chiefly carried out in lace and muslin. Black lace over white muslin, either in rows going straight round or slanting upwards, or in bands from the waist downwards, ending under a flounce also of lace, was certainly the favourite, but the two negative colours appeared also in a silk. Pure white silk was trimmed with narrow bands of black lace insertion, all of which met at the waist, radiating outwards as they descended. A lady who lunched at the table next to ours in the Clubland tent wore white satin with a demi-train, a little black lace introduced at the waist having the effect of making the wearer look slim. We afterwards saw this gown in the Royal Enclosure. A rather funny thing happened, though probably the sufferer did not view the incident from the funny side. A beautifully dressed girl was walking along, when her silk underskirt suddenly came down, all pink silk and flounces. In her horror at this catastrophe she sat down, probably thinking it would be wise to accompany her petticoat in its descent. But as gentlemen flew from every side to pick her up, she saw the error of this course of conduct, and swiftly rising to her feet and "scrabbling," as Charlie described it, her skirts together, she made a dart for shelter in the ladies' tent. We were very sorry for her, but could not help being amused at her face of utter dismay.

By the way, Mr. Chauncey N. Depew was lunching at Clubland. I was so glad of the opportunity of seeing him. He has such a nice face, just the sort one would expect him to have. It is so horrid to be disappointed in a man whose books or speeches one admires. Is it not?

Do you know, dear, I am quite tired of the shaped skirt. It was so well represented at Ascot that it became simply a livery. I refer to the apron sort of trimming, defined by bands of trimming, or frills, or flounces. I prophesy its speedy demise, for it has been completely overdone. There were lovely cream-coloured muslin gowns, with embroidered designs carried high up the skirts in meandering lines, and all deliciously soft. In one or two instances I suspected a crinolette, so ample was the outward sweep of the skirt from the waist at the back. All the dresses were long enough to trail on the ground for some inches. We saw the Princess of Wales at Paddington station on Thursday, our hansom being stopped by the police to allow the Royal carriage to set her down. As she sauntered, in her usual quiet way, from the carriage to the platform, we had an opportunity of seeing her dress and of noticing that it had a train. It was palest mauve glacé silk, striped with narrow lines of black, and trimmed with cream-coloured lace. Her toque was yellowish straw, trimmed with mauve flowers and a few plumes. We could not see how the bodice of her gown was done, for she wore a sweet little cape, all frills, alternately beige and cream colour. The Prince wore a black frock-coat, and looked very genial and jolly.

So you see, dear, the demi-train is an established fact. I am sorry, for it is an uncleanly fashion. It is all very well for princesses, who have red carpet laid down for them when they have to walk a few steps from their carriage; but as their gowns are copied by meaner folk, who have to walk about their daily business, it is regrettable.

The Princess of Wales would be the very last to don a long gown for a walk! Her tailor-mades are most workmanlike and are cut with an eye to the practical. Neither she nor her daughters would ever be likely to transgress the canons of dress so far as to wear long skirts in the street. It is the human butterflies who do that sort of thing, and it is weary business to think of the thousands of little folk who will foolishly copy them and have their gowns, to be worn in every kind of weather, cut long enough to trail on the doubtful pavements.

Next to black and white, the favourite dress at Ascot was all white or cream colour. Most of these were very pleasing, but there were exceptions. One especially was made with a very tight yoke of lace or embroidery round the hips, caught up in apron fashion from the front. All below this arrangement was frills, far too many. Overcrowding any trimming completely destroys its effect, and most of this season's dresses suffer from this fault. It was refreshing to see the masterly simplicity of some of those at Ascot, the silk muslin falling in perfect folds from waist to feet, unfretted by any futility of mistaken trimming. We compared them, with much relief of feeling, with others on which miles of frilling and ruching were lavished. We heard that one gown had eighty yards of ruching on it. I call that simply wicked! Think of the hours of drudgery for some poor girl involved in preparing such a quantity of niggling little trimming.

I have completely failed to give you any idea of the dress at Ascot. It is beyond my power. Looking across from Clubland coach, the paddock and Enclosure were radiant in soft colour, the tints being so faint and pale, as a rule, that a very bright pink or blue or rather vivid green quite jarred upon the eye. There were one or two successful yellow gowns. Georgina Lady Dudley looked about twenty-five in a soft yellow, relieved and subdued with black. I fancy Lady Granby was in yellow, and a very tall, handsome girl wore muslin of that colour. The muslin dresses had evidently one or two muslin underskirts under them, so softly did they hang, quite differently from the satin slips gleaming through to which we were accustomed a year ago.

There were hardly any picture hats, though many of the Leghorns were fairly large. Some of these might have walked out of an old Sir Joshua portrait. One in

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particular, quite flat in crown and trimmed with cottage garden flowers, was very sweet. Every possible shape seemed to be represented, from the bonnet proper to the round brim crowded with flowers and ruching. One of the latter had so bright a pink in the blossoms that they completely extinguished the fair colouring of its wearer. Toques were the general wear, rather wide above the brow and almost all made of satin straw or crinoline or drawn tulle or chiffon. Cherries appeared on many of them, and strawberries on one or two. Periwinkle colour is dying out, and soon will be no more. We noticed a great deal of grey, but not so much as there has been of late. One or two gowns in dove colour were pretty.

The Press Bazaar is going to be a great affair. About seven-and-twenty of the London papers are to be represented at it, and the London Hospital, in whose interests it has been undertaken, will certainly largely benefit by it. The Princess of Wales is to open it at 2.30 on the afternoon of June 28 at the Hôtel Cecil, accompanied by the Duchess of York. An exhibition of objects in connection with press work is to be on view in the Oak-room. Many great ladies are giving their services. The Duchess of Bedford is to assist at the *Artist* stall, where lace, pottery, and pictures are to be the articles vended. The Duchesses of Abercorn and Sutherland will assist at the *Gentlewoman* stall in the sale of Irish and Scotch industries, and a number of artists' wives will sell pictures, original drawings, sketches, and etchings at the sign of the *Graphic*. Original drawings are also to be the staple commodity at the *Lady's Pictorial* stall, where the Duchess of Somerset, the Countess of Dudley, and Lady Warwick will help in the gentle cause of charity. Lady Rothschild and a great gatheringof Jewish ladieswill sell in the name of the *Jewish Chronicle*. Chiffons, fichus, and French hats are the attractive wares to be disposed of at the sign of the *Lady*, by the Duchesses of Leeds and Portland, Lady Annesley and Lady Westmorland, and Countess Cadogan. Lady Newnes has secured the co-operation of the Duchess of Newcastle, the Marchioness of Zetland, Lady Jersey, and Lady Iddesleigh in disposing of fancy leather goods and Persian kittens on behalf of the *Ladies' Field*, the *Strand*, and *Country Life*. The Duchesses of Roxburghe and Westminster, with the Marchioness of Lansdowne and Lady Granby will sell flowers for the *Morning Post*. Autograph-books and tooled bindings are to be the wares sold for the *Daily Mail* and *Evening News* by the Misses Harmsworth, Lady Bective, and Miss Marion Terry. Mrs. Arthur A'Beckett and the Lady Mayoress are to sell, very appropriately, Service knicknacks and Wellingtonian relics for the *Naval and Military Magazine*. Original drawings, by *Punch* artists, will be sold under the auspices of that paper by the wives and daughters of gentlemen connected with the staff. Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar and the Duchess of Rutland, with many other ladies of high rank, will serve at the *Queen* stall, where old silver and glass are to be among the tempting wares. Gloves and ties are to be the attractions at the *Stage* stall, in addition to Miss Ellen Terry, Miss Nellie Farren and all the best-known actresses in London. They are to be vendeuses. TRUTH stall is to be devoted to cigarettes and cases for holding them. Mrs. Dunlop Best will be among the ladies assisting. Original sketches by "Spy" are to engage the attention of the Duchess of Marlborough, Georgina Lady Dudley and others for *Vanity Fair*, and Mr. Carruthers Gould's cartoons and caricatures with "political d'oyleys and menus" will be sure to attract custom to the *Westminster Gazette* in the able hands of Lily Duchess of Marlborough, Mrs. Asquith, and Miss Cissy Loftus. Mrs. Aria is to dispose of French fashions of all kinds for the *World of Dress*, assisted by Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Gertrude Kingston, &c.

I need scarcely add that there is a long list of names of members of the dramatic profession, who have kindly volunteered to assist in the entertainments. It is the most generous profession in the world.

Being curious to find out what the marriage rite of the Theistic Church is we went to see the Rev. Ellison Annesley Voysey married to Miss Rachel Enthoven on Wednesday last at the little building in Swallow-street, where the bridegroom's father has been preaching and conducting the services for so many years. The air of the building is ascetic, and along one wall a number of urns on brackets probably contained the ashes of persons who had been cremated. Cremation certainly effects a wonderful saving of space in the disposal of mortal remains.

There is no altar, no chancel, no rail, no step, in the Theistic Church, and the contracting parties simply knelt before a small table, the father of the bridegroom standing on the other side. The ritual is taken from that of the Jewish Church, which I have always thought most beautiful. The "covenant of affection" was duly entered upon, and with a simple undertaking to take each other for man and wife, the short ceremony concluded. There was the inevitable baby, which seems to haunt weddings, pointing the vows and priestly adjurations with its cries and irrelevant observations. I pitied its nurse, who made frantic efforts to keep it from making remarks. I wonder why mothers take babies to church when weddings are going on? It must remind the atoms of their christening, and arouse fearsome anticipations of a cold-water douche. Small wonder that they howl.

Have you heard of the Ladies' Needlework Society? It is a development of the Theatrical Ladies' Guild, of which I have written you several times. Its object is to help poor mothers of the dramatic profession by giving or lending them baby clothes, and affording them other aid at times when it is sadly needed. The Needlework Society asks each of its members to send two baby garments in every year—as many more as they like, of course, but the minimum is two. Do you feel inclined to join? There is no subscription. All you have to do is to send in to the Hon. Sec., Miss Willows, Lansdowne House, Hull, the two little garments you make.

There is a bazaar going on this week at the Imperial Institute in aid of the Norwood Orphanage for Girls, which is burdened with a heavy debt. It has sheltered 3,000 orphans during the fifty years of its existence. The debt has been incurred chiefly through persons who have engaged to pay for orphans neglecting to do so. There are now eighty-five children for whom no payments are being made, but they will be kept till they are able to enter service. The Princess of Wales is to open the fancy fair on Wednesday forenoon, and H.R.H. has commanded the presence of the orphans on that occasion. They are to line the approach from the roadway to the door of the Imperial Institute.

I have several times told you about the lovely work done by the Decorative Needlework Society, at 17, Sloane-street. There is to be a special sale also this week of their beautiful screens, stools, chairs, boxes, coffers, portières, piano-covers, table-centres, &c. It begins on Wednesday and continues till Saturday, July 2. The embroideries are very high-class, and the work done is of a high standard.

We are going to settle down in town after another week of the country cottage. The country gets a very rusty, secondhand look soon after the longest day, and we are a little tired of living a mile and a half from a potato, a postage stamp, or a hair-pin. It is novel and amusing for a short time, but when the novelty wears off the amusement vanishes too.

We are due in town for the Ladies' Kennel Dog Show, having to take our turns in keeping Lilla's dogs company during their incarceration, as I told you. We are providing ourselves with novels for the occasion, good long ones. I have selected Mrs. C. N. Williamson's "Woman in Grey," as I've peeped into it and it looks so thrilling. I

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read "Tom Ossington's Ghost" the other night, and was afraid to go upstairs in the dark after it. There's a laugh in it that churns up all one's latent terrors in the most remarkable manner.

Do try this "Salmon Pie," it is a charming dish for a cold collation :—

Cut 2 lb. of salmon into fillets, and put the bones and skin, with any other fish trimmings, on to boil to make the gravy. Arrange the fillets alternately with the meat of a lobster, cut in scallops, in a game-pie or an ordinary pie dish. Fill the interstices with the yolks of hard-boiled eggs, sprinkle all with salt, pepper, chopped parsley, chives, capers, and lobster coral. Fill the pie with fish stock, cover it with flour and water paste and bake for two hours. When the pie is done, remove the paste, fill up with the strained stock, to which a little dissolved gelatine has been added. Place a saucer with a small weight on the top to press the meat, and put it into a cold place until quite firm. Pour dissolved butter on the top, and garnish with blocks of aspic jelly and sprigs of parsley or chervil.

This is a novel way of dressing ducklings with olives :—

Remove the breast bone from a couple of ducklings, fill the aperture with forcemeat and truss them into shape. Cover the breasts with slices of fat bacon, then with a layer of sliced onion and carrot, tie well-greased paper over them, and roast them three-quarters of an hour, basting them very frequently with butter. Meanwhile, fry a couple of minced shalots with an ounce of butter in a stewpan, mix in a dessertspoonful of potato flour and a pint and a half of bone stock, stir all till it boils, strain it, and return it to the stewpan ; add an ounce of glaze, a teaspoonful of sugar and about 24 turned olives. Withdraw the string from the birds, brush them over with warm glaze, pour the sauce round them, and group the olives at the corners.

To make the forcemeat :—Pound ½ lb. of white veal for ten minutes, add 6 oz. of scraped fat bacon, 4 oz. of butter, the yolks of four eggs, and pepper and salt to taste. Pound the whole until it is thoroughly amalgamated.

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THE MEDICINE MAN. Matinée Next Saturday, and Tuesday Night, 28th.
LOUIS XI. Next Saturday Night.
THE MERCHANT of VENICE. Next Wednesday Night, June 29, and Friday Night, July 1, Last Night of the Season.
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SATURDAY Next, June 25	FROU-FROU.
MONDAY Next, June 27	ADRIENNE LECOUVREUR.
TUESDAY Next, June 28	ADRIENNE LECOUVREUR.
WEDNESDAY Next, June 29	MAGDA.
THURSDAY Next, June 30	JULIE AND LA FEMME DE CLAUDE.
FRIDAY, July 1	JULIE AND LA FEMME DE CLAUDE.
SATURDAY, July 2	CAMILLE.
MATINEES.	
SATURDAY Next, June 25, at 2	PHEDRE.
WEDNESDAY Next, June 29, at 2	FROU-FROU.
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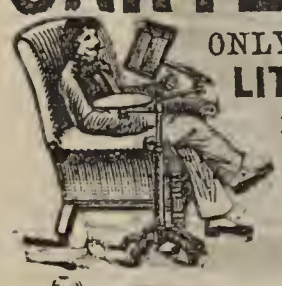

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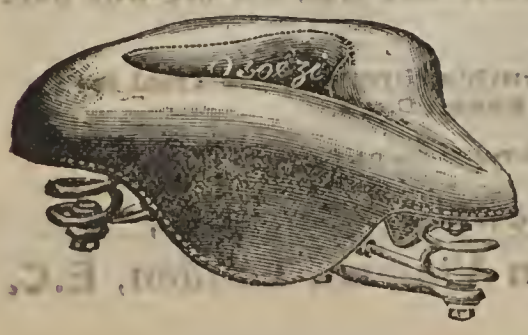
21/- Post Free **The "Osoezi" Saddle** **21/-** Post Free



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ARTIFICIAL TEETH,

EITHER

Gold, Platinum, or Vulcanite,

Deodorizing, Disinfecting, removing **Grease,** keeping them **Bright** and **Clean** as when new.

ALL WEARERS SHOULD TRY IT.

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The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST reports:

"An ideal soap, delightfully perfumed."

1/- per box of 3 Tablets.

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Keeps the Skin as soft as Velvet.

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Scented with Choice Otto of Rose Perfume.

Beautifies the Complexion.

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Concentrated, Delicate, Pure.

*Vinolia Bouquet,	Rondeletia,
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White Heliotrope,	Patchouli,
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Frangipanni,	Ambergris,
Jockey Club,	Amaryllis,
Maréchal Niel,	White Lilac,
Millefleur,	Narcissus,
White Rose,	Chypre,
Jasmin,	Violette de Parme,
Musk Rose,	Mignonette,
Honeysuckle,	Clematis,
New Mown Hay,	Wallflower,
Lily of the Valley,	

Violet, | *Rhine Violets, | Peau d'Espagne.

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DRY. Freshens and cleanses the Hair, and preserves it free from any oily moist appearance.

MOIST. Imparts a natural gloss to the Hair

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Each in 3 odours: Portugal, Rose, and Violet.

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For Itching, Face Spots, Sunburn, &c.

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For Redness, Roughness, Toilet Nursery, &c.

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In White, Pink, and Cream Tints.
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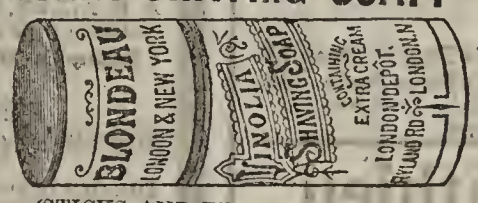
6d



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Causes no Blotches.

STICKS: Premier 6d., Toilet 1/-, 1/6, 2/6, Vestal 2/-.

FLAT CAKES: Premier 1/-, Toilet 2/-, Vestal 2/6.

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A Coralline Emollient for Dry, Rough, Cracked, or Pallid Lips.

In Rose-Red and White Tints, 6d. and 1/- a Tube.

6d VINOLIA LAVENDER WATER.

Natural and Very Lasting.

Contains the finest Essential Oils, Concentrated, therefore the Most Economical.

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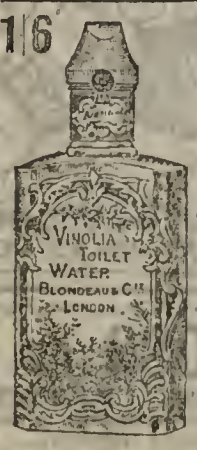
1/6 VINOLIA TOILET WATER.



This is prepared with delicate, refreshing perfumes, and is a most exquisite and delightful preparation to use either clear or in water for the Toilet or in the bath.

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4d PREMIER VINOLIA DENTIFRICE

Aromatic, Tonic, Refreshing, Preservative.

Keeps the Teeth Ivory White.

Premier in Round Box and Glass Bottle, 4d.
English—2/6.
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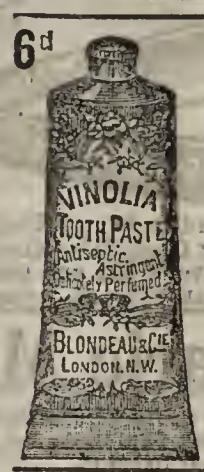
6d VINOLIA TOOTH SOAP.

An exquisite preparation for the Teeth. Delightfully perfumed and free from any injurious ingredients.

In Round Metal Box, 6d.

6d VINOLIA TOOTH PASTE.



Delicately Perfumed.

Whitens and Cleanses the Teeth, without in any way injuriously affecting the dental structures.

In Collapsable Tube, 6d.

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These Smelling Salts are of exceptional Strength and most Refreshing. They are agreeably scented, the pleasant odour of Lavender being very pronounced.

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Fragrant. Refreshing.

As fine as can possibly be made.

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Specially prepared for Toilet and Nursery use.

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Black Handle 5/6 | Pair, Ivory Handles, in Russia Leather Case. 21/- | Kropp's Duplex Strop 7/6
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For Liver Complaints, Rheumatism, and all Nervous Disorders. Prevents Obesity.

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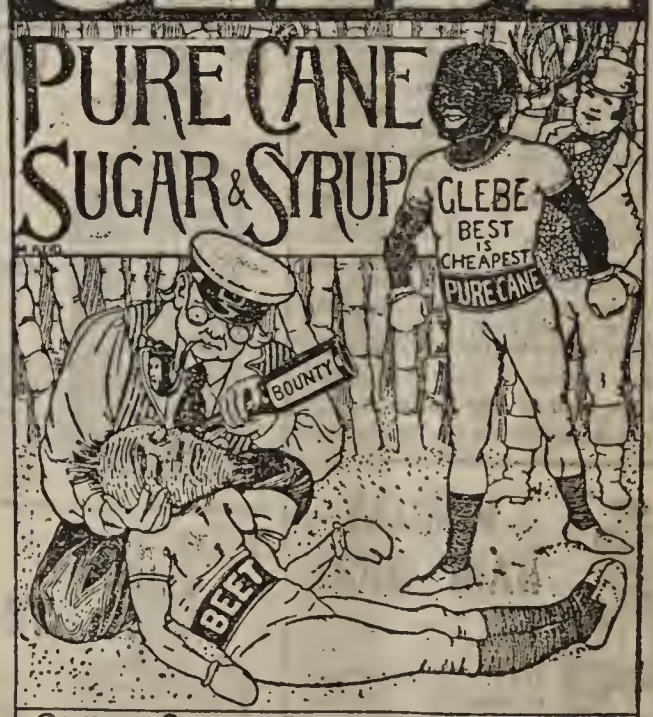

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The LANCET says:—"It is sound and honest, and of a fragrance, purity, and quality ***second to none.***"

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PREVENTS THE DECAY OF THE TEETH.

Renders the Teeth Pearly White.

IS PERFECTLY HARMLESS AND DELICIOUS TO THE TASTE.

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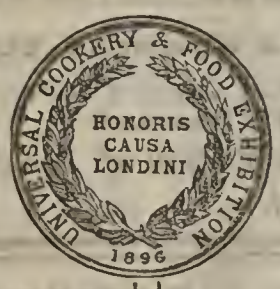

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The New Vinegar. This condiment is prepared exclusively from dates. It is absolutely pure. Culinary experts pronounce it far superior for Cooking and Pickling purposes to Malt or White Wine Vinegars, as, though of a similar flavour to these, it is non-injurious, and can therefore be used with impunity by the most dyspeptic. It is far and away the best for table use. The leading Pickle and Sauce Manufacturers use it exclusively, among others, POTTER'S PERFECT PICKLES are prepared in Victoria Date Vinegar.

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Exquisite Models. Perfect Fit. Guaranteed Wear.

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Will not split in the Seams nor tear in the Fabric. Made in all the fashionable colours and White, Black, and Shades in Italian Cloth, Satin, and Coutil, 4/11, 5/11, 6/11, 7/11 per pair and upwards.

CAUTION.—Every genuine Y & N Corset is stamped.

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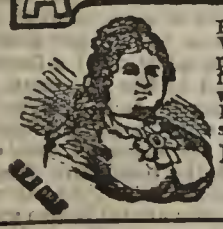

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"The Prototype of all Bitter Waters."
THE LANCET.

CAUTION.

Every Bottle bears the Signature of the Proprietor, ANDREAS SAXLEHNER.

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ISSUE of £500,000 THREE-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. TYNE IMPROVEMENT REDEEMABLE STOCK.—Under the Authority of the Tyne Improvement Acts, 1850 to 1898.—Redeemable at par between 1st July, 1918, and the 1st July, 1952, inclusive. Minimum Price of Issue, £100 for every £100 Stock. A full six months' dividend will be paid on the 1st January, 1899.

BARCLAY & COMPANY, Limited, 54, Lombard-street, London, instructed by the Tyne Improvement Commissioners, will RECEIVE, as Bankers to the Commissioners, TENDERS for £500,000 TYNE IMPROVEMENT REDEEMABLE STOCK, bearing interest at 3½ per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly, January 1st and July 1st, at the said Bank or any of its Branches.

Under Section 3 of the Tyne Improvement Act, 1897, the Tyne Improvement Commissioners may from time to time create and issue Tyne Improvement Redeemable Stock, and the amount of the Stock which the Commissioners are by their various Acts empowered to create and issue is not to exceed for all purposes £4,800,000.

Under Section 4 of the Tyne Improvement Act, 1897, the Stock, when issued, and the interest thereon, will be a charge on the Tyne Consolidated Fund, to which, under Section 5 of the Tyne Improvement Act, 1890, all dues, rates, tolls, charges, and sums received by the Commissioners are carried.

Under Section 5 of the Tyne Improvement Act, 1897, all Stock at any time and from time to time created and issued shall rank equally, and shall also rank equally with the Mortgages on the Tyne Consolidated Fund granted after the passing of the Tyne Improvement Act, 1881, without any priority or preference on any ground whatsoever, and the interest for the time being payable on all Stock shall rank equally, and shall also rank equally with the interest on all such Mortgages as aforesaid. The only securities of the Commissioners which have now any priority or preference over the Stock are certain Tyne Improvement Commission Debenture Stock, created under the Tyne Improvement Act, 1877, and certain Mortgages created before the passing of the Tyne Improvement Act, 1881, the total amount of such Debenture Stock and Mortgages being £107,080.

The total amount of money which the Commissioners are by their Acts authorised to borrow is £4,800,000, and the amount owing by the Commissioners for money so borrowed at the 1st June, 1898, was £4,253,631, of which £4,146,551 ranks *pari passu*, and the balance (£107,080), as stated above, has at present a priority.

For the last five years the gross revenue and the surplus revenue of the Tyne Consolidated Fund have been as follows, namely—

Year.	Gross Revenue.	Surplus Revenue.
1893	£306,565 18 9	£43,166 19 5
1894	332,976 0 0	61,750 9 0
1895	309,256 5 2	27,222 12 9
1896	319,484 3 9	31,735 10 0
1897	346,617 14 8	59,427 13 1

The surplus revenue is arrived at by deducting from the gross revenue all charges for interest, maintenance, and management. The gross revenue has gradually increased from £188,818 5s. 3d. in 1877 to £346,617 14s. 8d. in 1897, or over 83 per cent. in 20 years.

The expenditure charged to Capital Account up to 31st December, 1897, has been	£5,498,990 16 8
Of which there has been met out of accumulated surplus revenue	1,376,620 0 8
	£4,122,370 16 0

The proceeds of the above issue will be mainly devoted to the redemption of existing mortgages bearing a higher rate of interest.

The Stock is redeemable by the commissioners at par on the first July, 1952; or at the option of the Commissioners, on or at any time after the 1st July 1918, but not later than the 1st July, 1952, on the Commissioners giving or sending by post six months' previous notice in writing to the Stockholder of their intention to redeem.

Tenders, in sealed envelopes, will be received by Barclay & Company, Limited, 54, Lombard-street, London, not later than 2 p.m., on Thursday, 23rd June, 1898, where and when they will be opened in the presence of representatives of the Commissioners, and of such of the applicants as may attend.

Tenders may be lodged with Barclay & Company, Limited, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and with any of their branches, not later than Wednesday, the 22nd June, 1898, for transmission to their Head Office in London.

Payment will be required as follows, viz.—£10 per cent. on application, and as much on allotment, but not later than the 1st July, as will leave 50 per cent. to be paid on August 1st, 1898.

The Books of the Stock will be kept at the Banking House of Barclay & Company, Limited, 54, Lombard-street, London, who have been appointed Registrars, where Transfers can be made (without charge and free of Stamp Duty) by personal attendance or Attorney.

Full Prospectuses and Forms of Tender may be obtained at Barclay & Company, Limited, 54, Lombard-street, London, and at their Newcastle-on-Tyne and other Branches; of Messrs. Pember & Boyle, Stockbrokers, 24, Lombard-street, London; and of the Tyne Improvement Commissioners, Berwick-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

J. C. STEVENSON, Chairman.
ROBERT URWIN, Secretary.

Tyne Improvement Commission, Newcastle-on-Tyne,
June 18th, 1898.

DOMINION OF CANADA. CITY OF QUEBEC.

Conversion and Redemption of the following Sterling Debentures of the City of Quebec, viz.:—

6	per cent.	Consolidated Fund Loan,	due 1st July, 1905
6	,,	,, ,,	,, 1st July, 1908
6	,,	Debentures	,, 1st Jan., 1910
5	,,	,,	,, 1st Jan., 1913
4½	,,	,,	,, 1st Jan., 1914
4½	,,	,,	,, 1st Jan., 1918
4½	,,	,,	,, 1st Jan., 1925

Messrs. Coates, Son & Co. are authorised by the City of Quebec to invite Holders of the outstanding Debentures of the above issues to exchange their present holdings either for new 3½ per cent. Consolidated Registered Stock of the City of Quebec, or Cash, upon the terms set out in the full Prospectus.

The Stock to be issued in exchange for the Bonds surrendered for conversion is a part of a total authorised issue of £654,480. An official quotation on the London, Liverpool, and Glasgow Stock Exchanges has been granted for that portion of the Stock already issued, and application will be made for any further Stock issued in the terms of this prospectus to be added thereto.

Cheques for the amount of the redemption price of Debentures to be exchanged for Cash will be issued in one week after the Bonds have been deposited.

Prospectuses and Forms for Listing the Debentures to be lodged for Conversion or payment off in Cash may be obtained from Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co., Lombard-street, London, The Clydesdale Bank, Limited, London, Glasgow, and Edinburgh, or of Messrs. Coates, Son & Co., 99, Gresham-street, London, E.C.

99, Gresham-street, London, E.C., June 2nd, 1898.

CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY.

The London Committee of the Shareholders of this Company hereby give Notice that a GENERAL MEETING of the Holders of the Certificates issued by them will be held in the Large Hall of WINCHESTER HOUSE, 50, Old Broad-street, London, E.C., on TUESDAY, the 28th day of June, 1898, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, when they will report the result of their labours since the Shareholders were invited to deposit their Stock with them.

By order of the Committee,

F. G. BANBURY, Chairman.
E. W. CHEESMAN, Secretary.

6a, Austin Friars, London, E.C., June 15, 1898.

UNITED STATES OF BRAZIL FUNDING SCHEME.

The Government of the United States of Brazil, having decided to fund for three years, namely, from the 1st of July, 1898, to the 30th of June, 1901, both inclusive, the Interest on the External Debt, the Interest on the 4½ per cent. Internal Gold Loan of 1879 and also certain amounts payable annually for Railway Guarantees, His Excellency the Minister of Finance, acting in conformity with Laws No. 401 of the 11th of September, 1846, No. 427 of the 9th of December, 1896, No. 428 of the 10th of December, 1896, and No. 489 of the 15th of December, 1897, has authorised Messrs. N. M. Rothschild & Sons to

ISSUE an amount not exceeding £10,000,000 NOMINAL CAPITAL, 5 per cent. FUNDING BONDS

specially secured by the Customs Revenues, as hereinafter mentioned.

The following LOANS will be included in the Funding Scheme :—

The 4½ per cent. Loan of 1883.
The 4½ per cent. Loan of 1888.
The 4 per cent. Loan of 1889.
The 5 per cent. Loan of 1895.
The Western of Minas Railroad Company 5 per cent. Guaranteed Loan of 1893.
The Internal 4½ per cent. Gold Loan of 1879;

And also the amounts GUARANTEED to the following Railways :—

The Alagoas Railway Company (Linha Principal).
The Alagoas Railway Company (Ramal da Assembleá).
The Great Western of Brazil Railway Company.
The Conde d'Eu Railway Company.
The Central Bahia Railway Company.
The Brazil Great Southern Railway Company.
The Bahia and Sau Francisco Railway Company (Timbó Branch).
The Donna Theresa Christina Railway Company.
Southern Brazilian Rio Grande do Sul Railway Company.
Companhia Mogyana.
The Minas and Rio Railway Company.
The Natal and Nova Cruz Railway Company.
Compagnie Générale de Chemins de fer Brésiliens (Paranaguá á Curitiba).
Compagnie Générale de Chemins de fer Brésiliens (Prolongamentos e Ramaes).
Compagnie des Chemins de fer Sud-Ouest Brésiliens (Linha de Santa Maria a Cruz Alta).
Compagnie des Chemins de fer Sud-Ouest Brésiliens (Linha de Cruz Alta a Uruguay).
The Bahia and San Francisco Railway Company.
The Recife and San Francisco Railway Company.
Chemin de fer São Paulo and Rio Grande.

The Sinking Funds and Redemption of the Loans, will be suspended for thirteen years from the 1st of July, 1898.

The said 5 per cent. Funding Bonds will be specially secured by the Rio de Janeiro Customs Revenues, on which they will be a first charge after provision has been made for the amount required for Interest and repayment of the £2,000,000 five per cent. Treasury Bills issued in January, 1898, which are repayable at the rate of £500,000 every six months, the first amount being due on the 1st of July, 1898. The Bonds will also be secured by the Customs Revenues of the other ports of the Union, should the Rio de Janeiro Customs at any time prove insufficient.

According to the Official Returns the Customs Revenues of the Federal Capital amounted, for the year 1897, to 92,000 Contos of Reis, equivalent, at the Exchange of 7d., to £2,683,333 and at the Exchange of 8d., to £3,066,666.

The Total Customs Revenues of the Union, including the above, amounted to 244,000 Contos of Reis, equivalent, at the Exchange of 7d., to £7,116,666 and at the Exchange of 8d., to £8,133,333.

On and after the 1st of January, 1899, and *pari passu* with the issue of Funding Bonds the Government will deposit in Rio de Janeiro in Trust with the London and River Plate Bank, Limited, the London and Brazilian Bank, Limited, and the Brazilianische Bank für Deutschland, the equivalent of the said Bonds in current paper money at the exchange of 18d., and the paper money equivalent to the Bonds issued from the 1st of July to the 31st of December, 1898, will be deposited in the same manner during a period of three years commencing the 1st of January, 1899.

The paper money deposited will either be withdrawn from circulation and destroyed, or, if and when the Exchange is favourable, will be applied in the purchase of Bills on London in favour of Messrs. N. M. Rothschild & Sons, to be placed to the credit of a Fund towards the future payment in Gold of the Interest on the Loans and the Railway Guarantees.

The 5 per cent. Funding Bonds will be free from all Brazilian Taxes.

The Bonds will be to bearer in sums of £20, £100, £500, and £1,000 each, with Coupons for Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable quarterly, on the 1st of January, the 1st of April, the 1st of July, and the 1st of October in London, in pounds sterling; and in Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, and Hamburg, at the exchange of the day on London.

The Bonds will be redeemed by an Accumulative Sinking Fund of one-half per cent. per annum, to be applied half-yearly by purchase of Bonds, when the price is under par, and when at or above par by drawings. The Redemption of the Bonds by means of the Sinking Fund, will commence at the end of ten years from the 30th of June, 1901, but the Government reserves the right to pay off the Loan at par at any time.

This Funding Scheme was formulated with the approval of Dr. Campos Salles, President-Elect of the Republic, who during his recent visit to London was in constant communication with his Government on the subject; and before his departure His Excellency expressed his satisfaction with the scheme, and added his assurance that during his term of office he would do all in his power to place the finances of Brazil on a sound basis, and to restore the credit of his country.

The following are the conditions to be observed by holders of Bonds of the before enumerated Loans for the funding of their Coupons, which are to be presented as they become due up to the 30th of June, 1901, inclusive.

In exchange for their Coupons, holders will receive a Receipt for the amount lodged.

These Receipts must be presented in amounts of not less than £20 to be exchanged for Scrip, which will be afterwards exchanged for Bonds of the 5 per cent. Funding Loan.

The smallest denomination of Bond being £20, Certificates will be given for fractional parts of £20, and these fractional Certificates may afterwards be exchanged for Scrip or Bonds in like manner with the Receipts—that is to say, in amounts of not less than £20.

No Interest will be paid on the Receipts or fractional Certificates, but the Scrip or Bonds given in exchange for Receipts or Certificates will bear Interest from the due date of the Coupons for which the Receipts were issued.

Receipts and Certificates for Coupons due on different dates must be kept separate when presented for exchange into Scrip. Only Receipts and Certificates for Coupons due on the same date can be used together in making up the amount to be exchanged for Scrip or Bonds.

New Court, E.C., 15th of June, 1898.

No promotion money has been or will be paid, and no part of the Capital has been underwritten. Of the £115,000 now offered, £75,000 has been already subscribed in Venice.

The Subscription List opened on Tuesday, the 21st June, and will close on or before Thursday, the 23rd June, at 4 p.m.

THE VENICE HOTELS, Limited.

Incorporated under the Companies Act, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL .. .. £200,000.

divided into

28,000 Six per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each ..	£140,000
60,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each	60,000
	£200,000

The Preference Shares will be entitled to a Preference both as to Capital and Dividend. The Articles provide that, subject to the power of constituting a reserve fund or funds, the profits shall be applicable first in payment of a Cumulative 6 per cent. Dividend upon the Preference Shares, and secondly in payment of a Non-Cumulative 7 per cent. Dividend on the Ordinary Shares. Of the Balance, 35 per cent. will belong to the Preference Shares, and the remaining 65 per cent. to the Ordinary Shares. The Vendors stipulate that the whole of the Ordinary Shares shall be issued to them as fully-paid. They are willing to take the balance of their purchase price in Cash or Preference Shares as hereinafter mentioned.

The Articles of Association provide that no Debentures shall be issued unless sanctioned by a Resolution of the Preference Shareholders, and £25,000 Preference Shares are reserved for future issue, as, and when, required.

Issue of 23,000 Preference Shares of £5 each, at par, payable as follows :—

On Application	£ 10s.
On Allotment	1 10s.
One Month after Allotment	1 10s.
Two Months after Allotment	1 10s.
	£5 0s.

DIRECTORS.

Edward Moore, Esq., Chairman, Bristol Hotel and Palmerston Co., Ltd.
A. G. Pollock, Esq., Director Nilgiri Railway Co., Ltd.
H. H. Spiller, Esq., 2, Pembridge-villas, W.
Cavaliere Massimo Guetta, of Venice.
*Commendatore Michelangelo Jesurum, of Venice, Director Salviati, Jesurum, & Co., Ltd.
*Signor Nicolò Spada, of Venice.
* Being Vendors, will join the Board after Allotment.

BANKERS.

London :—Lloyd's Bank, Limited, Lombard-street, E.C., and Branches.
Venice :—Jesurum Bros. & Co.'s First Foreigner's Bank in Venice.

SOLICITORS FOR THE COMPANY.—Paines, Blyth, & Huxtable, 14, St. Helen's-place, London, E.C.

SOLICITOR FOR THE VENDORS.—Gilbert E. Samuel, Esq., 16, Great Winchester-street, London, E.C.

BROKERS.

London : Tomkinson & Price, 3, Copthall-buildings, E.C., and Stock Exchange.
Glasgow : A. Dunn Macindoe, Esq., 69, St. Vincent-street.

AUDITORS.—C. F. Kemp, Ford, & Co., 73, Lombard-street, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES *(pro tem.)*.—J. R. Sherman, 2, Austin Friars, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

OBJECT OF COMPANY.—This Company has been formed to acquire the Hotel Royal Danieli, and the Grand Hotel, two old established hotels of world-wide reputation in Venice, which are decorated and furnished throughout in the best style, and are fully equipped as first-class hotels. It is also intended to take over the Hotel Beau Rivage, and the Victoria Hotel, for the purpose of serving as dépendances or annexes to the two first-mentioned hotels. These four hotels are capable of accommodating 1,000 visitors. It is further in contemplation to acquire other hotels of established reputation in Venice as opportunity offers, and negotiations are now in progress for the acquisition of the Hotel de Rome and Pension Suisse. The latter hotel has been offered to the Directors, and a contract for its purchase has been entered into with a trustee for the Company. If upon investigation the Directors are satisfied with the proposed terms, the contract will be adopted.

The primary object of the Amalgamation is to do away with the competition at present existing amongst the above Hotels, thus effecting considerable economies in management, advertising, and otherwise.

Independently of his position as Director, M. Spada has consented to superintend the business in Venice. In addition, arrangements have been made with the present Manager of the Hotel Royal Danieli, to continue to serve the Company in that capacity for a period of five years. Negotiations are pending with the Managers of the Grand Hotel with the same object.

Messrs. C. F. Kemp, Ford, & Co., Chartered Accountants, of London, have examined the books of the Hotels Royal Danieli, Grand, and Victoria, and report as follows :—

Gentlemen,—We have examined the Accounts of the following Hotels in Venice for the periods stated :—

Grand Hotel .....From 1st January, 1895, to 31st December, 1897,
Hotel Royal Danieli..... ,, 1st May, 1895, to 31st do. 1897,
Hotel Victoria ..... ,, 1st March, 1895, to 28th February, 1898.

After making certain necessary adjustments, we certify that the Accounts show that the combined Profits for the above periods accordingly amounted to £31,135 2s. 5d., or an average of £10,602 18s. 3d. a year, whilst the profits of the Hotels for the last year were £12,276 15s. 5d.

In arriving at these profits exchange has been taken at 26 lire to the £, and no charge has been made for interest on Capital and loans, nor for amortization of leaseholds. But the expenses of management and an allowance for Depreciation of Furniture and Fittings in addition to the cost of repairs and maintenance both of the Buildings and Furniture have been charged in the Accounts.

As regards the considerable falling off in the profits of the Hotel Royal Danieli for the year 1896, we are informed that this arose in consequence of structural alterations to the building in that year, which interfered with the business. (Signed) C. F. KEMP, FORD, & CO.

The sum of £6,900 will be necessary to pay the fixed dividend of 6 per cent. upon the Preference Shares now offered for subscription, and taking last year's profits as the basis of calculation, there will remain £5,376 available for sinking fund purposes, London expenses, and dividend on the Ordinary Shares.

It must be remembered that no profit is taken into account in respect of the Hotel Beau Rivage, possession of which will not be obtained for nearly eleven months, and that beyond the saving expected to result from the amalgamation, profit is anticipated from a large restaurant which it is proposed to open on the ground floor of the Hotel Victoria, as well as from the further accommodation to be given to the Hotel Royal Danieli by the addition of a freehold house, which is included in the property to be acquired by the Company, and which, when converted, will increase by forty the number of bedrooms in that hotel. Moreover, the Palace Gritti, which has been only recently acquired by the Grand Hotel, was not ready for the reception of visitors until April of last year.

A portion of the furniture at the Palace Molin, being the property of the Lessor, is not for sale, but the Lease entitles the tenant to the use of it. Some of the Furniture, which is in private use, at the same hotel is also excluded.

Commendatore Emilio Pellesina, a Valuer of high reputation in Venice, values all the above, with the exception of the Leaseholds, at 2,738,600 Lire = at 26 lire to the £, to £105,330 15s. 4d., which, with the cash working capital of £15,000 to be provided out of the present issue, forms the security for the present issue of Preference Shares.

No part of this issue has been underwritten and no promotion money has been or will be paid.

Application for a quotation and settlement on the Stock Exchange for the Preference Shares will be made in due course.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and of the Contracts above referred to, together with the Report of Messrs. C. F. Kemp, Ford & Co., and sworn valuations by Commendatore Pellesina (including one in regard to the Hotel de Rome and Pension Suisse) may be inspected by intending subscribers at the office of the Solicitors of the Company.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application, &c., can be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, and Solicitors, and at the Offices of the Company.

The Application List will Open on Wednesday, the 22nd day of June, 1898, and Close on or before Friday, the 24th day of June, at 4 p.m.

THE HYDRO-INCANDESCENT GAS LIGHT CO.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862-1893.) LIMITED.

Working under Contract with the Welsbach Incandescent Gas Light Company, Limited.

CAPITAL - - £200,000,

DIVIDED INTO 200,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH.

ISSUE OF 200,000 SHARES, which are now offered for Subscription at par, payable as follows:—2s. 6d. per Share on Application, 7s. 6d. on Allotment, and 10s. one month after Allotment.

DIRECTORS.

Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., late Governor of Hong Kong, 53, Ashley-gardens, S.W.

Henry A. Greig, Esq., Chairman Limmer Asphalte Company, Limited, 2, Moorgate-street, E.C.

Sidney Marler, Esq., Director, Waring & Gillow, Limited, 175 and 176, Sloane-street, S.W.

*Martin Wassermann, Esq., D.C.L. (Heidelberg), Director of Internationale Hydro-Press-Gas Compagnie, Limited, Hamburg.

*Will join the Board after allotment as the Representative of the Internationale Hydro-Press-Gas Compagnie, Limited, of Hamburg.

With power to add.

BANKERS.—The Capital and Counties Bank, Limited, Threadneedle-street London, E.C., and Branches.

BROKERS.—Messrs. Lumsden & Myers, 29, Cornhill, and Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

SOLICITORS FOR THE COMPANY.—Messrs. Faithfull & Owen, 11, Victoria-st., S.W.

SOLICITORS TO THE VENDORS.—Claude M. Treadwell, Esq., 49, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. E. Layton, Bennett & Co., Bishopsgate House, Bishopsgate-street, E.C.

GENERAL MANAGER.—G. T. Augspurg, Esq. (late of the Welsbach Incandescent Gas Light Company, Limited).

SECRETARY.—Charles Weyland, Esq.

OFFICES.—88, Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring the whole of the British, Indian, Australasian, South African, and Canadian patent rights, and all other rights incidental thereto, of the Hydro-Incandescent Gas Light, and the benefits of the valuable license with the Welsbach Incandescent Gas Light Company hereinafter referred to.

This Company has had transferred to it a contract and license with the Welsbach Incandescent Gas Light Company whereby the latter undertakes, for a minimum period of five years, to manufacture and sell the apparatus, paying over to this Company 50 per cent. of the gross profits, not charging anything for establishment expenses, advertising or cost of selling and placing on the market, and during the continuance of the license not to make use of any other hydraulic gas pressing apparatus; and that, in the further event of the contract being determined, this Company is to be deemed to have a license to use the Welsbach mantles and burners, and the Welsbach Incandescent Gas Light Company are to supply such mantles and burners at a discount of 30 per cent. from the current price.

The Hydro-Incandescent Gas Light embodies a most ingenious, practical and useful advance in lighting power for hotels, theatres, concert halls, shops, manufactories, railway stations, streets, barracks, docks, lighthouses, foundries, cotton and other mills, and all other places where brillant illumination and hygienic conditions, combined with safety, are desired.

The apparatus by means of which the advantages of this light are achieved is exceedingly simple, and can easily be fitted to existing gas and water supplies. The resultant light is superior to the electric arc light, being absolutely steady and devoid of the bluish flickering glare which characterises the latter. Notwithstanding its greater illuminating power, the light is more salutary than any other form of artificial light, owing to the fact that it more nearly approximates the sun's rays, and shades of colour are as readily distinguishable as in the daylight.

One of the effects of the hydro treatment is to remove impurities from the gas, which, under the old conditions, escaped through the flame. Another important feature in connection with the Hydro-Incandescent Light is that no covering whatever is required. It burns quite steadily and effectually, even in a dusty factory, without globe or chimney, but for decorative purposes the usual gas globes may be employed.

Beyond the great monetary saving effected by dispensing with chimneys, and the economy of mantles, under the new system, one burner will do the work that many were required to accomplish. A single burner consuming ordinary gas as supplied from the main by a gas company can, if desired, give a light up to 1,500 (fifteen hundred) candle power, at a much lower price than an electric arc lamp.

The Welsbach Incandescent Gas Light Company use for the distribution of their goods no fewer than 16,000 agents and traders in the United Kingdom. Through the contract referred to, the Hydro-Incandescent Company will practically avoid the expenses and delays attendant on organising an establishment of its own; therefore this Company starts under the brightest auspices.

England, without doubt, is one of the largest fields for the sale of Incandescent Burners and Mantles, and it is stated that in the United Kingdom there are over 200,000,000 gas jets in use, and that not five per cent. of these are Incandescent Lights. The future prospects therefore for the Hydro-Incandescent Apparatus deserve close attention.

In addition to the income to be derived from the Company's operations in Great Britain, the Indian, Australasian, South African and Canadian Patents are of high value, and the Directors feel confident that a considerable revenue is secured for the Company from its inception.

The validity of the letters patent which the Company will acquire has been thoroughly investigated. The following is the opinion of Mr. J. Fletcher Moulton, Q.C.:—

"I have examined the specification and claims of the letters patent granted to Rothgiesser, No. 8186 of 1897, and the prior specifications disclosed by the search in British and American specifications by Messrs. Jensen & Son, Patent Agents, and I am of opinion that the letters patent are valid and adequately protect the apparatus as made.

"Temple, 27th May, 1898."

The purchase price of the patents and all rights for Great Britain, India, Australasia, South Africa, and Canada, together with the benefits of the license with the Welsbach Incandescent Gas Light Company, Limited, has been fixed by the Vendors, who are the promoters, at £180,000, payable as to £113,334 in cash, and the balance in cash or partly in cash and partly in shares, or 66,666 in shares at the option of the Directors, being the maximum allowed by the rules of the Stock Exchange, leaving £20,000 for working capital.

The Vendors are also entitled, under a valuable Contract dated the 3rd day of June, 1898, and made between the Internationale Hydro-Press-Gas Compagnie, Limited, of the one part, and themselves of the other part, to an option, until the 31st December, 1898, to purchase the United States, Russian, French, Belgian, Italian, Austrian, and Hungarian patents, or patent rights, relating to the Hydro-Incandescent Gas Light, or any of them, subject as to the United States and Belgium patents to certain negotiations which have been already entered upon by the Internationale Hydro-Press-Gas Compagnie, Limited, but the benefit of which will be assigned to the Vendors, and by their Contract with the Company they have agreed to pay to the Company 25 per cent. of the gross profits made by them on the resale of these patents, or patent rights, or any of them.

The following Contracts have also been entered into:—

Contract, dated the 17th day of March, 1898, and made between the Internationale Hydro-Press-Gas Compagnie, Limited, of Hamburg, Germany, of the one part, and Maurice Joseph Wells and Samuel Husbands Beckles of the other part, being the agreement under which the Vendors are acquiring the premises from the present owners, the above-named German Company. Contract, dated the 4th day of June, 1898, and made between the said Maurice Joseph Wells and Samuel Husbands Beckles of the one part, and the Company of the other part, being the Contract under which the Vendors sell the premises to the Company at a profit, as modified by agreement endorsed thereon, dated June 3rd, 1898, and made between the same parties. Also a licence, dated the 19th day of February, 1898, made between the Internationale Hydro-Press-Gas Compagnie, Limited, of Hamburg, Germany, of the one part, and the Incandescent Gas Light Company, Limited, of the other part, being the licence above referred to, and as regards the interests of the Incandescent Gas Light Company, Limited, vested in the Welsbach Incandescent Gas Light Company, Limited.

Applicants are to be deemed to have full notice of the contents of the above contracts and license, and to have agreed with the Company as a Trustee for the Directors, and other persons liable not to make any claim whatsoever, or to take any proceedings under the Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or under the Directors' Liability Act in respect of any non-compliance with the said Section, or any mis-statement in the prospectus made by the Directors under the bonâ fide belief that it was true.

There are other agreements and arrangements made by the Vendors in connection with the promotion of the Company and the providing of the capital thereof to which the Company is no party, which may be within the said Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, and applicants for shares shall be deemed to have full notice of these agreements, and to have waived all rights to be supplied with particulars of such contracts, and to have agreed with the Company as a Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable in manner above mentioned.

The Vendors will pay all costs in connection with the formation and registration of this Company down to the first general allotment of shares, except the stamp duties on the agreements for purchase and brokerage.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and the said covenants and agreements and license, together with Mr. J. Fletcher Moulton's opinion, can be seen at the Offices of Company's Solicitors.

Application will be made in due course to the Committee of the Stock Exchange for a special settlement and official quotation.

Applications should be made on the form below, and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company with the amount of deposit. When no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and if the number of shares allotted be less than that applied for the surplus will be credited in reduction of the payment on allotment, and any balance will be returned.

Copies of the Prospectus and Forms of Application for Shares can be obtained at the Registered Offices of the Company, or of the Bankers, Solicitors, or Brokers.

London, 15th June, 1898.

This Form must be sent entire with remittance of 2s. 6d. per Share, addressed to the Bankers, The Capital and Counties Bank, Limited, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C., or any of their Branches.

THE HYDRO-INCANDESCENT GAS LIGHT COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAPITAL - - £200,000, in SHARES of £1 each.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

To the Directors of THE HYDRO-INCANDESCENT GAS LIGHT COMPANY, Limited.

GENTLEMEN,—I request you to allot me.....Shares of £1 each, of the above-named Company, and I agree to accept the same or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and upon the terms and conditions contained in the Prospectus, dated 15th June, 1898. I undertake to pay the further instalments as provided by the said Prospectus, and authorise you to register me as the holder of the Shares, and I hereby agree with the Company as Trustees for the Directors and other persons liable, to waive any further compliance with the 38th Section of the Companies Act, 1867, than is contained in the said Prospectus.

I enclose a cheque for £.....being the deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share payable on application.

Name (in full).....

Address.....

Description.....

Date.....1898.

Usual Signature.....

THE HYDRO-INCANDESCENT GAS LIGHT COMPANY, LIMITED.

BANKERS' RECEIPT FOR DEPOSIT.

RECEIVED this day of 1898, from the sum of Pounds, Shillings, and Pence, being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share on application for Shares of £1 each in the above-named Company.

For The Capital and Counties Bank, Limited.

£ : : STAMP. *Cashier.*

FREEHOLD SECURITIES.

The List of Applications OPENED on TUESDAY, June 21st, and CLOSE on THURSDAY, June 23rd, for Town and FRIDAY, June 24th, for the Country.

THE HOTEL AND CLUB INVESTMENT CO., Ltd.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

SHARE CAPITAL, £100,000, divided into 100,000 Shares of £1 each.

Issue of £150,000 Four-and-a-Half per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures at Par.

The Debentures are issued in amounts of £50 each, payable as follows:—£10 on Application; £20 on Allotment; £10 on October 3rd, 1898; and £10 on January 3rd, 1899. Total, £50.

Interest will be payable on the 31st December, 1898, on each instalment from the date of payment, but if desired the whole amount may be paid in full on Allotment, and will carry 4½ per cent. per annum from the date of payment.

Interest will be payable half-yearly on the 30th June and 31st December in each year on each Debenture fully paid. The Debentures will be redeemable after 31st December, 1908, at the price of £52 10s. each on six months' notice at the option of the Company. The Debentures will be secured by a specific mortgage to the trustees of the freehold properties described in this Prospectus and by a floating charge on the furniture, plant, stores, effects, licences, subscriptions, goodwill, and all the other assets of the Company.

NONE OF THE ORDINARY SHARE CAPITAL IS OFFERED, AND IT IS NOT PROPOSED TO OFFER ANY FOR PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION.

TRUSTEES for the DEBENTURE HOLDERS.—The Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Limited.

DIRECTORS.

DAVID DE PINNA, Esq., 44, Porchester-terrace, Hyde Park, W. (Chairman).
JOHN PHILIP FEARON, Esq. (Messrs. H. B. Fearon & Son), 39, Holborn-viaduct, E.C.
HERBERT J. GRIMWADE, Esq. (Messrs. Terry, Herbert, & Co.), 19 and 21, Fore-street-avenue, E.C.

SOLICITORS TO THE TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE HOLDERS. — Messrs. Mellor, Smith, & May, 1, Moorgate-place, E.C.

SOLICITORS TO THE COMPANY.—Messrs. Frank Richardson & Sadler, 28, Golden-square, Regent-street, W.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Edward Moore & Sons, Chartered Accountants, 3, Crosby-square, E.C.

BANKERS.—The City Bank (Limited), 34, Old Bond-street, W., Head Office and Branches.

ARCHITECTS.

Messrs. J. T. Wimperis & Arber, 25, Sackville-street, W.
G. M. Jay, Esq., Palmeira-chambers, Brighton.

SECRETARY.—Mr. Otho Oliver. OFFICES.—47, Pall Mall, S.W.

The present issue of Four and a Half per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures is made by the Hotel and Club Investment Co., Limited, for the purpose of redeeming the existing debentures of the Company, for completing the purchase of the freehold site in Dover-street and Berkeley-street, Piccadilly, hereinafter described; for building upon part of such site and equipping a new club house, for the Empress Club, Dover-street; for erecting upon the remainder of such site and equipping the Hotel Osborne, Berkeley-street, Piccadilly, and for purchasing the freehold of the old-established and highly connected Princes Hotel, Brighton, with the goodwill of the business carried on there, and the furniture, plant, fixtures, and effects in and upon such hotel.

So compact a block of freehold land as the freehold site in the Dover-street and Berkeley-street, Piccadilly, and situated in that particular locality, changes hands so seldom that it is difficult to correctly estimate its worth, but there can be no doubt as regards its great value for investment purposes. The choicest positions in the West End, as a general rule, either belong to the Crown or to entailed estates. Hence the difficulty in any private individual or company acquiring a freehold site equal to the one secured by this Company for the new buildings of the Empress Club and the Hotel Osborne. Forming a block of about a quarter of an acre, it is in the very centre of that most valuable and fashionable area bordered by Piccadilly and Pall Mall, Mayfair, Berkeley-square, Grosvenor-square, and Bond-street. The property is surrounded by the estates of the Duke of Devonshire, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Lord Fitzhardinge, and the Earl of Mexborough. The rapid growth of expensive mansions, flats, and shops, in the vicinity of Piccadilly induces a steady annual increase in the value of land in that part of London, and makes it therefore a most desirable investment.

The new building for the Empress Club, fronting on Dover-street, is to be a fine stone building of imposing elevation, from the designs of Messrs. J. T. Wimperis & Arber. The area occupied will be about 5,250 square feet, or about one-eight of an acre. The building will be situate close to Piccadilly and Bond-street. The magnificent reception rooms and club rooms as planned are unique even for buildings of this class, and there will also be about 60 bedrooms for members visiting town, besides ample accommodation for carrying on the large business of the club, which has over 2,700 members, and the new premises will accommodate nearly twice that number. The success of the Empress Club has been almost phenomenal, which renders it urgently necessary to provide much larger premises. The new building is only three doors removed from the present club house, and arrangements will be made to complete the work with all speed.

The Hotel Osborne, Berkeley-street, Piccadilly, will also cover about one-eighth of an acre, and is to be erected from designs by the same eminent architects as the Empress Club. The position of the hotel will be unequalled in the West End of London. Situated in one of the busiest centres, and midway between Piccadilly and Berkeley-square, it has the incomparable advantage of a completely open prospect, the windows commanding a lovely outlook over the beautifully wooded grounds immediately opposite. There will be 10 complete residential suites in front of the hotel, and altogether over 100 rooms.

The Empress Club and the Hotel Osborne will be fitted with very elegant passenger lifts to all floors, besides several luggage and service lifts. All these will be worked by electric power, which together with the electric light throughout both buildings, and all the steam for cooking and heating purposes, besides the entire hot-water circulation, will be supplied, wholly or partly, from the Company's own works, which they propose to construct on the property.

Princes Hotel, Brighton, is an old-established fully-licensed freehold property. It it an imposing building, occupying the very choicest corner of the sea front and grand avenue, facing the sea and the beautiful Hove lawns. The area occupied is about 11,286 square feet, or rather over a quarter of an acre. This portion of Brighton is a favourite residential district for the fashionable world, and is of a very exclusive character. As Princes Hotel is the only licensed house on this part of the sea front, the exceptional value and importance of the property can hardly be over-estimated. It has been a favourite resort for families of the nobility visiting Brighton for 30 years past. The hotel is substantially and elegantly furnished, and fitted throughout with all the latest modern improvements, including the electric light and modern passenger lift. It is now being renovated and redecorated, and a new and modern system of drainage carried out, which will bring the conveniences of the house up-to-date with the most recently constructed hotel.

The directors estimate that the expense of building and equipping the New Club House for the Empress Club and the Hotel Osborne will not be less than £130,000. This is exclusive of the cost of the freehold land and of acquiring the Princes Hotel, Brighton.

Messrs. J. A. Lumley & Co., the well-known surveyors and valuers, report on the various properties as follows (owing to want of space the following is only an extract from their report; full report is contained in the Prospectus):—

"Lumley House, 34, St. James's-street, London, S.W., May 31st, 1898.

"To the DIRECTORS, the HOTEL and CLUB INVESTMENT COMPANY, Ltd.

"Gentlemen—Following your instructions, we have made a careful survey of the freehold site fronting Dover-street and Berkeley-street, Piccadilly, as well as of the plans of the new buildings which have been submitted to us by Messrs. J. T. Wimperis & Arber. We find that the frontage is 50 ft. on both Dover-street and Berkeley-street, and the depth, being 215 ft., gives an approximate area of 10,750 square feet, or about one-quarter of an acre.

"We consider the position is admirably situated for the purpose for which it is intended—namely, the new building for the Empress Club and an equally high-class hotel. The advantages of the position are, indeed, so obvious that it is needless for us to enlarge upon them, and we consider that you are very fortunate in being able to secure such a property, which may be regarded as a gilt-edged investment.

"We have also made a careful survey of the Princes Hotel, Brighton. The property is freehold and fully licensed. It has a frontage to the sea front of 6 feet, and a return frontage of 171 feet upon the Grand-avenue, and covers an area of 11,286 square feet, or more than a quarter of an acre. The building is substantial in construction and is now being put in complete condition both inside and outside.

"We estimate the value of the Freehold Properties (when the two new buildings are complete), together with the electric light, lifts, steam power, and plant complete, and furnished, fitted, and equipped as designed for the purposes of the businesses, at the following amounts:—

"Freehold Properties	£170,000
"Furniture, fixtures, plant, electric light, lifts, steam and water plant, together with wines, spirits, and stores (estimated)	65,000
	£235,000

"This valuation is exclusive of the goodwill of the company's businesses, which are of very great value, and are included in the security to the debenture holders. We are, Gentlemen, yours faithfully, J. A. LUMLEY & CO."

Although the dividend distribution among the Ordinary shareholders does not affect the rights of the Debenture holders, the following report of the Company's Auditors is added:—

"3, Crosby-square, London, E.C., 2nd June, 1898.

"To the DIRECTORS of the HOTEL and CLUB INVESTMENT COMPANY, Ltd.

"GENTLEMEN,—We have examined the books of the Empress Club from the date of its opening in March, 1897, to 31st December last, and have found that the gross receipts amounted to the sum of £10,604 19s. 7d., of which the sum of £6,583 was received from subscriptions and entrance fees. After writing off the whole of the preliminary expenses and depreciations and carrying over the unexpired proportions of the above subscriptions applicable to 1898, the net profits for the period were equivalent to £24 3s. per cent. per annum upon the capital employed in the club.

"We have also examined the books of Princes Hotel Brighton, from the 1st July, 1895, to the 9th May, 1898, the date of the commencement of the present alterations, a period of nearly three years, and after writing off all expenses and repairs, but without providing for depreciations, the profit was equal to £12 3s. 7d. per cent. per annum, upon the capital invested in the hotel; the average for the period from the 1st July, 1897, to the 9th May, 1898, was £14 3s. 5d. per cent.

"We are, Gentlemen, yours faithfully, EDWARD MOORE & SONS."

The ample sources of revenue out of which the interest on the Debentures is to be provided will be seen from the following:—

(a) The estimated rental value of the company's freehold properties (apart from any business carried on there) exceeds the amount of the Debenture interest.

(b) The estimated income from the two freehold hotels is more than sufficient to cover the interest on the Debentures, exclusive of the large income derivable from the Empress Club.

(c) The income derivable from the Empress Club in the new premises should be sufficient to pay the interest on the Debentures nearly twice over.

(d) At extremely moderate prices the returns from the front suites of rooms of the Hotel Osborne from permanent tenants when fully let would be sufficient to pay the whole amount of the interest on these Debentures.

(e) The directors feel assured that it is better for the general business of the company to retain possession of the Hotel Osborne, but a proposal has been made to take the hotel on lease when completed and fully furnished, licensed, and equipped, at a rental nearly sufficient to pay the entire interest on the present issue of Debentures.

The public appreciation of high-class hotel companies as safe and profitable investments may be recognised from the current market price of similar issues of Debentures taken from the Stock Exchange Official List for May 14th, 1898:

Burlington Hotels, Limited ...	Four per Cent. Debentures ...	104—107
Coburg Hotel, Limited	" " ...	101—103
Spiers & Pond, Limited	" " ...	103—105
De Keyser's Hotel, Limited ...	" " ...	109—111
Gordon Hotels, Limited	" " ...	121—124
Holborn and Frascati, Limited	" " ...	111—115
Palace Hotel, Limited...	" " ...	101—103
Savoy Hotel, Limited...	" " ...	110—113

The average middle price of these Debenture issues works out fractionally higher than 108¾ per cent., and on this valuation the market value of the present issue of Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Debentures would be over 122 per cent.

No preference will be made in the allotment of these Debentures, with the single exception that holders of the existing Debentures, which it is proposed to redeem, will, as far as possible, receive allotments in full.

Application will be made in due course for an official quotation on the London Stock Exchange.

Applications for Debentures should be made on the enclosed form and forwarded, together with the amount due on application, to the Bankers.

Where no allotment is made, the amount deposited on application will be returned in full; and where the number of Debentures allotted is less than the number applied for, the balance will be applied towards the payment due on allotment.

Copies of this Prospectus and Forms of Application for Debentures can be obtained at the Offices of the Company or the City Bank, Bond-street, and branches. Print of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, form of Debenture and draft of the trust deed, may be inspected at the Office of the Company's Solicitors, Messrs. Frank Richardson & Sadler, 28, Golden-square, Regent-street, W.

June, 1898.

This application form may be cut out, filled up, and sent, with cheque for deposit, to the City Bank, Limited, Bond-street, London, W., or to the Secretary of the Company.

THE HOTEL AND CLUB INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR FOUR-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES.

To the DIRECTORS of THE HOTEL and CLUB INVESTMENT COMPANY, Ltd.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to the Company's Bankers (the City Bank, Limited, Bond-street), the sum of £....., being a deposit of £10 per debenture on ..... Four-and-a-Half per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures of £50 each, I request you to allot me the same upon the terms and subject to the conditions of the Company's Prospectus, dated June, 1898, and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, and to pay the further instalments as provided by the said prospectus.

Name (in full).....
Address.....
.....
Description or Title.....
Usual Signature.....
June ....., 1898.

Please write these Particulars distinctly.

FREEHOLD SECURITIES.

Particulars of the Freehold Properties, together with Photographs and Sketches, enclosed with the Prospectus.

THE HOTEL AND CLUB INVESTMENT CO., Ltd.

The following more detailed description of the Company's Freehold Properties, with Photograph and Sketches, are enclosed with the Prospectus:—

HOTEL OSBORNE, BERKELEY-STREET, PICCADILLY.

The Hotel Osborne, which the Company proposes to build upon the Berkeley-street portion of the freehold land mentioned in the Prospectus, will be erected from designs by the well-known architects, Messrs. J. T. Wimperis & Arber. The building will be of white stone, of imposing elevation, and occupying a site of about one-eighth of an acre in undoubtedly the choicest position in the heart of the West End, and, situate only 15 doors from Piccadilly and 10 from Berkeley-square, it will have the unique advantage of overlooking the beautiful gardens and well-wooded grounds of his Grace the Duke of Devonshire and of the Earl of Lansdowne.

There will be ten distinct private suites, each comprising drawing room, two bedrooms, and bathroom, the principal rooms overlooking the grounds. The spacious entrance hall, flanked on either side by the drawing room and smoking room, both cheerful, sunny rooms, at the back of which will be the billiard and dining rooms, opening on to a palmarium; manager's office, service rooms, &c., complete the ground floor. There will also be a number of bedrooms of various sizes, provided with bathrooms of the most modern and approved type. The electric power for lighting and working the lifts, both passenger, luggage, and service, also the steam for heating and cooking, and the hot-water service, will be supplied wholly or partly from the Company's own works which they propose to construct on the property, and throughout the plans every advantage has been taken of the latest inventions for saving labour and curtailing current expenses by judicious initial outlay.

THE EMPRESS CLUB, DOVER-STREET, PICCADILLY.

The design opposite represents the new premises for the Empress Club, about to be erected from the plans of Messrs. J. T. Wimperis & Arber, upon the Dover-street portion of the freehold land. It will be a fine stone building, in every way worthy of the principal ladies' club in the world, and is situated only three doors from the present club house.

The grand and roomy old mansion formerly occupying the site will be well remembered by many as the family town house of the Marquis of Abergavenny, famous for its massive and stately proportions. Many of the beautiful carvings and doors, which it would be impossible to reproduce, will be preserved and utilised in the new building.

The arrangements have been planned with a view of securing to the members on a complete scale all the numerous advantages which have been found by experience at the present Club House to be the basis of permanent and lasting success, and which have made the Club practically indispensable to the majority of its distinguished members.

On the ground floor will be arranged a comfortable inner hall and lounge opening from the entrance hall with waiting and cloak rooms; a spacious reception-room and a really magnificent guests' dining-room surrounded on three sides by a gallery and opening into a palmarium. On the first floor will be the members' dining-room, reading and silence rooms, also a handsome suite of drawing-rooms capable of being divided by sliding doors that they may be used to their fullest advantage, and adapted to meet every purpose for which they may be required. The bedrooms, about 60 in number, will be bright, cheerful rooms, containing hanging wardrobe accommodation for from 10 to 20 dresses, and on each floor bathrooms, service and attendants' rooms; the ladies' maids' sitting-room will be on the second floor. A special feature of the building will be a lower ground floor, in which will be located dressing-rooms with wardrobes, very large luggage and cycle rooms, parcel offices, &c. The passenger lift will run from this floor to the top of the house. Luggage will not pass through the hall, but will be conveyed by lift down the area, through the building on a trolley, and up the luggage lift to its destination. The electric power for lighting and working the lifts, both passenger, luggage, and service, will be supplied by the Company's own works which they propose to construct on the property. Every detail concerning the working arrangements and general administration has been most carefully thought out with a view to facilitating and expediting the service and reducing the cost of labour to a minimum. The building will be erected as nearly as possible in accordance with the architect's plans and designs, but it is possible that in the course of construction various improvements and alterations may become necessary or desirable.

The Empress Club is the principal ladies' club in the world, and its position as such has so frequently been acknowledged that its social status is established in a manner that places it beyond criticism.

It now consists of over 2,700 members, but the new building will enable the membership to be increased to 5,000.

PRINCES HOTEL, BRIGHTON.

This imposing building, which was erected some thirty years ago, forms the corner block of the Grand Avenue and the sea front facing the private lawns, and is undoubtedly the finest position on the whole of the sea front. The hotel (the freehold of which the company are purchasing), is exclusively a first-class hotel, and all the arrangements are made with a view of suiting the tastes and requirements of its very quiet, select, and distinguished patrons.

The splendid position of this property may be gathered from the fact that in selecting a site for the new grand Statue of her Majesty the Queen the Commissioners have decided upon the sea front end of the Grand Avenue, exactly facing the entrance of Princes Hotel.

The following list of names, taken casually from the regular arrivals book, will fully justify the reputation which the Hotel has enjoyed for nearly thirty years:—

Maj.-Gen. and Mrs. Abadie
Lord Abercrombie
The Marquis of Abergavenny
The Lady Abinger
The Earl of Albemarle
W. C. Alston, Esq.
Count Althaus
Sir Richard and Lady Amphlett
Sir John and Lady Amory
Lord and Lady Annaly
Sir George Arthur
Viscount Ashbrook
The Dowager Countess of Ashburton
The Hon. Evelyn Ashley
His Grace the Duke of Atholl
Her Grace the Duchess of Atholl
The Earl of Aylesford
Lord Bagot
Sir David and Lady Baird
Douglas Baird, Esq.
Charles Balfour, Esq.
Viscount Baring
The Hon. Lilian Baring
Lieut.-Gen. Baring
The Hon. Mrs. Hamar Bass
His Grace the Duke of Beaufort
The late Earl of Beaconsfield
The late Earl of Bective
The Countess of Bective
Lord Marcus Beresford
Lieut.-Gen. Beresford
Lord George Binning
Prince Bismarck
Lady Mary Birkbeck
The Marquis of Blandford
Lady Elizabeth Boyle
Lady Mary Boyle
The Count and Countess Bobvinsky
The Earl of Bradford
The Hon. Arthur Brand
Lord and Lady Burton
Mr. and Mrs. Bulteel
The late Colonel Burnaby
The Marchioness of Camden
The Earl of Carnarvon
The Earl Cadogan
The Earl and Countess Cairns
The Viscount Castlerosse
The Viscount Castlereagh
The Viscountess Castlereagh
The Earl and Countess Carrington
Sir James Carmichael
The Hon. George Cathcart
Mr. and Mrs. Carnegie
Lord Eustace Cecil
Lord Randolph Churchill
Lady Randolph Churchill
The Marquis of Cholmondeley
Lord Churston
Sir George Chetwynd
Lord Cheylesmore
The Hon. Henry Chaplin
Lord Chesterfield
Col. and the Hon. Mrs. Chaine
Capt. the Hon. Alan Charteris
Lady Clifton
The Hon. Mrs. Clanglton
Lord Edward Pelham Clinton
Princess Isa Colonna
Princess Vittoria Colonna
The Earl and Countess Cowley
Lord and Lady Colchester
Lord Alwyne Compton
Viscount Cole
The Hon. Lady Cochrane
The Hon. Cecil Colville
Sir Charles Coote
Mr. and Mrs. Winchester Clowes
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Cooper
The Hon. Hamilton and Lady Cuffe
Mr. James Currie
Lord Dangan
Colonel and the Hon. Mrs. Dawnay
The Earl and Countess of Dalkeith
Sir Lionel Darrell
Captain Dawson
Mr. G. W. Dalbiac
Lady De Gex
Prince Demidoff
Princess Elsa de Wagram
Count and Countess Deyen
Baron d'Estournelle
The Hon. E. Digby
Countess De Lane
Mr. and Mrs. De Murietta
Chevalier Edward de Martino
Lord De Clifford
Mr. and Mrs. De Rutzen
The Marchioness of Downshire
Lord and Lady Dorchester
Lady Margaret Douglas
Earl and Countess of Dundonald
The Earl of Dunraven
Earl and Countess of Dudley
The Hon. James Duncombe
Mr. Du Cane
Lady Emily Dyke
Viscount Dupplin
The Dean of Edinburgh
Viscount Ednam
Lady Herbert Edwards
The Dowager Countess of Effingham
The Earl and Countess of Egmont
The Hon. Reginald Egerton
The Earl and Countess of Ellesmere
The Hon. L. Agar Ellis
Lord Elcho
The Earl and Countess of Erne
The Hon. Mrs. A. Erskine
Prince Esterhazy
The Hon. Mrs. Eyre
The Hon. Mrs. Roger Eykyn
Lord Farquhar
Sir Arthur and Lady Fairbairn
Lady Augusta Fane
Lady Maud Keith Falconer
The Earl and Countess of Feversham
Colonel Featherstonhaugh
Count and Countess Festitig
General the Hon. Sir Percy Feilding
Sir L. and Lady Fanny Fitzwygram
The Hon. Mrs. Fitzmaurice
His Grace the Duke of Fife
The Hon. Reginald Fitzwilliam
Count Flambouriasy
Viscountess Folkestone
Sir Charles and Lady Forbes
The Hon. A. G. Fortescue
Captain C. D. Fortescue
Colonel the Hon. H. Forester
Colonel Freemantle
Mrs. Keith Fraser
Mrs. Gabrielli
Lord and Lady Gerard
The Hon. Robert Gerard
Prince John Ghica
Lord and Lady Glenesk
Lord and Lady Grauville Gordon
General Gordon
Lord Douglas Gordon
Sir Julian Goldsmidt
Captain Gough
Mr. and Mrs. Goschen and family
The Hon. Richard Grosvenor
Lord Henry Grosvenor
Lady Violet Greville
The Marquis of Hartington
The Marquis of Hamilton
The Earl of Hardwicke
Lord William Hay
Lord Claud Hamilton
Lord Ernest Hamilton
Sir Arthur and Lady Haliburton
Sir Charles Hall, Q.C.
Sir Charles and Lady Hartopp
The Hon. Arthur Hay
Mr. and Mrs. E. Alex. Hambro
Capt. and Mrs. Price Hamilton
Lord Henniker
The Hon. Helen Henniker
The Hon. Arthur Henniker
Lord and Lady Helmsley
The Hon. Michael Herbert
Baron Hirsch
Sir John and Lady Hibbert
Lord Hindlip
Viscount and Viscountess Hood
Lady Mary Howard
Lord Howard of Effingham
The Misses Howard of Effingham
The Hon. Dudley Hood
Baron and Lady Diana Huddlestone
Mrs. Henry Hungerford
Mrs. Tom Hughes
Lord Inchiquin
Colonel Gordon Ives
Count Jaragersski
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur James
Sir George and Lady Jessel
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jourdain family
The Hon. E. Johnson
Lord Justice Kay
Miss Kay
The Hon. M. Keppel
Lady Kennedy
Lady Caroline Kerrison
Prince Malcolm Khan
The Earl and Countess of Kintore
Lord and Lady Kinnaird
Lord Kilmaine
Count Kinsky
Sir John and Lady Kirk
Sir Francis and Lady Knollys
Lord Langford
Lord Lambton
The Hon. Edwin Lascelles
Countess Larische
Sir Thomas and Lady Lawrence
Lord and Lady A. Gordon-Lennox
Lord Henry Gordon-Lennox
The Hon. C. Legge
The Hon. Henry Gerald Leigh
His Grace the Duke of Leeds
Sir George Lewis
The Earl and Countess of Listowel
Sir Martin and Lady Lloyd
The Earl and Countess of Lonsdale
The Dowager Marchioness of Londonderry
The Marchioness of Lothian
Lord and Lady Augustus Loftus
The Hon. G. Loftus
The Hon. Charles Lowther
Sir Lambton and Lady Loraine
Lord Lurgan
Sir Charles Lugard
His Grace the Duke of Marlborough
Her Grace the Duchess of Marlborough
Her Grace the Duchess of Manchester
Lord Maidstone
Sir W. T. Marriott, Q.C.
Lord and Lady Maghcramorne
Lord and Lady Manderville
Lord and Lady John Manners
Sir W. MacMahon
Sir David and Miss MacPherson
Sir James MacGregor
Sir Henry and Lady Malet
Archdeacon and Mrs. Maude
Sir Theodore and Lady Martin
Lord MacLaren
Lord Methuen
Count Metchnick
Lady Henry Melville
The Hon. R. Meade
Lady Milford
Lady Milner
Sir William Milner
Her Grace the Duchess of Montrose
Sir Hugh Montgomery
The Hon. Mrs. Basil Montgomery
Lady Montgomery
Count Montgelas
Lady G. Molyneux
Lady Moncrieff
Lady Monck Breton
Sir Charles Moore
Lord Justice Murphy
Major Musgrave
His Grace the Duke of Newcastle
Viscount Newport
Lord Henry Nevill
Lady Dorothy Nevill
Lady North
Lady Norreys
Sir Stafford and Lady Northcote
Lord and Lady O'Hagan and family
Mr. and Mrs. O'Hara
Mr. and Mrs. H. Oppenheim
Lady Ormonde
Lord Ormathwaite
Viscountess Ossington
Lady Charles Osborne
Sir Arthur and Lady Otway
Capt. Loftus Otway
Hugh Owen, Esq.
Lord Henry Panlet
Sir Roger Palmer
The Hon. Geoffrey Parsons
The Earl and Countess of Pembroke
Lord and Lady Penrhyn
Lord Henry Percy
Sir William and Lady Pearce
The Hon. Emma Pennant
The Hon. Harriet Phipps
Lord Pirbright
The Hon. Horace Plunkett
The Hon. John Pleydell-Bouverie
His Grace the Duke of Portland
Canon and Mrs. Pollock
Lord and Lady Pultimore
General and Mrs. Prendergast
Mr. and Mrs. Raphael
Mr. and Mrs. Ralli and family
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&c., &c., &c., &c.

Want of space prevents us continuing the Alphabetical List.

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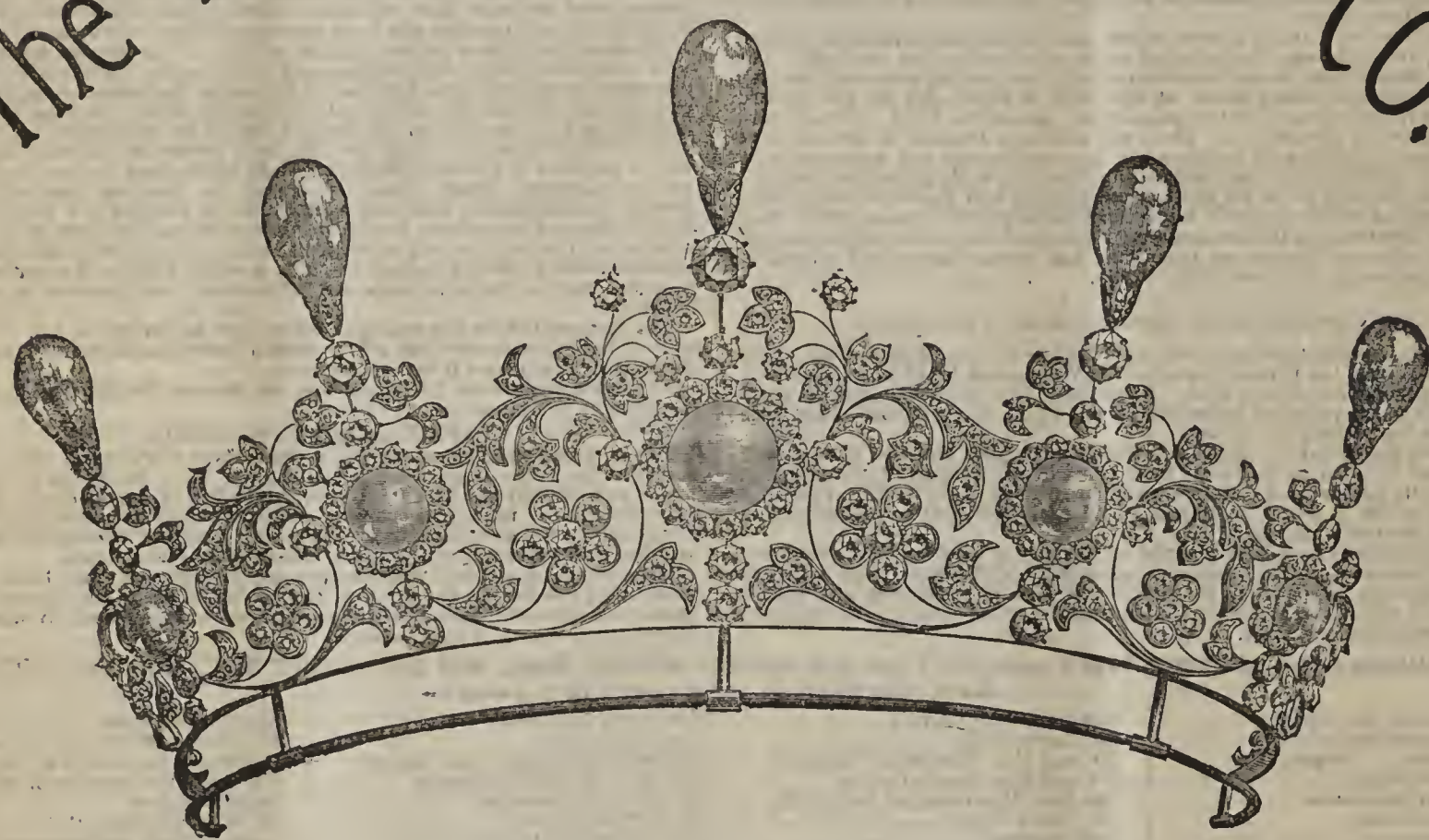

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		s.	d.
CHUTNEY	(real name and address will be published in due course) ...	8	6
ERIN	(" " " " ") ...	8	6
BABS	(" " " " ") ...	8	6
KNIGHT'S PAWN	(" " " " ") ...	8	6
HARRIET MARCH	(" " " " ") ...	8	6

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,006.

I have not yet received answers from all the competitors who tied for the Prize in this competition. By next week I hope to be able to announce their decision as to a new test of their skill.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,007.

The Prize in this Competition has been divided between KING HAL and ORLANDO, whose Acrostic Stanzas on Lord Salisbury appeared in TRUTH for June 2.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,009.

The Prize in this Competition will be awarded next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,113.

A discussion has again arisen in one of the daily papers as to "Apt Alliteration's Artful Aid." Various instances of alliteration have been given, including that well-known alliterative, rhymed alphabet, which begins :—

An Austrian army, awfully arrayed,
Boldly, by battery, besieged Belgrade;
Cossack commanders cannonading come
Dealing destruction's devastating doom,

and so on. This alphabet is almost invariably quoted when alliteration is discussed, and it has occurred to me that some of TRUTH'S ingenious competitors may very possibly be able to improve upon what is by no means a composition without shortcomings. The usual prize of Two Guineas is, therefore, offered for

THE BEST ACROSTIC RHYMED ALPHABET DEALING WITH ANY SUBJECT, AND WRITTEN AFTER THE MODEL QUOTED ABOVE.

The alphabet must be composed in the metre of the lines quoted above, and must consist of twenty-six lines, each one of which must rhyme with some other in the composition. All the words in the same line must begin with the same initial. It will, of course, be very difficult to deal with certain of the lines—the X line for example. Competitors will, however, doubtless triumph more or less completely over the difficulties of their task. All alphabets must reach me by the morning of Monday, July 4, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

KNIGHT'S PAWN.—I have read your very courteous and reasonable letter with much interest. I still think, however, that I did the right thing in not allowing points for the quotations which had been written by artists specially for their own pictures.

CHUTNEY.—You are already eligible to take part in these competitions again.

LICHFIELD, GRANITE, and KASHAN.—Your Acrostic Alphabet sentences arrived too late to be printed with the other specimens.

FAD.—Many thanks for your suggestion; but, as I think you will have anticipated, it is one I am unable to follow.

LUDWIG B.—Quite so.

HENRY IX.—I will duly consider the point you have raised.

ALDBARN.—I am much obliged to you for your kind suggestions.

IVY LEAVES.—You may take it, I think, that the quotations for which no authors' names have been discovered were composed by the artists themselves, or their friends, for the Academy Catalogue.

ROBERT MARTIN.—As you will see, I have acted upon a modified form of your suggestion.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,010.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ACROSTIC SENTENCES ON ANY SUBJECT.

A bloomer-clad cyclist, disliking excessively fools greeting her in jocose knavish language, miscalling names, or poking quaint, ribald sarcasms, tried using vituperative words, Xantippe-like: "Yokels i zanies!"—Carib.

A blissful contemplation, destroyed entirely from groundless household interruptions, just kills love. "May not one proceed quietly," remarked Socrates, "thou unceasingly vexatious wife Xantippe, yet zealously?"—Ludwig B.

America's bewildered correspondents, despite every forethought generally helpful in journalism, keenly lament many not ordinarily perplexing questions respecting Spain that undeniably vanquish Western Xenophons'* Yankee zeal.—Bowzer.

* "Western Xenophons," *i.e.*, journalese for "American war correspondents."

THE CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP.

After being continually defeated, Essex's form gradually has improved, Jack Kortwright lowering many notable opponents' pegs, quite ruthlessly storming their unlucky visitors with xylophagous yorking zeal.—R. F.

NOTE.—Nuttall gives "xylophagous" as "eating or feeding on wood," and, as cricket-stumps are made of wood, "xylophagous," by a slight stretch, may be taken as meaning "wicket-destroying," and, therefore, "storming . . . . . with xylophagous yorking zeal" may be rendered as "bowling with zeal wicket-destroying yorkers."

1. After busy, cheerless days, evenings frequently gloomy, health indifferent, Jack kindly lectured many nights on "Peculiarly Quaint Readings," selecting these unappreciated varied writers: Xenophon, Young, Zangwill. 2. A boy carefully, discreetly educated, Fred gained honourably immense kudos, literally making no orthographic preparations, quite readily spelling these unpronounceable, villainous words: *xylophone, ytterbium, zoæcium.—Nimrod.

* The above words beginning x, y, z are from Annandale's Concise Dictionary.

A burial ceremony discomforted England; for Gladstone, honourably interred, justly kindled loving memories. Number of persons question resentment shown to Unionists very wisely. 'Xcuse yearning zeal.—A. Pownall.

THE LONDON SEASON.

A brilliant concourse, delightful equipages, fascinating garments, handsome idlers (jostling keen eyed loafers), millionaires' numberless orgies, philanthropists' quixotic repasts—show the unutterably varied world's *xenodochic yearly zeal.—Nodding Violet.

* "Xenodochy"—reception of strangers, hospitality. See Nuttall's Dictionary.

All boon companions dining enjoy fine good Hock, imported Jouet, Koch, light Moselle; nevertheless old Port quite rejoices seasoned topers understanding vintages, while Xeres yields zest.—Whig.

A brave commander defies every foe, grants help in jeopardy, keeps laws, makes nothing of perilous quests, resists savage tyrants, uses vengeance with Xerxes' youthful zeal.—Spot.

Although Bunsen clearly delimited every formula generically hypostatizing idocrase; jumbled knowledge lets mineralogical neophytes occasionally propound quaintly ridiculous statements that "unevenly veined white xanthite yields zirconium."—Yorick.

N B.—Xanthite is a form of Idocrase.

Hypostatize—to give the hypostasis, or underlying substance, of anything.

A boy can do everything from grinning, hiding, idling, jumping, kicking, laughing, merrymaking, nutting, osculating, perplexing, questioning, running, skipping, to upholding virtue with Xenophon's yearning zealousness.—Almaviva.

A boastful, canting Dissenter ever feigning great holiness is joyfully keeping long meetings, never omitting prayers, questionings, repentance, sins, tracts until villainy wins. X. Yes. Zero.—Hilarion.

N.B.—X=algebraical sign for unknown quantity. Zero=nothing.

As Bacchus culled delicious, ebony, fragrant grapes, he invoked joyously, kindling, lovesick, maddening nymphs, on playful quivering reeds, sweetly tuneful upborne—volleying winespouts (Xeres-grown), yelling zealously.—Bigjohn.

A bookseller came down every Friday, generally habited in juvenile knickerbockers, leaving mostly novels or periodicals, quite ready sometimes to unmercifully victimise, with xylographs, your zeal.—Anatedignus.

A boy came down east from Great Headly in Jutland, kicking like mad naughtiness, only particularly quick respecting sane truths, uniting versatility with xylography, yet Zionistic.—Sinond.

Arthur's brother Cantab, David Evans, found George Harrison in Jesus, keen, last Monday night, on perusing quaint Robinson's * story, touched (unduly, verily) with Xury's youthful zeal.—Pimlicola.

* Robinson Crusoe.

A blooming cyclist demanded entertainment from Garçon. He inspected Julia's knickerbockered leg most narrowly. "O, pardon!" quoth retainer, "serve trousers?" "Unmannerly varlet! Wretched xenodochy, you Zeno!"—Rabelais.

THE COQUET.

"Coquetry is an irregularity of the mind."—La Bruyère.

A bold, capricious damsel, enticing, fashionable, gossipping, handsome, illusory, jocular, knowing, labelling men's numerous offers, peremptory, quaint, romantic, skittish, tantalising, unsusceptible, variable,* wonderfully xylographs † young Zanies.—J. McGrigor Allan.

* "Varium et mutabile semper Fœmina."—Virgil.

† Impresses.

A beautiful, coy damsel, enjoying fortune's great honours, is joyfully kindling love's memories, never once portraying queer, relentless satire, terribly uncomfortable, veering waterlogged xebecs, yearning zealously.—Teajaypea.

A bicycle contest, distance eleven furlongs' grade. Handicap in June. Kindly leave many notices on public quarters. Rendezvous, Totteridge Union, Victoria. Write X.Y.Z.—She.

A boat, carrying despatches, expected from Georgetown, has, in journeying, kept low, merely notifying officially, persons quite reliable, some tactics under view with xyloidin.* Yankee zeal.—Thiew.

* Xyloidin—explosive.

A beauty, considered domesticated, eager for general honours in jurisprudential knowledge, let maladroit nincompoops of professional questionableness rebut surrejoinders tentatively, until vanity with xenodochy yawned zeallessly.—Brunswicker.

(My wife)—Argues bootlessly, cultivates dowdy emancipated females gloating hysterically in jeopardous knowledge, laments my naught of principle querulously reiterating suspicious totally ungrounded—vying with Xantippe, yea zestfully.—Duplex.

Always be careful; death ever fills greedily his insatiable jaws, killing, lacerating, mangling numbers of people, quenching reason, stifling talent, uprooting vigour, wasting, Xerxes-like, your zeal.—Aldec.

Able books charm dead enthusiasms for great heroic ideals; judiciously keep little mean notions outside; preserve, quicken reason; stimulate to undertake voyages where xebecs yield zest.—Esperanza.

A beautiful calm day especially favours good humour, imparts joyous kindliness; lastly, makes Nature overpower pessimism; questionings rest spiritual; turmoils utterly vanish. Why X-ray yourself, zealot?—Mem-Sahib.

"A bold, crushing denial, Eva!" Frank growled, hastily inspecting Jane's knitting, lying mercifully near on papa's quaint rack. "Still, the unknown victim worshipped Xangti*, yearningly, zealously."—Modèle de Luxe.

* Xangti—the supreme being of Chinese mythology.

A beneficent County Council does everything for good householders in Japan, kindly lends money, never opposes popular questions, renovates society, thoroughly unbreeching velocipeding women—Xantippean Yawing Zeolites.*—Pyramid.

* "A name given to a group . . . characterised by much intumescence."—Dictionary...

Any bitter controversy deadens earnest friendships, generates hatred, inspires jealousy, kills love, moreover; nevertheless, occasionally people quickly recover serene tempers, unstintingly vindicating whoever, Xantippe-like, yells zealously.—Fly-catcher.

Americans bellicose chase Dons' evasive fleet, gaining hope in juxtaposed Keywest littoral. Macklnley now operates personally qua "redresser Spanish tyranny," urged vehemently with Xanthic* Yankee zeal.—Henry IX.

* The yellow press.

Anthropological bigots, called Darwinians, estranged from grace, habitually inventing jokes, kickshaws, lampoons, must not obtrude profane questions regarding sacred things, undermining virtue with Xanthic yeasty Zolaism.—Commune.

A being clearly destined eventually for great hazards, indomitable, joyous, kindling loving memories; not offering problems, quelling resistance, subduing turbulent, unrest vigorously; winning Xantippes, yokels, zealots.—Omega.

Assuredly Benedicts court disastrous experiences; for, granting how incessant jarring kills love, marriage never offers perfect quietude; reality sees that Utopia vanish, with Xantippe yielding Zero.—Benzine.

A beautiful court dame, eminent for gracious hospitality, invited judges, knights, learned men; now overflowed playful, quick repartee; social talent unfolded versatility, warranting Xenodochy's youthful zeal.—Excelsior.

A bland, courteous demeanour's everywhere found, good manners habitual in Japan's kindly little men, noble or plebeian: quiet resolution, self-consequence too universal vying with Xerxes-like Yankee zealousness.—Prima Donna.

Arrogant bigots called devout enthusiasts forsworn, godless heretics. Intolerant, Jesuitical kingcraft long maltreated nonconforming opponents. Persistent quiet resolution, steadfast truthfulness ultimately vanquished wrathful Ximines' yeasty zealotry.—Hammonia.

A brilliantly clever diplomatist expects friendly gratulations; hence, in judging Kruger, let men now overlook petty quarrels, rather seeking the undoubted victories which, Xerxes-like, yield zest.—Coal-heaver.

A beautiful calm death ends friend Gladstone's honoured, illustrious, just, kindly life; many now openly praise qualities reckoned safe to uphold vast works—xylographer* yesterday zealous.—Heather.

* Wood-cutter or carver.

America bestirs civilisation, disseminating enlightened freedom, gallantly, honourably indicating justice, kindness, love; maintaining needful optimism; planning quiescent relations, suggesting tractability; undertaking virile warfare, Xerxes-like yielding zeal.—A. E. L.

After being continually denied every facility Gertrude's hero insisted joining Kathleen, liking maidenly naïveté or personal quaintness (regarded sexually) than unfailing vehemence which Xenophon yelped zeal.—Glenrosa.

As buried chief disarms each foe,
Gladstone's—huffed in joust—kneel low,
Much noting on pathetic quest,
Rare, such tireless unit, vest
With Xtian yearning, zest.
Robert Martin.

Admired by Commoners, denouncing everything false, Gladstone, having incomparable judgment, kept liberty manfully; notwithstanding opposition, persevered quietly, restoring sound tranquillity, utterly vanquishing wrongs xylographised, ye zealot!—Old Stick.

Artist (British celebrity) drawing, especially figures gave highly impressionist journalist Kodak likenesses, memorising Nature or portraiture, quite recently securing truthful, uncanny, very weird X-rays, yielding—Zola!—Addie.

America bombarding Cuba damages every fort gives humorous intelligence; jockeys knowingly leaving McKinley no option; prepares queer reports sending telegrams under very wonder X-ray yielding zeniths.—Azile.

Agonisingly, beloved champion, does every feeling, gentle heart, in justest, kindliest language mourn; neighbours, operatives, people, Queen relatives, statesmen, tenantry, universities vociferating, worthy Xtian, your zeal!—La Plata.

A bird, conirostral, delivered entirely free, generously, here in jeopardous, knowingly loose manner not, observe, packed quite roughly, seems totally unlike variety wagered Xanthornis' yesterday, zealously.—Marah.

Another bravo career deserving everlasting fame great heart in justice, kindness, lifting mighty nations; oppression's power quelling; right steadfastly teaching; utterly vanquishing words xiphold yearning, zealous.—Rugeley.

A bay called Dainty, ever faithful gallant hunter in jumping kicked like mad, nearly overturning people; quiet rider showed tact, using valorously, wise Xenophon! your zoography.—Asor.

Another bright commemoration day! England's faithful, generous hearts in justice, kindness loyalty, must needs our precious Queen remember; some take untold, valuable, wonderful xenlums yelling "zounds!"—Lichfield.

Arthur Bridge comes down every Friday, going home in John Kirk's landau, mother never offering payment. "Quite right," says Tom; "use 'Venture some Wag's' (Xylographer), young Zebras."—M. E.

A brand comes, directly exported from Germany here. If J—— keeps light Moselle, nevertheless our produce quite rivals sherry, that unequalled vintage, which Xeres yields zealously.—Petruchio.

Ah! boy, champagne drunk every fresh gotten holiday is just killing. Learn moderation now, O prodigal! Questionable rioting seems the undoubtedly very worst 'xtravagance, you Zany.—Mecca.

Acrostic sentences have also been received from—Modèle-de-Luxe, Tiny, Oxoniensis, Spot, Hammonia, Commoner, J. McGrigor Allan, Wordsworth, Tho Hen, B. McHarg, Sudbury, Verax, Beta, Pollio, Titiau, and J. F.

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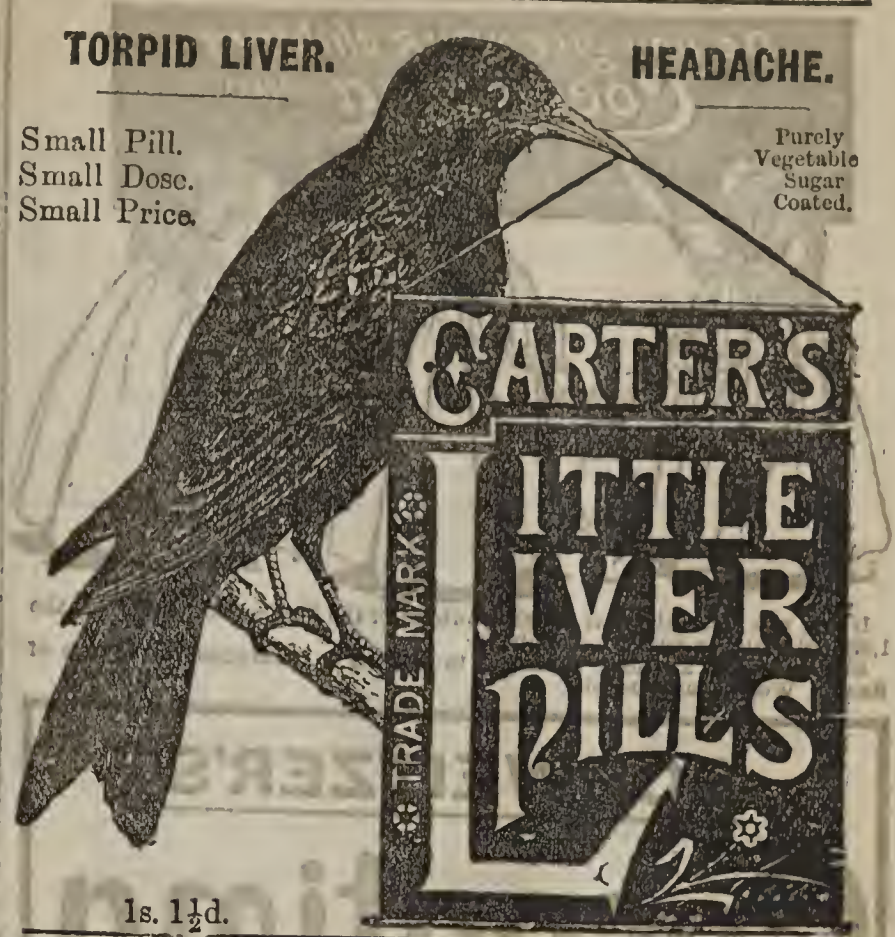

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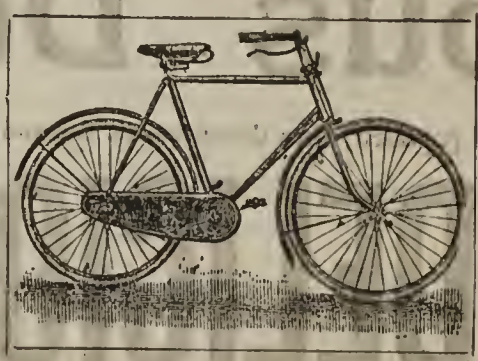

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NOTICE.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen and Princess Beatrice are to leave Windsor Castle next Wednesday afternoon for Aldershot, where they will stay at the Royal Pavilion in the Camp until Friday morning, when her Majesty is to pay a visit to the Empress Eugénie at Farnborough before returning to Windsor. The Queen is to review the troops in Camp on Laffan's Plain on Thursday, and the Prince and Princess of Wales will come down from town for the function. Her Majesty will also open the new Hospital for Women, and she is to present new colours to the 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards on the Queen's Parade Ground.

There is no foundation for the report, which has gone round the papers, that the Queen is going to pay another visit to Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild at Waddesdon Manor, Bucks. The Prince of Wales, however, is to be a "Saturday till Monday" guest at Waddesdon in the course of the summer. The statement of the *St. James's Gazette*, that the Queen proposed to drive to Waddesdon from Windsor, was obviously nonsense, the distance between the two places being considerably too great for a drive. The report of a contemplated trip to Waddesdon may have arisen out of the fact that the Queen intends to pay an afternoon visit to Lord and Lady Salisbury at Hatfield one day before she leaves Windsor for Osborne.

The Queen has always set a good example by her kindly consideration for her employees and dependants. She might well go a step further by intimating to the companies over whose lines she travels that it is not her wish that human lives should be jeopardised in order to secure the uninterrupted progress of the Royal train. Such an intimation seems to be required after the tragic events of last week. The driver of one engine is killed by an accident—apparently an accident pure and simple, and one which might have happened on any train. His mate whistles to attract attention, and a gallant official of the company on the second engine then climbs from one engine to the other at imminent risk of his life, to come to the stoker's assistance. Why was not the train stopped? Apparently because those in charge felt that it must not be stopped at any cost, and because of the universal desire, which extended even to the officials at Perth, to keep from the Queen for a few hours—it could not be more than that—any knowledge of what had happened. Neither reason is sufficient to justify the risking of a second life after one had been lost. The Queen must be gratified to see such devotion to her peace of mind among those who are privileged to wait upon her, but it cannot be her wish that their devotion should be carried to such lengths.

With regard to the accident to the driver, I am told that in America it is a common practice to suspend, about fifty yards in front of every bridge, a frame with a number of small knotted cords hanging from it. This is a simple and effectual means of giving a warning of the approach of danger; but I suppose that accidents of this kind are extremely rare—at any rate, in England.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to be the guests of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon and Lady Caroline Gordon-Lennox during Goodwood race week, and the house party will include the Prince and Princess Christian, the Duke of Cambridge, and Prince and Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar.

H.R.H. will go to Homburg after the Cowes Regatta week, and the Princess will proceed to Gmunden, on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, their Royal Highnesses travelling together as far as Frankfort. At the end of August the Prince and Princess will pay a brief visit to the Empress Frederick at Kronberg, after which they are going to Holland for the Coronation of Queen Wilhelmina, when there will be festivities extending over a week at the Hague and at Amsterdam. The Princess of Wales will then go to Denmark on a long visit to the King and Queen at the Château of Bernstorff, and the Prince will probably return to England, in which case he is to be the guest of Lord Crewe at Fryston Hall, near Pontefract, during Doncaster race week.

The Duke of Connaught, and a number of the officers of the Aldershot Division have rented the shooting over the

Tedworth estate, near Marlborough, from the War Office. This property, of nearly 7,000 acres, was purchased last year by the Government from Sir John Kelk. Upwards of 14,000 head of game were killed at Tedworth last season. The place belonged to that renowned Nimrod, Mr. Assheton Smith, and many years after his death the estate was sold to the late Sir John Kelk.

Princess Beatrice finished her "cure" at Bad-Kissingen on Friday, and on Saturday morning she left for Darmstadt. The Princess just missed meeting her brother, the Duke of Coburg, who arrived at Kissingen on Saturday evening from Coburg, and he is to take the waters for a month. Princess Beatrice is to arrive at Windsor Castle from Germany next Tuesday.

The marriage of the Duke of Augustenburg, only brother of the German Empress, and the Princess Dorothea, only daughter of Prince Philip of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and grand-daughter of the King of the Belgians, is to take place at Coburg on Tuesday, August 2, and the Emperor William and the Empress, the Emperor Frederick, King Leopold, the Archduchess Stéphanie, and other relatives will be present, including Prince and Princess Christian. The Duke of Coburg is to represent the Queen. Princess Dorothea, who celebrated her seventeenth birthday on April 30, is nearly eighteen years younger than her future husband, and it is generally thought at the Continental Courts that a more suitable marriage might have been arranged for her, especially as she will have a huge fortune.

The tardy marriage of Duke Ernest Günther is not regarded with favour at our own Court, as he was supposed to be a confirmed bachelor, and Prince Christian is at present next heir to his titles and to his estates in Holstein and Silesia. This dukedom is permanently endowed with an allowance of £16,000 a year from the Prussian Government, as compensation for the loss of territories in 1864.

During July the Lords-in-Waiting on the Queen will be Lords Bridport, Denbigh, and Bagot; while Sir Edmund Commerell, Lord William Cecil, and Major Harbord are to be the Grooms-in-Waiting. The Dowager Lady Erroll, Dowager Lady Churchill, and Lady Lytton will be the Ladies-of-the-Bedchamber on duty.

Colonel Carington and Lieutenant Ponsonby are to be the Equerries-in-Waiting on the Queen at Windsor Castle and at Osborne during July, replacing Lord Strafford and Colonel Davidson. If any Royal personage comes to England next month, for whom the attendance of one of her Majesty's Equerries is required, Major Legge will have to undertake this extra duty.

The appointment of Secretary to the Board of Green Cloth, which has become vacant by the death of Mr. March, has been given by the Queen to Mr. Courroux, the chief clerk of the department. The place is worth £1,200 a year, including an allowance of £200 a year instead of a house, but it is expected that the emoluments will be reduced. The post is by no means onerous, for the late Secretary died in harness at the age of eighty-two, and his predecessor drew a large pension for many years after his retirement, and was approaching ninety when he died.

The office of Receiver of Fees of Honour, which Mr. March also held for many years, has not yet been filled up, and it might very well be joined to some other post of the same description, as the duties are very light, while the emoluments are considerable. It was recommended long ago by a Parliamentary Committee that the Fees of Honour, and the office which subsists on them, should be abolished, and the Prince Consort was much in favour of the change, but the vested interests were too powerful and the obstructive indisposition to reforms which is an inherent quality in Court officials could not be overcome.

There are at present two vacancies in the corps of Serjeants-at-Arms, the one caused by the death of Mr. March, and the other by the succession of Mr. Monson to the Peerage. The new Lord Monson has not yet resigned the post, but it cannot by any possibility be held by a Peer.

During the frequent absences of Lord Cadogan from Ireland the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland and the Chief Baron have to suffer the indignity of being set aside when "Lords Justices" for Ireland are selected from amongst the members of the Judicial Bench. When the Lord Chancellor is a Catholic, even he is subject to the same indignity. It cannot be argued that the "Lords Justices" must belong to the same Church as the Lord Lieutenant. Lord Cadogan belongs to the Protestant Church of England, whilst the "Lords Justices" usually belong to that of Ireland, which is not only an independent Church, but is very strong on the point of its independence.

The Irish question, in its present stage, needs much what Goethe called for at the close of his life—"Light, more light." The wonder is that so much darkness should still prevail and keep back a settlement, considering that England—in its own way—groans, just as much as Ireland, under the wearying and persistent "Question." Foremost amongst the crowd of fallacies connected with Irish affairs is the fallacy of a religious equality, established by the abolition of the State Church. The almost universal acceptance of the fallacy causes disgust, surprise, and a feeling that the Irish are intractable, when an outbreak like that of the late Belfast riots takes place.

The Protestant rioters, however, had logic on their side. With the example of the Irish Privy Council before them, they reasonably argued that, as Protestant ascendency is strictly maintained in that leading body, it

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For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 1670 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 1665.
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For OUR PUZZLES, see page 1689.

is consistent for the rank and file to assume like privileges. Circumstances alter cases, and cause variety in the methods used to promote the same ends. Dublin Castle employs an oath to block the way of the Catholic Privy Councillors; the Belfast Protestants use with their Catholic brethren the more primitive method of stones and bricks.

At the time when London is at its fullest, Dublin is given over to the tourist. The shutters are up in most of the houses in the principal streets and squares. The Irish capital has long ceased to be the "car-drivingest" town in the kingdom; indeed, the very existence of the once famous Irish car is strongly threatened by the coming system of electric tramways and the bicycle which has already come. That the streets may become the "bikingest" in the kingdom, seems probable, for Ireland is second to no country for the unanimity with which all sorts and conditions of humanity have adopted the bicycle. It is in keeping with the incalculable nature of the Celt that the country so specially devoted to the horse cult should have adopted the horseless wheel with such enthusiasm.

It would seem that the Duke of Westminster's Committee has agreed to a resolution to make one shilling the minimum subscription to the National Gladstone Committee, but that it has not yet decided in what way the fund is to be expended. What I should like to see is a fund making one shilling the maximum contribution, in order that there may be a statue erected to Mr. Gladstone by the people. With respect to the Westminster Memorial, it will not be easy—should there be heavy subscriptions—to agree as to its destination. Of course, any object connected with the spread of Mr. Gladstone's political principles would be impossible, in view of the fact that there are many gentlemen on the Committee who presumably have not altered their anti-Gladstonian opinions. A convalescent home has been suggested, and no doubt such a home in some healthy spot would be of considerable advantage. But for this, not only a building fund would be necessary, but a considerable annual income.

I am myself no great believer in memorials, which, however useful themselves, have no particular connection with the person to whose memory the memorial is raised. Mr. Gladstone's great services to the nation were rendered as a Statesman, and the most fitting monument to a Statesman is a statue. This appeals to every one, and can be seen by every one. The total amount subscribed is not by any means so important as the number of the subscribers.

One of my readers is very much exercised about the dirty condition of Westminster Abbey, and probably a good many of those who recently attended Mr. Gladstone's funeral were impressed in the same way. The dirt upon the monuments, on the woodcarving of the choir stalls, and generally throughout the building, must represent the accumulation of ages, and one would like to know why a church, of all places, should be the only building it is not thought necessary to clean regularly. Cleanliness may be next to godliness, but in the majority of churches the gap between the two is a very long one.

A Calcutta correspondent tells me that there has been considerable comment there over the fact that while all the shops and places of business were closed on the day of Mr. Gladstone's funeral, and many flags flying at half-mast, neither the Government of India nor the Government of Bengal deigned to show any official recognition of the event. The flagstaff on the Viceroy's residence was conspicuous by its bare nakedness, in marked contrast to the American Consulate close by, where the Stars and Stripes were duly hoisted and hung all day at half-mast. The conduct of the Government certainly seems ungracious, but possibly they will reply, as the Dean of Chester did in regard to a similar complaint, that there was some rule against any such recognition of Mr. Gladstone's death.

At the end of the year the Malta Governorship will fall vacant, when Sir Arthur Fremantle's term of office comes to an end. Sir Arthur and Lady Fremantle have been popular in the island, and entertained much at their various residences, for, small though the place is, the Governor has several. They will be regretted by all classes. Malta is deserted now, except by the officials whom duty keeps there. The Mediterranean Fleet has gone on its summer cruise to the East and other places, under Sir J. Hopkins. Lord and Lady Congleton have returned to England for the General's leave. The case of the dockyard official, now in custody in Malta pending inquiries, is the sensation of the dull season.

People who have friends in the Canaries, or who contemplate visiting those islands, should not pay too much attention to the sensational statements that have appeared in the Press regarding the disturbed condition of the islands, and the danger or annoyance to which English residents are exposed. I hear from a resident at Las Palmas that Grand Canary is "peaceful and quiet," and that the "English who have remained here are treated in the best possible way, and with the courtesy peculiar to Spain." The writer goes on to state that he was recently in an out-of-the-way country place, entirely alone, and met with the greatest hospitality and kindness. It would not be astonishing if the Spanish populace were openly unfriendly to the English just at present. Our sympathies with America in the present war have not been disguised, and at all times Englishmen and Americans are liable to be confused by the people of other European countries.

The Show of the Royal Agricultural Society in Four Oaks Park, of which great things were expected, has ended in a grievous disappointment, and the result will be a considerable deficit. There were only 98,221 visitors, as against 217,980 at Manchester last year. The last time the "Royal" visited Birmingham was in 1876, when there

Scott Adie, 115, Regent-st., London, for Shooting Suits, Golf Suits, Travelling Coats, Inverness Capes, Carriage Rugs from 10/9, Shawls, hand-knit Hose, Scotch Cheviots, and Harris Homespuns.

were 160,181 visitors. The failure is attributed, in a great measure, to the utter collapse of the railway arrangements for conveying passengers between Birmingham and Sutton Coldfield. The exhibition itself was a very good one indeed, both in numbers and in point of quality.

A paragraph has appeared in a London journal, and has been reproduced in several Yorkshire papers, stating that the collection of china, pictures, and plate which was made by Mr. Mark and Lady Augusta Milbank, and which belonged to the late Sir Frederick Milbank, will be sold next month at Christie's. This is entirely incorrect. The collection was made by the late Sir Frederick, and not by Mr. Mark Milbank, and it now belongs to Sir Frederick's son and heir, who has no intention of parting with it. What will be sold at Christie's next month is a small portion of plate and china which has passed by an old will to Mr. Godolphin Milbank, a cousin of the present baronet.

Mr. Montague Guest has written to the *Times*, to complain of the crowding of the thoroughfare in Bond-street. His suggested remedy is not to allow omnibuses to use the street. But an omnibus at least has the merit of only passing through the street, whereas the block is caused by carriages stopping before shop doors whilst their owners are inside the shops. Cannot the authorities, asks Mr. Guest, regulate the traffic? The only legitimate mode of regulating it would be to forbid the carriages from remaining before the shop doors. The omnibus proprietor and the omnibus occupant pay rates for paving, &c. The right-of-way through any street exists alike for omnibuses, private carriages and cabs. Public vehicles are excluded from some parts of Hyde Park, because the park is a Royal one. But this exclusion should not be extended to public thoroughfares, because ladies want their carriages to loiter there.

Something was said in one of the daily papers the other day about the hardship of the existing law which declines to recognise insanity as a ground for divorce. I have been asked by a victim of this form of matrimonial misfortune —not the insane party, but the other—to take up my parable on the subject; but it strikes me as rather a difficult problem. Every one must sympathise with the position of the husband or wife who is tied for life to an insane spouse. But I have sometimes sympathised with the positions of husbands and wives who are tied for life to spouses who are not insane. Insanity is unfortunately not the only cause which occasionally renders marriage a failure.

The existing arrangement is that the parties take one another for better or worse, and there is a good deal to be said in favour of it, though naturally the parties kick against it in the case of a bad bargain. If you were to release one of the parties because the other has become insane, why not when he or she has become paralytic, or a hopeless invalid, or a confirmed drunkard? It is all very well for a man to appeal for sympathy on the ground that his wife has been for the last ten years in a lunatic asylum, and is never likely to get out, but, if he looks about him, I believe he will have no difficulty in finding plenty of men who would be only too happy if their wives were in lunatic asylums, and *vice versâ*.

The present Government have been most audacious in many of their appointments, and particularly in the dispensation of those offices which are in the gift of the Prime Minister or of the Lord Chancellor. It is surely inconceivable, however, that it can be in contemplation to pass over all the well-qualified candidates for the important and lucrative office of Principal of Glasgow University in order that it may be given to a Scotch Tory member. The individual in question is a clever and a popular man, but his qualification for this particular office may be thus defined—*nil*. If Lord Kelvin will not accept the Principalship, the post should be offered to the Master of Balliol.

I learn that the General Board of Studies at Cambridge have recommended the appointment of a Professor of Ancient History, who will receive a stipend from the University funds of £600 a year. The proposal will not come formally before the Senate until next October, but it is certain to be accepted, and probably the general feeling will be simply one of amazement that such a "seminary of sound learning" should have gone on for so long a period without a Chair of Ancient History.

The question "Why men won't go to church" is again under discussion in one of the Church papers, but I do not notice that any one has hit upon the real cause which, as I have frequently pointed out, is to be found primarily in the tall hat. Under present conditions, a regular attendance at church is only possible for those men who are totally indifferent to the condition of their hats, or who can afford a new hat once a week; and even a man whose piety would take him to church at the sacrifice of his hat finds that a true spirit of devotion is incompatible with the knowledge that his new Lincoln & Bennett is being seriously mutilated, either by the heels of his own boots or the skirts of the lady next to him. Something might be done to get over this difficulty by arranging suitable receptacles for tall hats under the seats of churches. But the proper and business-like arrangement would be to have a cloak-room at the church door where hats could be left.

As the domestic affairs of the Church of England are at present attracting a great deal of public attention, I would take the opportunity of pointing out that cloak-rooms would probably do more than anything else to avert the Disestablishment of the Church. It is not only a question of hats. You must think also about the waterproofs and umbrellas. The fact that places of worship are unprovided with conveniences of this kind shows how completely we are at the mercy of tradition in all matters relating to religion. No architect would dream of planning a theatre

"Hôtel Burlington," at Sunny Boscombe. (200 rooms). Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

or a music-hall without proper cloak-room accommodation, yet it has never dawned upon anybody designing a church or a chapel that such a thing is necessary. As the chapels are as bad in this respect as the churches, a great opportunity here presents itself of popularising the Establishment. In these days of competition, a very trifling advantage one way or the other is sufficient to turn the scale, and my belief is that if all the London churches were to have attached to them a cloak-room and an attendant in charge, in a few weeks' time the chapels would be entirely emptied. Ritualism is a comparatively subordinate matter. Let an incumbent show himself really solicitous for the comfort of his congregation, and he may snap his fingers at Mr. Kensit. This is a matter which ought to be brought up in Convocation.

The living of Sunbury-on-Thames, which is worth about £700 a year with house, and is in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, became vacant last week, by the death of the Rev. H. Vigne, who had been vicar for fifty-six years. The curious thing is that Mr. Vigne's predecessor held this living for fifty-two years, so that the present vacancy is only the second which has occurred since 1790. The living of Brettenham, Suffolk, of which the Lord Chancellor is the patron, is remarkable in the same way. It has been only once vacated since 1798, when Lord Eldon presented the Rev. Samuel Cole, who died in 1850, and his successor, Canon Betham, is now rector of the parish.

Bishop Anson, who has accepted the vacant canonry in Lichfield Cathedral from Bishop Legge, was for some years Vicar of Woolwich, and then Bishop of Qu'Appelle, and he held that See for eight years, resigning because his health broke down. For the last four years the Bishop has been Master of St. John's Hospital at Lichfield. His preferment will give much satisfaction, for he has well earned it, and he is very popular in the diocese. The stall is worth £500 a year with house.

Canon Gordon, who is an uncle of Lord Aberdeen, will this week vacate the residentiary stall in Salisbury Cathedral which he has held for thirty-eight years. Canon Gordon was for nine years Rector of Great Stanmore, and then Rector of Northolt for twenty-one years, and he has been a Chaplain-in-Ordinary to the Queen since 1857. Bishop Wordsworth has appointed Prebendary Bankes, Rector of Corfe Castle, to the Canonry, and that ecclesiastic will resign the valuable family living which he now holds, and to which he was presented more than forty years ago. A stall at Salisbury can now be held only by a clergyman possessed of adequate private means, as agricultural depression has reduced the stipend to about £300 a year, and each Canon has a large house and garden to keep up.

The appointed preachers at the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, during July are:—3rd, the Sub-Dean; 10th, Rev. A. L. B. Peile, Master of St. Katherine's Hospital; 17th, Prebendary Harry Jones; 24th, Prebendary Barker; 31st, Archdeacon Wilkinson, Vicar of Plymouth. The chapel will be closed for about two months after the beginning of August.

I was recently consulted by a Roman Catholic concerning certain pitiful appeals which have been regularly advertised for a year or more past in the *Tablet*. A year ago the appeal was running in this form:—

> IN pitiful Christian mercy, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, lend a kindly ear to this cry of real distress, and for the love of Almighty God, the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, send a donation or subscription to help the Convert invalid Gentleman for whom the imploring appeal is being made under the sanction of the late Lord Emly and the Very Rev. E. J. Purbrick, S.J., to obtain an income of £50 yearly. The case is very exceptional, and his sufferings extreme.

The latest edition is as follows:—

> FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, HELP.
>
> TO THE CATHOLICS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.—The urgent, imploring appeal of mercy which is being made under the sanction of the late Lord Emly and the Very Rev. E. J. Purbrick, S.J., to obtain an income of £50 a year for the suffering convert invalid Gentleman is now entirely without response. It is painfully sad to state that the misery and dark tribulation which surround him can scarcely be worse. To, therefore, save him from utter starvation and death in the end, this present further great earnest appeal is to ask merciful remembrance from Catholic hearts towards one who is true to the Holy Love of Jesus. Give your mite and receive the blessing of God, in whose sacred name this solemn appeal is made. Father Purbrick having left England, all donations and subscriptions to be sent to William Baker, 5, North Parade, Grantham, Lincolnshire.

William Baker's real name is William Baker Bennett. For four years he occupied a room at Ashley-road, Richmond, and removed thence in January last. It appears to be true that he is a chronic invalid, and that he suffers either from a spinal or some internal complaint, though it did not prevent him getting out occasionally when he was at Richmond. For several years he has subsisted solely by begging, and there can be no doubt that his appeals (which emanate solely from himself) have brought in the £50 a year which he specifies as desired; for I am told that his living expenses at Richmond exceeded that amount, not allowing for the cost of his advertisements. The late Lord Emly has been dead about four years, so that it is not clear how this advertisement can be published under his sanction. Father Purbrick, as the advertisement states, has long since left this country, and if he in any way approves of the use made of his name, he is very ill-advised. I do not say that Mr. William Baker Bennett should not be supported, but I do say that some responsible person should undertake the work of collecting and accounting for the money. And I am also strongly of opinion that, if it is illegal to stand at the street corner and beg, it should be equally so to insert an advertisement for the same purpose in a newspaper—especially an advertisement so reeking with offensive religious cant as the effusions of this "convert invalid gentleman."

A Country Vicar's Wife writes:—

> Cannot you do something for the Country Clergy Holiday Fund? That a man with a large town parish needs rest and change goes without saying, but many think that his rural brother has no such need. Canon Benham has started a fund,

PRINCES RESTAURANT, PICCADILLY, admittedly the most fashionable in London. *Table d'Hôte* luncheon, 4s. 6d.; dinners *à la Carte;* suppers, 5s. Finest wines and *cuisine* only. Bocchi's famous orchestra performs daily. The charming Royal Institute Picture Galleries can be hired for balls, receptions, &c.—Managing Director, GUSTAVE FOURAULT, from Benoist's.

but it will languish unless influential people give it their support. Men who would readily give a thousand pounds towards a new college would not give sixpence in response to such an appeal.

My husband has been here seven years and a half without a break. He has only had one Sunday off duty all that time. He has preached more than 800 sermons consecutively. How can a man with a nett income of £100 afford such a luxury as a holiday? Yet how much he needs it—shut up from year's end to year's end in a little parish six miles from a railway station, with most uncongenial surroundings! Do raise your voice on behalf of these long-suffering men.

I will raise it with pleasure—all the more so because it will be raised not only on behalf of the long-suffering men, but also on that of their long-suffering congregations. In thinking of the man who has to preach 800 sermons on consecutive Sundays, I cannot help thinking also of those who have to listen to them. They may be the most admirable of discourses—in the case of the vicar whose lady writes the foregoing appeal, I don't doubt that they are—but a Chrysostom would grow tiresome under such conditions. I would, therefore, recommend the Country Clergy Holidays Fund to appeal to the congregations. I anticipate that they will be found ready to make great sacrifices in order to give their parson a change.

One cannot help being struck by another aspect of this grievance. While one parson (not to mention Mrs. Parson) is languishing through being shut up in his uncongenial surroundings six miles from a railway station for seven and half years at a stretch, how many parsons could be found in the big towns who would regard a few weeks in such quarters as a perfect holiday! Surely something in the way of clerical holidays might be provided merely by temporary exchange of work and residence among the clergy, without any appeal to the public for funds. If the country vicar whose sad plight is described above cannot get a month in Switzerland or Scotland, he might find plenty of change and amusement in the West End of London, even in August and September, and there must be many West End vicarages which could easily be placed at his disposal.

At the root of the whole matter, however, is the question lately discussed in TRUTH—why shut any man up, on an inadequate stipend, in a remote village or hamlet to minister to, it may be, a mere handful of people from year's end to year's end? Substitute for the "resident gentleman" plan a system of itinerant priests, and you will hear no more of the necessity for subscribing to give the country clergy change of air and scene, nor of men rusting and rotting in country parsonages by reason of the isolation, monotony, and idleness of their lives.

I have received £2 from L. T. C., and £1 from Sibyl towards Lady Jeune's Country Holiday Fund for poor and sickly children.

G. L. W. sends me £5 towards the deficit of the Toy Fund.

H. L. SAVORY & CO.'S CIGARETTES.—By Special Warrants of Appointments to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, H.S.H. the Duke of Teck, and the Houses of Lords and Commons. To be obtained of all the leading Houses in the trade.—Sole address, 59, Piccadilly, London, W. Specimen case of samples, containing all sizes, 2s. 6d., with price list.

FINE FEATHERS (!)

Mr. Brodrick admitted, in answer to Sir J. Lubbock, that osprey plumes were worn by certain regiments of our Army. This admission implies the stripping of the feathers from the parent ospreys during the breeding season, and the consequent starvation of the young ones.—*Parliamentary Intelligence.*

So, thanks to this new evidence,
Which Mr. Brodrick kindly tenders,
The ladies, it would now appear,
Are *not* the principal offenders.
For years they have been solely blamed
For causing needless osprey slaughter;
But now it seems Mars' gallant son
Is quite as bad as Eve's fair daughter.

Since, then, this fact is widely known
On data seemingly quite ample,
Let's hope the gallant son of Mars,
Will set at once a good example,
And cease to wear those cruel plumes
(However on his heart their loss preys)
Which doom to lingering, painful death
The helpless young of many ospreys.

No soldier willingly would show
The much-despised and scorned "white feather;"
Then why not let this shameful badge
And osprey plumes be linked together?
Since no brave man, although his speech
May be but rough, his manners rougher,
Would wittingly by aught he does
Cause helpless innocence to suffer.

Lively anticipations have been excited in Service circles by the report that the annual edition of the Queen's Regulations, which was due in 1896, is likely to make its appearance before many months have passed. I am told that the work of correcting the proofs of the amendments to the 1895 edition, some of which have only been in type for a couple of years, is now approaching completion, and too much praise cannot be bestowed upon all concerned for the thoroughness and rapidity with which this work is being got through. A rumour is current that a gigantic scheme is on hand which involves the renumbering of the whole of the sections and paragraphs, and it may be anticipated that this will prove most embarrassing to Continental Powers in the event of hostilities.

A circular has just been issued inviting subscriptions to a testimonial to Lieutenant-Colonel Ritchie, R.A., who is retiring after nearly forty years' service. The gallant officer has done so many good turns to lucky individuals during his term of office as D.A.G., R.A., that the testimonial ought certainly to be a handsome one. Unfortunately, gratitude is more often than not inspired by a sense of favours to come, and it is to be feared that the kind of favours that Colonel Ritchie has bestowed have made him almost as many enemies as friends.

I asked last week whether it was true that Brigadier-General Spragge, C.R.A. with the Tirah Field Force, took with him a field officer, Major Mercer, as his orderly officer. From what I have since heard, there seems to be no doubt about it whatever. Brigadier-General Spragge himself, however, should, I am told, be absolved from any responsibility for this anomalous proceeding. The opinion in the

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Service is that if the Brigadier-General had not been disposed to take General Nairne's son-in-law with him, he himself would not have gone to Tirah. It was a choice of evils, and he naturally chose the lesser.

A few weeks back I was taken to task by an officer for suggesting that there could be anything in the shape of favouritism or personal feeling in regard to the promotion of non-commissioned officers. What about the following narrative from the Army Ordnance Corps? A corporal in this corps was recently promoted to sergeant within six weeks of having been reprimanded for striking another corporal. Having attained sergeant's rank, the same youth was placed under arrest at the Curragh last October for drunkenness, and this time was ordered a severe reprimand. In the ordinary course of things this should have prevented his further promotion for twelve months; but, nevertheless, he has now been, or is just about to be, promoted to staff-sergeant. The explanation of his luck appears to be that promotions in the Corps are made at Headquarters, and that the favoured N.C.O. has a relative in an influential position there. Another N.C.O. of the same family, after having been made a prisoner for drunkenness, was let off without any punishment after a private inquiry, and a month afterwards was promoted from sergeant to quartermaster-sergeant, and twelve months later became a warrant officer over the heads of several seniors. These facts are in glaring contrast to other cases which could easily be adduced where men have no influential relatives to look after them.

Attention was called not long back, in one of the Service papers, to the hardship created by the block of promotion to the rank of Lieutenant on the establishment of District Officers R.A. This is a very real grievance, and ought to be looked into by the War Office authorities. Since the reduction of the establishment in 1894 by eight Lieutenants, no vacancies that have occurred have been filled; and if there is no intention of filling them until the limit of the new establishment is reached, no promotion can occur in the ordinary course of things for at least four or five years to come. In the meantime, several men qualified for commissions and recommended for promotion have fallen out under the age rules, and many others will follow them. The usual course in the case of a reduction like this is to fill up every alternate vacancy, so as to keep promotion moving, though at a slower rate; and there is no reason why that course should not have been followed in this instance, except that the men affected do not belong to a sufficiently influential class to make their protests effectual. If the difficulty cannot be got over in any other way, let the age limit be extended to forty-five, which is already the limit for quartermasters.

One of the Indian papers recently commented on the disgraceful way in which Indian Departmental warrant officers, conductors and sub-conductors, as also officers of the commissioned grade of Deputy-Assistant-Commissary-General, are treated in the matter of furlough pay. This is a point which has before now been discussed in TRUTH, and the delay in remedying the grievance reflects great discredit upon the Indian Government. Under the rules now in force, a conductor (a first-class warrant officer) receives on furlough £75 or £78 a year. As against this an Infantry sergeant-major (fourth-class warrant officer) receives £100 7s. 6d., being £25 7s. 6d. in excess of what his senior officer receives; while the highest-paid regimental warrant officer in the British Service, a sergeant-major R.H.A., receives £118 12s. 6d. as furlough pay in Europe. I believe it is a fact that the furlough pay of the Indian conductor has not been increased for half a century past, or more, which in itself is sufficient to establish the case for a rise, in view of the increase of all salaries which has taken place during that period; and it may also be mentioned that the Indian Departmental warrant officers are distinguished from all other classes in the military Service of the Indian Government by the fact that their furlough pay is less than their pensions.

Again, a Deputy-Assistant-Commissary-General, a commissioned officer with the rank of lieutenant, receives furlough pay at the rate of £110 per annum, which is not only far below that of any other commissioned officer in the Indian Service, but actually below that of the sergeant-major R.H.A. above mentioned. The financial embarrassments of the Indian Government, largely due to that Government's reckless and unnecessary military expenditure, are no excuse for such shabby and unfair treatment as is shown in all the foregoing cases; and if the Indian authorities are not disposed to look into this grievance spontaneously, pressure ought to be put upon them by the Secretary of State or Parliament.

We are all getting a little tired, I think, of the grievances of the Army Medical Staff, but I cannot help being amused at the way in which one military medico, writing to me on the subject of his pay, expresses his grievances. A Veterinary-Lieutenant, he points out, gets paid upon joining "£50 a year more for looking after the horses than a Surgeon-Lieutenant gets for looking after the men." In the same way, "the Royal Engineers in every rank except Lieutenant, get more pay for looking after the drains than the Doctor does for looking after the typhoid cases caused by them." The writer goes on to remark that if the War Office wants good men, it will have to pay for them. As one of those, however, out of whose pockets the pay has to come, I would suggest that the War Office should wait to see the effect of the recent concessions before raising the Army Surgeon's fees.

Non-commissioned officers rejoining from the Reserve under the new regulations are being allowed to go, if they so desire, to the new battalions in process of formation. There is a feeling in many quarters that it would have been much better to have taken the N.C.O.s for these battalions from those regiments which at present have

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N.C.O.s in excess of their establishment, and where promotion is blocked in consequence. Here is a case in point. The 1st Worcestershire Regiment came home a year and a half back with its usual foreign establishment of sergeants, and shortly received a number of others from the Depot and elsewhere, bringing up the total to about sixteen in excess of the establishment. This excess has been partly reduced since by sending sergeants to the 2nd Battalion, the Militia Staff, and so on, but several more will have to go before a vacancy can occur for the men next on the list for promotion, although it is over two years since the last promotion to sergeant. One would think that in new battalions more than anywhere else it must be of advantage to have experienced non-commissioned officers, and it is surprising that steps have not been taken to obtain them from other regiments which have such men to spare.

Here is another little grievance in connection with Reservists rejoining. A sergeant who rejoins under the new regulations, in addition to other privileges, is allowed to be borne on the supernumerary married roll. On the other hand, a sergeant of upwards of seven years' service, who has never left the colours, but is serving on an extended engagement, is not eligible to be borne on the supernumerary married roll. No doubt there was a reason for allowing facilities to married men rejoining, but, at the same time, it looks decidedly anomalous that a man who has been away from the colours for two or three years should have advantages on rejoining over men who have been serving continuously.

There is a growing feeling of dissatisfaction in the Army Ordnance Corps at the results of the order issued about two years ago which threw open the rank of sub-conductor to the Service at large. Since the order was promulgated upwards of a dozen N.C.O.s from other branches of the Service have joined the Army Ordnance Corps and obtained warrant rank, and the rate at which outsiders are coming in may be judged from the fact that within the last few months there have joined the corps at Woolwich, a quartermaster-sergeant military staff clerk, a battery quartermaster-sergeant, and a company sergeant-major, R.A., all of whom will probably be appointed warrant officers before the thirty-five quartermaster-sergeants already in the Corps, men with from twelve to sixteen years' service. Considering the high standard of the N.C.O.s and men of the Army Ordnance Corps in education and conduct, it certainly seems very unjust to them that their prospects of obtaining warrant rank should be marred in this way; nor is it easy to see how the interests of the Service are served by thus pitch-forking into the highest appointments in a Departmental Corps men who have had no practical training or experience in the work of that particular Department.

I was recently introduced to a humble but useful body of men in the Service—the saddler-sergeants. The saddler-sergeants, it is scarcely necessary to say, have a grievance. It is that they get no chance of earning a higher pension than 2s. 3d., whereas the farrier-sergeants can rise to the rank of squadron-sergeant major with a pension of 2s. 6d. There are only, I believe, thirty-one saddler-sergeants in the whole of the Army, but I take it that saddlers are quite as useful and necessary to the efficiency of the Cavalry as farriers, and there seems no reason why they should not be in as good a position, except that, owing to the fewness of their numbers, their claims have been overlooked. I would specially invite the attention of the military authorities to the case of these men, not only because to give them all another threepence a day pension would not involve a very heavy charge upon the public, but also because skilled tradesmen of all classes employed in the Army ought to be specially encouraged.

By one of those anomalies of military administration which are incomprehensible to an outsider, the clerical staff of the 1st Cavalry Brigade is composed of men of the Staff Clerk Section, Army Service Corps, while the staffs of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Brigades are composed of men taken from the various Cavalry regiments. The effect of this is that the latter only draw Cavalry rates of pay as orderly-room sergeants and orderly-room clerks, which means that they receive from 1s. to 2s. a day less than men doing the same work in the 1st Brigade, while their prospects of promotion are also inferior. Why should not the clerical staffs of all the brigades be on the same footing?

Apropos of my last references to the Staff College, I have had a letter from an officer in India who says that, whatever else the Staff College may or may not do, it certainly does not turn out men who are qualified to hold Staff positions in frontier campaigns against native tribes. He writes:—

> There is little doubt that most P.S.C. men know their Staff work well enough for the conditions of work in Europe, but in this country different organisation, equipment, climate, customs, country, and troops make a great deal of their European training useless or superfluous to P.S.C. men. It is for this reason as much as any other that the majority of our best Indian Staff Corps men do not go through the Staff College. The College has a name out here for theory as against practice. That is simply because although a good P.S.C. man may in time grasp the altered conditions out here, it always takes time, and a dull man may never grasp them at all. There are lots of dull men with P.S.C. to their names, and also lots of theoretical soldiers.
>
> I do not want to "crab" the Staff College. For Europe, no doubt it is excellent, but it is *very* little use for India. The moral is, Let us have a Staff College in India for India.

That is a moral which was pointed out in TRUTH some weeks back. The arguments in favour of an Indian Staff College seem to me unanswerable. It is unfair to Indian officers to compel them to come to England to qualify for Staff appointments, and it stands to reason that a Staff College in India must be in a better position for teaching the requirements of Indian warfare than the best institution of the same kind in England.

Here is a communication which throws light upon the "skeleton" condition of some of the home battalions.

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The writer is dealing with the number of men on garrison, as distinct from regimental, employ :—

In every garrison there are an enormous number of men on garrison employ, and none of these men can be taken for a single parade except General's inspections and manœuvres, if executed, without special permission from the General Officer Commanding. All these men are often excused from military training, sometimes even from musketry, doing no military duty whatever. In the case of a battalion on home service, which is seldom up to its full strength and contains a large number of men at recruits' drill, the drain caused by garrison employ together with guards and other necessary duties is so great that there are very seldom sufficient men available for a battalion parade, and the captain of a company never has a chance of getting the whole of his men together except at musketry and military training. In some instances I have known a captain obliged to send recruits on garrison employ before they are dismissed their drill.

These employments consist, first, of orderlies, of which there is a small army in every garrison, each of the innumerable offices requiring several for its own use; and the men thus employed have nothing to do but clean the offices and be ready to take a message if required. Secondly, there are servants to the General Staff and Departmental officers, including grooms, gardeners, scullions, cowmen, and other domestics and menials. I have known as many as thirty men employed in one house. Besides these, there are N.C.O.s and men in charge of garrison canteens, libraries, recreation rooms, military prisons, &c.

The absence of all these men makes the military duties fall much harder than desirable upon those who are not fortunate enough to get such employment, and it is no uncommon occurrence in garrisons for a man to go on guard with only two nights in bed.

Some people blame the system of regimental employment; but a regimental officer cannot have more servants than he is entitled to, and men on regimental employ are available in the regiment, and are frequently taken for parades and route marches, and, most mportant of all, they never lose touch with their regiments, hereas those on garrison employ are often away from their corps r months in succession.

If the War Office people had a single idea for improving the condition of the Army beyond getting more men voted by Parliament, and laying ever-increasing burdens upon the taxpayers, they would long since have made some serious attempt to deal with this question. I would suggest to one or other of those gentlemen in Parliament who make a speciality of military criticism, that they should obtain a return of the exact number of men in the whole Army who are taken away from purely military duties for both garrison and regimental employment. Such a return would, I think, open the eyes of the British taxpayer very considerably, and would prove that thousands of the men who are charged to the country as soldiers, and reckoned upon the effective strength of the Army, are in reality merely domestic servants, or clerks, messengers, and minor officials.

As the officer who sends me the above letter remarks, it is of peculiar importance under the short-service system that every soldier on the strength of the battalion should remain in the ranks throughout his period of service, and if any considerable number fail to do so, the battalion cannot be properly efficient. I have repeatedly advocated in TRUTH that all berths which take men from their properly military training should be filled by pensioners or reservists. It is said that in regard to regimental employ this would not be practicable under present conditions. But where there is a will there is a way; and most certainly in the case of garrison employment there seems no reason at all why there should not be formed at every garrison town a separate corps of old soldiers to discharge all such functions as those specified above.

Apart from all this, there are serious abuses in connection with the present system which require to be looked into and terminated. Under no circumstances ought men who are nominally engaged in military service to be actually employed as gardeners or cowmen; and when an officer states that he has known as many as thirty soldiers employed in the household of one officer in a garrison, it is certainly time for the War Office to look into such a scandal.

In referring last week to the pay of the men engaged in the gymnastic display at the Military Tournament, I find that I inadvertently stated the amount paid for the whole performance as a payment "per week;" that is to say, the payment has been in former years 28s. 6d. to 30s., and this year is reduced to 25s. for the Tournament. The correction makes, of course, no difference to the point of my remarks. The question is why the pay of the gymnastic staff alone was reduced this year.

Here is a curious case in connection with an Army pension. A man in receipt of a pension of 16s. 7½d. per week was removed to a lunatic asylum, where the charge for his maintenance was 9s. per week. This charge was paid out of the pension by the military authorities, and in reply to an inquiry the man's son was informed that the balance of 7s. 7½d. per week would be retained until the patient was discharged from the asylum. After being there three and a half years, the pensioner, though he had not regained his reason, was sufficiently recovered to be handed over to the care of his son.

Since that time the pension has been received by the son, but it is kept a quarter in arrear instead of being paid in advance, and the authorities refuse to part with the sum that accumulated during the period the pensioner was in the asylum. At first they said they would retain it in case of his complete recovery; and next, when medical certificates were submitted showing that his complete recovery was impossible, they said they would retain it for his funeral expenses. Is it the usual practice to keep back the overplus of a pension in such circumstances as these? After what has happened, the son may well doubt whether the money ever will be handed over, though, as the maintenance, nursing, and medical expenses he has already incurred on his father's account are considerably in excess of what he has received, he undoubtedly has a good claim to it.

A great deal of disappointment, not to use a stronger term, has been caused by the pointed omission of the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers from the force selected for the coming operations in the Soudan. The omission is the more remarkable because, not only has every other regiment in Egypt been selected, but also two regiments from outside—the Grenadiers and the Rifle Brigade. The 1st Royal Irish have been fifteen years in India, and are in every respect healthy and fit, and they have not been on active service since 1882. Considering that the authorities

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have just had to apologise to another Irish battalion for an undeserved slight offered to it in connection with the Indian Frontier operations, there is the more reason for asking for some explanation of this latest injustice to Ireland.

In the case of our friend "Tommy Atkins," I suppose like that of the frogs in the pond, what is amusement to others may be very unpleasant for him. There is, however, very often a comic side to his grievances. For instance, in the 1st Battalion West Riding Regiment now at Malta there is an order in force that every man who is not on standing pass at midnight must stand at his bed at 9.30 tattoo and answer to his name as the orderly-sergeant calls the roll. This, of course, implies that a man who has gone to bed before that hour must turn out and answer to his name. Here is a complaint from the ranks showing the hardship of this order :—

It very often happens that when a man has been in the canteen and, perhaps, had enough drink to make him sleepy, he goes off to bed without any trouble, and goes to sleep ; but when he has to get out of his bed at 9.30 and stand up by the side of it, he is a little dazed, and does not like the idea. So in the end he gets marched off to the guard-room for being drunk. It is very hard on a man that if he can walk all right from the canteen and put himself to bed without any trouble, that he should then be woke up out of his sleep and made to get out of bed and dress himself, and then be put in the guard-room on a charge of being drunk. I hear of employers refusing to take men from the Army through their having so many drunks on their sheets, and it is very hard that orders should be enforced which have the effect of making crimes against men when there is no necessity for it.

I agree that if a man can get himself safely from the canteen to bed, he ought not to be woke up an hour or so afterwards in order to test his sobriety. Moreover, this may lead to totally unfounded suspicions. A man may go to bed on nothing stronger than a glass of milk, or a basin of gruel, and yet may be uncommonly drowsy and stupid if suddenly awakened an hour afterwards. The regulation seems irrational, and quite unnecessary, for the orderly sergeant can see whether a man is in his bed without troubling him to stand up and answer to his name.

I should like to ask Mr. Rudyard Kipling whether his friend Learoyd is still serving with the colours, because I have had a letter from India which, although signed in a different name, is strongly suggestive of that hero, unless it happens to be Ortheris. My Learoyd (or Ortheris) is in the 1st Royal Fusiliers, and he is in trouble about his dog. To begin with, it seems that, owing to the dogs of the 1st Royal Fusiliers not being allowed in the bungalows during the day, they have to be tied up in the sun, which in the middle of May in Bombay is naturally not a good thing for a dog. Besides that, when a soldier keeps a dog, or a dog keeps a soldier (whichever it may be), the soldier has to be provided with a pass. In the 1st Royal Fusiliers they have run out of printed passes at the canteen, and manuscript passes are not recognised. The consequence is that Private Learoyd (or Ortheris), in company with several other dog fanciers, has been doing punishment drill. It is very hard on a man that he should be punished because the canteen does not keep dog passes. Perhaps some one may say that the difficulty may be got over by getting rid of the dog, but if anybody says that, he does not know his Learoyd—or his Ortheris.

On the question of "flat-foots" in the Army, a West End doctor, who is a well-known authority on orthopædics, sends the following letter. In view of the increased attention now being given to marching, I think that what he says is worth the attention of the military authorities, and I therefore publish the letter in full :—

The question of the soldier's feet is a far more serious one than the uninformed general reader supposes. A soldier without his two great toes in a fairly straight line with the innermost point of his ankle joint, and with his instep in a flexible, free playing, but taut "bow" (not "arch," which is a misnomer), is an absolute encumbrance, rather than an efficient soldier, after any considerable part of a long march has been accomplished.

In TRUTH of June 16, I read that flat-footed men are being enlisted, and they are to be cured by gymnastics before "use." Of course, there are many special exercises (of the "tip-toe" and "balancing" class) which will correct flat-foot in children and young people whose feet are still soft and not fully formed. I doubt, however, if the special aptitude and intelligence, or the necessary anatomical knowledge for the conducting of such treatment is to be found in the Army gymnastic department and if the instructors with this "orthopædic" skill are available, how do they expect to improve or correct the flat feet of *adult* men, past their period of growth, with the bones of the feet fully ossified, in the gymnasium ?

Certainly I have seen even such feet vastly improved by patient daily "tip-toe," &c., exercises continued for a *year or two*, with the wearing of proper boots ; but there's the rub. Whether the military authorities enlist flat-footed men or not, the military drill and the military boots (those served out to the private and corporal, and perhaps a grade higher) most certainly *produce* flat-footed men. Fortunately, many of the men are aware of the bad effect on their feet of the inflexible waisted boots, and they select, when trying on for their second pair and after pairs, a size too big for them, so that when firmly fastened round the ankle, or at least enough to look neat for inspection, their feet can still bend, and the heel get a very slight range of rise and fall, inside the boots, however rigid the boot sole may be at the "waist" (just as the Breton peasant uses his "sabots"). Of course, this means sore heels on long marches ; but that is a small matter compared with permanent crippling from flat-foot, and the atrocious sufferings a man must endure from flat feet when marching.

The second ingenious arrangement used in the Army for producing the shifting of the body weight as far as possible towards the inner borders of the feet (for the leg bones at the ankle, carrying the weight, may be caused to press with their burden on either border, according to the position of the feet), is that utterly ridiculous order in drill, the position at "attention." It is a posture which I would not permit the flat-footed and weak-ankled children I deal with professionally to assume at any time, unless for some special exercise or "equilibrant" (excuse the tall term) posture. It is the flat-footed man's evil posture, and our soldiers have to maintain it daily—often for hours !

Would it be a very enormous strain on the resources of the War Office, I wonder, to introduce the "four square" placing of the feet for "attention," and the use of boots with the waist of the soles made of the flexible, but perfectly durable and wet-proof leather which is used for a civilian's foot clothing ?

In a further communication the writer of the above speaks of the British Army as the "greatest flat-foot factory ever instituted." From another source—a military one this time—I hear that Army surgeons could testify to the fact that men who enter the Army with sound and elastic feet now suffer tortures from flat-foot, and that, not only their marching power, but their general health is seriously affected from this cause. The absence of a flexible waist in the Army boot is a matter which has frequently been mentioned in TRUTH in one connection or another; and it would be well worth the while of the

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military authorities to inquire thoroughly as to whether flat-footedness is produced by this cause, either alone or in conjunction with the faulty drill to which my orthopædic correspondent alludes.

I am pillorying below a further batch of Mr. Atkins' grievances :—

2nd Battalion Scots Guards, Windsor.—An order has recently been put in force in this battalion requiring all men to bathe once a week, and those who have not taken a voluntary dip in the course of the preceding week are marched to the bathing-place on Monday morning and compelled to go in. This is an unobjectionable arrangement in itself, and probably there are few soldiers who during the summer weather would require to be compelled to bathe if a proper place to bathe were provided, but the bathing-place in this instance is a dirty backwater, or stream running into the river, with about 2 ft. of mud at the bottom of it, and, as the men come out dirtier than they go in, it is the more cleanly of them who most object to the regulation. If cleanliness is the object in view, it would seem to be sufficient to require the men to avail themselves of the baths provided at the barracks. If they are to learn swimming, a proper place should be provided for that purpose.

East Kent Militia.—On this battalion assembling at Canterbury they had to march to the railway station in a heavy rain for the purpose of proceeding to Shorncliffe, and by the time they got into camp they were wet through, and were ordered to change their clothing at once. It was then discovered that only a few of the men had a change of clothing with them, the result being that many of them had to lie all night—and the night happened to be a very cold one—in wet tents and wet clothes, and they suffered considerably in health in consequence. The reason of this appears to be that it is the custom in the battalion to complete the men's kits in a leisurely way in the course of the month's training. After the above experience it is to be hoped that in future the kits will be made up when the battalion assembles.

Royal Engineers, Curragh Camp.—A correspondent writing from the Curragh mentions that on Wednesday, the 15th inst., a serious nuisance was occasioned on one of the public ways through the camp by a party of men being engaged in the afternoon in cleaning latrines. Some inquiry ought certainly to be made into this matter, for not only is it contrary to the usual practice, if not to the regulations, that such work should be done during the day, but it is *primâ facie* the duty of a contractor, not that of soldiers. The party engaged upon the work belonged to the 37th Company, R.E., and were under the command of a non-commissioned officer.

Medical Staff Corps, Aldershot.—One N.C.O. here has held the appointment of company accountant for the past three years. Is there not a rule in the Corps that men shall take turn and turn about in such appointments? In addition to this appointment, the same N.C.O. is employed as an assistant compounder at the 3rd Station Hospital. He is thereby depriving another man of paid employment, even if he is not drawing two extra-duty pays in contravention of the regulations.

2nd Battalion The King's Shropshire Light Infantry.—There is some grievance in this regiment in regard to "walking out boots." The point of it seems to be that after a man has bought a pair of boots, costing anything from 10s. 6d. to 15s. 6d., at the regimental shop, he is forbidden to wear them. What I should like to know is, why boots are allowed to be on sale at the regimental shop which are not allowed to be worn.

2nd Battalion South Lancashire Regiment, Kamptee.—Up to the end of May this battalion had not been provided with the new clothing supposed to be served out in April. The Government authorities are presumably to blame for this, but pending the arrival of the clothing it is certainly unfair that the men should be checked for not having their old clothing in proper condition. Many of them complain of having been in trouble through having their clothes spotted or patched. A suit of khaki which has been in wear over twelve months can hardly be expected to be in first-class condition.

72nd Field Battery, R.A., Ramandroag.—The men of this battery have been long permitted to wear non-regulation grey shirts. While a detachment at Ramandroag were going through physical drill in these shirts, one of the men was asked by the Acting-Adjutant (who belongs to a Line Infantry regiment) whether the shirts were served out to him. The man, thinking the question had reference to the shirt he had on, replied "No." It appears that the officer meant the regulation grey shirt. The man was then brought before the Commandant (Captain Reid) on the charge of making a false statement to an officer. He called evidence in support of his defence that the answer was given under a misapprehension, but he was found guilty and awarded ten days' C.B. If this is not manufacturing "crime," I do not know the correct name for it.

Reference has recently been made in TRUTH to the shabby treatment of the officers of the Royal Indian Marine when invalided home. If the embarrassments of the Indian Government preclude any financial concession to the Indian Marine just at present, might I suggest that there is one way in which a great boon could be conferred upon that branch of the Service, without additional cost to the taxpayer—namely, by permitting an officer to forego his two months' privilege leave in one year and add it to the year following? A four months' holiday once in two years being sufficient to enable a man to get a run home for two or three months, would be far more appreciated and more beneficial to the men than a couple of months in each year, and the Government would probably reap the benefit of it in a reduction of the sick list. If this proposal were adopted, there is no reason why passages home should not be found for such officers upon the Government troopships.

THE COAL THAT FAILED.

Our autumn Naval manœuvres have been put off on account of the scarcity of coal.

The Jingoes, it is very clear,
If they'd the vogue prolong
Of their exceedingly well-known
And vulgar battle song,
The chance to instantly amend
Their anthem should not miss;
In fact, they now should make it run
In some such way as this :—

"We don't want to fight! but by Jingo! if we do,
We've got the ships! we've got the men! we've got the money, too!
And though at present no great stock we're able to control,
We *hope* that we ere long may say we've also got the coal!"

Britannia's sceptre on the main
Used paramount to be,
But clearly now 'tis Old King Coal
That's sovereign of the sea.
So let the Jingoes honour him
On whom they so depend,
And *thus*, when they their anthem sing,
Its sentiment amend :—

"We don't want to fight! but by Jingo! if we do,
We've got the ships! we've got the men! we've got the money, too!
And best of all, that we may sweep the sea from Pole to Pole,
We've got as our most staunch ally his Majesty King Coal!"

It is the brewer, as a fact,
Gets turned into a peer;
But coal to England, now we see,
Is worth much more than beer;
So why should brewers' vats alone
Insure this great reward?
The coal-pit owner ought to be
In future made a lord!

And when we fight, if fight we must, don't let us yell that stuff,
'Bout having ships, and men, and cash—for that is not enough.
Instead of shouting, let us set to work with heart and soul,
And see that in the day of need our stores are full of coal!

In answer to a question put to him last Friday, Mr. Goschen endeavoured to assure us that all reports to the prejudice of the marksmanship of Naval gunners are unfounded. The Admiralty, we are told, "have no reason to believe that there is the slightest foundation for the

The Maximum of Effect at the Minimum of Cost.—An Object Lesson in Decorating and Furnishing can be obtained by inspecting Messrs. WARING'S Suites of furnished rooms at 175-181, Oxford-st. W

allegations," namely, that ammunition supposed to have been expended in target practice has in reality been thrown overboard. No one ever imagined that the Admiralty had the slightest reason to believe it; on the contrary, every one with a grain of common-sense in his cranium must be perfectly sure that, if such a thing were done, every care would be taken that the Admiralty should know nothing whatever about it.

Unfortunately, what the Admiralty believe is not evidence, and what people who profess to have been eye-witnesses assert *is* evidence, though I don't say that it is necessarily conclusive evidence, especially when the witnesses are not disposed to come forward. The great thing is that the Admiralty should know of such rumours, and be on their guard against any such practices. It is satisfactory to hear from Mr. Goschen that "the Admiralty are giving their most earnest attention to the best means of improving the standard of marksmanship in the Navy, and are carefully considering whether any further regulations on the subject are necessary;" but this does not quite read as if everything were already considered to be for the best in the best of Navies. What the Admiralty should bear in mind in any new Regulations that may be framed is, not the desirability of having a certain number of crack marksmen on each ship, but the necessity of making our naval gunners all round the first in the world. Without this the mere building of ships and casting of guns can avail us little.

On the few occasions when I have been privileged to witness a launch, it has always struck me that a very slight accident might produce a terrible catastrophe. That the catastrophe has come at last, surprises me, therefore, less than that it has not come sooner. The verdict of the jury upon the Blackwall disaster brings it clearly within the category of preventable accidents; and I hope that not only will the recommendations of the jury in regard to police supervision be carried out in future, but that the police will take good care that everybody present when a big ship is being launched shall be out of harm's way.

Our Governments, as a rule, are not prone to the endowment of scientific research. Peculiar interest, therefore, attaches to the additional grant of £500 contributed by the Treasury this year to the Solar Physics Committee. The Solar Physicists, I understand, are mainly occupied in investigating sun-spots, and other eccentricities in the orb of day, under the direction of Sir Norman Lockyer, K.C.B. According to Sir Norman, who is responsible for a number of other astronomical theories, the work may in the future throw considerable light upon the vagaries of the weather. I know a man who thinks that it may enable us to foretell the course of the Stock Markets during the next account, and the winner of next year's Derby. We shall see. In the meanwhile, the increased endowment of the Solar Physical Research has enabled Dr. W. S. Lockyer, a son of Sir Norman, to be appointed to the staff of researchers, and a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

In connection with the completion of the South Kensington buildings, the representatives of Science and Art are agitating to get the proposed extension of the Royal College of Science carried out on the west side of Exhibition-road. As all the Art portion of the Museum and the Royal College of Art are on the east side of the road, together with the original Royal College of Science building, while the Science collections of the Museum, and some three or four overflow branches of the College of Science, are already on the west side, common sense suggests that Art should be left in possession of the east side, and that whatever new Science buildings are required should be erected on the west, where there is plenty of land available. If economy be the motive for the proposed crowding of all the buildings on the east side, what an opportunity is now offered for utilising the barren wastes of the Imperial Institute!

It is interesting to note the line which the Post Office takes when pressed to carry out its promise of a daily delivery of letters at every house in the United Kingdom. Some months back I referred to the case of a gentleman in Argyllshire who, notwithstanding the promise made in Parliament a year previously, could only get his letters by sending for them across the neighbouring loch. This case having been further pressed upon the Postmaster-General through the medium of a Member of Parliament, the Post Office have so far given way as to deliver letters at the house once a week, while on the remaining days the letters must be sent for as before. It is perfectly evident from this that the Post Office are not prepared to grant a daily delivery everywhere, and that the Chancellor of the Exchequer's declaration on the subject was mere gammon. I hope that this is not an unparliamentary word, but I know of no other which properly characterises the facts.

Let us lay the blame upon the right shoulders. I would not suggest for a minute that the real responsibility in this matter rests with the Postmaster-General. It is one of the numerous cases in which the Post Office is absolutely fettered by the Treasury. A daily delivery at every house in the kingdom would involve a considerable expenditure of money, and the Treasury simply will not allow that money to be spent. This view of the matter only accentuates the humbug of the Chancellor of the Exchequer getting up in the House of Commons and declaring, in a Budget speech, that a portion of his surplus was to be devoted to introducing this universal daily delivery, and then refusing to furnish the Post Office with the means of giving effect to his declaration. What I should like to know is whether, when he made the promise, the Chancellor of the Exchequer was himself informed as to the amount it would cost to carry it out, or whether, after the money has been specifically devoted to this purpose, it is really being applied to some other.

Much more important than the establishment of a municipal opera house—with which I have dealt elsewhere—is that the County Council should come to the rescue of London's most important playground—Hampstead Heath. The estate of the late Sir Spencer Wells, the eminent surgeon, abutting thereon, is about to be disposed

of, and that indefatigable "bogey," the speculative builder, already has his evil eye upon such an excellent investment. If the West Heath were to be thus fenced in by "eligible houses," it would be nothing less than a national calamity; whereas, the acquisition of the land now for sale would not only increase the fine open space already available for metropolitan toilers, but would effectually prevent a similar danger in the future.

My attention has lately been directed to the alarming amount of sickness prevailing in London Board Schools, owing to the practice of painting the buildings and repairing drains, &c., while the children are at work in the schools. The matter is of the more importance, as it would appear that the School Board officers are entirely unaware of the existence of the evil. Pressure of other matters prevents my dealing with the subject this week at the length it requires, but in the next issue of TRUTH I propose to go into the facts fully.

In Leicester-square will be found the first street lamp—at this end of the town—fitted to fulfil the requirements of a coffee-shop and a distributor of hot water on the penny-in-the-slot system. The lamp now being placed is larger than those hitherto adapted, as it is to supply both coffee and cocoa at the rate of a halfpenny a cup, in addition to hot water at a halfpenny a gallon. The post itself will contain magazines of different articles (all procurable on the slot system), such as extract of beef, for making into beef-tea by means of the hot water obtainable above—that is to say, if the wayfarer has thoughtfully provided himself with a cup or mug—a system for hiring out vessels on the penny-in-the-slot principle not having yet been devised.

The City Fathers of Bristol are very cross with the inconsiderate people who periodically disturb their peaceful slumbers over such awkward questions as the pollution of the Avon and the non-ventilation of the sewers. Last week an influential body of ratepayers at Clifton were snubbed for venturing to present a memorial on these subjects, and rebuked—in common with TRUTH—for damaging the interests of the place by an "unseemly agitation." It is thoroughly characteristic of municipal wisdom to take up such an attitude. The "agitation" has been rendered necessary by the negligence and procrastination of the local authorities, and if the reputation of Clifton suffers it is they alone who are to blame.

As complaints are made of the statements that have appeared in TRUTH on this matter, I take the following instructive extract from an article in the *Western Daily Press* on the proceedings of the Council last week:—

> As long as the river remains the vehicle for the sewage of Bristol and some other towns, there will be a liability to effluvia in the summer months. But the noisome mud need not be disturbed by the dredgers and then redeposited in the bed of the river. This is an accentuation of an almost intolerable evil, which might well be avoided at a moderate cost; and so it is understood that these dredgings will henceforth—in summer, at any rate—be carried right out to the Channel. The arrangement is better than nothing.

The fact that this extraordinarily stupid "accentuation of an almost intolerable evil" has been allowed to go on until the present moment, and is even now only to be suspended during the summer months, is indeed a striking testimony to the energy and intelligence of the Bristol Corporation.

I suppose that my friend in Grosvenor-street who can only get his dustbin emptied about lunch time or calling-time in the afternoon ought to think himself lucky, for I hear of a distressed resident in the neighbourhood of Belgrave-square who has been for weeks unable to get his dustbin emptied at all. This gentleman's account of his negotiations with the Vestry of St. George, Hanover-square, affords, indeed, a monumental example of the way in which municipal government is conducted in London at the close of the nineteenth century. He describes how, his dustbin having remained unemptied for several weeks, he paid visit after visit to the Vestry Office, and could get no satisfaction, beyond an explanation from the Clerk that the Vestry were entirely in the hands of the contractors, who were new to their work, and he was told that he was only one of about eighty complainants. From the Vestry Office he went to the police station without result, and then applied to the magistrate at Westminster, who declined to grant a summons, as he thought the Vestry were not liable for the nuisance. The dustbin actually went uncleared for six weeks, and as the refuse was beginning to choke the area and render the house uninhabitable, the happy ratepayer made his own arrangements with a contractor to have the refuse removed, when at the last moment the representative of the Vestry appeared on the scene.

Now, I should like to know what right we have to call ourselves a civilised nation when such a state of things as this can prevail in the wealthiest part of the West End of London without any visible remedy. Under the City Corporation, which, with all its faults, acquits itself fairly well of its duties as a municipal authority, all house refuse is removed every day by ten o'clock in the morning, and so it would be in every other properly governed community. Why does not the Government, instead of hatching insane schemes for turning all these vestrymen into municipal councillors, provide the ratepayers with some summary and drastic remedy for compelling them to perform their duties? Whether it is a question of emptying dustbins, watering the roads, or lighting the streets, the ratepayers ought to have some means at hand of compelling the execution of the work which they pay to have done, and the only means I see is by fining or imprisoning vestrymen like those of St. George, Hanover square.

Pending the passing of a short Act for this purpose, I would suggest to the ratepayers of St. George's that they should apply to the High Court for a mandamus. The late Sir Alexander Cockburn used to say that, if he had a free hand, he would govern all England from the Court of Queen's Bench. From what I remember of that learned judge, I feel sure he would have made short work of any vestry which refused to empty dustbins, and pleaded that it was all the fault of a contractor who was new to his work.

For some time past a dispute has been going on at Tunbridge Wells in reference to the right of way to the well-known Harrison's Rocks in Birchden Wood. It is claimed that a right-of-way has existed there from time immemorial, but the Goldsmiths' Company, who are the owners of the Birchden Estate, have denied the existence of this right, and have latterly placed various restrictions upon the visits of the public to the Rocks. The District Council—as too often happens in such cases—has failed to take up the question in the interests of the public, and so this duty has fallen on the Footpaths Committee of the Tradesmen's Association, whose chairman, Dr. E. Abbott, is now being sued in the Court of Chancery by the Goldsmiths' Company for trespass. It is hoped that the action will be the means of obtaining a final judicial settlement of the whole dispute, and in view of its importance to residents and visitors, those engaged in the defence will be glad to hear from anybody in a position to throw light on the facts as to the use of the right-of-way.

I am glad to see that the New Palace Steamer Company have taken the hint, given in TRUTH last summer, that it is a little unreasonable in its charges for the conveyance of passengers' cycles. The company have this season conceded to the members of at least one cycling club the privilege of travelling at reduced fares, and of paying half rates for their machines. The company would probably be no losers if they extended the same privilege to all cyclists.

It is reported that several provincial police authorities contemplate taking action to obtain a modification of the Police Pension Act of 1890, so as to prevent the retirement of constables after twenty-six years' service. There is, unfortunately, no question that many men now elect to leave the force the moment they become entitled to a pension, and when they are quite capable of putting in another ten or twelve years' good service. The leakage is regrettable on more grounds than one; but it seems open to doubt whether the proposed extension of the qualifying age for a pension is the best way in which to deal with it. The authorities should consider whether the desire of the men to get out of the force as soon as possible may not be due, to a great extent, to dissatisfaction at their treatment, and the absence of reasonable inducements to the old hands to prolong their period of service. It should also be considered whether, if the prospect of the pension is made more remote, and the other conditions of the service remain unchanged, the force will be likely to attract as desirable a class of recruits as it does at present.

The discussion at Maidstone regarding a recent addition to the Borough Bench has had a singular sequel in the form of the following announcement in the *South-Eastern Gazette*:—

JUSTICE'S APPOINTMENT.—It having been intimated to Mr. Johnson that his appointment is not acceptable to some of the Justices, he has decided not to take the oath, and has written to the Chairman of the Conservative Party to that effect. This being so, there will be no need for any further meeting of the Justices. Mr. Johnson states that this is the only reason which has induced him to adopt this course.

This seems to me anything but a satisfactory ending to the incident. It leaves Mr. Johnson in the position of a half-fledged magistrate. He is on the Commission of the Peace, and entitled to describe himself as a J.P., but he is not qualified to act because he has not taken the oath. This is a state of affairs which will, I should think, convince the Lord Chancellor of the desirability of making the inquiries which I suggested a week or two back. It is the Lord Chancellor who makes the appointment, not the other Justices or the Chairman of the political party to which Mr. Johnson belongs, and the mere fact that it is not acceptable to certain individuals is in itself no reason whatever why Mr. Johnson should refuse to exercise the duties of the office that has been conferred upon him. On the other hand, if there is any good ground for the objection to his presence on the Bench, which has been "intimated" to Mr. Johnson, it is clear that the Lord Chancellor should be acquainted with it. This gentleman is either a fit and proper person to act as a magistrate, or else he is not a fit and proper person to be on the Commission of the Peace.

Apropos of the late Mr. Pochin's will and the duties of testators to their families, a gentleman at Glasgow was highly surprised the other day "that I, of all people, should stand forth as the champion of hereditary privilege;" and he has kindly favoured me with a lecture spread over half a dozen sheets of paper. He refers me at the outset to "Mill" as having "hit the right nail on the head." Unless, however, he has read his Mill more carefully than he has read his TRUTH, I hesitate to believe that the philosopher would have committed himself to such an absurdity as the defence of the present English law. Philosophers are often woefully lacking in common-sense, but I doubt whether the most hare-brained and unpractical of them—which John Stuart Mill certainly was not—would have committed himself to the proposition that a man who amuses himself during life by acquiring a wife and a large family may, whatever his means of providing for them, leave them to be maintained by the public on his death. The true philosophy of the thing—in this as in most other matters—is embodied in the principle of the Roman law, namely, that the family have a right to a certain minimum share in the estate, but a right liable to be defeated by their own misconduct.

An action tried in the Manchester County Court last week illustrates the stress of competition for life insurance business, and suggests that it is sometimes met by methods more enterprising than scrupulous. There seems to have been a great rush of rival agents after a Manchester gentleman who contemplated taking out policies to the amount of £25,000, and the local representatives of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States apparently conceived the idea that a Mr. C. E. Mainprice was most likely to obtain this particular business. Mr. Mainprice was in the employ of another American office, but the Equitable promptly secured his services as an agent at a salary of £6 per week for three months certain. The

"KRONENQUELLE" WATER.—The famous Natural Mineral Water for GOUT, RHEUMATISM, and DIABETES. Prices: 1 dozen bottles, 10/6; case of 50 bottles, 40/-.—Sole Importers, W. SCHACHT & Co., 26, Finsbury-pavement, London, E.C. Pamphlet by eminent medical specialists post free on application.

£25,000 insurance did not come off, however, and at the end of a month Mr. Mainprice was summarily dismissed.

At the hearing of Mr. Mainprice's action for the remaining eight weeks' salary, the society's representatives put their conduct in a still more discreditable light by suddenly trumping up against the plaintiff a serious and slanderous charge, for which, in the opinion of Judge Parry, there was not a tittle of foundation. The dishonesty, his Honour severely observed, was on the side of the defendants, not on the plaintiff, and companies must be taught not to bring such charges against their servants, unless they had evidence to back them up. It is a matter for regret that the lesson could not be enforced by something more substantial than the verdict for the plaintiff for £48 and costs, which was the most the Judge could give.

A recent conviction of a country grocer for adulteration is brought under my notice as an illustration of the way in which the retail tradesman often has to suffer for the sins of the wholesale manufacturer. The defendant and most of the other grocers in the same district were selling an article, which was accepted as pure on the strength of the reputation of the wholesale firm by whom it was made and supplied. On an analysis showing the local sanitary authorities that the stuff was adulterated, one retail grocer was selected for prosecution, and fined, while the manufacturers escaped any penalty beyond the obloquy they incurred through the publication of the proceedings.

I am all for a rigorous enforcement of the laws against adulteration, but there seems to be a good deal of force in the contention that such a case as this is rather hard upon the retailer. The latter cannot, of course, be entirely absolved from legal responsibility by the plea that he sold the adulterated article in the condition in which he received it from the manufacturer. No doubt it is his business to see that he is not made a medium for imposing upon consumers. But when the purity of a particular product is called in question for the first time, and the prosecution is avowedly instituted by way of warning—as it was on this occasion—the law should surely enable the authorities to proceed against the manufacturers, who are the real offenders, instead of compelling them to single out for punishment one of the numerous shopkeepers who have innocently retailed the stuff.

In a case at Pembroke Police-court the other day, in which a man was summoned for keeping a dog without a licence, it appeared from his own statement that he had got rid of the animal by having it put down an old coal-pit. As a correspondent points out, this means that the dog was condemned to a most cruel and lingering death. If there was water in the pit, the wretched creature would swim about till he was exhausted, and if there was no water, he would possibly lie in agony where he fell for days before death put an end to his sufferings. On the charge before the Court the Bench had, of course, no power to deal with any question of cruelty; but defendant's admission should certainly lead to inquiries by the police or the R.S.P.C.A. with a view to the institution of further proceedings.

It will be seen from my Legal Pillory this week that in Scotland ruffians who beat their wives—or, failing a wife, a sister-in-law or any other woman—have been enjoying their amiable diversion on particularly cheap terms, thanks to the unaccountable lenity of a wooden-headed magistracy. The case at Motherwell was in many respects the worst of the series, and in the natural course of magisterial stupidity it was, therefore, visited with the lightest penalty—a penalty which, considered in conjunction with another inflicted at the same court, seems to show that in the judgment of the Bailie the breaking of a pane of glass is an offence four times more serious than an outrageous assault upon a woman. I am glad to observe that the Glasgow *Mail* has strongly condemned the scandalous laxity of the Scottish magistrates in dealing with brutality towards women and children. "We too frequently find sentences recorded," says my contemporary, "indicating a callousness to the sufferings of the victims that makes one ask whether the greatest brutes are in the dock or on the Bench." The same question is suggested by many of the sentences that are passed by our English Shallows; and here, as in Scotland, the display of undue indulgence in cases of violence and cruelty stands out in striking contrast to the unreasonable severity that is shown in other cases:—

Motherwell. Police-court. Before Bailie King. Wm. Fulton, charged with assaulting his brother's wife. The accused, being out of work, was living at his brother's house. The two men quarrelled, and the woman, who was in delicate health, asked them not to make a noise. The accused thereupon knocked her down twice, blackening both her eyes, cutting her mouth, and so badly injuring her that she was in bed for a week. He also beat the woman's child. Fined 5s., or three days.

Bristol Police-court. Before Messrs. A. Robinson and J. H. Woodward. Walter Stone, charged (1) with being drunk and disorderly, (2), with using bad language, and (3) with assaulting the police. On being arrested for the two first offences defendant became very violent, tripping up the constable and kicking him on the knee, and assistance was required to get him to the police station. Fined 10s. and costs, or fourteen days.

Ashbourne Petty Sessions. Samuel Sowter, convicted of assaulting Henry Smith by knocking him down and violently kicking him. The Bench said it was a very serious assault. Fined £2 and costs.

Paisley J.P. Court. Before Messrs. Galbraith and Pollock. Peter Scott, charged with assaulting his wife. He created a disturbance in the house, then threatened to stab his daughter, and struck his wife on the face, knocked her down, and bit her on one of her fingers. Fined £2.

Motherwell Police-court. Before Bailie King. James Mulheron, a young miner, pleaded guilty to breaking a pane of glass in a window of the burgh weighing-house. Fined £1, or fourteen days.

Spittlegate Petty Sessions, Grantham. Before Sir Hugh Cholmeley, Colonel Parker, and other magistrates. William Wormall and John Henry Jeffries, labourers, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of fourteen partridges' eggs. Fined £1 10s. each and costs.

Bristol Police-court. Before the same magistrates. Edwin Hopkins, charged with stealing a shoe from a vessel lying at the docks. Twenty-one days.

Harwich Police-court. Before Messrs. C. F. Bevan and H. G. Everard. James Monk, charged with sleeping out in a railway truck and being without visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Beverley East Riding Police-court. Before Admiral Walker, Mr. Burton, and Alderman Sampson. Alfred Edward Johnson, convicted of stealing a hen. Fourteen days.

Falkirk Burgh Court. Elizabeth Quinn pleaded guilty to stealing a shirt from a clothes line. Seven days.

Wellingborough Police-court. Before Mr. C. J. K. Woolston. John Plowman, charged with sleeping out, and being without visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Subscriptions greatly needed by THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.—2,876 convictions this year; 7,545 last year. Address complaints of cruelty, contributions, letters, &c., to SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Govan Police-court. Thomas Carson, convicted of assaulting a woman by pulling her by the hair and throwing her down a flight of stairs. Fined 21s.

West Bromwich Police-court. Before Messrs. G. Garrett and W. Lawley. Harry Whitehouse, charged with being drunk and disorderly and with assaulting two policemen. Defendant was very violent, and struck and kicked both officers. Fined £1 8s. 6d. including costs.

Larne Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. H. H. Smiley, J. Gate Smith, J. Heggarty, Thomas Millikin, and Colonel McNeill. John O'Hara, charged with assaulting Thomas Luck. Defendant dealt the complainant a heavy blow on the head with a stick, inflicting a serious wound. Fined 10s. and costs.

Pollokshaws Police-court. Before Bailie Emery. John Docherty pleaded guilty to assaulting his wife by striking her on the head with a poker, knocking her down, and pushing and dragging her about the house. Fined 20s.

Airdrie Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Watt. William Chisholm, Alexander Wilson, and John Porteous, charged with stealing a ferret. Porteous, twenty days; the others thirty days each.

Grimsby Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. W. Jackson, C. Morton, and A. Bannister. Arthur Woodhead, a youth, charged with stealing a pair of trousers from a shop. Six weeks.

Helston Police-court. Before Mr. R. C. Rowe. Charles Johnson, charged with sleeping out in a field and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Birmingham Police-court. Mary Fitzgerald, charged with stealing a piece of bacon value 1s. 4d. Two months.

Greenock Police-court. Before Bailie Calder. John Cairney, a lad, pleaded guilty to stealing a hand plane and six herrings. Seven days.

Last week a novel theory in the administration of justice was expounded by the Dover County Bench. After they had fined a man 10s., including costs, for having been drunk and disorderly, it transpired that the defendant had the sum of £1 3s. 6d. in his possession when he was arrested, and the Chairman thereupon lectured the police for omitting to mention the fact. If the Bench had known that the defendant had got so much money, the fine, it was intimated, might have been heavier. Their Worships would apparently improve upon the idea of fitting the punishment to the crime by fitting it also to the prisoner's means. Carried to its logical conclusion, such a plan would produce some surprising results. If, for instance, a fine of 10s. is deemed too light for a man possessed of the huge sum of £1 3s. 6d., what amount ought to be exacted from, say, an African millionaire should one be found drunk and disorderly within the jurisdiction of these Dover Solons? But this scheme for graduating fines to suit the defendant's purse is not, of course, intended to apply to rich or well-to-do offenders, who can always rely upon more lenient treatment than their poorer brethren receive.

A youth belonging to a concern called the Boys' Help Institution or the Self Help Brigade at Leeds, was fined by the Aberystwyth Magistrates last week for acting as a pedlar without a certificate. It seems that the members of the "Brigade" are engaged in hawking books, and the "superintendent," one Rimmer, stated that this was the first occasion on which there had been any such interference with the business. If that is so, I can only express a hope that the precedent set by this prosecution will be strictly followed wherever the youths from this Self Help Brigade, or any similar institutions—including several in London which have frequently been dealt with in these columns—are found hawking without licences. Better still would it be if the law invoked against the defendant at Aberystwyth were also enforced, as it ought to be, against those pernicious pests, the "area touts," who constantly bamboozle, and sometimes swindle, servant girls.

Can anybody at Leeds throw any light upon the character of the above-mentioned Boys' Help Institution? It is carried on at 7, Melrose-street. The "superintendent" seems to have tried to lead the Aberystwyth Bench to believe that it is a philanthropic institution, but a wire to the police at Leeds produced the reply that it is a private enterprise, and that the boys sell the books on commission.

The arrest of A. J. Monson and "Victor Honour," the Jermyn-street usurer, is an interesting event, and there are many people in London besides myself who will watch the result with considerable curiosity. More than that one cannot say with justice to the prisoners at the present stage. While, however, the police are looking into this case, there are several others which might be investigated with advantage, and I have in my possession materials for such an investigation which are entirely at the service of Scotland Yard, if Scotland Yard cares to avail itself of them. By the way, how is it that "Victor Honour"——a euphonious name adopted, I believe, as an improvement upon the Polish patronymic, Urbanowski—never appeared before the Money-lending Committee? Few among the fraternity would have better repaid the attentions of Mr. T. W. Russell and his colleagues

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The man Thomas Kempe, whose frauds on deaf people have been repeatedly exposed in TRUTH, was last week convicted at the Old Bailey under the name of Richards, and was sentenced by the Common Serjeant to three years' penal servitude. The sentence was not a day more than Kempe deserved, for, apart from the fact that he had been previously convicted, his frauds were of the most barefaced character, and have extended over a considerable period of time. His *modus operandi* was of the most simple description, for he merely advertised a specific, and having obtained 15s. for his appliances, abstained from sending the articles or holding further communication with the customer. The difficulty in getting at him arose from the fact that he advertised from a little apartment in a block of offices on St. Andrew's Hill, where he was never to be found, unless in the brief daily intervals when he called to clear his letter-box. His conviction is specially interesting, because I find that he has been for some time associated with the man Nicholson, who has been preying on the deaf for many years past. Kempe, in fact, appears to have been an employee of Nicholson, and he had other offices in Cathedral Buildings, in one of which he figured under the name of "Forder & Co.," which appears to be simply an alias of Nicholson. In an early issue I hope to be able to throw a good deal of further light upon the history of this man Nicholson.

A country solicitor writes to me as follows:—

SIR,—I enclose a letter sent to a client of mine on the 14th inst. This client —— died between three and four years ago, and his widow handed me the letter. In my opinion it is an attempt

to obtain money in some way by practising on the credulity of the public, and if you care to publish it, or comment on it in your paper, you are at liberty to do so, of course suppressing the name of ——.

The writer says he joined a rebellion in July last, and in consequence had to flee to England, where after residing for some time he heard of the death of his wife, and then returned to Spain, after burying his money at ——, near here. He now applies to —— a farmer of —— to assist him in recovering his money, presumably on the strength of having known —— as an honourable man during his stay over here. But as a matter of fact, as I have said before, —— died long before this letter writer ever came to England, and it looks to me as though he is selecting names from out-of-date country directories for the purpose of obtaining money by a trick. I know three or four other persons in this neighbourhood who have received similar letters at various times, and this man may be playing the same game in other parts of the country.

Let me at once congratulate you, my dear sir, on the penetration you have displayed. The letter addressed to your client *is* an attempt to obtain money by practising upon the credulity of the public, and the same game *has* been played in other parts of the country. Permit me also to inform you that it is not exactly the novel swindle that you apparently suppose it to be. The Spanish Prisoner and his buried treasure have been fairly well known for some time past. The trick has been continually exposed in TRUTH during the last eighteen or twenty years; recently it has been made the subject of periodical warnings from the police; and scarcely a newspaper in the provinces can have failed to notice it at one time or another. For this reason I think your own letter will be more interesting to my readers than the document which you ask me to publish. It will doubtless amuse them to find that there is a solicitor in the country unacquainted with so notorious a fraud. To me, after all these years of effort for the enlightenment of the public, the fact is a little disheartening.

Doubtless it will surprise my legal friend to learn that the Spanish Prisoners—there are whole gangs of them engaged in the business—do not confine their operations to this country. Simpletons in France, Germany, and Italy have long been paying tribute to their ingenuity; our kith and kin in America have not been spared; and for the last year or two the net has been cast over the Australian continent and the Indian Empire. Only a fortnight ago I recorded the receipt of one of the usual communications at Prowe, in Burma, and among those that have since reached me are two from Ganhati, in Assam, a third from Jullundur, and a couple more from different parts of Australia.

There is no abatement of the flood of money-lenders' circulars that pours into this office from people wide-awake enough not to be caught in the toils of Shylock. In vain is the net spread in the sight of my readers. It is more successful with those who, unfortunately for themselves, have not learned wisdom in the pages of TRUTH, and I am frequently amused with ingenuous inquiries as to the reputation of this or that shark and the prospect of obtaining a loan from him on the tempting terms which he sets forth as his bait for gudgeons. It is hardly necessary to say that I strongly advise everybody to avoid any circularising or advertising usurer as they would the plague. Some members of the fraternity may be more rapacious and unscrupulous than others; but all are more or less tarred with the same brush.

Without repeating, at the present moment, anything in the shape of a list of even the worst of these harpies, I may mention that Isaac Gordon is still the most active of the whole tribe. As "James W. Ryland," of 6, Livery-street, Birmingham; "Robert Dean," of 99, Willington-road, Manchester; and "George J. Addison," of 3, Holles-street, London, W.—to mention only three of his innumerable aliases and addresses—he scatters his circulars abroad with the most reckless prodigality. So also does his Irish agent or partner, the man Levin, alias "H. Staples," of 4, Nassau-street, Dublin, and "James Cameron," of 73, Harcourt-street, Dublin. A very old-established usurer's tout, in the person of H. Sanguinetti, of 16, Old Bond-street, London, W., has lately resumed his former *nom de guerre* of "H. Lester," which he had for some time abandoned. Another well-known name is that of "Edwards & Co.," of 17, Sackville-street, Piccadilly, who, in spite of their offers of "immediate advances" to an apparently unlimited amount, seem to be short of pennies for postage stamps—at any rate, they sometimes leave the unwary recipient to pay twopence for the delivery of their precious circular.

The name of "Arthur Cliffe," of 23, Duke-street, Piccadilly, is new to me; but the address is quite familiar. It has been used for several years by a usurer's tout who calls himself "J. Jackson," but whose real name is Abrahams, and whose brother, Savile Jacques Parker, is still better known in the money-lending world. Probably I shall not be far wrong if I assume that "Cliffe" is a fresh alias for Abrahams.

An Irish correspondent, alluding to my remarks in reference to the usurer Levin, otherwise "H. Staples," expresses surprise that a paper of the standing of the *Irish Times* should assist this shady shark to prey upon the public by publishing the advertisements which he issues under various aliases from different addresses in Dublin. Perhaps my contemporary is still blissfully ignorant of the identity and character of this advertiser, though he has been unmasked often enough during the past year or so. I am sorry to say, however, that there is nothing uncommon in a newspaper accepting a money-lender's advertisements, even when it knows perfectly well that he is an unscrupulous extortioner and a pest to society. There are journals of the highest respectability here, as well as in Ireland, which think it compatible with their honour and dignity to denounce Shylock and all his works in their editorial columns, and at the same time to sell him a space in their advertisement columns for the capture of fresh victims.

A country Editor, who has received the following generous offer from an Insurance Company, sends it to me, feeling that it deserves wider publicity, than he can afford it. I quite agree. When we hear so many whispers of blackmailing by newspapers for the purpose of obtaining

TRAINS DE LUXE.—LUCHON EXPRESS, every Tuesday and Thursday, direct to Luchon. ENGADINE EXPRESS, to Coire and Lucerne. CARLSBAD EXPRESS, daily to Bayreuth, Carlsbad, &c. Tickets and all particulars from INTERNATIONAL SLEEPING CAR Co., 14, Cockspur-street, London, S.W.

advertisements, it is refreshing to find a firm of advertisers who seriously expect that they can get a valuable free advertisement now by the mere promise to "keep it before them" when they do their legitimate advertising in the autumn:—

As we have your paper on our advertising list we enclose a reprint of a paragraph from the *Insurance Record*.

If you feel disposed to insert the paragraph, we should be pleased to receive a copy of your paper containing it, which would be kept before us until our next advertisements are sent in the early autumn.

As Mr. Tanquerey, Director of the "Société Artistique de Portraits," is a regular reader of TRUTH, I make him a present of the suggestion that it is about time for him to get out a new circular. Considering that Tanquerey has been circularising the British public wholesale for two or three years past—not to mention the fact that the Free Portrait trick has been run in one shape or another for the last eight or ten years—this ancient formula is getting a little too thin:—

In order to introduce our work in England we have decided to make a limited number of our portraits to some prominent people absolutely free of charge, believing that to be the best and cheapest method of advertising our work among the English-speaking people.

The English-speaking people, I am glad to find, are beginning to know their Tanquerey pretty well, and they show their appreciation of this noble offer by sending on Tanquerey's circulars by the dozen to the office of TRUTH.

For the information of several correspondents I may mention that T. Smith & Co., who are at present advertising from 16, Shaftesbury-avenue, are the same firm who formerly worked the rubber-stamp trick in the same name from 79, St. Helen's-gardens, North Kensington. As Smith & Co. are still advertising in a great many newspapers and offering people an assured income for work in their spare time, it may be as well that there should be no misapprehension on this point. I have already dealt fully in TRUTH with Smith & Co., the trustworthiness of whose statements may be judged from the fact that they persisted for a long time in publishing a garbled extract from TRUTH as an advertisement of their business, the said extract conveying a totally false impression as to what had been said about them in these columns, and that they refused to desist from publishing this advertisement until threatened by my solicitors with proceedings for an injunction. Their advertisement is simply a trick for selling their goods with payment in advance.

I see that Coleman & Co., another of the home-employment dodgers, is advertising an extract from TRUTH which appeared a good many months back, and in which I remarked that I "could not say that the business was not honestly conducted." This is not, on the face of it, much of a recommendation, but I think it right to say that I have since withdrawn even this qualified expression of confidence in Mr. Coleman, and the recent account of his doings which appeared in TRUTH should act as a warning to all who may come across his advertisements.

By the way, there is a little journal called *Our Paper*, published at the Church House by the Church of England Women's Help Society. In this paper I see one of Coleman's advertisements, under the seductive heading, "A Few More Ladies Required." The Church of England Women's Help Society would better act up to its title by warning its readers against such home employment dodgers than by helping them into Coleman's parlour.

All previous developments of the snowball business are put into the shade by the audacious project of a firm named Henderson & Co., of 12, Phayre-street, Rangoon. They call it the "accumulator prize system," and they issue printed circulars asking each recipient to send them the names and addresses of five friends, together with a rupee from each, and one from himself. Of the six rupees so collected, Henderson & Co. will return two to the sender for his trouble. They will then request each of the five friends to repeat the same process on the same terms; a similar application will be made in due course to the twenty-five friends of the first five, and so "the scheme goes on to infinitude." A few revolutions of the snowball would bring the rupees rolling in at an almost incalculable rate; but Henderson & Co. promise to distribute "the whole of the money" in bonuses among the contributors, their own object being simply "to keep themselves before the public." Either Henderson & Co. must be a foolishly sanguine firm, or else it must be a peculiarly foolish public to whom they appeal in Rangoon.

The following letter indicates a new development of the sorrows of Mrs. Margaret Longshaw. The lady anticipates that her troubles will only end with life, and really there seems good ground for this apprehension. The gentleman to whom this letter was addressed tells me that some years back he remitted money to Mrs. Longshaw on a representation about the dangerous illness of her little daughter, and a threatened distraint for rent. Within the last year or two he has twice heard from her, and the child was still suffering sadly. My readers may remember a reference to Mrs. Longshaw's latest appeals in TRUTH of March 3, when one of the children was ill "with what the doctor fears may turn to rheumatic fever," and at the same time a hard-hearted furniture company were threatening to seize the bed on which the poor child lay. Now one of the children—I trust not the same one—has tumbled down stairs and got concussion of the brain. Here is the whole story:—

7, Freehold-street, Fanfield, Liverpool,
Monday.

DEAR SIR,—I hope you will pardon me for again troubling you, but my little girl who fell down the stairs, and has been suffering with concussion of the brain, is slowly recovering, but the doctor says she is suffering from mental shock, and requires a change to the sea for a fortnight to restore her. I could arrange for this if I had £2, and I would most earnestly ask you to help me, as it means life to my poor child. I have had a terrible time of it, and surely my troubles will only end with life. Anxiously hoping for a favourable reply,—I remain, Sir, yours truly,

M. LONGSHAW.

In the last line but one Mrs. Longshaw has first written "Madam," and then "Sir" over it, which would seem to point to the fact that she was using the same form of appeal for ladies and gentlemen, and was momentarily confused as to the sex of the person she was addressing.

If you want to entirely Furnish your House or select any article of Furniture or Carpet, &c., send for HEWETSONS' Illustrated Priced Catalogue.—HEWETSONS, Tottenham Court-road, London.

THE OLDEST GLASS AND CHINA SHOP IN LONDON (Established 1760), provides Outfits for Palace or Cottage.—ALFRED B. PEARCE, 39, Ludgate-hill, London, E.C.

For criticising this lady's appeals, which have now been distributed broadcast for several years, I have been seriously taken to task both by the lady herself and by one or two persons who have interested themselves in her welfare. I think the time has come when those who have taken up the cudgels on behalf of Mrs. Longshaw should explain what evidence they have of the truth of her statements. In my last reference to the subject it was pointed out that the letters Mrs. Longshaw was then writing contained intrinsic evidence of their untruthfulness, and I put certain questions then to Mrs. Longshaw and her supporters which have never been answered. Last autumn a kind-hearted retired officer, Colonel Turner, late of the Cameronians, undertook to make himself responsible for three months for any money which might be contributed for Mrs. Longshaw's assistance until she was able to make a profit out of the laundry which she had established at Liverpool. As Colonel Turner has interested himself in the lady to this extent, I think that he may be well asked now to inform the public generally whether he is still prepared to answer for the lady's truthfulness and the merits of her appeals.

From New Scotland Yard the Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District sends me a valuable work of reference in the form of a newly-issued Book of Hackney Carriage Distances with a map. Many a warm and disagreeable altercation would be avoided if this publication —which can be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding-street, Fleet-street, E.C.— were in the hands of every patron of the lumbering growler or the (comparatively) sprightly hansom, for it enables one to ascertain in a moment the legal fare for any cab journey in London. I wonder, by the way, how many people are aware that every cabman is bound to carry, and on demand to produce, an official table of distances for the inspection of his fare?

The following appears in the advertisement of a travelling menagerie, which is on a visit to Elgin:—

> Special Notice.—At the eight o'clock performance on Friday first, the management have agreed to allow a local gentleman to enter the lions' den. This daring feat has only been sanctioned for Elgin, the interest manifested in a similar feat on the occasion of the menagerie's visit last year having been fully realised by Mr. Bostock. *This feat is not to be allowed in any other town in Scotland*, and only at one performance in Elgin.

It does not speak highly for the activity of the local police if the exhibition is allowed even there.

In reference to the article, "Mr. Hartshorne's Executorship," which appeared in Truth of May 26, and the remarks on the same subject in an earlier issue, I ought perhaps to mention that I have been served by Mr. Hartshorne with a writ claiming damages for libel, as have also Messrs. Love & Wyman, the printers of Truth. In both writs Mr. Hartshorne appears in person, and he has given me rather a shock by notifying that his "address for service" is the Athenæum Club. As I have nothing to unsay in either of the articles complained of, no effort will be spared on my part to bring the issue to trial at the earliest possible moment, and with the least possible amount of inconvenience to the Athenæum Club.

Picked up in the House of Commons.

Says Harcourt, "I don't care a tittle
For this wild Canon's shocks,
For clearly, coming from Knox Little,
They're only little knocks."

If there is no mistake in the report which announces that the Petroleum Committee has, by a very narrow majority, decided to raise the flash-point, we shall not have long to wait for a diminution in the number of victims annually sacrificed to these explosive oils. It is not much to boast about that, in a country supposed to be so careful of human life, we have been so long in safeguarding that humbler portion of the community who instinctively look to their rulers for protection; but, having begun to do what should have been done long since, it is to be hoped that the job may be made a complete one before it is finally dropped. To do this it is a necessity that the present dangerous lamps in general use should be condemned, and some safe, but cheap, pattern substituted in place of them. Then, and not till then, shall we get rid of that painfully frequent heading "another fatal lamp disaster," which is always staring us in the face when we open our morning's paper.

In the *Times* on Monday there is a headed article from a correspondent which, if correct, throws a good deal of light upon the Dreyfus and Esterhazy business. According to the writer, Esterhazy was an *agent provocateur* of the French General Staff. He gave the German Government the information which the Staff wished should be conveyed to it, pretending all the time that he was a traitor. Dreyfus, according to the same authority, without consultation with the Staff, gave the Russian Government similar information, alleging that he did this in order to obtain information from Russia that might be useful to his country. Assuming the fact of the information having been given, it is obvious that Dreyfus was most properly condemned as a traitor. If the purity of his intention is to be believed, no traitor revealing to a foreign Government secrets of his own Government could be condemned. The defence is childish and absurd.

The League that works the newspapers in the interest of Dreyfus has curious ideas about evidence. Mr. F. C. Conybeare, "of Oxford," wrote an article, making certain statements about Esterhazy, in an English review. M. Joseph Reinach in the *Siècle*, quoted and commented favourably on these statements. For this he was brought before a military tribunal, which decided to remove his name from the Army List. What appears to have been his defence? A letter from Mr. F. C. Conybeare, in which that gentleman says that Colonel Schwartzkopfen, acting for the German Government, paid Esterhazy £80

Fashionable Stationery.—Latest Designs.—Invitation Cards, Ball Programmes, Menus, Visiting Cards, &c.—Parkins & Gotto, Court Stationers, Oxford-street, London, W. Patterns free.

For the Decorating and Furnishing in best modern manner, or in any of the traditional styles, of a single room or an entire house, Hampton & Sons, Ltd., prepare, free of charge, suggestive schemes and competitive estimates.—Pall Mall East, S.W.

per month for secret information, and that there is a possibility of the publication in fac-simile of the documents sold by Esterhazy. I wonder what such a defence would have been thought of in an English Court of Law. Yet several "own correspondents" of English newspapers denounce the French military tribunal for finding M. Joseph Reinach guilty of libel.

If Colonel Schwartzkopfen did make any such statement, and allow its publication, his views of what an officer may do and say are strange, in view of the fact that he has allowed by his silence M. Joseph Reinach to be punished for repeating it. But even supposing that it were true that Esterhazy did receive money from him for secret information, is there any evidence that Esterhazy was not acting with the permission of the French military authorities with a view to deceive the Colonel? Esterhazy does not appear to be a particularly reputable person, but there has been no evidence adduced to show that he was a traitor, except mere vague hearsay talk. Nor if he were, does this prove that Dreyfus was not. There are only two alternatives, and these have been put by Zola. Either Dreyfus was justly condemned, or his condemnation was due to a number of French officers of position and of unimpeachable character, having deliberately entered into a conspiracy to find an innocent man guilty of treason to his country. The former is a good deal more probable than the latter. But in these days it really seems more easy for a rich man, or a man with rich belongings, to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, than to serve out his sentence in a prison.

What would our "dailies" do were it not for their foreign intelligence? They must provide their readers with sensational news, and they have so accustomed them to this nourishment, that it is as necessary to them as a morning nip to a confirmed dram-drinker. One advantage of foreign over sensational news of domestic manufacture is, that Englishmen are singularly ignorant of all countries except their own. Therefore, sensational news from abroad is easily manufactured. Journalistic exigencies demand that there always should be some foreign Power that is engaged in a fell conspiracy against the British race, for on this peg it is easy to hang any patriotic bluster which forms the staple of so many leading articles. But newspaper readers soon tire of monotony. If there must always be a foreign fiend, either the fiend has to be changed, or, if he remains the same, he must not be engaged in his wicked work in one particular part of the world.

In the last few years Germany, France, the United States, and Russia have each played the part of the fiend. It has been Russia's turn of late in the Far East. When war broke out between the United States and Spain, it was thought at first by our journalistic purveyors, that the incidents of the war might take the place of the foreign fiend. He therefore slumbered. The war has, however, not come up to their expectations. Then a good deal was hoped by substituting for the fiend declarations of love and affection for the United States. But this has not "caught on" as a sensation. It became necessary, therefore, to revert to the fiend. If only France had been good enough to decline to enter into an equitable treaty of delimitation with us in Western Africa, it would have been the turn of France to play the part. Or the Transvaal might have done so, had President Kruger played up to Mr. Chamberlain's lead. Or Germany, if the German Emperor had indulged in a telegram to somebody.

All else having failed, I observe that we have gone back to the Russian fiend's operations in China. But it is as difficult to galvanise a dead fiend into life as a corpse. Who, then, is to be the next fiend, and where is to be the locality in which he is playing the devil with our interests? We are like the Irishman—trailing about our coat-tails; and yet no one will make even a gesture that we might convert into an intention to tread on them. Something must be done, for the sake of the British Press and the British public.

Colonel E. A. Alderson, who was one of the commanders of the force employed to crush the Mashonas, has published his experiences, and I observe the words, "Exeter Hall, please note." I am not Exeter Hall, but I note. This, it would seem, is how the Mashonas were treated:—

> Apparently no one in Mashonaland had even dreamt it possible that the Mashonas might rise, every one had got so used to two or three men going to a kraal when anything wrong had been done by the natives, and demanding to see the chief, and when that individual came forth, if it appeared good to them, breaking his own cooking-pot over his head, or threatening him with, and even using the sjambok on him.

It is hardly surprising that the Mashonas rose against all this hideous ruffianism. The fate of one of their chiefs who was tried and condemned to death for "armed rebellion" is thus related by the ingenuous Colonel:—

> Makomi was, for a Mashoni, in many ways a fine fellow. His argument was: "It is very well to call me a rebel, but the country belonged to me and to my forefathers long before you came here."

The argument seems to me to have been unanswerable. It was met by a firing party discharging their bullets into this African patriot. And all this was done on the chance of a crew of promoters getting fools to subscribe money to purchase holes in which they were told gold might be found! For my part, I heartily regret that Makomi did not succeed in his armed rebellion against the régime of cooking-pot and sjambok.

I read the following in the *Natal Mercury*. Salting a mine is a very old trick, and, if the statement be true, we shall soon have the news telegraphed of a wondrous discovery of gold-bearing ore in some mine in Rhodesia:—

> It is known to the authorities at Krugersdorp—it has, indeed, been officially noted—that several loads of ore have, within the past few months, been conveyed to Rhodesia. Its actual destination is not known. It is a remarkable coincidence that the Krugersdorp gold-bearing ore is similar to the white quartz that abounds in the auriferous regions of Rhodesia. It is just possible that specimens of Krugersdorp ore may find their way to London as the "real article" from Rhodesia.

SUPPORT BRITISH INDUSTRIES and drink St. Ronan's, the Scotch Natural Mineral Table Water, superior to, and cheaper than, any of the foreign mineral waters. Delicious with whisky. The "St. Ronan's Wells" Company, Limited, Innerleithen, N.B.

MORTLOCK'S (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "MORTLOCK'S" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

Sir Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett is not a gentleman with whose political views I agree. But he is energetic in pushing them, alike in Parliament, in the Press, and on the platform. He seems to have had a newspaper called *England*, which required funds to keep it going, and he allowed 10 per cent. to those who obtained the funds. He gave special instructions with regard to the touting, and among other things suggested that the Duchess of Sutherland should be flattered out of £500. All this, and more to the same effect, came out at a public washing of the dirty linen of *England* in the Law Courts. What a comment the whole thing is on the Tory Press! These organs of "public opinion" have apparently to be kept going by politicians connected with them flattering Duchesses, and coaxing millionaires to provide money. The Duchess, it has since appeared, had sufficient sense to resist the voice of the charmer. But what about the others?

BARTLETT'S HISTORY OF "*ENGLAND.*"

(*With apologies to Mr. William Ernest Henley.*)

SIR E*L*S A*HM**D B*RTL*TT, *loq.*:—

"What have I done for thee,
England, my *England?*
What is there I would not do,
England, my own?
That thy life I still might save,
I, 'Silomo' named—the brave!—
I have stooped more cash to crave
That thy fame might still be known,
England—
That thy name might still be known!

"Where shall the watchful sun,
England, my *England!*
Match the work for thee I've done,
England, my own?
To prolong thy hard career
I have cadged both far and near,
I have drawn the wealthy peer,
For the rich M.P. I have gone,
England—
For the rich M.P. I have gone!

"Ever for thee to scheme,
England, my *England!*
That has been my daily dream,
England, my own!
Thy most precious sheets to scatter,
Filled with such portentous matter,
I have been prepared to flatter
A Duchess who's very well known,
England—
To dun a fair Duchess well known!

"It was thou wert in my thought,
England, my *England!*
When such daring deeds I wrought,
England, my own!
When I led the Turks' *élite*,
When, unyielding in defeat,
I defied the whole Greek fleet,
'Twas for thee and for thee alone,
England—
'Twas all done for thee alone.

"My soul was in thee outpoured,
England, my *England!*
'Twas my spirit in thee upsoared,
England, my own!
And the public, who could see
Naught but what was dull in thee,
Were, in fact, condemning *me*;
For 'twas I that set thy tone,
England—
It was I that set thy tone.

"Still, it now occurs to me,
England, my *England!*
That I've had enough of thee,
England, my own!
Though on thee I've laboured long,
From the first thou hast gone wrong;
Thou canst go, then, to—Hongkong!
For with thee at last I've done,
England—
For with thee at last I've done!"

SPA, BELGIUM.—SUMMER SEASON.—Casino, Concerts, Racing, Pigeon Shooting, Theatre. Delightful situation. Excellent Hotels. For details apply to JULES CREHAY, Secretary, Casino.

SCRUTATOR.

RITUALISM IN PARLIAMENT.

THE House of Commons is not at its best when discussing matters of religion. It is not, however, the fault of Parliament that such matters have to be discussed by it. The Church of England was established by Act of Parliament. Its doctrines, its ritual, and its discipline were laid down by Parliament. The only title that it has to the income that it possesses is a Parliamentary title. It follows that if changes in regard to these matters need legislative action, its members can hardly complain that the House of Commons should treat the proposals like any other alterations in the law. The House may criticise the Bill that embodies these changes, and it may suggest in amendments anything within the four corners of the title of any Bill affecting the Church that is submitted to it. This is what happened last week, and what must happen so long as Church and State are one and the same.

There are Churchmen who assert that the Church of England goes back to the early ages of the Christian era; that it represents what ought to be, and what once was, the Universal Church. In one sense—assuming the Church of England to be correct in its view of what the Catholic Church once was—this is correct. But in the Parliamentary sense it is incorrect. Parliament has only to consider what has by law been established, without concerning itself whether this be theologically right or wrong.

The Bill that was under discussion last week had for its main object to put an end to the sale of presentations to livings, and incidentally to vest in the Bishops the power to forbid the presentation of persons whose lives have rendered them unfit for the cure of souls. In defining, however, this unfitness the words "misconduct in an ecclesiastical office" were used. This naturally opened a door to the discussion of what is such misconduct. The framers of the Bill were, therefore, to blame for opening this door, rather than the House of Commons for making use of it.

The Church of England separated itself from the Church of Rome under Henry VIII. That monarch was as great a scoundrel as ever occupied a throne. His object in breaking with the Church of Rome was to get rid of an old wife and to marry a young one. When Henry had

effected the separation of the Churches, and his own separation from Katherine of Aragon, he seems to have become convinced that he had inherited the Papal infallibility, and he cut off the heads of those who did not accept the various dogmas that he propounded. When Elizabeth came to the throne, she found herself the Sovereign of a nation the majority of which was attached to the Roman liturgy, and the minority of which was Puritan. The existing Established Church is the outcome of an endeavour to trim between the two, and to unite all in a political bond against the Catholic Powers of the Continent. At the commencement of the present century the Church, thus constituted, relying on its connection with the State, troubled itself little about theological matters. Its dignitaries and its priests were more concerned with holding fast to its temporalities. The Evangelical Party strove to awaken the Church to its spiritual duties. For a time it enjoyed a vast influence. This influence has, however, greatly diminished, and at present the High Church party seems to be far more active. The main distinction between the parties is, that the former represents the Puritan element and the latter the sacerdotal element. The former seeks to accentuate the difference between the ritual and the doctrines of the Church of Rome and the Church of England; the latter slurs them over, so far as this can be done, without coming into actual contact with the Thirty-nine Articles and the Prayer Book.

For my part—and probably my views are shared by most of those who are what the ardent spirits on both sides would term Laodiceans—I think that a great deal of what is regarded as of vital moment by the two factions is of exceedingly little importance. How a priest arrays himself; whether a cross be affixed inside a church; whether a morning service be called matins or by any other term; whether the services be more ornate or less ornate, are mere details. So, too, with regard to dogmas. The majority of men do not concern themselves about them; they find themselves pitchforked into a little speck in the universe which is careering through space they know not whither, and they are aware that after a very brief period they will disappear from it. Their aim is, therefore, to make the best of things whilst they are on the speck. What may happen to them afterwards is to their minds a hypothesis, and their assent to any particular hypothesis is rather passive than active. Tolerance has replaced intolerance. Any one who suggested that an individual should be either burnt or deprived of any rights of citizenship, because he holds certain views in respect to a future life, would be deemed a pernicious lunatic.

As a Church—and I speak with perfect impartiality, not being, as I have said, a dogmatist in religious matters—the Established Church suffers from its connection with the State; for the connection makes those who are not members of the Church the arbiters of its ritual and its doctrine, whereas the Church ought to be a law to itself. It seems to me, too, to be absurd that the right to appoint a man to the cure of souls should be, under any circumstances, vested in any man who may choose to buy an advowson. Either this right should be vested in the heads of the Church, or in some assembly of Churchmen lay and clerical, or in the owners of the souls who are to be looked after. Patronage when exercised by an individual has always a tendency to jobbery. The best man is generally the man whom the dispenser of the patronage likes best. What would the Army be if the right to nominate the Colonel of a regiment might be bought or sold? So long as the Church of England accepts connection with the State, it surrenders its liberty of action, and this liberty of action ought to be the keystone of every Church.

I am for disestablishment and disendowment, because I know no more ground for the clergy of the Church of England being supported at the expense of the community than the Baptist or the Primitive Methodist clergy—or, indeed, the Rabbis. If the Church of England is wise, it will secure liberty of action by giving up its loaves and fishes. Surely if other Churches are able to pay their clergy, it should be able to do so. I would have every body of men banded together as a Church the absolute masters of that Church's doctrines and of its ritual without interference from the State. But it is obvious that the Church of England cannot even claim this right so long as its doctrines and its ritual are settled by law. The only result is that a spirit of casuistry is nurtured, so as to enable many of its members to evade the clear meaning of words. At present there is a dead set made against Ritualists, but I should say that Broad Churchmen are often quite as open to the charge of casuistry of interpretation as the Ritualists. Within the last few years the Church of England has certainly gained strength in the towns. This is due to the zeal of the Ritualist, or High Church, clergy. I may not agree with them, but this does not alter the fact that this revival of the influence of their Church is mainly due to them. Many of them are in favour of disestablishment. This they will never secure without disendowment also. Let them, then, accept in its entirety disestablishment and disendowment, and join with us—although our motives may be different—in securing these objects.

But whilst my views in regard to Church discipline ritual, and doctrine may be deemed somewhat broad, I by no means agree with Mr. W. Redmond in his denunciations of Sir William Harcourt for having registered a protest against certain intemperate zealots who seek to attract attention to themselves by advocating doctrines and by practising a ritual which are clearly outside the widest interpretation of the Thirty-Nine Articles and the Prayer Book, and against which the highest of Churchmen protest as much as the lowest. Mr. Redmond would have it that this was an attack upon the Roman Catholics. He might as well say that, for the Roman Catholics to protest against one of their priests performing the service of the Church of England in a Roman Catholic church, would be an attack upon Protestants. What Sir William Harcourt condemned, and what he suggested that the Bishops ought to be armed with power to prevent, were practices which the vast majority of High Churchmen themselves condemn. Mr. Balfour joined him in this condemnation, the only difference between them being that, whilst Sir William wished to strengthen the hands

of the Bishops to put down such practices, Mr. Balfour declined to do so. To assert that Sir William is an enemy of the Church of England because he is on the side of the Bishops of that Church is assuredly a strange contradiction.

LOBENGULA THE SECOND.

Rumours have reached England during the last month or two of certain disturbances—"rebellion" is the convenient name which has been applied to the movement in some instances—in the Chartered Company's Protectorate which lies north of the Zambesi; but the information that has come to hand so far has been scrappy and indefinite. I have just received from an Englishman in the country, who has been an eye-witness of all that has passed, a detailed account of the disturbance. From this it would seem that the story of Lobengula and his Matabele has been reproduced in all its main features a few hundred miles further north. My correspondent writes for the express purpose of enlightening the public at home as to what has been going on, and as he is a gentleman who knows the country well, there is no reason to doubt the correctness of his information.

By a curious coincidence, the tribe with whom the Chartered Company have been at loggerheads in this instance are, like the Matabele, an offshoot of the Zulus, who "trekked" across the Zambesi many years ago, and founded a kingdom to the west of Lake Nyassa, They are known, I believe, as the Angoni Zulus. They seem to be, like the Matabele, a not over-prepossessing race of savages, and I imagine that they are anything but pleasant neighbours. Their present reigning Sovereign is a chief named M'Pseni—a name which must not be taken to indicate a Scottish origin—and by all accounts he has done his best to keep his subjects in order. The whole history, indeed, of M'Pseni bears a curious resemblance to that of the late Sovereign of the Matabele. It may be that, like Lobengula, he has grown fat and indolent in his old age, and is prepared to sacrifice his principles for the sake of a quiet life; or it may be that he has sufficient penetration to perceive that the future in that part of the world is with the white man, and that it is better policy for the natives to make friends of the new-comers than to engage in hopeless conflict with them. At any rate, for many years past M'Pseni has shown every disposition to conciliate and live in friendship with his white neighbours. My correspondent in the country tells me that M'Pseni has, in fact, shown himself, for a Zulu, a most enlightened ruler, and that he has been trusted and respected by all the European settlers in the country. The natural result has followed, as it did in Lobengula's case, that he has been somewhat at loggerheads with his own chiefs and headsmen, and has not always been able to keep them in order. His indunas have from time to time persisted in raiding neighbouring territory, just as the Matabele chiefs, in spite of the peaceable efforts of Lobengula, raided Mashonaland. A few months back M'Pseni, probably warned by what had occurred in Matabeleland and other places, sent messages to the British South Africa Company's agent at Fort Jameson and to the British Government's representative at Kota-kota in Nyassaland, inviting these authorities to take strong measures against any bands of his people who might be caught on raiding expeditions. This was the beginning of the recent trouble. In describing what ensued I simply follow the narrative of my correspondent in the country.

The nature of M'Pseni's communications with the neighbouring British authorities was not concealed from his people, or at any rate was very speedily known to them. The consequence was that the more turbulent spirits took matters into their own hands; and at the beginning of this year planned an attack upon all the white settlers in the country, with the intention of either murdering them or driving them out. M'Pseni himself seems to have been powerless to check the movement; but he behaved with the utmost loyalty to the whites. To quote my correspondent—one of the white men then in the country, be it remembered—he "advised all the white men of their danger, assured them that he would do his best to save them, and telling them that if they were murdered he would be murdered also." The white settlers applied for assistance to the representatives of the Chartered Company. The agent sent them a few rifles and some ammunition, and the settlers fortified themselves and prepared for the worst. An expedition was soon afterwards sent into the country for their relief. No resistance whatever was offered to this expedition by any section of the Angoni. M'Pseni himself welcomed it; the revolutionary party among his subjects seem to have been overawed, and collapsed. What followed will be best described in the words of my correspondent:—

> Everything up to this time was in order, but now begins a period in the course of affairs which all who were witnesses of it must deplore and condemn. Instead of employing themselves in discovering the real culprits and promoters of the disturbance, the leaders of the punitive expedition proceeded to deal out punishment indiscriminately upon all parties alike, including the purely innocent natives who, conscious of no fault and confiding in the boasted fairness of the white man, had all along remained quietly in their villages. The mob of irregular soldiers was let loose on the country. Their first step was to loot the property of the unfortunate natives, and seize all their cattle, which no doubt came in very handy to restock other already looted and ruined parts of the Chartered Company's territory. No difference was made between friend and foe; on the contrary, those who were pointed out as the friends of the settlers, and who had actually been given a flag in order to distinguish them, were ill-treated the more. As an Englishman, I am ashamed at having to add that these English authorities and professedly civilised men allowed hundreds of female prisoners to be given over to the gratification of their savage mob of troops. And what say you, sir, to British authorities, representatives of their nation among so-called savages, a nation which boasts of holding up the flag of liberty, and has spent millions to free the black race from bondage, distributing as a present to their conquerors a couple of hundred prisoners, these prisoners being the very people who had been enslaved by M'Pseni's people, and who had cheered the arrival of the English as their saviours from slavery? I could tell you much more, but it is unnecessary. I will only say that if you will investigate the case you will come across even worse facts than those above mentioned. In conclusion, the country is now devastated, villages have been burnt, cattle driven away, women and children murdered, while the real culprits, with one solitary exception, are still unpunished and at large. Although a sort of peace has been proclaimed, the soldiery, or banditti, continue up to this date to commit acts of rape, theft, and murder, and such is the state of things that the natives only venture under cover of night to come down from the hills to get food.
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> As a reward for his loyal behaviour throughout the whole of the disturbance, M'Pseni has lost the whole of his cattle, although to prevent his being completely starved, twenty head were given back to him, together with a number of goats, which latter have already been stolen from him by the Askaris. In the first instance, he stayed in his own village during the disturbance, waiting for a conference to which the armed force had invited him. But he naturally cleared out when, by way of opening this negotiation, his village was partly burnt by the very men who had invited him to the meeting and guaranteed his life. After this

he was for many days hunted round the hills, and ultimately, not trusting the word of the invaders, he gave himself up to the original white settlers in his country, on the assurance that his life should be spared, as he felt confident that those to whom he had behaved so faithfully would not betray him.

A few days of "progress and civilisation" have been sufficient to transform this flourishing and well-populated country into an ash heap; to make some 200,000 individuals homeless, hunted through the villages like game, and literally starving. Should you read in any newspaper, in reference to this affair, of a glorious British victory, you may judge what a fierce struggle the noble conquerors had to contend with when I tell you that not a single casualty was reported on their side, Maxims and seven-pounders being employed in mowing down a population who showed no resistance whatever; and, so far from any loss on the part of the victors, they have obtained a handsome credit to their banking account, derived from their share in the loot of about 15,000 head of cattle, taken to a great extent from an innocent and inoffensive people. Investigate the whole matter, Sir, for yourself, and you will come across facts that will make you blush that you are an Englishman.

A question was asked in Parliament respecting this matter some two months back by Mr. Bayley, the member for Chesterfield, who inquired about certain concessions obtained from M'Pseni and other chiefs in 1890 and 1891. The question apparently suggested that M'Pseni was entitled to an allowance of £860 per annum, and that the disturbance had been due to this amount not being paid. The following was the answer:—

Mr. Curzon.—The validity of the alleged concessions has never been acknowledged by her Majesty's Government, M'Pseni not being the hereditary or paramount chief of the territory in question, and there being other claims upon it of superior weight. The South Africa Company have expressed their readiness for the present to make a payment of £200 a year to M'Pseni. The recent disturbances are attributed not to the withholding of the larger sum, but to other causes. Every consideration consistent with the public safety will be shown to M'Pseni, who has now surrendered, and to others engaged in the recent rebellion.

Beyond this answer there has been no indication up to the present time that the Home Government has any knowledge of what has been going on in M'Pseni's country. From it one might suppose that in Mr. Curzon's estimation M'Pseni is a highly dangerous character, who has been engaged in some "rebellion" against British authority. "Every consideration consistent with the public safety," we are told, will be shown to this miscreant. How much the public safety was really threatened by M'Pseni may be judged from the above testimony from one of the settlers in his country, as also may the circumstances under which he "surrendered." Presumably, Mr. Curzon's knowledge of M'Pseni's character and attitude, and of the circumstances of the so-called rebellion, is derived from the officials of the Chartered Company. Very possibly these officials themselves know little of the actual facts, and are misled in their turn by their agents and representatives upon the spot. But if anything could add to the disgrace inflicted upon us by such atrocities as those described being perpetrated in the name of the British nation, it would be that the British Government at home should be so grossly misinformed of the true facts of the case. By the above testimony of an Englishman who has lived under his rule, M'Pseni endangered his own position and authority among his people by his friendliness to the British, and it is due to him alone that every white man in the country was not murdered. He has been treated with the worst of bad faith and the grossest cruelty by the hired ruffians of the Chartered Company, and he has surrendered, not to these lawless brigands, but to the white settlers whom he had endeavoured to serve, and whom the said brigands are supposed to be protecting. For his services to Englishmen he has been robbed and hunted like a wild beast, and he is finally held up in the House of Commons by the representative of the Foreign Office as a desperado dangerous to the public safety. Vile as is the treatment he has received, it would not seem to be worse than that meted out to his subjects. While many of these are admittedly the murderous enemies of the British settlers, it would seem from the above testimony that these particular individuals are precisely the class who have escaped all punishment, while the friendly and peaceably disposed inhabitants of the country have been murdered, outraged, and robbed indiscriminately. The whole story as given above is one of the most disgraceful in the whole black record of British dealings with African natives, and there ought at once to be some full official inquiry into the facts, followed by proper punishment of the wrongdoers.

The Hotel Cecil Restaurant.—Orchestra daily. M. François, Chef de Restaurant, from the Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo. The new Grill Room is now open.

SWEAR-WORDS IN THE ARMY.

A long story sent to me the other day from an Indian station would form the subject for an edifying lecture on Army manners. A corporal in a certain field battery, R.A., being in charge of a detachment, makes a blunder in laying his gun. The Lieutenant in charge of the section comes up and corrects him, using at the same time a filthy and offensive epithet. The corporal, feeling aggrieved, endeavours to put forward a complaint respecting this language through his section officer, fails on two occasions to find him at the office, and then makes his complaint direct to the C.O. This results in his being put under arrest for making a complaint in an irregular manner. This charge is dismissed after the C.O. has heard all the circumstances; and the corporal then proceeds to put in his complaint in due and proper form. When he comes before the C.O., accompanied by three witnesses to prove the language, the C.O. tells him that he thinks the complaint frivolous, and recommends him to drop the matter. This advice does not commend itself to the corporal, and he proceeds to send in another complaint for transmission to the Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the troops on the station. On his going before this officer, the Colonel informs him that he has already communicated with the Lieutenant, who denies using the language complained of, and he goes on to severely lecture the corporal for making unfounded complaints, and dismisses him ignominiously. The corporal, who bears an excellent character, and has had no entry against him for over six years, departs highly indignant and disgusted, his sentiments being aggravated by the fact that he has in the meantime been deprived of the charge of his subdivision, which has been given to the junior bombardier in the battery, while two of his witnesses have been transferred to another subdivision, and the third deprived of the post of "limber gunner," which I gather is a coveted appointment.

Looking at this story as a disinterested observer, it strikes me that, with the exception of the C.O. of the battery no one comes out of it particularly well. The balance of evidence certainly seems to show that

the Lieutenant did apply the obnoxious epithet complained of to the corporal, which was certainly wrong on his part. On the other hand, there is much to be said for the C.O.'s view that the corporal was making an absurd fuss about a trumpery matter, and would have done better to drop it. I can understand a man being annoyed for the moment at being called an ugly name, but I cannot understand his putting the whole machinery of the law into force, and worrying away day after day at ventilating his grievance when the first feeling of resentment has subsided. At the same time, the man is asserting the rights which the law gives him, and when he ultimately brings his appeal before the Colonel, that officer puts himself in the wrong by hearing the defendant, and deciding the issue behind the backs of the complainant and his witnesses, and haranguing the complainant as a sort of criminal. And again, if the whole thing is childish and frivolous, it is a great mistake to inflict anything in the shape of punishment, either upon the man or his witnesses, and thereby convert a more or less imaginary grievance into a very real one.

I hear a great deal on this subject of swear-words in the Army. Here is another recent complaint from much nearer home—Chatham to wit. The officer commanding a certain company of Royal Engineers, notices at drill a man not standing at attention as he ought to have been, fires off a volley of oaths and abuse at the delinquent, and then strikes him a blow in the chest. (Several witnesses can be produced to prove these facts). At the same time the officer gave an order that the man should be brought before his C.O. for unsteadiness in the ranks, which order he subsequently thought better of and rescinded. The man then put forward a formal complaint about the blow and bad language, with the result that he was made a prisoner on the previously abandoned charge of unsteadiness in the ranks, and was admonished. His own complaint was gone into on the following day, when the officer incriminated admitted the bad language, but denied that the blow was anything more than a gentle push, and the C.O. "persuaded" the complainant to drop the charge by representing in alarming colours the consequences of preferring a charge against an officer, and failing to substantiate it.

I imagine that incidents of this kind are of very frequent occurrence in the Army, and that they produce a great deal of bad feeling and not a little crime. A man sworn at and threatened may happen to be as incapable as the officer addressing him of controlling his tongue and temper, in which case he will answer back—if he does not do worse—and get himself into serious trouble. If he controls his temper, he may still feel sufficiently resentful to adopt the constitutional means given him, and prefer a formal complaint, in which case it is ten to one that he comes into conflict with higher authorities, and ends up either in disgrace or with a feeling of resentment against every one in authority over him. Personally, I rather blame the man who makes a fuss over bad language addressed to him. Hard words break no bones, and nothing annoys an ill-tempered man who is abusing another more than the knowledge that his abuse produces no impression. In all spheres of life, too, people occupying subordinate positions are apt to get sworn at by their superiors, and the more sensible of them probably consider that it is allowed for in their pay. If it is not, they are at liberty to cancel their engagements. My advice to men in subordinate stations—whether soldiers, sailors, or civilians—who get sworn at in the ordinary course of business is "lie low and say nuffin." An unduly thin skin is a fatal hindrance both to success in life and to personal comfort.

The position of a soldier, however, is a little peculiar. In the "Advantages of the Army," no mention is made of swearing by officers. For his shilling a day Tommy contracts to go through a great deal, and even to be shot if occasion arises, but not to be damned—or worse. On the other hand, he cannot discharge himself, as a civilian employee could, on the ground that he "can't abide master's language." These considerations ought to induce a certain amount of consideration for the rank and file among even the most irascible and voluble of officers. To put it on the lowest ground, swearing at a man who daren't answer you, and can't refuse to listen, is very much like hitting a man whose hands are tied—which is a thing no one bearing her Majesty's commission would condescend to. There are, of course, higher grounds on which it might be put, but the War Office has lately shown itself so fully qualified to lecture officers on the higher aspects of their duty to their men, that it would be presumptuous in a mere journalist to attempt anything in that line.

I don't mean to suggest that it is the general practice in the British Army for officers to address their men in the style of a drunken bargee talking to his dog. On the contrary, I believe that an overwhelming majority adopt a very different tone; and, judging by the feeling of the Service men whose acquaintance I am privileged to enjoy, I should say that the language occasionally used on parade and at drill by a few foul-mouthed bullies is not resented by anybody more than by their brother officers. This is what encourages me to suggest that a stronger line should be occasionally taken with those who show themselves unable to control their tongues.

"RAGGED ROBIN."

There has always been an aureole of romance for the gipsy, the Bohemian, the citizen of the high roads of the world, and M. Jean Richepin has sung to us for many years in sonorous verse of his joys and sorrows, of the lights upon the unknown village as approached at sunset after rain, of the changing raiment of new hills and woods, and of that sense of more intimate communion with Nature which those attain who break the bonds of social life, or in the picturesque phraseology of the East "emancipate themselves from bricks and mortar."

Mr. Louis Parker has gone to the latest of these productions, the "Chemineau," for the plot of his "Ragged Robin." He transplants the scene to Dorsetshire, and in the prelude sets forth the wayward courting and conquest of Alison by the gipsy, and his disappearance after strange feats, which suggest to old Farmer Stokes magical powers, worth possessing at any cost. But initiation, as one might have supposed, is not to be bought. As in the French

original, years and years elapse before we see the Romany again, and he reappears with the snows of many winters upon his head, to find Alison the wife of kind-hearted Jan Perrott, and her son—*his* son—Jack, the hopeless wooer of Nanny, daughter of that Farmer Stokes whom, long ago, he had so bewildered and amazed with the arts of Egypt. The kind heart of the gipsy is fairly brimming over for love of this son, and when Alison, who loves still her lover's waywardness, has told him of the feud between Jan Perrott and old Stokes, his quick brain speedily espies a favourable issue. Turning to the downcast boy by his side, the old wanderer promises him—Nanny. At first Jack is incredulous, but in a few words his father tells him of old Stokes' superstition, how he had dominated him in the past, and for the sake of his son will terrify him as before by these arts into yielding up his Nanny to her lover. This scene, in which Mr. Tree showed once again his true sense of poetry, leads up to the mystification of the old farmer, the betrothal of the young lovers, and the departure of the wanderer into the Christmas night upon his mystic way—mystical, because he has here a loving home, with hearts and hands to tend his old age, but he must go forth, driven by that strange instinct which will not let him rest, but ever urges onward towards other climes and lands.

Mr. Louis Parker has written "Ragged Robin" in the dialect of Dorsetshire, and preferred a somewhat ornate prose to the metallic Alexandrines of his original. I think he is right in rejecting verse (though, by the way, I seemed to detect more than one metrical line in the long speeches of Alison and Robin), but the literary periods so frequent in the play do not go well with the rustic burr, and one would prefer to admit the convention of Dorsetshire rustics speaking ordinary English to be perpetually straining after the meaning of common words disguised. I could have wished, moreover, that Mr. Parker had been less ambitious of fine writing and had left some of M. Richepin's stars and spangles of rhetoric at the Gare du Nord. The conversation in the first act between Robin and Alison might surely be shortened, and that powerful scene in the third act, the mystification of Farmer Stokes, would be the better for compression. The pruning knife might, in fact, be judiciously used in many places without damaging this play—after all, merely a prose adaptation from an original which, although I believe it took even longer to act in Paris, at any rate contained some fine poetic rhetoric and did not depend entirely for effect upon the action, as in the present instance.

The rags of Robin hang most picturesquely from the shoulders of Mr. Tree; he wears them with an ease, a naturalness, that speak an intimate sympathy with the part, which must, indeed, so far as the main conception goes, be dear to all men of imagination. One great quality is possessed by Mr. Tree which others may strain after in vain; I mean the element of strangeness. This he carries with him whenever he plays; and when, as on the present occasion, full scope is allowed for its artistic development, the effect is magical.

Abreast and independent of Mr. Tree, in method and talent, stands forth Mr. Charles Warner. This actor revealed on Thursday night, as elsewhere on previous occasions, the possession of exceptional gifts of insight, of identification with the character which he portrays, and of a sympathy contagious across the footlights. His transition from the stalwart farmer of the first act to the old man, broken in mind and body, of the latter part of the play, was an admirable passing, and well deserved the frantic applause which it procured him from his old admirers in melodrama, throned on high. Mr. Franklyn McLeay and Mr. Gerald du Maurier seemed to me inclined to pitch the rustic note too high, to give not quite caricatures, but clever portraits in very crude colours of Farmer Stokes and Zamm'l, whereas Mr. F. P. Stevens, as Tummas, dealt more successfully with the shading. Miss Evelyn Millard looked most picturesque as Nanny, but her habit of sing-song delivery greatly diminishes the sense of reality in the action, and the agreeable impression of her appearance.

Mrs. Tree, with all her cleverness, cannot shake off the atmosphere of the drawing-room, which accompanies Alison throughout the play, and suggests those ladies of the Court of Marie Antoinette who used to dress up as shepherdesses—and sometimes even milked the cows. I cannot conclude these remarks without a word of praise for the background of the first act: "Dorsetshire Cornfields at Harvest Time," by Joseph Harker—a marvel of scenic effect, which I do not remember having seen surpassed.

"PELLÉAS AND MÉLISANDE."

On the stage this play gives me just the impression of a wonderful moth caught and held by the wings; held ever so deftly, no doubt, but still held, and some of the delicate dust rubbed off. The acting, with few exceptions, was excellent, but throughout, though lulled and cradled a little by the exquisite music of Fauré, I experienced the sensation which comes upon me when shown beautiful illustrations to some work of the imagination long known and loved. The wings of sympathy are clipped; one is tied to reality; somebody else's vision comes between us and the poet, and we are not at ease. This is especially the case with Maeterlinck, who dwells on the borderland between sensation and thought. His mysterious method corresponds to the ultra violet, say, of the spectrum, and to see it reproduced in stained glass is for me no pleasure. As they move across the stage of the poet's imagination these are wonderful creatures indeed, come from the "misty mid-region of Weir," replete with infinite suggestion; but with a "local habitation and a name," however skilfully bestowed, they become for the most part things of two dimensions, mere decorative art. Golaud, for instance, alone in this play lives and moves like a being of normal flesh and blood. He wanders, as his creator intended, among a crowd of phantoms, for whom the moral and visible world has no precise meaning, weighed down by some imponderable fate like the Ananke of the Greeks, but with all the experience of the Middle Ages added to make her more terrible. Then again, the unavoidable break between the acts for the purpose of setting the next scene is a constant bringing back to reality, which dream-work like Maeterlinck's will hardly bear.

As I have already remarked, all praise is due to Mr. Forbes Robertson, and to the artists who have aided him in this enterprise. They have done the best possible to act a dream. Mrs. Patrick Campbell evidently feels the charm of Maeterlinck very strongly, and looks and talks picturesquely as Mélisande—how different from her ludicrous incompetence as Ophelia, her travesty of the Rat Wife in "Little Eyolf"! And, so far as regards Shakespeare, the reason for this is not far to seek. Shakespeare is all life, and none can impersonate his creations who have not the mind to grasp life in its infinite complexities, the swaying of the human soul under stress of joy and grief. But it is comparatively easy to catch and detain what I will call the visible side of Maeterlinck, to reproduce upon the stage the sexless, semi-conscious child which Mrs. Patrick Campbell makes of Mélisande. And in doing this she is half right, having rendered the visible side; but the other side, the invisible, has thereby become more remote and more difficult of access than before.

Despite the beautiful effects of colour in the costumes and the management of the light, despite the music of Fauré and the winged headdress of Pelléas, I caught myself wishing more than once that Mr. Forbes Robertson and the rest would turn into marionettes—I believe that Maeterlinck has been successfully played in Paris with marionettes—or that in default of that they would disappear into the unknown, and leave—just a voice to read the play. Yes, the acting of "Pelléas" has been for me, in more senses than one, a tragedy of decorative art.

A STRANGER IN NEW YORK.

I observe that the majority of the daily Press, after one or two remarks of mild disparagement and equally mild approval, suggests with significance that this play is more suited to the "provinces" than to the metropolis. One or two of the notes which I took during the performance will show that in my opinion a wider sphere is open to it, and also, I hope, help to prepare the "provinces" for the treat that is in store for them. I may remark that the action is supposed to take place in New York, but there is no plot worth mentioning; the author, by a happy euphemism, entitles the thing "an attempt to supply material for an evening's entertainment." That statement is the most amusing in the piece.

1. Two elderly men in tall hats and frock coats, seated in the hall of an hotel, are forcibly introduced to one another by a third, a stranger to both: they quarrel. (This trio would be a great success as the Chesterfields of the Society Islands, and be well suited to Polynesia generally.)

2. A young woman appears in an opera cloak. After much careful preparation, we are informed that she is wearing tights underneath it—and she reveals them. As she is obviously a ballet girl, this fact does not amaze us, but would no doubt be suited to, say, the New Guinea coast (where the natives would probably be both shocked and amused into eating her up for over-dressing).

3. Two young women and one young man sing a song with the refrain, "How happy could I be with either." (Suitable for the Grand Opera of the Solomon Islands.)

4. One young woman, dressed in what might be taken for a kilt by a Frenchman, sings a song which might pass for Scotch—in Mingrelia. (Certain to draw crowds at Inverness—but the sporran should be worn round the neck, according to the best Continental tradition.)

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE POLITENESS OF KINGS.

THE *late* M. Félix Faure forgets that punctuality is the politeness of kings. He is hardly ever in time, except when he makes a railway journey or sails in a man-o'-war. Sometimes he is a good deal behind time. Last week he twice let the clock run on half an hour or so before he made his appearance. His lateness is said to be a police device. Detectives thus have time to study crowds through which he is to pass, and clear off individuals who strike them as suspicious. Perhaps. But the evening the Czar dined at the Elysée, dinner was announced nearly an hour after the time appointed. The meal had to be hurried through to get to the theatre in fairly good time, with the result that his Imperial Majesty was knocked up.

The centenary of the Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers afforded the President two opportunities not to imitate Royalty in being punctual. He managed to copy it extremely well in other respects. Really no king could go through the theatrical part of the business better, despite an air of vestry respectability clinging to him. The President has a valet and eke a tailor. The cloth of his clothes must be very flexible. Inevitable creases are scarcely perceptible. He is, perhaps, too spick-and-span. But one sees that he has an inborn taste for sumptuary elegance and the showy side of life. He manages not to be swagger or stuck up, the aim being to look *digne* (this word I must translate by the obsolete "worshipful"). It appears that he often asks the head of the Protocol: "In my place, how would a Sovereign behave?" and applies the lesson he obtains with tact. At the Arts et Métiers he gazed far forward, a way of preventing importunate persons from catching his eye. After all the speeches were made and decorations given, he spent some time admiring the wonders of the radiograph. Among them was a photo of a lovely being aged eighteen. When photographed, she was dressed, but wore no corset, as it was found the whalebones were of steel. She stood near in the clothes in which she was taken. The whole internal anatomy was laid bare. One could almost see the heart pulsating. The arachnoid tissue of the lungs was quite visible. The close grain of the liver showed. Some photographic images of beings as lovely, but less healthy, were then shown. One had spots on the lungs—"Indurations," said the doctor who acted as showman; "they are the first stage of consumption." M. Faure was so interested that he kept M. Peytral, with whom he had an appointment, waiting at the Elysée.

The doctor who explained the radiograph photos dwelt on the sincerity they might bring into match-making transactions. A perfect photo would enable the family

doctor to tell exactly the constitutional or chronic, or other flaws of the aspirant to marriage. "No photo, no further negotiations," might become a usual condition, What a blessing this would be for posterity!

The Cabinet crisis dragged through the whole of last week. The President, it is said, wanted to bring back M. Méline by wearing out patience. M. Méline, according to his view, was not beaten, but retired of his own accord. The Chamber could not, therefore, be offended if, all possible Cabinet-makers failing, M. Faure asked the retiring Ministry to stay in office. A rather close game was played between him and Brisson and Bourgeois. They have programmes by which they personally stand. I should call Brisson the Keeper of the Republican Conscience in Parliament. M. Faure, to believe his critics, aimed at bringing the office into disrepute. If Brisson consented to a policy of pure sand-ploughing with a motley team, who could go on believing in his conscientiousness? He did a clever thing in accepting the programme of Sarrien and Peytral—both moderate Radicals—with a Ministry taken from the 295 who voted against Méline. They were the only majority that he knew of. This decision was made known to the President at the close of the Sunday afternoon matinée at the Elysée.

A point compassed at the Elysée was to keep M. Hanotaux. Who can be surprised or displeased? Human nature is human nature. Louis XIV. was in the habit of receiving from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the cream of his official correspondence as it arrived. A good deal of chit-chat about the Courts of Europe was repeated by the diplomatic correspondents. They would have known the King was pleased to read spicy gossip, and they often filled despatches with it. No Yellow-books were issued in his time. Ambassadors had not yet learned the art of saying nothing in long despatches. As an historian, M. Hanotaux had studied the mechanism of the Foreign Affairs Department under the Grand Monarque. He revived that part of it by skimming the cream of his official and private-official correspondence, and sending it on to the head of the State. What more charming attention? It gave work to secretaries and violated no constitutional rule. Instead of a dry summary, a palatable compilation was prepared. Perhaps it had been whispered to ambassadors that entertaining private-official letters were desired.

A Ministerial crisis causes a flutter in the families of deputies and senators. The wives of "ministrable" politicians are "run upon" by each other and those of "non-ministrables." Wives of Generals, Colonels, Admirals, Post-Captains, Departmental Clerks, and of office and decoration seekers rush to call on them. They are made to feel that the ball is at their foot and that it contains France. All are in a fever of excitement. All affect the sweetest amiability. The flattered ones feel really amiable. As their husbands are not yet gazetted, they are still on their good behaviour. They will only give themselves airs when they are *in*. But meanwhile what dreams they dream! How they calculate expenses! A Minister has 60,000 francs a year, besides *frais de représentation* that bring it up to 75,000 francs. Men-servants, coals, candle-lights, and flowers for dinner parties and soirées are thrown in by "La Princesse." "La Princesse" also gives Ministers' wives box-places at the subsidised theatres.

It is rare to find a Minister's wife with a political conscience. She takes a purely practical view of politics. It is nice to belong to the inner circle at Elysée crushes. What can be more heavenly than to sit in the salon-room reserved for la Présidente, the Ministers' wives, and the Ambassadresses? A delight of that privilege is to sit on gilded arm-chairs arranged in a semicircle to right and left of the one on which the highest lady thrones. Skirts are spread out, fans are fluttered, mutual admiration and deference are professed in mincing glances, smiles, bows, and little speeches. The precious wife is flattered in a thousand ways. She may or may not deserve the flattery. She may be a *paquet* from some provincial hole: one sometimes sees such a person with ministresses revolving round her. Or she may be a lady of personal distinction, like Mmes. Jules Ferry, or Floquet, or Ribot, or De Freycinet, or Brisson, or Lockroy, who was a ward of Jules Simon and caught his seductive grace.

It is very absurd, when one thinks of it, that the names of men like Peytral, Dupuy, Delcassé, Loubet, and so on, should have flashed for a whole week over telegraphic wires. Dupuy is said to be a *gettatore*. He was Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior when Carnot was assassinated. All the secret and other police of France were under him. His private inquiry detectives so harassed Casimir-Périer that he resigned. This so-called statesman is a process-server's son. He was a show boy at some country lyceum, became a professor, and, as such, had an upper class in the Marseilles Lyceum. As he was always watching for a chance to start in politics, his class was not well taught. His marriage with the daughter of a manufacturer of halfpenny pipes afforded the opportunity. It would be too long to tell by what means he won the goodwill as Minister of Public Instruction of a number of Old Boys of the École Polytechnique. They had the ear of President Carnot, who had graduated there. He called Dupuy to the Premiership. This was after the Panama scandal had discredited so many other statesmen that he hardly knew where to look for an Opportunist Premier. He knows how to oil creaking cogs.

Loubet, now President of the Senate, is a good fellow. He was *bâtonnier* of the Montélimart bar before he rose *per saltum*, through the favour of the Elysée, to some great political post. Montélimart people swear by him, and they are right. He is devoted to them, and remains the friend of every decent person there. When a Minister, he remained in his flat in the Rue de Seine. But as President of the Senate he lives at the Petit Luxembourg—a scarcely less charming abode than the Petit Bourbon.

Walking, Cycling, Shooting, Yachting Dresses, &c.—John Busvine & Co., Tailors and Riding Habit Makers to H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, the Princess Victoria of Wales, the Duchess of Fife, the Princess Charles of Denmark, the Marchioness of Lorne, the Princess Henry of Battenberg, the Duchess of Connaught, the Duchess of Albany, the Empress of Austria, the Empress of Russia, the Empress of Germany, the Princess Henry of Prussia, the Princess Victoria of Prussia, the Infanta Eulalia of Spain, the Countess de Paris, the Duchess d'Aosta.—4, Brook-street, London, W.

Peytral is a pharmaceutical chemist. He made a fortune in patent medicines, and was famous on the Cannebière for his hygienic cordials and mixtures. Until he got into the Senate he was a perfervid Radical. He tried last week to compound a Cabinet out of one Socialist, some tame Radicals, some Progressives, and some Moderates. Peytral never strove to shine as a superior person, but sets up to be a financier. He does not give umbrage to the President. This negative advantage goes a long way. Delcassé is another good fellow. He is still young. He was a journalist. But he merely passed in the crowd. Marriage with a wealthy widow enabled him to use the Press for his own political objects merely. He took up Colonial extension, made a row about it, was backed by all the Colonials, entered the Chamber, and one fine day was offered a seat in I forget what Cabinet. Mme. Delcassé is said to have the most comely *bonnes* in Paris. I never knew her to employ a plain one. Some of her parlourmaids have been remarkably pretty.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

"DON'T swear; fight!" The phrase, dear Lady Betty, has the ring of sound metal.

The American Army of Invasion advancing upon Santiago de Cuba was preceded by a body of rough-riders. Suddenly the Spaniards, who were lying in ambush, fired a deadly volley, and the startled rough-riders replied with an outburst of curses. "Don't swear; fight!" called out Colonel Wood. The phrase will live.

America is a big country; it is destined to become a great country, for there is manliness and vigour in the memorable phrases coined by celebrated Americans. It was Stephen Decatur who originated the toast, "Our country, right or wrong." Henry Clay said, "Sir, I would prefer to be right than to be President." The last words of Nathan Hale were, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." Grover Cleveland declared that "Public office is a public trust." William Penn coined the phrase, "I prefer the honestly simple to the ingeniously wicked." And it was Henry Ward Beecher who uttered the words, "The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom."

When nations become artificially refined the phrases which their great men coin are generally either cynical or flippant. Thus, to Talleyrand is attributed the phrase, "Mistrust first impressions, they are always good." Voltaire declared that, "Ideas are like beards, children and women never have them." To which might be added, "except when they are monstrosities." Antoine Rivarole said, "It is an immense advantage to have done nothing, but one should not abuse it." Samuel Rogers said, "When I was young I said good-natured things and nobody listened to me; now that I am old I say ill-natured things and everybody listens to me." To Sydney Smith we are indebted for the following ungracious description of a fashionable woman, "Do not mind the caprices of fashionable women. They are as gross as poodles fed on milk and muffins."

Whether Colonel Wood uttered them or not, the words, "Don't swear; fight!" will ring for long in the memories of many generations.

* * * * *

Unfortunately, for the moment, American men and women are misrepresented in Europe by an improvised aristocracy, whose Mecca is Marlborough House. These select nonentities, who have or have not attained some notoriety in New York, pervade the capitals of Europe, and render themselves and their fellow-country men and women ridiculous by their pretentious peculiarities. The United States of America were not founded by house-maids out of place and by mechanics out of work; but the impression which these over-dressed, under-bred people convey is that they were. It is important for the reputation of America that the United States Government should exercise some control over the export of such eccentricities.

* * * * *

At the Garrick Theatre there is being played a piece the name of which is "Too Much Johnson." At the Theatre Royal, Westminster, another piece is being played; it is "Too Much Chamberlain." Why does Lord Salisbury not amputate Mr. Joseph Chamberlain from a Cabinet whose life is endangered by his continued connection with it? Political gangrene has set in, and is spreading rapidly. Granting that Mr. Chamberlain is an excellent political prize-fighter—a master of muscular oratory—and that he excites the admiration of the "Tom and Jerry" type of politician, nevertheless he does not command the respect of the respectable.

It is popularly supposed that Mr. Chamberlain has the reversion of the Leadership of the Conservative Party. This is altogether incorrect. Were Lord Salisbury to retire, either the Duke of Devonshire or Mr. Arthur Balfour would have a better chance of being promoted to the Leadership. Mr. Chamberlain is a man of sixty-three; that has to be taken into account. Were the Conservative Government to be upset, a Radical, not a Liberal, Administration must succeed to power, and Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has severed his connection for all time with his former Party. So ambitious a man must now deeply repent that he seceded from Mr. Gladstone, for had he been faithful to him he might have succeeded to the Leadership of the Radical Party, and might have eventually become Prime Minister. As it is, little less than a miracle is required to make him Premier.

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Much satisfaction has been caused throughout the British Diplomatic Service by the announcement that the Queen has conferred a K.C.M.G. on Mr. Martin Le Marchant Gosselin, in recognition of his services as British Commissioner at the Niger Conference at Paris. But why did the *Times* refer to Sir Martin as "*de* Marchant Gosselin"? The new Knight Commander, who is First Secretary of the British Embassy in Paris, is an especially well-known man, and it is surprising, therefore, that the editor of the leading newspaper in his own country is not sufficiently acquainted with his name to give it correctly.

* * * * *

The following letter has been addressed to me:—

"SIR,—It appears to be useless to urge the Duke of Cambridge to permit Hyde Park to be made a pleasant resort for the children of the poor, and for the public at large. But, perhaps, as the sympathies of the Duke are notoriously with the rich, this suggestion may meet with his approval: Throughout my life, when in London, I have ridden in Rotten-row, and whenever a shower of rain has occurred whilst I was there, I have been drenched. All who ride there agree that a shed should be erected in the Row, so that this annoyance might be removed. Were Hyde Park under the control of the London County Council, as it should be, and as it eventually will be, this reasonable suggestion would be adopted at once. It is inexplicable that the Duke of Cambridge should cling to the office of Ranger of the Royal Parks with the tenacity he does, in the face of the general opposition and the unpopularity which his policy excites.—Yours faithfully,

CURZON-STREET."

It may be added that it is an open secret that the Government is anxious to undertake numerous improvements in the "Royal" Parks to meet the requirements of the public, but that all applications to the Duke for permission to do so are opposed with the utmost obstinacy. The Ranger is a kind of Royal Danton, who might have originated the sentiment, "Let us be terrible, to prevent the people from becoming so."—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

IT is, indeed, high time that the Stewards of the Jockey Club commenced to reform their programmes at Newmarket, where root-and-branch changes are urgently required, as I have often pointed out. At no other meeting in England are there so many five furlong races, the aim and end of which are simply gambling. There is not a particle of sport about these scrambles, for it is not the best horse which usually wins, but rather the animal which gets a good start. Some of the most experienced trainers are of the opinion that the tendency of five furlong races is to ruin horses, as their tempers are spoilt. Newmarket, in this matter, sets a scandalous example to other places. At the last meeting the longest distance race was a mile and a quarter, and there were only three events over that course, while there were a dozen or so of five furlong races.

Since Jeddah's easy victory in the Prince of Wales's Stakes at Ascot, the St. Leger has been generally declared to be merely a question of health for Mr. Larnach's colt, but we really know no more about the Derby winner now than we knew after Epsom, as his victory over Batt signifies absolutely nothing whatever, for the Duke of Westminster's horse was either out of form or else he cannot be trusted, judging from his abject exhibition in the Ascot Derby. Jeddah has several engagements before Doncaster, including the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood, but I do not suppose that he will run again during the summer, as he has heavy penalties in all these races. He is clearly a good stayer, and if he goes on all right he ought to have a good chance of winning the Ascot Cup next year.

King Crow won the Northumberland Plate in accordance with my prediction, and Mr. Vyner has certainly brought off a very pretty sequence with this horse, who would have been a nice "pot" for the Cesarewitch if he had been kept for it.

Knight of the Thistle has been entered for the Chesterfield Cup at Goodwood, and it is very probable that he will be reserved for that race, for which he may be a dangerous candidate.

With regard to the Princess of Wales's Stakes, which is run to-morrow, it seems to me that Collar will be the most dangerous opponent of Veslaquez, who has to give the Duke of Westminster's colt 6 lb. more than weight for age, and he ought to be able to do so. St. Cloud II. has undergone a special preparation for this race, but his running in the Royal Hunt Cup was simply deplorable. However, nobody now ever speaks of public form except to laugh at the idea of paying any attention to it.

Lord Stanley and Lord Farquhar have become partners in the two-year-old Hadrian, by St. Angelo out of Isone. This colt was bred at Burghley by Captain Greville, and at Newmarket last July Lord Derby gave 510 gs. for him.

The Goodwood Plate of £800, which takes the place of the defunct Goodwood Stakes, has obtained thirty entries, which must be considered a most satisfactory number, considering that the distance of the event is two miles and a half. If owners would only instruct their trainers to try the horses over long courses, instead of fuddling about, day after day, with five and six furlong gallops, as is now the slovenly practice in almost every stable, we should probably find that there are plenty of stayers. Among the older horses in the Goodwood race are St. Bris, Butter, Carlton Grange, History, Herminius, Rapallo, Piety, and Laughing Girl. There are twelve three-year-olds, including Winsome Charteris, Chubb, Loreto, Crimson Rambler, and Pie Powder.

The astonishingly poor entries for the principal events at the Liverpool July Meeting afford conclusive evidence (if any such were needed) that racing at present is ruinously overdone. There we find only nineteen horses engaged in a five furlong handicap of £500, while there are but twenty-seven in a six furlong race of the same value. The Liverpool Cup of £1,200 has obtained only twenty-seven entries, and a very familiar lot they are, including Knight of the Thistle, Goletta, Labrador, St. Bris, Dinna Forget, Lord Hervey, The Rush, Ashburn, and Brayhead.

There has been a deal of laudatory cackling about Cap Martin since his victory at Ascot, but Mr. Baird's colt really had nothing to beat in the St. James's Palace Stakes, and I should be vastly surprised to find that he can stay the St. Leger course. Cap Martin is still capable of much improvement, and he ought to be a considerably better horse at the beginning of September than he is now, but he need not be seriously thought of in connection with the Leger until his stamina has been tested. He was entered for the £2,000 stake at Sandown Park last week, but he paid forfeit when he was a yearling, which was an unfortunate blunder for his owner, as he would probably have won the race. He will doubtless be started for the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood, the distance being one mile, and this will be one of the most interesting races of the summer if it also brings out Dieudonné (8 st. 13 lb.), Ninus (9 st. 1 lb.), Batt (8 st. 13 lb.), and Cyllene (9 st. 3 lb.). Cap Martin's weight would be 9 st. 1 lb.

Wantage has justified my prediction that his turf career would be brief by falling lame, and it is certainly unfortunate that a race has not been got out of the Duke of Portland's colt, as it is now very unlikely that he will ever stand a thorough preparation.

Dunlop is tolerably sure to win a good T.Y.C. handicap before the season is over, and this colt must not be overlooked whenever he is started for a short distance race.

The winner of the Cesarewitch is said to have been seen out at Ascot, and the handicapper will, no doubt, be favoured with abundant warnings of the danger that may be expected from the horse in question unless he is "steadied" with a heavy weight.

I see it stated that Baron Rothschild's colt, Le Roi Soleil, has "numerous engagements in France" during the autumn, the fact being that he is entered for only one race, which is the Prix Royal Oak of £2,000, which is run at Longchamps on Sunday, September 18. Next year we shall, no doubt, see Le Roi Soleil going for the Ascot Cup.

Only thirty-five two-year-olds have been left in for the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster. It is shameful, at so rich a meeting, that the minor forfeit in the principal two-year-old race of the week should still be grabbed for the fund, which accordingly contributes only £265 of the £500 which is nominally added. The fact is that £1,000 ought to be added to the Champagne Stakes, and there should be reasonable penalties for winners of £1,000 or upwards. Desmond, Victoria May, Adornment colt, and Musa are all left in. The dark lot are usually dangerous in this race. Lord Rosebery is now represented only by Apennine, own sister to Velasquez. The Duke of Portland has Manners, own brother to Amiable. The Duke of Westminster has Calix, by Orme out of Petal, a mare that bred some good winners for the late Duke of St. Albans. Mr. L. de Rothschild, who so unexpectedly won the race last year with Ayah, has accepted with San Carlo, by St. Simon out of Biserta, dam of Goletta; and Guava, by Galopin out of Nellie. The Kingsclere stable is also represented by Mr. Low's colt by Right Away out of Hall Mark.

Eighteen three-year-olds have accepted for the Doncaster Stakes of £680, including Batt, Ninus, Purser, Airs and Graces, and Angus. There has been a lot of insane twaddle written about Angus, who is a stable companion of Disraeli. This colt has never yet run, and it is very unlikely that he will succeed in winning a race, for he appears to be a bad cripple, while there is not a worse-shaped horse at Newmarket. Nevertheless, many simpletons were gulled into backing him for the Derby.

Disraeli has done no work since his return to Newmarket from Paris, and it is not likely that he will be again seen out before Doncaster, although he has engagements at York and at Derby, where he won his first race last September. He ran very badly both at Epsom and at Longchamps, but he may have a resurrection in the autumn, and it is quite on the cards that he will prove a dangerous opponent to Jeddah in the Leger.

Donovan is about fortieth in the list of winning sires, but it now seems highly probable that he will fill the first place at the end of the season, for Velasquez appears

certain to win at least two of the £10,000 races. Ayrshire and Janissary are now at the top of the list, followed by St. Simon and Galopin, and then come Common, Martagon, and St. Serf.

An owner who at present possesses a three-year-old that can gallop on its four legs is asinine and anserous if he does not run his steed for all its engagements, however hopeless its chance may appear on public form. It was on this principle that Lord Durham started Sherburn for the North Derby at Newcastle, although the colt had run deplorably against moderate horses on more than one occasion. Cauliflower, who was a great favourite, ran very badly, and so also did The Virginian, who had been in reserve for this race, and he was a great tip at Newmarket. The winner is well bred enough for anything, being by Sheen out of Primrose Day, and both sire and dam won the Cesarewitch, so he ought to be a stayer. The Jenny Howlet colt, who finished a very bad second, will win a handicap before the season is over, but at present he is hopelessly out of form.

The Duke of Portland and Lord Crewe have decided to remove their horses from Newmarket to Kingsclere, and it is highly probable that there will be some other important secessions from "headquarters" before long. There are far too many horses now in training at Newmarket, and things are getting hopelessly chaotic there. Both owners and trainers bitterly complain, moreover, of the vexatious and constant interferences of the Jockey Club officials, whose last *bêtise* was to forbid Elf II. and other French horses to be galloped on the heath—a reprehensible exhibition of eccentricity which the Stewards ought to have censured severely.

There will be racing next week at Stockbridge, Lingfield, Nottingham, and Pontefract, and the best sport will certainly be at the southern meetings.

The Bibury Club Stakes looks well for Eventail if the Prince of Wales cares to send her so far for a race of such small value. Collar is the best animal in the Hampshire Stakes of £500, but he has 14 lb. extra to carry, and Ninus and Purser have also heavy penalties. There is a good chance for Petty France (who cost 5,100 gs. as a yearling, and has never won a race), who will be receiving 21 lb. from Collar; but I expect the Duke of Westminster will win with Orpah. The Champagne Stakes may bring out Birkenhead, by Orme out of Tragedy. The public lot are very bad. The Stockbridge Foal Stakes is a good thing for Flying Fox, whose penalty of 10 lb. for winning the New Stakes at Ascot is reduced to 5 lb. by a breeding allowance. The Stockbridge Cup, which originally failed to fill, has obtained seventeen entries, including several very speedy animals, but Kilcock ought to win easily.

This is the last meeting which will be held at Stockbridge, and next year the Bibury Club fixture is to be removed to Salisbury, where the programme is miserably weak. Stockbridge has always been a very popular meeting, but the sport there has been falling off for a long time, though the two-year-old races have generally been interesting, and some of the best animals of the season have usually run there. It was in the Hurstbourne Stakes that Galtee More made a successful début two years ago.

The best sport next week will be at Lingfield. Fifty-three two-year-olds are left in for the Great Foal Stakes of £1,000, including Eventail, Blackwing, Fascination, and Trident. I shall plump for Blackwing, who has a 5 lb. breeding allowance, and he has by this time recovered from the ailment which prostrated him at Ascot. If Blackwing does not start the Bedford Cottage stable will, no doubt, be represented by Mr. Leigh's filly Clay Pigeon, half Sister, by Common, to that very disappointing animal The Wyvern.

The Imperial Stakes of £1,500 may be won by Lowood, who will be receiving 2 lb. from Nun Nicer; but I expect that the Duke of Westminster's filly will have come on since Ascot, when she won the Coronation Stakes so easily. In that race Lowood was receiving 14 lb. from Nun Nicer.

The conditions of the Derby for 1900 are advertised, and it remains a stake "for colts." The race does not close until July 19, and the Stewards of the Jockey Club ought forthwith to insist upon the conditions of this and the other great weight-for-age stakes being altered so as to exclude geldings. Let the clause be amended by the insertion of the word "entire" before colts, which is the Grand Prix de Paris condition, and it ought long ago to have been adopted in England.

A CHIEF CONSUL ON THE C.T.C.

The comments that I have made on the affairs of the Cyclist Touring Club do not seem one atom too severe, judging by the information concerning the club's management that has from time to time reached me. Thanks to a communication from a member I was recently able to expose the trick by which the club, after deeming it necessary to increase the subscription by eighteenpence, proceeded to give away handbooks said to cost two shillings. I have now had a letter from the Chief Consul for Inverness-shire and Nairnshire, Mr. W. E. Grant. His letter gives an interesting insight into the superhuman labours of the club secretary, Mr. Shipton. Mr. Grant encloses a printed letter from Mr. Shipton. The only type-written portion is the date, the statement that the communication relates to "the appointment of the Hotel——," and the name and address of Mr. Grant. The wording is so delightfully impertinent that I give it in full:—

> The enclosed communication relating to—— reached me this morning. As it comes more within your province as Chief Consul than mine as Secretary, I have acknowledged the receipt of the same in the usual stereotyped form, merely telling the writer that he will in all probability hear from you in due course.

This is the cool way in which the well-paid secretary of the club, Mr. Shipton, addresses a chief consul who gets not a penny piece by way of pay, and who finds work shoved on to him in this unceremonious manner. When I first called attention to the accounts of the C.T.C. I was taken severely to task, not merely for having done so, but also for wanting to know who took all the money in salaries, and how it came about that there was such a large sum spent in postage. I was told Mr. Shipton was ill from overwork. It must be very gratifying to his numerous friends to know that if the duties of secretary are carried on in this cavalier fashion such a misfortune is not likely to occur again. The printed letter to the chief consul, the stereotyped reply to the correspondent, all indicate that there is a quantity of correspondence which is mere routine work. Mr. Grant informs me that the C.T.C. have a large staff, judging from the "monthly pay-sheet." He says that hardly a day passes on which he does not get communications of different kinds that can be answered with far less trouble from London. He considers that care should be taken by those in authority not to see how much work they can get done for nothing, but how little. Apparently, Mr. Grant is sick of the whole concern, for he has resigned his post. I am not surprised at his doing so. I am only surprised that he did not do so after the handbook trick was exposed. It has apparently taken him a long time to discover that the whole policy of the C.T.C. is to see how much it can get out of its members whether in work or money. At one time the club was no doubt useful. But nowadays cycling is so universal that all this system of consuls is perfect nonsense. If a man is going on a walking or a driving tour, he does not join a mysterious organisation in order to find a place wherein to sleep or eat. He has no need to do so. Nor is there any need to join any such association for the purposes of cycling. To a good many people the sign of the C.T.C. over a public house or an inn is a warning to go the other way. A correspondent who has had some conversation with hotel proprietors about the C.T.C. signs, tells me of one case in which a proprietor signed the agreement, but was glad enough to get rid of it. The C.T.C. rider expected everything for nothing, just like those in authority, and he was not the sort of customer that was wanted. This is not a solitary experience. The majority of innkeepers throughout the country are only too pleased to cater well and reasonably for cyclists. Even innkeepers will one day grow sick of communicating with the secre-

tary and receiving stereotyped replies. And what a lot of money must be wasted annually in the postage of these stereotyped communications!

One never likes to prophesy about the result of the University match. The man who last gets his blue has a knack of making runs, and the cracks as miserably fail. Taking a line through the Sussex match it would look any odds on Cambridge. But then Bannon, Champain, Fenn, Foster, Martin, and the new bat, but old bowler, Cunliffe, can all make runs. The Light Blues undoubtedly have a much greater variety in bowling than their opponents, and yet they failed wretchedly at Lord's against the M.C.C. Mitchell gave one of those brilliant displays which show what a dangerous bat he is when set. Unfortunately for his cricket, he can spare but little time away from his work, and so he has had practically to abandon all hopes of keeping on first-class cricket. In that match Winter, with his lobs, was treated very gingerly by both batsmen, and it is quite likely he will come off in the excitement of a University match. The Cambridge second innings on a wicket that was tricky against the bowling of Attewell and Davidson was much more satisfactory. On a wicket that helps the bowlers it looks as though Cambridge would win. On a fast wicket the strong Oxford batting should give the Dark Blues an advantage. The weather and the toss will most likely be the chief factors in a close match.

Judging by the play in the Eton and Winchester match the former have a very strong batting team. Lord F. Scott and Longman both batted well, and time alone saved the Winchester boys from a beating.

Never was such a mistake made in declaring an innings closed as that which the Manor Park team made. They were playing Thornton's team and had scored 195 for seven wickets. There was seventy-five minutes left for play. A. J. Webbe almost at once got out for 4. But G. Kemp, the Old Blue, and C. W. Wright between them knocked up 200 runs in fifty minutes and won the match. Kemp made 120 and Wright 97. This is, I should think, a record rate of scoring.

There has been quite an excitement in the cricket world owing to the fact that umpires have at last been found who will no-ball bowlers whose action is euphemistically called peculiar or doubtful. At Brighton Phillips no-balled C. B. Fry, and at Tonbridge Warwick tried a new bowler, Hopkins, who was treated in the same way by Titchmarsh. He subsequently bowled at the other end. Peculiar action in bowling is now so common that it is just as well that some umpires are found strong enough to express their convictions. As an amateur and a professional have suffered, there can be little doubt but that these incidents will act as a salutary warning.

The Tonbridge week was in every way a success. There never was a team like a Kent team, so the dwellers in Kent say. Well, both Warwick and Somerset were beaten, and in both matches Patterson made his century. Woods, whose hand was bad, hit finely for the Western county. Yorkshire smothered Leicester, but they narrowly escaped a bad beating by Notts. Surrey, as usual, had bad luck. Rain alone prevented them giving Middlesex a beating. Brockwell had the honour of scoring two consecutive centuries. Townsend, by a big score for Gloucester against Lancashire, showed that, although he may not be a pretty bat, he can run up a lot of runs.

The Rev. W. E. Lutyens has been doing some splendid work on the path. In an open 1,000 yards at the St. Mary's Hospital sports, in a gale of wind he got within three seconds of record time. He followed this up in the L.A.C. half by doing just over 1 min. 57 secs. in wretched weather. In the quarter, Davison, who has run second string at Cambridge, did a fine performance, getting home in even time from the six yards' mark. This makes him three yards faster than either of the Cambridge runners this year. Jupp, who is the novice of the season, did a yard worse than evens in the hundred. He should go very near winning the championship. The L.A.C. looks like doing very well in the championships, which are held next Saturday on the club ground at Stamford Bridge. In the Ravensbourne sports Burnett won the hundred yards scratch for the third year in succession, and so secured the challenge cup outright.

It would be just as well next year if the time for the swimming races in the University match were to be fixed half an hour later. This year the events were half an hour late in starting. The delay was most annoying. For 8.15, the appointed hour, spoilt one's dinner. The Bath Club was not crowded. At the same time the amount of enthusiasm that can be got out of a bath full of tepid water would do the heart of Sir Wilfrid Lawson good. The swimming was not good, but it was close. It is a pity that a race is not won by the first man home instead of by points. All the races become team races. Oxford won the swimming, but the Cambridge men had their revenge in a poor game of water polo. They scored rapidly in the first few minutes owing to their opponents utterly failing to play together.

What would have been an interesting bicycle gymkhana at Ealing was spoiled by the weather. A musical ride by ladies was well carried out. There were a large number of entries for the usual events. The prizes were not very valuable. This was very satisfactory, as pot-hunting is not encouraged. There are sure signs that a class of amateur trick-riding cyclists, male and female, will soon arise who will not hesitate to go to open meetings to see what they can devour.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

My dear Ben,—Members of the Stock Exchange are still complaining of the general absence of business, and certainly very few transactions have taken place during the nineteen-day account which has now come to an end. The financial oracles are racking their brains to find a reason for this disinclination of the public to enter the stock markets, when money is plentiful, and rates of discount have fallen to quite a nominal level, while there have not been wanting favourable developments in various departments.

Waiting for the Public—Who Will Give a Lead?

It is, in fact, difficult to account for the prevailing stagnation, except on the supposition that the warnings concerning foreign politics, in which Lord Salisbury and more especially Mr. Chamberlain indulged a few weeks ago, have taken so firm a hold of the public mind, that speculative action is thereby being prevented. Yet much has occurred since to undo the mischief wrought by ill-considered speeches. Lord Salisbury himself has made reassuring statements, Mr. Chamberlain has tried to explain away a portion of his utterances, the West African Convention has actually been signed, and at Wednesday's dinner at the Mansion House, to the bankers and merchants of the City of London, the Chancellor of the Exchequer went out of his way to reassure his hearers on the political outlook. The Governor of the Bank of England, moreover, on the same occasion spoke of the strength of the central institution, implying the continuance of cheap money. Possible friction over the Far Eastern question appears in fact to be the only disturbing factor, and it is not likely that this will reach an acute stage again for some time to come. The Spanish-American war has, of course, had something to do with the interruption of business, but now that an American army corps has successfully landed in Cuba, and is about to storm Santiago, it may be assumed that the end of the war is not far off. At all events, the coming defeat of Spain in this struggle is so clearly indicated that business in the United States is going on quite in the usual way, and excellent traffics of the railroads show that considerable progress is being made. The capture of Santiago will probably give a strong impulse to the Yankee market,

which has been hardening up during the last few days, and possibly some of the other departments of the Stock Exchange will then also display some semblance of animation. But without a lead being given, either by some of the important financial houses or by the Stock Exchange, it is not likely that business can be got out of the rut into which it has fallen. The public never enter upon any large buying operations in a dull or falling market, and during the past account there has been a general shrinkage, which is certainly not encouraging to the "Bulls," although it has in many instances brought prices down to a level at which profitable operations could be entered into. This, I am sure, the jobbers in the various sections have realised, and if, for instance, the dealers in the South African department, instead of trooping into the Trunk market, and there causing a complete congestion, were to attend to their own specialties, they would probably find the public following suit, especially as a number of very satisfactory dividend announcements are illustrative of the satisfactory condition of many of the leading mines. Then, again, in the West Australian market some operators are depressing quotations whenever they get a chance, even in cases where the results achieved by the mines are most satisfactory. If they were to change their banging tactics for a policy of encouraging an improvement in the sound and dividend-paying mines, they would soon reap the benefit. Newspaper attacks, too, are made on various properties, which in good times would be simply disregarded. In times like the present, even if entirely unfounded, such attacks very often have the effect of frightening holders out of stocks at prices at which they will never be able to buy again. In the Home Railway department the only active stocks have been Dover "A" and Chathams on the pooling negotiations, although many other securities in this market are worthy of attention, especially in view of the coming dividend-period. In the Industrial section business has shrunk to very small dimensions, and here, too, a period of greater activity would appear to be justified. That is likely to come as soon as the big operators make a start, for the public have quite taken to the idea of home investments. Amongst South American stocks movements have been irregular, and Argentines at one time showed weakness on the rise in the gold premium, but a more favourable tendency has now set in, and will probably communicate itself to the rest of this department, notwithstanding the disagreeable impression created by the Brazilian funding scheme.

MONEY AND GILT-EDGED INVESTMENTS—CONTINUED PROSPECTS OF CHEAP MONEY.

The Governor of the Bank of England stated at the Mansion House dinner on Wednesday that, "like the public purse, the Bank of England was at that moment very strong, and he feared that he would not conciliate his friends, the bankers of London, by stating that for the next few months their profits would be very small." This, of course, clearly shows that those in authority anticipate cheap money for some time to come. At present the rate of discount for three months bank bills has fallen to $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent, while short money is to be had at $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent, and it is significant that the usual hardening of rates at the end of the half-year is not apparent this time. In fact, with the turn of the month further large sums will be released in dividend-payments and in Japanese funds. There is still a demand for gold for Russia, but this is being satisfied in the open market, while New York is not at present asking for gold shipments. Under all the circumstances, gilt-edged investment securities may probably maintain present values, although there will not, perhaps, be any substantial advance. On the contrary, I should think that whenever matters revive on the Stock Exchange, second and third class securities will receive most attention. Consols at $111\frac{1}{8}$ appear to be quite high enough, and so are, for the matter of that, Colonial Government bonds and British Corporation stocks. Silver every now and then receives an impulse by purchases for the Spanish Government for coining purposes, and has again improved to $27\frac{5}{16}$d, while the forward quotation is $26\frac{7}{8}$d. Rupee Paper is steady at $62\frac{1}{8}$, and the last Chinese Four and a Half per Cent. Gold Loan is slightly easier at 88, the Seven per Cent. Silver Loan at 98. Japanese Scrip has receded to $101\frac{3}{4}$. I am glad to see that the Bank of New South Wales, one of the leading institutions which weathered the banking crisis in Australia so successfully, continues on its prosperous career. A dividend for the half year ended March 31 has been paid at the rate of 9 per cent., out of the total profits of £104,692, a sum of £16,942 being carried forward.

HOME RAILS—MORE ABOUT THE SOUTH-EASTERN AND CHATHAM—AN IRREGULAR TONE.

Although an official statement has not yet been made as regards the terms of the proposed working arrangement between the South-Eastern and Chatham Companies, there is no doubt that some agreement is upon the point of being concluded. The *Times* is responsible for the statement that both boards have come to the conclusion that there is a wasteful expenditure, which nothing can arrest short of a working arrangement in relation to all branches of traffic on the two systems, and that it is therefore proposed that next session a Bill should be introduced providing for the constitution of an executive committee, which shall have absolute control over both railways, the affairs of the Companies being directed by one staff from a common centre. If this is the true version of the coming arrangement, it does not, as I anticipated, extend to an amalgamation, but will consist of the closest form of working arrangement possible. It is calculated that at least £100,000 per annum will be saved as the first result of the new arrangement, and this may well be so; but it should not be forgotten that the matter cannot be carried out until next year, so that the savings are somewhat in the future. I have so repeatedly urged the carrying-out of some such scheme, and have broken so many lances in its favour, that the success of the negotiations would give me the most lively satisfaction. One may, however, predict that the delay until next year will afford excellent opportunities for speculation to the jobbers in the Home Railway Market. Dover "A" have fluctuated somewhat, and are now quoted $114\frac{3}{4}$, while Chatham Ordinary stand at $22\frac{7}{8}$, the Second Prefs. at $102\frac{1}{2}$. On the principle of making hay while the sun shines, the Chatham Company has availed itself of the opportunity to make an issue of £300,000 of Debenture stock, which has been readily absorbed. Brighton "A" have been very steady in the neighbourhood of $177\frac{1}{4}$, while Great Eastern show very little change at $120\frac{7}{8}$. The stocks of the Heavy division have reacted slightly, but as stock continues scarce there is every prospect of a fresh improvement, now that we are in sight of the half-yearly dividends, which should, upon the whole, prove satisfactory when it is considered that there is already a total traffic increase of £635,000. North-Western, at all events, at anything like $199\frac{3}{4}$, seems to be deserving of the attention of investors. Great Central 1894 Ordinary have receded to 40, notwithstanding the announcement that the line will be opened for coal traffic on July 25. It is the fashion with some people to decry the Great Central, and to create the impression that the new extension will not obtain satisfactory traffics. I think that the contrary will be the case, and that this stock is a good lock-up. The line would, by the way, benefit greatly from coal traffic if the South Wales coal strike were not yet ended by the time it opened. Metropolitan have been fairly steady at $130\frac{1}{2}$, but Districts have declined to $28\frac{1}{2}$, there being a cessation of the talk about the introduction of electric traction. A traffic decrease of £2,779 for the week is, of course, the result of the comparison with Jubilee week last year, but it nevertheless represents a loss to the Company. The Scotch annual holidays commence next month, and preparatory to the cessation of business then to be expected there has been quite a rush of work. In the

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shipbuilding trade there is no lack of orders, the various yards being taxed to the utmost extent of their capacity. Iron and steel works are also busy, although the iron market is easier. Prospects are reported as favourable from Glasgow, and continued traffic increases of the Caledonian and North British are looked for. So far the Caledonian has an increase of £36,229, the North British one of £46,004. Caledonian Deferred Ordinary at 58¼, and North British Deferred at 45⅛ are meeting with a fair inquiry. As I anticipated, the official announcement is now made of the return of the subscriptions by the Great Northern and City Railway. It remains to be seen whether the Great Northern Company will take steps to either find the necessary capital itself, or make an issue under its guarantee. Waterloo and City stock fell at one time as low as 114½, but has now recovered to 122½, and there certainly does not appear to have been any reason for the persistent slump. Central London Railway stocks have shown a firm tone at the recent reduction, some business being reported at about 10 for the fully-paid Ordinary.

Yankee Rails—The American Advance on Santiago Strengthens the Market.

The fact that the American troops landed in Cuba with very little difficulty, and that their advance upon Santiago has been so rapid, has caused very sanguine views to prevail with reference to the early capture of that city. It confirms the impression created by the battle at Manila that whenever a strong attack upon Spanish positions is made the latter tumble to pieces. To these considerations a moderate improvement in Yankee Rails was due, but the recent reaction has by no means been recovered yet by this movement, and there is, therefore, ample room for a rise, especially as the position generally is most satisfactory. The exports of foodstuffs and manufactured articles from the States continue to largely exceed the imports, and according to all accounts crop prospects are excellent, wheat more especially promising a very large yield. The grain market is, moreover, settling down now that the Leiter collapse has been got over, and it appears that Mr. Armour has acquired a large proportion of the stock of wheat. Cable reports from the West are to the effect that the liquidation of stocks caused by the Leiter trouble has come to an end, and that Chicago is likely to go on the "Bull" tack in railroad stocks. This would mean that Chicago and Milwaukee would again come to the front. It is true that the last weekly traffic of this road showed a slight decrease of $15,000, but too much attention should not be given to this circumstance, when it is considered that the road has already earned $3,700,000 more this year than last. The comparison is, moreover, with heavy traffics last year, and if the Milwaukee merely maintains last year's traffics a dividend of nearly 8 per cent. will be earned on the Ordinary stock, and when the new crop comes forward in August bumper traffics will doubtless be the rule again. A great point is also that the farmers along the road have never been so rich as they are now. According to a statement in the *New York Journal of Commerce*, the Milwaukee is a large carrier of spring wheat. The acreage planted with this grain this year will be materially increased by from 10 to 15 per cent., and the crop has been favoured with ideal weather. But there has also been a marked increase in recent years in the growth of manufactures in the territory tributary to the road, and it is less dependent than ever upon the transportation of cereals. The same may be said of the other Granger roads. Nevertheless, this year's agricultural prospects have a most important bearing upon the prosperity not only of these lines, but of the whole country. In the big "boom" years, 1880 and 1881, the farm value of all wheat was 95·1 cents, and $1.19·2 per bushel respectively. In 1880 a crop of 500 million bushels yielded a value of 475 millions in round figures. In 1881 a crop of 383 million bushels yielded about 456 millions value. Under these circumstances the present price of Milwaukee appears to be fully justified, and, according to the dividends paid, there would be a margin for a rise. As regards the Louisville and Nashville, nothing more is heard now of the yellow fever "bogey," and the line continues to do exceedingly well. There is no doubt that dividends could now be resumed, and Wall street newspapers to hand by this mail mention a rumour that the Company is about to restore the 10 per cent. reduction in wages made in 1893, and at the same time to resume dividends on a 3 per cent. basis by the declaration of a 1½ per cent. dividend. This could easily be done, for notwithstanding the fact that the Company has spent large sums upon the improvement of the road, there is a considerable surplus. The following is the statement of gross and net earnings for the ten months :—

June 1 to April 30.

	1898.	1897.		
Gross earn.....	$18,264,643	$17,027,621	Inc.	$1,237,022
Op. expenses	12,234,104	11,532,567	Inc.	701,537
Net earnings	$6,030,539	$5,495,054	Inc.	$535,485

It is really time that the Directors of the Louisville and Nashville should give their earnest attention to this matter, as they are losing the popularity which they enjoyed at one time by putting money into betterments which ought to go to the shareholders in dividends. As I have already stated, the Louisville is considered as an English-managed line, and dividends should be paid to the shareholders when they are earned, as they are in the present case. It is reported in American journals that Mr. Milton H. Smith, the President, is opposed to the resumption of dividends; but what is Mr. August Belmont—Chairman of the Board and agent for Messrs. Rothschild—about that he does not look after the interests of the stockholders? At the present price of 53¾ Louisville seem to be a fair purchase. Concerning the Union Pacific there is very little doubt that a dividend on the Preference stock is close at hand, and in that case we may look for a considerable advance also in the Common. This is what the *Wall-street Daily News* has to say on the subject:—

> Union Pacific Preferred have sold up to 62⅜, the highest price since February 2 last, when it touched 63⅜. The transactions in it were quite large, and the buying was mainly based on the unconfirmed rumour that dividends would be begun in July at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. There is no question but that the Company is in shape to begin disbursements of profits to stockholders, but as yet there is nothing authoritative as to the time when these will be inaugurated. Mr. Keene is credited with being the moving spirit in these shares, and as is customary with him when he takes hold of a stock, he makes it quite active. His following is predicting much higher prices, and claims that when the stock slumped from 63 to 45 last March, it was absorbed by strong people, who now see their way clear to advancing the price to a basis justified by the company's earnings and dividend prospects.

Particulars of the reorganisation scheme of the Baltimore and Ohio are now published, and it is conceded on all hands that the plan is a complete one, and deals fairly with the various interests involved, while, from the point of view of investors in Europe, it is a satisfactory point that the assessment of $20 on the Common stock will fall chiefly on American holders, as very little of this stock is held on this side. It is true that a fall of $5 has taken place in the Common stock, but this is, perhaps, chiefly on sales by holders who cannot afford to pay the assessment. As the stockholders are to receive a *quid pro quo* in new Preference stock, they will do well to retain their holdings. The reorganisation is made under the auspices of Messrs. J. S. Morgan & Co., J. P. Morgan & Co., Baring Bros. & Co., and Brown, Shipley, & Co., while Messrs. Speyer & Co., and Kuhn, Loeb, & Co., of New York, and Messrs. Speyer Bros., in London, are more particularly in charge of the scheme. It will readily be seen, therefore, that the scheme is strongly backed, and so far there has not been a breath of opposition to it. On the contrary, the various bond issues have risen from $1 to $5. The scheme provides for the payment of the floating debt, and for the unification of the whole debt on the system of roads owned by the Company. The new securities to be issued will comprise $70,000,000 Three and a Half per Cent. Prior Lien bonds, secured on the main line; $63,000,000 Four per Cent. Mortgage bonds, secured by a first mortgage on all the property not covered by the Prior Liens; $40,000,000 Four per Cent. Non-Cumulative Pre-

ferred stock; and $35,000,000 Common stock. An assessment of $20 is to be levied on the present Common stock—which amounts to $25,000,000—an equal amount of Preferred being given in return. The annual fixed charges under the plan (including taxes) will be $6,250,000, and it is estimated that the net revenue of the current fiscal year, ending June 30, will be $7,975,000. A large reserve will be provided for future capital requirements. A syndicate has been formed to provide more than $30,000,000 of cash called for by the reorganisation scheme, and a voting trust will control the property for five years. Stock and bond holders will do well to assent to the plan and to at once deposit their securities. The new stocks are already being dealt in, and have attained very satisfactory prices. Thus the new Baltimore and Ohio Prior Lien bonds are quoted 96, the new First Mortgage bonds 88½, the new Preferred stock 57⅛. The Grand Trunk market has again been much perturbed by an unfavourable traffic return, which showed a decrease of £7,821. A slump in all Grand Trunk stocks followed, but there is a good deal of vitality in this market, and quotations have rallied again, although it is being realised that the old bumper traffics can no longer be looked for. My readers have, however, been fully prepared for the reactions which have occurred, and even now I do not think that Grand Trunk First Prefs. at 71¾ and the Guaranteed at 77¼ are a desirable speculation, although they may come right in the end. The Canadian Pacific traffic return was much more satisfactory, as it showed a gain of $13,000, and came on the top of a big traffic of 1897 over 1896, representing an increase of $99,000 over the corresponding week of two years ago. The price has rallied to 87, but has since eased off to 86½, although a further advance is likely, especially as there are renewed rumours that the rate war is about to be settled. Sir William Van Horne has arrived at Montreal from this side, and it is assumed that we shall soon hear of some favourable developments, in accordance with a promise which he made on this side.

FOREIGNERS AND SOUTH AMERICANS—TWO CLASSES OF SPANISH BONDS—WILL THE "BEARS" BE SQUEEZED?

The course of the foreign market, in a great measure, depended upon the solution of the Cabinet crisis in Paris. M. Peytral did not succeed, but M. Brisson has been more fortunate. The Bourse has not troubled itself much about the matter, and in due time it may be expected to become more active. What troubles it just now most is the decision of the Spanish Government that the coupon on Spanish Fours is only to be paid in future on foreign-held bonds. This really constitutes two classes of bonds, and makes the market in Paris and in London for the bonds much smaller, while it will also tend against further sales of Spanish-held bonds on the Foreign Bourses and in London. There is here, therefore, considerable material for a "Bear" squeeze in Spanish, which have been fluctuating between 34 and 35, and now stand at 33⅞. Spanish, moreover, are a bad "Bear," as at any time peace rumours may be set about, especially after Santiago has fallen. Considering that a Cabinet crisis is in progress in Rome, Italians have held up remarkably well at about 92⅞, and Turks have also remained steady, Group II. having improved to 45¾. Argentine Government stocks have shown weakness on a rise in the gold premium, which is said to be connected with the payment of the July coupon, but towards the last there has been a rally, the 1886 Loan being quoted 90¾, the Funding Loan 88, Buenos Ayres Water and Drainage bonds 71¾. Argentine Railway stocks have also shown dulness, Buenos Ayres Great Southern at 140, Buenos Ayres and Rosario at 71½, Central Argentine at 79½, Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debenture stock at 51½. Mexican Sixes have displayed strength, while Brazilians have again moved fitfully on the opposition to the funding scheme. Peruvian Corporation stocks have been firm. Mexican Rails have shown a good deal of strength, the First Prefs. being quoted 75. Compared with these the Seven per Cent. "A" Debenture stock of the Inter-Oceanic of Mexico, which is pretty certain of a dividend of 4 per cent. for the current year, may be considered very cheap at 69½. I gave full particulars of the comparative merits in last week's issue. The rise in silver is of course in favour of all Mexican securites.

THE KAFFIR CIRCUS—A BATCH OF SATISFACTORY DIVIDENDS—AN INCIPIENT IMPROVEMENT.

The present dulness of the Kaffir Circus is an absolute anomaly when we take into consideration the satisfactory crushings which are announced from month to month, and the large dividends which are being earned and declared. Of political trouble one does not hear much, and the defeat of the Cape Government has been received with indifference. In fact, any change is expected to be for the better as far as the South African market is concerned. A batch of dividends of the Barnato group has been more particularly refreshing, and the shareholders in the New Primrose have every reason to congratulate themselves upon a dividend of 25 per cent., while the Glencairn Main Reef re-enters the dividend list with an interim dividend of 15 per cent. Two more Barnato companies are to the front with dividends, viz., the Ginsberg with 20 per cent., and the Rietfontein "A" with 15 per cent. In view of these announcements the recent weakness of Johannesburg Consolidated Investment shares is difficult to understand, and even their present price of 1 5/16 is undoubtedly far below the real value. Some comments having been made concerning the possible loss that might accrue to the Johnnies Company out of the loan to the Buffelsdoorn, Messrs. Barnato Brothers, in order to show that they will do their utmost to bring the Johnnies Company to the front, have guaranteed the latter against any loss arising out of this transaction. It is evident, moreover, that the strenuous efforts which have been made by those in charge of the Barnato group to place the mines on a thoroughly sound basis are now bearing fruit. The dividends above referred to already furnish evidence of this fact. The New Primrose again maintains its character for high returns, and is now on a 50 per cent. dividend-paying basis, while there is every prospect of increased dividends in the near future. The profits for the twelve months just closed amounted to £151,353, being an increase on 1896, which was chiefly caused by the reduction in working costs, which have fallen from 24s. ·885d. to 18s. ·811d. per ton, while on the other hand the yield from milling and cyanide has improved. The New Primrose has, in common with the Glencairn, suffered from a shortage of Native labour, and Mr. Harold Strange draws special attention to the fact that a loss of £300 per week has been experienced through the inefficient administration of the Liquor Law. As regards the Glencairn, the interim dividend of 15 per cent. already mentioned will no doubt gradually be increased. The mine has passed through some trying experiences, but it is now well on the road to success. The average yield of gold per ton since the resumption of crushings has been 7·65 dwt. The yield per ton was 21·60ls., the working costs 17·323s., so that a profit of 10s. per ton has been obtained from low-grade ore, a result which reflects great credit on the mine management. Of course, the payment of the dividend was really rendered possible by the issue of debentures. It may be assumed that if there had not been any labour trouble the returns would have been much better, as it was impossible to use fifty of the stamps on account of the shortage of "boys." The Ginsberg Company, another member of the Barnato group, has also obtained satisfactory results. The yield per ton of 61,372 tons crushed, inclusive of cyanide returns, was 44·347s. The working costs were 19·723s., and the profit was consequently 24·624s. per ton. The grade of ore practically averaged 12 dwt. to the ton, and thus the anticipations have been fully realised. The result is a gross profit of £76,836. The Johannesburg Estate has announced a dividend of 2½ per cent., the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company (Knights), is to the front with an interim dividend of 15 per cent., the Geldenhuis Deep, with an interim dividend of 30 per cent., while the Ferreira again pays a dividend of 150 per cent., the Stanhope 10 per cent. Simmer and Jack have been a strong market, advancing to 3⅞, while East Rands have also maintained a

firm front at $4\frac{13}{16}$, the only weak share having at one time been Consolidated Goldfields, but these have now also recovered to $4\frac{5}{16}$. This is not surprising, as Simmer and Jack, in which the Company has so large a holding, are firming up. Rand Mines, Limited, have displayed great strength, and remain in the neighbourhood of $29\frac{5}{8}$. No one is nowadays inclined to go on the "Bear" tack in these shares, which may at any time experience a sharp advance in view of the excellent prospects of the Deep Level mines owned by the Company. The Deep Level shares generally have been in demand, and prices are firmer, Goldfields Deep having improved to $8\frac{1}{2}$, while Crown Deep are quoted $11\frac{3}{4}$, Robinson Deep $9\frac{1}{2}$, Geldenhuis Deep $7\frac{7}{8}$, Rose Deep $6\frac{1}{8}$, Henry Nourse Deep 5, Durban Roodepoort Deep $3\frac{9}{16}$, Knight's Deep $1\frac{15}{16}$, Roodepoort Central Deep $1\frac{1}{4}$, Nigel Deep 1. Chartered shares have been dull at one time, recovering, however, to $2\frac{5}{16}$. Much interest is taken in the coming crushing of the Geelong, which is to prove the gold-bearing nature of the Chartered Company's property. It is a pity that there is so much delay. I think the Directors of the New African Company, Limited, would be well advised in accepting the recommendation of the meeting held on 27th instant to increase the representation of the English shareholders by the election of another English Director. Where the majority of the shares of the Company are held in England it is a ridiculous position that only one seat on the Board should be accorded to the English shareholders, while the French shareholders, who hold only about a quarter of the capital, should hold the remaining three seats. It is an excellent thing for the Company that it should have a Board composed of English and French elements, but it is, of course, necessary that there should be an equitable representation. A fall in De Beers is ascribed by some to a mud-rush, by others to the closing of a big block of shares. Whatever may have been the reason, the price touched at one time 26, and is $\frac{9}{16}$ lower for the week at $26\frac{11}{16}$. New Jagersfontein stand at $7\frac{1}{4}$. Rates at Saturday's carry-over were upon the whole light, with the exception chiefly of Consolidated Goldfields, on which 5 to 7 per cent. was exacted. On the other hand, Rand Mines and East Rands were carried over at 4 to 6 per cent., and on other mines the contangoes varied from 3 to 5 per cent. The extent of the account was shown to be exceedingly small, and there is a disposition to look for an early advance in prices.

GOLDEN WEST AUSTRALIA—HANNAN'S PROPERTIES PROMINENT—"BEAR" AND OTHER ATTACKS.

In times like the present, when the public are out of the markets and the investor sits on the fence or on his cash-box, undue importance is attached to attacks either in the Press or in the Stock Exchange upon this or that property. After recent speculative collapses even the strongest groups have to sustain these raids, and some of the jobbers in the "Kangaroo" department are only too pleased to lend themselves to the depreciation of such shares. These tactics may be effective for the present, but the time will come when they will recoil upon the originators. The advice I should like to give to those who hold shares in sound and substantial properties and finance companies is not to allow themselves to be frightened out, but to sit tight, and if they can afford to do so and to take the shares up, to average. In the meantime, even the most enterprising of "Bears" have been unable to depress the shares in leading Hannan's properties to any extent. In fact, if rumour be correct, the ursine party have been badly caught in Golden Horseshoes, which have advanced to $10\frac{3}{8}$, reacting, however, to $9\frac{15}{16}$, Lake View Consols stand at 9, Ivanhoe at $6\frac{5}{16}$, and although Hannan's Brownhill have reacted to 8, anyone selling a "Bear" of these shares would at present give hostages to fortune, as within the next fortnight the announcement of large crushings with the new machinery erected by the London and Hamburg Gold Recovery Corporation may be expected. Then there is the Great Boulder Proprietary Company, the shares in which have declined to 17s. 6d. on a somewhat acrimonious discussion of the promotion of the Boulder Milling and Mining Company, which is to treat the tailings of the Great Boulder. The directors have now issued a circular to the shareholders, and for my part I should think that it would be far the best plan to leave the matter to them, as being chiefly interested. The list of crushings is not a particularly long one for the past week, but it contains some important results. It is as follows:—

	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings Per Ton.
Great Boulder Proprietary ...	1,440	3,025	—
Peak Hill Goldfield	346	1,258	—
Red Hill Gold Syndicate ...	5 cwt	550	—
Premier	472	516	—
Bayley's United (Tailings) ...	890	946	—
Belle Vue Proprietary	493	872	—
Hannan's Crœsus	52	53	—
Sugar Loaf (25 Mile)	53	155	$7\frac{1}{2}$ dwts.
Queensland Menzies	230	577	—
Brownhill Central	10	25	—

The Peak Hill return will at once attract attention. It is described as the result of treating by battery amalgamation only 346 tons of kaolin and quartz ore in their natural proportions, the yield being 1,258 oz. of smelted gold. The cablegram adds that the mill was immediately restarted on 500 tons of ore, and that a rich body of ore in the 120-ft. level has been struck. The Peak Hill Goldfield is the property which has more particularly been discussed in connection with alluvial mining, but the statements which found their way into the press concerning the "jumping" of the property have been grossly exaggerated, and there is reason for stating that a little clique in Perth (W.A.) did their very best to encourage a few alluvial diggers to make an attack on the Company, and to exaggerate this attack in reports which found their way to this country in order to engineer a "Bear" campaign. In this they have been unsuccessful, as shown by the present price of the shares of $2\frac{5}{8}$. Neither can it be said that this is a "rigged" market, as there are about 800 shareholders on the register, and at the carry-over the contango of 8 per cent. eased off to a sixpenny backwardation. It will be remembered that the Hon. E. H. Wittenoom, now on his way to this country to assume the duties of Agent-General, when the attack of the alluvial diggers was made, introduced a temporary regulation that alluvial diggers should not go below 10 ft. This has since been repealed, but the question must be dealt with in a complete manner. A Royal Commission has recently reported in Perth (W.A.), on the subject, and the following were its recommendations:—

1. That in future holders of leases for claims shall be entitled to all the gold within their boundaries.

2. That no leases be granted over exclusively alluvial ground, and that before any application for a lease is approved a careful inspection be made by the Government to ascertain whether the ground is likely to prove alluvial.

3. That, subject to the general principles of the foregoing recommendations, no lease be granted within twelve months from the passing of the proposed Amendments Act at the present goldfields where alluvial gold is known to exist, and that no lease be issued for future goldfields for twelve months after the proclamation of the field.

4. That alluvial gold be defined as all gold except that found in a seam, lode, dyke, vein, or quartz reef.

These recommendations, however, in no way solve the question. To begin with, it is imperative that the West Australian Government should safeguard the absolute security of English capital invested in mining properties in the Colony, and the security of the leases is the one condition upon which British capital would be forthcoming for the development of the country. Having consulted some experts on the subject, I am enabled to place the following suggestions before my readers, with regard precisely to the recommendations of the Commission:—

No. 1.—That the amendment of the Act should protect present leaseholders as well as all future leaseholders from any interference whatever from alluvial miners, and that the leases granted should give the owner an absolute title to all the gold within his boundaries, if the amended Act cannot be made retrospective, it should at any rate be made retrospective after a year has

elapsed, during which time the alluvial miners may be able to exercise any of the rights that they now possess.

No. 2.—The granting of leases should certainly not be restricted on alluvial or any other ground. The country is large enough to give all the scope that is necessary to the nomadic tribe of alluvial diggers, and the more they are driven out of the centres that have become occupied by bonâ fide leaseholders, the more quickly will the country become opened up and developed, as they will be forced to go into pastures new. The Government had certainly better not interfere in the question of inspecting properties for determining whether alluvial exists.

No. 3.—If properly carried out this suggestion does not call for comment, as long as the nature of alluvial gold is properly defined.

No. 4.—It is thought that the only one thing that will bring peace and prosperity to Western Australia, having regard to what has been stated under No. 1, will be to frame Clause No. 4 in such a way that no gold shall be defined as alluvial below 10 ft. from the surface of the ground, and that no gold shall be considered alluvial that is contained within a matrix of quartz, cement, kaolin, or any other material which requires blasting, shooting, or crushing for the purpose of obtaining the gold. That really is what practically governs alluvial ground in Western Australia that can be of any service to the alluvial digger. The colony should not be legislated for as though it were a country which had been subject to the glacial period, and so forth, where rivers had been running centuries ago, and river beds had gradually accumulated immense alluvial deposits hundreds of feet below the present surface. No such state of affairs exists in Western Australia, and therefore the mining laws should not make the position ambiguous and uncertain by seeking to give opportunities to alluvial diggers for finding gold where it is known that it does not exist.

I feel sure that Sir John Forrest and the West Australian Government will duly weigh the important questions which are involved in the future mining regulations in the Colony. From the Golden Ridge Proprietary the discovery of a well-defined lode between walls of diorite is reported. From the Red Hill (West Australian) Gold Syndicate a cablegram sent by the manager states that 5 cwt. of ore cleaned up for 550 oz., and that pyrites rich in gold assaying 55 oz. per ton have been struck. The question is, of course, how much of this class of ore is obtainable, and whether it is merely a "pocket" or a reef. The West Australian Market Trust group has been steady, the shares of the Trust being quoted 1s. 9d., Northern Terrors $\frac{15}{16}$, West Australian Joint Stock Trust and Loan and General Finance $\frac{11}{16}$. Notices have been issued convening a joint meeting of the shareholders in the West Australian Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation and the West Australian Loan and General Finance Corporation, for the purpose of hearing a statement as to the position and future policy of the companies, and of considering the principle of consolidation of the two undertakings by means of an amalgamation scheme. It is stated that there is to be no assessment upon the shares. It would undoubtedly be desirable to bring about a consolidation of these shares, and more especially it is to be hoped that the Founders' will be merged in the others. In view of the various false and malicious rumours which have been propagated, an announcement has been made by the Directors of the London and Globe Finance Corporation to the effect that the Company has had a very prosperous year, that the balance-sheet will show handsome profits, and that a further dividend will be declared in due course. These shares are quoted 21s. 6d. to 22s., and I strongly advise holders not to part with them at these prices. Lady Shentons have been steady at $2\frac{1}{8}$ to $2\frac{1}{4}$, and it is rumoured that the next crushings will be even better than recent returns, in which case we shall no doubt see a further improvement. With reference to the Florence Mine the announcement is made that the clean-up from the plates for a yield of 131 oz. of gold refers to the bullion left on the plates from the ore crushed from other companies, which now reverts to the Florence, and the intention exists of crushing from the Company's own reef, which, as my readers are aware, is the Lady Shenton lode. This means that an early trial crushing of the Company's own ore on its 5-stamp battery is promised. Associated Gold Mines have improved to $3\frac{13}{16}$, and West Australian Goldfields have been fairly steady at $1\frac{1}{8}$, while Hampton Plains are dull at $\frac{1}{2}$. Londonderry have attracted a little more attention, being quoted 3s. 9d., and some business has transpired in Hannan's Props. at 10s. 3d. In both shares an advance is probable. The Sons of Gwalia mine is doing well, and the shares are firm at $1\frac{7}{8}$. It is strange that East Murchison United, now quoted $\frac{1}{8}$, should not yet have gone ahead. At Saturday's carry-over rates were lower than last time, ranging from 6 to 9 per cent. In fact, Golden Horseshoes were arranged at even, and Ivanhoe at 8 per cent, while London and Globe, on which the charge was at first heavy, finally eased off to 2 per cent. There is certainly no unwieldy account open in this market, and any recommencement of active purchases would doubtless produce a rise. By the way, there at last appears to be a prospect of Perth W.A. being equipped with an electric tramway. A concession was granted some months ago, but the concessionaires quarrelled amongst themselves, and the project ended in lawsuits. I am now told, however, that the concession has been taken over by responsible people, who have every intention of constructing the line. Had Perth been in America or in South Africa, it would no doubt already have been provided with an electric tramway some years ago. I certainly should think that a properly managed electric tramway in the very progressive capital of Western Australia would pay well if not over-capitalised.

INDIAN, AUSTRALASIAN, AND OTHER MINES.

In the Indian section transactions have been few and far between, and prices have eased off, with the exception of Mysore Reefs, which have improved. Ooregum and Mysore Gold, however, are lower. In Australian mines, other than West Australian, Aladdin's Lamp have been firmer, and there has been an improvement in Wentworth. On the other hand, Mount Lyell have continued to show great weakness, owing to the rumour mentioned last week, and quotations are again lower at 8 for Mount Lyell, while Mount Lyell North are down to $1\frac{11}{16}$, Mount Lyell South to $\frac{15}{16}$, Mount Lyell West to $\frac{7}{16}$. Mount Morgan have been steady at $4\frac{11}{16}$. In New Zealand mines Woodstock are firmer at $\frac{3}{4}$, and Waihi have hardened; but Taitapu, United New Zealand Exploration, and Waitekauri Extended are all lower. In British Columbian mines changes have been few and in the downward direction, Klondyke Mining, Trading, and Transport, and Klondyke Bonanza, and Klondyke North Western Territories having given way. British America Corporation shares have been unduly depressed, as advices from the Company's properties continue very satisfactory. The latest advices from the Le Roi Mine are to the effect that an entirely new ore chute has been struck at the west end of the 600 ft. level, which proves to be between 6 ft. and 12 ft. wide, and is described as of the same character as the ore found in the old chute, assaying from $20 to $30 in gold, and 4 per cent. in copper. It is added that the showing in the bottom of the shaft is the finest that has ever been disclosed in the mine, so that the property evidently gets richer as they sink deeper. Considerable interest has been aroused by the flotation of another British Columbian Company, viz., the Associated Gold Mines of British Columbia, with a capital of £500,000. The extent of the properties acquired by this Company is very large, the schedule of ninety-six properties covering 4,900 acres of auriferous ground in various districts, and if these have been carefully selected, it is more than probable that a large number will prove very valuable.

AN AUSTRALIAN EDEN—THE SEQUEL.

I am glad to see that my repeated strictures under the above heading, in which I urged some measure of compensation to settlers on the Mildura properties—whereby so many British and Colonial investors have been victimised through Messrs. Chaffey Bros., are at last bearing fruit. Not that the measure now proposed is at all an adequate one, but it at least shows a disposition on the part of the Colony of Victoria to recognise its responsibility in regard to an enterprise which was ostensibly carried on with its fulest sanction. Sir Andrew Clarke, Agent-General for Victoria, has now received a despatch from the Premier of that Colony, stating, with regard to the question of the issue of Crown grants to settlers at Mildura, who paid Messrs. Chaffey

Bros. in full for their land, but who failed to obtain titles, that he proposes to introduce a Bill into Parliament to authorise the issue of Crown grants to those persons and other purchasers who paid in full for their land. Any such persons as above mentioned must, if they have not already done so, at once apply to be included in the provisions of the proposed Bill, otherwise no claim on their account can be recognised. I draw the special attention of readers of TRUTH to this announcement, to which I hope, in the interests of the victims, every publicity will be given.

THE JUBILEE SELECT VIEWS AND LUNCHEON SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

Under this title a Company was started last year for the purpose of dealing in window seats, &c., on the route of the Royal Procession on Jubilee Day, with a capital of £10,000. Unlike the various Jubilee and Commemoration Syndicates, this enterprise hid its light under a bushel, with the result that very little is known concerning it. That, however, has not prevented those connected with this Syndicate obtaining money from the public, and I have before me particulars of a case in which the sum of £25 was remitted for twenty-five shares of £1 each. On examination of the register at Somerset House only the names of the usual seven signatories are found as original subscribers, six of whom are clerks, while the seventh is Thomas Fenwick. My correspondent has never been able to get a statement of affairs either from the secretary or directors, with the exception of a letter, dated March 22, in which Mr. Thomas Fenwick stated that although it is true he was a director of the Company his connection with it ceased several months before. He further stated that the sum subscribed by the public was very small, amounting to only two or three hundred pounds, and that this was expended in securing premises, no balance remaining to pay the cost of winding up, as the seats in some instances were let for only a few shillings each. Then followed on April 30 an offer from T. Fenwick & Co., of 63-64, New Broad-street, E.C., of two debentures of the Patent Gas Enrichment Syndicate, Limited, in order to make good the loss in the Jubilee Syndicate above referred to. This offer my correspondent very wisely declined, and on looking at the prospectus of the Patent Gas Enrichment Syndicate I have come to the conclusion that an investment in it is certainly most undesirable. Mr. Fenwick, however, will hardly get off so easily with reference to the Jubilee Select Views and Luncheon Syndicate, Limited. It is all very well to resign from the board, but he and his co-Directors are still responsible for the money obtained from the public. The Directors are A. McAuslane, Northolme, Highgate, London, N.; and T. Fenwick, 63-64, New Broad-street, London, E.C. The bankers are stated in the prospectus as the Economic Bank, Limited, 34, Old Broad-street, E.C.; contractors and grand stand builders, W. Humphrys & Son, Peckham Rye, London, S.E.; secretary, L. White, and the offices, 63, New Broad-street, London, E.C. I hope that the other shareholders who have been victimised in this Syndicate will at once take measures to call the directors to account, and it may be as well mentioned that Mr. T. Fenwick has been connected with a number of badly-conceived or undesirable promotions, such as the Insurances Corporation, the Merchants' Fire Office, the Non-Tariff Mutual Fire Insurance Company, &c. These have not by any means proved gold mines for the investor, and under the circumstances the heading of the prospectus of the Patent Gas Enrichment Syndicate, "Not a gold mine thousands of miles away, but should prove a gold mine in London," is particularly refreshing.

NEW ENTERPRISES AND ISSUES.

The prospectuses of the following new enterprises and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Associated Gold Mines of British Columbia, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire ninety-six promising mining properties in British Columbia, a large majority of which are gold mines, to acquire, as opportunities offer, other mining properties, and to carry on the business of transport and trading; also to form subsidiary Companies, to take over mining properties as they are developed, or any other business established by this Company. The capital is fixed at £500,000, in shares of £1 each, of which 125,000 are set aside for the provision of working capital. The present issue is of 205,000 shares.

This Company has acquired large properties, and some of the mines thereon have machinery already erected. The purchase price, £375,000, should not prove excessive when the number and importance of the claims are considered. Another source of profit will arise from the trading and transport business, and the Board is a strong one, so that the possibilities of the Company are considerable.

The Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries, Limited.—This is an issue of £100,000 Four per Cent. Irredeemable "A" Mortgage Debenture Stock at par. The Company was incorporated in 1890, with a share capital of £150,000 in Preference and Ordinary shares of £10 each, and an issue of Four and a Half per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures of £100,000. Since the incorporation of the Company, dividends varying from 5 to 8 per cent. have been paid on the Ordinary shares, while over £27,000 has been written off for repairs, &c., £16,000 for depreciation, and a reserve fund of £20,600 has also been accumulated.

The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring a freehold property in Southport known as the Southport Winter Gardens, including the Opera House, Circus, Pavilion, Aquarium, Conservatories, and shop properties, &c. The share capital is fixed at £150,000, in Preference and Ordinary shares of £1 each, and an issue of £100,000 Four per Cent. Debenture stock, of which £75,000 is now offered for subscription.

The promoters of this concern appear to be depending upon outside support to make it a success. They must not forget that Blackpool, with many more attractions, is but a few miles off, and will always command the larger portion of visitors. The support from the town itself can be but small, as there are only about 42,000 inhabitants. The capital, too, is excessive.

The Continental Sparklets Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire and work "Aerators" (Système Sterné) in France, Russia, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Spain, and Luxemburg. The capital is £240,000 in Preference and Ordinary shares of £1 each.

This is an untried invention, which may possibly have others to oppose it. The capital is excessive, and until it is proved that it supplies a needed want, the success of the Company must be considered doubtful.

King & Mortimer, Limited.—With an authorised share capital of £160,000, divided into 16,000 Preference shares of £5 each, 80,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each, and a Four and a Half per Cent. Mortgage Debenture stock of £40,000, this Company has been formed to acquire high-class businesses and business premises either in London or the provinces with a view to their development as local centre stores. The business of Mr. Robert King, of South Kensington, and Mr. George Mortimer, of Fulham, with their branches have already been secured.

MY LETTER BOX.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

GOVERNMENT, &C., BONDS.

Roland.—There is every prospect of Argentines maintaining their present quotations, and I do not advise you to sell your stocks. *D. F.*—Yes, Uruguay bonds should be held, and you should certainly not part with your Mexican Sixes, as the country is making great progress. *S. H., Stafford.*—If you give me the numbers of the Paris Exhibition and Ottoman bonds you hold I shall be pleased to ascertain for you whether they have yet been drawn or not.

BANKS, TRUSTS, AND FINANCIAL.

Saint Vincent.—The Eastern Bank in question was very badly received; and the shares were not well placed. As far as I know, there is no market for them. Your friends should sell if they can, and you might write to the secretary of the Bank and ask whether he knows of any buyers. *Alice.*—Quite a fifth-rate insurance concern; have nothing to do with it, but insure only with large high-class offices. In the matter of life insurance, this is the first consideration. *Croxley.*—You cannot expect me to give information about every Australian life office, and I do not know enough of the one mentioned by you to express an opinion.

CHINA AND GLASS. — Messrs. GOODE, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

Be very careful. *A. M., Manchester.*—You cannot be a regular reader of TRUTH or else you would know my view with regard to the Provident Association of London. It does not fulfil the promises made in its prospectus, and I advise you not to have anything to do with it. *Excelsior.*—I do not think there is any prospect of an improvement in these shares, and you had better sell them for what you can get. *P. M. G., Tralee.*—If you were to read your TRUTH regularly, you would have known that J. Edwards & Co., the outside syndicate touts, late of Talbot House, Arundel street, W.C., decamped long ago, but not before I warned all my readers to have nothing to do with them.

HOME RAILS.

City W.—I. Spiers & Pond Ordinary shares are very cheap at the present price, and I certainly advise you to hold the same. II. I think that before committing yourself in Great Northern Deferred any further you should await the effect of the opening of the Great Central extension to London. III. I certainly advise you to hold Great Central 1894 Five per Cent. Prefs., but for any further purchase you should select the 1894 Ordinary. IV. This would be distinctly preferable to Midland Deferred, and amongst the Heavies I should consider North Westerns the best purchase. *Glen B.*—I. No; the Central London will not be in direct competition to the District, but the hope that some closer relations would be established between the Metropolitan and the District has so far not been fulfilled, and this is the reason why the stock has not further improved. 2. The comparison of the District traffic was with that for the week before the Jubilee last year, so that the decrease had no effect upon the quotation.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN RAILS.

S. W. C.—I should certainly advise you to hold these bonds, which can only be affected in a favourable manner by the reorganisation in question. *Pat.*—I do not know that you will get so big a profit as that if you hold Missouri, Kansas, and Texas, but you will doubtless get a fair profit if you hold long enough. *Widow.*—Inter-Oceanic of Mexico Prior Lien bonds (1) are a good purchase, and although more speculative, the "A" Debentures of the same line at about 70 are also very promising. 2. These Mexican Government Six per Cent. bonds are promising. 3. No reason why you should not invest in Denver First Four per Cent. Mortgage bonds, but the Brazilian stock, No. 4, had better be left alone. I see no reason for selling Nos. 5 and 6, but if you have a profit on No. 7, it would be as well to take it. 8. Do not sell New York Central shares now, as directly the war is over there will be a big rise in all American Rails. *Henricus.*—The Delagoa Bay arbitration is still in progress, but there is every prospect of a decision being given at an early date. *Junius.*—Brazilian railway stocks have suffered together with the Government securities, but I should not advise you to sell out now.

MINING SHARES.

Wight.—Monger's W.A. Stores are apparently doing a fair business, but no dividend has so far been declared, neither has there been time to earn one. *J. C. F.*—1. I think you should consider seriously whether it would not be advisable to join this reconstruction. 2. I should certainly not sell W.A. Market Trusts at the present price, as after the assessment has been paid they are sure to go better. 3. Likely to recover. *W. J.*—Great Boulder Proprietary shares should certainly be worth their present price of 17s. 6d. *J. G. S.*—I really cannot give you any more information than that you will be able to obtain on application to the secretary of the Company. *T.*—I think your alarm is quite groundless. There is at present a tendency to unduly depreciate mining shares, even the very best, for which however there exists no foundation. Thus I think that, for instance, Glencairn and most of the other South Africans held by you should stand at much higher prices. This also applies to London and Globe and British America Corporation, which you should certainly hold, and you will do well not to be intimidated by the "Bearish" rumours. If you are a holder of Lady Shentons you should certainly disregard the lawsuit, which had nothing whatever to do with the property. *Monmoor.*—1. I cannot discover any reason for the decline in the shares of this Company, which is doing well. 2. I should not recommend the investment. 3. No, I cannot give you any information about the financial position of this West Australian Company. 4. You should stand where you are, although I think that the future of the Londonderry is favourable. 5. Leave these people alone. If you want to put your money into such concerns, you should deal only through respectable foreign bankers located in London. *White Horse.*—I have been unable to obtain any recent information about this Company. *Shareholder.*—I am afraid that prospects are not very bright, and I have heard no recent news with regard to the Company. *Glenrosa.*—It would be advisable to average, as you propose, as an important recovery is probable. *Cornish.*—I have no favourable opinion of either of the two West Australian mining Companies mentioned, and therefore should not like to advise you. *Kinsale.*—No; I do not consider that there is any ground for the criticisms in question, and I think that if you hold your shares and buy more to average you will eventually do well. *Pen.*—I certainly should not advise you to abandon your interest in this concern, as there is a possibility of an appreciation of the Company's assets. *Provident.*—1. You should hold all your mining shares Nos. 1 to 10, which are well selected. 2. There is every prospect of a recovery, and I still have a favourable opinion of No. 6. 3. No; I do not believe in the various Mount Lyell shares, and have never done so, their prices being excessive. *Celtic.*—1. It is a question which I must leave you to decide for yourself, as I have never recommended these shares. 2. There is every prospect of Randfontein improving again. *T. W., Brighton.*—1. The Witwatersrand Deep is a promising Company, and the shares stand at 1⅞. 2. Not yet. *Carbon.*—1. The Company is doing well, and I cannot understand the weakness of the shares, unless there is need of further capital. 2. A very fair prospect of an improvement. 3. Certainly; Hannan's Props. are worth picking up.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

Tobacco.—This Company has not been received very favourably, and there is no market for the shares at present, but there may be presently if the Company does well, and you had better wait. *Wire.*—Such Companies as the Wireless Telegraph are very speculative, and I should not like to advise you in the matter. *Wimbledon.*—I do not see exactly that your investment in No. 1 is hopeless, but the other stocks mentioned are certainly not promising, and you should realise if you can. *Carnation.*—There is no market for these shares. You might write to the secretaries of the respective companies and ask them if they can offer you a price for the same. *T. T.*—When some of the weak holders of Welsbach Ordinary have sold out the stocks will doubtless improve again. It is certainly a case for averaging. *A. M., Accrington.*—You might as well take your profit on A. B. I do not advise purchase of the cycle shares Nos. 1 to 3 for the present.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

H. W. B.—With regard to your holding Nos. 1 to 9, I consider Nos. 5, 6, and 7 the most promising, but I have no favourable opinion of the others. With reference to Palmarejo I should not advise you to throw further good money after bad. *Meteor.*—The W.A. mining shares in question are fair value at the present price, and you should certainly hold your Louisville for an improvement and buy more to average. *J. E. C., Leeds.*—1. No; I have not a favourable opinion of the system of the British Natural Premium Insurance Company. 2. No. 3. No reason to buy. 4. Not yet. *Woodcock.*—I have no particular liking for any of the stocks mentioned Nos. 1 to 5, but if you are a holder I do not see that you will gain anything by selling now. What do you wish me to tell you? *Border Boy.*—1. Chatham Ordinary are full value at their present price. 2. No; there is absolutely no truth in any of the rumours of reconstruction of the London and Globe Finance Corporation, and this report has been officially contradicted. You should not believe all these rumours. 3. I must leave this to you.

MY CHAPTER ON INDUSTRIAL STOCKS.

This nineteen-day account has been a very unsatisfactory one in the Industrial market, and prices show an all-round decline. For all that, it is not by any means believed that investors will altogether forsake this section, and, on the contrary, after the very considerable shake-out which has taken place, rallies are anticipated. This should more particularly be the case with Welsbach stocks, after the fall in the Ordinary to 108, in the Preferred to 95½ xd, in the Deferred to 16s. 6d. I should certainly advise all holders of these stocks to stick tight to them, as an important recovery is certain to come about. The recent reaction in Welsbachs has no doubt been due partly to closing by a few stale "Bulls," and on the mistaken opinion that the new Hydro-Incandescent Gas Company was to be a competing concern, while it is really controlled by the Welsbach. The first batch of letters of allotment has just been issued. I hear of large orders resulting from the recent exhibition of the different Welsbach lights and burners in London and the provinces, and the street lighting has given great satisfaction where recently carried out. Anglo stocks, perhaps, alone in the whole market, have shown strength, in view of the large earnings which are accruing from the Spanish-American war. Anglo "A" are quoted 16⅞, the "B" stock 117. Oil shares have been lower all round, Russian Oil declining to 2 3/16, Schiabieff Ordinary to 1 1/16, the Prefs. to 4⅝. An attempt has been made to establish a market in Baku Ordinary, but so far the price is only quoted at par, with very little business. Threads have reacted to 1⅜, and Spinners are quoted 1/16 to ⅛ premium. Coats' Ordinary at 60½ are fairly steady. In Fish Oil shares business has been restricted, the quotation being 3¾, and Volenite shares have been dealt in at 4½. Bovrils have been steady, the Ordinary at 19s. 6d., the Deferred at 14s.; but very little business has been done in Schweppes, the Preferred being quoted 1 1/16, the Ordinary 1⅛, the Deferred ⅝. Even in Liptons very little business is doing, the being

quoted $2\frac{1}{8}$, the Preferred at $1\frac{3}{16}$. Salmon and Gluckstein are being dealt in to a fair extent at 34s., and Lyons stand at $3\frac{7}{8}$. The new Lyons shares stand quite as high as the old ones, and are not fully-paid up yet, the last call of 10s. being due on Monday, July 4. Having been issued at 3, they are now quoted $\frac{13}{16}$ to $\frac{15}{16}$ premium. Apollinaris have rallied to $10\frac{1}{8}$. Some business is reported in tobacco shares, British Delhi Prefs. at $\frac{3}{4}$, the Ordinary at $\frac{1}{4}$, Sumatra Tobacco at 5s., United Lankat at 2. The tone for electric light shares has been somewhat steadier, holders having got over their fright as regards coming competition from the vestries. Westminsters have improved to $16\frac{1}{4}$, from which there has again been a reaction to 15. In cycle shares the tone has been unfavourable, and prices are generally lower. Dunlop Deferred are quoted 8s., the Ordinary being unaltered for the week at 15s. The Directors' report just issued makes a good showing, as, after paying 5 per cent. on the Deferred and all prior charges, £38,963 is carried forward. Humbers Prefs. have maintained themselves at 13s., but the Ordinary are slightly lower at 9s. 6d., the Extensions at 4s. Cycle Components are easier at $1\frac{1}{16}$, and Singer Ordinary at 7s. 6d. xd. have eased off, and Swifts at 9s. 9d. are slightly lower. Amalgamated Tyres at 3s. 6d. are neglected. A circular has been issued by the directors of the Hydraulic Jointing Company, Limited, stating that, as Mr. Hooley is not in a position to complete his contracts, they have resolved not to adopt the contracts for the flotation of the Company, and to return in full the subscriptions of the shareholders. It appears that the directors of the Hydraulic Joint Syndicate, Limited, have now arranged for the necessary working capital to carry on the business themselves, and the directors of the British Company have accepted seats on the board of the Syndicate. The capital of the Syndicate already issued is £400,000, which it is now proposed to increase by the addition of £50,000 in Ordinary shares. Hudson's Bay shares are not at all a bad market at $20\frac{5}{8}$, and with 13s. per share dividend off on Wednesday they will look very cheap, although the Directors' report is very colourless. It is, however, pointed out that the Klondyke traffic is only now passing through the Company's property, and that a good many settlers will be obtained in that way. Allsopps touched $154\frac{1}{2}$ last account, but reacted to $149\frac{1}{4}$, and on some influential buying rose smartly to $152\frac{3}{4}$, and now stand at 151. I hear good accounts of the Company's business, and some very sanguine people are talking the Ordinary up to 185 for the autumn. Theatre and music-hall shares have not been inquired for, this being the off-season, but prices are fairly well maintained. Gaiety Theatres one day last week touched $1\frac{9}{16}$ on the lease being renewed for twenty-one years, while "The Runaway Girl" is also going on well. A setback to 27s. 6d. subsequently took place, but the last price was about $1\frac{7}{16}$. Palace Theatre shares have been quite neglected at about $1\frac{3}{16}$, while Drury Lane, 15s. paid for the £1 shares, have been moderately inquired for at about 1. An interim dividend of 10 per cent. was paid in February last, and the market expects another 10 per cent. next month. Alhambra have been rather offered at about £19. Empires are dull, while Oxfords have been firm. Tivoli are always a very difficult market to deal in, and they now stand at 12, while shares are scarce. Millars' Karri and Davies' Karri Wood shares have been dull and neglected, Millars standing at 3, Davies at $1\frac{3}{8}$. Canning Jarrah shares are firm at $1\frac{3}{16}$, and it is stated that the Company has some very large orders in hand, one being for 6,000,000 sleepers. Natal Steam Coal seem inclined to go higher, the steady improvement in the output during the last month or two, and the higher price obtained for coal at Durban, having been very beneficial to this Company, whose shares now stand at $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{3}{8}$. Jeremiah Rotheram & Co's shares, which have appeared in the market, seem to be "rigged" to some extent. For the £1 shares to be quoted $\frac{9}{16}$ premium at the outset, and the Prefs. at $\frac{3}{16}$ premium, is certainly making the most of a Shoreditch drapery business.—Your affectionate Uncle,

MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

THE LITTLE LADY AT LORD'S.

[This is another of the true "Queer Story" series, of which I promised further instalments in a previous issue. As I have already said in the columns of TRUTH, I do not vouch for these stories on my own account; for I have not the time, if I had the inclination, to take the necessary steps to test their veracity. All I can guarantee is that the authors, in each case, say that they are true And these ladies and gentlemen are, I suppose, entitled to as much credence as other people. Personally, I may add—and probably most of my readers would endorse this view—it is quite immaterial to me whether a story is *vero* or *ben trovato*, provided it is a good story. As far, therefore, as I am concerned, I simply offer these "true" stories as fiction, like the others.—Ed. TRUTH.]

SOME years ago, when I was first elected on the Committee of the M.C.C., Tom Tattenhall was still one of the club's ground staff—a veteran then, and already somewhat stiff in the joints for active service. But he was so famous, so popular, and so much respected, that he was kept on longer than he would otherwise have been, on sentimental grounds. He had his benefit—a mighty good benefit it was—during my tenure of office, and retired into private life as a publican in a Surrey village, where he now keeps (and long may he continue to keep!) the "Bat and Ball," in a manner unexceptionable, a credit to his calling and a source of unspeakable pride to the villagers, who are justly proud to have their glasses filled by a hand that, in its time, could make the ball "do" more than any other hand that ever trundled.

Sometimes, even now, of a summer's evening, old Tom will turn out on the village cricket-green, and puzzle the young idea, at the practice nets, with slow teasers that twist in all directions. When he takes off his coat and turns back his shirt cuff, it is a signal for all not actively engaged to gather round the net, and watch and admire and exclaim. "Look'ee there now!" "Good-night! Did 'ee ever see the loike of that?" "Ah! Jack, my lad, thee hast summat to do with *those!*" And old Tom, still as keen as ever to hit the stumps, or to catch and bowl his man, fights his famous battles over again as he trundles to the rustics. "Don't be downcast, Jim. That was the very ball I took Murdoch with at Lord's in '82"; or "Aha! No wonder you put up that one in the slips, Teddy. W.G. did the same at the Oval in '78; but Fred Morley fumbled the catch, and didn't I bless him!" or "Ah, Charlie, my boy, if you get your leg in front of those, yon'll have to make tracks for the Pavilion, as George Ulyett had to do on a memorable occasion. Good old George! How well I remember his saying to me, as he passed: 'Devil take you, Tom,' he sez, 'what the p'leeceman d'ye mean by not makin' it break away to leg, as I expected? And you curled your wrist and all,' he sez. 'It's a bloomin' case of false pretences.'" But there, if I once get telling these little anecdotes of Tom Tattenhall, I shall never stop; and the story which I have set myself to relate will be cramped and crowded out. Therefore will I put the curb upon my pen, and from henceforth confine myself to the episode (*cujus pas magna fuit* Tom Tattenhall) of the little lady at Lord's.

It was told to me by Tom himself in his private parlour at the "Bat and Ball," whereinto I, as a privileged acquaintance, was admitted one Sunday last summer (calling at that hostel a tea-desiring cyclist), to drink the cup that cheers, &c., in company with mine host and his comely little spouse, a model of plump good-temper and admiring wifeliness. Whatever Tom did was right; whatever Tom said was good. When my own fate overtakes me, may the wife of my bosom be another such.

Tom was in good vein that afternoon. I drew him on. He spun me many a cricket yarn, recounting his own most notable experiences. Some I had heard from his lips before, some I had not; and of these latter, that which interested and amused me far the most is the story which I am now about to reproduce. Tom's yarn in print is, of

necessity, a vastly feebler thing than Tom's yarn as orally delivered. So much depended on his droll expression, his inimitable wink, his referential gesture. But even shorn of these, it should be found amusing; the more so as I report the incident, as nearly as possible, in Tom's own racy and original language.

That Sunday happened to be the Sunday preceding the 'Varsity cricket-match, in which I, an old Cambridge blue, was naturally interested, and I took the opportunity to ask Tom his opinion of the rival teams. This he expressed to me at some length and with his usual discrimination; and, having done so, he said to me, a sudden twinkle coming into his expressive eye:—

"By the way, sir, talking of the 'Varsity cricket match, I don't believe I've ever told you the story of the little lady at Lord's. Have I?"

"No," I replied; "so far as I recollect, you never have!"

"Oh, do tell it the gentleman, Tom," said Mrs. T.; "I know it will make him laugh!"

"Yes, do tell it me," I seconded.

Chuckling to himself—a good omen, I thought, of something amusing in store—the old cricketer filled and lighted his pipe. Then he said:—"All right, sir! You shall hear the story of my little lady; how I sat beside her the whole of the first day at a 'Varsity match, and basked, so to speak, in the light of her bright eyes all that time. Ah, what a pretty little thing she was! So trim and dainty; so lovely, tender and innercent! Her voice—don't be jealous, missus—was sweeter music than the click of a catch at the wickets, and her smile give me a thrill down my back more delicious than beating and bowling W. G. himself. What's more, she was under my wing, and I had to pull her through a pretty stiff ordeel. And how she come under my wing, and what this stiff ordeel was, I will tell yer." This is his tale:—

A few days before that 'Varsity match, being in fack the previous Friday, I happen to be up at Lord's, watching Oxford against the M.C.C. The Oxford captain that year was a young gent from the West—now well-known in county cricket, though I'll take leave to suppress his name. I knowed him well, and was much interested in him, having been down to Oxford in the summer term for some years past, and having bowled to him there at the nets three or four times every week. And a nice young feller he was, as frank and friendly as you please. In fack we become great pals, and he, with all the openness of youth, make a confidence of me in all sorts of ways.

His guv'nor was a nice gent, too, by all accounts—for I'd never met him—but a different sort. Rather haughty (I was told), rather stern, and just a little overbearin'. Would have his own way, and make other people give him his own way, too, or know the reason why. Come of a cricket family. Put cricket before all things. I don't say but what there was virtue in that. There ain't many things that is fit to be put before cricket. But still there's a meejum; and this gent went beyond the meejum. To be nuts on making his only son a fust-class cricketer, and to spare no pains to do so, was right enough. But when it come to implicating cricket with the young feller's love affairs, it was a bit too thick. If you'd told him he was doing that—which I guess would have taken a bold man—he would have ridiculed the imputashun, and said it was no such thing. He'd have said that honestly, too. But, like many another of us, he was blind as a mole to his own weaknesses; being that crazed on cricket, and that fond of talking cricket, so as nobody never interested him who couldn't talk cricket. The consekence was that, without his being aware of it, his judgment of folks was all warped and turned askew, so to speak, by this mania of his; and even the fair sex—what might have been made an exception of—was all judged by him (unconsciously, I don't doubt, but none the less ackshally) with a eye to this pertiklar circumstance.

Now, there was gals down in the West sharp enough to twig this; them demure little things not always being so innercent as they looks. And there was one gal in pertic'lar as not only twigged the fack, but, if I may so say, rose at it like a dace at a dragon-fly. If you was to ask me her name, I should answer, "I ain't a goin' to tell;" females being females all the world over, and having the right, in virtue of their sex, to claim from us a consideration which they often don't deserve in virtue of theirselves. But I'll call her Miss Mary Smith. Now, that young woman didn't, I believe, care a twopenny damn for cricket, nor knew nutthink about it. But she did care for young Mr. James (as I'll style 'im), being a fine, handsome feller; and even more did she care for his persition and prospecks. She know also that it was a matter of A 1 importance to sniggle in with his guv'nor. So what must she do but suddently go crazed on cricket herself, and spend all her spare time in learning the theery and langwidge of the game, and swot up Lillywhite and other handbooks, until (being an uncommon clever gal) she had a really fine stock of cricket conversashun.

Having got this, she wait her chance of using it. And when her chance come, she didn't throw it away. On the contrary, she make the most of it, and she soon succeed in renderin' herself interesting to Mr. James's guv'nor. She wasn't a bad-looking gal, neither, and, to add to things, she had a little oof. And Mr. James's guv'nor, he soon begin to be saying to his son: "Nice gal, that Miss Smith." "A lot in that gal, my boy." "We must ask Miss Smith over to lunch." "You'll excuse me, won't yer, Miss Smith; I have some letters I must write; but Jim will show yer round the garden," &c. All of which vex Mr. James no end, for he saw Miss S. was setting traps for him; which, of itself, would have put him off, even if there hadn't been no third party.

But there was a third party. Mr. James had a cousin—a gal cousin. I won't give her name, neither—and, in fack, no names, my conneckshun with these matters being privit and confidenshal—but I'll call her Miss Nellie Jones. I've describe her already; for she is my little lady. Mr. James was in love with her, and she with him. Indeed, I have every reason to believe they was secretly engaged. But Mr. James's guv'nor had a poor opinion of her. "Little Miss Milk-and-water" he often speak of her as; "wax-doll," "nothing in her," and so on. The fack simply being that she couldn't talk cricket, knowing nothing about it; and not being artful, like her rival, it never occur to her to get the subjeck up.

Now Miss Nellie's mother—Mr. James's aunt—was all in favour of the match between her daughter and her nephew, and she co-operate with Mr. J., as far as she could, and in the course of these co-operations—for I must cut this part short—she write to her brother-in-law, Mr. J.'s guv'nor (this was the young feller's own suggestion), asking him if he would be kind enough to—wot d'yer call it?—shappyrone Miss Nellie to the Oxford and Cambridge match; she and her daughter having come to London on purpose to see it, but she (the mother) being unfortunately laid up with a bad chill. Mr. James's idea, with which his aunt agree, was that if his guv'nor was thrown together, so to speak, with sweet Miss Nellie for three whole days, he could not fail to be influenced in her favour by her charming looks and ways. Which I don't wonder at Mr. J. thinking so, she being a little lady as might have melted the heart of a relievin' officer.

Well, of course, Mr. J.'s guv'nor couldn't possibly refuse this request of his sister-in-law's; but he consider himself tremenjus ill-used by having it made to him, and complain to Mr. James of his grievance in no measured terms.

"Tied to a little doll like that all through the 'Varsity match—a girl of no conversahun, who didn't know one end of a cricket-bat from the other, and who would worry him from morning to night with ridik'lus questions about the game. Why's this? Why's that? Why are those two men wearing white coats? Why are the fieldsmen all changing their places? Why is that man with the bat walking away to the pavilion? He knew what it would be very well. What the devil did girls like that want coming to see cricket-matches? If it had been Miss Smith, now," &c.

Mr. James hisself told me all this, when he come to ask my assistance, and explain to me how his guv'nor's words had set him thinking; and that was why he apply to me

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for help. Now, what do you suppose was the help he want me to give him? You'd never guess. So I won't tease yer by asking yer to make shots. I'll just tell yer straight out what the young feller say to me, in his own words.

"Tom," he sez, "I want yer to do a chap a good turn."

"Always ready to oblige you, sir," I sez. "Show old Tom the way."

He give me a long rigmarole, telling me most of what I've told yer already. Then he go on:

"You're the one, Tom, as is to help my cousin Nellie turn the tables on Miss Smith."

"Now how on earth am I to do that, Mr. James?" I ask him.

"Listen to me, Tom," he sez. "I've made all the arrangements, if you're agreeable; as I believe you will be when you've heard my plan. I'm going to give you one of my member's tickets for the 'Varsity match, and you're to sit next my cousin Nellie."

"Only too proud, Mr. James," I sez, "but how can you be sure of my obtaining the seat next the young lady's, and what am I to do when I get there?"

"Oh, as to your first question," sez he, "I've fixed it up by the courtesy of the secretary. You see, the guv'nor has two tickets, as a member, which will account for hisself and Nellie. I also have two tickets, but (as the ballot fall out) for seats right at the other end of the show. However, I have seen Mr. Perkins, have found out from him the name of the Johnny who got the two seats next the guv'nor's, and have induced him to swop his places for mine—which, as mine were better, he was very willing to do. So you see that part of it's all right. And as to your second question,' he sez, 'just you give me your careful attention, Tom. You know my cousin is as ignorant of cricket as the babe unborn. Couldn't for the life of her tell the difference between point and short leg, or between a yorker and a long hop—bless her innocence! And the guv'nor's been lamenting, like one o'clock, that he's doomed to witness the match in the company of such an ignoramus. Now, if the guv'nor were to find that he'd been quite at fault in his estimate of Nell, and that she really can take a discriminating interest in the play, and can talk cricket shop like a perfessional, it would make all the difference, don't yer see?"

"Very likely, Mr. James," I sez. "But it's a tough nut, is that 'if,'" I sez; "for, from what you tell me, the young lady can't do that same at all."

"No, you old fat-head!" laugh Mr. James at me, in his playful way. "But *you* can."

And then he wink, and look at me so knowing, you can't think.

I begins to see his meaning, and as it dawn on me, I burst out laughin', the idea seem so rich.

"Oh, I see," I sez. "I'm to prompt Miss Nellie," I sez. "That's your game?" I sez.

"Precisely, Tom," he answer. "And fortunately, you see, the guv'nor's a little deaf, so he won't hear *you* if you pitch your voice in the *pp* tone," he sez. "But Nell will repeat what you say in the *ff*, so that he'll hear *her* right enough. What do you say, Tom? Are you on?"

I make a little demur, being of a cautious turn of mind. I ask him whether the game wouldn't be likely to go off better if he got a gentleman—one of his Oxford friends, say—to do the prompting. But he tell me he'd thought of that, and couldn't trust any of 'em, in such a matter, not to play him some practical joke, or give away the show through not being able to control hisself. But he knew he could rely on my discretion; that was why he appeal to me. Besides, when I'd got on my best topper and frock, I looked the equal of any gent. Might be a dook as far as any stranger could tell. And the guv'nor, who had only see me on the cricket-field, wouldn't never recognise me. Not that it would matter much if he did, for it was a thousand to one he'd not guess what I was there for. And on he go persuading and appealin', until at last I say 'yes,' and promise to do my best.

Then he grasp my hand in his hearty way, and he sez, sez he:

"'Tom, if you play the game successful,'" he sez, "it'll be worth more to you than takin' part in a England-Australia match,'" he sez.

"'Don't put it on that footing, Mr. James,'" I protest. "'I ain't a doing this in no commercial spirit, sir.'"

"'I know that, Tom. You're too good a sort,'" he was please to say. "'All the same, I don't forget them as does me good turns,'" he sez.

So it was arrange.

I went to Lord's on the Monday morning, feeling rather nervous and excited. I was afraid it might turn out that Mr. James's guv'nor would plant hisself in the chair next mine; in which case I should have found myself in a tight corner, having to talk across him. But my little lady had her buttons on, so to speak, and she come along first and flop herself into the chair next mine without a moment's hesitation. Then she glance my way, and I won't say she wink exackly, but she just droop one of her pretty eyelids, and I, without turning my head, just squint at her, as it were, round the corner. That was all that pass to show we understand each other and was ready. If Argosy hisself had been watching, he'd scarcely have twig it.

So, then, there we sit till play begin. Oxford win the toss, and, of course, take first knock. Mr. James's guv'nor, I see, hardly pay any attention to Miss Nellie, seeming not to think her worth talking to; "but," sez I to myself with a sort of inside chuckle, "we'll make you give the little lady her due before we've done; see if we don't, old cock."

Well, the two first Oxford batsmen come out, and play start. I watch every ball most careful and intent, being on the alert to pass the most knowing criticisms I could; nothing of the "Oh! Well hit!" or "Bravo!" style, of which any idjut is capable; but remarks as should show a real appreciashun of the niceties of the game. For I was quite determine, through the meejum of Miss Nellie, to make the little lady's supersil'us uncle open his eyes at her knowledge of cricket.

In about five minutes my first chance come. The bowler send down a good length ball—a real snorter—on the leg stump; and the batsman get it away cleverly for a single to the on. No one clap or take much notice, being only a single. But I mutter:

"Pretty!"

And Miss Nellie, she take it up, loud and clear:

"Pretty!" Not knowing who, or why, or what, but relying implicit on me.

Her uncle turn suddenly and look at her in surprise, but say nothing.

"Good." I thinks. "That's one to us, any way."

About two overs later, the same batsman, he cut at a ball, meaning to send it just behind point; but he mistime it and get it—lord knows how! I'll swear *he* didn't—between the wicket-keeper and short slip. Of course, it go to the pavilion-rails, and, of course, being a four, all the people clap.

"Flukey snick!" I murmurs.

"Flukey snick!" exclaim Miss Nellie.

Her uncle look at her again. He didn't say nothing, neither, this time. But there was more considerashun more respeck, I may even say, in the glance he turn on her.

By-and-by come another grand opportunity. One of the batsman give what look like a catch to extra-cover. And all the backers of Cambridge clap, thinking the man was out.

"Bump ball," I whispers.

"Bump ball!" cry out my little lady.

And right I was, as I knew; for, on appeal, the umpire give the man in.

This had a great effeck on Mr. James's guv'nor, who hisself had thought the man was out.

"God bless my soul, Nellie," he sez, turning to her in admiring astonishment, "I didn't know you was so well up in cricket. And what sharp eyes you have, my dear! Could you really see that at this distance?"

"Oh! I saw it quite distinctly, uncle," she sez, colouring and all confuse; which he take, naturally, as a sign of

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pleasure at the compliment; though old Tom know sumthink different.

After another dozen runs or so had been scored, the first Oxford wicket fall. It ain't no breach of confidence, I think, to say that Sammy Woods was the bowler, and he knock down the leg stump with that deadly fast yorker of his, which, when he was at his best, has cause the downfall of many a crack batsman.

"Yorkshire!" I murmurs.

"Yorkshire!" exclaim Miss Nell.

"Sammy Woods's pet pertiklar," I adds.

"Sammy Woods's pet pertiklar!" repeat the little lady; so artless and natural, as if I hadn't put her up to it myself, I'd have quite believe she'd said it on her own.

Well now, the "bump ball" had made a pretty average impreshun on her uncle, as I've said; but the "Yorkshire" combine with the "Sammy Woods's pet pertiklar" fetch the old boy a treat.

"Good heavens, child!" he exclaim, staring at her, as if he could hardly believe the evidence of his ears; "Why—why—where did you get your intimit knowledge of cricket? You—you—talk about it and—and seem to understand it like a professional!"

"Oh, Uncle!"—here little Miss colour again, and very taking she look in her confusion, I can tell yer—"I don't really understand it so very well. But—but—being so fond of it, make me grasp the points of the game better than some girls do, I think. Oh! I adore cricket" (cry pretty Miss Hypocrite, clasping her hands in front of her). "I'd—I'd—like to sit watching cricket matches all the summer."

"Do you know, my dear," said her Uncle, looking at her quite kind and affectionit, "when I brought you here to-day, I thought you'd care about nothing but watching the people and the dresses, and would simply treat a day at Lord's as a sort of smart picnic!"

"A picnic? Oh Uncle! And if there's one thing I grudge more than another on a day like this, it's the luncheon interval. I hate the name of luncheon at a cricket match, and I'm always in a perfect fever of impatience until they resume play. Oh, look! The—the—idiot!" Old T. had put in his oar again now, and she was repeating his words. "He's—he—'s gone forward to Sammy's slow ball. C and b, for a pony. There, didn't I say so?"

That put the cap on it, so ter speak. Mr. James's guv'nor was fair conquered. He pat my little lady's hand downright fondly, and he sez, sez he:—

"'Nell,' he sez, 'I never know what you was till this minnit. You're a girl in a thousand,' he sez."

At this point, Tom Tattenhall paused to rekindle his pipe, which had gone out in the course of narration. When it was fairly alight again, he finished off his story in the following laconic terms:—

"They was married a year later, with the old boy's warm approval. So far, they've been two girls. When it's a boy, I'm to stand godfather!"

MUSIC.

RATE-AIDED OPERA.

IF the various peers, politicians, and other distinguished persons, who signed the petition presented last week to the London County Council can have their way, paterfamilias may very shortly expect to see at the bottom of his rate paper—

Opera rate at 2s. in the £ ... ... £10.

Personally, of course my sympathies would certainly be with rate-aided opera if the scheme were only feasible. Nay, if these marquises and musicians would sign a petition to the County Council to pecuniarily assist me in my income tax, my cigar bill, and my annual vacation, as well as in the cost of my opera box, I should be infinitely happier. But the ratepayer has a knack of taking his own pocket into consideration. At County Council elections he is apt to throw out those who vote for extravagances, and therefore I fear I shall have to pay for my luxuries myself. One luminous writer, it is true, boldly suggests that the money should come out of the slender funds set apart for technical education. There is something about this of the smile that is childlike and bland. We shall perhaps next be told that the School Board rates might profitably be devoted to a subvention to bring out British operas, which do not pay (and therefore are not wanted), and to give the Duke of Westminster and his fellow petitioners their opera stalls cheap. Another writer talks of a rate of half a farthing in the pound. We all know those half-farthing rates, and how rapidly, under the fostering care of boards, councils, and committees, they mount up to shillings. Rate and tax payers already grumble about the cost of education, of the Navy, of water, and other necessaries. But a rate to enable the idle to enjoy opera is midsummer madness. To quote the example of Germany is an absurdity. Some German opera houses, it is true, are subsidised by the municipality, and poor things they are. But the best opera houses are subsidised by the monarch. Besides, Germany has a complete system of State accident insurance and of old age pensions, at a cost estimated next year at a million marks, or about £50,000 sterling for every working day. Not till we have something of the sort in England can we talk about helping out of the rates to provide opera for the wealthy.

What the petitioners really want is not quite certain. The text of the document, at any rate, is extremely cloudy upon the point. The first paragraph demands a subsidy "whereby the highest class of operatic music can be systematically brought within the reach of the great mass of the people." If this means anything at all, it must mean opera free, at any rate as to the gallery and the upper parts of the house. What this implies, probably the petitioners themselves have never considered. Opera as given at Covent Garden costs upwards of £4,000 a week, and yet the petitioners avowedly want something better. At the Paris Grand Opéra there is a subvention of £32,000 a year plus a house and lighting rent free—a total, perhaps, of £50,000 a year, And yet notoriously the Paris Grand Opéra cannot afford to engage the eminent artists who sing at Covent Garden. Moreover, this year (although only two operas have been mounted) it is declared to be a loss, and there is a demand for further subvention. At Vienna and Berlin the Sovereign pays the deficit. If they really want opera cheap, the impoverished peers and their associates should petition her Majesty to follow the example of her second son, who, on ascending the Ducal throne of Coburg, found that the expenses of the opera (a ridiculously poor one, as those who heard the troupe at Drury Lane will admit) came out of his private pocket. A rate-aided opera must imply a free, or partly free opera. No doubt, as to the more costly places, the public would be asked to pay for seats, but if the expenses of the opera are to come out of the rates at all, it is imperative that the poorer classes who cannot afford such luxuries should be provided with them gratuitously. The London County Council bands afford a precedent for such a step. The bands, who during an all tooshort time in the summer months play in various open spaces in the Metropolitan area, appeal to all classes. The poorest can hear the music gratis, while the aristocracy have seats provided for them at the not immoderate price of a halfpenny per diem. Yet even this costs something like £6,000 a year.

Opera, of course, is altogether another matter. It is an enterprise notoriously difficult and costly to manage, and although it is perfectly true that in Germany and France and in parts of Italy it is frequently subsidised, yet in many cases the grant is insufficient to cover the deficit. The loss on the Vienna opera, paid by the Emperor, would startle Her Majesty. Another example is that of La Scala, Milan. Here the house is given to the impresario rent free, and gas is provided by the municipality. Nevertheless the house has been closed for the past two years because it does not pay, and it is only to be reopened upon a subsidy of £14,000 for the winter, of which sum only £6,000 is being voted by the municipality. Yet Signor Sonzogno's rival opera in Milan seems to have paid very well, without the suffocating patronage of subsidy, simply because the thing was run for a profit and upon business principles.

When, however, we go into details more curious points arise. For example, this opera house must either be farmed out to a manager, in which event financial rather than an art profit will naturally be aimed at; or it must be directed by a committee of the County Council in much the same way as street paving, the fire brigade, and other departments are now. I can imagine the competition to secure a seat upon such a committee. The youngest members doubtless would be set to supervise the municipal operatic chorus. The ladies of an operatic chorus are notoriously no longer in the first blush of youth. The nymphs indeed, who waddle so blithely amidst a crowd of princes and nobles, or who form in semicircle and gaze unconcernedly upon the desperate tragedies which are enacted before them, could clearly best be trusted to the younger members of the opera committee. The older and staider members on the other hand must look after the municipal corps de ballet. The spectacle of a worthy County Councillor examining the supposed weals on Zæo's back would be nothing compared to the arduous duties of a middle-aged merchant, willy-nilly a member of the opera committee, in criticising the legs of the ballet and putting these worthy ladies through their paces. As to the first tenors and prime donne they would doubtless as now remain as Royalties apart—chiefs of the situation. A County Councillor might reprimand the Chief of the municipal fire brigade, but I pity the fate of even so sturdy and plain spoken a man as my friend Mr. John Burns if he ventured to criticise the acting of an eminent tenor, or to make a suggestion to the prima donna.

There are other little difficulties in the way which perhaps the County Council authorities and the signatories to the petition have not considered. For example, who is to choose the new operas? The petition I notice, is signed by a hundred or more of the leading (and other) musicians of the day. There is probably not one of these gentlemen who does not deem himself perfectly competent—and, indeed, more able than his fellows—to compose the whole of the repertory of the Municipal Opera House. It is quite possible that the average working-man who has to contribute towards the rates might prefer a comic opera; but these petitioners are extremely earnest about the matter, and no doubt nothing but a serious opera from a British pen—notoriously a very exhilarating performance—would be permitted. There is sometimes a difficulty about the pattern of a fireman's helmet. But imagine the feelings of a committee consisting of Sir John Hutton, Earl Russell, and Mr. McDougall appointed to decide upon the texture of the skirts of the dancers. Mr. Mapleson once had a similar difficulty which his solicitor settled by putting the following poser to Mr. Registrar Hazlitt—

> Pending the appointment of a trustee, which may take some eight or nine days, your Honour is in fact the manager of Her Majesty's Theatre, and my client only thinks it right to take your Honour's orders as to the production of "Lohengrin" on Saturday. Some new skirts, moreover, which might be of calico, but which your Honour would perhaps prefer of silk, are wanted for the ballet in "Il Trovatore" on Monday. But the "Lohengrin" matter is the more pressing of the two, and we should be glad if you would meet Herr Richter, who, though unwilling to tamper with the score of so great a composer as Wagner, thinks some cuts, already on another occasion authorised by the master, might be ventured upon in the long duet between Elsa and Ortrud. There is an obstinate tenor, moreover, whom your Honour, by adopting a decided tone towards him, might perhaps bring to reason.

Mr. Registrar Hazlitt's difficulty is, indeed, in the case of municipal opera, almost bound to be repeated in the County Council. Imagine Mr. Emden arguing with Sir A. C. Mackenzie whether a song should or should not be transposed, and Mr. John Williams Benn endeavouring to pacify an irate prima donna, who persisted in playing Lady Macbeth (in Dr. Stanford's forthcoming opera, sung, of course, in Latin) in "rationals." That Colonel Hughes might be called off to settle the troublesome question of pitch, and Mr. Sidney Webb to decide which of two lovely (and loquacious) ladies was entitled to the bouquet thrown at their feet, would be minor matters. Indeed, I am not quite sure whether the spectacle of Sir Blundell Maple asked to wield the baton in the temporary absence of the conductor, and of Mr. Harry Marks as a deputation to "Mabon" to temporarily replace a recalcitrant baritone, would not provide some compensation for ratepayers' money otherwise wasted.

No doubt certain English composers who are ambitious to produce operas which otherwise might have no chance of a hearing, and budding singers (and their teachers), hungry for engagements, will welcome the wild scheme of devoting the ratepayers' money to opera. If, however, the experience of France, Germany, and Italy be any criterion, even this will cause an immense amount of heart-burning. It is notorious that, even in music-loving Germany, no opera except by some very great man indeed stands the slightest chance of acceptance, unless the composer or his friends put down a certain amount of money to cover the risks to the management. Mr. Eugen d'Albert, only a year or two ago, thoroughly exposed this pernicious German system, which we do not desire to see introduced, at any rate, into municipal opera in England.

As a matter of fact, the British public at large do not appreciate opera. If they did, they would have supported such schemes as that put forward by the Carl Rosa Company, who last autumn offered them fairly good performances at theatrical prices. The British public have, however, shown time after time that nothing but the very best will suit them, and as the very best costs money, prices have to be raised to an extravagant point, and opera has become a fashionable luxury for a few months in the year only. It always will be so, or, at any rate, until the great middle-classes show by supporting a less costly scheme that such an entertainment is really required. Managers, without waiting for subsidies, would crowd to supply the article if there were any real demand for such things. But that a luxury intended for the few should be supported out of the rates is simply nonsense. Imagine the Nonconformist conscience on such a point. Fancy the feelings of a respectable Bishop, who holds the theatre in the same esteem as he does the Archfiend himself, being called upon to pay a rate for the support of an opera house.

The Wagnerian Elect must have suffered a terrible shock on Friday, when owing to the serious indisposition of both Mme. Nordica and Fräulein Ternina the promised performance of "Götterdämmerung" could not take place at all, and Covent Garden for the first time for many years was closed. Last year the opera house was shut up for one night owing to the Royal Jubilee, but although there have often been changes of performance I do not even recollect the last occasion on which the house had to be shut altogether owing to the illness of an artist. What therefore must have been the feelings of Mr. Dowdeswell and Mr. Schulz-Curtius when, instead of their precious seven hours in the dark, they found closed doors. The Empire, I am told, was afterwards particularly full for a Friday. But the obvious insinuation I spurn.

The curse of the "Ring" seems to be upon M. Jean de Reszke's appearance as Siegfried in "Götterdämmerung," for at the first cycle he himself was ill, and Herr Dippel had to take his part. Now at the intermediate cycle last week there was no Brünnhilde, and Covent Garden was shut. I believe M. Jean intends to have another shot for this part on Saturday, but on Monday he was too ill even to appear in the "Command" performance at Windsor, and M. Saleza played Roméo before the Queen instead. A further disappointment awaits the public on Thursday, when M. Jean has relinquished the part of Siegfried in that opera to Herr Dippel. A week or two ago the true Wagnerian declared he preferred anybody to M. de Reszke. I wonder now how he will like being taken at his word.

Ambroise Thomas's "Hamlet," revived last week, was a personal triumph for Mme. Calvé. The opera itself is now, of course, hopeless. It is rare, indeed, that French adaptations of Shakespeare are of any use as operatic libretti, but "Hamlet" has particularly suffered from the improvements of the French bookmakers. When we find Hamlet himself depicted as a sort of Richard III., with a shock of long auburn hair and much given to gesture and

emphasis; when also we find the sable Prince replacing the address to the players by a drinking song—as though actors of any age were ever known to tipple—when "To be or not to be" is sung seated by Hamlet on a sofa; when the murderous Claudius turns prayerful, and the dead Ophelia floats down the river within full view of the audience, we know that the thing may be French, but it certainly is not Shakespeare. At Covent Garden, however, "Hamlet" nowadays is not finished at all, for the last act is struck out. The chief excuse for its revival is the "book" air so delightfully sung by Mme. Calvé last week, and the delicious scene of Ophelia's madness and suicide. The scene was last week made a little longer than usual, thanks to the restoration of an elaborate ballet, in which damsels in nineteenth century skirts dance round the hapless heroine before she sings the *air de folie*, an adaptation, by the way, from the Swedish. Accordingly, the opera closed with Ophelia's death, leaving the rest of the story to the imagination. In the French original, the death scene of Ophelia is followed by a funeral procession and a diverting colloquy between the gravediggers, while at the end the wicked Claudius is killed. Here the last we see of him is kneeling at a prie-dieu, actually praying before the portrait of the brother he has murdered. M. Renaud sang Hamlet better than he acted it, but the triumphs of the evening were essentially for Mme. Calvé. Nevertheless, I do not suppose we shall hear much more of "Hamlet" this season. The rest of the week has mainly been given up again to "Wagner," but last night (Tuesday) Mme. Melba's *rentrée* was announced in "La Traviata."

In a periodical of admittedly large circulation I read that on Wednesday last week "Mr. Astor entertained a large party to dinner, after which there was some music, the artists, all of whom sang in exquisite style, including Mme. Calvé and M. Paderewski." The celebrated pianist has certainly composed an opera, but I was not hitherto aware that he was coming out as vocalist.

M. Paderewski, by the way, was at the performance of "Siegfried" last week seated in the stalls. I am told there was an amusing conversation between two young ladies who were sitting immediately behind the great pianist. The damsels were particularly pained that the management refused to allow them to wear hats or bonnets in the opera house, "While look at that!" they indignantly exclaimed, as in their endeavour to see the stage they dodged the superabundant aureole locks. Those locks, which so completely won the hearts of the damsels of the United States, are out of place in the stalls. Whether it is possible to leave them at home I am not, of course, aware.

The Philharmonic season ended last week. The society has had its ups and downs this year, and at one time, I believe, there was a fear lest the guarantee would have to be drawn upon. But happily this was avoided. Nevertheless, the society would do far better if it cut itself adrift from the old crusted lines and altered its night of performance. Thursday is one of the most inconvenient of evenings for concert work, a fact which even the Royal Choral Society seem tardily enough to be discovering. Nevertheless, the Philharmonic people intend to have another try, and three Thursday evenings in November and December have been fixed for the Autumn concerts.

Among the other important concerts of the week may be mentioned the Coronation Festival at the Crystal Palace, at which Madame Patti appeared for the first time at Sydenham for eighteen years. There was an audience of nearly 23,000; much larger, indeed, than usual at these intermediate festivals. Apart from Madame Patti, who sang three songs and two encores, the programme included favourite excerpts from "Elijah," "Israel," and other oratorios, and a movement (with a battery of sixteen kettle-drums and four military bands) of Berlioz' Requiem. Somebody called this a "stunning" performance. Dr. Saint-Saëns has appeared at Mlle. Kleeberg's and also at the performance for the Spanish orphans, and about fifty other concerts of no special musical interest have likewise taken place. After this week the concert business bids fair to drop in a very marked manner.

The Leeds Festival prospectus is now issued. I learn that the prospects of the Festival are immensely good, and, indeed, all the £6 serial tickets are sold out, only a few single seats being now left. The week will be a trying one, not only to the audience but also to the forces engaged; for the number of novelties is much greater than usual. The Festival will start on Wednesday, October 5, with "Elijah," while in the evening we are to hear for the first time a new ode by Mr. Otto Goldschmidt, the "Vatergruft" of Peter Cornelius, Tschaikowsky's "Mozartiana" suite, and Mr. Elgar's cantata "Caractacus." This work is in four sections. On the morning of October 6 Professor Stanford's Latin "Te Deum" will be heard for the first time, and in the evening we are promised Dr. Alan Gray's new choral ode, "The Song of Redemption," with solo for Mme. Albani. The Friday morning will be mainly devoted to Bach's great mass in B minor, while in the evening we are promised Humperdinck's new Moorish Rhapsody in three parts, one an Elegy at Tarifa, another a Moorish Dance at Tangier, and the third "A Ride through the Desert" at Tetuan. The novelties on the morning of Saturday, October 8, are Mr. Cowen's new setting of Collins' "Ode to the Passions" and Gabriel Fauré's mythological ode "The Birth of Venus," for solos, chorus, and orchestra.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Mr. Douglas Sladen's "Admiral" (1) reminds me of panoramas like those of the Siege of Paris, where the art of the painter is so supplemented by real solid cannon, &c., that you can hardly tell where the fictive ends and the actual begins.

> A large part of the book is in Nelson's own words. Appreciating the importance—in treating a national hero—of keeping as close as possible to history, *I have, wherever it was feasible, used, whether in dialogue or description, the actual words of Nelson and his contemporaries.*

The italics are Mr. Douglas Sladen's, and betray his anxiety, perhaps even undue anxiety, to be as realistic as possible. Certainly the novel, considered as a work of art, would have gained immeasurably by Mr. Douglas Sladen's using these materials in the way painters use photographs or studies, as suggestions merely for the painting of the great portrait. As it is, you have letters, conversations, memoirs, and history patched in everywhere, instead of being, so to say, first ravelled into threads and then rewoven into a coherent and homogeneous pattern. On the other hand, Lady Hamilton is far indeed from being painted equally realistically, since the most authentic accounts show her to be the reverse of the refined and ideal heroine of Mr. Douglas Sladen's imagination. "The Admiral," however, is a fascinating book, if only for the singularly vivid pictures it gives you of Nelson's character and conduct at the most interesting crisis of his life. The style of the narrator of the story, being "founded upon unpublished journals and letters of the time in the possession of the author's father," deepens its verisimilitude. As for Nelson's relations with Lady Hamilton, to which scandal returns with the fretful persistence of a wasp to the bruised spot in a peach, we should like to know which of all the contemporary commanders, Napoleon, Wellington, and the rest, could for a single moment be compared with the hero of the Nile in moral purity? Yet who thinks of dragging Wellington's "frailties from their dread abode" in the way Nelson's single and comparatively pardonable lapse has been gibbeted.

(1) "The Admiral." A Romance of Nelson in the Year of the Nile. By Douglas Sladen. (London: Hutchinson & Co. Price 6s.)
(2) "Leddy Marget." By L. B. Walford. (London: Longmans, Green & Co. Price 6s.)
(3) "Where Three Creeds Meet." A Tale of Modern Indian Life. By J. Campbell Oman. (London: Grant Richards. Price 3s. 6d.)
(4) "As a Man Lives." By E. Phillips Oppenheim. Illustrated by Stanley L. Wood. (London: Ward, Lock & Co., Limited. Price 6s.)
(5) "A Widow's Tale." By Mrs. Oliphant. With an Introductory Note by J. M. Barrie. (London: William Blackwood & Sons. Price 6s.)
(6) "Flaunting Moll," and other Stories By R. A. J. Walling. (London: Harper Brothers. Price 6s.)
(7) "The Fall of a Star." By Sir William Maquay. (London: Macmillan & Co.)

What will you say to a novel with an octogenarian heroine? And what will you say to an octogenarian heroine whose wildest delight is to climb an apple-tree,

> to sit and munch apples, looking far and wide from over the canopy of moss-barked branches, beaten flat by the sea-wind; to swing her feet, and wonder what people would have thought, and how horrified Gibbie and the rest would have been had they known. What prospect could be more exciting, more alluring?

You would certainly say that the old body was daft or doting; yet "Leddy Marget" (2) plays this and a hundred other school-boy pranks, not sanely only, but charmingly—according to Mrs. Walford. "We must not," says Goethe, "take the faults of our youth into our old age, for old age brings with it its own defects;" but to take the follies of our youth into our old age is even less excusable since it is less inevitable. For the rest Leddy Marget is a sweet old lady, while her maid, Gibbie, is an admirable character.

"Where Three Creeds Meet" (3) gives you a vivid picture of Indian and Anglo-Indian life and of their mutual insulation. The English and the natives seem to live in elements as different as the air from which a swarm of gulls swoops down upon a shoal of herrings and the water in which the densely-packed fish pursue the even tenor of their way, only occasionally perturbed by the inscrutable visitation. What Mr. Campbell Oman has proposed to do he has done excellently—"to give a sketch of the religious aspect of the complex, many-sided life of the natives of Upper India, with its many amiable traits, its picturesqueness, its blind prejudices, its occasional fanaticism, and its almost complete absence of sympathy with Western feeling and sentiment." I shall look forward to the two supplementary tales illustrating the social life and the political movements and aspirations of the natives, which Mr. Campbell Oman promises, with great expectation, not, indeed, of exciting fiction, but of interesting and instructive pictures of the esoteric mind of those dim millions. "Where Three Creeds Meet" is not exciting as a story, and if you feel the need of a stimulant of this kind I can recommend to you a singularly stirring sensation novel, "As a Man Lives" (4). It is the story of a clergyman with a past, who keeps a silence like the silence of Dean Maitland, and, like him,

> Preached as never sure to preach again,
> And as a dying man to dying men.

Not only, indeed, has he a mysterious past and a haunted present, but a double present and personality—a decorous clergyman in the country; in London an East End rough preaching to roughs. The love interest centres in his illegitimate daughter, who has the double cross in the course of true love of the consciousness of her own illegitimacy, and of the knowledge of her father's crime. However, the death of her father in the act of preaching and in the odour of sanctity, smooths the way to her happy marriage. "As a Man Lives," which strikes me as the work of a woman, is an excellent novel of its melodramatic kind. With all due deference to Mr. Barrie, who supplies the graceful introductory note to the late Mrs. Oliphant's collection of short stories, "A Widow's Tale" (5), there is but one of these pot-boilers—"Mademoiselle"—worthy of that light, bright, but too facile pen. On the other hand, the short stories in "Flaunting Moll" (6) are of fairly uniform excellence and of much promise. In "Flaunting Moll" itself Mr. Walling takes with pathetic effect adequate time and space for the development of his little tragedy; but in the majority of the tales in the collection he has to make all the running he can in the very short course he allows himself, and he does it effectually and effectively. Finally, as though I had not enjoyed a sufficient feast of fiction for one week, I have read yet another novel, "The Fall of a Star" (7). It can hardly be called new, as newness is reckoned nowadays, but it had hitherto escaped my attention. The central character in it is a light of the political world, and it is his descent that is depicted in an exciting and dramatic story.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—The Ladies' Kennel Show at the Botanic was one of the prettiest sights I have ever seen. The lovely lawns and trees were at their grandest, and the sunshine flooded the scene, making the light gowns and flowery hats look their very best. This was on the first day of the Show, when the weather, for once, was kind to a Botanic function. Jupiter Pluvius generally rules triumphant.

We went on both days, and had every opportunity of appreciating the contrast between the two, and for the thousandth time of remarking to each other, "What a marvellous difference good weather makes!"

The garden party-like aspect of affairs on the Thursday, if unappreciated by the cats and dogs, was very pleasant for their human friends. There was a good band, and the rhododendrons were perfectly lovely. Is there such good turf anywhere near London as at the Botanic? What splendid tennis courts could be made there.

We were punctual to our appointment to keep Lilla's dogs company, and cheered them up as much as we could. Her pug and her poodle thanked us continuously in the most gentlemanlike manner, and restrained their feelings of woe out of pure courtesy; but her sharp-nosed Pomeranian ignored us completely, and kept staring outwards, and barking furiously in a most aggravating way. Was it not uncivil of him? I do not like that dog.

On the second day the Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria visited the Show, braving the wet and mud-trampled misery of the grounds. The Princess was looking very nice in a black broché silk trimmed with cream-coloured lace. She wore a boa with a few Parma violets in it, an article of dress that is peculiarly becoming to the Princess. Her black bonnet was trimmed with feathers and violets to match the boa. It was lovely to see how her dogs welcomed her, and showed frantic joy at the sight of her. Her famous borzoi, Alex, won three first prizes, one of them being a large mirror framed in silver.

The Princess traversed the muddy interval between the dog-show tent and that of the cats, where the Duchess of Bedford received the Royal party, with whom was the pretty little Miss Knollys, who bore H.R.H.'s train at the Devonshire fancy ball last season. During the tour of the tent the Princess was presented with three bouquets, one from the dogs, one from the cats, and the third, consisting of a bunch of shamrocks, from Leo, the dog that collects money for the Cork Hospital.

The Novelty classes were again very successful. Miss Mary Moore's little Jap secured a first prize, and Miss Ellaline Terriss' Jap also succeeded in the same class.

The Duchess of Sutherland will hold an exhibition of tweeds and other articles in connection with the Scottish Home Industries on July 4 in the gardens of Stafford House, from 3 p.m. to 7. Admission will be by invitation cards only.

With garden parties in full swing, weddings, bazaars, dear Sandown, &c., you may imagine that new gowns are wanted very frequently. I must tell you of some delicious ones we saw at Redfern's, though I fear they will make you want to be extravagant and secure some for your own wear. In the tailor-made regions downstairs there were sweet little coats in the palest fawn-coloured cloth and also in the ever smart blue serge. One of the former was finished with embroidery of the finest kind in lace and beads and fawn-tinted silk cord, part of the design being open work. It was held in at the waist by an embroidered belt, from under which the basque appeared in little frills. Of almost monastic severity—but of such incomparable style—was a fawn-cloth skirt and cape, absolutely simple, but telling beyond description. Any one wearing it would immediately make her mark on the crowded lawn at

IMPORTANT.—Messrs. REDFERN will offer, during the first two weeks in July, a number of Summer Gowns in Foulard, Muslin, and other light materials, at greatly reduced prices, in order to make room for the New Season's Models.—26, Conduit-street, W

Sandown. In fact, it was an excellent illustration of the simplicity of true *chic*.

You would have liked a dear little blue cloth coat, the revers of which were faced with white corded silk. And we fell in love with a black cashmere dress embroidered all over with detached flowerets in white chain stitch. The yoke was pale blue velvet, on which the embroidered cashmere was carried up in curves embroidered in silver.

A most attractive Henley dress was in red serge, the skirt finished with one row of white braid. The rounded collar was white with a deep hem of the red serge dotted with white buttons.

A red cloth gown was of that texture which drapes most perfectly, so soft and light and yet so "clothy," to coin a word. The basque was round and cut away in front, and the coat had wide revers and a high collar in silk with a design in white cloth. A dainty white cravat finished it at the throat.

Very smart was a putty cloth with five flounces, made by cutting the skirt round in five sections, each of which forms a flounce finished with rows of stitching. The revers of the coat were faced with white satin, and on the shoulders was a small, shallow cape of the cloth, very smart indeed. Brass buttons were a feature of this little coat.

Upstairs are the showrooms for the more elaborate costumes for visiting, reception, garden party, wedding, and evening wear. Here are the latest whispers of the mode, and we passed from one model to another deeply interested, as you may guess. For the races, there was a black embroidered Russian net over white silk, the tablier-front being embroidered with jet and Chantilly. The bodice was all jet embroidery over white, with a pretty yoke and a black velvet belt, such a becoming touch.

Most tempting, too, was a biscuit-coloured taffetas with a very wide band of guipure appliqué round the very centre of the skirt, which was made quite long and finished with three deep tucks. There were narrower tucks round the bodice, which was trimmed with guipure at the top and fastened over on the left side. A black chiffon sash completed this, the smartest frock I have seen this season.

You would have delighted in a pink muslin-gauze with bands of white insertion down the front of the skirt edged with narrow pink ruching at either side. The bodice was trimmed to match, and a red sash supplied the exact satisfactory bit of colour needed to emphasise all the pale pink. Another gauze was in china blue, just the tone of the hawthorn pattern vases. The skirt was gauged and gathered very fully into a tightly fitting yoke of white muslin over black. A smaller yoke finished the bodice, which opened slightly at the waist to show a vest of the finest muslin and embroidery. A black velvet bow on the bodice imparted that valuable finishing touch which seems to be one of the characteristics of the Redfern gown.

You may feel reassured about your beloved blouse, for we saw several. The favourite form seemed to consist of strips of silk connected by openwork embroidery in white sewing silk, transparent on both bodice and sleeves.

We have been to the opera three or four times this season, and have consequently enjoyed opportunities of criticising tiaras and interrogating the faces beneath them as to the becomingness or otherwise of this ornament. I do not like the fender style. Bee declares that there is only one woman in England who can wear the all-round tiara without losing her good looks, and Richard votes for stars in the hair as far more becoming and effective than any tiara. One night we saw the very perfection of a jewelled head, simply a spray of exquisitely modelled wild roses in brilliants laid along one side of the elaborately simple coiffure. It looked lovely in the bronze-gold hair.

FRANCES MOORE has now on view the latest Models from Paris in Hats, Bonnets, &c. Special and exclusive designs in Toques.—8, Maddox-street, Regent-street, W.

Have you ever observed that the success of a tiara depends very much upon the shape and poise of the neck and the form of the shoulders? It is so. There is a beautiful marchioness whose stately head is poised to perfection upon a neck that would rejoice a sculptor. Her jewels are among the finest in the world. A young American duchess has a neck so long and swanlike that she can with ease hang half-a-dozen necklaces round it. She often does. But the poise of neck is not erect enough to suit a tiara, which, consequently, has a top-heavy effect. Another American duchess, on the contrary, has a very plump white throat, and a diadem in her dark brown hair looks charming, when it is not too large.

Then, again, a big tiara and a very small nose go badly together. And a very red nose looks very red indeed in the proximity of diamonds and their bright, white light. All these things have to be thought of, and it is, after all, small wonder that tiaras are occasionally found to be extremely trying ornaments.

The prettiest we have seen this season, by the way, was not on any head, but in the wholesale house of Hardebeck & Bornhardt in Rosebery-avenue. It is a spray of maidenhair, rising rather wavily in the centre, so that all stiffness is avoided, and arranged so that two leaves lie horizontally above the brow, the petals growing gradually smaller as they recede from the middle. It is a lovely thing. We also saw a marvellous necklace and pendant, the novelty of which lies in the addition of what may be described as a ball fringe made of large round brilliants hung round the outer circle of the necklace. Those in front are very large indeed, and exquisitely cut. Each is suspended from two smaller diamonds. At the sides the fringe diamonds are not so large, and are hung from one smaller; and at the back there is only the silver wire, with no small diamond above. I have never seen flowers so beautifully imitated in jewels as here.

The Empress Club is going strong. Its cheque for the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund this year is £136 15s. As this sum is made up by one shilling out of each member's subscription, it satisfactorily spells prosperity, does it not?

Yes, tell "Nuisance," as she calls herself, that the little fringed napkins are a very agreeable addition to the paraphernalia of afternoon tea—not only in muffin season but in strawberry season, and in fact all the year round. We might call the whole twelvemonth "bread and butter season," for, like gorse in bloom, it is always to be had. In fact, we might alter the old proverb to something like the following:—"Kissing's out of fashion when the tartine's out of season."

"Nuisance" also asks for my advice on several other points, but I think she might easily satisfy herself by consulting some reliable book on étiquette.

Christabel writes from Paris about some pretty gowns she has seen at garden parties:—

A dress of unbleached or écru lawn was striped with lace insertion, and the intervals between the insertion were embroidered with sprays of shaded roses in their natural colours. The bodice was entirely in guipure over pink silk with a yoke of pleated pink silk muslin. The collar and waistband were of red velvet. A black straw hat, with black feathers, trimmed with red velvet and pale pink roses, completed the costume.

A gown of Parma violet Liberty satin had a deep crossway flounce of the same, with a little edging of Irish guipure. The bodice had a yoke of Irish guipure, forming a point in front, with a very pretty fichu of Parma silk muslin going round it. The sleeves were made with folds of the same muslin, as also the sash, edged all round with tiny ruches, and falling to the ground, fastened at the back of the waist with a paste buckle; the hat worn with this was black, with black feathers and mauve and white irises.

Another gown that looked well was of beige muslin, with a

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great deal of lace insertion on the skirt, and also on the bodice, which opened over a front of blue tulle, crossed with very narrow rows of black velvet; the very pretty hat was of white tulle, worked with straw, and a tuft of white feathers on one side. The white parasol had lace insertion.

Piqué will be much worn at the seaside and in the country, made either quite plain, with short jacket, or else ornamented or enhanced as follows:—Jacket bodice of white piqué embroidered or braided with white, the basque cut out in tabs bordered round with a narrow cross-cut of blue linen below; the collar is finished with blue in the same way, and cut out in tabs or scallops, and in front there is a jabot of tulle edged with lace. The skirt is embroidered or braided; if a band is worn over the jacket it should be of white leather with a steel buckle.

I must now tell you of a lovely evening dress I saw lately. It was ivory satin covered with tulle spangled with silver; the square-cut bodice had mauve orchids as shoulder straps, and a splendid spray of the same flowers falling on the skirt on one side, while across the front of the bodice was a branch of diamond leaves; round the neck was a diamond dog-collar on cerise velvet, and aigrette of similar jewels in the hair. The evening cloak worn with this was white muslin woven with a gold thread, trimmed with ruches of silk muslin and flounces, beaded with orchids. This was worn at the first performance of "La Cloche du Rhin."

You will find these tartlets with tomato cream both novel and delicious:—

Rub a tin of preserved tomatoes through a hair sieve, reduce the purée over the fire until it is a stiff paste and allow it to cool. When the purée is quite cold mix it with 1½ gill of whipped cream, add a tablespoonful of chopped capers, 3 or 4 minced anchovies, and a sprig each of chopped tarragon and chervil. Fill seven or eight of the little pastry cases with the cream, bringing it up in conical form, sprinkle it with passed, hard-boiled yolk of egg, and put a sprig of chervil on the top of each. Arrange the tartlets on a fancy paper and garnish them with picked watercress.

The tartlet cases may be made in this way:—

Rub 2 oz. of butter into 4 oz. of flour, add a pinch of salt and cayenne pepper, and 1 oz. of grated Parmesan cheese. Mix this into a paste with the yolk of an egg and a very little water, roll it out, and line about eight small tartlet moulds, brush the interior with beaten egg, prick it well with a fork, and bake it to a nice golden colour.

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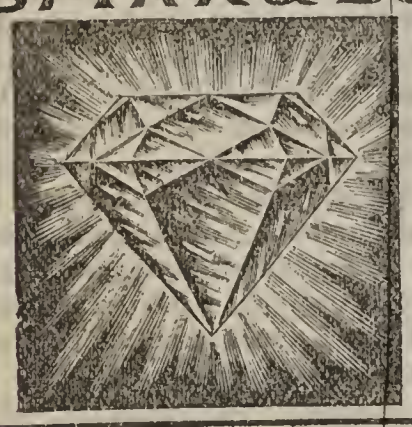

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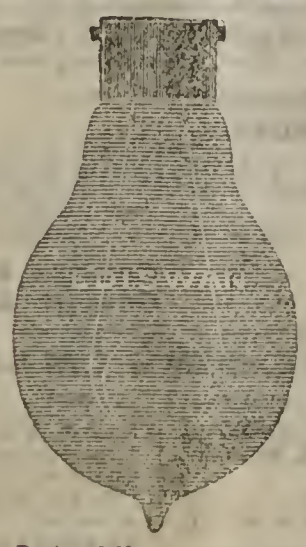

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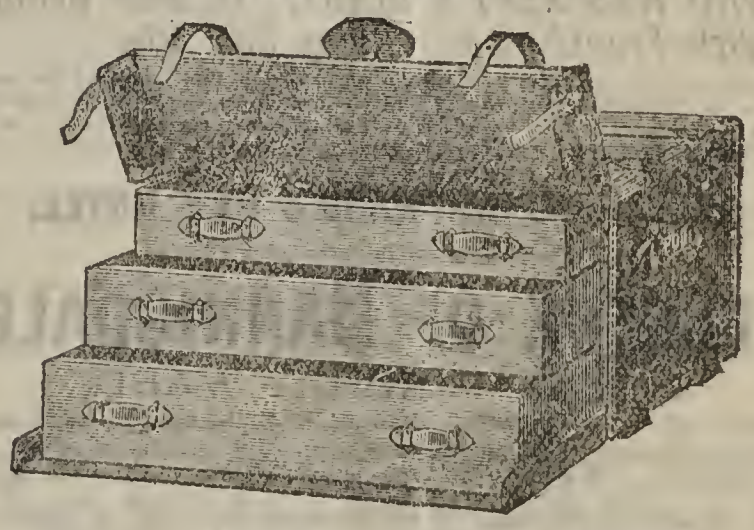

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2. Emigrants' March Past, *en route* for Canada.
3. Musical Drill and Gymnastics by little men and women.
4. The Maypole on the Village Green and Girls' Games.
5. Fire Alarm—Saved by the Fire Escape.
6. A Tiny Flower Fete, with Mimie Bataille des Fleurs.
7. Naval Cutlass Drill.
8. Aquatics in the Swimming Bath.
9. Tug of War and Flag Races.
10. All the Workshops will be open to view, showing in full operation the following Trades:—Tinsmiths, Bootmakers, Cooks, Engineers, Bakers, Blacksmiths, Wheelwrights, Carpenters, Brush-makers, Mat-makers, Harness-makers, Tailors, Printers, Woodchoppers, and Laundresses.
11. Her Majesty's Hospital for Sick Waifs will be open between 1 and 5 p.m.
12. Opening Ceremony of the New Chapel in the Boys' Home.
13. A Bazaar of Useful and Fancy Articles will be carried on during the afternoon. It is hoped that Visitors will purchase largely from the stalls, and so benefit the Great Family of nearly 5,000 Waif Children always being maintained in the Homes.
14. The Thirty-third Annual Meeting will be held at 3.30 p.m., presided over by HIS EXCELLENCY LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B., Governor of Victoria, and supported, it is hoped among others by Her Grace The "Duchess of Somerset"; The Japanese Minister; Lady Hope, and T. A. Denny, Esq.; Arnold F. Hills, Esq., D.L.; Rev. Canon Fleming, B.D.; Rev. Dr. Monro Gibson; Sir James Rankin, Bart., M.P.; Rev. Prebendary Barker, M.A.; Rev. George Hansom; William Fowler, Esq.; Howard Williams, Esq.; Dr. Harry Guinness; Rev. D. B. Hankin, M.A.; and Dr. Barnardo.

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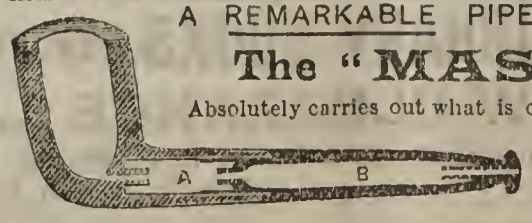

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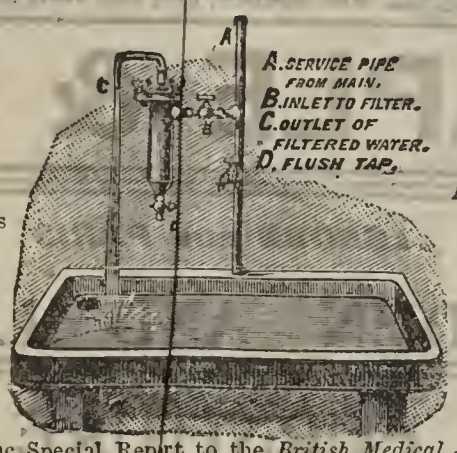

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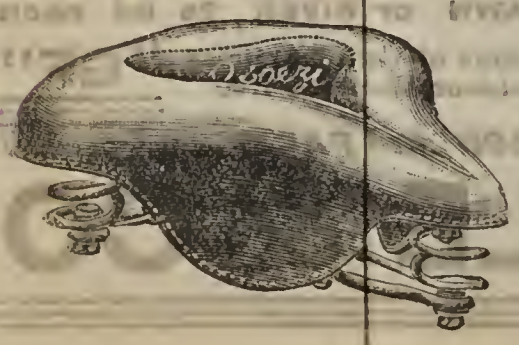

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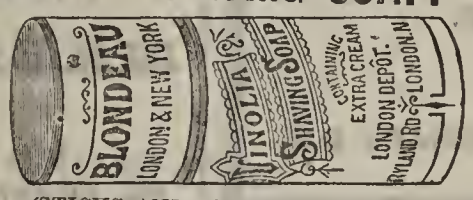

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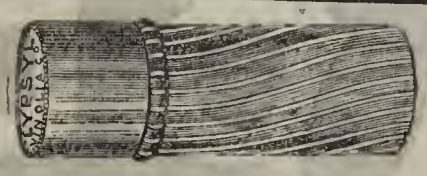

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In 2-oz. and ¼-lb. Packets, 3d. & 6d.
In ½-lb. Tins, 6d.
In ½-lb. Tins, 9d.

VINOLIA COMPANY, LIMITED, MALDEN CRESCENT, LONDON, N.W.

The newer preparations above may be ordered direct, providing cash is sent with order. This only applies when they cannot be obtained locally.

MELLIN'S FOOD

is known

Throughout the World

as a perfect diet for children, but

MELLIN'S EMULSION

COD LIVER OIL

is unknown to

Hundreds of Thousands

who are troubled with Coughs, Colds, Loss of Flesh, and General Malnutrition, and who would benefit by using it.

MELLIN'S FOOD WORKS, PECKHAM, S.E.

For Longhand, Shorthand, Pen-and-Ink Drawing, Music-Writing, indeed, whenever a Pen is necessary, use only a "SWAN."

Adds immeasurably to Celerity and Comfort in writing. Of all Pens most famous.

Made in 3 sizes at

10s. 6d.
16s. 6d.
25s.

UP TO £18 18s.
POST FREE.

MABIE, TODD & BARD,
DEPT. C. I.
93, Cheapside, London, E.C.
95a, REGENT ST., W., and 3, EXCHANGE ST., MANCHESTER.

"Captol"

SOMETHING NEW

FOR THE HAIR

BY A LEADING PHYSICIAN.

"CAPTOL" is the latest discovery by the well-known authority on skin disease, Dr. J. Eichhoff. The fact that such a prominent physician allows his name to be associated with it is a guarantee that "CAPTOL" will not cause disappointment to those who give it a trial. "CAPTOL" removes the densest growth of scurf and dandruff with greater speed than any other preparation. It is, therefore, the safest preventive of falling hair yet discovered.

"CAPTOL" is made from vegetable ingredients; it is quite free from lead, mercury, and other poisons. Whilst imparting to the hair a glossy and pleasing appearance, it does not in the slightest degree affect the ORIGINAL SHADE, AS IT IS NOT A DYE, and, unlike other Hair Washes, it does not make the hair the least greasy or sticky.

Many preparations before the public are most dangerous. "CAPTOL" is NON-EXPLOSIVE, and can be used with perfect safety.

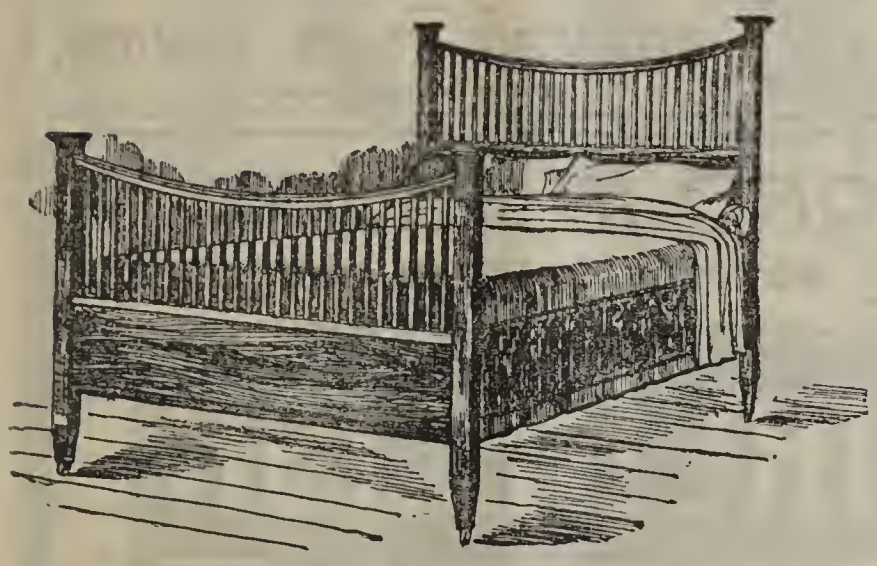
3/9 per bottle, of most chemists and stores.

If you cannot obtain "CAPTOL" from your usual chemist, do not be put off with other kinds, which are recommended as "JUST AS GOOD," "CHEAPER," &c., &c., but write to Mulhens' 4711 Depot, 62, New Bond Street, London, who will either give you the name of the nearest dealer keeping it, or will send you a bottle post-free for **4/-**

HEAL & SON'S

New Wood Bedsteads

With Iron Lath Bottoms or Wire Spring Bottoms.



HYGIENIC. ARTISTIC. INEXPENSIVE.

195, 197, 196, 198, **TOTTENHAM COURT RD. W.**

"The Old Favourite."

MAX GREGER'S CARLOWITZ

SAFEST, SOUNDEST

Dinner Wine.

PURE HUNGARIAN BURGUNDY.

From 15/- per doz.

Of all Wine Merchants and Grocers.

See that every cork bears the brand 'Max Greger.' Without it the wine is not genuine.

"A Clean and Easy Shave once a day makes all men, and a few women also, quite happy."—GORDON STABLES, M.D., R.N.

The delightful sensation of shaving at home with a really sharp razor cannot easily be described, there should be no cutting of the skin, no dragging of the beard, simply an indescribable sense of freshness, nothing else.

The Proprietor of the **"RIGID-CURVE" STROP** warrants his Invention to produce an edge upon a razor so sharp as to readily sever a hair held loosely between finger and thumb.

Price, with full instructions, **3s. 6d.**, carriage paid. Money returned any time within a month if not approved.

A. HOWARTH, 53, Penn-road, Wolverhampton.

SERVANTS! SERVANTS!! SERVANTS!!!

FOR THOROUGHLY RELIABLE SERVANTS,

With personal characters for London or country, also foreign servants.

Apply to the BELGRAVE LADIES' AGENCY,
SOLE OFFICES,
83, EBURY-STREET.

Also job servants with references taken up before recommendation can be had on the shortest notice.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ARCHITECTS.

AN IMPORTANT INVENTION.

The HOMACOUSTIC APPARATUS (Cutmore's System).

A REVOLUTION IN SPEAKING TUBES

Patented throughout the World. The Telephone superseded for Short Distances. The Homacoustic System is being universally adopted, and is a Leading Feature in all New Buildings.

THOUSANDS ARE IN USE.

The following are a few of the large establishments where the Homacoustic Speaking Tubes are in use:—

W. & A. GILBEY, Pantheon, Oxford-street.
JAMES WILLING, Junr., 125, Strand.
GAZE & SONS, Tourists' Bureau, Strand.
B. A. MOORE, "Cheshire Cheese," Fleet-st.
"TRUTH" Offices, Westminster.
SPIERS & POND, Limited, Head Offices.
ROBERTS & LEETE, 19 to 25, Bermondsey-street, S.E.
R. WAYGOOD & CO., Falmouth-road, S.E.
E. P. SAUNDERS & SON, 81 to 83, Cannon-street.
ALLIANCE ASSURANCE CO., Bartholomew-lane, E.C.
LONDON ASSURANCE, Royal Exchange.
OETZMANN & CO., 67 to 79, Hampstead-road, N.W.
LLOYD'S BANK, Limited, 189, Fleet-street.
— LITHGOI, Esq., 39a, Wimpole-street Oxford-street.
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK, Threadneedle-street, E.C.
STRAITS INSURANCE, Change-alley, Cornhill.
KELLY & CO., London Directory. Holborn.
LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM AND SOUTH WALES BANK, Gracechurch-street, E.C

TESTIMONIALS.

Atlas Assurance Company, Fire and Life,
92, Cheapside, London, E.C.

Dear Sir,—I have pleasure in stating that I have had one of your Homacoustic Speaking Tube Commutators and Instruments in my room, communicating with seven departments in this office, and that I find the same to work admirably. It is a vast improvement on the old method of a separate mouthpiece for each tube, and it is an invention which I think needs only to be known to command very wide adoption.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

SAML. J. PIPKIN
Secretary.

The Central London Throat and Ear Hospital,
Gray's Inn-road, W.C.,
December 14, 1891.

I have much pleasure in testifying to the excellence of the principle of the Homacoustic Speaking Tube Instruments, as well as to the perfect workmanship of the tubes fitted at this Hospital.

Quite independently of sanitary reasons it is decidedly more agreeable to have a Speaking Tube by which all blowing and breathing into the face are avoided. There is no difficulty whatever in its employment.

LENNOX BROWNE, F.R.C.S.E.,
Senior Surgeon to the Hospital.

Beware of Fraudulent Imitations. Infringers will be prosecuted. Send for Explanatory Pamphlet and Pric List Free by Post.

THE HOMACOUSTIC COMPANY, Head Offices and Showroom. **6, Bruton-street, New Bond-street, W.**

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from falling off.
Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.
Being delicately perfumed it leaves no unpleasant odour.
IS NOT a dye, and therefore does not stain the skin or even white linen.
Should be in every house where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.
Ask your Chemist or Hairdresser for

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per large Bottle.
Prepared only by the
ANGLO-AMERICAN DRUG COMPANY, Ltd.,
33, FARRINGDON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.

IS THE BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE IN THE WORLD.

Prevents the Decay of Teeth.
Renders the Teeth Pearly White.
Is perfectly Harmless and Delicious to the Taste.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World
2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER.
Put up in Glass Jars, price 1s.

A RECORD IN SAUCE.

OVER 8,000,000 BOTTLES SOLD IN ONE YEAR.

YORKSHIRE RELISH

THE MOST DELICIOUS SAUCE IN THE WORLD.
Makes the Plainest Viands Palatable, and the Daintiest Dishes more Delicious.
Enriches Soups, Stews, Chops, Steaks, Fish, etc.
Sold in Bottles, 6d., 1s., and 2s. each.
Sole Proprietors: **GOODALL, BACKHOUSE, & CO., LEEDS.**

LEWIS & ALLENBY, LTD.

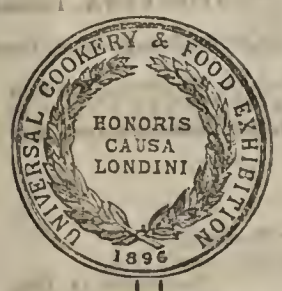
beg to announce their

SUMMER SALE OF HIGH-CLASS GOODS

AT CLEARANCE PRICES,

for JULY 4th, and FOLLOWING DAYS.

LEWIS & ALLENBY, LTD., Regent-street, and Conduit-street, W.



The VICTORIA DATE CO., Ltd., Food and Condiment Specialists, beg to draw attention to the following preparations, for the purity and general excellence of which they have obtained numerous awards—Gold Medals, &c.

Victoria Date Vinegar.

The New Vinegar. This condiment is prepared exclusively from dates. It is absolutely pure. Culinary experts pronounce it far superior for Cooking and Pickling purposes to Malt or White Wine Vinegars, as, though of a similar flavour to these, it is non-injurious, and can therefore be used with impunity by the most dyspeptic. It is far and away the best for table use. The leading Pickle and Sauce Manufacturers use it exclusively, among others, POTTER'S PERFECT PICKLES are prepared in Victoria Date Vinegar.

Derby Sauce.

This new Sauce has rapidly taken the first place in popular favour. A trial is sufficient to give it a permanent place in the cruet. Prepared from a Persian recipe of wide reputation in the East, it is a delightful appetiser. It is intended for use with Cold Meats, Chops, Steaks, &c.

Worcester Sauce.

This resembles other sauces of the same name in flavour, but possesses the unique quality of absolute purity.

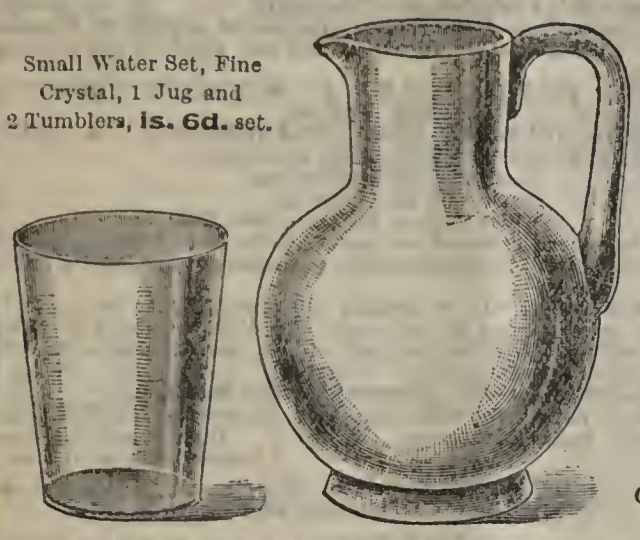
The VICTORIA DATE CO., Ltd., will have much pleasure in forwarding tasting samples, post free, to applicants who will write to them, mentioning this paper, to Victoria Works, 112, Belvedere Road, Lambeth, London, S.E.

PHILLIPS'S

HER MAJESTY'S POTTERS AND GLASS MANUFACTURERS,
17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, MOUNT ST., GROSVENOR SQ., W

WEDDING PRESENTS.

Small Water Set, Fine Crystal, 1 Jug and 2 Tumblers, 1s. 6d. set.



Breakfast Sets.
Luncheon Sets.
Dinner Sets.
Dessert Sets.
Tea Sets.
Glass Sets.
Toilet Sets.

Samples on Approval Carriage Paid.

HILDITCH'S SILKS.

Great Reductions.
Patterns forwarded.

SUMMER SALE.

COMMENCING JULY 4th.
11 & 12, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON.

NOTICE. THE NEW

"CRICKLITE" LAMPS

FOR DINNER TABLES AND DRAWING ROOMS.
Can be SEEN and purchased ONLY at
75, REGENT STREET, next door to St. James's Hall, and
156, REGENT STREET, AND NOWHERE ELSE.

A Special Set of CRICKLITE LAMPS expressly made for HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY the SULTAN of TURKEY is now on view.

N.B.—Please write for the new Book of Designs, Now Ready.

Solid Silver, £4 4s.

Substantially made afternoon tea set on approval. If you decide within two weeks that you do not want it, the money will be returned. Every piece is the highest strength consistent with neatness, and will last a life-time. English Hall Marked.

Delivered safe and secure on receipt of

£4 4s.

WATCHMAKERS' ALLIANCE LTD.,
227, Regent-st., & 184, Oxford-st., London.

CARTER 6A NEW CAVENDISH ST. PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON.

ONLY ADDRESS OF ORIGINAL CARTER
LITERARY MACHINE.

For holding book, lamp, meals, &c., in any position over an easychair, bed, or sofa. Deliciously luxurious. A most useful gift. Prices from **17/6**

INVALID FURNITURE.
ADJUSTABLE COUCHES and BEDS from £1. 10/-

Bed Lift £3. 10/-
Reclining Boards, 25/-
Walking Machines
Portable W.C.'s.
Electric Bells, Urinals, &c.
Air & Water Beds.

Bed Rests 7/6
Leg Rests 10/-
Crutches 10/6
Bed Baths 12/6
Commodes, £1. 5/-

Carrying Chairs from £1.
Breakfast in Bed Tables from 30/-

Self-Propelling Chairs from £2

BATH CHAIRS FROM **£1. 5/-**

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES POST FREE.

JOHN CARTER, 6a, NEW CAVENDISH ST. Portland-pl. London, W.

FOR COMPLAINTS of the STOMACH, LIVER, etc., DRINK

VICHY CELESTINS Spring

Caution: See that each bottle has a neck label with **VICHY-ÉTAT** & the name of the Sole Importers: **INGRAM & ROYLE, Ltd, 26, Upper Thames Street, LONDON, E.C.**

Hovis Bread

The Purest and the Nicest.

Perfectly Self Digestive.

Hovis Bread is baked and delivered daily by all good class Bakers in the British Isles; **Hovis Biscuits** are sold by most Grocers and Bakers; or 6d. and 1s. Samples of Bread and Biscuits will be sent on receipt of stamps by THE HOVIS-BREAD FLOUR CO., LTD., Millers, Macclesfield.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—
Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £30,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

THE
LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE
INSURANCE COMPANY.
Invested Funds ... ... £9,575,342.
FIRE. LIFE. ENDOWMENTS. ANNUITIES.
Fire Insurances Effected on Most Favourable Terms. Life Bonuses Large, either in Cash or Additions to Sum Assured. Life Policy-holders may so insure as to participate in NINE-TENTHS OF THE PROFITS of their class.
EQUITABLE RATES. MODERATE EXPENSES.
Head Offices: 1, DALE STREET, LIVERPOOL; 7, CORNHILL, LONDON.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE
63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD
SUN FIRE OFFICE FOUNDED 1710.
SUM INSURED IN 1897 EXCEEDS £425,000,000.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.
THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 2, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd. Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

H. HALFORD and COMPANY,
70 and 71, Palmerston Buildings, Old Broad Street, London.
ESTABLISHED 1869.

Business in Stocks and Shares at close prices.
Dealings reported by wire if required.
Prompt Settlements.
Thousands of Testimonials from Clients.
Americans and Canadians a Speciality. Also Westralians and Kaffirs.
Lists of Closing Prices gratis.
Telegrams: "Monitor, London."
NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER FIRM.

ALLAN'S ANTI-FAT
PURELY VEGETABLE, Perfectly Harmless. Will reduce from two to five pounds per week: acts on the food in the stomach, preventing its conversion into Fat. Sold by Chemists. Send stamp for pamphlet.
Botanic Medicine Co., 3 New Oxford-street, London, W.C.
BEFORE AFTER

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."
CLARKE'S
WORLD-FAMED
BLOOD MIXTURE
Warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from *whatever* cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it removes the *cause* from the blood and bones. Thousands of Wonderful Cures have been effected by it. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each, of Chemists everywhere.
BEWARE OF WORTHLESS IMITATIONS.

THE LATE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD,
SIR MORELL MACKENZIE,
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,
MISS EMILY FAITHFUL,
THE LATE GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,
and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of
Himrod's Cure for Asthma.
Established over a Quarter of a Century.
Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, LYNCH & CO., J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS, & CO., BUTLER & CRISPE, JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale Houses.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will be CLOSED at FOUR p.m. (to morrow) WEDNESDAY, for London and Country.

THE WOLVERHAMPTON & DUDLEY BREWERIES, Limited.
Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1886.
SHARE CAPITAL - - - - £150,000,
divided into

7,500 £6 per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each	£75,000
7,500 Ordinary Shares of £10 each	£75,000
	£150,000

Four and a-Half per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures £100,000

The Company can redeem these Debentures on or after 31st December, 1910, at £105 per £100 Debenture, or the holder can insist on payment on or after that date at par.

FOUR PER CENT. IRREDEEMABLE "A" MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCK, £100,000.

ISSUE of £100,000 FOUR PER CENT. IRREDEEMABLE "A" MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCK at PAR, payable as follows:—
10 per cent. on Application.
40 per cent. on Allotment.
50 per cent. on 1st November, 1898.

The Stock will be issued in sums of not less than £50 and in multiples of £10 above that amount, and will be transferable in any sums not involving a fraction of a pound.

The interest on the Stock will be payable half-yearly, on the 1st day of February and the 1st day of August in each year. The first payment of interest calculated from the dates fixed for payment of the various instalments will be made on the 1st day of February, 1899.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE STOCK HOLDERS.
James Forsyth, J.P., Tettenhall, Wolverhampton. } Directors of the Birmingham
Rupert Turberville Smith, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton. } District and Counties Banking Company, Limited.

SOLICITORS TO THE DEBENTURE TRUSTEES.—Warmington, Thompson, & Warmington, Castle-street, Dudley.

DIRECTORS.
James Forsyth, J.P. | Alexander Horsley.
E. T. Hargraves. | G. F. Thompson.
E. J. Thompson, Managing Director.

BANKERS.
The Birmingham District and Counties Banking Company, Limited, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, and branches;
And their London Agents, Williams, Deacon, and Manchester and Salford Bank, Limited, Birchin-lane.

SOLICITORS TO THE COMPANY.—H. and J. E. Underhill and Thorneycroft, Darlington-street, Wolverhampton.

AUDITORS.—Charles Eves & Co., 50, Gresham-street, London, E.C.

BROKERS.
In London.—Snell & Swaffield, 9 and 10, Tokenhouse-yard, E.C., and Stock Exchange, E.C.
In Manchester.—Lawson & Ormrod, 10, Half Moon-street, and Manchester Stock Exchange.
In Leeds.—Hirst, Turner, & Tennant, 5, East-parade, and Leeds Stock Exchange.
In Wolverhampton and Birmingham.—Payne, Turton, & Payne, 9, King-street, Wolverhampton, and Birmingham Stock Exchange.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE.—W. Whitfield, Park Brewery, Wolverhampton.

The Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries, Limited, was incorporated on the 14th day of May, 1890. The whole of the share capital has been issued, and is fully paid, and the debentures are all taken up. All classes of capital are quoted in the official lists of the London and Birmingham Stock Exchanges.

The Company has paid the following dividends on its Ordinary Shares for the last three and a-half years:—1894-5, 5 per cent.; 1895-6, 6 per cent.; 1896-7, 8 per cent.; 1897-8 (interim half-year), 8 per cent.

A reserve fund of £20,600 has also been accumulated.

A certificate by the Company's Auditors as to the Company's profits for the last three and a-half years is appended, from which it will be seen that the average yearly profit is £22,176 12s. 0d.

The existing Debentures of the Company are charged on the following properties, namely:—The Park and Fox Breweries, Wolverhampton, and the Dudley and Victoria Breweries, Dudley, and 56 freehold, five leasehold licensed houses, and certain unlicensed property of the Company; in addition these Debentures have a floating charge on the stock-in-trade, book debts, and effects of the Company. The total assets on which these Debentures for £100,000 have a first charge are valued by Messrs. Alfred Thomas Peyer and Miles, of 2, Adelaide-place, London, E.C., the well-known Valuers, at the sum of £179,315 1s. 1d., as per their certificate appended to the Prospectus.

For the purpose of paying off the various mortgages existing on the Company's properties which have been acquired since the issue of the Debentures, and finding the money for the rebuilding of the Park Brewery and Stables, it has been determined to issue £100,000 Irredeemable Four per Cent. "A" Mortgage Debenture Stock, out of the proceeds of which issue the mortgages will be discharged.

The Irredeemable Four per Cent. "A" Mortgage Debenture Stock will have a specific first charge on 93 freehold, 2 copyhold, 1 long leasehold licensed houses, and certain unlicensed property of the Company, all acquired since the incorporation of the Company, and valued by Messrs. Alfred Thomas Peyer & Miles at £140,485, and will also have a floating second charge on the whole of the assets charged to secure the £100,000 4½ per cent. Debentures, making a total of over £200,000.

Application should be made direct to the Company's bankers, or their London agents, together with a cheque for the amount of the deposit, payable to the order of the bankers to whom the remittance is made.

Prospectuses may be obtained from the Bankers, Solicitors, or Brokers, and at the Offices of the Company.

COPY AUDITORS' CERTIFICATE.

50, Gresham-street, E.C., 20th June, 1898.

To the Directors of the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries, Limited.

Dear Sirs,—As Auditors of the Company we have pleasure in certifying that the net profits on the trading for the three and a-half years ending 31st March, 1898, as shown by the audited accounts, have been as follows:—

Year ending 30th September, 1895	.....	£15,098 2 10
" " 1896	.....	20,178 3 5
" " 1897	.....	27,973 18 9
Half-year ending 31st March, 1898		£14,367 17 0

These profits have been arrived at after charging all trading expenses, including management, salaries, and Directors' fees, and making ample provision for bad debts, depreciation and up-keep of the properties, but before charging interest on debentures, mortgages, or loans.—Yours faithfully,
CHAS. EVES & CO., Chartered Accountants.

CENTRAL PACIFIC STOCK.

The Southern Pacific Company will, after JULY 1st, 1898, against delivery to it, at its office in New York, of Dividend Warrants No. 34, appertaining to Certificates of Stock of the Central Pacific Railroad Company, pay to the persons presenting the same, one-half of 1 per cent. of the par value of the stock represented by such certificates respectively.

Holders of the London Committee's certificates in England can obtain the amount referred to above on presentation of their certificates at Messrs. GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & CO.'S, 67, Lombard-street, London, E.C., where they will be stamped as follows:—"Five dollars ($5) received from the Southern Pacific Company against delivery of Dividend Warrant No. 34."

The certificates may be left any day (except Saturday) between the hours of TEN and TWO.

The Subscription List will be Closed at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the 29th of June.

This Company is formed to acquire Ninety-six Valuable Properties (see enclosed Schedule), which are partially developed and proved. Ore can be shipped immediately. Several of the Properties are ready for bringing out as Subsidiary Companies.

The Mining Laws of British Columbia are free from the stringent and costly provisions as to labour and pecuniary outlay which prevail in Australia and South Africa. Attention is called to the fact that Mr. Pellew-Harvey, whose reputation is known to some of the Directors to be of the highest order, has consented to act as Consulting Mining Engineer. There are no Founders' Shares.

THE ASSOCIATED GOLD MINES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,

LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL - - - - - £500,000,

IN 500,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH,

OF WHICH 125,000 ARE SET ASIDE FOR THE PROVISION OF WORKING CAPITAL.

ISSUE, £405,000, of which 200,000 shares are taken by the vendor, in part payment of the purchase consideration—95,000 of the 125,000 for working capital being reserved for future issue—and the balance, viz. :—

205,000 SHARES, are now offered for subscription at par, payable 2s. 6d. on Application, 2s. 6d. on Allotment, and the balance in calls of 5s. each, at intervals of one month from Allotment.

DIRECTORS.

Sir William Des Vœux, G.C.M.G., 7, Cromwell-gardens, S.W. (late Governor of Newfoundland), Chairman.
The Earl of Yarmouth, 19, King-street, St. James's, S.W.
William J. Goulding, Esq., D.L., 5, Fitzwilliam-square, Dublin (Director Great Southern and Western Railway, Ireland).
C. A. Cosmo Hamilton, Esq., 11, Park-place, St. James's, S.W.
Major J. Eustace Jameson, M.P., 75, Harrington-gardens, S.W. (Chairman Menzies Mining and Exploration Company, Limited).
G. Mure Ritchie, Esq., B.L., 123, St. Vincent-street, Glasgow (Chairman Millom and Askam Hematite Iron Company, Limited).
Sir Edward Sullivan, Bart., 2, Harewood-place, W.

ADVISORY BOARD IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Capt. R. E. Bourchier, Vancouver (Director British Columbia Mining Prospectors' Exchange, Limited).
C. Cattell, Esq., Vancouver (Director Cayoosh Creek Mining and Milling Co.).
T. R. Hardiman, Esq., Vancouver (Director British Columbia Mining Prospectors' Exchange, Limited).

AGENTS IN VANCOUVER.—London and B.C. Gold Venture Syndicate, Limited. Associated with the B.C. Mining Prospectors' Exchange, Limited.

CONSULTING MINING ENGINEER.

W. Pellew-Harvey, Esq., F.C.S., Memb. North Eng. Inst. M., and M.E., Vancouver.

BANKERS.

Lloyds Bank, Limited, 222, Strand, London, W.C., and other Branches.
National Bank, Limited, Dublin, and all Branches in Ireland.

BANKERS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Bank of British North America.

BROKERS

Messrs. Dean Swift & Co., 19, Old Broad-street, and Stock Exchange, London, E.C.
Douglas Cairney, Esq., 141, West George-street, and Stock Exchange, Glasgow.
Messrs. John Robertson & Co., 31, George-street, and Stock Exchange, Edinburgh.
J. F. Magnire, Esq. 2, St. Andrew-street, and Stock Exchange, Dublin.

SOLICITOR.—H. Percy Becher, Esq. 26, Bedford-row, W.C.
GENERAL MANAGER AND SECRETARY.—W. H. S. Aubrey, Esq., LL.D.
OFFICES.—1, Northumberland-avenue, London, W.C.

The Auditors will be appointed by the Shareholders at the first meeting.)

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

OBJECTS.—1. To acquire 96 of what are believed to be among the most valuable and promising Mining Properties in British Columbia, the large majority of which are gold mines.
2. To acquire from time to time, as opportunities offer, other mining properties.
3. To carry on the lucrative business of transport and trading.
4. To form subsidiary Companies to take over mining properties as they are developed, and any trading or other business established by this Company.

EXTENT OF THE PROPERTIES.—Full particulars of the said 96 mining properties are set forth in the Schedule accompanying the Prospectus.

CAREFUL SELECTION.—Arrangements were made by the Vendors through competent and reliable agents in the earliest stages to select the most valuable claims, after thorough inquiry and investigation. The agents state that in this way the first choice has been exercised, after adequate tests, among the most promising gold fields that have been recently opened up, and the properties are therefore acquired by the Associated Gold Mines of British Columbia on exceptionally favourable terms.

LOCATION AND CONTIGUITY TO PROVED MINES.—A sketch plan accompanies the Prospectus, showing the approximate location of the various properties. One important and promising feature is their proximity to those which have yielded, and are continuing to yield, large profits.

PROPOSAL TO FORM SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES.—It is not intended, nor indeed would it be possible, for this Company to develop adequately and retain the 96 properties, nor those which will doubtless be acquired hereafter as favourable opportunities occur. In the first instance some of these properties, already partly developed, will be at once further developed, and immediately they have been proved to be of the permanent dividend-earning capacity, confidently anticipated by the Company's Agents, subsidiary Companies will be formed to take them over and work them. Having regard to the very moderate price at which the 96 mining properties are to be acquired by this Company, the profit on the re-sale of these alone should be very considerable.

It is intended as soon as possible to constitute several such Companies in succession to work the following mines, either singly or in groups, as may be deemed advisable:—No. 55, "Robert E. Burns"; Nos. 3 to 5, the "Mabel Group"; Nos. 19 and 20, "Willie" and "Georgina"; Nos. 23 to 31, the "Lytton Group"; Nos. 38 and 39, "Yukon" and "Clondyke"; Nos. 47 to 49, "I.X.L. Group"; and Nos. 50 to 54, the "Badshot Group." The agents state that these properties are in such a forward state that the clean, solid ore in sight can be shipped in large quantities immediately, with most satisfactory results.

Arrangements will be made, on the flotation of these subsidiary companies, and on the issue of new capital in any companies in which this Company may be interested, for its shareholders to have, wherever practicable, a prior right to an allotment of shares *pro rata*.

LARGE DIVIDEND-EARNING CAPABILITIES AND PROSPECTS.—It is intended as soon as possible to establish stores and a general trading business in machinery, tools, mining implements, food, clothing, and all the necessaries of life and industry, with branches at such places as the Directors may deem advisable. A subsidiary Company may be formed to take over this business, when it has been thoroughly established.

The Memorandum of Association of the Company contains wide powers, enabling the Directors to enter into such transactions as, in their opinion, offer suitable opportunities of profit making for the Shareholders. In such a country as British Columbia, yet only in its infancy, there are many ways in which, with care and judgment, a portion of the capital may be safely and profitably employed. It will thus be seen that the Company has capabilities and prospects of earning handsome dividends and bonuses for the Shareholders, without reference to any premium value which may be reasonably expected to accrue.

WEALTH OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.—According to the last report of the Provincial Minister of Mines, the total amounts paid in dividends by the following Mines are:—

	1897. Dols.	Total. Dols.		1897. Dols.	Total. Dols.
"Whitewater," Kaslo	87,000	123,000	"Idaho," Slocan	—	220,000
"Payne," Slocan	960,000	1,800,000	"Last Chance," Slocan	—	37,000
"Slocan Star," Slocan	—	400,000	"Le Roi," Rossland	400,000	725,000
"Reco," ,,	100,000	287,500	"War Eagle," ,,	—	187,000
"Hall Mines," ,,	133,750	160,000	"Rambler Cariboo"	—	40,000

The same report gives the total value of gold, silver, copper, and lead produced during 1897 as 7,565,951 dols., the greater portion being from West Kootenay. This important district, which includes the Ainsworth, Nelson, Rossland or Trail Creek, and Slocan divisions, has paid dividends exceeding 4,000,000 dols.; and it yielded during the month of January, 1898, according to the Customs returns, minerals valued at 1,193,458 dols., or nearly double the amount of January, 1897.

It is intended to apply for a special settlement on the London Stock Exchange in due course.

Applications for shares should be made on the accompanying form, and sent with the required deposit to the Bankers of the Company.

This form to be filled up and forwarded with cheque to bearer for the amount of the Deposit, either to LLOYDS BANK, Ltd., 222, Strand, London, W.C., or any other Branch, or to the NATIONAL BANK, Limited, Dublin, or any Branch in Ireland.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

THE ASSOCIATED GOLD MINES OF BRITSH COLUMBIA, LIMITED.

CAPITAL £500,000, in 500,000 Shares of £1 each.

205,000 Shares offered for subscription at par. Payable 2s. 6d. on Application, 2s. 6d. on Allotment, and the balance in calls of 5s. each at intervals of one month from Allotment.

To the Directors of THE ASSOCIATED GOLD MINES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, Limited.

GENTLEMEN,—I request you to allot me.....Shares of £1 each in the above-named Company, and I agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and upon the terms of the prospectus issued by you, dated the 18th day of June, 1898, and I authorize you to place my name upon the register of members in respect of the Shares so allotted to me; and I agree to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Shares as the same shall become due; and I agree with the Company, as trustee for the directors and other persons liable, to waive any claims I may have against them for not more fully complying, in the said prospectus, with the requirements of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867.

I enclose a cheque for.....being the deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share payable on application.

Please write distinctly, and give full permanent address.

Full Name .....
Ordinary Signature .....
Description or Occupation .....
Permanent Address.....
.....
Date ....., 1898.

All cheques to be made payable to Bearer an crossed "Lloyds Bank," or "National Bank." No receipts for the amounts paid on application will be issued. Allotment Letters and Letters of Reret will be posted with as little delay as possible.

REORGANIZATION

OF

THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY.

The undersigned Committee, at the request of holders of a large amount of the securities, has been for a long time past engaged in an examination of the affairs of The Baltimore and Ohio System and the relative value and earning capacity of the various lines comprised therein, with a view to formulating a plan of reorganization therefore which should fairly recognise the rights of all security holders, and at the same time bring the fixed charges of the reorganized Company safely within the net earning capacity of the system. Much time and attention have been devoted to acquiring full and accurate information as to all details, including a careful examination of the Company's accounts for the period of nine years and six months, made by Mr. Stephen Little on behalf of the Committee. The aim of the Committee has been to formulate a plan for the reorganization of the system which should accomplish the following results:

(*a*) The reduction of the fixed charges to a limit safely within the net earning capacity of the reorganised properties;

(*b*) Adequate capital for present and future requirements;

(*c*) The payment of floating debt and provision for existing car-trust obligations;

(*d*) The preservation of the integrity of the system as far as the same can be economically and advantageously accomplished and such control of the reorganized Company as shall secure a satisfactory management of the property for a period of years.

Having these objects in view, a plan has been prepared and Messrs. Speyer & Co., and Messrs. Kuhn, Loeb & Co., of New York, and Messrs. Speyer Brothers, of London, have been selected by the Committee to act as Reorganization Managers to carry out the plan.

Messrs. Louis Fitzgerald, Henry Budge, Edward R. Bacon, and William A. Read, have been appointed an Advisory Committee to continue and complete the work of the Reorganization Committee and to consult and co-operate with the Reorganization Managers. Any vacancy in the Advisory Committee occasioned by death, resignation, or otherwise, may be filled by the joint action of the Reorganization Managers, and of the remaining Members of the Advisory Committee.

The undersigned recommend the prompt acceptance of the plan, believing that its consummation will result to the best interests of all security holders, and will place this important property upon a sound and conservative basis.

NEW YORK, June 22, 1898.

LOUIS FITZGERALD,
AUGUST BELMONT,
EDWARD R. BACON,
HENRY BUDGE,
EUGENE DELANO,
WILLIAM A. READ,
HOWLAND DAVIS,

Reorganization Committee.

To the Holders of the following Bonds, Coupons, and Stocks:

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company Bonds, Loan of 1853, Extended to 1935 at Four Per Cent.
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company 100-Year Five Per Cent. Consolidated Mortgage Bonds of 1888.
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company Sterling Six Per Cent. Loan of 1872, Due March 1, 1902.
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company Sterling Six Per Cent. Loan of 1874, Due May 1, 1910.
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company Six Per Cent. Loan of 1879, Due April 1, 1919 (Account Parkersburg Branch Railroad Company).
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company Five Per Cent. Bonds, Loan of 1885 (Account Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company).
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company Four and One-Half Per Cent. Terminal Mortgage Bonds of 1894.
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company Sterling Four and One-Half Per Cent. Loan of 1883, Philadelphia Branch.
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company Sterling Five Per Cent. Loan of 1877, Due June 1, 1927 (Account Baltimore and Ohio and Chicago Railroad Company).
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company First Preferred Stock.
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company Second Preferred Stock.
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company Common Stock.
Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company First Mortgage Bonds, Extended to 1946 at Four Per Cent.
Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company First Mortgage Seven Per Cent. Bonds, Due July 1, 1898.
Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company Six Per Cent. Consolidated Mortgage Bonds.
Akron and Chicago Junction Railroad Company First Mortgage Five Per Cent. Bonds.
Akron and Chicago Junction Railroad Company Preferred Stock.
Washington City and Point Lookout Railroad Company Six Per Cent. Bonds.
Matured and Unpaid Coupons, and claims for interest on registered bonds, appertaining to any of the above-named Bonds, except those of the Washington City and Point Lookout Railroad Company may be deposited separate from the Bonds as hereinafter stated.

As stated in the foregoing announcement of the Reorganization Committee, a plan has been prepared, with our joint approval and co-operation, for the reorganization of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company's System; and in conformity with an arrangement with the Committee, the undersigned have undertaken to act as Reorganization Managers to carry out the plan.

The plan provides for the creation of the following new securities:—

FIRST

70,000,000 Dols. PRIOR LIEN THREE AND ONE-HALF PER CENT. GOLD BONDS, DUE 1925.

These bonds will bear interest from July 1, 1898, and are to be secured by a mortgage upon the Main Line and Branches, Parkersburg Branches and Pittsburgh Division when acquired by the New Company, covering about 1,017 miles of first track, and about 964 miles of second, third and fourth tracks and sidings and also all the equipment now owned by the Company of the value of upwards of 20,000,000 dols. or hereafter acquired in any manner except by the use of the 34,000,000 dols. reserved First Mortgage Bonds, as hereinafter stated.

The right will be reserved to issue, after January 1st, 1902, not to exceed 5,000,000 dols. additional of these bonds, at the rate of not exceeding 1,000,000 dols. a year, for the enlargement, betterment or extension of the properties covered by the Prior Lien Mortgage, or for the acquisition of additions thereto.

In case delay should occur in acquiring any of the said lines of railway, the execution of the plan will not for that reason necessarily be postponed, but the existing bonds upon such line deposited under the plan may be pledged under the Prior Lien Mortgage, as security for the bonds issued thereunder, until such line of railway shall be acquired by the New Company and subjected to the lien of said mortgage.

The Prior Lien Bonds are to be applied as follows:—

	Dols.
In partial exchange for existing bonds	60,073,090
Purchased by Syndicate to provide cash requirements of plan ...	9,000,000
	69,073,090
For contingencies (any surplus to New Company)	926,910
	70,000,000

SECOND.

63,000,000 Dols. FIRST MORTGAGE FIFTY-YEAR FOUR PER CENT. GOLD BONDS.

These bonds will bear interest from July 1st, 1898, and are to be secured by a mortgage which will be a first lien on the Philadelphia, Chicago, and Akron divisions and branches, and the Fairmont, Morgantown, and Pittsburgh Railroad, covering about 570 miles of first track, and about 332 miles of second, third and fourth tracks and sidings, and also on the properties now included in the present Baltimore and Ohio Terminal Mortgage of 1894, when said lines and properties are acquired by the New Company: also on the Baltimore Belt Railroad, if and when the same shall be acquired by the New Company; and a lien subject to the Prior Lien Mortgage upon the lines, property and equipment covered by the latter.

The right will be reserved to increase the amount of these bonds to 90,000,000 dols. for the enlargement, betterment, or extension of the railroads and properties covered by the Prior Lien Mortgage and also those covered by the First Mortgage, or for the acquisition of extensions or additions thereto or equipment for use thereon, at the rate of not exceeding 1,500,000 dols. a year for the first four years after the organization of the New Company and at the rate of not exceeding 1,000,000 dols. a year thereafter. The right will also be reserved to call in and redeem all or any part of the First Mortgate Bonds after twenty-five years, at 105, and also to issue not to exceed 75,000,000 dols. additional of said bonds or such lesser amount as may be required to retire the Prior Lien bonds when due.

In case delay should occur in acquiring any of the said lines of railway or properties to be included under the First Mortgage as above stated, the execution of the plan will not for that reason necessarily be postponed, but the existing bonds upon such line or property deposited under the plan may be pledged under the First Mortgage, as security for the bonds issued thereunder, until such line or property shall be acquired by the New Company, and subjected to the lien of said First Mortgage.

The First Mortgage Bonds are to be applied as follows:—

	Dollars.
In partial exchange for existing bonds	36,384,535
Purchased by Syndicate to provide cash requirements of plan ...	12,450,000
For contingencies (any surplus to New Company)	1,165,465
	50,000,000
Reserve for New Company	7,000,000
	57,000,000
Reserve to be issued only to retire Baltimore Belt Line 5s. ...	6,000,000
	63,000,000

NOTE.—The properties covered by the Baltimore Belt Line mortgage will be leased at a rental equivalent to interest at 4 per cent. on the existing Belt Line 5 per cent. bonds which is to be in full payment of said interest. The rental agreement will provide that in consideration of the rental the New Company shall have an option to purchase all the said Belt Line 5 per cent. bonds at par and accrued interest at any time within five years on sixty (60) days' notice, and that, in case the Company shall not purchase such bonds within the five years specified, it will at the termination of that period assume the ultimate payment, when due, of the principal of such bonds.

THIRD.

40,000,000 Dols. FOUR PER CENT. NON-CUMULATIVE PREFERRED STOCK.

This stock will be entitled to receive non-cumulative dividends at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum before the payment of any dividend on the Common Stock. This stock will be applied as follows:—

	Dols.
For Reorganization purposes	17,218,700
Purchased by Syndicate to provide cash requirements of plan ...	16,450,000
For adjustment with various outstanding bondholders' and stockholding interests, contingencies, &c., &c. (any surplus to New Company)	1,331,300
	35,000,000
Reserve for New Company...	5,000,000
	40,000,000

FOURTH.

35,000,000 Dols. COMMON STOCK.

This stock will be applied as follows:—

	Dols.
For Reorganization purposes	31,178,000
For adjustment outstanding securities, contingencies, &c. (any surplus to New Company)	3,822,000
	35,000,000

In order to establish such control of the Reorganized Company as shall secure a satisfactory management of the property for a period of years, both classes of stock of the New Company (except such shares as may be disposed of to qualify directors) shall be vested in the following five Voting Trustees for the period of five years:—William Salomon, Abraham Wolff, J. Kennedy Tod, Louis Fitzgerald, and C. H. Coster, although the Voting Trustees in their discretion may deliver the stock at an earlier date as provided in the Trust Agreement. In the meanwhile the Voting Trustees are to deliver their certificates in the usual form.

As stated in the plan, holders of First and Second Preferred and Common Stock of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company may purchase from the Syndicate new preferred and common stock, by depositing their old stocks with the Mercantile Trust Company, or the London and Westminster Bank, Limited, its agency in London, on the following terms: as consideration for shares of the New Company depositors of B. & O. First Preferred Stock must pay 2 dols. per share deposited; depositors of B. & O. Second Preferred Stock must pay 20 dols. per share deposited; and depositors of B. & O. Common Stock must pay 20 dols. per share deposited. Such payments must be made by depositors in not less than three instalments, at least thirty days apart, when and as called for by advertisement published in each instance at least twice a week for two weeks in at least two daily newspapers in New York, Baltimore, and London respectively.

Deposited bonds must carry all coupons and claims for interest on registered bonds maturing on or after July 1, 1898 (except the First Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds of the Washington City and Point Lookout Railroad Company, which must also carry all matured and unpaid coupons). All matured and unpaid coupons and claims for interest on registered bonds (excepting the unpaid coupons on the First Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds of the Washington City and Point Lookout Railroad Company) may be deposited separate from the bonds, and the same will be paid in cash as soon as practicable after the plan is declared operative, with interest on such coupons and claims for interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum from the date of maturity up to the date when the same are finally paid. Interest will also be paid in cash upon the completion of the reorganization on all deposited bonds (excepting the First Mortgage Six per Cent. Bonds of the Washington City and Point Lookout Railroad Company) at the rate provided in the old Bonds up to July 1, 1898, from the coupon date last preceding.

The Syndicate will purchase such coupons and claims for interest on registered bonds matured prior to July 1, 1898, from holders who do not desire to deposit the same under the plan (provided and so soon as the bonds to which the coupons or claims for interest appertain have been deposited) at their face value with interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum from the respective dates of maturity of such coupons or claims for interest to date of purchase, provided such coupons and claims for interest shall be presented for sale to the Syndicate at the office of the Mercantile Trust Company in New York or at its London agency above mentioned on or before July 22, 1898.

The basis of exchange of existing bonds and of sale of new stock is shown in the following table :—

EXISTING BONDS AND STOCK TO BE DEPOSITED.	EACH 1,000 DOLS. OR £200 RECEIVES						ACTUAL PERCENTAGE FOR STERLING ISSUES FIGURED AT 4·8666 DOLS.		
	*Cash.	New Prior Lien 3½% Bonds.	New First Mtge. 4% Bonds.	New Pfd. Stock Trust Certificates.	New Common Stock Trust Certificates.	New Prior Lien 3½% Bonds.	New First Mtge. 4% Bonds.	New Pfd. Stock Trust Certificates.
	Dols.	Dols.	Dols.	Dols.	Dols.	%	%	%
Baltimore & Ohio Loan of 1853, Extended	10·00	1,025	125	140	.....			
" " Consolidated Mortgage, 5 per cent.	20·83	1,050	125	85	.....			
" " Sterling Loan of 1872	19·47	1,020	120	40	.....	104·79	12·33	4·11
" " Sterling Loan of 1874	9·73	1,120	120	160	.....	115·07	12·33	16·44
" " Parkersburg Branch Bonds	15·00	1,050	125					
Pittsburgh & Connellsville, 1st Extended 4s.	20·00	1,025	125	40				
Pittsburgh & Connellsville, 1st 7s., not Extended	35·00	1,000	125					
Baltimore & Ohio 5s., Loan of 1885	20·83	1,000	125	100				
Pittsburgh & Connellsville Consolidated Mortgage 6 per cent. Bonds ...	29·20	1,025	120	200	.....	105·31	12·33	20·55
Chicago Division, 5 per cent.	4·06	100	1,070	100	.....	10·27	109·93	10·27
Philadelphia Division, 4½ per cent.	10·95	.....	1,000	265	.....	.....	102·74	27·22
Baltimore & Ohio 4½ per cent. Terminal Bonds of 1894	3·75	.....	1,000					
Akron & Chicago Junction Bonds	8·33	.....	1,000	250				
Akron & Chicago Junction, Preferred Stock...	.....	.....	.....	250	1,000			
Washington City and Point Lookout Bonds	.....	.....	.....	500	1,000			
Depositors of old 1st Preferred Stock may purchase from Syndicate, on payment of 2 dols. per share deposited	.....	.....	.....	525	750			
Depositors of old 2nd Preferred Stock may purchase from Syndicate, on payment of 20 dols. per share deposited	.....	.....	.....	200	1,500			
Depositors of old Common Stock may purchase from Syndicate, on payment of 20 dols. per share deposited	.....	.....	.....	200	1,000			

* Interest at the rate provided in the old bonds, from the date of the last matured coupon next preceding July 1, 1898, up to the date when the new bonds begin to bear interest, namely, July 1, 1898 (exclusive of previously matured coupons otherwise provided for as stated below).

The Syndicate has agreed to purchase for cash, upon the plan being declared operative, all Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company One-Hundred-Year Five Per Cent. Consolidated Mortgage Bonds deposited under the plan, whose holders prefer to accept cash rather than to take the new securities, at the price (in New York) of 110 and interest accrued and unpaid since the maturity of the last-paid coupon, provided the depositors of such bonds shall signify their election to receive cash as above stated, by presenting their Certificates of Deposit at the office of the Mercantile Trust Company in New York or at its London agency above specified, within sixty days from the time the plan shall actually be issued, to be stamped as electing to accept such cash payment. Such depositors will thereupon be entitled to receive such cash payment so soon as the plan is declared operative, upon surrender of their Certificates of Deposit so stamped.

	Dols.
The fixed charges of the Company for the year ending June 30, 1897, as reported by the Receivers, were	7,771,111
The annual fixed charges, upon completion of the reorganization and retirement of existing bonds as proposed, it is estimated, will be	6,252,351
Decrease of annual fixed charges	1,518,760

The Company, as shown by Mr. Stephen Little's expert examination and report, dated July 11th, 1896, from September 30th, 1888, to November 30th, 1895, a period of seven years and two months, earned, net, including miscellaneous income, a yearly average of 7,234,000 dols., without deduction, however, of average taxes amounting to 437,000 dols.

		Dols.
The net earnings for the year ending June 30th, 1897, were including miscellaneous income ... ... (For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, equipment of the Company valued on its books at 1,155,829·95, dols. was put out of service and charged, not to operating expenses, but to "Profit and Loss," because it represented the depreciation of a number of years. As against this, however, extraordinary expenses—estimated at not less than 750,000 dols.—for the maintenance of the property generally, were incurred during the year, and charged to operation. For the year 1898, as stated in the annual report of last year, all equipment when put out of service, is replaced with equipment of equal value, as shown on the books of the Company, and the cost thereof charged to "Maintenance of Equipment.")		6,593,990
The net earnings from the property for the present fiscal year (April, May and June approximated) have (notwithstanding liberal charges for maintenance), as compared with the same period of the preceding fiscal year, increased ...	1,443,909	
Miscellaneous income decreased	62,114	
Net increase		1,381,796
Estimated net earnings for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898, including miscellaneous income (Taxes not deducted, they being included in fixed charges)		7,975,78

from which, however, will have to be deducted the sum of about 251,000 dols., representing the decrease in the amount of miscellaneous income which will be occasioned by the proposed sale of securities in the treasury and the cancellation of sinking-fund investments under the reorganization. The fixed charges of the new Company will thus be well within the past net income of the property—even that of the last fiscal year of extreme depression. The new Company will be relieved from floating debt and the embarrassment of car and wheelage trust payments and will start, not only with a substantial working cash capital, but also with power to provide facilities for the increase of business. The bye-laws of the new Company will provide that its accounts shall be audited annually by accountants of established reputation.

A Syndicate has been formed to furnish the cash required to provide for unpaid interest, existing car trusts, receiver's certificates, floating debt, and other outstanding obligations, improvements, equipment, working capital, and other purposes of the new Company, and also to purchase new securities not taken by holders of certain of the existing bonds.

The Mercantile Trust Company of New York will act as Depositary under the plan, and the London and Westminster Bank, Limited, will act as its agent for the purpose of receiving deposits in London, England. All holders of bonds and stock affected by the plan may deposit their securities, on and after June 30, 1898, either with the Mercantile Trust Company, at its office, No. 120, Broadway, in the City of New York, or at its agency, the London and Westminster Bank, Limited, 41, Lothbury, London, England, and will receive reorganization certificates of deposit therefor. Application will be made in due course to list such certificates of deposit upon the New York and London Stock Exchanges.

Participation under the plan of reorganization in any respect whatsoever is dependent upon the deposit of securities as above within such time as may be fixed by the Managers, and the plan will embrace only securities so deposited. Copies of the agreement and plan of reorganization are now ready for distribution, and all security holders are invited to obtain them from the undersigned, or from the Depositary or its London agency, as all depositors are bound thereby, without regard to this circular; and the plan and agreement set forth in detail many features which it is impracticable to condense into this circular, but which are of much importance to security holders.

We believe that the prompt consummation of the plan will result to the best interests of all security holders, and will place the administration of this property on a sound and conservative basis. Any further information connected with the reorganization which may be desired by security holders will be furnished on application at the offices of any of the undersigned, or at the office of the Depositary or its London Agency.

Dated New York, June 22, 1898.

SPEYER & CO.,
30, Broad Street, New York.
KUHN, LOEB & CO.,
27, Pine Street, New York.
SPEYER BROTHERS,
7, Lothbury, London.
} Reorganization Managers.

SEWARD, GUTHRIE & STEELE,
EVARTS, CHOATE & BEAMAN,
FRESHFIELDS & WILLIAMS, London,
Counsel to Reorganization Managers.

To the Holders of Bonds or Stocks of the following-named Railroad Companies :—
Columbus and Cincinatti Midland Railroad Company.
Central Ohio Railroad Company.
Newark, Somerset and Straitsville Railroad Company.
Sandusky, Mansfield and Newark Railroad Company.
Schuylkill River, East Side Railroad Company.
Winchester and Potomac Railroad Company.
Winchester and Strasburg Railroad Company.

Referring to the plan and agreement for the reorganization of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, dated June 22, 1898 holders of the securities of the above-named railroads are requested to communcate at once with the undersigned Advisory Committee, giving the amount of their holdings, and stating how the same are held.

In order to deal with the holders of these leased-line securities, it is deemed necessary to consider each case separately and upon its merits. After hearing from the holders of a large proportion of each class of securities, the matter of adjustment will be considered.

LOUIS FITZGERALD,
EDWARD R. BACON,
HENRY BIDGE,
WILLIAM A. READ,
} Advisory Committee.

WILLIAM C. GULLIVER,
Counsel to Advisory Commitee.
ALVIN W. KRECH, Secretary,
120, Broadway, New York.

HOME AND COLONIAL STORES, Limited.

Share Transfer and Dividend Office,
2 and 4, Paul Street, Finsbury,
London, 24th June, 1898.

Notice is hereby given that the Directors of the Home and Colonial Stores, Limited, have declared an Interim Dividend upon the Ordinary Shares of the Company for the quarter ending 25th June of Three Shillings per Share (less Income Tax), payable on and after 1st July at the Banking House of Messrs. Glyn Mills, Currie, & Co., 67, Lombard-street, London, where Coupon No. 4 attached to the Share Warrants to Bearer should be lodged three clear days in advance.

By order of the Board,
ALFRED PIGOTT,
Registrar.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowd to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

The Subscription List will OPEN on Tuesday, the 28th June, 1898, and will be CLOSED on or before Thursday, the 30th June, 1898, for Town and Country.

KING & MORTIMER, Limited, South Kensington and Fulham-road, London. Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893, whereby the liability of Shareholders is limited to the amount of their Shares.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL, £160,000, divided into 16,000 5½ per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each, and 80,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, of which Ordinary Shares there will now be issued 50,000 to the Vendors fully paid up.

NOW OFFERED FOR PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION—

14,000 Cumulative £5½ per cent. Preference Shares of £5 each ...	£70,000
£4½ per cent. Mortgage Debenture Stock	£40,000

There will be no Founders' or Management Shares.

The Preference Shares will be entitled to a fixed Cumulative Preferential Dividend at the rate of £5½ per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly, on the 1st April and the 1st October in each year, and will rank as regards both dividend and capital in priority to the Ordinary Shares. No Preference Shares to rank in priority to, or *pari passu* with, the 16,000 Preference Shares mentioned above, will be issued without the sanction of the Preference Shareholders as provided by the Articles of Association.

The Mortgage Debenture Stock will be issued in multiples of £10, and the interest payable half-yearly, on 1st January and 1st July. The Stock will be secured by a First Mortgage on the freehold and leasehold properties of the Company, and by a first floating charge on the undertaking and all the other assets, present and future (not including uncalled capital) of the Company. Redeemable at £105 per cent on 1st July, 1929. In case of voluntary liquidation the stock can only be redeemed at £105 per cent. No Mortgage Debenture Stock or Mortgage Debentures for more than £80,000 will be issued to rank *pari passu* with the present issue. No Debenture Stock beyond the £40,000 now offered will be issued until additional property is acquired by the Company, and no future issue will exceed two-thirds of the price of such additional property.

The Mortgage Debenture Stock and Preference Shares are to be paid for as follows—

DEBENTURE STOCK.—On Application, £1; on Allotment, £3; on 15th August, 1898, £3; and on 30th September, 1898, £3; total, £10.

PREFERENCE SHARES.—On Application, 10s.; on Allotment, £1 10s.; on 15th August, 1898, £1 10s.; and on 30th September, 1898, £1 10s.; total, £5.

Interest on the Debenture Stock and Dividends on the Preference Shares will accrue as from the date of payment of the instalments.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE STOCK-HOLDERS.—Thomas Lough, Esq., M.P., 29, Hyde Park Gate, London, W.; James Bailey, Esq., M.P., 102, Eaton-sq. S.W.

DIRECTORS.—Ernest Godfree, Esq. (E. Godfree, Felton & Co.), Charing Cross-chambers, Duke-street, Adelphi, W.C.; William Lough, Esq. (Director of Tower Tea, Ltd.), 71, Eastcheap, E.C.; William King, Esq., 31 and 32, Sussex-place, South Kensington, S.W., Managing Director; George Mortimer, Esq., Parson's Green-lane, Fulham, S.W.

BANKERS.—London & County Banking Company, Limited, Lombard-street, E.C.; Sussex-place, South Kensington; and other Branches; London & South-Western Bank, Limited, Fenchurch-street, E.C., and Branches.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Scott, Spalding & Bell, 15, Queen-street, Cheapside, E.C.

BROKERS.—Messrs. Holland & Balfour, 2, Cushion-court, Old Broad-street, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. G. N. Read, Son & Co., Chartered Accountants, 49, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—Mr. Franklin H. Hood, 136, Palmerston-buildings, Old Broad-street, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire high-class Businesses and Business Premises, either in London or the Provinces, as favourable opportunities occur, with a view to their greater development as large local central Stores. To commence with, the Directors have secured the old-established Businesses for many years carried on by Mr. Robert King, in South Kensington, and by Mr. George Mortimer, in Fulham-road, and at the undermentioned addresses:—

ROBERT KING.	GEORGE MORTIMER.
31 and 32, Sussex-place, South Kensington *(Post and Telegraph Office)*.	Head Office and Warehouse: Parson's Green-lane, Fulham, S.W.
BRANCHES.	BRANCHES.
11, Roland-mansions, South Kensington, S.W.	301, Fulham-road, S. Kensington, S.W.
39, Thurloe-place, South Kensington, S.W.	779, Fulham-road, Fulham, S.W.
111, Gloucester-road, South Kensington, S.W.	807 and 809, Fulham-rd., Fulham, S.W.
5, Bishop's-road, Paddington, W.	2, Charleville-road, West Kensington.
	106, Richmond-rd., Earl's Court, S.W.
	161, Praed-street, Paddington, W.
	5 and 6, Duppas Hill-lane, Croydon.
	122, Old Town, Croydon.

A valuable plot of ground, 200 feet long and 80 feet deep, has been secured between the Wholesale Warehouse which was specially constructed a few years since for the purposes of the Business, and the Fulham-road, at a low Ground Rent on a 99 years' Lease, on which large Stores are about to be erected by the Company, in accordance with the Elevations which accompany this Prospectus, subject to any alterations which may hereafter be found desirable, at an estimated cost of £18,000. The upper portion of this building will consist of Self-contained Residential Flats, which are much in demand in the locality, and the Ground Floor of eight large Shops, with well-lighted Basements. There are valuable Off-Licences in connection with some of the Branch Stores, all of which will be transferred to the Company, together with the Leases, with a good term to run, at very moderate rents. Mr. William King, who has managed his father's business for the last fourteen years, has agreed to act as Manager during the next five years, and both he and Mr. George Mortimer will join the Board of Directors of the Company, so that continuity of management of these Businesses have been secured. The following certificate has been received from Messrs. G. N. Read, Son, & Co., Chartered Accountants:—

49, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C., June 24th, 1898.

To the Directors of King & Mortimer, Limited.

Gentlemen,—In accordance with your request, we have examined the books of Mr. Robert King, of Sussex-place, South Kensington, and of Mr. George Mortimer, of Fulham-road. We certify that the total net profits of Mr. Robert King for the three years ending 31st July, 1897, were £9,231, being an average annual profit of £3,077, and that the profits of the last of these years were materially above this average. Mr. George Mortimer only acquired the Croydon branch of his business early in 1896, and as it forms a considerable part of his trade, we have not examined his books prior to the 1st February in that year. The net profits from that date to 30th September, 1897, a period of twenty months, were £6,044, being at the rate of £3,626 per annum. The total average annual profits of the two businesses are therefore £6,703. In arriving at the above profits, sufficient allowance has been made for the depreciation of fixtures and fittings, but no charge has been made for interest on capital or partners' remuneration. We have examined the books of each of the shops up to the 1st May, 1898, and we find that the average weekly takings have been well maintained. In addition to the above profits, the annual rentals of the properties now acquired by the Company, after deducting ground rents, rates, taxes, and all outgoings, amount to £1,374.

Yours faithfully, G. N. READ, SON, & CO.

PROFITS ON THE PRESENT BASIS.

Average Annual Profits and Rentals, as above		£8,077
Net Rentals of the new premises in Fulham-road, as per Mr. Rolfe's Certificate		1,600
		£9,677
Interest required on 40,000 4½ per cent. Debenture Stock ...	...£1,800	
Dividend required on 70,000 5½ per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares	3,850	
		£5,650
Leaving available for Reserve Fund, Redemption of the Debentures, Management, and Dividend on the Ordinary Shares		£4,027

In this available balance no addition is made for the extra profit to be obtained when the new Stores are opened, and the fresh Capital is fully employed, or for any savings accruing from the amalgamation of the Businesses, and it may fairly be anticipated that these will amount to a further sum of £3,000.

No Directors' fees will be paid in any year until all dividends due on the Preference Shares have been paid. The following valuation of the property has been received:—

7, Queen-street, Cheapside, E.C., 25th June, 1898.

To the Directors of King & Mortimer, Limited.

Gentlemen,—In accordance with your instructions, we have made a careful survey and valuation of the undermentioned long leasehold and freehold premises, land, &c., viz.:—

1. Roland Mansions, South Kensington, comprising two spacious leasehold shops, with suites of flats over,—one shop is occupied by and charged against the business at a low rental, and the remainder of the property is let. Term about 82 years unexpired, ground-rent, £36.

2. 31 and 32, Sussex-place, South Kensington, comprising extensive leasehold premises, with large dwelling-house over, the shop and basement of which are occupied by and charged against the business at a low rental. A portion of the upper part is let. These houses are held on leases for about 45 years unexpired, at ground-rents of £20 and £30.

3. The Large Wholesale Warehouse in Parson's Green-lane, Fulham, held on lease for about 90 years unexpired, at a ground-rent of £8 per annum.

4. The Shop and Premises, 301, Fulham-road, held on lease for nearly 76 years unexpired, at a ground-rent of £2 per annum.

5. Freehold Premises in Osten-mews, South Kensington.

6. Ten other Stores held on advantageous leases.

Portions of the above properties are under-let, and the aggregate gross rentals thereby derived amount to £1,825, of which £650 is charged against the business for premises occupied by it.

7. A Plot of Land in the Fulham-road, adjoining the Wholesale Warehouse, held on a 99 years' building lease from 29th September, 1897.

We have also valued the plant, machinery, furniture, fixtures, fittings, horses, and rolling-stock appertaining to the respective Stores.

For the purposes of the business as a going concern, we are of opinion the value of the foregoing is the sum of £42,000. This amount is exclusive of goodwill and stock-in-trade.

We are, Gentlemen, yours faithfully, BROAD & WILTSHIRE.

Mr. William Rolfe has furnished the Directors with the following estimate of the rentals to be derived from the new buildings in Fulham-road.

17A, Great George-street, Westminster, S.W., 25th June, 1898.

To the Directors of King & Mortimer, Limited.

Dear Sirs,—

RE FLATS AND SHOPS, FULHAM-ROAD, S.W.

Having had considerable experience in developing London property on similar lines to that which you have acquired in the Fulham-road, I am of opinion that the eight shops—each of which will have 24 feet frontage and a depth of 77 feet, well lighted in front and rear, and with a large central skylight and light basement of the same dimensions beneath—should readily let at an annual rental of £120 each. The residential flats provided over each shop, will each contain sitting-room, kitchen, three bedrooms, and a bathroom, with lifts for coal, &c., and separate private entrance—and should let at an average of £45 per flat. The total of these rentals in the eight buildings would be £2,040, and the net rentals about £1,600. I am of opinion that the cost of erecting the buildings will be about £18,000.

Yours faithfully, WILLIAM ROLFE, Rolfe & Matthews, Architects.

Out of the amount realised by the Debenture Stock and Preference Shares now offered for subscription, £18,000 will be applied in erecting and completing the shops and premises on the land in Fulham-road, and £32,000 will be used for the purchase of stock-in-trade, for working capital, and fresh developments; and as practically the whole of the business is done for cash or for weekly accounts it is considered that this amount will be ample for all present requirements.

PROPERTY NOW TO BE ACQUIRED.

The Property as certified above, and valued at	£42,000
New Stores to be Erected out of part of the Cash now to be provided	18,000
Capital now to be provided out of the present issue for stock-in-trade and additional working capital	32,000
Total Assets ...	£92,000

The businesses will be taken over as from the 25th May, 1898, the profits as from that date to the date of registration of this Company being apportioned to the Vendors, who will receive interest on the amount of the purchase moneys from the said date of registration to the time or times of completion at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum. The purchase price, including goodwill and all the foregoing properties and assets has been fixed by the Vendors, who are promoters, at a sum in cash equivalent to the amount paid or agreed to be paid by them to Messrs. King & Mortimer for their respective businesses and premises, the acquisition of the building site at Fulham, and actual payments made by the Vendors for improvements in connection with the working and with the acquisition and sale of the said businesses, and in connection with the flotation of the Company. The total cash purchase price (not including stock-in-trade, which is to be taken at a valuation, on terms which amply safeguard the Company's interests) will not exceed £60,000. In addition, the Vendors receive as part of the purchase consideration the above-mentioned Ordinary Shares of the Company, which represent the sole profit made by the Vendors, the value of which will depend upon the success of the Company's business. The Vendors receive no cash profit on the sale to the Company.

Application will at once be made for a quotation on the London Stock Exchange for the Preference Shares, and for the Debentures when a sufficient amount has been issued.

The following Contracts have been entered into, being the Contracts in connection with the acquisition of the business and property before mentioned, viz.:—

(1) An Agreement dated the 16th September, 1897, between George Mortimer and John Hedley Smith for sale of the said George Mortimer's business to John Hedley Smith. (2) An Assignment dated the 31st December, 1897, from Alfred Brickell to Frank Joseph Rogers and John Hedley Smith of benefit of Building Agreement relating to land in Fulham-road. (3) An Agreement dated the 21st May, 1898, between Robert King and Frank Joseph Rogers for sale of the said Robert King's business to Frank Joseph Rogers. (4) An Agreement dated the 24th May, 1898, made between Frank Joseph Rogers for and on behalf of the Company of the one part, and William King of the other part. (5) An Agreement dated the 24th June, 1898, and made between the said Frank Joseph Rogers, acting on behalf of himself and others therein named, of the one part and King & Mortimer, Limited, of the other part, for purchase by the Company of Mr. Robert King's business. (6) An Agreement dated the 24th June, 1898, and made between Albert Horatio Jones, the said Frank Joseph Rogers and John Hedley Smith of the one part, acting on behalf of themselves and others therein named, and King & Mortimer, Limited, of the other part, for purchase by the Company of the business of Mortimer's Stores.

The Businesses will be taken over subject to, and with the benefit of, all existing contracts. These are of the ordinary trade character, and necessary for the management and working of the Businesses, but it is impracticable to specify them. There are also contracts relating to the formation of the Company, subscriptions to the capital, and other contracts, to none of which the Company is a party, which may technically fall within Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867. Subscribers for Shares shall be deemed to have had notice of all these contracts, and to have agreed with the Company as Trustee for the Directors to waive their right (if any) to particulars thereof, whether under the said Section 38 or otherwise, and applications for Shares will only be received and allotments made on this basis. Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and of the above-mentioned Contracts, together with the Valuation and Accountants' Certificate, and a draft of the Debenture Trust Deed, may be seen at the Offices of the Solicitors of the Company, No. 15, Queen-street, Cheapside, E.C. Applications for Mortgage Debenture Stock and for Preference Shares should be made on the Forms accompanying the Prospectus, and forwarded to either of the Company's Bankers, or any of their Branches, together with the deposit payable on application. If no allotment be made the deposit will be returned in full, and where the amount allotted is less than that applied for, the balance will be applied towards the amount due on allotment, and any excess returned to the applicant. Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Company's Bankers and their Branches, and from the Solicitors, Auditors, and Brokers, and at the Offices of the Company.

June 27th, 1898.

GLENCAIRN MAIN REEF GOLD MINING CO.

LIMITED.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS

For the Year ending December 31, 1897.

Submitted at a Meeting of Shareholders, held in the Board-room, Colonnade Buildings, Johannesburg, on Wednesday, May 25, 1898, at Twelve o'clock noon.

GENTLEMEN,—*Your Directors have pleasure in submitting to you their Report upon the affairs of the Company for the year ending December 31, 1897, together with Balance-sheet and Profit and Loss Account duly audited.*

ACCOUNTS.—The statements annexed give full details of revenue and expenditure and details of working costs. It has again been necessary to divide up the Profit and Loss Account into two sections, one showing expenses while the new mill was being completed, and the other since crushing recommenced, i.e., from August to December. The cost of development up to August was charged to Excess Development Account. Since that time all tonnage developed has been charged to working expenses. The cost in the books of the Excess Development Account (£44,000) and Permanent Shaft Account (£20,000) amounts to £64,000. According to our Surveyor's certificate, ore in sight on December 31 was 293,000 tons, equal to 4s. 4d. per ton. The working costs during the five months crushing have been reduced from 21s. 0·137d. to 17s. 0·323d.—a very gratifying decrease, attributable to cheaper labour, stores, more effective crushing plant, and good management.

DEBENTURE ISSUE.—Since the close of the year your Directors have had under their consideration the question of providing for the indebtedness to the Consolidated Investment Company, and also making some provision for the moneys spent out of profits which had been used for capital expenditure. It has been decided to issue £140,000 in debentures, repayable by seven annual drawings, commencing January 1, 1901, bearing interest at 6 per cent., giving holders of the issue option for a period of two years from date of issue to convert into £1 Shares at a premium of 50s., or £3 10s. per share.

DEPRECIATION.—It has again been deemed advisable to write off a considerable amount (£70,876 10s. 5d.) on this account, principally on old crushing, hauling, and cyanide plants.

MINE.—The Manager's Report goes fully into details of work done both under and above ground.

GENERAL.—Only an average of 110 stamps could be kept going during the five months crushing, owing mainly to the scarcity of boys and a little to the illicit sale of liquor in the neighbourhood of our compounds. Under present circumstances, with 110 stamps, the profit averages £10,000 per month, but with full supply of labour could be increased 50 per cent. The coming difficulty may probably be scarcity of water. In consequence of the very dry summer we have had our resevoir is somewhat low for this time of year. All possible economy, however, is being adopted by the manager for preventing waste. This, with some late rains, may enable crushing to go on until spring sets in.

DIRECTORS.—Mr. J. Dale Lace retires in terms of Trust Deed, but being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Jno. Moon and J. P. O'Reilly retire in terms of Trust Deed, but offer themselves for re-election. You will also be asked to fix the remuneration for past audit

For JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, Limited, Secretaries,
Johannesburg, May 16th, 1898.

H. F. STRANGE, E. BRAYSHAW, Directors.
D. HENDERSON.

BALANCE-SHEET to DECEMBER 31, 1897.

LIABILITIES.

To Capital	£550,000 0 0	
Less 50,000 Shares in reserve	50,000 0 0	
		£500,000 0 0
Loan per Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company		105,010 7 7
Sundry Creditors		10,112 19 2
Unclaimed Dividends...		382 18 8
Timber Suspense Account		8,000 0 0
Balance, Profit and Loss		96,209 8 3
		£719,715 13 8

ASSETS.

	At December, 31st, 1896.	Since added.	At Date, after Deducting Depreciation.
By Battery Plant	£63,681 8 3	£40,320 8 9	£94,000 0 0
Mine Buildings	36,652 13 7	3,224 18 5	35,890 0 0
Hauling Plant	23,936 15 6	13,393 18 9	31,084 0 0
Alterations to Headgear	1,525 1 1		
Mine Plant	25,666 19 0	5,358 0 3	25,060 0 0
Assay Plant	32 19 0		
Old Machinery absorbed	226 8 10		
Water Service Plant ...	3,400 0 0	111 4 1	3,160 0 0
Tramway Plant	4,252 17 11	2,629 5 1	5,506 0 0
Electric Plant	5,473 17 7	6,454 11 2	10,736 0 0
Rock Drill Plant	27,211 6 6	12,532 17 10	31,796 0 0
Cyanide Plant	29,721 10 3	26,707 12 6	42,322 0 0
Mechanical Haulage ...	564 13 1	6,044 5 2	5,948 0 0
Permanent Shafts ...	21,430 5 10	4,033 9 4	20,000 0 0
Mine Furniture	722 18 3	—	650 0 0
Carts, Horses, &c. ...	1,000 0 0	3 15 0	500 0 0
Reservoirs and Dams ...	5,979 2 6	9,995 15 1	11,182 0 0
Excess Development ...	—	45,421 11 10	44,000 0 0
Machinery in transit ...	33,963 17 11	—	—
		£176,231 13 3	
Deduct Machinery in transit, paid at December 31, 1896, and since apportioned ...		33,963 17 11	
	£290,442 15 1	£142,267 15 4	
		£432,710 10 5	
Less Depreciation on Plant, Machinery, Buildings, Stocks, &c.		70,876 10 5	
			£361,384 0 0
Property			326,494 11 2
Stores on hand			8,593 2 10
Cash in London...			3,671 8 6
Sundry Debtors...			946 17 10
Water Rent, paid in advance			365 13 4
Gold in Transit...			9,900 0 0
Machinery and Plant in suspense			8,000 0 0
			£719,715 13 8

H. F. STRANGE, E. BRAYSHAW, Directors.

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, Limited, Secretaries.

We hereby certify that we have examined and compared books and vouchers of the Glencairn Main Reef Gold Mining Company, Limited, and that the above Balance sheet is a true and correct statement of the affairs of the Company as at December 31, 1897.

JOHN MOON, J. P. O'REILLY, Auditors.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for Twelve Months ended December 31, 1897.

To proportion of expenses during seven months' development and machinery erection from January 1st to July 31st 1897—	
Office Expenses, Johannesburg and London	£1,318 9 8
Interest on loan	5,968 11 8
Directors' and C.E. Fees	658 11 4
Accident and Fire Assurance	686 4 8
Salaries	979 3 4
Sundry Subscriptions, Advertising, Printing, &c.	715 19 0
Licenses and Rents	53 19 0
Tree planting, &c.	813 13 2
Loss on Gold Stolen, &c.	2,759 17 4
	£13,954 9 2
By Balance carried down	£13,954 9 2
	£13,954 9 2

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT—No. 2.

Cost per Ton Crushed:			
	To Proportion of Expenses whilst Battery worked from August 1 to December 31, 1897—		
7·576s.	Mining expenses	£32,175 4 1	
1·850s.	Development ditto	7,857 12 8	
0·861s.	Hauling ditto	3,657 16 6	
1·075s.	Tramming ditto	4,562 18 0	
2·956s.	Milling ditto	12,554 2 1	
2·038s.	Cyaniding ditto	8,655 16 1	
			£69,463 9 5
6·967s.	General Charges, Offices Expenses, Salaries, Water Rent, &c.		4,108 19 8
	Balance, Profit on five months working		44,167 19 3
17·323s.	per ton on 84,938 tons crushed		£117,740 8 4
By Gold from Battery, 21,369·52 oz., at 74s. 9·6d.			£79,926 16 6
Do. Cyanide, 11,081·00 oz., at 67s. 3·6d.			37,293 15 7
Revenue from other sources			519 16 3
Average, 7·65 dwt., per ton crusied.			
Cost per ton	17·323s.		
Yield per ton	27·601s.		
Profit	10·278s.		
			£117,740 8 4

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT—No. 3.

To Balance brought down...	£13,954 9 2
Depreciation as shown in Balance-sheet...	70,876 10 5
Balance to next Account	96,209 8 3
	£181,040 7 10
By Balance from last year's Account	£136,872 8 7
Do. above	44,167 19 3
	£181,040 7 10

H. F. STRANGE, E. BRAYSHAW, Directors.

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, Secretaries.

Examined and found correct,

JOHN MOON, J. P. O'REILLY Auditors.

NEW PRIMROSE GOLD MINING COMPANY,

LIMITED.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

For Twelve Months ending December 31, 1897.

Submitted to the General Meeting of Shareholders held in the Board Room, Colonnade Buildings, Johannesburg, on Wednesday, May 25, 1898, at Eleven o'clock a.m.

GENTLEMEN,—*Your Directors have much pleasure in submitting to you their Report upon the affairs of the Company to December 31, 1897, together with Statement of Accounts, duly audited.*

ACCOUNTS.—From the detailed accounts annexed you will gather the net profits from all sources amounted to £151,353 9s. 9d., exclusive of depreciation, £6,719 9s. 5d., a considerable increase on the previous statement. This extra profit has arisen from lower working costs and increased value of ore—the first having been reduced from 24s. 0·885d. to 18s. 0·811d., over 6s. per ton; and the yield from milling and cyaniding having risen from an average of 10·15 dwt. for 1896 to 10·29 dwt. for the past year on tonnage treated.

Capital expenditure for the past year has been materially reduced, being £20,183 18s. 10d., as against £59,039 11s. 2d. for the previous statement.

The expenditure made upon new dam, £550 14s. 2d., is part payment of a new reservoir. The dam site at present in use is only leased from the Simmer and Jack Company, who have given notice (twelve months) to terminate the lease. The Simmer and Jack Company, however, have to take over the dam at a valuation. This will repay a large portion of the cost of new dam.

DIVIDENDS.—During the year Dividends Nos. 14 (20 per cent.) and 15 (30 per cent.) have been declared, absorbing £150,000.

MINE.—Full detailed report from the manager is annexed. From this you will gather that between the No. 11 and No. 12 levels a serious fault occurs, which has given considerable trouble to the manager. This, however, is being overcome on the No. 13 level.

The ore reserves now stand at 307,500 tons—practically the same as last year. Representing this in the books as assets are: Permanent shafts and excess development, amounting to £45,000, or a fraction less than 3s. per ton, which can be considered a very reasonable figure.

GENERAL.—During the past year the difficulties which the management had chiefly to contend with were a shortage of boys and the prevailing worries of the illicit liquor traffickers. The anticipated improvement in the profits has been fully borne out, and every effort will be made to maintain them. The question of treating our slimes is still having the attention of the Board, as surface accommodation for storing in dams is becoming limited. The water question is also giving cause for anxiety (as with other companies in the east), but every care is being taken to prevent waste, and efforts will be made to get through the winter without shutting down.

MR. B. I. BARNATO.—During the year the Board and Shareholders generally have suffered an irreparable loss by the death of their esteemed colleague Mr. B. I. Barnato. During his connection with the mine, which was practically since the Company was floated, he had always taken the very greatest interest in its welfare, and to him was due the credit of bringing the Company to its present successful position.

DIRECTORS.—Messrs. S. B. Joel and E. Brayshaw retire in terms of the Trust Deed, but are eligible, and offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. John Moon and F. W. Diamond retire also in terms of the Trust Deed, but offer themselves for re-election. You will also be asked to fix their remuneration for the past audit.

H. F. STRANGE, E. BRAYSHAW, Directors.

For the JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, Secretaries,
Johannesburg, May 16th, 1898.

D. HENDERSON.

BALANCE-SHEET at December 31, 1897.

LIABILITIES.

To Capital (fully issued) ...	£300,000 0 0
Sundry Creditors...	21,736 1 5
Dividend No. 15 ...	90,000 0 0
Balance (Profit and Loss) ...	192,381 19 5
	£604,118 0 10

ASSETS.

	At Dec. 31, 1896.	Since Added.	At Date, after Deducting Depreciation.
By Battery Plant ...	£84,406 7 3	£3,012 7 2	£72,139 0 0
Spare Machinery ...	2,755 0 0		
Mine Buildings ...	27,397 9 4	3,124 16 0	25,218 0 0
Spare Machinery, &c. ...	1,000 0 0		
Mine Plant ...	14,032 18 2	1,062 9 7	12,076 0 0
Hauling Plant ...	20,620 4 4	1,855 13 10	18,886 0 0
Crusher Plant ...	1,131 12 2		
Tramway Plant ...	12,759 15 0	391 11 0	9,206 0 0
Cyanide Plant ...	27,031 18 1	1,844 3 7	20,214 0 0
Reservoirs and Dams ...	9,383 4 4	2,093 14 3	7,808 0 0
New Dam ...	—	550 14 2	550 14 2
Rock Drill Plant ...	10,995 19 6	2,612 16 8	10,887 0 0
Permanent Shafts ...	10,674 13 10	2,569 1 3	10,000 0 0
Live Stock, Carts, &c. ...	373 0 10	145 2 0	466 0 0
Excess Development ...	37,341 12 10	626 0 0	35,000 0 0
Electric Plant ...	536 18 0	175 14 8	640 0 0
Office Furniture (Mine) ...	95 5 0	119 14 8	193 0 0
	£260,535 17 10	£20,183 16 10	£223,343 14 2
		£280,719 16 8	
Less Depreciation on Plant, Machinery, Buildings, Stock, &c. ...		57,376 2 6	
By Cash in London ...		£38,560 14 3	
Cash at Mine ...		1,126 4 1	
Cash on Deposit ...		114,532 9 8	
			154,219 8 0
Sundry Debtors...			1,536 17 8
Pumping machinery in reserve ...			3,750 0 0
Stores on hand ...			12,000 0 0
Property, 59 claims, 8 Bewaarplaatsen, and portion of Mijnpacht ...			208,430 0 0
Freehold ground ...			838 1 0
			£604,118 0 10

H. F. STRANGE, E. BRAYSHAW, } Directors.

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, Secretaries.

We hereby certify that we have examined and compared the books and vouchers of the New Primrose Gold Mining Company, Limited, and that the above Balance-sheet is a true and correct statement of the Company's affairs as at December 31, 1897.

JOHN MOON, F. W. DIAMOND, } Auditors.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for Twelve Months ended December 31, 1897.

Cost per Ton Milled.			
5·810s.	To Mining Expenses ...	£80,757 9 10	
4·618s.	Development ...	64,287 1 8	
1·801s.	Hauling and Pumping ...	25,041 9 5	
1·398s.	Tramming ...	19,429 18 7	
2·050s.	Milling ...	28,489 8 2	
2·119s.	Cyaniding ...	29,457 11 4	
			£247,462 19 0
1·015s.	General Charges, Law Expenses, Directors' and Auditors' Fees, Office Expenses, Salaries, Licenses, &c. ...		14,105 10 1
	Balance (profit on twelve months' working) ...		151,353 9 9
18·811s.	per ton on 278,015 tons milled		£412,921 18 10

By Gold from Tailings, 45,856·94 oz., 65/10·248 ...	£150,963 0 3
Gold from Battery, 70,399·89 oz., 73/5·76 ...	258,661 2 0
Revenue from other sources ...	3,297 16 7
8.36 dwt. per ton milled.	
Yield per ton ... 29·471s.	
Cost per ton ... 18·811s.	
Profit per ton ... 10·660s.	
	£412,921 18 10

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT No. 2.

To Loss on Realisation of Gold in Transit ...	£139 5 10
Depreciation in value of stores on hand, 31/12/96 ...	7,343 6 11
Depreciation as detailed in Balance-sheet ...	57,376 2 6
Dividend No. 14 ...	60,000 0 0
Dividend No. 15 ...	90,000 0 0
Balance to next Account ...	192,381 19 5
	£407,240 14 8

By Balance from last Account...	£255,887 4 11
Balance from above Account ...	151,353 9 9
	£407,240 14 8

H. F. STRANGE, E. BRAYSHAW, } Directors.

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, Secretaries.

Examined and found correct,

JOHN MOON, F. W. DIAMOND, } Auditors.

GINSBERG GOLD MINING COMPANY, LTD.

DIRECTORS' REPORT,

Presented at the Fifth Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, held in the Board Room, Colonnade Buildings, Johannesburg, on Thursday, May 26, 1898, at Three o'clock p.m.

Your Directors have pleasure in submitting this, their Fifth Annual Report, as also the Balance-sheet and Profit and Loss Account for the year ended December 31, 1897, duly audited.

ACCOUNTS.—The amount standing to the credit of Profit and Loss Account, including £12,606 0s. 7d. brought forward from the previous year, is £77,494 2s. 8d. The cost of development stands at £7,198 10s. 6d., against which there were 76,945 tons of ore in sight on December 31 last. The average cost per ton being 1s. 10·45d.

DEPRECIATION.—A sum of £10,948 9s. 11d. has been written off machinery and plant at above date.

MINE AND MILL.—The Report of your General Manager, Mr. E. Fern, for the year under review, deals fully with the work done, and affords all the necessary information which bears out the anticipation of your Directors expressed at the last General Meeting.

DIVIDEND.—On December 14 last, your Directors declared a Dividend of 25 per cent. for the half-year ended December 31, 1897, absorbing £40,000, which was paid to Shareholders on February 11 last, leaving a balance to carry forward to next account of £37,494 2s. 8d.

DIRECTORS.—In terms of the Articles of Association your Directors retire, but are eligible, and offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.—Shortly after your last general meeting, Mr. C. L. Redwood, one of the Auditors, resigned, and your Directors appointed Mr. D. Fraser in his place. You are asked to confirm their action. Messrs. Moon and D. Fraser retire, but offer themselves for re-election. You are requested to fix their remuneration for the past audit.

C. F. B. WOLLASTON, R. G. FRICKER, } Directors.

Johannesburg, April 13, 1898.

BALANCE-SHEET at December 31, 1897.

LIABILITIES.

To Capital—fully issued	£160,000 0 0
Sundry Creditors	5,431 11 7
Native Wages due at date	715 0 0
Dividend declared to December 31	40,000 0 0
Balance (Profit and Loss)	37,494 2 8
	£243,640 14 3

ASSETS

	At December 31, 1896.	Since Added.	At Date, after Deducting Depreciation.
By Buildings	£12,509 0 0	£1,122 17 8	£12,610 0 0
Battery Plant	19,925 0 0	418 0 0	18,300 0 0
Hauling Plant	8,425 10 0	208 6 8	7,985 0 0
Tramway Plant	1,506 0 0	12 17 6	1,405 0 0
Mine Plant	5,077 10 0	932 5 0	5,560 0 0
Rock Drill Plant	1,583 0 0	—	1,464 0 0
Electric Plant	658 6 7	3,016 0 0	3,400 0 0
Cyanide Plant	13,974 0 0	327 16 11	10,000 0 0
Permanent Shafts	8,179 10 0	3,462 7 11	10,000 0 0
Dams and Reservoirs	3,684 0 0	706 11 8	4,060 0 0
Excess Development	6,642 0 0	556 10 6	7,198 10 6
Office Furniture	25 10 0	—	23 0 0
Live Stock	17 0 0	—	16 0 0
	£82,206 6 7	£10,763 13 10	
		£92,970 0 5	
Less Depreciation on Plant, Machinery, Buildings, Stock, &c.		10,948 9 11	
			£82,021 10 6
Property Account (39 Claims and Water Rights)			99,440 13 10
Stores on Hand			2,965 16 0
Gold in Transit			310 0 0
Sundry Debtors			159 9 0
Cash on Deposit in London			58,742 1 11
			£243,640 14 3

C. F. B. WOLLASTON, R. G. FRICKER, } Directors.

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, Secretaries.

We hereby certify that we have examined and compared the books and vouchers of the Ginsberg Gold Mining Company, Limitel, and that the above Balance-sheet is a true and correct statement of the position of the Company at December 31, 1897.

JOHN MOON, D. FRASER, } Auditors.

Johannesburg, April 13th, 1898.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ending December 31, 1897.

Cost per Ton on Tons Milled.			
7·327	To Mining Expenses	£22,484 1 2	
3·124	Development	9,588 9 0	
1·738	Hauling and Pumping	5,334 8 4	
2·964	Milling	9,095 1 5	
2·066	Cyaniding	6,339 13 10	
1·092	Tramming	3,352 11 1	
			£56,195 6 10
1·412	General Charges, Salaries, Office Expenses, Directors', Auditors', and Engineers' Fees, Licenses, &c.		4,333 15 8
	Balance (profit on year's working)		75,836 12 0
19·723 on 61,372 tons crushed.			£136,365 14 6

By Gold from Battery, 24,594·96 oz. at 74/11·856		£92,216 18 1
Gold from Cyanide, 12,148·69 oz. at 72/2·64		43,871 6 5
36,743·68 oz., equal to 11·94 dwt. per ton on 61,372 tons crushed.		
Revenue from other sources		277 10 0
Yield per ton	S. 44·347	
Cost per ton	S. 19·723	
Profit per ton	S. 24·624	
		£136,365 14 6

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT No. 2.

To Depreciation as shown in Balance-sheet	£10,949 9 11
Dividend No. 1 of 25 per cent. for six months to December 31st, 1896	40,000 0 0
Balance to next Account	37,494 2 8
	£88,442 12 7

By Balance from last account	£12,606 0 7
Balance from above account	75,836 12 0
	£88,422 12 7

C. F. B. WOLLASTON, R. G. FRICKER, } Directors.

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, Secretaries,

Examined and found correct,

JOHN MOON, D. FRASER, } Auditors.

Johannesburg, April 13th, 1898.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY.

SIX PER CENT. STERLING MORTGAGE BONDS, LOAN OF 1874.

LONDON AND NEW YORK, 22nd June, 1898.

To the Holders of Certificates issued under the Bondholders' Agreement dated 3rd May, 1898.

Referring to our Circular of 3rd May, 1898, in which the holders of the above described bonds were invited to deposit them, so that all necessary steps might be taken for the protection of their interests, we have now to state that a Plan has been issued for the reorganisation of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company.

This Plan, in our opinion, fully recognises the rights of the 6 per cent. Sterling Mortgage Bonds of 1874. The terms thereby secured for them are entirely satisfactory to us, and we feel that they should be to you, and that the bonds we represent should be deposited under said Plan.

Pursuant to the Bondholders' Agreement of 3rd May, 1898, under which your bonds are deposited, and especially to Articles Fourth and Fifth (subdivision 6 thereof), it is necessary before we take any further steps in the line indicated that we shall have the Assent of 60 per cent. in amount of the holders of the above-named certificates.

As you will see on examination of the Plan, the offer to the 6 per cent. Sterling Mortgage Bonds of 1874, is, for each £100 Bond—

$1,120 in new Prior Lien 3½ per cent. Gold bonds due 1925 (equal @ 4·8666 to $115·07 per cent.) bearing interest from 1st July, 1898.

$120 in new First Mortgage 4 per cent. Gold bonds due 1948 (equal @ 4·8666 to $12·33 per cent.) bearing interest from 1st July, 1898.

$160 in new 4 per cent. non-cumulative Preferred Stock Trust Certificates (equal at 4·8666 to $16·44 per cent.)

$9 73-100 in cash, on completion of the reorganisation, for interest to 1st July, 1898.

The Coupon on the present Bonds, due 1st May, 1898, namely £6 per Bond, with interest thereon at 5 per cent. per annum to be likewise paid in cash as soon as practicable after the Plan is declared operative; or, if the holder so desires, such Coupon will be purchased by a Syndicate for cash as soon as the Bond has been deposited, but not after 22nd July, 1898, at its face value, with interest at 5 per cent. per annum.

If you agree with the views herein expressed, and the offer made is satisfactory to you, will you please sign the "Assent" which may be obtained at the offices of Messrs. J. S. Morgan & Co., 22, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., and return it with the least possible delay to them.

J. S. MORGAN & CO.
J. P. MORGAN & CO.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY.

FIVE PER CENT. BONDS DUE 1927, SECURED BY "CHICAGO DIVISION" MORTGAGE OF MAY 29TH, 1877.

LONDON AND NEW YORK, 22nd June, 1898.

To the Holders of Certificates issued under the Bondholders' Agreement dated July 17th, 1897.

Referring to our Circular of July 22nd, 1897, in which the holders of the above described bonds were invited to deposit them, so that all necessary steps might be taken for the protection of their interests, we have now to state that a Plan has been issued for the reorganisation of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company.

This Plan, in our opinion, fully recognises the rights of the Baltimore and Ohio "Chicago Division" Bonds. The terms thereby secured for them are entirely satisfactory to us, and we feel that they should be to you, and that the bonds we represent should be deposited under said Plan.

Pursuant to the Bondholders' Agreement of July 17th, 1897, under which your bonds are deposited, and especially to Articles Fourth and Fifth (subdivision 6 thereof), it is necessary before we take any further steps in the line indicated that we shall have the Assent of 60 per cent. in amount of the holders of the above-named certificates.

As you will see on examination of the Plan, the offer to the Baltimore and Ohio "Chicago Division" bondholders is, for each £200 Bond—

$100 in new Prior Lien 3½ per cent. Gold bonds due 1925 (equal @ 4·8666 to $10·27 per cent.) bearing interest from 1st July, 1898.

$1,070 in new First Mortgage 4 per cent. Gold bonds due 1948 (equal @ 4·8666 to $109·93 per cent.) bearing interest from 1st July, 1898.

$100 in new 4 per cent. non-cumulative Preferred Stock Certificates (equal @ 4·8666 to $10·27 per cent.)

$4 06-100 in cash, on completion of the reorganisation, for interest to 1st July, 1898.

The Coupons on the present Bonds, due 1st December, 1897, and 1st June, 1898, namely, £10 per Bond, with interest thereon at 5 per cent. per annum, to be likewise paid in cash as soon as practicable after the plan is declared operative; or, if the holder so desires, such Coupons will be purchased by a Syndicate for cash as soon as the Bond has been deposited, but not after 22nd July, 1898, at their face value, with interest at 5 per cent. per annum.

If you agree with the views herein expressed, and the offer made is satisfactory to you, will you please sign the "Assent" which may be obtained at the offices of Messrs. J. S. Morgan & Co., 22, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., and return it with the least possible delay to them.

J. S. MORGAN & CO.
J. P. MORGAN & CO.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY.

FIVE PER CENT. CONSOLIDATED MORTGAGE BONDS,

Issued under Mortgage dated December 19th, 1887.
(Known as Bonds of 1988.)

NEW YORK, 22nd June, 1898.

To the Holders of Certificates issued under the Bondholders' Agreement dated 1st November, 1897.

Referring to our Circular of 1st November, 1897, in which we invited the holders of the above-described bonds to deposit them, so that we might take all necessary steps for the protection of their interests, we have now to state that a Plan has been issued for the reorganisation of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company.

This Plan, in our opinion, fully recognises the rights of the Consolidated Bonds. The terms thereby secured for them are entirely satisfactory to us, and we feel that they should be to you, and that the bonds we represent should be deposited under said Plan.

Pursuant to the Bondholders' Agreement of 1st November, 1897, under which your bonds are deposited, and especially to Articles Fourth and Fifth (subdivision 6 thereof), it is necessary before we take any further steps in the line indicated that we shall have the Assent of 75 per cent. in amount of the holders of the above-named certificates.

As you will see on examination of the Plan, the offer to the Consolidated Mortgage bondholders for each present bond of $1,000 with all unpaid coupons or interest is substantially—

$1,050 in new Prior Lien 3½ per cent. Gold bonds due 1925, bearing interest from 1st July, 1898.

$125 in new First Mortgage 4 per cent. Gold bonds due 1948, bearing interest from 1st July, 1898.

$85 in new 4 per cent. non-cumulative Preferred Stock Trust Certificates.

$20 83-100 in Cash, on completion of reorganisation, for interest to 1st July, 1898.

or, at the option of depositors (to be signified within 60 days after the Plan shall actually be issued),

$1,100 cash for principal, together with cash for all accrued interest to time of payment, such payment to be made upon the Plan being declared operative.

If you agree with the views herein expressed, and the offer made is satisfactory to you, will you please sign the "Assent" which may be obtained at the offices of Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co., 23, Wall Street, New York, and return it with the least possible delay to them.

Holders of our certificates desiring to accept the cash offer for the principal of the bonds represented thereby, will please so signify at the foot of the Assent. In all other cases we shall understand that they elect to accept the new securities for the principal of the present bonds.

J. P. MORGAN & CO.
BROWN, BROTHERS & CO.
BARING, MAGOUN & CO.

LONDON, 22nd June, 1898.

Having jointly made an issue of the above-described bonds in this market, under date of 15th May, 1898, simultaneously with that made in New York by our respective representatives, who have signed the above Circular, we strongly recommend all holders of certificates for such bonds to Assent to the terms proposed for the bonds under the Plan of Reorganisation. Signed "Assents" may be sent to Messrs. J. S. Morgan & Co., 22, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

J. S. MORGAN & CO.
BROWN, SHIPLEY & CO.
BARING BROTHERS & CO., Limited.

PITTSBURGH AND CONNELLSVILLE RAILROAD COMPANY.

SIX PER CENT. CONSOLIDATED MORTGAGE BONDS DUE 1926,

AND GUARANTEED BY

THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY.

LONDON AND NEW YORK, 22nd June, 1898.

To the Holders of Certificates issued under the Bondholders' Agreement dated July 15th, 1897.

Referring to our circular of July 22nd, 1897, in which the holders of the above-described bonds were invited to deposit them so that all necessary steps might be taken for the protection of their interests, we have now to state that a Plan has been issued for the reorganisation of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, including the railroad and property of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company.

This Plan, in our opinion, fully recognises the rights of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Consolidated Bonds. The terms thereby secured for them are entirely satisfactory to us, and we feel that they should be to you, and that the bonds we represent should be deposited under said Plan.

Pursuant to the Bondholders' Agreement of July 22nd, 1897, under which your bonds are deposited, and especially to Articles Fourth and Fifth (subdivision 6 thereof), it is necessary before we take any further steps in the line indicated that we shall have the assent of 60 per cent. in amount of the holders of the above-named certificates.

As you will see on examination of the Plan, the offer to the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Consolidated Mortgage bondholders is, for each £200 bond:

$1,025 in new Prior Lien 3½ per cent. Gold bonds due 1925 (equal @ 4·8666 to $105·31 per cent.) bearing interest from 1st July, 1898.

$120 in new First Mortgage 4 per cent. Gold bonds due 1948 (equal @ 4·8666 to $12·33 per cent.) bearing interest from 1st July, 1898.

$200 in new 4 per cent. non-cumulative Preferred Stock Trust Certificates (equal @ 4·8666 to $20·55 per cent.)

$29 20-100 in cash, on completion of the reorganisation, for interest to 1st July, 1898.

The coupons on the present bonds, due 1st July, 1897, and 1st January, 1898, namely: £12 per bond, with interest thereon at 5 per cent. per annum to be likewise paid in cash as soon as practicable after the Plan is declared operative; or, if the holder so desires, such coupons will be purchased by a Syndicate for cash as soon as the bond has been deposited, but not after 22nd July, 1898, at their face value, with interest at 5 per cent. per annum.

If you agree with the views herein expressed, and the offer made is satisfactory to you, will you please sign the "Assent," which may be obtained at the offices of Messrs. J. S. Morgan & Co., 22, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., and return it with the least possible delay to them.

J. S. MORGAN & CO.
J. P. MORGAN & CO.

To Holders of Receipts issued by the undersigned for

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY'S

FIVE PER CENT. BONDS LOAN OF 1885.

Pursuant to the Bondholders' Agreement of April 10th, 1896, we the undersigned hereby give notice that a Plan and Agreement for the Reorganisation of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, dated June 22nd, 1898, has been prepared, and has been adopted and approved by us, and we hereby recommend the same for the acceptance of the Bondholders. Copies of the said Plan and Agreement have been duly lodged at the offices of Speyer & Co., New York, and Speyer Brothers, London, for inspection by the holders of our receipts issued under said Bondholders' Agreement of April 10th, 1896.

The plan provides that each $1,000 of the above Bonds will, on the completion of the reorganisation, be entitled to receive:—

In New Prior Lien 3½ per cent. Bonds	$1,000
,, 1st Mortgage 4 per cent. Bonds	$125
,, Preferred Stock Trust Certificates	$100
In Cash (representing interest accrued from February 1st, 1898, to July 1st, 1898)	$20·83

The New Prior Lien and 1st Mortgage Bonds are to bear interest from July 1st, 1898.

Any receipt-holders who do not assent to such Plan and Agreement of Reorganisation may withdraw their bonds and coupons represented by our receipts at any time on or before July 21st, 1898, upon the surrender of such receipts, without expense. All receipt-holders who shall not withdraw their bonds and coupons on or before July 21st, 1898, above stated, shall be conclusively deemed to have assented to said Plan and Agreement of Reorganisation, and will be bound thereby, and the undersigned will thereupon deposit thereunder all of such bonds and coupons not so withdrawn, in exchange for Reorganisation Certificates of Deposit issued under said Plan and Agreement.

SPEYER & CO.,
SPEYER BROTHERS, } Depositaries.

Dated, June 22nd, 1898.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD

SIX PER CENT. BONDS OF 1872.

To the Holders of Certificates issued under the Bondholders' Agreement of 16th May, 1898.

A plan having been issued dated the 22nd June, 1898, for the reorganisation of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, by which satisfactory provision is, in our opinion, made for the rights of the above Bonds, we shall deposit under the said plan all Bonds deposited with us under the Bondholders' Agreement of the 16th ultimo, provided that such deposit is assented to, as provided in the said Agreement, by the holders of sixty per cent. in amount of our Certificates. Any holders of Certificates who wish to dissent must give us written notice within two weeks from the 4th of July next. Forms of assent, and copies of the plan, may be obtained from us by Holders of our Certificates.

BARING BROTHERS and CO., Limited

8, Bishopsgate Within, June 22nd, 1898.

FOUNDERS COURT, E.C.,
LONDON, 22nd June, 1898.

To the Holders of Our Certificates of Deposit for the

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY'S FIRST MORTGAGE FOUR AND A HALF PER CENT. STERLING BONDS OF 1883.

Issued under Bondholders' Agreement, dated 1st October, 1897.

A proposed Plan and Agreement for the Reorganisation of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, dated 22nd June, 1898, has been most carefully considered by us, under which, each of the above bonds will receive $1,000 New First Mortgage 4 per cent. Gold Bonds, and $265 in New Preferred Stock in exchange for each £200 First Mortgage 4½ per cent. Sterling Bond, 1883. We recommend the same to you for your prompt acceptance.

Under your Bondholders' Agreement of 1st October, 1897, it is provided that if there shall be proposed to our satisfaction any Scheme of Reorganisation or Readjustment, we may, with the assent (to be manifested by express approval, or by a failure within two weeks to express dissent) of the holders of certificates of deposit representing sixty per cent. in amount of the deposited bonds, come in under such reorganisation.

The Plan and Agreement is deemed satisfactory by us. We request therefore your assent thereto in writing.

Unless, within two weeks from the date of mailing this notice to you and of the first advertisement of this notice in two London newspapers, you notify us of your dissent, we will presume, conclusively, that you have assented to our deposit of your bonds under said Plan and Agreement of Reorganisation.

Your bonds will accordingly be so deposited by us, if 60 per cent. of the bonds with us deposited, shall assent in writing to the deposit under said Plan and Agreement.

If notified by any depositor within two weeks from the date hereof, in writing of his dissent, we will return him the bonds deposited with us, upon surrender of our Certificates of Deposit, thus ending all future obligation to such dissenting bondholder.

If we are not notified of your dissent within the time named, upon receipt by us in exchange for your bonds, of certificates of deposit issued under said Plan and Agreement of Reorganisation, we will deliver the same to you, without further charge, upon surrender to us of our own certificates.

We solicit most earnestly a very prompt expression, in writing, of your assent or dissent. Unless notified to the contrary by you, we will deposit all coupons of assenting bonds maturing prior to 1st July, 1898, upon depositing such bonds under the Plan.

Having thus obtained for depositing bondholders the opportunity to secure terms of settlement deemed satisfactory by us, we notify you that after the expiration of two weeks from the mailing of this notice and first advertisement thereof, our only duty under the Bondholders' Agreement of 1st October, 1897, will be either to return their bonds to depositing holders who have theretofore signified their desire to withdraw the same, or to surrender to such depositing bondholders as, within that period, shall have assented either expressly or by a failure to dissent, the certificates of deposit which will be issued under said Plan and Agreement of Reorganisation, and if the coupons are ordered to be sold, to pay to them any cash received therefore.

In no event will any certificates be delivered by us, saving upon return to us of our own certificates of deposit.

Annexed hereto is a form of written assent to the proposed Plan and Agreement of Reorganisation.

It is our desire that all assenting bondholders will deliver at the earliest moment after the certificates have been received by us under the Plan and Agreement, their own certificates of deposit with us for exchange. We will be ready, after such exchange, to accept the certificates of deposit thus to you delivered, to be held, in case the Plan and Agreement shall be declared thereafter inoperative, upon the understanding that we will demand in lieu thereof your bonds deposited under said Plan and Agreement, and shall hold said bonds under the original Agreement of 1st October, 1897.

Yours faithfully,
BROWN, SHIPLEY & CO.

STERLING.

FORM OF ASSENT.

As the Owner of BROWN, SHIPLEY & COMPANY'S Certificate(s) of Deposit for 4½ per cent. First Mortgage Sterling Bonds of 1883 of the BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY deposited under an Agreement endorsed thereon, No.(s) .....said Certificate being for £.....bond(s) assent is given to a deposit by BROWN, SHIPLEY & COMPANY, Committee of the said First Mortgage Sterling Bonds of 1883, covered by said Certificate, under a proposed Plan and Agreement for the Reorganisation of the BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY, in accordance with the terms of said Plan and Agreement, of which a copy has been received

(Signature).....

FOUNDERS COURT, E.C.,
LONDON, 22nd June, 1898.

To the Holders of our Certificates of Deposit for the

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY'S FIRST MORTGAGE FOUR AND A HALF PER CENT. GOLD TERMINAL BONDS OF 1894,

Issued under Bondholders' Agreement, dated 30th September, 1897.

A proposed Plan and Agreement for the Reorganisation of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, dated 22nd June, 1898, has been most carefully considered by us, under which, each of the above bonds will receive $1,000 in New First Mortgage four per cent. Gold Bonds of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company in exchange for each $1,000 four and a half per cent. Terminal Bonds. We recommend the same to you for your prompt acceptance.

Under your Bondholders' Agreement of September 30th, 1897, it is provided that if there shall be proposed to our satisfaction any Scheme of Reorganisation or Readjustment, we may, with the assent (to be manifested by express approval, or by a failure within two weeks to express dissent), of the holders of the certificates of deposit representing sixty per cent. in amount of the deposited bonds, come in under such reorganisation.

The Plan and Agreement is deemed satisfactory by us. We request therefore your assent thereto in writing.

Unless, within two weeks from the date of mailing this notice to you and of the first advertisement of this notice in two London newspapers, you notify us of your dissent, we will presume, conclusively, that you have assented to our deposit of your bonds under said Plan and Agreement of Reorganisation.

Your bonds will, accordingly, be so deposited by us, if 60 per cent. of the bonds with us deposited, shall assent in writing to the deposit under said Plan and Agreement.

If notified by any depositor within two weeks from the date hereof, in writing of his dissent, we will return him the bonds deposited with us, upon surrender of our Certificates of Deposit, thus ending all future obligation to such dissenting bondholder.

If we are not notified of your dissent within the time named, upon receipt by us in exchange for your bonds, of certificates of deposit issued under said Plan and Agreement of Reorganisation, we will deliver the same to you, without further charge, upon surrender to us of our own certificates.

We solicit most earnestly a very prompt expression, in writing, of your assent or dissent. Unless notified to the contrary by you, we will deposit all coupons of assenting bonds maturing prior to 1st July, 1898, upon depositing such bonds under the Plan.

Having thus obtained for depositing bondholders the opportunity to secure terms of settlement deemed satisfactory by us, we notify you that after the expiration of two weeks from the mailing of this notice and first advertisement thereof, our only duty under the Bondholders' Agreement of 30th September, 1897, will be either to return their bonds to depositing holders who have theretofore signified their desire to withdraw the same, or to surrender to such depositing bondholders as, within that period, shall have assented either expressly or by a failure to dissent, the certificates of deposit which will be issued under said Plan and Agreement of Reorganisation, and if the coupons are ordered to be sold, to pay to them any cash received therefor.

In no event will any certificates be delivered by us, saving upon return to us of our own certificates of deposit.

Annexed hereto is a form of written assent to the proposed Plan and Agreement of Reorganisation.

It is our desire that all assenting bondholders will deliver at the earliest moment after the certificates have been received by us under the Plan and Agreement, their own certificates of deposit with us for exchange. We will be ready, after such exchange, to accept the certificates of deposit thus to you delivered, to be held, in case the Plan and Agreement shall be declared thereafter inoperative, upon the understanding that we will demand in lieu thereof your bonds deposited under said Plan and Agreement, and shall hold said bonds under the original Agreement of 30th September, 1897.

Yours faithfully,
BROWN, SHIPLEY & CO.

TERMINAL.

FORM OF ASSENT.

As the Owner of BROWN, SHIPLEY & COMPANY'S Certificate(s) of Deposit for $.....4½ per cent. First Mortgage Terminal Gold Bonds of the BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY, deposited under an Agreement endorsed thereon. No.(s) .....
I/we assent to a deposit by BROWN, SHIPLEY & COMPANY, Committee, of the said First Mortgage Terminal Gold Bonds covered by said Certificate, under a proposed Plan and Agreement for the Reorganisation of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, in accordance with the terms of said Plan and Agreement of which a copy has been received.

(Signature).....

BELT.

FOUNDERS COURT,
LONDON, E.C., 22nd June, 1898.

To the Holders of our Certificates of Deposit for the

FIRST MORTGAGE FIVE PER CENT. GOLD BONDS OF THE BALTIMORE BELT RAILROAD COMPANY,

Issued under our Bondholders' Agreement, dated 1st November, 1897.

The proposed Plan and Agreement for the Reorganisation of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, dated 22nd June, 1898, has been most carefully considered by us. We recommend the same to you for your prompt acceptance.

Such Plan provides that the property of the Baltimore Belt Railroad Company is to be leased to the New Company to be formed at a rental sufficient to pay interest at the rate of Four per centum per annum upon the Baltimore Belt Line bonds. The arrangement is to date from July 1st, 1898, and the payment of interest at the rate of Four per centum after that date is to be in full of all interest due and payable upon such bonds thereafter. Interest at the rate of Five per centum per annum will be paid up to July 1st, 1898, with interest upon overdue coupons, upon the completion of the reorganisation.

The Plan further provides that in consideration of the agreement to pay such rental, the holders of said Baltimore Belt Line bonds shall agree that the new Company shall have the option for five years from July 1st, 1898, to purchase said Belt Line bonds at par and accrued interest, at any time upon sixty days' notice of their intention to do so, and that if this option be not exercised within the said period the new Company will assume the ultimate payment of the principal of said bonds when due. The form of the proposed lease and agreement with the new Company, covering the arrangement, will be subject to the approval of our Counsel. In order to make the arrangement effective, the holders of the Baltimore Belt Line bonds must present the same to be stamped, and the arrangement will not become operative until the holders of all such Baltimore Belt Line bonds outstanding, or such lessor amount as the Reorganisation Managers of the new Company shall approve, shall have consented thereto and presented their bonds or stamping accordingly.

Under your Bondholders' Agreement of November 1st, 1897, it is provided that if at any time there should arise an opportunity for arrangement or settlement considered favourable by us, we may, with the assent (to be manifested by express approval or by a failure within two weeks to express dissent) of the holders of our certificates of deposit representing sixty per cent. in amount of the deposited bonds, make such arrangement and settlement.

The Plan and Agreement present an opportunity for a settlement and arrangement of your claims which we deem favourable. We request, therefore, your assent thereto in writing. Unless within two weeks from the date of mailing this notice to you, and of the firs advertisement of this notice in two London newspapers, you notify us of your dissent, we shall persume conclusively that you have assented to the proposed arrangement and to the stamping of your bonds as assenting thereto, as provided by the proposed lease and agreement above mentioned.

Your bonds will accordingly be so presented by us for stamping if 60 per cent. of the bonds deposited with us shall assent in writing to the proposed arrangement, and the same shall become operative by the assent of the requisite amount of outstanding bonds as above stated

If notified by any depositor within two weeks from the date hereof in writing of his dissent, we shall return him the bond deposited with us upon surrender of our certificates of deposit, thus ending all future obligation to such dissenting bondholder.

We solicit most earnestly a very prompt expression of your assent or dissent.

Having thus obtained for depositing bondholders the opportunity to secure terms of settlement deemed satisfactory by us, we notify you that after the expiration of two weeks from the mailing of this notice and the first advertisement, our only duty under the Bondholders' Agreement of November 1st, 1897, will be either to return their bonds to depositing holders who have theretofore signified their desire to withdraw the same, or to surrender to such depositing bondholders as within that period shall have assented, either expressly or by failure to dissent, the deposited bonds duly stamped as assenting to the proposed arrangement. In no event will any securities be delivered by us save upon the return to us of our own certificates of depsit.

Annexed hereto is a form of written acceptance of the proposed arrangement.

In case the proposed lease and agreement should not become operative, the deposited bonds will not be stamped, and we shall hold the same under the original agreement of November 1st, 1897.

BROWN, SHIPLEY & CO.

BELT.

FORM OF ASSENT.

First Mortgage Five per cent. Gold Bonds of the Baltimore Belt Railroad Company, dated 16th September, 1890, Bondholders' Agreement, 1st November, 1897.

As the Owner(s) of Messrs. BROWN, SHIPLEY, & COMPANY'S Certificate(s) of Deposit for First Mortgage Five per cent. Gold Bonds of the BALTIMORE BELT RAILROAD COMPANY, deposited under an agreement endorsed thereon No.(s) ..... said Certificate(s) for $.....of bond, assent is given to the arrangement as communicated to me (or us) by Messrs. BROWN, SHIPLEY, & COMPANY proposed in regard to said bonds under the Plan and Agreement for the Reorganisation of the BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD; and Messrs. BROWN, SHIPLEY & COMPANY are authorised to present the First Mortgage Five per cent. Gold Bonds of the BALTIMORE BELT RAILROAD COMPANY covered by said Certificate(s) to be stamped in accordance therewith, and with said Plan and Agreement of Reorganisation, copy of which has been received.

(Signature).....

Date .....1898.

—to make delicious Custard with

BIRD'S CUSTARD POWDER

A DAILY LUXURY.

Numerous are the uses for BIRD'S Custard Powder :—Dainties in endless variety, the choicest Dishes, and the richest Custard.

NO EGGS! NO RISK! NO TROUBLE!

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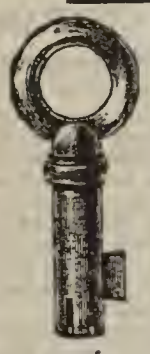

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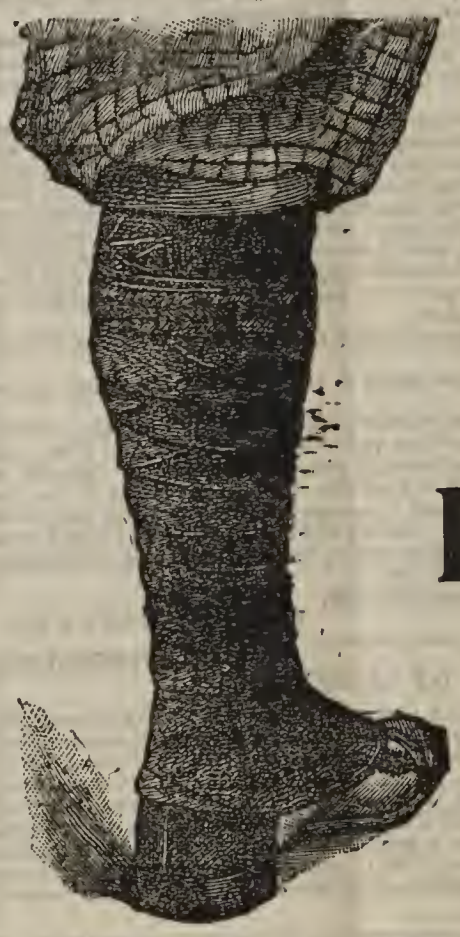
100, NEW BOND STREET,
LONDON, W.

A Master Key
Signet Ring (Open).

A **PUTTEE** is a leg bandage, used instead of a gaiter or high boot. Puttees owe their origin to India, where they have been long used by the Natives and Europeans for Military and Sporting purposes; and **Fox's Puttee** has been adopted by the War Office and Colonial Authorities for the Infantry, Mounted Infantry, and Artillery.



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PER 10/6 PAIR.

Sold by the Stores, Hosiers, and Outfitters. In case of difficulty apply to the Patentees and Manufacturers.

Fox's Patent Puttee is a **Spat and Puttee combined,** so that they form one continuous piece. This gives great superiority in finish and appearance over the plain **Puttee,** whilst for the first time it enables **Puttees** to be worn with shoes, a great boon to Cyclists. By an ingenious arrangement for fastening, the same pair of spats will fit Shoes or Shooting Boots.

SOME ADVANTAGES OF FOX'S PATENT PUTTEE.

1. Great support to the leg. 2. Cooler than leather or cloth. 3. Will fit any leg. 4. Are elastic, and consequently adapt themselves to the shape of the leg. 5. Are more easily dried or cleaned than any form of Gaiter. 6. Made of all Wool.

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OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,007.—ACROSTIC STANZAS ON LORD SALISBURY.

		£	s.	d.
KING HAL	(real name and address will be published in due course)	1	1	0
ORLANDO	(" " " " ")	1	1	0

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,006.

As the competitors who tied for this prize are not unanimous in wishing to have a Special Competition, it has been decided to divide the available amount equally between them. I may add that all who share in this division are at once eligible to compete again for the TRUTH Puzzle Prizes.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,009.

The Prize in this competition has been awarded to CHESS VALE for the following "In Memoriam" Stanza on the late Mr. Gladstone:—

We mark the man who climbs Fame's envied hill,
And proudly stands upon its glorious height,
Admired by all beholding eyes until
Some other climber comes before our sight.
But he who climbs beyond the hill of fame
To that high mount, a nation's fervent love,
Shall never be forgotten, and his name
Shall be inscribed all other names above.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,010.

I will announce the result of this competition next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,014.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

THE MOST HUMOROUS ESSAY, CONTAINING NOT MORE THAN A HUNDRED-AND-TWENTY WORDS, ON "THE DOMESTIC CAT."

All essays must reach me by the morning of Monday, July 11, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the addres, of HARRIET MARCH, winner of a fifth part of Prize No. 1,008, is Mis. Creagh Coen, Hannington Rectory, Northampton.

*** The real name, with the address of ERIN, winner of a fifth part of Prize No. 1,008 is Mrs. Mary Lees, Gahorn-gardens House, Roundhay-road, Leeds.

*** The other names and addresses received will be published next week.

THE HEN.—The principal objection to your sentence is the use of the word "Xtian" for the letter X. You should remember, however, that the selected sentences include "Good and *otherwise*."

MALABY.—Thanks for your card.

J. CRABTREE.—I am much obliged to you for the Epitaph.

MONKEY BRAND.—The omission of your name was due to an oversight, which is regretted.

MEM SAHIB.—The necessary correction shall be made.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,011.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ORIGINAL ANECDOTES OF GOLF AND GOLFERS.

Playing to the second hole on the Worcestershire golf course, J. found his drive lying near the body of a sparrow, evidently some time defunct. Sequel in the club room. J. loquitur. Most extraordinary thing happened to me at the second to-day. I drove—pretty good ball—a bit high, perhaps. Suddenly it seemed to explode in the air! I said, "D'ye see that?" to my caddie. He said. "Hit a stone, I expect, sir." Fools these boys are. When we got up to it we found it lying close to a lark; must have hit it flying, both came down together. The lark was quite warm! Amid universal expressions of admiration this anecdote is solemnly entered in the record book.—Burgage.

Crawford is well known to most golfers. As a caddie and a sayer of smart things he is hard to beat. On one occasion he was controlling the crowd at an important professional match. Whenever one of the players was about to make a shot a very loud cough used to come from the assembly. Crawford stood this for some time, and human endurance lasting no longer, he turned round to the crowd and roared in withering tones: "There is a gentleman here who seems to have a very bad cough. Could any lady or gentleman oblige him with the loan of a jooJoob?"—Y. M. C. A.

A gentleman, whose temper was somewhat impulsive and ungovernable, returned one day from a round of golf having played unusually badly. Snatching from his caddie all the clubs which he had been using, he laid them on the ground crossways, one over the other. He then proceeded to stamp furiously upon them, until every shaft was broken in pieces. Then turning towards the astonished spectators and smiling blandly, he exclaimed, "Better to lose one's clubs than one's temper, isn't it?"—Nimrod.

The following incident is an illustration of good feeling not uncommon on the links. Smith, notorious for pulling and slicing, playing in a medal round at the Seashot Easter Meeting, with his drive off the tee for the fourth hole, sent a pulled ball with long carry towards the eleventh green, striking Jones on the cheek whilst he was in the act of negotiating a nine-inch put. The latter was startled, and sent his ball at least seven yards further off, taking three strokes to hole out. To Smith, who was extremely grieved, he said, "Never mind, old fellow; only next time let me have it on the other cheek." But for the loss of two strokes Jones would have been returned the winner.—Clinker.

A well-known player, coming to the short hole at Muirfield, remarked to his caddie, "Two should do for this hole, a drive and then the putter. Unfortunately he topped his drive, the ball rolling only a few yards from the tee. On coming up his caddie handed him the putter, remarking, "You've a deuce of a put for it, sir."—Gogar.

At the formal opening of Jedburgh golf course, a most remarkable incident occurred. It was opened by a landed proprietor in the district on a very wet day. Just as his lordship was about to drive off the ball, a lady, in her eagerness to see everything, stepped right in line with the tee; and the result was that the ball went clean through the umbrella she was holding up at the time. At sight of this an excited golfer cried out, much to the amusement of those around him: "Weel dune, sir, a grand stroke and holed in one."—Jedforest.

When golf made its appearance a few years ago in epidemic form, after smouldering endemically for centuries in the North of Scotland, the disease spread with frightful rapidity all over the world, one of the first countries which became infected—for all its magnificent quarantine defences—being Egypt. Before the President of the International Board at Alexandria could ring his bell, so to speak, links had been laid down (is that the right term?) at Ghezireh, and in the twinkling of a nibblick the British section of Cairene society fell a hopeless victim to the dire complaint. Even the most exalted personages took to putting and driving (or attempts thereat), and from morning to night nothing was to be heard among young and old, but especially old, save the mysterious lingo for which Saint Andy is mainly responsible. As everybody is aware, Ghizireh, besides being the general playground for Cairo, has also become the fashionable afternoon *promenade à voiture* vice Choubra capriciously abandoned. On a certain evening a Consul-General—one of the many—while enjoying his customary, and leisurely, ride beheld, to his extreme amazement, a fresh-complexioned gentleman dressed in a grey frock-coat, white hat, &c., who, devoid of all apparent reason, was frantically belabouring a clump of Halfa grass by the side of the road with a curiously-shaped stick. "Mais, Sair E——," exclaimed the magnifico, reining in his stud—"Qu'est-ce que c'est que vous faites la!" A simple enough question on paper, but in diplomacy tone is everything! "Non, non! mon cher," replied his Excellency, after a final, but, alas! fruitless attack on the pestilent little globe—"Je ne suis pas fou—j'apprends Le Golf."—Pyramid.

GOLF LINKS AT ETON.

Scene I.—Caddy to Gent: "O, sir, there's a party picnicking in that dell yonder, but you won't be driving so far as that." Gent drives hugely, and the ball goes smack into the dell. When gent and caddy arrive on the scene head of cockney picnic party fussily presents the ball: "That's it, sir; we thought as it was a butterfly a-coming over us." Scene II.—Picnic party are now far ahead. Says caddy: "You won't be driving into them now, sir." Gent again drives hugely; ball reaches party after first hop, and hits head of cockneys in calf of leg. When gent and caddy come up, head of cockney party again advances, seems proud at having been hit, and presents the ball as fussily as before. Thereafter says caddy to gent, "Law, sir, he wasn't a bit angry." Says gent to caddy: "I guess he just thought it was mother butterfly."—W. Nevermore.

Golfer, of medium age and skill, enters club-house, much excited: "Hurrah! At last I've done better than 100! Now I shall get a red coat!" Sympathetic friend: "Congratulate you. What was your score?" "Oh, I didn't keep it exactly: but it was about 99!"—Buzz.

N.B.—The above is a true story.

Scene. Yarmouth Golf Links: Having driven a ball some distance and not following its flight, a player turned to his caddie and asked where it had gone to. The caddie, evidently thinking of a "zereba" (where the penalty is loss of a stroke), quite innocently replied: "Well! sir, I reckon it's in the 'bereavement.'"—Dry Monopole.

A young lady, on her first introduction to the links, noticed the teeing ground, and on inquiry was informed, that it was the "first tee." She then pointed to the sand-boxes at the sides and said, "Then are those the tee-caddies?"—Spider.

A green man on a golf course on the South Coast was asked lately if he understood turf. "I should think I ought to, sir," was his reply, "seeing I was bred and born in it. His father had been a greenman.—Loddiswell.

I was once doing a round with two golfers, who were playing a match for a rather heavy stake. The links were anything but perfect, the ball occasionally finding its way into a partly refilled sand-pit, of which there were several. A Chinaman, apparently interested in the game, accompanied us, his comical expressions and attitudes proving very amusing to watch. Captain B——, one of the players, was preparing himself for a long drive, and John Chinaman went forward to watch the flight of the ball. Unfortunately for the Captain, the wind carried the ball into one of the sand-pits. Our Celestial friend, who saw the ball fall, suddenly rushed forward and, waving his arms wildly in the air, shouted, "Litee backee, litee backee." "Don't you," roared the Captain; "don't you touch it, you rope-scalped idiot." And it seemed for a moment that John was about to have a rough time of it. But the cause of his excitement was soon explained, for as we neared the pit we were treated to a most novel sight—that of seeing our rev. person attempting (as it appeared) to beat all records in gymnastics. He had evidently been very much "litee in backee," as John called it.—Done again.

Golfing lady without-golfing friend at Wisden's. Golfing lady: "Will you send me a dozen A1 golf balls?" "Yes, mum! Black ones?" Non-golfing lady: "Oh! no, no black ones. You will never be able to see them!"—Crosspatch.

Lady abroad to French caddie engaged by the week: "I am playing with that gentleman in a foursome this afternoon." "What, madame, the dam monsieur?" Lady: "The what monsieur?"

Caddie: "The dam monsieur. When he gets into a bunker he say one dam, two dam, tree dam."—Crosspatch.

A golfer once observed to me that golf was the one pastime to which the Religious Tract Society had never given any attention as they have to other sports. He said he could suggest a good name for a tract for distribution among golfers, "The Bottomless Bunker."—Foula.

Scene: A French watering-place on the Bay of Biscay. English golf enthusiast (who has a very slight knowledge of the French language): "Ameriez-vous, mademoiselle, jouer avec moi à golf?" French girl (who has never played golf): "A golfe, monsieur! Mon père ne me permet pas de baigner avec des hommes!" N.B.—French word *Golfe* = "gulf" or "bay."—Petruchio.

1. The following is a fact:—A friend and myself were disputing as to the accurate pronunciation of the word golf. He said it was pronounced as spelt; I maintained the word was goff. We decided to refer the question to a Scotch mutual friend who immediately on being asked the question replied "gowf."

2. It was noticed that a certain caddie always attached himself to a player who was notoriously the worst golfer on the links. On being asked for his reason, he replied: "Man! He's sic a beautifu' sweerer.—The Mac.

"Say, uncle," said my scapegrace nephew, down from the 'Varsity for the Easter vacation, "make a match? You and the parson, versus Dick and me. Dick was a stolid youth who had accompanied him, and professed not to know the business from the Bank holiday end of a golf club. "I'll put a fiver on, you know," he added, by way of an inducement, but where my profit came in I hardly saw, as he was certain to demand that sum, if not more before he returned to alma mater. Parson and I were old stagers, who rather fancied ourselves on the green, so the match was arranged, Parson insisting that we should have slight odds. Parson played steady, as usual, but I was off colour. I heard the rival caddie (an imported article) remark, "Silly old foozzler." This did not improve matters, but I mentally marked him. The stranger novice, when he got to work, proved himself a brilliant player. Then I knew my nephew had done me. The match went on evenly enough, however, to the 17th hole, when it stood 7 all and 1 to play. We had divided 3. "Any one's game," remarked the parson. "No it bean't," returned the foreign caddie. "We'll see," I said, severely. My nephew appeared anxious about his money, for his intention had been to beat us hollow. The last was a three-drive hole, and about half way was a nasty bunker, in the shape of an old rabbit warren. The parson had the honour and drove some ninety yards. Nephew followed suit. Then the novice played, landing the ball about fifty yards from the green. Now it was my turn, but I made a baff, and the ball dropped in the bunker. "We've got 'em," shouted the nephew. "Yah, I knowed it," said his caddie. But parson and I had a bit left yet. "Three, four, five," counted the rival caddie, as we made some ineffectual attempts to move the ball. "Give it up, uncle, it's no go; the match is ours," jeered my nephew. Parson still persisted, curiosity induced our opponents to come closer, and the rival caddie approached for a good look at the ball. "Twelve, thirteen," he counted. "They're only burying it," he said, turning toward our opponents. At that moment a deft shot by the parson caught him in the cushiony part of the back, and the ball dropped dead. "Ghorr!" he exclaimed. "Match," I replied, and striking one relighted my pipe. "Come, uncle, that's only a rub," said my nephew, but the parson and I were moving homewards. "Well, if ever I saw it played so low," said the novice. "Thought you knew nothing of golf," retorted the parson. My nephew has not paid up yet.—Scorpio.

Small boy, being catechised by the Free Kirk "mecnister" of the parish, "Are you aware of the nature of an oath, my boy?" "Faith, sir," replies the boy, "I hae na been yer caddie the last twa weeks for naethin'."—Esperance.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,009.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

"IN MEMORIAM" LINES ON THE LATE MR. GLADSTONE.

*** As there is some available space, a further selection of the "In Memoriam" verses is published this week.—THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

Rest after strife, calm after cruel pain,
The happy warrior, in the Halls of Peace,
Smiles in the sunshine of the great release:
Vanquished and vanquisher—our loss his gain.

Mourned by a nation: great among her great;
Praised by the world with universal voice,
He passes to the kingdom of his choice—
Death but a friend who opens wide the gate.
Freak.

Dead he may be, if Justice dies
And Truth is but a transient quiver;
Death can but claim his mortal prize:
The soul of goodness lives for ever.

Let not Love in despair repine
While lingering by the sable portal;
The hand of Time ne'er carved a line
Of epitaph to an immortal.
Aidee.

We live to die, but he has died to live,
From Party passed and given to mankind;
Recall his gifts—of thought, of speech, of mind—
But not to these immortal homage give.

Acclaim the noble heart, the hands unstained,
The aim for truth behind the tongue and pen;
These are the glories that his life maintained,
This greatest of our modern Englishmen.
Ivanhoe.

Gladstone, like Aristides, giv'n in trust,
To teach that even Statesmen may be just;*
An orator like him of Attic fame—
Demosthenes, without his venal blame.†
In lit'rature unwearied in old age,
Who relaxation found in Homer's page;
His greatest honour through life's lengthen'd span;
No title ticketed "The Grand Old Man."‡
J. McGrigor Allan.

* "All ministers of kings and princes are, in my opinion, as great scoundrels as ever lived" (Lord Nelson "—Letters"). Yes; when the minister is the king's flunkey. No; when responsible to a free people. Gladstone was "The People's Will."

† After boasting that all Macedonia's gold could not tempt him, Demosthenes was bribed by a small gold cup from Harpalus.

‡ All independent minds must admire Gladstone's personal contempt for titles. Here he gave a practical lesson on the dignity of human nature. Most men long for conventional distinctions. Even authors, whom Johnson calls "the glory of a nation," do not rise above this vanity. And the clergy, who should teach humility by precept and example, not only cling to titles when inherited, but enjoy the monopoly of a supplementary list, invented solely to gratify their spiritual anti-Christian pride.

Toll! for our greatest statesman grave-ward wending,
'Neath the white pall—fit emblem of his life;
Who from first dawn to latest sunset's ending
In truth and purity waged noble strife.

Sleep sound, great heart, and then, refresh'd, awaking,
Hear from thy life-long Lord the words, "Well done!"
For thy good service tenfold* service taking:
Premier† in realms where sets nor moon nor sun.
William Jones.

* St. Luke xix., 17: "Well done, thou good servant, because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities."

† Premier = Prime Minister = first servant.

The sun of Britain's splendour is now dim'd with thickening haze,
And proud Britannia mourns thee dead beneath her tearful gaze;
Her silent tears upon thy bier in burning torrents fall,
For ruthless death thy noble form hath clothed in sombre pall.

She seeks not to extol thy worth in monuments of art,
For well she knows thy name is written on thy Nation's heart.
She knows no tribute she can word would adequately tell
The virtues of thy blameless life lived humbly, nobly, well.
Pro Archia.

The Hero of Humanity is dead!
The voice is stilled that laid oppression low;
He blessed his country greatly, and her head
Is bowed in woe.

Not her's alone the loss: the whole world wept
Beside his bier on that Ascension Day.
Dead! But his life's work, and the Faith he kept,
Will live for aye.
Vox.

At length the organ's notes are mute,
The Choir's sweet voices die away;
Fame, with her solitary flute,
Steals out as fades the dying day.

Glad is she that her Statesman lies,
Amidst that silent starry band,
And brings to crown him from the skies
An Amaranth wreath within her hand.
Alastor.

Gladstone! A name most glorious bright,
Beacon from Britain's shore,
Shines from a reign of glorious might,
Never surpassed before,
To lift and guide the nation right,
Illumine lands afar,
With tender, never-dying light,
Gladstone, the Age's star.
Stella.

Great statesman rest! Thy life work nobly done,
With standard high, the nation's heart hast won,
And all deplore thy loss; e'en Princes weep.
Beside thy unwreathed bier, they vigils keep.
He is not dead, for on Ascension Day,
He rose to Heav'n, the spirit could not stay;
Exchanging earthly cross for Heaven's crown,
So may we follow precepts good laid down.
Effie.

Though Britain weeps, she holds the record sure,
The high ambition and untiring zeal,
The love of Sovereign and the common weal,
The magic influence, and the conduct pure.

The strifes of Party hush, all discords cease,
And high o'er Britain's widespread grief, above
Is heard the clarion note of heartfelt love.
For one who lived in honour and who sleeps in peace.
Dreyfoo.

E'en like the beauteous setting of the sun
His work is o'er—his noble task is done.
The great, grand soul has kissed the mortal clay,
His master calls—he hastens to obey.
Leaving his country all that earth can hold,
A holy pathway traced in steps of gold.
Deep in the annals of great England's fame,
In pride and reverence shall we write thy name.
Cuca.

Hushed is the strife that raged about thy name.
Here in the Hall, wherein thou liest in state,
Only one voice is heard breathing thy fame,
The voice of England, now left desolate,
Mourning her noblest son, whose powerful hand
Four times controlled the nation's course midst strife
Of politics. Thy name not writ in sand,
But blazoned in the book of everlasting life.
Zena.

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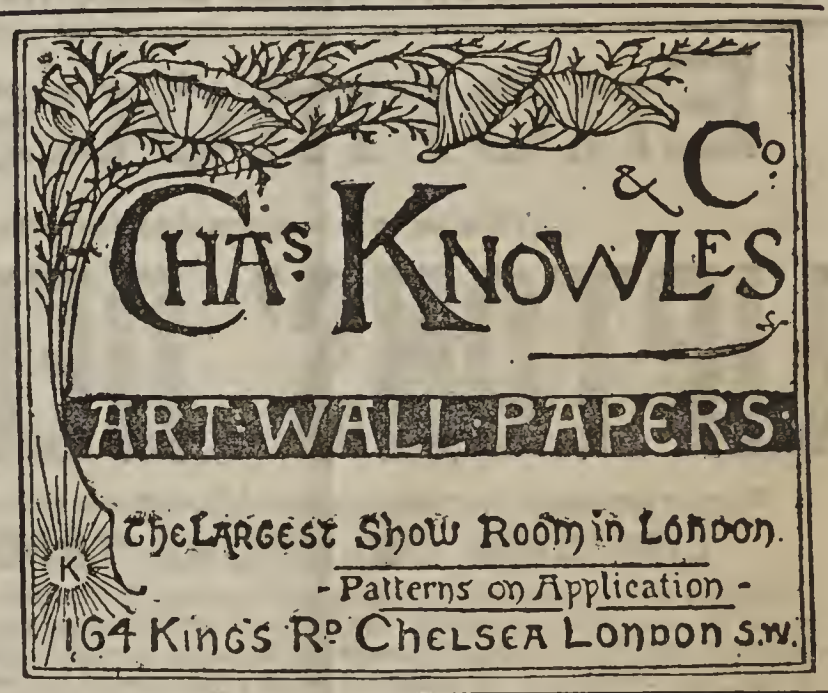

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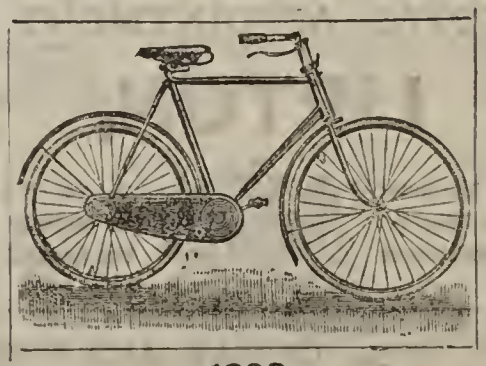

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